

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

1.2.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) One mine was detonated off N.F. 9 buoy.  
(b) A possible midget U-Boat was sighted in Wemeldinge Harbour.

Norway.

2. M.T.Bs. 715 and 717 returned from operation "V.P. 79" in course of which they claim to have sunk a minesweeper or old destroyer by torpedo.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

Collision.

3a. Last night the MICHAEL ANAGNOS (Greek 7,176 tons) and BRITISH PATIENCE (Br. 8097 tons) in convoy U.G.S. 70. Collided when S.W. of the Azores. Both ships holed below waterline, but proceeded under their own power to Azores. H.M. rescue tug SALVONIA is proceeding from Azores to render them assistance.

ARDENT sunk.

(b) Last night ARDENT (French escort vessel) sank near Casablanca after collision with EMPIRE ABBEY (Br. 7032 tons). There were no casualties.

East Indies.

Singapore.

4. Today 74 American Superfortresses bombed the floating dock at Singapore with good results. 15 also attacked the dry dock. A total of 179 tons of bombs was dropped from 17000/20000 feet.

Australia & New Zealand.

Hongkong.

5. A single floatplane was shot down off Hongkong today by Navy Liberator.

Formosa.

6. (a) Liberators operating off N.W. Formosa bombed and strafed small coasters and 3 sea trucks starting fires in one coaster and one sea truck.  
(b) 18 U.S. Liberators bombed ~~FOKO~~  
Toko, seaplane base.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

- China coast. 7. Catalinas last night saw many medium merchantmen, several destroyer escorts off Amoy. Unsuccessfully attacked several destroyer escorts near Pescadores.
- Philippines. 8. (a) A convoy was attacked by aircraft north of Luzon. One destroyer and one destroyer escort were set on fire.  
(b) Last night P.Ts. co-operating with aircraft shot up enemy small craft off San Fernando (N.E. of Lingayan Gulf) destroying or damaging 28 small craft including 5 speed boats.  
(c) Same night 25 - 30 Jap. speed boats attacked our shipping off Batangas beachhead sinking 1 submarine chaser. Majority of enemy craft retired or sunk having failed to penetrate screen.
- Flores. 9. A Liberator hit two small vessels near Flores.

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Saving of personnel at Scapa.

Proposals in your 181806 January approved generally, with regard to your para. 2 (D) cruisers and above destined for foreign stations must continue to shake down at Scapa before proceeding to the Mediterranean to work up.

This should not prevent you reducing the instructional and target services; destroyers also working up should enable you to provide most of the escorts required. Your detailed proposals are awaited. Request you will pass your 181806 January to C. in C. Rosyth. (1st Lord, 011142A to C. in C.H.F.).

Operations

North Sea.

Possible midget U-Boat in Wemeldinge.

Following received, from R.N.O. Beveland. At 0340 this morning a suspicious object which may have been a one man submarine was engaged in Wemeldinge Harbour entrance with explosive charges, rifle and Bren gunfire. No hits were observed, and the object which was dome-shaped disappeared in the mist outside the entrance.

M.F.V. NEPTUNE will carry out patrols in and near harbour entrance as required. The crew have been instructed in the use of explosive charges 311420A January. Ends. (F.O. Holland, 011143A to Admty., A.N.C.X.F., Com. Belgium).

Downs patrol.

A.M. 311510A January. Night patrols by two single units of coastal craft have been established outside the Goodwins between the Kellett Buoy and the South Goodwin Light vessel

to guard the Approaches to the Downs anchorages in which an average of about 30 ships are anchored each night.

(2) It is now considered that these patrols should be maintained throughout the 24 hours but this is not practicable unless the Dover - Ostende N.D.B.S. is terminated or more coastal craft or H.D.M.Ls. allocated to the Dover Command.

(3) If the latter are not available it is proposed that the N.D.B.S. should cease to run forthwith, personnel travelling to Calais by the train ferry or personnel ships.

(4) The N.D.B.S. Dover to Calais would still be run as required in A.N.C.X.Fs. 061819A Jan. para. 2 C. (V.A. Dover, 011221 to Calais).

Discharge Situation report.

Cositintrep No. 303 Part 4. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/31st January.

British:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	59	474	12647	-	2153

/Ostend...

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Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report  
(Contd.)

Cositintrep No. 303 part 4 continued.  
British

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Ostend	662	130	2631	620	451
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	915	-	-
Caen	-	-	3948	-	-
Calais	1841	-	295	-	-
Ghent	-	-	871	-	871
<u>Total</u>	<u>2562</u>	<u>604</u>	<u>21307</u>	<u>620</u>	<u>3475</u>

U.S. North

Antwerp	-	150	18150	-	-
Cherbourg	-	65	10345	-	4826
Le Havre	13204	351	7339	-	3017
Rouen	84	116	4086	-	1127
Ghent	-	-	1692	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>13288</u>	<u>682</u>	<u>41612</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8970</u>

U.S. South

Marseilles	271	173	4957	-	952
Port De Bouc	-	-	630	-	-
Toulon	-	-	177	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>5764</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>952</u>

Cumulative totals 16-31 January inclusive.

British

Antwerp	1273	4853	162075	41538	10004
Ostend	14552	1996	54417	9632	20266
Boulogne	1137	504	-	-	-
Dieppe	996	-	13465	-	-
Caen	-	-	25189	-	-
Calais	46285	13	3380	-	-
Ghent	-	-	14046	-	3910
<u>Total</u>	<u>64243</u>	<u>7366</u>	<u>272572</u>	<u>51170</u>	<u>34180</u>

U.S. North

Antwerp	-	2356	237544	-	666
Cherbourg	592	1069	149746	51417	52304
Le Havre	127064	6070	101303	2063	25604
Rouen	5633	3107	105287	19975	16539
Granville	-	-	20649	-	-
Ghent	-	42	15742	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>133289</u>	<u>12644</u>	<u>630271</u>	<u>73455</u>	<u>95113</u>

U.S. South

Marseilles	20566	2006	164142	6498	49848
Port de Bouc	-	13	29284	52741	-
Toulon	-	-	2572	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>20566</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>195998</u>	<u>59239</u>	<u>49848</u>

/Note...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report  
(Contd.)

Note: Correct Granville stores figure for 27th  
January is 1262 tons.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 011745A to Admiralty etc.).

Minesweeping  
off Far  
Shore.

One ground mine detonated 235° N.F.9 buoy one  
point nine miles at 1005A.  
Mine detonated 1½ cables outside tail of wing  
ship half way along married position. During  
Blue Pulse L.L./S.A. and explosive sweep in use.  
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 011837 to Com. Belgium).

Operations

Channel

Patrols.

GARLIES detach HOSTE to join S.O.E.G.1 forthwith.  
S.O.E.G.1 arrange rendezvous.

(2) GARLIES with GORE proceed forthwith to patrol  
area within limits:

(A) 50° 00' N. (B) 01° 15' W. (C) Coast of France. (D) 01°  
50' W.

(3) On arrival GARLIES and GORE in area RIBBLE and NEW GLASGOW  
proceed forthwith to join S.O.E.G.26. S.O.E.G.26 arrange  
rendezvous.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011126A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26, GARLIES, RIBBLE).  
Night patrols.

(1) S.O.E.G.1 continue patrolling area within limits.

(A) Route E. (B) Q.Z.S.636. (C) 50° 00' N. (D) 01° 15' W.

(2) GARLIES, GORE continue patrolling area within limits:

(A) 50° 00' N. (B) 01° 15' W. (C) Coast of France. (D) 01°  
50' W.

(2) S.O.E.G.1 detach HOSTE at First Light tomorrow to be at Gate  
by 0930A. HOSTE to rejoin S.O.E.G.1 when spares have been  
embarked.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011250 to S.O.E.G.1, GARLIES).

Operations

Western Approaches.

Patrols.

If not in contact leave present patrol and join  
Force 37.

(C. in C.W.A., 011027A to S.O.E.G.15).

Request you will sail 5th E.G. at 1500 1st

February, to join Force 36.

(C. in C.W.A., 011028A to F.O.I.C.N.I.).

Anti-  
U-Boat  
deep mining  
and  
prohibited  
fishing areas.

Your 272327 January 1945. Concur in paras. 1,  
2(a), 2(b), (ii), 2(b) (iii) and 3. It is  
preferred that the North limit of the area in

para....

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Anti-U-Boat deep mining and prohibited fishing areas (Contd.)

para. 2(b) (i) be amended to read "by a line drawn 090° Tuskar Rock" in place of "by 52° 14' N. from the Irish Coast". Consequently to comply with your para.1 an amended position for field N. (W.A. 00246/11 of 23 January) is suggested as follows:  
Initial position of line N. one to be 52° 08' 30" N. 06° 13' 30" W.

Initial position of successive lines to be spaced 5 miles apart along a line drawn 110° from the above position. Direction of lines, number and spacing of mines in lines to remain unaltered.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 011659A to C. in C.W.A.).

U-Boat situation.

German U-Boat situation English Channel 3 to 4 Irish Sea 2 to 3 patrolling and on passage.  
(Capt. S/M.3, 011941A to S/Ms. on passage in Irish Sea).

Operations

Norway.

Operation "S.C."

Ramose Forage.  
Sailed HITRA at 0100A 1st February.  
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 010105A to A.C.O.S.).

Shortage of fighter aircraft in Home Fleet.

Request information when SEARCHER with 882 Squadron may be expected to join Home Fleet.  
(2) Offensive operations of Home Fleet will be progressively handicapped through lack of fighters until 882 Squadron arrives for the following reasons.  
(A) Fighter component of 821 Squadron referred to in Admiralty's 251515 December 1944 not yet

allocated.

(B) Reduction by appointment without relief of aircrews of 881 Squadron.

(C) Future withdrawal of 881 Squadron, Admiralty's 261940 January to F.O.C.T. refers.

(C. in C.H.F., 011217 to Admiralty).

Operation "V.P."

V.P.79 M.T.Bs. 717 and 715 returned at 1335A today 1st February.  
(2) 1 'M' class minesweeper or old destroyer hit with two torpedoes and seen to sink.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 011445A to A.C.O.S.).

Patrols

Positions of submarines 0800 2nd February and

/movements...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Patrols movements for following 24 hours. Times Zone A.  
(Contd.) (A) SIBYL as in my 311820 January.  
(B) VIKING on patrol as in my 252002 January  
leaving 0001 3rd to pass through 60° 45' N. 04°  
09' E. to 61° 02' N. 03° 35' E. to 61° 24' N. 02°  
01' E. Thence course 270° diving by day east of 01° 01' E.  
Speed 130 miles per 24 hours.  
(C) VENTURER leaves Lerwick 1500 2nd through 090° Muckle  
Flugga 10 to 61° 04' N. 00° 01' E. Thence course 090° diving  
by day east of 01° 01' E. Speed 130 miles per 24 hours.  
((C. of W., 011850A to A.I.G.25)).

Operations

Northern Waters.

Convoy The following 3 ships in J.W.64 are to be  
J.W.64. sailed for Kola Inlet.  
FORT GREVECOEUR (Commodore) LUCERNA (T)  
SKIENSFJORD (Norwegian Relief Ship).  
(2) Destinations of the remainder will be sig-  
nalled by B.A.M.S. when decided by S.B.N.O. Archangel in  
conjunction with M.O.W.T. and Russian representatives.  
(D.T.D., 011712A to N.C.S.O. Clyde, S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Northern Norwegian relief ships. Norwegian ship SKIENSFJORD carrying relief stores  
is being sailed in J.W.64 to Murmansk for  
onward routeing to Kirkenes.  
(2) If practicable request you will sail IDEFJORD  
to U.K. in R.A.64. A.M. 301625 December refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 012051A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia).

Port Facilities

Port Facilities information desired. In order to promulgate capacity of ports which  
are operated under F.O.I.C. Holland, the following  
information is to be signalled to A.N.C.X.F.  
repeated to info addressees of this signal as  
opening progresses.

(A) Deepest draught acceptable at M.H.W.N. and  
M.H.W.S.  
(B) Maximum length of ship that can be accepted.  
(C) Number and if (1) tidal, depth of M.L.W.S. or (2) non-  
tidal, normal depth.  
(D) Number of vessels that can be berthed on one tide.  
(E) Number of berths available in open anchorages for ships  
waiting to discharge.  
(F) Remarks, to include any details of any permanent allocation  
of berths to civil imports. Refitting etc.  
(2) Information signalled should be agreed P.E.C. when  
applicable.  
(3) Any change should be reported without delay.  
(4) Report for Flushing is required as soon as necessary  
information becomes available.  
(A.C.N.X.F., 011010A to F.O.I.C. Holland).



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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects.

DUNRAVEN  
CASTLE  
M/S trawler.

DUNRAVEN CASTLE has been salvaged and is berthed at Rothesay. Ship is making water and after 48 hours on a lee shore and rocky bottom requires to be docked for survey. After temporary repairs by Salvage Company intend to tow her to Ardrossan for destoring in anticipation of paying her off.  
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 011057A to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

ROSS  
minesweeper.

Proceed with despatch to assistance of ROSS anchored Scarweather and tow her to shelter. Report progress to N.O.I.C. Swansea. PARRSBORO and DORNOCH in company.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 011651A to SUPERMAN).

Movements

NORTHWAY  
L.S.D.

My 311740 sailed.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 010030A to C.T.G.125.15).

SEARCHER,  
QUEEN  
escort  
carriers.

Owing to U-Boat activity in Irish Sea and Clyde approaches request your comments on practicability of working up SEARCHER and QUEEN at Scapa. These ships are destined for Home Fleet.  
(2) It is realised that working up may take longer than in Clyde.  
(V.C.N.S., 010238A to Com.H.F., F.O.C.T.).

C.S.10.  
BIRMINGHAM  
cruiser.

The office of C.S.10 has been transferred temporarily to BIRMINGHAM. Signals, mails and correspondence are to be sent to BIRMINGHAM until further orders.  
(2) The flag of C.S.10 will be transferred temporarily to BIRMINGHAM about 14th February.  
(C. in C.H.F., 011335A to H.F.).

DIADEM  
cruiser.

Scapa departure DIADEM.  
(A.C.O.S., 011939 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

BARFLEUR  
Auxiliary  
cruiser.

Sailed F.S. BARFLEUR as in my 311912A, escorted by 38th E.G.  
(2) LEITH is carrying out duty of S.O.  
(3) Request mails for BARFLEUR be diverted to Toulon.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 012003A to C.T.F.125).

Shipping and Convoys

O.N.S.  
convoys.

O.N.S. convoys: O.N.S.42 will sail from Mersey on February 12th and thereafter at intervals of 15 days until further notice.

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

- O.N.S. convoys (Contd.) (2) Request F.Os.i/c and N.C.S.Os. concerned be informed. (D.T.D., 011307A to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth, V.A. Dover, A.C.O.S.).
- Return routeing from St. Malo and other ports. No port party under this command has been assigned to St. Malo to issue return routeing and convoy instructions. No information available of any U.S. or British Authority stationed there for that purpose. Consider it advisable that ships sailed direct for that port have complete return routeing. Port party at Granville will furnish such additional information as may be desired when contacted. (2) Similar conditions will exist in other ports to which no convoy and routeing section assigned. (C.T.F.125, 011601 to D. of S.T.).
- Fuelling trawlers employed as tugs on Far shore. Your 301445 (not to F.F.S. PARIS) it is not (R) not intended that fuelling trawlers should operate indefinitely as tugs, and it is not therefore intended to ask Admiralty to arrange a proper refit. (2) But in view of your para.3 AN.C.X.F. (Cotug) should arrange towing programmes so that these trawlers can be taken in hand for routine maintenance by MARSHAL, SOULT and F.F.S. PARIS at regular intervals as required in accordance with present custom to ensure reasonable operational fitness for towing or fuelling duties. (A.N.C.X.F., 011855A to C. in C. Portsmouth).
- Arrival times of C.U. and H.X. convoys. In view of C.T.F.125's 311441 January not to all request extract of daily situation report giving positions of C.U. and H.X. convoys when east of 26° W. be signalled daily to C.T.F.125. (2) Further request C.T.F.125 be included in all diversion signals for these convoys. (3) Changes in destination signals are not required. These are passed by Admiralty. (D.T.D., 011945A to C. in C.W.A.).

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MICHAEL ANAGNOS and BRITISH PATIENCE. Collision.

MICHAEL ANAGNOS in collision during night with BRITISH PATIENCE. ANAGNOS has small holes in stern and one of 3 foot diameter below waterline. Fore peak and number one hold flooded. Pumps barely holding their own. Recommend sending her to nearest port. BRITISH PATIENCE has large hole amidships port side extending well below waterline. Number 6 tank flooded. Can probably make Gibraltar if weather conditions remain favourable. Request local escorts R/V with U.G.S.70 soon as practicable to escort ANAGNOS and BRITISH PATIENCE if so ordered, also SKOTAAS. Both ships in collision can still make 9.5 knots. 1000Z/1st position 37.02 N., 34.18 W.

(C.T.G. 60.7, 011135 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Request SALVONIA be sailed forthwith to R/V U.G.S.70 and render all possible assistance. C.T.G. 60.7 011135 not to Admiralty refers.

(F.O.G.M.A., 011832A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

SALVONIA will be sailed to render assistance your 011135 and my 011832 refer.

(2) SS. PATIENCE is to be detached at Azores R/V to proceed to Azores for repairs.

(3) S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to nominate port to which SS. MICHAEL ANAGNOS and SS. PATIENCE are to proceed.

(F.O.G.M.A., 011840A to C.T.G. 60.7.)

Escort Groups.  
K.M.F.39.

MALCOLM take WYE and DOVEY under his orders and slip at 1200A Feb. 2nd and proceed to R/V K.M.F. 39 and escort DERBYSHIRE and RUYSS detaching from convoy to Casablanca.

(2) K.M.F.39 (15 ships with RULER in company) escorted by E.G.20 in TAVY is routed.

(3) DERBYSHIRE and RUYSS are to be detached after R/V to proceed direct to end of Q.B.A.146 at S. of A. 14½ knots.

(4) MALCOLM and WYE and DOVEY are to proceed at 15 knots through northern half of Strait, thence direct to (GK).

(F.O.G.M.A., 011206A to S.E.C. K.M.F.39 for Cdre., MALCOLM.)  
K.M.F.39. (1) Approximate E.T.A. Carnero Point 2300A/3 Feb.

(5) TAVY has split between number 11 oil tank and magazine requiring dockyard assistance.

(6) TORTOLA has fractures which will entail welding and possible docking.

(S.O. E.G.20, 011402A to F.O.G.M.A.)

VIRAGO.

M.S.C.I.5. Intend to sail VIRAGO at 1600 Feb. 4th to Port Said for onward route (A.M. 291600 Dec. 1944, not to all, refers).

(F.O.G.M.A., 011506A to F.O.L.E.M.)

F.S. ARDENT,  
sunk.

Following has been received, begins: Addressed Com. 8th Fleet, (R) F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med. From: C.M.S.F. ARDENT - U.S. designation P.C. 473, French designation W.42 sank outside Casa harbour while being towed after collision with

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

F.S. ARDENT,  
sunk.  
(Contd.)

EMPIRE ABBEY near buoy M. in Casa swept channel.  
Collision approx. 2100A/31 sinking approx.  
(0600A/01?). No loss of life, one crew member  
injured not critically. T.O.O. 011223A. Ends.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011550A to Admty., F.O.W.M.)

Blockade.

Reference my 271923 (N.T. in W.D.) August 1944,  
para. 4A. Foreign Office now approves inter-  
ception one Portuguese ship outward bound to  
South America. Any further action will depend  
on reactions of Portuguese Government to this test case.  
(2) About 3 ships sail per month. Lisbon will report to  
you immediately sailing dates of next two or three are fixed  
so that you can act when most convenient.  
(3) M.E.W. anxious for interception as soon as possible.  
(D.E.W.D., 011617A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

TEES.

Your 311305 Jan.\* Flight "E" weatherbound has  
not yet sailed.  
(D.O.D.(F), 010854A to F.O.C.W.Af.)  
\* Movement of TEES.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

- Minesweeping. Intend sailing FOULA and HELLISAY (corrupt group) Piraeus at 1400/1st Feb. to complete with coal. (S.O.M.S.F.12, 010821B to F.O.I.C. Piraeus.)
- Red Cross. F.O.L.E.M's 251923 and Admiralty message 281831 (not to all). Foreign Office inform us that International Red Cross are now negotiating with Germans for safe conduct for caique service from Turkey at the same time requesting routes. (A.C.N.S.(F) 011119A to F.O.L.E.M.) Amended by 060538A.
- RICHELIEU. Anticipate RICHELIEU completes docking on Tuesday 13th Feb. My 261726 Jan. (C. in C. Med., 011313A to Admty.)
- S/M STOIC. STOIC sails Malta at 0930A/3rd Feb. by reverse of standard route to arrive Gibraltar 1000A/7th Feb. (Capt. (S) 1st., 011432 to C. in C. Med.)
- Active enemy units. (2) Following enemy naval units now active. (A) Gulf Genoa 1 destroyer, 2 T.Bs., 4 escort vessels, 5 M.T.Bs., 15/20 heavily armed F lighters, 10 R-Boats. (B) Northern Adriatic 1 destroyer, 3/4 T.Bs. (30/35?) M.T.Bs., 5 R-Boats. (C) Crete and Dodecanese Aegean 4 armed wooden drifters, 30 assault landing craft and launches, 18 tugs and caiques. (3) In area (A) and (B) midget S/Ms., human torpedoes and explosive M/B are known to be active. (C. in C. Med., 011519A to Med. Station.)
- Black Sea. Mines. Navigation. Admiral Archer, 011547Z to Admty. See Lion Copy.
- A.F.D. 30. Your 312053 Jan., para. 2. THEMISTOCLES undocks Feb. 8th. No dockings will be undertaken after this date and Feb. 14th assumed to be expected time of departure. (S.N.O.L.A., 011830B to F.O.L.E.M.)
- Black Sea. British shipping. Opening of Black Sea to Allied shipping. Request necessary navigational data may now be obtained to enable merchant shipping to use Rumanian and Bulgarian ports. In addition requirements envisaged in my 211102 Jan. para. 2 sub-paras. (B), (C) and (D) it is understood that Russians have informed U.N.R.R.A. that Constante and Galatz are now available for supplies to Poland and Czechoslovakia. Admty. recypher and pass to Admiral Archer. (C. in C. Med., 011901A to Admty.)

/LARGS ...

**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.)

011547A/February

From Admiral Archer.

Date 1. 2. 45.

Recd. 2115.

MOSCOW X BY W/T

*Black Sea. Issues - navigation*

Addressed Admiralty.

Repeated C. in C. Med. F.O.L.E.M. B.N.A. Ankara.  
B.N.L.O. Black Sea. SACMED. S.B.N.O. Greece.  
Commander 8th Fleet. B.A.D. Washington.

IMMEDIATE.

Ref. my 302007. American Naval Section Moscow have proposed alternative route as follows - from departure position off Bosphorus in 41 16 North 21 25 East via original direct route proposed by Soviet Authorities (Admiral Archer's 221401 December refers) to position

- (A) 44 00 North 30 31 East thence to position
- × (B) 44 38 North 30.01 East thence to position ×
- (D) 45 38 North 31 12.5 East thence to approach point in 46 08.1 North 3126.2 East.

Return voyage to be made through the same positions.

2. They consider advantage of this route is that ships are in range of radio beacons at Kaliakra and Constanta in Southern position of route and in fact in range of radio beacons during greater part of passage. This they consider outweighs advantage of more easterly course proposed in Admiralty's 200015.

3. They have also reiterated request to Soviet Authorities to clear danger areas mentioned in Admiralty's 200015 para. 1 and Admiral Archer's 091605 not to all addressees para. 2. There is at present, however, indication that these will be cleared before the arrival of the first ships.

4. Admiralty pass to all addressees ✓

011547Z

*Amended by 022044A*

Advance Copy D.C., D.O.D.(F)

✓ Passing action being taken by War Registry.

Circulation Over.....

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)  
Secretary  
Naval Secretary  
P.A.S. (S)  
P.A.S. (L)  
U.V.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) (2)  
Hd. of M. (M.05812/44) (10)

D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
W.D.  
Ad. 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)

JAR.  
A27

1.2.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

LARGS,  
L.S.H.(L).

Request LARGS may be sailed for U.K. when released from present duties.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 011946A to C. in C. Med.)

KING SALVOR  
(mined).

KING SALVOR damaged by mine. Temporary repairs will be undertaken at Le Ciotat. Diver report indicates hole about 10 feet square starboard side of number one hold and number one starboard fuel tank damaged. Desired that permanent repairs be undertaken at Gibraltar at high priority. Anticipate vessel will be available about 10th Feb.  
(C. in C. Med., 012004A to C.S. Gibraltar.)

Situation  
Report  
No. 549.

(1) Casablanca. French escort vessel ARDENT has been sunk in collision.  
(2) South of France. KING SALVOR has been mined at St. Louis de Rhone. She is proceeding to Le Ciotat for docking. No casualties.  
(3) Adriatic. Coastal craft were engaged by enemy patrol probably consisting of E-Boats and a destroyer off Promontore night 29th Jan. M.T.B. 374 slightly damaged no casualties.  
(C. in C. Med., 012141A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

Greece -  
Caiques  
patrol.

Military report 3 caiques leaving Lambiri with E.L.A.S. ammunition and hostages. M.G.B. 661 and H.D.M.L. 1158 have been sent to augment caiques patrol with orders to bring all caiques in for investigation.  
(B.N.L.O. Patras, 012305B to S.B.N.O. Greece, F.O.L.E.M.)



14

1.2.1945

ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

U-Boat No fresh information. Scale remains unchanged.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I. 010407Z S. and A. E.I. Stn.)

Operation Further to my 270241. Force 63 returned to <sup>29<sup>th</sup> Jan</sup>  
"Meridian". flying off position a.m. 29th Jan. and flew off  
*SUMATRA, South* 48 Avengers, 12 Fireflies, 40 Fighters to attack  
Soeng Gerong. 24 Fighters swept enemy airfields.  
(2) Bombing conditions good. Photographs show  
hits on large cracking plant and tractionary columns. Re  
running stills burnt. Many other buildings hit. Extensive  
fires spreading the damage.

(3) Fighter opposition less than previous strike. Eight  
Japanese shot down three probables four destroyed on ground.  
Our losses 15 A/C but eight crews recovered.

(4) Seven enemy A/C got through to Fleet. Six shot down by  
C.A.P. or gunfire. ILLUSTRIOUS hit in Island by shell from own  
forces. Casualties 12 killed, 21 wounded.

(5) Oil fuel situation did not permit further strikes.  
Force 63 arrives Fremantle 4th Feb. Two tankers arrive Fre-  
mantle 8th Feb. CEYLON, URCHIN and two tankers arrive Trin-  
comalee 6th Feb.

(6) Intend to release press communique at 1600 G.M.T. 3rd Feb.  
(C. in C. E.I. 010542 Admty etc.) reply 021221A.

SILVIO, Departure SILVIO E.T.A. Colombo 0330Z/4th Feb.  
Force W. S.O.A. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
(F.O. Bombay, 011252Z to Admty. etc.)

Aircraft C. in C. B.P.F. 251122 RULER (24 Hellcats) and  
Carriers CHASER (24 Seafire L.III) are allocated.  
Movements. (2) RULER left U.K. 28th Jan. for S.E.A.C. and  
should continue to Australia without delay.  
She has embarked 1772 Squadron of 12 Firefly  
for INDOMITABLE and reserve A/C for Australia.  
(3) CHASER will leave U.K. as early as possible for Australia.  
She will continue flying practices en route to Ceylon. From  
Ceylon she should transport reserves to Australia. Further  
signal will be made when date of leaving U.K. is known. This  
cancels reference to CHASER in A.M. 311944 Jan. not to all.  
(4) KHEDIVE is allocated to East Indies.  
(5) C. in C. E.I. is requested to arrange for reserve A/C now in  
KHEDIVE to be transported to Australia as early as possible.  
Seven modified Avengers for B.P.F. are included in her load.  
(D.N.A.O. 011943A to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. B.P.F.)

1.2.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

E.G. 16. At 0255/1 disappearing Blip reported by aircraft 164° datum 22 miles. Have requested procedure C. My position at 0330Z/1 44.18 N., 63.12 W. (S.O. E.G.16, 010340Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 011322Z, Cominch, 011542.)

U-Boat attacked. Para. A. 0906Z/1st A/C attacked U-Boat with decks awash 49.19 N., 28.43 W., after radar contact at 8 miles. (Cominch, 012107Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand

Accommodation ship LANCASHIRE. Request information as to when LANCASHIRE may be expected to reach Sydney and confirmation that she will arrive complete with, etc., etc.) (R.A.F.T., 010823Z to Admty.)

Rocket launching L.C.M. flotillas. Your 260547 and S.A.C.S.E.A. 181225. Consider equipment should be supplied but in view of agreed cut in numbers of L.C.M. Flotillas for Naval Assault Forces suggest scale asked for too high. (C.C.O., 011125A to Admty.)

Digest No. 1107, 31st Jan. Covering Jan. 31st unless otherwise stated. (3) 3 Navy Catalinas reconnoitred Formosa - Pescadores area night 29th/30th Jan. First Cat. saw 1 tanker, 1 small freighter, 5 unidentified vessels, 1 escort 20 miles south of Pescadores also 4 other small ships same vicinity: 2 hits scored on tanker with hundred pounders starting fires. Later same Cat. unsuccessfully attacked 4 small ships entering Amoy Harbour. Second Cat. saw 1 large, 2 small ships in Takao harbour also 6 luggers, 50 small craft along coast north of Tainan, attacked 1 sea truck heading east by southern Formosa causing slight damage, saw 2 northbound escorts off south-east Formosa. Third Cat. saw 4 small merchantmen, 1 large unidentified vessel anchored off north-east Formosa, strafed 4 barges, 1 lugger Bashi Channel. (4) Noon 30th Jan. Navy Liberator saw 1 tanker, 2 S/M chasers covered by 1 aircraft northbound 15 miles north off Hong Kong. Same day French Observers reported 3 cruisers, 2 transports off Quinhox heading north and later, four cruisers, one

/(?Light) ...

War Diary.

1.2.1945.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Digest (7Light) cruiser, 1 destroyer southbound same  
No. 1107. vicinity.  
31st Jan. (8) Morning American forces landed without  
(Contd.) opposition Nasugbu (west coast Batangos Province)  
and moved rapidly inland. Previous night,  
successful diversionary operations conducted  
Tayabas Bay area. Forces advancing along  
head of Subic Bay captured Olongapo Naval Base afternoon Jan.  
30th.  
(9) Noon 25 Liberators dropped 60 (twefckcs - corrupt group)  
of bombs on Cavite with 60 per cent of bombs in target area  
causing large explosions and fires while 20 other Liberators  
unloaded 50 tons on Canacao with excellent pattern.  
(15) Pre-dawn 30th Jan. Fighters over Cagayan Valley sank 8  
barges. Two squadrons Bostons attacked, reported speed boat  
hideouts Balayan - Batangis area, results obscured by foliage.  
18 Liberators dropped 69 tons of bombs on Corregidor causing  
large fires and explosions.  
(18) Night 30th/31st Jan. Ormoc-based P.Ts. sank two small  
merchantmen Hohol Straits, killing estimated 200 Japanese in  
one ship destroying fuel and stores in other ship. Same P.Ts.  
sank one troop laden barge, same vicinity.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 011207Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/1st Feb.  
and sighting Para. (B) (1) A/C K/53 sighted possible  
summary. schnorkel and obtained contact at 1845Z/31st  
Jan. in 60° 48' N., 03° 46' W.  
Para. (C) (1) E.G.10 attacked doubtful bottomed  
contact believed non-submarine at 1635Z/31st  
Jan. in 58° 26' N., 02° 35' W.  
(2) E.G.26 attacked contact believed non-submarine at 2340Z/31st  
Jan. in 50° 21' N., 02° 04' W.  
(3) H.M.C.S. GLACE BAY attacked contact believed wreck at 1510Z/  
31st Jan. in 51° 29' N., 08° 32' W.  
(4) H.M. Ships obtained contact believed non-submarine at  
2010Z/31st Jan. in 50° 33' N., 05° 18' W.  
Para. (D) A/C obtained disappearing contact at 0255Z/1st Feb.  
in approx. 44° 00' N., 63° 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 011030Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B Estimates.  
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 011401A, 011427A.)

2.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea  
and Channel.

(1) Two mines were swept off the mouth of the Schelde; otherwise foul weather caused the cancellation of Nore patrols and minesweeping and the closure of Ostend, as well as modification of Portsmouth patrols.

Norway.

(2) C. in C.H.F. has been asked to evacuate 500 Norwegians from the island of Soroy in Northern Norway. Three destroyers, either from the escort of Convoy J.W.64 or from operation "Silenium", will be detailed for this service.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Greece.

(3) The situation in Greece has quietened generally but tense in the Peloponessus.

Crete.

(4) Situation calm at Heraklion where strike has ceased.

East Indies

Mauritius  
cyclone.

(5) Another cyclone passed close to the island last night and early this morning. Wind force 90 miles an hour. Damage caused. Rodrigues suffered severe damage two days ago.

2.2.1945:  
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

- Movement. (6) HOWE and ACHILLES left for Auckland (New Zealand).
- China coast. (7) Two coasters sunk heading south for Amoy by bombing and a third was left apparently sinking.
- Formosa. (8) A coaster was damaged and two small M/Vs. left sinking in Sa Kishma Island area.
- Philippines. (9) Last night Lingayan P.T. boats attacked 9 barges at Salomague Harbour but intense shell fire prevented observation results.
- Timor. (10) Today six Liberators attacked 1000 ton freighter off north coast of Flores Island one direct hit.

War Diary.

2.2.1945.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Foul weather. Dover and Nore patrol night 2nd/3rd Feb. Nil. (V.A. Dover, 021538A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.) Harwich minesweepers remaining in harbour owing to weather. Position 51 not manned. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 021719 to C. in C. Nore.)  
Cositintrep No. 304, Part II, Naval. Port of Ostend closed due to weather p.m./2nd Feb. Pluto Hais Ten completed and operational. (A.N.C.X.F., 022340A to Admty.)

F.O.I.C. Holland. F.O.I.C. N.P.1731 is in future to be known as F.O.I.C. Holland and correspondence and communications which are to be routed as hitherto are to be addressed accordingly. (A.N.C.X.F., 021550A to British F.Os. I.C. and N.Os. I.C. in Europe.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 304, Part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 011600A February.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	-	111	10,609	-	2,036
Ostend	2,140	171	2,570	80	463
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	152	-	556	-	-
Caen	-	-	2,114	-	-
Calais	4,060	-	345	-	-
Ghent	-	-	410	-	410
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,352</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>16,604</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2,909</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	169	17,463	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	7,947	-	4,560
Le Havre	9,012	724	7,680	-	3,186
Rouen	86	84	5,991	2,944	742
Granville	-	-	2,016	-	-
Ghent	-	21	2,284	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,098</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>43,381</b>	<b>2,944</b>	<b>8,488</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	57	355	11,410	-	487
Port de Bouc	-	18	1,510	4,767	-
Toulon	-	-	302	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>13,222</b>	<b>4,767</b>	<b>487</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 021730A to Admty. and others.)

Minesweeping on Far Shore. Sweeping report for today Friday. Channel from N.F.18 to N.F.13 swept LL/SA/HG I.G.M.S. by 3 M.M.S. 4 cables either side of centre line 1 actuation. One acoustic mine detonated in 51° 25'30" N., 03° 29'09" E.

/Channel ...

War Diary.2.2.1945.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea.Minesweeping  
on Far  
Shore.  
(Contd.)

Channel from N.F.18 to Bat. swept LL/SA/HG by 2 M.M.S. 1 actuation. Channel from N.F.18 to P.V.N.E. swept LL/SA/HG 3 actuations negative results. No reports from Antwerp. (Com. M/S. Terneuzen, 021809 to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.) One acoustic mine detonated at 1150 in position 51.24.24 N., 03.17.20 E. LL/SA and explosive sweep is used. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 021825A to C. in C. Nore, Admty., A.N.C.X.F.)

OperationsChannelFoul  
weather.

If weather necessitates you may patrol in area limits: (A) Q.Z.S. 616. (B) 00° 25' W. (C) 49° 30' W. (D) 01° 05' W. Report your intentions.

Your 021146A.  
moderates.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021146A to S.O. E.G.1.)  
Am moving to this area now until the weather  
(S.O. E.G.1, 021255A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Patrols and  
escorts.

(1) Sweep through area indicated in my 021146A and then proceed to Le Havre to escort convoy V.W.P. sailing about 1800A. Weather damage is not to be risked.

(2) S.O. E.G.1 is to take LA DECOUVERTE and WALDEGRAVE under his orders and act as S.O. Escort until Z Buoy when 1st Escort Group will detach.

(3) On completion of this duty 1st Escort Group anchor off St. Helens.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021449A to S.O. E.G.1, LA DECOUVERTE.)  
Night patrols.

(1) You are to detach three of your group to act as additional escort to convoy W.V.P., S.O. in L'AVENTURE, sailing Gate about 2359A. Report names of ships detailed repeating signal to L'AVENTURE.

(2) You and remainder of group, including LOCH KILLIN if available, are to weigh at 1900A and proceed to patrol area within limits: (A) Route E. (B) Q.Z.S. 636. (C) 50° 00' N. (D) 01° 15' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021536A to S.O. E.G.17.)

Night patrol. GARLIES, GORE remain on patrol in area: (A) 50° 00' N. (B) 01° 15' W. (C) Coast of France. (D) 01° 50' W. if weather unsuitable ships shelter in area: (A) Q.Z.S. 616. (B) 00° 25' W. (C) 49° 30' W. (D) 01° 05' W. reporting their intentions to do so.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021537A to GARLIES, GORE.)

My 021536A. Owing to reduction of ships in convoy W.V.P. cancel para. (1). The three ships detailed are to weigh as soon as all ships have received papers from BRONTES and are to establish patrol within limits: (A) Q.Z.S. 616 and 655.

War Diary.

2.2.1945.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols and Escorts. (Contd.) (B) 00° 10' W. (C) 01° 05' W.  
(2) Leave patrol at 0930 tomorrow Saturday, enter Le Havre and await further orders.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021835A to S.O. E.G.17.)  
Day patrols Saturday 3rd. At 0900A tomorrow Saturday LOCH KILLIN and MOORSOM proceed to patrol within area limits: (A) 50° 00' N. (B) 01° 15' W. (C) Coast of France. (D) 01° 50' W. On arrival of LOCH KILLIN and MOORSOM in above area GARLIES and GORE proceed to rejoin E.G.1 at anchor off St. Helens.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 022247A to LOCH KILLIN, GARLIES.)

Operations

Norway

Operations S.C. Intend to sail S.C. operation from Shetland.  
(1) 0001A/4th Feb. from Scalloway.  
(2) 068° from Sumburgh Head 12 knots.  
(3) 1800A/4th Feb.  
(4) Between 1830A/4th Feb. and 0600A/5th Feb.  
(5) Merkab to Sumburgh Head 14 knots.  
(6) p.m./5th Feb. (7) 070° Sumburgh Head. (8) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 021107A to A.C.O.S.)  
My 021107A. (1) 61° 02' N., 04° 31' E.  
(2) Ramose Sceptic. (3) 60° 56' N., 04° 37' E. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 021109A to A.C.O.S.)  
Ramose Forage HITRA returned at \*1295/2nd Feb.  
(2) Operation successful. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 021315A to A.C.O.S.)  
\* As received.

Operations

Northern Waters

OKSOY to Faroes. Intend sailing ORWELL and H. Nor. M.S. OKSOY at 0800A tomorrow Saturday to Faroes expected time of arrival 0900A/4th Feb. to comply with C. in C. H.F.'s 291444A\* Jan. (A.C.O.S., 021202A to N.O.I.C. Faroes, C.S.1.)  
\* Not identified in War Registry.

H.F. destroyers funnel markings. Funnel markings for Home Fleet destroyers are being reintroduced as follows:-  
2nd Flotilla 2 black bands.  
6th Flotilla 1 white band.  
17th Flotilla 1 black over 2 white bands.  
23rd Flotilla 1 black band.  
(C. in C. H.F., 021710A to H.F.)

*Index Home Fleet Funnel Markings*



War Diary.

2.2.1945.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Northern  
Norway:  
relief  
evacuation  
of Soroy.

An urgent request has been received from the Norwegians to evacuate up to 500 people from the Island of Soroy, 70° 40' N., 22° 30' E. It is under consideration to embark them in 2 or 3 destroyers and tranship them at Kola into vessels of R.A.64 for passage to the U.K.

(2) Request you will consider detaching destroyers from J.W.64 to carry out this evacuation, or alternatively, sending extra destroyers for this purpose.

(3) Pending further examination here no reply has yet been made to the Norwegian High Command. Your early remarks are requested.

(4) All possible navigational and other intelligence will be passed to you as soon as possible.

(V.C.N.S., 021714A to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 021714. C.S.1 will be instructed to detach three destroyers from J.W.64 for this operation if circumstances permit. Should this be found impracticable C.S.1 will report the fact and three destroyers taking part in Operation "Silenium" my 242310 Jan. refers, will on completion of surface strike be despatched to Soroy. In the latter case intend destroyers to bring Norwegian evacuees back to U.K. direct. This will avoid passing through submarine zone outside Kola and also ensure that R.A.64 is not delayed.

(C. in C. H.F., 021902A to Admty.)

Skaalefjord  
Indicator  
Nets.

A.C.O.S. reports southern lay of Skaalefjord Indicator Nets has parted.

(2) As no gate is fitted and baffles are marked by Light Buoys, security afforded is virtually negligible. Propose therefore to abandon these defences or alternatively to substitute dummy line of flotation only. Request your remarks.

(D. of L.D., 021850A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Convoy  
J.W. 64.

Black oil tanker LUCERNA will be included (Tanker Message) in J.W.64 with 8,444 tons Admiralty furnace oil for Admiralty account. Vessel is to return in R.A.64.

(2) In addition LUCERNA has on board following quantities of lubricating oils in 40 gallon drums.

200 gallons S.M.L.O. 120 gallons I.C.E. 80 gallons A.C.O.  
(D.T.D., 022319A to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)

Casualties and Defects.

NASTURTIUM  
v. CAMROSE,  
corvettes.

NASTURTIUM and CAMROSE in collision at 0008/2nd. CAMROSE holed above waterline on starboard side amidships. NASTURTIUM has damaged bows. Forepeak believed open to sea. CAMROSE now

/returning ...

War Diary.2.2.1945.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects

NASTURTIUM returning Plymouth. Intend continue with O.N.A.282 and will report at daylight whether ship is able to (? continue) to ocean R/V. (NASTURTIUM, 020053A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
v. CAMROSE, corvettes. In view of weather and collision damage, ships addressed have discretion to enter Portland.  
(Contd.) Report intentions.

(2) COSBY to take over S.O. Escorts if NASTURTIUM leaves.  
(3) S.O. 41st E.G. detail 1 ship to escort CAMROSE to harbour. Report name.  
(4) Remaining 2 ships of 41st E.G. continue with convoy until further orders.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 020546A to NASTURTIUM, CAMROSE.)  
Intend returning Plymouth detaching from convoy at 1000A speed of advance 5 knots.  
CAMROSE proceeding Plymouth independently at 0100A.  
(NASTURTIUM, 020958A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

DUNRAVEN Salvage Company states that damage to DUNRAVEN  
CASTLE, CASTLE consists of broken stern tube, stripped  
M/S Trawler. propeller, flat keel bent below engine room,  
bilge keels damaged, bottom dented but not  
perforated. Water from stern tube is kept  
down by ship's pumps and ship is being towed  
to Ardrossan. New propeller is expected in three weeks time  
and E.R.O.(C) Troon will be asked to survey ship internally  
pending docking.  
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 021505A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

SS. CUBA. Sailed at 022100 for Solent for orders CUBA  
escorted by WALDEGRAVE. Speed 10 knots.  
CUBA is making 80 tons of water an hour.  
(C.T.G. 125.15, 022216A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Movements

DIADEM, Your 011939 arrived.  
cruiser. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 020815A to A.C.O.S.)

EASTWAY, F.O.G.M.A's 291234A, para. 8 and 10. Request  
L.S.D. information as to destination of EASTWAY. My  
P.C.S. at 1200A/2 44° 20' N., 09° 57' W., 027°,  
15 knots. Weather report 9080 2052.  
(ZETLAND, 021225A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Destination EASTWAY is Portsmouth. From (PE) alter course  
for 180° Start Point 5 miles thence by Route E and as ordered  
by C. in C. Portsmouth,  
(Plot. (O.D.), 021500A to ZETLAND.)

ROYAL Request you will arrange for ROYAL ULSTERMAN  
ULSTERMAN, to be sailed for Plymouth as soon as practicable.  
L.S.I.(H). C. in C. Plymouth 011636 (not to all) refers.  
(D.C.O.D., 021510A to R.A.L.S.C.U.)

War Diary.

2.2.1945.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

*So. Africa*  
H.M.S.A.S.  
NATAL,  
late LOCH  
CREE.

When ready LOCH CREE (which will be renamed H.M.S.A.S. NATAL on commissioning) should be sailed for Tobermory to work-up.  
(2) On completion of work-up NATAL is to join Western Approaches Command for period of about two months.  
(3) Subject to operational requirements it is intended that NATAL should then proceed to East Indies Station.  
(4) C. in C. S.A. is requested to inform Union Govt. accordingly.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 022318A to A.S.C.B.S.)

Shipping and Convoys

Ships for  
Black Sea  
Ports.

Pass to N.C.S.Oa.  
In the absence of lights in the Black Sea accurate navigation will depend upon Radio Beacons. It is imperative therefore that D/F equipment in all ships should be in good working order and accurately calibrated. Re-calibration is particularly important when deck cargo is carried.  
(D.T.D., 021629A to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth, Portsmouth, Nore, Rosyth.)

2.2.1945  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

U-boat activity air Squadron dispositions. Your 052000B August 1944. In view of expected developments in U-boat War which include possibility of activity in mid-Atlantic by type XXI U-boats I consider that the time has now arrived to bring 114 U.S.N. Squadron up to full strength in the Azores. Subject, therefore, to concurrence of Com. 12th Fleet I intend to transfer the detachment of that Squadron from Kunkeswell to the Azores forthwith. Request Com. 12th Fleet to signal concurrence.  
(H.Q.C.C. 021830A to Admty.)

WYE Radar-Contact WYE had Radar contact approximate position 36.12 N. 07.39 W. at 2100A and disappeared 4,000 yards, searched, no result. Proceeding shall be 2½ hours late at GK.  
(MALCOLM, 022228A, to F.O.G.M.A.)

MICHAEL ANAGNOS collision. Arrived Horta at 2051Z 2nd MICHAEL ANAGNOS with collision damage ex. U.G.S.70 escorted by ST.NECTAN.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 022306 to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

Martinique visit of French ships. Comar Dakar informs me French Admiralty would like ANNAMITE, GAZELLE and CHEVREUIL to pay short visit Martinique on passage to Porto Rico A.M.202000 refers. Propose approving provided time permits dependent on date of return from escorting ASTURIAS my 231652Z refers and subject to U-boat situation remaining unchanged. Request early information of date ships will be required at San Juan P.R.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 021136Z to Admty.)

Coastal Command Aircraft. For Air Vice-Marshal Reid from Gillmore. Your A.468\* February 1st crossed with my A.X.138\* Feb. 1st. Position is that proposal to roll up two of your Sunderland squadrons was put to Admiralty who raised objections chiefly on grounds that by reducing your force so we should be incurring unacceptable risk.  
(2) Since then, C. in C. Coastal Command has requested reinforcement of his command emphasising inadequacy of his existing resources to provide really effective counter to impending U-boat offensive on scale expected. C. in C. confirms that profitable employment can be given aircraft even with obsolescent Radar. Amongst types of squadron asked for are two flying boat squadrons. Probable, therefore, that Admiralty concurrence will again be sought for withdrawal of two Sunderland squadrons from your Command as reinforcements for Coastal Command. Will inform you as soon as decision reached.  
(A.Ministry, Whitehall, 021308Z to A.H.Q. West Africa.)  
\* Not identified in W.R. + 011516 Jan.

2.2.1945  
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Visit of British Cruiser. F.O.L.E.M's 261810. Foreign Office are telegraphing British Minister Beirut concerning visit of British cruiser and no action should be taken pending instructions from Admiralty. (P.A.S.(L) approved, V.C.N.S. 021105A to C. in C. Med. (Malta)).

The British Ambassador Syria for Lebanon has suggested a visit by a British Cruiser to Beirut in the near future. Request information whether such a visit is desirable. It could be arranged after the 8th Feb. It could also be arranged flying the flag of A.F. Is this latter considered desirable. (C. in C. Med. 022347A Admty.) reply 052124A.

South Aegean Summary up to 0900 hrs. 011042. GI 84182 cipher 2 Feb. Secret. 2nd Feb. 1945. (1) Shipping. Reference reports from H.Q. Force Lisso. Report states German Garrison Leros 1680. This not considered correct. Garrison probably at least 3,000 Germans in addition to Italians and Poles. (C. in C. M.E. 021300B to War Office)

19th M.L. Flotilla. Request allocation of M.L's 882-898 to Med. Station on completion to form 19th M.L. Flotilla. (2) If allocation approved intend to fit this flotilla for minesweeping as gear becomes available. (C. in C. Med. 021704A to Admty.)

BEGUM, Carrier. Onward route from position 214 0300/4th Q.B.B. 338 position 19, 92 and 89 thence direct Gib. E.T.A. 0900/6th. S. of A. 15 knots. (V.A.M. 021805A to BEGUM)

Transfer of Russian Nationals. To make a start with the movement of Russian personnel from Southern France it is under consideration to allocate British troopship lift for some 4,000 ex Marseilles during February and probably a similar number in March. (2) Subject to confirmation the Black Sea route

will be used.

(5) Agreed.  
(D. of S.T. 021834 and 051746A to P.S.T.O. Med. etc.)

C. in C. Med. C. in C. Med. is proceeding to Alexandria early on the 3rd Feb. for some days.

/Signals...

27

2.2.1945  
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

C. in C. Med. (Contd.) Signals requiring personal attention of C. in C. are to be passed to C. in C. Med. (Alex.) as well as to Caserta. All other signals and correspondence continues to Caserta only.  
(4) To enable plot to be kept at Malta and Alex. during period of visit, V.A.M. and F.O.L.E.M. to be included in address of movement summaries for areas in Med. Station.  
(C. in C. Med. (Malta), 021840A to Admty.  
S.P.02389 - Navy 3-way tables (BB).  
S.P.02403 - Special Flag Officers One time recyphering pad (FF)

Situation report No.550. (1) Casablanca ref. No.549 para. 1. ARDENT sank outside the harbour whilst being towed after collision with SS. EMPIRE ABBEY. No casualties.  
(2) Crete situation calm at Heraklion where strike has ceased.  
(3) Greece situation quietened generally but tense in the Peleponessus.  
(C. in C. Med. 022132A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

Riviera Sweep. Night of 3rd to 4th Feb. McLANAHAN (S.O.) and METEOR carry out sweep A. TEMPETE, GRANDE, GARDE Patrol. McLANAHAN to give METEOR R/V. METEOR already advised be ready to sail at night-fall 3rd.  
(LE FORTUNE, 022105A to METEOR etc.)

Cositintrep No.572. 291005 M.X. 45112 cipher 2nd Feb. Cite FHGCT FHGBI Signed Alex. Coastal Air Force Beufighters attacked 60 foot launch in North Adriatic, results unobserved. 1 Beaufighter missing. Spitfires flew uneventful weather R/Cs. Air/sea rescue A/C rescued 4 aircrew survivors in Central Adriatic. Spitfires bombed buildings in Ljubski, Yugoslavia and destroyed one motor transport by strafing. Mine spotting patrols and uneventful scrambles flown. 1 Walrus operated with Navy in search for reported S/M south of Marseilles.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. No T.O.O/2.)

War Diary.

2.2.1945

Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-positions.

No fresh information. Scales in all areas remain W.5.

(C. in C. E.I.S. 020400Z, to S. & A. E.I.S.)

K.M.F. convoys.

Aden escort force is being disbanded in accordance with para. 2 of my 171131 not to all.

(2) Escort will be provided to India and Ceylon for ships ex K.M.F. 39 but not for subsequent sailings. Ships ex K.M.F. 40 and later convoys

should be routed independently between Suez and destination and need not call at Aden.

(3) Returning ships ex K.M.F. 38 are to be sailed independently from Bombay when ready and may omit calling at Aden.

(C. in C. E.I. 020534Z and 061241A to Admty.)

TARANTULA.

Cancel para. 4 of my 241152 Jan. re TARANTULA.

Ship is being turned over to Capt. Doust to assist in salvage of A.F.D. 23.

(C. in C. E.I. 020733Z to Admty.)

O.W.1, movement.

(1) O.W. 1. (2) 0945Z/2nd Feb., 1945. (3) 0600Z Wed. 14th Feb. 005° 25' S. 082° 45' E. (4) 15 kts.

(5) Positions. (6) Unescorted. (7) 11. (8) Positions. (8) A. Positions. (16) GENERAL C.G. MORTON H/F M/F Radar T.B.Y. troops and equipment

Calcutta. (16) GENERAL J.H. MCRAE H/F M/F Radar T.B.Y. troops and equipment Calcutta.

(N.O.I.C. Port Melbourne 020901Z to C. in C. E.I., etc.)

Force 65.

Cancel my 160243 Jan. title of Force 65 lapsed.

(C. in C. E.I. 021019Z to Admty.)

Meridian Press  
p.14  
c  
Communicue.

(2) Unless there are special reasons for release on 3rd Feb. request release be delayed until 1600 G.M.T. on Monday 5th Feb. Please confirm that delay is acceptable.

(C.N.I. 021221A to C. in C. E.I. confirmed 030209Z.)

5th C.S. Flag.

Following arrivals NEWCASTLE wearing Flag C.S. 5 KENYA, FULLMOON, THRASHER. Departed ROVER, U.S. Chaser, P.1011.

(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 021508Z to Admty.)

L.S.Ts. for Far East.

H.M.L.S.T. (2) 406, 410 and 538 of 2nd L.S.T. Flotilla, and H.M.L.S.T. (2) 413 and 427 of 6th L.S.T. Flotilla sailed in K.M.S. 82, S.O. embarked in H.M.L.S.T. (2) 410.

(2) All vessels have L.C.T. (5) embarked. Major portion of Molcab No. one is embarked in H.M.L.S.T. (2) 410, 538, 413 and 427. Balance is embarked in H.M.L.S.T. (2) 368 which will be sailed shortly. A.M. /COD 0467/Dec. 1944, not to all, refers.

(A.D.O.D. (C.O.) 021803A to C. in C. E.I., etc.)

/Mauritius...

2.2.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Mauritius  
(2nd cyclone)

Regret to report that centre of another cyclone passed close to the Island last night and early this morning. Wind force reported to have reached 90 miles an hour. Damage not yet assessed. Rodrigues suffered severe damage two days ago. (Mauritius No T.O.O/2 to S. of S. Colonies.)



War Diary

2.2.1945

FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

N.S.H.Q. S/M  
attack and  
sighting  
summary. No report since my 222126 January. Para. D.  
(1) CANSO A/116 disappearing Radar contact 0147Z/1st  
February in 44.08 N. 63.22 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. 020110Z to Admty.)

H.M.C.S.  
STRATHADAM. C. in C. C.N.A. 302351 sailed St. Johns,  
STRATHADAM at 1100Z Feb. independently to London-  
derry routed - .  
(2) S. of A. 15 knots. E.T.A. position BB  
p.m. 7th Feb.  
(F.O.N.F. 021136Z to C. in C. W.A. etc.)

U-Boat  
dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 021322Z and Cominch, 021519Z)

ILE DE  
FRANCE,  
S/M Situation  
reports. Master of ILE DE FRANCE reports that he received  
no S/M situation reports between radio change at  
30 degs. W. and Chop at 47 degs. W.  
(2) He requests that these reports be continued  
Until Chop on westward passage and commence at  
Chop on eastward passage.  
(B.R.L.O. 021648Z to Admty.)  
reply 031549A.

ARIADNE  
mine-layer. Earliest practicable direct ARIADNE proceed Canal  
Zone report Compaseafnon for onward routeing to  
U.K. via Route to be designated by Admiralty.  
(C.T.F.77, 021734Z to C.T.F.78 Washington and  
030755 (A. and N.Z.)

E.G. C.3. RIVIERE DU LOUP sailing with C.3 Escort Group.  
Request she may spend forthcoming layover in U.K.  
at Tobermory for working up practices.  
(F.O. Newfoundland, 022010Z to C. in C. W.A.  
(R) Admty, C.N.M.O., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.  
Cdre. D. W.A. WESTERN ISLES, S.O.C.3,  
RIVIERE DU LOUP)

B.P.F.  
Policy,  
Air. Admiralty (Personal from 5th S.L.) 022053A to  
B.A.D. (personal for N.A.R.). See Lion Copy.

**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.)

022053A/February.

TO: B.A.D. (PERSONAL for N.A.R.)

Date: 2.2.45.

OTP (T/K)

FROM ADMIRALTY

PERSONAL from 5th S.L.

Your <sup>4</sup>LORSA 25573 para.3.

(A) See SALOR 16419. In estimating requirements in 1945 we have planned to provide B.P.F. with 145 percent reserve including aircraft under repair. The U.S.N. figure with which this should be compared is stated to be 135 percent in Report on Interview with Commander Hopkins concerning U.S.P.F. This 135 percent is additional to aircraft in spare groups and also to aircraft in pipe line between U.S. and main base.

*B.P.F.  
Policy  
Air.*

(B) Our First Line I.E. includes 282 Corsairs actual rising to 324 in August 1945 and 202 Hellcats actual rising to 270 in August 1945. If assignments cease no aircraft will be available to replace Corsair wastage after June. This would adversely effect operations soon after that date. It would not repeat not meet the situation to suspend assignments until June since assignments made in June will not reach B.P.F. before October and there would be gap in which aircraft strength of B.P.F. would fall rapidly. Hellcat shortage would be immediately apparent and existing squadrons would have to be maintained at expense of new squadrons.

(C) In consequence of reducing target First Line to 1600 our requirement of aircraft from U.S. in 1946 is 52 Corsairs a month, 29 Avengers a month, nil Hellcat, nil Wildcat. This cancels estimated requirement as stated in SALOR 14074. There are possibilities of increasing production of Seafire 45 in 1946. Therefore in bargaining to retain assignments at level proposed in 1945 including higher level provisionally promised for second half of 1945 which is important, you could if pressed offer to reduce our requirement for Corsairs in 1946 below level stated above. Increase of Seafire 45 production would, however, involve retention of 15,000 workers in M.A.P. labour force in 1946 who would otherwise have been released for other purposes. Seafire 45 is not substitute for Corsair in its role of fighter bomber.

022053A

Sec. to 5th S.L. Rex 210.

/ 291401 January

/ 271611 January

/ Circulation ...

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.(3)
- D.F.S.L.(2)
- 2nd S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
- Sec.
- D.C.N.A.E.
- P.A.S.(S)
- C.N.R.(MAP)
- 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.
- Ad.Blake.
- S.A. to 5th S.L.
- Hd. of Air Br.(A0010/45)
- W.D.

ONLY

ngb

War Diary

2.2.1945  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

PACIFIC, Australia and New Zealand

T.G.110.1. Departure Sydney 2346Z first Feb. T.G. 110.1.  
S. of A. 18 knots. E.T.A. Auckland Boom  
051100.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney N.S.W. 020026Z to Admty. etc.)

B.P.F. Ref. A.M. 291317Z part 1.  
Navigation. (1) (A) least depth (6) fathoms is contained  
between these proposed buoys. South buoy at 35  
feet with 30 foot patch 1.5 cable South Kidderpore.  
North buoy at 35 feet which depth decreased to  
32 feet 3 cables North Kidderpore. (?No) further action  
in regard to these 2 buoys is being taken pending Admiralty  
decision.  
(1) (B) Obstructions consisting of branches of coral swept to 34  
feet. Consider this buoy of value as additional mark between  
Booby Island and (?Magnets) Island.  
(CHALLENGER, 020135Z to Admty.)

Air Your 020020 January and 290715 January (not to  
Stations C.A. B.P.F.)  
B.P.F. (1) As M.O.N.A.Bs I and II have already been  
commissioned as independant commands with ships'  
names NABBINGTON and NABBERLEY which they will  
retain wherever they may go, these names cannot  
\*l.c. be borne by \*NOWRA and \*BANKSTOWN. No separate complements have  
been provided for these stations and question of commissioning  
them has not yet arisen.  
(2) Taking over of Stations by NABBINGTON and NABBERLEY is being  
promulgated.  
(Hd. of Air, 021136A to F.O.N.A.S.(A))

Digest Covering 1st Feb.  
serial (1) Navy Liberators from Leyte searched Southern  
No.1108. Namsei-Spoto-Formosa-Hong Kong areas in daylight  
1.2.1945. reporting 5 small ships 6 Luggers Sakashima Pon-  
toons on 3 seatrucks 2 small coasters off N.W.  
Formosa, all 3 seatrucks strafed while several  
direct bomb hits started fires one seatruck both  
small coaster: 2 probable destroyers heading south in Bashi  
Channel: 2 medium freighter transports 2 escorts off Amoy head-  
ing N.E. Single floatplane shown down off Hong Kong.  
(2) 3 Catalinas over same area night 31st January - 1st February  
saw many medium merchantmen several destroyer escorts many  
patrol craft off Amoy, unsuccessfully attacked several destroyer  
escorts near Pescadores, saw several large unidentified ships  
Tainan.  
(3) Previous night 3 Catalinas covering same sector saw 2 small  
freighters heading south 65 miles east of Akgy, unsuccessfully  
bombed single medium tanker 40 miles north west Takao, strafed  
and damaged 7 small craft Sakashima.  
(4) Night 31st January - 1st February P.T's with co-operating  
A/C shot up enemy small craft off San Fernando (N.E. Lingayen  
Gulf) destroying or damaging 28 small craft including 5 speed  
boats.  
(5) Same night 25-30 Japanese speed boats attacked our shipping  
off Batangas beach-head sinking 1 S/M-chaser. Majority enemy  
craft retired or sunk having failed to penetrate screen.

War Diary2.2.1945  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandDigest  
serial  
No.1108.  
1.2.1945.

(16) Ref. 2 probable southbound destroyers in Zasji Channel reported para. 1 this Digest, 5th airforce A/C struck this Tokio express before reaching Luzon claiming 1 destroyer left burning and listing, 1 destroyer escort burning. 2 Mustangs shot down by Ack Ack.

(18) Delayed reports air operations Jan. 31st follow. 12 Mitchells caught Tokyo express comprising 3 southbound destroyers south of Formosa sinking one destroyer, setting second afire, probably damaging third; escorting Thunderbolts destroyed five enemy fighters covering convoy.

(19) Solomons air forces 31st Jan. sent 32 Corsairs 28 Mitchells 9 Venturas over Rabaul to hit float plane hideout Simpson Harbour and Vunakanau plane park.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 021131Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/2nd February.

Para. B. (1) A/C Y/53 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0441Z/31st January in 61 degs. 17' N. 16 degs. 09' W.

(2) A/C V/330 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0550Z/1st Feb. in 61 degs. 09' N. 03 degs. 20' W.

Para. C. (1) H.M.S. PUNCHER A/C sighted surfaced U-Boat which submerged at 0840Z/1st Feb. in 58 degs. 45' N. 05 degs. 46' W.  
(2) Iceland A/C reported possible U-Boat at 1756Z/1st Feb. in 62 degs. 11' N. 16 degs. 35' W.

Para. D. (1) U.S. Bomber A/C reported periscope and wake course 180 degs. at 1443Z/1st Feb. in 51 degs. 43' N. 02 degs. 55' E. and at 1448Z/1st Feb. in 51 degs. 48' N. 02 degs. 55' E. course not given.

(3) U.S. Bomber A/C reported periscope and wake course 000 degs. at 1510Z/1st Feb. in 52 degs. 14' N. 01 degs. 53' E. and at 1514Z/1st Feb. in 51 degs. 53' N. 02 degs. 00' E. course not given.

(23) H.M.S. SHERWATER attacked underwater hydrophone contact with depth charges at 2201Z/1st Feb. in approx. 52 degs. 21' N. 01 degs. 51' E.

(D.D.I.C. 021223A Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.)

U-Boat

Estimates.

Dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 021350A and 021352 to A.I.G., Cominch)

3.2.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1. The gale blew itself out, Ostend reopened, and minesweeping was resumed. Four mines were cut or detonated off the Far Shore, and two off the East Coast, but H.M. Trawler ARLEY was sunk by another which exploded in her sweep off Sheringham.
- Channel. 2. Four floating mines were sunk off Beachy Head.
- West Coast France. 3. B.N.A. Madrid is enquiring whether any of our ships have seen anything of the Spanish fishing vessel MASSO 14, now missing, and which had rescued one of our air crews and treated them very well.
- Western Approaches. 4(a) E.G. C.2, escorting Convoy O.N.282, attacked a hopeful contact some 70 miles south of Cape Clear, producing large patches of oil, but had to leave it to rejoin convoy.  
(b) REHOBOTH attacked another contact S.W. of Trevoise Head.
- Northern Waters. 5(a) Tenth E.G. almost certainly scored a U-Boat kill 50 miles N.W. of Muckle Flugga. They brought up diesel oil in a slick 7 miles long, German-marked wreckage, and wood chips. S.O. E.G.10 reports most efficient co-operation from aircraft P-24.  
(b) Convoy J.W.64, 27 ships, sailed from the Clyde for N. Russia.

Foreign Stations

East Indies

- S/M SUPREME. 6. S/M SUPREME 2nd Far East patrol reports that on 19th Jan. she obtained 25 hits on 500 ton coaster, which beached badly damaged off Port Blair. On 20th Jan. in same vicinity she forced to beach a 150 ton coaster badly damaged by 20 hits. On 22nd Jan. fired one torpedo at 150 ton coaster anchored in Sawi Bay, prematured after 700 yards. Coaster later beached badly damaged by 19 hits gunfire.

/Malacca ...

3.2.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

Malacca  
Strait.  
S/M STYGIAN.

7. S/M STYGIAN on her 4th Far East patrol on 15th Jan. scored a hit on a coaster of 300 tons by gunfire off Port Weld. On 16th sank by gunfire and demolition 3 junks totalling 160 tons. On 17th off Pulo Pagkor sank 500 ton tanker by gunfire also 210 ton junk by demolition. On 22nd sank by demolition 2 junks totalling 40 tons.

S/M  
THRASHER.

8. S/M THRASHER on her 1st Far East patrol between 22nd and 28th Jan. in vicinity of Koh Phra Tong and Butang Is. sank by gunfire and demolition 10 junks totalling 355 tons and damaged one 60 ton junk by gunfire.

Movement.

9. NIGERIA, PHOEBE and AMEER arrived Trincomalee from operations off Arakan Coast.

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Minesweeping off Far Shore. 3 GQ mines cut in position 50 degs. 39' 45" N. 01 degs. 21' 42" E. Sunk by rifle fire. (S.O.M.S.F. 14, 031125 to V.A. Dover.) One blue magnetic mine detonated at 1208 224 degs. N.F. 9 Buoy 1.5 miles. (N.O.I.C.Ostend, 031940 to Com. Belgium)

Possible midget U-Boat. Midget S/M reported in vicinity N.F.7 C at 1230. (N.O.I.C.Ostend, 031338A to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.305 Part 4. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/2 February.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (inc.coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	44	272	3,761	2,721	394
Ostend	589	148	3,420	-	2,173
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,137	-	-
Calais	-	-	360	-	-
Ghent	-	-	431	-	431
Totals:	633	420	9,109	2,721	2,998
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	80	5,567	-	-
Cherbourg	-	193	9,715	-	4,934
Le Havre	900	564	7,329	121	2,961
Rouen	878	510	7,405	-	821
Granville	-	-	847	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,781	-	-
Totals:	1,778	1,347	33,644	121	8,716
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseille	243	208	13,518	-	480
Port De Bouc	-	-	2,028	5,814	-
Toulon.	-	-	328	-	-
Totals:	243	208	15,874	5,814	480

(S.H.A.E.F. 031550A to Admty and Others.)

Patrols. Nore and Dover patrol tonight Feb. 3rd/4th.  
(1) 12 RUTHERFORD, 14 HAMBLEDON, 16 RIOU, 18 MACKAY, 19 RETALICK and SLAZAK, 21 GUILLEMOT, 22 CAICOS.  
(2) C/F Units. 12 F.L. 2 and 3. 4 M.T.B's 22 F.B.8 and 9. 4 M.T.B's 51 1 M.L. 52 1 M.L. 051 degs. 29' N. 01 degs. 22' E. F.B.6. 3 M.T.B's 51 degs. 35' N. 03 degs. 12' E. F.H. 3 and 4 M.T.Bs. 51 degs. 21' N. 03 degs. 00' E. F.B.2. 2 M.T.Bs 51 degs. 23' N. 03 degs. 15' E. F.A.8 3 M.T.Bs 51 degs. 39' N. 03 degs. 17' E. F.G.5. 4 M.Ls. 16 F.G.2 and 3 4 M.T.Bs.  
(3) KELLETT East Goodwin No.2, South East Goodwin Buoys. F.O.1, 1 M.T.B. No.1 South Goodwin No.2, South East Goodwin Buoys F.O. 2 1 M.T.B.  
(V.A. Dover, 031710A to Dover Command).

/Minesweeping ...



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping on East Coast. Following mines detonated to-day.  
 (1) 1029/3/245. (2) 'Q' LL and SA B.Y.M.S. 2282, 2137, 2142.  
 (3) O.N.  
 (4) 2½ cables.  
 (5) B.Y.M.S. 2282 at 12A Buoy 140 degs. true.  
 (6) Red 070 degs. 3 miles. (7) Off pulse.  
 (8) - (9) Probable 15.1.45. (10) No. (11) -  
 (12) - (13) - (14) -.  
 (F.O. Humber, 031809A to C. in C. Nore.)

Following moored mine swept to-day.  
 At 1301 in position 350 degs. east Dudgeon 1.2 miles. Type G.R. sunk by gunfire.  
 (F.O. Humber, 031811A to C. in C. Nore.)  
 Regret to report loss of H.M.T. ARLEY damaged by mine exploding in sweep and sunk in position 292 degs. Sheringham Buoy 1.2 miles.  
 Further signal will be made when details are known. (see page 59)  
 (F.O. Humber, 032145 to C. in C. Nore.)

Gale ceased. Port of Ostend re-opened a.m. 3rd Feb.  
 (A.N.C.X.F. 032352A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Mines sunk off Beachy Head. Floating mines have been sunk to-day in the following positions: (1) 50 degs. 27' N. 00 degs. 28' E. three, R.M.Ls. 516 and 495.  
 (2) 50 degs. 42' N. 00 degs. 45' E. one, R.M.L. 516.  
 Type was unknown but appeared to have 4 "Hertz" type horns.  
 (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 031835A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Patrols. At 0600A tomorrow leave patrol with BENTLEY and STOCKHAM to sweep through 49 degs. 35' N. 00 degs. 50' W. Thence to Le Havre to anchor and await instructions.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 031916A to S.O. E.G.1)  
 My 221000A/January. In future, weather permitting a patrol between 50 15 N. 01.18 W. and 49.45 N. 01.18 W. will be flown each day from first to last light by one M.A.D. Catalina. Height of patrol 100 feet. This will be known as Patrol A/U 30.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 032211A to Portsmouth A/S forces)

Operations

West Coast France

Missing Spanish Fishing Vessel MASSO 14. My 271730 grateful for early reply since one of these ships rescued an air crew and treated men very well. Some 15 families concerned.  
 (B.N.A. Madrid, 031047A to Admty)

War Diary

3.2.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Possible U-Boat. One submerged S/M bearing and course unknown distance nil my position(OCZK 0846.) 50 degs. 08' N. 9 degs. 14' W.  
(LONGUEIL, 031451A to Admty.)  
O.N. 282 - my 031451. Have carried out numerous Squid and D.C. attacks on bottom echo bringing up light oil, KINCARDINE in company.  
(LONGUEIL, 031738A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Abandoned hunt to rejoin O.N. 282. Contact doubtful but believed damaged and giving large oil patches in position 50.18 N. 09.07 W.  
Weather 1942 1354 unsuitable.  
(S.O.E.G.C.2, 031955A to C. in C. W.A.)

Second possible U-Boat. REHOBOTH contact enemy S/M in position 50 degs. 16' N. 05 degs. 25' W.  
(REHOBOTH, 031915A to Admty.)  
Contact enemy S/M submerged my position is 50 degs. 23' N. 05 degs. 25' W. course 000 degs. true. Speed 5 knots.  
(REHOBOTH, 031916A to Admty.)

Operations

Norway

Operation "Seleium". My 242310 Jan. para. 5 delete Strike (B). Strike (A) will be carried out by Avengers from PREMIER covered by fighters from PUNCHER.  
(C. in C. H.F. 032235 to NORFOLK, DEVONSHIRE, PREMIER)

Operations

Northern Waters.

Probable U-Boat. Investigating possible German U-Boat contact in position 61 degs. 23' N. 02 degs. 00' W. (S).  
U.1279 *mark* (S.O. E.G.10, 031045 to C. in C. Rosyth)  
Your 031045. If confirmed German U-Boat is probably outward bound.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 031140A to S.O. E.G.10)  
Your ?031245A Good. Continue to search in area of attack for further evidence. Signal details of object recovered.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 031436A to S.O.E.G.10)  
My 031245 last attack at 1100. A quantity of apparently diesel oil in datum at 1300. After searching 20 miles to S.W. intend to revisit datum before dark then move 60 miles E. at 16 knots and establish N.S. Gamma, assuming damaged German U-Boat would steer East.  
(S.O.E.G.10, 031540 to C. in C. Rosyth)

/ Your ...

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Probable  
U-Boat.  
(Contd.)

U.1279  
Sink

Your 031436A. Object steel sphere 12½ inches diameter, valve on top with short length of pipe, valve marked Links Gewinde, 2 brackets on one side of sphere 4 inches in width, lower bracket marked in German as follows: No 706 maker No.40, working pressure 200 atmospheres, tested to 250 atmospheres, contents 15.5 kilogrammes, empty 11.5 kilogrammes.  
(S.O.E.G.10, 031703A to C. in C. Rosyth)

My 031245. Oil still rising from (corrupt group) position of attack. Slick extends in varying density 7 miles to leeward. Depth no bottom. Consider U-Boat destroyed. Intend to remain in the vicinity until daylight. Your 031823 acknowledged.

(S.O.E.G.10, 031959 to C. in C. Rosyth)

My 031959. Asdic contact by BAYNTON at 0936. Minimum range with main set 400 yards. Contacted in Q. Originally steered 230 degs. altered North after first attack thought not to have exceeded 5 knots. LOCK ECK attacking at 1046 had no appreciable contact. Set squid to 400 feet.

Knocks or very minor explosions heard at 1049 and perhaps some whistling effect.

BRAITHWAITE's contact faded at 1100 when range was 1300 yards opening slowly. Asdic conditions good.

LOCH DUNVEGAN recovered object at 1105 and reported seeing slight trace of oil and some small wood chips. Oil was much thicker when datum was revisited at 1300. All ships plotted oil slick at 1900 within 3 miles of LOCH ECK attack but no asdic contact obtained.

A/C P.24 co-operation most efficient once pilot communication established.

(S.O.E.G.10, 032337A to C. in C. Rosyth)

Skaalfjord  
Indicator  
nets.

Your 021850. Request dummy lines of Flotation may be substituted.  
(C. in C. H.F. 031108A to Admty)

Convoy  
J.W.64.

Intend to sail BLACK RANGER escorted by SERAPIS and DENBIGH CASTLE at 2200A/4th to R/V J.W. 64 in position A C. in C. H.F. 231954 Jan. para. 6. as amended in his 271932 Jan.

(A.C.O.S. 031116A to C.S.1, S.O. E.G.7)

My 231954. Para. 4 (B) add SIOUX. Insert new para. 9 SIOUX will arrive Faroes about D plus 2 to fuel and is to proceed to overtake and join J.W. 64.

(C. in C. H.F. 031148 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. N. Russia, S.B.N.O. Archangel, Comdre. (D) W.A. Cdre. (D) H.F., F.Os. of H.F., N.O.I.C.Faroes, H.Q.C.C., 18 Group C.C. N.C.S.O. Clyde.)

J.W.64. (A) 1710A/3rd. (B) CYGNET (S.O) LAPWING, LARK, WHITEHALL, BAMBOROUGH CASTLE, ALNWICK CASTLE, BLUEBELL, RHODODENDRON, ZEBRA.

(C) 27. (D) Cdr. E. Ullring R.N.N. in FORT CREVECOEUR.

(E) Vice Cdr of convoys Master ADDOPH S. OCHS.

(F) Rear Cdre. Master BRITISH SHIP.

All ships and escort hold out con.23.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 031713A to N.O.I.C.Greenock, F.O.(D) H.F. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F. Admty. etc.)

/J.W.64...

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J.W. 64.  
(Contd.)

J.W.64. ADOLPH S. OCHS, FORT VERCHERES, FORT CREVECOEUR, LUCERNA, NERITINA, EMPIRE FLINT, BRITISH MERIT, SKIENSFJORD Norwegian, U.S. Ship HAROLD L. WINSLOW, JOYCE KILMER, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, BYRON DARNTON, WILLARD HALL, EDWIN L. DRAKE, HENRY LOMB, LEWIS EMERY JUNIOR, HAWKINS, FUDSKE, JOHN J. ABEL, NATHAN TOWSON, DANIEL WILLARD, F.T. FREYLINGHEUSEN, BEN F. DIXON, ARUNAH S. ABELL, MARIE M. MELONEY, TOWNSEND HARRIS, JOHN WANAMAKER.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 031715A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, Admty, C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F.)

After SERAPIS and DENBIGH CASTLE join in position A detach WHITEHALL to Faeroes to fuel and rejoin convoy in about 64 degs. N. On arrival Skaalefiord, WHITEHALL is to signal latest position of J.W. 64 prefixed immediate to A.I.G.47 through N.O.I.C. Faeroes.

(C. in C. H.F. 032230A to CYGNET)

Evacuation  
of population  
of Soroy.

A.M. 021714 and your 021902. As it may not be possible to evacuate the whole population of Soroy, request you will arrange for destroyers to embark as much food as possible for those who may be left ashore.

(2) Tents, blankets and medical stores are also desirable if these can be made available in time.  
(D.O.D. (H), 031854A to C. in C. H.F.)

As the result of a request from the Norwegian High Command, it is intended to detach 3 destroyers from J.W. 64 if circumstances permit, to evacuate up to 500 people from Soroy Island and to land stores and provisions for any who may be left behind.

(2) Destroyers will then proceed to Kola with refugees. Request you will arrange for their return to U.K. in ships of R.A.64.

(3) Should it prove impracticable to detach destroyers as in para. 1 3 other destroyers will be sent to Soroy to carry out the evacuation, returning direct to U.K.

(4) 1 Norwegian Catalina is being flown to Soroy as soon as weather permits to land officers who will collect population on the beaches at the appropriate time. A W/T set will also be landed for purposes of communication in the event of para. 1 being found impracticable.

(V.C.N.S. 031900A to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

MovementsROYAL  
ULSTERMAN.

R.A.L.S.C.U's 021728A not to all. Request ROYAL ULSTERMAN be sailed to Fowey to embark L.C.A's.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031202A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and ConvoysCross-  
Channel  
Convoys.

Cross-Channel convoys are being operated in the Portsmouth Command as in paras. 2 and 3 below. Convoy Routine.

(2) All the convoys given below can be expected nightly except "D" "E" and "K" which are irregular.

<u>Ref. Letter</u>	<u>Convoy &amp; Speed</u>	<u>From - To</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
A	W.V.C.	St. Helens (1900) to Havre	"Coaster" convoy. Weighs from St. Helens 1900. May include Motor Minesweepers, tugs etc. Usual escort. Two trawlers. Note: There are no routine arrangements made for slow "Coasters" between Solent & Cherbourg. Such ships are usually sailed in W.V.C. and split off to Cherbourg in lat. 50 degs. N. with or without escort. Similarly arrangements for their return passage have to be improvised. At present such traffic is of small dimensions.
B	W.V.L. 9 knots	St. Helens (2030) to Havre	L.S.T. & the larger & faster merchant ships. Weighs from St. Helens 2030. Usual escort 2 or 3 corvettes, minesweepers or trawlers.
C	W.V.P. 14 knots	Southampton Gate (0001) to Havre	Troop convoy. Consists of one or more troopships or L.S.I. permanently employed on shuttle service; also American troopships & fast store ships which may have been taken into the Solent before making the cross-Channel passage. Weighs from area 26 N at 2330, Gate 0001. Usual escort. 2 or more destroyers or frigates. The ships company and standard full personnel loads of the regular Southampton-Havre Shuttle Service troopships has been promulgated separately to the escorts employed in their protection.
D	W.E.L. 9 knots	St. Helens to Cherbourg	L.S.T. & the larger & faster merchant ships. (Usually Liberty ship type). If no L.S.T. are included, best speed of ships in company is made. Weighs from St. Helens at 2000. Usual escort. Corvettes and/or trawlers.

/Note:...

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Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Cross-Channel  
Convoys.  
(Contd.)

<u>Ref.</u> <u>Letter</u>	<u>Convoy</u> <u>&amp; Speed</u>	<u>From -</u> <u>To</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
			Note: "Normally" loaded L.S.T. i.e. those carrying army vehicles may be expected to carry 150 men i.e. the drivers & crews of the vehicles) in addition to the ships company of nearly 100, a total of 250 troops and crew.
D	W.E.P.	St. Helens to Cherbourg	Troop convoy. Occasional fast vessel(s) carrying troops This convoy is specially arranged. Sailing time as convenient. Usual escort. Destroyers or frigates as required.
F	P.V.L 9 knots	Portland (1600) to Havre	L.S.T. convoy. Weighs 1600. Usual Escort. Fleet mine-sweepers and A/S and Oropesa trawlers.
G	V.W.L. 9 knots.	Havre (1730-2200) to St.Helens.	L.S.T. returning. May include the faster merchant ships. Time of leaving Pasture depends on tidal working at Havre & varies from 1730-2200. L.S.T. both for Portland & Southampton are sailed together escorted by the Portsmouth escorts. The Portland L.S.T. proceed to Portland as an independent group from South of the Isle of Wight. Usual escort. 2 or 3 corvettes, minesweepers or trawlers. Note: The escorts provided to Portland may return to Portland independently.
H	V.W.C. 7 knots	Havre (1800) to St.Helens	Coaster convoy. Leaves Pasture at 1800. Usual escort. 2 trawlers.

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SaturdayHOME COMMANDSShipping and ConvoysCross-Channel  
Convoys.  
(Contd.)

<u>Ref.</u> <u>Letter</u>	<u>Convoy</u> <u>&amp; Speed</u>	<u>From -</u> <u>To</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
J	V.W.P. 14 knots.	Havre (1700) to Southampton.	Troopships & fast storeships. Usually weighs 1700, but may be delayed by tidal working at Havre. Usual escort. 2 or more destroyers & frigates.
K	F.W.L. 9 knots.	Cherbourg (2000) to St. Helens.	L.S.T. & the larger & faster merchant ships. Weights at 2000. Usual escort. Corvettes & trawlers.

Routes (3) The following standard routes are established for local use: Solent to Havre - Route ZK West, F buoy to 270 degs. Z.1 mile thence 196 degs. for 10 miles thence 164 degs for 26 miles, thence 137 degs. for 9.5 miles to 270 degs, Kansas one mile, thence by Searched Channels to Pasture.

Route 673. F buoy E.A. 5 buoy Q.Z.S. 673 to H.D. 2 buoy, Q.Z.X. 619 to H.V. 3 buoy and Q.Z.S. 664 to Pasture.

Note: Route 673 is only to be used when ordered by C. in C. Portsmouth.

Havre to Solent - Route ZK East. Searched Channels to 090 degs Kansas one mile, thence 006 degs. for 12 miles, thence 344 degs. for 25 miles, thence 309 degs. for 7.5 miles to position 090 degs. Z.1 mile, thence F buoy and Q.Z.S. 373, 94 reverse of route 673; only to be used when ordered by C. in C. Portsmouth.

Solent to Cherbourg - F buoy, Q.Z.S. 552, Dunnose buoy, Q.Z.S. 675 to position RR 50 degs. 26' N. 01 degs. 11' W. thence to position QQ 000 degs. Cape Levi Lighthouse 4 miles, thence direct to Cherbourg harbour entrance.

Note: This will be the standard route unless route 'G' is ordered. Route "G" - When slow ships for Cherbourg are sailed as part of a Havre bound convoy on route ZK West, they are to break off in lat. 50 degs. 00' N. and steer direct for L 1 buoy, thence position QQ and Cherbourg harbour entrance, in order to complete passage during dark hours. This special "short cut" will be known as route "G".

Cherbourg to Solent - From Harbour entrance to position QQ (see above) thence by Q.Z.S. 652 to L 1 buoy, thence direct to Z buoy, F buoy and Q.Z.S. 373.

Portland to Havre - Q.Z.S. 628 623 to position RR, thence 140 degs. to join Z.K. W.

Havre to Portland - As for Route ZK East to lat. 50 degs. 24' thence to position RR and by Q.Z.S. 623 628.

Daily sitrep. (4) C. in C. Portsmouth makes a Daily sitrep signal at about 1800 addressed to A.I.G. 61 indicating the cross Channel convoys running that night, quoting the reference letters A.B.C. etc. according to the key in para. 2 above. The first named escort is the Senior Officer and the approx. No. of ships in convoy follow.

Standard Procedure. (5) In signalling details of convoys to be sailed the directions herein contained are to be regarded as standard routine, deviations from routine only being signalled.

/Date ...

War Diary

3.2.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Cross-  
Channel  
Convoys  
(Contd.)

Date to be brought into Force.

(6) C.T.F. 125 and N.C.S.O's concerned are requested to bring into force the revisions in timing and routes, as indicated herein, as from noon 7th Feb., and also the nomenclature for routes as in para. 3 in order to shorten the working of signals.

C.T.F.125 is requested to indicate any revision in the information contained in paras. 2 and 3 considered desirable.

(7) Capt. (D) 1, MARSHAL SOULT and HORNET are to pass to ships affected under their administration.

Capt. (D) 1 also pass to Fleet Minesweepers and Escort Groups affected.

Cancellation. (8) As from 1200A/6th Feb. the following messages (not to all addressees) from C. in C. Portsmouth are to be considered cancelled: 062255A, 101005A, 121600A and 171441A, all of Jan. 1945.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031659A to Portsmouth A/S Forces)



3.2.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

M.K.S. Request sailing telegrams Part two (Items one, ten, eleven, twelve) be made in future in two sections as follows:-  
Convoys sailing of (a) Gibraltar sailers immediately convoy has sailed.  
(b) Casablanca Lisbon sailers and any joiners at sea summarised and sent as soon as details are known.  
(2) Commorseafron is requested to continue to repeat to Admiralty his sailing telegrams.  
(D.T.D. 031531A to F.O.G.M.A.)

C.T.G.63.1 Times Z. My position 1300/3 36.40 N. 27.20 W.  
Course 093 speed 6. E.T.A. 24° W. 1600/4.  
(C.T.G.63.1, 031611 to Comnavzor.)

Destroyer E.T.A. 0530/4. TROUBRIDGE, TENACIOUS, TERMAGANT.  
movement. (Capt. D.24, 031705A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

Operation "Tabarin" Operation "Tabarin". SS. FITZROY proceeded 2nd from Deception Island to Port Lockroy to embark personnel and stores for Hope Bay. WILLIAM SCORESBY in company.  
From D/F bearing and intercepted meteorological reports it would appear that the Argentine Transport OFFERACO arrived South Orkneys last night.  
(N.O.I.C. Falklands, 031119P and 041017P to Admty.)

3.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Comflanfor, Admiral's Movement. Admiral Comflanfor sails to Algiers on MONTCALM at 1200A/3rd. Captain Laurin, Commanding Officer of GEORGES LEYGUES, will be deputy in Toulon. FORTUNE pass to ships in Cannes and Nice. (Comflanfor 030902A to Flanfor.)

Black Sea, route. Route from Bosphorus to Odessa. Provided radio beacon at Cape Tarkhan is established in time consider that route in A.M. 200015 para. 2 is preferable to that in Admiral Archer 011547 para. 1 as amended by A.M. 030009. By holding this beacon on safe bearing ships can keep clear of minefields, reach vicinity position A, and then fixed by using this bearing in conjunction with hundred fathom line. Request very early decision as to which route should be used so that it can be promulgated to all concerned. (C. in C. Med. 031701A and 041627A to Admty., (R) Admiral Archer, etc.)

Ships for Odessa, Black Sea. Following ships in U.G.S. 70 are destined for Odessa. A. GEORGE KENNY, JACOB S. MANSFIELD, JAMES RUMSEY, THOMAS W. GREGORY, VERNON L. PARRINGTON, 5 ships. B. BRITISH PATIENCE damaged in collision will be delayed.

- (2) Ships in para. 1A pass Straits of Gibraltar 7th Feb. and proceed independently to Piraeus estimated time of arrival 14th.
- (3) From Piraeus ships are to be sailed in convoy to Istanbul. Route. Q.B.C. 927. Positions 7041 705. Q.B.C. 922, position 038° 28' N. 025° 43' E. Q.B.C. 958 S. channel to Chanak Channel to embark pilots for passage through Dardanelles Narrows thence as directed as safe navigation permits keeping northward of Khairsiz and Marmara Island to Istanbul.
- (4) F.O.L.E.M. is requested to arrange escort from Piraeus to Rabbit Island.
- (5) Ships should be sailed to pass Doro and Thermia Channels and Bosphorus in daylight.
- (7) Approx. date of arrival Istanbul 17th.
- (8) B.N.A. Ankara is requested to inform Turkish Authorities of intended movements.
- (9) Instructions for onward route from Istanbul to Odessa and communications in Black Sea will be signalled later.
- (10) It is expected ships will arrive Odessa 19th.
- (11) C.S.A. Istanbul is requested to signal departure and E.T.A. Odessa as soon as known to Alusna Odessa and Moscow A.B.N.L.O. Black Sea.
- (12) Admiral Archer is requested to pass the foregoing information to the appropriate Soviet Authorities. (C. in C. Med. 032000A to Admty., etc.)

French ships (see Home Commands.) A.N.C.X.F's 301721 Jan. being passed to all. It is intended to agree this French request unless you see strong objection. (2) B.A.D. inform Cominch if transfer finally decided (V.C.N.S. 032143A to C. in C. Med.)

Situation report No. 551. In Greece situation remains generally quiet but is tense in Peloponnesus. (C. in C. Med. 032148A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

3.2.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Meridian Press communique Confirmed that delay is acceptable your 021221 refers.  
(C. in C.E.I., 030209Z to Admty.)

U-boat dispositions Scales unchanged.  
(C. in C.E.I., 030354 to Ships and Authorities East Indies.)

Air Photographs Malacca 30.1.1945 Summary results first phase interpretation photographs by 20th Bomber Command 30th January, 28,000 feet over Singapore, 19,000 feet over Penang.  
(a) Singapore Naval Base. 610 foot Seaplane tender at jetty. Floating dry dock flooded with no ship in it. 250 foot torpedo boat at berth six. Berths 10 to 14 inclusive obscured by cloud. 320 foot freighter in small floating dry dock as on 25th.  
(b) Johore Straits. Atago Class heavy cruiser with damages stern and effective Nachi Class still visible, also 250 foot torpedo boat and 280 foot destroyer. Nachi Class with 70 feet of stern destroyed not visible former position Bih six merchantmen 210 to 460 boat total 32,000 tons. 460 foot freighter still in large floating dry dock and four fuel barges nearby.  
(c) Sumpat Bay (Bintan Island) shows 250 foot torpedo boat.  
(d) Seletar Airfield. Partial coverage shows six medium twin engine and six small single engine aircraft.  
(e) Georgetown. 1 patrol craft 180 feet and no large merchantmen.  
(2) Following are visual observations. On battleship 01° 25' N. 103° 56' E. Possible destroyer 01° 12' N. 104° 31' E. Comment: Probably torpedo boat in para. 1 (c) above. Possible light cruiser 01° 20' N. 104° 07' E. Freighter 01° 28' N. 103° 50' E. Medium sized vessel square stern R.U.D. bow with one aircraft on deck anchored 07° 30' N. 098° 20' E. aircraft large silver colour wings clipped but engines fuselage similar to super fortress.  
(3) Mission encountered neither interception nor flak.  
(C. in C.E.I., 030446Z and 041239Z to Admty.)

Operation Meridian *Jan 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>* Ref. your 021221 following is proposed communique being issued by S.A.C.S.E.A. at 1600 G.M.T. Monday February 5th begins:-  
In 2 successive operations a powerful East Indies Force commanded by R.A. Sir Phillip Vian K.C.B. K.B.E., D.S.O. and including Aircraft Carriers ILLUSTRIOUS, VICTORIOUS, INDOMITABLE and INDEFATIGABLE has struck the most damaging blow yet at Japanese oil supplies in this theatre which are of major importance to enemy war effort.  
(2) The attacks were made by Carrier borne aircraft on oil (?refineries) at Palembang in Southern Sumatra.  
(3) The 1st attack against the Pladjoe refinery, was carried out on January 24th. The importance of the installation to the Japanese was shown by the heavy scale of defence. In the area there are many airfields with defending fighters an inner and outer ring of A/A Batteries and an extensive balloon barrage.  
(4) Our Avengers with strong fighter escort including Fireflies

/bombing...

War Diary3.2.1945  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies - Contd.Operation  
"Meridian"  
(Contd.)

bombing from above and dive bombing through the balloon barrage scored direct hits on oil distilleries and hit or damaged many other buildings.

(5) This attack involved long flight over enemy occupied territory the striking force was intercepted by Sabang fighters some miles short of the target. In the ensuing fighting 13 twin and single engine enemy fighters were shot down with 6 probables in addition 34 A/C were destroyed and some 25 damaged on airfields surrounding the target.

(6) The second attack against Soengei Gerong refinery was made on Jan. 29th.

(7) Bombing conditions were good and the attack was pressed hard home through the balloon barrage and heavy flak.

(8) Photographs show many of the principle installations received direct hits and were afterwards burnt by oil fires from adjacent oil reservoirs. Before daylight the attacking aircraft at 3,000 feet were shaken by a particularly violent explosion.

(9) Fighter opposition was on a reduced scale (?indicating that) the enemy had been unable to replace losses inflicted during the previous visit. 8 enemy aircraft were found and shot down over the target area with 3 probables. 4 were destroyed on the ground.

(10) Attacks by enemy aircraft directed against the Fleet were driven off by our fighters with the exception of one raid in which 7 aircraft got through, six were shot down in flames by our Seafires, Hellcats and the guns of the Fleet. The fate of the seventh is doubtful.

(11) Amongst H.M. ships in company with the aircraft carriers were KING GEORGE V, ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE, EURYALUS, GRENVILLE, KEMPFENFELT and URSA.

(12) Our total losses of aircraft in these 2 operations involving one of the largest forces yet used by the E.I. Fleet were 15.

(13) None of our ships sustained damage by enemy action and our casualties on board are exceedingly light.

(C. in C. E.I., 030458Z to S.A.C.S.E.A. etc.)

S/M  
SUPREME

S/M SUPREME 2nd Far East Patrol.

19th January off Port Blair obtained 25 hits on 500 ton coaster which beached badly damaged. Coaster and shore batteries replied with 3 inch and 6 inch.

20th January same vicinity forced to beach badly damaged by 20 hits, 150 ton coaster. 22nd January one torpedo fired at 150 ton coaster anchored in Sawi Bay prematured after 700 yards. Coaster later beached badly damaged by 19 hits gunfire.

(C. in C. E.I.S. 030951Z to Admty.)

S/M  
STYGIAN

Antidote S/M STYGIAN 4th Far East Patrol 15th

Jan. off Port Weld obtained one hit on one of 3 coasters of 300 tons by gunfire, shallow water prevented further beaching. 16th January sank by gunfire and demolition 3 junks totalling 160

tons. 17th Jan. off Pulo Pagkor sank 500 tanker by gunfire also 20 ton junk by demolition. 22nd Jan. South Penang sank by demolition 2 junks totalling 40 tons.

(C. in C.E.I., 030956Z to Admty.)

/S/M...

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Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

S/M  
RORQUAL

RORQUAL second East Indies patrol 22nd/23rd January laid 50 Mark XVI and 12 type M mines. (C. in C.E.I., 031014Z to Admty.)

S/M  
THRASHER

S/M THRASHER 1st Far East Patrol, 22nd to 28th January. Vicinity Islands and coast between Koh Phra Tong and Butang Islands. By gunfire and demolition sank 10 junks totalling 355 tons damaged one 60 ton Junk by gunfire. (C. in C.E.I.S., 031021Z to Admty.)

F.A.A.  
Barracudas

Your 291331\* January. Request full intentions regarding future use of Barracuda.  
(2) Only known use for Barracuda will be replenishment of night fleet carrier squadrons during their short stay in E.I. therefore suggest Barracuda Pool be established in Australia and not Ceylon.  
(3) Present U-boat threat is negligible intend employing 845 and 851 squadrons on bombing and possible minelaying operations for which Avenger with its better endurance is more suited than Barracuda.  
(C. in C.E.I. 031201Z to Admty.)  
\* Barracudas operating in E.I.

SCOUT

Your 161128\* January. No relief aircraft target ship for SCOUT is available from R.N. resources.  
(2) Possibility of allocating Italian torpedo boat is under investigation.  
(3) No objection to use of SCOUT as proposed provided no manning commitment is involved.  
(D.O.D. Approved A.C.N.S. 031345A to C. in C.E.I.)  
\* H.M.S. SCOUT is not worth repairing.

3.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 031322Z, Cominch 031507Z.)

ILE DE FRANCE  
Submarine  
Situation  
Reports.

In order to cover the area between 30° W. and 47° W. the submarine situation report will be passed daily to Radio Washington for placing on broadcast N.S.S. Fox addressed A.I.G. 331. Your 021648 refers.  
(D.S.O. 031549A to B.R.L.O. New York.)

A.F.D. 32.  
French ships  
visit to  
Martinique.

French Admiralty have requested that ANNAMITE, GAZELLE and CHEVREUIL nominated as escorts for A.F.D. 32 sailing from San Juan P.R. about mid March should pay a short visit to Martinique on passage to Porto Rico. A.M.202000 refers.  
(2) Admiralty concur in this visit provided no delay is caused to passage of dock.  
(V.C.N.S. 031751A to B.A.D., and 062253 from Cominch.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M  
attack &  
sighting  
summary.

Para. C. (1) E.G. 16 disappearing radar contact 0048Z/3rd in 44.17 N. 63.00 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. 031953Z to Admty., Cominch.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Convoy  
O.W. 1.

Convoy O.W. 1 departed Port Phillip 1248Z/2nd Feb. E.T.A. Calcutta 19th Feb. S.O.A. 15 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Melbourne 030142Z to C. in C. E.I. Station.)

B.P.F.  
Movements.

My 040640 Jan. not to N.O.I.C. Fremantle. Present position has been discussed with C.T.F. 71 Capt. (S/M) 4 Capt. (S/M) 8.  
(2) Force doing forward move of C.T.F. 71 to Philippine Is. is expected very shortly.  
(3) In order to allow time for training of (?relief) and for docking of ADAMANT prior to sailing from Ceylon it is confirmed ADAMANT and 4th (S/M) Flot. should be sailed from Ceylon for Fremantle on 1st April 1945.  
(4) C.T.F. 71 concurs.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 030720Z to Admty.)  
Note - Verification of corrupt groups has been requested.

/Following...

War Diary.

3.2.1945  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F. Movements. (Contd.) Following provisional programme for ADAMANT, MAIDSTONE and submarines my 030720 refers.  
(2) April 1st ADAMANT leaves Ceylon April 11th ADAMANT arrives Fremantle April 18th MAIDSTONE leaves Fremantle May 21st MAIDSTONE arrives Subic Bay June 19th ADAMANT leaves Fremantle July 24th ADAMANT arrives Subic Bay.  
(3) Depot ships will call at Sydney (N.S.W.) and Manus for replenishments.  
(4) Submarines will carry out patrols on passage.  
(5) Request AORANGI be sailed to arrive Sydney by April 28th routed via Ceylon.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 030730Z to Admt.)

X.E. Operations. No towing equipment has been received by S.M. 8 or it is believed by S.M. 4. S.M. 4 confirm.  
(2) If operations are to be carried out on lines given in para. 3 of my 070350 Jan. it is essential that the fitting of towing submarines be completed before move of flotillas. (My 030720 refers) and delivery of six sets of equipment is required by ADAMANT by 1st March.  
(3) Request confirmation that TRUMP and TIPTOE are fitted for towing.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 030742Z to F.O. S/M.)

ARIADNE minelayer. Report to C.N.B. Manus for routing to Canal zone in accordance with C.T.F. 77 despatch 021734 not to all. Advise E.T.A. Canal zone where comply remainder of reference.  
(C.T.F. 78 030755 to ARIADNE.)

Digest Serial No. 1109, 2nd Feb. '45. Dealing with 2nd February unless otherwise stated.  
(1) Navy Liberator from Leyte saw 2 destroyers, 1 destroyer escort off Cap St. Jacques forenoon heading west, one medium freighter at anchor, one southbound coastal vessel same vicinity (corrupt) oil drags: this vessel left dead in Wamel and burning after bombing - straffing attack. Similar aircraft over Sakashima Gunto same morning saw three small freighters 17 smaller craft leaving one small freighter sinking straffing 2 others sinking one small coaster damaging another.  
(2) 3 Navy Catalinas over Formosa Straits night 1/2 February bombed left sinking single small freighter off S.W. Formosa, bombed 6 luggers Sakashima Gunto possibly damaging 2.  
(3) Evening local sources reported convoy three destroyers, two trawlers, one large freighter - transport heading S.W. between Foochow and Amoy.  
(4) After dark U.S. destroyer contacted probable enemy submarine Mindanao Sea. Noon 31st January U.S. frigate reported sighting probable periscope 260 miles S.E. Tacloman (Leyte Island.)

/ (5) ...

War Diary.

3.2.1945  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial (5) Morning 1st Feb. local sources reported 7  
No. 1109, possible destroyers with air cover leaving S.W.  
2nd Feb. '45. off Foochow. Same morning Navy Liberator reported  
(Contd.) nil shipping Hongkong but single Sea Truck Mirs Bay  
to the north. Another Liberator strafed 2 small  
coasters Cape Padaran (French Indo China.)  
(7) Local sources report one aircraft carrier 2  
destroyers arrived Amoy from (north?) morning Jan. 31st, joining  
one aircraft carrier 3 destroyers, 2 tankers, one transport, 2  
medium cargo vessels, one submarine chaser already in Amoy  
Harbour. Previous afternoon 6 destroyers, 3 tankers arrived  
Amoy from north: later 4 destroyers, 3 tankers departed Amoy  
to the south while 2 destroyers proceeded northwards.  
(11) R.A.A.F. Liberator patrols from Darwin left sea truck  
sinking Lucipar Afdland (Banda Sea), bombed small camouflaged  
freighter damaged launch Flores Island, bombed Fuilorø causing  
fires visible 30 miles.  
(13) R.A.A.F. Liberator hit small freighter, coastal vessel and  
lugger Soembanga - Flores Island.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 031053Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/3rd February.  
& sighting Para. A. (1) A/C S/304 attacked U-Boat course 160°  
summary. with depth charges at 0820Z and 1017Z/2nd Feb. in  
54° 10' N. 05° 20' W. *South Sea*  
Para. C. (1) H.M. ships LOUIS and LAWSON attacked  
contact at 1049Z/2nd Feb. in 54° 10' N. 05° 20' W.  
(2) LAUNCESTON CASTLE attacked contact at 1144Z/2nd Feb. in 50°  
21' N. 02° 57' W.  
(3) E.G. 31 attacked contact at 1352Z/2nd Feb. in 54° 05' N. 05°  
12' W. *South Sea*  
(4) A/C Z/105 sighted oil patch at 1630Z/2nd Feb. and reported in  
contact with possible U-Boat at 1756Z/2nd Feb. in 51° 52' N. 06°  
51' W.  
(5) A/C G/110 sighted oil patch at 1555Z/2nd Feb. in 53° 15' N.  
04° 52' W.  
(6) H.M. ships NARBOROUGH and LORING attacked contact before  
1502Z/2nd Feb. in 53° 59' N. 05° 23' W.  
(7) Force 37 obtained bottomed contact at 2015Z/2nd Feb. in 54°  
05' N. 05° 07' W.  
(8) WYE obtained radar contact at 2000Z/2nd Feb. in 36° 12' N.  
07° 39' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 031115A, to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis- Estimates.  
positions. (D.D.I.C. 031309A, 031312A to A.I.G.331)



4.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORTS

Home Commands.

(1) By amalgamating the Home Fleet and the Orkney and Shetland Commands C. in C.H.F. and A.C.O.S. estimate that a saving in personnel can be effected of a minimum of 131 officers and 1145 ratings. C. in C.H.F. proposes that the amalgamation shall take effect from March 1st.

(2) Rear Adm. Harcourt will hoist his flag in VENERABLE, the new light aircraft carrier, on March 1st, as Flag Officer Commanding Light Fleet Carriers.

North  
Sea.

(3) Fifteen to seventeen midget U-Boats have been photographed at Rotterdam and Ymuiden by our reconnaissance units.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

(4) LE FORTUNE reports on leaving her area this morning that she has sunk 3 mines, carried out 2 bombardments, one of 46 rounds at enemy barracks. Six direct hits. 40 rounds at enemy supply depot. Eight direct hits, one large explosion seen.

Greece.

(5) Motor M/S. 68 was mined today between Zante and Cephalonia. There were seven survivors. Position 325 Cape Skinarto 7.3 miles.

Australia and New Zealand.

China.

(6) Navy search plane contacted 4 large north-bound vessels off Hongkong, bombs were dropped causing large explosion. Considerable activity observed Hongkong.

/Formosa...

4.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand.

- Formosa. (7) One small coaster out of six observed destroyed by aircraft at Sakashima Gurgō north east of Formosa.
- Philippines. (8) Ground forces Luzon entered Manila from north while Batangas forces reached Las Minas on Manila Bay.
- Movements. 9(a) KING GEORGE V, INDEFATIGABLE, VICTORIOUS, EURYALUS, with four destroyers in company arrived Fremantle from the strike on Palembang (Sumatra).  
*see p46*  
*'Meridian'*
- (b) INDOMITABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS, ARGONAUT and BLACK PRINCE with four destroyers also arrived and left same day for Sydney.

4. 2. 1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Amalgamation of Home Fleet and Orkney and Shetland Commands. Admty's O11142. Detailed proposals for the amalgamation of the Home Fleet and Orkney and Shetland Commands and for consequential reduction of personnel have been agreed with A.C.O.S. and will be forwarded by letter tomorrow 5th Feb.

2. Tentative estimates show that within next few months it should be practicable to make available for further appointment 131 officers and 1145 ratings. In addition 98 officers and 887 ratings will be transferred to the Rosyth Command. This will make a total reduction of 229 officers and 2032 ratings to be maintained in the Orkney Command. As the above reductions are implemented a progressive moving of supply etc., staffs up to maximum of 11 officers and 200 ratings should become possible.

3. It is intended that the amalgamation shall take effect from 1st March.  
(C. in C. H.F., O41424A to Admty).

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.306 Part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 031600A February.

<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	30	157	3,666	-	233
Ostend	-	-	1,485	-	235
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	181	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	184	-	-
Calais	3,832	-	296	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,102	728	1,025
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,043</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>7,733</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>1,493</b>
<hr/>					
<u>U.S. North.</u>					
Antwerp	-	97	1,052	-	-
Cherbourg	-	69	10,589	-	4,730
Le Havre	5,822	567	8,086	246	3,220
Rouen	-	-	3,466	-	282
Granville	-	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,885	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,822</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>26,078</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>8,232</b>
<hr/>					
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	-	96	13,950	-	446
Port De Bouc	-	-	2,004	3,721	-
Toulon	-	-	371	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>16,325</b>	<b>3,721</b>	<b>446</b>

4.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(contd).

(S.H.A.E.F., 041415A to Admty. etc).

15 or 17  
Midget  
U-boats  
in Holland.

Photographic reconnaissance of 3rd February shows five or six midget U-boats at Rotterdam on quay, position 727727 on GSGS 4458, Sheet 3. Craft of similar type to those seen Wilhelmshaven, Borkum and Nordeney, A.M. 182204/November, 211748/November and 241946/December refer. Comment: Craft identified as probable MOLCH.

2. Photographic reconnaissance of 3rd February shows seven or eight midget U-boats at Ymuiden in canal, position Y865342 on GSGS 4427, Sheet 348. Comment: Craft identified as possible BIBER.

3. Photographic reconnaissance of 29th December and 1st January of Ymuiden shows three midget U-boats in same position as para. 2 above, but on quay. Comment: Craft identified as probable SEEHUND.

(D.N.I. 041758A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Intended  
Schouwen  
emprise.

(Operation  
"Deliberate")

Visual report of demolitions and movements of road convoys indicate that Schouwen is being evacuated.

(2) 4th Commando Brigade intend, subject to approval of 1st Corps to land (corrupt group) of one Commando on night of February 6th/7th, success if achieved, will be exploited.

(3) All L.C.A., L.C.T. and L.C.S.(M) are being made available.

(S.O. Force T 042025A to A.N.C.X.F.)

S/M Patrol  
off Peterhead.

(8) DOLFIJN leaves Lerwick 1030 on 5th probably on surface at 9 knots through 60° 01', 00° 30' and 59° 20', 01° 15' for patrol on 00° 15' between 59° 01' and 58° 30' (all North and East). (C. of W., 042110A to A.I.G., 25, A.C.I.C.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols  
and escorts.

Proceed when ready and establish Gamma search as follows:- C.B.4097 (4) (44) Para. 596.  
(A) 49° 54' N., 04° 56' W. 49° 25' N., 04° 45' W.  
(B) 075° (C) Forthwith. (D) 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 041353A to Force 28).

1. DOMINICA and LABUAN pass Gate at 0900A/5 and proceed as follows.

2. DOMINICA to join LOCH FADA and establish zig-zag search between 50.02 N., 04.15 W. and 50.13 N., 03.00 W.

3. LABUAN to join WILD GOOSE patrolling. PENDEEN to Lizard.

4. S.O. E.G.2 detach LOCH FADA to comply para. 2.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041648A to DOMINICA, LABUAN, S.O.E.G.2)

/Sweep..

War Diary.

4. 2. 1945.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols and escorts. Sweep area seven miles wide bounded on north side by southern limit of route E to longitude 02° 20' W. to meet C.U.56 at approximately 0300A/5th. S.O. Escort C.T.G.61.4. in U.S.S. CLARK. Then turn and sweep reciprocal track five miles ahead of convoy. Detach HOLMES to act as additional (contd).

Escort under orders of C.T.G.61.4.  
2. Continue supporting as far as E.A.5 Buoy, thence to anchor off St. Helens.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041725 to ASCENSION)  
2. Force 27 RECRUIT (S.O.), 3 escorts patrolling area 49° 08' N., 04° 37' W.  
3. Force 28 TEES (S.O.), 3 escorts patrolling between 49° 54' N. 04° 56' W. and 40° 25' N., 04° 45' W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041818A to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)  
Day Patrols 5th.  
Remain on present patrol. My 031936 refers.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 042204 to LOCH KILLIN, MOORSOM)  
Detach from convoy T.B.C. forthwith and carry out search westward close south of route E.  
Return rendezvous 180° Portland Bill by 0200A. Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 042246 to GARLIES, GORE, HOSTE).  
If not in contact establish Gamma search as follows.  
(a) 49.31 N., 04.00 W. 49.11 N., 03.47 W.  
(b) 065° (c) 0700A/5. (d) 24 hours. C.B.4097 (4) (44)  
para. 596 refers.  
2. RECRUIT acknowledge.  
3. Recommended speed of ships 8 knots.  
4. If you move eastward keep 20 miles clear of Guernsey.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 042313A to Force 27).

Suspected U-boat. Aircraft P /110 reports A.S.V. contact at 041315A in position 49.00 N., 04.42 W.  
2. Ships addressed proceed forthwith to search this area.  
3. Estimated course and speed of U-boat 065° 2 knots. Bottoming on west-going tide.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041359A to Force 27).

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Weather reporting ships. 50% (2 corrupt groups) fuel expended at noon today My P.C.S. 49° 53' N., 22° 55' W., 220° 4 knots.\*  
(LAVENDER, 041000Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
\*Weather Report 6572 0144.

Possible U-boat. Had good A/S contact in position 028° Skerries 13 miles. Lost contact on account of temporary defective set. Have searched the area unable to regain contact. Am proceeding with merchant ships.  
(VASCAMA, 041315A to Force 36).

Proceeding to investigate contact report by VASCAMA in his 041315 suitable.  
(S.O.E.G.31, 041631A to C. in C. W.A.)

/U-boat...

4. 2. 1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches. - Contd.

U.387 Sunk

U-boat  
probably  
sunk 9th  
December.

Your attack 9th December has been assessed as probably sunk warmest congratulations. (C. in C. W.A., 032321A to BAMBOROUGH CASTLE).

Operations.

Norway.

Operation  
"S.C."

Ramose Sceptic postponed. E.T.D. now 0001A/5th Feb. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 040011A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation  
"Kitchen".

Regret weather unsuitable for "Kitchen".  
2. Intend to detach SIOUX at 1800.  
3. E.T.A. Hoxa Gate from eastwards 1830. Request anchor beacon.  
4. A.C.O.S. acknowledge. Weather report 7783 3504 position 9057. (DIDO, 041001A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S.)

Patrol

VIKING reports:-  
(1) No enemy shipping sighted except fishing vessels.  
(2) Five days spent off Fejeosen and two days off Korsfiord. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 041526A to F.O.S.M.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Evacuation  
of population  
of Soroy:  
Operation  
"Open Door".

Admty.'s 031900 passed to all addressees. ZAMBESI (Capt. (D) 2) ZEALOUS and ZEST have been detailed for duty in para. one and are loading necessary stores. If circumstances permit request you detach these destroyers to arrive Soroy during daylight 9th Feb., 2 destroyers proceeding Galtefiord and one to Sandoyfiord.

Capt. (D) 2 has been instructed to prepare plan in conjunction with Norwegian N.L.O.

Codeword for this operation in my 041106. (C. in C. H.F., 041104A to C.S.1)

My 041104. Codeword "Open Door". (C. in C. H.F., 041106A to C.S.1)

Admty. 031900 para. 1. Intend destroyers to approach North Coast of Soroy through position (all positions N. and E) S.A. 71° 15' 20° 00'. Reference para. 2. Intend route for destroyers from Soroy to Kola through following positions S.B. 71° 40' 22° 30'. S.C. 71° 40' 30° 00'. M.T. 70° 30' 35° 36'.

thence to M.X. Request Russian Naval Authorities may be informed

/with view...

War Diary.

4.2.1945.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Evacuation  
of population  
of Soroy:  
Operation  
"Open Door".  
(contd).

with view to keeping Russian S/Ms clear of above route from 9th to 14th February.  
(C. in C. H.F., 041114A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia).  
Ref. Admiralty 031900A. Wish to despatch Catalina not later than 6th February. Necessary for aircraft to refuel Murmansk with 1400 gallons 100 octane petrol after landing Soroy. Sufficient oil for return flight will be carried in aircraft. Accommodation for one night at Murmansk required for 10 aircrew.

2. Request you obtain permission for flight and confirm that fuel and accommodation will be provided.

3. On receipt of permission for flight request 18 Group and S.B.N.O. North Russia make detailed arrangements for flight including local recognition signals.

(Air Ministry, 041450A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia etc).

C. in C. Home Fleet's 041104. Norwegian party landing from Catalina will keep receiving watch on North Russian port wave at times shown in para. 2. They can only transmit on one frequency, 3852 k/cs.

2. All times are A. From time of arrival to 7th February inclusive 0900 to 1100 daily. From 8th February until evacuated 0600 to 0800, 0900 to 1200, 1400 to 1800, 2000 to 2300. If not evacuated by 1800 10th February, revert to 0900 to 1100 daily.

3. During above times of watch, communication between Norwegian party and Polyarnoe will be by direct method working duplex (vide para. 1). Request Polyarnoe W/T may set receiving watch accordingly on 3852 k/cs. Party has only one Norwegian operator who understands rudiments of British naval procedure. International "Q" signals are understood.

4. Only code held by Norwegian party is a one-time letter pad with Admiralty. All signals for Norwegians except those from destroyers during final stages of approach (vide para. 6) should be routed via Admiralty with instructions to recypher and pass. All messages received at Polyarnoe should be passed to Admiralty who will recypher and pass to any other authorities concerned.

5. Call signs have been allocated as follows:-

Norwegian party KB.

S.O. of rescuing destroyers QH.

6. S.O. of rescuing destroyers should detail W/T guard on 3852 k/cs from 4 hours before arrival so that direct communication can, if necessary, be established with shore. For this purpose plain language must be used but the following three codewords should be substituted for the place names concerned. Donnesfjord codeword Oslo. Borfjord codeword Bergen. Sandoyfjord codeword Trondheim.  
(D.S.D., 042115A to C. in C. H.F., S.B.N.O. N. Russia, C.S.1, D.2)

Convoy  
R.A. 64.

Intend to sail White Sea Group 19 consisting of CHARLES M. SCHWAB, CROSBY S. NOYES, EMPIRE CELIA, FRANCIS C. HARRINGTON, SAMARITAN, NACELLA (T) (Commodore), BRITISH PROMISE (T) (seven ships) from North Dvina 0400A/5th to R/V with Russian

escorts at ice edge in vicinity 67° 05' N., at 0400A/7th thence standard route to Kola Inlet 9½ knots.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 041931A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia).

/Convoy...

4.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters. - Contd.

Convoy  
J.W. 64.

My 031116A\* sailed.  
(A.C.O.S., 042214 to C.S.1, E.G.7).  
\*BLACK RANGER escorted by SERAPIS and DENBIGH  
CASTLE.

Port Facilities.

Floating  
Docks in  
Low Countries.

Your 021118 Jan. It is understood that A.F.D.37  
moorings at Arromanches will not be lifted and  
that new moorings will be required if it is  
decided to call forward floating docks for use in  
the Low Countries.  
2. If so it will be necessary to have advance  
notice of requirements, so that moorings can be shipped to  
Antwerp.  
3. Request further information.  
(Admty. 040533A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. LAKE-  
VIEW PARK.

LAKE VIEW PARK is ashore at North side of South  
entrance Sunderland. Tugs in attendance. Sea  
calm.  
(N.O.I.C. Sunderland, 042131A to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

ARLEY  
M/S Trawler.

My 032145. Commanding Officer H.M.T. ARLEY states  
that mine which sank the ship was sighted in the  
sweep when the last few fathoms were being hove  
in, but that the winch could not be reversed in  
time to prevent the ship being struck.  
2. The explosion, which was a small one commensurate with that  
of a German type G.R. holed the ship on the starboard side aft  
and the vessel sank 30 minutes later, while in tow of H.M.T.  
JOHN CATLING.  
3. Engineman David Petrie O.N. LT/KX 12511 went down with  
the ship, although repeated efforts were made to get into the  
engine room through escaping steam and fumes to rescue him. Next  
of kin not informed, the remainder of the ship's crew were landed  
in Grimsby.  
(F.O.I.C. Humber, 042210 to C. in C. Nore).

Movements.

JAVELIN,  
PENN,  
destroyers.

Intend sailing JAVELIN senior officer and PENN  
passing Clyde Boom 0915A 5th Feb. to Gibraltar to  
comply with A.M. 211604A Jan. speed of advance  
15 knots E.T.A. 2100A/9th Feb. route in accordance  
with A.M. 021216A Feb.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 041058A to Admty. C. in C. W.A.  
F.O.G.M.A.)

VENERABLE  
Light Aircraft  
Carrier

The flag of Rear-Admiral C.H.J. Harcourt, C.B.,  
C.B.E. as F.O. Commanding Light Fleet Carriers  
is to be hoisted in VENERABLE at 0900 on Thursday  
/1st...



4.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VENERABLE,  
Light  
Aircraft  
Carrier.  
(contd.)

1st of March.  
(Hd. of M, 041157A to F.O.C.T., C. in C. H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean convoys  
to English  
Channel.

To facilitate control of English Channel Sections  
of Ocean convoys it is requested that either  
the Commodore ship or Vice-Commodore ship be  
included in these sections.

Cancel A.M. 201140 September 1944 not to all.  
(D.T.D., 041553A to Com. 10th Fleet, F.O.G.M.A.)

Bad  
station-keeping  
in C.U.56.

C.U.56. At 2319A plot indicates leading edge in  
position 098° Start Point 14 miles and trailing  
edge 181° Start Point 10 miles. Endeavour to  
close convoy up.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 042329A to C.T.G.61.4).

61

War Diary.4.2.1945.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

SS. SUTHERLAND has not arrived. Request information.  
SUTHERLAND. (Commorseafron, 041049 to F.O.G.M.A.)

L.S.T.(2)s. A.M. 021803 - addressed C. in C. East Indies.  
H.M. L.S.T.(2) 410, 538, 413 and 427 delayed  
owing to weather.  
(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to hold H.M. L.S.T.  
(2) 406 pending arrival of L.S.T.(2) referred to in para. 1  
above.  
(A.D.O.D.(C.O.), 041321A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Cod fishery. N.A. Lisbon's 301751 (which has been passed to  
N.S.H.Q. and Cominch). Proposed direct route  
from Lisbon to Newfoundland Banks cannot be  
approved for operational reasons.

(2) In order to shorten route vessels should, subject to  
concurrence of Cominch and N.S.H.Q., proceed from Lisbon to:  
(A) 41° N., 25° W. (B) 41° N., 50° W. thence direct to the  
Banks.  
(A.C.N.S., 041832A to N.A. Lisbon.)  
Concur 061557 and 082220A.

South Atlantic

Operation "Tabarin". My 031119. WILLIAM SCORESBY and SS. FITZROY  
arrived Port Lockroy 3rd.  
*South Archa* (N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, 041017P to Adnty.)  
See 061403P.

War Diary.4.2.1945.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- S.B.N.O. Greece. Owing to sickness of S.B.N.O. Greece I would like you to remain at Piraeus for present and assume the duty of S.B.N.O. Greece temporarily. (C. in C. Med., 041338 to C.S.15.)
- French ships, dispositions Toulon area. Escorts Toulon para. 1 present Toulon ALGERIEN, VIGILANT, GRENADIER, CAVALIER, CARABINIER, Chasseurs 103, 112, 115, 131, 132. (2) Out of Toulon TUNISIEN, GOUMIER, LANSQUENET, Chasseurs 122, 123, 124, 126, 133. (3) On escort duty SOMALI, COMMANDANT DUBOC, ATTENTIF, LEGIONNAIRE, SENEGALAIS. (4) Available for repairs TROMBE, L'ALCYON, HOVA, ABOUDEUSE, LAMOQUEUSE, COMMANDANT DOMINE, COMMANDANT DELAGE, COMMANDANT BORY, GRACIEUSE, DRAGON, VOLONTAIRE, SABRE, FANTASSIN, SPAHI, Chasseurs 101, 107, 111, 114, 121, 125, 135, 141. (5) Detached from this Command TEMPETE, SIMOUN, MAROCAIN, VOLTIGEUR, PIQUE, HUSSAR, TIRAILLEUR, COUTELAS, CIMETERRE, JAVELOT, DAGUE, Chasseurs 102, 104, 105, 113, 116, 134, 136, 142, 143, 144, 145. (Premar Three, 041345A to F.O.N.A.M., etc.)
- U/B report? (?11') 13 miles from D sighted suspicious vessel with sail, may be submarine course 280°. Altered my course. (FREDERICK L. DAU, 041400Z to Admt.)
- Riviera. Sank three mines. Before leaving area this morning fired two missions. 46 rounds at enemy barracks 851873. Good shooting. Six direct hits. 40 rounds enemy supply depot 863873. Eight direct hits. One large explosion seen. (corrupt groups) no change. (LE FORTUNE, 041429A to Comflanfor.)
- M.M/S.68 mined. M.M/S.68 mined in position 325 Cape Skinarto 7.3 miles. 7 survivors. (N.O.I.C. Patras, 041445B to C. in C. Med.) EASTON returned with survivors from M.M.S.68. Being held for enquiry. Port closed till searching sweep carried out as position of mining is confirmed. (N.O.I.C. Patras, 041805B to C. in C. Med.) L.S.T.(I)s. proceeding to destinations unescorted. My 031031B and 041805 refers. (N.O.I.C. Patras, 041830B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)
- M/S SEABEAR. Request when SEABEAR will be arriving to join 8th M.S.F. (F.O.T.A.L.I., 041530A to C. in C. Med.)
- Black Sea. C. in C. Med.'s 031701 route proposed in A.M. 200015 para. 2 has been agreed with U.S. Naval section, Moscow pending removal of danger areas

/off ...

4.2.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Black Sea. (Contd.) off Bosphorus and those indicated in my 011547 para. 3.  
(2) Soviet Naval Authorities have also agreed to this route. My 302007 Jan. para. 1 refers. (30 Mission Moscow, 041627A to Admty.)

Distress signal. Following received from (KXJO) THOMAS W. OWEN distress rockets sighted position 31.42 N., 27.50 E.  
(Alex. W/T., 041729A to all Ships.)  
Owing to refraction suggest shooting stars with appearance of distant rockets may have been sighted by merchant ships. Sea smooth. Light mist. Present position 031° 46' N., 027° 42' E., course 052°. Burning searchlights. (CAMPION, 042320B to F.O.L.E.M.) See 050145B.

NEWFOUNDLAND, Torpedo air vessel burst in NEWFOUNDLAND's port damage.  
torpedo tube space causing considerable local structural damage. Estimate repairs will take 4 weeks. UGANDA will be ready to sail 14th Feb. Should she proceed independently your 290833 Jan. not to C. in C. Med. refers. (F.O.L.E.M., 041742 to C. in C. B.P.F., Info. C. in C. Med., Admty., NEWFOUNDLAND, UGANDA.)

Intelligence Report No. 162, week-ending 4th February. (1) Dodecanese. (A) Transfer of troops from Leros to Kos continues on small scale. Move of up to 2 battalions possibly (?transferred) to relieve Leros supply situation but not likely more than about 500 men so far transferred. (B) Sea and air bombardment enemy position Piskopi carried out 30th Jan. in support of raid party operating against German post. Due to weather attack confined to limited objectives. (C) Refugees from Dodecanese now total 1300. At least 1500 month expected if present food situation continues. (2) Milos. Bombing of gun position and ammunition dump successful on 26th and 28th Jan. German garrison now concentrated largely in main defence areas of Milos town and Adhamas. (S.O.(I) Eastern Med., 041750B to N.L.O. Black Sea, Admty.)

Patras. Patras port closed till further orders. (G.H.Q. (?Patras W/T\*), 041818B to G.B.V.1/8/)  
\* Message received via KIMBERLEY.  
/ Local Mediterranean allocation.

War Diary.

4.2.1945.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Mauritius,  
Cyclone.

Second cyclone February 1st/2nd.  
(1) Port Louis no more damage.  
(3) Grand Port remaining R.A.F. buildings destroyed and further damage to jetty.  
(6) My 190545 Jan. refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 040520Z and 052010 to F.O.E.A.)

Air Report.  
Singapore.

Reference my 030446\* photographs taken 3000 ft. over Singapore 0200Z/3rd Feb. by 20th Bomber Command. First phase interpretation results as follows:  
(A) Naval Base Johore Straits no significant change naval units from 31st merchant shipping totals 34,000 tons only change being arrival 210 foot engines aft freighter.  
(B) Singapore Harbour area (east wharf and Keppel harbour to north Phillip Channel) coverage shows aggregate 78,000 tons merchant shipping.  
(C. in C. E.I., 041239Z to Admty., C. in C. B.P.F.)  
\* Summary results first phase interpretation photographs over Singapore.

Movement.

Arrival HELFORD, Submarine SEAROVER.  
(Com. Aden., 041635Z to Admty.)

War Diary.4.2.1945.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U/B  
dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 041334Z, Cominch, 041455Z and 041750Z)

N.S.H.Q. S/M  
attack and  
sighting  
summary. Para. (C) (1) H.M.C.S. NAPANEE asdic contact  
about 0539/4th in 44.27 N., 63.29 W. possibly  
wreck. Contact attacked 0550. All times Z.  
(N.S.H.Q., 041525Z to Admty., Cominch.)

H.M.C.S.  
LUNENBERG. LUNENBERG departed Bermuda for Horta at 1750Z  
in accordance with C. in C. C.N.A. 241443Z Jan.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 041929Q to N.S.H.Q., Admty.)

T.G. 21.3  
constitution  
of. Task Group 21.3 hereby constituted PATROLLER  
S.O., UNDERHILL. UNDERHILL depart New London  
and R/V with C.T.G. 61.2 at 081200Z lat. 39.30  
N., long. 68.30 W., etc.  
(Cinclant, 041952Z to C.T.G. 61.2.)

U/B  
contacts. First report since Cominch 012107.  
Para. (C) 030048 E.G.16 had disappearing radar  
contact 44.17 N., 63.00 W. 040550 H.M.C.S.  
NAPANEE attacked sound contact 44.27 N., 63.29  
W. All times Z.  
Para. (D) 041250 surface craft reported sound  
contact 40.13 N., 73.23 W.  
(Cominch, 042018Z to Admty., etc.)

PACIFIC

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
1110,  
3rd Feb. (7) Night 1st Feb.. Lingayan P.T. Boats attacked  
7 barges (?beached) Salomague but intense shell  
fire prevented observation results.  
(10) At noon Liberator patrol sank one lugger  
carrying fuel whilst approaching Takao from  
north. Two coasters heading south for Amoy,  
both sunk by bombing.  
(13) Submarine contact recorded outside Leyte Gulf evening.  
(16) Midday 2nd Feb. patrol Liberator unsuccessfully bombed  
1,000 ton freighter off north coast Flores Island. Later that  
date six Liberators attacked this ship scoring one direct hit  
one near miss with quarter ton bombs.  
(18) On 2nd Feb. six Bostons bombed dock installations Simpsons  
Harbour.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 041133Z to Admty., etc.)

Movement.  
C. in C. Arrival Auckland HOWE wearing the flag of C. in  
B.P.F. C.B.P.F. accompanied by ACHILLES, QUEENBOROUGH,  
QUALITY, QUADRANT.  
(N.Z.N.B., 042330Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

4.2.1945.  
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U/B                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (D.D.I.C., 041345A.)

