

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

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

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

FOREIGN STATIONS
(Classification by stations).

- North Atlantic
- South Atlantic
- Mediterranean
- East Indies
- America and West Indies
- Australia and New Zealand
- U-boat Campaign

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

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

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

War Diary.

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Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. Two mines were detonated off Great Yarmouth.
- Northern Waters. 2. Convoy R.A. 65 has arrived safely in U.K. ports from North Russia.
- Baltic. 3. N.A. Stockholm reports that the German transport MARCO BRUNNER arrived at Korsor on March 30th with mine damage.

Foreign Stations.

East Indies.

- Malacca St. 4. Liberators laid mines off Penang yesterday and today.

Far East and Australia.

- Japan. 5. (a) At dawn today 10 enemy aircraft attacked the British Fleet (T.F. 57) operating off the Ryukus. Four of the attacking planes were shot down by fighters, a suicide aircraft hit the INDEFATIGABLE at the base of the island as a result of which she is short of aircraft but is otherwise reasonably operational. The destroyer ULSTER was also hit by a bomb. She was taken in tow by GAMBIA for Leyte. In a further enemy attack by about four aircraft at 9.30 p.m. 2 were shot down without damage to our force.
- (b) Today American forces began landing on Okinawa Island.

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Disposal of U-Boats at sea at "Cease Fire". Surrender of U-Boat Fleet. Consequent on decisions reached at Admiralty meeting on 27th March following are my broad proposals for surrender of all U-Boats at sea to Eastward of Meridian 25 degs. W. on the "Cease Fire".

(2) U-Boats to be ordered by Admiralty:

- (a) To report position.
- (b) To remain fully surfaced.
- (c) Fly large black or blue flag by day.
- (d) Burn navigation lights by night.
- (e) Jettison ammunition and fire torpedoes to sink in areas to be specified.
- (f) Proceed to a harbour or sheltered water for boarding and preliminary inspection.
- (g) To make no signals except in P/L.
- (h) To adjust speed to arrive at (f) between daylight and 1600 G.M.T.

(3) There will be three distinct phases in surrender:

- (a) Preliminary examination to ensure that U-Boats have fired torpedoes and jettisoned ammunition and placing on board of armed guard.
- (b) Final inspection for the presence of booby traps and to ensure that U-Boat is innocuous. At same time crews will be removed except for minimum steaming party.
- (c) Berthing at laying up port and further reduction of crews leaving only men necessary for maintenance.
- (4) To avoid unnecessary and obviously undesirable long passages for U-Boats it is intended that U-Boats should be dealt with in zones as follows:

| (a) <u>Area in which U-Boat is located</u> | (b) <u>Port for Preliminary Examination</u> | (c) <u>Port for Final Examination</u> | (d) <u>Port for Laying Up</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. Area East of 25 degs. W. including North Sea as far S. as 58 degs. N. but excluding English Channel E. of line Lands End-Scillies-Ushant and excluding Irish Sea between 51 degs. 30' N. and 55 degs. N. | Loch Eriboll | Loch Alsh | Lisahally or Loch Ryan. |
| B. Irish Sea between parallels 51 degs. 30' N. and 55 degs. N. | Beaumaris Bay | Loch Alsh | } Lisahally or Loch Ryan. |
| C. The Channel between line Lands End-Scillies Ushant and line Dover-Calais | As ordered by C. in C. Plymouth | As ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. | |
| D. The North Sea between line Dover-Calais and 58 degs. N. | As ordered by C. in C. Rosyth | As ordered by C. in C. Rosyth | |

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Disposal of U-Boats at sea at "Cease Fire". (Contd.) (5) U-Boats to be ordered by Admiralty to proceed direct to a standard route leading to their allotted destination. After reaching this route they are not to diverge from it. These routes, to be promulgated by Admiralty, are designed to avoid focal areas of shipping and convoy routes. It is appreciated that U-Boats may enter Eireann ports for internment but this cannot be prevented. Areas in which torpedoes are to be fired to be promulgated with routes.

(6) Cs. in C. Plymouth and Rosyth in conjunction with Cs. in C. Portsmouth and Nore to be asked to institute routes and torpedo firing areas, and to nominate preliminary examination ports within their Commands. The numbers of U-Boats that they will have to deal with should be small.

(7) As far as W.A. is concerned the following routes are proposed to Loch Eriboll.

| <u>Route</u> | <u>Positions</u> | <u>Torpedo Firing Area</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blue | (1) 49 degs. N. 9 degs. W. (2) 53 degs. N. 12 degs. W. (3) 58 degs. N. 11 degs. W. (4) 360 degs. Butt of Lewis 10'. | Between 11 degs. W. and 9 degs. W. on passage from (3) to (4). |
| Red | (1) 52 degs. N. 15 degs. W. (2) 53 degs. N. 12 degs. W. (3) 58 degs. N. 11 degs. W. (4) 360 degs. Butt of Lewis 10'. | Between 11 degs. W. and 9 degs. W. on passage from (3) to (4). |
| Green | (1) 58 degs. N. 11 degs. W. (2) 360 degs. Butt of Lewis 10'. | Between 11 degs. W. and 9 degs. W. on passage from (1) to (2). |
| Yellow | (1) 61 degs. N. 5 degs. W. (2) 59.10 degs. N. 5 degs. W. (3) 360 degs. Butt of Lewis 10'. | North of 60 degs. N. |

Approach route from position 360 degs. Butt of Lewis 10' through Positions:

- (1) 360 degs. Cape Wrath 4'.
- (2) 360 degs. Faraid Hd. 4'.
- (3) 270 degs. Whiten Hd. 1'.

(8) Requirements at Loch Eriboll will be dependent on U-Boats reactions to our orders, but it is proposed that at start following should be present:

- (a) T.C. Western Approaches in PHILANTE as S.O.
- (b) 6 Escort Vessels. Each to have available two guards each consisting of 1 Officer, 2 P.O.'s or L.S. 12 Seamen.
- (c) 1 Party of S/M Ratings under an Officer for preliminary inspection.

Immediately on arrival armed guard would be placed on board. Armed guard would remain on board until after arrival at Loch Alsh.

S/M Party would board on arrival and ensure that torpedoes had been fired and R.U. ammunition jettisoned. Small arms would be removed. If R.U. ammunition and torpedoes were still on board, torpedoes would be fired into cliffs in Bombardment

/Area ...

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SundayHOME COMMANDSPolicy

Disposal
of U-Boats
at sea at
"Cease Fire"
(Contd.)

Area West of Eriboll and R.U. ammunition jet-
tisoned en route to Loch Alsh. U-Boats would
proceed to Loch Alsh under escort. S/M Party
would remain at Loch Eriboll in PHILANTE.

(9) Requirements at Loch Alsh will be:
(a) N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh and his organisation.
(b) Military force to take charge of surplus U-
Boat crews not required as steaming parties.

(c) Parties from F.O.(S/M) and VERNON for final thorough
inspection to ensure that no booby traps are present and that
U-Boats are innocuous in all respects.

(10) Requirements at Lisahally and Loch Ryan are already in hand.

(11) The requirements in Beaumaris Bay. One Escort vessel
anchored to the southward of Puffin Island to have immediately
available three guards as specified in para. 8 above. She
will also require to have on board one party of S/M Ratings under
an Officer. Escorts to be immediately available at Liverpool
for escorting U-Boats after preliminary examination under
armed guard to Loch Alsh. A buoy will be laid in position 53
degs. 40' N. 5 degs. 40' W. to indicate position from which
U-Boats are to discharge torpedoes before proceeding to
Beaumaris Bay.

(12) Harbour craft and M.L's will be used at Loch Eriboll and
Beaumaris for boarding.

(13) Above general proposals are based on assumption that 60
is maximum figure of U-Boats that will be at sea in British
Zone on Cease Fire. These 60 are bound to be spread out and
will not arrive en bloc. Eriboll has been chosen as being a
remote anchorage where minimum damage could be done by "rogue"
U-Boat. Loch Alsh is sheltered and possesses a Naval Organisa-
tion and railhead. It can accommodate 33 U-Boats at buoys at
any one time. It is considered that this figure is
acceptable.

(C. in C. W.A. 012349A to Admty.)

OperationsNorth Sea

Patrols.

Nore night dispositions - April 1st to 2nd.

Humber Force (Group 1) Patrol 1. BLANKNEY,
2 MEYNELL, (Group 2) Harbour. Nil.

Harwich Force. (Group 3) Patrol.

3 BROCKLESBY, 4 CHIDDINGFOLD, 7 KRAKOWIAK, 6 WIDGEON, 12 RIOU,
14 EGLINTON, 16 EKINS, 17 ARENDAL, 18 RUTHERFORD, 19 SEYMOUR,
22 CAICOS. T.A.M. 26, SHEARWATER. A.T.M. 111 KITTIWAKE.

(Group 4). Harbour. HAMBLEDON, LAMERTON, QUANTOCK, SOUTH-
DOWN, TALYBONT, ZETLAND, CUBITT, RETALICK, STAYNER, TORRINGTON,
GUILLEMOT, SHELDRAKE.

Sheerness Force. (Group 5) Patrol. 5 MIDDLETON, 8 BLENCATHRA,
21 OAKLEY. A.T.M. 111 TANATSIDE, T.A.M. 26 MENDIP, F.S. 73

MELBREAK. (Group 6) Harbour. BRISSENDEN, CATTISTOCK,
EASTON, PYTCHLEY, VANQUISHER. At Southend WILTON (T.A.P.91).
At Yarmouth HAYDON.

(C. in C. Nore, 011548A to Admty.)

/ Minesweeping ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping off East Coast. LL/SA sweepers detonated one acoustic mine at 1435 in position O45 degs. 3 B Buoy 17 cables. LL/SA sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at 1340 in position O41 degs. 3B buoy 19 cables. (F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, O11911A to Admty.)

A/A practices over North Sea. A.D/362 1 April Secret reference Nore Signal 241738A not addressed A/A Commando. It is agreed air co-operation A/C may fly by day in areas Harwich and Sheerness for purpose of H.A.A. practice firing from destroyers and auxiliary vessels subject to following conditions.

- (1) Clear visibility conditions obtain.
- (2) Courses to be flown must be agreed with local G.O.R.S. Namely Harwich and Chatham O. at Harwich. Course should be approx. 300 degs. magnetic and its reciprocal.
- (3) G.O.R.S. to be notified beforehand of times of practice and courses to be flown. This information is to be passed to all gunsites within range of co-operating A/C.
- (4) Frequent communications to be maintained before co-operating A/C sector controller and G.O.R.
- (5) Co-operating A/C is to be ordered out of the diver gun area immediately hostile activity develops or is indicated as imminent by Y sources or visibility deteriorates or contact is lost between A/C and controller O. (H.Q.F.C. O11145A to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.362 Part 4 Section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/31 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 | 61 | 502 | 16,767 | 1,002 | 12,047 | - |
| Ostend | 2,065 | 208 | 4,722 | - | - | 1,579 |
| Boulogne | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Caen | - | - | - | 1,326 | - | - |
| Calais | 4,034 | - | 94 | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 3,969 | - | - | 1,390 |
| Totals: | 6.160 | 701/ | 25,552 | 2,328 | 12,047 | 2,969 |

| <u>U.S. North</u> | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Antwerp | - | 412 | 24,922 | - | - | - |
| Cherbourg | - | 92 | 5,868 | 1,769 | 3,928 | 2,685 |
| Le Havre | 11,690 | 154 | 5,997 | - | 422 | 761 |
| Rouen | - | 90 | 9,580 | 1,549 | 1,942 | 2,248 |
| Granville | - | - | - | 1,605 | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 4,801 | - | - | 623 |
| Totals | 11.690 | 748 | 51,168 | 4,923 | 6,292 | 6,317 |

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/U.S. South ...

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HOME COMMAND

Operations

North Sea

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.362 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 | 1,536 | 497 | 13,311 | - | - | 1,913 |
| Port De Bouc | - | - | 3,559 | - | 10,116 | - |
| Toulon | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals: | 1,536 | 497 | 16,870 | - | 10,116 | 1,913 |

Cumulative Totals 16 - 31 March (Inclusive.)

British

| | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Antwerp | 1,142 | 7,450 | 170,614 | 7,305 | 159,945 | 1,485 |
| Ostend | 29,122 | 3,257 | 52,234 | - | 4,231 | 20,391 |
| Boulogne | 1,256 | 758 | - | - | - | - |
| Caen | - | - | 864 | 26,669 | - | - |
| Calais | 64,966 | - | 4,465 | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 52,091 | - | 2,806 | 24,496 |
| Totals: | 96,486 | 11,465 | 280,268 | 33,974 | 166,982 | 46,372 |

U.S. North

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Antwerp | - | 5,848 | 317,805 | - | - | 3,332 |
| Cherbourg | 497 | 2,536 | 104,820 | 25,532 | 84,700 | 49,730 |
| Le Havre | 114,128 | 7,209 | 91,337 | 4,496 | 27,473 | 14,495 |
| Rouen | 3,238 | 3,071 | 128,395 | 17,764 | 30,032 | 6,528 |
| Granville | - | - | 111 | 19,644 | - | - |
| Ghent | 2 | 34 | 98,976 | - | - | 17,531 |
| Totals | 117,865 | 18,698 | 741,444 | 67,436 | 142,205 | 91,616 |

U.S. South

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Marseilles | 29,301 | 9,584 | 192,457 | 11,809 | - | 23,297 |
| Port De Bouc | - | - | 41,970 | 2,317 | 83,335 | 25,733 |
| Toulon | - | - | 8,381 | - | - | - |
| Nice. | - | - | 1,018 | - | - | - |
| Totals: | 29,301 | 9,584 | 243,826 | 14,126 | 83,335 | 49,030 |

(S.H.A.E.F. 011715A to Admty. and others)

Operations

Channel

Patrols and Escorts. Establish following patrols on Coastal Convoy route by 2359B/1st April. E.G.3 1st Division Lizard to Start, E.G.3 2nd Division Pendeen to Lizard.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 011042A to S.O.E.G.3)

- (1) BALFOUR, BENTLEY, STOCKHAM weigh at 1800A/1st and proceed to patrol area 5 miles West to 10 miles East of route H between route E and 50 degs. 00' N.
- (2) BALFOUR leave patrol at 0700B/2nd and enter harbour for 48 hours lay over.
- (3) GARLIES detach HOSTE to enter harbour for 48 hours lay over on arrival of convoy B.T.C. at F buoy a.m. tomorrow Monday.
- (4) BALFOUR and HOSTE berth as ordered by Capt. D.1.

/ (5) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols and Escorts. (Contd.) (5) GARLIES, GORE proceed on arrival of convoy to join BENTLEY and STOCKHAM on patrol.
(6) BENTLEY assume duties of S.O. E.G.1 until BALFOUR rejoins.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011308A to BALFOUR, BENTLEY, STOCKHAM, GARLIES, GORE, HOSTE.)
On completion of present duties you will be required for escort of F.S. LORRAINE and F.S. DUQUESNE from Cherbourg to Plymouth on night of 2nd/3rd April.
(2) Orders follow.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011738A to Force 26, LOCH MORLICH, ANNAN.)

Operation "Nestegg". State of L.S.I. for "Nestegg" is as follows:
EMPIRE LANCE and EMPIRE RAPIER require 4 days overhaul each.
PRINSESSE JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE completes repairs about April 16th.
INVICTA completes boiler cleaning and replacement of davits 21st April.
ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ST. HELIER are operational now.
(2) Only other L.S.I. with davits is PRINSESSE ASTRID completing repairs about 18th April.
(3) Full L.S.I. lift for "Nestegg" cannot therefore be provided until 18th April at earliest. Some L.C.I. could be made available in lieu if necessary.
(A.N.C.X.F., 012150A to S.H.A.E.F.)

Operations

West Coast France

Operation "Assault" (blockade of Biscayan ports). Carry out Operation "Assault" my Memo. Opas dated 31st March, 1945.
(A) Force 27 - FAULKNOR (Senior Officer), L'AVENTURE, LA SURPRISE and LA DECOUVERTE.
(B) 1600A/1st April.
(C) Through: (a) 48° 35' N., 5° 32' W. and (b) 47° 50' N., 5° 32' W. to patrol between 47° 35' N., and 45° 00' N.
(D) Patrol between (C) 46° 42' N., 2° 43' W. and (D) 46° 24' N., 2° 28' W. to be established from 2130A/2nd until 0600B/3rd, and repeated on subsequent nights unless otherwise ordered.
(J) Report dated 30th March indicated 4 U-Boats in St. Nazaire on 27th March of which one preparing to sail.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011000 to FAULKNOR, L'AVENTURE, LA SURPRISE, LA DECOUVERTE.)
My 011000 cancel para. (D). Insert new para. (D) Patrol between (D) 46.42 N., 02.43 W. and (D) 46.27 N., 02.22 W. to be established from 2130B/2nd until 0400B/3rd. Leave (D) at 0400B/3rd and sweep south-east and south. Repeat this patrol on subsequent nights unless otherwise ordered.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011255A to Force 27.)

/Force 27 ...

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Operation
"Assault".
(Blockade
of Biscayan
ports).
(Contd.)

Force 27 FAULKNER (Senior Officer), L'AVENTURE,
LA DECOUVERTE and LA SURPRISE left Plymouth
1600A today 1st April to patrol off Biscay coast
between 47° 35' N., and 45° 00' N.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011927A to Comar Brest.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Probable
U-Boat
(21st E.G.'s)

Your 311208A. Radar Dan Buoy laid 1,000 yards
north of contact.
(FITZROY, 010908A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols and
Escorts.

E.G.6, 1st Division continue present escort
duty as far as Mumbles then establish patrol
20 miles N.E. to 20 miles S.W. Trevoise Head.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011049A to S.O. E.G.6.)
If not in contact 1st Division, 21st E.G.

proceed to North Channel to relieve 31st E.G. as Force 37.
Report E.T.A. Altacarry.

(2) On relief 31st E.G. proceed to relieve 2nd Division, 22nd
E.G. as Force 36. Latter then rejoining S.O. 22nd E.G. in
Force 38.

(C. in C. W.A., 011207A to W.A. Command.)

Situation Report at 2000, section Home.

Force 34: E.G.19, LOCH INSH, 4 frigates off south Irish coast
to Liverpool on relief by E.G.4.

Force 38: E.G.22 first division HART, AMETHYST, PEACOCK St.
George's Channel.

Force 36: E.G.22 second division WREN, LOCH CRAGGIE, MAGPIE
central Irish Sea.

Force 37: E.G.31, BERKELEY CASTLE, 3 corvettes north Irish Sea.

Force 33: E.G.23, MONTSERRAT, 4 frigates off north Irish
coast. Forces support convoys as ordered.

Force 32: E.G.21, first division CONN, 2 frigates 57° 55' N.,
07° 08' W. to relieve E.G.31 in Force 37, 14 knots.

(C. in C. W.A., 011329A to Admt.)

My 311157.

On 4th E.G. crossing 07° W. (time to be reported) 19th E.G.
if not in contact proceed to Liverpool to lay-over.

(2) 4th E.G. will not now form Force 34 or operate under
C.E. orders. Group is to patrol area between 49° and 50° 15'
N. and 10° and 14° W. Codeword "Siege".

(C. in C. W.A., 012328A to S.O. E.Gs. 4, 19.)

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

Operation "Fox Chase". My 271030. D-day postponed to Tuesday 3rd April.
(C. in C. H.F., 011151A to Admty.)

Patrols. SPEARHEAD reports in accordance with I.S.O.H.30.
(1) 23rd March. 1303 in position 294° Marsten Light 2.4 miles sighted U-Boat bearing 162° range 3,400 yards estimated enemy course and speed 050° 9 knots.
1310 U-Boat dived before SPEARHEAD could get on to firing course 017°.
1800 U-Boat sighted on the surface in Korsfjord out of range.
(2) 26th March. 1736 sighted conning tower of U-Boat bearing 072° 5,000 yards. SPEARHEAD position 282° Marsten Light 1.6 miles. Unable to reach attacking position.
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 011510A to F.O. S/M.)

Operation "Newmarket". Intend following operation to be carried out under command of C.S.1.
(2) Object: Destruction U-Boat depot ships BLACK WATCH and ADMIRAL KARL VON HERING at Kilbotn (68° 43' N., 16° 34' E.) and infliction of casualties on German U-Boats personnel at this base.
(3) Force 4 consists of SEARCHER (C.S.1), PUNCHER, QUEEN, TRUMPETER, BIRMINGHAM, BELLONA and 8 destroyers detailed by R.A.(D) H.F. sail.Scapa a.m. D-day and proceed west Orkneys and Shetlands to pass position (WA) 65° N., 04° W. by 1000B on D plus 1 thence through (WB) 70° N., 06° E. to arrive at (WC) 69° 15' N., 12° 50' E. about 0500B on D + 3.
(4) On arrival at (WC) Barracuda and Avenger strikes to be flown off from PUNCHER, QUEEN and TRUMPETER escorted by Wildcats to carry out attack.
(5) Attack may be postponed up to 24 hours if weather necessitates.
(6) Codeword in my 011718. D-day in my 011724.
(C. in C. H.F., 011724A to Admty., C.S.1, C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C., No.18 Group C.C., F.O. S/M., N.O.I.C. Lerwick, S.O.N.A.S. Orkneys, R.A.(D) H.F., H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM, BELLONA, SEARCHER, PUNCHER, QUEEN, TRUMPETER.)
My 011714 codeword "Newmarket".
(C. in C. H.F., 011718A to Admty., and others.)

Operation S.C. Intend sailing S/M chaser operation from Shetland.
(1) 0700B/2nd April from Scalloway.
(2) 046° from Muckle Flugga to position 64° 55' N., 08° 23' E. thence 097°, 13 knots.
(3) 2100B/3rd April.
(4) Between 2130B/3rd April and 0600B/4th April.
(5) 277° to position 64° 55' N., 08° 23' E., thence 226° to Muckle Flugga 13 knots.
(6) p.m./5th April. (7) 046° Muckle Flugga. (8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 011747A to C. in C. H.F.)
My 011747A.
(1) 64° 47' N., 10° 34' E. (2) Ramose Reliable. (3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 011749A to C. in C. H.F.)

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern WatersRussian
S.Cs. for
Convoy
J.W. 66.

Head of Soviet Naval Mission has asked that Russian S.Cs. now in Clyde may be sailed direct to Faroes instead of passing through Caledonian Canal, where 4 vessels of last group damaged their propellers. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 261148 refers.

(2) He also requests that, if practicable, all S.Cs. may spend 4 days in Faroes before sailing to join convoy adjusting date of conference as necessary.

(3) Request you will plan accordingly.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 010047A to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols.

Situation report 2102A/1st April. Force C HONNINGSVAAG, 2 whalers vicinity of 64° 10' N., 23° 30' W. DORADE II off Skagi bound Reykjavik 7½.
(A.C.I.C., 011110A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F.)

Convoy
R.A. 65.

EMÉRY

Arrived ex R.A.65 LEWIS R. JUNIOR, JOHN WANAMAKER, HAWKINS FUDSKE, FORT CREVECOEUR.
(N.C.S.O.N.I., 011440 to Admty.)
Arrived Clyde ex R.A.65 H.M. Ships ALLINGTON CASTLE, ALNWICK CASTLE, BAMBOROUGH CASTLE, LANCASTER CASTLE, HONEYSUCKLE, FARNHAM CASTLE and OXLIP.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 011904A to Admty.)

Northern
precautions
against a
"death ride"
breakout.

Reference Admiralty Letter M/O.D.1101/45 of 28th March. Stage two para. 11 BELLONA and DIDO detailed.

(2) Following is summary of my proposed outline plan:

(A) Assuming area between Faroes, Shetlands and south-west Norway will be covered by shore-based aircraft intend to establish patrols to

cover area to north-eastward of Faroes by escort carrier force based on Faroes operating in vicinity of 65° N., 05° W. clear of normal enemy air reconnaissance and U-Boat traffic. Air patrols would normally operate to depth of about two hundred miles. This force to be supported by RODNEY, one eight inch cruiser and available six inch and 5.25 inch cruisers based on Faroes.

(B) Two eight inch cruisers based on Hvalfjord to patrol between Iceland (C) and 60° N. in approximate long. 20° W. clear of main U-Boat traffic.

(C) When RENOWN becomes available intend basing her at Scapa or Loch Ewe ready to reinforce forces in (A) or (B) above as requisite.

(3) To enable this to be carried out intend to take following measures in Stage One - (A) Additional oiler, aviation fuel tanker, fleet tug and A/S trawlers proceed from Scapa to Skaalefiord.

/(B) ...

1.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Northern precautions against a "death ride" breakout.
(Contd.)

(B) LL minesweepers return to Scapa from Aberdeen.
(C) Two eight inch cruisers proceed to Hvalfjord.
(4) As situation develops carrier force, cruisers and destroyer screen sail for Faroes.
(5) The above preliminary movements will have the effect of reducing the number of ships in Scapa. This is considered to be desirable

in view of the present absence of any shore anti-aircraft gun defences for the Fleet Anchorage and the possibility that an enemy breakout staged as a "death ride" may well be preceded by an air attack on Scapa including minelaying.

(6) Stage Two. RODNEY and destroyer escort may proceed to Skaalefiord.

(7) I would be glad of early information as to expected scale of air reconnaissance to be operated from northern bases particularly Iceland (C).

(C. in C. H.F., O11808A to Admty.) *Concur. (Admty 130320, page 234)*

Enemy Intelligence

Mining results in Skagerrak & Kattegat.

Great Belt arrivals Korsor.
(A) My 241824 March, para. 3 Transport MARCO BRUNNER arrived Korsor March 30th with mine damage.

(B) Danish Ferry ODIN HASALSO arrived in this port. See my 261149 March and Secret Quest reports proceeding this date. B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, O11307 to Admty.)

N.I.D. Comment: There have been other reports recently of the mining of MARCO BRUNNER.

Casualties and Defects

SS.
CRISTOBAL.

Your O11612. Stem broken waterline and turned to starboard. Fore peak open to sea. Several plates cracked one crack 12 feet long. One large, several small holes about waterline. Anchors not lost but not usable. Master states repairs absolutely necessary before further duty.
(C.T.G. 61.5, O11945Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Movements

CLEOPATRA, cruiser.

Subject to satisfactory machinery trials. Propose to sail CLEOPATRA to Scapa to comply with A.M. 292319A March on 18th April by which time ship should be at full complement.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, O11224A to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

DUKE OF YORK, battleship.

My 301432, delayed further 24 hours.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, O11324A to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

"FOREIGN STATIONS".

From today, Sunday 1st April, 1945,
the heading "Australia and New
Zealand" has been altered to "Far
East and Australia". This will
include New Zealand.

1.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RENOWN.

Your 311036. Arrangements for escort are being made.
(D.O.D.(H) 010050A to F.O.G.M.A.)

French
destroyers.

Sailed 1915/1st F.S. LE FORTUNE, BASQUE.
(F.O.G.M.A. 012004A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

South Atlantic.

A.F.D. 39.

TEST is required off Beira about April 10th to hold A.F.D. 39 while tug fuels.
(2) On completion she will be available to proceed as required by you.
(C. in C. S.A. 031421B to C. in C. E.A.)

War Diary.

1.4.1945
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

RENOWN
(escorts)

Unless F.O.G.M.A. can provide escort your 311846A it is regretted that no British destroyers can be spared for this commitment.
(2) Arrangements should if necessary be made for U.S. destroyers to escort from Gibraltar to 43° N. (C. in C. Med. 010946A to Admty.) See 021041A.

Enemy units considered active.

A. Gulf of Genoa. 1 destroyer, 4 escort vessels, 5 M.T.Bs. 15/20 heavily armed F-Lighters, 10 R.170. Also operating in this area are explosive M.Bs. 2 man M.T.Bs. and possibly human torpedoes.
B. Northern Adriatic. 1 destroyer, 2 T.B., 25/30 M.T.Bs., 5 R-Boats.

Also active in this area are midget submarine, human torpedo, explosive M.Bs. and 2 man M.T.Bs.

C. Aegean, Crete and Dodecanese. 18 tugs and caiques, 2 armed wooden drifters, 20 assault landing craft and launches. (C. in C. Med. 010947A to S. & A. Med. Stn.)

Linrep No. 243, extract 26/28th.

Coastal Air Force made a successful attack on small shipping in the N.E. Adriatic, bombed lock gates at the mouth of the Tagliamento River. (A.F.H.Q. 301019A to W.O.)

S/M SIBYL.

Sailed submarine SIBYL 1800B/1 to Aden for onward routing.
(2) E.T.A. Aden 0700Z/6 S.O.A. 10 knots.
(N.O.IC. Suez 011839 to Com. Aden, Admty.)

Aegean Sitrep.

W.E.F. 0101B/1 hours.
Responsibility for Greek Aegean and Cyclades Isles passed from Mideast to Greekmil.
(C. in C. M.E. 011950B to W.O.)

1.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No change.
(C. in C. E.I.S. 010309Z to S. & A.)

ROYALIST,
(cruiser
A.C.21.)

Departure ROYALIST. E.T.A. Colombo 0230Z/3rd.
S.O.A. 25 knots.
(F.O. Bombay 011244Z to Admty.)

24th Des-
troyer
Flotilla,
Transfer of.

Transfer of 24th D.F. to B.P.F. is to be made
as follows: A. Three as soon as possible.
B. Three screening IMPLACABLE. C. Two with
ANSON and DUKE OF YORK in June.
(V.C.N.S. 012326A to C. in C. E.I.)

1.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 011406Z, Cominch 011600Z.)

BONAVENTURE.

San Diego sailed 31st March.
BONAVENTURE for Pearl Harbour.
(N.S.H.Q. 012047Z to Admty.)

Far East and Australia.

7th Destroyer
Flotilla.

Departed 0238Z/1st April Capt. D. 7 in NAPIER
with NORMAN and NIZAM for Manus. E.T.A. 1200K/7th
April via Jomard Passage E.T.A. 1200K/5th, S.O.A.
15 knots.
(F.O.I.C.S. 010306Z to C. in C. B.P.F. etc.)

Escorts for
Foreign Com-
mand (re-
inforcement
of.)

C. in C. B.P.F. 130704 not to all.
The U-Boat war in Home Waters does not at present
allow the withdrawal of any further escorts for
reinforcing Foreign Commands.
(2) In order to alleviate the situation in the
Pacific the following allocations have been made:-
A. Six frigates at present attached to the East
Indies Station to be transferred to the B.P.F.
B. TEST to be transferred from the South Atlantic to the East
Indies Station.
C. F.S. LA GRANDIERE will shortly join the East Indies Station.
A.M. 181017 not to all refers.
(3) Cs. in C. are requested to arrange transfers as in 2 A and
B above.
(4) In the event of a U-Boat threat developing in the Cape area
C. in C. E.I. will be required to reinforce the South Atlantic
Command temporarily.
(V.C.N.S. 012325A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Digest No.
1166,
31.3.45.

(7) Luzon forces reported further gains Batangas
area strong enemy resistance showed advance along
Villa Aerde trail, Galiano occupied in northern
Luzon, where gains made against minor opposition
S.E. Burgos. Enemy Luzon casualties augmented by
further Guerilla reports to total 101296 killed,
958 captured.

(9) Two night Liberators dropped three tons on small shipping
Agtie River estuary, 2 other night Liberators armed R/C, dropped
four tons Niirun docks, 14 Liberators dropped 52 tons on shipping
Kflgn docks, hitting buildings causing fires and smoke.
Preliminary report states near Milspscocen one large unidentified
ship one small stack freighter fired, 3 or 4 smaller craft des-
troyed, 4 - 6, other ships hit.

1.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

Digest No. (10) 14 Liberators dropped 39 tons Yulin Harbour
1166, shipping (Hainan) destroying one stack aft vessel
31.3.45. 6 luggers, probably sinking one medium
(Contd.) freighter transport, damaging two sea trucks.
(13) On 30th March, 2 Liberators over Celebes
attacked 5 sea trucks, 5 small coasters Pare Pare
Harbour, leaving 1 sea truck burning fiercely,
damaging 9 remaining vessels in mast height attacks, 5 small
coasters seen under convoy. Next day, 6 Liberators again
straffed Pare Pare shipping, dropping 54 quarter tonners sinking
1 small freighter transport, 2 sea trucks, 1 schooner, probably
sinking 2 small coasters, damaging 1 small coaster, 2 schooners,
2 luggers: two other Liberators dropped 18 quarter tonners
Pare Pare ship building yard and installations.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 012341Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/1st April.
& sighting Para. A. (1) RUPERT attacked U-Boat at 1344Z/31st
summary. March in 58° 19' N. 05° 32' W.
Para. B. (1) H.N.M. S/M DOLFIJN sighted conning
tower course 090° at 1225Z/24th March and
periscope course 350° at 2140Z/25th March in
60° 51' N. 04° 35' E.
Para. D. (1) VALOROUS attacked contact considered non-submarine
at 1709Z/31st March in 55° 47' N. 01° 44' W.
(D.D.I.C. 011032Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 011335A to A.I.G. 331, Cominch.)

2.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Channel.

1. Two ground mines have been detonated off Dieppe. The U.S. advanced amphibious base at Dartmouth has closed down.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

2. Today 2 midget submarines detected by radar were attacked by Spitfires off Pesaro (Gulf of Venice) who probably sank one. Spitfires also scored probable hits and near misses on a M.V. of 1,200 at Rovigno.

East Indies.

Movement.

3. KENYA arrived Seychelles from Colombo and sailed for Durban.

America & West Indies.

Movement.

4. TRACKER (Ferry Carrier) left San Diego for Pearl Harbour.

Far East and Australia.

Eastern
Archipelago.

5. A large landing craft was sunk by aircraft off Celebes today.

China.

6. (a) Today and yesterday Liberators attacked the docks and wharves at Hongkong and other Liberators attacked the dry docks at Tainan (Formosa) with good results.

2.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Far East and Australia.

China.
(Contd.)

(b) Four vessels were sunk in the Hainan Straits and a destroyer was hit N.W. of Takao (Formosa) by aircraft. (031057)
(c) Two Liberators laid mines in the Yangtze today.

Philippines.

7. American forces with air and naval support landed unopposed at Sanga Sanga Island this morning and in the afternoon at Bongao Island (both in Tawi Tawi Group - Sulu Archipelago.) The former was a Japanese fleet anchorage. (031057)

Japan.
Operations in
Ryuku Archi-
pelago.

8. Today the second series of strikes by Task Force 57 were completed. Fighter sweeps were made over Ishigaki and Myako in the forenoon. A total of 22 enemy aircraft were destroyed during this second strike and 9 were damaged. Surface bombardment was dropped in favour of fighter sweeps. (060632Z)

War Diary.

2.4.1945
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Wreck dispersal priorities in Ostend-Schelde Channel.

Your 311130A. Consider that wrecks in the middle of the channel should be dealt with first, but this must depend on the practicability of dispersing large ships in shallow water, without spreading the wreckage. Information as to which wrecks it is considered can be effectively dispersed in a reasonable time is therefore requested.

No dispersal operation should be carried out without reference to F.O. Belgium as regards the mining situation in the area and it is requested that care be taken not to damage navigational buoys.

Before dispersing any wreck, application to Admiralty for authority is necessary.

(C. in C. Nore 021140B to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

Precautions against a "death ride" breakout.

Admiralty letter M/O.D. 1101/45 of 28th March following is proposed outline plan,

A. establish a patrol line to the southwest of the Sandettie Bank composed of the torpedo carrying Nore destroyers plus the Channel destroyers if available (max. nine.)

B. Dispose M.T.B. units (consisting of at least six boats) in following positions, (i) between South Falls and Sandettie Bank. (ii) Between Ruytingen Bank and Sandettie Bank. (iii) Between West Hinder Bank and East Dyck Bank. (v) A coastal force control frigate with three units of M.T.Bs. between North Hinder Bank and Galloper. (iv) Between Thornton Ridge and Bligh Bank.

(vi) Depending on M.T.Bs. available units of M.T.Bs. between North Foreland and the Kentish Knock.

(vii) Units of coastal forces under shore radar control between Dover and Gris Nez.

(viii) A patrol line of M.T.Bs. disposed in a north and south line to northwestward of Texel for R/C and shadowing purposes should the weather preclude air R/C all C/F units (1) to (6) inclusive are within 30 miles of controlling frigate and rapid manoeuvring of these forces should be possible by R/T (H.F.)

(2) BELLONA, DIDO and all available Rosyth torpedo carrying destroyers (max. five) based at Humber to be manoeuvred as tactical situation demands.

(3) It is desired to emphasise that should the enemy choose to make his sortie in bad weather which would seriously handicap the movement of our coastal forces the sea torpedo striking force would be weak in the extreme.

(C. in C. Nore 021309B to Admty.) *Concur. (Admty. 136223 - page 224)*

Anti-midget U-Boat air patrols.

Request anti-midget submarine patrols may be instituted during daylight hours in the North Eastern Approaches to the Dover-Calais cross-Channel route commencing Wednesday April 4th if practicable.

War Diary

2.4.1945
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Anti-midget
U-Boat air
patrols.
(Contd.)

(2) Proposed area for patrol enclosed by lines joining the following positions A. 51° 17' N. 01° 37' E. B. 51° 17' N. 02° 35' E. C. 51° 03' N. 01° 40' E.

(3) Aircraft only to attack when it is certain that the target is submarine.

(V.A. Dover O21315B to H.Q. 16 Group.)

Your O21315B not to H.Q.C.C. suggest following area which can be flown twice by each Beaufighter A. 51° 04' N. 01° 13' E. B. 51° 23' N. 01° 49' E. C. 50° 51' N. 01° 34' E. D. 51° 10' N. 02° 10' E.

Regret acute shortage of aircraft prohibits daily sorties. When enemy activity anticipated request you ask for patrol to be flown giving max. warning possible.

(H.Q. 16 Group O21845B to V.A. Dover.)

Operations
"Placket",
"Cackle",
"Clearway",
"Fireball."

My intentions for initiating operations "Placket", "Cackle", "Clearway" and "Fireball" are:-

A. Naval side of "Placket" will be initiated by A.N.C.X.F. on receipt of information from 21 A.G.

B. "Cackle" is likely to be progressed independently of "Placket". C. in C. Nore is requested to hold M/S Force available to sail at 24 hours notice pending receipt of further signal from

A.N.C.X.F. F.O. Holland should conform by calling forward or shortening notice of special parties and fuelling resources for "Cackle".

C. "Clearway" and "Fireball" C. in C. Nore is requested to hold forces at 14 days' notice.

(A.N.C.X.F. O21507B to C. in C. Nore, F.O. Holland.)

Patrols.

Patrols for night Tuesday 3rd April.

1 MEYNELL, 2 QUANTOCK, 3 HAMBLEDON, 4 CUBITT, 5 BLANKNEY, 6 GUILLEMOT, 7 BRISSENDEN, 8 CATTISTOCK. Coastal force units F.C. 1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2230B.

(2) 12 TORRINGTON with coastal forces from U.K. 14 SOUTHDOWN, 16 STAYNER with coastal forces from Ostend. 17 TALYBONT, 18 ZETLAND, 19 RUTHERFORD with coastal forces from Ostend. 21 PYTCHLEY, 22 RETALICK with C.F. from U.K. Coastal forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2130B.

(3) Escorts for T.A.M. 28 SHELDRAKE and MELBREAK, T.A.P. 92 VANQUISHER. Additional escort for F.N. 81 TANATSIDE.

(4) Coastal forces from U.K.

Patrol 1 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.1 with MEYNELL.
Patrol 2 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 2 with QUANTOCK.
Patrol 3 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 3 with HAMBLEDON.
Patrol 4 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 4 with CUBITT.
Patrol 5 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 5 with BLANKNEY.
Patrol 6 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 6 with GUILLEMOT.
Patrol 7 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 7 with BRISSENDEN.

/Patrol 8...

2.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Patrols. Patrol 8 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 8 with CATTISTOCK.
(Contd.) 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.
E.S.T.V. 2922 3 M.T.Bs. unit F.B. 6.
L.C.Z.Z. 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. E.S.U.A. 2316 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.A. 8.
E.S.U.A. 2100 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.B. 2.
E.S.U.A. 4126 2 M.Ls. unit F.G. 5.
E.S.U.A. 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 021730B to Nore Command.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 363 part 4 section A.
Situation Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/1
Report. April.

| <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 | 18 | 496 | 17,065 | 614 | 4,637 | - |
| Ostend | 805 | 232 | 4,201 | - | - | 2,089 |
| Boulogne | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Caen | - | - | - | 532 | - | - |
| Calais | 1,367 | - | 81 | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 3,622 | - | - | 739 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>2,196</u> | <u>728</u> | <u>24,969</u> | <u>1,146</u> | <u>4,637</u> | <u>2,828</u> |
| <u>U.S. North</u> | | | | | | |
| Antwerp | - | 92 | 18,096 | - | - | - |
| Cherbourg | - | 115 | 5,019 | 867 | 9,619 | 2,569 |
| Le Havre | 1,182 | 195 | 4,874 | - | 4,328 | 1,165 |
| Rouen | 2 | 33 | 1,864 | 1,164 | 737 | 2,572 |
| Ghent | - | - | 4,466 | - | - | - |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>1,184</u> | <u>435</u> | <u>34,319</u> | <u>2,031</u> | <u>14,684</u> | <u>6,306</u> |
| <u>U.S. South</u> | | | | | | |
| Marseilles | 1,707 | 435 | 12,486 | - | - | 2,153 |
| Port de Bouc | - | - | 3,540 | - | 5,116 | - |
| Toulon | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>1,707</u> | <u>435</u> | <u>16,026</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>5,116</u> | <u>2,153</u> |

(S.H.A.E.F. 021700A to Admty., and others.)

22

2.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Minesweeping
off Le Havre

181st T.G. LL/SA clearance 5 cables each side of a line joining H.D. 5, D.P. 2 buoys two actuations completed two ground mines detonated within a radius of 2 cables from position 50° 00' 36" N. 00° 50' 42" E. Remainder of sweeping postponed owing to weather.
(Com. M.S. Le Havre 021045 to C.T.F. 122.)

Abolition of
Tug Control,
Southampton.

On 3rd April, Flag Officer in Charge, Southampton will assume the functions hitherto carried out by Tug Control, and the name Tug Control will no longer be used.

(2) Signals concerning tugs and towing should continue to be repeated to C. in C. Portsmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 021142B to Admty., and others)

Anti-U-Boat
deep mining.

Weigh at 0230B/3rd April and carry out serial G.1. (C. in C. Portsmouth 021442B to W. VAN DER ZAAN, BANGOR.)

Carry out operation "Artisan", serial B.1.
(1) At 0830B/3rd April.

(2) M.S. 16 in TADOUSSAC take ships addressed under his orders pass Gate at 0300B/3rd and proceed as requisite.

(3) WASAGA and CANSO are to escort PLOVER, TADOUSSAC and BEAUMARIS carry out skimming sweep of lay and BAYFIELD act as Danlayer.

(4) On completion of lay PLOVER to proceed to Portsmouth TADOUSSAC and BEAUMARIS on completion of sweep relieving WASAGA and CANSO as escort.

(5) WASAGA, CANSO and BAYFIELD to Plymouth on completion.
(C. in C. Plymouth 021631B to TADOUSSAC, BEAUMARIS, WASAGA, CANSO, BAYFIELD, PLOVER.)

Closure of
U.S. Naval
Base,
Dartmouth.

U.S. Naval Base Dartmouth is closed as an Advanced Amphibious Base as of 0001/1 April, 1945. Request all bureaus and offices be advised.
(Comphibsukay 311709A to Cominch, C.N.O.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols &
Escorts.

As soon as ready p.m. today 2nd N.O.I.C. Aultbea is requested to sail 2nd division 21st E.G. to relieve 1st division as Force 37. On relief 1st division proceed to Belfast for fuel and short rest.
(C. in C. W.A. 021125B to N.O.I.C. Aultbea, S.O.E.G. 21.)

Request you will sail 25th E.G. (STATHADAM S.O. and THETFORD MINES) a.m. 3rd April to join Force 36, (S.O. 31st E.G.)
(C. in C. W.A. 021201B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

/Sailed...

2.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols &
Escorts.
(Contd.)

Sailed 16th E.G. SPRINGHILL (S.O.), ANTIGONISH, CHARLOTTETOWN, STETTLER and KIRKLAND LAKE to Moville in accordance with your 021135B. S.O. report own E.T.A. (PHILANTE 021930 to C. in C. W.A.)
If not in contact at 0001/3rd detach from O.N.S. 46 and join Force 37.
(C. in C. W.A. 022224B to S.O.E.G. 23.)

Nomenclature
of American
Escort Groups

In order to simplify the operational layout of all escort groups it would be much appreciated if the U.S. Groups now being temporarily transferred to my command could be given British Group Numbers while operating under my orders.

If concurred in intend to designate these groups E.G. 32, E.G. 33 and E.G. 34 in order of their arrival.
(C. in C. W.A. 021306B to Comnavu.)
Urdis 021306B. Concur.
(Comnavu 021556 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation
"S.C."

Ramose Reliable sailed VIGRA at 0700B/2nd April.
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 020703B to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols.

- (1) All positions north and east.
- (2) Intend sailing TOTEM 1100B/4th April through
A. 090° Muckle Flugga lo. B. 61° 04' N. 00° 01' E.
C. 61° 04' N. 02° 00' E. D. 60° 45' N. 04° 00' E.

thence patrol Norwegian coast between 61° 05' N. and 60° 30' N.
(3) Diving by day east of 01° E. speeds west of 01° E. 11 knots then 115 miles per 24 hours.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 021602B to F.O. S/M.)

Submarine positions at 0800/3rd and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone B.

A. UTSIRA on patrol in Fro Havet area.

B. TURPIN on patrol off Kors Fjord.

C. VIKING on patrol off Norwegian coast between 59° 00' N. and 59° 40' N.

(C.O.W. 022115B to A.I.G. 25.)

24

2.4.1945
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Northern Waters.

- E.G. 30. 30th E.G. proceed forthwith to Scapa. Top up with fuel and ammunition.
(C. in C. Rosyth 021001 to S.O.E.G. 30, CAISTOR CASTLE.)
- Rescue tug for Rosyth Command. A.M. 311900A. H.M. rescue tug ENCHANTER is temporarily allocated. This tug completes at Hull about 9th April, and will be sailed to Methil when ready.
(A.N.C.X.F. 021058A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- U-Boat. Local fishing ship reports submarine about 1½ miles from Skaalevig Sando at approx. 1030B today. Submarine remained on the surface about 4 mins. and then dived.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 021237B to Admt.)
- My 021237. Report graded C.O. Only A/S trawler available searching.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 021554B to Admt.)
- Convoy J.W. 66. (1) In view of Admiralty 010047 following programme is intended for 16 Russian submarine chasers sailing in J.W. 66.
A. 9th April conference at Rosyth attended by C.Os. of all submarine chasers, Russian, N.L.Os. (?with) convoy destroyers, C.Os. of destroyers concerned and representatives of CS 10.
B. 11th April one destroyer detailed for J.W. 66 embarks Russian Liaison party at Greenock and sails with Clyde submarine chaser group to Faroes.
C. 12th April one destroyer detailed for J.W. 66 embarks Russian Liaison party at Rosyth and sails with Rosyth submarine chaser grp. to Faroes.
D. 14th April both submarine chaser groups and destroyers arrive Faroes and fuel.
(2) Intend destroyers in paras. 1 B and C to retain Russian Naval Liaison parties on board throughout voyage to Kola. These destroyers are to lead submarine chasers out from Faroes to join convoy and will act as communication link with chasers during passage.
(3) Admiralty is requested to arrange A. Each Liaison party to include one Russian officer one interpreter and 2 Russian Communication ratings. B. 1 British convoy signalman to take passage in senior S/M chaser of each group. C. S/M chasers to hold copies of W.I.M.S. 1.
(4) No other Liaison personnel are required. N.O.I.C. Greenock 311624 refers.
(C. in C. H.F. 021302B to Admt., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.I.C. Greenock, C.S. 10, N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

/Minelaying...

2.4.1945

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Minelaying
destroyers.

Pass Switha at 0800/3rd Feb. and proceed to
Rosyth E.T.A. 1800/3.

(2) On arrival you will embark outfit of mines
a.m. 301907 refers.

(3) On completion C. in C. Rosyth is requested to
sail ships to Scapa.

(Com. D. H.F. 021614B to OPPORTUNE, ORWELL.)

Convoy
R.A. 65.

R.A. 65 arrived Kirkwall 31st March, Belfast 1st
April, Clyde 1st April, Total 26 ships.

(D.T.D. 021625B to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

S/M Patrol
lines.

Your 301219. Consider submarine patrol line
N.W. of Faroes may be an embarrassment to Escort
Carrier Force operating north of Faroes. My
011808 para. 2A refers. Suggest submarines should
be concentrated off S.W. coast of Norway covering
coastal route from Lister area to about 59° N.
(C. in C. H.F. 021855A to F.O. S/M.)

Movements.

DELHI,
cruiser.

Destination of DELHI, expected to sail from
Gibraltar about 3rd April, is Chatham.

(2) On arrival, and for time being, DELHI is to
be placed in reserve cat. B at 14 days' notice.

(3) Request you will forward a report on the
condition of DELHI as soon as practicable on receipt of which
the question of her notice will be reviewed.

(V.C.N.S. 021253B to C. in C. Nore.)

ANSON,
battleship.

Scapa arrivals ANSON escorted by ZODIAC, OFFA,
HURON and GARLAND.

(C. in C. H.F. 021447B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

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Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

RENOWN
(escort)

C. in C.Med. 010946 only two fast escorts available (MALCOLM and WOLVERINE) complete defects on 7th April.

(2) These destroyers are already committed as escort for PURSUER to 26° 10' N. A.M. 181252. (F.O.G.M.A., 021041A to Admiralty).

U-Boat
sighted.

Sighted periscope fired at same 2400 yards astern disappeared did not attack 034° 16' N. 013° 44' W.

(BEECHER ISLAND, 021150B to Admiralty).

SSSS from
13.44 West.

BEECHER ISLAND periscope lat. 34.16 N. long.

(ROWALLAN CASTLE, 021150Z to General).

French
destroyers

Departure 1803/2nd HOVA and L'ACLYON for Plymouth.

(F.O.G.M.A., 021905A to C. in C. Plymouth).

2.4.1945.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

YUGOSLAV
vessels
Danube.

For M.W.T.

(1) It is reliably reported here that Yugo-slav vessels on lower Danube which were handed to Soviet High Command under Article 9 of Roumanian Armistice Agreement are being handed over by Soviet to Yugo-slav river shipping

(J.R.P.) concern for commercial operations. Can Belgrade confirm?

(2) Vessels of other United Nations are not yet being handed back.

(B.M.M. Roumania, 020930B and 091520B to W.O.).

Friendly
submarines

For shore authorities only. Pass to N.C.S.Os. The limit of S/M. sanctuaries should not be disclosed to merchant ships. C.B.03092 (43) is being amended accordingly.

(2) In order to prevent attack on friendly S/Ms. who will not always be escorted in sanctuary, instructions are to be given to merchant ships in following sense:

(a) within 30 miles of coast of U.K. or in Irish Sea. Except on the East Coast of England between Dungeness and 052° N. no S/M. is to be attacked unless it commits a hostile act.

(b) No S/M. 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 ship should keep a good look out for friendly S/Ms. exercising and should keep at least 2 miles clear.

(C. in C. Med., 021127B to Med.).

M.F.Vs.

Sailed M.F.V.1521 (S.O.), 1520, 1522, 1523, 1539 and 1550 at 1200B/2nd to Aden for onward routeing.

(2) E.T.A. Aden 1000Z/9th S. of A. 8 knots.

(3) Flight will keep constant L.F. watch in area

R, Commodore Aden to issue communication orders in Area 3V. (N.O.I.C. Suez, 021213B to Com. Aden, Admiralty).

Cositintrep
No.630
Extract
Night
31.3.45.

Coastal Air Force. 2 of 4 Beaufighters on R/C. from Promontore/Maestra had R.P. and cannon hits on 6 barges and possibly sank a small vessel. 4 Spitfires bombed Parenzo Harbour with hits on a bauxite dump, barge and motor launch.

(M.A.A.F., 021344B to W.O.).

Destroyers
for E.I.

Intend to sail TARTAR (D.10) with TEAZER in company at 1930 5th April for onward routeing to East Indies. S. of A. 20 knots. E.T.A. 2000B 7th.

(V.A.M., 021610 to N.O.I.C.Port Said).

Crete

F.X.53832 Cipher 2nd April.

Cite F.H.G.C.T. Signed Alexander.

Cositintrep No.631 Part 4.

During night 28/29 March an Italian battalion

/surrendered...

2.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Crete
(Contd.)
surrendered in the Spilia area, in the north-western tip of the Island. The surrender was accepted by a British Officer on behalf of S.A.C.Med. Approx. 400 Italians were involved and have been taken over by the National Guard. (A.F.H.Q., 021735B to W.O.).

Italian destroyer
Request you will earmark an Italian Fleet Destroyer for duty a.m. 291828A*March. No further action should be taken until concurrence of Cominch is obtained. (C. in C. Med., 021802B to F.O.T.A.L.I.). *N.T. in W.D.

Black Sea Routes.
Until you consider route to be safe, concur with proposals in para. 4 of your 291728 March. (D.T.D., 021815B to Adm. Archer).

Situation Report No. 586
(1) Adriatic. 2 Midget S/Ms. detected by radar were attacked off Pesaro by A/C. who sank 1. WHADDON and 3 Yugo-slav M.G.Bs. endeavouring to intercept the other. BELVOIR sailed to Arzeu. (2) Levant SS. SAMTEVIOT which grounded 34 miles east of Port Said has been refloated by EMPIRE JULIA and reach harbour under own steam. (C. in C. Med. 021826B to F.O.L.E.M.).

S/M. SEANYMPH
Sailed SEANYMPH. (V.A. Malta, 022135 to Admiralty).

2.4.1945.
Monday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Persian Gulf (base). There is no longer an operational requirement for a Naval Base at Khor Kuwia. N.O.I.C. Hormuz H.26 of Feb. not to all refers. (2) Intend Base be placed in C. & M. Party and personnel surplus to minimum requirement be withdrawn as soon as possible. (C. in C. E.I., 020351Z to S.B.N.O. Persian Gulf.)

U/B dispositions. No change. (C. in C. E.I., 020406Z to S. & A. E.I.Stn.)

Trawlers E.I.Stn. Reduction in local defence craft. N.O.I.C. Aden's 250831 Feb., paras. 1 and 3 are approved. (2) Reference para. 2. (a) There is no further use for trawlers LYDIARD and VICTORIAN on E.I. Stn. Request Admiralty give instructions for their disposal. (C. in C. E.I., 021103Z to N.O.I.C. Aden, Admty.)

Reduction in local defence craft. Com. E.A.*020700 March refers. (2) SHAPINSAY, HILDESAY, NDOVU are to be retained for local employment. (3) Intend to sail VIRGINIA, SONDRRA, SOBKRA for Ceylon. (4) SORSRA, SOLVRA, MASTIFF, LURCHER, GEMSBUCK are no longer required on East Indies Station. Request Admty. give instructions for their disposal. (5) HATSUSE is to be paid off at Kilindini. (C. in C. E.I., 021109Z to Com. E.A.) See 111750B. * SHAPINSAY, HILDESAY, NDOVU to be manned by R.N.V.R.

VOLAGE, destroyer. C. in C. East Indies' 020952 acknowledged. E.T.A. Diego Suarez 0700Z/5th April. (VOLAGE, 021510Z.)

C.S. 5. Sailed CEYLON, wearing flag of C.S.5. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 021641Z to Admty.)

2.4.1945.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q., 021329Z to S. and A N.).

E.G.16 Intend allocating H.M.C.S. CARLPLACE to E.G.16 on arrival CARLPLACE in U.K. about 20th. My 311840 March not to all. Request SPRINGHILL be sailed to Canada for refit.
(C. in C.N.A., 022005Z and 111340 to C. in C.W.A.).

Far East and Australia

B.P.F. Consideration has been given to provision of
A/S equipment for A/S fixed defences of the inter-
Defences. mediate base should this become a requirement.
(2) All equipment referred to is additional to that already requested in my 292344 March.

(3) It is estimated that the following may be required: viz:
(7) Should it be found when the exact location of the base is decided that extensive underwater defences are not required, it is intended to retain in Australia any of the above equipment surplus to requirements as a reserve against future commitments. No such reserve exists at present.

(8) My 292343 March also refers to personnel to operate equipment as in para.3.
(V.A.Q.B.P.F., 020258Z to Admiralty).

NEPAL Departed 0821Z 2nd April.
destroyer NEPAL for Manus, E.T.A. 1100K 8th April via Jomard passage E.T.A. 1000K 6th April S. of A. 16 knots.
My 020215 not to all addressees, refers.
(F.O.I.C.S., 020731Z to C.S.W.P.S.F.).

Movements (Arrival 30th Langemak. H.M.A.S. STAWELL) 31st
Hollandia, GLENELG (1st. Manus H.M.A.S. LACHLAN)
(Madang. H.M.A.S. MILDURA) Departure 29th Madang.
H.M.A.S. STRAHAN for Brisbane 1st Hollandia.
H.M.A.S. WAGGA for Mios Woendi.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne, 021152Z to Admiralty).

Release of E.T.A. San Diego PATROLLER, REAPER 12th April.
PATROLLER RANEE 27th. Will direct departure for U.K.
and REAPER. upon completion unloading and necessary voyage
Ferry repairs. C. in C.Pac. Adv.Hd.Q. 020148 not to all
carriers and 2nd Info Adees. 211442 refer.
on loan (Comcartransronpac 022018 to C. in C.Pac. etc.).
to U.S.

3.4.1945
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea 1. EASTON attacked a midget U-Boat off N.F.5 buoy, but with unknown results.
- West Coast France. 2. The artillery of the 6th Infantry Division, 12th Army Group, spotted on by Air observation, has sunk a medium-sized ship, believed naval, at anchor north of Port Louis, after 45 rounds.
- Western Approaches 3. E.G. B.2 has attacked a bottomed contact some 22 miles east of the Tuskar Rock and produced a 300 ft. column of oil and water. S.O. suspects a direct hit on a minelayer U-Boat.
- Norway 4. D.17 in ONSLOW with ZEALOUS, IROQUOIS and ZEST, has sailed for an anti-shipping strike in the neighbourhood of Stavanger, supported by DIDO.

Foreign Stations

East Indies

- S/M Operations. 5(a) S/M STURDY reports that on 5th March she shelled and sank two landing craft which were carrying Japanese troops when off south east coast of Java. Unsuccessfully attacked with 6 torpedoes a SIRATAKA class minelayer in 6 degs. 36' S. 119 degs. 38' E.
(b) S/M SPIRIT shelled and sank a 300 ton coaster on 14th March when South of great Solombo Island (Java Sea).
(c) S/M SUBTLE between 14th and 21st March sank 4 junks in Central Malacca Strait.
- China. 6. To-day 43 U.S. Liberators dropped 150 tons of bombs on Hong Kong shipyards and shipping. Preliminary reports state that one medium and one small freighter transport and one M/V and five sea trucks were sunk.
The Naval shipyard was hit. A.03597.

3.4.1945
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Far East and Australia

Philippines

7. Last night P.T's destroyed 3 barges and probably two others in Macalagar Bay (North Mindanao). 0510052.

War Diary.3.4.1945
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.

Dispersal of wrecks in Ostend - Schelde Channel.

From P.S.V.O. It is proposed to carry out dispersal operations on wreck of SS. FORT MAISON NEUVE in position 51° 24' 24" N. 03° 21' 36" E. Request necessary authority to commence operations. C. in C. Nore's 021140 refers. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp 031122B to Admty.)

Anti-midget U-Boat patrol.

Your 021845B April, not to all addressees. Confirming telephone conversation, following area is suitable:

A. 51° 27' N. 2° 24' E. B. 51° 12' N. 2° 35' E.
C. 50° 58' N. 1° 40' E. D. 51° 15' N. 1° 30' E.

(2) Request Beaufighter anti-midget submarine patrol may be flown tomorrow Wednesday April 4th, during daylight if practicable and on subsequent days as requisite. (V.A. Dover 031236B to H.Q. 16 Group.)

A.150 3 April, 1945 reference my A.148 April 2 1945 and your 031236B. Anti-midget submarine patrol N has been instituted with in following area (1) 51.16 N. 01.30 E. (2) 51.28 N. 02.24 E. (3) 51.11 N. 02.34 E. (4) 50.58 N. 01.40 E. C.G./G.17/3 April. (S.H.Q. 16 Group 031815B to V.A. Dover.)

Patrols.

Commencing at sunset today Tuesday, the following patrols will be maintained if practicable by day and night by coastal craft operating from Ramsgate or Dover:-

One M.T.B. patrol D.C. - South Goodwin No. 2 Buoy South Goodwin Light Vessel 360° D.C. 1 Buoy 2 miles South Goodwin No. 2 Buoy (anti-clockwise).

One M.T.B. patrol D.F. - 180° southwest gate Buoy 2 miles to 090° D Buoy 2 miles.

One S.G.B. patrol D.G. - 180° D Buoy 2 miles to 360° P.H. 1 Buoy 1 mile.

(2) Additional patrol D.D. - 180° A Buoy 2 miles to 090° south west gate Buoy 2 miles. Will be maintained when availability of coastal craft permits.

(V.A. Dover 031330B to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth.)

Patrols for night Wednesday 4 April.

