

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

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

- Policy
- Defense 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  
Comnav, 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

1.3.1945  
ThursdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

1. The Orkney and Shetland Command was today merged in that of the Home Fleet.

## North Sea

2a. Last night's E-boat activity developed into 5 separate attacks. *[C. in C. Note, asks for reinforcements - p. 3]* One group was shadowed by a Wellington aircraft to Smith's Knoll, and shadowed and attacked by aircraft of 16 Group on its way back, hits being scored with cannon.

A second was intercepted and driven off by MACKAY when approaching an F.S. convoy near Hearty Knoll Buoy shortly before midnight, and again, near No. 57 buoy, at 0033.

A third was detected by shore and ALBRIGHTON's radars crossing Q.Z.S. 403 at No. 56 buoy, recrossing near No. 55A, and retiring east 11 miles south of Hearty Knoll.

The fourth was shadowed by Swordfish to near Ostend, where 4 or 5 boats crossed Q.Z.S. 581 at N.F. 8 buoy and penetrated to within 4 miles of Ostend. They recrossed the channel at N.F. 9 buoy but were brought to action by SEYMOUR and COTSWOLD, SEYMOUR sinking one boat and taking 26 prisoners and COTSWOLD damaging another.

Another Wellington followed the 5th Group towards Dunkirk, where RIOU and her M.T.Bs. twice drove them off before they reached the convoy route, scoring gun hits.

Minelaying is probable. Sweeping is in progress  
(b) SS. ROBERT L. VANN was mined and sunk 10 miles north of Ostend.

(c) One mine has been swept off Terneuzen, and 3 off the East Coast.

## Channel.

3. One mine was swept off Cherbourg.

## Northern waters.

4(a) The small Panamanian ALCEDO was torpedoed in Convoy U.R. 155 in the approaches to Reykjavik in the small hours. Convoy and escort were burning navigation lights at the time. C. in C. W.A. has been asked to send two corvettes or trawlers to reinforce A.C.I.C.'s anti-submarine forces in place of the two corvettes recently withdrawn

(b) Russian local anti-submarine forces have probably sunk a U-boat off Murmansk.

Foreign StationsMediterranean

## Greece

5. National Guard having taken over defence of Corfu Sea patrols and R.M. Commandos have been withdrawn.

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SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

LAUTARO  
(Chilian  
Training  
Ship)

6. The Chilian Naval Training ship LAUTARO carrying nitrate to U.S.A. reported on fire since noon yesterday off coast of Peru in lat. 14.25 S. (about 200 miles S.W. of Callao.) Expected total loss. It is thought that crew have been rescued.

Australia and New Zealand

China

7. Navy Liberators over Formosa Strait and China coast left a sea truck sinking off Amoy and attacked one tug and sank one large barge north-east of Hongkong.

Formosa

8. Carrier borne aircraft from the 5th U.S. Fleet attacked the Nansei Shoto group of islands (E. of Formosa) today. It is reported that 13 enemy ships were sunk. 13 probably sunk and 29 damaged.

Philippines

9(a) Following an effective naval bombardment this morning U.S. Forces landed unopposed on Lubang Island (S.W. of Manila Bay). 14 small craft captured.  
(b) Two support landing craft bombarded San Arlos (East coast Negros Is.) destroying several small buildings and a barge.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

E-Boat  
activity.

Four E-Boats contact lost at 2318 in position 320° Ostend 7.5, steering 180 and regained 345° Ostend 7 at 2325, steering 320, engaged by SEYMOUR and COTSWOLD, one E-Boat sunk by SEYMOUR in position 51° 35' N. 02° 48' E.  
(SEYMOUR 010045A to C. in C. Nore.)

E-Boats are attacking in greater force and with greater frequency than ever before. Attacks by several units are concentrated in two or three areas, positions varying each night. With present forces available patrols are too widely spaced to deal adequately with these tactics. If undue delay from minelaying or serious casualties are to be avoided immediate reinforcement by three destroyers or frigates is necessary.  
(C. in C. Nore 011035A to Admty.)

E-Boat activity night 28th February/1st March.

(1) E-Boats operated off Norfolk coast off Ostend and north of Dunkirk.

(2) Aircraft shadowing reports indicated several small groups at sea. Wellington M/524 followed one group to Smiths Knoll. Swordfish of 119 Squadron followed group to Ostend and Wellington followed group part of way to Dunkirk area.

(3) Norfolk coast 2352 MACKAY (patrol 3) aided by aircraft reports drove off 3 E-Boats 6 miles 030° from Hearty Knoll Buoy as they approached F.S. convoy, 0033 MACKAY drove off 3 E-Boats north of 57 buoy, hits observed. At 0006 shore radar detected another group crossing Q.Z.S. 403 at 56 buoy, group proceeded at 30 knots S.E. inshore of channel recrossing near 55A buoy at 0100 well astern of convoy. ALBRIGHTON (patrol 4) made radar contact with this group at 0122 11 miles south of Hearty Knoll as it retired east. Shore radar indicated possibly another group joining this one from eastward soon after 0100. ALBRIGHTON engaged single E-Boat at 0053 near Hearty Knoll Buoy.

(4) Estimate 9 or 12 E-Boats in this area most probably looking for convoy.

(5) Ostend area. 4 or 5 E-Boats at 35 knots eluded patrols and crossed Q.Z.S. 581 at N.F. 8 buoy at 2310 reaching position 4 miles N.W. of Ostend at 2320. They turned here and recrossed channel at N.F. 9 buoy being engaged by SEYMOUR (patrol 16) and COTSWOLD (patrol 14). SEYMOUR sank one. COTSWOLD damaging another. Two officers and 24 ratings taken prisoner.

(6) North of Dunkirk. 2317 RIOU (patrol 12) and motor torpedo boats engaged 4 E-Boats 7 miles east of 53 F Buoy driving them north. What was possibly same group reappeared at 0041 16 miles east of 53 F and were again driven north well before they reached convoy route. In both these engagements RIOU successfully vectored M.T.Bs. on to enemy, hits being scored.

(7) Intentions of E-Boats in paras. 5 and 6 cannot be determined.

(8) Group retiring from Smiths Knoll were shadowed and attacked by 16 Group aircraft who scored hits with cannon.

/(9)...

1. 3. 1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

E-Boat activity. (Contd.) (9) Shore radar Hopton and Winterton did good work in plotting 3 of the 4 northern groups often at considerable ranges and maintained good continuity in their tracks. Uncertainty of movements of our M.T.Bs. sometimes made identifications difficult. Trimmingham also plotted two northern groups. The work of the Yarmouth plot was also creditable.  
(C. in C. Nore 011348A to Admty.)

Minesweeping off Schelde. (1) E-Boats plotted near N.F. 8 buoy.  
(2) Proceed at 0500A and conduct Oropesa search in G formation of channel between N.F. 7 and N.F. 9 buoys.  
(3) On completion carry out LL/SA E.G.M.S. between N.F. 8 and N.F. 5 as many actuations as time permits.  
(4) Return to Small Downs for the night passing N.F. 3 not later than 2000A.  
(C. in C. Nore 010205A to M.S. 18.)

5 M.S. and HARRIS proceed 0500 to comply your 010205.  
HORNBEAM remains at anchor Small Downs.

(S.O. M/S F. 18 010341A to C. in C. Nore.)

Sweeping report for 1st March. Channel from N.F. 18 to N.F. 13 swept LL/SA H.G. I G M S both sides centre line by 3 M.M.S. one acoustic mine detonated 0906 272° N.F. 15 1.7 miles.  
3 B.Y.M.S. swept LS/SA H.G. I G M S both side centre line from N.F. 13 to N.F. 10 channel from N.F. 18 to Hansweert swept LL/SA H.G. P formation. Ends to bat line ahead by 2 M.M.S.  
Clearance sweep east of Middleplaat completed by 2 M.M.S. Last 3 sweeps negative result.

(Com. M. Terneuzen 011651 to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

(1) Weather permitting tomorrow Friday proceed at 0500A to conduct Oropesa search in G formation between N.F. 8 H.K. 4 buoys Width 5 cables either side centre line N.F. 8 to H.K. 2 and 1 mile either side centre line H.K. 2 to H.K. 4.

(2) Mines are suspected between positions 235° H.K. 4 buoy 3 miles and 180° H.K. 4 buoy 1.5 miles. Also westward of H.K. 2 buoy. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.H. 172.

(3) Return to Small Downs for the night passing N.F. 3 not later than 2100A.

(4) C.F.M.U. 1 is to provide A/S screen, F.G. 5 may be used.

(5) M.S. 18 is to arrange R/V direct with C.F.M.U. 1 Y.M.S. 18 and C.F.M.U. 1 acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore 011653A to S.O. M/S F. 18.)

Civil hospital markings.

Enemy intend indicate civil hospitals by distinctive sign of red square on circular white background for protection against sea, land and air attack.

All elements Allied Expeditionary Force will accord same protection to this sign as to Red Cross emblem.

(S.H.A.E.F. 011205A to A.N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Restoration of Thames lighting. F.O.I.C. London's 271715A is concurred in. It is requested that Admiralty approval may now be given for removal of slotted shades as stated in para. 2 of F.O.I.C. London's 271715A in order to facilitate night navigation of River Thames.  
(C. in C. Nore 011211A to Admty.)

New Searched Channel. Intend following operation.  
(2) Ships of 10th Minesweeper Flotilla to carry out a high percentage searching sweep through gap A. (Q.Z.L. 43) centre line joining the following positions A. Number 25 buoy and B. 56° 48' 40" N. 00° 58' 00" W.  
(3) Channel to be searched to width of 2 miles each side of centre line.  
(4) Instructions in the use of Redhead Beacon as contained in my memorandum 01558A/25th February 1945 (to M.S. 10 only).  
(5) Codeword and D day follow.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 011239A to S.O. M/S F. 10.)  
My 011239 codeword "Screw".  
(C. in C. Rosyth 011247A to S.O. M/S F. 10.)

Anticipated Flying Bomb activity. In the event of flying bomb attacks on (you (?us)) self evident reports of visual sightings from destroyers frigates or corvettes on patrol or escort are required by Fighter Command.  
(2) Such reports must however be subordinate to signals concerning E-Boats actions since neither equipment nor personnel will permit of an additional line being manned.  
(3) Reports are to be made with precedence O A to Nore W/T M.T.L. on 2700 k/cs upon which Fighter Command will arrange to keep receiving watch.  
(4) Reports are to be in the form number of flying bombs course height in thousands of feet position of reporting ship in lettered co-ordinates S.P.02274 example one F.B. 250 - 6 W Y.Z. 2732 meaning one flying bomb course 250 height 6,000 feet in position indicated. Fighter Command are not concerned with the name of the reporting ship.  
(5) For record purposes reports will subsequently be passed by Nore to H.Q.F.C. by T/P.  
(C. in C. Nore 011800 to D. 16, D.21, S.O. 1st Corvette Flotilla.)  
Para. 3 of H.Q.F.C. 271730. Strength of E-Boat attacks makes any reduction in patrol forces unacceptable. My 011035 to Admiralty only, refers.  
(C. in C. Nore 011803A to Admty.)

/Minesweeping...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping on E. Coast. Following mine detonated today:  
 (1) 0758 1.3.45. (2) B.Y.M.S. 2040, 2194, 2167.  
 (3) O.N. (4) 1 3/4 cables. (5) B.Y.M.S. 2194  
 53° 26' 24" N. 00° 55' 00" E. 140°. (6) Red 125°  
 1 1/4 cables. (7) On pulse blue to starboard.  
 (8) 3 secs. (9) Unknown. (10) No. (11) Moderate. (12)  
 Short Swell. (13) Widespread 60 feet. (14) No.  
 (F.O. Humber 011806A to C. in C. Nore, Admty.)  
 L.L. sweepers detonated. One blue magnetic mine in  
 position 127° No. 3A Buoy 13 cables at 1657 and one acoustic  
 mine in position 105° No. 3A Buoy 7 1/2 cables at 1701.  
 (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 011945A to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 331 part 4 section A.  
 Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 281600A  
 February.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G. F. Ammo
Antwerp	74	314	17,748	-	13,101	901
Ostend	1,226	136	2,363	-	660	-
Boulogne	143	222	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	341	2,686	-	-
Calais	3,950	-	610	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,680	-	4,944	1,246
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,393</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>23,742</b>	<b>2,686</b>	<b>18,705</b>	<b>2,147</b>
<b>U.S. North</b>						
Antwerp	-	183	18,776	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	669	7,542	1,844	-	5,245
Le Havre	6,010	782	6,604	-	-	1,312
Rouen	196	200	6,352	1,613	776	-
Granville	-	-	-	1,457	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,630	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,206</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>42,904</b>	<b>4,914</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>6,557</b>
<b>U.S. South</b>						
Marseilles	1,927	2,341	6,007	2,827	-	168
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,410	1,100	4,419	1,410
Toulon	-	-	146	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>2,341</b>	<b>8,563</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>4,419</b>	<b>1,578</b>
<b>Cumulative totals 16 - 28 February (inclusive).</b>						
<b>British</b>						
Antwerp	1,095	3,396	163,402	-	104,304	7,912
Ostend	14,281	2,457	38,480	-	7,936	9,707
Boulogne	400	1,151	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	673	19,123	758	-
Calais	48,607	62	4,926	-	-	-
Ghent	7	-	50,254	-	8,207	20,103
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,390</b>	<b>7,066</b>	<b>257,735</b>	<b>19,123</b>	<b>121,215</b>	<b>37,722</b>

/U.S. North...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

U.S. North	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G. F. Ammo
Antwerp	-	1,779	222,256	-	-	67
Cherbourg	7	2,971	92,773	12,447	60,000	56,637
Le Havre	92,556	8,154	99,779	-	8,002	35,658
Rouen	2,818	2,885	84,417	8,838	10,641	1,148
Granville	-	-	-	22,492	-	-
Ghent	-	-	38,774	-	-	2,020
<u>Total</u>	<u>95,381</u>	<u>15,789</u>	<u>537,999</u>	<u>43,777</u>	<u>78,643</u>	<u>95,530</u>
U.S. South						
Marseilles	47,408	12,411	121,241	18,528	17,107	16,699
Port de Bouc	-	-	24,873	11,618	27,651	22,673
Toulon	-	-	6,502	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>47,408</u>	<u>12,411</u>	<u>152,616</u>	<u>30,146</u>	<u>44,758</u>	<u>39,372</u>

(S.H.A.E.F. 011830A to Admty., and others.)

Mining off  
Ostend of  
SS. ROBERT  
L. VANN.

Ship mined in position 320° N.F. 9 buoy 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles  
M.T.Bs. being vectored to assist.  
(RUTHERFORD 011940A to C. in C. Nore.)  
A.T.M. 79. Merchant ship torpedoed or mined in  
position 51° 23.4' N. 02° 50' E. MELBREAK  
standing by.  
(VOLUNTEER 011955A to Admty., N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

Completed observant in view of large numbers non submarine  
echoes do not intend to search further. Survivors medically dealt  
with by L.T. 456 and NEW COMET. Rejoining convoy.  
(MELBREAK 012100 to VOLUNTEER.)

My 011940A and VOLUNTEER's 011955. Ship was SS. ROBERT L.  
VANN 24 survivors picked up by M.T.B. 727 are being landed at  
Ostend.

(RUTHERFORD 012159A to N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

Operations.

Channel.

Minesweeping  
off Cherbourg.

159th T.G. extension of Q.Z.S. 619 between H.H.V.  
3 and H.D.Q.  
181st T.G. 1 mile to eastward 1 ground mine  
detonated in position 49° 38' 10" N. 00° 01' 38" W.  
119th M.S.F. continuing telegraph cable area.  
(Com. M/S Havre 010930 to C.T.F. 125.)

/Patrols...



War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

Patrols  
& escorts.

Weigh at 1700A today Thursday to patrol area limits  
01° 40' W. 01° 55' W. between 50° 20' N. and 49°  
50' attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 774.

(2) Arrange R/V for LOCH MORLICH, TEME joining  
about 1900.

(3) Detach LOCH MORLICH and TEME to R/V with W.V.P. 73 in 50°  
00' N. and 00° 55' W. at approx. 0400A/2nd. They are required  
to escort hospital carrier BATAVIA II by route G to Cherbourg  
rejoining you on completion.

(4) Leave patrol so as to anchor off St. Helens by 0730A/2nd.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 011224A to NEW WATERFORD, LOCH ACHANALT.)

E.G. 2 take over patrols Longships to 05° 00' W. and  
05° 00' W. to Start Point in two divisions.

(2) Coastal convoys are to be trailed.

(3) S.O.E.G. 2 report dispositions.

(4) Officer and ratings for LOCH FADA embarked in LOCH RUTHVEN.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 011313A to S.O.E.G. 2.)

Your 011313. Intend 3 ships remaining on patrol shall form  
one division patrolling Eddystone to Wolf Rock. When either  
LOCH RUTHVEN or TOBAGO rejoins will form two divisions and  
patrol as ordered in your signal.

(LOCH FADA 011510A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Request you sail 3 M.T.Bs. of 66th M.T.B. Flotilla, unit  
G.B. at 0700A/2nd to patrol area Q.Z.S. 629 route E.W. between  
01° 40' W. and 02° 20' W.

(2) Beats secure to A buoy in Yarmouth Roads if weather  
unsuitable.

(3) If not in contact at 0800A/3rd return to base.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 011807A to HORNET.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Weigh at 0100A/2nd March and carry out serial C.1  
part 1.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 011450A to PLOVER, BANGOR.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

E.G. 22.

Request you will sail 22nd E.G. less PEACOCK at  
daylight 3rd March to rejoin Force 34. Patrol  
orders will be issued later.

(C. in C. W.A. 011637A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation  
"S.C."

Ramose Genus postponed. E.T.D. now 0200A/3rd March  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 011751A to C. in C. H.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Torpedoing  
of SS.

ALCEDO.

*U. R. 155*

Under water explosion at 0003A ALCEDO on fire and sinking. HOMEGUARD investigating. FUSILIER carrying out observant position 330° Skaggi 3 miles.

(AYRSHIRE 010020A to A.C.I.C.)

HOMEGUARD in contact 330° Skaren Island 3 miles.

(AYRSHIRE 010120A to A.C.I.C.)

C.A.F.O. 2120/44. A. ALCEDO. B. Panama. C. 28th Feb. 2303.

D. 64° 10' N. 23° 12' W. approx. E. Hum torpedo. F. Sunk.

G. 36 none seriously injured. Survivors in hands of U.S. authority.

(A.C.I.C. 011644A to Admty.)

Investigation held this morning discloses following facts.

(2) ALCEDO torpedoed on starboard side at 010003A in position 291° Skagi 14. Ship sank in 20 minutes. 35 survivors. 3 lost.

None killed by explosion but apparently three men refused to jump and went down with ship. Survivors in hands of U.S.

Authorities.

(3) Weather conditions - wind north force 1 sea calm slight swell, bright moonlight.

(4) Escorts at time AYRSHIRE, HOMEGUARD, FUSILIER, HONNINGSVAAG, SVOLVAER. 1 Liberator carrying Cobra 6. No ships obtained asdic contact at any time. After torpedoing, HOMEGUARD and FUSILIER picked up survivors and carried out hunt until relieved by local auxiliary vessels. Hunt proceeding.

(5) At 0130A aircraft obtained radar contact, dropped markers and investigated. Saw light coloured patch on water. No attack. At same time HOMEGUARD obtained momentary very doubtful radar contact.

(6) At 0230 in position 64.11 N. 22.54 W. Master and two officers of YEMASSEE saw apparent schnorkel 50 to 100 yards off starboard quarter proceeding same course and speed as convoy 100° 12 knots. Reported to HONNINGSVAAG. Latter still at sea hunting not yet interrogated. It appears possible that two U-Boats are operating off Reykjavik. Convoy had proceeded at 12 knots since sinking of ALCEDO.

(7) It seems incredible but is a fact that convoy and escorts were burning navigation lights at the time of attack in accordance with orders in envelope B issued by N.C.S.O. Belfast to do so when within 60 miles of Reykjavik, as apparently my 261347 November 1944 amending my 242003 November 1944 both to Admiralty had been overlooked or not received by Belfast.

(A.C.I.C. 011830 to Admty.)

Patrols.

Proceed into Lerwick.

(C. in C. Rosyth 010705A to S.O.E.G. 1.)

Sail at daylight tomorrow Friday and proceed to establish Gamma between 60.04 N. 05.56 W. and 59.40 N. 04.54 W.

(C. in C. Rosyth 012245 to S.O.E.G. 1.)

/Convoy...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Convoy  
R.A. 64.

R.A. 64 arrived CROSBY S. NOYES.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 01120A to C. in C. W.A.,  
Admty.)

Probable?  
U-Boat.

U-Boat attacked by Russian local convoy escort  
approx. 1800A Feb. 28th in 69° 52' N. 32° 45' E.  
Underwater explosions and bubbles on surface.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 011444A to Admty.)

Merging of  
A.C.O.S. in  
C. in C.H.F.

I have this day taken over from Vice Admiral Sir  
Henry Harwood the duties and responsibilities  
specified in A.M. 171943 to be transferred from  
A.C.O.S. to C. in C. H.F.  
(C. in C. H.F. 011544A to Admty.)

Reinforcements  
for A.C.I.C.

Request you will transfer temporarily two A/S  
trawlers or corvettes to A.C.I.C. and sail them  
for Reykjavik as soon as practicable. A.M.  
242105 Feb. para. 2 not to all refers.  
(D.O.D.(H) 011840A to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy J.W. 65.

J.W. 65. A.M. 171844A. Amend para. one to read  
ships are to assemble not later than a.m. 8th  
March. Add from Clyde IDEFJORD (Norwegian store  
ship.)  
(D.W.D. 011927A to C. in C. W.A., F.Os. i/c  
Greenock, Glasgow, Liverpool, N.C.S.O. Clyde, C.  
in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Port Facilities.

River Thames  
& Antwerp.

Submit that owing to lack of berths for routine  
overhauls and shortage of labour for minor repairs  
and painting in Thames area:

(1) Information be requested as to whether L.S.T.  
could be received at Antwerp for periods of about  
10 days, 2 ships at a time.

(2) For generator and main engine maintenance a Naval working  
party can be supplied from maintenance staff at Tilbury if  
required.

(3) Information is also requested if the following can be under-  
taken during the period, A. minor defects and repairs, B.  
painting of hull externally and troop accommodation, C. in certain  
cases short term dry docking for changing propellers and bottom  
painting.

(4) Leave would be proposed for one half ship's company for the  
period.

(N.O.I.C. Tilbury 011535A to F.O.I.C. London.)

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- A.F.D. 55. Recommendations made in CHAMELEON's 211032 Feb. and in Dockmaster's report dated 20.2.45, neither to all, should not be allowed to affect onward towing.  
(2) Further signal will be made.  
(D.C.O.M. 010300 to CHAMELEON, EMPHATIC.)
- MALAYA battleship. (1) MALAYA is to take ESCAPADE (S.O.) and KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE under his orders and proceed passing Clyde Boom at 0900A/2nd March for Plymouth. E.T.A. Boom 0820A/4th March.  
(2) Cdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail INMAN to R/V at number 8 channel buoy at 1215A/2nd March thence to proceed as ordered by MALAYA.  
(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail onward escort to R/V in 51° 15' 45 " N. 04° 30' 00" W. at 1530A/3rd March.  
(4) When change of escort has been effected MALAYA is to detach ESCAPADE, KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE and INMAN to proceed independently to comply with C. in C. W.A. 281927.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 011026A to Com. D. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, MALAYA.)
- A.C. 11 in VENERABLE. Flag of A.C. 11 hoisted in VENERABLE at 0900A today 1st March.  
(A.C. 11 011253A to Admty., F.O.C.T.)
- ARBITER, escort carrier and escorts. From position W alter course for new positions  
D. 55.55 N. 07.25 W. E. 55.40 N. 09.00 W.  
F. 55.08 N. 10.10 W. G. 54.52 N. 13.10 W.  
H. 53.18 N. 14.12 W. thence to position Z.  
(Plot (O.D.) 011442A to ARBITER, and escorts.)
- DUKE OF YORK battleship. The following completion programme for E.R. 7554 has been arranged:-  
27th Feb. basin trial. 6th March remainder of ship's company accommodated on board. 8th and 9th March 5.25 gunnery equipment trials  
(EXCELLENT). 12th March oil 1000 tons R.P.C. trials of 2 pounders (EXCELLENT and VERNON). 14th March commence ammunitioning. 17th March final fire control inspection and R.P.C. trials of D.C.T. (EXCELLENT and VERNON). 19th and 22nd March Bofors R.P.C. trials (EXCELLENT and VERNON). 22nd March complete ammunitioning. 23rd March oil 1000 tons. 23rd and 24th March 2 pdr. Mk. VII\* P equipment and 5.25" conveyor trials (EXCELLENT). 24th and 25th March tilt test. 28th to 31st March exercise actions stations. Damage control etc.  
Compass adjustment and gun trials to be carried out on passage.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 011601 to Admty., EXCELLENT, VERNON.)
- GLOIRE, french cruiser. Sailing tonight 2000A GLOIRE to Gibraltar unescorted, S.O.A. 22 knots. Routed Q.Z.S. 633 and route W to Start Point thence as in Admty.'s 271941A. Speed of 24 knots zigzagging to Point B constant W/T watch on appropriate port waves and area broadcasts.  
(C.T.G. 125.2 011721A to F.O.G.M.A.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

A.F.D. 55. Arrived REDMILL, CHAMELEON, Tug EMPHATIC with  
A.F.D. 55.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011228A to Admty.)

LE CENTAURE. Chasseur 42 detained at Gibraltar with defects.  
French submarine LE CENTAURE is proceeding to  
Oran unescorted in accordance with C.M.S.F.  
271246 Feb.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011332A to Comnob. Oran.)

South Atlantic

SS. CANTON. Ref. A.M. 091230. CANTON arrived Freetown 7th  
March and will be ready to sail 8th March.  
Propose sailing with TEES as escort to arrive  
Gibraltar 14th March. TEES to join escort of  
R.S.25. Request your concurrence or remarks.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 011215Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

13

1.3.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Operation. 126 rounds fired into dock area Genoa by CHIDDINGFOLD and CLEVELAND. No counter fire. Returning to Macinaggio not Centuria. E.T.A. 0645.  
(CHIDDINGFOLD, 010039A to S.O.I.S. Leghorn.)

Enemy Naval Units now considered active. (A) Gulf of Genoa - 1 destroyer, 2 T.Bs., 4 escort vessels, 5 M.T.Bs. (?15)/20 heavily armed F lighters, 10 R-Boats. Explosive M/B and 2 Man M.T.Bs. and possibly human torpedoes operating in this area.  
(B) Northern Adriatic - 1 destroyer, 3 T.B., 25/30 M.T.B., 5 R-Boats. Midget S/Ms., human torpedoes, explosive M/B and two man M.T.Bs. are active in this area.  
(C) Crete and Dodecanese - Aegean 2 armed wooden drifters, 20 assault landing craft and launches, 18 tugs and caiques.  
(C. in C. Med., 011217A to Med. Stn.)

South Aegean Shipping and military. Dodecanese. Kos. Summary, Reliable source reports arrival 24th Feb. of 1st March. 2 E.M.S. from Leros and their departure 25th Feb. with the Magda and I-Boat 40 foot with 50 Germans for Leros. Same source reports arrival 26th Feb. of one E.M.S., one Magda and one I-Boat 40 foot from Leros. Khalkia. Report that garrison number 100 believed accurate. Leros. Ground source reports 300 Germans expected from Kos. Comment: This conflicts with general trend report is not accepted without further confirmation.  
(C. in C. M.E., 011250B to usual addressees.)

Z craft for East Indies. A.M. 131317. 2 Z craft suitably strengthened are available in Mideast. Consider naval crew desirable for ocean voyage though Army agree to provide engine room personnel. Propose complement 2 officers (1 with W/K certificate), 5 A.Bs. or Ords., 1 Sig. or Ord. Sig., 1 Tel. or Ord. Tel. All available locally except officers and request if approved these may be appointed. In view of scarcity of opportunities for tow owing to "Appian" requirements request early decision on the above in order that craft may be towed before the monsoon.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 011343B to C. in C. Med.)

Convoy for Black Sea. Convoy P.R.3. Intend to sail 0700 March 2nd Convoy P.R.3 to Rabbit Island thence independent to Istanbul for onward routing to Odessa.  
(2) 10. (3) As in C. in C. Med. 032000 Feb. para. 3. (4) E.T.A. Rabbit Island 1030 March 3rd, E.T.A. Istanbul a.m. March 4th.  
(B.C.O.P.A., 011437B to C.S.A. Istanbul.)

/Situation ...

1.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation  
Report  
No. 572.

Greece. National Guard having taken over  
defence of Corfu Sea patrols and R.M. Commandos  
have been withdrawn.  
(C. in C. Med., 012001A to F.O.G.M.A., etc.)

F. Cruiser  
JEANNE  
D'ARC.

Decision on para. 2 of your 231232 cannot be  
made until co-ordinated programme for refits  
in general is approved.  
(C. in C. Med., 012004 to F.O.W.M.)

1.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

- E.I. Fleet. I do not know all the facts but if only 2 battleships are to remain here, RENOWN and RICHELIEU are far better matched as regards speed and endurance than latter and QUEEN ELIZABETH. RENOWN is much more habitable than QUEEN ELIZABETH and far better fitted as Flagship.  
(C. in C. E.I., 010236Z to Admty.)
- U/B No change.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I.S., 010413Z to S. & A. E.I.S.)
- A.F.D. 39. Towage of A.F.D.39. Para. 2 of R.N.A.S. Ceylon 241711 (N.T. in W.D.) refers. Request N.O.I.C. E.Africa will report if ORIANA will be available. No other tug on Station is expected to be available.  
(C. in C. E.I., 011051Z to C. in C. S.A.)
- Report on (C. in C. India, No T.O.O. to W.O.)  
internal See Lion Copy.  
situation,  
India.
- A/A Sloop. Arrival WHIMBREL.  
(Cdre. Aden, 011619Z to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)



# SECRET

E. 1.  
IN  
15A

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./1st March.

From C. in C. India.

Date.1.3.45.

Recd.1140.

Cipher.

Addressed War Office.

*Report on Internal Situation India*

IMPORTANT. 019120

63712/GSI (B) cipher 1 March.

In continuation of my 59333/GSI(B) 15th February.  
Following summary internal India.

One. Re-actions to Yalta Conference indicate general approval. Tendency to look for signs of Allied disunity temporarily checked. Belief, however, firmly established in some quarters that differences will ultimately arise between Russia and Western Democracies owing divergent ideologies. Events in Pacific theatre have increased public confidence regarding early end of Japanese war.

Two. Commenting in Press on restrictions on five Bihar Congress-men Gandhi stated mass civil disobedience had no place in present Congress plans but right of individual resistance exists should Government thwart "constructive programme." Sapru and Bhulabhai Desai's moves for political settlement both continue to make little progress. Scepticism expressed on both by most Congress and Hindu Mahasabha leaders while Muslims remain indifferent or antagonistic.

Three. Main findings of recent food conference in Delhi were (1) owing successful policy of procurement price control and distribution of food grains Indian civilians will have as much if not more food than last year, (2) chief attention now being directed to other foods such as fish, poultry, milk, vegetables which remain expensive and in many places scarce. Grain prices have shown sudden rise in Bihar but unlike last year no panic or hoarding have resulted. Cloth shortage reported from Bengal and elsewhere and situation believed to be deteriorating in some places owing black market transactions and inefficient control of distribution.

Four. DIB agrees.

Five. Morale British troops remains high. Majority accept system of post war benefits as reasonable but many individuals consider cash gratuity too small. Some also demand equal gratuities for all ranks and some officers feel gratuities should be comparable to those of 1919. Repatriation and reduction of overseas tour still main concern of BORS. Short home leave scheme now slightly more popular but its limitations are realised. Indian troops anxious for decision on Japanese campaign pay.

/Six.....

SECRET

Six. AG agrees.

No T.O.O.

Received in War Registry 1452/3rd.  
Circulated by War Office to Internal Depts  
and Admiralty, A.M., F.O., India Office.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st Sea Lord (3)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- Sec.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D.N.I. (5)
- C.N.I. (2)
- M. (2)
- O.D. (6)
- W.D.

JDF  
A10

1.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (N.S.H.Q., 011320Z and Cominch 011548Z.)

Shipping              Reference your 281730A, para. 1.      8  
Nationals,            (1) U.S.W.D. state that in view of fact this problem  
etc.                    has now reached large and unmanageable  
                          proportions whole programme should be revised  
                          on C.M.T.C. basis with a view to U.S.A.  
                          participation.  
(2) Among questions requiring decision are relative priorities  
out movement ex E.T.O. as between. (A) Patients (which U.S.  
W.D. still consider number one priority). (B) German prisoners  
of war. (C) Repatriation Russian Nationals.  
(3) U.S.W.D. state that any assistance which they would give  
in connection your para. 3 would cut into these other  
programmes.  
(4) In view of above a directive from British Chiefs of Staff  
seems necessary. Requesting review of C.C.S. 657/6.  
(5) You will note this is not repeated to S.H.A.E.F. or  
A.F.H.Q.  
(B.A.S. Washington, 011335Q to W.O.)

E.G. 16.              Anticipate completion of defects in four ships  
                          of E.G.16 in time to sail for U.K. a.m./7th  
                          March and STETTLER to overtake a.m./9th March.  
                          Intend sailing group for Londonderry unless  
otherwise indicated by C. in C. W.A.  
Your 222203Z Feb. refers.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 011354Z to N.S.H.Q.)

H.M.C.S.              H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID arrived Curacao 011100Z.  
PRINCE DAVID (Com. Aruba, 011444 to Admty.)

SUSSEX              C. in C. C.N.A. 272029 H.M.C.S. SUSSEX VALE  
VALE,                  sailed St. Johns 1500Z/1st March independently  
Frigate.              to Londonderry.  
                          (2) Speed 15 knots, E.T.A. p.m./6th March.  
                          (F.O.N.F., 011514Z to C. in C. W.A.)

LAUTARO              Chilean Naval Training Ship LAUTARO carrying  
(Chilian T.S)        nitrate to U.S. on fire since 1200Q/28 Feb. 340  
on fire.                miles off coast of Peru in lat. 014° 25' S.,  
                          expected total loss. No official news of fate  
                          of crew but their rescue anticipated.  
                          (A.B.N.A. Santiago de Chile, 011700QA to Admty.)

RIMOUSKI              Admiralty's 271600 Feb. RIMOUSKI delayed by  
(Corvette)            A/S defects and requires docking. Anticipated  
                          date of completion March 13th. Admty. pass  
                          to C.N.M.O.  
                          (S.B.N.O.W.A., 011721Z to Admty.)

/PRINCE DAVID ...

War Diary.

1.3.1945.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

PRINCE Underway 012100 proceed Cristobal through  
DAVID. positions (Z) 12.22 N., 70.01 W. (A) 13.05,  
71.24. (B) 11.50, 75.21. (C) 10.00, 79.55.  
(D) 09.38 79.55, speed 18, E.T.A. 031300.  
Times Z. Report P.D. Cristobal for onward  
routeing to Esquimalt H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID has by hand  
for action.  
(Com. U.S. Force Aruba and Curacao, 011906 to H.M.C.S. PRINCE  
DAVID.)

Italian B.A.D's 181653 Jan. Whether our interpretation  
Submarines, of existing agreement is correct or not (and  
allocation we are still of opinion that it is correct)  
of. the allocation proposed in paras. 3 and 4 of  
A.M. 181630 Dec. seems the most sensible that  
can now be devised since:  
(1) It would ensure that sister ships (PLATINO  
and NICHELIO: ZOEAL and ATROPO: ONICE and DIASPRO) would  
be together and;  
(2) It would be reasonably balanced as both PLATINO and DIASPRO  
are now available and can be allocated, one to each Navy,  
immediately whilst there should only be a time-lag of a few  
weeks between completion of NICHELIO and that of ZOEAL.  
2. C. in C. Med. is requested to signal anticipated completion  
dates of NICHELIO and ZOEAL.  
3. After NICHELIO and ZOEAL are completed further boats (GIADA,  
OTARIA, SEPTIMO and possibly CAGNI) could be allocated on an  
alternating basis, the U.S.N. taking the first available.  
(V.C.N.S., 012110A to B.A.D. Washington.)

Minesweepers. B.Y.M.S. require routeing long route Recife-  
Freetown and will not be ready to sail before  
March 25th, A.M. 281556 refers. To avoid  
delay in returning R.N. personnel to United  
Kingdom propose T.R.N.V.R.C. Steaming crews should be used  
for passage as previously approved for tugs BUSY and CONFIDENT.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 012131 to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

Shipping Add to my 022051Z Jan. para. 3. P.2. GENERAL  
turnround MITCHELL 19th March Bombay.  
E.I. Stn. (2) Foregoing is tentative only and subject  
to report on experience of handling C.H. class  
ships at Calcutta. If favourable United States  
of America authorities will consider substitution  
of 2C 4 class ships for discharge at Calcutta in place of  
GENERAL MITCHELL.  
(3) In view of my 282141 Feb. (not to all) request confirmation  
that existing intervals must be maintained.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 012151Z to C. in C. E.I.)

U/B Para. (D) 011000Z C.54 from 10,000 feet  
contacts, reported sighting 2 U-Boats and small surface  
etc. craft area 48.40 N., 53.55 W.  
P.C.1264 attacked south contact vicinity 40.06  
N., 73.32 W. at 282040Z Feb. and S.C.1063 had

/sound ...

War Diary.

1.3.1945.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B sound contact same area at 010549Z.  
contacts etc. (Cominch, 012115Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)  
(Contd.)

CARTHAGE Anticipate two frigates presently working up in  
(escort Bermuda will be available to escort H.M.S. <sup>355</sup>  
for). CARTHAGE. N.S.H.Q. 282020 refers.  
(2) Request SOMERS ISLES nominate escorts for  
this assignment and make necessary sailing  
arrangements with S.B.N.O.W.At. indicating  
name of escorts by signal.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 012154Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

N.S.H.Q. No report since my 272351 Feb.  
S/M attack Para. (C) Canso Q/111 obtained radar contact  
and sighting at 5 miles in 44.03 N., 63.15 W. at 1022/1st.  
summary. Disappeared at 3½-4 miles at 1023. Oil patch  
seen same area at 1040. All times Z.  
(N.S.H.Q., 012340Z to Admty., Cominch.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest Covering 28th Feb.  
Serial (1) Liberators attacked one small coaster, one  
No. 1135. lugger off north-east Formosa possibly damaging  
28th Feb. lugger, sank one sea truck laden with oil  
damaged one small coaster 80 miles east-north-  
east Hong Kong.  
(2) Other Navy Liberators sank one sea truck  
in convoy with one freighter transport, 2 S/M chasers south-  
east Okinawa Jima heading south-west. Straffed 5 northbound  
sea trucks same area sinking one, leaving four others burning,  
straffed 2 sea trucks, one small coaster setting one sea truck  
afire also sank one small coaster in convoy 8 small ships heading  
south-west all in Sakishima.  
(4) Patrol Liberator on shipping search Makassar Stivil early  
morning attacked one medium unidentified vessel without success.  
(5) Morning American forces landed without opposition south  
coast Puerto Princessa Peninsula (Palawan Island) securing town  
and airstrip and advancing 3 miles north of airstrip with nil  
enemy contact. Evening further amphibious landing at mouth  
Iwahig River met nil opposition. 37 Bostons, 20 Lightnings  
supported ground forces.  
(6) In Manila Legislative building captured except for basement  
where enemy still resisting, apartment building dominating  
approach to Agricultural building secured, this building itself  
secured evening leaving only Finance building in enemy hands.  
(7) Mitchells detained to strike enemy shipping China Coast  
sighted important convoy but could not attack owing to presence

/of enemy ...

1.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest of enemy fighters so sank several Chinese junks  
Serial instead.  
No.1135. (9) Delayed reports - 27th Feb R.A.A.F. Venturas  
28th Feb. attacked one sea truck, 2 coastal vessels  
(Contd.) Soemrawa Island.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 011101Z to Admty.)

Ops. to 298749 1029/Int. cipher 1st March.  
23rd Feb. Australian Forces. Bougainville. Australian  
(Extract) Tps. operating against strong enemy opposition  
on high ground 2,000 yards north Genga River  
whilst patrols maintain contact 5,000 yards  
inland. Stiffening enemy opposition this  
area considered achieved by reinforcement personnel equipment  
supplies from Buka. Central sector. Patrol activity only  
enemy reacting strongly due our occupation high ground over-  
looking Numa Numa. Redisposition enemy troops considered  
partly due to hostile native activity recently increased.  
Large scale clashes reported. Southern sector. Active  
patrolling continues. Considerable opposition encountered  
track 7,000 yards inland from Mawaraka. Enemy casualties 21  
Nov. 44 to 23rd Feb. 866 killed four P.W. New Britain. Wide  
Bay area our tps. continued their movement around shore of Wide  
Bay against sporadic opposition and have virtually occupied  
Henry Reid Bay. Open Bay area slight advances along coast  
against negligible opposition. Our inland patrols penetrated  
10 miles along Sai River nearly halfway across island without  
contact. Enemy casualties Nov. 44 to 23rd Feb. 84 killed.  
New Guinea. Contact with enemy maintained but little change  
general position. Inland several villages cleared of enemy  
including Milak 7 miles East Balif. 150 Japs. reported dug  
in at Malahum two miles S.E. Balif. Enemy casualties from  
3rd Nov. to 23rd Feb. 1,549 killed, 64 P.W.  
(L.H.Q. Melbourne, 011725K to War Office, C. in C. India.)

IMPLACABLE Concur except that Baker bombs are not required.  
Bomb outfit. Request this space may be given over to more  
500 pounds M.C.  
(2) Your 222151 Feb.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 012309Z to Admty.)  
(Admty., 031535A to IMPLACABLE.)

War Diary.1.3.1945.  
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/1st March.

- Para. (A) (1) ALCEDO reported on fire and sinking following underwater explosion at 2303Z/28th Feb. in approximately 64° 04' N., 22° 57' W.  
(2) U.S. A.T.V.102 SOREIDOC torpedoed and sunk at 0815Z/28th Feb. in 52° 15' N., 05° 33' W.  
(3) M/V NORFOLK COAST torpedoed and sunk at 1218Z/28th Feb. in 51° 59' N., 05° 19' W.  
(4) E.G.2 attacked contact at 1137Z/28th Feb. in 49° 46' N., 05° 47' W.
- Para. (B) (1) HOME GUARD obtained contact at 0020Z/1st March in general vicinity of sinking of ALCEDO.  
(2) LABUAN sighted torpedo track and counter-attacked at 1732Z/28th Feb. in 50° 00' N., 05° 00' W.
- Para. (C) (1) Attacks on unidentified A/S contacts reported at 0655Z/28th Feb. in 34° 33' N., 08° 26' W. and approximately 1430Z/28th Feb. in 34° 41' N., 08° 17' W.  
(2) Am. CHARLESTOWN sighted suspicious rockets at 2100Z/28th Feb. in 33° 50' N., 11° 55' W.  
(3) A/C O/120 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1015Z/28th Feb. in 56° 29' N., 10° 10' W.  
(4) Transit A/C A/228 reported schnorkel and wake at 1020Z/28th Feb. in 51° 40' N., 05° 28' W.  
(5) F.S. RENONCULE attacked contact at 1625Z/28th Feb. approximately 51° 37' N., 05° 26' W.  
(6) H.M. A/S Trawler SOUTHERN STAR attacked contact at 1952Z/28th Feb. in approximately 51° 09' N., 04° 29' W.  
(7) A/C reported smoke and oil at 1510Z/28th Feb. in 49° 38' N., 10° 13' W.  
(8) A/C M/103 reported possible U-Boat contact at 0801Z and obtained positive contact at 0845Z/28th Feb. in 50° 00' N., 04° 31' W.
- Para. (D) (1) Fisherman reported U-Boat on surface at 2100Z/26th Feb. in approximately 62° 33' N., 06° 34' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 011205A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (D.D.I.C., 011437A, 011441A.)

2.3.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) Two mines were swept off Ostend.  
(b) Two L.S.T. berths have been completed in First Haven Dock, Antwerp.
- Western Approaches. 2. SS. KING EDGAR and SS. NOVASLI were torpedoed in Convoy S.C.167 in St. George's Channel. Both ships remained afloat long enough to be taken in tow, but sank before making port.
- Northern Waters. 3. Admiralty direct that the "Orange" type anti-schmorkel obstructions referred to on February 24th are to be relaid and maintained.

*My 412*

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Gulf of Genoa. 4. Last night the CHIDDINGFOLD and CLEVELAND fired 126 rounds into Genoa Harbour. There was no return fire.
- Greece. 5. Except at Patras and in Zante situation is quiet. The Regent has visited Salonika in cruiser GEORGIOS AVEROFF escorted by destroyer NAVARINON and ~~G.S.~~ KANARIS.
- Dodecanese. 6. A raiding force some 500 strong supported by H.M.S. LIDDESDALE and Beaufighters has captured Piskopi (N.W. of Rhodes). *(Operation Cave)*

East Indies

- Malacca Straits. 7. Liberators laid 61 mines off Penang. Fifty Super-Fortresses bombed the naval base at Singapore. 63 Liberators attacked the docks at Sandakan (Borneo).

/Movement ...



War Diary.

2.3.1945.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

Movement.

8. RULER (Replenishment Carrier) left Colombo for Fremantle.

America and West Indies

FRONTENAC  
VICTORY,  
LONE JACK  
(collision).

9. At 1.59 this morning FRONTENAC VICTORY (U.S. 7,600 tons) and LONE JACK (U.S. tanker 10,296 tons) in convoy C.U.60 were in collision owing to steering defect in former, 370' S. by E. of Sable Is. Both ships reported damaged and two escorts standing by. (031648Z.)

Australia and New Zealand

China coast.

10(a) Navy Liberators from Clark Field attacked a westbound convoy consisting of 3 medium freighter transports with 3 destroyer escorts 180 miles east by south of Wenchow sinking 1 medium freighter transport leaving another burning along with 1 destroyer escort sunk and damaged another of 4 small coasters 130' S.E. of Shanghai.

(b) Mitchells sank 1 medium merchantman in Pescadores area.

(c) Aircraft sank single oil laden sea truck off Swatow.

Philippines.

11. Late this afternoon last enemy resistance was overcome in Manila.

2.3.1945

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Force U. It is my intention that Force U should operate directly under the orders of A.N.C.X.F. Flag Officer Holland and Commodore Belgium are requested to provide any assistance required by Force U.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 021152A to N.C. Force U.)

New Searched Channel. My 011239A para. 5. Tuesday 6th March with Wednesday 7th March as spare day.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 021158 to S.O. M.S.F. 10.)

E-Boat activity. To enable surface forces to counter present E-Boat tactics shadowing by aircraft is of such paramount importance that I have asked A.O.C. 16 Group to forbid attacks being made by Wellington Aircraft until E-Boats are on the way home.

(2) The combined threat from torpedoes and mines is so serious that I suggest for favourable consideration 16 Group should be reinforced sufficiently to be able to take full advantage of the many opportunities of attack after E-Boats have been driven off by surface forces. Owing to the recent considerable improvement in shadowing, and improving weather conditions, more opportunities than hitherto are to be expected. Alternatively attacks could be made shortly after E-Boats have started from bases provided reconnaissance aircraft are not risked and continuity of shadowing is not endangered.  
(C. in C. Nore 021214A to Admty., C. in C. Coastal Command.)

Minesweeping Your 011653. One lap 5 cables wide south east 51 off the line N.F. 8 to chart position H.K. 4 completed. Schelde. Swept depth 6 fathoms.

(2) 2 G.R. mines cut and sunk in positions 060° 19 cables and 055° 30 cables from N.F. 8.

(3) M/Ss. proceeding comply your 021359 danlayers return Small Downs E.T.A. 2330. A/S screen will be detaching N.F. 8.

(4) Dan buoys remaining at 1 mile intervals along centre line N.F. 8 to H.K. 2 and along to southern limits of H.K. 2 to H.K. 4. H.K. 4 considered 7 cables 260° from charted position by bearings (escort?) and H.K. 2.

(S.O. M.S.F. 18 021501A to C. in C. Nore, Admty., V.A. Dover.)

Patrols. Night dispositions 2/3 March.  
Humber Force (Group 2) Harbour ALBRIGHTON, BLANKNEY.

Harwich force (Group 3) patrols 1 TALYBONT, 3 SEYMOUR, 5 MALLARD, 6 SHELDRAKE, 12 TORRINGTON, 14 SOUTHDOWN, 16 STAYNER, 18 RUTHERFORD, 19 THORNBOROUGH, 21 KITTIWAKE, 22 CAICOS. (Group 4) Harbour EGLINTON, COTSWOLD, HAMBLEDON, MACKAY, EKINS, RIOU, GUILLEMOT, PUFFIN, WIDGEON.

/Sheerness...

2.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Patrols. Sheerness force (Group 5) with convoys T.A.M. 96  
(Contd.) BLENCATHRA, CATTISTOCK, A.T.M. 80, PYTCHLEY,  
MENDIP, T.A.P. 61 MIDDLETON.  
Patrols 2 VERSATILE, 4 GRATH.  
(Group 6) Harbour BRISSENDEN, HOLDERNESS,  
MELBREAK, VANQUISHER, VOLUNTEER, HOLMES, GODETIA.  
(C. in C. Nore 021530A to Admty.)

Operation Ref. C.Z.M. Ned's No. C.Z.M./21/1/G of 26th  
"Placket." January para. 2 not to all, request R. Neth.  
Ship referred to may now be called forward and  
sailed to Harwich to be placed under control of  
Capt. M/S N.P. 1732 (S.O. Dutch M/S Harwich.)  
(2) This ship to be employed to supplement LOCUST as base ship  
in "Placket" M/S operations.  
(F.O. Holland 021530A to B.D.Z.)

Minelaying OPPORTUNE and ORWELL will be loaded and ready to  
in gap D. proceed p.m. Friday the 9th March. A.M. 221755  
Feb. refers.  
(F.O. Humber 021653A to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 332 part 4 section A.  
Situation Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/1  
Report. March.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal.	Bulk Pol.	G. F. Ammo
Antwerp	163	-	13,261	-	12,142	573
Ostend	896	185	2,152	-	894	1,170
Boulogne	13	124	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	227	2,285	-	-
Calais	2,401	116	37	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,575	-	-	746
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>17,252</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>13,036</b>	<b>2,489</b>
U.S. North						
Antwerp	-	80	14,242	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	342	6,215	2,433	3,045	5,212
Le Havre	8,366	911	5,408	-	-	2,288
Rouen	1	145	7,826	1,406	-	782
Granville	-	-	-	2,006	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,817	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,367</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>37,508</b>	<b>5,845</b>	<b>3,045</b>	<b>8,282</b>
U.S. South						
Marseilles	4,735	659	8,532	2,232	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,462	1,100	5,814	1,462
Toulon	-	-	252	-	-	-
Nice	-	-	525	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,735</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>11,771</b>	<b>3,332</b>	<b>5,814</b>	<b>1,462</b>

Note. Amend G.F. Ammo figures as follows, Marseilles 24 Feb. 1431 tons, 25 Feb. 1596 tons, and Cherbourg 27 Feb. 4506 tons. (S.H.A.E.F. 021715A to Admty., and others.)

/L.S.T....

2.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

L.S.T. berths (2) 2 L.S.T. berths have been completed at the  
at Antwerp. head of the first Haven dock at Antwerp.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 022345A to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

Shortage of Your 281634A February. Concur in the withdrawal  
A/S escorts of these craft at present and their replacement  
by two Oropesa trawlers.  
(2) It is pointed out that there are not other  
vessels at present in the Dover Command A/S  
fitted and should submarine activity develop, it may become  
necessary to ask for the return of these craft for A/S protection  
in the approaches to Boulogne and Calais.  
(V.A. Dover 021315A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Patrols. Sail so as to pass B.W. at 0830A/3rd and proceed  
patrol Lizard Head to Start Pt. on coastal convoy  
route.  
(2) All B.T.C. and T.B.C. convoys are to be trailed  
(C. in C. Plymouth 021433A to BEACON HILL, NEW  
GLASGOW, RIBBLE.)

Cancel my 271822, 280821 February and my 011834. 16th M/S  
Flotilla establish A/S patrol 20 miles N.E. to 20 miles S.W.  
Trevose Head forthwith.  
(2) All coastal convoys are to be trailed through your area.  
(3) Codeword "Napolion."  
(4) MALAYA, E.T.A. 51° 15' 45" N. 04° 30' 00" W. at 1530A/3rd  
March is to be swept through Q.Z.X. 1486 and 1464. Depth of  
sweep 7 fathoms.  
(5) Sweeping formation at your discretion but speed of advance  
of MALAYA is 10 knots and is to be reduced by a minimum.  
(6) On completion TADOUSAC return to Plymouth for boiler  
cleaning, remainder DORNOCH (S.O.) resume para. 1.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 021754A to S.O. M/S F. 16.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

SS. KING EDGAR Ship torpedoed, my P.C.S. 52° 01' 05" 41' 203°  
and SS. 8 knots.  
NOVASLI (LONGUEUIL 020844A to Admty.)  
torpedoed. Second ship torpedoed K.4 buoy.  
(LONGUEUIL 020901A to Admty.)  
My 020844A and 020901A KING EDGAR and NOVASLI  
salvageable.  
(S.O.E.G. C. 2 020919A to C. in C. W.A.)

2. 3. 1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

SS. KING  
 EDGAR and  
 SS. NOVASLI  
 torpedoed.  
 (Contd.)

S.C. 167. My 020844, 020901 and 020919. Both ships hit aft apparently by "Gnat". KING EDGAR stern blown off, does not appear to be settling. NOVASLI damage to screw and rudder only. Skeleton crews on board. Force 38 remaining. C.2 group proceeding with convoy. (S.O.E.G. C. 2 021014A to W.A. Command.) 23rd E.G. in company both carrying out search.

*acoustic torpedo*

My immediately following signal gives further details. (S.O. Force 38 021029A to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy in 4 columns KING EDGAR number 42 hit at 0833 NOVASLI number 13 hit at 0859 both probably by "Gnats". Master and salvage party in each. Survivors from former in CAPILANO and NYASALAND latter (no casualties) in KEATS. Third explosion heard but not seen at 0856.

(2) Intend starting expanding box search with both groups at 1300 leaving NYASALAND with wrecks.

(3) Request policy on support of U.C. 58B and H.X. 339. (S.O. Force 38 021030A to C. in C. W.A.)

Intend detach CAPILANO to Milford Haven on passing there to land 36 survivors, including 8 cot cases. E.T.A. 1430A.

(S.O.E.G. C. 2 021055A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Sailed STORMKING and SUPERMAN at 1015A/2nd to assistance of KING EDGAR and NOVASLI vicinity K.4 Buoy.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 021301A to Admty., C.C.R.T.)

My 021030 both merchant ships in tow of tugs, survivors transferred to tug and trawler. NYASALAND escorting to destination. Suitable.

(S.O. Force 38 021350A to C. in C. W.A.)

SS. NOVASLI and KING EDGAR sank after tows slipped position approx. 51° 47' N. 05° 33' W. between 1800 and 2200 today 2nd March. Survivors brought to Milford Haven.

(C. in C. W.A. 022343A to Admty., F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Weather-reporting ship.

LAVENDER is to sail March 4th to relieve SWEETBRIAR as weather reporting ship, fuelling at Londonderry on outward passage.

(2) E.T.A. in 53° N. 20° W. to be reported.

(3) SWEETBRIAR is to proceed to Liverpool on relief.

(C. in C. W.A. 021010A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, SWEETBRIAR.)

E.G. 3.

*Escort Group 3*

All ships of E.G. 3 support M.K.S. 85 Irish Sea Section forthwith.

(2) Act under orders of C. in C. W.A.

(3) Shift W/T frequencies on passing Lundy Island.

(4) Mails to Belfast.

(C. in C. Plymouth 021244A to S.O.E.G. 3.)

Request you will transfer E.G. 3 to C. in C. Western Approaches. (D.O.D.(H) 021647A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Patrols...

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Escorts.

Force 34 21st E.G. CONN, 4 frigates supporting H.X. 339 Irish Sea Section.  
Force 38 5th E.G. S.O. GRINDALL 4 frigates and 23rd E.G. MONTERRAT 3 frigates general area St. George's Channel.

Force 37 4th E.G. CALDER 4 frigates North Irish Sea. Supporting convoy as ordered.

Force 33 30th E.G. PEVENSEY CASTLE 3 corvettes off North Irish Coast.

(C. in C. W.A. 021411A to Admty.)

Ship torpedoed 0900 today 2nd vicinity K.4 Buoy. Force 38 (5th E.G. 23rd E.G.) hunting.

(2) 23rd E.G. detached to support U.C. 58B crossing 52° 40' N. southbound and remaining in support until ordered to detach.

(3) 21st E.G. supporting H.X. 339 Bristol Channel Section to St. Govan's Head and Irish Sea Section to 52° 40' N. E.T.A. 0815/3rd then returning to Force 34.

(4) 3rd E.G. support S.E. convoy M.K.S. 85 E.T.A. Milford Haven Buoy 0300/3rd. One division is to be detached so as to R/V with Milford Haven Section U.C. 58B off Milford Haven Buoy at 2230/2nd and support as far as R/V with main convoy at 0430/3rd in position 185° Tuskar Rock 20 then rejoin Group. Milford Haven Section consists of 5 ships with local escort SOUTHERN SPRAY. S.E. convoy M.K.S. 85 is to be supported by 3rd E.G. to 52° 40' when further orders will be given.

(5) 22nd E.G. leaves Milford Haven daylight 3rd. Patrol orders later.

(C. in C. W.A. 021508A to S.O.E.G. 3.)

Operations.Norway.Operation  
"S.C."

Intend sailing "S.C." operation from Shetlands.

(1) 0800A March 3rd from Scalloway.

(2) 051° from Muckle Flugga to 63° 17' N. 05° 10' E. thence 079° 11 knots.

(3) 2000A/4th March.

(4) Between 2030A/4th March and 0500A/5th March.

(5) 259° to 63° 17' N. 05° 10' E. to 231° Muckle Flugga 14 knots.

(6) a.m. 6th March. (7) 055° Muckle Flugga. (8) No.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 021755A to C. in C. H.F.)

07° 42' E. My 021755. (1) 63° 20' N. (2) Ramose

Barrier. (3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 021757A to C. in C. H.F.)

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FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters

Patrols Cancel my 012245A come to 2 hour notice for steam.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 020745A to S.O.E.G.1)  
Sail as soon as ready and proceed E. of Orkneys to  
carry out coastwise search between Duncansby Head  
and 05.52 W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 020955 to S.O.E.G.1)  
Your 020955A. E.T.A. Eastern end of patrol 2115A.  
(S.O.E.G.1, 021423A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Cancel my 020955. Proceed to establish Gamma between 59°35'  
N. 08° 23' W. and 59° 10' N. 07° 19' W. (2) Report E.T.A. on patrol  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 021530A to S.O.E.G.1.)

Soroy No. 7 of 2nd. German minefield laid 10th Feb.  
force between S.W. Point of Seiland and Korfkklubpen.  
Request explanation how code word "Ember" is to be  
used.  
(NANSEN, 020943A to Admty.)  
Your 020943. Code word "Ember" should be used instead of NANSEN.  
(D.O.D.(H) 022040A to "Ember".)

Convoy EMPIRE CELIA reports she can proceed 7 knots in fine  
R.A. 624 weather and engine defect only repairable in dry  
dock. Only compass fairly reliable is standard  
compass and will require 200 tons coal on arrival  
Loch Ewe.  
(2) <sup>WARREN.</sup> W. DELANO proceed normal speed.  
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 021028A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Anti- C. in C. H.F. 241220A Feb. B.D.O. Scapa's 231830  
Schnorkel Feb. and 230945 Feb. not to all addressees. It is  
obstructions realised that equipment may lack endurance in bad  
weather but technical improvements will be effected  
as experience is gained. (2) The laying of this  
obstruction is to be pressed forward with the  
utmost rapidity and re-lays are to be made to fill in gaps as they  
occur. (3) To increase endurance distance between moorings is  
to be reduced from 1 mile to ½ mile and length of sections halved.  
(4) The laying of Type O obstruction is to take priority over  
laying of type OPF para. 2 of A.M. 142017 Feb. refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 021334A to C. in C.H.F.)

Amphibious At meeting with Chief of Soviet Naval Air Staff and  
Catalinas U.S. N.A.F. representative we learnt that 30 U.S.  
for Russia Amphibious Catalinas are to be made available to  
the Russians. (2) Delivery is to be effected by  
Soviet crews at rate of 10 aircraft per month  
commencing beginning of April.  
(3) Proposed route for April and first half May is via Alaska to  
East Russia. Russians request permission to use Newfoundland -  
Iceland - Murmansk route as from mid May with similar organisation  
to that used for "pitch" operation.

/(4)...

2.3.1945  
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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Amphibious  
Catalinas  
for Russia  
(Contd.)

(4) Russians state that the same crews which took part in pitch will be employed and they suggest that there will be no need to provide Royal Air Force navigators or pilots.

(5) If the route via Iceland is approved they would like to send one English speaking Soviet Officer to Gander and Reykjavik to assist in handling and briefing crews.  
(30 Mission, 021515Z to Air Ministry, Whitehall.)

Enemy Intelligence

German  
military  
transport

My 011741. Following transport movements have been reported from Norway.

(a) Moss. It is now reported ISAR which left Moss for Aarhus February 12th was carrying following troops and material: eight or nine hundred troops including anti-aircraft troops. 300 horses and 120 carts. 250 motor vehicles

marked SS. W.L. and W.H. 6 large anti-aircraft guns.

See also my 281248 para. one (c) of February.

(b) Oslo. My 011741 para. (a). TIJUCA arrived Oslo February 11th and loaded heavy lorries horses waggons straw and ammunition. She left 1915 February 12th.

(2) GOTENHOF reported left Oslo for Germany loaded motor vehicles horses and military goods.

(3) BIRKENAU ~~HEF~~ in Oslo February 15th, loading large motor vehicles stated to be ~~brake~~ lorries.

(4) GINNHEIM left Oslo February 13th carrying 700 German and Norwegian cars.

B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 021732 to Admty.)

Port Facilities

Thames and  
Antwerp

Reference Capt. I/C Tilbury 011535A concur in proposals generally and that this measure is very desirable in order to relieve pressure of repair and maintenance work in London. It would be advantageous if number of L.S.T. sent each period could

be increased to three.

(F.O.I.C. London, 021756 to Admty., C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

Casualties and Defects

SS. LISETA

LISETA operations suspended today on account adverse weather conditions. Vessels condition remains favourable and swings to anchor at high water.

Port cable parted this morning but starboard is holding. TROTWOOD standing by.

(C.S.V.O. Dover, 021730A to C. in C. Nore.)



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FridayHOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects - Contd.

Dredger Harwich 2nd March arrival tug EMPIRE AID.  
EXCELSIOR Dredger EXCELSIOR capsized and sank 050° Cork Light  
Vessel 3 cables.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 021900A to Com. Southend.)

Movements

MALAYA Sailed MALAYA escorted by ESCAPADE S.O. and  
KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE in accordance with my 011026.  
Draught on arrival forward 32 feet 8 inches aft.  
32 feet 2 inches.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 020848A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

MALAYA is to proceed on route inside The Smalls subject to  
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's concurrence.

(2) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to signal intention when  
MALAYA is in vicinity of Bardsey Island.

(C. in C.W.A. 021305A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, MALAYA.)

<sup>S.</sup>  
H.M.S.A.S.  
NATAL

Your 022318A\* Feb. propose H.M.S.A.S. NATAL  
should visit Scapa Flow for 2 days while on passage  
to Tobermory about 13th March to demonstrate  
internal colour and lighting scheme to Home Fleet.  
(A.S.C.B.S. 021200A to Admty.)

\* When ready LOCH CREE which will be renamed  
H.M.S.A.S. NATAL, should be sailed for Tobermory.

TARTAR,  
TERPSICHORE,  
Destroyers

TARTAR has been delayed by defects and did not  
sail in accordance with A.M. 131939 February.

(2) TARTAR will now escort Light Fleet Carriers  
in place of TERPSICHORE. A.M. 262001 February  
para. 2 refers.

(3) Escort for IMPLACABLE from Scapa to  
Mediterranean will be provided by TERPSICHORE and TUMULT.  
A.M. 262016 and 262059 February refer. C. in C. Home Fleet is  
requested to provide a third destroyer as escort to about 15°  
W. or as ordered by Admty. depending on U-boat situation.

F.O.G.M.A. is requested to arrange additional escort in  
Mediterranean approaches if necessary.

(4) Signals quoted not to all.

(D.O.D.(H) 021606A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F., F.O.I.C. Greenock  
F.O.G.M.A.)

SIBYL  
submarine

My 021546. Delete reference to SIBYL. Sails in  
O.S.114 K.M.S.88 at 0200A 3rd March.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 021634 to Admty.)

DIADEM,  
cruiser

Subject satisfactory test DIADEM will sail for  
Rosyth noon Monday March 5th. E.T.A. Oxcars  
Gate 1630/5th.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 021702 to Admty.)

BLACKMORE,  
destroyer

Following received from aircraft. Begins:-  
Pass to Admty. from ARBITER. If oiling at sea  
impracticable, intend sending BLACKMORE to Lisbon.  
021400, ends.  
(C. in C.W.A. 021910A to Admty.)

2.3.1945

Friday

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

A.T.M.  
convoys

Request you will advise Commodore Southend, for information of N.D. Officer, of names of any Ships sailing in A.T.M. convoys whose N.D. is defective or crew untrained.  
(Admty. 021452A to N.C.S.O. Antwerp.)

2.3.1945  
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

PICKLE, Mine Sweeping Flotilla My P.C. and S. are 036° 17' N. 007° 15' W. 114° 6½ knots, 2 M.F.Vs. in tow. E.T.A. 2300A in present sea conditions.  
(PICKLE, 020901A to F.O.G.M.A.)

U.S. Destroyers Retain U.S.S. ORDRONAU from Casablanca R/V to 09° W.  
(2) On crossing 09° W. detach U.S.S. LAUB, CHAMPLIN, ORDRONAU to proceed Oran routed through (A) 35.51 N. 06.10 W. and Basic Eastbound to 109 at S. of A. 19½ knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 021147A to C.T.G.62.2.)

(NADA) Yugo Slav Your 281458 NADA is at present in hand for repairs.  
(2) Ship will be sailed on completion about 6th March.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 021155A to C. in C. Mediterranean)

EASTWAY L.S.D. escort for Sailed from Horta at 1137Z 2nd H.M.C.S. SUMMERSIDE for Gibraltar routed through (details).  
S. of A. 12 knots. E.T.A. 1000Z/6th. A.M. 281309 Feb. not to all refers.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 021546Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

Operation "Tabarin" WILLIAM SCORESBY left south Orkneys on 1st as requisite for operation "Tabarin" having contacted Argentina government ship CHACO at Lawrie Island and left her discharging reliefs and stores for meteorological station.  
(N.O.I. Falkland Is. 021023P to Admty.)

E.G.59 Following received from Escort Group 59.  
(1) "B.A.D. repeated Comcaribbseafon from F.O.C.W.Af. H.M.S. LEWES from S.O.E.G.59. My observed position at 0500Z/02 is all positions N. & W. 017° 04' 041° 16' 275° course.  
F.S. GAZELLE reported at 0300Z/2nd that only one engine was defective following breakdown of blow pump (Pompewd Balayage) this group carries no spare parts.  
E.G.59 continues to Port Bouet S.O.A.9. Suggest leaving F.S. GAZELLE, F.S. CHEVREUIL to continue in company at 9 knots F.S. ANNAMITE proceeding ahead in order to give necessary details for supply of required spare parts. Request approval.  
T.O.O. 020339Z March". Ends.  
(2) Concur with action proposed.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F., 021238Z to Cdr. 10th Fleet.)

War Diary

2.3.1945  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Linrep  
No.235.  
26-28 Feb.

(2) Naval. Gulf of Genoa. Near Italian frontier Allied warships have carried out another series of effective bombardments. Adriatic. Partisans landed at Pag with coastal craft giving support but after arrival of reinforcements enemy counter attacked and drove partisans from positions overlooking town. Evacuation was then made under cover of air attack and fire from support craft and with assistance of coastal craft. Greece. At Salonika situation is reported to be approaching peacetime conditions. In Zante fighting is occurring between rival parties and situation is reported to be serious and deteriorating. The strike at Patras continues. Dodecanese. A destroyer on patrol between Rhodes and Piscopi captured a landing craft containing fourteen Germans. (3) Air. Coastal Air Force operated against shipping in the upper Adriatic and Gulf of Genoa and Military installations in N.W.Italy. (A.F.H.Q. 020943 to W.O.)

French  
Battleship  
RICHELIEU.

On arrival request you arrange transit to Suez of PENN and F.B. RICHELIEU my 021316 and F.O.G.M.A. 261813 Feb. refers.  
(2) After fuelling F.B.RICHELIEU request you will sail her escorted by PENN to Ceylon. C. in C. East Indies' 220408Z Feb. refers.  
(3) References quoted are not to all. (F.O.L.E.M.021420 to S.N.O.R.S.C.A..)

U-Boat  
activities.

The enemy is intensifying his activities with U-Boats and E-Boats, with the result that shipping losses in U.K. coastal waters are mounting, and it is imperative to increase the number of escort vessels in the Home Commands.  
(2) Request therefore that you will sail 6 Hunt class destroyers as soon as possible for service in Home Waters.  
(3) Request also that you will review the situation on your station compared with that obtaining at the time of your 291222/Aug. and A.M. 050257/Sept. (on which the number of escort vessels in your command was based); and report whether you can release - (A) Any corvettes, (B) Hunt class destroyers in addition to the 6 in para. 2 above.  
(Admty, Sec 1st Sea Lord, 021656A to C. in C. Med. and 031002A from C. in C. Med. and F.O.N.A.M. etc.) *page 52*

7th M.S.  
Flotilla.

E.T.A. Gate 0650A tomorrow Saturday RIFLEMAN, PLUCKY, PINCHER in company each with 15 F.A.A. ratings for Malta. All ships will require 60 tons oil fuel. Request diver may examine "A" frame on H.M.S. RECRUIT on arrival.  
(RECRUIT, 021737 A to V.A.M.)

/Dodecanese ...

War Diary

2.3.1945  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Dodecanese  
Sitrep.

Land and Sea Ops. Piscopi. Force 281 reports  
Night 28th Feb. raiding Force G.S.R. attacked  
enemy Piscopi. Op. complete successful.  
Approx. enemy Cas. 20 killed, 100 P.W. Approx. own  
Cas. 1 killed, 6 wounded.  
(C. in C. Middle East, 022020B to W.O.)

Situation  
Report  
No. 573.

(1) Dodecanese. A raiding force some 500 strong  
supported by H.M.S. LIDDESDALE and Beaufighters\*  
has captured Piscopi.  
(2) Greece. Except at Patras and in Zante (see  
No. 571 Para. 3) Situation is quiet. The Regent  
has visited Salonika in cruiser GEORGIOS AVEROFF  
escorted by destroyers NAVARINON and ~~G.S.~~ KANARIS.  
(C. in C. Med. 022111A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

\* 4 Beaufighters from MAAF.  
(A.S.O.S. 3/3)  
(Operation "Cave")  
Capture was on 1.3.45.

2.3.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B No change.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I., 020351 to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

Reduction Reference your 230301Z Feb. para. 3A.  
in number SHAPINSAY, HILDESAY, NDOVU, these three ships  
local defence to be manned by R.N.V.R.  
craft on (4B) SONDRRA, SOBKRA, VIRGINIE and DUSK to be  
E.I. west transferred for further service to India/Ceylon  
of 90°. or Burma.  
(B) SORSRA and SOLVRA require retubing which  
cannot be completed at Kilindini under 3 months.  
New tail.

MASTIFF requires new tail shaft, has poor condenser and other defects.

LURCHER requires new furnaces probably new fuel tanks and hull in bad condition.

HATSUSE has fractured engine frame.

GEMSBUCK generally in a bad state requiring many new parts which are unobtainable.

Propose the five whalers be sailed to S.A. Station to be paid off.

HATSUSE to pay off at Kilindini. It is proposed to retain for the present time these S.A.N.F. Whalers loaned by C. in C. S.A.

(Com. East Africa, 020700Z to C. in C. E.I.S.)

Escort craft In view of your 191104 and 230301 both Feb., can  
(reduction degaussing range at Kilindini be lifted and  
of). personnel released for disposal.

(Com. E.A., 020726Z to C. in C. E.I.)

S/M's S.Os., (1) As from 12th March the title of S.O. S/M  
changes. E.I. will lapse.

(2) Capt. (S) 2nd S.L. in WOLFE will assume operational control of all E.I. S/Ms. from that date.

(3) Capt. (S) 14th S/M.F. in ADAMANT will continue to administer the 4th S/M.F. which will leave this station about 1st April.  
(C. in C. E.I., 021139Z to Admty.)

Bombs for Your 220405. The shortage of 500 lb. M.C.  
aircraft. bombs persists but arrangements have been made to ship 500 in number Mk. sevens by first available freight and 500 per month thereafter.  
(A.C.N.S.(A), 021252A to C. in C. E.I.)

A/A Sloop. Departed WHIMBREL.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 021633Z to Admty.)

War Diary.2.3.1945.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.

FRONTENAC Radio Washington re-enciphers C.T.G.61.2 020145  
 VICTORY, action Com. Tenth Fleet C. and R. N.O.B. Bermuda,  
 LONE JACK. C. in C. Lant: Info: U.S.S. SLATER, C.T.U.61.5.1,  
 C. in C.C.N.A., C. in C.W.A., C.E.S.F., Admty.  
 At 020059Z in lat. 37.42 long. 57.53 FRONTENAC  
 VICTORY had steering casualty and rammed LONE JACK. Two escorts  
 SLATER and BURROWS standing by. Both ships still afloat.  
 LONE JACK lying to fire rooms flooded and engine rooms flooding.  
 Send rescue tugs and escorts to scene in order that SLATER and  
 BURROWS may rejoin me. Senior Officer in SLATER. Bow  
 FRONTENAC VICTORY damaged extent not known."  
 Weather report 4450 9076.  
 (Radio Washington, 020430Z to Admiralty).

PRINCE Departure 012215Z. H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID  
 DAVID. E.T.A. Cristobal 031315Z. Knots 18.  
 (S.B.N.O. Curacao, 021336Z to Admty.).

U-Boat Estimates.  
 dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 021339Z to S. and A., and  
 Admiralty) See also Cominch 021610Z.

Radar (C) Canso A/C. had a radar contact at 1022Z/01  
 contacts. in 44.03 N. 63.15 W.  
 (D) 2140Z/01 MARISS E BARROS Brazilian destroyer  
 reported doubtful U-Boat contact 00.25 N.

30.45 W.  
 (Cominch, 022107Z to Admiralty for O.I.C.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Convoy Departed 0627Z/2nd March. H.M.A.S. LISMORE  
 S.M.2. escorting convoy S.M.2 KHETI, ROBERT MAERSK,  
 HERON and HERMELIN and THRYAS for Manus S. of A.  
 9½ knots. Convoy's E.T.A. Jomard passage 2300K/8th March  
 E.T.A. Manus 0400K/12th March. H.M.A.S. LISMORE's E.T.A.  
 Jomard passage 1700K/8th March E.T.A. Manus 1100K/11th March.  
 (N.O.I.C. Sydney, 020651Z to Admiralty).

Aids to A.C.N.B. 020730Z, 021005Z, 060521Z to Admty.  
 navigation See Lion Copy. *Draw*  
 and survey *see 130400Z Aug*  
 Torres St.  
 and  
 approaches.

/Minelaying...

2.3.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Minelaying operations.

My 160653 January. A.C.N.B. has replied to para.T (A) that release of BUNGAREE could only be effected by substitution of a suitable transport and personnel ship.

(2) If operation is to take place it will therefore be necessary to plan without this ship. This will require an earlier build up of mines in a forward area.

(3) No further action is being taken at present.

(C. in C.B.P.F., 020926Z to Admty.).

Digest Serial No.1136 1.3.45 extracts.

(1) Navy Liberators over Formosa Strait China Coast left sinking single seatruck off Amoy, attacked one tug two barges one large sunk north east Hongkong.

(3) Night 27th-28th Feb. Navy Catalina sank two small cargo ships off Formosa, one small cargo ship off Hongkong, hit amidships and left afire

one (?large) freighter transport off Swatow and left burning single medium freighter transport off Hongkong.

(6) Mindoro based P.T. boats with aircraft co-operations swept Batangas Bay speedboat hideouts daylight 28th February destroying seven speedboats probably destroying six others, boats armed with depth charges, shelters each with small maring railway.

(7) Mopping up continues on Corregidor while enemy dead total 4054. Enemy holding out in Finance Building Manila resisting all attempts to dislodge: elsewhere in city mopping up of snipers continues. Total enemy casualties on Luzon to date total 61,184 killed, 591 captured.

(8) Following effective naval bombardment American Forces landed unopposed on Lubang Island south west Manila Bay morning. Two Japanese killed one captured during subsequent advance. 14 small boats captured.

(9) Further states naval force three light cruisers five destroyers supported landing Palawan Island 28th night Feb.

(10) Mitchells on shipping search over China coast sank single small freighter near Hongkong. 16 Warhawks damaging six barges Laguna De Bay.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 021041Z to Admiralty etc.).

Landing on Palawan.

Cr. No. 5350.

Palawan landings proceeding as scheduled. Iwo assault progressing steadily. Western portion number three airfield captured.

(Cominch, 021347 to Comnavu).

B.P.F. munitions for S/Ms.

Your 210245Z Jan. Reserve of submarine ammunition established at Fremantle being augmented by shipment of 1150 rounds 4" Flashless (35 lb.) and 1000 rounds 3" can be transferred to Eastern Australia as required. Further 3000 rounds 3"

and 1800 4" being despatched Sydney. Further supply to meet scale of expenditure in your para.5 will be made to Sydney.

Request V.A.(Q) arrange onward transit to other Eastern Australia bases as necessary, Admiralty being informed if direct supply from U.K. to any other base is required.



A + N.Z.  
37A

# 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 :  
From A.C.N.B. "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.) Date 2.3.45.

Recd. 2247  
NAVAL CYPHER O.T.P. AA BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty  
Repeated O.C.H.B.

*Aids to Navigation*

Aids to navigation in approaches to Darwin and Clarence Strait. Your 221736 February ~~refers~~.

(2) (A) No light of sufficient power is available to place on Cape Keith. Any available light would not normally include track between Cape Don and Abbott Shoal in its range visibility. An extra guiding light buoy will however be placed in approximate position latitude 011 degs. 41' south longitude 131 degs. 39' east. The mean spring rate of tidal stream in this vicinity is 1.5 knots and it is expected this new light buoy and buoy guarding Abbott shoal will retain their position.

(B) A light will be erected on Ward Point northwest Vernon Island as requested.

(3) In order to facilitate more accurate navigation in outer approaches to Darwin a 10 mile light will be erected on west point. A light buoy in position 012 degs. 21' south (7146 degs.) 42' 30" east would be desirable in order to guard the shallow patch to eastward thereof but provision of this buoy will entail sacrifice of either the buoy mentioned in para. 2 (A) above buoys mentioned in para. 4 of 210545 Feb. or one of buoys already existing in this area. Owing to recent considerable increase in and to navigation in SWPA there are ~~no repetition~~ no light buoys available in Australia nor are any expected for some months to come.

(4) A light will be erected on Browse Islet.

(5) An attempt will be made to secure a light vessel to moor in approximate position 013 degs. 07' south 125 degs. 48' east to guard Bassett Smith and Penguin Shoal but it is doubtful whether this will be successful.

(6) OCHB is requested to make the necessary arrangements in accordance with para. 2,3 and 4 above.

020730Z

V.C.N.S.	Advance Copy Hydrog.
A.C.N.S. (F)	Staff Charts
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	Note: Received as Secret. Made Top Secret
U.W.R.	by War Registry.
D.O.D. (H) (4)	D.T.D. (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)	D.T.D. (C) Hydrog. (M.01706/44)
D.C.	Plot D. of S.
D.N.I. (4)	D.A/S.W. D.M.S.
D.D.I.C. (2)	D.A/U.D. D.S.D.
D.T.D	Hd. of M. (2) W.D.

**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.)

TOPSECRET

021005Z/March

From A.C.N.B.

Date 2/3/45  
Time 2247-

NAVAL CYPHER (CC) BY W/T

*Survey of Torres Strait Approaches*

Addressed Admiralty

Repeated: O.C.H.B., C. in C. B.P.F.

Survey of Torres Strait and Approaches thereto.

2. Progress to date towards your original requirements laid down in Admiralty 300222 June 1944 para. one (c) and (d) is:

- (a) Booby Island to Double Island re-surveyed and swept to 36 feet
- (b) Double Island to Stephens Island has now been re-surveyed and sweeping in this area to 46 repetition 46 feet has been completed in following stretches:
  - (1) Double Island to Bet Island
  - (2) Coconut Island to Stephens Island
- (c) Sweeping of remaining stretches Bet Island to Coconut Island is expected to be completed by mid-March to a probable maximum depth of ~~44 repetition~~ 44 feet.

3. Swept channel between Booby Island and Harrison Rock is at present 3 cables wide only North of Larpent Bank buoy. This will be widened to 1 mile on completion of sweep between Bet Island and Coconut Island vide para. 2 (c) above. Estimate completion date mid April.

4. Remaining commitments in this area include:

- (a) Area from Booby Island westward, to 10 fathom line to be re-surveyed and swept as requested by C. in C. B.P.F.
- (b) Alternative channel in vicinity of Kircaldie Reef. A.M. 291317 January not to A.C.N.B. or C. in C. B.P.F. refers. Some progress has already been made.
- (c) Additional surveys in western approaches to Prince of Wales Channel requested in your 191831 February not to C. in C. B.P.F.
- (d) Requirements in para. one (g) and (h) of your 300222 June 1944.
- (e) Requirements in para. one (a) and (b) of your 300222 June depending on long term dredging policy in Endeavour Strait.

5. / .....

5. In view of the heavy commitments to be carried out by task unit 70.5.2 as laid down in para. 4 above and impracticability of reinforcing this task unit at present owing to many surveying requirements in Darwin Area and other operational (? sectors) elsewhere in Southwest Pacific a priority for this work is being determined in consultation with C. in C. B.P.F. and will be forwarded by air mail very shortly. Probable order of priority will be in the order given in para. 4 above.

6. Final lighting scheme for area under consideration will be included in air mail letter referred to in para. 5 above.

7. C. in C. B.P.F. please pass to O.C.H.B.

021005Z 060521Z

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

V.O.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
U.W.R.  
D. of P.(2)  
D.O.D.(H)(4)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.N.I.(4)  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
D.C.  
D.T.D.(4)  
D.T.D.(C)  
Plot (2)  
D.A/S.W.  
D./U.D.  
D.S.D.  
Hydrog.  
D. of N.  
D.M.S.  
Hd. of M.(2)  
O.I.C. Staff Charts  
W.D.

War Diary.2.3.1945.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand.

B.P.F. (2) Two 4 inch Mark XXII guns, and two 3 inch  
munitions S I guns and spares being shipped Sydney for  
for MAIDSTONE. Gun spare parts for 4 inch Mark  
submarines XII and 3 inch Mark I guns and spare Oerlikon  
(Contd.) guns held in Australia can be redispersed, to meet  
requirements.

Further supplies gun spares for all above  
natures will be sent to Sydney and Fremantle.

(3) Separate messages being sent re torpedoes and mines.  
(Hd. of M., 022244A to C. in C.B.P.F.).

B.P.F. Your 160804 and V.A.(Q)'s 190613 not to A.C.N.B.  
Bombs for To supplement the short supply of Mk. seven  
bombs arrangements have been made to obtain  
500 lb. M.C. Mk. thirteens.

(2) The 500 lb. M.C. Bomb Mk. XIII is filled Minel II and is  
suitable for targets requiring nose instantaneous or air burst  
fuzing. It is unsuited for resistant targets and no tail  
fuzing pocket is provided. Advance instructions for the use  
of this bomb are being forwarded by air.

(3) Shipments are being made as follows:-

250 Mk. sevens and 1000 Mk. thirteens in SYDNEY STAR sailing  
2nd March.

1000 Mk. sevens in HORORATA sailing 2nd March.

(4) A further 1400 Mk. sevens and 2500 Mk. thirteens will be  
shipped immediately freight becomes available.

(A.C.N.S.(A), 021225A to C. in C.B.P.F.). See 080622 Z, June.

B.P.F. Your 200252 Feb. All freight ships and issuing  
supplies. ships bringing supplies stores for B.P.F. are  
required to call at ports on east coast  
Australia for some time to come vide para.2 of  
V.A.(Q)'s 130027 Feb. 1945.  
(V.A.(Q), 020651Z to C. in C.B.P.F.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z 2nd March.  
and sighting Para.A. (1) Two ships in S.C.167 torpedoed at  
summary. 0744Z and 0801Z 2nd March in 52° 01' N. 05° 41'  
W.  
Para.B. (1) A/C. T/53 obtained A.S.V. contact  
at 2335Z 28th February in 64° 14' N. 22° 50' W.  
(2) CAVENDISH attacked contact at 0704Z 2nd March in 56° 32' N.  
05° 15' W.  
Para.C.(1) A/C. V/547 sighted smoke and wake course S. at  
0955Z 1st March in 59° 7' N. 5° 9' W.  
(2) A/C. P/103 sighted oil patch, obtained H.T. contact, and

/attacked...

War Diary.

2.3.1945.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

attacked at 1220Z 1st March in 51° 48' N. 7° 2' W.

(3) E.G.3 obtained contact at 1635Z/1 March, in 50° N. 6° W.

(4) A/C. U/461 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0335Z 2nd March in 52° 5' N. 6° 14' W.

(5) A/C. A/110 sighted possible Schnorkel wake,

H.T. negative at 1356Z 1st March in 51° 23' N. 4° 40' W.

(6) A/C. U/461 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0640Z 2nd March in 51° 54' N. 6° 14' W.

(D.D.I.C., 021101A to Cominch and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U-Boat

Estimates;

dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 021403A, 021408A to A.I.G. Cominch).

War Diary.

3.3.1945.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) A V.2 bomb fell in Deptford Victualling Yard, but did only minor damage.  
(b) Two mines were detonated off the Humber. One mine, probably laid in 1940, was swept in the Firth of Forth.
- Channel. 2. One mine was swept off the mouth of the Seine.
- Northern Waters. 3(a) SOUTHERN FLOWER, A/S Whaler, was torpedoed and sunk by a U-Boat in the approaches to Reykjavik.  
(b) U-Boats are active off North Russia. One large Russian A/S vessel was torpedoed and sunk.
- Baltic. 4. M.575, German minesweeper, foundered in a tempest off Elsinore, with a loss of 64 out of 70 of her crew.

Foreign Stations

South Atlantic

- SS. POINT PLEASANT PARK torpedoed.  
Feb 23.
5. POINT PLEASANT PARK (British 7136 tons, Trinidad to Table Bay) is reported to have been torpedoed on 23rd February 550' N.W. of Capetown. One lifeboat reached Mercury Is. (150' S. of Walvis Bay) on 2nd March. 2 lifeboats unaccounted for.

Mediterranean

- Gulf of Genoa. 6. In vicinity of Genoa further successful bombardments have been carried out by Allied warships near Italian frontier.
- Greece. 7. A military drifter has been mined between Skiathos and mainland. One survivor.

3.3.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

- Aden. 8. A.F.D.18 broke adrift from mooring buoy during night and is aground. Hoped to refloat in a day or two.
- S/M TANTALUS. 9. S/M TANTALUS 6th Far East patrol between Singapore and Borneo. On 30th January sank a 120 ton coaster by gunfire in lat. 1° 26' S., 105° 01' E. On 31st January sank 50 ton motor lugger by gunfire in 0° 28' S., 105° 18' E. On 1st February sank 50 ton tug and 3 lighters by gunfire. On 11th in 003° 36' N., 107° 00' E. shadowed a force including 2 Jap battleships - forced to dive. TANTALUS arrived Fremantle 26th February, 55 days at sea. A record for any British Submarine.
- Force 68. (Operation "Training") 10. Port Blair in the Andamans was bombarded today by the ROTHERHAM, ROEBUCK, RAPID and ROCKET. ~~RAIDER~~ which carried out a further anti-shipping sweep in that area - no shipping being encountered.
- Malacca Straits and Sumatra. 11. R.A.F. mined Belawan Deli, Pangkalan Soe Soe, Chumporn and Penang.

America and West Indies

- A.F.D. 32. 12. While entering San Juan harbour (Puerto Rico) today A.F.D. 32 grounded due to parting of the tow. There is no apparent damage.

Australia and New Zealand

- Philippines. 13(a) This morning American forces landed unopposed on Burias Island and Tikao Island (south of Luzon). 2 destroyer escorts effectively supported landing on Burias Island.

/(b) ...

3.3.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.  
(Contd.)

(b) Manila Bay reported open to shipping today.

Borneo.

14. U.S. Liberators off Balikpapan (east coast of Borneo) this evening attacked an escort carrier. 3 bombs hit the ship causing heavy damage. (071057Z).

Dutch New Guinea.

15. 5 R.A.A.F. Warhawks sank lugger and probably destroyed a barge at Mazokwari.

Japan.

16. A U.S. naval aircraft sank a large merchant vessel at Haga Jima (north of Iwo Jima).



War Diary

3.3.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Attractive living spaces in ships.

A.S.C.B.S. 021200 not to all. Investigations have been proceeding with methods of making living spaces more attractive and comfortable. As a result H.M.S.A.S. NATAL has been decorated with various colour schemes, furnishings and improved internal lighting for trial, with a view to their adoption in new construction if found to be serviceable and

popular.

(2) NATAL will visit Scapa for 2 days on passage to Tobermory about 13th March to give the Home Fleet an opportunity of inspecting and remarking on the schemes.

(3)(A) F.O.I.C.Tyne is requested to sail NATAL accordingly. A.M.022318 February not to all refers.

(B) C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail NATAL for Tobermory on conclusion of inspection.

(D.O.D.(H), 031908A to F.O.I.C.Tyne, C. in C. H.F.)

Engagement of flying bombs at sea.

The following are the rules for the engagement of flying bombs by Warships and merchant ships at sea.

(2) (i) The engagement of flying bombs by unseen methods of fire control is prohibited at all times.

(ii) By day, namely 30 mins. before sunrise to 30 mins. after sunset, flying bombs may be engaged up to a maximum height of 6,000 feet provided: (a) Visibility is not less than 3 miles.

(b) Flying bomb is clearly seen and recognised.

(c) No friendly fighter is within 2 miles of the flying bomb.

(iii) By night the engagement of flying bombs by A/A gunfire is prohibited.

(3) The normal rules for the engagement of A/C other than flying bombs are in no way affected.

(4) Masters, Armament Officers and Senior D.E.M.S. ratings of Merchant ships must be fully acquainted with the details of the rules in para. 2.

(5) Pass to N.C.S.Os and D.E.M.S. Staff Officers.

(6) Cancel my 161729 October and 181444 October.

(D. of L.D. 031932A to Ships and Authorities)

Operations

North Sea

Rocket-bomb in Deptford Yard.

V.2 fell in yard at 1218 to-day Saturday 3rd March near East Corner of Mast Pond no fatal casualties, one serious sent to hospital and 10 minor being treated in Yards. Some damage to water main, cranes and lighters. Lubricating oil drums stowed in open are leaking badly but can be dealt

with. No serious loss of victualling or Naval stores anticipated. Detailed report to follow.

(Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford, 031300 to C. in C. Nore.)

Minesweeping off East Coast.

Magnetic mine detonated 1147 253 degs. H.6 4 Cables.  
Magnetic mine detonated 1150 167 degs. H.6 1.9 miles.

(F.O. Humber, 031505A to C. in C. Nore, Admty.)

3.3.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.333 Part 4 Section A. Discharge by Sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/2nd March.

<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	40	260	9,992	-	7,231	850
Ostend	244	97	3,444	-	643	586
Boulogne	3	39	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	2,104	-	-
Calais	2,712	-	52	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,213	-	-	846
Totals:	2,999	396	15,701	2,104	7,874	2,282
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	471	18,140	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	203	5,997	1,272	11,481	4,455
Le Havre	2,953	608	5,495	-	-	2,796
Rouen	-	78	9,067	2,071	1,045	1,808
Granville	-	-	-	3,036	-	-
Ghent.	-	-	2,847	-	-	-
Totals:	2,953	1,360	41,546	6,379	12,526	9,059
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	3,980	920	7,056	2,100	-	-
Port De Bouc	-	-	2,316	1,100	3,488	1,716
Toulon	-	-	326	-	-	-
Nice.	-	-	407	-	-	-
Totals:	3,980	920	10,105	3,200	3,488	1,716

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

Patrols and Escort. Cancel my 250202 February not to all. FARNDALE and ZETLAND are to remain in the Nore Command for the present. My 031245/February and 031213 March neither to all refer. (V.C.N.S. 031712A to C. in C. Nore.)

Your 011035A. Reinforcements are being arranged. (D.O.D.(H) 032109A to C. in C. Nore)

Need for further personnel shipping space. At present time there is a back-log of 26,000 personnel in the U.K. reinforcements and split organizational units urgently needed on the Continent. This back-log is in excess of present available lift. It is planned to use four vessels from C.U.59 for one shuttle trip across Channel. In order to make most economical use of available Cross-Channel shipping it is urgently requested that the number of personnel on L.S.Ts with vehicles be increased to 300, also that maximum use be made of L.C.Is now available. This is an operational necessity and it is urgent that we have your concurrence (Com. Zone Etousa, 031803A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Minesweeping ...

3.3.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping in Firth of Forth. M/S report No.5 is rendered in accordance with C.B. 04031,  
 (1) 1132A/3rd March, 1945.  
 (2) Q Formation. Intermediate, SA/LL MM/S 1006 MM/S.1003, NH/S 1037.  
 (3) Yes. (4) 2 cables. MM/S 1006 56 degs. 04' 36" N. 02 degs. 32' 12" W. S.47 E Mag.  
 (6) Green 170 degs. 300 yards.  
 (7) O.N. Pulse blue to port.  
 (8) 4 Seconds.  
 (9) Probably November 1940 or August 1941. Captain M/S Granton report dated 1st June 1943 refers.  
 (10) None. (11) 3. (12) 3 - 1. (13) C.O. M.M/S 1006 reports medium disturbance of water for 20/30 yards radius with plume about 20 feet, depth of water at this position 20 Fathoms, mud bottom.  
 (14) Sweepers were engaged on clearance of area with Dan laid mine was detonated on the fifth run over lap.  
 (Com. M/S Granton, 031915 to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Patrols. Cancel all previous references to M.T.B. lettered units. M.T.B. 750 and 731 now patrolling will form unit G.B.  
 (2) M.T.B. 747 and 752 will form unit G.A. and will relieve unit G.B. as detailed in my 021735 not to all.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 030046A to M.T.Bs, 750 and 731.)  
 Return to St. Helens and anchor at half an hours notice.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 031019A to NEW WATERFORD, LOCH ACHANALT, LOCH MORLICK, TEME.)  
 On detaching from H.X.A.339 about 2330A/3rd send in 2 ships at a time to portland to complete with fuel and ammunition. Remainder of group proceed patrol Portland Bill to Start Point on coastal convoy route. S.O.E.G.2 report dispositions.  
 (2) All ships of E.G.2 will be required to support convoy O.N.A. 288/O.S.114/K.M.S.88 S.O. Escort VIMY, E.T.A. Portland Bill 1430A/4th from Portland to 07 degs. 00' W.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 031055A to S.O.E.G.2)

Minesweeping off River Seine. 159th T.G./181st T.G. - extending Q.Z.S.619 1 mile to eastward between H.V.3 and H.D. 1 buoy. One ground mine detonated in 49.32.00 N. 00.03.26 W.  
 (Com. M/S Le Havre, 030945 to C.T.F.125)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Proceed at 0900A/4th March and carry out M.1 part 1 Lay.3.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 031505A to M.L.186, NIGHTINGALE.)  
 Weigh at 0130A/4th March and carry out Serial C.1 part 2.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 031713A to PLOVER, BANGOR)

War Diary

3.3.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France

U-Boats  
in Lorient.

French Navy reports 2 German S/Ms entered Lorient at 2 day intervals around middle February. (Comnavforfrance, 031020Z to Com. 12th Fleet.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols.

First Division is to continue in support of M.K.S. 85 to 54 N. Second Division (BERRY, S.O.) on detaching from Milford Haven Section U.C.58 B about 0430/3rd is to R/V with and support H.X.339 in 52.40' N. at 0815/3rd and support to 54 N. then rejoining First Division.

(2) On crossing 53.40 N. 3rd E.G. becomes Force 36.

(3) On 24th E.G. crossing 54 N. (my 030032 refers) 3rd E.G. if not in contact proceed to Belfast to lay over.

(C. in C. W.A. 030011A to S.O.E.G.3)

Request you will sail 22nd E.G. less PEACOCK at daylight 3rd March to join Force 38 temporarily. S.O. 5th E.G. is S.O. Force 38.

(2) 22nd E.G. is to be detached from Force 38 as necessary to comply with my 021857 Para. 5.

(C. in C. W.A. 030016A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Request you will sail 18th E.G. at 0800/4th to join Force 38. S.O. 5th E.G. is S.O. Force 38.

(C. in C. W.A. 030026A to F.O.I.C.N.I.)

Request you will sail 24th E.G. to leave Lough Foyle at 1000/4th to relieve 3rd E.G. as Force 36. E.T.A. 54 N. to be reported.

(C. in C. W.A. 030032A to Com. D. W.A.)

Situation Report at 2000 Section Home.

Force 33 E.G.30 PEVENSEY CASTLE 3 Corvettes supporting O.N.288.

Force 37 E.G.4 CALDER 4 Frigates North Irish Sea.

Force 36 E.G.3 DUCKWORTH 5 Frigates central Irish Sea.

Force 38 E.G.5 GRINDALL (S.O) 4 Frigates and E.G.22 HART 3 sloops vicinity St. Georges Channel.

Forces support convoys as ordered.

Force 34 E.G.21 CONN 4 Frigates operating south Ireland (R).

H.X.339 amended position 54.35 05.06.

(C. in C. W.A. 031409 to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Carry out operation C.H. Z.1's and 2's. 2130/4th March.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 031051 to APOLLO)

Convoy formation between Hartland Pt. and Trevoise Head.

When convoys use passage between Hartland Point and Trevoise Head, Q.Z.S.546, they should be formed into not more than 4 columns before reaching this passage.

(2) Request Commodore of Convoys and S.O's of Escorts be informed accordingly.

(3) Cancel A.M. 121859 Sept. not to all.

(D.T.D. 031942A to C. in C. W.A., Com. 10th C. & R. N.S.H.Q., F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Plymouth)

/E.G.1 ...

War Diary

3.3.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

E.G.1. Request you will transfer E.G.1 to C. in C. Western Approaches now.  
(D.O.D.(H), A.C.N.S.(H) Approd. 032348A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations

Norway

Operation Sailed HITRA at 0800A/3rd March.  
S.C. (2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 030819A to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 031145A. (1) 62.23 N. 05.34 E.  
(2) Ramose Idol. (3) Blank.  
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 031147A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Ramosé Idol postponed E.T.D. now 2300 March 4th.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 032025A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy C. in C. Northern Fleet requests allocation of a support group to strengthen escort of White Sea Section of J.W.65 as was done with J.W.64.  
J.W.65. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 030910A to C. in C. H.F.)

U-Boat Northern Fleet report firm asdic contacts 2nd activity March assume one U-Boat patrolling East Tsyp off North Navolok and another between Syet Navolok and Kildin Russia. Panel. One Russian large Hunter craft torpedoed and sunk. Hunt continues to-day.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 031050A to Admty.)

Loss of SOUTHERN FLOWER, A/S Whaler. SOUTHERN FLOWER torpedoed, 322 Skaggi 4 miles.  
(WINDERMERE, 031215A to A.C.I.C.)  
SOUTHERN FLOWER while hunting for German U-Boat torpedoed and sunk in position 322 degs. SKAGI Skaggi 4 miles at 1215A/3rd March.  
(A.C.I.C. 031332A to Admty.)

Convoy R.A.64. Arrived Loch Ewe 28th February-Clyde 1st R.A.64. March less EMPIRE CELIA and WARREN DELANO which put into Faeroes with defects, and HENRY BACON lost through enemy action. (Total 30 ships).  
(D.T.D.031327A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia)

War Diary

3.3.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence

German Minesweeper M575 was proceeding northward into naval losses. Kattegat by swept channel evening March 1st. She struck heavy seas soon after passing Elsinore and later reversed her course but at about 2230 a very heavy sea struck her quarter and overwhelmed her. She foundered in position 1.5 miles south Elleskilde Hage light vessel. Of a crew of 68 to 70 only one Petty Officer and 5 men survived and were landed in Sweden near Helsingborg. A.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 031241 to Admty.)

Wolfram French Navy informed 2 March that ten tons for Germany. Wolfram to be embarked aboard enemy S/M cruising off Oporto. (Comnavforfrance, 031621 to Com. 12th Fleet).

Movements

MALAYA, C. in C. W.A's 021305 not to GERANIUM passage battleship. outside The Smalls NYASALAND's 022233 not to all refers. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 030423 to MALAYA) My 021754 on reaching position B of Q.Z.S. 432 Force 26 less BARBADOS is to proceed by Q.Z.S. 668 to meet MALAYA routed outside The Smalls thence take over escort in accordance with previous order. (3) MALAYA pass to ships in company. (C. in C. Plymouth, 030931A to Force 26)

CALDEDON, Nore's Number 0206 of 21st February and A. Cruiser. Message 281256 February, not to all addressees. CALEDON is expected to sail from Gibraltar about 4th March. Request ship may berth at Sheerness on arrival pending decision on reserve category to which ship is to be reduced. (2) Request early Admiralty decision about category. (C. in C. Nore, 031713A to N.O.I.C. Sheerness, Admty.)

VENERABLE, Following are revised escort arrangements for VENGEANCE, VENERABLE, VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS leaving Clyde for Mediterranean 12th March. A.M. 262001/Feb. and COLOSSUS, 021606 neither to all refer. light A/C (2) Delete all reference to FARNDALE and INVER. Carriers. (3) CROOME should be sailed from Falmouth to join in vicinity of 49 degs. N. (4) C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide 4 additional close escorts from Clyde to 47 degs. N. one of which is to continue to Gibraltar. (A.N.N.S.(H), 032301A to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. Plymouth)

3.3.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Small  
Coasters  
in Irish  
Sea.

Routeing of small coasters in Irish Sea. Ships of under 7 knots and those of under 1000 tons which are excluded from BB and MH convoys are to be sailed by route L via east of The Smalls to (E) 335 degs. South Bishop 6 miles (D) 000 degs. Strumble Head 4 miles (C) 270 degs. Bardsey Is. 2 miles (B) 270 degs. South Skegness 2 miles (A) Close Westward of the Chickens.

(2) Request you will pass to N.C.S.O's.

(C. in C. W.A. 031135A to C's. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, V.A. Dover.)

50

War Diary.3.3.1945.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- S/M SYBIL. SIBYL sailed in O.S.114/K.M.S.88 for Gibraltar Malta and East Indies.  
(Capt. (S) 3rd S/M.F., 030905A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- E. Groups. Concur in your 011215.  
(2) Escort will be augmented by WYE and WEAR from about 28° N.  
(3) KILKHAMPTON and KILMALCOLM have been taken in hand for repairs which it is anticipated will take approx. 14 days.  
(4) 56th Escort Group will be sailed on completion of boiler cleaning 6th March.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 031240A to F.O.C.W.Africa.) See 041214Z.
- CALEDON. Intend sail CALEDON for Chatham at 1900A March 4th. Route etc.  
(3) S. of A. 19 knots.  
(4) E.T.A. Sheerness 0800A March 8th.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 031248A to Admty.)
- E.G.3. Ships addressed form Group 3 forthwith WELLINGTON (S.O.)  
(F.O.G.M.A., 031256A to WELLINGTON, SPIREA<sup>A</sup>, BERGAMOT.)  
Ships being in all respects ready for war WELLINGTON is to take SPIREA and BERGAMOT under his orders and sail at 0800A March 4th.  
(2) Group 3 is to proceed to relieve Group 1 on A/S patrol between Cape Spartel and (?Cape Trafalgar).  
(3) S.O. Group 1 arrange R/V.  
(4) Group 1 return to harbour on relief.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 031324A to Group 3.)
- M/S CHAMELEON. Departure 0820/3rd CHAMELEON for Alexandria.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 031328A to F.O.L.E.M.)
- "Appian" Flight G. "Appian" Flight G arrived. F.O.I.C. Falmouth's 241036 and 241540 Feb. refer.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 031336A to Admty.)
- Convoy C.R.D.9. Intend sail C.R.D.9 at 1800A/04, consisting of DUNKERQUE with 525 troops, CEVENNES and SCHIAFFINÉ FRÈRES.  
(2) Speed of advance 7½ knots.  
(4) Escorts L'EFFRONTE (Senior) W/T call sign 2 UCP and HUSSARD to 26.10 N., 15.00 W. at 0900A/08 where request escorts from Dakar relieve them. Escorts have U.S.N.L.O. aboard guard 2150 k/cs.  
(5) E.T.A. Dakar 1100A/12.  
(6) L'EFFRONTE and HUSSARD return to Casa. via reverse route E.T.A. Casa. 0900A/10.  
(Commorseafron, 031515A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 041103 to Comar Dakar.)



War Diary.

3.3.1945.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

KENORA  
Fleet  
minesweeper.

On arrival in Azores request you will onward route KENORA to Plymouth.  
(2) C. in C. C.N.A's 282007 refers.  
(D.M.S., 031740A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Dutch A/S  
and M/S.

Comgulf 161228 and N.O.B. Bermuda's 232259 neither to all. First destination of H.N.M.S. QUEEN WILHELMINA and H.N.M.S. DIRKJE in U.K. is Plymouth.

(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail vessels as follows:-

(A) QUEEN WILHELMINA to London where she will be berthed in Shadwell Basin.

(B) DIRKJE to Harwich for Dutch Minesweeping Flotilla.

(3) Necessary chart folios for onward passage will be made available at Plymouth.

(D.O.D.(H), 031807A to S.B.N.O. Azores, etc.)

South Atlantic

SS. POINT  
PLEASANT  
PARK  
(torpedoed)

Following received from Luderitz Bay begins: POINT PLEASANT PARK (VDTP) torpedoed 029° 4' S., 009° 58' E. on 23rd Feb. one lifeboat reached Mercury Island 1500B/2nd March two lifeboats unaccounted for. Ends.  
(C. in C. S.A., 032242B to Admt.)  
See 041632B.

U/B  
search.

Radar echo obtained 20,000 yards disappearing at 5,000 yards on star shell being fired in position 026° 07' N., 015° 12' W. at 2145Z/3rd. No asdic contact, square search carried out without result. Possible but doubtful German U-Boat. Rejoining convoy.  
(TEES, 032331Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

3.3.1945.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Italian submarines. Discussions on future of PLATINO, NICHELIO and DIASPRO are proceeding between Admiralty and B.A.D.

(2) Request information as to present condition of NICHELIO and ZOEA (your 261235 Nov. not to C. in C., E.I.) and expected date of their being ready for service.

(C. in C. Med., 030951A to F.O.T.A.L.I., etc.)  
Reply: 051905A.

U-Boat situation. Owing to U-Boat situation in U.K. coastal waters, A.M. 021656A not to all. Following are to be Hunt class sailed to U.K. as soon as possible: Hunts destroyers. EASTON, CHIDDINGFOLD, LAMERTON, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, WILTON; Corvettes GLOXINIA, MYOSOTIS. (2) LEDBURY, LIDDESDALE are allocated to F.O.T.A.L.I. and F.O.L.E.M. is requested to sail them forthwith to Taranto or as desired by F.O.T.A.L.I. (C. in C. Med., 031002A to F.O.N.A.M., etc.) See 051114A.

The reductions in my 031002 and any future ones must be met by more intensive employment of Greek destroyers in your area. (C. in C. Med., 031022 to F.O.L.E.M.)

In anticipation of approval to retain the trawlers in A.M. 281911A Feb. not to all, I am releasing 2 corvettes to U.K. in addition to the 6 Hunts A.M. 021656A not to all, but am unable to make any further contribution until completion of operation "Goldflake" and of operations contemplated in Adriatic without dangerously depleting F.O.G.M.A's anti-submarine forces. (2) Should a U-Boat enter the Mediterranean, the effect of these reductions will be to render impossible the formation of a hunting group to deal with him. My 031002A.

(C. in C. Med., 031016A to Admty.)

Approved by 041522.

It may be necessary for CALPE, AVONVALE, BRECON and EGGESFORD on completion of refit to return to U.K. for temporary service in home waters. Further signals will be made.

(V.C.N.S., 031209A to C. in C. Med.)

Troopship movements. Are you being informed of probable troopship movements ex Odessa to Mideast and Malta. Admiralty recypher and pass to addressees. (Admiral Archer, 031106A to C. in C. Med.)

French Y.M.S. The continued absence of the eight French Y.M.S. loaned from the Mediterranean for Operation "Independence", has prevented any extension of the searched approached channels off North France and prolonged the need for Bear leading merchant ships in this area.

Request therefore that the return of the eight F.Y.M.S. may now be approved so that the strained escort situation which will be caused by the releases in my 031016 not to A.N.C.X.F. may be eased my 031802 January refers.

(C. in C. Med., 031216A to Admty.)

War Diary.3.3.1945.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.Dodecanese  
Sitrep.

019817 GO/92488 cipher 3 March.  
 (1) Land and Sea Ops. Piskopi. Op. complete.  
 Own main force returned Symi 2 March. Enemy P.W.  
 number 142 incl. 7 wounded.  
 (2) Political. Mitylene. National Guard has  
 taken over all posts. Khios. New Gov. Gen.  
 Aegean Rozakos arrived 2 March.  
 (C. in C. M.E., 031330 to W.O.)

Instructions  
for Turkish  
Shipping.

(F.O.L.E.M., 031625B to B.N.A. Ankara.)  
 Amended 071825B etc.  
 See Lion Copy.

BRUISER  
L.S.T.(I).

Intend sailing BRUISER at 1000A Tuesday 6th  
 March, S. of A. 14 knots to Malta for onward  
 routing to Gib. and U.K. E.T.A. Boom 1000/6th.  
 (F.O.T.A.L.I., 031817A to V.A.M., amended by  
 051048.)

Obstruction  
Black Sea.

It is an operational necessity to clear entrance  
 to Port at a very early date - on account of  
 water and underwater damage and age of ship,  
 approval has been given to cut ship. This work  
 is proceeding.  
 (C. in C. Med., 032004A to A.C.C. Bulgarian  
 (? British) Delegation.)

Situation  
report  
No. 574.

(1) In the vicinity of Genoa. Further success-  
 ful bombardments have been made by Allied  
 warships near Italian border.  
 (2) Greece. A military drifter has been mined  
 between Skiathos and mainland. There was one  
 survivor.  
 (C. in C. Med., 032203A to F.O.L.E.M.)

**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.)

031625B March

From : F.O.L.E.M.

Date 4.3.45

*Instructions for Turkish Shipping*

Recd. 0044

NAVY CODE DB by W/T

To : B.N.A. Ankara, A.B.N.A. Istanbul, C.S.A. Izmir (R),  
C.S.A. Iskanderun  
Info. N.O.I.C. Castelorizo, Admiralty, C. in C. Mediterranean,  
S.O. 53 Force, SMI 218 Local allocation, Khios C.C.O.

**IMPORTANT**

Calls and instructions for Turkish Shipping. Vessels proceeding Adratchan Bay to Marmaris are to be routed in territorial waters and passage between Seven Cape and Loyal is to be made in daylight. Vessels may call at intermediary port but detailed intentions are to be signalled.

2. Vessels for destinations north of Loyal are to join route in my 231945 at position 034 degs. 52 mins. north 027 degs. 34 mins. east which must be approached from south of a line joining that position and Casteloriso. Passage through QBC 965 until west Ikaria to be in daylight.

3. Route from Adratchan Bay to Dardanelles and Feeder routes into Izmir (R) and Bodrum are as in my 231945 and 261416 neither to all but being passed to action addressees and Aegean authority who does not already hold.

4. No repetition ~~no~~ shipping is to proceed through Kos Strait and Rhodes Strait limited to small craft proceeding close inshore in territorial waters.

5. North of Samos Strait coastwise traffic for minor ports may be routed in territorial waters without restriction except north of Cape Baba when QBC 958 is to be used.

6. Signalled intention of movements are to be addressed "For Action" to authorities at (~~Adratchan Bay~~) and "For Information" to (A) (~~Adratchan Bay~~) ~~ENCL 43~~ allocation not known, Comar O.I. and Force 53 in case of ships destined for ports north of Marmaris and (B) (~~Adratchan Bay~~) ~~ENCL 43~~ (F.O.L.E.M.) allocation not known and R.N.O. Casteloriso. In cases of ships destined for ports south or east of Marmaris, confirmation of sailing is to be similarly addressed.

7. Possibility of enemy interference exists in vicinity Rhodes, Kos and Leros, but provided routes and instructions in this and relevant signals are adhered to, threat is considered to be negligible.

8. Ships are to be darkened and are not ~~repetition~~ ~~not~~ to burn navigation lights when within 60 miles of Leros or Rhodes.

Amended by WR 6.3.45.  
031625B and 071625B

Advance Copy Ops., O.D., Plot

/ TOP SECRET

marking 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.(U.T.)(2)  
Sec.  
Nav. Sec.  
P.A.S.(S)  
P.A.S.(L)  
U.W.R.  
O.D.(b)  
Ops. (2)  
Plot (2)  
D.N.I.(5)  
O.I.C.(2)  
M.(2)  
D.M.S.  
D.M.S. Citadel  
D.A/S.W.  
D.A/U.D.  
D.T.D.(4)  
D.T.D.(C)  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)(3)  
Ad. Blake (4)  
W.D.

ALL  
IMS

War Diary.

3. 3. 1945  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Aircraft for B.P.F. C. in C. B.P.F's 270853 Feb. if ACTIVITY is used for next ferry trip number of aircraft will have to be reduced to approx. 10 Hellcat, 2. 10 Avengers one or two and 13 Corsair two totalling 33 compared to normal shipment of 60 C.M.O. Pass all addressees. (F.O. Air E.I. 030425 to Admty.)

S/M TANTALUS. S/M TANTALUS 6th Far East Patrol 30th Jan. in 001° 26' S. 105° 01' E. by gunfire sank 120 ton coaster one Japanese one Malay taken prisoner. 31st Jan. 000° 28' S. 105° 18' E. sank 50 ton motor lugger by gunfire 10 Chinese and 2 Japanese prisoners. 1st Feb. sank by gunfire one 50 ton tug and 3 lighters, a 4th lighter and a nearby M.B. were utilized for survivors of this attack and Chinese already on board TANTALUS. 11th Feb. in 003° 36' N. 107° 00' E. sighted and shadowed force included 2 Japanese battleships, forced dive after bombing by A/C, enemy report passed on surfacing no further contact made TANTALUS arrived Fremantle 26th Feb. 55 days at sea 37 days north of Malay barrier, being 3 days longer patrolling than her last one and a record length for any British submarine. (C. in C. E.I.S. 030651Z to Admty.)

Situation Report No. 3. (1) Burma coast. On departure of 24th February Cdre. (D) assumed command of naval forces on Arakan coast with additional title naval forces Cmdr. Burma. C.S.O. H.M.I.S. NARBADA, KISTNA, CAUVERY. FLAMINGO supported military advance to north and east from Ruywa. M.L. patrol activity. Ruywa build up continues by landing craft. (2) ROTHERHAM (Capt. (D) 11) ROEBUCK, RAPID, ROCKET carried out sweep in Andamu Sea 22nd to 24th Feb. but met no enemy shipping. Force bombarded radar station on Great Cocos Is. Further operations in Andamu Sea are proceeding. (3) 28th Feb. in position 026° 48' S. 101° 58' E. ACTIVITY picked up 20 survivors from American ship PETER SILVESTER who was torpedoed 6th Feb. 107 survivors had previously been picked up. Believed that 1 Boat with about 20 men remains to be located. (4) R.A.F. mined Belawan Deli, Pangkalan Soe-Soe, Chumport and Penang. (C. in C. E.I. 031333Z to Admty.)

A.F.D. 18. A.F.D. 18 broke adrift from mooring buoy during night and is aground in approx. position 280° Elephants Back 4.5' in three feet at L.W.O.S. weather precluded refloating attempt today but is now moderating and hope to refloat in the next day or two. It is not anticipated that serious damage will have occurred. (Com. Aden 031526Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Force 68. E.T.A. Trincomalee ROTHERHAM, ROEBUCK, ROCKET, RAPID, 1245 FG/4th March. (Capt. (D) 11 031737Z to N.O.I.C. Trincomalee.)



War Diary

3.3.1945  
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

T.G.22.12  
U-boat  
hunt  
(Contd.)

now estimated at 51° N. 38.30 W. C.T.G.2213 voice call Kangaroo. C.T.U. 22.2.1 Bloodhound. (Cinclant, 031947Z to C.T.G.22.13.)

N.S.H.Q.  
Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

No report since my 012340 re para. C. Radar contact made by E.G.28 at 2357Z/2 in 44.27 N. 63.05 W., held for 10 minutes and lost at 2.5 miles. Target speed 18 knots. (N.S.H.Q., 032322Z to Admty. Cominch.)

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F.  
Communications.

C. in C. B.P.F. 030019 March, Admty. See Lion Copy.

Minor  
Landing  
Craft

Your 191504 passed to V.A.(Q). All minor landing craft are being returned in their own ships except that a lower tier will not be carried. These will be landed at the pool which is being transferred from Milne Bay to Sydney. Request early information of ultimate destination.

(2) All landing craft personnel are being returned to U.K. now with Force X with the exception of those from LAMONT who will remain in their own ship leaving end April.

(3) While they remain in this area it may be necessary to man some of the L.C.A. remaining in ships allotted to the Britpacfleet from local resources to provide harbour services in the advanced anchorages while waiting for more suitable craft. (C. in C. B.P.F. 030224Z to Admty.)

Digest  
1137  
2.3.1945

Navy Liberators China Sea, attacked westbound convoy, 3 medium freighter-transport, 3 destroyer escorts 180 miles east by south Wench sinking 1 medium freighter-transport, leaving another burning along with 1 destroyer escort, sank 1, damaged another of 4 small coasters 130' S.E. Shanghai. 1 tanker, 1 small freighter, 3 small coasters attacked off Takao. Other Mitchells on tactical R/C sank 1 medium merchantman in Pescadores area. 63 other Liberators bombed Bandahan docks and warehouses. 2 Dutch Mitchells attacked Alor Island hitting jetty and barges. (S.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 031047Z to Admty.)

Bomb  
outfit

My 251703A Feb. para.(b). In view of C. in C. B.P.F.'s 012309Z all "B" bombs should be disembarked and replaced by 500 lb M.C. bombs subject to no delay to ship. (D.A.W.T. 031535A to IMPLACABLE.)



# SECRET

IN

56A

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.)

030019 March

From:

C.in C. B.P.F.

Date: 3.3.45

Recd: 0752

CCM (5 Servs. P & I Area) by  
Cable.

*B.P.F. Communications*

Addressed: Admiralty.

Info: C.in C. E.I. A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. B.A.D. Washington,  
C.in C. PAC. Adv. and Rear, Com. Seventh Fleet.

### IMPORTANT

Request following priority A message be made begins:

"Routing of signal traffic for ships of the British Pacific Fleet.

1. A Royal Navy CC.O Operator at Manus it is responsible for all B.P.F. ships at that port and for S.B. N O Manus, full basegram facilities available.

2. Books held are class 5 AKKOAT United States with BPF Flag Officers British set.

3. Traffic from British sources (A) although a British fixed service (service 28) exists between Belconnen and Manus all non operational traffic from Australia will be passed by air to all Basegram traffic from British sources for ships of B.P.F. is therefore to be routed for Sydney (Australia) C.C.O. for onward transmission.

(B) Non Basegram traffic from British sources is to be routed to Belconnen W/T which will then pass it either to Manus Base ship or on appropriate broadcast. Attention is drawn to A.G.M. 290A of 5th February.

4. Traffic from United States Sources (effective 0001Z 6th March):

(A) Basegram traffic can be routed either to Radio Manus to pass to R.N.C.C.O. Manus or to Sydney C.C.O.

(B) Non Basegram traffic will be routed as appropriate by United States Authorities.

Traffic from B.P.F. ships at sea is to be routed on United States ship shore frequencies using call sign from D.N.C. 3A. If the traffic concerns British Authorities only it is to be passed on a British Ship Shore frequency using combined delivery groups. If within 100 miles Manus use British Port ve.

6. It is important maximum use be made prefix basegram for traffic to ships and authorities of B.P.F. Ends."

030019Z

Advance copy D.S.D.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
O.D. (6)  
Ops. (2)  
O.I.C. (5)  
D.N.I. (5)  
D.S.D. (3) for action.  
M. (6)  
Ad. Blake.  
U.S.N. (3)  
N.I.D. 10 (3)  
H.W.R. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
W/R. Book Office (2)  
M. (Books)  
D.S.C.  
W/T Room (2)  
W.D.  
Head of S.W.R. (2) Bath.

War Diary

3.3.1945  
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z 3rd March.

Para. B.

(1) A/C Z/422 sighted U-boat course S.E. after sighting smoke and obtaining contact at 1430Z/2nd March in 54° 12' N. 05° 05' W.

(2) Russian local convoy escort attacked U-boat at approx. 1700Z/28th February in 69° 52' N. 32° 45' E.

Para. C.

(1) CELANDINE attacked contact and sighted possible periscope at 1130Z 2nd March in 50° 33' N. 05° 22' W.

(2) A/C F/407 reported U-boat at 0640Z/3rd March in 51° 40' N. 05° 35' W.

(3) A/C F/407 attacked swirl and wreckage at 0725Z/3rd March in 51° 41' N. 05° 32' W.

(4) A/C D/172 sighted possible Schnorkel at 0855Z/2nd March in 53° 12' N. 05° 18' W.

(5) A/C F/201 sighted possible Schnorkel at 0940Z/2nd March in 55° 01' N. 10° 10' W.

(6) A/C U/224 obtained submerged contact course 145° at 2229Z/2nd March in 59° 47' N. 05° 48' W.

(7) A/C A/1693 sighted smoke resembling Schnorkel smoke course 332° at 0920Z/2nd March in 58° 11' N. 03° 04' W.

YEMASSE in U.R.155 sighted possible Schnorkel course 100° at 0130Z/1st March in 64° 11' N. 22° 54' W.

(9) H.M.C.S. PRESTONIAN obtained disappearing radar contact at 2357Z/2nd March in 44° 27' N. 63° 05' W.

Para. D.

(1) A/C H/112 sighted possible periscope and parallel oil-slicks course 090° at 1515Z/2nd March in 51° 46' N. 06° 51' W.

(2) A/C sighted U-boat course 050° at 0912Z/2nd March in 30° 38' N. 10° 22' W.

(3) A/C sighted U-boat course 010° at 1515Z/2nd March in 31° 00' N. 10° 25' W.

Ref. A.M. 281043Z para. B (1) position amended to 49° 40' N. 05° 43' W.

Ref. A.M. 021101A para. A(1) ships torpedoed and sunk were KING EDGAR at 0733Z/2nd March and NOVASLI at 0759Z/2nd March.

Ref. A.M. 021101A para. B(2) position amended to 56° 37' N. 15° 07' W. now considered non-submarine.

(D.D.I.C. 031153A, Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

U-boat                      Estimates  
dispositions              (D.D.I.C., 031412A, 031420)

War Diary

4.3.1945  
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1. Two mines were detonated off the East Coast and four off the Schelde. One of the latter caused internal injuries to B.Y.M.S.2157.
- Northern Waters. 2. The Russians anticipate being able to right and beach DENBIGH CASTLE, corvette, by mid-April with a view to salvaging the gear in her.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- North Adriatic. 3. Last night Liberators and Wellingtons bombed the Naval Dockyard at Pola with good results.

East Indies

Burma.

4. Following a bombardment by sloops, Tamandu on the Burma coast was captured to-day. Landing craft subsequently ferried troops across the Dalet Ferry (east of Akyab) at rate of 2,500 a day.

5. Arrived at Trincomalee Force 68 from Operations (ROTHERHAM, ROEBUCK, RAPID, ~~SAIDER~~ ROCKET).

America and West Indies

Movement.

6. ARIADNE (minelayer) arrived SAN DIEGO from Pearl Harbour.

4.3.1945  
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

China  
Coast.

7(a) Last night a Mariner from Lingayan probably sank two small coastal vessels and one lugger East of Hong Kong.

(b) To-day Mitchells over French Indo-China Coast destroyed six motor boats Camranh Bay.

(c) Last night 3 Liberators sank a large tanker off Hainan.

Japan.

8. Super Fortresses dropped 320 tons of H.E. on Tokyo to-day.

War Diary.

4.3.1945  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Force U. (1) As remaining craft for Force U will not be ready until 6th March request NORTHWAY be held until that date, SEA SERPENT to report earliest time at which craft can arrive alongside.  
(2) Owing to limited time available following craft will be used to complete 662 Flotilla and form 6 spare craft. L.C.M. (3) 563, 573, 1194, 1277, 951, 959, 996, 954, 966, 972, 976, 971, 977. (Com. L.C.B. 041145 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Minesweeping 15th M.S.F. is required to carry out a high off E.Coast. percentage Oropesa search before Saturday 10th March of an area bounded by the following lines:-  
A. 53° 39' N. B. 53° 35' N. C. 02° 00½' E.  
D. 02° 04½' E.

(2) Similar search half a mile each side of centre line H.2 H.3 Outer Dowsing Lt. and Whistle Buoy D.1 to D.4 buoy is also required.

(3) Request you will arrange accordingly and also for ground mine sweeping half a mile each side of centre line H.1 buoy to H.3 buoy to Outer Dowsing Lt. and Whistle Buoy to D.1 buoy to be completed by same date.

(C. in C. Nore 041210A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

LL sweepers detonated blue magnetic at 1250 in position 074° 3A buoy 15 cables.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 041331A to Admty.)

Ground mine detonated at 1450 today Sunday in vicinity of H.6 buoy.

(F.O. Humber 041600 to C. in C. Nore.)

E-Boat Reference C. in C. Nore's signal 021214A. Agree activity. policy outlined in para. 1.

(2) As regards suggested reinforcement of 16 Group, I do not consider the diversion of further anti-U-Boat effort to be justified. I propose however to withdraw the detachment of 524 Squadron now at Dallaghy in 18 Group and return it to Langham. I am issuing orders to this effect forthwith.

(H.Q.C.C. 041330A to Admty.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 334 part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 031600A  
March.

/British...

4. 3. 1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk	Bulk Pol.	G. F. Ammo
Antwerp	133	310	7,763	-	16,035	192
Ostend	678	100	3,422	-	-	-
Boulogne	48	155	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,561	-	-
Calais	3,249	-	79	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,753	-	-	1,056
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	4,108	565	15,017	1,561	16,035	1,248
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
U.S. North						
Antwerp	-	412	18,420	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	27	7,714	1,490	4,908	5,224
Le Havre	2,817	480	6,383	-	3,356	2,654
Rouen	594	317	8,273	2,607	2,398	1,252
Granville	-	-	-	270	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,840	-	-	-
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3,411	1,236	43,630	4,367	10,662	9,130
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
U.S. South						
Marseilles	5,040	1,721	6,040	855	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,329	600	6,279	1,729
Toulon	-	-	472	-	-	-
Nice	-	-	296	-	-	-
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	5,040	1,721	9,137	1,455	6,279	1,729
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(S.H.A.E.F. 041515A to Admty. and others.)

Minesweeping off Schelde. Today swept LL/SA E.G.M.S. 4 laps totalling 4 actuation 5 cables either side centre line N.F. 8 to position 049° H.K. 2 one mile. Explosive sweep used all laps.

(2) 1 red magnetic swept 058° N.F. 8 3.5 miles.

(3) No Oropesa sweeps today and Dan buoys remain as in my 031859.

(4) E.T.A. 5 M/S 2215 Small Downs.

(5) My 1010, 1513, 1713 of today refers.

(S.O. M/S F. 18 041743A to C. in C. Nore.)

Sweeping report for Sunday 4th March. 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. H.G. on outward passage. Channel from Bat to Hansweert swept LL/SA/HG line ahead thence to N.F. 18 P formation. Both sweeps negative result. Three B.Y.M.S. on Flushing Westkapelle clearance swept LL/SA/HG detonated 3 mines.

4. 3. 1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Minesweeping  
off Schelde.  
(Contd.)

- (1) Blue magnetic off Fort Nolle.
- (2) Red magnetic off Zontelande.
- (3) Acoustic off Zuiderhoofd. The acoustic damaged B.Y.M.S. 2157. Ship returned under her own power but considerable internal damage has been suffered.  
(Com. M/S Terneuzen 041803A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

Operations.

Channel.

Endangering  
of cable  
ships.

During the present U-Boat activity in the Plymouth Command the operation of cable ships on repair work in coastal waters, which involves their remaining stopped for long periods in one position, must be attended with risk.

(2) The same consideration is likely to hold good, though in a lesser degree, to operations in the approaches to this command.

(3) Under present conditions the protection of each cable ship while at work calls for a minimum of three escorts, four being required in some circumstances. Such escorts cannot all be made available from this command for the cable ships named below.

(4) In view of the above and of the value of these ships it is for consideration whether the following cable repair operations should be deferred.

Ship	Reference
MARIE LOUISE)	A.M. 031716A Feb. Item (A) and A.M.
MACKAY )	211653A Feb. items (C)
NORSEMAN	A.M. 081734A Feb. items (B) and (C)

(5) MARIE LOUISE, MACKAY who was then working on item (C) of A.M. 211653A Feb. was recalled to Plymouth on 24th Feb. on account of U-Boat activity near Lands End. NORSEMAN is expected to be ready to sail in a few days.

(C. in C. Plymouth 041650A to Admty.)

Patrols.

Leave convoy at 07° 00' W.

(2) S.O. E.G. 2 then detach 2 ships to enter Plymouth 0800A/6th for lay over. 2 ships to patrol Lizard to Start Point and 2 ships to

patrol Start Point to Portland Bill.

(3) S.O.E.G. 2 report dispositions.

(C. in C. Plymouth 041918A to S.O.E.G. 2.)

Your 041918. LOCH FADA and LABUAN to Plymouth. WILD GOOSE and DOMINICA patrol west and TOBAGO (S.O.), LOCH RUTHVEN east of Start Point.

(S.O.E.G. 2 042038A to C. in C. Plymouth.)



4.3.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols. Proceed forthwith sweeping through 57° 30' N.  
10° 00' W. to search in area bounded by A. 56°  
50' 11' 37' B. 57° 45' 10' 41' C. 57° 11' 08°  
59' D. 56° 17' 09' 52'.  
(2) Report E.T.A. 57° 30' 10° 00'.  
(3) Codeword "Dribble" W/T call sign 170.  
(4) A.M. 032348 not to all refers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 040038 to S.O.E.G. 1.)  
Sailed 24th E.G.  
(Com. D. W.A. 041014A to S.O. Force 36, C. in C. W.A.)

Torpedoing Request following information concerning incident  
of KING reported in S.O. 38 Force's 021030A March may  
EDGAR and be signalled: A. Speed of ships when hit, B.  
NOVASLI. were any escorts towing noisemakers, C. if so,  
(S.C. 167) their positions relative to the ships hit.  
2/3/45 (D.T.S.D. 040358A to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
See Com. D. W.A's 091755.

Request you will report in accordance with Admty. 040358 being  
passed to you.

(C. in C. W.A. 041125A to S.O.E.Gs. C.2, 5.)

Your 041331 and Admty.'s 040358.

A. Convoy speed 8 knots.

B. Not by 5th E.G. in position E.F.P.Q and G. Close escort  
streamed cats between incidents. "Gnats" suspected since both  
ships hit right aft. In the case of NOVASLI column of water  
comparable to shallow depth charge hid the poop when viewed  
by personal observation from astern.

(S.O.E.G. 5 042044A to C. in C. W.A.)

A.F.D. 66. SQUIRREL, SANDRAY tug FLAUNT.  
Standing by floating dock vicinity 45° 07' N. 11°  
50' W. course and speed indefinite.  
(C. in C. W.A. 041623A to Admty.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operations Ramose Genus sailed HESSA at 0200A/4th March.  
"S.C." (2) Air escort not specially required on return  
journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 040205A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Ramosé Idol sailed VIGRA at 2300A/4th March.  
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 042302A to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols. VIKING arrived.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 041530 to F.O. S/M, C. in C.  
Rosyth.)

/Operations...

War Diary.4. 3. 1945  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Norway - Contd.

Operations Intend carrying out "V.P. 84" with 3 M.T.B.  
 "V.P." (1) 1900A/4th March. (2) Not later than 2100A/5th  
 March. (3) Not later than 0600A/8th March.  
 (4) 238° toward Muckle Flugga not more than 20  
 knots. (5) Not later than p.m. 9th March.  
 (6) No. (7) No. (8) 058° Muckle Flugga. (9) No.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 041545A to C. in C. H.F.)  
 My 041545. (1) 058° from Muckle Flugga not more than 20  
 knots. (2) 62° 52' N. 06° 22' E. (3) Blank.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 041547A to C. in C. H.F.)  
 (1) 0500A/5th March. (2) Not later than 2100A/5th March.  
 (3) Not later 0600A/6th March. (Intend carrying "V.P. 81" with 2  
 M.T.Bs.) (4) 281° to 61° 00' N. 00° 54' E. thence 270° to  
 61° 00' N. 00° 23' W. thence Lerwick, not more than 20 knots.  
 (5) Not later than p.m. 6th March. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 090°  
 Muckle Flugga. (9) No.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 041555A to C. in C. H.F.)  
 My 041555A. (1) From Lerwick through 61° 00' N. 00° 23' W.  
 thence 61° 00' N. 00° 54' E. thence to coast. Not more than 20  
 knots. (2) 60° 41' N. 04° 36' E. (3) Blank.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 041557A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.Northern Waters.

DENBIGH CASTLE, Northern Fleet will commence salvage operations on  
 DENBIGH CASTLE March 11th. They estimate ship  
 can be righted and beached on an even keel in  
 30 days. Subsequently it should be possible to  
 salvage large amount of gear.  
 (S.B.N.O. N. Russia 040846A to Admty.)

Anti Following received from R.A.F. Sumburgh Head  
 Schnorkel addressed C. in C. H.F. repeated B.D.O. Lyness  
 obstructions. begins: "A.1. 125 3rd March 1945. Wire lay R/C  
 north of Shetland. Sea calm lay not seen in area  
 61° 00' N. 00° 50' W. 61° 37' N. 00° 50' W.  
 61° 37' N. 01° 00' W. 61° 00' N. 01° 00' W.  
 visibility 3 miles. Crew consider they would have seen wire lay  
 if it had been in position. T.O.O. 031431 ends."  
 (2) Above appears confirmed R/C made on 27th Feb. in less  
 favourable weather conditions and refers to my 230945 Feb. part  
 1 para. 2 and 1.  
 (B.D.O. Lyness 041130 to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
 Wire lay R/C 500 ft. sea 3 throughout 1100/4 March S/B  
 Sumburgh 1157. 61.10 N. 00.40 W. on patrol. C.L.A. covering  
 area 61.10 N. 00.40 W. 61.50 N. 00.40 W. 61.40 N. 01.20 W.  
 61.10 N. 01.20 W. thence 61.20 N. 00.40 W. to 61.30 N. 01.20 W.  
 S/C N Unst. vis. 10-15 miles. Lot of whitecaps which crew  
 consider may have prevented them from seeing lay 14.08 N. Unst.  
 1505/4 March. Landed Sumburgh.  
 (Sumburgh 041535A to H.Q. 18 Group, C. in C. H.F.)

/Possible...

War Diary.

4.3.1945  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Possible U-Boat. (1) Search in area south of 58° 45' N. between 04° 00' W. and 05° 00' W. search inshore as close as safe navigation permits.  
(2) Aircraft co-operating L.O.W. 16. P.P.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 042019A to ZEALOUS, STORD.)  
Scapa departures ZEALOUS and STORD to investigate U-Boat contact in 58° 46' N. 04° 28' W.  
(C. in C. H.F. 042046A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Movements.

MALAYA, battleship. Arrived MALAYA.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 040916A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DIADEM cruiser. Intend to sail DIADEM for Rosyth at 1200 tomorrow Monday 5th March. S.O.A. 24 knots. E.T.A. May Island 1545/5th E.T.A. Oxcars Gate 1715/5. Mail to Scapa.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 041230A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

4.3.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S/M SEA ROVER Intend to sail S/M SEA ROVER with M.K.S. 87 destination Portsmouth.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 041137A to Admty.)

E.G. 3. My 031256\*(?) WILLOWHERB replaces SPIREA<sup>A</sup> in group 3.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 041209A to WELLINGTON, SPIREA<sup>A</sup>, BERGAMOT, WILLOWHERB.)

\* Ships addressed form group 3 forthwith WELLINGTON S.O. restricted.

Ships being in all respects ready for war. WELLINGTON is to take WILLOWHERB and BERGAMOT under his orders and sail at 0800A March 5th.

(2) Group 3 D to proceed to take up A/S patrol between Cape Spartel and Cape Trafalgar.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 041217A to Group 3.)

Gibraltar It would appear that the U-Boat effort in the Med. Escort Approaches is likely to continue and operations Forces. will most probably be carried out in the vicinity of the Straits.

Senior Officer and Training Officer. (2) The principle of group Commanders proceeding to sea in a ship of their group but not in Command of that ship has apparently been accepted in Western Approaches.

(3) In order to co-ordinate the training and operations of ships of the Gibraltar escort force it is considered that great benefit would accrue if all ships were regarded as one, groups to be trained by a Commander who would combine the functions of (a) Senior Officer of Groups and (b) Training Commander.

(4) This officer would live ashore, he would (a) study all operational requirements and train all escorts to deal with those requirements, (b) meet all C.Os. who come in and brief them on latest N messages, C.A/S.B. etc., (c) go to sea with ship during training periods.

(5) When a U-Boat is reported he would proceed to sea at once in a ship of the group in full possession of all the latest information and would take charge of the hunting operations.

(6) It is considered that the present C.O. of LOWESTOFT, Commander Phillips, would be very suitable for these duties. This would necessitate the appointment of another officer to command LOWESTOFT.

(7) Capt. (D) Gib. is fully occupied in administering the Gib. Escort Force and the large number of ships passing through the port and cannot therefore carry out the duties proposed for this officer.

(8) If you approve request the necessary station appointments be issued.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 041513A to C. in C. Med.)

/KELANTAN...

4.3.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

KELANTAN  
(Maintenance  
Minesweeper)

Departure 1215/4th KELANTAN for Port Said.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 041521A to N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

PITCAIRN  
(frigate.)

Arrival PITCAIRN.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 041650A to Admty.)

BLACKMORE  
(destroyer).

If BLACKMORE requires to refuel and this cannot  
be carried out at sea she should proceed to Lisbon.  
At least 24 hours notice should be given to  
B.N.A. Lisbon.

(3) For information, Portuguese Gunboat ZAIRE and  
submarines will be exercising off Zezimbra from 5th to 10th  
March.  
(D.O.D.(H) 041706A to ARBITER.)

Fishing in  
Straits.

Your 111216 Feb. (passed to Madrid and Lisbon)  
present U-Boat threat in approaches to Straits  
not considered sufficiently serious to warrant  
declaration of a prohibition against fishing,  
even if limited to night fishing.

(2) Moreover effects of such a prohibition on Spanish and  
Portuguese fishing industries and economy would be considerable.

(3) Should U-Boat campaign be intensified matter will at once  
be reconsidered.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 041857A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

LOSSIE  
frigate.

LOSSIE arrived 1603Z/3rd March.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 040702Z to Admty.)

E.Groups.

Your 031240A para. 4. Request completion of E.G.  
56 be expedited if possible and group sailed for  
Freetown with moderate despatch. My 041103 para.  
2 refers.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 041214Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

SS. POINT  
PLEASANT PARK  
torpedoed.

Capetown departure 1627B/4th March LE TIGRE.  
westward southward vicinity of Mercury Island 025°  
40' S. 014° 40' E. to search for missing lifeboats  
from SS. POINT PLEASANT PARK. S.O.A. 10 knots.  
(C. in C. S.At. 041632B to Admty.)

Convoy  
C.R.D. 9.

This is a repetition of 041103 from F.O.C.W.Af.  
begins: Ref. C.M.S.F. 031515A. (1) Request  
information whether Airfrance three and four can  
meet this requirement. (2) LOBELIA urgently  
required to join TEES at Freetown by 8th March

for operation against northbound U-Boat. (3) Consider any threat  
to C.R.D. 9 between 26° 10' N. and Dakar remote. Ends.  
(C.C.O. Freetown 042357.) See 051055Z.

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4.3.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Light Fleet Carriers. Following movements are intended for A.C.11. Subject to reply to my 021406.  
(A) All ships proceed in company to Malta where COLOSSUS detaches to Alexandria for dockyard work.  
(B) VENGEANCE disembarks both squadrons to Halfar and return to Gibraltar for dockyard work.  
(C) VENERABLE disembarks aircraft of both squadrons to Halfar and maximum number of maintenance personnel which can be accommodated. Ships to be taken in hand at Malta.  
(D) VENGEANCE and VENERABLE to signal to V.A.M. numbers of maintenance personnel for landing. V.A.M. is requested to accept all personnel ex VENGEANCE and as many as possible ex VENERABLE.  
(E) Both squadrons from COLOSSUS to disembark to Dekheil (reserve aircraft to Fayid). It is now unlikely that Gianaclis will be required.  
(2) As reserve aircraft can not be hoisted out at Alexandria or Malta A.C.11 is required to arrange for them to be flown ashore prior to docking.  
(C. in C. Med., 041104 to Admty.)

Operation "Goldflake". (P.S.T.O. Med., 041200 to D. of S.T.)  
See Lion Copy.

Yugoslav Navy (Unification of). (C. in C. Med., 041244 to V.A. Malta.)  
See 091212A.  
See Lion Copy.

U/B situation. Hunt destroyers. Approved to retain trawlers. Your 031016.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 041522A to C. in C. Med.)

Ships for Black Sea. Passing Straits of Gibraltar 4th March the following vessels with destination Odessa. (Approx.) dates of arrivals:  
Piraeus 10th March: Istanbul 13th March:  
Odessa 15th March: JAMES DE WOLF, MEYER LISSNER, THOMAS PINKNEY, EMPIRE CAVALIER (Tanker).  
Request appropriate Turkish and Soviet authority be informed.  
(C. in C. Med., 041538A to C.S.A. Istanbul.)

QUANTOCK (destroyer) Sail at 0700/5th, S. of A. 18 knots to Gibraltar.  
(2) E.T.A. Gibraltar 1500/7th.  
(5) QUANTOCK is for onward routeing to U.K. in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 031002.  
(V.A. Malta, 042225A to QUANTOCK.)

# TOP SECRET

IN

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

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

From: P.S.T.O. Med.

041 200/March.

Date 4.3.45.

*operation Goldflake*

Naval Cypher XD.

Addressed: Director of Sea Transport.

IMPORTANT.

Reference 060939 Feb. Following are present known commitments GOLDFLAKE. For inter-Med. movements of personnel during March.

- (A) North Africa to South France 11500 French replacements.
- (B) South France to North Africa 10,000 French Casuals.
- (C) North Africa to Italy 4500 British Service Units.
- (D) Middle East to Italy 4,000 replacements etc.
- (E) Italy to Mideast 5,000 Casuals leave etc.
- (F) Italy to Greece 2,000
- (G) Greece to Italy 4,000 Italian P.O.W.
- (H) Middle East to Greece 7700 ELAS P.O.W
- (J) Greek Deployment 2,000 Greek National Guard.
- (K) Yugoslavia to Italy 6,000 Garibaldi Division
- (L) Heel to Ancona 14,000 reinforcements.
- (M) Italy Malta 300 R.A.F.
- (N) Malta Italy 300 R.A.F.

2. Sardinia to Italy 10,000 recalled Italians being moved by Italian Cruisers.

3. No account taken of P.S.T.O. M.E. local moves.

4. Other known commitments apart from Russians and excluding German P.O.W. are.

(A) GOLDFLAKE ex Greece and Mideast. Concerning which NAF 871 of 2nd March refers.

(B) 11500 Yugoslav and 7000 Greek refugees from Middle East to Yugoslavia and Greece respectively to be completed by first June and possibly commence late March.

(C) Greek deployment of National Guard 5200 required early April.

5. Agreed.

041 200

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (4)
- P.C.
- Plot (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (6)
- Hd of M (2)
- W.D.
- Ad. Blake (4)
- A.D.O.D. (CO)
- D of P (2) (3)
- D.N.I. (4)

Recd; in War Registry at 1915/6th  
Circulated by D of S.T. to  
D of S.T. Depts. and Admiralty

# SECRET

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*Yugo Slav Navy  
Unification of*

041214/March

From C. in C. Med.

Date 5.3.45

Recd. 0011

NAVAL CYHER (X) BY W/T

To V.A. Malta F.O.T.A.L.I. F.O.L.E.M.  
Info Admiralty, S.N.O.N.A. N.L.O. B.A.F. S.N.O.E.Sy.

IMPORTANT

Discussions between SLOMED and Marshal Tito and also between representatives of R.N., J.A.N.L. and R.Y.N. have recently taken place at Belgrade and Caserta.

2. In order to assist the unification of the two Yugoslav Naval elements it has been decided that both should be given the opportunity of operating in the Adriatic against the common enemy in the hope that there will result therefrom a more favourable atmosphere for their combination. In pursuit of this policy the following temporary arrangements have been decided upon pending the formation of the United Yugoslav Navy.

- (A) Ships of R.Y.N. will proceed to Adriatic as soon as possible to take part in operations against the common enemy to fullest extent practicable and under the operational control of C. in C. Med. Ships will temporarily be based primarily on Italian ports (preferably Ancona) and if unavoidable in Yugoslavia not South of Split. They will be allocated to F.O.T.A.L.I. and will fly the R.Y.N. ensign with crest unless orders to the contrary are issued to C. in C. R.Y.A. from Belgrade.
- (B) Administrative control of R.Y.N. will be in the hand of the Yugoslav authorities. Captain Kern R.Y.N. is at present the Commander in Chief. He will probably be accommodated in R.Y.N. ship VILA.
- (C) The operational and administrative control of three small craft now under command of J.A.N.L. will remain with the Yugoslavs but close co-operation with the British will be maintained.
- (D) On recognition of the Yugoslav Government ships now classified as warships and flying British or Italian flags will be transferred to Yugoslavs (see supplement No. Five B Med. Fleet) State. If manning requirements allow KHVAR and MARJAM will be taken over by R.Y.N., the remainder by JANL except for CETNIK and AKIUS which are not yet required by Yugoslavs.

(E)/.....

*see p. 161*



- (E) Pending recognition preliminary action to put (D) above into effect may be commenced forthwith but ships are not to fly the Yugoslav flag or leave their present harbours until recognition has been afforded.
- (F) Captain Kern will leave Caserta in near future to visit Taranto and Malta. He will explain situation to officers and men of R.Y.N. and make arrangements for personnel not wishing to serve under conditions explained above to proceed to Egypt. NADA, BELLI ORAO and P.T. boats are proceeding to Malta in preparation for Captain Kern's visit. Captain Kern is to be given necessary assistance by British Naval Authorities.
- (G) It is expected that a Senior R.Y.N. Officer will shortly visit Egypt to interview R.Y.N. personnel and make arrangements for those wishing to serve under new conditions. He is to be afforded assistance as necessary by British Naval Authorities.
- (H) DURMITOR and KAJMAKALAN will proceed to Malta and thence to Adriatic on completion of refit and re-arming.
- (I) General Manola will visit F.O.T.A.L.I. in the near future to discuss matters of detail arising from discussions and make necessary arrangements.
- (J) A Captain Royal Navy will shortly take up his appointment at Belgrade as representative of C. in C. Med. with Chief of Yugoslav Naval Staff. He will be the channel through which all dealings between British Naval Authorities and Yugoslav Naval Authorities in Belgrade will be conducted.