5.2.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Channel. 1. C. in C. W.A. has been asked to transfer two escort groups to the Portsmouth Command.
- Western Approaches. 2. Nineteenth Escort Group, following up an attack by LOCH SCAVAIG on a U-Boat in <sup>Lough</sup> Loch Foyle, brought up oil, pannelling, a German seaman's cap, clothing and stationery. S.O.E.G. 19 considers the U-Boat to have been destroyed. Diving operations are in contemplation.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

- Adriatic. 3. 7 Spitfires of coastal air force bombed small craft in Pag Harbour (northern Adriatic) and scored direct hits.

East Indies.

- S/M SPIRIT. 4. H.M. S/M SPIRIT reports that on her 4th Far East patrol she shelled and boarded a 200 ton Jap. coaster on 22nd Jan. off the north coast of Java. The coaster was found to be an armed Q ship and was sunk with demolition charges. Shortly afterwards a coaster of 600 tons which was carrying fuel was shelled and sunk by SPIRIT.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Movement, C. in C.B.P.F. 5. (a) Auckland HOWE arrived wearing flag of C. in C. B.P.F. accompanied by ACHILLES and 3 destroyers at 12.30 a.m. from Sydney.  
(b) KING GEORGE V, VICTORIOUS, EURYALUS left Fremantle for Sydney (N.S.W.)

- Timor. 6. 3 R.A.A.F. Liberators further damaged small freighter Flores Is. strafed two barges. 4 Dutch Mitchells destroyed one barge and one lugger at Timor.



5.2.1945  
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

War Gratutities The following message is to be treated as Secret until 1230 hours, Tuesday 6th February when it is to be released for general information. Begins:-

His Majesty's Government have now announced their decision about War Gratutities which will be payable to members of the Armed Forces in addition to the other benefits already announced.

Firstly War Gratutities will depend upon the length of War service on full service pay since 3rd September, 1939, and will be payable to all officers and men who have had at least six months such service.

Secondly the following amounts for each month of full pay war service will be granted -

Ordinary and Able Seamen	Ten shillings
Leading Rates	Twelve shillings
Petty Officer Rates	Fourteen shillings
Chief Petty Officer rates	Sixteen shillings
Midshipmen and Acting Subs.	Twenty-five shillings
Sub. Lieuts. and R.N. and R.M. Warrant Officers	Thirty shillings
R.N. and R.M. Commissioned Warrant Officers	Thirty-two shillings and sixpence
Lieutenants	Thirty-five shillings
Lieut. Commanders	Forty shillings
Commanders	Forty-five shillings
Captains	Fifty shillings
Commodores	Fifty-five shillings
Rear Admirals	Sixty shillings
Vice Admirals	Sixty-five shillings
Admirals	Seventy shillings

Thirdly, Officers and men will be awarded gratuity on the highest paid rank held for a period of at least six months or the rank held at the date of release whichever is the more advantageous.

Fourthly, where ratings' service as well as officer service has been given the gratuity will be calculated separately for each of the two periods involved.

Fifthly, women members of the Forces and Nursing Officers will, in general, receive two thirds of the rate for corresponding male ranks.

Sixthly, detailed instructions will be issued in due course. (Head of C.W.II, 051915A General Message.)

Operations

North Sea

Patrols D.S. DOLFIJN left Lerwick 1042A 5th February on the surface at C.O. discretion through 60° 00' N. 00° 30' E. and 59° 20' N. 01° 15' E. to patrol line 180° and 000° 15 miles each side of mid-point 58° 45' N. 01° 15' E. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 051046A to S/Ms N. of 51° N.)

/Night...

5.2.1945  
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Patrols (Contd.) Night dispositions 5/6th February.  
Humber Force N.17  
Harwich Force Group 3 - Patrols 2 TALYBONT,  
3 COTSWOLD, 5 KITTIWAKE, 6 PUFFIN, 12 STAYNER,  
14 EGLINTON, 16 EKINS, 18 CURZON, 19 SEYMOUR,  
ARENDALE, 21 SHEARWATER, 22 CAICOS.  
Group 4 - Harbour FARNDALE, HAMBLEDON, MACKAY, SLAZAK,  
SOUTHDOWN, RETALICK, RUTHERFORD, THORNBOROUGH, GUILLEMOT,  
SHELDRAKE, WIDGEON.  
Sheerness Force Group 5 - Patrols 1 PYTCHLEY,  
4 OAKLEY, with T.A.M. 71 VESPER HAYDON, T.A.P.36 BLACKMORE,  
O.N.A.283 VIMY, LOOSESTRIFE, U.C.55B VOLUNTEER, A.T.P.35  
BLENCATHRA, A.T.M.55 BLEASDALE, MIDDLETON, C.U.56 HOLMES.  
Group 5 - Harbour, BLANKNEY, COWDRAY, FERNIE, TORRINGTON,  
ARMERIA, CALGARY, CLEMATIS, STATICE.  
(C. in C. Nore, 051524A to Admty.)

Midget U-boat sighted Midget S/M reported by 23 Liaison H.Q. Walcheren in approximate position 057° Domburg 3 miles at 1105 today Monday. Midget was 50 yards from shore and escaped to work on westerly course at 1150. C.F. patrol warned.  
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 051252A to C. in C. Nore.)

Cositintrep No. 307, Part 4.  
Discharge by Sea - 24 hour period ending 041600A February.  
Discharge Situation Report

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. Coal.)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	62	48	7,655	-	878
Ostend	1,166	124	2,225	-	830
Boulogne	78	113	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	225	-	-
Calais	3,364	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,812	100	622
Total	4,670	285	11,917	100	2,330
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	91	16,320	-	-
Cherbourg	171	61	12,726	580	4,911
Le Havre	2,044	410	7,932	5,924	3,103
Rouen	896	6,161	3,797	357	615
Granville	-	-	681	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,150	-	-
Total	3,111	1,178*	43,606	6,861	8,629
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	-	16	13,358	-	567
Port De Bouc	-	-	1,922	3,488	-
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	16	15,280	3,488	567

(S.H.A.E.F. 051730A to Admty. and others.)

\* Sic.

/Operation...

5.2.1945  
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

Operation "Deliberate" In view of present situation and possible development N.C. Force "T" 042025A February refers, I would request one Flotilla of L.C.T.5 be placed under my command now and sailed to Terneuzen.

(2) The other two flotillas intended for the relief of West Holland to be held in reserve at reasonable notice.

(F.O. Holland, 051828A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operation "Deliberate" (042025 refers) will take place tomorrow Tuesday 6th February. H hour 2000 B.S.T.

(2) Intend to embark in L.C.F.24 1800/6th.

(3) L.C.F.24 will maintain watch on 3122 kc/s and 1520 kc/s.

Books held C.A.421, LOXO, S table, D.G. and call sign.

(S.O. Force "T" 052247 to A.N.C.X.F.) *Operation postponed, 9.2.45, p. 133*

Dover-  
Ostend  
N.D.B.Service

Your 301210A ref. termination of Dover/Ostend N.D.B.S. Demand by priority one passengers exceeds availabilities daily. Suggested transfer to Calais not very satisfactory from Movements Viewpoint. Request continuation of present service if possible.  
(Exfor, 051640A to A.N.C.X.F.)

A.C. Dover, 011221 not to all. After consultation with all authorities concerned consider cessation of Dover/Ostend N.D.B.S. service unacceptable at present.

(2) Allocation of non-operational high speed Craft is suggested for the service if any are available.

(3) Newhaven/Dieppe despatch boats will not be required in near future when M.W.T. service runs daily.

(A.N.C.X.F. 051930A to Admty.)

OperationsChannel

Patrols

(1) BALFOUR, BENTLEY, STOCKHAM proceed forthwith to patrol line five miles south of route E between 00° 50' W. and 01° 15' W.

(2) GORE, GARLIES, HOSTE proceed forthwith to patrol line St. Catherines Point to position 180° St. Catherines 14.

(3) ASCENSION, LOCH LOMOND, BURGESS proceed forthwith to patrol line E.A.3 buoy to position 180° E.A.3 buoy 10 miles.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 050845A to GARLIES, S.O.E.Gs. 17, 1.)

Forces 27 and 28 if not in contact leave patrols so as to enter Falmouth 1000A tomorrow Tuesday. Adjust speed so as not to cross route E before daylight. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 052201A to Plymouth Command.)

E.G.1

As soon as papers have been collected by boat or at 2100A whichever is the earliest, weigh and proceed to sweep channel 10 miles wide close southward of route E until HX 334 is met.

S.O. escorts in Vimy supported by S.O.E.G.14. When met proceed to Belfast at best speed making your own E.T.A.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051800A to S.O.E.G.1)

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern ApproachesU.1014 *2mk*

U-boat kill 19th E.G. proceed at best speed to vicinity Lough  
off Lough Foyle Foyle Buoy where LOCH SCAVAIG, PAPUA, NYASALAND  
55°18'N 6°43½'W have attacked contact. COTTON comply with my  
042143 not to all.

*p89* (C. in C.W.A. 050111A to S.O. Force 37.)

19th E.G. E.T.A. areas 050700A. C. in C. Western  
Approaches 050111A refers.

(S.O. Force 37, 050255 to LOCH SCAVAIG.)

Report situation and your opinion of evidence obtained by  
ships of 23rd E.G.

(2) If not in contact detach 23rd E.G. to Londonderry.

(C. in C.W.A., 051148A to S.O.E.G.19)

Contact has been regained with target in same position as  
that reported in my 041845\* one depth charge and Hedgehog  
attacks have been carried out by NYASALAND and PAPUA respectively.  
Target is still emitting oil.

(LOCH SCAVAIG, 051205A to C. in C.W.A.)

\* Not yet identified in War Reg.)

Your 051148A and Com. (D) W.A. 051055A. Original contact  
attacked LOCH SCAVAIG in 55° 17' 8" N. 06° 44' W. at 1845A/4th  
producing oil and an oil drum. Position buoyed.

(2) No ship being in contact, 23rd E.G. commenced sweeping of  
area without result until joined by 19th E.G. at 0800A/5th.

(3) All ships commenced sweeping to southward toward original  
position and contact gained by PAPUA.

(4) Depth charge attack PAPUA and HH attack NYASALAND on  
contact in original position produced area of light oil 2 miles  
square and a quantity of wreckage including wooden panelling,  
German sailor's cap and clothing and a book of forms of German  
origin.

(5) Contact has not been regained since last attack, area being  
searched.

(6) From quantity and quality of wreckage consider presence of  
U-boat probable, but no A/S or E/S evidence yet available.

(7) Further signal will be made.

(8) (a) Average. (b) No.

(9) Suitable.

(S.O.E.G.19, 051416A to C. in C.W.A.)

My 051416A. Contact regained by PAPUA at 1449 giving  
extent of target 11°.

(2) LOCH SHIN obtained one F/S trace in difficult asdic  
condition, run up tide. Trace shows general lengthwise  
outline of U-boat, 21 feet high and 275 feet long. Poor asdic  
trace, extent of target 5°.

(3) Further attacks being carried out to obtain more evidence.

(S.O.E.G.19 051638A to C. in C.W.A.)

My 051638A. Following additional attacks carried out,  
4 Squid, 2 Hedgehog, 2 depth charges.

(2) Continental type life belt and more wood wreckage  
accompanied by more oil.

(3) Consider German U-boat definitely destroyed.

(4) LOCH SCAVAIG, PAPUA, NYASALAND ordered to return to base.

(5) Intend 19th E.G. remain over contact throughout dark hours  
for further investigation in daylight.

(6) (a) Below average.

(b) No.

(7) Just suitable.

(S.O.E.G.19, 051819A to C. in C.W.A.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

U-boat  
kill off  
Lough Foyle  
(Contd.)

*v-10 14*  
*sk*

Am in firm contact S/M. My position 49° Dunagree Point 7 miles. (LOCH SCAVAIG 051825A to C. in C.W.A.) My 051825. 2 good attacks (wreckage) and oil brought to surface. Escort Group 19 has taken over Escort Group 23 returning to harbour. It is considered this is same contact previously reported.

(LOCH SCAVAIG, 051837A to C. in C.W.A.)

Detach PAPUA, LOCH SCAVIAG, NYASALAND to Lough Foyle thence as ordered by Cdr. (D) W.A.

Try to hold contact and at daylight buoy contact accurately with a view to future diving operations. On completion rejoin Force 37.

(C. in C.W.A. 051956A to S.O.E.G.19.)

My 051956.

As much of the following information as can reliably be obtained in the time available is to be signalled when known in order to assist Diving Operations.

- (1) Exact position of U-boat wreck and how obtained.
  - (2) Estimated position of U-boat Sinker relative to Wreck and how obtained.
  - (3) Heading of Wreck relative to Tidal Streams.
  - (4) Dimensions of Wreck and how obtained.
  - (5) Is Wreck upright or on its side.
  - (6) Any clues to estimating extent of damage.
- (C. in C. W.A. 052227A to S.O.E.G.19.)

Action by  
single escort  
of a single  
ship  
when meeting  
a U-boat

Following is General Policy for a single escort escorting a single ship in Coastal Waters on gaining contact with suspected U-boat.

- (1) Carry out counter attack.
- (2) If contact is confirmed as S/M continue A/S action until U-boat is destroyed or contact can be turned over to a support group.
- (3) If contact is not confirmed rejoin when contact is no longer a danger to ship under escort.

(C. in C.W.A. 051231 to W.A. Command.)

E.Gs. 23, 6. When ready about 0001/6th Com. (D) Western Approaches is requested to sail 23rd E.G. less MONTERRAT to R/V with MONTERRAT in Belfast Lough for transfer of senior officers staff.

(2) On completion of transfer group is to sail to join Force 38. S.O. 4th is S.O. Force 38. E.T.A. 52° 40' N. is to be reported by S.O. 23rd E.G.

(3) At that time 6th E.G. if not in contact is to leave area and proceed to Londonderry for lay over.

(C. in C.W.A. 051309A to Com. D.W.A. F.O.I.C. N.I. PAPUA, S.O.E.G. 23, 6.)

My 051620. As soon as ready Cdre. D.W.A. is requested to sail 23rd E.G. to join Force 38. E.T.A. 52° 40' N. to be reported.

(2) At that time 6th E.G., if not in contact, is to leave area and proceed to Londonderry for lay over.

(C. in C.W.A. 052225A to Com. D.W.A. S.O.E.G.6.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Intend sailing 1630 Wednesday 7th for R/V at 1740  
in position 51° 54' N. 5° 43' W. to lay mines E.2,  
B.1, C.4 Max. laying speed 18 knots.  
(2) Fourth lay my 010111 refers, may be delayed  
24 hours by mine supply. Agreed S.A.S.O.  
(APOLLO 051411 to C. in C. W.A.)

Behaviour  
of lost U-  
Boats when  
attacked.

Following is experience in three recent A/S actions  
against U-Boats.

(1) On 21st January in vicinity of Wolf Rock. After  
attack on convoy U-Boat was located on the bottom  
within 3000 yards of the torpedoed ship by an  
escort operating "Unifoxer".

(2) On 26th and 27th January in the Irish Sea.  
After attacks on an escort proceeding independently and on a  
convoy respectively, U-Boats were subsequently located close to  
positions of attacks at depths of about 100 feet. U-Boats  
endeavoured to remain stopped by stemming the current and only  
took evading action during approach of escorts when echo sounding  
was started.

(3) In all these cases the nature of the contact was doubtful  
and had not been classified as submarine at the time of initial  
attacks.

(C. in C. W.A. 051556A, General message.)

Reinforcements  
for Ports-  
mouth Command.

Request you will transfer 1 support group temporarily  
to C. in C. Portsmouth.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 052227 to C. in C. W.A.)  
31st E.G. is to continue with M.H. 15 to Clyde  
Light Vessel and join force 37.

(2) 15th E.G. proceed forthwith at best speed  
without incurring weather damage to Portsmouth and act under the  
orders of C. in C. Portsmouth. A.M. 052227 not to all refers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 052256A to S.O.E.Gs. 15, 31.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Evacuation  
of civilian  
population  
of Soroy.

A.O. 523 4 February T.O.O. 1940.  
Reference Air Ministry signal M.S.W. 179 4 February.  
It is intended that flight shall take place at  
earliest possible date. Subject to affirmative  
reply from Soviet Authorities following is  
intention:

(a) Catalina A/333 to be despatched to Soroy in  
70° 35' N. 22° 30' E. with three passengers and special freight.  
Aircraft will land most suitable fjord according to wind and sea  
conditions.

(b) After disembarking passengers and freight aircraft will take  
off immediately and proceed Murmansk for refuelling before return  
to U.K.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Evacuation  
of civilian  
population  
of Soroy.  
(Contd.)

(c) Estimate take off Sullom Voe 2230A E.T.A.  
Soroy 0800A E.T.A. Murmansk 1200A.  
(2) Request that following information be signalled  
immediately you are aware that authority has been  
granted for the flight.  
(a) Local Soviet recognition signals in force to  
cover period four days.  
(b) Commence daily meteorological forecast for

period 24 hours from 1600 Greenwich mean time to be sent 0700Z  
daily T.F.N.

(c) Particulars Murmansk radio beacon characteristics for period  
four days.

(18 Group 050930A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Subject Norwegian Catalina flight to Soroy Island and  
Grasnaya (Murmansk) Soviet Naval Staff have given clearance for  
this flight.

(2) Request second addressee be given earliest warning of aircraft  
movements.

(30 Mission 052200Z to Air Ministry, S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Patrol.

If not in contact shift Gamma between 59° 50' N.  
03° 24' W. and 60° 15' N. 04° 24' W.  
(C. in C, Rosyth 051100A to S.O.E.G. 10.)

Convoy  
J.W. 64.

Your 031713A para. (c) gives 27 ships. Your  
031715A listed 26 ships only. Request correction.  
(30 Mission Moscow 050945A to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)  
Scapa departure C.S. 1 in CAMPANIA with BELLONA,  
NAIRANA, Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW, Capt. (D) 2 in

ZAMBESI, ONSLAUGHT, OPPORTUNE, ZEST and ZEALOUS.

(A.C.O.S. 051205A to Admty., C. in C. H.F., S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Position JW 64 at 1601/5th 60° 47' N. 04° 17' W. 000° 9½.  
(WHITEHALL 052140A to C. in C. H.F.)

Convoy  
R.A. 64.

My 042131. Sailed 0700A substitute S.J. JOHN LA  
FARGE for BRITISH PROMISE (T) latter for Group 20.  
(2) Convoy Signalman in NACELLA, special Commodore's  
ship.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 051908A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German M/S  
gear.

Intend to sail STAR OF FREEDOM loaded with captured  
German M/S gear at 0800 tomorrow Tuesday to  
Sheerness for onward routing to Chatham. Speed 8  
knots. E.T.A. 1500.

(2) Communications: constant R/T L/S watch and  
single operator W/T periods on 1700 k/cs.  
(V.A. Dover 051120A to Com. Sheerness.)

/Supplies...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Supplies at (1) Coal. (a) Danish vessels in German Danish  
Baltic ports coal trade which have been awaiting cargo at German  
early Feb. Baltic ports have not even been able to obtain  
bunkers to enable them to return in ballast, to  
nearest Danish port Ronne Bornholm. C.2.  
(b) It is reported 8 Danish vessels have been  
diverted to Danish ports in order to load coal from Danish stocks  
for Germans. C.3.  
(c) Drastic cuts in food and all rail services were reported  
from Oslo, on Feb. 1st. B.2.  
(2) Oil. Two laden tankers have already been reported southbound  
from Norwegian port where it is known reasonable stocks have  
been accumulated. B.2.  
(3) Port activity. (a) Germans are making considerable endeavours  
to maintain Oder ports open for navigation by augmented ice  
breaker fleet and employing vessels strengthened for ice. C.3.  
(b) Traffic in vicinity of Swinemunde during past 3 days has been  
rather more brisk. A.2.  
There is no new information regarding activity at Danzig port.  
(4) Inference. Baltic sea board now being isolated from its  
supplies in Hinterland, Germans must augment locally and from  
other ports to enable essential sea communications both military  
and civil to continue while they are still maintaining command of  
Baltic.  
(N.A. Stockholm 051829 to Admty.)

Port Facilities.

Lowestoft. My 241605A Jan. (not to all addressees) completion  
date of dredging is estimated February 11th.  
Request that those of crew not proceeding with dock  
may be sent Lowestoft for R.D.B. 78.  
Admty. 141033A Jan. (Conf.) refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 051440A to C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties & Defects.

BLACKMORE My 052148 to N.O.I.C Southend only. Regret my  
destroyer. port screw fouled of number 2 buoy mooring whilst  
turning.  
(2) ST. HELIER anchored in vicinity.  
(3) Request instructions.  
(4) Buoy dragged out of position.  
(BLACKMORE 052211A to C. in C. Nore.)

ST. HELIER ST. HELIER now aground on The Nore Sands. T.A.P.  
L.S.I.(H) 36 cancelled return to Sheerness.  
(C. in C. Nore to COWDRAY, T.O.O. 052355A.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

JAVELIN,  
PENN,  
destroyers. Sailed JAVELIN (S.O.) and PENN to comply with my 041058.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 051028A to F.O.G.M.A.)

EASTWAY  
L.S.D. Your 041142 to Admiralty. Request information regarding anticipated (a) date of arrival of EASTWAY at Belfast and (b) duration of stay of vessel at the port.  
(2) Berthing situation difficult.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 051136A to R.A.L.S.C.U.)

O.24  
submarine. H.M. submarine O.24 sails with Clyde section O.S. 109/K.M.S. 83. Amend S.O. escort O.S. 109 to read WREN.  
(C. in C. W.A. 051532A)

PRINCESS  
IRIS  
L.S.I.(S) On completion of present duty A.M. 291857 January (not to all) refers, 9 L.C.M.(3) in state A are to be embarked in PRINCESS IRIS and vessel sailed for Portsmouth without delay.  
(2) Com. L.C.B. Portsmouth is to arrange for craft to be disembarked and held pending further instructions.  
(3) Subsequent movement programme for PRINCESS IRIS will be signalled by Admiralty.  
(D.C.O.D. 051736A to R.A.L.S.C.U., R.A.C.O.B., W.A., Com. L.C.B. Portsmouth.)

VEGA,  
Red Cross  
Ship. Position at 2000Z. Red Cross Ship VEGA 49.22 N. 04.05 W. 090° 5 to Guernsey.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 051811A to Plymouth Command.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Ships for London and Southend to be in the van of convoys. English Channel section of ocean convoys. To ensure ships bound for London and Southend obtain pilots at Dungeness, ships for those ports should be in van of convoy. Request Commodores and Vice Commodores be informed that Channel sections should be reformed accordingly before arrival off Dungeness.  
(D.T.D. 052010A to Commav, F.O.G.M.A.)

U.C. convoys. (1) Commencing with U.C. 57A it is intended that N.C.S.O. Southampton shall be the co-ordinating authority for U.C. convoys.  
(2) Convoy conference will be held at Southampton and Commodores and staffs will sail from that port.  
(3) If the Commodore of the corresponding C.U. convoy arrives at Le Havre C.T.F. 125 is requested to arrange that the Commodore and his staff are sailed for Southampton in the first available ship suitable as Commodore's ship. Should the Commodore arrive

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

U.C. convoys. at another U.K. port, he and staff should be  
(Contd.) transferred to Southampton.  
(4) Admiralty will continue to issue ocean routes.  
N.C.S.O. Mersey is requested to issue the necessary  
R/V signals. C. in C. W.A. is requested to  
allocate Outcon Tables and W/T callsigns.  
Sailing signals will be made by Admiralty.  
(D.T.D. 052039A to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth, Portsmouth, Nore,  
C.T.F. 125, A.C. Dover.)

C.U. & cross Channel Convoys. The procedure for cross Channel convoys adopted in  
my 290013A December has so far appeared to pay a  
good dividend. I am therefore loath to depart  
from this practice which is easy to follow for  
convoys sailing from the north or south shore.  
(2) But difficulty arises with C.U. convoys as  
depending on time of arrival off the Isle of Wight section for  
Cherbourg or Havre may now be held to wait hours of darkness  
involving delay and complication.  
(3) This state of affairs could be avoided if C.U. convoys were  
instructed to adjust the route, and thereby the time, of entering  
the Channel so as to pass H.2 buoy between sunset and midnight.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 052056A to Admt.)

Ships re- turning ex convoys. Pass to F.Os. i/c and N.Os. i/c and N.C.S.Os.  
It is most important that the arrival in any U.K.  
port of a vessel which has returned from an outward  
bound ocean convoy be reported at once by signal  
to C. in C. W.A. repeated Admiralty and any  
authority concerned with the original sailing of the  
ship. Signal should contain name of ship, title  
of convoy.  
(D.T.D. 052117A to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth,  
Portsmouth, Nore, Rosyth, A.C. Dover, A.C.O.S.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

PRECISE ? Reference C. in C.U.S.Fleet's 231405 not to F.O.G.M.A. request destination in (corrupt group) for H.M.S. PRECISE.  
(2) Intend unless otherwise ordered to divert PRECISE to Horta and sail her to U.K. in company with H.M.C.S. NUREMBERG on about 12th Feb.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 051402Z to Admty. etc.).

S/M. Your 051256A. My P.C. and S. 037° 28' N. 003°  
STOIC. 17' E. 265° 10.6 knots. My amended E.T.A. 0730A 7th Feb.  
(STOIC, 051601A to F.O.G.M.A.).

METEOR. Opened fire with starshell on own forces P.C. and S. 43° 37' N. 7° 41' E. 260° 20. I received no information of this movement.  
(METEOR, 052105A to Comflanfor).

South Atlantic

Regrouping During temporary absence of E.G.55 and E.G.57  
Kils at Gibraltar Kils from these groups are being  
class. regrouped into a group consisting of KILCHATTAN (S.O.), KILDARY, KILDWICK and KILKENZIE.  
Request approval to designate new group E.G.60. (F.O.C.W.Af., 051716Z to Admiralty). Approved 061820A.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Distress Signal. Square search completed with no result. Closed merchant ship MAHADEVI in position 031° 36' N. 027° 53' E. Intend searching to northward and (group omitted) weather report 6070 6534. (CAMPION 050145B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Linrep No. 228. Two. Naval. Casablanca. A French escort vessel sank outside the harbour when in tow after having been in collision with a merchant ship. There were no casualties. South France. A salvage vessel was mined off St. Louis du Rhone. There were no casualties. Adriatic. Off Cap Promontore coastal craft were engaged at night by enemy patrol believed to consist of a destroyer and E-Boats. One M.T.B. was slightly damaged, no casualties. Greece. Situation remains generally quiet but is tense in the Peloponnese. (A.F.H.Q. 051045A to W.O.)

S. Aegean Summary. Up to 0900 hours 5th Feb. 1945. (1) Shipping. Fairly generally cover of Aegean was obtained. Leros Portolago. Arrived since 28th Jan. one Magda barge. Shipping now present. One Pioneer landing craft, one Z Lighter, one M.A.L. three magda barges, one salvage vessel, four tugs 60/120 feet, one launch 80/100 feet including one previously inactive, one launch 40/60 feet, one caique 60/80 feet, two caiques 40/60 feet, one motor barge 60/80 feet possibly active. Comment two. I-Boats 40/50 feet and one caique 60/80 feet not seen but probably obscured by cloud. Kos. Partially cloud covered. One E.M.S. craft and one magda barge probably still present. Ground sources also report two craft present 2nd Feb. Reliable source reports two Turks about to leave for Budrum today on secret German mission to organise supplies. Cardamena. Ground source reports about three hundred Germans training as Commandos this area. Kalimnos. Small craft only. Refugees report sea mines between Gaidaro and Calino but between Gaidaro and Turkish coast clear. Crete. Suda Bay departed one launch 60/80 feet one caique 40/60 feet both to Canea. One tug and one launch 80/100 feet present Canea. Arrived above craft from Suda. Comment: Later cover suggests these craft about to return to Suda. Shipping present. Three launches 40/100 feet eight caiques 40/80 feet. (C. in C. M.E. 051115B to W.O.)

RICHELIEU. Request you will condense working up programme in F.O.W.M.'s 211310 Jan. not to all so that RICHELIEU is sailed not later than 28th Feb. unescorted to Port Said for onward routing to Ceylon where she is required not later than mid March A.M. 311737 Jan. not to all refers. (C. in C. Med. 051629A to F.O.G.M.A.)

/Air...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air Coastal Air Force.  
Cositintrep 7 Spitfires bombed small craft in Pag Harbour with  
No. 575. direct hits.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. No T.O.O./5th Feb. to W.O.)

M/S SEABEAR. Number of effective ships in 8th M/S Flotilla is  
being kept low owing defects. Request SEABEAR  
be sailed as soon as possible.  
(C. in C. Med. 051740A to Admt.)

Russian Your 021834. Regret in view of other operational  
Nationals. commitments concerning which we will signal you  
we cannot release any troopship at present on  
service in, or arriving for service in Mediterranean  
in the near future unless replaced before  
departure.  
(2) Therefore earliest date movements can commence is after  
arrival of K.M.F. 40 in Mediterranean.  
(3) Your signal refers to commencement of movement from Southern  
France. There are 4500 Russians in Italy most of whom were  
moved from Southern France initially and Allied Force Headquarters  
are anxious these should be cleared at earliest.  
(4) Please agree.  
(P.S.T.O. Med. 051746A to Admt.) Amended 060923A.

M.M.S. 68 Situation report No. 552.  
sunk. Motor M.S. 68 has been mined and sunk between Zante  
and Cephalonia. There were 7 survivors.  
(C. in C. Med. 051856A to F.O.G.M.A., etc.)

Beirut A.M. 021105 and your 022347. Foreign Office have  
Visit of consulted H.M. Minister Beirut and state visit  
B. cruiser. of British cruiser is not at present desired.  
(P.A.S.(L) 052124A to C. in C. Med.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movement. Arrival H.M.I.S. OUDH towing M.M.S. 146.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 050139Z to Admty.)

U/B dis- No change.  
positions. (C. in C. E.I. 050403Z to S. & A. E.I., Admty.)

S/M SPIRIT. H.M. S/M SPIRIT 4th Far East patrol.  
22nd Jan. 1000 in position 006° 20' S. 110° 41' E.  
attacked Japanese manned grey painted coaster 200  
tons by gunfire, coaster was boarded at 1005 and  
found one moderately armed Q-ship. Ship sunk by demolition charge  
at 1017 no survivors, 20 minutes later 600 tons steel coaster  
carrying fuel sunk by gunfire no survivors from Japanese ships.  
(C. in C. E.I. 051107Z to Admty.)

24th Des- It is not intended that the 24th Flotilla should  
troyer proceed to B.P.F. for the present. Your 261057  
Flotilla. refers.  
(2) TROUBRIDGE, TENACIOUS and TERMAGANT should  
join you by end Feb. Flotilla is not expected to  
be complete on E.I. Station before end April, when  
allocation will be re-considered.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 051935A to Cs. in C. E.I., B.P.F.)

GOMBROON. Your 291127Z Jan. P.S.T.O.I. being asked by D. of  
S.T. for further report on GOMBROON. Request  
facilities be granted for any inspection which we  
may wish to carry out.  
(Hd. of M. 052009 to C. in C. E.I.)

5.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions.              (N.S.H.Q., 051327Z and Cominch 051457Z).

Ocean                      Ship carrying either Commodore or Vice Commodore  
Convoys.                      of Ocean Convoys should be included in English  
   Channel section. Cancel my 211606 September.  
   (Com. 10th Fleet C and R, 051512Z to Comeast-  
   seafron).

U.C.                          Commencing with U.C.57A co-ordination of U.C.  
convoys.                      convoys will be transferred from N.C.S.O.  
   Mersey to N.C.S.O. Southampton.  
   (2) Commodore will sail from Southampton.  
   (3) Request when practicable that Commodores of  
C.U. convoys be in ships in English Channel Sections.  
(D.T.D., 052043A to C. in C. Lant etc.).

U-Boat                      Para.B. 042300Z U.S.S. CORE escort made 2 attacks  
contacts.                      on sound contact 49.20 N. 29.37 W. with  
   negative results.  
   Para.D. About 050132Z Coast Guard Vessel had  
   hydrophone contact 40.05 N. 73.05 W. probably  
other surface craft which were patrolling in vicinity.  
(Cominch, 052102Z to Admiralty etc.).

*PACIFIC*

Australia and New Zealand

"MONTCLARE"  
(Flag  
R.A.F.T.)                      F.O.I.C. Glasgow 291551\* Request details of  
   MONTCLARE's programme and E.T.A. Sydney N.S.W.  
   (F.O. Fleet Train B.P.F., 050211Z to Admty.).  
   \* Due to delay in undocking THANE it will not  
   be possible to dock MONTCLARE in A.F.D.IV before  
   Feb. 7th.

B.P.F.                          Have discussed with Admiral Helfrich (B.S.O.),  
Dutch                          the future of Dutch submarines on transfer of  
submarines.                      British submarine flotillas to Pacific.  
   (2) B.S.O. would prefer that all Dutch submarines  
   move with British submarines but I stressed that  
   the difficulties of logistic support and  
maintenance for non British built submarines made this imprac-  
ticable.  
(3) Subject to approval it was agreed that British built Dutch  
manned submarines should continue to work with British  
submarine flotillas but that Dutch "O" class should remain  
based on Fremantle to operate under Comsouwespac for patrols  
in Java Sea and clandestine operations in that area. Comtask-  
force 71 concurs.

War Diary5.2.1945  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

- B.P.F. Dutch S/Ms. (Contd.) (4) Maintenance and accommodation facilities at Fremantle for these S/Ms will be adequate.  
(5) B.S.O. stressed the need for a Dutch repair or accommodation ship to be made available for Dutch S/Ms in the event of this being required to move from Fremantle to base in N.E.I. at a later date. (C. in C. B.P.F. 050240Z to Admty.) *app 261031A*
- B.P.F. Train requirements of. C. in C. B.P.F. 050604Z to Admty and 080239Z. See Lion copy.
- B.P.F. Mines. Concur in A.M. 291237 Jan except para. 2 (F) if surface minelaying operations visualised in my 160653 Jan. take place all available space in these ships must be occupied by moored units except possibly (?M) Mark Three mines it will therefore be necessary to establish early the advanced base mine depot to receive, prepare and store ground units. (C. in C. B.P.F. 050719Z to Admty.)
- Cyclone Western Australia. Damage at Exmouth Gulf caused by cyclone on 3rd Feb. included wreck of D/F station. (A.C.N.B. 050727Z to C. in C. E.I.S. Info: Admty.)
- Digest 1111 4.2.1945. This Digest bears Serial No. 1111 covering 4th February except where otherwise stated.  
(1) Before dawn Navy search plane contacted 4 large Northbound vessels off Hong Kong, bombs were dropped causing large explosion but nil fire. Considerable activity observed Hong Kong.  
(2) Ground Forces Luzon entered Manila from North rescuing Santo Tomas University while Batangas Forces reached Las Minas on Manila Bay.  
(4) Navy search planes from Leyte over China South West Coast and Formosa Straits saw 1 medium, 2 small Freighters (?3) Transports, 30 Barges, anchored at Amoy, 2 unidentified ships anchored off Northern Formosa with single sea truck heading East. Sea truck strafed left dead in water, 6 small Coasters Sakashima Gunjo whereon one destroyed by strafing. Other Navy Liberator over Fr. Indo China Coast saw nothing at Cap Jacques but 9 small Coasters Amruh Bay Area.  
(6) 4 R.A.A.F. Mitchells bombed 3 beached Barges (?Latar) Island (corrupt).  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 051035Z to Admty. etc.)



ANZ  
83A

# 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.)

050604Z/February

From C. in C. B.F.F.

Date 6. 2. 45.

Recd. 0549.

*BPF Train*

NAVAL CYHER X BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty.  
Repeated R.A.F.T. V.A. (C) A.C.N.B.

Appreciation of requirements of Fleet train my 280311  
para. 11 refers.

2.	Type of Ship	Nos. in or expected to join Fleet train by July	Percent of B.F.F. which ships in col. 2 can support.	Total no. of Fleet train ships reqd. to support B.F.F. in July	No. of ships short of total reqd. to maintain whole Fleet in July.	No. of Fleet train ships expected to join after July.	Adml. ships reqd. in Fleet train	Remarks
3.	A. Tankers (A)	9 large (8000 to 10000 tons) 2 small (2500 tons)	45 %	18 large 6 small	9 large 4 small	Nil	9 large 4 small	This includes tanker capacity reqd. at anchorages in addn. to that reqd. for operational purposes.
	B. Tankers (Water) (W)	Nil	Nil	3 small of 10000 tons each	3 plus 4	Nil	3 plus 4.	Detailed appreciations of this requirement is being forwarded separately. by air mail

*plus four  
9000 tons each*

A. N. Z.  
83B

# 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.)

-2-

(C) Armament store issuing ships,	10	60%	17	7	3	4	These figures have already been given in my 280311. As A.S.I.S. & A.S.C.S. are to some extent interchangeable it can be assumed that the Combined Force of A.S.I.S. & A.S.C.S. shown in col. 1 can support 40% of B.P.F.
(D) Armament store carriers	4	30%	14	10	2	8	Same as (C)
(E) Victual- ling store issuing ships	7	50%	11	4	3	4	A total of 15 required by September.
(F) Naval store issuing ships	4	50%	8	4	2	2	Nil.
(G) Naval store carriers	3	30%	10	7	2	5	Note: If no bulk issuing ships are provided a total of 16 carriers will be reqd.
(H) Bulk issuing ships	Nil	Nil	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	These will be N.S.I.S. carrying bulk stocks of consumable stores for issue to all ships pending establishment of store storage at the intermediate base.

4. (A) Notes - Calculations are based on the strength to which it is expected that the B.P.F. will be built up to by July, 1945 (latest information available).

(B) It is assumed that two thirds of the ships of the Fleet are operating in advance of the Philippines and one third are unavailable of which some will be at the intermediate base and some refitting and docking at the rear base.

(C) It is assumed that three quarters of the ships of the Fleet train are actually available.

(D) Column 2 is obtained from the figures given in A.M. 101215 January and ships named or shown as ordered have been included but not those shown as under consideration in the case of tankers those mentioned in A.M. 131406 have been included.

(E) Only supply ships are dealt with in this signal repair ships and other categories form the subject of a separate signal.

5. Confirmatory copy follows by Air to Admiralty.

050604Z amended by 060101Z

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
Vice Contr.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)  
U.V.R.  
D.N.I. (4)  
D. of P. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
D.C.D. (H) (4)  
D.C.D. (F) (2)

W.D.  
D.C.  
Hd. of M. (5)  
D.T.S.D.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
Secretary  
Dep. Secretary  
Naval Secretary  
D.D.A.S. (L)  
D.N.C.  
D.N.A.C. (2)  
D.A.W.T.  
Ad. Blake (4)  
D. of S. (2)  
D.G.D.  
D. of S.T. (6)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D.C.C.D. (4)  
D.C.C.M. (4)

N.L.O. Australia House  
A.D.C.D. (C.O.)  
D.S.V.P. (2)  
Hd. of Air Branch  
D.C.N.A.E.  
D. of V.  
D. of M.  
Dep. Contr. }  
D.A.S. } BATH (6)  
D.N.C. }  
Hd. of S.W.R. }  
(3)

War Diary5.2.1945  
MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/5th February.

Para. A. (1) A/C J/206 attacked fully surfaced U-Boat course 033 degs. with depth charges at 0309Z 4th Feb. in 55 degs. 17' N. 16 degs. 03' E.

(2) A/C C/206 attacked wake or swirl with depth charges at 0310Z/4th Feb. in 55 degs. 01' N. 16

degs. 29' E. after stationery surfaced U-Boat had been seen 8 minutes before.

(3) A/C E/547 attacked two surfaced U-Boats course 300 degs. with depth charges at 0336Z/4th Feb. in 55 degs. 15' N. 16 degs. 50' E.

Para. B. (1) H.M. Ships LOCH SCAVAIG, NYASALAND and PAPUA attacked contact from 1730Z to 2030Z/4th Feb. in approx. 55 degs. 21' N. 06 degs. 15' W.

Para. C. (1) H.M. Trawler VASCAMA obtained Radar contact at 1215Z/4th Feb. in approx. 53 degs. 39' N. 04 degs. 27' W.

(2) A/C P/110 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1215Z/4th Feb. in 49 degs. 00' N. 04 degs. 37' W.

(3) 66th M.T.B. Flotilla attacked doubtful contact at 2159Z/4th Feb. in 50 degs. 26' N. 02 degs. 00' W.

Para. D. (1) Unidentified shore Radar plot at 1322Z/4th Feb. in 56 degs. 46' N. 02 degs. 09' W.

(2) A/C C/59 reported possible U-Boat at 0918Z/4th Feb. in 50 degs. 59' N. 12 degs. 07' W.

Ref. A.M. 041142A para. B. (1) now reported definitely coaster. (D.D.I.C. 051111A, Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U-Boat Estimates.

Dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 051411A to Cominch, A.I.G.331 and 051412)

6.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. (1) S.S. HENRY B. PLANT was torpedoed off Deal by a midget U-Boat, *(but see page 102)*
- Channel. (2) S.S. EVERLEIGH was torpedoed in Convoy T.B.C.60 off the Needles. E.G.14 later attacked two contacts in the vicinity, but without definite result.
- Western Approaches. (3) A torpedo was observed off Tory Island, but missed its target.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean.

- Gulf of Genoa. (4) A 20ft. Italian T.B. mine carrier carrying mines ran ashore on Cape Martin and was captured.
- Adriatic. 5(a) Attitude of Partisans at Split and Zara remains unchanged.  
(b) The Maknare Channel has been temporarily closed due to enemy minelaying.  
(c) Coastal craft and E-Boats fought an indecisive night action near Gruica Island. No damage or casualties to our craft.

East Indies

- S/M. SHALIMAR. (6) H.M. submarine SHALIMAR on her third far East patrol and 17th January sank by gunfire five oil laden landing craft off Tamiang Point. On the 18th January sank by gunfire 3 junks totalling 240 tons off Bernam river. On the 20th off Jumpul bank in three separate gun actions inflicted following damage. 12 hits 100 ton coaster which beached. One hit 100 ton coaster action terminated due aircraft. 4 hits

/on...

War Diary.

6.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies.

S/M.  
SHALIMBER  
(Contd.)

on a 800 ton motor vessel. 21st January off Selangor fired 6 torpedoes at Japanese R.O.100 class U-Boat, torpedoes missed. 27th January off Parmoi Bank sank 250 ton oil laden coaster by starshell and on 31st January off Langsa Bay damaged 250 ton coaster by Oerlikon and small arms fire.

Australia and New Zealand.

Siam.

(7) Today Liberators laid 30 mines and damaged a small vessel in Jumbhoru Harbour (S.Siam).

Formosa and  
China Coast.  
\* Okinawa Jima.

(8) U.S.N. Liberators destroyed one northbound picket boat and damaged two southbound sea trucks west of OKINAWA JIMA and machine gunned a small salvage ship S.W. of Amoy.

Indo  
China.

(9) A Liberator destroyed a coaster in the Dam bay area.

Flores.

(10) 3 Liberators destroyed a fuel barge near Kendari and damaged luggers off Flores and Alor Islands.

S.S. PETER  
SYLVESTER  
torpedoed.

I  
(11) S.S. PETER SYLVESTER (American 7176 tons) was torpedoed 1440 G.M.T. today about 800 miles west of Fremantle latitude 34° 19' S. longitude 99° 37' E.

War Diary.

6.2.1945  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

SS. HENRY  
B. PLANT  
torpedoed.

HENRY B. PLANT reported torpedoed by midget submarine near N.F. 1 probably between 0500 and 0600. Beaufighters and M.Ls. searching. CURZON invest.  
(C. in C. Nore 060756A to CURZON, ships operating off Low Countries.)

Your 060756A not to addressees. Position of wreck by A/S 51° 19' 6" N. 01° 49' E. Dan buoy laid one cable 000° from position. Am carrying out close search.

(CURZON 061137A to C. in C. Nore.)

Am attacking possible submarine in 51° 18' N. 01° 51' E.  
(CURZON 061438A to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 308 part 4.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600/5th Feb.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores (incl. coal)	Bulk Pol.	Ammo.
Antwerp	59	45	8,351	-	209
Ostend	1,385	99	3,173	1,517	276
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	2,081	-	-
Calais	501	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,546	-	457
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,945</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>15,151</b>	<b>1,517</b>	<b>942</b>
U.S. North.					
Antwerp	-	72	15,904	-	-
Cherbourg	-	99	11,847	6,576	4,171
Le Havre	6,806	680	7,445	3,884	2,440
Rouen	153	67	4,067	2,889	-
Granville	-	-	74	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,216	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,959</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>41,553</b>	<b>13,349</b>	<b>6,611</b>
U.S. South.					
Marseilles	285	176	12,101	-	785
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,161	5,814	2,161
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>14,262</b>	<b>5,814</b>	<b>2,946</b>

Note: Ammu. tonnages cover Ground Force ammunition only.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 061400A to Admty., and others.)

Minesweeping Your 051715. Para. 1 completed to a width of 5.25 off Far Shore. cables N.W. and 7.25 cables S.E. of centre line. One mine cut type GY. Mine was new and sunk by gunfire. Intend to anchor Small Downs.  
(JASON 061501A to C. in C. Nore.)

/Operation...

War Diary.

6.2.1945  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea. - Contd.

Operation "Deliberate" My 052247 postponed 24 hours on account of weather. (S.O. Force T 061557A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Channel.

SS. EVERLEIGH SSSS SSSS SSSS Codeword "Taboo" torpedoed. (H.W. 14 No T.O.O. to General.)  
torpedoed. (Convoy T.B.C. 60) U-Boat activity suspected in 50° 30' N. 2° W. at 1448.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 061552A to General.)

Carry out hunt within 12 miles radius of 50° 32' N. 01° 48' W. suspected U-Boat in area, until relieved by 14th E.G. at 2000A today.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 061706A to C.T.G. 61.4.)

Positive evidence of U-Boat in vicinity of 50° 32' N. 01° 48' W. at 1448A today Tuesday.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 061900A to C.T.G. 125.15.)

Attacking promising contact in position 251° St. Catherines Light 9.4 miles. Target now on bottom.

(S.O.E.G. 14 062040 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Am investigating 2 bottom contacts in position 251° St. Catherines Light 9.4 miles and 248.5° St. Catherines Light 8.6 miles. Original contact classified submarine.

(S.O.E.G. 14 062135 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

SS. EVERLEIGH Southend to Barry in T.B.C. 60 sunk by U-Boat in position 50° 30' N. 01° 48' W. at 1500/6th February. 43 survivors include Master and 10 officers and 2 cot cases landed Portland at 1740 by L.C.I. 33 6 missing.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 062315A to Admty.)

Due C. in C. Portsmouth 061706A. Arrival Penlee Point delayed until 0400A/7. Searched until relieved not productive.

(C.T.G. 61.4 062359A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth.)

U-Boat campaign.

Analysis of recent A/S reports confirms that U-Boats have been repeatedly swept over and classified non submarine.

(2) All doubtful contacts are to be attacked.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 061902 to Portsmouth A/S patrol forces.)

Patrols.

(1) On arrival of convoy E.W.L. LOCH KILLIN and MOORSOM anchor off St. Helens at half hour's notice.

(2) At 0500A ASCENSION and LOCH LOMOND proceed to patrol in area 01° 15' W. 50° 00' N. 01° 50' W. Coast of France.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 062140A to ASCENSION, LOCH LOMOND, LOCH KILLIN, MOORSOM.)



6.2.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Flame or  
smoke floats  
from A/C.

Aircraft flying in the Western Approaches area by day or night may drop flame or smoke floats for navigational purposes.

(2) These navigational aids are not to be dropped within visual distance of convoys, escort groups or support groups by day, nor within 20 miles by night.

(3) A.S.V. Mark II is not to be used except in cases of emergency.

(4) F.O.C.T. is requested to promulgate these orders to carriers and M.A.C. ships exercising in the Clyde area.

(C. in C. W.A. 060029A to W.A. Command.) *Cancelled 291815B May.*

Aircraft anti-Schnorkel training,

There is an outstanding requirement for an area in which 15 Group aircraft can continue their training with a Schnorkel submarine previously carried out in the Irish Sea.

(2) The only area which can be found to meet this requirement is an extension of the Tobermory

Sanctuary 10 miles to the N.W. 'ward of Ardnamurchan Point. This is operationally acceptable.

(3) From discussion with Cdre. W.I. it would appear that the chief difficulty is likely to be the suitable berthing of an additional submarine and its escort, probably P.C. 74, at Tobermory, but it is considered that this can be overcome by a periodic transfer of submarines between Tobermory and Loch Alsh so that no one submarine spends more than a few days without a berth alongside for rest.

(4) It is also considered desirable, to obviate undue strain on Cdre. W.I.'s staff and to enhance liaison with 15 Group Squadrons, that an R.A.F. officer should be attached to Tobermory.

(5) Cdre. W.I. is requested, after consultation with N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, to confirm that the above proposals are acceptable. On receipt of this confirmation, Admiralty is requested to signal early approval when details of the proposed sanctuary will be promulgated.

(C. in C. W.A. 061138A to Admty.)

U-Boat kill  
off Lough  
Foyle.

Your 052227A. (1) 55° 17' 58" N. 06° 43' 30" W. Cross bearings from shore morse and radar ranges.

(2) 30 feet, 357° from wreck by time intervals from echo sound traces. Dan buoy has red flag 2 feet square.

(3) Lying 285° - 105°.

(4) Length 275 feet, height 21 feet, breadth 32 feet from E/S trace

(5) Considered to be partly on its side.

(6) From polished wood wreckage, clothing and stationery, consider that hull split.

(7) Proceeding to rejoin force 37 in accordance with your 051956A. (S.O.E.G. 19 061218A to C. in C. W.A.)

J. 1014  
Stunk

See p. 772

6.2.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

- Patrols. Force 38 4th E.G. BENTINCK S.O. 4 frigates supporting U.C. 55B from Milford Haven buoy and 6th E.G. NEW WATERFORD 3 frigates St. George's Channel.
- 23rd E.G. MONTSERRAT, BARBADOS, NYASALAND 54° 02' 05" 11' to relieve 6th E.G. 15 knots 6th E.G. thence to Londonderry.
- Force 36 5th E.G. GRINDALL 4 frigates Central Irish Sea.
- Force 37 19th E.G. LOCH SHIN S.O. 3 frigates and 31st E.G. BERKELEY CASTLE, 3 corvettes North Channel and North Irish Sea. (C. in C. W.A. 061419A to Admty.)
- U-Boat off Dundrum B. For information only. Fishing vessel reports having sighted U-Boat conning tower at 0815 today, 6th, in position 54° 11' 05" 20' southbound. (C. in C. W.A. 061618A to Forces 36, 37.)
- U-Boat off Tory Is. Torpedo has been fired at (corrupt group) W.H. in position 55° 22' 08" \* 01'. Torpedo missed. (CAPRICE 061906A to C. in C. W.A.)  
\* Could also be 27'.  
Your 061906 should have had priority immediate or emergency.
- (2) Amplify your signal stating how torpedo was detected and visibility at the time of the attack. (C. in C. W.A. 062345A to CAPRICE.)
- Anti-U-Boat deep mining and prohibited fishing areas. When forwarding my proposals for fishing restrictions in my 272327 January the previous proposals given in my 231728 January should have been cancelled.
- (2) The slight amendments to my 272327 January proposed in A.M. 011659 February are concurred in and the necessary alterations to the positions of minefields N. and H. will be forwarded as a correction to the orders for operation "G.H."
- (3) As a result of the above the final proposed fishing restrictions are as follows - propose deep water fishing but not passage be prohibited in the following areas (inshore fishing within the 3 mile limit clear of the minefields to be permitted at the discretion of the local N.Os. i/c.)
- (1) The area bounded on the north by a line drawn 090° from the Tuskar Rock to 4° 55' W. on the east by 4° 55' W. from this northern boundary southwards to the Welsh coast. South of the Welsh Coast by 5° 0' W. to 51° 30' N. On the south by 51° 30' N. from 5° 0' W. to 5° 56' W. and then by the existing prohibited area.
- (2) The area bounded by on the north 53° 41' N. on the south 53° 5' N. on the east by 4° 0' W. on the west by 5° 15' W.
- (3) The existing prohibited area southwest of Isle of Man to be increased in size to an area enclosed by the arcs of 2 circles drawn 3 miles and 17 miles from Chicken Rock between bearings 165° and 290°.

War Diary.6.2.1945  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Western Approaches.Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining  
and pro-  
hibited  
fishing areas.  
(Contd.)(4) My 272327 January and A.M. 011659 February  
and 022025 February are passed to F.O.I.C.  
Cardiff for information.  
(C. in C. W.A. 061959A to Admty.)Operations.Northern Waters.Possible  
U-Boat.Proceed to investigate sighting of possible wake  
and swirl reported by A/C J.206 in position 59°  
21' N. 04° 47' W. at 0826A.(2) If U-Boat probable course S.W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 061022A to S.O.E.G. 10.)Your 061022, my P.C.S. at 1200 59° 54' N. 03° 48' W. 220° 12  
knots wind west 2 sea 25. After 9 attacks no surface evidence  
of contact reported in my 060729 not to all addressees.  
(S.O.E.G. 10 061216 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Patrols.

Situation 2000 tonight Tuesday section one.  
E.G. 10 BRAITHWAITE S.O. on patrol between 59°  
50' N. 03° 24' W. 60° 15' N. 04° 24' W.  
(A.C.O.S. 061126A to Admty.)My 061216 if not in contact intend to start Gamma patrol 5 miles  
south line North Rona - Nunrock by 2000.  
(S.O.E.G. 10 061530 to C. in C. Rosyth.)My 061630 not to C. in C. W.A. If not in contact establish  
Gamma as in your 061530 keeping 10 miles clear of Q.Z.X. 170.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 062134A to S.O.E.G. 10.)Civilian  
Evacuation  
of Soroy.S.B.N.O. Murmansk 051903A and your 052214A (being  
passed to C. in C. H.F.)  
W.S.A. and M.O.W.T. agree that all ships in R.A. 64  
should be used subject to the following:-  
(a) Passengers to be carried at discretion of  
Masters, W.S.A. and M.O.W.T. representatives.(b) Women and children are not to be carried in tankers.  
(2) Insufficiency of lifesaving appliances can be accepted as  
emergency warrants this but every effort should be made to  
supply extra lifebelts if available.  
(3) Nearly all ships carry stocks of spare blankets and survivors  
kits which may be used if required.  
(D.T.D. 061704A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)Convoy  
J.W. 64.R/C and torpedo-bomber aircraft are active from  
the Trondheim area.  
(D.D.I.C. 062054A to A.I.G. 47.)  
ZEBRA anticipates repairs will be completed and  
sailing by 0330A/7th Feb. to overtake J.W. 64 at  
20 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 062250A to Admty., and others.)

6.2.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

GADILA, Provisional ready for service date for M.V. GADILA  
Dutch "M.A.C." inclusive of flying practices 10th February.  
ship. (F.O.C.T. 061429A to Admty.)

ALGONQUIN Intend sailing H.M.C.S. ALGONQUIN passing Clyde  
destroyer. Boom 1600A/8th February for Halifax. Route through  
270° Oversay six miles thence by Great Circle to  
46° N. 53° W. thence direct to destination. S.O.A.  
17 knots E.T.A. Halifax light vessel 1300Z/14th  
February. A.M. 111542A January refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 061554 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C.S. Halifax.)

EASTWAY, Berth is not available for EASTWAY in Belfast  
L.S.D. Harbour until end of February.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 061700A to Admty.)

TRUMPETER, Clyde arrivals. TRUMPETER escorted by TOWY and  
escort carrier. ST. HELENA.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 061916A to A.C.O.S., C. in C.  
H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Shortage of Your 041837. Whilst it is confirmed that British  
shipping for personnel shipping cannot be provided to cover more  
personnel to than the 3,200 per day which was our undertaking  
Far Shore. we suggest that the best solution would be to use  
some of the troopships of C.U. 56 arriving Havre  
6/2. The retention of the capacity of say 10,000  
would enable the balance of the movement to be  
carried out quickly without losing very much time before return  
to U.S.A.  
(D. of S.T. 060026A to Etousa.)  
Use of troopships in C.U. 56 for cross channel move cannot be  
authorized as it is undesirable to prejudice return of vessels in  
earliest possible convoy in order to have them available in U.S.  
for future moves.  
Further consideration is that every effort is being made to eva-  
cuate sick and wounded from U.K. to gain much needed hospital  
beds and delays in sailing will handicap this programme.  
(Etousa 062132A to D. of S.T.)

Downs con- Control vessels are now established in the Downs.  
trol vessels. (a) Northern vessel in position North Goodwin Buoy  
280° 1 mile. (b) Southern vessel in position  
Sandhead Buoy 320° 1 mile.  
(2) Vessels will exhibit: by day, a blue rectangular  
flag bearing the letters N.C.S. in white. By night, port open or  
closed signals laid down in Admiralty Notice to Mariners No. 1  
of 1945.  
(3) Request all merchant vessels may be instructed to contact  
control vessel on arrival, signalling name, destination and draught  
and also on sailing, signalling name and destination. (4) The con-  
trol vessel will allocate an anchorage berth to each merchant vessel  
and order her to fly a two flaghoist whilst in the anchorage.  
(D.T.D. 061816A to Cs. in C. and authorities concerned.)

6.2.1945

Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Destroyers. Request Mediterranean destinations for JAVELIN and PENN.  
(2) Admiralty, 211604 January/ refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 061119A to C. in C. Med. Admty.)  
/ C. in C. H.F. requested to sail PENN and JAVELIN in company to Greenock.

South Atlantic

Ecuador. Ecuador? has declared War on Japan. Very few Japanese in Ecuador so no trouble expected.  
(S.O. (I) Callao, 061152R to Admty for D.N.I. etc)

Operation "Tabarin". My 041017. WILLIAM SCORESBY and SS. FITZROY arrived Deception Island from Port Lockroy 6th. Argentine transport CHACO unable to reach south Orkneys due to ice pack. Compania Argentine de Pesca at South Georgia have been ask by Argentine Director of Meteorology whether a whaler can be sent to land men and material. Possibility of CHACO visiting South Georgia.  
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Island, 061403P to Admty.)

War Diary6.2.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

G.2 Summary No.155. B. Blakans. One Jugoslavia. On 3rd February enemy force 180 strong reported landed East Coast KRK-Island and moved inland. Further U.S.T.A.S.I. Forces expected. Craft possibly connected with above reinforcement operation attacked by our A/C off Crikvenica same day. South of Mostar Capljina and Ljubuski recaptured by Partisans. One and two battalions 522 Grenadier Regiment 297 Division reported Nasice, North of Brod thus strengthening earlier indications northward move of this formation to Slavonia. All informed. (A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O. to W.O)

Cositintrep No.576. Cite FHGCT. Signed Alexander. Part four. Jugoslavia. A small British Force consisting mainly of R.A.F. and airfield construction personnel commenced landing at Zadar on 2nd February, to establish advanced airfield facilities. Relations with local Partisans are now satisfactory after some minor difficulties had been encountered and work is proceeding according to plan. (A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O./6 to W.O.)

C. in C. Med. C. in C. Med. is proceeding to Cairo a.m. 7th February for about 2 days. (2) Communications remain as in my 021840. (C. in C. Med. Alex. 061106B to Admty.)

South Aegean Summary 5 - 6 Feb. 012356. GI/85235 cipher 6 February, 1945. One. Shipping. Better weather conditions enabled cover to be obtained of most of the Islands. Leros. Porto Sago. Arrivals since yesterday one Magda and two E.M.S. craft of which the Magda and one E.M.S. from Kos. The two launches 60/80 foot reported yesterday now identified as I-Boats 60 foot. The two I-Boats 40/50 foot and caique 40/60 foot not seen 4th Feb. were identified as present yesterday. Partheni Bay. One Pioneer landing craft still present. Alinda Bay. Nil shipping. Rhodes. Shipping present two E.M.S. one launch 60/80 foot two I-Boats six Pioneer landing craft four I-Boats 40 foot one tug. Alimnia. Part cover shows nil shipping. Nisero. Nil shipping. Piskopi. Livadhia Bay. Nil shipping. Kos. Departed to Porto Lago one E.M.S. one Magda. Nil shipping now present. Kalimnos. Nil shipping. Patmos. Port Scala. Two caiques 40/60 foot. Lisso. Nil shipping. Crete. Suda Bay. No change since 4th Feb. Oiler ex U-Boat emitting smoke. Canea. Arrived one caique 40/60 foot making total ten of which one newly launched. Three launches still present. Milos. Nil shipping. Ground sources report ration caique expected from Crete. (C. in C. M.E.061120B)

/LOYAL ...

War Diary

6.2.1945  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

LOYAL  
Towage.

So that decision can be made regarding state in which machinery of LOYAL should be placed request early information as to when Tugs are likely to arrive Taranto to tow her to U.K. A.M. 231125 and my? 241215 both Dec.  
(C. in C. Med. 061220A to Admty.)

K.M.F.  
Convoys.

In view of C. in C. E. Indies' 020534 not to F.O.G.M.A. or N.C.S.O. Mersey, Commodores of future K.M.F. convoys and their staffs should be disembarked at Gibraltar.  
(D.T.D. 061241A to C. in C. Mediterranean)

Red Cross.

A.M. (?01)1119. Red Cross has now supplied me with proposed route as given by German Authorities and etc. as follows:  
(B.N.A. Ankara, 061825C to C. in C. Levant)

Situation  
report  
No. 553.

(1) Gulf of Genoa. A 20 feet Italian T.B. mine carrier carrying mines ran ashore on Cape Martin and was captured.  
(2) Adriatic. Attitude of Partisans at Split and Zara remains unchanged. The Maknare Channel has been temporary closed due to enemy mine-laying. Coastal craft and E-Boats fought an indecisive night action near Gruica Island. No damage or casualties in our craft.  
(C. in C. Mediterranean, 062330A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

War Diary6.2.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies.

V.S.I.S. General shortage of shipping puts great difficulties in way of obtaining V.S.I.S. and it is intended to review the necessity for the provision of the 17 ships referred to in A.M. 030444 Jan.

(2) Detailed revised analysis of requirements is being made here but it would assist if early information could be given on the following points - details.

(3) It should be assumed that Australia and Durban are ultimately to be used as loading bases for V.S.I.S. as indicated in Admiralty Message 042308 Dec.

(4) For the purpose of information requested in para. 2. above, it should also be assumed that the numbers given in Admiralty Message 091551 Nov. will not be reached until Dec. 1945 at earliest, and that total numbers in July, 1945 will not exceed 140,000.

(Head of M. Approved 4th S.L., 060054A to C. in C. E.I.)

U-Boat Scale W.5 in all areas.  
Dispositions. (C. in C. E.I. 060349Z to S. & A. E.I. etc.)

Submarine Submarine sighted bearing 70 degs. distance 4 miles  
sighting. 14.27 N. 56.22 E.  
(JOHN L. STODDARD, 060423Z to General)

R.I.N. On behalf of the Royal Indian Navy may I express our  
Landing deep appreciation of Their Lordships' kind message  
Craft. regarding the work of the Royal Indian Naval  
Landing Craft Crews. I have just visited them at  
Akyab and Ramree and found them in the best of  
spirits ready for any venture and proud to find  
themselves collaborating with Royal Navy and Royal Marines.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N.060526Z to Admty.)

U-Boat. Following has been read: SSSS from WR2RM/  
S/M sighted 14.23 N. 56.45 E.  
(Colombo W/T, 060538Z to Admty.)  
/ Signal letters undecypherable.

Operation Further to my 010530 <sup>NT-YYD</sup> Army relieved R.M. on Cheduba  
Arakan Island 31st Jan. and force 65 has returned Ceylon.  
Coast. (2) Following forces remain Arakan Coast 3 destroy-  
ers 4 sloops, 6 Escorts. HAITAN available  
shortly as Headquarters ship for F.O.Force W.  
(C. in C. E.I. 060548Z to Admty.)

A.F.D.17. Anticipate A.F.D.17 in tow LARIAT and INTEGRITY  
escorted one Corvette will leave Cochin about  
Feb. 13th.  
As fuelling on passage is required, the exact date  
is dependant on departure of Tanker from Fremantle.  
Your 031935/November to N.O.I.C.Cochin refers.  
(C. in C. E.I. 060755Z to Admty.)

/S/M ...



6.2.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

S/M SEA  
ROVER.

Sailed SEA ROVER at 0700Z/6th to Suez for onward routeing to U.K.  
(2) E.T.A. Suez 0900Z/11th S. of A. 11 knots.  
(Com. Aden, 060921Z to N.O.I.C. Suez etc.)

S/M  
SHALIMAR.

H.M. S/M SHALIMAR 3rd Far East Patrol. - 17th Jan. off Tamiang Point by gunfire sank five oil laden landing craft. 18th January off Bernam River sank by gunfire three junks totalling 240 tons. 20th January off Jumpul Bank in three separate gun actions inflicted following damage 12 hits 100 ton coaster action terminated due A/C four hits 800 ton motor vessel all ammunition expended. 21st Jan. off Selanger fired 6 torpedoes at Japanese R.O. 100 class U-Boat one torpedo prematured remainder missed later stern torpedo missed. 27th Jan. off Pannoi Bank sank 250 ton oil laden Coaster by starshell. 31st Jan. off Langsa Bay damaged 250 ton coaster by Oerlikon and small arms fire action terminated by aircraft later fired two torpedoes which missed.  
(C. in C. E.I. 061203Z to Admty.)

6.2.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

SS. Adrift 180° 13 miles from position NY broken  
broken down. (?piston?) rod main engine expect to proceed 6th  
Feb. 1600Z.  
(CITIES SERVICE OHIO 060330Z to Comeastseafon)  
Engine disabled, drifting 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles 58 from George.  
(ANTELOPE HILLS, 060545Z to P.D. Cristobal)

Cod fishing Concur routeing in Admiralty's 041832.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 061557 to Admty, and 061837  
from Cominch).

U/B Estimates.  
Dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 061321Z and Cominch 061508Z).

INMAN H.X.336 my 051342. INMAN struck submerged  
(Frigate). object whilst leaving harbour today causing  
damage to port propeller. Ship requires docking  
sailing will be signalled when known.  
(F.O.N.F., 061538Z to S.E., H.X.336 and 071508Z).

F.S/M Tides. B.R.A. Dates Feb. Submarine Movement.  
LE CENTAURE Escorted by SCOTT (214) French submarine LE  
CENTAURE to Gibraltar via Horta Azores. Departing  
Point X Bermuda 2215 8th Advance 13 knots surface  
diving at will. E.T.A. Gib. 0200 20th Feb.  
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 062101 to Cominch etc.)  
Amended by 072026.

U-boat Para. C. 060800Z U.S.S. BRECKINRIDGE made depth  
sound charge attack on sound contact 38.00 N., 72.00 W.  
attack. with negative results. H.M.C.S. FUNDY reported  
sighting periscope at 1435Z/05 and again at  
1442Z/05 in 44.14 N., 63.17 W.  
(Cominch 062109Z to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 3. Other Liberators over Sakashima Gunto saw 25  
Serial No. small ships leaving burning one small Merchantman  
112. straffing another small cargo vessel.  
5.2.1945. 3 R.A.A.F. Liberators further damaged small  
freighter Flores Island straffed two barges while  
four Dutch Mitchells destroyed one barge  
attacked one Luger at Timor.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P. 061107Z to Admty).

War Diary.6.2.1945.  
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z 6th Feb.

Para. A. 1. H.M. Ships NYASALAND and PAPUA  
attacked contact from 1105Z to 1349Z 5th Feb.  
in 55° 17' N., 06° 44' W.2. H.M.S. LOCH SCAVAIG attacked firm contact at  
1725Z/5th Feb. in 55° 19' N., 06° 46' W.Para. B. 1. A/C Z/311 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2242Z/5th Feb.  
in 61° 57' N., 00° 24' W.Para. C. L. E. G. 10 attacked bottom contact at 0444Z/6th Feb. in  
59° 57' N., 03° 53' W.2. A/C P/120 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0430Z/6th Feb. in 56°  
23' N., 09° 15' W.3. A/C J/206 obtained A.S.V. contact and sighted wake or swirl  
at 0726Z/6th Feb. in 59.21 N., 04.47 W.4. A/C No.82 of 53 Squadron sighted possible wake and swirl at  
0110Z/6th Feb. in 60° 56' N., 17° 02' W.Para. D.1. JOHN L. STODDARD sighted U-boat at 0423Z/6th Feb. in 14°  
27' N., 56° 22' E.

(D.D.I.C., 061141A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

My 221059 July 1942. 10th Escort Group attacked asdic  
contact at 030945 in position 315° Muckle Flugga 45 miles.  
Hedgehog and Squid attacks produced oil and wood fragments,  
also hollow steel sphere with valve and German markings.2. LOCH SCAVAIG attacked asdic contact off Londonderry at 041745  
oil slick observed but contact lost. Contact subsequently  
regained about 051105 by surface forces and attacks with depth  
charge, Hedgehog and Squid produced unmistakable U-boat wreckage  
in position 045° Inishowen Head 8 miles.

(D.A.U.D., 062100A to Cominch).

U-boat

Estimates.

Dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 061410A and 061415A to A.I.G.)

7.2.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Channel.

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*American* 1. *on 6th 16.?* SS. JAMES OTIS was also torpedoed in Convoy T.B.C. 60, but after taking the ground at Prawle Point was brought into Plymouth. The U-Boat has not been located.

Northern Waters.

2(a) Several groups of hostile aircraft approached Convoy J.W.64 at dawn, halfway between the Faeroes and Lofotens, but failed to penetrate the screen. One was brought down by gunfire, in addition to one shadower yesterday by fighters. ZEBRA, from the Faeroes, was prevented by weather from joining the escort, and has returned to Scapa.

(b) A Catalina has made contact with the population of Soroy to arrange details of the evacuation referred to on February 2nd.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

3. This afternoon MATCHLESS engaged two targets ashore, fired 84 rounds of high explosive, two direct hits observed on bridge and on second target of personnel near by fired 44 rounds. Hits obtained and casualties observed.

Gulf of Genoa.

4. Tonight Allied Coastal craft torpedoed and sank 2 out of 3 coasters which were entering Savona. 5 torpedoes were fired.

Adriatic

5(a) Coastal Craft made close R/C of Lussin-piccolo at night. They were not fired upon.  
(b) Near Parenzo coastal craft fired 2 torpedoes in low visibility at small radar target without result.

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7.2.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Greece. 6. Defence measures will be fully operative by 15th Feb. at Corfu.
- Aegean. 7. 4 mines have been swept off Kinaros (East of Naxos Island).
- Movement. 8. UGANDA arrived Alexandria.

America and West Indies

- Convoy O.N.S.41. 9. Convoy O.N.S. 41 was hove to in a westerly gale, 420' N. by E. of Azores.

Australia and New Zealand

- Formosa. 10. Mitchells sank a submarine and left a coaster burning off Formosa to-day, other Mitchells attacked the harbour at Hondagua East Luzon and destroyed a floating crane.
- Hong Kong. 11. One U.S.N. Liberator attacked 2 sea trucks and sank one picket boat east of Hong Kong.
- Philippines. 12. Tonight M.T.Bs. operating from Subic Bay, off entrance Manila Bay engaged 8 tankers whereof 5 returned fire, one barge sunk and a sub-chaser damaged.
- Flores. 13. Two R.A.A.F. Liberators set a lugger and a barge on fire near Lomblen Island. (E. of Flores).
- New Guinea. 14. An Australian frigate attacked a possible enemy submarine 70 miles N.W. of Mapia Islands this morning. (Off Western End of New Guinea).
- Movement. 15. UNICORN arrived Fremantle from Colombo.

7.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Torpedoing of HENRY B. PLANT. Interrogation of survivors from U.S.S. HENRY B. PLANT indicates that S/M sighted at a range of approx. 500 yards was possibly type twenty-three. Speed after firing torpedo was estimated at not less than ten knots. One survivor provided a fairly accurate sketch of Conning Tower and Schnorkel fittings. Written report follows. (V.A. Dover 071301A to Admty.)  
C.A.F.O. 97/43. A. HENRY B. PLANT. B. American. C. 6th February 0230. D. 51° 19' 06" N. 01° 49' 00" E. E. Torpedo. F. Sunk. G. 8 dead 4 missing. (V.A. Dover 071809A to Admty.)

Operation "Deliberate". My 052247. Postponed a further 24 hours on account of weather. (N.C. Force T 071306A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Patrols. Dover and The Nore patrols night 7/8th February. (1) 12 RETALICK, 14 MACKAY, 16 TORRINGTON with coastal force unit F.G. 2 and 3, 18 SOUTHDOWN, 19 THORNBOROUGH and SLAZAK with coastal force unit 21 MALLARD, 22 CAICOS.  
(2) Coastal force unit 51 one M.L. 52 one M.L. 51° 21' N. 03° 00' E. F.B. 2 51° 23' N. 03° 16' E. F.A. 8. (V.A. Dover 071525A to Admty., C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Coastal force dispositions night 7/8th February. Coastal force units have been detailed to remain in harbour at 1/2 hours notice. (C. in C. Nore 071825A to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 309 part 4. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/6 Feb.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores (incl. coal)	Bulk Pol B.	Ammo.
Antwerp	39	48	7,046	-	50
Ostend	865	236	2,324	716	20
Boulogne	118	102	-	-	-
Dieppe	186	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,677	-	-
Ghent	-	-	929	-	-
Calais	7,691	15	-	-	-
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Total	8,899	401	11,976	716	70
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

/U.S. North...

7.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

U.S. North	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores (incl. coal)	Bulk Pol B.	Ammo
Antwerp	-	250	17,639	-	-
Cherbourg	-	41	9,932	1,513	4,323
Le Havre	2,229	833	8,097	-	2,806
Rouen	226	108	4,639	-	-
Granville	-	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,206	-	-
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Total	2,455	1,232	42,513	1,513	7,129
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U.S. South					
Marseilles	-	155	12,974	-	2,382
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,751	1,163	1,751
Toulon	-	-	1,007	-	-
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Total	-	155	15,732	1,163	4,133
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(Signed Eisenhower Cite Shgds.)  
(S.H.A.E.F. 071615A to Admty., and others.)

Icebreaking Your 281300A January. With present mild spell in the Schelde. likely to continue, danger of Schelde freezing is regarded as negligible. In any event icebreaker could not be obtained from Canada before Spring. (2) Should emergency occur, a vessel with shallow draught and trimmed well down aft might be adapted. N.L. pontoons, fitted with outboard motor aft are reported capable of dealing with ice up to ten inches thick. (A.C.N.S.(H) 072005A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Channel.

SS. JAMES OTIS Aground Prawle Point 0215Z.  
torpedoed in (H.W.D. 13 070215Z to Lands End Radio.)  
convoy T.B.C. Making water engine room rest of holds dry. Ship  
60. hit on port side midships. Standing by waiting  
assistance.  
(H.W.D. 13 070220Z to N.C.S.O. Portsmouth.)  
Are you sending assistance. Please reply.  
(H.W.D. 13 070245Z to Lands End Radio.)  
Ex T.B.C. 60 JAMES OTIS bound Mumbles arrived Plymouth damaged.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 072358 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

/U-Boat...

7.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

U-Boat hunt for EVERLEKH's aggressor. Join E.G. 14 hunting in 50° 32' N. 01° 48' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 070635A to S.O.E.G. 15.)

Patrols. After complying with my 061858 2nd E.G. establish following patrols.

First division Lizard Head to Start Point.

Second division Start Point to Portland.

(2) When TOBAGO rejoins, S.O.E.G. 2 adjust divisions to 3 ships each and report dispositions.

(C. in C. Plymouth 071551A to S.O.E.G. 2.)

Pass Gate at 0900/8 and establish patrol between Lizard Head and Pendeen.

(2) Night inshore search should include water to eastward of Scilly Isles.

(C. in C. Plymouth 071553A to PEVENSEY CASTLE, LAUNCESTON CASTLE.)

Intend complying with your 061858 and not para. 7 of your 071206. On completion of this duty and return of TOBAGO propose to detach her with LOCH RUTHVEN as in your 071206 para. 8 with codeword "Gladstone B."

(S.O.E.G. 2 071649A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Procedure with troop-laden convoys in event of U/B casualties Pending the revision of A.M. 112120 January (C.A.S.O 7) the instructions in para. 2 below have been issued to Portsmouth Escort Forces.

(2) It is impressed upon all C.Os. of ships carrying out escort duties in the Portsmouth Command that: (a) their main object is the safe and timely arrival of the convoy, (b) in troop loaded convoys or in convoys containing ships loaded with troops, rescue work must take equal precedence with hunting a U-Boat.

Note: L.S.Ts. loaded with vehicles can be expected to carry some 150 troops plus crew totalling about 250 in all and these ships are included in the term "ships loaded with troops."

(c) In the convoys specified in clause B, when sufficient escorts are available, the S.O. should detail beforehand one of the escorts other than his own ship, for the special duties of rescue work and of keeping the S.O. Escorts informed if further ships are required for this purpose. Where the convoy is in two columns and where sufficient escorts are available the S.O. Escorts should detail one ship on each side of the convoy for rescue duties with the column nearest to her.

(3) It is suggested that consideration be given to embodying the sense of the above instructions in the final version of C.A.S.O. 7. (C. in C. Portsmouth 071635A to Admty.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols. 19th E.G. proceed forthwith to patrol area between 55° 15' N. and 55° 30' N. and 06° 00' and 07° 15' W.  
(2) CAPRICE reported torpedo being fired at 1906/6th in 55° 22' 08° 22'. It is appreciated that a U-Boat may be approaching North Channel.  
(C. in C. W.A. 070028A to S.O. Force 37.)  
When ready p.m. today 7th, Cdre. (D) Western Approaches is requested to sail 9th E.G. to relieve 19th E.G. operating in area between 55° 15' and 55° 30' N. and 06° 00' and 07° 15' W. against German U-Boats which may be eastbound towards North Channel. E.T.D. to be reported.  
(2) On relief E.G. 19 to resume patrol and support of convoys in North Channel and northern Irish Sea.  
(C. in C. W.A. 071741A to Com. D. W.A.)

U-Boat off Tory Is. Your 062345A. Time of attack 061906. Torpedo detected by asdic in the vicinity hurried search unsuccessful.  
(CAPRICE 070212A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining in St. Georges Channel. Detail 3 escorts to R/V APOLLO at 1740 today 7th in 51° 54' N. 05° 43' W. to escort her while laying mines and then resume patrol.  
Max. speed of lay 18 knots but escorts are not to incur weather damage.  
(C. in C. W.A. 071022A to S.O. Force 38.)  
Carry out operation "C.H." T on lines one and two 1330A/8th February.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 072317A to APOLLO, C. in C. W.A.)

Aircraft anti-Schnorkel training. It is operationally undesirable that Sanctuary should lie other than between Hawes Bank and Muck Island. As, however, it will extend ten miles to seaward of target line defined in Cdre. WESTERN ISLES 071024 and for purpose of exercises with aircraft submarine must be at least 5 miles from nearest land, it is not felt that gunnery practices by types of ships concerned would be seriously interfered with.  
(2) Cdre. WESTERN ISLES 071024 is otherwise concurred in and early approval of my 061138 and provision of a 5th class mooring at Tobermory are requested.  
(C. in C. W.A. 071958A to Admty.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "Silenium". My 242310 Force 1 surface operation is intended to be attempted before 2359 D + 1 and is not to be postponed to D + 2.  
Forces 1 and 2 R/V position XX 62° 23' N. 02° 00' E. by 0700A D + 2.

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"Silenium."  
(Contd.)

(3) If circumstances permit it is intended that force 1 and 2 should remain in company and that mining strike should be flown off in position YY 62° 12' N. 01° 40' E. about 1000A D + 2. Force 1 and 2 retire towards Shetlands on completion.

(4) If necessary mining strike may be postponed to D + 3 in which case NORFOLK and DIDO may be detached on D + 2 to return to Scapa independently.

(5) Modified codewords in my 072315.

(6) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange with 18 Group for following if possible:- (a) 18 group A/C to show I.F.F. when in the vicinity of force 1 and 2. (b) Air sea rescue WARWICK to R/V with force in position YY at 1100 D + 2. (c) 18 group A/C to keep clear of area of mining strike a.m. D + 2.

(C. in C. H.F. 072247A to DEVONSHIRE, NORFOLK., C. in C. Rosyth).

Codewords for my 072247. Para. 1 surface operation

"Silenium I". Para. 3 mining strike "Silenium 2".

(C. in C. H.F. 072315A to DEVONSHIRE, NORFOLK, C. in C. Rosyth)

Operations.Northern Waters.Convoy  
J.W. 64.

Faroes departure ZEBRA.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes 070811A to H.F.)

Several groups of enemy aircraft approached convoy at dawn. Attacks continued for 1½ hours. No aircraft penetrated screen. No damage. One shot

down by gunfire, also one shadower yesterday by fighters. My P.C.S. 66° 41' N. 01° 38' E. 030° 9½ knots.

Weather report 4212 2163.

(C.S. 1 070940A to C. in C. H.F.)

Unable to rejoin by 1200/8th due to weather. Am returning

Scapa.

My P.C.S. 64° 29' N. 02° 24' W. 182° 11 knots.

Weather report 4852 8628.

(ZEBRA 071650A to C.S. 1.)

E.G. 10.

If not in contact proceed to Scapa for short lay over. Hope to keep you in harbour 48 hours which you have well earned.

(C. in C. Rosyth 071000A to E.G. 10.)

Evacuation  
of Soroy  
civilians.

Para. 4 of Admiralty 031900 Catalina E.T.A. Soroy a.m. today 7th February.

(C. in C. H.F. 071017 to C.S. 1, Capt. D.2.)

Russians have received report today from Capt. Hostvedt that 250 women and children and old men were evacuated from Soroy to Baasfjord 1st Feb. by fishing boat.

(2) 150 men remaining on Soroy were engaging German garrison. Some Norwegians have been taken prisoners and removed.

/(3)...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Evacuation of Soroy civilians. (Contd.) (3) Capt. Hostvedt unable to send ammunition and supplies owing to reported presence off Soroy of 3 German warships. Class not known.  
(4) Norwegians have a detachment in control of Banak aerodrome.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 071530A to C.S. 1.)  
Lieut. Garstad, Capt. of Catalina aircraft, spent over one hour at Soroy, and talked to crews of fishing ships.  
(2) He reports operation successful, and has no knowledge of information in para. 2 and 3 of my 071530. He sighted no enemy ships.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 071721A to C.S. 1.)

Port Facilities.

Flushing. Your 011010 N.O.I.C. Flushing reports situation 5th February as follows:-  
(a) Deepest draught entrance channel between blockships M.H.W.S. 20 feet deepest draft acceptable in locks M.H.W.N. 13 feet M.H.W.S. 15 feet.  
(b) No limit to length of ships that can be accepted as no lock gates at present safe working width of locks 42 feet.  
(c) (i) All berths tidal, (ii) outer harbour. Quay berths. Berth alongside M.L.W.S. 16 feet length of quay 147 feet, (ship of 180 feet acceptable) one mooring buoy centre of harbour. Minimum depth to northward M.L.W.S. 11 feet. To southward M.L.W.S. 20 feet. No obstructions in north-south line.  
(iii) Inner harbour. Verbreed Kannaal. Buoy depot. One berth alongside German L.C.T. and one set of Dolphins. Depth alongside L.C.T. M.L.W.S. 14 feet for inner ship alongside. Dolphins 4 feet (width 15 feet wide pontoon between 8-9 feet.) Length of ships immaterial.  
Wet Dock. North Side. Quay length 1130 feet. Depth M.L.W.S. 17 feet (at present 200 feet blocked by wreck which it is hoped to lift shortly.)  
South side Quay Length. West of dry dock 500 feet, depth 10 feet M.L.W.S. East of dry dock 400 feet, depth 4 feet M.L.W.S.  
(d) Number of ships that can be berthed at one time. Outer harbour no limit, inner harbour unknown, approx. half an hour available during slack water only.  
(e) Number of berths available in open anchorage. Unlimited, but roads exposed to westerly gales and strong tides.  
(f) Remarks. North side of Wet dock reserved for repairs and refitting of warships, except extreme easterly corner where discharge facilities are available.  
South side of Wet Dock. Quay west of dry dock reserved for I.W.T. repairs. East side reserved for mooring lighter and tugs. First and second inner harbours, no reliable particulars are yet available. Mooring buoy in entrance to first inner harbour suitable for large vessels.  
(F.O. Holland 071245A to A.N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

M.T.Bs. 492, M.T.B. 492 damaged and stationary one mile south  
468. of 61A Buoy at 0045.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 070111A to S.E.E.C.C.D.)  
2140A/6 in vicinity 42 buoy M.T.B. 492 struck  
M.T.B. 468 amidships port side at slow speed  
after a series of manoeuvring signals and alterations of course.  
No casualties but damage as follows:-  
M.T.B. 468 extensive damage port side amidships, seriously  
damaging wardroom and W/T compartment - estimated 2-3 months.  
M.T.B. 492 moderate damage to starboard bow and deck 10-14 days.  
Weather at time of collision - wind S.W. 4. Sea 33 visibility  
1 cable slight rain 10/10 cloud. Written report follows.  
(MANTIS 071208A to C. in C. Nore.)

SS. SEATRIN Run aground 50° 30' N. 01° 16' W. Stand by.  
TEXAS. Apparently over a wreck. Are using pumps to keep  
clear. Several vessels standing by.  
(SEATRIN TEXAS No T.O.O. to General.)  
Position 50.28 N. 01.21 W.  
(SEATRIN TEXAS 070422 to General.)

NASTURTIUM, Regret to report that NASTURTIUM and CAMROSE were  
corvette, in collision in approx. position 150° Portland  
CAMROSE, Bill, 17 miles at 0008 on 2nd February. Report of  
corvette. damage follows in a separate signal.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 071559A to Admty.)

Movements.

CHASER, It is intended to sail CHASER in K.M.F. 41 on 10th  
escort March.  
carrier. (2) Subject to no interference with working up on  
passage CHASER is to embark as many reserve A/C as  
practicable. (3) Request you will signal programme in due course.  
D.O.D.(H) 071005A to F.O.C.T.)

GOATHLAND, 2 tugs will be sent to Inveraray to arrive p.m.  
L.S.H.(S), Friday 9th February to tow GOATHLAND to Careloch to  
KENT, berth port side of KENT.  
cruiser. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 071804A to Admty., N.O.I.C.  
Inveraray, F.O.C.R.F.)

BARFLEUR BARFLEUR route, C. 55.20 N. 08.40 W. D. 54.30 N.  
destroyer. 11.00 W. E. 45.00 N. 11.01 W. F. 36.11 N. 09.58 W.  
G. 35.51 N. 06.10 W. then Gibraltar.  
(Plot (O.D.) 072147A to Com. D. W.A.)

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E.G. group. Reference your 061813A (N.T. in W.D.). Lisbon Section 4 ships detach at 0800A in position 039° 53' N. 011° 57' W. WELLINGTON, WILLOWHERB and SPIREA join.  
My P.C. and S. at 1000A 039° 37' N. 011° 58' W. 185° 8.5 knots. (FOWEY, 070953A to F.O.G.M.A.).

PRECISE. Arrived Horta 2332Z/7th PRECISE ex U.G.S.71 escorted by ERIKSAY. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 072346Z to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

FRITILLARY. When ready FRITILLARY should be sailed to U.K. Your 161222 Jan. and C. in C.E.I. 191111 January neither to all, refer. Future service will be decided after examination. (A.C.N.S.(F), 071026A to C. in C.S.A.).

TAFF (Frigate). Simonstown departure 0915Z 7th Feb. TAFF for Colombo calling Port Louis Mauritius for fuel. S. of A. 14 knots. E.T.A. Port Louis 0800Z 14th February E.T.A. Colombo 0200Z 21st February. (C. in C.S.A., 071201B to Admiralty etc.).

S.S. PRIMERO DE MAYO. London transport PRIMERO DE MAYO which made Antarctic expedition in 1943 stranded on coast about 50 miles east of Bahia Blanca on 6th Feb. Extent of damage and prospect of refloating not yet known. N.O.I.C. Falklands please pass to C. in C.S.A. (S.O.(I) Buenos Aires, 071330Z to Admiralty (for D. of N.I., Info. N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands).

Brazilian X force. U.S. Transport GENERAL MOMEIGS left p.m. Feb. 7th for Mediterranean. Half Division Brazilian X.F. on board. Escorts U.S.S. MARBLEHEAD, Brazilian destroyer, GREENHALGH, and MARISSA-BARROS Brazilian destroyer. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 071940Z to Admiralty).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Escort  
Carriers.

When ready ROYALIST, HUNTER and STALKER should be sailed for East Indies Station. A.M. 311944 January and A.M. 200141 January neither to all refer.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 070020A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

A.F.D.20.

As convenient after arrival Port Said 7th request A.F.D.20 in tow of EMINENT and DESTINY transit Canal and be onward sailed to Aden for onward routeing to Trincomalee.  
(F.O.L.E.M.070121B to N.O.I.C.Port Said)

Destroyers  
Movements.

F.O.G.M.A. is requested sail PENN and JAVELIN to Malta for onward routeing to Alexandria.  
(2) F.O.L.E.M. is requested arrange 7 days exercises on completion of exercises PENN should be sailed to E.I. Station.

(4) JAVELIN is to come under the orders F.O.L.E.M.)  
(C. in C. Med. 070949A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South

012560. GI/85538 cipher 7 Feb.

Aegean summary. Up to 0900 hours 7 February, 1945.

7.2.1945.

(1) Shipping. Dodecanese. Small boats trading between Kos and Khalki intercepted by naval patrol 5 Feb. Leros. Ph. R/C Portolago 5 Feb. showed also Z lighter. Total shipping present Portolago

5 Feb. one Pioneer landing craft, one Z lighter, one MAL, four Magdas, one salvage vessel, four tugs, two launches 60/80, four caiques 40/80, one barge 60/80, two E.M.S. two I-Boats 60, two I-Boats 40. Crete. Suda Bay. No change. Shipping present. One launch 80/100, one tug 80/100. Canea. No change. Shipping present. One launch 80/100, one launch 60/80, one launch 40/60, three caiques 60/80, seven caiques 40/60.

Kimolos. Reference ground report in Aegean summary of 4th Feb. now stated only three caiques Red Cross markings loaded with salt to barter food for Milos. Fourth caique escaped from Milos. All four under guard.  
(C. in C. M.E.071125B to W.O.)

*French Ship*

F.S.

DUQUESNE.

Question of DUQUESNE entering Mediterranean was recently raised by Almed for F.O.W.M. Latter was notified on 24th Jan. that reasons for not wishing to have ship as operational unit in Mediterranean were:

- (a) her mechanical condition (TOURVILLE and SUFFREN in similar condition failed on service)
- (b) moderate A/A armament (which in view of present C.C.S. policy regarding these ships may not be improved.)
- (c) lack of bombardment experience,
- (d) her size which renders her ill-suited for operations in confined water and swept channels close inshore,
- (e) possibility that French might expect her to be escorted.
- (f) probability that if she operated in Mediterranean for any

/length ...

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Mediterranean

F.S. length of time French would attempt to get her  
DUQUESNE. into a dockyard for refit and/or modernisation  
(Contd.) contrary to policy of C.C.S.  
(2) F.O.W.M. was requested not to disclose (f) to  
Almed but it is in fact the chief reason for  
policy of keeping ship away from Mediterranean.  
(3) DUQUESNE has already been allowed in Mediterranean temporarily on trooping duty. There is no objection to her being employed similarly in future.  
(C. in C. Med. 071448A to Admty.)

MATCHLESS Engaged two targets this afternoon. Bridge and  
Gulf of Headquarters at 842913, 84 rounds high explosive  
Genoa. two direct hits on bridge and area well covered.  
Changed target left 400 yards, mules and personnel, 44 rounds. Both hit, casualties observed.  
(MATCHLESS, 071601A to Comflanfor, Info LE FORTUNE)

Situation (1) Adriatic. Coastal craft made close R/C of  
Report Lussinpiccolo at night. They were not fired  
No.554. on. Near Parenzo coastal craft fired 2  
torpedoes in low visibility at small unidentified  
radar target without result.  
(2) Greece. It is reported from Corfu that  
defence measures there will be fully operative by 15th Feb.  
(C. in C. Med. 072000A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

Cositintrep Part III Air. Coastal Air Force. Two Beaufigh-  
No.577. ters and two Spitfires R/C North Adriatic and  
7.2.45. set fire to 50 foot motor schooner with rockets  
and cannon. 14 P 39s flew special Naval  
protection mission.  
(H.Q. M.A.A. No T.O.O./7th to W.O.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

U-Boat                      No change.  
dispositions.              (C. in C.E.I., 070406Z to S. and A. E.I. Station).

ROTHERHAM                  Departure ROTHERHAM for bombardment area in  
(Destroyer).              accordance with C. in C.E.I. 030444 not to all  
E.T.D. bombardment area 1630Z 7th Feb. E.T.A.  
Trincomalee 09(30)Z (10th) 1 Feb. S. of A. 20  
knots.  
(F.O.I.C. Bombay, 070538A to Admiralty).



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 071320, Cominch 071547Z.)

E.G.C.7.

O.N. 283. MERRITONIA sailed St. Johns 1400Z/7th Feb. to join C.7 group escorting O.N. 283 in 43.31 N. 27.18 W. at 1200Z/12th Feb.  
(F.O.N.F. 071454Z to S.E.O.N. 283.)

INMAN.

My 061538\* not to B.3 INMAN will complete defects 10th Feb. Intend sailing ship with group B.3 for H.X. 337.  
(F.O.N.F. 071508Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
\* INMAN struck submerged object whilst leaving harbour causing damage to port propellor.

U-Boat  
incident.

ANTOINE SAUGRAIN sunk by A/C off Leyte 6 Dec. 1944 (given in Lloyds Registry as sailing in January '45) D. While investigating light on surface U.S.S. TRIPPE had sonar contact about 2327Z/8 in 43.14 N. 70.04 W. TRIPPE later evaluated contact as doubtful. Master of Dominican sailing vessel SECRETO reported that U-Boat took vessel in tow after ordering crew to abandon at 0500Z/4 about 20.00 N. 69.10 W. Captain and three members of crew now in SAMANA. SECRETO later located beached in Scotch Bay. U.S. Naval Attache is investigating incident. Admiralty pass info., to H.Q.C.C.  
(Cominch 072131Z to Admty. for O.I.C.) See 102052.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F.stores  
accommodation  
ship.

In order to transport essential personnel and stores intend to sail CITY OF PARIS to Manus approx. 15th Feb. thence east coast of Canada via Panama to arrive early April.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 070249Z to Admty.)

Digest 110013  
6th Feb. '45.

(1) Navy Liberator straffed small salvage ship 50 miles south by west Amoy, saw one tanker, two small freighters, one small freighter transport off Swatow heading N.E., also three sea trucks, four small coasters Sakashima Gunto where radar station straffed. Other Navy Liberators over Central Nanreq\* Sunto destroyed single northbound picket boat west of Okinawa Jima, attacked eleven southbound sea trucks sinking two damaging two others, shot down single enemy medium bomber Sayi vicinity. Previous night Catalina sank large sea truck Sakashima Gunto area.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Digest 110013 (2) Previous day (?8) Venturas covered same area  
6th Feb. '45. straffing radar station Tawi Tawi damaging  
(Contd.) single floatplane bombing straffing four small  
craft same vicinity also firing small coaster  
under construction Zamboanga where similar  
vessel seen in harbour.
- (3) Previous day Mitchells swept Lamob Bay (East Coast Luzon)  
destroying seven barges damaging twenty one barges and two motor  
boats.
- (4) Three R.A.A.F. Liberators exploded fuel barge Kendari,  
damaged Luggers at Flores and Alor Islands also bombed Laga  
(Timor). Five Mitchells, four Bostons attacked enemy concentra-  
tions East Aitape while six Tadzab-based Liberators struck Tobera  
Aerodrome Rabaul.
- (5) American forces entering Manila from the North and East  
engaged in heavy street fighting North of Pasig River. Eighth  
Army troops advancing from the South reached the Southern end  
Nichols Field while to the Northeast Novaliches Dam was secured.  
Total enemy casualties for Central Luzon and Bataan areas to  
date number 19,179 killed, 218 captured.
- (6) Night 5/6th Ormoc-based P.Ts. sank large Lugger killing 31  
Japanese capturing four off Cebu while Mindoro-based boats sank  
single Northbound barge off Balayan Bay killing or drowning  
estimated 30 Japanese.
- (7) Seven Mitchells swept Boeroc and Ceram sinking two barges  
attacking radar station, four R.A.A.F. Liberators attacked Java  
bombing power installation Sourabaya area, single R.A.A.F.  
Liberator sank small seatruck attacked two barges Flores Island,  
six Liberators destroyed buildings Wewak while eight Beauports  
attacked enemy positions to West and Catalina straffed village  
Tepik River. Same day two Boomerangs swept Northern Bougainville  
straffing barges causing explosions.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 071041Z to Admty. etc.)  
\* As received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/7th February.

Para. A. (1) EVERLEIGH torpedoed and sunk at 1328Z/  
6th February in 50° 32' N. 01° 48' W.

Para. B. (1) E.G. 14 attacked contact at 1940Z/6th  
February in 50° 32' N. 01° 33' W.

Para. C. (1) HENRY B. PLANT sunk at 0530Z/5th Feb.  
in 51° 22' N. 02° 00' E. Reported by midget but possibly by U/B.  
(2) CURZON attacked possible U-Boat at 1338Z/6th Feb. in 51° 18'  
N. 01° 51' E.

(3) MILLTOWN heard underwater explosion at 2005Z/6th Feb. in  
approx. 50° 30' N. 02° 05' W.

(4) E.G. 14 obtained contact at 2035Z/6th Feb. in 50° 31' N. 01°  
31' W.

(5) H.M. Trawler COLDSTREAMER attacked contact at 1621Z/6th Feb.  
in approx. 51° 43' N. 05° 40' W.

/(6)...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

(6) Fishing vessel KINDLY LIGHT sighted southbound U-Boat at 0715Z/6th February in 54° 11' N. 05° 20' W.

(7) E.G. 23 attacked contact at 1455Z/6th Feb. in 55° 18' N. 06° 32' W.

(8) NIEUW AMSTERDAM missed by torpedo at 1806Z/6th Feb. in 55° 22' N. 08° 01' W.

(9) A/C K/86 sighted possible U-Boat and obtained contact at 1420Z/6th Feb. in 59° 01' N. 04° 54' W.

Para. D. (1) F.S. SIMOUN attacked contact at 2145Z/5th February in 43° 10' N. 07° 50' E.

(D.D.I.C. 071159A. to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 071408A, 071426A. A.I.G. Cominch.)

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. Aircraft JKB 72 of 16 Group reports sinking an E-Boat off Ymuiden.
- Channel. 2. P.C. 552 reports a brush with enemy craft off Alderney early yesterday morning, but no damage was inflicted or received.
- Western Approaches. 3. Three possible U-Boats were attacked in Western Approaches Command, but without definite result.
- Northern Waters. 4. The Soroy evacuation is now planned for Feb. 14th, by 3 destroyers from operation "Silenium" further down the coast.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

- Gulf of Genoa. 5. (a) Allied warships have carried out very successful bombardments near ~~Swiss~~ Italian <sup>Franco</sup> frontier during last nine days and have sunk 40 drifting mines.  
(b) Coastal craft on patrol today in Gulf of Genoa fired 7 torpedoes and scored two hits on what was believed to be a victualling ship near Mesco Point. After the force had withdrawn there was a tremendous explosion and ship is considered sunk.  
(c) Tonight off Punta Baffe 3 F-Lighters were attacked by coastal craft and a torpedo hit on one is claimed.
- Adriatic. 6. (a) Last night M.T.Bs. on patrol in North Adriatic engaged a 3000 M.V. escorted by a torpedo boat and an E-Boat and sank the torpedo boat. The M.V. sustained one torpedo hit but reached Parenzo where she was later sunk by Beaufighters with R.P. and cannon.  
(b) 2 Spitfires hit 3 caiques in Arsa Channel and a tug off Promontore.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Crete. 7. Heraklion. Independent sources report German food situation insufficient. Morale is also low. Unconfirmed report 1500 Italians disarmed to prevent revolt and desertion. Further report being confirmed 2 parties Germans of 10 and 12 deserted to Palaiokhartie. Political situation calm.

East Indies.

Burma. 8. 3 Beaufighters attacked shipping in Gulf of Martaban.

Movement. 9. FORMIDABLE arrived Colombo from Aden.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines. 10. Today during daylight Lingayan P.T. boats with air co-operation destroyed 11 barges, one lugger, seven speed boats, one motor launch off San Fernando also started large fuel fire there.

Solomons. 11. (a) A Catalina supported gunboats against Choiseul Island targets.  
(b) 46 Corsairs destroyed 6 barges off Buka.

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Policy.

Aircraft and submarines in vicinity of sanctuaries.

870A.Z.  
A.G.M. 797 of 12th January, para.4.  
Aircraft in doubt of their own position and believing themselves to be in the vicinity of a sanctuary to which the 20 mile border does not apply, should not attack a submarine unless it is positively identified as hostile, but should report it if doubt exists as to its identity.  
(D.A./S.W. 080020A to Gen. Message, Home).

Operations

North Sea.

Operation "Deliberate".

My 052247. Postponed a further 24 hours on account of weather.  
(N.C. Force "T", 081104A to A.N.C.X.F.).

Discharge Situation Report.

Cositintrep No.310 part 4 Section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 071600A February.

British:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	80	244	6663	-	32
Ostend	1878	117	3852	574	762
Boulogne	73	94	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	1836	-	-
Calais	3104	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	470	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5135</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>12821</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>794</b>

U.S. North:

Antwerp	-	130	18895	-	87
Cherbourg	-	401	9892	13673	4365
Le Havre	7596	767	9174	-	2509
Rouen	233	110	4310	-	-
Granville	-	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1930	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7829</b>	<b>1408</b>	<b>44201</b>	<b>13673</b>	<b>6961</b>

U.S. South:

Marseilles	446	188	18591	-	2740
Port de Bouc	-	-	2047	4651	2047
Toulon	-	-	25	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>20663</b>	<b>4651</b>	<b>4787</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 081625A to Admiralty etc.).

E-Boat activity off Ymuiden.

1 E-Boat (damaged?) others returning to port.  
(A/C. JKB 72, 082035 to 16 Group).

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Operations

North Sea.

E-Boat activity off Ymuiden (Contd.) Nr.6 1 E-Boat sunk others remaining at 52° 28' N. 04° 31' E. (A/C. JKB 72, 082121A to 16 Group).

Operations

Channel.

Patrols. LOCH FADA if not in contact leave patrol so as to enter Plymouth at 1400A today Thursday. DOMINCA take charge 2nd Division till LOCH FADA rejoins a.m. tomorrow. (C. in C. Plymouth, 081024A to LOCH FADA).

Night Patrols.

Ships 2 miles apart at 1800 commence patrol of areas limits given.

(2) 38th E.G. 01° 25' W. 02° 25' W. route W and 10 miles north. Start at South East corner.

(3) L'ESCARMOUCHE, BRONTES, PORT ARTHUR 01° 25' W. 02° 25' W. Route E and 10 miles south, start at south west corner.

(4) Attention is drawn to P.A.S.I. paragraph 17 D.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081304A to S.O.E.G.38, L'ESCARMOUCHE).

German activity in Channel Islands.

Following has been received begins:-

From C.T.G. 125.2

To: C.T.F.125.

Info: C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth.

P.C.552 made contact small vessel 6 miles north Herpin Light about 2330/6th. Contact illuminated with star shells fired on and

returned fire. No known damage. Vessel chased to west side Minquiers and headed North outrunning P.C. small Radar target picked up south of Carteret 0035/7th making various speeds maximum 18 knots proceeding northward along coast as far as 5 miles north of Carteret then directly to Alderney at very slow speeds fading at 0715. Discrepancy between plots by two Radar stations may indicate two vessels.

071011A February, 1945 ends.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 081209A to Admiralty).

Minesweeping off Far Shore.

Representative of French Merchant Shipping Authorities has requested channel be swept to Fecamp from buoy H.D.2. This will be done by minesweepers assigned this command. (C.T.F.125, 081621 to Comnavfor France).

Operations

Western Approaches

Possible U-Boat.

Attacking possible submarine contact in position 54° 50' N. 05° 34' W. (LOCH QUOICH, 080810A to C. in C.W.A.).

/LOCH...

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Operations

Western Approaches.

Possible  
U-Boat  
(Contd.)

LOCH QUOICH's 080810. Detaching 31st E.G. to search and assist, 19th E.G. taking over support B.B.17.  
(S.O. Force 37, 080919A to C. in C.W.A.).

Anti  
U-Boat  
deep  
mining.

Detail 2 escorts to R/V with APOLLO at 0200 9th in 55° 27' N. 07° 00' W. to screen her while laying mines and to rejoin group on completion of lay.  
Maximum speed of lay 18 knots but weather damage is not to be incurred.  
(C. in C.W.A., 081018A to S.O.E.G.9).

I am one and half hours early approaching on course 273° C. in C.W.A. 081018 refers.  
Report approach course and time escort can conveniently R/V.  
(APOLLO, 081721 to S.O.E.G.9).

Second  
possible  
U-Boat.

Am attacking contact in approx. position 208° Y.Y.3 miles. Large patch oil on surface.  
W.A.G.O.708 para.5 (a) 2100 yards A/S contact.  
(b) None. (c) Up to 6 knots. (d) None.  
(e) German U-Boat. (f) Quantity oil. (g) None.  
(h) None.  
(S.O.E.G.23, 081420A to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 081420 not understood. Request position by latitude and longitude or Gridded Prefix, private reference positions are not to be used. Repeat enemy reports to Admiralty.  
(C. in C.W.A., 081555 to S.O.E.G.23).

Your 081555A correct position to read 51° 59' N. 06° 09' W.  
(S.O.E.G.23, 081740A to C. in C.W.A.).

Reinforcement  
of Rosyth  
A/S forces.

Request you will transfer temporarily one Support Group to C. in C. Rosyth for operations in northern transit area.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 081858A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Rosyth).

Third  
possible  
U-Boat.

Join WAVE in contact in 55° 19' 05° 58'.  
(C. in C.W.A., 082223A to S.O.E.G.31).

Operations

Northern Waters.

Civilian  
evacuation  
from Soroy  
Island.

In view of S.B.N.O. N. Russia's 071721 assume operation "Opendoor" no longer required. Retention of destroyers anyhow desirable in view of anticipated U-Boat situation.  
(C.S.1, 080417 to C. in C.H.F.).  
Your 080417. Concur.  
(C. in C.H.F., 080926 to C.S.1.).

/ C.S....



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Operations.

Northern Waters.

Civilian  
evacuation  
from Soroy  
Island.  
(Contd.)

C.S. One's 080417. Operation will not now be carried out by destroyers escorting J.W.64.  
(2) C. in C.H.F. is requested to arrange for 3 destroyers referred to in para. (3) of A.M. 031900 to proceeding to Soroy in accordance with his 021902 to Admiralty only, arriving p.m. February 14th.

(3) Party landed in Soroy by Catalina are being informed..

(A.C.N.S.(H), 081625A to C. in C.H.F., C.S.1.).

Norwegians wish to land approx. 150 small arms and ammunition for use of those remaining on Soroy after evacuation. C. in C.H.F. is requested to arrange for shipment in destroyers referred to in A.M. 081625.

(2) Consignment will arrive Thurso tomorrow Friday A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange for immediate shipment to Scapa.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 081700A to C. in C.H.F., A.C.O.S.).

Destroyers will not arrive until p.m. February 14th.

(2) Report approximate numbers of:

(a) Men. (b) Women and children to be evacuated.

(3) Remaining also number remaining at Soroy.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 061814A to Col. Johnsen).

A.M. 081700 para. (2). Consignment expected to arrive Thurso by lorry about 1030A February 9th accompanied by Lieut. Nordsetter who has been instructed to report to N.O.I.C.

(D.O.D.(H), 082100A to A.C.O.S., N.O.I.C. Thurso).

Admiralty Message 031900 and 081625 passed to all addressees.

(1) Intend CAVENDISH, CAVALIER and ZEBRA with force 3 to proceed about dusk D plus 2 of operation "Silenium" to arrive Soroy during daylight 14th February to carry out operation returning direct to U.K. if possible on completion.

(2) S.B.N.O. N. Russia is requested to arrange for Russian submarines to keep clear of routes in my 041114 not to all addressees until 17th February.

(3) If necessary destroyers may proceed from Soroy to Kola to fuel before return.

(C. in C.H.F., 082322A to Admiralty, S.B.N.O. N. Russia, C.S.1.).

Convoy  
J.W.64.

Destinations:

(1) (A) To Molotovsk.

EDWIN L. DRAKE, WILLARD HALL, GEORGE STEERS,  
BYRON DARNTON, HAWKINS FUDSKE, ADOLF S. OCHS,  
HENRY LOMB, NERITINA (T), LEWIS EMERY JUNIOR,

EMPIRE FLINT (T), FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, JOHN WANAMAKER and  
BRITISH MERIT (T) (13 ships).

(B) To Dvina River:

JOYCE KILMER and HAROLD L. WINSLOW (2 ships).

The above 15 ships are to proceed direct to White Sea when detached.

(2) Remainder to Kola Inlet for Murmansk.

(D.T.D., 081035Z to J.W.64).

Patrols.

10th Escort Group sail at 0700A tomorrow

/Friday...

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Patrols (Contd.) 10th Escort Group sail at 0700A tomorrow Friday 9th February, and proceed to establish Gamma Patrol between 60.53 N. 04.10 W. and 60.20 N. and 03.22 W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 081155 to S.O.E.G.10).

Convoy R.A.64. Kola Inlet arrived your 041931 amended by your 051908 at 1500A/8.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 081535A to S.B.N.O. Arch-angel).

Fleet Practice areas. My 201449A. December and 162225A January. Following fleet practice areas now established.  
(1) West of Orkney area bounded by 03.02 W. N. coast of Scotland, 04.23 W. and 59.20 N.  
(2) East of Orkney area bounded by 02.00 W. 58.44 N. 03.00 W. and 59.00 N. (seldom used).  
(II) You will be informed if any ships propose to carry out practices either in eastern area or outside western area.  
(III) My 201449A December and 162225 January are cancelled.  
(C. in C.H.F., 081916A to C. in C. Rosyth).

Allied Air Activity

Primary Naval Targets. Primary naval targets arranged in priority groups. The top target in each group has preference, the remainder are of equal importance.  
Group 1 U-Boats. Assembly and Fitting out.  
(a) Hamburg. Slips at Blohm and Voss for assembly of type X.X.1. Slips at Finkenwaerder for assembly of type XX111. Covered shelter at Finkenwareder connected with assembly of prefabricated U-Boats.  
(b) Bremen. Slips at Deschimag for assembly of type XX1. Shelter alongside Deschimag, beginning to be roofed.  
(c) Farge (near Vegesack). Covered shelter, believed to be connected with Type XX1 U-Boats.  
Group 2.  
(a) Kiel. Howalots Werke shipyard. Slips at Germania for assembly of type XX111. Deutsche Werke shipyard.  
(b) Vegesack. Vulcan Werke. Sections for prefabricated U-Boats.  
(c) Bergen. Shelters for operational U-Boats. Still partially incomplete.  
Group 3.  
(a) Trondheim. Shelters for operational U-Boats; one complete and incomplete shelter.  
(Air Ministry, 081202Z to Bomber Command, U.S.S.A.F.).

Enemy Intelligence

Midget U-Boats at Ymuiden. My 041758 Feb., para. (2).  
Photographic reconnaissance of 6th Feb. shows four, possibly twelve, midget U-Boats in approx. same

/position ...

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Enemy Intelligence

Midget position at Ymuiden.  
U-Boats at (2) These craft and those seen on 3rd Feb. now  
Ymuiden. identified as probable SEEHUND.  
(Contd.) (D.N.I., 081207A to A.N.C.X.F.)

German military transport from Norway to Denmark. Following transport movement has been reported from Aarhus and Fredrikshavn.  
(A) Aarhus. (1) NEIDENFELS arrived Aarhus 2000 Jan. 23rd with troops and material. She left again for Norway 1100 Jan. 24th in ballast.  
(2) ISAR and MARS arrived 2000 Jan. 24th with troops and material. They left again for Norway 1800 Jan. 28th and in ballast.  
(3) MOLTKEFELS and HANSAI arrived 0300 Jan. 26th with troops and material. They left again 1800 Jan. 28th with ISAR and MARS. See para. (2)  
(4) NEIDENFELS arrived Aarhus 1100 Jan. 28th with following troops and material:  
(A) W.H. Troops with Oak Leaf device. Part Divisional Staff. Staff and horse-drawn battery 2nd Artillery Detachment. Signal Company. Field Post Company. A number of lorries and carts.  
(B) W.H. Mountain Troops with Edelweiss device. Staff signal detachment. Workshop Company. Second Signal Company. Third Signal Company. Motor transport with device of 2 crossed skis with Edelweiss in middle and words Geb. Res. (?Namgr). Batl.  
(C) W.L. A/AA Brigade Staff. Motor transport with device of mountain goat on mountain peak.  
NEIDENFELS left again for Norway 1700 Jan. 29th.  
(5) MOLTKEFELS arrived Aarhus 0100 Feb. 1st with troops including infantry and heavy artillery. All 16 markings on vehicles had been painted over.  
(6) DARSS and WINRICH VON KNIPRODE still lay in Aarhus repairing Jan. 30th.  
(B) Frederikshavn. (1) GIJON and MARS arrived from Norway Jan. 15th each carrying about 650 troops and escorted by 2 torpedo boats and 1 destroyer.  
(2) BRETAGNE arrived 0900 Jan. 17th from Aarhus in ballast escorted by minesweeper. She left for Norway 0800 (?Jan. 18th) in ballast escorted by 2 torpedo boats.  
(3) ISAR which left Moss Jan. 16th arrived Frederikshavn 1400 Jan. 17th and anchored in Roads Shelter she had troops and material on board and was escorted by 1 Sperrbrecher 2 M-Boats and 1 destroyer. ISAR proceeded to Aarhus 0400 Jan. 18th escorted by 1 torpedo boat.  
(4) MARS and GIJON arrived from Norway 0700 Jan. 18th each carrying about 600 men and each escorted by 3 torpedo boats. They left again 1830 Jan. 18th each with about 300 men and each escorted by 2 torpedo boats.  
(5) BRETAGNE and one unidentified transport anchored in Roads 0400 Jan. 19th with escort 1 Sperrbrecher and 2 torpedo boats. (N.A. Stockholm, 081816 to Admiralty).

Casualties and Defects.

S.S. LAKE Intercept 0150Z begins:  
SAPOR. S.O.S. DE (KYGQ) LAKE SAPOR (remainder unread).

/At...

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S.S. LAKE  
SAPOR  
(Contd.) At 0153 (KYGQ) LAKE SAPOR De Wick Radio U.D.K.  
S.O.S.  
(Land's End Radio, 080254A to Admiralty).

S.S. LAKE-  
VIEW PARK. My 042131A. S.S. LAKE VIEW PARK refloating 1145.  
(N.O.I.C. Sunderland, 081204 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).  
LAKE VIEW PARK refloated, now proceeding under  
main steam to Tyne.  
Request 1000 cases of oranges now in coaster  
DEEDON be discharged in Sunderland to relieve vessel.  
(C.S.V.O., 081235A to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Movements.

BARFLEUR Scapa departure BARFLEUR.  
destroyer. (A.C.O.S., 080830A to F.O.I.C. Londonderry).  
Tube bursts has occurred in No.2 boiler, number  
of tubes involved not known. Am proceeding  
Moville where inspection will be made. My P.C. and S. are at  
1600/8th. 57° 24' N. 06° 57' W. 193° 18; E.T.A. 2300A.  
(BARFLEUR, 081615A to Com. D.W.A.).

Shipping and Convoys

Late Under present circumstances ships to join Milford  
arrivals Haven Sections of ocean convoys cannot be accepted  
for Ocean unless they arrive at Milford Haven by the last  
convoys from time stated in N.C.S.O. Milford Haven's routine  
Milford signal (i.e. the time given to allow ships to  
Haven. berth and for orders to be put on board).  
(2) It is requested that ships which are unable  
to undock in time, or which for any other reason  
are unable to be sailed to comply, may be sailed to join Barry  
Roads Section. Orders for Swnasea ships in this category  
will be sent from Milford Haven by road, and it is requested  
that N.C.S.O. Cardiff will provide orders for similar late ships  
from all other ports including Avonmouth.  
(3) It is emphasised that the reason for the foregoing sugges-  
tion is the present U-Boat situation in St. George's Channel  
and to obviate the necessity for ships laying off Milford  
Haven unprotected.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 081145A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. BRITISH PATIENCE (damage). My 072242 passes to you for information reads: Immediate C.M.O., C. in C. Med. repeat Pet \* Sec. A.F.H.Q. Naples from F.O.G.M.A. BRITISH PATIENCE (T) ex U.G.S.70 arrived p.m. today 7th vessel has collision damage Nos. 6 and 7 tanks, damage 30 feet fore and aft, 20 feet deep and 10 feet in Nos. 6 port tank empty No.6 center and No.7 port tanks leaking slightly. D.G. cable entirely severed. Lloyds survey are prepared to grant certificate to original destination subject satisfactory underwater examination Thursday 8th. Request instructions, etc. (F.O.G.M.A., 080843A to Admty.)  
\* As received.

S/M STOIC. Intend to sail submarine STOIC with M.K.S.82. Destination Portsmouth. (F.O.G.M.A., 081151A to Admty., etc.)

E.G. 3. Group 3 is to act as Support Group to N.Y.147 until further orders. (2) N.Y.147 consisting of 6 small tankers escorted by U.S. JENKS (S.O.) route etc. (F.O.G.M.A., 081205A to Group 3.)

SS. BLACKHEATH (salvage), (abandoned). Salvage operations on SS. BLACKHEATH were abandoned p.m./6th Feb. as increasing ground swell has made berth alongside untenable. (2) The wreck has been driven nearer inshore during gale and it is considered that further operations are impossible without hazarding salvage craft. (F.O.G.M.A., 081635A to C. in C. Med., etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Crete (Situation). Situation Heraklion. Independent sources report German food situation insufficient. Daily diet abnormally low. Morale also low.  
(3) Unconfirmed report 1,500 Italians disarmed to prevent revolt and desertion.  
(4) Further report being confirmed 2 parties Germans of 10 and 12 deserted to Palaiokhartie.  
(5) Political situation calm.  
(N.O.I.C.Crete, 081820B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

C. in C. Med. Movements. C. in C. Med. is leaving Cairo by Air at 0700Z Feb. 9th and proceeding to Malta. Communications should be routed as in my 241650 Jan. after 0001Z/9th.  
(C. in C. Med. 081824 to Admty etc.)

Cositintrep No.578. Zadar (airfield). FX 23058 cipher 8th Feb. 292518. Cite FHGCT. Signed Alexander. Part four Cositintrep No.577 not issued. Reference Cositintrep No.576 part 4 dated 6th Feb. 1945. Jugoslavia. The entire party at Zadar is now completely ashore and work is proceeding satisfactorily. Three quarters of the Airfield has been completed.  
(A.F.H.Q. 081830 to W.O.)

L.S.H. LARGS. Intend to sail LARGS to Bizerta at 1300/9th Feb. S. of A. 13 knots. E.T.A. daylight 10th.  
(4) F.O. Tunisia is requested to arrange for embarkation of ratings for passage to U.K. and to sail LARGS by noon 10th to Gibraltar to arrive p.m. 12th or a.m. 13th at the latest for inclusion in M.K.F.39.  
(V.A.M. 08213A to F.O. Tunisia.)

Situation Report No.555. Allied Warships have carried out a number of very successful bombardments near ~~Swiss~~-Italian <sup>France</sup> Frontier and during last 9 days have sunk 40 drifting mines. Coastal craft on patrol in Gulf of Genoa fired 7 torpedoes at what was believed to be a (?victualling) ship some 500 yards off shore near Mesco Point. 2 hits are claimed and ship is believed to have sunk as tremendous explosion after our force had withdrawn. Opposition consisted 3 star shells.  
(C. in C. Med. 082206A to F.O.L.E.M.)

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East Indies

5th C.S. CEYLON is now attached to 5th Cruiser Squadron.  
(C. in C. E.I., 080317Z to Admty.)

U/B No change.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I.S., 080403Z to S. & A. E.I.  
Station.)

Training For R.I.N.L.O.  
for R.I.N. There is a very urgent need for the training  
ships for training short service ratings from  
H.M.I.S. AKBAR. H.M.I.S. CORNWALLIS is now  
useless and will have to be scrapped. H.M.I.S.  
DIPAVATI is required bad(?ly) on the Coastal Trade.  
Investigate possibility of obtaining two old reciprocating  
frigates or other similar ships on loan from the Admiralty.  
Requirement is accommodation for 100 young seamen for cruises  
on west coast of India for periods of about 10 days.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 081012Z to Admty.)

Signal C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 210950 June and my  
ratings 211751B July 1944. Government of India has  
training. agreed to use of R.I.N. Signal School, Bombay  
for training of R.N. communications ratings.  
Necessary additional equipment arranged.  
(Hd. of N., 082320A to C. in C. E.I.)

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America and West Indies

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 081338Z and Cominch, 081530Z)

Trinidad                      Cominch now agreeable to detection loops in  
defences.                      Trinidad area being reduced to C. and M. basis,  
provided that the loop detection system remains  
in such a condition as to allow its being placed  
in service again at reasonable notice.

Retention of six M.Ls for patrol not therefore necessary.  
My 221737 Jan. refers.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 082131 Admiralty and 102.04Z)

Frigates.                      My 271606 December.      Anticipate that the two  
Frigates to be released will be MEON and ETRICK  
early in April and May respectively.  
(2) These ships will be due for refit when released  
and it is assumed that this can be carried out concurrently with  
and will not prejudice conversion.  
(N.S.H.Q. 082137Z to Admty. A.M. 222347 Dec. refers.)

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F.                      Add to my 050604.      Para. 3 (E) Column 8 Begins:  
requirements                      Large ships of DENBIGHSHIRE type have not the  
of.                                      same flexibility and therefore cannot be accepted  
as equivalent of two V.S.I.S. of FORT type Ends.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 080239Z to Admty.)

Base                              Base facilities Cockburn Sound Western Australia.  
facilities                              Action is being taken as follows (A) Seeward  
Cockburn                              defences.      A/S boom between Garden Island and  
Sound.                                      Woodman Point to be maintained but gate not to  
be installed indicator loop system covering  
gauge roads and approaches to Fremantle to  
retained.      (B) Dredging.      Approach Channels  
through success and Parmelia Banks to be dredged to 28 feet over  
width of 300 feet.      It is not intended to widen channels to  
450 feet as originally proposed.  
(C) Stores.      120000 square feet store to be completed at  
Woodman Point as part of general plan for increased storage  
Fremantle area.      (D) Recreational facilities.      It is not  
intended to provide camp canteen or playing fields at Rockingham.  
(2) V.A.(Q) B.P.F. concurs.  
(A.C.N.B. 080157 to Admty.)  
/ as received.      Presumably "to be retained" intended.



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No. 1114  
7.2.1945.

- (2) Navy Liberator attacked 2 sea trucks E. of Hong Kong, sank single picket boat same area. Another Liberator over Formosa Straits strafed 2 sea trucks off China coast leaving 1 sinking while similar A/C saw 6 small coasters anchored south Takao, 1 anchored destroyer at Takao, single destroyer heading towards Foochow, strafed small sea truck same area, saw convoy large tanker, 2 large freighter type of transports 2 small coasters 3 escorts 30 miles south southwest Amoy heading northeast with A/C cover also possible minelayer anchored off Tainan. Another search plane saw 2 medium merchantmen, 1 sea truck, 3 escorts west of Amami Gunto heading south also 5 sea trucks 1 destroyer anchored Sakashima Gunto. Previous day Navy Liberator strafed 2 small coasters Damn area blowing one up sustaining some damage itself from explosion.
- (4) Morning 6th Feb. local sources reported 3 destroyers 5 cargo vessels heading South off Foochow, 4 large warships 1 A/C carrier 1 transport several gunboats anchored 65 miles south east Shanghai, 2 medium merchantmen heading southwest off Lamayut Ceua 1 tanker, 1 transport, 1 destroyer heading southwest 50 miles south southwest Amoy. Photographs Saigon same day showed 1 submarine, 1 patrol craft also 15,250 tons of merchant shipping including 2 small merchantmen (in support) with 33 A/C whereof 17 small 16 medium on (Tan Son Nhut) aerodrome. Same evening French sources saw 2 large transports 5 warships southbound off Quinhon. Next morning same sources reported 4 large tankers 1 destroyer several small merchantmen at Camranh Bay.
- (5) Photographs Hong Kong 4th Feb. show 44,650 tons merchant shipping in harbour plus 34,600 tons merchant shipping in Diodocj. Nil naval vessels present.
- (6) Heavy street fighting continues Manila where bridgehead now established across Pasay River at Malacanang Palace: forces from south reached northern end Nichols Field following air strike but reported enemy well entrenched this area well supported by mortar artillery and automatic weapons.
- (7) 4 Mitchells armed R/C Flores Islands strafed left burning fiercely single laden barge.
- (8) Mitchells on Formosa shipping strike sank 1 S/M left small freighter burning destroyed several enemy staff cars and buses on Formosa roads also shot down single enemy R/C plane off southwest Formosa. Other Mitchells on shipping sweep east coast Luzon damaged lugger and 2 barges, demolished floating crane bombed fuel tanks Hondagua. Bostons gave direct support ground forces approaching Manila from the south knocking out several guns while 3 other Boston squadrons attacked targets in the hills west of Clark Field.
- (10) 5 Mitchells attacked supplies northern Boeroe Island also scored damaging hits sea truck Ceram and bombed village Salgnati (Dutch New Guinea).
- (11) Solomons based air strikes 6th Feb.  
5th 8 Corsairs 8 Venturas 7 Mitchells attacked Bougainville ground support targets also destroyed or damaged 9 barges.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 081055Z to Admty.)

War Diary

8.2.1945  
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/8th Feb.

Para. A. (1) H.M.S/M SHALIMAR attacked Japanese  
(R.O.100 Class) U-Boat on 21st Jan. in approx.  
03 degs. 20' N. 101 degs. 00' E.

Para. B. (1) A/C V/86 obtained A.S.V. contact at  
0935Z/7th Feb. in 60 degs. 12' N. 03 degs. 30' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C A/201 attacked possible U-Boat with depth  
charges before 1201Z/7th Feb. in 53 degs. 33' N. 04 degs. 08' W.

(2) H.M.S. LOCH QUOICH attacked contact at 0710Z/8th Feb. in  
54 degs. 50' N. 05 degs. 34' W.

(3) H.M.S. MONTSERRAT attacked contact at 2326Z/7th Feb. in  
approx. 51 degs. 54' N. 06 degs. 19' W.

(4) Dakota A/C sighted conning tower course 135 degs. which  
submerged at 0930Z/3rd Feb. in approx. 50 degs. 33' N. 00 degs.  
49 degs. W.

(5) H.M.S. PORT ARTHUR attacked contact at 1235Z/7th Feb. in  
50 degs. 22' N. 02 degs. 05' W.

(6) H.M.S. LOCH FADA attacked bottom contact probably wreck at  
1319Z/7th Feb. in 50 degs. 14' N. 03 degs. 03' W.

(D.D.I.C. 081124A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

U-Boat

Estimates.

dispositions.

(D.D.I.C.081501A and 081504A to A.I.G. & Cominch)

War Diary.

9.2.1945.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. The new destroyer BARFLEUR has been unable to sail for the East according to programme due to burst boiler tubes.

North Sea.

2. 15 aircraft dropped 80 tons of long delay bombs on the Ymuiden E-boat pens.

Channel.

3. PLOVER is to lay a line of deep anti U-boat mines northward from Cape Barfleur.

Western Approaches.

4. APOLLO continues her deep anti U-boat mining in the North Channel.

Northern Waters.

5. (a) E.G.10 is investigating the position of an aircraft's attack on a U-boat about 40 miles west of Foula Is. in the Shetlands.  
(b) The Soroy Island population appears already to have been evacuated and the visit of the three destroyers has been cancelled.  
(c) The Russians report the arrival of 8 to 10 Ju.88 aircraft at Bardufoss.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

EMPIRE ABBEY

6. SS. EMPIRE ABBEY (Br. 7032 tons) which was in collision with F.S. ARDENT on the 31st/1st Feb. has arrived Casablanca.

South Atlantic.

SS. MOSES BROWN, U/B sighting.

7. SS. MOSES BROWN (Am. 7176 tons) Lourenco Marques to Bahia reported sighting a U-boat at 1845 today in lat. 23° 38' S., 4° 25' W.

9.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- Riviera 8. Allied warships have carried out very successful bombardments near the French Italian frontier.
- North African coast. 9. Reported that A.F.D.24 is aground today 60 miles west of Derna. The tug HESPERIA was also grounded further inshore. Tugs from Benghazi Tobruk and the Piraeus are being sent to assist.

Australia & New Zealand.

- I /  
1 /  
SS. PETER SILVESTER survivors. 10. SS. CAPE EDMONT (American 6711 tons) reports the rescue of 15 survivors from SS. PETER SILVESTER torpedoed on the 6th February west of Fremantle.
- Formosa 11. A destroyer was sunk today off Formosa by aircraft.
- Philippines 12. Ventura destroyed or damaged eight barges and one lugger off Luzon.
- Movement. 13. LONDON arrived Fremantle from Trincomalee.

9.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

**Air Situation Report.** Day 8th Feb. 15/15 aircraft on Ijmuiden E-Boat pens 80.4 tons - unobserved. Long delay bombs. (S.H.A.E.F., 091030 to Admty. and others.)

**Patrols.** Night dispositions 9th/10th Feb. 1945.  
Harwich Force (Group 3) Patrols 3 COTSWOLD, 5 MALLARD, 6 KITTIWAKE, 12 EKINS, 14 FARNDALE, 16 STAYNER, 18 RUTHERFORD, 19 THORNBOROUGH and TALYBONT, 21 WIDGEON, 22 CAICOS.

(Group 4) Harbour EGLINTON, ARENDALE, HAMBLEDON, MACKAY, SOUTHDOWN, CURZON, RETALICK, SEYMOUR, TORRINGTON, PUFFIN, SHEARWATER, SHELDRAKE.

Sheerness Force (Group 5) T.A.M. 75 VOLUNTEER, BLENCATHRA. A.T.M. 59 VESPER, BLACKMORE. T.A.P. 40 BLANKNEY. U.C. 56a HOLMES.

Patrols 1 COWDRAY, 2 MIDDLETON, 4 FERNIE.