1 HAMBLEDON, 2 MENDIP, 3 QUANTOCK, 4 MELBREAK, 5 HAYDON, 6 MALLARD, 7 FERNIE, 8 EGLINTON.

Coastal force units F.C. 1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2230B.

(2) 12 STAYNER with coastal forces from U.K.

14 KRAKOWIAK, 16 RUTHERFORD with coastal forces from Ostend.

17 ARENDAL, 18 ZETLAND, 19 RIOU with coastal forces from Ostend.

21 OAKLEY, 22 CAICOS with coastal forces from U.K. Coastal forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2130B VAIM.

(3) Escorts for T.A.M. 29 GUILLEMOT and BLENCATHRA T.A.P. 93 TANATSIDE.

(4) Coastal forces from U.K.

Patrol 1 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 1 with HAMBLEDON

Patrol 2 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 2 with MENDIP

Patrol 3 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 3 with QUANTOCK.

Patrol 4 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 4 with MELBREAK.

Patrol 5 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 5 with HAYDON

Patrol 6 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 6 with MALLARD

Patrol 7 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 7 with FERNIE.

/Patrol 8...

War Diary.

3.4.1945
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Patrols. Patrol 8 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 8 with EGLINTON.
(Contd.) Patrol 12 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.
E.S.T.V. 2922 3 M.T.B. unit F.B. 6.
L.C.Z.Z. 1525 6 M.T.B. unit F.A. 1, F.A. 2, F.A.3.
From Ostend. E.S.U.A. 2316 2 M.T.B. unit F.A. 8.
E.S.U.A. 2100 2 M.T.B. unit F.B. 2.
E.S.U.A. 4126 5 M.L. unit F.G. 5.
E.S.U.A. 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 031805B to Nore Command.)

Minelaying Intend to sail OBEDIENT at 2030 tomorrow Wednesday
off E.Coast. 4th April by searched channels to Rosyth E.T.A.
1030 Thursday 5th April diverting as requisite to
carry out minelaying operation detailed in A.M.
301910A March not to all. Constant W/T watch in
accordance with S.2/44 Table 2 (1) line 6. Request mails be
diverted to Scapa as from 3rd April.
(F.O. Humber 031825B to C. in C. Rosyth, Admty.)

Midget U/B U-Boat and S.B.U. Summary to 1200B/3rd April.
activity. (1) 1005B/3. EASTON attacked midget U-Boat 226° N.
F.5 Buoy 2.25 miles target resembled MOLCH but
had no periscope.
(C. in C. Nore 032304B to Admty.)

Discharge Cosintrep No. 364 part 4 section A.
Situation Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 021600
Report. April, 1945.

| <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 | 325 | 16,199 | 850 | 10,746 | 699 |
| Ostend | - | - | 1,935 | - | - | 562 |
| Boulogne | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Caen | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Calais | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 3,166 | - | - | 741 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>67</u> | <u>325</u> | <u>21,300</u> | <u>850</u> | <u>10,746</u> | <u>2,002</u> |
| <u>U.S. North</u> | | | | | | |
| Antwerp | - | 364 | 22,127 | - | - | - |
| Cherbourg | - | 113 | 4,467 | 1,102 | 2,963 | 1,830 |
| Le Havre | 3,058 | 125 | 5,300 | - | - | 1,190 |
| Rouen | - | 20 | 7,358 | 730 | 147 | 1,677 |
| Granville | - | - | - | 835 | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 8,078 | - | - | 869 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>3,058</u> | <u>622</u> | <u>47,330</u> | <u>2,667</u> | <u>3,110</u> | <u>5,566</u> |

/U.S. South...

3.4.1945
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 | 2,489 | 208 | 9,188 | - | - | 1,949 |
| Port de Bouc | - | - | 2,942 | - | 12,209 | - |
| Toulon | - | - | 419 | - | - | - |
| Total | <u>2,489</u> | <u>208</u> | <u>12,549</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>12,209</u> | <u>1,949</u> |

(S.H.A.E.F. 031700A to Admty., and others.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols &
Escorts.

(1) Detach from convoy O.N.A. in 02° 30' W. and proceed to patrol area limits 01° 30' W. 01° 53' W. between 49° 50' N. and route E.W.

(2) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 774 and Q.Z.X.1583 (C. in C. Portsmouth 031050B to HESPERUS, ICARUS, HOTSPUR, HAVELOCK, INCONSTANT.)

When convoy B.T.C. 116 has been turned over to BERRY E.G. 3 1st division establish patrol Lizard to St. Agnes Head.

(C. in C. Plymouth 031007B to E.G. 3.)

Slip to pass Gate outward at 0930/4th and proceed to patrol area limits Q.Z.S. 629 route E.W. between 01° 40' W. and 02° 20' W. If M.T.Bs. sail my 031102B refers an alternative patrol will be signalled.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 031209B to BALFOUR, HOSTE.)

BIDEFORD take charge of ships addressed and sail so as to pass A Gate at 0845B/4th.

(2) BIDEFORD (S.O.), HOLMES proceed to establish patrol on coastal convoy route Start Point to Portland Bill codeword "Links."

(3) All coastal convoys are to be trailed through your area 2 to 3 miles astern until turned over to adjacent patrol.

(C. in C. Plymouth 031621B to BIDEFORD, HOLMES.)

Anti-U-Boat

Cancel my 281601. Request you sail 10 M.Ls. Force G.H. at 1000B/4th April to carry out serial M.2 part 2 lays 2 and 3.

(2) If weather unsuitable sail force as in para. 2 of my 311248 March.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 031512B to HORNET.)

3.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France.

Blockage of
Biscayan
Ports.

At 0400B/4 detach LA DECOUVERTE to proceed to Brest to arrive before dark on 4th, reporting to Comar Brest on arrival. LA DECOUVERTE will be required for an escort duty Brest to Bayonne.
(2) A. My 011000A para. 2. Wellington aircraft W/T callsign MBR 40 R/T callsign "Manly T" carrying out coastwise sweep from Penmarch will R/V you at 0800B/4 in approx. position 45° 33' N. 01° 50' W. After making contact aircraft will continue sweep to southward returning thence to contact force 27 as mutually arranged before returning to base.
B. Opas Appendix 2 para. 2 (VI) to facilitate R/V with aircraft switch on I.F.F. at 0700B/4 and again as requisite p.m. using code No. 1.
(3) Your patrol may be extended to southward if required to investigate aircraft reports.
(C. in C. Plymouth 031807B to S.O. Force 27.)

Sinking of
unidentified
vessel off
Port Louis.

Subject sinking of enemy naval vessel by 6th Infantry Division.
The following are details of sinking as reported to this H.Q. by that organization. 13 March 1945. Air Observer noticed a ship lying at anchor in the harbour north of Port Louis (G.7306.)
Observer adjusted fire and after 45 rounds ship (sank.) Was over 10,000 yards ground distance from the target. He stated ship larger than L.S.T. smaller than Liberty Ship and estimated weight at 7,000 tons. Verification of tonnage not yet obtained through intelligence agents.
(12th Army Group 031900B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols &
Escorts.

Com. (D) Western Approaches is requested to sail 16th E.G. at 2000/3rd April at best speed without incurring weather damage to relieve 31st E.G. in force 36. S.O.E.G. 31 to arrange R/V.
(2) On relief 31st E.G. proceed to Greenock for layover.
(C. in C. W.A. 031110B to Com. D.W.A., S.O.E.G. 31)
Force 37 E.G. 23 MONTSERRAT S.O. 4 frigates and E.G. 21 FITZROY, REDMILL, CRANSTOUN north Clyde.
Force 36 E.G. 31 BERKELEY CASTLE 3 corvettes Central Irish Sea, E.G. 16 SPRING HILL, STETTLER, CHARLOTTETOWN, KIRKLAND LAKE sailed Londonderry 2000B/3rd, 16 knots to relieve 31st E.G. latter thence Greenock.
Force 38 E.G. 22 HART, LOCH CRAGGIE 4 sloops St. Georges Channel. Forces support convoy as ordered 4th E.G. BENTINCK 4 frigates operate in vicinity 49° 50' N. 11° 01' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 031412B to Admty.)

/Probable...

3.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches. - Contd.

Probable U-Boat. Attacked bottomed contact in position 52° 08' 15" N. 05° 31' 12" W. at 1554B. 2 5 charge pattern attacks. Second produced abnormal explosion. 300 feet column of oil and water. Oil (light) slick spreading 800 yards. Consider no concrete evidence could have survived such an explosion and suggest second attack struck torpedo tubes.
(S.O.E.G. B. 2 031635B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 031635B. Correct slick to read area. Suggest possibility minelaying U-Boat. Plot indicates movement during first attack.
(S.O.E.G. B. 2 031825B to C. in C. W.A.)
S.O.B.2 E.G. 031635. Examine area at daylight.
(C. in C. W.A. 032322B to S.O. Force 38.)

Anticipations on "Cease Fire". The matter of berthing all escort vessels now in the Western Approaches Command between cessation of hostilities and departure or laying up of these ships is causing me concern as it appears that berths for all these ships will not be available at my bases.
(2) In order to relieve this congestion it would be much appreciated if arrangements could be made for as many R.C.N. groups as possible to proceed to Canadian ports when no longer required in U.K. for escort or support duties.
(3) It is requested that N.S.H.Q. may be asked to state now the number of groups at present based in U.K. that could be thus accepted and whether they would be agreeable to such groups being sailed from U.K. at earliest possible moment after release in accordance with para. 2.
(C. in C. W.A. 031711B to Admty.)

E.G. 21's U-Boats. My 221059 July 1942. While searching in the N. Minch on the 27th, CONN of E.G. 21 obtained asdic contact at 0918 in position 265° Cape Wrath 25 miles. Hedgehog and depth charge attacks produced considerable diesel oil and wreckage of German origin.
(2) At 1245A on the 28th, REDMILL of E.G. 21 obtained asdic contact 21 miles N.E. Barra Island. Hedgehog and depth charge attacks by REDMILL and FITZROY produced a considerable quantity of confirmed diesel oil. A German seaman's body has since been recovered from this area.
(3) RUPERT of E.G. 21 obtained asdic contact at 1829A on the 30th 26 miles S.W. of Cape Wrath. One hedgehog attack resulted in an explosion 5½ seconds after the bombs entered the water and produced a slick of diesel oil. Subsequent attacks by H.M. ships CONN and RUPERT produced considerable oil, wreckage and photographs of German U-Boat crew.
(D.A.U.D. 032002A to Cominch, Commaveu.)

U. 722
shuk

3.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "Fox Chase". Scapa departures ONSLOW (D.17) with ZEALOUS, IROQUOIS and ZEST.
(C. in C. H.F. 031003B to Admty., C. in C. Rosyth). Proceed so as to arrive in position T.Z. 58° 56' N. 01° 00' E. by 0300B, tomorrow Wednesday ready to support Force 3 if required. Remain in vicinity of position T.Z. until joined by Force 3 and return in company. (C. in C. H.F. 031916 to DIDO.)

Anti-"Death Ride" S/M patrols. Para. 2 of your 021855 propose following additional T.E. patrols.
A. Patrol line 040° to 220° 7 miles either side position T.E. 11 58° 14' N. 06° 04' E.
B. Patrol areas radii 5 miles with centres as follows T.E. 12 58° 29' N. 05° 32' E. T.E. 14 58° 35' N. 05° 12' E.
(2) Priority of filling above patrols and those given in para. 2 in my 301219 March to be decided according to circumstances at stage I part I 3. (C) "Almod."
(F.O. S/M 031906B to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Weather Reporting Ship. E.T.D. buoy 5 Reykjavik 041430 for weather station 7, speed 14. Via 64.14 N. 23.07 W. thence to relief point E.T.A. Relief Point 050030. Hold Q.Z.S. 682.
(U.S.S. SHREVEPORT 031400 to N.O.B. Iceland, Congrepat.)

Anti-Schnorkel obstructors. Request BRITTANY may be sailed for Scapa as convenient and on arrival to remain at 24 hours notice for laying.
(2) Mileage of O.P.F. carried to be reported.
(D. of B.D. 032223B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Berlin not evacuated by March 30th. German Staff. Usual war report was issued to Attaches in Berlin 30th March and at this time no move had then taken place either of attache group moving out of Berlin nor staff away from Zossen.
A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 031741 to D.N.I.)

War Diary.

3.4.1945

Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- RENOWN,
battlecruiser,
RODNEY,
battleship.
- Cancel para. 2 of A.M. 271848 January.
RENOWN will now relieve RODNEY in the Home Fleet.
On relief RODNEY will reduce to reserve category B.
(V.C.N.S. 031138B to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. H.F.)
- NELSON,
battleship.
- C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail NELSON when ready about 25th April to Mediterranean for work up under C. in C. Mediterranean.
(2) C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to signal port to which ship should be sailed.
(3) On completion of work up NELSON is to be sailed to join the East Indies Fleet.
(V.C.N.S. 031137B to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Mediterranean.)
- LA CREOLE,
submarine.
- (1) In view of no drydock being available for F.S. LA CREOLE request that the necessary arrangements for towage be made as proposed by Deputy Pero in his report of February 10th.
(2) An endeavour is being made to send a tug from France to Swansea for towing LA CREOLE to Le Havre.
(3) LA CREOLE is urgently required at Le Havre where the material and equipment necessary for her completion are available.
(4) Confirmation of this request is being addressed to F.N.L.O.
(F.N.G.B. 031200B to Admty.)
- LORRAINE,
battleship,
DUQUESNE,
cruiser.
- Arrived F.S. LORRAINE, DUQUESNE escorted by LOCH MORLICH, ANNAN and force 26 (S.O. in NARBOROUGH.)
(C. in C. Plymouth 031230B to C.T.G. 122.2.)
- CALEDON,
cruiser.
- CALEDON is to be reduced to reserve category C forthwith.
(2) A.M. 081300 March refers.
(1st S.L. 031546B to C. in C. Nore.)
- CONRAD,
cruiser.
- (1) Leave Scapa passing Hoxa at 0800B Friday 6th April and proceed by standard route to Sheerness passing Flamborough Head at 0700B/7 April. Thence in accordance with C. in C. Nore 221836.
(2) Speed through the water 18 knots, weather permitting.
(3) Do not zigzag in Nore Command.
(4) Constant W/T watch on broadcast H.D. shifting to broadcast C.N. at 2200B/6th April and appropriate port wave in accordance with S.2/44 section 2 table 2 (1) and section 4 table 6.
(5) Admiralty divert mails to Chatham.
(C. in C. H.F. 031601B to CONRAD.)
- DELHI
cruiser.
- A.M. 021253B. Request DELHI may be berthed at Sheerness on arrival.
Nore No. 0206 of 21st Feb. not to all refers.
(3) Request ship may be examined on arrival and report of condition forwarded.
(C. in C. Nore 031744B to Com. Sheerness.)

3.4.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

DELHI
(cruiser)

Sail at 1900A/3 for Chatham.
(2) Route through etc.
(3) S. of A. 18 knots.
(4) E.T.A. position E 1500A/6th.
(F.O.G.M.A., 031050A to DELHI).

RENOWN

F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail RENOWN for Scapa with despatch on 10th.
(2) Escort from Gibraltar is to be provided by HESPERUS, HAVELOCK and HOTSPUR. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail them to arrive Gibraltar on 9th.
(3) C. in C.W.A. is requested to provide relief escorts as necessary during passage assisted by Home Fleet destroyers if available when north of latitude 55° N.
(D.O.D.(H), 031455B to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

A.F.D.39

A.F.D.39 STELLA POLARIS and tug C.F.KAYSER arrived.
(N.O.I.C.Durban, 030641Z to Admiralty).

Sailed A.F.D.39 towed by tug SIR WILLIAM HOY escorted by NORWICH CITY, COVENTRY CITY, through following positions
(D) 020° 09' S. 035° 11' thence Diego Suarez (average) S. of A. 4 knots.
(3) Tug HOY will (?escort) from position (D) into Beira for bunker.
(Cdr. i/c Durban, 031131Z, 112104Z to Admiralty).

3.4.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Cositintrep
No.631
(extract)

Coastal Air Force. Wellingtons and Beaufighters
bombed S.E. contacts in Gulf of Venice with
unobserved results Spitfires attacked and pro-
bably sunk midget submarine east of Rimini and
probably hit 1200 ton M/V. at Rovigno.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F.,031135B to W.O.).

3.4.1945
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-boat dispositions No information scales in all areas remain W.5. (C. in C. E.I., 030355Z to S. and A. E.I.S.)

TEAZER destroyer Request information when TEAZER will leave Med. V.A.M.'s 201019 March refers. (C. in C.E.I., 030501Z to C. in C. Med.)

SALVESTOR Sailed SALVESTOR at 0900Z 3rd to Kilindini for onward routeing to Durban thence for B.P.F. in accordance with F.O.L.E.M's 231223 March. 2. E.T.A. Kilindini 0300Z 11th S. of A. 9.25 knots. (Com. Aden, 031032Z to Com. E.A.)

ENNERDALE L.S.G. Request confirmation E.T.D. ENNERDALE be given in view of urgent operational requirements. My 061217 March and your 241248 March refer. (C. in C.E.I., 031059Z to C. in C. Med.)

S.B.N.O. Persian Gulf. 504C. S.B.N.O. Persian Gulf has moved to Bahrein. Bahrein C.C.O. hold a Flag Officers set of S.Ps. including CCM and Type X. (C. in C. E.I. S. 031133Z to Admty.)

NELSON Cancel paragraph 3 of A.M. 302229 Jan. not to F.O.C.R.F. On completion of work up in the Mediterranean early June NELSON will proceed to join the East Indies Fleet. (2) On relief by NELSON, QUEEN ELIZABETH is to return to U.K. where she will pay off into reserve while awaiting refit. (D.O.D.(F), Approved V.C.N.S., 031135B to C. in C.E.I.)

S/M operations S/M SPIRIT 5th Far East Patrol 14th March south of Great Solombo Is. by gunfire sank 300 tons coaster after missing with one torpedo. (2) S/M SUBTLE 4th Far East patrol 14th March in Central Malacca Strait sank by gunfire 3 30 tons junks. 21st March by demolition sank one 30 ton junk. (3) S/M STURDY 6th Far East patrol 5th March 008° 49' S. 118° 58' E. by gunfire sank 2 landing Craft carrying Japanese soldiers. 15th March 006° 36' S. 119° 38' E. unsuccessfully attacked with 6 torpedoes Sirataka Class Minelayer. (C. in C.E.I., 031214Z to Admty.)

A.F.D.30 Arrived. Tugs ASSIDUOUS and MOLLPATCH with Admiralty floating dock 30. (N.O.I.C. Massawa, 031732C to Admty.)

3.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 031322Z, Cominch 031548Z.)

S/M
SPORTSMAN.

SPORTSMAN escorted by H.M.C.S. CARLPLACE New London to U.K. departs Point Judith Gong Buoy Nr. One at 2400/5th. Speed 10 knots, on surface. (C.T.F. 25 031852 to Cominch.)

Convoys,
designation
of.

English Channel section of C.U. convoys will be designated C.U.A. and Irish Sea section C.U.B. (Com. 10th Fleet 031917Z to Comeastseafron.)

SS. MAPOCHO
(Chilean)
contacts.

Chilean MAPOCHO caught fire and sank between Arica and Iquique Chile 20th March. All times Z. Para. D. (1) 031425 surface craft attacked contact 37.55 N. 74.22 W. and at 031429 Blimp K.77 had made contact 38.04 N. 74.06 W. Sonobuoy indications negative, wreck plotted near latter position.
(2) About 031850 S.C. 540 attacked contact s area 40.16 N. 73.47 W. (Cominch 032135Z to Admty. for O.I.C.) See 042029Z.

Far East and Australia.

T.F. 57
(Operations
in Ryuku
Group.)

Operational report No. 2. On 31st March T.F. 57 resumed air operations against the islands of Ishigaki and Miyako in the Sakishima Group. There was no enemy air opposition.
(2) At dawn on 1st April, the force was attacked by about 10 aircraft, four of which were shot down by fighters. INDEFATIGABLE was hit by a suicide at the base of the island, but is reasonably operational though short of aircraft. ULSTER was hit by a bomb and was last reported in position 023° 27' N. 125° 37' E. at 0452Z/1 in tow of GAMBIA at 8 knots, making direct for Leyte. BALLARAT and LISMORE left Leyte at 0200/2 and should join ULSTER during the evening of the 3rd April.
(3) During the afternoon the enemy endeavoured to stage his aircraft through the islands in an effort to attack the U.S. forces then assaulting Okinawa. Our carrier aircraft saw over 20 enemy planes of which they destroyed 14 on the ground and damaged 6.
(4) At 0935Z the fleet was again attacked by about four aircraft, of which two were shot down. No damage to our ships.
(5) Operations were planned to continue throughout 2nd April, after which the fleet replenishes in the service area to resume operations p.m. 5th or a.m. 6th April.
(C. in C. B.P.F. 030131Z to Admty.) See 060632Z.

/BONAVENTURE...

3.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia - Contd.

BONAVENTURE. My 260737 Jan. para. 5. BONAVENTURE carrying six X.E. craft is now in the Pacific and is hereby reported for duty.

(2) Subject to your concurrence intend to keep her ready in reserve until it is apparent that an opportunity will occur for using her X.E. craft operationally.

(3) Propose her future employment should be reviewed at monthly intervals but I do not think it is practicable to keep her inactive for too long a period.

(4) Radio Guam pass to C. in C. Pac. Adv. radio Honolulu pass to C. in C. Pac. Rear, C. in C. E.I. pass S.4, Admiralty pass F.O.S.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 030526Z to C. in C. Pac. Adv.)

Digest for
2.4.45.

(1) Search planes from Clark Field destroyed single tug 30 miles N.E. Taixhow, strafed one small coaster, 2 luggers 30 miles N.N.W. Tainan (Formosa.)

(2) Night 1/2 April Mariners from Lingayan scored direct hit near misses on single S.E. bound destroyer escort 50 miles N.N.W. Takao, attacked shipping Kowloon Harbour in bad visibility, sank single large tanker towing one schooner 20 miles N.E. Hongkong heading N.W.

(3) Mindoro search planes over French-Indo-China coast bombed strafed single small coaster 95 miles S.S.W. Cape St. Jacques heading N.E.

(4) Delayed report 1st April state Navy planes sank 2 small coasters 25 miles S.S.E. Hainan, inflicted slight damage on single small freighter transport anchored 30 miles E. by S. Ningpo.

(5) Patrol Ventura over northeastern Celebes sank single large landing craft Minado area.

(6) 24 Liberators dropped 63 tons bombs on docks Hongkong destroying wharves and buildings. Liberators dropped 63 tons Tainan dry docks causing widespread destruction.

(7) 3 Liberators sank one large sea truck, one small coaster Hainan Straits, dropped 3 tons of bombs Kiirun Docks.

(9) American forces with air and Naval support landed unopposed at Sanga Sanga Island morning, at Bongao Island afternoon (both Islands in Tawi Tawi Group, former Japanese Fleet anchorage)

17 Liberators supported landings hitting Kongao Island, 6 other Liberators hit Tawao airfield North Borneo and one Liberator on Sidate.

(12) 4 Liberators on Parepare (Celebes) shipping search destroyed 1 small patrol craft damaged 14 schooners.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 031057 to Admty.)

Pacific
Summary No.
7 Operational
Naval Units.

Cominch 031529 Admiralty.
See Lion Copy.

TOP SECRET

IN

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

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

From Cominch.

031529/4pr41.
Date. 3.4.45.

Recd. 2200.

P/L BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty.
Info. Comnavcu.

C.R. No. 5570.

Pacific Summary number 7.
Operational Naval Units. South-east Pacific. RALEIGH.
Pacific Coast. ALABAMA IOWA RANGER. COMMENCEMENT BAY CAPE
GLOUCESTER MATANIKAU ALTAMIRA TAKANIS BAY COPANEE TRACKER
MASHVILLE TUCSON 13.DD. Enroute U.S. None. Enroute Pearl.
BON HOMME RICHARD BARNES ROI SANTA FE. North Pacific. CONCORD
RICHMOND TRENTON 9 DD. Central Pacific. TENNESSEE IDAHO TEXAS
NEW MEXICO MARYLAND COLORADO ARKANSAS NEW YORK MASSACHUSETTS INDIANA
WASHINGTON NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH DAKOTA WISCONSIN MISSOURI NEW
JERSEY HOWE KING GEORGE 5TH. GUAM ALASKA HORNET BENNINGTON ESSEX
BUNKER HILL HINCOCK YORKTOWN INTREPID RANDOLPH INDOMITABLE VICTORIOUS
ILLUSTRIOUS BELLEAU HOOD SAN JACINTO CABOT BATAAN LANGLEY INDEPENDENCE
LONG ISLAND CORREGIDOR ARTU SHAMROCK BAY BRETON WINDHAM BAY
ADMIRALTY ISLANDS MAKASSAR STRAIT SITKOH BAY WHITE PLAINS HOLLANDIA
RANEE REAPER RAJAH ATHELING FANSHAW BAY MAKIN ISLAND LUNCA POINT
MATOMA BAY SAVO ISLAND STEAMER BAY ANZIO SAGINAW BAY MARCUS ISLAND
SERGEANT BAY RUDYERD BAY PITROF BAY TULAGI WAKE ISLAND SUSANEE
SANGAMON CHENANCO KOLTEE WICHITA PORTLAND PENSACOLA SALT LAKE
CITY MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO TUSCALOOSA BALTIMORE BITTSBURGH
FLINT SAN DIEGO WILKES BARRE ST. LOUIS BIRMINGHAM VINCENNES MIAMI
VICKSBURG SAN JUAN PASADENA SPRINGFIELD ASTORIA MOBILE OAKLAND
DETROIT BLACK PRINCE KOTSTSURE+ ARGONAUT SURVALUS 157 DD.
Pearl. SHANORI LA MORTEREY TRIPOLI BOUGAINVILLE KEAJALEIN
CAPE ESPERANCE KASAN BAY KALININ BAY SHIPLEY BAY BLOCK ISLAND
PATROLLER QUINCY NEW ORLEANS. 15 DD. South Pacific. None.
Southwest Pacific FORMIDABLE CASABLANCA SLINGER STRIKER
SPEAKER RULER BENCER GAMBLA SHROPSHIRE DENVER MONTPELIER CLEVELAND
PHOENIX BOISE HOBART UGANDA ADLLAIDE 47 DD. Non Operational at sea.
Enroute Pearl. FRANKLIN WASP. Enroute U.S. None.

031529

Advance Copy. Ops.O.D.Plot.

+ As received.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
U.W.R.
D. Map Room
D.O.D.(H) (4)
D.O.D.(F) (2)

D.C.
Plot.
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
Hd of M (2)
W.D.

Ad. Blake.
U.W.R.

3.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 1000Z/3rd April.

Para. A. (1) A/C Y/304 attacked periscope course
110° with depth charges at 1253Z/2nd April in 50°
00' N. 12° 57' W.

(2) A/C B/206 attacked U-Boat at 2357Z/2nd in 58°
03' N. 11° 15' E.

(3) Training A/C sighted snort course 270° at 1215Z/2nd in 50° 58'
N. 05° 22' W.

Para. B. (1) Transport A/C sighted wake of conning tower or small
boat at about 0900Z to 1000Z/2nd in 47° 10' N. 08° 40' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C attacked oil slick with depth charges at 1139Z/
2nd in 53° 10' N. 12° 59' W.

(2) M.V. BEECHER ISLAND sent SSSS attacked periscope with
gunfire at 1150Z/2nd in 34° 16' N. 13° 44' W.

(3) Training A/C sighted snort course 260° at 1207Z/2nd in 50°
48' N. 05° 12' W.

(4) U.S.S. SPANGENBERG attacked possible bottomed U-Boat at
2008Z/2nd in 51° 27' N. 04° 54' W. Non-submarine contact known
to be in vicinity.

Para. D. (1) Fishing vessels reported sighting submarine which
dived at about 0830Z/2nd in approx. 61° 51' N. 06° 37' W.

(D.D.I.C. 031100B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

4.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1. Over 750 8th Air Force heavy bombers were employed yesterday against the U-Boat yards at Kiel, with good results.
- Western Approaches. 2. It now appears rather more probable that E.G. B.2's explosion yesterday was produced from an ammunition ship known to have been sunk in the vicinity in 1943.
- Norway. 3. D.17 in ONSLOW, with ZEALOUS, IROQUOIS and ZEST, fell in with 4 merchantmen, 3 escorts, and 2 U-Boats at 0027 this morning 3 miles south of Josing Fjord. They sank one merchantman and damaged two more and an M-class escort, but then withdrew under the near influence of a minefield and the U-Boats.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Riviera. 4. Tonight coastal craft fired 4 torpedoes into San Remo harbour. (081915B)
- Adriatic. 5(a) Tonight two M.T.Bs. engaged 3 enemy coastal craft attempting to enter Pag but contact was lost when enemy retired close inshore. (061953B)
(b) Beaufighters and Wellingtons continued search for midget submarines in North Adriatic. 3 attacks made on probable submarines. After one attack 6 men picked up - presumed survivors from submarine. (041238)

East Indies

- SS. EMPIRE CORAL on fire. 6. EMPIRE CORAL (British tanker, 8602 tons) was reported to be on fire at 3.35 p.m. today about 55 miles west of Bombay. Tugs are proceeding to her assistance.

4.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

Malacca
Strait.

7. Liberator laid mines off Port Swettenham (Malaya) yesterday and today.

Far East and Australia

China.

8. 41 Liberators bombed Hong Kong area today dropping 154 tons on shipping and harbour installations. Hit one large merchantman in dock, also 3 other vessels and fired many other small vessels. Hit power plant and oil tanks. (051105Z)

9. 12 Mitchells struck shipping at Pako (Pescadores) sinking one tanker and destroyed three other small coasters. Hit several other small vessels and hit barracks and warehouses ashore.

4.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Operation "Placket" Cdr. P Parties 291045 March. Request N.P.1575 and 3006 may now be sent forward to N.P.1732 at Alost.
(2) F.O.I.C.London is requested to arrange routeing of N.P.1752 to Alost as soon as possible.
(3) Request Cdr. P Parties and officers in charge of naval Parties 1575 and 3006 will travel to Brussels by fastest route in advance of parties to attend planning meetings.
(F.O.Holland, 041025B to Admty., F.O.I.C.London, Com.P Parties).

Air activity Cositintrep 365. Part 3 Air. Sunset April 2nd to Sunset 3rd April, 1945.
(A). Summary of operations. 752 8th Air Force heavy bombers escorted by 669 Fighters were employed against U-Boat at Kiel with good results 2 Bombers and 3 Fighters failed to return. 1 enemy aircraft was destroyed.
R.A.F. Coastal Command aircraft attacked shipping with mostly unobserved results.
8th Air Force. Day 3rd April. 262/693 aircraft on Kiel Deutsche Werke U-Boat Yards, 2181.5 tons, good 114/24 aircraft on Kiel, Howalet Werke U-Boat Yards, 72 tons, N.R.O.
(Air Staff, S.H.A.E.F., 041030 to Admiralty etc.).

Suspected U-Boat. 2 ships proceed forthwith to investigate report of U-Boat in position 57° 44' N. 02° 28' W. at 1226B. Aircraft co-operating Liberator G/224 Call sign PCY 64. Remainder comply with my 040918B. Report disposition.
(C. in C.Rosyth, 041321B to S.O.E.G.30).

Discharge Situation report Cositintrep No.365 part 4 Section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/3 April.

| | <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 | 47 | 216 | 16289 | 1433 | 6687 | 637 |
| Ostend | 366 | 112 | 99 | - | - | - |
| Boulogne | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Caen | - | 2 | 24 | 650 | - | - |
| Calais | 4258 | - | 102 | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 3910 | - | - | 1308 |
| Total | 4671 | 330 | 20424 | 2083 | 6687 | 1945 |

| <u>U.S.North</u> | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Antwerp | - | 371 | 24110 | - | - | - |
| Cherbourg | - | - | 6069 | 1676 | 2261 | 2099 |
| Le Havre | 5541 | 58 | 5929 | - | - | 1270 |
| Rouen | - | 12 | 7056 | 652 | - | 1573 |
| Granville | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 6973 | - | - | 953 |
| Total | 5541 | 441 | 50137 | 2328 | 2261 | 5895 |

/ U.S.South...

4.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Discharge Situation Report (Contd.)
Cositintrep No.365 Part 4 Section A (Contd.)
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/3 April.
U.S. South:

| | <u>Personnel</u> | <u>Vehicles</u> | <u>Stores</u> | <u>Bulk Coal</u> | <u>Bulk Pol</u> | <u>G.F. Ammo</u> |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Marseilles | 1719 | 948 | 16933 | - | - | 2476 |
| Port De Bouc | - | - | 3673 | - | 5804 | - |
| Toulon | - | - | 199 | - | - | - |
| Total | 1719 | 948 | 20805 | - | 5804 | 2476 |

Note: 663 tons buk Pol. discharged at Ghent (Br.) 29 March not previously reported.
(S.H.A.E.F., 041430A to Admiralty etc.).

Minesweeping off East Coast.
LL/SA sweepers detonated one accoustic mine at 1435 1st April in position 036° 3B buoy 17 cables and one red Magnetic mine at 1340 1st April in position 032° 3B buoy 19 cables.
(F.O.I.C.Yarmouth, 041725B to Admiralty.).

Following mine detonated today:-

- (1) 1050/4/4/45. (2) LL and SA "Q" formation. TYPHOON, LOCH ERIBOLL, ROTHERSLADE.
- (3) ROTHERSLADE off Resonance. TYPHOON and LOCH ERIBOLL on Resonance.
- (4) 2½ cables. (5) ROTHERSLADE 340° 57F 2.5 miles N. 30 W.
- (6) Dead astern. 2 cables. (7) On pulse. Blue to starboard.
- (8) 4 seconds. (9) Unknown. (10) Nil. (11) Sea rough.
- (12) -- (13) Moderate explosion. 20 foot plume. (14) Nil.
(F.O.Humber, 041805B to C. in C. Nore).

Patrols Patrols for night Thursday 5th April.
1 PYTCHLEY, 2 CHIDDINGFOLD, 3 BROCKLESBY, 4 TALYBONT, 5 MENDIP, 6 KITTIWAKE, 7 OAKLEY, 8 CATTISTOCK. Coastal Force Unit F.C.1 to 8 rendezvous Patrols at 2230B.
(2) 12 STAYNER with coastal forces from U.K. 14 KRAKOWIAK, 16 RIOU, SEYMOUR with coastal forces from Ostend, 17 ARENDAL, 18 RIOU, 19 RETALICK with coastal forces from Ostend, 21 MIDDLETON, 22 CAICOS with coastal forces from U.K. Coastal forces from Ostend rendezvous frigates at 2130B.
(3) Escort for T.A.M.30 EASTON and MALLARD. Escort for T.A.P.94, BRISSENDEN. Additional escort for F.N.82 MEYNELL. Coastal Forces from U.K.
Patrol 1 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.1 with PYTCHLEY. Patrol 2 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.2 with CHIDDINGFOLD. Patrol 3 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.3 with BROCKLESBY. Patrol 4 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.4 with TALYBONT. Patrol 5 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.5 with MENDIP. Patrol 6 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.6 with KITTIWAKE. Patrol 7 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.7 with OAKLEY. Patrol 8 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.8 with CATTISTOCK. Patrol 12 4 M.T.B. Unit F.L.2, F.L.3. Patrol 22 4 M.T.B. Unit F.B.8, F.B.9 with CAICOS. Patrol 51 M Y L. Patrol 52 1 M.L. ESTV 2922 3 M.T.B. Unit F.B.6. LCZZ 1525 6 M.T.B. Unit F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3.

/From...

4,4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Patrols From Ostend.
(Contd.) ESUA 2316 2 M.T.B. Unit F.A.8. ESUA 2100 2
M.T.B. Unit F.B.2. ESUA 4126 5 M.L. F.G.5.
ESUA 3312 4 M.T.B. Unit F.H.3, F.H.4.
Patrol 16 4 M.T.B. M.X. Unit F.G.2, F.G.3.
(C. in C. Nore, 041732B to Nore Command).

Operations

Channel.

Patrols (1) Leave patrol at 2100B 4th proceed to anchor
and at half an hour's notice in Cherbourg.
Escorts (2) Weigh at 0600B 5th and resume present patrol.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041054B to ICARUS, DUNCAN,
INCONSTANT).

Leave patrol as necessary to be at H.V.3 buoy by 2359B 4th.
(2) You are required to sweep ahead of convoy V.W.P. sailing
le Havre at 2359B 4th by route 673 at 14 knots escorted by LOCH
ALVIE (S.O.) TONKINOIS, HOTHAM, CROIX DE LORRAINE.
(3) Return to base on arrival of convoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041226B to Unit G.A.).
Cancel my 041054B.
(2) Discontinue present search.
(3) R/V. at 2345B 4th at E.A.5 Buoy with W.V.P. convoy.
(4) Details follow. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041818B to ICARUS, DUNCAN, INCONSTANT)

Engagement Your 211120 and F.O. S/Ms. 221227. The common
of S/Ms. policy established by A.M. 111547 is based on the
by appreciation that U-Boats, other than Midgets,
merchantmen will not attack on the surface in British coastal
waters.

(2) The considerations referred to in your para.
1(a) and (b) are not peculiar to the Portsmouth
Command. Most coastal routes round the U.K. are within the
prohibited band. A similar prohibition has for some time been
enforced by C. in C. Western Approaches, over an area which
includes the major part of his Command.

(3) The limit of 30 miles is necessary in order to cover all
sanctuaries without publicising their positions.

(4) It is considered important to issue simple and uniform
instructions to merchant ships and not to subject them to
different rules as they pass from one command to another. It
is only desired to relax the general policy where a real
exception exists as in the case of the Midget threat in the
Nore and Dover commands.

(5) The proposals in your para.1(c) would not adequately
protect submarines exercising. A submarine is only safe-guarded
by an escort when in close company, but during A/S exercises
escorts and submarines frequently become separated. It has
therefore been found necessary to provide the protection of
adequately promulgated sanctuary restrictions in addition
to escorts with red flags.

4.4.1945.
Wednesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelEngagement
of S/MS.
by
merchantmen
(Contd.)(6) For the above reasons your proposals are
not concurred in.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 041605B to C. in C. Portsmouth).OperationsWest Coast FranceBlockade of
Biscayan
Ports.My 031807B. Cancel para.1, LA DECOUVERTE is to re-
join Force 27 forthwith.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041158B to S.O. Force 27,
LA DECOUVERTE).U.S.S. CROATAN Cdr. T.F.5, T.F.22 operates with
6 escorts vicinity 44° 49' N. 45° 25' N.
(C. in C.W.A., 041541B to Admiralty).My 011000A para. (D). On leaving position (D) at 0400B/5
sweep to vicinity of (E) 46° 30' N. 01° 57' W. thence to
southward. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.281.(2)(a) My 011000A para.(A). Sunderland aircraft W/T call sign
LYZ 53 R/T callsign ORDAIN W. carrying out coastwise sweep from
northward will R/V you at about 0800B/5 in approx. position
45° 45' N. 01° 55' W. After making contact aircraft will
sweep to southward and return to contact Force 27 as mutually
arranged before returning to base.(b) I.F.F. to be switched on as requisite as in para.2(b) of my
031807B.(3) Your patrol may be extended to southward as requisite to
investigate aircraft reports.(4) FAULKNER is to detach from Force 27 as requisite to arrive
Plymouth noon 6th April, returning by reverse of route in
para.(C) of my 011000A.(5) On FAULKNER detaching, F.S. L'AVENTURE is to assure command
of Force 27.~~(6)~~ Reference para.(J) of my 011000A the position whether
D YBU is under German or French control is uncertain.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041900B to S.O. Force 27).OperationsWestern ApproachesPatrols and
Escorts.Admiralty 031455 not to all.
(1) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail
remainder of E.G.14 on relief by E.G.18. On
April 8th.

(A) ICARUS to Liverpool. (B) DUNCAN, INCONSTANT to Greenock.

(2) Relief escort for RENOWN from about 48° N. to Scapa will
be provided by three ships of 6th D.F. when HESPERUS, HAVELOCK,
HOTSPUR will be ordered to Liverpool to layover.(3) Temporary relief for 6th D.F. as escorts to Monsters will
be provided by ICARUS, INCONSTANT, ESCAPADE.(4) DUNCAN will join Greenock coastal escort pool on arrival at
Greenock.(C. in C.W.A., 041116B to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.Cs. Liverpool
Greenock).

/If...

4.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols and Escorts.
(Contd.)

If not in contact 16th E.G. is to detach from Force 36 at 0400/5th and proceed to relieve 22nd E.G. as Force 38. On relief 22nd E.G. proceed to Milford Haven for fuel and short rest.
(C. in C.W.A. 041231B to S.O.E.Gs. 16, 22).

F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland is requested to sail 1st Division 21st E.G. at 1000 5th to rejoin 2nd Division. Group is then to detach from Force 37 and proceed in company at best speed without incurring weather damage to position 50° N. 10° W. patrol orders will be issued later.

(C. in C.W.A. 041233B to F.O.I.C.N.I., S.O.E.G.21).

Intend to patrol North Channel during night. 23 E.G. to support B.B.73 and M.H.73. 2nd division 21 E.G. to patrol southern limit of area until joined by S.O.E.G.21. Suitable.
(S.O. Force 37, 041920B to C. in C.W.A.).

E.G.B.2's.
? U-Boat.

Your 032322, not to Capt. (D) Liverpool.
Results of search.

(1) Bottomed contact 60 feet high 300 feet long, 75° 2.2 miles from position in S.O.E.G. B.2's 031635. Oil patches close to this contact.

Samples obtained.

(2) PEACOCK located wreck in position 263° 3.2 miles from W.149.

(3) K.4 Buoy fixed 225° 2.3 miles from charted position.

(4) Anti-submarine.

(S.O.E.G. 22, 041236B to C. in C.W.A.).

My 032322. If nothing found by now abandon search.

Ammunition ship was sunk in this vicinity in 1943.

(C. in C.W.A., 041237B to S.O. Force 38).

U-Boat and anti U-Boat tactics.

An escort has just been torpedoed by a probable Gnat under the very conditions envisaged in A.G.M. 455A whilst withdrawing incautiously repeat incautiously after three runs at safe speed over a doubtful contact.

(C. in C.W.A., 041245B to W.A.G.M. 246 N.).

DUCKWORTH
V. U.399

We congratulate the Senior Officer Third Escort Group upon the skilful location and prompt destruction of U.399 by DUCKWORTH on 26th March 1945.

(D. of Anti U-B. Div., 041407B to S.O.E.G.3, in DUCKWORTH).

Operations

Norway

Operation
"Fox Chase"

Convoy of four merchant ships, three escorts, two German U-Boats engaged at 0027B 3 miles south of Josing Fiord.

Total bag one merchant ship torpedoed certain, one merchant ship torpedoed probably, one merchant ship left on fire, one M class damaged.

/Action...

War Diary4.4.1945.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

Operation "Fox Chase" (Contd.) Action broken off to clear minefield and avoid U-Boat. E-Boat also sighted. Expect to pass West end of Q.Z.L.68 at 0530B. (D.17, 040131B to C. in C.H.F.). E.T.A.Hoxa Gate 1250 with Force 3. Request gate. (DIDO, 040848B to C. in C.H.F.). Scapa arrivals DIDO with Capt. (D)17 in ONSLOW, ZEALOUS, IROQUOIS and ZEST. (C. in C.H.F., 041306 to Admiralty, C. in C.Rosyth).

Operation "S.C." Intend sailing S/M. operation from Shetlands.
(1) 0600B/5th April from Scalloway.
(2) 092° from Sumburgh Head 14 knots.
(3) 2230B/5th April.
(4) Between 2300B/5th April and 0400B/6th April.
(5) 272° to Sumburgh Head 16 knots.
(6) p.m. 6th April. (7) 092° Sumburgh Head. (8) No. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 041103B to C. in C.H.F.).
My 041103B.
(1) 59° 41' N. 05° 08' E. (2) Ramose Tribute. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 041105B to C. in C.H.F.(Afloat)).

Patrols Leave present patrol area at 2200B 4th April and proceed to patrol as in my 271235A March. (S.O.S/M Lerwick, 041425B to VIKING).
(1) Intend sailing TAPIR 1100B 5th April through:
(a) 090° Ocean 10. (b) 61° 04' N. 00° 01' E. (c) 61° 04' N. 02° 00' E. (d) 60° 45' N. 04° 00' E. thence to patrol Norwegian Coast between 61° 05' N. and 60° 30' N.
(2) Diving by day east of 01° E. Speeds west of 01° E. 11 knots then 115 miles per 24 hours. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 041710B to F.O.S/M., C. in C. Rosyth).

Operation "V.P." Intend carrying out "V.P.85" with 2 M.T.B.
(1) 0900B 5th April.
(2) Not later than 2100B 5th April.
(3) Not later than 0600B 9th April.
(4) 250° toward Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots. (5) This should be p.m. 9th April. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 070° Noss Head. (9) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 041514B to C. in C.H.F.).
My 041514B.
(1) 070° from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.
(2) 61° 22' N. 04° 46' E. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 041516B to C. in C.H.F.).
Intend carrying out V.P.81 with 2 M.T.Bs.
(1) 0900B 5th April. (2) Not later than 2100B 5th April.
(3) Not later than 0600V 7th April. (4) 260° toward Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots. (5) Not later than p.m. 7th April.
(6) No. (7) No. (8) 080° Noss Head. (9) No. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 041521B to C. in C.H.F.).
My 041521B.
(1) 080° from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.
(2) 60° 41' N. 04° 42' E. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 041523B to C. in C.H.F.).

4.4.1945.
Wednesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters.Minelaying
destroyers
to Scapa.Sail at 0900 tomorrow Thursday to Grangemouth to embark outfit of mines.
(2) Proceed from Grangemouth at 1900 to pass May Island, at 2200 adjusting speed to arrive Scapa at first light Friday 6th.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 041059B to OPPORTUNE, ORWELL).S/M.
patrolsYour 031906 concur.
(C. in C.H.F., 041115B to F.O.S/M.).Convoy
J.W.66J.W.66.
Norwegian ships KRONPRINSEN and KONG HAARON VII carrying military and civil relief stores are sailing in J.W.66 to Murmansk for onward routing to Kirkenes.
(D.T.D. 041500B to S.B.N.O. N. Russia).Your 021302 passed to IROQUOIS and HAIDA.
Para.(1) HAIDA detailed. Para.1 (C) IROQUOIS, detailed.
(2) IROQUOIS and HAIDA will be sailed to arrive Rosyth and Greenock respectively p.m. 8th April and Commanding Officers will attend conference vide para. 1(A).
(R.A.D.H.F., 042238B to C. in C.H.F.).

Patrols

Scapa departure.
S.O.E.G.30 in PEVENSEY CASTLE with LAUNCESTON CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE and CAISTOR CASTLE in accordance with C. in C. Rosyth's 041321B.
(C. in C.H.F., 041506 to C. in C. Rosyth).APOLLO
to Scapa.Sailed APOLLO to Scapa expected time of arrival Practice Area 1530B 5th April. Routes A and N. Communications constant watch B.N. and appropriate area port wave A.M. 301831 March and APOLLO's 021241 April neither to all refer.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 041945B to C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A.).NavigationalBuoyage
in Nore
Command.Your 291025 March.
(2) Para. (E) Q.Z.H. 250 green spherical buoy green flashing light every ten seconds laid 253° one cable from wreck. N.F.13 buoy removed. Returning Small Downs expected time of arrival 2355B/4.
(JASPER, 041545B to C. in C.Nore).

Intend to sail 0600 Small Downs with DISCOVERY II to service Bravore Wreck Buoy then lay Dominant Castle wreck buoy then reposition N.F.3 On completion return Harwich via Q.Z.S.596, 468, 2280, 263.

(JASPER, 041915B to C. in C. Nore).

4.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

SEA ROVER submarine Intend to sail SEA ROVER escorted by GUELPH leaving Needles at 1030B 6th April to St. Johns N.F. for onward routing to Philadelphia E.T.A. 1730Z 14th April.
Routed Q.Z.S.631, 629, 694, 692, 560, 689 thence via Route W to following position:
(G) 180° Bishop Rock 8 miles. (H) 49° 35' N. 18° 01' W.
(J) 50° 20' N. 27° 02' W. (K) 50° 20' N. 37° 30' W. thence St. Johns N.F.
(L) Surface speed 10 knots adjusting as necessary.
(Capt. S/M. 5., 041145B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

CONRAD, SUSSEX, cruisers. My 031601 and C. in C. Nore, 032320 neither to all. Request you detail one Destroyer to escort CONRAD from Scapa until SUSSEX is met, then to transfer to SUSSEX and escort her to Scapa.
(C. in C.H.F., 041201B to Com. D.H.F.).

DUKE OF YORK battleship My 301432A March sailed DUKE OF YORK escorted by CAVENDISH, CARRON, HAIDA.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 041805A to Admiralty, C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F.).

Shipping and Convoys

B.I.C. C.O.C. convoys. Ships for Granville, St. Malo, Morlaix and Brest should in future be sailed to Falmouth for inclusion in C.O.C. convoy A.M. 250048 March and 301956 March refer. Pass to N.C.S.Os.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041127B to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, A.C.Dover, Cdre. i/c Southend, N.C.S.O. Ramsgate).

C.U.A. C.U.B. convoys. Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 031917~~Z~~ has been passed to interested U.S. Naval Authorities in U.K. and France.
(Comnavu, 041302 to Admiralty).
~~Z~~ Ref. 031917Z. English Channel Section of C.U. convoys will be designated C.U.A. and Irish Sea Section C.U.B.

4.4.1945
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

E.G. 4
(reconsti-
tution of.)

Group II is dissolved. Group 4 is reconstituted consisting of JONQUIL, CYCLAMEN, WELLINGTON S.O. (F.O.G.M.A. 040919A to BELLWORT, JONQUIL, CROCUS, CYCLAMEN, WELLINGTON.)

E.G. 59.

My P.C.S. at 2000A/4th estimated 032° 54' N. 029° 44' W. 081° 7. Remaining endurance of tugs and escorts as follows: E.G. 59 30 days, SAMSONIA, MEDIATOR towing 20 days, ENVOY in company 35 days, all ships in company.
(S.O.E.G. 59 041702Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

OKLAHOMA
(Tanker.)

Due from Aruba 2nd not arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Dakar 040841Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

4.4.1945
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

S/M TANTIVY.

TANTIVY sails from Malta at 1000B/5, Gibraltar daylight 9th April for onward routing to U.K. (Capt. (S) 1 040932B to Cdre. D. W.A.)

NELSON.

NELSON is expected to arrive Malta end of April for work up. (C. in C. Med. 041111B to V.A.M.)

Cositintrep
No. 632.

(Extract.)
Coastal Air Force. 10 Beaufighters and 4 Wellingtons continued search for midget submarines in North Adriatic. 3 attacks on probable submarines made. After one attack 6 men picked up, presumed survivors from submarine. (H.Q.M.A.A.F. 041238B to W.O.)

U.N.R.R.A.
Supplies
for Poland,
etc.

We note from R.A.C. 547/4060 that Captain Tishkin has denied knowledge Russian agreement U.N.R.R.A. supplies for Poland and Czechoslovakia to be discharged at Constanza and routed through Roumania. Advise urgently whether Russians have now received instructions from Moscow this subject. (W.O. 041630B to Allied Control Commission, Roumania.)

4.4.1945
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-positions. No change.
(C. in C. E.I. 040437Z to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

Movements. USK and BARLE arriving Fremantle 12th April
thence as arranged by you.
(2) ODZANI and DERG to arrive Port Darwin 9th April
(3) HELFORD and PLYM escorting A.F.D. 18 and
20 arriving Port Darwin mid-May.
(C. in C. E.I. 041139Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

SS. EMPIRE Position lat. 19 R 24, long. 68 R 35, serious
CORAL fire in engine room and stockhold. Require
(on fire). immediate assistance.
(ENFORCER 041300Z to Bombay W/T.)
Intend proceeding to assistance of EMPIRE CORAL
vessel on fire 147 miles 027° from me. E.T.A.

0100Z/5. Request A/C R/V in position at 0100Z/5 if approved.
(ENFORCER 041335Z to F.O. Bombay.)

H.M.I.S. MADRAS and INVESTIGATOR are proceeding to position
019° 24' N. 068° 35' E. aircraft will R/V with you at 0100Z/5th.
(F.O. Bombay 041822Z to ENFORCER.)

War Diary

4.4.1945
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

- Cable Repairs. Cable ship LORD KELVIN sailed 1243Z/4th escorted by NORTH BAY for cable repairs in vicinity of 49.55 42.10. E.T.A. 1330Z April 7th. (N.C.S.O.St. Johns, 041315Z to Admty.)
- U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 041334 to S. & A. & Cominch 041555Z)
- Allocation. The following allocation is effected to date 4th April from new construction, to E.G.9 ST. PIERRE. (2) Accounting Base H.M.C.S. ST. PIERRE to be changed from H.M.C.S. ST. ADAONA to NIOBE. (C. in C. C.N.A. 041403 to N.S.H.Q. (R.C.N.) Depot)
- ST. PIERRE (Frigate). You will cross neutral route in 034 degs. North and may sight TAMARA Swedish eastbound and CUNENE (Portuguese) westbound. You may sight LAMESA westbound and BONNEBAY (322 ton identification No. X.18) southbound both p.m. tomorrow Thursday. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 041602Z to H.M.C.S. ST. PIERRE)
- Contacts. Incidents reported Cominch 032135 para. D. (1) occurred 1415/3 and 1420/3 respectively in 38.04 N. 74.06 W. evaluated as wreck. All times Z. Para. D. About 1330/4 A/C reported Wake 21.57 N. 72.30 W. course 120. (Cominch, 042029Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)
- Nesting Barges. M.T.W. London No. T.O.O. M.W.T.R. Montreal. See Lion Copy.

Far East and Australia

- Sea frontier Convoys. In view of increase of shipping and in order to interlock with Philippine Is. sea frontier convoys Biak Island Morotai and Morotai Biak Island convoys commencing April 7th will sail every 3 days. (Comdr. (D) 7th Fleet, 040204Z to Com. 7th Fleet, N.O.I.C. Medang etc.)

/ A/S ...

TOP SECRET

OUT

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No T.O.O./4 April

To M.W.T.R.Montreal Date 4. 4. 45.
Repeated B.M.S.M.Washington BILGE 5600
to pass copy to B.A.S. and B.A.D.

O.T.C.

- Nesting Barges -

From M.W.T.London

MAST 24170 RUSH

Your 72714, 72721 and 72754.

The following has been agreed at Harbour Craft Committee today.

1. Nesting barges. These craft are needed as follows, viz.,

(a) War Office requirements in Eastern theatre for delivery as follows: 24 May, 40 June, 107 from July to October for Burma, 80 for Malaya by mid October. Further quantities will be required later. The first 64 were ordered for the purpose of replacing Naval landing craft which would be required to move further East. As Naval craft are not ~~repeat not~~ now available for this early operation it renders it all the more essential that the PHOENIX barges should be available for Army Transportation purposes in furtherance of land operations. The remainder are required for Burma clear-up and the further operations contemplated in Malaya.

(b) Naval requirements are phased as follows, viz., 68 in June, 104 November 1945, 8 in February 1946. They are needed for lightorage work for Naval purposes in captured ports on East Indies station and for adequate servicing of British Pacific Fleet. There is severe shortage of lighters for Naval armament and other stores and although orders have been placed in Australia for the greatest number they are capable of building prompt deliveries cannot be expected. For immediate needs we are shipping a number of steel barges complete built in Egypt but this presents a serious shipping problem which is not applicable to nesting barges and in any event the number available in Egypt is entirely insufficient.

(c) The third use is also for Naval purposes, namely a minimum of 40 phased for deliveries between June and November. This is for use as water lighters both in South East Asia and Pacific area to be driven by Murray Tregurtha engines. As you know use of these units for this purpose is one of the items to be investigated by Haggar and before leaving he was more optimistic on the possibility than appeared at first sight. We need not impress on you the severe shortage of small tankers which renders it almost impossible to spare any of these for use as waterboats and

/operations

operations may in fact be seriously hampered unless this deficiency can be made good by emergency methods such as are now proposed.

(d) Prospect of building in United Kingdom has not repeat not been overlooked but that part of the structural steel industry which might otherwise help is at present fully engaged not only in emergency bridge work and two types of pontoons for Admiralty and War Office but also on prefabrication for craft tugs, lighters, small tankers and craft for the Irrawaddy.

2. Further order for Rampod cargo lighters. This type of craft has proved extremely valuable both for Naval and Military purposes and owing to mobility, beaching capabilities and suitability for vehicles and personnel possesses definite advantages over Minca barges. In addition reports show that owing to lamination these lighters possess greater resistance to Teredo worm than any other wooden craft. As you are aware we had contemplated cancelling part of Minca barge programme but in view of your representations regarding progress already made we decided not to do so as it appears likely that demands will arise for use of these for emergency purposes in liberated territories until their own local construction of craft is redeveloped. It is this change in the views of both services based on actual experience which makes the provision of R.C.Ls. essential as an operational measure. They are needed not only for Army transportation use in South East Asia but also for Naval lightering purposes in advanced bases in the Pacific and South East Asia. Owing to timber and engine difficulties as well as shortage of labour it would be quite impossible to utilise Australia to build these craft. Australia is being used for continuing to build on our behalf types of craft which have already been in production for Australian and U.S. Forces.

3. 105 foot tugs. The only available sources of production are United Kingdom and Canada. All possible tug capacity in the United Kingdom is booked fully for the next twelve months and we are still substantially short of meeting the full requirements of the Navy for South West Pacific and captured ports in Asia. In addition to being needed for port working and attendance on Naval and Merchant ships during operational period there is a heavy demand for these tugs at Naval bases, particularly for attendance on floating docks. Even with the end of war in Europe there can be very little release of these ship tugs as the shipping needs of liberated Europe and the destruction of most of the port tugs by enemy action means that these countries can provide little or no help of their own. It is therefore essential that we should supplement our present availabilities of tugs for South West Pacific operations and South East Asia operation. There is an estimated shortage even after allowing for Canadian production. Australia can only help with a small number of craft tugs.

/4.

OUT

SECRET

HUSH
CANCELLED

TOP SECRET

OUT

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4. As regards priorities between the above types all the foregoing constitute urgent operation requirements and it is therefore very difficult to lay down any priorities between each type of craft. On the whole if we are driven to select we place 105 foot tugs first and in support of this we quote from a recent cable from Joint Transportation Committee India "Tug position.....One of the limiting factors in mounting and maintenance of operations." Nesting barges have perhaps a slight advantage over Ramped cargo lighters partly because latter have already been produced in large quantities and partly because of greater shipping adaptability but you will appreciate how difficult it is to attempt to distinguish between the various items of equipment each of which is essential to the build-up of an operation.

5. Seamules are an addition to the present programme and are of lower priority than any of the foregoing. Accordingly before deciding whether we should proceed with proposals for construction in Canada we will re-explore the position in regard to possible construction in United States.

No T.O.O.

Received by hand from M. of W.T.
at 0900/5

Circulated by M. of W.T. to
M. of W.T. depts., D. of S.T.
and Admiralty

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(3)
- D.F.S.L.(2)
- Controller
- Vice Contr.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
- Contr.(MSR)
- P.A.S.(PR)
- U.W.R.
- D.O.D.(H)(4)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D. of P.(2)
- D. of P.(Q)(3)
- D.C.
- D.C.O.D.(4)
- D.C.O.M.(4)
- A.D.O.D.(C.O.)
- D.T.D.(4)
- D.T.D.(C)
- D.M.R.
- Hd. of M.S.Br.
- Hd. of M.A.S.
- D. of L.D.(2)
- Hd. of M.(2)
- D. of S.(3)

- D.A.S.(L)
 - D. of D.
 - D.N.C.
 - D.S.V.P.(3)
 - D. of L.
 - P.(L)
 - Ad.Blake
 - D.M.B.
 - W.D.
 - C.C.R.T.
 - Dep. Contr.
 - D. of D.
 - D.N.C.
 - D. of S.
 - Hd. of L.
 - P.Br.
 - D.A.S.
 - Hd. of S.W.R.(3)
- } Bath

4.4.1945
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONFar East & Australia - Contd.

A/S
Carrier. R.A.F.T.'s 020215 April.
Request immediate reply to my 240254 March.
(2) As previously stated another suitable A/S
Carrier must be made available at once if
restriction of Fleet activities is to be avoided.
(3) Prospects of obtaining freightship by local effort are
negligible. B.M.W.T. Sydney has been consulted.
(V.A. (Q) B.P.F. 040426B to Admty.)

L.C.A.1161,
(jettisoned). C.A.F.O. 678/44 L.C.A. 1161 (541 Flotilla) was
jettisoned after being severely damaged by heavy
seas off Leyte on 26th Feb.
(2) All movable gear was salvaged.
(F.O. Force X. 040507Z to Admty.)

R.A. (Q)
B.P.F.
Appointment
of. Your 230236 Feb. and 232337 March. Your proposal
to establish a Flag Officer R.A. (Q) in the
forward area is approved. It is also approved
for Commodore 30th A.C.S. to become Commodore Air
Forward Area at a date to be decided by you.
R.A. (Q) will be appointed and sent to Australia
with a nucleus staff as soon as possible.
(Naval Sec. Apprd. 1st S.L. 041050B to C. in C.
B.P.F.) see 120309B. + 110539 MAY.

B.P.F.
Supplies. Hd. of M. (Approved 4th Sea Lord) 042120B to
C. in C. B.P.F. See Lion Copy.