3. Separate instructions are being issued regarding administrative matters consequent on above intentions.

041244

1st Lord	O.D. (6)
1st S.L. (3)	Ops. (2)
D.F.S.L.	D.N.I. (5)
2nd S.L.	O.I.C. (3)
3rd S.L.	M. (3)
V. Contr.	D. of P. (3)
4th S.L.	D. of P. (3) (3)
V.C.N.S.	Ad. Blake
A.C.N.S. (F)	P.N.L.O.
A.C.N.S. (W)	W.D.
Sec.	A.C.N.P. (4)
Nav. Sec.	B.N.L.O. (R.Y.N.)
P.A.S. (S)	
P.A.S. (L)	
U.W.R.	

War Diary.

4.3.1945  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 040331Z to S. & A. E.I.S., etc.)

Force 68.

Operation "Training" completed. Force 68 arrives  
Trincomalee 4th March.

(2) One junk sunk 2 left waterlogged one  
damaged in Tilt River area night 1/2 March.

- (3) Port Blair bombarded 3rd March. Shore defences ineffective.
  - (4) No damage or casualties to force 68.
  - (5) Preliminary report of operation "Stacey" very satisfactory.
- (C. in C. E.I.S. 040951Z to Admty.)

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4.3.1945  
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

C.T.G.22.13 A/S Sweep C.T.G.22.13 departs Argentina Sea Buoy 041300Z  
Speed 15 knots via (A) 46.49 N. 54.39 W.  
(B) 46.24 N. 54.10 W. (C) 46.24 N. 52.20 W.  
thence to conduct A/S sweep through  
(D) 51.00 N. 38.30 W. to (E) 53.30 N. 27.30 W.  
E.T.A. 1300Z/7th. Holds Q.J.A. 294, Q.J.C.201, Q.J.H.438. By  
hand to C.T.F.24 and N.O.B. Argentina for Info.  
(C.T.G.22.13, 040121 to C.T.U. 22.2.1.)

ALVARO At 041000Z sighted Portuguese vessel ALVARO  
MARTINS HOMEN MARTINS HOMEN drifting in 41.33 N. 46.33 W. Did  
not answer challenge. My situation 046° 19.3.  
(U.S.S. Wakefield, 041129Z C. in C.W.A.)  
WAKEFIELD

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 041335Z) See 041601Z.

Radar No report third. Para. C. 022357Z H.M.C.S.  
Contact PRESTONIAN had Radar contact 44.27 N. 63.05 W.  
(Cominch, 042038 to Admty.)

U-boat Direct to 22.14 proceed on five March to get  
report submarine reported Cominch 04/1601Z at approx.  
49.30 N. 39.30 W. C.T.G.22.14 watch Cominch  
Daily Submarine Estimates.  
(Cinclant, 042158 to Comdeslant.)

Australia and New Zealand

A.T.R.Tug WEAZEL departed Sydney 0328Z 4th March for  
Townsville for onward passage. S.O.A. 9 knots.  
E.T.A. 1200K/9.  
(N.O.I.C. 040405Z to Admty.)

Hospital Ship Arrival 1st March OXFORDSHIRE 2nd LOTHIAN,  
L.S.H.(L) and 4th BROWN RANGER.  
Tanker (S.B.N.O. Manus, 040649Z to Admty.)

Digest Covering 3rd March except where otherwise stated.  
serial (1) Navy search Liberators from Clark Field,  
No. 1138 sank 1 Sea Truck, 1 small coaster, 1 barge 120  
miles south-east Hangchow.  
(3) Last organised enemy resistance in Manila  
overcome when Finance Building secured after fierce  
struggle for fifth floor. Other force occupied Ternate (entrance  
Manila Bay), Later afternoon 2nd March. Manila Bay now open,

/for...

War Diary

4.3.1945  
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
serial  
No. 1138  
(Contd.)

for shipping. Total enemy casualties Luzon to date number 64,341 killed, 625 wounded.  
(4) Morning American Forces landed unopposed on Burias Island and Tikao Island (Siberian Sea). 2 Destroyer escorts effectively supported landing Burias Island. Palawan and Lubang Islands consolidating positions with only slight enemy

contacts reported to date.

(5) Unspecified aircraft destroyed 5, damaged 3 barges Pacignjan River (south east Laguna de Bay) 1 of these barges carried ammunition.

(6) Single Liberator on Makassar Strait shipping search attacked 2 unidentified vessels sinking 1 with direct hit missing other. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 041124Z to Admty.)

ILLUSTRIOUS  
(defects)

Defect in ILLUSTRIOUS my 230215 refers on relief by IMPLACABLE it is proposed that ship should return to U.K. to make good defect, to refit and complete outstanding A's. and A's. and to adjust complement.

(2) In making this proposal the following factors have been taken into consideration:

(a) That last A's and A's were undertaken in March/April 1943 and there are now many operationally important ones outstanding.

(b) That ship has not had a full refit since April 1943.

(c) That the centre stern buss of VICTORIOUS and probably INDOMITABLE will require refitting shortly in addition to normal dockings. These will occupy Sydney Graving Dock fully for some months (A.L.D. 027291/4 of 1/1/45.)

(d) That ship will be due to return to U.K. at the end of the year under A.M. 071039Z Feb. para. 1.

(e) That No. 15 Fighter Wing requires relief (C. in C. B.P.Fs. 190827Z)

(3) If this proposal is approved following action would be taken on ship returning to U.K.

(a) Air. Pilots of 15 Fighter Wing to be sent to U.K. except for those who recently began operational tour. Maintenance personnel to be dealt with under (B) below. Aircraft to be disembarked and retained. Avenger Squadron to be disembarked and used as spare squadron.

(b) Longest abroad roster adjustments would be made by Combrax Sydney.

(c) Age and service groups 1 - 12. As many of these ratings as possible now on this station would be relieved and sent Tawi,

(C. in Cs. 160645Z February.)

(C. in C. B.P.F. 040525Z to Admty.)

War Diary

4.3.1945  
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z 4th March.

- (a) (1) H.M.A/S Whaler torpedoed at 1115Z 3rd March in approximately 64° 07' N. 22° 44' W.  
 (2) Large Russian A/S craft torpedoed about 2nd March off Murmansk coast.  
 (3) Fishing trawler KINGSTON ONYX sighted snort and periscope and attempted to ram at 1200Z 3rd March in approx. 59° 00' N. 07° 57' W.
- (4) POINT PLEASANT PARK torpedoed on 23rd Feb. in 29° 04' S. 09° 58' E.
- (b) (1) H.M.S/M TRUANT sighted periscope at 1355X 3rd March in approximately 50° 31' N. 01° 56' W.
- (c) (1) A/C M/822 obtained contact at 0711Z 3rd March in 50° 12' N. 01° 52' W.  
 (2) M.T.B.747 attacked firm contact at 1845Z 3rd March 50° 29' N. 03° 01' W.  
 (3) A/C reported oil patch and wake or swirl at 1115Z 3rd March in 55° 10' N. 05° 55' W.
- (d) (1) H.M.S. ROSEMARY reported small radar plot course 305° 2055Z 3rd March in approx. 55° 19' N. 05° 57' W.  
 (2) H.M.S. TEES obtained contact at 2145Z 3rd March in 26° 07' N. 15° 12' W.
- Ref. A.M. 031153A Para. (d) (3) position amended to 31° 10' N., 11° 02' W.  
 (D.D.I.C. 041200A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U-boats                      Estimates.  
 Dispositions              (D.D.I.C. 041424A, 041425A to A.I.G.)

5. 3. 1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. One mine was swept off the Schelde.
- West Coast France. 2. Two ground mines have been detonated off St. Jean de Luz, the approach channel to which has therefore not yet been opened.
- Western Approaches. 3. SEALION, submarine, has been sunk off Arran Island to provide a realistic bottomed target for ships exercising. C. in C. W.A. desires that dummy attacks only be carried out against her.

Foreign Stations.

Australia & New Zealand.

- China coast. 4. (a) U.S. Liberators bombed and left burning a merchant vessel. 30 miles N. of Quinhon (French Indo China.)  
(b) Last night U.S. Naval aircraft sank a merchant vessel off the Indo China coast.  
(c) Today and yesterday 11 Superfortresses laid 132 mines off Shanghai and 1 Superfortress laid 12 mines at Yochow (Yangtse.)
- Formosa. 5. (a) Liberators bombed and left burning a merchant vessel in the Nansei Shoto Group (north of Formosa.)  
(b) Mitchells sank 3 merchant vessels and left 3 others sinking in Formosa Straits.
- Movements. 6. Arrived at Manus from Sydney TYNE, RESOURCE, CRANE, PHEASANT, WOODCOCK, AVON, FINDHORN, PARRETT, PIRIE, LAUNCESTON, ARTIFEX, BALLARAT, BENDIGO and GUARDIAN.

5.3.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Force U. Your 041135A March (not to Admty.) N.P.2402 is number allocated by Admiralty to Molcab No.3 which forms part of Force U. Decision to commission as a ship was made at meeting at Admiralty.

(2) Other Naval Party numbers allocated to Force U are as follows: (A) 1756 - Headquarters Staff. (B) 4280 - M.B.M.U. Number 6. (C) 4085 - Mobile crane party. (N.C. Force U, 051202A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Intend sailing NORTHWAY escorted by GENTIAN to Ostend passing Spithead Gate 1630A/6th.

(2) Standard route to South Falls Buoy Q.Z.S. 581, 657, 584 and in accordance with Q.Z.Y. 555. Speed 13½ knots zig-zagging in Portsmouth Command expected time of arrival 0730A/7th.

(4) NORTHWAY has 13 L.C.M.(3) for Force U embarked. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 052315A to N.O.I.C. Ostend, NORTHWAY, GENTIAN.)

Discharge Situation Report.	Cositintrep No. 335 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hours period ending 1600A/4th March.					
	<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	46	251	6,727	-	4,500	182
Ostend	1,609	-	3,001	-	4,551	594
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	721	-	-
Calais	4,087	157	58	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,296	-	-	556
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,742</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>13,082</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>9,051</b>	<b>1,332</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>						
Antwerp	15	310	14,619	-	-	-
Cherbourg	36	31	5,581	1,463	2,692	4,106
Le Havre	20,101	740	6,693	-	2,116	2,761
Rouen	1,110	167	8,439	1,728	2,367	1,297
Granville	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,858	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,262</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>39,190</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>7,175</b>	<b>8,164</b>
<u>U.S. South -</u>						
Marseilles	3,462	704	5,034	492	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,005	102	6,279	1,005
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,462</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>6,039</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>6,279</b>	<b>1,005</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 051440A to Admty., and others.)

Minelaying off East Coast. Operations "Centimo".  
 Operation "Centimo".  
 (1) Intention. To lay a line of mines across Q.Z.L.67 to impede passage of U-Boats.  
 (2) Date. Saturday 10th March. Ships to sail so as to pass Humber Light Vessel at 0900.  
 (3) Ships taking part - OPPORTUNE, ORWELL.

5.3.1945.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Minelaying off East Coast. Operation "Centimo". (Contd.)

(4) Initial position - 130° two miles from D.4 Buoy (53° 37' N., 1° 59' E.) Line to be 2.6 miles 000° from initial position.

(5) Execution. Direction of laying to be at discretion of Senior Officer. It is important that position of lay be accurately fixed relative to D.4 Buoy.

(6) Depth setting. 30 feet below chart datum.

(7) Flooders. 30 day setting.

(8) Route. By Q.Z.S.314 to H.3 Buoy thence via Outer Dowsing Light and Whistle Buoy to D.1 Buoy thence by Q.Z.L.67.

(9) Movements on completion. Return by same route to junction of Q.Z.S.314 and Q.Z.Y.553 thence by Q.Z.Y.553 and normal swept channels to Scapa.

(10) Speed on passage. 20 knots or as circumstances require.

(11) Requisite precautionary minesweeping will be carried out before 10th March.

(12) Cancellation: (A) Before sailing. C. in C. Nore cancel if necessary. (B) After sailing. If weather or other circumstances make it necessary Senior Officer has authority to cancel. In this event ships are to return to Humber unless otherwise ordered by signal.

(C. in C. Nore, 051540A to F.O.I.C. Humber, OPPORTUNE, ORWELL.)

Operation "Placket". Your 021530A. H.Neth. M.S. JAN VAN BRAKEL will be allocated.

(2) Ship will be ready to sail from London, Shadwell Basin, to Harwich about 10th March. (B.D.Z., 051623A to F.O. Holland.)

Rocket-bomb in Deptford Yard. Damage by enemy action on Monday 5th March resulted in superficial damage to St. Georges Wharf and slight superficial damage to Royal Victoria Yard. (S.C.E. Thames, 051645A to C.E. in C. Bath.)

Minesweeping off Schelde. Small Downs E.T.A. 5 M/S 2 danlayers 2300. Today completed 6 direct (mines)/SA E.G.M.S. giving total of 10 Apexion as in your 041716 para. 1. Explosive sweeps used all lap. Negative result.

(3) Then completed G formation searched 2 laps as in para. 2 of above signal. After second lap Q.Z.H.172 lying across Channel was run by 2 sweepers along fore and aft line. Negative result.

(4) Dan remaining in area. 4 along line 11 cables north-west of centre line N.F.8 to H.K.1 also line of 10 1 cable north-west of centre line H.K. 2 to H.K.4. (S.O. M.S.F.18, 051812A to C. in C. Nore.)

Oropesa sweep up in G formation to depth of 6 fathoms carried out with negative result as follows: To northward of N.F.5 to N.F.7 from 5 cables either side of centre line: To southward between N.F.7 and longitude 02° 33' E. from 5 cables to 15 cables from centre line.

/LL/SA ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Minesweeping off Schelde. (Contd.) LL/SA E.G.M.S. carried out with 1 794 N. from 5 cables to 15 cables north centre line N.F.5 to N.F.7 and from 5 cables to 15 cables south centre line between N.F.7 and longitude 02° 33' E., explosive sweep used throughout. One red mine as in my 051721 not to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate.

All dans weighed.  
E.T.A. Small Downs 6 M/S 2045A: 1 M/S and 2 danlayers 2245A/5th.  
(S.O. M.S.F.42, 051815A to C. in C. Nore.)

Raiding Party. Cositintrep No. 335 part II, Naval. A raiding party from two L.C.A. landed south of Zype at 2100/4. Party remained ashore for four hours but were unable to find enemy or civilians.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 052359A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Proceed at 0900A/6th and carry out M.1 part 1 lay 4.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051200A to M.L.186, NIGHTINGALE.)  
Weigh at 0100A/6th March and carry out serial C.2 part 1.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051202A to PLOVER, CARAQUET.)

Patrols and Escorts. Weigh at 1600 and proceed to patrol 10 miles south of Route E.W. from 01° 00' W. to 01° 40' W.  
(2) Leave patrol as necessary to R/V with Convoy U.C.59A escorted by 6 U.S. destroyers (S.O. C.T.G.61.1 in WINSLOW) in 00° 20' W., at approx. 2330/5th. Approach course Route W.  
(3) Support convoy to westward, detaching in 02° 20' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051238A to NEW WATERFORD, LOCH ACHANALT, LOCH MORLICH.)  
My 051238A on detaching NEW WATERFORD proceed at best speed to harbour for 48 hours lay-over.  
(2) LOCH MORLICH and LOCH ACHANALT proceed to patrol area 10 miles south of Route E.W. from 01° 40' W. to 02° 12' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051240A to NEW WATERFORD, LOCH ACHANALT, LOCH MORLICH.)

Probable U-Boat. My 051814A. 3 patterns dropped in position 2.45 miles 257° from datum position given in your 051539. Oil patch increased to 1.5 miles by ½ mile wide definitely diesel oil. Contact

/lost ...

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Probable U-Boat. (Contd.) lost at 1949. No wreckage observed. Now screening LONGA damaged by her own depth charge attack. LONGA will be stopped for about one hour.  
(DORNOCH, 052004A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Your 051814\*. Check your position.  
Hold contact till daylight then smash up target and collect all possible evidence. Papers particularly important. Do not get led away on Plymouth wrecks 68, 67, 6 or 59. P.C.W.O.161 refers. Attention is drawn to C.A.F.T. 227/45.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 052054A to DORNOCH.)  
\* Not yet identified in War Registry.  
Your 052054B. Position checked by Q.H. and A/C marker, continuing search of area. LONGA has proceeded to join convoy.  
(DORNOCH, 052301A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

OperationsWest Coast France

Ground mines off St. Jean de Luz. A.M. 011940 not to all. Owing to detonation of two ground mines near position 282° Pte. de Ste. Barbe 3½ miles, approach channel to St. Jean de Luz is not yet open.  
Request detachment of EMPIRE DOMBEY be cancelled.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 051649A to Admty.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Possible U-Boat. B.B.41. TENEDOS attacked possible S/M contact in position 52° 11' N., 05° 36½' W. at 0344A. contact lost immediately after attack. 18th Escort Group searching in area. Suitable.  
(S.O. E.G.18, 050541A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Have stationary contact possible German U-Boat in 52° 12' 05° 28' have attacked with one pattern Squid no result no movement continuing to investigate. Suitable.  
(S.O. E.G.18, 051238A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Carry out Operation C.H. G, legs one, and half 2, 0730 March 6th.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 051053A to APOLLO.)

Patrols and Escorts. O.N.288. English Channel escorts are to remain with convoy until approximately 14° W. Further orders will be signalled.  
(C. in C. W.A., 051103A to VIMY, BIDEFORD, BADDECK, GERANIUM, SEYCHELLES.)  
If not in contact detach from O.N.288 on crossing 14° W. and proceed to Londonderry for short rest.  
(C. in C. W.A., 051211A to S.O. E.G.30.)

/Request ...

5.3.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols and Escorts. (Contd.) Request you will sail 25th E.G. to join Force 38 temporarily. Group should cross 52° 40' N. not later than 0700/6th. My 051257 not to all refers.

(C. in C. W.A., 051259A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Recent events show the urgent necessity of keeping St. George's Channel and vicinity under effective patrol and that the number of local patrol vessels available for this is inadequate. Reference Admiralty Message 211701 January and C. in C. W.A. 241952 January, N.A.Y. ANNE, SULARA and JACANA have now arrived and having been inspected are found totally unsuitable. Propose to surrender them to meet following proposals:

(1) The paying off of Trawler CEYLONITE at Swansea to be cancelled and the Trawler ORVICTO at Cardiff to be recommissioned both vessels being then allocated for service at Milford Haven.

(2) Trawler ADELPHI at Milford Haven now under F.O.I.C. flying Red Ensign, to be commissioned request crews may be provided accordingly as soon as possible. Should the proposals for the above three Trawlers be concurred in, the patrol vessels available at Milford Haven would then consist of:

8 M/S Trawlers; 3 LL Trawlers; 1 Dan Laying Trawler; 2 Special Service Trawlers; 3 Trawlers required as above.

The total of 17 Patrol Vessels is considered to be the minimum requisite for the efficient patrol of St. George's Channel and the Irish coast to 07° W.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 051841A to C. in C. W.A.)

Weather-reporting ship.

Your 021010A, para. 2. E.T.A. 0800A/7th. (LAVENDER, 051105Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Second possible U-Boat.

Am attacking suspicious contact 332° Skerries Light 11.

(CAPE MARIATO, 051600A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

My 051600A - slight movement and doppler. Still attacking with depth charges.

(CAPE MARIATO, 051642A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

In contact possible U-Boat K.1 Buoy.

(ST. HELENA, 051727A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 051727A - contact not submarine.

(ST. HELENA, 051811A to C. in C. W.A.)

In contact possible submarine 53° 42' N., 04° 55' W., contact previously reported and attacked with depth charges by CAPE MARIATO. Have attacked once with hedgehog consider contact bottomed.

(ST. HELENA, 051937A to C. in C. W.A.)

Third possible U-Boat.

Am proceeding to investigate aircraft KFJ.26 contact in approx. position 53° 58' N., 13°

(00', 11' or 37') W. Homing. E.T.A. 1830A.

LAUNCESTON CASTLE in company, CAISTER CASTLE and KENILWORTH CASTLE detached O.N.288 at 1900A. Suitable.

(S.O. E.G.30, 051731A to C. in C. W.A.)

5.3.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operation V.P.81 sailed at 0600 today 5th March M.T.B. 716  
(S.O.) and M.T.B. 711.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 050607A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations S.C. Ramose Genus HESSA returned at 1335A/5th March.  
(2) Operation unsuccessful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 051347A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Ramose Barrier HITRA returned at 2310A March 5th.  
(2) Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 052320A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters

Convoy J.W. 65. Your 011326 para. 3 will be complied with.  
(2) Suggest in Route Red for MX you substitute MT 70° 30' N., 35° 36' E. thence by swept channel as in para. (1) above. Your 022047 not to all refers.

(3) Russians confirm no Russian submarines will be operating in vicinity of convoy. My 261725 not to all refers.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 051414A to C. in C. H.F.)

J.W.65. Close escort. LAPWING, ALLINGSTON CASTLE, ALNWICK CASTLE, BAMBOROUGH CASTLE, FARNHAM CASTLE, LANCASTER CASTLE, CAMELLIA, HONEYSUCKLE, OXLIP.

(2) S.O. Cdr. Hulton in LAPWING.

(C. in C. W.A., 051742A to C. in C. H.F.)

C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 022034. Destroyers detailed as follows:

(A) Para. 4(C) Capt. (D) 23rd in MYNGS, SCORPION, ONSLAUGHT, STORD.

(B) Para. 5. Capt. (D) 23rd in MYNGS, STORD.

(C) Para. 7. ONSLAUGHT, SCORPION.

(D) Para. 8. ORWELL.

(E) Para. 9. OPPORTUNE, ZAMBESI, SCOURGE, SAVAGE, SIOUX.

(2) N.O.I.C. Greenock pass C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 022034, 022047, 022054 and this message to ONSLAUGHT together with any amendment which may be issued.

(R.A.D.H.F., 052230 to D.23.)

N.B. reference not identified in War Registry.

5.3.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

German Military Transport between Norway and Denmark. My 011741 and 021732 following transport movements have been reported from Norway.

(1) Larvik. (A) NEIDENFELS reported to have arrived Larvik Feb. 16th with about 1,200 Germans on leave including large number organization TODT personnel. She left with about 1,000 men and quantity motor transport.

(B) MOLTKEFELS arrived Feb. 19th in ballast. She embarked troops, a number of horses and motor transport and still lays there Feb. 20th having been delayed by fog.

(2) Oslo. (A) ISAR left Oslo Feb. 22nd with about 1,200 men.

(B) SUDERAU was reported in Oslo Feb. 24th fully loaded with cars and material and ready to leave.

(C) HANSA I left Oslo Feb. 22nd with about 500 men and motor transport.

(D) ROLANDSECK is reported to have left Oslo via Fredrikstad Feb. 23rd carrying war material.

(E) MAR DEL PLATA reported to have left Oslo about Feb. 24th with about 800 men.

(F) GIJON reported in Oslo Feb. 24th discharging repaired waggons for railways.

(G) Following cargo vessels are reported to have left Oslo between Feb. 16th and February 22nd loaded with motor transport and war material; GEIER 1174 tons. BIRKENAU (?19)90 tons. GINNHEIM 4797 tons. POMPEJI 4600 tons. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 051847 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

BERRY, frigate v. SS. SLIEVEMORE. SS. SLIEVEMORE owners L.M.S. Rly. Co. and BERRY in collision p.m. Saturday 3rd March.

(2) Request you will hold survey on SLIEVEMORE in accordance with K.R. and A.I. 1167 and forward report to me.

(3) BERRY being surveyed in conjunction with L.M.S. representative at Belfast.

(4) Board of Enquiry being held at Belfast tomorrow Tuesday. (F.O.I.C.N.I., 051234 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead.)

Movements

SEALION, submarine. W.A.G.M. 217N. To provide a permanent bottomed S/M target SEALION has been sunk in position 55° 23'14" N., 05° 08'29" W. lying east and west bows west.

(2) When exercising on this target only dummy attacks are to be carried out. B.A.D. Washington pass to U.S. authorities concerned.

(C. in C. W.A., 050950A to W.A. Command.)

DIADEM, cruiser. My 041230A sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 051205A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Intend sailing DIADEM p.m./5th March by S/C route to Scapa. E.T.D. May Island 0015/6th. Speed of advance 24 knots, E.T.A. Duncansby Head

0715/6th. Hoxa Gate 0800/6th. Berth on arrival on Easy Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth, 051435 to C. in C. H.F.)

/NORFOLK ...

5.3.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

NORFOLK,  
cruiser.

Intend to sail NORFOLK to arrive Rosyth at 0700A Monday 12th March.  
(2) NORFOLK will be required to discharge fuel and ammunition before entering Basin.  
(3) 10 days leave may be given to each watch subject to concurrence of C. in C. Rosyth.  
(C. in C. H.F., 051813A to C. in C. Rosyth, C.S.1, NORFOLK.)

Shipping and Convoys

Convoy  
V.W.L.1.

(A) V.W.L.1 sailing 2200A/5.  
(B) LIGHTFOOT, LINCOLNSHIRE, STONEFLY, LINDISFARNE, BIRCH, S.Cs. 1354, 1322.  
(C) E.T.A. Nab 0830/6, E.T.A. Portland 1230/6.  
(D) "Sunrise" PV.  
(E) For Southampton - U.S.L.S.Ts. 262, 500, 293, 392 (S.O.) 294, THOMAS WOLFE, LOUIS MARSHALL, GRIPER.  
For Portland - U.S.L.S.Ts. 44, 139, 357, 388, 393, 516.  
For Mumbles - ROBERT LUCKENBACH, JAMES LAYNE, ROBERT PEARY.  
All three to R/V with T.B.C.88 at F Buoy at 0815A/6.  
(C.T.G. 125.15, 051330 to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.Os. I.C. Southampton, Portland, Swansea.)

Shipping  
for le  
Havre and  
Rouen.

Due stabilization ship movements to le Havre and Rouen need for this Command exercising supervision over calling forward shipping has passed. In future request you place calls for shipping to come forward on controlling shipping agency without prior reference this Command. Desire to continue to be an info. addressee.  
(C.T.F. 125, 051727A to C.G. Com. Z.)

Barry Roads  
as assembly  
port.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. My 051538\* January.  
Add to para. (B) and U.C.B. Convoys commencing with U.C. 59B.  
(C. in C. W.A., 051816A to F.O.I.Cs. in W.A.)  
\* From 15th Jan. Barry Roads will be used as a convoy assembly port.

War Diary5.3.1945  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- A/S sweep. Consider aircraft disappearing radar contact in 035° 55' N. 007° 50' W. at 2215A/4 March quite probably U-Boat.  
(2) Proceed forthwith to carry out line abreast A/S sweep along lat. 035° 50' N. to 007° W. sweeping back into Strait along 036° 00' N.  
(3) On return take up patrol as in para. 2 of my 041217.  
(4) If not in contact leave patrol so as to arrive Gibraltar at 1000A/6th March.  
(5) Group 3 will be required as additional escort to M.K.S. 87 sailing at 1500A/6th March.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 051102A to Group 3.)
- E.G. 56. Intend to sail E.G. 56 (1) ABERDEEN with DITTANY at 1400A/6th March for Freetown E.T.A. 1100A/15th March. (2) Route, etc. (3) S.O.A. 10 knots.  
(6) AMARANTHUS and COWSLIP will be sailed on completion of repair 8th March.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 051126A to F.O.C.W.A.)
- A.F.D. 55. Intend sail A.F.D. 55 in tow of EMPHATIC (S.O.) with H.M. bar vessels BARTHORPE and BARNWELL in company all for Malta at 0900/6th.  
(2) (a) Estimate 5 knots.  
(4) March 15th EMPHATIC will signal exact E.T.A.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 051150A to V.A.M.)
- BLACKMORE destroyer. E.T.A. Cabeça do Pato 0650A/6th March. Request pilot.  
(BLACKMORE 051258A to B.N.A. Lisbon.)
- NADA (Yugoslav.) Intend to sail Y.S. NADA at 1400A/6th March for Malta. M.S.C.I. 5. C. in C. Med. 281458A Feb. not to all refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 051526A to V.A.M.)
- E.Gs. Group 1 consisting of HYDERABAD (S.O.) CYCLAMEN and JONQUIL is to remain as formed Group until further orders.  
(2) Ships of this group to remain at 4 hours notice in harbour.  
(3) Group IV consisting of COLTSFOOT (S.O.) KILMARTIN and KILMELFORD is hereby constituted.  
(4) Ships of Group IV are to come to 2 hours notice for steam at 1200A/6th March.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 051726A to HYDERABAD, CYCLAMEN, JONQUIL, COLTSFOOT, KILMELFORD, KILMARTIN.)

5.3.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy  
C.R.D. 9.

Your 042357. Airfrance IV only is available and will send her with CHASSEUR 61. Airfrance III can only be available on 13th March at earliest. Airfrance I now proceeding with C.R.D. 8.

(2) Have essential need of LOBELIA for Escort of MARRAKECH and PROVIDENCE sailing for Casablanca about 13th March. Escort is very necessary for this convoy owing to possibility of rescues having to be made. I earnestly request that LOBELIA should not be used for mission mentioned in para. 2 of your 042357Z.  
(Comar Dakar 051055Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)



War Diary.

5. 3. 1945  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B situation Following is approx. programme for ships. My  
Hunt Class 031002 not to C. in C. W.A.  
Destroyers. (2) CHIDDINGFOLD arrives Gib. 6 March and  
QUANTOCK, GLOXINIA, MYOSOTIS 8th March for onward  
routeing. Of these CHIDDINGFOLD, GLOXINIA will  
require boiler cleaning on arrival U.K.  
(3) LAMERTON, WILTON, BROCKLESBY now boiler cleaning Malta  
and EASTON at Naples should complete and sail for U.K. about 8,  
9, 10, 8 March respectively.  
(C. in C. Med. 051114A to Admty.)

Black Sea Admiralty pass to Admiral Archer.  
Shipping. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, HIGHLAND PRINCESS and  
MORETON BAY on return Odessa are to be routed  
from Dardanelles by route O to position 704 thence  
A. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD is to proceed by route R.8 to  
Malta. B. HIGHLAND PRINCESS and MORETON BAY by route R.4 to  
Port Said.  
(C. in C. Med. 051551A to C.S.A. Istanbul.)

Bulgaria A.C.C. Bulgaria - 051815B to W.O.  
Demand for See Lion Copy.  
Recognition  
as  
Belligerent.

Destroyers. A.M. 262001 Feb. 7 (a) as amended by A.M. 021606  
and 032301 none to all. Following arrangements  
are requested:  
(a) TARTAR and ULYSSES to work up for 14 days,  
thereafter to join C. in C. E.I. and B.P.F. respectively.  
(b) CROOME to refit as in A.M. 191943 Jan. not to all. On  
completion to join E.I. Fleet.  
(D.O.D.(F) 051831A to C. in C. Med.)

Italian Your 030951 NICHELIO is expected ready to leave  
Submarines. Italy 15th April in good condition.  
(2) ZOEA has not been taken in hand. Her  
batteries require changing which cannot be  
undertaken in Italy at present.  
(3) It is not now recommended that either DIASPRO or PLATINO  
leave Mediterranean my 131221 October and my 151947 Jan. refer.  
(4) It is for consideration in view of C. in C. E.I.'s 281202 Nov.  
whether GIADA formerly in East Indies should not be offered to  
U.S. on completion of refit early May condition should be good.  
She is sister ship to NICHELIO. B.A.D. Washington's 232355 Nov.  
also refers.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 051905A to C. in C. Med.)

/Dodecanese...

5.3.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Dodecanese  
Sitrep.

Political. Mytelene. Force 142 reports Comdr. with Governor General and new prefect arrived 3 March. Small but violent E.A.M. crowd man-handled party. Some shots fired on both sides. No cas. and order soon restored.  
(C. in C. Mid. East 051920B to W.O.)

Ships for  
Black Sea.

MORETON BAY, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and HIGHLAND PRINCESS arrived Odessa March 5th.  
(Naval L.O. Black Sea 051927 to Admty.)

Soviet  
Nationals.

SS. CIRCASSIA and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND carrying Soviet Nationals for Odessa will leave U.K. 10th March in convoy K.M.F. 41 and will require fuel at Malta.  
(2) Movement of personnel referred to in A.M. 211607 Feb. (not to all) has been postponed.  
(D.O.D.(F) 051940A to C. in C. Med.)

**TOP SECRET**

IN

Mcd  
85A  
ZOA

**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.)

051815B March

From A.C.C. Bulgaria  
British Delegation

Date 6.3.45  
Recd. 0130

CIPHER

Addressed: War Office

IMMEDIATE

M/779 cipher 5 March '299836'

From General Oxley.

*Bulgaria -  
Demanded for Recognition as  
co Belligerent*

I saw General Biryusov this afternoon at his invitation in company with General Crane. He handed us both a written request from the Bulgarian Govt. asking that they should be recognised as co-belligerent country. This goes to you tomorrow by bag. Biryusov stated that the Bulgarian Govt. had made this request more than once before notably on 21st Nov. 1944 but he had refused to forward it to Moscow as he did not (not) think the time was ripe. He was however now prepared to forward the request and asked General Crane and myself to do the same. His reasons for now taking a more favourable view were that the Bulgarians had been giving considerable armed assistance to the Allied cause for six months. They had fought under him (Biryusov)'s command in Jugo-Slavia and were now fighting under Marshal Tolbukhin's Command in Hungary. Their maximum effort in Jugo Slavia had according to him amounted to the equivalent of 20 Divisions and was now six and he personally thought that at any rate the troops who were fighting should be considered as co-belligerents. Further he pointed out that Bulgaria had never sent troops to the Eastern or Western Fronts and in that sense were not on the same foot as Roumania although this did not absolve them from the responsibility for their actions. He then asked General Crane and myself whether we had any remarks. We both replied that this was a matter of policy which we did not feel ourselves in a position to comment upon. I did however point out to him that on 29th Nov. 1944 in accordance with your instructions I asked for his views on the subject of Bulgarian co-belligerency and that he had replied that there was no question of granting it as far as he knew. Foreign Office telegram 147 of 1944 to Sofia and my M/212 30th Nov. refers. He agreed that this was perfectly true but in view of the reasons given above he had now decided that it was time to forward this request to Moscow. I pointed out to him here that on 29th Nov. H.M. Govt. were certainly not in favour of this proposal. Biryusov then asked me what I thought would be the opinion in London now. I said I did not know but would report to my Government and lay stress on factors which he had mentioned. I would add that Biryusov said no (no) final decision could be taken without consent of British and American Governments. I am at a loss to know how he is aware of this and can only assume he had already been in communication with Moscow. My ACC(b)/11/C

3rd....

-2-

3rd March personal to General Anderson and enclosure may be of interest in connection with this request for cobelligerency. Further there have been rumours lately that Russian demands on this country in various directions are likely to increase and I feel that this sponsoring of cobelligerency by Biryusov may be an effort to gild the pill.

051815B

Received In War Reg. at 1320/7

Circulated by W.O. to W.O. Depts.  
Admiralty, Air Min., W.C.O. and F.O.

Passing action being taken by  
War Registry

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(3)  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
Sec.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
P.A.S.(L)  
D.N.I.(4)  
D. of P.(2)  
Hd. of M.(2)  
Ad. Bellairs  
W.D.

NMB



War Diary5.3.1945  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

T.G.60.5. T.G.60.5 hereby reconstituted Capt. Martin in DORAN comdesdiv 35 in CARMICK, DOYLE, comcortdiv 5 embarked WYFFELS, DECKER. Escort U.G.S.80 departing New York and Hampton Roads 13-14 March for Western Mediterranean. Escorts lay over at Oran. When directed by C. in C. Med. return escorting G.U.S.82. (C. in C. Lant, 050357Z to C.T.G.60.5) amended by 071850Z.

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 051401Z and Cominch, 051522Z)

U.S. Cr. No.5793.  
Operations. Carrier A/C of 5th Fleet smacked Nansei Shotos 1st March. 4 Nips knocked down, 37 destroyed on ground. 50 others damaged or destroyed on ground. 13 ships sunk, 13 probably sunk, 29 damaged. Ground installations hit heavily. Combat losses 13 planes, 4 pilots, 3 crewmen, 8 planes lost operationally. On way back bombarded Okino Dato at night. Good progress Iwo Island. South Airstrips in use. Army landed 3rd March Burias Island Sibuyan Sea.  
(Cominch, 051442 to Comnavu.)

S/M Anticipate SPORTSMAN ready to sail for U.K. about  
SPORTSMAN. 31 March. My 161510 Nov.  
(B.A.D.051500Z to Admty.)

L.S.I.(M) H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID departed Balboa 0500Z/4th  
PRINCE DAVID. March for Esquimalt. E.T.A. March 14th.  
S. of A. 16 knots. Route to interested parties  
by other means.  
(Cdr. Panama Sea Frontier, 051743Z to C. in C.  
U.S. Fleet)

Contact. Para. D. 0525Z/5 U.S.S. RACINE attacked Sonar  
contact 26.00 N. 69.36 W.  
(Cominch, 052057Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Mines for Your 210245Z Jan. not to all. Supply of mines  
S/MS B.P.F. to S/MS has been under consideration. It is  
anticipated that PROME should be available for  
this duty, unless required by you for other purposes  
until the return of the Fast Minelayers. The

War Diary5.3.1945  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Mines for S/Ms B.P.F. (Contd.)

Advanced Mine Depot will probably not be available before Feb. 1946, at the earliest.

(2) It is, therefore, proposed subject your remarks and concurrence of A.C.N.B. that H.M.A.S. BUNGAREE should initially be employed transporting assembled ground and buoyant mines from Australian Mine Depots to the Advanced Base for supply to S/Ms. Buoyant mines would thus travel as married units requiring no further work on them before issue, except priming and fitting. Ground mines would require final functioning tests onboard before issue.

(3) A.M. 050021A addressed A.C.N.B. refers.  
(D.T.M. 050004A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

A.M. 050004A. If BUNGAREE is available for the purpose the following would be the requirements:

(a) Buoyant Mines. Assembled units Mark XVI/XVI and XVI/XVIII to be carried on rails. There is also a possible requirement for carrying Vickers TIII(T) mines.

(b) Ground Mines. Stowage and servicing of Mines M Mark II. Requirements for servicing are as follows:

(1) A small dry store with deck space about 120 square feet and lined with shelves, for stowage of components.

(2) A cool stowage or cupboard for mine batteries. This should not rise above 70 degs. F.

(3) An enclosed space for servicing assembled mines, with air conditioning or de-humidifying plant. If plant is not available locally it is understood that one may be available in India or Ceylon for civilian sources.

(2) Personnel. An Electrical Lieutenant trained in mine assembly would be sent from U.K. if desired. It is proposed that the higher Torpedo ratings in BUNGAREE might receive a special course in Ground Mine Assembly at an Australian Mine Depot.

(3) Your remarks are requested, also a statement giving the probable number of mines that could be carried.  
(D.T.M. 050021A to A.C.N.B.)

ACTIVITY (Ferry Carrier).

Request that ACTIVITY be sailed to New York in accordance with para. 4 of A.M. 231237A Dec. 1944 after discharge of A/C in Sydney, unless required for ferrying A/C from E.I.S.  
Your 270853 refers.  
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 050748Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Digest Serial No. 1139 4.3.45.

(1) Mariner from Lingayen probably sank two small coastal vessels one lugger East Hong Kong night 3rd/4th March.

(2) Navy Liberators from Mindoro over French Indo-China coast saw four large ships, two escorts heading north 20 miles N.E. Quinhon, two tankers, two escorts anchored 30 miles N. Quinhon with single covering A/C saw total nine ships beached or partially sunk along beach same vicinity. Another Liberator over N.W. Borneo sank single small counter North Brunei Bay which was empty.

(4) Delayed report states two support landing craft bombarded San Arlos (East Coast Negros Island) 1st March destroying sugar plant several small buildings one barge.

(6) Navy Search Planes sank single oil-laden sea truck off Swatow 12nd March)

(7) ...

War Diary5.3.1945  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandDigest  
Serial  
No.1139  
4.3.45.  
(Contd.)

(7) Enemy dead killed in Manila alone including Guerrilla operations total 16,665. Clearing of snipers from city continues. Further mopping up operations on Leyte bring Japanese casualties to 76,118 killed, 751 captured.

(8) Mitchells on shipping strike over French Indo-China coast destroyed six motor boats Camranh Bay where A/A fire prevented attack on four medium cargo vessels present.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.Pa. 051013Z to Admty.)

STRIKER,  
Commodore  
Commanding  
30th A/C  
Carrier  
Squadron.

As C. in C. B.P.F's 030117/ Groups 106 was sent undecypherable here is repetition addressed STRIKER repeated V.A. Q. B.S.One, A.C.One, C.S. Four B.A.D. Admiralty, F.O.N.A.S.A. Raft from C. in C. B.P.F.

You are promoted Commodore Second Class to date 4th March and appointed Commodore Commanding 30th A/C Carrier Squadron.

(2) You are to hoist your broad pendant in STRIKER at 0800 Sunday 4th March.

(3) Your attention is called to K.R. and A.I article 188.  
(C.C.O. Sydney, 051301Z to Admty.)  
/ Formerly received undecypherable.

Daily  
Pacific Convoy  
Summary  
No.104 Part 2.

Arrivals: Manus Leyte two. P.C. 595, G.B.518, H.M.A.S. STRAHAN, H.M.A.S. TOWNSVILLE, G.I.14 (Biak Section) H.M.A.S. DELORAIN, H.M.A.S. KAPUNDA.

(Comwesteafron, 052318 Bank block etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/5th March.

Para. A. (1) A/C N/224 sighted snort smoke, obtained radar contact and attacked with 6 depth-charges at 1439Z/4th March in 58 degs. 46' N. 04 degs. 27' W. Subsequently sighted periscope and snort.

Para. B. (1) WINDSOR attacked doubtful contact at 1840Z/4th March in 55 degs. 54' N. 02 degs. 02' W.

(2) A/C Z.422 sighted smoke at 1426Z/3rd March in 54 degs. 12' N. 05 degs. 05' W. at 1635Z/3rd March obtained contact and sighted possible periscope and snort.

Para. C. (1) A/C H/105 sighted suspicious smoke at 0901Z/4th March in 51 degs. 57' N. 05 degs. 28' W. and 1721Z/4th March in 52 degs. 00' N. 06 degs. 48' W.

/ (2)...



War Diary

5.3.1945  
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

- (2) D/547 sighted object resembling smort but no wake at 1020Z/4th March in 58 degs. 28' N. 08 degs. 30' W. obtained contact and sighted smoke at 1327Z/4th March in 58 degs. 35' N. 08 degs. 58' W.
- (3) A/C U/63 obtained M.A.D. contact and attacked at 1140Z/4th March in 52 degs. 06' N. 05 degs. 57' W.
- (4) A/C C/110 sighted smoke and swirl at 1156Z/4th March in 49 degs. 52' N. 06 degs. 11' W. and attacked contact at 1203Z/4th March.
- (5) A/C N/224 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1555Z/4th March in 58 degs. 43' N. 04 degs. 32' W.
- (6) Trawler CAPE ARGONA attacked possible contact at 0244Z/5th March in 52 degs. 11' N. 05 degs. 36' W.
- Para. D. (1) A/C C/105 sighted oil and attacked contact at 1237Z/4th March in 49 degs. 48' N. 05 degs. 46' W.
- (2) Training A/C T/407 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0957Z/4th March in 50 degs. 50' N. 04 degs. 48' W.
- (3) A/C V/224 sighted suspicious smoke H.T. negative at 1605Z/4th March in 59 degs. 28' N. 07 degs. 47' W.
- (D.D.I.C.051223A to Cominch)

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (D.D.I.C.051424A and 051430A to A.I.G.Cominch)

6.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1. One mine was detonated off the East Coast, and another off the Schelde.
- Channel. 2. Five ground mines were detonated close north of Cap de la Heve.
- West Coast France. 3. A.F.D.66, which had broken adrift from its tug in heavy weather in the Bay, was resecured today and proceeded onward for Gibraltar.
- Western Approaches. 4. SS. EMPIRE GERRAINT, originally for London, but diverted to the Irish Sea for Liverpool owing to the Thames side dockers' strike, was torpedoed one mile east of St. Govan's Light Vessel in Convoy M.H.44. She was able to reach Milford Haven, however, and beach in Angle Bay.

Foreign Stations

South Atlantic

- SS. POINT PLEASANT PARK (survivors). 5. 49 survivors including the Master of POINT PLEASANT PARK (British, 7136 tons) torpedoed on 23rd February N.W. of Capetown have now been accounted for. 9 of the crew were killed by torpedo.

Mediterranean

- Gulf of Genoa. 6. Tonight destroyers MARNE and TETCOTT, assisted by aircraft sighting reports, intercepted convoy off Portofino in Gulf of Genoa and fired 290 rounds at 12,000 yards range - one ship may have been set on fire. Enemy shore batteries engaged our ships which had no damage or casualties.

/Adriatic ...

6.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Adriatic.

7. Spitfires and Hurricanes scored R.P. strikes on gun positions at Lussin Island - destroyed a barge at Fiume and attacked shipping in Arsa Channel leaving a collier burning. Mustangs bombed jetties at Arsa.

East Indies

Red Sea.

8. L.C.T. 492 proceeding from Suez to Aden in tow of SS. SAMUR flooded and became unseaworthy yesterday and sank today about 140' E.S.E. of Massawa (lat. 14° 48' N., 42° 02' E.) The crew of 19 were rescued. (071645B)

S/M THOROUGH.

9. Between 13th-18th February S/M THOROUGH sank 13 native craft totalling 490 tons off the coast of Tenasserim (Burma). On 23rd sank a heavy camouflaged L.C.T. off Mergui and on 24th sank 3 native craft totalling 70 tons in same area. On the 28th sank a 50 ton junk off Hastings Harbour (off S. coast of Tenasserim).

Australia and New Zealand

China Coast.

10. U.S. Liberators east of Hongkong sank 2 merchant vessels and damaged a third. Another coaster and freighter were also damaged in the China Sea.

Formosa.

11. A U.S. Liberator sank one coaster and set fire to a second off the Sakishima Islands.

6.3.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Anti-flying- In order to assist identification of flying bombs  
 bomb measures request all aircraft not engaged in "Diver" opera-  
 tions be routed wherever possible clear of sea  
 area enclosed by line Orfordness-Ostend-North  
 Foreland-Gravesend (excluding any part of "Diver"

Gun box or box or "Diver" Gun strip which falls within these  
 boundaries.)

(2) This requirement applies both to outward and inward flights,  
 but is of particular importance in case of flights towards U.K.

(3) When, for operational or distress reasons, aircraft cannot  
 avoid crossing above area on inward flight request aircrews  
 be instructed to take following steps wherever possible to make  
 their identity clear.

(i) Air speed not to exceed 200 m.p.h.

(ii) Height to be above 8000 feet.

(iii) Approach coast of U.K. on course not south of 300° magnetic

(iv) Course to be at no time in direct line to Greater London  
 area, i.e. London A.A. artillery zone.

(4) "Diver" Gun box and "Diver" Gun strip remain prohibited  
 areas as detailed in S.D. 158 (2) and S.D. 533 (Neugrip.)

(Air Ministry O61232A to S.H.A.E.F. and others.)

Minesweeping One ground mine detonated 119° 53 F 4.6 miles  
 off the 20 mins. after flotilla had swept position. Low  
 Schelde. plume. Nearest ship one mile - sweep de-  
 energised. Explosive sweep discontinued 30 mins.  
 previous to detonation.

(S.O. M/S F. 42 O61255A to C. in C. Nore.)

Minesweeping LL sweeper detonated red magnetic mine at 1422 in  
 off E.Coast. position 130° 3A buoy 18 cables.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth O61515A to Admty.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 336 part 4 section A.  
 Situation Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending O51600A  
 Report. March.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G.F. Ammo
Antwerp	35	283	5,053	-	12,750	-
Ostend	987	184	3,742	-	-	2,093
Boulogne	48	128	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calais	3,914	-	85	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,105	-	-	547
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	4,984	595	11,985	-	12,750	2,640
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

/U.S. North...

War Diary.

6. 3. 1945  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

U.S. North	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G. F. Ammo
Antwerp	-	128	9,879	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	5,808	1,022	2,041	3,426
Le Havre	17,080	780	5,775	-	-	2,871
Rouen	238	282	6,647	1,334	140	1,244
Granville	-	-	-	2,419	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,455	-	-	-
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	17,318	1,190	30,564	4,775	2,181	7,541
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
U.S. South						
Marseilles	-	180	12,548	479	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,215	200	5,814	1,215
Toulon	-	-	682	-	-	-
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Total	-	180	14,445	679	5,814	1,215
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(S.H.A.E.F. 061600A to Admty. and others.)

Operations.

Channel.

Minesweeping off Le Havre. Sitrep 104th M.S.F. LL/SA of an area to the northward of Cap de la Heve for telegraph cable ship. Five ground mines detonated in positions: 49° 32' 36" N. 000° 04' 12" E. 49° 32' 42" N. 000° 04' 07" E. 49° 32' 45" N. 000° 04' 15" E. 49° 32' 48" N. 000° 04' 21" E. 49° 32' 51" N. 000° 04' 18" E.

Y.M.S. 382 special sweep in River Seine entrance channel 159th T.G. and 181st T.G. Q.Z.S. 619 extending one mile to eastward continues.

(Com. M/S Le Havre 060945 to C.T.F. 125.)

Task Force 125 into Task Force 122. Request following may be promulgated as an A message begins: On 15th March Task Force 125 will be absorbed in Task Force 122 in Paris. From that date all matters previously dealt with by C.T.F. 125

(Comusbasfrance) should be referred to C.T.F. 122 (Comnavforfrance) ends.

(A.N.C.X.F. 061241A to Admty.)

/Possible...

War Diary.6.3.1945  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel - Contd.

Possible U/B. Closing escort group 18 to take over contact in position 270 Trevoze Head 15 miles.  
(JONQUIERE 061448A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
My 061448 attacking LOCH FYNE's contact in position 50° 31' N. 05° 31' W.  
(JONQUIERE 061520A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Patrols. Assume following patrols forthwith. Gladstone B Start to Lizard. Gladstone A Lizard to Pendeen. Manganese A Pendeen to Trevoze. Manganese B Trevoze to Lundy.  
(2) Convoys mentioned in my 060948 and 061301 are to be trailed through areas.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 061541A to S.O.E.Gs. 2, 26.)

Second possible U/B. Attacking contact estimated position 010° Trevoze 11 miles contact firm.  
(RENONCULE 061615 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Have attacked with 3 depth charges pattern and 2 Hedgehog. Last Hedgehog gave 5 explosions at 110 ft. Oil surfaced continuing attack.  
(RENONCULE 061648A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Considerable debris from last attack attacking again.  
(RENONCULE 061713A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Manganese Baker endeavour confirm classification as in RENONCULE's 1808A. If wreck, join KILBRIDE hunting in position 098 Lundy Island south 4 miles.  
(2) Manganese Able comply with my 1541A.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 061904A to S.O.E.G. 26.)

E.Gs. 15, 26. When ready 7th March F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail 15th E.G. to vicinity Lundy Island thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.  
(2) On relief by 15th E.G. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to detach 26th E.G. to Londonderry for lay over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 061839A to F.O.I.C. N.I., C. in C. Plymouth.)

Third possible U-Boat. M.T.Bs. and LOCH RUTHVEN attacking firm contact in position 50° 25½' N. 02° 25' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 061843A to Portsmouth Command.)

War Diary.6. 3. 1945  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Western Approaches.

Possible U/B. Am in firm contact with probable submarine estimated by Sona Buoy from aircraft W.75 target previously reported to be steering 275° has now stopped. Conclusive echo sounder trace continuing attack in position 52° 17' N. 05° 31' W. (S.O.E.G. 25 061035 to C. in C. W.A.)

On completion of ammunitioning today 6th request you will sail 5th E.G. (less BLIGH defective) to join 25th E.G. in contact in position 52° 17' 05° 31'.

(C. in C. W.A. 061151A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

My 061035 for conclusive read inconclusive.

(S.O.E.G. 25 061242A to C. in C. W.A.)

Arrived 5th E.G. fuelled ammunitioned and sailed less BLIGH in accordance with C. in C. W.A.'s 061151.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 061345 to C. in C.W.A.)

St. Helena considers contact submarine position 52° 09' N. 05° 46' W. estimated. Suitable.

(S.O.E.G. 25 061421A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Operation "C.H." serial G.1 and half of two completed.

(APOLLO 061139A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols &  
Escorts.

Search area between 53° and 54° N. and 11° 00' and 12° 30' W.

(C. in C. W.A. 061146A to S.O.E.G. 1.)

Force 37 4th E.G. CALDER 5 frigates North Irish Sea.

Force 36 24th E.G. LOCH KATRINE 3 frigates central Irish Sea.

Force 38 5th E.G. GRINDALL 4 frigates vicinity St. Govans Head.

25th E.G. STRATHADAM 3 frigates general area St. Georges Channel.

18th E.G. TOWY 2 frigates supporting U.C. 59A detach at dark 6th to rejoin force 38 through 51° 35' N. 08° 00' W.

Force 34 21st E.G. CONN 4 frigates south of Ireland (R).

(C. in C. W.A. 061516A to Admty.)

F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 051841. Fully concur N.A.V. ANNE, SULARA and JACANA do not possess the sea-keeping qualities required for the Milford local patrols as now constituted. Request early and favourable consideration be given to re-commissioning the trawlers proposed as they are urgently required in this important operational area.

(C. in C. W.A. 061632A to Admty., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Com. D. W.A. is requested to sail 10th E.G. before dark 7th March to relieve 24th E.G. as force 36. S.O. 24th E.G. is to signal R/V. (2) On relief 24th E.G. is to proceed to Londonderry. My 021337 not to all refers.

(C. in C. W.A. 061836A to Com. D. W.A., S.O.E.G. 24.)

THORNWICK BAY, escorting M.H. 44, detached to hunt German U-Boat and will probably not overtake. Convoy is to be supported.

(C. in C. W.A. 061904 to S.Os. Forces 36, 37.)

/SS. EMPIRE...

6.3.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

SS. EMPIRE  
GERRAINT  
torpedoed.

MH 44

EMPIRE GERRAINT torpedoed 1 mile O90 St. Govans require assistance.  
(THORNWICK BAY 061430A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
Have picked up 23 men from EMPIRE GERRAINT.  
(THORNWICK BAY 061635A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
SS. EMPIRE GERRAINT 6991 tons on passage from Swansea to Liverpool in M.H. 44 torpedoed at 1430A/6th March in position O90° St. Govan's Head Light Vessel entered Milford Haven under own power assisted by tugs STORMKING, SUPERMAN, ship now beached in Angle Bay Milford Haven.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 062017 to Admty.)

Spanish  
Fishing Craft  
in prohibited  
area.

W.A.G.O. 104. Following Spanish fishing vessels intercepted fishing in position 49° 30' N. 10° 40' W. at 1430A March 6th. First two were boarded.  
EMELIA MARQUEZ, F. 06573 Vigo M. VIERA F. 06572  
Vigo CONSTANTINO F. 01342 Ferrol COMMANDANTE F. 01305 Ferrol GESTOSO F. 06433 Vigo GLEZ GESTOSO F. 06445 Vigo.

None appeared aware of extension of prohibited area.

- (3) All ordered to leave area. All saw O.N. 288.
- (4) No abnormal identification marks.
- (5) Suitable. Weather report 9380 9751.  
(MAGPIE 061520A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation  
"V.P."

"V.P. 81" M.T.B. 716 and M.T.B. 711. Returned 1526A today 6th March.  
(2) Force remained in leads from 2054/5th March until 0500A/6th March without seeing any shipping.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 061614A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation  
"S.C."

Ramose Idol. VIGRA returned at 1853A/6th March.  
(2) Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 061910A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Torpedoing  
of SS.  
ALCEDO.

(on 28/2)

My 011830 para. 6. Further evidence appears to show that object sighted was definitely a periscope, not a schnorkel.  
(2) Unless two U-Boats were operating this may indicate presence of new type 21 with submerged speed of 15 knots.

- (3) It is thought most unlikely that convoy could have been followed up by a schnorkelling U-Boat as two auxiliary vessels were covering area of convoy.  
(A.C.I.C. 061146A to Admty.)

/Your...



War Diary.

6.3.1945  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Torpedoing  
of SS.  
ALCEDO  
(Contd.)

Your 061146 para. 2. It is considered most improbable that any type 21 or other new type U-Boat is operating in your command.  
(D.D.I.C. 061842A to A.C.I.C.)

Casualties.

SS. JOSEPH  
SQUIRES.

Aground 8 miles below Antwerp require tugs at high water.  
(JOSEPH SQUIRES 061015Z to Admty.)

Loss of  
S/M X.E.11.

Regret to report H.M. S/M X.E. 11 was rammed and sunk by H.M. trawler NORINA at about 1130 today Tuesday in Loch Striven.

(2) Following missing believed drowned:  
Temporary Lieut. A. Staples S.A.N.F. (V)

J.J. Carroll A.B. D/JX 204290. E.W. Higgins Stoker 1st Class D/KX 165317.

(3) Next of kin not informed.  
(Capt. S.12 061340A to Admty.)

Movements.

DIADEM  
cruiser.

Scapa arrival DIADEM.  
(C. in C. H.F. 060750A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
The flag of C.S. 10 will be transferred from BIRMINGHAM to DIADEM at 1000 Tuesday 6th March. Correspondence and signals for C.S. 10 are to be sent to DIADEM from this time. Cancel my 011335 Feb. 65 Z.  
(C. in C. H.F. 060842A to Home Fleet.)

A.F.D. 66.

Weather report. Wind E. by N. force 4 sea 46 sky O.C. visibility 7 barometer 10.40 steady, temperature wet 50 dry 52 sea 55. My position 45° 00' N. 13° 07' W. Repeated efforts to reconnect were made yesterday but owing to heavy swell it was not possible to get sufficient men on board dock to recover bridle which has 200 fathoms of 5 inch wire suspended from it. Hope for more success today as conditions are slightly better. Following damage has been sustained.

(1) Outside wall of dock starboard side pierced 18 feet above waterline size of hole 3 feet by 2 feet and a considerable amount of structure fendering carried away.  
(2) SQUIRREL has fractured wrapper plate and stem at waterline admitting 18 inches of water to foremost compartment. Also minor damage to port side of forecandle at deck edge between 9 and 20 stations. Drift of dock 270° 1 to 1½ knots.  
(SQUIRREL 060900A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/My...

War Diary.

6.3.1945  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

A.F.D. 66. My position 44° 58' N. 13° 15' W. course 120°  
(Contd.) speed 3 knots. FLAUNT reconnected tow at 1400A  
and is now towing dock with a 5 inch towing  
hawser from starboard foremost bollard. Bridle  
and previous towing wire could not be recovered  
and remain suspended underneath dock.  
Following damage sustained - (a) Dock. Starboard outer wall  
for distance of 100 feet from dock, master's cabin to after end  
of crew space badly fractured longitudinally and concrete  
breaking away from reinforcing bars. Previous hole is now 6 feet  
by 4 feet. All fendering on starboard hand carried away.  
Considerable repairs necessary to make dock serviceable.  
(b) FLAUNT. Suspected fracture in lubricating oil tank and  
damage to bridge superstructure starboard hand.  
(c) SQUIRREL. Following damage in addition to that reported in  
my 060900A. Two small holes on port side at deck edge between  
number 13 and 15 stations and number 68 and 75 stations  
respectively. Number 14 frame fractured.  
(SQUIRREL 061800A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

SUSSEX, C. in C. Nore is requested to sail SUSSEX when  
cruiser. ready about end March for Scapa.  
(2) On completion of sufficient preliminary work  
up, for which about two weeks is estimated, C.  
in C. Home Fleet is requested to sail ship for  
the Mediterranean.  
(3) C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to make arrangements  
to complete work up in his Command.  
(4) On completion of work up SUSSEX is to join East Indies Fleet.  
(V.C.N.S. 062118A to Cs. in C. Nore, H.F., Med.)

ALCMARIA, Dundee's 251219A February (not to all). N.O.I.C.  
drifter. Dundee is requested to take over the British  
Trawler/Drifter ALCMARIA (recently on loan to  
the Royal Norwegian Navy), reporting date to Admty.  
(2) Inventory and condition to be agreed.  
(3) The vessel is re-allocated to N.O.I.C. North Shields vice  
M.F.V. 1507. Admiralty letter M.012785/44 of 14th February  
1945 (not to all) refers.  
(4) Dundee is requested to sail vessel to N. Shields with runner  
crew.  
(5) Sailing and arrival to be reported to Admiralty.  
(6) Disposal instructions for M.F.V. 1507 will be sent.  
(D.S.V.P. 062351A to N.Os. i/c Dundee, North Shields.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Inshore route Inform N.C.S.Os. concerned.  
between Yar- My 201050A Jan. not to all addressees. The  
mouth and following changes in January buoyage have been  
Harwich. effected.  
A. S.W. Whiting replaced by red/white chequered  
spherical flashing red every 20 secs. and moved  
to position 52° 01' 15" N. 01° 30' 51" E.

/B...

6.3.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- Inshore route between Yarmouth and Harwich. (Contd.)
- B. N.E. Whiting replaced by red/white horizontal stripes spherical flashing every second.  
C. S. Aldeburgh Napes replaced by black/white chequered spherical group flashing every 15 seconds.  
D. N. Aldeburgh Naples replaced by black/white horizontal stripes spherical flashing every 5 seconds.  
E. S.B. 1 replaced by black conical flashing red every 5 seconds.  
F. S.B. 2 replaced by red conical group flashing 3 red every 15 seconds.  
G. S. Barnard replaced by black conical flashing every second.  
H. Port hand lighted wreck buoy laid 270° 1 mile from MAGDAPUR wreck in position 52° 11' 28" N. 01° 42' 34" E.  
I. Aldeburgh Ridge buoy withdrawn.  
K. Orfordness Lighthouse lit with visibility of 5 miles.  
(2) Traffic may now proceed in dark hours by inshore route north of rough buoy.  
(3) Following alteration to inshore route is to be brought into force without further notice:-  
From position 100° 3 cables from S. Cutler proceed through following positions:-  
A. 4½ cables east of S.W. Whiting Buoy.  
B. 7½ cables east of Orfordness Lighthouse.  
C. 1 cable east of S.B. 1 buoy thence as in I.N. 10.  
(C. in C. Nore 061833A to F.Os. i/c Harwich, Yarmouth, Humber, C. in C. Rosyth.)

Personnel lifts between Southampton and Le Havre. It is understood that ROYAL ULSTERMAN is no longer required at Plymouth for training in connection with "Nestegg". In view of urgent requirement for personnel lift between Southampton and Le Havre request ROYAL ULSTERMAN may be made available for this duty and sailed to Southampton accordingly.

- (2) While so employed she would, of course, be available for other duty at short notice.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 061843A to Admty.)

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6.3.1945  
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

A/S  
Patrol. Being in all respects ready for (?sea) COLTSFOOT is to take KILMELFORD under his orders and sail at 1600A, March 6th, to take up A/S patrol between Cape Spartel and Cape Trafalgar.  
(2) KILMARNOCK joins Group IV on relief by LORD NUFFIELD in strip 5.  
(3) H.M.S. KILMARNOCK arrange R/V with COLTSFOOT acknowledge.  
(F.O.G.M.A.061027A to Group 4).

ODZANI  
Frigate. Sail at 1400/March 7th to Port Said for onward routing to East Indies Station 7 A.  
(F.O.G.M.A.061051A to ODZANI)

CHIDDINGFOLD  
(destroyer). Intend to sail CHIDDINGFOLD escorting 2 tankers REDBANK and CHAMPIONS HILL at 1900A/5.  
(2) Route (A) 35.59 061-10.  
(B) 36.00 N. 09.30 W.  
(3) On arrival in position (B) CHIDDINGFOLD will detach tankers to proceed independently and will herself proceed to Plymouth for fuel and onward routeing as ordered by Admty.  
(F.O.G.M.A.061159A to Admty., Amended by 061703A)  
Sailed H.M.S. CHIDDINGFOLD for Plymouth.  
(F.O.G.M.A.061937A to Admty.)

EASTWAY  
(L.S.D.) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail EASTWAY for Milford Haven when ready escorted by QUANTOCK and H.M.C.S. SUMMERSIDE. A.M. 281309 February A.M. 051334 and C. in C. Med's 051114 para (2) noneto all refer.  
(2) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail QUANTOCK for the Nore and SUMMERSIDE for Portsmouth as convenient after arrival.  
(D.O.D.(H), 061545A to F.O.G.M.A.)

BLACKMORE  
destroyer. E.T.A. Gibraltar boom 1200A/7th March.  
(2) Request A/S assistance training motor pattern 9956 defective.  
(BLACKMORE, 061616Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

/Movements ...

6.3.1945

Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. On arrival off Carnero Point convoy is to disperse  
(2) EASTWAY and all escorts enter Gibraltar.  
(3) ARBITER, EMPEROR, GLENROY and MONTCLARE  
are to continue in company to Port Said for onward  
routeing (A.M.131939 Feb. not to all refers)  
(F.O.G.M.A. 061643 to ARBITER)  
✓ Sailing of ARBITER, GLENROY, MONTCLARE and EASTWAY.

South Atlantic

LOSSIE Sailed LOSSIE. (2) S. of A. 14 knots.  
Frigate. (3) E.T.A. Port Louis 0300Z/11th.  
(5) N.O.I.C. Mauritius is requested to report E.T.A.  
Colombo.  
(Cdre. Durban, 061136Z to Admty.)

Operation Intend sailing TEES S.O. KILDARY, KILCHARNAN,  
"Antimony" F.S. LOBELIA 8th March to establish Gamma search  
a.m. 10th March between 001 degs. 20' N.  
012 degs. 40' W. and 000 degs. 40' N. 052 degs. 20'  
W. and to act as striking force in support air  
patrols given in my 051532. Collective callsign allocated for  
operation "Antimony". N.O.I.C. Ascension pass to BUTSER.  
(R.A. W. Africa, 062011Z to N.O.I.C. Ascension)

U-Boat Your 061414A. Request confirmation of one about  
disposition. 300 miles to Westward or north Westward Cape  
Verde Island. In view of positions given in your  
041424A.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F. 062038Z to Admty) Amended by 070051Z  
(U-Boat Campaign)

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6.3.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Movements Movements of warships in Toulon from 050800A to 060800A. Arrivals F.S. ALSACE, LE MALIN, C.H.116 COMMANDANT DOMINE, CAVALIER. Departures F.S. GOUMIER, LE MALIN C.H.22, SIMOUN, CANADA, MILNE. (Premar III 060801A to Admty.)

Linrep Summary of operations 1/4 March. Para.2. Naval. No.236 Gulf of Genoa. Near Italian border further 1/4 March successful bombardments have been made by Allied warships. Greece. Defence of Corfu having been taken over by National Guard the Royal Marine Commando and sea patrols have been withdrawn. The Regent has visited Salonika in a Greek cruiser escorted by 2 Greek destroyers. Between Skiathos and mainland a military drifter has been mined and sunk. There was only one survivor. The general situation is quiet except at Patras and in Zante. Linrep 235 refers. Coastal Air Force attacked shipping in the Upper Adriatic. (A.F.H.Q. 061015A to W.O.)

Black Sea Request you will make arrangements for reporting movements Officers at Black Sea ports to report Arrivals and Departures of all Allied vessels (excluding Russian) in the following standardised form:-  
 (a) Arrivals.

- (1) Serial Number and Name of reporting port.
  - (2) Port, if other than reporting port.
  - (3) Date of Arrival.
  - (4) Name of Ship.
  - (b) Departures.
    - (1) Serial number and name of reporting port.
    - (2) Port, if other than reporting port.
    - (3) Name of ship.
    - (4) Time and date of actual departure from harbour limits.
    - (5) Next port of call.
    - (6) E.T.A.
  - (2) Both arrivals and departures may be combined in a single signal which should be serially numbered consecutively from 1 - 499 and addressed to:-
    - (a) Bank Block, London (telegraphic address of Merchant Ship Plotting Section Admiralty).
    - (b) C.S.A. Ankara.
    - (c) Such local addressees as instructed by your local Intelligence Centre.
  - (3) Naval Control Service Instructions (C.B.03050(11)) is available in C.S.A. Istanbul's office and additional requirements should be drawn from Alexandria if it is considered desirable to supply to American Reporting Officers concerned.
  - (4) B.N.L.O. Black Sea's 282342 to Admty. only requesting details of N.C.S.I.85 refers.
- (D.T.D. 061051A to B.N.L.O. Black Sea.)

/Black Sea...

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6.3.1945  
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.Black Sea  
Routeing

Paragraph 3 of my 241410 Feb.  
These routes now received from Soviet Naval Staff, but are considered unsatisfactory for the following reasons.

- (a) Constanza to Odessa. Route passes through present declared danger area off Constanza.
- (b) Other interport routes do not have reciprocal return route but an unnecessary leg to the North to position 44° 31.5' N. 34° 23' E. There is no apparent reason for this.
- (c) Approach points as given for Tuapse and Poti are situated inland.
- (d) Although routes B.S.3 and B.S.4 have been agreed by Soviet Naval Staff, two different routes are now proposed (see (b) above.)
- (2) Intend to clear up these points before promulgating routes but in view of immediate sailing of American ships from Odessa to Novorossisk and Poti, U.S. Naval attack has signalled routes to Alusna, Odessa, Navpo, Istanbul and Washington.
- (3) Para. 3 of C. in C. Mediterranean 091467 Feb. Chief of Soviet Naval Staff states that Danube Estuary and Burghaz cannot be swept for several months owing to lack of minesweepers. Constanza-Sulina route is only open for small craft of shallow draft using coastal channel. Burghaz can only be used by small craft.
- (4) Admty. pass to all negative B.N.L.O. Black Sea. (Adml. Archer, 061210A to Admty.)

Italian  
submarines

F.O.T.A.L.I.'s 051905 being passed A.M. 012110\* and my 030951 refer.  
(2) Information in F.O.T.A.L.I.'s 131221 Oct. was passed Admiralty and B.A.D. in my 301107 Oct. Para. 2. His 151947 Jan. stated that Italians

considered PLATINOS Battery was not in good condition which appears immaterial in view of her proposed employment in Med. (C. in C. Med. 061249A to Admty.)

\* Allocation of Italian ships.

RICHELIEU

Sailed (1) RICHELIEU and (2) PENN.

(2)

(2) (1) E.T.A. Jibouti 0600Z/9

(2) E.T.A. Aden 0800Z/9.

S. of A. 20 knots.

(3) DUMONT DURVILLE is requested close with RICHELIEU immediately on arrival to disembark personnel and (?currency) (N.O.I.C. Suez 061501B to Admty.)

S/M  
O.24

Sailed S/M 024 at 1700B 6th to Aden for onward routeing.

(2) E.T.A. Aden 110500Z S. of A. 12 knots.

(N.O.I.C. Suez 061701B to Admty.)

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War Diary6.3.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Assault Forces. Administration. The arrival of units of Force W at somewhat uncertain intervals and in varying state of efficiency necessitates on E.I.S. a departure from normal Admiralty policy for their administration. C.A.F.O.89/45 refers.

(2) Consider the following will be the most satisfactory arrangement:

- (A) All landing ships and craft on first arrival on E.I. Station to be administered by S.O.R.N.E. until ready for use:  
 (B) When ready for use unit will be allocated by C. in C. to meet operational and/or training demands when they will pass to their proper administrative authority:  
 (C) When units cease to be of operational value due to defects or other causes, they are returned to S.O.R.N.E. (India) as their Admin authority.  
 (3) Am making arrangements as above in anticipation of Admiralty approval.  
 (C. in C. E.I.S.060314Z to Admt, and 091251A and 121001Z)

U-Boat dispositions. Scales in all areas remain W.5.  
 (C. in C. E.I.S. 060431Z to S. and A. E.I. Stn.)

Force 68. Cancel my 181704/ Feb. Title of Force 68 lapsed.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 060437Z to Capt. (D) 11, H.M.S. ROEBUCK, H.M.S. RAPID, H.M.S. ROCKET)  
 / Ships to constitute Force 68.

Convoy O.W.3. Convoy O.W.3 anticipate U.S.S. ADMIRAL BENSON sails from Melbourne 16th March for Bombay.  
 (2) Ocean escort will not be provided.  
 (3) Route.  
 (4) Destroyers to be detailed later will R/V with U.S.S. ADMIRAL BENSON in position H. 04 degs. 30' S. 82 degs. 12' E. at 0400Z/25th March.  
 (6) N.O.I.C. Port Melbourne is requested to confirm and repeat back date time and position of R/V in para.4.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 060513 to N.O.I.C. Port Melbourne.)

Escorts for U.S. Troopships. In view of your 282141 Feb. Escort will continue to be provided and henceforth minimum time intervals in my 281646/ Dec. 1944 must be maintained your 012151 refers. Signals quoted not to all addressees.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 060519Z to B.A.D. Washington.)  
 / U.S. Authorities unable to agree for the present to unescorted sailing of their Troopships.

Force 62. Force 62 is disbanded from 1800 F.G. 7th March. My 110426 Feb. refers.  
 (C. in C. E.I.S. 060533Z to KENYA, EMPRESS, AMEER, VOLAGE, VIRAGO, VIGILANT, SPREY, SWALE, PLYMOUTH, TRENT.)

/SUFFOLK ...



War Diary6.3.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

SUFFOLK. In view of destruction of number 2 turbo generator in SUFFOLK reported in my 434/E.I.493/M of 7th Feb. propose that the first 8 inch cruiser to arrive on E.I. Station should relieve SUFFOLK rather than

NEWCASTLE A.M.022004 Dec. refers.  
(C. in C. E.I.S.060549Z to Admty.)

L.C.T. 492 "Appian" L.C.T. 492 in tow of SS. SAMUR flooded and (lost). became unseaworthy at about 1930Z/5th in position 14 degs. 48' N. 42 degs. 02' E. SS. OTRANTO bound Suez rescued crew of 19 at 0220Z/6th and reported L.C.T. 492 derelict in position 14 degs. 53' N. 42 degs. 06' E. LANDGUARD ordered to this position E.T.A. 1000Z/6th. SAMUR still has L.C.G.5 in tow but making little headway. Wind southeast Force seven yesterday with little prospect of falling below force six for several days.  
(Com. Aden, 060731Z and 071701Z to C. in C. E.I.)

My 061354. L.C.T. sunk, intend returning to Aden, speed 14 knots.

(LANDGUARD, 061736Z to N.O.I.C. Aden, (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., N.O.I.C. Massawa.)

Operation Request information of intended movement of S.O. "Roger". build up Force W. and S.O.A.G.W.2 and respective staffs.  
(2) They are required at Bombay as soon as possible to prepare Force W for operation "Roger".  
(C. in C. E.I. 060901Z to Admty.)

S/M H.M.S/M THOROUGH, 5th Far East patrol off Tenasserim THOROUGH. Coast.

(1) 13th-18th Feb. on coastal route Heanzay Basin to Tavoy River by gunfire and demolition sank 13 native craft totalling 490 tons.

(2) 18th-20th Feb. A.S.R. duty.

(3) 23rd Feb. in Northern Approaches to Mergui sank by gunfire heavily camouflaged T.L.C. carrying 100 troops and petrol only survivor was taken prisoner later by gunfire and demolition sank 100 ton junk later observed at anchor 150 ton lighter 180 foot T.L.C. 1 300 ton coaster beached undergoing repairs also camouflaged shore installations coaster and T.L.C. destroyed and lighter damaged by gunfire shore installations set on fire flames seen 30 miles away five hours later.

(4) 24th Feb. same vicinity para. 1 by demolition and ramming sank 3 native craft totalling 70 tons.

(5) 2052/28th Feb. A.S.R. duty.

(6) 28th Feb. North of Hastings Harbour by demolition sank 250 ton junk.

(7) 109 non-Japanese prisoners were taken on this patrol of whom five and one Japanese brought back for interrogation the remainder transferred to small craft.

(C. in C. E.I. 061209Z to Admty.)



6.3.1945  
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Movements Arrived 0026Z 5th following H.M. Ships:-  
 TYNE, RESOURCE, CRANE, PHEASANT, WOODCOCK, AVON,  
 FINDHORN, PARRETT, H.M.A.S. PIRIE, LAUNCESTON.  
 Arrived 05 (700) 46Z. ARTIFEX, H.M.A.S. BALLARAT,  
 H.M.A.S. BENDIGO.  
 Arrived 060330Z:-  
 GUARDIAN towing one battle practice target.  
 (S.B.N.O. Manus, 060255Z to Admty.)

Torres Strait Survey. A.C.N.B.'s 021005 March para. 5. The order of priority given in para. 4 is concurred in.  
 (C. in C. B.P.F. 060521Z to Admty.)

Digest Serial Number 1140 5.3.1945  
 Covering 5th March unless another date given.  
 (1) Navy search Liberators from Mindoro saw one tanker burning off Cape Varella bombed left burning single small freighter 30 miles north Quinhon heading north nil shipping Quinhon.  
 (3) Liberators from Clark Field strafed left burning small coaster NANSEI SHOTO.  
 (4) Night 4/5th March. Navy aircraft bombed Pratas Reef, sank one small Freighter-Transport North Tainan.  
 (5) On 4th March Navy Liberators sank Lugger Kiirun Habor where nil other shipping seen strafed single small Coaster (Sakishima Gunto) bombed strafed slightly damaged 2 luggers Okinawa Jima, bombed strafed seriously damaged one, slightly damaged another. Bombed strafed slightly damaged single north east bound minelayer east of Okinawa Group also bombed strafed single picket boat nearby silencing Ack Ack.  
 (9) Enemy casualties on Luzon to date total 67138 killed, 662 Japanese captured, 23 boats captured to date.  
 On Corregidor 96 Japanese killed in fighting around Engineer and Sorrisln Points over 300 tunnels on Island have been sealed by demolition Forces East Lingayan Gulf advanced north to line extending from about 4 miles north-north-east Rosario to 4 miles north-north-west Rosario against weakening enemy resistance.  
 (10) Aircraft bombed strafed wrecked Freighter and Barge off shore. Mitchells swept over Formosa Straits sinking 3 small merchantmen, 1 Patrol Craft, 1 Lugger, leaving sinking 1 patrol craft, 3 small Freighter-Transports, damaging two sea trucks. Other Mitchells swept French Indo-China coast N. Phan Rany sinking one sea truck one small freighter-transport leaving one small merchantman burning, another listing.  
 (11) Patrol Liberator on Maccassar Strait shipping search bombed one unidentified vessel with one escort 25 miles southeast Manggor heading southwest; vessel probably damaged by near misses.  
 (12) 3rd March. Same day 5 R.A.A.F. Warhawks strafed gun positions, sank lugger, probably destroyed barge at Mazokwari (Dutch New Guinea).  
 2 R.A.A.F. Venturas over Soembawa Island destroyed or damaged some barges strafed 2 Coastal vessels encountered 2 intercepting fighters.  
 (G.H.Q. S.W.Pa., 061115Z to Admty. etc.)

Australia - D. of M. 061800A, V.A.B.P.F.  
 Accommodation See Lion Copy.  
 requirements.

War Diary

6.3.1945  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Survey.

Channel immediately North of Booby Island has recently been re-surveyed and swept to 36 feet. Para.2 (A) of my 021005 not to CHALLENGER refers. Results of this re-survey were sent to Admiralty by Lt. Cdr R. Bill R.N. in January and are being embodied in a new Australian Fleet chart shortly to be published. Your 011919.

(2) In view of above O.C.H.B. considers that the channel (?has been) stabilised and that there is no need for a further re-survey. Also this work would still further delay the many commitments in this area still to be carried out vide para. 4 of my signal quoted in para. (1) above.

(A.C.N.B. Melbourne, 061020Z to Admty.)

109A  
94A

# RESTRICTED.

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.

061800A/March

To: V.A. (Q) B.P.F.

*Australia  
Accommodation Requirements*

Date: 6.3.45

NAVAL CODE "X"

From: Admiralty

The following are accommodation requirements for 1,700 ~~repetition of 1,700~~ S.R.Rs. (D) in Sydney, referred to in your 082328Z/February. No decision has yet been reached to draft 2,500 S.R.Rs. (D) to Sydney or 500 to Brisbane.

- (a) Chief M.R.As., Chief E.As. and Chief Shipwrights, 113. Owing to peculiar conditions of advancement in S.R.R.(D), separate accommodation considered essential.
- (b) Other Artificers and Shipwrights of Chief and Potty Officer status, 730. Owing to more or less automatic advancement, other than to Chief Artificer rate (e.g. those shown under (a)) it is not considered necessary to differentiate between Chief and P.Os.
- (c) Mechanics, 167.
- (d) Artisans 50. These can be combined with Mechanics in (c) if necessary.
- (e) Potty Officers of Wireman, Rigger, Sailmaker and Stoker branches, 60.
- (f) Leading rates and below, 580.
- (g) Chief and Potty Officers not belonging to S.R.R.(D) organisation. If necessary, Potty Officers may be grouped with those in (e).

2. No objection to common dining hall for all the above, if other accommodation is separate.

3. Reference your 170549/February, paragraph 2(b) domestic staff will be made until such time as W.R.N.S. become available for draft from U.K.

4. A further reply will be made on the points raised in your 170549/February, paragraph 3 (i), (ii), (iii) and (v).

5. It is confirmed that the camp will be commanded by an Executive Officer.

061800A

for D. of M. (Q...M.757)

D.F. S.L.	C.W. (2)	M. (5)	
2nd S.L.	A.C.R.	D. of M.	
3rd S.L.	D. 57 O.B.	D.N.C. (2)	
V. Contr.	N.	W.D.	
Soc.	A.C.N.P. (4)	Dep. Contr. (3)	} Bath (16)
Nav Soc.	D. of V. (3)	D. (4)	
P.A.S. (S)	D. of P. (Q) (3)	D.N.C. (2)	
Under Sec. (L)	D.W.R.N.S.	D. of V.	
N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)		S.W.R. (6)	

War Diary

6.3.1945  
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z 6th.

Para. B. (1) A/C L/423 attacked smoke at 1113Z 5th March in 53° 58' N. 13° 00' W.  
 (2) A/C Z/59 attacked contact at 1420Z 5th March in 53° 45' N., 13° 00' W.  
 (3) A/C U/172 sighted U-boat at 1655Z 5th March in 56° 10' N. 12° 10' W.  
 (4) A/C C/10 sighted smoke, wake and possible snort at 1115Z 5th March in 49° 44' N. 05° 44' W.  
 (5) B/105 sighted possible snort at 1135Z 5th March in 49° 43' N. 05° 47' W.  
 (6) DORNOCH attacked contact with depth charges at 1714Z 5th March in 50° 30' N. 05° 26' W.  
 (7) A/C T/224 had disappearing radar contact at 0145Z 6th March in 61° 49' N. 00° 42' E.

Para. C. (1) A/C L/815 attacked moving oil streak at 1022Z 5th March in 55° 40' N. 07° 25' W.  
 (2) A/C S/120 obtained contact at 1145Z/5th March in 55° 27' N. 06° 58' W.  
 (3) A/C L/59 attacked moving oil slick at 1503Z 5th March in 55° 48' N. 08° 39' W.  
 (4) A/C S/120 attacked moving oil slick at 1635Z/5th March in 55° 43' N. 07° 45' W.  
 (5) A/C A/815 attacked smoke and wake at 1540Z 5th March in 55° 12' N. 05° 06' W.  
 (6) E.G.18 attacked contact with squid at 1138Z 5th March in 52° 12' N. 05° 28' W.  
 (7) A/C W/422 sighted U-boat at 1147Z 5th March in 52° 48' N., 05° 15' W.  
 (8) CAPE MARIATO attacked contact with depth charges at 1500Z 5th March in 53° 35' N. 04° 46' W.  
 (9) A/C O/201 attacked smoke at 1830Z 5th March in 53° 52' N. 04° 50' W.  
 (10) ST. HELENA attacked contact with H/H at 1837Z 5th March in 53° 45' N. 05° 01' W.  
 (11) A/C L/110 sighted possible periscope and oil at 1159Z/5th March in 51° 32' N. 06° 38' W.  
 (12) A/C B/179 reported possible U-boat at 0308Z 6th March in 49° 05' N. 06° 13' W.  
 (13) A/C S/224 attacked oil patch at 1440Z 5th March in 61° 29' N. 01° 50' E.  
 (14) A/C C/162 obtained contact at 1205Z 5th March in 64° 08' N. 22° 48' W.  
 (15) A/C Y/458 obtained disappearing radar contact at 2115Z 4th March in 35° 55' N. 07° 50' W.  
 (16) A/C reported possible U-boat at 0210Z 6th March in 35° 50' N. 06° 20' W.

(D.D.I.C. 061148A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

U-boat dispositions Estimates.  
 (D.D.I.C. 061414A, 061419A to A.I.G., Cominch.)

U-boat My 221059 July 1942. After A/C sighting periscope p.m. on 27th Feb. LABUAN attacked contact producing diesel oil and pressure tight container. Contact subsequently lost but container recovered later with U-boat dinghy inside. Early on 28th Asdic contact was regained in position 180° Wolf Rock 11 miles. Several attacks produced oil and wreckage of undoubted German origin.  
 (D.A.U.D. 061919A to Cominch etc.)

7.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) There was considerable midget U-Boat activity off the Schelde, but all in one direction: one boat came ashore at Knocke and was demolished by her crew; one was captured intact by H.D.M.L. patrol outside Breskens and is to be preserved as a museum piece in the Brussels Allied War Effort Exhibition; one came ashore at Heist, near Zeebrugge, another at Domburg, and another on North Beveland. The afternoon despatch boat to Ostend sank another, and READY carried out promising attacks after sighting a 7th near H.K.2 buoy. Three yielded a prisoner each, and the despatch boat's two.

(b) N.O.I.C. Antwerp agrees to accept 3 L.S.Ts. at a time for repairs, to ease the strain on Tilbury's resources.

(c) Three mines were swept off the East Coast.

Channel.

2. BULLDOG has carried out a hopeful hedgehog attack 6 miles S.W. of the Longships.

Western Approaches.

3. (a) S.O.E.G. 25 in LA HULLOISE sighted U.1302 on the surface 12 miles N.W. of Bardsey Is., and 40 mins. later scored a hit on her with a hedgehog. (b) Two Spanish fishermen who had sighted "Appian H" convoy are being brought into Falmouth by FOWEY.

Foreign Stations.

South Atlantic.

Movements.

4. NIGERIA arrived Simonstown from Trincomalee.

Mediterranean.

Gulf of Genoa.

5. In the Gulf of Genoa two M.T.Bs. fired 4 torpedoes at three large lighters off Mesco Pt. and claim one sunk and another hit.

Greece.

6. The strike at Patras continues. In the Ionian Islands E.L.A.S. are in control and terrorising inhabitants.

7.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Force 62. 7. Force 62 arrived at Trincomalee today after operation "Stacey".

Movements.

8. RENOWN arrived Trincomalee from Durban. EMPRESS (F.O.B.S.3) AMEER and KENYA arrived Trincomalee from operations off Kra Isthmus.

*A.P. Stacey*

America & West Indies.

Collision. 9. DONACILLA (Brit. tanker 2113 tons) and BOURGOGNE (Fr. tanker 9357 tons) both in convoy U.G.S. 78 were in collision today and sustained structural damage. Both ships have arrived at Bermuda.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. 10. ILLUSTRIOUS and STRIKER sailed from Sydney for Manus.



7.3.1945

Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations. - North Sea

Minesweeping off East Coast. Sweeper reports one acoustic mine exploded in position 199 degs. 3 B Buoy 3 miles at 0919. (Nearest sweeper) 3 miles away. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 071045A to Admty.)  
Magnetic mine detonated 1040 in position 058 degs. 15 buoys 3 cables. (F.O. Humber, 071157A to C. in C. Nore)  
LL/SA sweepers detonated one acoustic mine in position 115 degs. 3A buoy 21½ cables at 1337 to-day Wednesday. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 071425A to Admty.)

ORIOLE for Terneuzen. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 061658. It is essential ORIOLE should arrive Terneuzen soon and it is a long time since accommodation ship was asked for. Grateful if matter can be expedited. (F.O. Holland, 071145A to Admty.)

Midget U-Boat activities. Following is summary of Midget activity till noon to-day Wednesday, At 0750, Army report Midget thought to be Biber ashore on beach at Knocke. Nobody onboard and S/M partly destroyed by demolition by crew.

One G.S.(R) G.S. type mine attached. Torpedo also reported ashore a few hundred yards up the beach. This torpedo does not come from Biber.  
(2) At 0835 M.M.S.24 reports one Midget 000 degs. Kruishoofd 1.5 M.L's sent from Breskens to hunt but no trace found. (See 071602 para. 2).  
(3) At 0845 R.N.O. Breskens reports H.D.M.L. patrol captured Biber complete just outside Breskens Harbour. S/M has since been brought into Breskens one prisoner taken. (See 071602 para.1). (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 071352 to Com. Belgium)

Following reports of midget U-Boats received to-day Wednesday.

- (1) One man S/M captured intact by Schelde Patrol H.D.M.Ls after detection by A/S fixed defence station Breskens. One prisoner taken. (See 071352 para.3)
- (2) One midget S/M reported by M.M.S.24 in position 000 degs. 1-5 miles from Kruishoofd Lt. Area searched by H.D.M.L's but without result. (See 071352 para.2)
- (3) One midget S/M ashore near Heist. Crew reported to be still at large.
- (4) One man S/M ashore near Domburg. One prisoner taken.
- (5) One man S/M ashore on North Beveland. Map ref. 228403. One prisoner taken.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 071602A to Com. Belgium)

Afternoon despatch boat to Ostend reports sinking one Midget S/M in vicinity of N.F.3 buoy and has two prisoners. (V.A. Dover, 071627A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)

/As ...

7.3.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Midget U-Boat activities. (Contd.) As one complete Biber S/M has already been sent to U.K. intend that the one captured at Breskens vide N.O.I.C.Ostend's 071352 be placed in the S.H.A.E.F.Allied War Effort Exhibition now open in Brussels. This will go a long way to redress the present paucity of naval exhibits.  
(Com. Belgium, 071751A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Following is summary of Midget activity from noon until 1800 to-day Wednesday.

(2) At 1238 READY reported sighting Midget S/M in position 320 degs. H.K.2 buoy, point 5 miles and attacking promising A/S contacts in vicinity. Area plastered M.L's in company.

(3) At 1326 C. in C. Nore reported Midget 1 mile east of 548 buoy.

(4) At 1458 M.T.B. 675 on NDBS reported sinking one Midget vicinity of N.F.3 buoy.

Two prisoners taken and landed at Ostend (see 171627).

(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 071959A to Com. Belgium)

Cositintrep No.337 Part II Naval.

Considerable Midget U-Boat activity occurred in Schelde area 7th March.

One Midget was captured complete by Patrol Craft outside Breskens Harbour (see 071532).

One was sunk near N.F.3 buoy (see 071627).

Four Midgets ran ashore near Knocke, Zeebrugge, Domburg, and North Beveland respectively.

The one at Knocke still carried one mine.

(A.N.C.X.F. 072359A to Admty.)

✓ See 071532 para. 1. ✕ See 071602 para. 3.

X See 071602 para. 4. } See 071602 para. 5.

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.337 part 4 Section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hours period ending 1600A/6 March.

<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	67	406	6,326	-	1,170	-
Ostend	852	161	1,360	-	-	499
Boulogne	8	76	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calais	3,345	-	49	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,560	-	-	1,095
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,272</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>10,295</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,594</b>
<u>U.S. - North</u>						
Antwerp	-	29	9,544	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	139	7,726	530	-	3,267
Le Havre	13,421	592	5,776	-	-	3,064
Rouen	203	199	6,009	975	1,347	611
Granville	-	-	-	2,766	-	-
Ghent	3	-	5,432	-	-	-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13,627</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>34,487</b>	<b>4,271</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>6,942</b>

7.3.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

Cositintrep No.337 part 4 Section A. - Continued.

<u>U.S. South</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo.</u>
Marseilles	7,976	1,218	10,473	625	-	236
Port De Bouc	-	-	1,316	57	2,907	1,316
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	<u>7,976</u>	<u>1,218</u>	<u>11,789</u>	<u>692</u>	<u>2,907</u>	<u>1,552</u>

Note: 702 tons G.F. Ammo discharged at Ghent (U.S.) on 5th March.  
(S.H.A.E.F.071615A to Admty and others)

Relief  
supplies to  
Western  
Holland.

F.O.Holland's 051740/ and A.N.C.X.F.061545/.  
Under such conditions operation proposed by F.O.I.C.  
Holland in his 051740 would not be practicable.  
(2) I do consider however that with improved  
weather prospects we should be prepared under  
conditions of no resistance to supplement the main  
source of supply via the Schelde by landing craft

supplying selected beaches particularly during the early stages.  
(3) I intend calling a meeting at the Admiralty very shortly to  
examine the naval problem preliminary to a meeting of the main  
committee. Nore No.0960/19 of 3rd March, 1945 refers.

(C. in C. Nore, 071706A to A.N.C.X.F. F.O. Holland.

Not received (probably Hush)

Nore 0960/19 of 3rd March and my 071706. Request you or  
your representative will attend a preliminary naval meeting at  
Admiralty House Chatham on Monday 12th March at 1000 in order  
to discuss the use of landing craft to supplement relief supplies  
to Western Holland.

(C. in C. Nore, 071930 to A.N.C.X.F., Admty. F.O.I.C.  
Holland)

Respirators  
for  
Belgium.

Request M. of War Transport be requested to ensure  
that crews of all Merchant ships including foreign  
proceeding to Belgian ports are equipped with  
respirators and that the ships are supplied with  
the requisite decontamination stores.  
(C. in C. Nore, 071711A to Admty.)

Clearance of  
Q.Z.X.1441.

It is intended that on completion of boiler  
cleaning the 10th M.S.F. plus GOLDEN FLEECE will  
proceed to North Shields to complete the clearance  
of Q.Z.X.1441.

(2) Area to be cleared east of 00.48 W.

(3) Flotilla will arrive a.m. 15th March and should be ready to  
commence operations a.m.16th March.

(4) Estimated duration 8 days.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 71933 to Admty.)

7.<sup>3</sup>.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Channel

Patrols. Sail so as to pass gate at 0900A/8 and proceed patrol Lizard to Pendeen.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 071138A to LOCH FADA, LABUAN)  
On re-entering Command proceed to patrol area 10 miles southward of route E.W. between 01 degs. 40' W. and 02 degs. 20' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071210A to LOCH MORLICH, LOCH ACHANALT, TEME)

Remain with B.T.C.90 as far as Portland Bill then proceed patrol Start Point to Portland Bill on Coastal Convoy route.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 071546A to PARRSBORO, ILFRACOMBE)

On arrival E.G.15 establish following patrols. 1st Division Pendeen to Trevoise codeword "Links A". 2nd Division Trevoise to Lundy Codeword "Links B". Report ships detailed and Senior Officers.

(2) Senior Officers of Divisions adjust positions so as to follow 2 to 3 miles astern of all convoys while passing through the area of their patrols. When two or more convoys are in the area at the same time Senior Officers select convoy to be trailed at their discretion.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 071923A to S.O.E.G.15)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Weigh at 0130A/8th March and carry out Serial C.2 part 2. Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071530A to PLOVER, CARAQUET)

Possible U-Boat. In contact possible S/M. My position 230 degs. Longships 6 miles.

(BULLDOG, 072109 to C. in C. Plymouth)

My 072109 have carried out 2 hedgehog attacks second attack explosions obtained 4 seconds after

bomb hit water. Depth of water 37 fathoms.

(BULLDOG, 072148A to C. in C. Plymouth)

My 072148. Position of attack one mile to northward of position in your 072133. Depth my 147 in first attack 80 (feet?) second attack 160 feet.

By stop watch bombs at estimated depth 150 feet. (Considerable?) air bubbles (observed?) and also reported by asdic. Only echo obtained after second attack was on wreck mentioned in your 072133 intend search area until daylight.

(BULLDOG, 072343A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operations

West Coast France

EMPIRE DOMBEY Your 051649A. This has been done.  
cancelled for (P.T.D.071847A to A.N.C.X.F.)  
St.Jean de  
Luz.

7.3.1945  
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

Security for "Appian 'H'". Your 062058A/. Detached from M.K.S. in position 47 degs. 28' N. 07 degs. 40' W. at 0001?A. M.K.S.86 proceeding with KNARES BOROUGH CASTLE, AMBERLEY CASTLE and NARCISSUS and LUNENBERG. Escorting Spanish Trawlers to Falmouth. My 061603A\* refers. (FOWEY, 070047A to C. in C. W.A.) / "Appian H". X Intercepted 2 Spanish Trawlers.

Patrols and Escorts. (1) On completion of training p.m. to-day 7th PHILANTE is requested to sail 17th E.G. to Bangor for Fuel. (2) 17th E.G. will relieve 21st E.G. as Force 34. (C. in C. W.A. 071037A to T.C. PHILANTE, F.O.I.C.N.I) O.N. 289/O.S.715. Intend 18th E.G. to support from 52 degs. 40' N. to Tuskar Rock R/V thence to remain in St. Georges Channel area. Intend 5th E.G. to support Bristol Channel section from Helwick Light to 07 degs. W. (S.O.Force 38, 071930A to C. in C. W.A.) If not in contact leave area so as to establish Gamma Patrol on 52 degs. N. between 11 degs. 30' and 13 degs. 45' W. by 0930 tomorrow 8th. (C. in C. W.A. 071955A to S.O.E.G.1)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Carry out operation CH. G,4 and half 5. 0730 March 8th. (F.O.I.C.Milford, 071131 to APOLLO) Operation CH Serial G half 2 under 3 completed. (APOLLO, 071157A to C. in C. W.A.)

Non-S/M echoes. Further evidence of the nature of non-S/M No. W.63 is required. Opportunity should be sought to obtain E/S trace and any other evidence resulting from attack. D/Cs should not be dropped until a first class E/S trace has been obtained. (C. in C. W.A. 071240A to Force 37)

E.G.26. On relief by E.G.15 p.m. 8th E.G.26 is to proceed in company by standard route to Londonderry signalling E.T.A. direct. (C. in C. Plymouth, 072053A to S.O.E.G.26)

U.1302. Am in contact with enemy position 52 degs. 58' N. 04 degs. 59' W. sighted on surface seen to dive. (S.O.E.G.25, 072148A to C. in C. W.A.) My 072148 still in firm contact attacking. (S.O.E.G.25, 072179A to C. in C. W.A.) 1 hit with hedgehog. Enemy stopped. (S.O.E.G.25, 072225A to C. in C. W.A.)

"High Tea" barrier off S.W.Ireland. Commencing 0930A tomorrow 8th A/C will lay "high / tea"...

7.3.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

"High Tea"  
barrier off  
S.W.Ireland.  
(Contd.)

tea" barrier in area between 52 degs. 15' N. and 53 degs. 15' N. and 11 degs. 30' and 13 degs. 45' W.  
(2) 1st E.G. is to act as striking force and is to patrol ten miles clear of southern limit in area. If area is altered by signal 1st E.G. is to conform.

(3) 1st E.G. will be informed of any "High Tea" contact by signal either direct by A/C on 2410 K/cs or by C. in C. W.A. On receipt of such signal 1st E.G. is to proceed to position of contact at maximum speed and commence a search. A/C will home. Attention is drawn to W.A.G.O. 229.

(4) If no Asdic contact is obtained after 20 minutes from time of arrival at position 1st E.G. is to return at 7 knots, without using PNM to patrol line South of barrier.

(5) R/T codeword "Dribble". W/T callsign 170.

A/C co-operating will use suffix WILLIAM followed by a No.200 and upwards.

(6) S.O's ship is to guard 15 Group R/C wave.

(C. in C. W.A. 072335A to S.O.E.G.1)

Operations

Norway

Patrol.

Positions of S/Ms at 0800/8th and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) SIDON leaves Lerwick 1000/8th through 90 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence course 031 degs.

11 knots diving by day North of 62 degs. N.

(C. of W. 071935A to A.I.G.25)

Operations

Northern Waters

Relief desired for SKYRACK.

Owing to current Anti-S/M requirements it has been necessary concentrate all Auxiliary War vessels in approaches to Reykjavik leaving no vessel available to visit remainder of command nor to maintain supplies and transport of personnel to out Stations. Majority of roads giving access to North and East Coasts are impassable at this time of year and will remain so for several months. Request, therefore, very early consideration be given to relief for SKYRACK mentioned in para. 6. of my No.239981/3 dated 25th January, 1945. (A.C.I.C.071344A to Admty.)

Type 'O'  
anti-schnorkel  
obstruction.

N.O.I.C.Lerwick's 051620. (no trace)  
Defence type Oboe laid 6th March in position 61 degs 12' N. 01 degs. 00 W. in direction 000 degs. for 4 miles by BRITTANY in fine weather. Visibility 10 miles.

(2) This comprises maximum possible lay on deck with obstruction type Oboe modified in accordance with Admiralty Message 021334A

7.3.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Type 'O'  
anti-  
schnorkel  
(Contd.)

Para.3. Prior to laying search was made throughout Southern Area of line of obstruction (Admiralty Letter B.D.O. 866/44 dated 23rd December, 1944 not to all refers) with negative sighting, all previous lays viz: 18 miles disintegrated and missing. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick's 051901A and 061817A neither to all refer) above lay, therefore, commenced at Southern extremity. Admiralty Message 021334A para. 2 and B.D.O. Scapa's 041130A refer.  
(B.D.O. Scapa 071805 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations

Baltic

Minelaying  
in Southern  
Baltic.

Your 231716 February. Soviet Naval Staff agree to mining of areas stated and to Liberator attack. (2) Soviet S/Ms are being warned not to operate on the surface at night West of 16 degs. E. between 19th and 23rd March. Their concurrence on limit of 17 degs. E. could not be obtained.  
(3) Is this acceptable?  
(H.B.N.M.Moscow, 071241A to Admty.)

Port Facilities

Antwerp  
L.S.T.repairs.

Ref. F.O.I.C.London, 021736A. It is confirmed that two additional L.S.T. can be taken at Antwerp. It is proposed to defer calling forward the party referred to in Capt. i/c Tilbury 011535A para. 2 until experience with the first two ships has shown the necessity for them.  
(2) Antwerp will in fact be taking three L.S.T. at any one time, (my 221145 February refers).  
(N.O.I.C.Antwerp, 071310A to Admty.)

Movements

BERWICK  
cruiser.

On completion of practices proceed to Loch Ewe arriving p.m. Friday 9th March.  
Return to Scapa on Wednesday 14th March.  
(C. in C. H.F. 071214 to BERWICK)

MANXMAID,  
A/C target  
vessel.

Admiralty's 230206 not to N.O.I.C.Ardrossan S.T.O. and owners representatives inspected the ship a.m. Tuesday 6th March after which they verbally stated they were anxious for her early release from Naval Service and that they thought they could provide a crew in about 7 to 10 days.  
It is therefore proposed that MANXMAID should proceed to Ardrossan as soon as possible to land Naval Stores and equipment in preparation for paying off and handing vessel back to owners in that port.  
(MANXMAID, 071707A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

7.3.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

WEDGEPORT minesweeper.      VERNON M/S 201215 October and A.M. 271827 October  
neither to all.  
(2) WEDGEPORT is required for Delta sweep trials  
with concrete barges due to be launched in  
London mid-March.  
(3) Request WEDGEPORT be sailed to Sheerness to arrive there  
before fifteenth March.  
(4) Trials will take place at Falmouth.  
(D.M.S.071858A to C. in C. Rosyth)

DIADEM, cruiser.      Intend to proceed in H.M.S. DIADEM pass Hoxa  
Gate 1215 tomorrow Thursday proceeding to Greenock  
on completion of exercises about 1500. S. of A.  
20 knots. E.T.A. Clyde Gate 0900/9th.  
(2) Intend to maintain W/T watch on Broadcast BN  
and appropriate Port waves from time of sailing.  
(3) Request security telephone equipment be connected on arrival.  
(4) Acknowledge.  
(C.S.10, 072140A to C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.C.Greenock)

Shipping and Convoys

T.B.C. Convoys.      Your 061622A/ concur.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 071712A to Admty.)  
/ T.B.C. convoys to be scheduled 2 hours later to  
facilitate connections at Southend and Wight area.



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7.3.1945  
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- A.F.D.66 SALVONIA may be required at Short notice to assist with A.F.D.66 at present in position 044° 50' N. 012° 50' W. making little headway.  
(2) NIMBLE is being held ready at Gibraltar.  
(3) SQUIRREL is requested to keep S.B.N.O. Azores informed of his movements.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 071120A to SQUIRREL.)
- E.G.4 KILMARNOCK in Group 4 defective. Requires relief.  
(2) Proceed as soon as ready to join Group 4 consisting of COLTSFOOT S.O. and KIMELFORD patrol between Cape Spartel and Cape Trafalgar.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 071238A to CYCLAMEN)
- EASTWAY Intend sail EASTWAY for Milford Haven at 1800A/8th  
L.S.D. escorted by MYOSOTIS, SUMMERSIDE and QUANTOCK.  
(3) S. of A. 12½ knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 071544A to Admty.)
- L.S.H.(Ls.) Intend to sail WAVENEY (S.O.) with NITH and  
WAVENEY BLACKMORE at 0800A March 8th for Port Said all  
and NITH; ships calling at Bizerta to land total of 37  
and BLACK- L.S.T. ratings for HASRUBAL and BLACKMORE to  
MORE fuel.  
(destroyer) F.O. Tunisia is requested to sail WAVENEY and  
NITH on discharge of ratings and BLACKMORE to  
rejoin on completion of fuelling. M.S.C.I.5.  
2. 15.  
(4) E.T.A. Bizerta 1000A March 10th.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 071628A to F.O. Tunisia.)
- A.F.D.66 Sail SALVONIA forthwith to assistance of H.M.Tug  
FLAUNT towing A.F.D.66X SQUIRREL, SANDRAY and  
FANCY.  
(2) Last known position of A.F.D.66 was 044° 50'  
N. 012° 50' W. at 0900A March 7th course 120° speed 2 knots or  
less.  
(3) On arrival SALVONIA to stand by to take over tow should  
FLAUNT's 2nd tow wires part.  
(4) Defects in NIMBLE rendered ship only 75% efficient and  
she is being held at Gib. in case of emergency in Straits.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 071820A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

War Diary

7.3.1945  
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

NIGERIA  
(cruiser)

NIGERIA arrived Simonstown.  
(C. in C. S.A. 071101B to Admty.)

SS.  
WINNIPEGOSIS  
PARK  
Collision

Following message received from WINNIPEGOSIS  
PARK in collision entrance Messier Channel, damage  
4 indented plates 8 beam frames top, please  
notify local agent. Request Lloyds Surveyor  
board ship on arrival noon March 8th. If  
Surveyor and Master estimate damage will not  
endanger onward routing, ship will be sailed to  
Capetown otherwise in co-operation with Agents necessary steps  
will be taken for repairs.  
(U.S.R.O. Punta Arenas Chile, 071630 to Com. 10th Fleet, Admty.  
etc.)

7.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Summary of  
operations.  
6.3.45.

Balkan details. Spits. and Hurricanes scored R.P. strikes on gun positions at Lussin Island, destroyed a barge at fiume, attacked shipping in Arsa Channel leaving one collier burning and another damaged and scored hits on east end of Pag Bridge. Mustangs bombed dump and jetties at Arsa.

(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 070932A to Air Ministry.)

Ships for  
Black Sea.

Amend my 051857 (N.T. in W.D.) not to ships in address. Ships are to be sailed a.m. 7th from Naples S.O.A. 10 knots.

(2) E.T.A. position 704. 1000B/10th, E.T.A. Chanak a.m. 11th. E.T.A. Istanbul p.m. 11th.

(3) U.S.S. MORENO is to report to S.B.N.O. Greece and C.S.A. Istanbul repeat F.O.L.E.M. any alteration in E.T.A.S. in para. 2.

(4) Passage of Bosphorus is to be made in daylight.

(5) C.S.A. Istanbul is requested to report altered E.T.A. to Turkish and Soviet authorities.

(C. in C. Med. 070947A to N.O.I.C. Naples.)

Air  
Cositintrep  
No. 604.  
5/6th March.

Balkan Air Force. Spitfires and Hurricanes had rocket hits on gun positions on Lussin Vicsoh destroyed barge off Fiume, left collier burning and another damaged in Arsa Channel and hit east end Pag bridge. Mustangs started fires at Arsa on jetties and dump.

(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 071000A to W.O.)

24th Destroyer  
Flotilla.

Request information intended movement of TROUBRIDGE, TENACIOUS, TERMAGANT. A.M. 191944 Jan.\* para. 2. refers.

(D.O.D.(F) 071058A to C. in C. E.I.)

Reply 080852.

\* TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER, TENACIOUS and TERMAGANT to assemble at Plymouth in time to sail for Med. 29th Jan.

LAMERTON,  
destroyer  
Hunt class.

Sail at 0800/8th S.O.A. 20 knots to Gib.

(5) LAMERTON is for onward routeing to U.K. in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 031002.

(V.A. Malta 071135 to LAMERTON.)

S. Aegean  
Summary 6/7  
March.

Up to 0900 hours 7th March 1945.

General. Second sailing of Turkish Red Cross caiques from Izmir for Dodecanese Islands commences 10th March. Crete. Suda Bay. Arrived Swedish FENRIS Red Cross. Departed one caique 40/60 foot. Shipping now present FENRIS and one

tug 80/100 foot. Reported evacuation of Melys to Crete has begun first boat having reached Canea. No confirmation yet. Reported rumour of surrender negotiations between British Govt. and German Command are unfounded.

(C. in C. M.E. 071155B to W.O.)

7.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Navigation of Turkish Ships. British Naval Attache Ankara's 271716\* Feb. Consider that the statement that ships are perfectly safe so long as their Captains adhere strictly to courses given was too strongly worded and might involve Admiralty in financial liability should by any mischance a Turkish ship be mined when following one of the routes established by F.O.L.E.M. (2) In the circumstances Turkish Authorities should be informed that to the best of our belief routes given in F.O.L.E.M's 231945 Feb. are safe so long as ship adheres strictly to them, but that our information regarding minefields in this area is not necessarily complete, and that no guarantee of safety can, therefore, be given. Istanbul pass to C.S.A. (C. in C. Med. 071226A to B.N.A. Ankara.) \* Not yet identified in W.R.

L.C.T. 492 lost. L.C.T. 492 foundered in Red Sea 6th March crew picked up by SS. OTRANTO and are being returned to SAUNDERS. Request disposal instructions. (SAUNDERS 071645B to F.O.L.E.M.) *See p. 126.*

Red Cross & relief services. From the Greek Ministry of Marine and Mercantile Marine Ministry. By Govt. decision Greek services are to take over the handling of all relief and Red Cross cargoes from M.L. as from the 15th March 1945. Govt. policy is to return to pre-war conditions as soon as possible. Committee consisting of representatives of Port Committee (Limenikis Epipropis). Sea Transport, Port Commandant and A.K.H.M. should be formed to arrange reception and berthing of vessels. Control of Lighters to proceed as at present until British Ministry of War Transport receive instructions regarding disposal. (F.O.I.C. Piraeus 071720B to M.O.W.T. London.)

Situation Report No. 576. (1) Greece. The strike at Patras continued. In Ionian Islands E.L.A.S. are in control and reported terrorising inhabitants. (2) Gulf of Genoa. (2) M.T.Bs. fired 4 torpedoes at 3 large lighters 3 miles? off Mesco Point and claim 1 sunk and 1 hit. (C. in C. Med. 071753A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Instructions for Turkish Shipping. F.O.L.E.M. 071825B to Admtty.) See Lion Copy.

Aegean. Enemy reported withdrawing garrisons from Kalimnos and Khalkis and this largely substantiated by P.R. of shipping. This suggests that recent annihilation enemy forces Nisiros and Piscopi is dictating withdrawal all small garrisons to larger islands. Probable however that op. being maintained on Alimnia. (A.F.H.Q. 071900 to W.O.)

# SECRET

124A  
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.)

*Instructions for  
Turkish shipping*

071825B/March

From: F.O.L.E.M.

Date: 8.3.45

NAVAL CODE (XB) BY W/T.

Recd: 0840

Addressed: Admiralty, C. in C. Mediterranean.

Repeated: S.O. 53 Force, SHA 218+, Comar OI, N.O.I.C. Castelorizo.

This repeats my 071333~~4~~ begins:

Addressed B.N.A. Ankara A.B.N.A. Istanbul C.S.A. Izmir. (R)  
C.S.A. Iskanderun. Repeated Admiralty C. in C. Med.  
S.O. 53 Force SHA 218+ Comar OI N.O.I.C. Castelorizo.  
From F.O.L.E.M.

Cancel paragraph (5) my 031625~~4~~ and substitute following:-

(A) North of Samos Strait coastwise traffic for Dardanelles and intermediary ports may be routed in territorial waters as hitherto at responsibility of Turkish Authorities.

(B) Waters between Cape Baba and Dardanelles are unswept.

(C) Known minefields between Cape Baba and Dardanelles as follows:-

(1) All positions are N. and E. unless otherwise indicated. 039 degs. 46 mins. 12 secs. 025 degs. 55 mins. 00 secs. to 039 degs. 46 mins. 36 secs. 025 degs. 57 mins. 30 secs. (?).

(2) 039 degs. 41 mins. 30 secs. 025 degs. 53 mins. 42 secs. to 039 degs. 43 mins. 00 secs. 025 degs. 56 mins. 48 secs.

(3) 039 degs. 43 mins. 12 secs. 026 degs. 03 mins. 30 secs. to 039 degs. 41 mins. 24 secs. 26 degs. 03 mins. 00 secs. QB 365 refers.

(2) B.N.A. Ankara's 061031 (To F.O.L.E.M. only) refers.

071825B

+ Presumably local allocation not known in War Registry.

✓ No trace of previous receipt in War Registry.

✓ Regarding calls and instructions for Turkish shipping.

Advance copy Ops. O.D. Plot.  
D.M.S. Hydrog.

/Marking overleaf.....

1st Lord  
1st S.I. (3)  
D.P.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.  
O.D. (6)  
Ops. (2)  
Plot (2)  
D.N.I. (5)  
O.I.C. (2)  
M. (2)  
D.M.S.  
D.M.S. (Citadel)  
D.A/S.W.  
D.A/U.D.  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D. of P. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
Ad. Blake (4)  
~~W.D.~~

AC  
(52)

7.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

PRINCE HENRY Intend sailing PRINCE HENRY at 1200A/9th March  
L.S.I. (M) S.O.A. 12 knots to Malta for onward routing to  
Gibraltar and U.K.  
(2) Ship has serious defect in starboard main  
engine necessitating this engine not being  
turned. Coupling is being broken to ensure this. Max. speed  
13 knots. Ship requires tugs to assist berthing.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 071905A to C. in C. Med.)

M/S situation Q.B. 336 clear south of Q.B.C. 919 to lat. 037°  
report. 58' N. (corrupt group) swept depth 15 fathoms.  
(2) 76 mixed G.V., G.Y., I.K. and I.J. and 5  
G.O. mines swept.  
(3) High percentage search of eastern 2 miles of  
area ordered in your 201640 Feb. carried out with negative  
result.  
(S.O. M/S 5 072115 to F.O.L.E.M.)

A.F.D. 24 Can a preliminary report on the circumstances  
(loss of.) attending the loss of A.F.D. 24 and tug HESPERIA  
be forwarded?  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 072252A to C. in C. Med.)

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7.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 070438Z to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

Operation  
"Stacey".

Operation "Stacey" completed. Force 62 arrived  
Trincomalee 7th March.

(2) Photographic R/C obtained of (A) Kra Isthmus  
between 007° N. and 010° N. including outlying  
islands Pakchan River and Chumporn.

(B) Penang and Lankawi Island (C) N.E. coast Sumatra from Sabang  
to Tandjoengbodai (003° N. 099° 50' E.) and Nias Island Simalur  
and Banjark Island.

(3) 3 enemy aircraft shot down by fighters 1st March.

(4) No damage or casualties. One Hellcat ditched pilot safe.

(C. in C. E.I. 070629Z to Admty.)

L.C.T. 492,  
loss.

L.C.T. 492 capsized and sank in position 15.25 N.  
41.53 E. at 1700/6 after being towed for some  
hours by LANDGUARD.

(2) Report from Master SS. SAMUR and Commanding  
Officers of LANDGUARD and L.C.G. 5 will be for-  
warded to S.N.O.R.S.C.A. who will presumably hold any enquiry  
considered necessary as crew of L.C.T. 492 will arrive at Suez.

(3) SAMUR and L.C.G. 5 now in vicinity of Perim making 5 knots.  
My 060731 refers. LANDGUARD arrives Aden tomorrow.

(Com. Aden 071701Z to C. in C. E.I.) *See page 124.*

HIND  
A/A sloop.

HIND should be retained for the present.

(2) A.L.D. 0964/45 of 2nd March now in transit  
replies to your 110443 Jan.

(D.O.D.(F) 072328A to C. in C. E.I.)



7.3.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B Estimates.  
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 071316Z, Cominch 071609Z.)

U/B. Your target is S/M reported vicinity 49.00 N., 35.30 W. by Cominch 071034 not to all. Previous estimates this S/M now thought too far to eastward. C.T.U. 22.2.1 designate new R/V. (C. in C. Lant, 071355Z to C.T.U. 22.2.1, C.T.G. 22.13.)

U-Boat For D.N.M.S.  
(weather Much of British case in your 061559A is based  
reporters) on assumption that terminal weather transmissions from North America can be received direct by enemy shore stations without relay by U-Boats. This has always been denied by United States on basis of their own monitoring results and requests by them for evidence to this effect have so far been ignored. It seems advisable that you should now supply convincing factual evidence from monitoring or other intelligence that a large percentage of these mainly low powered transmissions can be received in Europe.

(2) It should be noted that use of U-Boats for weather-reporting is to some extent evidence that enemy is unable to receive the existing transmissions in clear from United States. While by no means conclusive, as we also have weather ships, this point may be made in United States case.  
(B.A.D., 071543Z to Admt.)

E.G. 16. Departure Halifax 1300Z/7th March. H.M. Ships SPRINGHILL (S.O.), CHARLOTTETOWN, STETTLER, ANTIGONISH to Londonderry. Route.  
(2) S. of A. 12 knots to position (U) then 14 to destination, E.T.D. position (U) 1200Z/11th, E.T.A. position (Y) 1800Z/15th.  
(4) Anticipate sailing KIRKLAND LAKE p.m. today 7th to overtake and rejoin E.G.16.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 071556Z to C. in C. W.A.)

CAP DES Cominch has reported on CAP DES PALMES as follows  
PALMES (A.M. 231316 Feb. refers):  
(A.M.C.), (A) As at present equipped her maximum capacity  
LA is 19,000 cubic feet for boom-loaded cargo, 24,000  
GRANDIERE cubic feet for hand-loaded cargo and 600 cubic  
(Sloop). feet of reefer space.  
(B) Conversion of the ship to a bulk cargo carrier with approximately 140,000 cubic feet capacity would require - (1) Removal of 1 6-inch gun forward, 1 6-inch gun and 6 torpedo tubes aft, plus 640 tons of cement block ballast. (ii) Installation of 4 additional booms and winches, 7 cargo hatches and necessary bin stowage.  
(2) Cominch adds that should CAP DES PALMES be considered unsuitable for employment in the manner referred to above, consideration might be given to employing her as an escort vessel on the East Indies Station. He states that she has

/been ...

War Diary.7.3.1945.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

CAP DES PALMES (A.M.C.), LA GRANDIERE (Sloop). (Contd.)  
 been employed in the capacity in the South West Pacific and can be released from that area now. Further, the ship is in excellent condition and is capable of making 13 knots.  
 (3) LA GRANDIERE will be available for transfer to the East Indies Station about the 15th April.  
 (4) If it is confirmed that CAP DES PALMES is required in the East Indies Station Command, Cominch will proceed to arrange the transfer of both ships with the French Naval Authorities. (B.A.D., 071513Z to Admty.)

ARIADNE (Minelayer)  
 Intend following movements on approximate dates:  
 18th March leave: 22nd March arrive Bermuda where fuel and disembark United States Liaison personnel and E.C.M.: 27th March arrive Horta and fuel: 31st March arrive U.K.  
 (ARIADNE, 071830Z to Admty.)

ASSISTANCE (Auxiliary Repair ship)  
 Departing Nyphil 1700/8 for New York. E.T.D. Overfalls 2300 same day, E.T.A. Ambrose 1300/9. Speed 10. Request Pilot at Ambrose Light. (ASSISTANCE, 072125 to Com. 3, 4, C.E.S.F.)

French ships (employment of).  
 Cominch has written to me as follows with reference to para. 5 of C.C.S. 708/9:  
 Begins: "It has already been agreed that the RICHELIEU shall be returned to the British East Indies Fleet, and it is the present intention to employ the BEARN in the Pacific for the ferrying of aircraft after the completion of one ferrying trip in the Atlantic. I do not feel that it would be profitable to employ any more of the French ships listed in C.C.S. 708/8 in the Pacific at this time. I would appreciate your views as to the possible employment of any of these vessels in the East Indies Fleet". Ends.  
 (2) Request observations may be signalled. (B.A.D., 072239Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand

Navigational Aids.  
 Your 020730 March, arrangements are being made to ship to Australia 12 light-buoys and necessary maintenance spares. Bridles and sinkers will be included but not pendants. Assume you can provide necessary chain cable. Request you will say where and to whom the buoys should be consigned. (D. of N., 070627A to A.C.N.B.)

/Digest ...

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War Diary.7.3.1945.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand - Contd.Digest  
Serial  
Number  
1141,  
6th March.

Covering 6th March unless stated otherwise.  
(1) Navy Liberators damaged small merchantman heading west 54 miles north Amoy; also sank one sea truck 2 small coasters, 2 luggers damaged one sea truck, one small coaster, probably destroyed one and damaged another of 4 intercepting fighters, all in area east Hong-kong. Another Liberator over Sakishima Gunto

sank one burned another of 3 small coasters.

(3) Evening 3rd Air Force Liberator attacked vessel with no superstructure described as Escort Carrier off Balikpapan scoring three direct hits, 2 near misses causing large explosion leaving vessel dead in water.

(4) Delayed reports states 3 Liberators unarmed shipping search South China Sea night 3rd/4th March sank single large tanker north-east Hainan, also attacked unidentified merchant vessel same area.

(6) Total enemy casualties on Leyte Island now number 76,510 killed, 743 captured. Ground forces on Luzon advancing towards Batangas Bay reached Calatagan. Forces to north advanced up Villa Verde trail to over 2 miles west Imugan. Reduction enemy strong points continues hills west Hort Stotsenburg.

(9) Patrol Liberator scored 2 near misses on one of 2 unidentified vessels Makassar Strait.

(11) Delayed reports air operations 5th March 2 Mustangs sank 2 barges Tuguegarao.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 071057Z to Admty.)

Shipping  
for B.P.F.T.

Your 140610 Feb. In order to provide the A.S.I.S., A.S.C. and N.S.C. now with Pacific Fleet Train the tonnage under British control was thoroughly combed for vessels of the right type and the pick of these are now with you. The prospects

of early replacement are therefore remote.

Request you consider conversion on station of KOLA, and if necessary KISTNA, from A.S.C. to A.S.I.S. and their allocation to more or less static roles at the intermediate base. Pending further investigation into provision of additional ships, suitable A.S.I.S. to be used as carriers in lieu.

(D.A.S., 072136A to R.A.F.T.)

U BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/7th March.

Para. (A) (1) EMPIRE GERRAINT torpedoed at 1330Z/6th March in approx. 51° 29' N., 05° 01' W.

Para. (B) (1) A/C L/815 reported possible snort. at 1320Z/6th March in 55° 03' N., 05° 43' W. and at 1340Z/6th March attacked oil track course 320° at 1720Z/6th March A/C X/59 obtained contact in same position.

/(2) ...

7.3.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. (Contd.) (2) A/C V/201 reported wake or swirl and radar contact at 1830Z/6th March in 54° 15' N., 05° 05' W.  
Para. (C) (1) DORNOCH carried out further attacks on contact previously reported from 0813Z to 1128Z/6th March in 50° 30' N., 05° 26' W. JONQUIERE attacked contact in same general area at 1420Z/6th March.  
(2) Gibraltar A/C reported possible snort. at 1403Z/6th March position uncertain 36° 25' N., 11° 07' W., or 36° 50' N., 11° 53' W.  
(3) A/C V/422 reported smoke at 0857Z/6th March in 54° 08' N., 05° 00' W.  
(4) A/C H/422 attacked contact with depth charges at 0925Z/6th March in 52° 14' N., 05° 27' W.  
(5) A/C F/810 attacked swirl following contact at 1805Z/6th March in 50° 16' N., 01° 52' W.  
Para. (D) (1) Torpedo recovery vessel reported loud explosion at 1040Z/5th March in 53° 29' N., 04° 28' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 071107A to Cominch.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C., 071413A, 071418A to A.I.G., Cominch.)

8.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. (a) M.T.B. 652 claims to have sunk a midget U-Boat off the Goodwins.  
(b) One mine was detonated off the Humber and two off Flushing.
- Channel. 2. SS. LORNASTON was sunk about 18 miles W.S.W. of Beachy Head in convoy O.N.A. 289, probably by U-Boat.
- Western Approaches. 3. (a) S.O.E.G. 25 has continued to bring up specimen contents from U.1302, including her deck log, prayer book and harmonica.  
(b) CAPE ARGONA, trawler, suspecting the presence of a U-Boat S.W. of Bardsey Island, dropped depth charges and injured herself. She has retired into Holyhead.

Foreign Stations.

Australia & New Zealand.

- China. 5. U.S. Liberators bombed a small merchant vessel and left it in a sinking condition 30 miles east northeast of Hongkong and one lugger S. by W. of Amoy.
- Philippines. 6. Today and yesterday 2 U.S. light cruisers and 6 destroyers carried out a bombardment of Zamboanga (southwest corner of Mindanao.)
- Borneo. 7. U.S. Liberator attacked one small freighter off S.E. Borneo scoring one direct hit and two near misses. A sea truck was also attacked in the same area.
- Movements. 8. T.F. 113 comprising KING GEORGE V (C.T.F. 113), INDOMITABLE (A.C.1) SWIFTSURE (C.S.4) HOWE, VICTORIOUS, INDEFATIGABLE, GAMBIA, ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE, EURYALUS, UNICORN and 14 destroyers arrived at Manus from Sydney (N.S.W.)

War Diary

8.3.1945  
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Possible U-boat R.M.L. 553 reports that at 1326A Wednesday 7th March while in position 1 mile east of 54B buoy and drifting with engines cut she observed a single periscope approximately 3 inches in diameter and 3 feet above water 50 yards distant from her. Submarine immediately ~~submerged~~ submerged. A depth charge attack was immediately carried out but no evidence of damage was seen. An A/S M.L.142, together with ARENDAL, later relieved by MALLARD, were sent to search the area, and a contact as reported by M.L. 142 in her 072231, was attacked. Full report follows.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 081034A to C. in C. Nore.)

Minesweeping off E.Coast. Ground mine detonated at 1236 in position 106° 12A buoy 1 mile.  
(F.O. Humber 081415 to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 338 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 071600A March.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G.F. Ammo
Antwerp	36	345	3,948	-	5,330	-
Ostend	1,259	238	1,352	-	-	1,018
Boulogne	96	171	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	155	-	-
Calais	4,085	-	43	-	-	998
Ghent	-	-	2,263	-	-	990
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,476</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>7,606</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>5,330</b>	<b>2,016</b>
U.S. North						
Antwerp	-	76	721	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	174	9,566	-	1,647	3,930
Le Havre	9,553	894	5,590	-	-	2,699
Rouen	681	351	5,800	1,789	-	274
Granville	-	-	-	3,407	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,945	-	-	2,127
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,234</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>27,622</b>	<b>5,196</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>9,030</b>
U.S. South						
Marseilles	-	529	14,659	607	-	1,147
Port de Bouc	-	-	852	-	-	852
Toulon	-	-	2,067	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>17,578</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,999</b>

Note:- G.F. ammo discharges Ghent (U.S.) 489 tons on 3rd March and 649 on 4th March not previously reported. (Signed Eisenhower cite S.H.D.G.S.)

(S.H.A.E.F. 081715A to Admty., and others.)

/Minesweeping...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping off Schelde. Sweeping report for Thursday 8th March Channel N.F. 18 to N.F. 13 swept LL/SA I.G.M.S. both sides of centre line. H.G. on outward passage by two M.M.S. channel Bat to N.F. 18 swept LL/SA by two M.M.S. Both sweeps negative results. Three B.Y.M.S. continued sweeping of Westkapelle Channel. Two magnetic mines detonated off Flushing. (Com. M/S Terneuzen 081737 to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

Disposal of midget U/B. Your 071751 concur. (2) Will Admiralty please say if submarine is required in U.K. after the exhibition closes. (A.N.C.X.F. 081738A to Com. Belgium., Admty.)

Midget U/B activity. At 1829/7 M.T.B. 652 on patrol between North Goodwin Light Vessel and East Goodwin No. 2 Buoy sighted midget submarine range 400 yards when one mile S.E. of the Kellett Buoy. Midget dived on a northerly course on being sighted and M.T.B. 652 immediately attacked with 10 Mark 11 depth charges set to 25 feet followed by 5 attacks with 25 Mark VII Star charges set to 60 and 100 feet alternately. After third attack with the heavy charges what appeared to be wooden wreckage was brought to the surface and later confirmed as a duckboard. Nothing further was seen and nothing heard by hydrophone watch set at 1917/7 for 30 minutes. (V.A. Dover 081821A to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

Torpedoing of M.V. LORNASTON. LORNASTON torpedoed in vicinity. My position 2A Buoy. (HOLMES 081101 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) Picking up survivors. Master reports ship is not salvable. Evidence points to mine not torpedo.

Intend further search. (HOLMES 081143A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Investigating contact. (HOLMES 081231A to C. in C. Portsmouth.) My 081231 suspect U-Boat still in contact my position 236° Beachy Head 12.

(HOLMES 081311 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) Merchant ship sunk in position 260° 2A Buoy 4.6 miles contact confirmed by E.S. in position 260° 2 A 1.6. (HOLMES 081418A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Regret...

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Torpedoing of M.V. LORNASTON. (Contd.)  
Regret to report M/V LORNASTON sunk by under-water explosion suspected to be torpedo, at approx. 1150 to-day 8th March in 50 degs. 34' 40" N. 00 degs 03' 20" W.  
(2) Vessel was with O.N.A. 289.  
(3) 48 survivors landed Newhaven. No casualties.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081840A to Admty.)  
Master SS. LORNASTON reported hit in stern flooding by shaft passages and weak bulkhead. Submit Gnat for consideration. My 082316.  
(HOLMES, 082351A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Patrols. DORNOCH take ships addressed under his orders and sail in company when ready p.m. 9th to patrol Start Point to Portland Bill on coastal convoy route.  
(2) PARRSBORO, ILFRACOMBE leave patrol so as to enter Plymouth at 1930A/9th for layover.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 081108A to DORNOCH, BEAUMARIS, BLYTH, PARRSBORO)

C.T.F.125 into C.T.F.122. On 15th March T.F.125 will be absorbed in T.F.122 in Paris. From that date all matters previously dealt with by C.T.F.125 (Comusbasfrance) should be referred to C.T.F.122 (Comnavforfrance).  
(Admty. (Hd. of M.) 081514A A Message)

Suggestion of smoke as anti-U-Boat screen. Analysis of U-Boat torpedoings during and since Operation "Neptune" suggests that the enemy only fires when he can observe his target through the periscope.  
(2) Request you will examine the possibility of the use of smoke by escorts with a view to restricting U-Boats' field of view and making it impossible for the enemy to keep his target under observation while he closes to the attack.  
(3) Should you conclude that the matter is worth proceeding with it is for consideration that you undertake a trial under practical conditions by day to see to what extent dense or light-haze smoke-making with existing facilities will hinder U-Boat attack without causing too much embarrassment to our own shipping movements.  
(4) Reduction of anti-U-Boat armament of a proportion of the escorts can be accepted if, by the additional provision of smoke apparatus, sufficient smoke to ensure the safe passage of personnel ships across the Channel can be maintained.  
(5) M.Ls with speed limit of 5 or 6 knots placed on the grain of the convoy might be used to represent a U-Boat endeavouring to reach a firing position during this trial.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 081525A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

/Submarine ...



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ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.

S/M surface craft exercise area. Para. 3 of my 171503 January it is now intended to lay this buoy in position 50 degs. 35' N.00 degs 38' E.

(2) This will serve three purposes:  
 (a) mark longitude of dividing line between area swept for moored and ground mines that swept for moored mines only (para.2 of above signal refers) bottoming can take place in area to west of this dividing line.  
 (B) Be a near indication of wreck discovered in position 50.35.06 N. 00.38.42 E. while sweeping and reported in my 181042 February to Hydrographer only.  
 (C) Mark northern boundary of area in vicinity of Q.Z.X.801.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 081952A to Admt.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

U-Boat U.1302. Initial A/S contact picked up by H.M.C.S. LA HULL-OISE followed by small Radar contact illuminated at 200 yards Schnorkel and periscope sighted as U-Boat dived.. Contact regained 4 HH by STRATHADAM. One depth charge pattern by LA HULLOISE one HH by THETFORD MINES produced subsequently what appeared to be German escape lung approx. 2 feet square continuing to attack position 52 degs. 18' N. 05 degs. 29' W. My position incorrectly reported.

(S.O.E.G.25, 080020A to C. in C. W.A.)  
 Additional wreckage recovered large oil slick areas. Have laid dan buoys remaining in contact.  
 (S.O.E.G.25, 080312A to C. in C. W.A.)  
 Object recovered proved upon closer examination to be German ration kit inscribed T.W. 04482 NACHPRÜFUNG am 24.4.45. Shoes and clothing also picked up. Oil slick now covers approx. 8 square miles. Still in contact with remains.  
 (S.O.E.G. 25, 081032A to C. in C. W.A.)  
 Further to my 081032A one deep pattern dropped by echo sounder produced: German Prayer Book, shattered pieces of engine room blackboard, personal snap-shot, clothing, harmonica, correspondence, deck log with engine revolutions and speed, covers of C.B's.  
 (2) Much shattered wood covering large area quantities of oil covering large area still rising good sample obtained. Am certain of kill but intend carrying out more attacks for further confirmation.  
 (S.O.E.G.25, 081425A to C. in C. W.A.)  
 Well done. Proceed forthwith to join Force 37.  
 (C. in C. W.A. 081845A to S.O.E.G.25)  
 Consider evidence sufficient to confirm kill. Documents show S/M was U.1302. Dan Buoy 030 degs. 2000 yards from remains. Proceeding in execution of your 062329 all ships urgently need ammunition before assuming patrol E.T.A. Fairway buoy Londonderry 0900A/9.  
 (S.O.E.G.25, 081912A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Your ...

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U.1302.  
(Contd.)

Your 081912 not to all. You are due to lie over on 11th March replenish to about 50% ammunition outfit as quickly as possible and then join Force 37. Report requirements forthwith to Com. D. W.A.  
(C. in C. W.A. 082333A to S.O.E.G.25)

"H.T" barrier  
off S.W.  
Ireland.

Commencing 0930A to-day 8th A/C will lay "High Tea" barrier in area between positions.

(A) 51 degs. 09' N. 11 degs. 42' W.  
(B) 50 degs. 30' 09 degs. 54' (C) 49 degs. 38' 10 degs. 41' (D) 50 degs. 18' 12 degs. 30'.  
(2) 22nd E.G. supporting H.X.340 is to act as

striking force during the time the convoy is east of 13 degs. W. and West of 09 degs. W. Estimate convoy position 0800A/8th 50 degs. 23' 13 degs. 48' routed through 51 degs. 40' 12 degs. 01' thence to 180 degs. Fastnet 10 speed 10 knots.

(3) 22nd E.G. will be informed of any "High Tea" contact by signal either direct by A/C on 2410 K/cs or by C. in C. W.A. On receipt of such signal between 13 degs. & 09°W. 22nd E.G. is to detach from convoy and proceed to position of contact at maximum speed and commence a search. A/C will home Attention is drawn to W.A.G.O.229.

(4) If no Asdic contact is obtained after 20 mins from time of arrival at position 22nd E.G. is to leave the area by shortest route at 7 knots without using PNM and when 10 miles clear of area is to rejoin convoy at best speed.

(5) R/T codeword "Icecube". W/T callsign 373. A/C co-operating will use suffix W followed by a number 300 and upwards.

(5) S.O.'s ship is to guard 15 Group R/C wave.

(C. in C. W.A. 080101A to S.O.E.G.22)

Close "High Tea" position 52 degs. 20' N. 13 degs. 12' W.

(C. in C. W.A. 081328A to S.O.E.G.1)

"High Tea" contact at 1305 in 52 degs. 20' N. 13 degs. 10' W.

Cancel para. 4 of my 072335 and continue search.

U-Boat's probable C. and S. 180 degs. 2½ knots.

(C. in C. W.A. 081613A to S.O.E.G.1)

Your 081328. Search completed nothing to report no "High Tea" sighted. Cannot contact aircraft. Ref. 170 W 205's 1530 request position. My P.C.S. 52 degs. 22' N. 13 degs. 18' W. 000 degs. 8 knots.

(2) Suitable.

(S.O.E.G.1, 081615A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 081615, shall be 5 miles and 170 W 205's 1625 position at 1730. Propose making visual contact and, if nothing found there, act in accordance with your 1613, just received.

(S.O.E.G.1, 081710A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 081710 position reached at 1750A area swept through. Nothing to report. Am complying with your 081613. My

P.C.S. 52 degs. 36' N. 13 degs. 15' W. 175 degs. 14 knots.

(S.O.E.G.1, 081853A to C. in C. W.A.)

Commencing 0930A tomorrow 9th A/C will lay "High Tea" barrier in area between 50 degs. 58' and 52 degs. 10' N. and 12 degs. 20' and 13 degs. 41' W. The orders contained in my 072335 are to apply.

(2) If not in contact 1st E.G. is to establish patrol by 0930 on a line 10 miles clear of the southern limit of the area.

(C. in C. W.A. 081911A to S.O.E.G.1)

/Patrols...

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- Patrols and Escorts. On completion of fuelling request you will sail 17th E.G. at best speed to relieve 21st E.G. patrolling standard routes B and C between 06 degs. 30' and 08 degs. 00' W. E.T.A. 06 degs. 30' W. to be reported.
- (2) On relief 21st E.G. if not in contact proceed to Belfast to lay over.
- (C. in C. W.A. 080131A to F.O.I.C.N.I.)  
Situation in area - (a) 5th E.G. less BLIGH P.C.S. 020 degs. The Smalls 12 miles 145 degs. 18 knots to join M.K.S.86.  
(b) 18th E.G. search vicinity CAPE ARGONA's report thence as in my 081101, not to all addressees.  
(c) 25th E.G. still attacking.  
(S.O.Force 38, 081116A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Request you will sail 30th E.G. at first light tomorrow 9th to relieve 4th E.G. as Force 37. S.O. 4th E.G. arrange R/V.
- (2) On relief 4th E.G. proceed to Belfast for fuel and short rest.  
(C. in C. W.A. 081233A to Com. D. W.A.)
- Possible U-Boat. One S/M submerged position 52 degs. 34' N. 5 degs. 10' W.  
(CAPE ARGONA, 080155 to F.O.I.C.Liverpool)  
My 0155. Doppler and high relative speed obtained. Unable to rejoin convoy as dynamo thrust block and degaussing sweep damaged not in contact now.  
(CAPE ARGONA, 080303A to F.O.I.C.Liverpool)  
Am closing CAPE ARGONA my P.C.S. 52 degs. 27' N. 06 degs. 24' W. 060 degs(?) 17.  
(S.O.E.G.18, 080317A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 080317. CAPE ARGONA attacked asdic contact position 52 degs. 31' N. 05 degs. 06' W. 3 times without apparent result but damaged herself. Intend searching. Have sailed CAPE ARGONA to Holyhead maximum speed 9 knots.  
(S.O.E.G.18, 080509A to C. in C. W.A.)
- Security for "Appian H". convoy. A.M. 271932 October. Spanish Fishery Trawlers PEPE CHICA and ANTONIO CHICA arrived Falmouth 0200/08. PEPE CHICA Senior Ship and navigator carrying Close's Fishermans Chart showing area Irish coast Wales west south west and Southern England, French, Spanish and Portuguese coast new and apparently unused.
- (2) PEPE carried old type Belgian wireless transmitter receiver capable of sending up to 50 miles. Transmitter dismantled at sea by Boarding Party receiver placed out of action on arrival. ANTONIO no wireless and no charts.
- (3) Both ships belong same Commerical Company and left Vigo together 1st March, called Avila to coal and proceeded to fishing grounds but were arrested before arrival. No fish aboard.
- (4) Crew of PEPE 13, ANTONIO 12. All Spanish names and nationality with identity cards apparently in order.
- (5) Search by Naval Part Security Control Officer and F.S.P. revealed nothing suspicious. Crew well disposed to Boarding Party.
- (6) Skipper of PEPE has worked in Coasters out of Liverpool,

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Security  
for "Appian  
H" convoy.  
(Contd.)

Glasgow, Milford, Cardiff and was last in Fal-  
mouth 16 years ago. Both ships reasonably clean  
and tidy.  
(7) PEPE CHICA Master A.V. Lemos. ANTONIO CHICA  
J.P. Garcia.  
(8) Request instructions.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 081114A to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Operation "C.H" serial G.4½, 5 completed.  
(APOLLO, 081151A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Norway

Operation  
"S.C".

Ramose Elegant. Sailed HESSA at 0400A/8th March.  
(2) Air Escort not especially required on return  
journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 080405A to C. in C. H.F.)  
(1) 0400A/10th March from Scalloway.

- (2) 075 degs. from Sumburgh Head. 14 knots.
- (3) 2000A/10th March.
- (4) Between 2030A/10th March and 0500A/11th March.
- (5) 255 degs. to Sumburgh Head, 15 knots. Intend sailing S.C.  
operation from Shetlands.
- (6) p.m. 11th March.
- (7) 075 degs. Sumburgh Head. (8) No.
- (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 081709A to C. in C. H.F.)  
04 degs. 51' E. (2) Ramose Glorious. My 081709A.
- (1) 60 degs. 41' N. (3) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 081711A to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols.

Request you will sail VENTURER to leave Lerwick  
14th March to patrol Fro Havet.  
(F.O.S.M. 081107A to S.O.S/M Lerwick)  
Request you will sail D.S. DOLFIJN from Dundee  
12th March for Lerwick subsequently to relieve STUBBORN.  
(F.O.S/M, 081109A to S/M 9, S.O.S/M Lerwick)

Operation  
V.P.

V.P.84, M.T.Bs 717, 709, 40 returned at 1522A  
to-day 8th March.  
(2) Units remained in area from 1900A/5th until  
1930A/7th March and were then forced to withdraw  
owing to bad weather and low visibility. No

shipping sighted except one convoy which passed out of range to  
northward.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 081745A to C. in C. H.F.)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800/9th March and movements for  
following 24 hours. All times Zone A.

- (1) SIDON 63 degs. 19' N. 02 degs. 42' E. course 030 degs. diving  
by day 150 miles in 24 hours.
- (2) STUBBORN sails Lerwick 1000/9th Probably on the surface 11  
knots through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles, 61 degs. 04' N.

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Operations

Norway

Operation V.P. (Contd.) 00 degs. 01' E. to 61 degs. 04' N. 01 degs. 01' E. thence diving by day through 61 degs. 04' N. 02 degs. 01' E. and 60 degs. 45' N. 04 degs. 09' E. to patrol off Fejeosen, 150 miles in 24 hours. (C. of W. 082011A to A.I.G.25)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy J.W.65. J.W.65. (A) 2359A/11th March E.T.A. position 58.40 N. 05.30 W. 1245A/13th March. (B) Escorted. (C) 25. S.B.N.O. North Russia pass to Admiral Archer. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 081019 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

The following 3 ships in J.W.65 are to be sailed for Kola Inlet: FORT BOISE (Commodore). LACKLAN (T) and IDEFJORD (Norwegian Relief Ship).

(2) Destinations of the remainder will be signalled 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.081750A to N.C.S.O. Clyde, S.B.N.O. Archangel)

Repairs to northern cables. Intend to sail cable ship IRIS passing Clyde Gate at 2100A/9th to Aultbea via Sound of Islay Mull Sleat and Inner Sound E.T.A. 2200A/10th. (2) N.O.I.C.Aultbea is requested to sail IRIS to Scapa in first W.N. convoy. (3) C. in C. H.F.(Ashore) is requested to sail IRIS to Faroes. For repair of Shetland-Faroes and Faroes-Iceland Cable and provide escort if considered necessary. On completion IRIS returns to Scapa to repair local cable. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 081455A to N.O.I.C.Aulbea, C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Intelligence

NÜRNBERG, Cruiser. Cruiser NÜRNBERG sailed from Copenhagen this morning March 8th Northbound through Sound. B.2. (N.A.Stockholm, 081207 to Admty.) My 081207 NÜRNBERG passed Northbound through Sound 1200 and is now anchored South Elsinore. A.1. (N.A. Stockholm, 081531 to Admty.) My 081531, NÜRNBERG reported at 1510 proceeding from Elsinore southward into Sound. A.1. (N.A. Stockholm, 081606 to Admty.) NÜRNBERG passed Island of Ven southbound at 1600 to-day March 8th. B.2. (N.A.Stockholm, 081717 to Admty.)

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Movements

A.F.D.66. Weather report. Wind E. by N. Force 5 sea 46 sky O.C. visibility 6 barometer 1040 steady temperature wet 49 dry 53 sea 56. My DR position 44 degs. 32' N. 12 degs. 04' W. course 160 degs. speed one to 2 knots. Tow satisfactory but rate of progress must be slow as dock is being towed on one EA (corrupt group) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to supply FLAUNT with 350 fathom 5 inch special towing wire on arrival. FLAUNT has 20 days endurance remaining. SQUIRREL and FANCY 10 days. Intend detaching SANDRAY to proceed independently at first light on Saturday 10th or on arrival of SANDRAY if earlier as her fresh water supply is getting low. No further assistance required. Admiralty pass to SALVONIA on B.A.M.S.  
(SQUIRREL, 080900A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
My observed position at 1500A/8th was 44 degs. 32' N. 12 degs. 59' W. course 180 degs. speed 2 to 3 knots.  
Admiralty pass to SALVONIA on B.A.M.S.  
(SQUIRREL, 081535A to C. in C. Plymouth)

CALEDON, Sheerness for Chatham 8th March.  
cruiser. Arrival CALEDON at 0900A.  
(C. in C. Nore, 081017A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
For the time being CALEDON is to be placed in Reserve Category "B" at 4 months notice, but the question is under review and a further signal will be sent.  
(2) Your 031713 para.2 refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 081300A to C. in C. Nore)

VENGEFUL, Intend VENGEFUL should sail 23rd March in O.S.118/  
S/M. K.M.S.92 for Mediterranean. Request time of R/V at Clyde Boom.  
(F.O.S/M, 081129A to C. in C. W.A.)

SEANYMPH, Request time of R/V at Clyde Boom for SEANYMPH  
S/M. whom it is intended to sail in O.S.116/K.M.S.90 on 13th March for Gibraltar and Far East.  
(F.O.S/M, 081133A to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys

ROYAL ULSTER- A.N.C.X.F.(Buco) 061843. Approved for H.M.S.  
MAN for cross- ROYAL ULSTERMAN to be employed on shuttle service.  
Channel service. (2) ROYAL ULSTERMAN is hereby transferred to the general administration of C. in C. Portsmouth.  
(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail her to Southampton as soon as practicable.  
(A.D.O.D.(C.O), 080207A to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth)

/T.A.M....