(Group 6) Harbour BLEASDALE, HAYDON, OAKLEY, VANQUISHER, COSBY, ARMERIA, DRUMHELLER, HEATHER, STATICE, SUNFLOWER. (C. in C. Nore, 091535A to Admty.)

**Operation "Deliberate".** Operation for occupation of Schouwen postponed in order to provide L.C.A. for Canadian Army Rhine offensive.  
(2) Revised plans are being prepared with 4th Commando Brigade. These necessitate arrival of a further L.C.A. Flotilla by 15th February.  
(3) 15 inch gun support from seaward would be a great advantage. Information is requested whether necessary channel could be swept by that date and monitors made available.  
(4) If channel could not be swept in time a monitor could be most usefully employed to engage southern battery from position in West Schelde. This battery might interfere with building up to Zierikzee.  
(5) Consider spotting A/C should be based at nearest available airfield on Continent.  
(6) In present circumstances Army is not prepared to make any reinforcement available or to ask air support. 4 Commando Brigade is therefore being instructed to withdraw if more than light opposition is encountered.  
(7) In meantime R/C patrol will be continued.  
(S.O. Force T, 091602A to A.N.C.X.F.)  
My 052247, cancelled.  
(N.C. Force T, 091616A to A.N.C.X.F.)

**Discharge Situation Report.** Cositintrep No. 311 part 4, section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/8th Feb.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	-	116	6,152	-	85
Ostend	738	111	4,346	253	2,112
Boulogne	87	148	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	-	-	-

/Caen ...

9.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 311 part 4, section A - Contd.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G. F. Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Caen	-	-	1,378	-	-
Calais	4,409	2	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	495	-	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,234</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>12,371</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>2,230</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	144	20,397	-	36
Cherbourg	-	286	12,930	13,895	4,428
Le Havre	11,799	923	6,588	2,037	2,097
Rouen	-	-	2,252	-	-
Granville	-	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,958	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,799</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>44,125</b>	<b>15,932</b>	<b>6,561</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	-	135	14,256	-	3,266
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,305	4,651	-
Toulon	-	-	65	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>16,626</b>	<b>4,651</b>	<b>3,266</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 091630A to Admty., etc.)

Operations

Channel

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

(operation  
"Buttermilk")

Commencing daylight 10th Feb. deep contact mines will be laid in 000° direction from 4 miles north Cap Barfleur by PLOVER.

(2) Mines are spaced 200 feet apart and take up depth of not less than 80 feet below chart datum.

(3) Orders for operation are contained in my O/0221/227 8th Feb. being forwarded to C.T.F. 125.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091310A to C.T.F. 125.)

Patrols.

(1) Ref. my 091149. Detach from group and sail at 1700A to patrol area limits: Route E. Lat. 50° 00' N. Q.Z.S.636. Long. 01° 15' W.

(2) Leave patrol at 0830A/10th proceed

Portsmouth for 48 hour layover.

(3) Ships acknowledge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091311A to NARBOROUGH, LORING.)

Day patrols 10th. On arrival of convoy at Cherbourg proceed to patrol area limits 01° 15' W., lat. 50° 00' N., 01° 50' W., coast of France.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091506A to LOCH KILLIN, MOORSOM.)

/Force ...

135

War Diary.9.2.1945.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelPatrols.  
(Contd.)

Force 27 proceed at 1900A today, Friday, and establish zig-zag search between Lizard Head and Prawle Point.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 091538A to Force 27.)

(1) Postpone my 091538. Force 27 remain at 1 hours notice for steam.  
(2) F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail Force 27 when weather conditions permit.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 091729A to Force 27, F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

(1) Detach from convoy T.B.C. at 02° 30' W. and proceed to patrol in area limits: Route E. 50° 00' N. Q.Z.S.636. 01° 15' W.

(2) At 2200 NARBOROUGH, LORING shift from above patrol to area limits: Route E. Q.Z.S.636. 50° 10' N. Q.Z.S.673.

(3) At 0830 all ships leave patrol NARBOROUGH, LORING to berth as in my 091311A. CONVULVULUS, ANCHUSA are required for duty 1700A tomorrow, berth as ordered by D.1.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091755A to CONVULVULUS, ANCHUSA, NARBOROUGH, LORING.)

OperationsWestern ApproachesPossible  
U-Boat.

5th E.G. investigating disappearing radar contact classified possible U-Boat vicinity 53° 22' N., 04° 59' W. Unsuitable.

(S.O. Force 36, 090050A to C. in C. W.A.)

Area searched with no result my 090050 refers.

Poor A/S conditions in westerly gale. Intend to support B.B.18. Unsuitable.

(S.O. Force 36, 090926A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Operation C.H.1 and 2 of T.1 completed.

(APOLLO, 090345A to C. in C. W.A.)

Carry out Operation C.H., T.1, lines 3 and 4. 1330A/10th Feb.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 092259A to APOLLO.)

Second  
possible  
U-Boat.

My 081420. Contact faded. Oil and petrol still rising to surface. Amended position 51° 59' N., 06° 11' 18" W. Resuming patrol.

(S.O. E.G.23, 090943A to C. in C. W.A.)

Aircraft  
anti-  
Schnorkel  
training.

Your 061138 and 071958 and Cdre. W.I's 071024.

(2) The use of Tobermory for berthing of additional submarine and escort is approved.

(3) Supply of set of 5th class moorings is being gone into.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 091059A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Modification ...

(4) to end of (10)

Bowley  
You may prefer to quit  
slightly

D



Orders for S/G ps.

(11) to end (10)

~~For your own use~~  
10/10/10

(11)

9.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Modification of orders for support and escort groups.

185N. Reference W.A. 0202/7 dated 11th October 1944, and W.A.G.M. 154N of 21st January.

(2) The normal policy to be adopted by support and escort groups in the Western Approaches Command is as laid down for operation C.E. as amended by W.A.G.M. 167N (Senior Officers close escort in Command).

(3) In the special circumstances at present existing in the Irish Sea, it is expedient to modify these orders in certain respects.

(4) For the purpose of this order the limits of the Irish Sea are to be taken as: (A) on the west 7° W. (B) On the north 56° N. (C) on the south 51° 30' N.

(5) Within the Irish Sea the primary object of support groups forming forces 36, 37 and 38 is the destruction of U-Boats.

(6) Outside the limits of the Irish Sea the first duty of support and escort groups is to ensure the safe passage of the shipping entrusted to their charge.

(7) In certain special cases support groups may be ordered to support convoys to or from a position which lies outside the limits of the Irish Sea as defined in para. (4) above. Such an order will be given, either - (a) in the case of a specially important convoy; or (b) in the case of a particular threat outside the Irish Sea.

(8) In such cases, (the orders for operation C.E. apply in their entirety to all forces protecting the convoy, and) the object of these forces is the safety of the convoy wherever it may be. This does not however override the discretion of the Senior Officer to detach a small striking force (as laid down in para. (15) of C.E. Orders.)

(9) In cases where support of convoys is limited to the Irish Sea area, in which the object is the destruction of U-Boats the Senior Officer of the Support Force may, at his discretion, indicate to the Senior Officer close escort his intention of withdrawing his support, and of detaching some or all of his force from the convoy.

(A) To destroy a U-Boat located in the vicinity.

(B) To hunt for a U-Boat which has disclosed its presence by attack elsewhere in the area through which he has been ordered to support the convoy.

(10) In all cases, the Senior Officer close escort remains responsible for A/S operations which immediately affect the convoy.

(11) Para. (3) of W.A.G.M. 154N is cancelled.

(12) Should circumstances demand, Commander-in-Chief, Western Approaches will override any or all of the above orders as occasion arises.

(C. in C. W.A., 092249A to Western Approaches Command.)

Patrols.

19th E.G. leave present area and resume patrol and support of convoy in North Channel and Northern Irish Sea.

(2) 31st E.G. is to detach so as to pass Clyde Boom 1200/10th for short rest at Greenock.

(C. in C. W.A., 092342A to Force 37.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operation "S.C."      Ramose Keynote postponed 48 hours.      E.T.D. now 2200A/11th Feb.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 091427A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Proposed evacuation of Soroy civilians.      Continue efforts to establish communication. Request report if successful. Your 082323 refers. (2) Suggest Polyarnoe W/T listens also on 3852 k/cs in case Norwegian operator has failed to understand his revised instructions. (D.S.D., 091116A to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)  
Following is being passed to Colonel Johnsen, begins: As evacuation has already taken place destroyers will not now call at Soroy. T.O.O. 091838. Ends. (D.O.D.(H), 092044A to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)

Possible U-Boat.      Investigate position of attack of B/206 PP 39 UAW.60 in 60° 04' N., 03° 10' W. at 1517A. (C. in C. Rosyth, 091552A to E.G.10.)  
My 091552. Aircraft report H.T. positive. U-Boat probably outward bound. (C. in C. Rosyth, 091610A to S.O. E.G.10.)  
Your 091552 not to Admiralty. Am searching round aircraft markers. Intend to remain all night. Sea 35, wind W.S.W., force 4. (S.O. E.G.10, 091758A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Convoy J.W. 64.      Russians report interception of traffic indicating 8 to 10 Ju.88 A/C arrived Bardufoss from southward at 1400A today. (S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 091554A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Midget U-Boat SEEHUND.      Following cancels A.G.M. 253A of 27th January. German two-man midget U-Boat type XXVII, known as SEEHUND, is well designed and equipped and could be formidable weapon if manned by skilful and determined crew.  
(2) Details are as follows:-  
(a) Length overall 39 feet, beam with torpedoes 5 ft. 3 ins., depth keel to top of pressure hull 6 ft. (fact). Displacement estimated 16 tons.  
(b) Built in three sections, each consisting of circular tube 4 ft. 3 ins. in diameter and below it a smaller tube 1 ft. 9 ins. in diameter (fact).  
(c) Superstructure rises 1 ft. 4 ins. above hull and is 12 ft. long. Periscope fitted forward of hatch rises 6 ft. 2 ins. above hull. Compass projects abaft hatch (fact).

/(d) ...

9.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Midget (d) Hatch fitted with perspex dome 11½ ins. in diameter, 6½ ins. high, giving good all round vision when hatch is closed (fact).  
U-Boat (e) Two 21" electric torpedoes, slung one either side. Fitted with magnetic pistols and net cutters (fact). Not yet confirmed that SEEHUND. torpedoes are same as BIBER's.  
(Contd.) (f) Maximum surface speed with armament 8 knots, submerged speed 4-5 knots. (B.2.)  
(g) Propulsion diesel engine and electric motor (fact).  
(h) Range approximately 275 miles at 5 knots surfaced (B.1) plus 50 miles at 3-4 knots submerged (B.2). Craft can lie on the bottom and has oxygen supply sufficient for 60-70 hours (B.3).  
(i) No Schmorkel is fitted. Air intake does not project above superstructure (fact).  
(j) Craft can charge batteries when on surface (fact).  
(k) Depth gauge 0-300 feet (fact). Probable cruising depth about 100 ft. (B.1).  
(l) No W/T receiver or transmitter fitted, but aerial lead in and W/T mast found, possibly used during working up.  
Hydrophones fitted.  
(D.N.I., 091459A: Message 315A Home and Abroad.)

Casualties and Defects

SS. SAMHORN Reference K.R. and A.I. article 1167.  
v. KINGSTON SS. SAMHORN collided with KINGSTON OLIVINE at about 0430 on 7th Feb. 1945 in Margate Roads. OLIVINE, Slight damage to H.M. ship who was at anchor and A/S trawler. not considered to blame. Report follows.  
(Com. Sheerness, 091116A to Admty.)

Movements

LA CREOLE, F.N.G.B's 291200A Jan. French submarine LA CREOLE has been surveyed carefully as to her condition for towage to France. Pressure hull is in good condition and the vessel is considered safe for towing to France in her present condition without dry-docking. Pressure hull doors and access hatches will require to be closed and sealed before passage and the towing arrangements made workable. Vessel can be ready at fairly short notice.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 091522A to Admty.)

KELANTAN, Your 291217 Dec. (not to C. in C. Plymouth).  
Minesweeper KELANTAN arrived. Request 10 days for working Maintenance up. Request instructions.  
Ship. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 091525A to Admty.)

BARFLEUR, Arrived F.S. BARFLEUR escorted by LONDONDERRY.  
French (C. in C. Plymouth, 091755A to C.T.G. 125.2.)  
Auxiliary Cruiser.

/BARFLEUR ...

9.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

BARFLEUR, Sailed BARFLEUR by standard routes, ship  
destroyer. reporting own expected time of arrival. Speed  
of advance 22 knots weather permitting.  
(Com. (D) W.A., 091935A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Arrangements have been made to take BARFLEUR  
in hand for renewal of defective boiler tubes at Devonport  
forthwith.  
(D.O.D.(H), 092039A to Com. (D) W.A.)

GADILA, Magazine of M.A.C. GADILA completely flooded  
M.A.C. from fresh water tank cause unknown but appears  
suspicious. Estimate pumping out will be  
completed by 1500 tomorrow Feb. 10th. Ship is  
being supplied with new outfit from MIRALDA  
sufficient for round voyage to enable her to sail as arranged,  
trouble has been experienced previously with GADILA immediately  
prior to sailing. C. in C. W.A. 300011A October, 1944 not  
to all refers.  
(F.O.C.T., 092359 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys

Cross- Your 062132. In view of the serious objections  
Channel raised by S.H.A.E.F. and A.N.C.X.F. to the use  
personnel of L.S.T. for personnel we could probably have  
lifts. arranged for extra British troop lift on the  
trans-atlantic run to compensate for delaying  
some ships of C.U.56 and thereby avoid your  
main objection.

(2) We understand that there may not again be the same  
operational necessity to move such large numbers cross channel  
in such a short time and it is manifestly the best solution to  
spread the requirements so as to give a steady daily bid of  
3,200 for which shipping is available.  
(3) If however another heavy peak does arise, request as much  
notice as possible be given so that all possible alternatives  
to use of L.S.T. can be explored, including considerations such  
as compensating lift in the North Atlantic service.  
(D. of S.T., 090749A to Etousa.)

Train ferry Following is intended programme of train ferry  
sailings sailings 10th Feb. to 28th Feb. inclusive:  
programme.

Date	Leave Dover	Arrive Calais	Leave Calais	Arrive Dover
Sat. 10th	-	-	0735	0935
Sun. 11th	1230	1430	-	-
Mon. 12th	-	-	0900	1100
Tues. 13th	0800	1000	1400	1600
Wed. 14th	0845	1045	1445	1645
Thurs. 15th	0930	1130	1530	1730
Fri. 16th	1015	1215	1615	1815
Thurs. 22nd	0930	1130	-	-
Fri. 23rd	-	-	0850	1050
Sat. 24th	1200	1400	-	-
Sun. 25th	-	-	0830	1030
Mon. 26th	0730	0930	1330	1530
Tues. 27th	0800	1000	1400	1600
Wed. 28th	0840	1040	1440	1640

/(2) ...

9.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Train ferry  
sailings  
programme.  
(Contd.)

(2) There will be no sailings between 17th and 21st Feb. inclusive owing to dredging operations at Calais.  
(V.A. Dover, 091845A to S.N.O.B.O.P.F.)

Routeing  
of ships  
in B.B.  
convoys.

Commencing with B.B.25 ships sailed for south coast ports in these convoys are to be routed to their destination in addition to Swansea.  
(2) When practicable ships will be met by escort for B.T.C. in vicinity of M.H. Buoy and proceed to R/V with Cardiff section in position 'B' Q.Z.S.434 at 1630.

- (3) If B.B. junction with B.T.C. escort is impracticable ships are to continue to Swansea.
- (4) Pendant numbers will be passed by escort to ships joining B.T.C. convoys.
- (5) Pass to N.C.S.Os.
- (C. in C. W.A., 091942A to F.Os. I.C. Greenock, Liverpool, N.I.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- PRECISE. Your 051402 not to all addressees.  
Destination of PRECISE is Rosyth.  
(D.B.D., 090729A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)
- RICHELIEU. The following is intended programme for F.S. RICHELIEU.  
(2) Ship will be attended throughout exercise period by VERITY or other destroyer of 13th D.F., etc., etc.  
(4) Commob. Oran is requested to arrange (A) Towing aircraft for sleeve target shoots Feb. 15th to 19th inclusive 21st and 22nd, 24th to 26th inclusive.  
(B) To sail ship for Gibraltar area as necessary to comply with programme.  
(5) Detailed programme is being sent by Air Mail forthwith.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091030A to C. in C. Med., Commob. Oran.)
- Escort Groups. Your 071129 would be grateful if E.G.56 could continue escort to Gibraltar as Gibraltar Escort Force is very hard pressed to maintain patrols and escorts in light of present German U-Boat situation.  
(2) Reference para. (3) of your signal presume COWSLIP can be retained at Gibraltar to rejoin E.G.57. Ref A.M.262300 and 300106 both Dec. and Pink List dated 22nd Jan. 1945 refer.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091114A to F.O.W.Af.)  
Reply 101121.
- E.G.1. Ships addressed form Group 1, CROCUS S.O.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091122A to CROCUS, BELLWORT, CYCLAMEN.)
- Cod fishing fleets. My 301751 to Admty. passed to N.S.H.Q. and Cominch. Fishing fleet will be divided into 5 groups.  
(2) First group of 2 trawlers JOAO CORTE REAL and ALVARO MARTINS HOMEM will sail for Newfoundland Banks on 15th Feb.  
(3) Second group of 2 trawlers, SANTA PRINCESA and SANTA JOANA will sail for same destination on 27th Feb.  
First and second group will be routed in accordance with Admiralty's 041832, para. (2).  
(5) Ministry of Marine requests that first and second group call at St. Johns N.F. approx. end of April for fuel, amount required being 200/250 tons gas oil and 3 tons lubricating oil per vessel.  
(6) Ministry of Marine requests that third group composed of sailing vessels and fourth and fifth group of sailing vessels, with light auxiliary power, may proceed from Lisbon to Newfoundland Banks by as direct route as weather conditions permit. Propose to sail third group approx. April 1st and fourth and fifth groups approx. April 15th.  
(7) Fourth and fifth group only proceed from Newfoundland Banks to Greenland Banks later.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Cod  
fishing  
fleets.  
(Contd.)

(8) Composition of third, fourth and fifth group will be communicated when details are known.

(9) Admty. please pass to Cominch.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 091945 to Admty.)  
Reply from Ottawa to Admty. 121659Z.

Destroyer  
movements.

Arrival JAVELIN and PENN.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 092110A to Admty.)

South Atlantic

E.Gs.

At the convenience of F.O.G.M.A. and F.O.C.W.Af. disposition of West African Escort Groups may be adjusted so as to give 56th Escort Group a period off the station.  
A.M. 262300 Dec. refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 090430 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

U-Boat.

SSSS 23.38 S., 04.25 W., submarine sighted.  
(MOSES BROWN, No T.O.O./9.)  
See 101939Z from Comtenthfleet (America and West Indies).



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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

G.2 Summary Cite FHGBI signed Alexander.  
No. 158 (2) Yugoslavia. 500 Ustashi troops reported landed Krk 4 Feb. Together with Force which landed on previous day this represents considerable increase in island garrison. Unlikely however that whole of raiding force will remain on island. (A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O./9th to W.O.)

Operation "Forestall" (A) information.  
A.F.D.24 (1) A.F.D.24 is aground 1500 Syracuse off shore about 2 miles West of Ras Aamer (032° 56½' N. 021° 47½' E.) Tug HESPERIA aground inshore of Dock with stern completely submerged.  
(2) R.A.F. at Appolonia attempting assistance from shore and assistance to casualties.  
B. Intention. (1) Salvage Officer being flown now to Benghazi to embark in EMPIRE SANDY and take charge of operation. LIDDESDALE arriving at A.F.D.24 a.m.9th and is taking charge of operation until arrival EMPIRE SANDY vide (B) (1). (3) FAVOURITE arrives A.F.D. 24 2100/9th.  
(4) CAPTIVE sailing now from Tobruk N.O.I.C. Tobruk report E.T.A. to LIDDESDALE and F.O.L.E.M.  
(5) PRINCE SALVOR has been ordered from Salonika to Piraeus to fuel, then to be sailed to assist.  
(6) N.O.I.C. Benghazi is to sail EMPIRE SANDY vide (B) (1) soon as ready and inform LIDDESDALE and F.O.L.E.M. (corrupt Group). (F.O.L.E.M. 091043 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

South Aegean Summary 013151. G.1/86180 cypher 9th Feb., secret. Up to 0900 hours 9th Feb. 1945. Izmir. Two Caiques of over 200 tons and one of 100 and 40 tons probably sailing 10/11 Feb. with Red Cross relief supplies for Rhodes and Calino on approved voyage. (C. in C.M.E., 091850 to W.O.)

Linrep No. 229 5th-7th Feb. Summary of Operations 5th February to 7th February. (1) Ground. (2) Naval. Gulf of Genoa. At Cape Martin a 20 foot Italian torpedo boat carrying mines ran ashore and was captured. Adriatic. As result of enemy minelaying Maknare Channel was temporarily closed. Coastal craft made close R/C at night of Lussinpiccolo and were not fired on. Near Gruica Island similar craft fought an indecisive night action against E-boats. Our craft sustained neither damage nor casualties. Near Parenzo in low visibility coastal craft fired two torpedoes at small unidentified Radar target without result. Greece. Situation remains unchanged. A minesweeper was mined and sank between Cephalonia and Zante. There were 7 survivors. Balkan Air Force attacked communications and enemy concentrations in the Banuva-Jaruga/Mostar/Siroki-Brijec areas. Attacks were also made on enemy positions on the Islands of Pag Krk and Lussinpiccolo. (A.F.H.Q., 091215A to War Office)

/Carriers...

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Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Carriers A.M. 311943 Jan. not to all. Estimated date of  
 Work up completion of HUNTER and STALKER remain 15th Feb.  
 in Med. and 807 and 809 Squadrons can embark approx. 25th  
 Feb.  
 (2) Estimate ATTACKER will complete approx. 20th  
 March C.S. Taranto 190815 Jan. refers. Anticipate  
 879 Squadron embarking approx. 25th March and until that date  
 Dekheila could accommodate them in addition to 2 T.B.R. from  
 light fleet Carrier group.  
 (3) Arrangements can be made for 2 Corsair squadrons to work from  
 GIANNAGLIS. But nature of surface will make use of tropical  
 wool fitters essential on all A/C etc.  
 (C. in C. Med. 091744A to Admt.)

CALEDON. On completion of duty my 091931 SIRIUS will be  
 available to relieve CALEDON in Aegean.  
 CALEDON is then to be sailed U.K. A.M. 280110  
 Jan. not to all refers.  
 (C. in C. Med. Malta, 091929 to C. in C. Med.)

Situation (1) Gibraltar reference No.535 salvage operations  
 Report on SS. BLACKHEATH have been abandoned.  
 No.556. (2) Adriatic. Night of 7th Feb. M.T.B's on patrol  
 near Port Daila on West Coast of Istria engaged  
 3,000 ton M-ship escorted by one torpedo Boat and  
 E-Boat. The T-Boat sank after receiving 2 torpedo  
 hits. The M-Ship was hit with one torpedo but reached Parenzo  
 where she was sunk by Beaufighters. Partisan attitude at Zadar  
 remains unchanged except that shore leave is now permitted.  
 (3) Greece disturbances have been caused in Corfu by Andartes who  
 claim that they have been unfairly treated.  
 (4) Libya. A.F.D.24 and HESPERIA are ashore near Ras Aamer LID-  
 DESDALE, EMPIRE SANDY and FAVOURITE are standing by. CAPTIVE and  
 PRINCE SALVOR are also proceeding to assist.  
 (C. in C. Med. 092200A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Cositintrep Coastal Air Force. M.V. of 3/4,000 tons believed  
 No.579. badly damaged in rocket and cannon attack by  
 (Extract.) Beaufighters with 2 Spitfires at Parenzo. 2 Spit-  
 fires hit 3 Caiques in Arsa Channel and tug off  
 Promontore.  
 (H.Q.M.A.A.F. No T.O.O/9th.)

Soviet (1) British shipping lifting 7,000 ex U.K. to  
 Nationals, Black Sea K.M.F.40.  
 repatriation (2) We had hoped make available lift for 3/4,000 ex  
 of. South France and/or Italy to Black Sea this month  
 but owing sudden heavy demand for Goldflake no  
 prospect British ships available till mid-March  
 earliest.  
 (3) In view urgency situation request you invite American Authori-  
 ties to examine possibility of their providing assistance by  
 making available (a) shipping ex U.G.F. convoy either for lift  
 Marseilles to Black Sea or to enable British shipping to be  
 released for this movement.

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Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Soviet  
Nationals  
repatriation  
of.  
(Contd.)

(b) Shipping ex C.U. convoy either for lift N.W. Europe to Black Sea or to release British shipping now on American cross-Channel service for this movement.

(4) Realise delay to two Generals for use in "Goldflake" bears on problem as does pressure from Admiralty to switch unescortees from A.T. to U.N.I. or some other service account increased U-Boat threat in U.K. waters which may call for increase in C.U. convoys. Effect of proposed switch not yet clear particularly on British unescortees about which we will make separate signal due course but intention is to maintain British assistance to American trans-Atlantic movement. Slight gain should emanate from reduction in cross-Channel movement.

(5) American reactions to suggestion para. 2 urgently required for report to British C.O.S. and action on F.A.C.S.139.

(W.O.092330A to B.A.S. Washington, Info: S.H.A.E.F. Main, A.F.H.Q.)

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 090410 to S. & A. East Indies., etc.)

SS. EMPIRE  
CHEER.

EMPIRE CHEER C.S.A. Beira 081245\* refers  
Request investigation and report why (a) ship  
averaged over 14 knots for voyage Cochin and Beira  
when declared speed was 11 knots. (b) Master  
did not make position reports in accordance with  
(letter?) to Meirionej.  
As a result diversion signal of 7th Feb. was only transmitted for  
B.A.M.S. area 7B.  
(C. in C. E.I. 090415 to C.S.A. Lourenco Marques.)  
Reply 110956Z. \* BFJJ EMPIRE CHEER arrival Beira.

FORMIDABLE.

Intend sailing FORMIDABLE 22nd Feb. to join you  
by which date state of training considered adequate  
and fighters will be re-armed with Corsair 4. My  
090946 Jan. refers.  
(C. in C. E.I. 090641Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U-boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (N.S.H.Q. 091335Z and Cominch 091513Z).

RIMOUSKI                      Your 311655A. This confirms that the D.L. Gear for ships offered to Admiralty will not be sent. It is intended that H.M.C.S. RIMOUSKI fitted with D/L's and Automatic control for one side only will sail for United Kingdom about first March. Two D/L specialist Officers will sail in the ship. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 091358Z to Admty).

SUMMERSIDE                      On completion of working up about 18th Feb. (corvette).      H.M.C.S. SUMMERSIDE return to U.K. to resume duties under operational control of Admiralty. ( C. in C. C.N.A., 092014Z to S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty. etc).

Possible                      First report since Cominch 072131. Para. D. U-boat.      091620Z U.S. Tanker SHARON reports sighting puff of smoke coming out of water possibly submarine 28.52 N., 83.50 W. (Cominch, 092040Z to Admty).

T.U. 22.2.1.                      Task Unit 22.2.1 composed Capt. Parkinson in THOMAS, BOSTWICK, BREEMAN, BRONSTEIN, BAKER, COFFMAN. Depart Casco when ready about 10th Feb. proceed to hunt sub. weather reporter vicinity 52° N., 30° W. (C. in C. Lant, 092151Z to Comcortdiv 48).

Australia & New Zealand.

Sitrep No.                      China coast. French Indo China two medium 933.                      freighter transports three destroyer escorts 9.2.45.                      sighted nearing Camranh Bay, coast from northeast Feb. 7th. Borneo tanker sighted in Bwenei Bay Feb. 7th. Lumon Lupao and Wizal captured east flank Lingayen forces street fighting continuing in Manila north of Pasig River, bridge-head established on southern bank opposite Malaeon in Palace Leyte. Total enemy casualties 73,519 killed 681 captured. Patrols from Leyte and Mindoro sank picket boat strafed two seatrucks left one sinking, forced coastal vessel ashore attacked two others China Coast through Formosa Strait shot down two floatplanes Camranh Bay. P.38s escort sank one coastal vessel one barge damaged four barges one coastal vessel destroyed B.25s against shipping southern Formosa set seatruck afire sank submarine.

/R.A.A.F...

War Diary.

9.2.1945.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Sitrep No. 933  
9.2.45.  
(contd).  
R.A.A.F. Venturas damaged Lugger Flores Island two R.A.A.F. B.25s set lugger and barge afire along Flores Island. Leyte B.24 strafed sea-trucks at Hong Kong.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 090149Z to Army Melbourne Airboard etc).

PETER SYLVESTER torpedoed.  
Report rescue of 15 survivors of torpedoed PETER SYLVESTER at 1440 G.M.T.6th Feb. lat. 034° 19' S. long. 099° 37' E.  
Chief mate reports vessel torpedoed 3 times forward of bridge engine room broken in 2, forward part to bridge gone, remainder afloat and menace to navigation.  
3 boats and possibly 4 rafts afloat which we did not search for.  
Of survivors picked up 5 injured, 1 seriously who I am bringing into Fremantle.  
(CAPE EDMONT, 091055Z to Admty).

Digest 1115.  
8.2.45.  
We bring you digest serial number 1115 covering 8th February unless otherwise stated.  
Similar search aircraft strafed two small fishing boats off Hong Kong.  
(2) Liberators over Formosa Straits afternoon strafed vessel southwest bound seatruck 25 miles southwest Macao.  
(3) Forenoon 7th Feb. Australian frigate attacked possible enemy submarine 70 miles nort west Mapia Islands.  
7. Delayed reports 7th Feb. follow: Two R.A.A.F. Liberators set lugger and barge afire Alore-Lomblom Islands.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 091107Z to Admty).

MONTCLARE  
MONTCLARE's programme:  
(a) Due depart U.K. end Feb.  
(b) E.T.A. Sydney N.S.W. about mid April.  
2. MONTCLARE can maintain maximum speed of 13 knots on passage.  
(D.O.D.(F), 091744A to R.A.F.T. (B.P.F.)).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Sub. attack and sighting Summary.  
For 24 hours to 0900Z/9th February.  
Para. B. 1. E.G.38 attacked contact at 2125Z/7th Feb. in 50° 34' N., 01° 31' W.  
2. E.G.23 attacked contact at 1320Z 8th Feb. in 51° 59' N., 06° 09' W.  
3. H.M.S. EKINS attacked possible U-boat contact at 2019Z 8th Feb. in 51° 21' N., 02° 29' E.

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Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.  
(contd).

4. E.G.5 obtained Radar contact at 2350Z/8th Feb. in 53° 22' N., 04° 59' W.  
5. Escorts of H.X.335 obtained radar contact at 2240Z/8th February in 50° 37' N., 13° 20' W.  
Para. C. 1. Fleet Air Arm A/C sighted Schnorkel at 1105Z/8th Feb. in 55° 14' N., 06° 54' W.  
2. H.M.S. MONNOW attacked doubtful contact at 1243Z/8th Feb. in 55° 29' N., 06° 37' W.  
Para. D. 1. Force 37 reported bottomed contact probably wreck at 1210Z/8th February in 54° 18' N., 05° 16' W. (D.D.I.C., 091121A to Cominch).

U-boat

Estimates.

Dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 091403A and A.I.G., Cominch 091407A).

10.2.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea 1. One mine was detonated in the vicinity of East Dudgeon Buoy.
- Western Approaches 2. Two U-boat contacts were investigated in Western Approaches Command, but without definite result.
- Northern Waters 3(a) The Russians reported a number of enemy aircraft about 120 miles N.W. of North Cape at 0830. They were duly received about 15 miles N.E. of this position by C.S.1 in CAMPANIA, with NAIRANA, escorting Convoy J.W.64, who later signalled "Heavy torpedo attack concluded. No damage. About 7 Junkers 88 shot down".  
(b) 10th E.G. made 9 attacks on yesterday's bottomed target, and brought up oil.

Australia and New Zealand

- Formosa 4. U.S.N. Liberators sank one possible tanker and three sea trucks and several barges and small vessels off East Coast of Formosa.
- Movements 5. INDOMITABLE (R.A.(A), B.P.F.) with ILLUSTRIOUS, INDEFATIGABLE, ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE and 5 destroyers arrived Sydney from Fremantle.



10.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Patrols.

Dover and Nore Patrol at February 10/11th.

(1) 12 SEYMOUR with 4 M.T.B. units F.L. 2 and 3.  
14 ARENDAL 16 CURZON with 4 M.T.B. units F.G. 2  
and 3 18 FARNDALE 19 THORNBOROUGH and TALYBONT

with coastal force from Ostend 21 PUFFIN.

(2) Coastal force unit 51 1 M.L. 22 4 M.T.B. units F.B. 8 and 9  
51° 29' N. 01° 22' E. 3 M.T.B. units F.B. 6 Kellet Buoy via  
East Goodwin number 2 to S.E. Goodwin Buoy 1 M.L. unit F.O. 1  
number 1 buoy via South Goodwin number 2 buoy to S.E. Goodwin Buoy  
1 M.L. unit F.O. 2.

(V.A. Dover 101225A to Dover Command.)

Night dispositions 10/11th February 1945.

Humber F.W.L. Harbour MIDDLETON.

Harwich force (Group 3) patrols 2 MACKAY 4 SOUTHDOWN 5 WIDGEON  
6 KITTIWAKE 12 CURZON 14 ARENDAL 16 SEYMOUR 18 FARNDALE 19  
THORNBOROUGH and TALYBONT 21 PUFFIN.

(Group 4) Harbour EGLINTON, COTSWOLD, HAMBLEDON, CAICOS, EKINS,  
RETALICK, RUTHERFORD, STAYNER, TORRINGTON, MALLARD, SHEARWATER,  
SHELDRAKE.

Sheerness force (Group 5). With convoys T.A.M. 76 CATTISTOCK,  
HOLDERNESS.

A.T.M. 60 VOLUNTEER, BLENCATHRA, T.A.P. 41 BLANKNEY, O.N.A. 284  
VANQUISHER, STATICE.

Patrols 1 COSBY 3 OAKLEY.

(Group 6) Harbour GARTH, BLACKMORE, COWDRAY, FERNIE, HAYDON,  
VESPER, ARMERA, DRUMHELLER, GODETIA, HEATHER, SUNFLOWER.

(C. in C. Nore 101522A to Admty.)

Operation

N.C. Force T 091602 not to all. Request one  
"Deliberate". Monitor be sailed to arrive off Flushing on 16th  
February.

(A.N.C.X.F. 101310A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Haisborough

Admiralty's 091250A.

S/M Sanctuary. (1) The following area has been established as a  
submarine sanctuary and will be referred to as  
Haisborough Sanctuary. An area bounded on the  
north by 52° 36' 30" N. on the south by 52° 28'

30" N. on the west by 02° 06' E. on the east by 02° 19' E.

(2) Midget submarines will be seen exercising in the area when  
restrictions are in force.

(3) Fishing in the area defined above is being forbidden until  
further notice. Reference C.B. 03092 (43) appendix 2 (VI) a  
border of 20 miles must be added to the area defined para. 1 above  
by the groups and stations.

(4) A further signal will be made when restrictions are required  
within the sanctuary area so defined.

(H.Q.C.C. 101410A to Admty. and others.)

/Midget...

10.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Midget U-Boat operations off E.coast in January. My 311510 January. Following further information from two Seehund prisoners taken off Yarmouth 27th January graded B.3.  
(2) It was intended that three groups of three or four Seehunde each should sail from Ymuiden on 21st January as follows:-  
(a) Prisoners' group at 1530 to operational area off Ramsgate.  
(b) Second group at 1700 to operate along convoy route between North Foreland and Ostend, individual boats to take up station near Channel buoys.  
(c) Third group at 1800 to operate off Great Yarmouth.  
(3) Prisoners' group consisted of three Seehunde and owing to damage to others they consider that less than four may have sailed in each of the other groups.  
(D.N.I. 101545A to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 312 part 4 Section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 091600A Feb.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores (incl.coal)	Bulk Pol.	G.F.Ammo
Antwerp	29	365	5,102	-	124
Ostend	907	176	3,361	1,303	379
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	245	-	-
Calais	3,592	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,986	840	565
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,528</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>10,694</b>	<b>2,143</b>	<b>1,068</b>
U.S. North.					
Antwerp	-	93	17,432	-	20
Cherbourg	-	160	12,611	5,546	4,552
Le Havre	23,725	772	6,914	2,848	1,785
Rouen	-	-	1,816	-	194
Granville	-	-	2,212	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,280	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,725</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>42,265</b>	<b>8,394</b>	<b>6,551</b>
U.S. South.					
Marseilles	-	21	14,976	3,594	1,805
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,116	3,140	2,116
Toulon	-	-	15	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17,107</b>	<b>6,734</b>	<b>3,921</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 101640A to Admty., and others.)

Minesweeping off E.Coast. One contact mine detonated in sweep at 1546 today Saturday in position 170° 59 Buoy 6 cables. Consider mine dragged from vicinity of East Dudgeon Buoy.  
(F.O. Humber 101655A to C. in C. Nore.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. Force 27 (negative "Recruit") sailed to comply with your 091538A\* (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 101040A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
\* Force 27 to proceed and establish zig-zag search between Lizard Head and Prawle Point.

Navigation lights not to be burnt in Channel. A.M. 251040 November 1944. In view of present U-Boat threat it is considered that the regulations regarding the burning of navigation lights in the English Channel require amendment.  
(2) It is proposed that merchant ships should not normally burn navigation lights when within an area bounded on the east by a line joining the following points - Beachy Head, Cap d'Antifer, position 49° 40' N. 00° 10' W. thence on 180° to coast of France and on west by a line joining Portland Bill and Cap la Hague.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 102000A to Admty.) *Admty decision, see page 205.*

3rd and 30th Escort Groups. F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland is requested to sail 3rd E.G. when ready tomorrow 11th at best speed without incurring weather damage to vicinity Hartland Point thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. E.T.A. to be reported.  
(2) On relief by 3rd E.G. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 30th E.G. at best speed to Londonderry for lay over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 102346A to F.O.I.C. N.I., C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Your 091831 not to Admiralty. Lay is to be made unescorted as no escorts are available.  
(C. in C. W.A. 101110A to APOLLO.)

Patrols. Force 38 4th E.G. BENTINCK S.O. 4 frigates and 23rd E.G. MONTSERRAT 4 frigates St. George's Channel. Force 36 5th E.G. GRINDALL 4 frigates central Irish Sea. Force 37 LOCH SHIN 3 frigates North Channel and Northern Irish Sea groups supporting convoys as ordered. APOLLO 54° 37' 04° 50' to vicinity Lough Foyle later returning Milford Haven.  
(C. in C. W.A. 101449A to Admty.)

Tobermory Sanctuary. The following area has been temporarily established as a submarine sanctuary and will be referred to as Tobermory - Muck Island extension sanctuary. An area enclosed by a square whose sides are 10 miles long, whose eastern and southern boundaries are

/bounded...

10.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Tobermory bounded respectively by lines drawn 342° and 252°  
Sanctuary. from Ardnamurchan Point.  
(Contd.) (2) Ref. C.B. 03092 (43) appendix 2 (vi) a border  
of 20 miles must not be added to the area defined  
above by groups and stations. Further signal  
will be made when restrictions are required within the sanctuary  
area so defined.  
(H.Q.C.C. 101525A to Admty., and others.)

Possible Am investigating bottom contact with PETROLIA  
U-Boat. in position 039° Dunagree Point 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
(GLACE BAY 101548A to Com. D. W.A.)  
Close position 039° Dunagree 10 GLACE BAY in  
contact.  
(C. in C. W.A. 101753A to S.O.E.G. 19.)

GOODALL ordered to join you. Remainder of 19th E.G. proceeding  
to join you with all despatch. On arrival of COTTON turn contact  
over to her.  
(S.O.E.G. 19 101834A to GLACE BAY.)

Your 101753A. GOODALL being ordered to join GLACE BAY on  
leaving Lough Foyle. 19th E.G. proceeding with all despatch  
COTTON. E.T.A. 2345A/10th LOCH SHIN and LOCH INSH 0100A/11th.  
(S.O.E.G. 19 101845A to C. in C. W.A.)

Remain with PETROLIA to investigate until contact is proved  
non submarine.

(C. in C. W.A. 101905A to GLACE BAY.)

GOODALL reports GLACE BAY has classified confirmed non-  
submarine. Intend 19th E.G. investigate position BEAGLE's attack.  
BEAGLE's 101743A refers.

(S.O.E.G. 19 101948A to C. in C. W.A.)

Second In contact position 199° Clyde Light Vessel 5 miles.  
possible U/B. (BEAGLE 101743 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

My 101743. Three pattern depth charge dropped on  
stopped target in position 55° 04.5' N. 05° 20.6' W.  
Rejoining.

(BEAGLE 101825A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

My 1825. JOHAN DE WITT at Cumbræ. BEAGLE returning to position  
of contact. E.T.A. 2245.

(BEAGLE 102044A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

GLACE BAY reports non submarine. Proceed to 199° Clyde Light  
Vessel 5 miles where BEAGLE attacked contact at 1743A. ZANZIBAR  
WAVE and HARE joining hunt.

(C. in C. W.A. 102113A to S.O.E.G. 19.)

BEAGLE reports amended position of stopped target 170° Clyde  
Light Vessel 5.6 miles.

(2) SHEMARA joining you from Campbeltown.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 102149A to WAVE.)

U/B destruc- We congratulate H.M. ships BENTINCK, CALDER and  
tion confirmed AYLNER on the destruction of a U-Boat on 26th Jan. '45  
(V.C.N.S. 102235A to BENTINCK, CALDER, AYLNER.)

10.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Norwegian would-be collaborators. Reference N.O.I.C. Lerwick 262115 January para. 2 This ship did not willingly accompany the M.T.Bs. and crew have since expressed a desire to return to Norway and continue fishing for the Germans.  
(2) Request information whether it is desired that further fishing ships should be seized on future occasions.  
(A.C.O.S. 101124 to Admty.)

Operations; ("S.C.") Ramose Keynote postponed further 48 hours. E.T.D. now 2200A/13th February.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 101254A to A.C.O.S.)  
Intend sailing "S.C." operation from Shetland  
(1) 0200A/12th February from Scalloway.  
(2) 068° from Sumburgh Head 13 knots. (3) 1900A/12th February.  
(4) Between 1930A/12th February and 0600A/13th February.  
(5) 250° to Sumburgh Head 15 knots. (6) p.m. 13th February.  
(7) 070° Sumburgh Head. (8) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 101735A to A.C.O.S.)  
My 101735A. (1) 61° 02' N. 04° 31' E. (2) Ramose Terrace. (3) 60° 56' N. 04° 37' E.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 101737A to A.C.O.S.)

Personnel Reductions in Orkney and Shetland Command. In considering reductions to coastal force base Lerwick main question is whether it is still necessary to allow for the Norwegian M.T.Bs. being established in Norway and being serviced by C.F.M.U. 2. A.L. M/OD 5127/44 of 14th September, 1944, and my letter number 1239/OS 0505 of 26th October 1944 refer.  
(2) If this need no longer be a consideration, saving of personnel can be made, also TASAJERA can be released. My letter No. 1419/OS 99/46 of 12th December 1944 to Admiralty also refers. As regards policy, roughly 6 officers and 30 ratings would be required to complete the coastal force base at Lerwick but C.F.M.U. 2 being removed would provide 7 officers and 85 ratings.  
(A.C.O.S. 101547A to Admty.)

Operation "Silenium". Scapa departure NORFOLK and DIDO with Capt. (D) 23 in MYNGS, SAVAGE, SCORPION.  
(A.C.O.S. 102306A to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W. 64. Russian submarine unknown number ?will be in approx. position 72° 45' N. 21° 00' E. at 0830C today Saturday.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 100803A to Admty. (Tactical Urgency))

/Russians...

War Diary.

10.2.1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W.64 Russians report unknown number of enemy aircraft in  
(Contd.) approx. position 72° 45' N. 21° 00' E. at 0830C  
today Saturday.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 100803A to Admty.)

Correction. Note by W.R. Correction received at  
1652/10th from S.B.N.O. N. Russia, presumably in answer to C.S.  
1's 101309 (not circulated) which queried the word "S/M" in  
original.

Heavy torpedo attack concluded. No damage. About 7 Jus.  
88 shot down. My P.C.S. 72° 50' N. 22° 08' E. 100° 7 knots.  
Weather report 2394 4719.

(C.S. 1 101211A to C. in C. H.F.)

Local escort will R/V with you at 1400C tomorrow Sunday at  
M.T. If not met they will proceed to meet you on reverse route.

(2) C. in C. Northern Fleet hopes you will be able to detach  
group to reinforce escorts of White Sea portion.

(3) If this is undesirable alternatives are (1) to let White Sea  
portion proceed with Russian escort only and (2) to bring whole  
convoy to Kildin Island and split there.

Request you will decide this in conjunction with S.O. Russian  
escorts in URITSKI who has B.N.L.O. and signalman on board.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 101220A to C.S. 1.)

Possible  
U-Boat.

Have attacked bottomed contact 9 times in position  
60° 23' N. 02° 51' W. Have oil samples apparently  
fuel oil but no other evidence of identity.

Am proceeding to Gamma patrol. Sea 32 wind S.W.  
force 3.

(S.O.E.G. 10 101019A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Delays to  
CASSANDRA.

Am now informed that in spite of my protests  
CASSANDRA will be undocked as soon as damaged  
structure is cut away. Repairs will be delayed  
some months. My 230855 Dec. refers.

(2) Reason given is shortage of steel plate which  
will take 6 weeks to obtain. Possibly they are waiting for steel  
and (?bulkheads?) which was asked for as replacement only. My  
120910 Jan. refers.

(3) Date of being taken in hand again and of completion is un-  
certain from estimate, latter will be in May at the earliest.

(4) Intend to reduce complement still further and send surplus  
officers and ratings to U.K. in R.A. 64. Details will be  
signalled.

(5) Signals quoted are not to all addressees.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 101105A to Admty.)

Patrols.

Situation 2000 tonight Saturday section.

(1) NORFOLK, DIDO 3 destroyers leave Scapa 2300  
East of Orkneys and Shetlands to Northeastward.  
E.G. 10 BRAITHWAITE (S.O.) on patrol between 60°  
02' N 03° 00' W. and 60° 34' N. 03° 48' W.

War Diary.

10.2.1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Patrols.  
(Contd.)

E.G. 9 ST. JOHN (S.O.) on patrol between 60° 34' N. 03° 48' W. and 61° 07' N. 04° 37' W. (A.C.O.S. 101129A to Admty.)

2103A situation report 10th February.

CAPE ARGONA, BOMBARDIER, LANCER 64° 06' N. 23° 15' W. through 63° 39' N. 23° 42' W. to 62° 50' N. 22° 30' W. thence 018° 11'.

HONEYSUCKLE, WINDERMERE (?westbound) to 63° 00' N. thence Reykjavik direct.

U.S.S. SAUCY, U.S.S. SPRY, U.S.S. COURAGE 63° 05' N. 34° 01' W. (A.C.I.C. 101312A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

German military transport movements have been reported: transport between Norway and Denmark. (1) Fredrikstad. HANSA I was reported at Fredrikstad January 23rd loading motor transport.

(2) Larvik. (a) See my 221842 para. 3 of Jan. MOLTKEFELS which embarked troops in Larvik Jan. 12th is now reported to have made earlier trip to Larvik Jan. 5th. (b) Large unidentified transport embarked large number of troops and war material in Larvik Jan. 19th.

(3) Copenhagen. Large transport vessel believed MAR DEL PLATA left Copenhagen Feb. 2nd destination unknown.

(4) Aarhus. BIRKENAU lay in Aarhus Jan. 30th loading for German Wehrmacht in Norway.

(5) Aalborg. SUDERAU employed in Dec. transporting troops from Norway was loading Wehrmacht goods for Norway Jan. 24th. (N.A. Stockholm 101247 to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

S.T.  
EMPIRE BETSY.

EMPIRE BETSY sustained collision damage, dislocating wheel house and rendering telegraph also steering gear unworkable for harbour, can proceed U.K. under own steam. Can you arrange relief tug.

(D.M.W.T.R. Ostend 101850A to Admty.)

SS. EMPIRE  
TRENT.

Received 1901Z 500 k/cs type A.2 from (GNKM) EMPIRE TRENT ashore in Edinburgh Channel require immediate assistance and pilot. Ends. Message re broadcast controlling station North Foreland Radio. (North Foreland Radio 102001A to C. in C. Nore.)

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LORRAINE  
Fr. battle-  
ship.

Request LORRAINE be sailed to Cherbourg as convenient on completion of docking.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 101118A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

BARFLEUR,  
Fr. Aux.  
cruiser.

Intend to sail BARFLEUR escorted by FAULKNER at 1930A/10th February to Brest.  
(2) By Q.Z.S. 601 thence to F. 48.33.44 N. 05.23.00 W. G. 48.13.30 N. 05.23.00 W. and by Q.Z.S. 617 to destination.  
(3) S.O.A.12 knots adjusted to arrive seaward end of Q.Z.S. 617 at 0800A/11.  
(4) Constant watch on C.N. and 2300 k/cs BARFLEUR carried Loxo and Anglo French code only.  
(5) FAULKNER detaches to Plymouth on reaching 05° W. in Q.Z.S. 617 unless relieved earlier by local escort.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 101425A to Comar Brest.)

Shipping

Troop  
movements.

Following is summary of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool to 14th March.

Serial No.	Convoy	Ship	Port	Due
A. In.				
1.	A.T.188	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	11/2.
2.	A.T.189A	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	15/2
3.	A.T.189B	U.S. WEST POINT	Clyde	17/2
4.	C.U.57	RANGITATA	Liverpool	17/2
5.	S.D.62	TAMAROA	Clyde	17/2
6.	A.T.189	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	18/2
7.	M.K.F.39	Composition as notified.		19/2
8.	C.U.58	Ships not yet allocated to ports but mainly to Continent.		22/2
9.	A.T.190	PASTEUR	Liverpool	23/2
10.	A.T.189C	U.S. MARIPOSA	Clyde	25/2
11.	A.T.191	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	25/2
12.	A.T.192	AQUITANIA	Clyde	27/2
13.	C.U.59	Ships not yet allocated to ports but mainly to Continent.		2/3
14.	A.T.194	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	4/3
15.	A.T.193	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	6/3
16.	A.T.194A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	8/3
17.	A.T.196	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	9/3
18.	C.U.60	Ships not yet allocated to ports but mainly to Continent.		10/3
19.	M.K.F.40	Composition will be notified later.		11/3
20.	A.T.195A	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	13/3

/B.Out...



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movements.  
(Contd.)

Serial No. B. Out.	Convoy	Ship	Port	Sails
21.	T.A.187A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	12/2
22.	T.A.187	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	13/2
23.	T.A.186	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	14/2
24.	-	ANDES	Liverpool	14/2
25.	T.A.188	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	16/2
26.	T.A.189A	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	17/2
27.	K.M.F.40	Composition as notified		18/2
28.	U.C.57A	STIRLING CASTLE	Liverpool	19/2
29.	T.A.189B	U.S. WESTPOINT	Clyde	20/2
30.	T.A. 189	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	23/2
31.	T.A.189C	U.S. MARIPOSA	Liverpool	28/2
32.	T.A.190	PASTEUR	Liverpool	28/2
33.	T.A.191	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	4/3
34.	T.A.192	AQUITANIA	Clyde	5/3
35.	T.A.194	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	9/3
36.	D.S.63	Ship not yet allocated	Clyde	about 9/3
37.	K.M.F.41	Composition will be notified		10/3 shortly.
38.	T.A.194A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	11/3
39.	T.A.193	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	13/3
40.	T.A.196	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	14/3

(2) The above is for your guidance and information and is liable to alteration during period to 17th February when further signal will be made.

(D. of S.T. 102130A to P.S.T.O. Clyde and Scottish Ports.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Destroyers  
JAVELIN  
and PENN.  
(movement).

C. in C. Mediterranean's 070949 not to all intend to sail JAVELIN at 1800 Feb. 10th to Malta. (9) PENN is delayed by engine defects. (F.O.G.M.A., 100939A to V.A. Malta.)

South Atlantic

Union  
S. Africa  
Naval  
reduction.

Following is precis of letter from Chief of General Staff. Your 221647\* Dec. begins: Reduction of vessels employed for defence of Union and secondment to Royal Navy of personnel released is agreed to in principle provided personnel volunteer for service in Eastern Theatre. This is being ascertained. Suggested that it would be more satisfactory to man fleet minesweepers than frigates and remarks would be appreciated. Ends. (2) There is no doubt that the training and experience of the officers and ratings fits them better for minesweepers than frigates and information is requested whether suggestion is acceptable. (C. in C. S.A., 101040B to Admt.)  
\* Gift of three frigates to South Africa.

Escort  
Groups.

Your 091114. Since threat from south appears now unlikely in near future, concur in E.G.56 escorting ASTURIAS to Gibraltar. Request this group including COWSLIP who belongs to it, may return as soon as possible. If in the meantime threat develops from either north or south I shall request immediate return of Group 55 or 57 in accordance with A.M. 090430. (F.O.C.W.Af., 101121Z and 121144Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

VIRAGO Sailed <sup>destroyer</sup> submarine VIRAGO at 0500Z/10th to Aden for onward routing. 2. E.T.A. Aden 0300Z/16 S.O.A. 10 kts. (N.O.I.C. Suez, 101017B Com. Aden).

A.F.D. 20 Intend enter EMINENT and DESTINY and A.F.D. 20 towed by one Canal Company Tug at 0600 tomorrow 11th for transit to Suez and onward routing F.O.L.E.M. 070121 refers. (N.O.I.C. Port S, 101053B to S.N.O.R.S.)

Tanker  
BRITISH  
PATIENCE  
Black Sea. Your 200016 Jan. and 261730 Jan. Soviet authorities have requested that tanker BRITISH PATIENCE may discharge alkylate at Constanza instead of Odessa. They pointed out that agents for blending facilities mixing are available at Constanza and not at Odessa. Also that finished product will be used on fronts closest to Constanza.

2. Soviet authorities also propose that all ships should bunker at Constanza where little or no damage to installations has been done.

3. Navigational facilities for Constanza are stated to be adequate and channels safe. No details of these have as yet been received but we continue press for them. (30 Mission Moscow, 101605A to Admty. etc).

C. in C. Med. movement. C. in C. Mediterranean is returning to Caserta a.m. Feb. 11th. Communications should be routed accordingly after 0200A Feb. 10th. (C. in C. Med., Malta, 101820 to Admty. etc).

M/S Flotilla 12. Intend proceeding in FLY at 1600B/11th Feb. to Piraeus. Para. 3 of C. in C. Med's 011151. (S.O. M/S Flot. 12, 101919B to F.O.I.C. Piraeus).

Light Fleet Carriers Training. Your 021816 not to C.O.M.E.C. Para. 1 confirmed, but this training is not to interfere with essential training in purely naval role. Unlikely however that COLOSSUS, VENGEANCE and VENERABLE will have Corsair Fighter Bombers while under your command or that F.R. cameras will be fitted to them.

2. Squadrons for COLOSSUS and VENGEANCE have had several weeks' assault training and VENERABLE's should have had a grounding before arrival in Mediterranean. etc. (A.C.N.S.(A), 101958A to C. in C. Med.)

Situation report No. 557. (1) Gulf of Genoa. Night of 7th February Allied Coastal Craft attacked 3 Coasters (?entering) Savona. 5 Torpedoes were fired and 2 of the Coasters blew up and sank. Following night 3 F-lighters were attacked off Punta Baffe and one certain hit is claimed. (5) Libya. Reference number 556 para. 4. Dock fast aground, 1500 yards off shore about 2 miles West of Ras Amer. Tug /HESPERIA...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation  
report No.  
557.  
(contd).

HESPERIA further inshore and probably total loss. Crew of dock ashore and safe. One man lost from the tug and only minor injuries among remainder. Whaler from H.M.S. LIDDESDALE capsized and 2 ratings missing in attempt to take off Tug Crew from shore. Surf very heavy. Food floated to dock's crew on raft. Salvage Officer sent by air. (C. in C. Med., 102200A to F.O.G.M.A., Admty. etc)

Yacht mine-  
sweepers  
allocation of.

In view of early withdrawal of up to 9 U.S.N.Y.M.S from North Coast of Brittany it is desired to seek Cominch's agreement to permanent allocation to A.N.C.X.F. of 8 French Y.M.S. now temporarily on loan from Mediterranean.  
2. Request your concurrence.  
(Head of M. app. A.C.N.S.(F), 102326A to C. in C. Med. etc.) see 121216A.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

RENOWN. Intend RENOWN on completion of refit to sail unescorted from Durban to Ceylon proceeding at 25 knots through Mozambique Channel to lat. 10° S. thereafter at 18 knots.  
(C. in C. E.I., 100637Z to C. in C. S.A.)

Accommodation ship, B.P.F. Request date of sailing of LANCASHIRE from U.K. and arrival Colombo.  
(C. in C. E.I., 101104Z to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

IMPALA. My 151956A Dec. 1944. Request anticipated date of sailing of Whaler IMPALA.  
(D.S.V.P., 101155A to S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)  
Reply: 120735Z.

Force W. Arrived HONESTY. Departed L.C.T. 1056, 1058  
71st L.C.T. in tow FORT CHAMBLY.  
Flotilla. (Com. Aden, 101547 to Admty.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- U-boat dispositions                      Estimates.  
  (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 101322Z and Cominch 101455Z).
- Anti-S/M Search Plans.                      Attention is called to the Retiring Search Plans published in F.T.P.223A (1945) U.S. Fleet Anti Submarine and escort of convoy Instructions which is now being distributed.  
  2. These Search Plans, articles 1120 to 1161, have been worked out to the last detail and the results are presented for the benefit of Searching Ships in a way which reduces their problem to its most simple terms.  
  3. Unless special circumstances such as lack of sea room, possibility of bottoming, etc., dictate another course of action, these Search Plans are to be used by R.C.N. Ships under the conditions given in Article 1132.  
  (N.S.H.Q., 101630Z to All H.M.C. Ships etc).
- A.F.D.32                                      Fuelling arrangements for tugs towing A.F.D.32 will now be made at Teneriffe not Las Palmas. A.M. 201949 and 202000 Jan. should be amended accordingly.  
  (D.O.D.(F), 101909A to B.A.D. Washington)
- SS. MOSES BROWN U/B report.                                      Break radio silence and report details of S/M sighted 1845Z 9th including distance when sighted description of S/M her course and speed.  
  (Comtenthfleet, 101939Z to MOSES BROWN) See 161802 See under S. Atlantic 9.2.1945.
- U/B reports.                                      After further investigation incident considered non-sub. Cominch 072131\* refers all times Z.  
  (B) 1530/10 C.G. TRITON attacked sound contact 38.49 N., 70.16 W.  
  (C) Approximately 1845/9 MOSES BROWN reported sighting U-boat 23.38 S., 04.25 W.  
  (D) Approximately 1715/9 P.C.1170 attacked sound contact 40.08 N. 73.40 W.  
  (Cominch, 102052Z to Admty)  
  \*Sinking and capture of crew by U-boat [ANTOINE SAUGRAIN.]
- Trinidad defences.                                      B.A.D's 082131 being passed. Request you start reductions at once as proposed in your latter No. Z 1/3531 of 12th Dec. (forwarded under W.A. No. 952/0416 to Admty. and B.A.D.)  
  (S.B.N.O.W.At., 102104Z to S.B.N.O. Trinidad).
- Aircraft for                                      Reference Salor 16419/ and A.M. 022053, a communication now received from the Navy Department informs N.A.R. that it has been decided that the Canadian cars, Fort William, Canada, can be made available for the production of United States Type aircraft for the Royal Navy, and that production for the United States Navy can be reduced in this facility or eliminated if necessary.

/Navy...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Aircraft  
for Royal  
Navy.  
(contd).

Navy Department stress that in view of the urgency of the situation, immediate negotiations be made for setting-up production of aircraft in this plant. Meanwhile it is recommended that the Fifth Sea Lord should not take a final decision to visit Washington, as there is hope that this may not be necessary.

(B.A.D., 102143Z to Admty).  
\*271611.

Australia & New Zealand.

A/S Training  
VOX.

Arrived Fremantle VOX. Intend she stays there 12 days for maintenance and rest.  
(Capt. (S), 100432Z to C. in C. B.P.F. etc).

S/M  
STORM.

Here follows re-encypherment of C.T.F 71's 271515\*N.T. in W.D. Begins - STORM departs Fremantle on 31st Jan. to Exmouth Gulf to fuel proceeding thence to Trincomalee through position (A) 07° 01' S., 104° 02' E. at 1000Z/9th Feb.

then as ordered by C. in C. E.I.S. S. of A. 9½ knots.  
(A.C.N.B., 100445 to F.O.C. S/Ms.)

\*No trace in W.R. Files.

1 /  
SS. PETER  
SYLVESTER  
sunk.

CAPE EDMONT reports rescue of 15 survivors from PETER SYLVESTER ship was sunk by three torpedoes in position 034° 19' S., 099° 37' E. at 1440Z/6th Feb.  
(A.C.N.B., 100453 to C. in C. E.I.S.)

Digest Serial  
No. 1116.

This is unless otherwise stated covering 9th Feb. 3.Lingayen.P.T. boats with air co-operation destroyed 11 barges, one lugger, seven speed boats, one motor launch during daylight 8th all off San Fernando, also started large fuel fire there.

Previous night other motor torpedo boats operating from Subic Bay off entrance Manila Bay engaged 8 tankers whereof 5 returned fire: one barge sunk, another barge plus one sub-chaser damaged.

4. Ground forces. Manila captured Pasig Boulevard widened deepened bridgehead across Pasig River. Enemy artillery fire encountered vicinity Malacanan Palace also across river House to house fighting continues with enemy using land mines anti-tank guns machine guns and extensive sniper fire. Forces advancing from South across Nichols Field still encountering stubborn resistance from prepared enemy positions.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial 5. Bostons sank sea truck south Corregidor.  
No.1116. Liberators bombed Sariveles despite heavy weather  
(contd). dropping 56 tons bombs target area jettisoning 46  
tons at sea. 64 Bostons swept under cloud  
formation to hit guns and cause many fires  
explosions northern tip Bataan Peninsula. R.A.A.F  
Ventura attacked coastal vessel sank barge Solmba Island while  
R.A.A.F. Liberator bombed Viqueque (Timor). Ten Beauforts  
Bostons hit villages West Wewak also barge hideout.  
6. Warhawks fired Jetty Aparri also Conndql vessel off Palau  
Island to northeast. Mitchells swept eastern Luxon further  
damaging sea truck at Aparri, also hitting Barges MND Launches,  
Palau Island destroying one barge possibly two others. San  
Miguel Bay probably sinking single sea truck near Legaspi.  
7. Solomons - Based air forces carried out following air strikes  
8th Feb.  
Catalina supported gunboats against Choisoul Island targets while  
46 Corsairs struck headquarters area southwest Bougainville and  
destroyed six barges off Buka.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 101055Z to Admty. etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/10th February.  
Para. A. Am. PETER SILVESTER (7,176) torpedoed prior to 1440Z 6th February; survivors picked up in 34° 19' S., 99° 37' E.  
Para. B. 1. A/C B/206 sighted smoke, obtained contact and attacked with D/Cs at 1406Z/9th February in 60° 04' N., 03° 10' W.  
2. A/C F/311 attacked contact at 0147Z/10th Feb. in 60° 22' N. 04° 22' W.  
3. Transit A/C H/422 sighted white smoke on surface at 1105Z/9th Feb. in 53° 29' N., 05° 23' W.  
4. Am. MOSES BROWN (7,176) sighted U-boat at approx. 1845Z/9th Feb. in 23° 38' S., 04° 25' W.  
Para. C. 1. A/C V/86 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1105Z/9th Feb. in 61° 35' N., 01° 47' W.  
2. A/C R/311 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1231Z/9th February in 60° 56' N., 01° 55' W.  
3. E.G.10 obtained contact, believed wreck, prior to 1900Z/9th Feb. in 59° 52' N., 03° 35' W.  
4. E.G.38 attacked contact at 1745Z/9th Feb. in 50° 29' N., 01° 50' W.  
Para. D. Br. PRIAM (10,029) obtained contact, not clear whether believed A/C or U-boat, at 1031Z/9th February in 00° 05' S. 78° 11' E.  
(D.D.I.C., 101113A to Cominch).

U/B Dispositions. Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 101418A and A.I.G.331 and Cominch 101426A).



11.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) The second blockship at Hansweerd has been removed, leaving a 100 ft. wide channel.  
(b) 9 Fortresses dropped 40 tons of bombs on Ymuiden E-Boat pens.  
(c) 2 mines were detonated off Blankenberghe.
- Channel. 2(a) SS. PERSIER<sup>(Belgian)</sup> was torpedoed 4 miles N.N.W. of the Eddystone at 1730.  
(b) M.L.183 struck the East Pier, Dieppe, whilst attempting to enter and sank.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Riviera. 3. A small party of the enemy landed at Mentone from rubber boats at 4 o'clock this morning. Three were killed and one taken prisoner.
- North African coast. 4. A.F.D.24 which went ashore about 60 miles west of Derna on the 9th is now reported hard aground about 1500 yards from the shore. Her crew with exception of one man who was lost is safely ashore. Three tugs were standing by today but rough weather prevented salvage.

Australia and New Zealand

- China. 5. Naval reconnaissance aircraft bombed and machine-gunned a small freighter escorted by a destroyer near Amoy. The vessel was left on fire and sinking.
- Indo-China. 6. Aircraft set on fire 2 M/Vs. and 1 M/V and 1 destroyer were probably sunk off Indo-China coast. A Liberator sank a small merchantman in convoy heading south off Cape Padaran. Another Liberator sank a sea truck off Song Kau and damaged a small merchantman heading north off Quinhow.

/Philippines ...

11.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

- Philippines. 7(a) 8 Mitchells attacked Zamboanga (Mindanao) exploding fuel dumps and destroyed two barges and firing a gunboat.  
(b) Tonight 3 P.T. Boats destroyed 1 sea truck and 2 supply laden barges off east coast Cebu.
- Borneo and Eastern Archipelago. 8(a) A U.S. Liberator attacked a vessel at Sandakan.  
(b) Venturas sank a lugger N.W. of Celebes damaged a barge off Tawi Tawi and bombed others off Sumbawa and Flores.  
(c) Two Dutch Mitchells destroyed two barges off Timor.
- Movement. 9. KING GEORGE V (V.A.B.P.F.) with VICTORIOUS, EURYALUS and 5 destroyers arrived Sydney from Fremantle.

War Diary

11.2.1945  
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

South  
Beveland  
Canal

From P.S.V.O. Second Blockship at Hansweerd removed p.m. 10th February making unobstructed channel 100 feet wide at entrance. Trawlers can be accepted from 12th February. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 110958A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Air  
Situation  
Report

9/9 Fortresses on Ijmuiden E-boat pens, 40.5 tons G.P. good visual. (S.H.A.E.F., 111115A to Admty. and others.)

Anti-U-  
boat deep  
mining, in  
*East Coast gap.*

In view of probability that U-boat threat will shortly be extended to East coast it is proposed, if PLOVER or similar Minelayer can be made available, to lay two lines of contact mines in Gap D, mines to be sterilized after 30 days.

- (2) It is for consideration that similar action be taken in Gap C.  
(3) The information regarding these mines would have to receive wide publicity for benefit of trawlers fishing in North Sea and no objection is seen to it reaching the enemy.  
(4) This action will rule out the project now under consideration of allowing trawlers to fish east of mine barrier. (Admty., 111530 to C. in C. Nore.)

*Cin C Nore to Admty. See reply in 191544A, page 312.*

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 313 Part 4 Section A:  
Discharge by Sea - 24 hour period ending 101600A, February:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (Inc. Coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.G.F.</u> <u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	92	483	6,080	-	7
Ostend	1,524	123	2,880	2,330	943
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	222	-	-
Calais	3,513	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,865	-	1,708
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,129</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>12,047</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>2,658</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	9	76	17,920	-	33
Cherbourg	-	158	13,493	1,912	4,580
Le Havre	11,005	149	6,919	4,853	2,701
Rouen	222	110	3,138	2,872	782
Granville	-	-	4,135	-	-
Ghent	-	-	763	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,236</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>46,368</b>	<b>9,637</b>	<b>8,096</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	1,020	2	15,604	-	2,134
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,268	5,000	2,208
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17,872</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,342</b>

/signed...

War Diary.

11.2.1945  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

Signed Eisenhower Cite S.H.G.D.S.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 111645A to Admty., and others.)

Minesweeping  
off Far  
Shore.

1 Red magnetic mine detonated at 1020 in position  
51.23.00 N. 03.0730 E. 1 acoustic mine detonated  
at 1340 in position 51.23.00 N. 03.08.00 E.  
Both mines detonated in area 5 to 10 cables  
north of centre line of Q.Z.S. 657 between N.F. 11  
and N.F. 12 buoy.  
(N.O.I.C. Ostend 111912 to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

3rd E.G.

Sailed 3rd E.G. less BERRY to comply with C. in  
C. W.A. 102346 not to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.  
S.O.A. 16 knots C. in C. Plymouth is requested to  
signal further instructions.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 111608A to Cs. in C. W.A.,  
Plymouth.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Weigh at 0545A/12th February and carry out serial  
A.1 part 2.  
(2) Weather forecast will be passed at 0400A/12th.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 111626A to PLOVER, BANGOR,  
BOSTON.)

SS. PERSIER  
torpedoed.

Ship torpedoed or mined off Eddystone.  
(ALGOMA 111730A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Ship torpedoed 340 Eddystone 4 at 1730A/11.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 111937A to Plymouth Command.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols.

Contact attacked by BEAGLE has been definitely  
established as non-submarine in position 55° 04'  
10" N. 05° 20' 40" W. height 35 feet, length  
120 feet, gives good echo, large extent target.  
(2) Probable wreck shown on chart 318, E.G. 31's 092250A refers.  
(3) Intend E.G. 19 patrol North Channel area until supporting  
convoy O.N. 284.  
(4) Remainder hunting forces to return to base.  
(5) Suitable.  
(S.O. Force 37 110100A to C. in C. W.A.)  
WAVE, HARE and SHEMARA returned Campbeltown ZANZIBAR to  
Rothesay. MAGPIE and BEAGLE to Greenock.  
(2) Ships ordered to bases by S.O.E.G. 19.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 110316A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Intend...

11.2.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols. Intend sending NYASALAND and LOCH SCAVAIG to  
(Contd.) Milford Haven to make good A/S defects. NYASALAND  
thousand volt 20 volt main coupling sheared. No  
spares carried. Working on battery, LOCH SCAVAIG  
request renewal of C.B.I. and C.T.U.  
(S.O.E.G. 23 111130A to C. in C. W.A.)  
4th E.G. if not in contact is to detach from Force 38 and proceed  
to Belfast for lay over passing Pile Light at 1030/12th.  
(C. in C. W.A. 111226A to Force 38.)  
Com. D. W.A. is requested to sail 25th E.G. at 1000/12th  
to relieve 5 E.G. as Force 36.  
(2) S.O. 5th E.G. is to arrange R/V and on relief 5th E.G. are  
to proceed to Belfast for lay over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 111229A to Com. D. W.A.)  
F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland is requested to sail 21st E.G.  
at 0900/12th to operate in N.W. Approaches as Force 33. Patrol  
orders will be given later.  
(C. in C. W.A. 111237A to F.O.I.C. N.I.)  
F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail 31st E.G. at 1300/  
12th to rejoin Force 37. S.O. 19th E.G. to arrange R/V.  
(2) On relief by 31 E.G. 19 E.G. is to proceed to Belfast Lough for  
short rest.  
(C. in C. W.A. 111634A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, S.O.E.G. 19.)  
BERKELEY CASTLE is to take ships addressed under his orders  
and proceed passing Clyde Boom at 1300A/12th February to comply  
with C. in C. W.A.'s 111634A.  
(2) An officer is to report to operations, "Bagatelle" for latest  
intelligence before proceeding.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 111948A to BERKELEY CASTLE.)

Anti-U-Boat Operation "C.H.3" and 4 of T.1 completed.  
deep mining. (APOLLO 110222A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Carry out operation "C.H."  
T.1 line 5 and part of T.2. 1330A/12th February.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 112031A to APOLLO.)

Weather re- CAMELLIA is to sail February 14th to relieve  
porting ship. LAVENDER as weather reporting ship fuelling at  
Londonderry on outward passage.  
(2) E.T.A. in 53° N. 20° W. to be reported.  
(3) LAVENDER is to proceed to Liverpool on relief.  
(C. in C. W.A. 111515A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool,  
LAVENDER.)

Possible U/B. Explosion and very lights reported in approx.  
53° 07' N. 04° 53' W. Three ships investigate.  
(C. in C. W.A. 112331A to S.O.E.G. 5.)  
Explosion reported 53° 07' N. 04° 53' W. at 2240.  
Three ships of 5th E.G. are investigating. Join them  
(C. in C. W.A. 112347A to S.O.E.G. 4.)

11.2.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols. Request you will sail VIKING 14th February to patrol Frohavet North of 63° 50' N. Route "Orange" diving by day north of 62° N. Approaches to Foldenfjord to be patrolled as an alternative. (2) VENTURER should leave patrol 14th. (F.O. S/M 110031A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Operations "V.P." Intend to carry out (A) "V.P. 83" or (B) "V.P. 79" with one whaler and 2 M.T.Bs. (1) 1130A/11th February. (2) Not later than (A) 2100A/13th February, or (B) 2100A/12th February. (3) (1) M.T.Bs. leave coast not later (A) 0900A/16th February or (B) 0900A/15th February. Whaler leaves slipping position not later than (A) 1800A/13th February or (B) 1800A/12th February. (4) 224° toward Noss Head. M.T.Bs. not more 20 knots. Whaler not more 13 knots. (5) (A) Whaler not later than p.m. 15th February. M.T.Bs. not later than p.m. 18th February or (B) Whaler not later than p.m. 13th February M.T.Bs. not later than p.m. 17th February. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 044° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 110921A to A.C.O.S.)

"V.P.83" or "V.P. 79" sailed at 1145A today 11th February H. Nor. M.S. NARVIK with M.T.B. 717 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 716 in tow.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 111155A to A.C.O.S.)

Intend to carry out "V.P. 82".

(1) 0500A/12th February. (2) Not later than 2100A/12th Feb. (3) Not later 0900A/13th February. (4) 271° towards Noss Head, Bressay not more than 20 knots. (5) Not later than p.m. 13th Feb. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 091° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 111541A to A.C.O.S.)

My 111541A. (1) 091 from Noss Head. (2) 60° 05' N., 05° 05' E.

E.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 111543A to A.C.C.S.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W. 64. Your 102124A. Request Russians R/V as in para. 1 but on Monday 12th. My P.C.S. 72° 24' N. 28° 05' E. 100° 7 knots. (2) Following messages on port wave incompletely received series Nos. 89 to 92. (C.S. 1 110802A to S.B.N.O. Russia.)

Possible U/B. Your 111516. Oil patch located in position 60° 54' N. 04° 02' W. Some oil appeared to be grease on surface. Second oil patch 180° 05' from above position with no apparent source. No contact in vicinity intend sweeping 225° from position to depth of 20 miles. (S.O.E.G. 9 111757A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters. - Contd.

Second possible U/B. In asdic contact with submarine in 60° 40.5' N. 04° 32' W. (S.O.E.G. 9 112024A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Lost contact carried out three hedgehog attacks without result. Am sweeping to westward which was line of general movement. My position 60.41 N. 04.34 W. (S.O.E.G. 9 11207A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Casualties & Defects.

M.L. 183. Regret that while entering harbour tonight M.L. 183 struck East Pier and sank soon after with loss of 3 hands. Full report will be made as soon as possible. (B.N.L.O. Dieppe 112145A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Movements.

TACITURN submarine. Intend to sail TACITURN 21st February to join O.S. 112/K.M.S. 86 for Gibraltar and onward passage to East Indies. (F.O. S/M 111039A to C. in C. W.A.)

BARFLEUR, Fr. F.S. BARFLEUR arrived 111400A.  
Aux. cruiser. (Comar Brest 111405A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

BARFLEUR destroyer. Request you will sail BARFLEUR to Gibraltar on completion of repairs about 14th February.  
(2) Admty. will promulgate route.  
(3) A.M. 111557, not to all, refers.  
(D.O.D.(H) 111614A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Late arrivals for ocean convoys from Milford Haven. Your 081145A. Concur with para. 2 in respect to O.N. and U.C.A. convoys. If desired N.C.S.O. Cardiff will sail all O.N. convoy ships from Barry and ports to the eastward as applies to ships for U.C.A. convoys. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 111039A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Cross Channel convoys. (1) C.U. convoys. Concur that cross Channel passage in darkness offers advantages. It is observed, however, that:- (a) Delays imposed upon convoys at sea to secure this would affect ships for all destinations. (b) The possible delays on this account will increase as the nights become shorter and may amount to some 22 hours per convoy. (c) Diversion of the convoys in the U.K. approaches or coastal waters to adjust E.T.A. at H.2. buoy would in present circumstances increase U/B risk and entail extra steaming for support groups. (d) Diversion of the convoys

/during...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Cross Channel convoys. during the ocean passage for this purpose might well be nullified by weather or the need for further diversions nearer the U.K.  
(Contd.) (2) While it is considered that delays in St. Helens are preferable at present to those at sea it is recommended that the cross Channel passages be made wholly or partially in daylight when circumstances permit and substantial savings of time would be made thereby. Your O52056 refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 111510 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)



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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

C.G.147  
French  
S/Ms.                    C.G.147 intend sail at 121300A five ships with  
two French submarines in company. Submarines  
ORPHEE and ARETHUSE detached at Europa Point.  
E.T.A. Oran 150730.  
(Commorseafron, 111150A to F.O.G.M.A.)

E Groups.              55 and 57 Escort Groups relieved 38 and 41 E.G.  
which sailed for U.K. on arrival of the former  
two groups. A.M. 300130 Dec. 44 refers.  
(3) If 56 E.G. requires a period off your station  
the 55 E.G. will be made available as replacement. A.M. 090430.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 111208A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Gibraltar              A.O.C. requests consideration be given to the  
Straits                  prohibition of fishing outside the three mile  
Fishing.                limit in area between 9° W. and Straits of  
Gibraltar.  
2. Presence of Spanish Fishing Boats in this  
area and consequent frequent illumination renders search light  
Wellington patrols partially abortive.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 111216A to Admty).

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Navigation  
Black Sea.

Soviet Authorities intend that Allied merchant ships should burn navigation lights when in Black Sea.  
(C. in C. Med., 111132A to Ad. Archer.)  
Confirmed by 171506A.

Tugs.

Due to scarcity of rescue and large harbour tugs and of increase target towing commitments in connection with working up, ships proceeding to the Far East. Request very early supply of target towing vessels requested in my 7347/Med./45/393/8/1 of 5th Dec., para. (3).  
(C. in C. Med., 111616A to Admty.)

H.M.R.T.  
FLARE,  
defects.

H.M.R.T. FLARE broke down when being sailed to A.F.D.24, and has been towed back to Alexandria. Preliminary examination of defects reveals extensive damage to port generator, and cut out switch cabinet for which no spare armature or other spares are available in Levant.  
(3) In view of specialised design of electrical gear in this vessel, request expert may be sent from Malta to advise on spare gear available which is essential for permanent repairs.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 111651 to C. in C. Med.)  
See 171321A.

MCLANAHAN  
U.S. destroyer.  
Damage.

This amplifies my 111633A\*.  
Anchored Golfe Juan 1755A and transferred two critically wounded and six minor casualties to U.S. Army hospital, Cannes. One man dead. Have 24 holes in shell plating near waterline 1-4 inches diameter. All now securely plugged. Many holes after deck house bulkhead and deck and in shields mounts three and four. Mount four hydraulic system ruptured, extent fire control damage to mount not yet known. Vent system after compartments ruptured. Believe no underwater hull damage. Soundings dry. Projectile heavy calibre anti-personnel loaded with triangular machined shrapnel. Exploded on impact with water 20-40 feet from ship and was one of single two gun salvo fired. Believe battery located San Remo cathedral. Ship had opened fire at extreme range on enemy construction at 906858 and finished at 14600 yards where counter fire received. Request permission to proceed to repair activity designated by C.T.G. 80.6 after heavy weather moderates sufficiently to weld patches over holes now plugged.

(MCLANAHAN, 112330A to Comflanfor.) Concur, 120937A.

\* 2 near misses in position 43.39.9 N., 07.40 E. (not circulated).

Mission report 79 rounds fired against enemy construction at 906858. Fire was shifted by spots to eastward covering other buildings. Results reported excellent many fires. One near miss probably fired by twin large calibre battery near cathedral above San Remo caused casualties and damage reported in my 111633A and 112330A.

(MCLANAHAN, 112359A to Comflanfor.)

/Cositintrep ...

11.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositintrep  
No. 581.

Coastal Air Force. R/Cs. found ship previously  
attacked off Parenzo well down in water and no  
sign of life. Spitfires destroyed two motor  
transport and damaged two in Reggio Amelia area.  
Mine-spotting patrols and scrambles flown.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., No T.O.O./11.)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-boat No change.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I., 110422Z to S. and A. E.I. Stn).

Force 62. Ships addressed A/S screen constitute Force 62,  
as from 0840 F.G. Mon. 12th Feb.  
(C. in C. E.I.S., 110426Z to KENYA, EMPRESS,  
AMEER, VOLAGE, VENUS, VIGILANT, SPEY, SWALE, PLYM)

Aden 2. Intend to discontinue use of Aden as escort  
E.G. base. force base.  
3. Attack teacher to be put on care and  
maintenance. No further apparatus to be  
installed. Gear on hand and in transit to be  
stored pending disposal instructions.  
4. A/S Maintenance facilities to be retained.  
5. Reduction of personnel being dealt with separately.  
(C. in C. E.I. 110457Z to Admty.)

Operations Following operations will be carried out mid Feb.  
Stacey and (A) P.R. operation over K.R.A. Isthmus and past  
Suffice. Sumatra by Force 62. (B) Shipping sweep in  
Andaman Is. and Nicobar Islands by destroyers.  
2. Normal support continues to be given on Arakan.  
(C. in C. E.I. 110523 to Admty.)

Codewords for operation referred to in paragraph 1 of my 110523  
are (A) Stacey, (B) Suffice.  
(C. in C. E.I. 110527 to Admty.)

S.S. EMPIRE Your 090415/ Result of investigations as follows:  
CHEER. (A) Master declared 11 knots at Cochin but  
averaged 12.8.  
(B) Completely adjusted before proceeding route  
given by N.C.S.O. Cochin.  
(C) Departed selecting own route by passing through 1½° channel  
thence, (1) N. of Seychelles, (2) N. of Madagascar, (3) W. of  
Comor Island, and (4) Thence shortest track to Beira.  
(D) Ship departed 12th to you to average over 14 knots, because  
I suggest you assumed he was opposed to his official route,  
whereas his own was some 500 miles shorter.  
(E) Did not make position report in accordance with appendix  
Meiri I J although he received written instructions from R.O.  
Caracas to do so.  
(F) Was not in B.A.M.S. area 7.B. when diversion signal  
transmitted although would have been had he kept to merchant  
ship route.  
(G) Master states reason for (B) was to avoid possible cyclone  
but did not request your approval or signify his intention and  
reason for (E). Did not intend to take a chance in allowing any  
enemy submarine to D/F his H/F and have informed him that this  
borders on the impossible.  
(H) Seriousness of affair has been strongly stressed to Master.  
(J) Due to sail from Lourenço Marques 14th for Buenos Aires.  
Approximate E.T.A. Buenos Aires 5th March.  
(C.S.A. Lourenço Marques 110956Z to C. in C. E.I.)  
/ Request investigation and report on B.F.J.J. EMPIRE CHEER  
arrived Beira.

11.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

L.S.T. A.M. 021803 and A.M. 041321.  
flotillas. H.M. L.S.T.(2) 368, 410, 421 and 538 of 2nd L.S.T. Flotilla and H.M. L.S.T.(2) 413 and 427 of 6th L.S.T. Flotilla sailed in K.M.S.83. Senior Officer embarked in H.M. L.S.T.(2) 410.  
2. All vessels have L.C.T.(5) embarked. Molcab Number 1 is embarked in H.M. L.S.T.(2) 368, 410, 413, 427 and 538. A.M./C.O.D.0467 Dec. 1944, not to all, refers.  
(A.D.O.D. 111127A to C. in C. E.I.)

Sitrep 395. Second. 26 Div. Own tps endeavouring to block all Chaungs N. and N.E. of Ramree Island and M.L.S. and destroyers patrolling eastern and N.E. exits.  
(Adv. Alfsea D.T.O. 111730 to W.O.)

Escorts It is regretted that the U-boat situation in Home  
release of. Waters does not yet permit release of the escorts temporarily retained in U.K. My 311500 Dec. refers.  
2. The situation will again be reviewed early in March, but in the meantime request you will signal an appreciation of your normal operational requirements for escorts, specifying the types. Your 020534 not to C. in C. British Pacific Fleet and C. in C. British Pacific Fleet 300802/Jan. refer.  
(Sec. to A.C.N.S. appd. V.C.N.S. 112315A to C. in C.'s E.I. and C. in C. B.P.F.)

War Diary11.2.1945  
SundayFOREIGN STATIONAmerica and West Indies

E.G.16 incident. Your 110047Z N.T. in W.D. Star shell fired by E.G.16 in position Pennant Point bearing 350 degs 15.5 miles at 0010Z/11.  
(S.O. E.G.16, 110230Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 111351Z to Cominch, 111536Z)

French Cruisers. Your 252151 Jan. This is principally a matter for Cominch.  
(2) Although French reasons for wishing to keep 8" cruisers in service are appreciated, it remains our view that to instal modern equipment is a complete waste. C. in C. Med's 071448/February para. 1 refers.  
(3) French misuse of U.S. equipment may well prejudice future supplies and thereby prevent deployment of those French ships which can play useful part in the Far East.  
(4) Accordingly, if Cominch should ask our views we should not wish to support French action. If, however, Cominch should be disposed to overlook the breach of C.C.S. instructions and if further supply of equipment would not be affected, we should not object to continuance of the work.  
(Head of M. approved, V.C.N.S. 111812A to B.A.D. see B.A.D. 122109Z to Admty.)

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. (A) 110920Z U.S.S. CORE A/C sighted fully surfaced U-Boat which was attacked with rockets after submergence in 52.04 N. 30.06 W. Attack believed ineffective.  
Para. (C) (1) 111520Z H.M.C.S. STRATFORD Asdic Contact and Hydrophone effects 44.30 N. 63.21 W.  
(2) 111415Z A/C reported Radar contact 39.31 N. 73.11 W.  
Para. (D) (1) 102030Z Transport A/C reported sighting U-Boat 23.15 N. 82.07 W.  
(2) 111505Z A/C reported Radar Contact 38.59 N. 72.57 W.  
(Cominch, 112030Z to Admty for O.I.C.)  
N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting Summary, no reports since my 060830 Para. C. H.M.C.S. STRATFORD Hydrophone effect at 1520/11 in 44.30 N. 63.21 W. all times Z. Asdic contact about 1547.  
(N.S.H.Q. 112318Z to Admty.)

Australia and New ZealandARIADNE  
minelayer.When ready 13th Feb. proceed to United Kingdom via Espiritu Santo Comsopac requested to arrange onward routing.  
Route to Espiritu etc.  
(F.O.C.S. 110001Z to ARIADNE)

/R.A.(D) B.P.F....

War Diary11.2.1945  
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand - Contd.R.A.(D)  
B.P.F.

Arrival Fremantle 9th Feb. TYNE wearing flag of R.A.(D) B.P.F. RESOURCE, M/S Flotilla 22 Tanker BATTLE ROCK escorted by LONDON. Departure Fremantle 9th Feb. TYNE, ARTIFEX escorted by CRANE and REDPOLE C.M.42.  
(N.B. Melbourne, 110603 to Admty. etc.)

Digest  
No.1117  
10.2.1945.

Follows covering 10th February except where otherwise stated.

(1) Navy Liberators strafed and damaged M.L. also saw single Sea Truck Sakashima Gunto, sank single Sea Truck South of Taito (S.E. coast Formosa), sank one possible Tanker 2 Sea Trucks 2 Luggers North of Taito and many barges and small vessels Karenko Harbour, 4 Medium cargo vessels many luggers and sea trucks ashore Kiirun Harbour, convoy 2 Destroyers, 1 Transport 1 small Merchantman 1 Tug. Single Lugger strafed and damaged South of Hong Kong.  
(4) Delayed reports from French sources follow:  
2 Transports, 1 Cargo Vessel, 1 S/M-chaser, 2 Minecraft were at Saigon 7th Feb. Evening same day 1 Transport loaded with trucks arrived Saigon while next day single Transport carrying European Prisoners of War and Japanese troops put in that port evening 7th Feb. convoy 3 transports, 3 destroyers, 1 S/M-chaser passed Cape Padaran heading North: Later sighting located this convoy off Tourane morning 9th Feb. 1 cargo ship 1 Transport 2 small Merchantmen arrived Quinhon 8th Feb. while next day 1 Sea Truck was sighted at Quinhon with 2 other Sea Trucks 2 Minecraft 25 miles to South. Also 9th Feb. 2 Cargo ships were docked Camranh Bay, 1 medium, 1 very small Freighter numerous fishing craft observed at Tourane, 3 Destroyers, 1 Destroyer Escort 3 large engined - aft Freighters seen of Cap Sa Hoi course Northern, 5 Warships passed Tourane Northbound, while convoy described 2 Transports, 3 Cruisers passed Quinhon heading south.  
(5) Ground forces Manila established 2 new bridgeheads without opposition. Stiff resistance still encountered by forces advancing from Mybalcan bridgeheads towards Istramuos quarter but gains up to 300 yards reported against machine gun and mortar fire. Forces slowly encircling Nichols Field from South captured 14 enemy Naval guns of 8 and 6 inch calibre. Some serviceable and now being used against enemy. Enemy bunkers and pillboxes still being eliminated this area. In central Luzon forces advancing towards Dingalan-Baler Bay area reached point about 6 miles from East Coast without enemy contact.  
(7) Delayed reports air operations 9th Feb. follow: Strikes scheduled against Formosa shipping were hampered by weather but one Destroyer 1 Sea Truck sunk. Despite adverse weather sweeps around Luzon destroyed or damaged 8 barges, 1 Lugger.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 111101Z to Admty.)

L.S.I.(L)

Upon completion present assignment sail EMPIRE ARQUEBUS to Sydney to arrive earliest practicable date. Upon arrival ARQUEBUS reports to C. in C. B.P.F. for duty.  
(C.T.F.78, 111152 to C.T.G. 76.8 etc.)

/Depot ...

War Diary

11.2.1945  
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Depot  
ship  
B.P.F.

Your 030730 para. 5.  
AORANGI has been delayed and is now expected to  
sail from U.K. with K.M.F. 42 and to arrive Sydney  
end May.  
(Hd. of M. 111454A to C. in C. B.P.F.)  
\* Approved by Vice Controller.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

To 0800Z/11th February.  
Para. A. F/330 sights position Snort Co. 320  
degs. 59 degs. 33' N. 05 degs. 12' W. at 1645Z/10  
February.  
Para. B. (1) Z/59 attacks possible Snort Co. 020  
degs. 54 degs. 47' N. 09 degs. 19' W. at 1000Z/10th  
February.  
(2) V/422 sights suspicious smoke 50 degs. 06' N. 06 degs. 11' W.  
at 1235Z/10th February.  
Para. C. E.G.10 carried out 9 attacks on bottom contact probably  
wreck 60 degs. 23' N. 02 degs. 51' W. before 0919Z/10th February.  
(D.D.I.C. 111007A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. etc.)

U-Boat

dispositions.

Estimates

(D.D.I.C. 111445A and 111446A to A.I.G. Cominch )



12.2.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. One mine was swept off The Humber.
- Channel. 2. Two possible U-contacts were investigated but without result.
- Norway. 3. NORFOLK, on operation "Silenium", reports having seen nothing, nor been seen at Kvitholm (63° N.) and that DEVONSHIRE, with PREMIER and PUNCHER, affording fighter cover, went on to lay 4 airborne mines successfully at Aaramsund. The force is returning to Scapa.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

- Riviera. 4. During short bombardment near San Remo, U.S. <sup>yesterday</sup> destroyer MCLANAHAN was near missed by 2 large calibre shells and sustained damage. Casualties one killed, 2 seriously wounded and 6 wounded. See (112359A)
- Adriatic. 5. Between 5.30 and 6.0 this morning ~~an~~ attack was made by explosive motor boats on Split Harbour. L.C.F. 8 secured on the port quarter of DELHI was hit by a boat which bounced off and exploded 15 yards away. L.C.F.8 sustained considerable damage, and DELHI slight damage. 2 other enemy craft exploded harmlessly and one was sunk by gunfire. The harbour is closed, possible minelaying being expected.
- Levant.  
Dodecanese. 6. EXMOOR sank an M.L. from which 40 Germans had landed on Nisiro Is. (N.W. of Rhodes). Allied troops sent from Symi Island to deal with them.
- N.African  
Coast Libya. LIDDESDALE and 3 tugs standing by A.F.D. 24 which is grinding heavily. Chances of salvage very slight. Tug HESPERIA total loss.

12.2.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

- China Coast. 8. Navy Liberators left a single medium transport beached and burning near Amoy.
- Moluccas. 9. Venturas from Morotai destroyed two and damaged other two of four luggers under construction Sangi Islands.
- Philippines. 10.(a) Throughout day 12 Squadrons of Bostons raided southern Bataan. Sinking 30 barges laden with troops and ammunition leaving Manila Bay for Bataan. They also set fire to a gunboat, and probably sank a coaster.  
(b) P.T. boats strafed Jap. communications at Sogod (Leyte) tonight.
- Celebes. 11. R.A.A.F. Liberators left coastal vessel ablaze in Bauggai Archipelago and attacked a camouflaged barge.
- NIZAM  
destroyer. 12 H.M.A.S. NIZAM was damaged in severe weather rounding Cape Leeuwin today. 10 ratings lost overboard.
- Movement. 13. UNICORN arrived Sydney from Fremantle.

War Diary

12.2.1945  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Monitor for Schouwen. A.N.C.X.F. 101310 EREBUS detailed.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121528A to A.N.C.X.F.)  
Your 101310 not to all intend to sail EREBUS escorted by ANTHONY for Flushing 1240A/15th Feb. speed 10 knots. E.T.A. 1430A/16th February.  
(2) Standard route using A.M. Q.Z.S.513, 517 to Dumpton Buoy thence by Swept Channel in force.  
(3) C. in C. Nore is requested to provide fighter protection as necessary codeword "Bathford".  
(4) ANTHONY to return from Flushing to Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121910 to A.N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C.Holland)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.314 Part 4 Section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/11 Feb.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>(incl.</u> <u>coal)</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F.Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	92	494	6,521	-	211
Ostend	715	126	3,278	-	1,480
Boulogne	4	36	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	213	-	-
Calais	3,901	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,807	-	1,057
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4,712</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>13,819</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,748</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	277	19,799	-	-
Cherbourg	-	102	12,242	-	3,846
Le Havre	8,729	396	6,231	3,748	2,571
Rouen	916	692	4,146	3,412	2
Granville	-	-	2,444	-	-
Ghent	-	-	270	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>9,645</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>45,132</b>	<b>7,160</b>	<b>6,419</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	256	65	14,090	-	2,308
Port De Bouc	-	-	2,244	4,651	2,244
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>16,334</b>	<b>4,651</b>	<b>4552</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 121600A to Admty. and others) -

Operation "Lolapa". Operation "Lolapa" sail M.T.B. 718 at 2200A Feb. 12th in accordance with Admiralty instruction dated Feb. 8th W/T on 1520 K/cs changing to 1570 K/cs at 1000A Feb. 13th. callsign (IWWZ) "Cofox" only held speed 14 knots returning at 16 knots request air escort be arranged codeword "Chemical".  
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 121610A to C. in C. Rosyth)

/Patrols...

War Diary12.2.1945  
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Patrols. Intend to sail MORSE 1100A/14th February through  
 (a) 60.00 00.30. (b) 59 degs. 20' 01 degs. 15'.  
 (c) 59.00 01.54. (d) 58.30 01.54. (e) 57.35  
 1.15 to patrol 15 miles 180 degs. and 000 degs from  
 mid point 57.35 01.15. Proceeding on the surface at C.O's  
 discretion speed 9 knots.  
 (2) All positions north and east.  
 Passed Admiralty for information.  
 (S.O.M/S Lerwick, 121812 to F.O.S.M. A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth)

Minesweeping Following mine detonated to-day.  
 off East Coast. (1) 1207/12/2/45.  
 (2) "Q" LL and SA VARANGA, ROTHERSLADE.  
 (3) O.N. (4) 2½ cables.  
 (5) ROTHERSLADE 280 degs. 12A 1.6 miles S 15 E.  
 (6) Red 170 degs. 2 cables.  
 (7) Blue to starboard. (8) 2½ seconds. (9) Probably 15.1.45.  
 (10) No. (11) Smooth. (12) No swell.  
 (13) Heavy explosion. Surface disturbance.  
 (14) -  
 (F.O.Humber, 121845A to C. in C. Nore, Admty.)

OperationsChannel

Patrols. Establish following patrols along convoy route.  
 First Division 3 ships Pendeen to Lizard. Codeword  
 "Links Able". Second Division 2 ships from 20  
 miles North East to 20 miles South West of  
 Trevose Head Codeword "Links Baker". Report ships detailed and  
 Senior Officers.  
 (2) Senior Officers of Divisions adjust their positions so as  
 to follow 2 to 3 miles Astern of all convoys whilst passing  
 through the area of their patrols. When two or more convoys are in  
 the area at the same time Senior Officers select the convoy to be  
 trailed at their discretion.  
 (3) When weather permits carry out search inshore to 15 Fathom  
 line at night for Schnorkels including area Eastward of Scilly  
 Isles.  
 (4) One ship was torpedoed 340 Eddystone 4 at 1730A/11.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 120035A to E.G.3)  
 Immediate to ships important to remainder.  
 (1) NARBOROUGH take ICARUS and LORING under her orders and proceed  
 at 1700A to establish patrol area limits route E Q.Z.S. 636 50.00  
 N. 01.15 W.  
 (2) At 0800A/13th ICARUS is to proceed Portsmouth for lay over.  
 Berth as ordered by Capt. (D) 1.  
 (3) At 0800A/13th LORING, NARBOROUGH proceed to relieve LOCH  
 KILLIN patrolling area 01.50 W. 50.00 N. 01.15 W. Coast of France.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 121225A to NARBOROUGH, ICARUS, LORING)  
 (1) On reaching 02.30 W. detach and proceed to patrol area  
 10 miles N. of route W. between 01.35 W. and 02.10 W.

/(2) ...

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Patrols. (2) Leave patrol so as to R/V with convoy  
(Contd.) T.B.C.67 S.O. in HEATHER E.T.A. F buoy 0815A/13th.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121252A to CONVULVULUS,  
ANCHUSA)  
(1) Slip before dark and proceed to patrol area  
50 degs. 00' N. 49 degs. 45' N. between 00 degs. 30' W. and 01 degs.  
15' W.  
(2) Leave patrol at 0730A/13th and anchor off St. Helens.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121253A to ASCENSION, LOCH LOMOND)

Possible Am attacking contact in position 50 degs. 24' N.  
U-Boat. 00 degs. 17' W. long range.  
(SIDMOUTH, 120801 to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
My 120801 50 degs. 24' N. 00 degs. 57' W.  
(SIDMOUTH, 120838A to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
Contact lost. Carrying out observant.  
(SIDMOUTH, 120840 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Second E.G.3 1st Division proceed forthwith to search  
possible rectangle sides 090 degs. 22 miles and 180 degs.  
U-Boat. 12 miles from position 50 degs. 06' N. 04 degs. 25  
W. My 120035A para. 4 refers. E.G.2 with  
Force 27 (3 Algerines) and BRISSENDEN hunting  
to northward.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121320A to S.O.E.G.3)

LABUAN attacked bottom target at 1309 in position 50 degs. 08'  
09", 04 degs. 08' 53" classified wreck 36 feet high, 100 feet  
long. gives off heavy oil fuel.  
(DOMINICA, 121447A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Cancel my 121320. E.G.3, 1st Division proceed to search area  
North of 50.00 N. and bounded by longitudes 04.18 W. and 05.03 W.  
paying particular attention to inshore waters.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121720A to S.O.E.G.3)

SS. PERSIER Regret to report Belgian ship PERSIER in B.T.C.  
torpedoed. 65 torpedoed in position 340 degs. Eddystone 4  
miles at 1730A on 11th February. Survivors  
include Master, two D.E.M.S. ratings, 2 signalmen  
and two women. Total 44. landed at Plymouth.

One male survivor since died. Missing include Commander E.  
Wood R.N.R. (Commodore of convoy) and two women. Total 19 of  
which 5 bodies have since been landed. Search for survivors  
continues. Rescue tug ALLEGIANCE was in attendance at 1845 but  
owing to bad weather conditions and water-logged state of ship  
attempts at salvage were impossible. Due to darkness and bad  
visibility ship was lost sight of and is believed to have sunk  
in Sigbury Bay.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121611A to Admty.)

26th E.G. Com. (D) W.A. is requested to sail 26th E.G. at  
1200/13th at best speed without incurring weather  
damage to vicinity Long Ships thence as ordered  
by C. in C. Plymouth.

(2) On relief by 26th E.G. C. in C. Plymouth if requested to  
detail 2nd E.G. to Liverpool for lay-over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 121730A to Com. (D) W.A., C. in C. Plymouth)  
/Cable ...

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.Cable re-  
pairs post-  
poned.

In view of U-Boat activity in Eddystone area p.m. 11th EDWARD JEREMAC is not to sail to carry out cable repairs until further orders.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121813A to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

OperationsWestern ApproachesPossible  
U-Boat.

Your 112347. Box search being carried out by 4th E.G. and 3 ships of 5th E.G. 4th E.G. passed through position at 2240. CHARLOCK fired a star shell at 2238.  
(S.O.E.G.4, 120215 to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols.

Patrol in area between 55 degs. 15' and 55 degs. 30' N. and 06 degs. 00' 07 degs. 15' W.  
(C. in C. W.A.121001A to S.O. Force 33)  
Your 121001A acknowledged. E.T.A. Eastern end  
Patrol Area 1500A/12th FITZROY, DEANE, RUPERT, BYRON in company. REDMILL delayed approx. 6 hours with engine defects.  
(S.O. Force 33, 121113A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti  
U-Boat deep  
mining.

Detail 2 escorts to R/V APOLLO at 0030A/13th in 55 degs. 32' N. 06 degs. 45' W. and escort her whilst laying mines. Escort to rejoin group on completion of lay. Maximum laying speed 18 knots.  
(C. in C. W.A. 121010A to S.O.E.G.21, APOLLO)  
Your 121010A. FITZROY and RUPERT detailed.  
(S.O.E.G.21, 121135A to C. in C. W.A. APOLLO)

OperationsNorwayOperation  
"S.C".

Ramose Terrace sailed HITRA at 0200A/12th Feb.  
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 120202A to A.C.O.S.)  
Ramose Bulge. Sailed HESSA at 0200A/12th Feb.  
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 120204A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations  
V.P.79.

My 111155A. H. Nor. M.S. NARVIK returned at 0730A to-day 12th February.  
(2) M.T.B's slipped in position 61 degs. 21' N. 00 degs. 45' E. at 0015A/12th Feb. and proceeded for V.P.79.  
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 120827A to A.C.O.S.)

/Patrols ...

War Diary12.2.1945  
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorwaySubmarine

## Patrols.

Intend to sail VIKING 1100A/14th February through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence by route Orange to 64 degs. 30' thence through 64 degs. 30' 08 degs. 41' E. to patrol in Fro Havet North of 63 degs. 50' or approaches to Folden Fiord.

(2) VIKING proceeds diving by day north of 62 degs. speed south of 62 degs. 9 knots. North of 62 degs. 125 miles per 24 hours. (S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 121647 to F.O.S.M. A.C.O.S.)

S/M positions 0800/13th Feb. and movements for following 24 hours. Zone A times.

(A) DOLFIJN as A.M. 052017.

(B) VENTURER leaves patrol off Hellisoy to pass through 60 degs. 36' N. 03 degs. 45' E. 0230/14th thence towards 61 degs. 04' N. 02 degs. 01' E. diving by day.

(C. of W. 121908 to A.I.G.25)

Operation "Silenium" one completed. Nothing sighted. Believe undetected.

(2) Following from DEVONSHIRE. 4 mines successfully laid no air opposition. All A/C returned safely.

(NORFOLK, 122115A to C. in C. H.F.)

E.T.A. 0230 Tuesday 13th with DIDO in company. Request Hoxa 0330.

(NORFOLK, 122130A to A.C.O.S.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

## Patrols.

S.O.E.G.9's 112207 contact not yet regained. 9th E.G. patrolling N.W. 10th E.G. East from position 250 degs. 12 miles from last contact. (S.O. E.G.10, 120200A to C. in C. Rosyth)

If not in contact shift Gamma as follows 9th E.G. between 60 degs. 47' N. 05 degs. 40' W. and 60 degs. 13' 05 degs. 02' 10th E.G. between 60 degs. 13' 05 degs. 02' 59 degs. 40' 04 degs. 21'. (C. in C. Rosyth, 121030A to S.O.E.G's, 9, 10)

Situation 2000 tonight Monday. E.G.9 patrol between 60 degs. 47' N. 05 degs. 40' W. and 60 degs. 13' N. 05 degs. 02' W. E.G.10 patrol between 60 degs. 13' N. 05 degs. 02' W. and 59 degs. 40' N. 04 degs. 21' W.

NORFOLK, DIDO, DEVONSHIRE, PREMIER, PUNCHER and 7 destroyers in vicinity 61 degs. 00' N. 00 degs. 05' W. to Scapa 14. (A.C.O.S.121149A to Admty.)

If not in contact at 1900A tonight act as follows.

(2) S.O. E.G.10 organise search with both groups through position (A) 61 degs. 00' N. 03 degs. 00' W. and (B) 61 degs. 10' N. 02 degs. 00' W.

(3) On arrival position B. 10th E.G. pass to northward of position 61 degs. 42' N. 01 degs. 00' W. and establish Gamma between 61 degs. 30' N. and 62 degs. 00' N. on Greenwich Meridian 9th E.G. pass to Southward of position 61 degs.10' N.

12.2.1945  
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Patrols.  
 (Contd.)

01 degs. 00' W. and establish Gamma between 61 degs. 00' N. and 61 degs. 30' N. on Greenwich Meridian.  
 (4) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.H.28 dated 29th Jan. (C. in C. Rosyth, 121602A to S.O. E.G's 9, 10)  
 If in pursuit of the enemy can Q.Z.X. 816 be disregarded.  
 (S.O.E.G.9, 121723A to C. in C. Rosyth)

Casualties and Defects

SS. THEMIS-  
 TOCLES.

Sustained heavy damages, returning yours 11 hours B.S.T. Master.  
 (THEMISTOCLES, No T.O.O. to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven) Returned from O.N.284. THEMISTOCLES damaged owing to grounding.  
 (N.C.S.O. Milford, 121104A to C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

SS. AGWIDALE.  
 v. SS. TAXI-  
 ARCHIS.

Collision between 36 and 37 Buoy will proceed in when fog clears, will need tugs and docking.  
 (TAXIARCHIS, 121055Z to Admty.) Important. Received 1040 G.M.T. from (WHCA) AGWIDALE. "Hit starboard bow, returning to port as soon as weather clears. 121040Z" Ends.  
 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 121140A to Admty)

PRINSES  
 ASTRID,  
 L.S.I.(S).

Regret to report PRINSES ASTRID struck East pierhead on entering Calais at 1036 to-day. Preliminary inspection shows hole about 8 foot vertical by 4' horizontal abreast frame 130. Naval ratings messdeck and through block compartment flooded. Bulkheads forward and aft of these compartments holding. Ship in no danger of sinking. Further report will be sent after survey but anticipate that ship will be able to proceed to U.K. under own steam after temporary repairs. No casualties.  
 (S.N.O.B.O.P.F.121216A to V.A.Dover)

Movements

CONRAD,  
 cruiser.

Admiralty's 180200 January not to all addressees. Intend to sail P.S. CONRAD eastabout to Scapa passing Nab 0015A/13th February speed of advance 18 knots.

(2) Routed standard route and Q.Z.S. 513, 517 to Dumpton buoy adjusting speed to be off North Foreland at 0730A/13th by Q.Z.S. 463, 577 to B.1 buoy and by searched channels in force, through Barrow Deep and The Woud, following diversions ordered in Q.Z.Y.546 and Q.Z.Y.543 and passing Tyne side on Q.Z.S.334.



12.2.1945  
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

CONRAD  
cruiser.  
(Contd.)

- (3) E.T.A. Duncansby Head 1400A/14th Feb.
  - (5) C. in C. Nore is requested provide fighter protection as necessary while in the Nore Command.
  - (6) P.S. CONRAD will zig-zag whilst in Portsmouth Command and thereafter at discretion.
  - (7) Request shore lights as indicated by the plot.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth, 121032A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F. C.S.10, P.S. CONRAD.)

Cancel my 121032. Ship detained by defects.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121914 to A.C.O.S. C. in C. H.F. C.S.10, P.S. CONRAD)

BARFLEUR  
destroyer.

- BARFLEUR route -
- A. 180 degs. Lizard three miles.
  - B. 44.00 N. 10.09 W.
  - C. 37 N. 10 W.
  - D. 35.51 N. 06.10 W. then Gibraltar.
- Cancel A.M.072147 not to C. in C. Med.  
(Plot (O.D.) 121033A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Intend to sail BARFLEUR at 1400A/13th February to Gibraltar.

- (2) Routed as in A.M. 121033.
- (C. in C. Plymouth, 121647A to F.O.G.M.A.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

C.T.G. 63.1. My 0815A/12th - position 180 Europa Point 3 miles. Proceeding Horta in accordance F.O.G.M.A.'s 111024A, S. of A. 15. (C.T.G. 63.1, 120816 to F.O.G.M.A.)

K.M.S.83. Being in all respects ready for war you are sailing at 1745A/12th Feb. to R/V and acting as additional close escort K.M.S.83.  
(2) K.M.S.83 consisting of 18 ships. 24 D.S. and 6 L.S.T. Cdre. Grant in MACHARDA is routed through etc.  
(4) Escort OAKHAM CASTLE and Group3 consisting of KILMINGTON and KILMELFORD last 2 transfer from M.K.S.82 to R/V 0900A/13th February.  
(5) BALINDERRY to proceed through northern half of Strait thence by reverse convoy route. S. of A. 12 knots. (F.O.G.M.A., 121057A to BALINDERRY.)

RICHELIEU, French Battleship RICHELIEU with MALCOLM in exercises. company sail at 0830A Feb. 13th to comply with my 091030?\*.  
(2) All gunnery exercises will be carried out with initial position 90° Europa Point 20 miles.  
(5) Speed will be adjusted to arrive Mers-el-Kebir in daylight on all occasions.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 121157A to C. in C. Med.)  
\* Intended programme for F.S. RICHELIEU.

South Atlantic

E. Groups, composition of. (1) Your 111208A\*. You were notified of incorrectness of Pink List in my 101121/. COWSLIP has been in 56th Group since last August.  
(2) Composition of E.G.55 and 57 negative KILS\* is E.G.57 LOWESTOFT (S.O.), BELLWORT, CROCUS, E.G.55 WELLINGTON (S.O.), WILLOWHERB, WOODRUFF last-named being refitted Freetown at your request. As all groups have had a period of 3 months training under their present Senior Officers it is recommended that they may operate as such. Your 101207A refers.  
(3) 56th Group will not require change at present unless situation requires 55th Group to be sent to this command before completion of 56th Groups present escort duty in your area. (F.O.C.W.Af., 121144Z to F.O.G.M.A.)  
\* Ref. 101121. No indication that Pink List is incorrect.  
/ Pink List incorrect.

/ASTURIAS ...

12.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

ASTURIAS.

My 071129\* para. 4 last part. E.G.56 are to continue escort of ASTURIAS to Gibraltar. Request you include in sailing orders instructions to detach corvettes to fuel at Casablanca at

discretion of S.O.5. Escorts being retained on screen at all times. Pass to E.G.56 on arrival.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 121409Z to Comar Dakar.)

\* Intend to sail ASTURIAS in tow of ZWARTE ZEE and THAMES 1400/8.

Intend sailing ANNAMITE S.O., F.S. GALEUE, F.S. CHEVREUIL and F.S. LOBELIA at 0500Z/13th to relieve E.G.56 at Point B at 0900Z.

(French Admiral Commanding, Dakar, 121642Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

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12.2.1945.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Riviera operations. U.S.S. MCLANAHAN was fired upon by large calibre gun which appeared to be in position near the San Remo cathedral.  
(2) F.S. BASQUE and U.S.S. MCLANAHAN were straddled at end the best defence against (group missing) of activity from enemy artillery is to keep ships as far as possible from San Remo and in firing position for as short a time as possible.  
(Comflankforce, 121113A to Flank Force, S.B.L.O.)

BARFLEUR: trials. Provided delay in CALEDON's arrival in U.K. is acceptable she can be made available for BARFLEUR gunnery radar trials at Gibraltar referred to in A.M. 121040 September. My 181721 September para. 2 and my 091929 February refer.  
(C. in C. Med., 121212A to Admty.)  
Reply: 142354A.

Y.M/Sweepers allocation of. Please see my 031802 Jan. The situation remains unchanged. A.M. 102326 refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 121216A to Admty.)

Linrep No. 230. Operations 8th-11th February. (2) Naval. Gulf of Genoa. Near Franco-Italian frontier Allied warships have made a number of successful bombardments and have sunk 40 drifting mines during the last 9 days. Coastal craft have had 3 successful night encounters with enemy ships and craft. In the first, 7 torpedoes were fired at an armed merchant ship 500 yards off shore near Mesco Point. Two hits and the subsequent sinking of the ship are claimed as after withdrawing our force heard a tremendous explosion. In the second 3 coasters were attacked entering Savona. 5 torpedoes were fired and 2 of the coasters blew up and sank. Off Punta Baffe 3 F lighters were attacked and a torpedo hit on one is claimed.  
Adriatic. Coastal craft on night patrol near Port Daila on west coast of Istria encountered a merchant ship of 3000 tons, screened by E-Boats and a torpedo boat. The latter sank after being hit by two torpedoes. The merchant ship reached Parenzo after being hit by a torpedo and was then sunk by Beaufighters.  
Coastal Air Force rocket projectile aircraft successfully attacked a three to four thousand ton M/V previously damaged by naval forces and left it sunk resting on harbour bed at Parenzo Istria.  
Balkan Air Force rocket aircraft attacked the harbour installations Onrab and Lussinpiccolo.  
(A.F.H.Q., 121345A to W.O.)

UGANDA. Sail to pass position 309 at 1800B/13th and proceed by basic eastbound route to Port Said. E.T.A. position 399 0400B/14th, S. of A. 15 knots codeword "Denver" 345.

12.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

UGANDA.  
(Contd.)

(2) N.O.I.C. Port Said is requested to arrange Canal transit and N.O.I.C. Suez to onward sail to join British Pacific Fleet.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 121420B to UGANDA, amended by 121555B.)

Operation  
"Goldflake".

Shipping transfer of troops and Nationals etc.  
(P.S.T.O. Med., 121515A to D. of S.T.)  
See Lion Copy.

Split -  
Enemy  
explosive  
M/Bs.  
attack.

Following is brief report of attack by explosive M/Bs. on Split harbour between 0530 and 0600 Monday 12th Feb.  
(2) M.L. 12(37?) on patrol off Split saw nothing. DELHI's magnetic receiver detecting nothing.

(3) At 0537 officer of watch heard a few shots. At 0540 engine heard approaching stern of

DELHI followed by explosive boat hitting L.C.F.(2) 8 secured on port quarter of DELHI.

(4) At 0541 Pua searchlight illuminated 3 boats manoeuvring astern of DELHI. DELHI opened fire with Oerlikon. Leading boat hit and stopped reported as seen to sink (doubtful). Second and third boats engaged and turned back.

(5) At 0542 boat which hit L.C.F.(2) 8 blew up 15 yards of L.C.F.(3) 8 abreast of DELHI number (74) gun. DELHI power failed temporarily.

(6) At 0545 boat exploded on surface in centre of harbour.

(7) At 0550 DELHI fired star-shells over approach to Split.

(8) At 0600 steering west outside boom illuminated by Partisan searchlight. Engaged by Partisan and blew up.

(9) S.N.O. Vis requested to lay on air search for retiring forces if any. Partisans asked to look out for prisoners. 3 finally captured.

(10) First reports of damage optimistic. It now appears L.C.F.(3) 8 both engines out of action, port engineer's store flooded, one generator off its bed, radar W/T compass etc. out of action, a lot of minor damage.

(11) DELHI. Subject to basin trial engines appear correct. Rudder head and rudder damaged. Further report will be made. Remaining damage superficial.

(12) No casualties.

(13) Wreckage picked up by M/L outside harbour includes one float marked 540 another 542 2 unmarked and paddles marked 505.

(14) Split harbour and approaches closed owing to possible danger from mines.

(S.B.N.O. Split, 121731A to F.O.T.A.L.I., Admty.)

See 151113A. *pag 249*

Black Sea  
Navigation.

My 302007\* Jan., para. (3)

Soviet Naval authorities confirm that these beacons are now working.

(30 Mission Moscow, 121840A to Admty.)

\* Soviet Naval authorities agree to provide additional radio beacons which they consider should enable ships to make passage in safety.

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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.)

*Operation Goldflake  
Shipping for Transport of  
Troops & Nationals etc.*

121515A February

From P.S.T.O.Med.

Date 12. 2. 45.

Received 2147

Naval Cypher (XF) by W/T

Addressed D. of S.T.  
Repeated C. in C.Med.

IMPORTANT

<sup>lc</sup>  
GOLFLAKE. To meet lift required in personnel ships ex Italy approximately 32000 and counting on (corrupt group) the two H.S.GENERALS the following is programmed between 22nd Feb. and 19th March. Para 1 my 060939 not to C. in C.Med. also refers.

- (A) BANFORA, VILLE D'ORAN three trips each.
- (B) ESPERANCE BAY two trips.
- (C) SIBAJAK, HIGHLAND BRIGADE, INDRAPOERA and GENERALS ~~WILLIAMSON~~ BLACK, RICHARDSON one trip each.

2. BANFORA, HIGHLAND BRIGADE and INDRAPOERA with last flight of five division from Middle East will proceed to destination without transshipping in Italy. This will count against para. 1 (A) and (C) above.

3. Disposal of British ships on completion of (?move) will be as follows

- (A) SIBAJAK to Algiers to embark and join M.K.F.40 for U.K.
- (B) ESPERANCE BAY and HIGHLAND BRIGADE to Algiers to embark 3000 German POW for Mideast where expected time of arrival 13th March. This should meet requirement in para 3 (B) of your 052237A and date in para 1 (A) Admtly 051902.
- (C) VILE D'ORAN, BANFORA, EASTERN PRINCE and INDRAPOERA will be retained to meet GOLDFLAKE requirements ex Greece and Middle East and other Med. movements.

4. <sup>lc</sup>  
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD probably required for GOLDFLAKE ex Greece and Middle East your 052237A para 3 (A) refers. Please confirm you could replace her if necessary if she is required to proceed U.K. or return to Odessa in accordance with para.4 of Troopers 67354 (M) 8 Feb. 10 not to C. in C.Med. In this connection would appreciate reason for choice of Malta if transshipment is to be effected.

P.T.O

5. EMPIRE PRIDE after arrival Marseilles from Basrah will make one voyage Oran to Naples. At Naples she will embark approximately 1000 TD for U.K. proceeding Malta to embark personnel for U.K. and join M.K.F.40.

6. EASTERN PRINCE will lift reinforcements N.A. to Marseille.

7. Other vessels available for use as in para. 3 (C) above will be ERIDAN, CHAMPOLION, CAP TOURNE and PRINCESS KATHLEEN. Of these last three named presently allocated movement troops Italy to Greece and inter Greece ports and evacuation Italian POW from Greece to Heel.

8. Agreed.

121515A

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
U.W.R.  
D.O.D. (H) (4)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.C.  
Plot (2)  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D. of S.T. (6)  
Hd. of M. (10)  
N.A. Mails  
D. of S. (2)  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake  
A.D.O.D. (C.O.)  
D. of P. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
D.N.I. (4)

12.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation  
Report  
No. 558.

Gulf of Genoa. Short bombardment near San Remo U.S.S. MCLANAHAN near missed by 2 large calibre shells and sustained damage. Casualties one killed, 2 seriously wounded and 6 wounded.

(2) Adriatic. DELHI at Split was attacked by explosive M/Bs. early this morning. One hit and damaged an L.C.F. alongside her. 2 blew up after being engaged in one case by Oerlikon and in the other by Partisan defence. 2 others sighted and may have laid mines in harbour. Damage to DELHI does not affect seagoing and fighting efficiency.

(3) Libya. LIDDESDALE and 3 tugs standing by A.F.D.24. PRINCE SALVOR due to arrive today, bad weather has so far precluded effective salvage action. I have stated dock grinding heavily chances of salvage very slight and HESPERIA total loss.

(4) Greece. EXMOOR sank M.L. from which 40 Germans had landed on Nisero, some troops from Symi sent to deal with them. (C. in C. Med., 122152A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)



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12.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B Indian Ocean. Ref. my T.O.O. 100433. Position  
dispositions. given was position of sinking PETER SILVESTER  
not of rescue of survivors.  
Other areas no change.  
(C. in C. E.I.S., 120420Z to S. & A. E.I.S.)

IMPALA. IMPALA your 101155A not to Cdre. Aden. Sailed  
Basra 4th Jan. for Aden via Khor Kuwait and  
Masirah. My 040605\* Jan., N.O.I.C. Hormuz  
130814 Jan, N.A.L.O. Masirah's 201008 Jan.  
gave E.T.A. Aden 26th Jan. No further  
information.  
(S.N.O.P.G., 120735Z to Admty.)  
\* H.M.S. IMPALA sailed.

VIRAGO. Arrived and sailed VIRAGO.  
(Com. Aden., 121646Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

12.2.1945.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U-boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 121307Z and Cominch 121528).

Corvette SUMMERSIDE. H.M.C.S. SUMMERSIDE returns to U.K. to resume duties under operational control of Admiralty. (C. in C. C.N.A., 121615Z NIOBE etc).

Fishing Fleet. B.N.A. Lisbon's 091945 para. 5, requirements will be supplied para. 6 no objection to direct route. (N.S.H.Q. Ott. 121659Z to Admty).

Convoy Cycles. O.N.S/S.C. convoy cycle will be closed to ten days commencing as follows:-  
S.C.168 Feb. 25th. S.C.169 March 7th. O.N.S.44 March 12th, O.N.S.45 March 22nd and so on.  
(2) Request N.C.S.Os. concerned may be informed (D.T.D., 121925A to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa etc).

French cruisers The matter raised in C. in C. Med's 201750 Jan. has not yet been officially referred by B.A.D. to Cominch. Should this action now be taken? If so, it might be advantageous to include Admty. view as expressed in para. 4 of A.M. 111812. (B.A.D. Washington, 122109Z to Admty.)  
Reply 140100A.

Submarine Attack and Sighting Summary. Admiralty give to H.Q.C.C. Change position Cominch 112030 para. A to 052° 29' N., 028° 30' W. JAMES H. BREASTED; total loss due to enemy A/C off Mindoro about 29th Dec.  
Para. D. (1) 121145Z R.A.F. Transport A/C sighted surfaced U-boat course 150° in 042° 35' N., 037° 10' W. May have been weather ship.  
(2) 111942Z KOINER and U.S.S. HOWARD+CROW (?attacked) sound contacts area 039° 30' N., 072° 58' W.  
(Cominch, 122112Z to Admty. etc, and N.S.H.Q. 122115Z)

Australia & New Zealand.

Final assessment of Fleet Carriers B.P.F C. in C. B.P.F. 120841Z to Admty. Amended by 150125Z. See Lion Copy.

/CITY...

Ar N.Z.  
198A

# TOP SECRET

IN

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

120841Z/February

Date 13.2.45.

Reed. 1838

From O. in C.B.P.F.

*Fleet Carriers Pacific East.*

## NAVAL CYPHER XD BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty.  
Repeated F.O.C.A. V.A.B.P.F. C. in C. E.I. F.O.A.E.I.  
F.O.N.A.S.(A)

Following is final assessment of Fleet Carriers.  
Requirements for aircrews for next two months operations.  
Requirement cannot be met from local resources.

2. Requirements are based on providing and maintaining 25 percent overbearing for embarked squadrons and allow wastage rate of 10 per cent per month for aircrews during two months operations. Understand this corresponds with U.S.N. experience.

3. (a) Type	(b) Initial equipment it is intended to embark	(c) Aircrews required before carriers leave Sydney	(d) Aircrews required for 2 months wastage	(e) Total required over next two months
Corsair	72	N11	15	15
Hellcat	29	<del>113</del>	5	39
Seafire	40	6	38	14
Firefly	12	2	2	4
Avenger	72	<del>112</del>	16	18

Figures for Avenger and Firefly also indicate number of observers required. Sufficient T.A.G's are available.

4. Numbers shown in para. 3 are on assumption that 22 Corsair pilots are made available to Fleet Carriers ex SLINGER and 8 Hellcat pilots ex SPEAKER. Wastage at one per month for SPEAKER will also be required.

5. F.O.A.E.I. 080618 indicates that there are no spare pilots available in Ceylon.

6. The question of pilots for ferrying and testing aircraft in Australia and for periodical flying of reserve aircraft in forward areas is also causing concern. F.O.N.A.S.(A) 111038 December refers. At present requirements in Australia are being met by R.A.A.F. but this may not continue and these pilots are not available for tropics.

7. Request immediate information as to prospects of meeting requirements in paragraphs 3 and 6. A forecast of the build up of aircrews for all types and of second line pilots is urgently required.

8. A.M.170354 January. It is expected that 706 Pool Squadron will be established in Australia as soon as personnel arrive, about mid-March.

9. C. in C. E.I. pass to F.O. Air E.I.

120841Z Amended 150125Z

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)  
2nd 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)  
Sec.  
Nav. Sec.  
P.A.S. (NP)  
P.A.S. (S)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
D. of P. (2)  
D.O.D. (H) (4)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.C.O.D. (4)  
D.A.U.D.  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.A/S.W.  
D.T.S.D.  
D.A.W.T.  
D.C.  
D.A.E.  
D.N.A.O.  
N.A. 2nd S.L.  
N.A. 2nd S.L. (Air)  
G.C.C.R.M.  
A.C.N.P.  
D. of M.  
D.N.T. (2)  
D.A.C.R.  
Hd. of M. (8)  
Hd. of Air (4) (AOD2/45)  
Admiral Blake  
Hd. of N.  
Hd. of C.W. (2)  
D.C.N.A.E.  
D. of S. (2)  
D.N.A.R.  
D.A.M.R.  
W.D.

War Diary.

12.2.1945.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

CITY OF  
PARIS.

CITY OF PARIS sailing Sydney about 15th Feb. with Service Personnel also Chinese, Goanese and Lascar Merchant crews for Hollandia via Manus. 2. Ship is available to U.S. Authorities if desired for carriage of approximately 246 officers

1,310 Troops from Manus and Hollandia to East Coast of Canada via Panama.

(A.C.N.B., 121110Z to N.O.I.C. New Guinea).

B.P.F.  
Shipping.

*Use of LS(L)*

Your 300800 Jan.

Approved to retain LOTHIAN, GLENEARN and one Empire Weapon class L.S.I.(L) on loan as a temporary measure for forthcoming operations and not as a permanent part of the Fleet train.

2. Alterations to LOTHIAN should not prejudice her further employment as L.S.H.(L). Your para. 6 refers.

3. Flag Officer Force X and staff should return to U.K. as convenient after 1st March when Force X ceases to exist as such.

4. The three remaining Empire L.S.I.(L) are required to return to U.K. by most direct route as soon as practicable after release by Com. 7th Fleet in order that they may be prepared for further service. LAMONT is required at her refitting berth not later than 15th June and earlier if possible. Request you will sail these ships accordingly.

5. Whilst recognising the difficulties with which you are faced you will appreciate that there are very strong objections to the protracted use of either assault or personnel shipping, of which there is an acute shortage, as harbour ships. Force X has been released by Cominch primarily for preparation for the 2nd Assault Force, and apart from the delay entailed in getting this Force ready for operations in S.E.A.C., it will invite American criticism if the majority of the ships continue in the Pacific in a role for which they were not designed.

6. The general shortage of personnel shipping is not only delaying the deployment of forces overseas, but is creating major political and administrative difficulties by curtailing the return of Russian repatriates, preventing the exchange of civilian internees in Japanese hands and delaying the movement of German prisoners-of-war. All these are major problems now confronting the War Cabinet and, owing to world shortage of personnel shipping, will have to be resolved by the C.C.S. in the near future. The continued use of L.S.I.(L)s in a static role is therefore out of the question.

7. Their Lordships note para. 11 of your 290845 Jan. and request that your long term requirements for headquarters and base ships may be framed in the light of the above considerations (Sec. to V.C.N.S., 122344A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

12.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/12th Feb.

Para. A. Belgian SS. PERSIER torpedoed at 1630Z/  
11th Feb. in 50° 24' N., 4° 20' W.

Para. B. A/C K/59 sighted Snort, course 296°  
and attacked at 1611Z/11th Feb. in 58° 40' N., 8°  
28' W.

Para. C. 1. E.G.9 attacked contact at 1924Z/11th  
Feb. in 60° 40' N., 4° 32' W.

2. A/C U/547 obtained A.S.V. contact and sighted black object  
with wake at 2335Z/11th Feb. in 60° 4' N., 3° 52' W.

3. A/C L/206 obtained contact at 0050Z/12th Feb. in 60° 14' N.  
5° 45' W.

4. SIDMOUTH attacked contact at 0701Z/12th Feb. in 50° 24' N.,  
00° 57' W.

Para. D. American SIDNEY LANIER attacked possible periscope  
at 1135Z/11th Feb. in 8° 30' S., 41° 50' E.

(D.D.I.C., 121108A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U/B

Estimates.

Dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 121359A and 121405A to A.I.G.)

13.2.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. BARFLEUR has now sailed for Gibraltar and the East.

2. C. in C. H.F. agrees to the reduction of Loch Ewe to care and maintenance.

Channel.

3. As a general rule merchant ships are again to downse navigation lights in the Channel west of the line Beachy Head - Cap d'Antifer.

Western Approaches.