Digest
No.1169
3.4.45 Digest Serial No 1169. (1) Planes from Clark
Field sank two sea trucks 70 miles East Kiirun,
damaged single trawler off Macao. Liberators
left single large seatruck burning and sinking 15
miles North Camranh Bay.
(3) Total enemy Luzon casualties to date number
103,081 killed, 986 captured.
(9) 43 Liberators dropped 168 tons on Hong Kong Shipyards and
Shipping: preliminary reports state Liberators sank one medium
one small freighter transport 5-6 seatrucks one unidentified
Merchantmen, also hit Royal Navy and Cosmopolitan Shipyards.
(11) Four Liberators hit Mako (Pescadores) dropped three tons
Kiirun Harbour.
(12) Two Liberators over South western? Celebes attacked 16
Schooners destroying 5 damaging 11.
(14) Delayed reports first April state 6 Liberators bombed Sanda-
kan Shipbuilding Yards Borneo destroying two small coasters.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 040843Z)

TOP SECRET

OUT

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TOPSECRET

042120B/April

TO: C. in C. B.P.F.
Info: C. in C. East Indies
R.A.F.T.
D.D.A.S. E.I.
V.A.(Q) B.P.F.
A.C.N.B.

Date 4/4/45

B.P.F. Supplies

NAVAL CYPHER (XD)

FROM Admiralty

Your 280311Z/~~January~~ General scheme of supply including 30,000 tons in A.S.I.S. concurred in but regret no additional A.S.I.S. or A.S. Carriers can be provided at present vide A.M. 051912/~~February~~ and it will only be possible to meet the replenishment rates indicated in your paragraph 1 by use of freight to augment capacity of existing three A.S. Carriers. Extent to which this will be practicable not yet clear.

2. Various alternatives for providing 10,000 tons floating storage are still being pursued. A.M. 071955 February and V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 130156 March refer.

3. Possibility of provision of working parties for handling ammunition being considered separately.

4. It will be necessary to assess armament stores supply position on the basis of existing Ammunition Supply Ships and storage likely to be available by July 1945. Total tonnage reserves of explosives now calculated as under:

| | |
|----------------------------------------|--------|
| Gun Ammunition excluding F.A.A. | 80,600 |
| F.A.A. Bombs, pyros. etc. | 11,200 |
| Depth Charges, Squids and Hedgehogs | 11,200 |
| Warheads and Demolition Stores | 2,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,000 |

5. Understood that with transfers of U.S.N. storage and on assumption that 10,000 tons transit storage can be provided, total accommodation available block stowage will be as under, read in four columns, figures represent tons:

| (A) <u>Locality</u> | (B) <u>Total space available excluding RAN holdings</u> | (C) <u>Space to be earmarked for deposits of ships docking, overlapping freights etc.</u> | (D) <u>Space available for reserves.</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| A.S.I.S. | 22,000 | 2,000 | 20,000 |
| Aust. Depots | 53,000 | 8,000 | 45,000 |
| Intermediate Base | 10,000 | 3,000 | 7,000 |

6. If space available in Column D is divided amongst reserves on following basis:

- 62 1/2% gun ammunition
- 25% F.A.A.
- 9% anti-submarine explosives (D.C's etc.)
- 3% warheads, etc.
- 1/2% miscellaneous

total of approximately 46,000 tons gun ammunition, 7500 tons anti-submarine explosives and all remaining reserves can be accommodated in Pacific. This represents about three-fifths of gun ammunition reserves, and two-thirds of anti-submarine reserves and balance of these would be in the supply line or in U.K. available for shipment.

7. Should U.S.N. magazines not be forthcoming vide V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 130809/March, space for reserves would drop to approximately half of total required for gun ammunition and anti-submarine explosives. Essential therefore to take all possible measures to ensure availability U.S.N. magazines. Request all U.S.N. stores awaiting dumping be moved into open and that U.S.N. Authorities be approached regarding practicability of transferring to open storage suitable natures of remaining stocks. In meantime question of providing freight for lift to Manus is being further pursued.

8. Request you will reconsider position in the light of foregoing and signal basis and priorities on which shipment of reserves to Pacific should proceed. Shipment of stores already scheduled for call up is proceeding on assumption that expenditure will provide space for these.

9. Reserve figures for gun ammunition include pools of natures, e.g. 15 inch, for ships not actually on Station to guard against changes in Fleet Composition. These will be moved to Africa, also any other N.A. explosives now in Australia which you consider could be similarly transferred.

042120B

for Hd. of M. (558)
Approved 4th Sea Lord.

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1st Lord | U.W.R. | Ad. Blake (4) | |
| 1st S.L.(3) | D. of P.(2) | D. of S.(3) | |
| D.F.S.L.(2) | D. of P.(Q)(3) | D.G.D. | |
| 2nd S.L. | D.O.D.(H)(4) | D. of S.T.(6) | Dep. Contr. |
| 3rd S.L. | D.O.D.(F)(2) | D.T.D.(4) | D.A.S. |
| Vice Contr. | D.N.I.(4) | D.F.D.(C) | D.N.O. |
| 4th S.L. | W.A. | D.C.O.D.(4) | Hd. of |
| 5th S.L. | D.C. | D.C.C.M.(4) | S.W.R.(3) |
| Sec. | Hd. of M.(5) | A.D.C.U.(C.O.) | |
| Dep. Sec. | D.T.S.D. | D.S.V.P.(2) | |
| Naval Sec. | D.B.I.C.(2) | Hd. of Air | |
| V.C.N.S. | D.B.A.S.(L) | D.C.N.A.E. | |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | D.N.O. | D. of M. | |
| A.C.N.S.(A)(3) | D.N.A.O.(2) | N.L.O. Australia Hse. | |
| A.C.N.S.(W) | | | |
| A.C.N.S.(U)(2) | | | |

MMB

OUT SECRET ~~CANCELLED~~ **BIGOT**

Ref. No. D.422

SECRET

Anti-U-Boat Division,
Naval Staff.

4th April, 1945.

MIDGET U-BOAT SUMMARY - NO. 1

Sixty-one Midget U-boats have been "Captured, Sunk or Probably Sunk" between 23rd December 1944, and 31st March 1945 in Home Waters.

2. Midget activity in open waters, as distinct from attempts to penetrate through our fixed defences in order to enter harbour, is taken to have commenced on 23rd December 1944, the chief area of operations being the approaches to Antwerp. In the same period eighteen Midgets have been "Possibly Sunk"; in addition thirty-one were "Attacked" without further evidence one way or the other.

3. The following is an analysis of enemy casualties:-

| Attacking Unit | Captured, Sunk or Probably sunk | Possibly Sunk | Attacked (no results seen) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Coastal Forces | 21 | 2 | 10 |
| Escort vessels, minesweepers, etc. | 12 | 5 | 18 |
| Aircraft | 11 | 3 | 3 |
| Shore gunfire | 6 | not reported | not reported |
| D.E.M.S. | 3 | - | - |
| Found stranded or abandoned | 8 | - | - |
| Attacker not specified | - | 8 | - |
| T O T A L | 61 | 18 | 31 |

4. During the same period we lost a total of sixteen ships and small vessels either sunk or severely damaged from causes other than "known" mines in the area where Midgets had been operating. Some of these casualties have been caused by mines laid by E-boats or possibly by mines carried in Midgets as an alternative weapon. Local Authorities have assessed these casualties as follows:-

Vessels sunk or damaged, probably by torpedo from Midget - 8
 " " " " possibly " " " " - 8

5. The dividing line between "Probably Sunk" and "Possibly Sunk" is hard to define in the case of these vulnerable craft; furthermore, it is probable that a number of Midgets are lost without trace owing to lack of endurance of craft and crew; insufficient training of crews, particularly in navigation; and defects in Midget construction.

(Sd.) Howard Johnston,
DIRECTOR OF ANTI-U-BOAT DIVISION

5.4.1945.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) SS. GASRAY was mined and sunk 1 mile off St. Abbs Head.
(b) 8th Air Force Fortresses and Liberators yesterday again attacked the U-Boat yards at Kiel.

West Coast France.

2(a) It is reported that no Germans have been on the Ile d'Yeu since last August. Force 27 continues its blockade of the German-held Biscayan ports, but complains of "having nothing to shoot at". An M.T.B. who closed Quiberon to within 3 miles was, however, warned off with inaccurate gunfire from Belle Ile.
(b) The ship sunk by the artillery of the 6th Infantry Division on the 3rd is believed to be the old French cruiser STRASBOURG II, 4,550 tons.

Western Approaches.

3(a) WILLOW reports an unexplained deep explosion near Tuskar Rock, followed by eructation of oil and a metal cylinder. She was probably present at the destruction of a U-Boat in one of APOLLO's deep minefields in this vicinity.
(b) U-Boats were active elsewhere in the Command, for L.C.I.285 sighted a schnorkel off the Mull of Cantyre, STONECROP hunted a promising contact 150 miles W.S.W. of Ushant, and HOVA another 45 miles west of Ushant.
(c) WILLIAM T. POWELL, ALEXANDER J. LUKE, SPANGENBURG and ROBERT I. PAYNE, destroyer escort vessels, are now forming E.G.32, the first American Escort Group to operate directly under C. in C. W.A.

Foreign Stations

East Indies

Force 62
(11th
Destroyer
Flotilla)

4. Force 62 arrived at Akyab today after completing operation "Penzance" (anti-shipping sweep Andaman Sea). One 100 foot auxiliary coaster and one junk were sunk in the Tavoy area. Great Coco Islands radar station was also bombarded. (071103Z)

HARDINGHAM
M.V.,
(loss by
fire.)

5. M.V. HARDINGHAM (British, 7269 tons) caught fire this afternoon at 4.40 p.m. in Examination Anchorage, (Colombo). She is reported a total loss, there were no casualties. (061301Z)

War Diary.

5.4.1945.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

ATLANTIC
STATES
(tanker)

6. ATLANTIC STATES (Tanker, Am. 8537 tons) reported torpedoed tonight at 10.40 p.m. in lat. 42° 07' N., 70° 00' W. about 10 miles N.E. of Cape Cod. She remained afloat and was later taken in tow. (062025Z)

Far East and Australia

China.

7(a) Last night Mariners scored 3 direct hits and sank a 10,000 ton transport 75 miles east of Hong Kong. (061055Z)
(b) 20 Liberators dropped 87 tons on Hong Kong targets hitting Kowloon docks and direct hits on one tanker.
(c) At daylight today 3 Bostons attacked a convoy 45 miles S.S.W. of Swatow and sank a small transport and damaged a destroyer.

Formosa.

8. 38 Liberators dropped 102 tons of bombs on Kiirun harbour, Formosa.

5.4.1945

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Air
Activity.

Cositintrep 366. Part 3 air.
Sunset April 3rd to sunset April 4th, 1945.

A. Summary of operations.

8th Air Force Fortresses and Liberators escorted
by 860 fighters attacked in force the U-Boat yards
at Kiel and the airfield at Fassborg.

Western French Air Force. 2/2 aircraft on enemy installations
at Port St. Vivien in Pointe de Grave Sector 4/4 aircraft

Coastal Command mission Lorient-St. Nazaire area. 6/6 aircraft
R/C.

(Air Staff S.H.A.E.F. 051030B to Admty., and others.)

Discharge
Situation
Report.

Cositintrep No. 366 part 4 section A.
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/4
April.

| <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 | 57 | 103 | 15,224 | 2,779 | 11,433 | 225 |
| Ostend | 3,443 | 195 | 5,315 | - | 770 | 1,577 |
| Boulogne | 321 | 183 | - | - | - | - |
| Caen | - | - | 209 | 1,900 | - | - |
| Calais | 4,669 | - | 159 | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 4,161 | - | - | 1,573 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>8,490</u> | <u>481</u> | <u>25,068</u> | <u>4,679</u> | <u>12,203</u> | <u>3,375</u> |
| <u>U.S. North.</u> | | | | | | |
| Antwerp | - | 59 | 22,380 | - | - | - |
| Cherbourg | - | 168 | 6,118 | 1,066 | 12,279 | 2,541 |
| Le Havre | 634 | 290 | 6,203 | - | 10,864 | 1,322 |
| Rouen | 7 | 4 | 6,881 | 400 | 280 | 888 |
| Granville | - | - | - | 1,536 | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 6,104 | - | - | 1,601 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>641</u> | <u>521</u> | <u>47,686</u> | <u>3,002</u> | <u>23,423</u> | <u>6,352</u> |
| <u>U.S. South.</u> | | | | | | |
| Marseilles | 604 | 653 | 14,393 | 399 | - | 2,891 |
| Port de Bouc | - | - | 2,078 | - | 5,814 | - |
| Toulon | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>604</u> | <u>653</u> | <u>16,471</u> | <u>399</u> | <u>5,814</u> | <u>2,891</u> |

(S.H.A.E.F. 051630A to Admty.)

Patrols &
Escorts.

Patrols for night Friday 6th April
1 PYTCHLEY, 2 BROCKLESBY, 3 CHIDDINGFOLD, 4 CUBITT,
5 HAYDON, 6 SHEARWATER, 7 MEYNELL, 8 MELBREAK.

/Coastal...

5.4.1945
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Patrols &
Escorts.
(Contd.)

Coastal force units F.C. 1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2230B.
(2) 12 SEYMOUR with coastal forces from U.K.
14 SOUTHDOWN, 16 TORRINGTON with coastal forces from Ostend. 17 TALYBONT, 18 ZETLAND, 19 RUTHERFORD with coastal forces from Ostend. 21 FERNIE, 22 RETALICK with C/F from U.K.
Coastal forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2130B.
(3) Escorts for T.A.M. 31 VESPER and KITTIWAKE. T.A.P. 95 VOLUNTEER. Additional escort F.N. 83 WILTON.
(4) Coastal forces, from U.K.
Patrol 1 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 1 with PYTCHLEY.
Patrol 2 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 2 with BROCKLESBY.
Patrol 3 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 3 with CHIDDINGFOLD.
Patrol 4 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 4 with CUBITT.
Patrol 5 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 5 with HAYDON.
Patrol 6 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 6 with SHEARWATER.
Patrol 7 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 7 with MEYNELL.
Patrol 8 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 8 with MELBREAK.
Patrol 12 4 motor torpedo boats 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.
ESTV 2922 3 M.T.Bs. unit F.B. 6.
LCZZ 1525 6 M.T.Bs. unit F.A. 1, F.A. 2, F.A. 3.
From Ostend.
ESUA 2316 2 M.T.B. unit F.A. 8.
ESUA 2100 2 M.T.B. unit F.B. 2.
ESUA 4126 5 M.L. Unit F.G. 5.
ESUA 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 051750B to Nore Command.)

Mining of
SS. GASRAY.

SS. GASRAY struck a mine in position 000° St. Abbs Head 1 mile vessel sinking.
(C. in C. Rosyth 051911Z to B.A.M.S. 1A.)
Part company with W.N. 83 off May Island thence proceed and search to S.E. as far as Farne Island.
(2) SS. GASRAY was sunk in position 000° St. Abbs Head one mile at 2059/5th.
(C. in C. Rosyth 052209 to CAISTOR CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE.)

Operations.

Channel.

Reduction of
MASTODON.

Para. 3 of A.M. 282129 March. It is the intention that the workshops at Bucklers Hard MASTODON shall be reduced to a state of care and maintenance together with the rest of the L.C. base. Buildings hitherto required for accommodation with be surrendered and made available for derequisition. Details of machinery to be retained or to be disposed of in accordance with A.L.D. Com. 5256/44 of 27th January 1945 will be made the subject of a separate report.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 051000B to Admty.)

/Anti...

67

5.4.1945

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel - Contd.Anti-U-Boat
deep mining.Weigh at 0230B/6th April and carry out serial G.1
part 2.If returning by Needles Channel report E.T.A.
there to XDO(W).(C. in C. Portsmouth 051221B to W. VAN DER Zaan,
FLEETWOOD.)

Carry out operation "Artisan" series B.1 part 2 at 0745B/6th April.

(2) SHIPPIGAN take MINAS under his orders passing Gate at 001B/
6th and proceed to join M/S Flotilla 16 in TADOUSAC with
BEAUMARIS and PLOVER in position 180° Eddystone 12 at 0215B/6th.(3) N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail ARMANA to R/V with M/S
Flotilla 16 in position 180° The Lizard 9 miles at 0600B/6th.(4) SHIPPIGAN and MINAS are to carry out skimming sweep of lay to
42 feet below chart datum and ARMANA act as dan layer.(5) On completion of lay PLOVER to Portsmouth escorted by
SHIPPIGAN and BEAUMARIS. TADOUSAC and MINAS to Plymouth ARMANA
to Falmouth.(C. in C. Plymouth 051704B to TADOUSAC, BEAUMARIS, SHIPPIGAN,
MINAS, ARMANA, PLOVER, N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)Patrols.(1) Leave present patrol at 0900B/6th and proceed
to patrol area limits 01° 30' W. 01° 53' W.
between 49° 50' N. and route E.W.(2) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 774 and Q.Z.X.1583
(C. in C. Portsmouth 051715B to LEITH, ANCHUSA.)Operations.West Coast France.Ile d'Yeu
empty of
Germans.Opas para. 14 (B) 46° 04' N. 01° 55' W. (C)
45° 23' N. 01° 31' W.LA DECOUVERTE has rejoined. Fishing ship just
investigated 5 miles west of Ile d'Yeu states no
Germans in island since August. Weather report:
6/10ths cloud at 5,000 ft. Visibility 13 miles.Weather fair. Pressure 1015 M.B.S. Wind N.W. Force 1.
(FAULKNER 050055B to C. in C. Plymouth.)Blockade of
German-held
Biscayan portsFuel percentage remaining at 0800 FAULKNER 35,
L'AVENTURE 72, LA DECOUVERTE 73, LA SURPRISE 67.
Intend to part company at 1100 proceeding to
position B making good 16 knots on passage to
Plymouth. Sunderland met at 0745. Ships reported
by Ile d'Yeu were force 27.Lovely weather but nothing to shoot at.
Weather report 7690 1672.

(FAULKNER 050850B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Pass Gate at 1200B/5 and proceed by Q.Z.S. 697 thence
through A. 48° 35' N. 05° 32' W. B. 47° 50' N. 05° 32' W.
to join force 27 patrolling as in para. D of my 011000A. S.O.A.
15 knots.

/(2)...

5.4.1945
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France.

Blockade of
German-held
Biscayan
Ports.
(Contd.)

(2) Force 27 comprises FAULKNER (S.O.), L'AVENTURE, LA SURPRISE, LA DECOUVERTE. FAULKNER detaches today 5th April as requisite to arrive Plymouth noon 6th April, proceeding by reverse of route in para. 1. On FAULKNER detaching L'AVENTURE assumes command of Force 27.

(3) Force 27 is to R/V with BASQUE in position 180° Petit Foule Light on Ile d'Yeu 20 miles at 1200B/6. On joining BASQUE is to assume command of force 27 and act in accordance with C.F.N.T.F's order Nr. 25 E.M. 3 of 4.4.45

(4) Signalled reports are to be made in accordance with Opas para. 14.

(5) Communications until R/V is effected in accordance with Opas Appendix 1 organisation 4.

(C. in C. Plymouth 051104B to BASQUE.)

M.T.Bs. patrol night 4th to 5th April.

(1) Nothing to report in West Channel of Lorient near Isle of Groix.

(2) Three miles from Quiberon M.T.B. was immediately detected with quick action of search light and gunfire from Belle Ile. In-accurate fire without result.

(3) Sea rather heavy for M.T.B.

(Comar Brest 051530B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Sinking of
unidentified
vessel off
Port Louis.

Your 031900B. Ship sunk was possibly obsolete French cruiser STRASBOURG II (4,550 tons) which P.R.U. showed afloat on 10th March and sunk on 22nd March. No supply vessel of that tonnage or over known to have been in Lorient between those dates.

(A.N.C.X.F. 051125B to 12th Army Group.)

Possible re-
inforcement
of La
Rochelle
by sea.

G.2 summary No. 95 part I dated 5th April, 1945, covering period 032400B to 042400B. In the Rochelle area on the Atlantic coast enemy R/C in force caused withdrawal of Allied outposts area Ferrieres (T.5342). Some indications enemy reinforcing La Rochelle area by sea from garrisons at Lorient and St. Nazaire.

(S.H.A.E.F. 051830B to War Office.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Probable
U-Boat.

My 0715 confirmed. Saw and felt unexplained deep explosion within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of own ship. Oil and unidentified cylindrical object came to surface. (WILLOW 050750 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Have recovered unidentified object nothing further sighted am awaiting arrival of escort vessel. ELSIE CAM in company.

(WILLOW 050945B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

/Your...

War Diary.5.4.1945
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Western Approaches.

Probable U-Boat. (Contd.) Your 050715 and 050945.
A. How did you detect and classify target as submarine? B. What was bearing and distance from you when first detected? C. Describe object recovered.
(C. in C. W.A. 051145B to WILLOW.)

Your 051145B. A. Underwater explosion in minefield was (followed by?) pool of oil. Sample taken. B. 160° 5 cables.
C. Iron cylinder length 3 feet 6 inches diameter 2 feet 6 inches with large clamp lid and small (valve?) in top, small fin projecting on bottom.
(WILLOW 051410 to C. in C. W.A.)

Possible U-Boat. Have sighted schnorkel enemy position is 300 Luman Bay 5.
(L.C.I. (L) 285 051052 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
My 051052. Suspect have sighted schnorkel.
(L.C.I. 285 051117 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

My 051052. Amend enemy position 280 Luman Bay Light 7 miles.
(L.C.I. 285 051210B to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

My 051210. Enemy position is 55° 20' N. 6° W.
(L.C.I. 285 051315B to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

Your 051120 closing position now my P.C.S. 54° 22' 05° 15' 350° 16 knots. Suitable.
(S.O. Force 37 051201B to C. in C. W.A.)

My 051052 suspect sighted schnorkel smoke 800 yards 1035.
Reappeared 500 yards crossing bows proceeding at utmost speed attacked with two depth charges. Negative result seen negative periscope or schnorkel seen just smoke and wake. 3 depth charges on later runs.
(L.C.I. 285 051545B to F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

Second possible U/B. PETUNIA in contact has attacked twice with depth charges. Raised oil. Target stationary and deep, both ships hunting. Position 47° 47' N. 08° 42' W. Believed to be U-Boat.
(STONECROP 051235B to Cs. in C. Plymouth, W.A.)

PETUNIA and STONECROP attacked submarine contact in position 47° 54' N. 08° 26' W. at 1145A. Lost contact but brought considerable oil to surface. Continuing search. FOWEY, RUSHEN CASTLE and WALLFLOWER proceeding with O.S. 120 K.M.S. 94.
(FOWEY 051242A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Contact lost and regained frequently showing movement but very deep. Am endeavouring to contact. PETUNIA has fractured fan engine steam pipe giving max. speed of 10 knots.
(STONECROP 051404A to C. in C. W.A.)

Still oil in area. Not in contact but fish echo tending to confuse. PETUNIA has effected temporary repairs and is good for 12 knots with (corrupt group) in an emergency.
(STONECROP 051605A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 051235A amend position to read 48° 07' N. 08° 10' W.
(STONECROP 051705A to Cs. in C. W.A. Plymouth.)

/If...

War Diary.5.4.1945
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Western Approaches.

Second possible U/B. (Contd.) If not in contact leave as requisite to join M.K.S. 92 as in my 042021B. Report intentions. (C. in C. W.A. 051902B to STONECROP, PETUNIA.) No further contact. Abandoned search 2055B and proceeding R/V FOWEY thence M.K.S. 92, your 051902B refers. (STONECROP 052020A to C. in C. W.A.)

Third possible U/B. Doubtful U-Boat contact in position 48° 29' N. 06° 16' W. at 1039Z. Have depth charged. Remaining and searching. (F.S. HOVA 051242Z to C. in C. Plymouth.) Detaching L'ALCYON to Plymouth. My 051242Z. HOVA R/V and searching. (HOVA 051306Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. The following is the intended future order of laying minefields S.3, S.2, S.1, J, K, T.3, P, completing T.2 completing H, Y, V, R (C. in C. W.A. 00246/114 of 23rd January 1945 refers.) (2) Positions for minefields S.3, S.2, J and K have been slightly altered and an amendment to the orders for operation "C.H." is being forwarded. (3) It is anticipated that ARIADNE will be ready to start operations about 10th April and that APOLLO will resume operations in Western Approaches during the third week in April. (4) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to co-ordinate the operations of minelayers to comply with the order of laying minefields given in para. 1. (5) It is desired that when laying fields S.2, S.3, J and K operation should be started at the end nearest the Irish coast. (C. in C. W.A. 051309B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Patrols & Escorts. My P.C.S. 53° 42' N. 05° 06' W. 173° 18 knots, 21st E.G. in company. E.T.A. 50° N. 10° W. 1130B/6th April. Your 041233B refers. Suitable. (S.O.E.G. 21 051705B to C. in C. W.A.) Establish patrols as follows.

A. 4th E.G. between parallels 49° and 50° 30' and meridians 11° 30' and 14°.

B. 21st E.G. between same parallels and meridians 09° and 11° 30'.

(2) Codewords 4th E.G. "Siege". 21st E.G. "Siren".

(3) S.O. 21st E.G. report E.T.A. in area. (C. in C. W.A. 051943 to S.O.E.Gs. 4, 21.) Your 051940B. E.T.A. in area 0900B/6th April. (S.O.E.G. 21 052206B to C. in C. W.A.)

Sabotage in H.M.R.T. GROWLER. Confirming telephone conversation with A.D.N.I. this morning a suspected case of sabotage has arisen in H.M. Rescue tug GROWLER at present undergoing repair at Glasgow. Some person unknown

/placed...

5.4.1945
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Sabotage in
H.M.R.T.
GROWLER.
(Contd.)

placed a cylinder nut in the passage leading to the exhaust belt of a diesel engine. This could not have been accidental and had the nut not been found serious damage to the engine would without doubt have occurred. Ship's officers suspect that some member of the ship's company is responsible and observe that other cases of this nature have occurred, one of which resulted in an enquiry at Falmouth some months ago. On A.D.N.I.'s instruction Mr. Smith of the special investigation party is reporting here a.m. tomorrow from Scapa. Report in writing will be made after his investigation. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 052011 to Admty.)

E.G. 32,
(U.S.
destroyer
escort vessel)

The U.S.D.E's given in para. 4 below are now operating under the orders of C. in C.W.A. as the 32nd E.G. with the S.O. in WILLIAM T. POWELL.
(2) Signal publications are held as for British escort vessels.
(3) W/T watch will be kept similarly to British Support Groups.

(4) R/T callsigns as follows:

| Ships Name | R/T callsign |
|-------------------|--------------|
| WILLIAM T. POWELL | "Jimmy" |
| ALEXANDER J. LUKE | "Larry" |
| SPANGENBURG | "Tommy" |
| ROBERT I. PAYNE | "Drayton" |

(C. in C. W.A. 052239B to W.A.G.M. B.1.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation
"S.C."

Ramose Tribute. Sailed HITRA (S.O.) and HESSA at 0600B/5th April.
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 050605B to C. in C. H.F., Admty.)

Ramose Reliable VIGRA returned at 0750B/5th April.

(2) Operation successful.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 050753B to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations
"V.P."

"V.P. 86". Sailed at 0854B today 5th April. M.T.B. 711 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 723.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 050856B to C. in C. H.F.)
"V.P. 81" Lerwick departure at 0858B today 5th April M.T.B. 719 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 715.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 050859 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Patrols...

5.4.1945
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Patrols. My 041710B sailed 1116B (TAPIR).
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 051125B to F.O. S/M.)
Submarines positions at 0800/6th April and
movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone B

A. TAPIR 60° 50' N. 03° 34' E. diving by day through 60° 45' N.
01° E. to patrol off Fejeosen.
B. UTSIRA on patrol in Fro Havet area.
C. TURPIN on patrol off Korsfjord.
D. VIKING on patrol off Norwegian coast between 59° 10' N. and
58° 15' N.
(C. of W. 052225B to A.I.G. 25.)

Operation "Newmarket." Force 4 will leave Scapa at 0700B/6th April.
Request you make following arrangements with 18
Group C.C.
A. 18 Group CC. A/C to show I.F.F. when within
50 miles of Force 4.
B. Inform C.S. 1 by signal of any intended movements of 18
Group A/C in vicinity of Force 4 particularly if north of 65° N.
(C. in C. H.F. 051623B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Mystery incident. Ref. D.17 040131. D. 17 reports following
incident after action had been broken off. Echo
detected by three ships of Force 3 in position
58° 22' N. 05° 53.8' E. at 0059B/4th April.
Echo was proceeding southeast about 13 knots then
turned southwest towards Force 3. At 0108B echo faded and about
same time there was a heavy explosion and flash apparently in
the direction of this echo.
(C. in C. H.F. 051626B to Admty.)

Clandestinely operational M.G.B. 509 & M.T.B. 718. Subject to your concurrence propose to base M.G.B.
509 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 718 at Aberdeen for carrying
out clandestine operations to Norway. Base staff
of six will be supplied to maintain vessels. M.G.B.
509 will join M.T.B. 718 at Aberdeen approx.
end of April.
(2) A.M. 081700A January addressed A.C.O.S. Info. C. in C.
Portsmouth, N.O.I.C. Lerwick and N.O.I.C. Newhaven, and N.O.I.C.
Lerwick's 132031A March not to all addressees refer.
(D.D.O.D. 051530B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W. 66. Capt. Hostvedt has stated he can unload 2 ships
between convoys if they are sent direct Kirkenes
from convoy. Para. 5 Marine Kommander Nord's
202005 March to C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy and
A.M. 041500 (both not to all addressees) refers.

5.4.1945

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W.66. (2) Have suggested to C. in C. Northern Fleet (Contd.) that to implement this Norwegian naval forces reinforced as necessary by Russians should accompany local escort for White Sea portion to splitting point and take KRONPRINSEN and KONG HAAKON VII to Kirkenes. (S.B.N.O. N. Russia 051018B to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols. Abandon search at 2359/5 thence search to the northward keeping to westward of swept channel to 36 Buoy where 4 M/S. (S.O. HARRY MELLING) will be at 0600B/6.
(2) Support to vicinity of 58.45 N. 03.35 W. subsequently search in vicinity during minesweeping operation. 5 additional M/S will join later.
(C. in C. Rosyth 052201 to S.O.E.G. 30.)

Minelaying My 041059 and 051816, OPPORTUNE, ORWELL and destroyers. OBEDIENT sailed.
(C. in C. Rosyth 052250B to R.A. D. H.F.)

Casualties & Defects.

POLLUX, Regret to report H.M.C.S. WASAGA in collision with radar trials POLLUX at 050340B in position 50° 21' 36" N. 03° W. ship, V (2) No casualties in either ship. Extensive hull WASAGA, damage above and on waterline port quarter, minesweeper. WASAGA. No serious damage to POLLUX.
(C. in C. Plymouth 051050B to Admty.)

my. SS. BRITISH C.A.F.O. 2120/44. A. EMPIRE SEDLEY. B. British. ZEAL V C. 0127 Greenwich Mean Time, 5th April, 1945. SS. EMPIRE D. 51° 16' 18" N. 04° 19' 16" W. SEDLEY. E. Collision with BRITISH ZEAL. F. Holed above water line port side abreast of bridge. No. 2 leaking and gaining 2 inches every 20 minutes. May require to be beached. Now anchored in Swansea Bay. G. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 051215B to Admty.)

SS. TORTUGURO. SS. TORTUGURO ex H.X.A. 345 damaged in collision, sailed from Downs to Thames for orders.
(V.A. Dover 051301B to C. in C. Nore.)

/SS. DICKY...

War Diary.

5.4.1945
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

SS. DICKY V H.M.T. SARONTA. Regret to report collision between SS. DICKY and H.M.T. SARONTA at 2135 on 31st March in position 52° 30' 31" N. 01° 46' 8" E. SS. DICKY considered to be at fault as SARONTA was at anchor at that time. DICKY proceeded Southend after collision. Port of Registry Liverpool. Owners Culleford Shipping Co. Ltd. (Messrs. Culleford and Clark Ltd. Managers.) Estimated damage to SARONTA £675. Estimated time for completion of repairs 21 days. Form S.232 will be forwarded. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 051700B to Admty.)

Movements.

TIJGERHAAI Neth. S/M. Arrived Clyde TIJGERHAAI escorted by HASTINGS. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 050714B to N.O.I.C. Barrow.)

SUSSEX cruiser. Southend departure 0730B/5th April. SUSSEX escorted by BLANKNEY E.T.A. Scapa 1230B/6th. My 301215 refers. (C. in C. Nore 050748B to C. in C. H.F.)

CALEDON, cruiser. A.M. 031546B. Arrangements being made to remove all guns and general stores but in view of shortage of electrical labour and storage space, intend to leave following items on board in accordance with A.F.O. 335/45:- Main director, H.A.Cs. Mk. III. A.F.C.C. Mk. VIII and all W/T and radar generators. It is most desirable to sail CALEDON as early as possible due to congestion in dockyard. (A.S. Chatham 051103B to Admty.)

CONRAD, Polish cruiser. Leave Scapa passing Switha at 0745/6th April R/V CONRAD off Hoxa at 0800/6th and escort her south through Moray Firth. (2) On meeting SUSSEX in about 58° 10' N. in Moray Firth at 1030/6th transfer to SUSSEX and escort her to Scapa. (3) On arrival Hoxa SIOUX proceed to Greenock E.T.A. 0800/7th there after in accordance with A.M. 171610. (4) Admiralty divert mail for SIOUX to Greenock. (R.A.D.H.F. 051248B to SIOUX.)

EASTWAY, L.S.D. EASTWAY stopped position 210° Portland Bill 17 miles. Engine defects. HAVELOCK standing by. (S.O.E.G. 14 051620B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

DIADEM, cruiser. Scapa departure DIADEM. (2) C.S. 10 020900 refers. (C. in C. H.F. 051726B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/SEA ROVER...

War Diary.

5.4.1945
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

SEA ROVER,
submarine,
GUELPH,
corvette.

Cancel my 221737A not to all. Amended route for submarine SEA ROVER escorted by GUELPH from Portsmouth via route -
W. Q.Z.S. 688, Q.Z.S. 583, Q.Z.S. 668, Q.Z.S. 667, Q.Z.S. 670 and standard route A through Irish Sea to A. 270° Oversay 6 miles. B. 270° Barra Head 10 miles. C. 58.00 N. 10.01 W. D. 58.15 N. 15.02 W. E. 56.50 N. 24.59 W. F. 54.05 N. 36.00 W. G. 50.00 N. 44.03 W. H. 45.58 N. 46.00 W. thence to St. Johns.
(2) GUELPH to top up at Belfast en route.
(C. in C. W.A. 051728B to F.O. S/M, S.M. 5, GUELPH.)

APOLLO, fast
minelayer.

Scapa arrival 1840 APOLLO.
(C. in C. H.F. 051941 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

DUKE OF YORK,
battleship.

Scapa arrival DUKE OF YORK escorted by CAVENDISH, CARRON, HAIDA.
(C. in C. H.F. 051950B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

5.4.1945.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

South
Atlantic
Escort
Force.

It is now considered that the U-Boat threat is slight and it is unlikely that any regular convoy cycle will have to be reintroduced.

(2) Approval is therefore given for the withdrawal of R.N. trawlers and whalers.

(3) It is not considered necessary to base 4 frigates on Durban. Any possible temporary

threat should be met by:

(1) Assistance from C. in C. East Indies, A.M. 012325 refers. (page 15)

(ii) E.I. destroyers and escorts refitting in South African ports.

(4) It is intended that any S.A.N.F. frigates which may operate on East Indies Station should be regarded as on loan from the South Atlantic Station.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 051607B to C. in C. S.A.)

5.4.1945.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Cositintrep
No. 633
(Air)

Coastal Air Force. Wellingtons, Beaufighters and Spitfires on shipping R/Cs. in North Adriatic attacked small shipping with good results and scored R.P. strikes on harbour installations and 2 1,500 foot M/Vs. at Umago. (H.Q.M.A.A.F., 051038B to W.O.)

ITHURIEL
(destroyer)

Propose to reduce ITHURIEL now in care and maintenance at Gibraltar to ship keeper status thus releasing one engineer officer, one gunner (T), one E.R.A. and three petty officers and 16 other ratings.

- (2) She is now in use as a base for Italian A/S training submarines and it is desired that this should continue.
 - (3) Necessary Italian Naval personnel to man her for this purpose would be provided but they would not be responsible for maintenance of safety of the ship and the ship would not fly the Italian flag. Request approval.
- (C. in C. Med., 051141B to Admty.)

5.4.1945.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B
dispositions
(cancelling
of).

Owing to the continued absence of U-Boat threat in the Indian Ocean daily promulgation of this signal will cease as from today and will only be reinstituted when such threat arises. In the absence of information to contrary scales remain W (?5) in all areas.
(C. in C. E.I., 050411Z to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)
See 071146Z to Admty.)

5.4.1945
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 051344Z, S. & A. North of 40° etc.,
Cominch 051528Z.)

MEON,
(frigate.)

MEON now en route U.K. with H.X. 347 for return
to R.N. A.M. 222347 Dec. 1944 and C. in C. C.N.A.
042048 neither to all refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 051836Z to Admty.,)

Routes for
Gulf and
River St.
Lawrence,
shipping.

Following routes for Gulf and River St. Lawrence
shipping detaching from O.N./O.N.S. convoys
have been established to facilitate signalling,
etc.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 051935Z to All Major War Vessels.)

Far East and Australia.

Digest 1167,
1.4.45,
(extract.)

(1) Clark Field Navy planes over China Coast.
(7) On 31st March Lightnings strafed Labuan
Harbour and left burning single large freighter.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 050149 to Admty.)

H.Q.
Philippines.

Request full details of requirements at your
shore H.Q. in Philippines be signalled so that
necessary planning may be done at Admiralty
and arrangements made for supply of additional
materials and equipment in time for despatch
by special ships allocated for stores and equipment for the
intermediate base. A.M. 201343 refers.
(Civil Lord 050624B to C. in C. B.P.F.)

NEWCASTLE
(cruiser.)

Your 071723 March para. 2 not to all. Request A.
information whether NEWCASTLE should proceed U.K.
via Panama or Suez. (Saker) Diversion of mails
accordingly.
(2) E.T.D. Sydney approx. 25th April.
(C. in C. B.P.F. 050659, reply 101545B.)

Digest 1170
4.4.45,
(extract.)

(5) 41 Liberators dropped 154 tons on shipping,
harbour installation, oil storage, Hongkong area,
hitting one large merchantman in dry dock, also 3
other unidentified vessels, firing several small
ships, hitting power plant and oil tanks.

War Diary.5.4.1945
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Far East and Australia.

- Digest 1170, (6) 12 Mitchells struck shipping Pako (Pescadores) sinking one tanker, destroying one of three small coasters, firing 2 tankers, one small freighter transport, strafing numerous other small vessels, hitting barracks and warehouses ashore.
4.4.45, (extract.)
(Contd.)
- (9) Night 2/3 April P.Ts. destroyed 3 barges, probably destroyed 2 others Macajalar Bay (Northern Mindanao.)
- (10) 2 R.A.A.F. Venturas damaged sea truck and small coaster Soembawa Island Korivg Bay.
- (11) Single Liberator on Balikpapan shipping search bombed straffed left sinking single sea truck, damaged 6 schooners. 2 other Liberators over Makassar bombed straffed one small s tack aft freighter, one sea truck, damaged another 6 schooners. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 051005Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

- S/M attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 1000Z/5th April.
- Para. A. (1) A/C C/547 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 0158Z/5th April in 58° 06' N. 08° 42' E.
(2) WILLOW reported underwater explosion at 0515Z/5th in 52° 03' N. 05° 53' W.
- Para. B. (1) A/C F/10 saw possible snort course 320° at 1026Z/4th in 49° 58' N. 13° 33' W.
(2) A/C A/105 saw possible snort at 1235Z/4th in 49° 38' N. 10° 08' W.
(3) A/C C/224 sighted U-Boat on surface, course N. at 0658Z/4th in 62° 27' N. 09° 47' W.
- Para. C. (1) A/C Q/333 attacked smoke and wake at 1026Z/4th in 57° 44' N. 02° 27' W.
(2) A/C Q/333 attacked smoke at 1235Z/4th in 57° 47' N. 02° 01' W.
(3) A/C R/224 attacked wake course 310° at 1252Z/4th in 57° 47' N. 02° 17' W.
(4) A/C G/224 attacked possible wake and swirl, course W. at 1245Z/4th in 57° 45' N. 02° 16' W.
(5) E.G. 30 attacked bottomed contact at 1916Z/4th in 57° 46' N. 02° 14' W.
(6) Explosion reported astern of convoy E.N. 84 at 1810Z/4th in 58° 44' N. 03° 36' W.
- Para. D. (1) ARAB attacked contact at 0806Z/4th ? in 56° 42' N. 07° 13' W.
(2) A/C K/202 attacked oil patch probably wreck at 1220Z/4th in 55° 47' N. 07° 50' W.
(D.D.I.C. 050948Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 051451B to A.I.G. 331, Cominch.)

6.4.1945
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. One mine was detonated off the Humber.
- Channel. 2. SS. CUBA, 11,420 G.R.T. was torpedoed in convoy V.W.P. 16 off the Nab and sank about two hours later. 265 survivors were landed by NENE. Meanwhile WATCHMAN, who with MONNOW had been ordered to screen the convoy into port, obtained a contact 7 miles south of the Nab, two miles astern of where CUBA had been torpedoed, carried out a hedgehog attack, and immediately brought up 4 officers and 14 ratings of U.1195.
- West Coast France. 3. L'AVENTURE detected two suspicious vessels off Pertuis d'Antioche, probably M-class minesweepers, and drove them back into port.
- Norway. 4. M.T.B. 715, on a "V.P." patrol to Hjeltefjord (60.41 N. 4.47 E.), scored two torpedo hits on a large outward bound U-Boat, one each side of her conning tower. She lifted and disappeared. No action was taken by escort or shore batteries against the M.T.B.
- Northern Waters. 5. 9 U-Boats are reported at Ramsund (68.30 N. 17.45 E.), defended by 2,800 soldiers.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

- Gulf of Genoa. 6. Allied warships have obtained good results in their latest bombardments near Franco-Italian border and in support of the 5th Army. (081915B)
- Adriatic. 7. The islands of Pag and Karlobag (north of Zara) have been taken by Yugoslav Partisans. Coastal craft and L.C.Gs. supported the operations. (101309B)

6.4.1945
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Movement. 8. INPLACABLE and NEWFOUNDLAND arrived at Colombo from Suez.

Far East and Australia.

Eastern Archipelago. 9. This afternoon 10 Dutch Mitchells bombed one NATORI class light cruiser with three light escorts heading north through the Sumba Strait (S.E. of Java). Two direct hits and two near misses inflicted damage on cruiser. Liberators attacked cruiser with 83 quarter ton bombs scoring a possible hit. (070833.)

China. 10. 24 Mitchells in shipping sweep on China coast sank 2 escorts and left one possible frigate burning in the Amoy area. (070833.)

Japan. 11. (a) Today the U.S. forces on Okinawa were heavily attacked by Japanese aircraft, 116 of which were shot down. Damage was sustained by some ships.
(b) Aircraft from American fast carriers shot down 245 Japanese planes and sank 4 small merchant ships.
(c) The U.S. M.V. LOGAN VICTORY (7608 tons) was sunk by enemy aircraft early this morning in lat. 26.10 N. 127.16 E. (off Ryuku Arch.) (112055Z.)

6.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Possible U-Boat. My 052152. VICEROY is conducting A/S search vicinity St. Abbs. Small unidentified plot was in position 4 miles south 21 Buoy in centre channel at 0055, proceeding south 8½ knots. (C. in C. Rosyth, 060105B to SUSSEX.)
Following received from VICEROY begins: Have attacked (corrupt group) contact in position 325° St. Abbs Head 2¼ miles. T.O.O. 060140B. Ends. (C. in C. Rosyth, 060244B to SUSSEX.)

Second possible U-Boat. R.A.U.M.5.
(A) 1500/5 to 57° 46' N., 02° 14' W.
(B) Detected previous day.
(C) 4 Squid.
(D) No report received from 2nd Division detached.
(S.O. E.G.30, 061447B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 367, part 1, section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 051600A April.

| | <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 | 89 | 59 | 10,741 | 1,559 | 7,626 | 852 |
| Ostend | 1,010 | 208 | 2,784 | - | 1,162 | 754 |
| Boulogne | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Caen | - | - | 264 | 2,373 | - | - |
| Calais | 4,202 | - | 95 | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 3,090 | - | - | 1,760 |
| Total | 5,301 | 267 | 16,974 | 3,932 | 8,789* | 3,366 |
| <u>U.S. North -</u> | | | | | | |
| Antwerp | - | 82 | 18,897 | - | - | - |
| Cherbourg | 7 | 58 | 6,114 | 1,176 | 13,600 | 2,592 |
| Le Havre | 11,177 | 784 | 6,811 | - | 3,144 | 1,355 |
| Rouen | - | 22 | 8,262 | 310 | 5,791 | 450 |
| Granville | - | - | - | 2,516 | - | - |
| Ghent | - | 36 | 5,210 | - | - | - |
| Total | 11,184 | 982 | 45,294 | 4,002 | 22,535 | 4,397 |
| <u>U.S. South -</u> | | | | | | |
| Marseilles | 2,467 | 328 | 11,352 | 410 | - | 2,684 |
| Port de Bouc | - | - | 2,480 | - | 6,953 | - |
| Toulon | - | - | 587 | - | - | - |
| Total | 2,467 | 328 | 14,419 | 410 | 6,953 | 2,684 |

(S.H.A.E.F., 061500A to Admty., and others.)

* Sic.

Minesweeping of East Coast. Following mine detonated today.
(1) 1023. (2) LL and SA "P" formation B.Y.M.S. 2194, 2079. (3) On. (4) 1½ cables.
(5) B.Y.M.S. 2079 308° 57F 2.4 miles.

/ (6) ...

War Diary.6.4.1945.
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Minesweeping (6) Green 155° 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cables. (7) On pulse blue
of East to port. (8) 2.5 seconds. (9) Unknown.
Coast. (10) Nil. (11) Slight. (12) Nil. (13)
(Contd.) 50 ft. plume. (14) Nil.
My 061116 refers.
(F.O. Humber, 061640 to C. in C. Nore.)

Patrols. Dover Secret Order No.31 and my 031330B April.
Commencing at 0800 on Sunday 8th additional
patrols will be maintained if practicable by
day and night by Coastal Craft Operational from

Ramsgate or Dover:

Patrol DH 045° D.C.1 Buoy 1.5 miles to 045° D.C.2 Buoy 1.5
miles.

Patrol DJ 270° D.C.1 Buoy 2 miles to 270° D.C.2 Buoy 2 miles.
(V.A. Dover, 061707B to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth.)

Patrols for night Saturday 7th April.

1 CATTISTOCK, 2 QUANTOCK, 3 ARENDAL, 4 BROCKLESBY, 5 HOLDERNESS,
6 WIDGEON, 7 WILTON, 8 HAYDON.

Coastal Force Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V Patrols at 2230B.

(2) 72 RUTHERFORD with Coastal Forces from U.K. 14 SOUTHDOWN.

16 TORRINGTON with Coastal Forces from Ostend. 17 ZETLAND.

18 HAMBLEDON. 19 RIOU with Coastal Forces from Ostend.

21 MENDIP. 22 CUBITT with Coastal Forces from U.K.

Coastal Forces from Ostend R/V Patrols at 2130B.

(3) Escort for T.A.M. 32 BRISSENDEN and SHEARWATER. T.A.P.96
VOLUNTEER.

Additional escort F.N.84 OAKLEY.

Coastal Forces from United Kingdom:

Patrol 1 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.1 with CATTISTOCK.

Patrol 2 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.2 with QUANTOCK.

Patrol 3 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.3 with ARENDAL.

Patrol 4 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.4 with BROCKLESBY.

Patrol 5 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.5 with HOLDERNESS.

Patrol 6 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.6 with WIDGEON.

Patrol 7 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.7 with WILTON.

Patrol 8 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.8 with HAYDON.

Patrol 12 - 4 M.T.B., F.L.2, F.L.3.

Patrol 22 - 4 M.T.B., F.B.8, F.B.9.

Patrol 51 - M.L.587. Patrol 52 - M.L.590.

ESTV 2922, F.B.6 - 3 M.T.Bs. LCZZ 1525, F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3 -
M.T.B.

From Ostend: ESUA 2316 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.A.8. ESUA 2100 - 2

M.T.B. Unit F.B.2. ESUA 4126 - 5 M.Ls. Unit F.G.5. ESUA

3312 - 4 M.T.Bs. F.H.3, F.H.4.

Patrol 16 - 4 M.T.Bs., F.G.2, F.G.3.

(C. in C. Nore, 061900B to Nore Command.)

Clandestinely A.M. 051530A April concur.
operational (C. in C. Rosyth, 061926 to Admty.)
M.G.B.509 and
M.T.B. 718.

War Diary.6.4.1945.
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

SS. CUBA CUBA torpedoed 00° 57' W., 50° 36' 30" N.
and U.1195. (LOCH ALVIE, 060613B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
My 060630. CUBA abandoned ship is sinking.
NENE standing by. MONNOW and WATCHMAN
escorting convoy to Nab. Am in firm contact
and attacking U-Boat. L'ESCARMOUCHE with me.
(LOCH ALVIE, 060634 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Your 060810B, all survivors now on board. Tug not
required.
(NENE, 060828B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
About 265 survivors. Appears only one fatality.
Proceeding into harbour to land same.
(NENE, 060835B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Counter-measures by LOCH ALVIE or possibly WATCHMAN 100
per cent successful. Men are being picked up now which
proves. Further signal will be made.
(S.O. E.G.1, 061015 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
U.1195 destroyed in position 175° Nab 6.75 miles marked by
dan buoys by hedgehog attack WATCHMAN at 0815B. 4 officers and
14 ratings survivors being landed HOSTE. All ships proceeding
execution of previous orders. HOSTE will rejoin me later.
(S.O. E.G.1, 061055B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
After CUBA was torpedoed and MONNOW and WATCHMAN were
ordered to screen convoy into harbour, WATCHMAN swept down
starboard side of convoy and round stern with the object of
taking up position on the port side. Contact was obtained
about 2 miles astern of CUBA's position when torpedoed.
(WATCHMAN, 061115B to S.O. E.G.1.)
Regret to report loss of SS. CUBA in V.W.P.16 torpedoed
and sunk in position 50° 36' 04" N., 00° 58' 30" W. at 0713B/
6th April.
(2) 265 survivors landed at Portsmouth. Only one fatality
reported.
(3) German submarine U.1195 destroyed in position 175° Nab 6.75
miles, by WATCHMAN's hedgehog attack at 0815B.
(4) 4 officers and 14 ratings survivors being landed at
Portsmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061528B to Admty.)

Patrols. Cancel my 051756B. Convoy H.X.A.346 39 ships
S.O. Escorts VIMY, E.T.A. position 49° 30' N.,
04° 25' W. at 2000B/6 approach course 045° speed
10 knots, proceeding 180° Start Point 12 miles
thence Route E.
(2) 26th E.G. sail when visibility permits establish A/S patrol
Lizard to Start Point on coastal convoy route.
(3) 26th E.G. leave patrol so as to R/V with above convoy in
position 49° 30' N., 04° 25' W. and support to Portland Bill.
(4) VIMY amend time of R/V if necessary direct to BEACONHILL.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 060942B to BEACONHILL, RIBBLE, JONQUIERE.)
DUNCAN, INCONSTANT proceed at 1130B to patrol line 5
miles north to 10 miles south of E.A.5 Buoy.
(2) ICARUS join on completion of fuelling.
(3) If not in contact, ships leave patrol as necessary to
comply at best speed with my 052202B.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061002B to DUNCAN, ICARUS, INCONSTANT.)

/F.O.I.C. ...

6.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols.
(Contd.)

F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail 18th E.G. to pass Cumbraes 1800/6th April at best speed without incurring weather damage to relieve ICARUS, INCONSTANT and DUNCAN in Portsmouth Command.

(2) On relief C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail ICARUS, INCONSTANT and DUNCAN as in para. 1 of my 041116 not to all.
(C. in C. W.A., 061017B to F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Pass Gate 1430B/6th and proceed by Q.Z.S.697 to (Z) 49° 02' N., 03° 00' W. thence to patrol between (A) 49° 02' N., 02° 37' W. and (B) 48° 49' N., 02° 37' W. at 2130B/6.

(2) BULLDOG leave Granville as requisite to join patrol informing THORNBOROUGH of time and position of joining.

(3) On joining BULLDOG take THORNBOROUGH under his orders to form Force 28 and act in accordance with paras. (3) and (5) of my 042115B.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 061210B to THORNBOROUGH, BULLDOG.)

Leave M.K.S.92 channel section Portland Bill and proceed patrol Start Point to Lizard on coastal convoy route.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 061509B to BERRY, DOMETT, COOKE.)

Anti-
schnorkel
obstructors.

RINGWOOD at Southampton will complete loading with 4 Miles Type O Defence p.m. today, Friday, and will be ready to sail to inspect line B and renovate as necessary a.m. tomorrow, 7th. Request escort may be provided and that necessary sailing orders be issued.

(B.D.O. Gosport, 061500 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Pass Needles at 0900B/7th April and comply with B.D.O. Gosport's 061500B.

(2) RINGWOOD pass details of operation to BURDOCK.

(3) BURDOCK act as A/S escort throughout passage and lay.

(4) Communications: Escort constant watch on 2450 k/cs.

(5) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061626B to RINGWOOD, BURDOCK.)

Possible
U-Boat.

Attacking good contact in position 350° 58E Buoy 3,000 yards. First attack has given off oil. Hydrophone effect.

(L'ESCARMOUCHE, 061635B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations

West Coast France

Biscay
blockade.

Am investigating two suspicious vessels detected by radar, speed 18 knots, course approximately 132° before me 10,000 yards bearing from me 132° 46° 23' N., 02° 14' W.

(L'AVENTURE, 060406B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

6.4.1945.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWest Coast France

Biscay blockade. (Contd.) 2 unknown vessels bearing 105° distance 2.5 miles, course 055°. (L'AVENTURE, 060457 to C. in C. Plymouth.) My 060457, am engaging. (L'AVENTURE, 065019B to C. in C. Plymouth.) At 0406B today L'AVENTURE (S.O. Force 27) reported investigating 2 suspicious vessels detected by radar 132° 5 miles from position 46° 23' N., 02° 14' W. steering 132°. Enemy were engaged at 0519 and chased inshore. Slight gunfire exchanged with no apparent result. By 0619 enemy had entered Pertuis d'Antioche. Force 27 withdrew owing to fog and proximity of coast. (2) Later report from L'AVENTURE stated enemy, probably M-class minesweepers, first detected by radar at 0247B 10,860 yards 160° from position 46.30 N., 02.35 W. Enemy gunfire accurate in bearing, poor for range, illumination good. (C. in C. Plymouth, 061553B to Admt.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Action by merchantmen against submarines. Within 30 miles of the coasts of the United Kingdom or in the Irish Sea, no submarine is to be attacked by a merchant ship unless it commits a hostile act, except on the east coast of England between Dungeness and 52° N. (C. in C. W.A., 060710Z to Ships and stragglers of M.K.S.92.)

WILLOW's probable U-Boat. Your 051320 not to all. Object recovered by WILLOW indicates U-Boat damaged possibly sunk. Best position is 280° 3.1 miles from present position of K.4 Buoy. (2) Force 38 endeavour to locate wreck until necessary to leave to support H.X.346 and M.K.S.92. (C. in C. W.A., 061249B to S.O. Force 38.)

Patrols. Leave convoy M.K.S.92 at Lundy Island and proceed patrol 20 miles N.E. to 20 miles S.W. Trevoise Head. Trail all coastal convoys through your area. (C. in C. Plymouth, 061423B to S.O. E.G.6.)

Reference LOCH GORM 061215B carrying out search in area if no result is obtained intend supporting B.B.75. Flat calm. (S.O. E.G.23, 061447B to C. in C. W.A.)

Request you will sail 22nd E.G. at 0900/7th to form Force 34 and patrol Routes B and C between 07° and 09° W. (C. in C. W.A., 061812B to F.O.I.C. Milford.)

On completion of training p.m./7th PHILANTE is requested to sail 2nd E.G. at best speed without incurring weather damage to top up with fuel at Bangor thence to relieve 23rd E.G. as Force 37.

(2) On relief 23rd E.G. to Londonderry to lay-over. (C. in C. W.A., 061814B to PHILANTE.)

6.4.1945.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorwayOperations
V.P.

E.T.A. 0600B.

Outbound enemy submarine sunk by torpedoes in Hjelte Fjord.

(M.T.B. 719, 060155B to C. in C. H.F.)

V.P.81. Unit returned at 1030B today 6th April.

At 0130B/6th April in Hjelte Fjord (approximate 090° Hernar 2 miles), attacked large outward bound U-Boat with 2 torpedoes. 2 large explosions seen and felt, 1 either side of conning tower. U-Boat lifted and disappeared leaving a large oil patch. Escorting trawler about 1000 yards ahead took no offensive action but was seen to alter course towards Maaroy battery. M.T.Bs. were apparently unseen throughout since neither escort nor shore battery opened fire.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 061101B.)

V.P.85. M.T.B. 771 and M.T.B. 733 returned at 1115B today 6th April.

(2) M.T.Bs. were detected while lying in wait south of Alden, and were illuminated with starshell. Shore batteries opened fire. No shipping sighted between 2200/5 and 0200/6.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 061134B to C. in C. H.F.)

Ref. N. H/F 985/60A dated 15th March 1945.

The following preliminary report on Operation V.P.81 carried out 5th/6th April 1945 is forwarded.

M.T.B. 719 Lt. B.S. Syvertsen, D.S.C., R.Nor.N. and M.T.B. 715 Lt. F.N. Stenersen, R.Nor.N.R. entered the Leads, passing south of Littleodden and Hernar, and arrived in a small bay on the west side of Marholmen at 2315B/5.

A watch-post was established ashore on the Eastern side of the Island.

At approx. 0120/6, the watch-post reported an enemy trawler northbound. The men were at once re-embarked, and both M.T.Bs. went astern out of the bay.

As soon as the Unit was clear of Marholmen, it could be seen that the enemy trawler was leading a large U-Boat by some 1,000 yards. The S.O. at once decided to concentrate both M.T.Bs. on the U-Boat, in view of its great value as a target.

Apparently, the trawler did not sight the waiting M.T.Bs. since it continued on its course towards Fedjeosen. At 0130/6 M.T.B. 715 lying to the S.E. of the S.O. in M.T.B. 719 fired both torpedoes at the U-Boat.

As the S.O. was on the point of firing his torpedoes, he saw and felt two large explosions, one each side of the U-Boat's conning tower. The U-Boat was seen to lift in the water and a marked puff of white smoke emerged from her conning tower. She then disappeared leaving a large oil patch on the surface of the water.

As soon as the explosion occurred, the escort trawler altered course to starboard, crossed Hjelte Fjord and was last seen making for the protection of Maaroy battery.

Since no offensive action was taken by the U-Boat, escort vessel or shore defences, it is probable that the attack achieved complete surprise. T.C.S. was however used, and it is therefore probable that the enemy is aware that the U-Boat was sunk by M.T.Bs. Our own force withdrew by the route of entry and returned to Lerwick.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 061531B to C. in C. H.F.)

/C.A.F.O. ...

War Diary.

6.4.1945.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operations C.A.F.O. 1954/44.
V.P. (1) H. Norwegian M. M.T.Bs. 715 and 719.
(Contd.) (2) 0130B/6th April, 1945.
(3) 060° 41' N., 004° 47' E., 345°, 10 knots.
(4) Anti-shipping sweep in Hjelte Fjord.
(5) Not applicable. (6) Not applicable.
(7) No. (8) No. (9) Sighted by eye from both M.T.Bs.
U-Boat on surface escorted by trawler. (10) One. (11) No.
(12) Not applicable. (13) Not applicable. (14) M.T.B.715
hit U-Boat with two torpedoes. (15) Not applicable.
(16) Torpedo hit obtained each side of conning tower. Large
explosions seen. U-Boat seen to disappear having emitted
large white puff of smoke from conning tower. Large oil
patch left on water. Owing to proximity of Maaroy battery
S.O. considered it unsafe to remain in area to collect further
evidence.
(17) Surprise apparently complete. No avoiding action taken
by U-Boat. No fire opened by trawler, U-Boat or shore
defences.
(18) Not applicable.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 061552B to Admty.)

M.T.B.718 My 050629B (confidential) sailed.
to Norway. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 060615B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operation Ramose Tribute, HITRA and HESSA returned at
S.C. 1615B April 6th.
(2) Operation successful.
(N.O.I.C., Lerwick, 061618B to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols. Leave patrol so as to pass through position
060° 14', 004° 00' at 1900B/8th April thence
through (A) 60.34 N., 03.21 E. (B) 61.03 N.,
03.21 E. (C) 61.24 N., 02.00 E. (D) 61.24 N.,
00.12 E. (E) 90° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence to Lerwick.
(2) Proceed diving by day east 001° E.
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 061733B to TURPIN.)
Intend sailing TOTEM 1600B/8th April through (A) 090°
Muckle Flugga 10 miles. (B) 61.04 N., 00.00 E. (C) 61.04 N.,
02.00 E. (D) 60.14 N., 04.00 E. thence patrol Norwegian coast
between 59.55 and 60.25 N.
(3) Diving by day east of 01° E. Speed 11 knots till 01° E.
then 115 miles per 24 hours.
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 061740B to F.O. S/M., C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations

Northern Waters

U-Boats. Russian report U-Boats -
(1) At 2210Z/5th in approx. position 69° 38' N.,
35° 35' E.