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- T.A.M. Convoys. Cancel my 221656A Jan. and 111525A Feb. not to all addressees.  
(2) Commencing forthwith Southend and Downs Section of T.A.M. convoys will sail direct from Southend and Downs to R/V at S.Falls in accordance with time table to be promulgated by Com. Southend.  
(3) Com. Sheerness is requested to sail Trawler escort as requisite to arrive Downs at 1500A daily. Trawler thence acting as escort to Downs Section to S. Falls.  
(4) Pilot Cutter is to be stationed at S. Falls buoy to disembark pilots for T.A.M. convoy. Pilots for A.T.M. convoys to be put on board at S. Falls buoy as heretofore.  
(5) Sailing of T.A.M. 2 is to be adjusted so as to pass N.F.9 buoy at 1100A/9th.  
(C. in C. Nore, 081100A to Com. Southend, N.C.S.O.Ramsgate)
- Barry Roads. Cancel my 051538 Jan. and 051816 Mar. Barry Roads will be used as a convoy assembly port for  
(A) O.N. Convoys. All ships from Bristol Channel ports negative Swansea ships.  
(B) U.C.A. and U.C.B. convoys. All ships from Bristol Channel ports including Swansea ships.  
(C. in C. W.A. 081250A to all F.O.I.Cs. in Western Approaches)
- T.B.C. Convoys. Pass to F.O's.I.C. and N.C.S.O's.  
Commencing with T.B.C.95 on 12th March, add 2 hours to all times in A.M. 021256A December, para.2.  
(D.T.D.081619A to C's in C. Home Commands, V.A.Dover, A.N.C.X.F.)
- M.K.F. K.M.F. Convoys. Now that troopships proceed unescorted between Gibraltar and India, it is very desirable to adjust the schedule of K.M.F. convoys to save shipping time. It is proposed therefore, to -  
(a) Reduce the cycle from 20 to 18 days.  
(b) Sail the M.K.F. convoy from Gibraltar on D-6 instead of D-4 as at present.  
(2) The schedule proposed for the escort group would be  
Sail Gibraltar D - 6.  
Arr. Londonderry P.M.D - 1 or A.M.D.Day.  
Sail Londonderry As reqd. to Oversay R/V.  
Arr. Gibraltar D + 6  
Sail Gibraltar D + 12. etc.  
(3) Local escort would be required between ports and R/V as at present.  
(4) If you concur in the above proposals, it is intended to start this cycle with K.M.F.43 sailing from U.K. on 17th April and M.K.F.42 sailing from Gibraltar on 11th April.  
If ships for M.K.F.41 can be assembled at Gibraltar early, sailing date of this convoy will be advanced to 24th or 25th March instead of 26th March.  
(5) Request your remarks.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 081959A to C. in C. W.A.)





War Diary

8.3.1945  
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

KING SALVOR (Salvage Vessel) Your 281406A it is understood that the date for completion of KING SALVOR's repairs given in your 251042A as March 12th refers only to temporary work to enable vessel to proceed to a dockyard for permanent repairs. Request early estimate as to the date of ship's completion for service; including time spent on tropicalization undertaken concurrently.  
(D. of S. 080134A to C. in C. Med.) Reply 122012.

A.F.D.55 (1) A.F.D.55 in tow EMPHATIC, BARTHORPE, BARWELL in company NEWBORN 36.44, 00.11 West through 20, 15, 79, 5 knots.  
(F.O.W.M. 080846A to Admty.)

24th Destroyer Flotilla Ships in your 071058\* should leave Malta for E.I. Station on March 10th on completion of work up. This could not start for 14 days after their arrival owing to necessity for making good defects in all ships.  
(C. in C. Med. 080852 to Admty.)

Summary of Operations 7.3.1945 Troop Carrier Wing flew 35 sorties carrying patients, personnel and Freight. Coastal Details: Beaufighters and Spitfires recced. N. Adriatic and damaged a barge with cannon strikes. Wellingtons recced. Spezia - Genoa in co-operation with Naval units and bombed four barges, 2 E-boats and 1 other vessel with unobserved results. Photo. R/C. Targets in Germany, Austria and N. Italy were successfully covered.  
(H.Q. M.A.A.F., 080927A to Agwar. etc.)

Black Sea Shipping Your 051551. MORETON BAY arrived with 1682 P.O.W. Alusna Istanbul informs me HIGHLAND PRINCESS is due noon G.M.T. 9th March. However indications are that she will not arrive that day. Propose sailing MORETON BAY as soon as escort can be sent route as in your 051551. E.T.A. Rabbit Island is requested.  
(2) Admiralty please pass to British Naval Mission Moscow.  
(C.S.A. Istanbul 081906C to C. in C. Med.)  
MORETON BAY left Odessa p.m. March 7th and HIGHLAND PRINCESS left Odessa p.m. March 8th.  
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 082045 to Admty)

Situation report No. 577. Night of 6th March. MARNE and TETCOTT assisted by aircraft sighting reports intercepted convoy off Portofino in Gulf of Genoa and fired 290 rounds at 12,000 yards range. Due to heavy smoke screen laid by enemy, results could not be observed clearly, one ship may have been set on fire. Enemy shore batteries engaged our ships accurately, TETCOTT was near missed but had no damage or casualties.  
(C. in C. Mediterranean, 081927A to F.O.L.E.M.)

8.3.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Cositintrep  
No. 605  
part III  
Air.

Coastal Air Force: Beaufighters and Spitfires damaged a barge in north Adriatic. Wellingtons in co-operation with Navy bombed 4 barges, E-boats and 1 other vessel in Gulf of Genoa with unobserved results.

Balkan Air Force: Bad weather hampered operations. Mustangs had near misses on two coasters in Arsa Channel and direct hits on Arsa coaling wharf. (H.Q.M.A.A.F. No. T.O.O. W.O.)

8.3.1945  
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesS/Ms  
allocationFollowing is proposed allocation of submarines  
joining Far Eastern Flotillas:-(a) To Second Flotilla TACTICIAN, SYBYL, SEANYMPH,  
STUBBORN.(b) T. B.P.F. Flotilla remainder except Dutch  
O Class who will operate from West Australia.  
(S.O. S/M. E.I., 080444Z to C. in C. E.I.)In view of withdrawal of SHAKESPEARE from operations and to  
meet East Indies Station requirements, intend SUBTLE remain  
in second Flotilla. Your 070958\* refers. Next new S. Class  
will join you in lieu. My 080444\* also refers.

(S.O.S. M.E.I., 080446Z to S.M.8) \* N.T. in W.R.

S/M  
dispositionsAreas A.K.I. Scale W.5. Other areas no change  
scales W.5.

(C. in C. E.I.S., 080445Z to S. and A. E.I.S.)

L.C.T.(8)  
Hedgerow  
fitting ofS.A.C.S.E.A. 181225/ Jan. It is intended to  
employ L.C.T.(8) fitted with Hedgerow Mark III  
(168 spigots) for clearance of lanes through beach  
minefields etc. Thirty-six L.C.T.(8) on the basis  
of 12 for each assault force will be so fitted and  
will carry Avre tanks, but it is unlikely that anyof these will arrive on your station much before the end of the  
year.(2) Hedgerow Mark III in L.C.T.(8) will be superior in weight  
and depth of pattern to Woofus. Range is superior to Woofus with  
2.25" motor and compares satisfactorily with Woofus 3.25" motor.(3) L.C.A. (HR) are suitable only for a limited number of  
salvoes of Mark III ammunition and for this and for reasons of  
manning stringency are being abandoned.(4) For foregoing and for following additional reasons procure-  
ment of Woofus for operations in S.E.A.C. does not appear to be  
justified and no further action is being taken.(a) Manning stringency necessitates reduction of L.C.M. Flotillas  
per N.A.F. of which only 12 craft will be L.C.M.(3).(b) With reduced availability diversion from normal role,  
including possible employment as support craft in estuaries is  
unacceptable.(c) Modifications necessary to adapt L.C.M. (3) to carry Woofus  
are not inconsiderable.

(Head of M. 081917A to C. in C.E.I.)

8.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

GATINEAU,  
OTTAWA,  
destroyers.

GATINEAU delayed by defects my 222119 refers. Anticipate GATINEAU and OTTAWA will be ready to sail for U.K. about 15th March. Request these ships may be worked up at Tobermory subsequent employment with suitable E.G. until E.G. 11 is reformed.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 081302Z to C. in C. W.A.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. 081320Z, Cominch 081606Z.)

Convoy O.N.287 (1) Relieved by escort group W.5 at 1500Z.  
(2) Convoy P.C.S. at 1500Z 044° 56' N. 049° 47' W.  
(3) 275° 6 knots.

(3) 88 ships present including H.M.C.S. PORT ARTHUR

(4) ALEXIA straggler escorted by H.M.C.S. LINDSAY.  
(5) TRUMBULL and STRIX in collision in fog last night but will be able to continue in convoy to destination.

(6) My course 310° 9 knots for St. Johns N.F. TINTAGEL CASTLE, POPPY, DIANELLA, STARWORT in company.

(S.O.E.G.B.1 081645Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Cable ship Your 302209Z Jan. N.T. in W.D. and A.M. 030247  
JOHN W.MACKAY Feb. N.T. in W.D. cable ship JOHN W. MACKAY.

(2) It is confirmed that vessel will not be required for British service in the Far East.

M.W.T. have signalled B.M.S.M. agreeing to conversion of quarters for white crew.

(3) U.S. authorities have been inclined to regard the use of this vessel on British service as something of a concession, whereas of course she is a British ship on British requisition. Should, however, a British naval requirement for her arise, a request would be made by Admiralty to the Combined Chiefs of Staff at Washington for decision as to where she would most usefully serve the combined war effort.

(V.C.N.S. 081915A to B.A.D.)

F. S/M  
CASABIANCA.

Initial employment F.S. CASABIANCA in Mediterranean designated by Cominch as executive agent C.C.S. with B.A.D. concurrence. French Naval Mission U.S. in agreement. When ready about 15th March following completion training sail CASABIANCA under

escort to Casablanca where direct submarine report to C. in C. Med. for duty. R.D.O. Paris give info. to Marine Paris.

(Cominch 082122Z to C. in C. Lant.)

S/M SPORTSMAN When ready about 21 March sail H.M. submarine SPORTSMAN Philadelphia to New London for work up. Comeastseafro provide escort for above movement and sail onward about 31 March. C. in C. C.N.A.

is requested to provide escort New London to U.K. and to prescribe route for latter movement.

(Cominch 082203Z to C.E.S.F.) See 091502Z.

8.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F.  
Additional  
Staff.

C. in C. B.P.F. 080238Z to Admty.  
See Lion Copy.

KELANTAN  
(maintenance  
ship,  
minesweepers.)

KELANTAN can be usefully employed in the Pacific prior to the arrival of the 180th M.S. Flotilla.  
(2) Her function would be A. to support 21 and 22 M.C. Flotilla, B. to act as parent ship for H.D.M.Ls. at intermediate base to advanced anchorage.  
(3) Request she may be allocated to B.P.F. as soon as she is available.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 080833Z to Admty.)

Digest 1142,  
7.3.45.

(3) Patrol Liberator over Ntnsei Shoto damaged two landing barges Iriomote Shima, saw 1 small freighter transport anchored South Naha other Liberator (corrupt groups).

(6) American forces advancing eastwards around Balayan Bay (southern Luzon) captured town of Balayan while loading elements reached Lemory or east coast Balayan Bay. Other forces advancing southwest Ternate attacked isolated enemy positions in hills of Western Cavite Province. Forces attacking east along Villa Verde trail advanced 300 yards against continued stubborn enemy resistance. Total enemy Luzon casualties to date number 68822 killed 686 Japanese captured.  
(7) Australian forces New Britain occupied West End Whitavalo Plantation (Wide Bay.)  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 081145Z to Admty.)

Air Crews  
Distribution  
of, for  
B.P.F. and  
E.I. Squadron.

F.O.N.A.S. 080751Z to E.O. Air, E.I.S.  
See Lion Copy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/8th March.  
Para. A. E.G. 25 sighted U-Boat on surface and attacked at 2048Z/7th March in 52° 18' N. 05° 29' W.  
Para. B. (1) A/C Q/107 attacked possible U-Boat, course 060° at 1158Z/7th March in 50° 03' N. 06° 04' W.

(2) H.M.C.S. MERITTONIA and HAWKESBURY obtained U-Boat contact at 1500Z/7th March in 48° 54' N. 17° 02' W.  
(3) BULLDOG attacked possible U-Boat contact at 2009Z/7th March in 50° 00' N. 05° 56' W.  
Para. C. (1) LOCH QUOICH (E.G.37) sighted smoke at 1130Z/7th March in 53° 49' N. 04° 54' W.  
(2) Transit A/C sighted fully surfaced U-Boat, course 120° at 1146Z/7th March in 63° 25' N. 18° 13' W.

**TOP SECRET****IN**

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

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

From: C. in C. B.P.F.

Date: 8.3.45

*B.P.F.*

Recd: 2041

*Additional Staff**Australia & New Zealand  
Sunday March 8th 1945*Naval Cypher ~~XD~~ By Cable

Addressed: Admiralty,  
repeated: V.A.(Q) F.O.N.A.S. (A) R.A.F.T.

Now that Commander Barnard and small staff have arrived in Australia it has been possible to consider the work involved in planning intermediate base on the lines of my 080236.

2. V.A.(Q) will be responsible for this planning my 230326 February refers. His present staff is adequate only for the duties given in his original directive i.e. limited to Australia and New Zealand and it is now evident that further staff officers will be required for forward planning purposes.

3. Additional staff required.

- (A) Assistant Chief of Staff (Plans) Captain R.N.
- (B) Staff Officer (Plans) Commander R.N.
- (C) Staff Officer (Plans Two), Lieut. Commander (corrupt grp)..
- (D) Movements and Transport, Lieut. Commander R.N.V.R.
- (E) Movements and transport, Lieut. R.N.V.R.
- (F) Personnel Lieut. Commander and Secretary.
- (G) Medical Surgeon Commander and Warrant Wardmaster.
- (H) Secretariat One Officer.
- (I) Secretariat one Petty Officer writer one leading writer, three writers.
- (J) Engineering Commander.
- (K) Engineering. Draughtsman.
- (L) Construction. Commander.
- (M) Construction. Draughtsman.
- (N) Electrical. Commander.

(O) .....

WAI  
mess

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (3)
- D.F.S.L. (2)
- 2nd S.L.
- Controller
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
- Civil Lord
- Secy.
- Parl. Sec.
- Nav. Sec.
- Dep. Sec.
- P.A.S. (S)
- P.A.S. (NP)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q) (5)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (4)
- Hd. of M. (8) (M.058550/45) for action
- N.A. 2 S.L.
- Hd. of C.W. (2)
- A.C.R.
- M.D.G.
- D.G.S.
- E.A.P.
- D. of S. (2)
- D. of V.
- D.A.S. (L)
- C.E. in C.
- D.S.D.
- D.W.R.N.S. (2)
- A.C.N.P.
- D. of M.
- Hd. of N.
- N.A. 2 S.L. (O.D.)
- D. of S.T. (6)
- D. of D.
- D. of L.D. (2)
- D.B.D. (2)
- D. of E.
- D.N.C.
- Hd. of Air Branch
- D.C.O.D. (4)
- A.D.O.D. (G.O.)
- Hd. of W.G.F.
- W.D.
- Hd. of C.E.I.
- N.A. 2 S.L. (Air)
- D.N.A.O.
- D.A.W.T.

- Dep. Contr.
- D.A.S.
- D.N.C. } Bath
- D. of D.
- C.E. in C.
- Hd. of C.E.II
- Hd. of S.W.R. (3) }

/MC

**TOP SECRET**IN

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

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

*Air Crews - Distribution of  
to B.P.F. & E.I. Squadron.*  
080751Z March

From: F.O.N.A.S. (A)

Date: 9.3.45

Recd: 0739

CCM (Area (P. and I.) (S) by Cable

Addressed: F.O. Air E.I.S.,  
Info: C. in C. British PAC. Flt AC 1 A.C. 30,  
Admiralty, C. in C. E.I.S.

Following for your information with reference to para. one of A.M. 212205 February distribution of aircrews between B.P.F. and E.I. squadron.

2. Requirements for B.P.F. up to 1st July to meet para. five of C. in C. B.P.F.'s 020643 March out with 18 months as limit. For aircrews in squadrons have been assessed. Your 241159 Feb. and the list referred to in A.M. 281521 Feb. have been taken into account.

3. (A) Assessment covers relief of ULLUSTRIOUS by IMPLACABLE. C. in C. B.P.F.M. 040525 March refers) it assumes four fleet carriers carry out two months intensive operations during the period under review with CVE operating CAP and that FORMIDABLE and IMPLACABLE arrived 25% overborne.

(B) AVENGER I.E. is assumed to remain at present level of about 80 between five fleet carriers. Figures in A.M. 281521 Feb. presumably based on I.E. of 126 and now therefore out of date.

4. Requirements for reconstituting 1845 squadron at present allocated for replenishments have been included. Wastage for RULER and CHASER has not repetition not been included in this period as the state of their squadrons is not repetition not known.

5. On above basis the requirements to first July for aircrews to make good existing deficiencies in Overbearing, to replace casualties from all causes and for relief of aircrews exceeding 18 months in squadrons (A.M. 212205 February refers) are estimated as follows. Numbers required are additional to those expected in accordance with your 241159 Feb. and to those available here and those who will be required ex ILLUSTRIOUS when ship is relieved.

A. Type of aircraft. B. Number of aircrews required.

Avenger	15
Corsair	26
Hellcat	24
Seafire	10
Firefly	11

6. ...



6. In addition to requirements in para. five we should aim to establish B.P.F. repetition B.P.F. pool by 1st July. This on basis of 10% of overborne I.E. will amount to approximately.

(A) Type of aircraft (B) Number of aircrews required.

Avenger	11
Corsair	12
Helocat	9
Seafire	12
Firefly	5

by mid April, 706 squadron should be able to keep 30 trained pilots in operational flying practise. A further signal will be made about subsequent build up.

7. Estimated monthly requirements after first July based on overall average of 12% per month for wastage and reliefs which appears a reasonable figure assuming 80% of force is operating intensively for two months out of every three

(A) Type of aircraft (B) Number of aircrews required monthly.

Avenger	11
Corsair	12
Helocat	8
Seafire	13
Firefly	3

8. The above gives measure of estimated MIF requirements. When output from Ceylon can be assessed request you will signal to what extent they can be met

A. For the period up to first July and B. subsequently.

9. C. in C. E.I.S. pass to F.O. Air E.I.S.

080751Z

1st. Lord	Hd. of Air Branch
1st S.L. (3)	D.O.D. (F)(2)
D.F.S.L. (2)	D.O.D. (H)(4)
2nd S.L.	N.A. & S.L. (Air)(2)
5th S.L.	D.N.A.O. (2)
V.C.N.S.	D.A.W.T.
A.C.N.S. (F)	Hd. of Air
A.C.N.S. (A)(2)	A.C.N.P.
Sec.	D. of M.
P.A.S. (S)	Hd. of N.
D. of P. (2)	D.C.N.A.E.
D. of P. (Q)(3)	D.A.C.R. (2)
Hd. of M. (2)	W.D.

8.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

(3) Transit A/C sighted U-Boat on surface at 1300Z/  
7th March in 59° 45' N. 10° 00' W.

(4) A/C Q/810 attacked probable periscope at 1451Z/  
7th March in 50° 12' N. 02° 06' W.

(5) A/S trawler CAPE ARGONA reported U-Boat  
submerging at 0058Z/8th March in 52° 34' N. 05°  
10' W.

(6) M.L. 234 attacked contact at 0515Z/8th March in 53° 34' N.  
05° 57' W.

Para. D. (1) Transit A/C sighted U-Boat on surface and observed  
it dive at 1130Z/7th March in 50° 00' N. 00° 45' W.

(2) Transit A/C sighted U-Boat on surface, course 005° at 1335Z/  
7th March in 53° 38' N. 04° 40' W.

(3) M.T.B. sighted U-Boat on surface and attacked at 1745Z/7th  
March in 51° 19' N. 01° 46' E.

(4) Trawler GALVANI obtained hydrophone effects and sighted  
unknown object at 0100Z/8th March off Lowestoft.

(D.D.I.C. 081205A.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates. .

(D.D.I.C. 081420A, Cominch 081425A.)

9. 3. 1945  
Friday

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Channel.

1. Four or five hostile craft, supposedly L.C.Ts. left Jersey late last night to raid Granville. They were detected by radar and the defences ashore and afloat, including the U.S. P.C. 564 and H.M. armed trawler PEARL, were warned. Heavy gunfire was observed off Chausey Is. soon after midnight, after which wireless communication with P.C. 564 ceased. An hour later two German craft entered Granville and threw ashore a force of about 100 men who demolished cranes, fired coasters and took some captives, including U.N.R.A.A. personnel. They left at 0311 for Jersey, leaving one prisoner in our hands, just as U.S. infantry reinforcements appeared. P.C. 564 was later beached at Cancale with heavy damage and 50% casualties. PEARL took no part beyond reporting the incident. One German 175 ft. craft ran aground in outer harbour and was scuttled.

Western Approaches.

2. A.F.D. 66 on passage to Gibraltar is in trouble 250 miles west of Corunna, having broken away from her tug in foul weather.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Riviera.

3. Today MILNE fired 85 rounds at storehouse, 36 rounds at observation post and 63 rounds at enemy gun. Several direct hits.

Gulf of Genoa.

4. (a) Tonight off Mesco Point 3 P.T. boats made 2 attacks on northbound convoy of about 8 F-Lighters. 8 torpedoes were fired and 2 lighters sunk a third hit and a fourth probably hit. Our craft sustained no damage or casualties but one was subsequently badly damaged in collision.  
(b) Wellingtons bombed barges in this area.

Adriatic.

5. (a) Tonight coastal craft torpedoed and sank a merchant vessel of 2 - 3000 tons escorted by four E or R-Boats west of Istria.  
(b) Spitfires - Mustangs and Hurricanes destroyed one gun position on Lussim Island and sank two small vessels in Arsa Channel.

War Diary.

9.3.1945  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Movement.

6. RICHELIEU (French battleship) arrived at Jibouti from Suez.

Dutch S/M  
ZWAARDFISCH.

7. S/M ZWAARDFISCH on her 4th Far East patrol on 7th Feb. in lat. 6° 8' S. long. 114° 42' E. fired 3 torpedoes at 5000 ton merchant ship and one destroyer, one hit on merchant ship. Counter attacked with 16 charges, "slight damage". On 16th Feb. attacked by aircraft while half submerged, considerable damage to bow tubes, periscope and gyro. On 20th Feb. forced to return to Fremantle with serious defect to port engine.

S/M CLYDE.

8. H.M.S/M CLYDE on her 5th Far East patrol carried out one special operation. On 2nd March in position 3° 6' N. 97° 14' E. sank by gunfire one 50 ton junk and also by gunfire sank armed trawler in Molabo Harbour.

Australia & New Zealand.

China.

9. (a) U.S. Liberators sank a small vessel and a tug 30 miles N.E. of Hongkong and another was left burning off Canton.  
(b) Two small merchant vessels were sunk off Swatow.  
(c) A freighter transport in a convoy N.E. of Amoy was attacked by U.S. Liberators and left dead in water.

Philippines.

10. Tonight P.T. boats destroyed 2 small craft and damaged a fuel barge Basilan I. (Sulu Archipelago.)

New Britain.

11. This evening a single enemy plane straffed Australian motor launch off Cape Orford (New Britain) inflicting slight casualties. Motor launch then shot down the plane.

Movement.

12. SPEAKER left Sydney for Manus.

9.3.1945  
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Patrols Night Dispositions 9/10th March.  
Humber Force (Group 2) Harbour BRISSENDEN.  
Harwich Force (Group 3) Patrols 3 COTSWOLD,  
5 WIDGEON, 6 KITTIWAKE, 12 RETALICK, 14 MACKAY,  
16 EKINS, 18 EGLINTON, 19 SEYMOUR, 21 SHEARWATER.  
(Group 4) Harbour ARENDAL, FARNDALE, HAMBLEDON, SOUTHDOWN,  
RIOU, RUTHERFORD, STAYNER, THORNBOROUGH, TORRINGTON, GUILLEMOT,  
MALLARD, PUFFIN, SHELDRAKE, ZETLAND at Yarmouth)  
Sheerness Force (Group 5) with convoys T.A.M.3 CATTISTOCK,  
HOLDERNESS A.T.M.87 BLENCATHRA, PYTCHLEY, T.A.P.68, VOLUNTEER.  
Patrols 1 ALBRIGHTON, 2 MELBREAK, 4 VANQUISHER.  
(Group 6) Harbour GARTH, TANATSIDE, VERSATILE, VESPER, MENDIP,  
DRUMHELLER, KINGCUP, MIMICO.  
At Southend COSBY.  
(C. in C. Nore, 091527A to Admt.)

Discharge Situation Report Cositintrep No. 339 Part 4. Section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/  
8th March.

	<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	85	333	5576	-	4103	-
Ostend	2280	226	4409	-	-	1941
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	3447	-	-
Calais	4926	-	61	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4007	-	-	1702
<b>Total</b>	<b>7291</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>14053</b>	<b>3447</b>	<b>4103</b>	<b>3643</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	276	13640	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	328	5479	-	6220	2770
Le Havre	5502	414	5283	-	-	3058
Rouen	-	45	6767	808	2445	250
Granville	-	-	-	2807	-	-
Ghent	-	-	5247	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5502</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>36416</b>	<b>3615</b>	<b>8665</b>	<b>6098*</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	2130	-	11434	-	-	989
Port de Bouc	-	-	427	-	-	427
Toulon	-	-	77	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2130</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11938</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1416</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 091530A to Admt. and others.)

\* Sic.

Midget U-boat activity Have attacked suspected midget U-boat 070° N.E. Spit one mile.  
(M.L.593, 092030A to C. in C. Nore.)

/U-boat...

War Diary

9.3.1945  
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Midget  
U-boat  
activity  
(Contd.)

U-boat and Midget U-boat Summary 1100Z/8th to 1100Z/9th.  
(1) 2015Z/8th EKINS reported probable Torpedo H.E. 225° HK2 buoy 1 mile. No contacts.  
(2) 1035Z/9th SEAGULL attacked good contact 049° King Buoy 1.1. No further contact or result.  
(C. in C. Nore, 092314A to Admty.)

E-boat  
activity

5 possible E-boats in position 52° 27' N. 04° 30' E. at 2025 course 270 speed 20 knots.  
(C. in C. Nore, 092100A to 3 NOM, 3 QBK.)  
Aircraft report at 2240 - 8 E-boats 260 Hook 15, course 230, speed 30 K.  
(C. in C. Nore, 092337A to 3 IMV, 3 NOM.)

Operations - Channel *(564 intended)*

Enemy  
raid  
on  
Granville

Support P.C.568 reported engaging enemy L.C.T. near Ile Chausey. Enemy are attacking Granville. Acknowledge and report.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 090211A to PEARL.)  
Enemy landing craft from Channel Islands raided Granville about 0150 today. Estimate they may withdraw towards Jersey before daylight.  
(2) PARRSBORO take ILFRACOMBE and NARCISSUS under his orders and proceed with despatch by Q.Z.S.566 and 572 to Granville. Report situation on arrival.  
(3) H.M.S. PEARL and U.S. P.C.564 in Granville area.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 090315A to ILFRACOMBE, PARRSBORO, NARCISSUS)  
Fierce action ashore at Granville from 0130 to 0230. Believe L.C.T. and fast craft involved but no contact. Am unable to contact Granville. Intend to continue patrol till daylight then proceed to U.K. with GEM now anchored Cancale.  
(PEARL, 090415A to C.T.F.125, C. in C. Plymouth.)

Request P.R. of Channel Islands as soon as possible to locate enemy T.L.C.  
(O.I.C., 090438A to J.P.R.C. Benson.)  
Following received from C.T.G. 125/2:-

Preliminary report Granville action. Radar target at 2205/8 halfway Jersey to Chausey course Southwest speed about 10. Second target at 2223 and third at 2228. All approximately same position course and speed. Army defence forces, C.T.U.125.2.2, C. in C. Portsmouth, and C. in C. Plymouth notified. Air support requested of latter 2 Commands. 3 British escort vessels arrived Cherbourg, 2215, ordered remain on patrol outside Cherbourg. Pink patrol sent to Carteret Area. Plots passed to P.C.564 at Granville. Collier and Escort trawler PEARL at anchor off Granville. Latter ordered underway. Enemy vessels arrived Chausey between 2310 and 2350 by irregular courses. Then headed East. Last plots passed to P.C. at 0006 shortly after which heavy gunfire was seen by Granville in vicinity Chausey. No later radio communication could be established with P.C. One enemy vessel tracked to Granville and at 0100/9 C.T.U.125.2.2 reported Germans landing. Later information revealed two enemy vessels approximately 120 feet long, in harbour and force of roughly 100 Germans in Port Area meeting

/slight...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Enemy raid on Granville (Contd.) slight resistance. Early information indicates several cranes demolished some coasters in harbour set afire and probable other demolition. Personnel casualties ashore appear light. Some prisoners including some U.N.R.R.A. personnel taken by Germans. One German prisoner captured. One coaster and British Escort PEARL at Cancale apparently undamaged. P.C.564 reported later beached Cancale with heavy damage to ship and about 50 per cent casualties. At 0311 Radar tracks indicated enemy vessels departing Granville towards Jersey. Simultaneous reports from Granville indicated withdrawal of Germans and arrival of U.S. Infantry reinforcements about this time. Three British Escort Vessels and one P.C. despatched to Granville E.T.A. about 0400/9th. SWIVEL departed at 0715 to proceed assistance P.C.564. Enemy Naval strength estimated 4 vessels type unknown. Rubber boats employed in landing. P.Ts. near Carteret shelled from Jersey about 0455. No damage. Shelling ceased and enemy vessels tracked into St. Helier about 0510. No further contacts. Telephonic communication with C.T.U.125.2.2. maintained throughout. 090915 ends.

(C.T.F.125, 091155A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Carry out search for ten men ex. U.S. P.C.564 wounded on raft last seen at 0130/9 2' S.E. of Ile de Chausey. Do not incur navigational risk, and report situation at 1700.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 091226A to PARRSBORO, ILFRACOMBE, NARCISSUS.)

My 091226A\*. If no survivors found by 1900 return to Plymouth by Q.Z.S.566 PEARL escorting GEM to Falmouth is ahead of you. Three U.S. Y.M.S. and one tug not warned of your movements may be met during the night.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 091756A to PARRSBORO, ILFRACOMBE, NARCISSUS.) \*Search for 10 wounded men on raft ex. U.S. P.C.564.

Following additional information my 091155. Casualties reported ashore.

Lieut. Lightoller British N.R.L.O. killed, Borst, William B M O M M 2C 6Q 1 22 26 wounded, one patrol craft and one small tug entered harbour and landed party for demolition work.

Following coal coasters damaged:-

KYLE CASTLE burned, PARKWOOD damaged believed not serious, NEPHRITE boilers blasted, ESKWOOD towed from harbour by German tug with 6 of crew aboard and P.O.W. aboard, HELEN fit for sea when ordered.

Following damage to harbour and installations. Booby traps and mines on quays harbour possibly mined, no damage to locks, 7 of 11 portable cranes blasted, two crawler cranes: one switching locomotive and jeep damaged. No detailed report received on condition of P.C.564. German patrol craft length 175 feet ran aground and scuttled in outer harbour by crew.

(C.T.F.125 092020A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Following message received from Comnavforfrance. "Enemy force of 5 craft detected at 082205 by Radar on course from Jersey Island toward port of Granville. Army defence forces alerted and information passed to P.C.564 who attacked enemy force at 090006. P.C. suffered heavy personnel and material damage and is now aground on Cancale beach. Damage to enemy unknown.

/Enemy...

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FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Enemy raid on Granville (Contd.)

Enemy landed force of about 100 men in Granville and effected damage to installations and ship present in harbour. Enemy departed at 090300 for Jersey." (Com. 12th Fleet 092102 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Early morning 9th March reports were received of a seaborne landing at Granville by German Troops from the Channel Islands. Later it was reported that between 2200/8 and 2230/8 3 targets were detected by Radar between Jersey and Iles Chausey proceeding on a south westerly course. Defence forces and all other necessary authorities were informed. Patrol were strengthened off Cherbourg and patrol craft 564 at Granville was sailed and intercepted the enemy shortly after midnight when all contacts had congregated near Iles Chausey and were heading east. Heavy gunfire was seen in vicinity of Iles Chausey after which no further radio contact was made with the patrol craft. Radar contacts were tracked on and arrived at Granville at 0100/9 from which time a force of roughly 100 enemy were at large on Port and Town area until about 0300. Early information indicates several cranes demolished, some coasters in harbour set afire and probable other demolition. Patrol craft 564 was later reported beached at Cancale with heavy damage and 50 per cent casualties. At 0311 Radar tracks indicated enemy vessels departing towards Jersey. Enemy Naval strength estimated 4 vessels type unknown. Rubber boats were employed in landing.

(A.N.C.X.F. 092240A to Admt.)

Torpedoing of SS.LORNASTON

Your 091235. Position of contact given relative to C.2A buoy from which fix was taken. No other object visible. Position confirmed by range and bearing of Beachy Head on Type SG. QH not fitted. Latitude 50° 35' 12" N. longitude 00° 01' 24" E. WATCHMAN was requested to check position by QH. No reply was received prior to compliance with your 081812. Position of merchant ship is given by DR from Master and confirmed by Topography Type SC from Beachy Head. 50° 34' 24" N. 00° 03' 24" W.

(HOLMES 091407 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Anti-U-boat deep mining

Weigh at 0225A 10th March and carry out serial D 1. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 091445A to PLOVER, DEPTFORD.) Proceed at 0815A 10th March and carry out serial M.1 part 2, Lay 1 (R) M 1 part 2 lay 1. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 091446A to M.L.186, NIGHTINGALE.)

Patrols

WILD GOOSE and DOMINICA pass Gate at 0900A/10. On completion of exercises establish patrol Lizard to start. (C. in C. Plymouth, 091523A to S.O.E.G.2.)

If not in contact leave patrol at 2359 and proceed to join S.O. E.G.6 patrolling area 10 miles south of route E. from 01° 40' W. to 02° 12' W. then as ordered in 091702A.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091740A to WATCHMAN, LOCH ACHANALT.)

/My...



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Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols  
(Contd.)

My 081057. After leaving convoy carry out search round Scilly Isles. Resume patrol Pendeen to Lizard by 1000A/10. My 092013, refers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 092023A to LOCH FADA, LABUAN)

A/S  
reinforce-  
ments for  
Portsmouth  
Command

Request you will transfer one Support Group to C. in C. Portsmouth as convenient. (D.O.D.(H) 091811A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Anti-U-  
boat deep  
mining.

Cancel paras. two and three of my 281621 Feb. (2) Intend following programme.

Date	Serial	Rendezvous Time
12th	H	0200
13th	H	1300
15th	H	0200
16th	Y	0900
17th	Y	0900

(3) Intend completing serial G of passage on March 12th. (APOLLO, 090921 to C. in C.W.A.)

U-boat

MAC ship aircraft established contact with U-boat in 52° 37' N. 05° 11' W. at 0945Z. E.G.18 detached to search. My P.C.S. 52° 27' 05° 23' 203°. 7. Suitable. (S.O.E.G. C.5 091000Z to C. in C.W.A.)

TOWY, PERIM, GOOD HOPE searching U-boat detected by A/C H.W. in position 52° 33' N. 05° 24' W. LOCH FYNE, ST. HELENA, ZANZIBAR detaching to join A/C 748 W.1 in 52° 46' N. 05° 03' W. E.T.A. 1200A. (S.O.E.G.18, 091057A to C. in C.W.A.)

Patrols  
and  
Escorts

17th E.G. if not in contact proceed forthwith to form Force 36.

(2) 10th E.G. proceed to arrive 090° South Lundy Light 6 miles at 2359A 9th.

(3) F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to sail HAMPTON FERRY escorted by NARBROUGH to R/V with

10th E.G. at Lundy.

(4) On making R/V.

(A) NARBROUGH is to detach and proceed as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.

(B) 10th E.G. is to escort HAMPTON FERRY to Portsmouth speed about 16 knots. E.T.A. limits of Portsmouth Command to be reported.

(C. in C.W.A. 091245A to S.O.E.G.10, 17, F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Am remaining in support of H.X.340 right through. E.T.A. 52° 40' N. 2300A.

(S.O.E.G., 17, 091758A to C. in C. W.A.)

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FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

Patrols and Escorts (Contd.) APOLLO will lay mines in vicinity 54° 00' N. 05° 04' W. commencing 1300 10th.  
 (2) Force 36 support HX 340 Mersey Section to 04° 00' W. and then support APOLLO until completion of lay.  
 (3) Force 37 support main section HX.340 LANARK and 4 ships) GOSSIP 54° 00' N. about 0800 10th.  
 (4) SEC KMF 41 (ASSINIBOINE) sailing Mersey 0930 10th East of Isle of Man E.T.A. Altacarry 2300 10th. Clyde Section (BERKELEY CASTLE) pass Clyde light vessel 1900 10th.  
 (C. in C.W.A. 092302A to S.Os. Forces 36 and 37)

"H.T." barrier off S.W.Ireland "High Tea" operation completed.  
 (2) Search area between 50° 30' and 51° 15' N. and 12° 20' and 14° 00' W.  
 (C. in C. W.A. 091638A to S.O.E.G.1.)

Torpedoing of KING EDGAR and NOVASLI (2-2.45) Your 040358A March.  
 (a) 8 knots.  
 (b) First attack, nil C.2 escorts. Second attack, LONGUEUIL, CAPILANO, ASBESTOS.  
 (c) LONGUEUIL 000° NOVASLI 3 miles. ASBESTOS 050° NOVASLI 3 - 4 miles. CAPILANO had moved from position O at 14 knots to 180°. NOVASLI 2 miles.  
 (Com. D.W.A. 091755A to Admty.)

OperationsNorway

Patrols Positions of submarines at 0800 10th March and movements for following 24 hours.  
 (1) SIDON 65° 25' N. 05° 35' E. diving by day 150 miles in 24 hours through 68° 01' N. 09° 22' E. towards 69° 30' N. 15° 30' E.  
 (2) STUBBORN 60° 45' N. 04° 09' E. to patrol off Fejeosen.  
 (C. of W. 091955A to A.I.G.25.)

Operation "S.C." Ramose Elegant HESSA returned at 1025A/9th March.  
 (2) Operation successful.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 091027 to C. in C. H.F.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Enemy air activity G.A.F. activity as reported by Russians February 26th to March 9th. All times A.  
 (a) ZENIT and Sea R/C Flights over Greenland sea. 0700/28th two aircraft. 0714/28th two Ju. 88.

/0750...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Enemy  
air  
Activity  
(Contd.)

0750 to 1300 3rd two Ju.88.  
0700 to 1430 6th one He. 111 and one Ju.88.  
0800 to 1430 7th three Ju. 88.  
1840 7th one BV.138.  
0735 9th two Ju. 88.  
(b) 1140 5th one Me. 110 over Neiden Fiord.  
(c) My 220840 February not to F.O.10th C.S.  
still unconfirmed owing to weather.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 091345A to C. in C.H.F.  
Admty. C.S.10.)

Repairs to  
Northern  
Cables

Sailed Cable Ship IRIS to comply with my  
081455A.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 092127A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea,  
C. in C.H.F.)

Operations

Baltic

Air  
attack  
on convoy  
in  
Skagerrak

A.182 9th March ref. Banff Squadron's attack  
on 7th March at reported-position 58.30 N., 10.  
40 E. Photographs show vessels attacked to be  
8 T.L.C. mostly type 1 on reported course  
southwards. - Convoy reported moving northwards  
in position 58.32 N., 10.39 E., consists of one  
"T" class T/B escorting modern 300 ft. passenger  
cargo vessel 3,000 tons approx. possible  
BRETAGNE L.56.  
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 091930A to H.Q.C.C., Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

German  
Military  
Transport  
between  
Norway  
and  
Denmark

My 071749 following transport movements have  
been reported from Larvik:  
(a) NEIDENFELS arrived Larvik from Aarhus  
February 15th. She left following day with  
troops and large quantity of material.  
B.2.  
(b) TIJUCA reported left Larvik February 25th  
with about 1500 Russians.  
B.3.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 091814 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

GENTLE  
CALM  
motor  
yacht

Tug EMPIRE MARY reports tow Motor Yacht GENTLE  
CALM foundered while on passage from Caen to  
Southampton. Crew of three soldiers safe  
aboard Tug have been sent to report to Military  
Authorities in execution of their orders. Full  
report follows.  
(Tug Control, 091300A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

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FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects - Contd.AQUARIUS  
(fishing)  
trawler

My 281715\* February.

Trawler identified as AQUARIUS lost with all hands in the permitted area in vicinity of the Dowsing Shoal.

(F.O. Humber 092120A to C. in C. Nore.)\* Skipper of Fishing Trawler LEEDS reports seeing mine explode in trawler's trawl.

M.T.Bs.  
729, 779

M.T.Bs. 779 and 729 in collision returning harbour now. M.T.B. 751 standing by them. Request further group may join me if practicable. (COTSWOLD 092149A to F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth.)

X.E.11  
submarine

S/M 12's 061340. Craft located by divers p.m. from today Friday and salvage considered certain. (F.O.S.M. 092153A to Admty.)

Movements

A.F.D.66

Weather report. Wind E. by N. force 6 sea 56 sky O/C visibility 5 barometer 10.37 slight fall temperature wet 51 dry 53 sea 56. My D.R. position 44° 22' N. 13° 29' W. drifting 270° at 1½ knots. FLAUNT has recovered towing wire

efforts to board dock are about to commence but weather is not promising.

Admiralty pass to SALVONIA on B.A.M.S.  
(SQUIRREL, 090900 to C. in C. PLYMOUTH.)DIADEM  
CruiserClyde arrival - C.S.10 in DIADEM.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 090904A to C. in C.H.F.)CHIDDINGFOLD,  
LAMERTON,  
BROCKLESBY,  
QUANTOCK,  
EASTON,  
WILTON,  
FARNDALE,  
ZETLAND,  
HURON,  
IROQUOIS,  
HAIDA,  
destroyers;  
GLOXINIA,  
MYOSOTIS,  
CorvettesConsequent upon a reinforcement of 6 Hunts and 2 Corvettes, which are expected to arrive in U.K. shortly from Mediterranean, the following allocations and adjustments are to take place as arranged between Commanders-in-Chief by 20th March.  
(a) CHIDDINGFOLD, LAMERTON, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, EASTON, and WILTON to Nore Command.

(b) FARNDALE and ZETLAND to remain in the Nore Command. A.M. 031712 refers.

(c) 3 Frigates to be transferred from Nore to Plymouth.

(d) HURON, IROQUOIS and HAIDA to be transferred from Plymouth to Home Fleet.

(e) GLOXINIA and MYOSOTIS to Portsmouth Command.

(2) C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to maintain 6 operational destroyers in the W.A. Command for the escort of Monsters and to provide necessary reinforcement if this number should on occasion

be insufficient. Para. 1(a) of A.M. 171829 February is cancelled

(3) C. in C. Nore's 011035A refers.

(D.O.D.(H), Approved V.C.N.S., 091133A to Cs. in C.H.F., Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth, W.A., Com.D.H.F., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/VENERABLE...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

VENERABLE,  
VENGEANCE,  
COLOSSUS,  
light  
fleet  
carriers

Route VENERABLE, VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS, A.M.  
262001 Feb. and 021606 refer.

V. 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1440A/12.

W. 56.30 N. 08.20 W.

X. 56.30 N. 14.59 W.

Y. 54.05 N. 16.35 W.

Z. 47.30 N. 16.35 W.

A. 40.50 N. 14.10 W.

B. 36.04 N. 09.30 W.

C. 35.51 N. 06.10 W., thence as ordered by  
C. in C. Mediterranean.

(Plot. (OD) 091213A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Cross-Channel Convoys A small pool of regular coastal convoy Commodores is expected to be available at Cowes shortly for duty on the cross-Channel convoys.

(2) It is intended to employ them in the first instance on the WVC and VWC convoys.

(3) Consider that each Commodore on disembarking at Havre should spend one night at Havre and return in following evening's convoy. It would be appreciated if boat and accommodation facilities be arranged for them.

(4) Importance is attached to the improvement in convoy discipline and control which should result from the employment of these officers.

(5) It is expected that the scheme will start with VWC leaving St. Helens on March 14th.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091231A to C.T.G.125.15.)

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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

- U/B report. Possible schnorkel sighting at 1403Z/6th March has been confirmed whale by VERULAM.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091030A to Admty.)
- Cod fishery. My 091945 Feb. paras. 6 and 7. Ministry of Marine now propose that fifth group proceed Lisbon to Greenland Banks by as direct route as weather conditions permit instead of first visiting Newfoundland Banks.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 091110 to Admty.)  
Approved, 142036 from C.N.O.
- E.G. 1. SPIRAEA is to form part of Group 1 as from 2359A/9th March.  
(2) Group 1 consists of HYDERABAD and JONQUIL and is at 4 hours notice for steaming.  
(3) SPIRAEA take over S.O. Group on joining.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091122A to SPIRAEA.)
- GLOXINIA Corvette. Departure 1030/9th GLOXINIA for United Kingdom. My 081553 refers. Q.Z.H.(C) 841, L. 68, S.682, X.1549, Y.555.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091244A to Admty.)
- E.G. 3. Being in all respects ready for war you are to sail at 1900A March 9th to join Group 3 consisting of WELLINGTON (S.O.) and WILLOWHERB acting as additional close escort to K.M.S.88 to Gibraltar.  
(3) S. of A. 7½ knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091506A to WOODRUFF.)
- Refuelling Rescue Tugs. Your 251122 Feb.  
(1) Para. 2. Confirm quantity required will be available.  
(2) Para. 5. (A) Minister of Marine will have to make final decision and will be consulted on his return to Madrid but Spanish D.N.I. does not anticipate any difficulty.  
(B) You will be informed when Minister of Marine has made decision.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 091755A to Admty.)
- SQUIRREL and FANCY, minesweepers. Request you will arrange relief escorts as necessary to enable SQUIRREL and FANCY to reach Gibraltar with safe margin of fuel.  
(D.O.D.(H), 092325A to F.O.G.M.A.)

War Diary.

9.3.1945  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Linrep No. (2) Naval. Gulf of Genoa. Two destroyers  
237, 5 - 7 engaged enemy convoy of four barges near Portofino.  
March. Three salvos were fired blind in poor visibility  
with unobserved results two other destroyers fired  
126 rounds at night into Genoa Harbour. Results  
were not observed and there was no enemy reaction.

By Mesco Point (N.W. of Spezia) two coastal craft fired four  
torpedoes at three large lighters northbound and claim one sunk  
and one hit.

Greece. At Patras the strike continues.

Coastal Air Forces attacked small shipping in the North Adriatic  
and in the Genoa - Spezia area. Rocket firing Beaufighters and  
Hurricanes attacked enemy positions coastal shipping and gun  
positions at Karlobag Lussino and Pag.  
(A.F.H.Q. 091045A to W.O.)

A.F.D. 24, Preliminary reports indicate that EMPIRE SANDY  
ashore. became girt in very bad weather due to the fracture  
of the crosshead of her after bollards. HESPERIA  
eased over to allow EMPIRE SANDY to square up but  
the latter tug slipped her tow leaving HESPERIA  
with the tow making leeway estimated at nearly five knots broadside  
HESPERIA tried to keep the dock up but was pulled off and  
eventually stranded soon after. The dock Naval Court has  
assembled today Friday to investigate the casualty. Preliminary  
reports mention drunkenness and indiscipline in connection with  
crew of EMPIRE SANDY. A.M. 072252 March.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 091051 to C. in C. Med.)

Hunt BROCKLESBY take WILTON under your orders and sail  
destroyers. at 0915/10th March to Gibraltar for onward routing  
to U.K. (2) S.O.A. 20 knots E.T.A. Boom 1145/12th.  
(V.A. Malta 091105 to BROCKLESBY.)

B.N.L.O. Split. DELHI departs Split 12th March. British Naval  
Authority remaining will be B.N.L.O. Split.  
(2) S.T.O. is at Split.  
(C. in C. Med. 091210 to Med. Station.)

Yugoslav Paras. 2 D and E of my 041244\* transfer may now  
Navy, take place. Yugoslav flag may be hoisted and  
(unification of.) ships may leave harbour and proceed.  
(2) Request brief signalled reports of action taken.  
(C. in C. Med. 091212A to V.A. Malta.)  
See 101057. \* Ships of R.Y.N. will proceed to  
Adriatic as soon as possible.

Naval Party Naval Party R has been formed for temporary com-  
Italy. bined training duties in Italy. Request mails be  
sent to Naples. Personnel will remain on books of  
present accounting bases.  
(C. in C. Med., 091516A to Admty.)

9.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Destroyers. D.24 take TENACIOUS and TERMAGANT under your orders and sail at 0900/11th to Port Said for onward routing to E.I.  
(2) Route Q.B.B. 422 and basic eastbound.  
(3) S.O.A. 22 knots adjusting to arrive Port Said at 0600/13th.  
(6) A.M. 191944 Jan. not to all addressees refers.  
(V.A.M. 091630A to Capt. (D) 24.)

Turkish Ships. Am taking necessary action as instructed in your 071226 para. 2. Do not think this conversation could be used to establish claim against Admty. as I was endeavouring for the main part to persuade Turks that anti-submarine and anti-aircraft escorts were not necessary. In writing I have never committed myself to an assurance that ships are safe from mine on any route given in fact the contrary is the case.  
(B.N.A. Ankara 091710C to C. in C. Med.)



War Diary.

9.3.1945  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 090514Z to S. & A. E.I.S.)

RICHELIEU  
(French  
battleship.)

RICHELIEU arrived 090600Z.  
(N.L.O. Jibouti 090615Z to Admty.)

D. S.  
ZWAARDFISCH

D.S. ZWAARDFISCH 4th Far East Patrol.  
7th February in 006° 08' S. 114° 42' E. fired 3  
torpedoes at 5000 ton merchant ship and one  
destroyer for one timed hit on merchant ship  
counter attack 16 charges slight damage.  
16th February attacked with bombs by aircraft whilst half submerged  
considerable damage to bow tubes periscope and gyro.  
20th February serious defect port engine forced to return to  
Fremantle.  
(C. in C. E.I. 091004Z to Admty.)

S/M CLYDE.

H.M. S/M CLYDE 5th Far East Patrol.  
(1) One special operation carried out.  
(2) 2nd March position 003° 06' N. 097° 14' E. by  
gunfire sank one 50 ton junk also by gunfire sank  
armed trawler in Molabo Harbour.  
(C. in C. E.I. 091010Z to Admty.)

Assault Forces  
Administra-  
tion.

Your 060314\*. It is particularly desired that the  
administration of Assault Forces should be carried  
out as laid down in C.A.F.O. 89/45.  
(2) This system is the outcome of several years'  
war experience in which every case of deterioration  
in morale, discipline and efficiency has been  
traceable to lack of continuity in command and administration.  
(3) If you find after trial that F.O. Force W is unable to complete  
with the administration of his Force request you will make  
further proposals.  
(V.C.N.S. 091251A to C. in C. E.I.) See 121001Z.  
\* Arrival of Units of Force W.

A.F.Ds. 18  
and 53.

Intend to sail A.F.D. 18 in tow of ENFORCER to-  
morrow 10th escorted by BANFF.  
(2) Intend to sail A.F.D. 53 in tow of ADVANTAGE  
and BOLD on 12th March escorted by LANDGUARD.  
(3) This arrangement considered best on account  
of unreliability of diesel tugs especially as ADVANTAGE can use  
only one engine.  
(4) S.O.A. of (1) estimated 5 knots, endurance of ENFORCER 20  
days. They will be routed Colombo with alternative route to  
Cochin in case of fuel shortage.  
(5) Both Docks can anchor in emergency only.  
(6) CHEERLY will be sailed Colombo as soon as ready.  
(7) A.M. 231926 Feb. your 231012 Feb. and my 220921 Feb. and 040945  
Signals quoted not to all.  
(Com. Aden 091543 to C. in C. E.I.)

/RENOWN...

9.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

RENOWN  
(refit of.)

RENOWN is required for refit and modernisation so as to be available by the end of 1945 as reserve for B.P.F. Your 010236 not to C. in C. B.P.F. refers.

(2) RENOWN should be sailed for U.K. as convenient after the arrival of RICHELIEU.  
(V.C.N.S. 091824A to C. in C. E.I.)

U/B report.

SSSS Position 15 R 36 N. 73 R 11 E. at 2025 G.M.T. submarine on surface we opened fire.  
(MOBILIGHT (via Colombo) No T.O.O/9.)

9.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 091331Z, Cominch 09145Z.)

Collision.

U.G.S. 78 DONACILLA and BURGOGNE collided 7th March. DONACILLA damaged at bow flooded forward. BURGOGNE holed on port side causing loss of all cargo number two port tank. EMPIRE COWDRAY sustained machinery casualty will sail to join U.G.S. 79. Three ships arrived Bermuda.  
(Com. 10th Fleet 091435Z to Admty.)

S/M SPORTSMAN

Fully anticipate escort for SPORTSMAN New London to U.K. can be arranged Cominch 082203 not to all being passed refer name of escort detailed will be signalled when known.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 091502Z to C.E.S.F.)

Escort for  
CARTHAGE.

Your 012154 H.M.C.S. DUNVER and ST. PIERRE are detailed.  
(SOMERS ISLES 091930Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U/B contact.

Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. B.A.D. and N.M.C.J.S. have locally first report since Cominch 061702. Para. D. 090241Z escorts of O.N. 286 attacked contact 39.50 N. 72.53 W.  
(Cominch 092040Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

U-Boat.

Surfaced U-Boat sighted by aircraft in position 43.58 N. 49.06 W. am engaging.  
(S.O.C. 6 092127Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)  
My 092127Z. Aircraft sighting and Sono buoy contact not definite but probable, promising asdic contact, 5 attacks by COBOURG. Four escorts hunting.  
(S.O.C.6 092320Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

CITY OF PARIS  
(accommo-  
dation ship)

Your 062331 N.T. in W.D., received with E.T.A. Pearl Harbour 3rd May. In view of refit necessary CITY OF PARIS is urgently required at Montreal as soon as ice conditions permit entry. Every endeavour must be made for vessel to reach that area about mid April.  
(D. of S.T. 090317A to A.C.N.B. Melbourne.)

/Digest...

War Diary.

9.3.1945  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

- Digest 1143 (Extract.)  
8.3.45.
- (1) Navy Liberators from Clark Field over China coast left sinking one small coaster 30 miles E.N.E. Hongkong, bombed strafed left sinking single lugger south by west Amoy heading S.W.
- (2) Early hours Mariners from Lingayan attacked convoy one small freighter transport one unidentified merchantman, 2 destroyers 40 miles east by north Amoy heading N.E. \*
- (8) 2 light cruisers, 6 destroyers of 7th Fleet bombarded Zamboanga area 7/8th March.
- (9) Early hours patrol Liberator of 13th Air Force attacked 1 small engine-aft freighter off southeastern Borneo scoring 1 direct hit 2 near misses, also attacked single stationary seatruck same area.
- (11) Photographs Formosa 5th March showed 70 merchant ships mostly small totalling 28,000 tons in Takao Harbour.
- (13) Delayed report March 6th states 8 Beaufighters, 4 Spitfires, 16 R.A.A.F. Warhawks destroyed barges motor trucks Halmahera northern Celebes, R.A.A. Liberator exploded patrol craft Flores Island.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 091051Z to Admty.) \* Results unobserved.

ACTIVITY C. in C. B.P.F. 270853 Feb. para. 3 (not to all.)  
(Ferry A.M. 231237 Dec. para. 4 (not to all) is  
Carrier.) cancelled. After unloading aircraft at Sydney,  
C. in C. B.P.F. is requested to sail ACTIVITY to  
Colombo to load aircraft for shipment to Australia.  
(V.C.N.S. 091233A to C. in C. B.P.F.)  
See 121006 in East Indies.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/9th March.  
& sighting Para. A. (1) LORNASTON sunk probably by U-Boat at  
summary. 0959Z/8th March in 50° 35' N. 00° 03' W.  
Para. B. (1) A/C L/103 obtained contact at 1035Z/  
8th March in 52° 50' N. 13° 20' W.  
(2) A/C D/110 obtained contact at 1205Z/8th March  
in 52° 20' N. 13° 12' W.  
(3) A/C N/103 obtained contact at 1400Z/8th March in 52° 40' N.  
13° 38' W. and attacked contact at 1525Z/8th March in 52° 41' N.  
13° 31' W.  
(4) A/C Z/422 attacked smoke and possible snort at 1308Z/8th  
March in 55° 37' N. 06° 50' W.  
(5) H.M.C.S. LOCH MORLICH (E.G. 6) reported U-Boat at 1500Z/8th  
March in 50° 23' N. 02° 14' W.

/Para. C....

*Recd in W.D. 13/4/45 166A. IN*

# 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.)

092002A March

From F.O. S/M

Date 11.4.45.  
Recd. 0950.

P/L B. E/I.

Addressed. C. in C. B.P.F., C. in C. S.I.  
Info. S/M 2, S/M 4, S/M 8, Admiralty.

Revised Forecast my 091914 refers.

(A) Submarines leave U.K.

March	SEANYMPH
April	SIDON, STUBBORN, TOTEM, TURPIN, SPEARHEAD, TAPIR.
May	SCOTSMAN, TAURUS, TACTICIAN, SPUR.
June	TREBASSER, SCORCHER, O.23
July	TROCKAWAI, TIRELESS, SURF.
August	TRUNCHEON, SANGUINE, SEADEVIL, SAGA, SPORTSMAN.

(B) Submarines due in U.K. for refit as follows:

Late April	SIPBAR
early June	TANTALUS, SPITEFUL, TELEMACHUS, SPIRIT.
early August	STRONGBOW, STURDY
late August	TRADEWIND, ZWAARDFISCH
early September	TERRAPIN
early September	TUDOR
late September	TERRAPIN, TRENCHANT, O.19
early October	STAFFSMAN
late October	STYGLIAN
early November	THOROUGH
early December	SUETLE.

092002A March.

*amended by 101651B April.*

**NOTE:** No trace of previous receipt of this message in War Registry. Message referred to in F.O. S/M's 101651B.

1st Lord.	D.O.D.(F)(2)	
1st S.L. (3)	Plot.	
D.F.S.L. (2)	D.D.I.C.(2)	
3rd S.L.	D.N.I.(4)	
V.C.N.S.	Hd. of M.(2)	P.N.L.O. (2)
A.C.N.S.(H)	N.A. Mails.	D.A/S.W.
A.C.N.S.(F)	N.A. 2. S.L.(OD)	D.A.U.D.
A.C.N.S.(W)	D. of P.(2)	Dep. Contr. }
U.W.R.	D. of P.(Q)(3)	Hd. of S.W.R.(3) } Bath
D. Map Room	C.O.W.C.O.	
D.C.	Admiral Blake.	
D.O.D.(H)(4)		

**CANCELLED**

Adm

100

100

IN

BIGOT-MOST SECRET

~~CANCELLED~~

War Diary.

9.3.1945  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

Para. C. (1) Force 36 attacked doubtful contact at 0835Z/8th March in 53° 47' N. 04° 40' W.  
(2) A/C U/461 attacked smoke at 1015Z/8th March in 52° 40' N. 05° 39' W.  
(3) Force 36 attacked contact at 1836Z/8th March in 53° 42' N. 04° 55' W.  
(4) A/C A/103 obtained radar contact at 0925Z/8th March in 52° 45' N. 05° 45' W.  
(5) A/C B/815 attacked oil patch at 1550Z/8th March in 55° 06' N. 05° 20' W.  
(6) A/C R/422 sighted smoke and obtained contact course 135° at 1830Z/8th March in 51° 25' N. 05° 02' W.  
(7) A/C O/105 obtained contact at 1022Z/8th March in 50° 23' N. 11° 25' W. and at 1045Z/8th March in 50° 18' N. 11° 16' W.  
(8) A/C C/105 obtained disappearing radar contact at 1119Z/8th March in 51° 37' N. 06° 00' W.  
(9) A/C A/810 attacked smoke and wake at 1012Z/8th March in 50° 22' N. 02° 10' W.  
(10) Conning tower believed sighted course W. at 1227Z/8th March in 50° 38' N. 00° 08' E.  
Para. D. (1) CAPE ARGONA sighted possible periscope course 180° at 1424Z/8th March in 53° 32' N. 04° 00' W.  
(2) DAHLIA (escorting B.T.C. 91) attacked contact at 1605Z/8th March in 51° 06' N. 04° 34' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 091227A.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 091411A, 091445.)

10. 3. 1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

483 (Coastal Forces  
Review  
CB 04272 (19)  
p. 19)

1. (a) E-Boats renewed their activity towards the Schelde last night, but without much effect. In two cases out of three they were intercepted by our patrols, brought to action, damaged (one possibly sunk), and driven off before reaching the swept channel. Only in the neighbourhood of N.F. 11 buoy may they have reached the channel and laid mines. M.T.Bs. 736 and 739, vectored on by EKINS and MACKAY, drove off a group of 4 near N.F. 8 buoy, and M.T.Bs. 431 and ~~435~~, vectored on by RETALICK, drove off another group from between N.F. 5 and N.F. 6 buoys. M.T.B. 431 suffered damage and casualties, and M.T.B. 736 slight damage. (b) Bomber Command reports 851 tons of bombs dropped on Hamburg shipyards and 165 mines laid in the Elbe, Jade and Weser Rivers. (c) Eleven ground mines were detonated between Flushing and Westkapelle, but the whole shore is reported as strewn with "Katie" mines. (d) The Norwegian minesweeping trawler NORDHAV was torpedoed and sunk off No.25 buoy, near Dundee.

Western Approaches.

2. A.F.D. 66 has foundered in bad weather in 44° 13' N. 13° 48' W.

Foreign Stations.

East Indies.

Burma.

3. Hurricanes and Spitfires destroyed a motor launch and 7 river craft in the Arakan Area.

Movements.

4. (a) ROYALIST (A.C. 21) with HUNTER and STALKER left Suez for Aden.  
(b) AMEER left Colombo for Durban.



10.3.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

China.

5. (a) Navy Liberators attacked a convoy 20 miles S.W. of Hainan and claim 6 direct hits on a transport which was left down by the bows and listing.

(b) Mitchells attacked shipping off French Indo-China coast, one tanker was sunk another was left on fire and a merchant vessel seen to be listing.

Philippines.

6. (a) This morning American troops landed on Zamboanga (Western Mindanao) against minor opposition capturing a village and two airfields. A heavy bombardment preceded the landing by two U.S. light cruisers and six destroyers.

(b) Tonight Ormok P.T. boats destroyed 2 laden luggers off Cebu.

Borneo.

7. Liberators attacked 4 vessels 60 miles east of Balikpapan (east coast of Borneo). Two ships were sunk and a third damaged.

10.3.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Minelaying off East Coast. Operation "Centimo".  
Humber, 10th March. Departure OPPORTUNE, ORWELL in company at 0810 in accordance with C. in C. Nore's 051540.  
(2) C. in C. Nore's 051540 para. 9. Expected time of arrival 0900 Sunday 11th.  
(3) Request check calibration of H/F D/F of OPPORTUNE on arrival.  
(4) Request mails be diverted.  
(F.O. Humber, 100902A to C. in C. H.F.)

E-Boat activity.  
E-Boat activity night 9th/10th March.  
(1) Soon after midnight about 4 E-Boats passed inshore of Patrol 19 and reached Channel at N.F.11 Buoy.  
(2) At same time 4 more eluded 16 Patrol and reached Channel at N.F.8 Buoy.  
(3) Soon after 0100 4 E-Boats reached Channel between N.F.5 and N.F.6.  
(4) E-Boats used high speed throughout. Minelaying probable. All E-Boat units engaged by patrols and M.T.Bs. Details not yet available. Damaged and casualties in M.T.B. 431. Slight damage to M.T.B. 736.

(C. in C. Nore, 101034A to Admty.)

My 101034. Para. 2 M.T.Bs. 736 and 739 vectored by EKINS closely engaged E-Boats before they reached N.F.8. High speed took enemy clear. Damage inflicted on E-Boats who were also engaged by MACKAY as they retired.

(2) Para. 3 M.T.Bs. 431 and ~~432~~ vectored by RETALICK made good interception before E-Boats reached Q.Z.S.581 and fought them for about 20 minutes. One E-Boat possibly sunk. Minelaying between N.F.5 and N.F.6 now considered less likely.

(3) Para. 4 for M.T.B. 726 read M.T.B. 736.

(C. in C. Nore, 101514A to Admty.)

My 100255A\* and 101024A\* neither to all addressees. Until further notice all traffic using Q.Z.S.684 and 686 is to keep to southern half of channel between N.F.5 and N.F.6 buoys.

(2) All traffic entering and leaving Ostend is to proceed from N.F.7 Buoy to O.D.1 Buoy and vice versa leaving N.F.7 to eastward.

(3) All traffic to and from Antwerp is to proceed N.F.7 Buoy to position 1 mile 180° from wreck buoy in Q.Z.H.219 thence to N.F.9 Buoy and from position 51° 21'36" N., 02° 59'06" E. to 1 mile 360° N.F.11 Buoy thence to N.F.12 Buoy and vice versa.

(C. in C. Nore, 101544A to SAPPHIRE, VOLUNTEER, HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK, N.Os. I.C. Harwich, Ostend, Southend, Sheerness, Antwerp, Dover, Ramsgate, Herschell, D.16, D.21.)

\* Not identified in War Registry.

N.O.M.116 para. 12 add. In addition shadowing aircraft will automatically drop a flare when the E-Boats cross lat. 51° 45' N. and 51° 35' N. during the approach.

(C. in C. Nore, 101637A to Nore Command.)

Air Situation Report. R.A.F. Bomber Command night 8th/9th March. 328/304 aircraft on Hamburg Shipyards 851.2 tons good. 39/37 Mosquitos on Berlin City 27.5 tons

/good ...

10.3.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Air Situation Report. (Contd.) good. 28/28 Mosquitos on Hanover City 39.2 tons good. 37/35 aircraft on minelaying, Elbe and Jade Weser Rivers, Heligoland, 165 mines laid. 89/79 aircraft on bomber support. (S.H.A.E.F., 101100 to Admty., and others.)

Minesweeping off Schelde. Following received from Com. M/S. Terneuzen begins. Clearance completed of channel between Flushing and Westkapelle. Area swept consists of channel two cables wide centre line of which joins the following points:  
(A) 157° Flushing Water Tower 7 cables. (B) 286° Flushing Water Tower 14 cables. (C) 151° Soutelande Church 12 cables. (D) 238° Westkapelle Light 9 cables.  
Katie mines were observed at low water almost the whole length of the shore. 11 ground mines were detonated in addition to the 5 detonated during Operation "Calendar". D.T.G.091759A March. Ends.  
(F.O. Holland, 101110A to C. in C. Nore.)

Controlled minefield recovery. Admiralty's O70514A\* March. Intend to sail LINNET at 0830 tomorrow Sunday 11th March and subsequently daily as tide serves to work on recovery of remainder of controlled minefields. LINNET will fly signal as for ship laying cables.  
(Com. Sheerness, 101121A to C. in C. Nore.)  
\* Laying party and surveying officer to assist LINNET in mine-laying recovery.

U-Boat off Dundee. Loss of NORDHAV. II Detach VANITY to proceed with all despatch to hunt U-Boat in position 25 buoy at 1200A. (C. in C. Rosyth, 101334 to PIONEER.)  
Carrying out southern sweep from Tod Head from close inshore, NEWPORT, LORD LLOYD, LOCH MONTEITH and MACBETH on port beam, 2 miles apart. (VANITY, 101825A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

While carrying out Oropesa sweep to the northward in Q.Z.S.322 about 2 miles northward of 25 Buoy at 1202A/10th H. Norwegian M. Trawler NORDHAVI was torpedoed on port-side forward of bridge and sunk. H. Nor. M. Trawler SYRIAN was in company and reports having sighted track of a second torpedo passing some 30 yards astern of her about 4 minutes after first explosion. SYRIAN then recovered survivors of NORDHAVI and proceeded for Dundee.

(2) Evidence from officers and ratings of SYRIAN shows possible periscope sightings shortly after torpedoing of NORDHAVI and again after picking up survivors.  
(3) Regret to report Commanding Officer of NORDHAVI 3 Norwegian and one British rating killed.  
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 101913A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

10.3.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 340 part 4 Section AA.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 091600A  
March.

	<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	85	326	7,926	-	20,099	-
Ostend	1,010	112	2,243	-	-	579
Boulogne	88	160	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	2,343	-	-
Calais	5,251	-	69	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4,581	-	619	2,023
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,434</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>14,819</b>	<b>2,343</b>	<b>20,718</b>	<b>2,602</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>						
Antwerp	-	403	19,216	-	-	-
Cherbourg	13	242	4,216	560	7,472	1,867
Le Havre	10,046	509	7,825	-	2,897	3,317
Rouen	610	41	5,728	50	1,703	409
Granville	-	-	-	334	-	-
Ghent	-	-	8,537	-	-	3,828
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,669</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>45,549</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>12,072</b>	<b>9,421</b>
<u>U.S. South -</u>						
Marseilles	8,140	-	7,039	4,452	-	38
Port de Bouc	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toulon	-	-	1,802	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,140</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,841</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38</b>

Note: 3,335 tons G.F. Ammo. at Ghent 8th March not previously reported. (Signed Eisenhower Cite SHGDS).  
(S.H.A.E.F., 101440A to Admty. and others.)

Operations

Channel

E.G.10.

A.M. 091811. 10th E.G. is allocated to Portsmouth Command forthwith.  
(2) Mails to Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. W.A., 101008A to Admty., C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Anti-E-Boat  
obstruction  
trials.

There is an urgent requirement for a form of floating obstruction capable of damaging E-Boats, and of sinking after a predetermined interval of time not more than 48 hours after laying. In this connection it is desired to carry out trials with two "D" type M.T.Bs. attacking obstructions made up from lengths of buoyant scaffolding tubing to be laid and provided by B.D.O. Gosport. All technical details will be provided by D.B.D.

/(2) ...

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War Diary.10.3.1945.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Anti-E-Boat  
obstruction  
trials.  
(Contd.)

(2) M.T.Bs. 618 and 742 at present at Poole, have been selected. HORNET is requested to provide suitable runner crews to sail these vessels from Poole to Portsmouth and to carry out the trials. On completion of trials M.T.Bs. 618 and 742 should be sailed or towed to Poole.  
(3) Subject to C. in C. Portsmouth's concurrence, it is requested that all arrangements in respect of the trials be made by B.D.O. Gosport in conjunction with HORNET and consulting D.B.D. Admiralty to be informed of date and time of trial.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 101203A to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, HORNET.)

Patrols and  
Escorts.

Escort HAMPTON FERRY to off Nab thence proceed to patrol area 10 miles south of Q.Z.S.626 between E.A.5 Buoy and C.2A Buoy.  
(2) Leave patrol at 0800A. Group is to anchor St. Helens Roads at  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour's notice. BAYNTUN proceed up harbour berthing as ordered by Capt. (D) 1 for S.O. to visit my staff.  
(3) Instruct HAMPTON FERRY to anchor St. Helens Roads and to proceed at 0100A/11th to Dover in company with DUKE OF YORK bound Thames escorted by VIMY.  
(4) Report if HAMPTON FERRY holds route from Wight to Dover.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101222A to S.O. E.G.10.)  
(1) Weigh at 1700A/10th and proceed to patrol area limits position PP L.1 Buoy, 14 E Buoy, K Buoy.  
(2) Leave patrol at 0800A/11th and return to anchor off Le Havre.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101253A to HOTHAM, VIDETTE.)  
WILD GOOSE, DOMINICA on patrol Start to Lizard codeword "Gladstone A".  
(2) LOCH FADA, LABUAN on patrol Lizard to Pendeen codeword "Gladstone B".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 101449A to S.O. E.G.2.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Patrols.

Force 38 (5th E.G.) GRINDALL, 4 frigates and E.G.18th TOWY, 4 frigates St. George's Channel area.  
Force 36 (17th E.G.) ELFREDA, 3 frigates Irish

Sea central.

Force 37 (30th E.G.) PEVENSEY CASTLE, 3 corvettes north in tow.  
(C. in C. W.A., 101605A to Admty.)  
22nd E.G. HART, 4 sloops supporting O.B.289.  
1st E.G. BALFOUR, 4 frigates vicinity  $51^{\circ} 00'$ ,  $13^{\circ} 20'$ .  
SQUIRREL, Tug FLAUNT  $45^{\circ} 05'$ ,  $11^{\circ} 18'$  to Plymouth 10.  
FANCY, SANDRAY  $42^{\circ} 18'$ ,  $13^{\circ} 12'$  to Gibraltar 10.  
(C. in C. W.A., 101610A to Admty.)

On completion of fuelling F.O.I.C.N.I. is requested to sail 19th E.G. to relieve 5th E.G. in Force 38. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail GOODALL to R/V with 19th E.G. off Skerries as arranged by F.O.I.C.N.I.

/(2) On ...

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Patrols. (2) On relief by 19th E.G., 5th E.G. is to enter  
(Contd.) Milford Haven for short rest.  
(3) Unifoxer stores for 5th E.G. are to be  
embarked in a ship of 19th E.G. Ship detailed  
is to enter Milford Haven to transfer stores  
and then to rejoin group.  
(C. in C. W.A., 101904A to F.O.I.Cs. N.I., Liverpool.)  
If not in contact leave present patrol area at 0800/11th  
and proceed to Belfast via St. George's Channel for lay-over.  
(C. in C. W.A., 101909A to S.O. E.G.1.)

Anti-U-Boat Operation C.H. serial H.1 and part II completed.  
deep mining. (APOLLO, 102118A to C. in C. W.A.)

OperationsNorway

Operation Ramose Glorious sailed VIGRA at 0530A/10th March.  
S.C. (2) Air escort not especially required for  
return journey.  
(F.O.I.C. Lerwick, 100533A to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/11th March and  
movements for following 24 hours.  
(A) SIDON 67° 28' N., 08° 35' E. diving by day  
through 68° 01' N. 09° 22' E. to 69° 29' N. 15° 31' E. Daily  
advance 150 miles.  
(B) STUBBORN on patrol off Fejeosen between 60° 30' N. and  
61° 05' N.  
(C. of W., 101910A to A.I.G. 25.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Relief Your 071344. Only vessels available from which  
desired for a relief can be provided for SKYRACK are:  
SKYRACK. Ex M/S. Trawler PELAGOS - 126 ft. built 1918.  
Ex M/S Trawler EXYAHNE - 117 ft. built 1914.  
(2) These vessels are being placed in reserve at  
King's Lynn.  
(3) Would either of these be suitable?  
(D.S.V.P., 101041A to A.C.I.C.)

Patrols. Position at 2102A/10th March. HONNINGSVAAG and  
2 Whalers vicinity Skagi.  
(A.C.I.C., 101126A to Admty., C. in C. W.A.,  
C. in C. H.F.)

/Probable ...

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Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Probable U-Boat.                      Attacking S/M.  
                                    (HONNINGSVAAG, 101430Z to A.C.I.C.)  
                                    Attacking 1 S/M position 305° Skagi 15 miles.  
                                    (HONNINGSVAAG, 101440A to A.C.I.C.)  
                                    New contact am attacking.  
                                    (HONNINGSVAAG, 101455A to A.C.I.C.)  
Local A/V attacked A/S contact in position 64.13 N., 23.10 W.  
at 1430Z today 10th March.      Several attacks made.      Hunt  
proceeding, details follow.  
(A.C.I.C., 102020A to Admt.)

Second probable U-Boat.                      Master of SS. SOJOURNER 435 G.R.T. reports on  
                                    arrival at Kirkwall that he sighted from a  
                                    distance of about 1 mile to port a twin  
                                    periscope one large and one small at 0900A/10th.  
                                    March in position E.N.E. Pentland Skerries  
                                    4 miles.      Sea smooth, small wake seen, much  
                                    oil in vicinity of periscope graded C.3.  
                                    (C. in C. H.F., 101918 to Admt.)

Reinforce-ment for Rosyth.                      Request you will transfer one support group to  
                                    C. in C. Rosyth as soon as practicable.  
                                    (V.C.N.S.(H), 102334A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Baltic.

Minelaying in Southern Baltic.                      Your 071241.      Concur generally but it is now  
                                    proposed that the operation should be carried  
                                    out between 22nd March and 30th March instead of  
                                    former dates.      Request confirmation that change  
                                    of date is agreed.  
                                    (A.C.N.S.(H), 100750A to H.B.N.M. Moscow.)

Enemy Intelligence

Effect of Baltic Air attacks on enemy shipping.                      (1) Apart from detailed successful air attacks on  
                                    individual enemy ships and delay due to mining  
                                    we have failed so far to discern during past two  
                                    months any appreciable reduction in average  
                                    daily flow of enemy shipping passing into Kattegat  
                                    to and from Norwegian ports.  
                                    (2) In additions to eleven Military transports  
                                    which still ply regularly between Norwegian and  
                                    Danish ports during February at least 80 northbound (?enemy)  
                                    vessels routed to Norway entered Kattegat via Sound and another  
                                    30 via Great Belt.      A similar number passed southbound.  
                                    (3) This flow of shipping is still maintained today and from  
                                    recent analysis of cargoes handled at Norwegian ports it is  
                                    estimated that nearly 30% of this shipping is Wehrmacht stores  
                                    and ammunition and about 20% troops and equipment.  
                                    (N.A. Stockholm, 101213 to Admt.)

/Baltic ...

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Baltic mining results. Fredrikshavn night ferry stated to lie in convoy route. Following mining results are reported.  
 (A) 700 tons water vessel exploded bearing 163° distance 900 metres from light on south Mole Fredrikshavn.  
 (B) 450 tons Sperrbrecher damaged by magnetic mine one and half sea miles from Fredrikshavn.  
 (C) Fast transports operating between Fredrikshavn and Fredrikstad stated to have been very irregular during first 3 weeks in February on account of mines.  
 (2) Four mines were reported to have been exploded by Sperrbrecher in route between Fredrikshavn and Vinga. B.2.  
 (N.A. Stockholm, 101257 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

X.E.11, submarine. My 092153. Craft raised today 10th.  
 (2) Bodies of all in para. 2 of S/M. 12's 061340 recovered.  
 (F.O.S/M., 102251A to Admty.)

Movements

A.F.D. 66. Regret dock commenced to sink at 0235A in position 44° 13' N., 13° 48' W. Upper edge of one wall remains awash. Intend to sink same at first light. FANCY, SANDRAY and FLAUNT proceeding 090° at 5 knots. No casualties. In view of further serious damage to SQUIRREL and FLAUNT when attempting to get boarding party aboard dock intend these ships to return to Plymouth with dock crew. FANCY and SANDRAY to proceed to Gibraltar. Request necessary instructions may be given to SALVONIA. Further signals will be made as soon as boarding party re-embarks from FLAUNT.

(SQUIRREL, 100545A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Dock finally sank before daylight. CHELSEA and SANDRAY detached at 1100A in position 44° 13' N., 13° 50' W. with instructions to proceed to Gibraltar. Speed of advance 11 knots. SQUIRREL and FLAUNT returning U.K., speed of advance 12 knots.

(SQUIRREL, 101230A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

LARGS, (L.S.H.(L)). Intend handing over LARGS to your administration as from 1200 today Saturday 10th March.  
 (R.A.L.S.C.U., 101013A to N.C. Force W.)

VENERABLE, VENGEANCE, COLOSSUS, light fleet carriers. Intend sailing A.C.11 in VENERABLE, VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS escorted by TARTAR (Capt. (D) 10), ULYSSES, H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE, STOCKHAM, INMAN and COTTON passing Clyde Boom 0830A/12th March for Mediterranean. Speed of advance 15 knots.  
 (2) CROOME will join escort in vicinity 49° N.  
 (3) STOCKHAM, INMAN, COTTON escort to 47° N. Remainder to Gibraltar.  
 (4) Route in accordance with A.M. 091213A March.  
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 101018A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med.) /INVER ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

- INVER, . In view of situation it is strongly urged that  
AIRE, INVER and AIRE may be retained in Western  
frigates. Approaches Command till the end of the German  
War.  
(C. in C. W.A., 101115A to Admty.)
- NORFOLK, (1) Leave Scapa as convenient p.m. Sunday 11  
cruiser. March and proceed by standard route to Rosyth  
arriving Oxcars Gate at 1700A/12th March. My  
051813 refers.  
(2) Weather permitting speed through the water  
is to be at least 24 knots as far as May Island.  
(3) Pass over deep D.G. range on proceeding up Firth of Forth.  
(4) On arrival you will secure to No. 14 Buoy.  
(C. in C. H.F., 101139A to NORFOLK.)  
The Flag of C.S.1 will be transferred from NORFOLK to  
SEARCHER at 1200 Sunday 11th March.  
(C. in C. H.F., 101735A to Home Fleet.)
- CLARE, Sailed CLARE for exercises and Isle of Man on  
aircraft completion. My 061750 and 081536 neither to  
targetship. all addressees refer. Ship will make own  
E.T.A. when known.  
(N.O.I.C. Lamlash, 101635A to N.O.I.C. I. of M.)
- ANSON, Cs. in C. concerned are requested to sail ANSON  
DUKE OF and DUKE OF YORK when ready to Scapa for prelimin-  
YORK, ary work up under C. in C. H.F.  
battleships. (2) This period should be of sufficient duration  
to test all material including thorough trial of  
all Radar equipment, but not height finding  
calibration. It is estimated that not less  
than two weeks will be required.  
(3) On completion C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail ships for  
the Mediterranean to complete work up under C. in C. Med. Time  
required is estimated at not less than four weeks.  
(4) C. in C. Med. is requested to state port to which ships  
should be sailed.  
(5) On completion of working up both ships will join the B.P.F.  
Further signals will be made regarding:  
(a) Escort from U.K. to Mediterranean.  
(b) Onward passage from Mediterranean.  
(V.C.N.S., 101700A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, W.A., H.F., Med.)

10.3.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- E.G. 4. Group IV is to leave patrol so as to arrive Gibraltar 0930A/11th March.  
(2) On arrival ships are to fuel and be ready to sail as additional close escort to M.K.S. 88 at 1500A/11th March.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 101023A to Group 4.)
- E.G. 1. Ship (?being) in all respects ready for war SPIREA is to take HYDERABAD and (JONQUIL?) under his orders and proceed to Hood Point 1800A/10th March to anchor in Moleft, and remain at 1 hours notice for steam.  
(2) Anchor berth as follows: 224° Able Head 2.8 cables 212° Able Head 4.3 cables, and 193° Able Head 3.15 cables.  
(3) Group 1 is to weigh at 0330A/11th and proceed to take up patrol on a line drawn between Cape Spartel and Cape Trafalgar.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 101047A to Group 1.)
- Destroyers. Intend to sail LAMERTON (S.O.) and EASTON to U.K. at 0800A/11th March. (2) Route, etc.  
(3) S.O.A. 15 knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 101123A to Admty.) See 111114.
- A.F.D. 66. Return to Azores forthwith. SQUIRREL's 100545 refers.  
(Admiral Gibraltar 101549A to SALVONIA.)  
See Home Commands.

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Yugo-slav Navy - unification of. Intend to send Yugo-slav Runner crew to Augusta to take over HVAR within a few days.  
(2) To prevent removal of gear by Italians propose with your concurrence that S.N.O. E. Sy. arranges to take over HVAR now and hold ship in readiness to transfer to Yugoslavia Para.(2) (D)&(E) of your O41244, your O91212 (neither to F.O.N.A.M.) and my 201239 October refer.  
(3) P.T.boats will be ready to sail by Wednesday 14th March but cannot proceed until Yugo-slavian Coastguard vessel ORAO is available. F.O.N.A.M. is requested to signal earliest E.T.A. Malta.  
(V.A.M. 10157 to C. in C. Med.)  
Concur 111302A and 121001A.

ORION (cruiser). On completion of trials about 1800A/12 March proceed to Alexandria.  
(2) Route.  
(4) ORION has requested following practices etc. Thereafter practices at sea dependant upon operational requirements.  
(V.A. Malta, 101158 to ORION)

CALPE. A.M. 031209 not to all.  
When ready for service CALPE should be given a short work up in the Mediterranean.  
(2) On completion of work up CALPE is to be sailed for the U.K. where she will be required for temporary service in the Nore Command.  
(D.O.D.(F), 101511A to C. in C. Med.)

Yugo-slav shipping. In view of formation of new government intend to turn over BONN (ex Yugo-slav SUMADIJA) to Yugo-slavs for their operation on essential Adriatic Trade. A.M. 181648 Nov. not to all refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 101551A to Admty.)

NORTHERN SUN, (Tanker). Master of NORTHERN SUN reports that on entering Odessa Harbour he struck some bulky object in position 156 degs. from fixed green light on petroleum harbour mole, in approx. position 032 degs. from (fixed) red light 180 feet in town.  
(2) Draught forward 25 feet 11 inches, aft 29 feet 00 inches. Has a hole in fore peak, now being surveyed, but expect to sail 2100/10th March for Haifa. Admty. pass to Moscow.  
(C.S.A.Istanbul, 101737C to F.O.L.E.M.)

Cositintrep, No.607. Coastal Air Force. Wellingtons bombed barges in Gulf of Genoa.  
Balkan Air Force. Spitfires, Mustang and Hurricanes destroyed 1 gun on Lussin Island, bombed guns Rab and sunk two small vessels in Arsa Channel.  
(H.Q. M.A.A.F.No T.O.O.10.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

A.F.D. 20. Arrivals EMINENT and DESTINY 4th A.F.D. 20.  
(N.O.I.C. Cochin 100445Z to Admty.)

U/B dis- No change.  
positions. (C. in C. E.I.S. 101013 FG to S. & A. E.I.S.)

U/B report. 26.22 S. 45.05 E. Periscope sighted.  
(HOWARD E. COFFIN 101345Z.)  
Periscope passed astern wind west 4 seas choppy.  
(HOWARD E. COFFIN No T.O.O/10th.)

Capt. D. 26th D.26 in SAUMAREZ arrived SEMLA departed  
Destroyer (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 101529Z to Admty.)  
Flotilla.

A.F.D. 18. Arrived F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE. Departed A.F.D. 18  
in tow of ENFORCER, BANFF.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden 101623Z to Admty.)

FLAMINGO Approved for FLAMINGO to return to U.K. for refit  
A/A sloop. and modernisation with a view to being available  
for post monsoon operations. Your 246/E.I. 1349/M  
of 22nd Jan. refers.  
(2) Regret no relief can at present be provided.  
Para. 1 of A.M. 112315 Feb. refers.  
(V.C.N.S. 101627A to C. in C. E.I.)

10.3.1945  
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- U/B search. My 092127. Lost contact. Carrying out Kappa search. Intend all 4 escorts to remain until relieved by E.G. 16 weather and ice report 0072 6662 2263.  
(S.O.C. 6 100035 to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- U/B hunt. Submarine sighted at 43.58 N. 49.06 W. is your target. E.G. 16 consisting of five Canadian P.G.Es. proceeding to scene and estimated 100 miles S.W. submarine position. S.O. E.G. 16 is acting Comdr. Halliday. Your group now placed under C. in C. C.N.A. Operational Control. Guard Halifax L Schedules. Four ships Escort Group C.6 now hunting submarine. C. in C. C.N.A. pass to E.G. 16 and C.6.  
(Cinclant 100131Z to C.T.G. 22.14.)
- S/M attack & sighting summary. No report since my 032322Z. Para. C. Canso 0/160 sighted surfaced U-Boat and E.G. C. 6 attacked asdic contact about 2127Z/9th in 43.58 N. 49.06 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. 100354Z to Admty. Cominch.)
- Fleet Minesweepers. H.M.C.S. MILLTOWN and MALPEQUE arrived St. Johns 1030Z/10 March from Horta. This command not advised of sailing time Horta or route to St. Johns.  
(F.O.N.F. 101254Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)
- U/B dis-positions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 101330Z, Cominch 101547Z.)
- U/B report. C. 092127Z Canso A/C reported sighting surfaced U/B and H.M.C.S. COBOURG attacked Sonar contact 43.58 N. 49.06 W.  
D. 100500Z Yugoslav ~~M/V~~ <sup>S/S P</sup> QERAST reported torpedo track 36.33 N. 74.10 W. Blimp later reported whales sighted that area. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C., B.A.D., N.M.C.J.S. have by hand.  
(Cominch 102125Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)
- BONAVENTURE S/M depot Ship.B.P.F. BONAVENTURE will complete work up at Trinidad and ready to proceed March 16th. Request onward routing as on A.M. 120023 Feb. para. D. Endurance 4500 miles at 14½ knots.  
(2) C.O. considers desirable to give shore leave before leaving U.S. waters if security conditions permit.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 102131Q to B.A.D. etc.)

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F.  
Personnel,  
(require-  
ments of.)

V.A. (Q) B.P.F. 100443Z to Admiralty.  
See Lion Copy.

Digest 1144  
9.3.45

(Extract.) (1) Liberators over Borneo sank one small freighter transport, one small sea truck, one tug, one barge off S.W. Borneo.  
(2) Navy Liberators from Clark Field strafed left burning small coaster off Canton also sank another small coaster one tug 30 miles N.E. Hongkong.  
(3) Mariners attacked single small coaster 60 miles S. Hongkong without seeing results, attacked single medium freighter transport 55 miles E.N.E. Hongkong heading S.W. inflicting probable damage.  
(6) Two cruisers six destroyers of 7th Fleet continued bombardment Zamboanga during day knocking out one coastal and blowing up ammunition dump starting many fires. Spotting aircraft reported nil enemy activity Zamboanga town.  
(7) Ground forces N.E. Manila advanced six miles E. Bayanbayan while patrol reached Antipolg. Forces advancing S.E. Manila captured Santo Tomas (Northern Batangas), reached Baebn at head Batangas Bay. Total enemy casualties of Luzon to date number 71,292 killed, 751 prisoners.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 100737Z to Admty.)

Shore bases  
B.P.F.

D.F.S.L. 101904A to C. in C. B.P.F.  
See Lion Copy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/10th March.  
Para. B. (1) A/C W/120 reported possible U-Boat at 0850Z/9th March in 52° 45' N. 05° 08' W. and positive contact at 0920Z/9th March.  
(2) A/C W/120 reported positive snort course 80° at 1000Z/9th March in 52° 56' N. 05° 03' W.  
(3) A/C W/120 sighted positive periscope at 1325Z/9th March in 52° 43' N. 05° 19' W.  
Para. C. (1) M.A.C. ship A/C reported contact at 0945Z/9th March in 52° 37' N. 05° 11' W.  
(2) A/C R/422 sighted grey smoke and obtained contact course 135° at 1828Z/9th March in 51° 32' N. 05° 06' W.  
(3) A/C X/461 sighted wake and vapour at 1302Z/9th March in 51° 48' N. 05° 16' W.

/(4)...

**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.)

*Australia & New Zealand*

100443Z/March

*Saturday 15th March.*

Date 11-3-45

From V.A. (Q) B.P.F.

Recd. 0410

Naval Cypher (X) by Cable

Addressed Admiralty.

Info. Combrax Sydney, F.O.N.A.S. (A), C, in C. B.P.F.

IMPORTANT.

Following on my 100444 March are ratings requirements due Admiralty 15th March 1945. Pool requirements have been reduced from 20% to 5% allowance has been made for the disposal draft given in your 250001/ February and further allowance has been added for new ships arrived. Consideration has not been given to the additional communications personnel requirements outlined in C. in C. B.P.F. 170754 February these if approved are in addition to any listed below.

## 2. List "A" General service.

(a) For replacement of withdrawals from Pool to meet new commitments and ratings outstanding for new commitments.

(b) For Tyne my 100416 March refers.

(c) For R.N.A.H. Horns Bay.

(d) For R.N.A.H. Brisbane.

(e) For R.N.B. Brisbane.

(f) For R.N.B. Sydney.

(g) For R.N. Sub Depot Woolloomooloo.

(h) For T.B. Sanatorium Benegilla.

(j) For submarine stores and spare gear Sydney.

My 080023 March refers.

## 3. Left (?) "B" General service Pool requirements.

## 4. List "C" Royal Marine requirements.

(a) Fleet Pool.

(b) R.M. Transport Battn.

(c) MONAB's 5. list "D" Fleet Air Arm.

Items shown below are in order of priority in which it is desired they should leave United Kingdom.

(a) For Pool at Sydney.

(b) For Naval Air Salvage Unit attached to MONAB two (in advance)

(c) For MONAB's one and three to replace those reallocated to M.S.R.'s three and four.

(d) Airframe SRP's (one) Grumman (two) Corsair (three) Fairey

(e) MR component number one.

(f) MSR's five and six.

(g) Reliefs for MSR three A now in STRIKER (note (F) and (total?) of 25 A/C vide A.F.O. 1759/44 table V.

(h) One N.A.R.M.P. for A.S.H.

(j) Naval Air Salvage Unit (to complete NAFK at Bankstown (MATMU for M type machinery lorry number 4 A.M. 210537 October 1944 refers.)

/ (L).....

- (l) One propeller SRP.
- (m) School of Aircraft Maintenance (Australia) (F.O.N.A.S. (A) 210729 February refers).
- (n) Aircraft maintenance in forward areas. If no assistance for MONAB four available from U.S.N. other sources request this be given first priority. Officers required for above are
  - (d) three (one Grumman one Corsair and one Fairey)
  - (e) Nine.
  - (f) Eight.
  - (j) Two Air Engineer Officers.
  - (l) One Air Engineer Officer.
  - (m) One Air Engineer Officer.

In addition one Warrant Ordnance Officer is required for Bankstown.

6. List "E" W.R.N.S. requirements.

100443Z.

- D.F.S.L. (2)
  - 2nd S.L.
  - V.C.N.S.
  - A.C.N.S. (F)
  - Nav. Sec.
  - Dep. Sec.
  - P.A.S. (N.P.)
  - D. of P. (3)
  - D. of P. (Q) (5)
  - M. (8) (M.058566/45)
  - N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)
  - N.A. 2 S.L. (Air) (2)
  - C.W. (2)
  - N.
  - A.C.N.P. (4)
  - D. of M. for action,
  - O.D. (6)
  - D.G.S. (3)
  - D.W.R.N.S.
  - W.D.
  - D.N.A.O. (2)
  - D.A.M.R. (2)
  - G.O.C.R.M.
  - D.A.C.R. (3)
- / Provision of communication personnel and Officers.
- / As received.

WAL  
mess



**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.)

SHORE BASES 101904A/March.

To. C. in C. B.P.F. B.P.F.  
Info. V.A.(Q) B.P.F. Date. 10.3.45.

NAVAL CYPHER (XD PLUG).

From. Admiralty.

Your 080236Z and 080238Z/March. As stated in para.1 of A.M. 171425 January, policy has so far envisaged one intermediate shore base. In the planning stage the size of the base was necessarily dependent upon the size of the constructional labour force which there was some prospect of making available.

2. Very great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining sufficient labour to enable a base on the scale outlined in para.1 of A.M. 171425A January to be completed by spring, 1946.

3. In view of this and similar difficulties, the Chiefs of Staff have recently instituted an enquiry into the engineering manpower situation in all three services on the end of the German war. This may make possible some expansion of the intermediate base as previously envisaged, but it must be realised that, unless and until the Chiefs of Staff increase the allocation of manpower to Naval works Phases I and II of the Base as now planned represent the maximum effort of which our manpower resources allow.

4. Para.3. of your 080236Z March, materials for Phases I and II are now being shipped. Request you will signal as soon as possible approximate extent to which the various facilities in the projected base as planned here fall short of your requirements. Every effort will be made to make good deficiencies.

5. The very considerable amount of inter-departmental work which has proved necessary in drawing up the outline plan of the intermediate base shows clearly that the only practicable modus operandi is for detailed planning to meet your requirements to be done in the Admiralty, where alone is available all the necessary information regarding the supply position, priorities etc.

NDAM 101904A.

for Hd. of M. Branch  
(902)  
Approved D.F.S.L.

Distribution .....

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L.(3)  
 D.F.S.L.(2)  
 2nd S.L.  
 Controller.  
 4th S.L.  
 5th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S.(F)  
 A.C.N.S.(A)(2)  
 Civil Lord.  
 Secy.  
 Parl. Sec.  
 Nav. Sec.  
 Dep. Sec.  
 P.A.S.(S)  
 P.A.S.(NP)  
 D. of P.(2)  
 D. of P.(Q)(5)  
 D.O.D.(F)(2)  
 D.O.D.(H)(4)  
 Hd. of M.(8) (M.058797/45)  
 N.A. 2nd S.L.  
 Hd. of C.W.(2)  
 A.C.R.  
 M.D.G.  
 D.G.S.  
 E.A.P.  
 D. of S.(2)  
 D. of V.  
 D.A.S.(L)  
 C.E. in C.  
 D.S.D.  
 D.W.R.N.S.(2)  
 A.C.N.P.  
 D. of M.  
 Hd. of N.  
 N.A. 2nd S.L.(CD)  
 D. of S.T.(6)  
 D. of D.  
 D. of L.D.(2)  
 D.B.D.(2)  
 D. of E.  
 D.N.C.  
 Hd. of Air Branch.  
 D.C.O.D.(4)  
 A.D.O.D.(C.O).  
 Hd. of W.G.F.  
 W.D.  
 Hd. of C.E.I.  
 N.A. 2nd S.L.(Air)  
 D.N.A.C.(2)  
 D.A.W.T.  
 D.T.S.D.  
 D.A.M.R.

Dep. Contr. D.A.S. D.N.C. D. of D. C.E. in C. Hd. of C.E.II. Hd. of S.W.R.(3)	} } } } } } }	Bath.
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10.3.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

(4) A/C obtained submerged contact at 0647Z/10th  
March in 51° 41' N. 05° 53' W.

(5) DAHLIA attacked contact at 1034Z/9th March in  
50° 08' N. 04° 46' W.

Para. D. (1) GLADSTONE and HOLMES obtained bottom  
contact at 0936Z/9th March in 50° 00' N. 04° 28' W.

(2) Gibraltar A/C attacked contact considered

non submarine by surface ships at 1200Z/9th March in 36° 03' N.  
05° 42' W.

Para. E. (1) MOBILIGHT reported firing on surfaced submarine at  
2025Z/9th March in 15° 36' N. 73° 11' W.

(D.D.I.C. 101133A.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 101355A, 101357A.)

184

11.3.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) A.N.C.X.F. reports that shore gunners sank a midget U-Boat off Westkapelle on the 8th. Today M.T.B. 617 sighted another just east of the Kellett Buoy (Goodwin Sands), dropped 30 depth charges and brought up oil. Her relief on patrol, M.T.B. 621, sighted periscopes in the same vicinity, dropped depth charges, and brought diesel oil to the surface. She informed TORRINGTON who, an hour later, dropped more depth charges and brought a midget to the surface which then sank, leaving two survivors. It is not clear whether three midgets were concerned, or one only, but they generally appear in groups.  
(b) Two mines were detonated off the East Coast, and one off Ostend.
- Channel. 2. Tenth E.G. has destroyed a U-Boat 006°, 3,000 yards, from C.2A Buoy.
- Western Approaches. 3. Aircraft of 19 Group caught a U-Boat surfaced some 60 miles W.N.W. of Ushant, and sank her.
- Northern Waters. 4. Convoy J.W.65, 25 ships, sailed from the Clyde for North Russia.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Riviera. 5. Today French destroyer BASQUE fired 25 rounds at fort and U.S.S. PARKER fired 51 rounds at enemy activity. Believed several direct hits.
- Greece. 6. General situation remains quiet but strike at Patras continues and civil population at Kavalla are restless and anxious for return of Government representatives.
- Aegean. 7. Khalkia Island (N.W. of Rhodes) is reported to have been evacuated by the Germans.

11.3.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Burma. 8(a) It is reported that in the coastal area near Akyab since 16th February naval craft have landed 15,000 troops, 600 mules and 3,000 tons of motor transport and stores. Two motor launch flotillas have patrolled the water-ways. (b) Work of Naval forces has been completed in this area.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines. 9. During last night two destroyers carried out a bombardment in support of the landing at Zamboanga (Mindanao).

China. 10(a) Navy Mariner attacked 4 medium freighter-transport 40 miles S.E. of Macao. Probably sinking the largest ship with two direct hits. (b) Liberator sank a barge and strafed and left burning a small freighter-transport accompanied by one gunboat off St. Johns Island (80 miles S.W. Hongkong).

Indo-China coast. 11. 12 Mitchells probably sank tanker and damaged 3 luggers off Tourane (Annam).

Movement. 12. SLINGER left Sydney for Manus.

War Diary.

11.3.1945  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Restrictions on the engagement of submarines by merchantmen

The limits of submarine sanctuaries should not be disclosed to merchant ships. C.B.03092(43) is being amended accordingly.

(2) In order to prevent attacks on friendly submarines, who will not always be escorted in sanctuaries, instructions are to be given to merchant ships in the following sense.

(a) Within 30 miles of the coasts of the U.K. or in the Irish Sea, except on the East Coast of England between Dungeness and 52° N. no submarine is to be attacked unless it commits a hostile act.

(b) No submarine is to be attacked anywhere if in company with a British or Allied surface ship or in company with a convoy.

(c) When a British or Allied ship is seen to be flying a large red flag merchant ships should keep a good lookout for friendly submarines exercising and should keep at least two miles clear.

(3) Should operational needs require relaxation of the restrictions in para. 2 (a) above, Cs. in C. should promulgate limited coastal areas in which merchant ships are to be at liberty to attack unescorted submarines, taking care that these free areas are well clear of any sanctuaries. When time permits, Admiralty and F.O. (S/M) should be consulted before establishing such areas. (A.C.N.S.(H) 111547A to Cs. in C. Home. V.A. Dover.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Naval Situation Reports.

Cositintrep No. 340 part 2 naval.  
Ref. Cositintrep No. 339 now reported that one 175 foot German craft ran aground in outer harbour at Granville and scuttled herself.

(2) p.m. 8th March one midget U-Boat sunk off Westkapelle by military light A.A. guns.

(3) During night of 9/10th March two raiding parties in L.C.A. of Force T landed on Schouwen and near Nijmegen. 15 prisoners taken by latter.

(4) Le Havre Bassin Vetillart now open. 4 berths available now and 6 additional berths being cleared. (A.N.C.X.F. 110015A to Admty.)

Cositintrep No. 341 part 2 naval.  
Granville. All berths are in working order except for damaged cranes. Mine search completed with negative results.

(2) 5 craft apparently E.M.Bs. were sighted and engaged off the southwest point of Schouwen during the forenoon. 2 were damaged by shell fire, the other 3 entered Burgslvis.

(3) A raiding party from 3 L.C.A. were landed near Zijpe on the east end of Enduiveland and entered the outskirts of Bruinisse. Some fighting took place and the party withdrew leaving behind 1 officer wounded. Another party landed from 3 L.C.A. on the south eastern end of Overlakke 2 prisoners were captured.

(4) 3 groups of E-Boats operated near the swept channel off Ostend soon after midnight on the 9/10th March. One may have been sunk by our patrol. (A.N.C.X.F. 112330A to Admty.)

/Midget...

War Diary.

11.3.1945  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Midget U/B  
activity.

Your 110845 not to all addressees.  
Midget submarine brought to surface by depth  
charge sunk by gunfire, 2 prisoners in M.T.B. 621  
being landed Ramsgate shortly. Prisoners young  
and uninjured. A/S contact not gained.  
(TORRINGTON 111028A to V.A. Dover.)

U-Boat and midget U-Boat summary ending 1100Z/11th.

- (1) 1310Z/8th N.O.I.C. Antwerp reports Army claim sinking midget by gunfire off Westkapelle.
- (2) 1125Z/10th and 1200Z/10th Spitfires attacked two midgets four miles N.W. and 12 miles off Hook of Holland.
- (3) 2034Z/10th and 2240Z/10th MACKAY and RUTHERFORD respectively attacked possible midget contacts in vicinity 53F and 53A buoys.
- (4) 0851Z/11th TORRINGTON reported sinking midget near Kellett Buoy, two prisoners.
- (5) S.O. 33rd M.L. Flotilla now confirms that midgets referred to in incidents 2, 3 and 7 of my 231725 were MOLCH and not BIBER. (C. in C. Nore 111839A to Admty.)

At about 1530 Wednesday 7th M.T.B. 675 while on passage Dover to Ostend sighted surfaced midget submarine in approx. position  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cables N.W. of N.F. 3 buoy. Enemy was sunk by gunfire and two survivors landed in Ostend.

- (2) At 0710 today 11th M.T.B. 617 on patrol sighted midget submarine 50 yards east of Kellett Buoy. Enemy submerged on fire being opened. 30 depth charges were then dropped resulting in large patches of oil.
- (3) M.T.B. 621 after relieving M.T.B. 617 on patrol sighted periscopes of midget submarine at 0843 in position  $175^{\circ}$  Kellett Buoy 5 cables, and carried out depth charge attack. diesel oil rising to surface.
- (4) M.T.B. 621 informed FORT YORK and TORRINGTON, who were in the vicinity of the situation and they commenced A/S search. At about 1000 TORRINGTON dropped pattern of depth charges in diving position indicated by M.T.B. 621, bringing submarine to surface. Midget was then seen to sink stern first. Two survivors were rescued and landed at Ramsgate.  
(V.A. Dover 111851A to Admty.)

Minesweeping off E. Coast. LL sweeper detonated magnetic mine (polarity unknown) in position  $277^{\circ}$  Hammonds Knoll Buoy 1.2 miles at 0810A.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 111127A to Admty.)  
As amended by 111735.

Sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine VL.1327 today Sunday in position  $120^{\circ}$  3A buoy 22 cables.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 111425A to Admty.)

Patrols.

Night dispositions 1/12th March.  
Humber Force. Group 2. Harbour, BRISSENDEN.  
Harwich Force. Group 3. Patrols 2 TALYBONT 5  
SHEARWATER 6 PUFFIN 12 TORRINGTON 14 SOUTHDOWN 16  
THORNBOROUGH 18 HAMBLEDON 19 RIOU 21 GUILLEMOT 22 ARENDAL.  
Group 4 Harbour EGLINTON, COTSWOLD, FARNDALE, MACKAY, ZETLAND,  
EKINS, RETALICK, RUTHERFORD, SEYMOUR, STAYNER, KITTIWAKE, MALLARD,  
WIDGEON.

/Sheerness...

11.3.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Patrols.  
 (Contd.)

Sheerness Force. Group 5. Patrols 1 MELBREAK 3  
 MIDDLETON 4 VERSATILE T.A.P. 70 VESPER T.A.M. 5  
 GARTH, MENDIP A.T.M. 89 CATTISTOCK, HOLDERNESS.  
 Group 6. Harbour ALBRIGHTON BLENCATHRA, VIMY,  
 VOLUNTEER, BADDECK, GODETIA, HEATHER.  
 At Southend for O.N.A. 280 COSBY, MIMICO.  
 (C. in C. Nore 111505A to Admty.)

Discharge  
 Situation  
 Report.

Cositintrep No. 341 part 4 section 4.  
 Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/10th  
 March.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G. F. Ammo
Antwerp	50	204	10,839	-	10,419	109
Ostend	1,325	114	827	-	-	377
Boulogne	70	120	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	665	-	-
Calais	3,126	-	406	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,911	-	2,457	1,893
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,571</u>	<u>438</u>	<u>15,983</u>	<u>665</u>	<u>12,876</u>	<u>2,379</u>
U.S. North.						
Antwerp	-	191	24,215	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	500	5,533	2,598	2,315	2,872
Le Havre	4,242	1,079	8,168	-	-	3,393
Rouen	-	84	6,863	-	1,470	459
Granville	-	-	-	55	-	-
Ghent	-	-	7,836	-	-	3,517
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,242</u>	<u>1,854</u>	<u>52,615</u>	<u>2,653</u>	<u>3,785</u>	<u>10,241</u>
U.S. South						
Marseilles	3,789	1,853	19,693	1,064	-	603
Port de Bouc	-	-	350	100	5,814	50
Toulon	-	-	831	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>3,789</u>	<u>1,853</u>	<u>20,874</u>	<u>1,164</u>	<u>5,814</u>	<u>653</u>

Note. 1,116 vehicles discharged Marseilles 9 March not  
 previously reported.  
 (S.H.A.E.F. 111620A to Admty. and others.)

Minesweeping  
 off Low  
 Countries.

One blue magnetic mine detonated at 1407 in  
 position 246° N.F. 9 buoy 2½ cables. 4 B.Y.M.S.  
 sweeping LL/SA I.G.M.S. of Q.Z.Y. 557.  
 (N.O.I.C. Ostend 111728A to Com. Belgium.)



War Diary.

11.3.1945  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Proceed at 0815A/12th March and carry out serial M.2 part 1 lay 2.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 111140A to M.L. 186, NIGHTINGALE.)  
Weigh at 0255A/12th March and carry out serial D.8  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 111141A to PLOVER, CAMPANULA.)

Patrols.

(1) LOCH MORLICH slip at 1700A today Sunday and proceed to join NEW WATERFORD and TEME off St. Helens.

(2) On LOCH MORLICH joining ships addressed proceed to patrol area limits route E 50° 10' N. between 01° 25' W. and 02° 05' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 111151A to NEW WATERFORD, LOCH MORLICH, TEME.)  
M.Ls. 910 (S.O.), 346, 291 forming M.L. group.

(1) Pass Gate at 1615 and proceed to patrol Q.Z.S. 590 from Start Point to Portland Bill until further orders.

(2) Coastal convoys are to be trailed through this area.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 111447A to BLACK BAT.)

When you are satisfied that your present employment is completed, proceed to patrol area Q.Z.S. 626 50° 20' N. between 00° 20' E. and 00° 25' W.

(2) Leave patrol at 0800A/12th and proceed to St. Helens group negative BAYNTUN anchor at half hours notice.

(3) BAYNTUN enter harbour to visit staff. Berth as ordered by Capt. D.1.

(4) Group will be required for patrol about 1700A/12th.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 111539A to S.O.E.G. 10.)

See S.O.E.G. 10's 111409 to C. in C. Portsmouth.

Ships of 2nd E.G. at sea establish patrol Longships to 05° 00' W. by 0400A/12.

(C. in C. Plymouth 111540A to S.O.E.G. 2.)

U-Boat  
destroyed.

Consider contact in position 006° 3000 yards, C.2 A buoy is German U-Boat. Have obtained first aid kit torn private letter and torn page of book all with German writing also 2 locker lids and likely echo sounding trace.

Am continuing attack to obtain conclusive evidence.

(S.O.E.G. 10 111409A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

My 111409. 9 other contacts near C.2 A Buoy have been fixed as follows relative to the buoy.

033° 9800 yards 353° 8400. 320° 9600 290° 6700. 270° 3300 268° 9600. 262° 9500 256° 10000. 230° 4400.

(S.O.E.G. 10 111735A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

My 111735. Oil slick reported by R.M.L. led to definite U-Boat now definitely sunk. Have several more locker lids and pieces of wood and samples of German writing but regret German U-Boat's number not obtained. Resuming patrol.

(S.O.E.G. 10 112110A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Granville...

War Diary.11.3.1945  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel - Contd.Granville  
Raid,

(9.3.45)

Granville raid, C.T.F. 125 091155 refers.  
First intimation of anything occurring in Channel  
Is. area was at 0015A/9th when telecom from  
Cherbourg reported 3 unidentified (?freighters)  
off Chausey Island. Cherbourg informed no air

patrol flying in Portsmouth Command and no suitable surface craft  
or striking A/C available to intercept. The nearest striking A/C  
were 12 Beaufighters of 16 Group C.C. at 2½ hours notice at base in  
Lincolnshire.

(2) At 0050 Cherbourg reported P.C. 564 detailed to intercept  
but as craft had no W/T, situation remained obscure. At about  
0120 Cherbourg reported that H.M.T. PEARL was at Granville and  
required order from Plymouth to carry out instructions from local  
authority. Plymouth was immediately informed (0128) and requested  
to instruct PEARL accordingly.

(3) At 0147 Cherbourg telecom reported landing at Granville.

(4) At 0311 Plymouth stated they could not obtain air support  
and asked Portsmouth to endeavour to do so. By this time Cherbourg  
plot reported enemy retiring and it was agreed by Air Command  
concerned that the Beaufighters of No. 16 Group C.C. (see para. 1)  
could serve no useful purpose.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 111444A to Admty.)

(1) Port of Granville now open for traffic.

(2) Consequent existing congestion ships for St. Malo and  
Granville should be sailed in first instance to Cancale for diver-  
sion or calling forward by C.T.U. 125.2.2 on Army nomination.

(3) View of lack of patrol vessels available your command and  
reduction in discharge facilities Granville, H.Q. Com. Zone and  
D. of S.T. are requested to review coaster sailing programme to  
avoid unnecessary holding of ships awaiting discharge.

(4) Only two ships can enter and two ships leave St. Malo on each  
tide. Request D. of S.T. revise destinations shown in his dispatch  
102230A paras. 2 and 3 (not to all.)

(C.T.F. 125 111537A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

C.T.F. 125's 091155 March. First intimation of enemy  
activity was received by Plymouth at 0128A/9 when it was passed by  
telephone from Portsmouth. No forces were then available that  
could reach the Granville area in time to be of use, but PARRSBOROUGH  
ILFRACOMBE and NARCISSUS which were under way in Lyme Bay were  
ordered to proceed to the scene of action with E.T.A. 0400, and  
are presumed to be the vessels mentioned at the end of C.T.F.  
125's message.

(2) Early action was taken by Plymouth to try and get air support  
but no arrangements except for first light R/C by one Barracuda  
could be made by any of the following authorities:-  
19 Group, H.Q.C.C., 16 Group, 10 Group or 11 Group.

(3) The following is relevant part of report from PEARL which  
was off Granville at the time: 1920 anchored near Videcoq Buoy.  
GEM and P.C. 564 in anchorage. Shifted W/T watch to 2716 k/cs  
and conducted satisfactory test. This is the Granville R/T wave  
and was a local arrangement for convenience owing to the volume  
of traffic on 2068 k/cs.

/0010...

PARRSBOROUGH + ILFRACOMBE, *main report.*NARCISSUS, *convette.*

War Diary.

11.3.1945  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Granville Raid. (Contd.)  
*(PEARL's Report)*

0010 received Granville's report:- "3 unknown targets heading towards Granville. Now N.W. of Chausey. Stand by for possible action. T.O.O. 082324A." Hands to action stations.

0015. Weighed and proceeded to patrol anchorage on a north and south line to the westward of GEM.

0025 Star Shell observed considerable distance to the westward, assumed to be P.C. 564.

0035 firing ceased. Assumed P.C. 564 had proceeded to westward in chase of contacts as on a previous occasion, when he lost them to westward after two hours chase. Called P.C. 564 for information without success.

Continued patrol as before.

0130 heavy action commenced ashore with plentiful tracer from small arms fire and also heavier explosions heard.

0137 closed GEM and instructed her to proceed to Cancale, which she did. Continued patrol in anchorage to eastward of Videcoq Buoy. All action appeared to be ashore and no contacts were obtained or firing observed at sea. I thought at this time that an escape of some of the 1400 German prisoners ashore had been contrived and small E-Boats landed on rocks somewhere.

0215 proceeded towards harbour.

0230 observed green and red rockets over town and shortly afterwards the firing which had been continuous ceased.

0235 fired star shell towards harbour which illuminated jetty wall but saw no craft.

0242 faint H.E. contact from direction of Chausey Rocks. Turned towards and illuminated with star shell but saw no craft. H.E. completely faded at 0247.

0312 again a faint H.E. contact from northerly direction; star shell on this occasion failed to explode and contact was only held for one minute.

I considered that had I proceeded amongst the rocks I should have gone ashore.

0319 heavy gunfire from northwest of Chausey Rocks towards Granville for about 2 minutes.

0330 star shell and exchange of tracer fire observed some distance north of Chausey Rocks. I assumed this to be supporting craft from Cherbourg.

There was no more firing of any kind. I had been calling Granville on R/T since 0156 for information without success.

0415 shifted to 2068 k/cs and passed my report to Cherbourg: continued patrolling area until daylight without result. I extended the patrol as far as the Herpin.

0658 Granville came through on W/T and asked if they should use R/T wave. I replied negative as I was then in communication with H.M.T. PORCHER who was passing me Plymouth's 090559. I remained on 2068 k/cs subsequently.

0833 closed GEM who had come up from Cancale and instructed her to anchor near Videcoq until further orders.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 111904A to Admty.)

War Diary.

11.3.1945  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

My 272327 January and APOLLO 090921 March not to all addressees. Intend the following to be the revised order of laying of minefield. On completion of lay APOLLO's present load of mines - F A D L N E lines 3 and 4 remainder of H Y. (C. in C. W.A. 110001A to Admty.)

Carry out operation "C.H.F." 0345 March 12th. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 111003A to APOLLO, C. in C. W.A.)  
(1) Cancel my 090921. (2) Intend following programme.

Date	Serial	Rendezvous Time
12th	F	0545
13th	A	0545
14th	A	0915
16th	A & D	0900
17th	D	0845

(APOLLO 111346 to C. in C. W.A.)

APOLLO will lay mines commencing 0545/12th in vicinity 52° 02' N. 06° 20' W.

(2) E.G. 19 less LOCH INSH provide close cover to APOLLO during lay

(3) My 101904 not to all addressees. E.G. 5 and LOCH INSH enter net at daylight.

(C. in C. W.A. 111817A to S.O.E.G. 19.)

U-Boat.

Have obtained fix of enemy submarine transmitting Naval enigma 34 groups T.O.O. 0203 first group VKVZ at 0137Z bearing 315° 19 miles 2nd. Class frequency 5925 k/cs. My 0137Z 56.22 N. 11.40 W. (S). Suitable.

(S.O.E.G. C. 9 110206Z to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

By D/F on 3925 k/cs at 0135Z/11 position of U-Boat was within 20 mins. of 57° N. 10° 40' W.

(D.D.I.C. 110326A to Escorts of S.C. 168, K.M.F. 41, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., E.G. 31.)

Second  
U-Boat.

Hunt U-Boat being attacked by aircraft N/103 in position 48° 54' N. 06° 26' W. at 1025A.

(C. in C. Plymouth 111056A to S.O.E.G. 2.)

U-Boat previously reported was on surface submarine sunk positively debris lifeboat 30 survivors, 3 aircraft in area.

(A/C JUW 63 111110A to 19 Group.)

My 1056A. U-Boat sunk. LOCH FADA, LABUAN pick up prisoners, WILD GOOSE, DOMINICA resume patrol.

(C. in C. Plymouth 111121A to S.O.E.G. 2.)

Patrols &  
Escorts.

Assume following patrols forthwith. First Division Pendeen to Lizard. Second division 20 miles N.E. to 20 miles S.W. Trevoze Head. Trail convoys.

(C. in C. Plymouth 111101A to S.O.E.G. 15.)

My 101251 not to all addressees. One division of E.G. 4 is to support Clyde section of M.K.F. 40 until passed Lamdash detached thence to form force 36. One division is to remain with convoy to Mersey and is to patrol outside the Bar until all ships have entered. Then join force 36.

(C. in C. W.A. 111214A to S.O.E.G. 4.)

/Proceed...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols &  
Escorts.  
(Contd.)

Proceed forthwith patrol Trevoze Head to Hartland Point. DORNOCH acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth 111428A to DORNOCH, BLYTH.)  
Sail so as to pass Gate at 0830A/12 and proceed join DORNOCH (S.O.) BLYTH on V patrol Trevoze Head to Hartland Point.

(C. in C. Plymouth 111551A to PARRSBOROUGH, QUALICUM.)

When all ships of E.G. 2 rejoin a.m. tomorrow 12th establish following patrols.

1st Division Pendeen to Lizard codeword "Gladstone Able".

2nd Division Lizard to Start codeword "Gladstone Baker".

(2) S.O.E.G. 2 report names of ships and S.Os.

(C. in C. Plymouth 111829A to S.O.E.G. 2.)

Spanish  
Fishing  
Vessels.

Further to my 111441A\* LIRANA boarded by BOMBARDIER BERDIN GABEA by FOWEY. GABEA attempted to abandon ship on being intercepted. This was prevented by bursts of small arm fire across the bow. Boarding party found nothing suspicious.

(FOWEY 111622A to C. in C. W.A.)

\* Two Spanish trawlers intercepted.

Reorganisa-  
tion of E.Gs  
7,8,14 and  
Greenock  
Coastal  
Escort Pool.

E.G. 8 is to be disbanded forthwith.

(2) Following ships are to form E.G. 7 LAPWING, CYGNET, ALLINGTON CASTLE, ALNWICK CASTLE, BAMBOROUGH CASTLE, FARNHAM CASTLE, HONEYSUCKLE, OXLIP, RHODODENDRON.

(3) Following ships are to form Greenock Coastal escort pool KEPPEL, WALKER, WESTCOTT, WHITEHALL,

(4) On completion of work-up ESCAPADE is to join E.G. 14 in place of DUNCAN who will join Greenock

coastal escort pool.

(5) BEAGLE will join Plymouth command late in March in place of NARBOROUGH.

(C. in C. W.A. 112323A to Capt. D. Greenock, Capt. D. Liverpool.)

Operations.

Norway.

U-Boat off  
Sogne Fjord.

D/F bearings on 3800 k/cs at 0415Z indicate U-Boat within 30 miles of 61° N. 04° 10' E.

(D.D.I.C. 110609A to S/Ms N. of 51° N.)

/Operations...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Operations "V.P." Intend carry out "V.P. 86" with three M.T.Bs.  
(1) 0600A/12th March. (2) Not later than 2100A/12th March. (3) Not later than 0600A/16th March.  
(4) 284° toward Noss Head not more than 20 knots.  
(5) Not later than p.m. 16th March. (6) No.  
(7) No. (8) 104° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 111047A to C. in C. H.F.)

My 111047A. (1) 104° from Noss Head. Not more 20 knots.  
(2) 59° 22' N. 05° 02' E. (3) Blank.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 111049A to C. in C. H.F.)

Intend carrying out "V.P. 81" with 2 M.T.Bs.  
(1) 0600A/12th March. (2) Not later 2100A/12th March.  
(3) Not later 0600A/13th March. (4) 260° toward Noss Head. Not more 20 knots. (5) Not later p.m. 13th March. (6) No. (7) No.  
(8) 080° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 111251A to C. in C. H.F.)

My 111251A. (1) 080° from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots. (2) 60° 41' N. 04° 42' E. (3) Blank.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 111253A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation "S.C." Ramose Glorious. VIGRA returned at 1050A/11th March. (2) Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 111056A to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/12th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.  
(A) SIDON 69° 08' N. 13° 21' E. through 69° 29' N. 15° 31' E. diving by day daily advance 150 miles to patrol off Andfjord, patrol area limits 69° 20' N. 69° 45' N. 15° 30' E. 17° 20' E.  
(B) STUBBORN as in A.M. 101910.  
(C. of W. 111930A to A.I.G. 25.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

E.G. 17. If not in contact E.G. 17 proceed forthwith to vicinity Cape Wrath and then act under the orders of C. in C. Rosyth. Report E.T.A. Cape Wrath.  
(2) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to divert mail as necessary.  
(3) A.M. 102334 not to all addressees refer.  
(C. in C. W.A. 111153A to S.O.E.G. 17, C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Your 111153A. E.T.A. Cape Wrath 1300A/12th.  
(S.O.E.G. 17 111413A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth.)

Convoy J.W.65. M.K.F. 40. J.W. 65 sailing Clyde Boom 2359A/11th 25 motor vessels 9 knots proceed with caution when passing.  
(C. in C. W.A. 111822A to S.E. M.K.F. 40.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

15 Catalinas to make passage U.S.A. to Murmansk via Newfoundland and Iceland. 30 Amphibious Catalinas are being made available to the Russians by U.S. Navy. Approx. 15 will be delivered via Alaska to East Russia.  
(2) Air Staff approval has been given to the ferrying of the remainder of these aircraft by Russian crews from U.S.A. via Gander and Reykjavik to Murmansk at the rate of 10 aircraft per month commencing mid May.  
(3) Russians propose that as the same crews who undertook operation "Pitch" will be employed there is no need for R.A.F. captains and navigators to accompany the aircraft to Reykjavik.  
(4) In the light of your experience of operation "Pitch" request your advice as to the necessity or desirability of R.A.F. captains and navigators accompanying the aircraft as far as Reykjavik.  
(5) Coastal Command are being asked at what rate they can accept these aircraft through Reykjavik.  
(6) The Russians wish to place one English speaking officer at Gander and one at Reykjavik for duration of this operation to assist in handling and briefing of crews. Headquarters R.C.A.F. are being asked to agree to attachment of the officer at Gander.  
(7) Signals arrangements for the operation will be made by Air Ministry in near future in consultation with your headquarters. (Air Ministry 112006A to H.Q. Transport Command.)

Patrol.

R.A. (D) H.F. 112043\* search area enclosed by 59° 02' N. and 58° 42' N. on 01° 35' W. and 59° 02' N. and 58° 42' N. on 02° 24' W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 112201A to SERAPIS.)  
\* Not yet identified in W.R.

Movements.

A.F.D. 66.

My position 47° 47' N. 08° 45' W. course 047° speed 12 knots. E.T.A. 0800A/12, FLAUNT has lost all heavy towing gear and requires following replacements, 300 fathom 5 inch special flexible towing wire. 160 fathom 5 inch special flexible wire pendant with soft eye one ball and thimble other end. 140 fathom 5 inch special flexible wire pendant with thimble each end. 2 coils of 120 fathom 3 inch Manilla rope.  
(SQUIRREL 111201A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

NORFOLK,  
cruiser.  
CARYSFORT,  
destroyer.

Pass Switha at 2120 March 11th R/V NORFOLK off Hoxa at 2140/11 and escort her to Rosyth arriving 0730/12 (Com. D. H.F. 111216 to CARYSFORT, TUMULT.)  
Scapa departure NORFOLK escorted by CARYSFORT and TUMULT.  
(C. in C. H.F. 112141 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F./  
M.K.F.  
convoys.

Admiralty 081959. Concur but would make the reservation that should the sailing of a K.M.F. convoy be delayed and it be necessary on that occasion to clean boilers of the group on arrival at Gibraltar the sailing of the succeeding M.K.F. convoy should be delayed to conform with this need.  
(C. in C.W.A., 111106A to Admiralty).



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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Destroyers Departure 0814/11th H.M. Ships LAMERTON, EASTON,  
My 101123 refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 111114A to Admty.)

E.G.1 Group 1 is to act in support of M.K.S.88 until  
further orders.  
(2) M.K.S.88 goes ahead from a line south of  
Carnero Point at 1600A March 11th.  
(3) H.M.S. COLTSFOOT S.O. of Group IV acting as additional  
escort is defective but will join convoy when repaired.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 111556A to Group 1.)  
My 111556. Resume previous patrol when H.M.S. COLTSFOOT  
rejoins.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 111702 to Group 1 etc.)

South Atlantic

U-boat Asdic 021° 03' N. 017° 41' W. Hedgehog attack with  
contact explosion still in contact.  
(Aberdeen, 110615C to F.O.C.W.Af.)  
Am still in contact, attacking with depth charges.  
(ABERDEEN, 110759Z to Comar Dakar.)  
My 111330Z after 1040 attack DITTANY maintained contact for  
3 hours whilst ABERDEEN investigated numerous non-submarine  
echoes. Returning to vicinity of DITTANY, ABERDEEN obtain  
contact at 1400 and has maintained same since. Target has moved  
4½ miles in direction 140°. Whistle effect and H.E. have been  
heard also possible S.B.T. released but still no definite proof.  
Creeping attack produced no results.  
(S.O.E.G.56, 111724Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

SMILAX Arrived SMILAX.  
Corvette (Cdre. Durban, 111504Z to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Destroyers. TROUBRIDGE, TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS sailing from Malta March 11th to join East Indies Fleet. (V.A.M., 111145 to Admty.)

French Y.M.S. C.M.S.F's 071142 not to Admiralty. Your request for return of F.Y.M.S. 37 is dependent on reply from Admiralty to my 031216\* not to you. The possible transfer of another vessel to C.M.S.F. is under consideration. (C. in C. Med., 111209A to C.M.S.F.)  
\* Absence of French Y.M.S. loaned from Med.

Yugoslav ships. Concur V.A.M's 101057\*. U.H./37 mission pass to B.N. Rep. Belgrade (Capt. Welman R.N.) (C. in C. Med., 111302A to N.O.I.C. Mersina.)  
\* Yugoslav runner crew to Augusta to take over HVAR.  
/ As received.

Black Sea Ports (berthing) Your 211607 Feb. Information received Constanza has berths (number not stated) for 24/26 foot draught ships and one berth for 29 foot ships. (2) Also berth for 30/32 foot draught tanker. (3) See also B.N.L.O. Black Sea 201242 (Feb.) not to C.S.A. Istanbul.  
(4) Admiralty pass to C. in C. Med. and C.S.A. Istanbul. (30 Mission, 111441A to Admty.)

Situation Report No. 578. (1) Adriatic. Coastal craft night of 9th March torpedoed and sank merchant ship of 2,000 to 3,000 tons escorted by 4 E or R-Boats west of Istria. As attack was undetected this information is not being given press publicity. (2) Greece. General situation remains quiet but strike at Patras continues and civil population at Kavalla are restless and anxious for return of Government representatives. Germans have evacuated Khalkia. (C. in C. Med., 111731A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

Destroyers and Fleet Carrier. A.M. 262059 Feb. and 021606. C. in C. Med. is requested to arrange 14 days work up for TUMULT and TERPSICHORE. (2) Onward escort for IMPLACABLE from Suez should be provided by C. in C. E.I. as necessary. (D.O.D.(F), 111835A to C. in C. Med.)

Intelligence Report No.167, Week-ending 10th March. Dodecanese. (A) Strong indication German garrison on Khalkia evacuated to Rhodes, removing all available foodstuffs, and clothing. Reduction of garrison of Limnia to small post, also possible.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Intelligence (B) Captured documents show intensive German effort to increase production of food on Kos, also applicable to other islands. German rations remain very low, but estimate this scale could maintain garrisons up to 6 months. No reliable evidence of any intention of surrendering.  
Crete. Allied destroyer patrolled North Crete. Following report of enemy commencing withdrawal Milos. No sightings and no subsequent evidence of enemy shipping movements. (S.O.(I) East Med., 112035B to B.N.L.O. Black Sea.)

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Convoy S.U.1 Sail convoy S.U.1 comprising troop ships HIGHLAND PRINCESS, HIGHLAND BRIGADE, MORETON BAY and ESPERANCE BAY from Aden when ready about 21st March.

(2) Convoy will call at Colombo for escorts to fuel but is to be through routed Aden to Fremantle. S. of A. not to exceed 13 knots.

(3) Route by G.A.S. to position (F) 013° 35' N. 053° 46' E. through position (G) 008° 26' N. 073° 02' E. to Colombo.

(5) Escort to comprise H.M.S. SHIEL, USK and ODZANI, the latter being relieved at Colombo the 2 former continuing to Fremantle. (C. in C. E.I., 110620Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Situation Report Number 4 (1) ROTHERHAM (D.11), ROEBUCK, RAPID, ROCKET carried out further sweep in Andaman Sea 1st/3rd March. 3 sailing coasters destroyed, 2 damaged in Tavoy River Area. Port Blair bombarded.

(2) EMPRESS (wearing flag of B.S.3), AMEER, VOLAGE, VIRAGO, VIGILANT, KENYA, SPEY, SWALE, PLYM and TRENT return Trincomalee 7th March after photographic reconnaissance of operation lasting 13 days by Hellcats of 888 Squadron. Force was not molested. Three enemy aircraft shot down by our fighters without loss. PR results excellent.

(3) Burma Coast. Tamandu was captured 4th March by F.O.B. and Party with 4 Naval Ratings from Narbaea after bombardment by Sloops. Landing Craft subsequently ferried West Africans across Dalet Ferry from East to South at rate of 2,500 per day.

(4) This completes the work of Naval Forces on this area. Sloops have withdrawn to Akyab and other units following leaving maintenance and movement of the Military to Inland Water Transport Since 16th Feb. Naval Craft have landed 15,000 troops L.M.T. 600 mules, 3,000 tons Motor transport and stores. 2 Motor Launch Flotillas have patrolled the Chaungs.

(5) Brown. Survey shows Western entrance more shallow than charted and foul. Operation will continue using Northern Anchorage. Bel ship with R.C.Ls. advanced party personnel have left Indian ports.

(6) Chittagong Sea Terminal Moorings completed.

(7) 222 Group Liberators sank two Schooners Tavoy area night 4th/5th.

(C. in C. E.I., 111210Z to Admty.)

Movement Arrived BARSTOKE towing TARANTULA and SEASCOUT. Departures SUFFOLK and PHOEBE. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 111507Z to Admty.)

S.M.024 Arrived Submarine 024. (Com. Aden, 111545Z to Admty.)

18th Destroyer Flotilla If it is intended AVONVALE, CROOME, BRECON and EGGESFORD should join BLACKMORE in East Indies Fleet on completion of their refit, consider it highly desirable for Capt. (D) 18th to join these ships before they leave Mediterranean. This could best be done by Capt. (D) 18th exchanging ships with C.O. AVONVALE. (2) Request approval of this exchange. (Capt. D (18th) 112214A to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q.111345Z and Cominch, 111532Z)

A.F.D.32. Inspection A.F.D.32 which grounded three Mar  
(examination of). entering San Juan and was refloated 9th now  
being made Roosevelt Roads.  
(Cominch, 111617Z to Cinclant)

French S/Ms. F.O.S/Ms 091636 cancelled. Nevertheless request  
early reply Admiralty Message 101518/ refers.  
(Hd. of M. 111726A to B.A.D. info: C. in C. Med.)  
/ MORSE ready to leave U.K. 23rd March as relief  
for CURIE.

U-Boat (warning). A.T.196A WESTPOINT to avoid U-Boats from J alter  
for new (O) 46.10. 34.30 thence through 55.30 16.20  
omit K.L.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 111750Z to U.S.S.  
WESTPOINT )

Catalinas for Russians. 30 Amphibious Catalinas are being made available  
to the Russians by the U.S. Navy. Approximately  
15 of these A/C will be delivered via Alaska  
to East Russia.  
(2) The remainder will be ferried by Russian  
crews from the U.S.A. via Gander and Reykjavik  
to Murmansk at a rate of 10 per month commencing Mid-may.  
(3) Russians have requested permission to attach one English  
speaking Soviet Officer to Gander and one to Reykjavik for the  
duration of this operation to assist in handling and briefing  
of crews.  
(4) The Air Staff agree to the attachment of one Officer to each  
of these stations. Request your agreement to the attachment  
of the Soviet Officer to Gander for this period.  
(H.Q. R.C.A.F.Ottawa, 112005A to A.M. Whitehall, appd.122010Z.)

U-Boat contact. C. 0134Z/11 U.S.S. BOSTWICK with surface group  
attacked sound contact 45.25 N. 42.15 W.  
D. 1815Z/10 surface group reports doubtful contact  
area 43.30 N. 49.30 W.  
Admiralty hand info. to H.Q.C.C.  
(Cominch, 112030Z to Admty for O.I.C.)

11.3.1945  
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandDigest  
No. 1145  
10.5.45.

Covering 10th March unless other wise stated.  
(1) Navy Liberators from Clark Field attacked convoy, one medium transport, two gunboats, one sea truck with one covering floatplane 20 miles southwest Hainan heading North scoring six direct hits on transport leaving vessel down by

bow and listing. Other Liberators attacked single southwest bound tug south Swatow.

(4) Delayed reports state additional Navy search Liberators from Clark Field 9th March sank 2 small coasters off Swatow, attacked convoy one gunboat one large freighter, one medium freighter-transport north east Amoy heading southwest scoring two hits on freighter-transport leaving vessel dead in water.

(5) Evening 9th March single enemy plane strafed Australian M.L. off Cape Orford (New Britain) inflicting slight casualties: M.L. then shot down enemy plane.

(6) Mopping up operations continue Fort Stotsenburg area. Attacks continuing against Yamashita Line northeast Manila. Patrols advancing along northeast coast Lingayan Gulf reached vicinity San Fernando. Enemy casualties Luzon to date number 71,945 killed, 754 captured.

(7) Morning American troops landed west Zamboanga (Western Mindanao) against minor opposition capturing San Roque village and two airfields heavy Naval bombardment by two light cruisers six destroyers preceded landing. Numerous abandoned enemy defence positions including pill-boxes trenches and wire entanglements found.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 111007Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/11th March.

Para. A. (1) Norwegian minesweeper attacked at 1102Z/10th March and Trawler SYRIAN missed by torpedo at 1106Z/10th March in 56 degs. 41' N. 02 degs. 04' W.

Para. B. (1) A/S Trawler HONINSVAAG<sup>N 6</sup> attacked

U-Boat from 1430Z until 1552Z/10th March in 64 degs. 13' N. 23 degs. 10' W.

Para. C. (1) SOJOURNER sighted periscope at 0800Z/10th March in 58 degs. 43' N. 02 degs. 44' W.

(2) A/C G/103 sighted 2 periscopes course 060 degs. at 1824Z/10th March in 50 degs. 28' N. 03 degs. 11' W.

(3) A/C X/120 obtained contact at 1815Z/10th March in 55 degs. 50' N. 07 degs. 11' W.

(4) ABERDEEN attacked asdic contact at 0615Z/11th March in 21 degs. 03' N. 17 degs. 41' W.

Para. D. (1) M.L. 212 obtained contact at 0925Z/10th March in 52 degs. 35' N. 01 degs. 50' E.

(2) Dakota transit A/C sighted two partly surfaced U-Boats course N. at 1825Z/10th March in 46 degs. 40' N. 08 degs. 50' W.

/Para. E...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

Para. E. (1) HOWARD E. COFFIN sighted  
periscope at 1345Z/10th March in 26 degs. 22' S.  
45 degs. 05' E.  
(D.D.I.C.111030Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.)

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 111418A and 111419A to A.I.G.  
Cominch)

12.3.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. The new light aircraft carriers VENERABLE, VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS, forming the 11th Aircraft Carrier Squadron under "A.C.11", sailed from the Clyde for Gibraltar and the Mediterranean.

North Sea.

2(a) Considerable midget U-Boat, and also explosive motor boat, activity continues off the Schelde. Between 1500 yesterday and 1100 today aircraft sank Midget No. 264 and another, possibly 313, north of Schouwen, and M.Ls. 276, 442 and 446 sank 3 more N.W. of Westkapelle, whilst M.L.466 captured one complete with one-man crew. Aircraft also report sinking 3 certain and 2 possible E.M.Bs. close north of Schouwen. None of any of them had caused any damage.  
(b) E-Boats were shadowed by aircraft or shore Radar to positions 30 miles east of Harwich and 30 miles N.E. of the Norfolk coast, but came no further west.

Western Approaches.  
U.681 sunk

3. The American Liberator P.B.41 reports sinking a U-Boat yesterday three miles west of Bishop Rock Light, Scilly.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

4. U.S.S. PARKER and French Destroyer BASQUE bombarded fortifications etc. along coast. Good shooting. (161926A)

Movement.

5. ARBITER (Escort Carrier) left Gibraltar for Port Said.

East Indies

Movement.

6. SUFFOLK arrived Colombo from Trincomalee.



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Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines. 7. Today P.Ts. from Zamboanga destroyed 3 motor launches, one whale boat and one boat resembling P.T.

Ryuku Archipelago. 8. Liberators over Nansei Shoto blew up large sea truck, sank small coaster and motor launch damaged another smaller and a bigger one off Okinawa Jima. (131253Z)

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Midget U-Boat activity. 3 midgets reported in position 51.58 N. 03.32 E. at 0815.  
(C. in C. Nore, 120910A to Nore Command)  
U-Boat and Midget U-Boat Summary 1100Z/11 to 1100Z/12.  
(1) 1505Z and 1517Z/11. A/C reported sighting Midget U-Boats 51 degs. 55' N. 03.22 E. and 51.56 N. 03.35 E.  
(2) 1518Z/11. Anson of 157 Wing dived on Midget 51.50 N. 03.39 E. Crew of one abandoned ship in rubber dinghy. WALRUS diverted to pick up. Midget was No.264 and was in company with 313.  
(3) 1745Z/11. A/C H/119 reported sinking Midget 51.52 N. 03.47 E. with depth-charges almost direct hit.  
(4) 0700Z/12. A/C E/119 reported sinking three E.M.B's. 51.46 N. 03.50 E. One man crew of each jumped overboard.  
(5) 0830Z/12. M.L.446 sank Midget 336 degs Westkapelle 1 mile.  
(6) 0848Z/12. M.L.442 sank Midget 325 degs. Westkapelle 7.4 One prisoner.  
(7) 1010Z/12. M.L.276 sank Midget 320 degs. Westkapelle 4.  
(8) 1025Z/12. M.L.466 captured Midget 240 degs. H.K.4 buoy 3. One prisoner.  
(9) 1050Z/12. A/C of 157 Wing report sinking two possible E.M.B's North of Schouwen Is.  
(10) Considerable activity continues with possible 8 more Midget U-Boats sunk to date.  
(C. in C. Nore, 121835A to Admty.)  
Cositintrep No.342 Part II Naval.  
2 Midget U-Boats were sunk by A/C north of Schouwen p.m. 11th. (C. in C. Nore's 121835 paras. 2 and 3). Midget U-Boats also active off Thames Estuary at least one being sunk. (TORRINGTON's 111028).  
(2) 4 Midget U-Boats sunk off West Kapelle a.m.12th and a fifth was captured. 3 prisoners were taken.  
(3) A/C reported sinking 5 small craft probably E.M.B's North of Schouwen on 12th.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 122316A to Admty.)

Entry into Dunkirk. No.22 Liaison H.Q. reports sighting at 0305/12 an unidentifiable vessel 3 miles N.W. of Dunkirk which signalled to the harbour and then entered.  
(2) Dover Plot had no knowledge of the movement. (S.N.O.B.O.P.(F) 121047 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Air Situation Report. Cositintrep 342. Part 3.  
Air. Sunset 10th March to sunset 11th March, 1945.  
A. Summary of operations.  
Over 1,200 heavy bombers of 8th Air Force dropped 3,000 tons of bombs on S/M yards at Bremen and Kiel, and an oil refinery at Hamburg. Results were unobserved. A United States Navy Liberator sank a U-Boat off the Scilly Isles. Halifaxes of R.A.F. Coastal Command reported direct hits on 2 Medium Merchant vessels and near misses on 2 others.  
8th Air Force. Day 11th March. 159/344 aircraft on Kiel, Krupp Germania U-Boat yards, 586.6 tons G.P.296.0 tons I B unobserved. 152/406 A/C on Bremen/Deschimag U-Boat Yards.

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North Sea

Air Situation Report. (Contd.) 857.6 tons, G.P.154.8 tons. I B unobserved. (S.H.A.E.F. 121100A to Admty. and others)

E-Boat activity. E-Boat activity Night 11th/12th March. Southern Area. (1) 1 Group continuously shadowed by Wellington from off Hook course 250 degs. Shore Radar detected it at 2150 in 51 degs. 55' N. 02 degs. 45' E. and followed it to 51 degs. 55' N. 02 degs. 20' E. Group remained stationary for some time and then retired East still shadowed by Wellington. (2) 2nd Group detected by Shore Radar at 2213 in 51 degs. 53' N. 03 degs. 00' E. steering S.W. Group stopped at 2330 in 51 degs. 38' N. 02 degs. 20' E. and then retired N.E. Northern Area. (3) Wellington shadowed 1 Group from Texel on Westerly course. At 2230 Shore Radar detected plot in 53 degs. 23' N. 02 degs. 17' E. and at 2234 in 53 degs. 22' N. 02 degs. 22' E. These tallied with A/C report. Plots faded shortly after and subsequently both A/C and Shore Radar became confused with many fishing trawlers in area. No further contact. (C. in C. Nore, 121102A to Admty.)

85 Group to protect shipping E. of Dunkirk. AO 176 12th March, 1945. As from 0600 Wednesday 14th March 85 Group will take over from 84 group responsibility for fighter protection of shipping eastwards of a line drawn 360 degs. through Dunkirk and within 40 miles of the Continental Coast. A/C detailed for such protection will use 84 group guard crystals 85 group should be substituted for 84 group in address of relevant signals. My AO 175 DTG.231200 October refers. Admiralty is requested to notify other Naval Authorities as necessary. (H.Q. 2nd T.A.F. 121645A to Admty. A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Nore, A.C. Dover, Com. Belgium, N.O.I.C.Antwerp, N.O.I.C.Ostend)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.342 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea. 24 hour period ending 1600A/11th March.

<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	-	70	12,325	-	2,567	451
Ostend	1,512	91	2,943	-	-	1,324
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	25	-	-
Calais	4,337	-	884	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,218	-	1,440	1,125
Totals:	5,849	161	19,370	25	4,007	2,900

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Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No.342 part 4 section A. - Contd.

<u>U.S. North</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo</u>
Antwerp	-	76	23,947	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	129	6,330	1,091	2,880	3,696
Le Havre	7,999	819	6,085	-	-	2,351
Rouen	577	125	6,224	-	1,945	282
Granville	-	-	-	20	-	-
Ghent	-	-	6,051	-	-	2,934
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>8,576</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>48,637</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>4,825</b>	<b>9,263</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	1,646	593	16,560	767	-	701
Port De Bouc	-	-	1,755	1,500	2,326	1,755
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>18,315</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>2,326</b>	<b>2,456</b>

(S.H.A.E.F.121730A to Admty. and others)

Operations

Channel

Dissolution  
of C.T.F.125.

Accordance C.T.F.122 and Comnavforfrance OP order No.1-45 Serial 00133 this Command is dissolved at 0001 March 15 and all functions performed by it are under direct cognizance C.T.F.122 at Navy Headquarters, Paris.  
(C.T.F.125,121047 to T.F.125)

C.T.F.124.

On 9th March C.T.F.124 reported with T.F.124 and 126 to S.C.A.E.F. for duty involving operational control. Administration and logistic support remain with Com. 12th Fleet.  
(Com. 12th Fleet, 121811 to 12th Fleet)

Operations - Western Approaches

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Carry out operation CH. A Line one and two and three. 0345 March 13th.  
(F.O.I.C.Milford, 120935A to APOLLO)

Patrols.

My 111101A. On reaching Lundy Island detach LORING to Plymouth for repairs to Radar.  
(2) LOUIS, INGLIS, LAWSON then proceed patrol Trevose Head to Pendeen codeword "Links Able".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121034A to S.O.E.G.15)

/Noise ...

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches - Contd.Noise-  
recording  
trials.On return from her present operation, about 17th  
March INMAN is to proceed to Greenock for special  
noise-recording trial at Inellan Range.(2) N.O.I.C.Greenock is requested to arrange the  
movement of INMAN in co-operation with VERNON  
M/S for the execution of these trials.(3) INMAN is to be ready at Greenock for her next operational  
Commitment by a.m. 21st March.

(C. in C. W.A. 121304A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

U-Boat  
sunk.

U.681

U.S. Navy P.B. 41 attacked and sank U-Boat at  
1026/11 March 49.53 N. 06.31 W. 37 survivors  
picked up. , Comatbonron 103 has Info.  
(C.F.A.W. 7, 121337 to Cominch)OperationsNorwayOperation  
S.C.

Intend sailing S.C. operation from Shetlands.

(1) 0500A March 14th from Scalloway.

(2) 070 degs. from Sumburg Head 14 knots.

(3) 2000A/14th March.

(4) Between 2030A/14th March and 0500A/15th March.

(5) 250 degs. to Sumburg Head 15 knots.

(6) p.m. 15th March.

(7) 070 degs. Sumburg Head. (8).No.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 121635A to C. in C. H.F.)

My 121635A. (1) 60 degs. 56' N. 04 degs. 37' E.

(2) Ramose. (3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 121637 to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols.

S/M positions at 0800/13th and movements for  
following 24 hours. All times Zone A.(A) SIDON on patrol off Andfiord Area limits  
69 degs. 20' N. 69 degs. 45' N. 15 degs. 30' E.

17 degs. 20' E.

(B) STUBBORN on patrol off Fejeosen Area limits 60 degs. 30' N.  
61 degs. 05' N. 04 degs. 50' E. 04 degs. 00' E.

(A.I.G.25, 122051A to A.I.G.125)

OperationsNorthern WatersConvoy  
J.W.65.

J.W.65. (A) 2359A/11th March.