4. ORKNEY, frigate, was in collision with SS. BLAIRNEVIS in M.K.S. 81 off Holyhead. Both vessels are making for Liverpool.

Norway.

5. M.T.Bs. 709 and 711, on operation "V.P. 82" to Norway, had a brush with enemy patrol craft. They claim hits but were themselves untouched.

Northern Waters.

6. Convoy J.W. 64 has arrived in Kola Inlet. DENBIGH CASTLE, corvette, was mined in the approaches and beached in Bolshaya Volokovaya Bay, where she capsized. The convoy was twice attacked by torpedo aircraft but received no damage. Seven Ju.88s were destroyed for certain, 7 probably, and 4 damaged. We lost 2 Wildcats and one pilot.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

North Adriatic 7. Tonight coastal craft on patrol off east coast of Istria destroyed three heavily armed craft. One of our M.T.Bs. was damaged and we had two killed and two wounded.

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SITUATION REPORT

East Indies.

S/M SUBTLE.

8.(a) H.M. S/M SUBTLE 3rd Far East patrol reports that between 1st and 4th February in vicinity of Butang Langkawi and Penang she sank by demolition 4 Junks totalling 70 tons.

(b) On 7th February in position 7° 28' N. 94° 56' E. 3 probable hits by torpedo on convoy of three 400 ton coasters escorted by 1 trawler. Escorts counter attack ineffective.

Movement.

9. FORMIDABLE arrived Trincomalee from Colombo.

Lower Burma and Tenasserim

10. 6 Beaufighters striking at craft in Irawaddy and shipping in Maitaban Harbour damaged 42 river and other craft.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines.

11. Cruiser/destroyer Task Force bombarded defence installations on Corregidor commencing shortly before noon and continuing through afternoon. Minesweepers swept Manila Bay entrance. 1200 6" and 2500 5" shells expended, no return fire.

Celebes.

12. Eight U.S. Liberators scored direct hits on two unidentified vessels in the Makassan Strait.

Timor.

13. U.S. Liberators attacked small shipping and barges round Soemba Islands (N.W. of Timor.)

Movements.

14.(a) HOWE sailed from Auckland for Sydney.  
(b) ARIADNE sailed from Sydney for Espiritu Santo.  
(c) LONDON and SUFFOLK sailed from Fremantle to Trincomalee.



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Reduction of Loch Ewe. Your 130659. If Home Fleet is obliged to leave Scapa for an alternative anchorage this is likely to be at very short notice and only because of enemy action.

(2) In such an event Fleet would probably move to Rosyth unless an enemy break-out appeared probable in which case move northwards to Faeroes or Iceland (C) would be preferable.

(3) It is, therefore, not desired to retain Loch Ewe particularly for Fleet use and reduction to care and maintenance can be accepted.

(C. in C.H.F., 132211A to Admty.)

Amalgamation of Home Fleet and Orkney and Shetland Commands. Pending approval of proposals in my letter No. 183/HF1/263 of 4th February request following may be promulgated, begins:-

(a) It has been decided that the Home Fleet and Orkneys and Shetlands Commands are to be amalgamated as from 1st March, 1945.

(b) From 0001A/20th February the Orkney and Shetland operational sea area will be abolished and be absorbed in the area under the operational control of C. in C. Rosyth. From this date C. in C. H.F. will also assume the operational control of M.T.Bs. and other vessels operating from Shetlands.

(c) On 1st March 1945, C. in C. Home Fleet will take over the Orkney and Shetland Command including the duties of Fortress Commander, Orkney.

(d) On 1st March Admiral Superintendent Orkney with title of Flag Officer Orkney will administer Lyness dockyard and all harbour ships and Naval establishments in Orkney and Thurso charge on behalf of C. in C. Home Fleet.

(E) As from 1st March:

(1) All signals concerning the administration of Naval and dockyard shore establishments in Orkneys should be addressed Flag Officer Orkney.

(2) All signals concerning local defence and local operations should be addressed C. in C. Home Fleet (Ashore) who is also the responsible officer in accordance with C.B. 01618 (Q) (43)

(3) All signals concerning the operation and administration of the Home Fleet including M.T.Bs. based on Shetlands should be addressed C. in C. Home Fleet afloat and repeated C. in C. Home Fleet ashore when considered necessary.

(f) Messages for F.O. Orkney and C. in C. Home Fleet (Ashore) should be routed to Lyness C.C.O. and those for C. in C. Home Fleet (Afloat) by T/P or W/T to Flag ship as appropriate.

Ends.

(2) The reason for transfer of operational control of 20th February is to allow necessary change round of personnel and offices ashore before transfer of Command on 1st March.

(C. in C.H.F. 132321A to Admty.)

Note: The amendments contained in C. in C.H.F.'s 142014 have been incorporated in the above.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

EREBUS Your 121910. Request sailing time may be adjusted so that EREBUS passes Dumpton at 0600/16th February. One Nore destroyer will be detailed as additional escort from Dumpton.  
(2) Should N.F. Channel be mined during the night 15th/16th EREBUS will be held in The Downs until safe channel can be found. This may be several days.  
(C. in C. Nore, 131337A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Discharge Situation Report Cositintrep No. 315 Part 4. Section "A".  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/12 February.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (Inc. coal).	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F.Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	69	250	7,928	12,623	732
Ostend	696	140	2,267	150	815
Boulogne	-	47	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,136	-	-
Calais	3,735	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,576	-	890
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>14,907</b>	<b>12,773</b>	<b>2,437</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	183	21,960	-	-
Cherbourg	10	32	7,548	4,222	4,012
Le Havre	4,683	149	5,556	-	2,465
Rouen	288	254	5,723	730	234
Granville	-	-	3,016	-	-
Ghent	-	-	476	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,981</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>44,279</b>	<b>4,952</b>	<b>6,711</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	2	565	17,159	-	2,298
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,537	4,651	2,527
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>19,696</b>	<b>4,651</b>	<b>4,825</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 131600A to Admty. and others.)

Operations

Channel

Patrols (1) ASCENSION, LOCH LOMOND weigh as requisite to be on Patrol by 1930 in area limits route E. Q.Z.S.636 latitude 50° 00' N. longitude 01° 15' W.  
(2) LOCH KILLIN, MOORSOM weigh as requisite to be on patrol by 1930 in area limits 50° 00' N. 49° 45' N. between 00° 30' W. and 01° 15' W.  
(3) All ships leave patrol at 0730 tomorrow 14th and enter Cherbourg. Further orders follow.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131104A to MOORSOM, LOCH KILLIN, ASCENSION, LOCH LOMOND.)

/(1)...

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Patrols  
(Contd.) (1) Sail at 1800 to patrol 10 miles North of route W. between 01° 35' W. and 02° 10' W.  
(2) Leave patrol as requisite to support convoy B.T.C.67 from 02° 30' W. S.O. in ROSELYS. E.T.A. 0030A 4th.  
(3) Detach at F buoy and anchor off St. Helens. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 131106A to ACACIA, DEPTFORD)

Possible U-boat Am searching Start Point and Eddystone. (S.O.E.G.2, 131207A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Anti-U-boat deep mining Weigh at 0215A 14th February and carry out serial A 1 Part 3.  
(2) Weather forecast will be passed at 0001 14th  
(3) Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131604A to PLOVER, BOSTON, BANGOR.)

Burning of Navigation lights in Channel Merchant ships are not normally to burn navigation lights in the English Channel except as stated below, or as provided for in WIMS 1 Article 178 paragraph (b).  
(2) Dimmed navigation lights are normally to be exhibited in clear weather and at full brilliance in thick weather when:  
(a) South and west of 51° 35' N. 2° 00' E.  
(b) East of a line joining the following points: Beachy Head, Cape d'Antifer, position 49° 40' N. 00° 10' W. thence on 180° to the coast of France.  
(3) N.C.S.Os. are to inform Masters of Merchant Ships.  
(4) A.M.948A (B.A.M.S. Lettered Message "O.N.") and A.M.949A of 25th November are cancelled.  
(D.T.D. 132027A Message, Home and Abroad.)

Second possible U-boat Several doubtful contacts attacked. Two ships in contact with possible submarine on bottom. Remainder continuing search. (S.O.E.G.17, 132215 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Patrols Following received from E.G.25 begins. Have assumed duty S.O. Force 36 in LA HULLOISE, S.C.166 will be supported STRATHADAM, THETFORD MINES in company. Ends.  
(2) Intend proceeding Belfast. My 130232 refer (S.O.E.G.5, 131015A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Intend to support S.C.166. Then patrol Tuskar Rock to Strumble Head. Suitable.  
(S.O.E.G.23, 131905A to C. in C.W.A.)

/Anti...

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Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Anti-U-boat deep mining Intend to be at 24 hours notice for steam until p.m. 20th Feb. when I can sail for next serial. (APOLLO, 131217A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Possible U-boat Am attacking contact in 49° 35' N. 07° 35' W. LOUISBERG in company. (BALSAM, 132000A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations

Norway

Operations "V.P." V.P.82 M.T.Bs. 711 and 709 returned at 0905A today 13th February. (2) Force was detected by 5 enemy patrol vessels at 2004A 12th February and during short engagement hits were scored on enemy. No damage or casualties to own unit. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 130951A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation "S.C.". Ramose Bulge HESSA returned at 1130A 13th February. (2) Operation successful. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131141A to A.C.O.S.) Ramose Terrace.

HITRA returned at 1135A 13th February. (2) Operation successful. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131143A to A.C.O.S.)

OPPORTUNE and ORWELL to be minelayers In view of the importance of the operations envisaged it has been decided that OPPORTUNE and ORWELL are to be converted to minelayers. Neither OB DURATE nor OBEDIENT will be operational before the end of March.

(2) The following arrangements have been made to take the ships in hand for conversion and boiler-cleaning about 24th February.

- (a) OPPORTUNE by Humber Graving Dock.
  - (b) ORWELL by Humber Shipwrights Company.
- (D.O.D.(H), 131740A to C. in C.H.F.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Patrols 9th and 10th E.G. passing position A in accordance with your 121602 speed 10 knots. Wind S.S.E. force 7 sea 43. (S.O.E.G.10, 130215 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Convoy J.W.64 Kola Inlet 13th Feb. Arrived J.W.64 with "Hotbed" escort at 0200A/13. White Sea portion

/detached...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy  
 J.W.64  
 (Contd.)

detached in position 70° 10' 30" N. 35° 37' E.  
 at 1500A/12 with LARK, LAPWING, ALNWICK CASTLE  
 and Russian escort.

(2) DENBIGH CASTLE believed mined in Approaches  
 and has been beached Bolshaya Volokovaya Bay.  
 Further signal follows.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 130915A to Admty.)

Kola Inlet 13th February. Arrived LARK, LAPWING and  
 ALNWICK CASTLE at 1630A/13. My 130915A refers.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 131712A to Admty.)

J.W.64 arrived safely Kola Inlet early 13th February White  
 Sea section having been detached on 12th February with 3 escort  
 vessels to support Russian escort.

DENBIGH CASTLE was mined or torpedoed in entrance to Inlet  
 abreast of last M/V to enter. She was towed in and beached in  
 sinking condition in Bolshaya Volokovaya Bay where she later

capsized. Salvage of secret material is in hand. J.W.64  
 was shadowed at intervals day and night from 6th to 11th  
 February inclusive but no German U-boats were met, T/A attack took

place at dawn 7th and in daylight on 10th February, latter by  
 more than 20 A/C. On other days icing gales and snow probably  
 made conditions unsuitable. No damage to convoy.

Bag of Ju. 88 is now estimated as follows:

By fighters 6th February 1 confirmed. 7th February 1 probable.

10th February 2 confirmed, 2 probable, 1 damaged.

By escorts and merchant ships, 7th February 1 confirmed.

10th February 3 confirmed, 4 probable, 3 damaged. Total 7

confirmed, 7 probable and 4 damaged. Our losses 6th February

1 Wildcat and Pilot. 10th February 1 Wildcat, Pilot saved.

(C.S.1 132017C to C. in C. H.F.)

Comprising  
 friendly  
 A/C cover  
 Scapa Flow.

Following received from N.L.O. Kirkwall. Begins -  
 "Stanger PWSS, Flotta Signal Station and Wea  
 Fea reported hearing an unidentified A/C at 0330 -  
 0335 today travelling in a N.W., direction over  
 the Flow.

(2) No A/C was plotted by shore radar.

(3) From subsequent investigations it was

considered that a Catalina of 18 Group bound for Sullom Voe  
 may have been in the area although according to this A/C's own  
 charted course he was 38 miles east of Kirkwall at the time  
 at a height of 1000 feet (unplotted).

(4) A/C of coastal and Training Command on night flying  
 exercises are repeatedly infringing the G.D.A. and made it  
 difficult to treat reports of A/C over the Flow as other than  
 friendly aircrafts off course. It is suggested that these  
 A/C should conform to O X O 31 para. 8 or not be routed north  
 of Wick and east of Strathy Point." Ends. T.O.O. 121720.  
 Incidents of this nature are occurring all too frequently  
 now defences have been reduced.

(A.C.O.S. 130944A to Admty.)

*Torpedoed by  
 U992,  
 + DS 151/58  
 Battle  
 Summary*

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

German  
Military  
Transport  
between  
Norway  
and  
Denmark.

Following Transport movements have been reported from Norway:

(1) Oslo.

Since recent sabotage of DONAU and ROLANDSECK it is reported Germans no longer ship troops from Amurang. ISAR and HANSA (I) which called at Oslo end of January: stayed only short time before proceeding Moss.

(A) See my 081159 para. 1 (C) ROLANDSECK which left Akero January 29th is reported to have left for Moss to load (B) German vessel KRUCKAU arrived Oslo January 30th from North Norway and left following day for Hamburg loaded with military baggage.

(2) Moss (A) NEIDENFELS arrived Moss Head January 30th. She embarked 1,100 men, 300 horses, 100 carts and about 80 motor vehicles and left 1400 January 31st for Aarhus.

(B) See my 081159 para. 1. (A) ISAR after bunkering in Oslo January 30th proceeded to Moss where she embarked 11 to 1,200 troops, 280 motor vehicles and 80 horses. She left for Aarhus 2200 January 31st.

(C) See my 031801 para. one. Following are further details of cargo loaded by NEIDENFELS in Moss January 25th. 300 horses and 75 carts 100 cars marked W.H. Staff car marked with German Eagle and letters T.P.11 to 1200 men with C.O. named Heilmann.

(3) Fredrikstad.

(A) It was reported late January that turn round times of troop transports in Fredrikstad had been speeded up. One transport is reported to call daily and troops are embarked immediately vessel arrives alongside quay.

(B) (?11) tugs and one salvage steamer escaped to Stronstad from Fredrikstad February 8th and since tugs are necessary for berthing larger vessels in this port it is anticipated that troop transport service will in future be somewhat retarded.

B.2

( N.A. Stockholm, 131617 to Admty.)

N.I.D. Comment. Para. 1. Amurang in Oslo unknown probably a mistake for Akers. German vessel KRUCKAU of 493 Grv. Para.2 Movements of transports believed correct.

Casualties and Defects

ORKNEY  
frigate  
SS. V.  
BLAIRNEVIS  
(4155 gr.t.)

BLAIRNEVIS in position I 3 buoy Q.Z.S.473. Proceeding under own steam at 8 knots. E.T.A. Bar Light vessel 1300A. Tug is now standing by to render assistance if necessary. Intend screening BLAIRNEVIS and tug to Bar Light Vessel. (ORKNEY, 131055A to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements

BARFLEUR  
destroyer

Sailed BARFLEUR as in my 121647A.  
(2) Speed of Advance 24 knots if weather permits.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131428A to F.O.G.M.A.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

LA CREOLE Fr. S/M (1) It is considered that the good condition of the pressure hull of F.S. LA CREOLE is not sufficient to make her fit to be towed to France.  
 (2) It is considered that the condition of her saddle tanks must be known to be sound, in order to prevent her from taking a dangerous list if some of these happened not to be watertight.  
 (3) If the saddle tanks are inaccessible in the present position of LA CREOLE it is requested that F.N.G.B.'s 291200A/1 asking for her dry docking might be reconsidered.  
 (F.N.G.B. 131710A to Admty.)

ARBITER, Request you will sail ARBITER, GLENROY, MONTCLARE  
 EMPEROR, and EASTWAY in company for Gibraltar on  
 escort carriers February 27th escorted VERULAM, ULYSSES, TEAZER,  
 MONTCLARE, TARTAR, WAVENEY and NITH. Route will be  
 destroyer promulgated by Admiralty.  
 depot ship; (2) EMPEROR should also be sailed in company  
 GLENROY, if ready.  
 L.S.I.(L); (3) Ships are for onward routeing as follows:-  
 WAVENEY, (a) MONTCLARE and ULYSSES to British Pacific  
 NITH, L.S.H.(S); Fleet.  
 EASTWAY, (b) Escort Carriers and remaining destroyers to  
 L.S.D.; Ceylon.  
 ULYSSES, (c) GLENROY, WAVENEY and NITH to India.  
 VERULAM, (4) ULYSSES, TARTAR and TEAZER will carry out  
 TEAZER, 14 days' work up in Mediterranean before  
 TARTAR, proceeding further. VERULAM should continue  
 destroyers in company with ARBITER.  
 (5) EASTWAY will return to U.K. after disembark-  
 ing L.C.T.(R) 438 and 460 at Gibraltar. Escort  
 arrangements will be signalled later.  
 (6) Cancel A.M. 271541 January and para. (2) of A.M. 011609  
 neither to all.  
 (A.C.N.S.(H) and A.C.N.S.(F), 131939A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping and Convoys

Granville Request ships bound for Granville or Morlaix in  
 or Morlaix T.B.C. convoys routed to Plymouth to join  
 ships in C.O.C. Convoy and not to Solent.  
 T.B.C. (A.N.C.X.F. 131030A to Com. Southend, N.C.S.O.  
 convoys. Ramsgate.)





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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

L.S.T. convoys. From Feb. 15th there will be a daily convoy of 2 L.S.Ts. from Leghorn to Marseilles and another vice versa.  
(2) T. of D. 0700 arrival the day after at 1130.  
(3) From Feb. 18th these convoys will include 4 ships.  
(Comflankforce, 131000A to Flankforce).

S/M SLEUTH. Sailed Submarine SLEUTH at 0600B/13th to Aden for onward routeing.  
2. E.T.A. Aden 1400Z/17th speed of advance 12½ knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 131041B to Com. Aden).

A.F.D. 20 Sailed (1) EMINENT and (2) DESTINY with (3) A.F.D.20in tow to Aden for onward routeing.  
2. Estimated E.T.A. 0300Z/21st Feb.  
3. EMINENT will make amended E.T.A. when nearing Perim.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 131200B to Com. Aden).

Towage of Z Craft. War Office have number of Z Craft in Mediterranean which they desire to transfer to India.  
2. Craft are unable to proceed under own power and War Office propose they should be towed by Merchant Ships in similar manner to Major Landing Craft.  
3. Two Z Craft are being strengthened and prepared to enable use of same towing gear as M.L.C.  
4. Subject to satisfactory passage of these two craft in tow, up to 30 further craft may be transferred to India in similar manner.  
5. Request you will assist Military Authorities in Middle East in this matter, making available technical advice of any senior M.L.C. Officers who may be on passage through the Canal Area at the time.  
6. Use of M.L.C. Organisation for towage of Z craft is approved on understanding that:- etc.  
8. War Office is being asked to arrange date for towage of first two craft with M. of W.T. and in consultation with you. (Head of M, 131317A to C. in C. Med).

South Aegean Summary 12.2.45. 014445. GI/87297 cipher 13th Feb. up to 0900 hours.  
Dodecanese. Nisero. The German landing party appears to have been liquidated 29 prisoners having been taken by British warship to Symi.  
Kos. Ground source reports garrison on 6th Feb. as 920 Germans and 250 Italians. This was before recent arrivals and is less than previous estimates. Confirmation required. Another report gives 900 Germans in Antimachia area.  
Crete. Canea. Ground sources report arrival between 25th Jan. and 1st Feb. of 3 caiques with salt and pulse for open market.  
Milos. Ground source reports arrival at Kimolos of another small caique from Milos.  
(C. in C.M.E., 131325B to W.O.)

/Soviet...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Soviet Nationals. SS. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, MORETON BAY and HIGHLAND PRINCESS carrying Soviet Nationals for repatriation at Odessa will sail with K.M.F.40 leaving U.K. 18th Feb. and will be routed to Malta where first two ships will require fuel.
2. Request you will arrange onward passage to Odessa informing B.N.A. Ankara of ships E.T.A. at Dardanelles for information of H.M. Ambassador.  
(D.O.D.(F), 131714A to C. in C. Med).
- L.S.Ts. Admiralty message 311728 Jan. Known operational commitments only permit early return of L.S.T. to United Kingdom as follows. One at end of Feb. three mid March. Regarding remaining four it is anticipated that as L.S.Ts. return to the Mediterranean Station on completion of refit so an equivalent number could be released. The E.C.D. of repairs to L.S.Ts. 178 and four recently mined are under consideration. Therefore eight only ex U.S.Ls. are considered in this signal but it would be appreciated if L.S.T. 12 could be included amongst those to be refitted in United Kingdom.  
(C. in C. Med., 131752A to Admty).
- L.S.I.(M) PRINCE DAVID. Request you will sail PRINCE DAVID as convenient to Gibraltar for onward routeing.  
2. Admiralty is requested to signal route from Gibraltar to Esquimalt.  
(C. in C. Med., 131813A to V.A. Malta and 160901.)
- Situation Report No. 559. 1. Adriatic. Reference No.558 para. 2. H.M.S. DELHI had rudder head and rudder damage but subject to basin trial engine appears unharmed. Remaining damage superficial. L.C.F. is extensively damaged. No casualties. It is not considered that any mines were laid. Attitude of General Cerni and Partisan Authorities now described as affable.  
2. Libya. PRINCE SALVOR has arrived at Ras Aamer but weather remains too bad for boat work or salvage operations. Reference No.558 para. 3.  
(C. in C. Med., 131840A to F.O.L.E.M. etc).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- U/B dis-positions. Scales in all areas remains W.5.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 130437 to S.O.A. E.I. Station.)
- A.F.D. 17. Departures A.F.D. 17 in tow of LARIAT and INTEGRITY escorted by MEADOWSWEET, E.T.A. Fremantle March 15th. Route as in C. in C. E.I. 310252 January and Comsouwespacseafon 0511(?00). S.O.A. 6½ knots (N.O.I.C. Cochin 130515Z.)
- E.I. Station. Statics defences of ports and bases on East Indies Station have been reviewed. In interests of economy of personnel and equipment I recommend the following policy regarding defences provided by Royal Navy be adopted now:  
 Defences of Ports & Bases. (a) No fresh defences to be installed at any port west of long. 90° E. (b) Defences at Trinco and Colombo to be maintained but no major replacement of equipment or relaying of controlled minefields to be undertaken. (c) Defences west of 90° other than Colombo and Trinco to be placed on care and maintenance. Defective equipment not to be replaced. Material which is still serviceable to be recovered in due course.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 130515Z to S.A.C.S.E.A., etc.) *12/125 March from Ad.*
- NAPIER. My 031252Z/2 and C. in C. S.At. 110921B Feb. Consider NAPIER can only be made available for requirement in B.P.F. 043 of 25th Jan. 1945. Not to all, if work is undertaken in Australia, intend sailing NAPIER on 17th Feb. for Fremantle with gear mentioned in para. 2 of my 031252Z/2 unfitted. S.C. 731 for this ship is held TYNE.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 130649Z to Admty.)
- Belships. F.O.N.I.C. (603 pass to N.C.S.Os. and S.T.Os.) The following M.Vs. known as Belship are particularly valuable owing to their ability to lift and carry heavy cargoes, (a) in operation, BELNOR, BELRAY, BELPAREIL, EMPIRE CHARMIAN, EMPIRE ELAINE, EMPIRE VICEROY and CITY OF BARCELONA.  
 (b) Completing in 1945 EMPIRE BYNG, EMPIRE ADMIRAL, EMPIRE MARSHAL, EMPIRE WALLACE, EMPIRE CANUTE, EMPIRE ATHELSTAN, EMPIRE ETHELBERT.  
 (2) Belships are to be classified as category 1 E.I. Station 919 C of 2nd August, 1944 refers.  
 (3) Intended programme for Belships proceeding east of 80° E. on E.I. Station is to be signalled to C. in C. E.I. who will authorize independent sailing or nominate escort.  
 (C. in C. E.I.S. 131028Z to F.O.I.C. Ceylon, etc.)
- S/M SUBTLE. SUBTLE 3rd Far East patrol. Between 1st and 4th Feb. vicinity Butang Langkawi and Penang by demolition sank 4 Junks total 70 tons.  
 7th Feb. in position 007° 28' N. 094° 56' E. 3 probable hits by torpedo on convoy 3 in number 400 ton coasters escorted by 1 trawler. Escorts' counter attack ineffective.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 131203Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

13.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- E.G. 27 Junction effected. E.T.A. 1500Z/13. Position course and speed 43.09 N., 64.36 W., estimated 042° speed 8 knots.  
(S.O.E.G.27, 130300Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- U/B  
Dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 131325Z to S. and A. North of 40° and Cominch 131519 to Admty).
- ~~Convey~~  
C.1. Escort Group. Due to the extremely slow passage of O.N.S.41 and subsequent delay in arrival of C.1 at St. Johns Newfoundland intend sailing C.2 with S.C.167 and C.1 with H.X.339.  
2. In order to make C.2 available intend delaying sailing of S.C.167 until 16th February.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 131522Z to C. in C. W.A. etc).
- T.G.60.1 CR No.1499. U.G.S.76 departing New York and Hampton Roads 21-22 Feb. for Western Med. will be escorted by Task Group 60.1 Capt. Headden in KNIGHT Comdesdiv 14 in WAINWRIGHT, TRIPPS, FALGOUT MOBERLY F.N.S. LE TRIOMPHANT.  
(C. in C. Lant, 131729 to C.T.G.60.1)
- Merchant  
Ships Nav.  
lights. Request new area G be added my airmailgram 181410 Jan. as follows. Dimmed navigation lights within ten mile radius Cristobal sea buoy located in 09.34.30 NCC 79.55.18.2 W. and in channel between set buoy as described and breakwater entrance.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R, 131859Z to Admty).
- U-boats  
Radar  
contacts. A. 130907 U.S.S. CORE A/C had Radar contact and sighted submerging U-boat 051° 55' N., 029° 14' W. No results from depth charge attack.  
C. CROATAN Group had 3 radar contacts between 1728/13 and 1743/13 commencing at 040° 19' N., 071° 08' W. which plotted on course 040° speed 14.  
Surface search until daylight was negative. All times Z.  
D. About 121812 U.S.S. ABILENE had radar contact 033° 53' N., 094° 22' W.  
(Cominch, 132055Z to Admty for O.I.C.)

War Diary.

13.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F. Supply Route. Your 160451 Jan. para. 2 (a). The conclusions reached in A.C.N.B's letter No.05312 of 1st Feb. (to C. in C. B.P.F. only) are generally concurred in.

2. A saving in freight shipping for naval and armament stores ex U.K. estimated at about 12 per cent and 25 per cent respectively would be effected by the use of routes (a) and (b) this direct shipment would necessitate establishment in the Philippine area of an adequate intermediate base for the receipt and transshipment of stores.

3. There will be little saving in victualling freight ships as food supplies (?come) largely from Australian sources and must be shipped from the main storages at Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

4. Even assuming reasonable storage facilities at intermediate base in Philippine area certain stores particularly radar must continue to be drawn from Sydney and Brisbane areas for some time to come as the necessary special storage and test shop facilities are being provided in these areas and take a long while to install.

5. If storage facilities at the intermediate base in Philippines are adequate a considerable saving in the store issue ships and carriers of fleet train other than victualling store ships can be expected.

6. The distance from U.K. to Manila via Panama is much the same as that to U.K. via route (a) and it therefore appears that the Panama route would be the most economical proposition as it allows the maximum use of independent sailing. (V.A. (Q) B.P.F., 130027 to C. in C. B.P.F. Rept. Admty).

B.P.F. officers' appointments. Officers requested in your 110522 Jan. for duty with Service Force are being appointed. Details of appointments and passages follow.

2. Ratings should be provided from the drafting pool at Sydney and from your communications pool. (D.F.S.L., 130039A to C. in C. B.P.F.) See 170754Z.

Digest Serial Number 1118. Covering 11th Feb.

1. Navy search planes saw seven small coastal vessels anchored off Taipan (?abandoned) and left burning single picket boat same area, saw convoy described five destroyers, four large freighter- transports two large, one small engine-aft freighters off Amoy course east, single destroyer escorting small engines-aft freighter heading northwest same vicinity: this small freighter was left burning and dead in water after bombing straffing attack.

2. Afternoon British submarine saw two battleships one unidentified vessel course undetermined 240 miles northeast Singapore.

3. Night Catalina search plane from Lingayan night 10th-11th attack single escort vessel with two medium merchantmen north of Pescadores Islands heading southeast: three explosions resulted. Another Cat. bombed single large unidentified ship southwest Formosa causing two brilliant flashes and loss of contact with vessel, saw one small unidentified ship Bashi Channel heading northwest. Forenoon 11th February Mindoro search plane saw single small freighter-transport (?southwest) Macclesfield Bank heading northwest. Previous day two destroyer escorts seen same vicinity heading northeast.

War Diary.13. 2. 1945.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

- Digest Serial 4. Forenoon 10th Feb. Navy Liberator probably  
No. 1118 sunk single enemy destroyer-transport 270 miles  
11. 2. 45. east Camranh Bay heading thereto, shot down  
(contd). single enemy floatplane covering convoy three  
large engines-aft freighters one destroyer four  
destroyer escorts 20 miles north Camranh Bay  
heading south. Another Liberator saw two  
hospital ships one north of Quinhon heading west, the other  
south of Quinhon heading south, attacked two southbound sea  
trucks north Quinhon leaving (?two) trailing oil, saw five  
small merchantmen one transport three destroyers one subchaser  
anchored off Cap Saint Jacques.  
Same date French sources reported large convoy assembling at  
Whitrang.
5. Luzon ground forces in central area reached east coast at  
Lingayan Bay without contact: Sawmill there reported in good  
condition, 50 tons ammunition and large quantities engineer  
supplies captured. In Manila Neilson Field reached from north,  
enemy driven from Paco station strongpoint while forces advancing  
from south reached Polo Club. Heavy enemy resistance continued  
on Nichols Field. Nil Ack Ack fire reported Corregidor since  
8th February.
7. Patrol Liberator attacked vessel Sandakan, Venturas sank  
lugger northwestern Celebes damaged barge Tawo towing F.C.  
R.A.A.F. Liberator attacked Banggai Mica mixes strafed Manoei  
Island radio southeastern Celebes, Laga barge centre (?Timor  
Coue). R.A.A.F. Ventura bombed barges Soembawa Flores Islands  
while two Dutch Mitchells destroyed two barges Timor.
8. Six Beaufighters attacked small boats also road targets  
northeastern Celebes while 12 R.A.A.F. Warhawks five Spitfires  
two Liberators struck fuel and ammunition dumps barge hideouts  
Halmahera. Four Mitchells swept Soela and Ceram Islands hitting  
coastal targets and barges.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 130435Z to Admty).

- Digest Serial Covering 12th Feb.  
No. 1119, 12 (1) Evening Navy search Liberator saw force  
Feb. 1945. comprising two battleships, one heavy cruiser, 3  
destroyers 100 miles east south coast Cape  
Padaran heading north: battleships believed ISE  
and (HYUA DPT EMU A\*). Same force sighted later  
plus one unidentified unit still northbound.
- (2) During day other Navy Liberators covered China coast leaving  
beached burning single medium transport near Amoy, seeing 6  
seatrucks Sakgshima Gunto also 2 destroyers heading southwest off  
Hongkong.
- (3) Venturas from Morotai destroyed two of four luggers under  
construction Sangine Islands, damaged remaining two luggers and  
fired sheds same vicinity.
- (5) Delayed reports Navy Liberator searches 11th Feb. follow.  
Afternoon one Liberator saw one hospital ship with barges  
unloading off Cap Saint Jacques: nil other shipping Cap Saint  
Jacques nor Saigen but several small ships docked Coakore  
Islands 100 miles to southwest. Same time another Liberator  
shot down single floatplane circling convoy comprising two small  
merchantmen one auxiliary, one submarine chaser heading south

/off...

13.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial off Cape Padaran also probably sank one small  
No. 1119 12 merchantman this convoy. Third Liberator  
Feb. 1945. heavily damaged small merchantman heading north  
(contd). off Quinhon. Left sinking single seatruck off  
Song Kau. Fourth Liberator saw one destroyer  
anchored off Capsea Hoi, left single seatruck  
trailing oil and dead in water same area.

(7) Throughout day 12 Squadrons Bostons raided southern Bataan  
sinking 30 barges laden with troops supplies ammunition  
departing Manila Cite for Bataan. R.A.A.F. Liberators again  
bombed (R.G.C.A. mines Banggai Archipelaso\*) left coastal  
vessel ablaze north Soembawa Island, attacked camouflaged barge  
Tifjr.

(8) Delayed reports 11th Feb. Reference para. seven yesterday's  
Digest, final report states total 96 Liberators of Fifth,  
Seventh and Thirteenth Air Forces dropped 255 tons of bombs on  
Corregidor guns positions causing extensive damage. 18  
Mitchells attacked Zamboanga exploding fuel dumps and warehouses  
destroying two barges probably sinking coastal vessel firing  
single gunboat.

(G. H. Q. S. W. P. A., 131105). \*As received.

ARIADNE Departure Sydney (N.S.W.) 0401Z/13th, ARIADNE for  
(Minelayer) Espiritu Santo. My 110001 refers. S.O.A. 21  
knots E.T.A. 1600.  
(F.O.C.S., 130452Z to Admty).

NIZAM H.M.A.S. NIZAM was damaged as result of severe  
damage. weather rounding Cape Leeuwin 12th Feb. Ten  
ratings washed overboard and not recovered.  
Estimated time for repairs three weeks.  
(A.C.N.B., 130949Z to Admty).  
See 150549Z from C. in C. E.I.)

HOWE Departure Auckland HOWE accompanied by GAMBIA,  
QUEENBOROUGH and QUALITY for Sydney, E.T.A. 2300Z  
16th Feb.  
(N. Z. N. B., 131903Z to Admty).

13.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/13th Feb.  
Para. C (1) R.A.F. transport A/C sighted U-boat  
course 150° at 1145Z/12th Feb. in 42°35' N., 37°  
10' W.  
(2) H.M.C.S. BOWMANVILLE obtained doubtful contact  
at 1830Z/12th Feb. in 51° 51' N., 06° 27' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 131054A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 131429A, 131446A, A.I.G. Cominch).  
Admiralty 131737A, General. See Lion Copy.  
Convoy protection in inshore waters.



# SECRET

U-Boat  
218A  
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.)

SECRET

Date 13.2.45

To A.I.G. 18  
A.I.G. 21  
F.O.S.  
H.Q.C.C.  
Comnavou  
Air Ministry  
F.O.N.A.S.  
F.O.W.I.T.  
F.O.T.A.L.I.  
F.O.W.M.

*Convoy Protection in Inshore Waters.*

Naval Cypher (C) & P/L BY T/P & O.T.P. by T/K

From Admiralty

DEFERRED

## C.A.S.O.No. 7 - Convoy Protection in inshore waters

With reference to C.A.S.O. No. 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 U-boats must usually move considerable distances in order to reach favourable attacking positions. Air reconnaissance and distant screens of A/S vessels prevent U-boats moving freely on the surface within visual range. In coastal water U-boats can operate in areas where shipping is easily found on well established convoy routes, and movement by the U-boats over large distances is unnecessary, while the introduction of Schnorkel renders air reconnaissance and distant screens of little use for detection.

3. U-boats have now learnt to adapt themselves to these conditions. They surface very rarely in areas under heavy air reconnaissance and normally charge by Schnorkelling at night in quiet areas. They are most likely to attack by day or moonlight from periscope depth. The dispositions and search tactics given in the following paragraphs are therefore suggested, incorporating the policy of:-

- (a) Maximum asdic protection.
- (b) Immediate counter attack after a U-boat attack.

4. Maximum asdic protection is provided by forming an asdic screen two miles ahead when the convoy is formed on a broad front and maintaining escorts both ahead and along the flanks when the convoy is formed on a narrow front.

5. When formed on a Broad Front, in order to provide the means of immediate counter action after a U-boat has attacked, it is desirable to maintain at least one escort not more than one mile distant astern of the convoy. When support groups are available to augment the close escort, the asdic screen should be reinforced by extending the line either side of the close escort while the escort astern is reinforced to a strength of at least two and up to a whole group when more than one support group is available

/for

(2)

that convoy. Escorts astern should be spread out to cover the rear of convoy about one mile astern of it. In this position they are well placed to act as pouncers and proceed immediately to the vicinity of the wreck to search for the U-boat.

6. At the moment a ship is torpedoed the scent is hot and advantage of this should be taken by instituting searches without delay. The following form is recommended:-

(a) Ships in the van will be taking most effective asdic action by carrying out operation ARTICHOKE and sweeping through the columns of the convoy prior to proceeding to take up positions on the square search as in (c).

(b) Close escort from rear of convoy carry out a 2-mile OBSERVANT.

(c) Remaining escorts in rear establish a containing square search outside the OBSERVANT, the size of which should be determined at the time by the Senior Officer present; in the absence of any specific orders the search should be a square with 6-mile sides. Any ships left over after filling the 6-mile square should be used outside it on the U-boat's most probable course.

7. When no support groups are with the convoy at least one ship of the close escort should be detached to rejoin the convoy on completion of operation ARTICHOKE. When one or more support groups are with the convoy the whole convoy close escort should re-join after operation ARTICHOKE.

8. Recent experience in inshore operations indicates that the U-boat is likely to lie low in the area in which it delivered its attack when escorts are near, and if it moves away will only do so at silent speed of three knots or less. With the advent of fast type U-boats the enemy may attempt to make a fast getaway but in doing so must accept the risk of exposing itself to the escorts by its H.E. There is no indication that type XXI U-boats are yet in operation.

131737A

D.A.U.D. (Tel. 698)  
Approved by A.C.N.S (UT)

A.C.I.C. N.O.I.C. Faroes C.in.C. Med.  
C.in.C. East Indies. S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic.  
C.in.C. South Atlantic. F.O.C. Gib. F.O.C.  
Royal Indian Navy. C.O.M.R.I.N. F.O.C. Red  
Sea. N.O.I.C. Aden V.A. Malta R.A. Alexandria  
S.N.O. Suez Canal Area. S.N.O. Persian Gulf  
Capt. in Charge Bermuda S.B.N.O. Curacao  
Captain in Charge Jamaica Captain in Charge  
Ceylon. F.O.I.C. West Africa F.O. East Africa  
N.O.I.C. Lagos N.O.I.C. Trinidad.

Naval

**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.)

(3)

Naval Board Melbourne Naval Board  
Wellington N.S.H.C. Ottawa S.B.N.O. North  
Russia S.B.N.C. Archangel B.A.D. Washington  
C.in.C. C.N.A. F.O.L.E.M. C's in C at Home.

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.R.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.X. (UT) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)  
Naval Sec.  
U.W.R.  
O.D. (6)  
U.S.N. (3)  
D.S.D. (2)  
M. (6)  
Ad. Blake  
A.L.O.  
Flot  
C.I.C. (3)  
D.N.I. (5)  
Ops (2)  
D of P (Q) (3)  
D of P (3)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
C.C.L.S.  
D.R.E. (3)  
D.N.C.R.  
D.A.S.I.  
D.A.S.W.  
D.A.U.D. (4) (A.U.D. 134/45)  
D.S.R.  
D.T.M. (2)  
D.N.A.R. (2)  
W.D.  
D.D.O.D. (I)  
D.M.S.  
D.D.O.D. (M) (2)  
D of L.D. (3)

CS

14.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

(about 2200/13  
ANCH. W.D.)

North Sea.

1. (a) EKINS and M.T.B. 758 intercepted an unarmed 60 ft. fishing vessel off Ostend last night shewing Belgian colours and manned by 4 German Petty Officers in uniform under overalls, speaking French. She was on passage Scheveningen for Dunkirk with a cargo of about 14 tons of butter.  
(b) M.T.Bs. 255, 438, 444, 459, 461, 462, 465, 466, 776, 789, 791 and 798 were destroyed by (accidental) fire and explosions in an Ostend creek. No serious damage was done to other ships or buildings.  
(c) One ground mine was detonated off Harwich.

Norway.

2. M.T.Bs. 716 and 717 on their return from operation "V.P. 79" to Norway report torpedoing and sinking an ELBING or MOEWE class destroyer.

Northern Waters.

3. (a) 10th E.G. investigated a U-Boat contact some 50 miles N.N.W. of Muckle Flugga, Shetlands, and within 4 hours were picking up survivors from her.  
(b) The Soroy population, reported by one Norwegian authority as evacuated on Feb. 9th, is still "desperately awaiting evacuation, harassed every day by small German ships" according to their Col. Johnsen. C.S. 1 has sailed ZAMBESI, ZEST and ZEALOUS from Kola to arrive tomorrow forenoon, with SIOUX additional in view of the uncertainty of the situation and Russian reports of 3 hostile destroyers off Soroy.

Foreign Stations.

South Atlantic.

SS. TIRANDENTES (sunk.)

See p. 238

17.2.45

4. SS. TIRANDENTES (Brazilian 4986 tons) was rammed starboard quarter and sunk at 1.19 a.m. today when about 120 miles northwest of Surinam (Dutch Guiana) by the ALBERT P. RYDER. She was on passage from Rio de Janeiro to Trinidad and New York. The entire crew were rescued by the SS. ALBERT P. RYDER and landed at Trinidad.

14.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

North Adriatic 5. (a) Tonight coastal craft on patrol west of  
Istria made night attacks on a large merchant  
ship which sank after being hit by two torpedoes.  
? (b) The attitude of authority at Zara and Split  
has now become co-operative.

Greece. 6. Situation is quiet.

Levant. 7. The German force landed on Nisero Island has  
Dodecanese. been dealt with.

N. African 8. A.F.D. 24 is reported extensively damaged  
Coast Libya. after examination and still grinding on rocks.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines. 9. (a) Operations in Manila Bay were continued  
today. Two destroyers and a minesweeper were hit  
by enemy coastal artillery.  
(b) U.S. aircraft destroyed two barges in Manila  
Bay and eight U.S. Mitchells bombed small vessels  
at Zamboanga (Mindanao) destroying one barge.

War Diary

14.2.1945  
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Good  
prize.

- (1) Enemy fishing boat intercepted by patrols last night and escorted into Ostend.
- (2) Interception made by M.T.B. 758 under direction of EKINS in approx. position 342 degs. Ostend 17 miles at 2200.
- (3) Vessel escorted into harbour by M.L.490 sent out by N.O.I.C. Ostend. Boarding impracticable due to weather.
- (4) Vessel was Dutch type flat-bottomed inland waterway fishing vessel, with steel hull and loco power auxiliary engine. Overall length about 60 feet. Belgian National colours on wheel-house. No port letter or number. Fishing gear carried as camouflage but easily detected as bogus by experienced fisherman. Vessels wore Belgian Ensign.
- (5) Crew 3 German navy petty officers and one warrant officer in correct uniform under overall suits. All French speaking.
- (6) Vessel fitted W/T but this was sabotaged by operator before captured. No armament carried.
- (7) P.O.W. report vessel left Scheveningen 12th January bound for Dunkirk with supplies for garrison. Cargo appears to be about 14 tons of butter.
- (8) Details given above are result of preliminary inspection only. (N.O.I.C.Ostend, 141023A to Com. Belgium) See also 141216, *para 222.*

Patrols.

- Dover and Nore Patrol tonight Feb.14/15th.
- (1) 12 RIOU with 4 M.T.B. Unit F.L.2 and 314 ARENDAL 16, TORRINGTON with 4 M.T.B. Unit F.G.2 and 318 MACKAY 19 SEYMOUR and ENDEAVOUR with C.F.
- from Ostend 21. GUILLEMOT 22 CAICOS with 4 M.T.B. Unit F.B.8 and 9.
- (2) C.F. Unit 51 one M.L.52 one M.L. 51 degs. 29' N. 01 degs. 22' E. 3 M.T.B's Unit F.B.6 one M.T.B. Unit F.O.1 from Kellet Buoy via East Goodwins No.2 buoy to S.E. Goodwins Buoy. 1 M.T.B. Unit F.O.2 No.1 Buoy via South Goodwins No.2 Buoy to S.E. Goodwins Buoy.
- (V.A. Dover, 141200A to Admty.)

Night Dispositions 14th/15th February.

- Humber Force - Group 2 Harbour, MIDDLETON, COSBY.  
 Harwich Force - Group 3 - Patrols - 2 ZETLAND, 3 EGLINTON, 5 MALLARD, 6 SHELDRAKE, 12 RIOU, 14 ARENDAL 16 TORRINGTON, 18 MACKAY, 19 SEYMOUR, HAMBLEDON, 21 GUILLEMOT, 22 CAICOS.  
 Group 4 - Harbour - COTSWOLD, TALYBONT, EKINS, RETALICK, RUTHERFORD, STAYNER, PUFFIN, SHEARWATER, WIDGEON.  
 Sheerness Force - Group 5. Patrols - 1 HOLMES, 4 PYTCHLEY with A.T.P.44/T.A.P.45 CATTISTOCK, T.A.M.80 BLENCATHRA, HOLDERNESS A.T.M.64 BLANKNEY, OAKLEY.  
 Group 6 - Harbour - GARTH, BLACKMORE, FERNIE, HAYDON, LA COMBATTANTE, VESPER, VIMY, CLEMATIS, KINGCUP, LOOSESTRIFE.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 141520A to Admty.)

/Enemy ...

14.2.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Enemy bogus fishing craft. Signals intercepted in connection with capture of vessel reported in my 141023 indicated that patrol frigates are unaware of possibility of activity by bogus fishing vessels.

(2) Submit C. in C. Nore be requested to warn all patrol ships and craft that any fishing vessel contacted in dark hours or by day outside limits laid down in 860A2 of 4th February is suspicious and should be sent into harbour if practicable with boarding party to prevent destruction of evidence or failing that under escort.

(3) At request of N.O.I.C. Ostend C.F.M.U. 1 has already issued orders to this effect to Coastal Forces based on Ostend.

(4) C.C.L.O. is keeping 157 Wing informed of situation. Suggest 18 group be requested to give consideration to extending daylight S.B.U. Patrol S. to include East Hinder Bank and to instruct A/C to report all fishing vessels sighted outside limits given in AZ message quoted.

(5) The extension would have further advantage of including Bligh and East Hinder Banks which appear to be principal navigational aid to Seehunde making Ostend Roads, N.I.D. Summary No.111 for week ending 19th January refers.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 141216A to Com. Belgium) See also 141023.

Minesweeping off East Coast. 1 ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1430 in 52 degs. 00' 30" N. 01 degs. 41' 30" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 141507A to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.316. Part 4. Section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 131600A February.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>(incl.coal)</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Gf.Ammo</u>
Antwerp	63	91	10,089	5,037	578
Ostend	1,448	70	2,217	450	415
Boulogne	27	103	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,024	-	-
Calais	979	-	-	-	-
Ghent.	-	-	4,402	-	1,229
	<u>2,517</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>17,732</u>	<u>5,487</u>	<u>2,222</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	107	22,136	-	-
Cherbourg	-	86	11,283	3,901	3,240
Le Havre	4,086	579	6,621	-	2,792
Rouen	251	120	9,322	316	825
Granville	-	-	822	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,896	-	-
Totals:	<u>4,337</u>	<u>892</u>	<u>52,080</u>	<u>4,217</u>	<u>6,857</u>

/U.S. South ...

14.2.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Discharge Situation Report.  
(Contd.)

Cositintrep No.316 Part 4.

<u>U.S. South</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl.coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Gf.Ammo</u>
Marseilles	-	198	17,146	-	2,159
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,719	4,186	2,719
Toulon	-	-	113	-	-
Totals:	-	198	19,978	4,186	4,878

(S.H.A.E.F. 141630A to Admty and others.)

12 M.T.Bs.  
lost by  
accidental  
fire.

*Ostend*

- (1) Regret to report serious losses of Coastal craft by fire this afternoon.
- (2) Fire started at 1600 in a Short M.T.B. berthed in creek between car ferry quay and main railway station quay. M.T.B. blew up in a few minutes spreading fire to craft alongside and in adjacent berths, and these subsequently blew up. Number

of craft lost not yet established, but probably in the region of 7 Short M.T.B. and 4 D class.

- (3) Casualties not yet assessed, but it is feared many among crews of earlier boats to be lost must have perished.
- (4) It is not thought that there is any serious damage to other ships or craft, except possibly some harbour servicing craft.
- (5) C.F.M.U. officers at car ferry quay and Sea Transport H.Q. in station damaged by blast and fire, otherwise damage to buildings largely superficial.
- (6) Burning fuel floated across harbour and fired wooden piling near L.S.T. hards, otherwise damage has not affected berthing capacity of port to any extent.
- (7) Several small fires are still burning but are under control.
- (8) Report of identity of boats lost or damaged and of casualties will be made as soon as either are known.
- (9) Owing to coincidence of first explosion with number of friendly A/C passing overhead, numerous erroneous reports of bombing have been circulating among civilians.

(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 141906A to Com. Belgium)

My 141906. (1) Following coastal craft are total loss:

- A. M.T.B. Type D. 52nd Flotilla No.791 and 798.  
63rd Flotilla No.776. 64th Flotilla No.789.
- B. Short M.T.B. 29th (R.C.N.) Flotilla Nos. 459, 461, 462, 465, 466. 3rd Flotilla Nos. 438, 444.
- C. Short M.T.B. 255 based temporarily at Ostend on special service my 142147 refers.

- (2) 14 other M.T.Bs damaged superficially, all but one of which should be operational within twenty-four hours.
- (3) Four M.T.Bs proceed on patrol tonight.
- (4) No boats of 11th, 21st, 33rd or 155th M.L. flotillas damaged.
- (5) Casualties in officers and men will be signalled as soon as known.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 142137A to Com. Belgium)



War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols. Night patrols 14th.  
 (1) At 1800A S.O. E.G.17 patrol area limits 50 degs. 31' N. 50 degs. 10' N. 01 degs. 40' W. 02 degs. 00' W.  
 (2) S.O. E.G.14 with HAVELOCK, DUNCAN, ASSINIBOINE weigh as necessary to carry out offensive patrol by 1830 within area limits route E. 50 degs, 00' N. 01 degs. 00' W. 01 degs. 15' W. ASSINIBOINE may not sail.  
 (3) 3 M.T.B's patrolling 10 miles south of route E between 01 degs. 15' W. and 01 degs. 38' W.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 141207A to S.O.E.Gs. 17. 14)  
 Day Patrols Thursday.  
 (1) At 0800A/15th S.O.E.G.17 detached NARBOROUGH and LORING to anchor off St. Helens. Remainder of 17th Group proceed to patrol area limits 50 degs. 30' N. 50 degs. 15' N. 02 degs. 20' W. 01 degs. 45' W.  
 (2) At 0730A/14th E.G. proceed to anchor at Havre, orders follow.  
 (3) At 0730A M.T.Bs return to harbour.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 141851A to S.O.E.Gs. 14, 17)

Possible U-Boat. Your 141937. Am in contact in position 50 degs. 12' N. 01 degs. 18' W. Have despatched M.T.B.733 and 737 to investigate.  
 (M.T.B.750, 142020A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Second possible U-Boat. Proceed forthwith to assist M.L.248 attacking contact at 1950A/14 in position 253 degs. Portland Bill 10 mins.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 142122A to ROWLEY, COOKE.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Possible U-Boat. Your 132000A. Report situation.  
 (C. in C. W.A.140155A to BALSAM)

Patrols. F.O.I.C.N.I. is requested to sail 19th E.G. at 1830 to-day 14th to relieve 25th E.G. as Force 36 S.O. 25th E.G. is to signal R/V.  
 (2) On relief 25th E.G. is to proceed south to join Force 38.  
 (C. in C. W.A. 141148A to F.O.I.C.N.I. S.O.E.G.25)

Operations

Norway

Operation "V.P". V.P.79. M.T.Bs 717 and 716 returned at 0140A to-day 14th February.  
 (2) 1 ELBING or MOEWE class destroyer torpedoed

/ and ...

War Diary

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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operation  
"V.P."  
(Contd.)

and sunk. *where?*  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 140301A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrol.

Leave patrol 0100A/16th Feb. and return Lerwick on surface at C.O.'s discretion through 59 degs. 20' N. 01 degs. 15' E. and 60 degs. 00' N. 00 degs. 30' E.  
(S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 141637A to DOLFIJN)

Operations

Northern Waters

Evacuation  
of civilians  
from Soroy.

Accumulators almost destroyed. Five hundred people awaiting evacuation 14th. German small ships harrassing every day. Billeting extremely difficult, three hundred without means of billeting expected you to-day, should not again be disappointed. Send accumulators by Catalina.

(Nansen, Norwegian Party, 140956A to Admty.)

Five hundred people desperately awaiting evacuation to-day Colonel Johnsen.

(Nansen, 141118A to Col. Johnsen.)

Request you will sail destroyers to Soroy forthwith to evacuate civil population. Norwegian messages 140956 and 141118 refer.

(2) Destroyers should then return to Kola and transfer refugees to ships of R.A.64 for passage to U.K.

(3) Colonel Johnsen is being informed.

(V.C.N.S. 141611A to C.S.1)

Expect destroyers a.m. Thursday 15th.

(2) Keep watch from 0600. Do not keep watch tonight if your batteries are weak.

(D.O.D.(H), 141651A to Col. Johnsen, C.S.1)

Refugees may be embarked in any ships of R.A.64 except the following, which may be diverted to east coast ports.

EMPIRE CELIA, EMPIRE ARCHER, SAMARITAN, JOHN A. QUITMAN, CROSBY S. NOYES. A.M. 061704 and 141611 refer.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk pass to Maury, MacGregor and Nelson.

(D.O.D.(H), 141900A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia, C.S.1)

Operations have been made very difficult owing to conflicting reports so far received on conditions in Soroy. Request you will find out the true state of affairs and say what reliance you consider can be placed in future on Captain Hostvedt's reports. Latest reports from Colonel Johnsen have been acted on. A.M. 141611 refers.

(V.C.N.S. 141956A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia)

Your 141611A. Capt. (D) 2 in ZAMBESI with ZEST, ZEALOUS and SIOUX sailed from Vaenga at 142015A by route in C. in C. H.F. 041114A. SIOUX additional in view of Russian report of 3 destroyers off Soroy and conflicting nature of Admiralty's 141956A and S.B.N.O. 091115A. Request refugees may be ready by daylight. No blankets or stores carried as these have been disembarked and turned over to Norwegians.

(C.S.1, 142047A to Admty.)

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WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern WatersEvacuation  
of  
civilians  
from Soroy  
(Contd.)ZAMBESI (Capt. (D) 2nd D.F.) ZEST, ZEALOUS and  
SIOUX sailed 2030A 14th.  
A.M. 141611 refers. Request Norwegian party  
Nansen be informed.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russian, 142140A to Admty.)U-boat  
sunk

(U.989)

Am hunting submerged U-boat in 61° 36' N. 01°  
35' W.

(S.O.E.G.10, 141647A to Rosyth.)

My 141647A. Have lost contact after 4 Squid and  
3 unsuccessful Hedgehog attacks. Enemy steeredwest then South east and lastly north at 400 - 600 feet. Asdic  
condition difficult but improving.

(S.O.E.G.10, 141804A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 141804A proceed with hunt.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 142044A to S.O.E.G.10.)

My 141647 and 141804. Am picking up survivors from

U-boat.

(S.O.E.G.10, 142056A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Splendid, very well done. Obtain and signal name of C.O.  
and number of German U-boat destroyed.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 142231A to S.O.E.G.10.) Reply: 150037, p. 244.

Anti-Schnorkel  
obstructions  
W. of  
Shetlands.Request BRITTANY may be sailed as convenient to  
expedite laying of type O obstructions and  
assisting RINGWOOD. A.L.B.D. 0866/44 of 23/13/44  
also refers.(2) These craft should also lay type OPF line  
O extending from 60.35, 02.38 to 61.15, 03.40  
and line D 60.25, 03.08 to 61.05, 04.10 allpositions north and west. C. in C. Rosyth's 231136A January  
and A.L.B.D. 028/45 of 5/2/45 neither to all addressees refer.(3) Type OPF equipment will be coming forward about 50 miles  
weekly from 17/2 for delivery to B.D.O. Scapa.(4) Lines A 60.55, 01.42 to 61.35, 02.44 and B 60.45, 02.10  
to 61.25, 03.12 all positions north and west C. in C. Rosyth's  
231136A January not to all addressees are not to be laid pending  
experience with lines C. and D. and some indication as to  
whether or not they move to any great extent from their  
positions.

(A.N.C.S.(H) 142017A to C. in C. Rosyth, to A.C.O.S.)

Patrol

Your 142056, on completion of this satisfactory  
operation, proceed to establish Gamma between  
positions 60° 00' N. 04° 00' W. and 60° 28' N.  
05° 00' W.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 142301A to S.O.E.G.10.)

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WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsBaltic

Intended attack on practising U-boats.

Coastal Command will repeat recent attack by force of Liberators on U-boats in the practice area near Bornholm between 18th February and 4th March inclusive.

(2) Request Russian authorities be approached to ensure that no friendly submarines operate on the surface at night West of 17° E. during

this period.

(3) It is impossible to predict exact date of operation which depends on weather conditions but you will be notified as soon as Operation is complete.

(Hd. of M., Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 142325A to Adm. Archer.)

*See also 231716 page 400.*

Enemy Intelligence

German military transport off Denmark

Laden transport probably MAR DEL PLATA which left Copenhagen yesterday February 13th is now anchored off Disken near Elsinore in company with 5,000 ton vessel. A.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 141214 to Admty.)

Port Facilities

South Beveland Canal

Your O11010. R.N.O. Beveland and Exfor Rear TN report following position re South Beveland Canal, Hansweert, and Wemeldinge.

(a) Hansweert M.H.W.S. 20 ft. M.H.W.N. 18 Ft.  
Wemeldinge M.H.W.S. 22 Ft. M.H.W.N. 20 ft.

(b) Length 330 ft. Max beam 50 ft. (limiting dimensions of locks).

(c) Inside Canal five berths.

(1) East Quay, Hansweert length 325 ft. normal depth 10 ft.

(11) Shore Quay length 325 ft. normal depth 10 ft.

(111) V Lake Quay length 325 ft. normal depth 10 ft.

(1V) Post Bridge Quay length 160 ft. normal depth 6 ft.

(V) East Quay Wemeldinge length 320 ft. normal depth 10 ft.

Depths given are alongside quays gradually increasing to 13 ft. at 15 ft. distance from quays.

Note. There is at present 2 ft. less water in the canal than at normal times. There are no discharging berths in the outer harbours at Hansweert or Wemeldinge. There are three rows of Dolphins themselves 190 ft. apart at which craft may be moored. Depth of Dolphins M.L.W.S. 7ft. (At Wemeldinge Dolphins obstructed by wrecks of barges).

(VI) In Hansweert outer harbour are two wooden jetties. West jetty, East lock length 300 ft. depth M.L.W.S. 7 ft. In Wemeldinge outer harbour is one wooden jetty viz jetty Middle lock length 250 ft. depth M.L.W.S. 7 ft.

(d) Depends so much on draft of ships requiring to enter that no fixed number can be given.

(e) There are no open anchorages in the outer or the canal itself. Vessels would have to make use of stern anchor as well as bower anchor: Moor to canal banks or be at Dolphins inside or outside the canal.

(f) Remarks.

(I) Facilities for discharging vessels in canal area are very

/limited...

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSPort Facilities

South Beveland Canal. (Contd.) limited, it having been discharged for barge traffic and passage through to coaster. (11) All depths given are those at normal times no soundings having been taken recently. At Hansweert particularly much silting has occurred in harbour entrance. Surveying ship HYDROGRAAF has been requested for survey work now that salvage operations are complete. (111) No berths are permanently allocated to any civil authority. (iv) There are no refitting facilities in canal area except one very small shipyard west of and outside the harbour at Hansweert dealing with small craft tugs etc. This yard has no equipment whatever. (V) Range of tide at both Wemeldinge and Hansweert is 12 ft. neaps and 15 ft. springs. (VI) All wooden jetties mentioned are in bad state of repair. (VII) Repairs to main locks of Hansweert and Wemeldinge complete Canal gates at both ends power operated. Sea Gates at both ends hand operated but power operation estimated end February. (F.O. Holland, 141005A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Ghent M.M.S.220 can be taken in hand for refit at Ghent on 18th February. Request vessel may be sailed accordingly.  
A.S. Portsmouth's 301735 Jan. and Com. Belgium's 101754 neither to all refer.  
(D.M.S. 141746A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Movements

BARFLEUR Fr. Aux. Cruiser Comar Brest is request to sail F.S. BARFLEUR independently for Toulon p.m. 15th February. F.O.W.M.'s 311825 December not to all refers. (2) Route (a) 46° N. 05° W. (b) 44° N. 10° W. (c) 37° N. 10° W. (d) 35° 51' N. 06° 10' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Med. (3) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to provide escort in Mediterranean Approaches. (4) BARFLEUR carries Loxo and Anglo-French Code and has no British Liaison personnel on board. (5) If ship cannot sail before dark on 15th February she should be held to await further orders from Admty. (6) C.T.F.125 pass to Comar Brest. (D.O.D.(H) 141603A to C.T.F.125, F.O.G.M.A.)

TASAJERA combined operations H.Q. ship. Your 141949. TASAJERA E.T.A. Lerwick 1500 tomorrow Thursday. 48 hours will be required to embark CFMU 2. (A.C.O.S. 142231A to Admty.)

CONRAD Polish Cruiser Intend to sail ORP CONRAD eastabout to Scapa passing Spithead Gate 2345A 15th. S. of A. 18 kts E.T.A. Scapa 1400A 17th February.

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

- CONRAD (2) Routed standard route and Q.Z.S.513, 517 Polish adjusting speed to pass Dumpton at 0715A 16th, Cruiser thence by Q.Z.S.463, 577 to B.1 Buoy and by (Contd.) searched channels in force through Barrow Deep and The Would, following diversions ordered in Q.Z.Y.546 and Q.Z.Y.543, and passing Tyneside on Q.Z.S.334.
- (4) C. in C. Nore is requested to provide surface escort and air protection as necessary while in Nore Command.
- (5) CONRAD will zig-zag while in Portsmouth Command, and at discretion after passing out of Nore Command, but not while in Nore Command.
- (6) Request shore lights as indicated by Plot.
- (7) Mails to Scapa.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth, 142340A to A.C.O.S., C. in C.H.F., C.S.10, CONRAD.)

Shipping and Convoys

Cross-Channel duty and leave services The following provisional programme for British duty and leave services have been agreed between War Office and P.S.T.O. Sec. and are promulgated at their request.

(2) Tilbury - Ostend Duty Service.

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Sails from Tilbury</u>	<u>Sails from Ostend</u>
ST. HELIER	14th February	15th February
LONGFORD	15th February	16th February
INVICTA	16th February	17th February
ST. HELIER and ULSTER MONARCH	17th February	18th February
LONGFORD	18th February	19th February
INVICTA	19th February	20th February
ST. HELIER	20th February	21st February
LONGFORD	21st February	22nd February
INVICTA	22nd February	23rd February
ST. HELIER and ULSTER MONARCH	23rd February	24th February
LONGFORD	24th February	25th February

(3) VIKING on return Tilbury on 15th February to be boiler cleaned.

(4) Harwich - Calais leave Service.

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Sails from Harwich</u>	<u>Sails from Calais</u>
PRINCESS J. CHARLOTTE	15th February	16th February
LADY OF MANN	16th February	17th February
BIARRITZ	18th February	19th February
PRINCESS J. CHARLOTTE	19th February	20th February
LADY OF MANN	20th February	21st February
BIARRITZ	21st February	22nd February
PRINCESS J. CHARLOTTE	22nd February	23rd February
LADY OF MANN	23rd February	24th February
BIARRITZ	24th February	25th February
PRINCESS J. CHARLOTTE	25th February	26th February
LADY OF MANN	26th February	27th February

(5) PRINCESS J. CHARLOTTE on completion of discharge at Harwich on 27th February will proceed Tilbury for boiler cleaning.

(A.N.C.X.F. 141407A to Admty. and others.)

/Release...

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Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Release of U.S. L.S.Ts. (1 group missing) S.79094 (1) review of L.S.T. and Landing Craft position. Minutes of meeting held at S.H.A.E.F. Main 29 January 45 refer.  
(2) Operational situation large commitments for cross channel vehicle movement and forecast demands indicate that all vehicle lifted for cross channel movement is such that 8 U.S. L.S.T. released for refitting and maintenance must be retained in "Overlord" pool and that no releases can be made now.  
(3) 36 U.S. L.C.T.(5) and (6) released subject to confirmation can be withdrawn from "Overlord" now.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 142020A to A.N.C.X.F.)





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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Shipping to Black Sea. My 151858 Dec. para. 1. It was not intended to convey that the Port dues were included in this para. and that if an approach were made to Turkish Government to waive or reduce these dues that they would re-act favourably.  
(Ankara 141231C to Admty.)

U-Class Submarines. Loan to Greek Navy. Reference C. in C. Med.'s 141611 Oct. 1944. Approval has now been given, subject to the concurrence of the appropriate Joint Assignment Committee to offer on loan to the Royal Hellenic Navy under terms of Anglo-Greek agreement 3 U-Class Submarines for service under British operational control.

(2) In view of the shortage of British manpower we are unable to man a sufficient number of A/S training submarines for our requirements and the offer of these vessels to the Greeks is therefore on the understanding that they, together with PIPINOS will be used for British A/S training in the Mediterranean. Should the Greek manning situation render it necessary, it is assumed that the Greeks will place into reserve PAPANICOLIS, NEREUS and MATROZOS in order to man these 3 U-Class Submarines as suggested in the letter No. 320/1265/4312 from the Greek C. in C. to F.O.L.E.M. dated 15th Sept. 1944.

(3) Request you will inform Greek C. in C. accordingly.  
(1st Lord 141332A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Ships for Black Sea. M.S.C.I. 5. Intend sailing at 0700/15th Feb. special convoy to Rabbit Island thence ships of convoy proceed independently to Istanbul for onward routeing to Odessa.

(4) E.T.A. Rabbit Island 1030/16th E.T.A. Istanbul a.m. 17th.

(8) MUSKETEER.	(9)	Speed	Ships
		11	JACOB S. MANSFIELD
		10½	THOMAS W. GREGORY
		11	JAMES RUMSEY
		10½	GEORGE KENNY.

(S.B.N.O. Greece 141605B to F.C.L.E.M., etc.)

Dodecanese Sitrep 14th Feb. (1) Nisero. 11th Feb. reported number Germans landed Island. Two Tps. Gsr. with S.P. weapons from Symi attacked 12th Feb. Result whole German Force accounted for 9 killed and 31 P.W. Own Cas. one officer killed.

(2) Relief. Shipment of Interim Relief in B.M.A. caiques to Rhodes and Calino 9th Feb. Introduction Red Cross Sups. commenced 11th Feb. Rhodes, Calino, Leros, Calchi, Pserimo in Turkish caiques. Still proceeding.

(3) Return of P.W. five wounded British and Greek P.W. returned from Rhodes 10th Feb.

(C. in C. M.E. 142015B to W.O.)

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No. 560. (1) Adriatic. Attitude of Authority at Zara and Split has now become co-operative. Coastal craft on patrol west of Istria made night attacks on large merchant ship which broke in half and sank after being hit by 2 torpedoes.  
(2) Greece. Situation is quiet.  
(3) Dodecanese. German force inconclusive landing on Nisero, has been dealt with.  
(4) Libya. It has now been possible to board and examine A.F.D. 24 which is very extensively damaged and still grinding on rocks. (C. in C. Med. 142109A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Operational Command Post. An operational command post has been set up by F.O.N.A.M. at Leghorn. All signals referring to operations and shipping movements in, to and from the Ligurian Sea are to be addressed to F.O.N.A.M. Leghorn in addition to F.O.N.A.M. (C. in C. Med. 142139A to Med. Station.)

Riviera Operations. Situation enemy counter fire batteries not located except A Battery in Ospedaletti which was fired on by French S.C. and may have fired at U.S.S. MCLANAHAN upon mission. This battery was heavily shelled by French cruiser MONTCALM 141500A. B Battery located by METEOR at 881891 position of which is to be fixed by army cubes as soon as weather permits. (Com. Flank Force 142237A to F.O.N.A.M. Naples.)

H.M.S. BARFLEUR (trials.) Your 121212. In order to release Mosquitoes as soon as possible it is necessary to carry out aircraft trials, which are expected to last 5 - 6 weeks, before surface trials.  
(2) Trials for which cruiser co-operation are needed could not therefore at earliest start until about end of March and this delay in CALEDON's return cannot be accepted.  
(3) On completion of aircraft trials and portion of surface trials which can be done without cruiser co-operation request you will arrange for BARFLEUR to work with whatever cruiser can be spared for the purpose. A week to 10 days will be required. A.C.N.S.(F) 142354A to C. in C. Med.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat Dispositions. No change.  
(C. in C.E.I., 140405 to S. and A. E.I. South Atlantic).

U-Boat. S.S.S.S. 18 R 00 N 84 R 15 E periscope sighted.  
(HILDA MOLLER via Colombo, 140500Z to General).

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- T.F. 21.3. T.F. 21.3 dissolved in accordance with C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet 041952Z. Cominch please pass to C.T.G. 2 T.F. 61 for action. (PATROLLER 140027Z to C. in C. U.S. At. Fleet.)
- French Cruisers. Your 122109. Matter should be referred to Cominch. Concur that para. 4 of my 111812 be communicated. (A.C.N.S.(F) 140100A to B.A.D.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. No report since my 122115 para. C all times Zebra Cansox/116 in 043° 55' N. 063° 51' W. obtain disappearing radar contact at 0010/13th. (N.S.H.Q. 140202Z to Admty.)
- U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 141336Z, Cominch 141505 Z.)
- Convoy O.21 O.21 sailed New London, Conn., 9 Feb. E.T.A. Balboa C.Z. 19 Feb. (B.A.D. 142146Z to Admty.)
- Fr. Cruisers for Far East. Admiral Fenard has addressed two communications to Cominch regarding the three French cruisers of the MONTCALM class. In the first he states that following the general agreement given by the C.C.S. for the participation of French Naval Forces in operations in the Far East the French Admiralty desires to send the three cruisers under reference to that theatre at the earliest possible date but before this can be implemented it will be necessary for these ships to be overhauled in French ports.
- (2) Admiral Fenard therefore requests that these ships may be released from active duty under the command of C. in C. Med. and states that decision regarding dates for their refits will be communicated as soon as the question of the replacements of their guns has been settled.
- (3) The French Admiralty suggests that the present duty of these cruisers in the Mediterranean can be undertaken now by the DUQUESNE and DUGUAY TROUIN and by the SUFFREN and JEANNE D'ARC at the end of their current overhaul.
- (4) In the second letter Admiral Fenard informs Cominch that the 152 m.m. guns of these three cruisers have to be replaced by new guns being manufactured in Canada. It is anticipated that the guns will be completed by 1st May for the first cruiser by 1st June for the second and by 1st July for the 3rd. He points out that by these dates the overhaul of the cruisers could have been carried out in French ports.
- (5) Admiral Fenard therefore asks Cominch that the cruisers may be received at a United States Port (Norfolk is suggested as most suitable) for their fitting with the new guns.
- (6) Cominch informs B.A.D. that it will be practicable to accept the cruisers at a United States Navy Yard at the rate of one a

14.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

French Cruisers for Far East. (Contd.) month commencing 1st May 1945 for the installation of the guns only and he consequently requests the Admiralty to confirm whether these ships can be released from their present operational duties for the overhauls desired by the French. In this connection Cominch notes that in the C.C.S. Memorandum to the Chief of the French Naval Mission (C.C.S. 708/4 and C.C.S. 708 /7) there is the stipulation that overhauls are to be accomplished in North African ports. (7) Cominch intends to make clear to the French that the release of these ships if authorised for overhaul and regunning does not in any way imply a commitment as to the theatre in which they will be employed since such decision must be made by the C.C.S. (8) In conclusion he expresses the opinion that it seems appropriate that as long as there is need for cruisers in French waters the commitment should be met by French cruisers. (9) Request early concurrence or comment on the foregoing. (B.A.D. 142225Z to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Armament Store Carrier KOLA. N.O.I.C. Fremantle reports A/S carrier KOLA max. average speed since leaving Suez has been  $7\frac{3}{4}$  knots and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  knots only from Colombo to Trimomalee  $7\frac{1}{4}$  knots onward to Fremantle but at that speed broke down 100 miles short of Fremantle. Considered this is a 7 knot ship for fine weather and runs not exceeding 10 days. Vessel ought to do another knot for short 3 day passages. Repairs carried out at Fremantle will not increase speed. In view of above vessel considered unsatisfactory for duty of this importance. Request early action to replace by suitable 10 - 11 knot vessel which should be available by end of March. (R.A.F.T. 140610Z to Admty.)

Digest 1120. 13 Feb. '45 (1) Task Force consisting of two ISE class battleships one probable NACHI class cruiser and three destroyers seen several times during day by aircraft and submarines South China Sea heading north, keeping over 150 miles from French Indo China Coast. Force last reported at dusk 150 miles N.E. of Tourane course north speed approx. 20 knots. Unfavourable weather necessitated cancellation majority of possibly all scheduled air strikes. Submarine reports indicate some damage probably inflicted on Force.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 1120. (4) Eight Lightnings made shipping sweep China  
13 Feb. '45. Coast forenoon straffing river steamer at Amoy.  
(Contd.) (7) Night 11th February Lingayan P.T. boats  
destroyed two seatrucks, six speed boats, five  
barges all vicinity San Fernando.  
(9) 5th Air Force Liberators hit Corregidor mid  
morning followed by 46 Liberators of 13th Air Force at midday.  
Cruiser/Destroyer Task Force bombarded defence installations there  
commencing shortly before noon and continuing throughout afternoon  
while minesweepers swept Manila Bay entrance, approx. 1200 six  
inch and 2500 5 inch shells expended, nil return fire encountered.  
(12) Advancing in Manila from south, Nichols Field captured after  
stiff fighting although enemy artillery still registering thereon  
from hills to north and northeast. Forward elements this  
force contacted patrols from other force advancing south from  
Philippini Racing Club Bridgehead, latter force passed through  
Nielson Field against little resistance then swinging southwest  
to reach Manila Bay. Cavite was occupied midday 12th without  
opposition. Approx. 3½ mile stretch of Manila Bay waterfront  
immediately South Pasig River mouth by average half mile deep is  
only sector of Manila remaining in enemy hands although resis-  
tance continues from isolated positions in outskirts.  
(13) Moving east across Central Luzon our forces reached Baler  
Bay without enemy contact.  
(15) On 11th (3?) boats destroyed one sea truck and two supply  
laden barges off East Coast Cebu. P.T. boats straffed Jap.  
communications at Sogod night 12th.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 141131Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/14th Feb.  
Para. A. (1) DENBIGH CASTLE reported mined (but  
may have been torpedoed) prior to 0100Z/13th Feb.  
in Kola Inlet Approaches.  
(2) A/C E/547 attacked surfaced U-Boat at 2220Z/  
13th Feb. in 58° 00' N. 10° 55' E.  
Para. C. (1) H.M.C.S. WENTWORTH and PETROLIA attacked doubtful  
contact at 1400Z/13th Feb. in 50° 44' N. 08° 19' W.  
(2) A/C S/ 63 obtained contact at 1455Z/13th Feb. in 50° 12' N.  
01° 28' W. and E.G. 17 attacked several doubtful contacts within  
8 miles of this position.  
(3) BALSAM and LOUISBERG attacked contact at 1900Z/13th Feb. in  
49° 35' N. 07° 35' W.  
(4) E.G. C. 3 attacked possible contact at 2037Z/13th Feb. in  
52° 33' N. 05° 20' W.  
(5) A/C Q/16 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2215Z/13th Feb. in 48°  
58' N. 07° 01' W.

/Para. D....

14.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

Para. D. (1) Trainer A/C R/120 reported smoke  
possibly snort, course 260° at 1340Z/13th Feb.  
in 55° 34' N. 06° 56' W.

(2) SS. HILDA MOLLER reported periscope at 0400Z/  
14th Feb. in 18° 00' N. 84° 15' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 141115A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 141400A, 141403A.)

15.2.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

- 1(a) Commandos from 3 L.C.A. landed near Zeriksee Canal, and from 2 L.C.A. near Dussen. The latter met heavy opposition. EREBUS was not supporting. *no. sec p. 264.*  
(b) Tanker LISETA was sunk 3 miles north of North Foreland, probably by a mine disturbed by her whilst weighing, but possibly by a torpedo.  
(c) Two mines were detonated off Harwich.

Norway.

2. VENTURER reports having successfully stalked, sighted and sunk a submerged U-Boat about 25 miles north of Bergen on the 9th. Oil, wooden wreckage and a large iron cylinder came to the surface.

Northern Waters.

- 3(a) Tenth E.G's U-Boat survivors, who had been in the water some 5 miles from the attack position for over an hour, died before revealing the identity of their ship.  
(b) The Soroy civilians, 500 in number, of whom 196 children, were successfully evacuated this afternoon.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

- ~~4(a) Early this morning about four o'clock enemy soldiers landed at Mentone from a rubber boat three killed, one prisoner and the boat was captured. (See 11.2.45)~~  
(b) French destroyer SIMOUN fired 62 rounds at A/A battery today. Enemy counter-fired 2 salvos of 2 rounds at close range. No damage. Next day SIMOUN fired 42 rounds at bridge and road and railway, very good shooting. Destroyer MATCHLESS also fired 58 rounds at command post with good results.

Adriatic.

5. Last night Dugi Island (off Zara) was raided by the enemy with little success. Four rubber boats were subsequently discovered by Partisans and one P.W. taken. Search for remainder raiding party continues.

Aegean.  
Enemy  
mines.

6. 75 moored mines were swept up in Doro Channel today.



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Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

7(a) A landing craft was mined off Mariveles, Manila Bay and burnt out. A controlled minefield is suspected in the area.  
(b) An American destroyer escort probably sank a U-Boat in the Subic Sea today after a 10 hour attack.

Movement.

8. H.M.S. HOBART arrived Manus from Sydney.

15.2.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Minesweeping  
off East  
Coast.

One magnetic ground mine detonated in position  
149° 54A Buoy 15 (cables?).  
(S.O. M/S.F.18, 151004A to C. in C. Nore.)  
One ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1311 in  
position 190° No.3 Buoy 9 cables.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 151424 to Admty.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 317 Part 4, Section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/  
14th Feb.

British -

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	4	475	10,825	6,713	98
Ostend	1,396	-	996	1,677	-
Boulogne	-	92	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	822	-	-
Calais	3,606	266	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4,105	-	917
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>16,748</b>	<b>8,390</b>	<b>1,015</b>

U.S. North -

Antwerp	-	32	18,280	-	-
Cherbourg	-	144	10,687	-	4,363
Le Havre	4,450	373	4,236	6,711	2,071
Rouen	1,247	468	11,127	543	1,635
Granville	-	-	82	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,863	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,697</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>48,275</b>	<b>7,254</b>	<b>8,069</b>

U.S. South -

Marseilles	6	55	11,361	-	190
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,581	-	1,581
Toulon	-	-	88	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>13,030</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,771</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 151645A to Admty. and others.)

Operation  
"Moonshine".

"Moonshine". Humber 15th Feb. departure NONSUCH  
at 1700.  
(F.O. Humber, 151710A to C. in C. Nore.)

Attack on  
Schouwen.

Cancel my 121910, 131848, 132318 and 142251.  
EREBUS is not to sail. N.C. Force T 151503  
and 151510 refer.  
(2) EREBUS revert to 12 hours notice. ANTHONY  
comply with Capt. (D) 1 151959. None of signals  
quoted are to all addressees.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 152325A to EREBUS, ANTHONY.)

? Deliberate  
cancelled  
see

Station W.D.  
15/2 R.83

/Situation ...

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War Diary.15.2.1945.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea.- Contd.

Situation Cositintrep No. 317, Naval.  
Report. As a result of the fire at Ostend 12 M.T.Bs. were total losses. 14 other M.T.Bs. were superficially damaged.  
(2) Commandos in 3 L.C.A. with 4 L.C.S.(M) in support landed in vicinity of Zeriksee Canal. Others in 2 L.C.A. landed in vicinity of Dussen. Heavy opposition encountered by latter.  
(3) Port of Ostend closed owing to fog.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 152336A to Admty.)

OperationsChannel

Patrols and Escorts. Convoy T.B.C.68 270 Lizard Head 7 at 0900A. Trail to Pendeen Head and then resume patrol previously ordered.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 150855A to S.O. E.G.26.)  
(1) S.O. E.G.15 in LOUIS take BURGESS and ICARUS under his orders and sail at 1700A to patrol area 50° 10' N., 49° 50' N., 01° 30' W. 01° 50' W.  
(2) Leave patrol as requisite to R/V with H.X.336 S.O. Escort in VANQUISHER. S.O. E.G.15 assume duties Senior Officer close escort on joining.  
(3) R/V position Route E at 02° 30' W. Convoy's E.T.A. 0600A/16th.  
(4) On leaving patrol detach ICARUS to anchor off St. Helens.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151332A to LOUIS, BURGESS, ICARUS.)  
S.O. E.G.17 with four frigates is patrolling area 50° 30' N. 50° 15' N., 02° 20' W. 01° 45' W. during night of the 15th/16th.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151535A to S.O. E.G.15.)  
Sail from St. Helens at 0100A/16th escorting GENERAL G.W. GOETHALS and EXANTHIA bound Falmouth and Mumbles respectively.  
(2) Route W to meet C.U.57 escorted by 5 U.S. D.Es., S.O. C.T.G. 61.5 in MACDOUGAL with Force 26 S.O. TANATSIDE supporting it.  
(3) On meeting relieve Force 26 and turn over the 2 ships to TANATSIDE for onward escort westward.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151720A to HARGOOD, KINGSMILL, VIDETTE, L'ESCARMOUCHE.)  
On reaching 02° 30' W. detach from convoy and return to Portsmouth for 24 hours lay-over. Berth as ordered by Capt.  
(D) 1.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151800A to CONVOLVULUS, ANCHUSA.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Weigh at 0215A/16th Feb. and carry out serial A.2 part 1.  
(2) Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151630A to PLOVER, BOSTON BANGOR.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols and Escorts. S.O. E.G.19 has assumed duty as S.O. 36.  
(2) 19th E.G. supporting M.H.24 transferring to B.B. 24 at 54° N.  
(3) Suitable.

(S.O. Force 36, 150355A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 151048 and 151105 neither to all. Divide your group as necessary to support both convoys.

(C. in C. W.A., 151110A to Force 36.)

If not in contact E.G.23 is to enter Milford Haven at daylight 16th for fuelling and short rest.

(C. in C. W.A., 151134A to S.O. E.G.23.)

Order of sailing:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sail Liverpool</u>	<u>Take out</u>	<u>Bring back</u>
C.5	8/3	O.N. 289	H.X. 346
C.1	12/3	O.N.S.44	H.X. 347
C.2	13/3	O.N. 290	S.C. 171
C.7	18/3	O.N. 291	H.X. 348
C.4	22/3	O.N.S.45	H.X. 349
C.9	23/3	O.N. 292	S.C. 172
C.6	28/3	O.N. 293	H.X. 350

(C. in C. W.A., 151905A to Com. (D) W.A.)

Possible U-Boat. At 2224Z obtained fix of German U-Boat transmitting enigma 3800 k/cs 2nd class 45 letter groups plotted 51° 56' N., 05° 45' W. possibly Schnorkel transmission, request confirmation.  
(S.O. E.G.25, 152345A to Admty.)

Operations

Norway

U-Boat sunk. VENTURER's report in accordance with I.S.O.H. is as follows:  
(1) 9th Feb. 1050 in position 60° 45' N., 04° 31' E. officer of the watch sighted periscope on bearing of H.E. previously reported. Enemy submarine was stalked submerged until 1212, periscope being sighted three more times. 1212 VENTURER fired four torpedoes by Asdic estimated course and speed of U-Boat 135° 3½ knots, range 2000 yards. One explosion two minutes 12½ seconds after firing first torpedo. Three more explosions between 5 and 5½ minutes later probably on shore. Breaking up noises followed first explosion and he stopped. On investigation of position of attack the following were seen: (1) Large and spreading patch of oil. (2) Much wooden wreckage. (3) Large iron cylinder approximate size of a torpedo with manhole door on one end.  
(2) During attack target was thought to be zig-zagging. He was very loud and apparently of diesel engines but no Schnorkel was seen. Opportunity to fire occurred at about 1120 but C.O. of VENTURER did not consider he had sufficient information at that time.  
(3) No other shipping sighted other than many fishing boats.  
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 150928A to F.O. S/M.)

/Operation ...

15.2.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Operation S.C.                      Ramose Keynote.      VIGRA returned at 1710A/15th Feb.  
(2) Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 151711A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Sunk U-Boat.                      Your 142231 regret all survivors have since died. Wreckage recovered includes locker lid? and splintered interior wood work evidence of destruction but not identity. Oil still spreading and wreckage coming up. Intend to comply with your 142301 at 0200.

*U.989*

(S.O. E.G.10, 150037A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 150037. German U-Boat was detected at 1500 by BAYNTUN and attacked 3 times by LOCH DUNVEGAN who obtained depth, once by LOCH ECK, twice unsuccessfully by BAYNTUN and once unsuccessfully by BRAITHWAITE. German U-Boat apparently released several SBT ? then did not use H.S. Contact was lost about 1730 and at 2000 about 6 survivors were found 5 miles from (?Shetlands).

(S.O. E.G.10, 150131A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 150131. Germans had been about an hour in water and 2 were still alive when picked up. 2 officers M.E. Showlker and Harde Rod(ler) von Roithberg, 2 ratings Bauer and Neutzling.

(S.O. E.G.10, 150241A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 150241. First officers name should read Tearllen Ernst. Identity number O/(LK?)3381 age about 34. Identity disc of Rodler von Roithberg marked seeing\* officer 1937, age about 25. One sheet of manuscript found on the former not yet translated.

(S.O. E.G.10, 152002A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

\* As received. ? See Log. (See Log?)

Evacuation of civilians from Soroy.                      If Catalina is sent request Capt. (D) 2 be informed of E.T.A. and that she may communicate with him at earliest opportunity in case situation is not as expected. Your 141410\*. Capt. (D) 2 will not arrive Soroy before 1100A/15th Feb.

(C.S.1, 150632A to Admty.)

\* Re-encypherment of NANSSEN Norwegian Party's 140956. Referring my 155 as further information 170 men, 136 women mainly old people and 196 children must be evacuated. 130 people will remain on Island. Evacuation eastwards impossible German patrol boats harassing island every day.

(Col. Johnson, 151000A to Admty.)

Catalina is not being sent until it is known whether W/T operator and set are being evacuated.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 151207A to C.S.1.)

Ref. A.M. 141956.

I have no means of confirming or disproving reports I receive from Finmark. In absence of direct communication with outlying

/parties ...

War Diary.15.2.1945.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern WatersEvacuation  
of civilians  
from Soroy.  
(Contd.)parties intelligence inevitably depends on  
verbal reports of fishing ships etc. For  
example my 071530 referred to a movement a  
week earlier.(2) Capt. Hostvedt's information reported in  
my 091115 was telephoned by Russians from  
Kirkenes and was confirmed by N.S. EGLANTINE  
when she arrived here. Link is between Soroy and Kirkenes.  
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 151348A to Admty.)"Open Door" carried out successfully. 500 evacuated.  
No others require taking off from Soroy. E.T.A. Kola Inlet  
1000C/16th with 4 destroyers. Weather report 9080 2051  
position 72 23.

(Capt. (D) 2, 151746A to Admty.)

Convoy  
R.A. 64.(1) Intend to sail for Clyde, R.A.64 at 0800A/  
(?17th).(2) Speed  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots.(3) Routed (KX), (MX) then route Blue F, G, H,  
J, B, A, K as in C. in C. H.F. 232034A January

thence through Minches to Clyde.

(4) Reference position same as ocean route.

(6) Recoding table S.P. 2406 (941), S.P. 2272 (34) and (35).

(7) (?British) ships: SAMARITAN, EMPIRE CELIA, EMPIRE ARCHER,  
NACELLA (T), BRITISH PROMISE (T), LUCERNA (T), BLACK RANGER (T).  
Total 7 ships.(8) American ships: ALANSON B. HOUGHTON, GEORGE H. PENDLETON,  
JOSHUA W. ALEXANDER, JOHN LA FARGE, SILAS W<sup>IR</sup>MITCHELL, J.D.  
YEAGER, BERNARD D. BAKER, THOMAS SCOTT, R. NEY MCNEELY, JAMES  
KERNEY, BENJAMIN H. HILL, CHARLES M. SCHWAB, FRANCIS C.  
HARRINGTON, PAUL H. HARWOOD (T), CHARLES SCRIBNER, JOHN IRELAND,  
CAESAR RODNEY, WARREN DELANO, PHILIP F. THOMAS, JOSE MARTI,  
HENRY BACON, JOHN A QUITMAN, CROSBY S. NOYES, HENRY VILLARD,  
EDMUND FANNING, LE BARON RUSSELL BRIGGS, HENRY WYNKOOP. Total  
27 ships.

(9) Norwegian ship IDEFJORD.

Admiralty pass to M.W.T.

(N.C.S.O. Murmansk, 151220A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

SS. LISETA.

Tanker LISETA (2,580 tons) in T.A.M.80 sunk<sup>\*</sup> by  
explosion at 0230A today Thursday in position  
352 North Foreland 3 miles while weighing anchor.  
Torpedo is possible but mine disturbed by anchor  
is considered more likely.

(C. in C. Nore, 151016A to Admty.) \* not sunk, see p. 264

CATTISTOCK,  
destroyer  
v. SS.  
YEWGLEN.Anchored vicinity N.F.7 visibility half cable  
have been in collision with SS. YEWGLEN. No  
damage to me, very slight damage to YEWGLEN.  
ST. HELIER and DAKINS proceeding although ordered  
to anchor by me.

(CATTISTOCK, 151051A to C. in C. Nore.)

15.2.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

BARFLEUR,  
Fr. Aux.  
Cruiser.

F.S. BARFLEUR unable to sail according 141603A  
Admiralty loading operations will hold ship in  
Brest until about 22nd February. 48 hours  
notice will be given for date of ready to sail.  
(Comar Brest, 151758A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys

B.B. and  
M.H. Convoys.

Ships for Lancashire ports detaching from M.H.  
convoys are to be instructed to remain with  
Mersey section to Bar L.V. thence to proceed  
independently by standard route.

(2) Ships for Solway Firth ports detaching  
from M.H. convoys are to break off in 54.30 N., 05.03 W.  
thence to proceed independently by standard route.

(3) Amend my 282239 January accordingly.

(4) Coastal shipping sailing independently is also to be  
routed as in paras. 1 and 2.

(C. in C. W.A., 151258A to Western Approaches Command.)

War Diary.

15.2.1945.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U-boat            Am investigating possible Schnorkel Puff in position 036° 05' N., 007° 50' W. BELLWORT and CROCUS in company carrying out operation ~~observant~~ Aircraft in company assisting. (FOWEY, 150940A to Gib.)

Movement        Arrived H.M.S. BARFLEUR. (F.O.G.M.A., 151258A to Admty).

E Groups         Intend sailing 56 E.G. at 1000Z Feb. 16th to overtake ASTURIAS by first light 20th and relieve 59 E.G. S. of A. 9 knots. 56 E.G. will continue to Gibraltar detaching AMARANTHUS and COWSLIP to refuel at Casablanca, if necessary. 5 escorts will be retained at all times. (Comar Dakar, 151015Z to F.O.G.M.A.)



15.2.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

South Aegean Summary (1) Shipping and military Ph. R. 14 Feb. limited to Rhodes and vicinity. Dodecanese. Rhodes. Departed one caique 100 foot. Probably MINLAX to Marmaris with refugees as reported yesterday. Ground source reports establishment Octu. Probably similar to establishment on Crete. Nisero. Final enemy casualties 7 killed 33 wounded and P.W. Porto Lago. Reported one 50 foot barge loaded with mines permanently at St. Marine Bay. Ground source reports mines laid from Gurna Island to Cape at Thremona Bay. General. Reported civilian refugees ex Dodecanese up to 31 Jan. approx. 4000. (C. in C. M.E. 151110B to W.O.)

Split. Enemy Explosive M/Bs attacked My? 121731A\* para. 9. Partisans asked if prisoners could be evacuated to Italy for interrogation. This refused but men placed at our disposal Partisans having obtained no information from them. (2) Men interrogated by Lt. Helms R.N.R. (Danish Navy), Lt. White R.N.V.R. (B.N.L.O.)

- (3) Full written report is being forwarded. Following is brief summary.
- (4) Prisoners were 2 machinenmaat and one hauptgefreiter from 612 flotilla Kommando Der K. Verbande, Pola.
- (5) 6 boats left Pola on Sunday 11th Feb. between 0800 and 1000. One returned with engine trouble.
- (6) Remainder proceeded to seaward of all islands until reaching Drvesmk Channel after dark. Here leading boat developed engine trouble and was scuttled. Officer (Fahnrich) transferred to another boat.
- (7) 4 boats carried out attack. First boat presumed to have been successful. Second boat hit and sunk by DELHI reported blowing up later. Third boat turned back and picked up 2 survivors outside harbour, was engaged by Partisan battery and sunk. 2 men swam ashore and were captured. Fourth boat blinded by searchlight missed entrance hit breakwater and detonated, survivor captured.
- (8) Objective to attack and destroy English shipping at Split. Cruiser mentioned.
- (9) Plan is for Auffangboats to rescue crews and return to bases.
- (10) Auffangboat is same size and appearance as attack boats but carries extra petrol and rations in place of explosive.
- (11) 3 explosive boats left in Pola when prisoners sailed.
- (12) Partisans were present at interrogation.
- (S.B.N.O. Split 151113A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

\* Brief report of attack by explosive M.Bs. on Split Harbour.

A.F.D. 24. A.F.D. 24 has now been boarded. Chances of salvage cannot yet be assessed. Report of salvage experts is awaited. Weather has now improved. (C. in C. Med. 151305A to Admty.)

/Movements...

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15.2.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, It is understood that movement of troops from U.K. of drafts to Mediterranean across France now being planned across France. in London. (Plan Medloc) is scheduled to begin sometime after 1st April. In view of the saving of time and therefore manpower that would result if this were adopted as the normal route for both regular drafts outward and homeward and also for individual special cases of officers and ratings including those on compassionate leave information is requested as to whether it is the intention to institute such arrangements. Questions of transport and accommodation that will arise at the Mediterranean end of the journey are being investigated.  
(C. in C. Med. 151421A to Admty.)

A.F.D. 53. Sailed (1) ADVANTAGE (2) CHEERLY with (3) A.F.D. 53 in tow to Aden for onward routeing.  
(2) S.O.A. 7 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. 0800Z/23rd Feb. ADVANTAGE will make firm T.A. when nearing Perim.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez 151534B to Com. Aden.)

Destroyers Request you will arrange 14 days working up for for onward ULYSSES, TARTAR and TEAZER, A.M. 131939 refers.\* routeing.  
(C. in C. Med. 151838A to V.A.M.)  
\* ULYSSES, TARTAR and TEAZER to carry out 14 days work in Med. before proceeding further.

Whalers. My 061731 Dec. It is intended to retain whalers M/S Flotillas SARKA, SWONA, BOREALIS, CALM and HAILSTORM temporarily for dan laying duties with Auxiliary Minesweepers and also so as to be available for Fleet Minesweeping Flotillas if required.  
(2) SARKA and SWONA are urgently required in the Aegean for duty in S.B.N.O. Greece's 011144 not to all and are to be sailed to Piraeus as soon as available.  
(3) BOREALIS is to continue to operate as required by F.O.L.E.M.  
(4) HAILSTORM and CALM are allocated to F.O.T.A.L.I.  
(C. in C. Med. 151930A to V.A.M.)

Situation Coastal craft on patrol off east coast of Istria report No. night of 13th Feb. destroyed 3 heavily armed craft. 561. 1 M.T.B. damaged. Casualties 2 killed and 2 wounded.  
(C. in C. Med. 152000A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

Operation Your 121515 noted. "Goldflake", (2) Your para. 3B request further details of reasons movement of for this move of P.O.W. to Middle East. P.O.W. (3) Your para. 4:-  
(a) We are planning GEORGIC to Naples with K.M.F. 41 and two ships with combined capacity of about 5,500 to Middle East and two with capacity of about 6,000 to Odessa.

/(b)...

250

15.2.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation  
"Goldflake"  
Movement of  
P.O.W.  
(Contd.)

(b) If absolutely necessary we could probably send an additional ship as replacement for DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. Request report on port to which you would wish her to proceed and minimum capacity required.

(c) We selected Malta as transshipment port in order to allow DUCHESS OF BEDFORD to leave Odessa at latest date consistent with connecting with M.K.F. 41. (4) Agreed.  
(D. of S.T. 152305A to P.S.T.O. Med.) See 171800A

MONTCALM.

Your 071448.

Request confirmation that MONTCALM can be spared for refit when required if DUQUESNE does not join the Flank Force.

(2) Med. 00301/63/41 of 2.1.45 forwarding Admiral Ronarch's proposals refers.  
(V.C.N.S. 152359A to C. in C. Med.)

15.2.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Salvage  
of Ships  
Red Sea  
Ports

Your 210329Z January. Salvage by local Italian firms can not be permitted on terms vesting property in the salvor, since arrangement operates to detriment of Prize Fund and contravenes Ministry of War Transport policy by permitting acquisition of free tonnage by local interests.

(2) If Military Government wish to arrange for salvage by local contractors, N.O.I.C. Massawa should refer any contract to Admiralty for approval: ship should be seized in prize when afloat and requisition order obtained from Prize Court. Ministry of War Transport are, however, of opinion that in view of abnormal wastage which occurs in Massawa waters and congested state of repair facilities in the Indian Ocean area, salvage with a view to use in trade is undesirable unless repairs can be executed locally.

(3) Second sentence of paragraph 4 of N.O.I.C. Massawa's 161206 is not understood. Ships in prize are in custody of Admiralty Marshal and cannot be dealt with without an Order of Court. In the event of Admiralty interests being endangered ships can be seized in prize before being raised. N.O.I.C. Massawa should, however, report to Admiralty before taking such action.

(Head of M. 150059A to C. in C.E.I.) See 190856C.

U-boat  
dispositions

No change.  
(C. in C.E.I., 150352Z to Ships and Authorities E.I.S.)

NIZAM

In view of N.O.I.C. Fremantle 120947 and my 130649 propose NIZAM should not return to E.I. Fleet. Your 150752 refers. If you concur request you take necessary action.

(2) N.O.I.C. Fremantle pass his 120947 to C. in C.B.P.F. three signals quoted not to all.

(C. in C.E.I., 150549Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Convoys  
cycle of

Reference my 040551. I estimate that vessels of 18 knots proceeding independently at best speed will make up on present schedule 5 days in each direction between Gibraltar and Bombay and can turn round at Bombay in not more than 7 days.

Do you therefore intend run intermediate convoys Gibraltar to U.K., 10 days in advance of present cycle for benefit of above vessels. Failing this such vessels if keeping present cycle Gibraltar/U.K. must spend up to 17 days at Bombay as it is desirable that time on passage should be shortest possible for comfort of passengers.

(2) Agreed Armindia.

(P.S.T.O.(I) 150554Z to D.S.T.) See 192210.

Craft for  
Minesweeping

Anticipate that mine-sweeping will be an important factor in future operations and it is necessary to release craft for mine-sweeping training as soon as can be arranged.

15.2.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Craft for  
Minesweeping  
(Contd.)

(2) After convoy PB 92 intend to allow troop  
ships on PB/BP route to proceed unescorted,  
thereby releasing a number of Bangors.  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 150741Z to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Report on  
Internal  
Situation  
India

C. in C. India, No T.O.O. to W.O.  
See Lion Copy.

S/M  
movement

Arrived SOLENT  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 151710Z to Admty.)

# SECRET

E. I.  
IN  
252A

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/15th February.

DATE: 15.2.45.

From: C. in C. India.

RECD: 1415

CIPHER

*Report on Internal Situation  
India*

Addressed: The War Office.

IMPORTANT

014955.

59353/GSI(B) cipher 15 Feb.

In continuation my 54142/GSI(B) 30 Jan.  
Follg. summary internal India.

One. General public greatly impressed by Russian advance and consider end of European war now in sight. Much speculation has been noticeable regarding effects of Russian advance on political situation in Central Europe and regarding possibilities of rift in Allied camp as result of disagreement over military or political objectives. Re-action to Yalta Conference not repeat not yet known. Tendency to minimise comparatively slow progress of Allies in west also noticeable. Capture of Mainila regarded as important step towards defeat of Japan.

Two. Independence Day celebrations on 26 Jan were on very small scale Bombay being main centre of activity. Defiance of ban on political meetings resulted in a few arrests. Gandhi still too physically weak to take full part in political activities. Believed to be unenthusiastic regarding Bhulabhai Desai's recent move for Congress return to constitutional field and also to be opposed to further meeting with Jinnah on ground Pakistan not repeat not generally acceptable to Congress. Sapru conciliation committee making slow progress. Speeches at recent meeting of Bihar Congressmen suggesting necessity for further mass struggle resulted in restrictions being temporarily imposed on five prominent Bihar Congressmen. These restrictions have now been suspended.

Three. Bengal rice prices still steady. Procurement proceeding quietly and general confidence now felt in scheme as result of last year's success. New rationing period introduced in Calcutta has also caused satisfaction and faith in Bengal Govts ability to feed Calcutta has increased. Economic situation in South India now generally satisfactory except in Mysore. Western Indian States believed experiencing serious food shortage but situation not yet clarified.

Four.../ Japan.

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Four. DIB agrees.

Five. Morale. No change in morale. Considerable optimism among British troops regarding war situation. AG agrees.

No T.O.O + 1<sup>st</sup> March.

PGV  
(62)

Advance copy O.D. Ops. O.I.C.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S. Lord (3)
- V.C.H.S.
- A.C.H.S. (1)
- Sec.
- D.A.S. (1)
- D.H.I. (5)
- C.N.I. (2)
- M. (2)
- O.D. (6)
- V.D.

Received in War Registry at  
O940/17. Circulated by War  
Office to internal Departments  
and Air Ministry, Foreign Office,  
India Office, War Registry,  
Admiralty.

15.2.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Handbook  
of British  
Warships  
for U.S.A.

Your 242243 Jan. If considered essential no objection is raised to the publication of a Confidential Book giving details of British Warships provided that the material is issued in a Registered Copy-numbered publication.

- (2) The following particulars of H.M. Ships are Secret and consequently should not be included in the proposed O.N.I. 222 B.G:
  - (a) Armour Protection. (b) Fuel Stowage (tons). (c) Endurance data. (d) Actual speeds under various conditions. (No objection is raised however, to approximate speeds being used as proposed in para. 3 of your signal under reply).
  - (e) Maximum elevation of guns. (f) Maximum range (yards) of guns.
- (3) The standard displacement quoted for KING GEORGE V class vis 36,750 tons is as estimated for K.G.5 on completion. The standard displacement quoted in C.B. 01815B is the nominal design figure of 35,000 tons and this figure should be quoted in an official publication with the wide distribution envisaged.
- (4) It will be realised that the release of this information in the Confidential category will give a picture of the total number of ships completed in each Class. (1st Lord, 150620A to B.A.D.)

A/S  
protection.

Request you will arrange A/S protection while in Azores waters for SS. PEREGRINE WHITE scheduled to sail from U.S. in convoy U.G.S.76 for discharge at Santa Maria and Terceira. (Cominch, 151222Z to Admty.)

U/B  
dispositions.

Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 151338Z, Cominch 151501.)

U/B  
sighting.

A.T.C. aircraft at 9,000 feet sighted fully surfaced U-Boat course 028° in 44.52 N., 41.20 W. at 1325Z/15th. (N.S.H.Q., 152231Z to Admty.) Amended by 162120Z.

Australia and New Zealand

I/  
SS. PETER  
SILVESTER  
torpedoed.

Following report dated 13th Feb. received from N.O.I.C. Fremantle begins: Reference B.R. form U.2D (1944) article 13(B). (A) PETER SILVESTER. (B) 34° 19' S., 99° 37' E., ship abandoned 1620/6th Feb., part of ship from bridge aft may be still afloat.

/ (D) ...



War Diary.15.2.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

I/  
 SS. PETER SILVESTER  
 torpedoed.  
 (Contd.)

(D) Books (3), route and lettered messages handed by W/T operator (G. Scott) to Master. Subsequent disposal unknown.  
 (E) Not known.  
 (F) Survivors who furnished above information returned to ship after lying off two days. Chief Engineer (W.M. Bertelsen) found Master's safe open. Safe contained considerable sum of money but otherwise empty. Master's boat not yet picked up but as ship was abandoned in ordinary fashion it is assumed books were thrown overboard or retained by Master.  
 (G) W/T operator and Chief Engineer.  
 (H) Insufficient information.  
 (I) Survivors interviewed had no knowledge of sealed bags.  
 (A.C.N.B., 150136Z to Admty.)

ARIADNE  
 minelayer.

C.N.B. Santo route and sail M.M.S. ARIADNE to San Diego stopping Pearl and Funafuti for fuel as necessary. Com. Eleven requested furnish onward routing to Canal Zone. Ultimate destination United Kingdom.  
 (Comsopac., 150603 to C.N.B. Santo.)

Carriers.  
 Sweep.

H.M.A.S. DUBBO fuelling from SPEAKER and left position 031° 45' 097° 45' at 0330Z/15th for area quoted in N.O.I.C. Fremantle's 141517 para. (4) to await N.O.I.C.'s further orders.  
 (2) CORPUS CHRISTI now in company leaving position 031° 35', 100° 00' at 1100Z/15th for Fremantle with survivors passing through area referred to in para. (1).  
 (3) Carriers will sweep in accordance with para. (6) of N.O.I.C. Fremantle's 141517 starting 0001Z/16th.  
 (SLINGER, 150647Z to N.O.I.C. Fremantle.)

Digest  
 1121,  
 14th Feb.

This is Digest Serial number 1121 covering 14th Feb. except where stated otherwise.  
 (1) ?Evening Navy search Liberator sighted enemy task force described 2 battleships, 1 heavy, 1 light cruiser, 4 destroyers 60 miles west by south of Hong Kong heading north. Nil shipping Hong Kong but single lugger sunk to north. Other Liberators over Formosa Strait-China coast reported nil shipping Swattu Amoy, Pescadores, Takao weathered out: bombed lighthouse Bako Command? Nagkd single sea truck off east coast Formosa. Other Liberators over Sakashima Gunto saw only small type shipping, strafed two sea trucks destroyed 8 warehouses, damaged Rfjar Tower while similar aircraft over Okpaama Jima saw 4 sea trucks 1 small freighter, 9 small coasters (Shoxeof) 1 left burning dead in water.  
 (3) Supporting sweeping operations Manila Bay cruisers and destroyers continued bombardment gun positions Corregidor, Caballo, Carpbao, Calumpang which took minesweepers under fire hitting 1 minesweeper, 2 destroyers. Minesweeping continued according to plan.

15.2.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand.

Digest (4) Ground forces in Manila advancing westwards reach Taft Ppenu. Determined enemy resistance still encountered during methodical clearing out of enemy-occupied buildings and strong-points. Heavy concentrations Allied artillery fired into Intramuros area. Total enemy casualties Luzon to noon 14th Feb. number 31,597 killed and 312

Japanese captured.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 150750Z to Admty.)

Destroyers Transfer of 7th D.F. to B.P.F. (Admiralty 022004 Dec. refers) intentions regarding NAPIER expected from East Fremantle late Feb. are contained in your 130649. Indies to (2) Propose (A) NIZAM damaged and requiring at least three weeks repair at Fremantle (N.O.I.C. B.P.F. Fremantle 120947 refers) should not rejoin E.I. Station.

(B) NORMAN and NEPAL be sailed as convenient to C. in C. E.I. preferably to arrive Sydney by mid-March.

(C) Date of transfer of Flotilla to B.P.F. be regarded as 1st March.

(C. in C. B.P.F., 150756Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Survey A.M. 291317 Jan. part 2.  
Torres Prince of Wales Channel is now marked by 4  
Strait, additional light buoys at Harrisson Rock,  
Australia. Nardena Patches, Herald Patches and Alert Rock also by light beacon on Ipili Reef. Distances of beacons proposed on eastern end of North West Reef would render them not entirely satisfactory - powerful lights and high beacons being necessary. Most suitable position for such leading light beacon would be:

(A) Front in position  $010^{\circ} 29' 03''$  S.,  $142^{\circ} 14' 01''$  E.

(B) (?Rear) ( $274\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ ) 1 mile from (A).

(C) Rear  $054\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  1 mile from (A).

Alternative consider that a light beacon red flash should be erected in position 1.3 miles  $340^{\circ}$  from Hammond Rock Light to facilitate round Hammond Rock.

(2) Difficulty is being experienced in locating a suitable channel between Richardson and Bet Reefs - an additional beacon and light buoy will probably be required in this area. Further consider that a light beacon on Dove Island is necessary and that one on Rennel Island would be of advantage.

(3) Markings of Kirkcaldie Channel will be confirmed later but probable requirements would be 2 light beacons to be erected

(A) Between Kirkcaldie Reefs.

(B) In position  $324^{\circ}$  2.1 miles from (A) in 8 feet of water.

2 light beacons (A) on eastern approach turn. (B) 7(?) cables  $360^{\circ}$  from Kirkcaldie Beacon.

(CHALLENGER, 151325Z to Admty. for Hydrographer.)

15.2.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/15th February.  
Para. (A) (1) E.G.10 attacked submerged U-Boat at  
1547Z/14th Feb. in 61° 36' N., 01° 35' W.  
(2) American HORACE GRAY and Norwegian NORFJELL  
torpedoed prior to 1700Z/14th Feb. in Kola  
approaches.

Para. (C) (1) A/C S/547 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1139Z/14th  
Feb. in 61° 40' N., 02° 40' W.  
(2) H.M.C.S. RIVIERE DU LOUP attacked doubtful contact at  
1510Z/14th Feb. in 56° 16' N., 06° 45' W.  
(3) A/C Q/822 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1737Z/14th Feb. in  
50° 06' N., 01° 45' W.  
(4) M.L. 248 attacked contact at 1815Z and 1850Z/14th Feb. in  
50° 26' N., 02° 42' W.  
(5) M.T.B. 750 obtained contact at 1920Z/14th Feb. in 50° 12'  
N., 01° 18' W.  
(6) M.T.B. 750 attacked contact at 2101Z/14th Feb. in 50° 14'  
N., 01° 13' W.  
(7) VELETA attacked suspected contact at 2355Z/14th Feb. in  
50° 22' N., 01° 06' W.  
(8) M.L. 912 attacked suspected U-Boat at 0205Z/15th Feb. in  
55° 05' N., 06° 00' W.  
(9) H.M.C.S. ST. JOHN and MONNOW attacked bottomed contact at  
0240Z/15th Feb. in 58° 50' N., 02° 20' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 151101A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (D.D.I.C., 151421A, 151430A .)

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 - Griz 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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War Diary.16.2.1945.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

- North Sea. 1. Further reports on LISETA hold out hopes of salvage.
- West Coast France. 2. A.N.C.X.F. desires that the Bay of Biscay south of Ushant and east of 5° W. be turned over, together with some of the French small warships, to full French control, primarily to blockade the enemy pockets on this coast who are at present getting better supplies from Spain than are available to the French themselves.
- Northern Waters. 3(a) Ninth Escort Group has attacked a bottomed contact in the Moray Firth and brought up oil and German wreckage. *U. 309 sunk*  
(b) The Soroy civilians in ZAMBESI, ZEST, ZEALOUS and SIOUX arrived at Kola this morning.
- Baltic. 4. On hearing of our intention to carry out Liberator anti-U-Boat and mining strikes near Bornholm, the Russians beg us to leave the Baltic east of 13° E. to their submarines, who claim to have sunk EMDEN hereabouts on 12th February. *(not confirmed)*

Foreign Stations. *Mediterranean*

- Riviera. 5. Last night destroyers METEOR, MATCHLESS and SIMOUN carried out pursuit of enemy destroyers but were too late and turned back at daylight without results. *(p. 363)*
- Gulf of Genoa. 6. Between the 7th and 12th of February Allied destroyers fired 967 rounds in series of successful bombardments near Franco-Italian frontier.
- Adriatic. 7(a) Attitude of Partisan authorities remains cordial and frank.  
(b) After enemy raid on Spalato 3 prisoners were taken.  
Enemy have raided Velirat.  
(c) Tonight a coastal craft opened fire on Karlobag harbour (Yugoslavia).
- Aegean. 8. 80 moored mines were swept up in Doro Channel today.

/Movement ...

16.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movement.

9. MEMPHIS (U.S. cruiser) with Com. 8th Fleet arrived at Algiers from Naples.

East Indies

Lower  
Burma.

10. 13 Beaufighters damaged one motor launch and 32 small vessels in Gulf of Martaban and central Burma.

America and West Indies

SS. BENEDICK.  
Collision.

11. BENEDICK (British tanker) (6978) was damaged in collision with a U.S. warship and is proceeding to New York in tow.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

12(a) Last night Japanese coastal forces made a surprise attack on American landing craft near Manila sinking 3 of them and damaging another. 70 survivors have so far been rescued by P.T. Boats.  
(b) American Paratroops and Seaborne Forces landed on Corregidor Island against minor initial opposition this morning. Several vehicles lost on beach through land mines. Cruiser and destroyer task force covered landing with strong air support.  
(c) This afternoon 3 P.Ts. with three co-operating Lightnings sweeping east coast Bataan for enemy speed boats destroyed 3 barges and one sailing boat.

Movement.

13. ARIADNE (Minelayer) sailed from Espiritu Santo (New Hebrides) at 6 a.m. for San Diego (California) via Funafuti and Pearl Harbour.

16.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No.318 part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/15  
February.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal).	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Pol.</u>	<u>G. F.</u> <u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	77	421	14,084	1,263	349
Ostend	593	144	2,656	1,717	1,196
Boulogne	12	121	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,575	-	-
Calais	-	-	298	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4,930	848	807
<b>Total</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>23,543</b>	<b>3,828</b>	<b>2,352</b>

U.S. North.

Antwerp	-	53	20,453	-	-
Cherbourg	6	470	11,226	483	4,977
Le Havre	4,306	710	3,828	1,535	2,506
Rouen	257	131	8,662	1,005	1,504
Granville	-	-	3,015	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,965	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,569</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>51,149</b>	<b>3,023</b>	<b>8,987</b>

U.S. South

Marseilles	-	135	10,674	-	1,397
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,007	-	1,007
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>11,681</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,404</b>

Note: Correct Antwerp (Br) personnel discharge for 14 Feb.  
Cumulative total - 15th Feb. (inclusive).

British

Antwerp	800	3,620	114,532	28,357	6,016
Ostend	16,040	1,785	41,050	10,767	12,099
Boulogne	399	856	-	-	-
Dieppe	519	-	556	-	-
Caen	-	-	15,869	-	-
Calais	46,287	283	1,299	-	-
Ghent	-	-	33,866	2,516	10,151
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,045</b>	<b>6,544</b>	<b>207,172</b>	<b>41,640</b>	<b>28,266</b>

U.S. North.

Antwerp	9	1,854	251,217	-	176
Cherbourg	187	2,302	164,668	52,301	65,992
Le Havre	107,192	8,596	102,636	31,907	39,213

/Rouen...

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(contd).

<u>U.S. North</u> (contd).	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Pol.</u>	<u>G.F.</u> <u>Ammo.</u>
Rouen	5,693	3,270	79,861	15,068	7,636
Granville	-	-	19,344	-	-
Ghent	-	21	30,923	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,081</b>	<b>16,043</b>	<b>648,649</b>	<b>99,276</b>	<b>113,017</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	2,315	2,370	211,168	3,594	23,444
Port de Bouc	-	18	30,200	55,697	20,361
Toulon	-	-	2,314	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,315</b>	<b>2,388</b>	<b>243,682</b>	<b>59,291</b>	<b>43,805</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 161650A to Admty. etc).

Naval  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No.318 Part II Naval.  
The Port of Ostend was re-opened a.m.16th Feb.  
2. H.D.M.L.1417 was lost while on tow at 1700  
16th February to eastward of Flushing. She  
apparently detonated mine on running ashore  
in dense fog. No casualties.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 162243 to Admty).

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols &  
Escorts.

When your charge is safely delivered resume patrol  
along coastal convoy route start Pt. to Lizard Hd.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 161437A to S.O.E.G.3).  
1. On arrival of convoy LOCH KILLIN and MOORSOM  
enter Cherbourg to await further orders.  
2. ASCENSION, LOCH LOMOND proceed to patrol area limits 50° 10'  
N., 49° 50' N., between 01° 50' W. 01° 20' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 162241A to ASCENSION, LOCH KILLIN).

Possible  
U-boat?

Have attacked contact in position 50° 15.8 N.,  
00° 01.5 W. which produced small amount burning  
petrol. Resuming patrol.  
(M.T.B.757, 162020A to C. in C. Portsmouth).  
Have made 3 attacks on contact in position (750°) 15.4' N. 00°  
03.4' (?W). Continuing investigation.  
(M.T.B.757, 162154A to C. in C. Portsmouth).



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France.

French control of Bay of Biscay.

A.M. 092259\* not to all. Now that nearly the whole of France has been liberated, recommend question be raised with C.C.S. of turning some French war-ships, such as minesweepers, short-endurance des-troyers, or escorts and coastal craft over to full French control for local work in areas no longer required by S.H.A.E.F.

2. Further recommend that an operational area in Bay of Biscay be allocated to French control. Area south of 48° 30' N., and east of 5° W. is suggested. Apart from general advantages, this would allow French to blockade enemy pocket on Biscay Coast, which, though not an important operational requirement, would reduce local French dissatisfaction at enemy receiving supplies from Spain which they themselves cannot obtain.

3. S.H.A.E.F. agrees.

4. Pending any permanent decision, request three Chasseurs be allocated to A.N.C.X.F. for operation by French at Brest. French are arranging for maintenance.

(A.N.C.X.F., 161815A to Admty). *Remarks of C.C.S. Plymouth, page 355.*

\*Basing of 3 French Chasseurs at Brest would necessitate approval from C.C.S.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols and Escorts.

K.M.F.40 Mersey Section leaves Bar Light Vessel 1700A/18th routed north east of Isle of Man. Clyde section passes Clyde boom about 2300A/18th R/V 0700A/19th in 000° Altacarry 8 miles.

2. M.K.F.39 escorted by E.G.20 (S.O. in TAVY) should cross K.M.F.40 about 2000A/19 in 10° 30' W.

3. 3 ships of E.G.21 (including S.O. in CONN) and PITCAIRN from Liverpool are to R/V with Mersey section K.M.F.40 at Bar light vessel and act as escort.

4. 2 ships of E.G.21 and SOMALILAND from Londonderry are to R/V with Clyde section K.M.F.40 at Cumbræ and act as escort.

5. With the exceptions in para. (6) below, E.G.20 and E.G.21 are to exchange convoys on crossing, E.G.20 returning with K.M.F.40 to Gibraltar and E.G.21 with M.K.F.39 to U.K.

6. LOCH KATRINE is to continue with M.K.F. until ordered by E.G.21 to detach to Londonderry on passing. LOCH FYNE is to proceed to Greenock with Clyde section M.K.F.39. PITCAIRN and SOMALILAND are to join E.G.20 with K.M.F.40 to Gibraltar.

7. Support of convoys. At 1200A/18th if not in contact with E.G.25 is to leave present area and transfer to Force 36.

8. E.G.19 is to detach from Force 36 so as to (a) Support K.M.F.40 from Bar Light Vessel to crossing position of convoys.

8. (b) Ensure that neither convoy is unprotected during exchange of escorts. (c) Support M.K.F.39 from crossing position to Bar Light Vessel.

9. Routes will be signalled separately to those concerned. (C. in C. W.A., 161957A to S.O.E.Gs, 19, 20, 21, 25).

Take earliest opportunity between convoys to make thorough search with echo sounder of small deep in 53° 16' N., 04° 48' W. This place might be used by U-boats for escaping asdic detection while on bottom. Your 161538 not to all refers.

(C. in C. W.A., 162257A to S.O. Force 36).

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

- Operation "Shred". Intend following operation.
- (2) Force 3 consisting of S.O. M/S Flotilla 10 in COURIER with HARE, JEWEL, WAVE, SERENE, GOLDEN FLEECE, SHILLAY and 2 R.M.Ls. leave Scapa at 0500 D day and proceed direct to position AA. 59° 06' N. 02° 17' E. to carry out searching sweep through Q.Z.X.1452 toward Stavanger coast to position BB. 58° 55' N., 03° 36' E. during night D day/D plus one. Winners should be laid to mark ends of channel.
- (3) Force 4 consisting of DIDO, PUNCHER, PREMIER, SCORPION, SAVAGE, SCOURGE and ZEBRA leave Scapa a.m. D day and follow Force 3 towards vicinity of AA to provide fighter cover as required during the operation. On completion of the search sweep a.m. D plus one forces 3 and 4 are to withdraw to the northwestward.
- (4) Force 3 is to return so as to arrive in position 180° AA 2 miles by 1800 on D plus one to continue searching sweep.
- (5) On completion of sweeping a.m. D plus 2 A/C from force 4 are to carry out mining strike in accordance with my 161927. Force 3 is to remain in company with force 4 as A/S screen.
- (6) If force 3 is detected during night D day/D plus one sweep on 2nd night is to be cancelled by DIDO and mine strike carried out on D plus one. All times A.
- (7) If force 3 and 4 are detected during waiting period on D plus one sweep on 2nd night is to be cancelled and the mining strike carried out p.m. D plus one or a.m. D plus 2 as circumstances permit. Forces return to Scapa on completion.
- (8) The operation will be postponed up to 48 hours should weather be unfavourable.
- (9) DIDO is requested to plan the operation in conjunction with S.O. M/S Flotilla 10 and PUNCHER.
- (10) Codeword and D day follow. All times A.  
(C. in C. H.F., 161915A to DIDO, PREMIER, PUNCHER, R.A.D.H.F.)  
My 161915. D day 21st February.  
(C. in C. H.F., 161917 to DIDO, PREMIER, PUNCHER, R.A.D. H.F. S.O.M.S.F.10).  
My 161915. Codeword "Shred".  
(C. in C. H.F., 161925 to above addressees).

Operations.

Northern Waters

Convoys J.W. 65 and 66. Owing to delay in arrival in U.K. of some ships for J.W. 65 it is intended to postpone sailing of this convoy until 7th March and J.W. 66 until 8th April.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 160231A to C. in C. H.F.)

Civilian evacuation of Soroy. A.M. 151207 W/T operator and set remaining Soroy Battery held and yet works but spare batteries are required at earliest.  
A.M. 141956. Capt. Hostvedt's reports in connection with "Opendoor" were muddled and useless. He does not appear to have appreciated conditions in Soroy. Para. one and two S.B.N.O. N. Russia 071530 and para. one and two S.B.N.O. N. Russia 091115 were incorrect.

War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Civilian  
evacuation  
of Soroy.  
(contd).

3. Full report on Soroy is being prepared by Colonel Johnsen.  
(Capt. D.2., 160832 to Admty).  
My 142140\* returned Kola Inlet 0800A/16th.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 161325A to Admty).  
\*Sailing of ZAMBESI, ZEST, ZEALOUS and SIOUX.

E.Gs.1 and  
10.

When ready about 1500 17th F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail 1st E.G. through the Minches to vicinity Cape Wrath thence as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth.  
(2) On relief by 1st E.G. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to detach 10th E.G. to arrive Londonderry 20th Feb. for lay over.  
(C. in C. W.A., 161208A to F.O.I.C. N.I., C. in C. Rosyth).

Patrols

If not in contact at 2000A tonight shift Gamma to 61.52 N., 02.00 W. and 61.18 N., 01.16 W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 161522A to S.O.E.G.10).

Probable  
U-boat.

*U.309 sunk*

Have attacked bottomed contact in position 58° 09.5' N., 02° 23.3' W. Considerable amount of oil rising to the surface but no further evidence yet. Intend further attack.  
(S.O.E.G.9, 161550A to C. in C. Rosyth).  
Further attacks have brought more oil to surface classified diesel splintered wood work and pages of a German signal log. A tube marked medical Kiel. Intend to carry out further attack.  
My 161550A refers.  
(S.O.E.G.9, 161703A to C. in C. Rosyth).  
Your 161703 sounds good. Remain with contact.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 161821A to S.O.E.G.9)  
My 161703A further attacks have only brought oil which is now spreading over a very large area, and a few more bits of splintered woodwork to surface. E.S. traces U-boat 150 feet by 15 feet and shows oil rising. Intend to hold target during night.  
(S.O.E.G. 9 161906A to C. in C. Rosyth).  
Your 161906. Well done. It sounds better and better. Carry out further search at daylight then proceed for Scapa with NENE to land evidence of success for transmission to Admty.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 162125A to S.O.E.G.9).

Operations.

Baltic.

Russian  
submarines  
around  
Bornholm.

Your 142325 was passed to the Soviet Naval Staff on 15 Feb. There was no reaction until meeting this afternoon with Deputy Chief of Staff.  
2. Soviet Naval Staff do not wish this attack by Liberators to be carried out nor the mining of the Adler-Oder Channel (your 081842 refers) for the following reasons:

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Baltic.

Russian  
submarines  
around  
Bornholm.  
(contd).

(A) Soviet submarines operate west of Bornholm. I could not obtain exact details. It was however stated that this area is always occupied, the numbers of submarines on patrol there varying from time to time.

(B) Mining of channel will thus deny one approach to this patrol area to a Soviet submarine.

(C) Soviet submarines also operate east of Bornholm

(D) As proof of (C) above I was informed that a cruiser thought to be the EMDEN was torpedoed and believed sunk south-west of Bornholm at 0200 Feb. 12th by a Soviet submarine which has now returned to base. Sinking is subject to confirmation. I gained impression that Soviet Naval Staff are upset that Liberator attack was planned without reference to them. They are uncertain of being able to warn in time their submarines now in the area. I took this opportunity to rub in the necessity for our being kept fully in the operational picture by the Soviet Naval staff so that our joint efforts could be co-ordinated.

4. Matter was concluded with a pathetic appeal for us to leave the Baltic east of 13° east to Soviet submarines as their playground was so restricted.

(Adm. Archer, 171536A to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

German  
mine  
sinker.

Mine sinker numbered F/36292 recovered by BOOTLE complete with studded chain spring and mine attachments. Length 36", breadth 26 inches, depth 20" 3 wheels wire drum 17" in diameter 9½" wide 1½" mooring wire 9 stranded wire with steel wire

heart. No evidence delay release gear.  
(F.O. Humber 162216A to C. in C. Nore).

Casualties & Defects.

SS. WESTERLY  
VICTORY  
v.  
SS. JAVA.

YORK and WESTERLY VICTORS (sic) in collision 11.5 miles bearing 294 from Start Point. TANATSIE standing by. Requires assistance.

(C.T.G. 61.5, 160503A to C. in C. Plymouth).  
Regret to report Dutch Ship JAVA (9,250 tons) and U.S.S. WESTERLY VICTORY (7,607) tons both in

convoy C.U.57 were in collision at 0400 this morning in position 133° Start Point 8. Both ships have entered Plymouth.

2. Following damage has been reported JAVA after peak tanks damaged. No.6 tank full of water. WESTERLY VICTORY bows badly damaged. Further details after survey.

3. 8 Casualties in JAVA as follows:- 4 killed, 1 died on way to Salcombe, 3 severely injured.

4. Details and names will follow by separate signal.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161827A to Admty. Comnavu).

SS. LISETA

My 151016A LISETA reported aground aft and afloat forward in 7 fathoms in approximate position 237° E. Margate buoy 6.7 cables. Wreck badly damaged aft and scarcely damaged forward.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

SS. LISETA  
(contd).

2. It would appear from report that there is a possibility of salvage.  
(C. in C. Nore, 161402A to Admty).

H.D.M.L.  
1417.

Following received from R.N.O. Breskens begins Regret to report loss H.D.M.L. 1417 while in tow at 1700 today Thursday to Eastward of Flushing. Vessel apparently detonated mine on running ashore in dense fog. No casualties. Survivors taken on board M.L. 1402 now in Flushing. 151939 ends.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 161714A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Movements.

CONRAD  
Polish  
cruiser.

Sailed my 142340A.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 160600 to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F., C.S.10)

LA CREOLE  
French  
submarine.

Owing to the pressure of work in the Cardiff area it is desired to avoid docking S/M LA CREOLE if at all possible.  
2. In view however of para. 2 of your 131710 it is proposed that your representatives should visit F.O.I.C. Cardiff to discuss the matter.  
(D.O.D.(H) 161949A to F.N.G.B.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Dimmed  
Navigation  
Lights  
east of 7° W.

Ref. W.I.M.S. 1 Article 178, Sec. (C) para. (3), stragglers are to be instructed to burn dimmed navigation lights when eastward of 7° W.  
2. N.C.S.Os. are to inform Masters of Merchant Ships.  
(D.T.D., 160518A A Message, Home and Abroad).

Motor  
coasters  
in B.T.C/T.B.C  
convoys.

Motor vessel coasters in channel convoys. D. of S.T. has represented that coasters such as ANTRIM COAST and BRITISH COAST are experiencing difficulties in B.T.C/T.B.C. convoys between St. Helens and Downs owing to their critical speed.  
2. Request consideration be given to such coasters making passage independently by inshore route.  
(D.T.D., 161325A to C. in C. Portsmouth, V.A.Dover)

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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticF/M  
minesweeper  
LIONESS

H.M.S. LIONESS arrives Horta 1200Z/16th February  
request destination in U.K.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 160130Z to Admty.)  
Request LIONESS be sailed to Plymouth for onward  
routeing to Granton.  
(D.M.S. 162100A to S.B.N.O. Horta.)

E.G.1

Group one, CROCUS, BELLWORT and HYDERABAD are  
to detach from M.K.S.83 as necessary to R/V  
K.M.S.84 in (details) and act as additional close  
escort to Gibraltar.  
(2) K.M.S.84 (20 ships) escort H.M.S. RUSHEN CASTLE is routed  
through (details). S.O.A. 7½ knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 160915A to M.K.S.83 for Cdre.)