/(2) ...

6.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

U-Boats. (2) At 0828Z/6th by D/F on 3750 k/cs. bearing
(Contd.) 332° from Station 23 351° from Station 24 and
306° from Station 25, all bearings reliable.
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 061133B to Admty.)
Proceed with LAUNCESTON CASTLE to position 59.03
N., 05.00 W. where aircraft K/86 call sign PFF.76 attacked
U-Boat at 1528.
Additional aircraft co-operating T/86 call sign TVN.86.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 061613B to PEVENSEY CASTLE.)
Have swept through datum and am now sweeping toward
Minches assuming contact was outward bound. On reaching
farthest entrance intend return datum and carrying out localised
kite search.
(S.O. E.G.30, 062141 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Situation (1) The enemy is fortifying Reine, Varoy, Skille
Report. Fiord and Royet. On the 25th February there
were about 800 Germans on Reine.
(2) SS. IDEFJORD will finish unloading in
about 10 days.
(3) The station Ramsund reports the presence of 2800 soldiers
and 9 German U-Boats which are supplied from 8 large stone
buildings. There is a dry dock in Bole defended by thick
minefields. Hostvedt.
(Marine Kommander Nord, 061930B to C. in C. R. Norg. N.)

R.A. 10th The flag of Rear-Admiral A.E.M. Cunninghame
C.S. Graham will be hoisted in BERMUDA at 0800
tomorrow Saturday.
(2) The flag of Vice-Admiral Sir F.H.G. Dalrymple-
Hamilton will be struck in DIADEM at sunset
tomorrow Saturday, at which time Rear-Admiral Cunninghame Graham
will assume command of the 10th Cruiser Squadron, his flag
being transferred to DIADEM at 0800 Sunday 8th April.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 062143: General.)

Casualties and Defects

N.A.B. Your 141130 February.
DAWN. Request report whether N.A.B. DAWN is a total loss.
(D.S.V.P., 060003B to N.O.I.C. Leith.)

SS. MARIANNE Gt. Yarmouth 6th April Tugs DIVERSION and RICHARD
II. LEE BARBER proceeded at 0352 to assist SS.
MARIANNE II bound Humber to Southend cargo
potatoes - aground on South Scroby Sands.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 060815B to C. in C. Nore.)
My 060815B. Tugs returned to harbour - efforts to refloat
unsuccessful. Further attempts will be made p.m. tide today,
Friday.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 061211B to C. in C. Nore.)

/SS. JAMES ...

6.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

SS. JAMES My 221649 March to Admiralty only. U.S.S. JAMES
EAGAN, LAYNE. EAGAN, LAYNE is now awash up to after end of No.1
hatch, all other holds flooded.
(2) Understand vessel is managed by U.S.A. who
have decided not to attempt salvage. Request
confirmation.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061231 to Admty.)

Movements

SEAROVER, Cancel my 041145B and my 051050B.
submarine. Intend to sail SEAROVER escorted by GUELPH
leaving Needles at 1030B/6th April to Belfast.
E.T.A. 1130B/8th April routed Q.Z.S.631, 629,
694, 692, 560, 689, 688, 683, 432, 668, 667,
670 and standard route A and Q.Z.S.45 to Belfast.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail escort and S/M to St. Johns
N.F. for onward routing to Philadelphia on completion of
(topping) up. C. in C. W.A., 051728B not to all refers.
(S/M.5, 060120B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

HOVA, Arrived F.S. HOVA and ALCYON.
ALCYON, (C. in C. Plymouth, 060922B to F.O.G.M.A.)
destroyers.

ANSON, Urdis 251705A* March and 052141B/ April to
DUKE OF B.A.D. not to Comnavu.
YORK, Am providing and will assemble communication
battleships. liaison teams in London prior 10th April.
Request detail instructions as to orders for
personnel outlining activity to whom they are
to report and time and mode of transportation
which will be provided to Scapa. Desire teams arrive
sufficiently in advance of scheduled 20th April sailing.
(Comnavu, 061011 to Admty.)
* Reference 251705A: A.M. 101700 not to B.A.D.
(2) ANSON and DUKE OF YORK will join the B.P.F. proceeding via
Ceylon.
(3) Request you will approach Navy Depts. with a view to
despatching the two communication liaison teams and necessary
U.S. signal publications by air to join the ships at Scapa
before the 15th April or about 20th April at Malta.
/ Reference 052141B: Para. 2 of my 251705 March. Amend dates
to read 20th April and about 30th April. Request early reply.

DIADEM, C.S.10 in DIADEM arrived Clyde.
cruiser. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 061046B to C. in C. H.F.)

SUSSEX, Scapa arrival SUSSEX.
cruiser. (C. in C. H.F., 061415B to C. in C. Nore.)

/ARIADNE ...

6.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

ARIADNE,
fast
minelayer.

Pass the Gate at 0930B/8th April and proceed by Q.Z.S.697 to Route W of Q.Z.H.237 thence by Q.Z.S.688, 583, 432, 668, 667, 184 and 219 to Milford Haven, A.M. 311809A March (not to all refers).

(2) Speed of advance 26 knots. Expected time of sailing 1800B/8th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 061939B to ARIADNE.)

ALECTO,
S/M parent
ship.

Your 291651 March (not to F.O.C.R.F.) On completion of service with 7th S/M. Flotilla, ALECTO is to be placed in Reserve (Category C). F.O.C.R.F. is requested to arrange laying up port. (A.C.N.S.(H), 062146B to F.O.S/M., F.O.C.R.F.)

Shipping and Convoys

B.T.C./
T.B.C.
Convoy
Commodores.

Ref. para. B of A.M. 250048 March and C. in C. Nore's 031225B. If it is not possible to disembark Commodores of B.T.C. convoys at Deal and give them two days rest before returning in a T.B.C. convoy it is proposed that they should not proceed further than St. Helens Roads observing that their presence is more necessary between the Isle of Wight and Bristol Channel than elsewhere.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 061626B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

War Diary

6.4.1945
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

VENGEFUL
S/M.

Departure S/M H.M.S. VENGEFUL for Malta.
(F.O.G.M.A. 061441A to V.A.M.)

South Atlantic

KENYA
(cruiser)

Arrived H.M.S. KENYA.
(Cdre. i/c Durban, 061141Z to Admty.)

6.4.1945
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MASSO 14
Spanish
fishing
vessel,
(loss of.)

My 271630 January. As result of chance hearing B.B.C. broadcast that 14/15 survivors had been picked up by an Allied convoy to Russia, and have now been returned to U.K., families of crew of vessel MASSO 14 are making enquiries. Request information. Your 071529 Feb. refers. (B.N.A. Madrid 061900A to Admty.)

Situation
Report No.
587.

Gulf of Genoa. Allied warships have obtained good results in their latest bombardments near Franco-Italian border and in support of 5th Army. (2) Adriatic. Partisans have taken Pag and Karlobag. Coastal craft and L.C.Gs. are giving support. 2 M.T.Bs. engaged 3 enemy coastal craft attempting to enter Pag night of 4th April but contact lost when enemy retired close inshore. (C. in C. Med. 061953B to F.O.L.E.M.)

War Diary.

6.4.1945
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 061343Z, Cominch 061525Z.)

U/B situation In view of the present U-Boat situation in the
escorts. Atlantic it is proposed, that except in case of
 operational urgency, escort vessels and smaller
 H.M. ships should not be sailed independently
 on ocean passages through areas where U-Boats
 are known to be operating.

- (2) Consideration to be given to:
A. sailing with a suitable convoy or joining a convoy at sea
before entering a U-Boat area.
B. Sailing in company with at least one other ship.
(3) The delay caused by this procedure being accepted.
(4) Request your concurrence or remarks.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 061356B to N.S.H.Q., etc.)
(Concur 081518Z from N.S.H.Q.)

H.N.M.S. During past two years services of H.N.M.S. KING
KING HAAKON HAAKON VII have proved most valuable for patrol
VII, A/S. and escort duties in Canadian waters during
patrol summer months.
craft. (2) Request Royal Norwegian Naval service be
 approached with view to allocation of this ship
to C. in C. C.N.A. again this summer.
(3) If approved it is intended to base ship at Sydney N.S.
(N.S.H.Q. 061719Z to Admty.) Reply 121322B.

St. Lawrence The opening of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence
River opening in the near future to a larger volume of ocean
of. going shipping than in previous years together
(additional with a shorter convoy cycle and an increasing
escorts.) number of U-Boats in the Western Atlantic will
 entail the use of additional close escort and
 support groups over those normally employed in
 this area.
(2) It is intended to provide the additional close escorts
required by withdrawing one corvette from each of the Canadian
Mid-Ocean groups accepting a reduction in running strength of C
Groups from 6 ships to 5.
(3) As 2 support groups now allocated to C. in C. C.N.A.
cannot cover the Canadian Coastal zone effectively even with the
assistance that has been rendered by the U.S. Hunting groups it
is required that E.G. 6 be released for operations in Canadian
waters.
(N.S.H.Q. 061720Z to Admty.) See 121931Z, 122037B.

Nesting M.W.T.R. Montreal 061800Q Shipminder London.
Barges. See Lion Copy.

/SS. ATLANTIC...

SECRET

96A
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.)

061800Q April

From : M.W.T.R. Montreal

Date 7.4.45

Recd. 0500

SECRET INT. GEN. X

nesting barges

To : Shipminder London
Info. Washington 29
(To pass to B.A.S. and B.A.D.)

72654

Reference our 72754 and your MAST 24170/ re nesting barges. Fletcher and I saw Howe on April 4th and position was discussed with utmost frankness and friendliness.

2. The operational need for these barges was not questioned but Howe maintained his definite refusal to allow the extra 300 to be built in Canada on grounds of shortage of steel which he stated was preventing Canada undertaking other essential work. He stated further that U.S.A. had cut down its allocation quota to Canada and he therefore was not prepared to agree that any additional steel which U.S.A. might be persuaded to make available for building steel nesting barges should be so used.

3. He alleged that U.K. had a surplus of steel. This view is commonly held this side due to reports that steel is being released from U.K. for export and that U.K. is using steel for building for post war purposes. We do not know what justification there is for these reports.

4. In addition to operational justification we pressed for building here on grounds that Hamilton where first 190 are being built had now, after a very slow start got into production a satisfactory level. You have our airmailed reports of the production and estimated forward deliveries of these 190.

5. Howe said he was sorry he could not help us and the only ways he could see to do so apart from building in U.K. were:

- (A) For Admiralty to agree to give up production in Canada of some transport ferries and so release Canadian steel for nesting barges:
- (B) For steel to cover production of the extra 300 nesting barges to be shipped out from U.K.

6. We have since gathered that there is a bottleneck in the rolling of steel so that shipments would have to consist of the rolled steel not steel billets we are airmailing your details of the steel

specifications

SECRET

specifications for the nesting barges in case (B) of para. 5 is a possible solution.

7. As regards 200 ramped cargo lighters the prospect of getting this order through has slightly improved and we will cable later about them.

8. Prospects for the 6 additional 105rt. tugs at present very dim but we know you now place these first priority even over nesting barges and we will develop accordingly.

9. In view of your para. 5 we will not take any special action as regards sea mules other than that already reported.

061800Q

TOP SECRET distribution

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (3)
- D.F.S.L. (2)
- Controller
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (U.T.) (2)
- Contr. (MSR)
- P.A.S. (PR)
- U.W.R.
- O.D. (6)
- D. of P. (3)
- D. of P. (Q) (3)
- Ops. (2)
- D.C.O.D. (4)
- D.C.O.M. (4)
- O.D. (C.O.) (4)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.M.R.
- M.S. Br.
- M.A.S. (4)
- M. (2)
- D. of S. (3)
- D.57
- B.N.C. (2)
- D.S.V.P. (3)
- P. (L)
- Ad. Blake
- D.M.B.
- W.D.
- C.C.R.T. (2)
- Dep. Contr. (3)
- D. (4)
- D.N.C. (2)
- D. of S.) Bath (17)
- P.Br.)
- S.W.X. (6))

Received in W.R. at 1200/8th.
Circulated by M. of W.T. to internal departments, W.O. and Admiralty

6.4.1945
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

SS. ATLANTIC STATES tanker, torpedoed. A. 052240Z ATLANTIC STATES torpedoed 42.07 N. 70.00 W. Vessel remained afloat and was later taken in tow. U-Boat was not sighted. (Cominch 062025Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

OKLAHOMA (tanker.) OKLAHOMA overdue Dakar since 1st request information. (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 062035Z to Admty.)

Far East and Australia.

Operational report No. 3. Second series of strikes by T.F. 57 completed on 2nd April 1945 (7 groups missing) before dawn and fighter sweeps over Ishigaki and Miyako during forenoon. One Zeke shot down. One enemy A/C destroyed on ground and 3 damaged. Total of 22 enemy aircraft destroyed during second series of strikes, 9 damaged. Surface bombardment plan was dropped in favour of fighter sweeps.

(2) Force replenished during 3rd, 4th and 5th April. Refuelling was slow owing to heavy weather.

(3) The third series of strikes begins at dawn 6th April and continues throughout 7th April, against same targets.

(4) C.T.F. 57 plans to refuel in service area during 8th and 9th April, returning for fourth series of strikes on completion.

(5) UGANDA, GAMBIA, URSA and URCHIN leave Leyte p.m. 6th to join T.F. 57 in the fuelling area a.m. 8th.

(6) Summary of damage to ships.

A. ULSTER near missed by medium size bomb. Holed between engine and after boiler room. Both flooded, but ship floating well. Expected to reach Leyte in tow p.m. 5th. Casualties, two killed, one seriously wounded.

B. INDEFATIGABLE in previously reported suicide attack some damage to radio installations, island superstructure and arrester gear. Casualties, 21 killed, 27 wounded.

C. INDOMITABLE undamaged in straffing attack. Casualties, 5 killed, one wounded.

(7) Aircraft expended 31st March to 2nd April:

5 Avengers, 2 Hellcats, 6 Corsairs, 3 Seafires.

Aircrew casualties: killed one Avenger aircrew, two fighter pilots, wounded three fighter pilots.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 060632Z to Admty.)

Digest 1171 5.4.45 (Extract.) (1) Liberators blew stern off single seatruck 75 miles northeast Hongkong, left single small coaster dead in water burning trailing oil 45 miles S.W. by S. Macao, sank 1 tug damaged two barges Sakashima Guato, sank 1 large lugger same area.

(2) Liberators from Mindoro destroyed 2 trucks 35 miles E. by N. Miri.

F.E. - A
97A

RESTRICTED.

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.

*Command in Pacific
New Directive*

062215Z April

From: J.S.M. Washington

Date: 6/4/45

Recd: 2330

CYPHER

Addressed: A.M.S.S.O.

W.D. Note - Further directive, see page 134A.

J.S.M. 665

You would perhaps like to have the text of the announcement with regard to Command in the Pacific which was released by the United States Chiefs of Staff on 5th April. It is as follows:-

Begins:

1 The Joint Chiefs of Staff, with the approval of the President, have modified the Command organization for the war against Japan with a view to giving full effect to the application of our forces against the Japanese including the large forces to be re-deployed from Europe, taking into account the changed conditions resulting from our progress in both the Southwest Pacific and the Pacific Ocean areas. The rapid advances made in both areas, which have brought us into close proximity with the Japanese homeland and the China Coast, and the corresponding change in the character of operations to be conducted are the considerations which dictated the new directive.

2 General MacArthur, Commander of the Southwest Pacific Area, under the terms of the new directive will be given command of all Army Forces and resources in the Pacific theatre. Similarly, Admiral Nimitz, Commander of the Pacific Ocean areas, will be given command of all Naval Forces and resources in the Pacific theatre. General Arnold will continue in command of the 20th Air Force.

3 The Joint Chiefs of Staff will continue to exercise strategic direction of the entire Pacific theatre and will charge either General MacArthur or Admiral Nimitz with the over-all responsibility for conducting specific operations or campaigns. Normally General MacArthur will be charged with the conduct of land campaigns and Admiral Nimitz with the conduct of sea campaigns. Each Commander will furnish the forces and resources of his service for the joint forces which are required for the conduct of the operation or campaign which has been duly directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

4 Essentially the new arrangement permits either Commander in Chief to conduct operations or campaigns in any part of the entire theatre as directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the choice as to which shall be charged with the responsibility in each case will be dependent on the nature of the operation or campaign which is to be undertaken.

Ends.

062215Z

Received....

Received in War Reg at 091705 circulated
 by War Office to internal depts. Defence Office
 Ministry of Information and Admiralty
 Air Ministry, Foreign Sec.

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.(A)
 A.C.N.S.(W)
 P.A.S.(S)
 Ops.(2)
 O.D.(6)
 D.N.I.(5)
 D. of P.(3)
 D. of P.(0) (3)
 D.C.O.D.(4)
 M.(2)
 W.D.
 Admiral Blake
 O.D.(CO) (4)
 D. of L.D.(3)
 O.I.C.(2)

War Diary.6.4.1945
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Far East and Australia.Digest 1171,
5.4.1945.
(Extract.)
(Contd.)

- (4) Night 4/5th April Mariners from Lingayan scored 3 direct hits on freighter transport of 10,000 tons, 75 miles E. of Hongkong heading N.E. sinking same.
- (5) Daylight 5th April three Bostons hit and saw four destroyer escorts, one destroyer, one small freighter transport sinking, small freighter transport damaging one destroyer escort, 45 miles S.S.W. Swatow.
- (6) 20 Liberators dropped 87 tons on Hongkong targets hitting Kowloon docks, Kaitak airfield, scoring direct hit one tanker. Two others Mitchells fired, left listing beached freighter transport 75 miles N.E. Hongkong.
- (7) 38 Liberators with 12 escorting Lightnings dropped 114 tons Kiirun Harbour Formosa.
- (12) 2 Liberators scored 2 direct hits single unidentified vessel S.E. Sangihe Islands leaving vessel dead in water, bombed Manado in Celebes.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 061055Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

- For 24 hours to 0900Z/6th April.
- Para. A. (1) CUBA torpedoed at 0413Z/6th in 50° 36' 30" N. 00° 57' W.
- (2) M/V GASRAY reported torpedoed or mined and sunk at 1859Z/5th in approx. 55° 56' N. 02° 09' W.
Considered probably U-Boat.
- Para. B. (2) A/C D/110 reported possible schnorkel at 0915Z/5th in 49° 19' N. 10° 25' W.
- (3) LOCH ALVIE and F.S. L'ESCARMOUCHE attacked firm contact at 0434Z/6th in vicinity of torpedoing of CUBA.
- (4) H.M. ships PETUNIA and STONECROP attacked contact at 1035Z/5th in 48° 07' N. 08° 10' W.
- Para. C. (1) Small unidentified shore radar plot held for ½ hour course S. at about 2230Z/5th in approx. 55° 27' N. 01° 31' W.
- (2) VICEROY attacked bottom contact at 2340Z/5th in approx. 55° 59' N. 02° 11' W.
- (3) L.C.I.(L) 285 sighted suspected schnorkel smoke and wake, at 0852Z/5th in 55° 20' N. 06° 00' W. Attacked with depth charges.
- (4) F.S. HOVA attacked doubtful contact at 1039Z/5th in 48° 29' N. 06° 16' W.
- Para. D. (1) M.F.V. IVY reported partly submerged U-Boat course about 050° at 0350Z/6th in approx. 57° 49' N. 03° 21' W.
- (2) A/C V/63 sighted possible schnorkel smoke and wake at 1125Z/5th in 58° 03' N. 06° 10' W.
- Reference S.M. 050948Z para. A. 1 attack was not on U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 061200B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B disp-
ositions.Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 061405B, A.I.G. 331, Cominch.)

War Diary

7.4.1945
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea

1.(a) Half a dozen E-boats from Den Helder, raiding towards the East Coast, were effectively shadowed by a Wellington of 16 Group to the neighbourhood of Hearty Knoll, where CUBITT and her M.T.Bs. 781 and 5001 engaged them closely, possibly sank one and severely damaged another. So efficiently did the Wellington continue to shadow them that another group of our M.T.Bs. comprising numbers 494, 493 and 497, trying to intercept at 0206 on a very dark night, ran literally into them. The leading E-boat rammed and sank M.T.B.494, our leading boat. M.T.B.493, next in the line, rammed the next E-boat, but then hit the upturned hull of 494, and was stopped. M.T.B.497 engaged the rear E-boat at 10 yards scoring numerous hits. One of the E-boats was fought to a standstill and sank, leaving us 27 prisoners; two others were badly damaged. M.T.B. 493 was towed home to Lowestoft. In the earlier action M.T.B. 5001 was hit in the engine room, caught fire, and later blew up.

(b) Three mines were detonated off Ostend.

Channel

2. Cherbourg reports the capture of 3 German Commandos landed from the Channel Islands, apparently bent on sabotage, but the American report adds that "injuries and opiates precluded thorough questioning."

Western Approaches

JAMES W. NESMITH *H.X.*
3. SS. ~~LICHISTAN~~ in convoy ^A346 was torpedoed by a U-boat off Holyhead, but was later taken in tow. The U-boat has so far eluded the pursuit.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Adriatic

4. Last night 2 torpedoes were fired by enemy midget submarines at four of our coastal craft near Arsa. Torpedoes missed and hit shore. Depth charge attacks were made on submarine with no observed results.

7.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Sumatra. 5. (a) Today and yesterday Liberators laid mines off N.E. Sumatra.
Malacca St. (b) Our submarines are reported as having sunk 10 native craft carrying war material in Malacca Straits and off Tenasserim Coast (S. Burma) (071204Z.)
Movement. (c) ACTIVITY arrived at Trincomalee from Sydney (N.S.W.)

Far East and Australia.

Eastern Archipelago. 6. At daylight this morning 2 U.S. submarines attacked the light cruiser,* reported hit by aircraft yesterday, with two escorts leaving Buna Bay, on north coast of Soombang Island claiming hits. (Claimed as sunk later.) * NATORI class. (081059Z.)

China. 7. During early hours of this morning a Liberator patrol sighted a 15 ship convoy approaching Swatow from the S.W. 4 Liberators bombed the convoy before dawn sinking 1 destroyer, 1 large transport and damaging another destroyer and caused violent explosion on another unidentified vessel.

Japan. (Operations in Ryukus Archipelago). 8. (a) The third series of strikes by Task Force 57 began at dawn yesterday and continued throughout today against Ishigaki and Myako Islands. The Fleet was attacked in afternoon of 6th by 4 suicide bombers. One suicider near missed ILLUSTRIOUS, after wing tip hit island. No casualties or damage. (060632, 080222.)
(b) Today carrier borne aircraft from U.S. Pacific Fleet attacked a Japanese surface force S.W. of Kyushu. The battleship YAMATO (45,500 tons) the light cruiser AGANO*, another light cruiser or destroyer and 3 destroyers were sunk. Two destroyers were left on fire and three escaped. No air opposition was met but 7 U.S. aircraft were lost by heavy anti-aircraft fire. D.O.R. 2061

* See C.B. 1815 (April 45)
reported sunk 17.2.44.

YAMAGI was the light cruiser
sunk off Kyushu (U.S. list
of Navy losses).

War Diary

7.4.1945
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

E-Boat activity.

One M.T.B. on fire transferring casualties position 130 degs. 55 B buoy 6 miles. (CUBITT, 070135 to C. in C. Nore) Am returning Yarmouth with casualties E.T.A. (06)00. Request transport for casualties on

arrival.

(CUBITT, 070415A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

S.O. Unit F.C. 4 M.T.B. 781 5001 reports - At 0020 red tracer observed to the Southward from enemy apparently engaging A/C, and shortly after a bomb flash was seen. At 0036 unit was instructed to remain stopped at 57 buoy and await vector. CUBITT proceeded to Southward and illuminated enemy making smoke. CUBITT engaged with 4" and drove enemy to west and north-west at 0056 unit vectored due west and at 0018 received Dog half a mile.

M.T.B. 781 attempted to illuminate but rockets failed. One E-Boat seen right ahead and unit endeavoured to ram amidships opening fire at the same time. E-Boat increased speed and M.T.B. 781 passed a few feet astern. C.O. M.T.B. 5001 states he passed astern of another. Unit altered hard to starboard and continued to engage until E-Boats made smoke and contact was lost. M.T.B. 5001 was hit in forward tank, space and engine room was on fire, M.T.B. 781 came alongside her starboard bow and took off casualties, some of the Methol Bromide on 5001 failed to operate and M.T.B. 781 lay close off on her starboard side endeavouring to extinguish fire with hose, but flames were coming out of the ship's side and it was considered boat would blow up at any moment. M.T.B. 781 again closed taking off remainder of crew and transferred them to CUBITT, later bringing the M.O. from CHIDDINGFOLD to CUBITT.

M.T.B. 5001 burnt for about 45 minutes and eventually blew up. M.T.B. 781 claims at least four hits with 6 pdr. and also several with Cerlikon. M.T.B. 5001 also claims hit with 6 pdr. and .5 on her E-Boat. Consider one E-Boat severely damaged and the other superficially damaged. Damage to own unit, M.T.B. 5001 total loss, no damage to M.T.B. 781. Casualties - M.T.B. 781 nil. M.T.B. 5001 - 1 P.O. M.M. missing, presumed killed. 2 A.B's died of wounds, 7 ratings injured. Ammunition expended - M.T.B. 781 - 6 pdr. 25 rounds, .5 400 rounds Cerlikon 240 rounds. M.T.B. 5001 - not known.

(MIDGE, 071115 to C. in C. Nore)

E-Boat activity night 6th/7th April.

- (1) One group of about 6 E-Boats from Den Helder were effectively shadowed by 16 Group Wellington towards Hearty Knoll.
- (2) At 0046 CUBITT (Patrol 4) and HAYDON (Patrol 5) detected and engaged this Group as it crossed Q.Z.S. 403 4 miles North of Hearty Knoll Buoy. E-Boats were subsequently driven North and closely engaged by CUBITT's M.T.Bs. 781 and 5001 near 54D Buoy. One E-Boat possibly sunk by M.T.Bs and another severely damaged by CUBITT.
- (3) Regret to report M.T.B. 5001 was hit in engine room and petrol compartment and caught fire subsequently sinking with several fatal casualties.

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E-Boat
activity
(Contd.)

(4) Wellington continued to shadow most efficiently and report to V.H.F. R/KT fitted M.T.B. Unit which by then had moved to position 30 miles East of Smiths Knoll. A perfect interception was made by M.T.Bs 494, 493 and 497 and in extremely close action that followed one E-Boat was sunk,

prisoners being taken.

(5) It is regretted that in initial interception M.T.B. 494 was rammed by an E-Boat and sunk. It is feared casualties were heavy. M.T.B. 493 was severely damaged by ramming an E-Boat and collision with upturned 494. M.T.B. 493 also had some casualties, further details of this action will be signalled when known.

(6) Shore Radar. E-Boats were not picked up by V.135 until 0057 near N. Winterton Buoy. They were tracked North until inevitable confusion with our forces made identification uncertain (C. in C. Nore, 071320B to Admty.)

My 071320 add para. 7.

2350 Swordfish A/C reported 6 or 8 E-Boats 28 miles west of Hook steering 240 degs. A/C reported these to have turned back at midnight. Contact then lost.

(C. in C. Nore, 071656B to Admty.)

Further to my 071320 paras. 4 and 5. C.O. of M.T.B. 493 (Lieut A.D. Foster R.N.V.R.) reports unit of F.A.3 (M.T.B's 494, 493, 497) moved south from initial position as result of A/C reports and at 0132 stopped in position 104 Smiths Knoll Buoy 23 to wait for retiring E-Boats which Wellington J/524 was shadowing.

(2) 0150 unit proceeded 240 degs. working on A/C V.H.F. R/T reports. At 0206 E-Boats intercepted 113 Smith Knoll Buoy 18. Night was very dark and to avoid disclosing presence of unit to enemy G.S.R. radar was not in use. So accurate was intercepting course that M.T.B. 494 (S.O) was rammed by leading E-Boat and sunk. M.T.B. 493 then rammed next E-Boat in line on port quarter. 493 carried on across E-Boats wake engaging with gunfire several 6 pdr. hits being observed until she hit wreckage which was later seen to be part of upturned hull of 494. M.T.B. 493 then had to stop, owing to damage.

(3) Meanwhile M.T.B. 497 engaged rear E-Boat at range of 10 yards scoring numerous hits. 497 chased E-Boats until stoppage occurred in 6 pdr. and rocket projector failed.

(4) While rejoining M.T.B. 493 M.T.B. 497 found an E-Boat in distress firing red very lights. Both M.T.Bs. engaged until E-Boat observed to be stopped and not returning fire. Wreck of 494 was then found and 3 survivors picked up. 497 then remained near E-Boat until unit F.A.2 arrived. This unit took about 20 prisoners from E-Boats which later sank. M.T.B. 497 picked up 7 Germans from water. M.T.B. 5020 towed 493 back to Lowestoft. Result of this gallant action one E-Boat sunk, two badly damaged.

(5) Casualties. M.T.B. 494 - killed 2 ratings, missing presumed killed 3 officers, 9 ratings. Damage to own forces 494 sunk, 493 severe hull damage.

(6) Ref. para. 2 my 071320 result now thought to be one E-Boat severely damaged by CUBITT and another by M.T.Bs 781 and 5001. a third being also hit by M.T.Bs. in this action. CUBITT used his M.T.Bs with excellent judgement. (C. in C. Nore, 072017B to Admty.)

/Discharge ...

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Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.368 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/6th April.

| <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 | 53 | 65 | 11,420 | 314 | 13,254 | 591 |
| Ostend | 3,589 | 343 | 1,582 | - | 1,933 | 596 |
| Boulogne | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Caen | - | - | 265 | 905 | - | - |
| Calais | 5,522 | - | 100 | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 3,271 | - | - | 1,527 |
| Totals: | 9,164 | 408 | 16,638 | 1,219 | 15,187 | 2,714 |

U.S. - North

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Antwerp | - | 389 | 18,531 | - | - | 903 |
| Cherbourg | - | 143 | 6,142 | 1,746 | 3,793 | 2,351 |
| Le Havre | 12,470 | 80 | 5,773 | - | - | 1,419 |
| Rouen | - | 19 | 7,012 | 249 | 5,683 | 405 |
| Granville | - | - | - | 3,013 | - | - |
| Ghent | - | 20 | 9,246 | - | - | 1,994 |
| Totals: | 12,470 | 651 | 46,704 | 5,008 | 9,476 | 7,072 |

U.S.-South

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|---|-------|
| Marseilles | 861 | 392 | 13,822 | 395 | - | 3,086 |
| Port De Bouc | - | - | 2,531 | - | - | - |
| Toulon | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nice | - | - | 355 | - | - | - |
| Totals: | 861 | 392 | 16,708 | 395 | - | 3,086 |

(S.H.A.E.F. 071515 to Admty. and others)

Patrols.

Night dispositions 7/8th April.

Humber force group 1 patrols - 1 CATTISTOCK, Group 2 harbour - PYTCHLEY.

Harwich force group 3 patrols 2 QUANTOCK, 3 ARENDAL 4 BROCKLESBY, 6 WIDGEON, 12 RUTHERFORD, 14 SOUTHDOWN, 16 TORRINGTON, 17 ZETLAND, 18 HAMBLEDON, 19 RIOU, 22 CUBITT, T.A.M.32, SHEARWATER. A.T.M.117, KITTIWAKE, YARMOUTH ROADS, COTTESMORE. Group 4 harbour - CHIDDINGFOLD, TALYBONT, KRAKOWIAK, EGLINTON, MALLARD, SHELDRAKE, GUILLEMOT, RETALICK, STAYNER, CAICOS, SEYMOUR. Sheerness force group 5 patrols - 5 FERNIE, 7 WILTON, 8 ALBRIGHTON, 21 MENDIP, T.B.C.121 STATICE, F.N.84 OAKLEY, O.N.A.295 VANQUISH, SUNFLOWER, T.A.M. 32 BRISSENDEN, T.A.P.97 MIDDLETON, A.T.M. 117 VESPER.

Group 6 harbour - EASTON, BLANKNEY, MEYNELL, VERSATILE, KINGCUP, MIMICO.

(C. in C. Nore, 071600B to Admty.)

/Patrols ...

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(Contd.)

Patrols for night Sunday 8th April.

1 CATTISTOCK, 2 KRAKOWIAK, 3 ARENDAL, 4 QUANTOCK,
5 COTTESMORE, 6 SHELDRAKE, 7 ALBRIGHTON, 8 OAKLEY.

Coastal Force units F.C.1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2230B.

(2) 12 RIOU with coastal forces from U.K.

14 EGLINTON, 16 STAYNER with coastal forces from Ostend.

17 SOUTHDOWN, 18 HAMBLEDON, 19 SEYMOUR with coastal forces from
Ostend, 21 HOLDERNESS, 22 CAICOS with coastal forces from U.K.

Coastal forces from Ostend R/V frigates, at 2130.

(3) Escort for T.A.M. 33 MEYNELL and WIDGEON, escort for T.A.P.98
VERSATILE.

(4) Coastal forces from U.K.

Patrol 1 2 M.T.Bs unit F.C.1 with CATTISTOCK.

2 2 M.T.Bs unit F.C.2 with KRAKOWIAK. 3 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.3
with ARENDAL. 4 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.4 with QUANTOCK.5 2 M.T.Bs unit F.C.5 with COTTESMORE. 6 2 M.T.Bs unit F.C.6
with SHELDRAKE. 7 2 M.T.Bs unit F.C.7 with ALBRIGHTON.

8 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C.8 with OAKLEY. 12 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.L.2,3.

22 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.B.8,9 with CAICOS. 51 1 M.L. 52 1 M.L.

E.S.T.V.2922, 3 M.T.Bs F.B.6. L.C.Z.Z.1525 6 M.T.Bs. F.A.1,2,
3 from Ostend. E.S.U.A. 231' 2 M.T.Bs. F.A.8. E.S.U.A. 2100

2 M.T.Bs. F.B.2. E.S.U.A. 4126 5 M.Ls. F.G.5.

E.S.U.A. 3312, 4 M.T.Bs. F.H. 3, 4.

Patrol 16 R.M.Bs. F.G.2, 3.

(C. in C. Nore, 071910B to Nore Command) X as received.

Minesweeping
off Far
Shore.

Reference C. in C. Nore's 310007A March.

6 actuations LL/SA. E.G.M.S. and explosive sweep
completed North of centre line mines detonated.

3 red magnetic at 0855 in 51.25 N. 03.30 E.

1 red magnetic at 0954 in 51.25 N. 03.09 E.

1 red magnetic at 1412 in 51.25 N. 03.10 E.

(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 071950B to F.O. Belgium.)

OperationsChannelAnti-U-Boat
deep
mining.

Your 051704B and 052050B.

TADOUSAC, BEAUMARIS, SHIPPIGAN, H.M.C.S. MINAS,
PLOVER and ARMANA sailed to complete operation

"Artisan" Series B one, part two.

(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 070432B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Your 051704B para. 4 completed. No mines cut.

(SHIPPIGAN, 070947B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Channel
Islands
descents on
Cherbourg
peninsula.Cousnab Cherbourg reported at 2215B/6th April
intercepting plain language radio transmissions in
German 8500 K/cs several times between 1140 and
1600B/6th April. Interceptions not recorded or
translated into English. This coupled with
information contained in C.T.G. 122.2 despatch
051509B not to all caused Comnavforfrance inform
S.H.A.E.F. Main, A.N.C.X.F. and Com. Z. and alert

/his ...

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Operations

Channel

Channel Islands descents on Cherbourg peninsula. (Contd.)

his Cherbourg and Granville Commands. Comnavforfrance established monitoring watch, negative results. Cousnab Cherbourg passed information local United States and French Commands and C.in C. Plymouth. Three German Commandos captured between 0100 and 0300 in Cherbourg area carrying machine pistols. Two with heavy loads explosives in packs. Preliminary information to effect 20 Commandos landed night 5th and 6th April Anse de Vauville in three rubber boats from ex French Revenue Cutter from Channel Islands. One of party carried radio sending receiving set and visual signals. Radio and signalling sets not recovered. Mission sabotage. Target power plants, water works. Planned accomplish night 7th and 8th April with possibility reinforcement and Commando attack same time. Injuries and opiates precluded thorough questioning. Pink patrol has been doubled for past few nights and will continue as long as deemed necessary. (Comnavforfrance, 071210 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Patrols.

Sail S.O. as to pass Gate at 0900B/8th and proceed join 6th E.G. on patrol Start to Lizard arranging R/V with New Waterford direct.

(2) On arrival of LOCH ACHANALT 6th E.G. establish patrols as follows on Coastal Convoy route E.G.6 1st Division 2 ship Lizard to 04 degs. 30' W. codeword "Clinch A". E.G.6 2nd Division, 2 ships 04 degs. 30' W. to Start Point. Codeword "Clinch B".

S.O. E.G.6 report dispositions and Senior Officers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 071525B to LOCH ACHANALT.)

Operations

West Coast France

Anti-radar device on the Groix.

M.T.B. Patrol last night Penmen and Brivideaux nothing to report. Observation confirms German device on West Point of Groix which renders inoperative M.T.B's radar and burns out valves if ranging continued. (Comar Brest, 071014B to C. in C. Plymouth, C.F.N.T.F. BASQUE.)

Biscay Blockade.

Pass Gate at 1830B/7 and proceed as escort to BARFLEUR routed by Q.Z.S. 697 through (F) 48.34 N. 05.23 W. to seaward end of Q.Z.S.617 where BARFLEUR has orders to detach and enter Brest.

(2) After BARFLEUR has parted company LE FORTUNE is to proceed through (G) 47.50 N. 05.23 W. thence to R/V patrol A-BASQUE and LA SURPRISE of Force 27 in position 225 degs. Ile d'Yeu Light 20 at 1900B/8.

(3) On joining LE FORTUNE is to take over command of Force 27 relieving BASQUE who is to return to Plymouth through (B) 47.50 N. 05.32 W. thence (A) 48 degs. 35' N. 05.32 W. and by Q.Z.S. 697.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 071102B to LE FORTUNE)

/Ref...

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Operations

West Coast France

Biscay Ref. Opas para. 14(A).
Blockade. BASQUE south Sables d'Olonne 10 miles.
(Contd.) LA SURPRISE north-west Ile d'Yeu 15 miles.
(2) Ref. Opas para. (b). BASQUE south-east
Ile d'Yeu 10 miles. LA SURPRISE south-west
Ile d'Yeu 20 miles.

Admiralty is requested to pass to Comar Brest.

(BASQUE, 071541B to C.F.N.T.F., C. in C. Plymouth.)

Sunderland aircraft W/T call sign LDA.37, R/T call sign "Briberp" carrying out coastwise sweep from northward will R/V patrol (A) at about 0800B/8 to westward of Les Sables d'Olonne.

(2) After making contact with patrol (A) the aircraft will sweep to southward to R/V with patrol (B) on a line 300° from Cape Ferret.

(3) Aircraft will continue sweep to southward, returning to contact patrols (B) and (A) as mutually arranged before aircraft returns to base.

(4) C.F.N.T.F.'s 27 E.M.3 para. 11 request I.F.F. code No.1 be switched on as requisite to facilitate R/V with aircraft.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 071619A to S.O. Force 27.)

Operations

Western Approaches

E.Gs. 3, 20. Com. (D) W.A. is requested to sail 20th E.G. at 2000/8th at best speed without incurring weather damage to relieve 3rd E.G. in Plymouth Command.
(2) On relief C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 3rd E.G. to arrive Belfast 11th April for lay-over.
(C. in C. W.A., 071130B to Com. (D) W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

Patrols. Request you will sail 10th E.G. at 0900/8th through the Irish Sea to relieve 21st E.G. in vicinity 50° N. 10° W., area of operations will be signalled separately.

(2) On relief 21st E.G. is to proceed to Belfast for lay-over.
(C. in C. W.A., 071133B to Com. (D) W.A.)

Support Groups. E.G.32, WILLIAM T. POWELL, ALEXANDER J. LUKE, SPANGENBURG, ROBERT I. PAINE, supporting U.C. 63A.

Force 37, 23rd E.G. MONTSERRAT, 3 frigates north Irish Sea.
Force 36, 25th E.G. STRATHADAM, THETFORD MINES central Irish Sea.

Force 38, 16th E.G. SPRING HILLS, 4 frigates St. Georges Channel.
Force 34, 22nd E.G. HART, LOCH CRAGGIE, 3 sloops area off southern Ireland. Force supporting convoy as ordered.

Force 31, 4th E.G. BENTINCK S.O., 4 frigates vicinity 49° 40' N., 12° 45' W. and 21st E.G. CONN, 5 frigates vicinity 49° 50' N., 10° 15' W. and 2nd E.G. WILD GOOSE, 5 frigates 57° 01' N., 05° 53' W. to Bangor Bay 15.

EASTWAY, 5th E.G., GRINDALL, 4 frigates 53° 29' N., 12° 07' W. to Milford Haven 14.

(C. in C. W.A., 071436B to Admty.)

/Establish ...

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Patrols. Establish following patrols by 0800B/8th.
(Contd.) 6th E.G. Lizard to Start. E.G.3 2nd division
20' S.W. to 20' N.E. Trevoze Head. Both
patrols on coastal convoy route.
(2) E.G.3 1st division carry out A/S sweep round
Scillies proceeding northabout between 2359B/7th and 0800B/8th.
Resume patrol Lizard to St. Agnes Head by 0800B/8th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 071455B to E.Gs. 6, 3.)
My 042115B, para. (3). If no contacts leave patrol at
daylight tomorrow 8th April and return to Plymouth through (Z)
49° 02' N., 03° 00' W. thence Q.Z.S.697.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 071520B to Force 28.)

Probable Ship BELWOODSPARK whilst on passage from Belfast
U-Boat. to Liverpool with N.D. defences streamed, reports
that at 1640 hours April 1st starboard net was
struck by some object approaching ship at an
angle. Net surged violently towards ship and
several fathoms of tow were pulled off winch.
The net was damaged and has been removed and taken to Birkenhead
Depot for expert examination as the preliminary examination
suggests strongly that it was struck by a torpedo. Position
of ship 53° 43' N., 4° 53½' W.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 071224 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

LECHISTAN. Hit, hit.
(LECHISTAN, No T.O.O. to all ships.)
LECHISTAN torpedoed in 53.24 N., 04.48 W.
(S.O. C.5, 071731B to C. in C. W.A.)
Join Force 36. H.X.346 attacked. Approx. position 53° 13'
N., 04° 49' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 071745B to S.O. E.G.16.)
Torpedoed ship pendant 24 salvable, request tug.
Carrying out "Observant" under orders of RUNNYMEDE position 53°
24' N., 04° 51' W.
(S.O. Force 36, 071752B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 071731. Master considers ship will float.

BELLEVILLE without asdic ready to tow. Request instructions.
(S.O. C.5, 071823B to C. in C. W.A.)
Proceed with STORMKING at best speed to assistance of
ship torpedoed in 53.24, 04.51 at 1752.
(C. in C. W.A., 071828B to LEEDS CASTLE.)
RUNNYMEDE, STRATHADAM in contact 285° 3 miles from
position in my 1731 not to all addressees, attacking. Unable
detect Winner 85. BELLEVILLE under way towing. RATHLIN and
MARTIN proceeding independently Clyde.
(S.O. C.5, 072057B to C. in C. W.A.)
Have assumed duty of S.O. Force 36. Expected time of
arrival position of attack 2250/7th. Suitable.
(S.O. E.G.16, 072109B to C. in C. W.A.)
My P.C.S. 53.27 N., 04.47 W., 136, 2 knots. LECHISTAN
torpedoed and down by the stern in tow. Intend proceeding
Holyhead at Master's request.
(BELLEVILLE, 072148B to C. in C. W.A.)

/Leave ...

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(Contd.)

Leave one ship to escort EASTWAY. Remainder proceed with all despatch and join hunt in 53° 24', 04° 51' where ship torpedoed at 1730. 25th E.G. and RUNNYMEDE hunting. 16th E.G. closing from southward.
(C. in C. W.A., 071855B to S.O. E.G.5.)

OperationsNorwayGermans in
Kilbotn.

Depot ship BLACK WATCH and another depot ship lay in Kilbotn on 4th April. (Graded B.2.)
(D.D.I.C., 071344B to C.S.1.)

Operation
S.C.

Intend to sail S.C. operation from Shetlands.
(1) 0100B/9th April from Scalloway.
(2) 053° from Muckle Flugga to 62° 30' N., 03° 30' E. thence 098°, speed 13.
(3) 2230B/9th April.
(4) Between 2300B/9th April and 0400B/10th April.
(5) 243° to Muckle Flugga 15 knots.
(6) p.m./10th April. (7) 063° Muckle Flugga. (8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 071503B to C. in C. H.F.)
My 071503B.
(1) 62° 23' N., 05° 34' E.
(2) Ramose Custodian. (3) 7 miles.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 071505B to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrols.

B times throughout.
Positions of submarines at 0800/8th and movements for following 24 hours.
(1) VIKING, UTSIRA, TAPIR as in A.M. 061927.
(2) TURPIN leaves patrol off Kord Fjord so as to pass through 60.14 N., 04.01 E. at 1900B/8th thence through (A) 60.34 N., 03.21 E. (B) 61.03 N., 03.21 E. (C) 61.24 N., 02.00 E. (D) 61.24 N., 00.12 E. to Lerwick. Diving by day east of 01° E. at 115 miles in 24 hours then 11 knots on surface.
(3) TOTEM leaves Lerwick 1600/8th through 090 Muckle Flugga 10 and 61.04 N., 00.01 E., 61.04 N. 02.00 E. and 60.14 N. 04.00 E., 11 knots on surface. Diving by day east of 01° E., speed 115 miles in 24 hours.
(C. of W., 071900B to A.I.G. 25.)

M.T.B.718
to Norway.

My 060615B April. Returned Aberdeen. Operation abandoned owing unfavourable local conditions.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 072005B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

- Patrols. If not in contact at 2000B tonight commence patrol between Cape Wrath and Dunnet Head. (C. in C. Rosyth, 071550B to S.O. E.G.3.)
- Unexplained explosions west of Hoy. Underwater explosions heard by P.S. GARLAND in approximately 58° 47' N., 03° 50' W. at 1529, 1543 and 1625. (2) Proceed to investigate forthwith. (C. in C. Rosyth, 071910B to S.O. E.G.30, C. in C. H.F.)
Three unexplained underwater explosions occurred within 2 miles of position 58° 48' N., 03° 50' W. between 1530B and 1630B today 7th April. Ships are to keep at least 4 miles clear of above position unless carrying out A/S hunt. (C. in C. H.F., 072242B to H.F.)
- Minelaying operation. Scapa departure APOLLO, OPPORTUNE, ORWELL and OBEDIENT. (C. in C. H.F., 071933B to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
- Plans to counter possible "death ride" break-out. It is considered that German Main Fleet Units and destroyers may be ordered to break-out into the Atlantic on a death ride. (2) If the break-out is through Straits of Dover submarines will take no part in immediate counter operations. (3) If the break-out is expected to start with a move up east or west coast of Denmark submarines will be disposed off south-west coast of Norway in areas promulgated in my 072007. A/S and submarine training will be interrupted to provide the requisite number of submarines. (4) The object of submarines will initially be reconnaissance and reporting of enemy cruisers and above but this may be changed if enemy movements are accurately known. U-Boats will not be attacked. (5) F.O.S/M. will signal detailed instructions for action to be taken at various stages outlined below. Admiralty will notify F.O.S/M. of these stages. (6) Stage One (when there is any indication that enemy forces intend to break-out). (A) Dispose submarines already on patrol in new areas. (B) Sail operational submarines in harbour to Lerwick. (C) Curtail less essential training and sail submarines thus released for Lerwick. (7) Stage Two (when there is evidence that a break-out is likely). (A) Sail submarines at Lerwick for patrol. (B) Cancel all A/S and submarine training and prepare remaining fit submarines for patrol. (8) Stage Three (when it is known enemy units are at sea). Submarines will be sailed and returned so as to keep requisite number of patrol areas filled. (9) Training submarines should be sailed with one full salvo of torpedoes.

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Operations

Northern Waters

Plans to counter possible "death ride" break-out. (Contd.)

(10) Submarines will be sailed from Lerwick and return there after patrol as at present. F.O.S/M. will arrange attack restrictions. (F.O.S/M., 071948B to S/Ms. 3, 6, 7, 9, S.O. S/M. Lerwick.)

Casualties and Defects

SS. MARIANNE II.

My 061211B. Attempts to refloat still unsuccessful, salvage officer reports vessel in danger of breaking back unless partially discharged. M.O.W.T. now making arrangements to discharge into lighters. Further signal

will be made.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 070949B to C. in C. Nore.)

Salvage officer reports - MARIANNE II following ground tackle now laid out to westward: 2 4-ton anchors on 240 and 120 fathoms six inch wire, commenced discharge cargo with Naval working parties 1600 hours today. L.C.T. 931 alongside 1900 hours to receive cargo. Weather permitting hope to effect continuous discharge until casualty lightened sufficiently to refloat, all double bottom tanks and cargo holds dry at present.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 072225B to C. in C. Nore.)

DAMSAY, A/S M/S trawler.

Trawler DAMSAY ashore inside Black Rock Buoy off Yarmouth. Sixteen degree list low water, vessel making water asdic compartment. Salvage officer with salvage vessel standing by, running out heaving off anchor and wire. Request

ATTENTIVE stand by as we will endeavour refloat tonight's tide. Vessel will require dry-docking for examination after refloating.

(S.O.I.C. Cowes, 071415B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

SS. JAMES EAGAN
E. LAYNE.

Your 061231. After inspection on 25th March by W.S.A. representative and Admiralty salvage officer, it was agreed that vessel was a total loss, but that all possible equipment should be salvaged by U.S. Authorities.

(Director of Salvage, 071550B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

L.S.T. 280.

Your 070905B (L.S.T.(2) 280 reported straggling from O.S.120). Overtook L.S.T.(I) 280 in position 044° 31' N., 011° 00' W. at 1930B. Reports temporary repairs effected and can

proceed Gibraltar. Speed 8 knots. Requested shorter route. Have instructed him to proceed through positions (W) 36° 45' N., 09° 55' W. and (X) 35° 51' N., 06° 10' W. thence Gibraltar unless otherwise ordered by B.A.M.S. Has been provided with recognition signals to 10th April. Weather 9380 1626. (HESPERUS, 071951B to C. in C. W.A.)

7.4.1945.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

SIDON, Sailed SIDON in O.S.121/K.M.S.95.
submarine. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 070634 to Admty., C. in C.
W.A., S.O. E.G. B.1, F.O.G.M.A.)

ANSON, I anticipate ANSON and DUKE OF YORK will be in
DUKE OF a fit state to sail for Mediterranean on 23rd
YORK, April. This should allow them to arrive Malta
battleships. by 30th April. A.M. 251705 March as amended by
SUSSEX, A.M. 052141 April, neither to SUSSEX, refer.
cruiser. Suggest SUSSEX sail in company.
(C. in C. H.F., 071224B to Admty.)

RENOWN, If no change in situation occurs, 10 days' leave
battle- may be granted to each watch, two-thirds of
cruiser. ship's company being sent on first leave.
Confirmatory signal will be made shortly before
arrival at Scapa. Leave to be given from
Rosyth, ship will be berthed at a buoy.

My 291249 refers.

(2) Ship's company are to be informed that this leave will be
subject to special recall and it may even be necessary to
defer either or both watches until a later date.

(3) Further signal will be made giving details of reliefs
available. Your 042259 refers.

(4) Both signals quoted are being passed to C. in C. Rosyth.
(V.C.N.S., 071328B to RENOWN.)

Shipping and Convoys

B.T.C., Convoy formations.
T.B.C. and An inspection of recent figures for certain
O.N.A. convoys passing through the Portsmouth Command
Convoys. is as follows:

(A) B.T.C. and T.B.C. Convoys in March - 14th
B.T.C. 15 ships, 16th B.T.C. 22 ships, 22nd
B.T.C. 15 ships, 22nd T.B.C. 15 ships.

(B) Outward ocean convoys - O.N.As. in March - 8th 38 ships,
13th 26 ships, 18th 35 ships, 22nd 53 ships.

(2) In view of these figures it is considered that the
formation of convoys, while on the main east/west route between
Beachy Head and Lands End should be reviewed in order to make
convoys more compact and to reduce straggling.

(3) The need for this is emphasised by the policy of U-Boats in
continuing to attack stragglers.

(4) As a result of the foregoing it is felt that the normal
formation of B.T.C., T.B.C. and outward bound ocean convoys
between Beachy Head and a point towards the longitude of Lands
End to be selected by C. in C. Plymouth should be as shown
below.

| <u>Total number of ships</u> | <u>Column</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 4 to 8 | 2 |
| 9 to 18 | 3 |
| 19 to 32 | 4 |
| 33 to 45 | 5 |
| 46 and over | 6 |

(5) Your remarks would be appreciated.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071145B to Admty.)

/Tilbury ...

7.4.1945.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Tilbury -
Ostend
service
programme.

Following is programme for Tilbury/Ostend duty service.

| (1) <u>Ship</u> | (2) <u>Embarks</u> <u>Tilbury</u> | (3) <u>Sails in</u> | (4) <u>Sails</u> <u>Ostend</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| VIENNA } VIKING } | 10th April | T.A.P.100 | 11th April |
| ULSTER MONARCH | 11th April | T.A.P. 1 | 12th April |
| MECKLENBURG } DUKE OF } YORK } | 12th April | T.A.P. 2 | 13th April |
| ST. HELIER } VIKING } | 13th April | T.A.P. 3 | 14th April |
| ULSTER MONARCH | 14th April | T.A.P. 4 | 15th April |
| VIENNA | 15th April | T.A.P. 5 | 16th April |
| MECKLENBURG | 16th April | T.A.P. 6 | 17th April |
| DUKE OF } YORK } | 17th April | T.A.P. 7 | 18th April |
| ST. HELIER } VIKING } | | | |
| (A.N.C.X.F., 071900B to Admty.) | | | |

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7.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S/M SIDON. SIDON sailed in O.S. 121/K.M.S. 95 for Gibraltar, Malta and Far East.
(Capt. (S/M) 3 070841B to F.O.G.M.A.)

ULSTER QUEEN (fighter direction ship.) Departure 1900/7th ULSTER QUEEN for Port Said.
(F.O.G.M.A. 072110A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

SS. MARIA VICTORIA incident. 617 Gib. arrival and departed 7th 1700 CASTILLO SIMANCAS Spanish Las Palmas 10th intercepted message from Spanish MARIA VICTORIA in position 33.43 N. 49.45 W. at 1200/6th reports fire in No. 3 hold. Master is jettisoning deck cargo and hopes to get fire under control.
(Gib. 072134A to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

A.F.D. 39. Admiralty Floating Dock 39, NORWICH CITY, COVENTRY CITY and tug SIR WILLIAM HOY returned owing to weather and damage to tugs towing winch.
(Com. i/c Durban 070514Z to Admty.)

Sailed A.F.D. 39 towed by tug SIR WILLIAM HOY escorted by NORWICH CITY and COVENTRY CITY.
(Cdre. i/c Durban 071421Z to Admty.)

SS. OKLAHOMA (U.S.) WGLQ sailed Aruba 1600Z/23rd March due Dakar April 1st has not yet arrived. No reply to my signal 050950 instructing her to report position.
(F.O.W.Af. 070900 to Admty.) See 081028, 091350Z.

101207Z,

7.4.1945

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

L.C.M.(I) Admiralty 061240B not to all.
for E.I. Stn. Request you sail ENNERDALE p.m. today Saturday,
7th April, to Messina.
(2) HAMILCAR is requested to load 14 L.C.M.(I)
in state of preservation and with small maintenance
party but no crews.
(3) Ship to be sailed Alexandria to complete with stores and
provisions, and for onward routing to Port Said, then as
required by C. in C. E.I.
(C. in C. Med. 071046B to HAMILCAR.)

Cositintrep Part 3 air.
No. 635. Coastal Air Force 4 Beaufighters, 3 Wellingtons,
(Extract.) 2 Spitfires continued search for midget submarines
North Adriatic. Made two attacks, results
unobserved.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 071151B to W.O.)

Situation During the night 6th April midget submarine
Report No. fired 2 torpedoes at 4 coastal craft near Arsa in
588. Adriatic. Torpedoes missed and hit shore.
Depth charge attacks were made on submarine with
unobserved result.
(C. in C. Med. 072219B to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

7.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Kilindini
(static
defences.)

Propose to dismantle the O.M. and A/S fixed defence stations at Kilindini. My 130515 Feb. refers.
(2) H.D.As. to be lifted and mine loop fired. All serviceable stores and equipment returned to U.K. or as Admiralty requires.
(C. in C. E.I. 071007Z to Admty.) See 141058Z.

Operation
"Penzance".

Operation "Penzance" completed. Force 62 arrived Akyab 5th April. One 100 foot auxiliary coaster one junk sunk Tavoy Area. New radar station on Great Cocos Is. bombarded.
(C. in C. E.I. 071103Z to Admty.)

Situation
Report No. 8.

(1) Andaman Sea. ROTHERHAM (Capt. D. 11) ROCKET, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT carried out anti-shipping sweep first to 4th April. 1 auxiliary coaster, 1 junk sunk. Bombarded Great Cocos Islands radar station.
(2) Cocos. Operation proceeding satisfactorily. 3 personnel and 1 heavy lift ship cleared. 2 personnel and 1 store ship being unloaded. 200 yards air strip cleared by 4th April. Fortress Commander has assumed command.
(3) Our submarines sank 10 native craft carrying war material in Malacca Strait and off Tenasserim coast.
(C. in C. E.I. 071204Z to S.A.C.S.E.A.)

Escorts on
E.I.S.

U-Boat threat on E.I.S. is now negligible and no increase is expected. Nevertheless escorts are fully employed shepherding troop ships on Burma coast or escorting floating docks or M.Ls. and the like on ocean passage. In May all escorts are fully committed in support of operations and should a temporary U-Boat threat then develop in S.A. waters assistance as in A.M. 012325 will not be readily forthcoming.
(C. in C. E.I.S. 071146Z to Admty.)

SS. EMPIRE
CORAL
previously
on fire.

Arrival H.M.I.S. INVESTIGATOR towing SS. EMPIRE CORAL.
H.M.I.S. MADRAS in company.
(F.O. Bombay 071927Z to Admty.)

7.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 071314Z to S. & A. north of 40°,
Cominch 071539Z.)

Asdic
contact.

Asdic contact position 118 pendant C.Y. 17 have
dropped charges.
(H.M.C.S. MAHONE 071700Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
My 071700Z. Negative result observant completed.
Resuming patrol.
(MAHONE 071745Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

MAHONE reports contact showed movement 145° sweeping out to
farthest on circle then normal to probable course working back
to datum. MAHONE continuing to patrol about datum. Your 071840
not to all refers.
(S.O.E.G. ? 072200Z.)

U/B report.

Para. C. (1) 1722/6 greenish wake course 120 repor-
ted by A/S patrol plane 41.46 N. 69.09 W.
Subsequent search by Blimp negative. All times Z.
(2) U.S.S. GUSTAFSON made six H.H. attacks on
possible U-Boat contact 42.20 N. 69.52 W. between 070622 and
071015. Explosion followed second attack. Oily smell and slick
detected later.
(Cominch 072055Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

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

No report since my 310147 (C) 1 at 1700Z/7th
April H.M.C.S. MAHONE attacked contact ? in 44.18
N. 63.18 W.
(N.S.H.Q. 072355Z to Admty., Cominch.)

Far East and Australia.

Seafires,
capabilities
of.

It is possible that the new Seafires referred to
in A.M. 292000 with their high performance may
prove a most potent weapon in defeating Japanese
aircraft which approach the Fleet. These are
likely to include high performance aircraft.

(2) Experience to date has shown that fighter sweeps over enemy
bases and airfield are most effective in reducing the scale of
attack, and thus the most serious deficiency of the present Sea-
fire is its small endurance.

(3) Admiralty is requested to provide information on the endurance
of the new types of Seafires referred to in A.M. 292000 March.

(4) A.C. 1 is requested to remark on the other characteristics
most likely to be required by Seafires operating in this theatre
in the future.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 070646Z to Admty.)

see 1411475 June

/Defences...

7.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia - Contd.

Defences of
Advanced
Bases, B.
Pacific Fleet

V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 070701Z to Admty, and 111350 from
Admiralty to C. in C. Med. and 121202.
See Lion Copy.

Digest 1172
6.4.45.
(Extract.)

(1) Planes from Clark Field fired one lugger
Sakashima Gunto. Destroyed two small coasters 90
miles east northeast Taichow. Exploded another
small coaster 70 miles S.E. by S. Shanghai.
Damaged single sea truck 60 miles S.S.E. Shanghai.
(2) Straffed damaged three small coasters, two
motor launches, six barges Tourane.

(4) Afternoon 10 Dutch Mitchells bombed one NATORI class light
cruiser with three small escorts heading N. through Soomba Strait
scoring two direct hits two near misses inflicting damage on
light cruiser.

(5) Mariners from Lingayan night 5/6th April sank one of three
sea trucks Hongkong area.

(7) 2 night Liberators dropped six tons Kiirun Harbour, 2 enemy
fighters seen airborne. Liberators shadowed convoy 4 destroyer
escorts, 1 small freighter transport, 1 large tanker off China
coast, probably damaged 1 destroyer escort, bombed Mako
(Pescadores) with 4 tons. 24 Mitchells on China coast shipping
sweep sank 2 escorts left 1 possible frigate burning Amoy area.