(B) 7th E.G. (less FARNHAM CASTLE) and 2 fleet  
destroyers.(C) 25. (D) Commodore W.C. Meek R.N.R. in  
FORT BOISE.

(E) Vice Commodore Master of FORT YUKON.

(F) To Commodore Master of EMPIRE STALWART.

all ships and escort hold Out Con.56.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 120256A to S.B.N.O. N.Russia, F.O.I.C.Greenock,  
H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A., Adnty. A.C.I.C., C. in C. H.F., etc.)  
/J.W.65...

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Convoy J.W.65 FORT BOISE, FORT YUKON, EMPIRE STALWART,  
J.W.65. FORT ~~ATAS~~ LACKLAN (T) SAN VENANCIO (T), DOLABELLA (T),  
(Contd.) <sup>MASSAC</sup> IDEFJORD (Norwegian). U.S. Ship W.R. GRACE,  
JAMES M. GILLIS, LAWRENCE J. BRENGLE, GRACE ABBOTT,  
LEO J. DUSTER, THOMAS DONALDSON, NICHOLAS BIDDLE,  
CHARLES A. MCALLISTER, ELEAZOR LORD, ELOY ALFARO,  
WILLIAM PEPPER, STAGE DOOR CANTEEN, JOHN MAC. DOVANGH, BENJAMIN  
SCHLESINGER, HORACE BUSHNELL, WINIFRED L. SMITH, WILLIAM WHEEL-  
WRIGHT M/F D/F Guards 365 K/cs 400, K/cs FORT MASSAC, 446 K/cs  
448 K/cs DOLABELLA, 466 K/cs SAN VENANCIO 527 K/cs EMPIRE  
STALWART all ships hold out con 56 S.P.02272 (34) and (35) in  
addition LACKLAN holds S.P.02413/1455 SAN VENANCIO holds  
S.P.02413/5478 DOLABELIA holds S.P.02413/2790.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 120257A to same addressees.)

Sailed MYNGS Capt. (D) 23 STORD N.S. LAPWING, E.G.7, OXLIP,  
BAMBOROUGH CASTLE, ALNWICK CASTLE, ALINGTON CASTLE, LANCASTER  
CASTLE, CAMELLIA, HONEYSUCKLE escorting J.W.65.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 120316A to Admty. C. in C. W.A. S.B.N.O.  
North Russia, C. in C. H.F.)

Intend R.F.A. BLUE RANGER escorted by OPPORTUNE (S.O)  
ORWELL, ZAMBESI and FARNHAM CASTLE at 1200A Tuesday 13th March  
to R/V J.W.65 at 1900A/13th March in position B.

(C. in C. H.F. 121152A to D.23, C.S.10)

Sailed C.S.10 in CAMPANIA and DIADEM escorted by ONSLAUGHT  
and SCORPION for J.W.65 in accordance with C.S.10 111809A  
March (not to all addressees).

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 121304A to Admty. C. in C. W.A. S.B.N.O.  
North Russia, C. in C. H.F.)

ONSLAUGHT has been in collision with R.F.A. BLACK RANGER  
in position 315 degs. Oversay 15 miles and ONSLAUGHT has badly  
damaged bows. Have detailed SCORPION to stand by to escort to  
Clyde. Request relief for SCORPION may be provided from Clyde  
to enable her to rejoin me as soon as possible.

(C.S.10, 122150A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. H.F.)

Patrol. On arrival Cape Wrath proceed to Duncansby Head  
thence search southward to East of Swept Channel  
adjusting Southern limit to enable you to search  
to Northward through Swept Channel and to  
establish Gamma A by 0600A/13.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 121012A to S.O.E.G.17)

Relief for A.M. 101041. Neither ship considered suitable.  
SKYRACK. (A.C.I.C. 121331A to Admty.)

15 Catalinas Air Staff agreement has been given for the use  
U.S. for of the route U.S.A. - Gander - Reykjavik -  
Murmansk for the delivery of some fifteen of  
via Newfound- these Catalinas by Russian crews commencing mid-  
land and May.  
Iceland. (2) Rate of flow at which these A/C can be  
accepted through Reykjavik is not yet known.

(3) Decision is awaited whether R.A.F. Captains  
and Navigators shall accompany the A/C as far

/as ...

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Northern Waters

15 Catalinas as Reykjavik.  
U.S. for (4) Agreement is made to the attachment of one  
Murmansk English speaking Soviet Officer to Reykjavik  
via Newfound- and R.C.A.F. approval is being sought for the  
land and attachment of one Soviet Officer at Gander.  
Iceland. (5) Signals arrangements will be made by Air  
(Contd.) Ministry with you and Headquarters, Transport  
Command in the near future.  
paras. 3 and 4 (6) I will signal you further when the points in  
(Air Ministry, 121550Z to 30 Mission)

Movements

NORFOLK Your 101139A arrived.  
cruiser. (C. in C. Rosyth, 120725A to C. in C. H.F.)

A.F.D. B.A.2. Weather permitting intend to sail at 1200 /13th  
H.M.R.T. FREEDOM towing A.F.D. B.A.2 by I/S  
route to Leith for D.G. treatment and O/R  
Lowestoft. S. of A. 5 knots constant.  
Request mails to Lowestoft.  
(R.N.O. Inverness, 121208A to N.O.I.C. Leith.)

VENERABLE, Sailed A.C.11 in VENERABLE, VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS  
VENGEANCE, escorted by TARTAR (Capt. (D) 10) ULYSSES,  
COLOSSUS ASSINIBOINE, STOCKHAM, INMAN and COTTON in  
light A/C accordance with my 101018A as amended by my  
carriers. 110104A March. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1000A/17th  
March CROOME R/V in position 50 degs. 01' N.  
16 degs. 35' W. at 1700A/14th March.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 121348A to Admty, C. in C. W.A.  
C. in C. Med., F.O.G.M.A.)

Endurance of CROOME does not permit R/V as in your 111123 not  
to all addressees.  
(2) Intend to sail CROOME at 1700A/13th to R/V with A.C.11 in  
approx. position 45 degs. 01' N. 15 degs. 40' W. at about  
1300A/15th.  
(3) CROOME passes gate at 1700A/13th and proceeds by Q.Z.S.601  
thence direct to R/V to comply.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121617A to A.C.11, CROOME)

SEA ROVER, CONQUEROR escorting SEA ROVER is to be detached  
S/M. from M.K.S.87 in position (V) 180 degs. Start  
Point 12 miles to proceed at 10 knots to 180  
degs. Start Point 5 miles, thence by Q.Z.S.  
590, 629 and 631 to Needles.  
(2) CONQUEROR pass to SEA ROVER and acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121438A to DELPHINIUM, CONQUEROR)  
Your 101044A. Following programme is proposed (A) Grant  
14 days leave to whole crew immediately on arrival.  
(B) Sail for U.S.A. about 30th March depending on defects.  
(C) No large drafting changes to take place before sailing.  
(D) That possibility of providing independent escort be consider-  
ed in order to embark 10 cubic tons of stores for S/Ms awaiting

/shipment ...

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Movements

SEA ROVER,  
S/M.  
(Contd.)

shipment to U.S.A.  
Para. 2. In view of expected arrival tomorrow  
13th March, request early approval.  
(S/M.5, 121528 to F.O.S/M)  
Approved your 121528. Para. D. is being investi-  
gated. C.O. will be changed.  
(F.O.S/M, 122158A to S/M.5)

SEANYMPH  
S/M.

Sailed SEANYMPH escorted by H.M.C.S. CAPILANO in  
Clyde portion K.M.S.90.  
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 121906A to Admty, C. in C. W.A.  
F.O.G.M.A.)

Shipping and Convoys

T.B.C.  
Convoys.

T.B.C. convoys.  
In order that ships in Milford Section may break  
off and continue in company from position B  
Q.Z.S.434. Request the following:  
(A) The time-table for the splitting position at  
Lundy Island be adhered to whenever possible A.M. 021256A Dec.  
amended by A.M. 081619A March refers.  
(B) A collective V/S distinguished signal be allotted for  
"Ships bound for Milford Haven and Ports to northward".  
(C) N.C.S.O's instruct ships concerned to expect signal 1 G 2  
in sufficient time to enable ships to break off in company from  
position B.  
(F.O.I.C.Milford, 121335A to C. in C. Plymouth)



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S/M SYBIL. Intend to sail S/M SIBYL to Malta at 1430 March 14th. (2) 11 knots. (4) E.T.A. 1030/18. (F.O.G.M.A., 121221A to S. & A. concerned.)

Destroyers (Hunt class) Intend to sail WILTON and BROCKLESBY (S.O.) to U.K. at 0800A March 13th. (2) Routed to 180° Lizard Head 5 miles thence by current swept channel to Plymouth for fuel and onward routeing to Nore Command. (3) S. of A. 14 knots. (F.O.G.M.A., 121233A to Admty.)

BRUISER (L.S.T.(I)) My 121233 passed to BRUISER intend sailing BRUISER escorted by BROCKLESBY and WILTON. (2) Amend S. of A. to read 14 knots. (3) Request Admiralty signals destination for BRUISER but unless otherwise ordered will all ships proceed in company to Plymouth. (F.O.G.M.A., 121525A to Admty.) See 131935A.

Dutch ships. Sailed from Horta at 1529Z/12th H.N.M.S. QUEEN WILHELMINA and DIRKJE routed etc. S. of A. 8 knots, E.T.A. Plymouth a.m./20th March. (3) Hold relevant Q messages for South East Coast ports but no charts of Plymouth. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 121740 to F.O.G.M.A.) See 141524.

South Atlantic

SMILAX (Corvette) Sailed SMILAX coastal to Port Elizabeth to refit. (2) S. of A. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  knots. (3) E.T.A. 0500Z/14th March. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 121649Z to Admty.)

E.G. 56 U-Boat search. Search inside hundred fathom line between 020° 52' N. and 022° 00' N., and within 7 miles of coastline produced no result. On passing outside hundred fathom line in position 021° 20', 017° 35', numerous good non-submarine echoes again obtained indicating yesterday's depth charge attacks probable doubtful contact. Position 021° 45', 017° 25', course 190° to "K" thence 178°, 12 knots. E.T.A. Dakar 0700Z/14th, French Admiral Commanding Dakar acknowledge. (E.G. 56, 122100Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

/Converted ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

Converted  
trawlers  
of S.A.  
Escort  
Force.

Proposals in your 271206 Feb. are under  
consideration.  
(2) Request you will report names of trawlers  
worth keeping in commission.  
(D.O.D.(F), 122321A to C. in C. S.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

G.2 Summary  
No. 189.  
(Extract) (3) Aegean. Night 6/7 March approximately 150 German and Italian troops attempted raid Dimitrouliana village Crete (B.3537) east of enemy perimeter. Four Greek civilians interrogated as to British strength and food supply on Island. Raiding party turned back by Andartes rifle fire.  
(A.F.H.Q., 120900 to W.O. etc.)

P.T. Boats from Yugoslavia. Para. 3 V.A.M. 101057. E.T.A. Malta first light 15th.  
(2) C. in C. Med. pass to B.N.R. Belgrade.  
(F.O.N.A.M., 121001A to V.A.M.)

Situation Report No. 579. Night of 9th March off Mesco Point in Gulf Genoa 3 P.T. Boats made 2 attacks on northbound convoy of about 8 F lighters. 8 torpedoes were fired and results were 2 lighters sunk a third hit and a fourth probably hit. Our craft sustained no damage or casualties in the action but one was subsequently badly damaged in collision. In situation report number 578 for Khalkis read Khalkia. ✓  
(C. in C. Med., 121849A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

KING SALVOR (salvage vessel). Completion date of 12th March Nor. KING SALVOR refers to permanent hull repairs on the starboard side. Vessel will have to be docked for examination of damage to port side. Other mine damage and salvage replacement and tropicalisation would require six weeks at Alexandria. My  
281406\* Feb. and A.M. 080134/ March refer.  
(C. in C. Med., 122012A to Admty.)  
\* Postponement of transfer of KING SALVOR to B.P. Fleet.  
/ Completion of KING SALVOR's repairs.

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U/B No change.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I., 120501Z to S. & A. E.I.)

Assault (1) Am proceeding to Bombay on 19th March to  
Forces decide earliest moment when C.A.F.O. 89/45 can  
Admini- be implemented. Your 091251 refers.  
stration. (2) My 060314 was prompted by the disorganisation  
of Force W due to long sea passage and need to  
employ staff here on offensive operations before  
the Force arrived.  
(C. in C. E.I.S., 121001Z to Admty.)

ACTIVITY. Aircraft will be loaded at Cochin. A.M. 091233  
refers.  
(C. in C. E.I., 121006Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

FLAMINGO In view of shortage of suitable solution it  
A/A Sloop. is hoped to keep FLAMINGO running and employed  
on offensive operations for 2 or 3 months.  
Your 101627 refers. Anticipate she can be  
released for refit in June.  
(C. in C. E.I., 121213Z to Admty.)

Movements. Arrived TANTIVY, L.C.T.1156, 1157 in tow of  
SAMSPRING, L.C.T.1153, 1158 in tow of SAMNEBRA,  
L.C.T.493, 7024 in tow of SAMLEA, L.C.T.1146,  
1213 in tow of FORT ASPIN. Departed F.S.  
DUMONT D'URVILLE, LANDGUARD, A.F.D.53 in tow of ADVANTAGE and  
BOLD.  
(Com. Aden, 121603 to Admty.)

Destroyer If you concur 16th Destroyer Division will be  
Divisions renumbered as 20th Destroyer Division to be  
(renumbering administered by Capt. (D) 10.  
of). (A.C.N.S.(F), 121721A to C. in C. E.I.)

Limits of Your 130515 Feb. Para. (A) and (B) approved.  
E.I.Station (2) Para. (C) approved but substitution of 78°  
for defences East for 90° East considered desirable so as to  
and bases. include Madras and Vizagapatam. Reference to  
Colombo and Trincomalee in this para. therefore  
unnecessary.  
(V.C.N.S., 121725A to C. in C. E.I.)

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N.S.H.Q. Submarine attack and sighting Summary. No report since my 100354Z Para. C. at 0134Z 11th C.T.U. 22.2.1 attacked sound contact in 45.25.40 42.15 W.  
Para. D. (1) C.T.G. 22.14 reported doubtful contact at 1815Z 10th about 43.30 N. 49.30 W.  
(2) A/C C/160 attacked possible P/S at 1213Z/11th and again at 1321Z 11th in 47.05 N. 51.24 W.  
(3) N. A/C L/160 sighted smoke 6½ miles in 46.37 N. 48.51 W. at 0919Z 11th.  
(4) At 0600Z/11th A/C E/10 obtained Radar contact and sighted debris on surface in 45.50 N. 46.20 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 120239Z to Admty., Cominch.)

C.8 Escort 4 ships of C.8 HUMBERSTONE (S.O.) LEASIDE both H.F./D.F., GUELPH, EDMUNDSTON departed Halifax 1000Z/12 to relieve you in Westomp 43.27 N. 49.30 W. at 1200Z/14. HX.343 is not to arrive Westomp earlier than 1200Z/14.  
(2) S.O. C.8 in H.M.C.S. STONETOWN plus H.M.C.S. POUNDMAKER both H.F./D.F. sail later to overtake C.8.  
(3) Upon relief W.1 proceed to St. Johns Nfld.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 121140Z to Ships escorting H.X.343)

E.G.16 Transfer of. E.G.16. H.M.C.S. SPRING HILL S.O., H.M.C.S. CHARLOTTETOWN, H.M.C.S. KIRKLAND LAKE, H.M.C.S. ANTIGONISH, H.M.C.S. STETTLER is to transfer to the Operational Control of C. in C. Western Approaches to date 11th March.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 121217Z to C. in C. Western Approaches.)

U.Boat dispositions Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 121314Z to S. and A. etc., and Cominch 121615Z.)

PRESCOTT (Corvette) At 11.5 knots H.M.C.S. PRESCOTT departs Point X Bermuda 0030Z/13th via (route) thence Horta Azores for onward routing to U.K.  
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 121431 to N.O.I.C. Horta etc.)

Catalinas for Russians Your MSW 339 March 11th.  
Permission granted Soviet Officer to be attached to Gander for period of this operation.  
(R.A.C.F. Ottawa, 122010Z to A.M.)

N.S.H.Q. submarine attack and Sighting Summary. Para. D. H.M.C. Bangor SARNIA attacked Asdic contact in 44.24 N. 63.08 W. at 0845 and 0859Z 12th March. Wreck probable.  
(N.S.H.Q. 122015Z to Admty. and Cominch.)

U-boat Contacts Para. D.  
(1) 120651 U.S.S. MERVINE attacked Sonar Contact

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MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-boat 39.28 N. 72.43 W. search negative all times Z.  
 Contacts Admiralty pass info. to H.Q.C.C.  
 (Contd.) (2) 11000 A/C 6 reported. Schnorkel contact  
 46.26 N. 49.36 W.  
 (3) At 111213 and 111321 Canso A/C attacked  
 periscope contact 47.05 N. 51.24 W.  
 (4) 110919 A/C L/160 sighted smoke 46.37 N. 48.51 W.  
 (5) 110600 A/C E/10 had radar contact and sighted debris on  
 surface 45.50 N. 46.20 W.  
 (C.C.M. 122111Z to Admty. for M.C.)

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F. Your 021448. According to the provisions of  
 Bases the Pearl Harbour agreement the British Pacific  
 defence of. Fleet is not expected to establish shore  
 Policy. defences at bases in the Pacific. (see NF - 1  
 para. 14(h). At the same time occasions may  
 arise when the B.P.F. will be expected to  
 provide its own protection either at an advanced  
 anchorage or at the intermediate base.  
 (2) In the case of the advanced anchorage the principal  
 requirements for naval defences is that they should be capable  
 of being laid down quickly and moved on with the changes of  
 anchorage. This would necessitate the use of light rather  
 than heavy gear (a policy of detection rather than protection  
 being acceptable) and the minimum of shore establishments.  
 (3) Defence gear for the intermediate base will only be  
 required if such a base is not shared with American forces.  
 In this case heavy underwater defences will be required as also  
 will be anti-aircraft and some form of land defences.  
 (4) In either case the type of seaborne attack to be expected  
 will consist of:  
 (a) Torpedo attacks from submarines from outside the harbour.  
 (b) Midget submarine and human torpedo attacks.  
 (c) Depth charge attacks by fast motor boats.  
 (5) Policy should be:  
 (a) To assemble afloat at Sydney as soon as possible sufficient  
 material to provide the defence of one advanced anchorage of  
 average characteristics, mobility being the chief requirement.  
 (b) To plan for the defences necessary for intermediate base  
 on the assumption that it will not be shared with the Americans.  
 The gear for this base should not be assembled until it is  
 known that an intermediate base separate from the Americans will  
 be employed.  
 (6) The detailed requirements to implement this policy will  
 be forwarded by V.A.(Q).  
 (C. in C. B.P.F. 120221Z to Admty.)

/B.P.F....

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

- B.P.F. Storage Naval Store Department Brisbane existing coverage is 50,000 square feet anticipated inclusive 1st May 300,000 square feet. 1st June 450,000 square feet excluding possible hiring of further existing coverage it is now intended to extend coverage at Brisbane by all available means to balance probable deficiencies in Sydney at July, 1945.
- (2) Propose shipments be made of naval stores not including air stores to Brisbane in ratio Brisbane 50, Sydney 50.
- (3) Staff ex U.K. request all staff below D.N.S.O. due for Brisbane be sent earliest possible to Sydney for filtering to Brisbane D.D. O.A.P. page J.5D phase III refers.  
 (V.A.(Q) 120509 to Admty.)
- Minor landing craft return of Request reply to my 030224 para. 1.  
 (2) If destination is to be U.K. several opportunities will arise in the near future.  
 (C. in C. B.P.F. 120806Z to Admty.)
- Digest Serial number 1146, 11.3.45 (3) Navy search plane sighted 2 medium Merchant ships anchored off Tainan forenoon 10th and attacked 2 barges off Taito blowing one up, damaging other.  
 (4) 8 Mitchells swept Formosa Strait 10th March locating only 1 Lugger which was probably sunk.  
 (5) Navy Mariner attacked 4 medium freighter transports, 40 miles Southeast Macao course 20° early hours probably sinking largest ships with 2 direct hits.  
 (6) Liberator sank a Barge, and 1 tug damaged by straffing, same time another searcher straffed and left burning 1 small freighter transport accompanied by one gunboat off Saint Johns Island.  
 (7) 2 Flights Mitchells involving 3 and 6 planes respectively attacked shipping off French Indo China coast midday 10th. Each flight hit 1 tanker, first in Touiafe Bay left sinking, second in unspecified locations left burning furiously: 1 small engine-aft freighter Tourane Bay also hit and left listing.  
 (12) Enemy resistance continues stubborn Antipolo Sector East of Manila. 62 Thunderbolts dive bombed Jap positions this area 10th March.  
 (14) Troops ashore at Zamboanga progressing against slight opposition: Zamboanga Town occupied by evening also both air-fields. Some artillery fire still falling on San Roque Drome from hills in North Japs left numerous mines and booby traps in Zamboanga town. 2 destroyers provided night bombardment 10/11th also illumination.  
 (15) P.T. boats destroyed 2 small craft damaged 1 fuel barge Basilan Island night 9th.  
 (16) Ormok P.T. boats destroyed 2 laden luggers off Talisay Cebu night 10th March.  
 (17) Predawn 10th March patrol Liberator attacked 4 unidentified vessels Northbound 60 miles East of Balikpapan: 2 ships sunk 3rd possibly damaged.  
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 121047Z to Admty.)

12.3.1945  
MondayWar DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarine  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary

For 24 hours to 0900Z 12th March.

Para. A.

U.681  
*Snort*(1) A/C N/103 attacked surfaced U-boat at 0925Z/  
11th March in 49° 53' N. 6° 31' W.  
(2) E.G.10 attacked good contact at 1158Z/11th  
March in 50° 40' 00° 5' E.

Para. C.

(1) A/C M1/86 had contact at 1630Z/11th March in  
58° 44' N. 2° 3' W.

Para. D.

(1) A/C W/120 saw possible Snort at 1635Z/11th March in 52°  
8' N. 5° 30' W.(2) A/C S/120 attacked Snort course 170° at 1754Z/11th March  
in 53° 12' N. 5° W.(3) A/C W/120 attacked Snort course 180° at 1852Z/11th March  
in 53° 8' N. 4° 50' W.(4) A/C H/422 had disappearing radar contact and saw swirl  
at 0615Z/12th March in 53° 11' N. 4° 39' W.

(D.D.I.C., 121103A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.)

U-boat  
dispositions

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 121345A and 121425A.)



13.3.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. Over a million prisoners have been taken on the Western Front since D-day.

North Sea

2(a) SS. TABER PARK was mined or torpedoed in Convoy F.S.53 off Lowestoft.

(b) Three explosive motor boats were intercepted east of North Beveland at 0115; one was blown up, one was driven ashore, and later brought into Wemeldinge, and the third was damaged but got away.

(c) Five B.Y.M.S. sweeping off Harwich sighted a midget U-boat on the surface, engaged it with gunfire and depth charges, and probably destroyed it. Between 1100 12th and 1100 today coastal batteries claim to have sunk 3 midgets, M.L.442 one, RETALICK one, and the R.A.F.7 and damaged two, off the Dutch coast.

Western Approaches

3. Commanding officer, two other officers, and 45 ratings, all uninjured, have come ashore near Galley Head, Southern Ireland, from a scuttled U-boat. (U.260)

Norway

4. M.T.Bs. 711 and 717, on their return from a "V.P." patrol to the vicinity of Utsire, report scoring two torpedo hits on each of two 4,000 to 5,000 ton merchantmen, one of which blew up.

Northern Waters

5. ONSLAUGHT, part of the escort of J.W.65, was in collision with R.F.A. BLACK RANGER off Oversay, and had to put back to the Clyde.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

French A/C BEARN, SS.MC.ANDREW collision

6. BEARN (French Aircraft Carrier) collided with J.W. MC.ANDREW (American 7,997 tons) in convoy U.C.61 at 6.15 a.m. today in Lat. 41° 50' N. 36° 30' W. BEARN's stem broken and J.W. MC.ANDREW badly holed forward below water-line. Both ships proceeded to Ponta Delgada (Azores), where BEARN transferred 150 troops to J.W. MC.ANDREW and effected temporary repairs.

13.3.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Movement 7. **ROYALIST** (A.C.21) arrived at Aden from Suez.

Burma 8. Today an amphibious assault against Letpan (on mainland E. of Ramree Island) was carried out against slight air and ground opposition. All personnel were landed and the build up is proceeding as planned. The covering force included destroyers ROEBUCK and ESKIMO and H.M.I.S. A/A sloops CAUVERY and JUMNA.

Australia and New Zealand

China 9. 4 Mitchells of the 5th Air Force attacked shipping off Swatow sinking one large tanker, one destroyer.

Philippines 10. Last night P.T. boats from Ormok sank single sea truck loaded with cargo also destroyed two barges all off East coast of Cebu Island.

13. 3. 1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

E-Boat activity. Am engaging E-Boat in position 009° Westkapelle 7 miles.  
(Unit F.G. 5 130014 to N.O.I.C. Ostend.)  
E-Boats driven off in general direction 090°.  
(Unit F.G. 5 130018 to N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

Loss of SS. TABER PARK. SS. TABER PARK mined and sunk in approx. position 000° 3B Buoy 1½ miles position not buoyed.  
Complement 32. 3 survivors picked up by VICEROY.  
Merchant ship may have others.  
(VICEROY 130415A to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth)  
No sign of wreck of SS. TABER PARK am rejoining convoy.  
(VICEROY 130700A to WALLACE.)

EMB activity. Three E.M.Bs. were intercepted to eastward of North Beveland at 0115 today Tuesday.  
(2) One craft blew up, one was driven aground and the third was hit before making off at high speed.  
(3) One prisoner of war was taken.  
(4) Enemy was detected by radar by M.L. 902 who sent L.C.S.(M) patrol to investigate.  
(N.C. Force T 131027A to A.N.C.X.F.)  
My 131027. Craft driven aground has now been refloated and towed into Wemeldinge Harbour.  
(N.C. Force T 131235A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operation "Placket". Subject to other operational requirements at the time it is my intention that Force T should take part in operation "Placket".  
(2) You should maintain close touch with F.O. Holland and give him such planning assistance as is possible without detriment to your primary task of meeting operational requirements of 21st Army Group.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 131437A to N.C. Force T.)

Military Situation Report. No. 72 part 1 dated 13 March 1945 covering period 112400A to 122400A.  
Prisoners of War. (G.1 figures not complete) prisoners captured 9 March, 12201. Accumulative total since D day 1013046.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 131600 to War Office.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 343 part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 121600A March.

/British...

13.3.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G.F. Ammo
Antwerp	118	350	11,531	-	309	284
Ostend	1,263	109	1,822	-	667	990
Boulogne	93	46	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calais	3,831	-	343	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,220	-	-	746
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,305</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>16,916</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>976</u>	<u>2,020</u>
U.S. North						
Antwerp	-	18	21,539	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	253	6,048	428	12,440	3,733
Le Havre	7,311	8,871	4,237	-	-	906
Rouen	1	50	6,522	-	44	375
Granville	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,197	-	-	2,018
<u>Total</u>	<u>7,312</u>	<u>9,192</u>	<u>42,343*</u>	<u>428</u>	<u>12,484</u>	<u>7,032</u>
U.S. South						
Marseilles	1,760	1,103	14,543	1,097	-	386
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,310	1,300	14,535	2,310
Toulon	-	-	226	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>1,103</u>	<u>17,079</u>	<u>2,397</u>	<u>14,535</u>	<u>2,696</u>

(S.H.A.E.F. 131615A to Admty., and others.) \*Sic.

Midget U/B  
activity.

At 1420 today 5 B.Y.M.S. sweeping "00" in H formation turning to Port in position 120° 54B Buoy 4.2 miles sighted midget submarine on surface, 3 cables on starboard bow. Engaged with 3 inch and short range weapons, hits being observed. Attacked with D.C. while still surfaced after 1st D.C. within 100 yards, midget submerged on even keel. 2nd D.C. within 50 yards earlier plastered with 13 D.C. in all from B.Y.M.S. and 5 from R.M.L. who joined hunt. No further evidence.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 131923 to Admty.)

U-Boat and midget U-Boat summary 1100Z/12 to 1100Z/13.

(1) 1114Z/12 M.L. 442 sank midget 293° Westkapelle 8, 1 prisoner.

/(2)...

13.3.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

- Midget U/B activity. (Contd.)
- (2) 1200Z and 1230Z/12. Coastal batteries claim sinking 2 midgets 1 - 2 miles north of Westkapelle.
  - (3) 1211Z/12. Army claim 1 midget sunk by shore batteries west of Breskens.
  - (4) 1330Z/12. Spitfire claims sinking 1 midget off Ostend.
  - (5) 1540Z/12. Swordfish L/119 claimed sinking midget 51° 52' N. 03° 46' E.
  - (6) 1610Z/12. Beaufighter Q/236 attacked midget 51° 45' N. 03° 32' E. claims numerous hits with R.P. and cannon.
  - (7) 1645Z/12. Swordfish R/119 claimed sinking midget 51° 48' N. 03° 43' E.
  - (8) 1658Z/12. Beaufighter Q/236 attacked 2 midgets 51° 55' N. 03° 26' E. claimed numerous hits obtained on one.
  - (9) 1825Z/12. Warwick G/280 on A.S.R. patrol attacked 3 midgets 51° 36' N. 02° 33' E. with machine gun. Midgets possibly SEEHUND.
  - (10) 0259Z/13. SS. TABER PARK probably torpedoed 020° 3B Buoy 1.5. No contact.
  - (11) 0228Z/13. RETALICK sank midget 250° H.K. 4 Buoy 1 mile. (C. in C. Nore 132239A to Admty.)

- Naval Situation Report.
- Cositintrep No. 343 part 2 naval. 12th March. One midget U-Boat probably sunk at 1311 by shore batteries near Breskens.
- (2) Two midgets sunk at 1300 and 1330 by shore batteries near Westkaselle.
  - (3) At 1435 Spitfire sank BIBER off Domburg.
  - (4) Swordfish aircraft sank 2 BIBERS N.W. of Schollwen at 1640 and 1745 respectively.
  - (5) Beaufighter sank midget off Dutch coast at about 1800.
  - (6) Fishing vessel hauled in torpedo or mine in trawl blew up and sank near Zeebrugge at 1800. No survivors.
- 13th March. (7) 3 E.M.Bs. were intercepted by craft of force T to eastward of N. Beveland at 0115. One craft blown up and one driven aground and later towed into Wemeldinge Harbour, one prisoner taken.
- (8) Ref. Cositintrep No. 342 para. 3 R.A.F. report 2 of these E.M.B. stranded on sandbank N. of N. Beveland. (A.N.C.X.F. 132359A to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

- Patrols. Establish following patrols forthwith.
- Links A St. Agnes Head to 05° 30' W.
  - Gladstone A Eddystone to 05° 30' W.
  - (C. in C. Plymouth 131024A to S.O.E.Gs. 15, 2.)
- My 131203. Further attacks have increased flow of oil, but there is no fresh evidence to identify wreck as German U-Boat. Am complying with your 131024. Propose WILD GOOSE detach to Plymouth to land oil sample for analysis. (S.O.E.G. 2 131436A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Your...

War Diary.

13.3.1945  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols.  
(Contd.)

Your 131436. In view of situation remain on patrol.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 131554A to S.O.E.G. 2.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Proceed at 0815A/14th March and carry out serial M.2 part 1 lay 3.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 131524A to M.L. 186, NIGHT-INGALE.)  
Weigh at 0400A/14th March and carry out serial D.4  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 131537A to PLOVER, MINAS.)

Defences of  
Cotentin,  
Granville,  
& St. Malo.

(1) Additional defence of our ports near Channel Islands has been under consideration.  
(2) Patrols of small craft are maintained to give early warning of enemy activity but these craft are only lightly armed. Destroyers and other ships whose armament is heavy enough to deal effectively with ships of the types in Channel Islands are required for more important commitments elsewhere. Even if available, such ships could not patrol to east of Channel Islands owing to those restricted waters being covered by enemy radar controlled guns. Additional defence of our ports near Channel Islands has been under consideration.  
(3) In view of success of Granville Raid, it is now thought practicable for enemy to transport a sizeable force to Cotentin Peninsula for an attack on your communications or even on Cherbourg from landward.  
(4) For reasons given in para. 2, warships will be unable to prevent such raids or landings. Understand however that you are reinforcing defences of Cotentin Peninsula. Please confirm this and also that defences of Granville and St. Malo are being reinforced.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 131705A to Com. Zone, supplemented by his 141116A to Admty.)  
My 131705A para. 2. Request you will confirm that you are unable to provide destroyer or other suitable vessel.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 131707A to C. in C. Plymouth.) *Confirmed (141244A)*

E.Gs. 14, 6.

F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail 14th E.G. at 1600/14th at 15 knots (weather permitting) to relieve 6th E.G. in Portsmouth Command. E.T.A. Lundy and E.T.A. limit of Portsmouth Command to be reported.

(2) On relief C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail 6th E.G. at best speed to Londonderry to lay over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 132305A to F.O.I.C. N.I., C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Restriction...

13.3.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

Restriction of radar transmissions Use of I.F.F. By means of the German search receiver (G.S.R.) fitted to Schnorkel, U-Boats may detect radar transmissions in the 1-1 1/2 metre band up to a range of 1.5 miles. Since it is unlikely that enemy surface craft and aircraft will be encountered in the Portsmouth Command without warning, it is important to restrict radar transmissions in this band to the minimum.

(2) For the above reasons, ships in the Portsmouth Command are not to use I.F.F. or interrogators types 253, 242, 243 and 244 except in the following circumstances:-

- (a) when an aircraft is homing warships on to a submerged U-Boat,
- (b) when an aircraft is in distress,
- (c) when, in the opinion of the C.O., the special circumstances of the ship or aircraft necessitate its use.

(3) H.Q. 19 Group are issuing similar instructions to aircraft under their operational control.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 132322A to Portsmouth Command.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

U-Boat scuttled off Galley Head. (U. 260) A reliable report has been received that a U-Boat was in difficulties off Galley Head p.m. 12th March. 9 members of the crew had come on shore and were under guard by Irish officials. Others believed to be coming inshore.

(D.N.I. No T.O.O/13 to Admty.)

Ref. previous message concerning U-Boat scuttled off Southern Ireland, following information has been received:

- (1) Three officers including Captain and Medical Officer and 45 ratings are now under guard. None injured.
  - (2) No precise information yet available as to submarine but she was apparently damaged on 11th or 12th March by "bombing".
- (D.N.I. no T.O.O. to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Operation "C.H." serial A.1 2 and 3 completed. (APOLLO 130628A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Carry out operation "C.H."  
A. Lines 4 and 5 and 0730 March 14th.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 131129A to APOLLO.)

Patrol. Napoleon establish patrol forthwith 20 miles N.E. to 20 miles S.W. Trevoise Head.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 131047A to DORNOCH.)

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Tuesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "V.P." "V.P. 86" Lerwick arrival at 0730A today 13th March. M.T.B. 717, M.T.B. 711.  
(2) Two merchant ships of approx. 4000 to 5000 tons attacked with torpedoes. Two hits seen on each. One vessel seen to blow up.  
(3) M.T.B. 715 arrived independently at 0815A having been ordered to return before patrol area was reached owing to engine trouble.  
(4) No damage or casualties to own unit.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 130817A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrol. Request you will sail DOLFIJN to relieve STUBBORN off Fejeosen. STUBBORN should be recalled so as to arrive Lerwick by 1600/18th. Submarines should pass one another about 01° E. (F.O. S/M 131152A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W.65. My P.C.S. 300° Oversay 12 miles 135° 5 knots number 17 bulkhead and lower deck holding. (ONSLAUGHT 130010A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
ONSLAUGHT has been in collision with R.F.A. BLACK RANGER in position 315° Oversay 15 miles at 122150A.  
(2) ONSLAUGHT has badly damaged bows. SCORPION standing by and escorting to Clyde.  
(3) Sail AMBUSCADE forthwith to relieve SCORPION and to report position when met.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 130058A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)  
Sailed AMBUSCADE with orders to communicate SCORPION direct. Your 130058 refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 130217A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
BLACK RANGER slightly damaged port side in collision. Making a little water amend his E.T.A. to read 1300A/13th. P.C.S. 55° 29' N. 06° 39' W. 117° 10.  
(FERGUS 130230A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
My 122150A. On relief AMBUSCADE, rejoin me.  
(C.S. 10 130416A to SCORPION.)  
BLACK RANGER reports everything under control. Tug not required.  
(FERGUS 130510A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Arrived DIADEM C.F. 10's 111809 not to all addressees refers. (C. in C. H.F. 131104 to C.S. 10.)  
Scapa departure R.F.A. BLUE RANGER escorted by OPPORTUNE (S.O.) ORWELL, ZAMBESI and FARNHAM CASTLE. My 121152A refers.  
(C. in C. H.F. 131155 to C.S. 10, D.23.)  
Faroes arrivals MYNGS, SCORPION, STORD.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 132240A to F.O.I.C. N.I., Admty., S.B.N.O. N. Russia, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

/Possible...



War Diary.

13.3.1945  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Possible U-Boat. Am in contact with submarine in position 58° 43' N. 04° 40' W.  
(HASTINGS 131450 to F.O. Scapa.)  
My 131450 course 090°. Range and nature of initial contact 230° 4000 yards periscope sighted good H.E.  
Have rejoined VENTURER. TERPSICHORE investigating.  
(HASTINGS 131515A to F.O. Scapa.)  
HASTINGS 131450 am taking over the hunt.  
(TERPSICHORE 131518A to F.O. Scapa.)  
Proceed forthwith at best speed to 58° 43' N. 04° 40' W. to hunt U-Boat reported by HASTINGS at 1450A today Tuesday. Act under orders of C. in C. Rosyth and keep watch on broadcast HD.  
(C. in C. H.F. 131531A to TERPSICHORE, HAIDA.)  
C. in C. H.F. 131531. I took over datum position from HASTINGS just after her attack and have failed to establish contact. Am searching in position 04° 48' W. 58° 42' N.  
(TERPSICHORE 131645A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Search south of 58° 50' N. between 04° 00' W. and 05° 00' W. and as close inshore as safe navigation permits.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 131650A to TERPSICHORE, HAIDA.)  
Am in contact with submarine in position 58° 43' N. 03° 57' W. course 090°.  
(HASTINGS 131729 to F.O. Scapa.)  
My 131729. Attacked contact in position 58° 43' N. 03° 57' W. course 090°. Range and nature of initial contact 160° 1400 yards 1 pattern depth charge fired rejoining VENTURER.  
(HASTINGS 131745A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 131729. This is probably non submarine wreck. Continue with VENTURER to Lerwick.  
(C. in C. H.F. 131807A to HASTINGS.)  
Continue to search as in my 131650 during night and if not in contact at 0800/14th return to Scapa.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 132150A to TERPSICHORE; HAIDA.)

15 Catalinas U.S.A. to Murmansk. Your 112006. A.O.C. Iceland reports accommodation and servicing facilities for the 15 Catalinas available. Any flow of aircraft decided upon is acceptable. All necessary security measures will be taken.  
(H.Q.C.C. 131728A to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Transport movements between Norway and Denmark. My 091814. Following transport movements have been reported from Norway and Denmark.  
(1) Oslo. A. ISAR which left Feb. 22nd was again sighted in Oslo on Feb. 28th and March 3rd.  
B. MAR DEL PLATA arrived Feb. 23rd, and left Feb. 24th fully loaded with stores special cars and troops.  
C. SUDERAU which left Feb. 24th for Moss carrying 74 cars 362 tons ammunition 12 horse drawn waggons 994 empty barrels and 26 tons paper - see my 051847 para. 2 - was reported ready to leave Moss Feb. 26th having loaded 40,000 sacks for Hamburg.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Transport movements between Norway and Denmark.  
(Contd.)

(2) Moss. A. NEIDENFELS arrived Feb. 21st and having loaded 800 horses and 350 horse drawn waggons 25 large cars (believed ex Finnish) 1,000 infantry 400 artillery 200 engineers 150 jagger 50 Todt and 150 civilians left Feb. 22nd. She returned Feb. 28th discharged 1,000 men and loaded 350 horses 80 cars 50 Panzer troops and 3,000 men from different Regiments left same day. B. MOLTKEFELS arrived Feb. 24th loaded 300 horses

100 large cars 100 horse drawn vehicles 2,000 infantry and left same day see my 070749 para. 1.

(3) Droback. POMMERN carrying six locomotives and MARCO BRUNNER were sighted at anchor waiting proceed Oslo Feb. 28th.

(4) Frederikshavn. Owing mining and air attacks traffic to Norway has been irregular. Altogether 12 to 14 transports have arrived and sailed during February. When about 9,000 men arrived from Norway and 4,000 left for Norway no equipment being carried. B. 2.

(N.A. Stockholm 131631 to Admty.)

German refugees and wounded from East Prussia to Denmark. My 121153 para. 3. A. Large German vessel POTSDAM 17,000 tons and transport MARS 2468 tons and (corrupt group) other large transport arrived at Copenhagen March 11th with refugees.

B. During past few days 20,000 wounded and refugees reported arrived Denmark.

C. Further arrivals of wounded and refugees are expected by Danish authorities at Copenhagen and other ports in near future. C. 2.

(N.A. Stockholm 131637 to Admty.)

N.I.D. Comment: Subsequent reports also state POTSDAM and MARS arrived Copenhagen 11 March.

Movements.

SCORCHER,  
submarine.

Intend to sail SCORCHER escorted by BRIDGEWATER 1400A/14th March to Clyde S.O.A. 12 knots. E.T.A. Cumbraes 0700A/5.

(2) Diving trials will be carried out in vicinity of O. 2 buoy  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 131414A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, S.M. 3.)

NATAL  
?sloop.

Intend to sail H.M.S.A.S. NATAL at 0930 tomorrow Wednesday 14th March to Methil for O/R to Scapa. S.O.A. 12 knots. E.T.A. Methil 1900/14. Mails to Tobermory.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 131705A to C. in C. H.F., N.O.I.C. Methil.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.F/M.K.F. and S.R. convoys and troopships for India. As troopships now proceed unescorted between Gibraltar and India it has been decided to revise the K.M.F/M.K.F. convoy schedule as follows:-  
(a) Reduce the cycle from 20 to 18 days, (b) sail the M.K.F. convoy from Gibraltar on D minus 6 instead of D minus 4.

(2) The programme for a 15 knot ship to India will be as follows:

Sail U.K. D Day. Pass Gibraltar D + 6. Arr. Port Said D + 12.  
Sail Suez D + 15. Arr. Bombay D + 23. Sail Bombay D + 30.  
Arr. Suez D + 38. Sail Port Said D + 41. Arr. Gibraltar D + 47.  
Sail Gibraltar D + 48. Arr. U.K. D + 54.

(3) The above will come into force with K.M.F. 43 sailing from U.K. on 17th April and M.K.F. 42 sailing from Gibraltar on 11th April.

(4) If ships for M.K.F. 41 can be assembled at Gibraltar in time, F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail this convoy on 25th March instead of the 26th March.

(5) It will be noted that (a) the Naples ships in the outward bound convoy will not have time to turn round and catch the same numbered M.K.F. convoy, (b) when there is a ship for India ex West Africa, the S.R. convoy should arrive Gibraltar not later than D + 42.

(6) Pass to Sea Transport and Military authorities concerned.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 130141A to Cs. in C. W.A., Med., E.I., F.O.C.W.Af.)

"Appian"  
flight  
sailings.

A.M. 231953 Jan. para. 3. Request information on the following points. A. confirmation that sailing of "Appian" flights will re-commence on 1st May.

B. Probable interval between flights.

C. In the light of experience gained from flights

A to H, max. numbers of craft in a flight.

D. Whether it is intended to tow M.L.C. from the U.K.

E. If D is yes, when will towing begin and F. from what ports.

(2) This information is required as early as possible in order to plan movement and foreign draft leave periods for flotillas now forming.

(R.A.L.S.C.U. 131023A to Admty.)

Safeguarding  
of ships at  
Granville.

Understand that on occasions deep draught coaster arrive Granville several days before tidal conditions are suitable for them to enter. Request you will initiate necessary action to prevent such ships arriving before they can enter or alternatively arrange for their protection.

(A.N.C.X.F. 131732A to C.T.F. 125.)

Through routes  
between  
Scilly and  
Beachy.

Reference my 061432A, 131701A and C. in C. Portsmouth's 111442A (none to all) as from 20th March 1945, request Q.Z.H. 568 and F.N.M. 676 (T) 1945 be cancelled and the following substitute be promulgated:-  
English Channel - Commencing 0001A/20th March, the following new through routes E and W are established

/for...

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Through routes between Scilly and Beachy. (Contd.)

for traffic between Scilly Isles and Beachy Head, and will replace existing routes E and W.

(2) The routes are defined as shown below as lying north and south respectively of the following dividing line between the two routes.

(3) Dividing line joins positions:

A. 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. B. 180° Lizard Head 10 miles. C. 180° Start Point 10 miles. D. 50°

17' 30" N. 02° 30' 00" W. E. H.2 buoy. F. Z Buoy. G. C.2 A Buoy. H. C.2 Buoy.

(4) Routes: E. Eastbound. Extends to a width of 4 miles on the southern side of the dividing line between positions A and G and to width of 1 mile between positions G and H.

W. Westbound. Extends to a width of 1 mile on the northern side of the above dividing line between positions H and G and to a width of 4 miles between G and A.

(5) C. in C. Portsmouth concurs.

(C. in C. Plymouth 131801A to Admty.)

T.A.M. convoys.

My 052148A December para. 2 not to all addressees. Commencing with T.A.M. 9 due to sail from Southend Thursday 15th T.A.M. convoys will be sailed to pass Flushing at 1500A daily.

(2) Com. Southend is requested to promulgate revised time tables accordingly.

(3) Max. draughts as stated in my 101153A remain in force for convoys T.A.M. 9 to 13 inclusive. Com. Southend is requested to promulgate to addressees of my 101153A revised max. draughts for T.A.M. 14 onwards up to and including T.A.M. convoy due to sail on 31st May.

(4) It is pointed out that these max. draughts are subject to adjustment if operational requirements necessitate.

(C. in C. Nore 132336A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp, Com. Southend.)

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TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticS/M  
SEANYMPH.H.M.S. SEANYMPH sails in O.S.116/K.M.S.90 for Gibraltar Malta and Far East.  
(Capt. S.3, 130951A to F.O.G.M.A.)

E.G.4.

Group IV consisting of H.M.S. COLTSFOOT (S.O. CYCLAMEN and KILMELFORD part company with M.K.S. 88 as requisite to R/V O.S.115/K.M.S.89 in position (A.P) 039 degs. 49' N. 012 degs. 00' W. at 0800A March 14th and act as additional close escort taking K.M.S. section to Gibraltar.

(2) O.S.115/K.M.S.89 consisting of O.S.115 5 ships and K.M.S.89 21 ships. Cdr. Hardy (?in) GEOLOGIST escorted by OXFORD CASTLE route etc.

(3) S. of A.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A.131026A to S.E.M.K.S.88 for Cdre.)

Fleet  
minesweeper.

H.M.C.S. GUYSBOROUGH expected to arrive Horta 1800Z to-day 13th. Request onward route to Plymouth. C. in C. C.N.A's 041840 and F.O.N.F's 092010 refers.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 131058Z to Admty)

F.S. A.C.  
BEARN and  
J.W.MCANDREW  
Collision.

Escorting U.S. J.W. MCANDREW and F.S. BEARN AKV both from C.U.61 to Ponta Delgada, Azores for emergency repairs. Both ships badly damaged in bows by collision at sea. BEARN stem broken J.W.MCANDREW badly holed below water-line. Best speed MCANDREW 4 BEARN 6 knots. Depart 42.04 N. 35.41 W. at 1237Z/13th course 120? speed, 4. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0107Z/19th. Request permission all three ships to enter. U.S.S. ROCHE (DE.107) detached to rejoin convoy C.U.61 at 1300Z/13th S. of A. 18 knots. Both damaged vessels have no useable bow anchors. All possible tug assistance will be required for their berthing. 83 U.S. Army personnel and 1 U.S. Navy seaman lost from J.W. MCANDREW. Four French Seamen lost from BEARN, ROCHE and OLSEN in high seas over period 8 hours recovered 13 Army personnel who will recover. Eleven now on ROCHE two on <sup>EARL K</sup> OLSEN approx. 20 bodies observed in area. <sup>EARL K</sup> Unless otherwise directed <sup>EARL K</sup> OLSEN upon relief by any designated escort or upon safe delivery of vessels to port will proceed Plymouth Communications N.S.S. F B.N.2150 K/cs, when appropriate. Total loss of life thus 75.  
(EARL K. OLSEN, 131640Z to Admty and 142025A)

BRUISER  
L.S.T.(I) and  
Destroyers.

F.O.G.M.A's 121525 not to all. Destination of BRUISER is Tyne. BROCKLESBY and WILTON should continue as escort to the Nore. C. in C. Nore is requested to arrange onward escort.  
(2) All ships should call at Plymouth if escorts require to refuel.  
(D.O.D.(H), 131935A to F.O.G.M.A.)

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TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth AtlanticFALMOUTH  
(Sloop).

Sailed H.M.S. FALMOUTH coastal to Capetown to  
refit.  
(2) S. of A. 11 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. 0500Z/16th March.  
(Commodore Durban, 130721Z to Admty.)

U-Boat  
search.

Ref. F.O.G.M.A.121057 and A.M. 122040(N.T. in W.D.)  
Ref. A.M. 121345. ABERDEEN reports search  
between 100 fathom line and coast produced no  
results outside 100 fathom line good non-S/M  
contacts numerous and now considers contact  
attacked doubtful. In view of similar experience of LOWESTOFT  
and LOBELIA in same area, consider presence of U-Boat off Cape  
Blanco unlikely. Surface and Air Searches have failed to locate  
northbound U-Boat between Freetown and Ascension intend further  
effort to locate between Bathurst and Cape Verde Isles commencing  
16th. On above appreciation intend suspending independent sail-  
ings to Casablanca from Freetown 13th to 20th and from Dakar  
16th to 23rd.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 131150Z and 151201Z to Admty.)

38th M.L.  
Flotilla  
(M.L.gun-  
boats.)

Sailed 38th M.L.Flottilla M.L.G.'s 850, 851, 897  
to 900 inclusive 4001 4002) escorted by ARCTIC  
EXPLORER, CAPE WARWICK by coastal route to  
Durban.  
(2) S. of A. 9 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. Durban 1100Z/15th March.  
(N.L.O.Port Elizabeth, 131427Z to Cdre. i/c R.N.E.  
Durban).

Incident.

Master ROXBURGH CASTLE reports that at 1715Z  
on 9th March in lat. 030 degs. 21' S. long.  
044 degs. 37' W. passed and circled small raft.  
Saw no sign of life but Human remains were  
observed. No closer examination was made.  
(S.O.(I) Buenos Ayres, 131506Z to Admty.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Linrep  
No. 238  
8th-11th  
March.

(2) Naval. Gulf of Genoa. 2 destroyers aided by sighting reports from aircraft intercepted enemy convoy off Portofino. 290 rounds were fired at 12,000 yards range but results could not be observed as enemy laid thick smoke screen. 1 ship may have been set on fire. Our ships were accurately engaged by enemy shore

batteries but sustained no damage or casualties.

Adriatic. West of Istria coastal craft torpedoed and sank 2/3,000 ton merchant ship escorted by 4 R or E-Boats but this is not being given press publicity as attack was undetected.

Greece. General situation remains quiet but at Patras strike continues and at Kavalla civilian population are restless and anxious for return of Government officials.

Coastal Air Force fighters attacked road and rail movement in north-west Italy and Yugoslavia. Wellingtons attacked barges in the Gulf of Genoa.

(A.F.H.Q., 131000A to W.O.)

F.S.  
BARFLEUR.

Marine Paris proposes following modification of programme for F.S. BARFLEUR. My 231658A Feb., not to all.

(1) Leave Oran 19th March to join M.K.S. at Gibraltar.

(2) Call at Southampton 25th - 27th March to discharge stores for F.N.G.B.

(3) Cherbourg 28th to 30th March.

(4) Brest 1st to 4th April.

(5) Return thence via Oran to Toulon.

(F.O.W.M., 131306A to C. in C. Med.)

Approved 141103 and 171245.

CALPE  
destroyer.

F.O. Tunisia is requested to sail CALPE on completion of refit to Malta.

(2) V.A. Malta is requested to give CALPE 14 days work up and on completion sail her to Gibraltar for onward routing to U.K. to join Nore Command.

(C. in C. Med., 131457A to F.O. Tunisia.)

Repatriation  
of P.o.W.  
etc.

Mil. 2555 March 13th.

Para. (1) The repatriation of British Commonwealth prisoners of war is proceeding unsatisfactorily. The Russians are evacuating ours to Odessa from various unknown places of concentration in Poland and elsewhere so slowly that we are unable to fill

the ships with British and Americans who are treated as one, Deane and I having close mutual agreement.

Para. (3) There are 4,000 French citizens now at Odessa awaiting repatriation, and of these 2,000 could be embarked in DUCHESS OF BEDFORD due to sail 15th March for Malta. Otherwise, she will sail half empty as all British and Americans waiting at Odessa have been embarked.

Para. (4) Embarkation of the French may seem desirable from some points of view, but involves difficult question of accommodation, screening and onward shipment from Malta to France.

/Para. (5) ...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Repatriation of P.O.W. etc.  
(Contd.)

Para. (5) In view of fact that Russians are sending French citizens to Odessa by the thousand, problem is raised of how to get them home. Request instructions regarding future policy in connection with repatriation of French citizens, and would like earliest possible advice as to whether to embark 2,000 Frenchmen on DUCHESS OF BEDFORD or let her sail only half full.  
(30 Mission, 131550C to A.M.S.S.O. (for Chiefs of Staff))  
Reply: 141804A.

G.2 Summary No. 190.

(2) Yugoslavia. According O.C. Harbour Police Lussin who recently deserted, 150 Germans and 104 Italians arrived on Island some days ago. These believed identical with reinforcements reported landed Cherso (see G.2 Summary 189) and arrival raises total figure for Lussin to about 800 men. 180 men also reported landed Krk 9 March with four L.A.A. guns thus raising garrison figure to over 800. Korvetten Rafntaen reported with Headquarters Cherso exercising authority over whole Quarnero Island Group. In view letters ranks and service consider control probably only extends to Coast Defence Batteries which exclusively manned by German Marines.  
(A.F.H.Q., 131930A to W.O.)

Marmarice, Transfer of R.N.O. to.

Intend to transfer R.N.O. Casteloriso and Signal Station to Marmarice. Your 111724 (N.T. in W.D.) Casteloriso will then be closed down with eventual saving of 8 ratings. When R.N.O. Marmarice is established about 25th March Harbour will be moved from Khios to Marmarice thus facilitating re-pooling of forces operating in Dodecanese. Turks agree and are providing harbour defences at Marmarice.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 132113D to C. in C. Med.)

Operation "Independence".

Operation "Independence" is now planned for mid-April (S.H.A.E.F. Forward 101840, not to all, refers). It is therefore intended to retain F.Y.M.S. under control of A.N.C.X.F. Your 031216 not to Comnavu, refers.  
(V.C.N.S., 132307A to C. in C. Med.)



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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., 130419Z to S. & A. E.I.S.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Escorts. Departing Boston and New York 23/24 March for U.K. and Continent C.U. 63 will be escorted by Task Group 61.5 reconstituted as of 19th March Capt. Poole in RHIND.  
T.U. 61.5.1 Capt Poole in RHIND, STURTEVANT, BROUGH, ROY O. HALE, DALE W. PETERSON, MARTIN H. RAY.  
T.U. 61.5.2 Cdr. Musgrave, Comcortdiv Three in JACOB JONES, BLAIR, HAMMANN, ROBERT E. PEARY. When Admiralty directs T.U. 61.5.1 return U.C.63A. T.U. 61.5.2 escort U.C. 63B.  
(C. in C. Lant, 130437Z to C.T.G. 61.5.)

F.S. BEARN 0515Z French A.K.V. BEARN in C.U. 61 rammed and SS. J.W. U.S.A.V. J.W. MCANDREW without warning 41.50 MCANDREW 36.30 damaging MCANDREW badly. Preliminary collision. report casualties Carlos A. Inman, Seaman 1st Class 8641567 killed on board MCANDREW. 7 men from BEARN recovered from water in high sea by <sup>EARL K</sup> OLSEN and ROCHE. Large hole in forward hold MCANDREW. Small damage on BEARN. MCANDREW escorted by EARL K. OLSEN proceeding Horta Azores speed 4. BEARN escorted by ROCHE to rejoin convoy. Further report by <sup>from</sup> OLSEN.  
(C.T.G. 61.3, 130852 to Admty.)

Italian A.M. 012110. In view of F.O.T.A.L.I.'s 051905 submarines. para. 2. We propose that U.S.N. should take GIADA instead of ZOEA. It should be noted that GIADA is sister-ship to ONICE and DIASPRO so that proposed allocation would bring all three serviceable PERLA class vessels under U.S. control.  
(2) Reference F.O.T.A.L.I.'s para. 4 NICHELIO (METAL class) is not sister-ship to GIADA (PERLA class).  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 131115A to B.A.D.) See 150011Z.

U/B Estimates.  
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 131340Z, Cominch 131531.)

U/B For operations against U-Boats now moving into operations. Canadian Frontier Task Group 22.14 hereby assigned to C. in C. C.N.A. for operational control. Request C. in C. C.N.A. replenish this group at Halifax when required about 20th March. C.T.G. 22.14 is Cdr. French, commissioned 1st October, 1942.  
(C. in C. Lant, 131529 to C. in C. C.N.A.)  
C. in C. Lant 131529. Maintain hunt for leading west-bound U-Boat estimated at 1200Z/13 within 100 miles 42.30 N., 58.30 W. believed proceeding towards Halifax. S.O. E.G.27 131458 not to all also refers.  
(2) Maintain constant watch on G.L. broadcast 155 k/cs. from 0300Z/14 my 2000 G.M.T. daily situation reports are broadcast this frequency and are in accordance with C. in C. Lant 062058/12/44 not to all being passed T.G. 22.14.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 132112 to C.T.G. 22.14.)

/R.C.N. ...

War Diary.13.3.1945.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

- R.C.N. destroyers. Intend sailing GATINEAU 14th March to U.K. via St. Johns N.F. OTTAWA delayed until about 15th April. My 08130Z passed to F.O.N.F. refers. (Halifax, 131715Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- SS. LONEJACK. N.O.B. Bermuda reports LONEJACK arrived 1000Z/11th estimates 7 days required effect repairs to permit towing to U.S. port. (Com. Tenth Fleet (C. and R.), 131954Z to C.U. 60.)
- U/B search. If not in contact by 0800Z/14 Task Unit 22.2.1 proceed to sweep along lat. 43.30 N. until south of Sable Island thence to New York. On arrival New York Cortdiv. 48 available for expedited voyage repairs. Yard advise completion date Task Group 22.13 continue hunt westbound submarine. Cominch 131531 estimates at 43.15 N., 46.30 W. (C. in C. Lant, 132024Z to C.T.U. 22.2.1, C.T.G. 22.13.)
- CASABIANCA, French S/M. French submarine CASABIANCA escorted by HENRY R. KENYON New London to Casablanca via Horta, Azores. Departs 7 MI East of Montauke Point 2400/15th. Speed 12. Route, thence Casablanca E.T.A. 0840/27th. (C.T.F.25 132053 to Cominch, amended by 160514.)
- Radar contacts. (B) (1) 122055 Liberator had radar contact 42.28 N., 54.06 W.  
(2) About 131917 U.S.S. MENGES attacked contact 42.16 N., 55.52 W. Contact held, all times Z.  
(C) (1) 131307 H.M.C.S. MEON sound contact and underwater noise 41.25 N., 58.09 W. target movement 9 knots.  
(Cominch, 132111 to Admty. for O.I.C.)
- BONAVENTURE, Submarine Depot ship. About 16th March when ready Comcaribseafrom sail BONAVENTURE Trinidad to Canal Zone. Compaseafrom sail onward to San Diego and direct vessel, report C. in C. Pac. for duty in British Pacific Fleet, after transitting Canal. Comwesseafrom sail onward to Manus via Pearl. Admiralty directs no shore leave be granted in U.S.A. (Cominch, 132113Z to Comcaribseafrom.)
- U/B contact. U.S.S. MENGES of Cdr. T.G. 14, T.F.22 attacked and holding contact 042° 16' N., 055° 22' W.? about 1900Z/13th March. C. in C. W.A. pass P/L version to H.Q.C.C. (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 132333Z to all British and U.S. Warships in Area D.)

War Diary.13.3.1945.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandDigest  
1147,  
12th March.  
(Extract).

Liberators over Nansei Shoto blew up large sea truck, sank small coaster and motor launch, damaged another small coaster, 1 bigger Okinawa Jima. Other Navy planes bombed strafed 5 fuel barges heading N.W. from Kiirun burning off heavy camouflage.

(3) Patrol Venturas damaged single enemy lugger northern Celebes.

(5) Ground forces captured Antipolo north-east Manila, occupied Batangas town, patrols moving towards Cuenco to north-west also southwards along east shore Batangas Bay. Forces mopping up in Stoesenburg area encountered still enemy resistance 4 miles west of Fort.

(6) On Mindanao, Zamboanga forces captured San Roque airfield while patrols operating to north and west made only minor contacts. On 11th March heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire continues to fall in beachhead area: Naval fire, air bombardment and battery fire directed against enemy positions.

(7) 2 Dutch Mitchells destroyed launch Flores Island. Patrol R.C.A.F. Liberator bombed jetty Alor Island.

(8) Delayed report 10th March 6 Spitfires sunk single launch strafed 2 barges Halmahera.

(9) 5th Air Force operations for 11th March. 12 Mitchells swept French Indo-China Coast probably sinking single tanker damaging 3 luggers off Tourane.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 131253Z to Admty.)

Navigation. Question of monitoring important shore lights in Prince of Wales Channel has been discussed with C. in C. British Pacific Fleet who agrees that present arrangements are satisfactory in the light of the existing strategical situation. Last sentence of your 201606\* Jan. and para. 3 of my 240644 Jan. refer. (A.C.N.B., 131906Z to Admty.)

\* Requested that consideration may be given to means which can be employed to ensure that the 3 important shore lights in Prince of Wales Channel are burning when passage is being made by heavy ships.

BERMUDA,  
PHOEBE,  
cruisers.

BERMUDA is allocated to British Pacific Fleet. She is expected to complete refit end of March. (2) PHOEBE is to remain on East Indies Station until required in U.K. for refit in Sept. (V.C.N.S., 131936A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

War Diary.13.3.1945.  
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/13th March.  
Para. (C) (1) A/C P/822 obtained disappearing radar contact about 1101Z/12th March in 49° 55' N., 01° 49' W.  
(2) A/C G/110 reported wake or swirl at 1145Z/12th March in 50° 12' N., 02° 14' W.  
Ref. A.M. 111030 para. (C) (4) ABERDEEN now considers contact doubtful. Regraded Para. (D).  
(D.D.I.C., 131130A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 131351A, 131352A.)

U/B reports. My 221059 July 1942.  
(1) BULLDOG attacked an asdic contact in position 230° Longships 6 miles at 2009/7th. Hedgehog explosions were reported 7 seconds after the projectiles hit the water but no further evidence of destruction was obtained.  
(2) While patrolling in the Irish Sea E.G.25 obtained asdic and radar contact at 2048/7th which when illuminated was seen to be schnorkel and periscope of diving U-Boat. After several attacks definite evidence of the destruction of U.1302 was recovered.  
(3) At 0925/11th United States Naval aircraft N/103 sank a surfaced U-Boat off the Scilly Isles. The U-Boat was abandoning ship when attacked and proved to be U.681.  
(4) Investigating an oil patch reported off Beachy Head E.G.10 gained asdic contact with a bottomed object at 1158/11th. Several attacks produced evidence of a U-Boat which is thought to be a recent mining casualty.  
(D.A.U.D., 132141A to Cominch.)

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) Four midget U-Boats were sighted and 3 attacked without definite result, but TORRINGTON sighted another near N.F. 5 buoy, blew it to the surface, destroyed it and took one prisoner.  
(b) E-Boats were shadowed by aircraft from the Texel to 2° 37' E. but then turned back on being attacked by a Wellington.  
(c) SS. MAGNE was torpedoed by U-Boat in convoy F.S. 56 off St. Abbs Head. WIVERN conducted a hunt and after a second attack by NATAL on a promising contact a metal container 5 ft. long with a hinged lid was picked up, containing a set of bellows. ~~[REDACTED]~~  
(d) Two mines were swept off the East Coast.

*U. 714 sunk*

Channel.

2. C.T.F. points out that his patrol vessels are of insufficient gunpower to defeat enemy craft known to be in the Channel Islands. He asks for a destroyer.

Western Approaches.

3. Western Approaches Command A/S forces are being reinforced by the frigate AIRE.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Riviera.

4. (a) Fr. Destroyer SIMOUN carried out bombardment at observations posts, etc. along coast. Tonight destroyers carried out operation "Mustard" without result.  
(b) Last night P.T. boats carried out patrol. Forced to withdraw owing to accurate radar controlled-fire from Savona.

East Indies.

Movement.

5. TROMP (Dutch cruiser) arrived Trincomalee from Fremantle.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

China.

6. Navy Liberators from Clark Field over China Coast sank one sea truck, one small coaster and damaged other sea truck, two small coasters, one patrol craft somewhere off China Coast and sank two luggers and left another two burning and sinking off Amoy.

Ryuku  
Archipelago  
and Formosa.

7. (a) Liberators over Nansei Shoto attacked 11 possible M.T.Bs. Okina Jima sinking three and damaging two others. Also sank two luggers in same area.  
(b) Other Liberator damaged single small coaster off W. coast Formosa.

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

E-Boat activity. My 140205 only to C. in C. Nore. Consider E-Boat may have laid mines anywhere in Q.Z.S.403 South of Sheringham as they were steering up this channel when first contacted.  
(MIDDLETON, 140500 to C. in C. Nore.)

E-Boat activity night 13th/14th March.  
16 Group Wellington effectively shadowed 4 E-Boats from The Texel to position 53 degs. 15' N. 02 degs. 37' E. where at 2305 on being attacked by another Wellington, they turned East and returned to Den Helder. Shadowing Wellington followed and later attacked.  
(C. in C. Nore, 141515A to Admty.)

Clearance of Dintelsas Harbour. N.P.1572 is to proceed as soon as possible to examine and effect clearance of harbour at Dintelsas, North Brabant, working from Dintelcord, where accommodation is available.  
(2) Care should be taken to avoid arousing interest of the enemy on the opposite shore of Overflakkee. Therefore (A) Transport with gear should move to Dintelsas Harbour only by night.  
(B) Work should be carried out by small sections of the party in relays.  
(3) If mines are found report by signal to F.O. Holland and repetition addressees of this message.  
(4) Signals to be passed through N.C. Force T.  
(F.O.Holland, 141115A to N.P.1572. Info. A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Nore, Admty. for D.M.S., S.O.Dutch M/S Farwich, N.C. Force T. N.P.1732.)

Probable U-Boat off St. Abbs Head. MAGNE sunk in position 128 degs. 21 D Buoy 3.2 probably U-Boat. Investigating.  
(WIVERN, 141402A to C. in C. Rosyth)  
Proceed vicinity 21 D Buoy, ship sunk in position 128 degs. 21 D Buoy, assist in hunt under orders of WIVERN.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 141459A to NATAL)

Take charge and search West of 11 degs. 43' W. between 55 degs. 58' N. and 55 degs. 46' N.

(2) All likely contacts are to be attacked at least 3 times.  
(3) Search as close inshore as safe navigation permits.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 141530A to WIVERN)

Proceed with despatch to vicinity 21 D Buoy for U-Boat search, acting under orders of WIVERN.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 141531A to ANGLE, STOKE CITY, LEICESTER CITY.)

Your 141547A. Proceed with despatch to vicinity St. Abbs and act in accordance with my 141530A.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 141612A to WOLSEY)

Carried out 2 attacks on contact. Round metal cylindrical container 2 feet diameter 5 feet in length with quick release gasketed hinge lid was picked up. On opening lid was found to be a set of bellows.

(2) Contact was lost after second attack.  
(NATAL, 141720A to C. in C. Rosyth)

/My...



14.3.1945.  
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Probable My 141720 position of contact 115° 1.5 miles  
U-Boat off Buoy 21 D.  
St. Abbs (NATAL, 142030A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Head.  
(Contd.)

Patrols. Night dispositions 14th/15th March.  
Humber Force nil.  
Harwich Force (Group 3) Patrols 1 ZETLAND,  
3 ARENDAL, 5 SHEARWATER, 12 STAYNER, 14 SEYMOUR,  
16 THORNBOROUGH, 18 TALYBONT, 19 TORRINGTON, 21 CATTISTOCK,  
22 CAICOS.  
(Group 3) Harbour EGLINTON, COTSWOLD, FARNDAL, HAMBLEDON,  
QUANTOCK, SOUTHDOWN, EKINS, RETALICK, RIOU, GUILLEMOT, PUFFIN,  
Sheerness Force (Group 5) with convoys T.A.M.8 VIMY, WIDGEON.  
A.T.M.92 VOLUNTEER, KITTIWAKE. T.A.P.73 HOLDERNESS.  
Patrols 2 MIDDLETON, 4 MENDIP, 6 MELBREAK, 21 CATTISTOCK.  
(Group 6) Harbour GARTH, ALBRIGHTON, BLANKNEY, BLENCATHRA,  
BRISSENDEN, MEYNELL, VESPER, BADDECK, GODETIA, LOOSESTRIFE.  
(C. in C. Nore, 141530A to Admty.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 344 part IV, Section A.  
Situation Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending  
Report. 131600A March.

	<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	85	440	9,589	-	6,384	515
Ostend	1,431	202	4,228	-	100	1,292
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	600	-	-
Calais	3,940	-	25	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,929	-	-	1,439
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,456</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>16,771</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>6,484</b>	<b>3,246</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>						
Antwerp	-	37	19,162	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	510	7,461	790	11,658	5,545
Le Havre	16,376	692	5,605	-	-	1,573
Rouen	353	361	7,840	1,353	4,478	201
Granville	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,227	-	-	496
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,729</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>43,295</b>	<b>2,143</b>	<b>16,136</b>	<b>7,815</b>
<u>U.S. South -</u>						
Marseilles	3,345	473	11,236	1,285	-	69
Port de Bouc	-	-	3,281	1,350	13,605	3,281
Toulon	-	-	192	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,345</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>14,709</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>13,605</b>	<b>3,350</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 141635A to Admty., and others.)

/Minesweeping ...

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping off East Coast. Following mine detonated today:  
 (1) 1036/14/3/45. (2) 'Q' formation LL and SA. 1st Division - B.Y.M.S. 2051, 2282, 2137. 2nd Division - B.Y.M.S. 2189, 2188. 2nd Division 1 mile astern. (3) No. (4) 2½ cables. (5) B.Y.M.S. 2051, 350° East Dudgeon 1.2 miles, course 310°. (6) Dead astern 2 cables. (7) On pulse Blue to port. (8) 3 seconds. (9) I unknown. (10) Nil. (11) Calm. (12) -. (13) Average explosion. (14) Nil.

(F.O. Humber, 141805A to C. in C. Nore.)

Ref. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 141641A\*

(A) 1518 March 14th 1945. Blue. (B) 'Q' formation M.M.S. 1041, 1021, 1013 LL/SA. (C) 1½ cables. (D) M.M.S. 1021, 125° 3A 23 cables, course 200°. (E) Red 175°. (F) On pulse Blue to port. (G) 1 second. (H) Probably E-Boat lay night 17-18 February. (I) Nil. (J) Nil. (K) 1. (L) Nil. (M) Bubbly 10 ft. plume.

(Com. M/S. Lowestoft, 142200A to C. in C. Nore.)

\* LL Sweepers detonated Blue magnetic mine.

Midget U-Boat activity. U-Boat and midget U-Boat summary 1100Z/13 to 1100Z/14.  
 (1) 1320Z/13. B.Y.M.S. sighted midget U-Boat 120 54B Buoy 4.2 attacked with guns and depth charges.  
 (2) 1330Z/13. Beaufighters G/254 attacked midget 52.11 N., 03.54 E. with depth charges.  
 (3) 1513Z/13 aircraft V/236 attacked midget 51.58 N., 03.48 E. with cannon and M.G.  
 (4) 1720Z/13 ALBRIGHTON and BRISSENDEN attacked contact 128° 54 Buoy 4.9.  
 (5) 1749Z/13, aircraft Q/236 sighted midget 52.07 N., 03.42 E.  
 (6) 0729Z/14 HARRIER attacked doubtful contact near N.F.6 Buoy. (C. in C. Nore, 141835A to Admty.)  
 2-man submarine sighted on the surface in position 310° N.F.5, 3 cables. Area blitzed with depth charge. Submarine surfaced and sunk by gunfire and depth charge. Have 1 prisoner on board slightly wounded.  
 (TORRINGTON, 141957A to C. in C. Nore.)

Naval Situation report. Cositintrep No. 344, Part II, Naval. p.m. March 12th. Midget U-Boat sunk by M.L.442 off Westkapelle. One prisoner taken. Another midget sunk off Ostend by Spitfire and 3 midgets, possibly SEEHUND attacked by aircraft in position 51° 36' N., 02° 33' E.  
 (2) 0228/13 RETALICK sank midget about 10 miles N.W. of Westkapelle.  
 (3) Fishing Vessel hauled in mine in trawl, blew up and sank near Wendyne at 1400 March 13th, no casualties.  
 (4) Beaufighter sighted dinghy about 25 miles off Hook of Holland at noon 13th. Walrus landed alongside and captured only occupant who stated he was crew of W/T controlled motor boat.  
 (A.N.C.X.F., 142358A to Admty.)

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Patrols. Leave patrol at 1930A and proceed to anchor off St. Helens at  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour's notice.

(2) Weigh at 0600A/15th and proceed to patrol area limits Q.Z.S.626, long. Greenwich 50° 10'

N., Q.Z.S. 673.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141207A to BAYNTUN, LOCH DUNVEGAN, LOCH ECK, HAVELOCK.)

BULLDOG take ships addressed under his orders and sail so as to pass Gate at 1630A/14.

(2) Proceed patrol coastal convoy route Lizard to Start.

(3) Convoy T.B.C.96 S.O. Escorts DAHLIA vicinity Start Pt. 0500A/15. Trail to Lizard.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 141435A to BULLDOG, NARBOROUGH.)

FAULKNER take ships addressed under his orders and sail so as to pass Gate at 1915A/14th.

(2) Proceed patrol coastal convoy routed Lizard to Start.

(3) Convoy T.B.C.96, S.O. Escorts DAHLIA vicinity Start Pt. 0500A/15th. Trail to Lizard.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 141726A to FAULKNER, HURON.)

Establish patrol between positions: (A) 49.23 N., 3.55 W. and (B) 49.06 N., 3.49 W. from 0100A/15th to 0400A/15 to cover C.O.C. convoy route against possible surface craft or U-Boats subsequently return to Falmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 142203 to HURON, FAULKNER.)

Defence of  
Cotentin,  
Granville  
and St.  
Malo.

(1) Berths expected available are being advised to C. in C. Plymouth each day. My 130857 (not to all) and sailings should be limited to these in future.

(2) Owing to lack of patrol vessels available this Command, it is not possible to afford much greater protection to anchorage except at expense of more important commitments at major ports. Patrol vessels assigned this Command do not have gunpower to defeat "M" class mine trawlers known to be in Channel Islands. In order to protect shipping in harbours, and ships that may be forced to anchor outside harbours on occasion, it is essential that one destroyer with modern radar fire control equipment be maintained permanently in the area between Granville and St. Malo.

(C.T.F. 125, 141208 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Your 131707A March confirmed.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 141244A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Request P.R. of Channel Islands if possible tomorrow March 15th to locate enemy shipping.

(D.D.I.C., 142305A to J.P.R.C. Benson.)

E.G. 14.

Sailed E.G.14 HESPERUS (S.O.), DUNCAN, ICARUS and INCONSTANT speed of advance 24 knots.

C. in C. Plymouth's 141123 not to N.O.I.C.

Liverpool or Capt. (D) Liverpool refers.

Unifoxer towing wires 18.

(F.O.I.C.N.I., 141357A to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth, Portsmouth.)

14.3.1945.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWest Coast FranceSpanish  
fishermen  
in sink-at-  
sight zone.

Your 081114\*. Vessels should now be released. You should however impress upon masters (a) that they are extremely fortunate not to have been attacked and destroyed on being discovered inside the "sink-at-sight" area and (b) the necessity for keeping outside the "sink-at-sight" areas in future.

(2) Your 121816. Sufficient coal may be supplied on repayment to return to port.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 141305A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

\* Spanish Fishing Trawlers PEPE CHICO and ANTONIO CHICO arrived Falmouth.

OperationsWestern Approaches

Patrols.

Supporting M.K.S.87 then complying with your 132156A. Suitable visibility  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. (S.O. Force 37, 140830A to C. in C. W.A.) Sailed 5th E.G. to rejoin Force 38.

(2) Admiralty is requested to divert mails to their base. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 141037A to C. in C. W.A.)

At 0800 tomorrow 15th Com. (D) W.A. is requested to sail

(A) 20th E.G. to join 4th E.G. in Force 36.

(B) 23rd E.G. to relieve 30th E.G. as Force 37. On relief 30th E.G. to Londonderry to lay-over.

(2) On completion of duties in my 131504 not to all, 22nd E.G. proceed to Liverpool for lay-over.

(3) 19th E.G. if not in contact detach from O.N.290 on crossing  $11^{\circ}$  W. and form Force 34 searching Routes B and C between  $07^{\circ}$  W. and  $09^{\circ}$  W.

(C. in C. W.A., 141741A to A/S Support Groups in W.A. Command.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Operation C.H. Serial A.4, 5 and 6 completed. (APOLLO, 141444 to C. in C. W.A.)

Possible  
U-Boat.

Heavy explosion which produced oil reported  $294^{\circ}$  Trevoze Head 4 at 1500A/14th. Investigate when opportunity offers and look out for floating wreckage. (C. in C. Plymouth, 142056A to DORNOCH.)

Weather-  
reporting  
ship.

COLUMBINE is to sail March 19th to relieve LAVENDER as weather-reporting ship fuelling at Londonderry on outward passage.

(2) E.T.A. in  $53^{\circ}$  N.,  $20^{\circ}$  W. to be reported.

(3) LAVENDER is to proceed to Liverpool on relief. (C. in C. W.A., 142151A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, LAVENDER.)

/Reinforcement ...

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Reinforce- AIRE is allocated temporarily to W.A. Command.  
ment of (2) Consideration will be given to the temporary  
W.A. Command. allocation of INVER nearer her date of readiness.  
C. in C. W.A.'s 101115 not to all refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 142315A to C. in C. W.A.)

OperationsNorway

Operation Ramose Ration. Sailed HITRA (S.O.) and HESSA  
S.C. at 0500A/14th March.  
(2) Air escort not especially required on  
return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 140509A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Ramosse Fortitude. Sailed VIGRA at 0500A/14th March.  
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 140511A to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrol. Request you will sail SPEARHEAD to leave Lerwick  
21st March for working up patrol off Norwegian  
coast between 59° 55' and 60° 25' N.  
(2) Para. 3 of my 281608 to S/M.3 and S.O. S/Ms.  
Lerwick only applies.  
(F.O. S/M., 141339A to S/M.3, S.O. S/M. Lerwick.)  
Positions of submarines at 0800/15th March and movements for  
following 24 hours. All times Zone A.  
(A) SIDON, STUBBORN as in A.M. 122051.  
(B) VENTURER 62° 39' N., 01° 50' E. through 64° 30' N., 04°  
14' E. towards 64° 30' N., 08° 28' E. diving by day, 132 miles  
in 24 hours.  
(C. of W., 141931A to A.I.G. 25.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Convoy Faroes departure MYNGS, SCOPRION, STORD.  
J.W. 65. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 140439A to C.S. 10.)  
Faroes arrival SIOUX at 1505A and HONEYSUCKLE  
sailed at 1542A.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 141600A to Admty.)  
Faroes departure SIOUX, expected to overtake J.W.65 at 2200  
today.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 141659A to Admty.)

Convoy Intend sailing White Sea group 21 consisting  
R.A. 65. of 15 ships from Nikolski Buoy at 1400A/16th  
March.  
(2) The following are ships included ADOLPH S.  
OCHS (Special Cdre.), BRITISH MERIT (T) (Vice  
Cdre.), NERETINA (T), EMPIRE FLINT (T), EDWIN L.

/DRAKE ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy R.A. 65.  
(Contd.)

DRAKE, JOHN WANAMAKER, JOYCE KILMER, HAROLD L. WINSLOW, BYRON DARNTON, FRANCIS SCOTT<sup>KA</sup> GEORGE STEERS, HENRY LOMB, WILLARD HALL, HAWKINS FUDSKE and LEWIS EMERY JUNIOR.

(3) All ships hold recoding tables S.P. 02272 (34), (35) and (36).

(4) Group will R/V with escorts of incoming convoy from J.W.65 at ice edge in vicinity of 67° 50' N., p.m./20th March this date being subject to any necessary alteration. Thence standard route to Kola Inlet speed 9½ knots.

(5) Radio distinguishing call sign allocated to Group 21 3 Q. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 140808A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

15 Catalinas to make passage, U.S.A. to Murmansk via Newfoundland & Greenland.

Reference 112006 March. 45 Group foresee no difficulties in Russians delivering these aircraft without assistance of R.A.F. Captains and Navigators in that there will be difficulty about passing them through staging post Gander, further 45 Group will give such assistance as is required at U.S. terminal and will attend to control, signals and briefing.

(2) It is assumed that this will be a land plane operation as Gander Lake is not expected to be in commission this year.

(H.Q. Transport Command, 141500Z to Air Ministry.)

Anti-U-Boat operations east of 15° E.

C. in C. Northern Fleet intends to renew regular operation of A/C against U-Boats east long. 15° E. except when Allied surface forces or submarines are operating in this area. He requests Admty. concurrence.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 141601A to Admty., C. in C. H.F., C.S.10.)

Enemy Intelligence

German transport Germany to Denmark.

German Refugee Shipping Germany to Denmark. My 131637. Following transport movements since reported from Copenhagen.

(1) March 10th p.m. (A) Arrivals: Transports ANTONIO DELFINO 13,000 ton, KANONER and Sperrbrecher HECTOR (ex KLURBACH) with 2 torpedo boats and 3 M-class M/S. Vessels had come from

Danzig and Gdynia and disembarked 12,000 soldiers and refugees.

(B) Departures: One 2,000 ton Sperrbrecher, one large destroyer believed LEHARDIE one torpedo boat.

(2) March 11th. (A) Arrivals: POTSDAM and transport MARS with one large destroyer disembarked 10,000 men.

(B) Departures: PRETORIA to outer roads.

(3) March 12th. (A) Departures: BARON OXENHAM, ANTONIO DELFINO. During dark hours 5 torpedo boats, one small Klurbach and transport MARS sailed.

(4) Yesterday March 13th. (A) Arrivals: One M-class M/S.

(B) Departures: POTSDAM. B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 141259 to Admty.)

/N.I.D. ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

German transport Germany to Denmark. (Contd.)  
N.I.D. Comment: Para. 1(A) Another report gives HEKTOR ex KURMRK (excluding the word Sperrbrecher) The depot ship KURMARK, 7021 G.R.T., was last seen by P.R. in Swinemunde 22nd December, 1944. Para. 3(A) BARON OXENHAM not identified.

Casualties and Defects

GLEANER, fleet minesweeper.  
(1) GLEANER has been in collision with pilot ship.  
(2) GLEANER unseaworthy. Hole 6 feet long at (corrupt group) deck level. No water being made. Can proceed under own power in good weather.  
(3) GLEANER has been ordered to remain Small Downs.  
(S.O. M.S.F.1, 142135A to C. in C. Nore.)

Movements

LAMERTON, EASTON, destroyers. Arrived LAMERTON and EASTON. (C. in C. Plymouth, 140829A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
BERWICK, cruiser. Sailed BERWICK to comply with C. in C. H.F's 071214A March. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 140921A to C. in C. H.F.)  
A.F.D. B.A.2. My 121208A March sailed. (R.N.O. Inverness. 141245A to N.O.I.C. Leith.)  
KENT, cruiser. KENT accepted into reserve category B by F.O.C. R.F. on 12th March. (F.O.C.R.F., 141720A to Admty.)  
BERMUDA, cruiser. Propose following tentative programme after undocking on March 26th. March 27th, commission ship. March 27th to April 1st (inclusive), store ship. April 2nd, proceed to Tail of the Bank. Preliminary run over, D.G. range. April 3rd, preliminary swing for adjustment of magnetic compasses. 4/5 partial repair steam trial of 2 hours duration. April 4th to April 8th (inclusive), ammunition ship. April 9th a.m. proceed to Glasgow, p.m. tilt test. April 10th noon, proceed to Tail of the Bank, complete with oil fuel. April 11th p.m. sail for Scapa to start working up.  
(2) Propose completing D.G. and magnetic compass adjustments after arrival at Scapa.  
(BERMUDA, 141820 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

IMPLACABLE,  
fleet  
carrier.

Intend to sail IMPLACABLE escorted by TERPSICHORE,  
TUMULT and CARYSFORT leaving Scapa at 0900A  
Friday 16th March and proceed by route in A.M.  
131730 para. 2 not to all addressees.

(2) IMPLACABLE proposes to detach CARYSFORT to  
return Scapa on reaching 15° W. unless otherwise  
ordered by Admiralty. A.M. 021606 not to all addressees  
refers.

(3) IMPLACABLE does not hold Mediterranean basic eastbound  
routes and these are not supplied to C. in C. Home Fleet.  
F.O.G.M.A. is requested to pass to IMPLACABLE necessary  
information to comply with para. 3 of A.M. 131730.  
(C. in C. H.F., 142348A to Admty., F.O.G.M.A.)



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BARFLEUR  
(destroyer).

BARFLEUR at present carrying out gun trials at Gibraltar required to carry out special type performance trials with large H.M. ships.

(2) Trials will be expected to take about 12 hours and target ship will be required to alter course up to 090° from time to time.

(3) It is intended to sail BARFLEUR to R/V you South of Europa Point and to accompany your force to eastward.

(4) It would be appreciated if you would detail one carrier to escort BARFLEUR for this trial and on crossing 042° N. report name of ship detailed together with any amendment to your E.T.A. Europa Point.

(F.O.G.M.A. 141035A to A.C. II in VENERABLE.) See 152237A.

Radar  
contact.

From aircraft disappearing Radar contact in position 036° 41' N. 007° 57' W. at 0015A/14th March, U-Boat may be approaching mouth of Straits and can be in long. of Cape Trafalgar by 0500A/15th March.

(F.O.G.M.A. 141059A to Group 1.)

M.M. sweepers. Sailed from Horta at 1429Z/14th M.M.S. 1056, 1057 for Plymouth routed as in my 121740. S.O.A. 9 knots. E.T.A. p.m. 21st.

(S.B.N.O. Azores 141524Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

H.M.C.S.  
GUYSBOROUGH.

Sailed from Horta at 1333Z/14th H.M.C.S. GUYSBOROUGH for Plymouth routed through GA. 43 N. 15 W. GB 48 N. 07 W. GC. 180°. Lizard 5 miles S.O.A. 11½.

E.T.A. 0900Z/19th.

(S.B.N.O. Azores 141526Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

S/M SYBYL.

H.M. S/M SYBYL for Malta. Departure 1445/14th March.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 141707A to V.A.M.)

F.S. BEARN  
U.S. J.W.  
MCANDREW  
(repairs).

Request you will confirm that F.S. BEARN and U.S. A.T. J.W. MCANDREW can be berthed at Ponta Delgada and temporary repairs carried out.

(2) Dimensions of BEARN length 599 feet, beam 116 feet. Normal draught 30 feet 6 inches.

(D.O.D.(H) 142025A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Reply 151342.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

POINT PLEASANT Survivors from POINT PLEASANT PARK state U-Boat  
PARK was large type painted medium grey with long wide  
torpedoed fore deck and straight stem. No forward gun  
23.2.45 armament consisting of two sets of twin 20 m.m.  
guns and one 40 m.m. gun. All mounted on large  
conning tower. Figure 11 in red painted on bow and  
device painted in dirty white on conning tower  
appeared to resemble a cross on dark grey background. U-Boat  
steered 270° at 10 knots after attack.  
(C. in C. S.A. 140920B to Admty.)

U/B search.

Intend following Omega search A. 009° 50' N. 020°  
22' W. B. 006° 020° anticipating passage east of  
Cape Verde Is. C. 1400/15th. D. 012° 25' N. 021°  
07' W. E. TEES, KILCHRENAN, KILDARY. Max. speed  
unit 13.5 knots.  
(TEES 141825Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

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14.3.1945.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- F.S. LA SETOISE  
Auxiliary Patrol  
Vessel. LE DUGUAY TROUIN, FOUUDROYANT and CAP FAGNET.  
Propose F.S. LA SETOISE escorts as far as Horta French Newfoundland fishing trawlers CAPRICONE, Leaving Casablanca about April 12th.  
(2) A.L. Med. proposes that one French P.C. from Oran be lent temporarily to Casablanca to replace F.S. LA SETOISE.  
(F.O.W.M., 141006A to C. in C. Med.)  
See 151052.
- PRINCE HENRY, L.S.I.(M). Intend to sail PRINCE HENRY at 0900A/15th March to Gibraltar for onward routeing to U.K. in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 281053 Feb. S. of A. 14 knots.  
(2) E.T.A. Boom 1200A/18th.  
(V.A.M., 141040 to F.O.G.M.A.)
- A.F.D.49. Intend sailing FLARE towing A.F.D. 49 escorted by Italian Corvette CORMORANO at 1730B Thursday 15th March to Port Said for onward routeing to Trincomalee.  
(2) E.T.A. about 23rd March.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 141223A to F.O.L.E.M.)  
See 160919A.
- Odessa. Berthing facilities. Following remarks submitted on reception of DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and Consorts at Odessa.  
(1) Only one quay is available normally for troopships of this size and 2 such troopships together would require 3 days to turn round DUCHESS OF BEDFORD is maximum size acceptable.  
(2) There are no water lighters and fresh water can only be supplied at this quay at average of about 5 tons per hour troopships should be warned accordingly.  
(3) Recommended that troopships arriving should not require fuel.  
(4) There are now only about 2 tugs which are seldom available but 2 large American tugs are on their way.  
(5) No Russian boats are available for harbour work and ships not alongside lie well out in roads.  
(6) Radio beacons. Up to March 12th only one ship has contacted Cape Tarkhankut and none Khersonese. Constanza and Kaliakra are best. Tendra seems reliable but not very strong. Bolshoi Rathan less reliable and weak. Black Sea staff have matter in hand and promise improvement. Importance of Tarkhankut has been stressed.  
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 141329C to Admiral Archer.)
- Repatriation P.o.W. etc. Following Air Ministry 1637 addressed 30 Military Mission begins:  
Your Mil. 2555 cipher 13 March\*.  
(1) Whole question of use of transit facilities at Odessa and shipping for liberated Allied Nationals other than British and American under

/urgent ...



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14.3.1945  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EMPIRE SAM  
(tug)  
A.F.D. 20.

Towage of EMPIRE SAM my 280601 (N.T. in W.D.) Feb. not to all. C.O. tug EMINENT considers towage to destination practicable in company with tug DESTINY and A.F.D. 20. Necessary arrangements will be made and further signal made regarding sailing date.  
(C. in C. E.I. 140912Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 140356Z to S. & A. E.I.S.)

S/M TANTIVY.

Sailed submarine TANTIVY at 0700Z/14th to Suez for onward routeing to U.K.  
(2) E.T.A. Suez 0300Z/19th at S.O.A. 11.5 knots.  
(Com. Aden 140831Z to N.O.I.C. Suez.)

7th M/S  
Flotilla.

Request information when 7th M/S Flotilla may be expected to leave Med.  
(C. in C. E.I. 141030Z to C. in C. Med.)

6th M/S  
Flotilla.

6th M.S.F. is allocated to C. in C. E.I. and will be required to leave U.K. first available opportunity after 15th April.  
(2) Unless required for a more urgent escort commitment vessels will form additional escort to Gibraltar for K.M.S. 97 leaving U.K. 17th April.  
(D.M.S. 141213A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, E.I.)  
See amendment 191802A.

Movements.

Arrived BARLE, L.C.T. 736, 1150 in tow of SAMNETRICK, L.C.T. 1054, 1242 in tow of SAMTROY. Arrived and departed L.C.T. 478, 7016 in tow of SAMOA. Departed ROYALIST, NUBIAN, S/M TANTIVY.  
(Com. Aden 141601 to Admty.)

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WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Submarine Attack & Sighting Summary. C. (1) Liberator X/10 in 42.20 N. 54.02 W. radar contact at 2030 and 2050/12th March. All times Z.  
(2) C.T.G. 22.14 attacked contact in 42.16 N. 55.52 W. about 1917/13th March.  
(3) H.M.C.S. MEON with E.G. 27 obtained contact and heard unidentified underwater noise at 1307/13th March in 41.25 N. 58.09 W.

D. (1) Liberator U/10 in 43.22 N. 52.25 W. radar contact at 1125/12th March.  
(N.S.H.Q. 140214Z to Admty., Cominch.)

GATINEAU destroyer Departure Halifax 1230Z/14th March H.M.C.S. GATINEAU independently to St. Johns N.F. Speed 20. E.T.A. 1730Z/15th.  
(3) On arrival request GATINEAU be fuelled and sailed independently for Londonderry.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 141306Z to F.O.N.F.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 141343Z, 141525Z.)

PRINCE DAVID H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID arrived Esquimalt.  
(N.O.I.C. Esquimalt 141443Z to N.S.H.Q.)

KOOTENAY destroyer (R.C.N.) Anticipate KOOTENAY will be ready to sail for U.K. about 21st March. Request ship may be worked up at Tobermory and join E.G. 11 when group is reformed.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 141457Z to C. in C. W.A.)

"Monsters" U/B situation In view of present U/B situation in U.K. coastal waters and to insure accuracy of plot when approaching U.K. propose that eastbound "Monsters" when breaking W/T silence to report E.T.A. should be instructed to include their position.  
(2) Request your concurrence or remarks.  
(D.O.D.(H) 141741Z to Cominch.)  
Concur 151455.

Radar contact. Para. D. 1125Z/12 Liberator U/10 had radar contact 43.22 N. 52.25 W. Admty. give info. H.Q.C.C., B.A.D., N.M.C.J.S. have info. locally.  
(Cominch 142039Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

U/B sweep. Ref. F.O.N.F. 141502 (N.T. in W.D.) Sweeping on 030 throughout the night across estimated path of submarine and altering in 43.49 N. 48.00 W. to 250 at 0800Z/5th. Speed 12.  
(C.T.G. 22.13 142324Z to F.O.N.F.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F. Flag Officers responsibilities of. Organisation for logistic support of the Fleet proposed in your 230326 Feb. is under consideration. It would appear that your proposals are fundamentally different from the Admty.'s view that R.A.F.T. should perform the functions for which you now require an R.A.(Q) R.A.F.T. has been provided with a suitable staff for this purpose.

(2) Without prejudice to Admiralty decision it would be helpful if you would confirm that the following interpretation correctly represents your views:-

- A. The broad logistic plan is passed by you to V.A.(Q).
- B. V.A.(Q) is responsible for detailed logistic planning for the whole British Pacific Fleet.
- C. V.A.(Q) will delegate logistic planning for the forward areas to R.A.(Q) who will be the responsible authority for assessing supplies required by the Fleet.
- D. R.A.(Q) will also be responsible to V.A.(Q) for all facilities ashore in the forward areas.
- E. R.A.(Q) will therefore be equivalent to a Flag Officer in Charge in the forward area and will be the administrative authority for all N.Os. i/c and Commanding Officers of shore establishments in the forward area.
- F. R.A.F.T. will organise and administer the Fleet Train and execute the plans of R.A.(Q) for supplying the Fleet.
- G. R.A.F.T. will receive all supplies through R.A.(Q)
- H. The representative of F.O.N.A.S.(P) in the forward area will work under R.A.(Q) in the same way the F.O.N.A.S.(P) works under V.A.(Q) in Australia.

(3) Para. 4 of your 250341Z Feb. implies that the Commodore 30th Aircraft Carrier Squadron will eventually exercise his functions from a shore base. It is presumed that it is your intention that this officer will then become F.O.N.A.S.(P's) representative in the forward area, vide 2 (H). This would accord with Admty. views. (1st Sea Lord 140219A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Digest 1148 13.3.45 (1) Mindoro Liberators over N.W. Borneo sank single small coaster anchored Jesselton. Sank small coaster, slightly damaged another Comm. slight damage.

(4) Over China coast Navy Liberators sank one fired another of four sea trucks seen 75 ? miles E.N.E. Hongkong.

(6) Patrol Ventura from Morotai destroyed 3 schooners seen with one barge south of Jolo Island (Sulu Archipelago.)

(7) Night 12/13 March P.T. boats from Ormok sank single sea truck heavily loaded with cargo and personnel also destroyed two barges all off east coast Cebu Island. Daylight 12th March Zamboanga P.Ts. destroyed 3 motor launches one whaleboat one boat resembling P.T. (11) Four Mitchells attacked shipping off Swatow sinking one large tanker one destroyer. 12 other Mitchells attacked shipping off Idnanan Island in unfavourable weather sinking 3 damaging eight of 30 Sampans sighted.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 141105Z to Admty.)

/B.P.F....

War Diary.14.3.1945  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

B.P.F., To meet the urgent problem of carrying and  
water for. distributing water to the B.P.F. intend to convert  
BROWN RANGER to carry 2500 tons of water by  
cleaning tanks and pipes but not Cement Washing  
Tanks. Estimated time required 12 days request  
similar conversion of GREEN RANGER while refitting at Bombay may  
be undertaken. GREEN RANGER not at present allocated to Fleet  
Train but requirement for a water carrier is pressing. She could  
be released when the first of the 9000 tons water tankers asked  
for in my 300815Z Jan.\* joins the Fleet Train. The situation at  
Manus is already acute but forward it will be much worse.  
(R.A.F.T. 141410Z to C. in C. B.P.F.) \* N.T. in W.R.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/14th March.  
& sighting Para. A. (1) A/C Q/304 sighted U-Boat on surface  
summary. course 180° at 1835Z/13th March in 51° 48' N. 05°  
35' W.  
Para. B. (1) E.G. 2 attacked U-Boat contact at  
2146Z/12th March in 49° 52' N. 05° 52' W. (2)  
A/C U/537 attacked contact at 0825Z/13th in 60° 02' N. 03° 28' W.  
(3) H.M.T. GRAEMSAY sighted torpedo track and carried out attack  
at 0247Z/14th March in 57° 41' N. 01° 41' W. (4) H.M.C.S.  
STETTLER (E.G. 16) attacked contact course 180° at 0336Z/14th  
March in 52° 18' N. 30° 00' W.  
Para. C. (1) A/C M/86 obtained A.S.V. contact H.T. negative at  
0800Z/13th March in 59° 28' N. 06° 05' W. (2) A/C G/86 obtained  
A.S.V. contact H.T. negative at 0800Z/13th March in 58° 58' N. 02°  
07' W. (3) HASTINGS sighted periscope course 090° at 1350Z/13th  
March in 58° 43' N. 04° 40' W. (4) HASTINGS attacked contact  
course 090° with depth charges at 1645Z/13th March in 58° 43' N.  
03° 57' W. (5) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1822Z/12th March  
in 35° 34' N. 06° 26' W. search proved negative.  
Para. 4. (1) TERPSICHORE attacked very doubtful contact at 1810Z/  
13th March in 58° 40' N. 04° 48' W. (2) Fishing boat JUBILEE  
reported possible U-Boat at 1045Z/13th March in 54° 12' N. 05° 34'  
W.  
(D.D.I.C. 141000Z. to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis- Estimates.  
positions. (D.D.I.C. 141355A, 141400A.)



15. 3. 1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Channel.

1. 6,000 Russians from Northern France, all ex prisoners of war, are to be repatriated between Mar. 23rd and 27th via Cherbourg and Southampton.

Northern Waters.

2. The White Sea Group of convoy R.A. 65, 15 ships, sailed from Archangel with the icebreakers LENIN, STALIN and NORTH WIND. <sup>how</sup> "SEVERNY VETER"

Foreign Stations.

East Indies.

Movement.

3. RICHELIEU (French battleship) arrived at Colombo from Jibouti.

America & West Indies.

Movement.

4. RAJAH (Ferry Carrier) left San Pedro (California) for Pearl Harbour.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

5. (a) FORMIDABLE and UGANDA have arrived Sydney from Colombo.  
(b) ILLUSTRIOUS and STRIKER arrived Manus from Sydney.

China.

6. U.S. Mitchells today bombed and set on fire a destroyer off Swatow and sank a small freighter transport.

War Diary.

15. 3. 1945  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Intended  
raid on  
Dunkirk  
fishermen.

Your 131059A not to Admiralty.  
Intend to raid any fishing vessels operating in approx. position 325° Dunkirk Breakwater 5 miles at about 0200 tomorrow Friday 16th.  
(V.A. Dover 151200A to S.N.O.B.O.P.F.)  
My 151200 postponed.  
(V.A. Dover 152213A to S.N.O.B.O.P.F.)

Exhibition  
of Orfordness  
Light.

My 201050A Jan. para. 3B.  
It has been reported that Orfordness cannot be reduced to a visibility of 5 miles. It is therefore requested that this light should only be shown: A. on request, B. when visibility is less than 2 miles. (2) F.O.I.C. Harwich 131600A not to all addressees refers.  
(C. in C. Nore 151516A to Admty.)

Clearance of  
Dintelsas  
Harbour.

Request you will assess and report risk being run by N.P. 1572 in complying with your 141115 and meanwhile defer action.  
(2) It is emphasised that P parties and their equipment cannot readily be replaced and in near future all will be urgently required.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 151655A to F.O. Holland.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 345 part 4 section.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1500A/14th March.

<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	113	416	7,855	-	12,557	794
Ostend	430	-	1,004	-	-	138
Boulogne	4	54	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,470	-	-
Calais	4,205	-	70	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4,507	-	-	2,363
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,752</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>13,436</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>12,557</b>	<b>3,295</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	46	13,408	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	290	5,400	1,130	-	3,714
Le Havre	6,134	643	6,357	-	-	1,404
Rouen	-	194	6,096	890	744	239
Granville	-	-	-	1,212	-	-
Ghent	-	11	6,060	-	-	2,455
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,134</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>37,321</b>	<b>3,232</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>7,812</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	4,612	712	8,639	981	-	964
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,872	1,000	3,488	2,607
Toulon	-	-	438	-	-	-
Nice	-	-	430	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,612</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>12,379</b>	<b>1,981</b>	<b>3,488</b>	<b>3,571</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 151715A to Admty., and others.)

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15.3.1945  
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

- Patrols and Escorts (1) Sweep through area 7 miles south of E.A. 5 buoy.  
(2) Unexplained explosions reported in vicinity at 1930A/14th.  
(3) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 1526.  
(4) If no visual sign resume patrol.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 151012A to S.O.E.G.10.)  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail FAULKOR (S.O.) and HURON forming force 26 at 1700A, today to establish patrol between positions A. 49.23 N. 3.55 W. and B. 49.06 N. 3.49 W. by 2100. Object to cover C.O.C. convoy route against possible surface craft or U-boats.  
(2) If no contacts by 0500A/16 force 26 is to leave patrol and return to Falmouth passing east and north of C.O.C.105.  
(3) C. O.C. 105 comprising 4 ships escorted by PORCHER for Granville, leaves Plymouth at 2100 speed 7 knots. Route as in my 142246A not to all. 3 ships for Morlaix detach in 49° 10' N. 4° 00' W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 151343A to FAULKOR, HURON, F.O.I.C. Falmouth) Leave present patrol at 0800A tomorrow Friday and proceed to patrol area limits 01° 40' W. 01° 53' W. between 49° 50' N. and 50° 15' N.  
(2) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.774.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 152257A to S.O.E.G.10.)

- Repatriation of 6000 Russians from North France via U.K. T.C. 6169 March 11 refers is subject (to for action War Office for D.P.M.N. Communications Zone Etoussa for G.1 T.P.M. G - 5 O.C.O.T. for information U.K. Base M.O.W.T. (T) Admiralty C.T.F. 122 A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) signed Eisenhower cite S.H.G.D.S.) this confirms verbal arrangements as follows.  
(1) 6000 will be all ex P.o. W.  
(2) Com. Zone is responsible for movement from Cherbourg to Southampton and any Continental Land movement involved.  
(3) War Office is requested to accept responsibility upon disembarkation at Southampton.  
(4) E.T.D.'s at Cherbourg are 23 - 26 March inclusive to arrive Southampton 24 - 27 March inclusive.  
(5) Cross Channel lift has been arranged by O.C.O.T. and will be further detailed.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 151630 to W.O.)

- Possible U-boats Following reported by fisherman,  
A. Large Submarine course W. without markings or flags sighted 14th March 0900 50° 12' N. 01° 27' E.  
B. Small submarine inaction of mooring mines course S.W. sighted 14th March 1400 50° 21' N. 01° 31' E.  
(Comar 4, 151816A to C. in C. Nore.)

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

E.G. 6. (1) If not in contact leave patrol at 0001/16th and proceed by standard routes to Londonderry for layover.  
(2) Report your E.T.A. to Commodore D. W.A.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 151015A to S.O.E.G. 6.)

Possible U-Boat. Detached from U.C. 60A. Proceeding to investigate vicinity 218° Tuskar Rock 26 where S.O.E.G. 14 reported distant explosion at 2204/14th, possibly a "Gnat" in H.S. wake. Suitable. Heavy mist. (S.O. Force 38 151017A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Carry out operation "C.H." A, line 7. D lines 1 and 2. 0730 March 16th. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 151031 to APOLLO.)

Patrols & escorts. By D/F fixes last night 2 or more German U-Boats may be in general area 55° N. 15° W. Search area between parallels 54° 30' and 55° 30' and meridians 14° 30' and 16° 00'.  
(C. in C. W.A. 151121A to S.O.E.G. 20.)

S.O.E.G. 23 has assumed S.O. Force 37 and is supporting H.X. 341. First Division 30th E.G. joining Second Division supporting M.H.52. (S.O.E.G. 30 151618A to C. in C. W.A.)

Establish following patrols by 1200A/16. E.G. 15 Trevoze Head to 05° 30' W. E.G. 2 2nd Division 05° 30' W. to Eddystone. (C. in C. Plymouth 151842A to S.O.E.Gs. 2, 15.)

Your 061632. Trawlers CEYLONITE and ORVICTO and Steam Drifter ADELPHI are allocated to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven for local patrol in place of N.A.Y's ANNE, SULARA and JACANA.

(2) Disposal instructions for the three yachts will be issued later. Officers and crews for ORVICTO and ADELPHI will be sent as soon as possible.

(3) A.M. 101044 February not to C. in C. W.A. or F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is cancelled.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 152148A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operations "S.C." Ramose Fortitude and Ramose Ration. Request extension of air attack restrictions until further notice.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 151117A to C. in C. H.F.)

/Operation...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Operation  
"Chuck."

Request you invite 18 Group to consider carrying out operation "Chuck" in Aaramsund 62° 12' 10" N. 5° 29' 40" E. as soon as weather conditions permit. This is likely to present M.T.Bs. with further good targets.  
(C. in C. H.F. 151119A to C. in C. Rosyth, 18 Grp.)

Patrols.

Intend sailing D.S. DOLFIJN 1000/17th March through A. 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles. B. 61° 24' N. 00° 12' E. C. 61° 24' N. 02° 00' E. D. 60° 52' N. 04° 00' E.

To patrol off Fejeosen between 60° 30' N. and 61° 05' N.

(2) D.S. DOLFIJN proceed diving by day east of 01° E. Speed west of 01° E. 8 knots. East of 01° E. 110 miles per 24 hours.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 151818A to F.O. S/M.)

Leave patrol so as to pass position 60° 46' N. 04° 00' E. at 0445/17th March, thence to Lerwick by reverse of outward route diving by day east of 01° E.

(2) Attention is called to I.S.O.H. 211.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 151825A to STUBBORN.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Possible  
U-Boat.

Whilst escorting W.N. 79 attacked firm contact in 58° 43' 48" N. 04° 51' 24" W. Remaining in vicinity and holding contact till daylight to confirm.  
(YORK CITY 150332A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

Convoy  
R.A. 65.  
\*Now "SEVERN VETER"

White Sea group 21 sailed 0600A today in company with icebreakers STALIN, \*NORTH WIND, LENIN. My 140808A refers, time of sailing advanced owing to ice conditions.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 150839A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

E.G. 17.

If situation permits it is intended that E.G. 17 shall lay over at Methil for 48 hours on completion of present duty.

(2) Report fuel ammunition and other requirements.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 151037 to S.O.E. G.17.)

Anti-U-Boat  
operations  
east of 15° E.

Your 141601. Request you will inform C. in C. Northern Fleet that British submarines will operate up to 20° E. until 22nd March and request that Russian aircraft may be warned accordingly.

(2) After 22nd March concur in proposal.  
(D.O.D. (H) 151055A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Your 141601 concur.

(C. in C. H.F. 151137A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

/Second...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Second possible U/B.

Initial position of attack given by aircraft S/224 at 1430 was 57° 52' N. 01° 45' W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 151850A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

Operations.

Baltic.

Gdynia Intelligence Mission.

Substance your 091656\* and request for early clearance submitted Soviets on 10th through Army, Navy and Diplomatic Channels. Last night Gen. Slavin informed Gen. Deane the General Staff did not approve the arrival plan requested because they could not yet foresee date of capture of city. Troops now against most difficult fixed fortifications. Deane emphasized need of early entry Party before inadvertent destruction valuable evidence. Slavin replied they are just as keen to get full Intelligence as we are and that front line troops have special instructions to preserve all evidence of German technical activities Ad. Archer has all info. (Alusna Moscow 150824Z to Comnavu.)

\* Ref. 091656. Admiralty and Comnavu agreed that delay in entering Gdynia was not contemplated in planning this Mission. It is urgently pointed out that delay exceeding 24 hours has shown by Field experience in France to result in serious loss of intelligence.

Enemy Intelligence.

German Transport between Norway & Denmark.

German military transports between Norway and Denmark.  
(2) Following transport movements have been reported from Aarhus:  
A. MAR DEL PLATA in company with MARS arrived Aarhus from Norway February 21st. <sup>MAR DEL</sup> PLATA returned Norway February 22nd again arriving February 25th and leaving February 27th with a few troops.  
B. MARS having arrived February 21st left February 22nd in ballast with MOLTKEFELS.  
C. MOLTKEFELS arrived February 22nd with infantry from 169 Division signal detachment, 3 Companies German Air Force troops and left in ballast same day.  
D. MARCO BRUNNER arrived February 23rd and left in ballast same day with TIJUKA.  
E. NEIDENFELS arrived February 23rd with 1 Infantry battalion from 169 Division and 1 Battery from 169 Division Pioneer Regiment Staff, A/A regiment staff and several anti-aircraft batteries. She left for Norway February 24th returning March 2nd with (corrupt group) and Medical detachments.

/F...

War Diary.

15.3.1945  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German  
Transport  
between  
Norway &  
Denmark.  
(Contd.)

F. TIJUKA left February 23rd in ballast returning February 27th in company of ROLANDSECK carrying one Infantry Regiment and Artillery detachment and 200 Russian prisoners. She left for Norway March 3rd in company with LEVNA carrying military stores.

G. ISAR in company with HANSA 1 arrived February 24th from Norway carrying A/A troops (a few?) German prisoners and material. Both vessels left February 25th.

H. My 261856 February para. F. WINRICH VON KNIPRODE left Aarhus February 21st for repairs at Bremerhaven.

(3) B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm 151229 to Admty.)

N.I.D. Comment. Shipping movements believed correct except para. H. WINRICH VON KNIPRODE has not been seen in Bremerhaven by recent photographic R/Cs and probably went to the Baltic.

Movements.

LLANDUDNO,  
WORTHING,  
minesweepers.

Ref. ALM/C 5157/45 of 26th February to patrols Lowestoft only. H.M. ships LLANDUDNO and WORTHING have been inspected by officers from this depot and are considered suitable. It is understood that LLANDUDNO can be made available immediately and it is therefore requested she be sailed for Lowestoft and paid off on arrival, being manned on a care and maintenance basis by this depot, Engineer Officer and Chief E.R.A. to be retained. It is proposed WORTHING should be sailed direct to Lowestoft when available to relieve SHARPSHOOTER for sea going training.  
(EUROPA 151800 to Admty.)

DUKE OF YORK  
battleship.

The following alterations are necessary in completion programme for E.R. 7554.  
My 011601 March refers.  
22nd March continue R.P.C. trials for 2 pounder pompons. 26th March R.P.C. trials of forward D.C.T. 26th March 2 pounder Mark VII P equipment.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 151937 to Admty., EXCELLENT, VERNON.)

ALRESFORD  
minesweeper.

Intend to sail ALRESFORD to Milford Haven to complete reduction to reserve category 'C' a.m. Saturday 17th March in T.B.C. 99.  
(2) ALRESFORD is non-operational and all ammunition has been disembarked.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 152132A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

MERMAID,  
BLACK SWAN  
sloops.

When ready about 26th March and 3rd April respectively MERMAID and BLACK SWAN should be sailed for Tobermory for A.S. work up on completion of which they are temporarily to join Western Approaches Command.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

MERMAID,  
BLACK SWAN,  
sloops.  
(Contd.)

(2) Subsequent arrangements for A.A. work up will be made before ships join East Indies Command.  
(D.O.D.(H) 152350A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Granville  
coasters.

(1) Your 131732 to C.T.F. 125.  
(2) Deep draught coasters not employed on the Granville run. Only slight delay experienced in the past when there have been abnormally poor neap tides.  
(D. of S.T. 151842A to A.N.C.X.F.)  
(1) Ref. 111537 from C.T.F. 125 to C. in C. Plymouth.  
(2) Granville programme has now been resumed in agreement with S.H.A.E.F. which will dispense with necessity for despatching vessels to Cancele anchorage for subsequent calling forward.  
(3) Possibilities of congestion will be kept under review and adjustments made from time to time if necessary.  
(4) Agreed movements W.O.  
(D. of S.T. 151843A to C.T.F. 122.)

Channel  
Coastal  
Convoy  
Commodores.

Further to my 091231 and in view of C.T.F. 125 111532 (not to all), Commodores will cross to Le Havre in W.V.C. convoys and it is requested they may be returned to Cowes following night as Commodore of V.W.P. convoys.  
(2) This arrangement will start forthwith and if necessary adjustments made in light of experience gained.  
(3) The points raised in C.T.G. 125.15 101422 (not to all) are noted and it is hoped that occasions when real difficulty is encountered will not be frequent.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 152333A to C.T.G. 122.3.)



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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

E.G. Ship being in all respects ready for war H.M.S. WOODRUFF is to take H.M.S. BELLWORT and H.M.S. CROCUS under his orders to proceed at 1800A March 15th to anchor in Mole anchorage keeping steam at one hours notice.

Patrol. (2) Group II is to weigh at 0330A March 16th and proceed to take up patrol on a line between Cape Spartel and Cape Trafalgar. (F.O.G.M.A.151028A to Group 2)  
My 151028. LOWESTOFT replaces WOODRUFF in Group II. (F.O.G.M.A.151128A to LOWESTOFT.)

J.W.

F.S. BEARN, Your 142025<sup>A</sup> MCANDREW can be berthed and repairs carried out.  
U.S.J.W. French A/C Carrier BEARN cannot be berthed on account of size.  
MCANDREW My 141718 not to all also refers.  
(repairs). (S.B.N.O. Azores, 151342Z to Admty.)  
Cancelled by 161934 from S.B.N.O. Azores, EARL, K. OLSEN.)

For information U.S.A.T. J.W. MCANDREW carrying 1700 troops and F.S. BEARN have been in collision and are proceeding towards Ponta Delgada at 6 knots escorted by U.S.A. EARL K. OLSEN E.T.A. 0800Z March 17th.

(2) Cominch has been asked to divert SS. ATHLONE CASTLE to tranship troops from J.W. MCANDREW about March 23rd. (D.O.D.(H), 152212A to B.N.A. Lisbon)

BARFLEUR H.M.S. COLOSSUS detailed. E.T.A. Gibraltar Bay  
(Destroyer). 1300A/17th. Your 141035 refers.  
(3) E.T.A. Malta, 0900A/20th.  
(F.O.A.(Squadron 11), 152237A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

Independent My 131140. In view of present appreciation that  
Sailings. there is no S/M off Port Etienne and that North-bound One is in vicinity of 13 degs. N. 21 degs. W. consider standard route East of 18.30 W. are clear. Intend therefore to recommence independent sailings to Casablanca from Freetown 16th March and from Dakar 19th March subject to concurrence of F.O.G.M.A. (F.O.C.W.A.F. 151301Z to Admty and F.O.G.M.A.) Concur 161113.

MONKSHOOD Sailed MONKSHOOD to East London to refit.  
Corvette. (2) S. of A. 12 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. 1200Z/16th.  
(Cmdre. I/C R.N. Establ. Durban, 151532Z to Admty)

/U-Boat ...



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ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Ships for Admiralty pass via B.N. Mission Moscow to  
Black Sea. Alusna Moscow. C.S.A. Istanbul pass to Alusna  
Odessa and Alusna Istanbul.  
Passing Straits of Gibraltar 15th March, are the  
following vessels with destination Odessa.  
Approximate dates of arrival Piraeus 21st March, Istanbul 24th  
March, Turkistan 26th March.  
GEORGE L. BAKER (KOBW), LOUIS JOLIET (KKGS), ESSO CONCORD (Tanker)  
(1 ship) WSOA) will be delayed at Oran approx. 15 hours for  
repairs.  
Request appropriate Turkish and Soviet Union authorities be  
informed.  
(C. in C. Med. 150948A to Consular Shipping Advisor Istanbul)

F.S.LA Your 141006A provided F.O.G.M.A. has no objection  
SETOISE. French Fishing Trawlers should proceed unescorted  
from Casablanca.  
(2) With overall shortage of Escorts it is not  
desired to detain LA SETOISE for such duty.  
(3) Admiralty is requested to clear this movement with British  
Canadian and U.S. Authorities concerned.  
(C. in C. Med, 151052A to F.O.W.M. Admiralty)

Mines laid Pass to Admiralty and Air Ministry.  
by A/C in Russian Naval Representative A.C.C. pressing for  
Danube. information re delay action properties of mines  
laid by our own A/C in the Danube including number  
of sweeps required to detonate. Request nec-  
essary details be communicated as soon as possible  
also limits of danger areas.  
(B.M.M. Hungary 151635A to W.O.)

KELANTAN KELANTAN is now required to join British Pacific  
(maintenance Fleet and should be sailed at earliest convenience  
ship) mine- to Ceylon for onward routeing.  
sweepers. (2) My 291214 Dec. and C. in C. B.P.F.'s 080833 not  
to all refer.  
(V.C.N.S. 151650A to C. in C. Med.)

Italian It is confirmed that GIADA and NICHELIO are  
S/Ms. sister ships and both have five cylinder Fiat  
325 R engines. It is also considered desirable  
to place these two under United States control  
since parts are identical with those for eight  
cylinder Fiat 328 R engines in MAREA and ONICE already at  
Bermuda.  
(2) ALAGI and DIASPRO both have C.F.D.A. four Q.38 engines.  
These engines have proved unreliable but ample spares have been  
available by canniballising engines of same type in TURCHESE.  
It is not recommended that DIASPRO is sent out of Mediterranean  
or separated from Alagi already under British control.  
(3) ONICE has Fiat 374 R diesels which are different from those  
in all above mentioned ships.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 151655A to C. in C. Med. Concur 161119A.)  
Note: passed to Admiralty for information.

/WAVENEY ...

15.3.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

WAVENEY,  
NITH,  
L.S.H.(S).

Sailed (1) WAVENEY. (2) NITH to Aden for onward routing to East Indies Station. (W) E.T.A. 0700Z/19th March S. of A. 15 knots. (N.O.I.C. Suez, 151803B to Admty.)

ODZANI  
(Frigate).

Sailed ODZANI to Aden for onward routing to East Indies station. (2) E.T.A. 0800Z/20th March S. of A. 15 knots. (N.O.I.C. Suez, 151839B to Admty.)

GLENROY  
L.S.J.(L).

Sailed GLENROY by standard Red Sea route to Aden. (2) E.T.A. Aden 1000Z/18th March. S. of A. 17 knots. (N.O.I.C.Suez, 151945B to Admty.)

Spanish  
Ambassador.

Spanish authorities have requested permission for a minor Naval unit or private yacht to convey new Spanish Ambassador to Quirinal accompanied by family and servants to any Italian Port nominated by you. Request instructions. (B.N.A. Madrid, 152001A to C. in C. Med.)

15.3.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-boat  
dispositions

No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. Station, 150601Z to S. and A.  
E.I. Station.)

India  
Internal  
Situation

C. in C. India, 151230, W.O.  
See Lion Copy.

IMPLACABLE  
F.C.

In order to economise destroyer escorts and so  
that TUMULT and TERPSICHORE may work up under  
Capt. (D) 24 propose these ships continue as  
escort for IMPLACABLE to Ceylon. Ref. A.M.  
111835 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all refers.  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 151407Z to Admty. approved  
151407 (sic) from Admty.)

Movements  
S/M O.24

Arrived L.C.T. 1059 and 1105 in tow of FORT ACTON  
Departed L.C.T. 1054 and 1242 in tow of SAMTROY.  
L.C.G.5 in tow of FORT ABITIBI, S/M O.24.  
(Aden, 151623Z to Admty.)

# SECRET

E. I.  
IN  
273A

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.)

*India  
Internal Settlement*

151230/March

From: C. in C. India

Date: 18.3.45.

CYPHER

To: War Office.

IMPORTANT

WX. 19240. 68424/GSI (B): CIPHER 15 Mar.

For D.M.I.

In continuation of my No. 63712/GSI (B) of 1 March.

Following summary internal India.

One. Latest Allied successes in Europe regarded as beginning of last and decisive phase of European war. Allied entry into Mandalay also welcomed with enthusiasm but tempered by realisation that Japan can still put up stiff fight before final victory. Nationalist Press demands inclusion of leaders of major political parties as delegates in San Francisco Conference.

Two. Gandhis health almost recovered after recent illness. Believed that his present policy is to allow constructive programme to proceed without interference, while waiting for suitable moment to intervene in political situation. He is apparently not opposed to various moves for political settlement and for formation of national government on terms already set out by him provided government release Congress Leaders. Sapra Committee still progressing slowly owing to divergencies of opinion and in face of growing Hindu opposition to compromise with Muslim League. NWF Province League Ministry resigned as result of no confidence motion sponsored by Congress. Kidayatallah Ministry in Sind also resigned as result of pressure from League opposition party and Mandate from Jinnah. Dr. Kahn Sahib (or Dr. Khan Sahib) has now formed Congress Ministry in NWF Province and Hidayatallah has formed new League Ministry in Sind.

Three. Annual budget generally approved apart from usual criticisms in National Press. Procurement of grain being held up in Bengal owing lack of storage space. Cloth and coal situation in Bengal still very difficult. Some deterioration in Bihar food situation reported due to adverse weather conditions and removal of movement restrictions, resulting in high prices and black market. Scarcity of grain and high prices also prevailing locally in Kathiawar mainly due to bad distribution and deficient administration on part of small states.

Four. DIB. agrees.

Five .....

Five. British troops morale unchanged. War situation on all fronts has raised very high hopes of early peace. Repatriation after 3 years 10 months now generally considered satisfactory but further reduction expected after defeat of Germany. Indian Troops morale unchanged. Most dissatisfied class is British personnel of Indian Army. Through not receiving Jap Campaigning Pay many now paid less than equivalent British Service. Also do not qualify for certain home leave and repatriation privileges.

Six. A.G. agrees.

151230

Advance copy: Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

Recd. in War Registry 2353/18/Mar.

Circulated by War Office to War Office Depts., A.C.G.R.A.A.F. and Admiralty.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (3)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- Sec.
- F.A.S. (1)
- D.N.I. (5)
- C.N.I. (2)
- M. (3)
- O.D. (6)
- W.D.

15.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Italian submarines. A.M. 131115 proposes to offer to U.S.N. GIADA and DIASPRO, although F.O.T.A.L.I. recommends that DIASPRO should not leave Mediterranean, a fact of which U.S.N. are aware.  
(2) Request early comments.  
(B.A.D., 150011Z to Admty.)

J.W. MCANDREW, F.S. BEARN (repairs). S.B.N.O. Azores 141718 being passed to addressees concerned. Intend - (A) J.W. MCANDREW proceeds to Ponta Delgada to tranship troops to ATHLONE CASTLE.  
(B) BEARN proceed to Casablanca if practicable.  
(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to report if escort can be provided for BEARN from Azores to Casablanca.  
(3) Request concurrence of Cominch and diversion of ATHLONE CASTLE in accordance with B.A.D. Washington's 142211 not to all.  
(4) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange additional escort for ATHLONE CASTLE in U.K. approaches.  
(D.O.D.(H), 151246A to Cominch.) Concur 152155Z.

U/B dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 151352Z, Cominch 151547Z)

H.M.C.S. KENORA (Fleet minesweeper) C. in C. C.N.A. 282007 Feb. not to all. Requests H.M.C.S. KENORA (Bangor Minesweeper) R/V with U.G.S.80 convoy top up fuel and proceed Horta Azores. KENORA reports E.T.A. Horta after detaching at point designated by C.T.G. 60.5.  
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 151444 to C.T.G. 60.5.)

Monsters and U/B situation. Concur your 141741Z regarding Monster position and E.T.A. desire same procedure westbound.  
(Com. 10th Fleet, 151455Z to Admty.)

Convoys. U.G.S.82 departing New York and Hampton Roads 23-24 March for Western Med. will be escorted by Task Group 60.7. Cdr. McCune in ERICSSON, AMICK, ATHERTON, BOOTH, BANGOR. Escorts lay-over Oran. When C. in C. Med. directs return escorting G.U.S. 84.  
(Cinclant, 151719Z to C.T.G. 60.7.)

RIMOUSKI (diffused lighting) Admiralty 282039A/2/45 to F.O.I.C. Greenock etc. Have attended one series of trials with H.M.C.S. RIMOUSKI under favourable weather conditions. Admittedly a very brief experience. I am impressed by the performance of this equipment and consider good prospects for effective use primarily in vessels routed independently, those hunting submarines and for all types of invasion vessels.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 151833Z to Admty.)

/RIVIERE DU LOUP ...



15.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

RIVIERE  
DU LOUP,  
corvette. Admiralty 271801A\* not to all. Request date of completion RIVIERE DU LOUP may be signalled and ship sailed on completion defects to join Group C.3 escorting S.C.170. (F.O.N.F., 151836Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
\* Re repairs on RIVIERE DU LOUP.

Asdic  
contact. Para. (D) U.S.S. WOONSOCKET~~T~~ asdic contact 0736Z/15th March in 46.24 N., 53.11 W. (N.S.H.Q., 151857Z to Admty.)

U-Boats. 231020Z November 1944.  
GUS W. DARNELL hit by enemy A/C torpedo off Samar now considered a constructive total loss.  
Para. (B) 0336Z/14 H.M.C.S. STETTLER attacked  
U-Boat contact 52.18 N., 30.00 W.  
Para. (D) (1) 1200Z/15 fishing vessel reported sighting U-Boat 40.59 N., 70.47 W. Friendly P.Ts. in area.  
(2) 1628Z/15 A/C had radar contact 42.46 N., 68.17 W. (Cominch, 152004Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

BONAVENTURE  
S/M Depot  
ship,  
B.P.F. BONAVENTURE departs Trinidad 16th 1100 for Cristobal, route. Speed 15.5, E.T.A. 191200. (?B.N.O. Trinidad, 152010 to Comcarib etc.)

ARIADNE,  
minelayer. ARIADNE's 071830. Is ship's proposed call at Bermuda approved?  
(2) ARIADNE leaves Canal Zone 18th March. (B.A.D., 152017Z to Admty.)  
Approved by D.O.D.(F) 161132A.

U/B  
contact. Dropped one pattern of depth charge on possible submarine contact in 046° 40', 052° 54' at 2240Z. Contact now lost. (H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE, 152318Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
1149,  
14th March.  
(extract) (1) Navy Liberators from Clark Field over China Coast sank one sea truck, one small coaster, damaged another sea truck, two small coasters, one patrol craft somewhere off China coast, sank two luggers left another two burning sinking off Amoy.

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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandDigest  
1149,  
14th March.  
(extract).  
(Contd.)

(2) Other Liberators over Nansei Shoto attacked 11 possible motor torpedo boats Okinawa Jima sinking three, damaging two others, also sinking two luggers same area; bombed strafed left burning one large; three small sea trucks Naha.

(3) Other Liberators over Formosa damaged single small coaster off west coast.

(6) Zamboanga forces continued slow advance towards Pasananca against delaying action supported by controlled land mines, booby traps, artillery. Leading elements entered town encountering intense artillery and small arms fire. Some sporadic machine gunfire received during night, also small scale infiltration attacks. Single enemy fighter ineffectively bombed strafed Womfe Field.

(7) Batangas forces secured Camp McGrath, advanced on to Cafumpen Peninsula, reached outskirts Sefto Tomaf. Before dawn four Japanese barges landed estimated 100 troops behind American lines on Batangas Bay temporarily cutting communication. Barges destroyed and enemy being hunted down. Further advances reported East Antipolo. Further north American forces reached point 14,000 yards north Yarranglan. Known enemy casualties Luzon to date number 76,598 killed, 793 captured.

(8) Fifth Air Force operations for day. 69 Liberators dropped 243 tons of bombs on Mako Naval Base (Pescadores) causing explosions, fires, hitting Naval warehouses, power plant, jetties, radio station, fuel tanks. Mitchell fired one sea truck, damaged three others entering Amoy harbour.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 151015Z to Admty.)

Survey.

Your 021005 the survey from Booby Island westward to 10 fathom line is modern and detailed. Consider the resurvey of this area should take the form of test lines run in conjunction with sweeping.

(2) Your 061020. Examination of all surveys since 1921 shows conclusively that the channel immediately north of Booby Island is not stable and it is considered that the controlling depth must be regarded as being 33 feet. As this depth of 33 feet can be accepted it is agreed that a resurvey of this channel can be deferred.

(3) Your 021005. It is considered that the establishment of a suitable channel referred to in my 191831 Feb. should now take priority over all other surveying commitments referred to in your para. 4. <sup>5</sup>

(Hydrographer, 161750A to A.C.N.B.) *See 130400 Z Aug*

United  
States  
aircraft  
report.

(1) Nagasaki. March 10th. 1 aircraft carrier 720 feet long. Probably SORYU class ship still fitting out.

(2) Eastern Island Sea. March 15th. 1 aircraft carrier steering east at 25 knots.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 151919Z to Admty. D.N.I.)

/B.P.F. ...

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15.3.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand - Contd.

B.P.F. In accordance with request of originator, this  
Signal from is a re-encypherment of C.T.F. 113's 150611  
T.G. addressed C. in C. Pac. (both headquarters),  
Commander. Info. C.T.F. 112, V.A.(Q), F.O.N.A.S.(A), C. in  
C. B.P.F., Admty.  
"I hereby report Task Force 113 and Task Force  
112 for duty in accordance with orders received  
from C. in C. Britpacfleet. I have recalled ships from sea  
exercises and am embarking air squadron from shore training.  
Anticipate T.F.113 with complementary units of T.F.112 will  
be ready by 1200K/17th March to sail from Manus as you may  
direct. I would add that it is with a feeling of great pride  
and pleasure that the Britpacfleet joins the U.S. Naval Forces  
under your command".  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 151939Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/15th March.  
and sighting Para. (A) (1) MAGNE sunk probably by U-Boat at  
summary. 1302Z/14th March in 55° 52' N., 01° 59' W.  
*u 714* Para. (B) (1) NATAL attacked contact at 1509Z/  
*sink* 14th March in 55° 53' N., 01° 58' W.  
(2) WIVERN attacked contact at 1826Z 15 X5 14th  
March in 55° 52' N., 01° 58' W.  
(3) H.M. Ships CONCERTATOR and LORRAINE attacked periscope with  
depth charges at 1455Z/10th March in 50° 36' N., 05° 15' W.  
(4) A/C X/107 saw smoke and wake at approx. 1015Z/14th March in  
51° 44' N., 07° 10' W.  
(5) A/C B/86 obtained disappearing contact at X 2114Z/14th  
March in 57° 49' N., 09° 54' W.  
(6) A/C B/53 attacked disappearing radar contact at 2250Z/13th  
March in 61° 32' N., 12° 51' W.  
(7) Transit A/C saw wake at X 0745Z/13th March in 09° 20' N.,  
20° 15' W.  
(8) A/C had A.S.V. contact at 2204Z/13th March in 09° 50' N.,  
20° 22' W.  
Para. (C) (1) E.G.17 attacked bottom contact probably wreck at  
1010Z/14th March in 58° 54' N., 02° 01' W.  
(2) H.M. Ships ALBRIGHTON and BRISSENDEN attacked contact at  
1720Z/13th March in 51° 52' N., 01° 52' E.  
(3) HARRIER attacked doubtful contact at 0729Z/14th March in  
51° 22' N., 02° 35' E.  
(4) LANCASTER attacked doubtful contact at 2205Z/14th March in  
55° 53' N., 01° 59' W.  
(5) ROLFSBORG (ex T.B.C.95) reported heavy underwater explosion  
at 1400Z/14th March in 50° 34' N., 05° 07' W.  
(6) H.M.C.S. GLACE BAY had contact believed wreck at 1505Z/14th  
March in 51° 27' N., 08° 23' W.  
(7) A/C T/14 had radar contact at 2057Z/14th March in 50° 40'  
N., 05° 00' W.  
(8) E.G.14 reported unexplained explosion at 2104Z/14th March  
/in ....

15.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. (Contd.) in 51° 49' N., 06° 32' W.  
(9) A/C Z/202 obtained disappearing radar contact at 060 0630Z/15th March in 57° 44' N., 15° 52' W.

(10) A/C had disappearing radar contact at 2515Z/10th March in 36° 41' N., 07° 57' W.  
Para. (D) (1) YORK CITY attacked contact at X 0232Z/15th March in 58° 43' N., 04° 51' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 151259A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C., 151422A, 151445A.)

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 20 miles off shore between 58° and 70° N).
  - Northern waters (north of 58° N. outside "Norway").
  - Baltic (eastward of the Skaw).
- Enemy Intelligence
- Navigational
- Port Facilities
- Casualties
- Movements (of H.M. Ships)
- Shipping and Convoys

FOREIGN STATIONS

(Classification by stations).

- North Atlantic
- South Atlantic
- Mediterranean
- East Indies
- America and West Indies
- Australia and New Zealand
- U-boat Campaign

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

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

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

War Diary

16.3.1945  
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea 1(a) One ground mine was detonated off the Wash.  
(b) U.S. L.C.V.P. have ascended the Rhine as far as Remagen, where they are proving of great value, towing pontoons and net cables, evacuating casualties, and in engineering maintenance work.
- Western Approaches 2. SS. INGERTOFT was torpedoed in Convoy R.U.156 in the Little Minch at 0920. E.Gs. 3 and 31 are hunting for the U-boat, so far without success.
- Northern Waters 3. Owing to difficult ice conditions in the Dvina River, 6 ships only (including 2 tankers) out of Convoy J.W.65 will be sent to the White Sea.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Gulf of Genoa 4. During last night the LANSQUENET (French escort vessel) sank an E-boat in the Ligurian Sea. 10 casualties were sustained in LANSQUENET including the Captain.
- Italy 5. One old Italian mine was swept up 12 miles south-east of Taranto today.
- Adriatic 6(a) During last night coastal force off Caorle (Gulf of Venice) attacked 5 F lighters with torpedoes. All enemy craft were hit and seen to sink. (Ref. 17222A).
- Air attack on Monfalcone (b) Shipping and harbour facilities were damaged, including one submarine capsized, one badly damaged and two floating docks damaged by air attack in the Monfalcone port area today.
- Adriatic (c) Liberators dropped 230 tons of H.E. on shipping and harbour installations at Monfalcone (16 miles N.W. of Trieste). Good results are reported.

16.3.1945  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

S/M  
SEADOG

7. S/M SEADOG on her 1st Far East patrol on 27th while on air and sea rescue duties, rescued 4 of crew of an American B.29. On the 6th March off Port Blair fired 2 torpedoes which missed a 500 ton coaster. Subsequent action broken off after 3 hits due to shore batteries engaging.

S/M  
SEASCOUT

8. S/M SEASCOUT on her 2nd Far East patrol reports that on 23rd February in the Malacca St. she sank 7 native vessels totalling 113 tons. On 7th March at Ulee Lhoe (N. Sumatra) she fired 2 torpedoes at a 300 ton coaster considered sunk. Also scored 2 torpedo hits on pier at Ulee Lhoe.

S/M  
SUPREME

9. S/M SUPREME reports that during her 3rd Far East patrol, 1st - 6th March she sank 4 native craft off Belawan (N.E. Sumatra), taking 5 prisoners. On 10th March in 4° 30' N. 98° 16' E. bombarded beached coaster 15 hits.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines

10. One Company from the 41st Division (American) this morning made an unopposed landing on Basilan Island, south of Zamboanga, after bombardment by allied warships. Advanced patrols were still unopposed on 17th.

Japan

11(a) Surface units of Pacific Fleet bombarded Matsuwa Island in the Kuriles (N.E. of Japan) causing a large explosion and several large fires. Shore based batteries opened fire but caused no damage. (172256)

(b) Iwo Jima has been captured. Organised resistance ceased at 6.0 p.m. today when U.S. Marines reached northern end of island.

Australia.  
SIBIGO  
loss of

12. SIBIGO (Dutch 1594 tons) foundered in heavy weather 110 miles E. of Cairns (Queensland) today. There were 13 survivors. (D.O.R.2047)

16.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Intended raid on fishermen N.W. of Dunkirk. Intend to carry out my 151200A tonight 16/17. (V.A. Dover 161230A to S.N.O.B.O.P.F.)

Clearance of Dintelsas Harbour. Your 151655.. Action proposed in my 141115 has been deferred pending further consultation. (F.O. Holland 161500A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Patrols. Night dispositions 16/17th March.  
Humber force. Group 2 harbour MIDDLETON.  
Harwich force. Group 3 patrols 1 HAMBLEDON, 3 FARNDALE, 5 PUFFIN, 12 EKINS, 14 TALYBONT, 16 STAYNER, 18 SOUTHDOWN, 19 RIOU, 22 CAISCOS, T.A.M. 10 SHEARWATER.  
Group 4 harbour EGLINTON, ARENDAL, LAMERTON, QUANTOCK, ZETLAND, RETALICK, GARTH, RUTHERFORD, SEYMOUR, THORNBOROUGH, TORRINGTON, GUILLEMOT, KITTIWAKE, SHELDRAKE, WIDGEON.  
Sheerness force. Group 5 patrols 2 BLENCATHRA, 4 ALBRIGHTON, 6 MELBREAK, 21 CATTISTOCK, T.A.M. 10 BLANKNEY, A.T.P. 74/T.A.P. 75 VESPER.  
Group 6 harbour BRISSENDEN, EASTON, HOLDERNESS, MENDIP, MEYNELL, VERSATILE, HOLMES, CALGARY, DRUMHELLER, STATICE.  
At Southend VOLUNTEER, LOOSESTRIPE.  
(C. in C. Nore 161523A to Admty.)

Minesweeping off Schelde. Tomorrow Saturday unless otherwise ordered conduct following sweeping.  
(2) Oropesa search in G formation 5 cables either side of centre line joining the following positions.  
A. H.K. 2. B. H.K. 3 51° 33½' N. 03° 08.3' E.  
C. 51° 39' N. 03° 17½' E.  
(3) Proceed direct from N.F. 7 to H.K. 1 buoy.  
(4) C.F.M.U. 1 to provide A/S escort M.S. 1 to arrange R/V direct with C.F.M.U. 1.  
(5) Return to Harwich on completion by Q.Z.S. 596 reporting E.T.A.  
(6) M.S. 1 and C.F.M.U. 1 acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Nore 161528A to M.S. 1.)

With ref. to para. 3A of C. in C. Nore 6137/0960/19 of 28 November 1944 (not to Com. Sheerness) it is requested that the following fuel supply vessels for minesweeping forces may be available to proceed to Dutch ports if required when sweeping to the Hook commences. A. Two diesel oil carriers of 500 tons each. B. Two 87 Octane petrol tankers of 200 tons each. C. One water carrier. D. One small furnace oil tanker.  
(2) All the above vessels should be of the shallow draught type.  
(3) The additional requirements are due to increased commitments and to the greater rapidity with which it is now intended to carry out the minesweeping operations.  
(4) It will probably be possible to release these special type vessels as the opening up of ports progresses.  
(C. in C. Nore 161706A to Admty.)

/Midget...



16.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Midget U-Boat activity. U-Boat and midget U-Boat summary 1100Z/14 to 1100Z/16.  
 (1) 1754Z/14. TORRINGTON sank midget U-Boat 310 N.F. 5 buoy O.3. One prisoner.  
 (2) 0023Z/15. M.L. 586 attacked possible midget contact 090 North Foreland 4.8.  
 (C. in C. Nore 161708A to Admty.)

Hydrophone contact 310° 53F buoy 18 miles. Probably midget submarine craft. Am investigating.  
 (Unit F B 7 162122 to C. in C. Nore.)  
 Am investigating 1 possible midget submarine.  
 (Unit FB 7 162154 to C. in C. Nore.)  
 My 2154. Enemy position is 310° 53 F Buoy 16 miles.  
 (Unit FB 7 162158 to C. in C. Nore.)

061

Minesweeping off E.Coast. Ground mine detonated 1233 in position 335° CARRIER wreck buoy 4 cables. CARRIER wreck buoy in position 53° 22' 05" N. 00° 58' 48" E.  
 (F.O. Humber 161727A to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 346 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 151600A March.

<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	153	536	10,731	-	5,948	802
Ostend	1,130	105	4,410	-	-	869
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,665	-	-
Calais	4,036	-	80	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4,965	-	-	2,472
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,319</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>20,186</b>	<b>1,665</b>	<b>5,948</b>	<b>4,145*</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	217	12,176	-	-	715
Cherbourg	-	-	5,006	1,063	-	3,732
Le Havre	1,603	431	4,728	160	226	1,497
Rouen	-	167	8,474	429	578	-
Granville	-	-	-	1,604	-	-
Ghent	-	-	8,034	-	-	3,520
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>38,418</b>	<b>3,256</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>9,464</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	2,720	1,580	21,222	854	-	689
Port de Bouc	-	-	3,460	142	7,930	2,790
Toulon	-	-	467	-	-	-
Nice	-	-	410	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>25,509*</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>7,930</b>	<b>3,479</b>

/Cumulative...

\* Sic.

War Diary.

16. 3. 1945  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

Cumulative totals 1 - 15 March (incl.)

<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	1,209	4,532	129,442	-	121,544	4,752
Ostend	11,096	1,924	40,419	-	6,855	13,470
Boulogne	471	1,072	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	227	17,041	-	-
Calais	57,445	273	2,341	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	50,103	-	4,516	19,607
<u>Total</u>	<u>76,031*</u>	<u>7,801</u>	<u>222,532</u>	<u>17,041</u>	<u>132,915</u>	<u>37,829</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	15	2,770	239,268	-	-	1,942
Cherbourg	49	3,168	94,880	15,877	68,799	57,549
Le Havre	133,504	10,463	89,435	160	8,595	36,632
Rouen	4,368	2,606	106,575	15,440	20,705	9,753
Granville	-	-	-	19,936	-	-
Ghent	3	11	73,383	-	-	26,070
<u>Total</u>	<u>137,939</u>	<u>19,018</u>	<u>603,541</u>	<u>51,413</u>	<u>98,099</u>	<u>131,946</u>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	53,335	13,361	174,708	17,890	-	582
Port de Bouc	-	-	25,650	8,551	78,279	22,515
Toulon	-	-	7,832	-	-	-
Nice	-	-	2,068	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>53,335</u>	<u>13,361</u>	<u>210,258</u>	<u>26,441</u>	<u>78,279</u>	<u>28,337*</u>

Note. G.F. Ammo discharge Antwerp (U.S.) for 14 March 1227 tons not previously reported.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 161745A to Admty., and others.) \* Sic.

Naval  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 346 part 2 naval.  
U.S.L.C.V.P. arrived at Remagen Bridgehead 10th March. They were employed towing pontoons for bridges: evacuating casualties towing across net cables, patrolling above nets, and in the general maintenance of Engineer installations at the bridgehead.

(2) TORRINGTON sank a midget submarine near N.F. 5 buoy at 1931/14 March taking one prisoner.

(3) A Raiding party landed from L.C.A. near Zijpe on Schouwen at 2130/15th March. They encountered a minefield and two strongly manned enemy posts, withdrawing later, no engagement having taken place.

(4) Another party landed at 2300/15th March on the coast of Schouwen N.W. of Zierksee, withdrawing after four hours having encountered no enemy.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 162344A to Admty.)

16.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. (1) Leave patrol at 1900A and proceed to anchor at 1/2 hours notice in Weymouth Bay.  
 (2) Weigh at 0600A/17th and proceed to patrol area limits Q.Z.S. 629. Route E.W. Between 01° 40' W. and 02° 20' W.  
 (3) BAYNTON detach as requisite to enter Portsmouth at 0900A/17th for 48 hour lay over and to berth as ordered by Capt. D.L. (C. in C. Portsmouth 161144A to S.O.E.G. 10.)  
 (1) Slip at 0900A/17th and proceed to join group patrolling area Q.Z.S. 629. Route E.W. Between 01° 40' W. and 02° 20' W.  
 (2) LOCH ECK arrange R/V.  
 (3) Assume duties of S.O. until BAYNTON rejoins. (C. in C. Portsmouth 161147A to LOCH DUNVEGAN.)  
 (1) On convoy W.E.L. entering Cherbourg proceed to patrol area limits 01° 30' W. 01° 53' W. between 49° 50' N. and 50° 15' N.  
 (2) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 774 which is not to be entered unless in contact. (C. in C. Portsmouth 161210A to S.O.E.G. 14.)

Sunk U-Boat near C.2 A Buoy. S.O.E.G. 10 111409 preliminary survey of position commences tomorrow 17th March.  
 (2) Diving operations will take place on completion of survey. (C. in C. Portsmouth 161256A to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. <sup>WILLEM</sup> When VAN DER ZAAAN becomes operational PLOVER will be required for laying in Plymouth Command in accordance with A.M. 261939 Feb. and NIGHTINGALE must revert to mining trial work.  
 (2) It is desired that operation "Buttermilk" should be vigorously progressed and it is requested that you will employ available M.Ls. of the 10th, 50th and 52nd flotillas for this purpose.  
 (3) A.M. 161704 refers. (A.C.N.S.(H) 161740A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Loss of INGERTOFT. R.U. 156 attacked 270 Neist point 3 miles. (GRENADIER 160920 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)  
 R.U. 156 being attacked in position 270° Neist Point 3 miles, proceed forthwith. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 160937A to LADY BERYL, YORK CITY.)  
 GRENADIER carrying out observant. INGERTOFT sunk. (GRENADIER 160955 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)  
 When ready about 1600 today 16th request you will sail 3rd E.G. to join 31st E.G. hunting for U-Boat in approx. position 57° 26' 06" 50'.  
 (C. in C. W.A. 161325A to F.O.I.C. N.I.)  
 Sailed 3rd E.G. DUCKWORTH (S.O.), COOKE, DOMETT, ROWLEY to comply with your 161325A.  
 ESSINGTON will be sailed 2 hours late to overtake.  
 15 Unifoxer towing wires carried by group. (F.O.I.C. N.I. 161645A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Anti...

War Diary.