Gibraltar  
Approaches

A.101 15th Feb. (for D. ops (M)). Following has  
been received from A.H.Q. Gibraltar. Begins;  
Numerous fishing vessels in the Western Approaches  
to the Straits of Gibraltar are seriously hampering  
LL operations of 458 Squadron. Request Admty.  
be asked to consider declaring prohibited area for such craft  
during darkness between 05° 56' W. and 09° W. Coast of Spain and  
Africa. Ends.  
(Corrupt portion).  
(H.Q. Coastal Command, 161218A to Air Ministry.)

South Atlantic

J.T.Convoy

Departures 18th Feb. Brazilian Light Cruiser  
RIO GRANDE DO SUL escorting J.T. Convoy.  
B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 161445Z, to Admty.)

Convoy

(1) Your 161023 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all.  
Following received from Port Etienne Ops.  
addressed Cor A.H.Q.W.U. Begins 15th Feb. convoy  
sighted 1536 15.43 N. 21.07 W. one cruiser one  
merchant ship 25,000 tons two destroyers 005 17½ no signals  
exchanged. Ends.  
(2) R.A.F. have been ordered to relocate and establish identity  
no previous intimation of movement through my area. Request  
any information.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 161506Z to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Your 161506. Group departed Rio 1000Z/08. Refer N.O.B.  
Rio 161410 and 071850.  
(Com.Flt. Four, 162225, to F.O.C.W.A.)  
My 16/1506 Convoy consisting of one Merchant Ship escorted  
by one cruiser, two destroyers sighted at 1242Z/16th in position  
19° 25' N. 18° 30' W. Estimated course and speed 020° 15 knots.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 162237Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

L.S.I.(H)  
PRINCE  
DAVID Intend to sail PRINCE DAVID at 1200/16th to Gibraltar for onward routeing in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 131813 not to all.  
(2) Route etc. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1000/19th.  
(V.A. Malta, 160901 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Submarines  
for Greek  
Navy I have been instructed to inform you that approval has now been given to offer on loan to The Royal Hellenic Navy three J Class submarines. Details are given in Greek Naval Attache London's 131201 (131201) not to other addressees.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 161412B, 191149B and 200943B to Greek C. in C.)

Black Sea Propose that N to M 468 of 1941 should be cancelled as ports referred to are all inside Q.B.Y.126 and information concerning this being almost certainly out of date and be misleading now that Black Sea is again open to Allied Merchant Shipping. My 011901 and Admiral Archer's 101605 are relevant.  
(C. in C. Med., 161555A to Admty.)

Towage  
of 2 Craft Refer para. 8 Admiralty signal 131317A Feb. to C. in C. Mediterranean (R) C. in C. E.I.  
(1) You should make earliest possible arrangements with M.W.T.R. for towage two Z Craft to India consulting Naval authorities where necessary. M.W.T. signalling M.W.T.R.  
(F.W.O. 161845A C. in C. M.E.)

G.2 Summary  
No. 165 Dugi Island raided by enemy night 14/15 February with little success. Four rubber boats subsequently discovered by Partisans and one P.W. taken. Search for remainder raiding party continues.  
(3) Aegean. Recent Allied Raid on Nisiros resulted in 7 enemy killed and 33 wounded or P.W. All informed.  
(A.F.H.Q. 161930A to W.O.)

Situation  
Report  
Number 562 (1) Gulf of Genoa. Between 7th and 12th Feb. Allied Destroyers fired 967 rounds in series of successful bombardments near Franco Italian frontier.  
(2) Adriatic. Attitude of Partisan Authorities remains cordial and frank. After enemy attack on Spalato 3 prisoners were taken, enemy have raided Velirat.  
(C. in C. Med., 162124A to F.O.L.E.M.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-boat Scales in all areas remain W.5.  
dispositions (C. in C.E.I., 160425Z to S. and A. E.I. Station).

M/S Anticipate M/S requirements in near future cannot  
requirements be met by ships on Station. Request at least 4  
Algerines be sent without delay.  
Your 131656\*+ refers.  
(C. in C.E.I. Station, 160556Z to Admty.)  
\* 7th M.S.F. to be escorts as far as Gibraltar.  
+ N.T. in W.D.

Movements 14th February arrival NEPAL, SHOOTING STAR.  
Departure TRENT, AIMWELL, NAPIER.  
(Colombo, 161242Z to Admty.)

U-boat Surfaced S/M sighted position 07.52 N. 76.56 E.  
sighting at 1500Z.  
(HAROLD D. WHITEHEAD, 161515Z to Admty.)  
Your 161629Z (N.T. in W.D.). Have searched  
through position without result. Many small

Fishing Vessels in area. Unable to contact HAROLD D. WHITEHEAD  
yet.

(VIRAGO, 161743Z to C. in C.E.I.)  
My 1515 (sic). P.C. and S. of Advance 07.52 N. 76.56 E.  
106° 11 knots. Suspicious vessel appears to be following S/M  
in vicinity S/M sighted on surface, first sighted 3,200 yards  
astern second sighted 2,400 yards, disappeared towards west and  
north west respectively after firing at same.

(HAROLD D. WHITEHEAD, 161820Z to Admty.)  
Your 1654\*. Refers to my 1515. S/M submerged half way  
definitely not Destroyer. Ends.

((ANCX) HAROLD D. WHITEHEAD, near Colombo, 161952Z to Admty.)  
\* Not identified as an Admty. message.

Am not in contact. My position 007° 40' N. 077° 35' E.  
course 106°. If not sighted by 2130Z intend proceeding to  
destination.

(H.M.S. VIRAGO, 162050Z to C. in C.E.I.)



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craft and  
minesweeper.

Obtain routing and instructions from Miami. 17th  
H.N.M.S. QUEEN WILHEMINA and H.N.M.S. DIRKJE  
depart Miami proceed in company to U.K. via  
Bermuda and Horta Azores. Advise your Departure  
and Arrival.  
(Comgulf 161228 to H.N.M.S. QUEEN WILHEMINA,  
H.N.M.S. DIRKJE.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 161335Z, Cominch 161515Z.)

T.Gs.

Task Group 61.2 Captain Galaher in SOMERS, Task  
Unit 61.2.1 Capt. Gallaher in SOMERS, KIRKPATRICK,  
OSWALD, SLATER, EBERT, BURROWS.

Task Unit 61.2.2 Commander Roberts Comcortdiv 22  
in POOLE, PETERSON, HARVESON, JOYCE depart New York 27th Feb.  
escorting C.U. 60 for U.K. and Continent.  
Task Unit 61.2.1 return escorting U.C. 60A. Task Unit 61.2.2  
escorting U.C. 60B when directed by Admty.  
(C. in C. Lant 161747Z to C.T.G. 61.2.)

MOSES BROWN  
U/B report.

Failure of MOSES BROWN to reply to my signals  
suggests possibility was sunk on (9th?). Request  
you will give consideration to diverting a ship  
through area to pick up possible survivors.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 161802 to C. in C. S.A.,  
see South Atlantic 9th February, 1945.)

If MOSES BROWN does not reply to my 161243, request you will  
report if she is sighted by any of your patrols.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 161804Z to Com. 4th Fleet. (Admin.))

C.T.G. 22.4

My 162000Z P.C.S. 52.26 N. 29.20 W. 045, 14 knots  
Cortdiv 48 in company. If unable to overtake  
weather reporter estimated homebound Cominch  
161512 (N.T. in W.D.) will proceed to intercept  
relief. Will advise if operations take me beyond boundaries  
Western Atlantic Area. (W) 58829617.  
(C.T.G. 22.4 162040 to C. in C. Lant.)

A.F.D. 32.

Comcaribseafon pass to P.D. San Juan.  
Blue 78 comprising H.M.R.T. SAMSONIA and MEDIATOR  
towing British A.F.D. 32 with H.M.R.T. ENVOY as  
standby departs Ambrose 1400/17Q for San Juan via

A. 39.38 N. 72.50 W. B. 35.00 N. 72.40 W. C. 32.00 N. 72.40 W.  
thence direct. Speed 5 escort to destination report P.C.S. daily.  
Advise Comeastseafon Comcaribseafon 24 hours in advance E.T.A.  
30.00 N. Tugs intercept BAMY. Harbour tugs required restricted  
waters San Juan handling dock length 374 beam 124 draft 9 forward  
12 aft.  
(Comeastseafon 162127Z to PRUDENT, etc.)

/N.S.H.Q....

16.2.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

N.S.H.Q. All times Z. Para. C. (1) U.S.S. SCROGGINS  
S/M attack (T.G. 22.10) reported hydrophone effect in 44.24  
& sighting N. 63.23 W. at 1406/15th.  
summary. (2) D/C attacks made.  
(2) H.M.C.S. AMHERST made H/H attack on Asdic  
contact in 44.21 N. 63.19 W. at 2245/15th.  
Para. D. CAILIFF reported submerged U-Boat in  
46degs-10' N. 55.22 W. at 1805/16th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 162119Z to Admty.)

U/B contacts. Admty. pass Info. to H.Q.C.C.  
Correct position to 44.52 N. 41.20 W. in Cominch  
152030 para. C. 151406Z U.S.S. SCROGGINS had  
hydrophone effect and made two D.C. attacks 44.24  
N. 63.23 W.  
Para. D. 152130Z (N.T. in W.D.) P.C. 1264 attacked doubtful  
contact area 40.09 N. 73.40 W.  
(Cominch 162120Z to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F. Confirmed that para. 1A and B of my 280311 includes  
armament expenditure of all armament stores except mines.  
stores. Your 041830 refers.  
(2) See my 060301 which gives proposed proportions  
of reserves for ship ammunition detailed numerical  
requirements for which are being prepared by

V.A.Q. three prospects of expending piercing shell are not good  
at present. Request priority be given to me.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 160449Z to Admty.)

Digest 1122, (1) Noon Navy Liberator saw enemy T.F. in Formosa  
15th Feb. '45 Straits about 50 miles east north east of Amoy  
heading northeast at 20 knots: force now des-  
cribed two ISE class battleships, one heavy cruiser,  
seven destroyers, indicating additional escorts  
picked up en route. Other Navy Liberator saw one medium merchant-  
man with 1 destroyer off Swatow heading northeast, several small  
coastal vessels off southern tip Formosa and usual number small  
coasters Southern Nansei Sopbo whereof one sunk five damaged, 11  
straffed without reported result.  
(6) 46 Liberators of 13th Air Force again attacked Corregidor gun  
batteries with 100 tons of bombs causing explosions and fires in  
target area.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 160719Z to Admty.)

/Bomb...

16.2.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

- Bomb supply for B.P.F. Only really suitable bomb for forthcoming operations is the 500 pound M.C. observing that with any alternative load approx. twice as many aircraft would be required to produce the same effect against the targets expected to be attacked.
- (2) Essential therefore to increase outfit of this type carried by C.Vs.
- (3) Approval has been given to embark 500 pound M.C. to limit of capacity and availability, space being made by landing (a) all 250 pound B bombs, (b) S.A.P. and A.P. bombs, subject to sufficient being retained for 24 Avenger sorties per carrier, (c) 40 pound G.P. (d) 1000 pound G.P.
- (4) Estimated that each C.V. could then stow between 600 and 700 which would suffice for an operational period of three to four weeks only.
- (5) Bombs at present available, including those on board and those recently arrived by A.S.I.S. and freight, total 1900, are insufficient by about 700, to meet above initial loading requirement.
- (6) Request special efforts be made to obtain a early and adequate shipments of 500 pounds M.C. bombs in order that the aircraft of the Fleet can maintain prolonged operations at full efficiency.
- (7) Application has been made to C. in C. Pac. for 5000 bombs to tide over transit period. My 280259\* refers.
- (8) Although this request has not yet been turned down indications are that refusal is probable. No U.S. stocks of this nature are available in Australia.
- (C. in C. B.P.F. 160804Z to Admty.)
- \* Could 5000 bombs be made available for B.P.F. from U.S. stocks as 500 pound M.C. bombs from British sources insufficient.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

- S/M attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/16th February.
- Para. A. H.M. S/M VENTURER sighted periscope and later attacked submerged U-Boat at 1112Z/9th Feb. in 60° 45' N. 04° 31' E.
- Para. B. A/C R/279 sighted snort at 1423Z/15th Feb. in 61° 20' N. 03° 05' E.
- Para. C. (1) H.M.C.S. LUNENBURG attacked contact on estimated course 120° at 0750Z/15th in 42° 27' N. 19° 50' W.
- (2) FOWEY sighted possible snort at 0840Z/15th in 36° 05' N. 07° 50' W.
- (3) 42nd M/S Flotilla attacked possible U-Boat contact at 1201Z/15th Feb. in 51° 20' N. 01° 52' E.
- (4) RIOU attacked doubtful contact at 1257Z/15th Feb. in 51° 46' N. 01° 43' E.

16.2.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

(5) BALSAM attacked contact at approx. 1555Z/15th  
Feb. in 49° 45' N. 05° 21' W.  
(6) A/C R/224 sighted wake and two black objects  
at 1643Z/15th Feb. in 61° 40' N. 01° 50' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 161125A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 161413A, 161430, A.I.G., Cominch.)

17.2.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1. SHELDRAKE fell in with 4 E-Boats off 3A buoy and drove them off. M.T.B.605, with despatches, struck a submerged obstacle off Ostend, snapped her propeller shaft and turned turtle and sank whilst being towed in.

Northern Waters. *U475 sunk*

2(a) LARK and ALNWICK CASTLE sank a U-Boat in the approaches to Kola at 0130, and recovered a survivor.

(b) Convoy R.A. 64, 35 ships, sailed at 0800, but tanker LUCERNA turned back with defects. LARK herself, and SS. THOMAS SCOTT, were torpedoed about 1030, and are making for Kola under Russian escort and tow. BLUEBELL was torpedoed and sunk at 1530, with only 12 survivors. ZEBRA, SAVAGE and SCOURGE are being sailed from Scapa to reinforce the escort.

(c) Spare batteries, rifles and ammunition will be sent to the remaining population on Soroy under Col. Johnsen.

*U309* (d) Ninth Escort Group has added torn German charts and more oil to its arising from yesterday's attack, and considers it a kill.

(e) Tenth Escort Group has scored a hedgehog hit on another U-Boat about 60 miles N.W. of Muckle Flugga and produced oil and a yellow inflatable dinghy.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

MICHAEL,  
J. STONE,  
REGENT LION  
torpedoed,  
*Convoy U49.72.*

3. MICHAEL J.STONE (American 7,176 tons) and REGENT LION (Br. Tanker 9,551) in convoy U.G.S. 72 were torpedoed at 11 a.m. to-day when about 8 miles N.E. of Tangier. The former has reached Gibraltar and the latter taken in tow by the tug, ROLLICKER, endeavouring to make Gibraltar.

Mediterranean

Adriatic.

4(a) Atmosphere at Split and Zara is now generally cordial.

/ (b) ...

17.2.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Adriatic  
(Contd.)

4(b) M.A.A.F. A/C dropped 300 tons of bombs on Trieste - 162 tons on Pola and 64 tons on Fiume. At Trieste fires were left burning in shipyards at Fiume a floating dock was seriously damaged and at Pola an oil storage area was damaged.  
(c) Tonight 4 M.T.Bs fired 2 torpedoes into the harbour at Karlobag in this attack one rating was killed and one wounded and slight damage to one craft.

S.B.N.O.  
Greece.

5. Rear-Admiral R.R. Turner C.B. D.S.O. hoisted his flag as S.B.N.O. Greece to-day.

East Indies

S/M  
TANTIVY.

6(a) On the 3rd February H.M.S/M TANTIVY on her 9th Far East Patrol when off Sumatra sank an ocean going tug and 2 coasters of 150 tons each which were both in tow. Same day fired a torpedo into Panjang Harbour no explosions.

Movement.

Covered operation "Meridian" in West Sunda St.  
(b) UGANDA arrived Aden and left for Colombo.

Australia and New Zealand

Formosa.

7(a) Liberators this morning damaged 2 Sea trucks and 1 lugger off the North and east coasts of Formosa. Other Liberators over Sakishimar Gunto, sank 1 of 3 sea trucks.  
(b) Last night Catalina over Takao strafed one medium and two small merchantment leaving medium vessel dead in water.

Philippines.

8(a) Naval forces covered landing of seaborne reinforcements on Corregidor. One landing craft sunk by Japanese shore batteries. Close range destroyer fire effectively silenced enemy.

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Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines  
(Contd.)

(b) During daylight sweep East Coast Bataan to-day P.Ts. co-operating with Lightnings destroyed three probably serviceable barges.

Movement.

9. HOWE and GAMBIA arrived Sydney from Auckland.

17.2.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Amalgamation of Home Fleet and Orkney and Shetland Commands  
Proposals in your submission 183/HF/1/263 of 4th February for the amalgamation of Home Fleet and Orkney and Shetland Commands and for distribution and functions of the latter are approved. Notification proposed in your 132321 is being promulgated.

(2) Your detailed proposals for reductions in personnel are approved in principle and further communication will be made as soon as possible. (Head of M.Br., 170301A to C. in C.H.F.)

(a) It has been decided that the Home Fleet and Orkneys and Shetlands Commands are to be amalgamated as from 1st March 1945.

(b) From 0001A 20th February, the Orkney and Shetland operational sea area will be abolished and be absorbed in the area under the operational control of C. in C. Rosyth. From this date C. in C.H.F. will also assume operational control of M.T.Bs. and other vessels operating from Shetlands.

(c) On 1st March 1945 C. in C. Home Fleet will take over the Orkney and Shetland Command including the duties of Fortress Commander, Orkney.

(d) On 1st March, Admiral Superintendent Orkney with title of Flag Officer, Orkney will administer Lyness dockyard and all harbour ships and Naval establishments in Orkney and Thurso on behalf of C. in C. Home Fleet.

(e) As from 1st March:-

(1) All signals concerning the administration of Naval and Dockyard shore establishments in Orkneys should be addressed Flag Officer Orkney.

(2) All signals concerning local defence and local operations should be addressed C. in C. Home Fleet (Ashore) who is also the responsible officer in accordance with C.B. 01618 (Q)(43)

(3) All signals concerning the operation and administration of the Home Fleet including M.T.Bs. based on Shetlands should be addressed C. in C. Home Fleet afloat and repeated C. in C. Home Fleet ashore when considered necessary.

(f) Messages for F.O. Orkney and C. in C. Home Fleet (Ashore) should be routed to Lyness C.C.O. and those for C. in C. Home Fleet (Afloat) by T/P or W/T to Flag ship as appropriate. (Hd. of M., Approved 1st S.L., 171943A A. Message Home.)

Operations

North Sea

Possible midget U-boat  
Have opened fire on Midget Submarine, am now attacking with depth charges. (F.L.1, 170330A to C. in C. Nore.)

Patrols  
Nore and Dover Patrol night 17/18th February;  
(1) 12 SEYMOUR with Coastal Forces F.L.2 and F.L.3; 14 TALYBONT; 16 RUTHERFORD with C.F. from U.K.; 18 RETALICK; 19 STAYNER with C.F. from Ostend; 21 SHEARWATER; 22 CAICOS with C.F. F.B.8 and F.B.9.



17.2.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Patrols (Contd.) (2) Coastal Force Unit 51 one M.L. 52, one M.L. 55° 23' N. 03° 16' E. F.A.8 51° 21' N. 03° 00' E. F.B.2.  
(3) Kellet buoy via East Goodwin number 2 to S.E. Goodwin buoy F.O. 1 number one buoy via South Goodwin number 2 to S.E. Goodwin buoy F.O.2.  
(V.A. Dover, 171501A to Dover Patrols.)

Cositintrep No. 319. Part 4 Section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 161600A February.

Discharge situation report	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	GFMMO.
<u>British</u>						
Antwerp	-	127	14,473	-	-	748
Ostend	305	-	2,806	-	-	1,478
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,690	-	-
Calais	1,428	-	585	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	5,080	-	2,684	810
Total	1,733	127	22,944	1,690	2,684	3,036
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	185	20,370	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	322	8,434	608	2,265	5,189
Le Havre	1,282	775	5,011	-	-	2,767
Rouen	-	-	7,462	200	-	904
Granville	-	-	-	2,001	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,360	-	-	-
Total	1,282	1,282	44,637	2,809	2,265	8,860
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	5,398	593	8,982	955	-	1,206
Port de Bouc	-	-	923	400	-	923
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5,398	593	9,905	1,355	-	2,129

Note:- Henceforth stores figure will not include bulk coal (Signed Eisenhower).  
(S.H.A.E.F. 171650A to Admty. and others.)

Minesweeping Have today swept in accordance with your 161655 off East Coast 4 actuations to width 7.5 cables either side of centre line except 1 westerly lap was only 5 cables wide on account of S.A. defects. Explosive sweep used during all 8 laps. 7 Dans left on centre line.

(2) M.T.B. 475 reports detonated mine in position 343° 54 buoy 1.4 miles at an unspecified time. Relative bearings and distance of mine from M.T.B.475 are not known. It is estimated sweepers passed over position 25 minutes before detonation (?while) sweeping last lap of day.

(3) Your 171702. Request I may be informed if actuation in excess of 15 ordered in your 161655 are required and if so whether Dan should be weighed or left at end of day.  
(S.O.M.S.F.18, 171858A to C. in C. Nore.)

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

E-boat activity Am engaging 4 E-Boats.  
(SHELDRAKE, 172231 to C. in C. Nore.)  
4 E-boats in position 080° 3 A buoy 3 miles  
course 220.  
(SHELDRAKE 172236 to C. in C. Nore.)  
E-boats driven off on course 160°.  
(SHELDRAKE, 172240, to C. in C. Nore.)

OperationsChannel

Possible U-boat Attacking doubtful contact in position 049° 59' N. (?000°) 37' W.  
(DIANTHUS, 170051A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Have carried out depth-charge and Hedgehog attack still in contact consider contact promising am remaining with contact. Have ordered GRIMSBY TOWN to take over S.O.  
(DIANTHUS, 170131A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
My 170131A - lost contact after one depth charge and 2 hedgehog attacks.  
Contact showed a slight high doppler and small movement, not possible to obtain echo sounder trace as machine broke down after second attack. Consider contact possible submarine. Carrying out observant. Request instructions. Two unexploded depth charges in approximate position 49° 59' N. 00° 37' W.  
(DIANTHUS, 170320A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Patrols and Escorts Sail when ready to rejoin JONQUIERE on patrol MONTREAL is to rejoin E.G.26 first division on arrival of RIBBLE.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 170934A to RIBBLE.)  
Request you sail three boats 750 (S.9), 733, 737 at noon to patrol area limits meridian Greenwich, 00° 15' W. between 50° 12' N. 49° 52' N. If not in contact leave patrol at 0800A 18th and return to harbour.  
Unit callsign G.B.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171046A to HORNET.)  
(1) At 1700A 17th S.O. E.G.15 detach BURGESS to join S.O. E.G. 17 and LOCH LOMOND. S.O. E.G.17 arrange R/V.  
(2) S.O. E.G.17 with LOCH LOMOND and BURGESS patrol area limits 50° 12' N. 49° 52' N. Q.Z.S.636. 00° 15' W.  
(3) At 1700A S.O. E.G.14 with ICARUS, INCONSTANT, weigh and proceed to patrol area limits, 49° 52' N. 49° 37' N. between 00° 15' W. and 00° 58' W.  
(4) DIANTHUS reported possible U-boat contact in position 49° 59' N. 00° 37' W. at 0051A 17th.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171235A to S.O.E.Gs. 17, 15, 14.)

/LOUIS...

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelPatrols  
and  
Escorts  
(Contd.)

LOUIS, LORING weigh as necessary to support O.N.A.285 S.O. VOLUNTEER E.T.A. Z buoy 1630.  
 (2) NARBOROUGH be underway off Needles by 1800 to escort SS. SEATRAN TEXAS to join O.N.A.285 at H.2 buoy at 1930.  
 (3) Ships addressed support convoy until 02° 30' W. or midnight whichever is earlier then detach and proceed at best speed to patrol area limits 50° 12' N. 49° 52' N. 01° 15' W. Q.Z.S.636.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 171251 to LOUIS, LORING, NARBOROUGH.)

Anti-  
U-boat  
deep  
mining

Weigh at 0130/18th February and carry out Serial A.2 Part 2.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 171321 to PLOVER, BOSTON, BANGOR.)

OperationsWestern ApproachesPatrols  
and  
Escorts

Your 161957 para. 3 and 4. CONN (S.O.) DEANE and BYRON will R/V Mersey section K.M.F.40. FITZROY and RUPERT with Clyde Section. (S.O.E.G.21 170947A to C. in C.W.A.) Intend sailing P.614 towing X type S/M X 21 escorted by ALECTO from Kames Bay 2,000 Tuesday 20th February to entrance Firth Lorne E.T.A.1730 21st speed 7 knots routed A.M. Q.Z.S.398 and Sound of Islay. On arrival ships to patrol between Firth of Lorne and position 080° Dubh Artach 10 miles arriving off entrance Loch Spelve at 0530/22nd where tow will be slipped craft proceeding independently and ALECTO and P.614 in company to Port H.H.X. (3) P.614 towing X type submarine X.21 escorted by ALECTO leaving port H.H.X.0530/23rd by reverse of outward route E.T.A. Kames Bay 0330/24th February.  
 (Capt. S.M.12, 171753A to C. in C.W.A.)

OperationsNorwayOperation  
"Shred"

My 161915 para. 2 amend lettered position to read as follows:  
 AA 59° 00' N. 002° 14' E.  
 BB 58° 51' N. 03° 33' E.  
 (C. in C.H.F., 171856A to DIDO, PUNCHER, PREMIER, S.O. M.S.F.10, R.A.D.H.F.)

17.2.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

U-boat sunk  
(U.425)  
German U-boat sunk by LARK, ALNWICK CASTLE in 69° 31' N. 33° 50' E. at 0130A today Saturday in approaches to Kola Inlet. One German survivor recovered by ALNWICK CASTLE. (C.S.1, 170539A to C. in C.H.F.)

Probable U-boat U.309 sunk  
Renewing attack with NENE at daylight and have now expended 71 depth charges and 4 HH salvoes. Large quantity of oil continues to rise to surface with splinter pieces of woodwork raft pieces torn German charts also picked up.

That there is not a greater variety of evidence is disappointing but in view of weight of attack I think German U-boat must be killed by now. Am still persevering.

(S.O.E.G.9, 171053A to Rosyth.)

My 162125 and 162132 MONNOW and LOCH ALVIE are to take over and remain with your half until further orders.

(2) On relief by them proceed with NENE to comply with my 162125.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 171104A to S.O.E.G.9)

Scapa arrivals - S.O. E.G.9 in ST. JOHN with NENE.

(A.C.O.S., 172016A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

If no further evidence is available by 1000 proceed to Scapa in accordance with my 162132A.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 172145A to MONNOW.)

Patrol (1) If not in contact at 2000A 17th shift Gamma to position 61° 14', 04° 30' and 60° 46' 03° 30'.

(2) Air patrols are being withdrawn due to weather.

(3) You will be relieved by E.G.1 probably a.m. 19th.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 171529A to S.O. E.G.10.)

Convoy R.A.64 BLUEBELL torpedoed and sunk in position 69° 36' N. 35° 29' E. 12 survivors.  
(2) Russian escort standing by LARK and SS. THOMAS SCOTT who were torpedoed previously.  
(3) My P.C.S. 69° 37' N. 35° 39' E. 360° 9 kts. Weather report 4671 3754.  
(C.S.1, 171531A to C. in C. H.F.)

(1) R.A.64 35 merchant ships sailed Kola Inlet 0800A/17th with "Hotbed" escorts.

(2) LUCERNA subsequently returned with engine defects now made good and awaiting escort.

(3) LARK was torpedoed at 1034A and now returning to harbour in tow Russian tug and escort.

(4) Merchant ship not yet identified here\* torpedoed 1205A. Russian tug and escorts have proceeded to assistance of her.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 171547A to Admty.)

\* THOMAS SCOTT, (p. 317)

/From...

17.2.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy From N.C.S.O.  
R.A.64 (1) R.A.64 (Room 6088).  
(Contd.) (2) Toros Is. 0800A/17th Feb.  
(4) 9½ knots.  
(5) My 151220 paragraphs 3 and 4.  
(7) 11 columns 4 4 4 4 2 2 one 2 4 4 4 .

(13) a. Cdre. E. Ullrung R.N.N. in SAMARITAN.  
(b) V/Cdre. Convoy Master EMPIRE ARCHER.  
(c) Rear Commodore Master NACELLA.  
(14) S.P. 2406 (941) S.R. 2272 (34) and (35).  
(15) BN.  
(16) BLACK RANGER.  
LUCERNA subsequently returned owing to engine defect. Admty. pass to M.W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 171840A to Admty.)  
Request you sail ZEBRA, SAVAGE and SCOURGE forthwith to reinforce escort of R.A.64 now proceeding U.K. by blue route as in my 232034 Jan.  
(2) Destroyers proceed east of Orkneys and Shetlands to join blue route about 65° N. and follow reverse of this route to meet convoy.  
(3) Weather permitting speed made good is to be 20 knots.  
(4) At 1530 today 17th February R.A.64 was in position 69° 37' N. 35° 39' E. speed 9 knots.  
(C. in C.H.F., 172102A to Com. D.H.F.)

Civilians Set W/T watch at 0900A daily and establish  
on Soroy communication with Polyarnoe.  
(2) Further instructions will be sent by Catalina also spare batteries rifles and ammunition.  
(D.S.D., 171652A to Col. Johnsen.)

208 U.1278 mark  
Second probable In Asdic contact with submerged U-boat in  
U-boat position 61° 33' N. 01° 54' W. 1 hit with  
Hedgehog so far.  
(S.O.E.G.10, 171810A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
My 171810 hit produced yellow inflatable dinghy and some oil. Contact has since been doubtful and intermittent in deteriorating weather.  
(S.O.E.G.10, 171936A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
My 171936 detection at 1730 and successful attack both by BAYNTON. Bomb exploded after 4 seconds sinking time. There was another explosion 15 seconds later. No more attacks or satisfactory contacts but oil still coming up. Intend to search in vicinity until dawn. Wind S.S.E. force 7 sea 45.  
(S.O.E.G.10, 172111A and 172309 to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Your 171936. Encouraging continue to hunt. U-boat probably outward bound.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 172201A to S.O.E.G.10.)

Casualties and Defects

M.T.B.605 Am sinking. Position OD4 (sic) buoy.  
(M.T.B.605, 171345 to V.A. Dover.)  
Position OD3 buoy.  
(M.T.B.605, 171423 to N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

/Regret...

17.2.1945  
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSCasualties and DefectsM.T.B  
605  
(Contd.)

Regret M.T.B.605, on passage from Ostend to Dover on despatch boat service, hit submerged obstruction in Channel between OD2 and OD3 buoys at 1355 today. Propellor shaft snapped and propellor carved hole in the bottom of craft.

- (2) M.T.B. turned turtle while in tow of H.M. Trawler HERSHELL and sank outside Ostend harbour.
- (3) No casualties to ship's company or passengers all of whom have been brought back to Ostend.
- (4) All mail and despatches lost.
- (5) All charts, C B etc. belonging to craft recovered intact.  
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 171719A to Com. Belgium.)

MovementsMAURITIUS  
Cruiser

Intend to sail E.R.7628 to Liverpool for refit arriving Bar Light Vessel at 0750A 24th February.  
(C. in C.H.F. 171852A to Admty., C. in C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool, C.S.10, E.R.7628, A.C.O.S., A.S. Orkneys.)

TJERK  
HIDDES,  
Netherlands  
Destroyer.

The Netherlands Navy desire to use H.N.M.S. TJERK HIDDES to train batches of newly recruited Dutch ratings during next 3 months while ship is awaiting refit at Dumbarton.

- (2) Subject to the concurrence of Cdre. Western Isles and F.O.I.C. Greenock, it is proposed that the training be carried out at Tobermory and that the batches be changed periodically at Greenock.
- (3) There is no objection to TJERK HIDDES being used occasionally as a Target Vessel for F.A.A. as arranged between Com. W.I. and R.A.N.A.S.(N).
- (4) The ship will not be operational owing to her condition and reduced complement.  
(V.C.N.S., 172136 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, Com. W.I.)

Shipping and ConvoysMotor  
coasters  
in B.T.C./  
T.B.C.  
Convoys.

A.M.16325A has been passed to C. in C. Nore.  
(2) Reference paragraph 2 there is no objection to this as far as the Dover Command is concerned.  
(V.A. Dover, 171335A to Admty.)

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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- T.G. 41.4. From (X) proceed through new position (Z) 34.00 N., 09.00 W. thence to (Y).  
(2) Task Group 41.4 part company with GEN. MEIGS on passing Europa point and enter Gibraltar. GEN. MEIGS is to close Rosia Bay for mail before proceeding.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 171130A to C.T.G. 41.4, etc.)
- S/M. O.24. Intend to sail submarine O.24 to Malta at 1000/19th.  
(2) 14 knots. (4) E.T.A. 1000A/22.  
(9) General appearance resembles German U-Boat.  
(10) Request Naval authorities pass to Air Authorities concerned.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 171310A to S. and A. Med.)
- LIONESSE. Sailed from Horta at 1406Z/17th H.M.S. LIONESSE routed as in my 251344 Jan. to Plymouth for onward routing to Granton. S. of A. 12 knots. E.T.A. 1400Z/22nd.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 171726Z to F.O.G.M.A.)
- MICHAEL  
STONE,  
REGENT LION  
torpedoed.  
UGS 73. Situation Report 1700A Feb. 17th.  
Two ships REGENT LION (T) and MICHAEL STONE of U.G.S.72 torpedoed in 35° 56' N., 05° 45' W. at 1100A.  
(2) MICHAEL STONE has reached Gibraltar drawing 40 feet but not now making water.  
(3) REGENT LION (T) in tow of ROLLICKER with ARCTIC RANGER and PIROUETTE standing by is endeavouring to make Gibraltar.  
(4) Ship still making water but U.S. destroyer escort alongside pumping.  
(5) Group 2 (three ships) WELLINGTON (S.O.) and group 4 (six ships) LOWESTOFT (S.O.) carrying out hunt. Aircraft co-operating.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 171730A and 191108A to C. in C. Med.)
- U.S. WOOLSEY. Departs Horta Fayal 17th 2100Z for New York. Route direct. Speed 16.3. E.T.A. Boom 1200Z/23. On arrival desire unload 1800 rounds 5 inch ammo., 8,000 rounds 40 m.m., 40,000 rounds 20 m.m., 78 depth charge and 40,000 gals. fuel.  
(WOOLSEY, 171855Z to Cdt. 3rd Naval District.)
- U/B. KILMARNOCK reports probable torpedo fired in approximate position 35° 55' N., 5° 40' W. at 1951. Am transferring Group 4 to this area.  
(LOWESTOFT, 172019A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
My 172019A. KILMARNOCK obtained possible at 2100 320° Malabatal. Group 4 joining. Group 2 sweeping to east of Malabatal.  
(LOWESTOFT, 172145A to F.O.G.M.A.)

/Spanish ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

Spanish  
SS. SIL.

For February interception M.E.W. select Spanish steamship SIL and ALBAREDA. Las Palmas will notify departure and destination. (D.E.W.D., 172315A to F.O.G.M.A.) See 191230 and 201418A.

South Atlantic

A.F.D. 32.

H.M.R.T. MEDIATOR with SAMSONIA (S.O.) and ENVOY towing A.F.D.32 escorted by U.S.S. PRUDENT (P.G.96) departing New York bound San Juan. Escort accompanies to San Juan.

E.T.D. Ambrose 1800/17 thence via (A) 40.04.50 N., 73.31.45 W. (B) 39.38 N., 72.50 W. (C) 35.00 N., 72.40 W. (D) 32.00 N., 72.40 W. E.T.A. San Juan 1800/28. Speed 5 knots. (D.O.D.(F), 172243A to F.O.C.W.Af.) See 201203Z.



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SS. FRANCONIA. R/V with FRANCONIA at 1815B/18th in position close west Rabbit Island and escort her until clear of Aegean. E.T.A. position 721 1515B/19th, S.O.A. 15 knots.

(2) Route from Rabbit Island. Q.B.C. 958 (south channel) thence through position 038° 28' N. 025° 43' E. thence via Q.B.C. 922 to 705 thence from 707 by route adjoin 8 to Malta.

(3) On detaching proceed to Piraeus to come under orders of S.B.N.O. Greece reporting intentions. Acknowledge.

(F.O.L.E.M. 171041 to MUSKETEER, amended by 171711.)

Amend time in para. 1 my 171041 to read 16 hours later.

(F.O.L.E.M. 171711B to MUSKETEER.)

S. Aegean  
Summary.

Up to 0900 hours 17th February 1945.

(1) Shipping and military. 16th Feb. Dodecanese. Rhodes. No change in total but slight internal movement. Schooner MINLAX with 680 refugees now proceeding Scarpanto. Schooner MINELDER still present. Will probably proceed Marmoris with refugees. Angonia. Arrived 1 Pioneer landing craft in cave S.W. of jetty. Alimnia. Nil shipping. Leros. Portolago. Departed since 5th Feb. one Magda to Kos, one caique 40/60 foot to Alinda Bay, one I-Boat 40/50 foot probably to Kos. Shipping now present two E.M.S. one Pioneer landing craft, one Z Lighter, two I-Boats, 60 foot, one I-Boat 40/50 foot, one Mal, three Magdas, one salvage vessel 120 foot, four tugs, one launch 80/100 foot, one launch 40/60 foot, two caiques 60/80 foot, one caique 40/60 foot. Motor barge now believed inactive. Alinda Bay. Arrived one caique 40/60 foot from Portolago. Partheni Bay. One Pioneer landing craft still present. Nisero. Nil shipping. Kos. Arrived one launch 40/60 foot, possible I-Boat 40/50 foot from Portolago also one Magda barge still present. Reports of 75 m.m. guns in E.M.S. craft. Not considered probable. Kalimnos. Departed caique 60/80 foot nil shipping present. Patmos. Port Scala. Two caiques 40/60 foot still present. Pserimos. Report garrison may be 60. Beaches mined and coast patrolled at night. Cyclades. Milos. Craft 20/40 foot still present. Ground sources report arrival caique 14 Feb. from Crete now camouflaged alongside wreck. General. Deserters period 3 to 8 Feb. 60 Italians, 14 Germans. (C. in C. M.E. 171240B to W.O.)

H.M.R.T.  
FLARE.

After examination of defects in H.M.R.T. FLARE request report be sent to Admiralty, and Estimated Date of Completion of repairs. F.O.L.E.M. 111651 not to all refers.

(2) H.M.R.T. FLARE is required at Taranto by mid March for towage of A.F.D. 49, and no relief is available from U.K. C.S. Taranto 152041 (not to all) refers.  
(3) Request every effort be made to keep this date, as unless A.F.D. 49 leaves Taranto by mid March, it is considered doubtful whether she will arrive Trincomalee before the monsoon breaks. A.M. 071959 (not to all) refers.  
(C.C.R.T. 171321A to C. in C. Med.).

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Black Sea Beacons. My 302007 Jan. para. six not to Istanbul addresses. Following is system of working beacons in clear weather. Transmissions are made for two six minutes cycles commencing at hour exact followed by a silence every 16 minutes. Beacons again transmit for two six minute cycles at half hour exact followed by (?20) minute silence. (Details).  
(5) Admiralty pass all addresses negative Black Sea. (Admiral Archer 171404 to Admty.)

Navigation Black Sea. Your 111132 Soviet Naval Authorities confirm Allied merchant vessels and Soviet warships will burn navigation lights with usual screens to limit of air observation.  
(Admiral Archer 171506A to C. in C. Med.)

Convoy title P.R. Request convoy short title P.R. be used for convoys from Piraeus to Rabbit Island (Dardanelles) R.P., (if required), being used in reverse.  
(D.T.D. 171713A to C. in C. Med.)

Operation "Goldflake". Transfer of .P.O.W.  
(P.S.T.O. Med. 171800A to D. of S.T.)  
See 200210A. See Lion Copy.

A.F.D. 18. Sailed (No. one) H.M. tug ENFORCER with (No. two) A.F.D. 18 in tow to Aden for onward routeing.  
(2) S.O.A. 5 knots. (3) E.T.A. Aden 1400Z/28th Feb. ENFORCER will make firm T.A. when nearing Perim  
(N.O.I.C. Suez 171806B to Com. Aden.)

Tug HESPERIA, Salvage of. Have turned over to KIMBERLEY and stores recovered from HESPERIA today have been transferred.  
(2) Close inspection of HESPERIA is difficult due to large quantities of fuel oil but now consider there are possibilities of successful salvage though these would probably be lengthy.  
(LIDDESDALE 171811B to F.O.L.E.M.)

S.B.N.O. Greece. R.A. R.R. Turner, C.B., D.S.O., hoisted his flag as S.B.N.O. Greece today, 17th Feb.  
(S.B.N.O. Greece 171814 to Admty.)

Situation report No. 563. (1) Gibraltar. 2 ships in convoy were torpedoed at 1100 on 17th Feb. in position 035° 53' N. 005° 45' W.  
(2) Adriatic. Atmosphere at ?Split and Zara is now generally cordial.  
(C. in C. Med. 171920A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)  
Amended by 181826A.

ANTWERP (fighter direction ship.) My 141149 Dec. Request report whether in view of improved situation ANTWERP can now be released.  
(Hd. of M. 172316A to C. in C. Med.)

# SECRET

286A  
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.)

171800A/February

Date: 18.2.45

From: P.S.T.O. Med.

Recd: 0538

NAVAL CYPHER XD BY W/T

Addressed: D.of S.T.  
Repeated: C.in C. Mediterranean.

*operation Goldflake.  
Personnel of War.*

IMPORTANT

GOLDFLAKE Your 152305A 4 Para. 2.

It is necessary to remove P.O.W. from this theatre to Middle East in accordance with existing policy. Middle East is a holding country. This theatre is not and continued retention of these P.O.Ws. here may cause complaint to be made to protecting power and reprisals taken against P.O.W. of British Nationality.

2. (A) Lift required from Western Med.in M.K.F.41 will be
    - (1) Naples 8000 approx.
    - (2) Malta 1000
    - (3) Algiers 400
    - (4) Gibraltar 250.
  - (B) This will require in addition to (G) at least one other vessel even if DUCHESS OF BEDFORD joins M.K.F.41 and has sufficient accommodation to lift the Malta, Algiers and Gibraltar commitment.
  - (C) If DUCHESS OF BEDFORD does not proceed to United Kingdom there will be an addition of her lift from Odessa to numbers in 2 (A) above but as former will probably be mostly troopdeck it appears from present information a vessel from India could call to lift them.
3. Regret we cannot at present say whether DUCHESS OF BEDFORD or replacement will be necessary at date commencement GOLDFLAKE ex Greece and subsequent Middle East dependent on date of release of formations in Greece which not yet firm. Earliest possible information will be signalled you.
  4. However, on assumption we have to send one or two of vessels now in Med. to United Kingdom in M.K.F. 41 to assist with lift in 2 (A) above from U.K. and that additional shipping U.K. will not be included in K.M.F. 41 to make up the lift we presume we could retain equivalent lift from vessels mentioned in your paragraph 3 (A) if this should be necessary. The same to apply if DUCHESS OF BEDFORD is not available to us. Please Comment.
  5. Agreed.

171800A

4 Top Secret.

/Circulation.....

Received from D.of S.T. at 1735/19th Feb.

Circulated by D.of S.T. to D.of S.T.Depts.  
and Admiralty.

A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
U.W.R.  
O.D. (6)  
Ops. (2)  
Plot (2)  
O.I.C. (3)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
M. (2)  
D.of S. (3)  
W.D.  
Ad.Blake  
O.D. (CO) (4)  
D.of P. (3)  
D.of P. (Q) (3)  
D.N.I. (5)

IAM

War Diary

17.2.1945  
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

S/M TANTIVY. H.M. S/M TANTIVY 9th Far East patrol 3rd Feb. in position 005 degs. 51' S. 105 degs. 34' E. by gunfire sank Ocean going tug and 2 Coasters each 150 tons being towed. Same day fired one torpedo into Panjang Harbour no explosions later grounded and refloated after 2 hours having fired 4 torpedoes and jettisoned oil fuel to lighten. Covered operation Meridian in West Sunda Strait.  
(C. in C. E.I. 170201Z to Admty.)

Tug requirements.	Tug requirements for captured territories.				
	Items.	Area.	1,000 H.P. or over.	300 to 850 H.P.	Date.
	One	Burma	2	3	15th Apr. '45
	Two	Burma	2	5	1st Sept. "
	Three	Sumatra	2	-	1st Oct "
	Four	Malaya	3	6	1st Oct "
	Five	Sumatra	-	2	1st Dec "
	Six	Malaya	2	2	1st Dec "

(2) These are in addition to requirements in my 221248 Nov. 1944 which, in order that all demands should be through one channel, should be added to the above requirements.  
(C. in C. E.I.S.170332Z to S.A.C.S.E.A. etc.)

U-Boat dispositions. No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 170421Z to S. & A. E.I.S.)

Landing Craft moorings on East Indies Station. Your 030118 refers.  
(2) When material now ordered and being shipped from U.K. is received it is estimated all known outstanding landing craft mooring requirements can be met from station resources without addition of the (?extra) mooring asked in my 270558/Nov.  
(C. in C. E.I.S.170624Z to Admty.)

A/S training VIRTUE. Departure H.M. S/M VIRTUE for Colombo.  
(2) S. of A. 9½ knots.  
(F.O. Bombay, 170917Z to Admty.)

U.S. Troopships (Policy for sailing of). Present threat from U-Boat or surface forces is now negligible and I see no reason for any change.  
(2) Request therefore you will obtain concurrence of U.S. Authorities to sailing of American troop ships unescorted.  
(3) Request continuance of early advice of future moves to enable provision of escorts should a threat develop.  
(4) Escorts have already been removed from A.B.F. and B.A.F. convoys. My 020534 not to B.A.D. Washington or C.N.O. Washington refers.  
(C. in C. E.I.Stn. 171115Z to Admty.) See 201825Z.

Movements. Arrived and departed UGANDA. Arrived TEST, S/M. SLEUTH.  
(Com. Aden, 171711Z to Admty.)

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HARPERS FERRY SSSS 38.58 N. 72.25 W. sighted submarine.  
U-Boat (HARPERS FERRY 170135Z.)  
sighting. First indication of sighting was flare off  
starboard quarter. Flare went out. Looked to be  
explosion of vessel astern. Master, gunnery  
officer and men on watch saw (?LYM) unidentified  
? flare. Gunner ? with (remainder jammed.)  
(HARPERS FERRY No T.O.O. To Comeastseafron.)

Supposed Am attacking contact my position now is 046° 22'  
U/B contact. 053° 32'.  
(DIGBY 170335Z to F.O.N.F.)  
My 170335. 4 patterns dropped last contact  
classified non-submarine. Completed observant.  
negative results rejoining convoy forthwith.  
(DIGBY 170553Z to F.O.N.F.)

Aircraft. Reference Lorsa 25573\* and 022053A and Lorsa  
Production of 25915+  
Lorsa 25573 para. 3C. Arrangements have been  
made to increase production of Seafire 45 in the  
first half of 1946 by 191.

(2) It is not considered that plans for setting up production  
at Fort William should be proceeded with for reasons stated in  
Coprod 147 from Sinclair to Self.

(3) Lorsa 25915 para. 2. Explain to Navy Department that we are  
not proceeding with Canadian plan because we have been able to  
make arrangements for additional production at home by which we  
expect to get delivery of aircraft in 1946 at an earlier date  
than under the Canadian plan.

(4) It is hoped that the U.S. Navy will agree to the small number  
of Corsairs asked for in 1946 viz. 52 a month.

(5) If however it is necessary in order to secure adherence to  
assignments for 1945, including assignments for second half of  
1945, as stated in B.A.D. to Admiralty 312251 October 1944 then  
we would accept smaller number of Corsairs in 1946 preferably  
in the later part of 1946.

(5th S.L. 171120A to B.A.D. (Personal for N.A.R.))

\* 291401 January. + 102143.

Brazilian SS. TIRADENTES (Brazilian) rammed starboard  
SS. quarter and sunk 132005, 7° 18' N. 56° 38' W. by  
TIRADENTES SS. ALBERT P. RYDER (U.S.). No loss of life.  
(sunk.) Survivors landed Trinidad.  
(S.O.I. Trinidad 171147Q to S.O.I. Jamaica.)

See p. 249

Min<sup>ing</sup> Landing Craft. Following received from D.C.O.(I) begins:-  
Training for "Subject is training of minor landing craft crews  
Surf Landing. and L.V.T. drivers in surf landings first, request  
answers to following questions:  
(i) Is a technique for surf landings being worked  
out in U.K? (ii) Is working out of above technique  
responsibility of Admiralty or C.O.H.Q? (iii)  
Americans after extensive study have developed a

/technique...

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Minor technique. Is it proposed to adopt this?  
 Landing Craft. (iv) If answer to 3 is "yes", is it proposed to  
 Training for send teams of British instructors to American  
 Surf Landing. Amphibious Training Centres to learn technique,  
 (Contd.) and return and instruct British personnel?  
 (v) If answer to 4 is "yes", will C.O.H.Q. make  
 all arrangements for teams to go to America?  
 (vi) American technique is for L.C.V.(P). Will  
 modified L.C.A. require different technique from this?  
 (vii) Is a larger crew required for surf landings than for normal  
 landings?  
 (2) Presumably training of craft crews by training team will  
 take place in India. Before this can be done, it will be  
 necessary to study type of surf in areas of projected operations,  
 and to find training areas in which conditions approach them as  
 nearly as possible.  
 (3) It is considered that separate teams will be required to train  
 craft crews and L.V.T. drivers.  
 Time of origin 131140Z February" Ends.  
 Request your remarks which C.C.O. proposes to collate with those  
 War Office before sending an agreed reply.  
 (C.C.O. 171155A to Admty.)

U/B dis- Estimates.  
 positions. (N.S.H.Q. 171320Z, Cominch 171622Z.)

E.Gs. The following ships are allocated to E.G. 28 to  
 allocation date 20th Feb. H.M.C.S. SAINT THERESE (S.O.),  
 of vessels. PRESTONIAN, FORT ERIE, BUCKINGHAM, INCHARRAN.  
 (2) These ships are transferred from present  
 allocation as follows: H.M.C.S. PRESTONIAN, FORT  
 ERIE, BUCKINGHAM, INCHARRAN from new construction.  
 SAINT THERESE from E.G. 25.  
 (C. in C. C.N.A. 171510Z, to N.S.H.Q.)

Fleet mine- 1500Z/17th Feb. LYSANDER sailed Halifax indepen-  
 sweeper dently for Horta route, speed and W/T as my 101712  
 LYSANDER. E.T.A. 1500Z/23rd.  
 (C. in C. C.N.A. 171615Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, etc.)  
 See 202005A.

BENEDICK British BENEDICK reported damaged in collision  
 (tanker.) with U.S. warship Feb. 16th proceeding New York  
 under tow.  
 (N.S.H.Q. 171621Z to Admty.)

A.F.D. 32. My 092223 not to Comar Dakar.  
 Route from New York to Puerto Rico has been  
 ordered by C.E.S.F. as follows: (details).  
 Routeing instructions do not entail calling at  
 Norfolk Charleston. Layover at these ports not considered  
 necessary or desirable due to complications, of switching tow  
 from Ocean tugs to Harbour tugs and tendency to consider sea room

/of...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

A.F.D. 32.  
(Contd.)

of more vital importance than accessibility of shelter. All parties concerned with movements are in agreement on this.

(2) Weather permitting dock leaves New York 19th Feb. and an estimated 100 miles a day made good giving E.T.A. Puerto Rico as 7th March.

(3) British routing Liaison Officer New York informs that officer in charge of tow considers tugs will run short of fuel on passage San Juan to Canary Islands due to anticipated head wind and current. This officer requests information on possibility of refuelling at Sea if necessary from Fleet Oiler based Azores.

(4) Request that escort may be sailed to conform with new estimated programme of dock, observing French Admiralty's request to send escort to Martinique before joining tug at San Juan.

(5) Detailed route from San Juan is awaited as in Admiralty 201949 Jan.

(B.A.D. 171801Z to Admty.)

Request the following arrangements may be made for supply of weather information during transatlantic passage of A.F.D. 32, A.M. 201949 Jan.

(2) A routine single daily forecast of wind and state of sea and swell with a supplementary forecast in the event of anticipated unfavourable conditions to be transmitted to the escort.

(a) By the U.S. authorities until the dock has passed 40° W.

(b) By F.O.G.M.A. thereafter.

(D.O.D.(F) 171846A to B.A.D.)

U/B contacts. 140019 Brazilian TIRADENTES sunk marine casualty etc. 07.18 N. 56.38 W. Para. C.

(1) 152245 H.M.C.S. AMHERST attacked Sonar contact 44.21 N. 63.19 W.

(2) 171615 U.S.S. FURY sound contact 39.57 N. 73.11 W. All times Z Para. D. 161805 CAILIFF reported submerged U-Boat 46.10 N. 55.22 W. (Cominch 172045Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

A/S contact. H.M.C.S. RED DEER has attacked A/S contact. My P.C.S. is 044.34 N. 06.12.5 W. 083° 12.5 knots. (AMHURST 172340Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)



War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Personnel  
for B.P.F.  
centres.

Problem concerning the provision of communication personnel and officers to meet planning and operational commitments are continually arising.

(2) I cannot forecast the exact extent of our future commitments but they will be too large to accept continuation on the present hand to mouth basis. Examples are Admiralty 130039 and the establishment now of communication centres at Manus and Leyte.

(3) The delay caused in stating each requirement to Admiralty and the ensuing period of doubt as to whether the demand can be implemented, and if so, when it will arrive in Australia, is unsatisfactory.

(4) It is therefore requested communication officers and personnel including cypher officers may be sent to Combrax Sydney for disposal as soon as they become available in U.K.

(5) I recognize that this cannot be done immediately but up to 10 communication officers, 20 cypher officers, 5 warrant telegraphists and signal boatswains and 400 communication personnel (of which 100 could be Wrens) could be usefully employed in this theatre within the next few months. This is in addition to previous specific requirements.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 170754Z to Admty.)

Digest serial (Extract.) (2) Reference para. 3 yesterday's No. 1123, digest, American destroyer escort claims enemy 16th Feb. '45. submarine probably sunk Northern Sulu Bay after 10 hour attack.

(3) Noon Navy search Liberator saw 2 battleships, one heavy cruiser with destroyers 50 miles north Wenchow heading N.E. shot down single enemy floatplane same vicinity, saw northbound convoy 3 medium merchantmen, 2 escorts. Another (R/C) plane over Nansei SHCQN saw about 40 small ships "one larger than 2,000 tons most under 700, sank 2 small merchantmen, 4 sea trucks, bombed bridge."

(4) Other Navy Liberators over French Indo China afternoon saw one landing ship, one medium, one small merchantman, 2 seacows leading tugs off Cape Saint Jacques (corrupt group) smaller merchantmen, probable sinking both tugs: saw convoy 2 medium merchantmen, 2 escorts heading north off Cape Varella: probably destroyed small freighter northbound for N\* miles North Quinhan: saw 6A freighter off Cape Saphoi. Another Liberator over Borneo sank one large one small barge 30 miles N.W. Ludat where three enemy fighters attempted interception.

(5) Afternoon three P.Ts. with three co-operating Lightnings sweeping east coast Bataan for enemy speedboats destroyed 3 barges one sail boat but encountered nil speedboats.

(7) Minesweeping Manila Bay continues with over 170 mines swept. Delayed report states one landing craft hit mine off Masiveles 15th Feb. craft burned and beached. Controlled mines suspected in area. Night 15th/16th Japanese speed boats in surprise attack destroyed three American landing craft damaged another, 70 survivors recovered to date by P.T. boats.

War Diary.17.2.1945  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial (8) Morning American Paratroops and Seaborne  
No. 1123, Forces landed on Corregidor Island against minor  
16th Feb. '45. initial opposition. Several vehicles lost on  
(Contd.) beach through land mines. Cruiser/Destroyer Task  
Force covered landing co-ordinated with strong  
air support. Bataan forces extended Mariweles  
beachhead to width of 4 miles and depth of about  
2 miles.

(9) Ground forces on Manila advancing westwards have broken  
through to Manila Bay from Remedios south of Farrisnn Park  
where enemy organised resistance reported collapsed. Enemy  
forces resisting in Manila now confined to Iodrampros area  
while Mckimldy Toxe is still in Japanese hands.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 171123 to Admty.) \* As received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/17th Feb.  
& sighting U-309 Para. A. (1) E.G. 9 attacked bottom contact  
summary. between 1450Z and 1806Z/16th Feb. in 58° 09' N.  
02° 23' W. oil and wreckage brought to surface.  
(2) A/C Q/304 attacked snort, course 189° 12  
knots at 1744Z/16th Feb. in 57° 21' N. 11° 26' W.

Para. C. (1) H.M. A/S trawler BRONTES reported 4 underwater  
explosions between 0905Z and 0920Z/16th Feb. in 49° 48' N. 01° 14'  
W. (2) M.T.B. 757 attacked contact at 2054Z/16th Feb. in 50° 15'  
N. 00° 03' W.  
(3) DIANTHUS attacked contact at 2351Z/16th Feb. in 49° 59' N.  
00° 37' W.  
(4) Noup Head coastguard reported sighting surfaced U-Boat,  
course west, which submerged at 0725Z/17th Feb. in 59° 22' N.  
03° 07' W.

Para. D. (1) COTTON reported hearing S.S.T. Cn asdic at 1405Z/  
16th Feb. in 53° 10' N. 04° 49' W.  
(2) American HAROLD D. WHITEHEAD sent SSSS submarine on surface  
at 1515Z/16th Feb. in 07° 52' N. 76° 56' W.  
(3) M.T.B. 757 attacked contact probably non submarine at 1920Z/  
16th Feb. in 50° 16' N. 00° 01' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 171043A.)

U/B dis- Estimates.  
positions. (D.D.I.C. 171411A, 171416A.)

18.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea

1. A raiding party in two L.C.A. landed near Dussen and took one prisoner; another failed to land near Vienen due to fog.

Western Approaches.

2. Convoy O.N.283 is badly scattered by a gale and one of its ships, ALFRED I. DUPONT, was last heard in distress standing by to abandon ship.

Northern Waters.

3. LARK has arrived in tow at Kola, but THOMAS SCOTT sank in the approaches. Her 41 Soroy refugees were transferred to BELLONA and her entire crew landed at Murmansk.

\* ONSLAUGHT. included see P420.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

REGENT LION torpedoed.

4. SS. REGENT LION torpedoed yesterday reported aground, off Carnero western side of Gibraltar Bay and asking for salvage assistance.

America & West Indies.

Convoy O.N. 283. (ALFRED I. DUPONT).

5. Convoy O.N.283 is reported to have been hove to and badly battered in a strong gale since 0700 this morning about 360' N.W. of Azores. It is thought that one merchant ship the ALFRED I. DUPONT (U.S.7240 tons) in the convoy may have foundered. (Since reported arrived Horta Azores), ~~Convoy may have foundered~~, and U.S. Navy tug CORMORANT is in a dangerous condition with her after hold flooded. Wreckage has been sighted by convoy escorts and a further search is being carried out. At 9.30 p.m. conditions were said to be improving.

U-boat attack.

6. An aircraft of R.C.A.F. attacked a U-boat with depth charges when about 70 miles to S.W. of Halifax.

18.2.1945  
Sunday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 320 part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/17  
February.

British	Personnel,	Vehicles	Stores Bulk	Coal Bulk	Pol.	G.F. Ammo
Antwerp	-	-	13,455	-	-	1,402
Ostend	799	251	1,953	-	-	571
Boulogne	41	167	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	762	-	-
Calais	6,439	-	640	-	579	1,281
Ghent	-	-	5,173	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,279</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>21,221</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>3,254</b>
<b>U.S. North</b>						
Antwerp	-	54	18,416	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	175	6,381	35	2,596	4,076
Le Havre	5,657	140	6,328	-	-	3,270
Rouen	134	100	6,014	757	-	244
Granville	-	-	-	789	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,354	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,791</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>39,493</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>2,596</b>	<b>7,590</b>
<b>U.S. South.</b>						
Marseilles	5,641	890	17,793	1,288	-	2,301
Port de Bouc	-	-	-	1,200	-	-
Sete	-	-	377	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,641</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>18,170</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,301</b>

Note: 2305 tons G.F. ammo. discharged at Port de Bouc 8 Feb. not previously reported.

(S.H.A.E.F. 181535A to Admty., and others.)

Naval  
Situation  
Report.

A raiding party in two L.C.A. landed near Dussen early 18th February and took one prisoner. Others in three L.C.A. attempted to land near Vienen but were unsuccessful owing to bad visibility. No casualties to our troops or craft. (A.N.C.X.F. 182330A to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols and  
escorts.

DOMETT remain on patrol. E.G. 3 first division will enter harbour tomorrow, 19th for layover. (C. in C. Plymouth 180902A to S.O.E.G. 3, DOMETT.)

/DUCKWORTH...

18.2.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols and escorts.  
(Contd.)

DUCKWORTH, DOMETT leave convoy Lizard Head resume patrol coastal convoy route Lizard Head to Start Point.

(2) ROWLEY, ESSINGTON, COOKE remain with convoy until further orders.

(3) CROIX DE LORRAINE return Portsmouth forthwith.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 181032A to S.O.E.G. 3.)

My 181454A\* Support convoy vicinity Trevoze Head then patrol Trevoze Head to Pendeen Head.

(C. in C. Plymouth 181928A to JONQUIERE, MONTREAL.)

\* Convoy T.B.C. 71. Trail to Lundy Island then resume patrol.

E.Gs. 22,17.

On completion of fuelling today 18th F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland is requested to sail 22nd E.G. to vicinity Longships thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to

sail WREN to rejoin group off Skerries as arranged by F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland.

(2) On relief by 22nd E.G. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 17th E.G. to Greenock for layover.

(C. in C. W.A. 181009A to F.Os. i/c N.I., Liverpool, C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Possible U/B hides.

It is suspected that U-Boats when being hunted seek cover by bottoming in suitable declivities on the sea bed.

(2) A list of possibly suitable positions, taken from inspection of the chart of the Irish Sea, is

given below. All positions north and west.

54° 56' 5° 21'. 54° 52' 5° 26'. 53° 34' 4° 48'. 53° 32' 5° 05'.  
53° 27' 5° 48'. 53° 25' 5° 00'. 53° 16' 4° 48'. 59° 11' 5° 38'.  
52° 44' 4° 55'.

(3) Other such declivities which may be found as result of operations or bottom survey should be plotted on charts and noted in reports of proceedings for subsequent promulgation.

(C. in C. W.A. 180019A to Western Approaches Command.)

Loch Alsh for M.Ls.

Experience has shown that Aultbea is an unsuitable base for M.Ls. and it is not desired to re-open Stornoway for this purpose. If, for operational reasons it becomes necessary to operate M.Ls. in the N. Minch area, it has been decided to base

them temporarily at Loch Alsh. It has also been decided that not more than 4 M.Ls. would be sent to Loch Alsh at one time and the period that they would be based there would not exceed 14 days.

18.2.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Loch Alsh  
for M.Ls.  
(Contd.)

A letter on this subject is in transit to F.O.I.C. Greenock and to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh. My signal 160002\* Jan. not to all addressees refers. (2) The estimated fuel requirements for each M.L. are - 700 gallons of petrol and 10 gallons of lubricating oil (I.C.E.) per day.

It is understood that arrangements for bulk stowage of petrol at Loch Alsh are no longer available. The dates when M.Ls. would be required to operate cannot be foreseen, but is likely to be at short notice. It is, therefore requested that arrangements may be made for a minimum of 7 days fuel and oil for 4 M.Ls. may be kept available in tank waggons at Loch Alsh and that replenishment up to 14 days at any one period be available.

(C. in C. W.A. 181003A to Admty.)

\* Sinkings in Irish Sea followed up by attacks off Clyde Light Vessel make it apparent that the disposition of the A/S forces needs re-inforcement and re-adjustment.

E.G. 17. Request you will transfer E.G. 17 to C. in C. Western Approaches, without relief, when due for layover.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 181305A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
A.M. 181305. Request you will detach 17th E.G. to arrive Greenock 20th Feb. in accordance with my 272257 Jan. not to all.  
(C. in C. W.A. 182213A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

E.G. 22. On completion of fuelling today 18th F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland is requested to sail 22nd E.G. to form Force 34 and operate in area between parallels 50° and 51° and meridians 09° and 11°. (2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail WREN to join S.O. 22nd E.G. off Skerries as arranged by F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland.  
(C. in C. W.A. 181420A to F.Os. i/c N.I., Liverpool.)

E.G. 10. If not in contact leave patrol and proceed through Minches to Londonderry.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 181804A to S.O.E.G. 10.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "S.C." Intend to sail "S.C" operation from Shetland  
(1) 0200A/20th Feb. from Scalloway.  
(2) 070° from Sumburgh Head 14 knots.  
(3) 1930A/20th Feb.  
(4) Between 2000A/20th Feb. and 0500A/21st Feb.  
(5) 250° to Sumburgh Head 15 knots.  
(6) p.m. 21st Feb. (7) 070° Sumburgh Head. (8) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 181351A to A.C.O.S.)

/(1)...

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Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Norway.

Operation "S.C." (Contd.)

(1) 60° 56' N. 04° 37' E. My 181351A.  
 (2) Ramose Screen. (3) Blank.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 181353A to A.C.O.S.)  
 My 181355A. (1) 60° 40' N. 04° 45' E.  
 (2) Ramose zigzag. (3) Blank.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 181357A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.Northern Waters.

Convoy R.A.64. Scapa departure ZEBRA, SAVAGE and SCOURGE.  
 (A.C.O.S. 180139A to Admty.)  
 LARK arrived in tow and anchored Kola Inlet.  
 F.O. 1st C.S. 171531 refers.  
 (S.B.N.O. N..Russia 182045A to Admty., C. in C. H.F.  
 C.S. 1.)

SS. THOMAS SCOTT sank in approach to Kola Inlet. F.O. 1st C.Ss.  
 171531 refers. Understood all Norwegian refugees embarked, total  
 41 transferred BELLONA. *(ONSLAUGHT intended, see p. 420)*  
 (2) All crew safe and landed at Murmansk. Seven in R.N.A.H.  
 Vaenga.  
 (S.B.N.O. N. Russia 182117A to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

Probable U-Boat. My 172111. Consider U-Boat very probably sank  
 one mile west of attack. In that position oil  
 could be smelt at 2030 and at 2200 splintered  
 wood and an object 2 feet in diameter were seen.  
 Intend to return and search for evidence. Request  
 information whether inflatable dinghy stowed in U-Boat conning  
 tower or under casing. Wind S.S.W. force 7 sea low.  
 (S.O.E.G. 10 180845A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 180845 only object recovered is inflated rubber ball  
 covered in green canvas diameter 18 inches. No oil seen today.  
 Amend position in my 171810 to read 61° 32' N. 01° 36' W.  
 (S.O.E.G. 10 182102A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Patrols. On arrival Cape Wrath detach one escort to Scapa  
 to collect Rosyth orders from office of Cdre. (D)  
 Home Fleet subsequently rejoining and transferring  
 to group.

- (2) Remainder of group proceed to establish Gamma between 61°  
 14' N. 04° 30' W. and 60° 46' N. 03° 30' W.  
 (3) First E.G. R/T and W/T callsign "Tebworth" 365.  
 (4) Report E.T.A. Scapa of escort detailed to A.C.O.S.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth 180945A to S.O.E.G. 1.)  
 (1) My 180945 cancel para. 2. Pass position 61° 00' 04° 00'  
 thence proceed to establish Gamma on 00° 20' W. between 61° 30'  
 and 62° 10'. (2) Attention is called to Q.Z.H. 28.  
 (3) Report E.T.A. on patrol.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth 181615A to S.O.E.G. 1.)

/Type...

18.2.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Type O  
anti-  
schnorkel  
obstruction.

Intend sailing BRITTANY (S.O.) escorted by NARVIK at 0900A tomorrow Monday by standard route to Lerwick. E.T.A. 1900A. A.M. 142017 to other addressees refers.  
(A.C.O.S. 181212A to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

Casualties & Defects.

MOORCOCK,  
mooring  
vessel.

MOORCOCK still aground on Island Eiln Glas in 56p 34' 30" N. 05° 25' 00" W. after 2 attempts to refloat. No apparent damage to ship. 90 tons water, 40 tons coal have been discharged. Vessel still requires more buoyancy. Next suitable tide 0638 Monday 26th February.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban 181351A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

SS.  
SWEEPSTAKES.

Hard aground south of No. 12 buoy Rouen Channel. Request tugs. Master.  
(SWEEPSTAKES 181455Z to Le Havre.)  
Following is correction of message 181455Z.  
Hard aground south of No. 6 buoy. Request tugs for next high water. Answer in S.P. 2272. Master.  
(SWEEPSTAKES 181955Z to Le Havre.)

SS. ALFREDI  
DUPONT.

O.N. 283. Conditions have moderated but convoy very badly scattered. ALFREDI DUPONT last heard about 1430Z in distress and standing by to abandon ship. H.M.C.S. OWEN SOUND and HAWKESBURY searching vicinity and intend they remain until 1400Z tomorrow. U.S. Navy tug CORMORANT dangerous in serious condition with after hold flooded. MERRITONIA standing by her and anticipate situation will be controlled. W/R 4481 0875.  
(S.O.E.G. C. 7 182030Z to C. in C.W.A.)

L.C.T. 647.

The following received from C.O. L.C.T. 647, begins "Collision in fog 2330/14th Feb. 1945 no casualties craft now in Le Havre hole port side at engine room forward bulkhead hole extends about 15 feet inboard 12 feet at ship's side. U.S.N. Salvage Officer has floated her on even keel and considers complete repair possible but no facilities available here. Patch required before towing at sea. Engines and generators have been submerged but appear mainly sound. Request instructions. D.T.G. 181517." Ends.  
(S.B.N.O. Le Havre 182131A to Admty.)

Movements.

BONAVENTURE,  
submarine  
depot ship.

BONAVENTURE expects to arrive Ponta Delgada daylight 25th February. Request arrangements be made to supply her with 400 tons furnace fuel and 100 tons water.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 181138A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

/OPPORTUNE...



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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

OPPORTUNE,  
ORWELL,  
destroyers.

It is proposed that on completion of boiler cleaning and conversion OPPORTUNE and ORWELL shall embark mines at Immingham and carry out a lay in the East Coast Barrage whilst on passage to Scapa. The position of the lay will be selected later.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 181310A to C. in C. H.F.) *Reply: p. 318.*

TJERK  
HIDDES,  
Netherlands  
destroyer.

A.M. 172136A Feb., para. 2 concur subject to concurrence of Cdre. WESTERN ISLES.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 182047A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys

HIGHLAND  
PRINCESS,  
MORETON BAY,  
DUCHESS OF  
BEDFORD  
for  
repatriation  
of ex-  
Prisoners of  
War from  
Odessa.

For P.W.2 from Admiral Archer.  
Had lengthy meeting with General Golubev, Head of Soviet P.W. Directorate, who gave the following information. (A) Russians would feed our P.Ws. according to their rank. (B) Protection would be given where necessary. (C) The Soviet General Staff were already engaged in moving about 40 officers and 2,000 other ranks, by rail to Odessa. (D) Medical attention and clothing would be provided as necessary. (E) That they were building a transit camp at Odessa, accommodation for 5,000 to be completed by 27 February.

I asked that bulk of Red Cross supplies might be moved to Odessa. Obvious that this port suits the Russians best for repatriation as doubtless it does us. Intend to use HIGHLAND PRINCESS and MORETON BAY to convey any ex-P.Ws. to Middle East, whose final destination is east of Suez. Should there be further P.Ws. recovered, it is for consideration that these two ships might also take any surplus personnel for U.K. (which DUCHESS OF BEDFORD could not accommodate) as far as Middle East. If, on the other hand, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD has spare accommodation, I would like to offer it to Americans of whom Golubev informs me the Russians at present have charge of 1,000. There is no doubt that (?Golubev) is most anxious to expedite repatriation of Anglo-American personnel.  
(30 M. M. Moscow, 181628C to War Office.)

War Diary.

18.2.1945.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SS. REGENT  
LION.

SS. REGENT LION (T) torpedoed and now aground off Carnero Point.  
2. Request immediate steps may be taken to obtain facilities for salvage of ship and cargo. (S.O.(I) Gib., 180225A to Madrid).

T.G.41.4

On crossing 32° N., ships are to proceed with all despatch and carry out dangerous waters zig-zag until arrival off Carnero Point.  
2. U.S.S. GEN. MEIGS is to close Rosia Bay for mail before proceeding. (Amend my 171130 not to all accordingly)  
3. Onward route for U.S.S. GEN. MEIGS basic eastbound to position (123) thence standard route E. to Naples (App. 2 to M.S.C.I. refer). At speed of advance 16 knots. (F.O.G.M.A., 181047A to C.T.G.41.4).

E.G.4  
U/B  
search.

Continue search in present area until dark tonight 18th Feb. thence shift searches to more sheltered waters to North of Cape Trafalgar and South West of Spatel.  
2. If not in contact, Group 2 and H.M.S. HAVELOCK are to leave area so as to arrive Gibraltar at 0930A/19th Feb. for fuel and subsequent escort duties with M.K.S.84 sailing at 1600A/19th Feb. (F.O.G.M.A., 181207A to S.O. Grp. 4).

ANGUILLA  
Frigate.

Sailed from Horta at 2026Z/18th ANGUILLA for Liverpool routed as in Admiralty 181246\* not to all. S. of A. 14.5 knots E.T.A. 1900Z/23rd. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 182108Z to F.O.G.M.A.)  
\*ANGUILLA route.

F.S/M  
LE CENTAURE

Intend to sail French S/M LE CENTAURE escorted by U.S.S. SCOTT from Horta about 1000Z/19th to exercise with Azores shore-based aircraft in an area 25 miles due south of Horta from 1200Z till 1800Z/19th.  
3. Attack and total bombing restrictions imposed, 30 miles ahead 60 miles astern, 40 miles abeam, estimated position up to position (E). (S.B.N.O. Azores, 182334 to F.O.G.M.A., and 191146Z).

South Atlantic.

MOSES BROWN  
U/B  
sighting.

Have taken action as requested in your 161802. See my 180812, my 180842 and my 180901. (C. in C. S.A., 180912Z to Connav).

/In...

War Diary.

18.2.1945.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MOSES BROWN In view Comfourthfleet's 180752 N.T. in W.D. U/B have cancelled instructions referred to in my sighting. 180912. (contd). (C. in C. S.A., 181543B to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R).  
MOSES BROWN in position 13.27 S., 32.43 W. at 1000/17 sends amplifying report of submarine sighted on 9th 23.38 S., 04.25 W. "Sighted periscope of submarine 200 yards port beam course unknown speed nil remained submerged." My 092358Z refers. (F.O.C.W.Af., 182127 to Admty).

E.Gs. Escort Group 56 increase speed as necessary to relieve Escort Group 59 first light 19th. On relief E.G. 59 return Dakar ANNAMITE, CHEVREUIL and GAZELLE with moderate despatch LOBELIA independently.  
(F.O.C. West Africa, 180936Z to E.G. 59 and 56).  
My 180936 Information just received that A.F.D. 32 now arriving San Juan 28th Feb. Request you will sail ANNAMITE, CHEVREUIL and GAZELLE direct San Juan as soon after their arrival as ships can be made ready in all respects. Regret advancement of date will necessitate cancellation of visit to Martinique.  
(F.O.C. W. Africa, 181400Z to Comar Dakar).

Movement H.M.S. FREESIA arrived.  
(Cdre. 1/c Durban, 181304Z to C. in C. E.I. etc).

18.2.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

CALEDON. Sail as convenient p.m./19th to pass 309 at 1615B/19th and proceed by basic westbound route and unless otherwise ordered by V.A.M. by Q.B.B. 442 to Malta for de-storing and onward sailing to U.K. C. in C. Med. (Malta) 091929 and C. in C. Med. 121157 not to all refers.  
(2) E.T.A. Malta 1045B/21st, S. of A. 20 knots.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 180930 to CALEDON.)

C.T.G. 21.5. (1) C.T.G. 21.5 (?take) ships addressed under your orders and sail at 1600A/18th Feb. by basic westbound route to position 16 for onward routing by F.O.G.M.A., S. of A. 20 knots, E.T.A. position 16 1230/19th Feb.  
(3) Commob. Oran is requested to sail ocean escort to R/V in position 93.  
(4) Air protection, etc.  
(F.O.W.M., 181116A to C.T.G. 21.5, U.S.S. QUINCY, SAVANNAH, PARKER, CHAMPLIN, NIELDS.)

Black Sea shipping. JAMES RUMSEY, THOMAS W. GREGORY, JACOB S. MANSFIELD, GEORGE KENNY (?Expected time of arrival) Approach Points 1300 G.M.T., 1500 G.M.T., 1500 G.M.T., 1800 G.M.T. all 19th Feb. respectively.  
(2) B.N.L.O. Black Sea pass to Odessa. Admty. pass to Admiral Archer.  
(C.S.A. Istanbul, 181232C to Alusna Odessa.)

South Aegean Summary, 17th Feb. Up to 0900 hours 18th Feb., 1945.  
(1) Shipping and Military. Most of Dodecanese area was covered on 17th Feb. Dodecanese. Rhodes. Only slight internal movement. British tug TANAK now appears serviceable. Shipping now present - Two EMS launch 60/80 foot, two I-Boats 60 foot, six Pioneer landing craft, three I-Boats 40 foot, one schooner 100 foot, one tug 40/60 foot. Photographic reconnaissance shows no reduction of Pioneer Landing craft in this area. Craft sunk at Nisero was I-Boat 40 foot and not Pioneer landing craft. Khalkis garrison reported preparing evacuate.  
Comment: 8th Feb. garrison reported increased from 20 to 130. Reason for abnormal increase not known but possibly this party being withdrawn. Unlikely whole garrison will withdraw Leros. Portolago. Arrived one launch 40/60 foot. Now present - Two EMS, one Pioneer landing craft, one Z lighter, two I-Boats 20 (or 60) foot, one I-Boat 40/50, one MAL, three Magdas, one with hatches open, one salvage vessel, four tugs, one launch 80/100 foot, two launches 40/60 foot. Ground source reports two EMS, two Magdas leaving shortly with troops for north coast Kos. Mastikari Point. Probable as further thinning out Leros garrison. Partheni Bay. One Pioneer landing craft present. Alinda Bay. One launch 40/60 foot previously reported as caique. Kos. No change. Magda and launch still present. Report more troops in four craft due shortly. Lisso. Very small craft only. Patmos Port Scala. Two caiques 40/60 foot and small craft.  
(C. in C. M.E., D.T.O. 190045 to W.O.)

/ANTWERP ...

War Diary.18.2.1945.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

F.D.S. ANTWERP. If ANTWERP is ready in time it is intended that she should proceed to United Kingdom in company with FRANCONIA.  
(2) If necessary for her to fuel at Gibraltar she should be sailed ahead and join FRANCONIA on passage through Straits.  
(3) My 161414A\* refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 181442A to V.A. Malta.) See 201715.  
\* Escort requirement anticipated to escort FRANCONIA.

Black Sea Navigation. (Admiral Archer, 181528A to Admty.)  
See Lion Copy.

Meditn. Fleet. Reductions in Personnel. Only reductions in complements of ships in Mediterranean Fleet which can be proposed are as follows:  
Admiralty message 280110 Jan. refers.  
(A) Communications. Withdrawal of one Petty Officer Tel., One Telegraphist, One Yeoman and one Signaller authorised to be borne in Flotilla Leaders as spare ratings.  
(B) Torpedo. Consequent upon decision in Admiralty General Message 603A\* to remove searchlights from destroyers and above consider following reductions possible.  
(1) Cruisers (negative AURORA and ARETHUSA see para. 2) one Leading Seaman or Able Seaman (L.T.O.), one Able Seaman (S.T.)  
(2) Destroyers. One Able Seaman (S.T.)  
(C) Gunnery. Reduction of two 4-inch twin mounting crews in each cruiser (negative SIRIUS) while in the Mediterranean together with one H.A. control team in ships with two ended H.A. control positions. This would leave one mounting each side for anti-E-Boat, anti-small submarine or explosive motor boat and for starshell.  
(2) As AURORA and ARETHUSA are already under orders to propose reductions amounting to one officer and 40 ratings (Admiralty Message 040157 Jan.) consider no further reduction in Torpedo rating possible.  
(C. in C. Med., 181532A to Admty.)  
\* T.O.O. 140625 September 1944.

Situation Report No. 564. Cancel para. 1 of number 563/. 2 ships were torpedoed in convoy at 1100 on 17th Feb. in position 035° 56' N., 005° 45' W. 1 has reached Gibraltar and the other is in tow and endeavouring to do so. Search for U-Boat continues.  
(C. in C. Med., 181826A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)  
/ Gibraltar. 1 ship in convoy torpedoed.

FRANCONIA. FRANCONIA passed Istanbul westbound 1800C/18th Feb.  
(C.S.A. Istanbul, 181913C to Admty.)

Rome. Allied Naval Sub-Commission. Your 151959. Proposals in your 231257 Jan. approved. Commodore Warren may be granted the

/rank ...

18.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Rome.  
Allied  
Naval Sub-  
Commission.  
(Contd.)

rank of Rear-Admiral whilst holding the  
appointment of Head of the Naval Sub-Commission.  
It will not be possible to increase his staff.  
(1st S.L., 182018A to C. in C. Med.)

**TOP SECRET****IN**

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

TOPSECRET

181528A February.

From Admiral Archer

Date 18.2.45.  
Recd. 2042.

I.D.C. BY T/P.

*Black Sea navigation*

Addressed Admiralty.

Repeated C. in C. Med., B.N.A. Ankara, Cmdr. 8th Fleet,  
F.O.L.E.M., S.A.C.M.E.D., C.S.A. Istanbul,  
ALUSNA Istanbul, B.N.L.O. Black Sea, B.A.D.,  
S.B.N.O. Greece.

IMMEDIATE

My 101605 not to all. Following route from Bosphorus to Constantza has been received from Soviet Naval Authorities: from departure point off Bosphorus in position (A)  $41^{\circ} 16'$  North  $29^{\circ} 25'$  East, thence due North along meridian of  $29^{\circ} 25'$  East to position, (B)  $43^{\circ} 42'$  North  $29^{\circ} (?25')$  (?East), thence to approach point in position, (C)  $43^{\circ} 51'$  North  $29^{\circ} 01.8'$  East.

(2) Approach point at (C) repeat (C) above will be marked by a buoy showing a white repeat white light visible 5 miles, to be replaced later by a light vessel.

(3) Russian pilots will meet ships at this point.

(4) Weather (?permitting) Russian A/C will guide ships to meeting point with pilots.

(5) In stormy weather or bad visibility ships should await better conditions in region of 30 to 40 miles East repeat East of approach point.

(6) All subsequent passages between Black Sea ports will be carried out under guidance of Russian naval pilots. Only passages from or to Bosphorus will be made without pilots.

(7) It is confirmed that destination EMPIRE COLLINS is Constantza.

(8) \*Admiralty pass to all addresses negative B.N.L.O. Black Sea.

181528A.

\*Passing action being taken by War Registry.

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

MG

Circulation over .....

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L.  
4th 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. (O) (3)  
Hd. of M. (10) (M.05812/44)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake  
D. of S.T. (6)  
D. of N.  
Hydrog.  
D.E.W.D. (3)  
D.S.D.  
D.M.S.  
D.A/S.W.  
D.A/U.D.  
D. of S. (2)  
D. of C.2B

✓ Tanker BRITISH PATIENCE. Proposal  
by Soviet authorities that all  
ships should bunker at Constanza



18.2.1945  
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

U-Boat  
dispositions. No change.  
(C. in C. E.I.S., 180247Z to S. and A. E.I. Stn.)

1  
Movements. Arrival VIRAGO.  
Departures BANGOR, URCHIN, ESKIMO, TRENCHANT,  
Capt.(D) 7, in NAPIER, FULLMOON.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 181405Z to Admty. etc.)

B.D.V. Arrived BARRANCA, L.C.T. 557 in tow of RIVERCREST.  
L.C.T. Departed TRUMP, TIPTOE, RAJPUTANA, HELFORD, DERG.  
movement. (Com. Aden, 181540 to Admty.)

Force 68 Ships addressed are to constitute force 68  
(constitution as from 0001 F.G. 21st Feb.  
of). (C. in C. E.I. 181704Z to ROTHERHAM, ROEBUCK,  
RAPID, ROCKET) See 190547.

305(a) E. I.

# TOP SECRET

IN

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

*Reduction in personnel West of 90%*

*Received 10th March 1945*

191104Z/February

FROM: C. in C. E.I.

DATE: 8.3.45  
RECD: 1015

Naval Cypher (GG) by W/T

ADDRESSED: N.O.I.C. East Africa, N.O.I.C. Aden.  
REPEATED: F.O. Ceylon, S.O. R.N. Estabs. (India)

IMPORTANT

An opportunity to accelerate offensive eastwards may occur before planned reinforcements can arrive on the station. In anticipation therefore intend to build up in East resources of personnel and ships by reducing those now in West.

2. As a first step a reduction of 10% in Officers and men borne ashore in East Africa and at Aden is to be effected by 15th March.

3. In the case of Aden this reduction is in addition to that already ordered in my 181853.

4. As far as possible you are to select personnel from those with shortest period on East Indies Station. Names of Officers and number of ratings are to be reported by signal.

5. No reduction in operational or maintenance facilities at Aden or Kilindini other than escort force commitments can be accepted yet.

191104Z

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(3)  
2nd S.L.  
D.F.S.L.(2)  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)  
A.C.N.P.(4)  
P.A.S.(S)  
U.W.R.  
D.C.  
D.O.D.(F)(2)

D.O.D.(H)(4)  
D.N.I.(5)  
D. of P.(3)  
D. of P.(Q)(2)  
Hd. of M.(2)  
W.D.  
D. of L.D.

18.2.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B contact. H.M.C.S. RED DEER had A/S contact considered German U/B in posn. 044° 34' N. 061° 25' W. about 172330Z attacked and lost contact, carrying out observant.  
(C. in C.N.W.A. 180138Z all ships in area (D))  
My 180138 first contact by radar at 2305Z followed by A/S contact at 2315Z contact not regained after D/C attack at 2325Z although observant carried out. Engine room heard 2 underwater explosions at 2310Z.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 181451Z to Connav, etc.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. No report since my 162119. Para. D. H.M.C.S. DIGBY attacked asdic contact about 0335/17th in 46.22 N. 53.32 W. All times Z.  
(N.S.H.Q. 180305Z to Admty.)

Navigation Lights. W. Atlantic. Admiralty 181125A (Feb.) Connav. Amended by 211529. See Lion Copy.

Disposition of Monsters. War Office 181145A Feb. B.A.S. Washington. See Lion Copy.

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 181354Z and Cominch 181546Z to S. & A. etc.)

R.T. TENACITY. W 5 180304 not to all. H.M.R.T. TENACITY escorted by H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE sailed (?St. Johns N.F.) 1400Z/18th Feb. to assistance of LANGLEEBROOK. S.O.A. 10 knots.

(2) On relief fuel permitting proceed to overtake W.5 escorting O.N.S. 41A.

(3) TENACITY has been ordered to tow ships to St. Johns N.F. escorted by H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE.

(F.O.N.F. 181428Z and 191650Z to H.M.C.S. GALT.)

<sup>a.n.s</sup>  
Convoy<sub>^</sub> 41A. O.N.S. 41A., convoy of 12 ships reformed position course and speed at 1500Z 43.01 N. 52.43 W. 270° 7 knots. EMPIRE SEVERN with Cmdre. Osborne aboard stopped in position 42.55 N. 52.05 W. with one

boiler in-operative expects to get underway about 1900Z and proceed to Halifax at best speed 5 knots.

(2) Master of EMPIRE FALL is now Commodore.

(3) Ref. by 181322\* PICTOU refuelled and detached at 1630Z to relieve GALT screening LANGLEEBROOK in observed position 43.07 N. 50.24 W. at 1500Z drifting southeast at 2 knots.

(S.O.W.5 181722Z to F.O.N.F.)

\* Not identified.

CONFIDENTIAL.OUT

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181125A/February.

To. CONNAV.  
Info. B.A.D.

Date. 18. 2. 45.

O.T.P. BY T/K

*Navigation Lights  
Western Atlantic*

From. Admiralty.

DEFERRED.

Reference your 011500 and 181410 January and 131859, and A.M. 241853 January following instructions are proposed for inclusion in M.A.R.I. as regards U.S. areas:—

Navigation Lights. Western Atlantic.

Dimmed Navigation Lights are normally to be exhibited by merchant ships sailing independently:—

- (i) When within 5 miles of harbour entrances or in approaches to inland waters.
- (ii) When in coastal lanes (i.e. the normal tracks followed by ships proceeding coastwise) along coast of South America when south of 4 degs. North.
- (iii) In area North of 35 degs. 30 mins. North and West of 72 degs. 45 mins. West, and throughout Eastern Sea Frontier if routed via M.A.C.R.I. Coastal Routes A, B, or B.1; When North of 39 degs. 30 mins. North if routed on M.A.C.R.I. Routes C. or C.1; and when North of 35 degs. 30 mins. North if routed on M.A.C.R.I. "N.G." Convoy Route.
- (iv) Within 10 mile radius of Cristobal Sea Buoy located in 9 degs. 34 mins. 30 secs. North, 79 degs. 55 mins. 18.2 secs. West, and in channel between Sea Buoy described and breakwater entrance, *also at full brilliance when within 10 mile limit of Canal Zone Coastal Waters.*
- (v) By tugs with tows in entire Gulf Sea Frontier.
- (vi) ~~During periods of low visibility at Master's discretion.~~

Dimmed side lights are normally to be exhibited:—

- (i) In Gulf of Mexico and Florida Straits.
- (ii) In area south of 13 degs. 20 mins. North between 68 degs. West and 72 degs. West.
- (iii) In area bounded by 17 degs. North and 21 degs. North and 73 degs. West and 76 degs. West.

/Zig-zagging.

Zig-Zagging

Except in heavy weather or low visibility (due to fog, rain, etc.) merchant ships of 10 knots and over, when proceeding independently or after dispersal from convoy, are to zig-zag by day and night while in open waters in the following areas in the Atlantic:

B.A.M.S. Areas 1A, 1B, 2A.

2. Propose 15th March as starting date for new procedure subject to your concurrence. Paragraph 4 of A.M. 241853 January refers.
3. Separate message is being sent as regards Canadian Coastal Zone.

181125A.

*amended by 211529*

for D.T.D. (983)

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (JT) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- U.T.R.
- Ops. (2)
- O.D. (6)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (C)
- Plot. (2)
- G.I.C. (2)
- M. (2)
- O.D. (C.O.) (4)
- D. of P. (Q) (3)
- Ad. Blake.
- U.S.N. (3)
- D.T.D.
- B.A./S.W.
- D./U.D.
- D.S.O. (2)
- D.S.O. (2)
- N.I.B. 10. (3)
- M. Books. (2)

A.77.

E.C.

AWI  
3068

**TOP SECRET**

OUT

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TOPSECRET

181145A/February

TO: B.A.S. Washington  
Reptd. C.G.S. Ottawa (for NDHQ)

Date 18/2/45

CIPHER TELEGRAM

*Minister's Disposition of*

FROM War Office

IMPORTANT

69637 Q(M) 8 cipher 18 Feb.

For DDMOV (OP) and BMSM from DQMG(M) and D. of S.T.

1. Our 67087 Q(M) 8 of 9th February paragraph 4. Following are our first thoughts on possible redistribution of Monsters with view to meeting Admiralty advice that they should be kept out of UK waters as much as possible on account of present U-Boat activity.
2. Accepted that two QUEENS, ILE DE FRANCE and AQUITANIA should remain in North Atlantic in view of special characteristics and present employment.
3. Our proposals for other ships are as follows:
  - (a) We are investigating possibility of removing top weight from NIEUW AMSTERDAM to make her suitable for carriage civilians on return voyages. If Admiralty agree work could be done on arrival your side March 17. She would then return UK and sail for Australia with Service personnel end April.
  - (b) MAURETANIA to sail to India end March proceeding thence to South Africa to drydock and then returning UK. She would be available for Australia in June.
  - (c) PASTEUR not really suitable for India in monsoon and uneconomic to use her to South Africa or Australia. She could therefore probably best be used from UK to Middle East either after A.T. 197 or after one more voyage to your side which might include drydocking.
4. Remaining two ships already scheduled as follows:
  - (a) ANDES to South Africa returning UK end March.
  - (b) EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND UK to Australia mid-March returning UK via Middle East.

These are the easiest to handle at Bombay in the monsoon and would probably go to India following their return to UK.

5. Transatlantic lift lost under para. 3 could be made up with K.M.F. type ships in CUs which could proceed direct to N. France though some delay in providing whole compensating lift for March might occur.

6. Admiralty advise also applies to the four US Unescortees which they suggest should be transferred from the USA/UK route to Pacific or to USA/Mediterranean service. Latter might enable present UGF ships to be switched to CU convoys.

7. We appreciate that our proposals may lead to some loss of efficiency in operation of British ships but consider this should be accepted in circumstances. We are open to consider any alternative US suggestions for use of British ships which might lead to more economic use of our combined trooping resources but you will appreciate there are technical difficulties which prevent us from switching our Monsters freely from one route to another.

8. Will you explore urgently with US Authorities and let us have your and their views covering the whole field of employment of unescorted ships.

9. Agreed Admiralty. Pass to B.A.D. for information.

181145A

Received in War Registry a.m./23rd  
Circulated by War Office to W.O. Depts.  
Admiralty, M.W.T.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
U.W.R.  
D.O.D.(H)(4)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.C.  
Plot (2)  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
D.T.D.(4)  
D.T.D.(C)  
D. of S.T.(6)  
Hd. of M.(2)  
N.A. Mails  
D. of S.(2)  
L.S.O.  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake  
A.D.O.D.(C.O.)  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)(3)

War Diary18.2.1945  
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

CARTHAGE.

Your 092317 para. 3 approved.

(2) If, however, it can be conveniently arranged, CARTHAGE should be escorted from Bermuda to junction with C.U. convoy.

(D.O.D.(H), 181739A to B.A.D.)

U-Boat  
attacks.

(B) (1) 181205 R.C.A.F. plane made D/C attack on Schnorkel sighted 44.08 N. 61.52 W.

(2) 1613/18 A/C attacked U-Boat with D/Cs 44.10 N. 62.00 W.

(C) About 2330/17 H.M.C.S. RED DEER attacked contact 44.34 N. 61.25 W.

(D) (1) About 0335/17 H.M.C.S. DIGBY attacked sound contact 46.22 N. 53.32 W.

(2) From 0830/18 to 1030/18 Coast guard vessel had hydrophone contacts area 40.12 N. 73.48 W. All times Z.

(Cominch, 182033Z to Admty for O.I.C.)

Australia and New ZealandB.P.F.  
Organisation  
Task  
Forces.

Organisation of B.P.F. type organisation and short titles are in B.P. secret series 06 now being issued.

(2) Following is allocation of ships to Task Force Commanders.

(A) To C.T.F.113 (O.A.B.P.F.) Battleships KING GEORGE V, HOWE (forming first B.S.) Fleet Carriers INDOMITABLE, VICTORIOUS, ILLUSTRIOUS, INDEFATIGABLE (forming 1st A/C) Cruisers, SWIFTSURE, GAMBIA, ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE, EURYALUS. Destroyers QUICKMATCH, QUIBERON, QUEENBOROUGH, QUALITY, GRENVILLE, URSA, UNDAUNTED, ULSTER, URANIA, UNDINE, KEMPENFELT, WHELP, WAGER, WESSEX, WAKEFUL, WHIRLWIND (less those detached to C.T.F..112 whose names V.A. B.P.F. is requested to signal). Depot Ship TYNE.

(B) C.T.F.112 (R.A.F.T.) Base ships LOTHIAN, LAMONT, EMPIRE SPEARHEAD, Transport GLENEARN, Destroyers see sub.para. (A) above, Escort Vessels PHEASANT, WOODCOCK, CRANE, REDPOLE, PARRET, AVON, FINDHORN, Minesweepers BALLARAT, MARYBOROUGH, LISMORE, WHYALLA, KALGOORLIE, BENDIGO, BURNIE, GERALDTON, CESSNOCK, CAIRNS, IPSWICH, TAMWORTH, WOOLONGONG, PIRIE, LAUNCESTON, E/Cs. STRIKER, SPEAKER, SLINGER, FENCER (forming 30th A/C), Repair Carrier UNICORN, Repair ships RESOURCE, ARTIFEX, netlayer, GUARDIA, rescue tug WEAZEL, fleet auxiliaries and merchant ships Fleet Train.

(3) Warships of and (?joining) B.P.F. not named in para. 2. above form C.T.F.111 and will be operated by C. in C. B.P.F. until allocated to a Task Force Commander.

(4) When allocated to 5th Fleet Task Force 113 (less TYNE) will become Task Force 57 TYNE becoming part of Task Force 112 for signal purposes.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 180205Z to B.P.F.(48P)

/ Amended by 182310Z.

*Cancelled by 270235Z JUNE*

/B.P.F....



War Diary

18.2.1945  
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

B.P.F. advanced mine depot storage. Your 080425. Advanced base torpedo unit and advanced base mining units are being provided by Admiralty vide A.M. 171425 Jan. ABTU expected at Sydney (N.S.W.) early March 1945 vide A.M. 131958 Jan. and arrangements are being made to extend storage to cover 100 torpedoes. In addition each S/M depot ship carries 50 A.M. 131606 Oct. para. 2. Request Admiralty arrange second mine unit for surface laid mines as in C. in C. B.P.Fs. 050719 to be available in Australia for shipment forward by May, 1945. None of last 4 messages quoted to all addressees. C. in C. B.P.F. please pass 050719 to F.O.F.T. B.P.F. (V.A.Q. B.P.F. 180309Z to F.O.F.T. B.P.F.)

Digest 1124 17.2.45. (1) Morning Navy Liberators over Formosa damaged 2 Sea Trucks (?North) East 1 Lugger, bombed strafed factory Karenko saw only small shipping general Formosa area. Other Liberators over Sakishimar Gunto sank 1 of three Sea Trucks. (3) Navy Catalina over Takao night 16th-17th bombed strafed one medium two small merchantmen leaving medium vessel dead in water. (4) Bataan forces captured Cabuaben without opposition. To date total enemy casualties on Luzon number 35,984 killed, 348 captured. (5) Naval forces covered landing of seaborne reinforcements of Corregidor: Japanese shore batteries (?silenced) during unloading operations but opened fire when new landings commenced sinking one landing craft. Close range destroyer fire effectively silenced enemy and landing proceeded without further incident. During day para-troops and seaborne forces made contact and Uglinta Hill occupied. (6) Total 76 sorties flown over Corregidor during day dropping equipment and supplies to paratroops: small arms fire received during morning holing several planes but nil ack-ack encountered afternoon. Supporting ground forces 35 Bostons bombed strafed hills behind Mariveles. (8) 4 R.A.A.F. patrol Liberators attacked Radio Station Manoei Island, sank lugger damaged jetty south eastern Celebes also bombed small freighter at Soembawa Island and bombed Lago village (Timor). (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 181105 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/18th February. Para. A. (1) LARK and ALNWICK attacked U-Boat at 0300Z/17 Feb. in 69 degs. 31' N. 33 degs. 50' E.

18.2.1945  
Sunday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

- (2) E.G.10 attacked asdic contact at 1710Z/17th Feb. in 61 degs. 33' N. 01 degs. 54' W.
- (3) Br. Tanker REGENT LION and Am. MICHAEL J. STONE torpedoed at 1000Z/17th Feb. in 35 degs. 56' N. 05 degs. 45' W.
- (4) KILMARNOCK reported possible torpedo fired at 1851Z/17th Feb. in 35 degs. 55' N. 05 degs. 48' W.

W.

- Para. C. (1) VESPER attacked stationary contact probably wreck at 1145Z/17th Feb. in 50 degs. 36' N. 00 degs. 03' E.
- (2) F.S. L'AVENTURE attacked stationary contact probably wreck at 1115Z/17th February in 50 degs. 33' N. 00 degs. 03' W.  
(D.D.I.C.181017A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa)

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C.181408A and 181409A to A.I.G. and Cominch)

19.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. Admiralty Floating Dock 55 has sailed for Gibraltar and the East in tow of Rescue Tug EMPHATIC.

North Sea.

2(a) SS. CITY OF LINCOLN was mined off the Humber but proceeded on to Spurn Point under her own power.

(b) Terneuzen West Lock can now accept 24 ft. draughts on all tides.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

Movement.

3. MARBLEHEAD (U.S. cruiser) arrived Gibraltar from Recife (Brazil) and left next day for New York.

Mediterranean

Adriatic.

4(a) Atmosphere at Split and Zara remains cordial.

(b) 141 Liberators, 10 Fortresses and 11 Mustangs attacked the harbour works at Pola and Fiume.

Aegean.  
Mines.

5. The Doro Channel has been cleared of enemy mines. A total of 167 having been cut. 11 have also been destroyed in vicinity of Andros and Euboea.

Sea of  
Marmara.

6. Reported that the TAN (Turkish, 2,335 tons) hit a floating mine in the Sea of Marmara this afternoon. She was not seriously damaged and has been beached.

Black Sea.

7. The 4 American merchant ships <sup>in U.S. 70</sup> forming the first convoy to enter the Black Sea were due to arrive at Odessa today.

19.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

- Burma. 8(a) During the past week landing craft and coastal forces supported by NARBADA and JUMNA have been carrying out amphibious operations in the inland waters between Akyab - Ramree Island.  
PATHFINDER and PALADIN with 6 M.Ls., 5 B.Y.M.S. and 14 L.C.A. have operated east of Ramree in support of the Army and have prevented escape of Japanese from the island. Twelve loaded enemy craft were sunk and 65 Japanese killed. On the 11th Feb. eight enemy aircraft attacked this force. PATHFINDER was damaged by a near miss. One wounded.  
(b) Last night aircraft laid 40 mines in Moulmein and Mergui harbours (S. Burma).
- Sumatra. 9. Aircraft laid 18 mines at Pangkalon Soesoe (N.E. Sumatra).
- Movement. 10. CEYLON flying the flag of C. in C. E.I. left Trincomalee northbound.

Australia and New Zealand

- Japan. 11. U.S. Super-Fortresses dropped 324 tons of bombs on the dock area at Tokyo today.
- Movement. 12. Aircraft Carrier TRACKER arrived Manus from Pearl Harbour and left today.

- Iwo Jima.* 13. *U.S. Forces landed today on Iwo Jima (Volcano Island)*  
*(see page 506)*

19.2.1945  
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Anti-U-Boat  
deep  
mining.

The proposal in your 111530 to lay mines in Gap C or Gap D is concurred in generally but it is not intended to divert PLOVER from operations in the Channel for the present. The possibility of making two "O" class Destroyers available is under discussion with C. in C. Home

Fleet.

(2) Proposal to give publicity to the laying of these mines is not concurred in. The existence of these Gaps is promulgated by Q.Z.L. message and no trawlers fish to seaward of the East Coast Barrage. There would thus be no legitimate reason for such publicity and it is considered that the object should rather be to lay "trap" fields in waters suspected or possibly known by the enemy to be clear.

(3) In the event of these fields being laid it is considered non-contact mines should be used.  
(D.D.O.D.(M), 191544A to C. in C. Nore)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No.321 Part Four Section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A  
18th February.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>GF Ammo</u>
Antwerp	142	556	10,240	-	-	1,278
Ostend	2,304	211	4,888	-	1,363	1,070
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	191	-	-
Calais	634	-	582	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,981	-	-	650
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>19,691</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>2,998</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	77	18,036	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	159	7,380	-	12,881	4,006
Le Havre	5,241	704	7,459	-	-	3,758
Rouen	258	146	4,626	679	-	-
Granville	-	-	-	100	-	-
Ghent.	-	-	3,811	-	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>5,499</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>41,312</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>12,881</b>	<b>7,763</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	1,572	587	14,979	1,384	-	1,699
Port de Bouc	-	-	758	1,100	3,000	758
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sete	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,572</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>15,737</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,457</b>

(S.H.A.E.F.191710A to Admty and others) / As received.

Ship mined  
off the  
Humber.

36763/ mined in position 300 degs. 14 Buoy 8 cables  
(WOLSEY, 191743A to C. in C. Nore)  
/ CITY OF LINCOLN.

/ Operation ...

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MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

Operation "Moonshine". Humber 19th February Departure  
"Moonshine". NONSUCH at 1700.  
(F.O.Humber, 191759 to C. in C. Nore.)

OperationsChannel

Anti-U-Boat Weigh at 0230A/20th February and carry out Serial  
deep A 2 Part 3.  
mining. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 191455A to PLOVER, THUNDER,  
FLEETWOOD)

Patrols. Proceed forthwith to patrol line between 50 degs.  
14' N. 01 degs. 20' W. and 50 degs. 22' N. 00 degs.  
35' W. S.O. E.G.15 in LOUIS is patrolling  
to westward of you.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191633A to M.T.B. Unit G.A.)  
(1) V.W.P. Convoy cancelled owing to fog at destination.  
(2) ICARUS, INCONSTANT, arrange R/V for INGLIS and proceed to  
patrol area limits 50 degs. 10' N. 50 degs. 00' N. between 00  
degs. 40' W. and 01 degs. 20' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191938A to ICARUS, INCONSTANT, INGLIS)

Anti-schnorkel A.M. 142017A not to all addressees, on arrival  
obstructions. of BRITTANY request RINGWOOD may be sailed as  
convenient for Southampton in order to progress  
laying of Type O and O.B. obstructions as  
required by C. in C. Portsmouth.  
(2) Technicalities regarding the preparation of the  
necessary technical equipment to be assembled from stocks in  
Boom Depot Southampton will be communicated to B.D.O. Gosport  
by D.B.D.  
(3) C. in C. Portsmouth requested to report detailed geographical  
position of intended obstruction.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 191819A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. Portsmouth)

Doubtful Have attacked contact in 50 degs. 15' N. 01 degs.  
U-Boat. 14' W. Possible non-S/M.  
(M.T.B. 760, 192254A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Operations - West Coast France.

German The following information is graded B.2.  
supply craft (1) During November, 1944, the Germans in Madrid  
for Gironde were making plans to send fuel and food supplies  
and La to La Rochelle.  
Rochelle. (2) By the middle of December it was considered  
necessary for the first ship to reach La Rochelle  
by 10th, January, 1945.  
(3) At the beginning of February plans had been  
made for two vessels to take supplies to Gironde and a third  
vessel to proceed to La Rochelle. Two vessels have been refer-  
red to in connection with these operations, they are the PANXON

/ probably ...

War Diary19.2.1945  
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperations - West Coast FranceGerman  
supply  
craft for  
Gironde and  
La Rochelle.  
(Contd.)probably the steam trawler of 324 G.R.T. and the  
EUGENISO probably a fishing smack of 88 G.R.T.  
Comment: There is no indication that the  
vessels in para. 3 have yet sailed.  
(D.D.I.C. 191656A to C. in C. Plymouth, C.T.F.125,  
H.Q.C.C.)OperationsWestern ApproachesPatrols and  
Escorts.25th E.G. is to close Holyhead as convenient  
during daylight to-day 19th. LA HULLOISE and  
STRATHADAM are to enter. Cmdr. Browne is to land  
and proceed Liverpool to rejoin ORKNEY, S.O. Staff  
is to transfer STRATHADAM. LA HULLOISE andSTRATHADAM are then to rejoin force 36. On Cmdr. Browne's  
disembarking Lieut. Cmdr. Quinnin STRATHADAM is temporarily to  
assume duty S.O.25th E.G.

(C. in C. W.A. 190029A to S.O.E.G.25, STRATHADAM)

25th E.G. Detach from Force 36 at 0800/20th and proceed to  
Gibraltar. Route via position J on standard route B thence thro'  
43 degs. N. 10 degs. W. thence as ordered by F.O.G.M.A.(2) You will be required for special escort duty from Gibraltar  
to U.K. sailing 25th February.

My 181859, not to all, refers. Fuel at Gibraltar.

(C. in C. W.A. 191127A to S.O.E.G.25)

M.K.F.39. E.G.19 and LOCH FYNE are to escort Clyde section  
to Cumraes. LOCH FYNE then to Greenock and E.G.19 to form  
Force 33 operating in area 55 degs. 15' to 55 degs. 30' between  
06 degs. 00' and 07 degs. 15'.E.G.21 is to escort Mersey section to Bar Light Vessel maintaining  
patrol off Bar until all ships have entered River. E.G.21  
then form force 36.

(C. in C. W.A. 191145A to S.O.E.G.'s 19,21.)

Assumed duty of S.O. Force 36 and S.O.E.G.25 at 191300

C. in C. W.A.'s 190029A and S.O.E.G.25, 191142 refers.

(STRATHADAM, 191404A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 191127 not to all. Cancel route ordered in para. 1.

(2) 25th E.G. (STRATHADAM S.O., LA HULLOISE and THETFORD MINES)  
R/V with K.M.F.40 at 1600A/21st in 49 degs. 20' N. 14 degs. 13'  
W. and act as additional escort to Gibraltar.

(3) Convoy routed through BH 48 degs. 00' 14 degs. 00'.

B.J.39 degs. 00' 12 degs. 00'. BK 36 degs. 20' 09 degs.  
50' speed  $13\frac{1}{2}$  knots.

(C. in C. W.A. 191532A to S.O.E.G.25)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep  
mining.Carry out operation CH Z legs. 3 and 4.  
1430 February 20th.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 191527A to APOLLO)

E.G.17.

On LOCH KILLIN and MOORSOM joining leave patrol  
and proceed by standard route to Greenock.  
Report your own E.T.A.  
Your good work has been appreciated.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191624A to S.O.E.G.17.)

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MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

Operation "Shred". Modify positions AA and BB in accordance with C. in C. H.F.171856 (operation "Groundsheet" Section E. Para. 21).  
Position JJ for 10 degs. 20' E. read 01 degs. 20' E.  
(PUNCHER, 191235A to DIDO)

My 161915 and my 161927. C.S.10 in DIDO will command both operations.

(2) Amend destroyers in Force 4 to read MYNCS (Capt. (D) 23), SCORPION, CAVALIER.

(3) My 161927 para. (2) amend flying off position to read position JJ 59 degs. 06' 01 degs. 20' E.

(4) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange with 18 Group for following if possible. *Lerwick (aircraft)*

(a) Air/Sea rescue WARWICK to R/V with Force 4 in position JJ at 1000A D + 2 my 192004.

(b) Two R.M.L. to sail from Scapa with Force W and remain for rescue duty with Force 3 and 4 until completion of both operations.

(c) 18 Group A/C to show I.F.F. when in the vicinity of Force 3 and 4.

(d) C.S.10 and PUNCHER to be informed of movement of friendly A/C through area within 60 miles of JJ from p.m. D Day to p.m. D + (plus) 2.

(C. in C. H.F. 192004A to C.S.10, DIDO, PUNCHER, PREMIER, RA.D. H.F. SO.M.S.F.10, C. in C. Rosyth)

Operation S.C. Ramose Zig-zag postponed.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 191805A to A.C.O.S.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Patrol. If not in contact at 1800A today shift Gamma between 61° 50' N. 02° 00' W. and 61° 15' N. 01° 15' W.  
(2) Your 191015A is Q.Z.H.28 adrift.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 191203A to S.O. E.G.1.)

Enemy Intelligence

E/R-Boat Shelters, Ijmuiden. (Former N.I.D. L.C. Report No. 936, 1.7.44.)  
Old Shelter (south side of the Haringhaven).  
As a result of the attack by Bomber Command of the 15th December last, these pens have been further severely damaged. On the west half of the structure part of the roof over four of the pen entrances on the harbour side has collapsed. The area of roof destroyed measures 120' x 30'. Between this damage and the south-west corner there is a crater in the roof measuring 15' in diameter. It is possible that penetration was achieved by this hit. Two other hits are seen close to the pens, but no damage is apparent to the building. (Source P.R.U., February).

/(2) ...



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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

- E/R-Boat Shelters, Ijmuiden. (Contd.)
- (2) It was reported that only the three eastern pens in this shelter are at present usable. (Secret sources, January, B.2.)
- (3) As a result of the attack on the 10th February, 1945, by aircraft of the U.S. 8th Air Force, using 4,500 lb. concrete piercing bombs, air photographs disclose that an additional part of the roof on the north side of this shelter has collapsed. Further damage has also been caused on the south side of this shelter. An area of 8,000 to 8,500 square feet of concrete 12' thick has now been completely destroyed. (Source, P.R.U., February.)
- New Shelter (north-west corner of the Haringhaven).
- (4) Work on these pens was retarded after the raid of 26th March, 1944, but ceased in July, possibly on account of the deteriorating military situation at that time. The roofing of the workshops at the rear is complete, but none of the pens are roofed for more than half their length from the landward side. (Source, P.R.U., February.)
- (5) Air photographs of 5th January, 1945, revealed that work had commenced on breaching the dam, which had been built to keep the site dry during construction. Work has proceeded and a bucket dredger has been observed, deepening the entrance channel, which is now approximately 25' wide at water level. (Source, P.R.U., February.)
- (6) Although this shelter is incomplete, it was reported that five pens may now be in use as an emergency measure for accommodating midget U-Boats (SEEHUNDE). (Secret sources, January, B.3.)
- (7) There is no evidence of any fresh damage to this shelter after the air attack of the 3rd February, 1945, but as a result of a further attack on 8th February, 1945, by Bomber Command, a direct hit on the north end of this shelter where the roof is incomplete has destroyed this portion of the roof structure over three pens, and damaged the north wall. (Source, P.R.U. February.)
- Conclusion: (8) Old Shelter: It is estimated that three pens are still usable, which will provide full protection for three E-Boats or more than 50 midget U-Boats.
- (9) New Shelter: If this shelter is used for SEEHUNDE, the five pens reported available will provide unprotected accommodation for a considerable number of them, the theoretical maximum being 60 with torpedoes, or 80 without torpedoes. (N.I.D. L.C. Report No. 983.)
- (This information will be reproduced in S.N.I.P.S.)

German  
Military  
Transport  
Between  
Norway and  
Denmark.

- Following transport movements have been reported. Fredrikshavn see my 081816, para. (B).
- (A) BRETAGNE left Fredrikshavn 1920/20th Jan. escorted by two E-Boats.
- (B) MARS and GIJON arrived from Norway 0700/21st Jan. each carrying 700 men and each escorted by 2 E-Boats. They left at 1730 same day each carrying 150 men and escorted by one Sperrbrecher, one E-Boat and one armed trawler.
- (C) BRETAGNE arrived Fredrikshavn 0800/23rd Jan. with 600 troops and escorted by 3 E-Boats. She left again same day 1630 with about 150 troops and escorted by 3 E-Boats.

/(D) ...

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

German  
Military  
Transport  
between  
Norway and  
Denmark.  
(Contd.)

(D) BRETAGNE arrived 0700/25th Jan. with 600 troops escorted by one Sperrbrecher, one destroyer and two E-Boats. She left again 1700 same day with 100 troops escorted by one Sperrbrecher and two E-Boats.

(E) JUPITER arrived 0700/25th Jan. with 600 troops and escorted by one Sperrbrecher and two E-Boats. She left 2200 same day with 400 men escorted by one Sperrbrecher and two E-Boats.

(2) Freetokstad. (A) MARS lay in Freetokstad Shipyard 30th Jan. to 3rd Feb. for construction of new gun foundation and left for Fredrikshavn 4th Feb. fully loaded with troops and mail.  
(B) JUPITER arrived from Fredrikshavn 30th Jan. and left again 1st Feb. escorted by destroyer. She arrived Freetokstad again in ballast 4th Feb.  
(C) BRETAGNE arrived from Fredrikshavn in ballast 5th Feb.  
(3) Aarhus. (A) MOLTKEFELS arrived Aarhus 1500/7th Feb. with troops and material. No further details at present available.  
(B) DARSS was still repairing Aarhus 7th Feb. She was reported to be mounting heavy anti-aircraft gun. B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 191801 to Admty.)

Port Facilities

Terneuzen.

Cositintrep No. 321, Part two, Naval. A draft of 24 feet is now acceptable at Terneuzen West Lock, irrespective of whether it is Spring or Neap tides.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 192210A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

SS. SWEEP-  
STAKES.

High water surrounding aft 13 feet. Draft 16 feet 2 ins. Bows afloat but unable to get free. Request tug for next flood tide. At present dense fog. Present grounded position flat hard sand bottom preparing to lighten ship aft.  
(SWEEPSTAKES, 190355Z to Le Havre.)

SS. NORFJELL,  
HORACE GRAY,  
THOMAS SCOTT.

Reference S.B.N.O. North Russia 141803.  
(1) Norwegian Tanker NORFJELL beached near Tree Roochia Kola Inlet. Two members crew killed as result of explosion.  
(e) Survivors report of damage will be signalled later. Our opinion vessel could not be repaired to proceed U.K. under own power probability hull damage could be temporarily repaired for passage.  
(2) (a) HORACE GRAY beached Tuva Bay Kola Inlet and presumed constructive total loss. No loss of life. No injured.  
(3) (a) Reference S.B.N.O. North Russia's 171547 para. 4. Vessel identified as THOMAS SCOTT and eventually sank at approximately 172315 B.S.T. No loss of life.  
(b) All Norwegian evacuees numbering 40 transferred at sea to H.M.S. of escort of R.A. 64.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 191258A to Admty.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

Sabotage in SCORPION, destroyer. SCORPION reports with regret following sabotage which occurred between 1800/18th and 0800/19th whilst alongside VINDICTIVE.  
(A) Leads cut on mast to T.B.S. type 276, type 86, Q.H. and fighting light.  
(B) 4 gun telescopes missing.  
(C) Various minor electrical damage to guns and pom-poms. No damage below upper deck level and defects can be made good in 48 hours.  
(R.A.D.H.F., 191840A to Admty.)

SS. EMPIRE ELGAR. Following received from EMPIRE ELGAR, pendant 30, begins: "Shell through engine room bulkhead, steering gear shattered. T.O.O. 192154Z". Ends.  
(C. in C. Nore, 192356A to WHITSHED, VALOROUS.)

Movements

TJERK HIDDES, Netherlands destroyer. Your 172136. No objection seen providing -  
(A) Loss of berth available for working up vessels.  
(B) Slight increase in risk of damage in berthing working up vessels owing to additional congestion are acceptable.  
(Com. WESTERN ISLES, 191258A to Admty.)

A.F.D. 55. Sailed H.M.R.T. EMPHATIC towing A.F.D.55 at 1330A/19th Feb. My 291104 Jan. refers and is to be amended as follows: for PITCAIRN (S.O.) and SEABEAR read CHAMELEON (S.O.) and REDMILL throughout. For ORONSAY read MINALTO. Para. 5 for 1800/29th Jan. read 1730/19th Feb. and for 2000A/2nd Feb. read 2000A/23rd. (2) Latest messages held Q.B.488, Q.B.A.147, Q.B.B.471, Q.B.C.968, Q.B.H.1172 (C - 391), Q.B.Y.149 and M.N.Ms.  
(3) CHAMELEON pass to EMPHATIC.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 191441A to F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med.)

OPPORTUNE, ORWELL, destroyers. Your 181310 concur, provided destroyers arrive Scapa by 7th March as they are required for next J.W. convoy.  
(C. in C. H.F., 191543A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys

Gothenburg Safe Conduct Vessels. Your 171211 to Admty. only. The four ships named in your para. 2 have not yet sailed.  
(2) Meanwhile in spite of repeated assurances from Swedish Legation that Motor Vessels URUGUAY and TEMNAREN would remain at sea until question of being allowed to proceed to Gothenburg uncompensated is settled by us and Americans, the URUGUAY anchored Faroes this morning Master stating he had operational orders to enter 19th Feb.  
(3) Essential that the four ships in para. 1 above be instructed to sail forthwith.

/(4) ...

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Gothenburg  
Safe Conduct  
Vessels.  
(Contd.)

(4) For your information we have regarded Gothenburg Traffic as "safe conduct" but merely "approved" voyages.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 191935A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Personnel in  
unescorted  
L.S.Ts.

It has become an occasional practice to embark large numbers of personnel in L.S.T. routine convoys sailing from Le Havre to Channel ports. As an instance on 9th Feb. over 450 officers and men were embarked in each of three L.S.Ts. in a convoy for which escort for empty L.S.Ts. had been provided. Information concerning this was received only two hours before the convoy was due to sail.  
(2) Request provisions of my 302148 December para. 3 as amended by my 101142 Jan. and my 071812 (not to all) may apply in the case of L.S.T. routine convoy sailing from far shore.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 192223A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Motor  
Coasters  
in B.T.C./  
T.B.C.  
Convoys.

A.M. 161325A. Agree to these vessels proceeding independently by Inshore Route.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 192245A to Admty.)

19.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U-boat Following repeats my 191040A N.T. in W.D. begins:  
Addressed Com. Task Group 21.5 repeated Admty.  
C. in C. Med., Com. Eighth Fleet., S.B.N.O.  
Azores, C. in C. Lant, Cominch, C.M.S.F. from  
F.O.G.M.A.

- A U-boat is known to be operating in Western Approaches to Strait
2. Last two ships torpedoed have been hit aft.
  3. Inference. U-boat firing Gnats.
  4. Recommend speed of 25 knots until clear to westward of 10° W.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 191052A to Admty).

REGENT LION Situation 0900A Feb. 19th.  
MICHAEL J. REGENT LION grounded on La Perla Rocks south of  
STONE Carnero Point whilst being towed in. Ship  
(torpedoed). considered total loss and chance of salvaging  
(17/2) cargo at present precluded by weather.  
2. MICHAEL J. STONE number 4 and 5 holds and  
fore peak flooded. Cargo will be off loaded as  
soon as (corrupt group) report received and considered.  
3. Hunt for German U-boat continues.  
4. My 171730 also refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 191108A to C. in C. Med).

My 191108 not to M.W.T. It now appears there is a  
possibility of salvage of REGENT LION (T) or at least 5/6000  
tons of 100 Octane fuel. Request immediate services of  
experienced salvage expert preferably with tanker knowledge  
stern of ship aground in approx. 80 feet of water. Ship is  
fitted with M. of W.T. Salvage lines forward pump room and tanks  
were intact p.m. Sunday propose CROMWELL (T) in K.X.17 due about  
22nd be held for ferrying but another Tanker will be required  
to receive cargo salvaged. Master returning to ship for further  
examination today authority has been given to Commandante de  
Marina Algeciras to give all assistance and facilities (B.N.A.  
181023 not to C. in C. refers) all local authorities concerned  
have been consulted and agree, Admiralty pass to M.W.T. London.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 191336A to C. in C. Med).

SS. NORTON Intercept 1022Z 500 k/cs type A.2.  
U/B. All ships from Gibraltar W/T from GJ5AD\*  
RRRR from GJ5AD.\* Position 32.07 N., 13.24 W. 3  
suspicious.  
(Landsend Radio, 191125A to Gen).  
\*BCPD (NORTON).

F.S. LE My 182334 LE CENTAURE and SCOTT sailed from  
CENTAURE. Horta at 1010Z/19th Chop date 20th Feb.  
3. Radio Washington requested to pass to French  
Naval Mission, Washington. Admiralty is  
requested to pass to French Admiralty Paris.\*  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 191146Z to F.O.G.M.A.)  
\*Passing action being taken by War Reg.

Spanish SS. Request confirmation of name of ship in Admiralty  
SIL message 172315. SIL was controlled at Gib. 16th  
Feb. on outward voyage and is not on South  
American run.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 191230A to Admty).

/L.S.I.(M)...

War Diary.

19.2.1945.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

L.S.I.(M)  
PRINCE DAVID.

Arrival PRINCE DAVID from Malta.  
Arrived with C.G.148 and sailed on escort duties  
to Casablanca F.S. COUTELAS Air France one.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 191904A to Admty).

U.S.  
destroyer.

Warships 19th Feb. Departed U.S.S. ELOKOMIN  
U.S.S. FORD. No arrivals.  
(Commorseafron, 192239 to F.O.G.M.A.)

19.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

U.S. Intend sail U.S.S. MURPHY at 190430A to over-  
destroyer take Task Group 21.5.  
MURPHY. (2) Speed 25 knots.  
(3) Routed 109, 70, 16 thence as routed by  
Admiralty.  
(4) E.T.A. position 16 191400A.  
(Commob. Oran, 190341Z to Admty.)

S/Ms. to Greek C. in C. wishes to publish details of  
Greek Navy. your 161412 in Greek press. Request favourable  
(Loan of) consideration.  
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 191149B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Air Information is requested as to whether it is  
transport. intended that available space on aircraft  
R.N. passing through the Mediterranean on the  
personnel. proposed air trooping scheme between U.K. and  
India shall be used for R.N. personnel on  
this station. Air Ministry message 511 of  
19th Jan. (T.O.O. 191219Z) not to Admiralty  
refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 191506A to Admty.)

FRANCONIA. During passage to U.K. preparations to  
dismantle and remove all W/T equipment fitted  
specially for ARGONAUT are to be progressed  
as far as possible by ship's staff.  
(Hd. of M., 191928A to FRANCONIA.)

Situation (1) Greece. Doro Channel has been cleared of  
Report enemy mines. 167 were cut.  
No. 565. (2) Adriatic. Atmosphere at Split and Zara  
remains cordial. Night of 16th Feb. a coastal  
craft opened fire on Karlobag and following  
night 4 M.T.Bs. fired 2 torpedoes into harbour  
there. In latter attack one rating killed and one wounded and  
slight damage to one craft.  
(C. in C. Med., 192008A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

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19.2.1945  
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

U-boat dispositions No change.  
(C. in C.E.I.S., 190337Z to S. and A. E.I. Station.)

CUMBERLAND and NIGERIA refits. Completion date of CUMBERLAND is not to be extended beyond 10th March. Your 161045\* refers.  
(2) Intend NIGERIA leave Trincomalee 22nd Feb. arriving Simonstown about 7th March.  
(C. in C. E.I., 190357Z to C.S. Simonstown.)  
\* Date of completion of H.M.S. CUMBERLAND has been extended to 10th March.

Troopships escorts abolition of Intend that all troopships shall proceed unescorted in the area north of a line joining Dar Es Salaam, pos. 15° S. 50° E. Chagos Islands and Dondra Head Ceylon.  
(2) This takes effect after convoy M.C.15 arrives Kilindini. K.R.15 to proceed without escort.  
(3) Authorities concerned continue to give early advice of intended moves so that convoys may be reinstated if necessary.  
(4) Separate signal follows about reduction of Kilindini escort force.  
(C. in C. E.I., 190358Z Com. E. Africa etc.) 231042Z APRIL

BUGLOSS (Corvette) BUGLOSS handed over to Royal Indian Navy at Bombay at 1030 F.G. today Monday 19th February, 1945.  
(BUGLOSS, 190401Z Admty.)

Situation Report No. 1. Intend to issue weekly Situation Report, following being Report No. 1. Admty. requested to promulgate A.I.G. including addressees of this signal.  
(2) Burma Coast.  
Landing craft and Coastal Forces supported by NARBADA, JUMNA carrying out amphibious operations in inland waterways between Akyab and Ramree.  
(3) PATHFINDER, PALADIN 6 M.L. 5 B.Y.M.S. 14 L.C.As. operated east of Ramree supporting Army and preventing escape of Japanese. 12 loaded boats sunk, 65 Japanese killed. Force attacked by eight aircraft 11th Feb. PATHFINDER damaged by near miss. One wounded.  
(4) Brown. Check survey western entrance being carried out by one harbour defence M.L. and one B.Y.M.S. Harbour laying buoys HIND in company.  
(5) R.A.F. Liberators destroyed two 100 foot Coasters one patrol boat Stewart Sounds Andamans, 14th February.  
(C. in C.E.I. 190514Z to Admty.)

Force 62 and 68 operations, "Stacey" and "Suffice". Operations referred to in my 110527 will be carried out as follows.  
(a) By Force 62 as in my 110426 VIRAGO replacing VENUS V.A.3 is S.O. Force 62. D Day 26th Feb.  
(b) By force 68 as in my 181704.

/D-day...



War Diary

19.2.1945  
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Force 62  
and 68  
Operations  
(Contd.)

D-day 23rd February.  
(C. in C.E.I., 190547Z to Admty.)

Escorts  
Operational  
requirements

Anticipate future operational requirements for escorts will be met by 30 R.N. escorts for convoys and 18 Hunt Class destroyers for assault carriers and offensive operations. Your 112315 refers.

(2) A/A defence for A/S protection is needed.

Frigates and corvettes are of small value due to weak gun armament. A/A sloops are best type for convoy escort.

(3) Lack of maintenance ships for forward bases is now a serious handicap. It is necessary to bring escort vessels back to Ceylon or port in India for boiler cleaning.

(C. in C. E.I., 190831Z to Admty. and 241240A.)

Salvage  
ship in  
Red Sea  
Ports.

Admiralty Message 150059 February. In my 161206 January para. 4 for 'Naval Prize man' read 'Naval Prize Manual.' Regret error.  
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 190856C to Admty.)

U-boat  
report

Following has been read from K.E.207 (FRANCIS N. BLANCHET) SSSS periscope sighted in lat. 07.53 N. long. 82.05 E.

(Colombo W/T, 190940Z to Admty.)

Following has been read from K.E.207 (FRANCIS N. BLANCHET)

SSSS lat. 07.44 N. long. 82.02 E. Lost contact proceeding normal.

(Colombo W/T, 191030Z to Admty.)

Convoy O1.  
DOWN

Your 030142. Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 191026A to N.O.I.C. Port Melbourne.)

V.S.I.S.

Requirements of V.S.I.S. for East Indies Station. Disregard 060054. It is considered that any attempt to reply by signal in the form suggested would be misleading without lengthy amplification. A full report will be forwarded by air mail as soon

as possible.

(2) Position in April will be very unsatisfactory owing to operational requirements. Total of 5 V.S.I.S. only will be available for all purposes. This includes Changte.  
(C. in C.E.I., 191116Z to Admty.)

S/M  
TANTIVY

My 170201\* for 'Padang' read 'Panjang'.  
(C. in C.E.I.S., 191249Z to Admty.)

\* Action by H.M.S. ~~SANDURY~~ TANTIVY

19.2.1945  
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

Movements  
C. in C.E.I.            HINNOY and SELENE arrived. Sailed CEYLON wearing flag of C. in C.E.I., VENUS wearing broad pendant of Cdre. (D) E.I., FENCER, SUPREME. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 191625Z to Admty.)

U-boat                    SSSS SSSS 7 R 42 North, 77 R 24 East, sighted. (DANIEL WILLARD, 191828Z to Genl.)