(9) Another Liberator pair in shipping search southern Borneo
probable damaged single large unidentified vessel with 3 smaller
vessels.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 070833 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/7th April.

Para. A. (1) M.T.Bs. 715 and 719 attacked U-Boat on
surface at 2330Z/5th in 60° 41' N. 04° 47' E.

Para. B. (1) A/C A/210 sighted possible schnorkel
smoke at 0715Z/5th in 62° 55' N. 08° 55' W.

(2) A/C A/224 attacked contact at 0910Z/6th in
59° 03' N. 05° 02' W.

(3) A/C K/86 attacked "high tea" contact at 1300Z/6th in 59° 03' N.
05° 00' W. (4) WALKER obtained radar contact at 1015Z/6th in

54° 55' N. 05° 19' W. (5) A/C S/107 attacked positive "high tea"
contact at 1330Z/5th in 50° 16' N. 09° 50' W.

(D.D.I.C. 071144B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 071348B to A.I.G. 351, Cominch.)

TOP SECRET

IN

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

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

070701Z April.

From V.A.(Q) B.P.F.

Date 7.4.45.
Recd. 2113.

*Defences of
Advanced Bases
B. Pacific Fleet*

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty.
Repeated C. in C. B.P.F.

C. in C. B.P.F. 120221 March para. 6 defences in intermediate base and advance anchorage. Preliminary views of requirements are -

2. Advanced anchorage. Sea defences can be met by the provision of following equipment and ships

(A) A/S-8 indicator loops to cover eighteen mile front.
6 H.D.A's. 16(YNQL?) to cover two mile front.
All above controlled from Helvig. Cable ship required to lay and subsequently maintain indicator loops and H.D.A. My 292344Z March refers.

(B) One. Indicator net type B1. (two asterisks) laid by GUARDIAN.
Two. Provide a further five miles of reserve for GUARDIAN ex East Indies.

(C) A/T net (double) length four miles

(D) C. in C. East Indies has been asked to sail four Bar vessels and state whether equipment in para. B (two) and C can be shipped in ETHIOPIAN. My 300644Z March refers.

(E) One Monrad requested in my 290439 March.

3. Intermediate base. If base is not shared with Americans a requirement will exist for following equipment

(A) An additional set of complete equipment as detailed in para. one except that A/S fixed defences will be controlled from shore station. Following initial action has been taken.

(1) One Monrad and one spare requested in my 290439 March.

(2) A/S fixed defences requested in my 292343 March.

- (a) Two Type 804 stations
- (b) 6 H.D.A's
- (c) Four Type 814 stations.

(B)

- (B) Boom defences consisting of four miles of A/T net (double) two miles of A/S boom and one mile of A/B boom. My 300644Z March to C. in C. E.I. info Admiralty refers.
 - (C) Provision of heavy and light ack ack batteries radar and searchlights.
 - (D) Land defences. Request information as to availability of personnel and equipment for paras C and D.
4. A.C.N.B. and N.Z.N.B. have been asked if Gate vessels can be made available for both advanced anchorage and intermediate base.
5. The provision of H.D.M.L.'s for inner A/S screen and more seaworthy A/S craft for outer screen for advanced anchorage and intermediate base is under investigation.
6. There is no requirement for controlled minefields at present.

070701Z.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L. (3)
 D.F.S.L. (2)
 2nd S.L.
 3rd S.L.
 Vice Contr.
 4th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(W)
 A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 U.W.R.
 D.C.
 D.O.D.(H)(4)
 D.O.D.(F)(2)
 Plot. (2)
 D.N.I.(4)
 D.D.I.C.(2)
 Hd. of M.(2) for action
 D.A/S.W.
 D.A.U.D.
 D.A/S.M.
 D. of L.D.
 D.T.M.
 N.A. 2. S.L.
 A.C.N.P.
 D. of M.
 Hd. of C.W.(2)

D. of D.
 D.N.C.
 D.S.D.
 D. of P.(2)
 D. of P.(Q)(3)
 D. of S.(3)
 Admiral Blake (4)
 W.D.
 D.B.D.
 D.G.D.
 D.N.O.
 D.R.E. (2)
 D.D.O.D.(C)
 D.S.V.P.(3)
 Dep. Contr.
 D. of D.
 D.N.C.
 D.A/S.M.
 D.T.M.
 D. of S.
 D.N.O.
 D.R.E.
 Hd. of S.W.R.(3)

Bath

MG

IN

HUSH-MOST SECRET

~~CANCELLED~~

War Diary.8.4.1945.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

1. Henceforth no U-Boat smaller than a German type XXIII (200 tons) or a Japanese type H.A. will be included in Admiralty U-Boat assessments.

North Sea.

2(a) E-Boats were again active. Two groups sailed from the Hook, but were again effectively shadowed by Wellingtons. One of 5 boats, was intercepted north of N.F.4 Buoy, two miles clear of the convoy route, by RUTHERFORD and M.T.Bs. 482 and 454, who in 5 minutes, despite adverse weather conditions, sank two of them without damage to themselves. 40 prisoners were recovered. The other, of 4 boats, was intercepted by SOUTHDOWN and M.T.Bs. 745 and 736, vectored on by TORRINGTON, near N.F.7 Buoy, and driven back with damage to the enemy and again none to ourselves, before they reached the channel.

(b) One mine was detonated off the Humber.

Channel.

3. Ten more Germans have been captured on the Cotentin Peninsula by the 156th Infantry, making 12 in all out of a known 18, all from Guernsey. American authorities report interrogation begun: one prisoner dead, one expected to die.

Western Approaches.

U.774 sunk
4(a) CALDER, of E.G.4, sighted a periscope some 130 miles S.W. of the Fastnets at 0942, and just 4 hours later she and BENTINCK produced oil, wreckage, "two human lungs and a pair of pants".
U.1001 sunk
(b) At 1540 FITZROY, of E.G.21, about 140 miles S. by W. of the Fastnets, gained a contact and, with BYRON, obtained explosions, diesel oil, and polished wood wreckage.

49.19 N 16.23 W

Foreign StationsEast Indies

Movements.

5. Force 63 consisting of QUEEN ELIZABETH (B.S.3), EMPEROR (C.S.5), RICHELIEU, LONDON, CUMBERLAND, KHEDIVE and 5 destroyers left Trincomalee to the eastward. IMPLACABLE and NEWFOUNDLAND left Colombo for Fremantle.

8.4.1945

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Non-assessment of midget U-Boats.

Enemy midget submarines. It has been agreed with Cominch that no U-Boat smaller than German type XXIII and Japanese type H.A. will be included in U-Boat assessments.

(A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 081327B to C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover.)

Operations.

North Sea.

E-Boat activity.

5 E-Boats approached Q.Z.S. 686. Swept channel not crossed no minelaying. One E-Boat destroyed, prisoners taken.

(RUTHERFORD 080115B to C. in C. Nore.)

At 0131 4 E-Boats approached N.F. 7 M.T.Bs. 745, 736 and SOUTHDOWN vectored and engaged close. Enemy retired under smoke, damage to enemy claimed. No damage to own force, one slight casualty in M.T.B. 745. Am trailing the enemy south. Position 340° N.F. 2 buoy 1½ mile.

(TORRINGTON 080337B to C. in C. Nore, Admty.)

E-Boat activity night 7/8th April.

(1) Two groups of 5 and 4 E-Boats left Hook about 2200 course S.W. 16 Group Wellingtons shadowed both groups, their reports being of considerable assistance to surface forces.

(2) The 5 E-Boat group was detected by RUTHERFORD (patrol 12) at 0034 north of N.F. 4 buoy. An excellent interception was made with M.T.Bs. 482 (Lieut. J.D. Dixon, D.S.C., R.N.V.R.) and 454 (Lieut. P.G.A. Irvine, R.N.V.R.) RUTHERFORD's gunfire drove enemy towards M.T.Bs. who in space of about 5 minutes in bad weather conditions (wind N.N.E. 4-5 sea 41) and at range never less than 700 yards sank two E-Boats by gunfire. 40 prisoners taken. No casualties or damage to our forces.

(3) At 0130 TORRINGTON (patrol 16) detected 4 E-Boats steering south for N.F. 7 buoy. These had previously been stopped for over 45 minutes on Bligh Bank possibly using G.S.R. to plot our patrols. TORRINGTON most successfully vectored M.T.Bs. 745 (Lieut. C.B. Mabee, R.N.V.R., S.O.) and 736, also SOUTHDOWN (patrol 14) to intercept. Considerable damage inflicted on enemy especially by M.T.Bs. who got into close range. One rating in 745 slightly wounded. No damage to our forces.

(4) RUTHERFORD's group did not get within two miles of convoy route. TORRINGTON's group were headed off 1½ miles north of N.F. 7. Mines may have been jettisoned clear of the channel.

(C. in C. Nore 081320B to Admty.)

Minesweeping off E.Coast.

Ground mine detonated at 0950 in Q.Z.S. 380 in vicinity 14 buoy.

(F.O. Humber 081027 to C. in C. Nore.)

Midget U-Boat activity

U-Boat and S.B.U. summary to 1200B/8 April.

(1) 1750/7 Beaufighter L/254 attacked midget U-Boat 51.48 N. 03.36 E. reported MOLCH.

(2) 0951/8 Beaufighter sighted midget U-Boat 51.52 N. 03.43 E. (3) Incident reported in my 032304 later considered not a midget U-Boat.

(C. in C. Nore 081657B to Admty.)

/Patrols...

8.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Patrols. Patrols for night Monday 9th April.
1 PYTCHLEY, 2 ZETLAND, 3 TALYBONT, 4 BLANKNEY,
5 KRAKOWIAK, 6 GUILLEMOT, 7 COTTESMORE, 8
HOLDERNESS.
Coastal force unit F.C. 1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2230B.
(2) 12 STAYNER with coastal forces from U.K. , 14 CHIDDINGFOLD,
16 RIOU with coastal forces from Ostend. 17 HAMBLEDON, 18
SEYMOUR, 19 RETALICK with coastal forces from Ostend. 21 EASTON,
22 CAICOS with C/F from U.K.
Coastal forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2130B.
(3) Escorts for T.A.M. 34 SHELDRAKE and HAYDON. T.A.P. 99 GARTH.
Additional escort for F.N. 85 MENDIP.
(4) Coastal forces from U.K.
Patrol 1 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 1 with PYTCHLEY.
Patrol 2 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 2 with ZETLAND.
Patrol 3 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 3 with TALYBONT.
Patrol 4 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 4 with BLANKNEY.
Patrol 5 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 5 with KRAKOWIAK.
Patrol 6 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 6 with GUILLEMOT.
Patrol 7 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 7 with COTTESMORE.
Patrol 8 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.C. 8 with HOLDERNESS.
Patrol 12 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.L. 23.
Patrol 22 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.B. 89 with CAICOS.
Patrol 51 1 M.L. Patrol 52 1 M.L.
ESTV 2922 3 M.T.Bs. unit F.B. 6.
LCZZ 1525 6 M.T.Bs. unit F.A. 1, 2, 3.
From Ostend.
ESUA 2316 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.A. 8.
ESUA 2100 2 M.T.Bs. unit F.B. 2.
ESUA 4126 5 M.Ls. unit F.G. 5.
ESUA 3312 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.H. 34.
Patrol 16 4 M.T.Bs. unit F.G. 23.
(C. in C. Nore 081717B to Nore Command.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 369 part 4 section A.
Situation Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/7
Report. April.

| <u>British</u> | <u>Personnel</u> | <u>Vehicles</u> | <u>Stores</u> | <u>Bulk Pol.</u> | <u>Bulk Coal</u> | <u>G.F. Ammo</u> |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Antwerp | 67 | 309 | 10,892 | 12,838 | 1,000 | - |
| Ostend | 1,648 | 203 | 979 | - | - | 235 |
| Boulogne | 312 | 175 | - | - | - | - |
| Caen | - | - | 240 | - | 975 | - |
| Calais | 4,340 | - | 63 | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 2,993. | - | - | 1,033 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>6,367</u> | <u>687</u> | <u>15,167</u> | <u>12,838</u> | <u>1,975</u> | <u>1,268</u> |

/U.S. North...

8.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Dis charge
 Situation
 Report.
 (Contd.)

U.S. North

| | <u>Personnel</u> | <u>Vehicles</u> | <u>Stores</u> | <u>Bulk Coal</u> | <u>Bulk Pol.</u> | <u>G.F. Ammo</u> |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Antwerp | - | 252 | 20,134 | - | - | 2,669 |
| Cherbourg | - | 227 | 2,131 | 570 | 8,512 | 970 |
| Le Havre | 8,981 | 244 | 6,720 | - | 4,108 | 1,575 |
| Rouen | - | - | 7,200 | 369 | 1,192 | 359 |
| Granville | - | - | - | 1,634 | - | - |
| Ghent | - | 11 | 10,716 | - | - | - |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>8,981</u> | <u>734</u> | <u>46,901</u> | <u>2,573</u> | <u>13,812</u> | <u>5,573</u> |

U.S. South.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|----------|--------------|
| Marseilles | 1,038 | 125 | 15,494 | 417 | - | 2,245 |
| Port de Bouc | - | - | 3,074 | - | - | - |
| Toulon | - | - | 281 | - | - | - |
| Nice | - | - | 333 | - | - | - |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>1,038</u> | <u>126*</u> | <u>19,182</u> | <u>417</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,245</u> |

(S.H.A.E.F. 081830A to Admty., and others.)

* As received.

Operations.

Channel.

U-Boat
 attack
 restrictions.

P.G.M. 24D of 24th March D.T.G. 241923B,
 instructions therein are to be followed until
 further notice within a ten mile radius of
 position 174° Nab Tower 6.5 miles.

(2) Delete reference to N.O.I.C. Newhaven in
 para. 3.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 080901B to Portsmouth Command.)

Channel Is.
 descents on
 Cherbourg
 Peninsula.

Joburg radar reported track beginning 5 miles
 West Cape Flamanville 080315 easterly course
 speed 10. Track approached shore near Dielette
 same place my 051509B not to all and faded 0430.
 Reappeared same vicinity 0445 one westerly course
 speed 12 and faded 0618 when six miles due North
 Sark Island. Force 28 given five minute plots of
 track. Unable send P.Ts. intercept target due state weather.
 156th Infantry specifically alerted for vicinity previous landing
 made night 4/5 April. 10 Germans captured one vicinity tank
 park seven vicinity Vasteville and two with radio vicinity
 previous reported landing. Total captured to date 12. One
 prisoner dead and one prisoner expected die. Interrogation begun.
 (C.T.G. 122.2 081155 to C.T.F. 122.)

8.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Channel Is.
descents on
Cherbourg
Peninsula.
(Contd.)

Cositintrep No. 369. Part 2 Naval.
Interrogation of prisoner of war captured in the vicinity of Cherbourg 7th April indicates the 3 rafts found on west coast of Cotentin Peninsula night 4/5 were used by a party of 18 which came from Guernsey for sabotage purposes. 12 prisoners have now been captured in this area.
(A.N.C.X.F. 082250B to Admty.)

Patrols.

(1) On crossing 02° 30' W. proceed to patrol area limits route E.W. to 15 miles south of this route, between 01° 15' W. and 02° 10' W.

(2) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 1584. Q.Z.X. 774 is not to be entered unless in contact.

(3) Leave patrol at 0700B/9th and proceed to Portsmouth. TOWY proceed up harbour and berth as ordered by Capt. D.I. S.O. is required to visit my office. Remainder of group anchor off St. Helens at ½ hours notice.

(4) Group will be required for duty 1700B/9th.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 081251B to TOWY, LOCH FINE, PERIM, ST. HELENA, GOODHOPE, ZANZIBAR.)

Anti-U-Boat
deep mining.

Weigh at 0140B/9th April and carry out serial G.2 part 1.

(2) On return from present duty LEITH contact WILLEMVAN DER ZAAAN in area 31.

(3) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 081502B to W. VAN DER ZAAAN, LEITH.)

Reliefs for
Fr. Frigates.

INVER, ERNE and SNOWDROP are allocated to C. in C. Portsmouth as reliefs for 3 French frigates referred to in A.M. 291932 March.

(2) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail INVER and ERNE accordingly on completion of work up.

(3) F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail SNOWDROP to Portsmouth when ready about 9th April. Cancel A.M. 212354 March.

(4) A.M. 300401 March. E.G. 9 will shortly be required to return to Western Approaches Command.

(5) Signals quoted not to all.

(D.O.D.(H) 081729B to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.Os. i/c Greenock, Tyne.)

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France.

Biscay Coast
Blockade.

HOVA pass gate at 1700B/8 and proceed by Q.Z.S. 697 through A. 48.35 N. 05.32 W. and B. 47.50 N. 05.32 W. thence to R/V patrol A of Force 27 in position 225° Les Sables d'Olonne Light 20 at 1500B/9.

(2) On HOVA joining, C.F.N.T.F. directs S.O. Force 27 to detach LA SURPRISE to return to Plymouth by reverse of route in para. 1 above.

(3) BASQUE will be returning Plymouth by reverse of route in para. 1 on night 8/9th.

(C. in C. Plymouth 080956B to HOVA, S.O. Force 27.)

L'ALCYON pass Gate at 1500B/9th and proceed by Q.Z.S. 697, thence through A. 48.35 N. 5.32 W. and B. 47.50 N. 5.32 W. to R/V patrol A off Force 27 in position of 290 Les Sables d'Olonne Light 15 at 1300B/10th April.

(2) C.F.N.T.F. directs that when L'ALCYON has joined patrol A LE FORTUNE is to detach and return to Plymouth by reverse of route in para. 1 above. HOVA thence becomes S.O. of Force 27.

(3) LA SURPRISE will be on passage to Plymouth by similar route on night 9/10th April.

(C. in C. Plymouth 081738B to L'ALCYON, Force 27.)

Sunderland aircraft on coastwise sweep from northward will R/V patrol A at about 0800B/9 in Ile de Yeu - Sables d'Olonne area.

(2) After R/V with patrol A aircraft will sweep to southward to R/V with patrol B on a line 300° from Arcachon.

(3) Aircraft will then continue sweep to southward, and when returning to northward will again contact patrols B and A at mutually arranged R/V.

(4) Request ships switch on I.F.F. code No. 1 as requisite to assist R/V by aircraft. See para. 2 of C.F.N.T.F.'s 27 E.M. 3 not to all.

(5) Aircraft callsigns W/T XXDC 24 R/T "Underhill Charlie 24".

(C. in C. Plymouth 081803B to S.O. Force 27.)

From Lorient a good source reports that German warships expected tonight with stores.

(Comar Brest 082048B to S.O. Force 27.)

Following from C.F.N.T.F. begins:

General Daat reports German P.T. boats M.34 and M.37 would sail from La Pallice to St. Nazaire on April 8th with food load.

Ships have been informed. T.O.O. 082201. Ends.

(C. in C. Plymouth 082245B to S.O. Force 27.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Anti-U-Boat
deep mining.

Operation "C.H." serial T.3 No. 67 and 8 and remainder T.2 completed.

(APOLLO 080840B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation complete. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1845.

Destroyers E.T.A. Scapa 2030.

(APOLLO 080942B to C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

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8.4.1945
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Western Approaches. - Contd.U-Boat
destroyed.

CALDER obtained asdic contact and sighted periscope in position 49.48 N. 11.51 W. BENTINCK and CALDER in contact.

U. 774 *muk*(S.O.E.G. 4 080942B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 080942. Wago 703 para. 5.

A. Asdic 1100 yards. Periscope sighted by officer and lookout after contact.

C. 3 knots taking evasive action.

E. Sharp.

F. Nil.

H. 5 depth charges and 4 H.H. attacks carried out. 2 ships holding contact. S/M appears to be at about 500 feet.

(2) Suitable weather report 5561 3143.

(S.O.E.G. 4 081243B to C. in C. W.A.)

My 081243 not to all addressees. U-Boat remained at about 400 feet taking evasive action during several attacks.

(2) After depth charge attack by BENTINCK and CALDER at 1305 large air bubbles seen and blowing noises heard. U-Boat came up to about 150 feet. At 1335 CALDER attacked with depth charges. At 1341 deep underwater explosion heard followed by 2 large explosions about 2 minutes apart. Diesel oil and wreckage began to rise. 2 human lungs, a pair of pants and much wood recovered. Consider U-Boat destroyed.

(3) Am remaining in the vicinity.

(S.O.E.G. 4 081717B to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols.

5th E.G. continue present hunt in Holyhead area.

(2) 10th E.G. proceed to Pembroke Dock to collect H.T. and necessary orders.

Amend my 071307 accordingly.

(C. in C. W.A. 081109B to S.O.E.Gs. 5, 10.)

Probable

U-Boat.

Hunting promising contact in position 49.10 N. 10.10 W.

U. 1001 *muk*

(S.O.E.G. 21 081540B to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 081540. Amplify in accordance with Wago 703.

(C. in C. W.A. 081904B to S.O.E.G. 21.)

My 081540B. FITZROY gained contact 900 yards definite doppler and movement of 3 knots. H.H. attacks FITZROY and BYRON obtained explosions at 360 feet depth of water 460 feet which produced large quantity diesel oil and several pieces of laminated polished wood. Contact now stationary endeavouring to produce further evidence of destruction of German U-Boat. Amended position 49.12 N. 10.15 W. by M/F D/F fix.

(S.O.E.G. 21 081916B to C. in C. W.A.)

My 081916B further attacks have produced large volume diesel oil and small wooden wreckage. Still in firm contact good echo sounder trace obtained. Intend holding contact throughout night resume attacks at daylight in an endeavour to produce final evidence of destruction.

(S.O.E.G. 21 082221B to C. in C. W.A.)

/U-Boat...

8.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

U-Boat
attack
restrictions.

No submarine, unless it commits a hostile act, is to be attacked by a merchant ship 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.

(C. in C. W.A. 082258Z to Ships and Stragglers of H.X. 347.)

Note: The repetition of this signal to later convoys will not be included in the Diary.

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols.

Intend sailing VARNE 2100B/10th April through
A. 090° Muckle Flugga 10.
B. 61. 04 N. 00.01 E. C. 61.04 N. 02.00 E.
D. 60.38 N. 02.58 E. E. 59.08 N. 04.10 E.

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 Fjord where limit is 05° 37' E.

(2) Diving by day east of 01° E. speed 8 knots west of 01° E. then 95 miles per 24 hours.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 081738B to F.O. S/M, C. in C. Rosyth.)

Submarine positions at 0800/9th April and movements for subsequent 24 hours. Times B.

(1) VIKING, TAPIR and UTSIRA as in my 061927.

(2) TURPIN position 61° 24' N. 01° 20' E. to Lerwick routed as in my 061927.

(3) TOTEM position 61° 04' N. 02° 00' E. to patrol Norwegian coast between 59° 55' N. and 60° 25' N.

(4) SEA ROVER, escorted GUELPH 12 miles south of Skerryvore to 58° 00' N. 10° 01' W. then west 10 knots.

(C. of W. 081947B to A.I.G. 25.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W.66. (1) Request R.F.A. BLACK RANGER may be sailed from Greenock in convoy J.W. 66 and that following be embarked. Approx. 500 tons diesel oil, remainder furnace oil, 200 galls. S.M.L.O. 120 galls. Ice, 80 galls. A.C.

(2) Also request A. equipment for fuelling submarine chasers at sea be supplied as necessary to complete outfit, B. arrangements be made to lend one signalman and one telegraphist and to provide Outcon and Incon tables.

(C. in C. H.F. 081019B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/Regret...

8.4.1945
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern WatersConvoy
J.W.66
(Contd.)

Regret no British escort can be detached to escort Norwegian ships to Kirkenes as their full strength will be required to take main convoy into Kola and if circumstances at time justify it sending a detachment with White Sea portion.

(2) If Norwegians can provide 3 or 4 escorts from their own resources there would be considerable advantage in detaching these 2 Norwegian ships. If German U-boats adopt their usual tactics of packing the entrance to Kola, ships detached about position M.T. for Kirkenes should encounter little opposition.

(3) Request full information of swept channels in Kirkenes area for information of Norwegian merchant ships before sailing. Your O62041 refers.

(C. in C.H.F. 081245B to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Suspected
U-boat

In area between 61° and 64° N. and 03° E. and 11° W. about a dozen German U-boats.
(F.O. S/M 082202B to S/Ms north of 51° N.)

Casualties and Defects.SS. JAMES
W. NESMITH

Arrived H.M.C.S. BELLEVILLE with JAMES W. NESMITH ex H.X. 346 in tow.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 080231B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)
American JAMES W. NESMITH anchored outer anchorage Holyhead drawing 37 ft. aft 15 ft. forward.

Stern awash. Engine room No. 5 hold and tiller flat flooded. Repairs beyond facilities of this port. Expert advice required regarding feasibility of towing vessel to nearest repair port. Vessel has only one anchor. No services available. Cargo tobacco and fighter planes on deck. In view of exposed anchorage consider early expert decision necessary especially of possibility of No. 4 bulkhead giving way.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 080755B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

SS. LECHISTAN anchored in Holyhead Nel Harbour. Ship is not in danger of sinking. Master requests ship be lightened before being towed elsewhere. Ship was torpedoed aft. Suspect it was a Gnat. Boiler room engine room No. 4 and 5 hold flooded. Ship draws approx. 36 feet aft. There were no casualties. Intend standing by her until further orders.

(BELLEVILLE 080405B to C. in C. W.A.)

BELLEVILLE's 080405B April. Name of vessel should read JAMES W. NESMITH, U.S.A. 7176 tons and not SS. LECHISTAN.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 080931B to C. in C.W.A.)

SS. MARIANE
II

My O60815B Salvage Officer reports MARIANE II refloated 0700 hours today. Now berthed at Great Yarmouth for hull survey and reloading of cargo discharged to lighten.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 081615B to C. in C. Nore.)

War Diary

8.4.1945
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

DIADEM
cruiser.

Sailed C.8. 10 in DIADEM in accordance with my
O71504B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 081258B to C. in C.H.F.)

ARIADNE,
fast mine-
layer.

Your 080948B. Arrived ARIADNE.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 081737B to C. in C.
Plymouth.)

Shipping and Convoys

B.T.C.
T.B.C. and
O.N.A.
convoys.

Re C. in C. Portsmouth's 071145B. To organize
a convoy to which an unknown number of joiners
may be attached at short notice and which have
not been briefed so that they can form into 3 or
5 columns and vice versa is not practicable.
Escorts would be diverted from their proper work
endeavouring to lessen the muddle sure to be
created. Recommend, one, tow, four or eight
columns only.
(Com. Southend 081143B to Admtty.)

War Diary8.4.1945.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

L.S.T.(1) 280 Position 042° 44' N. 011° 30' W. at 0200A 8th
Heavy weather. April. Course, speed 9.5 knots wind gale force.
Ship unable to heave to. Request vessel stand
by me immediately.
(L.S.T.(1) 280, 080430A).

Detach forthwith one escort to stand by L.S.T.(1) 280
position 042° 44' N. 011° 30' W. course 200° speed 9.5 knots at
0200A April 8.

(2) L.S.T.(1) 280 reports unable to heave to in gale and requires
vessel to stand by her immediately.

(3) Report name of escort detached.

(F.O.G.M.A., 080729A to S.E.C.K.M.S.94).

Your 080729A. JONQUIL detached in position PGUS 1356
(undecypherable) at 0925.

(Wellington, 080932A to F.O.G.M.A.).

Reference my 080430A. Present position 041° 49' N. 012°
22' W. course 200° speed 9 knots.

(L.S.T.(1)280, 081013 to F.O.G.M.A.).

Your 080729A. Position at 1200A 8th, 041° 23' N. 012° 28'
W. course 180° speed adjusted 9 knots.

Weather moderated, wind north-north-east, force 6, sea confused,
moderate swell.

Can make Gib. by devious routes depending on direction of wind
and sea but in case of weather deteriorating and in view of my
080430 (N.T.in W.D.) would like escort to stand by.

(L.S.T.(1) 280, 081301A to F.O.G.M.A.).

M/S. Flotillas The following vessels have left U.K. for
for E.I. Gibraltar and onward routeing to C. in C.E.I.
and B.P.F. or C. in C.B.P.F.

(a) 6th M/S. Flot. 1st Division comprising
FRIENDSHIP (S.O.), POSTILLION, PELORUS, MELITA
left Milford Haven escorting S.S. STAFFORDSHIRE on 7th April
F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 071601 not to all refers.

(b) 6th M/S Flot. 2nd Division comprising GOZO (2nd S.O.) LENNOX,
LIGHTFOOT, PERSIAN and Danlayers IMERSAY and LINGAY with 7 B.Y.M.S.
of the 180th M.S.F. sailed in company with M.F.V.Nos. 1551, 1559,
1116, 1115, 1136, 1121, 1169, 1124, 1042, 1009 from Falmouth
on 6th April F.O.I.C. Falmouth 062020 not to all refers.

(2) 6th M/S. Flotilla. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to reform
flotilla for onward routeing. Ships are required in Ceylon not
later than mid May and passage should be expedited.

(3) 180th M/S. Flotilla is allocated to B.P.F. and passage to
Aden should be expedited. A.M. 151935/November to C. in C.
E.F. and A.C.N.B. only refers.

(4) M.F.Vs. should be onward routed to Bombay.
(D.O.D.(F), 081842B to F.O.G.M.A., and 131552A).

8.4.1945
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic

SHAH Sailed SHAH to Kilindini through: (route etc.)
 (General (2) S. of A. 15 knots.
 Purpose (3) E.T.A. Kilindini 0700Z/13th April.
 Carrier) (Com. Durban, 080644Z to Admiralty.)

SS. Your 071307B April. No further information.
 OKLAHOMA My 070900Z April refers.
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 081028Z to Admty.)

Future of The proposal in my 271206 Feb. to dispose of the
 the converted trawlers and whalers of the South Atlantic
 trawlers of Escort Force, was based on the assumption that
 the South a small force would be maintained at Durban,
 Atlantic and that re-inforcement could be obtained as in
 Escort the past from East Indies Station in case of need.
 Force. (2) By para. 3 of A.M. 051607 April, the
 provision of Frigates has not been approved, and
 further by C. in C. East Indies, 071146 it is
 apparent that the provision of re-inforcements to

the South Atlantic Station will be difficult.
 (3) If all R.N. trawlers are withdrawn now, the 8 S.A.N.F.
 whalers at present under R.N. operational control (4 of which
 are temporarily working from Kilindini as East Indies Escorts)
 will be required for local defence under the orders of Director
 S.A.N.F.

(4) It is, therefore, proposed that the withdrawal of R.N.
 trawlers and whalers mentioned in my 211236 March, not to
 C. in C. East Indies should be temporarily deferred.
 (C. in C. S.A., 081236B to Admty.) (Approved 102235B.)

Expected Admiralty message 081003 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all.
 U-boat Air searches being flown to 05° N. 20° W. today
 search. Sunday only ship of which I have trace that could
 S.O.S. have been torpedoed in this area, ROBERT F.
 received - STOCKTON bound Takoradi to Trinidad linked with
 ASTCKEF - non-arrival of OKLAHOMA suggests possibility of
 Torpedoed south-bound U-boat in approx. 14° N. 33° W. night
 by German of 29th - 30th and 5° N. 26° W. night of 3rd -
 submarine 4th.
 (F.O.W.Af., 081318Z to Admty.) And 091317B from
 Admty. and 091157 from Admty. (See America and
 West Indies.)

Independent Independent sailings between Freetown and Takoradi
 sailings. are to be suspended forthwith. Intend sailing
 (Suspension KILCHRENAN (S.O.) KILHAM KILDARY a.m. 9th.
 of). Route "Pike" 14 knots to arrive Takoradi daylight
 12th to form escort for T.S. Convoy to be sailed
 by N.O.I.C. Takoradi p.m. 12th or a.m. 13th as
 convenient. N.O.I.C. Lagos to report ships for
 inclusion. Ships at sea and at surf Ports are not to be recalled.
 Trawler group B should be prepared for screening to Westward.
 Further signal will be made.
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 081852Z to N.O.I.C. Lagos.) See 121040.

8.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Movement
of troops
(Bizerta
to Beirut).

Such a movement cannot be approved, your 080108 (N.T. in W.D.) refers until A.F.H.Q. have details of troops concerned and have concurred. (2) In view of inevitable delay to MONTCALM's refit that this would entail I would be most reluctant to allow her to be employed as requested.
(C. in C. Med., 081140B to F.O.W.M.)
See 091222B and 110220B.

Situation
Report
No. 589.

Gulf of Genoa. Allied destroyers have again carried out successful bombardments in support of 5th Army and near Franco/Italian frontier. On night 4th April, coastal craft fired 4 torpedoes into San Remo harbour.
(C. in C. Med., 081915B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Soviet,
Relations
with.

(A.C.C. Bulgaria Air Section, 082100B to M.A.A.F.)
See Lion Copy.

TOP SECRET

IN

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

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

*Soviet
Relations with*

082100B/April

From A.C.C. Bulgaria Air Section

Date 9.4.45
Recd. 1650

ONE TIME PAD CIPHER.

Addressed M.A.A.F.
Info. Air Ministry B.A.F.

IMPORTANT

309202 A 364 cipher 8 Apr.

Personal for Air Marshal Garrod from Burt-Andrews.

You will no doubt have been informed of recent developments here and of increasing unpleasant Soviet attitude towards us and Americans which has formed subject of several telegrams from General Oxley to W.O. I consider however that following summary of purely Air matters may be of interest to you.

2. (A) Russians have withheld for an unusual length of time clearance for our latest courier aircraft.

(B) By imposing following ridiculous restrictions on visits to Viazhdnina airfield of our expeditor ground crews Russians have excluded any British eyes from airfield for next four days and in addition ground crews last visit to airfield on April 6th was limited by Russian order to hours between 1215 and 1600.

(C) On Apr. 6th our expeditor pilot noticed unusual number petrol bowsers on airfield.

(D) A reliable source by Balkan standards states that Russians have presented some 350 (~~repeat 350~~) aircraft to Bulgarian Air Force. Simultaneously a completely independent source gives identical report of aircraft 200 (200) Yaks 100 (100) Stormoviks and about 100 (100) Pealtkovs. Source adds that these aircraft are at present dispersed throughout Bulgaria but named Plovdiv Gorna-Drechevitsa and Telish airfields.

(E) Same source who is believed reliable reports that Bulgarian AA defences have been strengthened recently but are still weak by German standards. He adds that Senior Russian AA Officer has arrived here and on Apr. 7th asked Bulgarians for old place of Sofia defences.

(F) Unconfirmed report states that Russians have established an air H.Q. at "Siara Zacota". In my opinion while (D) (E) and (F) may eventually prove to be typical might be rumour resulting from recent change in Russian Turkish relations

/(A)

(A) and (B) seem fair indication of Russian anxiety to hide something on airfield. I am making periodical field glass reconnaissance of airfield but have so far detected no (~~repeat no~~) unusual activity. It may well be therefore that Russians are imposing security black out on patrols of VVIP at airfield and if this deduction is correct it may not be unconnected with (D) (E) and (F).

082100B

The Air Ministry have given permission for a War Office and Admiralty distribution.

Received in War Registry at 120025.
Circulated by War Office to War Office Depts. and Admiralty Air Ministry Foreign Office and Defence Office.

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

MEG.

IN

HUSH-MOSTLED

CANCELLED

8.4.1945
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Movements. Arrived H.M.S. LARGS, H.M.S. HATTAN, H.M.S. ARBITER, H.M.S. LOSSIE.
Departed QUEEN ELIZABETH wearing flag of B.S.
3 EMPEROR wearing flag of C.S.5, F.S. RICHELIEU,
LONDON, CUMBERLAND, KHEDIVE, Capt. (D) 26 in SAUMAREZ, VENUS,
VIRAGO, VIGILANT, VERULAM.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 081651Z to Admty.)

For Operation "Simpit" starts off Sumatra 11-16-45

132

War Diary.8.4.1945.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

H.M.C.S. CAPE BRETON (frigate). Left tanker CORNELL and ESSO LITTLEROCK 2325Z/7th in position 040° 00' N., 065° 34' W. my position 0015Z/8th 039° 56' N., 065° 31' W. course 172°, S. of A. 12.2 (corrupt group) 15 knots, E.T.A. Bermuda 1700Z/9th. (H.M.C.S. CAPE BRETON, 080125Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Radar contact. Aircraft report disappearing radar contact about 2330/7th in 40.27 N., 60.16 W., sonobuoy contact suspicious, no attack made. (C. in C. C.N.A., 080238Z to All ships in Area D.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 081320Z, Cominch, 081500Z.)

U/B contact. Have contact suspect submarine in position 42.32 N., 67.50 W., have fired 3 patterns, have 2 remaining. H.M.C.S. CHILLIWACK is detaching U.S.S. BRUNSWICK to assist. Weather 9080 4551. (H.M.C.S. GRANDMERE, 081440Z to C. in C. C.N.A.) Amended by 082159Z.

Have lost contact. Am carrying out "Observant" and have one pattern left. My 081440 correct position to read 44° 32' N., 67° 50' W. (H.M.C.S. GRANDMERE, 081630Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
Have regained contact, have fired last pattern. (H.M.C.S. GRANDMERE, 081645Z to C. in C. W.A.)
E.T.A. Boston Light Vessel 0900Z/9th. P.C.S. 2300Z/8th 42.32 N., 68.30 W., 263°, 12 knots. Request 45 depth charges and 16 carriers and fresh provisions. (H.M.C.S. GRANDMERE, 082325Z to P.D. Boston, C.E.S.F.)

U/B situation. Escort. Concur generally with your 061356 being passed to S.B.N.O.W.At. It is intended however to sail escort vessels independently between Bermuda and Canadian and Newfoundland ports as no convoys use this route and delays in ships proceeding to or from work-up are undesirable. Request S.B.N.O.W.At. conform. (N.S.H.Q., 081518Z to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. (C) A/C (?M/F) radar and H.T. contact about 2330Z/7th March in 40.27 N., 60.16 W. (N.S.H.Q., 081759Z to Admty.)

/ U/B ...

8.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B report. Para. (C) (1) Commencing 1440/08 H.M.C.S. GRANDMERE made 3 attacks on contact 42.32 N., 67.50 W. All times Z.
(2) 1700/7 H.M.C.S. MAHONE attacked sound contact 44.18 N., 63.18 W.
(3) About 2330/7 A/C had radar and sonobuoy contacts 40.27 N., 60.16 W.
(Cominch, 081940 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Far East and Australia

Task Force 57 operations. Began 6th April with operational report number 4.
(1) Third series of strikes by Task Force 57 (Bombing and strafing of airfields on Ishigaki and Miyako). One Francis shot down.
(2) Fleet snooped during forenoon and attacked p.m. by about 4 suiciders, 2 splashed by fighters, one other shared by ships guns and fighters. One suicider near missed ILLUSTRIOUS, crashed in sea after wing tip hit island. No damage no casualties.
(3) 7th April. Ishigaki runways bombed. At Miyako about 20 aircraft seen, some believed damaged. Destroyed 3 on ground. All Miyako runways heavily bombed p.m. and believed unserviceable. Heavy cloud over island both days.
(4) Total enemy losses - airborne 5, on ground 3.
(5) Own losses - in combat 2, by other causes 12.
(6) Task Force 57 replenishing in service area 8/9 April. Expects to reach combat area dawn 10th. Strikes 10th/11th.
(7) From Vice-Admiral Rawlings "The Nips do not seem to be trying very hard down our end".
(8) Task Force 57 has now been continuously at sea for 16 days and C.T.U. 112.2.5 in the Sapp* for 22 days.
(C. in C. B.P.F., 080222 to Admty.) * As recd.

Digest No.1173, 7th April. Message begins: Digest Serial Number 1173 follows covering 7th April unless otherwise stated.
(1) During early hours patrol Liberator sighted 15 ship convoy approaching Swatow from south-west. 4 Liberators bombed this convoy before dawn sinking 1 destroyer, 1 large transport, damaging minimum 1 more destroyer, also causing violent explosion on unidentified vessel.
(6) Search Liberator attacked 5 small ships, 1 barge Yulin Harvos on south coast Hainan late forenoon without observed effect.
(9) Mitchell attack on NATORI class (light?) cruiser force Soemba Strait 6th April (reported in Digest 1172, para. 4) was followed almost immediately by 9 R.A.A.F. Liberators which dropped 83 quarter tonners from 12,000 feet scoring 1 possible

/hit ...

8.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia

Digest
No.1173,
7th April.
(Contd.)

hit on cruiser, 1 Liberator lost to A/A. Early daylight 7th April 2 United States submarines attacked the light cruiser with 2 escorts leaving Bima Bay on north coast Soembawg Island claiming hits.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 081059Z to Admty.)

Sighting
report.

From C.O.I.S. U.S. aircraft report sighting one light cruiser, four destroyers in 31° 12' N., 128° 10' E., course north, slow speed at 2015 April 7th.
(B.A.D., 081637 to Admty., D.N.I.)

Pacific
Command.
Directive
etc.

(J.S.M. Washington, 081945Z to A.M.S.S.O.)
See Lion Copy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 1000Z/8th April.
Para. (A) (1) A/C C/206 sighted U-Boat course 280° at 0152Z/8th April in 57° 08' N., 11° 51' E.
(2) CALDER had contacted and sighted periscope at 0742Z/8th in 49° 48' N., 11° 51' W.
(3) JAMES W. NESMITH torpedoed but believed

salvable at approx. 1530Z/7th in 53° 24' N., 04° 48' W.
Para. (B) (1) A/C F/547 saw possible snort. or periscope and smoke at 1750Z/7th in 62° 59' N., 05° 24' W.
(2) A/C K/333 saw U-Boat course 090° at 0747Z/7th in 61° 08' N., 05° 58' E.
(3) BELWOODS PARK had net struck by object probably torpedo at 1540Z/1st in 53° 43' N., 04° 53' W.
(4) H.M.C. Ships RUNNYMEDE and STRATHADAM attacked contact at 1857Z/7th in 53° 25' N., 04° 53' W.
(5) Polish destroyer GARLAND heard 3 underwater explosions at 1329Z, 1343Z and 1425Z/7th in approx. 58° 47' N., 03° 50' W. Probably torpedoes.
Para. (C) (1) A/C B/224 saw possible smoke at 1047Z/7th in 58° 16' N., 02° 28' W.
(2) A/C C/206 attacked vessel possibly U-Boat at approx. 0130Z/8th in 56° 55' N., 11° 40' E.
(3) LUNDY attacked stationary contact at 1055Z/7th in 50° 13' N., 04° 47' W.
(4) A/C A/110 saw oil slick and had possible contact at 1630Z/7th in 50° 05' N., 04° 38' W.
(5) A/C C/423 attacked moving oil and snort. course 090° at 1200Z/7th in 55° 40' N., 07° 13' W.

/ (6) ...

F. E. & A.
134A

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.)

*Pacific
Command Directive*

081945Z April

From J.S.M. Washington

Date 8.4.45.
Recd. 2125Z.

CYPHER BY T/K.

Addressed A.M.S.S.O.

IMPORTANT

IZ 3505 JSM 669 8th April, 1945. 134A

Reference J.S.M. 665.

We have now received copy of Command Directive issued by United States Chiefs of Staff to CINCSWPA, ^{et al.} CINCAFPAC, CINCPAC, CINCPAC and C.G. Twentieth Air Force. Text is as follows:-
Begins. x

1. The following Command Directive by the Joint Chiefs of Staff is issued for the guidance of Commanders in the Pacific theater. Conflicting provisions of existing Directives to CINCPAC and CINCSWPA are modified accordingly.

2. The over-all objective in the war against Japan, to be brought about at the earliest practicable date, is:

To force the unconditional surrender of Japan by:

A. Lowering Japanese ability and will to resist by establishing sea and air blockades, conducting intensive air bombardments, and destroying Japanese air and naval strength.

B. Invading and seizing objectives in the industrial heart of Japan.

3. A. The Supreme Commander, Southwest Pacific Area, is hereby also designated Commander in Chief, U.S. Army Forces, Pacific (CINCAFPAC) and, subject to the provisions of paragraphs 6 and 7 below, all United States Army resources in the Pacific Theater (Less Southeast Pacific Area and resources under command of the Commanding General, Alaskan Department) are placed under his command. CINCAFPAC will be responsible for the provision of Army resources to meet the requirements for operations in the Pacific directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

B

TOP SECRET

IN

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

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

-2-

- B. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 6 and 7 below, all U.S. Naval resources in the Pacific Theater (Less Southeast Pacific area) are placed under the command of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas in his capacity as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. CINCPAC will be responsible for the provision of Naval resources to meet the requirements for operations in the Pacific directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- C. The Twentieth Air Force for the present will continue operations to support the accomplishments of the over-all objective under the direct control of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
4. The Joint Chiefs of Staff will exercise strategic jurisdiction over the Pacific Theater. They will issue operational Directives to the Commanders in Chief assigning missions and fixing command responsibility for specific Major Operations and Campaigns. The Commander in Chief of the Service who is not invested with the Command responsibility for an Operation will render every possible assistance to the Commander in Chief of the Service who is invested with such primary responsibility, co-operating, each with the other, in order to accomplish the over-all objective. The Joint Chiefs of Staff will normally charge CINCPAC with the responsibility for conducting Land Campaigns and CINCPAC with conducting Sea Campaigns. The Chief of Staff, United States Army, will act as executive agency for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in all matters pertaining to United States Army Forces. The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, will act as executive agency for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in all matters pertaining to United States Naval Forces.
5. The transition from the present organization to that prescribed in this Directive will be accomplished as expeditiously as possible with the objective of CINCPAC and CINCPAC each having under his own control (subject to agreements and arrangements made under provisions of paragraphs 6 and 7 below) all resources of his own Service.
6. Until passed to other Command by mutual agreement or by direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the localities under command of CINCSWPA and the Naval Forces allocated to him will remain under his Command and similarly, the Areas under Command in CINCPAC and the Army Forces allocated to him will remain under his Command. Changes in Command of Forces or Localities and changes made in existing Joint Logistical Procedures will be effected by progressive re-arrangements made by mutual agreement, or as may be directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

7. CINCPAC and CINCAFPAC are each authorized to establish Joint Forces or designate Commanders to exercise unified Command for the conduct of Operations for which they have been made responsible, and may also do so by mutual agreement. They will also determine by mutual agreement when Forces or Localities revert or pass to the appropriate Commander following Operations.

Ends.

081945Z.

Recd. in War Reg. p.m./9

Circulation:

Defence Office
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord
C.6. Tels.
A.M.C.S. (C)
Minister of Information.

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1st S.L. (3)
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V.C.N.S.
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A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
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D.C.O.D. (4)
Hd. of M. (2)
W.D.
Admiral Blake.
A.D.O.D. (X)
D. of L.D.

MG

IN

HUSH-SECRET

~~CANCELLED~~

8.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

(6) A/C S/202 attacked oil patches at 1555Z/7th
in 55° 48' N., 07° 50' W.
Para. (D) (1) SHIPPIGAN attacked doubtful
contact at 1205Z/7th in 50° 04' N., 04° 06' W.
(D.D.I.C., 081234B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 081410B.)

9.4.1945
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea

1.(a) Y.17, small American tanker, was probably mined but possibly torpedoed by midget U-boat, 20 miles W.N.W. of Ostend in convoy T.A.C.90, caught fire, and blew up with the loss of all hands.

(b) The steamships SAMIDA and SOLOMON JUNEAU were torpedoed, probably by midget U-boats, 9 miles N.E. of Dungeness, in convoy T.B.C.123. SAMIDA sank, SOLOMON JUNEAU is still afloat. KINGCUP, in company, failed to make any submarine contacts.

(c) Two aircraft attacked a midget U-boat p.m. today north of Schouwen (Hook of Holland). Hits were seen.

Western Approaches

U.1001 sunk

2. E.G.21 have brought up further wreckage from FITZROY's U-boat, including German field dressings and newspapers, and this boat is considered as definitely destroyed.

Northern Waters

3. BRITTANY is to lay 50 miles length of anti-schnorkel obstructor 120 miles west of the Shetlands.

Mosquito aircraft attacked U-boats in the Kattegat (page 173)

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Movement

4. RENOWN arrived at Gibraltar and sailed next day for Scapa.

Adriatic

5. M.T.Bs. fought 2 separate actions tonight. In the 1st 3 craft made 3 attacks on an F-Lighter convoy without sustaining casualties or damage in the Gulf of Trieste.

In the second in Gulf of Quarnero 4 craft fought a fierce action with 4 F-Lighters, 2 of our craft were put out of action by direct hits. One of our M.T.Bs. was badly damaged and towed to Ancona. 4 killed and 13 wounded. (111949B)

Italy East Coast

6. A serious explosion took place in Bari Harbour at 1155 today while SS. ^{CHARLES} HENDERSON was discharging ammunition - (later blew up and sank). Navy House badly damaged, Naval Barracks and workshops almost entirely destroyed. 4 ships were damaged. There were a number of naval, military and civilian casualties.

9.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

ST. MIHIEL,
NASHBULK,
(collision.)

7. SS. ST. MIHIEL (Am. tanker 10,400 tons) and SS. NASHBULK (Am. tanker 14,000 tons) of convoy C.U. 65 were reported in collision at 1953Q in position 37° 34' N. 64° 40' W. 340' N. by E. of Bermuda. The ST. MIHIEL was burning furiously and abandoned. The NASHBULK was partially abandoned with damage to bow, 63 survivors were picked up. (100045.)

Far East and Australia.

China.

8.(a) In the early hours of this morning 4 Liberators dropped 2 tons of bombs on small shipping in Hongkong Harbour. Victoria Docks Hongkong were bombed by Liberator later in the day. 3 Liberators bombed Canton Docks.

(b) Last night aircraft sank transport of 1,000 tons south of Tainan, Formosa.

(c) 2 tons of bombs were also dropped on Mako oil storage (Pescadores.) (101015Z.)

Philippines

(d) Two more unopposed landings were made today by U.S. troops with air naval support on Holo Island in the Sulu Archipelago and on Busuanga S.W. of Mindoro Island.

War Diary

9.4.1945
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Loss of Tanker Y.17. 1 ship mined or torpedoed 51 degs. 22' N. 02 degs. 30' E.
(CAICOS, 090531 to C. in C. Nore)
My 0531. Ship is on fire.
(CAICOS, 090540 to C. in C. Nore)
Unknown ship, probably Tanker, exploded and burnt out approx. 1 mile east N.F.5. RAJPUTANA carrying out search. Am proceeding with convoy.
(CALDY, 090605B to C. in C. Nore.)
Report situation. Is Tug or Salvage required.
(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 090605 to CAICOS)
Your 090605. Vessel blown up. No survivors observed.
(CAICOS, 090630B to N.O.I.C.Ostend)
My 090605. Ship was Y.17 possibly mined.
(CALDY, 090648B to C. in C. Nore)
My 0531. Position of wreck 030 degs. N.F. 5 buoy 8 cable still burning rudder and screw visible. No survivors. Have laid Dan 2½ cable south of wreck. Have attacked 3 doubtful contact with depth charges and am continuing search.
(CAICOS, 090729 to C. in C. Nore)
Tanker Y.17 in Convoy T.A.C. 90 mined or torpedoed approx. 298 degs. Ostend 20 miles. Vessel caught fire and blew up. No survivors.
(2) Force T landed raiding party in 1 L.C.A. at 2300/7 on South Coast of Duiveland. Party directed fire from our guns during 8th on 7 targets. Good results. No casualties. Party withdrew at 0100/9th.
(A.N.C.X.F. 092345B to Admty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.370 Part 4 Section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 081600 April.

| | <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 | 311 | 127 | 12,126 | 2,035 | 5,920 | - |
| Ostend | 1,589 | 182 | 2,625 | - | - | 1,479 |
| Boulogne | 3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Caen | - | - | 85 | 388 | - | - |
| Calais | 3,972 | - | 501 | - | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 1,529 | - | - | 335 |
| Totals: | 5,875 | 309 | 16,866 | 2,423 | 5,920 | 1,814 |
| <u>U.S. North</u> | | | | | | |
| Antwerp | - | 241 | 21,180 | - | - | 2,261 |
| Cherbourg | - | 180 | 3,115 | 1,170 | 2,723 | 1,603 |
| Le Havre | 5,156 | 315 | 7,398 | - | 5,434 | 1,800 |
| Rouen | 372 | - | 5,689 | 521 | 623 | 104 |
| Granville | - | - | - | 509 | - | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 11,137 | - | - | - |
| Totals: | 5,528 | 736 | 48,519 | 2,200 | 8,780 | 5,768 |
| <u>U.S. South</u> | | | | | | |
| Marseilles | 870 | 429 | 12,826 | 294 | - | 1,149 |
| Port De Bouc | - | - | 1,667 | - | - | - |
| Toulon | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nice | - | - | 90 | - | - | - |
| Totals: | 870 | 429 | 14,538 * | 294 | - | 1,149 |

* Sic. (S.H.A.E.F.091730 to Admty etc.)

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War Diary9.4.1945
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.Rhine
Flotilla
project
dropped.

Owing to indefinite delay in opening Waterways giving access to Rhine, 21 A.G. have agreed to abandon Rhine Flotilla project. Request instructions for disposal of Flotilla and Base Maintenance Staff. Intend to retain Commander Bradford with small staff as he is urgently required for temporary appointment with Amphibious Forces. (A.N.C.X.F. 091731B to Admty.)

Patrols.

Patrols for Night Tuesday 10th April.
1 PYTHCLEY, 2 ZETLAND, 3 TALYBONT, 4 WILTON,
5 MENDIP, 6 MALLARD, 7 FERNIE, 8 EGLINTON,
Coastal Force Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V patrols at

2230B.

(2) 12 RETALICK with coastal forces from U.K.
14 CHIDDINGFOLD, 16 CUBITT with coastal forces from Ostend.
17 QUANTOCK, 18 LAMERTON, 19 RUTHERFORD with coastal forces from
Ostend, 21 ALBRIGHTON, 22 STAYNER with C/F from U.K.
Coastal force units from Ostend R/V frigates at 2130B.

(3) Escorts for T.A.M. 35 TANATSIDE and GUILLEMOT, T.A.P.100
MIDDLETON.

Coastal forces from U.K.

Patrol 1 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.1 with PYTCHLEY.
Patrol 2 2 M.T.B. unit F.C.2 with ZETLAND.
Patrol 3 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.3 with TALYBONT.
Patrol 4 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.4 with WILTON.
Patrol 5 M.T.B. Unit F.C.5 with MENDIP.
Patrol 6 M.T.B. Unit F.C.6 with MALLARD.
Patrol 7 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.7 with FERNIE.
Patrol 8 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.8 with EGLINTON.
Patrol 12 4 M.T.B. Unit F.L.2, F.L.3.
Patrol 22 4 M.T.B. Unit F.B.8, F.B.9.
E.S.T.V. 2922 3 M.T.B. Unit F.B.
N.Y.Z.Z.5035 6 M.T.B. Unit F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3.
Patrol 51 1 M.L. Patrol 52 1 M.L.

From Ostend.

E.S.U.A. 2316 2 M.T.B. Unit F.A.8.
E.S.U.A. 2100 2 M.T.B. Unit F.B.2.
E.S.U.A. 4126 M.Ls Unit F.G.5.
E.S.U.A. 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, 091810B to Nore Command)

Loss of
SS.SAMIDA,
and SS.SOLO-
MON JUNEAU.

SSSS. Torpedoed.
(SOLOMON JUNEAU, 091932Z to General)
One Merchant ship presumed torpedoed near Inner
Lade Buoy.
(KINGCUP, 092130B to V.A. Dover)
Two ships torpedoed on attacking doubtful contact.
(KINGCUP, 092147B to V.A. Dover)

4 Under water explosions about 15 minutes after torpedoing
suspect Gnats both ships still floating. Request tugs.
(KINGCUP, 092152B to C. in C. Nore)

My 2130B. Non-S/M.

(KINGCUP, 092204B to C. in C. Nore)

/No ...

War Diary9.4.1945
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Loss of SS. SAMIDA, and SS. SOLO-MON JUNEAU. (Contd.) No further contact am carrying out observant. (KINGCUP, 092210B to V.A. Dover) Both ships floating request instructions. (KINGCUP, 092237B to V.A. Dover) Your 2245. SAMIDA and SOLOMON JUNEAU. (KINGCUP, 092310B to V.A. Dover) One ship sunk, and one damaged. (KINGCUP, 092342B to V.A. Dover)

No contact. Convoy has carried on. Request instructions. (KINGCUP, 092324B to V.A. Dover)

Midget U-Boat Activity. 1 midget S/M craft 140 degs. 53 F buoy 1 mile. (Unit F.M.1,092225 to C. in C. Nore) Am attacking A/S contact in position 353 degs. Hearty Knoll buoy 13 miles. (MENDIP, 092216 to C. in C. Nore. My 2216. Torpedo fired at me. Am carrying out Plaster. (MENDIP, 092226 to C. in C. Nore)

OperationsChannel

Patrols. Weigh at 0700B/10th and proceed to patrol area Q.Z.S. 629 route E.W. between 01 degs. 40' W. and 02 degs. 20' W. and relieve Unit G.A. on patrol. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 091025B to BALFOUR, HOSTE.)

(1) Weigh at 1700B/9th and proceed to patrol area limits 01 degs. 30' W. 01 degs. 53' W. between 49 degs. 50' N. and route E.W.

(2) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 774 and Q.Z.X. 1583. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 091059B to LOCH FYNE, ST. HELENA, ZANZIBAR)

Suspected minefield. Suspect mines within one mile position 50 degs. 17.6' N. 01 degs. 14.6' W. (LOCH FYNE, 091045B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Carry out Operation "Artisan" serial B one part 3 at 0840B/10th April. (2) S.O.M/S Flotilla 16 in TADOUSAC take PARRSBORO and ILFRACOMBE under his orders pass Gate at 2330B/9th and R/V with PLOVER escorted by SHIPPIGAN and BEAUMARIS in position 180 degs. Eddystone 12 at 0150B/10th. On joining 2 ships are to escort PLOVER, BEAUMARIS detaching and entering Plymouth. (3) N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail ARMANA to R/V with M/S 16 in position 180 degs. The Lizard 6 miles 0630B/10th. (4) M/S 16 is TADOUSAC with PARRSBORO and ILFRACOMBE is to carry out skimming sweep of lay to 42 feet below chart datum and ARMANA act as Dan layer.

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MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. (Contd.) (5) On completion of laying PLOVER to Portsmouth escorted by PARRSBORO and ILFRACOMBE. TADOUSAC and SHIPPIGAN to Plymouth, ARMANA to Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 091158B to Ships concerned.)

Augmentation of A/S patrols. It is desired to establish A/S patrols to cover the coastal routes on the Eastern limit of the command. (2) Propose to employ the tenth M.L. Flotilla for these patrols in view of present shortage of escorts and the undesirability of reducing the number of escorts on cross-Channel convoys. (3) It is considered they would be more valuably employed on A/S duties than on their present comparatively small contribution to the minelaying effort. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 091814B to Admty.)

OperationsWest Coast France

Biscay Blockade. Sunderland A/C will co-operate again 10th March in accordance with paras. 1, 2, 3, and 4 of my 081803B (being passed to F.S. L'ALCYON). (2) A/C call signs W/T C.39. R/T C.39. (3) Ships of Force 27 should establish R/T contact with A/C on 2410 K/cs. (C. in C. Plymouth, 091837B to S.O. Force 27) Your 090820B. You will not be relieved. If fuel permits L'AVENTURE and LA DECOUVERTE continue patrol 27B until 0800B/12th. (C.F.N.T.F. 091923B to L'AVENTURE)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Patrols. On arrival 20th E.G. establish patrol on coastal convoy route from 20 miles N.E. to 20 miles S.W. Trevoise Head. Codeword 'Gladstone'. (2) You should trail all B.T.C. and T.B.C. convoys through your area 2 to 3 miles astern. (3) Attention is called to P.C.W.O.161 and 164. (C. in C. Plymouth, 091006B to S.O.E.G.20) 2nd E.G. Support S.C.171 to 54 degs. N. joining Force 37 on passing Altacarry. (2) At that time 16th E.G. if not in contact proceed to relieve 5th E.G. and join Force 36. (3) On relief 5th E.G. proceed to relieve 4th E.G. in Force 31. (4) On relief 4th E.G. proceed to Milford Haven for fuel and short rest. (C. in C. W.A. 091707B to S.O. E.G's 2, 16, 5, 4)

/Anti-U-Boat ...

9.4.1945
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Carry out operation CH serial S.3 lines 1, 2 and 3. 0130/April 11th. Carry out operation CH. Serial S.3 line 10 and S.2 lines 4 and 5 1430/April 11th.

(F.O.I.C.Milford, 091245B to APOLLO)

Carry out operation CH serial S.3, lines 4,5,6, 0730/April 10th
(2) Carry out operation CH. Serial S.3, lines 7,8 and 9 0730/April 11th.

(3) If mine supply situation permits carry out operation CH serial S.2 lines 1,2 and 3. 1930/April 12th.
(F.O.I.C.Milford, 091247B to ARIADNE)

Probable U-Boat definitely destroyed. Your 091547B.* Much German wreckage followed attacks at 1535B/9. Further signal follows. (S.O.E.G.21, 091629B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 082221B. Contact held throughout night many attacks since daylight produced more oil, Horseshoe life buoy and wood wreckage. H/H attack CONN at 1540 produced large air bubbles and vast quantities of oil and wreckage. Following samples have been recovered:

German field dressings, pieces of German newspapers, several articles clothing including sock marked E.U. Blaudow and leather jacket with naval button, pieces of camera and Voigt-länder film, several large pieces composition material identified as packing between main batteries.