16.3.1945  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Carry out operation "C.H." D lines 3 4 5 0730  
March 17th.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 161023A to APOLLO.)  
Operation "C.H." serial A 7 and D 1 and 2 2  
complete.  
(APOLLO 161044A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols.

Request you will sail 18th E.G. at 1800 today 16th  
(or as soon as Unifoxer wires are delivered on  
board if this is later) to join force 38.  
(C. in C. W.A. 161312A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

If not in contact at dark tonight 16th leave present search and  
join force 37 reporting E.T.A. Altacarry.  
(C. in C. W.A. 161315A to S.O.E.G. 20.)

At 1200A/17 detach 2 ships to patrol Trevose to Pendeen,  
and then to meet and support M.K.S. 88 from Pendeen. All four  
ships of M.S. 16 to support convoy from vicinity Trevose to Lundy  
then resume patrol Hartland to Trevose.

(2) TADOUSAC report names of ships detached and S.O. to C. in C.  
Plymouth. ^ INGLIS and ABELIA.

(C. in C. Plymouth 161920A to S.O. M.S.F. 16.)

My 161315. Relieve E.G. 16 supporting C.U. 61 in 55° 35' N,  
07° 00' W. at 1900A/17th and support until further orders.

(2) On relief E.G. 16 to Londonderry.

(C. in C. W.A. 162312 to S.O.E.G. 20.)

Mysterious  
explosion.

LOCH TULLA reported explosion splashes 50 feet  
high between leading ships of B.B. 53 at about  
1900 in position 53° 12' N. 05° 05' W. Am  
searching the area.

(S.O. Force 36 161954A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operations  
"S.C."

Ramose Fortitude. VIGRA returned at 1232A/16th  
March. (2) Operation successful.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161233A to C. in C. H.F.)

Ramose Ration HITRA and HESSA returned at 1455A/  
16th March. (2) Operation successful.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161505A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation  
"V.P."

Intend to carry out "V.P. 81" with 2 M.T.Bs.

(1) 0600A/17th March. (2) Not later than 2100A/  
17th March. (3) Not later than 0600A/18th March.

(4) 260° towards Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.

(5) Not later than p.m. 18th March. (6) No. (7) No.

(8) 080° Noss Head detach. (9) No.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161501A to C. in C. H.F.)

My 161501A. (1) 080° from Noss Head, not more than 20 knots.

(2) 60° 41' N. 04° 42' E. (3) Blank. (4) C. in C. Rosyth is  
requested to pass P.L. version of both signals to 18 Group C.C.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161503A to C. in C. H.F.)

/Patrols...

16.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Patrols. Submarines at 0800/17th March and movements for following 24 hours.  
A. SIDON as in A.M. 122051.  
B. VENTURER 64° 27' N. 09° 13' E. proceeding to patrol off Fro Havet.  
C. STUBBORN 60° 50' N. 03° 32' E. through 61° 04' N. 02° 00' E. and 61° 04' 00° 01' E. and 090 Muckle Flugga 10 miles diving by day while east of 01° N. with daily advance 150 then 10 knots on surface.  
D. DOLFIJN leaves Lerwick 1000/17th through 090 Muckle Flugga 10 miles 61° 24' N. 00° 12' E. and 61° 24' W. 02° 00' E. and 60° 52' N. 04° 00' E. 8 knots on surface diving by day E. of 01° E. at 110 miles in 24 hours.  
(C. of W. 161940A to A.I.G. 25.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W. 65. Convoy J.W. 65. (2) Owing to difficult ice conditions in Dvina River the following 6 ships only have been selected for White Sea proceeding direct to Molotovsk in single group when detached WILLIAM WHEELWRIGHT, LEO J. DUSTER, HORACE BUSHNELL, FORT MASSAC, SAN VENANCIO (T), DOLABELLA (T) total 6 ships.  
(3) M.W.T. representative U.S. Naval Attache and Russian Authority concur.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 161006A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia, M.O.W.T., S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)  
Destinations. (1) To Molotovsk. WILLIAM WHEELWRIGHT, LEO J. DUSTER, HORACE BUSHNELL, FORT MASSAC, SAN VENANCIO (T) and DOLABELLA (T) 6 ships.  
The above 6 ships are to proceed direct to White Sea when detached.  
(2) Remainder to Kola Inlet for Murmansk.  
(D.T.D. 161721Z to Commodore and ships of J.W. 65.)

Operations.

Baltic.

Air attacks on U-Boats in Russian S/M practice area. Your 100750. Soviet Naval Staff have no objection in principle to change of date for this operation, but request that period required for it may be reduced to three or four days in order not to interfere unduly with Soviet submarine activity.  
(2) In this connection they ask for early reply in order to warn their submarines.  
(Ad. Archer 161036A to Admty.)

War Diary.

16.3.1945  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German refugee shipping Copenhagen. My 141259. Transport POTSDAM which was believed to have sailed from Copenhagen March 13th did not in fact sail until p.m. yesterday March 15th. (2) Following movements reported at Copenhagen. A. March 13th arrivals German vessel REGINA and 2 Danish vessels A.P. BERNSTORFF and AARHUS bringing total 4000 refugees. B. March 14th 1 arrival. 1 large destroyer and possible transport JUPITER (believed 2573 tons) with refugees. (3) 2 departures. Hospital ship POSEN. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 161611 to Admty.) N.I.D. Comment. Shipping movements probably correct. JUPITER 2471 G.R.T. went to the Baltic from the South Norway Denmark run at the end of February.

Port Facilities.

Intended surveys of German Ports. FRANKLIN's 140845 it is considered that type 277 will be of great assistance to FRANKLIN during projected surveys of German ports and estuaries. (2) FRANKLIN can be spared now for a max. of 4 weeks and it is requested that arrangements may be made for her to be taken in hand at high priority. If the work cannot be completed within the next 4 weeks the fitting of type 277 must be deferred. (A.N.C.X.F. 161812A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

FARNDALE, v. WALLACE, destroyers. Am in collision with WALLACE position 098° 55 B 2½ miles. (FARNDALE 162234A to C. in C. Nore.) Ship's side opened to the sea between No. 16 and 30 Stations on waterline. No. 1 fuel tank damaged. Returning to Humber forthwith. (WALLACE 162249A to Cs. in C. Nore, Rosyth.) My 162234A neither ship in danger of sinking WALLACE proceeding Humber. Am resuming patrol. (FARNDALE 162312A to C. in C. Nore.)

Movements.

BRUISER, L.S.T.1. Arrived BRUISER, BROCKLESBY and WILTON. (C. in C. Plymouth 160936A to F.O.G.M.A.)

IMPLACABLE, fleet carrier. From position K.L. alter course for new position K.N. 57° N. 20° W. rejoin your route in position K.E. omitting K.M. (Plot (O.D.) 161825A to IMPLACABLE.)

War Diary16.3.1945  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

Independent sailings Concur in F.O.C.W.Af. (?151301)\* not to C.M.S.F.  
(2) Intend to recommence independent sailings from Casablanca to the Southward p.m. 17th, all ships being routed to Eastward of Canaries.  
(4) Admiralty is requested to signal policy for escorting present and future O.S. convoys.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 161113A to Admty.) See 161840Z - South Atlantic.  
\* Considered standard route East of 18.30 W. clear.

Escort for Admty. message 151246 para. 2.  
F.S. BEARN On detaching from CANTON in approx. 38° N. 2  
(damaged in collision) destroyers of 13th D.F. can be made available to proceed Azores to arrive p.m. 21st or a.m. 22nd March or as required after that date.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 161205A to Admty., Comtenthfleet, C. and R. Cominch, C. in C.W.A.)

S.B.N.O. Azores 151342, not to all.

Unless BEARN is now able to anchor she must continue to Casablanca Report your intentions.

(D.O.D.(H) 161801A to EARL K. OLSEN.)

A.M. 151246 para. 2. and A.M.161801. Request confirmation that escorts will be available.

(D.O.D.(H) 161824A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Cancel my 151342.\* Portuguese authorities now report that both ships can be accepted at Ponta Delgada.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 161934Z to EARL K. OLSEN.)

\* MCANDREW and BEARN.

A.M. 152212. (N.T. in W.D.) On previous occasions when damaged troopships have entered Ponta Delgada troops were not trans-shipped owing to possibility of objection being raised that trans-shipment in port infringed Portuguese neutrality. It is hoped, however, that now Portuguese will not make any difficulty.  
(2) As troopship involved is U.S., primary responsibility rests with your U.S. colleague. You should give him every support, however, and pass on all information derived from British naval signals.

(3) It is suggested that information addressees should repeat signals concerning this incident to U.S. or British Naval Attache, as appropriate.

(P.A.S.(L) 162117A to N.A. Lisbon.)

Refer Admiralty 161801A ACD accordance S.B.N.O. Azores 161934Z not to all. BEARN still unable to anchor proceeding Ponta Delgada BEARN has on board 148 U.S. Army Navy Personnel bound U.K. Suggest they be transferred with MCANDREW Army Personnel. EARL K. OLSEN requests onward routeing to Plymouth.  
(EARL K. OLSEN, 162315Z to Admty.)

Destroyers Destination TARPAN and ULYSSES is Malta.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 161222A to A.C.11.)

U.B. We congratulate H.M. Ships RECRUIT and PINCHER  
destruction upon the final destruction of a U-boat on the  
U 300 22nd February 1945.  
(D.A.U.D.(Approved 1st Sea Lord) 161425A to  
PINCHER, RECRUIT)

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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic - Contd.

A.F.D.32 Subject - Fuelling of H.M. Rescue Tugs at Santa Cruz de Teneriffe. A.M. 251532 Feb. refers. For your information, experience on first leg of the tow from New York to San Juan Porto Rico indicates that A.F.D.32 can be towed direct to Gibraltar without necessity for detaching H.M. Rescue Tugs to fuel en route. (2) Request you will inform appropriate Spanish authorities that refuelling at Teneriffe will no longer be necessary, and thank them for the arrangements which they had already made. (D.O.D.(F), approved A.C.N.S.(F), 161848A to B.N.A. Madrid.)

South AtlanticFALMOUTH  
SloopFALMOUTH arrived Capetown.  
(C. in C. S.At., 161210B to Admty.)4th Fleet  
(withdrawals)

Considerable withdrawal of vessels attached to Com. 4th Fleet now being effected. Will signal details if you require them. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 161610Z to Admty. (D.N.I.))

U-boat  
contacts

My 151930Z ABERDEEN and COWSLIP made further attacks on contact at 1909Z/15th. Search continues no further contact. (F.O.C.W.Af., 161706Z to Admty.)

Independent  
sailings

Your 161113A\*not to Comar Dakar. As some congestion is likely to arise on British Standard Coastal Route being used by both North and Southbound traffic between Casablanca and Daka, propose Northbound traffic be routed through positions as laid down omitting RJ and H, Southbound to be ordered to keep 10 miles to Eastward of all positions. Do you concur? (F.O.C.W.Af., 161840Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

\* Intend to recommence independent sailings for Casablanca to the Southward p.m. 17th, all ships being routed to eastward of Canaries etc.



16.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

A.F.D. 49. My 141223 \* sailed. A.F.D. 49 has not been depermed (F.O.T.A.L.I. 160919A to F.O.L.E.M.)  
 \* FLARE.

Tankers, sailing of It is noted that certain tankers are being sailed independently to Mediterranean by N.S.H.Q. with speed given as 14 knots. Instances are GRAND MESA and CASTLE PINCKNEY. According to your 122012 Dec. (not to all) such ships should be sailed from Mediterranean to U.S. in convoy.  
 (2) Request classifications whether such ships should be sailed A. independently, B. in convoy through Mediterranean Approaches and then independently by route "Prune". C. in convoy throughout. (C. in C. Med. 161201A to Com. 10th Fleet.)

Black Sea Shipping, repatriation. Five troopships are due Odessa between 25th and 30th March. Every endeavour will be made for rapid turn-round vide para. 2 of P.S.T.O. Med. 101830.  
 (3) To assist planning repatriation request destinations of these ships ex Odessa and E.T.D. Mideast of M.K.F. 42.  
 (Ad. Archer, Moscow, 161207A to Admty.)  
 Reply 171800A.

A.F.D. 55. Intend to sail A.F.D. 55 in tow of EMPHATIC (S.O.) with BARTHORPE in company to Port Said at 0900/18th March.  
 (2) S.O.A. 5½ knots or better E.T.A. during daylight 25th will be signalled by EMPHATIC.  
 (V.A. Malta 161632 to N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

MONTCLARE, (destroyer depot ship, Flag R.A.F.T.) Sailed MONTCLARE to Colombo in accordance with C. in C. E.I.S. 131219Z not to all.  
 (2) E.T.A. Colombo 0900/27 E. S.O.A. 13 knots. (N.O.I.C. Suez 161805B to Admty.)

Ships for Black Sea. CIRCASSIA and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND 2/7 051940 refers. E.T.A. Dardanelles p.m. 21st. E.T.A. Odessa a.m. 23rd. Admty. pass to Ad. Archer Istanbul pass to C.S.A.  
 (C. in C. Med. 161818A to C.S.A. Istanbul.)

Comsitrep No. 83. (1) During night 15/16 LANSQUENET contacted two German M.T. boats escaping from torpedo attacks, LANSQUENET sank one M.T. boat and the other fled. 10 casualties on LANSQUENET whose commanding officer is severely wounded.

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16.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Comsitrep  
No. 83.  
(Contd.)

- (2) On 9th MILNE fired 85 rounds at storehouse, 36 rounds at observation post and 63 rounds at enemy gun. Several direct hits. On 11th BASQUE fired 25 rounds at fort. U.S.S. PARKER fired 51 rounds at enemy activity. Observation difficult. Believe several direct hits. On 12th U.S.S. PARKER fired 52 rounds at Cross Roads. Good shooting. BASQUE 60 rounds at fortifications command post. Seven direct hits. 48 rounds at stores and buildings, and 39 pillboxes. Area well covered. On 14th SIMOUN fired 45 rounds at O.P. and 27 on mortars. Both areas well covered. During night destroyers carried out operation "Mustard" without result.
- (3) P.T. boats carried out patrol Y during night 13/14. Forced to withdraw from area due to heavy and accurate radar controlled fire from Savona. All other patrols cancelled due to rough weather.
- (4) No mines sighted during this period.
- (5) MATCHLESS left Flankforce for Malta at 141600A. LOOKOUT and MARNE arrived on 14th, temporarily allocated in Flankforce. JEANNE D'ARC sailed to Bizerta for dry docking at 151800A. (Comflanfor 161926A to F.O.N.A.M.)

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16. 3. 1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

1135

East Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

Scales in all areas remain W.5.  
(C. in C. E.I. 160437Z to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

NEWCASTLE  
(cruiser.)

Request NEWCASTLE may remain on station until a relief is available or until about 1st July. Operations approved and now being planned for May - June do require more Naval supporting fire than can be produced. Troop movements will also require a token not notional escort.  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 160623Z to Admty.)

KENYA  
(cruiser)

A.M. 311920 Dec. to C. in C. E.I. only.  
(2) KENYA can be taken in hand at Chatham in late May or early June.  
(3) Request KENYA be sailed to arrive U.K. about 20th May proceeding via Durban to land X turret.  
(V.C.N.S. 161127A to C. in C. E.I.)

S/M SEASCOUT  
patrol.

SEASCOUT second Far East patrol. 23rd Feb. to 5th March in North Malacca Strait vicinity Butang and Lankawi Islands by gunfire and demolition sank 7 native craft total 113 tons.  
7th March Field 2 torpedoes at coaster and 2 torpedoes at pier in Ulee Lhoe Road North Sumatra W.P.I. hit observed on 300 ton coaster considered sunk. 2 torpedoes hit pier. 6 days on air sea rescue duty.  
(C. in C. E.I. 161207Z to Admty.)

S/M SEADOG.

SEADOG first Far East patrol 27th Feb. while on air sea rescue duties rescued 4 of crew of American B.29 of 20th Bomber Command these were transferred to air sea rescue CATALMA next day.  
6th March off Port Blair fired 2 torpedoes which missed 500 tons coaster, subsequent gun action broken off after 3 hits due to shore batteries engaging.  
(C. in C. E.I. 161209Z to Admty.)

S/M SUPREME

SUPREME 3rd Far East patrol 1st to 6th March vicinity Bunja Shoal and Belewan by gunfire and demolition sank 4 native craft total 85 tons taken 5 prisoners. 10th March position 004° 30' N. 098° 16' E. bombed beached coaster 15 hits.  
(C. in C. E.I. 161211Z to Admty.)

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War Diary16.3.1945  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

CASABIANCA Modify my S/M notice 132053. CASABIANCA and French HENRY R. KENYON delayed exactly 24 hours. Now depart S/M. seven miles St. Montauk Point 2400Z/16th. (C.T.F.25, 160514 to Cominch)

BONAVENTURE Trinidad departure March 16th. BONAVENTURE. (S/M Depot Ship, B.P.F.) (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 161155Q to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 161322Z to S. and A's. and Cominch, 161545Z)

Asdic contact. N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary para. D. H. M.C. BANGOR, GANANOQUE attacked doubtful Asdic contact 2240Z/15th March in 46/40 N. 52/54 W. (N.S.H.Q. 161454Z to Admty, Cominch)

A.F.D.32. This is Comcaribseafon 152115(N.T. in W.D.) sent Cominch for action. "Expect sail E.G.59 with A.F.D.32 Group 21st". (Cominch, 162055Z to C. in C. Lant.)

S/M SEA ROVER. Navy Dept. Requests E.T.A. SEA ROVER for refit my 091930. (B.A.D. 162100Z to Admty.)

U-Boat contacts. Sighting reported Cominch, 152004. Para. D. (1) now confirmed Non-S/M all times Z. Para. D. (1) 161750 A/C had radar contact 43.00 N. 67.50 W. (2) 150736 U.S.S. WOONSOCKET, Sonar contact 46.24 N. 53.11 W. Search negative. (3) 152240 H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE attacked Contact 46.40 N. 52.54 W. (Cominch, 162136Z to Admty. (O.I.C.)

Australia and New Zealand

EMPIRE ARQUEBUS L.S.I.(L) Force X. Para. 3 of Admiralty 122344 (N.T. in W.D.) Feb. not to all. Intend EMPIRE ARQUEBUS wearing Flag of F.O. Force X. EMPIRE MACE and EMPIRE BATTLEAXE to leave Sydney early April for U.K. via Panama Canal. (2) It is considered this route provides best weather conditions and avoids Australian Bight.

(3) ...

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16.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

EMPIRE  
ARQUEBUS  
L.S.I.(L)  
Force X.  
(Contd.)

(3) LAMONT will be sailed late April for U.K. via Panama.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 160443Z to Admty.)

Movement.

Depart 0428Z/16th March EMPIRE ARQUEBUS escorted by H.M.A.S. MARYBOROUGH and GLENELG for Manus. S.O.A. 11.5 knots. E.T.A. Manus Boom a.m. 25th March. (N.O.I.C. Sydney N.S.W. 160454Z to Admty.)

Commander of Service Force at Sea.  
Accommodation.

The Commander of the Service Force at Sea (see para. 4(B) of my 110522 Jan.) will be accommodated during the forthcoming operations in one of the escort vessels escorting Service Force.

(2) This is not satisfactory because A. he requires freedom of movement and should not be tied to any particular escort force. B. Accommodation is insufficient. C. Good communications with the Fleet and Advanced Base are essential.

(3) It is therefore requested that a L.S.H.(S) frigate type such as NITH may be allocated to the B.P.F. as Command Ship for the Service Force Commander at sea.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 161025Z to Admty.)

Digest 1150  
15.3.45

We send you Digest Serial No. 1150 covering 15th March except when otherwise stated.

(1) Navy Liberators from Clark Field left single tug aground and smoking 65 miles N.E. Hongkong, destroyed one of 7 small coasters anchored 35 miles E. Foochow.

(3) 4 Venturas from Morotai covered Celebes - Borneo - Sangihe Islands destroying one lugger, damaging one tanker, one schooner, 2 luggers, one small coaster.

(5) Navy Liberators from Mindoro covered French-Indo-China Coast leaving one seatruck burning and sinking Saigon.

(7) Further mopping up isolated Japanese pockets Leyte Island brings total enemy casualties to date to 77277 killed, 744 captured.

(8) Luzon forces advanced two miles East Antipole. In Batangas area further details reveal about one hundred Japanese landed in barges North shore Batangas Bay setting up road block athwart American lines of communication also attacking our forces. Attack repulsed with 68 Japanese killed. Other American forces still encountering heavy defensive fire Santo Tomas area but patrols reached Tanmuan without contact. Total enemy casualties Luzon to date number 77635 killed, 800 Japanese captured.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 161027Z to Admty.)

/Escort...

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16.3.1945  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Escort Carriers B.P.F. (allocation of.) Following is a summary of the intended allocation of Escort Carriers to the British Pacific Fleet and East Indies Fleet.

(2) For British Pacific Fleet. A. SLINGER, SPEAKER STRIKER, FENCER, RULER and CHASER are already allocated.

B. ARBITER (Corsair), PATROLLER (Corsair), RANEE (Hellcat) and REAPER (Ferry) are now allocated.

These last three will not be fitted as Assault Carriers, and their aircraft equipment may be exchanged depending upon the date of their release by Cominch. They should join in July or August. The Hellcat ship is to relieve one Assault trained and fitted Hellcat ship from 2 A for Transfer to the East Indies Fleet.

C. After the defeat of Germany there will become available:

(i) 2 General Purpose C.V.Es. with 10 Wildcat and 12 Barracuda.

(ii) Either 4 General Purpose C.V.Es. with 10 Wildcat and 9 Avenger or 2 Replenishment C.V.Es. with 18 Avengers and no fighters.

(iii) C. in C. B.P.F. is requested to state his preference regarding 2 C (ii).

(3) For East Indies Fleet. A. AMEER, ATTACKER, HUNTER, STALKER, KHEDIVE, EMPEROR, SHAH, EMPRESS and BEGUM are already allocated. B. PURSUER (Hellcat) will join in August and the ship detailed in accordance with para. 2B should join in September. TROUNCER (Flagship) will join in September.

(4) After the defeat of Germany one additional Assault Carrier (SEARCHER) equipped with Seafire will be available for allocation to East Indies Fleet or British Pacific Fleet as necessary.

(5) C. in C. E.I. is requested to sail ARBITER as required by C. in C. B.P.F. after transfer of reserve aircraft from EMPEROR. A.M. 071010 Feb. (not to all) refers. (V.C.N.S. 161818A to C. in C.B.P.F.)

Minelaying Operations by S/Ms. Your 020926Z March not to all. As no relief for BUNGAREE is available A.M. 050004A March and 050021A March are cancelled.

(2) Consider PROME should be available to keep submarines supplied with mines Mark XVI and M Mark II. Her proposed new loading includes 100 and 60 respectively of these. Freight from Australia could top up supply. Date of return of GURNA to Pacific is not yet certain.

(3) If Advance Mine Depot is not available, on return of fast minelayers to the Pacific, propose as follows:

Mines M.Mark II. Mines to be freighted from Australia and prepared for issue by a small mining section attached to the submarines A.B.T.U.

Mines Mark XVI. Request you consider running one fast minelayer on freighting trip to Australia to bring back assembled married units. One load would represent 3 months' supply for RORQUAL. Those not issued direct to RORQUAL would have to be stored. (D.T.M. 162147A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

16.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/16th March.

Para. B. (1) At 1105Z/15th March A/C X/235 sighted  
snort in lat. 57° 52' N. long. 02° 10' W.

(2) At 2240Z/15th March H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE  
attacked contact in lat. 46° 40' N. 52° 54' W.

(3) At 1240Z/15th March H.M.A/S whaler NAMSOS  
attacked contact in approx. lat. 64° 17' N. long. 22° 45' W.  
(4) At 0658Z/15th March A/C obtained A.S.V. contact in lat. 13°  
32' N. long. 20° 55' W.

(5) At 1909Z/15th March E.G. 56 attacked promising contact in  
lat. 13° 45' N. long. 20° 42' W.

Para. C. (1) At 1058Z/15th March E.G. 17 attacked bottom contact  
in lat. 57° 09' N. 01° 49' W.

(2) At 1330Z/15th March A/C S/224 attacked possible submerged U-  
Boat with D/Cs in lat. 57° 42' N. long. 01° 45' W.

(3) At 1922Z/15th March A/C F/547 obtained possible snort contact  
in lat. 55° 57' N. long. 01° 12' W.

(4) At 1120Z/15th March Gib. A/C attacked wake or swirl in lat.  
36° 08' N. long. corrupt.

Para. D. (1) At 0800Z/14th March, fishermen reported large U-Boat  
in lat. 50° 12' N. long. 01° 27' E.

(2) At 1300Z/14th March, fishermen reported small U-Boat in lat.  
50° 21' N. long. 01° 31' E.

(D.D.I.C. 161130A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 161519A.)

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17.2.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

West Coast  
France.

1. Two U-Boats and a blockade-runner are reported in Bay of Biscay territorial waters.

Western  
Approaches.

2. (a) GUYSBOROUGH, Canadian fleet minesweeper, was torpedoed in 46.43 N. 09.20 W. (about 200 miles north of Corunna.) Ships in the vicinity have been sent to assist her, as well as a corvette and rescue tug.  
(b) THORNHILL brought up oil and debris from a Sonar contact off Islay, but then had to rejoin convoy C.U. 61 due to lack of escorts hunting other contacts.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

SS. THOMAS  
BULLFINCH,  
GEO.W.  
WOODWARD,  
collision.

3. THOMAS BULLFINCH (Am. 7247 tons) and GEO.W. WOODWARD in convoy U.G.S. 78 reported in collision at 8.35 this morning in position 35.12 N. 11.33 W. BULLFINCH No. 4 hold flooded. WOODWARD bow badly damaged, fore peak flooded. Both proceeding with convoy.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines.

4. P.T. boats operating last night from Leyte destroyed 3 barges off the N.E. coast of Cebu Island.

New Britain.

5. An Australian sloop today bombarded enemy positions at Open Bay in support of the ground forces.

China.

6. Naval Liberators from Clark Field made 5 hits on a medium freighter transport 120 miles N.E. of Wenchow and left it on fire and listing badly with the crew abandoning ship.

Japan.

7. The Marines on Iwo Jima continued mopping up operations today. At noon about 150 of enemy were observed attempting to organise in north part of island. They were dispersed by mortar fire.



War Diary.

17. 3. 1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Possible sunk U-Boat. 17th E.G. sail at 0700A tomorrow Sunday and proceed to search area between 55.58 N. and 55.46 N. west of 01.47 W. for possible killed U-Boat on bottom.  
(2) If contact is obtained in position approx. 108° St. Abbs Head 6.5 miles, it is to be attacked and echo sounder used.  
(3) Abandon search as necessary to R/V off May Island at 1730A with convoy E.N. 81, 4 ships escorted by 3 trawlers, LEICESTER CITY (S.O.). Support northward.  
(4) Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 171155A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

Practice Air Co-operation required. It is essential that air co-operation for practice H/A firings off Harwich and Sheerness should be resumed at the earliest possible moment. Destroyers and other vessels urgently required for operations are being constantly worked up at these bases and prolonged interruption of H/A training cannot be accepted.  
(2) There are approx. 75 destroyers and escort vessels who require H/A practices.  
(C. in C. Nore 171202A to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 347 part 4 section A. Discharge at sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/16 March.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Bulk Coal	Bulk Pol.	G.F. Ammo
Antwerp	85	205	11,420	-	13,369	532
Ostend	1,223	46	3,895	-	-	1,173
Boulogne	363	156	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,529	-	-
Calais	4,164	-	75	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,183	-	-	1,039
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,837*</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>18,573</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>13,369</b>	<b>2,744</b>
U.S. North						
Antwerp	-	331	20,414	-	-	1,363
Cherbourg	-	262	5,649	1,780	-	3,306
Le Havre	4,627	336	3,136	630	4,259	559
Rouen	-	42	8,283	2,044	37	-
Granville	-	-	-	703	-	-
Ghent	-	-	6,753	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,627</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>44,235</b>	<b>5,157</b>	<b>4,296</b>	<b>5,228</b>
U.S. South						
Marseilles	3,987	563	15,538	-	-	1,802
Port de Bouc	-	-	4,142	-	8,139	2,774
Toulon	-	-	2,338	-	-	-
Nice	-	-	102	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>22,120</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,139</b>	<b>4,576</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 171425A to Admty., and others.) \* Sic.

War Diary.

17.3.1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols.

- (1) Leave patrol as necessary to R/V with C.U. 61 in 50° 12' N. 03° 00' W. at approx. 2030A/17th then as in my 161920A.
- (2) LOCH DUNVEGAN, BRAITHWAITE proceed to anchor off St. Helens when M.Vs. have entered Cherbourg.
- (3) 14th E.G. are to detach from Thames section at C.2 buoy and anchor off Newhaven.
- (4) HESPERUS, DUNCAN, ICARUS weigh as necessary to R/V with convoy O.N.A. 291 E.T.A. C.2 buoy 0600A/18th S.O. in VOLUNTEER and act as additional escort.
- (5) HAVELOCK, INCONSTANT, weigh as necessary to R/V with U.C. 60B E.T.A. C.2 buoy 0930A/18th S.O. LOCH ECK and act as additional escort.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth 171201A to S.O.E.G. 14, LOCH DUNVEGAN, LOCH ECK, BRAITHWAITE.)
- Pass Needles at 1000A/18th and proceed to R/V with M.K.S. 88 escorted by LONDONDERRY (S.O.), CAMROSE, SWEETBRIAR, CONQUEROR on route E due 02° 30' W. at 1300A/18th Approach course 070°.
- (2) Act as additional escort eastwards.
- (3) Plymouth escorts detach at Z buoy.
- (4) MINAS, WASAGA detach at C.1 A Buoy and return to Portsmouth THUNDER continue to Downs, returning to Portsmouth on completion.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth 171243A to THUNDER, MINAS, WASAGA.)
- Your 171452. When DRAGONFLY passes Start Pt. Gladstone Able resume patrol Eddystone to 05° 30' W. so as to be in central position to act on aircraft or other reports. MOCKING BIRD has reinforced escort.
- (C. in C. Plymouth 171718A to S.O.E.G. 2.)
- Detach two ships forthwith to vicinity Longships to act temporarily under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth.
- (2) Report names of ships detailed and which is S.O.
- (C. in C. W.A. 172323A to S.O.E.G. 18.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

- My O/0221/227 of 8th February.
- Request confirmation that these orders have been received and are understood.
- (2) You are ship referred to in para. 18.
- (3) When ready you will be required to commence operations on serial D.5.
- (4) Orders to commence will be signalled in accordance with para. 3.
- (5) Attention is drawn to para. 5 and 6.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth 171304A to W. VAN DER ZAAAN.)
- Deep minefields in the Plymouth Command.
- (2) Intended alterations to ocean convoy routes E. and W. in Plymouth Command as outlined in my 061432A (not to C. in C. W.A.) will result in these routes passing over series B. and C. of deep minefields, proposed in the appendix to Plymouth letter number 485/PLY 01610 dated 9th February 1945.

/(3)...

War Diary.

17.3.1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.  
(Contd.)

(3) It is considered essential that these mines when laid should be either A. fitted with 45 feet hydrostatic safety switches, or B. laid at such depth that they can be satisfactorily skimmed to ensure a safe depth of 42 feet below chart datum.

(4) Owing to the large range of tide, it is considered that it would be difficult satisfactorily to skim to 42 feet below chart datum, mines laid at 70 feet or less.

(5) If reliance has to be placed on the skimming sweep only, it therefore appears that 80 feet below chart datum is the least depth which could be accepted.

(6) Request information whether mines which will be supplied for laying in this command could be fitted with 45 feet hydrostatic safety switches. Failing this it is intended to accept 80 feet below chart datum as the least depth for mines laid near main shipping routes.

(C. in C. Plymouth 171437 to Admty.)

Your next lay will be E.1.

(2) This line is to be moved in a 130° direction a sufficient amount to ensure that mines are laid in a minimum depth of 20 fathoms.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 171500A to PLOVER.)

Proceed at 0815A/18th March and carry out serial M.2 part 1 lay 4.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 171605A to M.L. 186, NIGHTINGALE.)

Extension of Fishing area. It has been represented to me that fishing area as promulgated in A.Z. 594 does not include Vergoyer Bank which is prolific in fish.

Propose limits be extended as follows in force throughout the year:

A. Cap d'Alprech, B. 50° 42' N. 01° 14' E. C. 50° 11' N. 01° 14' E. D. 50° 00' N. 00° 10' E. E. Cap d'Antifer.

Other restrictions as promulgated in A.Z. 594.

(S.N.O.B.O.P.F. 171745 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

U-Boats in Bay of Biscay. Have been advised of the simultaneous known presence at 1300A/16th March of 2 submarines, one at entrance of channel of River Adour, the other near entrance of St. Jean de Luz Channel. I understand it is under consideration whether all the sweeping in this area should be begun again. Request you advise me if this information is correct. Am keeping watch on 107 k/cs single operator period.

(Amiral Mouchez 170810A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Blockade...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France - Contd.

Blockade runner at Lorient.

French report blockade runner CAP SIM presently alongside coaling quay at Lorient ready for sea. (C.T.F. 122 171648A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols.

Sailed 18th E.G. less LOCH FYNE to rejoin Force 38. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 170017 to S.O. Force 38.)

Mysterious explosions.

My 161954. Another unexplained heavy underwater explosion occurred in same area at about 0001/17. (S.O. Force 36 170019A to C. in C. W.A.) Area searched under good radar and asdic conditions with no result, my 161954 and 170019. (2) Am covering M.H., B.B. convoys. (S.O. Force 36 170736A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining.

Operation "C.H." serials D.3, 4 and 5 completed. (APOLLO 171001 to C. in C. W.A.)

Possible U/B.

Am in contact with probable submarine in position 53° 35' N. 04° 54' W. (LADY MADELEINE 171550A to C. in C. W.A.)

Torpedoing of GUYSBOROUGH

Have been struck by a torpedo on the port side in position 46° 40' N. 09° \* 30'. (GUYSBOROUGH 171835Z to Admty.) \* May also be 008°.

Proceed to assistance of GUYSBOROUGH torpedoed in 46.40 09.30 at 1835Z.

(C. in C. W.A. 171933Z to DIRKJE, QUEEN WILHELMINA.) Amend position to read 46° 43' 09° 20'. My 171933Z refers. (C. in C. W.A. 172134Z to DIRKJE, QUEEN WILHELMINA.) Detach INGLIS and LORING to steer S.W. with despatch.

Orders follow.

(C. in C. Plymouth 172046A to S.O.E.G. 15.)

Proceed to assistance of GUYSBOROUGH in 46° 43' N. 09° 20' W. Acknowledge forthwith.

(C. in C. W.A. 172202Z to QUEEN WILHELMINA, DIRKJE.)

Your 171835Z. Report situation and your position, course and speed. INGLIS and LORING are proceeding from Plymouth to your assistance. QUEEN WILHELMINA and DIRKJE are in your vicinity and have been ordered to assist you.

(C. in C. W.A. 172229A to GUYSBOROUGH.)

Proceed at best speed to R/V with H.M.R.T. ALLEGIANCE at D.1 buoy and escort her to assist GUYSBOROUGH torpedoed in 46° 40' N. 09° 30' W. at 1830A/17.

(2) INGLIS and LORING proceeding from Scillies area, QUEEN WILHELMINA and DIRKJE believed close to GUYSBOROUGH diverted from S.W. of position, to assist.

(C. in C. Plymouth 172203A to BALSAM.)

/Following...

17.3.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Torpedoing of  
GUYSBOROUGH.  
(Contd.)

Following aircraft will assist. Searchlight Wellington during night. Air sea rescue Warwicks from daylight tomorrow Sunday. Latter will use homing procedure C W/T callsigns TJT 52, 47 and 50. R/T callsigns Plain Song How, Easy and Oboe respectively.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 172344A to QUEEN WILHELMINA, INGLIS, LORING.)

Probable  
U-Boat.

THORNHILL attacked sonar contact in 55.30 N. 06.30 W. at 1837A/17. Made three depth charge attacks dropping 13 charge patterns. Made fourth run over target unable to regain contact. Much oil and some debris observed but not collected. THORNHILL ordered to rejoin C.U. 61 due to lack of escorts absent on other contacts.  
(C.T.U. 61.3.2 in EISNER 172000 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation  
"V.P."

"V.P. 81" sailed at 0707A today 17th March M.T.B. 723 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 711.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 170718 to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols.

Leave patrol so as to pass through 69° 30' N. 15° 30' E. at 0500A/19th March thence to Lerwick by reverse of outward route diving by day north of 62° N.  
(2) Attention is called I.S.O.H. 211.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 171750A to SIDON.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Enemy activity  
above and  
below water  
off Murmansk.

4 Russian S/M Chasers attacked A/S contact 1550A today Saturday in 69° 24' N. 33° 40' E. Result unknown. Air attack one torpedo was fired at M/S which S/M chasers were escorting. M/S was not hit.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 172107A to S.E. J.W. convoy 65.)

War Diary.

17.3.1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Baltic.

Air attack on U-Boats in Russian S/M practice area.

As the operation is dependent on weather conditions, regret no definite date can be given for carrying it out, but every effort will be made to complete it on the first suitable day after 22nd March. Once completed the Russians will be free to operate in the area for the rest of the period.  
(2) Your 161036 refers.  
(V.C.N.S. 171105A to Adm. Archer.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Provisioning of Dunkirk by midget U-Boats.

According to unconfirmed prisoner of war statements graded C.3.  
A. Germans are intending to fire SLOWWORM (see C.B. 1815, page 369) into Schelde and down channel, possibly from surface craft.  
B. SEEHUNDE are being used to take provisions to Dunkirk.  
(D.N.I. 171336A to C. in C. Nore.)

Navigational.

Buoyage off Schelde.

Your 161528A. (1) Search completed with five cables either side of centre line. Swept depth five fathoms. Negative results.  
Buoys sighted in following approx. position:  
Zuid Steenbank 040° four cables from charted position. Black Conical buoy 51° 41' N. 03° 19½' E. Pillar buoy 51° 39' 12" N. 03° 20' E.  
My 151755A. Consider H.K. 4 is in charted position.  
(S.O. M.S.F. 1 171224 to C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties & Defects.

FARNDALE, WALLACE, destroyers.

FARNDALE reports fore-castle turned back max. 18 ft. starboard side in collision with WALLACE. No apparent underwater damage.  
(2) Request ship may be received at Chatham for examination if practicable.  
(3) Ship is proceeding to Sheerness to defuel and de-ammunition.  
(C. in C. Nore 170955A to A.S. Chatham.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

AMAZON, aircraft target ship. AMAZON has sustained damage to both bow and stern when berthing at Rosyth. A.S. Rosyth reports that making good repairs to damaged bow will take about 6 weeks, not less than 4 of which will be in dry dock. Damage to stern could be completed concurrently provided no serious damage to rudder is found. Neither labour nor dock are likely to be available for some time. In view of A.L.D. 19660/44 of 4th December 1944, it is for consideration that ship should be reduced to category C. An early decision is requested. (C. in C. Rosyth 171122A to Admty.)

H.M.C.S. HAIDA Request you will retain HAIDA under your orders on destroyer. completion of present work-up. A.M. 091633A para. 1D refers. (C. in C. Plymouth 171542A to C. in C. H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Major troopship movements. Following is summary No. 82 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool to 18th April:

Serial No.	Convoy	Ship	Port	Date
<b>(A) In.</b>				
1.	A.T. 198	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	22/3
2.	-	CANTON	Clyde	24/3
3.	-	ANDES	Liverpool	p.m. 24/3
4.	C.U. 62	CARTHAGE	Clyde	26/3
5.	A.T. 199	AQUITANIA	Clyde	26/3
6.	ex C.U. 62	ATHLONE CASTLE	Liverpool	27/3
7.	A.T. 200	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	31/3
8.	M.K.F. 41	Composition as already notified, } less INDRAPOERA & CANTON)		31/3 1/4
9.	C.U. 63	Ships probably to Continent		3/4
10.	A.T. 202	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	13/4
11.	A.T. 201	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	14/4
12.	A.T. 203	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	16/4
13.	S.D. 64	Ship not yet allocated.	Clyde	About 16/4
14.	A.T. 201B	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	17/4
15.	M.K.F. 42	Composition will be notified later.		17/4
<b>(B) Out.</b>				
16.	T.A. 196A	U.S. WESTPOINT	Clyde	20/3
17.	T.A. 197	PASTEUR	Liverpool	22/3
18.	O.N. 293	MATAROA	Liverpool	28/3
19.	-	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	29/3
20.	T.A. 198	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	29/3
21.	K.M.F. 42	Composition as notified.		30/3
22.	U.C. 62A	FRANCONIA) BRITANNIA)	Liverpool	30/3
23.	K.M.S.	ASCANIUS	Liverpool	Late March.
24.	-	ALCANTARA) SCYTHIA)	Liverpool	Late March.
25.	T.A. 199	AQUITANIA	Clyde	1/4

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Major troop-  
ship move-  
ments.  
(Contd.)

Serial No.	Convoy	Ship	Port	Sails
26.	T.A. 200	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	7/4
27.	D.S. 64	Ship not yet allocated	Clyde	About 9/4
28.	-	ANDES	Liverpool	12/4
29.	K.M.F. 43	Composition will be notified later.		17/4
30.	T.A. 202	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	18/4

(2) The above is for your information and guidance and is liable to alteration during period to 24th March when further signal will be made.

(D. of S.T. 172135A to P.S.T.O. Clyde and Scottish Ports, and N.W. Ports.)



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SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

E.G.2                    Being in all respects ready for war, WOODRUFF is to sail at 1900A/March 17th to relieve H.M.S. LOWESTOFT as S.O. Group 2 on patrol between Spartel Cape and Trafalgar Cape.  
(2) On relief LOWESTOFT return to Harbour entering at daylight. (F.O.G.M.A. 171046A to WOODRUFF, LOWESTOFT.)

French escorts            On arrival CG.155 off Europa Point:  
(a) F.S. L'EFFRONTE and F.S. L'INDISCRET are to enter Gibraltar.  
(b) F.S. HUSSARD proceed through(GZ) 3551 0610 then steer for (GY) 2500 N. 10.00 W. at S. of A. 9 knots to R/V convoy U.G.S.78 in position (GA) 35.13 N. 09.02 W. at 0900A March 18th to act as additional escort to the Casa break off section.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 171058A to C.M.S.F. Aden.)

Convoys (disposal of)            It is recommended that O.S.115 should be dispersed on crossing 20° N. OS.116 is being dispersed today and it is intended to revert to the practice of dispersing OS.convoys as soon as clear of U.K. Coastal Waters providing the U-boat situation permits. F.O.G.M.A.'s 161113A refers.  
(D.T.D. 171315A to F.O.G.M.A.)

French A/C BEARN            Arrived Ponta Delgada at 0800Z 17th U.S. A.T. J.W. MCANDREW and French A.K.V. BEARN escorted by U.S.S. EARL K. OLSEN.  
S.S. J.W. MCANDREW            (S.B.N.O. Azores, 171432Z to F.O.G.M.A..)

MALCOLM, VERITY Destroyers            Intend sailing CANTON and DUNSTER GRANGE at 181600A.  
(2) Escorts H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE (S.O.) H.M.S. MALCOLM, H.M.S. WOLVERINE, H.M.S. VERITY.  
(3) Routes.  
(4) DUNSTER GRANGE will be detached on crossing 010° W. to proceed to first position on independent route to River Plate.  
(5) On crossing 038° N. H.M.S. MALCOLM and H.M.S. VERITY will (?part company) and proceed Horta Azores.  
(6) H.M.S. WOLVERINE will be detached in accordance with my 171554A not to all.  
(7) Destination CANTON and H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE is Clyde. Your 151331 and 151539 neither to all refers.  
(8) S. of A. (a) 12 knots to 010° W. thence 13½.  
(b) MALCOLM and VERITY from 038° N. to Horta, 18 knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 171546A to C. in C.W.A.)

IMPLACABLE Fleet Carrier.            Para. 6 of my 171546 not to all. WOLVERINE will be detached from H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE and CANTON to R/V IMPLACABLE and act as additional escort to Gibraltar, not to all.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 171554A to Admty.)

/THOMAS...

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War Diary17.3.1945  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic - Contd.

THOMAS  
BULLFINCH,  
& GEO W.  
WOODWARD  
in collision

THOMAS BULLFINCH and GEO. W. WOODWARD with U.G.S. 78 collided at 0835Z/17. BULLFINCH damaged port side and deck plates. Number 4 hold flooded. Degaussing inoperative, W. WOODWARD bow structure badly damaged forepeak flooded. Both proceeding with convoy. Position course and speed U.G.S.78 at 1800Z/17 35.12 11.33 091 9.5. (C.T.G.60.3, 171627 to F.O.G.M.A.)

French  
A/C BEARN  
Transfer  
of troops

United States Naval Attache interviewed Major General of Navy this morning and was informed there would be no objection to transfer at Ponta Delgada. He was, however, recalled this afternoon and informed that the F.A.C. BEARN had arrived in badly damaged condition and had landed 150 men believed to be United States troops. The Major General requested that these men be transferred to TERCEIRA at the earliest possible moment. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 171913A to Aden.)

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17.3.1945.  
Saturday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

R.A.Alex. Extract.  
Capt. (L). Para.2(A) of your 131402. Rear Admiral Poland will leave for U.K. on 27th March.  
(2) Request the following general message be promulgated Flag of Rear Admiral A.Poland C.B.E.,  
D.S.O., Rear Admiral Alex. will be struck at sunset Monday 26th March and the appointment will then lapse. Capt. S.V. Jephson R.N. is appointed Capt. Alex. (short title Capt. (L)) to date 27th March and will administer the port and harbour area of Alex. and be responsible for Liaison with the Egyptian and other authorities connected with the port.  
(3) The administration of out ports and establishments hitherto carried out by R.A.(L) will be carried out by F.O.L.E.M., from 27th March.  
(C. in C. Med., 171053 to Admiralty).

F.S. (1) Com.N.O.B. Oran is requested to sail F.S.  
BARFLEUR. BARFLEUR to join M.K.S.90.  
(2) As BARFLEUR is diesel and has difficulty in keeping station below eight knots F.O.G.M.A. is requested to allocate ship suitable position in convoy.  
(F.O.W.M., 171058A to Com.N.O.B. Oran).

South Summary up to 0900 17th Mar. Extract.  
Aegean. (1) Pserimos. Ground sources report defences increased and German minelaying specialists arrived from Leros.  
(C. in C.M.E., 171215B).

Air part III. Extract.  
Cositintrep Strategic Air Force. Day 16th. 60 Liberators  
No.614. with escort of 11 P.51's on shipyards Monfalcone, 257 tons goods.  
Coastal Air Force: 4 Beaufighters, 2 Spitfires on R/C. in North Adriatic attacked lockgates at Bevazzana, with hits between gates, and Marianini, with hits on gates and buildings and probable hit on barge.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., 171334A).

Black Sea Your 161207 not to P.S.T.Os. BERGENSFJORD and  
shipping. any other ship which can be embarked to capacity  
Repatriation. with British Commonwealth repatriates should be sailed so as to arrive Gibraltar by 10th April.  
(2) Remainder should be routed to Naples to arrive not later than 5th April with U.S. repatriates embarked as far as possible in one ship.  
(3) DUCHESS OF BEDFORD if not required for service as in para. 1 should be routed to Naples when ready.  
(4) Request earliest report of numbers by Nationality it is intended to embark in each ship.

/(5)...

17.3.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Black Sea  
shipping,  
repatriation  
(Contd.)

(5) For your information M.K.F. convoys assemble at Gibraltar and sail at 18 day intervals. M.K.F.42 is due to leave Gibraltar 11th April. (D.O.D.(F), 171800A to Admiral Archer).

Situation  
Report  
No.580.

(1) Gulf Genoa. On 11th and 12th March MILNE T.F.84 BASQUE (F.S.) and on 14th March SIMOUN (F.S.) bombarded target on the Franco-Italian border. Night 15th/16th LANSQUENET engaged 2 Germans submarines\*, 1 submarine sunk. The other fled. LANSQUENET sustained 10 (?casualties).  
(2) Adriatic night 15th/16th coastal force operating off Caorle attacked 5 F-lighters with torpedoes. All enemy craft were hit and seen to sink. Our Force sustained no damage or casualties.  
(C. in C. Med., 172222A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.).

\* ? German motor torpedo boats, see 161926A, page 290.

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17.3.1945.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

**KELANTAN**  
M/S  
maintenance  
ship. C. in C. B.P.F's 080833 March, not understood  
in view of A.M. 211124 August and 231516 Dec.  
both to C. in C. E.I.S. only.  
(2) A ship of this type is urgently required  
now in forward area for maintenance of B.Y.M.S.  
and M.M.S.  
(C. in C. E.I.S., 170258Z to Admty.)

**U-Boat**  
dispositions. No change.  
(C. in C. E.I., 170354Z to S. & A. E.I. Station.)

**ORIANA.** Anticipate can now sail ORIANA for Durban 27th  
your 161051B to C. in C. E.I.S. refers.  
(Com. E.A., 170835 to C. in C. S.A.)

**Woofus.**  
Mine  
clearing  
device. Reference my 011124A Feb. and your 081917 March  
to S.A.C.S.E.A. The following points are for  
your further consideration:  
Your para. 4(b). C.C.O. considers that there  
is a definite requirement for a land mine clearing  
device in river of Estuary assaults where  
conditions may preclude the use of L.C.T.(8)  
fitted with Hedgerow.  
(2) Trial patterns of both Woofus and L.C.A.(H.R.) together  
with comparative weights of explosives actually put down suggest  
that under operational conditions the Woofus will give better  
results in the clearance of beach mines and wire.  
(3) If S.A.C.S.E.A. confirms the requirement for use in river  
or Estuary assaults it is recommended that decision be  
reconsidered and obtain Woofus for S.A.C.S.E.A. on the scale of  
12 per assault force.  
(C.C.O., 171155A to Admty.)

**Assault on**  
Letpan. Situation Report No.5.  
(1) Burma Coast. Escort Group made amphibious  
assault Letpan 13th March against slight air and  
ground opposition. All personnel landed D-day.  
Build-up proceeding as planned. Covering force  
included ROEBUCK, ESKIMO, CAUVERY, JUMNA.  
(C. in C. E.I., 171201Z.)

**6th M.S.F.** For operational reasons request that 6th M.S.  
Flotilla may arrive on E.I. Stn. not later 15th  
May.  
(2) Your 141213 March, 1945 refers.  
(C. in C. E.I., 171330Z to Admty.)

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17.3.1945.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesARIADNE,  
minelayer.

ARIADNE arrived Balboa 16th March. Intend to sail from Cristobal at 1100/18th for Bermuda via Mona Passage, S.O.A. 18 knots. (B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 171108R to Admty.)

U-Boat.

Assisting A/C sighted schnorkel 42.54 N., 52.48 W. at 1245Z carrying out search of area. (C.T.G. 22.13, 171332Z to Cominch.)

Aircraft co-operating with T.G. 22.13 reports sighting positive schnorkel on course 270° at 1328Z/17 in position 42.53 N., 53.21 W. (C. in C. C.N.A., 171356Z to G.B.7A.)

U-Boat  
dispositions.Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q., 171359Z, Cominch 171502.)

L.23

H.M. S/M. L.23 already overdue for docking and refit cannot be operated safely and efficiently much longer.

(2) In order to maintain A/S training efficiency it would be appreciated if a 'U' class submarine as offered in A.M. 192329 October, 1944 could be allocated as a relief for L.23.

(3) My 211347 October and C. in C. C.N.A. 122043 December, 1944 also refer.  
(N.S.H.Q., 171735Z to Admty.)U-Boat  
report.

(C) (1) 1245Z/17th A/C sighted schnorkel 42.45 N., 52.48 W.

(2) 1328Z/17th A/C sighted schnorkel 42.53 N., 53.21 W., course 270.

(3) 1400Z/17th U.S.S. SUTTON made hedgehog attacks on Sonar contact 42.59 N., 53.45 W. Loud underwater explosion after first attack.

(Cominch, 172030Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Overhaul and  
re-gunning  
of 3 French  
cruisers of  
MONTCALM  
class.Contents of A.M. 261859 Feb. have not yet been put to Cominch as I am awaiting complete clarification in regard to para. 2 of that message.  
(2) Grateful for early receipt of details referred to in para. 1 of C. in C. Med. 071157 so that subject can be advanced with Cominch and dates of U.S. re-gunning commitment settled.  
(3) Para. 5 of C. in C. Med. 211228 Feb. (Top Secret) is also relevant.  
(B.A.D., 172107Z to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

17.3.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Survey near  
Kirkcaldy  
Reef.

Can reply to (?my) 240001 Feb. (?1945) now be  
(?given) please.  
(CHALLENGER 170141Z to Admty.)

FORMIDABLE,  
UGANDA,  
& destroyers.

Intend FORMIDABLE, UGANDA, NIZAM, URCHIN arriving  
Manus about 30th March and NAPIER, NORMAN, NEPAL  
arriving Manus 7th April to remain Manus until  
required by you to join T.F. 113 or T.F. 112. My  
180205 February refers.

(2) Until ordered forward of Manus by you above  
ships will form T.G.111.1.

(3) My 140818 not to all addressees gives state of training.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 170202Z to C.T.F. 113.)

Digest 1151  
16.3.45.

(Extract.)

(3) Luzon ground forces extending control of  
central and southern Luzon against varying enemy  
resistance. Total enemy casualties Luzon to date  
number 78,935 killed, 814 captured.

(4) Morning American forces landed unopposed on Basilan Island  
off Zamboanga.

(6) Delayed reports 5th Air Force operations 15th March follow.  
12 Mitchells on shipping search China coast attacked 1 destroyer,  
1 destroyer escort, 1 small freighter transport off Swatow firing  
destroyer with direct hits also strafing firing destroyer escort.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 170739Z to Admty.)

Empire L.S.I.  
(L) return  
to U.K.

A.M. 122344 Feb.\* para. 4. Request programme  
of the return of these ships may be forwarded when  
available.

(D. of P. 170807A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

\* Return to U.K. of 3 Empire L.S.I.(L)

U.S. opera-  
tions Jap.  
Islands.

(1) The Marines on Iwo continued mopping up  
operations on 17 March east long. date. About noon  
a group of 150 of the enemy were observed attempt-  
ing to organize in the northern part of the  
Island. They were dispersed by mortar fire. A few  
enemy troops attempted to "booby trap" installa-

tions in our rear areas.

(2) Surface units of the Pacific Fleet bombarded Matsuwa Island  
in the Kuriles on 16 March. Our gunfire caused a large explosion  
and several large fires. Shore based batteries of the enemy  
answered our fire but caused no damage to our ships.

(C. in C. Pacific Coast 172256 to Pacific Fleet, Sec. Navy.)

War Diary.

17.3.1945  
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/17th March.

Para. A. (1) INGERTCFT torpedoed and sunk at  
0855Z/16th March in 57° 25' N. 06° 50' W.

Para. B. (1) H.M.T. GROSMONT CASTLE attacked  
schnorkel wake at 1810Z/16th March in 58° 08' N.  
06° 14' W.

(2) A/C O/179 sighted periscope course 280° at 0248Z/17th March  
in 49° 25' N. 06° 35' W.

(3) A/C J/210 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 2200Z/16th  
March in 62° 22' N. 01° 20' W.

(4) A/C J/210 attacked contact possible schnorkel at 0214Z/17th  
March in 62° 22' N. 01° 20' W.

(5) A/C P/210 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0715Z/17th March in 61°  
14' N. 02° 40' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C K/547 attacked wake and smoke course 230° H.T.  
negative at 0927Z/16th March in 57° 03' N. 01° 50' W.

(2) Transit A/C sighted cloud of white smoke 100 yards square  
at 1324Z/16th March in 48° 36' N. 07° 50' W.

(3) A/C J/517 sighted puffs of smoke at 1732Z/16th March in 47°  
50' N. 09° 50' W.

(4) LOCH TULLA reported explosion at 1800Z/16th March in 53° 12'  
N. 05° 05' W.

(5) A/C E/547 attacked possible schnorkel H.T. negative at  
0645Z/17th March in 61° 15' N. 02° 38' W.

Para. D. (1) A/C Z/202 sighted smoke and sunflash on metal at  
1313Z/16th March in 52° 45' N. 12° 35' W.

Ref. A.M. 161130A para. C. (4) position of attack was 36° 07' N.  
06° 06' W. evaluated non-submarine.

(D.D.I.C. 171035Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 171410A, 171415A.)



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War Diary18.3.1945  
SundaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

1. Cominch is placing one Destroyer Escort Support Group of 4 ships at the disposal of the Admiralty immediately, with one or two more to follow if needed in view of U-boat activity in Home Waters.

North Sea

2(a) E-boats were active across the North Sea during the night penetrating to the swept channels in the neighbourhoods of 57B and 57C, and of N.F.6 & N.F.7 buoys presumably minelaying. They were engaged by our patrols and driven off, but without any actual sinkings.

(b) 17th E.G., searching for proof of NATAL's U-boat of the 14th off St. Abbs Head, has brought up much German wreckage and is able to name the vessel as U-766.

*later known to be U.714  
See pp. 242 2277  
March '45*

(c) One mine was detonated off the Schelde.

Channel

3. DAFFODIL was mined last night off Dieppe and sank later. Dieppe channel is closed pending minesweeping.

Western Approaches

4. GUYSBOROUGH sank after a second torpedo had struck her. There were 54 casualties.

Foreign StationsMediterranean

Gulf of Genoa

5. Last night three enemy destroyers or torpedo boats made a sortie from Genoa to within 7 miles of Cape Corse (N. Corsica). Destroyers METEOR and LOOKOUT intercepted and engaged the enemy vessels and sank two of them, believed to be ERIDANO and ARTURO about 40' W. of Leghorn. About 40 survivors were picked up. Our destroyers suffered no damage or casualties, but it was later found that the enemy force had laid mines off Cape Corse and clearance operations were undertaken.

Adriatic

6. Last night coastal forces operating in Adriatic attacked two F lighters escorted by 2 E-boats scoring a hit on one lighter which blew up. The enemy opened heavy fire but caused no damage or casualties to our forces.

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18.3.1945  
SundayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTAmerica and West Indies

U-boat  
attacked  
by  
T.G. 22.14  
*U. 866 sunk*

7. U.S.S. LOWE of Task Group 22.14 whilst on patrol in 43.23 N. 61.08 W. in the neighbourhood of Sable Island this afternoon (G.M.T.) obtained Sonar contact and attacked, apparently a bottomed U-boat. German wreckage and human remains were recovered.

Australia and New Zealand

## Movement

8. T.F.113 (KING GEORGE V, HOWE, INDOMITABLE, VICTORIOUS, INDEFATIGABLE, SWIFTSURE, GAMBIA, ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE, EURYALUS) left Manus for Ulithi (Caroline Is.) about 780' E. of Leyte. They will rendezvous in a refuelling area with units of T.F.112 (including STRIKER and SPEAKER) who left Manus yesterday.

## Philippines

9(a) United States forces landed in moderate strength on the southern shores of Panay Island at first light today following cruiser and destroyer bombardment. The initial landings were unopposed.  
(b) Three Venturas destroyed two midget submarines in Davao Gulf today.

## Japan

10(a) A strong force of carrier aircraft of the Pacific Fleet attacked enemy aircraft bases and installations on the island of Kyushu (S.W. Japan) today.  
(b) Army fighters bombed and strafed barges and radar facilities on Chichi Jima (Bonins) N.E. of Iwo Jima.

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18.3.1945  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Loan of  
American  
Destroyer  
Escort  
Group(s).

Following is Cominch and C.N.O. 171830 paraphrased. Inform Admiralty that in view increased U-Boat activity in U.K. waters, I am prepared to place under Admiralty operational control one D.E. Support Group of 4 D.Es. immediately and a second group and perhaps a 3rd later if needed. (Com. 12th Fleet 180958 to Admty.)  
Your 180958.

I am very grateful for Cominch's offer and would like first D.E. Support Group to report to C. in C. W.A.  
(1st S.L. 182020A to Com. 12th Fleet.)

Operations.North Sea.E-Boat  
activity.

N.R.G.1 .4 E-Boats detected in position 336 Ostend 19 at 2227 steering 140 at 36 knots. Illuminated by RIOU at 2235 and engaged by F.G. 3 at 2237. Enemy split and retired under smoke to N.W. Furthest south position 336 Ostend 12. Headache intercepted by ARENDAL indicates mines laid in vicinity of this position. F.G. 3 reports hits on 3 E-Boats while passing through enemy line. Superficial damage suffered by both M.T.Bs. M.T.B. 743 one serious and 1 minor casualties. M.T.B. 736 1 minor casualty. All casualties embarked in RIOU. N.R.G. 2 4 E-Boats detected in position 338 Ostend 17 at 2308 steering S.E. at 40 knots. Engaged by RIOU at 2313 and at 2321 by F.B. 2 at N.F. 7 buoy. Enemy retired north under smoke. Mines probably laid between 1 mile S.E. and 1½ miles N.E. of N.F. 7 buoy. Engaged again by RIOU at 2327. No results observed. F.B. 2 suffered superficial damage in both boats. No damage or casualties in RIOU. (RIOU 180210 to C. in C. Nore.)

E-Boat activity night 17/18.

Northern area. Group of E-Boats shadowed across North Sea on westerly course by Wellington aircraft to long. 01° 46' E. after which no information was received before enemy reached convoy route. An all important alteration of course of enemy to the southward was undetected due to this lull in information. E-Boats split into 3 groups when just short of convoy route and probably laid mines between 57 B Buoy and 57 C Buoy. Northbound convoy was in vicinity Sheringham Buoy and WIVERN engaged enemy who retired to N.E. under cover of smoke. Damage was probably caused to enemy.

Southern area. Between 2230 and midnight 3 groups of E-Boats attacked convoy route between N.F. 6 and N.F. 8 buoys. All groups were heavily engaged result not yet known. Minelaying possibly took place near N.F. 6 and N.F. 7 buoys. Enemy had been shadowed by aircraft on Hook patrol, another group plotted by shore radar came in to Galloper Shoal at 0030 turned to N.E. and retired.. Object not known. A further group also plotted by shore radar reached position 51° 45' N. 2° 30' E. from the northward at 0045 turned and retired to N.E. Further information will be passed when details have been received.

(C. in C. Nore 181255 to Admty.)

/NATAL's...

18.3.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

NATAL's  
\* U-Boat  
U. 766.  
*later known to be U. 714  
See H.P. 242 9277  
Mar. '45*

Bottom contact located and attacked in position 111° St. Abbs Head 7.0. Wreckage definitely German origin recovered in considerable quantity. Proof that German U-Boat was \*U. 766 also obtained. Your 171155 para. 2 not to all addressees refers. (S.O.E.G. 17 181117A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 181117A and 181245A. If evidence of date of sinking not obtained carry out further attacks as it is of utmost importance. All evidence is to be transferred to LOCH LOMOND who is to be detached to Rosyth. ASCENSION and MOORSOM comply with my 171155A para. 3.

(C. in C. Rosyth 181416A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

Consider evidence now obtained clearly indicates that attack reported in your 141720 resulted in the destruction of a U-Boat. Heartiest congratulations on this most successful start of your commission.

(C. in C. Rosyth 182354 to NATAL.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 348 part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 171600A  
March.

<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	-	327	10,402	-	14,536	210
Ostend	378	136	3,850	-	-	1,161
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	90	2,430	-	-
Calais	4,036	-	77	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,334	-	-	967
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,414</u>	<u>463</u>	<u>17,753</u>	<u>2,430</u>	<u>14,536</u>	<u>2,338</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	287	20,351	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	73	3,855	1,360	1,122	2,263
Le Havre	8,265	878	3,608	645	163	608
Rouen	321	629	8,629	1,241	2,153	240
Granville	-	-	-	649	-	-
Ghent	-	-	6,736	-	-	1,346
<u>Total</u>	<u>8,586</u>	<u>1,867</u>	<u>42,179*</u>	<u>3,895</u>	<u>3,438</u>	<u>4,457</u>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	1,685	616	14,165	156	-	1,526
Port de Bouc	-	-	3,024	600	15,386	2,475
Toulon	-	-	207	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,685</u>	<u>616</u>	<u>17,396</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>15,386</u>	<u>4,001</u>

(S.H.A.E.F. 181500A to Admty., and others.) \* As recd.

Minesweeping  
off Schelde.

Your 180047 para. 3. 5 actuations width 5 cables either side centre line completed. Explosive sweep used for 3 laps. 1 blue magnetic detonated 243° N.F. 6 8 cables. Small Downs E.T.A. 5 M.S. 2245 2 danlayers 1830.

(S.O. M.S.F. 18 181901A to C. in C. Nore.)

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18.3.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

DAFFODIL reports having been mined at 2307A in position 311° 1 mile from J.9 Buoy. Assistance has been sent. (N.O.I.C. Dieppe, 180055A to C. in C. Portsmouth.) My 180055. DAFFODIL sank at 0540A in vicinity

D.P.1 B.Q. Casualties reported at time of signalling 1 officer, 3 ratings dead, 5 ratings injured. Further details will be signalled when available. (N.O.I.C. Dieppe, 180621 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) Cositintrep No.348, part 2, Naval.

DAFFODIL sunk by mine or torpedo near J.9 Buoy off Dieppe a.m./18th March. Channel to Dieppe is closed while sweeping is carried out.

(2) On the night 17/18 E-Boats shadowed by aircraft approached convoy route off Ostend and were engaged by our patrols. Minelaying possibly took place. (A.N.C.X.F., 182212A to Admt.)

Patrols. (1) Detach from Convoy O.N.A.291 at 02° 30' W. and proceed to patrol area limits 01° 30' W., 01° 53' W. between 49° 50' N., 50° 20' N.

(2) Leave patrol at 0800Z/19th and proceed to anchor at ½ hours notice off St. Helens.

(3) HAVELOCK and INCONSTANT will join you in patrol on detaching from Convoy U.C.60B. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181036A to HESPERUS, ICARUS, DUNCAN.) Detach from Convoy U.C.60B on crossing 02° 30' W. and proceed to rejoin S.O. E.G.14 patrolling area limits 01° 30' W. 01° 53' W. between 49° 50' N. and 50° 20' N. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181052A to HAVELOCK, INCONSTANT.) Establish following patrols by 2000A/18.

"Gladstone A" Pendeen to 04° 45' W. 2 ships 16th M/S. Flot. Pendeen to Trevose. Codeword "Napoleon A" 2 ships 16th M/S. Flot. Trevose to Hartland. Codeword "Napoleon B".

(2) M.S.16 report dispositions and Senior Officers of 16th M/S. Flot. patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 181445A to M.S.F.16, S.O. E.G.2.) My 181036A and 181052A. Amend patrol area to read route E 50° 05' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 20' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181704A to HESPERUS, DUNCAN, ICARUS, HAVELOCK, INCONSTANT.)

?Operation "Nestegg". Taking KINGSMILL and GENTIAN under your orders weigh at 0930A/19th March and proceed by Needles Channel and searched channels in force to Portland, your E.T.A. Needles 1230A, Portland 1630A. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181254A to ROBERTS.) My 231837 December and A.M. 251305 December. Request that 31st M.S.F. may be ready to assemble at Plymouth on 1st April and that ships may be boiler cleaned as necessary to ensure that all have less than 150 boiler hours on that day. S.H.A.E.F. 171515 (not to all) refers. (A.N.C.X.F., 181325A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth.)

/S.H.A.E.F. ...

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18.3.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

?Operation S.H.A.E.F. 171515/. Request BASQUE, SIMOUN, "Nestegg" HOVA and SOMALI may be completed with (Contd.) ammunition and stores and held at short notice to sail for Plymouth by 1st April and that their boiler hours be adjusted to avoid boiler cleaning before the operation.  
(2) GLOIRE will not be required for this operation. (A.N.C.X.F., 181328A to C. in C. Mediterranean).  
\* Not identified in War Registry.

Anti U-Boat Weigh at 0410A 19th March and carry out serial deep mining. E.1 part 1. My 171500A not to all also refers. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181555A to PLOVER, DIANTHUS). Anchor in St. Helens Roads by 1930A today 18th.

(2) Weigh at 0400A 19th March and carry out serial D.5.  
(3) My 171304A not to all refers.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181737A to WILLEM VAN DER Zaan, BURDOCK).  
You will be required to lay serial M.2 part 1 lay 5 on Tuesday 20th March.

(2) NIGHTINGALE will then revert to duty under VERNON (M).  
(3) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181905A to M.L.186, NIGHTINGALE).

The 10th M.L. Flotilla is detailed for minelaying in accordance with Portsmouth No. O/0221/227 of 8th February.  
(2) 5 M.Ls. each with 4 mines embarked are to be detailed for each lay and when so detailed will constitute Force G.H.  
(3) Revelant instructions contained in Operation order quoted in para.1 and my 241550A February not to Q.10 are to be complied with.  
(4) HORNET is requested to make arrangements for loading direct with S.A.S.O.

(5) Q.10 is to report the pendant number of the S.O. Force G.H. when reporting readiness to proceed before laying.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181906A to HORNET, Q.10).

The 10th M.L. Flotilla is detailed to lay serial M.I.Part

II.

(2) HORNET is requested to sail Force G.H. at 1000A 19th March to carry out Serial M.I Part II Lay 1.

(3) My 181906 refers.

(4) Q.10 acknowledge and report Pendant number of S.O's boat. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181907A to HORNET, Q.10).

Operations

Western Approaches

Possible Have detached from W.N.80. HADLEIGH CASTLE U-Boat. attacking A/S contact in position 58° 46' N. 04° 44' W. (X) Suitable.

(S.O. Force 33, 180105A to C. in C.W.A.).

My 180105. Wreck sides 42 feet high 35 feet beam 110 feet long in amended position 58° 51' N. 04° 4' W. (X). Intend resuming patrol sweep R from North Minch. Suitable.

(S.O. Force 33, 180346A to C. in C.W.A.).

/Patrols...

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18.3.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches.

Patrols When PERIM, GOOD HOPE join S.O.E.G.15 LOUIS proceed Plymouth for lay over.  
(2) PERIM (S.O.), GOOD HOPE, LAWSON then proceed patrol Trevose to 05° 30' W. codeword

"Links Able".

(3) All coastal convoys are to be trailed through your area. (C. in C. Plymouth, 180931A to PERIM, GOOD HOPE).

20th E.G. TAVY 3 frigates supporting U.C.60B 3rd E.G. DUCKWORTH, 4 frigates and 31st E.G. CARISBROOKE CASTLE 2 corvettes North Minches Force 37 23rd E.G. MONTSERRAT 2 frigates north Irish Sea.

Force 36 4th E.G. 1st Division BENTINCK 2 frigates 2nd Division BAXLEY 2 frigates Central Irish Sea, Force 36 5th GRINDALL (S.O) 4 frigates and 18th E.G. TOWY 3 frigates general area St. Georges Channel groups support convoys as ordered.

19th E.G. LOCH INSH 3 frigates support H.X.242 then O.N.291 Add to my 181137 and amend H.X.342 after "Bristol Channel Section" insert "detaches".

(C. in C.W.A., 181429A to W.A. Command).

Loss of Act under orders of C. in C. Western Approaches H.M.C.S. until further orders.

GUYSBOROUGH (C. in C. Plymouth, 181101A to INGLIS, LORING, BALSAM, ALLEGIANCE).

My 181331A not to all addressees. GUYSBOROUGH complement 90 including 2 Officers and 1 rating passengers. Have recovered 36. Recoveries are Capt. Lieut. Russell and Sub. Lieut. McCormack and Lieut. Boddier and passenger Flying Officer Lieut. (A) E.M. Davis.

Ship was first torpedoed aft and then amidships 90 minutes later.

Intend searching area till dusk for any further survivors.

Position of survivors 46° 55' N. 09° 12' W. Suitable.

Weather report 3872 2553.

(INGLIS, 181450A to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 181450A continue search until further orders.

Report forthwith whether GUYSBOROUGH has sunk and number of survivors still unaccounted for who are thought to have left the ship.

(C. in C.W.A., 181807 to INGLIS).

My 172344A Sunderland aircraft will co-operate with you from last light tonight 18th until first light 19th.

Call sign W/T TST54 R/T Tentpole Sig.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 181840A to LORING, INGLIS, QUEEN WILHELMINA).

Your 181807A GUYSBOROUGH sank at about 2000Z/17. 54 unaccounted for. Captain states everyone alive left ship and hanging on Carley rafts. All Carley rafts have been accounted for. Consider that no further survivors are alive as from reports majority died of fractures hanging on to Carley rafts. Several bodies have been identified and fractures examined.

(INGLIS, 181920A to C. in C.W.A.).

Add to my 181920A. Survivors on board state that approx. 42 men died during last night whilst on Carley float leaving 12 unaccounted for. Have carried out 10 mile square search and am

/now...

18.3.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Loss of  
H.M.C.S.  
GUYSBOROUGH  
(Contd.)

now doing a 15 mile square.  
(INGLIS, 182115A to C. in C.W.A.).  
Return to Falmouth with ALLEGIANCE.  
(C. in C.W.A., 182213A to BALSAM).  
Your 182115 if all Carley floats and boats are  
accounted for abandon search and return to  
Plymouth.  
(C. in C.W.A., 182350A to INGLIS, LORING).

Anti-U-Boat  
deep  
mining.

Carry out operation "C.H." L lines 1 and 2. 1605  
March 19th.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 181107A to APOLLO).  
Intend following programme.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Serial</u>	<u>Rendezvous time</u>
19th	L	1645
21st	L	0900
22nd	L	0900
23rd	N	2030

Your 172256 refers.  
(APOLLO, 181154A to C. in C.W.A.).

Anti-U-Boat  
activity in  
Minches.

In view of the present threat I intend to form  
the traffic through the Minches into convoy and  
employ temporarily two support groups to make  
this area untenable for U-Boats.

(2) One Group will be employed in the North  
Minch Cape Wrath area to protect shipping and

the Raasay training area and the second group in the Sea of  
the Hebrides.

(3) These groups will be provided from the Irish Sea which will  
entail certain convoys proceeding unsupported.

(C. in C.W.A., 181245A to Admiralty).

Operations

Norway

Operation  
"V.P."

V.P.81 M.T.B.723 and M.T.B.711 returned at 1235A  
today 18th March.

(2) No shipping sighted. Force detached in the  
Leads.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 181152A to C. in C.H.F.).

Patrols.

I.S.O.H.30. STUBBORN reports no shipping  
sighted.

(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 181310A to F.O.S.M.).

Positions of submarines at 0800 19th March and movements  
for the following 24 hours.

(A) SIDON 69° 20' N. 15° 08' E. diving by day through 68° 01' N.  
09° 10' E. then course 210° 150 miles in 24 hours.

(B) VENTURER as in my 172000.

(C) DOLFIJN on patrol off Fejeosen between 60° 30' N. and 61°  
05' N.

(Admty., 181948A to A.I.G.25).



18.3.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters.

15 Russian  
Catalinas  
U.S.A. for  
Murmansk  
via Gander  
and  
Reykjavik.

A.O.C.Iceland reports accommodation and servicing facilities for the 15 Catalinas available and any flow of aircraft decided upon is acceptable through Reykjavik.

(2) It will be unnecessary for R.A.F. captains and navigators to accompany these aircraft as far as Reykjavik. 45 Group will give such assistance as is required at the U.S. terminal and will attend to control signals and briefing.

(3) R.C.A.F. approval for the attachment of one English-speaking Soviet Officer at Gander has been received. R.C.A.F. Headquarters wish to know the name and expected time of arrival of the officer being attached to Gander, will you please, therefore, signal these details when known.

(Air Ministry, 181810 to 30 Mission, S.B.N.O. N.Russia).

18.3.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Routeing  
of traffic  
between  
Casablanca  
and Dakar

Do not concur your 161840 as this takes southbound shipping inside 200 fathom line.

(2) Propose that 2 new routes one for all north-bound and one for all southbound shipping be laid down.

(3) If you concur I will signal proposals.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 181115A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

No ocean  
Tug at  
Gibraltar

Following passed for information begins addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Med., from F.O.G.M.A. H.M. Tug ATHLETE is out of action with main and auxiliary engine defects until a.m. 24th March.

(2) No ocean going tug available at Gibraltar.  
Ends.

(F.O.G.M.A., 181205A to C. in C. Lant, Cominch, F.O.E.M., C. in C.W.A.)

Capsized  
pontoon  
barge

M/V GRAND TETON reports passing new 12 Section Pontoon Barge bottom up in 36.02 N. 44.45 W. at 1937Z/17.

(F.O.G.M.A. 182225A to Admty., Cominch.)

BEARN

Troops referred to in B.N.A. Lisbon, 171913 were not landed but only transferred to MCANDREW.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 182242Z to Admty.)

South Atlantic

Operation  
"Tabarin"

At 172300 leader of operation "Tabarin" at Hope Bay reported that SS. EAGLE had lost both anchors there in high gale, been in collision with two icebergs causing damage to bow four feet above waterline, had lost part of fore deck and was returning to Port Stanley at 6 knots. Requested H.M.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY to intercept. Expect to sail WILLIAM SCORESBY at 0300Z Monday. Departure delayed as ship blown down and engine room partly dismantled for refit.  
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is., 180956P to Admty.)

A.F.D.40

(Capetown?) departure 181130B SOUTHERN SEA with tug MCEWAN and A.F.D.40 for Durban. Route coastal. S. of A. 4 knots.

(3) A.F.D.40 is to be taken over by PRUDENT on arrival Durban.

(4) Dock is manned. Crew Total 8.  
(C. in C.S. At., 181203B.)

18.3.1945.  
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Gulf of Genoa operations 3 enemy destroyers or torpedo boats made a sortie from Genoa during night 17/18 March and were first located by shore Radar in area round 43.21 N. 09.26 E. at 1800~~217~~ after about 1 hour in that area they proceeded at high speed south to within 7 miles of Cap Corse before retiring to the north. Eastbound "Goldflake" convoy approaching Cap Corse was turned back and METEOR and LOOKOUT were detached from patrol to intercept. Preliminary reports indicate enemy were engaged and 2 sunk at 180310 in approx. 43.40 N. 09.20 E. Survivors picked up.  
(C. in C. Med., 180958A).

A.F.D.55 BARTHORPE is to detach from A.F.D.55 forthwith and proceed independently to Port Said A.M. 161654A.  
(2) Request you will sail BARNWELL to Port Said direct on completion defects.  
(3) F.O.L.E.M. is requested to sail a trawler to R/V. with EMPHATIC towing A.F.D.55 as soon as practicable and escort them to Port Said.  
(C. in C. Med., 181052 to V.A.M.).

Odessa - re tugs for repatriation vessels. Following received from Odessa. Begins: Consider 20,000 ton ships too large to berth at Odessa without tug and with reasonable margin safety particularly in view of lack of repair facilities here. If DUCHESS OF RICHMOND has inward turning screws and consequently poor handling qualities as has been reported, berthing could only be carried out in most favourable weather conditions. Submit class of vessel for future repatriations to this port should be reconsidered in light of present knowledge. Port authorities have been asked to try and arrange facilities for disembarkation by tender if necessary but this may not be possible. In any case ships must come alongside for water at present. Ends.  
(2) My 161207 refers. Additional facilities for disembarkation by tender and provision of tugs has already been taken up but known Soviet shortages do not make me too sanguine for any improvement. Only one small tug is at present available and there are no tenders.  
(3) Admiralty pass to C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M., and D. of S.T. (Admiral Archer, 181105A to Admty.).

Spanish ambassador, landing at Naples. Request Admiralty reply to B.N.A. Madrid's 152001~~4~~ There is no naval objection to yacht proceeding to Naples but warship is not acceptable.  
(C. in C. Med., 181114A to Admiralty).  
~~4~~ Requesting permission for naval unit to convey Spanish Ambassador to Quirinal.

18.3.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

S.S. NARVA  
(sunk  
15.1.1945)

Cause of loss of NARVA considered due to drifting mine or internal explosion. Former more probable. Inquiries show no evidence of sabotage. A.M. 201951. (F.O.L.E.M., 181144B to Admiralty). / January 1945.

Mining in  
rivers of  
Hungary.

Following received by A.F.H.Q. from A.C.C. Hungary begins: Detailed data urgently needed as to quantities kinds, locations, and dates dropped of submersible mines sowed in rivers of Hungary by Allied aircraft. This data requested by Russian

Naval member A.C.C. for use in facilitating minesweeping operations. Ends.

(2) A.F.H.Q. taking no action in view of B.M.Ms. 151635 to Troopers for Admiralty. My 161812 to Admiralty and A.M.071334 December not to B.M.M. also refer.

(3) B.M.M. is requested to inform A.C.C. Hungary. Admiralty pass to B.M.M. Hungary.

(C. in C. Med., 181258A to Admiralty, B.M.M. Hungary).

Navigation  
Lights.

Navigation Light instructions, A.Ms. 241853 January and 221954 February refer. Have instructions for Mediterranean been promulgated? (D.T.D., 181505A to C. in C. Med.).

Black  
Sea -  
reporting  
movements  
of Allied  
vessels.

Following is a repetition of B.N.L.O. Black Sea's 151412 to F.O.L.E.M. only begins: There are no Reporting Officers. My information of arrivals and departures for Odessa is given me by land line from Alusna Odessa and at other ports verbally by Black Sea Staff.

A.M. 061051 refers.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 181708B to C. in C. Med.).

TACITURN

Sailed submarine TACITURN at 1800B/18 to Aden for onward routeing.

(2) E.T.A. 1000Z/23 March. S. of A. 12 knots.

(3) - (5) Communications.

(N.O.I.C. Suez, 181815B to Com. Aden).

KELANTAN

Sailed KELANTAN to Aden for onward routeing to British Pacific Fleet.

(2) E.T.A. Aden 1400Z/23 S. of A. 10 knots.

(3) - (4) Communications.

(N.O.I.C. Suez, 182045B).

Situation  
report No.581

(1) Gulf of Genoa on 15th MILNE and MARNE bombarded Genoa. Night 17th/18th. 3 enemy destroyers or torpedo boats were detected by Radar North Corsica METEOR and LOOKOUT intercepted and sank

2 torpedo boats.

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18.3.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Situation  
Report  
No.581  
(Contd.)

(2) Adriatic coastal force operating off  
Tagliafso on night 17th/18th attacked 2 F-  
lighters escorted by 2 E-Boats one F lighter was  
hit and blew up. Enemy opened heavy fire but  
caused no damage or casualties.  
(C. in C. Med., 182132A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.).

18.3.1945  
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-boat  
situation

No change.  
(C. in C.E.I., 180438Z)

LA  
GRANDIERE

B.A.D's 071513, not to C. in C.E.I. or N.A. Paris.  
Arrangements are in hand for the transfer about  
15th April of French Sloop LA GRANDIERE to the  
East Indies Station.

(2) B.A.D. is requested to arrange with Cominch  
for ship to be sailed when ready to Colombo and to report  
intended programme.  
(D.O.D.(F) 181017A to C. in C. E.I.)

Movements

NEWCASTLE wearing flag of C.S.5 arrived.  
Departed VIGILANT, RORQUAL, MILFORD, COUNTESS.  
(N.O.I.C.Trincomalee, 181658Z.)

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18.3.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

N.S.H.Q. Para. (B) A/C M/160 sighted positive schnorkel  
S/M attack course 270 at 1245Z and C.T.G. 22.13 made two H/H  
and sighting attacks on contact at 171400Z in 42.59 N. 53.45  
summary. W. loud underwater explosion after first attack.  
(N.S.H.Q., 180250Z.)

Stragglers Stragglers arrived week-ending 17th March.  
report. 12th March DIMITRIOS INGLESSIS (Greek) ex-S.C.  
169 straggled ordered in by Commodore.  
16th March BISCAYA (Nor.) ex-H.X.343, minor  
boiler defects lost convoy in heavy weather.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 181258Z.)

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 181346Z, Cominch, 181605Z.)

U.G.S.83, U.G.S.83 departing New York and Norfolk 28/29  
T.G.60.8, March for Western Mediterranean will be escorted  
G.U.S.85. by Task Group 60.8 Captain Hoffman in MOFFETT,  
ENDICOTT, READING, CARROLL, COONER, ELDRIDGE  
escorts lay-over Oran. Return escorting G.U.S.  
85 when C. in C. Med. directs.  
(Cinclant, 181612Z.)

Tankers Tankers who declare 14 knots speed Urdis 161201A  
sailing refers. Request you will sail as follows.  
from Med. (A) In convoy through Mediterranean Approaches  
to America. then independently route "Prune" if bound  
Caribbean Area.  
(B) In convoy throughout if bound U.S.Continental  
Ports.  
(Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.), 181627Z to C. in C.  
Med.)

Withdrawal From C.O.I.S.  
of vessels Details mentioned in your 161610Z would be of  
attached to interest to B.A.D. if sent by reference sheet.  
Com. 4th (B.A.D., 181841Z to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)  
Fleet.

S.C.170. S.C.170, C.3, KOKANEE (S.O.), H.F/D.F., TRILLIUM  
sail St. Johns 191830Z to join you in Westomp  
44.57 N., 51.23 W. at 201200.  
(2) W.S.C.170 three ships escorted by ST. THOMAS  
(S.O.) H.F./D.F., STELLARTON sail St. Johns 191200Z to join in  
Westomp.  
(3) SEACLIFFE on completion defects will sail late 20th to  
overtake Group.  
(4) W.7 is to remain with S.C.170 under orders of S.O. C.3  
until last light 20th then detach and proceed direct St. Johns  
as ice conditions permit.  
(5) Chop 211200.  
(F.O.N.F., 181846Z to S.E. S.C.170.)

/U-Boat ...

18.3.1945  
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat incidents

Para. C. 181505Z U.S.S. LOWE made hedgehog attack on Sonar contact 43.23 N. 61.08 W. (Cominch, 182005Z)

U-boat attacked by T.G. 22.14

*U. 866 sunk*

T.G.22.14 obtained Sonar contact in 43.23 N. 61.08 W. at 1505Z/18th and attacked. Two explosions followed attack then several more time interval indicating bottomed U-Boat. Depth 60 fathoms.  
(2) Large quantities wood and paper appeared after 30 minutes.

Oil samples were recovered also official Nazi paper dated 22nd Dec.44. Other letters German first aid packets part of desk planking and desk with hair and flesh adhering.  
(3) 3 D/C patterns set magnetic on target were dropped. Full explosions obtained from all.  
(4) T Group remaining in area for further evidence. (C. in C.C.N.A., 182257Z).

Australia and New Zealand

Movements

Task Force 113 (less WAKEFUL and Destroyers named below) left Manus 18th March for Ulithi and operations.

(2) Task Unit 112.2.1 (STRIKER, CRANE, FINDHORN, WHIRLWIND, SAN ADOLFO, SAN AMBROSIO, CEDARDALE) and Task Unit 112.2.5 (PHEASANT, SPEAKER, KEMPENFELT) left Manus 17th March to R/V Task Force 113 in refuelling area.

(3) Task Unit 112.1.1. (ARTIFEX, EMPIRE SPEARHEAD, BACCHUS, FORT COLVILLE, HERMELIN, ROBERT MAERSK, THYRA, SUGAR, DENBIGHSHIRE, BALLARAT, BENDIGO, WHYALLHA, KALGOORLIE, PIRIE) Task Unit 112.2.2 (AASE MAERSK, ARNDALE, WAVE KING, SLINGER, WOODCOCK, PARRETT) and TYNE leave Manus 19th March for Leyte.

(4) UNICORN and WESSEX leave Manus 23rd March for Leyte. (C. in C.B.P.F., 180201Z).

My 180201Z March para. 3 add C.T.F.112 in LOTHIAN. (C. in C.B.P.F., 181007Z).

British Pacific Fleet dispositions.

KOLA

Your 120525. Steps are being taken on station to use KOLA as a semi permanent issuing ship. Owing to the very bad state of her engines this is the only duty she is at present considered

fit for.

(R.A.F.T., 180715Z to Admiralty).

Digest  
No.1152  
Extract.

Covering 17th March unless otherwise stated.



18.3.1945.  
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest (1) Navy Liberators from Mindoro saw single  
No.1152 small stack aft freighter sinking east of Phan  
Extract Thier.  
(Contd.) (2) Clark Field Navy Liberators over China coast  
attacked medium freighter transport leaving  
anchorage 120 miles north-north-east Wenchow  
proceeding to R/V with destroyer: five hits with  
100 pound bombs scored on freighter transport leaving vessel  
enveloped in flames listing badly with crew abandoning ship. (14)  
Patrol Liberator sank one of two unidentified vessels south-east  
Balikpapan.  
(15) Previous day R.A.A.F. Liberators on patrol sank one coastal  
vessel hit two other coastal vessels two powered luggers fired  
fuel dump ashore Lombok Island.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 181105Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z 18th March.  
and sighting Para.A.  
summary. (1) H.M.C.Ship attacked at 171835 in 46° 40' N.  
09° 30' W.  
(2) A/C. H/58 sighted 2 U-Boats course 000° at  
172145Z in 57° 45' N. 11° 20' E.  
Para.B. (1) A/C R/143 sighted smoke and snort which submerged  
at 1523Z/17 in 61° 55' N. 03° 20' E.  
(2) Russian submarine chasers attacked contact at 171450Z in  
69° 24' N. 33° 40' E.  
(3) Fishing vessel ROYAL BURGHS sighted periscope at 170900Z in  
56° 04' N. 02° 22' W.  
(4) A/C. P/489 sighted possible wake and snort and dropped  
practice bombs at 171430Z in 58° 00' N. 02° 33' W.  
(5) ELSE RYKENS heard hydrophone effects about 171830Z in  
approx. 56° 04' N. 02° 44' W.  
(6) Dakota A/C sighted possible U-Boat at 171149Z in 50° 12' N.  
00° 40' E.  
(7) French A/C obtained A.S.V. contact 172230 in 17° 28' N.  
20° 40' W.  
Para.C.(1) A/C. U/63 sighted oil slick and received M.A.D.  
contact, H.T. negative at 171254Z in 49° 45' N. 05° 43' W.  
(2) VIDETTE reported suspected Gnat at 172007Z in approx. 50° 20'  
N. 02° 25' W.  
(3) Anson A/C DA/12 sighted possible Schnorkel smoke course 217°  
at 170920Z in 53° 35' N. 05° 21' W.  
(4) A/C Y/105 sighted oil slick and had possible contact at 171135Z  
in 53° 38' N. 05° 18' W.  
(5) LADY MADELEINE reported contact at 171450Z in 53° 35' N. 04°  
54' W.  
(6) H.M.C. ships KIRKLAND LAKE, STETTLER, and ANTIGONISH attacked  
contact at 171527A in 55° 45' N. 07° 56' W. Later classified  
wreck.  
(7) HADLEIGH CASTLE attacked contact at 180005Z in 58° 46' N. 04°

War Diary.

18.3.1945.  
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

44' W. Later reported wreck. In addition H.M.  
ship reported mined in 50° 05' N. 00° 58' E. at  
172207Z considered possibly U-Boat casualty.  
(D.D.I.C., 181206A).

U-Boat  
dispositions

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 181401A, 181411A).

19.3.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea

1(a) E-Boats were very active last night, probably over 30 taking part in strikes on The Humber, Haisborough, Yarmouth and Harwich areas. They fell in with Convoy F.S.59 and torpedoed and sank the merchantmen ROGATE and CRICHTON off Lowestoft. They also inflicted damage on our Patrol Unit F.A.3, M.T.Bs. 767 and 796. Minelaying is probable off Haisborough. They were engaged by our patrols and escorts, but the damage inflicted is not known. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth has had to close the Haisborough Sanctuary.

(b) S.S.HADLEY F. BROWN, S.S. EMPIRE BLESSING and L.S.T.80 were mined off Holland and S.S. SAMSELBU mined or torpedoed off Ostend. EMPIRE BLESSING and SAMSELBU sank; the other two are in tow.

(c) One mine was detonated off the Schelde.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

U-Boat  
report

(2) The American tanker TAMPICO, New York for Gibraltar and India reported sighting a submarine at 0610Z today in 34.43 N. 21.31 W. TAMPICO tried to ram the submarine, but it crash dived and disappeared.

South Atlantic

Bad  
weather off  
the Cape.

(3) S.S. HOWARD E. COFFIN made S.O.S.25 miles from Durban at 0016Z and S.S. ASTRIDA was swamped 58 miles from Cape Recife today.

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War Diary19.3.1945  
MondaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean *m 15/3*

Adriatic

4. M.G.B. 179 and M.T.B. 710 *m 16/3* have been mined near Gruica Islet (44.25 N. 14.34 E.). There were no casualties, but both vessels have damaged shafts.

Australia and New Zealand

China

5. Aircraft from Lingayen last night attacked a tanker escorted by two destroyers 35 miles E. by S. of Swatow and badly damaged the tanker.

Philippines

6. P.Ts. based on Palawan last night destroyed four barges and a motor launch off Palawan Island.

Japan

7. Carrier aircraft of the Pacific Fleet today (East longitude date) continued their attacks on Japan. Kobe, the naval base of Kure, and other objectives in and around the Inland sea were attacked.

A large number of Japanese warships is said to have been damaged and several hundred aircraft destroyed in the air and on the ground.

Micrones

8. In the Carolines small craft were bombed and sunk in the anchorage at Truk, and piers and other targets at Yap were attacked by Navy and Marine aircraft today. Marine aircraft attacked enemy held islands in the Palaus and continued neutralising attacks on enemy bases in the Marshalls.

19. 3. 1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Procedure with U-Boats on "cease fire."

A.L.M. 01970/45 of 12th March. It is intended to raise the following points at the meeting on 20th March.

- (1) Procedure for issuing orders and instructions to (German) U-Boats at sea on the cease fire.
- (2) What ports in Germany will be used for initial assembly of German U-Boats.
- (3) German U-Boats in Norwegian bases to be sailed for German assembly ports. Procedure with regard to boats that cannot put to sea.
- (4) Disposal of German U-Boats that are in Irish Sea between St. Geo. Channel and North Channel and those that surrender off a British port.
- (5) Have recent developments caused any change in Admiralty estimate of 160 German U-Boats that may surrender in British zone.
- (6) Confirm availability of British supervisory staff at Loch Ryan and Lisahally.
- (7) Procedure for arranging for a German ship to accompany each surrender group of German U-Boats.
- (8) German U-Boats to surrender in groups of 25. Sailing for a R/V to eastward of British Is. before they are likely to meet merchant ship traffic and escort groups of German U-Boats all the way to destination.
- (9) Allied representation in escort groups.
- (10) Procedure for arranging for periodic visits of a German merchant ship to Loch Ryan and Lisahally: provisions, mails, stores, reliefs.
- (11) Is any special treatment required regarding surrendered Mark XXI German U-Boats.  
(C. in C. W.A. 191529A to Admty.)

Operations.

North Sea.

E-Boat activity.

SS. ROGATE torpedoed in position 070° 4 Buoy 3 miles.

(VEGA 190150A to C. in C. Nore.)  
Has ship sunk? Your 0150 refers.  
(C. in C. Nore 190217A to VEGA.)

ROGATE sank in position 082° 4 Buoy 3.1 miles. 24 survivors on board. M.T.B. 794 searching vicinity for other 2 survivors. (VEGA 190233A to C. in C. Nore.)

Proceed forthwith to assistance of unit F.A. 3 disabled in position 53° 38' N. 1° 07' E. On arrival of F.C. 1 M.T.B. 502 return harbour with casualties.

(C. in C. Nore 190309A to Unit F.C. 1.)

Haisborough Sanctuary closed owing to enemy E-Boat activity. Period at present unknown as all M/S resources at Gt. Yarmouth and Lowestoft fully occupied. Request assistance of fleet sweepers to search area Oropesa and LL/SA as and when practicable.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 191054A to C. in C. Nore.)

C.A.F.O. 2120/44. A. SS. ROGATE. B. British. C. 19th March 0015 G.M.T. D. 1 1/2 miles N.E. of No. 4A Buoy. E. Torpedoed by E-Boat. F. Sunk. G. 24.

(Com. Sheerness 191721A to Admty.)

/E-Boat...

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War Diary.19.3.1945  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.E-Boat  
activity.  
(Contd.)

E-Boat activity night 18/19.  
Humber area. Wellington aircraft sighted 5 E-Boats in position 53° 14' N. 03° 51' E. steering westerly course and proceeded to shadow. At 2210 when in position 53° 28' N. 02° 34' E. aircraft vectored outlying coastal force unit on to E-Boats who engaged.

E-Boats continued to westward shadowed by aircraft and our M.T.Bs. MIDDLETON engaged this group in vicinity H2 Buoy. E-Boats retired to northwestward subsequently altering course to eastward. Shore radar detected this group when on this easterly course. Coastal force unit F.A. 3 again engaged E-Boats when they were retiring.

(2) Haisborough area. Wellington aircraft sighted 6 E-Boats in position 53° 9' N. 04° 17' E. at 2012 and shadowed. This group of E-Boats was picked up by shore radar in position 065° Sheringham Buoy 16 at 2359 and engaged by ZETLAND in vicinity 57F Buoy. E-Boats turned to northeast before reaching Swept Channel and made a large detour in southeasterly direction approaching the convoy route again in vicinity 55B Buoy where they were engaged by HAMBLEDON and coastal force unit F.C. 3 E-Boats retired to northeast but minelaying in vicinity 55B but not in channel is probable.

(3) Yarmouth area. Group of E-Boats detected by shore radar in position 060° 3B Buoy 5 steering 270° and reached channel 2 miles north of 3B Buoy but turned to eastward immediately and faded at 0004. At 0053 E-Boats detected by shore radar in position 090° 4 B Buoy 9 it is thought that this was the same group that faded at 0004. E-Boats approached the southbound convoy and attacked at 0009. E-Boats probably split during the attack one group withdrawing to eastward and the other crossed convoy route and then steered to the northeast. SS. ROGATE and SS. CRICHTON of convoy F.S. 59 torpedoed and sunk. Minelaying not suspected. E-Boats were engaged by HOLDERNESS and convoy escorts. Minelaying not suspected.

(4) At 0212 shore radar detected group of E-Boats in position 093° 3B Buoy 11, on westerly course. Group engaged by GUILLEMOT and driven off.

Wellington aircraft had sighted E-Boats in position 52° 02' N. 03° 53' E. at 2100 but lost contact in position 52° 06' N. 03° 19' E. at 2204. These were probably E-Boats that operated in Yarmouth area.

Harwich area. Swordfish aircraft detected E-Boats in position 51° 56' N. 03° 52' E. on course 270°. Commenced to shadow. Last position given by aircraft was 51° 55' N. 02° 03' E. At 2331 shore radar detected E-Boats in position 100° 3 Buoy 12 steering westerly course. Group split when about 3 miles from channel, the northern group being engaged by MEYNELL and driven off. Southern group probably laid mines between 54B and 54A Buoys and withdrew to eastward. Another group was detected by shore radar 115° 3 Buoy 13 steering northwesterly course. This group crossed Swept Channels at 54B and 42 Buoys penetrating as far as inshore route. Withdrew to southeast and were engaged by MEYNELL.

19.3.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

E-Boat activity. (Contd.) (6) All our forces have not yet returned to harbour so damage cannot at present be assessed. (7) It is probable that more than 30 E-Boats were operating. Shore radar conditions normal. Harwich and Yarmouth plots. 7 shore stations between Trimmingham and Bawdsey plotted the various groups. Pick-up ranges were satisfactory with the exception of N.R.N.2 which was detected by V.163 (Benacre) at the abnormally short range of 10½ miles. As stations maintained good track continuity and a fast reporting rate Yarmouth and Harwich plots were able to pass a clear picture to Chatham. (C. in C. Nore 191953A to Admty.)

Practice air co-operation required. Reference Nore signal 171202A request following details of practice requirements both Harwich and Sheerness before this matter can be considered. A. Heights at which co-operation is to take place. B. Normal times and duration of co-operation. C. Is unseen fire intended? D. Number of aircraft operation at one time. (H.Q.F.C. 190930A to Admty.)

Minesweeping off Schelde. Mine exploded in sweep approx. position 220° H.K.1 4 miles. (S.O. M.S.F. 18 190954A to C. in C. Nore.)

Mining of SS. HADLEY F. BROWN. Torpedoed 10 miles off Flushing. North Foreland radio station controlling. (T.A.M. 12 191152A to General.) MATTHEW SHEHAN taking HADLEY F. BROWN in tow expects to reach harbour am standing by. (SHELDRAKE 191439A to C. in C. Nore.) My 191426 MATTHEW SHEHAN has HADLEY F. BROWN in tow, request tugs in 51° 20' N. 03° 00' E. (VERSATILE 191549A to C. in C. Nore.)

Loss of SS. EMPIRE BLESSING. EMPIRE BLESSING believed mined and sunk in vicinity (N.F.)13 Buoy. Exact position unknown. (C. in C. Nore 191453A to VERSATILE, SHELDRAKE.) 39 survivors including Master landed Flushing today Monday ex SS. EMPIRE BLESSING mined 1000 yds. E.S.E. of N.F. 13 Buoy. Understand remainder of crew landed Ostend by M.L. No fatal casualties occurred. (N.O.I.C. Flushing 191705 to Admty.)

/Discharge...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 349 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 181600A March.

<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	71	631	10,526	-	7,110	68
Ostend	2,391	340	3,699	-	-	1,546
Boulogne	253	81	-	-	-	-
Calais	2,530	-	735	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	236	-	-	810
Caen	-	-	210	2,092	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,245</u>	<u>10,52</u>	<u>18,006*</u>	<u>2,092</u>	<u>7,110</u>	<u>2,424</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	513	17,161	-	-	-
Cherbourg	2	306	7,785	1,851	5,925	3,499
Le Havre	4,058	454	1,962	620	5,286	-
Rouen	2	8	6,248	951	2,182	145
Granville	-	-	-	371	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,824	-	-	809
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,062</u>	<u>1,281</u>	<u>35,980</u>	<u>3,793</u>	<u>13,393</u>	<u>4,453</u>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	4,291	1,237	14,752	739	-	1,402
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,774	500	-	1,150
Toulon	-	-	277	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,291</u>	<u>1,237</u>	<u>16,803</u>	<u>1,239</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,552</u>

(S.H.A.E.F. 191615A to Admty., and others.)\*Sic.

Loss of SS. SAMESELBU A.T.M. 97 ship mined or torpedoed in position N.F. 12. (VERSATILE 191826A to C. in C. Nore.) My 191826. SAMSELBU sunk. Merchant ship reports sighting periscope. Have attacked area with depth charge. (VERSATILE 191853A to C. in C. Nore.) Reference C.A.F.O. 2120/44. A. SAMSELBU. B. British. C. 1745Z/19. D. 022° 7 cables N.F. 11 buoy. E. Torpedoed. F. Sunk. G. 31 survivors landed Ostend. (N.O.I.C. Ostend 192150 to Admty.)

Loss of L.S.T. (I) 80 My 2018A to C. in C. Nore only. L.S.T. (I) 80 mined or torpedoed in approx. position 3 cables north N.F. 9 tug 456 standing by. (SHELDRAKE 192041A to C. in C. Nore.)

/Naval...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Naval  
Situation  
Report.

Le Havre. 2 berths, 450 ft. in length with 30 foot draught are now available at North Phoenix for troopships.  
(2) EMPIRE BLESSING was sunk by mine or torpedo in the channel 3 miles northeast of Zeebrugge. 21 survivors were landed at Ostend.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 192342A to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Proceed at 0815A/20th March and carry out para. 1 of my 181905.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191504A to M.L. 186, NIGHTINGALE.)  
Weigh at 1010A/20th March and carry out serial E 1 part 2.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191505A to PLOVER, DIANTHUS.)

E.G. 5.

If not in contact 5th E.G. is to detach from force 38 forthwith and proceed to Portsmouth or as ordered by C. in C. Portsmouth. A.M. 191258 not to all refers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 191823A to S.O. Force 38.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

French  
minesweepers  
for Bay  
of Biscay.

Propose sailing French Y.M.S. D.356, D.314 and Motor M/S D.341 ex motor M/S 1069 from St. Jean de Luz 19th March 1700A to Brest speed 9. Immediately the LAA sweeping are discharged at Brest these M/S with D.962 D.317 in addition will sail to Plymouth barrier collect LL sweep left in depot by the F.Y.M.S. and to receive one new hammer type, C Mark IV for the F.M.M.S. D.341 keep watch port wave single operator period.  
(Amiral Mouchez 191020A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Loss of  
H.M.C.S.  
GUYSBOROUGH.

Your 182350A. All Carley floats accounted for. My P.C.S. at 0100A/19 46° 50' N. 09° 25' W. 035° 15. LORING in company. All survivors are in INGLIS.  
(INGLIS 190115A to C. in C. W.A.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

- U. 681. Request you will convey the Admiralty's congratulations to the Captain and crew of U.S. Navy Liberator PB/41, upon the destruction of U. 681 on 11th March.  
(1st Sea Lord 191331A to Air Ministry.)  
(See Diary, March 12th.)
- Patrols. Establish following patrols by 2330A/19.  
TADOUSSAC, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH, 8LYTH, Trevoise to Lundy. Codeword "Napoleon". Two ships of E.G. 2 Trevoise to Pendeen. Codeword "Gladstone B"  
Two ships of E.G. 2 Pendeen to Lizard. Codeword "Gladstone A".  
(2) S.O.E.G. 2 report dispositions and S.Os. of 2nd E.G. patrols.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 191444A to M.S. 16, S.O.E.G. 2, DORNOCH.)
- U.S. destroyer support group Admiralty very grateful for your offer and would like first D.E. Support Group to report Commander in Chief Western Approaches at Liverpool. \*  
(Com. 12th Fleet 191528 to Cominch.)  
\* 180958 refers.

Operations.

Norway.

- Patrols. Intend to sail SPEARHEAD 1200A/21st March through A. 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, B. 61° 04' N. 00° 01' E. C. 61° 04' N. 01° 59' E. D. 60° 53' N. 02° 44' E. E. 60° 24' N. 03° 22' E. thence to patrol Norwegian coast between 59° 55' N. and 60° 25' N.  
(2) Proceed diving by day east of 01° E. speed west of 08° E. 10 knots east of 01° E. 120 miles per 24 hours.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 191625A to F.O. S/M, C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

- Convoy U.W. 65. E.T.A. position MT 0200A/20th. Speed 10 knots. Intend to operate Swordfish and Avenger off entrance from 0800/20th until convoy has entered. Do not intend to detach any escort with White Sea portion.  
(C.S. 10 191045A to S.B.N.C. N. Russia.)
- Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/20th and movements for following 24 hours. Times zone A.  
A. SIDON 68° 01' N. 09° 24' E. diving by day course 210° 150 miles in 24 hours. B. VENTURER on patrol off Fro Havet.  
C. DOLFIJN on patrol off Fejeosen.  
(C. of W. 191941A to A.I.G. 25.)

/Schnorkel...

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Schnorkel  
obstructors  
type O.      Defence type O laid 19th March in position 61°  
12' N. 01° 00' W. In direction 000° for 4 miles.  
Wind force 6, moderate swell visibility 10 miles.  
Previous defence missing except as in para. 2.  
(2) Search made. 4 spherical floats found  
together in position 61° 13' N. 00° 59' W. No  
wire with floats could be seen attached. Weather unsuitable to  
lower boat for further investigation.  
(BRITTANY 192030A to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German  
military  
transport  
Norway and  
Denmark.      See my 181910 following transport movements have  
been reported from Norwegian and Danish ports.  
(1) Frederiksted. BRETAGNE arrived at Frederiksted  
February 28th but proceeded to Torsnes next day to  
load believed to be mines.  
(2) Aarhus. MAR DEL PLATA and TIJUCA arrived  
Plata from Oslo 1500/8th March with troops and  
material.  
(3) Copenhagen. Following vessels arrived Copenhagen March 15th  
from Baltic ports. A. German HERCULES with 3000 refugees.  
B. URUNDI with 2000 refugees. C. Hospital ship PRETORIA.  
(4) See my 131631 para.1 (C) SUDERAU which was observed in Moss  
February 26th passed southbound through Great Belt March 7th  
with war material and cars on deck. B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm 191618 to Admt.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. EMPIRE  
LORD.      H.X. 343 WILLIAM GRAYSON and EMPIRE LORD in  
collision WILLIAM GRAYSON damage slight able to  
proceed with convoy. EMPIRE LORD major damage  
on port bow and forward bulkhead rendering ship  
dangerously unseaworthy for head seas or heavy  
weather. Detached EMPIRE LORD with EDMUNDSTON detailed as  
escort at 2200A/18th in 43° 39' N. 20° 05' W. for Horta.  
Weather 6571 1853.  
(S.O.E.G. C.8 190042A to C. in C. W.A.)

SS. JAMES  
HARROD.      Present condition of JAMES HARROD grounded on Deal  
Beach.  
Vessel has broken her back at No. 4 hold shaft  
engine room at collision place and is almost  
completely severed with after end on bottom at  
all states of tide and forward part afloat at high water.  
There is still about 2000 tons of case petrol in forward three  
holds, and discharging is held up temporarily. After two holds  
which were under fire are now tidal and still contain unknown  
quantity of case petrol. Fore end of vessel which is afloat is  
secured in position by four anchors and two heavy wires to shore.

/Consider...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

SS. JAMES  
HARROD.  
(Contd.)

Consider vessel could not be strapped across breach to refloat in one piece as after end is total loss. Fore end may be taken away if War Shipping Administration consider it fit for repair and we are advised that the vessel is not the responsibility of Salvage Dept., but of United States War Shipping Administration. (C.S.V.O. Dover 191600A to V.A. Dover.)

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MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

U-boat report  
 SSSS  
 34.43 N. 21.31 W. sighted submarine (unread).  
 ((K.S.V.B.) TAMPICO No T.O.O.)  
 0610Z/19 latitude 34.43 N. longitude 21.31 W.  
 sighted a S/M 45° on starboard bow 500 yards off.  
 Tried ram S/M but it crash-dived and disappeared.  
 Clear smooth sea, light swell, wind light variable.  
 (TAMPICO, 191130Z)  
 U.S. Tanker TAMPICO reports S/M sighting at 0618Z/19 lat. 34.43  
 N. long. 21.31 W.  
 (Cominch, 191135Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

BEARN Your 180042Z.  
 Request you report forthwith date you require  
 escorts for F.S. BEARN as destroyers are on  
 passage now. My 161205 and 171546 refer.  
 (F.O.G.M.A. 191048A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)  
 Temporary repairs F.A.C. BEARN expected date completed  
 midnight 19th. Intend she should remain off Ponta Delgada to  
 await escort by H.M.S. MALCOLM and H.M.S. VERITY.  
 (2) ERISKAY inform F.A.C. BEARN.  
 (3) Request route to Casablanca.  
 (S.B.N.O. Azores, 191144Z.)

Group III Ships addressed form Group III as from 1600A-  
 acknowledge (?group) 2 H.M.S. WELLINGTON S.O.  
 (F.O.G.M.A. 191108A to WELLINGTON, COLTSFOOT,  
 CYCLAMEN)  
 Extract. G.C.126 intend sail convoy at 1300/20 for  
 Casablanca  
 (8) Group 3 WELLINGTON Senior Officer COLTSFOOT, CYCLAMEN.  
 (9) Group 3 parts company at seaward end Q.B.A.146 and proceeds  
 to patrol between Capes Trafalgar and Spartel.  
 (F.O.G.M.A. 191508A.)

IMPLACABLE ?Part company with CANTON as necessary to R/V  
 H.M.S. IMPLACABLE during daylight tomorrow  
 Tuesday north of 038° N.  
 (2) IMPLACABLE has been re-routed as in A.M.  
 181357 being passed to you.  
 (3) Signal intended R/V.  
 (4) Estimate IMPLACABLE in (a) 039° 37' N. 015° 15' W. at 20th  
 0800A speed 18 knots.  
 (F.O.G.M.A. 191118A to WOLVERINE, ASSINIBOINE, Admty., C. in C.  
 Med., H.Q.C.C., IMPLACABLE, TERPSICHORE, TUMULT.)  
 Your 191118A. Intend R/V with IMPLACABLE in 039° 12' N. 014°  
 40' W. at 201001A.  
 (2) Estimated P.C.S. 200601A will be 038° 44' N. 013° 57' W.  
 042° 12 knots.  
 (WOLVERINE, 191823A to F.O.G.M.A.)

T.G.29.7 Departure Horta at 1022Z/19th T.G. 29.7 for  
 Bermuda. Comtaskforce 29 151855 not to all  
 refers.  
 (S.B.N.O. Azores, 191146Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

/Routeing...

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MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic - Contd.

Routeing  
of traffic  
between  
Casablanca  
and Dakar.

Your 181115 is concurred in but suggest if this is done all outstanding routes should be cancelled and the new routes substituted.  
(Admty., 191829A to F.O.G.M.A., F.O.C.W.Af.)

ANDES

Alter course forthwith for U 38.00 N. 26.30 W. then to P.  
(Admty., 191928A to ANDES.)

South Atlantic

SS.HOWARD  
E. COFFIN  
S.O.S.

S O S 25 miles from Durban bearing 295 Deck seams over steering room re-opening.  
((KVOH) HOWARD E. COFFIN, 190016Z to Admty.)

SS. ASTRIDA  
S.O.S.

S.O.S. Approximate position Cape Recife 295° 58' miles No. 5 hold swamped please send tug.  
((BPGK) ASTRIDA No T.O.O.)  
S.O.S. Ship sinking Cape Recife 295° (?58 miles).  
((BPGK) ASTRIDA No T.O.O. 19th.)  
Note: Received from Simonstown.

D.S.F.10,  
11, 12

Request details D.S.F.12. Your 181345Z\* para. 4 refers. Unable trace any signals relating to D.S.F.10 and D.S.F.11. Request signals relating to all coastal convoys may be repeated Admiralty.

Summary by air mail of Coastal Convoys sailed in your Command during 1945 would be appreciated.  
(D.T.D. 191617A to F.O.C.W.Af.) \* See Situation Reports.

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Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

BASQUE, Request you will detail BASQUE and one other  
SIMOUN, French destroyer to comply with A.N.C.X.F.  
HOVA, 181328\* being passed to F.O.N.A.M., F.O.W.M. Com.  
SOMALI. 8th Fleet. This will reduce strength of "Planfor"  
but should be acceptable in view of recent  
successful action.

(2) Although from information available to me it does not appear feasible to detail two D.Es. from "Goldflake" operation unless A/S defects in TUNISIEN and SENEGALAIS are made good before it would be necessary to sail ships to Plymouth. It is desirable to do all possible to meet A.N.C.X.Fb. wishes.

(3) Request you very early remarks.  
(C. in C. Med., 191112A to F.O.N.A.M.).

\* Request BASQUE, SIMOUN, HOVA and SOMALI may be completed with ammunition and stores to sail by 1st April. (N.T. in W.D.)

C.S.15 A.M. 171447, not to all addressees. Intend to strike my flag sunset 21st March.

(2) Arrangements for Air Passage made leaving on Chaser 1630 Wednesday.

(3) Intend office of C.S.15 remain in AJAX until ORION completes working up and that C.O. of ORION carries out duty of administration of ships of Squadron now at Alex. until arrival of my relief or SIRIUS (now detached duty).

(C.S.15, 191127B to C. in C. Med.). See amendment 201742B.

Aegean South Aegean Summary up to 190 900.  
(C. in C.M.E., 191935).

IMPLACABLE and destroyers expected to pass Malta March 24th en route  
(for E.F.) (for E.F.) Ceylon. The 2 destroyers are not working up in Mediterranean.

(2) It is suggested that TEAZER, if she can be made ready in time, should join IMPLACABLE as additional escort from Malta, the shortening of her working up period in Mediterranean being accepted subject to approval of C. in C.E.I. Your 101750 not to all addressees refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 191656A and 201420 to V.A. Malta).

Intend TERPSICHORE and TUMULT continue as escort to IMPLACABLE to East Indies Station.

(C. in C. Med., 191903A).

Repatriation ships for 1900A 19th.  
Odessa. (A) DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, CIRCASSIA, Istanbul for onward routing to Odessa. Route etc.  
(Malta, 191703).

Spanish Ambassador landing at C. in C. Med. 181114, concur.  
Naples. (Hd. of M., 192303A to B.N.A. Madrid).

Situation Report No.582 (1) Gulf of Genoa. Ref. 581. Enemy force /laid...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Situation Report No.582 (Contd.)

laid mines off Cape Corse. Clearance operations are in progress. Ships sunk are believed to have been ERIDANO and ARTURO. Estimated number of survivors is (?40). Our destroyers had no damage or casualties. Enemy fired 6 torpedoes at METEOR (Corrupt group) Adriatic. M.G.B.179 and M.T.B.710 have been mined near Gruica Island. There were no casualties but crafts have damaged shafts.  
(C. in C. Med., 192329A).



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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat  
situation

No change.  
(C. in C.E.I., 190401Z).

6th  
M.S.F.

Amend para.2 of A.M. 141213 to read K.M.S.94  
leaving U.K. 2nd April.  
(2) C. in C.E.I. 171330 refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 191802A to C. in C.Portsmouth,  
C. in C.E.I.).

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MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

N.S.H.Q.  
S/M  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary (a) T.G.22.14 made H/H attack, followed by several explosions, on sound contact in 43.23 N. 61.08 W. at 1505Z/18th.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 190206Z.)

U-boat  
dispositions Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 191347Z, Cominch 191601Z.)

MEON  
(Frigate) Anticipate MEON ready to sail 29th March for U.K. E.T.A. 5th April A.M. 251700\* refers.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 191403Z to Admty.) See 261422Z.  
\* Request date of arrival in U.K. of MEON.

Sundry  
E.Vs. As it is not anticipated that SWANSEA will be ready to return to operations until early June it is intended to sail H.M.C.S. ST. PIERRE to U.K. about 1st April to join E.G.9 and relieve H.M.C.S. ST. JOHN for refit your 182345A Para. 2(a) refers.

(2) Also concur para. 2 (b) your reference message anticipate H.M.C.S. CAPE ORETON will be available to relieve MONNOW early in May.

(3) Anticipate H.M.C.S. WASKESIU will return to E.G.6 about mid-April thus relieving H.M.C.S. NEW WATERFORD for refit.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 191512A to C. in C. C.W.A.)

SPORTSMAN Due delay in completing now unlikely SPORTSMAN can sail before 5th April. My 051500 refers.  
(B.A.D., 191532Z to Admty.)

EARL K.  
OLSEN Proceed to Southampton. Report E.T.A.  
(Admty. 191542A to U.S.S. EARL K. OLSEN.)  
Her E.T.A. and position.  
(OLSEN, 192115Z.)

U-boat  
incidents Para. A. U.S.S. LOWE attack refer Cominch 182005 resulted in heavy explosions and appearance of large quantities oil deck planking and articles of German origin. All times Z.  
Para. D.(1) 181706. U.S.S. NEWPORT attacked sound contact 40.00 N. 73.14 W.  
(2) 182003 SC.1063 attacked sound contact 40.02 N. 73.22 W.  
Many dead fish seen after attack.  
(Cominch, 192111Z.)

19.3.1945  
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandReturn  
of  
L.S.I.(L)s,  
to U.K.Your 170807. Please see my 160443.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 190645Z to Admty.)Digest  
No. 1153  
(Extract)

Covers 18th March unless otherwise stated and bears serial number 1153.  
(9) U.S. Forces landed in moderate strength on Southern shores Panay Island at first light following Cruiser/Destroyer bombardment. Initial landings unopposed but later enemy machine-gun fire encountered as left flank entered Tigbauan. Right front passed through Oton (six miles W. of Igoito) evening without enemy contact. 18 Bostons covered landings and attacked barges at Igoilo River Mouth: another 6 Bostons not required bombed Bacoloj airdromes.  
(17) Supporting Ground Forces, Australian Sloop bombarded enemy positions Open Bay 17th.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 191105)

Philippines

Following from S.W.I.A. 17th March. (Extract).

(2) Mindanao. One Company from 41 Division landed 16th March without opposition area Lamitan on Basilan bombarded by Allied Warships prior to landing Ops. and P.T. boats strafed ground targets area Isabela.  
(B.A.S. Washington, 191350Q.)

Philippines  
Kyushu  
bombed

18th March landed Panay West of Iloilo. No opposition. Same date carrier planes struck Kyushu. No results available.  
(Cominch, 191445.)

T.F.57A  
fuelling  
areas.

Here is re-encipherment of C. in C. POA Adv. H.Q. 181337.

"Following areas and points will be used by Task Force 57.

A. Rectangular Fuelling Areas 50 miles to the South and 100 miles to the West of the following

points.

Midge 19.55 N. 129.40 E.

Gnat 21.55 N. 127.00 E.

Mosquito 20.20 N. 126.20 E.

B. Reference points.

Ant 18.40 N. 129.08 E.

Midge 119.12 N. 128.00 E.

Gnat 121.12 N. 125.22 E.

Mosquito 119.37 N. 124.42 E."

Original addressees were action 5th Fleet, info. Com. 7th Fleet, C. in C. S.W.P.A. G.H.Q. Leyte, Cominch.  
(Cominch, 192200Z to Admty.)

/Cincpoa...

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MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand - Contd.Cincpoa  
communique  
No. 304.

Released as of 2345 G.C.T. 19th March 1945 as follows:-

- (1) Carrier aircraft of the Pacific Fleet continued their attacks on Japan on 19th March east longitude date. They attacked Kobe Kure and other objectives in and around the Inland Sea.
- (5) A single Navy search Ventura of Fleet Air Wing 4 made rocket attacks on small craft and buildings in the Torishima Group southeast of Paramushiru on 18th March. On the same date Liberators of the 11th Army Air Force bombed Matsuwa in the Kuriles without opposition.
- (6) A Navy search Privateer of Fleet Air Wing 1 sank a lugger and 4 small craft in the anchorage at Truk in the Carolines on 19th March.
- (7) Fighters torpedo planes and dive-bombers of the 4th Marine aircraft Wing struck piers, runways, buildings and radio installations on Yap in the Western Carolines on 19th March.
- (8) On the same date Marine aircraft carried out attacks on enemy held islands in the Palaus.
- (9) 4th Marine aircraft Wing planes continued neutralizing attacks on enemy bases in the Marshalls.
- (Cincpac/Cincpoa Advhed., 192335)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.For 24 hours to 190900Z.  
Para. A.

- (1) U.S.S. THORNHILL attacked contact at 171737Z March in 55° 30' N. 06° 30' W.
- (2) E.G.17 attacked contact at 181017Z in approx. 55° 53' N. 01° 57' W.

Probably same contact attacked by H.M.S. NATAL on

14th March.  
Para. B.

- (1) Beaufighter A/C obtained good disappearing contact at 181035Z in approx. 57° 58' N. 03° 16' W.
- (2) A/C U/224 reported wake and swirl and dropped depth charges at 181605Z in 57° 52' N. 03° 12' W.
- (3) H.M. Trawler FLATHOLM attacked contact at 181830Z in 56° 06' N. 02° 52' W.

Para. C.

- (1) A/C B/112 sighted moving oil slick course 238° at 1028Z/18th March in 50° 04' N. 04° 40' W.
- (2) A/C U/107 attacked wake swirl and oil patch at 181050Z in 50° 28' N. 01° 55' W.
- (3) H.M.S. ICARUS attacked doubtful contact before 181330Z in 50° 29' N. 00° 53' W.
- (4) H.M.S. ROYAL ULSTERMAN attacked doubtful contact at 190135Z in 50° 35' N. 00° 05' E.

Para. D.

- (1) Fighter or Transport A/C reported sighting U-boat at

/181109Z...

19.3.1945  
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

181109Z in 50° 20' N. 00° 21' E.  
(2) M/V TAMPICO sent SSSS S/M sighted at 0518Z  
18th March in 34° 43' N. 21° 31' W.  
Para. E.  
(1) French authorities reported 2 periscopes  
sighted and attacked by trawler at 171400Z off  
St. Jean de Luz.  
(D.D.I.C. 191130A.)

U-boat  
dispositions

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 191345A, 191346A.)

20.3.1945.

Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

## North Sea.

1. HADLEY<sup>Y</sup>~~LEE~~ F. BROWN has made port, but L.S.T. 80 broke adrift and later struck another mine and sank 9 miles north of Ostend.

## Western Approaches.

2. H.M.C.S. NEW GLASGOW, off Lough Foyle, sighted a periscope and schnorkel close to and rammed them. The impact lifted her out of the water without damaging her, and she is also diffident about claiming the U-Boat as a total loss.

## Northern Waters.

3. Convoy J.W.65 has arrived at Kola, but lost LAPWING, sloop, and the merchantmen THOMAS DONALDSON and HORACE BUSHNELL off the entrance. Further details are not yet known.

## Norway mining.

Aircraft from the escort carrier PREMIER laid seven mines in Granesund (61.20 N., 05.04 E.), (Operation "Cupola" - see Minelaying War Diary).

Foreign StationsMediterranean

## ARBITER.

4. The assault carrier ARBITER, on passage to join the Eastern Fleet, left Suez today.

East Indies

## Operation "Transport".

5. Force 70, consisting of Captain D.26 in SAUMAREZ with VOLAGE and RAPID has carried out a shipping sweep in the Andaman Sea, without result. Sigli in northern Sumatra was bombarded p.m./17th, followed by a sweep northward to Port Blair, Andamans, which was bombarded a.m./19th. In a subsequent intruder attack on Stewart Sound, Andamans coast defences caused some casualties and slight damage to RAPID and VOLAGE.

20.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

China.

6. Mitchells today attacked a convoy in the Amoy area and sank one destroyer and a medium freighter transport, and left another destroyer burning and sinking and two larger freighter transports on fire. Two near misses were made on a third destroyer. Two Mitchells were shot down and two others failed to return.

Philippines.

7. P.Ts. based on Ormoc Bay (Leyte) last night destroyed two barges off north-eastern Cebu. During the night 17th-18th March they destroyed a sea truck, two luggers, four barges and small craft off Cebu.

20.3.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Loss of L.S.T. (1) 80 broke adrift crew taken off by L.S.T. (1) 233. Am standing by. F.O.I.C. Antwerp requested to expedite tug. (SHELDRAKE 200227A to C. in C. Nore.)  
 L.C.T. (1) 80 struck further mine whilst being towed tug ANTIC picking up survivors. (SHELDRAKE 200905A to C. in C. Nore.)  
 L.S.T. (1) 80 mined and sunk in approx. position 000° N.F. 11 buoy 5, (7 or 17?) miles. Tug ANTIC proceeding to Flushing with survivors and casualties. (SHELDRAKE 200939A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)  
 L.S.T. 80 was mined and damaged in convoy A.T.M. 97. Tug L.T. 456 sailing in this convoy to the Downs for onward routeing to Plymouth stood by for a short time and then proceeded to rejoin convoy. L.S.T. 80 drifted into unswept water, struck another mine and sank.  
 (2) On being questioned by Boarding Officer in The Downs, Master of L.T. 456 stated that he left the L.S.T. owing to adverse weather conditions.  
 (3) Request L.T. 456 may be interrogated as to his apparent unseamanlike behaviour, observing that a DUCK class corvette stood by L.S.T. 80 all night.  
 (C. in C. Nore 201945A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Force U. Intend transferring my H.Q. to Nijmegen p.m. today Tuesday 20th March. H.Q. will be in Kweek School.  
 (N.C. Force U 201024A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 350 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/19 March.

<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	170	510	6,531	-	8,707	33
Ostend	1,327	42	3,287	-	-	1,445
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calais	3,912	-	950	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,942	-	-	813
Caen	-	-	131	1,217	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,409</u>	<u>552</u>	<u>12,841</u>	<u>1,217</u>	<u>8,707*</u>	<u>2,291</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	408	12,689	-	-	38
Cherbourg	1	140	8,339	797	14,156	3,631
Le Havre	3,923	699	5,608	475	-	575
Rouen	630	594	8,460	857	3,527	49
Granville	-	-	64	1,139	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,257	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,554</u>	<u>1,841</u>	<u>38,417</u>	<u>3,268</u>	<u>17,683</u>	<u>4,293</u>

/U.S. South...



20.3.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
 Situation  
 Report.  
 (Contd.)

<u>U.S. South</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo</u>
Marseilles	-	143	12,617	2,262	-	1,782
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,120	250	-	1,120
Toulon	-	-	397	-	-	-
Total	-	143	14,134	2,512	-	2,902

Note G.F. Ammo. discharged at Antwerp (U.S.) 17 March 1,203 tons, 18 March 483 tons, not previously reported. (S.H.A.E.F. 201515A to Admty., and others.)

Patrols. N.O.M. 11 following temporary amendment to be brought into force at 0800A/21st March.  
 No. 5 patrol 4A Buoy to 52° 25' N.  
 No. 6 patrol 52° 25' N. to 52° 12' N.  
 No. 7 patrol 52° 12' N. to 52 Buoy.  
 No. 16 between H.K. one buoy and 243° H.K. one 6.  
 No. 17 3 miles 051° and 231° from H.K. 2 buoy.  
 No. 19 from 51° 38.3' N. 3° 15.8' E. to 51° 34' N. 3° 9.2' E.  
 (2) Ships on No. 19 patrol are on no account to go to southeastward of patrol line.  
 (C. in C. Nore 201640A to Nore Command.)

Displacement sweep of Schelde. It is desired to carry out a displacement sweep of the Schelde approaches and channels with an Egg Crate.

(2) Laying of the necessary mooring buoys is in progress and A.N.C.X.F. is requested to inform all concerned when these buoys have been laid, indicating their position.

(3) C. in C. Nore is requested to sail SEAHAM, FORT YORK and EASTBOURNE to Portsmouth for this duty as soon as possible.

(4) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to prepare an Egg Crate, reflashing her if necessary, and to sail her to Ostend in tow of and escorted by SEAHAM, FORT YORK and EASTBOURNE as soon as information is received that mooring buoys have been laid. (D.M.S. 201645A to A.N.C.X.F., Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth.)

Accommodation ship needed. My 191050\* and R.N.O. Fort William's 191646 being passed to A.N.C.X.F. After all this delay and our expectations of getting ORIOLE, latter is now out of the question and we are where we started from. I would beg your support in obtaining an accommodation ship in the immediate future, otherwise our operational preparations will be thrown out. Ship should be of light draught and capable of accommodating 300 men and if possible fifteen officers. Master and crew will be permanently required.

(F.O. Holland 201720A to A.N.C.X.F.)

\* Request I may be informed when ORIOLE will arrive Terneuzen.

/Naval...

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20.3.1945

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea - Contd.

Naval Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 350 part 2 naval. SAMSSELBU was sunk by mine or torpedo at 1745/19th March on northern edge of Nore - Flushing Channel 304° Zeebrugge 5 miles.

- HADLEY (2) ~~=====~~ F. BROWN damaged by mine or torpedo at 1356/19th March in Nore - Flushing Channel 350° Ostend 9 miles. Ship has been towed to Flushing.
- (3) L.S.T. 80 damaged at 2018/19th March on northern edge of Nore - Flushing Channel 350° Ostend 9 miles and sank clear of Channel.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 202317A to Admty.)

Operations.Channel.

- E.Gs. 3, 2. F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail 3rd E.G. at 0600/21st March at best speed without incurring weather damage to vicinity Longships thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
- (2) On relief by 3rd E.G. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to detach 2nd E.G. to Liverpool for layover.  
(C. in C. W.A. 201027A to F.O.I.C. N.I., C: in C. Plymouth.)

Patrols. Sail so as to pass Gate at 1800A/20 and proceed join M.Ls. 346, 344, 343, on patrol Start to Portland assuming S.O. on arrival. Codeword "Prince".

(C. in C. Plymouth 201214A to BLAIRMORE.)

BULLDOG take THORNBOROUGH under his orders to form force 27 pass Gate at 1800A today, 20th March to establish patrol between positions A. 49° 23' N. 03° 55' W. and B. 49° 06' N. 03° 49' W. by 2100A. Object to cover C.O.C/O.C.C. convoy route against possible surface craft or U-Boats.

(2) A. Tug EMPIRE LARCH escorted by PORCHER (S.O.) and SKOMER leaves Plymouth at 1800A/20th for Granville speed 10 knots.

B. C.O.C. 110 comprising 3 M.Vs. escorted by PEARL leaves Plymouth for Granville at 2100A/20th, speed 7 knots.

(3) If no contacts by 0700A/21st force 27 is to leave patrol and carry out A/S sweep to the westward along coastal route returning to the eastward by coastal route so as to arrive Granville at 1600A/21st.

(4) Force 27 is to leave Granville so as to pass entrance to St. Malo at last light proceeding thence by coastal route to take up patrol as in para. 1. Force 27 is to leave patrol at 0700A/22nd and return to Plymouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201508A to BULLDOG, THORNBOROUGH.)

Cancel my 201042A\* para. 2.

(2) On sailing from Falmouth LOCH FADA, LABUAN rejoin E.G. 2, S.O.E.G. 2 report dispositions of 2nd E.G. patrols.

(3) It is anticipated E.G. 2 will be relieved by E.G. 3 about 0530A/22 vicinity Pendeen.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201533A to S.O.E.G. 2.)

\* Sailing of WILD GOOSE, DOMINICA.

/My...

20.3.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Chanel.

Patrols. My 122112\* not to all addressees. Have  
(Contd.) definitely identified target as U-Boat by  
recovery of German correspondence after attack.  
(S.O.E.G. 2 201929A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

\* Not identified in W.R.

Your 201533 para. 2. First division WILD GOOSE, DOMINICA,  
LOCH RUTHVEN patrol Lizard to Pendeen.  
2nd Division LOCH FADA, LABUAN, TOBAGO patrol Pendeen to Trevoise  
Head.  
(S.O.E.G. 2 202202A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Anti-U-Boat Weigh at 0100A/21st March and carry out serial  
deep mining. D.6.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 201527A to W. VAN DER ZAAAN,  
CAMPANULA.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Anti-U-Boat Operation "C.H." serial L.1 and 2 completed.  
deep mining. (APOLLO 200627 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Carry out operation "C.H." L. Lines 3 and 4.  
0825/21st March.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 201007A to APOLLO.)

Asdic Formulation of a firm policy with regard to the  
listening use of asdic listening watch during present  
policy. operations, to which considerable importance is  
attached, is being held up by lack of concrete  
information resulting from W.A.G.M. 160.

(2) Comparative results are now urgently required  
giving ranges at which a submarine simulating Schnorkel conditions  
(W.A.G.M. 160N, para. 2) can be heard under various weather and  
asdic conditions when using the following types of asdic watch:-  
A. Normal listening watch. B. Combined transmitting and listening  
watch as described in W.A.G.M. 158N, para. 4. C. Combined  
transmitting and listening watch in which an all-round H.E.  
sweep is carried out on each occasion of completing transmitting  
sweep up both sides.

(3) In the case of B and C above, the following information is  
also required:-

A. Which method is preferred? B. Was asdic detection obtained  
prior to H.E. detection and if so at what range? C. Was H.E.  
first heard when listening or transmitting?

(4) Full details of information obtained as above are to be  
forwarded to T.C. PHILANTE on completion of each period of A/S  
training, whether carried out in the Raasay Sanctuary or not.

(5) Training Commander, PHILANTE, is to forward a collated report  
as soon as sufficient information is available and thereafter  
periodically.

War Diary.

20.3.1945  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Asdic  
listening  
policy.  
(Contd.)

(6) It is appreciated that exercises designed to answer these questions may have to be carried out to some extent at the expense of normal A/S training but this must be accepted in view of the importance of the matter.  
(C. in C. W.A. 201256 to W.A. Command.)

Possible  
U-Boat.

Am attacking contact in position  $51^{\circ} 27\frac{1}{2}'$  N.  
 $04^{\circ} 55\frac{1}{2}'$  W.  
(BADDECK 201257 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Amended position possible bottomed submarine  $51^{\circ} 27\frac{1}{2}'$  N.  $04^{\circ} 54'$  W.  
(BADDECK 201431A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Patrols.

On detaching from E.N. 81 off Altacarry 21st E.G. is to return to The Minches. One division is to operate in North Minch as far as Cape Wrath North of  $57^{\circ} 42'$  N. Other division in Little

Minch and Sea of the Hebrides south of this lat. E.T.A.  $57^{\circ} 42'$  N. to be reported.

(2) At this time 31st E.G. if not in contact is to leave the area and proceed to Greenock for short layover.

(C. in C. W.A. 201309A to S.O.E.Gs. 21, 31.)

Request you will sail 25th E.G. at 0900/21st March to form force 33 and patrol in area between  $55^{\circ} 15'$  and  $55^{\circ} 30'$  N. and  $06^{\circ} 00'$  and  $07^{\circ} 15'$  W.

(2) Force 33 is to R/V with O.N.S. 45 S.O.E.G.C.4 GLACE BAY, in 000° Altacarry 8 at 1530A/23 and support until ordered to detach.

(3) Groups operating in Minches and Sea of the Hebrides are to form Force 32.

(C. in C. W.A. 201310A to Com. D. W.A.)

Weather  
reporting  
ship.

COLUMBINE delayed with defects. Continue weather reporting until P.L.E. then proceed to Moville for fuel.  
(C. in C. W.A. 202356 to LAVENDER.)

U-Boat.

BEACON HILL 202325A. Schnorkel sighted broad on port bow close in when steering course  $010^{\circ}$ . Rammed periscope and schnorkel which passed under bridge from port to starboard. Estimate course of U-Boat  $120^{\circ}$  speed 3 knots. Impact was quite severe and ship lifted out of water. Do not consider U-Boat totally damaged. No apparent damage suffered by NEW GLASGOW.  
(H.M.C.S. NEW GLASGOW 202358 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

20.3.1945  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Patrols. (1) LOCH KILLIN and BURGESSE on completion of present duty search coastwise to Duncansby Head.  
(2) S.O.E.G. 17 part company with convoy off Auskerry and proceed to R/V with LOCH KILLIN.  
(3) When met group is to search the Moray Firth thoroughly.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 201417 to S.O.E.G. 17, LOCH KILLIN.)

LARK and ALNWICK CASTLE's U-Boat. Their Lordships congratulate H.M. ships LARK and ALNWICK CASTLE upon their successful action against a U-Boat on the 17th February, 1945.  
(2) S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to inform the surviving officers and men from LARK.  
(1st Sea Lord 201738A to ALNWICK CASTLE, S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Anti-Schnorkel obstructors. Request BRITTANY may be sailed as early as practicable for Greenock after embarking as much type O.P.F. equipment as possible at Lerwick.  
(2) Laying of obstructions as detailed in A.M. 142017 February not to all addressees is cancelled pending further instructions.  
(3) Expected date of arrival Greenock and mileage of O.P.F. on board to be reported.  
(4) Delivery of special radar indicator floats for O.P.F. is being made to B.D.O. Greenock for use in BRITTANY.  
(5) Type O to be off loaded at Lerwick to allow max. stowage of O.P.F.  
(D.B.D. 201855A to Cs. in C. H.F., Rosyth.)

Convoy J.W. 66. Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.  
The following ships for J.W. 66 are to assemble in the Clyde not later than p.m. 13th April.  
From Manchester SAMARITAN (fitted for Commodore) BENJAMIN H. HILL (2 ships.)  
From Birkenhead KRONPRINSEN (Nor.) KONG HAakon VII (Nor.) 2 ships.  
From Clyde LAURELWOOD (T).  
In H.X. 343 due Clyde 25th March JOHN GIBBON, ALBERT C. RITCHIE, DAVID B. JOHNSON, JOSHUA THOMAS, BRITISH RESPECT (T) (5 ships).  
In H.X. 344 due Clyde 30th March WILLIAM D. BYRON, WILLIAM TYLER PAGE, WOODBRIDGE N. FERRIS, EMPIRE GARRICK (T) (4 ships.)  
Expected in H.X. 345 due Clyde 4th April RENALD FERNALD, OWEN WISTER, STEVENSON TAYLOR, LORD DELAWARE, NELSON W. ALDRICH, KEITH PALMER, LINN BOYD, AUGUST BELMONT, CECIL N. BEAN (9 ships.)\*  
(2) M. Forms should be forwarded to N.C.S.O. Clyde in good time and it is essential that ships are in all respects ready for ocean convoy.  
(3) Admty. (ext. 716) should be informed immediately if any ship is unable to sail.  
(D.T.D. 201937A to C. in C. W.A.) \* Total 23 ships.

/Pass...

20.3.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy  
 J.W. 66.  
 (Contd.)

Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.  
 The following ship for J.W. 66 is to be sailed for the Clyde to arrive not later than a.m. 6th April where she is to complete loading. From Middlesborough PARK BENJAMIN.  
 (2) M form should be forwarded to N.C.S.O. Clyde in good time and it is essential that ship is in all respects ready for ocean convoy.  
 (3) Admiralty should be informed immediately if ship is unable to sail.  
 (D.T.D. 201938A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Convoy  
 J.W. 65.

*See P396, 220551A  
 to Admiralty*

<sup>THOMAS DONALDSON</sup>  
 J.W. 65 arrived Kola p.m. March 20th. LAPWING and SS. ~~WILLIAM PEPPER~~ sunk. SS. HORACE BUSHNELL torpedoed believed still afloat in tow of Russian tugs. Crew has been removed. All convoy losses took place off entrance to Kola. Further signal will be made when further details are known.  
 (C.S. 10 202315A to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German  
 Military  
 Transport  
 between  
 Norway and  
 Denmark.

My 181910 and 191618 following transport movements have been reported from Oslo ports and Aarhus.  
 (1) Oslo. HANSA I left Oslo March 9th with four to five hundred troops and quantity of large motor vehicles.  
 (2) Moss. MARCO BRUNNER arrived Moss March 9th and loaded cars. She was expected to (?leave) later same day.  
 (3) Aarhus. A. ROLANDSECK arrived with troops from Norway 0730 March 8th and left again 2330 same day.  
 B. It is now learnt MAR DEL PLATA and TIJUCA which arrived from Norway 1500 March 8th disembarked following: several infantry companies and one cyclist company believed 169 Division. Several G.A.F. units. About 500 leave troops. Both vessels were ready to leave 2000 same (?day) but were delayed by mining left 0600 (March 11?) in ballast.  
 C. HANSA I arrived with troops from Norway 1200 March 11th. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 201806 to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. HADLEY  
 F. BROWN.

Further to my 192158A HADLEY F. BROWN arrived in tow.  
 (N.O.I.C. Anvers 201606A to C. in C. Nore.)

20.3.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SEA ROVER  
submarine.

My 141306 and your 151221. Request route in order that approx. date of arrival may be reported to U.S. authorities.  
(F.O.S/M 201512A to C. in C. W.A.)

PIONEER,  
Aircraft  
maintenance  
ship.

PIONEER leave Scapa passing Hoxa at 1200A/21st March and proceed to Belfast escorted by ZEALOUS and CARYSFORT.

(2) Route 8 miles north of Cape Wrath and Butt of Lewis thence through, all positions N. & W.  
PA 58° 22' 07" 18' PB. 57° 41' 08" 05'.  
PC 56° 38' 08" 05' PD. 55° 35' 07" 00'.  
thence standard route.

(3) Speed through water 20 knots weather permitting.

(4) On arrival ZEALOUS and CARYSFORT return by Minches to Scapa speed at least 24 knots weather permitting.

(5) Admiralty divert PIONEER mail to Belfast.

(6) PIONEER acknowledge.

(C. in C. H.F. 201850A to PIONEER, ZEALOUS, CARYSFORT.)

As amended by 202257.

TJERK HIDDES  
Netherlands  
destroyer.

Arrangements have been made to take TJERK HIDDES in hand for refit by Caledons at Dundee forthwith.

(2) Previous arrangements are cancelled. A.M. 111537 and A.M. 121120 Jan. and A.M. 172136 Feb. none to all refer.

(D.O.D.(H) 201929A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

War Diary

20.3.1945  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

IMPLACABLE. C. in C. Med. 191903 not to Admiralty, IMPLACABLE and screen is to enter Gibraltar IMPLACABLE anchor on passage TUMULT and TERPSICHORE fuel.  
(2) WOLVERINE is to be ordered to patrol between Europa Point and Carnero (?Point) until Force has sailed she is then to fuel.  
(3) Basic Mediterranean eastbound route and all navigation information will be passed to Force on arrival together with sailing orders.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 201133A to IMPLACABLE)

R.S. 24, 25. My 161037\* and 171302~~6~~ for R.S. 24 read R.S. 25. Error is regretted.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 201149A)  
\* ref. sailing of convoy R.S. 24.  
~~6~~ R.S. 24 sailed. (N.T. in W.D.).

EMPIRE LORD. Arrived Horta at 0602Z/20th EMPIRE LORD with collision damage ex H.X.343 escorted by H.M.C.S. EDMUNSTON.  
(2) Original destination was Liverpool.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 201906Z)

South Atlantic

F.O.C.W.Af. Intend to visit Ascension in H.M.S. DOVEY, leaving Freetown a.m. March 21st, and returning p.m. March 29th. Flag will remain flying at Freetown.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 201035Z to Admty.)

SS. ASTRIDA lost. Belgian ship ASTRIDA total marine loss off Cape Recife on 19th March due to bad weather. To date 29 survivors including Chief Officer, Chief Engineer and Radio Officer. Further details will follow.  
(C. in C. S.A. 201627B to Admty.)



20.3.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

ARBITER.

Departure:  
(1) ARBITER. (2) VERULAM.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 200715B.)

Air  
operations.

Summary of operations ending 191800.  
Post Raid R/Cs. Monfalcone Port area.  
Attacked 16th March. Heavy damage to Bant A/C  
works. Shipping and harbour facilities damaged  
including 1 S/M capsized, 1 badly damaged and  
2 floating docks damaged.  
(Eaker, 200911A.)

TEAZER  
(IMPLACABLE  
and  
destroyers  
for E.F.)

TEAZER completes working up March 24, your  
191656.  
(2) As boiler clean will then be necessary  
(boiler hours 750) vide my 101750 and can be  
done at Malta remaining six torpedo tubes not  
yet converted for 60° gyro angling were taken  
in hand as urgently requested by D.24 to complete  
on March 31 with boiler clean. Regret these  
arrangements cannot now be altered.  
(V.A.M., 201019 to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea  
movements.

Vide F.O.L.E.M's 181708B. Request you summarise  
to "Bank Block" London all movements in the  
Black Sea of Allied vessels (excluding Russian)  
in the form of Odessa's 171115.  
(D.T.D., 201220A to B.N.L.O. Black Sea.)

British  
Common-  
wealth  
Repatriation  
from Odessa.

Your 171800. Present intentions for sailings  
ex Odessa.  
(A) CIRCASSIA for Naples 27 March with Americans  
present numbers waiting 745.  
(B) DUCHESS OF RICHMOND for Naples 27 March empty.  
(C) ARAWA for Naples 31 March empty.  
(D) BERGENSFJORD for Gibraltar 1st/2nd April  
with British Commonwealth. Present numbers  
waiting 319.  
(E) DUCHESS OF BEDFORD for Naples 1st/2nd April with any  
available Americans.  
(2) Intentions in (B), (C) and (E) above subject to any decision  
on lifting other nationals. Present number French waiting 2,800  
and approx. 100 Belgians.  
(3) It is not possible to forecast precise numbers which will  
arrive Odessa before dates given in para. 1. Russians profess  
unable supply this information. Consider additional 700  
British and 300 Americans possible although maybe optimistic.  
Situation report on numbers and nationalities waiting at Odessa  
will be made on 25th March.  
(4) Dates given after consideration of facts in my 161207 and  
181105 not to all addressees.  
(5) Admiralty pass all addressees.  
(Admiral Archer, 201301A to Admty.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

IMPLACABLE  
(for E.F.)

C. in C. Med.'s 191656 not to all. Intend sail NEWFOUNDLAND p.m./25th from Alexandria to Suez to await IMPLACABLE and proceed in company to Ceylon escorted by TUMULT, TERPSICHORE and also TEAZER if ready.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 201420 to C. in C. E.I.) See 201420.

Mines laid  
by Allied  
aircraft in  
Hungarian  
waters.

Following from Admiralty.  
Full details have been sent by F.O.L.E.M. to Admiral Archer for the Russians.  
F.O.L.E.M.'s 092025C October 1944 not to all refers.  
(W.O., 201715A to A.C.C. Hungary (British Delegation))

Danube  
mining.