Convoys  
(cycle of)                Your 150554A. There is no prospect of introduction of ten day convoy from Gibraltar but we are investigating with Admiralty possibility of getting M.K.F. ships back to U.K. area earlier than under present schedule.

(2) To assist us in this investigation and on assumption that K.M.F. ships are spread out by sailing at their individual maximum speeds between Gibraltar and Bombay request:-

(a) Your views on minimum turnaround that should be normally allowed for K.M.F. ships in Bombay.

(b) P.S.T.O.M.E.'s views on minimum time which should normally be allowed to cover period from arrival Port Said and sailing Suez and vice versa.

(3) Agreed.

(D. of S.T. 192210 to P.S.T.O. India) See 221055.

19.2.1945.  
Monday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

N.S.H.Q.  
S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

Para.B.(1) H.M.C.S. RED DEER obtained Radar  
contact in 44.34 N. 61.25 W. at 2305/17 heard  
two explosions at 2310, and attacked Asdic  
contact at 2325. All times Z.

(2) VENTURA X/145 attacked Snort course 270°.  
Speed 2 knots in 44.08 N. 61.53 W. at 1205/18.  
Wreckage seen after attack.

Para.C. Liberator E/11 sighted Snort or periscope course 125°  
Speed 2 to 3 knots at 1604/18 in 44.10 N. 62.02 W. and again  
sighted Snort or periscope about 16/6 and at 1630. Aircraft  
attacked at 1619 and 1700 and at 1708 and 1710 heard submerged  
explosions on Sonobuoys. Intermittent Sonobuoy indications  
1614 to about 1700.

(N.S.H.Q., 190520Z to Admiralty and Cominch).

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q., 191350Z, 191600 from Cominch to  
Admiralty etc.).

TENACITY

Relieved by H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE. Your 181428Z  
refers. P.C. and S. 043° 10' N. 049° 49' W.  
270° 14 knots E.T.A. O.N.S.41A a.m. Wednesday.  
Weather 5855 9842.  
(H.M.C.S. PICTOU, 191650Z to N.O.I.C. St. Johns  
N.F.).

Your 181224Z N.T. in W.D. R/V effected with LANGLEEBROOK  
and H.M.C.S. PICTOU at 1640Z/19th in position 043° 06' 050° 32'.  
TENACITY preparing to commence tow. H.M.C.S. PICTOU has now  
been instructed to carry on in execution of previous orders  
and rejoin O.N.S.41A.

(H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE 191700Z to F.O.N.F.).

Canadian  
minesweepers  
refit.

Arrangements for refit of Canadian minesweepers  
lent for "Overlord" were based on the  
assumption the ships would be released for refit  
on arrival in U.K. ports of refit ships.

Refit programme has been somewhat dislocated  
by delay in release of FORT WILLIAM, COWICHAN, MALPEQUE, MILLTOWN.  
Observing that CARQUET and MINAS arrived in U.K. 13th Jan.  
WASAGA, VEGREVILLE 4th Feb. request reasons for delay and  
information when MALPEQUE, MILLTOWN will be sailed to Canada.  
(C.N.M.O. 191910A to C. in C. Plymouth etc.).

Movements  
U.S. cruiser  
and  
Brazilian  
destroyers.

Arrived U.S.S. MARBLEHEAD. Brazilian destroyers  
GREENHALG H, MARIS (EF) BARROS.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 191912A to Cominch).

/ U.S. ...

War Diary.

19.2.1945.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.- Contd.

U.S. Fleet tug CHOCTAW. Without delay sail CHOCTAW to R/V. with and assist CORMORANT in serious condition with after hold flooded position 2000Z/18th 44.29 N. 36.18 W. British Escort name unknown of Escort Group C.7 standing by. Request Admiralty advise CHOCTAW name of escort with CORMORANT and direct that escort keep CHOCTAW informed as to P.C. and S. (Cinclant, 192004Z to C.T.F.24).

Fighter assignments. B.A.D. 192007ZFeb. Admiralty. See Lion Copy.

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 1125. (2) Delayed reports of Navy Liberator searches 17 Siat. 1 Liberator attacked convoy 2 medium merchant ships 2 destroyer escorts off Quinhon heading north probably damaging one merchantman by bombing and strafing. Another Liberator bombed strafed left burning beached single small freighter-transport 15 miles south south east Tourane heading north west. Third Liberator saw 2 large tankers 2 destroyers with 2 covering aircraft heading northwest off Cape Padoran: nil shipping seen Camranh Bay. One Daobsimorar aircraft over Borneo sank single patrol vessel east northeast coast also single loaded troop barge off northeast coast. Local sources reported one large transport one escort 40 miles east north east Wenchow heading southeast early morning 17.  
(3) During daylight sweep east coast Bataan afternoon 17th Feb. P.Ts. with co-operating Lightnings destroyed three probably serviceable barges.  
(9) Late reports state Navy search Liberators over Nanshei photo. 18th Feb. sank one patrol craft scored two direct hits one sea truck shot down one transport plane, also bombed Borodinoa Island in Oagari Shlma.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 191227Z to Admiralty).

Minor L.C. flotillas Force X. A.M. 122344 Feb. not to all. Request following arrangements be made for disposal of Force X minor landing craft flotillas on dispersal of Force.

- (a) LOTHIAN retain No.498 Ancillary Flotilla.
- (b) GLENEARN retain one flotilla of 12 L.C.A. to be manned at Scale C. (C.A.F.O. 631/44 refers) and redesignated as No.493 Ancillary Flot. Remainder of L.C. personnel in GLENEARN to return to U.K.
- (c) All Landing craft personnel from EMPIRE WEAPON Class L.S.I. (L) selected for retention to be returned to U.K.
- (2) L.C.O.C.U. Nos.5 and 6 with equipment are to be returned to U.K.

**TOP SECRET**

A.W.I.  
327A  
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.)

192007Z/February

FROM: B.A.D.

DATE: 20. 2. 45  
RECD: 0210

O.T.P. T/K

*Fighter assignments*

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

GUARD

N.A.R. to Fifth Sea Lord - Personal.

There is obviously considerable pressure working somewhere within Navy Dept. to reduce fighter assignments to British in view of urgent requirements for more fighters in U.S. Pacific Fleet consequent upon recent operational developments.

2. Various methods are being tried but I do not believe we shall be let down if our reasons for maintaining present assignments including second six months are reasonable valid in U.S.N. eyes. They would however very much like some concession somewhere.

3. Present situation as I see it is

(a) Current six months assignments will stand.

(b) Second six months assignments will have to be debated fully about April.

(c) Rather inexplicably on account of their very large fighter production for 1946 they would like to get shot of us for that year.

4. Inquiry reported in LORSA 26066/ I believe augurs well because if they were seriously considering cutting off our supplies it would not be made (although it might conceivably be a "stalling off" policy).

5. As Canadian car scheme is not considered practicable after being fully and favourably considered, strongly recommend that LORSA 26066 should be agreed to with reluctance. This makes a concession to the U.S.N. which with reduced requirements of 52 Corsairs a month may suffice to carry us through 1946.

6. Regarding discussions on second six months, I would like to know I could have Mr. Beard in Washington for preliminaries and then hope to cope without your presence unless complete showdown occurs.

192007Z

/ 172225Z

Advance copy 5th S.L.

Circulation over 100.

- 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)
- Sec.
- D.C.N.A.E.
- P.A.S. (S)
- C.N.R. (MAP)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.N.A.O.
- D.A.W.T.
- D.A.E.
- D.A.M.R.
- N.A. 2 S.L. (Air)
- Hd. of M.A.S.
- Ad. Blake.
- S.A. to 5th S.L.
- Hd. of Air Branch (A0010/45)
- W.D.
- U.S. (L)

ONLY

19.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand.

Minor L.C. (3) L.S.I.(L) returning to U.K. on release by  
flotillas Com. 7th Fleet are to embark as many serviceable  
Force X. L.C.A. as possible together with operational  
(Contd.) stores, spare gear and repair material.  
Remaining minor landing craft of those allocated  
to Force X are to be placed in pooled reserve  
and held pending further instructions.  
(D.C.O.D., 191504A to C. in C.B.P.F.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack To 0900Z 19th February.  
and sighting Para.B.C/172 obtained Radar contact 55° 04' N.  
summary. 09° 11' W. at 1315Z 18th February.  
Para.C. H.M.S. DUCKWORTH reported suspected  
torpedo at 1905Z 18th February and at 1955Z  
18th February attacked asdic contact a wreck is  
known to exist in the vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C., 191030A Cominch and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).  
Your 191030A para.C. request position.  
(Cominch, 192057Z to Admiralty).

U-Boat Half a dozen in North Sea between latitudes of  
dispositions. Christiansand south and Bergen.  
Three or four within 90 miles north to east of  
Muckle Flugga of which one possible contact at  
0803Z 19th February.  
Two or three between Iceland (C) and Faeroes.  
Possibly one or two in Orkneys area.  
Half a dozen mainly southbound between latitudes of Butt of  
Lewis and Achill Head of which one D/Fd. 1120Z 19th February.  
One or two north of Ireland (R) or in North Channel of which  
one contacted at 1315Z 18th February west of Bloody Foreland.  
In Irish Sea and South Western Approaches probably about 10  
including U-Boats on passage. In English Channel probably at  
present not more than three.  
One weather reporter and possibly one or two on passage within  
120 miles of 57° 00' N. 25° 00' W.  
At least one west of Gibraltar.  
(D.D.I.C., 191403A to A.I.G.331, S. and A. area C., Cominch ,  
and Cominch, 191424A.)

20.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) One mine was detonated off Harwich and one off Ostend.  
(b) Much E-Boat activity was originating off the Hook of Holland towards midnight.

Western Approaches.

*U. 1208.  
Sunk.*

2. VERVAIN, escorting Convoy H.X.337, was torpedoed and sunk about 25 miles south of Waterford at 1300. AMETHYST and PEACOCK of E.G.22 made an almost immediate contact with the U-Boat, scored a hedgehog hit in AMETHYST's first attack, and brought up diesel oil, wreckage, and a German Navigating Officer's Work Book.

Northern Waters.

3. Convoy R.A.64, some 130 miles N.W. of North Cape, was torpedo-attacked by about 25 Ju.88s. No damage is reported to convoy, but 3 or more Ju.88s. were destroyed.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Adriatic.

4. M.A.A.F. aircraft dropped 402 tons of bombs on Trieste, 214 on Fiume and 93 on Pola harbour today. Good results were obtained with numerous hits on docks and shipyards. (Photographs taken after the attack show a torpedo boat sunk and extensive damage to the shipyard).

East Indies

Burma.

5. Last night Beaufighters operating in central and southern Burma destroyed two river craft and damaged 33.

/S/M STATESMAN ...



20.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

S/M  
STATESMAN.

6. S/M STATESMAN while on patrol in Malacca Straits off Tanjong Tanjung attacked with gunfire an unescorted convoy consisting of one 900 ton tanker which was left on fire, a 500 ton coaster which was damaged and abandoned and a 300 ton coaster which was beached. During early part of patrol STATESMAN sank 2 junks taking 3 prisoners.

America and West Indies

ALFRED I.  
DUPONT.

7. ALFRED I. DUPONT which was feared to have foundered in the strong gale on the 18th arrived Horta at 1238 p.m. today.

Australia and New Zealand

Japan.

8. The assault on Iwo Jima island by the U.S., south of Japan, reported to be progressing satisfactorily and by noon today nearly a third of the island including an airfield was under U.S. control. Naval damage light and enemy air activity negligible.

*begin on the 19th.*

Movement.

9. Aircraft Carrier TRACKER arrived at Langemak Bay (New Guinea) from Manus.

20.2.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Suspected U-Boat. My 072245 not to all addressees. Recent reports tend to confirm normal sized German U-Boat possibly type 23 has been operating in the Nore Command. Assumptions are based on survivors reports (my 072245 refers), range or radar contact and hydrophone effect of fast diesel. No sights or asdic contacts have apparently been obtained and German U-Boat is cleverly handled. 1 or possibly 2 ships have been torpedoed. (2) German U-Boat apparently remains bottomed during daylight and attacks at night fully surfaced. (C. in C. Nore 201216A to Nore Command.)

Patrols. Night dispositions 20/21st February.  
Humber Force Group 2 Harbour CATTISTOCK.  
Harwich Force Group 3 patrols 2 RETALICK 3 EGLINTON  
5 MALLARD 6 KITTIWAKE 12 RIOU 14 ARENDAL 16  
EKINS 18 THORNBOROUGH 19 STAYNER 21 GUILLEMOT 22 CAICOS.  
Group 4 Harbour COTSWOLD, MACKAY, SOUTHDOWN, TALYBONT, RUTHERFORD,  
TORRINGTON, SHEARWATER, SHELDRAKE, WIDGEON.  
Sheerness Force Group 5 patrols 1 MENDIP 2 ALBRIGHTON with T.A.P.  
51 VANQUISHER T.A.M. 86 BLANKNEY, MIDDLETON. A.T.M. 70 HOLDERNESS,  
HAYDON, VERSATILE.  
Group 6 harbour GARTH, LA COMBATTANTE, OAKLEY, PYTCHLEY, VIMY,  
GODETIA, HEATHER, MIMICO, SUNFLOWER.  
At Southend ARMERIA, HOLMES for O.N.A. 286, COSBY for U.C. 57A.  
(C. in C. Nore 201516A to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 522 part 4 Section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 191600A Feb.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G.F. Ammo
Antwerp	119	212	5,627	-	-	185
Ostend	961	224	4,725	-	747	909
Caen	-	-	-	452	-	-
Boulogne	24	177	-	-	-	-
Calais	2,730	-	697	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,602	-	-	1,368
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,834</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>14,651</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>2,462</b>
<b>U.S. North</b>						
Antwerp	-	40	11,819	-	-	-
Cherbourg	10	108	8,042	-	11,950	5,452
Le Havre	11,529	194	6,786	-	-	3,759
Rouen	178	113	6,053	976	-	-
Granville	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,832	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,717</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>35,532</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>11,950</b>	<b>9,211</b>

/U.S. South...

20.2.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
 Situation  
 Report.  
 (Contd.)

U.S. South	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G.F. Ammo
Marseilles	1,737	329	9,918	1,302	-	2,614
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,927	1,100	-	1,927
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sete	-	-	673	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,737</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>12,518</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,541</b>

Note: 3,000 tons bulk Pol discharged Antwerp 16th February, not previously reported.  
 (S.H.A.E.F. 201550A to Admty.)

Minesweeping off E.Coast. One ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1428 in 51° 59' 42" N. 01° 41' E.  
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 201651 to Admty.)

Minesweeping off Schelde. 1 moored mine type G.R. cut at 1023 hours in position 51.24.00 N. 03.08.24 E. by 4 B.Y.M.S. continuing clearance of area referred to in Admiralty message 021627A Dec. para. 1.  
 (N.O.I.C. Ostend 201839 to Com. Belgium.)

E-Boat activities. Nr. 1. P.C.S. of 3 E-Boats 52° 02' N. 4° 01' E. course 120° speed 30 knots based on a fix obtained by Gee taken within ½ hour of 1900.  
 (A/G RTT 58 201947 to 16 Group.)  
 Nr. 2. My 1947 3 E-Boats in position 51° 59' N. 3° 59' E. fixed by Gee within ½ hour of 2000 course 200° 30 knots.  
 (A/C RT 58 202007 to 16 Group.)  
 My 1947 3 E-Boats. Position 52° 00' N. 4° 00' E. stationary. Based on a fix obtained by Gee taken within ½ hour 2000.  
 (A/C RTT 58 202034 to 16 Group.)  
 Aircraft report at 2200. 15 E-Boats in 3 divisions 300 Hook 15 course 270 speed 25 knots.  
 (C. in C. Nore 202204A to Nore patrols.)  
 My 202204 enemy course 300.  
 (C. in C. Nore 202218A to Nore patrols.)  
 My 2234. Bearing 267° Hook of Holland 38 miles enemy course 260° speed 30 knots at 2200.  
 (C. in C. Nore 202250 to Nore patrols.)  
 My 2250. Enemy bearing 258° Hook of Holland 48 miles course 225° speed 30 knots at 2252.  
 (C. in C. Nore 202310A to Nore patrols.)

/Cancel...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

E-Boat activities.  
(Contd.) Cancel my 202204 position of 12 E-Boats at 2100 270 Hook 20 course 270 speed 30.  
(C. in C. Nore 202234A to Nore patrols.)  
My 2310. Bearing 258° Hook of Holland 52 miles.  
Enemy course 270° at 2304.  
(C. in C. Nore 202334A to Nore patrols.)  
My 2334. Enemy course 250° at 2320.  
(C. in C. Nore 202340A to Nore patrols.)

Possible U-Boat. 1 submarine submerged bearing 270° N.F. 4 buoy 6 miles.  
(HAYDON 202001 to C. in C. Nore.)  
My 202001 echo sounding trace confirmed am hunting.  
(HAYDON 202034A to C. in C. Nore.)  
Have made 2 attacks on firm contact. Apparent rapid movement during second attack. Echo sounder shows definite traces rising to 24 feet above bottom consider contact very probably submarine. Am continuing to attack.  
(HAYDON 202048A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations.

Channel.

Anti-U-Boat convoy protection. The following is an Admiralty appreciation of convoy protection in shore waters.  
(2) The 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.  
(3) On ocean routes U-Boats must usually move considerable distances in order to reach favourable positions: air R/C and distant screens of A/S vessels prevent U-Boats moving freely on the surface within visual range. In coastal waters U-Boats can operate in areas where shipping is easily found on well established convoy routes, and movement by the U-Boats over large distances is unnecessary while the introduction of Schnorkel renders air R/C and distant screens of little use for detection.  
(4) U-Boats have now learnt to adapt themselves to these conditions. They surface very rarely in areas under heavy air R/C, and normally charge by Schnorkelling at night in quiet areas. They are most likely to attack by day or moonlight from periscope depth. The dispositions and search tactics given in the following paragraphs are therefore suggested incorporating the policy of:  
(a) maximum asdic protection, (b) immediate counter attack after a U-Boat attack.  
(5) Max. asdic protection is provided by forming an asdic screen two miles ahead when the convoy is formed on a broad front and maintaining escorts both ahead and along the flanks when the convoy is formed on a narrow front.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Anti-U-Boat  
convoy  
protection.  
(Contd.)

- (6) When formed on a broad front, in order to provide the means of immediate counter action after a U-Boat has attacked, it is desirable to maintain at least one escort not more than one mile distant astern of the convoy. When support groups are available to augment the close escort the asdic screen should be reinforced by extending the line either side of the close escort while the escort astern is reinforced to a strength of at least 2, and up to a whole group when more than one support group is available for that convoy. Escorts astern should be spread out to cover the rear of convoy about one mile astern of it. In this position they are well placed to act as pouncers and proceed immediately to the vicinity of the wreck to search for U-Boat.
- (7) At the moment a ship is torpedoed the scent is hot, and advantage of this should be taken by instituting searches without delay. The following form is recommended:-
- (a) ships in the van will be taking most effective asdic action by carrying out operation "Artichoke" and sweeping through the columns of the convoy prior to proceeding to take up positions on the square search as in (c), (b) close escorts from rear of convoy carry out a 2 mile observant, (c) remaining escorts in rear establish a containing square search outside the observant, the size of which should be determined at the time by the senior officer present. In the absence of any specific orders the search should be a square with 6 mile sides. Any ships left over after filling the 6 mile square should be used outside it on the U-Boat's most probable course.
- (8) When no support groups are with the convoy at least one ship of the close escort should be detached to rejoin the convoy on completion of operation "Artichoke": when one or more support groups are with the convoy the whole convoy close escort should rejoin after operation "Artichoke".
- (9) Recent experience in inshore operations indicates that the U-Boat is likely to lie low in the area in which it delivered its attack when escorts are near, and if it moves away will only do so at silent speed of three knots or less. With the advent of fast type U-Boats the enemy may attempt to make a fast getaway, but in doing so must accept the risk of exposing itself to the escorts by its H.E. There is no indication that type XXI U-Boats are yet in operation.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth 200042A to Portsmouth Patrol Forces.)

Patrols.

- (1) Leave patrol as necessary to arrive Le Havre by 1800A today Tuesday.
- (2) On arrival ICARUS take ships addressed WATCHMAN and L'ESCARMOUCHE under his orders and prepare to escort convoy V.W.P. sailing about 2000A.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth 201031A to ICARUS, INCONSTANT, INGLIS.)

/(1)...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols.  
(Contd.)

(1) At 1900A today Tuesday shift patrol to line from 50° 22' N. 01° 25' W. to position 50° 00' N. 01° 40' W.

(2) Leave patrol as necessary to R/V with and support H.X. 337. S.O. escort KINGCUP in 02° 30' W. Approach route E.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 201140A to LOUIS, LORING, NARBOROUGH.)

Sail to pass gate at 0900A/21st and proceed patrol Lizard Head to Pendeen Pt.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201440A to ROWLEY, DOMETT.)

Patrol Lizard Head to Pendeen Head from 2000A/20th.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201659A to ESSINGTON.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols &  
Escorts.

W.A.G.M. 150 N of 18 January.

When support is ordered to be given to more than one convoy at a time, preference in allocating escorts to support duties is to be given on the following basis subject to over-riding orders at the time.

(a) Ocean convoys take precedence over B.B. or M.H. convoys.

(b) An incoming ocean convoy takes precedence over an outgoing ocean convoy except as in (c) below.

(c) M.K.F/K.M.F. and C.U/U.C. convoys take precedence over all others.

(2) Unless specially ordered support groups should not be split in order to provide protection for more than one convoy.

(3) Support forces will be informed if a B.B. or M.H. convoy is expected to consist of more than 8 ships at any stage of the voyage.

(C. in C. W.A. 200001 to W.A. Command.)

Force 34 22nd E.G. HART 4 sloops off south Irish coast.

Force 38 E.G. 23 MONTSERRAT 4 frigates vicinity St. Georges Channel.

Force 36 E.G. 21 CONN 4 frigates central Irish Sea.

2 frigates escorting APOLLO vicinity Skerries, rejoining E.G. 21 when she returns Milford Haven.

Force 37 E.G. 31 BERKELEY CASTLE 3 corvettes North Irish Sea.

Force 33 E.G. 19 LOCH SHIN 3 frigates off north Irish coast.

(C. in C. W.A. 201541A to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Detail 2 escorts to R/V APOLLO at 1940 today 20th in 53° 36' 04° 33' to escort her while laying mines and to rejoin group on completion of laying.

(C. in C. W.A. 201113A to S.O.E.G. 21.)

Carry out operation "C.H.Z. Legs one and two" 1430 February 21st.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 201309A to APOLLO.)

/Operation...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.  
(Contd.)

Operation "C.H." serial Z.3 and 4 completed.  
(APOLLO 202204A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G. 6.

On completion of training request you will sail  
6th E.G. to Londonderry.  
(C. in C. W.A. 201128A to N.O.I.C. Lochalsh.)

U-Boat ~~2008~~ <sup>1276</sup>  
HX 334  
attacked by U/B

H.X. 337 attacked. VERVAIN torpedoed at 1300  
position 51° 47' N. 07° 00' W.  
(S.O.E.G. B.3 201301 to C. in C. W.A.)  
E.G.B.3's 201301 VERVAIN sunk.. Rescue ship has  
3 officers and 30 men. No other survivors.

(2) AMETHYST and PEACOCK attacked firm contact in the vicinity  
of wreck at 1305A. Still in contact.

(3) 22nd and 23rd E.G. hunting. E.G.B.3 rejoined convoy.  
(S.O.E.G. 22 201424A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 201424 not to all addressees. Consider U-Boat probably  
sunk.. Hedgehog of 1st attack by AMETHYST exploded within 4  
seconds and produced immediately heavy air bubbles diesel oil  
and wreckage. Picked up navigator's work book in German  
including sights and positions. Also 4 German made sea boots.

(2) Intend E.G. 22 to remain and continue drastic attack on  
contact firmly held on bottom.

(3) E.G. 23 complying your 201402.

(4) BARBADOS escorting rescue ship to rejoin convoy.

(5) Suitable.

(S.O.E.G. 22 201544A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 201544 not to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. The escort which  
has on board the German navigator's work book is to proceed to  
Milford Haven forthwith, land it and rejoin group.

(2) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to send book by special  
courier to Admiralty.

(C. in C. W.A. 201854A to S.O.E.G. 22, F.O.I.C. Milford  
Haven.)

Possible  
U-Boat.

Attacking doubtful but possible submarine contact  
in position 49° 42' N. 06° 50' W. ABELIA in  
company.

(FOWEY 201400A to C. in C. W.A.)

Further to my 1400A depth charge and hedgehog  
attack carried out large patch of fuel and diesel oil on  
surface. Still in contact target stationary large vertical  
extent request information of possibility of wreck in this  
position. Convoy is proceeding with AUBRIETIA.  
(FOWEY 201531A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 1531A no change, after 2 further attacks am rejoining  
convoy. ABELIA still in contact and remaining in vicinity.

(FOWEY 201640A to C. in C. W.A.)

Have rejoined convoy. ABELIA still in contact but no  
change in situation as reported in my 1531A. Analysis indicates  
contact could be wreck in 49° 39' N. 06° 41' 30" W. affirmed in  
your 201703A. ABELIA has been instructed to leave position at  
2200A unless receiving orders to the contrary from you.

(FOWEY 202030A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

? U-Boat. M.Ls. attacked non submarine in position 000°  
 Corsewall Point 3 miles. Am searching area with  
 DUMBARTON CASTLE and BEAGLE in company. Suitable.  
 (S.O. Force 37 202302A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "S.C." Ramose Screen postponed E.T.D. now 0200A/21st  
 February.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 200011A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy R.A. 64. At 1000 R.A. 64, having newly reformed except for  
 4 stragglers, was attacked by about 25 Ju.88s  
 with torpedoes. No damage to convoy and believe  
 none to stragglers. At least one Ju.88 shot down  
 by escorts 2 by fighters. *(see revised figure, see 261607A, p. 453)*

(My) position course and speed at 1100 72° 53' N. 20° 10' E.  
 270° 6 knots.

(2) Am detaching WHITEHALL to Faroes with feed water trouble.  
 Weather report 7589 1583.

(C.S. 1 201226A to C. in C. H.F.)

It will be necessary for 3 fleet destroyers to continue  
 with R.A. 64 to Clyde. Request ZEALOUS, ZEST and SERAPIS may  
 be detailed for this, proceeding to Greenock on arrival.

(2) As soon as situation permits when south of 65° N. request  
 you despatch ONSLAUGHT to return to Scapa.

(C. in C. H.F. 202254A to C.S. 1.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German military transport between Norway and Denmark. My 191801 following transport movements have been  
 reported from Norway.

(1) Moss. ISAR which left Aarhus Feb. 3rd  
 arrive Moss 2300 Feb. 4th.

She loaded horse, cars and troops and left again  
 0800 Feb; 5th.

(2) Larvik. (a) MOLTKFFELS left Larvik p.m. Feb.  
 6th with about 1500 men and escorted by three  
 destroyers.

She arrived Larvik again from Aarhus Feb. 10th bringing about  
 900 men, including Naval ratings military and civilians.

She embarked about 1000 men and three to 400 Russians from  
 Stavern a large number of cars and horses and left for Aarhus  
 a.m. Feb. 11th escorted by three destroyers.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German  
military  
transport  
between  
Norway and  
Denmark.  
(Contd.)

(b) NEIDENFELS arrived Feb. 11th with about 300 men. She left again Feb. 12th with about 1000 men cars and horses but very few? guns. B.2. (NA. Stockholm 201146 to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

LARK, sloop. Preliminary inspection afloat of damage to LARK shows 105 bulkhead to stern completely blown away. 105 to 95 severely damaged. 95 bulkhead holding and watertight.

(2) Buckling and possibly splitting has occurred at 84, 62 and 54 stations on all decks and sides. Although apparently watertight now ship would require extensive repair to make her seaworthy.

(3) Diver reports both shafts broken and propellers missing.

(4) Engines boilers and essential services intact.

(5) Complete repair here impossible.

(6) It is just possible that ship could be made seaworthy for towing but this would take a long time and probably could not be attempted until repairs to CASSANDRA are completed.

(7) In view of above suggest a min. amount of secret items and gear in short supply, be removed and returned to U.K. Ship could then be in Russian care until her disposal is decided.

(8) Intend to return or destroy all C.Bs. and S.Ps. and to reduce ship to nucleus complement pending Admiralty decision on para.

7. Surplus personnel to return to U.K. in R.A. 65.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 201356A to Admty.)

SS. Ex C.U. 57 SS. SWEEPSTAKES grounded south of buoy  
SWEEPSTAKES. No. 6, in Seine estuary while re-routed empty Rouen to Le Havre anchorage. Vessel grounded during ebb tide approaching neaps so that all attempts to refloat by available tugs were futile.

Anchors have been laid out and U.S.S. BRANT will stand by pending further attempt to refloat during swing tide.  
(C.T.F. 125 201445 to Comnavu.)

Movements.

BEGUM, escort carrier,  
LARGS,  
L.S.H. (L).  
BEGUM, LARGS and LOCH FYNE arrived Clyde.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 200806A to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)  
You are now under my administration vide A.M. 260058 January.  
(2) An officer of my staff will visit you a.m. tomorrow Wednesday to discuss future movements.  
(R.A.L.S.C.U. 201126A to LARGS.)

/TASATERA...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

TASAJERA N.O.I.C. Lerwick's 191210A. Request destination  
Coastal Forces for TASAJERA.  
parent ship. (A.C.O.S. 201012 to Admty.)

A.F.D. 66. My 191102 sailed 0930/20th.  
(F.O.I.C. London 201125A to C. in C. Nore.)

A.F.D. 55. Your 191441A. Tow and dock generally satisfactory.  
Forward scow end vent cover has blown off.  
Recommend 2 left open with reduced area. Propose  
breakwaters should be placed further forward and  
heightened. Weather conditions fair. Heavy long swell.  
(2) My position 49° 02' N. 05° 30' W.  
(CHAMELEON 201130A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

MAURITIUS (1) Leave Scapa as convenient a.m. Friday 23rd  
cruiser. Feb. and proceed by Minches and standard route  
to Liverpool, arriving Bar Light Vessel at 0750A/  
24th Feb. My 171852 not to all refers.  
(2) Weather permitting your speed through the  
water is to be 24 knots.  
(3) Admiralty divert mails to Liverpool from 22nd February.  
(C. in C. H.F. 202258A to MAURITIUS.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Personnel in Referring C. in C. Portsmouth's 192223A to you  
insufficiently escorted there have been many dispatches on subject number  
L.S.Ts. of personnel embarked in L.S.Ts. for Cross  
Channel movement all requesting limitation in  
number due in-ability to supply proper number of  
escorts. As result much personnel lift has been  
wasted and build up of personnel slowed down.

Shortage of ships for personnel lift both from and to U.K. is  
continually under discussion and it would seem equally important  
to protect ships of all categories used for this purpose whether  
loaded or not. Scale of escorts provided in general so low that  
added risk of loss of personnel does not seem warrant reduction  
of carrying capacity to that which escorts may be able to  
accommodate should ship be sunk. Due poor asdic conditions in  
channel and all submerged operations of U-Boats for past few  
months actual functions of escorts have been navigational and  
potential recognition of these facts and provision of additional  
escorts even though not asdic-equipped seems more practical  
solution than limiting lift below capacity and would add materially  
to increased movement of personnel which is so necessary at  
present time.  
(C.T.F. 125 201021A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Gothenburg...

20.2.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Gothenburg safe con-duct vessels. Gothenburg traffic. Your 191935A para. 2. Instructions have now been given to four vessels named in para. 2 of my 171211 to proceed Gothenburg. See my 191939. (N.A. Stockholm 201137 to Admty.) Gothenburg traffic.

Your 191935A. Swedish authorities explain URUGUAY anchored Faroes February 19th to pass through control they had hoped she would have been able proceed with CHILE. (2) To avoid further possible complications at Faroes Swedish authorities now request orders be given to URUGUAY to proceed Gothenburg with other 4 ships. (3) It is pointed out that this will increase debit, a matter in which M.E.W. is interested. (N.A. Stockholm 201259 to Admty.)

Your 201259. Anglo-American decision whether increased debit can be permitted is not yet forthcoming. URUGUAY will therefore require to remain at Faroes until further notice. (D.E.W.D. 202000A to N.A. Stockholm.)

Escorts to Monsters. Add to my 171810 November. (2) Escorts meeting eastbound Monsters. When the state of wind and sea make it clear that escorts will be unable to maintain the speed of Monsters escorts are to proceed as far westward toward the R/V as practicable and then to return adjusting course and speed so that the Monsters overtake them in approx. 007° W. escorts are to keep C. in C. W.A. and Monsters informed of their intentions. (3) When escorting Monsters bound for Liverpool they are to continue on A/S patrol to seaward until Monster has proceeded up river. (C. in C. W.A. 201243A to Com. D. W.A.)

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- A/S search. C.D.D. 32 in U.S.S. CHAMPLIN with U.S.S. NIELDS and U.S.S. PARKER is to sail at 1100A/20th Feb. to carry out A/S search inshore along Moroccan coast from Malabata Point to lat. of 035° 20' N.  
(2) Group 4 carry out A/S search along Spanish coast inshore between Tarifa and Trafalgar Cape.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 200949 to C.C.D. 32.)
- L.S.I. (M) Intend sail H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID at 1600A/20th  
PRINCE DAVID. escorted by WOLVERINE to 010° W.  
(2) Route L (details). Thence south of Antigua to Curacao for fuel, and onward routeing via Panama Canal to Esquimalt. (3) S.O.A. 16½ knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 201225A to Admty.)  
Departure 1615/20th H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID. Local escort WOLVERINE.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 201815A to Admty.)
- S/M O.24. Departure (10)35/20th O.24 D.S. for Malta.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 201329A Feb. to V.A.M.)
- Spanish SS. Your 191230 M.E.W. desire SS. SIL controlled on  
SIL. return voyage from Canaries for reasons referred to in my 192008 to C.C.S.O.  
(D.E.W.D. 201408A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
My 172315. Add SS. ALBAREDA. Las Palmas will report departure and destination.  
(D.E.W.D. 201418A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- Repair and Depot ship. F.O.G.M.A.'s N/W 181023. CHARLES MACIVER arrived 1200. F.O.G.M.A. informed.  
(N.A. Lisbon 201753 to Admty.)
- ALFRED I. Arrived Horta at 1238Z/20th. ALFRED I. DUPONT  
DUPONT straggler from O.N. 283. Original destination New  
convoy<sup>O.N.</sup> 283. York. C.7's 182030\* and 190137 both to all refer.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores 201820Z to S.O.E.G.C.7.)  
\* Not identified in War Registry.
- F. M/S Request you will sail LYSANDER to Plymouth for  
LYSANDER onward routeing to Granton.  
(C.S.) (2) C. in C. C.N.A.'s 171615Z Feb. not to all addressees refers.  
(D.M.S. 202005A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

/REGENT LION...

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TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic - Contd.REGENT LION  
Salvage of

Your 191336A (~~N.E. in W.D.~~) Arrangements are being made with firm of Messrs. Bowring, owners to send to Gibraltar by air their marine superintendent who is a tanker expert to supervise discharge of highly inflammable cargo ex REGENT LION.  
(D.D. of S.(F) 202201A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

E.Gs.

Programme of E.G. 59, who are returning from escorting ASTURIAS was based on arrival Porto Rico mid March vide A.M. 202000 January. They must be docked before sailing from Dakar, and subject to confirmation from Comar Dakar will be unable to sail before February 27th due Port Rico March 8th. On receipt of A.M. 172243 immediate steps were taken to relieve them of escort duties. My 180936\* refers. Regret they cannot be further expedited.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 201203Z to Admty.)

\* E.G.56, increase speed as necessary to relieve E.G.59.

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Operation "Goldflake". P.O.W. Your 171800A not to P.S.T.O. Middle East, para. 1. Pending Chiefs of Staff's decision no shipping must be provided for the movement of German prisoners of war from North Africa or Italy to the Middle East.

(2) Further signal follows regarding remainder of your 171800A.  
(3) Agreed.  
(D. of S.T., 200210A to P.S.T.O. Med.)

SEABEAR. Request you will sail SEABEAR to Malta for onward routing to join 8th M.S.F. at Taranto. (C. in C. Med., 200927A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Loan of S/Ms. to Greek Navy. My 161412. I am further instructed to inform you that transfer will not take place until conclusion of War Germany. No details of transfer should be given to Greek Press at present. S.B.N.O. (G) 191149 not to F.O.(S) refers.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 200943B to Greek C. in C.)

Approval has now been given to offer on loan to the Royal Hellenic Navy 3 'U' class submarines.

Movements. (1) Secret Movement Summary for 2001/21, positions North and East.  
(2) ADAMANT, ARCTURUS 37° 36' 15" 50', Route D to Malta 12 knots.  
(3) URANIUN, DA RECCO 38° 45' 17" 05', Route D to 47 thence Route A to Naples 18 knots.  
(4) ORIANE escorting DORIA 37° 22' 15" 44', Route C to position 139 for exercising 14 knots.  
(V.A. Malta, 201015 to Admty.)

Z craft. Ref. your 69234 (Tn 2) of 16 Feb. and 131317 Feb. from Admiralty to C. in C. Med.  
(1) Advise whether immediate steps should be taken to strengthen three further Z craft now in Mideast in order that towage of five craft be completed before monsoons.  
(2) Endeavouring arrange local supply additional equipment.  
(C. in C. M.E., 201100B to W.O.)

Loan of S/Ms. to Greek Navy. Reference S.B.N.O. Greece's 191149 Feb. (not to F.O.S/M.) The offer of 3 'U' class submarines to the Greeks should not be published until the approval of appropriate Joint Assignment Committee has been given.  
(2) Admty. will inform when publication is possible.  
(Hd. of M., 201207A to F.O.L.E.M.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Repatriation of Russians via Odessa. 70099 Q(M)8 cipher 20 February. Assuming shipping becomes available for further moves of above, grateful any indication you can give regarding rate at which Russians can be handled at Odessa including maximum number of ships acceptable simultaneously and what warning you would require of future convoys. (War Office, 201230A to 30 Mil. Mission for Archer.)
- AURORA. Intend sailing 1630B/20th my 201556 not to all refers. S. of A. 18 knots, E.T.A. Suez 0700/22nd. Request F.O.R.S.C.A. arrange transit Canal daylight 22nd, E.T.A. Alexandria 0630/23rd. (2) Understand F.O.R.S.C.A. would welcome ship for 24 hours at Ismailia. If approve programme would be: arrive Ismailia 1200/22nd, leave 1100/23rd: arrive Alex. 0630/24th. (AURORA, 201606 to F.O.L.E.M.)
- ANTWERP. Sail at 1700/21st, S. of A. 15 knots to Gibraltar. (2) E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300/24th. (4) ANTWERP will require to fuel on arrival before being onward routed in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 181442 not to all. (V.A. Malta, 201715 to ANTWERP.)
- A/A Sloop WHIMBREL. Sail at 1600/21, S. of A. 16½ knots to Port Said. (2) E.T.A. Port Said 0800/24. (4) WHIMBREL is for onward routing to East Indies Station. (V.A.M., 201802 to WHIMBREL.)
- A.F.D. 24 Salvage of. Operation "Forestall". A.F.D.24 has been examined by D.P.S.V.O., F.N.C.O. and S.S.V.O.L. After conference with them decision reached as follows. (2) Refloating of dock depends on successful air tests, fine weather, and absence of pinnacles through bottom. (3) All going well, tests should be completed and refloating can be attempted approximately 28th Feb. (4) Additional salvage and personnel are urgently required for underwater welding. Request GAMTOOS be sent as soon as possible. (5) When refloated, dock must be hove into deep water by ground tackle before tugs can take over. (6) In addition to CAPTIVE and PRINCE SALVOR already standing by, intend to sail EMPIRE SANDY and EMPIRE JULIA to arrive Tobruk 27th Feb. Request MINDFUL be sailed from Malta to arrive Tobruk on this date. (7) Intend after dock is clear to tow it to Menelao Bay, Gulf of Bomba for strengthening and repairs before proceeding to final repair port. (F.O.L.E.M., 201950B to C. in C. Med.)

20.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation 1800/20th. Corfu. Formation of National Guard continues. 2160 already enrolled 3034 absorbed from Andarte and anticipate a further 200 to enrol. Consider that defence of Island will be effective by about 26th Feb.

(2) Approximately 1000 ex Andarte already evacuated and 2000 remain who are not eligible for National Guard. Of these remaining 1,100 are for Piraeus and 1,300 for Epirus, additional number are attached families.

(3) Civilian refugees number 8,000, half of which come from Pr(corrupt group)ez Italian Spanish, quite equally divided between Frarta, Threspotia and Ioannina.

(4) Everything quiet and, if early action taken to evacuate personnel in para. 2, no disturbances expected.

(5) N.O.I.C. now established on shore with increased staff and fully competent to operate few British ships remaining.

(6) Forty R.M. Commandos expected to leave about 26th Feb. after which date consider B.N.C.I.S. can serve no useful purpose by remaining at Corfu.

(B.N.C.I.S. (Corfu), 202017B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

Situation Report No. 566.

(1) Gibraltar reference number 564\* ship in convoy is now beached on Pearl Rock, South of Carnero Point.

(2) Gulf of Genoa. Night 16th Feb. Allied Coastal craft fired 5 torpedoes in poor visibility at targets located by radar near Montegrosso. Result not known.

(C. in C. Med., 202359A to F.O.L.E.M.)

\* 181826/2.



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Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-boat dispositions Scales in all areas remain W.5.  
(C. in C.E.I., 200357Z to S. and A. E.I. Station.)

Destroyers Concur in paragraph 2 of your 150756.  
(2) NORMAN and NEPAL will be sailed from Ceylon about 1st March. Further signal will be made.  
(C. in C.E.I., 200546Z to C. in C.B.P.F.)

Movements Arrived L.C.T.1144, 1331 in tow of EMPIRE PRINCE.  
Departed West, Submarine SLEUTH, L.C.T.915, 1057 in tow of RIVERCREST.  
(Com.Aden, 201517Z to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)  
Arrived SUFFOLK, LONDON, ROCKET, NORMAN, STORM departed MILFORD COUNTESS.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 201519Z to Admty.)

Tug CHEERLY CHEERLY CHEERLY has developed defect in port main engine. Repairs cannot be effected by ship's staff. Have taken over tow. Request instructions as regards CHEERLY.  
(ADVANTAGE, 201945A to N.O.I.C.Aden.)

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War Diary.20.2.1945.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U.S.T. Cinclant has ordered U.S. Tug CHOCTAW to R/V and  
CHOCTAW assist CORMORANT. Keep CHOCTAW informed of your  
position course and speed.  
(D.C., 200030Z to \*~~MARITONIA~~ etc). \*MERITTONIA.  
CHOCTAW departs Argentia sea buoy 0600Z/20  
direct for R/V 44.29 N., 36.18 W. Speed 14 knots. E.T.D.  
CCZ 0500Z/21. E.T.A. destination 2200Z/22.  
(CHOCTAW, 200533 to CORMORANT).  
Return to Argentia CORMORANT no longer requires assistance.  
(C. in C. Lant, 201927Z to CHOCTAW).

U/B Estimate.  
Dispositions. (N.S.H.Q., 201408Z to S. and A., Admty).

U.S. Navy Department request your views on proposal  
Troopships contained in C. in C. East Indies 171115. It is  
(Policy for also requested that C. in C. East Indies 020534  
sailing of). and your 051902 may be passed for information.  
2. Assuming proposal is accepted C. in C. East  
Indies is requested to advise minimum intervals  
between arrivals of United States America  
Transports from Australia at Indian Ports.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 201825Z to Admty).

Submarine My 221059 July 1942.  
attack and 1. S/M VENTURER patrolling off Heliseoy sighted  
sighting periscope 1050/9th. U/B tracked by asdics and  
summary. 4 torpedoes fired at 1212/9th. Explosion after  
correct running time, oil and wreckage seen.  
2. At 1500/14th following asdic detection E.G.  
10 made 7 Squid and H/H attack on U/B in  
position 340° Muckle Flugga 48'. Two survivors, including C.O.  
picked up at 2000, only lived a few hours.  
3. At 1450/16th, E.G. 9 attacked asdic contact on the bottom in  
Moray Firth. Considerable amount of diesel oil, splintered  
woodwork and German charts corrected to 1943 brought up.  
4. At 1730/17th, E.G. 10 attacked asdic contact with H/H in  
position 340° Muckle Flugga 42'. Bomb exploded after 4 seconds  
sinking time rubber dinghy, rubber ball covered with canvas and  
oil brought up.  
5. LARK and ALNWICK CASTLE sank U/B off Kola Inlet at 0030/17  
One survivor recovered.  
(D.A.U.D., 201854A to Cominch).

U/B Para. C. 201445Z U.S.S. RHODES attacked sound  
attack and contact 42.03 N., 65.38 W. estimated target  
sighting of. course 160 speed 4.5  
Para. D. K. 58 reported sighting submerging conning  
tower in 40.14 N., 73.46 W. at 201239Z.  
(Cominch, 202108Z to Admty for O.I.C.)

War Diary.20.2.1945.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Digest  
1126.  
19.2.1945.  
extract.

2. Navy search Liberator over French Indo China saw nil shipping Cap Saint Jacques Camran Bay Quinhon, convoy one medium, 1 small merchantman, 1 gunboat 30 miles north Camran Bay heading north, strafed small merchantman, strafed single gunboat 35 miles southwest Cape Padaran at anchor, one small merchantman beached off Cape Varella, 1 destroyer escort heading west 45 miles east south east Tourane, also convoy 3 tankers, 2 destroyer escorts, 3 covering aircraft 60 miles south Potuh east course southwest. Mariner from Mindoro saw 1 destroyer, 1 destroyer escort 115 miles east Tourane course southeast.
3. Reliable French sources report 2 cargo vessels, 2 destroyers anchored Quinhon 19th Feb., next day 3 cargo vessels (1 large) 2 warships anchored off Tourane also 9 small craft down under 500 tons (anchored in Tourane).
4. Delayed reports Mindoro Liberator searched (TBKE) 19th Feb. 2 sea trucks in 50 miles east of North Cape Saint Jacques heading east; 1 probably sunk, 1 left sinking heading for beach. 1 medium freighter-transport, 2 sea trucks seen 75 miles east north east Cape Saint Jacques heading southwest, 2 destroyer escorts 15 miles east north east Quinhon heading south also 1 small merchantman anchored at Quinhon, 2 small merchantmen, 2 destroyer escorts, 2 covering aircraft south Quinhon course southwest, 1 beached Burnight tanker 40 miles southeast Tourane, 1 destroyer escort same area course northwest. Tourane Camranh Bay empty.
5. Reduction enemy strong points Corregidor continues, over 1,000 dead counted to date. Force Manila captured Fort William McKinley Japanese withdrew. Stubborn enemy resistance continues in Ramuros district but Saint Teresa College secured. Landing effected Capaul Island (San Bernardino Strait) against slight opposition.
6. Night 18/19th single enemy aircraft ineffectually attacked P.T. boats Ormoc Bay: same night P.Ts shot up enemy positions San Carlos (south central Negros Island).  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 201033 to Admty).

Supplies for V.A.(Q) 130027 Feb. Request you will arrange  
B.P.F. with C. in C. E.I. that ships bringing supplies  
for B.P.F. from Indian Ocean should proceed to  
forward area via Torres Strait unless required  
to call in Eastern Australia.

2. In order that cargo may be loaded within handling and storage capacity recipients in forward areas. V.A.(Q) is requested to ensure authorities as under are kept informed of nature of supplies that can be accepted direct by R.A.F.T. or Fleet units.

- (a) Admty. and C. in C. E.I. for ships para. one above.  
(b) Admty. for ships proceeding from U.K. to Western Pacific bases via Panama.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 200250Z to V.A.(Q)).

War Diary.

20. 2. 1945.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/20th February.

A. (1) At 1643Z/19th Feb. M/V CITY OF LINCOLN reported mined but may have been torpedoed in approx. lat. 53.31 N., long. 00.51 E.

C. (1) At 0803Z/19th February A/C C/111 obtained disappearing contact in lat. 62.07 N., long. 00.27 W.

(2) At 2154Z/19th Feb. M.T.B. 760 attacked doubtful contact in lat. 50.15 N., long. 01.14 W.

(3) At 1020Z/19th Feb. E.G.B. 3 obtained disappearing radar contact in lat. 50.06 N., long. 13.15 W.

(4) At 2105Z/19th February E.G.C.6 obtained disappearing radar contact in lat. 51.30 N., long. 18.15 W.

(5) At 1518Z/19th Feb. Am. transit A/C from 8,000 ft. sighted possible U-boat Co. 100° 4.6 knots in lat. 36.24 N., long. 18.23 W.

D. (1) At 0805Z/19th Feb. E.G.22 obtained bottom contact considered wreck in lat. 51.51 N., long. 06.24 W.

(2) At 0940Z/19th Feb. Am. FRANCIS N. BLANCHET sighted possible P/S in lat. 07.53 N., long. 82.05 E.

(3) At 1828Z/19th Feb. Am. DANIEL WILLARD sighted possible S/M in lat. 07.42 N., long. 77.24 E.

Reference A.M. 181017A para. A 1 time of attack should read 0030Z/17th Feb.

(D.D.I.C., 201023A to Cominch and N.S.H.Q.)

U/B Estimates.

Dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 201341A and 201345 to A.I.G. & Cominch).

21.2.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North  
Sea.

1(a) Last night's E-Boat activity developed into 6 separate encounters by up to 20 boats with 5 of our patrols. No damage appears to have been sustained on either side, but mines may have been laid near N.F.3 and H.K.2 buoys, and it is possible that the whole activity may have been cover for a force entering Dunkirk. Activity was re-starting again tonight.  
(b) Six mines were swept off the East Coast and one off the Schelde.

Western  
Approches.

2(a) The small Icelandic steamer DETTAFOSS was torpedoed in Convoy U.R.155 in North Channel about 0830. AYRSHIRE, escort, seems to have decided that it was a mine, and when the real hunt began, as soon as E.G.19 reached the scene at 1130, no contact was made with the U-Boat.  
(b) APOLLO was in collision with CLARKIA in a sudden fogbank in Milford Haven, and her mining programme will be delayed 24 hours.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean.

Gulf of  
Genoa.

(3) Wellingtons bombed E-Boats and barges in Gulf of Genoa with unobserved results.

North  
Adriatic.

4(a) M.A.A.F. aircraft dropped 286 tons of bombs on Pola Harbour.  
(b) R.P. Beaufighters over Promontore Grado attacked and probably sank a 600 ton coaster.  
(c) Other Beaufighters claim direct rocket hits on 200 ft. tanker in Cittanova no definite results seen.  
(d) 24 Baltimores and 25 Marauders bombed coaling wharf at Arsa (Fiume ) registering hits on jetty, crane and coal installations and causing fires. Intense flak was met.  
(e) Situation at Zara very satisfactory more than 50 British ships and craft are now present.

Corfu.

(5) Situation reported quiet and defence measures satisfactory.

War Diary

21.2.1945.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies.

Malacca  
Straits.

(6) Four Liberators laid twenty two mines off Penang today.

Australia and New Zealand.

China  
Coast.

(7) Liberators over Hong Kong area sank one seatruck 100 miles to S.W.

Formosa.

(8) Aircraft damaged four to six sea trucks off N.W Formosa by bombing and strafing.

Philippines.

(9) U.S. Forces continue driving enemy remnants on Manila to the Intramuros area.

War Diary.21.2.1945.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

- Minesweeping off East Coast. (1) E-Boats plotted in vicinity of N.F.5 buoy. (2) Proceed with danlayers at 0400 and conduct Oropesa search in G formation of Q.Z.S.581 between N.F.5 and N.F.7 buoy. (3) Anchor Small Downs on completion. (C. in C. Nore, 210127A to M.S.40.)
- (1) E-Boats plotted crossing Q.Z.S.596. (2) Proceed with danlayers at 0600 and conduct Oropesa search in G formation of Q.Z.S. 596 between position O.F. 53 E buoy and 3 miles south of 53 F buoy. (3) Anchor off Harwich on completion. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore, 210207A to JASON.)
- Magnetic mine detonated at 1020 today Wednesday in position 315° H.6 buoy 3 cables. (F.O. Humber, 211222 to C. in C. Nore.)
- LL sweepers detonated two magnetic ground mines 040° 3A buoy, one mile at 1225 and 1230. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 211325 to Admty.)
- Magnetic mine detonated at 1343 today Wednesday, in position 341° H.2 2.2 miles. (F.O. Humber, 211604 to C. in C. Nore.)
- Sweeping report for 21st Feb. Channel from N.F.18 to N.F.13 swept LL/SA I.G.M.S. both sides of centre line by 3 M.M.S.
- Channel from N.F.18 to Hansweerd swept LL/SA/HG P formation Hansweerd to Bat line ahead. Both sweeps negative results. Two B.Y.M.S. completed widening clearance sweep of channel from N.F.13 to position of N.F.16. Detonating red magnetic mine 305° 1 mile from N.F.15.
- Channel from N.F.13 to N.F.18 has now been cleared for moored and ground mines to 5 cables either side of centre line. (Com. M/S. Terneuzen, 211755 to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)
- M/S report No. 5 my 211419.
- (1) 1329/21st Feb. 1945. (2) LL/SA B.Y.M.S. 2041, 2058, 2233. (3) Yes. (4) 2½ cables. (5) B.Y.M.S. 2058, 52° 02'07" N., 01° 43'42" E., 215°. (6) Red, 130° 1½ cables. (7) On Blue to port. (8) 4 secs. (9) 24/25 Jan. 1945. (10) Nil. (11), (12) Smooth. (13) 60 feet high wide. (14) Nil.
- (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 212132A to Admty.)
- M/S. report No.5 my 211547
- (1) 1520/21st Feb. 1945. (2) LL/SA B.Y.M.S. 2233, 2058, 2041. (3) Yes. (4) 2½ cables. (5) B.Y.M.S. 2058, 52° 00'50" N., 01° 41'45" E., 034°. (6) Green, 175° 2¼ cables. (7) On Red starboard. (8) 1 sec. (9) 24/25 Jan. 1945. (10) Nil. (11), (12) Smooth. (13) 60 ft. high, wide. (14) Nil.
- (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 212141A to Admty.)
- E-Boat activities. E-Boat activity night 20th/21st February. (1) Unknown number possibly as many as 20 operated. (2) 2343 RIOU (Patrol 12) with M.T.Bs. engaged 4 E-Boats 6 miles north of N.F.5 buoy and drove them north. (3) 2349 THORNBOROUGH (Patrol 18) detected 2 groups each of 4 and 7 miles east of 53F buoy. One group crossed Q.Z.S.596 near 53F and then turned N.E. This is confirmed by N.Foreland

/Shore ...

21.2.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

E-Boat activities. (Contd.)  
Shore Radar Station. This group engaged by THORNBOROUGH and GUILLEMOT (Patrol 21). Minelaying unlikely. Other group reached Channel near N.F.3 buoy being engaged by RIOU and M.T.Bs. Minelaying possible.

(4) 0001 ARENDAL (Patrol 14) engaged 4 E-Boats 2 miles north of N.F.6 buoy. E-Boats did not reach Channel.  
(5) 0048 RIOU engaged group 2 miles north of N.F.5 buoy. Channel not reached.

(6) 0055 EKINS (Patrol 16) with M.T.Bs. drove off 4 E-Boats 5 miles N.W. of H.K.2 buoy where mines may have been laid.

(7) 0114 RIOU and M.T.Bs. engaged 5 E-Boats 10 miles north of N.F.5 buoy.

(8) Results of various actions not yet known. No damage or casualties reported.

(9) All actions except that mentioned in para. 3 were outside range of shore radar.

Wellington  
(aircraft)

(10) 16 Group aircraft detected E-Boats off the Hook about 2000. WELLINGTON shadowed ten probably the two groups mentioned in para. 3.

(11) Between 0010 and 0040 reports received via Ostend from Czech Army Units of 6 vessels entering Dunkirk. Although no verification can be obtained from ships reports or other sources it is possible this was object of operations and that vessels were E-Boats. Air R/C has been asked for.

(C. in C. Nore, 211539A to Admty.)

Nr.2. Position course and speed of 10 E-Boats 53° 05' N., 4° 25' E., 270°, 25 knots.

(A/C SFM.85, 212045 to 16 Group.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 323, part 4, section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/20th Feb.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo</u>
<u>British -</u>						
Antwerp	-	-	2,259	-	-	-
Ostend	2,346	179	2,374	-	766	549
Boulogne	27	134	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	2,060	-	-
Calais	7,651	-	49	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,829	-	-	2,027
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,024</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>8,511</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>2,576</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>						
Antwerp	-	66	12,915	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	75	6,781	-	-	5,647
Le Havre	8,741	50	6,815	-	-	3,476
Rouen	-	98	8,062	310	-	-
Granville	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,382	-	-	138
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,741</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>36,955</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,261</b>

/U.S. South ...



21.2.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Discharge Situation Report. (Contd.)	Cositintrep No. 323, part 4, section A - Contd.					
	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F.Ammo.</u>
<u>U.S. South -</u>						
Marseilles	5,292	739	6,372	1,345	-	946
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,996	1,300	-	2,292
Toulon	-	-	520	-	-	-
Sete	-	-	204	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,292</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>9,092</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,238</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 211620A to Admty. and others.)

Patrols. Nore and Dover patrol night 21st/22nd Feb.  
 (1) 12 EKINS with Coastal Force Units F.L.2 and 3.  
 14 SOUTHDOWN, 16 TORRINGTON with C/F Units F.G.2  
 and 3, 18 MACKAY, 19 RUTHERFORD with C/F Unit.  
 21 WIDGEON, 22 CAICOS with C/F Unit.  
 (2) C.F. Unit 51 one M/L, 52 one M/L 51° 23' N., 03° 16' E.  
 F.A.8, 51° 21' N., 03° 00' E. F.B.2.  
 (3) Kellet buoy via East Goodwin number 2 to S.E. Goodwin buoy  
 F.O.1 number 1 buoy via South Goodwin number 2 to S.E. Goodwin  
 Buoy F.O.2.  
 (V.A. Dover, 211648A to Dover Command.)

Raid on Ochten. Cositintrep No. 323, part 2, Naval.  
 A raiding party in two L.C.A. landed at Ochten  
 early 21st Feb. No casualties to our troops,  
 or craft.  
 (A.N.C.X.F., 212359A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Patrols. ROWLEY, DOMETT proceed patrol 20 miles N.E. to  
 20 miles S.W. Trevoise Hd. JONQUIERE, RIBBLE  
 proceed patrol Pendeen Pt. to Lizard Head,  
 passing Longships at 1600A/21st.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 211025A to ROWLEY, DOMETT,  
 JONQUIERE, MONTREAL.)

Convoy T.B.C.75 vicinity Portland Bill 1430A/21st. Trail to  
 Start Pt. then resume patrol previously ordered.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 211442A to BEACON HILL, NEW GLASGOW.)

Convoy O.N.A.286/O.S.112/K.M.S.86. E.T.A. Portland Bill  
 1200A/22nd. S.O. Escorts ARMERIA. Proceeding Route W, 7  
 knots. BEACON HILL, NEW GLASGOW, JONQUIERE support Portland  
 Bill to Lizard Head then proceed patrol coastal convoy route  
 Eddystone to 03° 00' W. MONTREAL, RIBBLE support Lizard Head  
 to 180° Bishop Rock 8 then resume patrol Pendeen Head to Lizard  
 Head.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 212054A to S.O. E.Gs. 26, 2, MONTREAL.)

21.2.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

- Patrols. My 211942A not to all.  
(Contd.) On completion of escort duty resume patrol coastal convoy route Lizard Hd. to Start Pt.  
(2) If not in contact enter Harbour at 1400A/22 for lay-over.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 212108A to DUCKWORTH, COOKE.)
- E.Gs. 6, As soon as ready today 21st Com. (D) Western  
15. Approaches is requested to sail 6th E.G. at best speed without incurring weather damage to vicinity Longships thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.  
(2) On relief by 6th E.G. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail 15th E.G. to Belfast for lay-over.  
(C. in C. W.A., 211205A to Com. (D) W.A., C. in C. Portsmouth.)
- Anti-U-Boat Weigh at 0200A/22nd Feb. and carry out serial  
deep mining. B.1, part 1.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 211611A to PLOVER, GENTIAN.)
- C.S.A. If friendly aircraft are likely to be in the  
smoke vicinity, vessels are not to discharge C.S.A.  
restrictions. smoke by day.  
(2) This is to avoid aircraft initiating false enemy reports by mistaking the C.S.A. smoke for smoke from a Schmorkel.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 211822A to Portsmouth A/S Forces.)

Operations

West Coast France

- German Your 191656. Ministry of Marine Paris have  
supply craft received similar report which they consider  
for Gironde reliable that a vessel will sail at the end  
and la of this week from Bilbao.  
Rochelle. (2) With reference to your 092259 <sup>(no trace)</sup> and my 161815, consider present instance would be excellent opportunity to inaugurate this scheme. Propose therefore that a small force preferably of
- French ships be detailed to carry out a patrol in the Bay of Biscay with the object of intercepting this vessel.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 210955A to Admty.) *Reply: Admty. 231634, p. 296.*
- French I concur in principle with A.N.C.X.F. 161815A.  
Control (2) The possibility remains however that  
of Bay of operations both against ports on the French  
Biscay. Biscay coast and against U-Boats in the Bay of Biscay may be required in the future and therefore a clear demarcation of naval responsibility is essential. The interests of Coastal Command are also affected.

21.2.1945.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France

French control of Bay of Biscay. (Contd.)

(3) The most satisfactory arrangement would be for any area transferred to French control to be constituted as a separate operational command, fully informed and fully linked with adjacent commands.

(4) I do not think the time for this has yet arrived, in present circumstances I consider it is acceptable to give the French unrestricted use of the waters within the area south of 48° 30' N. and east of 5° W. provided C. in C. Plymouth is given timely information of intended movements and operations.

(5) With reference to para. 1 of A.N.C.X.F. 161815 the withdrawal of any French escort vessels from my command without relief would react most unfavourably on the protection of coastal convoys.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211212A to Admty.)

Operations

Western Approaches

SS. DETTIFOSS torpedoed. (AYRSHIRE, 210831A to C. in C. W.A.)

U.R. 155

Suspect DETTIFOSS struck a mine. FUSILIER picking up survivors position 55° 05' N., 05° 35' W.

(AYRSHIRE, 210855A to Force 36.)

My 210831. No contact obtained, am proceeding with convoy. HOMEGUARD in company. FUSILIER picking up survivors whose general opinion - ship torpedoed port side.

(AYRSHIRE, 210916A to C. in C. W.A.)

Close 55° 03' N., 05° 29' W. Ship torpedoed.

(C. in C. W.A., 210917A to S.O. E.Gs. 19, 31, AYRSHIRE.)

Sailed FREEBOOTER to assistance of DETTIFOSS, torpedoed in position 55° 03' N., 05° 29' W., speed of advance 12 knots.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 210938A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Your 210917A, proceeding with all despatch.

(2) COTTON and GOODALL E.T.A. 1130, LOCH SHIN and LOCH INSH following at best speed.

(S.O. E.G.19, 211005A to C. in C. W.A.)

DETTIFOSS sunk in position 55° 05' N., 05° 34' W. at 0825A today. Believed mined. Have 30 survivors including Master and 4 women. No casualties. Am rejoining U.R.155. Request instructions.

(FUSILIER, 211005A to C. in C. W.A.)

Have established Gamma search centre 55° 07' N., 05° 39' W. on 230°/050° courses length 14 miles. GOODALL, COTTON, DUMBARTON CASTLE, AMBUSCADE in company. 2 Motor Launches carrying out square search side 5 miles around torpedoing datum. E.G.19 joining shortly. Just suitable.

(S.O. Force 37, 211130A to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceed to Stranraer to land survivors then rejoin convoy.

(C. in C. W.A., 211204A to FUSILIER.)

Periscope reported by CLOVER 55° 17' 05° 10' at 1128.

(C. in C. W.A., 211232A to S.O. E.Gs. 19, 31.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

SS. DETTIFOSS 19th E.G. with AMBUSCADE co-operating has torpedoes. established expanding square search with one ship carrying out search in vicinity of datum.  
(Contd.) (2) Suitable (A) average: (B) no.  
(3) S.O. E.G.31 reporting own intentions.  
(S.O. E.G.19, 211307A to C. in C. W.A.)

Situation 1600A.  
(1) Bottom contact obtained and attacked by inner search. Some wood wreckage and fuel oil given off. Echo sounder trace shows object on a (corrupt group) bottom 40 feet high 270 feet long in position 055° 05'03" N., 005° 33'10" W., considered to be wreck of DETTIFOSS. Centre search adjusted to this position.  
(2) Intend continuing present system of search until datum distance expanded to (corrupt group) miles and then AMBUSCADE return base and 19th E.G. patrol in area between Mull of Kintyre and Black Head.  
(3) Suitable (A) average. (B) yes.  
(S.O. E.G.19, 211636A to C. in C. W.A.)

AMETHYST's Fresh wreckage in small quantities after renewed U-Boat. attacks this morning all previous wreckage having drifted away during the night. Recovered (U. ~~1276~~ 1276) leather fur helmet, gloves, leather jacket of German manufacture, with owner's name and number - Helmut Meyer N.9002/40 T - and tin of dried egg with German inscription, also small pieces of laminated wood panelling. Diesel oil flow covering large area.  
(2) Position U-Boat by shore fix 51° 48.2' N., 07° 07.5' W., wreck of VERVAIN lies 240° 1.25 miles from this.  
(3) WREN and AMETHYST rejoined 0900. Intend maintaining contact pending instructions.  
(4) Suitable.  
(S.O. E.G.22, 211133A to C. in C. W.A.)

WASE  
confirm  
Meyer  
served  
in  
U 1276

Request for Arctic-fitted In view of recent losses of escorts of my command including 3 Arctic-fitted ships request reinforcement. consideration be given to very early return of OXLIP and HONEYSUCKLE from Iceland. These ships are Arctic-fitted and whilst it is not anticipated that they can be ready for J.W.65 their services are urgently required since Arctic-fitted ships from non-Arctic groups will have to be used for this convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A., 211139A to Admty.)

APOLLO damaged. APOLLO arriving and CLARKIA leaving harbour in sudden fog bank collided at 0840 today 21st Feb. APOLLO sustained slight damage forward estimated time for repairs to make her operationally fit 24 hours.

CLARKIA sustained upper deck damage to three Oerlikon gun platforms and a broken mast with other superficial damage. Hull otherwise sound. APOLLO's programme delayed 24 hours.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 211247A to C. in C. W.A.)

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

E.G. 21.

On detaching from U.C.57A (my 201254 not to all refers) 21st E.G. if not in contact proceed to Belfast for short rest.

(2) Your 210601 not to all. Lack of support in this area for O.N. 286 must be accepted. (C. in C. W.A., 211714A to S.O. E.G.21.)

Operations

Norway

Operations  
S.C.

Ramose Zig-zag. Sailed VIGRA at 0300A/21st Feb.

(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 210304A to A.C.O.S.)

Ramose Screen.  
Feb.

Sailed HESSA (S.O.) and HITRA at 0300A/21st Feb.

(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 210306A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrol.

Negative patrol seriously ill since morning 17th. In 64° 25' N., 09° 12' E. Intend returning by reverse of outward route passing through 64° 30' N., 08° 15' E. at 0630.

Weather report 4728 9285.

(VIKING, 212311A to F.O.S/M.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Patrols and  
Escorts.

Request you will arrange whenever possible for local patrols operating in the Cape Wrath area to support W.N. and E.N. convoys between 58° 15' N. in the Minches and 04° 30' W.

(2) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to keep F.O.I.C.

Greenock and N.O.I.C. Aultbea informed of E.N. programmes and amendments thereto.

(C. in C. W.A., 212341A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operations

Baltic

Reported  
sinking  
of EMDEN.

My 171536 para. 2(D). Am now informed that this attack took place in 55° 78'(sic) N., 16° 38.5' E. on Feb. 10th target being sunk but identity not yet confirmed as German cruiser EMDEN.

(2) Have you any information which might confirm this.

(Admiral Archer, 211425A to Admty.) Reply: p. 381.

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

German  
Military  
Transport  
between  
Norway and  
Denmark.

My 201146 following further transport movements have been reported from Moss and Larvik.  
(1) Moss. It is now reported ISAR which left Moss Feb. 5th was carrying 300 cars, 400 horses, 150 waggons and about 750 men.  
(2) Larvik. NEIDENFELS is reported to have arrived Larvik Feb. 4th and left again following day with troops and material. B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 211717 to Admty.)

Port Facilities

North  
French  
ports.

The following summary of the status of French ports is submitted for information.

(A) <u>Port</u>	(B) <u>Operated by and for</u>	(C) <u>Traffic handled</u>	(D) <u>B.N.L.O. present</u>	(E) <u>Communications</u>
Calais	British for S.H.A.E.F.	Personnel, some M.T., rolling stock, pit props later.	-	S.N.O. B.O.P.(F).
Boulogne	French for S.H.A.E.F.	L.C.T., awkward vehicles. M.U.S. casualties. French import quota 1,000 T.P.D.	Yes	Br. Naval communication party.
Dieppe	French for S.H.A.E.F.	Personnel, coal, M.T.R. ferry.	Yes	Br. Naval communication party.
Havre and Rouen	U.S. for S.H.A.E.F.	Personnel, vehicles, stores. French import quota 5,000 T.P.D.	-	C.T.F. 125
Ouistreham and Caen	French for S.H.A.E.F.	Coal. Outward cargo 1,500 T.P.D.	-	Army and C.T.F. 125
Cherbourg	U.S. for S.H.A.E.F.	Stores, vehicles, some personnel coal.	-	C.T.F. 125
Granville	U.S. for S.H.A.E.F.	Coal	-	C.T.F. 125
St. Malo	French for S.H.A.E.F.	Coal	S.T.O.	Telephone
Morlaix	French for S.H.A.E.F.	Coal	-	Telephone

Note 1. Present date of handing over Ouistreham and Caen entirely to French 15th March but will probably be later.

/Note 2 ...

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French  
ports.  
(Contd.)

Note 2. Amount of traffic using St. Malo and Morlaix does not appear to warrant any additional arrangements being made for communications.

(3) Ports on the North and West Coast of France other than those listed in para. (2) are the direct responsibility of the French Authorities and are controlled by Comars of the Coastal districts in which they lie. These Comars are responsible to Marine Paris through Admiral Nord.

(4) A.N.C.X.F. will make arrangements for the communications to Ports so long as they are operated on behalf of S.H.A.E.F. (see note 2 above). Present intention is that the following ports will remain indefinitely under British or U.S. Control - Granville, Cherbourg, Havre, Rouen, Dieppe and Calais.

(5) Communications to and arrangements for routing at other French ports is one of the problems which point to the urgent necessity for the establishment of a direct link between Marine Paris and Admiralty. It is considered this would properly be provided by a Naval Attache with adequate staff to deal with the increasing number of British/French Naval matters which are outside the purview of S.H.A.E.F. The rapidly changing war situation is likely to necessitate movements of my headquarters away from Paris and probably out of France in the near future, and I consider that the direct link must be available before that occurs.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 211115A to Admty.)MovementsTACITURN,  
submarine.Sailed H.M. S/M TACITURN escorted by CLOVER in Clyde portion K.M.S.86. Latest messages Q.B. 488, Q.B.A.147, Q.B.Y.149. Constant watch on 500 k/cs and H.S. routine. Should S/M become detached from escort and convoy watch will be kept in accordance with F.O.S. 2/44 article 15 para. (H).  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 210442A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A.)BONAVENTURE,  
submarine  
depot ship.Sailed BONAVENTURE in convoy U.C. 57A for Ponta Delgada to comply with A.M. 120023A and 151104A Feb.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 211016A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

A.F.D. 55.

A.F.D.55 after 45 hours is towing satisfactorily with draught of 5'9" forward, 7'7" aft. Attention is called to need for shifting break-water forward and raising as indicated in report forwarded today Wednesday 21st.  
(CHAMELEON, 211032 to Admty.)BARFLEUR,  
Fr. Aux.  
cruiser.C.T.F.125 re-encyphers Comar Brest's 201800. Intend to sail F/S BARFLEUR to Oran on 22nd Feb. at 1800A. Admty. 141603 refers. Request acknowledgement.  
(C.T.F.125, 211141 to Admty.)

/LORRAINE ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements. - Contd.

LORRAINE,  
French  
battleship.

LORRAINE is to sail for Cherbourg tomorrow 22nd  
in convoy W.E.L.53.  
N.C.S.O. Cowes issue routing and sailing  
orders accordingly.  
LORRAINE have steam for ten knots by 1930A/22nd.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 211301A to N.C.S.O. Cowes.)

TASAJERA,  
Coastal  
Forces  
depot ship.

Your 201012.  
It is requested that TASAJERA may be sailed to  
Harwich as convenient as C.F.M.U.2 is required  
at Felixstowe.  
(D.D.O.D.(C), 211549A to A.C.O.S., F.O.I.C.  
Harwich.)

SYBYL,  
submarine.

Intend SYBYL should join O.S.114/K.M.S.88 at  
Clyde Boom on 3rd March for passage to Gibraltar  
and Far East. Request time for R/V.  
(F.O.S/M., 211653A to C. in C. W.A.)



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Wednesday  
21.2.1945.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

U.S. Destroyer E.G.'s. U.S.S. NIELDS, CHAMPLIN and PARKER leave patrol as necessary to rendezvous U.G.S. 73 in position AA 35.26 N. 08.03 ? E. at 0200 22nd and operate in support of convoy.

2. U.G.S. 73.45 ships Cmdre. Captain Bartholdi U.S.N. in ETHAN ALLAN is escorted by C.T.G. 60.10 in SAMPSON with GLADWINE, NEW BEDFORD, BRUNSWICK and ORLANDO and routed through (N.K.) 35.00 N. 10.00 W. (N.L.) 35.51 N. 01.10 W. and southern half of strait S.O.A. 9.5. knots.

3. On U.G.S. 73 passing G.U.S. 73 off Tarifa Point at 1500A 22nd transfer to G.U.S. 73 and act in support of that convoy.

4. G.U.S. 73.41 ships Commodore not known is escort N.P.B.Y. C.T.G. 60.8 in U.S.S. MOFFETT with CARROLL, COONER, ELDRIDGE and READING and routed through northern half of strait 35 degs. 59 mins. N. 06.10 W. (not lettered) (K.J.) 34.15 N. 09.01 W. S.O.A. 9 knots.

5. On G.U.S. 73 crossing 08 degs. W. part company and proceed to patrol on line Cap Trafalgar to Cape Spartel until further orders (F.O.G.M.A. 211134A amended by 221810A.)

Submarine cable damaged. A.M. 171137. H.M. Fleet Tender 19 when exercising with H.M.S. BARFLEET has further damaged Algeciras-Centa cable, in which she entangled her anchor. Anchor was freed after 2½ hours but not without opening up the armour plating of cable.

2. Incident took place just East of San Garcia Coast Guard station and was probably observed by the Spaniards. (F.O.G.M.A. 211808A to Admty.)

South Atlantic

BETONY (Corvette). Intend sailing BETONY at 0600Z 22nd Feb. coastal to Durban S.O.A. 13 knots, E.T.A. 0400Z 23rd Feb. (N.L.O. E. London 210716Z to Admty.)

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21.2.1945  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Comsitrep  
No. 78.

Ending 191159A.

(1) During night 15/16 METEOR, MATCHLESS and SIMOUN carried out pursuit against enemy destroyers but were too late and turned back at daylight without results.

(2) On 15th F.O.B. reports "enemy soldiers landing Menton from rubber boat at about 0400. Three killed, one prisoner, boat also captured." SIMOUN fired 62 rounds at A.A. battery counterfire 2 salvos of 2 rounds at very close range. No damage. On 16th SIMOUN fired 42 rounds at bridge, road and railway. Very good shooting. Counterfire in 6 salvos of 2 or 3 rounds. One fell forward, another astern. Slight scratches on hull. MATCHLESS fired 58 rounds at Command Post. Hits on building, area well covered and 21 rounds at occupied hotel. Shoot cancelled owing to poor visibility. On 18th BASQUE fired 82 rounds on Command Post - many direct hits - bright orange explosion observed believed ammunition dumps.

(3) Patrol of P.T. boats during night: 15/16 counterfire of 105 m. from shore batteries located in Savona area, 16/17 craft returned at 2345 owing to rough weather, 18/19 results yet unknown.

(4) Number of mines sunk or sighted during this period is slightly increasing.

(5) After being relieved in area METEOR sailed Naples 0700A/16th GEORGES LEYGUES arrived Toulon 0800A/16th, FORTUNE has resumed Flankforce duties 0800A/19th.

(Comflanfor 210021A to F.O.N.A.M., etc.)

Black Sea  
Ports.

Reference C. in C. Med.'s 011901 and your 101605.

(2) Request you will obtain similar information for other Black Sea ports.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 210401A to Admiral Archer.)

F.S. PUMPER  
Distress.

In distress 3 miles west Carigo (no trace), request immediate assistance.

(PUMPER 210430Z to All ships.)

USK, SHIEL,  
(frigates.)

On completion of exercise proceed in company to pass position 309 at 2000B/22nd thence by basic eastbound route to Port Said E.T.A. 399 0700/23rd S.O.A. 15 knots.

S.N.O.R.S.C.A. is requested to arrange canal transit and onward routeing to East Indies.

(F.O.L.E.M. 211153 to USK, SHIEL.)

Nationals  
for Black Sea.

It is under consideration to sail a troopship to Constanza to disembark some 2000 Czech Government personnel with baggage and possibly motor cars.

(2) If this move materializes ship may leave U.K. 10th March in K.M.F. 41 carrying also Russian repatriates for Odessa.

(3) Request information as to (a) length and draught of ship which can be taken alongside at Constanza, or (b) whether arrangements can be made for disembarkation by tender.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 211607A to Admiral Archer, see 221310A.)

/Dressing...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Dressing ship. Ship of 8th Fleet will be dressing with masthead flags from colours to sunset tomorrow 22nd for Washington's birthday. All allied warships in company with U.S. ships are to conform.  
(C. in C. Med., 211854A to Med. Fleet.)
- Situation report No. 567. (1) Adriatic. Situation Zara very satisfactory. Outer defence boom now complete. More than 50 British ships and craft are now present. Naval parties extinguished fire in local hospital.  
(2) Corfu. Defence measures reported satisfactory and situation quiet.  
(C. in C. Med. 211918A to F.O.L.E.M.)
- E.V. FANCY. Request estimated sailing date of FANCY. Your 101245 Jan. refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 212143A to Admty.)  
Reply 231901A.
- Cositintrep No. 591. Part 3 Air. 205, B.24s dropped 402 tons Trieste Harbour, very good, 112 B.24s 214 tons Fiume Harbour, good, 48 B.24s 93 tons Pola Harbour, fair. Coastal Air Force. 2 Beaufighters hit and set fire to stores depot at Malisana, one Wellington bombed barges off Porto Fino.  
Balkan Air Force. Mauraunders bombed shipping and hit installations at Uraljevica and Baltimores straddled jetties Semd Harbour.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. No T.O.O/21 to W.O.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Radar contacts (a) Visual sighting by S.A.F. aircraft 19th Feb. one ship funnel aft course 148° 52' 006° 30' N. 097° 47' E.  
(b) Ungraded radar contact by aircraft two small ships position 006° 56' N. 093° 21' E. 19th Feb.  
(c) Ungraded radar contact by aircraft at 1305 G.M.T. 20th Feb. in position 006° 34' N. 093° 34' E.  
(C. in C. E.I. 210255Z to S.O. Force 68.)

U/B dis-positions. No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 210354Z to S. & A. E.I. Station.)

Operations, report on. Reports of recent Pacific operations indicate that the Japanese may be using (a) (aircraft?) shells from 125 m.m. guns, (b) radar on nominal 650 m/cs. This was previously reported experimental.  
(C. in C. E.I. 210615Z to F.Os. E.I. Station.)

A.F.D. 20, & L.C.I. movements. Arrived A.F.D. 20 in tow of EMINENT and DESTINY Flight P.L.C.I.(L) 305 (S.O.), 295, 121, 177, 301, 310, 104, 125, 136, 115, 277, 183, 135, 166, 311, 266.  
L.C.G.7 and 449 in tow of SAMTAMPA departed L.C.T. 1239, 557 in tow of CITY OF DURBAN.  
(Com. Aden 211723Z to Admty.)

Escorts. The provision of escort for large numbers of New Zealand troops is a matter of Government policy. Your 171201 refers.

(2) Ships referred to in A.M. 051902 should be escorted throughout and it is requested that you will report escort arrangements intended.  
(V.C.N.S. 211919A to C. in C. E.I.) *See 041119Z July + 270817Z July*

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21.2.1945  
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesN.S.H.Q.  
Submarine  
Attack  
and  
Sighting  
Summary.No report since my 190520.  
Paragraph C.T.G. 61.1 attacked contact in :-  
42.03 N. 65.38 W. at 1425Z 20th.  
(N.S.H.Q., 210245Z to Admty.)

E.Gs.

Your 210324Z. WINNIPEG, LETHBRIDGE, GALT,  
BRANDON are with O.N.S.41A. PICTOU escorting  
EMPIRE SEVERN.  
(S.O.W.5, 210705Z to C. in C C.N.A.)

SEARCH PLANS Your 101630.

Concur that retiring search plans F.T.P.223A  
provide good alternative to the box search, C.B.  
4097 Art. 576 refers. Reference para. 3 of  
your signal these plans are considered too rigid for use to the  
exclusion of other types of search. They should, therefore, only  
be used in British areas outside Canadian operational control  
after consideration of all the methods available as laid down in  
relevant British and U.S. publications and operational command  
orders.  
(D.A.U.D., 221219A to N.S.H.Q.)U-boat  
dispositions

(N.S.H.Q., 211308Z and Cominch, 211510Z.)

A.F.D.32

Convoy New York, 152. R.N. Tugs SAMSONIA,  
ENVOY, MEDIATOR towing A.F.D.32 (Brit.) escorted  
by U.S.S. PRUDENT (P.G.96) departed Ambrose  
1415/20 bound San Juan. E.T.A. 1400/01.  
(P.D. New York, 211326Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R)Navigation  
lights  
W.AtlanticConcur Urdis 181125A\* with following changes.  
Sub. para. 4 insert semi-colon after entrance and  
add "Aldo at full brilliance when within three  
mile limit of Canal Zone Coastal waters".  
Sub. para. 6 delete "During periods of low  
visibility at Master's discretion".  
(Com. Task Flt., 211529 to Admty.)  
\* M.A.R.I. for U.S. Area.Search  
Area.Glan to Leare search area 60° N. 23' W. Friday  
23rd for Foel. Request instructions.  
(C.T.U. 22.2.1, 211615 to C. in C. Lant.)T.G.62.1  
(Constitution  
of).Task Group 62.1 hereby constituted Capt. Rooney  
in EBERLE, MC.COOK, THOMPSON, ALDEN, MATTAPONI.  
Escort U.G.F.21 SATURN included departing Hampton  
Roads 1st March for Mediterranean ports. Detach  
MATTAPONI, ALDEN for Casablanca and Eastern  
terminus oiler duty. Escorts lay over at Oran.

/Return...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

T.G.62.1 Return escorting G.U.F.21 when directed by  
(Constitution C. in C. Med.  
of.) Contd. (C. in C. Lant, 211645Z Comdesron 13) Amended by  
220229Z.)

MURFREESBORO Tanker MURFREESBORO while en route Aruba to  
Incident Halifax reports experiencing an under water  
explosion in vicinity of ship at about 1030Z/20  
in approximate position 43.24 N. 63.13 W.  
MURFREESBORO seeing a convoy on horizon presumed  
convoy under attack. Reconstruction of plot indicates XB.146  
was in area at that time, can you amplify?. Com. 1 pass to S.O.  
E.G.27 on arrival.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 211714Z to S.O.E.G.27.)

29th In view of the losses sustained by the 29th  
M.T.B. M.T.B. Flotilla it is suggested that this Flotilla  
Flotilla be disbanded the remaining boats to be paid off and  
revert to Admiralty.  
(2) If you concur in this action personnel  
released thereby will be used to bring the 65th  
M.T.B. Flotilla Spare Pool up to strength - the balance  
returning to Canada.  
(N.S.H.Q. 211835A to Admty.)

Escorts Concur with C. in C.E.I., 171115 para. 1.  
U.S. (2) Request you will endeavour to obtain U.S.  
Troopships agreement to unescorted sailing of their troopships  
at discretion of C. in C.E.I.  
(V.C.N.S., 211915A to B.A.D.)

GANANOQUE, E.T.A. 1130Z/22 with H.M. <sup>Rescue</sup> ~~Royal~~ Tug TENACITY.  
LANGLEE- Request pilot and harbour (?tug) to assist towing  
\_BROOK. SS. LANGLEE\_BROOK.  
(H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE, 212230Z to F.O.N.F.)

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F. The B.P.T.M. mentioned in para. 1 of my 180205  
(Organisation) is being forwarded to Addressees.  
Carrier (2) Following are salient features.  
Squadrons (A) Carrier Squadrons organized into:  
(1) Fleet Carrier Squadrons into first and  
second Carrier Squadrons.  
(2) Light Fleet Carrier Squadrons into 10th  
Carrier Squadron.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F. (3) Ferry and Replenishment Carrier Squadron  
 (Organisation) into 30th Carrier Squadron.  
 Carrier (Short title of Carrier Squadrons is first A.C.  
 Squadrons etc.).  
 (Contd.) (B) Battleships are organized into first B.S.  
 (C) Vice Admiral Second in Command is now  
 Task Force Commander (113 or 57) or B.S.1.  
 (D) Rear Admiral Commanding First Carrier is

A.C.1.  
 (E) R.A.F.T. Operating Title is C.T.F.112.  
 (C. in C. B.P.F. 210148Z to Admty.) Also 250341Z.

Flag LOTHIAN wearing the flag of F.O.F.T. B.P.F.  
 Officer sailing 30 sails at 1200K 24th February for  
 F.T. Manus, via the east gate.  
 B.P.F. Route details.  
 (N.O.I.C. Sydney, 210425Z to LOTHIAN.)

Routeing When ready 24th Feb. request you sail for Manus  
 for in TYNE accompanied by RESOURCE H.M.A.S. PIRIE,  
 Destroyer LAUNCESTON and CRANE via the West Gate sailing  
 Flotilla serial number 4. Route - via inshore route  
 B.P.F. keeping 6 miles off prominent headland and thence  
 through position - all positions are south and  
 east unless otherwise stated. Details.  
 (SG) Lunn Island (SM) Bunora Island.  
 (SJ) 010° 21' S. 151° 48' E. (SK) Thitara Island.  
 (SL) All positions south and east unless otherwise indicated.  
 (details) thence to destination.  
 F.O.F.T. B.P.F. 180615 C.E.F.'s 190429, C. in C. B.P.F.  
 200846, not to all, refer.  
 (N.O.I.C. Sydney, 210542Z, F.O.C. Dest. Flot B.P.2)  
 Amended by 220410Z.

B.P.F. This answers your 291214 Jan. not to A.C.N.B.  
 navigation (2) Survey of the area referred to in your para.  
 (1) will be given first priority on the reforming  
 of Task Unit 70.5.3 in (corrupt group). April next  
 Para. 2 of my 111203 January refers. In the  
 meantime ships will be routed through Clarence Strait.  
 (3) Views contained in your para. (2A) are not agreed to.  
 Strong cross tidal streams prevail in North Channel and if it  
 were used numerous navigational aids would have to be placed  
 including light buoys and it is extremely doubtful whether these  
 would stay in position for any length of time.  
 (4) Light vessels fitted with radio beacons are not available.  
 It is intended to mark the existing Howard Channel and Approaches  
 with navigational aids as follows.  
 (A) Light buoy on bill shoal 051° 13 miles from Cape Hotham  
 Light.  
 (B) Light buoy guarding the shallow patches 175° 1.5 miles  
 from East Vernon Light.  
 (C) Light structure on Henry Ellis Reef.  
 (5) It is intended that the aids to navigation enumerated in  
 para. 5 above be placed during March and April and in  
 addition all existing aids to navigation in this area will be  
 relit.  
 (A.C.N.B., 210545Z to Admty.)

/Digest...

21.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Digest Serial (1) Search Liberator saw two tanker type vessels  
No. 1127. two Matsu class destroyers northbound off Cape  
20.2.1945. Padaran this morning, observed submarine attack  
in progress.  
(2) Two freighters two escorting warships sighted  
off Tourane at midday course north.  
(3) Patrol Liberators over Formosa area. Reported one hospital  
ship entering Keelung Harbour where three small freighters  
already anchored: two coasters, 5 luggers dispersed along  
coast southeast of Keelung, one coaster attacked and damaged:  
another coaster attacked and sunk off central west coast Formosa.  
(4) R/C Liberator over Okinawa Group midday sank 3 seatrucks,  
plus one small coaster craft, damaged one seatruck and one troop  
laden motor vehicle on shore: also shot down 2 Japanese planes  
over Naha Aerodrome.  
(6) On Corregidor over 1700 Jap. dead counted and systematic  
elimination of remainder in tunnels and caves continues encoun-  
tering stubborn resistance.  
(14) Night 19th Feb. (corrupt group) (boat) destroyed one lugger  
southern end Bahol Strait next day (corrupt group) Corsairs  
during daylight destroyed one barge on coast northern (?Eou)  
Island.  
(18) 26 Liberators dropped 40 tons Centuries on Licana Aerodrome  
and 14 Corsairs (passage undecypherable) 18th February Catalinas  
observed one small freighter entering Bima Bay N. Soema Island  
from north and 2 small freighters northbound through Sapi Strait.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 211055Z.)

Radar gear. 38 box containing radar type 285 P.4 complete  
embarked in NAPIER understand C. in C. E.I. Stn.  
arrange for one case containing 3 man range  
finders complete less item mentioned in para. 2  
to be embarked in M.S. sailing from Colombo Sunday 25th Feb.  
C. in C. E.I. Stn. 130649\* not to F.O.C.D.F. B.P.F. refers.  
(2) Following additional items will be required.  
(a) Construction of radar office dimension 13 feet by 7 feet by 7 ft.  
(b) Construction of Pedestal structure for 3 man range finders.  
(c) Fixed and rotating windscreens for range finders with  
vertical and lateral Roller Assembly 4 in number.  
(d) Installation radar type SG now TYNE.  
(3) Request fitting port be nominated so preliminary arrange-  
ments may be made without delay on arrival.  
(Capt. D.7th D.F., 211229Z to V.A.(Q) B.P.F.)  
\* Consider NAPIER can be made available for requirement in  
B.P.F. 043.

U.S. opera- Iwo assault progressing against heavy opposition.  
tions on 1200K/20th Feb. control southern 3rd of Island  
Iwo Jima, less volcano Tip. Number 1 airfield captured.  
(began 19/2) Personnel casualties moderate to heavy. Naval  
damage light. Enemy air negligible.  
(Cominch 211415 to Comnavu.)

/B.P.F....



# TOP 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.)

212205A February

To C. in C. B.P.F.  
Info. V.A.B.P.F.  
C. in C. E.I.  
F.O. Air E.I.  
F.O.N.A.S. (Australia)

Date 21.2.45

B.P.F.

Air crew

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NAVAL CYPHER XD

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From Admiralty.

DEFERRED

Your 120841.

Para. 2. Admiralty plans allow 25% overbearing of all operational Squadrons and 10% pool of I.E. plus overbearing. This cannot be met fully until later this year. Meanwhile all available crews not required at home are sent to F.O. Air E.I. to distribute according to operational requirements in the two commands. (Admiralty message 170354 January refers). Presume your 10% wastage rate per month includes aircrews returned to non-operational duties after completion of operational tour, i.e., after about 15 months in first line squadron, if not, there will be insufficient crews to keep up with this figure.

Para. 3. Additional aircrews appointed to pool in Ceylon next month are

- (a) 20 Corsair left U.K. by air 20/2 only 6 of whom have qualified in D.L.T.
- (b) nil Hellcats, requirements should be met by local conversion.
- (c) 7 Seafires by sea 15/2 and 6 by air end February, 6 more early March
- (d) no further Firefly crews will be available. A.M. 022149 para. (E) gives details of Firefly situation.
- (e) understood there are ample Avenger crews in Ceylon (F.O. Air E.I. 161201 January refers) a further 7 will be sent by air this month and 10 by sea in March.

Para. 6. It is estimated that you will require 30 Maintenance Test Pilots by June, 4 only have yet been sent. It is intended to send a further 3 per month from March onwards. Remainder must come from your own resources by using R.A.A.F. or operational tour expired pilots. Your requirements for ferry pilots should be stated. A small number could be sent to you shortly but main supply should at present be from pilots ex

first line already in Australia. This must not be at expense of provision of pilots for Instructors' duties at home, and for training as D.L.C.Os. and A.G.Os for which all pilots suitable must be returned to U.K. on completion of operational tour. Otherwise there will be insufficient in future to provide reliefs and additional requirements.

721 and 723 F.R.U. Squadrons will be fully crewed up on arrival.

724 Communication Squadron has four pilots and will be built up at rate of about four extra per month.

212205A

N.A.2nd S.L. Air  
Q.A.M.296

1st Lord	D.O.D.(H)(4)	D.N.T.
1st S.L.(3)	D.O.D.(F)(2)	D.A.C.R.(2)
D.F.S.L.(2)	D.C.O.D.(4)	Hd. of M.(8)
2nd S.L.	D.A.U.D.	Hd. of Air(A.O.D.2/45)
5th S.L.	D.T.D.(4)	Admiral Blake
V.C.N.S.	D.A/S.W.	Hd. of N.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.T.S.D.	Hd. of C.W.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.A.W.T.	D.C.N.A.E.
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)	D.C.	D. of S.(3)
Sec.	D.A.E.	D.N.A.R.(3)
Nav. Sec.	D.N.A.O.	D.A.M.R.(2)
P.A.S.(NP)	N.A.2nd S.L.	W.D.
P.A.S.(S)	N.A.2nd S.L.(Air)(2)	
D.N.I.(4)	G.O.C.R.M.	
D. of P.(Q)(3)	A.C.N.P.	
D. of P.(2)	D. of M.	

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21.2.1945  
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

B.P.F. Admiralty N.A. 2nd S.L., 212205A to C. in C.  
Air B.P.F. See Lion Copy.  
Crews.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/21st February.  
and sighting Para. A. (1) At 1200Z/20th February H.M. Ships  
summary. torpedoed and at 1205Z/20th February AMETHYST  
and PEACOCK attacked contact in lat. 51.47 N.  
Long. 07.00 W.  
(2) At 1800Z/20th February E/304 attacked sur-  
faced U-Boat with D/cs in lat. 58.53 N. long. 05.12 W.  
(3) At 0731Z/21st February SS. DETTIPOSS torpedoed in lat. 55.03 N  
long. 05.25 W.  
Para. B. (1) At 1131Z/20th February merchant ship in M.K.S.83  
sighted p/s in lat. 49.24 N. long. 06.39 W.  
(2) At 1350Z/20th February Y/120 attacked contact in lat.  
55.43 N. long. 06.53 W.  
(3) At 1445Z/20th February H/103 obtained A.S.V. contact in lat.  
51.37 N. long. 07.57 W.  
(4) At 1930Z/20th February R/36 obtained A.S.V. contact in lat.  
51.48 N. long. 06.35 W.  
Para. C. (1) At 1409Z/19th February M/206 sighted white smoke  
on surface in lat. 61.28 N. long. 01.10 W.  
(2) At 1300Z/20th February FOWEY with M.K.S.83 attacked doubtful  
contact in lat. 49.42 N. long. 06.50 W.  
(3) At 1034Z/20th February C/334 sighted schnorkel in lat. 50.30  
N. long. 05.15 W.  
(4) At 1620Z/20th February H.M.A/S Trawler BERKSHIRE obtained  
contact in lat. 58.14 N. long. 02.25 W.  
(5) At 1901Z/20th February HAYDON reported submerged U-Boat  
in lat. 51.20 N. long. 02.10 E.  
(6) At 1851Z/20th February H.M. M.L.912 attacked contact in  
lat. 55.00 N. long. 05.05 W.  
(7) At 1828Z/20th February H.M.S. WASAGA attacked contact in  
lat. 49.43 N. long. 01.30 W.  
(8) At 2053Z/20th February R/36 obtained A.S.V. contact in lat.  
51.55 N. long. 05.57 W.  
(9) At 2042Z/20th February P/224 obtained A.S.V. contact in  
lat. 61.50 N. long. 00.22 E.  
(10) At 1326Z/20th February E.G.19 obtained contact probably  
wreck in lat. 55.08 N. long. 05.27 W.  
(11) At 1835Z/20th February H.M.M.L. 250 attacked strong contact  
in lat. 51.21 N. long. 01.50 E.  
(12) At 1030Z/20th Feb. F/201 sighted smoke rising from surface  
in lat. 55.51 N. long. 06.57 W.  
(13) At 2243Z/18th February X/458 obtained A.S.V. contact in  
lat. 36.22 N. long. 06.17 W.  
(14) At 1455Z/18th February A/C obtained A.S.V. contact in  
lat. 34.17 N. long. 10.12 W.

/Para. D...

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21.2.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary  
(Contd.)

Para. D.  
(1) At 0113Z/21st February ARUNDEL attacked  
possible U-boat in lat. 51.24 N. long. 02.40 E.  
(D.D.I.C. 211040Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

U-boat  
dispositions

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 211504A, 211508A to A.I.G., Cominch.)

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# CANADIAN CORVETTE LOST

46. 3. 45  
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

OTTAWA, MARCH 25

Mr. Angus Macdonald, the Canadian Minister for Naval Services, has announced that the Canadian corvette Trentonian has been torpedoed and sunk while on escort duty. Two Royal Navy motor launches picked up 95 officers and ratings; six lives were lost. The corvette sank in less than 14 minutes. She was commanded by Lieutenant Colin Glassco, R.C.N.V.R. The low death-roll was due to the fact that all hands were at action stations, all depth-charges had been made safe, and the crew was able to get all Carley floats and the ship's whaler away before the corvette sank.

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War Diary22.2.1945  
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

North Sea.

1(a) Last night's E-Boat activity comprised two large groups. One, from the Hook, made for the Wash and may have laid mines. MENDIP and M.T.B's vectored on by Shore Radar, intercepted and engaged them in an indecisive action. The other group, from the Helder, made for Smith's Knoll and fell in with Convoy F.S.34. They torpedoed the small steamers BLACKTOFT and GOODWOOD and gunned SS. SKJOLD, who returned to Yarmouth. GARTH and M.T.B's engaged them and claim to have set one on fire. This group is also suspected of minelaying. Our forces suffered one slight casualty in M.T.B.458. E-Boats were again reported off Ymuiden and the Hook tonight.

(b) L.S.T. 364 was torpedoed and sunk by U-Boat in Convoy T.A.M. 87 off Ramsgate. TURQUOISE landed 220 survivors at Dover.

(c) At dawn 3 Biber-type midget U-Boats were sunk off Westkapelle by 33rd M.L.Flottilla, and two prisoners taken. They had harmed no one.

Channel.

2. \*TRENTONIAN, corvette and SS. ALEXANDER KENNEDY were torpedoed and sunk in Convoy B.T.C. 76 off the Dodman's at 1330. The area is being intensively depth-charged.

\* Sunk by J.1004 (L/10 from F.S.S.)

Norway.

3. C.S.10 with DIDO, PUNCHER and PREMIER, has carried out operations "Shred" and "Groundsheet" off Norway, minesweeping and minelaying. One Do.24 was destroyed and Stavanger waterfront shot up by our aircraft. We lost two Barracudas.

Northern Waters.

4. On arrival in the Clyde the Soroy civilians are to be segregated; men and boys over 16 will be sent to London under military escort, their womenfolk and children will be removed to Paisley by the police. Press access to the civilians is to be prevented if possible.

Foreign StationsNorth AtlanticU-Boat  
sunk.

U. 300

5. RECRUIT and PINCHER, 14th Appian Flight "F" encountered U-Boat on surface in position 36.25 N. 8.06 W. at 0855. U-Boat was sunk by combined gunfire from both ships, 4 officers and 37 ratings survivors are being taken to Gibraltar.

22.2.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Burma. 6. 9 Liberators laid 92 sea mines off S. Burma, i.e. at Heinze Bay, Victoria Point, Rangoon, Amherst and Tavoy.

Movements. 7. UGANDA arrived Colombo from Aden. FORMIDABLE left Colombo for Fremantle.

Australia and New Zealand

Moluccas 8(a) Venturas attacked small craft in the Sulu Archipelago.  
(b) R.A.A.F. Liberator and Ventura patrol attacked small shipping in the lesser Sunda islands.

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22.2.1945  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.

E-Boat activity. BLACKTOFT sunk in position 198° 57 Buoy 1.2. Survivors in water. (VALOROUS 220201 to F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth.) Convoy was attacked in centre and rear number 35927\* and 38727+ torpedoed and sunk. Unable

yet to obtain complete muster.

(VERDUN 220349 to C. in C. Nore.)

\* BLACKTOFT. + GOODWOOD.

SS. SKJOLD proceeding at 8 knots to Yarmouth Road with gun damage and casualties. Position 4 buoy at 0630.

(MENDIP 220655A to C. in C. Nore.)

During E-Boat activity on night 21/22 February a group of 3 E-Boats was engaged between 0118 and 0124 in the vicinity 57 Buoy and hits obtained on one with 2 pounder and oerlikon.

A fire was observed in E-Boat but all 3 targets made off to S.E.

(2) 20 survivors BLACKTOFT and 26 from GOODWOOD were picked up by GARTH and unit F.C. 3.

(3) 2 further radar contacts indicate possible minelaying in Channel 1 mile 290° from 57 Buoy.

(GARTH 221128A to C. in C. Nore.)

E-Boat activity night 21/22 February.

(1) Two large groups operated, group A from Hook, group B from Helder.

(2) Group A probably between 6 and 12 boats detected by V.164 (Thorpeness) at 2304 110 Lowestoft 45. Group steered north until 0001 when in position 077 Lowestoft 43 it turned west, and steered for Hearty Knoll buoy where MENDIP (patrol 4) and motor torpedo boats intercepted and engaged. One division broke away and may have laid mines near 55A and 4D buoys. This group was not detected by patrolling Wellingtons.

(3) Group B. Wellington detected group of about 7 boats off Helder at 2045 and shadowed to position 55 miles 036 from Yarmouth at 2350 where group appears to have altered course for Smiths Knoll. Reports showing this alteration of course were not received in time to warn patrols. Group B attacked F.S. 34 from port quarter being engaged by GARTH (patrol 3) and M.T.Bs. at 0120. Steamships BLACKTOFT (1100 tons) and GOODWOOD (2780 tons) torpedoed and sunk. Survivors landed at Yarmouth. SS. SKJOLD (1345 tons) damaged by gunfire and returned Yarmouth. Minelaying suspected near 57 buoy.

(4) Shore radar. In addition to V.164 V.163 (Benacre) and V.149 (Hopton) followed group A. The plotting of this group by shore stations was directly responsible for interception made by MENDIP and M.T.Bs. After action was joined situation became confused. Group B was outside range of shore stations until it reached swept channel. V.135 (Winterton) subsequently plotted E-Boats near Winterton Ridge.

(5) M.T.Bs. with MENDIP and GARTH report possible damage to E-Boats. One slight casualty in M.T.B. 458. M.T.B. 469 damaged by submerged wreckage after picking up survivors.

(C. in C. Nore 221210A to Admt.)

Aircraft report 6 E-Boats 52° 18' N. 04° 08' E. at 2220, course 270° 30 knots.

(C. in C. Nore 222242A to patrols.)

5 E-Boats bearing 315° Hook of Holland 5 miles speed unknown.

(Unit F.G. 1 222253 to C. in C. Nore.)

/My...



22.2.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

E-Boat  
activity.  
(Contd.)

My 2242. Six E-Boats 52° 25' N. 03° 35' E. at 2250, course 290° 30 knots.

(C. in C. Nore 222314A to patrols.)

My 2215. Own air striking force about to attack now. Position of enemy 52° 20' N. 3° 20' E. position based on A.S.V. Fix within half an hour of 2300.

(Unit F.G. 1 222337 to C. in C. Nore.)

Five E-Boats reported stationary off Hook at 2300.  
(C. in C. Nore 222346 to patrols.)

Minesweeping  
off E.Coast.

E-Boats plotted in vicinity Q.Z.S. 403. Commencing first light Q.Z.S. 403 to be swept from 4C, to 57 Buoy. Western half of channel to be swept first.

(C. in C. Nore 220234A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Suspected  
minelaying  
off E.Coast.

Minelaying suspected in channel in vicinity 1 mile N.W. 57 Buoy.

(GARTH 220300A to C. in C. Nore.)

Consider mines may have been laid near 55A and 4D Buoys and to westward of the channel in this vicinity.

(MENDIP 220347A to C. in C. Nore.)

Midget U-  
Boats off  
Schelde.

M.L. 901 reports sinking 1 midget submarine in position 340 Westkapelle 6 miles at 0745/22, one prisoner taken.

(2) M.L. 588 has sunk 1 midget submarine in position 30 Westkapelle 5 miles at 0817/22, no prisoners reported.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend 220922A to Com. Belgium.)

Further to my 220922. A third submarine was sunk at approx. same time and position by F.G. 5 patrol. C.F.M.U. 1 reports all submarines were BIBER type and two were known to be carrying torpedoes. It is thought that they were proceeding to carry out attacks on shipping in vicinity of Flushing and had been at sea twelve hours. Two prisoners and not one as reported in my 220922 were taken and are now being interrogated at Ostend.  
(N.O.I.C. Ostend 222114A to Com. Belgium.)

Schelde re-  
opened for  
night  
navigation.

All light buoys on River Schelde between Antwerp and Belgian Frontier have now been replaced and night navigation may now take place on this section of the river.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 220946A to Admty.)

22.2.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Attack by  
U-Boat on  
convoy T.A.M.  
87.

L.S.T. (2) 364 torpedoed and sunk by submarine  
at 0654A today in position 124° N.F. 1 buoy 19  
cables. Ship was in convoy T.A.M. 87.  
(2) 220 survivors being landed at Dover by  
TURQUOISE.  
(C. in C. Nore 221144 to Admty.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 324 part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/21 Feb

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G.F. Ammo.
Antwerp	114	665	2,804	-	11,139	-
Ostend	981	254	2,267	-	20	672
Boulogne	36	55	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	2,272	-	-
Calais	3,256	-	392	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,054	-	-	1,546
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Total	4,387	974	8,517	2,272	11,159	2,218
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
U.S. North						
Antwerp	-	128	11,690	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	429	7,751	-	418	5,981
Le Havre	5,428	719	9,380	-	3,425	3,173
Rouen	9	88	7,412	-	-	-
Granville	-	-	-	2,830	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,766	-	-	-
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	5,437	1,364	39,999	2,830	3,843	9,154
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U.S. South						
Marseilles	4,071	562	3,697	1,026	-	1,134
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,805	850	-	2,805
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
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Total	4,071	562	6,502	1,876	-	3,939
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Note (1) Correct G.F. ammo. discharge Port de Bouc for 20  
February was 1996 tons.

(2) Also 323 tons stores discharged at Sete and 600 tons coal at  
Morlaix - both French civil ports.

(S.H.A.E.F. 221845A to Admty., and others.)

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22.2.1945  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel.Patrols &  
Escorts.

Resume patrol coastal convoy route Lizard to Start Point. Convoy B.T.C. 76 vicinity Lizard Hd. 1030A/22nd Trail towards Eddystone and comply with my 212108A.

(C. in C. Plymouth 220826A to DUCKWORTH, COOKE.)

On arrival of convoy off Cherbourg detach and proceed to join S.O.E.G. 15 at anchor off St. Helens.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 221240A to NARBOROUGH, INGLIS.)

Ships addressed form Force 27. DELPHINIUM take STONECROP, LOUISBERG under her orders and proceed with despatch when ready establish Gamma search C.B. 4097 para. 596.

A. 50° 12' N. 03° 55' W. 49° 52' N. 04° 11' W.

B. 090° 100°. C. As soon as possible. D. Until further orders.

(2) TANATSIDE sail when ready and assume S.O. TANATSIDE, DELPHINIUM acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221538A to DELPHINIUM, STONECROP, LOUISBERG, TANATSIDE.)

U-Boat attack  
on convoy

Escort and one M/V sunk by torpedo in position 319\* degs. Dodman Point 5 miles.

B.T.C. 76.

(TRENTONIAN 221230Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

TRENTONIAN Sunk

\* As received presumably reciprocal intended.

by J. 1004 (Info from F. 2. 5.)

Ship torpedoed in position 50° 6' 30" N. 4° 45' W.

(M.L. 124 221333A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Have been struck by a torpedo aft.

(TRENTONIAN No T.O.O. to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Close 50° 6' N. 4° 45' W. ship torpedoed.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221350A to DUCKWORTH, COOKE.)

Close to 50° 06' N. 04° 45' W. at full speed.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221407A to MONTREAL, RIBBLE.)

Close 50° 06' N. 04° 45' W. at full speed.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221410A to ROWLEY, DOMETT.)

Convoy Comdre. reports TRENTONIAN and ALEX KENNEDY were sunk. Attack was from starboard side convoy.

(MELBREAK 221513 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

NIGHT HAWK take charge of ships addressed and establish patrol between Lizard Head and 156 Dodman Point 20.

(2) Group proceed in line abreast at best speed and release one depth charge every 3 minutes till further orders.

(3) Two ships were torpedoed 155 Dodman Point 5 at 1330A/22 NIGHT HAWK acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221518A to NIGHT HAWK, OCEAN VIEW, ARMANIA, IJUIN.)

BEN URIE take charge of ships addressed and establish patrol between Eddystone and 156 Dodman Pt. 20.

(2) Group is to proceed in line abreast at best speed and release one depth charge every 3 minutes.

(3) Two ships were torpedoed at 1330A/22 155 Dodman 5.

(4) BEN URIE acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221523A to BEN URIE, DORINDA, DOROTHY LAMBERT.)

Regret to report TRENTONIAN and SS. ALEXANDER KENNEDY in B.T.C. 76 torpedoed and sunk at 1330 on 22nd Feb. in 50° 06' N. 04° 45' W. 18 survivors (including 2 D.E.M.S. ratings) of ALEXANDER KENNEDY landed at Plymouth. F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to signal details of survivors and casualties of TRENTONIAN landed at Falmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221856 to Admty.)

22.2.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France.

German supply craft for Gironde and La Rochelle. Ref. para. 2 of A.N.C.X.F. 210955A suggest French ship AMIRAL MOUCHEZ and F.Y.M.S. named in Com. Task Group 125.10's 181601A which are now believed to be at Bayonne might carry out this operation. (2) Com. Task Group 125.10's 181601A not to A.N.C.X.F. or S.H.A.E.F. (Main). (C. in C. Plymouth 221616A to Admty.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Hunt for sinker of DETTIFOSS. My 211636A. At 2258A/21 obtained bottom contact in position 55° 00' 20" N. 05° 38' 18" W. (2) Contact gives very good echo and shows characteristics German U-Boat stemming tide. Only echo sounder trace obtained gives height 24 ft (3) 2 Squid and 1 depth charge attack has so far produced no positive evidence. (4) Intend remaining in contact until identity definitely established. (5) AMBUSCADE detached to base. (6) Suitable. (a) Average. (S.O. Force 33 220210A to C. in C. W.A.) My 220210A. Contact now established as non submarine by further echo sounder trace 24 feet high 120 feet broad lying 150° - 330° proceeding in accordance with your 212016A, (support C.U. 58.) (S.O. Force 33 220401A to C. in C. W.A.)

Probable U-Boat. Your 221714A\* arrived at position and co-operating with aircraft 608 W.5 believed in Sono Buoy contact. (S.O. Force 33 222120A to C. in C. W.A.) \* Definite snort in 55° 36' N. 05° 54' W.

NYASALAND's U-Boat. Their Lordships congratulate NYASALAND on the detection and probable destruction of a U-Boat on the night of 17th December in difficult sea conditions, thus preventing SS. RIMUTAKA from standing into danger. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 222313A to NYASALAND.)

Operations.

Norway.

Patrol. A. VIKING 64° 30' N. 08° 15' E. at 0630/22nd thence through 64° 30' N. 04° 20' E. to 090° Muckle Flugga 10 speed 125 miles in 24 hours diving by day. (C.O.W. 220151A to A.I.G. 25.)

/Operation...

22.2.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Operation  
"S.C."

Ramose Zigzag. VIGRA returned to Lerwick at 1350A/  
22nd February. (2) Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 221355A to A.C.O.S.)  
Ramose Screen. HESSA and HITRA returned to  
Lerwick at 1700A/22nd February. (2) Operation  
successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 221705A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations  
"Shred" and  
"Groundsheet."

Operation "Shred." First sweep completed  
successfully. No mines seen to be cut. Rough  
weather caused loss of third of sweeping gear  
thus rendering second night's sweep impracticable.  
(2) Operation "Groundsheet". Seven mines laid  
successfully. Two Barracudas destroyed. Fighter cover lost  
minelayers at landfall which was made over Stavanger in error.  
No enemy aircraft encountered in air. One Do. 24 destroyed at  
mooring. Two silo type of buildings on Stavanger waterfront  
shot up. Wildcats suffered no casualties.  
(3) Forces 3 and 4 returning to base. Force 3 P.C.S. at 1500A  
59° 00' N. 01° 00' E. 265° 8. Force 4 P.C.S. at 1800 58° 54' N.  
00° 20' W. 265° 14 knots.  
(C.S. 10 221830A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

German U-  
Boat and  
aircraft  
bases.

(1) Russians report that German submarines in this  
area operating from Harstad and Ju. 88s Bardufoss.  
(2) They have not yet been able to confirm this  
by air R/C.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 220840H to Admty.)

E.G. 9.

Proceed to Scapa. You will be sailing a.m.  
tomorrow 23rd Feb.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 221007A to S.O.E.G. 9.)

Civilians  
from Soroy.

At the request of the Norwegian Government and  
with the agreement of other British Government  
Departments concerned the Admiralty have evacuated  
approx. 500 Norwegian civilians from enemy occupied  
territory.  
(2) Evacuees comprise 170 men, 136 women, mainly old people, and  
196 children and will reach the Clyde by opportunity mentioned in  
S.B.N.O. North Russia's 191810.  
(3) The following arrangements for reception have been made by  
the Security Executive in consultation with Departments concerned.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Civilians  
from Soroy.  
(Contd.)

(a) On arrival at the Clyde the Norwegians will be formally "refused leave to land" by the Immigration Officer and men and boys over 16 will be separated from the rest of the party. Officers of the Norwegian Navy will explain why this segregation is necessary.

(b) Women and children under 16 will be removed to Paisley with Police escort under arrangements to be made by Ministry of Health, and the Department of Health for Scotland, and will be accommodated there. The Security Service will carry out at Paisley such security examination of the women and children as is considered necessary.

(c) Men and boys will be conveyed to London under arrangements to be made by G.H.Q. Home Forces (G.H.Q. will provide a military escort and the officer in charge will be instructed to report to S.C.O. Clyde, for orders.) The arrangements to be made by G.H.Q. include a special train, with canteen compartment.

(4) To avoid possible reprisals by enemy no accounts of the evacuation will be permitted in the Press until after expiration of a period to be determined by Admiralty in consultation with Norwegian Government. A censorship stop has accordingly been imposed. Steps will be taken by the S.C.O. Clyde to prevent, as far as possible, representatives of the press from obtaining access to any of the aliens at port.

(5) On instructions from Admiralty Headquarters of Departments concerned will instruct their local officers to take the necessary action.

(6) Request you will convene meeting of the Clydeside representatives of Departments concerned to discuss in advance the detailed arrangements.

(Hd. of M. 221024A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

E.G. 1. Your 221000A to C. in C. Rosyth only. Proceed forthwith to Lerwick. Complete with fuel. Report E.T.A. to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 221157A to S.O.E.G. 1.)

Anti-  
Schnorkel  
obstructions.

Sailed BRITTANY (S.O.), RINGWOOD and RISOR to implement para. 3(c) of Commanding Officer, POMONA's letter 405/5 of 9th Jan. 1945.

(2) B.D.O. in BRITTANY's 221430A (not to all addressees) refers.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 222312A to C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S.,)

22.2.1945  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Baltic.Reported  
sinking  
of EMDEN.Your 211425A. EMDEN was located at Kiel by P.R.U. on 21st February, 1945. No confirmation yet of any other vessel attacked.  
(D.D.I.C. 221722A to Adm. Archer.)Movements.

A.F.D. 55.

My 201130A tow and docking continuing satisfactorily. Weather fair with moderate short swell. My position 045° 36' N. 009° 29' W. course 224° speed of advance 5½ knots.

No further progress report will be made if progressing satisfactorily. REDMILL reports as follows:-

(1) Have obtained bearing by H/F D/F believed to be enemy submarine transmitting naval enigma signal 2nd class 049° operator estimates over 30 miles but in ground wave. Sense determined frequency received as Col. one from appendix 1. T.O.O. 202126Z.

(2) Have obtained bearing by H/F D/F believed to be enemy submarine transmitting naval enigma signal 3rd class 032° far (skywave). Sense determined. T.O.O. 211855Z.

(3) Have obtained bearing by H/F D/F believed to be enemy submarine transmitting naval enigma signal 3rd class 055° far (skywave). Frequency 3800 k/cs. Sense determined. T.O.O. 212023Z.

(4) Have obtained bearing by H/F D/F believed to be enemy submarine transmitting naval enigma signal 3rd class 171 far (skywave). Frequency 3800 k/cs. T.O.O. 212025Z.

(CHAMELEON 221037A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Following is report referred to in CHAMELEON's 211032 (not to all) received by hand from MINALTO. Begins:  
From Dockmaster A.F.D. 55 dated 20th February.

The towing of the dock to date appears to be satisfactory. The following proposals are submitted.

(1) The four vent holes to the forward scow compartment were completely closed at Devonport. The centre port side cover has been blown off by the trapped air. It is therefore considered advisable to close the outboard vents, and close 50% of the venting area of the inboard vents. To this the Commanding Officer of H.M.R.T. EMPHATIC has suggested that the fore end scow compartment be made into a water tight compartment adding that Capt. Mylcreest holds this opinion.

(2) It is generally considered necessary that the breakwater be moved forward to within 2 feet of the fore end, and increased in height to 4 feet.

(3) Horizontal fendering in way of rods to 14" gate valve is liable to damage the rods if the fendering breaks adrift. The rods pass through holes in the fendering. It is therefore proposed that the fenders be cut back to the dock wall to obviate possible damage to the rods.

(4) Chafing of the leading edges of the fore scow end has been observed, possible causes being (i) when recovering bridle (ii) by wash at sea.

It is therefore proposed that steel chafing plates be fitted to the concrete. Ends.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221735A to D.C.O.M. Admty.)

/BARFLEUR...

22.2.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

BARFLEUR  
Fr. Aux.  
Cruiser.

F.S. BARFLEUR sailed at 1749A/22, S.O.A. 12 knots,  
E.T.A. position D. 35° 51' N. 06° 10' W. at  
0600A/26.  
(Comar Brest 221750A to C.T.F. 125, Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

B.T.C., T.C.B.  
convoys.

Ships of 14 knots and over which are required to  
proceed down Channel to Falmouth or Bristol  
Channel for ballast are not to be sailed in T.B.C.  
convoys but are to await next suitable ocean  
convoys, preference being given to U.C. convoys  
even if this involves delay.  
Conversely, similar ships from Falmouth eastbound are not to  
proceed in B.T.C. convoys  
(D.T.D. 221911A to C.T.F. 125, C. in C. Portsmouth.)



War Diary.

22.2.1945.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

U-Boat sunk. 1 submarine on surface engaging. My position 36° 25' N. 008° 06' W. (RECRUIT, 220855A to Gib. C.C.O.). My 220855. Submarine abandoned ship when fire was opened. Submarine sunk. Picking up survivors. (RECRUIT, 220933A to Gib. C.C.O.).

Add to my 220933. No casualties or damage to H.M. ships. (RECRUIT, 221857A to F.O.G.M.A.).

*Reported this submarine heavily damaged by E-boats on 19th Feb 8'55N Tanta PE  
H.M. 1425 A March*

U.S. destroyer escorts. On completion of support duties detailed in my 211134, proceed to patrol on line Cape Trafalgar to Cape Spartel until further orders. (2) Amend para.5 of my 211134 accordingly. (F.O.G.M.A., 221810A to C.D.D.32).

U-Boat sunk. RECRUIT and PINCHER 14th Appian Flight F encountered German U-Boat on the surface in position 036° 25' N. 008° 06' W. at 0855A today 22nd February.

(2) German U-Boat was sunk by combined gunfire of both ships.  
(3) 4 Officers and 37 ratings survivors are being brought into Gibraltar.  
(4) Further details will be signalled after preliminary interrogation of survivors.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 222001A and 231927A to C. in C. Med.).

Gibraltar St. fishing. Following is repetition of F.O.G.M.A.'s. 111216 addressed Admiralty info: C. in C. Med. Begins: A.O.C. requests consideration be given to the prohibition of fishing outside the 3 mile limit in area between 9° W. and Strait of Gibraltar.

Presence of Spanish Fishing boats in this area and consequent frequent illumination renders search light Wellington patrols partially abortive. Ends.

(2) Request early signal reporting possible effect of such restrictions on Spanish and Portuguese fishing.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 222147A to N.A. Madrid, reply 232033A and 241231).

Information, Lack of. (1) Considerable confusion and unnecessary signalling was caused by the non-receipt of C. in C. Lant's route for C.T.G. 21.5 and the entire lack of information concerning this movement both eastbound and westbound received by me.

(2) In an endeavour to maintain strict security, the U.S. authorities have in fact called particular attention to the fact that some movement of great importance was taking place.

(3) Request this be taken up with U.S. authorities with a view to keeping me fully informed of all operations of this nature in the area for which I am responsible.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 221055A to Admty.)

War Diary.22.2.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Nationals. Your 211607. Para. 3(A) is answered by B.N.L.O.  
(Black Sea) Black Sea's 201242.  
(2) Concurrence of Soviet Naval authorities to  
this move and information as to disembarkation  
by tender is being sought. Admty. pass to  
C. in C. Med. and C.S.A. Istanbul.  
(Admiral Archer, 221310A to Admty.)  
Note: Considering to sail a troopship to Constanza to disembark  
some 200 Czech Government personnel may leave U.K. 10th March  
in K.M.F.41 carrying also Russian repatriates for Odessa.

Ship for Passing Straits of Gibraltar 22nd Feb. VADSO  
Black Sea. destination Odessa approximate dates of arrival  
Piraeus 28th Feb., Istanbul 3rd March, Odessa 5th  
March. (?Request) appropriate Turkish and  
Soviet Union Authorities be informed here.  
F.O.L.E.M. pass to B.N.L.O. Black Sea for Alusna Odessa. C.S.A.  
Istanbul pass to Alusna Istanbul.  
(C. in C. Med., 221314A to C.S.A. Istanbul.)

S/M Arrived S/M SEAROVER.  
movement. (V.A.M., 222152 to Admty.)

Cositintrep Coastal Air Force. Beaufighters reced.  
No. 592. Promontore/Grado and attacked and probably hit  
600 ton coaster. Other Beaufighters claim  
direct rocket hits on 200 feet tanker in  
Cittanova but no definite results were observed.  
Wellingtons bombed E-Boats and barges in Gulf of Genoa with  
generally unobserved results.  
Balkan Air Force. 24 Baltimores and 25 Marauders bombed  
coaling wharf at Arsa registering hits on jetty crane and coal  
installations and starting fires. Intense heavy flak was met  
and 1 Baltimore is missing.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., No T.O.O./22.)

22.2.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-positions. No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 220344Z to S. & A. E.I.S.)

Tug and Dock situation. EMINENT and DESTINY expect to be ready to proceed 24th with A.F.D. 20, ADVANTAGE reports that CHEERLY has defect in one engine necessitating slipping tow of A.F.D. 53. CHEERLY has been ordered to Massawa. Likely ADVANTAGE and A.F.D. 53 will arrive Aden before 25th. BOLD expected to be ready about 26th subject to satisfactory trials.

(2) Propose (a) EMINENT and DESTINY with A.F.D. 20 proceed when ready escorted by BANFF. N.O.I.C. Massawa 211059 not to all refers.

(b) A.F.D. 18 towed by ADVANTAGE and ENFORCER escorted by 1 escort on passage sail when ready about 3rd March. A.M. 021930 refers.

(c) Sail A.F.D. 53 towed by CHEERLY and BOLD as soon as both are ready escorted by LANDGUARD.

(3) With ref. to para. 4 of your 200412 A.F.D. 20 can anchor and weigh. Further signal will be made after arrival of A.F.D.53 (Com. Aden 220921Z to C. in C. E.I.) See 231926A.

Incident. RRRR 3. Cancel my warship raider distress AAA believed to be a Liberty ship that opened fire on us.

(EMPIRE JURA, via Colombo 220925Z to General.)  
RRRR 3 fired at in position 14.25 N. long. 57.00 E.  
(MNCC) EMPIRE JURA, No T.O.O. to Admty.)

Air crews	Following is state of Avenger crews in East Indies.		
Avenger.	Squadron	I.E.	Number of Crews
	845	8	9
	851	8	10

(2) In 756 Squadron N.O.T.U. and Pool. (a) 19 crews.

(b) Spare Squadron Commander (Lieut. Cdr. (A) C.D. Jacobson R.N.V.R.)

(c) Spare Senior Pilot (Lieut. (A) C.R. Mellor, R.N.V.R.)

(d) 10 observers and 12 T.A.Gs. spare and as a reserve for 28 observers and 100 T.A.Gs. in East Indies other than those in first line Squadrons.

(3) All pilots will require D.L.P. or D.L.T. this is being arranged as they become ready.

(4) Estimated requirements in next two months is in East Indies Five and in B.P.F. 11 crews. Latter is based on C. in C. B.P.F. 120841 amended by 150125 plus allowance for FORMIDABLE minus 12 crews sent in UNICORN.

(6) Request that I may be informed of (a) any commitments that have not been catered for, (b) numbers or names of aircrews who should be relieved for courses or length of operational tour etc., with preferably two months notice.

(7) Request reflow of Avenger crews be adjusted so as not to exceed 10 per month plus reliefs for those in para. 6 (b).

(F.O. Air E.I. 221019Z to Admty.)

22.2.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Convoys  
(Cycle of)

Consider seven days minimum on assumption that not more than three or four ships in Bombay simultaneously. Para. 2A your 192210 refers.  
(2) Provided adequate advance notice is received of ships E.T.A. Bombay and no repairs etc. required individual ships could be turned round in five days.

(3) Agreed.

(P.S.T.O.(I) 221055 to D.S.T.)

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War Diary22.2.1945  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesN.S.H.Q. S/M  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.Para.C. AMER, MURFREESBORO heard under water  
explosion at 1030Z/20th in 43.24 N. 63.13 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 220150Z to Admty.)

Collision.

B.X. 146

B.X.146. SS. BRUSH and SS. CHARLES B. AYCOCK in  
collision. BRUSH badly damaged above waterline  
proceeding independently to Boston speed 8 course  
274 degs. CHARLES B. AYCOCK proceeding withconvoy. My P.C.S. 042 degs. 36' N. 068 degs. 36' W. 086 degs.  
7.5. Following (?) groups are uncyphered W/R 0056 4562 0534.  
Com. 1st Naval Dist. Boston pass to C.N.L.O. Boston.  
(H.M.C.S. ROSTERN, 220530Z to C.E.S.F.)Note: D. of S.T. has not been included in the distribution of  
this signal.SS. LANGLEE-  
BROOK.My 181428 H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE escorting H.M.R.T.  
TENACITY with LANGLEEBROOK in tow arrived St.  
Johns N.F. 1200Z/22nd Feb.  
(F.O. Newfoundland, 221206Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A.)U-Boat  
dispositions.Estimates.  
(Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 221507Z, 221541Z to  
Admty.)U-Boat  
reports.No report 21st para. G. about 201030Z MURFREESBORO  
heard underwater explosion approx. 43.24 N. 63.13  
W. Para. D. (1) 212139Z H.M.C.S. CHILLIWACK  
reports doubtful contact 43.16 N. 65.38 W.  
(2) About 221300Z H.M.C.S. BATTLEFORD attacked doubt-  
ful contact 40.12 N. 73.44 W.  
(Cominch, 221906Z to Admty for O.I.C.)GATINEAU  
(Destroyer)Anticipate GATINEAU will be ready to sail for U.K.  
about 5th March. Request she may be worked up  
at Tobermory subsequent employment with suitable  
escort group until E.G.11 is reformed.  
(2) A.I.C. communications have been progressed but  
not completed owing to the non-availability of certain equipment  
anticipate this equipment can be fitted in about three to four  
days and it is recommended that same be completed before ship  
proceeds to working up.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 222119Z to C. in C. W.A.)Australia and New ZealandR.A.D.B.P.F.  
Movement.R.A.D. is not now proceeding in TYNE. My  
210542Z and my 210(740)Z not to all. In address  
/for ...

War Diary

22.2.1945  
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

R.A.D. for R.A.D. substitute TYNE as action addressee and  
B.P.F. add R.A.D. as information addressee.  
Movement. (N.O.I.C. Sydney, 220410Z to F.O.C.Dest. Flot.  
(Contd.) B.P.F.)

Digest (1) Liberators over Hong Kong area sank one sea  
No.1128 truck 100 miles to S.W. also saw one large, one  
21.2.45. small freighter - transport, one destroyer escort  
off Kong Kong course N.W., one medium freighter  
two destroyer escorts 40 miles S.W. heading E.  
Similar A/C damaged four or six sea trucks off N.W.

Formosa by bombing and strafing.

(2) Reference para. 1 yesterday's Digest, A/C saw tanker beached and burning Cape Padaran while French observer reported tanker sunk and the remnants of convoy including one tanker one destroyer was later seen going north.

(4) Chinese observers report two transports one destroyer seen heading south 35 miles east Amoy noon while later two transports two destroyers passed Wenchow heading South. Morning same day one armed transport arrived Amoy while one destroyer departed Amoy heading East.

(5) American forces continue driving enemy remnants in Manila into Intramuros area. Entrance effected into Manila Hotel and room to room fighting in progress while further blocks of buildings secured and cleared during day. Enemy casualties on Luzon to-day total 44,578 counted dead including over 1700 on Corregidor, also 406 Japanese prisoners excluding Formosans and Koreans.

(G.Q.H.S.W.P.A. 221235Z Admty.)