Consider German U-Boat definitely destroyed in position 49 degs. 16' N. 10 degs. 20' W. reliably fixed by stars at midnight.

Have resumed patrol until relieved by 10th E.G.

Your 071307B refers. Suitable.

(S.O.E.G.21, 091749B to C. in C. W.A.) *Not yet identified.

Possible U-Boat. AMETHYST reported torpedo fired at her in position 291 degs. Strumble Head 10 miles confirmed by PEACOCK heard and avoided.

(HART, 091706B to C. in C. W.A.)

Amplifying my 091706B. Box of 6 miles side

imposed immediately on datum of probable firing position and area contained searched out by PEACOCK and AMETHYST with negative result.

(2) Twin engined A/C seen exercising with M.L. in close vicinity at the time. Request confirmation that torpedo practice was not being conducted.

(S.O.E.G.22, 091854B to C. in C. W.A.)

My 091854 not to S.O. Force 36.

Intend continuing search in area South Bishop to K.5 buoy during dark hours and to sweep into Cardigan Bay commencing daylight tomorrow.

(2) If no contact will support S.C.171 no support for BB.77.

(3) Suitable.

(S.O.E.G.22, 092232 to C. in C. W.A.)

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MondayHOME COMMANDSNorway

- Operations Intend carrying out V.P.75 with 2 M.T.Bs.
V.P. (1) 0900B/10th April.
(2) Not later than 2200B/10th April.
(3) Not later than 0600B/14th April.
(4) 245 degs. towards Noss Head. Not more than
20 knots.
- (5) Not later than p.m. 14th April.
(6) No. (7) No.
(8) 065 degs. Noss Head, Bressay.
(9) No.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 091029B to C. in C. H.F.)
My 091029B.
(1) 065 degs. from Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
(2) 61 degs. 22' N. 04 degs. 30' E.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 091031B to C. in C. H.F.)
Intend carrying out V.P.81 with 2 M.T.Bs.
(1) 0900B/10th April.
(2) Not later than 2200B/10th April.
(3) Not later than 0600B/12th April.
(4) 260 degs. towards Noss Head not more 20 knots.
(5) Not later than p.m. 12th April.
(6) No. (7) No. (8) 080 degs. Noss Head Bressay.
(9) No.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 091035B to C. in C. H.F.)
My 091035B.
(1) 080 degs. from Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
(2) 60 degs. 41' N. 04 degs. 42' E.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 091037B to C. in C. H.F.)
Intend to carry out V.P.82 with 2 M.T.Bs.
(1) 0900B/10th April.
(2) Not later than 2200B/10th April.
(3) Not later than 0600B/12th April.
(4) 271 degs. towards Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
(5) Not later than p.m. 12th April.
(6) No. (7) No.
(8) 091 degs. Noss Head Bressay.
(9) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 091041B to C. in C. H.F.)
My 091041B.
(1) 091 degs. from Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
(2) 60 degs. 05' N. 05 degs. 05' E.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 091043B to C. in C. H.F.)
Intend carry out V.P.74 with 2 M.T.B.s.
(1) 0930B/10th April.
(2) Not later than 2200B/10th April.
(3) Not later than 0600B/14th April.
(4) 238 degs. towards Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.
(5) Not later p.m. 14th April.
(6) No. (7) No. (8) 058 degs. Noss Head Bressay.
(9) No.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 091929B to C. in C. H.F.)
My 091929B.
(1) 058 degs. from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.
(2) 61 degs. 45' N. 04 degs. 43' E.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 091931B to C. in C. H.F.)

/Patrols...

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway - Contd.

Patrols. S/M positions at 0800/10th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone B.

(A) VIKING, TAPIR, UTSIRA as in A.M. 061927.
(B) TURPIN approaching Lerwick from Northward.

(C) TOTEM on patrol off Norwegian coast between 59 degs. 55' N. and 60 degs. 25' N.

(D) VARNE leaves Lerwick 2100/10th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10, 61 degs. 04' 00 degs. 01' and 61 degs. 04' 02 degs. 00' 8 knots on surface west of 01 degs. E. 95 miles in 24 hours diving by day East of 01 degs. E. All positions N. and E.
(C. of W. 091947B to A.I.G.25)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Meteorological Flights. Meteorological flights are frequently made twice daily by Fortress A/C taking off from Wick through the following positions,

(A) 59.15 N. 00.25 W.
(B) 67.10 N. 04.30 E.
(C) 65.50 N. 05.30 W. (D) Noup Head. Base Wick.

Flying times, first flight takes off at 0030 returning at 1130
Second flight takes off at 1230 returning at 2330 within an hour either side these times.

On reaching position (B) a vertical ascent is made to approx. 24,000 feet reducing height to 18,000 feet by the time position (C) is reached thence gradual descent homewards.
I.F.F. is switched on for whole flight.
(2) Cancel 01 Z of 1st May, 1944.
(C. in C. H.F. 091019B to Home Fleet)

Anti-schnorkel A.M. 032223B request BRITTANY be sailed as obstructors. convenient to commence laying type OP obstruction at daylight 11th April evenly spaced over a length of 50 miles from position 60 degs. 40' N. 05 degs. 20' W. on a line 160 degs.

(2) On completion BRITTANY to return to Greenock to re-load.
(3) An early report as to mileage of obstruction laid and date and time of completion is required.
(D. of B.D. Adty. 091706B to C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. H.F.)

Convoy Intend sailing H.M.C.S. IROQUOIS escorting 17th Group U.S.S.R. S/M Chasers 1487 (S.O.) 1491, 1483, 1478, 1479, 1499, 1503, 1506, 1512 at J.W.66. S. of A. 12 knots, p.m/12th April. E.T.D. May Island 1700/12th, thence by Q.Z.S.322, 323 and 324 to position 59 degs. 28' N. 02 degs. 17' 30" W. thence through Positions 61.49 N. 05.28 W. and 61.56 N. 06.38 W. to Faeroes. E.T.A. Thorshaven 0600/14th April. Communications between Escort and S/M Chasers V/S only. S/M Chasers do not hold recognition signals.
(C. in c. Rosyth, 091839B to N.O.I.C.Faeroes)

/Soviet ...

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern WatersConvoy
J.W.66
(Contd.)

Soviet Engineer Captain Zinoviev wishes to accompany Soviet S.C's from Rosyth as far as Faeroes. C. in C. H.F's 021302 para. 1 (c) refers.

(2) He proposes to leave London p.m. 10th April and return to London from Faeroes as convenient.

(3) In view of A.M. 041700 para. 3 request Lieut. Perry be discharged from HOPETOUN to Admiralty after departure of S.C. Group from Rosyth.

(D.N.I. 092014B to C. in C. Rosyth)

OperationsBalticBaltic
mining.

Sterilisation period for mines laid in the Kattegat and Baltic as from the 9th April has been reduced to 18 days.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 091542B to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Rosyth)

N.A.B.DAWN.

Your 060003B. N.A.B. DAWN is a total loss.
(N.O.I.C.Leith, 091146B to Admty.)MovementsSTUBBORN,
S/M.

STUBBORN will sail in O.S.122, K.M.S.96.

(2) R/V Clyde Boom 0015B/12th.

(3) C. in Cs. addressed are requested to pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.

(4) Capt. (D) Liverpool inform escorts of O.S.122/K.M.S.96.

(C. in C. W.A. 090125B to F.O.S.M., Admty.

F.O.G.M.A., C's. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth)

DIADEM
cruiser.

Scapa arrival C.S.10 in DIADEM.

(C. in C. H.F. 090958 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

RENOWN
battlecruiser. Request you route RENOWN by Bay Route to F 43.20 N. 10.30 W. thence G 47.30 N. 06.25 W.

H 51.00 N. 09.00 W. J 230 degs. Bull Rock 10 miles. K 270 degs. Skelligs 10 miles.

L 270 degs. Inishtearacht 10 miles. M 280 degs.

Eagle Island 20 miles. N 55.35 N. 08.45 W. O 305 degs.

Monach 11 miles. P 310 degs. Flannan Islands 17 miles

Q 59.08 N. 05.15 W. R 360 degs. Sule Skerry 10 miles and by

Q.Z.S.15 to Scapa.

(2) F.O.G.M.A. pass to RENOWN.

(Admty. Plot. O.D. 091155B to F.O.G.M.A.)

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys and Shipping

B.T.C/T.B.C.
Convoys.

Ref. C. in C. Portsmouth 071145B. Recommend one, two or four columns only for B.T.C. and T.B.C. convoys, three and five columns impracticable for ships that have not been briefed or for convoys that have ships frequently joining and leaving.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 090926B to Admty.)

9.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

S/M
TANTIVY. Intend to sail submarine TANTIVY with M.K.S.94,
destination Portsmouth.
(F.O.G.M.A., 091004A to Admty.)

Destroyers.
14th E.G. Arrived H.M. Ships HESPERUS, HOTSPUR, HAVELOCK.
(F.O.G.M.A., 091302A to Admty.)

SS.
OKLAHOMA
(overdue),
U/B. The fact that SS. OKLAHOMA has been overdue at
Dakar since 1st April may imply that a north-
bound U-Boat is still in the area near Madeira.
(D.D.I.C., 091456B to F.O.G.M.A.) See 091317B
in South Atlantic.

Movement. Arrivals 9th H.M. Submarine TANTIVY from Malta.
RENOWN from East.
(F.O.G.M.A., 091834 to Admty.)

South Atlantic

VOLAGE,
destroyer. VOLAGE arrived.
(Cdre. 1/c. Durban, 090641Z to Admty.)

RAPID,
destroyer. RAPID arrived Simonstown.
(C. in C. S.A., 090942B to Admty.)

Search for
suspected
U-Boat. Your 081318. Possibility of any southbound
U-Boat is considered remote. If OKLAHOMA was
in fact a U-Boat casualty as now seems likely
it is considered that she was sunk by the second
of the two U-Boats referred to in A.M. 261432
March. On subsequent evidence both these
U-Boats were estimated to be much further on, but it now seems
that the earlier estimate may have been more correct. Position
in S.O.S. 071704Z is uncertain and figures in latitude given
may be only minutes suggesting possibility that OKLAHOMA was
sunk near lat. 14° N., long. 20° W. by the U-Boat which sank
SS. POINT PLEASANT PARK on 23rd February and which may now be
near Madeira.
(D.D.I.C., 091317B to F.O.C.W.A.) Reply: 101307Z.
Reference Admiralty Message 081003B and my 081318Z.
Air searches by two Sunderlands p.m./8th in area 5° N., 20° W.
and by 4 Sunderlands a.m./9th to 5° N., 23° W. report nothing
sighted, visibility good. Request (A) any further information
or amplification of Admiralty Message 081003, watch set on 8480
k/c past 24 hours nothing heard.

/(B) ...

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Search for
suspected
U-Boat.
(Contd.)

(B) Any information regarding present position of
OKLAHOMA or ROBERT STOCKTON?
(F.O.C.W.A., 091350Z to Admty.)
Your 091350. Para. (B) No information as to
present position.
(D.D.I.C., 092250B to F.O.C.W.Af.)

9.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

SEANYMPH,
S/M. Sailed SEANYMPH 090600B by standard Red Sea route to Aden for onward routing to Trincomalee. S.1's 05101(2?) not to all refers.
(2) E.T.A. Aden 140400Z, S. of A. 10 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 090611B to Com. Aden.)

COLOSSUS
A/C. COLOSSUS will complete ship working up about end of April. My 311841 refers.
(F.O.C. Aircraft Carrier Sqdn. 11, 091217B to Admty.)

Movement
of troops. Para. 1 my 081140 refers. A.F.H.Q. now state that French should make their request for movement of troops through French mission S.H.A.E.F. S.H.A.E.F. would get in touch with Mid. East as necessary keeping A.F.H.Q. informed.
(C. in C. Med., 091222B to F.O.W.M.)

Bari,
explosion. Serious explosion in Bari harbour is reported damaging Navy house. Three ships are reported on fire. Further signal will be made.
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 091245B to C. in C. Med.)
My 091245. I have just returned from Bari.

An explosion occurred at 1155 today in SS. ^{CHARLES} HENDERSON discharging H.E. ammunition and bombs at number 13 berth. Ship is now partially sunk in her berth.
(2) Resulting shipping casualties: (A) SS. LUCIAC with cargo of Pol. caught fire and was well alight. Ship has been towed out of harbour by BONITO and it is intended to beach her outside.
(B) SS. KNOLL with cargo of bombs in forward hold caught fire aft but this has been extinguished.
(C) SS. SAMSPEED with ammunition and general cargo also on fire but this is well under control.
(D) Italian corvette FOLAGA damaged.
(3) No important damage to H.M. ships. Only number 13 berth will be unusable. Much destruction of port facilities in the immediate vicinity. Naval casualties estimated at about 15 killed and 50 wounded. Considerable number of Army and civilian casualties.
(5) Navy house which took full blast of the explosion badly damaged. Naval barracks almost entirely destroyed also Naval victualling stores, transport and workshops. Widespread damage in docks and in the adjoining part of the town.
(6) Communications and operation room are being established in P.W.S.S.
(7) Merchant shipping is being diverted for the present.
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 091931B to C. in C. Med.)

Yugoslav
vessels,
Danube. British Naval representative Belgrade informs us that information from Yugoslav Naval Staff confirms return of Yugoslav vessels referred to in 020930 and suggests Soviet willing to deal similarly with other United Nations craft such as GLASGOW on which reply is expected shortly.
(Macmis (via Freedom), 091520B to B.M.M.Roumania)

/Destroyers ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Destroyers.

Sailed (1) TARTAR. (2) TEAZER at 1730B by
standard Red Sea route to Aden.
{ 2) E.T.A. Aden 121000Z, S. of A. 20 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 091737B to C. in C. E.I.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

A.F.Ds.
18 and 20

Departure H.M.R.Ts. EMINENT and DESTINY towing A.F.D.20 with EMPIRE SAM towing astern. H.M.R.T.'s ADVANTAGE and CHEERLY towing A.F.D.18. All escorted by H.M.S. HELFORD approximate S.O.A. 10 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 090334Z to Admty.)
See 160927.

A.F.D.39
(towing of)

My 061414. ORIANA has 1 cracked cylinder liner. Spares are part worn and one is being fitted. Ship cannot be considered fully reliable for tow. (2) Propose HONESTY to tow with improvised gear with a second ship as escort and stand by tow. (Com. E. A., 090745Z to C. in C.E.I.S.) Reply 100511Z.

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Air searches for suspected U-Boat, To clarify situation suggest ROBERT F. STOCKTON be ordered to report position. F.O.C.W.Af's 081318 refers.
(D.T.D. 091157B to Com. 10th Fleet, C. & R.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 091315Z to A.O.C.E.A.C., Cominch 091555Z)

E.G. W.1. S.C. 172 C. in C. C.N.A. 091420 and my 081902 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 3. Due to present submarine and ice situation group W.1 is to remain with S.C. 172 after Westomp under orders of S.O.C. 9 until further orders.
(2) Anticipate W.1 may be required to join O.N.S. 46 at sea and should top up from S.C. 172 at first opportunity.
(F.O.N.F. 091816 to S.E. S.C. 172, C.9, and 102128Z.)

U/B contacts. Para. C. (1) 080937 U.S.S. BALDWIN had good sonar contact 42.12 N. 68.49 W. All times Z.
Para. D. (1) 081845 Blimp reported had contact 36.54 N. 74.40 W. and 15 mins. later R.S.S. JENKS attacked stationary target same area. Wreck plotted in vicinity.
(2) 081750 U.S.S. MILLEDGEVILLE reported doubtful sound contact 41.55 N. 55.07 W.
(3) 090345 S.C. 1002 reported contact area 41.38 N. 69.38 W.
(4) 091430 convoy escort attacked sound contact 32.05 N. 73.12 W. Whale later sighted by other escort vessels, same area.
(Cominch 092058 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Convoy H.X. 348. H.X. 348 position 43.48 N. 41.13 W. 27 groups naval enigma ground wave transmission at 0042Z/10th indicates possible sighting. Bearing 033 second class frequency 5600 k/cs.
(S.O.C. 7 092359Z to Admty.)

Far East and Australia.

Digest 1174 8.4.45. (extract.) (2) Delayed reports completing searches for 7th April state Clark Field Navy planes attacked four small coasters, one barge heading north off Hainan Island, sinking one small coaster, one barge, also attacked another convoy, one sea truck, four small coasters same area same course sinking one sea truck.
(7) Single Liberator on shipping search Southern Celebes Island sank one barge, attacked 18 sailing vessels sinking three. Delayed report states 6 Mitchells on shipping sweep west Coast Borneo 7th April sank 2 barges, probably sank two others.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 090823Z to Admty.)

/Floating...

9.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia - Contd.

Floating
transit
storage.

R.A.F.T. 091247 to C. in C. B.P.F. See 130826Z.
See Lion Copy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 1000/9th April.

Para. A. (1) E.G. 4 attacked contact from 0742Z
until 1141Z/8th April in 49° 48' N. 11° 51' W.

(2) FITZROY and BYRON attacked contact from 1340Z
until 2021Z/8th in 43° 12' N. 10° 15' W.

Para. B. (1) BERRY reported unexplained explosion

2 miles astern at 1725Z/8th in approx. 50° 37' N. 05° 09' W.

(2) E.G. 25 attacked bottom contact 1750Z/8th in approx. 53°
24' N. 04° 53' W.

(3) A/C M/172 obtained disappearing radar contact at 1350Z/8th
in 55° 46' N. 08° 00' W.

(4) A/C W/172 attacked smoke and wake course 170° at 1629Z/8th
in 55° 46' N. 08° 00' W.

(5) A/C J/202 sighted periscope and wake course 210° at 1741Z/8th
in 57° 24' N. 10° 22' W.

(6) M/S 1078 sighted periscope at 0958Z/8th in approx. 54° 44' N.
01° 00' W. which dived when she tried to ram.

Para. C. (1) E.G. 32 attacked contact at 2158Z/8th in 49° 27' N.
08° 14' W.

(2) WOLSEY attacked contact thought possible non-submarine
at 1344Z/8th in approx. 54° 46' N. 00° 57' W.

Para. D. (1) H.M.C.S. SUSSEX VALE attacked contact at 1443Z/8th
in approx. 50° 22' N. 02° 39' W.

(2) Bomber Command A/C reported sighting two conning towers
course west at 1845Z/8th in 54° 41' N. 02° 12' E. Ref. A.M.
081234 paras. A.1 and C.2 cancelled.

(D.D.I.C. 091229B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 091441B to A.I.G. 331, Cominch.)

SECRET

F. E. and A.
IN
153A

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

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

*B.P.F.
Floating Transit Storage.*

091247/April.

From R.A.F.T.

Date. 11. 4. 45.

Recd. 0406.

..... CCM (NAVAL 5 Servs. Gen.) BY W/T.

Addressed C. in C. BPF,
Info V.A. A.C.N.B., Admiralty.

Recent experience indicates it essential to have some form of floating transit storage in the Fleet train together with the requisite Naval Store Staff to deal with general shipment work which is expected to be considerable.

Accommodation is also required for the following which is beyond the capacity of N.S.I.S's

- (A) Large reserves of oiling at sea spare gear.
- (B) Radio repair stores in addition to those carried in ships of the Fleet train vide AM 060657A March explanatory signal re necessity for these additional stores follows.
- (C) Metre (?) machinery and electrical gear and similar gear awaiting transit to Australia for repair.

Request approval therefore to retain MARUDU permanently with the Fleet train for these duties. Any space available in her would be used to hold reserve stocks of units of Naval Stores for cruisers and above.

Following initial staff who would have to be accommodated in MARUDU would be required 1 ANSI 1 DCO 1 AIO 2 storehousemen.

Certain modifications to the tween deck and hold space including the fitting of Orlop decks would be necessary. If above proposal is approved request early arrangements be made for Lieut. Sheepwash of Staff of DDS (SWP) to be flown to Leyte to discuss details for necessary staff to be made available from Australia and for

/ Admiralty....

10.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. . 1. (a) A small raiding party landed from a L.C.A. on the south coast of Schouwen about midnight 8/9th and remained ashore for some 24 hours. Very little enemy activity was seen.
(b) A German two-man submarine ran aground 6 miles east of Calais this morning. The crew were taken prisoner.
(c) Several midget U-Boats were reported or attacked yesterday in the southern part of the North Sea. In one case hits are reported, but no results were seen.
(d) Nine Dutchmen and 4 Russians who landed this morning from a small boat on the east coast report that they escaped from the Texel and that there are 1,000 to 1,200 Russians on the Texel in revolt against the German garrison of approx. 400 strong.
- Channel. 2. M.L. 102 sank what is thought to have been a SEEHUND in the Dover Straits this morning. The craft was not carrying torpedoes at the time. There were no survivors. Salvage is not considered possible.
- West Coast of France. 3. Early this morning French destroyers of Force 27, engaged on blockade patrol in the Bay of Biscay, captured a small trawler probably manned by Germans and took her into Les Sables d'Olonne.
- Baltic. 4. Bomber Command last night made heavy attacks on two shipyards and shipping at Kiel. P.R.U. subsequently showed the pocket battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER capsized, two near misses to the cruiser HIPPER in dry dock, and possible blast damage to the cruiser EMDEN.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

- Gulf of Genoa. 5. (a) Coastal craft had 2 inconclusive engagements tonight with enemy convoys near Sestri Levante. (122143B.)
(b) Wellingtons in Gulf of Genoa destroyed an E-Boat and bombed fuel installations at Vado.

10.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic.

6. (a) M.T.B. 710 was mined and sunk last night near Sansego Island in the Zara area. 2 officers and three ratings are missing. (111949B.)

(b) Hurricanes scored 12 R.P. strikes on 3,000 ton M/V at Crikvenica and reported ship probably destroyed.

(c) Tonight 2 M.G.Bs. on patrol in Planinski Channel engaged 3 F-Lighters and 2 E-Boats. Hits were scored on enemy craft. M.G.B. 647 was hit and severely damaged. There were no casualties. (122143B.)

10.4.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Reports

Cosintrep
No. 371. Part II, Naval (extract).
Alternative channel to Dieppe now open.
(2) A small raiding party landed from one L.C.A. on south coast of Schouwen near Scheddebeurs remaining ashore from 2359/8 to 0030/10, very little enemy activity observed.
(Burrough signed Eisenhower, 102346B.)

Operations

North Sea

Midget S/M. 1 midget submarine D.C.1 Buoy.
(Unit F.O.8, 100717 to Nore Port Wave.)

A/U
Patrol. Proceed to establish Gamma - A for Able.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 100935 to S.O. E.G.30.)

Coastal
craft
patrols. Add S.N.O.B.O.P.(F) to repeated addressees of my 031330B*, 061707B and 091620B.
(A.C. Dover, 101035B.)
* Patrols for coastal craft operating from Ramsgate or Dover.

Nore
patrols. Patrol for night of Wednesday 11th April.
1 KRAKOWIAK, 2 TALYBONT, 3 CATTISTOCK,
4 LAMERTON, 5 OAKLEY, 6 KITTIWAKE, 7 WILTON,
8 FERNIE.
Coastal force units F.C.1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2245.

(2) 12 CAICOS with coastal forces from U.K. 14 QUANTOCK,
16 RIOU with coastal forces from Ostend. 17 BRISSENDEN,
78 RETALICK. 19 EKINS with coastal force from Ostend.
21 CUBITT. 22 RUTHERFORD with C/F from U.K.
Coastal forces from Ostend R/V with frigates at 2145.
(3) Escorts for T.A.M.36 VIMY and MALLARD. T.A.P.1 MIDDLETON.
(4) Coastal forces from U.K.
Patrol 1 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.1 with RETALICK. Patrol 2 - 2
M.T.B. Unit F.C.2 with TALYBONT. Patrol 3 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.3
with CATTISTOCK. Patrol 4 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.4 with LAMERTON.
Patrol 5 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.5 with OAKLEY. Patrol 6 - 2 M.T.B.
Unit F.C.6 with KITTIWAKE. Patrol 7 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.7 with
WILTON. Patrol 8 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.8 with FERNIE.
72 - 4 M.T.B. Unit F.L.2, F.L.3. 22 - 4 M.T.B. Unit F.B.8,
F.B.9. Patrol 51 - 1 M.L. Patrol 52 - 1 M.L.
ESTV 2922 - 3 M.T.B. Unit F.B.6. NYZZ 5035 - 6 M.T.B. Unit
F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3.
From Ostend: ESUA 2316 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.A.8. ESUA 2100 - 2
M.T.B. Unit F.B.2. ESUA 4126 - 2 M.L. Unit F.G. ESUA 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, 101758B, as amended 102242B.)

/Midget ...

10.4.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Midget S/M
B.B.84.

German two-man submarine marked BB.84 ran aground approx. 6 miles east of Calais early this morning. One officer and one Petty Officer taken prisoners. Demolition charges had been detonated. Torpedoes still in position. Salvage not considered possible. (S.N.O.B.O.P.(F), 101800 to A.N.C.X.F.)

U-Boat
and S.B.U.
summary to
1200B/10th.

- (1) 1529/9 Beaufighter P/236 attacked midget 52.02 N., 03.32 E. claimed hits with depth charges.
(2) 1813/9 Beaufighter Z/236 attacked midget 51.49 N., 03.06 E. results not observed.
(3) 2001/9 TALYBONT attacked contact 52.25 N., 01.52 E.
(4) 2216/9 MENDIP attacked contact 353° Hearty Knoll 13 miles. Ten minutes later a torpedo was fired at her.
(5) 2225/9 ARENDAL reported midget U-Boat 140° 53 F Buoy 1 mile. (C. in C. Nore, 101926B.)

Operations

Channel.

SS. SAMIDA,
S. JUNEAU
(torpedoed
9th April).

SAMIDA sunk 050° Dungeness 3.2 miles bow shows above water.
(KINGCUP, 100018B to F.O. Dover.)
SS. SOLOMON JUNEAU safely anchored in Downs. Details of damage. Vessel not making any water throughout and seaworthy for tow to repair port. Draught forward 11'1", aft 19'6".
(Salvage Officer Dover, 101159B to A.C. Dover.)

Attack
restrictions
near Nab
Tower.
(Op. "Dividend")

- Until further notice A/S attacks and operation "Dividend" are not to be carried out within a ten mile radius of position 174° Nab Tower 6.5 miles during the following periods 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 daylight hours when they occur between 0800B and 2000B.
(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 signal to C. in C. Portsmouth, requesting permission to attack.
(4) Contact is to be maintained but attack is not to be commenced until approval has been obtained.
(5) P.G.M. 24D of 241923A March, P.G.M. 39D of 080901B, and my 081042B are cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 100221B.)

/Patrols ...

War Diary.10.4.1945.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.

Patrols. HOLMES take charge of ships addressed and sail so as to pass the Gate at 1400B/10.
 (2) Proceed patrol from 04° 30' W. to Start Pt. on coastal convoy route. Codeword "Links".
 (3) You should train all B.T.C. and T.B.C. convoys through your area 2 to 3 miles astern. (4) Communications. HOLMES acknowledge.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 101040B to HOLMES, COSBY.)
 When NEW WATERFORD rejoins 6th E.G. about 2100B/10.
 HOLMES proceed and R/V Force 26 as in my 091845B para. 2, reporting time and position of R/V to FAULKNOR direct. COSBY proceed to Plymouth.
 (2) 6th E.G. then take up following patrols - 1st Div. Lizard to Eddystone. 2nd Div. Eddystone to 03° 20' W.
 (3) Trail coastal convoys.
 (4) When not otherwise employed carry out search of inshore waters.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 101529B to HOLMES, COSBY, 6th E.G.)

"Artisan". Have had to abandon sweep due to weather and loss of gear. Have detached PLOVER and escort to Portsmouth. Proceeding with SHIPPIGAN and ARMANA to Falmouth. Intend completing and checking sweep tomorrow. One mine detonated in sweep at (?10)17 in 049° 48' 36" N., 005° 24' 06" W. last mine of lay surfaced and detonated by gunfire. E.T.A. Falmouth 1445. (S.O. M/S.16, 101151B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Patrol. (1) Leave patrol at 2100B/10th and proceed to anchor in Cherbourg at 1/2 hours notice.
 (2) Weigh at 0600B/11th and resume present patrol.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 101225B to LOCH FYNE, ST. HELENA, ZANZIBAR.)
 On arrival of Convoy V.W.P. a.m./11th proceed to join LOCH FYNE, ST. HELENA, ZANZIBAR patrolling area 01° 30' W. to 01° 53' W. between 49° 50' N. and Route E.W.
 (2) LOCH FYNE arrange R/V.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 101234B to TOWY, PERIM, GOOD HOPE.)

U-Boat and To 1200B/10th April.
 S.B.U. (A.C. Dover, 101325B.)
 summary.

Navigation A.M. 132027A* February.
 Lights. In view of present midget submarine threat in the Dover Command it is considered that the regulations regarding the burning of navigation lights in the English Channel require amendment.
 (2) It is proposed that merchant ships should not normally burn navigation lights between C.1 Buoy and A Buoy.
 (3) If concurred in request promulgation by A.M.
 (A.C. Dover, 101328B to Admty.)
 * Merchant ships are not normally to burn navigation lights in English Channel.

/In ...

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10.4.1945.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Navigation Lights. (Contd.) In Dover Command merchant ships should not normally burn navigation lights between C.1 Buoy and A Buoy. (D.T.D., 101915Z to ships in B.A.M.S. area 14.)

209 M.S.F. - sweep. F.M.M.6 D.343 late 1065 unable to sweep, Main contact breakers defective. Complete replacement of both units required. To avoid delay request permission to proceed alone to Plymouth immediately to effect necessary repairs. (S.O. M.S.F.209, 101530B to C.T.F.122.) Urdis 101530B. Affirmative, weather permitting. (C.T.F.122, 101905 to S.O. M.S.F.209.)

Cositintrep No. 371. Part 4, section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600/9. (S.H.A.E.F. (Main), 101615B.)

BALFOUR, HOSTE - patrol. NORTHWAY escorted by BEAGLE bound Portsmouth on Route E is due 02° 30' W. at 2000B/10th. (2) Proceed forthwith to R/V and relieve BEAGLE. (3) Escort NORTHWAY to Needles thence return to patrol. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 101650B to BALFOUR, HOSTE.)

Mine off Le Havre. Sitrep. Y.M.S. Q.Z.S.588 on ground mine detonated in 49° 33'15" N., 00° 12'35" W. (Cdr. M/S. Le Havre, 101730.)

A/S Patrol. If not in contact leave patrol at 1200B/11th and return to base. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 101815B to Unit G.B.)

Midget S/M reported. 1 midget submarine craft 132° south Foreland 10.8 miles. (F.O.8, 102051B to V.A. Dover.)

E.G.17, 26. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail 17th E.G. to pass Ailsa Craig 1800/11, thence at best speed without incurring weather damage to vicinity Longships, subsequently as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. BURGES and MOORSOM proceed to Bangor to fuel and rejoin. (2) On relief by 17th E.G., C. in C. Plymouth is requested to detach 26th E.G. to Londonderry for lay-over. (C. in C. W.A., 102220B.)

War Diary.10.4.1945.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWest Coast FranceBiscay
coast
blockade.Sunderland aircraft will co-operate again tomorrow
11th April in accordance with paras. 1, 2, 3 and
4 of my 081803B.

(2), (3) Communications.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 101628B to S.O. Force 27.)

L'AVENTURE,
LA
DECOUVERTE.C.F.N.T.F. now directs that L'AVENTURE and LA
DECOUVERTE are to leave Patrol (B) at 0800B/11
April without relief and proceed to arrive
Plymouth 12th April.(2) Route through positions (B) 47° 50' N., 5°
32' W. (A) 48° 35' N., 5° 32' W. thence by

Q.Z.S. 697.

(3) F.S. L'AVENTURE acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 102355B to F.S. L'AVENTURE, F.S. LA
DECOUVERTE.)O.N. 295
attacked.O.N.295 attacked in 047° 40' N., 010° 37' W.
(CHELMER, 102358B.)OperationsWestern ApproachesA/U deep
mining.My 091247B. Sailed ARIADNE.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 100731.)My 100731. Arrived ARIADNE.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 101525.)Operation C.H. serial S. 3 lines 4, 5 and 6
completed.

(ARIADNE, 101610B.)

E.G.10, 21.

Have been relieved by 10th E.G. Am proceeding
to Belfast, 21st E.G. in company. My P.C.S. -
050° 33' N., 009° 24' W., 044°, 16. Your
071133B and 071307B, not to all addresses, refer.
Suitable.(S.O. E.G.21, 100940B to C. in C. W.A., Cdre. (D)
W.A.)

U/B report.

Probable submarine contact in 049° 24' N., 007°
36' W., am attacking.(U.S.S. WILLIAM T. POWELL, 101015B to C. in C.
W.A.)?U/B sunk
in Irish
Sea.Have picked up one man from boat and (there)? is
considerable wreckage in 54° 05' N., 05° 14' W.
Man is not yet able to answer questions. Am
searching.

(S.O. E.G.2, 101330B to C. in C. W.A.)

/ U/B ...

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10.4.1945.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches - Contd.U/B hunt
off
Carlingford
Buoy.Position 13 miles 180° off Carlingford Buoy
periscope sighted heading E.S.E. across my
stern.
(ADELPHI, 101600B to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
Your 101600. Endeavouring to intercept
position 150° Carlingford 17 miles.
(LARCH, 101745 to ADELPHI.)Detached from S.C.171 at 1650. SPRINGHILL, STETTLER,
CHARLOTTETOWN proceeding towards North Shields sighting south
of Carlingford Buoy. KIRKLAND LAKE (S.O.), ANTIGONISH from
Liverpool section ordered to join me there. Suitable.

(S.O. 36 Force, 101758B to C. in C. W.A.)

Submarine investigated us by periscope and then proceeded
at 10 to 12 knots. Negative hydrophone fitted.

(ADELPHI, 101840B to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

SS. BELWOODS
PARK.Reference my 071224B* April. Examination of
net by Admiralty Technical Officer confirms
that vessel was attacked by torpedo which was
deflected away from ship. No damage to ship.
A full report is being prepared.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 101641B.)

* Ship BELWOODS PARK starboard net struck by
some object.Attack on
contacts.My 101015 refers. Contacts attacked. Up to
2 knots apparent motion probably current. No
doppler (corrupt). Repeated echo-sounding
measurements indicate one large wreck 49.24.30
N., 07.35.30 W. with another contact possiblesun in area.
C.U.64 at 49 N.
refers.LUKE and SPANGENBERG remain to classify and R/V
POWELL and PAINE R/V at 48 N. Your 101251

(S.O. E.G.32, 101731B to C. in C. W.A.) N.T. of formers.

E.G.8, 25.

On completion of training p.m./10th PHILANTE is
requested to sail 8th E.G. to Bangor to top up
with fuel. Thence to relieve 25th E.G. in
Force 36.(2) On relief 25th E.G. to Londonderry to lay-over.
(C. in C. W.A., 101804B.)

U/B report.

Submarine contact position 315° Smalls 14 miles.
(CAPE NYEMETSKI, 102250B.)Lost contact ahead on course 210° my position
295° Smalls 13 miles.

(CAPE NYEMETSKI, 102355.)

E.G.4, 15.

Relieved by E.G.5, E.T.A. 1230B/11th.

(S.O. E.G.4, 102305B to C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C.
Milford Haven.)

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War Diary.10.4.1945.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

VIKING. Leave patrol so as to pass through Clyde.
 (A) 059° 10', 004° 23' at 1100B/12th April and
 through position (B) 059° 39', 004° 23' at
 2300B/12th Apl. thence through (C) 060° 38',
 002° 58'. (D) 061° 04', 002° 00'. (E) 061° 04', 000° 01'.
 (F) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 thence to Lerwick diving by day
 east of 001° E.
 (2) All positions are north and east unless otherwise indicated.
 (S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, 101015B to VIKING.)

Precautions against "death ride" break-out. A/788 10th April. Reference Tegecon PZEY/ELLWOOD 9th April and C. in C. H.F. 011808, para. 7 subject to Admiralty making signal "Fleet reconnaissance" and dispositions of Coastal Command squadrons remain unchanged as seems probable following R/C will be available -
 (A) Danish and Norwegian coasts by day - 3 sorties by 333 Mosquito Squadron between the Skaw and Kristiansund North, reinforced by anti-shipping squadrons as necessary by night 7 sorties of aircraft equipped radar covering same area.
 (B) In areas where enemy fighter opposition is not expected following R/C sorties will be available - 20 per day from bases in Scotland, each 1700 nautical miles range. 8 per day from bases in Iceland, each with 1700 miles range. From bases in Northern Ireland - 6 per day with 1500 miles range. 8 per day with 1200 miles range.
 All aircraft under (B) can carry out night R/C using radar.
 (H.Q.C.C., 101115B to Admty.)

UTSIRA. Leave patrol so as to pass through 064° 30', 008° 28' E. at 0730B/12th April thence to Lerwick by reverse of outward route diving by day north of 062°.
 (S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, 101623B to UTSIRA.)

Operation. Ramose Custodian. VIGRA returned at 2210B/10th April.
 (2) Operation successful.
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 102227B.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

BRITTANY - anti-schnorkel obstructor lay. At about 1700B today Tuesday when Home Fleet units have returned to harbour R/V with BRITTANY departing Scapa at 1700B/10th.
 (2) Escort BRITTANY to 60° 40' N., 05° 20' W. or as required by BRITTANY, where BRITTANY will commence to lay obstruction.
 (3) Support BRITTANY to north-eastward during laying operation.

/(4) ...

War Diary.10.4.1945.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern WatersBRITTANY -
anti-
schnorkel
obstructor
lay.
(Contd.)

(4) Trawler NARVIK will join later.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 101110B to S.O. E.G.30.)
Pass Switha Gate at 1700B today Tuesday and
proceed to comply with A.M. 091706B which is
being passed to 30th E.G., routed by A.M.
Q.Z.S.15 and through 059° 53' N., 004° 45' W.
(2) You will be met off Stanger Head by S.O.
E.G.30 in PEVENSEY CASTLE with LAUNCESTON CASTLE,
PORCHESTER CASTLE who will escort until lay is
completed. H.N.M.T. NARVIK is being sailed to R/V on line of
laying and will escort you to Greenock on completion. NARVIK
will keep constant W/T watch on 1570 k/cs. and hold naval code
XA Cofox and Loxo.

(3) Attention is called to A.M. Q.Z.X.816.

(4) Report is required in accordance with para. 3 of A.M.
091706.

(5) Gate arranged. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. H.F. (Ashore), 101142B to BRITTANY.)
BRITTANY with S.O. E.G.30 in PEVENSEY CASTLE with
PORCHESTER CASTLE and LAUNCESTON CASTLE, departed Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. (Ashore), 101709B.)

S/Ms.

(Extract).

Positions at 0800/11 and movements for next 24
hours.(2) VARNE 61° 05' N., 00° 30' E. thence to
patrol routed as in A.M. 091947.

(C.of W., 101731B.)

VARNE.

VARNE left Lerwick 2107B/10 (route) to patrol
Norwegian coast between 059° 10' and 058° 15'.
Diving by day east of 001° E.(2) All positions are north and east unless
otherwise indicated.(S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, 102130B to S/Ms. operating
north of 51° N.)Enemy IntelligenceU/Bs.
schnorkelling.Recent evidence confirms the supposition that
a U-Boat while schnorkelling is unable to detect
the approach of surface craft by hydrophone
owing to interference from its own main engines
and exhaust.(2) It is probable that the majority of U-Boats stop
schnorkelling at intervals varying from 20 minutes to half
an hour in order to listen.

(C. in C. W.A., 101128B.)

/German ...

10.4.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

German Baltic to Denmark.
refugee My 091101. Following transports were reported
transport. in Copenhagen 1900 April 7th: HANSA One R.O.22,
MARS H.27, URUNDI, PRETORIA, HEINZ HORN, DER
DEUTSCHE, ROBERT BORNHOFEN, CAP ARCONA,
DEUTSCHLAND, WANGANE, WARTHELAND, KANONIER, LAPLAND,
R.O. One RENATE, A.P. BERNSTORFF.
(2) See my 221219 para. (C) March MONTE ROSA still in Copenhagen
April 7th having arrived about March 22nd with engines damaged.
(3) Up to March 27th, number of refugees arrived Copenhagen
by sea reported to be 100,000, B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 101131.)
N.I.D. Comment: HANSA I reported arrived Aarhus from Norway on
April 8th with troops, otherwise P.R. confirms majority of
ships at Copenhagen on April 7th.

Situation 9 Dutchmen and 4 Russians landed a.m./10th
at Texel. from small boat on east coast.
(2) Following information graded B.2 obtained
by War Office from them:
(a) They escaped from Texel.
(b) There are 1,000 to 1,200 Russians on Texel in revolt against
German garrison approximately 400 strong.
(c) They request aid, in particular bombing of gun-positions.
(3) This information has been passed to S.H.A.E.F. and Air
Ministry by War Office.
(D.N.I., 101924B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Navigational

Seine R. Revised maximum allowable draft for Seine River
passage.
(C.T.G. 122.3, 101314B.)

Port Facilities

Emden. 44th shipments priority meeting Serial 623.
Understand you have finally decided not to
open Emden as supply port. Request confirmation.
(A.N.C.X.F.(Main), 101300B to 21st Army Group
(Main))

Casualties and Defects

WOLFHOUND. Acknowledge. WOLFHOUND entered Tyne with
defects. Disembark G.O. and then proceed with
utmost despatch to overtake and escort BROOM.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 100936B to VERDUN.)

/?ENTREOISINE ...

War Diary.

10.4.1945.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

?ENTREOISINE. My 101330. Have picked up Camille de Bras engineer and sole survivor of Belgian Motor fishing vessel (?ENTREOISINE) number Ostend 303 sunk as a result of explosion at 1130B today. Boat (?left) Fleetwood 15 days ago with (?crew) (?of) 5. Survivors next of kin - wife, address Erner(?) Place, Swansea. (S.O. E.G.2, 101455B to C. in C. W.A.)

LOUIS. A fire, which broke out in the chart room of LOUIS a.m. today Tuesday 10th April, and which was extinguished in about 90 minutes, did considerable damage to radar, H/F D/F equipment, etc. The sailing of LOUIS will be considerably delayed. E.G.15 is transferring to LAWSON. Preliminary investigation indicates cause of fire was welding in H/F D/F office. Inquiry will be held. (Capt. (D) Belfast, 101514B.)

SS. BELLWOODS Reference F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 071224*.
PARK. Inspection of net by Admiralty Officer leaves no doubt that damage was caused by torpedo running about 10 feet deep. (Supt. N.D. Glasgow, 101600.) * Ship BELLWOODSPARK reports that starboard net was struck by some object.

Movements

RENOWN. (Returning from East Indies). Escort arrangements. (C. in C. W.A., 101204B, 101208B; F.O.I.C. Greenock, 101808B.)

SPORTSMAN, Alter course on reaching, all positions N. and W.
CARLPLACE. 040° 32', 047° 00', (H) 038° 02', 043° 01', (J) 038° 30', 030° 01' thence Horta. (2) Report E.T.A. Horta. (3) S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to sail SPORTSMAN and CARLPLACE to R/V with appropriate M.K.S. convoy as arranged by F.O.G.M.A. (C. in C. W.A., 101215B, 102145B to SPORTSMAN, CARLPLACE, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Shipping and Convoys

M.K.S. 93. For "Redgate". If you have not rejoined convoy by dusk tonight you are to return to Lisbon. (2) Acknowledge. (C. in C. W.A., 101231Z to Ships and Stragglers M.K.S.93.)

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10.4.1945.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSShipping and Convoys - Contd.

- U.C. 63B, (1) Detach PERIM and ZANZIBAR to R/V with U.C.
C.U. 64. 63B escorted by U.S.S. HAMMANN and ROBERT E.
PEARY rendezvousing with Thames section escorted
by VESPER on Route W in long. 01° 09' W. at
1445/11th. Speed 12½ knots, zig-zagging, S.O.
escorts HAMMANN.
(2) PERIM, ZANZIBAR, VESPER are to support convoy to westwards
until convoy C.U.64 is met and to comply with my 091526B.
(3) At 1200B/11th detach GOOD HOPE to join BALFOUR, HOSTE
patrolling area Q.Z.S.629. Route E.W. between 01° 40' W. and
02° 20' W.
(4) Leave patrol with LOCH FYNE and ST. HELENA as necessary
to R/V with C.U. 64 in 03° 00' W. at 1900B/11th. My 091526B
refers.
(5) C.U.64 is being supported in Plymouth Command by Force 26
(S.O.) FAULKNER. Radio distinguishing group of convoy C.U.
64 is 2 Q.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101304B to TOWY.)

BARON Received your 101025Z impossible to rejoin
FORBES. before dusk. Returning Lisbon.
(BARON FORBES, 101345Z to Admiral Liverpool.)

O.S.122/ My 101731. Add para. 7.
K.M.S.96. STUBBORN sails in O.S.122/K.M.S.96 from Clyde
STUBBORN. Boom 0015/12th.
(C. of W., 101910B.)

O.N. 295. Commodores 1200Z R/V for tomorrow Wednesday
47.05 N., 13.36 W., course 255°.
(C. in C. W.A., 102151Z to Ships and Stragglers
O.N. 295.)

10.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

E.G. 59. If tugs have sufficient fuel, and neither they nor dock require to enter Gibraltar, dock should continue to Mers el Kebir.
(F.O.G.M.A. 101257A to E.G. 59.)
(2) Tugs and docks signal they can continue as instructed, pilot in company, not towing.
(3) My position, course and speed by observations at 1700A/10th are as follows: 035° 54' N. 009° 03' W. 092° (true) 6.2 knots.
E.T.A. Point George 1600A/11th.
(S.O.E.G. 59 101620Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

FRIENDSHIP (M/S.) My 091445A (N.T. in W.D.), Engine repaired. P.C.S. at 2000A 039° 14' N. 010° 20' W. 174° 10½ knots, proceeding rejoin STAFFORDSHIRE in position E. If not met E.T.A. 0600A/12th April.
(FRIENDSHIP 102101A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Fleet minesweepers. Arrived Horta at 2015Z/10th LAERTES and GEORGIAN.
(S.B.N.O. Azores 102234Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

ENNERDALE, L.S.G. M.S.C.I. 5. (1) Intend sailing ENNERDALE to Alexandria at 1400/10th.
14 L.C.M.(I) and maintenance crews less engineer officers embarked.
(HAMILCAR 100731B to F.O.L.E.M.)

OKLAHOMA. Search for suspected U-Boat. Your 091317. In view of air patrols from Dakar and Bathurst to long. of Cape Verde Islands which recommenced 29th March, it is considered very unlikely that OKLAHOMA could have been sunk in 14° N. 20° W., without trace, observing that she would not have reached this long. before March 31st. Attack somewhere west of Cape Verde Islands prior to 30th March appears more probable.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 101307Z to Admty.)

Trawlers and whalers in S. Atlantic Escort Force. Your 081236B. Approved to retain, temporarily, the six trawlers and two whalers named in your 211236 March.
(2) Disposition of remainder will be signalled in due course.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 102235B to C. in C. S.A.)

10.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PIONEER,
A/C maintenance ship
(for B.P.F.)

E.T.A. Port Said 0600Z/12th April. If convenient a stay of 48 hours in Canal Zone to make good minor defects would be desirable.
(PIONEER 100951 to N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

MASSO 14
Spanish Fishing Vessel,
loss of.

Your 061900 - survivors referred to in B.B.C. broadcast were from convoy. Regret no further news ex MASSO 14.
(D.N.I. 101303B to B.N.A. Madrid.)

Linrep No.
246 5/8
April.

(2) Naval. Adriatic. Coastal craft and L.C.G. gave support to partisans in taking of Pag and Karlobag. In a night action two motor torpedo boats engaged three enemy coastal craft attempting to enter Pag. Contact was lost when enemy retired close in shore.
(A.F.H.Q. 101309B to Linrep Addressees.)

Situation report No.
590.

Gulf of Genoa. Destroyers MARNE and LOOKOUT continue to carry out successful bombardments in support of 5th Army.

(2) Adriatic. Landing and coastal craft are providing support to successful Yugoslav advance up Croatian coast. Preliminary R/C of Pag, Karlobag and Jablanac which have all been captured show that no demolitions have been made and harbour appears clear of mines. On forenoon of 9th April an explosion occurred in an ammunition ship at Bari which caused widespread damage in the port and a considerable number of casualties. 3 merchant ships were set on fire, one Italian corvette was damaged but H.M. ships sustained no damage of importance; estimated naval casualties 15 killed and 50 wounded.

(3) Dodecanese. Night of 7th April a small scale nuisance raid was carried out on Calino.
(C. in C. Med. 101701B to F.O.L.E.M.)

10.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

A.F.D. 39. ORIANA. Your 090745 refers. If cracked cylinder lining is the only major defect ORIANA should be sailed forthwith to tow A.F.D. 39. If necessary the defective cylinder can be cut out without imparing to any degree the reliability or time of sailing of the tug.
(C. in C. E.I. 100511Z to N.O.I.C. E.A.)

NITH,
L.S.H.(S)

Departures NITH escorting L.C.T.(1) 13.32 12.38 12.40 L.C.G. 7 and 449 in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 080643 and my 0912(43) neither to all addressees E.T.A. landing craft at Cochin 0130Z/14th. S.O.A. 7 knots NITH proceed independently to Trincomalee on relief by HALLADALE.
(F.O. Bombay 101052 to Admty.)

10.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ST. MIHIEL, C.U. 65 in position $\sqrt{64.40W/37.34N}$ at 1953Q. ST. MIHIEL and NASHBULK in collision. ST. MIHIEL fires raging ship apparently abandoned. Rescuing survivors. NASHBULK damage bow and steering casualty but seaworthy. More later.

(C.T.G. 61.1 100045 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

My 100045. NASHBULK partial abandoned ship. 20 ships crew and three armed guard missing. No casualties on board. ST. MIHIEL burning furiously. Unapproachable. Approx. 63 survivors picked up by escorts. None requiring medical officer. C.C.D. 23 in SELASTROM with RHODES, RICHEY, BRISTER, ~~=====~~ at scene of casualty. Originator in EDISON with MILLS rejoining convoy. C.C.D. 23 directed transfer survivors to ~~NASHBULK~~ as practicable thence return NASHBULK to New York unescorted also directed release. Other escorts to rejoin convoy when practicable and make further report.

(C.T.G. 61.1 100205 to Connav.)

Without delay send KIOWA, ESCAPE to assist at scene of collosion lat. 37.34 N. long. 64.40 W. C.T.G. 61.1. 100045 not to all.

(C. in C. Lant 100238Z to Comnob Bermuda.)

NASHBULK and ST. MIHIEL C.U. 65 in collision position 37.34 N. 64.40 W. direct two escorts your unit proceed to scene to assist and relieve vessels of Task Group 61.1. KIOWA and ESCAPE also proceeding from Bermuda to assist.

(C. in C. Lant 100307Z to C.T.G. 61.4.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 101325Z to Cominch, Cominch 101550Z.)

Contact. Attacking bottom contact possible submarine 125° Chebucto Head 1.4 miles.
(ST. THERESE 102015Z.)
Have carried out 2 accurate attacks without visible result consider contact not submarine probably out cropping of rock. Returning to harbour.
(ST. THERESE 102039Z.)

(E.G)W.1. Not to all my 091816* para. 2.
Group W.1 KAPUSKASING (S.O.) is to detach from S.C. 172 as necessary to join O.N.S. 46 by 1800Z/12th April. Estimate O.N.S. 46 P.C.S. at 1800Z/12th 42.39 N. 38.50 W. 280° 7.5 knots.
(2) W.1 on joining O.N.S. 46 obtained convoy papers and onward route from S.O.C. 8 in STONETOWN.
(3) C.8 is to remain with convoy until further orders with W.1 under orders of S.O.C.8.
(F.O.N.F. 102128Z to W.1, C.8.) *S.C. 172.

Radar Para. D. (1) 1916/8 A/C Radar contact and sighting contacts, etc. of wake and puff of blue smoke 48.00 N. 31.03 W.
(2) 2031/9th D.E. attacked sound contact 47.58 N. 30.58 W. Subsequent air and surface search negative. All times Z.
(Cominch 102128Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

10.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.- Contd.

E.G. 21 U/B attacks. Comment has been made in the Navy Department on the successful U-Boat attacks by E.G. 21.
(2) Request information if any unusual technique employed and weapons used.
(B.A.D. 102311Z to Admty.) Reply 151322B.

Far East and Australia.

Enemy sighting report. From C.O.I.S. B.A.D. U.S. aircraft report one possible battleship and four destroyers in 34° N. 135° 05' E. at 0200Z on 7th April.
(B.A.D. 100241Z to Admty.(D.N.I.))

Defences of Advance Bases B.P.F. Head of M. (Ad.) 100311B V.A.(Q) B.P.F.
See Lion Copy.

Digest 1175 9.4.45. (1) Navy search planes scored 2 direct hits single small freighter transport 55 miles east by north Fort Bayard leaving ship burning with crew abandoning ship, sank single sea truck, 2 sampans S.W. Pescadores, destroyed 1 sunk near Kilrun (Formosa.)
(3) Mariners from Lingayan night 8/9th April sank freighter transport of 1,000 tons heading south of Tainan (Formosa.)
(4) Morning American forces with air and naval support landed unopposed on north coast Holo Island (Sulu Archipelago.) Another force landed without opposition Busanga Island (S.W. Mindoro Island.)
(6) Early hours 4 Liberators dropped 2 tons on small shipping Hongkong, 2 tons on Mako oil storage (Pescadores). Single Liberator bombed Victoria Docks, Hongkong.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 101015Z to Admty.)

LAMONT, L.S.I.(L) Your 290541Z. LAMONT may be retained for further temporary service but in this case GLENEARN must be sailed to arrive in U.K. by mid June, since one or other of these two ships has to be refitted for service at end of year with Assault Force in S.E.A.C.

(2) The question of providing a personnel transport in place of GLENEARN is under consideration, but in any case no immediate provision can be expected and meantime requirement must be met from Fleet resources.
(V.C.N.S. 101538B to C. in C. B.P.F.) See 120507.

NEWCASTLE. C. in C. B.P.F.'s 050659. NEWCASTLE should proceed via Suez.
(2) NEWCASTLE may be used to escort EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND provided she is not delayed thereby.
(D.O.D.(F) 101545B to C. in C. B.P.F.)

/S/M...

SECRET

171A
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.)

*Defence of Advance Bases
B.P.F.*

100311B April

To: V.A.(Q) B.P.F.
Info: C. in C. B.P.F.

Date: 10.4.45

NAVAL CYPHER X

From: Admiralty.

The arrangements requested in your 292344 March are being met subject to following remarks.

2. Referring to para.2 (A) of your 070701/ and to paragraph 3 of your 292344 March:-

A. Intend to sail H.M.S. ST.MARGARETS which is Bullfinch Class cable ship from United Kingdom early in May for Sydney. Expect she will arrive about end of July.

B. Has been arranged.

C. Is being dealt with separately.

D. (1) H.M.S. HELVIG can carry only small quantity of cable which is allocated to telephone lines between HELVIG and N.O.I.C., and between HELVIG and boom gate vessel.

D. (2) If MIL cable is carried by ST. MARGARETS she will be unable to load and work cable for indicator loops and H.D.A.'s until MILS have been laid.

E. Adequate spares will be carried by HELVIG.

3. If MILS will not ~~repeat~~ be laid in depths exceeding ten fathoms single core cable pattern 1989 which is used for indicator loops could be used for MILS, but seven core cable pattern 13142 should be used for MILS laid in depths exceeding ten fathoms.

4. Boats similar to those carried by HELVIG have laid MILS in depths down to 20 fathoms. If you see need for laying MILS in deeper water further training and trials should be carried out before HELVIG sails. This would not necessarily involve delay.

5. The size of the proposed systems calls for consideration of the arrangements for carrying and issuing the necessary cable. Even if cable pattern 1989 were used for MILS, ST. MARGARETS could only carry about half that required for all systems, and by so doing laying indicator loops and H.D.A.'s would be delayed.

6. ST. MARGARETS cannot lay MILS and HELVIG can carry only two laying parties which we estimate could lay 16 MILS in 8 weeks with good weather.

/7.....

7. Following alternatives are for consideration:-

- (a) Send cable forward by freight which would require considerable organisation to avoid difficulties in forward area but which you may perhaps be arranging.
- (b) provide extra MIL laying parties and boats from U.K. for forward shipment to be organised by you;
- (c) provide a ship from U.K. specially to carry MIL laying parties, their gear and all their cable.

8. Above proposals take no account of requirements for laying systems projected in your 020258 April.

9. Request your remarks.

10. Other points raised in your 070701 will be dealt with separately.

100311B

for Head of M.(671)

~~Former Top Secret.~~

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.(3)
 D.F.S.L.(2)
 2nd S.L.
 3rd S.L.
 4th S.L.
 Contr..
 Vice Contr.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 A.C.N.S.(W)
 A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
 D.N.I.(5)
 D. of P.(2)
 D. of P.(Q)(3)
 D. of L.D.(3)
 D.A/S.M.(2)
 D.T.M.(2)
 D.C.
 O.D.(6)
 Plot
 O.I.C.(2)
 D./U.D.
 D.
 Ad. Blake
 W.D.
 D.B.D.(2)
 D.G.D.(2)
 D.N.O.
 D.R.E.(3)
 N.A. 2nd S.L.(2)
 C.W.(2)
 A.C.N.P.(4)
 D. of M.

D.D.O.D.(C)(2)
 D.S.V.P.(3)
 D.N.C.(2)
 D.S.D.(2)
 D. of S.T.(15)
 D. of S.(3)
 M.(5)(M.PDO30/45)
 Dep. Contr.(3)
 D.A/S.M.
 D.(4)
 D.N.C.(2)
 D.T.M.(2)
 D. of S.
 D.N.O.(4)
 D.R.E.(3)
 C.E. in C.
 S.W.R.(6)

BATH.

War Diary.10.4.1945
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Far East and Australia - Contd.S/M dis-
positions.

Amendments to my 092002 March*.

A. May. TAPIR, TOTEM, TURPIN, TRESPASSER, O.23.

June: SPUR, SCOTSMAN. September: SAGA.

B. Mid June: SIRDAR. Early October: TUDOR.

Early November: STATESMAN.

(F.O. S/M 101651B to C. in C. B.P.F.)

See 130702Z. * Submarine forecast.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 1000Z/10th April.

Para. A. (1) Mosquito A/C attacked 2 U-Boats
course 350° at 1522Z/9th in 58° 05' N. 11° 10' E.(2) Mosquito A/C attacked U-Boat course 180°
at 1522Z/9th in 58° 48' N. 11° 26' E.(3) MENDIP attacked contact and was missed by
torpedo at 2016Z/9th in 52° 57' N. 02° 15' E.

(4) H.M. ship missed torpedo at 1506Z/9th in 52° 03' N. 05° 21' W.

Para. B. (1) TALYBONT attacked contact at 1801Z/9th in 52° 25' N.
01° 52' E.

(2) A/C -/810 attacked wake at 1747Z/9th in 52° 32' N. 01° 52' E.

(3) A/C Y/107 reported oil and possible U-Boat at 1045Z/9th
in 49° 48' N. 10° 00' W.Para. C. (1) A/C B/304 sighted smoke at 1635Z/9th in 50° 23' N.
08° 10' W.Para. D. (1) H.N.M.S. HORTEN attacked contact believed wreck at
1725Z/9th in 57° 47' N. 02° 47' W.(2) Fighter A/C reported periscope before 1500Z/9th in 50° 06' N.
01° 04' E.(3) ROWLEY attacked contact believed wreck at 1043Z/9th in
49° 55' N. 05° 34' W.

(D.D.I.C. 101145B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 101420B to A.I.G., Cominch.)

U/B report.

My 221059 July, 1942. H.M. trawler WILLOW saw and
felt an underwater explosion at 0715B on 5th April
in position 125° Tuskar Rock 16 miles. Oil and
a German dinghy and container came to the surface.
This was probably a mining casualty.(2) At 1235B on the same day STONECROP and PETUNIA attacked an
asdic contact believed to be a U-Boat in position 260° Ushant
125 miles. A considerable amount of oil came to the surface.(3) WATCHMAN attacked an asdic contact 0815B on 6th April - one
hour after SS. CUBA had been torpedoed within 2 miles - in
position 175° The Nab 7 miles. Hedgehog attack was successful
and 4 officers and 14 ratings from U.1195 were recovered.(4) At 0942B on 8th CALDER obtained asdic contact and sighted
a periscope 222° Fastnet 128 miles. After several attacks
large air bubbles were seen and a deep underwater explosion was

/heard...

10.4.1945
Tuesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B report.
(Contd.)

heard, followed by diesel oil, human remains,
wood and clothing.

(5) FITZROY attacked an asdic contact in position
191° Fastnet 135 miles at 1540B on 8th April.

Hedgehog attacks by FITZROY and BYRON obtained
explosions at 360 feet in 460 feet of water, and abundant
wreckage of German origin was recovered. (U. 1001 sunk)

(6) Mosquitoes attacked 3 U-boats in the Kattegat at 1700B on
9th April. Two U-boats were claimed as sunk, dinghies,
wreckage and oil being seen. The third was claimed damaged by
R.P.

(D.A.U.D. 102317B to Cominch, etc.)