F.O.L.E.M. is requested to confirm that details of mines laid 4th October which were reported to Admiralty in my submission number 6612/Med. 00230/3 dated 26th October, copy of which was addressed F.O.L.E.M., were forwarded to Admiral Archer in continuation of the information despatched to him and reported in F.O.L.E.M. 092025 October.  
(2) Admiralty pass to Admiral Archer.  
(C. in C. Med., 201739A to Admty., F.O.L.E.M.)

Flag of  
15th C.S.

Para. 1 in my 191127, for Wednesday 21st March read Thursday 22nd March.  
(F.O. 15th C.S., 201742B.)

ALMANZORA.

A.M. 211607 Feb. In addition to Russian repatriates for Odessa about which separate signal will be sent, it is intended to embark in U.K. a diplomatic party and diplomatic missions (details) on ALMANZORA sailing in K.M.F.42 which should arrive Constanza about 12-13 April.  
(2) - (4) Re discharge of cargo.  
(D. of S.T., 202020A to Admiral Archer.)

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

CORBRAE.

CORBRAE is M/S Maintenance Ship allocated to East Indies Station. Completion of CORBRAE has been delayed owing to various factors but vessel is expected to leave U.K. by mid-May. (2) Your 170258 refers. (A.C.N.S.(F), 200031A to C. in C. E.I.)

U/B  
dispositions.

No information. Scales in all areas remain W.5. (C. in C. E.I., 200349Z.)

Operation  
"Roger".  
(Extract)

Following is the naval aircraft explosive situation for Operation "Roger" (details). (5) Bomb situation will determine amount of support by Naval A/C for Operation "Roger" and further operation unless steps can be taken to improve on A.M. 021252 or obtain bombs from other sources. (C. in C. E.I., 200633Z to Admty.)

Operation  
"Transport".

Operation "Transport" completed. Force 70 carried out shipping sweep in Andaman Sea towards Penang without result. Bombardment of Sigli was carried out p.m./17th followed by sweep northward to Port Blair which was bombarded a.m./19th. Unfortunately subsequent intrusion (? attack on) Stewart Sound resulted in damage to RAPID and slight damage to VOLAGE by coast defence. Some casualties. (C. in C. E.I., 201637Z.)

War Diary

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

C.J. COUTANT, C.J. COUTANT met and joining under escort.  
U.G.S.80. Your 161449Z/ refers. U.G.S.80 0300Z/20th P.C.S.  
36.21 50.02 083 9.5. W.X. 73 80 22 74.  
(C.T.G.60.5 200317Z to Com. 10th Fleet).  
/ Not identified in War Registry.

ARIADNE. Following is a re-encypherment of my 191640/  
begins: Request instructions regarding ARIADNE.  
B.R.L.O. Cristobal 171108e and 181140\*.  
(S.B.N.O. 201330Z to Admty.)  
/ Originally received undecypherable.  
e ARIADNE arrived Balboa 16th March. Intend to  
sail for Cristobal at 181100R for Bermuda.  
\* E.T.A. Bermuda ARIADNE 221700.

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 201332Z, Cominch, 201542Z)

4 D.E's for As early as practicable sail one D.E. support  
Com. 12th Flt. group of four D.E's to Liverpool, direct report to  
Com. 12th Flt. for temporary duty, my 171830 and  
Com. 12th Flt. 191528 refer.  
(Cominch & C.N.O. 201559Z to C. in C. Lant)

French F.O.W.M.'s 141006A, C. in C. Med's 151052A and  
fishing F.O.G.M.As, 161145 are being passed to N.S.H.Q. and  
trawlers. B.A.D.  
(2) My 231223A March, 1944 to N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. and  
C. in C. Med. only request you will state  
whether Canadian or U.S. authorities agree proposals  
in the messages listed in para. 1.  
(Hd. of M. 201726A to N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)

T.G.22.9. Direct T.G. 22.9 proceed when ready about 21st  
March to Liverpool, U.K. On arrival report to  
Com. 12th Flt. for temp. duty. If required  
fuel at Horta Azores or from T.G. 29.8  
(MATTAPONI). Eastern terminus AO.  
(C. in C. Lant, 202252Z to Comdeslant)

Australia and New Zealand

T.G.111.1.1. My 260727 Jan. para. 5. T.G.111.1.1 arrive  
Manus as follow 30th March, FORMIDABLE, (C.V)  
UGANDA (C.L) NIZAM, URCHIN. (DDS) 7th April  
NAPIER, NORMAN, NEPAL, (D.D.S.)

20.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

T.G.111.1.1. (Contd.) (2) Above ships have been placed at disposal of C.T.F.57 to call forward as required. (C. in C. B.P.F., 200647Z to Cincpac (both))

Digest No.1154. (Covering 19th March). (G.H.Q.S.W.Pac., 200851.)

Movements etc. Ship renamed. Arrivals 19th Jan. H.M.A.S. SWAN Hollandia, H.M.A.S. BOWEN, departure 19th Townsville H.M.A.S. ARARAT for Manus. H.M.A.S. STUCKTRINGA (A/S Maintenance Ship) commissioning at Sydney N.S.W. 19th. H.M.A.S. SLEUTH renamed H.M.A.S. HAWK. (N.B. Melbourne, 201156 to Admty.)

H.Q. of C. in C. B.P.F. A.M. 190030 Jan. and your 121002 Jan. LOTHIAN will not be withdrawn before end of October. (2) Your intention to establish your Headquarters ashore in the Philippines is approved. (3) When this Headquarters is established it is hoped that the provision of Headquarters ship will no longer be a necessity; but if experience shows the contrary the matter will be further considered. (4) This matter will be reviewed again at a later date in the light of your further experience in operating and administering the British Pacific Fleet. (1st Lord, 201343A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Command ship for Service Force Commander. Your 161025Z. No NITH type L.S.H.(S) is available. Provision of a suitable ship for this duty is being investigated. (A.C.N.S.(F), 201805A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/20th March. Para. (A) Russian A/C sighted U-Boat at 1152Z/19 in lat. 69° 52' N., long. 34° 28' E. and at 1300Z/19 in lat. 69° 22' N., long. 34° 34' E. Para. (C) (1) A/C D/502 attacked moving oil slick at 1100Z/19 in lat. 58° 43' N., long. 04° 51' W. (2) H.M.C.S. TILLSONBURG attacked possible U-Boat at 1251Z/19 in lat. 53° 54' N., long. 04° 55' W. (3) MALCOLM attacked doubtful contact without result at 1740Z/19 in lat. 37° 53' N., long. 11° 08' W. (D.D.I.C., 201043A.)

War Diary.

20.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U/Bs.  
sunk.

My 221059 July, 1942.

(1) The crew of U.260 landed at Galley Head, Ireland on the 13th. There is no record of the bombing attack to which they attribute the loss of their boat.

(2) H.M.S.A.S. NATAL attacked an asdic contact and recovered a cylinder containing a rubber dinghy after a ship in convoy F.S.56 had been torpedoed off Berwick on the 14th. E.G.17 investigated the position on the 17th and brought up quantities of U-Boat wreckage.

(D.A.U.D., 201941A.)

U/B                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (D.D.I.C., 201410A, 201405A.)

21.3.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1. Two mines were detonated off the Schelde.
- Channel. 2(a) SS. JAMES E. LAYNE was torpedoed by U-Boat at 1504 in Convoy B.T.C.103 6 miles E.N.E. of the Eddystone, but was towed in and beached close S.W. of Rame Head.  
(b) SS. JOHN R. PARK was also torpedoed by U-Boat, at 1518, in Convoy T.B.C.102, 9 miles west of the Lizard, and subsequently sank. No contacts have so far been made with the U-Boats.
- Western Approaches. 3. Air Staff, S.H.A.E.F., request that two more weather-reporting ships may be stationed in the North Atlantic, in 48° N., 12° W. and 44° N., 26° W.
- Northern Waters. 4. LAPWING and THOMAS DONALDSON have both sunk but HORACE BUSHNELL has been beached near Cape Teriberski.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Gulf of Genoa. 5. Allied warships, including the French cruiser GLOIRE and British, French and U.S. destroyers bombarded Savona, San Remo and other targets in the Gulf of Genoa between 17th and 21st March.

East Indies

- U/B in Arabian Sea. 6. SS. SHENGKING reported a submarine on the surface early this morning in 05.16 N., 78.15 E., about 150 miles S.W. of Colombo.
- Malacca Straits. 7. Liberators laid 48 mines off Penang and the Kra Isthmus today.

/TRENCHANT ...

21.3.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

TRENCHANT  
and TERRAPIN,  
patrol.

8(a) The submarines TRENCHANT and TERRAPIN have returned from a patrol in the southern part of the Malacca Strait, during which they worked in co-operation and destroyed 6 coasters, 4 junks and one tug. On 4th March they sank a submarine chaser by gunfire. The submarines were unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft on 24th Feb. On 22nd TERRAPIN successfully carried out a special operation.

(b) SCYTHIAN on her first Far East patrol sank 8 junks near Moskos Channel, coast of Tennaserim, Burma.

America and West Indies

U/B  
reports.

9. A transit Army aircraft reported sighting a submarine at conning tower depth leaving Skov Fjord (about 60.47 N., 46.12 W.) southern Greenland, eastward at 1254Z today. At 1820 U.S.C.G. EASTWIND reported hydrophone contact in the same area. E.G.27 at 2126 today attacked a bottomed contact in 43.48 N., 61.51 W., producing a constant flow of oil.

Australia and New Zealand

Ferry  
carriers.

10. The ferry carriers PATROLLER, REAPER and RANEE, which are on loan to the United States, are to be withdrawn during April for fitting out as replenishment carriers for the British Pacific Fleet.

Indo-China.

11. A Navy Liberator from Mindoro this morning sighted a northbound convoy of 6 ships off Camranh Bay. Later, 12 escorted Mitchells of the 5th Air Force attacked this convoy, which now included 7 ships, and sank 5 of them, including 2 escort vessels and one probable minesweeper. Eight to ten enemy fighters attempted to intercept and about half of them were shot down. One Mitchell was lost.

/ U/B ...



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Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

U/B  
destroyed.

12. Three Venturas yesterday damaged with rocket hits a small submarine anchored off Cebu city, Philippines. Five Venturas completed the destruction of the submarine this morning.

Philippines.

13. Last night, P.T. Boats based on Ormoc destroyed 8 out of 15 barges off Cebu; two P.T. Boats were damaged and suffered casualties. P.T. Boats based on Panay destroyed a lugger off San Jose last night.

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Displacement Sweep of Schelde. A.M. 201645 para. 2. Request you will make this report.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 211123A to Com. Belgium)

Accommodation ship needed. F.O. Holland's 201720. I fully concur that there is real need for an accommodation ship for these Harbour Craft and further that it is essential that this vessel should be able to steam.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 211355A to Admty.)

Minesweeping off Schedle. Red mine detonated in position 070 degs. 1.6 miles N.F. 7 buoy.  
(FLORIZEL, 211640B to C. in C. Nore.)  
E.T.A. Small Downs 5 M/S 2245.  
To-day swept LL/SA E.G. M.S. 5 cables either side centre line N.F. 7 to H.K. one 4 actuations except for South Eastern 2½ cables breadth which only received 3 actuations. Explosive sweep used 3 Laps.  
(3) Swept one blue magnetic 062 degs. N.F. 7 12 cables on first actuation low plume and one red magnetic 056 degs. N.F. 7 15 cables on second actuation moderate plume.  
(4) Dan buoys remain as in my 201916.  
(5) Your 211741 and 211628 acknowledged.  
(6) Actuations are required in area.  
(S.O.M.S.F. 18, 211821A to C. in C. Nore.)

Patrols. My 201640A amend to read.  
No.5 patrol 4A buoy to 3B buoy.  
No.6 patrol 3 B buoy to 52 degs. 07' N.  
No.7 patrol 52 degs. 07' N. to 52 buoy.  
(2) PUFFIN, BROCKLESBY and GARTH acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Nore, 211704A to Nore Command)  
My 271340A January para. 4 amend read number 5 patrol Z 10 No. 6 patrol Z.6 No.7 patrol Z.3.  
(C. in C. Nore, 211706A to Nore Command)

Force U. H.Q. of Force U. established at Nijmegen. Signals and DRLs should be routed to First Cdn. Army.  
Adm. H.Q.  
(N.C. Force U. 211822A to A.N.C.X.F.)

OperationsChannel

U.247. My 201929. C.B. 04050/44 (D) repetition C.B. 04050/44 (10) plate 6 A indicates that this is wreck of U.247. Position is 49 degs. 53' 30" N. 05 degs. 49' 55" W. Request this position may be promulgated.  
(S.O.E.G.2, 210921 to C. in C. Plymouth)

/Patrols ...

War Diary21.3.1945  
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperations.Channel. - Contd.

- Patrols. (1) Pass Gate at 1800A/21st and proceed to patrol area limits 00 degs. 10' W. 00 degs. 10' E. between 50 degs. 00' N. and 50 degs. 30' N.
- (2) Detach BLIGH and TYLER as necessary to R/V with convoy T.B.C. 104 at F buoy at 1015A/22nd. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211055A to GRINDALL, BLIGH, KEMPTHORNE, KEATS, TYLER)
- My 211055. Leave patrol at 0700A/22nd and proceed to new patrol area limits 50 degs. 00' N. 49 degs. 42' N. between 00 degs. 30' W. and 01 degs. 10' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211219A to GRINDALL, KEATS, KEMPTHORNE)
- O.N. Convoy U.C.61 A crossing 02 degs. 30' W. detach and proceed to anchor at 1/2 hours notice in Weymouth Bay.
- (2) Weigh at 0600A/22nd and proceed to patrol area 10 miles either side of Route EW between 01 degs. 40' N. and 02 degs. 20' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211227A to BAYNTON, LOCH ECK, BRAITHWAITE, LOCH DUNVEGAN.)

- Attacks on U-Boats by merchantmen. A.M. 111547 March. The restriction on Merchant Ships attacking S/Ms. laid down in Para. 2 (A) are considered unsuitable for the Portsmouth Command Area, for the following reasons:
- (a) The prohibited area would occupy approx. between one-third and one half of the whole command.
- (b) The main through traffic route for B.T.C. T.B.C. and Ocean Convoys lies within the area of prohibition.
- (c) With reference to Para. 3 of A.M. quoted, it is intended in this command, whenever our own S/Ms are exercising outside the Isle of Wight, to provide an escort or ships in company flying red flags if the S/M is carrying out A/S exercise with friendly surface craft.
- (2) It is therefore considered that in Portsmouth Command Area, attack on unescorted S/Ms should only be prohibited between the Coast of the U.K. and the 10 fathom line, except as provided for in Paras. 2 (b) and (c) of the A.M. under reply.
- (3) Request your remarks or concurrences before issuing instructions in the sense of the above. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211120A to Admty.)

- Defence of the Cotentin. (1) Operational requirement has arisen for additional troops amounting to one Infantry Battalion and some Artillery for the defence of the Cotentin against enemy raids from the Channel Islands.
- (2) Various possible United States sources are being examined, also, the feasibility of using part of Force 135.
- (3) Before examining the effect on the mounting of operation "Nestegg" and assuming that maintenance can be undertaken by either the British Enclave in the Cherbourg or from United States resources, War Office and Southern Command are requested to say whether it is otherwise practicable to move one Infantry Battalion of 302 Infantry Brigade and 411 HAA Battery with minimum essential supporting units to the Cotentin to be placed under operational command of Normandy base Section until required for "Nestegg". (S.H.A.E.F. 211130A to Sthn. Command, War Office)  
/Anti ...

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WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Your 171437/March. Deep minefields in Plymouth Command.  
 (2) 45 feet Hydrostatic safety switches are not available.  
 (3) Owing to dip and tidal range it is considered that 80 feet below chart datum is too deep for an effective anti-U-Boat minefield.  
 (4) Request that mines may therefore be laid at 60 feet below chart datum. The cutting of any mines during a subsequent 42 feet skim must be accepted, but for the passage of normal traffic a skimming sweep is not considered necessary.  
 (Admty. approved. A.C.N.S.(H), 211413A to C's in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth, Western Approaches)  
 Weigh at 0350A/22nd March and carry out Serial E.2 (R) E.2 part 1.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211622A to PLOVER, BOSTON)

Torpedoing of JAMES EAGAN B. LAYNE. JAMES <sup>EAGAN</sup> LAYNE torpedoed in position 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles 170 degs. from Plymouth Breakwater.  
 (GODETIA, 211435A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
 Ship torpedoed 070 degs. Eddystone 6 miles at 1435A. Close and hunt.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 211504A to E.G.15)  
 Am attacking bottom contact in position 185 degs. 8 1/2 cables from wreck oil and bubbles came up after first H.H. attack.  
 (S.O.E.G.15, 211513A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
 Local trawler ISABELLE sighted periscope 4 miles south from Eddystone at 1515.  
 (INCHGOWER, 211518A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
 JAMES LAYNE torpedoed in position 090 degs. Eddystone 7.1 (FLAUNT?) standing by.  
 Carrying out observant.  
 (M.L.116, 211530A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
 Intend boarding JAMES EAGAN LAYNE and taking in tow draught 40 feet at stern number four and five hold flooded engine room making a little water. Request instructions for destination.  
 (FLAUNT, 211545A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
 My 211435A SS. MONKSTONE has 47 survivors and is proceeding with convoy.  
 (GODETIA, 211620A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
 Ship is still afloat. Rescue tug FLAUNT standing by.  
 Request salvage tugs may be sent. Am searching area, NARBOROUGH, COSBY, LORING, INGLIS in company.  
 (S.O.E.G.15, 211634A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
 U.S.S. JAMES EAGAN LAYNE in B.T.C.103 torpedoed at 1504A/21st March in position 070 degs. Eddystone 6 miles still afloat.  
 (2) U.S.S. JOHN R. PARK in T.B.C.102 torpedoed at 1518A/21st March in position 260 degs. Lizard 9 miles reported sinking at 1603A.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 211748A to Admty.)  
 Derelict aground in approx. position 236 Rame Head Elbow  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Tug now securing it.  
 (GWEAL, 212135A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
 Ship now beached approx. 246 degs. Rame Head 5 miles, tug returning to harbour. FLAUNT request permission to anchor near wreck as American crew do not wish to lose sight of her.  
 Intend standing by FLAUNT finding further orders.  
 (GWEAL, 212230A to C. in C. Plymouth)

/Torpedoing ...

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel. - Contd.Torpedoing  
of JOHN R.  
PARK.

Ship M.T. 282 No.11 of "Staysail" torpedoed in position 260 degs. Lizard Head 9.  
(LOCH FADA, 211540A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
T.B.C.102. Merchant ship reports EMPIRE NIGER damaged under water explosion convoy is covered by fog.  
(3 F.S.1, 211548A to C. in C. Plymouth)

My 211518 for EMPIRE NIGER read JOHN R. PARK. All survivors evacuated ship sinking in position 088 degs. Wolf Rock, 13 miles.

(ROSELYS, 211605A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Proceed when ready escorting H.M.R.T. ALLEGIANCE to vicinity ship torpedoed in approx. position 260 degs. Lizard 9 miles.

(2) Constant W/T watch on 2300 K/cs.

(3) ALLEGIANCE is to tow ship to Falmouth.

(4) CONQUEROR and ALLEGIANCE acknowledge.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 211624A to CONQUEROR)

Am not in contact, am re-joining convoy.

(ROSELYS, 211707A to Admt.)

Cancel my 1529A and 1541A. E.G.19 proceed forthwith to search area 49 degs. 46' N. to 49 degs. 30' N. between Meridians of Wolf and Lizard.

(2) E.G.2 hunting to northward of 49 degs. 46' N.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211851A to g.O. E.G.19)

My 211518A and 211603A. No casualties in JOHN R. PARK.

Cmdre. and staff transferred to AMERICAN PRESS. Comdr. considers explosion definitely caused by torpedo. Your 211847 refers.

(ROSELYS 212000 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Area in vicinity of attack searched. Am searching on probable German U-Boats line of withdrawal to south westward with co-operation of 19th E.G. wreck now 284 degs. Lizard Head 8 afloat but stern submerged to base of main mast. R.A.F. launch No.2568 standing by until relieved, or the ship sinks.

(S.O.E.G.2, 212010A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Sunken  
U-Boats off  
Portsmouth.

My 192251 not to all. Survey of minefield near object referred to in my para. one and two delayed by dense fog at 1400 to-day but information now sufficient to start diving operations.

(2) A second object of larger extent has been located and danned in a position lat. 50 degs.

3' 12" N. long. 00 degs. 00' 36" E. This object stands 25 feet above sea bottom and is situated in a line of mines spaced at 75 yard intervals in a direction 050 degs. There is some evidence that a gap in mine intervals exists at this point but this is not conclusive yet. Line of mines is the westerly one of two.

(3) Propose diving operations commence on smaller Eastern object as no mines are recorded on site and moorings can be laid safely in accordance with B.D.O's requirement.

(4) It is submitted subject to more detailed survey that operations on Western object will involve limited sweeping operations near site prior to laying of moorings.

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WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelSunken  
U-Boats off  
Portsmouth.  
(Contd.)

(5) Survey of minefield in relation to contacts is proceeding as weather permits.  
 (6) Reference Eastern object defined in para. 1 of my 192251A oil has been noted over this site at slack water times.  
 (Command Surv. officer in AGGRESSIVE, 211832A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

OperationsWest Coast FranceMinesweeping  
in Bay of  
Biscay.

AMIRAL MOUCHEZ 201420A sweeping of Bayonne Approach is to be completed.  
 (2) On completion AMIRAL MOUCHEZ and remaining four F.Y.M.S. are to return to Plymouth where they should if possible arrive by 1st April.  
 (3) AMIRAL MOUCHEZ report (a) if sweeping of Bayonne Approach will not be completed on 27th March (b) intended movements when known.  
 (4) Further sweeping of St. Jean de Luz Approach is not to be carried out.  
 (5) AMIRAL MOUCHEZ acknowledge.  
 (A.N.C.X.F. 211738A to AMIRAL MOUCHEZ)

OperationsWestern Approaches

E.G.8.

Following ships are to form E.G.8.  
 Based at Greenock - L. ACHRAY L. GLENDHU, L. MORE, AIRE, BARBADOS.  
 (2) BEAGLE will relieve BARBADOS in Plymouth

Command when ready.

(3) DACRES is allocated to E.G.15.  
 (C. in C. W.A. 210017A to Cpts D. Greenock and Belfast)

NEW GLASGOW's  
U-Boat.

My 202325 operation "Scabbard" completed by 3 ships without result.  
 No A/S contact obtained initially by NEW GLASGOW. Group is now carrying out box search around buoyed datum NEW GLASGOW searching in centre.  
 (S.O.E.G.26, 210110 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 202358. Following damage suffered by H.M.C.S. NEW GLASGOW. After ballast tank and spirit room flooded between frames 100 and 118. Port "A" bracket appears to be out of line. Small leak starting in after 4" magazine. Have shored frame 100 against engine room bulkhead, S.O.E.G.26 intends to retain me with group until daylight.  
 (NEW GLASGOW, 210230A to C. in C. W.A.)

C.4 E.G. and 25th E.G. join 26th E.G. searching for U-Boat rammed last night and probably damaged in O10 degs. Foyle Buoy 11.

(2) Report E.T.A.  
 (3) S.O.26th E.G. take charge of search.  
 (C. in C. W.A. 211014A to S.O.E.G.C.4)

/Weather ...

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Weather Reporting ships. Your 202356A. 50% usable fuel remaining at 2000Z to-day Wednesday. E.T.D. from area 1800Z/24th March My P.C.S. 52 degs. 33' N. 21 degs. 05' W. (?010 degs.) 6 knots W/R 4272 0244. (LAVENDER, 211003Z to C. in C. W.A.)

It is proposed to send the following signal to Agwar for Combined Chiefs of Staff.

"To augment the present meteorological coverage provided by ships in the North Atlantic which is essential to the planning of air and other operations, request that two additional weather ships be assigned for positions at 48 N. 12 W. and 44 N. 26 W. Recommend that these ships be equipped to take upper air soundings and radar winds to make four observations daily preferably at standard synoptic hours. Further request that all weather ships E. of 30 degs. W. submit hourly observations".

Do you concur?

(Air Staff, S.H.A.E.F. 211045A to Admty, A.M.)

Patrols 201309A. First Division comprising CONN (S.O) RUPERT and DEANE will operate in North Minch. 2nd Division comprising FITZROY (S.O) REDMILL and BYRON will operate in Little Minch and sea of Hebrides E.T.A. 57 degs. 42' N. 0200A/22nd March at which time intend to assume duty of S.O.32 Force. Your 201310A para. 3 not to all addressees refers.

(S.O.E.G.21, 211125A to C. in C. W.A.)

Situation Report at 2000 Section Home.

Force 34 20th E.G. TAVY 3 Frigates South of Ireland (R).

Force 38 18th E.G. TOWY 5 Frigates St. Georges Channel.

Force 36 4th E.G. BENTINCK Central Irish Sea.

Force 37 23rd E.G. MONTSERRAT Irish Sea North.

Force 33 25th E.G. STRATHADAM, LA HULLOISE, THETFORD MINES vicinity North Irish Coast.

Force 32 31st E.G. CARISBROOKE CASTLE 2 Corvettes North Minches. 21st E.G. CRANSTOUN 5 Frigates 56 degs. 38' 07 degs. 10' 15 knots to relieve 31st E.G. latter on relief to Greenock.

(C. in C. W.A. 211415A to Admty.)

Take up following patrols forthwith.

E.G.19 First Division Lizard to Pendeen, 2nd Division Pendeen to Trevoise. Report dispositions.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211529A to S.O.E.G.19)

E.G.3 proceed with despatch reporting E.T.A. Trevoise, and establish following patrols on arrival. Two ships Trevoise to Pendeen. Codword "Manganese B". Three ships Pendeen to Lizard. Codword "Manganese A". Report dispositions. On relief by E.G.3 E.G.19 proceed to Milford Haven.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211611A to S.O.E.G.'s 3,19)

My 211611. Delete orders to E.G.19.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 212204A to S.O.E.G.'s 3, 19)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Patrols. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/22nd March and movements for following 24 hours.  
(A) DOLFIJN and VENTURER as in my 191941.  
(B) SIDON 63 degs. 46' N. 03 degs. 16' E. diving by day to 62 degs. 01' N. 01 degs. 02' E. at 150 miles in 24 hours then 10 knots on surface to Lerwick.  
(C) SPEARHEAD 60 degs. 42' N. 02 degs. 58' E. diving by day through 60 degs. 24' N. 03 degs. 22' E. to patrol off Norwegian Coast between 59 degs. 55' N. and 60 degs. 25' N.  
(C. of W. 211832A to A.I.G.25)  
Negative patrol torpedoes expended E.T.A. position E. 0300A/22nd. S. of A. 100 miles in 24 hours weather report 5380 1013  
(VENTURER, 212101A to F.O.S.M., S.O.S.M. Lerwick)

Operations

North Waters

Convoy J.W.65. Kola Inlet 21st March J.W.65 and escorts including White Sea Group, less casualties as in para. 2. Total 24 merchant ships.  
(2) Casualties in approaches to Kola Inlet.  
(A) LAPWING.  
(B) THOMAS DONALDSON both sunk.  
(C) HORACE BUSHNELL abandoned and aground in vicinity Cape Teriberski.  
(3) Further details follow when known.  
Admiralty pass to M. of W.T.  
(S.B.N.Q. North Russia, 210813A to Admt, M.O.W.T.)

Enemy Intelligence

German midget U-Boat. German midget U-Boat type MOLCH.  
The following is from preliminary examination of captured craft and cancels para. 2 of A.G.M. 157A of 5th January.  
(2) Overall length is approx. 35 ft. diameter 3 ft. 8".  
(3) Conning Tower placed well aft, approx. 23 ft. from stem, fitted with rectangular plexiglass scuttles and perspex dome on hatch. Casing encloses periscope and projector compass forward.  
(4) Craft has distinctive vertical stabilising fin. Hydroplanes are unusually large.  
(5) Depth gauge marked to 50 metres (164 ft.)  
(6) Armament two electric torpedoes which may be similar to those carried by BIBER and SEEHUND.  
(7) Propulsion by electric motor only.  
(D.N.I. 212001A Gen. Message Home and Abroad)

Navigational

Navigation of Convoys. Senior Officers of Escorts - if their ship is fitted with Radar and/or Q.H. - are reminded that they possess valuable aids to navigation which are not available to the Commodore of the Convoy.

/Under ...



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of Convoys.  
(Contd.)

Under these conditions they should be prepared to advise and assist the Commodore: although responsibility for the safe navigation of the convoy must remain with the latter.

- (2) It is recommended that Escort Commanders should assist the Commodore in the following manner: (A) Own position by passing information in terms of range and bearing from pre-arranged points. Buoys or other points at each end of the route should be given code names by the Escort Commander by V/S (or at the Convoy Conference) before sailing so that they can be used in R/T messages.
- (B) Other convoys detected by Radar etc. In this case, in addition to informing the Commodore, it is often advisable for the Escort Commander: -
- (I) to signal to the Commodore in the form "Suggest" or "Request" a course to clear the other convoy.
- (II) When clear of the other convoy, to inform the Commodore of this and to request him to proceed on the course (or on a mean line of advance, if zig-zagging) direct for the next point on the route.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211121A to Portsmouth Command)

MovementsTJERK HIDDÉS  
destroyer.

Intend to sail H.N.M.S. TJERK HIDDÉS 1030 to-day speed of advance 19 knots to A North West Tay Buoy 1500 Thursday routed via Sounds of Islay and Mull thence South and West of Skye through Pentland Firth thence by standard route.  
(N.O.I.C. Lamlash, 210350 to N.O.I.C. Dundee)

ARIADNE  
fast mine-  
layer.

ARIADNE is expected to arrive U.K. 31st March Destination Plymouth.

(2) On arrival ship is to clean boilers and will then be required for urgent minelaying operations.

(3) Leave may be granted while boiler cleaning. Further leave will be given when operational circumstances permit.

(V.C.N.S. 211056A to C. in C. Plymouth, ARIADNE)

ANTWERP,  
fighter  
direction  
ship.

Request you will sail ANTWERP for Liverpool to arrive 26th March arranging E.T.A. with F.O.I.C. Liverpool. A.M. 021851, 021950 and 031227 not to all refer.  
(D.O.D.(H), 211318A to C. in C. Plymouth)

BERMUDA  
Cruiser.

Subject to after repair trials being satisfactory ship will be ready to leave Clyde area for a working up base p.m. Wednesday 11th April. My 141820 giving tentative programme of trials to F.O.I.C. Glasgow and F.O.I.C. Greenock only

refers.

(2) As so many A's and A's to all armaments and equipment have been carried out, and as ship has, owing to drafting commitments and reduction of two-fifths complement during long period in

/dockyard ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

BERMUDA  
Cruiser.  
(Contd.)

dockyard hands, virtually recommissioned, it is requested that Scapa may be allocated as a working up base and that a period of about six weeks may be allowed.

(3) Working up at Scapa with the facilities and up-to-date training equipment there, as known by those of original Ship's officers who remain, would be a great advantage, and would also allow a chance of replacing any of the new or other equipment which may prove faulty, before leaving Home Waters.

(4) Admiralty's 131936A March (not to the above addressees): Request that consideration may be given to allowing a short visit to the Island colony of name which ship bears while on passage out. Ship has not previously visited colony.

(5) A proposed detailed working-up programme is being forwarded to C.S.10 copy to Admiralty and C. in C. Home Fleet for consideration.

(BERMUDA, 211601 to Admty. C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.C. Greenock)

PRINSES  
BEATRIX,  
QUEEN EMMA,  
L.S.I.(M)'s.

Intend to sail PRINSES BEATRIX and H.M.S. QUEEN EMMA from Clyde in K.M.F.43 on 17th April for Gibraltar and O/R to India.  
(D.C.O.D. and D. of M. 211833A to R.A.L.S.C.U. F.O.I.C.Greenock)

A.F.D.  
B.A.2,  
Floating  
Dock.

Humber 21st March. Departure H.M.R.T. FREEDOM towing A.F.D. (BA) 2 at 1905. My 211210 refers.  
(F.O.I.C.Humber, 211920A to N.O.I.C.Lowestoft)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Routeing of traffic between Casablanca and Dakar. My 181115 and A.M. 191829, it is desired to bring following routes into force north of 26° 10' N.  
(A) Northbound (T) 26.10 N., 15.21 W. (U) 28.10 N., 13.24 W. (V) 32.48 N., 09.46 W. (W) 33.39 N., 08.54 W. (X) 34.05 N., 08.05 W. (Y) 34.25 N., 07.13 W. (Z) 35.51 N., 06.10 W. thence via southern half of Gibraltar Strait.  
(B) Southbound (Q) 35.59 N., 06.10 W. (B) 33.00 N., 10.00 W.  
(C) 28.11 N., 11.43 W. (D) 26.10 N., 15.46 W.  
(2) If F.O.C.W.Af. wishes to keep mark routes in operation request he will terminate them at (T) in para. 1A thence via northbound route.  
(3) Ships for Casa. to proceed from (W) from seaward end of Q.B.A. 146 or current Casa. swept channel.  
(4) Ships from G.C. convoys if not proceeding by coloured routes to proceed from seaward end Q.B.A. 146 or current swept channel to (A) 33.48 N., 08.58 W. thence (B).  
(5) Consider O.S./S.L. routes should remain in force as if and when these convoys are resumed all independent sailings would automatically cease.  
(6) On bringing into force the routes in para. 1 British Standard Coastal Route north of 26.10 N. with exception of position (L) to (E) would be cancelled.  
(7) Reference F.O.C.W.Af. 191619 ships should not proceed inside 200 fathom line between 26° 10' N. and Casablanca as these waters have never been swept.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 211110 to F.O.C.W.Af., Admty.)

ATHLONE CASTLE: Re transfer to ATHLONE CASTLE at Ponta Delgada. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 211134 to Admty.)  
Troops S.B.N.O. Azores 211134\* Request your concurrence.  
ex-BEARN. (D.O.D.(H), 211934A to Cominch.)  
J.W. McANDREW \* Intend to anchor ATHLONE CASTLE outside Ponta Delgada.  
Concur S.B.N.O. Azores 211134Z\* not to all. Cinclant direct escorts comply.  
(Cominch, 212126Z to Admty., Cinclant.)  
\* ATHLONE CASTLE.

IMPLACABLE. Take TUMULT and TERPSICHORE under your orders and sail when ready for Port Said.  
(2) - (9) Route and arrangements.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 211158A to IMPLACABLE.)

C.D.D.32. On arrival off Carnero Point you are to return immediately to Casablanca.  
(2) Route P.2.  
(3) Request you report (A) intended speed of advance (B) E.T.A. Casablanca.  
(4) C.M.S.F. 201757 not to all refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 212334A to C.D.D. 32 in U.S.S. BOYLE, U.S.S. NIELDS.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Routeing  
of traffic  
between  
Casablanca  
and Dakar.

A.M. 191829A. Do not consider present routes require alteration, my 191558 and 191619 refer. Present routes are designed so that resumption of O.S. and S.L. convoys in emergency can be easily effected - my 161840 was only intended to prevent congestion during the short period that Maroon Routes were not in use - Under normal conditions of independent sailings British

Standard Coastal Route carries little traffic other than small coastal shipping - consider present routes have proved quite satisfactory.

(F.O.C.W.A., 211012 to Admty.) See 261450.

Operation  
"Tabarin".

WILLIAM SCORESBY in company with SS. EAGLE at 1325Z/21 in 57.06 S., 57.10 W., speed 6 knots. E.T.A. Falkland Isles p.m./23rd. My 180956. EAGLE was hove to for 30 hours in easterly gale. EAGLE's damage not as serious as first thought by Capt.  
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is., 211355P to Admty.,  
C. in C. S.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Staff of C.S.15. Unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Med. in Admiralty, request you will arrange:  
(a) That staff and Office be now transferred to ORION, C.S.15, 210459B not to all refers.  
(b) That ORION and AURORA sail to arrive Naples before 26th March.  
(2) Admiralty pass to C. in C. Med. at the Admiralty.  
(C. in C. Med. 211008A to C.S.15)

Dakar Coastal Convoys. Request you will include Admiralty in repeat addressees of all coastal convoy sailings a.m. 191617A refers.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 211115Z to Comar, Dakar)

Merchant ships. Navigation Lights and zigzagging. Reference A.M. 180505 and 241853 January. In view of M.S.C.I. Art 6 paras. 7 and 6 Art, 43, para. 1. also "Medar's" Art 21, para. 9 and Art 24 para. 2 (B). Consider further action unnecessary for Mediterranean Area.  
(2) It is intended shortly to absorb M.S.C.I. Part 1 into "Medar's" all relevant information will be contained in 1 publication.  
(2) Request whether further amplification of instruction be considered necessary.  
(C. in C. Med. 211507A to Admty.)

Gulf of Patras mine-sweeping. M/S sitrep. Q.B.C. 942. South side of channel now swept to line joining following positions all from Kalogria Light (A) 272 degs. 13.5 miles.  
(B) 352 degs. 9 cables. (C) 076 degs. 4.4 miles.  
(D) 084 degs. 11.8 miles.  
(2) 11 mines mixed type and 3 static cutters cut all off Cape Papas.  
(3) 2 laps swept along northern side of channel.  
(4) One G.R. mine and one chain obstructor cut south of Cape Evence (S.O.M/S F.5, 212130B to F.O.L.E.M.)

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U-Boat  
dispositions. No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 219334Z)

U-Boat  
report. SSSS. 05.16 N. 78.15 E. S/M. sighted on surface.  
((GDLW)SHENCKING, 210425)

TRENCHANT  
and TERRAPIN  
5th Far East  
Patrol. Combined Summary.  
22nd February TERRAPIN successfully completed  
special operation. All incidents took place  
southern Malacca Strait.  
24th Feb. TERRAPIN by gunfire sank one 120 tons  
coaster. TRENCHANT sank one 80 tons coaster  
towing one 20 ton lighter by gunfire. Later  
both S/Ms attacked by gunfire 3 coasters each of 200 tons all  
3 burnt out and destroyed. Both S/Ms counter attacked by 2  
A/C, no damage. TERRAPIN dived TRENCHANT remained on surface  
transferring survivors to junk and fought A/C claiming damage to  
one.  
25th Feb. TERRAPIN sighted and reported to TRENCHANT convoy of  
8 coasters 250 to 500 tons each escorted by 2 M.T.Bs one A/C.  
TERRAPIN fired stern salvo which was avoided 3 minutes later  
TRENCHANT fired 4 torpedoes for one timed hit, later one coaster  
seen to sink. No counter attack.  
1st March TERRAPIN sank one 50 and one 30 ton Junk by demolition  
and gunfire.  
2nd March, TERRAPIN by demolition sank one 50 ton Junk.  
4th March both S/Ms surfaced and engaged by gunfire one S/M  
Chaser, after half an hour S/M Chaser sunk, one Japanese  
survivor. Later TRENCHANT sank by gunfire 30 ton Junk.  
9th March TRENCHANT by gunfire sank 20 ton tug towing one 40  
ton lighter.  
(C. in C. E.I. 211014Z)

NEWCASTLE,  
PHOEBE,  
CEYLON. Regret it is essential that NEWCASTLE keep to her  
refit date as arranged. Your 160623.  
(2) You will have seen from A.M. 131926 not to  
C.S.5 that PHOEBE will now be available to you  
at least until August. CEYLON is also at present  
additional to your planned strength although her  
future is still under consideration.  
(V.C.N.S. 211520A to C. in C. E.I. on O.D.1077/45)

20th D.D. A.M. 121721. Request composition of division  
referred to.  
(Capt. (D) 10, 211500 to Cdre. (D) E.I.)

"Molcabs"  
2 and 4. It is expected that most of the personnel, all  
the stores and administrative transport of  
"Molcabs" No 2 will embark and sail in three L.S.T.  
leaving U.K. towards the end of March. The  
M.B.M.U. and balance of personnel will probably  
leave U.K. about middle April in two L.S.T. Further signal  
will be made.  
(2) Request you will state latest date acceptable to you for

/the ...

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East Indies

"Molcabs"  
2 and 4.  
(Contd.)

the third S.E.A.C. "Molcab" to be fully operational in S.E.A.C. This "Molcab" will be numbered four. (3) It is intended to despatch "Molcab" No.4 by L.S.T. in preference to normal freight shipment due to extreme shortage of commercial shipping opportunities.  
(D.C.O.D. 212027A to C. in C. E.I.)

Renumbering  
of 16th  
Destroyer  
Div.

Request reply to my 121721.  
(D.O.D.(F), 212240A to C. in C. E.I.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Catalinas  
for Russia.

M.S.W. 393, March 21.  
Further to my M.S.W. 380, March 18th.  
Gander Lake is not expected to be in commission  
this year, therefore amphibious Catalinas will  
be required to use Gander airfield.  
(Air Ministry, 211200Z to 30 Mission, Moscow.)

ARIADNE.

Your 201330. U.K. via Azores. Cominch 161837  
and Com. Panama Sea Frontier 191630 refer.  
(D.O.D.(F), 211247A to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

CALGARY,  
BADDECK.

Commodore Sheerness 201227, not to all.  
Subject to N.S.H.Q.'s concurrence CALGARY should  
be repaired temporarily to enable her to proceed  
to Canada for refit in place of BADDECK (A.M.  
031938 not to all refers).

(2) BADDECK would proceed to Canada for refit on arrival of  
next R.C.N. corvette from Canada.  
(3) Commodore Sheerness 201227 has been repeated to N.S.H.Q.  
(D.O.D.(H), 211307A to N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Nore.)

U/B  
dispositions.

Estimates,  
(N.S.H.Q., 211353Z, Cominch, 211534.)

T.G. 22.9.

When ready about 1800Q/21st March C.T.G. 22.9  
proceed with Task Group 22.9 to Liverpool, U.K.  
and on arrival report to Com. 12th Fleet for  
temporary duty. Fuel as necessary in  
accordance with Cinclant 202252.  
(Comdeslant, 211547Z.)

BONAVENTURE.

BONAVENTURE departed Balboa 18 hours Z March 20  
for San Diego Puerto Rico (onwo routine\*) to  
Manus via Pearl Harbour. E.T.A. San Diego  
March 28. S. of A. 15 knots. Route to

interested parties by separate despatch.  
(Compaseafon, 211829.)

\* As received ? "onward routeing" intended.

U/B  
report.

Escort Group 27 detaching to investigate contact  
in 43° 54' N., 62° 02' W.  
(S.O. W.4, 211850Z to C. in C. W.A.)

U/B in  
Skov Fjord,  
Greenland.

Transient Army B.24 reported sighting dark grey  
submarine at conning tower depth leaving Skov  
Fjord eastward approx. 60.47 N., 46.12 W., refer  
H.O. chart 56 10 at 211254Z. Plane at 2,000  
feet saw periscope conning tower and wake but not  
hull outline.  
(Comgopat, 211956 to C.T.F.24, Cominch,  
Cinclant, Admty.)



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.U/B  
incidents.

Para. (D) (1) About 1130Z/20 Escort of C.U. 60A attacked sound contact 39.52 N., 39.49 W. later sighted whales in area.  
(2) 2200Z/22 (sic) U.S.S. DAVISON attacked sound contact 35.48 N., 20.46 W.  
(Cominch, 212029Z.)

T.G. 62.2.

Task Group 62.2 hereby constituted Capt. Smith-Hutton in MERVINE, QUICK, KENNEBEC, JOHN D. EDWARDS escort U.G.F.22 including TARAZED departing Hampton Roads 28th March for

Mediterranean. Escorts lay-over Oran. When C. in C. Med. directs (?return) escorting G.U.F.22.  
(C. in C. Lant, 212117Z.)

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

No report since my 190206.  
Para. (C) H.M.C.S. CAPE BRETON sighted suspicious object 2217/20 in 43.44 N., 63.35 W. Asdic contact three attacks H.E. after 2247. Contact lost 2359. All times Z.  
(N.S.H.Q., 212359Z.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
No. 1155.  
(Extract)

This Digest covering 20th March unless otherwise states.

(9) Further delayed reports state Ormoc-based P.Ts. destroyed single sea truck, two luggers, four barges and small craft off Cebu night 17th-18th March. Next night Palawan-based P.Ts. destroyed four barges, one motor launch off Palawan Island. Night 19th-20th Ormoc boats destroyed two more barges off north-eastern Cebu.  
(10) Three Venturas destroyed two midget submarines on Davao Gulf 18th March.  
(12) Fifth Air Force operations for day incomplete but 24 Mitchells with 11 escorting Mustangs reached Indo-China coast: nine Mitchells sank single small sea truck south Quinhon. Other Mitchells attacked convoy Amoy area sinking one destroyer, one medium freighter transport, leaving one destroyer escort burning and sinking, firing two larger freighter transports, scoring two near misses one destroyer: two Mitchells shot down, two others failed to return.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 211057Z.)

/PATROLLER ...

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21.3.1945.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand - Contd.

PATROLLER, REAPER, RANEE. Admiralty advise that British C.V.Es. PATROLLER, REAPER and RANEE are required at an early date for fitting out as replenishment carriers for British Pac. Fleet. Release two of these C.V.Es. as early in April as practicable. Third C.V.E. may be retained until end of April. When released sail them to U.K. Inform Admiralty of approximate sailing dates and place of departure as soon as reasonable firm. Admiralty 021330A January refers. (Cominch & C.N.O., 211442Z to C. in C. Pac. (Adv.))

ILLUSTRIOUS. Your 040525 not to C. in C. S.A. ILLUSTRIOUS will be taken in hand for repairs and refit in U.K. early in August. Request you will sail ship accordingly.

(2) Complement will be adjusted in U.K. Your para. 3(c) is noted.

(3) Further signal will be made regarding other matters in your para. 3.

(1st Lord, 212215A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/21. Para. (A) H.M.C.S. NEW GLASGOW (E.G.26) rammed U-Boat at 2225Z/20th in lat. 55° 25' N., long. 06° 53' W.

Para. (B) (1) A/C B/186 attacked contact at 1845Z/20th in lat. 59° 42' N., long. 04° 55' W.

(2) BADDECK attacked contact at 1157Z/20th in lat. 51° 28' N., long. 04° 54' W.

(3) A/C M/103 attacked moving oil slick at 1650Z/20th in lat. 49° 56' N., long. 06° 15' W.

(4) A/C S/461 sighted smoke and wake at 1848Z/20th in lat. 51° 23' N., long. 05° 46' W.

(5) French fisherman sighted conning tower at 1045Z/20th in lat. 50° 03' N., long. 01° 04' E.

Para. (C) BAYNTUN (E.G.10) had bottomed contact at 0759Z/20th in lat. 50° 34' N., long. 00° 14' E.

Para. (D) SHEARWATER attacked contact at 0146Z/21st in lat. 52° 26' N., long. 01° 56' W.

(2) British SHENKING sighted surfaced submarine at 0425Z/21st in lat. 05° 16' N., long. 78° 15' E. (D.D.I.C., 211039Z.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C., 211441A, 211444A.)

22.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) E-Boats were again active last night, two groups operating from Den Helder and three from the Hook. All were efficiently shadowed and reported by our aircraft, and indeed two boats from Den Helder were sunk by Beaufighters. The four remaining groups made numerous attacks on Convoy F.S.61 east of Yarmouth but were beaten off by our escorts, patrols, and the merchantmen themselves, the E-Boats receiving damage and our own vessels none.  
(b) CHARLES D. MCIVER and ELEPHERIA were mined in Convoy A.T.M.100 about 10 miles N.N.E. of Ostend, and both sank.  
(c) M.T.B. 394, whilst lying stopped on hydrophone watch some 23 miles S.E. of Yarmouth, was run into by a partially submerged SEEHUND. M.T.B. 394 opened rifle fire, the midget scuttled, and two prisoners were picked up.

Channel.

2(a) Traffic to Dieppe has been resumed.  
(b) EMPIRE KINGSLEY was torpedoed and sunk by U-Boat six miles N.W. of Longships in Convoy T.B.C.103.

Baltic.

3. The German STEUBEN, 14,660 g.r.t., is reported torpedoed and sunk off Rixhoft with 4,500 wounded and 1,800 women and children aboard, refugees from Pillau.

Foreign Stations.

South Atlantic

Movement.

4. CUMBERLAND left Simonstown for Trincomalee this afternoon.

SS. BARON  
JEDBURGH  
sunk 10th  
March.

5. 33 survivors from SS. BARON JEDBURGH, Trinidad for Table Bay, landed at Jacapessoa Parahyba, near Recife this morning. The vessel is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk on 10th March in 10° 02' S., 25° 00' W. (600 miles west of Ascension Island). Further boats of survivors are unaccounted for.

War Diary.

22.3.1945.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean

Gulf of  
Genoa.

6. U.S. P.T. Boats last night fired 8 torpedoes into Savona harbour but the results are not known.

M.T.B.655  
sunk.

7. M.T.B.655 is reported to have been mined and sunk in Quarnero Gulf, northern Adriatic on the "night of 21st March".

Dodecanese.

8. British M.Ls. engaged fast enemy launch returning Portolago from Kos last night. Hits obtained but craft escaped into Portolago. (251427).

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea.Patrols

My 211821/ part company off Aberdeen.  
 (2) Detail two escorts to patrol south between Montrose and Farn Island remainder search in Moray Firth.  
 (3) Report disposition.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 220910A to S.O.E.G.17). \*S.O.E.G. 17 R/V with LOCH NAGAR escorted by 2 trawlers.

E-Boat activity

E-Boat activity last night 21st/22nd March.  
 (1) Two groups operated from Den Helder and three from Hook probably about 24 boats in all.  
 (2) Northern Group from Den Helder shadowed by

Wellington and attacked by Beaufighters who sank two remainder returning to base. Second Helder Group reported by Wellington soon after sailing.

(3) Three Groups from Hook were efficiently shadowed by two Wellingtons and a Swordfish. Aircraft reports enabled point of attack to be determined in good time and surface forces warned.

(4) Between 0115 and 0300 numerous attacks on F.S.61 were made east of Yarmouth by four separate E-Boat Groups (see para.2 and 3). In a series of actions all attacks were successfully beaten off by escorts, patrol, and M.T.Bs. who inflicted damage on enemy. No casualties or damage to convoy.

(5) Shore Radar. In addition to aircraft of 16 Group shore radar made important contribution to successful defence of convoy. Conditions were Anapropa but atmospheric effects were troublesome. V.164 (THORPENESS) V.149 (HOPTON) and V.135 (WINTERTON) all picked up U-Boats at long range maximum 33½ miles. All four enemy groups and our forces were well held but numerous close actions combined with atmospheric effects at the Stations resulted in frequent changed identifications at Yarmouth. Plot and situation was not always clear in consequence.

(C. in C. Nore, 221407A to Admiralty etc.).

My 221407 para.4 for F.S.61 read F.S.62 Para.4 add on several occasions Merchant ships of a convoy both engaged E-Boats and drove them off scoring a number of hits.

(C. in C. Nore, 221647A to Admiralty).

Loss of  
 S.S. CHARLES  
 D.MCIVER  
 and  
 ELEFThERIA.

(Convoy ATM.100)

2 ships mined 080° ½ mile from N.F.11 Buoy.  
 (VESPER, 221515A to C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Antwerp).

ELEFThERIA mined in position 100° N.F.11½ miles has broken and touching bottom 36580 CHARLES D. MCIVER mined and sunk in position 000° (?A.F.) 11 one mile. L.S.T.(1) 430 and B.Y.M.S.2279

have survivors of both ships on board are returning Flushing and Ostend.

(KITTIWAKE, 221542A to C. in C. Nore).

C.A.F.O.2120/44.

(A) CHARLES D. MCIVER. (B) U.S. (C)1335Z/22. (D)000° N.F.11 buoy 1 mile. (E) Mine or torpedo. (F)Sunk.

(G) 19 survivors including 1 Belgian pilot landed Ostend. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 221941 to Admiralty).

My 221515. L.S.T.303 returning to Flushing with survivors and casualties.

(VESPER, 221644A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp).

/Discharge...

22.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea. - Contd.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report

S.82718. Cositintrep No.352 Part 4 Section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/  
21st March:-

British:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	-	315	3990	823	-	-
Ostend	4099	802	1942	-	-	1570
Boulogne	148	106	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	200	1837	-	-
Calais	2818	-	44	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4497	-	235	1311
<b>Total</b>	<b>7065</b>	<b>1223</b>	<b>10673</b>	<b>2660</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>2881</b>

U.S.North:

Antwerp	-	820	9544	-	-	-
Cherbourg	6	199	7740	1383	4789	3312
Le Havre	18601	388	7337	-	-	1226
Rouen	265	296	10532	925	859	565
Granville	-	-	-	317	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4385	-	-	788
<b>Total</b>	<b>18872</b>	<b>1703</b>	<b>39538</b>	<b>2625</b>	<b>5648</b>	<b>5891</b>

U.S.South:

Marseilles	1181	533	11183	1911	-	96
Port de Bouc	-	-	3051	580	8140	2543
Toulon	-	-	455	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>14689</b>	<b>2491</b>	<b>8140</b>	<b>2639</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 221630A to Admiralty etc.).

Midget  
U-Boat  
activity

F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth's 221128. Following has  
been received from MANTIS. Begins: At 0452  
M.T.B.394 (lying stopped and keeping hydrophone  
watch) hit by partially submerged midget  
submarine. M.T.B.394 opened fire with V.G.O.

303 as it drifted astern. Went astern towards and searched  
with Aldis lamp; Shouts heard from water and two prisoners  
picked up but midget submarine not found and considered sunk  
as at 0500 four underwater explosions heard. Prisoners  
landed at Lowestoft. Midget submarine considered "Seehund"  
type.

(C. in C. Nore, 221728A to Admiralty, D.N.I.).

U-Boat and small battle unit Summary to 1100Z/22.

0344Z/22 M.T.B.394 sank midget U-Boat 52° 20' N. 02° 10' E.  
2 prisoners.

(C. in C. Nore, 221729A to Admiralty).

Casualties  
in N.F.  
Channel

Extensive sweeping with negative result rules

/out...

22.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation

North Sea.

Casualties out normal mine as course of casualties in  
in N.F. N.F. Channel on 19th and 22nd March.  
Channel (2) Following are considered possible causes.  
(Contd.) (A) Torpedo from Midget. (B) P.M. laid by  
Midget. (C) A.M. Mk.3 laid by E-Boats night  
28th Feb./1st March with long arming delay and  
high P.D.M. (D) British units laid by enemy.  
(3) Evidence. (A) Proximity to buoys suggest 2 (A) or 2 (B)  
(B) Weather suggests not 2 (B) on 19th. (C) Lack of other  
Midget reports suggest not 2 (A). (D) Lack of near misses on  
sweepers suggest not 2 (D). (E) Nature of damage in every  
case suggests mine. (F) One doubtful sighting report and short  
time in which casualties occurred on 19th suggest torpedo.  
(4) Counter measures. (A) Against (2) (B) egg crate will be  
tried but practical value is considered small as effect can  
only be equivalent to one or two more ships using Channel  
each day. (B) Against 2 (C) and 2 (D) explosive sweep is in  
use as far as hand grenade supplies permit.  
Com. Belgium's 212135 refers.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 221809A to Admiralty, C. in C. Nore).

Naval Cositintrep No.352. Part II Naval.  
Situation Le Havre Tancarville Canal now operative for  
Report. barge traffic to Rouen.  
(2) A raiding party landed from L.C.A. on  
south coast of Schouwen at dawn 22nd March.  
12 enemy believed killed. Own losses 2 killed, 4 wounded.  
(3) Traffic to Dieppe has been resumed.  
(4) CHARLES D. MCIVER and ELEFThERIA mined or torpedoed at  
1435 today in Nore-Flushing 035° Ostend 10 miles. ELEFThERIA  
back broken and aground in Channel. CHARLES D. MCIVER sunk  
clear to northward of Channel.  
(Burrough (Signed Eisenhower) 222355A to Cositintrep addresses).

Operations

Channel.

Patrols. Amend my 211055 para.2 R/V C.2A buoy 1030 22nd  
and support convoy. S.O.H.M.S. AZALEA.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 220746A to BLIGH, TYLER).  
Leave patrol at 1700A 22nd and proceed to anchor in  
Cherbourg at half an hour's notice.  
Further orders follow.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221202A to GRINDALL, KEATS, KEMPTHORNE).  
My 221202A. Weigh at 0630A 23rd and proceed to R/V with  
T.B.C.105 CLEMATIS (S.O.) and MIMICO, E.T.A. F Buoy at 1200A 23rd.  
(2) Cover convoy to westwards until B.T.C.105, ACONIT (S.O.) and  
STATICE is met. Then detach and cover B.T.C. to St. Helens.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221253A to GRINDALL, KEATS, KEMPTHORNE)  
When E.G.3 2nd Division joins M.K.S.89 1st Division proceed  
at sweeping speed to relieve E.G.2 hunting in vicinity of Lizard.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221342A to S.O.E.G.3).  
If not in contact establish following patrols forthwith  
along coastal convoy routes.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel.

Patrols (Contd.) E.G.19 first division Longships to Lizard Second Division Lizard to 04° 30' W.  
E.G.15 first Division 04° 30' W. to Start Second Division Start to Portland.  
B.T.C. and T.B.C. Convoys are to be trailed through areas.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221738A to S.O.E.Gs. 19, 15).  
COSBY probably countermined a Gnat at 1730A/21 in 50° 15' N. 04° 14' W. Appreciate this U-Boat is likely to remain in Plymouth Bay area.  
(2) Appreciate Mounts Bay U-Boat may be moving east along coastal route.  
(3) Following are limits of Hunting areas.  
(a) E.G.3 west of 5° W. (b) E.G.15 east of 04° 30' W.  
(c) E.G.19 between (A) and (B).  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221453A to S.O.E.G.3, S.O.E.G.15, S.O.E.G.19, DELPHINIUM).  
If not in contact enter Plymouth now.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221733A to NARBOROUGH, DELPHINIUM).  
Second Division 19th E.G, consisting COTTON, LOCHINSH, established patrol. Your 221738 refers.  
(COTTON, 221905A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Reduction of MASTODON I consider the time has now come when MASTODON can be reduced to a state of care and maintenance in order to effect an appreciable saving in man and woman-power.  
(2) Beaulieu River is now cleared of major and minor landing craft, the facilities at Buckler's Hard can be surrendered and separate action is being taken in this regard, and alternative accommodation can be arranged in another L.C.Base for C.O. personnel now in MASTODON.  
(3) The only possible future requirements for MASTODON would appear to be for the berthing of major landing craft were large numbers to return from the Far Shore at the same time or as an accommodation base in an emergency. Until such a requirement should eventuate I consider the base should be placed in care and maintenance at 14 days notice under Commodore L.C.B. vide C.A.F.O.695/44.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 220943A to Admiralty).

Attacks on U-Boats by merchantmen Para.1C. and 2 of your 211120. Your proposed free area contains Beachy Head Sanctuary see para.3 of A.M. 111547. Also it is thought that submarines may be required to exercise in this Sanctuary with aircraft under conditions when any surface escort must keep well clear of the submarine.  
(2) It is suggested that to para.2A of A.M. 111547 should be added an area on the south coast approx. between Portland and Beachy Head (outside the Isle of Wight) where submarines can be attacked except as provided for in 2(B) and (C) of the above quoted A.M. and on assumption that Portsmouth and Needles Sanctuaries will not be in use.  
(F.O.S.M. 221227A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/E.G.2...



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel - Contd.

E.G.2.

On relief by E.G.3 1st Division if not in contact E.G.2 proceed at best speed to Liverpool.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221346A to S.O.E.G.2).

Anti-U-Boat  
deep  
mining.

Weigh at 0100A 23rd March and carry out Serial D.7 repetition D.7.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221526A to WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN, BOSTON).  
Weigh at 1010A 23rd March and carry out serial E.2 part 2.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221527A to PLOVER, SIDMOUTH).  
Request you sail 5 M.Ls. Force G.H. at 1000A 23rd March to carry out serial M.1 part 2 Lay 3.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221528A to HORNET).

Loss of  
EMPIRE  
KINGSLEY  
T.B.C. 103

Ship sinking 50.08 N. 05.48 W. survivors picked up.  
(A/C. MCW88, 221630A to 19 Group).  
Regret to report EMPIRE KINGSLEY in T.B.C.103 torpedoed at 1540A/22 and sank at 1709 in position 315° Longships 6 miles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221752A to Admiralty).

Situation. Ship was torpedoed from starboard side and was in port column. DUCKWORTH and ROWLEY reached datum 1700A sweeping inshore of wreck. Second E.G. sweeping Longships to Seven Stones from 1730A and remainder of 3rd E.G. disposed to northward of 2nd E.G. by 1800A. Wreck sank in position 50° 08' N. 05° 51' W.

(S.O.E.G.3, 221845 to C. in C.Plymouth).

Operations

Western Approaches

Anti-schnorkel A.M. 201855A not to all addressees. Request you obstructors. will arrange to sail BRITTANY by March 28th if possible to commence laying type O.P.F. obstruction along latitude 52° 00' N. starting at 12° 00' W. to cover a 50 mile front to the westward.  
(2) It is hoped that a laying rate of 30 miles of obstruction per 24 hours can be maintained until the 50 miles has been laid when BRITTANY should return to Clyde to reload.  
(3) Radar Floats sufficient for 50 miles of obstruction are being delivered to B.D.O. Greenock by Friday 23rd and further supplies will be available for BRITTANY on her return.  
(V.C.N.S., 221030A to C. in C.W.A.).

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining

Operation C.H. serial L.546 completed.  
(APOLLO, 220945A to C. in C.W.A.).

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

E.Gs. If not in contact:  
26, 5. (A) 25th E.G. is to abandon search as necessary to comply with my 221630 not to all.  
(B) 26th E.G. is to detach at daylight 23rd and proceed to Moville at best speed for fuel.  
(2) On completion of fuelling Cdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail 26th E.G. at best speed without incurring weather damage to relieve 5th E.G. in Portsmouth Command.  
(3) On relief by 26th E.G. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail 5th E.G. to Belfast for lay over.  
(C. in C.W.A., 222337A to S.O.26th E.G., S.O.25th E.G., Cdre (D) W.A., C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operations

Norway

Patrols Following is forecast of submarine patrol. Dates approximate.

<u>Submarine</u>	<u>Date of leaving Lerwick</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Date of returning Lerwick</u>
UTSIRA	28th March	Fro Havet	15th April
DOLFIJN	28th March	Fejeosen	30th March
TOTEM	3rd April	Fejeosen	14th April
VENTURER	12th April	Fejeosen	23rd April
SPEARHEAD	12th April	Marsten	31st March
TURPIN	29th March	Marsten	9th April
TAPIR	7th April	Marsten	18th April
VIKING	28th March	Egersund	12th April
VARNE	7th April	Egersund	22nd April

(2) Thereafter owing to lack of dark hours no further patrols will normally be carried out. Operational submarines will be disposed as follows:-

VENTURER To refit. DOLFIJN and UTSIRA, VIKING Training duties at Dundee and Blyth.

Working up patrol for submarines proceeding to Eastern Theatre will no longer be carried out in home water.

(F.O.S/M. 221746A to C. in C.H.F.).

Submarine positions at 0800 23rd and movements for following 24 hours. Times zone A. Positions north and east.

(A) DOLFIJN as in A.M.191941.

(B) SIDON 61° 25' 00° 09' through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 on surface to Lerwick 11 knots.

(C) SPEARHEAD on patrol off Marsten.

(D) VENTURER 64° 10' 03° 48' course 210° diving by day 100 miles in 24 hours.

(C. of W., 221938A to A.I.G.25).

Operation "S.C."

Intend to sail S.C.Operation from Shetland.

(1) 0500 24th March from Scalloway.

(2) 077° from Sumburg Head. 14 knots.

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"S.C."  
(Contd.)

- (3) 2000A 24th March.  
 (4) Between 2030A 24th March and 0500A 25th March.  
 (5) 257° to Sumburgh Head. 15 knots.  
 (6) P.M. 25th March.  
 (7) 077° Sumburgh Head. (8) No.  
 (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 221803A to C. in C.H.F.).  
 My 221803A. (1) 60° 33' N. 04° 47' 30" E.  
 (2) Ramose Phenomenal. (3) Blank.  
 (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 221805A to C. in C.H.F.).

OperationsNorthern Waters.Convoy  
J.W.65

- Your 210813 and C.S.10's 202315.  
 Request clarification of name of merchant vessel sank.  
 (D.O.D.(H), 220340A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia).  
 Admiralty message 220340 name of merchant ship sunk is  
 THOMAS DONALDSON.  
 (S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 220551A to Admiralty).

Convoy  
R.A.65

- From N.C.S.O.  
 (1) Intend to sail for Clyde at 2359A 23rd Kola  
 portion of R.A.65 to rendezvous with White Sea  
 portion at sea.  
 (2) Speed 9.75 knots.  
 (3) Routed M.T. then route Blue as in C. in C.H.F.(Afloat)  
 022047 thence through Minches to Clyde.  
 (4) Reference. Position same as Ocean route.  
 (6) Recoding Table S.P.2406 (942) S.P.2272 (35) and (36).  
 (7) British ships FORT CREVECOEUR, LUCERNA, FORT VERCHERES,  
 LACKLAN, BLUE RANGER.  
 (8) American ships ARUNAH S. ABELL, TOWNSHEND HARRIS,  
 DANIEL WILLARD, NATHAN TOWSON, MARIE M. MELONEY, F.T. FRELING-  
 HAUSEN, JOHN J.ABEL, BENJAMIN F. DIXON.  
 (9) Norwegian ship SKIENSFJORD. Total 14 ships. Admiralty  
 pass to M.W.T.  
 (S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 221515A to Admiralty).

Enemy IntelligenceEvacuation  
of Germans  
by sea from  
E.Baltic,  
and casual-  
ties.

- Following information dated early March.  
 (A) Convoys sail from Gdynia westwards off Hela  
 during afternoon and leave about (?18)00, in  
 order to pass Rixhoft during darkness.  
 (B) Large vessels, DEUTSCHLAND, HAMBURG,  
 PRETORIA and DER DEUTSCHE have hitherto been  
 employed transporting refugees to Sassnitz and  
 returning with troops for defence of Gdynia.  
 (C) In addition WILHELM GUSTLOFF, following casualties have  
 been reported.  
 (1) STEUBEN torpedoed and sunk off Rixhoft when transporting  
 3,500 wounded, 1,000 slightly wounded together with anchor  
 /1,800...

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of Germans  
by sea from  
E. Baltic,  
and casual-  
ties ..

(Contd.)

1,800 women and children from Pillau, westwards.  
 (2) BERLIN mined and sunk in Swinemünde Bay now lying with main deck above water.  
 (3) MONTE ROSA has been mined and towed to Gdynia with list and stern deep in water. Salvage craft reported alongside.  
 (D) In consequence of these losses, traffic has now reverted to original mine swept along north German coast.

(E) Oil stock in Gdynia though occasionally replenished from Swinemünde Bay and Kiel, reported to be very low and motor vessels have been bunkering small quantities as necessary for voyages from U-Boat tankers.

(F) B.2..

(N.A. Stockholm, 221219 to Admiralty).

Casualties and DefectsS.Ss. JAMES  
EAGAN, LAYNE,  
JOHN R. PARK

My 211748A March.

U.S.S. JAMES R. LAYNE beached in vicinity of Rame Head U.S.S. JOHN R. PARK sunk. No casualties to Naval Personnel.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221649A to Admiralty).

JAN VAN  
GELDER  
Escort ship  
SPUR  
submarine.

Regret to report JAN VAN GELDER and SPUR in collision at 0530 22nd March during night exercise in 55° 25' N. 05° 14' W.

(2) JAN VAN GELDER engine room flooded 12ft. by 10ft. hole starboard side. Ship now at Campbeltown and in no danger of sinking. Regret one rating killed. My 221853 not to all refers.

(3) SPUR bow structure extensively damaged above and below waterline. Little if any damage apparent to torpedo tubes.

(S/M.3, 221851A to F.O.S/M.).

MovementsBERMUDA,  
cruiser.

F.O.I.C.Greenock is requested to sail BERMUDA when ready about 11th April for Scapa.

(2) On completion of sufficient preliminary work up, for which about two weeks is estimated C. in C.Home Fleet is requested to sail ship

for the Mediterranean.

(3) C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to make arrangements to complete work up in this command.

(4) On completion of work up BERMUDA is to be sailed for Australia via Ceylon to join British Pacific Fleet.

(V.C.N.S., 221534A to F.O.I.C.Greenock, C.s in C.H.F.,Med.).

A.F.D.B.A.2  
Floating dock.

Lowestoft 22nd March arrival H.M.R.T.FREEDOM and A.F.D.(B.A.)2.

(N.O.I.C.Lowestoft, 221620A to F.O.I.C.Humber etc.)

22.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

VENGEFUL  
submarine

Sailed VENGEFUL escorted by H.M.C.S.  
FREDERICTON in Clyde Portion K.M.S.92. Should  
submarine become detached from escort and  
convoy watch will be kept in accordance with  
A.F.Os. 2/44 article 15 para.(H).  
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 222026 to Admiralty, C. in C.  
W.A.,F.O.G.M.A.).

22.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ATHLONE  
CASTLE. Your 211134 para. 3. (?Portuguese) Authorities have given authorization. (2) American authorities concerned have been advised by U.S. Naval (?Attache). (N.A. Lisbon, 221701A to B.S.N.O. Azores.) Present sea conditions not suitable for transfer troops to ATHLONE CASTLE by destroyer escort remaining outside territorial waters until in all respects ready to effect transfer. Time of entry will be sent when known. Comnavzor inform Portuguese authority and N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada. (Comfortdiv. 58, 222058Z to Comnavzor.)

BEARN  
(damaged in  
collision  
13 March). Sailed BEARN, MALCOLM, VERITY 0335Z/22nd. (MALCOLM, 220400Z.) C.R. No. 1332. Following from N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada begins: U.S. Salvage Repair Officer states F.S. BEARN seaworthy for passage to U.K. at speed approx. 8 knots plus. Plane cargo has urgent U.S. Army priority. Request you take appropriate action. (Comnaveu, 221947 to Admty.)

LORD  
HOTHAM. Your 221108 not to Admty. Portuguese Authorities approve possible entry of LORD HOTHAM. (N.A. Lisbon, 221837A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

South Atlantic

BURNET. Sailed to Diego Suarez. Arrangements. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 220756Z.)

TULIP. My 211451Z\* ship sailed. (N.O.I.C. East London, 220902B.)  
\* Intend to sail TULIP at 0830/22.

FRITILLARY. Intend to sail FRITILLARY 23rd March for Freetown for onward routeing to U.K. Ship will be routed via Pointe Noire for fuel. (C. in C. S.A., 221101B.)

/K.T.U.J. ...

22.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

K.T.U.J.  
CASPER S.  
YOST.  
Re. signals  
of sailings  
and routes.

Reference sailing of K.T.U.J. CASPER S. YOST, this ship left Trinidad for Capetown 9th March by "Spruce" route vide route signal N.S.H.Q's 121810 which stated in last paragraph that - details of "Spruce" route and speed of advance will follow -. On 15th N.S.H.Q's 132019 giving speed of advance only was received. On 18th as no details of "Spruce" route had been received a signal C. in C. S.A's 181006 was made requesting these. N.S.H.Q. then replied in his 191536 saying "details of "Spruce" route not yet available will follow within two days". Thus message also gave expected time of sailing position (M) (the first position after leaving "Spruce" route) as 17th, i.e. nearly three days before receipt of signal here. Consequently when vessel was eventually plotted from this expected time of sailing it was found that her position coincided almost exactly with the plotted position of the home-ward bound U-Boats quoted in Admiralty's A.I.G.332. A signal was sent to the ship using her correct War Call Sign WS2FB but she replied stating that this was her old War Call Sign and that she held KE2QD. This latter actually was her old one and has been superseded by WS2FB. Request you will investigate and ensure that full details of sailings and route signals be despatched with as little delay as possible in order that effective diversions may be made in good time where necessary. (C. in C. S.A., 221122B to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

CUMBERLAND. Simonstown departure 1620Z/22.  
CUMBERLAND for Trincomalee calling Port Louis Mauritius for fuel.  
(2) - (4) Route, etc.  
(C. in C. S.A., 221821B.)

SS. BARON  
JEDBURGH  
(sunk 10th  
March).

33 survivors from British ship BARON JEDBURGH landed Jacapessoa Parahyba this a.m. Vessel reported torpedoed and sunk on March 10th in approximate position 010° 02' S., 025° 00' W.  
(2) More boats of survivors are as yet unaccounted for. Amplified report follows.  
(A.B.N.S.O. Recife, 221823Z.)  
See 271723, page 491.

22.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

French  
destroyers  
and D.Es.

For reasons given in para. 2 my 191112A\* 1 D.E. only can be spared for duty your 181328A.\*  
(2) A third French destroyer has been detailed in lieu of second D.E.  
(3) BASQUE, FORTUNE, BALCYON and HOVA will be held at short notice to sail for Plymouth. SIMOUN not available owing to refit.  
(C. in C. Med. 221240 to A.N.C.X.F.)  
\*N.T. in W.D.

S. Aegean  
Summary.

(Extract.) Up to 0900/22nd.  
(1) Shipping and military. No ph. cover 21st March due to cloud. Offensive action by naval forces. One of our craft obtained hits on enemy launch south of Leros 0150 hours 21st March. Launch hit but escaped to Portolago.  
(C. in C. M.E. 221250B.)

French  
repatriates  
at Odessa.

(Extract.) Your 1637/14. Request early confirmation that French ex Odessa may be lifted in British ships which shortly due at Odessa, whatever the destination of the ships, U.K., Italy or elsewhere.  
(30 Mission 221516A to A.M.S.S.O.)

Philippeville/  
Marseilles  
cable.

(Extract.) (1) Break in Philippeville - Marseilles cable situated in deepwater between Minorca and Marseilles.  
(2) Almed proposed following programme for EMILE BAUDOT on completion of repairs about 25th March.  
(F.O.W.M. 221517A.)

Comsitrep No.  
84.

Ending 221200A.  
(1) During night 17/18 METEOR and LOOKOUT had engagement reported by MILNE's 181921A.  
(2) On 17th METEOR fired 44 rounds at store houses. Two hits in target area. During night 18/19 FORTUNE and BASQUE carried out Operation "Vinegar" FORTUNE fired 22 rounds and BASQUE 25 at Savona. Inaccurate counterfire from large guns. On (?20th) GLOIRE fired 99 rounds on San Remo Harbour. Direct observation. Good shooting. FORTUNE 39 rounds at suspected gun position. Area most effectively covered. PARKER 27 rounds at mortars 63 rounds on supply dumps, and 22 on troops. Several direct hits. On 21st LOOKOUT 14 at command post. Shoot abandoned owing to poor visibility.  
(3) P.T. boats carried out patrol Z during night 17/18, saw 4 or 5 white wakes possible human torpedoes. Dropped two depth charges without results. On 19th, patrol returned due to bad weather. During nights 20/21 Z patrol carried out without results. Night 21/22 P.T. boats launched 8 torpedoes in Savona Harbour, results yet unknown.



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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Comsitrep  
No. 84.  
(Contd.)

(4) Some mines seen by aircraft during this period.  
(5) On 17th MARNE left Flankforce for Malta. On 19th TROMBE reported for Flankforce duties. On 22nd GLOIRE sailed to Ajaccio for short trip. (Comflanfor 221815A to F.O.N.A.M., etc.)

ORION,  
AURORA.

Taking AURORA under your orders sail to pass 309 at 1915B/23 and proceed to Naples. Arrangements. (F.O.L.E.M. 221852B to ORION.)

Situation  
report No.  
583.

(1) Adriatic. M.T.B. 655 mined and sunk in Quarnero Gulf night of 21st March. 7 of her crew are missing.  
(2) Gulf of Genoa night 16th March 2 coastal craft fired 5 torpedoes at 2 F-Lighters off Mesco Point. Results not known.  
(C. in C. Med., 221919A.) Amended by 241931A.

KING SALVOR.

The early build up of an adequate fleet salvage organisation for B.P.F. is now of prime importance. It must include a minimum of 3 ocean salvage vessels before the Autumn. The third of these ships can only be supplied from your command as the essential requirements of Indian waters and S.E.A.C. are absorbing the remaining 3 vessels of the class now building in the U.K.

(2) KING SALVOR should therefore be transferred to B.P.F. as soon as possible after repairs have been completed and in any event not later than 1st June. Your 281406A Feb.refers.

(3) Requisite officers and ratings will be drafted when required and the proposed date of recommissioning should be notified in due course so that there may be no delay in making the necessary arrangements.

(V.C.N.S. 222314A to C. in C. Med.)

22.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B situation. No change.  
(C. in C. E.I., 220426Z.)

HIND. A.L.D.0264/45 of 2nd March 1945, para. 7.  
Confirm defect in HIND should be taken in hand off East Indies Station. My 080237 March (refers?). Sailing of ship was cancelled on receipt of Admiralty's 072328.  
(2) Request early approval to sail HIND for Mediterranean.  
(C. in C. E.I., 221007Z to Admty.)

PELICAN. Request date on which PELICAN may be expected to rejoin this station.  
(C. in C. E.I., 221030Z to C. in C. Med.)

SCYTHIAN, patrol. SCYTHIAN first Far East patrol. 8th to 15th March vicinity Moskos Channel by gunfire and demolition sank 8 junks each of 25 tons. 7 days also spent on A.S.R. duties.  
(C. in C. E.I., 221209Z.)

ASHANTI. Allocation of ASHANTI to East Indies Fleet is cancelled.  
(D.O.D.(F), 221258A.)

Convoy S.U.1. (Extract) (2) 1400Z/22.  
(3) 57° 30' E. 0230Z/25, Colombo 1100Z/29.  
E.T.D. Colombo 0001Z/30, 100° E. 0700Z April 5th.  
Fremantle 1830Z April 8th.  
(4) 13 knots.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 221437Z.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B incidents. Para. C. (1) 202247 H.M.C.S. CAPE BRETON attacked sound contact 30 minutes after sighting suspicious object at 43.44 N. 63.35 W.  
(2) 212126 E.G. 27 attacked bottomed contact 43.48 N. 61.51 W. producing constant flow of oil.  
All time Z para. D.  
(1) 211254 transit army A/C reported sighting periscope, conning tower and wake course East from approx. 60.47 N. 46.12 W.  
(2) 211820 U.S.C.G. EASTWIND reported hydrophone contact same area.  
(Cominch 220259Z.)

U/B dis-                      Estimates.  
positions.                    (N.S.H.Q. 221324Z, 221556Z.)

U.S.S.                      H.M.R.T. TENACITY escorted by U.S.S. DEARBORN  
SURPRISE.                    sailed to Argentia 1200Z/22 to assist U.S.S.  
SURPRISE disabled in 46.05 N. 46.01 W. due ice  
damage. (2) Admty. pass to C.C.R.T.  
(F.O.N.F. 221356Z to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Salvage                      Salvage situation, owing to various defects and  
situation.                    delays arrival of salvage vessels and rescue tugs  
at Manus is approx. as follows.  
(2) Salvage vessels SALVESTOR mid May SALVICTOR  
early June one other July or August.  
(3) Rescue tugs first should arrive shortly and remaining five  
expected at intervals thereafter until about end of June.  
(4) Request you will keep C. in C. Pac. informed of situation  
pointing out that, although every endeavour will be made to avoid  
doing so, it might be necessary to ask for U.S. assistance in  
an emergency.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 220512Z to C. in C. Pac., A.D.V. Admty.)

FORMIDABLE,                    Request ships in my 170202 be sailed for Leyte  
UGANDA and                    earliest practicable after arrival Manus. First 4  
destroyers.                    not to wait for last 3.  
(2) Ships allocated to C.T.F. 57 (former title  
C.T.F. 113) on departure Manus.  
(3) C.T.F. 113, 210057, not to all addressees,  
refers.  
(4) S.B.N.O. Manus pass signals quoted to C.N.B. Manus,  
Comphib. 13 pass to Captain Evelegh, R.N., and C.T.F. 112.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 220540Z to C.N.B. Manus.)

22.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.- Contd.

Digest No. (Extract.)  
1156. Covering 21st March unless another date indicated.  
(3) Navy Liberator from Mindoro sighted north-bound 6 ships convoy off Camranh Bay morning. Later 12 escorted Mitchells of 5th Air Force attacked same convoy now including 7 ships: visual reports and photographs show 5 ships sunk including 2 stack aft freighters of 2000 tons each, 2 escort vessels, one probable minesweeper. One escort vessel later seen escaping to north. 8 - 10 enemy fighters attempted interception whereof escorting fighters shot down 4 plus 2 probables. One Mitchell shot down by A.A.  
(5) 4 Mitchells directed by P.T. boat bombed strafed gun positions Caballo Island.  
(7) Delayed report states three Venturas damaged small submarine with rocket hits anchored off Cebu City. Next morning five Venturas completed destruction of submarine.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 221125Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/22nd March.  
Para. A. (1) JAMES EAGAN LAYNE torpedoed at 1335Z/21st March in approx. 50° 11' N. 04° 07' W.  
(2) JOHN R. PARK torpedoed at 1418Z/21st March in approx. 49° 54' N. 05° 27' W.  
Para. B. (1) E.G. 5 obtained promising bottom contact at 0353Z/22nd March in 50° 17' N. 00° 02' W. (Declared non-submarine 231039A.)  
(2) E.G. 15 attacked contact at 1413Z/21st March in vicinity of torpedoing of JAMES EAGAN LAYNE.  
Para. C. (1) Trawler ISABELLA sighted periscope at 1415Z/21 in approx. 50° 06' N., 04° 18' W.  
Para. D. (1) U.S. Fighter A/C reported U-Boat course south at 1000Z/21 in 52° 43' N. 02° 58' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 221107A.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 221443A, 221452A.)

23.3.1945  
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Command

North Sea.

1. E-Boats continued their activity, but with little heart. Two groups left the Hook and were shadowed by our aircraft until they closed, one group N.F.8 buoy, and the other N.F.6. The former was met by TORRINGTON's M.T.Bs. and the latter by SEYMOUR's. In both cases the enemy turned away at once and withdrew, our boats scoring hits before they disengaged.

Channel

2. The small French coaster MACHU was mined and blew up about 10 miles West of Le Havre, leaving no survivors.

Western Approaches.

3. H.M.C.S. THETFORD MINES has picked up 33 German U-Boat survivors 16 miles N.N.W. of Inishtrahull, not far from where NEW GLASGOW rammed a periscope and schnorkel on March 20th.

Foreign Stations

East Indies

Burma.

4. To-day and yesterday Liberators laid mines at Moulmein - Bangkok and N.E. of Sumatra.

23.3.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

E-Boat activity. E-Boat activity night 22nd/23rd March.  
(1) Two groups from Hook were shadowed by 16 Group aircraft and detected by Blankenberghe and R.A.F. Radar Stations at about 29 miles 5-0003.  
(2) One group of 6 E-Boats steered 180° towards N.F.8 Buoy. M.T.Bs. 695 and 726 vectored by TORRINGTON (Patrol 16) intercepted 3 miles north of Channel - enemy refused action and retired at once under smoke - hits possibly scored by M.T.Bs.  
(3) Other group of 4 or 5 boats steering 180° towards N.F.6 were closely engaged for 10 mins. by M.T.Bs. 454, 481 and 478 vectored by SEYMOUR (Patrol 12). Enemy turned at once while still 3 miles from Channel. M.T.Bs. observed hits with 6 pdr. and Oerlikon. One rating slightly wounded in M.T.B. 454. In this action enemy opened fire first and used rocket illuminants.  
(4) Interruptions were facilitated by good air co-operation and Anaprop A which gave shore radar long ranges enabling Ostend Plot to pass out useful information to Frigates.  
(5) Mines may have been jettisoned well clear of Channel. (C. in C. Nore, 231226A to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report.	Cositintrep No. 353 part 4, section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/ 22nd March.					
	<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	29	98	3,752	940	1,310	-
Ostend	1,789	286	2,344	-	1,180	1,784
Boulogne	128	113	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	67	1,496	-	-
Calais	6,859	-	55	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4,294	-	-	1,608
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,805</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>10,512</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>3,392</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>						
Antwerp	-	319	9,275	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	153	9,949	1,719	8,546	4,212
Le Havre	6,364	1,000	8,327	-	145	1,424
Rouen	2	115	8,717	1,831	-	162
Granville	-	-	-	826	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,301	-	-	1,002
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,366</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>39,569</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>8,691</b>	<b>6,800</b>
<u>U.S. South -</u>						
Marseilles	2,015	638	11,391	-	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	3,898	-	8,837	2,815
Toulon	-	-	2,745	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>18,034</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,837</b>	<b>2,815</b>

Note: 409 tons Pol. discharged at Caen on 1st March not previously reported.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 231540A to Admty. and others.)

/Operation ...

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23.3.1945.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

Operation "Eclipse". The requirements of fuelling and store vessels for the minesweeping forces in Operation "Eclipse" are the same as those referred to in Nore 4562/0960/14/3 of 7th September, 1944 (not to all addressees) for Operation "Talisman" with some additions now found to be required.

(2) The estimated total requirements are:

(A) 1 small diesel oil carrier of 1,000 tons capacity and one small petrol carrier of 500 tons capacity to sail with the minesweeping forces from Humber subsequently.

(B) 1 2,000 tons diesel oil tanker.

(C) 1 4,000 tons furnace oil tanker.

(D) 2 500 tons 87 octane petrol carriers.

(E) 1 water carrier.

(F) 1 1,000 tons collier.

(G) 1 500 tons store carrier.

(C. in C. Nore, 232200A to Admty.)

Naval Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 343 Pt. II Naval. SS. NOAH BROWN and SS. JOSEPH LAMAR in convoy T.A.M. 16 ran aground about 1600/23rd off Ostend but by 1915/23rd both ships had refloated and proceeded.

(2) Night 22/23 groups of E-Boats operated off the Belgian coast. They were shadowed by aircraft of 16 Group, who also co-operated in interceptions by our surface vessels on patrol. Mines may have been jettisoned well clear of the Channel.

(A.N.C.X.F., 232359A to Admty.)

OperationsChannel

Patrols and Escorts. BIDEFORD, CAMROSE and PETUNIA sail Plymouth to join you south of Portland Bill at approx. 1800/23rd. BLAIRMORE will join at Plymouth R/V at 0430A.

(2) When convoys split BIDEFORD and CAMROSE take over O.S.118/K.M.S.92: PETUNIA and BLAIRMORE remain with O.N.A.292.

(3) If convoy is not proceeding according to time-table you are to report immediately on passing Start Point, E.T.A. Falmouth R/V to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.

(4) All escorts shift to broadcast "BN" at 1900A/24th.

(5) Escorts Irish Sea section O.N.292, C.9 S in H.M.C.S. PENETANG escorts H.X.344. B.1 S.O. in CHELMER.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 230954A to VANQUISHER, KINGCUP.)

(1) Continue support of convoy O.N.A.292/Q OS.118/K.M.S.92 to 8° W. after convoy splits in 06° 40' W. continue with O.N.A. portion.

(2) Detach in 08° 00' W. and return to Portsmouth sweeping through U-Boat probability areas as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.

(3) Fuel at Falmouth if required advising C. in C. Plymouth of your intentions.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231046A to HESPERUS, ICARUS, INCONSTANT, HAVELOCK.)

/Weigh ...

23.3.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols and Escorts. (Contd.) Weigh at 1700A today Friday and proceed to patrol area limits 50° 30' N., 50° 15' N., between 01° 40' W. and 02° 20' W.  
(2) Leave patrol as necessary to R/V with H.X.343 Senior Officer escort VOLUNTEER in 02° 30' W. at 0800A/24th approach course Route E.  
(3) Support Convoy to C.2 Buoy.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231228A to BAYNTUN, LOCH ECK, LOCH DUNVEGAN, BRAITHWAITE.)  
EARL K. OLSEN take RINEHART under your orders and proceed at 1600Z/24 to area 31. Weigh at 0700Z/25 and escort U.C.61B to R/V with and take over escort of Southend Section escorted by VERSATILE at Z Buoy 0900Z/25.  
(2) Routed to Z Buoy thence by Route W and to final R/V.  
(3) Speed of advance 12½ knots increased as requisite to zig-zag to 02° 20' W. thence 14 knots to 7° W. adjusting speed to make R/V.  
(F.O.I.C. Southampton, 231726A to EARL K. OLSEN, RINEHART.)  
If not in contact E.G.3 establish following patrols by 2359A/23.  
First Division Pendeen to Lizard. Second Division Lizard to 04° 30' W. Coastal convoys are to be trailed.  
(2) On relief E.G.19 proceed in company to Milford Haven reporting own expected time of arrival.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231745A to S.O. E.Gs. 3, 19.)

Loss of SS. MACHU. Following received R.N.O. Canoe. Fisherman report small French coaster MACHU blown up 0900/22. Approximate position 49° 27' N., 00° 03' W. No survivors picked up. Further report to follow.  
(C.T.G. 122.3, 231028A to C.T.F. 122.)

Operation "Nestegg". S.H.A.E.F. Main 221900. Request repairs to PRINCESS JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE may be expedited due to shortage of L.S.Is. for "Nestegg" and that I may be informed of expected date of completion.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 231310A to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. My 171437 para. 6. In view of para. 4 of Admiralty Message 211413 mines will be laid at 60 feet.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231340A to Admty.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Sunk U-Boat, probably NEW GLASGOW's 20th. Have stopped to pick up German U-Boat survivors. My position 336° Inishtrahull 16 miles, E.T.A. follows.  
(THETFORD MINES, 230842 to C. in C. W.A.)

/E.T.A. ...



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23.3.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Sunk U-Boat,  
probably NEW  
GLASGOW's  
of 20th.  
(Contd.)

E.T.A. Lough Foyle Buoy 1200A today. Have 33 German survivors on board. My 230842A\*refers. Urgent defects bottle transmitter defective. (THETFORD MINES, 230946A to Com. (D) W.A.) Sailed THETFORD MINES to rejoin Group. (Com. (D) W.A., 231829A to S.O. E.G.5, C. in C. W.A.)\* Presumably 230142 intended.

Patrols.

Force 34, 20th E.G. TAVY, 3 frigates patrolling off South Irish Coast.  
Force 38, 18th E.G. 1 division TOWY, 2 frigates. 2nd division LOCH FYNE, 2 frigates general area

St. Georges Channel.

Force 37, 23rd E.G. MONTSERRAT, 3 frigates Irish Sea North of 54° N.

Force 33, 25th E.G. STRATHADAM, 2 frigates supporting O.N.S. 45.

Groups supporting convoys as ordered.

Force 32, 21st E.G. 1st division CONN, 2 frigates, 2nd division FITZROY, 2 frigates patrolling Minches O.N.S.45.

APOLLO vicinity Tuskar Rock 2030A/23rd returning Milford Haven on completion.

(C. in C. W.A., 231426A to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Intend following programme -

Date	Serial	Rendezvous time
28th	Trial A	1230
29th	N	1115
30th	N E and B	0900
31st	E	0845

See also my 231513.

(APOLLO, 231511A to F.O.I.C. Milford.)

Operation C.H. serial N.1 and a half two completed.

(APOLLO, 232124 to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-  
schnorkel  
obstructors.

Your 220130A. As it is understood that trials with this obstruction have already been carried out, request very early information of results, in particular with regard to the following points -

(A) Is O.P.F. effective against a schnorkel

which is under cutting the waves and in the roughest weather in which a U-Boat can schnorkel?

(B) How soon will the wire part after fouling a schnorkel or periscope?

(C) How long will the O.P.F. barrier remain continuous in average Atlantic weather conditions?

(D) What is the radar range of the buoy compared with that of a schnorkel?

(E) What is the roughest weather in which the buoy can be detected by radar?

(F) How does it compare visually with the schnorkel?

/(G) ...

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schnorkel  
obstructors.  
(Contd.)

(G) Is reliability of Pram float such that, even in Atlantic weather, any up turning of a float can be taken as a sure indication of the presence of the enemy, justifying the homing of a support group to the spot?

(2) The above information is required before laying the obstruction in order that its effectiveness may be gauged and that watching A/C and ship may be fully briefed.

(C. in C. W.A., 231529A to Admty.) *Reply: Admty. 241307A, page 429.*

A.M. 220130A. Request sailing of BRITTANY may be arranged if possible to enable laying of Type O.P.F. obstruction to be commenced on or before March 28th.

(D.B.D., 231903A to C. in C. W.A.)

Weather-  
reporting  
ship.Am hove to in position 52° 02' N., 15° 40' W.  
W/R 5571 8749.  
(COLUMBINE, 231840A to C. in C. W.A.)U-Boat  
sighting.Have sighted submarine bearing 236° Hartland Point 16.8 miles.  
(PARRSBORO, 232240A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
No contact since original sighting.  
(PARRSBORO, 232319A to C. in C. Plymouth.)OperationsNorway

Patrols.

Add one day to all dates in my 221746 in view of your 221412 not to all.

(F.O.S/M., 231503A to C. in C. H.F.)

After passing 62° 00' N., 01° 00' E. proceed through position 61° 15' N., 00° 20' E. and 070° Muckle Flugga 11 thence to Lerwick.

(2) You are to remain east of 00° 20' E. until 1100A/25th. If you do not expect to be south of 61° 30' before 1100A/25th you are to report before 0800/25th your time of passing this lat. repeating your signal to C.S.1.

(3) Friendly northbound Carrier Force passes east of Shetlands early a.m./25th then to west of your route.

(F.O.S/M., 231439A to VENTURER.)

Submarine positions at 0800/24th March and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SPEARHEAD on patrol off Kors Fjord.

(B) DOLFIJN on patrol off Fejeosen.

(C) VENTURER 62° 48' N., 02° 01' E. diving by day to 62° 01' N., 01° 01' E. then probably on the surface 9 knots through 61° 15' N., 00° 20' E. and 070° Muckle Flugga 11 miles to Lerwick.

(C. of W., 231847A to A.I.G. 25.)

/Operations ...

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- Operations Intend carrying out V.P.85 with 3 M.T.Bs.  
V.P. (1) 0800A/24th March. (2) Not later 2100/24th  
March. (3) Not later 0600A/28th March.  
(4) 250° towards Noss Head. Not more 20 knots.  
(5) Not later p.m./28th March. (6) No. (7)  
No. (8) 070° Noss Head. (9) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231600A to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 231600.  
(1) 070° from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.  
(2) 61° 22' N., 04° 46' E. (3) Blank.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231602A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Cancel V.P.72. Intend sailing V.P.73 with 3 M.T.Bs.  
(1) 0800A/24th March. (2) Not later 2100A/24th March.  
(3) Not later than 0600A/26th March. (4) 249° towards Noss  
Head. Not more than 20 knots. (5) Not later p.m./26th March.  
(6) No. (7) No. (8) 069° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 232237A to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 232237.  
(1) 069° from Noss Head, not more than 20 knots.  
(2) 61° 10' N., 04° 30' E. (3) Blank.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 232239A to C. in C. H.F.)
- Operation Intend to sail S.C. Operation from Shetlands.  
S.C. (1) 2359A/24th March from Scalloway.  
(2) 053° from Muckle Flugga to 062° 33' N., 003°  
42' E. thence 090°, 14 knots.  
(3) 2030A/25th March. (4) Between 2100A/25th  
March and 0400A/26th March. (5) 240° to Muckle Flugga, 15  
knots. (6) p.m./26th March. (7) 060° Muckle Flugga.  
(8) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231825A to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 231825.  
(1) 62° 33' N., 05° 57' E.  
(2) Ramose Keen. (3) Blank.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231827 to C. in C. H.F.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

- Convoy (1) Intend to sail Clyde 1000A today Friday from  
R.A. 65. ice edge White Sea portion R.A.65 (Group 21) to  
R/V Kola Inlet portion at (MT) 1000A/24th.  
(2) Speed 9½ knots.  
(3) Routed only to Kola Inlet. Presumed  
proceeding from position (H) of standard route 68° 11' N., 40°  
00' E. direct to (MT) thence routed as in S.B.N.O. Murmansk  
221515 (3) and (4).  
(6) R.T. S.P.2272 (35) and (36), S.P.2406 (942) not held.  
(7) British ships - ADOLPH S. OCHS, EMPIRE FLINT (T), BRITISH  
MERIT (T), NERETINA (T).  
(8) American ships - EDWIN L. DRAKE, JOHN WANAMAKER, JOYCE  
KILMER, HAROLD L. WINSLOW, BYRON DARNTON, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY,  
GEORGE STEERS, HENRY LOMB, WILLARD HALL, HAWKINS FUDSKE, LEWIS  
EMERY JUNIOR, 15 ships. Admty. pass to M.W.T.  
(N.C.S.O. Archangel, 230945A to Admty.)

/From ...

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Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy  
R.A. 65.  
(Contd.)

From N.C.S.O.  
(1) R.A.65. (2) Ice edge lat. 67° 50' N.  
0800A/23rd March.  
(4) 9½ knots. (5) My 230945A para. 3 refers.  
(14) S.P.02272 (35) and (36). Remainder  
details will be given in S.B.N.O. Murmansk  
"Sailing". Admty. pass to M.W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 231625A to Admty.)

Patrol and  
Escort.

ASCENSION, LOCH KILLIN, BURGESS R/V with APPLELEAF  
off Cromarty at 2230A/23 escorted by CELIA (S.O.)  
and RIVER ESK.  
(2) Support to Scapa thence proceed southward  
to meet E.N.82 and support with remainder of  
group.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231355 to S.O. E.G.17.)

Enemy Intelligence

Shipping  
in Gdynia.

Photo. recce. wing A.1535 23rd March.  
544 Squadron Sortie 106G/5001 22nd March shows  
Gdynia 1445 hours harbour virtually emptied of  
shipping, no active naval units over 250 feet  
present. Damaged battle-cruiser GNEISENAU and  
partly dismantled obsolete battleship SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN type  
at usual berths. Other shipping present includes - liner 550/  
600 feet, three M/Vs. 400/500 feet. Considerable activity  
evident in raids where shipping present includes one pocket  
battleship, light cruiser LEIPZIG, four fleet D/Rs., two T/Bs.  
280 feet, five M-class minesweepers, 10 minesweepers or E/Bs.  
approx. 200 feet, four naval auxiliaries 240/270 feet, 10 E/R-  
Boats, ALTMARK tanker 600 feet approx., tanker 500 feet, two  
tankers 35/400, oil factory ships 650 feet and 55/600, five  
M/Bs. 400/450 feet, two M/Vs. 250/300 feet, several coasters and  
F-Boats. Also underweigh liner 470 feet (boats swung), M/V  
470 feet and two M/Vs. 300/350 feet.  
Hela - 28 U-Boats present including 14 of 250/300 ton type.  
(A/C 336, 230350A to S.H.A.E.F., Admty.)

Shipping  
in Tromso.

Russian photographic reconnaissance of Tromso  
1150A March 22nd showed 2 merchant ships along-  
side jetties and one merchant ship (6,000 tons)  
lying off. In all 10 escort vessels and sweepers  
alongside or at anchor. One escort vessel  
passing entrance northward.  
(B) 7 seaplanes at seaplane base.  
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 230820A to Admty.)  
Amend my 0820A. 2 merchant ships 5,000 and 1,000 tons,  
1 tanker 2,000 tons.  
Add 14 fishing trawlers and over (?100) other small craft.  
4 of 7 (?seaplanes) assumed to be B.V.138.  
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 231334A to Admty.)

/Norwegian ...

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Norwegian lighthouses destroyed. Norway lighthouses destroyed by air attack March 13th. Following lighthouses were destroyed by bombing. Skongsnes number 966. Krakenes number 967. Hendanes number 959. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 231052 to Admty.)

Enemy shipping casualties in Norwegian waters. (1) Air attack on convoy off Gulen March 8th. (A) Danish Ferry HEIMDAL badly damaged. (B) One patrol vessel sunk. (C) One unidentified merchant vessel badly damaged and probably beached. (D) ALSTERDAM slightly damaged. B.2. (2) STAVANGER FJORD was reported in Asen Fjord March 7th making water and with heavy list. Boilers were reported under repair but no further details as yet available. B.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 231127 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

SS. JAMES HARROD. JAMES HARROD conditions remain favourable and gap is now 20 feet across and 10 feet out of fore and aft line with fore part slightly on the move at high water this morning. Dapper securing two parts with wires across the breach to hold until we are ready to move fore end. Afloat probably on good tides next week. Draft at high water 24 feet forward 30 feet aft. Diver will survey break at high water tomorrow for projections. (C.S.V.O. Dover, 231130A to V.A. Dover.)

SS. CHARLES D. MCIVER and ELEFThERIA. (Convoy A.T.M. 100) Following information obtained from Lieut. Wooley U.S.N.R. of SS. CHARLES D. MCIVER who witnessed both explosions. (A) CHARLES D. MCIVER and ELEFThERIA were 8th and 9th ships in convoy. Speed 7 knots. (B) Ships were in line ahead about 3 cables apart and explosions occurred within 18 seconds of each other. (C) CHARLES D. MCIVER was hit aft and ELEFThERIA amidships. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 232040A to Com. Belgium.)

Following received from Master and Chief Engineer of JOSIAH N. CUSHING, refers to A.T.M.100. Report begins: To Com. Southend, England. At approx. 1425/23rd March, 1945, Chief Engineer Martin, reported that vessel has passed over, or some metal object had scraped along hull. Vessel vibrated throughout and very noticeable in engine room. It sounded like a heavy chain dragging along ship's bottom or side. Mr. Martin was in engine room at time. 1409 vessel's engines on half speed ahead. 1410 vessel's engines on full speed ahead. 1425 hull touched submerged object, approaching N.F.11 buoy on course 267° true. 1435 N.F.11 buoy abeam, on port hand. 1435 Vessel's engines on half speed ahead. 1438 approx. high explosive went off under pendant No.19 who hauled out of channel, with a starboard list and seemingly settling by the stern.

/1439 ...

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Casualties and Defects

SS. CHARLES  
D. MCIVER  
and  
ELEFHERIA.  
(Contd.)

1439 approx. high explosive went off under midships of pendant No.18, which seemed to break in two and settle in channel. Both of above vessels seemed to be in approx. the position we felt obstruction along vessel's bottom or side.

There is a remote possibility that there might be some indications of what scraped along vessel's bottom, if it were examined, as vessel was just dry-docked on 22nd January, 1945 and bottom paint should be in good condition. Ends.  
(Com. Southend, 232323A to C. in C. Nore.)

Movements

Rescue tugs available. Rescue tugs available.  
ALLEGIANCE at Falmouth. EARNER at Iceland.  
FREEBOOTER and JAUNTY at Campbeltown.  
SALVONIA Azores. STORMKING and SUPERMAN at Milford Haven.  
(C. of W., 230232A to A.I.G. 337.)

LEONIAN, Boom Carrier. LEONIAN sailed to Cochin in O.S.118/K.M.S.92. Request mails be diverted accordingly.  
(Com. Southend, 231123A to Admty.)

DUKE OF YORK, ANSON, battleships. Admiralty message 101700A anticipate ANSON will be ready to sail a.m./31st March for Scapa.  
(2) In view of (A) Present U-Boat activity in coastal waters. (B) Desirability of avoiding passage over Q.Z.X.1464 and 1486 pending skimming sweep referred to in my 081648A (not to all) with ship drawing 35 feet.

Propose consideration of routeing ship west of Ireland.  
(3) As no escorts capable of maintaining the intended passage speed of 24 knots are available at Plymouth request the necessary escorts may be detailed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231714A to Admty.)  
A.M. 101700 para. 1 not to all.

ANSON and DUKE OF YORK will be ready to leave Plymouth and Liverpool respectively for Scapa, on March 31st. Routes will be promulgated by Admiralty.  
(2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to detail HURON and 2 destroyers to escort ANSON.  
(3) C. in C. W.A., is requested to provide 3 escorts for DUKE OF YORK.  
(V.C.N.S., 232300A to Cs. in C. H.F., W.A., Plymouth.)

Shipping and Convoys

O.N. Convoys. Owing to increasing size of Channel section of O.N. convoys and the time factor, it has become necessary for Southend to make up the A.1 form for Southend, Ramsgate, Southampton and Falmouth ships as the port half of the complete convoy.

/Intend ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

O.N.  
Convoys.  
(Contd.)

Intend to do this for O.N.A.293 and subsequent convoys, informing Liverpool of the number of columns required as early as possible. N.C.S.O. Mersey is requested to continue the organisation of O.S./K.M.S. convoys as at present.  
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 231251A to Admty.)

T.B.C.  
Convoys.

F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 121335A, para. (B). V/S distinguishing signal No.99 from W.I.M.S. Vol. 1 is allocated for "Ships bound for Milford Haven and ports to northward".  
(2) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to instruct Commodores of T.B.C. convoys to form ships concerned in separate column to port in sufficient time to enable them to break off in company at position (B) Q.Z.S.434.  
(3) To assist in above ships for Milford Haven and ports to the northward should normally be sailed to join the port column.  
(4) Pass to N.C.S.Os.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231454A to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. W.A., A.C. Dover, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, Cdr. i/c. Southend, Admiralty.)

U.R.  
Convoys.

In order to spread the sailings between Belfast and Loch Ewe as evenly as possible propose U.R. 159 sails on 5th April and then every ten days.  
(2) C. in C. W.A.'s 181318 (not to all) refers.  
(D.T.D., 231840A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.N.  
Convoys.

Propose following E.N. convoys for April:  
E.N. 84 - 1500/3rd April to Loch Ewe.  
E.N. 85 - 2000/7th April to Belfast.  
E.N. 86 - 0045/14th April to Loch Ewe.  
E.N. 87 - 1530/17th April to Belfast.  
E.N. 88 - 2200/23rd April to Loch Ewe.  
E.N. 89 - 2345/27th April to Belfast.  
All convoys to be medium unless speed of presenters makes a change desirable.  
(D.T.D., 231843A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SALVONIA. Rescue tug SALVONIA has slight defects to make good after she has assisted in transferring troops from MCANDREW to ATHLONE CASTLE.  
(2) Further signal will be made when ship is at normal notice for sea.  
(S.B.N.Q. Azores, 230006Z to Admty.)

Portuguese Trawlers for Nwfdld. Banks. My 091945 para. 3 and 161201 both February. Second group sailing 26th March by route prefaced in Admiralty's 041832 February.  
(2) Admiralty please pass to Cominch.  
(N.A.Lisbon, 231152A)

Portuguese ships. Para. 1 of A.M./011617/February and N.C.S.O. Lisbon's 222245/March.\*  
(2) Request guidance as to future policy re interception of Portuguese ships.  
(F.O.G.M.A.231624A to Admty.)  
/ Interception Portuguese ship bound South America.  
\* Not yet identified in W.R.

SEANYMPH Departure for Malta.  
(F.O.G.M.A.231626A)



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- BARNWELL. Intend to sail Boom Defence Vessel BARNWELL at 0600A/25th speed of advance 9 knots to Port Said. (V.A.M. 231204A to N.O.I.C. Port Said.)
- SALVESTOR Salvage Vessel. Orders to proceed to Kilindini. (?Alexandria 231223, 231822B to SALVESTOR.)
- Shipping for Black Sea. Shipping to and from Istanbul should in future be routed direct by appropriate standard routes without calling at Piraeus. (C. in C. Med. 231239A to Com. 10th Fleet.)
- Linrep No.241. (Extract.) (2) Naval.  
A. Gulf of Genoa. Ref. Linrep No. 240 enemy ships laid mines off Cape Corse which are being swept. Our destroyers had no damage or casualties. About 249 enemy survivors have been taken prisoner.  
B. Adriatic. Near Bruica Island 2 coastal craft have been mined and were damaged but had no casualties. (A.F.H.Q. 231353A to W.O.)  
*? \* Gruica Island (44°20'N. 14°30'E).  
(North Adriatic)*
- R.A. Alex. Capt. (L) The Flag of R.A.A. Poland C.B.E., D.S.O. (retired) R.A. Alexandria will be struck at sunset 26th March and the appointment will then lapse. Capt. S.V. Jephson R.N. is appointed Captain Alexandria short title Capt. (L) to date 27th March and will administer the Port and Harbour area of Alexandria and be responsible for working with the Egyptian and other authorities connected with the Port.  
(2) The administration of ~~Supply~~<sup>out</sup> Ports and establishments hitherto carried out by R.A.(L) will be carried out by F.O.L.E.M. from 27th March, correspondence and signals are to be addressed accordingly. (V.C.N.S. 231547A, A Message 506A.)
- AVONVALE, BRECON, EGGESFORD, destroyers. A.M. 031209 not to all. When ready for service AVONVALE, BRECON and EGGESFORD should be given a short work up in the Mediterranean.  
(2) On completion of work up they are to be sailed for the U.K. where they are required for temporary service. (V.C.N.S. 232310A to C. in C. Med.) See 241236A.

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U-Boat situation. No information. Scales in all areas remain W.5. (C. in C. E.I. 230353Z)

Anti-S/M defences, India. Review of anti-S/M fixed defences at Indian ports has been carried out in light of (a) Japanese S/M threat in Indian coastal waters. Etc. (2) Recommend at Karachi all anti-S/M fixed defences be placed on C. and M. basis. These comprise three indicator loops one harbour defence unit.  
(3) No reduction recommended at Madras or Vizagapatam.  
(4) Anti-S/M fixed defence equipment at Bombay was removed in July, 1944 as expenses involved maintaining station were not considered compatible with greatly diminished threat to West Coast.  
(C. in C. India, 231030Z to A.M.S.S.O. C. in C. E.I.)

Force 70. C. in C. E.I. 140442 para. 2. Force 70 consisting of H.M.S. SAUMAREZ (D.26) H.M.S. VOLAGE, VIRAGO, VIGILANT carry out operation in Andaman Sea 25th to 29th March and return to Trincomalee on completion.  
(C. in C. E.I. 231053Z to Admty.)

VOLAGE Destroyer-(damage to). Intend VOLAGE proceed to South Africa in early (?April) for refit and repair to action damage. Ship damage by gunfire from forward mess deck to ward room, and upper deck in way of boiler room holed.  
(C. in C. E.I. 231129Z to C. in C. South Atlantic Station(Simomstown) 1271046 S.A.)

Command and control of air forces in long range assault. Following is summary of extract from memorandum on policy for command and control of air forces in long range assault recently approved by Chiefs of Staff:  
"In operations involving substantial tactical R.A.F. participation before and during assault, and subsequent R.A.F. build-up ashore, Air Commander should be an R.A.F. officer who should be appointed as soon as possible after operation has been approved, in order to take his full share in the planning.  
In operations where Air Support both prior to and during assault is primarily Naval and where participation of R.A.F. is confined to long range strategical or tactical bombing and subsequent build-up ashore, Air Commander during assault phase should be a Naval Officer. An R.A.F. Air Commander (designate) should however be appointed at same time as Naval Air Commander and will take over subsequently.  
In operations not involving an R.A.F. Tactical effort, E.G. an attack on an atoll, Air Commander should be a Naval Officer, since air effort would be almost entirely, if not completely, a Naval responsibility.

/The ...

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East Indies

Command  
and control  
of airforces  
in long  
range  
assault.  
(Contd.)

The Air Commander would not control, in the Naval sense, Naval A/C operating from Assault carriers. This would remain responsibility of Senior Officer Assault Carriers until they were airborne and assigned for duty in the assault area".  
(2) Copy of full document follows.  
(A.C.N.S.(A) 231937A to C. in C. E.I.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.U.61.2.1. Request C. in C.C.N.A. pass to all.  
Your 221900Z not to all.  
My 221145Z correct my 221200Z position to lat.  
39.41 long. 52.02.  
Revised E.T.A. lat. 39.30 long. 60.30 231530Z. P.C.S. 230100Z  
39.42 long. 56.11 269, 13.8.  
(C.T.U. 61.2.1. 230115 to CAP DE LA MADELEINE, CARIPPLACE.)

N.S.H.Q. No report since my 212359Z.  
S/M attack Para. C. E.G. 27 attacked bottomed contact in 43.  
& sighting 48 N. 61.52 W. at 2126/21st. Eight attacks  
summary. produced constant flow of oil. Firm contact  
until 1040/22nd.  
Para. D. (1) C.54 A/C sighted submerging U-Boat  
course ? in 47.50 N. 60.20 W. at 2200/21st. All  
times Z.  
(2) C.54 A/C at 7000 feet sighted U-Boat in 47.08 N. 61.31 W.  
at 0201/22nd.  
(N.S.H.Q. 230336Z to Admty., Cominch.)

U/B dis- Estimates.  
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 231356Z, 231608Z.)

ARIADNE Departed Bermuda at 1420 ARIADNE for Horta.  
minelayer. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 231506Z to N.O.I.C. Horta.)

U/B incidents. Para. A. 2102/10th British M.V. BARON JEDBURGH  
torpedoed and sunk 10.02 S. 25.00 W. (All times Z.)  
Para. C. 1620/23rd to 22.9 had sonar contact  
43.10 N. 61.00 W.  
(Cominch 232034Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

T.G.111.1.1. At request C.T.F. 57 ships in my 200647,  
immediately after arrival Manus will proceed Leyte  
thence all except FORMIDABLE to operations.  
(2) Radio Guam pass to C. in C. Pac. Adv. radio  
Honolulu pass to C. in C. Pac. Pearl.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 230249Z to C. in C. Pac. (Adv.  
and Rear.))

Digest No. Covering 22nd March unless otherwise stated. (9) Night  
1157. 20/21 March Ormoc P.Ts. destroyed eight of fifteen  
barges off Pebu (?Cebu), two P.Ts. damaged, some  
personnel casualties sustained. Same night Panay  
based boats destroyed single lugger off San Jose.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 231223Z.)

/PHILANTE...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

PHILANTE  
Accommodation  
for Capt.  
Escort  
Forces.

So that future arrangements can be planned request information whether PHILANTE or other suitable ship can be made available to accommodate Capt. Escort Forces either now or on conclusion of German War. My 100237 refers.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 232336Z to Admty.)  
See 280321Z.

B.P.F. Flag  
officers.  
Responsibi-  
lities of.

Para. two of Admiralty 140219 correctly interprets my view on the responsibilities of Flag Officers for logistic support as outlined in my 230326 Feb. (2) The task of organising and administering the fleet train (which at present comprises 50 and later over 135 ships and vessels) and supplying the fleet from the advanced bases and anchorages is a large and complex one for which R.A.F.T's staff is only just adequate.

(3) It is difficult to see how this task could be efficiently combined with the equally large and complex, but completely different, task of establishing and administering fleet bases in the forward area.

(4) Para. three of Admiralty's 140219 is also concurred in. F.O.N.A.S.(A's) representative in the forward area will among his other functions be able to administer the 30th Aircraft Carrier Squadron from shore base.

(5) Their Lordships will understand that it is not easy to formulate an organisation with the many uncertainties prevailing such as the nature of the base the supply routes and the amount of shipping available there may be other or better organisations but the important point is to get the staff out and working.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 232337Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/23rd March.  
Para. A. (1) British EMPIRE KINGSLEY (6996) torpedoed and sunk at 1440Z/22 in lat. 50° 08' N. long. 05° 56' W. (2) British BARON JEDBURGH (3656) torpedoed and sunk on 10th March in approx. lat. 09° 00' S. long. 24° 00' W. Para. B. A/C R/172 attacked two surfaced U-Boats course 020° at 0905Z/22 in lat. 55° 23' N. long. 06° 42' W. Para. C. (1) A/C L/224 attacked positive U-Boat, course 236° at 2115Z/22 in lat. 59° 43' N. long. 04° 11' W. (2) A/C T/210 sighted three puffs of smoke at 1124Z/22 in lat. 63° 45' N. long. 03° 50' W. (3) A/C L/224 reported U-Boat at 2320Z/22 in lat. 59° 53' N. long. 04° 05' W. A.M. 221107A, para. B (1) this contact has now been declared non-submarine.  
(D.D.I.C. 231039A.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 231505A, 231511A.)

24.3.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. During last night RETALICK sank one midget U-Boat off Ostend, taking a prisoner, and probably sank two more: one mine was detonated off Ostend.
- Northern Waters. 2. Convoy R.A. 65, 14 ships from Murmansk and 15 from Archangel, sailed for the Clyde, but 3 of the Archangel ships put back to Murmansk with defects.
- Baltic. 3. Coastal Command made promising attacks on 6 U-Boats and two other ships in the southern Baltic last night.
- Germany.* 4. *Allied Armies crossed the Rhine today, with the assistance of naval parties.*

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

- Adriatic. 4. 5 small vessels were destroyed and a M.V. of 1000 tons and several small vessels were badly damaged off the coast of Yugoslavia today.

Australia & New Zealand.

- China. 5. U.S.N. Liberators sank one small freighter transport 230' S.E. of Shanghai, and also machine gunned a destroyer in same area.
- Japan. 6. Avenger torpedo planes and Helldiver bombers covered by fighters from 5th U.S. Fleet destroyed a convoy of 3 large cargo ships, 2 destroyers and 3 other escort vessels west of Amami Gunto in the Ryuku Archipelago today.

War Diary

24.3.45  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Midget Your 081738 not to N.O.I.C. Antwerp and A.M.  
U-Boat 082205.  
for U.S.N. It is understood that U.S. Navy require a BIBER  
S/M is good condition for research in the United  
States, and under arrangements approved by  
Combined Chiefs of Staff they are now entitled  
to take possession of one specimen.  
(2) Request you will, therefore, inform U.S.N. that Brussels  
BIBER is available to them, and will be handed over on request.  
(3) Request in para. 2 of A.M. 082205 is cancelled.  
(Hd. of M. 241940A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

North Sea

Suspension of A/A fire during air-borne landing beyond Rhine. Between 0700 and 1500 Saturday, March 24th A/A fire from all ships is prohibited against all targets including flying bombs in an area bounded on the East by a line drawn from Orfordness to Dunkirk and on the West by a line drawn from Beachy Head to Le Treports.  
(C. in C. Nore, 240200A to Nore Command, D.16, D.21.)

33rd M.L. A.M. 231645 not to HORNET and N.O.I.C. Antwerp.  
Flotilla to Subject to your concurrence propose personnel,  
Naval Party vehicles and equipment for temporary C.F. Base  
1761 to be established at Arnheim for the 33rd M.L.  
Arnheim. Flotilla be assembled immediately at Messrs. Fair-  
mile Marine Co. Gadshill, Gillingham, prior to  
shipment to Antwerp.  
(2) Detailed list of personnel, equipment,  
spares and stores, already agreed will follow by letter.  
(3) Officers will be appointed and men drafted to Naval Party  
1761, their accounts being carried by BEEHIVE.  
(D.C.F.M. 241027 to C. in C. Nore.)

Patrols. Following temporary amendments to N.O.M's are to  
come in to force at 0800A/25th March.  
2 NOM II.  
No. 1 Patrol 59 A Buoy to 53 degs. 15' N.  
No. 2 Patrol 53.15 N. to 53.04 N. No. 3 Patrol 53 degs. 04' to  
55 B buoy. No. 4 Patrol 55 B Buoy to 54 G Buoy.  
No. 5 Patrol 54 G Buoy to 4 C Buoy.  
No. 6 Patrol 4 C Buoy to 52 degs. 23' N. No. 7 Patrol 52 degs.  
23' N. to 52 degs. 08' N. No. 8 Patrol 54B Buoy.

/3...

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(Contd.)(3) Nom. 108 para. 4.  
No.1 Patrol Z.33 No.2 Patrol Z.29.  
No.3 Patrol Z.27 No.4 Patrol Z.20.  
No.5 patrol Z.13 No.6 Patrol Z.10.  
No.7 Patrol Z.6 No.8 Patrol Z.3.Para. 7. No.1 Patrol 57 D Buoy. No.2 Patrol 57 F Buoy.  
No.3 Patrol 56 Buoy. No.4 Patrol 57 Buoy.  
No.5 Patrol 4 D Buoy. No.6 Patrol 4 Buoy.  
No.7 Patrol 3A Buoy. No.8 Patrol 54 Buoy.

(C. in C. Nore, 241145A to Nore Command)

Patrols for night Saturday 24th March.

(1) MEYNELL. (2) SOUTHDOWN. (3) LAMERTON. (4) HOLDERNESS,  
(5) MALLARD. (6) BRISSENDEN. (7) BLENCATHRA.

Coastal force units F.C.1 to 7 R/V patrols at 2100A.

2. 12 RETALICK with coastal forces from U.K.

14. A. RENDAL. 16. SEYMOUR with coastal forces from Ostend.

17 HAMBLEDON. 18. ZETLAND. 19. RIOU with coastal forces

from Ostend. 21. WILTON. 22. EKINS with coastal forces from

U.K. Coastal forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2000A.

(3) Escorts for T.A.M. 18 - WIDGEON and VIMY. Additional  
escort for F.S.65 - ALBRIGHTON.

(4) Coastal forces. From U.K.

Patrol 1 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.1 with MEYNELL.

Patrol 2 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.2 with SOUTHDOWN.

Patrol 3 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.3 with LAMERTON.

Patrol 4 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.4 with HOLDERNESS.

Patrol 5 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.5 with MALLARD.

Patrol 6 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.6 with BRISSENDEN.

Patrol 7 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.7 with BLENCATHRA.

Patrol 112 4 M.T.B. unit F.L.2 F.L.3.

Patrol 22 4 M.T.B. unit F.B. 8 F.B.9.

Patrol 51 1 M.L. Patrol 52 1 M.L.

ALEO 2922 Unit F.B. 6 3 M.T.B.

CPIS 1525 Unit F.A. 1 F.A.2, F.A.3 6 M.T.B.

From Ostend. ALUR 2316 3 M.T. B. Unit F.A. 8.

ALUR 2100 2 M.T.B. unit F.B.2. ALUR 4126 2 M.L. unit F.G.5.

ALUR 3312 4 M.T.B. unit F.H. 3, F.H.4.

Patrol 16 4 M.T.B. unit F.G. 2, F.G.3.

(C. in C. Nore, 231800A to Nore Command)

Patrols for night Sunday 25th March.

1 BROCKLESY, 2 CHIDDINGFOLD, 3 PYTCHLEY, 4 TALYBONT, 5 BLANKNEY,  
6 PUFFIN, 7 EGLINTON, 8 GARTH.

Coastal Force Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2115.

(2) 12 SEYMOUR with Coastal Forces from U.K.

14 KRAKOWIAK. 16 RIOU with Coastal Force from Ostend.

17 ARENDAL, 18 ZETLAND, 19 TORRINGTON with Coastal Forces from  
Ostend, 21 MELBREAK, 22 CAICOS with Coastal Forces from ULK.

Coastal forces from Ostend R/V Frigates at 2015A.

(3) Escorts for T.A.M.19 MIDDLETON and MALLARD. Additional  
escort for F.S.66 BRISSENDEN.

(4) Coastal Forces from U.K.

Patrol 1 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.1 Unit with BROCKLESBY.

2 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.2 Unit with CHIDDINGFOLD.

3 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.3 Unit with PYTCHLEY.

4 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.4 with TALYBONT.

5 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.5 with BLANKNEY.

6 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.6 with PUFFIN.

7 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.7 with EGLINTON.



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Patrols (Contd.) 8 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C. 8 with GARTH.  
12 4 M.T.Bs Unit F.L.2, F.L.3 with CAICOS.  
22 4 M.T.Bs Unit F.B.8 F.B.9.  
51 1 M.L. 52 1 M.L.  
ALEO 2922, 3 M.T.Bs, F.B.6.  
C.P.Ls. 1522 6 M.T.Bs F.A.2 ) F.A.  
C.P.L.s. 1522 6 M.T.Bs F.A.2 ) F.A.1.  
F.A.3 )  
From Ostend.  
ALUR 2316 3 M.T.Bs F.A.8  
ALUR 2100 F.B.2 ALUR 4126 F.G.5  
ALUR 3312 F.H.3, F.H.4. Patrol 16, F.G.2 F.G.3.  
(C. in C. Nore, 241821A to Nore Command.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.354. Part 4. Section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 231600A March.

<u>British.</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol</u>	<u>C.F. Ammo</u>
Antwerp	37	1,005	5,806	334	15,560	-
Ostend	1,768	114	3,016	-	724	688
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,321	-	-
Calais	5,410	-	71	-	-	-
Ghent.	-	-	4,851	-	-	3,188
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,215</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>13,744</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>16,284</b>	<b>3,876</b>

U.S. North

Antwerp	-	170	10,270	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	81	7,815	991	3,206	4,170
Le Havre	2,561	432	8,256	240	-	1,458
Rouen	465	199	7,237	2,082	2,671	259
Granville	-	-	-	1,578	-	-
Ghent	2	7	5,523	-	-	1,059
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,028</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>39,101</b>	<b>4,891</b>	<b>5,877</b>	<b>6,946</b>

U.S. South

Marseilles	2,572	1,003	6,888	1,189	-	30
Port De Bouc	-	-	3,419	-	6,395	2,684
Toulon	-	-	466	-	-	-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,572</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>10,773</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>6,395</b>	<b>2,714</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 241300A to Admty and others)

/Midget ...

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Midget U-Boat activities. From A/C sighting reports anticipate 2 midget U-Boats SEEHUND type will operate in Yarmouth area for 48 hours from 1800 to-day Saturday. (C. in C. Nore, 241645 to C/S 3 NOM)  
U-Boat and small battle unit summary to 1100Z/24.  
(1) 2051Z/23. RETALICK sank midget U-Boat 026 degs. Ostend 26 miles 1 prisoner.  
(2) 2203Z/23 RETALICK attacked probable midget U-Boat 022 degs. Ostend 25 miles. Nothing seen except oil patches.  
(3) 0251Z/24 RETALICK probably sank midget U-Boat 023 degs. Ostend 25 miles.  
(4) 0959Z/24 A/C reported two Midget U-Boats 52.41 N. 03.15 E. course West.  
(5) 1040Z/24 Midget U-Boat reported 250 degs. Westkapelle 2.5 miles (C. in C. Nore, 241646A to Admty.)

Minesweeping off Your 231007A to F.O.I.C. Harwich. Sweep Ostend completed to width of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cables each side of centre line. One actuation - 4 ships available. One mine detonated position 208 degs. N.F.6. 8 cables. Explosive not used. E.T.A. Small Downs 2000. (S.O.M.S.F. 40, 241811A to C. in C. Nore)

OperationsChannel

Loss of MACHU. French Coaster MACHU mined and sunk in approx. position 49.27.00 N. 00.03.00 W. on March 22nd. (Cdr. M.S. Le Havre, 241026 to C.T.F.122)

Patrols. (1) Detach from convoy H.X.343 at C.2 buoy.  
(2) Sweep through position 50.05 N. 00.50 W. to patrol area limits 01.20 W. 01.40 W. between 50.00 N. and route E.  
(3) BAYNTUN, LOCH ECK leave patrol at 0800A/25th and anchor off St. Helens at 1/2 hours' notice. Further orders follow for LOCH DUNVEGAN and BRAITHWAITE. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241224A to BAYNTUN, LOCK ECK, LOCH DUNVEGAN, BRAITHWAITE)  
Weigh at 1700A/24th and proceed to patrol area between Q.Z.S.673 and a line 10 miles N.E. of channel between route E. and 50.10 N.  
(2) Leave patrol as necessary to R/V with U.C.61 B. E.T.A. Z Buoy 1000A/25th.  
(3) Group will be required to escort convoy to westward on passage to base. Detail orders follow. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241300A to GRINDALL, KEATS, KEMPTHORNE.)  
Your 241325A. BLYTH, PARRSBORO, QUALICUM resume patrol Trevoise to Lundy.  
(2) All T.B.C. and B.T.C. convoys are to be trailed through area. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241509A to BLYTH)

/16th ...

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- Patrols. 16th M/S Flotilla established following patrols  
(Contd.) by 2000A/24. 4 ships Trevoise to Lundy code-  
word "Napoleon A", 3 ships Pendeen to Trevoise  
codeword "Napoleon B".  
(2) M/S 16 report dispositions and senior officers.
- (3) All B.T.C. and T.B.C. convoys are to be trailed through  
areas.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 241510A to S.O.M.S.F.15)
- Anti-U- Weigh at 0240A/25th March and carry out serial  
Boat deep D.3.  
mining. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241612A to <sup>WILLEM</sup>VAN DER ZAAAN,  
SIDMOUTH)  
Pass Needles at 0800A/25th March and proceed  
direct to position 50 degs. 11' N. 02 degs. 13'  
W. (2) RINGWOOD is to continue lay of type O obstruction on  
line given in my 211804A para. 2 not to DIANTHUS.  
(3) DIANTHUS is to act as A/S escort during passage and lay and  
is to fix laying position by Q.H.  
(4) On completion of lay ships are to examine first lay of this  
line. RINGWOOD is to weigh any part broken adrift or out of  
position.  
(5) On return to harbour RINGWOOD is to report by signal to  
C. in C. Portsmouth accurate position of the lay and condition  
of previous lay.  
(6) Communications - escort constant watch on 2450 K/cs.  
(7) Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241713A to RINGWOOD, DIANTHUS)
- Amended Concur in your 171745/.  
fishing area. (A.N.C.X.F. 241713A to S.N.O.B.O.P.F.)  
/ Proposing limits for fishing area.
- Possible Attacked U-Boat damaged debris.  
U-Boat (A/C J.F.G.15, 241904 to 19 Group, via Plymouth)  
A/C reports indicate possible kill or severe  
damage with oil covering large area but may have  
been carried out on wreck of DAFFODIL, an oil  
burner. Investigate position Barracuda A/C will co-operate at  
daylight.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 242224A to BAYNTUN, LOCH ECK.)
- Restrictions Until further notice A/S attacks and operation  
on U-Boat "Dividend" are not to be carried out within a ten  
attacks near mile radius of C.2A buoy during the following  
C.2A buoy. period which refer to H.W. Dover.  
Between one hour before and one hour after and  
between six hours thirty minutes and four hours  
thirty minutes before.  
(2) These periods of restriction are only to apply during day-  
light hours when they occur between 0900A and 1900A.  
(3) Should ships obtain a firm contact which they consider may  
be a U-Boat within area given in para. 1 they are to make an

/ emergency ...

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Operations

Channel

Restrictions  
on U-Boat  
attacks near  
C.2A buoy.  
(Contd.)

emergency signal to C. in C. Portsmouth, repeated to N.O.I.C. Newhaven, requesting permission to attack.  
(4) Contact is to be maintained but attack is not repeat not to be commenced until approval has been obtained.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241923A to Portsmouth Command)

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols.

If not in contact leave patrol at 1800/24th and proceed to Londonderry for lay-over  
(C. in C. W.A. 241055A to S.O.E.G.20)  
Situation report at 2000.

Force 38 E.G.18 First Division TOWY 2 Frigates, 2nd Division LOCH FYNE, 2 Frigates St. George's Channel Area. Force 36 E.G.25 STRATHADAM 2 Frigates Central Irish Sea Force 37 E.G.23 MONTSERRAT, PAPUA, LOCH GORM, LOCH SCAVAIG North Irish Sea. Force 32 E.G.21 First Division CONN. 2 Frigates 2nd Division FITZROY, 2 Frigates North Minch to Skerryvore. Forces support convoys as ordered.

(C. in C. W.A. 241445A to W.A. Command)

Request F.O.I.C. Greenock will sail 31st E.G. at 1500/25th to relieve 23rd E.G. as Force 37. S.O. 23rd E.G. to signal R/V.

(2) On relief 23rd E.G. proceed to Londonderry for short rest.  
(C. in C. W.A. 241903A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, S.O.E.G.23)

Anti-  
schnorkel  
obstructors.

Your 231529A.

It is emphasised that this is still a trial matter and the proposal contained in Admiralty's 220130A should not be abandoned on account of some uncertainty as to the correct functioning of gear under all the varying weather conditions.

(2) Once the OPF barrier is laid it is a matter for the A/C and not ships to maintain watching patrols. A/S vessels should normally be kept at least 10 miles clear of the estimated position of the barrier in order to avoid putting U-Boat on the alert and encouraging them to dive below periscope depth before reaching obstruction.

(3) Answers to your para. 1 as follows: (a) Yes.

(b) This depends upon many unknown factors but from trials a life of ten hours or more may be expected.

(c) About one week.

(d) The Radar float will give about 10% increase in range but the size of blip will be 100% larger.

(e) Sea 7.

(f) Not so good as smoking schnorkel on a calm day but otherwise better.

(g) Yes, but no equipment can ever be regarded as 100% efficient.  
(D. of B.D. Approved B.C.N.S. 241307A to A. in C. W.A.)

A.M. 220130 and 231003A. Every endeavour will be made to have BRITTANY ready to sail p.m. Tuesday 27th it is not anticipated that this date can be improved.

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Operations

Western Approaches

Anti-schnorkel obstructors (Contd.) (2) It is also possible that it may not be found practicable to embark whole 50 miles of obstruction at one load.  
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 241644A to Admty. C. in C. W.A)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. A.M. 221825 and APOLLO's 231511 (neither to C. in C. Plymouth). It is intended that this trial lay shall be made on a line running 119 degs from initial position 51.10 N. 06.11 $\frac{1}{2}$  W. mines to be laid 200 feet apart.  
(2) This operation is to be referred to as operation C.I. trail A. Orders for sailing, R/V with escorts etc. should be initiated as in operation C.H. (W.A.00246/11 dated 23rd Jan. 1945 not to VERNON(M), and S.M.D.).  
(3) Attention is called to Q.Z.X.1465, 1006 and 1018. (C. in C. W.A. 241706A to F.O.I.C. Milford)

Possible U-Boat. Investigating disappearing Radar contact in position 52 degs. 24' N. 05 degs. 27' W.  
(S.O.E.G.18, 242327 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Norway

Operation "S.C." Ramose Phenomenal sailed HITRA at 0500A/24th March.  
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 240501A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Ramosé Keen postponed E.T.D. now 2359 - March 25th.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 242131A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations "V.P." V.P.72 and V.P.85 cancelled. Weather unsuitable.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 240752A to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols. Isoh 30. SIDON had nothing to report.  
(S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 241440 to F.O.S/M.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy R.A.65. Sailed from Kola Inlet at 0300A/24th R.A.65. 14 Merchant ships as in S.B.N.O. Murmansk 221515 (not to all addressees) with ~~SCOTTISH~~ <sup>Scottish</sup> escort to R/V group 21 from White Sea 15 ships N.C.S.O. Archangel, 230945 (not to all) refers.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russian, 240757A to Admty. and ors.)

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Convoy (1) R.A. 65 White Sea portion.  
R.A.65. (10) Order of ships and other details unknown  
(Contd.) arranged by N.C.S.O. Murmansk. Speed of 2 ships  
reported reduced to 9 knots by passage through  
ice.  
(12) Clyde.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 240907A to Admty.)

From N.C.S.O. (1) Kola Inlet portion R.A.65.  
(2) TOROS I. 2359/23rd March.  
(4) 9½ knots. (5) My 221515A para. 3 and 4.  
(13)(A) Commodore W.C. Meek, Rd. R.N.R.  
(B) Vice Cdre. of convoy to be appointed by Commodore after R/V.  
(14) S.P.2272 (35) and (36) S.P.2406 (942)  
(15) 3 X.  
(16) BLUE RANGER and LACKLAN.  
Admiralty pass to M. of W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 240915A to Admty.)  
From N.C.S.O.  
(1) Kola Inlet portion R.A. 65 (Room 6088).  
(10) British Ships FORT CREVECOEUR, FORT VERCHERES M/F D/F  
365 K/cs LUCERNA M/F D/F 400 K/cs LACKLAN, BLUE RANGER total  
5 ships.  
American Ships F.T. FREYLINGHAUSEN, NATHAN. TOWSON, TOWNSHEND  
HARRIS, MARIÉ M. MELONEY, DANIEL WILLARD, JOHN J. ABELL,  
BENJAMIN F. DIXON, ABRAHAM S. ABELL. Total 8 ships.  
Norwegian Ship SKIENSFIORD. Total one ship.  
(12) Clyde. Admiralty pass to M.W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 240930A to Admty.)  
Kola Inlet. Arrived at 1950A/24th WILLARD HALL, BYRON  
DARNTON with propellor damaged and HENRY LOMB with insufficient  
fuel part 3 White Sea portion of R.A.65.  
Admiralty pass to M. of W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 242157A to Admty. and others)

Patrols. Situation at 2101A/24th March.  
Force A. NORTHERN SUN (S.O), NORTHERN SPRAY.  
Vicinity 64 degs. 13' N. 22 degs. 55' W.  
FARSUND, one Merchant Ship 64 degs. 00' N. 23  
degs. 42' W. to 63 degs. 39' N. 23 degs. 42' W. thence to south  
eastward and FARSUND to Reykjavik 10.  
(A.C.I.C.241132A to Admty. C. in C. W.A., C.in C. H.F.)  
Part company with E.N.82 off Cape Wrath thence proceed to  
establish Gamma between 60.00 N. 05.00 W. and 60.36 N. 05.36 W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 241301A to S.O.E.G.17)

OperationsBalticOperation  
"Eclipse".

For operation "Eclipse" it is requested that:  
(a) Following chart folios may be prepared  
(1) Folio 358 Eastern Shores of North Sea  
(TEXEL to the Skaw) for use with Admiralty folios  
9 and 109.

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Operations

Baltic

Operation "Eclipse". (Contd.)

(2) Folio 359 Approaches and entrances to the Baltic Sea (the Skaw to Tralleborg and Stralsund) for use with Admiralty folios 10 and 110.

(b) charts from these folios may include following information:

(1) All known German searched channels and buoyage and navigational information.

(2) Known or suspected enemy mined areas, booms and wrecks.

(3) Allied mined areas.

(c) reports similar to Admiralty reports reference O.I.C.185/45 March 1st but including information on use of (b) (1) may be prepared for issue and use with folios 358 and 359.

(d) that amendments for (c) may be issued as necessary.

(2) Total numbers of each outfit required will be signalled. My 241740 refers. /

(A.N.C.X.F. 241720A to Admty.)

/ Ref. 241740. Request Naval Parties will signal number of each outfit required including for ships expecting to be operating under their command.

Air Attacks on U-Boats in Russian S/M practice area.

Coastal Command carried out this operation last night making very promising attacks on 6 U-Boats and 2 other ships. A.M. 171105 refers. We are therefore most anxious to repeat the operation within the period mentioned in A.M. 100750.

(2) It is hoped you will be able to obtain early concurrence of Soviet Naval Staff.

(V.C.N.S. 241740A to Adm. Archer, Moscow.)

Enemy Intelligence

Mining Results.

Mining results Kattegat and Skaggerak.

Following enemy transport casualties have been reported in Press but are so far unconfirmed:

(1) 2 convoyed vessels arrived Frederikshavn badly damaged by mines.

(2) TIJUCA arrived Aarhus with heavy list believed about March 17th having been mined off Ammolt. She was damaged in stern and a number troops reported killed.

(3) MARCO BRUNNER also reported mined when en route Norway with 500 men. A number of wounded troops have been brought Aarhus. (N.A. Stockholm, 241824 to Admty.)

Schnorkel fitted U-Boats.

The following is a summary of new information which has become available on Schnorkel since A.G.M.287A was issued July, 1944.

(2) Since the introduction of Schnorkel (see S.N.I.P.(M.P.) 33/45) some U-Boats have had their reversing gear removed and the diesel engine comshafts in most U-Boats have been modified. This combined with the experience gained by crews has enabled U-Boats to Schnorkel in seas up to force 6.

(3) When Schnorkelling in rough weather speed must be increased in order to maintain Schnorkel depth. If Schnorkel smoke is

/observed ...

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fitted  
U-Boats.  
(Contd.)

observed in rough weather the speed of the U-Boat may, therefore, be as high as 6 or 7 knots. A course beam on to the sea affords the most comfortable conditions in the U-Boat if circumstances permit. This may give some indication of the U-Boats course when sighted.

(4) U-Boat Officers consider that a sea force 3 provides the best condition for Schnorkelling. The Schnorkel top is then harder to detect than in a flat calm and the difficulties of depth keeping in rougher seas are avoided.

(5) It is likely that U-Boats may arrange times of Schnorkelling to coincide with reception of W/T routines referred to in Admiralty Message 881 AZ of 11th Feb.

(6) When fully submerged under favourable conditions the average range at which Asdic transmissions can be detected on U-Boat hydrophones is 6-8 miles. Surface vessels are, however, normally first detected by their propeller H.E.

(7) A Schnorkelling U-Boat can hear little or no H.E. owing to the noise of her own diesel engines. It is common practice therefore for U-Boats to stop their diesels at regular intervals when on patrol and carry out a short all-round hydrophone search.

(8) Type XXI and XXIII U-Boats are fitted with extensible telescopic Schnorkel tubes. It is unlikely that even with this new version of Schnorkel new type U-Boats will be able to gain more than an extra knot owing to strain on the Schnorkel tube and/or periscope.

(9) An account of Anti-radar coverings of Schnorkel will be found in C.B. 04050/45 (2). U-Boats can at present not detect 10 cm. radar on the G.S.R. aerial fitted on Schnorkel top.

(V.C.N.S. 242218A "A" message Home and Abroad)

Port Facilities

Brest.

(A) Port is clear to accept shipping.

(B) Deepest Quayside berths available are Quai flotillas in Rade A.B.G.1 1,200 ft. long depth 23 ft. and Quai Bastide No.5 500 ft. long depth 21

ft. in Port Commerce. Ships of greater draft must moor in Rade Abri and lighten sufficiently to use quayside.

(C) Owing to present convoy commitments regular escorts cannot be guaranteed but when special escort is not available ships for Brest and Morlaix would be included in C.O.C. and O.C.C. convoys. On the latter occasions these convoys would be routed by Q.Z.S. 620 with point D as break off and R/V point. Convoy time-table would be adjusted accordingly. Local escort to and from Brest would be provided by Comar Brest.

C. in C. Plymouth, and C.T.F.122 Concur.

(A.N.C.X.F. 241324A to S.H.A.E.F.)

MovementsALRESFORD  
fleet  
minesweeper.

ALRESFORD accepted into reserve category "C",  
by F.O.C.R.F. on 24th March.  
(F.O.C.R.F. 241150A to Admty.)



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YORK,  
ANSON,  
Battleships.

Destroyers have been detailed in accordance with Admiralty's 232300 para. 2 unless weather causes curtailment of operations "Muscular" and "Prefix" it is unlikely that 2 Destroyers will be able to arrive Plymouth before p.m. 31st March. My 221412 not to all refers.  
(C. in C. H.F. 241305A to Admt.)

ULSTER QUEEN  
fighter  
direction  
ship.

(A) C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail ULSTER QUEEN in K.M.F.42 for Gibraltar.  
(2) C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to route ship independently from Gibraltar to reach Bombay not later than 24th April.  
(3) On arrival ULSTER QUEEN is allocated to East Indies Fleet as Fighter Direction Ship.  
(V.C.N.S., 242215A to C's in C. W.A., Med.)

Shipping and ConvoysB.L.A.  
Leave  
traffic.

As from 1st April the B.L.A. leave traffic will be increased to 6,000 per day.  
(2) As soon as practicable (probably about 20th April) it will all be routed through Dover and Folkestone to Calais.  
(3) Until then some 700 per day will proceed through Newhaven to Calais.

(4) The ships to be used will be as follows:

(a) Initially. Between Dover and Calais - PRINCESS MAUD, LADY OF MANN.

Between Folkestone and Calais - BIARRITZ, CANTERBURY.

Between Newhaven and Calais - ISLE OF GUERNSEY, VICTORIA.

The last two named will run on alternate days. The others will all make one sailing each day.

(b) When Newhaven traffic is transferred PRINCESS MAUD, CANTERBURY, VICTORIA, BIARRITZ and ROYAL DAFFODIL will maintain four sailings per day from Dover and Folkestone to Calais between them.

(5) P.S.T.O. S.E. Coast is requested to arrange in concert with naval authorities concerned for the ships named to be available as detailed.

(6) P.S.T.O. S.E. Coast is also requested to concert as regards timing of sailings and promulgate thereafter as necessary with

(a) A.C. Dover in respect of sailings from Dover and Folkestone and (b) C. in C. Portsmouth through M.W.T. Representative Buco in respect of sailings from Newhaven.

(D. of S.T. 240055A to P.S.T.O.'s C. in C. Portsmouth)

The increase in the B.L.A. leave traffic as from 1st April will involve a temporary stringency of personnel ships for the Tilbury/Ostend reinforcement route.

(2) Allocation of H.M.S. ROYAL ULSTERMAN to the Southampton/Havre route was intended to cover temporary shortage of capacity on that route which has now been overcome.

(3) Request therefore that H.M.S. ROYAL ULSTERMAN may be sailed for Tilbury in time for service commencing 1st April.

(D. of S.T. 242131A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/O.N....

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Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.N.  
Convoys.

N.C.S.O. Thames and Medway's 231251A is not concurred in for the following reasons:-

- (A) There must be one central authority for controlling and co-ordinating the organization of convoys.
  - (B) Commodores require to see the completed A.1 form in order that they may make any final alterations.
  - (C) Ocean Commodores and S.O's Escorts must have full details of convoy before sailing.
  - (D) The positioning of Vice and Rear Commodores, space for Mac ships and the requirements of M.C.I.76 cannot be detailed by two separate authorities.
- (2) It is not apparent that the number or percentage of ships in English Channel Sections have recently increased but to facilitate N.C.S.O. Southend it is proposed to allocate up to 4 of the Port Wing columns for ships from Southend and Ramsgate. Having regard to (A) (B) and (C) above, the details must be passed to N.C.S.O. Mersey at least 24 hours prior to Mersey's sailing time, also any further requirements for late entries. (C. in C. W.A. 241647A to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

F.S. Arrived Horta at 0804Z/24th F.S. CASABIANCA  
CASABIANCA escorted by U.S.S. HENRY R. KENYON.  
(submarine.) (S.B.N.O. Azores 241238Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

SS. J.W. All troops from J.W. MCANDREW embarked in  
MCANDREW. ATHLONE CASTLE.  
(2) ATHLONE CASTLE sailed 1300Z/24th escorted by  
U.S. ships PRICE and HISSEN E.T.A. Liverpool p.m.  
28th.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 241358Z to S.B.N.O. Azores)

ARIADNE. Weather permitting ARIADNE is to maintain 26  
knots between Azores and U.K. routed through  
(positions) thence to Plymouth.  
(Plot (O.D.) 241653A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

South Atlantic.

Operation My 211355 not to Buenos Aires WILLIAM SCORESBY  
"Tabarin." with EAGLE in company arrived Falkland Is. a.m.  
today.  
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 241032P to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat A. As result of promising report from ABERDEEN of  
operations. attacks carried out 1923/15th March in 13° 45' N.  
20° 42' W. Ships were ordered to return through  
this position to 10° 00' N. 20° 20' W.  
(2) Following aircraft report ships have  
investigated oil patch extending over area 10 miles by 1½ miles  
in position 10° 42' N. 20° 22' W. at 1800/23rd March samples have  
been collected.  
(3) Experience confirms general southerly set of approx. one  
knot in this area.  
(4) In view of above and A. A.S.V. contacts subsequent to 15th  
all showed doubtful characteristics. B. No known shipping  
movement to account for oil in this area consider strong  
probability of damage to U-Boat with possibility of destruction.  
(5) Reference para. 1 firm contact head from 1815 to 1923 lost  
after attack with deep settings by COWSLIP and ABERDEEN.  
Observant followed by Box search failed to regain contact.  
Further signal will be made on receipt of written report and  
records.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 241348Z to Admty.) See 281320Z.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

"Hunt"  
destroyers.

On completion of refit F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to sail AVONVALE to Malta.  
(2) A.M. 232310A not to all. Intend AVONVALE and BRECON to work up at Malta and EGGESFORD at Gib.  
(3) On completion of work up ships are to be sailed to U.K.  
(C. in C. Med. 241236A to F.O.G.M.A. etc.) 1419293A.

ENNERDALE  
(L.S.G.)

Anticipate sailing ENNERDALE on April 7th for Port Said for onward routing as required by C. in C. East Indies. 14 L.C.M. (I) embarked with small maintenance party but no crews. A.M. 131959A Jan. not to all refers.

(2) DEPTFORD is requested to return maintenance party to HAMILCAR as soon as convenient after arrival.  
(3) HAMILCAR is requested to implement para. 4 of A.M. 131959 Jan. and to report O.Ns. of L.C.M. (I) embarked.  
(C. in C. Med. 241248A to C. in C. E.I.)

Situation  
Report No.  
584.

Gulf of Genoa. The latest series of bombardments by Allied warships included San Remo Harbour amongst other targets.  
(2) Adriatic. V.D. Number 583 para. 1. For M.G.B. read M.T.B. and for 9 read 7. M.T.B. 705 mined and sunk in approach to Maknare Channel. 2 of her crew missing.