B.P.F. Your 210545/Feb. as it is essential that ships  
Navigational should know their position with certainty when  
aids. approaching Abbott Shoal from the northward and  
N.W. Vernon Island from the westward, and as no  
light Vessels are available, and buoys are  
unreliable, it is suggested that in addition to

the marks referred to in your para. 4, the following further light beacons should be provided and that they should be as conspicuous, by day as possible:

(a) On Cape Keith, Melville Island, to cover Abbott Shoal and its approaches.

(b) On Cape Ward, N.W.Vernon Island, to cover approach from seaward of Marsh Shoal and the western part of Howard Channel.

(2) It is requested that, if not already done, consideration may be given to marking shoals in outer approaches to Darwin to enable deep draught ships to arrive and leave at any state of tide.

(Admty, Hydrographer, 221736A to A.C.N.B.)

Bomb supply In view of your 160804 (not to IMPLACABLE) propose  
for B.P.F. IMPLACABLE shall sail, with outfit of bombs reduced to 84 "B" bombs and 84 500 lb. S.A.P. bombs with remainder of stowage filled as far as practicable with 500 lb. M.C. bombs. Request early concurrence

Separate signal will be made in regard to bulk supplies of M.C. bombs.

(A.C.N.S.(A)222151A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

War Diary

22.2.1945  
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/22nd Feb.  
and sighting Para. A. (1) At 0755Z/22nd Feb. RECRUIT escorting  
summary. Appian Flight "F" attacked surfaced U-Boat in lat.  
36.25 N. long. 08.06 W.  
Para. B. (1) At 2310Z/21st Feb. A/C obtained  
Grade I disappearing radar contact in 35.22 N.

07.01 W.

(2) At 1028Z/21st Feb. H.M.C.CLOVER sighted P/S in 55.17 N.  
05.10 W.

Para. C. (1) At 2158Z/21st Feb. E.G.19 attacked contact  
believed non-S/M in lat. 55.00 N. long. 05.38 W.

(2) At 0130Z/22nd Feb. X/120 obtained Grade I disappearing radar  
contact in 55.27 N. 06.38 W.

(3) At 1630Z/21st Feb. G/810 attacked probable P/S in 49.35 N.  
01.03' W.

(4) At 2114Z Feb. 21st Feb. COSBY attacked doubtful contact in  
approx. 50.30 N. 00.10 W.

Para. D. (1) At 1435Z/21st Feb. P/114 sighted C/T in 30.06 N.  
24.00 W.

Para. E. (1) At 0400Z/22nd Feb. NASSA sighted two U-Boats on  
surface in 14.36 N. 57.25 E.

(D.D.I.C. 221131A to Cominch and N.S.H.Q.)

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 221420A to A.I.G. and Cominch also 221448A)

23.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

- 1(a) LA COMBATTANTE, French destroyer, blew up off the East Dudgeon at 2345. A midget U-Boat or mine is suspected.  
 (b) Last night's E-Boat activity seems to have been a rather half-hearted attempt at minelaying. One group, shadowed and attacked by Wellington aircraft, turned back from half way across the North Sea. A second group was driven off by MACKAY before reaching the East Coast searched channel. TORRINGTON and RUTHERFORD drove off a third group before they reached the Ostend searched channels. TORRINGTON claims hits. We suffered no casualties.  
 (c) One mine was swept off 3A buoy.  
 (d) The total of prisoners taken since D-day now exceeds 900,000.

Northern Waters.

2. Convoy R.A.64 was scattered yesterday by a gale but is now reforming. Two ships are still straggling, and SS. HENRY BACON was torpedoed by aircraft when 47 miles astern of the convoy. Three more destroyers are being sailed from Scapa to reinforce.

Baltic.

3. We have agreed not to lay mines in the Baltic east of 13° E., except off Stettin and Bornholm while these remain in German hands.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

4. 22 P.47s. of Coastal Air Force bombed San Remo and Imperia harbours.

North Adriatic.

5. 4 Beaufighters scored 2 underwater hits and sixteen other hits on the 4,200 ton minelayer KUCKKUCK in shipyard at Fiume. (Page 441)

(GERMAN BY ITALIAN).

Turkey  
at War.

Turkey declared war on Germany and Japan today.



23.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

- Malacca Straits. 6. 3 Liberators laid sea mines off N.E. Sumatra and Penang.
- Movement. 7. NEWCASTLE flying the flag of F.O. 5th C.S. left Trincomalee.

Australia and New Zealand

- Indo-China. 8. U.S. aircraft damaged 2 medium tankers, a destroyer and several smaller vessels off the coast of French Indo-China today. (241153Z.)
- Philippines. 9(a) This evening single enemy aircraft ineffectively bombed and strafed Allied shipping off Palompon (N.W. of Leyte).  
(b) Ormoc-based P.Ts. sank 3 barges carrying troops also destroyed a fourth on the beach N.W. coast of Cebu Island.  
(c) 38 Corsairs attacked and sank one submarine probably hitting another in Igiebu Harbour (Cebu) and also strafed barges along coast.
- Formosa. 10. Venturas and Liberators sank a tanker and several barges off Okinawa Jima (N.E. of Formosa).
11. S/M SPARK reports on her 3rd War Patrol, 7th Feb. sinking a small coaster and barge by gunfire, also a tug and another coaster later on the same day. On the 8th Feb. attacked a small T.B. with 4 torpedoes but missed in lat. 6° 18' S., 110° 55' E. Total tonnage sunk by gunfire 1,300 tons. (230144, Australia and New Zealand and 271206Z under East Indies).
- Movements. 12. A/C SPEAKER arrived Sydney from Trincomalee. A/C TRACKER left Langemak (Finschafen) for Manus.  
REAPER (Ferry Carrier) left Long Beach (California) for Pearl Harbour.

War Diary23.2.1945  
FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea.E-Boat  
activity.

4 E-Boats entered northern half of Q.Z.S.657 between N.F.8 and N.F. 9 at 0140, minimum speed 30 knots from N.W. retired to North. No indication of minelaying in channel. Engaged closely by M.T.B's 677, 726 and TORRINGTON, hits being claimed by main and close range weapons, superficial damage to M.T.B. no casualties.

(2) Same 4 E-Boats at 0210 in 020 degs. Ostend 15, steering 340 degs. 35 knots, action not joined. No indication of earlier movement or of reaching Q.Z.S.657.

(TORRINGTON, 230501A to C. in C. Nore.)

E-Boat activity night 22/23rd February.

Wellington aircraft obtained A.S.V. contact and at 2220 identified 6 E-Boats in 52 degs. 18' N. 04 degs. 08' E. course 270 degs. 30 knots. A/C attacked and shadowed on westerly course. Contact was lost in 51 degs. 58' N. 02 degs. 48' E. at 0030 indicating possible alteration of course in southerly direction. Swordfish A/C also reported 5 E-Boats stationary off Hook at 2300. No further reports were received of this group.

(2) At 0105 MACKAY on patrol No.18 reported radar contact to eastward and at 0111A identified contact as 3 E-Boats steering 200 degs. MACKAY engaged and enemy turned to north-westward, later altering to north eastward until plot faded. Possibility of mines having been laid in direction 190 degs. from 51 degs. 27' N. 02 degs. 11½ E. but at no time was enemy plotted nearer than half a mile to searched channel.

(3) At 0135 TORRINGTON No.16 patrol obtained radar contact 332 degs. Ostend 14.2 course 145 degs. 35 knots. Enemy continued on this course until 0145, when a turn to the northward was made, plots at that time showed enemy to be about one mile north of searched channel. TORRINGTON and Coastal Force unit, engaged and drove off E-Boats to northwestward. RUTHERFORD on patrol No.19 also gained contact with this group.

(4) RUTHERFORD reports possible minelaying in position 015 degs. Ostend 11½. TORRINGTON considers mines may have been laid between N.F.8 and N.F.9 buoys. Ostend plot in good radar conditions had no hostile or unidentified plots on the searched channels.

(C. in C. Nore, 231316A to Admty.)

Minesweeping  
off East  
Coast.

(A) 1407/22nd February Blue.

(B) "Q" M.M.S.1015, 1021, 1041 LL/SA.

(C) 2½ cables.

(D) M.M.S.1015 150 degs. 3A Buoy 9 cables course 193 degs.

(E) Green 175 degs. 500 yards.

(F) On Pulse Blue to starboard. (G) 1 sec.

(H) Probably E-Boat lay night 17/18th February.

(I) -. (J) Nil. (K) BALM. (L) Slight. (M) Low Plume.

(Com. M/S Lowestoft, 231002A to C. in C. Nore.)

/Patrols...

23.2.1945  
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Patrols. Nore and Dover patrols for tonight February 23rd./24th.  
(1) 12 THORNBOROUGH with 4 M.T.B's Unit F.L.2 and 3 from U.K. 14 COTSWOLD 18, RIOU 16, STAYNER with 4 M.T.Bs Unit F.G. 2 and 3 from U.K. 19 RETALICK with C.F. Unit from Ostend 21, SHEARWATER 22, CAICOS with 4 M.T.Bs Unit F.B.8 and 9 from U.K.  
(2) 51 1 M/L 52 1 M/L 51 degs. 29' N. 01 degs. 22' E. 3 M.T.Bs Unit F.B.6 North Goodwin Lightship to Kellet Buoy and East Goodwin No.2 buoy. 1 M.T.B. F.O.1 S.E. Goodwin Buoy to South Goodwin No.2 buoy to No.1 buoy 1 M.T.B. F.O.2.  
(V.A. Dover, 231601A to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.325 Part 4 Section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 221600A February.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles.</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F.Ammo</u>
Antwerp	77	-	8,563	-	4,901	-
Ostend	1,645	390	1,841	-	750	814
Boulogne	53	171	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,041	-	-
Calais	3,936	62	845	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4,125	-	-	1,840
Totals:	5,711	623	15,374	1,041	5,651	2,641
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	415	15,514	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	14	6,982	95	3,281	4,881
Le Havre	7,714	697	10,088	-	1,727	3,081
Rouen	2	207	8,985	-	-	-
Granville	-	-	-	1,100	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,098	-	-	-
Totals:	7,716	1,333	44,667	1,195	5,008	7,962
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	2,010	1,248	11,690	927	-	1,859
Port De Bouc	-	-	2,624	487	-	2,624
Toulon	-	-	401	-	-	-
Totals:	2,010	1,248	14,715	1,414	-	4,483

(S.H.A.E.F. 231615A to Admty and others)

Midget U-Boat Summary. Midget U-Boat summary for 36 hours ending 1200/23.  
(1) 0610/22 L.S.T. 364. Torpedoed 51 degs. 18' N. 01 degs. 54' 46" E. Attacker not seen and no contacts obtained during search which followed.

/(2) ...

War Diary

23.2.1945  
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Midget (2) 0740/22 M.L.901 sank 1 Midget 340 degs.  
U-Boat West Kapelle 6.  
Summary. (3) 0817/22, M.L.588 sank 2 Midgets 330 degs.  
(Contd.) West Kapelle 5, all three were Biber type two known to be carrying torpedoes. From interrogation of two prisoners by C.O's Midgets were proceeding to attack shipping off Flushing and that they had been at sea 12 hours.  
(4) 1056/22. N.O.I.C.Antwerp reported Midget sighted off Flushing.  
(5) 1215/22. A/C reported sighting periscope 51 degs. 15' N. 02 degs. 00' E. Co. S.W. Report passed by telephone on landing.  
(6) 1415/22. R/C A/C sighted Midget 52 degs. 25' N. 03 degs. 58' E. Midget dived on northerly course.  
(7) 0930/23. M.L.596 sighted Midget secured to Dan Buoy 016 degs. Ostend 13.5 result of attacks not known.  
(C. in C. Nore, 231725A to Admty.)

Military Prisoners of War. Accumulative total since D-day  
Situation (excluding First French Army 17 to 19) 900,812.  
Report. General. In Lower Rhine battle enemy resistance stiffening. Recent arrivals in Holland, for example, 361 Infantry Division, indicates enemy has no intention of withdrawing from Holland at

present.  
Duren-Linnich-Roermond sector no longer quiet. Morning 23rd Feb. Allied offensive over Roer succeeded in establishing 10 bridgeheads; area Niederau, Southern outskirts Duren, Brikesdorf area Huchem Staffeln, area Krautharsen Selhersdorf, Julich, Broich, two on either side of Linnich, and large one Northeast of Heinsberg. Opposition light, small counter attack near Huchem repulsed. However, enemy artillery taking toll of Allied bridges.  
(S.H.A.EF.231800A to War Office & Others.)

Asdic 232245 Feb. Ref. Admty. messages of 170446A  
detection and 181210A.  
for Rhine (1) Request trials be carried out in U.K. on high  
swimmers priority to test efficiency of Asdic type 135  
etc. for detection of underwater swimmers, midget  
submarines, floating mines in river conditions  
similar to Rhine and Maas.  
(2) Please state date, time, place of trial in order that Exfor  
reps. may attend.  
(3) If trials prove satisfactory estimated requirement would be  
four installations (four pairs Asdic type 135).  
(4) Lt. Yeldham returning by air 24 February to discuss problem.  
(5) Com. Belgium message 231023 not to all refers.  
(Exford Main, 232345A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Loss /...

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FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.Loss of  
LA COMBAT-  
TANTE.LA COMBATTANTE blown up, rescuing survivors.  
(M.T.B. 763, 232345A to C. in C. Nore.)  
LA COMBATTANTE sunk. Suspect miniature S/M.  
(M.T.B. 763, 232359A to C. in C. Nore.)OperationsChannelPatrols  
and  
Escorts.GWEAL escorting A.F.D. 66 in tow of tug FLAUNT  
with VANOT in company estimated to be off Portland  
Bill at 1800 to-day 23rd Feb. Codeword "Dismal".  
Speed 5½ knots.(2) M.L.178 (S.O) 309 and 343 proceed forthwith  
by Standard Coastal Route to Portland Bill thence  
act under the orders of GWEAL as additional escort to Plymouth.

(3) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231005A to M.L.'s 178, 309, 343.)

On crossing 02 degs. 30' W. proceed to patrol area:

50.18 N. 02.10 W. 50.07 N. 02.10 W. 50.22 N. 01.33 W.

50.11 N. 01.33 W.

(2) Leave patrol at 0700A tomorrow Saturday. NEW WATERFORD pass  
Nab inward at 0900A remainder as in my 221256A not to all para.  
2.(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231217A to NEW WATERFORD, LOCH MORLICH,  
LOCH ACHANALT, TEME.)Reference my 231431A TANATSIDE is to turn over S.C. of  
Force 27 to DELPHINIUM and leave patrol at requisite time to  
arrive Plymouth Boom 1945A/23rd.(2) TANATSIDE take BRISSENDEN under his orders pass gate 2000A/  
23rd and proceed escorting U.S.S. SEA TIGER and SANTA ROSA to  
R/V with U.C. 57B in position (Z) 49.44 N. 04.20.5 W. and continue  
as additional escort to 7 degs. W. thence to Plymouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231520A to TANATSIDE.)

Possible  
U-Boat.Am in firm contact my position 254 degs.  
Portland Bill 20 miles.

(CALGARY, 232049A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Unexplainable explosion astern of me.

(CALGARY, 232057A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Close CALGARY 254 Portland 20 at full speed and take charge of  
Hunt.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 232124A to S.O.E.G.6)

S/M activity 50 degs. 24 N. 02 degs. 58 W. at 2049A/23rd.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 232245A to Plymouth Command)

War Diary

23.2.1945  
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France

German supply craft for Gironde and La Rochelle.

C. in C. Plymouth's 221616. Consider it most undesirable to divert AMIRAL MOUCHEZ and F.Y.M.S. from opening Bayonne.

(A.N.C.X.F. 231205A to Admty.)

The proposals contained in your 161815, not to all, are being examined.

(2) All available destroyers and escort vessels are required to meet the present U-Boat situation in Home Waters and in the Atlantic. It is regretted therefore that no ships, British or French, can be spared to operate against other targets which must of necessity be regarded as of lesser importance at this juncture. Your 210953 refers.

(3) Admiralty have no objection to the use of any French ships available at Brest providing C. in C. Plymouth is kept fully informed of any movements. C. in C. Plymouth's 211212 and 221616 refer.

(D.O.D.(H), 231634A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Fishing craft in restricted areas.

Cancel my 121803A October 1944 (not to all) and substitute restrictions and areas defined in Admiralty General Message A.Z. 903.

(2) Ships on patrol in the Bay of Biscay finding fishing craft within the declared dangerous area given in P.C.W.O.100 other than as permitted above for French ships are to warn such craft they

are liable to be sunk and direct them firmly to proceed to their ports.

(3) Fishing vessels are not to be dealt with drastically without reference to the Commander in Chief Plymouth, except in case of resistance by the crew or other special circumstances in which case capture and bringing into port is preferable to sinking if conditions permit.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231754A to Plymouth Command)

Operations

Western Approaches

Possible U-Boat.

My 222120A. Attacking Asdic contact obtained from A/C sono-buoy contact in 55.39 N. 05.51 W. (S.O.Force 33, 230315A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 230315. Hedgehog attack, no explosion, and one depth charge attack carried out on inter-

mittent contact which was then lost.

(2) During search to regain change in pitch of reverberation showing regular movement by plot was obtained outside limit of Observant but no contact obtained.

(3) A/C relaying Sono-buoy Pattern round latest estimated position.

(S.O.Force 33, 230523A to C. in C. W.A.)

Appreciation at 0800A.

(1) Between arrival 19th E.G. at 2100/22 and 0800/23 no positive information of presence of U-Boat has been obtained.

(2) Sono contacts obtained and subsequently lost and regained all fixed contacts in same position as originally estimated and same characteristics of movement, Namefix circling position,

/were ...

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23.2.1945  
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Possible U-Boat (Contd.) were reported on each of these 3 occasions.  
(3) Intermittent Asdic contact attacked and subsequently lost in this same position showed no typical U-Boat characteristics.  
(4) Consider weight of evidence indicates original Sono contact was obtained from tide rip, my 230725A refers.  
(5) Intend carrying out search of area between Kintyre and 06 degs. 20 W. and detaching COTTON to refuel at Moville and rejoin group by 2100.  
(S.O.Force 33, 231135A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols. If not in contact leave present search and establish patrol in area between 55 degs. 15' and 55 degs. 30' N. and 06 degs. 00' and 07 degs. 15 W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 231126A to S.O. Force 33.)

F.O.I.C.Greenock's 221607A and C. in C. W.A.'s 212341A/ Feb. every endeavour will be made to implement instructions with one A/S vessel remaining at Aultbea. Observed that with this exception remainder of inshore patrol vessels operated from Aultbea are M/S are fitted with hydrophones only, and are thus unsuitable for escort duties. My 231111A Jan. (not to all addressees) refers.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 231445A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

✓ Local patrols to support W.N. and E.N. convoys.

When ready a.m. 24th Cdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail 30th E.G. to relieve 19th E.G. as Q force 33 operating in area between 55 degs. 15' and 55 degs. 30' N. and 06 degs. 00' and 07 degs. 15' W. Departure from Lough Foyle to be reported.

(2) At this time 19th E.G. if not in contract is to proceed to Liverpool to lay over.

(C. in C. W.A. 231619A to Com. D. W.A. S.O.E.G.19)

Second Possible U-Boat. A/C J.M.B.77's 231550A. Proceeding with all despatch. GOODALL and LOCH INSH in company. E.T.A. 1900A.  
(S.O.Force 33, 231708A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Norway

Operation "Shred". Scapa arrival S.O. M/S Flotilla 10 in COURIER with HARE, JEWELL, WAVE, SERENE, GOLDEN FLEECE, R.M.L. 551, 545.  
(A.C.O.S. 230954A to Admt.)

Patrols. Leave patrol 1600A/23rd Feb. and return Lerwick on surface at C.O. discretion through 59 degs. 20' N. 01 degs. 15' E. and 60 degs. 00' N. 00 degs. 30' E.  
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 231058A to MORSE)

My 212301A. C.O. recovered sufficiently to continue patrol. Request permission to return to patrol area my position 64 degs.

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FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

Patrols. 40' N. 05 degs. 53' E.  
(Contd.) Weather report 5480 0764.  
(VIKING, 231245A to F.O.S.)  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800/24th February and  
movements for following 24 hours. All times

Zone A.  
(1) VIKING 62 degs. 18' N. 01 degs. 22' E. course 210 degs.  
E.T.A. Lerwick 1000/25th.  
(2) MORSE 58 degs. 35' N. 01 degs. 15' E. through 59 degs. 20'  
N. 01 degs. 15' and 60 degs. 00' N. 00 degs. 30' E. to Lerwick.  
MORSE leaves patrol at 1600/23rd through 59 degs. 20' N. 01 degs.  
15' E. and 60 degs. 00' N. 00 degs. 30' E. to Lerwick.  
(C. of W. 231924A to A.I.G.25)  
A.M. 231924 para. (1) cancel and substitute VIKING on  
patrol off Fro Havet.  
(C. of W. 232238A to A.I.G.)

Operation My 231052/. Codeword "Trawl".  
"Trawl". (C. in C. H.F. 231105A to BERWICK, PUNCHER,  
SEARCHER, NAIRANA, R.A.D. H.F.)  
/ Not yet identified in W.R.

Operations - Northern Waters

Patrols. Sail at 1200A/23rd and establish Gamma between  
position 61 degs. 05' N. 02 degs. 00' W. and 61  
degs. 35' N. 03 degs. 00' W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231009A to S.O.E.G.1)

My 231009. Shift Gamma 234 degs. 40 miles.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231122A to S.O.E.G.1)

Convoy R.A. 64 scattered in Easterly gale yesterday is  
R.A.64. now reforming. Request Admiralty transmit  
following on B.A.M.S. to stragglers "Proceed at  
best speed to position and if escort is not then  
met proceed to Thorshavn"Faeroes. My position  
68 degs. 15' N. 04 degs. 45' E.  
Weather report 4482 0068.  
(C.S.1, 231031A to C. in C. H.F. N.O.I.C.Faeroes)  
Proceed at best speed to position B & if escort is not  
then met, proceed to Thorshavn (Faeroes).  
(D.S.O. 231237Z to Stragglers from R.A.64)  
HENRY BACON straggler torpedoed by A/C 47 miles 110 degs.  
from convoy. ZAMBESI, ZEST and OPPORTUNE despatched to recover  
survivors. CROSBY S. LE BARON RUSSELL  
Other stragglers from gales unlocated ~~N.~~ NOYES since 18th, B.R.  
BRIGGS since 22nd.  
(3) My position 67 degs. 56' N. 03 degs. 01' E. W/R 3488 9946.  
(C.S.1, 231501A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Request you sail MYNGS, SCORPION and CAVALIER forthwith to  
reinforce escort convoy R.A. 64, now proceeding on blue route  
towards position B. F.O.1st C.S's 231031 and 231501 refers.

/ (2) ...



23.2.1945  
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Convoy  
R.A.64.  
(Contd.)

(2) Destroyers proceed at best speed east of Orkneys and West of Shetlands to join blue route about 64 degs. N. and follow reverse of this route to meet convoy.  
(C. in C. H.F. 231749A to R.A.D.H.F.)

Convoy  
J.W.66.

F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 221839 delay in completion of VINDEX will seriously affect arrangements for J.W. 66.  
(C. in C. H.F. 231245A to Admty.)

Anti-schnor-  
kel obstruc-  
tion.

Defence type Orange laid position 61 degs. 12' N. 01 degs. 00' W. in direction 000 degs. for 8 miles by ST. ABBS in wind force 9, sea very rough, heavy westerly swell. Negative lay by RINGWOOD.  
(2) One short length of defensive type Orange sighted parted in position 61 degs. 17' N. 01 degs. 00' W. all remainder previously disintegrated

and missing.

(3) Ships in company returning to Lerwick E.T.A. 1815/23rd.

(4) Part 2 follows later.

Part 2 of my 230945; begins -

(5) Certain technical modifications were made to type Orange defence prior to laying to-day.

(A) 1 additional 4 feet 8" spherical float - fitted at each half mile of defence to (?fix) (?lengths);

(B) All 4 feet 8" spherical floats secured by barrel chain.

(C) Longer moorings alternating in all cases.

(B) and (C) to prolong life.

(6) Nevertheless from experience in this northern latitude under present weather conditions defence type Orange is unlikely to remain 1 week in position before becoming a serious danger to navigation 30 miles has now been used to cover only 5 miles in distance of southern or shallowest water area, part 1, para. 2 refers.

(7) Propose further laying of type Orange be discontinued.  
(B.D.O. Scapa, 231830 to A.C.O.S.)

LARK.

Para. 7. of your 201356 not to C. in C. H.F. approved, but pending further instruction a C. and M. party should remain and ship be retained under your control.

(2) Further signal will be made regarding items to be removed from LARK. These should be shipped in R.A. 65 if practicable.  
(V.C.N.S. 231939A to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Our air-  
mining in  
Baltic, and  
Russian S/Ms.

Your 171536. In all circumstances we now agree to refrain from mining:

(a) Adler/Oder Channel and

(b) Baltic east of 13 degs. E. except:

(i) in the present mined area east of Rugen while Stettin remains in German hands and

(ii) in the U-Boat exercise area off Bornholm while Bornholm remains a U-Boat base.

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23.2.1945  
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorwayOur air-  
mining in  
Baltic, and  
Russian S/Ms.

Meanwhile, operation in my 142325 <sup>(page 227, Baltic)</sup> has been cancelled for dates proposed, but we are anxious to carry it out between 19th and 23rd March, which would give Russians ample time to warn their S/Ms (your para. 2(d) refers). Request early signal whether Russians now agree.  
(V.C.N.S. 231716A to Adm. Archer)

Casualties and Defects.SS. GATEWAY  
CITY  
v.  
SS. MAPLE-  
FIELD.

In collision with small vessel 5 miles E. St. Goven Light Vessel, am standing by.  
(GATEWAY CITY, 230125Z to Burnham Radio)  
Refer to my 230125Z small vessel sunk named MAPLEFIELD six men missing request escort vessel.  
(GATEWAY CITY, 230320Z to Burnham Radio)

SS. TINTERN  
ABBEY.

O.S.112/K.M.S. 86.  
TINTERN ABBEY returned Barry Roads with collision damage.  
(N.C.S.O. Cardiff, 231225A to C. in C. W.A.)

MovementsMAURITIUS  
cruiser.

Scapa departure MAURITIUS.  
(A.C.O.S. 231025A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

A.F.D.55.

Your 221346A P.C.S. 44 degs. 08' N. 11 degs. 35' 180, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Tow and dock continue satisfactory. Weather fair wind E.N.E. force 3 to 4 sea 34 slight to moderate.  
(CHAMELEON, 231031A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Shipping and ConvoysDiscontin-  
uance of  
Calshot  
Collecting  
Area.

A.L.M.010570/44 of 30 January, 1945, not to all with the reduction in the number of L.C.T. using Southampton it is considered that the use of the Calshot Collecting and Sailing area can now be discontinued and all craft sailed direct from Southampton on completion of loading.  
(2) This will not affect the position of the U.S. L.S.T. Organisation which will presumably continue to use Calshot. It will, however, have the advantage of providing a greater degree of centralisation for L.C.T. Control and enable questions of Stores Mails Shelter, Leave, etc. to be resolved more satisfactorily.

(3) It is intended that the above shall take effect on 1st March 1945. The Commodore, L.C.B. Section at Calshot will then be withdrawn completely and the R.N. Unit revert to the role of a Naval Signal Station only.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231020A to Admty.)

401

23.2.1945  
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

U.R.  
convoys.

Request you will sail U.R.157 on March 14th  
from Belfast and subsequently on a 10 day cycle.  
(2) Pass to F.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.O.s concerned.  
(D.T.D. 232218A to C. in C. W.A. A.C.I.C.)

402

23.2.1945.  
Friday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- E.G.1. Addressed form group one JONQUIL S.O.  
(Formation). (F.O.G.M.A., 230954A to HYDERABAD, JONQUIL, CYCLAMEN).  
Being in all respects ready for war JONQUIL taking Group 1 under his orders and sailing at 1500A 24th February.  
(2) Group 1 will act as additional close escort to M.K.S.85. (F.O.G.M.A., 231038A to Group 1 ).
- Fr. S/M. Arrived French S/M. LE CENTAURE escorted by  
LE U.S.S. SCOTT Radio Naples please pass to French  
CENTAURE. Admiralty Paris via Comnav for France.  
(C.M.S.F., 231041Z to F.O.G.M.A.).
- F.S. Sail at 2200A Feb. 24th to R/V. F.S. BARFLEUR  
"BARFLEUR". and escort as far as Europa Point.  
(2) F.S. BARFLEUR is routed through: details.  
(3) You are to proceed through (Z) 35° 59' N. 06° 10' W. thence by reverse of route in para.2 S. of A. 16 knots.  
(4) Estimate you will R/V. in (C) at 1330A Feb. 25th. (F.O.G.M.A., 231114 to VERITY).
- T.G.29.7 Task Group 29.7 arrived Horta 1159Z/23rd to assume duties as Eastern Terminal Tanker. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 231400Z to F.O.G.M.A.).
- T.G.63.1 Sailed from Horta at 1116Z 23rd U.S.S. FOGG in tow of ABNAKI with weight Jenks and Durik Task Group 63.1 routed to Boston as in C. in C. Lant's 111729. S. of A. 6 knots. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 231402 to F.O.G.M.A.).
- U-Boat sunk. Your 222001A. Please send by air to U.K. after  
Prisoners. preliminary interrogation, a selection of prisoners, including Commanding Officer navigator, others to be one or more each of talkative W/T ratings, torpedo mechanics, stokers, at discretion, signaling names and ranks of prisoners, number of aircraft and E.T.A.  
(2) It would be appreciated if remainder of prisoners might follow by sea at first opportunity.  
(D.N.I. 231927A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- Fishing Your 222147. Such a measure would have a very  
restrictions. serious effect on Spanish fishing, and would lead to an acute fish shortage which would have far reaching\*since fish formed an important part in (National) food stuff supply.  
(B.N.A. Madrid 232033A to Admty.)  
\* Group missing "effects?"

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23.2.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

N.A.Y.  
VIRGINIA.

Sailed VIRGINIA to Kilindini, (2) S.O.A. 11 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. 0500Z/2nd March.  
(C.R.N.E. Durban 231354Z to Admty.)

Corvette  
BETONY.

Arrived and sailed BETONY to Diego Suarez to fuel  
and thence Colombo routed through (positions)  
(2) S.O.A. to Diego Suarez 13 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. Diego Suarez 1600Z/28th Feb.  
(Cdre. Durban 231604Z to Admty.)

*S.S. POINT PLEASANT PARK (Brit 7136 tons) rounded Table Bay  
torpedoed 550' NW Cape Town - one lifeboat reached Mercury  
Is (150' S of Walrus Bay) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar (see R. 3.3.45.) r281209 Mar.*

23.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Linrep Para. (3). Air. Improved weather enabled  
No. 233. M.A.A.F. Strategic Air Force day heavy bombers  
19-21 Feb. to operate in strength. Communication centres  
and oil targets in the Vienna area were  
successfully attacked on each day. Trieste  
and Fiume harbour installation were also bombed.  
Escorting fighters strafed rail lines in the Vienna area.  
R.A.F. heavy and medium bombers attacked Pola harbour  
installations by day and Udine marshalling yards by night.  
(A.F.H.Q., 231000A to W.O.)

Cypriot As from 0001 on 25th Feb. N.O.I.C. Cypriot  
ports, Ports will be reduced to R.N.O. status with  
status. the title R.N.O. Cypriot Ports.  
(C. in C. Med., 231125A to Med. Stn.)

French To permit necessary refits of cruisers on  
cruisers. Flanfor, A.L. Med. proposes -  
(1) F.S. GLOIRE to join Flanfor in early March.  
Understand A.N.C.X.F. has no objections.  
(2) On arrival F.S. GLOIRE, F.S. JEANNE D'ARC  
to be taken in hand for 15 days maintenance refit at Oran  
including 6 days docking.  
(3) On return F.S. JEANNE D'ARC to Flanfor, F.S. GEORGES  
LEYGUES to be taken in hand for long refit at Bizerta.  
(F.O.W.M., 231232A to C. in C. Med.) (See 261453A from C. in  
C. Med.)

Ships for Reference our 052237A not to all. Following  
Black Sea. troop transports sailed from the United Kingdom  
Russian on 18th Feb. in Convoy K.M.F.40 for Odessa:  
Nationals.

<u>Code</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>No. of Soviet</u> <u>personnel on</u> <u>board for Odessa</u>
A.10	HIGHLAND	15	1,812
A.11	PRINCESS DUCHESS OF BEDFORD	17½	3,840
A.12	MORETON BAY	15	1,794

(2) MORETON BAY and DUCHESS OF BEDFORD will call at Malta for  
replenishments en route to Odessa.  
(3) 5 tons d.w. lifejackets for Malta and 54 tons d.w. bales  
clothing for Odessa were shipped in DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and 4  
cases paxfelt sheets for Malta in MORETON BAY.  
(4) Para. 3 of my 052237A deals with disposal of these vessels  
after disembarkation at Odessa.  
(5) Agreed.  
(D. of S.T., 231249A to C. in C. Med.)

Turkey. With our knowledge Turkish Government are today  
(Declaration asking assembly to declare war on Germany.  
of War). (2) Turkish shipping is being held up between  
Izmir (R) (corrupt group) Adratchan Bay lat.  
36° 18' N., long. 30° 33' E. Request routes  
well cleared to westward of German held islands  
between Adratchan Bay to (A) Izmir (R). (B) Dardanelles.  
(B.N.A. Ankara, 231301C to F.O.L.E.M.)

/Route ...

War Diary.23.2.1945.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Turkey. Route (A) Adratchan Bay to 034° 52' 027° 34'  
(Declaration of War). to 035° 17' 026° 46' to 035° 50' 026° 22' to  
(Contd.) 036° 35' 026° 02' to A.M. Q.B.C.965 to 037° 30'  
025° 50' to 038° 28' 025° 43' thence north of  
Khios to Izmir.  
Route (B) as for (A) to 038° 28' 025° 43'  
thence to A.M. Q.B.C.958 to Dardanelles.  
Return route in both (A) and (B) by reverse to 035° 50'  
026° 22'. Thence to 035° 15' 026° 40' to 034° 47' 027° 23'.  
All positions north and east. Request you emphasise  
importance of close adherence to routes owing to mine danger.  
Your 231301.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 231945 to B.N.A. Ankara.)

A.F.D.24 Operation "Forestall" work on dock interrupted  
(salvage). by weather. Intend holding EMPIRE SANDY and  
EMPIRE JULIA at 4 days notice to proceed to  
Tobruk. Request similar instructions be  
issued to MINDFUL. My 201950, para. 6.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 231415B to C. in C. Med.)

A.F.D.30. Request you sail A.F.D.30 towed by ASSIDUOUS  
to Port Said direct for onward routeing to  
Aden as soon as ASSIDUOUS is ready.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 231421B to Cdre. Levant Area.)

F.S. BARFLEUR. Marine Paris proposes following programme for  
F.S. BARFLEUR on completion of discharge at Toulon.  
(2) Load naval stores at Algiers and Oran between  
10th and 18th March.  
(3) Call at Cherbourg 23rd to 25th March, Brest 26th to 28th  
March.  
(4) Discharge at Oran 2nd/5th April.  
(5) Return to Toulon 8th April.  
(F.O.W.M., 231658 to C. in C. Med.)  
Approved 251021A.

Situation (U.300)  
Report H.M.S. RECRUIT and H.M.S. PINCHER encountered  
No. 568. German U-Boat on surface in position 036° 25' N.  
008° 06' W. at 0855A/22nd Feb. and sank her by  
gunfire. 4 officers and 37 ratings were  
recovered.  
(C. in C. Med., 231812A to F.O.L.E.M.)

A.F.D.66. H.M.S. FANCY will sail from U.K. about 26th  
Feb. escorting A.F.D.66. Your 212143 refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 231901A to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea In addition to point raised in C. in C. Med.'s  
Routeing. 191410 (not to all). Southern part of route  
from departure point passes close and parallel  
to eastern edge of danger area.

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23.2.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Black Sea  
Routeing.  
(Contd.)

(2) Suggest that from departure point route should be B.S.1 as far as 41° 30' N., thence direct to position (B) 43° 42' N., 29° 25' E.  
(3) Your 181528 gives route to Constanza only. Your 101605 (not to all) states Soviet authorities propose that all vessels for Black Sea ports should bunker at Constanza. If this is not intended to supersede arrangements relating to vessels bound for Odessa contained in C. in C. Med.'s 031701 (not to all), request early signal giving route from Constanza to Odessa, which will in any case be required.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 231923A to Admiral Archer) Amended by 241325A and 241410A.

S/M. 0.24.

Arrived submarine 0.24.  
(V.A.M., 232154 to Admty.)



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23.2.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Bases on E.I. Stn. Reduction of. A reduction in the number of local defence and short range escort craft on the East Indies Station west of 90° E. is acceptable. Early action to implement the policy below is to be taken so that economy in R.N. personnel and craft can be effected.

(2) In the case of ports and bases outside India and Ceylon the following can be dispensed with now:

(A) Harbour Defence A/S patrols. (B) Controlled mining craft.  
(C) Local minesweeping forces.

(3) Authorities addressed are to report by signal:

(A) Minimum requirements of vessels for local employment, e.g. escort for own submarine, local escort for damaged ships or for landing craft, dredgers and the like. (B) Recommendations as to disposal of ships in accordance with para. 4 (A) and (B).

(4) It is then intended to initiate action as follows:

(A) Ships fit for further service to be transferred to India Ceylon or Burma. (B) Ships no longer required on East Indies Station or ships which absorb an unjustifiable maintenance effort to be either paid off, reduced to care and maintenance or sailed elsewhere. (C) Dispense with convoy escort north of Kilindini.

(C. in C. E.I., 230301Z to Com. E.A., Com. Aden.) See 250831Z.

F.O. 5th  
C.S.

Departure NEWCASTLE wearing flag of F.O. 5th  
C.S.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 231504Z to Admty.)

ENFORCER.

ENFORCER is required to return to U.K., and is not therefore to proceed beyond Ceylon, her place with A.F.D.18 for the passage to Australia being taken by CHEERLY as soon as available.  
(D.O.D.(F), 231926A to C. in C. E.I.)

23.2.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

"Monster" liners. In view of the impending withdrawal of some of the Monster liners from the North Atlantic service (War Office agreed signal 69637 of 18/2 refers) and the consequent necessity for the replacement of their lift on the North Atlantic by British C.U. vessels, we anticipate difficulty in being able to provide a suitable evacuee sailing from North America in mid-April as requested in your letter of 26.1.45 and this position as far as we can see may continue for some time to come after mid-April. It is therefore most desirable to try to arrange an evacuee sailing before this position arises by advancing the readiness of the evacuees.  
(2) If this can be done, we could sail the RANGITATA from the U.K. about 6.3 for New York.  
(3) Request your urgent comments as to whether you anticipate any difficulty in being able to fully utilise this vessel for civilians and R.A.F. families without the necessity for holding this vessel in New York for an unduly long period. If so what date do you anticipate she will be able to sail from New York. (D. of S.T. 230429A to B.M.W.T. New York.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. C. (1) Radar contact by Liberator R/11 in 43.35 N. 63.23 W. at 1220Z/22. (N.S.H.Q. 230730Z to Admty.)

LA GRANDIERE (sloop) and A.M.C. CAP DES PALMES. Your 261725 January. In view of shortage of escorts it is recommended that LA GRANDIERE joins the East Indies Station.  
(2) Subject to a satisfactory report on her condition and facilities CAP DES PALMES is considered suitable as a V.S.I.S. in S.E.A.C. where there is a shortage of V.S.I.S. and a French battleship to be fed. Otherwise this ship could be very usefully employed in carrying bulk cargo to either the East Indies Station or Pacific Area.  
(3) Request you will report on the condition and facilities in CAP DES PALMES as indicated in para. 2. (4th S.L. 231316A to B.A.D.)  
Cominch is being pressed by the French for a reply on the matter on which Admiralty's views were requested in my 261725 Jan., and is accordingly pressing B.A.D. Early reply would therefore be appreciated.  
(2) My 121943 is relevant. (B.A.D. 231535Z to Admty.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 231335Z, Cominch 231457Z.)

U/B report, delay. Sighting report of U-Boat F.114 at 211435Z not received here until 36 hours later. In order to reduce such excessive delays desire you pass all enemy contact reports from Azores area to Cominch via Army Radio Lagens. (Cominch 231901Z to Comnavzores.)

/Radar...

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23.2.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Radar  
contact.

Para. C. 1220Z/22. A/C reported radar contact  
43.35 N. 63.23 W. Admty. pass info. to H.Q.C.C.  
(Cominch 232012Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Australia & New Zealand.

S/M SPARK.

Summary 3rd War Patrol, SPARK.

Lieut. D.C. Kent, R.N. departed Fremantle 16 Jan.  
7 Feb. submerged attack 06.41 S. 111.32 E. 4  
torpedoes missed small coaster. Times H. 1504  
surfaced sank same target and barge with gunfire. 1552 gunfire  
sank tug. 1610 surface attack 1 torpedo missed stranded vessel.  
1648 sank small coaster with gunfire. 8th submerged periscope  
attack 06.18 S. 110.55 E. 4 torpedoes missed small T.B. Arrived  
Fremantle 20 Feb. No torpedo damage. Sunk by gunfire 2 S.M.C.  
2 Mis. Total tonnage 1300.  
(B.A.D. 230144, 271206Z to Admty.)

D.S. TROMP.

When ready p.m. Saturday 24th Feb. sail for  
Melbourne via inshore route keeping 6 miles off  
prominent headlands until position (etc.)  
(f) 107° Point Lonsdale 2 miles, thence to  
destination.

(3) N.O.I.C. Port Melbourne requested to arrange onward routing  
to E.I. Station after 2 days stay in Melbourne.  
(F.O.I.C. Sydney 230203Z to TROMP.)

ILLUSTRIOUS  
(defects.)

ILLUSTRIOUS has developed the following defects:  
after centre stern tube bushes loosened and  
shifted aft. It is essential that the stern tube  
be rebored and new bushes fitted before centre  
engine can be used.

(2) It is intended to dock ship at Sydney and remove centre  
propellor in order that she may be available to operate on two  
shafts at a max. speed of 24 knots.

(3) Ship should be ready to rejoin fleet in time for first phase  
of "Iceberg". It is intended to operate her in this condition  
until the arrival of IMPLACABLE on the station. A.M. 011908 Feb.\*  
not to all refers.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 230215Z to Admty.)

\* List of ships arriving Pacific Fleet for period Feb. May and  
early June.

B.P.F. Flag  
officer's,  
responsibi-  
lities of.

I have been considering the principles governing  
the logistic support of the fleet, the organisation  
required to implement them and the responsibilities  
of the Flag Officers concerned.

(2) This is a difficult problem as the area of  
command is large and spread out over four oceans

/and...

23.2.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F. Flag  
Officer's,  
Respon-  
sibilities of.  
(Contd.)

and 15 seas. The authorities to be dealt with in-  
cluded the Dominion Governments two Supreme  
Commanders and 8 or 9 Allied Headquarters. The  
distances are correspondingly great. Except at  
established bases the communications are poor.

(3) The main conclusion which stands out is that  
V.A. (Q) must be responsible for the whole logistic  
support of the fleet (including supply bases,

repair and maintenance) whether in Australia or in the forward  
area. For reasons largely connected with communications it will  
be necessary for some time, for the centre of this organisation  
to be in Australia.

(4) In the forward area it will be necessary to have a subordinate  
organisation under a Flag Officer (R.A.Q.) who would be directly  
responsible to V.A.Q. for the supplies, stores, repair and  
maintenance ashore in the forward area.

(5) The Headquarters of R.A.Q. which will thus represent the  
Advanced Headquarters of V.A.Q. will be situated in close touch  
with that of C. in C., and in this manner forward operational  
and logistic planning will proceed side by side.

(6) The function of R.A.Q. who will be a shore based authority  
cannot be compared with that of R.A.F.T. as the latter has the  
quite separate function afloat of organising and administering the  
the fleet train and using it to supply the fleet from the  
advanced bases in the same manner F.O.N.A.S. (A) whose  
responsibilities will cover the whole area will require a  
representative (Commodore Air Forward areas) in the advanced  
area with a Headquarters also alongside that of the C. in C.  
and R.A.(Q).

(8) It is therefore requested that officers may now be  
nominated for the appointments of R.A.(Q) and Commodore (Air)  
Forward Areas and that they may be made available in Australia  
at an early date to commence forward planning.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 230326Z to Admty.)

B.P.F. A/C  
Ammunition  
Expenditure.

C. in C. B.P.F. 231117 Vice Admiral (Q).  
See Lion Copy.

Operations  
on Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima from C.G. U.S.A.F. Poh. 22 Feb.  
Marines gained 500-1000 yards along entire front.  
4 Marine Div. reached centre of No. 2 airfield  
whilst 5 Marine Div. by-passed south end of field  
Mount Suribachi was captured by 28 Regt. at 1030

hours 22 Feb. U.S. casualties to 22 Feb. totalled 150 officers,  
3,500 others killed, missing and wounded.

(B.A.S. Washington 231845Q to W.O.)

Survey.

Your 151325, para. 1. Concur in establishing  
light beacon in position A. if site of existing  
beacon is unsuitable. This will meet requirement  
in para. 2 of my 291317 Jan. The other light  
beacons in your para. 1 are not considered necessary  
(Hydrographer 231855A to CHALLENGER.)

/LANCASHIRE...

War Diary.23.2.1945  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

LANCASHIRE. LANCASHIRE should reach Sydney end of May. (a) (b) and (c) of your 010823 are confirmed. (Hd. of M. 232106A to R.A.F.T.) Confirmation LANCASHIRE will arrive with full stock of repair material etc.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/23rd Feb.

Para. A. (1) At 1215Z/22nd Feb. A/C 2nd T.A.F. reported 3 U-Boats Co. East in Kiel Canal.

(2) At 0554Z/22nd Feb. H.M.L.S.T. 364 was torpedoed in approx. lat. 51° 19' N. long. 01° 53' E.

(3) At 1233Z/22nd Feb. H.M.C.S. TRENTONIAN and M.V. ALEXANDER KENNEDY were torpedoed in lat. 50° 07' N. long. 04° 45' W.

Para. B. (1) At 1950Z/22nd Feb. ROWLEY and DOMETT attacked contact with D/Cs in lat. 49° 47' N. long. 04° 58' W.

(2) At 1545Z/22nd Feb. S/120 attacked positive snort and subsequently obtained contact in lat. 55° 36' N. long. 05° 54' W.

(3) At 0215Z/23rd Feb. Force 33 attacked asdic contact in lat. 55° 39' N. long. 05° 51' W.

Para. C. (1) At 0452Z/22nd Feb. U.S.S. DAVIS attacked contact in lat. 50° 21' N. long. 02° 10' W.

(2) At 0715Z/22nd Feb. E.G. C. 8 sighted possible snort in lat. 53° 53' N. long. 05° 05' W.

(3) At 1045Z/22nd Feb. E.G. 6 obtained disappearing radar contact in lat. 52° 15' N. long. 05° 40' W.

(4) At 1504Z/22nd Feb. CRANSTOUN attacked bottom contact in lat. 53° 48' N. long. 05° 07' W.

(5) At 1516Z/22nd Feb. U/224 obtained A.S.V. contact in lat. 59° 05' N. long. 07° 25' W.

Para. D. (1) At 1316Z/22nd Feb. fighter aircraft reported sighting surfaced U-Boat in approx. lat. 52° 10' N. long. 04° 08' E.

(2) At 1400Z/22nd Feb. fighter aircraft reported U-Boat wake in approx. lat. 52° 06' N. long. 03° 28' E.

Ref. A.M. 201023A para. A.1 CITY OF LINCOLN now considered mined. (D.D.I.C. 231056A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 231444A, 231449A, A.I.G., Cominch.)

# 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.)

*B.P.F*  
*Aircraft ammunition*  
*expended*

231117 February

From C. in C. B.P.F.

Date 24.2.45  
Recd. 1155

NAVAL CYPHER XD BY CABLE

Addressed: Vice Admiral (Q).  
Repeated: Admiralty, A.C. 1, R.A.F.T.

A.C. One estimates maximum monthly expenditure of aircraft ammunition and bombs as in table below, Admiralty 011641 refers.

2. Considered desirable that as great a proportion as possible of quantity stated should be stowed on board. A.C. one is requested to state the proportion which can be stowed using normal stowages and any special measures proposed for increasing the proportion.

3. Reserve should be based on three spare loads. V.A.(Q) is requested to arrange accordingly, including provision of spare barrels.

- 4. Table deals with three cases.
  - (A) Aircraft armed as at present.
  - (B) All aircraft other than Seafires equipped with R.P. .
  - (C) As for B but half present complement of Avengers replaced by fighter bombers.

5. Force is assumed consisting of four Fleet Carriers one being equipped with Seafires, Fireflys and Avengers, remaining three with Hellcats, Corsairs and Avengers.

Type	Case A	Case B	Case C
0.5 inches A.P.	860,000	860,000	1,300,000
0.5 incendiary	860,000	860,000	1,300,000
0.5 inch tracer	280,000	280,000	500,000
20 mm HE I	64,000	64,000	64,000
20 mm A P.I.	64,000	64,000	64,000
20 mm tracer	7,000	7,000	7,000
0.303 A.P.	150,000	150,000	150,000
0.303 incendiary	150,000	150,000	150,000
500 lb. MC bombs	3,000	3,000	2,300
Three inch aircraft rockets	1,500	10,000	7,000
60 lb. H.E. Heads	1,500	10,000	7,000

6. Above takes no account of F.O.N.A.S. requirements.

231117

Circulation...

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)

3rd S.L.  
Vice Contr.

4th S.L.  
5th S.L.

D.C.N.A.E.  
Sec.

Dep. Sec.  
Nav. Sec.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (W)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (A) (2)

D. of P. (2)

D. of P. (Q) (3)

D.N.A.O.  
D.A.W.T.

D.A.E.  
D.O.D. (H) (4)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.N.O.  
D.A.S.

D.G.D.  
Hd. of Air Br.

W.D.  
D.D.I.C. (2)

D.C.  
Ad. Blake

Dep. Contr. )

D.A.S. ) Bath

D.N.O. )

Hd. S.W.R. (3) )

24.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) 118 out of LA COMBATTANTE's company of 184 have been landed in the Humber.  
(b) All indicator loops at the mouth of the Schelde are now complete and working, and have already revealed a midget U-Boat, which shore batteries claim to have sunk off Flushing on Feb. 22nd.  
(c) E-Boats were renewing their activities off the Hook at 2345 tonight.  
(d) *Cable ship ALERT sunk off Ramsgate (page 425)*

Channel.

*U.480 sunk*

2. (a) The small British steamer ORISKANY was torpedoed 4 miles west of the Longships at about 0420 in convoy B.T.C. 78. C. in C. Plymouth directed E.Gs. 15 and 3 to the vicinity. The latter plastered a bottom contact from 1230 onwards about 10 miles to the southwestward, and by 1850 had raised diesel oil, new German-labelled tins of food, Nazi-emblemmed forage caps, and fresh brown bread. S.O.E.G. 3 is confident he has avenged ORISKANY.  
(b) ELLESMERE, A/S trawler, escorting "Appian G flight" was torpedoed at 2355 about 50 miles N.N.W. of Ushant.

Western Approaches.

3. OXLIP and HONEYSUCKLE are to return from Iceland to reinforce C. in C. W.A.'s A/S forces.

Northern Waters.

4. (a) Convoy R.A. 64 has reassembled about 300 miles N.E. by N. from the Faroes, with the exception of CROSBY S. NOYES. OPPORTUNE has on board 65 survivors from HENRY BACON, including women and children.  
(b) The "Orange" type anti-schnorkel obstructors laid off the Orkneys have proved to be failures and are not to be continued.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

5. Relations with Partisans remain extremely cordial.

Greece.

6. At Patras there has been a strike of harbour labourers organised in Cephalonia where there is an acute famine. Fighting between E.L.A.S. and civilians but situation is generally quiet.



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24.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Egypt. 7. L.S.T.(I) 178 reported ashore 130 miles west of Alexandria.

Australia & New Zealand.

China coast. 8. Last night Navy Catalina probably sank 1 small coaster and 1 lugger and damaged another lugger 50 miles N.E. of Hongkong.

Philippines. 9. (a) Minesweeping main part of Manila Bay completed today with negative results.  
(b) 3 destroyers and P.T. boats supported by covering aircraft attacked in bay S.W. of Mindoro and sank seven motor boats and barges and destroyed two luggers by gunfire.

Movements. 10. TYNE and RESOURCE left Sydney for Manus. ATHELING (Ferry Carrier) arrived San Pedro (California) from San Diego.

24.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Loss of LA COMBATTANTE. Your 0023\* position vicinity East Dudgeon Buoy. (Unit F.C. 1 240050A to C. in C. Nore.)  
 \* Requesting position of LA COMBATTANTE.  
 Regret to report that F.S. LA COMBATTANTE sank as the result of an explosion probably a mine near East Dudgeon at 2345A Feb. 23rd.  
 It is understood that about 120 have been rescued, including Commanding Officer, all being taken to Humber. Search for survivors is proceeding. Total numbers borne 184. (C. in C. Nore 240803A to Admty.)  
 C. in C. Nore's 240803.  
 (2) M.T.B. 763 and 770 landed 118 survivors including Captain and ten officers. At Immingham also one dead.  
 (3) H.S.Ls. 2576 and 2578 continuing search for survivors.  
 (4) Further signal will be made after closer examination of survivors.  
 (F.O.I.C. Humber 241010A to Admty.)

Asdic de- Exfor Main's 232245. Concur in para. 1 and request  
 tection for this be arranged. Com. Belgium 231023 para. 3  
 Rhine swimmers refers (not to all.)  
 etc. (A.N.C.X.F. 241015A to Admty.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 326 part 4 section A.  
 Situation Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/23 Feb.  
 Report.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G. F. Ammo
Antwerp	41	339	13,906	-	12,090	-
Ostend	539	180	3,296	-	726	1,422
Boulogne	31	75	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	240	1,907	-	-
Calais	3,865	-	284	-	-	-
Ghent	7	-	3,461	-	-	1,548
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,483</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>21,187</b>	<b>1,907</b>	<b>12,816</b>	<b>2,970</b>
<b>U.S. North</b>						
Antwerp	-	98	18,719	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	52	7,012	1,539	3,205	4,039
Le Havre	7,397	1,009	7,630	-	2,850	3,149
Rouen	906	533	5,495	450	858	-
Granville	-	-	-	2,020	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,063	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,303</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>41,919</b>	<b>4,009</b>	<b>6,913</b>	<b>7,188</b>
<b>U.S. South</b>						
Marseilles	3,317	908	9,890	870	-	1,170
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,583	1,150	4,651	2,583
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,317</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>12,473</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>4,651</b>	<b>3,753</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 241700A to Admty., and others.)

/Naval...

24.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Naval Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 326 part 2 naval. Groups of E-Boats operated off the Dutch and Belgian coasts on the night 22/23 Feb. probably minelaying. They were engaged by aircraft and surface patrols.  
 (2) L.S.T. 364 was torpedoed in the swept channel 19 miles east of Ramsgate at 0610/22.  
 (3) All indicator loops at mouth of Schelde now complete and working.  
 (4) A.M/22, midget U-Boat detected by one of these loops was seen from the shore and was later claimed to have been sunk by direct hit by 13 Fire Command off Flushing.  
 (5) Ghent - Terneuzen Canal is temporarily blocked by sunken tug. (A.N.C.X.F. 242338A to Admty.)

E-Boat activity. A/C report at 2330 8 E-Boats 320 Hook 21 course 245 speed 30 knots. (C. in C. Nore 242345A to Nore patrols.)

Operations.

Channel.

SS. ORISKANY and U-Boat sunk. *U.480* Ship torpedoed or mined 275° Longships 4 miles (ALGOMA 240425A to C. in C. Plymouth.) Ship sunk no survivors yet. (ALGOMA 240435A to C. in C. Plymouth.) Ship torpedoed 275° Longships 4 miles at 0420A/24th close and hunt. (C. in C. Plymouth 240455A to S.O.E.G. 15.) Am carrying out observant with M.L. 344. Ship believed to be ORISKANY. (ALGOMA 240501A to C. in C. Plymouth.) S.O.E.G. 3 proceed with 3rd E.G. forthwith to 275 Longships 4 and hunt with 15th E.G. and ALGOMA. Cancel my 231920A. (C. in C. Plymouth 240601A to S.O.E.G. 3.) Position of wreck considered to be wreck of ship sunk at 0400 today Saturday, reliably fixed in 50° 00' 31" N. 05° 51' 26" W. Contact gives off good echo. Contact lost at 200 yards in 215 feet of water. Large quantities of fuel oil given off after attack. Suitable. (BARBADOS 241051A to C. in C. Plymouth.) Regret to report SS. ORISKANY torpedoed and sunk at 0420A on 24th February in position 50° 05' N. 05° 51' W. Commodore of convoy Commander I.N. MacMillan R.N.R., on board. Search for survivors is being made. (C. in C. Plymouth 241210A to Admty.) My 241235\* target stationary on bottom since 1230 having been freely plastered. ROWLEY trying to raise evidence of identity whilst remainder are carrying out box search 10 miles around target. (S.O.E.G. 3 241525A to C. in C. Plymouth.) \* Not identified. U-Boat destroyed in position 49° 52' N. 06° 07.5' W. (S.O.E.G. 3 241817A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

*U.480 sunk*

/My...

War Diary.

24.2.1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

SS. ORISKANY My 241817A. Evidence in destruction includes  
and U/B sunk. (1) widespread diesel oil. (2) Several new tins  
(Contd.) of dried eggs or milk with German labels. (3)  
Considerable quantity of splintered wood. (4)  
Fresh loaves brown bread. (5) Forage caps with  
Nazi emblem. (6) E/S traces of S/M on bottom at rest follow  
similar traces clear of bottom.  
(S.O.E.G. 3 241851A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

E.G. 6. E.G. 6 act under orders of C. in C. Portsmouth.  
(2) S.O.E.G. 26 carry on hunt in present position  
with E.G. 26.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 240953A to S.O.E.G. 6.)

Patrols.

My 240950. Proceed to patrol area Q.Z.S. 629  
route E.W. between 01° 40' W. and 02° 25' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 241019A to S.O.E.G. 6.)  
Send your ships in to Portland one at a time to  
fuel ammunition and rejoin.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241129A to S.O.E.G. 26.)  
(1) Pass Gate outward at 1700 and proceed to patrol area 10  
miles south of route E between 01° 35' W. and 02° 10' W.  
(2) Leave patrol as necessary to R/V with T.B.C. 79 S.O.  
escort HEATHER. E.T.A. F Buoy 0815A/25th. Support convoy to  
westward.  
(3) On meeting convoy B.T.C. 79 at approx. 2000A/25th S.O.  
Escort COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES detach from T.B.C. and  
support B.T.C. to eastward.  
(4) On arrival at F Buoy detach ANCHUSA to enter harbour for  
boiler clean as ordered by Capt. D.I.  
(5) On completion anchor with CONVULVULUS in area 31.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 241227A to LEITH, CONVULVULUS, ANCHUSA.  
If not in contact leave patrol at 0700A Sunday. NEW  
WATERFORD pass Nab inward at 0900A.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 241717A to S.O.E.G. 6.)  
ROWLEY, ESSINGTON proceed patrol Pendeen Pt. to Lizard Hd.  
forthwith.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 242116A to S.O.E.G. 3, ROWLEY, ESSINGTON.)

Loss of "Appian". Flight G. Weather permitting intend  
ELLESMERE, sailing at 1500A/24 L.C.Q. 381 (S.O. Landing Craft),  
A/S trawler. L.C.Ts. 485, 1111, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1309, 7002,  
M.F.Vs. 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1539, tugs EMPIRE  
PHYLLIS, EMPIRE BARBARA, tankers Y.80, EMPIRE MULL,  
escorted by PICKLE (S.O.), VESTAL and SCARAVAY to  
Gibraltar.  
(2) Routed by Q.Z.S. 608 to 108° Lizard 5 miles thence as in A.M.  
141857A Nov. amended by C. in C. Plymouth's 231551A neither to all  
addressees.  
(4) Codeword "Escalator". (5) S.O.A. in fine weather 8½ knots.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 241036A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
My 241036A sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 241540A to F.O.G.M.A.)

/"Appian"...

24.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Loss of  
ELLESMERE  
A/S trawler.  
(Contd.)

"Appian" flight G attacked by submarine ELLESMERE  
torpedoed, my P.C.S. 49° 04' N. 05° 31' W.  
(BIDEFORD 242355A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

E.Gs. 2, 14. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail 2nd E.G.  
a.m. tomorrow 25th to vicinity Longships thence  
as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. Gunnery  
practice is to be carried out on sailing.

(2) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to detach 14th E.G. to  
arrive Liverpool 28th February for lay over.

(C. in C. W.A. 241216A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

2nd E.G. is temporarily allocated to C. in C. Plymouth.

C. in C. W.A's 241216 para. 1 refers.

(2) A relief for E.G. 14 will be sent when one is available.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 241959A to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C.  
Plymouth.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

You are to carry out M series of Portsmouth No.  
0/0221/227 of 8th February.

(2) M.L. 186 is to assume S.O. for this operation  
and escort NIGHTINGALE in addition to laying.

(3) M.L. 186 will embark 4 and NIGHTINGALE 16  
mines for each lay.

(4) Comply with relevant instructions contained in above quoted  
operation orders.

(5) HORNET and VERNON (M) are requested to make arrangements  
for loading direct with S.A.S.O. Priddy's Hard.

(6) Signalled report of each lay is to be made in form serial M  
one part one lay one, 2 or 3 etc. completed. 5 lay should  
complete one part of 100 mines.

(7) Combined written report 466 para. 17 or order quoted in  
para. 1 should be made by S.O.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 241550A to M.L. 186, NIGHTINGALE.)

Salvage survey It is desired to carry out a close survey of an  
of Weymouth B. area in Weymouth Bay to locate and mark sunken  
obstructions with a view to salvage.

(2) A vessel such as BRINMARIC with special asdic  
and echo sounding equipment for this type of work  
is considered essential. Time for the operation should not  
exceed one week with suitable weather. Request information if  
and when BRINMARIC can be made available.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 241551 to VERNON (M))

Minesweeping  
off Havre.

104th M.S.F. new Seine River channel 4 actuations  
Q.Z.S. 664 and 665.

159th and 181st T.G. Q.Z.S. 619.

Y.M.Ss. 379, 377, 382. Area west of Cap de la

Heve one magnetic mine in position 49° 31' 42" N.

000°, M.M.S. 66 and 204 on passage to Portsmouth.

(Com. M/S Le Havre 241906 to C.T.F. 125.)

24.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols. Force 34 E.G. 22 HART 4 sloops patrolling South Irish Coast.  
Force 38 E.G. 23 MONTSERRAT, NYASALAND, PAPUA, St. Georges Channel.  
Force 37 E.G. 31 BERKELEY CASTLE 3 corvettes North Irish Sea.  
Force 33 E.G. 30 PEVENSEY CASTLE 3 corvettes off North Irish Coast (C. in C. W.A. 241428A to W.A. Command.)  
N.O.I.C. Aultbea's 231445. It is fully realised that most of the patrol craft operated from Aultbea are not fitted A/S, but this fact in no way precludes their being used in support of convoys in accordance with my 212341. This is to be done. My 241537 not to all also refers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 241837A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

OXLIP and HONEYSUCKLE to Western Approaches. In view of the present U-Boat situation in Home Waters it is necessary to withdraw OXLIP and HONEYSUCKLE from your command without relief. Request you will sail them as desired by C. in C. W.A. as soon as practicable.  
(2) In the event of a recurrence of the U-Boat threat in Icelandic waters consideration will be given to the allocation of reinforcements.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 242105A to A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A.)

Programme for Support Groups	Programme for Support Groups	Sail	Return	Sail	Return
	1.	-	12/3	26/3	-
	2.	-	23/3	6/4	-
	3.	-	6/3	20/3	-
	4.	-	22/3	1/4	-
	5.	-	26/3	5/4	-
	6.	-	17/3	27/3	-
	9.	-	2/3	12/3	5/4
	10.	6/3	28/3	7/4	-
	14.	14/3	9/4	-	-
	15.	7/3	-	-	-
	17.	8/3	31/3	-	-
	18.	3/3	27/3	6/4	-
	19.	11/3	4/4	-	-
	20.	12/3	25/3	8/4	-
	21.	-	9/3	23/3	-
	22.	-	14/3	24/3	-
	23.	-	5/3	15/3	8/4
	24.	3/3	8/3	10/3	-
	25.	-	11/3	21/3	-
	26.	-	10/3	24/3	-
	30.	-	16/3	30/3	-
	31.	10/3	6/4	-	-

(2) Amend my 272257 Jan. E.G. 15 return 25/2. E.G. 19 return 25/2. E.G. 31 return 28/2.

(3) Dates of return are dates of intended arrival at base. Adherence to these dates will facilitate the working of the programme.

(C. in C. W.A. 242247A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rosyth, Cdre. D.W.A. Capts. D. Liverpool, Greenock, Belfast.)

24.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Searched  
Channel to-  
wards  
Stavanger/  
Ekersund.

My 161915 and C.S. 10 221830 not to all. Following 50% searching sweep was carried out on night of 21/22 Feb. Channel width 19 cables each side of centre line joining positions AA. 59° 00' N. 02° 14' E. and BB. 58° 51' N. 03° 33' E.

(2) Winner A/S buoys were laid in positions AA and BB, position AA was determined within three cables by Q.H. by DIDO. Q.H. co-ordinate readings will be forwarded. Position BB determined by taut wire from AA and bearings of Stavanger consol and considered to be correct within two cables relative to AA.

(3) No mines were seen to be cut. Consider use of this channel can be accepted when required for operations.

(4) Request Q message may be promulgated.

(C. in C. H.F. 241738A to Admty.)

Operation  
"S.C."

Intend sail "S.C." operation from Shetland (1) 0200A Feb. 26th from Scalloway. (2) 073° from Muckle Flugga 14 knots. (3) 2000A Feb. 26th. (4) Between 2030A Feb. 26th and 0500 Feb. 27th. (5) 253° to Muckle Flugga 15 knots. (6) p.m.

Feb. 27th. (7) 073° Muckle Flugga. (8) No.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 241903 to C. in C. H.F.)

61° 43' N. 04° 46' E. My 241903A. (2) Ramose Genus.

(3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 241905A to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrol.

MORSE arrived.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 242008 to F.O. S/M, C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Murmansk  
congestion.

From November 24th 1943 to April 4th 1944, 193 ships arrived North Russia in J.W. convoys. Murmansk then had until August 25th 1944 to clear the port which was congested. Since latter date 191 ships have arrived and convoy programme continues.

(2) Ships can be discharged Murmansk at greater rate than railways can accept goods concerned. My personal estimate that about 200,000 tons stores of all sorts are now dumped on dock-sides and in the vicinity. Goods dumped are chiefly foodstuff, raw material and some machine tools. Ammunition vehicles and machinery are apparently given priority on railway.

(3) Knox always states difficulty is only temporary owing to shortage railway waggons but this is likely to continue. Position is not satisfactory as goods are mostly in open.

Deterioration will commence when thaw starts and fire risk is always present.

(4) Request S.B.N.O. Archangel and S.B.N.O. Murmansk will remark. (S.B.N.O. N. Russia 240907A to Admty., S.B.N.Os. Archangel, Murmansk.)

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24.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Convoy  
R.A. 64.

Following from C.S. 1 addressed C. in C. H.F. I had intended to detach ONSLAUGHT as soon as practicable to Clyde as she has 40 Norwegian refugees on board ex Soroy transferred from THOMAS SCOTT on Feb. 17th since when weather has been continuously bad. Survivors include 21 women and children of whom 3 are seriously injured.

(2) S.B.N.O. N. Russia's 181117A in which for BELLONA read ONSLAUGHT and your 202254A refer.

(3) Request you will confirm ONSLAUGHT's destination.

(4) ZEST has developed leak forward due to strained hull and it is desirable for her to proceed to Scapa. Intend to detail another fleet destroyer to proceed to Clyde with R.A. 64.

T.O.O. 211055A.

(WHITEHALL 240946A to C. in C. H.F.)

Following received addressed N.O.I.C. Faroes A.I.G. 47 from C.S. 1, R.A. 64 P.C.S. 66° 51' N. 01° 05' E. 210° 4 knots all ships in company except <sup>CROSBY</sup> NOYES, <sup>WARREN</sup> DELANO 15 miles astern escorted by 2 destroyers. 65 survivors of <sup>HEMPT</sup> BACON including women and children in OPPORTUNE. Destroyers being detached today in turn to Faroes to fuel 2658 7759 T.O.O. 240959 ends.

(A.C.O.S. 241207A to N.O.I.C. Faroes, Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

German U/B  
and aircraft  
bases.

Russians now state main U-Boat base is in Skjomenfjord near Narvik and that up to 15 U-Boats operate from there. My 220840.

(2) Understand survivor from German U-Boat sunk by LARK and ALNWICK CASTLE stated his boat had sailed from Narvik 10 days previously. C.S. 1 170536, not to Head of British Naval Mission Moscow, refers. (S.B.N.O. N. Russia 241115A to Admty.)

Anti-schnorkel  
obstructors.

Concur in para. 7 of B.D.O. Scapa's 231830. (C. in C. H.F. 241220A to Admty.)  
Concur para. 7 your 231830A.  
(A.C.O.S. 241240A to B.D.O. Scapa.)

Situation  
report.

2103A situation report 24th February U.S.S. SAUCY vicinity 63° 01' N. 31° 28' W. Task Unit 22.2.1 (E) THOMAS U.S.S. 5 destroyers 61° 21' 24° 14' 001° 12.  
(A.C.I.C. 241320A to Admty.)

Soroy  
civilians.

All escorts of R.A. 64 having Norwegian refugees on board are to proceed to Greenock at best speed when detached from convoy. Your 240946 refers, (under "R.A. 64")

(2) Arrangements have been made with immigration authorities for reception of Norwegians on arrival in the Clyde.  
(3) Communication with the shore by Norwegians is prohibited and the fact that they are on board is not to be disclosed except to authorized authorities.



24.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Soroy  
Civilians.  
(Contd.)

(4) Before arrival in Clyde escort carrying Norwegians are to signal following particulars to N.O.I.C. Greenock. (a) Number of men and boys over 16. (b) Number of women, and children under 16.  
(C. in C. H.F. 241748A to C.S. 1.)

Convoy  
J.W. 65.

J.W. 65. C.S.I's 231031 suggests that Western Approaches escorts will not be home before March 1st. J.W. 65 is scheduled to sail on March 7th.  
(2) Present indications are:-  
(a) that the only suitable escorts available from my command by March 7th will be 5 ships namely ALLINGTON CASTLE, FARNHAM CASTLE, LANCASTER CASTLE, LOTUS and CAMELLIA.  
(b) That 4 further escorts namely LAPWING, ALNWICK CASTLE, BAMBOROUGH CASTLE and RHODODENDRON may be ready by March 9th subject to confirmation after arrival R.A. 64.  
(C. in C.W.A. 241843A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy  
Shipping  
Situation.

Baltic and Approaches.  
Following recent reports indicate a deteriorating situation to be expected in near future.  
(1) Baltic. (a) Naval equipment and machinery is continually being evacuated from Danzig port and transported westward in requisitional vessels. C.2  
(b) Evacuation of large proportion civil population from Danzig port continues by all vessels available. On January 31st transport for hundred thousand persons was being anxiously awaited at Neufahrwasser. Even Danish colliers detained to await bunkers at Stettin and Danzig also used for refugee service at Baltic ports 2 which identified arriving Flensburg February 9th with refugees. Wounded and convalescent have also been brought to Copenhagen. B.2.  
(c) Volume of traffic along western shore German coast up to mid-February was believed to be normal except for brief intervals after mining. B.3.  
(d) Inference. Though number of enemy vessels operating has not yet appreciably declined sea transport is now being largely used to meet present emergency transferring westwards vital Naval stores and personnel from threatened ports in Eastern Baltic.  
(2) Baltic Approaches. (a) Statistics show that volume of traffic passing through Great Belt and Sound as well as that on passage through Kattegat has not yet shown any significant reduction except for decrease in number of schooners which is seasonal. It is significant that of northbound vessels more have been observed laden than hitherto. B.1.  
(b) Four identified Norwegian vessels are still employed carrying coal from Denmark to Norway and about ten Danish vessels were also very recently reported still in this trade. B.2.

/(c)...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy  
Shipping  
Situation.  
(Contd.)

(c) Stock of coal in Denmark including bunker should be exhausted in another ten days when nearly all Danish vessels except a few being fitted to burn lignite will then have to join increasing pool of vessels gradually being laid up.  
B.2.

(d) In Norway coal situation generally is reported to be precarious and existing stocks for all railway centres were expected to be exhausted by end of February. B.2.

(e) Inference. Though volume of traffic at present operating shows no significant decline rapidly exhausting stock of coal will cause in immediate future not only drastic reduction in shipping but great deterioration in Norwegian communications and in Danish and Norwegian industry.  
(N.A. Stockholm 241159 to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

BLUEBELL,  
corvette.

*(mark 17/2)*

taking passage in BELLONA. T.O.O. 211122A.  
(WHITEHALL 240927A to Admty.)

Following from C.S. 1. Addressed Admiralty. My 171531, not to all addressees. BLUEBELL blew up on being torpedoed. Sole living survivor recovered, Albert Edward Holmes Acting P.O. uninjured. In addition John Hurrell A.B. is

Movements.

GLENROY,  
L.S.I. (L)

Propose handing over GLENROY to your administration as from 1200 tomorrow Sunday 25th February.  
(R.A.L.S.C.U. 241156A to S.O.A.G. (W.2))

TJERK HIDDES,  
Dutch  
destroyer.

A.M. 172136. Request you will arrange accordingly.  
(2) F.O.I.C. Greenock 182047 and Commodore WESTERN ISLES 191258 refer.  
(D.O.D. (H) 241245A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, Com. WESTERN ISLES.)

A.F.D. 66.

Arrived A.F.D. 66 in tow of FLAUNT escorted by GWEAL and M.Ls. 178 and 309.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241421A to Com. Southend.)

TASAJERA,  
Coastal Force  
H.Q. Ship.

Intend to sail at 1700A/25th February TASAJERA (S.O.) escorted by ST. AGNES routed 090° Sumburgh Head 5 miles, 090° Fair Isle 5 miles thence joining Q.Z.S. 324 in lat. of Auskerry and by searched channels to Methil. S.O.A. 7½ knots E.T.A. 0730A/27th Feb.

(3) Request TASAJERA be onward routed to Harwich A.M. 211549A refers. (4) On completion of escort duty at Methil ST. AGNES returns to Aberdeen. (5) SS. DUNMOIR sails in company detaching off Auskerry for Kirkwall onward routeing Dundee.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 241700A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth.)

/PALOMARES...

423

24.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

PALOMARES  
Fighter  
Direction  
Ship.

When ready about 25th March F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail PALOMARES to work up under F.O.C.T (2) PALOMARES 231556, not to all, refers. (D.O.D. (H) 241751A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.C.T.)

War Diary.

24.2.1945.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Fishing restrictions. Your 222147. Approx. 25% Trawlers and 40% sailing and Auxiliary Vessels of Portugal's Coastal Fishing Fleet work in these waters, generally beyond 3 mile limit. Food situation and important Sardine and Tunny Canning export industry would be gravely affected, and incalculable repercussions might result.  
2. Embassy agree in these comments.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 241231 to Admty).

ANTWERP Arrived ANTWERP from Malta. Departure VERITY escort duties west.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 242243A to Admty).

South Atlantic.

E.G. 59 My 201203 E.G. 59. Sail from Dakar 0001Z Monday 26th Comar Dakar stresses importance to French Navy of visit to Martinique. Request permission for stay of 24 hours at Martinique. Route to be extended later if arrival of group at Porto Rico will not delay departure of Dock.  
(F.O.C.W.Af, 241016Z to Admty, (R) by Admty. to B.A.D. Washington 251216A) A.W.I.  
Intend to sail E.G. 59 ANNAMITE S.O., GAZELLE, CHEVREUIL at 0001Z/26th Feb. routed through viz. to San Juan Porto Rico, S. of A. 13 knots.  
(2) E.T.A. San Juan a.m. 7th March. If approved to call at Martinique my 241016Z not to all refers will proceed direct from 15.40 N., 25.00 W, E.T.A. a.m. 6th March.  
(4) Comar Dakar is requested to issue sailing orders in accordance with above.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 241230Z to Com. 10th Fleet and 261106Z).

TEVIOT Capetown arrival TEVIOT.  
(Frigate). (C. in C. S.A., 241227B to Admty).

A.F.Ds. A.M. 202138 and 221428 neither to all.  
39 and 40. A.F.D. 40 will be ready to leave Capetown on 15th March. If PRUDENT cannot arrive Capetown by this date, arrangements are being made with South African harbours and railways to tow dock to Durban arriving about 22nd March. C. in C. E.I. is requested to report date of arrival of PRUDENT in South Africa.  
2. A.F.D. 39 will be ready to leave East London on 22nd March. Can C. in C. E.I. say if OBRIANA or other suitable tug can be made available at East London by this date.  
3. Intend both docks embark a naval crew of eight men for the passage to deal with such contingencies as the parting of the tow or having to bring the dock pumping machinery into action.  
(C. in C. S.A., 241711 to Admty).

24.2.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

L.S.T.(1) Ashore 130 miles West of Alex. please send tugs.  
178 (L.S.T.(1) 178, 240627B to R.A. Alex).  
(aground).

Frigates Departure (1) H.M.S. USK. (2) H.M.S. SHIEL.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 241201 to Admty).

Gulf of Genoa Carry out Concertina Patrol night 24th/25th.  
Patrol. (A) 043° 40' N., 007° 50' E., 108°.  
(D) F.S. TROMBE 29, MATCHLESS 3, METEOR.  
(G) 2600 METEOR.  
(J) 108° F.S. TROMBE 288°, MATCHLESS 108° METEOR.  
(K) 14 knots advance. Independent zig-zag. Turn 180°  
(incomplete hour) each hour.  
(U) Proceed at full speed to intercept on receipt of enemy  
report. Report P.C. and S. to Flagship.  
(X) METEOR and F.S. TROMBE to bombardment area. MATCHLESS to  
Golfe Juan.  
3. MATCHLESS and TROMBE acknowledge.  
4. C.O.F. 629 refers.  
(METEOR, 241201A to MATCHLESS, F.S. TROMBE)

Black Sea Your 231923 paragraph 2. Soviet Naval  
routeing. Authorities have been informed that this route  
will be used.  
2. Para. 3. Intention of Soviet Naval  
Authorities is that ships should bunker at  
Constanza subsequent to discharge of cargo at Odessa and load  
at whichever port is desirable.  
3. Route from Constanza to Odessa and other inter port routes  
have been subject of joint Anglo-American approach to Soviet  
Naval Authorities and for which we continue to press.  
4. Admiralty pass to all negative Black Sea.\*  
(Adm. Archer, 241410A to Admty)  
\*Passing action being taken by War Registry.

7th M.S.F. Request you will onward route 7th M.S.F. to  
East Indies. Ships should boiler clean before  
leaving Mediterranean.  
2. C. in C. East Indies' 160556, being passed  
to C. in C. Med. and A.M. 181507 refer.  
(D.M.S., 241622A to C. in C. Med).

LOCUST Your 241517 not to C. in C. Nore.  
LOCUST is at present employed as Headquarters  
Ship for coastal and minesweeping operations  
on the Army's flank in N.W. Europe, and will be  
made available for use by S.B.N.O. Danube when released from  
present service.  
(V.C.N.S., 241707A to C. in C. Med).

Cositintrep Coastal Air Force. 22 P.47s bombed San Remo and  
No.594. Imperia harbours.  
extract. (H.Q., M.A.A.F., No T.O.O.)

/Ships...

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24.2.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Ships for  
Black Sea.

V.A.M. is requested to sail ships in A.M. 131714  
in company to Istanbul for onward routing to  
Odessa reporting E.T.A. Dardanelles to B.N.A.  
Ankara.

2. Ships should be sailed to pass position 704  
Q.B.C. 922 in daylight.
3. F.O.L.E.M. is requested to provide escort for ships in para.  
(1) from position 704 to Rabbit Island.
4. Admiralty pass to Moscow.  
(C. in C. Med., 242003A to V.A.M. etc).

Situation  
report No.  
569.

1. Adriatic. Relations with Partisan  
Authorities remain extremely cordial.
2. Greece. At Patras there has been a strike  
of harbour labourers organized in Cephalonia where  
there is acute famine. Fighting between  
E.L.A.S. and Civilians, but situation generally  
remains quiet.  
(C. in C. Med., 242106A to F.O.L.E.M. etc).

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24.2.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

A/S Training S/M. VIRTUE departing Colombo 1st March. My 270524\* Jan. refers. (C. in C. E.I., 241042Z to C. in C. B.P.F.) \*Anticipate one V class probable H.M.S. VIRTUE ready to leave Colombo for Fremantle about mid Feb.

B.P.F.T. AORANGI and LANCASHIRE due to leave U.K. end March and early April respectively to join British Pacific Fleet Train, require to call at Bombay to adjust Indian crews. 2. Request you will arrange to route accordingly. (D.O.D.(F), 241206A to C. in C. E.I.)

Escorts Operational Requirements. Presume requirements in para. 1 of your 190831 are for offensive operations alone. It is desired also to know your estimated requirements for convoy and troop movement protection. 2. Request appreciation of total paper strength of all escorts required on the station, including:- (a) Functions for which required, and classes of escort preferred for each; (b) Assumed serviceability ratio. 3. Figures are required for planning purposes. Until the end of the German war the total reinforcements to East Indies and Pacific escort forces combined are unlikely to exceed the 34 at present allocated, of which 14 are temporarily withheld to meet the U-boat threat in Home Waters. (V.C.N.S., 241240A to C. in C. E.I.)

Tugs for E.I.S. Your 170332 Feb. to S.A.C.S.E.A. Tugs of 300 to 850 H.P. are not a normal range of types in production nor would they be suitable for similar purposes. 2. As supply must necessarily be of types 250 H.P. and 850/1000 H.P. suggest requirements be divided into demands for craft tugs of 250 H.P. e.g. TANAC type and large berthing tugs 850/1000 H.P. these latter being demanded only where smaller type unsuitable and requirements cannot be covered by existing demand for tugs 1000 H.P. or over. Supply position of this type is very stringent. 3. Towards the end of this year a very few small berthing tugs of 500 H.P. will be coming into production but it is unlikely that any will be available for East Indies Station during this year. (A.D.S.V.P./E.T., 242239A to C. in C. E.I.S.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B report. SSSS SSSS SSSS 11.14 N., 62.02 W., sighted - rest missed.  
(JOHILLA, No T.O.O./24.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q., 241238Z and Cominch, 241501Z.)

LE TRIUMPHANT, French destroyer. U.G.S.78 departing New York and Norfolk 3-4 March for Western Med. will be escorted by Taskgroup 60.3 Capt. Longfellow in EARLE, Comcoortdiv. 45 in VANCE, LANSING, DURANT, PEORIA, F.N.S. LE TRIUMPHANT. At appropriate point detach LE TRIUMPHANT for Casablanca directing her report C. in C. Med. for duty on arrival. Escorts lay-over at Oran. Return when directed by C. in C. Med. escorting G.U.S.80.  
(C. in C. Lant, 241643Z to C.T.G. 60.3.)

Movement. Departed Bermuda at 1910Z H.N.M.S. QUEEN WILHELMINA and DIRKJE for Horta.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 242330Z to N.O.I.C. Horta, etc.)

Australia and New Zealand

Survey. Admty. Hydrographer's 291317Z Jan. part 2. Request confirmation of survey in vicinity Kirkcaldy reef should be extended south of south limit 010° 20' S.  
(CHALLENGER, 240001Z to Admty.)

Movement. Departed Sydney (N.S.W.) 0315Z/24th Feb. TYNE, RESOURCE, H.M.A.S. PIRIE, LAUNCESTON and CRANE for Manus. S. of A. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ , E.T.A. Manus 2100Z/4th March.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney, 240535Z to Admty.)

B.P.F. Policy. Shipping for Fleet Train, etc. (C. in C. B.P.F., 240816Z to Admty.)  
See Lion Copy.

Digest No. 1130, 23rd Feb. Digest Serial No. 1130 covering Feb. 23rd unless otherwise stated.  
(1) Navy Liberators sank two barges carrying about 300 troops Sakishima Gunto, bombed plant on Okino Oagari Shima to east. Another Liberator over China coast bombed strafed single



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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Digest  
No. 1130,  
23rd Feb.  
(Contd.)

sizeable transport off Swatow heading north-east causing slight damage; previous night Catalina from Lingayan bombed small freighter same vicinity scoring near misses.  
(2) Mindoro-based search planes strafed single small freighter-transport with decks awash east Hainan, saw single large engined-aft freighter with 2 destroyer escorts heading north-east off Cape Padaran.  
(4) Convoy 2 transports, 2 escorts been successfully attacked same day north-east Cape Padaran; convoy 2 tankers, 2 escorts passed Camranh Bay northbound afternoon same day nil shipping present Cape Saint Jacques that time.  
(5) Night 22/23 Ormoc-based P.Ts. sank 3 barges carrying troops and supplies also destroyed 4th barge on beach north-west coast Cebu Island night 20/21 Mindoro-based boats blew stern off cargo ship near Catanuan southern Luzon.  
(6) Ground forces Manila broke into Innravurok area against disorganised opposition securing half of area. Manila Hotel not entirely occupied, advance continued to 16th Street in port area. Other forces including paratroopers liberated 2,100 internees Los Banos (south shore Laguna de Bay).  
(7) Weather hampered scheduled 5th Air Force strikes against Formosa and South China Sea shipping, but further south 9 Mitchells conducted highly successful shipping strike Phan Rang (French Indo-China) shipping observed in harbour prior to strike included 4-5 destroyers, 2 tankers, more than 20 small vessels. Mitchells claim one medium tanker, one small freighter left on fire and sinking, another medium tanker, 2 destroyer escorts, 2 destroyer damaged by direct hit and strafing in addition one lugger destroyed, one launch strafed. 4 enemy fighters intercepted whereby one damaged. A/A shot down one Mitchell. Area west Fort Stotsenburg again attacked with 51 tons of bombs on gun positions in cave mouths causing landslides. Other strikes made on Jesselton and Lubang Island north-west Mindoro but no details reported.  
(9) Delayed reports for 22nd Feb. follow: Patrol Venturas attacked small craft Sulu Archipelago. R.A.A.F. Liberator and Ventura patrols attacked small shipping lesser Sunda Islands.  
(A.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 241153Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/24th Feb.  
Para. (A) (1) At 0320Z/24th Feb. SS. ORISKANY was torpedoed and sunk in lat. 50° 05' N., long. 05° 51' W.  
Para. (B) (1) At 1949Z/23rd Feb. CALGARY obtained firm contact and had unexplained explosion astern in lat. 50° 20' N., long. 03° 00' W.

/Para. (C) ...

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Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

- S/M attack and sighting summary.  
(Contd.)
- Para. (C) (1) At 1020Z/23rd Feb. O/423 sighted smoke and attacked in lat.  $53^{\circ} 25' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 03' W.$   
 (2) At 1034Z/23rd Feb. O/423 sighted smoke and attacked in lat.  $53^{\circ} 03' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 03' W.$   
 (3) At 1246Z/23rd Feb. J/103 attacked U-Boat in lat.  $51^{\circ} 03' N.$ , long.  $09^{\circ} 42' W.$   
 (4) At 1246Z/23rd Feb. MONSERRAT attacked contact, later reported non-submarine, in lat.  $51^{\circ} 48' N.$ , long.  $06^{\circ} 27' W.$   
 (5) At 1413Z/23rd Feb. Training A/C 41 sighted smoke in lat.  $54^{\circ} 08' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 33' W.$   
 (6) At 1418Z/23rd Feb. Training A/C 49 sighted smoke and wake in lat.  $54^{\circ} 13' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 17' W.$   
 (7) At 1615Z/23rd Feb. F.A.A. A/C sighted smoke moving S.W. in lat.  $55^{\circ} 25' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 50' W.$   
 (8) At 1620Z/23rd Feb. K/59 obtained contact in lat.  $54^{\circ} 08' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 33' W.$   
 (9) At 1640Z/23rd Feb. B/202 obtained A.S.V. contact in lat.  $58^{\circ} 09' N.$ , long.  $07^{\circ} 46' W.$   
 (10) At 2003Z/23rd Feb. M/120 obtained contact in lat.  $54^{\circ} 08' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 30' W.$   
 (11) At 2140Z/23rd Feb. W/228 obtained A.S.V. contact in lat.  $52^{\circ} 30' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 17' W.$   
 (12) At 2320Z/23rd Feb. Q/14 obtained A.S.V. contact in lat.  $51^{\circ} 03' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 46' W.$   
 (13) At 2354Z/23rd Feb. H/179 obtained A.S.V. contact in lat.  $50^{\circ} 14' N.$ , long.  $06^{\circ} 11' W.$   
 (14) At 0022Z/24th Feb. H.M. A/S Trawler ST. ELSTAN attacked contact in lat.  $50^{\circ} 20' N.$ , long.  $06^{\circ} 11' W.$   
 (15) At 0300Z/24th Feb. A/409 obtained contact in lat.  $50^{\circ} 48' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 46' W.$   
 (16) At 0650Z/24th Feb. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact and attacked with D/Cs. in lat.  $55^{\circ} 46' N.$ , long.  $07^{\circ} 05' W.$   
 Para. (D) (1) At 1259Z/23rd Feb. S/59 obtained A.S.V. and sonobuoy contact in lat.  $55^{\circ} 27' N.$ , long.  $05^{\circ} 56' W.$   
 (2) At 2130Z/23rd Feb. H.M. M.L.178 attacked contact in lat.  $50^{\circ} 20' N.$ , long.  $02^{\circ} 40' W.$   
 (D.D.I.C., 241143A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 241345A, 241350A.)

**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.)

*B.P.F. Policy of  
Shipping ops. Fleet Train etc.  
240816Z February.*

From C. in C. B.P.F.

Date 25.2.45.  
Recd. 2235.

NAVAL CYPHER XD BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty.  
Repeated C.A.(Q), R.A.F.T.

My 050604 and A.M. 071520. Following briefly are the points which were considered in calculating the number of additional ships required for the Fleet Train -

(A) Assumptions and factors -

- (1) That an intermediate base would be established in the Philippines by September or October 1945.
- (2) That there would be an advanced base or anchorage some 700 miles in advance of the intermediate base from which the fleet would operate.
- (3) There would be a service area some 500 miles in advance of the advanced base at which the fleet would meet the tankers and be fuelled at sea.
- (4) That the strength of the British Pacific Fleet will in July be as shown in Admiralty Plans Division Memorandum Q(B) 106/44 of 10th October, 1944 including 4 additional C.V.L's.
- (5) That the total ration strength of the British Pacific Fleet will in July be 77,000, Fleet Train 21,000, shore-based personnel 1,000 - mounting to 10,000 in October (see (B) below), submarine base 4,000 - say in July a total of 100,000.
- (6) That of (4) above two-thirds will be operating continually at sea, of the remaining one-third, 17 per cent will be self-refitting in the forward area and the remaining 17 per cent at the rear base for dry docking.
- (7) That of (5) normally a total of 80,000 to 90,000 personnel will require rations in the forward areas.
- (8) That the monthly expenditure of armament stores will be 10,000 tons (C. in C. B.P.F. 28(70)311/Jan. para. 1 (B))
- (9) An allowance has been made that 15 per cent to 20 per cent Fleet Train ships will be away refitting or docking.

(B) .....

# TOP SECRET

IN

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-2-

**(B) Cycles of Operation.**

- (1) Attendant Tankers. - The daily fuel consumption of the operating ships (see (6) above) will be 9,000 tons. A six day tanker operational cycle would require two groups of tankers - each group to have a total capacity of 54,000 tons - or allowance ?as made for bottoms which cannot be pumped say 60,000 tons - which means that the total tanker tonnage to fuel the fleet at sea must be 120,000 tons or say 12 tankers of 10,000 tons each. To the above must be added a reserve of three tankers at the advanced anchorage to ensure that US freighting (?tankers are) cleared without delay and to provide for prompt replacement of damaged vessels - also three tankers absent docking and refitting. The small tankers are required for harbour duties - fuelling fleet train ships and escorts. Water tankers and supply of water to the Fleet - see Commander-in-Chief B.P.F.'s letter number 21/BPF/562M dated 5th February, 1944 with copy of R.A.F.T.'s 30/0815/Jan.
- (2) A.S.I.S. and armament store carriers A.S.C.'s will unload in the intermediate base and cargo will be distributed to the A.S.I.S. The round trip - Australia to Philippines - is estimated at 3 months including loading and unloading. Carriers loaded selective stowage can on average carry 2,500 tons. There are four carriers required per month at intermediate base - thus 12 needed plus reserve of two to allow for dockings. In order to meet changes in nature of expenditure and supply period of approximately six weeks it is estimated that 30,000 tons must be held in A.S.I.S., i.e., 15 ships plus two for docking, etc., making a total of 17.
- (3) V.S.I.S. It is intended to route V.S.I.S. direct from Australia to advanced anchorage. The round trip will take 3 months. And 3 V.S.I.S. are required a month to provide the rations. Nine V.S.I.S. could therefore just meet the requirements but allowance has to be made for the fleet working in cycles and therefore it will be necessary at times to return store issuing ships before they are fully unloaded, also allowance must be made for ships refitting, etc. A total of 15 is therefore required to cover all eventualities. This number could be somewhat reduced if eventually victualling, including refrigerator, storage is to be established at the intermediate base.

(4) .....

(4) N.S.I.S. and N.S. Carriers. Requirements have been calculated on the same premises as V.S.I.S. except that more use will be made of carriers which will carry stores in bulk for the larger ships and the N.S.I.S. cater for small ships. The carriers would unload into N.S.I.S. or direct into big ships generally at the intermediate base.

(C) It is assumed that sufficient storage facilities will be provided in the Philippines by September or October, (A.M. 171425/1). If it is known that these are being provided and that the additional ships asked for are on the way then it is considered that by various expedients such as deferring refits, etc., that the fleet can be adequately served until the storage facilities are erected and the additional ships are available. When and if that base is developed to the full scope envisaged reductions in the ships could probably be made. The question of storage facilities at the intermediate base is being taken up separately.

(D) Bulk Issuing Ships.

The carry from Australia to the Philippines, i.e. approximately 3,500 miles is considered too long for efficient support by naval store carriers, and the bulk issuing ships, which it is proposed should be stocked principally with large supplies of consumable naval stores for issue to all classes of ships on much the same lines as American Issuing ships, are required in lieu of shore storage until such time as the latter becomes available.

(E) (1) Tanker requirements do not ~~repeat~~ cover Australian ports.

(2) For number of large tankers required see (B) (1) above.

240816Z.

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

1st Lord.	Sec.	D.D.A.S.(L)	A.D.O.D.(CO)
1st S.L. (3)	Dep. Sec.	D.N.O.	D.S.V.P.(3)
D.F.S.L.(2)	Nav. Sec.	D.N.A.O.(2)	Hd. of Air
2nd S.L.	U.W.R.	D.A.W.T.	D.C.N.A.E.
3rd S.L.	D.N.I.(4)	Ad. Blake (4)	D. of V.
V. Contr.	D. of P.(2)	D. of S.(3)	D. of M.
4th S.L.	D. of P.(9)(3)	D.G.D.	A.C.N.P.
5th S.L.	D.O.D.(H)(4)	D. of S.T.(6)	W.D.
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D.(F)(2)	D.T.D.(4)	D.A.E.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.C.	D.T.D.(6)	D.A.M.R.(2)
A.C.N.S.(F)	Hd. of M.(5)	D.C.O.D.(4)	Dep. Contr.
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)	D.T.S.D.	D.C.O.M.(4)	D.A.S.
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)	D.D.I.C.(2)	N.L.O. Australia	D.N.O.
		House.	Hd. of SWR
			(3)

} B  
A  
T  
E  
(6)

25.2.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. 200 Fortresses of Eighth Air Force bombed the U-Boat yards at Bremen with 585 tons. The results were unobserved.

North Sea.

2. (a) At least 4 groups of E-Boats operated in the early hours off the mouth of the Schelde. Three of them were engaged by our patrols, RIOU and her M.T.Bs. stopped one boat which then scuttled herself, leaving 23 prisoners in our hands. Mines are believed to have been laid in two places in the channel.

(b) Our sweepers detonated 4 mines off Great Yarmouth.

(c) ALERT disappeared some time after 1240 while working on the cable north of the Goodwins. Her mast is showing above water, but so far no survivors have been reported.

(d) SS. EGHOLM was mined or torpedoed off St. Abbs Head in convoy F.S. 39. (FS 1739)

Foreign Stations.

East Indies.

Bay of Bengal. 3. Force 68 consisting of destroyers ROTHERHAM, ROEBUCK, RAPID and ROCKET arrived Akyab from an anti-shipping sweep off the Andaman Islands. No shipping encountered. The radar station on Great Coco Island (N.E. of the Andamans) was bombarded and probably put out of action.  
(Operation "Suffice")

Burma.

4. Burma coast operations on Ramree Island are reported virtually ended. The blockade by small craft with army machine gun sections embarked has accounted for 200 of the enemy killed since the 8th of February.

Sloops NARBADA, JUMNA, FLAMINGO have continued support amphibious operations Ruywa area.

War Diary.

25.2.1945  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Philippines. 5. A successful landing by U.S. Forces was made on Verde Island. (S. of Southern Luzon.)
- China coast. 6. A single bomber destroyed two small coasters and possibly a third off Hainan Island.
- Japan. 7. Today Tokyo was raided by aircraft from an American Carrier Force in bad weather. An aircraft plant was repeatedly hit, 47 enemy aircraft were shot down, 111 destroyed on ground and 75 others damaged. During the operation 17 small ships were sunk or probably sunk and 14 others damaged. 9 American aircraft were lost. 2 ships sustained slight damage from enemy surface craft.

25.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Probable  
 mining off  
 Ostend.

- (1) Cancel my 241742A not to all.
- (2) E-Boats have crossed Channel between N.F.5 and N.F.8 buoys.
- (3) Proceed forthwith and conduct Oropesa search in G formation of Channel between these buoys.
- (4) If no moored mines are found conduct E.G.M.S. of same part of Channel. Acknowledge.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 250327A to M/S.F.40.)  
 From N.F.5 proceed through position 360° 1½ miles N.F.6 thence keep 1½ miles north of centre line of channel to position 010° 1½ miles from N.F.9 thence rejoin channel in 51° 21'36" N., 02° 59'06" E.
- (2) Traffic for Ostend proceed from position 360° 1½ miles from N.F.8 Buoy to N.F.8 Buoy and thence by Q.Z.S.584.
- (3) Acknowledge.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 250340A to VIMY, VERSATILE, GREENFLY.)

E-Boat  
 activity.

- E-Boat activity night 24/25 Feb.
- (1) E-Boats operated in groups of 3 or 4 boats.
- (2) 16 Group Wellington made some excellent shadowing reports of 8 E-Boats from position off Ijmuiden until unfortunately shot down in 52° N., 3° E.
- (3) 0139 EKINS (Patrol 19) with M.T.Bs. detected NRHI (4 E/Bs) 005° Ostend 23 and drove them S.W. where they were engaged by RIOU (Patrol 16) with M.T.Bs. and RETALICK (Patrol 14) and driven north at 0228.
- (4) 0142 RIOU detected NRG1 (4 E/Bs) 349 Ostend 20. Enemy eluded RIOU and M.T.Bs. and reached N.F.9 Buoy at 0206. M.T.Bs. stationed at N.F.10 chases them west, RIOU's M.T.Bs. and RETALICK subsequently engaging as enemy retired N.W.
- (5) 0232 RIOU detected NRG2 (4 E/Bs) 349 Ostend 19 steering east. RIOU and M.T.B. Unit stopped one E-Boat which scuttled itself. 23 survivors including 3 officers being landed at Harwich.
- (6) 0237 STAYNER (Patrol 12) with M.T.Bs. detected NRL1 (3 E/Bs) crossing Channel near N.F.6 Buoy. This group recrossed channel near N.F.5 Buoy and retired north, chased by M.T.Bs.
- (7) Mines almost certainly laid between N.F.8 and N.F.9 Buoys and probably between N.F.5 and N.F.6.
- (8) No further details at present available.
- (9) Shore radar Blankenberghe provided Ostend plot with good track of NRG1 whilst within range and plotted patrols continuously. Some plots also obtained in NRL1.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 251252A, to Admty.)

Air  
 Situation  
 Report.

- Cositintrep No. 327, part 3, Air.
- Sunset 23rd Feb. to sunset 24th Feb., 1945.
- (A) Summary of operations. 8th Air Force despatched 1100 bombers with fighter escort of 500 fighters against the U-Boat yard at Bremen, against four oil plants and rail road bridges

/at ...



25.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Air at Wesel and Bremen. The attacks were made  
Situation on P.F.F. with unobserved results except Wesel  
Report. which was reported as excellent.  
(Contd.) (S.H.A.E.F., No T.O.O., to Admty. and others.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 327, Part 4.  
Situation Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/  
Report. 24th February.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo.</u>
<u>British -</u>						
Antwerp	133	316	17,976	-	15,960	414
Ostend	949	237	1,964	-	983	331
Boulogne	45	150	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	92	287	-	-
Calais	3,697	-	83	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,378	-	-	1,851
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,824</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>23,493</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>16,943</b>	<b>2,596</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>						
Antwerp	-	331	19,181	-	-	67
Cherbourg	47	289	8,264	1,648	12,239	4,178
Le Havre	3,056	662	8,883	-	-	3,063
Rouen	461	424	7,098	791	457	-
Granville	-	-	-	4,212	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,249	-	-	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,564</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>46,675</b>	<b>6,651</b>	<b>12,696</b>	<b>7,508</b>
<u>U.S. South -</u>						
Marseilles	4,731	791	9,901	1,635	6,307	423
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,777	1,250	4,651	2,777
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,731</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>12,678</b>	<b>2,885</b>	<b>10,958</b>	<b>3,200</b>

Notes: (1) Discharge French operated ports -  
Morlaix - 900 tons coal. Sete - 200 tons pitch.  
(2) G.F. Ammo. discharged at Ghent (U.S.) not previously  
reported is - 617 tons on 21st Feb. 323 tons on 22nd Feb.  
542 tons on 23rd Feb.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 251640A to Admty. and others.)

Minesweeping LL Sweepers detonated following mines:  
off East (1) One red magnetic 070° 3A Buoy 10 cables at  
Coast. 1505.  
(2) One blue magnetic 105° 3A Buoy 9 cables at  
1519.  
(3) One blue magnetic 135° 3A Buoy 10½ cables  
at 1521.  
(4) One blue magnetic 145° 3A Buoy 11 cables at 1523.  
(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, 251705A to Admty.)

Loss of Cable ship Following report received from H.D.M.L.1025 at  
ALERT. 1450 today 25th, addressed C. in C. Nore, A.C.  
Dover, N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, begins:

/"Mast ...

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25.2.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Loss of  
Cable ship  
ALERT.  
(Contd.)

"Mast of wreck not seen previously observed at 1350/24th, approximate position 3½ miles S. 60 E. Elbow Buoy. Bedding seen floating at 1425 and at 1435 large patch of fuel oil also seen. Red shape appeared to be attached to mast. Dan buoy with number 6 on can and red flag with yellow crown one to two cables to south-east of mast. T.O.O. 251305". Ends.

(2) Report confirmed by following signal from M.L.1471 addressed C. in C. Nore, A.C. Dover, N.O.I.C. HMASgate, begins: "Whilst on patrol 52 at 0845 today, I sighted mast of wreck in approximate position 51° 20'36" N., 01° 36'48" E. Mast carried 2 yards, rigging and one black ball all in good condition. 2½ cables 010° from the mast was a black and white vertical striped Dan buoy marked with the numeral six bearing Trinity House flag. 251421". Ends.

(3) Cable ship ALERT was working in approximate position 100° North Foreland 7 miles a.m. yesterday 24th.

(4) All attempt to communicate by W/T and R/T with ALERT since 1240 today 25th, have failed, and above wreck must be assumed to be her.

(5) Search by aircraft and surface vessels for survivors is being carried out.

(V.A. Dover, 251821A to Admty.)

My 251821A. M.L.213 reported at 1720 sighting a life-buoy marked ALERT.

(V.A. Dover, 251843A to Admty.)

Loss of  
SS. EGHOLM.

SS. EGHOLM struck a mine or torpedoed in position 55° 50' N., 01° 52' W.

(VANITY, 251855 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

My 251855A. EGHOLM sunk, 23 survivors - 5 wounded, one seriously, 3 missing. Have

carried out "Scare", am investigating. Convoy proceeding at best speed.

(VANITY, 251940A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Have dropped charge in vicinity of wreck no contact.

No useful information from survivors.

(VANITY, 252007A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Proceed forthwith to hunt possible U-Boat in position 55° 50' N., 01° 52' W. where VALOROUS reports obtaining contact.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 252235A to WIVERN.)

Proceed with despatch land survivors at Tyne and rejoin BROOME as soon as possible.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 252316A to VANITY.)

Have carried out 2 attacks doubtful contact in position 290° 21 B 5½ miles approximately, non-submarine, 12 depth charges remaining. VALOROUS medical officer on board, one survivor dead.

(VANITY, 252342A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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25.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Loss of ELLESMERE. My 242355A. No ships in convoy attacked. No contact gained. Am proceeding to overtake convoy. ELLESMERE sunk. No survivors. (BIDEFORD, 250114A to C. in C. Plymouth.) ELLESMERE torpedoed 49° 04' N., 05° 31' W.

at 2355A/24th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 250116A to Plymouth Command.)

Regret to report H.M. Trawler ELLESMERE, escort of "Appian" Flight G torpedoed and sunk at 2355A on 24th Feb. in 49° 04' N., 05° 31' W. No survivors have been recovered, search continues. It is considered that C.Bs. and S.Ps. held on board have not been compromised. Further signal will be made.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 251718A to Admt.)

U-Boat hunt. Detach two ships forthwith to patrol Lizard Head to Pendeen Point.

(2) B.T.C. and T.B.C. convoys are to be trailed in this area.

(3) S.O. E.G.26 report dispositions.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 250246A to S.O. E.G.26.)

My 250246A. Ships detailed are to join S.O. E.G.3 hunting in position 115° Lizard Head 22.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 250353A to S.O. E.G.26.)

My 242355 furthest on to seaward allowing German U-Boat speed of 2 knots has been covered and ships are back at datum. Intend to search towards coastal convoy route in direction of Dodman Point.

(S.O. E.G.3, 250935A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Search of area within 25 miles radius east, north and west from datum completed, negative result. Intend to extend search 25 miles south-west then eastward for 20 miles thence as necessary to pass through position 180° Wolf Rock 10 miles at 2359 to R/V via your E.

(ROWLEY, 251450A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Patrols.

(1) Weigh as necessary to pass Nab outward at 1815 and proceed to patrol area Q.Z.S.629, Route EW between 01° 40' W. and 02° 25' W.

(2) S.O. E.G.6 acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 251415A to S.O. E.G.6.)

(1) Weigh as requisite to pass Nab outward at 1800 and proceed to patrol area 10 miles south of Route E between 01° 35' W. and 02° 10' W.

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

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 251419A to S.O. E.G.14.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining.

Weigh at 0200A/26th Feb. and carry out Serial B.2 para. 1. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 251514A to PLOVER, THUNDER.)

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25.2.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

OXLIP and  
HONEYSUCKLE  
to Western  
Approaches.

Admiralty 242105 not to all. Request OXLIP,  
HONEYSUCKLE may be sailed to Greenock as soon  
as practicable.  
(C. in C. W.A., 251048A to A.C.I.C.)

Patrols.

Maximum available support is to be given to all  
convoys between Altacarry and Skerryvore.  
(2) Between convoys patrol area ordered in my  
231619.  
(C. in C. W.A., 251204A to S.O. Force 33.)

Operations

Norway

Thanks to  
R.A.F.

The consistant and accurate functioning of the  
Northern Gee Chain has contributed in no small  
measure to the success of a recent operation.  
I shall be grateful if this fact can be brought  
to the notice of all personnel who operate  
the Northern Chain.  
(C. in C. H.F., 250954A to Air Ministry.)

Operation  
S.C.

Ramose Genus. Postponed expected time of  
departure now 0200A February 27th.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 251645A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy  
R.A. 64.

OPPORTUNE transfer survivors to ZEALOUS.  
MYNGS and SCORPION proceeding independently  
with 2 defective stragglers to Faroes.  
(3) My position 65° 29' N., 00° 45' W.  
(C.S.1, 251001 to N.O.I.C. Faroes, OPPORTUNE,  
ZEALOUS, C. in C. H.F.)

Soroy  
Civilians.

Your 251541 acknowledged. Assume C. in C. Home  
Fleet's 241748 para. 1 does not yet apply,  
intend to rejoin you after oiling and embarking  
19 Norwegians and 32 Americans. Weather report  
9594 0678 7831.  
(ZEALOUS, 251730A to C.S.1.)

Operations

Baltic

Mining in  
Stettin and  
Bornholm  
areas.

Request limits of areas mentioned in (1) and (2)  
of your 231716.  
(2) Admiralty's 061202 July 1943 not held.  
(Admiral Archer, 251031A to Admty.)

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War Diary.

25.2.1945.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

PRINSES  
BEATRIX,  
L.S.I.(M).

E.R.1849 refit completed and ship sailed to the  
Tail of Bank a.m. today 25th.  
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 251254 to Admty.)

War Diary

25.2.1945  
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

M/S CHAMELEON Reference C. in C. Plymouth's 221346A not to all. Position 039° 44' N. 011° 31' W. course 171° speed 5½ knots.  
(CHAMELEON, 251045A to F.O.G.M.A.)

ANTWERP (F.D.S.) Intend sailing L.N.870 (allocation not known) CLAN CAMERON and ANTWERP for U.K. at 1800A Feb. 27th.  
(2) Escort H.M.C.S. STRATHADAM (H.M.S. LOCH TRALAIG) H.M.C.S. LA HULLOISE, H.M.C.S. THETFORD MINES, R.W. Route.  
(4) S. of A. 13½ knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 251106A to C. in C.W.A.)

A.F.D.32 Your 171309 to Admiralty only. H.M. Rescue Tug SAMSONIA, MEDIATOR, and ENVOY, will require to fuel at Santa Cruz de Teneriffe early in April. Vessels wear White Ensign.  
(2) Requirement for fuel now increased to 400 tons fuel oil and 800 tons gas oil. Please advise Petroleum Attache accordingly and confirm that these quantities can be supplied.  
(3) Commanding Officers of tugs are being told to report on arrival to British Consul, who is requested to arrange for fuelling to be carried out with utmost despatch.  
(4) For your personal information vessels will be towing A.F.D.32. Dock and escorts will remain out of sight of land while tugs are detached in turn for fuelling.  
(5) For security reasons E.T.A. Teneriffe can not be given until a few days before arrival. Request you will signal:  
(a) confirmation that Spanish concurrence will be forthcoming; and (b) period of notice which will be required by Ministry of Marine.  
(6) E.T.A. will be passed by F.O.G.M.A. to Madrid and Teneriffe A.M. 251533 to F.O.G.M.A. only refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 251532A to B.N.A. Madrid.)

BARFLEUR On arrival off Europa Point you are to detach and enter Gibraltar.  
(2) H.M.S. BARFLEUR is to proceed by basic Eastbound route to Oran for onward routeing to Toulon.  
(3) Request you pass route to H.M.S. BARFLEUR and report  
(a) Ships intended S.O.A.  
(b) E.T.A. Oran.  
(4) VERITY pass to BARFLEUR.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 251546A to VERITY.)

F.Ms. Sailed from Horta at 1515Z/25th H.M.C.S. FORT WILLIAM and COWICHAN for St. Johns routed as in Admiralty 222038\* S.O.A. 11 knots. E.T.A. 0400Z/3rd March.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores 251558Z to F.O.G.M.A.)  
\* Route for FORT WILLIAM and COWICHAN. 222028Z intended.

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25.2.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Destroyer

RELENTLESS arrived Simonstown.  
(C. in C. S.A., 250845B to Admty.)

SS.

Distress

Following received:-

SOS SOS SOS Breakdown. Hove to position  
distance 43 miles from Love Sugar bearing 266,  
require assistance to make port.  
(Freetown W/T, 252305 to Admty.)

25.2.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

F.S. BARFLEUR. Approving your 231658\* subject to concurrence of Admiralty and A.N.C.X.F.  
(C. in C. Med. 251021A to F.O.W.M.)  
\* Programme of F.S. BARFLEUR on completion of discharge at Toulon.

A.F.D. 30. Intend sailing H.M.R.T. ASSIDUOUS towing A.F.D. 30 direct to position B. 031° 28' 15" N. 032° 26' E. thence by outer and inner channels to Port Said E.T.D. Haifa 1013/26th Feb. E.T.A. position B 0400B/28th Feb. S.O.A. 4 knots.  
(2) N.O.I.C. Port Said is requested to have dock met at position B.  
(S.N.O.L.A. 251030B to N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

Routeing for Black Sea. A.M. 231923 para. 2 and Admiral Archer's 241410 para. 1 neither to all. Amend route B.S. 13 in my 191401 to read: Bosphorus - Constanza. Through position 041° 16' N. 029° 25' E. position 041° 30' N. 029° 35' E. and position 043° 42' N. 029° 25' E. to approach point 2.  
(C. in C. Med. 251152A to C.S.A. Istanbul., etc.)

CALEDON (A.A. ship) Request you will sail CALEDON on completion of destoring to Gibraltar for onward routeing to U.K.  
(C. in C. Med. 251309 to V.A. Malta.)

F. ships dispositions. Escort Toulon.  
(1) Present Toulon (MANSQUENET, LEGIONNAIRE, LATOULONNAISE, Chasseurs 102, 124, 126, 105, 125.  
(2) Out of Toulon CDT. DOMINE, TUNISIEN, CAVALIER, SPAHI, VIGILANT, Chasseurs 103, 132, 123, 121.  
(3) On escort duty SENEGALAIS, CDT. DUBOC, GRACIEUSE, DRAGON, Chasseur 104.  
(4) Available for repairs BOUDEUSE, BASQUE, MOQUEUSE, ALCYON, HOVA, CDT. BORY, CDT. DELAGE, FORBIN, FANTASSIN, VOLONTAIRE, ATTENTIF, (SABRE), DRAGON, Ch. 101, 107, 115, 106, 122, 133, 136, 141, 143, 51 DAGUE.  
(5) Detached from this command. MAROCAIN, SOMALI, ALGERIEN, TEMPETE, TROME, SIMOUN, FORTUNE, COUTELAS, HUSSAR, GRENADE, TIRAILLEUR, CIMETERRE, VOLTIGEUR, PIQUE, JAVELOT, GOUMIER, Ch. 135, 111, 112, 113, 114, 116, 131, 142, 144, 145, 134, 146.  
(Premar Three 251404A to F.O.N.A.M.)

Cositintrep No. 595. Coastal Air Force. Beaufighters R/C Gulf of Venice by night but made no sightings. 2 Beaufighters on similar patrol by day attacked ordnance factory at Villa Vecantina, hitting buildings and railway and had cannon strikes on 8 barges at Cittanova.

Balkan Air Force. 4 Beaufighters scored 2 under water hits and 16 other hits on the 4200 ton minelayer KUCKUCK in shipyard at Fiume.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. No T.O.O.) (GERMAN & ITALIAN)



25.2.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

A/A sloop  
WHIMBREL.

Sailed WHIMBREL at 1800B to Aden for onward  
routeing.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez 252350B to Admty.)

25.2.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Escorts. Intended escort for ships in para. 1A of Admty.'s 051902 are DEVERON, SHIEL and USK latter two vessels to be retained at Aden accordingly.  
(2) Frigate escort will be provided throughout passage from Aden to Fremantle.  
(3) Cruiser escort will not be provided.  
(4) For EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND intend only cruiser escort from S.W. of Australia to Aden.  
(5) Admty.'s 211919 also refers. Signals quoted not to all.  
(C. in C. E.I. 250310A to Admty.)

Situation (1) Burma coast operations on Ramree Island  
Report No.2. virtually ended. Blockade by small craft with army machine gun sections embarked has since 6th Feb. accounted for 200 Japanese killed. Aircraft attacked our force after dark 18th Feb. Small bombs dropped no damage or casualties.  
(2) Sloops H.M.I.S. NARBADA, JUMNA, H.M.S. FLAMINGO have continued to support amphibious operations Ruywa area.  
(?BARBADA) hit once little damage and no casualties.  
(3) R.A.F. mined Malacca Straits ports on 4 nights.  
(C. in C. E.I. 250454Z to Admty.)

SIMBRA, Considered necessary to retain SIMBRA and LOCH  
LOCH MELFORD, MELFORD at Aden for duties described in para. 3A  
A/S vessels. of your 230301. Both have recently completed refits.  
(2) SIMBRA at present paid off at Massawa awaiting boiler tubes. LYDIARD at Massawa commencing refit. Requires completion of retubing of boiler before being seaworthy. VICTORIAN operational at Aden. After completion of retubing and refit SIMBRA would be fit for further service east. It is doubtful whether LYDIARD and VICTORIAN would be of much use further east owing to the difficulties of steaming coal burning ships with white stokers in the tropics. Recommended that they be returned to U.K.  
(3) Consider BIGLIERI should be retained as the only minesweeper in area where it is necessary to skim Perrin minefield occasionally. She is just completing refit.  
(Com. Aden 250831Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Turn round Ref. my 150554. Would appreciate prompt advice  
of ships whether you require me to turn round at Bombay  
Bombay. ships of K.M.F. 40 as in my 221055 or to hold all ships sufficient period to enable them reach Gibraltar normal M.K.F.. date.  
(2) This information urgently required to enable me to fix embarkation dates now. (3) Agreed.  
(P.S.T.O.(I) 251122Z to D. of S.T.)

A.F.D. 20. Arrived L.C.G.(L) 6 in tow of FORT BLOXI departed EMINENT and DESTINY towing A.F.D. 20.  
(Com. Aden 251629Z to Admty.)

25.2.1945  
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

- E.Gs. Following from F.O.C.W.Af., information Comar Dakar, Cominch. (Repetition of 241016Z).  
(2) Admiralty concur provided Cominch has no objection.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 251216A to B.A.D.)
- U-boat Estimates.  
dispositions (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 251321Z and Cominch 251538Z.)
- Aircraft Salor 16741.  
for B.P.F. Lorsa 25738. Agree that I.E. strength of Avenger aircraft in the B.P.F. at end of June next is not likely to exceed 126. After the European War it is planned to send three C.V.Es. equipped for anti-shipping strikes, hence provision of 54 torpedoes for C.V.E. outfits plus 54 immediate reserve.  
(2) After June 1945 provided assignments of Avengers meet expectations, three C.V.Es will carry 24 first line aircraft and three will carry 21. Bids for torpedoes have, however, been based on 24 aircraft in each of two carriers and 21 in each of remainder.  
(3) While immediate minimum requirements are, therefore, covered for the time being, earliest possible assignment of further torpedoes is desirable to avoid delay in outfitting of C.V.Es. when they become available for service in the Pacific.  
(4) Disposition of all torpedoes asked for in Salor 16045 have been set out in a table forwarded to D.T.M.(W) under cover of A.L.M.S.S.B.30/45 File 104/12 dated 24th January 1945. Long term requirements are also indicated for which assignments are desired if they can be obtained. Unmodified torpedoes with sets of modernisation gear would be accepted if this would assist.  
(A.C.N.S. (W) , 251432A, to B.A.D. )
- A.F.D. A.F.D.32 should be routed from San Juan as  
32 follows:-  
(a) 25° N. 60° W.  
(b) 27° N. 50° W.  
(c) 28° 30' N. 39° 20' W.  
(d) 29° N. 30° W. (e) 29° 30' N. 18° 01' W.  
(f) 29° 15' N. 14° 58' W. (g) 33° N. 11° W.  
(h) 35° 51' N. 06° 10' W. thence as routed by C. in C. Mediterranean.  
(2) Reference B.A.D.171801 para. 3 passage is calculated on a maximum expenditure of 10 tons of fuel per tug per day, estimated to give a S. of A. of 100 miles day.  
(3) Request fuel expenditure and mean S. of A. New York to San Juan may be signalled on arrival.  
(4) Oiling at sea is not possible. Arrangements are being made for tugs only to refuel at Santa Cruz de Teneriffe. On arrival Commanding Officers of tugs should report forthwith to the British Consul who will communicate arrangements for fuelling.  
(5) Tugs should be detached to refuel in turn as convenient between positions (e) and (f). Dock to remain out of sight of land. E.T.A. at position (e) should be signalled by escort

/four...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

A.F.D. 32  
(Contd.)

four days in advance of arrival to F.O.G.M.A. who is requested to pass E.T.A. at Santa Cruz B.N.A. Madrid and British Consul Teneriffe, Info. Admty. A.M. 251532B to F.O.G.M.A. only refers.

(6) Should abnormal weather conditions necessitate (a) Assistance of an extra tug to hold dock during refuelling and/or (b) Tugs refuelling earlier. This is to be reported as early as possible to F.O.G.M.A. who should hold SALVONIA or another tug available.

(7) Comar Dakar pass to S.O. Escort Group 59.

(8) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to signal arrangements for relief of escort. A.M. 201949 Jan. not to Comar Dakar refers. (A.C.N.S.(F) 251533A to B.A.D. Washington.) See also 272117Z.

Search plans. Use of retiring search plans is not intended to replace or conflict with standard operations used in conjunction with protection of convoys or with operational command orders which cover specific problems. My 101630\* refers.

(N.S.H.Q. 251557Z to all H.M.C. ships.)

\* Attention is called to the retiring search plans published in E.T.P. 223A (1945) U.S. Fleet A/S.

Admty.'s 221319\* not to C. in C. C.N.A. Use of retiring search plans is not intended to replace or conflict with standard operations used in conjunction with protection of convoys or with operational command orders which cover specific problems. This has been drawn to the attention of H.M.C. ships in my 251557Z

(2) These plans however are considered to be the best search plans yet evolved for hunting a U-Boat of normal speed whose datum is known and who is not likely to have bottomed. Their superiority lies in the fact that all calculations covering the probable conditions of search have been made for the benefit of Commanding Officers.

(3) In connection with the question of considering all methods available in relevant British and U.S. publications and operational command orders before carrying out a search it is considered that the plans and sources of plans available to a commanding officer are so numerous and diverse that the selection of the one most appropriate to the moment presents an almost impossible task to the man on the spot, in an attempt to alleviate this situation a summary of A/S searches selected to cover most of the situations likely to arise is now being prepared for the benefit of H.M.C. ships.

(N.S.H.Q. 251558Z to Admty.)

\* Use of returning search plans.

+ 221219 intended. Concur that retiring search plans F.T.P. 223A provide good alternative to the box search C.B. 4097.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F.  
Carrier  
Squadrons,  
Command of.

The C.V.Es. serving in the British Pacific Fleet are being used as aircraft and pilot replenishment carriers. There are at present 6 with, or on passage to, the fleet, and there will eventually be a total of 9.

(2) The organisation of forward supplies to the Carrier Task Forces requires careful co-ordination, and with the numbers of ships involved I have deemed it necessary to form them into the 30th Aircraft Carrier Squadron. My 210148 refers.

(3) Irrespective of seniority, I consider that Capt. E.G. Carne, at present commanding STRIKER is the most suitable officer to take command of this Squadron, and, therefore, propose he be promoted to Commodore Second Class to date 1st March, 1945.

(4) He would wear his broad pennant in STRIKER for the period of the first series of operations. It may subsequently be necessary for him to exercise his functions from a ship or shore base.

(5) He has been furnished with a suitable staff from station resources the details of which V.A.(Q) is requested to report in due course.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 250341Z to Admty.)

Repair M/S  
movements.

Departed Sydney 0445Z/25th Feb. ARTIFEX, H.M.A.S. BALLARAT and BENDIGO for Manus. S.O.A. 10½ knots. E.T.A. Manus 0700K March 6th.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney 250514Z to Admty.)

Digest 1131,  
25.2.45

This is digest serial No. 1131 covering Feb. 25th except where otherwise stated.

(2) Navy Catalina probably sunk 1 small coaster, 1 lugger, damaged another lugger 50 miles N.E. Hong-kong night 23/24.

(5) Ground forces Manila occupy all Intramuros area except S.W. corner and Del Monica church. Enemy resistance weakening but still stubborn, no opposition encountered as troops entered dock area reached 16th Street captured No. 7 pier. Night 23/24 Feb. 5 heavy explosions occurred Malinta Tunnel (Corregidor) whereupon 200 Jap. broke out of tunnel into American lines: mopping up these Japanese in progress. Total enemy casualties Luzon to date number 51266 killed, 454 captured.

(6) Evening Feb. 23rd single enemy aircraft ineffectively bombed straffed Allied shipping off Palompon (N.W. Leyte).

(7) 37 Thunderbolts attacked Corregidor caves straffed enemy troops attempting to swim to Bataan.

(8) Delayed reports for 23rd Feb. 12 Corsairs raided Airfields and supplies Negros Island, 38 Corsairs attacked Tebu Cith and Lahun Aerodrome sinking one submarine probably hitting another Igiebu Harbour also straffing barges along coast, 16 Corsairs supported.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 251221Z to Admty.)

Note by W.R. Part 6 undecipherable and repetition requested.

/ARIADNE...

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SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand - Contd.

ARIADNE

2000Z 25th. ARIADNE departed for San Diego  
S.O.A. 20 knots via route Lee. Chop 27th E.T.A.  
1300Z/2nd.  
(Comhawseafon, 252203 to Comwestseafon.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/25 February.

Para. A.

- (1) H.M. Trawler attacked by U-boat at ~~2255~~/24 Feb.  
in 49° 04' N. 05° 31' W.  
(2) E.G.3 attacked contact at 1005/24th February  
in 49° 55' N. 06° 07' W.

Para. B.

*U.927 mark.* (1) A/C K/179 attacked possible Snort on  
course 230° at 1830/24 February in 49° 54' N. 04° 43' W.

Para. D.

- (1) BADDECK attacked contact at 1648/24 February in 50° 12' N.  
03° 31' W.  
(2) A/C G517 attacked P/S on course S.W. with M.G. fire at 0756/  
24 Feb. in 50° 15' N. 06° 58' W.  
(3) A/C A/112 had disappearing radar contact at 0700/25th Feb.  
in 50° 04' N. 06° 37' W.  
(4) TURQUOISE attacked contact at 0407/24th February in 51°  
20' N. 02° 19' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 251136A to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Cominch.)

U-boat

Estimates.

dispositions (D.D.I.C. 251404A, 251415 to A.I.G. and Cominch.)

War Diary.

26.2.1945  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. Wreck dispersal vessel RAMPANT, and the merchant men AURETTA and NASHABA, have been mined off Ostend, the first in convoy T.A.C. 48, but reached port, the other two in convoy T.A.M. 91 and sank.

Northern Waters.

2. C.S. 1 with convoy R.A. 64 off the Faroes reports that when HENRY BACON was sunk by 19 aircraft on the 24th she possibly shot down two of them. CROSBY S. NOYES is still a straggler.

*2A. Admiralty statement for U.S. publication in re convoy PQ 17 is criticised by B.A.D. at p. 462*

Foreign Stations.

South Atlantic.

Movement.

3. RENOWN sailed from Durban for Trincomalee this afternoon.

Mediterranean.

Gulf of Genoa.

4. A further series of effective bombardments have been carried out by Allied warships near Italian frontier.

Adriatic.

5. (a) Partisans have landed in Pag. Support is being given by coastal craft.  
(b) Beaufighters attacked and probably hit a 1000 ton coaster and also six other vessels without claims in the Gulf of Venice.

Greece.

6. The situation at Salonica is reported quiet and approaching peace time conditions.

Egypt.

7. A trawler and 2 tugs are standing by L.S.T. 178 which ran ashore on 24th.

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Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Indo-China.

8.(a) A patrol bomber claimed sinking 1 large tanker and damaging 1 1200 ton freighter in Tonkin Gulf 60 miles S.W. Haiphong.  
(b) A U.S. submarine attacked northbound convoy consisting of 3 tankers, 3 escorts off Camranh Bay tonight. Damage inflicted.

Philippines.

9.(a) Last night P.Ts. operating aircraft destroyed seven barges and small craft near Romelon Island (off N.E. Mindoro).  
(b) Also last night Ormok based P.T. boats destroyed 2 barges off Guintacan Island (north of Cebu Island).  
(c) Single enemy aircraft attacked our P.T.s. ineffectively off N.W. Leyte.



26.2.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Mining off  
Ostend.

(Convoy TAM 91)

Your 260712A No. 50 para. 3.  
RAMPANT. (2) Probably mined.  
(3) Engine disabled leaking forward. No  
immediate danger of sinking. (4) Tug required.  
(5) Position 065° N.F. 8, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  miles. (6) SCALPAY  
standing by.  
(SCALPAY 260850A to N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

Merchant ship AURETTA mined or torpedoed 045° N.F. 73.  
SAPPHIRE standing by.

(ALBRIGHTON 260930A to C. in C. Nore.)

Following is summary of facts reference ships mined today  
Monday. W.D.V. RAMPANT in T.A.C. convoy mined vicinity of N.F.  
8 buoy at approx. 0530. Trawler SCALPAY standing by, tug  
EMPIRE BETSY ordered from Ostend, taken in tow by EMPIRE BETSY  
and brought into Ostend. Engines out of action, No. 1 hold 4  
ft. of water, no casualties.

(2) Tanker AURETTA in T.A.M. convoy mined at approx. 0845 and  
sank almost immediately in 51° 23' 30" N. 02° 44' 00" E. Two  
masts showing above water. 22 survivors picked up by SAPPHIRE  
24 picked up by SCALPAY.

(3) SS. NASHABA (American) in T.A.M. convoy mined at approx.  
0955 vicinity of N.F. 7 buoy. Wreck sank in 51° 22' 30" N. 02°  
55' 36" E. Bow showing above water. 24 survivors picked up by  
SCALPAY, further survivors picked up by VANQUISHER who is  
proceeding to U.K. with A.T.M. convoy.

C.A.F.O. 2120/44 will be signalled when survivors have been  
interviewed.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend 261728A to Com. Belgium.)

Tomorrow Tuesday continue sweeping programme as in my  
250327. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore 261802A to M.S.F. 40.)  
Following recd.:— From ALBRIGHTON 261110, to C. in C. Nore, info N.O.I.C. Ostend

My 260930. Ship sunk 51° 24.6' N. 02° 49.4' E. Merchant  
ship NASHABA also hit and sunk 51° 22.3' N. 02° 55.4' E. Probably  
mines, both wrecks show. 261110. Ends.