US04
S43
1065

War Diary.

11.4.1945.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. In view of the present U-Boat situation in the Atlantic escort vessels and smaller H.M. ships should not normally be sailed independently on ocean passages through areas where U-Boats are known to be operating, except on the American side.

2. At 0001/15 the 8th Fleet (U.S.) (at present in the Mediterranean) becomes Task Force 125 of the 12th Fleet.

North Sea.

3(a) M.T.B.632 sank a midget U-Boat off Dungeness late tonight.

(b) M.L.586 attacked a midget U-Boat near Dunkirk this morning. A heavy explosion followed.

(c) The frigate RETALICK this morning attacked a small U-Boat (possibly Type XXIII), 24 miles W.N.W. of Ostend and saw hits.

(d) ~~MVSS~~. PORT WYNDHAM, in Convoy U.C.63B was torpedoed off Dungeness this morning and was towed to the Downs in a damaged condition.

(e) EKINS this afternoon captured two German Naval Signalmen from a small sailing boat which had put out from Dunkirk. Shortly before midnight she destroyed two explosive motor boats 9 miles N.W. of Walcheren and took four prisoners.

Channel.

4(a) In the early hours of today shore batteries on Alderney began shelling the radar station at Jobourg, south-west of Cherbourg, and the Cap de la Hague area, at the rate of about 8 shells a minute and continued intermittently for some days at a reduced rate of fire.

(b) 17 out of 18 enemy landed as a sabotage party on the west coast of the Cotentin Peninsula on the night 4th/5th April have now been captured. The leader is still at large.

Western Approaches.

5(a) APOLLO and ARIADNE from Milford Haven today laid an A/U deep minefield off the Tuskar. (Operation C.H.)

(b) VANQUISHER and TINTAGEL CASTLE, part of the escort of O.N.295, attacked a U-Boat which approached the convoy about midnight last night in the Western Approaches in 47.37 N., 10.30 W. and consider they damaged and possibly sank the enemy.

U.878
sunk

Northern Waters.

6. BRITTANY this afternoon completed laying a length of 50 miles of anti-schnorkel obstructors 120 miles west of the Shetlands.

11.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Adriatic.

7(a) Landing craft and coastal craft are providing support to the successful Yugoslav advance up the Croatian coast. Preliminary reconnaissance of Pag, Karlobag and Jablenac (about 50' S.E. of Fiume) which have been captured show that no demolitions have been made and the harbours appear clear of mines. (b) Tonight M.T.Bs. off Taglimenta (Gulf of Trieste) encountered 3 enemy convoys and attacked one convoy. Probably severely damaging one ship. (132133).

East Indies

Andaman
Sea.

8. At dawn today Liberators of 222 Group attacked a Japanese merchant ship escorted by one S/M chaser, 50 miles east of Car Nicobar and sank both ships. The 11th Destroyer Flotilla subsequently picked up 68 prisoners. Between the 9th April and today, this flotilla consisting of ROTHERHAM, RACEHORSE, ROCKET and REDOUBT had operated in Moulmein and Mergui area and also in Hastings Harbour area and sank 5 small sailing craft. (151314Z)

Sumatra.

9. Today a force consisting of QUEEN ELIZABETH (V.A.3), RICHELIEU, EMPEROR, KHEDIVE, LONDON, CUMBERLAND and 5 destroyers operated off N.E. coast of Sumatra. QUEEN ELIZABETH, RICHELIEU, and LONDON bombarded Sabang and the destroyers Olehleh. Ten enemy aircraft attacked the fleet unsuccessfully and 2 were shot down.

Movement.

10. ROYALIST (A.C.21) left Trincomalee for Akyab.

11.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

Movement.

11. REAPER (Ferry Carrier) arrived San Diego from Pearl Harbour.

Far East and Australia

Philippines.

12. This morning American forces landed unopposed on Bohol island, south of Cebu.

11.4.1945
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Escort vessels & smaller, ocean passages. In view of present U-Boat situation in the Atlantic, escort vessels and smaller H.M. ships should not normally be sailed independently on ocean passages through areas where U-Boats are known to be operating.
(2) Except in cases of operational urgency they should be sailed either (a) with a suitable convoy or to join a convoy at sea before entering a U-Boat area: or
(b) in company with at least one other ship.
(3) The above restriction does not apply to escort vessels proceeding between Bermuda and Canadian and Newfoundland ports.
(A.CN.S.(H) 110036B.)

Mining in Baltic. Soviet Naval Staff have requested full details of our mining operations in the Baltic in view of the fact that the Red Fleet is now in support of Red Army off the mouth of the Oder and in Southern and Southwestern Baltic generally.
(2) They request fullest information of details of minefields east of meridian of 13° E. including date, region, type and quantity of mines laid.
(Admiral Archer 111131B to Admty.)

Operations.

North Sea.

SS. PORT WYNDHAM (U.C. 63B.) PORT WYNDHAM torpedoed or mined outer Lade buoy. (VESPER 110720B to Dover.)
Making water fast No. 1 hold salvage pumps broken ships cannot cope with intake of water. Vessel settling by head. Suggest vessel be shifted to shallow water immediately now anchored in 10 fathoms.
(PORT WYNDHAM 111850B to Lloyds Agent, Dover.)
Your 111850 and 111935 not to all LADY BRASSEY proceeding forthwith.
(A.C. Dover 111945B to PORT WYNDHAM.)

Midget S/M reported. Midget submarine has dived 072° N.F. 1 3 miles. (GUILLEMOT 110828 to C. in C. Nore.)
Have attacked A/S contact in position 054° N.F. 2 3½ miles.
(GUILLEMOT 110910B.)

/Nore...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea - Contd.

Nore patrols. Nore night dispositions, April 11/12th.
 Humber Force (Group 1) Patrol 1 CATTISTOCK.
 (Group 2) Harbour PYTCHLEY.
 Harwich Force (Group 3) Patrol 2 TALYBONT, 3
 KRAKOWIAK, 4 LAMERTON, 6 KITTIWAKE, 12 CAICOS, 14 QUANTOCK, 16
 RIOU, 18 CHIDDINGFOLD, 19 EKINS, 21 CUBITT, 22 RUTHERFORD.
 T.A.M. 36 MALLARD, A.T.M. 121 GUILLEMOT.
 (Group 4) Harbour EGLINTON, ARENDAL, HAMBLEDON, ZETLAND,
 SEYMOUR, MALLARD, SHELDRAKE, WIDGEON.
 Sheerness Force (Group 5), Patrol 5 OAKLEY, 7 WILTON, 8 FERNIE,
 17 BRISSENDEN, T.A.M. 36, VIMY, A.T.M. 121 TANATSIDE, T.A.M. 1
 MIDDLETON, F.N. 86 EASTON.
 (Group 7) Harbour HOLDERNESS, GARTH, ALBRIGHTON, BLENCATHRA,
 COTTESMORE, HAYDON, MENDIP, MEYNELL, MIDDLETON, CALGARY,
 BADDECK.
 Southend, VERSATILE, MIMICO, ARMERIA.
 (C. in C. Nore 111605B.)

Patrols for night Thursday 12th April.

1 KRAKOWIAK, 4 ARENDAL, 7 EASTON, 2 CATTISTOCK, 5 OAKLEY, 8
 COTTESMORE, 3 LAMERTON, 6 WIDGEON.

Coastal force units F.C. 1 to 8 R/V with patrols at 2245.

(2) 12 RIOU with C.F. from U.K.

14 QUANTOCK, 16 EKINS with C.F. from Ostend.

17 MEYNELL, 18 HAMBLEDON, 19 SEYMOUR with C.F. from Ostend.

21 RUTHERFORD, 22 CAICOS with C.F. from U.K.

Coastal forces from Ostend R/V with frigates at 2145.

(3) Escorts T.A.M. 37 BLANKNEY, T.A.P. 2 ALBRIGHTON.

(4) Coastal forces from U.K.

Patrol 1, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 1 with KRAKOWIAK.

Patrol 2, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 2 with CATTISTOCK.

Patrol 3, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 3 with LAMERTON.

Patrol 4, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 4 with ARENDAL.

Patrol 5, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 5 with OAKLEY.

Patrol 6, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 6 with WIDGEON.

Patrol 7, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 7 with EASTON.

Patrol 8, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 8 with COTTESMORE.

Patrol 12, 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.

ESTV 2922 unit F.B. 6, 3 M.T.B.

NYZZ 5035 F.A. 1, F.A. 2, F.A. 3, 6 M.T.B.

From Ostend.

ESUA 2316 unit F.A. 8, 2 M.T.B.

ESUA 2100 unit F.B. 2, 2 M.T.B.

ESUA 4126 unit F.G. 5, 4 M.L.

ESUA 3312 unit F.H. 3, F.H. 4, 4 M.T.B.

ESZZ 3453 unit F.G. 4 (by day) 4 M.L.

Patrol 76 unit F.G. 2, F.G. 3, 4 M.T.B.

(C. in C. Nore 111815.)

My 111605. EASTON and FERNIE have interchanged duties.

(C. in C. Nore 112229B.)

/Operation...

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Operation "Selma." Amendments to orders for operation "Selma" will arrive in Aberdeen by hand of the Commanding Officer, M.T.B. 718 Copy No. 1 by Admiralty Bag to C. in C. Rosyth.
(2) Request M.T.B. 718 be sailed accordingly by Aberdeen 0600 Thursday 12th April.
(D.D.O.D.(I) 111332B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Dover - patrol D.I. Dover S.O. 31 and my 061707.
Add additional patrol D.K. is instituted between Inner Lade Buoy and position 055° Inner Lade Buoy 5 miles. Callsign F.O.9.
(A.C. Dover 111550B.)

My 111550B. Commencing 2000 tonight patrol D.K. will be maintained instead of D.H.
(A.C. Dover 111603B.)

U-Boat and S.B.U. summaries to 1200B/11th April.
(1) Add to my 101325B*. Two man submarine ran aground approx. 6 miles east of Calais early a.m. 10th S.N.O.B.O.P.(F's) 101800 (not to all) refer.
(2) 2040/10th. M.L. 573 sighted and attacked midget between D.C. 1 and D.C. 2 buoys. No results.
(3) 2050/10 M.L. 107 sighted and attacked midget 135° D.C. 1 buoy 3 cables. No results.
(4) 0715B/11th. SS. PORT WYNDHAM (U.C. 63B) torpedoed in vicinity of outer Lade buoy. Damaged and subsequently towed to Downs for salvage operations. No sighting or contacts.
(A.C. Dover 111835B.) * U-Boat and S.B.U. summary to 1200B/10th April.
(1) 1154/10, aircraft attacked midget U-Boat 51.56 N. 03.11 E.
(2) 0108/11, RETALICK attacked small U-Boat 295 Ostend 24. Hits observed. Reported possibly type XXIII.
(3) 0828/11, GUILLEMOT attacked midget U-Boat 078° M.F. 1 buoy 2.4.
(4) 1017/11 aircraft attacked midget U-Boat 51.56 N. 03.43 E.
(C. in C. Nore 111846B.)

ELFREDA. N.O.I.C. Harwich 111458. ELFREDA rejoined 40th M/S F.
(S.O. M/S F. 40 112012.)

Force U, Force T. My 091726. Intend force U should be designated Ferry Craft Squadron. Force T from the date Commander Bradford assumes command.
(2) Operational and administrative duties previously carried out by N.C. Force U will then become the responsibility of N.C. Force T.
(3) Particulars of reduction in staff and officers available for re-appointment will be signalled.
(A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 112218B, as amended 120955B.) *Effective 0900/11, p.266*

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

MORGANTOWN
VICTORY.

Am off H.D. 2 buoy and have been hit by mine or torpedo and am making water in No. 5 hold. We need assistance immediately. Have patrol boat alongside. They advise we are to get tugs in 20 mins. but have been waiting 1 hour.

We need tugs and salvage boat that can pump water from No. 5 hold. Advise. Ends.

(MORGANTOWN VICTORY No T.O.O/11 to Le Havre W/T.)

Please report Director (unread) assistance needed including salvage boat to pump water from No. 5 hatch also arrangements for docking ship providing we reach port.

(MORGANTOWN VICTORY No T.O.O/11.)

Tug L.T. 119 5 miles from you proceeding at top speed. Ends.

(Le Havre W/T No T.O.O/11 to MORGANTOWN VICTORY.)

We are securing now assistance alongside T.U. acknowledged by N.J.H. (Le Havre.)

(MORGANTOWN VICTORY No T.O.O/11.)

Joburg Radar
Station
bombarded.

At 110220 Joburg radar station reported firing from Alderney. 3 to 8 gun salvos. Firing continues for about 2 hours then intermittent with no fire for 5 to 10 minutes out of every half hour. Shells probable 6-8 inch. Salvos about every minute during time of fire. Some shells

landed within about 300 yards of Joburg radar station. Only part of fire directed at Joburg remainder directed Cap de la Hague area. 2 men of 156th infantry wounded from shrapnel. At 110450 enemy track appeared 6 miles east Sark Island and proceeded on easterly course to within 6 miles Cape Flamanville at 0530 then westerly course and faded 0630 seven miles East Sark. 0540 enemy track appeared 3 miles N.E. Sark and proceeded E.N.E. to within 7 miles Cape Flamanville thence on westerly course and faded at 0830. P.Ts. north Cap de la Hague sent to intercept. One P.T. made gunnery run approx. range 300-500 yards and believed got hits. Necessary to recall P.Ts. due approach daylight. Enemy vessel believed to be about 100 feet long did not fire on P.Ts. Heavy firing on P.Ts. from Alderney while returning through Alderney race. Last fire from Alderney observed about 0745.

(C.T.G. 122.2 110953B to C.T.F. 122.)

My 110953B refers. Shelling commenced again at 1043B.

(C.T.G. 122.2 111209B.)

Request as soon as possible heavy precision bombing of Alderney batteries causing the annoyance referred to in C.T.G. 122.2 110953 and 111209B April being passed to Admiralty.

(2) C.T.F. 122 pass to A.N.C.X.F.

(C. in C. Plymouth 112242B.)

Patrol.

My 101304B* and 091526+ neither to all delete all reference to HOSTE.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 111011B to S.O.E.G. 1, S.O. E.G. 18, C.T.G. 61.6, VESPER.)

* GOOD HOPE to join BALFOUR, HOSTE.

+ C.U.A. 64.

N.T. in W.D. of either.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

Enemy sabotage party. My 081155* refers. Total prisoners captured 17. Leader Lt. Manzann still at large. (C.T.G. 122.2 111039B.)
 * Re German party from Channel Islands.

Patrol. (1) Request you sail 2 M.T.Bs. unit G.C.. at 0800B/12th to patrol area Q.Z.S. 692. Route E.W. between 01° 40' W. and 02° 20' W. (2) If not in contact leave patrol 1300B and return to Harbour. (C. in C. Portsmouth 111055B to HORNET.)

"Artisan" M/S 16's 101151B. TADOUSSAC and SHIPPIGAN sailed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 111230B.) My 101151* and 111006+ not to all addressees. Skimming sweep completed. Negative. (2) E.T.A. Falmouth 1900. (S.O. M/S 16 111647B.) * No trace. + Ref. sweeping programme.

Cositintrep No. 372. Part 4, section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/10. (S.H.A.E.F. Main 111730.)

French corvettes based at Milford. French authorities have asked that French corvettes now based at Milford Haven should spend a part of their time operating from Plymouth. (2) Request your remarks on possibility of arranging a period at Plymouth for all Milford Haven corvettes both R.N. and French. (D.O.D.(H) 111950B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Navigation lights. Paraphrase of 101915Z (q.v.) (D.T.D. 112100Z.)

BULLDOG, BEAGLE. Return Falmouth forthwith. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Plymouth 112342B to BULLDOG, BEAGLE.)

Operations.

West Coast of France.

Trawler captured. Captured trawler escorted to Sables d'Olonne with 5 German prisoners. LEFORTUNE relieved by ALCYON. Evening patrol north of Ile d'Yeu and night patrol conforming with your 091820B* (HOVA 110500Z to C.F.N.T.F.)
 * Text as follows. (N.T. in W.D.)
 Owing to possibility of contact with enemy during the ensuing nights you will patrol in company with other ships of your group. Effective night patrols as you consider situation demands between position 190° Sables d'Olonne 25 miles and Sables.

/This...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast of France.

Trawler
captured.
(Contd.)

This re-encypherment of LE FORTUNE despatch 100835A.
"Radar contact on small wooden trawler showing no lights in position 270° at 0400B Les Sables d'Olonne 27 miles. Boat fired rockets and stopped after LE FORTUNE and HOVA fired starshells followed by H.E. Boat now being taken by HOVA into Les Sables d'Olonne. Found to be LE HASARD of La Rochelle. Probably manned by Germans."
(LE FORTUNE 111140B.)

Force 27.

My 101628B. Expect aircraft at 1000B/11.
(C. in C. Plymouth 110817B to S.O. Force 27.)
Sunderland aircraft on coastwise sweep from northward will R/V patrol A at about 1100B/12th in Ile d'Yeu, Sables d'Olonne area.
(2) After R/V with patrol A aircraft will sweep to southward and when returning to northward will again contact patrol A at a R/V to be mutually arranged.
(3) and (4). Communications.
(C. in C. Plymouth 111718B to S.O. Force 27.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

O.N. 295,
U/B report.

Submarine on the surface in 47° 38' N. 10° 30' W. at 2400B.
(VANQUISHER 110001B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
O.N. 295. VANQUISHER, SUNFLOWER and ALISMA are to hunt U-Boat. If not in contact they are to leave in time to R/V H.X. 347 in 10° W.
(C. in C. W.A. 110051B to Escorts O.N. 295, VANQUISHER.)
My 102358B. (1) No ships sunk.
(2) German U-Boat detected by VANQUISHER in position L outside screen dived.
(3) VANQUISHER, TINTAGEL CASTLE and ALISMA in contact astern of convoy under order of VANQUISHER.
(4) P.C.S. of convoy 047° 35' N. 011° 13' W. S. 255° 9.5 F.R. at 0110B.
(5) Asdic condition good. (6) German U-Boat now at 600 feet. Weather report 4855 0522.
(S.O.E.G. B. 1 110126B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 110126B para. 3 add SUNFLOWER.
(S.O.E.G.B. 1, 110225B.)
My 110001B. Schnorkel sighted at 2355B on port bow O.N. 295 in 047° 37' N. 010° (?30.2' or 53.2') W. attacked by VANQUISHER inconclusive. TINTAGEL CASTLE directed (?on). Two loud explosions followed TINTAGEL CASTLE's first Squid attack (corrupt group) contact faded. Consider German U-Boat damaged, possibly sunk. Conducting square search with SUNFLOWER and ALISMA. TINTAGEL CASTLE rejoining S.O. Group B.1.
(VANQUISHER 110428B to C. in C. W.A.)

U.878
sunk

/My...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

O.N. 295,
 U/B report.
 (Contd.)

My 110428B. Large oil patch sighted 1530B in area of attack. Remained until (?19)00B (?few) A/S contacts. Oil bubbles still rising sample taken. (?Endeavouring) to join H.X. SUNFLOWER, ALISMA in company P.C.S. 47° 00' N. 10° 40' W. (S), 180° 8 knots.

Weather report 5571 9757 unsuitable.
 (VANQUISHER 112000Z.)

E.Gs. 4, 5,
 U/B report.

CALDER has possible submarine contact in 050° 43' N. 010° 51' W.
 (E.G. 4 110109B.)
 My 110109. Contact low classified as non-submarine. Am raiding.
 (S.O.E.G. 4, 110309B.)

E.G. 4 has been relieved by E.G. 5 position at 0300B. E.G. 5 050° (?25') ?N.* 011° 22' W. E.G. 10 049° 20' N. 010° 09' W. both sweeps westward.
 (S.O.E.G. 10, 110309B to C. in C. W.A.)
 * Or might be (?12')

Operation
 "C.H."
 (A/U deep
 mining off
 Tuskar.)

My 091245, para. 1. Sailed APOLLO.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 110125B.)
 Operation "C.H." serial S.3.
 Nos. 1, 2 and 3 completed.
 (APOLLO, 110548.)
 My 110125B arrived APOLLO.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 110943.)
 My 091245, para. 2. Sailed APOLLO.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 111427B.)

My 111427B arrived APOLLO.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 112211B.)

My 091247 para. 2. Sailed ARIADNE.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 110739B.)
 My 110739B April. Arrived ARIADNE.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 111521B.)

Operation "C.H." serials S.3 No. 10, and S.2 No. 4 and 5 completed.
 (APOLLO 111855B.)

Situation
 report at
 2000.

Section Home.
 E.G. 32 U.S.S. WILLIAM T. POWELL 3 frigates supporting C.U. 64 transfer to U.C. 63B on passing.
 Force 37, 2nd E.G. WILD GOOSE 4 frigates North Irish Sea.

Force 36, E.G. 8th LOCH ACHRAY 3 frigates Central Irish Sea.
 Force 38, E.G. 22nd HART, LOCH CRAGGIE 3 sloops St. Georges Channel area. Support convoy as ordered add to my 111143.
 (C. in C. W.A. 111534B.)

/E.G. 25...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

E.G. 25, E.G. 8, - U/B report. Promising E/S traced height 28 feet length 223 feet am remaining in contact unable to support U.C. 63B. My 111531 not to all addressees refers. (S.O.E.G. 25, 111723B to C. in C. W.A.)
C. in C. W.A. 101804B. Sailed 8th E.G. LOCH ACHRAY (S.O.), LOCH MORE, LOCH GLENDHU. 16
Unifoxer wires carried, speed 8 knots until 2200 then 12 knots.
S.O.E.G. 8's 111600B not to all refers.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 111750B.)
E.G. 8 join E.G. 25 who are in asdic contact in 054° 02' N. 005° 03' W. at 1723B. S.O. LOCH ACHRAY.
E.G. 25 remain with contact.
(C. in C. W.A., 111919B to S.O.E.G. 8, S.O.E.G. 25.)
Your 111919B. Amplifying report.
A. 1800 yards. B. Nil. C. Stationary. D. 100 feet. E. Good. F. None. G. H.M.C.S. THETFORD MINES believes wreck. H.M.C.S. STRATHADAM believes likely German U-Boat.
H. Consider possible U-Boat but probable wreck and am remaining with contact until satisfied.
(S.O.E.G. 8, 112315B to C. in C. W.A.)
If not in contact, when relieved by 8th E.G. proceed to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 112338B to THETFORD MINES.)

Operations.

Norway.

M.T.B. operation. M.T.B. 713 and M.T.B. 719 returned at 0315/11th owing to engine trouble on M.T.B. 719.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 110325B.)
Operation "V.P. 81". "V.P. 81" M.T.B. 711 and M.T.B. 723 returned at 1030B today 11th April.
(2) Unit detected by enemy when trying to enter the Leads. No shipping sighted.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 111037B.)
Operation "V.P. 82". "V.P. 82" M.T.B. 717 and M.T.B. 704 returned at 1415B today 11th April.
(2) Units remained in Leads from 2255/10 until 0400/11 but sighted no shipping.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 111427B.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy
J.W. 66.

C. in C. Northern Fleet has notified the following route. Para. 3 of your 081245 refers.

A. Position M.T. B. All positions N. and E.
070° 14' 032° 50.5'. C. 070° 00' 031° 56.6'.
D. 069° 54.1' 031° 38.3'. E. 069° 48.9' 031° 41.2'
F. 069° 44.6' 031° 30.8'. G. 069° 42.5' 031° 29.1'

thence within half a mile of the coast to Kirkenes. Route passes through a minefield between D and G and ships must not deviate more than half mile from course.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 110947B to C. in C. H.F. (Afloat))

SS. HORACE
BUSHNELL,
EMPIRE
BUTTRESS.

P.C.F.T. have approached Embassy for loan of EMPIRE BUTTRESS to help unload SS. HORACE BUSHNELL S.B.N.O. N. Russia's 210813 March para. C refers.
(2) Request made on lines HORACE BUSHNELL is lying damaged at the mouth of Kola Inlet and the place is deep enough to allow the EMPIRE BUTTRESS to approach her.

(3) This appears to me to be typical Russian disregard for safety of our ships in order to obtain their pound of flesh.

(4) Moscow telegram 34 Mossy to Allied supplies Executive refers. (Admiral Archer 111106B to Admty.)

Anti-
Schnorkel
obstructor
lay.

My 111109 leave patrol at 2000B tonight and proceed to Scapa. Report E.T.A.

(2) Anticipate you will not be required before a.m. Friday.

(C. in C. Rosyth 111435B to CAISTOR CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE.)

Operation completed. Am escorting BRITTANY as far as Cape Wrath. Your 101110B refers. (S.O.E.G. 30, 111905B.)

My 101110. On completion support BRITTANY to vicinity of Cape Wrath, thence search eastwards to Duncansby Head.

(C. in C. Rosyth 112030 to S.O.E.G. 30.)

My 112030. Thence to Scapa reporting E.T.A.

(C. in C. Rosyth 112333B to S.O.E.G. 30.)

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHEER,
HIPPER,
EMDEN.

P.R.U. Kiel 10th April, shows as result of Bomber Command raid night 9/10th pocket battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER capsized, two near misses to cruiser HIPPER in dry dock and possible blast damage to cruiser EMDEN. (D.D.I.C. 111044B.)

/Kiel...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Kiel Canal. Reliable observer who passed through Kiel Canal April 6th reports:
A. Only one located (?lock) at Brunsbüttel is at present serviceable and is now being worked by hand.
B. All bridges across Canal and all Locks at Holtenau and Brunsbüttel are now prepared for destruction. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 111631.)
N.I.D. Comment. There is no evidence to confirm or refute the above.
(2) Another report (B.2) stated that on 8.4.45 the lock gate in the Holtenau Southern Locks was unusable after a direct hit presumably in the raid on Kiel on 4.4.45.

Casualties & Defects.

ALBERT VICTOR. Faroes fish carrier ALBERT VICTOR bound Humber from Thurso went aground in low visibility one hundred yards north of north breakwater Aberdeen at 1850A yesterday Tuesday. Salvage vessels working.

(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 110052B.)

My 110052B. Aberdeen lifeboat proceeded to close at 2320B/10th on sighting of rockets. Commercial tug standing by. Aberdeen salvage officer investigating. Visibility now five miles. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 110057B.)

DAPPER.

Am proceeding to Downs under tow ^{LADY} BRASSEY being escorted by GREY GOOSE.

(DAPPER 111325B to A.C. Dover.)

Y.41.

(1) Survey of Y.41 reveals following defects. Ship will be put in dry dock 14th April for repair.
(2) Transfer of cargo to Y.42 now under way will be achieved during the night.

(Comar Brest 111807B to C.T.F. 122.)

STRATHADAM.

Have had H/H explosion on Spigot, eight or ten injured, three dead, possibly more. Proceeding Belfast best speed. Ambulance on arrival.

(STRATHADAM 111845B to C. in C. W.A.)

E.T.A. 2150B at Pilot Lightship. Have 10 injured men from H/H explosion, 5 killed. Request pilot and ambulance.

(STRATHADAM 111920B to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

My 111545B.* Thirteen bombs remaining on Spigot. Pins and laps have been replaced. Request instructions.

(STRATHADAM 112015B, to C. in C. W.A.) *111845B intended

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HOME COMMANDS.

Port Facilities

Port Parties for Germany. My 311750 March para. 1. Now estimated that majority of British Naval Parties could in emergency be at one week's notice from 20th April. (2) Hamburg Port Party is ready. R/C party is expected to arrive Ostend 12th April and Main Party to arrive Ostend 16th April. (A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 111807B to S.H.A.E.F. (Forward.))

Emden. Q.M. 5579. Secret. A.N.C.X.F. Main 101300B refers. Present intention not to use Emden as supply port unless on capture we find facilities for entrance and clearance exist or can easily be provided. (Exfor Rear 111920B.)

Schelde. Convoy H.X. 347 arriving during restrictive draft period for Schelde delivers. (Signed Lee). Request all appropriate remedies be applied. Trimming to even keel and lightening by discharge of fuel and water whenever practicable are suggested. Naval authorities requested to anticipate degree of congestion at Downs and accordingly to increase size of T.A.M. convoys as necessary to resume sailings expeditiously on termination restrictive period. (H.Q. Com. Zone 112257B.)

Movements.

Submarines. (Extract.)
0800/12th positions of submarines and movements to 0759/13th zone B times.
A. UTSIRA 64° 30' 08° 28' diving by day through 64° 30' 04° 14' thence course 210° 95 miles in 24 hours.
C. VIKING leaves patrol off Skudesnes to pass through 59° 10' 04° 23' at 1100/12th and through 59° 39' 04° 23' at 2300/12th thence to 60° 38' 02° 58' diving by day 95 miles in 24 hours.
D. VARNE 60° 18' 03° 17' diving by day through 59° 08' 04° 10' to patrol off Skudesnes.
E. Positions in para. A to D.N. and E.
(C. of W. 111951B.)

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W. 66. My 101608B* sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 111308B.)
* J.W. 66, H.M.C.S. HAIDA escorting 7 U.S.S.R. submarine chasers.
Delete NOREG (T) my 031729 refers.
(D.T.D. 111725B.)

11.4.1945
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

M.K.F. 42,
K.M.F. 43.

M.K.F. 42. Your 101149 not to all addressees.
HESPERUS S.O., HOTSPUR, HAVELOCK will sail
Falmouth p.m. 12th to meet convoy in about 045°
N. thus enabling ENCHANTRESS, VERITY to return
Gibraltar from R/V.

Additional escorts will also be provided for K.M.F. 43 till
relieved by LOCH QUOICH, SHERBOURNE CASTLE, EVENLODE.
(C. in C. W.A. 111559B to F.O.G.M.A.)

11.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

M.F.V. 1116 Request if practicable aircraft may assist LENNOX in search for M.F.V.1116. Consider another ship would be of little assistance owing to extreme unreliability of M.F.Vs. reported position LENNOX last reported position was as in his 101210B. At 1700B/10 he was searching to westward of 010° W. If approved request you will communicate with LENNOX direct. Am out of direct communication with LENNOX.

(GOZO, 110907B to F.O.G.M.A.).

My P.C. and S. at 0800Z 039° 23' N. 009° 49' W. 180° 3½ knots. No further stragglers.

Weather report 5566 0446.

(GOZO, 111001B).

Searching area about position 041° 18' N. 010° 23' W.

M.F.V.1116 informs he is making between 2 and 3 knots.

(LENNOX, 111015B to F.O.G.M.A.).

A.F.D.32 Detach one escort and ENVOY on passing Tarifa Point to close Rosia Bay to embark chart and necessary Med. Publications for transfer to dock and tugs.

(2) A.F.D.32 in tow of SAMSONIA and DIRECTOR with ENVOY standing by is them to continue to Oran routed etc.

Reporting E.T.A. to Com. N.O.B.Oran repeated F.O.W.Med., F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med.

(3) Tugs will return Gibraltar as soon as dock is berthed in Mersel Kebir.

(F.O.G.M.A., 110942A to S.O.E.G.59).

Your 110942A acknowledged.

(2) ENVOY will be detached south Tarifa at approx. 2230A/11th to collect (?charts) and mail. E.T.A. E.G.59 and dock Point How 0030A/12th. E.G.59 will then detach leaving dock unescorted.

(S.O.E.G.59, 111517Z to F.O.G.M.A.).

6th M/S. Flot. E.T.A. 1200A 12th, weather permitting, STAFFORDSHIRE, POSTILLION and MELITA in company.

(PELORUS, 112001A to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

LOCHY
(Frigate)

LOCHY arrived.
(N.O.I.C.Durban, 110454Z to Admiralty).

PURSUER
(Assault
Carrier)

To clear independent shipping on crossing 026° 00' N. steer through new positions etc.

/thence...

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11.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

PURSUER
(Assault
Carrier)
(Contd.)

thence destination. Request you will exercise with escorts as convenient especially in Fleet procedure.
(F.O.C.W.A., 111216Z to PURSUER).

FRITILLARY
(corvette)

FRITILLARY intend sailing 1700Z/12th April. Route standard northbound. Speed 12. E.T.A. Gib. a.m. 20th.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 111254Z to F.O.G.M.A.).

LOCHY
(Frigate)
A.F.D.39

Sailed LOCHY through position etc. thence to position (D) 020° 09' S. 035° 11' E.
(2) S. of A. to (Z) 16 knots.
(3) LOCHY is to take tow at position (D) while tug SIR WILLIAM HOY bunkers. My 031131 para.3 refers.

(4) C. in C.E.I. is requested to signal further instructions to LOCHY when tug has taken tow after bunkering.
(N.O.I.C.Durban, 112104Z to Admiralty).

War Diary.

11.4.1945
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

F.S. MONTCALM Your 101710. Cancel my 071232* Marine Paris movement of troops. requests approval for immediate use of MONTCALM to transport detachment of troops from Bizerta to Beirut. MONTCALM remaining at Algiers pending decision. Ends.
(F.O.W.M. 110220B to Admty.) * N.T. in W.D.

LEONIAN Sailed LEONIAN at 0542B/11 to Cochin S.O.A. 9 (Boom carrier) knots, E.T.A. 0300Z/26.
(N.O.I.C. Suez 110635B to Admty.)

T.F. 125. As ^{from} 0001/15 8th Fleet becomes T.F. 125 of the 12th Fleet. Cominch and C.N.O. 072008 not to all refers. T.F. Commander retain present administrative title Commavnav. Report for duty as directed in the reference. Operational command under S.A.C. Med. through C. in C. Med. Logistic support by Cinclant.
(Comnavau 110914 to Com. 8th Fleet, C. in C. Med.)

COLOMBO, Can you now say when you expect to release COLOMBO A/A cruiser. Your 011123 Feb. (N.T. in W.D.)
(A.C.N.S.(F) 111048B to C. in C. Med.)

GLASGOW. B.N.R. Belgrade inform us that river vessel GLASGOW now at Pancevo arrived last year in Soviet convoy but has been held owing to poor condition hull frames for general repairs. Yugoslav authorities request information as to what further action is desired by interested parties.
(Macmiss 111102 to B.M.M. Roumania.) Reply 131630B.

Bari Explosion at Bari following British ships involved (explosion Full report follows. ships involved) (1) KNOLL fully loaded trying discharge fire Nos. 3 and 4 had to flood. All superstructure and accommodation gutted.
(2) PLIMSTONE accommodation blasted badly. All instruments L.S.A. and bridge wrecked. Rigging O.K. Winches etc. minor repairs. Cannot sail. Discharging.
(3) COULBEG. Accommodation badly blasted. Can sail. Has discharged.
(4) PINZON half loaded for Greece, bridge wrecked, superstructure and accommodation blasted. Lifeboats gone. Minor shell and deck damage.
(5) SAMSPEED started discharging. Heavy wreckage on deck. Machinery believed O.K. Accommodation partly blasted.
(6) FORT CADNOTE discharging coal. Minor shell and deck damage. Instruments damaged.
(7) AMSTEL badly damaged. Bridge wrecked. Also W.S.A. ROBERT JORDAN 5 holes in shell plating about 18 inches square.
(M.W.T.R. Med., 111125B to M.W.T. London.)
Request repetition of ships name in para. 2 of your 111125 to M.W.T. London.
(D.S.O. 112240B to M.W.T.R. Med.)

/Cositintrep...

11.4.1945
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositintrep (Extract.)
No. 639. Coastal Air Force. Spitfires and Beaufighters bombed and scored R.P. strikes on radar station on the Istrian Peninsula and Po Estuary. Gulf of Genoa bombed E-Boats and fuel dumps at Vađo with unobserved results.

Balkan Air Force. Marauders and Baltimores bombed gun positions on Lussin Island with good results.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 111205B to W.O.)

Boom Defence To meet urgent operational requirements for
B.P.F. Pacific request 4 Bar Vessels not including BARBARIAN from total of 11 Boom Vessels now in Mediterranean may be sailed for Colombo to arrive before 15th May to avoid monsoon.

(3) Further instructions as to allocation of carriers and sailing of Boom Vessels from East Indies follow. V.A.(Q) 070701 not to all refers.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 111350B to C. in C. Med.)
See 121720B, 141148B, 141923B.

A.F.D. 27. It is intended that A.F.D. 27 should leave Alex. for Trincomalee at end of August. Your 262010 Jan. refers.
(Hd. of M. 111917B to C. in C. Med.)

Situation M.T.B. 710 mined and sunk near Sansego Island.
Report No. Coastal craft fought 2 separate actions night 9th 591, Adriatic. April. In first 3 craft made 3 attacks F-Lighters convoy and attacked 2 without sustaining damage or casualties. In 2nd 4 craft on patrol fought fierce action with 4 F-Lighters 2 of our craft were put out of action by direct hits remainder continued to engage but being outgunned and out-numbered withdrew to reasonable distance. Enemy sustained some damage. Casualties were 4 killed and 13 wounded. One M.T.B. badly damaged and towed to Ancona other damage was superficial. First action in Gulf of Trieste and second in Gulf of Quarnero.
(C. in C. Med. 111949B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Alex. Admiralty 112033B to F.O.L.E.M. 7190211A Sept.
Defences. See Lion Copy.

SECRET

192A
OUT

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

*Alexandria
defences*

To: F.O.L.E.M.
Info: C. in C. Mediterranean.

112033B/April

Date 11.4.45.

NAVAL CYPHER (X).

From Admiralty.

DEFERRED

Your 301209/January, 141230/December and 092015/May concerning payment for fixed defences at Alexandria Harbour. Matter has been delayed in an endeavour to trace fixed electrical communications in Alexandria Harbour as distinct from anti-submarine defences in Alexandria Harbour, items 2 and 3 of memorandum forwarded to Foreign Secretary in Ambassador's letter of 10th November 1940 refers. Copy of this memorandum was enclosed with Levant 3208/00305/6 of 16th November, 1943. Nothing is known in the Admiralty of these fixed electrical communications. Can this be a confusion with anti-submarine defences ?

Estimate for anti-submarine defences totals made up as follows :-

Two Indicator Loops Type 804 comprising :-

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Instrument Equipment | ... | ... | ... | £3006. | 6. | 4. |
| Underwater " | ... | ... | ... | 310. | 13. | 9. |
| Miscellaneous apparatus for lighting and power... | ... | ... | ... | 34. | 17. | 3. |
| Accessories | ... | ... | ... | 158. | 3. | 2. |
| R/T Set Marconi T.V.5(S)... | ... | ... | ... | 250. | 0. | 0. |
| Cable for Loops | ... | ... | ... | £59713. | 0. | 0. |
| Light Buoys & Moorings | ... | ... | ... | 680. | 0. | 0. |
| Freight | ... | ... | ... | 1635. | 0. | 0. |
| | | | | <u>£65788.</u> | <u>0.</u> | <u>6.</u> |

Eight Harbour Defences Asdics Type 131 comprising :-

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|------------|-----------|
| Instrument Equipment | ... | ... | ... | £2822. | 0. | 0. |
| Underwater " | ... | ... | ... | 3096. | 13. | 4. |
| Accessories | ... | ... | ... | 323. | 18. | 0. |
| Cable for system | ... | ... | ... | £25134. | 0. | 0. |
| Freight | ... | ... | ... | 1014. | 0. | 0. |
| | | | | <u>£32390.</u> | <u>11.</u> | <u>4.</u> |

The figures are exclusive of On Cost, which should be assessed and added locally based on current rates.

Cost of hire of cable ship RETRIEVER for laying of cable :-

77 days at £160 per day plus £94. 8. 8d. insurance
total:- £12,414. 8. 8d.

Works at Fort Agami to provide control station with accommodation £1,578. 10. 0d.

Totals £ Sterling 112,171. 10. 6d.

2/.....

- 2 -

2. Nothing has been included for repairs which it is considered might be borne as a charge to Navy Votes as Navy has had benefit of equipment since installation. Cost of two 215 k.w. generating sets purchased locally not known.

112033B.

for Head of Military Branch (808)

Approved Financial Secretary.

1st S.L. (3)
D.F.S.L.
2nd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
Fin.Sec.
A.C.N.S. (F)
P.A.S. (L)
O.D. (5)
Ops. (2)
D.N.I. (5)
P.N.L.O. (2)
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
Ad. Blake (4)
M. (6) (M.058380/44)
and for F.O. Mr. Hankey
~~W.D.~~
W.G.F.
M. (Allied Supplies) (2)
D of L.D.

CC.

War Diary

11.4.1945
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Captain
class
Frigates
(Escorts).

No information has been received that Captain Class Frigates are allocated to this command. Your 250104/ March and my 190831Z February refers.
(C. in C. E.I. 110549Z to Admty and 132332Z and 141050B.)
/ 4000 prepared boiler tubes to be sent to Colombo - Operation requirements for escorts.

N.F.C.B.
(lapse of
Title).

Intend that Commodore Poland shall withdraw without relief from Arakan coast on 15th April when title N.F.C.B., will lapse.
(2) Operational duties carried out by N.F.C.B. will then be assumed by N.O.I.C.Akyab S.O. Force W's responsibilities are limited to those defined in memorandum 1168/E.I. 0344/45 dated 7th April, 1945 (not to all addressees) Akyab pass to 15 Ind. Corps.
(C. in C. E.I. 110609Z to N.F.C.B. etc.)

Convoy
U.S.25.

Expect SS. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND will sail from Wellington 20th April for Aden via Colombo as convoy U.S.25.
(2) Cdr. S.W. Pac. Sea Frontier is requested to route convoy as far as 100 degs. E.
(3) Route etc.
(C. in C. E.I.Stn. 110716 to Cdr. S.W. Pac. Sea Fron.)
Amended by 130634Z.

Fleet M/S
formation of.

Intend to form R.I.N.Bangor's and Bathurst's into one Flotilla of fleet M/S.
Request a flotilla number may be allocated.
(C. in C. E.I. 111224Z to Admty, and 121723B)

Reduction
in local
defence
craft.

Your 021109Z para. 4. Whalecatchers should be sailed as soon as possible to S. Africa where they are to be handed over to M.W.T.R. for reconditioning for trade.
(2) Ability of M.W.T.R. to take over vessels is however, dependent upon reconditioning facilities and insofar as M.W.T.R. may not be able to take them over immediately on arrival they are to be held in naval care and maintenance pending further directions.
(3) Destinations are as follows:
(a) Durban for S.O.R.S.R.A. and S.O.L.V.R.A.
(b) Capetown for MASTIFF, LURCHER and GEMSBUCK.
(4) Your para. 5. HATSUSE is requisitioned British trawler and is required in U.K. for return to fishing. Request arrangements be made accordingly for essential repairs to be carried out to enable her to make the passage.
(5) Separate instructions follow regarding paying-off of whalers, removal of Admiralty gear etc.
(Hd. of M. 111750B to C. in C. E.I. and 140924 and 172059)

11.4.1945
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

S/M SPIRIT. SPIRIT departs Fremantle at 0400Z/15 April for Ceylon and U.K. S. of A. 11 knots. (C.T.F.71, 110309Z to C. in C. E.I.S.)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 111321Z to S & A. N. of 40 degs. N. Cominch, 111540Z)

CARLPLACE and E.G.16. The following allocation effective to date 11th April from New Construction to E.G.16. H.M.C.S. CARLPLACE my 022005 not to all refers. (C. in C. C.N.A. 111340 to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy C.U.66. Request nomination in C.U.66 for BRITANNIC and FRANCONIA knots 16.5 and 15.5 respectively provided permission granted to join ships at sea. Both ready 15th April. If agreeable propose junction be arranged by C.E.S.F. and C. in C. C.N.A. No? destinations yet received. (C. in C. C.N.A. 111926 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

M.V. LOGAN VICTORY (sunk). ^{S.S.} 060747 US ~~NAV~~ LOGAN VICTORY sunk by enemy A/C 26.10 N. 127.16 E. All times Z. Para. (C) about 110415 U.S.S. EMPORIA reported sound contact 44.30 N. 48.29 W. Admiralty give H.Q.C.C. B.A.D. and N.M.C.J.S. have by hand. (Cominch, 112055Z to Admty for C.I.C. etc.)

Far East and Australia

F.O. Force X. L.S.I.(L). Departed Sydney 2341Z/10th April F.O. Force X. in EMPIRE ARQUEBUS with EMPIRE MACE, EMPIRE BATTLE-AXE for Suva, E.T.A. 2200Z/17th April. S. of A. 10.5 knots. Para. 2 R.D.O. Honolulu pass t o C. in C. P.O.A. (F.O.I.C.Sydney, 110002 to C. in C. B.P.F.)

B.P.F. supplies. C. in C. B.P.F. 110449Z Admty. See Lion copy.

/Digest ...

F. E. v. A.
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TOP SECRET

IN

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

B.P.F. Supplies -

110449Z/April

Date 12.4.45
Recd. 0251

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

NAVAL CYPHER XD BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty
Info. C. in C. East Indies, R.A.F.T. D.D.A.S.E.I. V.A.(Q)
A.C.N.B.

Ammunition storage and reserves.
Your 042120 April refers.

Para. (2) General observations.

(A) F.A.A. bombs and other air ammunition are the Fleet's main offensive weapons. Desired that these should have overriding priority for storage and supply.

(B) Great difficulty being experienced with clearance of U.S. ammunition.

(C) Space available in Australian Depots is in far less than that in your para. (5).

(D) Additional space now considered necessary at intermediate base.

Para. (3) Following refer in detail to paras. of your 042120.

Para. (4) Paras. 1, 2, 3, 4 noted.

Para. (5) Your para. (5) total storage that can be counted upon in Australia for R.N. including U.S. ~~report~~ ~~U.S.~~ magazines at Sydney and Brisbane 48,000 tons and this includes 2,000 tons at Cairns which is not readily accessible. A.D.A.S. ~~report~~ ~~A.D.A.S.~~ report No. 2/AD.77 of 27th March to D.A.S. ~~report~~ ~~D.A.S.~~ refers. Preliminary planning here for ammunition storage at intermediate base shows 20,000 tons required, 10,000 to S afloat balance ashore. None of this 20 tons at intermediate base will be available for some months and certainly not by July 1945.

110449Z

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1st Lord | A.C.N.S.(W) | D.N.O. | D.C.N.A.E. |
| 1st S.L.(3) | A.C.N.S.(UT)(2) | D.N.A.O.(2) | D. of M. |
| D.F.S.L.(2) | U.W.P. | D.A.W.T. | N.L.O. Australi |
| 2nd S.L. | D. of P.(2) | Ad. Blake (4) | House |
| 3rd S.L. | D. of P.(Q)(3) | D. of S.(3) | D.A.M.R. |
| Vice Controller | D.O.D.(H)(4) | D.G.D. | Dep. Contr.)B |
| 4th S.L. | D.O.D.(F)(2) | D. of S.T.(6) | D.A.S.)A |
| 5th S.L. | D.N.1.(4) | D.T.D.(4) | D.N.O.)T |
| Sec. | W.D. | D.T.D.(C) | Hd. of)H |
| Dep. Sec. | D.C. | D.C.O.D.(4) | S.W.R.(3)) (6) |
| MMB | Hd. of M.(5) | D.C.O.M.(4) | |
| A. 27 | D.T.S.D. | A.D.O.D.(CO) | |
| | D.D.I.C.(2) | D.S.V.P.(2) | |
| | D.D.A.S.(L) | Hd. of Air | |
| | | | |

11.4.1945.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSFar East and Australia - Contd.

Digest (1) Navy Liberators and Privateers from Clark
No.1176 Field strafed fired single small coaster anchored
(Extract) 60 miles E.N.E. Fort Bayard, strafed single
small freighter transport off China Coast,
damaged 1 lugger, sank 1 sea truck off west
coast Formosa. 1 single Mitchell strafed 11
barges and luggers off west coast Formosa.
(2) Ventura from Palawan strafed left sinking 2 motor launches
off Sandakan (Borneo).
(3) Mariners from Lingayen night 9th/10th April attacked 5 ship
convoy off west coast Formosa missing medium freighter
transport.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 110739Z to Admty.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. My 260(??)39* Jan. not to Com. 5th Fleet. It
has been found necessary to withdraw ILLUSTRIOUS
to U.K. for refit.
(2) ILLUSTRIOUS will be relieved by FORMIDABLE
in T.F.57 after the present series of strikes on approx.
April 13th.
(3) Radio Honolulu pass to C. in C. Pac. Rear Radio Guam
pass to C. in C. Pac. advanced.
(C. in C. B.P.F., 111021Z to C. in C. Pac. and others.)
* Nominal list of B.P.F.

B.P.F. Your 270115 March.
(ships for) It is anticipated that an ALGERINE Flotilla will
be available to sail for Pacific about July,
1945.
(2) 180th M.S.F., B.Y.M.S. left U.K. for
Pacific on 5th April.
(3) KELANTAN, M/S maintenance ship fitted and stored for
maintenance of B.Y.M.S. and Fleet sweepers is now on passage
to Pacific.
(D.M.S., Approved V.C.N.S., 111909B to C. in C. B.P.F.) ^{see} 131527 JULY

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack For 24 hours to 1000Z/11th April.
and sighting Para. (A) (1) O.N.295 attacked by U-Boat at
summary. 2158Z/10th in 47° 40' N., 10° 37' W. No ship
sunk.
(2) VANQUISHER sighted U-Boat on surface at
2200Z/10th in 47° 38' N., 10° 30' W.
H.M. ships TINTAGEL CASTLE and ALISMA later
attacked contact.

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War Diary11.4.1945
WednesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

(3) Belgian M.F.V. sunk by explosion at 0930Z/10th in 54 degs. 05' N. 05 degs. 14' W. Possibly U-Boat or mine.

(4) MORGANTOWN VICTORY mined or torpedoed at 0115Z/11th 49 degs. 51' N. 00 degs. 08' E. Presence of U-Boat graded "B".

Para. B. (1) A/C V/86 had grade I disappearing radar contact at 1510Z/10th April in 60 degs. 32' N. 06 degs. 24' W.

(2) A/C H/547 attacked smoke and wake and had H/T contact at 1842Z/10th in 60 degs. 27' N. 04 degs. 20' W.

(3) A/C Q/53 had grade I disappearing Radar contact and saw possible wake at 1020Z/10th April in 60 degs. 52' N. 11 degs. 50' W.

(4) U.S. Transit A/C saw partly surfaced U-Boat course 330 degs. at 1025Z/10th in 61 degs. 48' N. 15 degs. 24' W.

(5) U.S. Transit A/C saw conning tower at 1229Z/10th in 61 degs. 40' N. 16 degs. 17' W.

(6) H.M.S. ADELPHI saw periscope course E.S.E. at 1400Z/10th in 53 degs. 46' N. 06 degs. 01' W.

Para. C. (1) H.M.S. BUTE saw submerged U-Boat at 1930Z/10th in 58 degs. 57' N. 03 degs. 27' W.

(2) A/C T/86 saw suspicious object at 1105Z/10th in 60 degs. 15' N. 04 degs. 56' W.

(3) H.M.S. CAPE NYEMETSKI had contact at 2050Z/10th in 51 degs. 53' N. 05 degs. 57' W.

(4) U.S.S. WILLIAM T. POWELL attacked contact at 0815Z/10th in 49 degs. 24' N. 07 degs. 36' W.

(5) H.N.M.S. HORTEN attacked contact at 1150Z/10th in 55 degs. 54' N. 02 degs. 00' W.

Para. D. (1) H.M.S. CALDER had contact believed non-S/M at 2309Z/10th in 50 degs. 43' N. 10 degs. 51' W.

(2) H.M.C.S. SAINTE THERESE attacked contact believed non-S/M at 1815Z/10th in 44 degs. 29' N. 63 degs. 29' W.
(D.D.I.C. 111246B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C.111405B to A.I.G.331, Cominch)

12.4.1945
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. EKINS on patrol off the Belgian coast last night with M.T.Bs. sank two small enemy boats, possibly submersible craft carrying torpedoes. Prisoners were taken. Possibly a third boat escaped.

2. Aircraft carried out numerous attacks on midget U-Boats off the Dutch coast today, and sank 5 and probably 2 more.

Channel.

of 11th April, see pp. 180, 196.
3. SS. MORGANTOWN VICTORY was damaged in the early hours by underwater explosion off Cap d'Antifer, and was towed to Havre. The vessel was outside the swept channel and it is believed that the explosion was caused by a mine.

Western Approaches.

4. (a) SS. WILL ROGERS in convoy B.B. 80 was torpedoed this afternoon 16 miles south of the Chicken Rock, Isle of Man, but reached Holyhead under her own power and was there beached.

(b) LOCH GLENDHU of the 8th Escort Group, on patrol in the Irish Sea, brought to the surface a German U-Boat this evening off the Isle of Man and put a boarding party on board. The U-Boat (U.1024) was taken in tow, but sank in the early hours of 13th April.

Norway.

U486
5. The submarine TAPIR, on patrol off the coast of Norway torpedoed a surfacing U-Boat about 30 miles N.W. of Bergen. The U-Boat was seen to blow up and disintegrate.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Gulf of Genoa.

6. At 4.30 this morning 3 of our M.T.Bs. intercepted an enemy escorted convoy off Mesco Point. In face of heavy enemy fire they penetrated outer screen and fired 6 torpedoes at 1,000 yards. A K.T. ship and a corvette were hit. They were both believed to be sunk. We had no damage but 5 casualties. (132133B.)

/Adriatic...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic.

7. (a) Tonight 2 of our M.T.Bs. and 2 M.G.Bs. attacked craft southbound in the Planinski Channel (Gulf of Fiume) with torpedoes. The T.B. SPICA blew up and sank. We suffered neither casualties nor damage.

(b) Partisan Forces supported by L.C.G. and coastal craft landed on Rab early this morning and by 3 p.m. had occupied all enemy positions.

(c) Hurricanes scored R.P. strikes on a 3,000 ton M/V at Crikvenica with good results. (121210B)

(d) 3 of our M.T.Bs. attacked enemy convoy tonight after shadowing for one hour. 5 enemy craft were torpedoed and sunk, our forces had no casualties or damage. 132133.

SS. BRIAR
CREEK,
aground.

8. BRIAR CREEK (Am. tanker) ran aground yesterday in 31.59 N. 24.57 E. (Libya). Attempts to tow her off were made by ULSTER QUEEN this morning without success. Another attempt was made this afternoon. She refloated at 8 p.m. and anchored off shore. Her steering gear is completely disabled. Tugs are being sent to her assistance.

East Indies.

Burma coast
and Andaman
Sea.
Operations.

9. Operation "Passbook" reported completed and 11th Destroyer Flotilla arrived at Trincomalee today. 5 sailing craft sunk in Heanzay Basin in the Tavoy area yesterday, 18 prisoners taken. 69 survivors were picked up from Japanese merchant vessel sunk by Liberators in 9.00 N. 93.40 E. (240' N.N.W. Penang.) (120959Z.)

Movement.

10. TROMP (Dutch cruiser) arrived at Colombo.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Far East and Australia.

Eastern
Archipelago.

11. Liberators were active today in sweeps in Macassar St. and S.E. Borneo. Several small ships were damaged including an escort vessel, one schooner was sunk. (150057.)

Formosa.

12. 44 planes from C.T.F. 57 carried out strike on Shinchiku Kiirun. Low cloud prevented full observation of results. 16 enemy aircraft were shot down. 5 damaged. (150335Z.)

12.4.1945
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSGeneralU-Boat
estimate.

German U-Boats estimated two or three, between Orkneys and Cape Wrath, two or three between North Channel and St. George's Channel, one Cornwall.

(Capt. (S) 3, 121831B to S/M on passage on N. and W. Coasts of Scotland, including Orkneys and Shetlands. S/M on passage in Irish Sea.)

Rules for
conduct of
A/C and
surface
craft.

In the areas defined in para. 2 below the following rules for the conduct of A/C and Surface Craft are to be brought into force at 0001 G.M.T. April 14th, 1945.

(a) All A/C are to be assumed friendly. Allied Warships and Merchant Ships are not to engage A/C unless definitely visually recognised as hostile or seen to commit a hostile act. The burning of Leigh Light (searchlight) by A/C is not to be regarded as a hostile act.

(b) I.F.F. will normally be switched off in A/C except for use of special codes and when in distress. I.F.F. may, of course, continue to be used in circumstances where it is considered to be of value.

(c) A/C are instructed that before they attack surface objects located by Radar the contact must be visually recognised as hostile.

(d) If operational conditions permit Allied Warships should fire the A/C Recognition cartridge in force, if it is considered that this will assist A/C in establishing the ship's friendly identity. The non-firing of the A/C recognition cartridge will not be taken by A/C as an indication that the ship is hostile.

(2) (a). In the part of the North Atlantic bounded on the South by latitude 35 degs. N. on the West by longitude 40 degs. W. as far North as lat. 43 degs. N. and by longitude 26 degs. W. between lat. 43 degs. N. and 70 degs. N. on the North by lat. 70 degs. N. and on the East by a line joining the following points: 70 degs. N. 20 degs. W. 64 degs. N. 20 degs. W. 64 degs. N. 6 degs. W. and thence to Cape Wrath, down West Coast of Britain to Lands End, from Lands End to Ushant, thence 090 degs. to French Coast, down the Atlantic seaboard of France, Spain and Portugal to Europa Point, thence 180 degs. to Africa and down the West Coast of Africa to lat. 35 degs. N.

(b) English Channel West of a line drawn from the edge of the port defended area of Calais to Folkestone.

(3) The areas will be amended as necessary to conform with the trend of enemy air activity.

(4) A.G.M's 982A of 2nd December, 1944 and 180A of 8th January 1945, are cancelled.

(5) N.C.Z.O's and D.E.M.S. Staff Officers inform Merchant Ships of substance of paras. 1(a) and 2 and 3 above.

(Hd. of M. 122207B to A.G.M. H. & A. 585A, A.M. C.C., N.S.H.Q. C.N.M.O. Comnavu)

/Cositintrep ...

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HOME COMMANDS

General - Contd.

Cositintrep Part II Naval. (Extract).
No. 373. Night 9th/10th. L.C.A. of Force T landed one
Commando Officer on south coast of Overflakkee.
He was unable to return to R/V at 0425/12 but
craft will return tonight 12/13.

(2) Raiding party landed night 11/12 on south coast of Schouwen.
DORY towed by one L.C.P.(Sy.) was blown up to attract attention.
8 enemy approached to investigate 4 being killed one wounded
and captured. No casualties to our forces.

(4) 2 E.M.Bs destroyed approx. 9 miles N.W. Walcheren.

(5) SS. MORGANTOWN VICTORY on passage from Le Havre damaged by
underwater explosion at 0110/12 off Cap D'Antifer. Vessel was
outside swept channel and has been brought into Le Havre.

(6) Alderney batteries have shelled Joburg Radar stations and
Cap de la Hague area intermittently since 0220/11. P.Ts.
engaged enemy vessel believed 100 ft. long off C.M. Flamanville
and claim hits. Heavy firing on P.Ts. from Alderney while
returning through Alderney Race.

(Burrough (Signed Eisenhower), 122359B)

Operations

North Sea

EKINS, H.M.S. EKINS reported at 1929 yesterday Wednesday
off Dunkirk. having taken prisoner 2 German Naval Signal
Ratings approx. 5 miles South of N.F.2 Buoy from
small sailing vessel from Dunkirk. Vessel
destroyed.

(2) H.M.S. EKINS at 2350 yesterday while on
patrol with M.T.Bs reported having destroyed 2 explosive motor
boats 2 miles N.W. of H.K. 4 Buoy.
(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 120937B)

2 small Radar contact obtained at range of 2,300 yards
submersibles in position 028 degs. H.K. 4 buoy 2 miles at
sunk by 2320 steering south at 18 knots. Target closed
EKINS. and illuminated. Two small boats seen. Rear
one engaged and caught fire almost immediately
sinking as ship passed. Other boat made off to
South and was chased and engaged. This boat soon
caught fire and burned well before sinking as EKINS closed.
Search for third then carried out. M.T.Bs. 474 and 476 ordered
to collect survivors and wreckage. One Acting Sub. Lieutenant,
one Quartermaster and one Telegraphist from first boat.
One Ldg. Sig. from second boat who later died. Probably a
third boat escaped. Prisoners' information suggests these were
small, possibly submersible craft carrying torpedoes. Maximum
plotted speed 18 knots. Very low freeboard and very difficult
to see. Destruction by Oerlikon and Pom-Pom fire.
Snowflake illuminant most effective. Very small and difficult
Radar target, suggesting wooden construction. H.E. heard before
EKINS increased to full speed. Deceased and prisoners with
effects landed at Harwich.
(EKINS, 121140B)

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

Operation "Doomsday". Request allocation of 1 B.C.T. required by SCOFOR for landing training in Forth in connection with operation "Doomsday" for one day on 1st May. (C. in C. Rosyth, 121345 to Admty.)