(3) Dodecanese. Night 21st March 2 M.Ls. fought action with fast enemy launches south of Leros. Enemy craft though hit escaped. Our M.Ls. were unharmed.  
(C. in C. Med. 241931A to F.O.L.E.M.)

24.3.1945  
Saturday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 240348Z to S. & A. E.I.S.)

BETONY,  
corvette.

BETONY taken over by Royal Indian Navy at Bombay at 1200/24 March, 1945 and re-commissioned as H.M.I.S. SIND.  
(F.O. Bombay 240954Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S.  
allocation  
of.

B.Y.M.S. 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2020, 2023, 2024 and 2028 are to form 151st<sup>M.S.F.</sup> allocated to C. in C. Mediterranean.  
(2) B.Y.M.S. 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2148, 2217 and 2223 are to form the 152nd M.S.F. allocated to C. in C. East Indies.  
(D.M.S. 241125A to C. in C. E.I.)

Molcab 4.

Ref. para. 2 of A.M. 212027 March request No. 4. Molcab be sent to Cochin by 15th September latest.  
(C. in C. E.I. 241215Z to Admty.)

S/M SPITEFUL.

H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA 1642/14. My P.C.S. 1300Z 005° 53' S. 094° 30' E. 320° 9 knots. E.T.A. Equator at 089° 30' E. 1600Z/26th.  
(SPITEFUL 241556Z to Capt. S.2.)

TARANTULA.

Your 241152 Jan. Approved to dispose of TARANTULA by sinking, on completion of present service, all useable items and those likely to have substantial value being first removed.  
(1st Lord 242120A to C. in C. E.I.) *See 120940 JAN 46.*

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

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

C. T.G. 22.9 attacked asdic contact at 1620Z/  
23rd March in 43.10 N. 761.00 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. 240312Z to Admty.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 241357Z to S. & A. Cominch.)  
See 241501Z.

T.G.. 22.1.

Task Group 22.1 Captain Ruhsenberger in MISSION  
BAY Comcortdiv 9 in D.L. HOWARD Cortdiv 9 depart  
Norfolk 27th March for O/S operations in Central  
North Atlantic area C.T.G. 22.1 voice call Mickey.  
En route to operating area this group conduct sweep from 60 W.  
along lat. 42.40 N. to 50 W. then via 45 N. 45 W.  
(C. in C. Lant. 241538Z to C.T.G. 22.1.)

U/B report.

Para. D. belated report states transit A/C  
sighted U-Boat 08.21 N. 32.10 W. at 1340Z/17th.  
(Cominch 242006Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Australia & New Zealand.

ACTIVITY.

Departed Sydney 0200Z/24th March ACTIVITY for  
Cochin. S.O.A. 15 $\frac{3}{4}$  knots. E.T.A. Cochin 0930Z/7th  
April.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney N.S.W. 240247Z to C. in C. E.I.)

A.S.I.  
ships.

Fully concur in R.A.F.T. 190101 (N.T. in W.D.)  
March.  
(2) Larger A.S.I. ships of type proposed are  
essential if operational activities of the fleet  
are not to be restricted and ammunitions at sea  
is to be developed satisfactorily.  
(3) Lack of sufficient A/S carriers of adequate capacity and speed  
will also create a grave embarrassment in the logistic support  
of the fleet. Another A/S carrier is required at once to avoid  
serious embarrassment at the present time (see R.A.F.T. 140610  
Feb.)  
(4) Total carrying capacity requested in C. in C. B.P.F. 280311  
Jan. is 30,000 tons in A.S.I.S. and 28,000 tons in carriers based  
on load of 2,000 tons per ship. Reduced number of ships could  
be accepted if required additions to fleet train were of 4,000/  
5,000 tons gross.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

A.S.I.  
ships.  
(Contd.)

(5) Matter was fully discussed during recent visit of Wedlake who is en route to U.K. with C. in Cs. views.

(6) KISTNA is being loaded at A.S.I.S. for escort forces at Manus and ~~KOLA~~ is being held at Sydney pending decision as to her employment (my 170731 March and 220801 March not to Admty. refer.)  
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 240254Z to Admty.) See 250036.

Digest 1158,  
23.3.45

(Extract.) (3) Navy Liberators over China coast sighted large northwest bound gunboat off Amoy leaving ship heading for beach, heavily strafed ship of 1,000 tons off Amoy leaving ship beached, bombed heavily strafed single small stack freighter 45 miles south Swatow heading northeast Lqqvina ship losing oil after near misses and straffing.

(5) Five searchplanes looking for navy plane lost previous day destroyed single small coaster off China coast.

(11) American forced on Luzon advanced 4000 yards Kapinzlan area, occupied positions 3500 yards south, northwest Pantaf, advanced east to point 500 yards west Fort Stotsenlorg. Enemy casualties Luzon total number 89,608 killed, 889 captured. American casualties by 22nd March total 4221 killed, 15,576 wounded, 201 missing.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 240915Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/24th.

Para. A. (1) A/C E/547 attacked U-Boat on the surface course 240° T. at 2238Z/23rd March in 55° 29' N. 15° 19' E. Para. B. (1) Training A/C reported snort and wake course 025° T. at 2305Z/23rd March in 58° 20' N. 01° 50' W. (2) A/C G/112 attacked U-Boat at 1512Z/23rd March in 49° 45' N. 06° 20' W. (3) PARRSBORO sighted U-Boat at 2140Z/23rd March in 50° 52' N. 04° 55' W. (4) KEMPTHORNE (E.G. 5) investigated bottomed contact at 0141Z/24th in 50° 26' N. 02° 32' W. Para. C. (1) A/C D/248 and M/248 reported sighting smoke and wake course 180° at 1645Z/23rd in 61° 23' N. 03° 32' E. (2) A/C P/404 sighted possible snort and wake at 1541Z/23rd in 58° 11' N. 02° 29' W. (3) M.T.B. attacked bottomed contact at 2245Z/23rd in 50° 18' N. 01° 02' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 241140A to Cominch.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 241427A, 241428A to A.I.G., Cominch.)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) Aircraft claim to have sunk a midget U-Boat off the Hook.
- (b) M.L. 466 was mined 3 miles N.W. of Walcheren, caught fire and disintegrated, leaving no survivors.
- (c) The sailing of convoy T.B.C. 108 completes Southern's three thousandth convoy sailing.

Norway.

2. VENTURER on her return from patrol off Namsos, reports having attacked 4 escorted merchantmen on March 19th with 4 torpedoes at 6,000 yards. An explosion, followed by breaking-up noises and a very severe explosion, was heard 4 min. 50 secs. after firing her torpedoes. She was then hunted but not attacked.

SIRIUS  
912687

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Gulf of  
Genoa.

3. Wellingtons bombed vessels and probable F-Boats off Genoa, today. Results were unobserved.

Adriatic.

4. Beaufighters bombed and set fire to buildings on jetty at Umago and hit schooner with R.P. and cannon. Aircraft also attacked possible E-Boats and a larger vessel off Grado with unobserved results.

Australia & New Zealand.

Japan.

5. Today Venturas attacked two small M/Vs in the Bonins one of which was left stationary and the other damaged.



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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.

U-Boat. UTSIRA reports German U-Boat on surface easterly course near 34 Buoy.  
(LOCH MONTEITH 250050 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Minesweeping off Schelde. As soon as weather is suitable and buoy at Ostend laid, intend sailing to Ostend E.C. 10 in tow of FORT YORK and EASTBOURNE escorted by SEAHAM and DOMINO, passing Spithead Gate 1400 A.

(2) Routed via Q.Z.S. 646, 626, 513, 517, Q.Z.L. 57, Q.Z.S. 581 and Q.Z.S. 684, 685 as amended by Q.Z.Y. 565.

(3) Speed approx.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  knots adjusted to conform to following timetable:-

Dungeness	1600A	D plus 1.
South Falls Buoy	0130A	D plus 2.
N.F. 3 buoy	0600A	D plus 2.
Ostend	1400A	D plus 2.

(4) If necessary to shelter on account of weather, mooring buoys in Dungeness East Roads may be used, F.N.M. 2818 (T) 44 refers.

(5) Communications - constant W/T watch on 2450 k/cs shifting to 1700 k/cs off Hastings and to 1780 k/cs off Dumpton Buoy.

Constant watch on broadcast C.N. Help messages on 2700 k/cs.

(6) Admiralty is requested to divert mails.

(7) A.M. 201645A\* and 231835A (neither to all) refer.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 251242A to C. in C. Nore, Com. Belgium, N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

\* Desired to carry out a displacement sweep of the Schelde Approaches.

Red mine ashore detonator in position ( $?198^\circ$ ) N.F. 6 Buoy 9 cables.

(S.O.M.S.F. 40 251407A to C. in C. Nore.)

A.M. 201645 and 231835. Buoy has been laid in position  $322^\circ$  Ostend East Breakwater Light 17 cables. Request E.C. be sailed.  
(Com. Belgium 251935 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Patrols. Patrols for night Monday 26th March.  
1 CHIDDINGFOLD, 2 BROCKLESBY, 3 BLANKNEY, 4 LAMERTON, 5 HOLDERNESS, 6 SHELDRAKE, 7 ALBRIGHTON, 8 MELBREAK.

Coastal force units F.C.1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2115A.

2 12 TORRINGTON with coastal forces from U.K.

14 SOUTHDOWN, 16 EKINS with coastal forces from Ostend. 17

KRAKOWIAK, 18 TALYBONT, 19 RETALICK, with coastal forces from Ostend.

21 WILTON, 22 CAICOS with C.F. from U.K.

Coastal forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2015A.

Escorts from T.A.M. 20 PUFFIN and BLENCATHRA additional escort for F.S. 67 PYTCHLEY.

(4) Coastal forces from U.K.

Patrol 1 2 M.T.B. N.X. unit F.C. 1 with CHIDDINGFOLD.

Patrol 1 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 2 with BROCKLESBY.

Patrol 3 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 3 with BLANKNEY.

Patrol 4 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 4 with LAMERTON.

Patrol 5 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 5 with HOLDERNESS.

Patrol 6 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 6 with SHELDRAKE.

/Patrol....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Patrols. Patrol 7 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 7 with ALBRIGHTON.  
(Contd.) Patrol 8 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 8 with MELBREAK.  
Patrol 12 4 M.T.B. unit F.L. 2 3  
Patrol 22 4 M.T.B. unit F.B. 8 9 with CAICOS.  
Patrol 51 1 M.L. Patrol 52 1 M.L.  
A.L.E.O. 2922 3 M.T.B. unit F.B. 6.  
C.P.L.S. 1525 6 M.T.B. unit F.A. 2, F.A. 3, F.A. 1.  
From Ostend.  
A.L.U.R. 2316 3 M.T.B. F.A. 8.  
A.L.U.R. 2100 2 M.T.B. F.B. 2.  
A.L.U.R. 4126 2 M.L. F.G. 5.  
A.L.U.R. 3312 4 M.T.B. F.H. 34.  
Patrol 16 4 M.T.Bs. F.G. 23.  
(C. in C. Nore 251813A to Nore Command.)

Midget U-Boat activity. U-Boat and small battle unit summary to 1100Z/25.  
(1) 1130Z/24 4th C.D. reported two periscopes 1 mile off Domburg.  
(2) 0630Z/25 aircraft sighted midget U-Boat 51.50 N. 03.35 E. apparently willing to surrender. Later midget dived and aircraft claims to have sunk it at 0820Z/25.  
(3) 0835Z/25 Beaufighter G/254 claims sank midget 51.58 N. 03.23 E. One man seen in dinghy.  
(C. in C. Nore 251902A to Admty.)  
Midget submarine reported Dumpton Buoy 2230A.  
(C. in C. Nore 252240A to Nore Command.)

Loss of M.L. 466. M.L. 466 sunk by mine or torpedo and disintegrated immediately. Regret no survivors list of casualties follows.  
(C.F.M.U. 1 252317A to C. in C. Nore.)  
Cositintrep No. 355 part 2 naval.  
M.L. 466 mined and sunk 3 miles N.W. of Walcheren. Vessel caught fire immediately. No survivors.  
(2) Day 25th. Aircraft sank midget U-Boat 20 miles west of Hook of Holland.  
One survivor seen in dinghy after attack. Second midget attacked by aircraft 20 miles N.W. of Hook. Result unknown. Third midget claimed sunk by aircraft 10 miles west of Goerce.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 252335A to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 355 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/24th March.

<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	187	503	9,177	-	6,415	-
Ostend	1,504	227	3,190	-	-	1,329
Boulogne	127	100	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,834	-	-
Calais	2,618	-	458	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	4,615	-	-	3,672
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,436</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>17,440</u>	<u>1,834</u>	<u>6,415</u>	<u>5,001</u>

/U.S. North...

25.3.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
 Situation  
 Report.  
 (Contd.)

<u>U.S. North</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo</u>
Antwerp	-	514	19,970	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	51	7,104	1,506	1,582	4,109
Le Havre	7,641	469	8,207	621	-	1,483
Rouen	3	139	7,080	1,419	760	390
Granville	-	-	-	1,201	-	-
Ghent	-	-	8,159	-	-	975
<u>Total</u>	<u>7,644</u>	<u>1,173</u>	<u>50,520</u>	<u>4,747</u>	<u>2,342</u>	<u>6,957</u>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	673	594	11,777	294	-	900
Port de Bouc	-	-	3,202	-	-	2,481
Toulon	-	-	596	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>673</u>	<u>594</u>	<u>15,575</u>	<u>294</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>338*</u>

(S.H.A.E.F. 251400A to Admty., and others.) \* Sic.

Operations.

Channel.

Possible  
 U-Boat.

Area in vicinity aircraft attack searched in good  
 asdic conditions without result. Am continuing  
 search to seaward until daylight when intention is  
 to return to position of attack.  
 LOCH ECK has damaged asdic dome on uncharted  
 pinnacle rock in 10 fathoms.  
 (S.O.E.G. 10 250407A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Reduction of  
 MASTODON.

Your 220943, proposing to reduce MASTODON to care  
 and maintenance. Request you will bring this  
 forward again after consideration of A.L.M./C.O.D.  
 0169/45 of 20th March.  
 (D.C.O.D. 251233A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Patrols.

Weigh at 1700A/25th or as soon after as papers  
 have been delivered aboard.  
 (2) Proceed to patrol area limits 01.25 W. to  
 01.45 W. between 50.00 N. and 50.20 N.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 251311A to SUSSEX VALE,  
 RIBBLE.)

/My...

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25.3.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols.  
(Contd.)

My 251545. HAVELOCK, HOTSPUR, DUNCAN, INCONSTANT weigh as at 1500A/25th and proceed with moderate despatch to patrol area 02° 20' W. to 02° 40' W. between 50° 08' N. and 50° 28' N.

VERSATILE sail from Portland as necessary to R/V with remainder at 1900A/26th in position 50° 20' N. 02° 30' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 251548A to HAVELOCK, HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT, DUNCAN, VERSATILE.)

My 251545A. Weigh at 1200A/26th and proceed to join RIBBLE and SUSSEX VALE (S.O.) on patrol in area 01° 25' W. to 01° 45' W. between 50° 00' N. and 50° 20' N.

(2) RIBBLE arrange R/V.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 251550A to WALDEGRAVE.)

My 251545. Weigh at 1200A/26th and proceed to patrol area limits 01° 45' W. to 02° 05' W. between 50° 08' N. and 50° 22' N.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 251552A to BAYNTUN, LOCH DUNVEGAN, BRAITHWAITE, HOTHAM.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Request you sail force G.H. at 0930A/26th March to carry out serial M.1 part 2 by 5.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 251740A to HORNET.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail 22nd E.G. at 1030/26th to relieve 18th E.G. as force 38.

N.O.I.C. Lamplash is requested to sail AMETHYST to R/V with S.O. 22nd E.G. off Skerries.

(2) S.O. 18th E.G. is to arrange R/V with S.O. 22nd E.G. direct and on relief is to proceed to Greenock for layover.

(C. in C. W.A. 251155A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, S.O.E.G. 18.)

Sailed S.O.E.G. 31 in BERKELEY CASTLE with CARISBROOKE CASTLE, DUMBARTON CASTLE, HADLEIGH CASTLE, to comply with C. in C. W.A.'s 241903A. S.O.A. 13 knots. 24 Foxer wires carried.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 251544A to C. in C. W.A., S.O.E.G. 23.)

Anti-Schnorkel  
obstructors.

My 241644 BRITTANY will be ready to sail p.m. tomorrow Monday with 42 miles of wire embarked.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 251728A to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operations  
"V.P."

Intend carry out "V.P. 85 with 3 M.T.Bs.

(1) 1200A/25th March. (2) Not later 0100A/26th March. (3) Not later 0600A/29th March. (4) 250° toward Noss Head. Not more 20 knots. (5) Not later p.m. 29th March. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 070° Noss Head. (9) No.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 251001A to C. in C. H.F.)

/My...

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Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Norway.

Operations "V.P." (Contd.)

My 251001A. (1) 070° from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots. (2) 61° 22' N. 04° 46' E. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 251003A to C. in C. H.F.) Intend carry out "V.P. 73" with 3 M.T.Bs. (1) 1100A/25th March. (2) Not later than 0100A/26th March. (3) Not later 0600A/27th March. (4) 249° toward Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots. (5) Not later p.m. 27th March. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 069° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 251005A to C. in C. H.F.) My 251005A. (1) 069° from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots. (2) 61° 10' N. 04° 30' E. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 251007A to C. in C. H.F.) "V.P. 73" Lerwick departure at 1140A today 25th March M.T.B. 711 (S.O.), M.T.B. 719, M.T.B. 709. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 251143 to C. in C. H.F.)

Shipping strike off Norway. One large M.V. two medium M.V. escorted by two armed trawlers and two R-Boats passed Edoey 62° 18' N. 08° 12' E. course north 10 knots at 0815A/25. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C. 251251A to C.S. 1.)

Operation "S.C." Ramose Phenomenal. HITRA returned at 1350A/25th March. (2) Operation successful. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 251355A to C. in C. H.F.)

VENTURER's patrol. VENTURER reports in accordance with I.S.O.H. 229. (1) 19th March 0633. P.C.S. of four merchant ships 1000 to 4000 tons escorted by four trawlers and one M class M/S 64° 31' N. 10° 36' E. 360° 9 knots. Attacked with four torpedoes from 6000 yards. One explosion four minutes 50 seconds after first torpedo. Breaking up noises for three and a half minutes followed by a loud explosion with deep very heavy reverberations. One faint explosion eight and half minutes after firing. Hunt followed but no counter attack. (2) 21st 1326. P.C.S. of one unescorted 2500 merchant ship 63° 58' N. 09° 49' E. 205° 10 knots. Attacked with four torpedoes. Range 6000 yards. Missed. Two torpedoes seen to explode on shore. (3) Slight fishing boat activity. (S.O. S/M Lerwick 252255A to F.O.S/M.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Russian  
Catalinas  
U.S.A. to  
Russia.

Your 161430 March.

Soviet Naval B.K.R. staff agree your para. 4 sub-  
paras. 1 - 4 reference sub-para. 5 they would  
like to try to establish direct point to point  
North Russia/Reykjavik. We have pointed out that  
this failed for "Pitch" operation and at meeting  
with Soviet Signals Officer on 26th March we  
expect to persuade him against even attempting tests.

(2) Reply to H.Q. Transport Command Signal S.343 March 17th  
will be made after Signals meeting on 26th March.

(3) Reference Air Ministry Signal M.S.W. 380 March 18th para. 1  
and 2 noted. Soviet Officer for Gander is Lt. Col. Khrolenkoam  
he is Assistance Soviet Naval Air Attache Washington. Soviet  
Officer for Reykjavik is Major Piskareov or Piskareooc? he is  
at present in Elizabeth city handling lightup flights.

(4) Reference Air Ministry Signal 211200 to 30 Mission and H.Q.  
Transport Command. Chief of Soviet Naval Air Service states  
he will remind his crews to put their wheels down at Gander if  
the airfield and not the lake is to be used.

(30 Mission 250642Z to Air Ministry.)

Convoy  
J.W. 66.

Request you will include 16 Russian S.Cs. now in  
U.K. in J.W. 66, sailing them as requisite for  
fuelling in Faroes before joining the convoy.

(2) Request you will arrange in conjunction with  
C. in C. Rosyth for a conference with all Russian  
C.Os. to be held at Rosyth a few days before sailing. Soviet  
Naval Mission in London will wish to send a representative to  
attend the conference.

(3) Arrangements are being made for tanker NOREG to carry  
Admiralty Diesel Oil and the necessary equipment for fuelling  
S.Cs. at sea.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 251301A to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrol.

If not in contact at 2200A tonight proceed and  
search towards and through position 58.50 N. 05.20  
W. Thence search eastward as far as Dunnet Head  
where search is to be abandoned and group is to  
proceed to Scapa for layover. Report E.T.A.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 251624A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

Operations.

Baltic.

Aerial  
attacks in  
Russian S/M  
Sanctuary.

Your 241741 (241740). Impossible to obtain Soviet  
concurrence today, Sunday.

(2) I have written to say you intend, to repeat  
the attack within period of warning, i.e. before  
30th March.

(3) Admiralty pass Air Ministry for A.O.C. in C.  
Coastal Command.

(Adm. Archer 251101A to Admty.)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

EASTWAY, Intend to sail at 1430A/25th March EASTWAY with  
 L.S.D. L.C.G.(M) 103 and L.C.T. 384 embarked, escorted  
 by WESTON to Gibraltar. A.M. 131741 and 141824A  
 refer.

(2) Force 26 S.O. in FAULKNER escort to 48° N.  
 F.O.G.M.A. is requested to provide escort and necessary in  
 Mediterranean Approaches.

(3) Speed and E.T.A. to be reported.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 250931A to F.O.G.M.A.)

A.F.D. 51, • Intend sailing A.F.D. 51 towed by EMPIRE LARCH  
 floating with OUTPOST as standby tug escorted by  
 dock. CONQUEROR (S.O.), LONDONDERRY and M.L. 292 at  
 1200A/26 by standard coastal convoy route to  
 Southend for onward routeing to Gt. Yarmouth.  
 (2) S.O.A. 4 knots.

(3) Communications. Escorts only constant W/T watch on 2300  
 k/cs LONDONDERRY will keep watch on broadcast C.N. in addition.  
 OUTPOST single operator periods on appropriate area port wave.

(4) Codeword "Yarpole."

(5) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to provide onward escort  
 from off Portland Bill. On relief CONQUEROR, LONDONDERRY and  
 M.L. 292 return to Plymouth.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 251710 to C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping & Convoys.

B.T.C., T.B.C. B.T.C. convoys. To obviate the call of B.T.C.  
 convoys at St. Helens and to facilitate the  
 joining of ships ex B.B. convoys the following  
 is proposed:-

A. Amended timetable commencing 2nd April.

Lundy Island R/V	2100
Start Point	2300 D + 1.
F Buoy	1500 D + 2
Sandhead Buoy	0700 D + 3
Southend	1300 D + 3

All times D.S.T.

B. That Commodores should proceed to the Downs when a suitable  
 ship is going right through.

C. That, if programme in para. A is agreed to C.O.C. convoys  
 sail from Falmouth in order to allow of greater flexibility  
 of sailing time.

(D.T.D. 250048A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth.)

B.T.C. and T.B.C. convoys at present meet in vicinity of  
 Portland Bill, where Plymouth and Portsmouth additional escorts  
 transfer and return to their respective commands. With the  
 amended timetable proposed in A.M. 250048 convoys will meet in  
 vicinity of Start Point.

(2) Concur with A.M. 250048 subject to Portsmouth additional  
 escorts being able to continue until convoys meet and escorts  
 transfer.

(C. in C. Plymouth 251724 to Admty.)

War Diary.

25.3.1945  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

O.N. convoys. Procedure outlined in your 231251A is not to be instituted until matter has been further considered. (D.T.D. 250701A to N.C.S.O. Thames and Medway.)

Southend's three thousandth convoy sailing. The sailing of T.B.C. 108 completes the three thousandth convoy sailing from Southend. (Com. Southend 251137A to C. in C. Nore.)

Escorts for T.A.M. convoys. Cancel my 212226A. (2) Request you will instruct trawlers detailed as additional escort to T.A.M. convoys that unless otherwise ordered they are to remain with T.A.M. convoy until arrival Schelde thence returning as additional escort to A.T.M. convoy. (3) Ships leaving T.A.M. convoys for Ostend will proceed unescorted except when escort is provided by N.O.I.C. Ostend. (C. in C. Nore 251021A to Com. Sheerness.)

B.L.A. leave traffic. Your 242131 not to all. (1) ROYAL ULSTERMAN was made available by A.N.C.X.F. to assist in meeting the requirements for U.S. personnel lift from Southampton to Le Havre. (2) It is not agreed that the shortage of capacity on this route has been overcome observing that A. L.S.T. are still required to supplement the personnel lift (S.H.A.E.F. Main G.4 201430 and 241830 neither to all refer.) B. L.C.I. (L) of the 263 Flotilla are also being used to supplement this lift. (3) Further the withdrawal of ROYAL ULSTERMAN would reduce the opportunities for refitting the L.C.G. hoisting equipment of SS. EMPIRE LANCE and SS. EMPIRE RAPIER and the necessity for speedily accomplishing this work has been stressed (A.N.C.X.F. 091638 and S.H.A.E.F. Main S.82762 D.T.G. 221900 neither to all refer.) (4) Admiralty has been asked to expedite passage of SS. VIENNA from Barrow to Tilbury in order that she shall be available for embarkation of troops for Ostend on 1st April. (5) In view of the foregoing it is not intended to withdraw ROYAL ULSTERMAN from her present duty for the time being pending a further examination of whether or not the ? First Army Groups requirements from 4th April cannot be met by existing resources which include the lift available in craft of the 253rd L.C.I. (L) Flotilla. (6) Agreed Exfor Buco.) (A.N.C.X.F. 251615A to D. of S.T.)



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25.3.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Routeing  
of traffic  
between  
Casablanca  
and Dakar.

Request you will indicate routes which you desire to establish or retain in your commands for promulgation by the Admiralty. F.O.C.W.Af. 211012\* and F.O.G.M.A.'s 211110 refer. (Admty., 250707A to F.O.G.M.A.) Reply: 260931A. \* Present routes designed so that resumption of O.S. and S.L. convoys in emergency can be easily effected.

E.G. 3.

If not in contact Group 3 is to leave patrol so as to enter Gibraltar at 0900A March 26th. (2) Ships fuel on arrival and be ready to sail with M.K.S.91 at 1500A March 26th. (F.O.G.M.A., 251014A to Group 3.)

E.G. 1.

Ships being in all respects ready for war LOWESTOFT is to take SPIRAEA and WILLOWHERB under his orders and proceed at 1800A March 25th to anchor in Mole Anchorage keeping steam at one hour's notice.

(2) Group 1 is to weigh Devils Point 0330A March 26th and proceed to take up patrol on a line Cape Spartel to Cape Trafalgar. (F.O.G.M.A., 251030A to Group 1.)

13th  
Destroyer  
Flotilla.

On crossing 102° W. ships of 13th Destroyer Flotilla are to be detached as follows:  
(A) MALCOLM to return Gibraltar reporting E.T.A.

(C) VERITY to proceed to R/V EMPIRE TORRIDGE straggler from K.M.S.91 in position (Z) 035° 57' N., 008° 25' W. at 261200A and escort to Gibraltar through (R) 035° 51' N., 006° 10' W., speed 8½ knots.  
(3) VERITY to report P.C.S. and E.T.A. Gibraltar when merchant ships met. (F.O.G.M.A., 252248A to E.G.24, amended by 260241A.)

South Atlantic

A.F.Ds. 40  
and 39.

A.M. 151840. Arrangements for towing A.F.D.40 were too far advanced for change to be made and dock is being towed as in my 091215 para. 5. (2) P.S.A.R. and H. now agree to provide tug for A.F.D.39 from East London to Beira and if necessary Diego Suarez. It will be necessary

/for ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

A.F.Ds. 40  
and 39.  
(Contd.)

for tug to coal at Beira. As result of experience with A.F.D.40 the towing gear of A.F.D.39 being altered, expect to sail her March 29th.

(3) Com. E.A. is requested to sail ORIANA for Beira to arrive April 6th for fuel and to take over tow of A.F.D.39 off Beira April 7th or 8th. R/V will be signalled later.

(7) Com. E.I. is requested to confirm arrangements in para. 3 and state if ORIANA can tow to Seychelles direct from Beira. (C. in C. S.A., 251146 to Admty.) See 281212.

NADDER  
(frigate)  
and M.Ls.

Sailed NADDER escorting H.M. M.Ls. 850, 851, 899, 897, 898, 900, 4001, 4002 direct Tulear thence coastal to Majunga and Diego Suarez to comply with the following programme.

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leave</u>
0600Z/29th March	Tulear	0600Z/1st April
0400Z/4th April	Majunga	(03)00Z/7th April
0500Z/9th April		

(2) S. of A. 9 knots.

(3) NADDER will report E.T.A. Tulear, Majunga and Diego Suarez. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 251251Z to Admty.)

SS. BARON  
JEDBURGH  
sunk 10th  
March.

Following is a repetition of my 231901:reference my 221823\* for "2 more boats" read "1 more boat." Amend position to read 010° 02' S., 025° 00' W. Submarine not sighted.

(A/S.O.(I) Recife, 251603Z to Admty.)

\* Received U.D.

Concerning survivors from British ship BARON JEDBURGH.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

South  
Aegean  
Summary.  
(Extract)

026290. G1/98731 cipher 25th March.  
Calchi approx. 40 Germans landed night 23/24  
March and captured 5 of our patrol. Enemy  
believed landed from Pioneer landing craft from  
Alimnia.  
(C. in C. M.E., 251730B to W.O.)

Intelligence  
report  
No. 169  
Week-  
ending  
24 March.

(1) Crete. Clash between Germans and Guerillas  
occurred at perimeter Suda Bay defended area  
17th March. Enemy forced withdrawal from 2  
small villages. General disposition unchanged.  
(2) Milos. Further bombing C.D. positions one 150  
m.m. gun reported damaged.  
(3) Dodecanese (A) British M.Ls. engaged fast  
enemy launch returning Portolago from Kos night  
21st/22nd. Hits obtained but craft escaped into  
Portolago.

(B) Enemy shipping movements mainly confined to run between  
Leros and Kos with principal object of carrying food stuff  
from Kos.

(C) Main enemy disposition unchanged.  
(S.O.(I) L.E.M., 251427B to B.N.L.O. Black Sea.)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Air storage  
in India  
and Ceylon.

Your 200629 Jan.

(2) Para. 8. Concur that Clappenburg Bay should be reduced to the scale of a small Maintenance Yard and manned in accordance with typical scheme of complement for small Maintenance Yard abroad which will be sent to you.

(3) Para. 12. Further details of the intended use of the hangars at Ratmalana is requested. Adequate provision is being made in complements and facilities at other establishments in the area for all maintenance and repair requirements. Men for any commitment at Ratmalana could only be provided by local drafting action from other establishments in the area manned to full complements.

(4) Provisional schemes of complement for stations not covered by the Walton Report have been issued as follows:-

BAMBARA A.L. N.10754/44 of 7th August, 1944.

VALLURU A.L. N.5398/44 of 10th August, 1944.

VAIRI A.L. N.28345/44 of 20th November, 1944.

Your remarks on these (excluding: A. Communications personnel, B. aircraft maintenance ratings, C. M/T sections, D. Those allowed by scale (writer, stores, cooks, etc.) which are already being dealt with) should be forwarded by air mail. Revised provisional schemes of complement for the other stations based on the requirements stated in para. 3A of my 221643 Dec. are being prepared and will be forwarded for your comments.

(5) For the present no further men other than normal reliefs can be sent for these Air Stations, but a rough forecast of manning requirements from May to October, based on progress of constructional works and the size of the draft which can be handled, and setting out for each month your total requirements and total numbers for each category should be forwarded as soon as possible.

(2nd Sea Lord 250225A to C. in C. E.I.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Indian Ocean bi-weekly U-Boat Disposition.  
No change.

(C. in C. E.I. 250358Z to S. & A. E.I.S.)

Situation  
Report No.

SAUMBERZ Capt. D.26 RAPID and VOLAGE carried out shipping sweep in Andaman Sea 16 to 20 March.

6 Andaman Sea. Initial sweep towards Penang was without result but Sigli in North Sumatra was bombarded p.m. 17 March and Port Blair a.m. 19th, subsequent entry into Stewart Sound was opposed by coast defence and

resulted in some casualties and damage to RAPID and VOLAGE. One Junk was destroyed.

Burma Coast. Naval forces including ESKIMO, ROEBUCK, JUMNA and CAUVERY supported military operations.

2 M.Ls. shelled Gwa (90 miles north of Cape Negrais) from very close range without opposition on the night of 18th March. Cocos, first two ships of operation "Pharos" arrived but off loading delayed by weather.

Submarines. Submarines continue to prevent enemy seaborne supplies reaching Burma and enemy occupied islands. Aircraft of 222 Group have co-operated with shipping strike. TERRAPIN and TRENCHANT together sank six coasters, 7 small craft and 1 S/M chaser in the Southern Malacca Straits. THOROUGH sank 19 small craft and 1 coaster in the Tavoy area.

(C. in C. E.I. 250411Z to S. & A.)

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25.3.1945.  
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

- C.T.F.22.9 P.C. and S. 2359Z/24 42° 39' N. 55° 23' W. 090° 13. Searching submarine track.  
(C.T.G.22.9, 250130Z to C. in C.N.A.).
- U-Boat contact. W.7 with O.N.290 attacked possible submarine contact 44.30 N. 52.27 W. at 0439Z/25th.  
(C. in C.C.N.A., 251017Z to All British and U.S. Warships in area D.).
- U-Boat dispositions Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 251335Z to A.O.C.A.C.).
- C.T.G.29.8 Para.A. Mission completed with T.G.62.1 T.G.29.8 proceeding Horta direct course 322 speed 16 E.T.A. 261000Z.  
(C.T.G.,29.8, 251702 to Comnavnor).
- ANSON,  
DUKE OF  
YORK. A.M. 101700 not to B.A.D.  
(2) ANSON and DUKE OF YORK will join the B.P.F. proceeding via Ceylon.  
(D.O.D.(H), 251705A to B.A.D.Washington).
- A/S.  
search. O.N.S.44 W.2 BORDER CITIES (S.O.) HF/DF  
TIMMINS, MIDLAND NAPANEE sailed St. Johns 1900Z 25th March to carry out A/S search through 44.00 N. 53.00 W. SAULT STE. MARIE 250630 not to all refers. Thence to relieve you in Westomp 43.44 N. 47.45 W. at 1000Z/27th March.  
(2) ORILLIA delayed by defects will be sailed to overtake group W.2 at 0930Z/26th.  
(3) On relief group C.1 proceed direct St. Johns as ice conditions permit CHAMBLY being detailed to escort S.S. TAXIARCHIS to St. Johns all ships making daylight E.T.A.  
(F.O.N.F., 251902Z to S.E.O.N.S.44.).
- U-Boat report. (C)(1) 1945/24 A/C. sighted smoke 43.17 N. 67.06 W.  
(2) 1500/25 R.C.A.F. aircraft sighted doubtful periscope and made (Sono buoy contact 43.08 N. 67.30 W).  
(3) 1400/25 C.G. DIONE had Sonar contact 43.34 N. 67.50 W.  
(4) 0439/25 some debris and large oil patch resulted from attack by H.M.C.S. COBALT on contact 44.30 N. 52.27 W. All times Z.  
(D) About 1645/25 aircraft sighted suspicious object 43.10 N. 68.41 W.  
(Cominch, 252005Z to Admiralty for O.I.C.).
- ARIADNE search for plane. Divert from route and search for U.S. Army plane missing enroute Bermuda to Horta last position 250830Z 34.56 (?) 41.53 N.O.B. Bermuda 251618.  
(Comtenthflt. C. and R. 252104Z, 262343Z to ARIADNE).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

A.S.1 ship KOLA has been allocated <sup>for</sup> storage of U.S.A.F. Force reserves at Manus which is only service she is fit for. The 2 remaining carriers considered inadequate. It is not advisable to detach any of the 10 A.S.I.S. for duty as a carrier, as space in A.S.I.S. is serious limiting factor on reserves "which can be held forward need for larger forward reserves and de-shipment of ammunition. Call for replacement of smaller A.S.I.S. ex PACHECO THYRAS and GUNEI by larger ships of about 4000 5000 tons gross with 2 tween decks throughout and accommodation for shipborne working party of about 25 to 30. Small ships thus released would be suitable for carrier service. Request action now be taken accordingly with Admiralty. Ends.  
(2) Your 141632\* to R.A.F.T. refers.  
(V.A.Q.B.P.F., 250036Z to Admiralty).  
\* Originated by War. Reg. Request repetition of 190101 quoted in V.A.(Q) B.P.Fs. 240254 (Top Secret).

Digest serial No.1159 24.3.45 Extract. (2) Night 23rd/24th March, Marines from Longayen bombed strafed 3 sea trucks 50 miles east-north-east Sjatow (?Swatow) leaving 2 sea trucks sinking, damaging third.  
(14) 8 Corsairs swept south eastern Mindanao dropping 4 tons of bombs on Malabang.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 250945 to Admiralty).

Cincpoa Communicate No.300 Extract. Released as of 2315 G.C.T. 25th March, 1945 as follows:-  
(1) Avenger torpedo planes and Helldiver bombers of the 5th Fleet covered by Corsair and Hellcat fighters destroyed a convoy of 3 large cargo ships 2 destroyers and 3 other escort vessels west of the Amami Gunto in the Ryukus on 24th March east longitude date.  
(2) On the same date navy search Liberators of Fleet Air Wing 1 attacked a medium sized cargo ship in the Northern Ryukus. Navy search Venturas strafed 2 small cargo ships north of the Bonins on 25th March leaving 1 ship dead in the water and the other damaged.  
(Cincpac, 252302 to Pacflt., Secnav).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack and sighting summary For 24 hours to 0900Z 25th March.  
Para.A.(1) A/C. H/547 attacked surfaced U-Boat course 020° at 2307Z/23rd March in 55° 12' N. 14° 31' E.  
(2) A/C. D/547 attacked U-Boat at 2312Z 23rd March in 54° 53' N. 15° 30' E.  
(3) A/C. Y/311 attacked surfaced U-Boat course 120° at 2317Z /23rd...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack 23rd March in 55° 12' N. 15° 18' E.  
and sighting (4) A/C. D/311 attacked U-Boat at 2340Z 23rd  
summary. March in 54° 42' N. 15° 48' E.  
(Contd.) (5) A/C. U/311 attacked stationary surfaced  
U-Boat heading 160° at 2353Z 23rd March in 54° 57'  
N. 14° 35' E.  
(6) Nor. S/M. UTSIRA reported U-Boat fully surfaced course 120°  
at 2350Z 24th March in 58° 15' N. 02° 25' W.  
Para.B.  
(1) A/C. U/86 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1029Z 24th March in  
63° 50' N. 00° 50' E.  
(2) U.S. Transit A/V sighted fully surfaced U-Boat course  
220° at 1254Z 24th March in 59° 05' N. 08° 20' W.  
Para.(C)(1) U.S. Transit A/C. sighted conning tower course 130°  
at 1250Z 24th March in 59° 02' N. 08° 50' W.  
(2) E.G.18 obtained disappearing radar contact at 2227Z 24th  
March in 52° 24' N. 05° 27' W.  
(3) A/C. H/810 reported attacking U-Boat with depth charges at  
1804Z 24th March in 50° 02' N. 01° 02' E.  
Para.(D)(1) A/C. D/110 reported oil patch and W/T reception  
of German voices at 0925Z 24th March in 53° 35' N. 05° 09' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 251130A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa).

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions              (D.D.I.C. 251415A, 251416Z to A.I.G., Cominch).

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Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) Three groups of E-Boats sailed from The Hook last night and were efficiently shadowed by our aircraft. One came to 45 miles east of Great Yarmouth, but was then lost and not heard of again. A second tried three times to break through our patrols N.W. of Westkapelle, but TORRINGTON's M.T.Bs. each time intercepted them and drove them home severely punished. The third group had rather better luck, N.E. of N.F. 7, and in the neighbourhood of N.F. 10, buoys, and probably laid some mines, but was engaged by KRAKOWIAK, RIOU and ARENDAL and their M.T.Bs., and one boat was set on fire. Our forces suffered no damage or casualties.

(b) SS. NEWLANDS was torpedoed and sunk by a midget U-Boat off Tamarisk Buoy, H.D.M.L. 1471 attacked without success and half an hour later had two torpedoes fired at her in the same neighbourhood. M.L. 137 sighted a midget off Elbow Buoy, tried to ram, and did drop depth charges, after which there was here no further activity. PUFFIN sighted another midget 7 miles south of No. 4 Buoy and did ram it. The midget exploded and damaged PUFFIN.

(c) 3 mines were detonated off the Far Shore.

Channel.

*U. 399 sunk*

2. The small Dutch coaster PACIFIC was torpedoed in convoy B.T.C. 108 at 0656 by U.399 4.6 miles 230° from The Lizard. DUCKWORTH, of E.G. 3, scored a hedgehog hit on her just 17 minutes later 6.5 miles 260° from The Lizard and collected one survivor.

Norway,

3. H. Nor. M's M.T.Bs. 716, 717 and 723, on Operation "V.P. 85", one mile north of Tviberg in Stavfjord, fell in with an enemy convoy of one 2,500 ton merchantman, and two escorts. Enemy opened fire first, but our craft replied, with gun and torpedo and may have sunk the merchantman. M.T.Bs. 717 and 723 suffered superficial damage and slight casualties.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Movements.

4. (a) IMPLACABLE arrived Port Said from Gibraltar.  
(b) NEWFOUNDLAND arrived Port Said and left for Suez.



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SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Bay of  
Bengal. 26th  
D.F.  
Operations.

5. 26th Destroyer Flotilla sighted a convoy in 10° 36' N. 94° 56' E. (east of Andamans) at 1047 today. Assisted by group of Liberators they attacked: two merchant ships were sunk by gunfire, also two S/M chasers, one by gunfire and the other by torpedo. Our ships suffered superficial damage and casualties. (270503Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines.

6. Following naval bombardment by Allied cruisers and destroyers American forces landed at Talisai (south of Cebu City (Cebu)) today. Enemy opposition light, but beaches heavily mined. (271102Z.)

Formosa.

7. Escorted Liberators bombed dockside, warehouses and vessels under repair at Takao. Fires were started on wharves and one large freighter damaged.

Japan.

8. Today American amphibious forces made landings on four of the Kerama Islands in the Okinawa group, (Nansei Shotos). By midday two of the islands had been captured.

H.M.A.S. TERKA  
loss of.

9. H.M.A.S. TERKA (water carrier) foundered in Madang Harbour (N.E. New Guinea) today.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Probable U-Boat. Contact with enemy submarine 58° 00' N. 02° 04' 30 " W.  
(ARAB 260220A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Am attacking suspicious contact in position 57° 50' N. 01° 54' W.  
(STELLA PEGASI 261801A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Midget U-Boat activity. Ship torpedoed by midget submarine at Tamarisk. (M.M.S. 41 261109 to C. in C. Nore.)  
Sighted midget submarine position 8 cables 020° Tamarisk.  
(M.L. 1471 261140 to C. in C. Nore.)

Have just been fired at with 2 torpedoes.  
(M.L. 1471 261210 to C. in C. Nore.)

M.L. 137 when escorting 3 ships from the Downs to R/V with convoy T.A.C. 76 at S. Falls reports sighting midget submarine lying stopped on the surface in position 183° Elbow Buoy 6 cables. M.L. attempted to ram but passed over midget dropping three Mark VII depth charges set to 60 feet, nothing further was sighted. Merchant ships were ordered to return to the Downs and an M.T.B. was sailed from Ramsgate and patrolled in the vicinity for the remainder of the night but there was no further activity.

(V.A. Dover 261239A to Admty.)

U-Boat and small battle unit summary to 1100Z/26th.

- (1) 1340Z/25th. Beaufighter Q/254 sighted midget U-Boat 52.12 N. 03.45 E.
- (2) 2045Z/25th M.L. 137 attacked midget U-Boat 183 Elbow Buoy 0.6 miles.
- (3) 0231Z/26th. PUFFIN rammed midget U-Boat 190 4 Buoy 7 miles. Midget exploded and damaged PUFFIN.
- (4) 1009Z/26th. SS. NEWLANDS torpedoed and sunk near Tamarisk Buoy. H.D.M.L. 1471 attacked midget U-Boat here at 1040Z and had two torpedoes fired at her at 1110Z.  
(C. in C. Nore 261625 to Admty.)

Minesweeping off E.Coast. Magnetic mine detonated 1115 in position 120° 12A Buoy 2.1 miles.  
(F.O. Humber 261207 to C. in C. Nore.)

E-Boat activity night 25/26th March. (1) 16 Group aircraft shadowed three groups from Hook. Group A 7 boats steering 310° group B 6 boats group C 8 boats both steering southwest. Aircraft's V.H.F. R/T reports were of considerable assistance to patrol frigates.  
(2) Aircraft's radar broke down when group A was 45 miles 100° from Yarmouth. This group was not heard of again.  
(3) Between 0100 and 0225 group B tried three times to break through patrol 19 northwest of Westkapelle. Each time TORRINGTON successfully vectored M.T.Bs. to intercept and enemy retired. M.T.Bs. 475 and 476 in two close range engagements inflicted heavy punishment, one E-Boat being set on fire and severely damaged.

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Monday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

E-Boat  
activity  
night 25/  
26th March.  
(Contd.)

(4) Group C split into 2 groups of 4 boats each. At 0110 RIOU (patrol 16) drove off one group 8 miles northeast of N.F. 7 buoy enemy retiring before M.T.Bs. could engage. Other group at 0132 was driven off by Polish KRAKOWIAK (patrol 14) before it reached swept channel. One E-Boat set on fire. It is possible this was RIOU's group making second attack. Mining possible 1½ miles north of N.F. 7.

(5) At about 0140 4 E-Boats got past Norwegian ARENDAL (patrol 17), being detected when 3 miles south of patrol. They reached N.F. 10 about 0200 and probably laid mines before retiring north. At 0210 ARENDAL turned them northeast and they retired inshore of patrol 19 where M.T.Bs. 475 and 476 chased them as far as Schouwen.

(6) Shore radar was seriously handicapped by heavy cloud effects Blankenberghe not picking up ARENDAL's group until on the way out when 4½ miles north of N.F. 11. Westkapelle also plotted this group. No other E-Boats detected by Ostend plot.

(7) Written action reports not received.

(C. in C. Nore 261307A to Admty.)

E-Boat action 25/26th March.

N.R.G. 1, 4 E-Boats detected in position 353 Ost. 16 F 15 at 0103 steering south. Illuminated and engaged by ARENDAL 0114. Enemy retired to northwest making smoke. Position furthest south 348 Ost. 13 F 12.

N.R.G. 3, 4 to 6 E-Boats detected in position 002 Ost. 14 F 15 steering south. ARENDAL thus to northward. Illuminated by ARENDAL and then RIOU reported his M.T.Bs. being illuminated. Range opened quickly and report sent to RIOU. Regained contact with N.R.G. 3 at 0207 in position 022 Ost. 12. Illuminated and engaged by ARENDAL 0210. Enemy turning east under smoke. One E-Boat claimed hit and damaged. No return fire observed. Some confusion with own forces which did not switch on fighting lights when illuminated by ARENDAL at 0217. Not switched on until requested by ARENDAL.

(ARENDAL 261650A to C. in C. Nore.)

Patrols.

Coastal force dispositions night 26/27 March:

Patrol 1 unit F.C. 1 M.T.B. 795, 766.

Patrol 2 unit F.C. 2 M.T.B. 781, 770.

Patrol 3 unit F.C. 3 M.T.B. 612, 673.

Patrol 5 F.C. 5 unit M.T.B. 758, 762.

Patrol 6 unit F.C. 6 M.T.B. 741, 753.

Patrol 7 unit F.C. 7 M.T.B. 701, 794.

Patrol 8 unit F.C. 8 M.T.B. 383, 391.

Patrol 12 unit F.L. 2 M.T.B. 482, 449. Unit F.L. 3 M.T.B. 454, 478.

Patrol 22 unit F.B. 8 M.T.B. 393, 386. Unit F.B. 9 M.T.B. 380, 384

Patrol 51 M.L. 593. U.G.L. 52 M.L. 590. A.L.E.O. 2922 F.B. 6

M.T.B. 442, 440, 485. C.P.L.E. 1525 F.A. 2 M.T.B. 5002, 5010,

765. F.A. 3 M.T.B. 458, 492, 470.

From Ostend. A.L.U.R. 2316 unit F.A. 8 M.T.B. 772, 691.

A.L.U.R. 2100 unit F.B. 2 M.T.B. 788, 787. A.L.U.R. 3312 unit

F.H.3 M.T.B. 475, 473. F.H.4 M.T.B. 474, 479. Patrol 16 unit

F.G. 2 M.T.B. 773, 739. Unit F.G. 5 M.T.B. 724, 728.

(C. in C. Nore 261636A to Admty.)

/Minesweeping...

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping My 251716A. Mines report No. 5.  
off Far (1) 0925 on 25th March, 1945.  
Shore. (2) Q formation port. M.M.S. 80, 294, 295.  
(Starboard LL/SA.)  
(3) Yes. (4) One and a half cables. (5) M.M.S.  
80 51° 00' 51" N. 01° 48' 39" E. course 226°.  
(6) 061° 250 yards. (7) One pulse blue to starboard  
(8) 3 seconds. (9) Not known. (10) None. (11) One. (12) Zero.  
(13) 30 feet. (14) None.  
(1) 1044 on 25th March, 1945.  
(2) Q formation port M.M.S. 80, 294, 295. Starboard LL/SA.  
(3) Yes. (4) One and a half cables. (5) M.M.S. 295 50° 59' 58"  
N. 01° 46' 48 " E. course 231. (6) 056° 200 yards. (7) One  
pulse blue to starboard. (8) 3 seconds. (9) Not known.  
(10) None. (11) One. (12) Zero. (13) 30 feet. (14) None.  
(V.A. Dover 261642A to Admty.)

Your 251707. Sweep completed. 6 actuations. Those on  
one lap between longs. 02° 42' E. and 02° 36' E. should be  
considered ineffective owing to traffic. One mine detonated.  
My 261051 refers. Centre line numbers not recovered. E.T.A. 4  
sweepers Small Down 2100. 1 sweeper and 1 danlayer 22200.

(S.O. M.S.F. 40 261801A to C. in C. Nore.)

Minesweeping report for Monday 26th March.

3 M.M.S. swept LL/SA I.G.M.S. of Q.Z.S. 685. 2 actuations full  
width of channel from O.D. 5 to O.D. 3 buoy, 4 actuations full  
width of channel from O.D. 3 buoy to position 005° O.D. 1 buoy  
1.9 miles.

3 M.M.S. swept LL/SA E.G.M.S. of Q.Z.Y. 565 from position 51.21.15  
N. 02.40.54 E. to N.F. 9 buoy. 3 actuations of 1 mile wide  
channel.

3 M.M.S. swept LL/SA E.G.M.S. and explosive sweep of Q.Z.S. 686  
from position of N.F. 8 buoy to position of N.F. 10 buoy. 3  
actuations full width of channel.

3 B.Y.M.S. swept LL/SA E.G.M.S. and explosive sweep of Q.Z.S. 686  
from position of N.F. 10 buoy to N.F. 12 buoy. 4 actuations full  
width of channel.

All sweeping negative results.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend 261952A to F.O. Belgium.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 356 part 4 section A.  
Situation Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/25  
Report. March.

<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	50	208	8,644	-	9,955	-
Ostend	745	50	4,888	-	-	2,183
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,385	-	-
Calais	4,027	-	781	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,389	-	-	2,459
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,822</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>17,702</u>	<u>1,385</u>	<u>9,955</u>	<u>4,642</u>

/U.S. North...

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Monday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

<u>U.S. North</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	-	434	30,129	-	-	41
Cherbourg	72	140	4,551	1,802	-	3,269
Le Havre	4,145	293	6,239	670	-	1,461
Rouen	5	14	7,185	454	2,460	198
Granville	-	-	-	1,776	-	-
Ghent	-	27	9,512	-	-	2,668
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,222</u>	<u>908</u>	<u>57,616</u>	<u>4,702</u>	<u>2,460</u>	<u>7,637</u>
<u>U.S. South.</u>						
Marseilles	5,439	724	9,980	718	-	2,659
Port de Bouc	-	-	3,177	-	-	2,024
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,439</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>13,157</u>	<u>718</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,683</u>

Note: 108 tons G.F. Ammo. discharged at Antwerp (U.S.) 24th March, not previously reported.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 261430A to Admty., and others.)

Operations.

Channel.

DUCKWORTH's B.T.C. 108 merchant ship PACIFIC torpedoed in  
U-Boat, U. 399 position 230° Lizard Head 4.6.  
(ROSELYS 260656A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Have sunk U-Boat (1?) survivor so far.  
(S.O.E.G. 3 260713A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
My 260713. U. 399 sunk in position 49° 56.5' N. 05° 22.4' W.  
by DUCKWORTH with Hedgehog in first attack. German U-Boat was  
northbound just clear of bottom. Ship reported as being hit on  
starboard side. Am raising evidence.  
(S.O.E.G. 3 260755A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Regret to report Dutch ship PACIFIC in B.T.C. 108 torpedoed  
and sunk at 0656A on 26th March in position 230° Lizard 4.6 miles.  
Seven survivors being landed Falmouth, 17 minutes later at 0715A  
U-Boat was sunk in position 260° Lizard 6.5 miles one German  
survivor picked up.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 261011A to Admty.)  
Pass Gate at 0815A/27th and rejoin ROWLEY patrolling Lizard  
to Start.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 261828A to DUCKWORTH.)

/Have...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

DUCKWORTH's U-Boat U.399. (Contd.) Have attacked contact giving submarine trace apparently off bottom 152 feet long by 30 feet high in position 49° 56.5' N. 05° 22.4' W. DUCKWORTH's bird. Rejoining. (ROWLEY 262120A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Restrictions on use of W.C.radar. Recent trials with G.S.R. equipment have established that the detection range by G.S.R. fitted to the schnorkel top is of the order of 5-7 miles for type 291 transmissions and slightly less for type 286 with bearing accuracy of 30° to 40°.

(2) Since at present there is no enemy air or surface craft likely to be encountered in the Portsmouth Command without prior warning, ships of the Portsmouth A/S patrol force should avoid the use of types 291 and 286 and S.W. 2 C series except when in the opinion of the Commanding Officer special circumstances warrant their use.

(3) As far as is known U-Boats are not able to detect ten centimetre radar on the G.S.R. aerial fitted on schnorkel top and unrestricted use of W.S. sets in Portsmouth Command is permitted until further evidence is available.

(4) P.G.M. 12 D remains in force as the authority for use of I.F.F. in the Portsmouth Command.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 261215A to Portsmouth Command.)

Patrols. On completion of escort duty ships addressed negative VERSATILE, SUSSEX VALE, RIBBLE return to Portsmouth and anchor in area 28 at 1/2 hours notice (2) VERSATILE continue to Downs then as ordered by C. in C. Nore.

(3) Separate orders follow for SUSSEX VALE and RIBBLE.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 261239A to BAYNTUN, LOCH DUNVEGAN, BRAITHWAITE, HOTHAM, HAVELOCK, HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT, VERSATILE, SUSSEX VALE, RIBBLE, WALDEGRAVE.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. My 251740 postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth 261453A to HORNET.)

Operation "Dividend". Operation "Dividend". Arrangements have been made for anti-U-Boat air patrols in the Portsmouth Command to drop scaring charges by day. (2) These charges will be dropped at intervals while on patrol and aircraft will inform A/S vessels in the vicinity when scaring charges are about to be dropped by passing the codeword "Dividend" by R/T. (C. in C. Portsmouth 261855A to Portsmouth Command.)

Amended Fr. Fishing area. My 171745A for A.Z. 594 read A.Z. 634 as amended by Q.Z. 698. C. in C. Portsmouth, A.C. Dover and A.N.C.X.F. (Main) have concurred in proposed new fishing limits. Request appropriate A.Z. message may be promulgated. (S.N.O.B.O.P. F.251955 to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

E.Gs. 1, 10. F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail 1st E.G. at 2000/26th at best speed without incurring weather damage to relieve 10th E.G. in Portsmouth Command. (2) On relief by 1st E.G. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail 10th E.G. at best speed to Londonderry for layover.  
(C. in C. W.A. 260016A to F.O.I.C. N.I.)  
C. in C. W.A's 260016.

Sailed 1st E.G. BALFOUR (S.O.) speed 16 knots, 24 Unifoxer carried. Request Admiralty divert mails to Portsmouth. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange R/V.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 261845 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Anti-Schnorkel obstructors. H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE take INMAN and BRITTANY under his orders and proceed p.m. today 26th March routed north and west of Ireland to position 52° 00' N. 33° 00' W. thence to commence laying in accordance with A.M. 220130 para. 2. On completion of first lay return Greenock reporting E.T.A. A.M. 231903 also refers. Reference quoted not to all addressees but have been passed to ships concerned.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 261004A to ASSINIBOINE.)

A.M. 231903A request type O.P.F. obstruction be laid along lat. 52° 00' N. between long. 13° and 15° W.  
(2) BRITTANY can only carry 42 miles of obstruction to be evenly spaced out on this line.

(3) Position given in para. 1 of A.M. 220130A is cancelled.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 261131A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Request you will sail ASSINIBOINE (S.O.), INMAN, BRITTANY p.m. March 26th to carry out operation in accordance with Admiralty 220130 not to all addressees as amended hereunder.  
(2) Route A 270° Oversay 6. B. 55° 25' N. 09° 00' W. thence to commence laying between 13° W. and 15° W. on 52° N.  
(C. in C. W.A. 261156A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. As outfit without hydrostatic valves cannot be ready until Thursday 29th cancel my 231511 not to C. in C. Plymouth. Now intend following programme:

Date	Serial	R/V Time
28	N	1115
29	N E and B	0900
30	Trial A	1230
31	E	0845

(APOLLO 261221A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
Intend to sail APOLLO for operation "C.I." trial A at 0815 Friday 30th to R/V in position 51.12 N. 6.19 W. at 1230 proceeding via 613 Q.Z.S. Request 4 fast escorts so that A. mines can be observed from both quarters and B. ship can be screened as slow comparative trial will be necessary.

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.  
(Contd.)

- (2) Intend trial to be carried out in three series of fifty miles, starting with 50 at 20 knots. Speed of second and third series to be decided at the time by trial officers, but if first series is satisfactory second should be carried out at low speed.
- (3) Trial is to be carried out only if weather is entirely suitable for observing.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 261253A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.Gs. 6, 15. Com. D. W.A. is requested to sail 6th E.G. at 1600/27th at best speed without incurring weather damage to relieve 15th E.G. in Plymouth Command.

- (2) On relief by 6th E.G. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 15th E.G. to arrive Belfast by 0800/30th March for layover.  
(C. in C. W.A. 261258A to Com. D. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Norway.

Shipping  
strike off  
Norway.

A.M. 251251A.  
Position should read 62° 18' N. 05° 12' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 260625A to C.S. 1.)  
A.M. 251251A and 260625A.  
Position should read 63° 18' N. 08° 12' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 261104A to C.S. 1.)

Operation  
"S.C."

- Intend to sail "S.C." operation from Shetlands.
- (1) 0430A/27th March from Scalloway.
  - (2) 090° from Sumburgh Head 14 knots.
  - (3) 2000A/27th March.
  - (4) Between 2030A/27th March and 0500A/28th March.
  - (5) 270° to Sumburgh Head 15 knots. (6) p.m. 28th March.
  - (7) 090° Sumburgh Head. (8) No.
- (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 261131A to C. in C.H.F.)  
My 261131. (1) 59° 50' N. 05° 04' E. (2) Ramose Bluejacket.
- (3) Blank.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 261133A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation  
"V.P."

- "V.P. 85" M.T.B. 717, 716, 723 returned at 1515A today 26th March.
- (2) At 0310A/26th March about one mile north of Tviberg Unit detected by enemy convoy probably consisting of one gun coaster, one merchant ship (approx. 2500 tons) and one trawler. Enemy opened fire our force replied with gunfire and four torpedoes. One possible torpedo hit on vessel believed to have been merchant ship. Six pounder and light gun hits seen.



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Operation  
"V.P."  
(Contd.)

M.T.Bs. retired south through Herland Sundet, returning north round west side of Tviberg seven minutes later. Enemy forces had disappeared. Superficial damage from enemy fire suffered by M.T.Bs. 717 and 723. M.T.B. 723 had two ratings slightly wounded and one rating seriously wounded. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 261601A to C. in C. H.F.)

Reference Number H.F.985/60A dated 15th March, 1945.

The following preliminary report on Operation "V.P. 85" carried out on 25/26th March, 1945 is forwarded:-

M.T.B. 717 (Lt. Cdr. Ch. O. Herlofson, D.S.C., R. Nor. N.)

M.T.B. 716 (Lt. H.B. Gundersen R. Nor. N.) and

M.T.B. 723 (Lt. E. Kristianse, R. Nor. N.R.)

entered Stavjord north of Tviberg at approx. 0030/26th.

Visibility conditions were good up to 4 miles, there being some haze with a bright moon. At about 0310, a convoy, believed to consist of one gun coaster, one merchant vessel of about 2,500 tons and one trawler in line ahead in that order, was sighted northbound to the westward. Owing to an accidental exposure of fighting light in M.T.B. 723 the enemy detected the unit just before our own force sighted him. The enemy challenged by flashing the letters K W and opened fire with starshell. Lt. Cdr. Herlofson at once led his unit into the attack, endeavouring to illuminate the enemy by use of rockets, but only one was effective from a considerable number fired. M.T.B. 717 attempted to torpedo the leading ship but missed and M.T.B. 723 fired two torpedoes at the second ship in the line. Evidence is not conclusive, but it is possible that one hit was obtained. Conditions for attack were very difficult owing to the blinding effect of enemy starshell and concentrated tracer fire. Our force engaged the enemy with 6 pdr. and light automatic weapons. Several hits of all arms were seen on all the enemy ships. After a brisk gun action, our force retired south between Tviberg and Atlee and returned north passing to the westward of Tviberg, hoping to re-engage the enemy. On arriving north of Tviberg, they could see nothing of the convoy.

As our force was retiring between Tviberg and Atlee the enemy ships were appearing to be firing at each other.

In the course of the gun action, M.T.B. 717 suffered superficial damage. M.T.B. 723 sustained several hits from shell of at least 40 m.m. including a direct hit on the foremost 6 pdr. gun, one hit in hull on port side above water and one under water. Three ratings were wounded in the latter M.T.B., one seriously and two slightly.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 261752A to C. in C. H.F.)

"V.P. 73" M.T.B. 711, 709, 719 returned at 1605A today 26th March. (2) No shipping seen between 0325 and 0530/26th March while force was in leads.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 261621A to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.

26.3.1945  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W.66. Reference A.M. 251301A not to all addressees. Propose 7 Russian submarine chasers now in Clyde be sailed via Caledonian Canal to arrive Inverness 8th April.

- B. That C.Os. proceed thence to attend conference at Rosyth.
- C. That N.O.I.C. Inverness sail these craft as required by C. in C. Rosyth to R/V with submarine chasers sailing from Rosyth. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 261148A to C. in C. H.F.)
- Admty. 251301. Propose conference at Rosyth on 10th April. (C. in C. H.F., 261247 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Request for loan of a tanker. I have received a request from the Soviet Naval Staff for the loan of a tanker for delivery of fuel for Soviet ships which are in different parts of the Northern shore.

(2) In reply to my request for details of proposed employment, protection etc. the following has been stated:-

- A. tanker required from May to October 1945.
- B. To transfer black oil between Archangel and Murmansk about eight to ten thousand tons per month.
- C. All necessary measures for protection will be taken and ship will be sailed in convoy.
- (3) If loan is approved, recommend firm agreement on above lines. Previous experience shows the Kara Sea and Nova Zembla are apt to be dragged in later in the summer. (Adm. Archer 261506A to Admty.)

Patrol. Sail at 0600A tomorrow Tuesday and proceed east of Orkneys to establish Gamma between 61.27 N. 03.40 W. and 60.54 N. 02.50 W.  
(2) Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 261535A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

Convoy R.A.65. R.A. 65. Convoy sailing telegram items 10, 11, 12.

ADOLPH S. OCHS	Flax and General 2671 tons	Clyde
BRITISH MERIT (T)		Clyde
NERETINA (T)		Clyde
EMPIRE FLINT (T)		Clyde
FORT CREVECOEUR	3,700 tons apatite	Clyde
	920 tons potash, mail 76	
	bags, 12 passengers.	
LUCERNA (T)		Clyde
FORT VERCHERES	4,509 tons apatite	Clyde
	6 passengers.	
LACKLAN (T)		Clyde
BLUE RANGER (T) (R.F.A.)		Clyde
(9 British ships)		

26.3.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy R.A.65.  
(Contd.)

ARUNA S. ABELL	Ballast	Clyde
TOWNSHEND HARRIS	Ballast	Clyde
DANIEL WILLARD	Ballast	Clyde
NATHAN TOWSON	Ballast	Clyde
MARIE M. MELONEY	Ballast	Clyde
F.T. FREYLINGHEUSEN	Ballast	Clyde
JOHN J. ABELL	Ballast 22 tons caviare	Clyde
BENJAMIN F. DIXON	2,950 tons Chrome and German ammunition.	Clyde
EDWIN L. DRAKE	2,571 tons Chrome	Clyde
JOHN WANAMAKER	595 tons D.B.B.	Clyde
JOYCE KILMER	2,926 tons pulpwood 70 tons General.	Clyde
HAROLD L. WINSLOW	3,246 tons pulpwood	Clyde
FRANCIS SCOTT KEYS	1,803 tons Chrome	Clyde
GEORGE STEERS	2,483 tons Chrome ore 73½ General.	Clyde
HAWKINS FUDSKE	835 tons lumber	Clyde
LEWIS EMERY JUNIOR (16 American ships).	585 tons D.B.B.	Clyde
SKIENSFJORD (1 Norwegian)	15 passengers	Clyde

Total 26 ships.  
(13) A. Commodore W.C. Meek, R.N.R. B. Vice Commodore not known.  
(14) Incon 942 and 35 and 36.  
(15) 3 X-ray.  
(D.T.D. 261930A to C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Coal Situation in Norway. My 241321. I have perused Swedish Consul General at Oslo's report March 18th on coal situation Norway. Though lacking details enumerated in my telegram it bears out substance of report and he predicts that communications will be largely paralysed in Norway after 1st week of April.

(2) Additional information states coal dumps fit for purpose assisting locomotives over steep gradients are situated:  
A. Trondheim railway at Hjnrew Opdal. B. Bergen railway at Voss and Al. B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm 261749 to D.N.I.)

Movements.

A.F.D. 51, Floating Dock. My 251710A sailed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 261200A to C. in C. Nore.)

A.F.D. 67, Floating Dock. Cancel my 231656\*not to all. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail A.F.D. 67 for Falmouth March 18th escorted by SWEETBRIAR, FUSILIER.  
(2) FLINT CASTLE sails from Cardiff p.m. March 27th  
\* File cancelled.

/to...

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

A.F.D. 67, to fuel at Milford Haven and is subsequently to  
Floating Dock. R/V with A.F.D. 67 off Skerries as arranged by  
(Contd.) F.O.I.C. Liverpool.  
(3) SWEETBRIAR is to leave convoy off Lundy  
Island and return to Liverpool. C. in C. Plymouth  
is requested to provide additional escort from  
Lundy Island if considered necessary.  
(4) F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail FLINT CASTLE,  
FUSILIER to Plymouth for escort of NORSEMAN. Admty. 211504A  
not to all refers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 261458A to F.Os. i/c Liverpool, Milford Haven,  
Falmouth, C. in C. Plymouth.)

ZODIAC Intend sailing ZODIAC eastabout to Scapa pass  
destroyer. Spithead Gate 0200A/28th. Com. D. H.F.'s 051158  
Feb. and 181836 March neither to all refer.  
(2) Speed 25 knots except in the Nore command  
where speed is to be 20 knots and adjusted to  
arrive Scapa first light 29th. Zigzag in Portsmouth, not in the  
Nore command, and at discretion on entering Rosyth Command.  
(3) Routed standard route and Q.Z.Y. 559, Q.Z.S. 513, 517 to  
pass Dumpton Buoy 0700A/28th thence Q.Z.S. 463, 577 to B.1 buoy  
and searched channels in force through Barrow Deep and The Would  
Q.Z.Y. 551, 552 and passing Tyneside on Q.Z.S. 334.  
(4) Communications in accordance with S 2/44 Section 2 table 1  
line 9 shifting to line 7 at 0300A/29th.  
(5) Request shore lights as indicated by plot.  
(6) Request mail diversion.  
(7) Cs. in C. pass to F.Os. in charge and N.Os. i/c concerned.  
(8) ZODIAC acknowledge and sail to comply.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 261904Z to C. in C. H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

B.T.C. A.M. 250048A (not to all) B.T.C. convoys and C.  
convoys. in C. W.A. 091942A Feb. Anticipate B.T.C  
convoy departure under new timetable will be at  
1300 daily from Milford Haven.  
(2) Propose: A. Ships for south coast in B.B.  
convoys to detach at M.H. buoy for Milford Haven for on-  
passage with daily B.T.C. convoys. Entry will be arranged if  
time and conditions permit.  
B. Through route to destination to continue to be held as at  
present in addition to Bristol Channel Ports.  
C. To facilitate transfer of signalmen. A ship for Barry Roads  
to be detailed as Commodore ship in B.B. convoys.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 261513A to Admty.)

26.3.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

13th Destroyer Flotilla. Delete all reference to WOLVERINE and SS. EMPIRE RAWLINSON in my 252248.  
(2) WOLVERINE is now to return to Gibraltar in company with MALCOLM.  
(3) EMPIRE RAWLINSON's 251915 (N.T. in W.D.) to F.O.G.M.A. only refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 260241A to E.G. 24.)

Proposals re (A) O.S. convoys. A.M. 250707. My proposals as in my 241121A.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 260931A to Admty.)

H.M.S. BARFLEUR trials. Anticipate BARFLEUR will complete gunnery trials by the end of March.  
(2) On completion of trials intend to sail BARFLEUR independently to Portsmouth with scientists and trials gear.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 261031A to Admty.)

Gibraltar Escort Force. Request confirmation that WESTON and SNOWDROP will not now join Gibraltar Escort Force as addition of 2 escorts is much needed.  
(2) A.M. 131741 corrected by A.M. 151626 and A.M. 251142 none to C. in C. Med. refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 261131A to Admty.)  
Reply: 271207A.

Checking up of Spanish shipping from S. America. My 081152 SS. CIUDAD DE ALICANTE due Cadiz 27th March.  
(D.E.W.D. 261412A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Detach one ship to patrol off Cadiz and intercept Spanish CIUDAD DE ALICANTE and escort her to Gib.  
(2) CIUDAD DE ALICANTE left Las Palmas at 0200A/25th March and is estimated to arrive Cadiz at 1330/27th.  
(3) If enemy action necessitates ship is to be recalled to group immediately.  
(4) Acknowledge.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 261949A to Group 1.)

F. S/M CASABIANCA. Sailed from Horta at 1501Z/26 F.S. CASABIANCA escorted by U.S.S. HENRY. R. KENYON for Casablanca routed as in C.T.F. 25 132053 amended by C.T.F. 25 152054. S.O.A. 12 knots, E.T.A. Casablanca 0840Z/30th.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores 261610Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

ARIADNE minelayer. No action Cdre. 8th 252354Z or Cominch 261430 and proceed Horta best speed arriving 1200Z tomorrow Tuesday.  
(ARIADNE 262343Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

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26.3.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

WASTWATER  
A/S whaler.

Durban/Zanzibar 1 (via 023° 32' S. 037° 05' E.)  
(2) 1314Z/26th March. (4) 8 knots.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban 261410Z to Admty.)

Routeing of  
traffic be-  
tween Casa-  
blanca and  
Dakar.

A.M. 250707A. To meet F.O.G.M.A's proposals  
the following alterations appear desirable in my  
area.  
Para. 1. Cancel (i) mark routes, (ii) present O.S.  
and S.L. routes, (iii) British and French standard  
coastal routes.

Para. 2. Establish (i) standard southbound and for  
O.S. convoys when in force shift position D in  
F.O.G.M.A's 211110 west to new D. 26.10 N. 16.10 W. E. 24.25 N.  
18.20 W. F. 14.40 N. 18.20 W. G. 09.30 N. 17.50 W., thence  
Freetown. Ships for Dakar break off at F, ships for ports  
south of Freetown from position D to join "Maroon" routes at  
new "Maroon" positions to be established on lat. 24.00 N.  
thence by ? "Maroon" and "Cocoa".

Para. 3. Establish standard northbound and for S.L. convoys  
when in force (i) 10.00 N. 17.38 W. (ii) 15.00 N. 18.00 W.  
(iii) 24.05 N. 18.00 W. thence to T as in F.O.G.M.A's 211110.  
Para. 4. In view of fact that sailings from Freetown and Lagos  
are governed by tide and that speed of ships varies between  
7 and 13 knots to reduce overtakings propose second northbound  
route 10 miles inshore of above through (i) 10.05 N. 17.30 W.  
(ii) 15.00 N. 17.50 W. (iii) 23.45 N. 17.50 W. (iv) 26.10 N.  
15.10 W. thence as desired by F.O.G.M.A. Ships of 10 knots and  
over to use outer route, remainder inner route.

Para. 5. It still appears to me that suggestion in last para.  
of my 221152 (N.T. in W.D.) provides a simpler solution.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 261450 to Admty.)

SOUTHERN ISLE  
A/S trawler.

Sailed SOUTHERN ISLE to Kilindini through (route)  
(2) S.O.A. 10½ knots. (3) E.T.A. 1400Z/2nd April.  
(Care. Durban 261519Z to Admty.)

BARON JEDBURGH  
10.3.45.

Ref. my 221823Z missing lifeboat picked up empty  
torpedoed, in position 008° 20' S. 033° 20' W. at 1330Z/25th  
March, survivors having evidently been rescued by  
unknown ship.

(A.S.O.(I) Recife 262009Z to Admty.)

BARON JEDBURGH on passage Trinidad to Capetown  
was torpedoed 2215/10th March lat. 010° 13' S. long. 024° 55' W.  
C.O. boat with 25 survivors picked up by SS. SANDOWN CASTLE  
March 16th lat. 009° 01' S. long. 031° 46' W. landed here.  
Survivors report 2 other lifeboats with survivors got away from  
steamer. Submarine was not sighted. Names of survivors sent by  
Consul to M. of W.T.  
(B.R.L.O. Montevideo 262215Z to Admty.)

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26.3.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

S/M STORM. H.M.S. STORM sails from Malta at 0930A/27th March by reverse of standard route L to arrive Gib. daylight 31st March for onward routing to U.K.  
(2) Speed 11½ knots.  
(Capt. (S/M) 1, 260847A to F.O.S/M.)

Air Report. Coastal details. 4 Beaufighters bombed and set fire to buildings on jetty at Umago and hit schooner with R.P. and cannon. 2 Wellingtons attacked possible E-Boats and a larger vessel off Grado with unobserved results. 8 Spitfires hit rails and bombed and strafed rail movement near Brod, Yugoslavia. 3 Wellingtons bombed 3 unidentified vessels and 2 probable F-Boats off Genoa.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., 260902 to Agwar.)

Appointment of Captain Alexandria. Following measures are reported by F.O.L.E.M. as being in hand:  
(A) Appointment of Captain Alexandria in lieu of Rear-Admiral Alexandria with reduced staff and responsibilities. F.O.L.E.M.'s 171053 refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 251114A to Admty.)

A.F.D. 30. A.F.D.30 towed into Port Sudan by ASSIDUOUS and Port Sudan tugs. Dock expects to sail for Massawa today 26th in tow of ASSIDUOUS and HENRIETTA MOLLER. Your 241323 refers.  
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A., 261151B to Admty.)

Ships using Odessa. (P.S.T.O. Med., 261930A to D. of S.T.)  
See Lion Copy.

Linrep No. 242. Summary of operations 22nd to 25th March. The identity of Kesselring's successor is not yet firmly established but it appears that General Lemelsen hitherto Commander of 14th Army is acting in place of Colonel General Vietinghof who previously deputised as Commander in Chief South West.  
(A.F.H.Q., 262052A to W.O.)

# 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.)

*Black Sea.  
Ships using Odessa.*

TOP SECRET

261930A/March

Date: 27.3.45

FROM: P.S.T.O. Mediterranean.

Recd: 0207

Naval Cypher XD by W/T

ADDRESSED: D:of S.T.

Repeated: P.S.T.O. Mid East, C.in C.Mediterranean.  
F.O.L.E.M. Admiral Archer.

IMMEDIATE

Admiralty pass to Admiral Archer. Your 242207 para.5. Regret unable confirm at present that April commitment to move 12,000 Russians ex Marseilles can be met for following reasons

(A) Date for move of and destination for 46 Division still uncertain, and dependent on this is whether additional commitment ex Italy involved

(B) Planning of shipping to meet M.K.F.43 lift ex Med. which is approximately 10,000 from Mid East and Western Med. respectively can not be made yet owing (A) above and whether any transshipment necessary in view your paras. 3 and 4.

2. However

(A) BERGENSJORD and ARAWA on completion of voyage Taranto to Odessa could arrive Marseilles about 28th April, and

(B) LARGS BAY could be available Marseilles about 30th April.

(A) is calculated on assumption these two vessels are fully embarked with French for Marseilles on present return voyage from Odessa.

3. Your para.6. In view uncertainty what shipping will be available for M.K.F. 43 for reasons given above and lack knowledge what accommodation available for Mid East in vessels ex India. Request both RUYSS and EMPIRE PRIDE proceed in K.M.F.42.

4....



4. Further signal follows regarding paras.1 and 4 of your 242207 and comments requested in your para.2 will be made as soon as practicable.

5. Agreed.

261930A

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F)  
D.of S.T.

✓ Repetition to P.S.T.O.Med. of  
A.M. 242120 re ships using  
Odessa.

\* Passing action being taken by  
War Registry

1st S.L.(3)  
D.F.S.L.  
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.(15)  
Hd.of M.(2)  
N.A.Mails  
D.of S.(2)  
D.S.O.  
W.D.  
Ad.Blake  
A.D.O.D.(CO)  
D.of P.(2)  
D.of P.(Q)(3)

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26.3.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 260444Z to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

Anti-U-Boat  
squadrons,  
re-organi-  
sation of.

A.X. 649. (1) A.C.S.E.A. Stage II target force for G.R. squadrons as at present planned, includes four flying boat squadrons and six Liberator squadrons. In view of acute lack of airfields suitable for operation of L.R/G R. land-planes in Malaya A.C.S.E.A. have requested that their Stage II G.R. target force be altered to include six flying boat squadrons and four Liberator squadrons.  
(2) In view of reduced scale of U-Boat threat in Indian Ocean and immediate need to meet critical manpower deficiencies A.C.S.E.A. propose also that re-organisation of their anti-U-Boat squadrons to conform to the Stage II target force, modified as above, should begin forthwith. Understand C. in C. East Indies Fleet concurs.  
(3) Request your comments on the above proposals with which Air Staff are in full agreement. As we wish to implement the re-organisation without delay would be grateful for earliest reply. (A.M. Whitehall 261535A to Admty.)

7th M/S  
Flotilla

Departed RECRUIT, RIFLEMAN, PLUCKY, CHAMELEON,  
PINCHER, R.F.A. HEYSER.  
(Com. Aden 261612Z to Admty.)

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26.3.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat sweep. My 251914. Sweep completed, nil report. Seas too high and disturbed. Rejoining convoy O.N.290. My P.C.S. 0101/26th 44.22 58.28, 259, 14. DAUPHIN in company. (H.M.C.S. COBALT, 260103Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. (C) (1) CARLPLACE obtained H.E. about 1800/24th March in 44.25 N., 63.25 W. (2) COBALT made several attacks on contact after 0439/25th March in 44.30 N., 52.27 W. (3) U.S. C.G. DIONNE obtained asdic contact at 1406/25th March in 43.34 N., 67.50 W. (4) Canso Z/161 sighted swirl feather smoke obtained H.T. reactions, at 1448/25th March in 43.08 N., 67.17 W., and sighted suspicious object at 1620. GODERICH attacked H.T. contact of A/C at 1705 and at 1815 Z/161 attacked suspicious object same vicinity. Para. (D) (1) Canso F/161 sighted oil slick obtained H.T. re-actions at 1755/25th March in 43.59 N., 68.11 W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 260703Z to Admty.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 261337Z, Cominch, 261635.)

MEON (Frigate). As it is undesirable for escorts to proceed to U.K. independently intend sailing MEON to U.K. as additional escort with C.1 Group escorting H.X.347 arriving U.K. about 14th April. N.S.H.Q. 191403\* not to all addressees refers. (C. in C. C.N.A., 261422Z to N.S.H.Q.) \* Anticipate MEON ready to sail 29th March for U.K. Expected time of arrival 5th April.

ARIADNE. Proceed direct to Azores searching along route. Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.) 252104\* refers. Onward routeing from Azores by Admiralty. (Cominch, 261430 to ARIADNE.) \* Ref. diversion from route to search for U.S. Army plane.

U/B reports. Para. (C) (1) 1800/24 H.M.C.S. CARLPLACE had sound contact 44.25 N., 63.25 W. (2) 0024/26 T.G. 22.8 reported radar contact 44.08 N., 62.56 W. (3) 1705/25 H.M.C.S. GODERICH attacked contact on sonobuoy laid by A/C area 43.08 N., 67.17 W. and at 1815/25 Canso A/C attacked suspicious objects same vicinity. (4) 1059/26 Canso A/C attacked periscope course 272 in 43.09 N., 68.18 W. All times Z. Para. (D) (1) 1600/25 Tug WILLET reported sighting periscope and top of conning tower 19.59 N., 74.24 W. (2) 2136/25 U.S.S. MURPHY attacked possible contact with negative results 43.47 N., 67.45 W.

/(3) ...

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26.3.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat  
report.  
(Contd.)

(3) 2145/25 Canso A/C reported R.S.B. Contact in vicinity oil bubbles 43.58 N., 68.11 W.  
(4) 0735/26 U.S.S. MERVINE had radar contact vicinity 37.11 N., 74.24 W.  
(Cominch, 262212Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
1160,  
25th March.  
(Extract)

This covers 25th March unless another date given.

(3) Evening Navy Liberator returning from Geep search straffed convoy 10 sea trucks off south-east Formosa heading north-east forcing two to beach, leaving another smoking.

(4) Delayed report states unspecified aircraft damaged single enemy destroyer escort north of Formosa 23rd March.

(5) Luzon forces east of Manila captured Mount Balidbirun. Advanced to position 500 yards west-south-west New Boso Base, secured Santo Tomas. Enemy Luzon casualties to date total 91,565 killed, 906 captured.

(8) Single patrol plane over Formosa destroyed lighthouse. Scored near misses two small coasters setting one afire.

(11) Two Liberators on shipping search east coast Borneo damaged one sea truck, four small coasters, one small grounded freighter transport sank one barge.

(14) Before dawn 24th March three separate Liberators bombed Ishlgaki Island, Kiirun Docks and Tien Ho near Canton.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 260811Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/26th March.

Para. (A) (1) A/C Q/304 attacked U-Boat course 345° at 1551Z/25th March in 50° 11' N., 09° 54' W.

(2) Du. PACIFIC in B.T.C.108 torpedoed at 0556Z/26th March in 49° 56' N., 05° 16' W.

(3) E.G.3 attacked U-Boat at 0613Z/26th March in 49° 56' N., 05° 18' W.

/Para. (B) ...

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Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

Para. (B) (1) A/C F/59 obtained A.S.V. contact  
at 2015Z/25th March in 55° 55' N., 10° 22' W.  
(2) H.M.C.S. COBALT attacked possible U-Boat  
contact at 0439Z/25th March in 44° 30' N., 52°  
27' W.  
(3) A/C P/248 and L/248 sighted wake and smoke  
course 180° at 1510Z/25th March in 60° 41' N.,

03° 54' E.

Para. (C) (1) H.M. Trawler ARAB obtained U-Boat contact at  
0120Z/26th March in 58° 00' N., 02° 04' W.  
(2) A/C sighted object believed schnorkel at 0748Z/26th March  
in 52° 32' N., 05° 02' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 261030Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (D.D.I.C., 261432A, 261443A.)

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27.3.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) EKINS has destroyed a midget U-Boat 12 miles north of Ostend.  
(b) 6 mines have been swept off the Far Shore.
- Northern Waters. 2. 21st Escort Group made a promising contact about 25 miles West of Cape Wrath. CONN scored a hedgehog hit and brought up German cigarettes, Norwegian matches, a deflated German rubber dinghy and a piece of human flesh.
- U. 965 sunk*
- Baltic. 3. Coastal Command made a further successful attack on U-Boats in the Southern Baltic last night.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

- Movement. 4. ARIADNE (minelayer) sailed from Horta to Plymouth.

Australia and New Zealand

- China Coast. 5. To-day Liberators attacked and sank many small Coasters and sea trucks off Amoy and Hongkong.
- Japan. 6. To-day and yesterday carrier borne A/C of T.F.57 under the command of Vice Admiral Sir Bernard Rawlings and Rear Admiral Sir Philip ~~Kair~~ (carriers) and consisting of KING GEORGE V, HOWE, INDOMITABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS, SWIFTSURE (C.S.4), GAMBIA, ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE, EURYALUS and 12 destroyers carried out daylight attacks on Myako and Ishigaki Islands of the Sakishima group. Ryuku Archipelago Airfields and installations were bombed in 574 sorties, several coasters were attacked one blown up. 21 Japanese aircraft
- Vian*

/were ...

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Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

were destroyed, our losses were 17 aircraft, 6 brought down by flack. Task Force was not attacked. Task Force is now under operational control of Admiral R.A. Spruance, U.S. Commander 5th Fleet, (290247Z and 291621Z (B.A.D.))

7. Between the 25th and to-day inclusive, Carrier borne aircraft of the U.S. Pacific Fleet ranged over the Ryuku islands attacking shipping and installations. Three enemy destroyers or escorts and five cargo ships were damaged and several small craft were wrecked and burned. U-Boat pens at Unten Bay on West coast of Okinawa were heavily hit (282326).

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27.3.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Possible Gnat torpedo. Underwater explosion experienced in position 52° 06.4' N., 01° 48.8' E., possible Gnat, am carrying out "Observant". 2 M.T.B. were stationed 3 and 5 cables astern speed 12 knots. (MELBREAK, 270236A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation "Eclipse". The following has been received from S.H.A.E.F. (Forward) begins:  
(1) As a result of the successful crossing of the Rhine and the present rapid progress of the Allied Armies it is appreciated that "Eclipse" conditions may commence any time after 15th April.  
(2) The naval parties required for the occupation of German ports should be brought to one weeks notice from that date.  
(3) If this is not possible request you will inform me of the earliest date they can be brought to this state of readiness. D.T.G. 261600A March.  
(2) Please inform me direct if you can comply with sub-para. 2 and if not pass information required by sub-para. 3. (A.N.C.X.F., 271140A to C.T.F. 124.)  
Reference A.M. 220751A and my 181548A the following has been received from S.H.A.E.F. (Forward) begins:  
(1) As a result of the successful crossing of the Rhine and the present rapid progress of the Allied Armies it is appreciated that "Eclipse" conditions may commence any time after 15th April.  
(2) The Naval parties required for the occupation of German ports should be brought to one weeks notice from that date.  
(3) If this is not possible request you will inform me of the earliest date they can be brought to this state of readiness. D.T.G. 261600A March. Ends.  
Para. Two. Request I may be informed when formation of parties can be undertaken in order that I may comply with para. three of S.H.A.E.F.'s message. (A.N.C.X.F., 271142A to Admty.)

Midget U-Boat activity. Type BIBER midget S/M detected by radar and identified visual at 0245 in position 348° Ostend 12 miles course south. After initial attack dived position marked by dan buoy and area thoroughly plastered 5 miles plot. No evidence except small quantity light oil and one small unexplained explosion. No A/S contact. Area searched 6 hours. Expenditure 71 depth charges, 48 hedgehog charges. Destruction probable. (EKINS, 271220A to C. in C. Nore.)  
U-Boat and small battle unit summary to 1100Z/27th.  
(1) 0207Z/27th. EKINS attacked midget U-Boat 348 Ostend 12 miles.  
(2) Incidents (2) and (3) in my 251902 refer to same midget. First aircraft was R/254.  
(3) Reference (4) of my 261625. H.D.M.L.1471 possibly destroyed midget attacked. Probable that two midgets were present. (C. in C. Nore, 271826A to Admty.)

/Strike ...



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27.3.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.Strike off  
Dunkirk.M.T.Bs. will be operating off Dunkirk between  
0001 and 0600 tomorrow Wednesday.(2) Request Army be instructed accordingly.  
N.O.I.C. Ostend's 181437A as amended by his  
181915A and 182120A refer.(V.A. Dover, 271309A to S.N.O.B.O.P.F.) As  
amended by 271646.M.T.Bs. 608 (S.O.), 616 are to form Unit F.P.1 and sail to  
pass East Goodwin No.2 Buoy at 2330 today Tuesday thence at 20  
knots to position (a) 51° 12'36" N., 02° 11' E., thence to  
patrol between position (a) and position (b) in 51° 07'36" N.,  
02° 16'36" E. Object as briefed.(2) Unit is to leave patrol at 0530 and return to Ramsgate  
by the same route unless prisoners are embarked, then unit  
is to return to Dover.(3) Radar positions of Unit will be passed out at intervals  
with reference to position (a) until plot fades and on return  
passage as soon as identified.

(V.A. Dover, 271720A to M.T.Bs. 608, 616.)

Minesweeping  
off Far  
Shore.Detonated 1 blue mine 030° N.F.7 1.8 miles.  
(S.O. M.S.F.1, 271314A to C. in C. Nore.)

Sweeping report for Tuesday 27th March.

3 M.M.S. swept LL/SA E.G.M.S. and explosive  
sweep of Q.Z.Y.565 from position 51.21.15 N.,  
02.40.54 E. to N.F.W.O. Butz. 2 actuationsof 1 mile wide channel: also 1 actuation LL/SA E.G.M.S. of  
Q.Z.S.649 negative results. 3 M.M.S. swept LL/SA I.G.M.S. of  
Q.Z.S.685 2 actuations full width of channel from O.D.5 to  
O.D.3 buoy. 4 actuations full width of channel from O.D.3buoy to position 005° O.D.1 buoy 1 point 9 miles. Negative  
results. 3 M.M.S. swept LL/SA E.G.M.S. and explosive sweep  
of Q.Z.S.686 from position of N.F.8 buoy to position of N.F.10 buoy. 3 actuations full width of channel. Negative  
results. 3 B.Y.M.S. swept LL/SA E.G.M.S. and explosive sweep  
of Q.Z.S.686 from position of N.F.10 buoy to F.N.12 buoy. 2actuations full width of channel also 7 additional actuations  
full width of channel from 2 miles east to 2 miles west of  
N.F.10 buoy. Also 2 actuations of Q.Z.S.649 3 mines detonatedin following positions: 1 acoustic mine detonated at 1036 in  
position 51.23.30 N., 03.02.30 E.1 red magnetic mine detonated at 1248 in position 51.22.40 N.,  
02.59.48 E.1 acoustic mine detonated at 1310 in position 51.22.30 N.,  
02.59.42 E.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 272120 to Com. Belgium.)

Reference C. in C. Nore's 202319A March. Oropesa  
clearance to depth of 5 fathoms carried out 1½ cables each  
side of centre line.(2) Mines exploded in sweep in position 51.24.41 N., 03.13.40  
E. 1 G.R. mine cut in position 51.24.40 N., 03.13.42 E.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 272123 to Com. Belgium.)

/Discharge ...

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27.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 357, part 4, section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/  
26th March.

	<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	58	640	11,786	-	16,611	-
Ostend	2,388	337	5,197	-	-	2,928
Boulogne	213	149	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	783	-	-
Calais	3,930	-	656	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,950	-	-	2,010
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,589</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>20,589</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>16,611</b>	<b>4,938</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	281	27,449	-	-	50
Cherbourg	-	68	7,060	1,727	-	3,064
Le Havre	2,797	251	4,805	595	744	1,082
Rouen	1,542	446	6,533	595	1,585	269
Granville	-	-	-	1,526	-	-
Ghent	-	-	7,736	-	-	1,769
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,339</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>53,583</b>	<b>4,443</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>6,234</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	96	340	9,057	940	-	1,378
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,740	-	-	999
Toulon	-	-	144	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>10,941</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,377</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 271415A to Admty. and others.)

Operations

Channel

Reduction of  
MASTODON.

A.M. 251233. Admiralty letter M/COD/0169/45 of 20th March does not affect my proposals for the reduction of MASTODON to care and maintenance. These proposals still hold good.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271020A to Admty.)

Patrols.

- (1) Request you sail 2 M.T.Bs. Unit G.B. at 0700A/27th to relieve Unit G.A. on patrol in area limits Q.Z.S.629, Route E.W., between 01° 40' W. and 02° 20' W.  
(2) Boats will leave patrol on relief by further unit a.m./29th.  
(3) Pass to M.T.Bs. concerned.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271024A to HORNET.)

Possible  
U-Boat.

M.L.344 attacking contact in position 088° Start Point 6 miles. STONECROP and M.L.292 joined in hunt. M.L.292 A/S gear out of action.  
(STONECROP, 271842 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Have ....

27.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Possible U-Boat. (Contd.) Have attacked with depth charges strong smell of oil. No other trace stationary target still investigating. Have not forgotten there is wreck in neighbourhood. Visibility 3 cables. (STONECROP, 271908A to C. in C. Plymouth.) Am still holding contact. At present unable to attack A/S recorder and echo sounder not working due to depth charges. Repairs in progress. M.L.344 has lost touch. Visibility 2 cables. (STONECROP, 272033A to C. in C. Plymouth.) A/S recorder repaired. From trace it is considered contact which has been held is non-submarine but in view of previous oil report intend to remain sweeping in area until sail for convoy duty. M.Ls. carrying out "Observant". (STONECROP, 272230A to C. in C. Plymouth.) Have obtained contact 137° Start Point 4½ miles attacked with hedgehog and brought up oil. Target on bottom. (STONECROP, 272351A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Unifoxers. The speed of tow of Unifoxers controls the noise out-put and depth of tow.  
(2) The minimum useful speed for self-protection is 10 knots when the depth of tow is approx. 9 to 10 fathoms.  
(3) This depth will increase on losing speed during alterations of course and, while zig-zagging, a medium speed through the water of 12 knots should normally be maintained.  
(4) Although there is no risk to the towing ship, Unifoxers should not be towed through deep minefields at less than 10 knots in order to avoid detonating mines unnecessarily.  
(5) P.A.S.I.S. paras. 17A and 17B will be amended.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271944A to Portsmouth Command.)

Operation "Nestegg". If Operation "Nestegg" is required while U-Boat activity remains in the Channel it is requested that at least one additional escort group may be allocated specifically for the defence of convoys to and from the Channel Islands and for the A/S protection of the harbours and adjacent waters.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 272027A to Admty.)

Naval Situation Report. Line Hais/Hamel Hais 5 is now completed and working at full efficiency. (2) Le Havre. In Bassin Vetillart dredging to allow berthing of ships drawing up to 25 feet at all 10 berths has been completed. Construction work on quays at present makes berths unsuitable except for unloading into barges. In Petroleum Basin berth 3 has been completed with two shore lines for M.T.80 only.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 272220A to Admty.)

27.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France

Opening  
of Bayonne.

Marine Paris 2620? (not to all). Port of Bayonne may now be opened to controlled traffic using approach channel from position 43° 34' 22" N., 01° 39' 10" W. thence 115° to entrance. (2) Promulgation of searched channel should not be applied for until full minesweeping reports are received. (A.N.C.X.F., 271520A to C.T.F.122.)

M.M.S. to  
Brest.

Sail 0200 tomorrow 28th for Brest via following route: How Channel to How 8 thence to 50° 20' N. 02° 15' W. thence by Q.Z.H.237 to position (D) in Q.Z.S.694 thence to point (F) (48° 33' 40" N. 05° 23' W.) thence to point (G) (48° 13' 36" N. 05° 23" W.) thence by Q.Z.S.617 into Brest anchorage. (C.T.G. 122.2, 271721A to 209th M.S.F. (F.M.M.S. 1054, 1055, 1064 (S.O.), 1070.))

German  
activity.

French report following. (A) On 25th March at 1018 a German armed vidette observed moving toward Quiberon from north and at 1510 coming from Groix toward Penthievre four trawlers followed by three or four small craft also observed. (B) On 26th March Germans reacted against French fire with 77 mm. and 88 mm. guns on road near Fort Penthievre, no damage. At 1500 Kerviane received 15 hits from 340 mm. Bego battery, no damage. 19th Infantry Division fired on Bego battery. (C.T.F.122, 271735A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols and  
Escorts.

Request you will sail 23rd E.G. at 0900/28th to form Force 33 and patrol between 55° 15' N. and 55° 30' N. and 06° 00' and 07° 15' W. leaving patrol area as necessary to support convoys between Altacarry and Skerryvore. (C. in C. W.A., 271629A to Com. (D) W.A.)

Operations

Norway

Operation  
"S.C."

Ramose Bluejacket sailed HESSA 0430A March 27th. (2) Air escort not especially required on return journey. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 270435A to C. in C. H.F.) Ramose Keen VIGRA returned at 1705A/27th March. (2) Operation successful. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 271707A to C. in C. H.F.)

/Operation ...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Operation "Fox Chase". Intend carrying out following operation with Home Fleet destroyers against enemy shipping between Lister and Stavanger all times Zone A.  
(2) Force 3 consists of four destroyers detailed by R.A.(D) H.F. sail from Scapa a.m. D-day and proceed at 24 knots to arrive at west end of Q.Z.L.68 at about 1700.  
(3) Force 3 pass through Q.Z.L.68 and turn south-eastwards to proceed through position (TA) (all position North and East) 58° 06', 04° 20' and arriving position (TB) 58° 06', 06° 10' about 0001 D + 1. Thence sweep to northwards about 5 to 7 miles off coast avoiding deep minefields. Northern limit of sweep is to be 58° 55' N. which should be reached by 0300.  
(4) Force 3 turn westward not later than 0300 and retire through Q.Z.L.68 to Scapa.  
(5) C. in C. Rosyth is requested arrange with 18 Group C.C. for long range fighter escort to R/V with Force if necessary at eastern end of Q.Z.L.68 at 0530 D + 1 and remain with Force until about 1000 if possible.  
(6) Codeword in my 271027. D-day in my 271030.  
(C. in C. H.F., 271020A to Admty., C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C.)  
My 271020, codeword "Fox Chase".  
(C. in C. H.F., 271027A to Admty., C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C.)  
My 271020, D-day Sunday 1st April.  
(C. in C. H.F., 271030A to Admty., C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C.)

Patrols. Intend sailing VIKING 1300/29th March through  
(A) 090° Muckle Flugga 10. (B) 61° 04' N., 00° 01' E. (C) 61° 04' N., 02° 00' E. (D) 60° 53' N., 02° 43' E. (E) 59° 47' N., 03° 33' E.  
(F) 59° 02' N., 04° 29' E. thence to patrol in area bounded by, north 59.10 N., West 04° 10' E., South 58° 15' N. and a line running 230° from 58° 23' N., 06° 03' E., East Norwegian coast except inside Skudesnes Fiord where limit is 05° 37' E.  
(2) Diving by day east of 01° E. speeds west of 01° E. 9 knots then 100 miles 24 hours.  
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 271235A to F.O.S/M., C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Leave patrol so as to pass through position 60° 52' N., 04° 00' E. at 2230A/29th March thence to Lerwick by reverse of outward route diving by day east of 01° E.  
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 271450A to DOLFIJN.)  
Intend sailing UTSIRA 1000A/29th March through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 then by route Orange to 64° 30' N., thence through 64° 30' N., 08° 28' E. to patrol in Fro Havet area.  
(2) Diving by day north of 62° N. speed 9 knots till 62° N. then 90 miles per 24 hours.  
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 271644A to F.O. S/M., C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Your 271235. In view of C. in C. H.F. 271020 postpone sailing of VIKING by 48 hours.  
(F.O. S/M., 272159A to S.O. S/M. Lerwick.)

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27.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Soroy refugees. Following is draft of 261055 from C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy. Begins: Today I am sending 1,200 gallons oil fuel to Vadso. If time for landing is before 1200. Weather, north wind, force 5 to 6, snow, visibility good. As previously stated, 6 soldiers and 40 to 50 civilians remain on Soroy, and about 500 persons on surrounding islands. They have food for about 1 month. The most suitable place for a R/V I consider to be Sharak Nord (?Fiord), Hostvedt. T.O.O. 261055. Ends.  
(3) Admiralty pass P/L version to Air Ministry.  
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 270137A to Admty.)

E.G. 17. Scapa departure 0620 S.O. E.G.17 in ASCENSION with BURGESS, LOCH LOMOND, MOORSOM.  
(C. in C. H.F., 270731A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

CONN's U-Boat. *U.965 sunk* Attacking promising contact in 58° 34½' N., 05° 47' W.  
(S.O. Force 32, 271258A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 271358A not to all addressees. Consider contact German U-Boat. Hedgehog and depth charge attack, CONN produced much oil and wreckage of German origin. Still in contact and endeavouring to obtain further evidence. Further signal follows.

(S.O. Force 32, 271546A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 271546A.

CONN obtained ssdic contact at 0918 and attacked with hedgehog and 5 charge patterns. Echo-sounding traces show depth of water 66 fathoms and object 226 feet below the surface. Slight movement, no doppler. (66 fms. = 396 ft.) CONN again attacked with 10 charge patterns which was followed 22 minutes later by hedgehog attack which produced 2 explosions 25 seconds after firing. This attack brought large quantities of diesel oil to surface and wood wreckage. Echo-sounding traces show object on bottom 90 feet long, 20 feet high. Further depth charge attacks produced following evidence of U-Boat: 1 tin cigarettes Avus brand made by Greiling of Dresden, tin containing packets Oriental cigarettes Sulima, box of safety matches brand Nitedals of Oslo, flag marked WINKFLAG 50 x 50 with Nazi symbol, leather uniform Citchet with identity disc of Hans Fischer N 169(964?)/41T, piece of human flesh, German deflated rubber dinghy. Contact now on bottom in position by Q.H. 58° 34'30" N., 05° 47' W. endeavouring to hold contact and obtain further evidence.  
(S.O. Force 32, 271603A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 271603. Further depth charge attacks have produced more oil and wreckage. Samples of both have been recovered. Flesh has been identified by Medical Officer as human and has been preserved in accordance with W.A.G.O.68. Consider German U-Boat destroyed. Contact has now been stationary on bottom but now difficult to hold. Have buoyed position and intend carrying out "Observant". CONN remains in vicinity contact throughout night.  
(S.O. Force 32, 272153A to C. in C. W.A.)

27.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Baltic

Air attacks  
in Southern  
Baltic.

For your information reference your 251101 further  
successful attack carried out last night.  
Intend to carry out third and final attack on  
night 29th/30th March.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 271250A to Admiral Archer.)

Casualties and Defects

SS. LLANGIBBY  
CASTLE and  
ANTENOR.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE struck amidships by ANTENOR  
engine room LLANGIBBY CASTLE flooded sea level,  
main engines and auxiliaries out of action, other  
compartments at present tight. ANTENOR heavy  
bow damage, making no water. ANTENOR is badly  
locked under deck of LLANGIBBY CASTLE and will  
have to be cut free. Request Ridsen Beasely send three good  
burners. Vessel at present aground off Calshot Light Vessel  
with tugs in attendance. Every effort being made to cut  
vessels apart and if possible will anchor vessels in Area 7 for  
examination. Special caution needed for incoming and outgoing  
ships.

(C.S.V.O., 271800 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

LLANGIBBY CASTLE and ANTENOR in collision and both aground  
off Calshot Spit clear of Channel.  
LLANGIBBY CASTLE badly damaged port side and engine room flooded.  
ANTENOR's bows still embedded in LLANGIBBY CASTLE no military  
or other casualties so far reported.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271917A to Admty.)

ANTENOR now berthed after collision with LLANGIBBY CASTLE.  
The latter is considerably damaged and is at anchor with tugs  
standing by. The former is also badly damaged. Dry docks are  
being prepared for both ships. Further reports follow in due  
course.

(D.S.T.O. Southampton, 272100 to D. of S.T.)

My 271917A. ANTENOR now clear of LLANGIBBY CASTLE and  
towed to Southampton. LLANGIBBY CASTLE anchored off Cowes,  
clear of Channel.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 272215A to Admty.)

Movements

ROCKSAND,  
SAINFOIN,  
SEFTON,  
L.S.I.(L)s.

It is intended to sail H.M. ships ROCKSAND,  
SAINFOIN and SEFTON from Clyde in K.M.S.99 for  
Mediterranean and O/R to India.  
(2) Request you will arrange accordingly.  
(Admty., 271728A to R.A.L.S.C.U.)

A.F.D.67,  
Floating  
Dock.

Intend to sail A.F.D.67 in tow of H.M. Tug  
GRIPER escorted by LAVENDER and FUSILIER 1500A/  
28th March to Falmouth in accordance with C. in  
C. W.A's 261458, estimated speed of advance 5  
knots. Remaining escort 17 miles at 0500A/29 or  
as ordered by F.O.I.C. Liverpool.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 271837A to Admty., C. in C.  
W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

/A.F.D.51 ...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

A.F.D.51,  
Floating  
Dock.

SKYE proceed as requisite to R/V at "F" Buoy at 0800A/28th with EMPIRE LARCH towing A.F.D.51 escorted by FOULNESS and H.D.M.L.1396. OUTPOST in stand-by Tug. Codeword "Yarpole". Speed 4 knots.

(2) SKYE relieve FOULNESS and with H.D.M.L.1396 escort "Yarpole" to Downs where C. in C. Nore is requested to provide onward escort.

(3) Route Q.Z.S.626, Q.Z.Y.559, Q.Z.S.513, 517, 459.

(4) FOULNESS and SYKE return to St. Helens on relief.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271900A to C. in C. Nore, SKYE.)



27.3.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

13th D.F. State of 3 destroyers of 13th D.F. now precludes me from providing necessary fast escorts for ship in para. 4 of A.M. 221328 (N.T. in W.D.)  
(2) A. MALCOLM has been taken in hand for boiler cleaning and defects. Date of completion approx. 4th or 5th April  
B. VERITY overdue for boiler cleaning and due for refit, 2nd April  
C. WOLVERINE overdue for boiler clean and has defects which reduce her speed to 15 knots for short periods.  
(3) Request loan of 2 U.S. or British destroyers in order that this fast escort commitment may be met.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 271032 to C. in C. Med.) Reply 271436A (Med.)

EASTWAY (L.S.D.) Your 261131. Confirmed that WESTON and SNOWDROP will not at present rejoin West African Escort Group 55 and 57 now lent to Gibraltar Command.  
(2) WESTON is to escort EASTWAY on return passage to U.K. (para. 3 of A.M. 141824 to F.O.G.M.A. only.)  
(D.O.D.(F) 271207A to F.O.G.M.A.) See 291743A.

ARIADNE (A/C search) My 271452 proceed when ready through new position A. 40° 30' N. 20° 17' W. rejoining original route at Q.  
(2) Aircraft will be in vicinity of wreckage to assist you to locate.  
(3) Request you will joist in all wreckage possible for delivery to R.A.F. at destination.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores 271848Z to ARIADNE.)  
Departure Horta at 2009Z/27th ARIADNE routed through position etc. (2) S.O.A. 25 knots, E.T.A. 0900Z/30 March.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores 272228Z to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

VOLAGE (damage.) Your 231129 and para. 2 of my 241517. Confirmed that VOLAGE can be accepted at Durban.  
(2) It would be appreciated if an estimate of the time required in dock could be furnished.  
(C. in C. S.A. 271046B to C. in C. E.I.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Cositintrep Coastal Air Force. Operations in all areas  
No.624 were curtailed by the weather. 4 Beaufighters  
Extract. on recce. Promontore/Maestra scored 8 R.P. hits  
on 100 foot Merchant Vessel. 4 hits on a  
motor launch and 4 hits on a barge.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 271230A to W.O.).

Black Sea. Your 242207 N.T. in W.D. and my 261930. The  
Shipping safe limitation of over-all length for personnel  
using ships using Odessa was agreed by representatives  
Odessa. Admiral Archer, S.T.O. and Master DUCHESS OF  
BEDFORD. The agreement was based upon seaman-  
like procedure in view limited swinging room  
absence tug mooring boat and other port  
facilities. Consider RUYB 566 feet and NIEUW HOLLAND 560 feet  
would be acceptable but acceptance of ALMANZORA 589 feet  
introduces more than normal risk unless she is above average  
manoeuvrability. Comments of masters of other ships will be  
obtained first opportunity.  
(2) Your para. (4) (B) personnel ex ALMANZORA could if necessary  
be staged at Taranto.  
(3) Agreed.  
(P.S.T.O., 271235A to D. of S.T., and 302049A).

South Up to 0900 hours 27th March, 1945.  
Aegean G.I/99265 cipher 27th March. Secret. Ref.  
Summary enemy landing Calato. Now reported enemy force  
Extract. of 100 to 150 landed in morning and left evening  
23. This figure probably exaggerated. Our  
patrol found no enemy on 24th March but it is  
probable that enemy det. remained with W.T.  
(C. in C.M.E., 271305B to W.O.).

13th D.F. Arrangements will be made to meet commitment  
para.3 your 271032 March.  
(C. in C.Med., 271436A to F.O.G.M.A.).

Aegean I intend to transfer responsibility for Greek  
Islands Aegean Islands from Commander in Chief Middle  
(responsibil- East to Commander Land Forces Greece on April  
ities). 1st.  
(A.F.H.Q., 271549A to A.M.S.S.O., J.S.M.Wash.).

Cositintrep (3) Casualties to 0600A/25.  
No.844  
to 1500 hrs. Killed Wounded Missing P.W.  
27th March. British 20,364 86,910 18,697 47,600  
American 20,307 71,678 10,285 47,754  
Polish 1,760 7,280 505 4,192  
Brazilian 194 1,148 183 578  
Italian 635 1,979 737 259  
(H.Q.15th Group, 272020 to War Office).

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat No information, scale in all areas remaining W.5.  
 dispositions. (C. in C. E.I. 270352Z to S. & A. )

Action summary. Details from interrogation. Convoy sighted in  
 26th D.F. position 010 degs. 36' N. 094 degs. 56' E. at  
 (on 26.3.45) 1047 F.G. 26th.  
 (2) 222 Group Liberators homed to join in and 2  
 attacked.  
 (3) RISUI MARU 1500 gross tonnage cargoes stopped  
 by gunfire, sunk by bombs at 1235 F.G.  
 (4) TESHIO MARU 400 gross tonnage cargo, meat, oil and general sunk  
 by gunfire at 1330.  
 (5) S/M chaser 63 sunk by torpedo at 1420.  
 (6) S/M chaser 34 sunk by gunfire at 1440.  
 (7) Prisoners taken by Flotilla.  
 (A) Naval Officers 5. (B) Naval ratings 36 (4 wounded).  
 (C) soldiers 2. (D) Merchant seamen 3 (not Japanese).  
 (E) Assorted women 7 only. (One Japanese).  
 (8) Superficial damage and casualties in ship.  
 (9) One Liberator struck mast of RISUI MARU and crashed. 2  
 survivors in H.M.S. SAUMAREZ.  
 (10) 4.7 ammunition expended H.M.S. SAUMAREZ 660, H.M.S. VOLAGE,  
 820, H.M.S. VIGILANT, 960, H.M.S. VIRAGO 720.  
 (11) Torpedoes expended H.M.S. VOLAGE 6, H.M.S. VIGILANT 8,  
 H.M.S. VIRAGO 4.  
 (12) High expenditure of ammunition due to (A) Extreme difficulty  
 of hitting S/M chaser.  
 (B) Merchant ships though repeatedly hit would not burn or sink.  
 (Capt. D. (26) 270503Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Munitions Your 200633 March. Following bombs 500 lb. M.C.  
 for E.I. Mk. VII and components have been shipped as  
 Fleet. freight.

CHASER 48. ARBITER 200 in accordance with  
 Admiralty message 241644 February.  
 EMPEROR did not take any as freight.  
 1,500 M.C. Mk.VII bombs and six hundred 500 lb. G.P. ANM. 64  
 are now being loaded for shipment by commercial freight. Details  
 follow: subsequent shipments will be notified.  
 2,000 shell 60 lb. H.E. S.A.P. Rocket A/C 3 inch will be shipped  
 first available freight.  
 (2) Following ships are outfitted with bombs 500 lb. M.C. and 3  
 inch Rocket A/C.

Ship	Bombs M.C.Mk.VII.	Shell 60 lb. H.E.
ATTACKER	80	320
HUNTER	80	320
STALKER	80	320
EMPEROR	180	1,320
KHEDIVE	180	320
AMEER	Not exactly known.	
(A.C.N.S. (A), 272017A to C. in C. E.I.)		

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N.S.H.Q. (C)(1) A/C. F/161 disappearing Radar contact in  
S/M. attack 44.08 N. 62.56 W. at 0021 26th March.  
and sighting (2) A/C. N/5 attacked U-Boat which dived in  
summary. 43.09 N. 68.18 W. at 1059 26th March.  
(N.S.H.Q., 270306Z to Admiralty, Cominch).

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 271359Z and Cominch 271541)

S/M. Request anticipated date H.M. S/M. SPORTSMAN  
SPORTSMAN will be ready to sail from New London. Cominch  
082203 and Com. 4 212034 refer.  
(C. in C.C.N.A., 271522Z to Cominch).

S.S. BARON. BARON JEDBERGH (British) sunk by torpedo from  
JEDBERGH unseen submarine at 2230 G.C.T. 10th March in  
torpedoed 10 position 10.13 S. 24.55 W. 25 survivors (5  
March British, 20 Lascars) picked up by SANDOWN CASTLE  
(details). (British) at 2300 G.C.T. 16th March in position  
09.01 S. 31.46 W. and arrived Montevideo March  
26th. 13 British, 14 Lascars and 1 Chinese  
missing of total crew 53 no known dead. Books  
in wireless room thrown overboard in weighted perforated box.  
Publications on bridge in similar box not seen to have been  
thrown over side. Vessel sank within 15 minutes after attack  
without chance of having been boarded by submarine crew.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 271723Z to Admiralty, N.S.H.Q.).

Pacific Southeast Pacific: BON HOMME, RICHARM, RALEIGH.  
Summary Pacific Coast: ALABAMY, IOWA, RANGER, MONTEREY,  
No. Six. MONDA, COMMENCEMENT BAY, CAPE GLOUCESTER,  
Operational KWAJALEIN, MATANIKAU, TAKANIS BAY, GILBERT ISLAND,  
naval TUCSON 11 DD.  
units. Enroute U.S: None.  
Enroute Pearl: BLOCK ISLAND, CAPE ESPERANCE,  
KALININ BAY, PATROLLER, NEW ORLEANS.  
North Pacific: CONCORD, RICHMOND, TRENTON 9 DD.

Central Pacific: MASSACHUSETTS, INDIANA, WASHINGTON, NORTH  
CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, WISCONSIN, MISSOURI, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK,  
MARYLAND, NEVADA, IDAHO, ARKANSAS, TEXAS, TENNESSEE, WEST  
VIRGINIA, COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, HOWE, KING GEORGE V, GUAM, ALASKA,  
HORNET, BENNINGTON, ESSEX, BUNKER HILL, HANCOCK, YORKTOWN,  
INTREPID, INDOMITABLE, VICTORIOUS, INDEFATIGABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS,  
BELLEAO WOOD, SAN JACINTO, CABOT, BATAAN, LANGLEY, INDEPENDENCE,  
CORREGIDOR, BRETON, SITKOH BAY, CASABLANCA, STEAMER BAY,  
ANZIO, BARNES, SHAMROCK BAY, ATTU FANSHAW BAY, SAGINAW BAY,  
SARGENT BAY, WAKE ISLAND, TULAGI, WINDHAM BAY, ADMIRALTY ISLANDS,  
MAKASSAR STRAIT, NATOMA BAY, DAKIN ISLAND, LUNGA POINT, RUDYERD  
BAY, PETROF BAY, SANGAMON, ATHELING, RAJAH, REAPER, BALTIMORE,  
PITTSBURG, INDIANAPOLIS, SALT LAKE CITY, TUSCALOOSA, SAN FRAN-  
CISCO, MINNEAPOLIS, WICHITA, BILOXI, BIRMINGHAM, DETROIT, BLACK  
PRINCE, SWIFTSURE, ARGONAUT, EURYALUS, GAMBIA, VINCENNES, MIAMI,  
VICKSBURG, SAN JUAN, PASADENA, SPRINGFIELD, ASTORIA, WILKES,  
BARRE, ST. LOUS, SAN DIEGO, FLINT, OAKLAND, MOBILE, 158 DD.  
Pearl: SHANGRI-LA, LEXINGTON, TRIPOLI, BOUGAINVILLE, DASAAN BAY,  
SHIPLEY BAY, ALTAMAHA, LONG ISLAND, COPAHEE, RANEE, QUINCY 16 DD.

/South...

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Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Pacific  
Summary  
No. Six  
Operational  
naval  
units.  
(Contd.)

South Pacific: SUWANEE, CHANANG, 2 DD.  
South West Pacific: FORMIDABLE, HOLLANDIA, LAVO  
ISLAND, MARCUS ISLAND, SANTEE, WHITE PLAINS,  
SLINGER, STRIKER, SPEAKER, PORTLAND, SHROPSHIRE,  
DENVER, MONTEPELIER, PHOENIX, BOISE, CLEVELAND,  
HOBART, UGANDA, ADELAIDE, 76 DD.  
Non-operational at sea: None.  
(Cominch, 271936A to Admiralty).

WASKESIU  
Frigate.

On completion of about one week's work up Capt.  
D. Halifax 191944/February not to all refers  
H.M.C.S. WASKESIU returns to U.K. to rejoin  
E.G.6. Request this ship be sailed from Bermuda  
to Azores thence S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to sail her to U.K.  
as directed by Admiralty.  
(C. in C.C.N.A., 271959Z to SOMERS ISLES).

U-Boat  
report.

Para.(C)(1) 260021Z Canso A/C reported Radar  
contact 44.08 62.56.  
(2) About 262302Z A/C. attacked Radar and R.S.B.  
contacts vicinity 42.30 N. 58.30 W.  
Para.D.(1) 261055Z Army R/C. sighted possible  
periscope from 500ft. 39.34 N. 27.15 W.  
(2) 271600Z A.T.C. plane reported surfaced U-Boat course north  
35.25 N. 68.00 W.  
(Cominch, 272045Z to Admty. for O.I.C.).

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F.  
minesweeping  
requirements.

Minesweeping requirements in this area are  
likely to consist of:-  
(a) Ensuring passages for supply convoys through  
minefields in the South West Pacific Area.  
(b) Clearance of captured anchorages.  
(c) Clearing areas in which the Fleet can  
operate for example in the East China Sea.  
(2) For (a) above the Bathursts already allocated to this station  
will suffice when relieved of their present escort duties.  
For (b) above B.Y.M.S. are the most suitable vessels. For (c)  
above Bathursts are not considered suitable owing to their poor  
sea keeping qualities and the bad weather that is liable to be  
encountered in the areas where they are most likely to operate.  
(3) It is realised that on the conclusion of war with Germany  
minesweepers are the class of ship least likely to be spared  
from Home waters but it is requested that:-  
(a) One Flotilla of B.Y.M.S. be sent to this station.  
(b) At least one of the Bathurst Flotillas should be relieved by  
a Flotilla of modern minesweepers (ALGERINE or A.M. 100 Class).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F. minesweeping requirements (Contd.) (4) As these vessels will be operated several thousand miles in advance of their nearest shore base it is essential that they should be adequately supported by maintenance ships. (C. in C. B.P.F., 270115Z to Admiralty).

TELEMACHUS submarine TELEMACHUS has a severely injured officer and has been ordered to Darwin. Further signal will be made giving onward route. (C.T.F.71, 270706 to C. in C.E.I.S.).

Digest 1161 26.3.45 Extract. Delayed report states: Navy Liberator from Mindoro over French Indo China coast 25th March attacked shipping at Saigon. South China 2 small Freighter transports 2 small coasters damaging 2 Freighter transports 10 small coasters. (3) MARINER? from Lingayan over China Coast evening 25th March damaged 4 sea trucks by straffing 120 miles southwest Hong Kong. (4) Following naval bombardment by Allied cruisers and destroyers American forces landed Talisai (South Cebu City) against light enemy opposition including mortar fire beaches heavily mined but ground forces advanced to within 3 miles of Cebu City. Same morning 18 Liberators dropped 69 tons of bombs on Cebu City where Japanese reported effecting demolition of buildings and bridges with fire and explosives. (H.Q.S.W.P.A., 271102Z to Admiralty).

Tactical matters B.P.F. It is particularly desirable to have up-to-date information on tactical matters so that Admiralty may keep in close touch with developments. (2) It would therefore be appreciated if information on problems, difficulties and recommendations could be signalled as it comes to hand and more especially that there should be as little delay as possible in passing such signal after operations. (A.C.N.S.(W), 271401A to C. in C.B.P.F.).

B.P.F. Escort Carriers Reference PATROLLER, REAPER and RANEE, B.A.Db. 242121 (N.T.in W.D.). If these three C.V.Es. are not allocated to B.P.F. it will be difficult to keep the Fleet operating at its maximum efficiency. The light fleet carrier squadron could also not be supported operationally in the Pacific until arrival of the ships in para.(C) of your 161818. (2) It is considered however that our combined war effort in the Pacific would best be served if these C.V.Es. remain assigned to C. in C. Pac. until 1st July. (3) Some alternative lift for the squadrons that these C.V.Es. were to bring out to the B.P.F. would be required. (4) It would not be possible to effect the relief in last sentence of para.(2) (B) of A.M. 161818 (C. in C.B.P.F., 272307Z to Admiralty. Reply. 3000 Z.

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S/M. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z 27th March.  
and sighting summary. Para.A.(1) A/C. Z/311 attacked U-Boat at 2224Z  
26th March in 55° 32' N. 15° 11' E.  
(2) A/C. B/547 attacked submerged U-Boat with  
gunfire at 2243Z 26th March in 55° 13' N. 15°  
56' E. and at 2324Z/26th March in 54° 50' N. 15°  
36' E.  
(3) A/C. K/311 attacked U-Boat at 2232Z/26th March in 55° 20'  
N. 15° 38' E.  
(4) A/C. C/547 attacked U-Boat at 2240Z 26th March in 55° 38' N.  
15° 42' E.  
(5) A/C. B/547 attacked surfaced U-Boat with depth charges at  
2245Z 26th March in 55° 09' N. 16° 00' E.  
(6) A/C. L/311 attacked U-Boat at 2250Z 26th March in 54°  
10' N. 13° 33' E.  
(7) A/C. E/547 attacked U-Boat at 2306Z 26th March in 54° 48' N.  
14° 50' E.  
(8) A/C. L/547 attacked U-Boat at 2312Z 26th March in 55° 08' N.  
14° 25' E.  
Para.(B)(1) A/C. W/461 had grade 1 contact and saw suspicious  
object at 2045Z 26th March in 53° 00' N. 05° 29' W.  
(2) A/C. X/228 attacked grade 1 contact at 1816Z 26th March in  
52° 02' N. 05° 32' W.  
Para.(C)(1) A/C. L/201 saw smoke at 0900Z 26th March in 56°  
45' N. 07° 24' W.  
(2) A/C. O/107 had H/T contact at 0740Z 26th March in 49° 46'  
N. 06° 30' W.  
(3) A/C Y/86 sighted suspicious object at 0825Z 27th March in  
60° 00' N. 05° 00' W.  
(4) Dakota A/C. saw smoke and wake at 1800Z 26th March in 58°  
43' N. 01° 18' W.  
Para.(D)(1) Mitchell meteorological A/C. saw possible periscope  
at 1055Z 26th March in 39° 34' N. 27° 15' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 271224A to Cominch).

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions              (D.D.I.C., 271435A and 271419A.)

U-Boat                      My 221059 July, 1942.  
report.                      On the 20th H.M.C.S. NEW GLASGOW sighted and  
rammed a Schnorkel at 2330 in the moonlight in  
position 090° Inishtrahull 12 miles. A search  
was carried out by E.G.25 and on the 23rd H.M.C.S.  
THETFORD MINES recovered survivors of the U-Boat No. U.1003  
from dinghies in position 336° Inishtrahull 16 miles.  
(2) At 0713 on the 26th seventeen minutes after a small ship  
in convoy B.T.C.108 had been torpedoed in position 230°  
Lizard 5 miles, H.M.S. DUCKWORTH of the support group  
attacked a submarine contact with H/H 3½ miles to N.W. of  
this position and recovered one survivor from U.399.  
(D. of Anti U-Boat Division, 271940Z to Cominch).

28.3.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. M.L.586 reports being fired at with torpedo last night. She counter-attacked with depth charges and a large explosion followed.

Western Approaches.

*U. 722 sunk*

2. REDMILL of 21st E.G. attacked a promising contact 21 miles N.E. of Barra Island. Although no other identity proofs came to the surface, the oil slick was definitely diesel.

Norway.

3. C.S.1 with SEARCHER carried out a shipping strike off Aalesund, but the weather turned bad and no results accrued except the destruction of 3 (at least) Messerschmidts out of 6 or 9, by our Wildcats. One of our Barracudas is inexplicably missing from close escort.

Foreign Stations

East Indies

Burma.

4. Destroyers ROEBUCK and ESKIMO bombarded the Chaungtha area today and the Pagoda Point area yesterday without opposition. (311239)

Movements.

5(a) CUMBERLAND arrived Mauritius from Simonstown.  
(b) KENYA sailed from Colombo to Durban.

Australia and New Zealand

Borneo.

6. 12 Liberators of 13th Air Force struck enemy shipping today in southern Macassar Straits (Gulf of Bone) and sank 1 destroyer and probably another destroyer and damaged 6 other small vessels. (301133Z)

Formosa.

7. Mariners sank a large merchant vessel off Takao (S.W. coast of Formosa).

/Japan ...



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Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Japan.

8. Last night an American force consisting of 2 battle cruisers, 4 A/A cruisers and several destroyers bombarded Minami Daito 180 miles east of Okinawa (Ryukus).

28.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Strike off  
Dunkirk.

M.T.Bs. will be operating off Dunkirk between 0001 and 0600 tomorrow Thursday.

(2) Request Army may be instructed accordingly. N.O.I.C. Ostend's 181437A as amended by his 181915A and 182120A refer.

(V.A. Dover 281049A to S.N.O.B.O.P.F.)

Cancel my 281049.

(V.A. Dover 281505A to S.N.O.B.O.P.F.)

Operation  
"Placket".

Observing that in Operation "Placket" the clearway channel will be used by L.C.T. before ground minesweeping, suggest for consideration that it should initially be as in Nore No. 0517/60 of 17 February rather than as amended No. 0517/60 of 2nd March.

(A.N.C.X.F. 281110A to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 358 part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 271600A March.

<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	85	500	15,542	373	14,808	-
Ostend	1,670	116	894	-	1,157	177
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,381	-	-
Calais	4,031	-	78	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,079	-	-	2,153
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,786</u>	<u>616</u>	<u>19,593</u>	<u>1,754</u>	<u>15,965</u>	<u>2,330</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	365	29,709	-	-	-
Cherbourg	355	382	5,629	1,045	4,611	2,421
Le Havre	8,368	312	5,763	-	3,609	1,286
Rouen	-	124	7,436	696	1,600	-
Granville	-	-	-	1,623	-	-
Ghent	-	-	7,677	-	-	2,152
<u>Total</u>	<u>8,723</u>	<u>1,183</u>	<u>56,214</u>	<u>3,364</u>	<u>9,820</u>	<u>5,859</u>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	1,090	502	8,924	1,073	-	2,260
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,457	-	4,650	1,462
Toulon	-	-	155	-	-	-
Nice	-	-	100	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,090</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>11,636</u>	<u>1,073</u>	<u>4,650</u>	<u>3,722</u>

(S.H.A.E.F. 281440A to Admty., and others.)

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28.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Midget U-Boat activities.

U-Boat and small battle unit summary to 1100Z/28.  
(1) 2030Z/27 M.L. 586 reported a torpedo being fired at her. Large explosion occurred in depth charge attack at 2119Z/27.

(C. in C. Nore 281842A to Admty.)  
Cositintrep No. 358 part 2 naval.

Midget U-Boats were active in vicinity Nore Flushing Channel night 26/27th.

(2) Norwegian tanker BELINDA mined or torpedoed in Nore Flushing Channel 305° Zeebrugge 5 miles being towed back to Flushing by tug GOLIATH.

(A.N.C.X.F. 282359A to Admty.)

Action re ships and naval installations at Bremen and Hamburg.

(1) Estimate that Bremen and Hamburg may be in our hands by 5th April and 10th April respectively.  
(2) Consider it essential that a S.N.O. be attached to each Army H.Q. and this H.Q. at once to advise on action with regard to ships and naval installations ashore.  
(3) Request you will provide minimum necessary naval personnel for primary disarmament and control in the ports at earliest possible moment. Request

you will say by which date these will be available.  
(Exfor Main 282000A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Channel.

Possible U-Boat.

Further depth charge attack. There was ? oil. (STONECROP 280013A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
On amended position consider probability of wreck. Oil still emerging but extent of target at 1000 yards (is?) 30° and probably M/S. A/S gear (now?)

working. Still holding contact in view your 271634A. 24 depth charges 1 hedgehog pattern to replenish.

(STONECROP 280157A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Have examined STONECROP's contact position is 135° Berry Head 4 miles. Echo sounder gives height of over 45 feet. Consider it is non submarine contact number 19 shows on miscellaneous shorts on the beam. Am carrying out sweep in Lyme Bay. STONECROP remain over pending further orders.

(INGLIS 280346A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Patrols.

Establish following patrols forthwith.  
LOUIS, LAWSON, Pendeen to Lizard. INGLIS, LORING Lizard to Start.

(2) It is anticipated that E.G. 15 will be relieved by E.G. 6 vicinity Lizard about 2100A/28th  
(C. in C. Plymouth 280942A to E.G. 15.)

On arrival E.G. 6 establish following patrols. 3 ships Pendeen to Lizard codeword "Clinch Able".

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. (2) Ships Lizard to Start codeword "Clinch Baker"  
(Contd.) S.O.E.G. 6 report dispositions and S.Os.  
(2) Patrols are to be on coastal convoy route and  
all B.T.C. and T.B.C. convoys are to be trailed  
until turned over to adjacent patrols.  
(5) On relief by E.G. 6, E.G. 15 is to proceed to Belfast in  
company reporting E.T.A. direct.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 281014A to E.G. 6.)  
Sail so as to pass Gate at 0900A/29 and proceed patrol  
Pendeen to Lizard.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 281527A to DUCKWORTH, ESSINGTON, ROWLEY.)  
On return to Portsmouth detach HAVELOCK, INCONSTANT to enter  
harbour at 0900A/29th for 48 hour layover.  
(2) Remainder anchor as convenient at 1/2 hours notice.  
(3) HESPERUS, HOTSPUR, ICARUS weigh at 0900A/29th and proceed to  
patrol area 10 miles either side of route H from 49.50 N. to 50.20  
N. (3) Attention is called to Q.Z.X. 774.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 281726A to S.O.E.G. 14.)

Anti-U-Boat Request you sail M.Ls. 101 (S.O.), 573, 213, 107  
deep mining. and 104 Force G.H. at 0830A/29th March to carry  
out M.2 part 2 lay 2.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 281601A to HORNET.)  
Weigh at 0230A/29th March and carry out serial D.2.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 281716A to W. VAN DER ZAAN.)

Deep minefields in Portsmouth area and danger to merchant ships.  
Consideration has been given to the possibility of Red Ensign  
tugs, merchant vessels or trawlers being sunk or damaged by  
anchoring or trawling in the deep minefields laid, or about to  
be laid, in the Portsmouth Command. Operations "Pasture",  
"Brazier" and "Buttermilk" refer.  
(2) Due to fog or other circumstances, vessels may require to  
anchor in an emergency, and it is desired to define the areas  
where they can do so without fouling a minefield.  
(3) It is therefore proposed to establish a general area in which  
anchoring and trawling is prohibited by lines joining the  
following positions: A. 50.23 N. 02.00 W. B. 180° Beachy Head 5  
miles. C. 49.50 N. 00.13 E. D. 49.38 N. 00.39 W. E. 000°  
Pointe de Barfleur 3 miles. F. 49.45 N. 02.00 W.  
(4) This area is extensive but it embraces all the minefields and  
leaves the waters north of the main east/west channel, the  
vicinity of the French coast and the whole of the Baie de la  
Seine, free for anchoring in an emergency.  
(5) It is not thought that the promulgation of such an area would  
assist the enemy. Such knowledge may even cause U-Boats to res-  
trict their movements in the waters of the central channel.  
(6) If the proposals in para. 3 are concurred in, request pro-  
mulgation by A.G.M. and non confidential notices to Mariners.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 282008A to Admty.)

Reduction Your 271020. Proposal in your 220943 to reduce  
of MASTODON. MASTODON to care and maintenance at 14 days  
notice under Commodore L.C.B. is approved.

28.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Reduction  
of MASTODON.  
(Contd.)

(2) Disposal of C.O. personnel now in MASTODON should be reported to Admiralty and nominal lists sent to COPRA (drafting.)  
(3) Reference para. 2 of your 220943, request your proposals concerning the facilities at Buckler's Hard be forwarded to Admiralty. (D.C.O.D. 282129A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

Blockade of  
Biscay ports:  
Operation  
"Independence"

(1) There is a possibility that elements of the German forces in the Bay of Biscay pocket may attempt to escape to Spain.  
(2) As a preliminary to Operation "Independence" will you therefore assemble at once the French naval forces for Operation "Independence" and blockade the German occupied ports.  
(3) Desire you report the earliest date by which the necessary blockading forces will be ready to operate.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 282000A to A.N.C.X.F.) *See pages 523 and 562*

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols and  
Escorts.

U.S.S. PRICE and U.S.S. HISSEM escorting ATHLONE CASTLE on approach course 040° E.T.A. 56° N. 08° W. 1415A/28th routed thence through position A and North Channel 16 knots.

(2) Force 33 is to R/V with PRICE in 56° N. 08° W. and act in support until crossing 55° N. in North Channel thence proceeding to patrol as in my 271629 not to all.

(C. in C. W.A. 280120A to S.O. Force 33.)

Sailed 23rd E.G. in accordance with C. in C. W.A.'s 271629A March. C. in C. W.A.'s 121256 19 wires carried.

(Com. D. W.A. 280916A to C. in C. W.A.)

Following programme for support groups supersedes my 242247 February:-

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Return</u>	<u>Sail</u>
1	-	16/4	26/4
2	6/4	28/4	-
3	-	11/4	25/4
4	1/4	26/4	-
5	7/4	28/4	-
6	-	16/4	30/4
8	11/4	8/5	-
10	8/4	2/5	-
11	-	-	29/4
12	24/4	2/5	5/5
14	-	9/4	19/4
15	-	30/3	13/4

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

<u>Patrols &amp; Escorts.</u> <u>(Contd.)</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Return</u>	<u>Sail</u>
	16	3/4	27/4	-
	17	-	1/4	11/4
	18	6/4	1/5	-
	19	-	3/4	13/4
	20	8/4	2/5	-
	21	-	10/4	24/4
	22	-	20/4	4/5
	23	-	8/4	22/4
	24	-	5/5	7/5
	25	-	12/4	26/4
	26	-	14/4	28/4
	30	30/3	24/4	-
	31	-	4/4	18/4

(2) Arrangements for E.G. 9 will be signalled later.

(C. in C. W.A. 281826A to Com. D. W.A., Capts. D. Liverpool, Greenock, Belfast.)

Probable  
U-Boat.

*U. 722 sunk*

2nd Division 21st E.G. attacked possible contact in position 175° M 5 Buoy 6 miles. Contact gained and attacked by REDMILL producing oil. Attack by all ships have produced considerable oil covering a large area. From samples believe diesel. No other evidence. Echo sounder traces negative. Request information as to an old wreck in this area. Proceeding patrol.

(FITZROY 281245A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 281245. No known wreck in vicinity. Return to contact. (C. in C. W.A. 281632A to FITZROY.)

Your 281651A\*. Initial range 1900 firm estimate. No H.E. or movement at initial depth doubtful but definitely echo for following attacks. Recorder trace varies considerably but considered quite possible. No trace from 30 echo sounder run. Bottom contact has been attacked (?10) times with H.H. and 8 times with depth charges. Every endeavour will be made to secure more evidence.

(FITZROY 281830 to C. in C. W.A.)

\* C. in C. W.A. state message intended is presumably 281632 which is being passed to Admiralty.

My 281830. Further attacks produce nothing but oil. Still no echo sounder result. Intend carrying echo sounder run throughout the dark hours. Position buoyed. Request permission to detach BYRON to Lochalsh with oil samples, which are plentiful, to arrive at daylight.

(FITZROY 282110A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 282110 approved.

(C. in C. W.A. 282321A to FITZROY.)

*Suppl 524*

/Anti...

28.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Operation "C.H." serials N.3 and half two completed.  
(APOLLO 281544A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Following ships are to form E.G. 12 based at Liverpool:

\*LOCH

BLACK SWAN, MERMAID, L.TARBERT, BARBADOS, CAYMAN.  
(2) My 210017. NATAL is allocated to E.G. 8 in place of BARBADOS  
(C. in C. W.A. 282147A to Capts. D. Liverpool, Greenock.)

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols.

Intend to sail TURPIN at 1600A/30th March through  
A. 090° Muckle Flugga 10. B. 61° 04' N. 00° 01' E.  
C. 61° 04' N. 02° 00' E. D. 60° 15' N. 04° 00' E.  
thence to patrol Norwegian coast between 59° 55' N.  
and 60° 25' E.

(2) Diving by day east of 01° E. speed 11 knts. east of 01° E.  
then 140 miles per 24 hours.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 281127A to F.O.S/M, C. in C. Rosyth.)

Submarine positions at 0800/29th and movements for following  
24 hours. All times Zone A.

A. UTSIRA sails from Lerwick 1000/29th through 090° Muckle Flugga  
10 miles to 62° 35' N. 01° 44' E. en route Fro Havet diving by  
day north of 62° N.

B. SPEARHEAD as in A.M. 231847.

C. DOLFIJN leaves patrol passing through 60° 52' N. 04° 00' E.  
at 2230/29th to 61° 24' N. 02° 00' E. diving by day.

(C. of W. 281933A to A.I.G. 25.)

Operation  
"S.C."

Ramose Bluejacket. HESSA returned at 1410A/28th  
March. (2) Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 281413A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations  
"V.P."

Intend carrying out "V.P. 81" with 2 M.T.Bs.  
(1) 0800A/29th March. (2) Not later 2100A/29th  
March. (3) Not later 0600A/31st March. (4)  
260° towards Noss Head. Not more 20 knots.  
(5) Not later p.m. 31st March. (6) No. (7) No.  
(8) 080° Noss Head. (9) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 281557A to C. in C. H.F.)

My 281557A. (1) 080° from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.  
(2) 60° 41' N. 04° 42' E. (3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 281559A to C. in C. H.F.)

Intend carrying out "V.P. 77" with 2 M.T.Bs. (1) 0800A/29th  
March. (2) Not later than 1200A/29th March. (3) Not later  
than 0600A/2nd April. (4) 278° towards Noss Head. Not more than  
20 knots. (5) Not later than p.m. 2nd April. (6) No. (7) No.  
(8) 098° Noss Head. (9) No.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 281601A to C. in C. H.F.)

/My...

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28.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Operations My 281601A. (1) 098° from Noss Head. Not more  
"V.P.(contd.) than 20 knots. (2) 59° 41' N. 05° 05' E.  
(3) Blank.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 281603A to C. in C. H.F.)

Shipping strike "Prefix 1" was carried out a.m. 26th March in  
off Aalesund, last moments of good weather. No sizeable  
Operation shipping seen by strike except by fighter who  
"Prefix". attacked M-ships and minesweeper escaping through  
Imersundet.  
(2) Attempted interference by 6 to 9 Messerschmitts  
109 G's. Resulted in Wildcats shooting down 3  
confirmed, and damaged two without any loss to our side.  
(3) 1 Barracuda was inexplicably missing from close A/S.  
(4) Several enemy aircraft detected unsuccessfully searching for  
force in bad visibility shortly after strike landed on. We were  
also unable to intercept them.  
(5) In addition, no night flying was possible on night of 27/28th  
owing to weather. A short clear interval on morning 28th just  
allowing a fighter bomber strike from SEARCHER to attack 2 ships  
and flak positions at Aalesund, and the W/T station on Vikeroy.  
Weather was bad inshore and results on shipping were not observed.  
No casualties.  
(C.S. 1 282302A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

CONN's U-Boat. My 272153A. Oil continued to well to surface  
throughout night. Firm contact regained in same  
position at daylight, further attacks have  
produced more oil and wreckage. Intend resuming  
patrol.  
(S.O. Force 32 281018A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols. If not in contact at 1600A today shift Gamma to  
60° 00' N. 05° 00' W. and 60° 36' N. 05° 30' W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 281125A to S.O.E.G. 17.)  
Cancel my 281125. If not in contact leave patrol  
and proceed through Pentland Firth. Further  
orders follow.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 281254A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. LLANGIBBY E.T.A. LLANGIBBY CASTLE 1430 mean draft 29 feet  
CASTLE. overhang lifeboats 14 feet. Cable slipped and  
vessel proceeded from area 7 1115A Ramier with  
salvage Officer in attendance. Recommend vessel  
dry dock as soon as possible.  
(N.O.I.C. Cowes 281138A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/SS. ANTONIO...



War Diary.

28.3.1945

Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

SS. ANTONIO. S.O.S. In collision off Milford Buoy. Am taking to boats.  
(ANTONIO No T.O.O/28 to C. in C. W.A.)  
ANTONIO rammed by FORT MOOSE. Casualties so far 2nd Engr. Vessel between St. Groven Light Vessel and Milford Haven buoy. Master, Third Mate, First and Third Radio Officer taken on board SAMUEL COLT.  
(SAMUEL COLT 281820Z to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
Off Milford Haven 32 survivors on board waiting to be guided in.  
(FORT MOOSE 281800Z to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
Following message from JAMES E. HAVILAND.  
3 survivors on board. 2 receiving artificial respiration. Request medical assistance immediately.  
Group missed position SAMUEL COLT 030° 2 miles from Saint Goven. Light Vessel. We are anchored.  
(SAMUEL COLT 282045Z to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Movements.

DUKE OF YORK, (1) Working up programme in your 7111/03 of 17th  
ANSON, March to C. in C. H.F. only is approved in principle  
battleships. (2) As your final date of sailing from Scapa is likely to be the same as D.1236 it will be necessary for you to adjust length of programme with her.  
(3) Requirements for harbour training on lines of D.1236 192324 should be signalled before you arrive Scapa.  
(C. in C. H.F. 280954A to DUKE OF YORK.)  
ANSON A.M. 232300. A. 49.20 N. 04.30 W. B. 49.15 N. 07.00 W. C. 51.00 N. 09.00 W. D. 230° Bull Rock 10 miles. E. 270° Skelligs 10 miles. F. 270° Inishtearaght 10 miles. G. 280° Slyne Head 20 miles. H. 55.35 N. 08.45 W. J. 305° Monach 11 miles. K. 310° Flannan Islands 17 miles. L. 59.08 N. 08.15 W. M. 360° Sule Skerry 10 miles and by Q.Z.S. 15 to Scapa.  
(2) DUKE OF YORK from position X. 270° Oversay 6 miles. Y. 270° Barra Head 10 miles thence to J above.  
(3) C. in C. Plymouth and F.O.I.C. Liverpool pass to escorts concerned.  
(Plot (O.D.) 281632A to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

A.F.D. 67 My 271837 sailed.  
Floating dock. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 281611A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

HIGHWAY, On completion of trials HIGHWAY is to be sailed to  
L.S.D. Plymouth to embark Major Landing Craft for transportation to Gibraltar.  
(2) C. in C. Nore is requested to arrange for L.C.T.(E) 372 to be sailed to arrive Plymouth not

/later...

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28.3.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements

HIGHWAY,  
L.S.D.  
(Contd.)

later than 10th April, R.A.L.S.C.U. 270927 (not to all) refers.

(3) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange for the onward sailing of L.C.G.(M) 115 to Plymouth to arrive not later than 10th April, R.A.L.S.C.U. 201652 (being passed to C. in C. Portsmouth) not to all refers.

(4) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange for these craft to be embarked in HIGHWAY.

(5) Further signal will be made.

(C.O.D. 281939A to R.A.L.S.C.U., Cs. in C. Nore, Plymouth, Portsmouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N. convoys.

(1) The numbers in the English Channel Section of O.N. convoys may exceed 32 ships when traffic from Antwerp has been delayed.

(2) Request you will allocate up to 5 port wing columns to Southend.

(3) N.C.S.O. Thames is to pass A.1 details to N.C.S.O. Mersey at least 24 hours before Mersey's sailing time. Para. 2 of your 241647 not to C. in C. Plymouth refers.

(D.T.D. 281536A to C. in C. W.A.)

B.T.C.  
convoys.

No objection to amending timetable of B.T.C. convoys as in A.M. 250048 March but this will result in a proportion of ships from Wight being delayed one day due to Wight joiners (under new proposed timetable) having to sail from St. Helens at 1230A instead of 1630A as at present a number of Wight joiners arrived at St. Helens from Southampton between 1300 and 1500 having completed loading or discharge during the forenoon.

(2) Para. 2 of C. in C. Plymouth's 251724 every effort will be made to provide additional escort for this increased commitment but this cannot be guaranteed.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 281552A to Admty.)

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28.3.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Convoys. Request you will report if all necessary information regarding O.N., H.X. and C.U./U.C. convoys is held so that joiners from Azores can be sailed without promulgation of further information by Admiralty.  
(Plot. (T.D.), 281020A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

H.M.S. BARFLEUR  
- trials.

A.M. 271946<sup>X</sup> and my 261031<sup>\*</sup> neither to all. Confirmed this trial carried out fully with light fleet carrier and a destroyer with some runs on a battleship.

(2) Intend to sail BARFLEUR at 0900A March 29th to Portsmouth.

(3) S. of A. 25 knots.

(5) E.T.A. p.m./31st March.

(F.O.G.M.A., 281203A to Admty.) See 291230A.

<sup>X</sup>BARFLEUR trials.

\* Anticipate BARFLEUR will complete gunnery trial end of March.

BARON,  
B.D.V.

Your 211126A. Request BARON to be sailed for local boom duty at Aden under urgent operational clauses.

(A.C.N.S.(F), 281520A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

Re POINT  
PLEASANT  
PARK  
torpedoed  
23rd Feb.

Log of Spanish ship CASTILLO MADRIGAL shows that on the 25th Feb. ship was stopped for alleged engine repairs in position 20° 42' S. 08° 40' E. from 1115Z until 0035Z/26 Feb.

(2) Sinking of POINT PLEASANT PARK occurred at 1300Z/23 Feb. in 29° 42' S., 09° 58' E.

(3) Possibility exists that CASTILLO MADRIGAL met one of the U-Boats mentioned in A.I.G. 322

251404 Feb. Suspicions were aroused here because Log Book was rushed ashore to Spanish Consul and lodged there until day ship left Capetown.

(S.O.(I) Capetown, 281209Z to Admty.)

A.F.D. 39.

My 251146, para. 5.

STELLA POLARIS is to escort S.A.R. and H. Tug C.F. KAYSER with A.F.D. 39 from East London to Durban. Cdre. 1/c. R.N.E. Durban arrange for relief of

STELLA POLARIS off Durban by 2 trawlers.