(C. in C. Nore 261808A to Admty.)

Explosion observed by B.Y.M.S. 2061 at 1524 in position  
51.23.18 N. 02.42.00 E. about 2 miles ahead of ship. S.A. Gear  
on resonance, explosive sweep not in use.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend 261954A to Com. Belgium.)

ORIOLE for  
operation  
"Placket".

Request ORIOLE be allocated to F.O. Holland. Her  
duty will be that of depot ship for the large  
number of harbour craft now being collected for  
operation "Placket".\*

(2) ORIOLE should be sailed to Terneuzen when  
ready for sea.

(3) It would be appreciated if in view of her duty she could be  
sailed with a naval crew. Every endeavour will be made to  
relieve with Dutch personnel whenever possible.

(4) Request earliest confirmation that ORIOLE is allocated and  
being sailed.

(F.O. Holland 261115A to C. in C. Nore.)

\* Operation "Placket" - 3 British L.C.T. (5) flotilla  
to be used in the relief of Holland (ANCKF War Diary  
/U-Boat... 17.2.45)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

U-Boat summary. U-Boat and midget U-Boat summary ending 1100/26, all times G.M.T.  
 (1) 0930 approx. 24. Cable ship ALERT sunk by unknown cause 290° S. Falls Buoy 3 miles. Sinking not observed. No survivors.  
 (2) 1316/25. Bomber reported wake and periscope 51° 24' N. 02° 01' E. Course 130°, nothing found by minesweepers working in vicinity.  
 (3) 1514/25. U.S. aircraft reported 2 submarines submerging 51° 47' N. 01° 26' E.  
 (C. in C. Nore 261705A to Admty.)

Patrols. For night Tuesday 27th February.  
 (1) SOUTHDOWN, (2) CATTISTOCK, (3) BLANKNEY, (4) VIMY, (5) KITTIWAKE, (6) PUFFIN, Coastal force unit F.C. 1 to R/V patrol to 2030A.  
 (2) 12 THORNBOROUGH with coastal force from U.K. 14 COTSWOLD, 16 RIOU coastal force from Ostend. 18 SEYMOUR, 19 STAYNER with coastal force from Ostend. 21 GUILLEMOT, 22 CAICOS with coastal force from U.K. Coastal force R/V STAYNER and RIOU vicinity of N.F. 8 at 1830A.  
 (3) Escort for T.A.M. 93 HOLDERNESS, FOLEY, VERSATILE.  
 (4) Coastal force from U.K. patrol 1 - 2 M.T.Bs. Unit F.C. 1 with SOUTHDOWN. Patrol 2 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 2 with CATTISTOCK. Patrol 3 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 3 with BLANKNEY. Patrol 4 - 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 4 with VIMY. Patrol 5 - 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 5 with KITTIWAKE. Patrol 6 - 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 6 with PUFFIN.  
 Patrol 12 - 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.L. 2 F.L. 3.  
 Patrol 22 - 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.B. 8 F.B. 9.  
 Patrol 51 - 1 M.L. Patrol 52 - 1 M.L. C.J. Q.W. 29 22 3 M.T.Bs. unit F.B. 6 from Ostend C.J. B.G. 23 16 2 M.T.Bs. units F.B. 2 C.J. B.G. 2100 2 M.T.Bs. units F.A. 8 C.J. B.G. 35 12 4 M.T.Bs. units F.H. 3 F.H. 4 C.J. B.G. 39 12, 2 M.L. units, F.G. 5.  
 Patrol 16 - 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.G. 2, F.G. 3.  
 (C. in C. Nore 261720A to Nore Command.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 328 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 251600A Feb.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G.F. Ammo
Antwerp	159	179	20,123	-	14,010	559
Ostend	353	119	3,777	-	427	595
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	2,640	-	-
Calais	3,812	-	57	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4,434	-	-	2,354
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	4,324	298	28,391	2,640	14,437	3,508

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

U.S. North	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G.F. Ammo
Antwerp	-	77	18,814	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	272	6,265	2,552	9,396	2,626
Le Havre	20,887	595	7,720	-	-	2,044
Rouen	2	148	6,888	424	4,213	-
Granville	-	-	-	2,670	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,542	-	-	200
<u>Total</u>	<u>20,889</u>	<u>1,092</u>	<u>42,229</u>	<u>5,646</u>	<u>13,609</u>	<u>4,870</u>
U.S. South						
Marseilles	4,421	1,750	8,264	1,299	10,800	384
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,550	658	2,558	2,550
Toulon	-	-	3,949	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,421</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>14,763</u>	<u>1,957</u>	<u>13,358</u>	<u>2,934</u>

Note: Discharge French operated ports Morlaix 900 tons coal,  
St. Halo 575 coal.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 261800A to Admty., and others.)

Minesweeping Tomorrow Tuesday conduct Oropesa clearance of the  
off E.Coast. following area.  
Within one mile radius of 051° 30' 40" N. 02° 04' 00" E.

(2) Q.Z.X. has been asked for.

(3) Two type G.Y. mines jambed in sweeps of 40th M.S.F. in Q.Z.X. 1521. Sweeps were cut in above position. Position danned O.W. and A/C carrier flags.

(4) Sweeps should be set as deep as possible.

(5) Anchor off Harwich for the night. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore 261804A to M.S.F. 1.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. On H.X.A. 338 reaching Portland Bill RIBBLE, JONQUIERE detach and join S.O.E.G. 26 on patrol Start Point to Portland on coastal convoy route.  
(2) ROWLEY, ESSINGTON, DOMETT join convoy O.N.A 287/O.S. 113/K.M.S. 87A S.O. escorts COSBY vicinity Portland Bill 1900A/26th and trail to westward detaching as requisite to enter Plymouth at 0800A/27th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 261128A to ROWLEY, ESSINGTON, DOMETT, RIBBLE, JONQUIERE.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols. Force 34 26th E.G. S.O. HART 4 sloops patrolling vicinity 50° 30' N. 07° 30' W.  
21st E.G. CONN 4 frigates vicinity Bristol Channel.  
Force 38 23rd E.G. MONTSERRAT, PAPUA, St. Georges Channel.  
Force 37 4th E.G. CALDER, DRURY, PASLEY, BAZELY, BYARD, North Irish Sea.  
Forces supporting ocean convoy as ordered.  
Force 33 30th E.G. CAISTOR CASTLE 2 corvettes patrolling North Irish coast. PEVENSEY CASTLE should join late p.m. 26th from Moville.  
(C. in C. W.A. 261429A to Admt.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operations "V.P." A.C.O.S. 101124. Request reply to para. 2.  
(C. in C. H.F. 261609A to Admt.)  
Operation "S.C." Ramose Genus postponed E.T.D. now 0200A/28th Feb.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 261805A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy R.A.64. P.C.S. of R.A. 64 62° 44' N. 03° 06' W. 210° 8 kts.  
(C.S. 1 260901A to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 170539. U-Boat sunk was 540 tons number 425, 10 days out from Narvik.  
(2) My 201226A. Ju.88s shot on 20th should read 3 confirmed 2 probable 4 damaged.  
(3) My 240959 survivors of <sup>HENRY</sup> N. BACON report ship torpedoed in attack by 19 A/C of which 2 possibly shot down.  
(C.S. 1 261607A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 251739A para. 1. EMPIRE CELIA proceeding Faroes with defect. S. NOYES straggling since 18th.  
(2) Yes. IDEFJORD has several pipes to be repaired and 2 life-boats broken.  
(3) Cmdre. reports B.A.M.S. message timed 251643 undecyphered. Request you will check from decode and repeat.  
(C.S. 1 261232A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols. Sail at 1500A today 26th Feb. and proceed to establish Gamm patrol between 61.25 N. 03.28 W. and 60.50 N. 02.50 W.  
(2) You have discretion to sail earlier if weather moderates before this time.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 260935 to S.O.E.G. 1.)

/Harbour...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Harbour tug needed for Reykjavik. Owing to EMPIRE PIPER having had to run continuously since November last numerous defects are now developing putting her out of action from time to time. Situation as regards harbour work is serious and will not be improved by arrival of rescue tug EARNER as latter is not suitable for harbour duties even if worked at half fuel capacity owing to lack of manoeuvrability particularly in high winds constantly experienced in Iceland (C). Further if EARNER were to be used at half fuel capacity she would not then be fully available for open sea rescue work. Consider imperative that another twin screw harbour tug be sent to Reykjavik at earliest possible moment. Unless this is done delay in turn round of U.R. convoys is inevitable. My 101914 January and your 231656 January refer. (A.C.I.C. 261406A to Admty.)

Soroy civilians. A.M. 221024 not to C.S. 1. 3 survivors on board ONSLAUGHT seriously injured and probable that considerable number will be in poor physical state. Request you will ensure that civil reception authorities are aware of situation and that hospital accommodation and medical attention available. (Hd. of M. 261609A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

10th E.Gs. U-Boats. We congratulate the 10th E.G. upon their highly successful patrol between 3rd and 17th February, during which one U-Boat was sunk and two more severely damaged, possibly sunk. (1st S.L. 262211 A to S.O.E.G. 10.)

Operations.

Baltic.

Mining east of 13° E. Your 251031A. Following is repetition of A.M. 061202 July, 1943, addressed Admiral Fisher from Admiralty. Begins: The areas to be mined in the Baltic have been extended. Russian submarines should not proceed: (a) westward of a line joining the following positions 1. 55° 22' N. 13° 10' E. 2. 54° 50' N. 13° 10' E. 3. 54° 50' N. 13° 50' E. 4. 54° 07' N. 14° 25' E. 5. 54° 15' N. 14° 45' E. 6. 54° 02' N. 14° 45' E. (b) Within the waters enclosed by lines joining the following positions: 1. 55° 19' N. 14° 43' E. 2. 55° 19' N. 14° 48' E. 3. 54° 48' N. 14° 48' E. 4. 54° 48' N. 14° 21' E. 5. 54° 58' N. 14° 21' E. (c) South of lat. 55° 05' N. between longs. 18° 00' E. and 20° 00' E. (2) This message amends A.M. 1232/15/5/42, 1238/5/8/42 and 1955/25/9/42. 061202B. Ends.

/ (2) ...

26.2.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Baltic.

Mining east  
of 13° E.  
(Contd.)

(2) Area mentioned in (1) of A.M. 231716 comprises area east of 13° E. and south of 54° 50' N. in (a) above.  
(3) Area in (2) is (b) above.  
(4) Request disposal of Mission's copy of A.M. 061202 be reported.  
(Hd. of M. 261815A to Adm. Archer.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS.  
SWEEPSTAKES.

My 201445. SS. SWEEPSTAKES refloated 25th February being sailed to U.K. No apparent damage. (C.T.F. 125 261015 to Comnaveu.)

Movements.

OXLIP,  
HONEYSUCKLE,  
corvettes.

F.O.I.C. Greenock pass to OSPREY. Full gale accompanied by snowstorms has been blowing for 4 days. Intend to sail OXLIP and HONEYSUCKLE immediately weather moderates. Spare corvette crew consisting of 5 S.D. ratings for OSPREY, 1 leading signalman for VICTORY and 12 ratings for PEMBROKE will take passage in these ships. (A.C.I.C. 261304A to C. in C. W.A.)

VENERABLE,  
VENGEANCE,  
COLOSSUS,  
light fleet  
carriers,  
TERPSICHORE,  
CROOME,  
FARNDALE,  
ULYSSES,  
destroyers,  
INVER  
frigate.

A.M. 311943 January not to all addressees. VENERABLE (wearing the flag of F.O. 11th Aircraft Carrier Squadron), VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS will leave U.K. in company on 12th March for the Med. (2) Escort will be furnished by TERPSICHORE, CROOME, FARNDALE, ULYSSES, INVER, to Gibraltar area and thence forward as arranged by C. in C. Med. C. in C. W.A. and F.O.G.M.A. are requested to augment escort as necessary in their commands. (3) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange sailing of ships as above. Admiralty will promulgate route.

(4) C. in C. Med. is requested to arrange for the working up of VENERABLE, VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS.

A.M. 311943 January, C. in C. Med's 021816 and 091744, A.M. 101958, none to all, refer.

(5) VENERABLE, VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS will also require to be taken in hand in the Mediterranean for repositioning of Type 281B aerials, involving removal, lengthening and replacement of present mainmast and rewiring of supplies to aerials as necessary. Estimated time required three and a half weeks. Necessary gear is being placed on board. Full details will be signalled separately.

(6) C. in C. Med. is requested to signal proposals for this

26.2.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VENERABLE,  
VENGEANCE,  
COLOSSUS,  
light fleet  
carriers,  
TERPSICHORE,  
CROOME,  
FARNDALE,  
ULYSSES,  
destroyers,  
INVER  
frigate.  
(Contd.)

work to be undertaken as soon after arrival as possible. As VENERABLE's training is least advanced she should be allocated to Malta.  
(7) Further signals will be made regarding movements:-  
(a) of escorts after arrival in Mediterranean,  
(b) of carriers on completion of working up.  
(V.C.N.S. 262001A to Cs. in C. W.A., Med., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

IMPLACABLE  
fleet  
carrier.

IMPLACABLE's 221041 para. 2 as amended by IMPLACABLE's 241817, approved.  
(2) Para. 3. Assumption (b) of IMPLACABLE's No. 01/1340 of 24th January is not approved. Ship will work up in Ceylon.

- (3) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail IMPLACABLE to Scapa when ready.  
(4) C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail IMPLACABLE when ready for the Mediterranean.  
(5) Admiralty will promulgate route.  
(6) A further signal will be made detailing escorts.  
(V.C.N.S. 262016A to Cs. in C. Rosyth, H.F., IMPLACABLE.)

SYBIL,  
submarine.

SYBIL will sail in convoy O.S. 114/K.M.S. 88 for Gibraltar.  
(2) R/V at Clyde Boom 2345A/2nd March.  
(F.O. S/M 262145A to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary26.2.1945  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- E.G.1. Group One detached from M.K.S.85 at 0900A/26th Feb. M.K.S.85 P.C.S. at 0900Z/26th 038 degs. 28' N. 010 degs. 14' W. 340 degs. 7½ knots. Group One P.C.S. at 1000A/26th 038 degs. 20' N. 010 degs. 02' W. 153 degs. 12 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1100A/27th February. (JONQUIL, 261117A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- 7th M/S. Intend to sail RECRUIT with RIFLEMAN, PLUCKY and Flotilla. PINCHER in company at 1400 Feb. 27th to Malta for onward routing to Alexandria and subsequently to Colombo. (F.O.G.M.A.261129A to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- LYSANDER Departure Horta at 1221Z/26th. H.M.S. LYSANDER to Plymouth for onward routing to Granton routes as in my 251344Z Jan. S. of A. 13 knots. E.T.A. 1700Z/2nd March. A.M. 202005 refers. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 261346Z to F.O.G.M.A.)
- M/S Dock boarded this morning and conditions found CHAMELEON. satisfactory. REDMILL has now in tow large fast battle practice target. Intend to bring this unless operation requirements interfere, or ordered to dispose it, my P.C.S. are 037 degs. 34' N. 010 degs. 35' W. 154 degs. 5¼ knots. (CHAMELEON, 261401A and 281401 to F.O.G.M.A.) Further to my 261145 it is intended that REDMILL shall augment escort of M.K.F.40. (F.O.G.M.A. 261729A to C. in C. W.A.)
- RICHELIEU On completion exercise tomorrow 27th Feb. request French Battleship. you detach H.M.S. BULRUSH to enter Gibraltar thence you are to proceed to Port Said in accordance with M.S.C.I. 5 as follows: etc, (9) (A) Request you signal time of proceeding and intended S. of A. (F.O.G.M.A. 261813 to RICHELIEU)
- U-BOAT O'TOOLE made urgent attack at 260124Z in Contact. 35.26 N. 15.07 W. on contact classified as possible S/M. During search observed strong odour diesel oil and samples taken. Contact not regained. Oil slick sighted by A.V.F. escort 15 hours later. (C.T.G.60.11, 262040 to Admty.)



War Diary

26.2.1945  
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

E.G. 59. F.O.C.W.Af's 241230Z/February.  
Escort Group 59 ANNAMITE (S.O) GAZELLE, CHEVREUIL  
sailed 0025Z February 26th.  
(Comar Dakar, 261106Z to Com. 10th Fleet)  
/ Intend to sail 59 E.G. 0001/26.

Security. I am concerned at the growing tendency in South Africa to disregard security measures which in the past have on the whole been loyally observed. This tendency is apparent both in the Press and in talk in public places and is due to the conviction that South Africa is now out of the war. I am informed that the sailing dates of CANTON and ANDES are public property. In addition to taking action on any individual cases which can be proved is there any objection to my making a statement to the Press that South Atlantic trade routes are by no means clear of U-Boats. (C. in C. S.A. 261111B to Admty.) Reply 281212A.

RENOWN. Sailed H.M.S. RENOWN to Trincomalee through following positions. All positions are South and East.  
S. of A. to H.24 knots thence 17 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. Trincomalee, 0930Z/7th March.  
(Com. i/c Durban, 261402Z to Admty.)

War Diary

26.2.1945  
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Distress Signal. Intercept 0237Z 500 K/cs Type M.A. 2 begins all ships from Malta FM NUMS 3 ship in distress position 37.05 07.00 Ends. Ormesby Radio. (Ormesby Radio, 260340 B.S.T. to F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth)

5th S/M.F. SEA ROVER. SEA ROVER sails from Malta at 1000A/27 Feb. by reverse of standard route L to arrive Gibraltar 1400A/3rd March for onward routing to U.K. (2) Speed 10 knots. (S/M.1 260909 to C. in C. Med.)

L.F. Carriers Air Training Med. Able 128 Feb. 26th Secret. Subject is training of Squadrons disembarked for L.F. Carriers at Alexandria. Admiralty signal 311943A Jan. not to all refers. (2) F.O.L.E.M. considers use of G.C.I. for disembarked training is essential as part of M.E. manpower cut 13 Sector previously supplying this G.C.I. training has been closed down. (3) F.O.L.E.M.'s representatives are unable to give firm details of number of flying hours disembarked Squadrons, will undertake using G.C.I. control without their figures H.Q.M.E. is not able to appreciate whether retention of G.C.I. in view of manpower cuts is justified. (4) Request you discuss with Admiralty and signal decision whether Ames 8503 should be retained for Naval training and remain manned by R.A.F. (H.Q. R.A.F. Mid. E. 261046Z to Air Min.)

S/Ms. Intend VENGEFUL and UPSTART should leave U.K. for Mediterranean early April and mid-June respectively to relieve UNSWERVING and VAMPIRE due to leave late and early July respectively for refit in U.K. (F.O.S/M.S. 261136A to Admty.)  
In selecting VENGEFUL and UPSTART account has been taken of the fact that they may be two of the three U-class S/Ms to be turned over to the Greeks vide A.M. 191921. (F.O.S.M.S. 261146 to Admty.)

French Cruiser. Provided you have no objection to para. (I) F.O.W.M's 231232 Feb. request you will sail GLOIRE to rejoin Flanfor as soon as practicable. (C. in C. Med. 261453A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Movements. (2) A.F.D.30 towed by ASSIDUOUS Haifa Port Said direct to 31 degs. 28' 32 degs. 26' E.T.D.1000/26th 4. (F.O.L.E.M. 261824 to Admty.)

/Situation...

War Diary

26.2.1945  
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No.570. (1) Gulf of Genoa. A further series of effective bombardments have been carried out by Allied warships near Italian frontier.  
(2) Adriatic Partisans have landed in Pag. Support is being given by coastal craft.  
(3) Greece all quiet situation at Salonika reported to be approaching peacetime conditions.  
(4) Egypt. L.S.T.178 is ashore near Mersa Matruh. A trawler and 2 tugs are standing by.  
(C. in C. Med. 261840A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

G.2 summary No.175. Yugoslavia. Partisan Force landed Pag Island 24th Feb. without opposition. Pag Town however still enemy held on following day. Enemy reinforcements which recently arrived Lussin now known to have consisted of 100 Marines. These possibly required to man additional Coastal Artillery recently reported on Island. All informed.  
(A.F.H.Q. 261930A to W.O.)

Cosintintrep No.596. Part Three Air. (Extract) Coastal Details: P.39s and P.47s bombed Imperia Harbour.  
Balkan Air Force 24 Baltimores, 21 Marauders on jetties and wharves at Arsa and Jablanac, explosions caused.  
(H.Q. M.A.A.F. No. T.O.O/26th February, W.O.)

A.F.D.30. Movements Haifa 26th Feb. Departures SAXIFRAGE, ASSIDUOUS towing Admiralty Floating Dock 30.  
(S.N.O.L.A. 262343B to Admty.)

26.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B No change.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I., 260423Z to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

Operation "Suffice" completed. Force 68 arrived  
"Suffice". Akyab 25th Feb.

(2) No shipping encountered. Radar station in  
Great Cocos Island bombarded during withdrawal  
and possibly put out of action.

(3) Force 68 will carry out further shipping sweep in area  
Andaman Is. to Savoy.

(C. in C. E.I.S., 260517Z to Admty.)

Codeword for Operation referred to in para. 3 of my  
260517 - "Training".

(C. in C. E.I.S., 260521Z to Admty.)

D-day 1st March my 260521 refers.

(C. in C. E.I.S., 260523 to Admty.)

Radio  
development  
centres.

No.284. Understand that Ministry of Aircraft  
Production Mission which visited India and  
Ceylon recently recommended establishment of  
new Radio Development Centres in South East  
Asia Command. One centre is to be at Kandy.

(3) Scheme is supported by Air Ministry and  
Admiralty and is considered of high operational importance.  
(S. of S. Colonies, 262015 to Ceylon)

R/C.

Convoy of 9 ships sighted by aircraft unspecified  
time on 24th 20 miles north of Penang course  
north speed 7 knots.

(C. in C. E.I.S., 261623Z to S.O. Force 62.)

26.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

*(see The Times 26/2/45)*

Convoy  
P.Q. 17.

Reference Admiralty statement re convoy P.Q.17.  
My comments are as follows:

(2) Battle summary No. 22 suggests that LÜTZOW and SCHEER were also at sea, or could have been at sea. No reference is made to this in statements.

(3) Although it is stated the Battle Fleet proceeded to sea, no reason is given why Battle Fleet was unable to take active part in providing cover for convoy, in fact statement that 1st Cruiser Squadron was "almost 40 miles distant from it in the hope that the enemy heavy units might be intercepted" suggests it was considered this force alone was sufficient to deal with an attack by TIRPITZ and HIPPER.

(4) I feel it is not made sufficiently clear that the convoy was in great danger of being attacked by superior surface force which could have overpowered the escort and covering force and that consequently, in accordance with normal procedure, the convoy was ordered to scatter. The statement does not say by whom order to scatter was given and therefore suggest onus for this decision rested with the Junior Officer of the covering force or escort.

(5) To sum up, I frankly don't like this statement and owing to interim disclaimer, I fear it will have little effect in correcting the unfortunate impression concerning the action of the escort which has already gained so much ground.

(6) I am forwarding to C.N.I. copy of memorandum I issued to members of the Mission, which I feel is more on the lines which the statement should have taken.

(B.A.D., 261715Z to Admtty.)

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26.2.1945.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Group C.9. S.C.168. Group C.9 H.M.C. Ships PENETANG H.F/D.F. (Senior Officer), FREDERICTON, FERGUS, THORLOCK, HALIFAX sailed Halifax 1130Z/26th Feb. to relieve you in Westomp established in 44.58 N., 51.31 W. at 1500Z/28th Feb. Upon relief W.6 return direct Halifax.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 261227Z to Ships escorting S.C.168.)

U/B Estimates.  
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q., 261310Z, Cominch 261531Z.)

Operations. Fast Carrier aircraft hit Tokyo 25th Feb.  
Japan. Progress being made Iwo Island against heavy resistance. Marines reached centre of airfield number 2.  
(Cominch, 251519 to Comnavu.)

~~Convoy P.2.17 see separate page in front.~~

French We are pleased to note from para. 6 of your  
cruisers 142225 (not to all) that Cominch is prepared  
refit. to agree to early overhaul in French ports of  
three cruisers of MONTCALM class and to their  
being regunned in U.S. ports. We do not  
question his reservation in your para. 7,

though we assume it will remain open to French or ourselves to propose the assignment of these vessels to Far East at a later stage if this seems operationally desirable.

(2) Subject to confirmation of Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean we consider that overhaul and regunning of these cruisers could be arranged without detriment to requirements of Flank Force. If C. in C. Mediterranean agrees, he will no doubt signal details of arrangements proposed, remarking on question of reliefs by other cruisers. (C. in C. Mediterranean's 171247 relates to relief of MONTCALM only).

(3) Your para. 6 last sentence. French refitting programme recently received via C. in C. Mediterranean contemplated use of certain metropolitan ports, including La Seyne for MONTCALM. Notwithstanding passage in C.C.S.708 referred to, we feel that if there is refitting capacity available in metropolitan ports without interfering with maintenance of Allied Armies, it would be a pity to waste it. So long as maintenance of Armies has absolute priority it is assumed Cominch would agree.

(4) Your para. 8. We concur in this principle.  
(Hd. of M. Branch† 261859A to B.A.D.) \* Approved V.C.N.S.

RIMOUSKI, On completion of working up H.M.C.S. RIMOUSKI,  
PRESCOTT. H.M.C.S. PRESCOTT return to U.K. to resume duty  
(Corvettes) under operational control of Admiralty.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 261945Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)  
See Admty. 271600A to S.B.N.O.W.At.

U/B No report 25th. Para. (D) (1) 252225Z U.S.S.  
contacts. MILLEDGEVILLE reports hydrophone effects 37.44  
N., 67.14 W. No sound contacts or bearings.

/(2) ...

26.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B contacts. (Contd.) (2) 260000Z U.S.S. NATCHEZ reports contact attacked 39.46 N., 72.17 W. Later Blimp sighted large school of fish in vicinity. (Cominch, 262002 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

ASSISTANCE Repair ship for B.P.F. Sail H.M.S. ASSISTANCE (A.R.17) from Norfolk about 4th March to Philadelphia to loan submarine battery thence to New York for fuel and stores. When ready about eleven March include in first appropriate slow convoy to U.K. Ultimate destination Devonport. (Cominch, 262309Z to Comeastseafon.)

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F. Movements. C.T.F.113 in KING GEORGE V with A.C.1 in INDOMITABLE, C.S.4 in SWIFTSURE, Capt. (D) B.P.F. in EURYALUS, Capt. (D) 4 in QUICKMATCH, Capt. (D) 25 in GRENVILLE, Capt. (D) 27 in KEMPENFELT accompanied by HOWE, VICTORIOUS, INDEFATIGABLE, GAMBIA, ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE, UNICORN, QUIBERON, QUEENBOROUGH, QUALITY, URSA, UNDAUNTED, ULSTER, URANIA, UNDINE, WHELP, WAGER, WESSEX, WAKEFUL, WHIRLWIND are sailing from Sydney (N.S.W.) a.m./28th Feb. for Manus arriving 6th March, route as follows, all positions S. and E. (A) 033° 35', 152° 20'. (B) 028° 30', 155° 10'. (C) 024° 50', 155° 10'. (D) 021° 00', 156° 40'. (E) 012° 32', 156° 11'. (F) 008° 15', 153° 28'. (G) 007° 10', 150° 00'. (H) 006° 30', 148° 08'. (J) 006° 00', 147° 48'. (K) 005° 34', 147° 30'. (L) 003° 10', 147° 15'. (M) 002° 27'04", 147° 13'. (N) 002° 05'05", 147° 32'. (O) 001° 58'04", 147° 32'. (P) 001° 55'06", 147° 20' thence to destination. UNDAUNTED, URANIA are return to Sydney by p.m./4th March. N.O.I.C. Sydney 260701, C. in C. B.P.F.230801 and 230433 not to all refers. (N.O.I.C. Sydney, 260707Z to Admty.)

British Pacific Fleet. (List of ships). C. in C. B.P.F. 260739Z <sup>(Jan)</sup> to Cominch and C.N.O. See Lion Copy. *in January Diary -*

B.P.F. Dutch S/Ms. C. in C. B.P.F.'s 050240 Feb. is being passed to B.A.D. (2) Para. (3) approved. (3) Reference para. 5. Netherlands Naval Authorities in London are taking up matter of

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26.2.1945.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

B.P.F.  
Dutch S/Ms.  
(Contd.)

suitable accommodation or repair ship with Netherlands Ministry of Shipping. If they are unable to procure suitable vessel from Netherlands resources, ~~it is~~ may be desirable to defer move of Dutch submarines to Netherlands East Indies until one of their bases, such as

Surabaya, has been recaptured.

(4) B.A.D., please inform Cominch.  
(V.C.N.S., 261031A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Digest  
Serial  
No. 1132.

Covering February 25th unless otherwise stated.  
(1) Navy Liberators strafed four sea trucks off south-east tip Formosa heading south-west: three sea trucks damaged.

(4) Preliminary minesweeping main part Manila Bay completed 24th Feb. with negative results.

During same day 3 destroyers with P.T. Boats with covering aircraft attacked Bay south-west of Mindoro daylight sinking seven motor boats and barges with fire and destroyed two luggers one lugger fired.

(6) Early morning American forces effected successful surprise landing Verde Island between Mindoro and southern Luzon. Organised enemy resistance in Ramkros area Manila ceased but enemy still holding out in Agriculture, Finance and Legislative buildings. On Corregidor stubborn enemy resistance continues with heavy fire from Vonkey Point: afternoon American destroyers shelled these positions. Mopping up isolated enemy pockets in caves and tunnels continues. Total enemy casualties on Corregidor to date number 3,284 killed, 16 captured.

(7) During early hours single blind bomber attacked small shipping off Cory Hainan Island destroying two small coasters with a third probably destroyed. Daylight shipping (SMALCHES)\* over French Indo-China sank two damaged 20 others of numerous 2-masted sail boats sighted. Individual Mitchells on Manila Bay mine search strafed Japanese attempting escape from Corregidor: 30-40 Japanese strafed, killed in water.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 261053Z to Admty.)

\* As received.

Fleet  
Carrier  
IMPLACABLE.

It is intended that IMPLACABLE shall leave U.K. about 16th March for Ceylon via Suez.  
(2) The ship will require approximately 14 days work up at Ceylon before joining the B.P.F.  
(V.C.N.S., 262059A to C. in C. B.P.F.)



A r N Z.  
465A

# 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.)

*This should be  
in January  
Diary*

\*

TOPSECRET

260739Z/January

From C. in C. B.P.F.

Date 2/3/45  
Time

AIRMAILGRAM

BRITISH PACIFIC FLEET  
LIST OF SHIPS.

Addressed COMINCH and C.N.O.  
Repeated: C. in C. Pac (Advanced and Rear), B.A.D. Washington,  
RDO Hollandia for C. in C. S.W.P.A., Com. 7th Fleet,  
Admiralty, COMNAVEU

In continuation of my signal D.T.G. 260737 the following is a nominal list of the British Pacific Fleet.

T.P. 1 18

Battleships:	KING GEORGE V HOWE			Total:
Fleet Carriers:	ILLUSTRIOUS VICTORIOUS INDOMITABLE INDEFATIGABLE			
Cruisers:	SWIFTSURE GAMBIA BLACK PRINCE ARGONAUT EURALYUS			
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	
			2 BB	
			4 CV	
			2 CL	
			3 CL AA	
			16 DD	

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	WODLONGONG	BARLE
	TOOWOOMBA	PIRIE	HELDFORD
	BENDIGO	LAUNCESTON	PARRETT

**TOP SECRET****IN**

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3. The Fleet Train T.F. 117.

Advanced Anchorage.

Replenishment Carriers (CVE)

Repair Ships (ARB)

Aircraft Repair Ship (ARV)

Victualling Store Issuing Ship (AF)

Hospital Ship (AH)

Tugs (ATA)

Oilers (AO and AOG)

SLINGER  
SPEAKER  
RESOURCE

UNICORN

FORT EDMONTON

OXFORDSHIRE

2

BROWN RANGER  
ARNDAL  
DINGLEDALE  
SAN ADOLFO  
SAN AMBROSIO  
WAVE KING  
CEDARDALE  
AASE MAERSK

Naval Store Issuing Ship (AKS)

BACCHUS

Destroyer Depot Ship (AD)

TYNE

Intermediate Base

Air Store Ship (AKS)

FORT COLVILLE

Victualling Store Issuing Ship (AF)

DENBIGHSHIRE  
FORT ALABAMA  
CITY OF DIEPPE

Hospital Ship (AH)

TJITJALENGKA

Tugs (ATA)

2

Distilling Ship (AW)

STAGPOOL

Repair Ship (ARH)

ARTIFEX

Net Layer (AN)

GUARDIAN

Divided between Advanced Anchorage and Intermediate Base.

Armament Store Issuing Ship (AE)

CORINDA  
DARVEL  
HERMELIN  
HERON  
KHETI  
PACHECO  
PRINCE DE LIEGE  
PRINCESS MARIA PIA  
ROBERT MAERSK  
THYRA S.

On Passage between advanced and rear bases.

Ferry Carriers (CVE)

STRIKER  
FENCER

Armament Store Carriers (AE)

GUDRUN MAERSK  
KISTANA  
KOLA

Naval Store Carrier (ARS)

BOSPHORUS

260739Z

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
Sec.  
Naval Sec.  
D.C.  
W.D.  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.O.D. (H) (4)  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (2)  
U.S.N. (3)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
D.N.I. (4)  
Hd. of M. (2)  
Ad, Blake

MMB

26.2.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/26th Feb.

Para. (A) (1) M/V EGHOLM sunk by explosion 55°  
50' N., 01° 52' W. 1755Z/25th Feb. Considered  
probably torpedoed.

(2) New wreck discovered 24th Feb. 51° 21' N.,  
01° 37' E., presumed to be Cable ship ALERT.

Considered possibly U-Boat or SEEHUND casualty.

Para. (B) H.M.S. LONDONDERRY reports heavy underwater explosion  
1 mile abeam of convoy approximately 49° 47' N., 05° 17' W.  
1810Z/25th Feb.

Para. (C) P.C.484 obtained contact 51° 21' N., 01° 37' E.  
1250Z/24th Feb.

(D.D.I.C., 261032A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B

Estimates.

dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 261402A, 261403A, to A.I.G. Cominch.)

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea 1. SS. SAMPA was mined off N.F.9 buoy but remained afloat; the Belgian fishing boat B.96 was mined off Blankenberghe and sank. One mine was detonated off 3A Buoy, East Coast.
- Channel 2. SS. CORVUS was torpedoed in Convoy B.T.C.81 7 miles W.S.W. of the Lizard at 1013. 2nd, 3rd and 14th Escort Groups proceeded to hunt and at 1206 LOCH FADA brought up two survivors from the U-boat.(U.1018)
- Northern Waters 3. C.S.1 in CAMPANIA, with NAIRANA, BELLONA, ONSLOW, ZAMBESI, ZEST and SIOUX, have arrived at Scapa after escorting Convoy R.A.64 to U.K. waters.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Greece 4. Last night Hurricanes destroyed 1 tug and damaged a barge in the Podgorski Channel.
- Movement 5. RICHELIEU (French Battleship) left Gibraltar for Port Said.

East Indies

- S/M THULE 6. H.M. S/M THULE on her 3rd Far East Patrol reports having carried out a successful special operation on 6th February off east coast Malaya missed with six torpedoes a 2,000 merchant ship on the 11th February in position 00° 05' N. 106° 48' E. was counter-attacked but no charges were close.

/S/M...

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SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

S/M  
STATESMAN

7. H.M. S/M STATESMAN reports that on 17th February while on patrol in Malacca Straits attacking an Enemy convoy consisting of 5 coasters escorted by an armed trawler off Ujong Tamiang (N.E. Sumatra). Trawler sunk by gunfire, one 300 ton coaster by demolition, two other coasters of 300 and 500 tons were beached and burned out remaining two beached and severely damaged, one prisoner taken.

Australia and New Zealand

China  
coast

8(a) Patrol Catalina sank one small freighter and damaged a medium transport freighter between Hong Kong and Macao early this morning.

Indo China

(b) Navy Liberators over French Indo China damaged small freighter transport anchored with two sea trucks off Camranh Bay - one submarine chaser was observed salvaging beached tanker 16 miles north of Quinhon.

Formosa

9(a) A Liberator, sank one and strafed 3 small coasters at Saki-Nima Gunto.  
(b) Another Liberator attacked one sea truck west of Takao leaving vessel dead in water.

Dutch  
East  
Indies

10. Patrol Liberator scored two near misses on single unidentified vessel in the Makassar St.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Minesweeping off E.Coast. L.L. sweeper detonated Red magnetic mine 120° 3A buoy eight cables at 0913.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 271015A to Admty.)

Patrols. Patrol F.G. 5 off Westkapelle is to be reduced to 2 M.Ls. patrolling as at present.  
(2) M.Ls. released from this patrol are to augment Ostend anchorage patrol force to total of 5 M.Ls. remainder being used on F.J. 5 patrol.  
(3) Boats on F.J. 5 patrol should act as escort for ships proceeding between Ostend and Flushing extending their patrol to N.F. 9 buoy for this purpose.  
(C. in C. Nore 271152A to CF.M.U. 1.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 329 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/26 February.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol	G.F. Ammo
Antwerp	193	381	18,620	-	5,482	1,174
Ostend	1,527	225	3,989	-	1,300	709
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,245	768	-
Calais	3,461	-	59	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4,040	-	-	2,014
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,181</u>	<u>606</u>	<u>26,708</u>	<u>1,245</u>	<u>7,550</u>	<u>3,897</u>
U.S. North						
Antwerp	-	125	20,333	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	63	5,858	1,722	1,769	2,659
Le Havre	5,628	1,159	9,817	-	-	1,486
Rouen	240	335	5,254	910	3,462	-
Granville	-	-	-	3,009	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,241	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,868</u>	<u>1,682</u>	<u>43,503</u>	<u>5,641</u>	<u>5,231</u>	<u>4,145</u>
U.S. South						
Marseilles	2,310	813	9,328	1,560	-	1,466
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,200	423	3,721	1,200
Toulon	-	-	1,306	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,310</u>	<u>813</u>	<u>11,834</u>	<u>1,983</u>	<u>3,721</u>	<u>2,666</u>

Note: Discharge French operated ports: Morlaix 900 tons coal St. Malo 1570 tons coal, Dieppe 2648 tons coal, Sete 29 tons pitch.  
(S.H.A.E.F. Main G.4 271630A.)

/Mining...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Mining of  
SS. SAMPA.

Merchant ship SAMPA mined in approx. position  
000° N.F. 9 one mile.  
(MIDDLETON 271715A to C. in C. Nore.)  
Tanker AURETTA mined and sunk at 0845/26th Feb.  
while in convoy 18 miles west of Zeebrugge. 44  
survivors landed Ostend.

U.S. NASABA in same convoy mined and sunk at 0955/26th Feb. in  
the vicinity of N.F. 7 buoy. 24 survivors landed Ostend.  
Belgian fishing boat B.96 mined a.m. 27th Feb. off Blankenberg.  
The whole crew with the exception of the skipper are safe.  
SS. SAMPA mined at 1715/27th Feb. in vicinity of N.F. 9 buoy,  
but still afloat.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 272330A to Admty.)

Restoration  
of Thames  
lighting.

Reference A.M. 252007. It is desired to emphasise  
that restoration to full brilliancy of Thames  
Navigational lighting is required on horizontal  
plane only.

(2) Proposal includes shore and jetty lights in  
addition to light-buoys. Treatment would include  
removal of slotted shades on sides of lights but not removal  
of overhead shades.  
(3) Urgency of proposal is accentuated by removal of minewatching  
barges whose lights have hitherto served navigational purposes  
in stretches between dimmed lights. Removal of barges nearly  
complete but remaining ten will be left in place pending  
approval to restore lighting A.L.M. 011621/44 part A dated 7th  
December, 1944 refers.  
(4) Need to simplify navigation is paramount in view of recent  
decision to extend exemption from compulsory pilotage with  
object of easing shortage of pilots. C. in C. Nore's minute two  
numbered 1108/578/2/45 dated 21st February refers.  
(F.O.I.C. London 271715A to C. in C. Nore.)

Possible  
flying bombs  
against  
London.

As it is anticipated that attacks against London  
by long range flying bombs launched from sites in  
Holland may start in very near future request  
Admiralty advice and assistance be sought on the  
following points -

(1) Can arrangements be made for ships between  
U.K. and Holland sighting flying bombs flying towards U.K. to  
pass warning of this for benefit of defences and if so how  
would the message be passed?  
(2) The same regarding ships in convoy off East Coast?  
(3) Whether CAICOS could be returned for purpose of giving early  
warning of and control of fighter aircraft against flying bombs  
if this becomes an urgent requirement and how soon she could be  
made available after a request for return had been made?  
(H.Q.F.C. 271730A to Air Ministry, Admty.)



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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Sinking of  
SS. CORVUS  
and U-Boat.

(U. 1018)

B.T.C 81

B.T.C. 81 ship torpedoed position 253° Lizard  
7 miles.  
(DAHLIA 271013A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Ship torpedoed 235 Lizard 6 at 1015A/27th. S.O.  
E.G. 3 take charge of hunt.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 271029A to S.O.E.Gs. 2, 3,  
COOKE.)

2nd E.G. taken over, am rejoining.

(DAHLIA 271040A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

DAHLIA's 271013A. E.G. 14 and E.G. 2 hunting.

(S.O.E.G. 14 271040A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 271013A torpedoed ship CORVUS. Rear ship starboard  
column and hit starboard hand. BARONS COURT proceeding Falmouth  
with 14 survivors, some wounded.

(DAHLIA 271200A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Two U-Boat survivors obtained after attack by LOCH FADA  
in position 256° Lizard Light 5.8, 14th E.G. rejoining convoy.

(HESPERUS 271206A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

LOCH FADA reported German U-Boat killed and recovered 2  
survivors but subsequent contact lost. Search continuing with  
aircraft co-operating for more evidence.

(S.O.E.G. 3 271341A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Your 271259A. Survivors one officer and one rating. Unable  
to obtain any information from officer except that 53 men still  
in submarine. Rating has not recovered sufficiently for  
interrogation yet. No evidence of destruction.

(LOCH FADA 271425A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Regret to report Norwegian ship CORVUS in B.T.C. 81  
torpedoed and sunk at 1013A on 27th February in position 253°  
Lizard 7 miles. Subsequently, before 1206A U-Boat sunk position  
256° Lizard 5.8 miles. Two German survivors picked up. 16  
survivors of CORVUS landed Falmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth 271521A to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Weigh at 0200A/28th February and carry out serial  
B.2. part 2.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 271443A to PLOVER, BANGOR.)

Patrols.

Sail when ready and proceed join BERRY on patrol  
Longships to Trevoise Head.

(2) ROWLEY assume S.O. on arrival.

(C. in C. Plymouth 271141A to ROWLEY, DOMETT.)

Weigh at 1700A proceed to patrol area 10 miles south of route E.  
between 02° 10' W. and 01° 25' W.

(2) Leave patrol 0800A/28th enter Portland, anchor at half an  
hour's notice.

(3) TEME join S.O. E.G. 6 at anchor at St. Helens and proceed  
in company on patrol.

(4) LOCH MORLICH joins S.O. E.G. 6 on patrol on completion of  
radar and echo sound repairs.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 271318A to NEW WATERFORD, LOCH ACHANALT,  
LOCH MORLICH, TEME.)

/Sail...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. Sail so as to pass Gate at 0815A/27th and proceed  
(Contd.) patrol Longships to Trevoise Head.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 261319A to DUCKWORTH, COOKE.)  
Reference C. in C. W.A's 271000A. On arrival  
join LOCH FADA, LABUAN vicinity Lizard Head.  
(2) LOCH FADA arrange R/V direct with TOBAGO.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 271659A to TOBAGO, LOCH FADA, S.O.E.G. 2.)  
ROWLEY, DOMETT establish patrol Lizard to Lands End.  
Cancel para. 1 of my 271310.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 272003A to ROWLEY, DOMETT.)

U-Boat hunt. Hunt U-Boat sighted by A/C H/112 49.35 N. 06.15  
W. at 1840A/27.  
JACK FROST can remain till 2200.  
S.O.E.G. 14 concert hunt with S.O.E.G. 2.  
E.G. 14 is to proceed when necessary to reach destination by  
1800 tomorrow Wednesday.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 271941A to S.O.E.Gs. 14, 2.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

E.Gs. 5, 30. On completion of training p.m. today 27th request  
you will sail 5th E.G. to relieve 30th E.G. as  
force 33. Further signal follows.  
(C. in C. W.A. 271129A to T.C. PHILANTE.)

U-Boat sinkings. The reduced rate of killing of U-Boats achieved  
during inshore operations has been due primarily  
to two factors:  
(a) Fewer warnings of the presence of the U-Boat  
due to the fact that they now keep W/T silence  
whilst on operations, and do not have to surface to charge.  
(b) A lower density of U-Boats due to the fact that they are  
now operating singly instead of packs.  
(2) In order to allay any doubts as to the efficiency of asdics  
in coastal waters, it is notified that since June 1944, when  
inshore U-Boat operations began, 31 U-Boats have been sunk or  
probably sunk in coastal waters as a result of initial asdic  
detections and many more similar successes can confidently be  
expected in the future, now that escort groups are becoming  
fully familiar with the new conditions.  
(C. in C. W.A. 272216A, General Message.)

Patrols. My 251653 not to all.  
When junction of O.N. 287 has been fully effected  
force 34 is to proceed as follows.  
(a) 21st E.G. to patrol standard routes B and C  
between 06° 30' and 08° 00' W.  
(b) 22nd E.G. to Milford Haven for short rest.  
(C. in C. W.A. 272331A to S.O.E.Gs. 21, 22.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols. Leave patrol so as to pass through position 64° 25' N. 09° 02' E. at 0300A/1st March thence to Lerwick by reverse of outward route. Diving by day north of 62° N.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 271505A to VIKING.)  
Request you will arrange following work up patrols:-  
(a) STUBBORN to leave Blyth 6th and Lerwick about 9th to patrol off Fejeosen.  
(b) SIDON to leave Holy Loch 4th and Lerwick about 8th to patrol off Andfjord (7069° N.)  
(2) All dates March, details of patrol follow not to all addressees.  
(F.O. S/M 271914A to S/M 3, 6, S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Operation "S.C." Ramose Genus postponed. E.T.D. now 0200A/1st March.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 271827A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy R.A.64. Scapa arrivals C.S. 1 in CAMPANIA with NAIRANA, BELLONA and Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW with ZAMBESI, ZEST, SIOUX.  
(A.C.O.S. 270935 to Admty.)  
Position at 1100Z/27th 63° 55' N. 01° 15' W. course 220° speed 8 knots. Enemy aircraft in vicinity. Expect attack. Please send escort or fighter protection.  
(CROSBY S. NOYES 271157Z to Admty.)  
Request following B.A.M.S. message may be made to CROSBY NOYES - "two destroyers proceeding to your assistance."  
(Com. D. H.F. 271656 to Admty.)  
Note: Action has been taken in A.M. 271705Z.

Convoy J.W.65. Sailing date of J.W. 65 is now postponed until 11th March and J.W. 66 until 12th April.  
(V.C.N.S. 271208A to C. in C. H.F.)

Possible U-Boat. Am attacking contact in 61° 09' N. 03° 03' W. Suggestion of movement. Am unable to confirm as yet.  
(S.O.E.G. 1 271244A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Your 271244A submerged U-Boat probably outward bound.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 271340A to S.O.E.G. 1.)

/Congestion...

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Congestion  
at Murmansk.

Your 240907 concur in general. All the winter Knox expected waggons in February. Some have materialised and already a slight improvement is noticeable. He expects to clear quays by end of March when I suggest situation be again reviewed. (2) Admty. pass to M.W.T. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 271307A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

E.G. 9.

My 271147 not to all addressees. Continue with RAVAGER to Scapa thence act under orders of C. in C. H.F. (C. in C. Rosyth 272100A to S.O.E.G. 9.)

Harbour tug  
needed for  
Reykjavik.

Effort will be made to allocate an EMPIRE tug as relief for PIPER at the end of March when weather conditions for passage may be expected to improve. No twin screw tugs are available. Your 261406 refers.

(2) Endurance of EARNER at half fuel capacity is 12 days. If a long distance sea rescue operation is required delay in fuelling should be accepted. (A.C.N.S.(H) 272312A to A.C.I.C.)

Movements.

GLOIRE,  
Fr. Cruiser.

Request you will sail GLOIRE to Gibraltar p.m. Thursday March 1st to join Flanfor. (2) Admiralty are requested to give route. (A.N.C.X.F. 271130A to C.T.F. 125.)

OXLIP,  
HONEYSUCKLE,  
corvettes.

C. in C. W.A's 251048. Intend to sail OXLIP (S.O.) and HONEYSUCKLE 1530A/27th February routed through 180° Reykjanes five miles to 270° Oversay six miles thence by standard route to Greenock. (A.C.I.C. 271144A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

A.F.D. 66.

Intend to sail p.m. 28th February weather permitting A.F.D. 66 in tow of H.M.R.T. FLAUNT escorted by SQUIRREL (S.O.) and SANDRAY to Gibraltar for O/R to Cochin to comply with A.M. 312153 January.

(2) Routed in accordance with A.M. 261804 (neither to all.)  
(3) OLVINA will proceed as additional escort till crossing 48 N. thence return to Plymouth by reverse route.  
(4) FANCY will sail from Falmouth to overtake as additional escort to Gibraltar. (5) Speed 5½ knots. Codeword "Popcorn".

/(8)...

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- A.F.D. 66. (8) Dockmaster and 17 ratings from the dock will  
(Contd.) take passage in SQUIRREL, SANDRAY and FLAUNT.  
(9) SANDRAY has no anti-submarine equipment.  
(10) Request Admiralty direct mails as requisite.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 271856A to F.O.G.M.A., C. in  
C. Med.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Troop convoy programme. Troop convoy programme for March is planned as follows:-

Code	Ship	From	Due U.K.	Port	Sail U.K.	Destination
A.T. 192	AQUITANIA	New York	3rd Mar.	C.	8 Mar.	Halifax
A.T. 193	Q. E.	New York	6th Mar.	C.	13 Mar.	N. York
A.T. 194	N. AMSTERDAM	Halifax	4th Mar.	L.	9 Mar.	N. York
K.M.F. 41	-	-	-	C/L	10 Mar.	Medn.
	EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND	-	-	L.	10 Mar.	Australia
D.S. 63	-	-	-	C.	11 Mar.	Iceland
A.T. 194A	WAKEFIELD	Boston	8th Mar.	L.	11 Mar.	Boston
M.K.F. 40	-	Medn.	12th Mar.	C/L	-	-
A.T. 195A	MT. VERNON	Boston	13th Mar.	L.	16 Mar.	Boston
A.T. 195	MAURETANIA	New York	17th Mar.	L.	-	-
A.T. 196A	W. POINT	Boston	16th Mar.	C.	19 Mar.	Boston
A.T. 197	PASTEUR	Halifax	17th Mar.	L.	22 Mar.	N. York
A.T. 198	Q. M.	New York	22nd Mar.	C.	29 Mar.	N. York
K.M.F. 42	-	-	-	C/L	30 Mar.	Medn.
A.T. 199	AQUITANIA	Halifax	26th Mar.	C.	1 Apr.	Halifax
(D.O.D.(H) 272136A to C. in C. W.A., F.Os. i/c Greenock, Liverpool.)						

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

BONAVENTURE, S/M Depot ship. A.M. 120023 and F.O.I.C. Greenock 211016 neither to N.S.H.Q. Departure Ponta Delgada at 1745Z/26th BONAVENTURE after fuelling. S. of A. 13½ knots, E.T.A. Trinidad 6th March. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 270028Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

F.S/M. LE CENTAURE. Intend sail F/S CENTAURE at 1700A/28th to Oran routed to destination. Speed 12 knots. E.T.A. 0800A/02. Escort Chasseur 42. Chasseur 42 to be refuelled and onward routed to Beirut. C. in C. Med.'s 280003A Jan. not to all refers. (Commorseafron, 271246A to Comnob. Oran.)

E.G. 56. Intend to sail E.G.56 in ABERDEEN, DITTANY, COWSLIP, AMARANTHUS, KILKHAMPTON, KILMALCOLM, TEES at 1200A Feb. 28th for Freetown, E.T.A. 1900A March 7th.  
(2) Route. S. of A. 12 knots.  
(3) KILMALCOLM and KILKHAMPTON detach in position (C) and proceed to Casablanca in accordance with Commorseafron's 261645.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 271456A and 280945 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Movement. Sailed H.M.C.S. STRATHADAM, LA HULLOISE, THETFORD, MINES, ANTWERP Q.Z.H.(C) 809, L.68, S.682, X.1525, Y.553.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 271836A to Admty.)

German ships. Reporting Officer Cadiz reports by signal 261611 (N.T. in W.D.) that German ships were removed to La Caraca on 25th Feb. My R/52/45 Feb. 24th refers.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 271951A to Admty.)

SS. FRANCONIA. 153. Gibraltar arrival 27th FRANCONIA, 183 for U.K. Passed west to east 27th.  
(Gibraltar, 272150A to Admty.)

SUMMERSIDE (Corvette) H.M.C.S. SUMMERSIDE arrives Horta 1000Z/1st March. Request onward route and destination in United Kingdom. C. in C. C.N.A's 092014 refers.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 272340Z to Admty.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

SENNEN  
(Cutter).

Sailed SENNEN to Diego Suarez to fuel, thence to Colombo.

- (2) S.O.A. to Diego Suarez 12 $\frac{3}{4}$  knots.
  - (3) E.T.A. Diego Suarez 0400Z/4th March.
- (C.R.N.E. Durban, 270354Z to Admty.)

South  
Atlantic  
Escort  
Forces.

Consideration has been given to the future of the converted trawlers of the South Atlantic Escort Force. These vessels are operationally unreliable due to heavy work in the past and are continually under repair. At best they can only be considered as token escorts owing to their very low speed.

(2) As long as the possibility of restarting convoys on this station exists these trawlers are necessary to make up the number of escorts required. But when it can be said that the risk of German U-Boat operations in these waters is negligible it is considered that a force of 4 frigates based on Durban would be all that is required in S.A. waters and would provide escorts for transports and important ships. This proposal would effect a saving in manpower of about 60 officers and 500 men. Local defence would as now be the function of the S.A.N.F.

(3) The best 6 or 7 of the converted trawlers are worth keeping in commission for local defence duties if required on any other station. The remainder are uneconomical in both manpower and use of dockyard facilities and it is suggested that they should be paid off and disposed of.

(C. in C. S.A., 271206B to Admty. amended by 280921B.)

SS. NEW  
NORTHLAND.

Intend to sail KILKENZIE and KILDWICK 1800Z/1st March 12 knots. Route M.N. to Dakar. E.T.A. 1600/3rd March. Request you will sail for Casablanca as escort to NEW NORTHLAND as soon as ready. S.S.T.O. Freetown's 161331\* Feb. refers.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 271219Z to Comar Dakar.)

\* Provisional itinerary NEW NORTHLAND.

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

**EASTON** F.O.N.A.M.'s 251242. Intend proceeding direct  
 (destroyer). to Naples via Cape Corse Channel. Speed 23 knots  
 E.T.A. 2200A/27th.  
 (EASTON, 270601 S.O.I.S.)

Linrep (2) Naval. Gibraltar. 2 of H.M. minesweepers  
 No.234. sank a U-Boat in the Gulf of Cadiz 36 degs. 25'  
 22-25 Feb. N. 8 degs. 6' W. and recovered 4 Officers and 37  
 Extract. ratings from her. (U.300 on 22/2)  
 Greece. In Cephalonia (or Caphalonia) where  
 there is acute famine there has been fighting  
 between E.L.A.S. and civilians and at Patras a  
 strike of harbour labour. General situation remains quiet.  
 Coastal Air Force attacked the ports of San Remo and Imperia and  
 strafed communications in the Western Po Valley. They also  
 sank an F/Boat in Adriatic.  
 Balkan Air Force bombed and strafed barracks enemy concentra-  
 tions and communications in Jugoslavia. A 4,200 ton minelayer  
 was damaged in Fiume Harbour.  
 (A.F.H.Q. 271015A to W.O. etc.)

**CALEDON.** Sail 0900/1st March S. of A. 20 knots to Gib.  
 (2) E.T.A. Gib. boom 1100/3rd.  
 (4) C. in C. Med. 251309 (not to all) refers.  
 (V.A.M. 271040 to CALEDON)

South Aegean GI/91203 (or 95203) cipher 27th Feb.  
 Summary Up to 0900 hours 27th Feb. 1945.  
 27.2.45 (1) Shipping. Rhodes. Departed since 18th Feb.  
 (Extract). 3 Red Cross Schooners and British minelayer.  
 Shipping now present. 2 E.M.S., 1 launch, 60/80  
 feet 2 I-Boats 60 feet. 3 I-Boats 40 feet, 6  
 pioneer landing craft, 1 small tug. With  
 exception of 2 pioneer landing craft and 1 I-Boat 40 foot all  
 above believed unserviceable. One German landing craft  
 intercepted by British destroyer A.M.27th Feb. and taken into  
 Symi with 14 prisoners.  
 (C. in C. M.E. D.T.O. 271145 to W.O. etc.)

**Cositintrep** Coastal Air Force. Beaufighters probably hit  
 No.597 a 1,000 tons coaster and attacked six other vessels  
 (Extract.) without claims in Gulf of Venice.  
 Balkan Air Force. Baltimores attacked guns on  
 Rab Island.  
 (H.Q. M.A.A.F. No T.O.R/27 to W.O.)

Navigation Turkish General Staff enquired this morning if  
 Black Sea. ships would be perfectly safe while navigating  
 on routes given in your 231945 and that if any  
 escort would be required, I informed them that  
 no escort would be necessary under present cir-  
 cumstances and that ships would be perfectly safe so long as  
 their Captains adhered strictly to courses given.  
 I added that exact hour of sailing must be reported and speed



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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Navigation  
Black Sea.  
(Contd.)

of ships given to our C.S.A's must be adhered to so that British Naval Authorities could position a ship at any time during voyage.  
(B.N.A. Ankara, 271716C to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

Movements.

Arrived U.S.S. CATOCTIN, F.S. LA BOUDEUSE, F.A.C. BARFLEUR, U.S. L.S.T.140, U.S.S. LAUB, U.S.S. NIEDDS, U.S.S. CHAMPLIN, U.S.S. PARKER (?).  
Sailed H.M.F.T.5.  
(Com. U.S.N.O.B. Oran, 271836 to Admty.)

R.T.  
MASTERFUL.

(1) H.M.R.T. MASTERFUL sail 0600/28th to Gib.  
(2) 9 knots. M.S.C.I.5 adjusted.  
(4) E.T.A. 0800 March 2nd.  
(9) My 211636 not to all refers.  
(F.O.W.M. 271436A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Black Sea.

Request all arrivals at, and departures from, Black Sea ports of U.S. and British controlled ships be reported to Admiralty in accordance with N.C.S.I. 85.  
(D.T.D. 271827A to B.N.L.O. Black Sea.)

F.S. BARFLEUR.

F.S. BARFLEUR arrived Oran, 0800A/27. 221750A/  
comar Brest refers.  
(C.T.G.125.10, 271910A to C.T.F.125)  
✓ F.S. BARFLEUR sailed 1749/22.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B Scales in all areas remain W.5.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I., 270351Z to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

S/M STATESMAN. STATESMAN 5th Far East patrol. 6th Feb. 40 miles west Penang sank 2 junks totalling 80 tons, 3 prisoners taken.  
17th Feb. vicinity Ujong Tamiang attacked convoy 2 500 tons and 3 300 tons coasters escorted by 150 ton armed trawler. Trawler sunk by gunfire, 300 ton coaster sunk by demolition, one 500 ton and one 300 ton coaster beached and burned out, remaining 2 beached and severely damaged, one prisoner taken.  
20th Feb. off Tanjong Tangung fired 6 torpedoes and missed unescorted convoy one 900 ton tanker, one 500 ton and one 300 ton coaster. In subsequent gun action all remaining 3 inch ammunition was expended, tanker left blazing, 500 ton coaster damaged and abandoned, small coaster beached and unhurt.  
(C. in C. E.I., 270957Z to Admty.)

S/M THULE. H.M. Submarine THULE Third Far East patrol para. 1. Entered Java Sea submerged through Sunda Strait to carry out special operation on east coast Malay. Operation successful on 6th Feb. despite adverse monsoon weather.  
(2) Missed with six torpedoes 2,000 merchant ship on 11th Feb. in position 00° 00.5' N., 106° 48' E. Counter-attacked from EAKATAKE\* one trawler and one unidentified escort no charges close.  
(3) Returned through Sunda Strait submerged without incident.  
(4) Fremantle C.C.O. pass P/L version to C.T.F. 71 and S.M.8.  
(C. in C. E.I., 271011Z to Admty.)  
\* As received.

Mining. Action is requested as follows to meet an Admty. operational requirement.  
(A) F.O. Bombay to sail M.I.S. GURNA with present mine load and maximum number of charge cases which can be embarked in time available to arrive Colombo March 10th.  
(B) Com. i/c Trinco to sail M.I.S. PROME to arrive Colombo March 15th. S.O. S/Ms. E.I. is requested to arrange embarkation of mines in RORQUAL before PROME sails.  
(C) C.S. Ceylon to arrange transfer of - (1) 300 AI - 4 from GURNA to storage ashore. (2) 520 mines mark 17 and 900 sinkers 17 from PROME and EE\* and Ceylon to GURNA to complete to 1550 units.  
(2) On completion of (C) ships will be sailed: (A) PROME to Bombay. F.O. Bombay is requested to arrange with D.A.S.R. for docking early April. (B) GURNA to United Kingdom.  
(C. in C. E.I., 271216Z to F.O. Bombay.)  
\* As received.

/ S/M SPARK ...

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27.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

S/M SPARK. S/M SPARK Second Far East Patrol. Feb. 1st in vicinity 006° 35' S., 110° 40' E. at 1440 missed with 4 torpedoes 500 ton coaster towing lighter, later both sunk by gunfire; at 1530 by gunfire sank 150 ton tug, at 1610 missed 1,100 ton merchant ship with one torpedo, 1635 severely damaged by gunfire 500 ton coaster which beached. Counter-attack 2 close bombs from aircraft. Return through Lombok Strait fired 4 torpedoes and missed CHIDORPY class. Counter-attack 16 A/S depth charges? no damage.  
(C. in C. E.I., 271206Z to Admty.)

A.F.D. 53 Arrived ADVANTAGE towing A.F.D. 53, ENFORCER  
and 18. towing A.F.D. 18.  
(Com. Aden, 271635Z to Admty.)

War Diary

27.2.1945  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat  
dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 271321Z and Cominch 271544Z  
to S. and A's North of 40 degs. N. & W.)

Bunkers. It would effect considerable saving in ship  
days if Canadian ships bound for west coast  
Canadian ports could leave U.K. with sufficient  
bunkers to reach Panama Canal so that they could  
when circumstances permit be detached from O.N. convoys at any  
point on the convoy route.  
(2) LOUISEBURG PARK in O.N.285 could not be detached owing to  
insufficient bunkers.  
(N.S.H.Q. 271421Z to Admty.)

RIMOUSKI N.S.H.Q. 091358 and 251725 and C.N.M.O's 241106  
(corvette). none to all.  
Destination for RIMOUSKI leaving Bermuda about  
1st March is Clyde for demonstration of diffused  
lighting regarding which a further signal will  
be made.  
(2) On conclusion of demonstration RIMOUSKI is allocated to  
C. in C. Plymouth to replace TRENTONIAN.  
(D.O.D.(H), 271600A and 011721Z and S.B.N.O. W.A.)

SUSSEXVALE Departure Halifax 2000Z/27th Feb. H.M.C.S.  
(Frigate). SUSSEXVALE independently to St. Johns N.F. route  
and speed as my 302351 Jan. E.T.A. 1000Z/1st March.  
(3) Upon arrival St. Johns request SUSSEXVALE be  
fuelled and sailed independently to Londonderry.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 272029 to F.O.N.F.)

U-Boat C. 0113/27 U.S.S. COVINGTON had radar and sound  
Radar contact 44.00 N. 62.12 W. All times Z.  
Contacts. D. (1) 1622/26 Brunswick P.V. flying at 900  
feet reported radar contact at one mile 42.35 N.  
68.00 W.  
(2) 1145/27 transit A/C reported S/M sighted 24.10  
N. 79.10 W.  
(Cominch, 272029Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

E.G.59. Admty's 251533/ will be passed to dock, tugs and  
escort at San Juan by Cominch.  
(2) Latest E.T.A. of dock at San Juan 7th March.  
(3) No E.T.A. Martinique of E.G.59 yet received  
but in view of importance to French of visit to Martinique  
Cominch has been asked to approve stay of 24 hours which may be  
extended if feasible.  
(B.A.D. 272117Z to Admty. ) / Routeing of A.F.D. 32.

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TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

A.F.D. 32. On arrival A.F.D. 32 Group my 301932 January refers, advise fuel expenditure and mean S.O.A. from New York making Admiralty info: addressee. Ref. F.O.C.W.Af. 241230 and Admiralty 251216 not to all, visit of E.G. 59 to Martinique approved provided departure of dock is not delayed. Arrange for arrival San Juan in time to escort 2 to Gibraltar via - Details. Above is based on daily S.O.A. of 100 miles with expenditure of 10 tons fuel per day per tug. Pass following to tugs and escorts.

(A) Refuelling at sea not possible. Tugs only refuel at Santa Cruz de Teneriffe. On arrival C.O. of tugs report to British Consul for fuelling.

(B) Tugs should be detached to refuel in turn between positions (E) and (F). Dock to remain out of sight of land. Inform F.O.G.M.A. E.T.A. position (E) should be sent F.O.G.M.A. 4 days in advance of arrival. (C) Should earlier refuelling or the assistance of an extra tug during refuelling be required, report as promptly as possible to F.O.G.M.A. (Cominch, 272238Z, Comcaribseafon)

N.S.H.Q. S/M No report since my 230730.  
attack and Para. C. U.S.S. COVINGTON had disappearing radar  
sighting and sound contact 44.00 N. 62.12 W. at 0113Z/27th.  
summary. (N.S.H.Q. 272351Z to Admty and Cominch)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest (1) A Liberator sank one strafed three small  
Serial coasters destroyed radio station Saki Hima Gunto.  
No. 1133. Third Liberator attacked one sea truck West Takao  
27.2.45. leaving vessel dead in water also saw five sea  
trucks three small merchantmen anchored Takao.  
(2) Navy Liberators over French Indo-China coast  
damaged small freighter-transport anchored with two sea trucks  
off Camranh Bay, saw single small tanker anchored off Hastrang,  
one S/M-chaser salvaging beached tanker 16 miles North Quinhon.  
(3) Night 25/26 February, Mindoro-based P.T.S. operating A/C  
destroyed seven barges and small craft, burned and exploded fuel  
and ammunition dump, all near Romblon two near Romelom Island  
(off northeast Mindoro). Same night Ormach-based boats destroyed  
two barges off Guintacan Island (north of Cebu Island) while  
single enemy A/C ineffectively attacked our P.Ts. off Northwest  
Leyte.  
(4) Since assuming responsibility for by-passed Japanese  
areas, Australian troops have killed 2,438 Japanese and captured  
88 prisoners on Bougainville, New Britain, Hansa Bay, Wewak-  
Aitape Area between first October, 1944 and 22nd February this  
year.  
(5) Enemy forces Manila continue suicidal resistance in Agricul-  
tural, legislative, finance buildings: heavy artillery fire

/directed ...

War Diary27.2.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Digest Serial No. 1133 (Contd.) directed against these buildings: enemy pillboxes repulsed our forces attempting to penetrate. On Corregidor our forces reached North - South line through Kyndley Field against stubborn enemy resistance. Several heavy underground explosions occurred near Monkey Point. Enemy casualties on Corregidor to date total 3,703 killed, 16 prisoners. Force S. on Verde Island captured 275 garrison evening 25th. (6) Patrol Liberator scored two near misses on single unidentified vessel Makassar Strait. R.A.A.F. Liberator attacked jetty and warehouses Beetoeng Island (South Eastern Celebes). (7) 18 Corsairs attacked Cebu City destroying S/M docks, buildings fuel dumps with bombs incendiaries strafing. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 271001Z to Admty.)

D.S. TROMP. (1) Reference F.O.I.C. Sydney 230203 not to all. When ready p.m. Wednesday 28th Feb. sail Fremantle via following positions etc. thence close inshore to Fremantle. (3) N.O.I.C. Fremantle is requested to arrange onward routing to East Indies Station. (N.O.I.C. Port Melbourne, 270237Z to TROMP D.S.) \* TROMP when ready sail for Melbourne via inshore route.

B.P.F.T. Movements. Departed 0733Z/27th Feb. H.M.A.S. WHYALLA escorting Fleet attendance Tankers WAVE KING, ARNDALE, CEDARDALE and SAN ADOLFO for Manus. S. of A. 10 knots, E.T.A. Jamard Passage 1700K/5th March, E.T.A. Manus 1800K/8th March. My 260832 not to all refers. (N.O.I.C. Sydney, N.S.W. 270750Z to Admty.)

A/C for B.P.F. Provision of C.V.E's to the B.P.F. will only fulfil the requirements for ferrying replacement A/C from Australia to the forward area and replenishing the fleet carriers in the operating area, with at a later stage provision for DLT. (2) It is requested that Admty. will confirm that the supply of reserve A/C to (?Australia) is not a commitment for the C.V.E's. of the B.P.F. (3) F.O.Air E.I. 230553 Feb. It is suggested that ACTIVITY might be employed for this commitment. (C. in C. B.P.F. 270853Z to Admty and 030425 to F.O. Air E.I. to Admty.)

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War Diary27.2.1945  
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/27th Feb.  
 Para. A. (1) AURETTA sunk by explosion at 0830Z/26th Feb. in 51 degs. 25' N. 02 degs. 47' E. probably mined.  
 (2) NASHABA sunk by explosion at 0830Z/26th Feb. in 51 degs. 22' N. 02 degs. 55' E. probably mined.  
 Para. B. A/C N/224 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0005Z/27th Feb. in 57 degs. 15' N. 02 degs. 07' E.  
 (2) A/C N/224 obtained contact course 075 degs. at 0130Z/27th Feb. in 57 degs. 35' N. 02 degs. 20' E.  
 Para. C. (1) Bomber A/C sighted periscope and wake course 130 degs. at 1216Z/25th in 51 degs. 24' N. 02 degs. 01' E.  
 (2) A/C X/59 attacked contact at 1424Z/26th Feb. in 53 degs. 39' N. 05 degs. 07' W.  
 Para. D. (1) U.S. A/C sighted two U-Boats at 1414Z/25th Feb. in 51 degs. 47' N. 01 degs. 26' E.  
 (D.D.I.C. 271033A to Cominch and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

U-Boat sinkings. My 221059 July, 1942.  
 (1) Five minutes after the torpedoing of a ship in Convoy H.X.337 at 1200/20th, AMETHYST and PEACOCK of the Support Group attacked asdic contact in position 20 miles south of Waterford. Wreckage of unmistakable German origin was produced.  
 (2) Following the torpedoing of two ships in Convoy B.T.C.76 at 1230/22 ROWLEY and DOMETT of E.C.3 made several promising attacks on asdic contact 135 degs. Lizard 14'. Attacks produced diesel oil, new bread and sheets of rubber.  
 (3) At 0755/22nd RECRUIT and PINCHER of 7th M.S. Flotilla escorting Appian Flight F. Convoy sighted U-Boat on the surface 110' W. of Cadiz. U-Boat sunk by gunfire. Forty-one survivors recovered. Prisoners state U-Boat had received damage from A/S vessel some days earlier.  
 (4) Following the torpedoing of a ship in Convoy B.T.C. 78 at 0320/24th E.G.3 attacked asdic contact in position 250 degs. Lands End 15 miles at 1005/24th. Several attacks produced a quantity of diesel oil, food and clothing of German origin.  
 (5) Following the torpedoing of a ship in Convoy B.T.C.81 at 0913/27th E.G.2 attacked asdic contact in position 256 degs. Lizard 6 miles at 1106/27th. Two U-Boat survivors recovered.  
 (D.A.U.D. 271943A to Cominch and others)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 271423A to A.I.G. Cominch, also 271427A)

U. 1018  
mark

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28.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) QUEEN OF KENT was near-missed and damaged by a V.2 bomb in Antwerp.
- (b) SS. CYDONIA was mined off the Humber but regained port in tow.
- (c) An unknown trawler is reported as having disappeared after hauling a mine in her trawl off the Outer Dowsing.
- (d) E-Boat activity was resumed from the Low Countries in the late hours.
- (e) 1 mine was swept off Ostend.

Channel. U.327  
mark

2. (a) 2nd E.G. is confident of having destroyed a U-Boat in 49° 46' N. 5° 47' W. about 15 miles south of Lands End. A dinghy was recovered.
- (b) A new channel into the Seine is now in use, capable of accepting draughts up to 4½ ft. less than the height of H.W. at Havre.

Western Approaches.

3. The small merchantmen SORELDON and NORFOLK COAST, sailing independently, were torpedoed and sunk in St. Georges Channel. 14 E.G. is hunting the vicinity.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

4. Under cover of fire from L.C.G. and with air support coastal craft have assisted in evacuation of partisans from Pag (N.W. of Zara, Yugoslavia). This was necessitated by a strong enemy counter attack.

Greece.

5. The strike at Patras continues. In Zante fighting between rival parties is occurring and situation is described as serious and deteriorating

Dodecanese.

6. ACTIVE captured a landing craft containing 14 Germans while on patrol between Rhodes and Piscopi.

Egypt.

7. L.S.T. (I) 178 has been refloated.



28.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

PETER  
SYLVESTER,  
(survivors.)

8. Today ACTIVITY in 26° 48' S. 101° 58' E. picked up 20 survivors from American ship PETER SYLVESTER which was torpedoed on 6th February. 107 survivors had been previously picked up. It is believed that 1 boat with about 20 men remains to be located.

Australia & New Zealand.

China Coast  
and Formosa.

9. (a) Liberators attacked one small coaster, one lugger off N.E. Formosa possibly damaging lugger.  
(b) Sank one sea truck laden with oil and damaged one small coaster 80 miles E.N.E. of Hongkong.  
(c) Other Navy Liberators sank one sea truck in convoy with one freighter transport and two submarine chasers, S.E. of Okinawa Jima heading S.W. (Ryukyu Archipelago.) Straffed 5 northbound sea trucks in same area sinking one and leaving 4 others burning and sunk another small coaster in convoy of 8 small ships all in Sikishima.  
(d) Last night Navy Catalina sank two small cargo ships off Formosa one small cargo ship off Hongkong and left burning a medium freighter transport off Hongkong and a large one off Swatow.

Philippines.

10. (a) Mindoro based P.T. boats with aircraft co-operation swept Batangas Bay (S. coast of Luzon) speed-boat hideouts at daylight today destroying seven speed-boats and probably destroying six others  
(b) A naval force of three light cruisers and five destroyers supported the landing of U.S. forces on Palawan Island tonight.

Movements.

11. Task Force 113 comprising KING GEORGE V, (C.T.F. 113, and B.S. 1), INDOMITABLE (A.C.1.), SWIFTSURE (C.S.4), HOWE, VICTORIOUS, INDEFATIGABLE, GAMBIA, ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE, EURYALUS and 15<sup>14</sup> destroyers left Sydney for Manus. UNICORN also in company.

28.2.1945  
Wednesday -

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Possible Flying Bombs against London. Request you will take necessary action and reply to H.Q.F.C's 271730 which is being passed to you. (A.C.N.S.(H), 281153A to C. in C. Nore)

Patrols. Night Dispositions 28th Feb/1st March.  
 Humber Force. Group 2 Harbour - BLANKNEY.  
 Harwich Force. Group 3. Patrols - 2 TALYBONT, 3 MACKAY, 5 PUFFIN, 6 GUILLEMOT, 12 RIOU, 14 COTS-WOLD, 16 SEYMOUR, 18 HAMBLEDON, 19 EKINS, 21 SHEARWATER.  
 Groups 4 - Harbour EGLINTON, SOUTHDOWN, STAYNER, THORNBOROUGH, TORRINGTON, CAICOS, KITTIWAKE, MALLARD, SHELDRAKE. Sheerness Force - Group 5 - with Convoys T.A.M. 94 - GARTH, VOLUNTEER, T.A.P.59 VANQUISHER.  
 Patrols - 1 CATTISTOCK, 4 ALBRIGHTON. Group 6 Harbour - MELBREAK, MENDIP, MIDDLETON, PYTCHLEY, VIMY, DRUMHELLER, HOLMES, GODETIA. Anchored at Flushing - HOLDERNESS, VERSATILE. (C. in C. Nore, 281528A to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.330 Part A Section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/27 February.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	43	307	17,608	-	24,621	1,251
Ostend	346	51	2,237	-	194	587
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,890	-	-
Calais	3,748	-	43	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,417	-	-	1,568
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>23,305</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>24,815</b>	<b>3,406</b>

<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	-	17,664	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	344	6,081	2,404	-	2,659
Le Havre	3,986	668	7,348	-	-	1,320
Rouen	432	493	4,716	1,728	875	-
Granville	-	-	-	2,304	-	-
Ghent.	-	-	2,446	-	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>38,255</b>	<b>6,436</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>3,979</b>

<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	4,981	860	4,423	2,110	-	1,329
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,320	600	4,651	1,120
Toulon	-	-	216	-	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4,981</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>6,959</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>4,651</b>	<b>2,449</b>

Note: Discharge French operated ports: Dieppe 1326 tons coal Morlaix 750 coal. (S.H.A.E.F. 281630A to Admty. and others)

/Vessels ...

28.2.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Vessels mined off East Coast. Skipper of Fishing Trawler LEEDS reports that at 0115 on Sunday the 25th February he saw mine explode in a trawler's trawl in position 14 to 15 miles S.E. by E. Outer Dowsing. After flash nothing was seen of trawler.  
(2) Trawler not yet identified, further signal will be made when facts are verified.  
(F.O.Humber, 281715A to C. in C. Nore.)

Merchant ship mined 210 degs. 11 buoy 5 cables. (VEGA 281800A to C. in C. Nore)  
My 281746 not to all addressees. SS. CYDONIA mined in position 302 degs. 11 buoy 6 cables. Am standing by.  
(VEGA, 281826A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)  
Humber 28th February. Departure at 2015 tug HEADMAN to assistance of SS. CYDONIA in vicinity of 11 buoy.  
(F.O.Humber, 282050 to C. in C. Nore.)  
Humber 28th February departure at 2155 tug YORKSHIREMAN with Salvage Officer on board, to assistance of SS. CYDONIA.  
(F.O.Humber, 282210A to C. in C. Nore.)

QUEEN OF KENT, near-missed by V.2 rocket-bomb. QUEEN OF KENT near missed by V.2. Regret to report 5 killed, 19 wounded. Names of casualties will be reported as soon as known. Ship holed on and above water-line, holes temporarily plugged. Extent other structural not yet known.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 281836A to Com. Belgium)

Thanks to No.819 F.A.A. Squadron. I have had great pleasure in receiving the following personal message from A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command. Begins.  
No.819 Fleet Air Arm Squadron came out of the line on 23rd February after nine months service under my command.

During this time they have made a most valuable contribution to the anti-E-Boat operations in the Channel and the Southern North Sea and have carried duties with the greatest determination and vigour.  
Will you please convey my thanks and congratulations to the Squadron Commander, officers and all ranks for their very fine performance ends.  
(F.O.N.A.S. 281855A to N.A.S. Bircham Newton)

E-Boat activities. Recent E-Boat prisoners have stated:  
(a) Some E-Boats have been fitted to carry explosive motor-boats (Linse). (Graded C.1).  
(b) Two E-Boats each fitted to carry three Linsen are operational (graded C.3)  
(2) A.G.M. 491A to 15th August, 1944 and Snip (MP) 27/45 refer. (Admty(D.N.I.) 281952A to C. in C. Nore)  
Have engaged 4 E-Boats vicinity N.F.8 Buoy, one damaged, enemy is moving in general direction N.  
(COTSWOLD, 282345A to C. in C. Nore) and see C. in C. Nore 011348 to Admty.

/Minesweeping ...

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping off Far Shore. 1 moored mine type GX in new condition cut in position 51.2340 N. 02.52.50 E. at 1057. Mine exploded by gunfire.  
(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 282027 to Com. Belgium)

U-Boat activities. U-Boat and Midget U-Boat Summary ending 1100Z/28.  
(1) 1936Z/27. CAICOS attacked Doubtful contact 51.42 N. 01.44 E.  
(2) 0850Z/28. Beaufighter J/254 reported sighting periscope. Attacked with depth charges. Oil and bubbles reported rising for 15 mins.  
(C. in C. Nore 282215A to Admty.)

OperationsChannel

U-Boat hunt. Your 280255A proceed forthwith. My 271941A refers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 280806A to S.O.E.G.14)  
*U.327 sunk*  
Have destroyed German U-Boat in position 49 degs. 46' N. 05 degs. 47' W. which is one mile North of first sighting position of bin containing dinghy recovered at 0930.  
My 280931 not to all refers. Oil welling.  
(S.O.E.G.2, 281237A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
Note: The remainder of the message concerns D.N.I. who will arrange further circulation and comment as necessary.

Patrols. Weigh at 1700A. Proceed to patrol area 5 miles either side of route E.W. between 02 degs. 10 W. and 01 degs. 25' W.  
(2) Leave patrol as necessary to R/V with C.U.59. Further orders follow.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281129A to NEW WATERFORD, LOCH ACHANALT, LOCH MORLICH, TEME, HOTHAM.)  
Pass Gate at 0830A/1 and establish patrol on coastal route between Start and Portland.  
Codeword "Manganese Baker".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281552A to JONQUIERE, MONTREAL)  
If not in contact E.G.3 second division proceed at sweeping speed to patrol Lizard to Longships. Keep clear of E.G.2.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 282222A to S.O.E.G.3)

Sinking of CORVUS and U-Boat further hunt. LOCH FADA take TOBAGO and investigate position of your attack on the German U-Boat that torpedoed SS. CORVUS.  
(S.O.E.G.2, 281247A to LOCH FADA, TOBAGO, C. in C. Plymouth)  
Torpedo fired at LABUAN and missed. Contact attacked by her position 070 degs. Lizard Head 10 miles.  
(LOCH FADA 281830 to C. in C. Plymouth)

/Torpedo ...

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Channel

Sinking of  
CORVUS and  
U-Boat  
further  
hunt.  
(Contd.)

Torpedo passed under stern at 1812 in position 50 degs. N. 05 degs. W. counter attacked, nothing seen. Remaining in the vicinity. (LABUAN, 281832A to C. in C. Plymouth, E.G.2.) My 281830. Second division searching in the vicinity of D. One buoy. (LOCH FADA, 281930A to C. in C. Plymouth, E.G.2)

Small craft  
activity off  
the Cotentin.

At 280130 two P.T. boats on "Pink" patrol West Coast of Cotentin Peninsula engaged two small craft apparently seeking suitable landing spot and sank one. The second escaped to seaward while a third target was being investigated which proved to be false. Both craft are reported as appearing to be U.S. L.C.Ms. in bad condition, but one at least may have been the L.C.V.P. in which German prisoners escaped from Granville. My 241633A December not to all refers. No persons were seen by searchlight or star shell illumination nor was any survivor or wreckage found. A D.E. and two P.C.S. joined search of waters and beaches until daylight without results. There was no firing from the two craft nor from Channel Islands, nor any reply to challenge. (C.T.F.125, 281501A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Shortage of  
A/S  
escorts.

F.O.B.A.A.'s 041928 December and A.C. Dover's 011629 December owing to acute shortage of A/S escorts in the Portsmouth Command request FOULNESS, SWITHA and ANNET be released from Calais and Boulogne. (2) Two Oropesa trawlers can shortly be sent as reliefs. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 281634 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Seine Chan-  
nel.

Cositintrep No.330 Part 11 Naval. New channel in Seine Estuary is now in use and permissible draughts are increased by 1 foot 8 inches, and are approximately 4½ ft. less than height of high water Havre. (A.N.C.X.F. 282225 to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat  
procedure.

Attacks by A/S Craft. Although they have not recently given much evidence of their activity the threat of U-Boats operating in the Portsmouth Command is still present. (2) Analysis of recent reports confirms that

U-Boats have been repeatedly swept over and classified as non-S/M. Attack Policy. (3) In view of this and the fact that ships in this Command never operate far from Harbour where a plentiful supply of anti-U-Boat ammunition is always available, Commanding Officers should have no hesitation in carrying out attacks on

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WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

- Anti-U-Boat procedure.  
(Contd.)
- "doubtful" contacts, even if they are initially considered as probable non-S/M, since such attacks may usefully serve.  
(A) To show that our A/S Forces are active, and  
(B) to intimidate any undetected U-Boat in the vicinity.
- (4) Counter Attacks. When convoy escorts counter attack the full pattern for which the ship is fitted is to be used.
- (5) Ships on Patrol. Instructions on the choice of weapons are given in P.A.S.I. para. 58, but when attacking with depth charges C.O's of ships on Patrol, have discretion to attack with 5-charge patterns or even with single charges should the nature of the echo appear to justify this course.
- (6) Attacks on Bottom Contacts. When attacking Bottom Contacts with a pattern, a 5-charge pattern is to be used and all charges should be set to the same depth.
- (7) Scaring Charges. The orders below apply to all craft carrying depth charges, and throughout the Command Area, irrespective of whether they are in Asdic contact or are Asdic-fitted.
- (8) In order to implement further the objects given in para.3 A. each ship, during each period on escort duty, or on passage or on Patrol is to drop up to 10 single scaring charges at irregular intervals along her route - preferable on her return passage to Harbour.
- (9) Restrictions: The following restrictions are to apply:  
(A) Asdic craft are to retain on board sufficient charges to ensure that a genuine contact can be adequately attacked  
(B) Depth Setting charges to be set as deep as possible without exploding on the bottom.  
(C) Anti-U-Boat Deep minefields. Scaring charges are to be dropped clear of anti U-Boat minefields, positions of which are given in P.N.O's - 'O' series.
- (10) Administrative Authorities. Are to issue the above instructions to all craft concerned which are not included in A.I.G.488.
- (11) Cancellation. My 031930A January and 061902 February, not to all addressees, are cancelled.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 282227A to Portsmouth Command.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

- E.G.9. Request you will return E.G.9 to Western Approaches without relief when due for lay over.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 280130A to C. in C. Rosyth)
- Loss of SS. SORELOD. Over survivors of torpedoed ship being picked up by vessel 52 degs. 15' N. 05 degs. 35' W.  
(A/C 784 W.92, 280945A to 15 Group)  
Close 52 degs. 15' N. 05 degs. 35' W. Ship believed torpedoed.  
(C. in C. W.A. 281028A to S.O. Force 38)

/My ...

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

Loss of My P.C.S.52 degs. 31' N. 05 degs. 57' W. 140 degs.  
SS. SORELDOC. 18½ knots.  
(Contd.) (MONTERRAT, 281047A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 281028. Vessel reported picking up survivors.  
Ascertain and report situation as soon as possible.  
Nothing known here.  
(C. in C. W.A. 281053A to S.O. Force 38.)

Your 281028A. Wreckage and oil in position. Carrying out search  
with PAPUA. Wreckage shows ship's name to end in RELDOC.  
(S.O.E.G.23, 281218A to C. in C. W.A.)  
23rd E.G. investigate 52 degs. 15' N. 05 degs. 35' W. ship  
believed torpedoed.  
(2) RENONCULE (S.O), ALGOMA, NIMICO, MOOSEJAW, M.Ls 455 and 924  
investigating A/C markers off Milford Haven buoy and then 51 degs  
50' N. 05 degs. 38' W. where A/C reports survivors in dinghy.  
(3) Addressees report situation.  
(C. in C. W.A. 281432A to S.O.E.G.23, RENONCULE)  
U.S. SORELDOC torpedoed at 0915A to-day 28th February in  
52 degs. 15' N. 05 degs. 35' W. approx. 21 survivors landed at  
Milford Haven by trawler LOYAL STAR. U.S. Authorities informed.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 281831A to Admty.)

Loss of Ship sunk survivors in dinghy in position 51 degs.  
M.V. NORFOLK 50' N. 5 degs. 38' W?.  
COAST. (A/C PKK 51, 281101A to 15 Group)  
One ship sunk survivors safe position 51 degs. 58'  
N. 5 degs. 25' W? will carry on with patrol A.  
(A/C PFY 51, 281510A to 15 Group)

A/C now reports survivors in dinghy 51 degs. 58' N. 05 degs. 25' W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 281558A to MOOSEJAW)  
Estimate wreckage found in position 51 degs. 51' N. 05 degs.  
34' W. survivors found further North indicating 2 ships sunk.  
MOOSEJAW's Group searching South of 51 degs. 58' N. 14th E.G.  
searching from 51 degs. 58' N. to 52 degs. 10' N. 23rd E.G. search-  
ing North of 52 degs. 10' N.  
(S.O.E.G.14, 281913 to S.O.E.G.23, MOOSEJAW, C. in C. W.A.)  
M/V NORFOLK COAST 646 tons torpedoed at 1330A to-day 28th in  
51 degs. 58' N. 05 degs. 25' W. 6 survivors including 1 D.E.M.S.  
rating landed at Fishguard other D.E.M.S. rating rescued but  
since died. Ship on passage Cardiff to Liverpool. Total crew  
13.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 281955 to Admty.)

Possible Close ST. THOMAS in contact N.W. of Clyde light  
U-Boat. Vessel.  
(C. in C. W.A. 281141A to S.O.E.G.5)  
Your 281207 5th E.G. in contact 55 degs. 11' 15"  
N. 05 degs. 25' 30" W. ST. THOMAS, WEST YORK and  
LACHUTE proceeding in execution of previous orders.  
(2) Fourth E.G. supporting O.N.S. 43.  
(3) Contact on bottom small oil slick height (?more than) 45 feet.  
(S.O. E.G.5, 281350 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Consider contact wreck on rock. Accurate E/S traces show  
light 41 to 54 feet length 160 to (200?) feet. Hedgehog attacks  
produced explosions at correct intervals but no wreckage.  
Previous attacks totalled 7 Squid, 5 Hedgehog, 2 D/C.

/Am ...

War Diary

28.2.1945  
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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Possible  
U-Boat.  
(Contd.)

Am proceeding Belfast E.T.A. (?1715).  
(S.O.E.G.5, 281524A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols.

E.G.5 GRINDALL, 4 Frigates vicinity Clyde Light  
ship Force 34.  
E.G.21 CONN 4 Frigates South Irish Coast Force 38.  
E.G.23 MONTSERRAT 2 Frigates St. Georges Channel.

Force 37.

E.G.4. CALDER 4 Frigates North of Kingstown Force 33.  
E.G.30 PEVENSEY CASTLE 3 Corvettes operating off North Irish  
Coast.  
(C. in C. W.A. 281503A to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

(1) Intend following programme.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Serial.</u>	<u>R/V time.</u>
5th	Z	0200
6th	G	1100
7th	G	1100
8th	G	1100
10th	H	1300

(2) The last 50 mines of G will be laid on passage on March 10th.  
(3) Then anticipate completing H laying at 48 hour intervals.  
(APOLLO, 281621A to C. in C. W.A. )

Second  
possible  
U-Boat.

Am attacking contact position 072 degs. South  
Lundy Island Light 7.5 miles.  
(SOUTHERN STAR, 282052A to F.O. Cardiff)

Situation  
Report.

Situation St. George's Channel.  
(1) At 0915 ship torpedoed in 52 degs. 15' N.  
05 degs. 33' W.  
(2) At 1330 ship torpedoed in 51 degs. 59' N. 05  
degs. 19' W.  
(3) At 1720 wreckage reported in 51 degs. 51' N. 05 degs. 33' W.  
possibly from latter casualty.  
(4) May be more than one U-Boat.  
(5) 14th E.G. searching until relieved by 5th E.G.  
(6) At 1740 5th E.G. was off Mew Island, Belfast, southbound,  
18 knots.  
(7) 23rd E.G. supporting convoys.  
(C. in C. W.A. 282138A to S.O.E.G's 14, 5, 23, Admty.)

Operations

Norway

Bringing in  
of Norwegian  
fishing  
vessels.

A.C.O.S. 101124. Provided no special orders  
have been given, Norwegian Fishing Vessels should  
not be seized and brought in unless such action  
is considered necessary for operational security.  
(2) When action against a fishing vessel is

/considered .....



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Bringing in  
of Norwegian  
fishing  
vessels.  
(Contd.)

considered necessary but H.M. Ships might be endangered by any delay, the vessel may be sunk and her crew brought to this country.  
(3) The decision in each case is to be left to the officer commanding each operation subject to any general orders in conformity with above you may wish to issue.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 281258A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Norwegian  
Party on  
Soroy.

Codeword to be used for communication purposes is allocated to you in A.M. 282015.  
(D.O.D.(H), 282012A to Norwegian Party, Soroy)  
A.M. 282012. Codeword "Ember".  
(D.O.D.(H), 282015A to Norwegian Party, Srroy)

Murmansk  
Congestion.

Your 240907 from November, 1943 to April 1944 87 ships including 7 tankers discharged at White Sea ports. From August, 1944 to date number is 89 including 15 tankers.  
(1) Congestion at Bakaritza and Molotovsk was practically cleared during summer of 1944 but is again apparent and total increasing is estimated at about 100,000 tons.  
(3) Congestion due to shortage of rolling stock and in particular closed wagons which accounts for any priority that may appear to be given to ammunition vehicles and machinery.  
(4) Anticipate position will not deteriorate further and may improve.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 280930A to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Convoy  
R.A. 64.

Your 281301. Remain at Skaalefiord with SCORPION until further information is received of CROSBY NOYES.  
B.A.M.S. message will be made.  
(C. in C. H.F. 281742A to D.23.)

Movements

MISOA  
L.S.T.(I).

On reduction to C. and M. remainder of ships company should be sent on 14 days leave with instructions to report back to their Manning Depots on completion. Nominal lists are to be forwarded to Depots.

Officers should be sent on leave pending appointment. Addresses being reported to Admiralty.  
Report date you will be ready to sail to Inverary when this is known.  
(R.A.L.S.C.U. 282142A to MISOA)

28.2.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

ARBITER,  
EMPEROR  
escort  
carriers;  
GLENROY,  
L.S.I.(L);  
MONTCLARE,  
destroyer  
depot ship;  
EASTWAY,  
L.S.D.  
VERULAM,  
TEAZER,  
BLACKMORE,  
destroyers;  
WAVENEY,  
NITH,  
L.S.H.(S).

Intend to sail ARBITER S.O., EMPEROR, GLENROY,  
MONTCLARE, EASTWAY escorted by VERULAM, TEAZER,  
WAVENEY, NITH, BLACKMORE passing Clyde boom  
1345A March 1st for Straits of Gibraltar S. of A.  
12½ knots E.T.A. 1400A/7th March. A.Ms 131939  
172111 and 221307 February refer. Route in  
accordance with A.M. 261125 February.  
(2) Admiralty is requested to divert mail.  
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 281624A to Admt. C. in C. W.A.  
F.O.G.M.A.)

LARGS,  
L.S.H.(L).

LARGS is to be sailed from Clyde in K.M.F.41 for  
India to join Force "W".  
(D.C.O.D. 281644 to R.A.L.S.C.U., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

GLOIRE  
French  
cruiser.

A.M. 271941A. Request GLOIRE may be ordered to  
maintain speed of 24 knots if practicable while  
in the Plymouth Command until South of 48 degs. N.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281752A to C.T.F.125)

28.2.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

E.G.56 My 271456. All E.G.56 are delayed requiring boiler cleaning or with defects.  
(2) TEES will sail at 1200A Feb. 28th for Casablanca to comply with C.M.S.F. 261542. (F.O.G.M.A. 280945A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

RICHELIEU My 091030 Feb. paragraph 3 departed Gibraltar 271700A.  
(2) S. of A. 23 knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 281015A to C. in C. Med.)

Tanker REGENT LION (Salvage) Owing to deterioration due to weather Lt. Cdr. Deschamps Salvage expert advises no action re ship or cargo. Tanker CROMWELL being onward routed to Colombo vide C. in C. Plymouth 141851 February. Request confirmation that Tanker MARATHON is now to be released to Bone vide your 201701 February not to Admiralty or M.W.T. (F.O.G.M.A. 281111B to C. in C. Med.)

S/M TACITURN M.S.C.I.5. Intend to sail H.M. S/M TACITURN to Malta at 2000 March 1st.  
(2) 12 knots.  
(4) E.T.A. 0810/5  
(F.O.G.M.A. 281233A to S. and A. Med.)

CALEDON (C.S.) Destination of CALEDON, expected to sail from Gibraltar, 4th March, is Chatham.  
(D.O.D.(H) 281256A to C. in C. Nore.)

EASTWAY L.S.D. Request you will sail H.M.C.S. SUMMERSIDE for Gibraltar. She will subsequently be required to escort EASTWAY from Gibraltar to U.K. before joining Portsmouth Command. Your 272340 and my 111201 and 131939 para. (5) none to all refer. (D.O.D.(H) 281309A) See 021546Z from S.B.N.O. Azores)

SS. ALFRED I. DUPONT O.N.283 Convoy ALFRED I. DUPONT will probably complete repairs by 2nd March.  
(2) Unless otherwise ordered intend to sail her to New York in G.U.S.74. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to designate R/V.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 281354Z to Admty. F.O.G.M.A.)

CHAMELEON My P.C. and S. 036° 01' N. 006° 47' W. 110° 4½ knots. E.T.A. Point Carnero 010730. Request harbour tugs may meet dock on arrival at Gibraltar. Also small tug to take battle target from REDMILL.  
(CHAMELEON, 281401A to F.O.G.M.A.)

/E.G.1. ...

28.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

E.G. 1                      Group one negative JONQUIL proceed when ready  
A/S patrol.                to carry out A/S patrol between Cape Trafalgar  
                                 and Cape Spartel.  
                                 (2) 2 attacks have been carried out on unidentified  
                                 A/S contacts in position 034° 33' N. 008° 26' W.  
at 0755A and 034° 41' N. 008° 17' W. at approx. 1530A/28th.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 282347A to Group 1.)

South Atlantic.

H.M.T. CANTON              H.M.T. CANTON sailed 0559Z/28th, E.T.A. Freetown  
(C.S.)                        p.m. March 7th.  
                                 (N.C.S.O. Capetown 280559Z to Admty.)

Security.                    There is no objection to you making a statement  
                                 to the Press in the Union of South Africa on  
                                 the following lines.  
                                 (2) The German U-Boat potential is still great  
and U-Boats with long endurance will be a threat to the South  
Atlantic trade routes until Germany capitulates. Indeed, the  
possibility of these U-Boats continuing to operate from Japanese  
bases after the end of the war with Germany must not be ignored.  
(3) Your 261111B refers.  
(Chief of Naval Information 281212A to C. in C. S.A.)

28.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movements.

- (1) S/M SEA ROVER 37.25 08.05 route L to Gibraltar.
- (2) "Appian" landing craft flight E "Dishrag" 36.49 02.21 basic eastbound 7½.
- (3) "Appian" flight F "Radio" 35.50 01.09 west basic eastbound 7½.
- (4) U.S.S. GENERAL WILLIAM BLACK, SPHINX 37.57 05.09 through positions 54 and 84 to Oran 18.
- (5) Situation area G.B. 1959.
- (6) 4 fleet sweepers "Knifebox" position 122 basic eastbound to Malta 11.
- (7) French fleet unit corner approx. position 37.15 08.23 and speed 23.  
(F.O.W.M. 280834 to Admty.) Amended by 281310A.

Minefields,  
Black Sea  
and Danube.

B.M.M. Roumania 281020 to Admty.  
See Lion Copy.

PRINCE HENRY  
L.S.I. (M)

PRINCE HENRY is due to arrive U.K. by the end of March. Stores and personnel may be embarked at Malta and Gibraltar, my 281046A and A.M. 240038\* neither to all refer. V.A.M. is requested to sail ship to Gibraltar as soon as loaded.  
(C. in C. Med. 281053A to V.A.M. etc.)  
\* Taking in hand of PRINCE HENRY.

Shipping for  
Black Sea.

M.S.C. 15 intend sail DUCHESS OF BEDFORD (Cdre.) MORETON BAY and HIGHLAND PRINCESS at 1700/28th to Istanbul for onward routeing to Odessa.  
(2) 15 knots.  
(3) Route "Roger" 4 and position 704 thence route "Oboe" and direct to Istanbul.

- (4) Position 704 at 0600/2nd E.T.A. Chanak 2200/2nd Istanbul 0700/3rd.
- (8) F.O.L.E.M. is requested to provide escort from position 704 to Rabbit Island in accordance with C. in C. Med's 242003.
- (10) Admiralty pass to Moscow and B.N.L.O. Black Sea.  
(V.A. Malta 281216A to C.S.A. Istanbul.) See 281701.

KING SALVOR  
salvage  
vessel.

Para. 4 of A.M. 240336 February (not to F.O.L.E.M.)  
It is strongly urged that consideration be given to postponement of transfer of KING SALVOR to B. P.Fleet.

(2) Withdrawal of this ship may seriously affect re-opening of Genoa and other west coast Italian ports, and the effect on military supplies and relief to civil population may well be disastrous.

- (3) It is requested this matter be reconsidered at end April. She would require about 1 months tropicalisation at Alexandria and would require recommissioning as nearly entire complement have completed full foreign service period. Suitable officers and ratings not available from station resources.  
(C. in C. Med. 281406A to Admty.) ✓

RESTRICTED.

Med  
499A  
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.

281020/February

FROM: B.M.M. Roumania.

Date: 1.3.45

Recd. 1415

ONE TIME PAD

*Minneapolis Black Sea  
& Danube*

ADDRESSED: Admiralty (W.O. pass)  
REPEATED: The War Office (for M.W.T) C. in C. Med.,  
(A.F.H.Q. pass)

298514  
RAC.514/6053 cipher 28 February.

At First Combined Meeting Naval heads of sections  
American Commander Brennan enquired -

(1) Extent German mining on Danube particularly above iron gates and if Russians had managed to clear them. Captain Tishkiv replied he was not concerned with this and had not full particulars. Germans had mined Danube but shipping was moving although not without danger. Giurgig to Calafat was still dangerous.

(2) Brennan then enquired if Russians had adequate equipment also what additional gear might be required. He would pass on requests. Tishkiv said he would enquire from Flotilla Leader requirements for magnetic sweeping.

(3) Brennan stated an American ship with U.N.R.R.A. supplies for Czechoslovakia and Poland would arrive Constanta mid-March. Other ships would follow, Moscow had granted clearance. War shipping subsequently would require a port representative. Tishkiv said he had no knowledge of these points but no doubt it would be settled by March.

(4) Brennan enquired if Constanta minefield had been swept up and was position safe for shipping. Tishkiv replied fairway was clear and checked daily. Minefield exists and ships are met by pilot.

(5) Brennan enquired what work is being done or contemplated on dykes and breakwaters Chilea and Sulian Channels to prevent Sulian mouth silting. Tishkiv could not answer as O.C. work was away but stated 24 (repeat 24) feet was being maintained at Sulian.

(6) Subsequently Marston showed Brennan Foreign Office telegrams (repeated Washington) reference British policy minesweepers and international control of Danube. He had previously advised his instructions to avoid discussions.

(7) Brennan undertook to ascertain U.S.A. attitude.

281020.

Circulation overleaf....

V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 A.C.N.S. (F)  
 A.C.N.S. (UF) (2)  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 U.W.R.  
 Ops. (2)  
 Plot  
 O.D. (6)  
 O.I.C. (2)  
 D.N.I. (5)  
 D. of P. (3)  
 M. (2)  
 W.D.

Recd. in War Reg: 0033/3rd.

Circulated by W.O. to  
 W.O. Departments and Air Min.  
 Foreign Office, M. of W.T.  
 and Admiralty.

(71)

28.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

NADA  
(Yugoslav).

Yugoslav ship NADA is to exchange stations with one of corvettes serving in Adriatic.

(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail NADA as soon as possible to Malta where she will be visited by Capt. Kern C. in C. R.Y.N. She will subsequently be allocated to F.O.T.A.L.I. at a date to be communicated later.  
(3) F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to detail one corvette of 37th or 51st Escort Groups to replace NADA in Gib. Escort force and sail selected ship forthwith to Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. Med. 281458 to F.O.G.M.A.) See 021155A, 051526A.

S/Ms for  
Greek Navy.

Daily papers "Vrathini" and "Ethnos" yesterday carried following report.

"Reliably reported that apart from surface craft to be loaned to us for re-inforcing Greek Fleet, British Government has decided to deliver us 3 submarines to replace those lost in last 4 years. These ships will be at disposal of R.H.N. shortly."

(?2) Minister of Marine was informed that this information was not to be published.

(3) Investigations proceeding. Admty.'s 201207 Feb. refers.  
(S.B.N.O. Greece 281800B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Situation  
report No.  
571.

(1) Adriatic. After arrival of reinforcements in Pag enemy counter attacked and drove partisans from positions overlooking town. Partisans then evacuated with assistance of coastal craft and under cover of fire from L.C.G. and air attack.

(2) Dodecanese. ACTIVE captured a landing craft containing 14 Germans while on patrol between Rhodes and Piscopi.  
(3) Greece. Strike at Patras continues. In Zante fighting between rival parties is occurring and situation is described as serious and deteriorating.

(4) Egypt. In number 570 for Mersa Matruh read near Alexandria. L.S.T.(I) 178 has been refloated.

(C. in C. Med. 281938A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

G.2 summary  
No. 177.

(2) Jugoslavia.

700 enemy troops reported landed Krk Island during last few days from east. At present engaged in mopping up partisans but consider prolonged stay unlikely.

(A.F.H.Q. 282200A to W.O.)

Minesweeping  
Aegean.

M/S Sitrep. Since my 191831. Information requested whether clearance as in my para. 2 completed. 8 mines swept on Andros Island side (?and) clearance of Thermia Channel completed to width of 3 miles between position 900 and 901

in accordance with para. one of your 171345 Jan. 62 mines and obstructors swept.

Heavy concentration of contact mines exist between Channel cleared as described in para. 2 and Zea Island. Consider it advisable to remove these entirely.

(S.O. M/S 12 282241 to F.O.L.E.M.)

/Minesweeping...



28.2.1945

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Minesweeping M.S. Sitrep. High percentage search of area  
Ionian Sea. enclosed by lats. 037° 55' and 038° 04' N. longs.  
020° 35' E. and 020° 40' E. negative result. Q.B.  
336 cleared south of Q.B.C. 919 to 038° 01' N.  
16 mixed German V and Italian K mines cut.

Good weather conditions have permitted air R/C with good  
result.

(S.O. M/S F. 5 282330B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Cositintrep  
No. 598.

Part 3 Air. (Extract.)  
Balkan Air Force. Night 26/27. Hurricanes  
destroyed 1 tug, damaged 1 barge in Podgorski  
Channel.

(H.Q.M.A.A.F. No T.O.O/28th.)

28.2.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-positions. No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 280402 to S. & A. E.I. Stn. etc.)

Hospital ship. Request you will sail H.S. TJITJALENKA for Sydney N.S.W. as soon as ready about 3rd March. If possible ship should arrive by 20th March  
C. in C. B.P.F. 220701 (N.T. in W.D.) Jan. not to all refers.  
(C. in C. E.I. 280541Z to D.S.T.O. Ceylon.)

Air crews (reliefs.) Your 221019. On Feb. 6th N.A. 2nd S.L. (Air) sent your Chief Staff Officer and C.S.O. to F.O.N.A.S. (A) a list of all crews who had been over 12 months in an operational appointment. Further lists will be sent monthly.  
(2) Crews should be relieved after about 15 months in operational squadrons. About 12 Avenger crews are due for relief now.  
(3) Numbers in your pool should be 10% of all 1st line Avenger strength including overbearing. This will be 16 for fleet carriers and 2 for escort carriers.  
(4) Including IMPLACABLE, reliefs should average ten per month in fleet carriers and one per month in escort carriers, apart from reliefs for casualties. Intend therefore to send 13 Avenger crews per month to pool.  
(5) Crews they relieve should be returned regularly to U.K. if suitable for instructors or air specialists.  
(N.A. 2nd S.L. 281521A to F.O. (Air) E.I.)

Weekly review. Iraq. Failure to invite Regent for talks on occasion recent visit of Allied leaders to Cairo regarded generally as a slight though episode without public consequences.

Persia. Following recent violent disorders Isfahan Persian authorities made 20 arrests including local Tudeh leader Barampur. Governor General Varasteh so far resisted Soviet Consul's demand release Barampur.  
(C. in C. Persia, Iraq 281615C to C. in C. M.E.)

Aircraft, radar contacts. This is repetition of my 282022. Addressed S.O. Force 62 repeated Admty. S.O. Force 68, from C. in C. East Indies.  
"Aircraft of 20th Bomber Command report following radar contacts - (1) at 1718Z/27th in position 003° 20' N. 101° 00' E. 9 unidentified ships.  
(2) At (?) 1730Z/27th in harbour in position 003° 10' N. 101° 10' E. 35 unidentified ships. Ends.  
(C. in C. E.I. 282046Z to Admty.)

503

28.2.1945.  
Wednesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 281320Z, 281525, to S.A., Admty., Cominch).

Minesweepers. Request you will sail B.Y.M.S. 2257 and B.Y.M.S. 2258 to U.K. as convenient. My 251554 refers. (D.M.S., 281556A to S.B.N.O. West. At., and S.B.N.O. 012131 to Admty.).

Shipping. War Office 281730A and 011335 to B.A.S. Washington.  
See Lion Copy.

Monsters (sailing of). War Office, 281810 to B.A.S. Washington.  
See Lion Copy.

KENORA (Fleet minesweepers) Work up of H.M.C.S. KENORA should not be unduly delayed as this will prejudice the return to Canada of another Bangor minesweeper already overdue for refit. Your 271820 not to all refers.  
(2) As the endurance of this ship would not permit sailing her from Bermuda to Azores without refuelling request KENORA be sailed on completion of work up as convenient to join a U.G.S. convoy thence top up and detach from convoy as necessary to arrive Azores with safe margin.  
(3) S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to sail ship to U.K. as directed by Admiralty.  
(C. in C.C.N.A., 282007Z to SOMERS ISLES).

CARTHAGE Escort for CARTHAGE is to be provided to comply with B.A.D. 191721 (N.T. in W.D.) not to H.M.C.S. SOMERS ISLES and Cdr. 10th Fleet C. and R. (N.S.H.Q., 282020Z and 012154Z to C. in C.C.N.A.) etc.).

U-Boat sighting. Para.C. About 260200Z EIGER Swiss cargo reports sighting fully surfaced U-Boat about 200 yards abeam on course east to northeast 38.07 N. 69.49 W. no friendly ships known to be in area.  
(Cominch, 282115Z to Admiralty for O.I.C.).

Escorts for U.S.troopers. I am informed by Cominch that U.S. authorities are unable to agree for the present to unescorted sailing of their troopships? as proposed by C. in C.E.I. Your 211915 refers. (B.A.D. Washington, 282141Z to Admiralty (R) C. in C.E.I.). See also 012151Z, 060519Z to C. in C.E.I., and B.A.D. r270817Z JULY (E.I)

**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.)

281730A February.

To: B.A.S. Washington IMMEDIATE Date 28.2.45.  
Rptd. SHAEF Main  
(for G.4 Mov & Tn.) IMPORTANT  
A.F.H.Q.  
(for Movements) IMPORTANT  
CIPHER. *Shipping National etc*

From War Office.

72460 cipher Q(M)8. 28 February, '45.

For D.D. Mov (OP) from D.Q.M.G.(M) and D. of S.T.

Your QM 832.

First. We appreciate uncertainty of U.S.W.D. as to their status but fundamental fact is brought out in your para. 5 namely that situation is now totally different from what it was in December. For this reason decisions in papers to which you refer in your para. 2 can scarcely be taken as now applicable. Previously numbers were relatively small and manageable but now they are major problem. It will require considerable efforts by both British and U.S. to cope with situation.

Second. Position as we see it now is as follows:-

- (a) U.K. We will clear balance of U.K. numbers 6,000 in KMF 41 in British ships.
- (b) Middle East. We will provide for the 2,500 remaining in British ships during March.
- (c) Italy. We plan to use DUCHESS OF BEDFORD during March to clear 4,500 remaining. This not definite yet as DUCHESS OF BEDFORD's programme still uncertain.
- (d) This leaves major problem of 27,500 ex prisoners and 50,000 displaced persons in France and Belgium.

Third. To deal with this we propose as follows:-

- (1) That British ships now engaged in cross-channel lift totalling 13,000 capacity be replaced by U.S. ships your para. 2 refers. We would like this to be done with ships out of C.U. 59 or 60 in order that we can use the released ships or substitutes to make a lift of 6,000 Russians from N.W. Europe in KMF 42 and similar lift in KMF 43. Earlier

application . . . .

application of these ships is unlikely because of need for repair and overhaul and difficulty of finding substitute ships for KMF 41 of suitable drafts.

- (ii) We think it most desirable that if possible a lift from N.W. France be arranged in KMF 41 and we therefore strongly recommend capacity for 5,000 being used for this purpose ex CU 59. We can compensate for this in the trans-Atlantic lift with British ships too big for Odessa.
- (iii) We are planning to lift up to 12,000 from Marseilles for Odessa in April in British ships and we hope to be able to repeat this in May and June. It does not appear however that we can do anything appreciable in March and we feel that it would be most desirable if some lift could be provided during that month in U.S. ships. Can U.S.W.D. make a special effort to provide a lift during this month from Marseilles or if they are averse to making a direct movement to Odessa can they leave some lift in the Mediterranean to replace British ships e.g. in GOLDFLAKE which can then be used for Russians.

281730A.

Recd. War Registry p.m./1st March.

Circulated by War Office to W.O. Depts.,  
Admiralty, M.W.T., Base Tn Officer, U.K. Base.

2nd S.L.	D. of S. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	Admiral Blake
U.W.R.	A.D.O.D. (CO)
D.O.D. (H) (4)	D. of P. (Q) (3)
D.O.D. (F) (2)	P.A.S. (L)
D.C.	D.N.I. (4)
Plot (2)	Hd. of N.
D.D.I.C. (2)	A.C.N.P.
D.T.D. (4)	N.A. 2. S.L.
D.T.D. (C)	
Hd. of M. (3)	
N.A. Mails.	

**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.)

*Monsters (Sailings)*

TOPSECRET

281810/February

TO: B.A.S. Washington (IMMEDIATE) Date 1/3/45  
Repeated: C.G.S. Canada (for  
N.D.H.Q.) (IMPORTANT)

CIPHER TELEGRAM

FROM War Office

72459 Q(M) 8 cipher 28 Feb.

For DDMOV (OP) from DQMG (M) and D. of S.T.

1. Cannot get final agreed April programme to you by 1st March as at present too many details to be finally agreed.
2. Present indications are that we will be able to give USWD following assistance thus meeting their request -

(a)	Early April	ILE DE FRANCE	9760
(b)	Mid April	PASTEUR	4460
(c)	Mid April	QUEEN MARY	11000
(d)	Late April	QUEEN ELIZABETH	12000
(e)	End April	ILE DE FRANCE	9760
(f)	During April	British contribution	
		CU approx -	4000

Notes:

(a) and (e) dependent on present repairs being completed in reasonable time.

(b) dependent on repairs presently scheduled your side after TA 197. After one April AT will go to other service.

3. Canadian bid for April being met by two sailings AQUITANIA one about 14 Apr and one early May. As Canada cannot accept first sailing before mid April impossible for second to be before early May.

4. Present planning which is not yet final regarding removal of Monsters is as follows:

MAURETANIA after AT 195

NIEUW AMSTERDAM after AT 201 (probably postponed  
early April)

PASTEUR after AT mentioned my second above.

5. Thought above might help planning your side but emphasize all tentative and nothing final.

281810

Received in War Registry 1405/1st  
Circulated by W.O. to W.O. Depts, Admiralty  
and M.W.T.

/Circulation overleaf .....

1st S.L.(3)  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
U.W.R.  
D.O.D.(H)(4)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.C.  
Plot (2)  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
Hd. of M.(3)  
N.A. Mails  
D. of S.(2)  
D.S.O.  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake (4)  
A.D.O.D.(C.O.)  
D. of P.(Q)(3)  
D. of P.(2)  
D.T.D.(4)  
D.T.D.(C)

MMB

28.2.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand.

GUARDIAN. Sailing GUARDIAN for Manus towing 1 battle practice target escorted by H.M.A.S. KALGOORLIE standard route via Grafton Passage consistent with Raven Channel. S. of A. 8 knots E.T.A. Manus 1600K 8th March. (N.O.I.C. Townsville, 280046Z to C. in C.B.P.F. etc.).

Task Force 113. Departure Sydney 0124Z 28th Task Force 113 less UNDAUNTED my 260707 not to V.A.Q. refers. Mean S. of A. 16½ knots. E.T.A. Manus boom 1430K Tuesday 6th March. (N.O.I.C. Sydney, 280426Z to Admiralty).

Fleet Carriers aircraft. Your 241911 Jan. and 210350 Feb. and C.S.1 051247 Feb. I agree with C.S.1 that Seafires are unsuitable for the type of operation that we shall be carrying out in this station. (2) Eventually both IMPLACABLE, INDEFATIGABLE should be re-equipped with Hellcats but it is not intended to equip IMPLACABLE with Hellcat Squadron from replenishment carriers on the station (as suggested in your 210350/February) until adequate supplies of these aircraft can be assured. (3) In the meanwhile concur in the re-equipment of IMPLACABLE with Seafires L.3. (C. in C.B.P.F., 280740Z to Admiralty).

Digest Serial No.1134 27.2.1945. Following covering February 27th unless otherwise stated. (4) Allied escort vessel recorded submarine contact off South Western Panay Island early 26th. (8) All organised enemy resistance Corregidor overcome during day although few Japs remain cornered in Eastern extremity of Island. 4,215 Jap dead counted on Corregidor, hundreds more believed buried in tunnel: aggregate 18 prisoners taken. (18) Patrol Catalina sank one small Freighter damaged 1 medium Freighter Transport between Hongkong and Macao early hours 27th. Previous day patrol bomber claimed sinking 1 large tanker, damaged 1 1200 ton freighter in Tonkin Gulf 60 miles southwest Haiphong. (19) United States submarine attacked northbound convoy consisting of 3 tankers, 3 escorts off Camranh Bay night 26th damage inflicted. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 281123Z to Admiralty).

U.S. operations. Tokyo raid 25th Feb. by fast Carrier Task Force. 47 planes shot down, 111 destroyed and 75 damaged on ground. O.T.A. Koixumi aircraft plants heavily hit. 17 small ships sunk or probably sunk. 14 damaged. Extremely adverse weather. Hachijo Jima hit 26th Feb. Own losses 9 combat 4 operational 2 ships minor damage from small enemy surface craft. (Cominch, 281855 to Comnavau).



505

28.2.1945.  
Wednesday.War DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z 28th Feb.  
and sighting Para.A.(1) CORVUS torpedoed at 0913Z 27th Feb.  
summary. in 49° 55' N. 05° 22' W.

*U. lot 8 sunk* (2) LOCH FADA attacked U-Boat at 1106Z 27th  
Feb. in 49° 56' N. 05° 21' W.

## Para.B.

U327 (1) A/C. H/112 sighted U-Boat course 270° at 1714Z 27th Feb.  
in 49° 40' N. 05° 55' W.

## Para.C.

- (1) M.T.Bs. attacked bottomed contact at 0421Z 28th Feb. in 50° 28' N. 02° 19' W.
- (2) A/C. P/206 sighted possible smoke at 1203Z 27th Feb. in 57° 38' N. 03° 08' E.
- (3) A/C. N/224 had disappearing radar contact at 1821Z 27th Feb. in 57° 51' N. 03° 09' E.
- (4) BERRY attacked doubtful contact at 1019Z 27th Feb. in 50° 19' N. 05° 28' W.
- (5) A/C. Q/407 dropped 2 depth charges on oil-patch at 1805Z 27th Feb. in 51° 29' N. 08° 16' W.
- (6) A/C. S/547 sighted possible conning tower at 1501Z 27th Feb. in 58° 25' N. 08° 10' W.
- (7) A/C. sighted Schnorkel course 230° at 0627Z 28th Feb. in 52° 37' N. 05° 51' W.

## Para.D.

- (1) French fishing vessel attacked by gunfire from U-Boat course N. at 2110Z 21st Feb. in 50° 18' N. 01° 26' E.
- (2) U.S. Bomber A/C. sighted U-Boat submerging course S. at 1618Z 27th Feb. in 51° 45' N. 01° 20' E.  
(D.D.I.C., 281043Z to Cominch).

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 281424A and 281446A to A.I.G.,  
Cominch).

## THE ENEMY ON IWO JIMA

On the morning of 19 February elements of the U.S. 5th Marine Amphibious Corps stormed ashore on the beaches of southeastern IWO JIMA after intense naval gunfire and air bombardment had provided an effective prologue. Within 24 hours, despite stiff opposition, our forces had control of the southern quarter of the island including its major airfield. The anticipated counterattack in the early morning following D Day was successfully repulsed.

Intelligence obtained prior to the landing indicated that the opposition to be encountered from Japanese ground forces would include the following units on IWO JIMA:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Approximate Strength</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
2nd Mixed Infantry Brigade of 109th Division	4,700	Includes 6 Independent Inf. Bns., 1 Arty. Bn., 1 Engr. Bn.
145th Infantry Regiment	3,300	
Mortar Battalion	700	16 Arty. Mortars (possibly 240 mm)
2 Antitank gun Battalions	1,000	24 guns (37 mm or 47 mm)
Tank Unit	400	
Navy Guard Unit	2,000	4 Coast Defense guns (14 cm) 6 Coast Defense guns (12 cm) 8 AA guns (12 cm) 14 AA guns (8 cm) 54 Twin-mount AA MG (25 mm) 30 AA MG (7 mm)
Naval Air Base	400	
Construction personnel	<u>2,000</u>	
TOTAL	13,500 - 15,500	

Prior to March 1944 the BONIN and VOLCANO Islands were garrisoned by fortress units only. Very soon, however, the Japanese launched upon an intensive program of reinforcing and fortifying these islands. An army division was created with HQ on CHICHI JIMA, and the fortress units were reorganized into the divisional components. A new infantry regiment, originally scheduled to reinforce SAIPAN, arrived in the area in June and was ordered to IWO JIMA. Supporting tank, mortar and antitank units were added. Air photos revealed great activity in construction of tunnels, concrete emplacements and other defensive fortifications during all this period.

Although no reinforcements have been observed going into IWO JIMA, early estimates since the landings are that the total strength of enemy forces may be as high as 20,000.

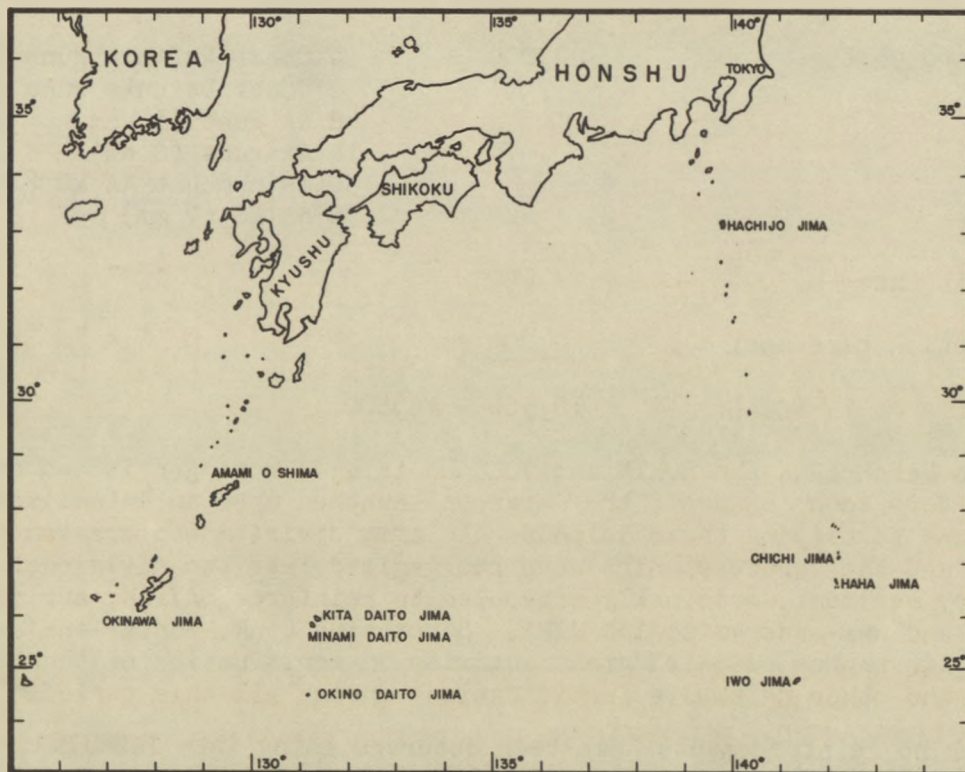
The enemy infantry units on IWO JIMA had never been in combat before though their commanders saw service in the North CHINA fighting in 1937-38.

As to possible reinforcement of the IWO JIMA garrison subsequent to D Day, the only islands within 525 miles that have sufficient garrisons to permit the drawing off of reinforcements are HAHA JIMA and CHICHI JIMA. It is improbable that reinforcements can be brought in through the screen which our naval and air superiority should provide except under unusually bad weather conditions.

IWO JIMA lies well within range of twin-engine bombers airborne from many bases within the Empire area. However, no smaller planes could make more than a one-way trip without staging at intermediate airfields (e.g. CHICHI JIMA), which are being rendered inoperative by our own air and naval actions during the IWO JIMA fighting. One way trips by suicide attack planes are not at all improbable.

The importance of our occupation of IWO JIMA is obvious from its location (see accompanying map) and the two good airfields situated there. Listed below are some significant airline distances from IWO JIMA (in nautical miles):

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| TOKYO - 660            | MINAMI DAITO JIMA - 550 |
|                        | (NANSEI SHOTO)          |
| NAGOYA - 645           | MARCUS ISLANDS - 680    |
| CHICHI JIMA - 140      | SAIPAN - 625            |
| TAKAO (FORMOSA) - 1160 | HAHA JIMA - 120         |



## JAP NAVY FORCES ON IWO

Documentary evidence of the important role which the Japanese Naval ground forces were assigned in the defense of Iwo Jima is contained in undated papers captured within the last few weeks and translated as CINCPAC CINCPA Item No. B-3076. The Naval garrison, totaling 7,015, appears to have been organized, equipped and deployed as light infantry forces and given battle stations, in addition to carrying on their regular duties as air-ground crews as CD and AA gunners and construction and maintenance personnel.

The document, which was captured on Iwo Jima, reveals that there was equipment for nearly all personnel, together with a plentiful supply of "idiot sticks" (bamboo lances with or without bayonets attached). All personnel were organized into groups and assigned specific sectors. Construction personnel, which could be expected to include a considerable proportion of Koreans, were divided evenly among the four main sectors and subordinated in most cases to equal or larger groups from other organizations.

Tables of equipment show an ample supply of hand grenades, mines and other demolitions was possessed by these auxiliary land troops. In addition, approximately half of the men had rifles although they were not distributed equally among all units; most of the others had "idiot sticks". A small number of LMGs, flame throwers, shotguns and mortars and numerous grenade dischargers were available; it appears also that a considerable number of HMGs from destroyed aircraft were employed.

The abundant supply of antitank demolitions together with the recent Japanese program of accelerated training and indoctrination of troops in close assault on tanks indicates these auxiliary personnel were concerned with tank attacks in addition to normal ground defense missions.

Also noteworthy is the listing of 400 "No. 6 Rocket Launching Equipment" in the armament tables of the Tamana Yama Sector. These are manned by an air ordnance repair unit. Preliminary battle reports describe rocket projectiles made of aerial bombs, fitted with a motor.

There is evidence that the senior naval officer present was an air man (possibly Rear Admiral Ichimaru) and that he exercised overall command of the entire Naval garrison, which was divided into two main parts: the Naval Land Force and the AA Defense Force. The former, in turn, was organized into four sector groups (Northern, Southern, Western and Tamana Yama Sectors), plus the coast defense batteries which were under direct control of the guard unit commander. For tactical purposes the guard unit seems to have lost its identity and merged with the total naval forces present. There were four of these coast defense battery groups - Northern, Southern, Osaka Yama, and Suribachi Yama Sector Battery Groups. (Note: Tamana Yama is located in the east central part of the island; Osaka Yama in the northwest.)

CONFIDENTIAL

The AA defense forces also were divided into sector units - Northern, Southern, Eastern, Tamana Yama, Moto Yama, Osaka Yama and Suribachi Yama Sector Units - with a battery group in each. All AA forces were equipped for land fighting, and appear to have had the duty of holding their sectors as regular land force units. The same applies to the coast defense batteries, so that if the primary weapons of these groups were knocked out, they remained an effective fighting force and an essential part of the island's defense.

Components of the naval garrison force were as follows: Iwo Jima Guard Unit, 3285 men (manning all AA and coast defense installations, as well as furnishing a regular naval land unit); Nampo Air Group, 1900; Construction Personnel, 1400; Air Equipment Repair Unit, 200; Gun Installing Unit (Technicians), 130, and Torpedo Maintenance Unit, 100.

The principal armament, according to the captured document, was as follows:

<u>Coast Defense Guns</u>	<u>AA Weapons</u>	<u>Infantry Weapons</u>
4 15 cm	30 12 cm D.P.	3352 Rifles
4 14 cm	6 10 cm D.P.	2346 "Idiot Sticks"
9 12 cm	4 8 cm D.P.	125 Heavy Grenade Dischargers
12 12 cm (short barrel)	6 7.5 cm D.P.	106 HMG
	213 25 mm	38 Flame Throwers
	4 20 mm	30 Light Mortars
	144 13 mm	28 LMG
	10 searchlights	

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## KOREANS WARNED AGAINST LEAFLETS

Anyone in Korea who fails to turn in leaflets dropped from U.S. planes faces conviction as a spy or traitor, according to a radio broadcast from Keijo, Korea, which was monitored by the OWI at Chungking on 14 February. This is the first known instance in which capital punishment has been threatened in the stringent official effort to counteract effects of U.S. Psychological warfare.

The OWI's translation of the broadcast warning follows:

"In the recent air raids (on Korea) the enemy dropped many leaflets in an attempt to heress the morale of our people. Facing the enemy's treacherous propegandæ warfare we have to be very careful not to fall into their booby trap. At any time that you discover such leaflets you should send them to the police bureau immediately. If anyone should keep such leaflets and not send them to the police station, then he will certainly be punished severely under the crime of being a spy or traitor."



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