(5) C. in C. E.I. Stn. is requested to confirm route from Beira and N.O.I.C. East Africa to report E.T.A. ORIANAB at Beira.

(C. in C. S.A.S., 281212.)

/Anti ...

28.3.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

Anti-U/B operations. My 241348\*. On arrival in harbour TEES reports oil quite clean with no sign of coagulation and lighter and more refined in appearance than ordinary fuel oil thinly spread over area 10 miles by  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . ABERDEEN noticed definite pungent odour on first closing samples obtained. Also seen by DITTANY four shoes, two black and two brown in position  $10^{\circ} 57' N.$ ,  $20^{\circ} 30' W.$ , but regrettably not recovered.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 281320Z to Admty.)  
\* Report from ABERDEEN of attacks carried out.

A.F.D. 40. Sailed VERBENA towing A.F.D.40 escorted by TULIP to Diego Suarez and Seychelles to refuel (VERBENA to Diego Suarez only) detailed thence to Cochin through the following positions.  
(2) PRUDENT will be sailing as soon as defects are made good to take tow, further signal will be made.  
(3) S. of A. 4 knots.  
(4) E.T.As. at Diego Suarez, Port Victoria and Cochin will be signalled by TULIP.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 281602Z to Admty.)

War Diary

28.3.1945  
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

A/C's  
(work up).

Propose GLORY on arrival in Med. about 18 May proceed to Malta for working up. Total number of A/C and aircrews disembarked from 11th A.C.S. will not exceed those now at Halfar.

(2) When VENERABLE, VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS have completed ship working up intend COLOSSUS proceed to Malta so that all three ships can work up as a squadron. This will be about third week in May.

(3) On completion of above squadron training about mid-June it may be desirable to proceed to Alexandria for a short period as facilities for training in army co-operation appear to be better there.

(4) It is unlikely that GLORY will have finished Edship training before mid-July.

(5) V.A. Malta and A.O.C. Malta concur with above programme.  
(A.C.11,281223A to C. in C. Med. appd. 301111A)

Roumanian  
ports  
(Entry.)

Further to my R.A.C.828/4060 of 28th. Following is text of Russian refusal just received begins. In answer to your letter dated 23rd March, 1945 I have to inform you that I am not in possession of any instructions either from the Soviet Government or Soviet High Command in which it is stated permission for entry into Roumania has been granted to the Diplomatic Missions enumerated in your letter and for the delivery of the cargo indicated in same letter. For this reason entry of the Almanzora into Constanta or any other Roumanian port cannot be permitted. Signed Tishkin. Ends.  
(B.M.M. Roumania, 281855B to W.O.)

28.3.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

GLENROY,  
(L.S.I.(L))

Arrival GLENROY.  
(F.O.Bombay, 280259Z to Admty.).

Change of  
title.  
Signals.

As from the 1st of April 1945, the title Combined Operations signal maintenance Officer, India, will lapse and the expanded organisation will be known as Operational Signal Equipment Depot, India.  
(S.O.R.N.(Establishments (India)), 280317Z to Admiralty).

U-Boat  
dispositions

No change.  
(C. in C.E.I., 280349Z to S.A.E.I.S.).

CUMBERLAND  
(cruiser)

Arrived CUMBERLAND.  
(N.O.I.C.Mauritius, 280526Z to Admty.).

5th C.S.  
Transfer of  
Flag.

NEWCASTLE sailed Trincomalee p.m. 25th March  
E.T.A. Fremantle 31st Mar. F.O.5th C.S.  
transferred flag to CEYLON a.m. 25th.  
(2) KENYA sail Trincomalee p.m. 28th Mar. E.T.A.  
Durban 6th April.  
(C. in C.E.I., 280606Z to Admty.).

BLACKMORE  
destroyer

Arrival BLACKMORE.  
(F.O.Bombay, 280609Z to Admiralty).

ARBITER  
(Assault  
carrier)

Arrival ARBITER, VERULAM.  
(F.O.Bombay, 280647Z to Admiralty).

Convoys

Information regarding movements of K.M.F.40 and 41 have been most unsatisfactory and has caused great inconvenience to Arminia in preparing internal train moves and reception arrangements.  
(2) N.C.S.O. Suez immediate signal 051947 Mar. regarding K.M.F. 40 was received in presumably 071805 allowing only 4 days notice before first arrival. etc. etc.  
(P.S.T.O.(India), 281033Z to P.S.T.O. M.E.Cairo).

RENOWN

Intend sailing RENOWN a.m. 30th March direct to Suez routed through.  
(2) E.T.A. Suez 0600B/5th April.  
(3) Approx. further programme leaving Port Said p.m. 6th April arrive Gib. p.m. 9th April leave Gib. for U.K. 10th April.  
(C. in C.E.I., 281057Z to N.O.I.C. Suez). Amended by 300342Z, 311036A.

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~~2~~  
28.3.1945.  
Wednesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Operations Force 62 consisting of ROTHERHAM D.11 REDOUBT, 'Penzance' and RACEHORSE and ROCKET leave Trincomalee 30th 'Pass Book!' March for anti-shipping sweep in Andaman Sea proceeding Akyab on completion.  
(2) Force 62 will subsequently leave Akyab about 7th April for similar operation returning Trincomalee on completion my 281216 refers.  
(C. in C.E.I., 281214Z to Admiralty).  
Codewords for operations in my 281214 para.(1) "Penzance" paragraph (ii) "Pass Book."  
(C. in C.E.I., 281216Z to Admiralty).

Operations Subject to Admiralty's approval it is proposed "Onboard" and to issue the following communique on operations "Transport". "On Board" and "Transport" when requested by further signals by C. in C.E.I.S. Begins:  
Destroyers of East Indies Fleet have successfully bombarded enemy targets and in co-operation with the R.A.F. have sunk a Japanese convoy in recent offensive sweeps in the Andaman Sea.  
(2) Sigli in North Sumatra was bombarded on 17th March, and Port Blair in South Andaman on 19th March, one small enemy supply ship was destroyed.  
(3) On the morning of 26th March the destroyers sighted an enemy convoy consisting of 2 supply ships escorted by 2 S/M. chasers.  
(4) One of the supply ships was stopped by gunfire from the destroyers and sunk by bomb from Liberator aircraft which had joined in the attack. The second supply ship and one of the S/M. chasers were sunk by gunfire, the remaining S/M. chaser was sunk by torpedo.  
(5) 2 of our ships were slightly damaged during the operation. Next of kin of casualties have been informed.  
(C. in C.E.I.S., 281321Z to Sacsea). Approved 291403A.

MONTCLARE Colombo 28th arrivals MONTCLARE.  
(Destroyer (F.O. Ceylon, 281430Z to Admiralty).  
depot ship)  
(Flag R.A.F.T.  
B.P.F.)

26th Des- Arrived Capt.(D) 26 in SAUMAUREZ, VIRAGO, troyer VOLAGE, VIGILANT, THRASHER sailed KENYA.  
Flotilla. (N.O.I.C.Trincomalee, 281430Z to Admiralty).

Operation Operation "Transport" all casualties have been "Transport" reported to Admiralty. No ships of our force were lost as understood to have been claimed by Japanese broadcast.  
(C. in C.E.I., 281600Z to Admiralty).

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War Diary

28.3.1945  
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. C. One Liberator F/10 obtained intermittent Radar and H.T. contacts. 2048 to 2302/26th in 42.32 N. 58.30 W. attacked at 2305.  
(N.S.H.Q. 280326Z to Admty.)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 281340 and 281520 to S. and As.)

S/M SPORTSMAN. Anticipate H.M. S/M SPORTSMAN ready to sail from New London 5th April.  
(Com. sublant, 281413Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

LORD KELVIN repairs to cable. Navy Department are sending, if escorts can be arranged, Cable ship LORD KELVIN now at Halifax to repair break in Western Union 4 V.A. about 200 miles from Valentia.  
(2) They have enquired whether Admiralty can provide escort during repair operations.  
(3) Understand cable may be broken in 700 fathoms with a possibility break being in greater depth. No estimate of repair time available.  
(4) Navy Department stress importance of early repair of this particular cable in view of special facilities it provides and in view of San Francisco Conference.  
(B.A.D. 281533Z to Admty, and 300248A)

U-Boat. Am attacking contact believed S/M. Position 45.11 N. 54.52 W.  
(H.M.C.S. ROSTHERN, 281623Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

T.G.60.9. Departing New York and Norfolk 2 - 3 April for Western Mediterranean U.G.S. 84 will be escorted by Comdr. Dennett in KEARNY, FRANCIS M. ROBINSON, SOLAR, FOWLER, GLADWYNE, RACINE. Escorts lay over Oran. Return Escorting G.U.S.86 when C. in C. Med. directs.  
(C. in C. Lant, 282044Z to C.T.G.60.9)

U-Boat Contacts. Para. C. (1) 272312Z Desron 17 had good sound contacts 43.05 N. 67.35 W. which were subsequently attacked.  
(2) About 281623 H.M.C.S. ROSTHERN attacked sound contact believed S/M 45.11 N. 54.52 W.  
Para. (D) 272112Z Cortdiv 35 attacked contact 43.28 N. 69.38 W. later evaluated non-sub. Refer cominch 272045 para. D.  
(2) Now identified as sailing vessel.  
(Cominch, 282135Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)



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WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

TERKA Arrival 26th Biak Island H.M.A.S. ROCKHAMPTON,  
Water Carrier, H.M.S. TOWNSVILLE. H.M.A.S. TERKA foundered 26th  
loss of. March in Madang Harbour.  
(A.C.N.B., 280156A to Admty.)

PHILANTE Your 261628A(N.T. in W.D.). Here comes repetition  
(accommodation) of my 100237Z February, begins:  
Addressed Admiralty, Repeat V.A.Q.RA.FT, C.E.F.  
B.P.F. F.O.Force X, From C. in C. B.P.F.  
My 300800Z Jan. para. 4. There is no accommoda-  
tion in FLAMBOROUGH HEAD for Capt. Escort Forces and his staff.  
LAMONT will not be satisfactory except as temporary Headquarters.  
PHILANTE as at present fitted for duty in Western Approaches would  
be most suitable. Request information if she can be made avail-  
able for this duty.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 280321Z to Admty.)

B.P.F. Experience shows that shortage of fuel hoses  
(Fuelling). owing to weather damage and lack of initial  
spares may become the deciding factor in the  
length of time B.P.F. may continue operations.  
(2) Furthermore out of 8 Tankers 2 have only  
single hose astern and 1 is not fitted for oiling alongside.  
These cause serious delay and the former impose a strain on  
already tired Commanding Officers keeping close station on  
Tanker all day.  
(C.T.F.57, 280337Z to C. in C. B.P.F. and 310002Z from R.A.F.T.)

X.E. craft As a result of a Conference with C. in C. B.P.F.  
during my visit to Australia it now appears that  
the use of the first six X.E craft is problematical  
and that the follow up X.E.craft are not required.  
Detailed proposals regarding the disposal of follow up craft  
are being forwarded separately by letter to Admty.  
(F.O.S/M, 281701A to Admty.)

C. in C. Released as of 2345 G.C.T. 28th March, 1945 as  
P.O.A. follows.  
Communique (1) During the period of 25th March to 27th March  
Number 312. inclusive East longitude dates Carrier A/C of  
(Extract) the U.S. Pacific Fleet ranged over the Ryuku  
Islands from the Niyako Group to Tanega Island  
attacking A/C shipping and installations.  
Preliminary reports of damage inflicted on the enemy in  
addition to that previously reported include: Ships. Three  
Destroyers or destroyer escorts damaged. One large - 100 -  
Cargo ship damaged. Two medium cargo ships damaged. Two  
small Cargo ships damaged. Many small craft wrecked.  
Eight to ten luggers burned. One whaler beached and burned.  
Ground installations. S/M pens at Unten Bay on the West Coast  
of Okinawa heavily hit. Gun positions, landing craft, airfields,

/warehouses ...

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28.3.1945  
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

C. in C. warehouses, barracks, trucks and other targets  
P.O.A. heavily hit at Amami, Tokuno, Okinawa and  
Communique Kikai Islands.  
Number 312. (2) Some of our units suffered damage under  
(Contd.) enemy air - 200 - attacks.  
(3) Hellcat and Corsair fighters Avenger Torpedo  
planes and Helldiver bombers continued their  
attacks on enemy positions in the Ryukus and  
battleships continued to shell shore installations on 28th.  
(5) Mustang fighters of the 7th Fighter Command and 7th Army  
Air Force Liberators attacked - 300 - Suzuki airdrome on  
Chichi Jima in the Bonins and struck Radar installations on the  
Island on 26th March. Fighters also carried attacks on Kitamura  
Town on Haha Jima on the same date. On 27th and 28th March  
Mustangs again attacked targets on Chichi Jima and Haha Jima  
setting fires in ammunition storage areas buildings and other  
targets.  
(6) Neutralizing attacks were made on enemy held islands in  
the Marshalls on 27th March by A/C of Fleet Air Wing Two.  
(C. in C. P.O.A. Adv. H.Q. 282326 to usual addresses)

Digest (1) Planes over China coast 26th off Foochow  
Serial attacked freighter transport one coaster sunk an-  
No.1162 other coaster damaged.  
27.3.45. (2) Planes attacked same day one small coaster off  
Northeast coast Hainan and left ablaze.  
(6) Latter night 2 Liberators unloaded 16 quarters  
ton bombs on dock installations Yulin Harbour on  
Southern Hainan. 2 Jap fighters airborne did not engage.  
(7) 19 escorted Liberators unloaded 6 half tonners each on dock-  
side warehouses and ships repairing at Takao midday 26th.  
Fires caused on wharves, one large freighter probably sunk and  
another damaged.  
(13) Ground Forces on Cebu City which had been evacuated by Japs  
in state of complete shambles. Elements proceeded North from  
City. Enemy contacts mainly light delaying actions leaving  
numerous mines and booby traps behind. Single enemy plane  
dropped few bombs harmlessly on beach dusk.  
(14) Unopposed landing conducted Cavit Island just off Cebu  
City afternoon supported by light Naval Units.  
(16) P.T. Boats co-operating with one Mitchell during day des-  
troyed 2 small craft of doubtful serviceability, damaged third  
off Panay.  
(19) T.A.F. Liberators patrolling Makassar Strait afternnon  
attacked 7 ship convoy including 2 sizeable freighters off  
Balikylpan nearest bombs fell 50 feet off large freighter.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 281013Z to Admty.)

28.3.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M For 24 hours to 0900Z/28th March.  
attack and <sup>U 465</sup> Para. A. (1) H.M.S. CONN (E.G.21) attacked  
sighting <sup>summary</sup> contact at 0818Z/27th March in 58 degs. 34' N.  
summary. 05 degs. 47' W.  
Para. B. (1) A/C S/547 sighted U-Boat on  
surface course 050 degs. at 0114Z/27th in 58  
degs. 03' N. 09 degs. 31' E.  
(2) Unknown Russian source reported U-Boat at 0935Z/27th in  
approx. 68 degs. 50' N. 16 degs. 40' E.  
(3) A/C V/86 reported short at 1523Z/27th in 60 degs. 47' N. 02  
degs. 58' W.  
(4) A/C O/224 obtained Grade II disappearing radar contact and  
H/T contact at 2030Z/27th March in 58 degs. 51' N. 04 degs. 10' W.  
Para. C. (1) A/C H/311 attacked Grade II contact at 2328Z/26th  
March in 55 degs. 16' N. 13 degs. 11' E.  
Para. D. (1) Airmen at Lyme Regis sighted U-Boat at 1330Z/27th  
March in 50 degs. 37' N. 03 degs. 06' W.  
(2) M.L.344 and H.M.S. STONECROP attacked contact believed  
non-S/M at 1742Z/27th in 50 degs. 14' N. 03 degs. 32' W.  
(3) H.M.S. STONECROP attacked contact believed non-S/M at  
2251Z/27th in 50 degs. 20' N. 03 degs. 26' W.  
(D.D.I.C.281115A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa)

Estimates.  
U-Boat (D.D.I.C. 281427A to A.I.G.331, and 281438A)  
dispositions.

29.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. SS. BORDEAUX, the ex French ship used by the Germans as a hospital carrier, but not recognised by us as such, will be returned to the French on April 4th. She is now at Portland.

North Sea.

2. (a) Two mines were detonated off the east coast.  
(b) One mine was detonated off the Schelde today and a local Ostend fishing boat was blown up off Zeebrugge yesterday, with no survivors.  
(c) The food situation at Flushing is reported as much improved.

Channel.

3. H.M.C.S. TEME was torpedoed 3.6 miles N. by W. of Longships at 0724 whilst trailing convoy B.T.C. 111. A further explosion in the vicinity of the convoy was reported at 0835. TEME was towed into Falmouth with 60 ft. of her stern missing. Sixth and Third Escort Groups took up the hunt, and at 1815 DUCKWORTH of 3rd E.G. apparently scored several hedgehog hits out of one salvo, but in heavy weather. She is maintaining contact with the stationary object on the bottom, 24 ft. high until the weather moderates to permit identification

Norway.

4. It would appear from latest information that one of the ships torpedoed by M.T.Bs. 711 and 717 off Utsire on March 12th (see Situation Report of March 13th) was the Norwegian PARIS, 1753 tons, converted to an A/A ship, and manned by the Hird Marine, 90 members of whom were lost.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Crete.

5. Last night 400 Italians and 820 Germans left fortified zone, with intention of surrendering.

29.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

S/M THRASHER. 6. S/M THRASHER on her second Far East patrol Malacca Straits. reports that from March 8th to 15th she carried out a special operation. From March 16th to 19th sank by demolition and gunfire in vicinity of Butang and Langkawi Islands native craft totalling 145 tons and on March 22nd carried out another special operation.

Australia & New Zealand.

Indo-China. 7. Today strong force Mitchells attacked enemy convoy of 12 or more ships 50 miles N.E. of Quinhon sinking 2 destroyers and possibly another, and a large merchant vessel of 10,000 tons. Later, shortly before midnight Mariners damaged 1 destroyer remnants of this convoy south of Hainan. It is since reported 2 large tankers, one destroyer escort and two submarine chasers were also sunk in the attack on this convoy.

China. 8. (a) Liberators blew stern off single small freighter transport 40 miles E. by S. Ningpo. (b) Last night Lingayan Mariners sank 3 junks of 12 attacked N.E. of Pescadores, 3 others left burning.

Philippines. 9. (a) American troops landed on N.W. side of Negros Is., supported by naval forces, no opposition. (b) American forces supported by naval forces landed on Maktan Island east coast of Cebu (Sebu).

Japan. 10. Today and yesterday American carrier borne aircraft attacked Kynshu the Ryukus and Minami Daito. 14 auxiliaries and a destroyer were sunk, 11 small cargo ships probably sunk and 14 auxiliaries one cargo vessel and a destroyer damaged, 45 enemy aircraft destroyed, and 42 probably destroyed or damaged.

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29.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

"Placket"  
P.Parties.

X.F. No. 206/0/1356 of 16th March and your 261806A four P. Parties allocated to F.O. Holland for operation "Placket" are as follows. Two British Naval Parties Nos. 1572 and 1575 two R. Neth. N. Parties Nos. 3006A and 3006B.  
(Com. P. Parties 291045 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Action re  
ships and  
installations,  
Bremen &  
Hamburg.

The following are the requirements to meet para. 2 of Exfor Main's 282000 with 21 A.G. one Senior British Naval Officer. With Second Army who will be the spearhead of the advance one British Officer and one American Officer. With the First Canadian Army one British Officer.

(2) The officers concerned should be provided with marine attendants or stewards and if possible should provide their own transport. 21 L.G. will make arrangements for communications unless this can be provided without delaying the arrival of the officers concerned.

(3) Every effort should be made to enable these officers to join their respective H.Q. within the next four or five days.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 291215A to C.T.F. 122, C.T.F. 124, Admty., 21 A.G.)

Exfor Main 282000 being passed separately. R/C party consisting of 48 officers and 104 "enlisted men" for Bremen will be ready to commence move to Continent by 0001/2nd April.

(2) Follow up consisting of party one, 50 plus 370, party two, 30 plus 331, party three, 19 plus 440 and party four 28 plus 320 will all be ready to commence movement by 0001/4th April.

(3) Request authorities concerned will take necessary action to implement this movement.

(A.N.C.X.F. 291930A to Exfor Main, C.T.F. 124, C.T.F. 126.)

Your 282000. Formation of Hamburg port party has commenced today 29th March. Date on which move to Continent will begin cannot be estimated until formation has progressed further but this cannot be for several weeks.

(A.N.C.X.F.. 291945A to Exfor Main.)

Reference Exfor Main 282000 being passed to information addressees in the U.K.

Intend following arrangements for Liaison parties.

- A. Exfor Main. Rear Admiral Muirhead-Gould, Flag Officer Wilhelmshaven designate plus two officers and three ratings.
- B. 2nd Army. Captain Alexander R.N. plus one officer and two ratings. Commander W.J. Brown U.S.N. plus two enlisted men.
- C. 1st Canadian Army. Captain Petrie R.N. plus one officer and two ratings.

(2) All the above parties will have own transport.

(3) Party B will assemble in Brussels on Sunday 1st April. Further signal will be made regarding parties A and C.

(4) A.N.C.X.F. will arrange communications, facilities considered necessary.

(5) Further signals are being made regarding port parties.

(A.N.C.X.F. 291937A to Exfor Main.)

/An...

29.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

North Sea.

Action re  
ships and  
installations,  
Bremen &  
Hamburg.  
(Contd.)

An urgent requirement exists for high grade German interpreters for service on the naval section of the Control Commission for occupied Germany.

(2) With reference to A.F.O. 2343/43 Commanding Officers should now be instructed to send the names of any officers who are likely candidates to the O.I.C. R.N.T.E. Southmead, Wimbledon, so that arrangements may be made for their language qualification to be tested.

(3) Any officers who are found to possess the necessary language qualifications and are suitable in other respects for service in Germany will be earmarked for possible service on the Control Commission and their C.Os. informed accordingly.  
(N.A. 2nd S.L. 292145A to C. in C. H.F., and all Cs. in C. and F.Os. i/c in U.K.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 359 part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/28  
March.

<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	72	662	16,254	459	11,113	153
Ostend	1,338	107	1,026	-	393	570
Boulogne	22	47	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	2,064	-	-
Calais	4,157	-	75	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,446	-	-	769
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,589</u>	<u>816</u>	<u>18,801</u>	<u>2,523</u>	<u>11,506</u>	<u>1,492</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	396	27,543	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	276	* 6,939 (5	1,783	10,708	2,625
Le Havre	2,021	107	5,777	-	11,014	114
Rouen	-	65	7,920	304	851	-
Granville	-	-	-	1,674	-	-
Ghent	-	-	9,178	-	-	1,591
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,021</u>	<u>844</u>	<u>57,401</u>	<u>3,761</u>	<u>22,663*</u>	<u>4,330</u>
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	2,571	537	5,677	-	-	1,777
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,894	-	6,023	660
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nice	-	-	634	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,571</u>	<u>537</u>	<u>8,205</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,023</u>	<u>2,437</u>

(S.H.A.E.F. 291550A to Admty., and others.)\* Sic

/Minesweeping...

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping off Far Shore. Your 281730. Para. A. 3 actuations negative result. Para. (b.) 1 actuation only due to visibility. 1 mine detonated. My 291926 refers. All Dans weighed. Explosive not used. E.T.A. 5 sweepers and 1 Danlayer Small Downs 2030. (S.O. M.S.F. 40 291701A to C. in C. Nore.)

Reference C. in C. Nore's 202319A.\* Oropesa clearance to depth of 5 fathoms extended to width of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cables each side of centre line. Negative results. Chain abstracters encountered one recovered complete with one inch chain mooring, new condition. Intend continuing clearance tomorrow Friday. (N.O.I.C. Ostend 291906 to F.O. Belgium.)

\* Alternative channel into the Schelde.

Patrols. Patrols for night Friday 30 March:  
1 QUANTOCK, 2 MEYNELL, 3 LAMERTON, 4 ZETLAND, 5 BRISSENDEN, 6 KITTIWAKE, 7 EASTON, 8 BLENCATHRA. Coastal force units F.C. 1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2115A. (2). 12 TORRINGTON with coastal forces from U.K. 14 SOUTHDOWN, 16 EKINS with coastal forces from Ostend. 18 HAMBLEDON, 17 TALYBONT, 19 STAYNER with coastal forces from Ostend. 21 CATTISTOCK, 22 RETALICK with C.F. from U.K. Coastal forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2015A. (3) Escorts for T.A.M. 24 PYTCHLEY and MALLARD additional escort for F.S. 71 MENDIP escort for T.A.P. 88 IDDLETON. (4) Coastal forces. From U.K. Patrol 1 unit F.C. 1 2 M.T.B. with QUANTOCK. Patrol 2 unit F.C. 2 2 M.T.B. with MEYNELL. Patrol 3 unit F.C. 3 2 M.T.B. with LAMERTON. Patrol 4 unit F.C. 4 2 M.T.B. with ZETLAND. Patrol 5 unit F.C. 5 2 M.T.B. with BRISSENDEN. Patrol 6 unit F.C. 6 2 M.T.B. with KITTIWAKE. Patrol 7 unit F.C. 7 2 M.T.B. with EASTON. Patrol 8 unit F.C. 8 2 M.T.B. with BLENCATHRA. Patrol 12 F.L. 2, F.L. 3, 4 M.T.B. Patrol 22 unit F.B. 8, F.B. 9, 4 M.T.B. with RETALICK. Patrol 51 1 M.L. Patrol 52 1 M.L. A.L.E.O. 2922 unit F.B. 6 3 M.T.B. C.P.L.S. 1525 unit F.A. 1, F.A. 2, F.A. 3, 6 M.T.B. From Ostend. A.L.U.R. 2316 unit F.A. 8 2 M.T.B. A.L.U.R. 2100 unit F.B. 2 2 M.T.B. A.L.U.R. 4126 unit F.G. 5 2 M.L. A.L.U.R. 3312 unit F.H. 3, F.H. 4, 4 M.T.B. Patrol 16 unit F.G. 2, F.G. 3, 4 M.T.B. (C. in C. Nore 291800A to Nore Command.

Minesweeping off E.Coast. Following mines detonated today. (1) 1. 0748/29/3/45. 2. LL and SA "Q" formation (M.M.S. 1061, 1051, 1050) spare ship M.M.S. 1068. 3. O.N. 4.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cables. 5. M.M.S. 1051  $324^\circ$  57 F 1.1 miles N. 24 W. 6. "Red"  $175^\circ$  1 cable. 7. Pulse on "Blue" to starboard. 8.3 seconds. 9. Unknown. 10. Nil. 11. Calm. 12. - 13. Average explosion. 14. Explosive sweep in progress. Salvo of grenades exploded at same time as mine. My 290936A refers. (2) 1. 1317/29/3/45. 2. LL and SA "Q" formation (M.M.S. 1062, 1061, 1050) spare ship M.M.S. 1068.

/(3)...



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Operations.

North Sea.

Minesweeping  
off E.Coast.  
(Contd.)

3. O.N. 4. 2½ cables. 5. M.M.S. 1051 319° 58  
Buoy 2.1 miles N. 40 W. 6. "Green" 125° 1 cable.  
7. On pulse "Blue" to port. 8. 4 seconds. 9.  
Unknown. 10. Nil. 11. Moderate. 12. Short low  
swell. 13. Average explosion. 14. Nil.  
My 291442A refers.  
(F.O. Humber 291831A to C. in C. Nore.)

Loss of Ostend  
Fishing boat  
No. 143.

Cositintrep No. 359 part 2 naval.  
Fishing boat number Ostend 143 was blown up off  
Zeebrugge at 1359/28. There were no survivors.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 292355A to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

Torpedoing  
of TEME.

347° Longships 3.6 TEME torpedoed at 0724 struck  
aft.  
(S.O.E.G. 6 290734A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
My 0734. Bulkheads holding. No immediate  
danger of sinking.  
(S.O.E.G. 6 290745A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

E.G. 6 290734.  
(HEATHER 290823A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

MOOSEJAW detached to join in hunt.

H.M.C.S. TEME was torpedoed aft in position 347° Longships  
3.6 at 0724A this morning while trailing B.T.C. 111 convoy. Was  
taken in tow by MOOSEJAW but tow parted in bad weather. Is now  
in tow of H.M.R.T.MAMMOTH proceeding Mounts Bay or Falmouth as  
weather permits. Details of casualties not yet received.

(2) At 0835A H.M.T. ROWAN with B.T.C. 111 reported explosion in  
position 264 Lizard 13.6.

(3) Hunts by 6th and 3rd E.G. so far unproductive.

(C. in C. Plymouth 291853A to Admty., C.N.M.O., C. in C. W.A.)

H.M.C.S. TEME torpedoed aft at 0724A/29 in position 347°  
3.6 miles Longships towed into Mounts Bay for shelter. Proceeding  
Falmouth when weather moderates.

(2) Of complement 155 L/Sea. Edwards Sto. I. Jones, A.B. Webber  
were not on board.

(4) Missing believed killed L/Sea. Grahame A.B. Rowe, A.B. Bolin  
all quarter deck party.

(3) Died of wounds following explosion A.B. Hackett.

(5) Of remaining 148 91 including all officers remain on board.  
57 landed Penzance and now at Falmouth.

(6) Above based on statements of Acting P.O. H. Phillips and Ldg.  
Writer P. Kerne. No officers landed.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 292101A to Admty.)

Following report received from S.O. Fifty to sixty feet of  
after part of TEME missing. Between frames 100 and 92 more or  
less tight and bulkheads shored up. Remainder of ship tight.  
Vessel could be towed to Plymouth if desired.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 292144A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

DUCKWORTH attacked ~~from~~ contact in position 49.58.1 N. 05.  
25.1 W. at 1815 with hedgehog. Greater part of pattern exploded

No!  
Hunt  
firm

firm

/at...

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of TEME.  
(Contd.)

at 50 feet and remainder 5 seconds later on bottom. Target subsequently attacked 5 times. Object on bottom 24 feet high cannot be positively identified until weather moderates. DUCKWORTH only is remaining in contact.  
(S.O.E.G. 3 291935A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Patrols.

Weigh at 1800A/29th and proceed to patrol area limits 50° 00' N. Q.Z.S. 636, 637, 616, 562 long. 01° 22' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 291030A to BALFOUR, BENTLEY, STOCKHAM.)

Weigh at 1800A/29th and proceed to patrol area 15 miles N.E. of Q.Z.S. 673 between 50° 10' N. and route E.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 291031A to GARLIES, GORE, HOSTE.)

Request you will transfer one support group to C. in C. Plymouth as soon as practicable.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 292005A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

(1) At 0800A/30th shift patrol to area limits 50° 00' N.

Q.Z.S. 636, 637, 616, 652 long. 01° 22' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 292207A to GARLIES, GORE, HOSTE.)

Operation  
"Nestegg".

Your requirement has been noted and will be taken into consideration when allocating support groups at the time.

(2) Your 272027 refers.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 291329A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Postpone my 281601A for 24 hours.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 291552A to HORNET.)

U-Boat  
technique.

Stragglers: Recent experience has shown that U-Boats are still carrying out the policy of attacking stragglers. Convoy escorts must use every endeavour to prevent straggling and with this object in view, whenever a convoy has 2 or

more escorts, one escort is to be stationed astern of the convoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 291636A to Portsmouth Command.)

Anti-U-Boat  
technique.

Causes of underwater explosions.

A convoy escort recently assumed that an unexplained explosion, which was observed to take place clear of shipping but in the area of one of our own deep minefields, was due to self-detonation of one of the mines.

(2) The likelihood of this occurring is remote and the correct inference was either a U-Boat's torpedo exploding at the end of its run or that something underwater had fouled the minefield. In either event the train of deduction should have suggested the presence of a submerged U-Boat.

/(3)...

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Channel.

Anti-U-Boat  
technique.  
(Contd.)

(3) In this instance the presence of the U-Boat was confirmed 40 minutes later by a straggler from the convoy being torpedoed about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the position of the original observed explosion.

(4) Underwater explosions at the present time in the Portsmouth Command area may be due to:-

Mines (a) Enemy mines. Ship entering and exploding a mine in an enemy minefield.

Note: So much traffic has passed through Q.Z.Xs. 84 and 771 and Q.Z.Y. 292 that the risk of damage to shipping from mines in these areas can be regarded as improbable.

(b) Deep tows in minefields. Some object at a depth of 60 feet or more - such as the bight of a slack tow rope or a foxer being towed through a British deep minefield.

Note: Foxers tow at about 60 feet at 10 knots and deeper at slower speeds.

(c) British mines. A ship in or near a British minefield fouling a drifting British mine which has parted from its mooring. An explosion on this account is unlikely as British mines are designed to be safe when parted from their moorings.

A/S Weapons. (d) Depth charges dropped by surface craft or aircraft, during attacks or dummy attacks.

Note: A command policy has been adopted whereby A/S surface craft and aircraft drop deterrent charges daily at random throughout the command area.

(e) Hedgehog or Squid salvos. Fired from A/S craft when attacking possible U-Boat contacts.

U-Boats. (f) Ships torpedoed. A U-Boat torpedoing a ship.

Note: U-Boat torpedo attacks are very rarely seen as their torpedoes are trackless.

(g) Torpedo misses. U-Boat torpedoes exploding at the end of the run. This sometimes occurs if the torpedo misses. (See note to item (f) above).

(h) U-Boats in British minefields. A submerged U-Boat entering and exploding a mine in British deep minefields.

Note: On account of the depth at which these mines are laid the U-Boat would be well below periscope depth at the time and would not therefore be seen.

(j) U-Boats in enemy minefields. A U-Boat entering and exploding a mine in an enemy minefield.

Note: As the depth at which these mines have been laid is unknown, the depth of a U-Boat under these conditions can not be predicted, but she would be unlikely to be above periscope depth according to present U-Boat operational policy and might well therefore be unseen.

Fish. (k) In minefields. The likelihood of mines being exploded by large fish is possible but improbable and can be discounted.

Summary:

(5) The probable causes of underwater explosions can therefore be summarised as follows:-

/Explosion...

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Channel.

Anti-U-Boat  
technique.  
(Contd.)

Explosion causing damage to shipping:  
(a) Enemy mines. The explosion is only likely to be due to mines in the vicinity of enemy minefields other than Q.Z.Xs. 84 and 771 and Q.Z.Y. 292. (See note to item 4 (a)).

(b) Presence of a U-Boat. In all other cases the presence of a U-Boat is to be assumed and appropriate action taken accordingly.

Explosion without damage to shipping:

(c) A/S weapons and tows. The explosion may be due to the use of A/S weapons by surface craft or aircraft or may be due to some object being towed deep through a British deep minefield.

(d) Presence of a U-Boat. Where an explosion without damage is observed near shipping - unless the explosion can be accounted for by one of the possibilities given in clause (c) above (according to the position and circumstances at the time) - the presence of a U-Boat is to be assumed and appropriate action is to be taken accordingly.

(e) In cases of doubt. Immediate anti-U-Boat action is to be taken and actively pursued until investigation shows that one of the alternative possibilities in clause (c) provides the correct explanation.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 291638A to Portsmouth Command.)

Possible  
U-Boat.

Attacking possible submarine contact in position 50° 25' N. 02° 40' W. RIBBLE in company.  
(SUSSEX VALE 292225A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Carried out 3 attacks. Lost contact, thorough search for 30 minutes. Joining convoy B.T.C. 111 RIBBLE in company.  
(SUSSEX VALE 292320A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

Blockade of  
Biscayan  
Ports: Op.  
"Independence"

S.H.A.E.F. 282000 being passed and your 221240. Request these ships may be sailed to Plymouth as soon as available and E.T.A. signalled.

(A.N.C.X.F. 291305A to C. in C. Med.)

S.H.A.E.F. 282000 being passed to you. Request you will transfer 3 French frigates to Plymouth as soon as practicable.

(2) Names and date of sailing to be reported.  
(D.O.D. (H) 291932A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

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Operations.

Western Approaches.

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. C. in C. W.A. 241706. Carry out operation C.1 trial A 0815/30th March. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 291051A to APOLLO.) 19th E.G. is to R/V with APOLLO at 1230/30th in position 51° 12' N. 06° 19' W. Group is to act under the orders of APOLLO while carrying out trial lays of mines at high and low speeds. Group will be required to observe mines from both quarters. (2) On completion of lay group is to be detached to original patrol on route B and C. (C. in C. W.A. 291122A to S.O.E.G. 19.)

Probable U-Boat. My 282110A. Echo sounder running throughout the night produced 2 lumps on the bottom 6 to 9 feet high from which it is impossible to draw any definite conclusions. Echo slowly fading and submarine reported well embedded in mud. Have ceased attacks pending return of BYRON. Consider possibility of further evidence very unlikely. (FITZROY 291110A to C. in C. W.A.)

Resuming patrol. (FITZROY 291550 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 281830 and 291110, further investigation puts sinking time of REDMILL 1st hedgehog attack at between 2½ and 4½ seconds. This was at first considered to be premature as one bomb exploded on hitting the water.

- U. 722  
sunk
- (2) Echo sounder traced in BYRON showed 2 lumps 70 feet and 30 feet long and 9 to 12 feet high. This is confirmed in REDMILL and FITZROY as 2 lumps 6 to 9 feet high.
  - (3) 2 pieces of wood and a piece of packing picked up by REDMILL.
  - (4) In view of existing evidence and definite classification of diesel oil consider original attack carried out on a German U-Boat at shallow depth.
  - (5) Am sweeping through the position of contact at intervals during course of patrol.

(FITZROY 292312A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.Gs. 30, 17. PHILANTE is requested to sail 30th E.G. at 0800/30th to relieve 17th E.G. in Rosyth Command as required by C. in C. Rosyth. FREEBOOTER towing B.P.T. 30 is also be sailed in accordance with my 260011 not to all.

- (2) On relief by 30th E.G. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail 17th E.G. to arrive Greenock 1st April for layover. (C. in C. W.A. 291302A to PHILANTE, C. in C. Rosyth.)

/Patrols...

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Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Patrols. Force 32 1st Division CONN 3 frigates, Cape Wrath to North Minch, 2nd division FITZROY 2 frigates Sea of Hebrides and Little Minch, Force 33, E.G. 23 E.G. 23 MONTSEERRAT 4 frigates off North Irish Coast, Force 37 E.G. 2 BERKELEY CASTLE 3 corvettes North Irish Sea, Force 36 E.G. 25 STRATHADAM 2 frigates central Irish Sea. Force 38 E.G. 22 HART, LOCHCRAGGIE 4 sloops St. George's Channel, Force 34 E.G. 19 supporting O.S. 119. Forces support convoys as ordered.  
(C. in C. W.A. 291521A to Admty.)

American  
E.G. for  
Western  
Approaches  
Command.

C.R. 1711. After reporting temporary duty in 12th Fleet Comdeslant 211547 not to all. T.G. 22.9 redesignated T.G. 120.1. Operational control under C. in C. W.A. who designates Londonderry primary base. Conference scheduled upon arrival Liverpool at which time operations and logistic support will be discussed.  
(Com. 12th Fleet 291726 to C.T.G. 22.9.)

NATAL's  
U-Boat.

Their Lordships congratulate H.M.S.A.S. NATAL on her successful encounter with a U-Boat and note with satisfaction that this kill was achieved so soon after commissioning.  
(1st S.L. 291842A to H.M.S.A.S. NATAL, High Commissioner, Union of South Africa.)

Operations.

Norway.

Norwegian  
operations.

A meeting on Norwegian operations similar to that of the 11th January will be held at 1515 Wednesday 11th April in the First Lord's War Room, Admiralty. Request addressees may be represented and that items for the agenda may reach A.C.N.S. (H) by 7th April.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 291608A to Cs. in C. H.F., Rosyth, F.O.S.M., A.O.C. in C.C.C., 18 Group, M.E.W.)

Patrols.

Submarine positions at 0800/30th and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone A.  
A. UTSIRA 62° 35' N. 01° 44' E. to 63° 50' N. 03° 23' E. en route Fro Havet submerged by day.  
B. DOLFIJN 61° 24' N. 02° 00' E. through 61° 24' N. 00° 12' E. to 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles en route Lerwick. Diving by day east of 01° 00' E.  
C. TURPIN sails from Lerwick at 1600/30th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and 61° 04' N. 00° 01' E. and 61° 04' N. 02° 00' E. to 60° 53' N. 02° 30' E. en route patrol, submerged by day east of 01° 00' E.

/D....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols. D. SPEARHEAD leaves patrol, passing 60° 25' N.  
 (Contd.) 04° 00' E. at 0030/31 through 60° 52' N. 04° 00' E.  
 to 61° 08' N. 03° 05' E. en route Lerwick diving  
 by day.  
 (F.O. S/M 291749A to Admty.)  
 UTSIRA left Lerwick 1007A/29th March through 090° Muckle Flugga  
 10 then by route "Orange" to patrol vicinity Fro Havet.  
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick 291028A to S/Ms north of 51° N.)  
 Leave patrol so as to pass through position 60° 25' N. 04°  
 00' E. at 0030A/31st March thence Lerwick through A. 60° 52' N.  
 04° 00' E. B. 61° 24' N. 02° 00' E. C. 61° 24' N. 00° 31' E.  
 D. 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, diving boundary east of 01° E.  
 (2) DOLFIJN passing through position A at 2230A/29th March  
 thence Lerwick by same route.  
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick 291035A to SPEARHEAD.)

Operation Report received from Norwegian source (graded B.  
 "V.P. 86" 2) during operation Ramose Bluejacket on 27th  
 of Mar. 12th. March stated that PARIS (Nor. 1753 tons) had been  
 sunk by M.T.Bs. in Bommelfjord area on date not  
 specified. Ship had been converted to A/A  
 cruiser and was manned by Hird Marine, 90 of  
 which were lost.  
 (2) In view of B.2 report that this ship was in Karmsund on  
 7th March only attack to which this report can be attributed is  
 "V.P. 86" west of Karmoy on 12th March.  
 (C. in C. H.F. 292333A to Admty.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Probable NORTHERN SPRAY made 4 attacks p.m. yesterday  
 U-Boat. 28th on contacts classified as submarine in  
 vicinity of 64.06 N. 23.02 W.  
 (A.C.I.C. 291240A to Admty.)  
 Convoy You were probably sighted by enemy aircraft at  
 R.A. 65. 0530A and 1350A today. Two enemy aircraft still  
 active.  
 (D.D.I.C. 291550A to C.S. 10, C. in C. H.F.)  
 Request you arrange for ZAMBESI, SCORPION and  
 SCOURGE to return to Scapa as early as convenient.  
 (C. in C. H.F. 291913A to C.S. 10.)  
 Up to 50 Ju. 88 torpedo bombers may be transferring from  
 Bardufoss to Trondheim or operating against the convoy.  
 (D.D.I.C. 291936A to C.S. 10 in CAMPANIA.)

/R.A. 65...

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Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy R.A. 65. Intend CAMPANIA, DIADEM, TRUMPETER escorted by Capt. (D) 23 in MYNGS, SCORPION, SAVAGE, ZAMBESI and SIOUX leave convoy at 0800/30th. E.T.A. Hoxa 2000A.  
(2) Kirkwall portion less FORT CREVECOEUR escorted by SCOURGE and SAVAGE will leave convoy at position B for Pentland.

(3) OPPORTUNE S.O. and ORWELL have been instructed to proceed with convoy and E.G. 7 to Clyde unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. H.F.

(4) My P.C.S. 63° 11' N. 04° 32' W. 176° 9 knots.

(C.S. 10 292000A to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

As amended by 292256.

Your 291513A not to C. in C. H.F. Cdre. is in FORT CREVECOEUR and cannot be detached. Remainder of Kirkwall portion will be detached at position B and routed via Pentland escorted by SCOURGE and STORD.

(2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail a trawler escort to relieve destroyers off Dunnet Head and to take ADOLPH OCHS and FORT VERCHERES to Kirkwall. SCOURGE report E.T.A. Dunnet Head and escort BLUE RANGER into Scapa.

(C.S. 10 292010A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G. 17. LOCH KILLIN, MOORSOM and BURGESS on arrival off Cape Wrath at approx. 1000A/30 part company and proceed to Scapa.

(2) ASCENSION and LOCH LOMOND leave patrol so as to R/V with remainder of group off Scapa.

(3) Group is then to act under orders of C. in C. H.F. afloat.

(C. in C. Rosyth 292131A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

Port Facilities.

Flushing.

Sitrep Flushing.

(1) Lock repairs. The first 35 metre lock gate placed in position. Bad conditions of pintles of 20 metre locks raising certain complications but original date of completion of project will probably hold good.

(2) Schelde Yard. Number of employees 2413 showing no appreciable increase. This is dealt with in my 280933A March to Admiralty.

(3) Refits. SHELL II and RYE have been drydocked and 2 B.A.Ns. have arrived for refit. Considered Schelde Yard is handling as many Naval commitments as is possible with present resources. Refits appear to be efficiently carried out.

(4) Outer harbour repairs. Another alongside berth should be ready shortly.

/(5)...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Port Facilities.

- Flushing. (5) Cranes. Only one 20 ton mobile crane at  
(Contd.) present available. Two more are essential.  
Efforts being made to obtain locally.  
(6) Miscellaneous. Four more L.C.Ts. with  
building material and stores arrived. Repairs  
to houses proceeding satisfactorily.  
(7) Buoyage for Dutch Waters. One acetylene light buoy is under  
construction. 50 in all are required and it is hoped to obtain  
necessary materials in Belgium.  
(8) Food. Situation much improved.  
(9) Buses. Admiralty buses have eased the transport situation.  
(F.O. Holland 291015A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

SEARCHER, Regret to report that after slipping from E Buoy  
escort carrier. at 1925 Saturday 24th March I passed E Buoy with  
it going aft (missing group) believed till came  
under counter, and it or its cable was hit by  
propeller.

- (2) At least 1 propeller blade is presumed damaged. Assistance  
of divers to examine will be required on returning to harbour.  
Buoy and cable will also require examination before use.  
(3) Form S.232 follows.  
(SEARCHER 290112A to F.O. Orkney, C. in C. H.F.)

SS. THOMAS Aground. Estimate vicinity Saint Catherines.  
J. JARVIS. Require assistance of 2 tugs. Master.  
(THOMAS J. JARVIS 290450Z to N.C.S.O. Southampton)  
Following received from THOMAS J. JARVIS.  
Please cancel my urgent 290450Z, help no longer  
required.  
(Niton W/T 290600Z to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

SS. ANTONIA, V SS. ANTONIA and SS. FORT MOOSE in collision in  
SS. FORT MOOSE. thick fog off M.H. Buoy at 1635A/28.  
(2) SS. FORT MOOSE entered Milford Haven. SS.  
ANTONIA anchored in position 182° St. Annes 4 1/4  
miles tug STORMKING standing by will place salvage  
party on board and tow to Milford Haven first opportunity when  
weather conditions allow.  
(3) 35 survivors ANTONIA, crew ashore and 4 dead have been landed,  
one unaccounted for.  
(4) Crew 40 and 4 D.E.M.S. ratings latter all saved.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 291247A to Admty.)

/SS. SOBIESKY...

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29.3.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

SS. SOBIESKY. SOBIESKY suffered shock from possible underwater explosion in Pasture anchorage at 1700A/29th. No indication of any damage. Will sail with V.W.P. 9 as per my 291350A. Master requests examination by diver on arrival.  
(C.T.G. 122.3 292040A to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Southampton.)

Movements.

A.F.D. 67, Sailed at 1500A/29 FLINT CASTLE 14 knots to floating dock. contact A.F.D. 67.  
(2) Plot position will be passed to assist R/V. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 291505 to LAVENDER.)  
My 281400 not to all proceed Milford Haven acting under orders of F.O.I.C. Milford Haven on arrival.  
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail ULVA as additional escort to A.F.D. 67 to Falmouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 291113A to ULVA.)

CLEOPATRA F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail CLEOPATRA cruiser. when ready early April to Scapa.  
(2) On completion of sufficient preliminary work up for which about two weeks is estimated, C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail ship for Med.  
(3) C. in C. Med. is requested to make arrangements to complete work up in his command.  
(4) On completion of work up CLEOPATRA is to be sailed for Australia via Ceylon to join British Pacific Fleet.  
(V.C.N.S. 292319A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, Cs. in C. H.F., Med.)

ARIADNE, A.M. 241653A not to all. From R proceed to D fast mine- 49° 57' 18" N. 04° 15' 54" W. thence by Q.Z.S. 691 layer. to Plymouth.  
(2) U-Boat activity in Mounts Bay and Longships areas a.m. today.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 291530A to ARIADNE.)

ANSON, Intend to sail ANSON at 0800A/31st March to battleship. Scapa escorted by ZODIAC (S.O. escorts) OFFA and HURON. GARLAND sails as additional escort but is not worked up.  
(2) Routed as in A.M. 281632 not to all.  
(3) S.O.A. 21.5 knots, E.T.A. 0600B/2nd April.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 291803A to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.

29.3.1945  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Tilbury -  
Ostend  
sailings.

The following provisional programme for British duty service has been agreed between War Office and P.S.T.O. Sec. and is promulgated at their request. Tilbury - Ostend duty service.

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Sails Tilbury</u>	<u>Sails Ostend</u>
INVICTA, VIENNA	April 1st	April 2nd
VIKING	2nd	3rd
ULSTER MONARCH, DUKE OF YORK	3rd	4th
VIENNA	4th	5th
ST. HELIER, VIKING	5th	6th
ULSTER MONARCH, DUKE OF YORK	6th	7th

(A.N.C.X.F. 291059A to Admty.)

Release of  
L.S.Ts. from  
Far Shore  
Service.

As a result of improved weather conditions and reduced forecast of cross-channel vehicle movement requirements, 14 U.S. L.S.T. can be released immediately and four British L.S.T. released as convenient to the Admiralty. 15 M.T. ships have been released subject to (?partial) replacement by the shipping authorities at short notice if required. Further release of L.ST. and/or M.T. ships will be considered 10th April.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 291600A to Agwar, Admty., and others.)

Ex German  
Hospital  
Ship (not  
recognised)  
BORDEAUX.

041218 Jan. Intend to hand over ex German hospital ship BORDEAUX to Messrs. Collins Shipping Agents Portland acting on behalf of French State Railways on Tuesday 3rd April.  
(F.C.I.C. Portland 291800 to Admty.)

War Diary

29.3.1945  
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

S/M STORM. Intend to sail S/M STORM with M.K.S.92 destination Portsmouth F.O.S/M's 182058 not to all. (F.O.G.M.A. 291124A to Admty.)

Sailings. (2) Normal independent sailings from Casablanca to Southward may be resumed. (F.O.G.M.A. 291150A to C.M.S.F.)

BARFLEUR. Departure 0910/29th H.M.S. BARFLEUR. (F.O.G.M.A. 291230A to Admty.)

U-Boat. My 291252Z N.T. in W.D. Five D.C. attacks made on Sonar contact. Evaluated doubtful. No apparent motion of target during attacks. No evidence of damage to target. U.S.S. KENDRICK and CARMICK remaining in area until relieved by British Hunt Group. (C.T.G. 60.5, 291325Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

Cod Fishing Group. N.A. Lisbon's 091110. Proposal approved subject to vessels being routed through 41 degs. 30' N. 30 degs. 00' W. thence direct to Greenland Bank. (Hd. of M. 291357A to N.A. Lisbon.)

EASTWAY, L.S.D. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail EASTWAY for Portsmouth escorted by WESTON as soon as convenient after disembarkation. (2) Authorities addressed are requested to arrange additional escort in Mediterranean Approaches and when North of latitude 48 degs. North. (D.O.D.(H), 291743A to F.O.G.M.A.) Arrivals WESTON, WOLVERINE, VERITY and EASTWAY carrying L.C.T.(E) 384.L.C.G.(M) 103. (F.O.G.M.A. 292054A to Admty.)

South Atlantic

A.F.D.39. Intend to sail A.F.D.39 towed by South Africa Railways and Harbour tug C.F. KAYSER escorted by H.M.S. STELLA POLARIS at 0400Z/30th March Coastal to Durban. E.T.A. 3 knots. (N.O.I.C. East London, 291359Z and 300905 to Admty.)

FRITILLARY (Corvette.) Arrived 1200Z/29th. H.M.S. FRITILLARY. Ship delayed approx. 48 hours by engine room defects. (B.N.N.O. Pointe Noire, 291455A to F.O.C.W.Africa)

29.3.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

DELHI  
(Cruiser) Intend to sail DELHI on completion of steering trials at 1100/30th March for Gibraltar and onward routing to U.K. C. in C. Med. 071214 para. 4 refers.  
(V.A.Malta, 290951 to F.O.G.M.A.)

French Destroyers. Request you will sail BASQUE<sup>LE</sup>, FORTUNE, ALCYON and HOVA as soon as possible to Gibraltar.  
(2) A.N.C.X.F. is requested to call these ships forward from Gibraltar as required. S.H.A.E.F. Forward's 282000A not to all.  
(C. in C. Med. 291102A to F.O.W.M. and 300854)

Movements. Departure IMPLACABLE, NEWFOUNDLAND, TUMULT, TERPSICHORE.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 291335B to Admty.)

Black Sea Routes. Admiral Archer 291728A to Admiralty, concurred, 021815B.  
See Lion Copy.

IMPLACABLE for B.P.F. Following is a repetition of my 281806 addressed as above begins. Your 271056 leave Suez 29th in company IMPLACABLE in accordance my 201420.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 291929B to C. in C. E.I.S.)

# SECRET

532A

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.)

Black Sea Routes

291728A/March

From: Admiral Archer Moscow

Date: 30.3.45

Recd: 1441

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IDC (OTP) BY CABLE

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To: Admiralty

Info: C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M., Alusna Istanbul, B.N.A.  
Ankara, S.A.C.Med., Cdr. 8th Fleet, C.S.A. Istanbul  
B.N.L.O. Black Sea, F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C.  
Lamlash, N.C.S.O. Mersey, B.A.D. Washington,  
13 Group

My 241410 February paragraph 3.

1. Following additional Black Sea routes agreed with Soviet Naval Staff and U.S. Naval Mission Moscow.

(A) Constantza - Novorossisk. Proceed through points: latitude 43 degrees 51 minutes longitude 29 degrees 01.8 minutes (approach point) latitude 44 degrees 06 minutes longitude 32 degrees 46 minutes latitude 44 degrees 31.2 longitude 37 dogs. 45.0 minutes (Approach point).

Novorossisk - Constantza by same route reversed.

(B) Constantza - Tuapse. Proceed through points: latitude 043 degs, 51 minutes longitude 029 degrees 01.8 mins. (Approach Point) latitude 044 degs, 12 mins, longitude 034 degrees 06 minutes latitude 044 degs, 10.8 minutes longitude 038 degrees 52.9 minutes (Approach Point).

Tuapse - Constantza by same route reversed.

(C) Constantza - Poti. Proceed through points: latitude 43 degrees 51 minutes longitude 29 degrees 01.8 minutes latitude 44 degrees 06 minutes longitude 32 degrees 46 minutes latitude 42 degrees 11 point 6 minutes longitude 41 degrees 33 point 6 minute. Poti - Constantza by same route reversed.

(D) Odessa Novorossisk. Latitude 46 degrees 08.1 minutes longitude 31 degrees 26.2 minutes (Approach Point). Latitude 45 degrees 47 minutes longitude 31 degrees 17 minutes latitude 44 degrees 06 minutes longitude 32 degrees 46 minutes latitude 44 degrees 31.2 minutes longitude 37 degrees 45 .8 minutes (Approach Point). Novorossisk Odessa by same route reversed.

(E) Odessa - Tuapse. Latitude 46 degrees 08.1 minutes longitude 31 degrees 26.2 minutes (Approach Point) latitude 45 degrees 47 minutes longitude 31 degrees 17 minutes latitude 44 degrees 06 minutes longitude 32 degrees 46 minutes.

/044 minutes...

044 degrees 12 minutes 034 degrees 06 minutes 044 minutes  
10.8 038 degs. 052 degrees 9 minutes (Approach Point)  
Tuapse - Odessa by same route reversed.

(F) Odessa - Poti. Latitude 046 degrees 08.1 minutes  
longitude (?031 degrees) 26.2 minutes (Approach Point)  
045 degrees 47 minutes 032 degrees 17 minutes 044 degrees  
06 minutes 032 degrees 46 minutes 042 degrees 11.6  
minutes 041 degrees 33.6 minutes (Approach Point).  
Poti - Odessa by same route reversed.

2. Following route has also been given by Soviet Naval  
Staff: Constantza - Odessa. Latitude 043 degrees 51 minutes  
longitude 029 degrees 01.8 minutes (Approach Point) 044 degrees  
28 minutes 030 degrees 40 minutes 046 degrees 008 degrees 09  
minutes 31 26.2 minutes (Approach Point) Odessa - Constantza  
by same route reversed.

3. The route in Paragraph 2 above is considered unsuitable  
if danger areas as last given by Soviet Naval Staff still  
exist. Soviet Naval Staff state actual boundaries are almost  
certainly proposed inside those given but until thorough  
sweep has been carried out this cannot be confirmed. Soviet  
ships have (however) been using bomber transport route almost  
daily for some months and Naval Staff consider it quite sage.

4. In view of intention to (sail) valuable ships to  
Constantza on route to Odessa in near future it is for  
consideration that these should be routed as follows: latitude  
43 degrees 51 minutes longitude 29 degrees 01.8 minutes  
(Approach Point) 43 degrees 51 minutes 29 degrees 42 minutes  
44 (degrees) 40 (minutes) 31 degrees (56) minutes 45  
degrees 40 minutes 31 degrees 14 minutes 46 degrees 08.1  
minutes 31 degrees 26.2 minutes (Approach Point) (Odessa) -  
Constantza by reverse route.

5. Urgent representations made that Constantza Approach  
Point alternatives be put in positions as soon as possible.

6. Admiralty pass to all addressees negative British  
Naval Liaison Officer Black Sea.

291728A (Comm 0218158)

Route from Constanza to Odessa.  
Advance copy: Ops. O.D. Plot.

Passing action being taken by War Reg.

1st Lord	P.A.S.(L)	D.T.D.(C)	D.A./U.D.
1st S.L.(3)	U.W.R.	W.D.	D. of S.(3)
D.F.S.L.	Ops.(2)	Ad. Blake	D. of S.2B
4th S.L.	Plot	D. of S.T.(15)	
V.C.N.S.	OLD.(6)		
A.C.N.S.(H)	O.I.C.(3)		
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.N.I.(5)		
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)	D. of P.(2)		
Sec.	D. of P.(Q)(3)	D.M.S.	
Nav. Sec.	M.(10)(M.05812/44)	D.M.S.(Citadel)	
P.A.S.(S)	D.T.D.(4)	D.A./S.W.	

29.3.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

S/MS'  
dispositions.

- (1) RORQUAL West Coast Sumatra.
- (2) SELENE Zones E. and G.
- (3) THULE Zones C. and F.
- (S/M 2, 290253Z to C. in C. E.I.)

U-Boat  
dispositions.

No change.  
(C. in C. E.I. 290407Z to S. and A. E.I. Station.)

S/M  
THRASHER.

THRASHER Second Far East patrol, March 8th to 15th carried out special operation. March 16th to 19th by demolition and gunfire sank in vicinity Butang and Langkawi Islands 5 native craft totalling 145 tons. March 22nd carried out special operation. (C. in C. E.I.S. 290941Z to Admty.)

RENOWN.

RENOWN is urgently required to join Home Fleet.  
(2) Request you will sail her as soon as possible to proceed U.K. with despatch and that you will signal probable date of arrival at Gibraltar in order that escort may be arranged.  
(3) Practicability of giving some leave immediately on arrival will depend on the situation at the time. Further signal will be made to C. in C. Home Fleet and RENOWN.  
(D.O.D.(F) Approved. V.C.N.S. 291249A to C. in C. E.I.)

Communique  
on Operations  
"on Board" and  
"Transport".

Your 281321Z. Concur in text of your proposed communique to be issued when you consider desirable but request you will omit reference to damage sustained by H.M. ships in your para. 5.  
(C. of N.I. 291403A to C. in C. E.I.S. and 311301Z)



29.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

N.S.H.Q. Para. (D) (1) H.M.C.S. ROSTHERN attacked contact  
S/M attack at 1612Z/28th March in 45.11 N., 54.52 W.  
and sighting (N.S.H.Q., 290021Z to Admty.)  
summary.

BONAVENTURE, San Diego arrived 28th March BONAVENTURE.  
S/M Depot (N.S.H.Q., 290322Z to Admty.)  
Ship B.P.F.

U/B Estimates.  
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q., 291340Z, Cominch, 291526Z.)

DILIGENCE, Sail DILIGENCE from Norfolk about 2nd April to  
(Auxiliary New York for provisions and fuel. About 7th  
repair ship) April when ready include in appropriate slow  
convoy for ultimate destination Chatham,  
England.  
(Cominch, 291421Z to Comeastseafron.)

Operation by Following from Cincpac advanced H.Q. begins:  
Task Force 57 Addressed Secnav, Info. Cominch, Cincpac Pearl.  
B.P.F. Am releasing at 2200Z/29 March the following  
Sakishima communique.  
Group. (1) On 26th and 27th March East longitude dates  
carrier aircraft of the British Pacific Fleet  
bombed and strafed installations in the Saki-  
shima group. 20 enemy aircraft were destroyed  
on the ground, 1 small coastal vessel was destroyed and  
several damaged and the town of Ohama was left in flames.  
(2) The British Task Force engaged is commanded by Vice-Admiral  
Sir Bernard Rawlings, Royal Navy, with Rear-Admiral Sir Philip  
Vian, Royal Navy, in command of its carriers. It consists  
of some of the most powerful ships in the British Navy such  
as KING GEORGE V and ILLUSTRIOUS. The British Task Force is  
now under the operational control of Admiral R.A. Spruance, U.S.  
Navy, Commander 5th Fleet.  
(3) The British Pacific Fleet, of which the Task Force mentioned  
is a part, is under the command of Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser,  
Royal Navy. 290355. Ends.  
(B.A.D., 291621Z to Admty.)

U/B Para. (C) (1) 1620Z/28 Cortdiv 35 had contact  
contacts. 42.58 N., 68.48 W. which was subsequently  
attacked.

(2) About 1910Z/28 U.S.S. SATTERLEE attacked  
good sound contact 42.54 N., 67.38 W.  
Para. (D) (1) 2135Z/28 N.A.T.S. A/C reported sighting surfaced  
U-Boat 36.58 N., 73.20 W. probably surface craft later seen in  
general area.  
(Cominch, 292050Z to Admty.)

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29.3.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Operation by Operational Report No.1.  
Task Force 57. C.T.F.57 reports daylight air attacks carried out on Myako and Ishigaki Islands on 26th and 27 March. 27th.

(2) All airfields, barracks and installations well strafed and bombed during 574 sorties.

(3) Several coasters were attacked, one of

which blew up.

(4) Over 20 aircraft were destroyed on the ground and one in the air.

(5) There was no air opposition and Task Force 57 though sighted twice was not attacked.

(6) Our losses caused by moderate to heavy flak consist of 6 aircraft in addition 11 aircraft lost from other causes.

(7) Total personnel losses killed and missing are 5 pilots and 4 aircrew.

(8) Cloud prevented good photographic results being obtained.

(9) T.F.57 now presumed refuelling in service area.

C. in C. E.I. pass F.O. Air E.I.

(C. in C. B.P.F., 290247Z to Admty.)

Monrads,  
B.P.F.

To provide surface warning for protection of anchorages in advanced and intermediate bases it is proposed to use tropicalised Monrads. Request two in number may be allocated for this purpose.

(2) The one intended for the advanced base is required as soon as possible and it is requested arrangements be made for early shipment to Sydney advising date.

(3) It is requested that one intended for the intermediate base may be held in readiness pending advice as to its destination.

(4) An additional Monrad is also required as a stand-by at Sydney to meet unforeseen requirements and possibility of action damage.

(V.A.(Q), 290439Z to Admty., Info. C. in C. B.P.F.)

B.P.F.

(Maintenance & servicing).

Admiralty's 122344 Feb. Employment of L.S.Is. from Force X experience to date has shown that the following ships whose present duties are as shown, are essential to the maintenance and servicing of the B.P.F.

(A) GLENEARN transport of personnel, harbour craft and landing craft between Australia and the Fleet in the forward area (approximate average lift required 1,000 personnel per month).

(B) LOTHIAN H.Q. ship for R.A.F.T. On relief by MONTCLARE due for essential refit prior to use as C. in C.'s H.Q. Ship.

(C) LAMONT base and accommodation ship at Manus. Since it is not intended to construct shore facilities at Manus this requirement will remain so long as Manus is in use.

(D) EMPIRE SPEARHEAD base and accommodation ship at Leyte or other advanced anchorage. So long as the assignment of the Fleet and hence the anchorage to which it returns for replenishment is liable to sudden change the mobile facilities provided by this ship are an essential requirement.

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War Diary.29.3.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

B.P.F. (2) The duties of a base and accommodation ship  
(Maintenance include -  
& servicing) (A) Transport and maintenance of L.C.As. and  
(Contd.) harbour craft required for replenishment, and  
accommodation of their crews and maintenance  
personnel.  
(B) Accommodation of - details.

(3) Consideration has been given to whether LOTHIAN could  
combine the above duties with that of C. in C.'s H.Q. ship.  
This is not considered possible as the ship has not sufficient  
accommodation and cannot hoist and transport L.C.As.

(4) In accordance with para. 4 of Admiralty's 122344, LAMONT  
is due to leave for U.K. in the middle of April. It is  
requested however that she may be retained until at least some  
shore base facilities are established in the forward area.

(5) I have no means of judging the urgency of her other  
commitments but I feel that I must represent that the with-  
drawal of LAMONT now that active operations have commenced  
would seriously affect the maintenance and supply of the Fleet.  
Ends.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 290541Z to Admty.)

Digest Covering 28th March except where another date  
No. 1163, given.  
28th March. (2) Clark Liberators over China coast strafed  
(Extract) and slightly damaged single north-east bound  
lugger off Hong Kong and heavily damaged single  
possibly derelict transport anchored 30 miles  
east Foochow.

(6) Before dawn Mariners from Lingayan attacked one large  
freighter with one sea truck anchored off Takao leaving  
freighter sinking with two direct hits, two near misses with  
quarter tonner, strafed three sea trucks, off Swatow.

(7) Delayed reports 27th March states Clark Field Liberators  
destroyed single small coaster anchored 15 miles east by south  
Wenchow, bombed strafed single south-west bound lugger  
Pescadores area leaving vessel listing, blew up single small  
coaster 20 miles south Kiirun, sank single small coaster  
damaged two other 10 miles north Toseki, strafed 5 sea trucks,  
4 small coasters anchored 10 miles north by west Tainan, strafed  
burned, destroyed single small coaster 35 miles north by east  
Taito.

(14) Before dawn 27th March, 6 Liberators swept China coast from  
Hainan to Hong Kong sinking small freighter transport off  
Luichow Peninsula, sinking single small coaster off Hong Kong,  
bombing Kiirun docks.

(17) 2 other Liberators on shipping search off Borneo coastline,  
Macassar Strait bombed strafed 1 destroyer escort.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 291219 to Admty.)

Aircraft Your 280740 Feb.  
for B.P.F. (2) Assignments of aircraft from U.S.A. during  
1945 will not allow re-equipping of INDEFATIGABLE  
and IMPLACABLE fighter squadrons with Hellcats:  
moreover production of Hellcat aircraft ceases  
at end of this year and it will become necessary to reduce the  
Hellcat first line I.E. in 1946. A.M. 210350 Feb. did not  
mean that the total first line I.E. could be increased.

/(3) ...

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29.3.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandAircraft  
for B.P.F.  
(Contd.)

(3) INDEFATIGABLE and IMPLACABLE must therefore continue to be equipped with Seafires and Fireflies.

(4) The following remarks show the development of the Seafire aircraft:

(a) Seafire XV, XVII and XVIII are coming into large scale production now. XV has top speed of 336 knots, is exceptionally good low down, and has good rate of climb. XVII and XVIII incorporate minor improvements on XV and raise top speed to 342 and 345 plus knots respectively. All these aircraft have better all round performance than the Hellcat II, though not so versatile or rugged.

(b) Seafire 47 comes into fairly large scale production this Autumn, and is conventional interceptor fighter with all round performance second to none. Should have top speed of 383 knots and slightly superior to Seafire XV series low down. Under-carriage is re-designed to meet carrier conditions and other improvements include sting type arrester hook (also fitted to Seafire XV/XVIII series) additional drag flaps, generally improved handling qualities at low speed, additional endurance including increase in internal tankage, provision for R.P.s., 4 24 mm. cannon and rear view hook (also on Seafire XVII and XVIII).

(c) Admiralty policy has been to aim at providing the Fleet in the first place with high performance interceptor fighter of adequate endurance and superior to any enemy aircraft likely to be encountered, and having achieved this requirement to make provision as possible for carriage of bombs, R.P.s., etc. Later marks of Seafire with their exceptional rate of climb, manoeuvrability and performance, particularly at low altitudes should be useful against suicide dive bombers and only as bombers will they compare unfavourably with Hellcats and Corsairs.

(5th Sea Lord, 292000A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

B.P.F.  
(A/S  
defences).

In order to meet C. in C. B.P.F. requirements for A/S defence of advanced anchorage it will be necessary to modify the control equipment in HELVIG to make her capable of controlling 16 Mil loops.

(2) It is requested that the necessary modifications may be carried out at a high priority at the expense of the C.M.(L) equipment for which no requirement exists at present provided this will not unduly delay her departure from United Kingdom.

(3) It is requested that the following requirements may now be met -

(A) Cable ship of BULLFINCH class to be sailed as soon as possible in advance of HELVIG. No cable ship is available from R.A.N. resources.

(B) Necessary personnel.

(V.A.(Q) B.P.F., 292344Z to Admty.)

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29.3.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/29th March.

Para. (A) (1) A/C B/224 sighted smoke and  
obtained positive contact at 1003Z/28th in 57°  
52' N., 02° 45' W.(2) H.M.C.S. TEME attacked U-Boat at 0624Z/29th  
in 50° 08' N., 05° 50' W.  
(3) A/C S/86 reported positive U-Boat at 0724Z/29th in 60°  
05' N., 05° 15' W.Para. (B) (1) A/C F/330 had A.S.V. contact at 1455Z/28th in  
60° 37' N., 05° 00' W.(2) A/C X/210 attacked possible periscope or schnorkel at  
2143Z/28th in 61° 05' N., 05° 20' W.Para. (C) (1) A/C U/224 had A.S.V. contact at 1355Z/28th in  
60° 05' N., 04° 15' W.(2) E.G.21 attacked possible U-Boat contact result oil at  
1145Z/28th in 57° 09' N., 06° 54' W.

(D.D.I.C., 291053A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (D.D.I.C., 291400A.)U-Boats,  
(presence  
of).There is at present no indication of any U-Boats  
in Atlantic south of 30° 00' N. nor in southern  
Indian Ocean. Daily estimates will therefore  
be discontinued until there are again signs  
of presence of U-Boats in these areas.  
(D.D.I.C., 291355A to A.I.G. 332, Cominch.)

30.3.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. (a) The small coaster JIM sank from underwater explosion off Orfordness at 0600, but opinion is divided as to whether it was from mine or torpedo.  
(b) One mine was swept off the Far Shore.
- Channel. 2. (a) Alderney heavy batteries fired a dozen four-gun salvos in a northeasterly direction, but at no visible target.  
(b) A U-Boat is strongly suspected of having laid 20 24-inch mines off Le Treport.
- Norway. 3. M.T.Bs. 716 and 717, on return from a "V.P." sweep to the neighbourhood of Slotterø, report destroying one trawler-type patrol vessel and scoring gun hits on an E-Boat and some houses. M.T.B. 717 suffered superficial damage.
- Northern Waters. 4. Likely hits on U-Boats have been scored 12 miles N.N.E. of Cape Wrath, by E.G. 30, and 30 miles S.W. of Cape Wrath by RUPERT, of Force 32. Contacts are being maintained.
- U. 1021 sunk*

Foreign Stations.

Australia & New Zealand.

- China. 5. U.S. aircraft attacked shipping off Hainan Island and damaged one destroyer and submarine chaser and an unidentified vessel of 4000 tons.
- Movement. 6. FENCER (escort carrier) sailed from Sydney for Leyte (Philippines.)

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FridayHOME COMMANDSPolicy

Rights of  
Commanders-  
in-Chief  
after  
termination  
of Combined  
Command.

From A.G.W.A.R. to S.H.A.E.F. Main for Eisenhower.  
Point to S.C.A.F. 214 (sic).  
Agree that after termination of combined command  
respective U.S. and U.K. Commanders-in-Chief may  
require certain facilities and rights from those  
Allied Governments with whom existing civil affairs  
agreements have been made. U.S. and U.K. Govern-  
ments are now considering rights which must be  
assured Zone Commanders for this period before  
approaching Allied Governments concerned. Re-

quest you submit views as to rights which you consider unilateral  
Commanders will require in each country.

Clarification last sentence of penultimate paragraph of S.C.A.F.  
214 also requested.

(S.H.A.E.F. Main, 301600A to Admty.)

S.79891. Secret S.C.A.F. 214.

At the time my command is terminated and is divided into its  
British and U.S. components, each under its own Commander-in-  
Chief the question will arise of the continued applicability of  
the administrative and jurisdictional agreements with the several  
liberated countries and various auxiliary agreements. It is  
considered important that certain provisions of the agreements  
such as the right to requisition jurisdiction over troops trial  
by indigenous courts of offences against the safety and security  
of British/U.S. Forces, immunity from taxes and customs etc.  
particularly in those countries through which the British/U.S.  
supply lines will run and in which British/U.S. Military instal-  
lations will be located continue in force. It is possible that  
the liberated countries concerned will object to continuance of  
the special rights under operational conditions but these will be  
inoperative by their own terms. Accordingly the simplest method  
of dealing with the problem appears to be agreement on the  
continuance in force of the agreements. Therefore I recommend  
that negotiations be immediately undertaken on behalf of the  
respective U.S./U.K. Governments through such diplomatic or  
other representatives as they may select with the appropriate  
authorities of the various countries with a view to confirming  
that the British and U.S. Commanders-in-Chief respectively  
succeed to my authority under the agreements and that all the  
provisions of the agreements, from the time of termination of  
Combined Command forward, apply to them respectively and to the  
forces under their commands. There is another important  
aspect. Some logistical matters, particularly the allocation  
of transportation means and fuels will require co-ordination  
between the requirements of the armed forces and the economic  
needs of liberated Governments. Machinery for dealing with  
these problems must be created or be left after S.H.A.E.F.  
ceases to exist in order to insure administrative support for  
forces occupying Germany and adequate facilities for re-deploy-  
ment. In principle it would be desirable if measures for econom-  
ic relief could be co-ordinated with continued military require-  
ments as to facilitate necessary negotiation on behalf of  
latter. We are giving further study to machinery which may be  
necessary for above purposes. Policy guidance would be help-  
ful.

(S.H.A.E.F. Main signed Eisenhower, 301601A to A.G.W.A.R. for  
Combined Chiefs of Staff.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Operation "Placket". Your 281110 to C. in C. Nore.  
The original proposal which involved alterations of course of up to 60 degs. and a run of 5 miles athwart the tidal stream was discussed with the Hydrographer, the Netherlands Hydrographer, and Commander-in-Chief, Nore.

(2) In view of the nature of the banks and the lack of recent surveys there is no certainty that this route would in fact carry deeper water and the direct route which would be easier for ships to follow is therefore considered preferable.  
(D. of N. Admty, 300110A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Loss of SS. JIM. Coaster mined or torpedoed at 0549 in approx. position 52.08 N. 01.40 E.  
(GREENFLY, 300555A to C. in C. Nore.)  
My 300555. Survivors evidence points to mine explosion which was right aft. A/S search was carried out 1 1/2 hours with negative result.  
(GREENFLY, 301220A to C. in C. Nore.)

SS. JIM 833 tons sank at 0600A to-day Friday March 30th in position 52.07.30 N. 01.39.30 E. in 12 fathoms, marked by dan close West of Wreck.

(2) Evidence points to Torpedo. A/S search and sweep of area as precaution now in progress so far with negative result.  
(3) 12 survivors of crew of 20 being landed Yarmouth by GREENFLY.  
(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 301158A to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.360 Part 4, Section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600/29th March.

<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	86	461	16,801	420	22,340	407
Ostend	2,333	209	2,374	-	-	-
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,828	-	-
Calais	4,120	-	93	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,391	-	756	510
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>6,539</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>20,659</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>23,096</b>	<b>917</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	272	26,589	-	-	1
Cherbourg	-	115	6,040	2,381	14,339	1,887
Le Havre	6,543	242	4,830	-	-	660
Rouen	-	70	6,594	-	5,062	522
Granville	-	-	-	1,811	-	-
Ghent	-	-	7,248	-	-	1,591
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>6,543</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>51,301</b>	<b>4,192</b>	<b>19,401</b>	<b>4,671</b>

✓ sic.

/U.S. South ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.360 Part 4, Section A. (Continued.)

<u>U.S. South</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo</u>
Marseilles	776	1,069	18,460	104	-	2,469
Port De Bouc	-	-	340	-	5,184	-
Toulon	-	-	102	-	-	-
Nice	-	-	182	-	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>19,084</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>5,184</b>	<b>2,469</b>

Note: amend Ghent (U.S.) Amm. discharge for 27th March to read 2,172.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 301445A to Admty. and others)

U-Boat and midget U-Boat activities. U-Boat and S.B.U. summary to 1200A/30.  
(1) 1948A/29 Beaufighter P/254 sighted Midget U-Boat 52 degs. 28' N. 02 degs. 31' E.  
(2) 0555A/30 SS. JIM was probably mined but might have been torpedoed 52 degs. 08' N. 01 degs. 40' E. ship sank.  
(3) Incident in my 281842 occurred in vicinity of N.E. Spit.  
(C. in C. Nore, 301750A to Admty.)

Patrols. My 291800A. Coastal force units from U.K. in harbour at 30 minutes notice. Delete F.L.2, F.L.3 F.B.8, F.B.9, F.A.1, F.A.2, and F.A.3.  
(C. in C. Nore, 301821A to Nore Command)

Patrols for night 31 March.  
(1) MEYNELL, 2 QUANTOCK, 3 ZETLAND, 4 LAMERTON, 5 BLANKNEY, 6 SHEARWATER, 7 BRISSENDEN, 8 MELBREAK.  
Coastal Force Unit F.C.1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2115A.  
(2) 12 STAYNER with coastal forces from U.K.  
14 SOUTHDOWN, 16 RUTHERFORD with coastal forces from Ostend.  
17 ARENDAL, 18 HAMBLEDON, 19 RIOU with coastal forces from Ostend, 21 CATTISTOCK, 22 EKINS with C/F from U.K.  
Coastal forces from Ostend R/V Frigates at 2015A.  
(3) Escorts for T.A.M.25 TANATSIDE and KITTIWAKE, Escorts for T.A.P.89 VIMY. Additional escort for F.S.72 EASTON.

(4) Coastal Forces.  
From U.K. Patrol 1 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.1 with MEYNELL.  
2 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.2 with QUANTOCK.  
3 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.3 with ZETLAND.  
4 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.4 with LAMERTON.  
5 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.5 with BLANKNEY.  
6 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.6 with SHEARWATER.  
7 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.7 with BRISSENDEN.  
8 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.8 with MELBREAK.  
51 1 M.L.Patrol 52 1 M.L.  
12 4 M.T.B. unit F.L.2, F.L.3.  
22 4 M.T.B. unit F.B.8 F.B.9.  
A.L.E.O.2922 3 M.T.B. unit F.B.6  
C.P.L.S.1525 6 M.T.B. unit F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3.

/From ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Patrols.  
(Contd.)

From Ostend.  
A.L.U.R. 2316 2 M.T.B. unit F.A.8  
A.L.U.R. 2100 2 M.T.B. unit F.B.2.  
A.L.U.R. 4126 2 M.L. unit F.G.5  
A.L.U.R. 3312 4 M.T.B. unit F.H. 3, F.H.4.  
Patrol 16 4 M.T.B. unit F.G.2, F.G.3.  
(C. in C. Nore, 301912A to Nore Command)

Minesweeping  
off Far  
Shore.

Reference C. in C. Nore's 202319A. Oropesa clearance to depth of 5 fathoms extended to width of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cables each side of centre line 1 mine exploded in sweep at 1219 in position 52.14.18 N. 03.12.10 E. Intend commencing LL/SA clearance tomorrow Saturday.  
(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 301927A to F.O. Belgium)

Operations

Channel

Patrols.

- (1) Leave Patrol at 1200A/30th and proceed to join VIDETTE at anchor off Le Havre.
- (2) You are required as additional escort for V.W.P. convoy sailing 2300A/30th.
- (3) On completion of convoy duty anchor off St. Helens at 1/2 hours notice.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 300955A to GARLIES, GORE, HOSTE.)  
Request you sail two M.T.Bs at 0700A/31st Unit G.B. to relieve unit G.A. on patrol in area Q.Z.S.629. Route E.W. between 01 degs. 40' W. and 02 degs. 20' W.
- (2) Boats leave patrol at 0800A/1st or when relieved by further unit.
- (3) Pass to boats concerned.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301007A to HORNET)  
(1) Weigh at 1800A/30th and proceed to patrol area between route E and 10 miles south of this route between Q.Z.S.673 and Q.Z.S. 575.
- (2) Leave patrol as necessary to R/V with U.C. 62A (8 ships) E.T.A. C.2 buoy 1330A/31st escorted by VOLUNTEER to Z. buoy.
- (3) JONQUIERE and BEACON HILL will join you before convoy reaches Z buoy.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301141A to SUSSEX VALE, RIBBLE)  
Your 292005A 26th E.G. is being instructed to support U.C. 62 A through this Command thence as instructed by C. in C. Plymouth.
- (2) C. in C. Plymouth concurs.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301228A to Admty.)  
(1) HESPERUS, ICARUS, HOTSPUR, DUNCAN leave patrol at 0730A/31st and proceed to anchor or fuel at Portsmouth, Ships to be at  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour's notice.

/(2) ...

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West Coast France.  
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Operation Signed Eisenhower. Cite SHGBI. S-83613.  
"Venerable." Operation designated by codeword "Independence"  
will hereafter be known as Operation  
"Venerable".  
(Shaef Main (G-2) (C1) 302030A to  
Agwar for Joint Security Council, etc.)

H.S. Note- Signals for Operations "Independence"  
and "Venerable" will be found in  
D.O.D.(H) telegrams, Vol. 9.

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FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations.Channel

- Patrols. (2) HOTSPUR detach on arrival and enter harbour  
(Contd.) for 48 hours layover berth as ordered by  
Capt. D.1.  
(3) HAVELOCK, INCONSTANT slip and proceed to  
join Group by 1000A/31st.  
(4) Group negative HOTSPUR will be required for duty 1800A/31st.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301724A to ships mentioned.)

Alderney Dozen 4 Gun salvos of heavy calibre weapons  
Gunfire. probably 11 inch fired from Alderney between  
1845 and 1910 on 29th March.  
50 per cent air burst remainder impact  
detonation on surface. Impact area 1 and a half  
to 20 miles 310 degs. Cap De La Hague. No precedent for prac-  
tice firing this area. Proximity Pink area may be significant.  
(C.T.F.122, 301020A to A.N.C.X.F.)

- E.G.9. E.G.9 is allocated temporarily to Portsmouth.  
(2) On passing Ailsa Craig p.m. to-day Friday  
LOCH ALVIE, S.O. MONNOW are to proceed at best  
speed to Portsmouth reporting own E.T.A.  
(3) Cdre. D. W.A. is requested to sail NENE to Portsmouth when  
ready.  
(4) Admiralty is requested to divert mails accordingly.  
(C. in C. W.A. 301202A to Admty, Com. D. W.A. LOCH ALVIE)

Minelaying Comar 4's 271138/ (not to all addressees) is  
U-Boat. passed to you. Consider C.T.F.122's 161655/ (not to all addressees) refers.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 301650A to Admty.)  
/ Suspected that minefield was laid by S/M.  
/ Sighting of S/M by French fishing boat.

Following passed from A/C Dover for information:  
My 151816A and your 161220A. Further thorough enquiries show  
strong presumption that S/M referred to has laid a minefield  
of about 20 mines on a line N.N.E. to S.S.W. centre in  
approx. position 50.13 N. 01.10.00 E. Each mine being 24 inches  
in diameter.  
(Comar 4, 271138A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Accommodation As SANDOWN now allocated for further naval  
ship for service as accommodation ship for harbour ser-  
Terneuzen. vice personnel at Terneuzen (A.M. 301732A refers),  
instructions given in A.M. 091131A for returning  
SANDOWN to D. of S.T. are to be applied instead  
to WHIPPINGHAM.  
(Hd. of M. 301837A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Anti-U-Boat Carry out operation CH E. Line 3 and half of 4.  
deep mining. 0730 March 31st.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 301027A to APOLLO.)  
/Operation ...

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Operations

Western Approaches

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.  
(Contd.)

Operation C.I. "Trail A" completed.  
(APOLLO 301503 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Detail 2 ships to support APOLLO during mine-  
laying commencing 1020/31st in position 51.41 N.  
05 degs. 46 W. Should this operation be delayed  
preference is to be given to support U.C.62 A  
Bristol Channel Section.  
(C. in C. W.A. 302238A to S.O. Force 38)

Patrols.

Force 34: 19th E.G.4 frigates off South Irish  
Coast.  
Force 38: 22nd E.G. HART, 2 Sloops, 2nd Division  
WREN, LOCH CRAGGIE, MAGPIE St. Georges Channel.

Force 36: 25th E.G. STRATHADAM, THETFORD MINES vicinity Bar  
Light Vessel.

Force 37: 31st E.G. BERKELY CASTLE, 3 Corvettes North Irish  
Sea.

Force 33: 23rd E.G. MONTSWERRAT 4 frigates off North Irish Coast.

Force 32: 2nd Division FITZROY, REDMILL, BYRON Little Minch to  
Skerryvore.

(C. in C. W.A. 301555A to Admty.)

As soon as Bristol Channel Section U.C.62A has joining  
main Convoy detach 2nd Division to form Force 36 during absence  
of 25th E.G. for short rest.

(C. in C. W.A. 302315A to S.O. Force 38.)

Anti-schnorkel  
obstructors.

Your 241644A and 251728A March not to all  
addressees, the rapidity with which equipment was  
laid by BRITTANY and loaded at Greenock has been  
noted with satisfaction.

(2) BRITTANY is to re-load to capacity with type  
OPF and to be held available at 24 hour's notice from noon  
2nd April for other operations.

(D. of B.D. Admty, 301725A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Operations

Norway

Operation  
V.P.

V.P.77 M.T.B. 717 and M.T.B. 716. returned at  
1433A to-day 30th March.

(2) One patrol vessel (Trawler type) totally  
destroyed by gunfire, some hits seen on E-Boat.  
(3) Attacked Slottero many hits seen on houses.

Strong enemy opposition with Oerlikon and machine guns.

(4) Own casualties, 1 rating killed in M.T.B.717. Superficial  
damage to M.T.B.717.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 301505A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation  
"Fox Chase".

My 271020 para. 2 Force 3 will consist of ONSLOW  
(Capt. (D) 17) ZEALOUS, IROQUOIS and ZEST.  
Para. 3 for 0001 D plus one read 2300 D-day.  
Para. 3 and 4 for 0300 read 0200. Para. 5 for  
"Eastern End" read "Western End of Q.Z.L.68 at 0530  
D plus one". For 1000 read 0900.  
( C. in C. H.F. 302014 to Admty etc.)

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Convoy R.A.65. My 292010A being passed to SAVAGE. For SCOURGE read SAVAGE escort of Kirkwall portion will now be SAVAGE and STORD. (C.S.10, 300647A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F) R.A.65. Altered destination FORT CREVECOEUR

Belfast f.o. My 291503 refers. (D.T.D.301429A to C. in C. W.A.) R.A.65 CAMELLIA and one other escort are to escort Belfast ships thence CAMELLIA to Liverpool, other escort to Greenock. (2) If weather permits when clear of Little Minches convoy should be reformed into 4 columns. (C. in C. W.A. 301548 to Com. R.A.65)

E.G.30. Sailed 30th E.G. PEVENSEY CASTLE (S.O) CAISTER CASTLE, LAUNCESTON CASTLE and KENILWORTH CASTLE to comply with C. in C. W.A.'s 291302 and C. in C. Rosyth's 29140 neither to all addressees. (2) KENILWORTH CASTLE escorting FREEBOOTER. (PHILANTE, 300905 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Rosyth)

Patrols and Escorts. Situation 2101A/30th March. U.R. 158 NORTHERN GIFT 63.04 N. 21.25 W. to 63.39 N. 23.42 W. 64.30 N. 23.42 W. 64.30 N. 23.00 W. thence Reykjavik 7½. Force A. NORTHERN SUN 2 trawlers 63.54 N. 22.53 W to support U.R.158. Force C. HONNINGSVAAG 2 Whalers North and West of Skagi. (A.C.I.C. 301132A to Admty.)

S/M Admiralty memo.M/O.D. 1101/45 para. 4 (d). Patrols. Propose patrol be established in following sequence according to number of S/Ms available. (2) South of Lister. (a) Patrol Line 040 degs. 220 degs. 7 miles either side of position T.E. 1 57.58 N. 06.35 E. (b) Patrol area radius 7 miles with centres as follows. T.E.2 57.28 06.38. T.E.3 57.43 05.54. T.E.4 57.31 05.38 T.E.5 57.42 06.24. T.E.6 57.55 04.11. T.E.7 57.55 05.40 T.E.8 57.55 05.08. T.E.8 57.56 05.38. T.E.10 57.57 06.07 All positions N. and E. unless otherwise indicated. (3) North West of Faroes. Position 15 miles apart in a direction 330 degs. from S.F. 1 62.50 N. 06.50 W. numbered consecutively S.F.1, S.F.2 etc. S/M to patrol on course 240 degs. 060 degs. for a distance of 10 miles either side of position. To be occupied in sequence S.F.10, 8, 6, 4, 2, 9, 7, 5, 3, 1 on assumption that at least five S/Ms would be available if this patrol line is instituted. 4 (a) Only cruisers and above to be attacked. German U-Boat

/ not ...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

S/M  
 Patrols.  
 (Contd.)

not to be attacked unless hostile identity established.  
 (b) If submarines have previously received enemy report in their vicinity or if they sight an unescorted unit they are to attack and then report. In all other cases S/Ms are to report before attacking.  
 (F.O.S/M. 301219A to C. in C. H.F.)

Possible U-Boat.

W.A.G.O. 703. (A) Asdic 1200 yards. (B) Nil. (C) Stationary. (D) 270. (E) Likely. (F) Light strong smelling oil coming up. (G) 30 feet high unable to ascertain length. (H) 2 ships in firm contact and have (?attacked) twice with squid position 58.44 N. 04.46.30 W.  
 (S.O.E.G.30, 301810A to C. in C. Rosyth)  
 Your 301810. Remain with contact until daylight tomorrow, Saturday. Endeavour to obtain sample of oil.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 302035 to S.O.E.G.30)  
 Your 302035A acknowledged. Charted non-S/M 2 miles to northward also detected. Have oil sample.  
 (S.O.E.G.30, 302120A to C. in C. Rosyth)

Probable U-Boat.

First Division hunting possible U-Boat in position 58.19.30 N. 05.32.15 W.  
 (S.O. Force 32. 301829 to C. in C. W.A.)

Situation on Soroy.

Present situation on Soroy 68 civilians, no military personnel. On Exmal motor boat left food there for three weeks. Enemy left the 15th, except one plane 25th, no enemy activity. ST. ATTHA set to be routed to Stors and Viksando Fjord.  
 (DANIELES, 302030B to Norwegian Admty.)

U.1021  
 sunk

My 301829A not to all addressees. RUPERT in position C on convoy E.N.83 obtained asdic contact at 1900 yards, no doppler slight movement. Hedgehog attack produced one explosion 5.4 seconds after bombs entered water depth of water 52 fathoms. Slight trace of oil appeared after attack. Definite movement and doppler effect obtained before contact bottomed. Subsequent attacks by CONN and RUPERT produced fair quantity of oil which is still rising and has appearance and strong smell of diesel oil. Contact now stationary on bottom. Intend buoying and endeavouring to hold contact throughout night resuming attack at daylight in attempt to produce further evidence. One encouraging echo sounder trace obtained.  
 (S.O. Force 32, 302247A to C. in C. W.A.)

APOLLO.

APOLLO is required to arrive Scapa by a.m. 6th April for an operation under orders of C. in C. Home Fleet.  
 (2) Request she may be sailed accordingly having embarked outfit O.14 consisting of March XVII Assembly 37 mines on 200 fathom sinkers.  
 (A.C.N.S.(H), 301831A to C. in C. W.A.)

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30.3.1945  
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects

SS. BISCAYA V. Following received from ALGIC bound for Solent:  
"At 0330 was run into by BISCAYA 2 holes forward with strained plate making temporary repair, request Mersey for survey. Master". Request instruction. Damage to BISCAYA bow stove in and fore peak flooded able to maintain convoy speed.  
(S.O.E.G. C.3, 301040A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Tug not required. BISCAYA has now reported one boiler broken, reduced speed to 5 knots for 21 hours then increased to 11 knots. Have instructed RIVIERE DU LOUP to escort her. Submitted I may be informed whether she should proceed to Clyde, in view it will only leave me 2 escorts for Bristol Channel section, or proceed to Mersey.  
(S.O. E.G. C.3, 301536A to C. in C. W.A.)  
RIVIERE DU LOUP now reports BISCAYA's degaussing broken down for remainder of voyage.  
(S.O.E.G. C.3, 301940A to C. in C. W.A.)  
S.C.170. Escort BISCAYA to Belfast then RIVIERE DU LOUP proceed to rejoin convoy.  
(2) Report E.T.A. Belfast and estimated time of rejoining convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A. 302133A to RIVIERE DU LOUP.)

SS. BELINDA. Q.M.5265. Secret. Tanker BELINDA mined on return to U.K. Has been successfully towed back to Antwerp.  
(Exfor Rear, 301200A to D.F. Mov. (O) War Office)

TEME, H.M.C.S. TEME arrived towed by H.M.R.T's MAMMOUTH and ALLEGIANCE escorted by BIDEFORD, ARMANA in company.  
frigate. (2) BIDEFORD, LONDONDERRY and MAMMOUTH proceed to Plymouth.  
(F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 301600A to C. in C. Plymouth)

SS. CRISTOBAL CRISTOBAL and CROW WING in collision. Steering casualty. CRISTOBAL broke stem punctured bow shell unable anchor, can make 14 present weather.  
T.E.V. SS. CROW WING. CROW WING pierced ship's oil tank starboard. Forward engine room bulkhead only holds (corrupt group) can make 12.5. Am having her escorted singly by U.S.S. BLAIR DE 147, my P.C.S. 1600Z 43.08 N. 24.00 W. 079.14.  
(C.T.G.61.5 301604Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements

PIONEER K.M.F.42. Cancel my 291058A and 271738A March. Intend sailing Clyde portion including H.M. Ships PIONEER, PURSUER and ULSTER QUEEN escorted by DART and LOCH QUOICH passing Clyde Boom 1945A/31st March to comply with N.C.S.O. Mersey 291216Z March thence in accordance with A.M. 291457A March. Speed to R/V 12 knots. Convoy radio distinguishing group CU.  
A/C maintenance ship, PURSUER, assault carrier, ULSTER QUEEN fighter direction ship. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 301014A to Admty.)

/SIDON...



War Diary

30.3.1945  
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

SIDON S/M. Intend SIDON sails O.S.121/K.M.S.95 for Gibraltar and Far East on 7th April. Request R/V at Clyde Boom. (F.O.S/M. 301101A to C. in C. W.A.)

CALEDON, cruiser. A/A cruiser CALEDON can be received in North Lock at 1700B on Tuesday 3rd April. Labour is not available for the removal of associated electrical equipment and it is suggested that this work be carried out by ship's staff. The leads should be disconnected ready for the removal of the guns. (A.S. Chatham, 301125A to C. in C. Nore.)

DUKE OF YORK. Battleship. A.M. 101700. Intend to sail DUKE OF YORK escorted by CAMBRIAN, CARRON and HAIDA 1600A/31st Routed N.E. Isle of Man thence in accordance with A.M. 281632 amended by A.M. 291141. S. of A. to Mull of Galloway 18 knots thence 22 knots ships will report own E.T.A. Scapa. Codeword "Cadet". Mails DUKE OF YORK to Scapa. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 301432A to Admty, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F.)

ENTERPRISE, cruiser. C. in C. Nore is requested to sail ENTERPRISE, when ready about third week in April, for Portsmouth. (2) On arrival ship is to be administered by C. in C. Portsmouth. (3) It is intended that ENTERPRISE should be based at Portsmouth at 7 days notice, to be used for trooping duties to the Far East as required. (4) ENTERPRISE is not to be considered as an operational unit, and ammunition should be embarked for one 6 inch gun aft and close range weapons only. (A.C.N.S.(H), 291527A to C's. in C. Nore, Portsmouth)

A.F.D.51 floating dock. Great Yarmouth 30th March. Arrivals A.F.D.51, Tugs EMPIRE LARCH and OUTPOST, H.M.T. GREENFLY. (F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 301821A to F.O.I.C.Falmouth)

Shipping and Convoys

Cross-Channel Convoys. Sailing times of cross channel convoys. Following amendments to para. 2 of my 031659 Feb. are to come into force at 1200 April 2nd. Holders of P.A.S.I's are similarly to amend P.A.S.I. 200.  
A. W.V.C. for 1900 read 2000B in two places.  
B. W.V.L. for 2230 read 2200B in two places.  
C. W.V.P. for 0001 read 2300B weighs from area 25 or area 22 at 2230 Gate 2300B.  
D. W.E.L. for 2000 read 2100B.  
G. V.W.L. for 1730 to 2200 read 2100B in remarks column delete second sentence relating to time of leaving Pasture.

/ H...

30.3.1945  
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys.

Cross-  
Channel  
Convoys.  
(Contd.)

H. V.W.C. for 1800 read 1830B in two places.  
J. V.W.P. for 1700 read 2359B in two places.  
In remarks column delete "But may be delayed by  
tidal waking at Havre".  
K. E.W.L. for 2000 read 2130B in two places.  
(2) This is fifth amendment to original Basegram.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301514A to Portsmouth  
Command.)

B.T.C.  
Convoys.

Proposals contained in my 250048A are to be  
implemented as from 2nd April.  
(D.T.D. 301956A to C's in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth,  
Western Approaches, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, F.O.I.C.  
Milford Haven.)

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30.3.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

- French S/M. CASABIANCA Arrived French submarine CASABIANCA and U.S.S. HENRY R. KENYON. (Commorseafron, 300745 to F.O.G.M.A.).
- E.G.2. Ships addressed form Group 2 as from 1200A March 30th BELLWORT (S.O.). Group 2 will be sailing for patrol in Western Approaches to Strait at 0330A March 31st. (F.O.G.M.A., 301027A to E.G.2.).
- E.G.1. If not in contact group 1 is to leave patrol so as to enter Gib. at 0900A March 31st. (2) Ship fuel on arrival and SPIREA and WILLOW-HERB be ready to sail with M.K.S.92 at 1500A March 31st. (3) HYDERABAD is to replace LOWESTOFT and SPIREA becomes S.O. Group. (F.O.G.M.A., 301059A to HYDERABAD).
- EASTWAY (L.S.D.) Departure 1830/30th. EASTWAY, WESTON Q.Z.H.(C) 889 less 887 and 888, L.69 S 697 X 1587 less 1586 Y 570. Local escort VERITY. (F.O.G.M.A., 302101A to Admiralty).
- S/M. VENGEFUL K.M.S.92. Arrivals OAKHAM CASTLE, WELLINGTON, COLTSFOOT, KILMARNOCK, H.M. S/M. VENGEFUL, L.S.E.(1). (F.O.G.M.A., 302109A to Admiralty).
- Movements Arrived U.S.S. KENDRICK, U.S.S. ORDRONAU, U.S.S. HENRY KENYON, F.S. CASABIANCA, F.S. LOBELIA, F.S. AIR FRANCE 4. (Commorseafron, 302227 to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

- A.F.D.39 My 291559 STELLA POLARIS escorting tug<sup>C.F.</sup> KAYSER and A.F.D.39 sailed at 0630Z today 30th March. (N.O.I.C. East London, 300905Z to Admiralty).  
On experience of tug MCEWAN towing A.F.D.40. SAR and H now estimate endurance of tug<sup>C.F.</sup> KAYSER with A.F.D.39 only 800 miles at most. MCEWAN arrived Durban from Simonstown, with bunkers empty.  
(2) It is therefore not possible for SAR and H tug to tow A.F.D. 39 to Diego Suarez unless coal can be made available at Majunga. Intend holding A.F.D.39 at Durban pending reply.  
(C. in C.S.A., 301203B to C. in C.E.I.).

30.3.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

French destroyers      Ships in my 291102A.      E.T.A. being signalled to C. in C.Plymouth, Info. A.N.C.X.F. Admiralty C.T.F.122.  
(C. in C. Med., 300854A to F.O.W.M.).

A/Cs. work up.      Approved your 281223.  
(C. in C. Med. 301111A to A.C.11.).

Cositintrep No.627 Extract.      306632.  
MX. 50011 cipher 30th March. .  
Cite FHGCT FHGBI Signed Alexander.  
Part three. Air.  
Coastal Air Force. Wellingtons and Beaufighters on anti-shipping R/C. attacked small vessels in North Adriatic.  
(H.Q.Med.A.A.F., 301115A to W.O.).

French S/M. CURIE.      MSC1.(?5).  
(1) French S/M. CURIE at 1000A/31 to Gibraltar for inclusion in M.K.S.93.  
(Com.N.O.B.Oran, 301245A to F.O.G.M.A.).

Repatriations of Nationals etc.      Your 271235 para.2      In view Head B.N.M. Moscow's 281008 paras. 4 and 5 we are assuming that both ALMANZORA and NIEUW HOLLAND will disembark Russians at Odessa. We will, however, endeavour avoid use of ships with length exceeding say 570 for Odessa in future.  
(4) Can you now give us your proposals for April movement of Russians from Marseilles.  
(D. of S.T. 302049A to P.S.T.O. Med.) Reply, 311745.

30.3.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat  
dispositions

No information. Scales in all areas remain W.5.  
(C. in C.E.I., 300441 S. and A E.I.Station).

Convoy  
S.U.1

Reference my 110620 (N.T.in W.D.) convoy S.U.1  
sailed escorted by USK and BARLE.  
(C. in C.E.I., 300949Z to A.C.N.B.).

RENOWN

Colombo 30th. Departures RENOWN, USK, BARLE.  
(F.O.Ceylon, 301200Z to Admiralty).

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30.3.1945.  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

- T.G.61.1 (reconstituted) C.U.65 departing New York 8th April for U.K. and continent will be escorted by reconstituted Task Group 61.1 Captain Benson in EDISON. (C. in C.Lant, 300216Z to C.T.G.61.6).
- T.G.60.10 Task Group 60.10 reconstituted Capt. Ellis in SAMPSON, THOMPSON, JENKS, DURIK, ORLANDO, NEW BEDFORD. Escort U.G.S.85 departing New York and Norfolk 7/8th April for Western Med. (C. in C.Lant, 300227Z to C.T.G.60.10).
- LORD KELVIN repairs to cable. Escorts during operation can be arranged. Cable ship carrying out repairs in this position would however run considerable risk of U-Boat attack and the operation cannot be recommended at present. Your 281533 refers. (2) Concur that LORD KELVIN be sailed to U.K. to await a favourable opportunity. C. in C.C.N.A. 291805 refers. (A.C.N.S.(H), 300248A to B.A.D.Washington).
- French destroyers SIMOUN and/or SOMALI may be employed for local escort duty under C.M.S.F. pending commencement of refits should repairs to BEARN delay one or both being taken in hand immediately. (C. in C. Med., 301102A to Com. 8th Fleet).
- T.G.22.15 (constitution of). 1st April Task Group 22.15 constituted Captain Keating in MURPHY, PLUNKETT, FRANKFORD, NELSON, BALDWIN. C.T.G.22.15 call "Lobster" this group will hunt kill S/Ms. as directed. Keep up to date Atlantic submarine plot. Retain copies Cinclant serial 00860 of 1st Dec. 44 plus other hunter killer directives from Comdesland. Know B.U.S.C.I. (C. in C.Lant, 301302Z to Comdesron 17 Action).
- U-Boat dispositions Estimates. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 301330Z to S. and A. and Cominch 301612Z).
- L.S.Ts. for U.S. Have obtained release of fourteen L.S.Ts. Plan to return United States each carrying one L.C.T. departing Plymouth about 14th April. U.S.S. ATLAS to be included. Request Cinclant provide suitable escort. Urdis 202120 (N.T.in W.D.) Sept. not to all refers. (Com. 12th Fleet, 301546 to Cominch and C.N.O.).
- U-Boat contacts All times Z. Para.(C)(1) About 2000/29th S.C.1280 had Sonar contact 43.07 N. 69.03? W. which she attacked five times between 2010/29th and 2305/29th.

/(2)...

War Diary

30.3.1945.  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat  
contacts  
(Contd.)

(2) 292200 Desron 17 attacked contact 42.28 N. 67.50 W.  
Para.(D) 0845/30 Convoy escort heard distinct echo ranging area 37.58 N. 73.23 W. which was searched with negative results. No other A/S vessels in area.  
(Cominch, 302059Z to Admiralty for O.I.C.).

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F.  
escort  
carriers

Your 272307.  
You will have seen from A.M. 271747 some of the disadvantages of the retention of PATROLLER, REAPER and RANEE by C. in C. Pacific.  
(2) In view of the following facts it is not intended to alter A.M. 271747 (N.T. in W.D.).  
(a) There is no alternative lift for your replacement squadrons.  
(b) The reduced build up of the East Indies Assault Carrier force is not acceptable.  
(c) The impaired and delayed build up of your carrier force suggested in your para.1 is not acceptable.  
(V.C.N.S., 300003A to C. in C.B.P.F., and B.A.D.).

Japanese  
suicide  
bombing  
(combatting  
of).

In order to combat the practice of Japanese suicide aircraft mixing with returning friendly strikes it is important that the measures in use by the U.S. Navy are adopted by the B.P.F. at the earliest possible date.  
(2) These measures entail stationing a Radar picket ship up to 60 miles from the Force to which all aircraft home, are identified, formed into Groups and passed on at a stated height.  
(3) The Radar picket ship should be fitted with Y.E. or Y.G. beacon, 2 P.P.Is. type 277, Type 281 and if possible a Skiatron. It is considered that 4 Fighter Direction Officers and 12 R.P.R. ratings would be required.  
(4) It is recommended that two cruisers allocated to the B.P.F. should be fitted out as in para. 3 at high priority.  
(C. in C.B.P.F. 300210Z to Admiralty). 191743-B 94-

Digest 1164  
29.3.45

(1) Navy Liberators from Clark Field destroyed ferry boat with 2 trucks aboard grounded off Sanchau, slightly damaged single small freighter transport 65 miles N.E. by E. Hong Kong, strafed single lugger off Weighow Island (Gulf of Tonkin), blew stern off single small freighter transport 40 miles east by south Ningpo.  
(2) 3 Lingayan Mariners night 28/29 strafed 12 junks, 15 miles north east Pescadores sinking 3, leaving 3 burning.  
(4) Batangas forces captured Lipa without opposition, secured bay (7,000 yards east Los Banos), advanced 1,600 yards south east without contact.

/ (6) ...

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30.3.1945.  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

- (6) Digest 1164 29.3.45 (Contd.) Advancing east along Naguillian - Baguio road other forces occupied position near Burgys without opposition. In Manila Bay 9/10 Cabrillo Island secured leaving only extreme western tip in enemy hands.
- (8) 47 Liberators dropped over 127 tons of bombs on Legaspi port beach defences and Daraga town nearby.
- (9) Naval forces supported landing Mactan Island off Cebu where captured Umjs without opposition.
- (10) Covered by naval forces American troops landed near Aulgpandan on north west Negros Island without opposition.
- (12) Preliminary report states strong force Mitchells attacked enemy convoy of 12 or more ships 50 miles north east Quinhon sinking 2 destroyers, 1 destroyer escort, 2 medium stack aft vessels, 1 large vessel with 2 stacks of about 10,000 tons, possibly sinking 1 destroyer, 1 destroyer escort, damaging 1 medium stack aft vessel. Shortly before midnight 4 Manila mariners struck 7 ship convoy south of Hainan believed remnants above force damaging 1 destroyer.
- (14) R.A.A.F. Liberators from Darwin sank 1 barge scored near misses on single small coastal vessel Flores Island. Previous day 2 R.A.A.F. Venturas damaged 1 barge, sank single small coastal vessel Soembawa Island.
- (15) Delayed report states 12 Liberators of 13th Air Force struck enemy shipping southern Makassar Straits 28th March sinking 1 destroyer, probably sinking another destroyer, damaging 1 sea-truck, 3 small coasters 2 small schooners between Makassar and Pomelaa, 4 other seatrucks escaped.
- (16) Air force follow for 28th March. 2 Liberators dropped 6 tons on Kiirun docks causing large explosion with fires. 2 Liberators on R/C south China Sea dropped 17 quarter tonners on shipping sinking 1 large tanker off Cape Varella also 3 nearby luggers.
- (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 301133Z to Admiralty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack and sighting summary.

- For 24 hours to 0900Z 30th March. *U.1106 sunk*
- Para.A.(1) A/C O/224 attacked U-Boat course 150° at 0900Z 29th Mar. in 61° 46' N. 02° 16' W.
- (2) Training A/C. sighted surfaced U-Boat which dived at 0247Z 30th March in 55° 10' N. 05° 40' W.
- (3) ROWAN reported underwater explosion at 0744Z 29th Mar. in 49° 56' N. 05° 33' W.
- (4) DUCKWORTH attacked contact at 1715Z 29th March in 49° 58' N. 05° 25' W. *U.146 sunk*
- Para.(B) (1) A/C. D/59 had grade 1 radar contact at 1545Z/29th Mar. in 53° 36' N. 14° 04' W.
- (2) SUSSEX VALE attacked contact at 2125Z 29th Mar. in 50° 25' N. 02° 40' W.

/ (3) ...



30.3.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

(3) E.G.14 investigated bottom contact at 0557Z  
30th in 50° 07' N. 01° 38' W.  
(4) NORTHERN SPRAY attacked contact p.m. 28th  
March in 64° 06' N. 23° 02' W.  
Para.(C) (1) C.T.G.60.5 attacked doubtful contact  
at 1252Z 29th March in approx. 36° 00' N. 06°  
30' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 301145A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa)  
/ See 310928 (N.A.).

U-Boat  
dispositions

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 301454A).

31. 3. 1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. VALOROUS sighted a BIBER type conning tower off St. Abbs Head at 1430, and attacked with results as yet unknown.
- West Coast France. 2. A preliminary force of FAULKNER, L'AVENTURE, LA DECOUVERTE and LA SURPRISE is to sail tomorrow to blockade the German-held ports in the Bay of Biscay.
- Western Approaches. 3. H.M. drifter HIGH TIDE foundered with all hands between North Stack and Bardsey in heavy weather.
- Northern Waters. 4. (a) RUPERT's U-Boat, 30 miles S.W. of Cape Wrath, has yielded a heavy explosion producing German personal photographs, including some of a U-Boat crew in uniform. Force 32 has resumed patrol.  
(b) E.G. 30's contact produced kapok gear of British and American origin, and so was presumably an old wreck.
- V.1021 sunk*

Foreign Stations.

East Indies.

- Bay of Bengal and Malacca Strait. 5. Our submarines continue offensive operations in the Andaman Sea and Malacca Straits.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Japan. 6. Today aircraft from British Pacific Fleet again attacked the islands of Myako and Ishigaki (Ryukus). No air opposition was met.

31.3.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Wreck-  
dispersal  
in Ostend  
- Schelde  
Channel. From P.S.V.O.  
Request you will indicate order of priority  
for dispersal of wrecks in Ostend - Schelde  
Channel. It is intended to commence dispersal  
of these wrecks shortly.  
(P.S.V.O., 311130A to C. in C. Nore.)

U-Boat. Periscope sighted my position 21B.  
(VALOROUS, 311427A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
My 1427, conning tower resembling BIBER  
submarine.

Your 311659. (VALOROUS, 311431A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Am attacking possible submarine contact in  
position 120° 16 miles from St. Abbs. VERDUN in company.  
(VALOROUS, 311809A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report. Cositintrep No. 361, part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/30  
March.

	<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	48	550	18,693	1,136	5,694	82
Ostend	1,874	62	4,929	-	-	2,258
Boulogne	-	6	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	2,703	-	-
Calais	4,099	-	98	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,430	-	2,050	539
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,021</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>26,150</b>	<b>3,839</b>	<b>7,744</b>	<b>2,879</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>						
Antwerp	-	108	23,252	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	172	4,483	1,755	2,841	2,065
Le Havre	12,285	497	4,233	-	-	566
Rouen	-	61	8,286	1,095	4,306	1,446
Granville	-	-	-	1,443	-	-
Ghent	-	-	8,018	-	-	1,138
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,285</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>48,272</b>	<b>4,293</b>	<b>7,147</b>	<b>5,215</b>
<u>U.S. South -</u>						
Marseilles	-	269	17,205	-	-	2,553
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,231	-	10,465	-
Toulon	-	-	100	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>19,536</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,465</b>	<b>2,553</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 311500A to Admty., and others.)

Patrols. Nore night dispositions March 31st/1st April.  
Humber Force (Group 1) patrol 1 MEYNELL, 2  
QUANTOCK, 5 BLANKNEY.  
(Group 2) harbour - nil.

/Harwich ...

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Saturday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth SeaPatrols.  
(Contd.)

Harwich Force (Group 3) Patrol 3 ZETLAND, 4 LAMERTON, 6 SHEARWATER, 12 STAYNER, 14 SOUTHDOWN, 16 RUTHERFORD, 17 ARENDAL, 18 HAMBLEDON, 19 RIOU, 22 EKINS. A.T.M.110 - MALLARD, T.A.M.28 - KITTIWAKE.

(Group 4) harbour - BROCKLESBY, CHIDDINGFOLD, KRAKOWIAK, EGLINTON, TALYBONT, TORRINGTON, CUBITT, RETALICK, SEYMOUR, CAICOS, GUILLEMOT, WIDGEON, SHELDRAKE.

Sheerness Force (Group 5) patrol 7 BRISSENDEN, 8 MELBREAK, 21 CATTISTOCK, A.T.M.110 - PYTCHLEY, T.A.M.25 - TANATSIDE, T.A.P.90 - WILTON, F.S.72 - EASTON.

(Group 6) harbour - BLENCATHRA, FERNIE, MIDDLETON, OAKLEY, VANQUISHER, HAYDON, MENDIP, GODETIA, ARMERIA, BADDECK, CLEMATIS, HEATHER, PRESCOTT.

At Southend - VIMY.

(C. in C. Nore, 311546A to Admty.)

Patrols for night Sunday 1st April.

1 BLANKNEY, 2 MEYNELL, 3 BROCKLESBY, 4 CHIDDINGFOLD, 5 MIDDLETON, 6 WIDGEON, 7 KRAKOWIAK, 8 BLENCATHRA.

Coastal Force Units F.C. 1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2115A.

(2) 12 RIOU with coastal forces from U.K. 14 EGLINTON, 16 EKINS with coastal forces from Ostend, 17 ARENDAL, 18 RUTHERFORD, 19 SEYMOUR with coastal forces from Ostend, 21 OAKLEY, 22 CAICOS with C/F from U.K.

Coastal Forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2015A.

(3) Escorts for: T.A.M.26 - SHEARWATER and MENDIP. T.A.P.90 - WILTON.

Additional escort for F.S.73 - MELBREAK.

(4) Coastal Forces from U.K.

Patrol 1 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.1 with BLANKNEY. Patrol 2 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.2 with MEYNELL. Patrol 3 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.3 with BROCKLESBY. Patrol 4 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.4 with CHIDDINGFOLD. Patrol 5 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.5 with MIDDLETON. Patrol 6 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.6 with WIDGEON. Patrol 7 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.7 with KRAKOWIAK. Patrol 8 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.8 with BLENCATHRA. 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. ALEO 2922 3 M.T.Bs. unit F.B.6. CPLS 1525 6 M.T.Bs. unit F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3, Patrol 51 1 M.L. Patrol 52 1 M.L.

From Ostend: ALUR 2316 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.A.8. ALUR 2100 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.B.2. ALUR 4126 2 M.Ls. unit F.G.5. ALUR 3312 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.H.3, F.H.4. Patrol 16 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.G.2, F.G.3.

(C. in C. Nore, 311810A to Nore Command.)

Enemy  
minesweeping  
obstructor.

N.O.I.C. Ostend 291906 not to all. Following details of obstructor recovered.

(A) Spherical buoy 44 inches diameter.

(B) Double mooring of 16 lengths of 1 inch studless chain between buoy and sinker.

(C) G.Y. type mine sinker concrete filled.

(2) Obstructor complete will be shipped to U.K. as soon as possible.

(F.O. Belgium, 312325 to Admty.)

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31.3.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols and  
Escorts.

Weigh at 1800A/31st and proceed to patrol area 5 miles either side of Route H between 50° 15' N. and 49° 50' N.

(2) Leave patrol at 1200A/1st and proceed to Portsmouth and anchor as convenient at ½ hour's notice.

(3) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1583.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 311110A to HAVELOCK, DUNCAN.)

26th E.G. remain with convoy U.C.62A until 06° 30' W.

then carry out A/S sweep to south and west of Scillies until time of R/V with convoy H.X.A.345 S.O. Escorts VESPER, E.T.A. position 180° Bishop Rock 12 miles at 1600A/1st April approach course 082° speed 10 knots proceeding Route E.

(2) 26th E.G. then support H.X.A.345 to Portland Bill.

(3) VESPER signal amended time of R/V if necessary direct to S.O. E.G.26.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 311201A to S.O. E.G.26.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

My 281601 is further postponed.

(2) Sail Force G.H. when weather is suitable reporting when this has been done.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 311248A to HORNET.)

Operations

West Coast France

German  
shipping  
in St.  
Nazaire.

Information from "very authoritative" French source that on 26th March 2 cargo vessels arrived St. Nazaire and on 27th March 4 submarines were based at that port, of which one was preparing to sail for unknown destination.

(C.F.N.T.F. Informed) (Commander French Naval Task Force).

(A.N.C.X.F., 311015A to Admty.)

Following information received from very reliable French source:

(1) 2 cargo boats entered St. Nazaire 26th March.

(2) 4 submarines based St. Nazaire 27th March, one of them is preparing to sail, destination unknown. C.F.N.T.F. advised. 301934Z.

(C.T.F. 122, No T.O.O. to C. in C. Plymouth, Admty.)

Operation

"Independence".

S.H.A.E.F.'s 282000A March and your 291306A

March. Intend to operate FAULKNER with French ships L'AVENTURE, LA DECOUVERTE and LA SURPRISE on blockade of Biscay German occupied ports leaving Plymouth on 1st April and in anticipation

of the full assembly of French Force designated for Operation "Independence".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 311716 to A.N.C.X.F.)

S.H.A.E.F. Fwd. 282000. Request you will maintain the blockade using ships of F.N.T.F. until they are required for "Venerable" (Comnavforfrance 291007 refers).

(2) C.T.N.T.F. (Amiral Rue) is expected to arrive Plymouth early

/next ...

War Diary.

31.3.1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France.

Operation "Independence" (Contd.) next week. Date will be signalled.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 312000A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Your 282000 para. 3 ships sailing from Plymouth April 1st to commence blockade.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 312310A to S.H.A.E.F.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Possible U-Boat. My 302123A. 10 depth charges attack carried out. CAVALIER reports diesel oil. Ships have proceeded with A.T. 200.  
(CAPRICE 310035A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 310038A and CAPRICE's 310035A area thoroughly searched without results. No evidence of diesel oil in vicinity of position.  
(2) Intend to resume patrol of routes B and C.  
(3) A Average. B Yes.  
(4) Just suitable.  
(S.O. Force 34 311105A to C. in C. W.A.)

Spanish fishing craft in prohibited area. Fleet of about 20 trawlers fishing vicinity 049° 22' N. 010° 48' W. Two others identified Spanish just south of temporary prohibited area reference C.A.F.O. 508/45, appendix para. 2, but all are within prohibited area laid down in A.G.M. 965 A.Z. Weather report 4471 1855.  
(S.O.E.G. C. 6 310058A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Operation "C.H." serials E. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  4 completed.  
(APOLLO 311138 to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols & Escorts. My 292353 not to all. If not in contact support U.C. 62A from 07° W. to 08° W. and then resume patrol.  
(C. in C. W.A. 311152A to S.O. Force 34.)  
F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail 4th E.G.. at 1600/1st April to relieve 19th E.G. as force 34. S.O. 19th E.G. to arrange R/V.  
(2) On relief 19th E.G. is to proceed to Liverpool for layover.  
(C. in C. W.A. 311157A to F.O.I.C. N.I., S.O.E.G. 19.)

Probable U-Boat, (21st E.Gs.) Request you will sail ESCAPADE as soon as practicable to endeavour to obtain by Squid attacks material evidence from bottom contact attacked by 21st E.G. on 28th March in position 175° M.5 Buoy 6 miles. Only evidence so far obtained is a copious flow of diesel oil and a few pieces of wood. Echo sounder shows two lumps 70 and 30 feet long and 9 to 12 feet high.  
(C. in C. W.A. 311208A to Com. W.A.)

/Information...

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War Diary.

31.3.1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Information for T.G. 22.9. Q.Z.H. 265 escorts C.U. 63 Irish Sea section snort buoy has been laid in 53° 51' N. 03° 14' W.  
Q.Z.X. 1582 area enclosed by lines joining following positions is dangerous on account of British moored mines -  
A. 51° 13' 00" N. 06° 14' 30" W.  
B. 51° 08' 30" N. 06° 14' 30" W. C. 51° 04' 00" N. 06° 02' 00" W.  
D. 51° 08' 30" N. 06° 02' 00" W.  
(2) The only submarine sanctuary in force near your route is Great Orme: limits, north a line 100° from Lynas Point, east 03° 50' W. and south west coast of North Wales and Anglesey.  
(3) Submarine Sanctuaries apply to warships only, for merchant ships the North Channel, St. Georges Channel and entire Irish Sea is a submarine sanctuary.  
(C. in C. W.A. 311237Z to Task Group 22.9.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "Fox Chase". My 271030. D day postponed to Monday 2nd April. Actual times in my 271020 as amended by my 302014 remain unaltered but will be expressed in B times in future signals.  
(C. in C. H.F. 311303A to Admty., C. in C. Rosyth, R.A.D.H.F.)

Patrols.

I.S.O.H. 30. DOLFIJN reports.  
(1) 24th March 1324, in position 275° Hellisey Light 3 miles sighted a Mosquito being shot down. Aircraft disappeared in sea about one and a half miles S.E. of DOLFIJN. 1325 sighted conning tower of U-Boat 8000 yards to S.E. U-Boat course and speed approx. 040° 16 knots enemy passed out of attacking range and was seen to turn into Fejeosen.  
(2) 25th March 2240 sighted 4 feet of periscope about 100 yards on port beam. DOLFIJN dived loud H.E. heard estimated course and speed of enemy 350° five and a half knots H.E. was lost before attack could be carried out.  
(3) Many fishing vessels were in the area and caused some embarrassment to the patrol.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 311450A to F.O. S/M.)  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/1st April and movements to 0800B/2nd April.  
A. UTSIRA 64° 30' N. 05° 43' E. diving by day through 64° 30' N. 08° 28' E. to patrol off Fro Havet 90 miles in 24 hours.  
B. SPEARHEAD vicinity of Muckle Flugga to Lerwick 10 knots.  
C. TURPIN on patrol off Kors Fjord.  
D. VIKING 61° 04' N. 01° 59' E. through 60° 53' N. 02° 43' E. 59° 47' N. 03° 33' E. and 59° 02' N. 04° 29' E. en route patrol diving by day 100 miles in 24 hours.  
(C. of W. 312140A to A.I.G. 25.)

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31.3.1945.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters

RUPERT's U-Boat. *U. 1021 sunk* Your 301829. Report situation. (C. in C. W.A., 310039A to S.O. Force 32.) My 302247A. Firm contact held throughout night. Oil continues to rise to surface producing slick 1,000 yards long 200 yards wide. Effort is being made to obtain sample. Many echo-sounder trace produced 2 traces 125 feet long, 24 feet high and 122 feet long, 18 feet high. Still consider contact most promising. Intend to continue attack until limit of a German U-Boat's endurance unless other tangible evidence of destruction is obtained. Fuel and ammunition situation of 1st Division satisfactory.

Weather deteriorating.

(S.O. Force 32, 310945A to C. in C. W.A.)

S.O. Force 32 310945.

First Division remain with contact. Second Division if not in contact proceed to Loch Ewe for fuel and short rest.

(C. in C. W.A., 311224A to S.O. Force 32, FITZROY.)

My 302247 and 310935 not to all addressees. After repeated attack since daybreak hedgehog attack by RUPERT at 1444 produced heavy explosion and brought large quantities of diesel oil and wreckage to surface. Following samples have been recovered: 11 personal photographs and snapshot all of German origin some show crew of German U-Boat in uniform. Several pieces interior laminated slip polished woodwork, one sou'wester and one leather glove together with other small incidental wreckage. Consider German U-Boat destroyed. Am resuming patrol.

(S.O. Force 32, 311801A to C. in C. W.A.)

Improbable U-Boat.

Final and 5th attack just carried out produced large explosion, wreckage coming up, investigating.

(S.O. E.G.30, 310728A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Have recovered flotsam including drum of fat and kapok gear of British and American origin.

Am proceeding to patrol. Underwater explosion caused minor damage to CAISTOR CASTLE whose radar at present out of action duration probable 1 hour.

(S.O. E.G.30, 310837A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Convoy J.W. 66.

F.N.77 for Clyde for J.W.66. M12 N PARK BENJAMIN (U.S.A.) D.G. 7176 tons 10½ knots MH 87 no lights cargogeneral and explosives 2 W.T. operators holds M.2 (35 and 36) W.I.M.S.3: can listen 2410 k/cs. (N.C.S.O. Middlesbro', 311130A to N.C.S.O. Methil.)

Rescue tug for Rosyth Command.

It is considered desirable that a rescue tug should be temporarily based in the Rosyth Command. (2) Request you will allocate a tug from the "Overlord" Pool and arrange for her to be sailed to Methil for rescue duties. (D.O.D.(H), 311900A to A.N.C.X.F.)



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31.3.1945.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and DefectsSS. ~~SSA~~  
ANTONIO.

My 291247 March. Regret SS. ~~SSA~~ ANTONIO has filled and capsized at 0940/31st in heavy weather in 51° 37' N., 05° 10' W. after repeated unsuccessful attempts to put salvage party on board and tow to harbour. Wreck is not a danger to navigation.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 311159 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

HIGH TIDE,  
H.M.Drifter.

Regret drifter HIGH TIDE presumed lost by foundering between 0100/30 and 0608/30 between North Stack and Bardsey whilst on passage from Holyhead to Pλληeli in compliance with my 300030A March (not to all addressees). Body of Skipper in lifebelt washed ashore at Rhoscolyn and recovered at 1500/37 (as received) consider no survivors possible. Following nominal list of personnel on board, missing presumed drowned.

Royal Navy - John Artingstall, Leading Stoker, D/KX 608598.  
James Fotheringham, A/B, C/JX 534466.  
Fred Wilkinson, O/Sea., D/JX 540366.  
H.D. Gibbs, Leading Cook, LT/MX 87435.  
Next of kin of above ratings have not been informed, with the exception of H.D. Gibbs, Leading Cook, who it is understood was temporarily released from the service and was serving on board under ENG.6 agreement.  
Civilian Crew (ENG.6) - Arthur O. Harris, Master, S.21339.  
David Rowley, Mate, PZ.630.  
Frederick F. Feltham, First Engineer, PC.3980.  
Leslie V. Morley, A.B., S.21342.  
Harold J. Burley, A.B., S.21346.  
Ward. E. Marsh, A.B., S.21334.  
Thomas J. Taylor, Cook, TA.03725.  
William Arthur Wiginton, A.B., AGPB 31-3.  
William Leonard Wiginton, Fireman, S-1347.  
Next of kin of civilian crew are being informed.  
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 311845A to Admty.)

The Chief Constable of Anglesey reports that a merchant vessel which left Holyhead port on 29th March 1945 is reported missing. The vessel carried a crew of 10 and 3 naval ratings. The body of the Master of the vessel was washed ashore at Trearddur Bay this afternoon. It is thought that the vessel has been sunk. The cause is not known but it is not believed to have been by enemy action.

(R.P.S.O. Cardiff, 311900 to H.S.W.R. (Police Duty Room))

MovementsANSON,  
battleship.

My 291803. ANSON and escort sailed 2½ hours late.  
(2) Gun trials will be carried out on passage.  
(3) Request 1,800 tons of oil fuel for ANSON on arrival.

(4) Amend expected time of arrival to 0915B/2nd April unless signalled otherwise by ANSON.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 311036A to C. in C. H.F.)

/DUKE OF YORK ...

War Diary.

31.3.1945.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

DUKE OF  
YORK,  
battleship.

My programme delayed 24 hours due to weather conditions at lock entrance.  
(DUKE OF YORK, 311219A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

ARIADNE,  
fast  
minelayer.

When ready for service request you sail ARIADNE for Milford Haven to operate under the orders of C. in C. W.A.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 311809A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Dispositions  
of British  
operational  
units,  
North  
Atlantic and  
Mediterranean.

(1) Dispositions of operational units in N. Atlantic:  
Area Scapa: RODNEY, BELLONA, BERWICK, BIRMINGHAM, DEVONSHIRE, DIADEM, DIDO, CAMPANIA, PUNCHER, QUEEN, SEARCHER, TRUMPETER, 16 destroyers.  
Area Clyde: 6 destroyers.  
Area Portsmouth: EREBUS, 2 destroyers.  
Area Plymouth: 4 destroyers.

(2) Mediterranean dispositions:

Gib. to 10 East: DELHI, 2 destroyers.  
10 East to 20 East: ORION, AURORA, COLOMBO, 4 destroyers.  
East of 20 East: AJAX, ARETHUSA, SIRIUS, 3 destroyers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 311901A to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Shipping and Convoys

B.T.C.  
Convoys.

F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 261513.  
Proposals contained in this signal are to be implemented commencing with B.B.70.  
(C. in C. W.A., 311247A to W.A. Command.)

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31.3.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Re S/M  
attack &  
sighting  
summary  
30.3.45.

Your 301454. Contact attacked at 1252Z/29th  
March considered to have been fish.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 310928A to Admty.)

RENOWN.

Unless Admiralty intend to make other arrangements  
for escort of RENOWN to U.K. ship will be included  
in M.K.F. 42 sailing Gibraltar 11th April.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 311036A to Admty.) See 010050A.

Special  
Tanker  
Convoy.

Request you sail U.S.S. KENDRICK and ORDRONAU  
to arrive Gibraltar 1900A/1st April.  
(2) Ships required as escort to special tanker  
convoy.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 311128A to C.M.S.F.)

S/M STORM.

Arrivals H.M. S/M STORM from Malta.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 312350A to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

Routeing for  
convoys  
Freetown and  
Gibraltar -  
U.K.

D.T.D. 311334A to A.I.G. 497, C.T.F. 122, etc.)  
See Lion Copy.

# SECRET

S. A.  
OUT  
567A

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.)

311334A/March

Date 31.3.45

Addressed A.I.G. 497 /  
C.T.F. 122  
Comar Dakar  
N.S.H.Q.  
Com. 4th Fleet  
Info. B.A.D. Washington.

*Routing from convoys between  
Freetown & Gibraltar & U.K.*

C.C.M. Nav. Gen. Sec.. O.T.P.(T/K), and P/L By T/P

From Admiralty.

DEFERRED

The following Northbound and Southbound routes are established for all independent merchant shipping and trade convoys between Freetown and Gibraltar and for all convoys between Gibraltar and U.K. All positions are North and West.

2. Northbound.

(A)	(1)	1000	1738
	(2)	1500	1800
	(3)	2405	1800
	(4)	2610	1521
	(5)	2810	1324
	(6)	3248	0946
	(7)	3600	0900
	(8)	3910	1030
	(9)	4320	1030
	(10)	4730	0730
	(11)	270 dogs.	Bishop's Rock 10 miles.
	(12)	360 dogs.	Round Island 10 miles.
	(13)	293 dogs.	Trevose Head 4 miles.

thence by coastal swept channel.

(B) Stragglers.

Follow the route in 2 (A) except for positions 8 and 9 which are to be replaced by:

S(8)	3925	1110
S(9)	4345	1110

3. As necessary Northbound shipping of under 10 knots may be routed:

(40)	1005	1730
(41)	1500	1750
(42)	2345	1750

thence to (4).

...../4.

4. Southbound.

(A)	(21)	5130	0747
	(22)	4800	0830
	(23)	4301	1200
	(24)	3900	1200
	(25)	3620	0950
	(26)	3300	1000
	(27)	2811	1343
	(28)	2610	1610
	(29)	2425	1820
	(30)	1440	1820
	(31)	0930	1750

(B) Stragglers.

Follow the route in 4 (A) except for positions (22), (23), (24) and (25) which are to be replaced by:

S(23)	4300	1300
S(24)	3900	1100

thence to (26).

5. Establish new 4th Maroon position numbered 86 to 110 on latitude 24 degs. North in steps of 5 minutes of longitude between 21 degs. West and 19 degs. West.

6. Renumber present 4th position as 5th position numbered 111 to 135 and present 5th position as 6th position numbered 136 to 160. A.M. 041441, 110951 and 141445 all November 1944 refer (none to all).

7. Straits of Gibraltar route.

(A) Eastbound shipping from North and South leave at position (25) and (6) respectively thence through 3551 0610 thence Southern half of Straits.

(B) Westbound shipping to North and South by Northern half of Straits through 3559 0610 thence to position (7) and (26) respectively.

8. F.O.C.W.Af. and F.O.G.M.A. are requested to cancel MARK routes, British and French Standard Coastal routes as necessary.

9. A.M. 171530, 171552 May, 151713, 191750, 261706 November, 271647 December all 1943, and A.M.'s 072201 and 081858 November and 011315 December 1944 none to all are cancelled.

311334A  
for D.T.D.  
(983)

...../A.I.G. and Marking over.

War Diary.

31.3.1945  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Submarine (sighting) 1035 G.M.T. position and course 37.05 N. 23.58 E. 180° submarine sighted on surface bearing 265° approx. 8 miles headed north no challenge given, none received.  
(ESSO CONCORD 311130Z to Admty.)

F.S. SUFFREN (radar.) B.A.D. 271731. The recommendation made by C. in C. Med. 15 months ago was with regard to a ship then on active service.  
(2) In view however of the approval to supply intend to authorise installation.  
(C. in C. Med. 311301A to Admty.)

A.F.D. 55. A.F.D. 55 transits Suez Canal 31st March. Intend sailing dock for Aden. Your 290834 para. 5.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 311337 to C. in C. E.I.)

Repatriation of Nationals etc. P.S.T.O. Med. 311745A to D. of S.T.  
See Lion Copy.

Modifications to Aircraft. 11th A.C.S. A.C.II 311841 to Admty.  
See Lion Copy.

REOWN (escort.) Owing to situation in Home waters it may not be desirable to send destroyers from U.K. to Gib. to escort REOWN.  
(2) Request you will state whether escort can be provided from Med. resources from Gibraltar to lat. 43° N.  
(D.O.D.(F) 311846A to C. in C. Med.)  
See 010946A April.

Situation report No. 585. In Crete night of 28th March 400 Italians, 820 Germans left fortified zone with intention of surrendering.  
(C. in C. Med. 312106A to F.O.L.E.M.)

**TOP SECRET**IN

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)  
311/45A March

FROM: P.S.T.O.Mediterranean. DATE: 1.4.45.

RECD: 0505

NAVAL SHORE CODE by W/T

*Repatriation of  
Nationals -*

ADDRESSED: D. of S.T.

REPEATED: Admiral Archer, P.S.T.O.Middle East,  
C. in C. Mediterranean, B.N.L.O.Black  
Sea, F.O.L.E.M.

IMPORTANT

Your 302049. Note you intend ALMANZORA and  
NIEU HOLLAND proceed Odessa.

2. Bid for MKF 43 is approximately 10,000  
~~repeat 10,000~~ from Middle East and 10,000 repeat  
10,000 from Western Mediterranean.

3. 46 division is to proceed to Italy and  
move will commence 7th April. VILLE D'ORAN, EASTERN  
CRESENT and ERIDAN will carry out programme to  
complete by 25th April.

4. Request early advice of your intention  
regarding STIRLING CASTLE in view of H.Q. E.Africa  
62 45 A G 30th March not to all addressees.

5. Ability to move 12,000 Russians ex France in  
April and composition of MKF 43 is dependent on  
reply to paragraph (4) above but following is  
our proposal (A) Russians. HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN  
and TAMAROA ex Marseilles about 18th April and  
EMPIRE PRIDE about 25th April APAWA, BERGENSFJORD  
about (?12th) April total 10,500. Ability to  
provide further lifts in April is dependent on  
date that ships for Odessa in KMF 42 arrive back  
in Western Mediterranean. Also we may have to  
include EMPIRE PRIDE in MKF 43 ex Naples my paragraph  
5 B (2) below refers to.

(B) MKF 43

*Johan Van*

(i) From Middle East ~~J.V.~~ OLDENBARNVELT and RUYB.  
Former vessel on arrival Naples in KMF 42 will  
proceed to Middle East with casualties and German  
P.O.W. to capacity ex Italy. Latter vessel embarks  
German P.O.W. ex Algiers on route Middle East in  
KMF 42.

(ii) From Western Mediterranean. ORDUNA, EASTERN  
PRINCE, NIEU HOLLAND, STAFFORDSHIRE, ALMANZORA. This

is/

P.T.O.

is dependent on date of latter 3 vessels arriving back from Odessa and on your reply to paragraph (4) above. ORDUNA on arrival Mid East in KMF 42 will proceed to Italy with reinforcements ex Mid East.

6. To clear balance of German P.O.W. ex North Africa we propose EMPIRE PRIDE calling at Algiers and proceed to Mid East where she embarks reinforcement to capacity to Italy proceeding thence to Marseilles to embark Russians subject to MEF 43 requirements. It is required to evacuate all German P.O.W. ex North Africa by end April.

7. Request that best possible despatch be given to 3 KMF 42 vessels in Black Sea Area and that French are not embarked in these ships.

8. Agreed.

311745A

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

1st S.L.(3)  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
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.(15)  
Hd. of M.(3)  
N.A.Mails  
D. of S.(2)  
D.S.O.  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake  
A.D.O.D.(CO)  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)(3)  
D.N.I.(4)



# SECRET

5668

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.)

311841 Maruh

Date. 1/4/45

From. AC II.

Recd. 0305

Naval Cypher X By Cable

*Modifications to  
Aircraft 11th ACS*

Addressed. Admiralty

Repeated. C in C Mediterranean. VENERABLE. VENGEANCE. COLLOSSUS. GLORY.

A.M. 250645 not to GLORY Raises questions other than that of modification pilots will require to be trained in use of this new sight. No personnel or equipment for training pilots in the use of GGS are known to exist in the Med.

2. It is most undesirable to start modifications before ships have completed working up but it is also most desirable to have this modification completed before 11th ACS starts operations. This modification and subsequent training will take about four weeks for each ship.

3. Before proceeding to an operational theatre the following modifications are also very desirable.

- (A) Modifications 790 and 183 Corsairs are at present unable to carry bombs.
- (B) Modifications 464 and 465. It is considered that RATOG will be required by Barracudas with a full load in Tropics.
- (C) Modification 565. Until this is done offensive power of Barracudas is greatly reduced.
- (D) Modification to 25% of Corsairs for photographic reconnaissance.
- (E) Fitting of RP's in Corsairs if available.

4. Incorporation of modifications simultaneously in fighter and TBR Squadrons will eliminate unnecessary periods of inactivity by ships. Carried out separately as and when parts become available the waste of time would be unacceptable.

5. To implement the above there appear to be two alternatives.

- (A) Complete sets of modification parts for incorporation by squadron personnel and replacement aircraft to be supplied to selected bases. These must have adequate shore accommodation and facilities for training personnel in new equipment.
- (B) 11th ACS to proceed to U.K. and re-equip with fully modified aircraft on completion of ship work up period. Two to three weeks should suffice to cover basic training for pilots in use of new equipment at schools where facilities exist. Final work up would be possible en route to operational theatre.

6. Alternative (B) for Baker is probably the quickest and most efficient if modified aircraft can be made available in the U.K. the disadvantages of ships returning to U.K. at this period of the commission are however obvious. If alternative (A) for Able is decided upon early action will be required to send modifications replacement aircraft and training facilities to a selected base.

7. Request.....

7. Request decision which just of course depend upon future employment of 11th AGS.

311841.

1st Lord  
 1st S.L. (3)  
 2nd S.L.  
 Contr.  
 Vice Contr.  
 5th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 A.C.N.S. (F)  
 A.C.N.S. (A) (2)  
 D.C.N.A.E.  
 Sec.  
 Nav. Sec.  
 P.A.S. (S)  
 U.W.R.  
 Ops (2)  
 Plot  
 O.D. (6)  
 O.I.C. (2)  
 D.N.I. (5)  
 D of P (3)  
 M (2)  
 N.A. Mails  
 W.D.  
 Ad. Blake (4)  
 D of P (Q) (3)  
 D.N.A.O. (2)  
 D.A.W.T. (2)  
 D.A.E. (5) (AE/NSO 52735/44)  
 D.A.M.R. (3)  
 D of S (6)  
 Air Br. (3)  
 N.A. 2 S.L. (Air) (2)  
 D.A.S.(L)  
 D.N.A.R. (3)

Dept. Contr (3) )  
 D.A.S. (4) )  
 D.N.O. (4) ) Bath (19)  
 C.I.N.O. (2) )  
 S.W.R. (6) )

sdn  
43

31.3.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Convoy (1) S.U.1. (2) 0844Z/30th March. (3) "Chop"  
S.U.1 for 0130Z/6th, E.T.A. position (C) 1430Z until April.  
Australia. (4) 13 knots. (5) Details and route.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 310130Z to Admty.)

U/B No change.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I., 310355Z to S. & A. E.I.Stn.)

Signals Owing to operational need for reducing top secret  
(re signal traffic and stage war has reached in  
movements) respect of troop movements propose that  
classification instructions for troop convoys  
and transports (A.F.O.S.10/45 page 78 be amended  
to read -

- (A) Policy signals future programmes and all signals concerning "Monsters" - Top Secret.
- (B) All other signals referring to movements whether within or between stations - Secret.
- (C. in C. E.I., 311231Z to Admty.)

Situation (1) Andaman Sea. SAUMAREZ (D.26), VOLAGE,  
Report *transport* VIGILANT, VIRAGO destroyed Japanese convoy 130  
No. 7. miles south-east of Port Blair in daylight 26th  
March. Of this convoy 1,500 ton RISUI MARU  
stopped by gunfire and sunk by bombs from 222  
Group Liberators who were homed to the spot.  
400 ton TESHIO MARU and submarine chasers 63 and 34 sunk by  
gunfire and torpedo. One Liberator crashed after hitting mast  
of RISUI MARU, two survivors recovered. Only superficial  
damage to own ships. Five officers, 45 men, seven women taken  
prisoner.

(2) Burma Coast. ROEBUCK and ESKIMO bombarded Pagoda Point  
area 27th March and Chaungtha area 28th March without  
opposition.

(3) Cocos unloading proceeding well after 48 hours delay due  
to bad weather.

(4) Our submarines continued offensive operations in the  
Andaman Sea and Malacca Straits.

(C. in C. E.I., 311239Z to Admty.)

Operations S.A.C.S.E.A. requested to release communique with  
"Onboard" and deletion to para. 5 as requested in your 291403.  
"Transport". (C. in C. E.I., 311301Z to Admty.)

KENYA On account of weather and apparent movement of  
(bad storm towards Mauritius am proceeding to  
weather) Seychelles to oil.  
(2) Position 011° 30' S., 064° 36' E., course  
315°, speed 23 knots. E.T.A. Seychelles 0600Z  
Monday 2nd April.  
(KENYA, 312130Z to C. in C. E.I.)

31.3.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. C. (1) C.T.U. 22.3.1 attacked contact in 42.13 N. 55.20 W. at 1415Z and again at 1737Z/30th March. (N.S.H.Q. 310147Z to Admty., Cominch.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 311325Z, Cominch 311512Z.)

U/B contacts. Para. C. (1) 311400 Desron 17 had sound contact 42.41 N. 66.41 W. (2) 301925 Blimp sighted periscope and subsequently had Sonobuoy contact 42.52 N. 69.08 W. All times Z.

Para. D. T.U. 22.3.1 attacked sound contacts at 301415 and 301737 in 42.13 N. 55.20 W. (Cominch 312112Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

R.N.O. Jamaica. MORGAN (shore establishment) paid off 31st March 1945 also examination service and M.L.B. Captain C.H. Champness D.S.O., R.N., Capt. i/c handed over to Commander Butler R.D., R.N.R., as R.N.O. Jamaica same date. (Capt. i/c Jamaica 312359R to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F. (fuelling.) Comtaskforce 57 280337. U.S. Navy experience of oiling? at sea operations in Pacific Theatre has indicated that it is imperative all Fleet Attendant Tankers should carry 100% spares of essential oiling equipment. Meanwhile request urgent action be taken to despatch 10800 feet five inch flexible rubber hose and 2430 feet five inch armoured rubber hose fitted with Jackstays direct to R.A.F.T. - as much as possible being sent by air. (R.A.F.T. 310002Z to Admty.)

Transfer of Flag V.A. (Q) Flag of Vice Admiral administration B.P.F. is to be transferred from GOLDEN HIND to BEACONSFIELD at 0900K tomorrow Sunday 1st April. (V.A.Q. 310038Z to GOLDEN HIND, BEACONSFIELD.)

S/M TELEMACHUS. TELEMACHUS departs Darwin for Trincomalee about 3rd April routed through (positions.) (C.T.F. 71 310656 to C. in C. E.I.S.)

War Diary.

31.3.1945  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Digest 1165, (2) Planes strafed single enemy bomber on beach  
30.3.45. Kiirun area, destroyed 7 luggers damaged 2 others  
anchored 63 miles southeast Kiirun.  
(4) Fifth Air Force Mitchells flew to Hainan  
Island 18 attacked shipping leaving one trawler  
burning and sinking, damaging one destroyer escort, one small  
coaster, one unidentified vessel of 4,000 tons, one submarine  
chaser, one large schooner, 2 barges.  
(5) 2 Liberators dropped 8 tons Kiirun dock area causing 2  
tremendous jet explosions in oil storage tanks. Previous day  
(29th March) Liberators sank single small stack aft vessel off  
China coast also bombed Kiirun Docks. Liberators dropped 72  
tons Toshien Dock area destroying 5 submarine chasers hitting one  
unidentified vessel starting fires 4 - 6 large merchantmen  
seen Toshien Dock area.  
(10) Final report from 5th Air Force attacks on heavily escorted  
enemy convoy northbound off French Indo China coast 28/29th  
March states following vessels sunk, 2 large tankers, one  
large Factory type ship, 2 large stack aft freighters, one  
large sea truck, 2 destroyers, 2 destroyer escorts, one  
submarine chaser, plus another submarine chaser possibly sunk.  
Estimates total merchant shipping sunk 35,000 tons, estimated  
total warship tonnage sunk 6,000 tons.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 311115Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.  
to 0900Z/  
31st March.

Para. B. H.M. ships RUPERT and CONN attacked  
contact in 58° 20' N. 05° 32' W. at 1709Z/30th  
March.  
Para. C. (1) Transit A/C sighted U-Boat on surface,  
course 350° at 1125Z/30th March in 63° 30' N.  
21° 28' W. and a second U-Boat submerged 2 to 3  
miles astern.  
(2) CAPRICE attacked possible U-Boat at 2023Z/30th  
March in 51° 45' N. 07° 34' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 311125A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 311412A to A.I.G., Cominch.)