Operation "Hais-Hamel-Hais 7." (1) Propose following programme for operation "Hais-Hamel-Hais 7."
(2) F.O.I.C.London requested to sail BUSTLER and SCHELDE from S.W. India Dock to Tilbury Sunday 15th (BUSTLER to bunker en route, BUSTLER's 111540 to F.O.I.C.London refers).
(3) Capt. i/c Tilbury is requested to sail BUSTLER towing CONUN with SCHELDE astern from Tilbury at H.W. Monday 16th to CHAPMAN or Warp Buoy. C. in C. Nore requested to make buoys available.
(4) Tuesday 17th April C. in C. Nore is requested to sail Unit to Dungeness East Roads to arrive 2000/17. C. in C. Nore is requested to provide Escort and Air Cover if considered necessary by him.
(5) Wednesday 18th April, carry out operation using Southern route. Zero time 0800/18. E.T.A. Boulogne 1500. A.C. Dover requested to provide M/S, Escort and Air cover if considered necessary by him.
(6) On completion Unit will return to Downs to anchor. A.C. Dover pass to SANDYCROFT. A.C. Dover inform Comar Boulogne. (S.N.O. Pluto, 121400)

Clearance 15th M.S.F. is required to carry out an Oropesa of Q.Z.S.1562. clearance of the area of Q.Z.X.1562 to make certain that all mines have sunk.
(2) Mines were at 30 feet below chart Datum.
(3) It is desirable that a motor minesweeper fitted S.A. type A Mark 4 with 19 inch hammer box or S.A. type C Mark 4 should be stationed as close abeam as practicable of the leading sweeper on the non-sweep side and operate S.A. gear during the clearing laps.
(4) 80 mines were laid on a line joining the following positions.
(a) 119 degs. D.4 buoy 4100 yards.
(b) 051 degs. D.4 buoy 4925 yards.
(5) Mines were 40 mark 1 assembly 20 mark 17 assembly S 1 20 mark 17 assembly 52.
(6) Request you will arrange for this clearing operation to be carried out. Sweeps to be set as deep as practicable. (C. in C. Nore, 121611B to F.O.I.C. Amber)

Cositintrep S.84819 Secret. Part 4 section A.
No.373. Discharge by sea - 24 hours period ending 111600A April.
(S.H.A.E.F., Main, 121715A April)

/Sweeping ...

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.Sweeping
report
(Extract)

For Thursday 12th April.
5 B.Y.M.S. started LL/SA/HG clearance sweep N.W.
of West Kapelle 1 mine detonated. 270 degs.
Westkapelle Light $7\frac{1}{2}$ cables, nearest sweeper
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away.
(C.M/S.Terneuzen, 121731B)

U-Boat and
S.B.U.
Summary.

To 1200B/12th April.
(1) 2117B/11th. M.T.B. 632 sighted and sank
Midget 180 degs. S.W. Gate Buoy 2 miles.
(A.C., Dover, 121804B)

Nore
Patrols.

Patrols for night Friday 13th April.
1, ZETLAND, 2 KRAKOWIAK, 3 PYTCHLEY, 4 COTTESMORE,
5 HOLDERNESS, 6 SHELDRAKE, 7 ARENDAL, 8 GARTH.
Coastal Forces Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V with patrol at
2245.
(2) 12 EKINS with C/F from U.K., 14 HAMBLEDON, 16 SEYMOUR with
C/F from Ostend, 17 STAYNER, 18 HAYDON, 19 RETALICK with C/F
from Ostend. 21 EGLINTON, 22 RIOU with C/F from U.K.
Coastal Forces from Ostend to R/V with Frigate at 2145.
(3) Escorts - T.A.M. 38, MENDIP, T.A.P.3 ALBRIGHTON.
(4) Coastal Forces from U.K.
Patrol 1, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.1 with ZETLAND.
Patrol 2, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.2 with KRAKOWIAK.
Patrol 3, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.3 with PYTCHLEY.
Patrol 4, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.4 with COTTESMORE.
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 7, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.7 with ARENDAL.
Patrol 8, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.8 with GARTH.
Patrol 12, 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.
E.S.T.V. 2922 3 M.T.B. Unit F.B.6.
N.Y.Z.Z. 5035 6 M.T.B. Unit F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3.
From Ostend. E.S.U.A. 2316 Unit F.A. 8 2 M.T.B.
E.S.U.A. 2100 Unit F.B.2, 2 M.T.B.
U.S.U.A. 4126 Unit F.G. 5 4 M.L.
E.S.U.A. 3312 Unit F.H.3, F.H.4, 4 M.T.B.
E.S.Z.Z. 3836 Unit F.G.4 4 M.L. (day only).
Patrol 16 Unit F.G. 2, F.G.3, 4 M.T.Bs.
(C. in C. Nore, 121830B as amended 122320B)

Air attack
restriction
on Dutch
Coast.

ACN 587. 12th April, 1945, Secret.
My ACN 906 of September 20th, 1944. In response
telecon request from A.N.C.X.F. surface vessel
air attack restriction by day is cancelled for
A/C of 2nd T.A.F. from first light April 13
in area south and east of a line joining
Wangeroog 53.45 N. 08.00 E. to Blauort.

54.10 N. 08.42 E.

As hospital and Swedish relief ships bearing international
red cross markings pass through this area it is considered
essential that all air crew be briefed on their latest P.C.S.

to avoid attack in error.
(H.Q.C.C. 121835B to S.H.A.E.F. (Main) Air, Admty. etc.)
/Amendment...

12.4.1945
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Amendments
to N.O.M.

Following temporary amendments to N.O.M. are to come into force at 0800B/15th (2, 3).
(4) Following signals are cancelled Nore 211704, 241145 March 092347 April.
(5) Until further orders no 1 patrol is to be maintained between 57 G and 59 Buoys.
(C. in C. Nore, 121845B)

U-Boat and
S.B.U. Summary,
(Extract).

To 1200B/12th April.
(1) 1330/11. M.L.586 while searching for Midget U-Boat reported by GUILLEMOT at 0828/11 sighted and attacked Midget U-Boat 065 degs. N.F.1 buoy 5 miles. Heavy explosion followed.
(2) 1415/11. Barracuda F/810 attacked Stationary Midget reported Biber 51.58 N. 03.35 E.
(3) 1929/11, EKINS captured two German Naval Signalmen from small sailing boat near N.F.2 buoy.
(4) 1823/11, Barracuda P/810 sighted Swirl as of diving U-Boat 52.03 N. 01.48 E.
(5) 1945/11. M.L.585 attacked H.E. contact 160 degs. S. Falls Buoy 2 miles. One extra loud explosion.
(6) 2138/11. KITTIWAKE attacked small Radar, Asdic and H.E. Contact 045 degs. 3A Buoy, 2.7 miles. No results observed.
(8) 0758/12. A/C U/236 attacked Midget U-Boat 52.00 N. 03.10 E. Claims hits.
(9) 0940/12. A/C C/810 attacked Midget U-Boat 52.12 N. 02.09 E.
(10) 1020/12. A/C H/254 attacked Midget U-Boat 52.02 N. 03.36 E.
(C. in C. Nore, 121945B)

Midget
U-Boat sunk
by M.T.B.
632.

At 2117B/11th M.T.B.632 on patrol D.F. sighted Midget S/M one cable distant slowly submerging. Course was altered to attack at 25 knots. Owing to slow rate of submergence M.T.B. 632 rammed S/M, at the same time dropping two 300 lb. depth charges set to 60 feet. S/M appeared astern with bows out of the water rising then slid down

stern first rolled over to port and disappeared, depth charges exploding immediately afterwards.

(2) Eight further charges with 60 and 100 feet settings were dropped over sinking position.

(3) Subsequent search of area revealed no trace except for strong smell of Diesel oil.

(4) Attack is considered to have been successful.
(A.C. Dover, 122030B as amended by 122303B)

Operations

Channel

Midget
U-Boats in
Eastern
Channel Area.

Midget U-Boats of the Seehund type may be met East of the longitude of Newhaven.
(2) Ships sighting a midget U-Boat are to make an enemy report in plain language on appropriate port wave, precedence 'emergency' full use is also to be made of R/T for informing ships in company.

/(3) ...

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelMidget
U-Boats in
Eastern
Channel
Area.
(contd.)

(3) The chances of obtaining Asdic contact are small but immediate counter action should be taken without it as midgets are particularly susceptible to depth charges.

(4) If sighted a counter attack is to be made.

(5) If midget dives or if midget activity is suspected without a sighting, a likely area is to be plastered with depth charges.

(6) Depth charges are not to be dropped in the area given in N to M 279 and Fleet N to M 286 of 1945.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 120004B to all concerned)

Patrols off
Lizard.On arrival 17th E.G. establish following patrols:
First Division - 3 ships Pendeen to Lizard
codeword "Links Able".Second Division - 2 ships Pendeen to Trevoise
codeword "Links Baker".

S.O.E.G.17 report dispositions and S.Os.

(2) Patrols are to be on coastal convoy route and you should trail all B.T.C. and T.B.C. convoys through your area 2 to 3 miles astern.

(4) On relief by 17th E.G. 26th E.G. proceed in company to Londonderry signalling E.T.A. direct. ASCENSION and BEACON HILL acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121035 to E.G.17)

Unit G.C.

(1) If not in contact leave patrol 0800/13th and return to base.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121102B to Unit G.C.)

Units G.L.
and G.K.

Request you sail one unit comprising 2 M.L.'s of 10th M.L. Flotilla daily to sweep 2 miles ahead of T.B.C. and B.T.C. convoys between Newhaven and Dover.

(2) T.B.C. and B.T.C. M.L. Units to be known as Unit G.L. and Unit G.K. respectively.

(3) Request units may be informed before sailing of other convoys or movements likely to be encountered.

(4) Communications constant W/T watch on 2450 K/cs in Portsmouth command shifting to 1700 K/cs in Dover Command and constant R/T L/S watch on 2410 K/cs.

(5) C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Plymouth, Com. Southend and F.O.I.C. Milford Haven are requested to inform escorts of other convoys accordingly.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121115B to A.C. Dover, N.O.I.C. Newhaven)

M/S.31.

M/S.31 in THUNDER take KENORA, MINAS, CANSO, VEGREVILLE, BAYFIELD, CARAQUET and SURSAY under his orders, pass Gate at 2000B/12th April to comply with paras. 17 and 18 of C.F.N.T.F's No.15 E.M. three of 18th March, 1945.

(2) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121140B to M/S.31)

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.

LA SURPRISE. Pass Gate at 0100B/13th April to comply with paras. 17 and 18 of Comfrench Naval Task Forces' number 15 E.M. three of 18th March, 1945.
(2) Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121155B as amended 13009B(9) to LA SURPRISE)

Shelling by Alderney. My 111209 refers. Shelling continued intermittent 11th April and morning 12th April. Last night and this morning shelling only about 3 to 15 shells per hour. No apparent definite point of aim. Impact area all shelling to date roughly rectangle co-ordinates of corners (A) 49.44.30 N. 01.55 W. (B) 49.39.50 N. 01.50 W. (C) 49.38 N. 01.53 W. (D) 49.43 N. 01.58 W. Guns appear firing from three positions, one at east end, one at centre and one at west end Alderney. Guns apparently of different calibre. Fragments being collected for identification. No Radar targets Channel Islands area night of 11-12 April. 2 P.Ts stationed off Cape Flamanville during night .277 Radar Jobourg being sandbagged against gunfire from Alderney. Understand Radar set same characteristics that at Carteret available locally event Radar Jobourg destroyed by gunfire. Battery of four 90 mm guns located last night Vauville controlled by Jobourg Radar. Several more batteries will be located west coast Cotentin Peninsula within next five days. (Cousnaab, Cherbourg, 121219B) / Shelling communique.

Sweep Weigh at 0430B/13th April and carry out Serial H.1 Part 1.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121825B)

DORNOCH. My 121502. Proceed as convenient to R/V M.S.16 in 180 degs. s/c LIZARD 9 at 0615 tomorrow Friday.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121830 to DORNOCH).
/ N.T. in W.D.

Night Patrol procedure. In view of U-Boat policy of remaining continuously submerged and frequent use of Schnorkel, ships on patrol at night should use the following procedure:
(2) Method of search. Ships should be spread 3,000 to 4,000 yards apart and should carry out a zigzag search, turning together.
(3) Speed - steady 8 knot.
(4) Attacks - ships must be prepared to encounter Snort at very short range and to attack by eye if no contact is obtained.
(5) Gunfire. While guns may be used to damage Snort fire should not be opened until the A.T.W. or first depth charge has been fired.
(6) Lookouts - should be warned to listen for Snort as well as look for it.
(7) Schnorkel. Attention is drawn to A.G.M. 510A/ paras. 6 and 7.
(8) Cancellation. My 051926A Dec. 1944 not to all addressees, is cancelled. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 121830B)
/ T.O.O. 242218/March.

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12.4.1945
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast of France

Force 27,
(Biscay
Blockade).

Your 111946B and my 112342B not to all.
Make best speed to Falmouth to collect charts.
Fuel as requisite and proceed in accordance with
previous orders reporting amended E.T.A. R/V to
S.O. Force 27.

F.O.I.C.Falmouth is requested to arrange accord-
ingly BULLDOG acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 120053B to BULLDOG, BEAGLE)

BULLDOG and BEAGLE arrived fuelled and sailed to comply
with your 120053B.

(F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 120835B to C. in C. Plymouth)

C.T.N.T.F. directs that L'ALCYON is not to wait until
BULLDOG and BEAGLE join but is to leave patrol at 1800B to-day
for Plymouth. My 111258B para. 5 and 120757B not to all
refer.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121240B to S.O. Force 27, F.S. L'ALCYON,
BULLDOG, BEAGLE.)

Sunderland A/C will co-operate again to-morrow 13th April
in accordance with para. 1, 2 and 3 of my 111718B except
that R/V will be at 0800B.

(2) Callsigns.

(3) Ships of force 27 are requested to include weather report
on all occasions of breaking W/T silence but not more frequently
than every 4 hours.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121828B to S.O. Force 27, Force 27.)

Operations

Western Approaches.

Attack
of S/Ms by
Merchant
Ships.

No S/M is to be attacked by a merchant ship unless
it commits a hostile act within 30 miles of
the coasts of the U.K. or in the Irish Sea, ex-
cept on the East Coast of England between
Dungeness and 52 degs. N.

(C. in C. W.A. 120001Z to S. and S. M.K.S.93)

E.G. 8
E.G. 25 U-B.
suspected.

My 112315B. Contact classified as small wreck.
A. Average.
B. Not applicable (?have) detached THETFORD MINES.
Suitable.
(S.O.E.G. 8, 120243B to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G. 8.

Intend 8th E.G. support on 296.
(S.O. Force 36, 120952B to C. in C. W.A.)

Force 31.

Cancel my 051943/and 071307) not to all. E.G.
10 (S.O) and E.G. 5 are to form Force 31 and
establish patrols as follows:

(A) 5th E.G. between parallels 49 degs. and 50
degs. 30' and Meridians 11 degs. 30' and 14 degs.

(B) 10th E.G. between same parallels and Meridians 9 degs and
11 degs. 30'.

(2) Force 31 are not to operate under C.E. orders unless specially

/ordered...

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ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

Force 31.
(Contd.)

ordered.
(3) Force 31, Codeword "Seige".
(4) Attention is called to Q.Z.X.246, 259 and 336.
(C. in C.W.A. 121240B to E.G.10, E.G.5.)
/ 4th E.G. and 21st E.G. to establish patrol.
} Groups to form Force 31.

Patrol by
E.G.32.

If not in contact E.G.32 is to detach from U.C. 63B on crossing 10 degs. W. and establish patrol in area bounded by parallels of 48° N. and 49 degs. N. and Meridian 11 degs. W. and 14 degs. W.
(2) E.G.32 will be detached by C. in C.W.A. as necessary to support U.C.64A after which they will probably return to Milford Haven for short rest.
(C. in C.W.A. 121310B to E.G.32.)

B.B.79
attacked

Merchant ship torpedoed in position 174 degs. Chicken Rock 16 miles.
(LANCER, 121400B to Liverpool)
Pendant 25 sinking in position 174° Chicken Rock 16 miles.
(LANCER, 121408B)

Have ordered convoy to alter course 090 degs. starboard am carrying out observant. Request instructions.
(LANCER, 121411B)
Am attacking contact.
(LANCER, 121445B.)

B.3

Suspect torpedo fired at convoy in position 262 degs. Oversay 10 miles. No ships hit. No contact.
C. and S. 280 degs. 7½ suitable.
(S.O.E.G. B.3, 121412B.)

My 121412B* consider this to be a mine detonating in Unifoxer vide 237 N. of 23rd March, 1945.
(S.O.E.G. B.3, 121609B)
* Suspected torpedo fired at convoy.

E.G.15,
E.G.6

F.O.I.C.N.I. is requested to sail E.G.15 on April 13th when fuelled to relieve E.G.6 in Plymouth Command.
(2) On relief C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail E.G.6 to Londonderry for lay-over.
(C. in C.W.A. 121906B.)

E.G.2
target
attacked.

Have carried out 6 attacks bottom target (230220 by) 30 ft. max. height in 053° 42' N. 004° 51' W. Target has been hit but no surface evidence. Am continuing search in the vicinity 8th E.G. complying with your 121814B.
(S.O.E.G.2, 121946B to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary

12.4.1945
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>U.1024 (sank 13th April,) (in tow)</p> | <p>German U-Boat brought to surface by H.M.S. LOCH GLENDHU. Further report will follow. (S.O.E.G.8, 122050B to C. in C. W.A.) Boarding party all on board. (S.O.E.G.8, 122110B) Request tug. Fog. (S.O.E.G.8, 122316B to C. in C. W.A.)</p> |
| <p>LOCH MORE in 167 degs. K.1 buoy 7 miles at 2155 towing ship to Holyhead. Sail STORM KING to stand by and escort to harbour. (C. in C. W.A. 122353B to N.O.I.C.Holyhead)</p> | |
| <p>SS. WILL ROGERS torpedoed.</p> | <p>U.S.A. SS. WILL ROGERS 7,191 tons ex BB. 80 arrived Holyhead under own power. Hit on Port Bow No.1 hold and fore peak flooded. Vessel is being beached in new harbour Holyhead. No casualties. Admiralty salvage have taken charge. (N.O.I.C.Holyhead, 122107B amended 131259B)</p> |
| <p>Operation by ARIADNE.</p> | <p>Operation S/M and serial (?number) 2 lines 1, 2 and 3 completed. (ARIADNE, 122352B)</p> |

Operations

Norway

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>A/U mine-laying Operation and anti- shipping Operation off Norway</p> | <p>Intend to carry out following Anti-U-Boat minelaying and anti-shipping operation with H.F. destroyers. All times B. (2) Force 1 consisting of OPPORTUNE (S.O), OBEDIENT and ORWELL and Force 2 consisting of SCORPION (S.O), SCOURGE, SAVAGE and ZAMBESI 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 D-day. (3) Forces 1 and 2 pass through Q.Z.L.68 and turn south Eastward to pass through position NN 058 degs. 00' N. 004 degs. 01' E. at about 2100. (4) On passing position NN Force 1 proceed to pass through position OO 057 degs. 50' N. 006 degs. 25' E. at about 0030 D plus 1 thence proceed to lay a shallow minefield within 2 miles of position PP 057 degs. 54' N. 006 degs. 25' E. Minelaying plans will be issued separately. (5) On completion Force 1 withdraw at high speed through Q.Z.L. 68 to Scapa. (6) On passing position NN Force 2 proceed to arrive in position QQ 058 degs. 16' N. 006 degs. 00' E. about 0001 D plus 1. Thence sweep northward about 5 miles to 7 miles off coast to attack enemy shipping and divert attention from minelaying operation.</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

A/U mine-laying operation and anti-shiping Operations off Norway. (Contd.)

(7) Northern limit of sweep is to be 058 degs. 55' N. Force 2 is to turn westward not later than 0300 and retire through Q.Z.L.68 to Scapa.

(8) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange with No.18 group for long range fighter escort to R/V force 1 and 2 at eastern end of Q.Z.L.68 at 0500 D plus 1 and remain with these forces until about 0900 if possible.

(9) Codewords in my 121120. D-day will be signalled.

(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat), 121106B)

My 121106 para. 4 codeword "Tentative" para. 6 codeword "Campbed". (C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 121120B)

"Ember".

From Daniel. Send to Norwegian Admiralty. Request boat with civilian supply from Kirjenet immediately. Two civilians seriously ill need hospital treatment. ("Ember", 121345A to Admty.)

Operation "Burgee".

Intend sailing 0600B April 13th M.T.B. 718 weather permitting to Southern Norway to pin point 058 degs. 22' N. 006 degs. 06' E. routed through positions.

A. 058 degs. 07' 20" N. 005 degs. 39' 00" E.

B. 058 degs. 11' 00" N. 006 degs. 06' 00" E.

C. 058 degs. 14' 00" N. 006 degs. 07' 00" E.

D. 058 degs. 20' 00" N. 006 degs. 09' 00" E.

M.T.B. 718 will return on reciprocal route.

Request necessary surface bombing restrictions may be arranged.

Codeword for operation "Burgee".

(N.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 121545B to C. in C. Rosyth)

TAPIR.

Leave patrol so as to pass position 060 degs. 46' 004 degs. 00' at 0100B/15th April thence through 061 degs. 04' 002 degs. 00' 061 degs. 04' 000 degs. 01' and 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 to Lerwick

diving by day East of 001 degs. E.

(2) All positions are North and East unless otherwise stated. (S.O. S/M's Lerwick, 121555B to TAPIR)

VENTURER, Patrol.

All positions are N. and W.

(1) Intend sailing H.M.S. VENTURER 1900B/14th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10, 061 degs. 24' 000 degs. 12' 061 degs. 24' 002 degs. 00' 060 degs. 54' 004 degs. 00' thence to patrol on

Norweign Coast between 060 degs. 30' and 061 degs. 05 mins.

(2) Diving by day E. of 001 degs. E. speed 8 knots, till 001 degs. E. then 85 miles per 24 hours.

(S.O.S/Ms Lerwick, 121715B)

/ V.P...

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ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway - Contd.

- V.P.89. Intend to carry out V.P.89 with 2 M.T.B. (I)
0930B/13.
(2) Not later than 2300B/13th April.
(3) Not later than 0600B/14th April.
- (4) 281 degs. towards Leuchars not more than 20 knots.
(5) Not later than p.m. 14th April.
(6) No. (7) No.
(8) 101 degs. Noss Head (corrupt gp.) (9) No.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 121947B)
My 121947B.
- (1) 101 degs. from Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
(2) 059 degs. 32' N. 005 degs. 08' E.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 121949B)
My 121951B. (1) 065 degs. from Noss Head not more than 20
knots.
(2) 061 degs. 22' N. 004 degs. 30' E. (3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 121953B)

- V.P.75. Intend carrying out V.P.75 with 2 M.T.Bs.
(1) 0930B/13th.
(2) Not later 2300B/13. (3) Not later than
0600B/14th.
- (4) 245 degs. towards Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
(5) Not later p.m. 14th April.
(6) No. (7) No. (8) 065 degs. Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 121951B)

- S/M positions 0800/13th and movements until 0759/14th times
(Extract). zone B.
(1) TAPIR, TOTEM as in A.M. 091947.
(2) VARNE on patrol between Karmoy and Egersund.
(3) UTSIRA 64 degs. 30' 04 degs. 50' through 64
degs. 30' 04 degs. 14' thence course 210 degs.
(4) VIKING 60 degs. 27' 03 degs. 19' through 60 degs. 38' 02 degs.
58' and 61 degs. 04' 02 degs. 01' thence course 270 degs.
(5) Vessels in para. 3 and 4 dived by day S. of A. 95 miles in
24 hours and positions N. and E.
(C. of W. 121947B)

OperationsNorthern Waters

- Anti-
schmorkel
obstructor
lay. A.M. 091706 para. 3. Operation 368 by BRITTANY
at 1800B/11th. 52 miles of OPF obstruction laid
between 060 degs. 38' 25" N. 005 degs. 16' W.
and 059 degs. 47' N. 004 degs. 29' 30" W.
(C.in C.H.F.Ashore, 120922B, 121142B)
My 101222B~~z~~ para. 2 request NARVIK be sailed to
Aberdeen on completion of escort duty.
(C. in C. H.F. (Ashore) 121432B to F.O.I.C. Green-
ock) ~~z~~ H.Nor. M.T.NARVIK being sailed to
Greenock escorting BRITTANY.

/Operation ...

12.4.1945
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Operation "Newmarket" cannot be carried out owing to weather. E.T.A. Hoxa with Force 4 2330B to-day Thursday.
(3) Request C. in C. H.F. (Ashore) acknowledge and C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) inform DEVONSHIRE.
(C.S.1, 121046)

Russian S/M chasers.

Ref. A.M. 251301A/March Russian S/M Chasers number 1482 S.O. 1497, 1493, 1486, 1505, 1508 and 1511 escorted by H.M.C.S. HAIDA sailed to Faeroes at 1300B/11th April. My 111305B not to all addressees refers.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 121114B & 121300B)
/ Include 16 Russian S.C's as requested for fuelling in Faeroes.

My 091839B/ sailed.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 121725)

/ H.M.C.S. IROQUOIS escorting 17th Group U.S.S.R. S/M Chasers 1487 (S.O) etc.

My 121315B. S/M Chaser No.1511 not found. Have searched route from Sound of Barra to Cape Wrath. No.1511 disengaged at 0230/12 Radar contact being lost at 0320/12th, his position then being 130 degs. Barra Head 8, course 000 degs. 10 knots. Weather moderate, visibility good. Unable to recover him for danger of losing others. No reply could be received to V/S signalling.

(HAIDA, 122022B)

Sailed HAIDA to conduct inshore search northwards to Cape Wrath thence Butt of Lewis and southwards to 57 degs. N.

My 121859B(N.T. in W.D.) refers.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 122141B to C. in C. W.A.)

Tanker for Soviet.

Your 261506 March.

We cannot undertake to leave a tanker from May until October but LAURELWOOD from J.W.66 may be employed to meet Soviet requirements while she remains in North Russia. Date of her return to

U.K. cannot in any circumstances be deferred later than return of Escorts accompanying J.W.68.

(2) Concur we should obtain conditions in your para 2(b) and (c).
(A.C.N.S.(H), 122246B to Admiral Archer)

Casualties and Defects

?

In collision at ?Ourneng Buoy with unknown steamer. Master.
(Callsign LTK.61/ No T.O.O. to Clyde Portion O.S.122/K.M.S.96).
/ Ship unknown.

MERMAID.

Cylinder shut off valve on steering rams fractured. Am steering by main engine but unable to maintain station on convoy in present weather intend continuing to destination.

/SASKATCHEWAN ...

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSCasualties and DefectsMERMAID
(Contd.)SASKATCHEWAN assumes S.O. my P.C.S. 058 degs.
32' N. 015 degs. W. 270 degs. 15 suitable.
(MERMAID 120241B to C. in C. W.A.)

STRATHADAM.

STRATHADAM's 111845B/ is passed for information.
Casualty List is in Capt. (D) Belfast's 120222.
Details of preliminary investigation carried
out at Belfast are being signalled by F.O.I.C.N.I. STRATHADAM is expected to arrive Londonderry about 1400
to-day 12th April.

(C. in C. W.A. 121032B)

/ STRATHADAM reports H/H explosion on Spigot, 8 or 10 injured
3 dead possibly more.

LOUIS.

Capt. (D) Belfast's 101514B/. Provided that
all requisite material is available, the work
of making good damage due to fire should be
completed in about 6 weeks, say 5th June, 1945.

Work will be undertaken at R.N. Maintenance Base, Belfast.

(F.O.I.C.N.I. 121219B)

/ Fire in charge room of H.M.S. LOUIS.

S.S. PORT
WYNDHAM.

My 111835B (not to all).

SS. PORT WYNDHAM is anchored in Downs.

Salvage Officer states ready for towing to repair
Port. No. 2 and 3 holds flooded. No 1 hold
leaking but under control. It is hoped to

reduce Draft to 36 feet forward and 18 feet aft.

(2) Admiralty is requested to allocate destination of casualty
for repair.(3) A.N.C.X.F. Cotug is requested to make necessary arrangements
for towage to destination allocated.

(A.C. Dover, 121247B)

SS. MORGANTOWN
VICTORY.SS. MORGANTOWN VICTORY damaged by underwater
explosion at 0110B to-day in position approx.
8000 yards East of H.D.1 buoy. MORGANTOWN
VICTORY leaving anchorage believed to havemistaken N.W. corner Pasturage anchorage buoy
for H.V.3 buoy and changed course to Northward parallel with
channel joining H.V.3 and H.D.1 but was actually over 4 miles
to Eastward.Radar plot showing a target in this area at 0052 called P.C.553
from Barley patrol to investigate. Underwater explosion
occurred at 0110 Master held complete route information.
Damage sustained, hole 6 feet diameter port side No.5 hold,
hold flooded forward bulkhead tight. 3 feet of water pumped
out of engine room possible damage to engines or shaft not
evaluated. P.C. 617 stood by. Vessel brought in by Harbour-
master with L.T.119, A.T.R.2 and A.T.R.4 and moored southside
of North Phoenix at 1005. Draft steady at 11 feet 0 inches
forward 26 feet 0 inches aft. Salvage making survey for
temporary repairs preparatory to returning vessel to U.K.

/either ...

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects

SS.MORGANTOWN VICTORY.
(Contd.)

either under her own power or in tow for drydocking in U.K. Position of vessel to the Eastward of swept channel indicates mine explosion rather than torpedo. Fragment of aluminum casing recovered will be forwarded technical report of mine disposal officer. Armed Guard Officer 5 members armed guard crew and 2 merchant marine injured and hospitalized.
(C.T.F.122, 121500Z)

BERWICK
(Extract)

Intend that BERWICK should visit Rosyth from 17th April to 4th May approx.
(2) It is for consideration that this opportunity be taken to make good defects.
(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat), 121901B)

Movements

STUBBORN. Sailed S/M STUBBORN escorted by TRILLIUM in Clyde portion K.M.S. 96. Communications.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 120018B)

L.S.T. convoy No.4. When ready about 16th April arrange sail L.S.T. convoy No.4 consisting of U.S.S. ATLAS and 14 U.S. L.S.T.s 57, 75, 308, 310, 316, 332, 350, 355, 317, 357, 372, 375, 374 & 392. By Southerly route for Norfolk escorted by T.G. 63.1. C. in C. Lant divert ships other ports U.S. as desired.
C. in C. Plymouth requested provide additional escort and air coverage during passage through dangerous U.K. waters. Escorts require initial refuelling Azores Area. C. in C. Lant please arrange further refuelling prior arrival U.S. as necessary.
(Com. 12th Fleet, 121258 to C.T.F.127)

SPRINGHILL. C. in C. C.N.A. 022005 F.O.S/M 092309 neither to all.
(1) SPRINGHILL is available to escort STORM from Portsmouth April 30th to Canada.
(2) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to hold SPRINGHILL at Portsmouth for this purpose when remainder of E.G.16 proceed to Londonderry to lay over.
(C. in C. W.A. 121519B)

Shipping and Convoys

T.A.P.1. My 110952B. T.A.P.1 sailed. MIDDLETON escorting ULSTER MONARCH.
(Cdre. i/c Southend, 120347B)

A.T.P.1
(Extract)

A. A.T.P.1 sailed.
B. ULSTER MONARCH and escort MIDDLETON.
D. Speed 15 knots. E.T.A. Thames Gate 1930B/12.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 121241)

War Diary.

12.4.1945.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

- E.G. 1. Group I consisting of WOODRUFF (S.O.), COLTSFOOT, and HYDERABAD is to part company with M.K.S.94 as necessary to R/V K.M.S.95 at 0800A/13th April in position (B) 040° 51' N., 012° 00' W.
- (2) K.M.S.95 consisting 21 ships and S/Ms. SIDON, Cdre. Hubbard in MALLAPHA is routed etc. thence through southern half of Strait to disperse off Carnero Point. S. of A. 7½ knots. (F.O.G.M.A., 120959A to M.K.S.94 for Cdre.)

South Atlantic

- Sailings. My 081852* Independent sailings Freetown to Takoradi will recommence 13th April. Recommence from Takoradi to Freetown day following sailing of T.S.68. (F.O.C.W.Af., 121040Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
* Independent sailings between Freetown and Takoradi to be suspended.

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

BRIAR CREEK (Tanker) aground. BRIAR CREEK is aground aft in 031° 59' N., 024° 57' E., not leaking or pounding despite 8 foot swell. 21,000 dead weight. Requires tugs to refloat. H.S.L.2602 standing by. Intend remaining until trawler or CAPTIVE arrives. E.T.A. position 309 0530/13th.
(ULSTER QUEEN, 120517B to F.O.L.E.M.)

American clean tanker BRIAR CREEK ran aground p.m./11th in position 31° 59' N., 24° 57' E. Ship is pounding and weeping slightly and rudder and engines disabled. Full cargo of high octane was embarked.
(2) ULSTER QUEEN attempted to tow off a.m./12th but failed and is making further attempt p.m. today. Ship has been given permission to pump out two thousand tons of fuel which Master considered essential to save ship. KING SALVOR and CAPTIVE have been sailed to render assistance and all ships involved instructed to take every precaution.
(F.O.L.E.M., 121946B to C. in C. Med.)

After towing for 4 hours whilst tanker pumped out oil she was refloated at 2000 and is anchored in 20 fathoms in 032° 00' N., 024° 57' E. due to parting of heavy wire. Am standing by until tugs arrive tomorrow Friday. Tanker considers two tugs essential as steering gear completely smashed. R.N.O. Tobruk remains in BRIAR CREEK.
(ULSTER QUEEN, 122114B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Air report. Balkan details: 4 Hurricanes scored 12 R.P. strikes on estimated 3,000 ton M/V at Crikvenica and report ship probably destroyed.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., T.O.O. 121019B to Agwar.)

COLOMBO. Request you will sail COLOMBO April 28th to Malta.
(3) On completion of destoring V.A. Malta is requested to sail COLOMBO to U.K.
(C. in C. Med., 121108B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Italian Fleet destroyer. (Replacement for SCOUT). Request you will sail Italian destroyer detailed for duty in A.M. 291828A March as soon as practicable to destination as desired by C. in C. E.I.
(2) My 021802B not to B.A.D. refers.
(C. in C. Med., 121148B to F.O.T.A.L.I.) See 131757B.

Cositintrep No. 640. Balkan Air Force. 4 Hurricanes scored R.P. strikes on 3,000 ton M/V at Crikvenica, good results.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., 121210B to W.O.)

/Boom ...

12.4.1945.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Boom defence. There are nine Bar Vessels in Mediterranean. A.M. 111350* refers of which one is employed on essential Boom defence maintenance and removal. The remainder are on salvage work.

(2) The Army requires and I have undertaken to open simultaneously the ports of Trieste, Genoa and possibly Savona. The early use of these ports is operationally necessary for the prosecution of the war and out occupational forces. For this work I require six Bars and this does not allow for casualties. If, therefore, more than two Bar Vessels must be released I shall not be able to fulfil the undertaking given to Sacmed.

(3) The remaining two are employed one at Salonika on port clearance shortly moving to Salamis to clear much needed repair berths the other is on her way to Malta to clear wrecks in Fairway which is becoming increasingly important in view of large working up programme.

(4) It is therefore requested that, in view of the urgent operational requirements in this theatre, this matter may be reconsidered observing furthermore, that any Bar Vessel which might be sent would require at least 10 days refit to make her sufficiently reliable for ocean passage and it is therefore more than doubtful whether para. 1 of A.M. 111350 could in any case be complied with.

(C. in C. Med., 121720B to Admt.)

* Request 4 Bar Vessels may be sailed for Colombo.

Situation Report No. 592. (1) Levant. SS. BRIAR CREEK aground in position 032° 00' N., 024° 52' E. ULSTER QUEEN and CAPTIVE proceeding to assist.

(2) Adriatic. Night 10th April 2 M.G.B. on patrol in Planinski Channel engaged 3 F-lighters and 2 E-Boats, hits scored on enemy craft. M.G.B. 647 hit and severely damaged, no casualties.

(3) Gulf of Genoa. Coastal craft had 2 inconclusive night engagements 10th April with enemy convoys near Sestri Levante.

(C. in C. Med., 122143B to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

12.4.1945.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Operation "Passbook". Sweep in Bay of Bengal. Operation "Passbook" completed. ROTHERHAM (D.11), RACEHORSE, ROCKET, REDOUBT arrive Trinco. 12th April. (2) Five MERGUI type sailing craft sunk in Heanzay Basin Tavoy area. No opposition. 18 Burmese survivors picked up. (3) p.m./11th April destroyers picked up 69 survivors from Japanese merchant ship and submarine chaser sunk by R.A.F. Liberators a.m./11th in position 9° 00' N., 93° 40' E. (C. in C. E.I., 120959Z to Admty.)

Defences of advanced bases, B.P.F. Your 201614Z March and V.A.(Q) B.P.F's 070701Z neither to all. ETHIOPIAN should be cleared of miscellaneous equipment for East Indies as early as practicable. (2) She should then be loaded from stocks available Ceylon with five miles of B.1 two star and one mile of A/T light single and topped up to capacity with A/T heavy single and sailed for Sydney for onward routing by V.A.(Q) B.P.F. as early as practicable. (3) Expected date of departure from Ceylon to be reported. (4) Request BARBAIN, BARRANCA, BARTHORPE, BARNWELL, BARTIZAN and BARBERRY may be sailed for service with B.P.F. as early as practicable and before monsoon. (5) Four Bars vide A.M. 111350B are being sent from Mediterranean to reinforce East Indies Fleet and additional Bars will be allocated later in the year. (A.C.N.S.(F), 121202B to C. in C. E.I.) See 131352, 142229.

Movements. Arrived - TARTAR, TEAZER, BARTHORPE, FLARE towing A.F.D.49, L.C.T.7017 and 7019 in tow of SAMTEVIOT, L.C.Q.381. Departed - L.C.T.7017 and 7019 in tow of SAMTEVIOT. L.C.T.(R) 398 and L.C.T.1213 in tow of EMPIRE HEYWOOD. L.C.T.(R) 484 and 458 in tow of SAMFORTH. L.C.I.(L) 33 in company with FRANS HALS. (Com. Aden, 121716Z to Admty.)

Fleet M/S. Formation of. 37th M.S.F. and 38th M.S.F. are allocated for R.I.N. Fleet Menesweepers. Your 111224 refers. (2) Request composition of flotillas or flotillas and ships nominated as Senior Officers and Second Officers may be signalled. (D.M.S., 121723B to C. in C. E.I.) Reply: 141050Z.

War Diary.

12.4.1945
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. S/M : No report since my 081759Z para. C.
attack and (1) U.S.S. EMPORIA had suspicious contact at
sighting 0415/11th April in 44.20 N. 48.29 W. all times Z.
summary. (2) H.M.C.S. SARNIA had radar contact at 2200/
10th April in 44.15 N. 63.18 W. attached asdic?
contact, 2220.
(N.S.H.Q. 120145Z to Admty., Cominch.)

LORD KELVIN H.M.C.S. BEAUHARNOIS sailed St. Johns 1130Z/12th
(cable repair ship.) April to relieve you screening LORD KELVIN, E.T.A.
your vicinity 2359Z/14.
(2) On relief return direct St. Johns as ice
conditions permit.
(F.O.N.F. 121236Z to NORTH BAY.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 121314Z, Cominch 121551Z.)

H.N.M.S. KING Your 061719. C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy has
HAAKON VII. been consulted and states that H. Nor. M.S. KING
HAAKON VII will be required for service in
Norwegian waters in the near future. Regret she
cannot therefore be allocated to C. in C. C.N.A.
for the summer.
(2) A further signal will be made when date she is required to
arrive in U.K. is known.
(D.O.D.(H) 121322B to N.S.H.Q.)

St. Lawrence Intend implementing N.S.H.Q. 061720 para. 2 by
(opening of) withdrawing the following corvettes from Mid Ocean
additional Groups on completion of refit or on next return to
escorts. Newfoundland.
FRONTENAC ex C.1. TRILLIUM, FOREST HILL ex C.3.
BEAUHARNOIS ex C.4. LONG BRANCH ex C.5.
FERGUS ex C.9.
(2) In the event that C groups are reduced to four effective
ships for eastbound passage it is anticipated that a relief
escort from the Western Escort Force will be available F.O.N.F.
062300 refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 121931Z to N.S.H.Q.)
In view of N.S.H.Q.'s 061720, it is intended to release
E.G. 6 for service in Canadian waters on conclusion of present
operations.
(2) C. in C. W.A. is accordingly requested to sail this group
after short layover about 19th April as required by N.S.H.Q.
(3) Request dates that remaining ships of E.G. 11 will be ready
to leave Canada for U.K. may be signalled.
(V.C.N.S. 122037B to N.S.H.Q.) See 141501Z.

Contacts. Para. C. 102220 H.M.C.S. SARNIA attacked sound
contact following radar contact 44.25 N. 63.18 W.
all times Z. Para. D. (1) Approx. 112330 P.C.
1246 attacked contact 39.58 N. 73.13 W. (2) 112330 U.S.S. MERAK
reported radar contact 62.25 N. 27.33 W.
(Cominch 122050Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

12.4.1945
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

Appointments My 041050. Rear Admiral J.W. Rivett-Carnac is
B.P.F. being appointed R.A.(Q) with the following
provisional staff.
C.S.O. - Captain D.H. Hall-Thompson, R.N.
Q. Planning & Q. Operations Section - Commander
E.F. Balston, R.N. and Lieut. A. Kennedy, R.N.V.R.
S.O. (Air) - Commander A. St. J. Edwards, R.N. Secretary to
R.A.(Q) - Lieut. Commander (S) H.W.L. Haynes, R.N. Secretary to
C.O.S. - Lieut. (S) W.J. Wilkey, R.N.
(2) The S.O. (Air) will be C.S.O. designate to Commodore Air
Forward area.
(3) R.A.(Q) and above staff (except Commander Balston referred
to in my 061406 not to all addressees) will leave U.K. by air
early May.
(4) Lieut. Commander H.P. Byrne, R.N. is appointed S.O.(Q)
to R.A.F.T. and leaves by air shortly. This officer should
transfer to staff of R.A.(Q) when latter sets up in forward
area and takes over forward logistic planning.
(Hd. of C.W.I. 120309B to C. in C. B.P.F.)

LAMONT, Admiralty 101538 not to all.
L.S.I.(L),etc. Intend A. GLENEARN to leave Leyte as soon as she
can be spared after embarking draft and proceed
to Manus escorted if possible.
B. At Manus GLEANEARN to relieve LAMONT as base
ship and transfer draft to LAMONT.
C. LAMONT to proceed to Sydney unescorted.
D. On arrival Sydney LAMONT to embark personnel referred to in
my 250512 March and also in S.A.C.S.E.A. 170453 March neither
to all, provided these have not already been transported,
and proceed to U.K. via East Indies Station.
(2) R.A.F.T. and S.B.N.O. Manus are requested to arrange
sailings accordingly.
(C. in C. B.P.F. 120507 to R.A.F.T., S.B.N.O. Manus.)

Digest 1177, (4) Ground forces Luzon continued reducing enemy
11.4.45 pockets around Southern Laguna de Gay, patrols
advancing east from Atimonan reached Culauag
on Bonhoc Peninsula, other advanced elements
reached Matnog (south eastern tip Bicol Peninsula) without
enemy contact. Total enemy casualties on Luzon to date number
109,142 killed, 1081 captured.
(8) Morning American forces landing unopposed on Bohol Island
south of Cebu.
(11) Small Australian warship bombarded enemy installations and
gun positions Wewak area 10th April.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 120859Z to Admty.)

12.4.1945
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0800Z/12th April.

Para. C. (1) A/C P/228 escorting C.U. 64 saw
three unexplained underwater explosions at
1258Z/11th April 50° 08' N. 03° 58' W.

(2) A/C B/86 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1156Z/11th
in 61° 00' N. 03° 38' W.

Para. D. (1) GORE attacked contact at 0110Z/12th in 50° 18' N.
03° 21' W.

Ref. A.M. 111246B para. A. (4) MORGANTOWN VICTORY now considered
probably mined.

(D.D.I.C. 121110B to Cominch.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 121355B.)

13.4.1945
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) During the last three days there have been several sightings and attacks by aircraft and surface patrols on midget U-Boats off the Dutch and Belgian coasts. Aircraft today continued their attacks on midget U-Boats off the Dutch coast and claim to have destroyed at least four. Survivors from two of the midgets were seen in the water.

*Last E-boat raid of the war.
(Coastal Forces Review,
CP.04272(18), p.20)*

(b) Eight E-Boats which split into several small groups last night attacked the North Foreland - Schelde Channel. They were engaged by our forces on patrol, and were driven off, one being damaged. M.T.B. 797 had three casualties and damage to one engine. Mining is suspected.

(c) The sailing of personnel ships and train ferries from Dover to the Far Shore was cancelled today on account of fog.

(d) WILLIAM BRADY reported an underwater explosion off 29 Buoy (Rosyth area) this evening and sighted a large submarine on the surface. FORT ERROL reported having seen the submarine, apparently laying mines. This was probably the U-Boat whose survivors NODZU picked up on 14th (q.v.) Survivors stated that she carried no mines.

West Coast
of France.

2. The French battleship LORRAINE with C.F.N.T.F., the French cruiser DUQUESNE and five French destroyers/escort vessels left Plymouth late tonight for an operation in support of the French Army, to free the entrance to the port of Bordeaux (operation "Venerable".)

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

3. V.59 reports that she engaged 2 enemy escort E-Boats off Novi and sank one of them, four torpedoes being expended. (130437.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Movement. 4. LONDON arrived Trincomalee after operations off Malay coast and left again same day.

Far East and Australia.

Eastern Archipelago. 5. (a) Liberators S.E. of Borneo sank a large sea truck and damaged a gunboat and 3 small coasters. (b) In the Macassar St. in the evening aircraft attacked a convoy scoring near misses on a destroyer. (150917Z.)

China. 6. Today 17 Liberators dropped 63 tons of bombs on Hongkong and Kowloon - destroying empty fuel tanks and sinking an unidentified ship. (150057).

Philippines. 7. (a) Two more unopposed landings were made by U.S. forces in Manila Bay today. (b) Total enemy casualties to date on Luzon are 110,486 killed and 1,118 captured.

Formosa. 8. Today carrier aircraft from British Pacific Fleet without opposition again struck airfields and installations at Matsugama and Shinkiku. A number of aircraft were damaged on the ground, and hangars, barracks and buildings, a railway train and other targets were heavily hit. Several small groups of enemy planes attempted to attack surface units of the Fleet, 20 were shot down. The Task Force suffered no damage. (142312.)

New Guinea. 9. During last night Rotai based P.T. sank a barge and damaged another off N.E. tip of Hal-mahera Island (N.W. of New Guinea.) (150057.)

Enemy air losses. 10. It is reported that from 18th March to 12th April U.S. fast carrier task forces have shot down 841 enemy aircraft in combat, 73 by gunfire, and 363 on the ground.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Rules for conduct of aircraft and service craft. A.963 13/4/45 Secret. My A.650 December 2, 1944 para. 2(A). Amend description of areas to read as follows: (As A.M. 122207B para. 2(a)). (Air Min., 131745B to Coastal Command.)

Surrender of U-Boats at sea on "Cease Fire". Proposals in your 012349 April are approved as basis of planning, except for (e). Important requirement exists for specimens of latest type German torpedoes, concerning which further signal will be made. Risk of offensive action by U-Boats otherwise conforming to orders for surrender is considered very slight, and possibility of serious consequences negligible in ports selected for preliminary examination. Moreover, it would be impossible, without boarding each U-Boat to ascertain whether such an order had in fact been carried out.

(2) Accordingly, removal of ammunition and disposal of torpedoes should be effected in port of preliminary examination.

(3) Your paras. 2(e) and 3(a) and 7 should be amended accordingly.

(4) It is considered undesirable that U-Boats south of Finisterre should make the long passage to Loch Eriboll, and that these should be routed to surrender at Gibraltar. F.O.G.M.A. to whom your signal under reference has been passed, is requested to comment and to propose appropriate arrangements for the area south of Finisterre.

(5) Reference your para. 6. C. in C. Plymouth and C. in C. Rosyth are requested to forward their early proposals omitting torpedo firing areas. (V.C.N.S., 132250B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

North Sea

ARENDALE - S.B.U. report. 2 torpedoes fired at me in vicinity of 57 Buoy. Probable midget. Am plastering area. (ARENDALE, 130200B.)

Precautions against "death ride" break-out. Your 021309. Concur in your proposed plan. (1st S.L., 130223B to C. in C. Nore.)

E-Boat activity 12th/13th April. At 0051 NRG1 (4 E-Boats) detected in position 338° Ostend 17 miles steering S.S.E. at 35 knots. F.G.3 (3 M.T.B.) vectored to north and EKINS steered south-west from H.K.1 to intercept. F.G.3 engaged at 0100, encounter being short and fierce with range closing 20 yards. E-Boats made smoke and drew away to south-east and were then engaged by EKINS. E-Boats altered to

/west ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

E-Boat activity 12th/13th April. (Contd.) west at 0103 and retired north at 0105. No further engagement and contact lost at 0123 in position 350° Ostend 21 miles. F.B.2 was moved west but he did not make contact.
(2) Minelaying probably on a line 100° 1½ miles from position 205° Aurette wreck buoy (Q.Z.H. 220 1 mile). Confirmed by "Headache".
(3) 2 E-Boats considerably damaged by F.G.3, one stopping momentarily. Result EKINS engagement unobserved owing to smoke. All M.T.Bs. suffered light superficial damage M.T.B.797 having 3 casualties and one engine damaged. M.T.B. 746 had small fire.
(4) At 0051 NRG2 (4 E-Boats detected in position 335° Ostend 17 miles steering S.S.W. at 35 knots. F.K.1 informed of this plot which could not be maintained after 0058 owing to congestion.
(5) Good preliminary plot developed from aircraft report. (EKINS, 130945B.) [See also p. 226]

Operation "Hais - Hamel - Hais 7". Your 121400. Concur. (C. in C. Nore, 131150B to S.N.O. Pluto.) Intend to sail BUSTLER and SCHELDE to comply with S.N.O. Pluto 121400B. E.T.A. Tilbury 1000/15th April, BUSTLER bunkers en route. (F.O.I.C. London, 131245B.) Your 121400B. Approved as regards work in the Dover Command. (A.C. Dover, 131252B.)

18th M.S.F. Request you will sail available ships and danlayers of 18th M.S.F. to arrive Small Downs before dark tomorrow Saturday. (C. in C. Nore, 131153B to F.O.I.C. Harwich.) READY, HOUND, CHEERFUL, TANGANYIKA, ONYX, FARNE and DOON sail tomorrow Saturday to comply with C. in C. Nore's 131153B. (2) Communications. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 131249B.)

10th M.S.F. sweep. Request you will sail available ships and danlayers of 10th M.S.F. from Harwich tomorrow Saturday. (2) 10th M.S.F. to conduct intensive LL/SA E.G.M.S. of Q.Z.S.151 one mile either side of the centre line. (3) 10th M.S.F. to anchor off Harwich for the night. (C. in C. Nore, 131135B to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Cositintrep No. 374. Part 4, section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/12. (S.H.A.E.F. Main G.4, 131445A.)

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Friday.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea. - Contd.

E-Boat activity on night of 12th/13th April.

Between 0055 and 0200, 8 E-Boats which split into several small groups attacked North Foreland to Schelde channel between N.F.6 and N.F.9. Groups were engaged by QUANTOCK on Patrol 14 and by EKINS and M.T.Bs. on Patrol 16. Minelaying is suspected between N.F.6 and N.F.7 and close north of the channel between N.F.8 and N.F.9.

(C. in C. Nore, 131508B.)

Following combines my 130235 and 130421 to C. in C. Nore only. Probably 2 E-Boats detected at 0112 in 256° N.F.7 Buoy 2.7 miles. Engaged and retired immediately under smoke to north-east at 35 knots. Mines possibly laid in Channel. 2 E-Boats detected at 0152 in position 330° N.F.7 Buoy 1 mile. Illuminated by starshell and retired north at 40 knots. Consider this may have been same pair returning to lay mines and this was probably done close north of N.F.7 Buoy. Damage to enemy uncertain owing to long range. No return fire observed. No "Headache" traffic received. (QUANTOCK, 131946.)

Night dispositions 13th/14th April.

Humber Force (Group 1) Patrols 2 KRAKOWIAK, 3 PYTCHLEY. (Group 2) Harbour CATTISTOCK. Harwich Force (Group 3) Patrols 1 ZETLAND, 6 SHELDRAKE, 7 ARENDAL, 12 EKINS, 14 HAMBLEDON, 16 SEYMOUR, 17 STAYNER, 19 RIOU, 21 EGLINGTON, 22 RETALICK. With A.T.M.123 KITTIWAKE, T.A.M. 38 WIDGEON. (Group 4) Harbour CHIDDINGFOLD,

LAMERTON, QUANTOCK, TALYBONT, CAICOS, CUBITT, RUTHERFORD, GUILLEMOT, MALLARD.

Sheerness Force (Group 5) Patrols 4 COTTESMORE, 5 HOLDERNESS, 8 GARTH, 18 HAYDON. With T.B.C.127 GODETIA, A.T.M.123 BLANKNEY, T.A.M.38 MENDIP. (Group 6) Harbour BRISSENDEN, EASTON, FERNIE, MEYNELL, OAKLEY, TANATSIDE, VESPER, VIMY, WILTON, BADDECK, CALGARY, HEATHER, PRESCOTT. Southend (for T.A.P.3) ALBRIGHTON. (C. in C. Nore, 131530B.)

Operations in Q.Z.X. 1473 by 182 and 183 M/S. Aux. Groups.

My 081145* January not to all. Request 182nd and 183rd M/S. Auxiliary Groups may be lent to F.O. Belgium for operations in Q.Z.X. 1473. F.O. Belgium considers prospects of success now good.

(A.N.C.X.F., 131706B to Admt.)

* If 182nd and 183rd M.S. Auxiliary Groups not required - they could be based at Terneuzen for mine recovery in Schelde and approaches.

Patrols for night Saturday 14th April.

1 PYTCHLEY, 2 ZETLAND, 3 ARENDAL, 4 TALYBONT, 5 BRISSENDEN, 6 GUILLEMOT, 7 GARTH, 8 FERNIE. Coastal Force Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V with Patrols at 2245.

(2) 12 SEYMOUR with C/F from U.K. 14 CHIDDINGFOLD. 16 STAYNER with C/F from Ostend. 17 CUBITT.

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Operations

North Sea

Patrols for night Saturday 14th April. (Contd.)

18 HAMBLEDON. 19 RETALICK with C/F from Ostend.
21 TANATSIDE. 22 CAICOS with C/F from U.K.
Coastal Forces from Ostend R/V with frigates at 2145.
(3) Escorts T.A.M.39 WILTON, T.A.P.4 ALBRIGHTON.
(4) Coastal Forces from U.K.
Patrol 1 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.1 with PYTCHLEY.
Patrol 2 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.2 with ZETLAND.
Patrol 3 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.3 with ARENDAL. Patrol 4 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.4 with TALYBONT. Patrol 5 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.5 with BRISSENDEN. Patrol 6 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.6 with GUILLEMOT. Patrol 7 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.7 with GARTH.
Patrol 8 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.8 with FERNIE. Patrol 12 - 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. ESTV 2922 - 3 M.T.Bs. Unit F.B.6. NYZZ 3035 - 6 M.T.Bs. Units F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3.
From Ostend: ESUA 316 - M.T.B. Unit F.A.8. ESUA 2100 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.B.2. ESUA 4126 - 3 M.L. Unit F.G. ESUA 3312 - 4 M.T.B. Unit F.H.3, F.H.4. ESZZ 3836 - 4 M.Ls. Unit F.G.4 (day only). Patrol 16 - 4 M.T.B. Unit F.G.2, F.G.3.
(C. in C. Nore, 131830B.)

U-Boat and S.B.U. summaries.

To 1200B/13 - nil report.
(A.C. Dover, 131854B.)
(1) 1216/12 Beaufighter B/254 attacked midget U-Boat 52.01 N., 03.21 E., wreckage seen.
(2) 1330 approx. Swordfish H/119 attacked midget U-Boat 51 N., 03.15 E.
(3) 1346/12 Beaufighter Z/236 attacked midget U-Boat 57.55 N., 03.00 E.
(4) 1635/12 Beaufighter V/524 attacked midget U-Boat 52.04 N., 83(sic).34 E. and claims sinking.
(5) 0200/13 ARENDAL reported two torpedoes fired at her near 7 Buoy. No contact obtained.
(6) 0935/13 Beaufighter P/236 attacked midget U-Boat 51.47 N., 03.15 E.
(7) 1108/13 Beaufighter P/236 attacked midget U-Boat 51.48 N., 03.18 E.
(C. in C. Nore, 131938B.)

Air Patrols in Dover Command.

49D.
46D (121500B) April is cancelled.
(2) Anti-midget U-Boat patrols will be flown by Wellington aircraft during daylight hours in the area enclosed by lines joining the following positions:

| <u>Position</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| A | 51° 16' | 01° 27' |
| B | 51° 38' | 02° 16' |
| C | 51° 21' | 02° 35' |
| D | 50° 59' | 01° 47' |

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Air patrol
in Dover
Command.
(Contd.)

(3) Swordfish aircraft may be seen at dawn and dusk on following line patrols:

| <u>Line</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| A | 51° 30' | 01° 27' to |
| | 51° 22' | 01° 36' to |
| | 51° 16' | 01° 33' |
| B | 51° 16' | 01° 33' to |
| | 51° 10' | 01° 29' to |
| | 51° 03' | 01° 20' |
| C | 51° 03' | 01° 20' to |
| | 50° 51' | 01° 04' |

(4) Aircraft will fly at 700 feet and have permission to attack when it is certain that target is U-Boat.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131900B.)

W. BRADY -
U/B report.

Following received begins: N.O.I.C. Aberdeen from WILLIAM BRADY underwater explosion 200° off 29 Buoy. Sighted large unescorted submarine on surface.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 132000B.)

Proceed best speed to vicinity 29 Buoy. H.M.S. WILLIAM BRADY reported underwater explosion at 1910 and sight of S/M on surface.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 132001B to CAISTOR CASTLE.)

Emergency. Aircraft code by W/T.

Proceed south at utmost speed.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 132003B.)

My 132001 and 132003 WILLIAM BRADY reports bearing was 200° from 29 Buoy.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 132035B.)

Further to my 132035 trawler FORT ERROL reports sighting U-Boat S.S.E. 29 Buoy 2 miles course S.E. about the same time.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 132017B to CAISTOR CASTLE.)

FORT ERROL reports having seen submarine 2 miles S.S.E. 29 Buoy heading S.E. submarine appeared to be laying mines.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 132116B.)

Cositintrep
No. 374.
(Extract).

Part II, Naval. Bergen Op Zoom. 104 arrivals including barges in the port in the second half of March. Total tonnage unloaded in this period was - 15,987 tons 2,246 tons of which were relief cargo.

(2) Belgian fishing vessel Z.8 was sunk by explosion at 1430/13 off Blankenberg. There were no survivors.

(3) Sailings of personnel ships and train ferries from Dover cancelled for 13th April owing to fog.

(5) Midget U-Boats 11th-13th April. There were several sightings and attacks by aircraft and surface patrols off the Dutch and Belgian coasts.

(Burrough, signed Eisenhower, 132350B.)

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13.4.1945.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Holiday on V-day. Reference the recent public announcement that two days holiday will be given to all Government workers immediately on the announcement of victory in Europe, plus one further day later on, I consider it essential to avoid discontent that a parallel announcement regarding personnel in the Services should be made at a very early date. Request this may be given urgent consideration.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 130954B to Admty.)

Patrol. (1) Request you sail 2 M.T.Bs. Unit G.A. at 0800B/14th to patrol area Q.Z.S.629, Route E.W. between 01° 40' W. and 02° 20' W.
(2) If not in contact leave patrol at 0900B/15th and return to base.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131025B to HORNET.)

? My 122219B. Pass Gate 1500B/13th April and comply with my 121120B*.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131048B to HOLMES.)
* N.T. in W.D.

Enemy firing from Alderney. My 121219B refers. Shelling continued intermittent and temporarily ceased 2043/12 until 0815/13 when 6 rounds landed 200 yards from Jobourg radar station. Telephone lines broken several times by shellfire and repaired. No casualties since my 110953B. No radar targets Channel Island area night 12th/13th April.
One battery 4 90 mm. guns located Granville last night. One battery 4 90 mm. guns will be located Cape Flamanville today.
(C.T.G. 122.2, 131119B.)
Request air attack on following batteries in Alderney at high priority: (A) 4 x 150 mm. M.R.734336. (B) 4 x 150 mm. M.R. 707333.. (C) 4 x 170(?)mm. M.R. 743352.
(2) These batteries have been shelling Jobourg radar station and Cap de la Hague area intermittently since 110220B.
(A.N.C.X.F.(Main), 131130B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Coastal forces - dispositions - reinforcements needed. In agreement with A.N.C.X.F. local naval authorities on the Continent exercise operational control and initiative within certain sea areas under my overall authority.
(A) In the Channel Islands, to the eastward of a line joining the lights at Cap Frehel, La Corbiere, Les Hanois, Casquets and a point lat. 49° 47' N., long. 2° W.
(B) In the coastal area between Brest and Lorient.
(2) Small fast craft only are able to operate satisfactorily between the Channel Islands and the Cotentin Peninsula from Cap de la Hague to Cap Casteret. This area has been recently the scene of enemy activity and further sorties towards the French coast are anticipated.

/(3) ...

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13.4.1945.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Coastal
forces -
dispositions
- reinforce-
ments
needed.
(Contd.)

(3) The number of suitable craft, U.S. P.T. Boats, at present available for operation in that area is very limited, and is insufficient. It is, therefore, requested that very early consideration may be given to the allocation to my command of coastal forces to be used under the terms of para. 1(A) above.

(4) I intend as circumstances permit to reinforce the local defence in the Granville St. Malo area by two M.Ls. which will be at the expense of A/S patrols and escorts on the convoy routes.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131322B to Admty.)

Patrol. If not in contact proceed forthwith at sweeping speed to patrol Pendeen to Lizard.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131344B to LOCH KILLIN, BURGES.)

On arrival CRANSTOUN join LOCH KILLIN and BURGES patrolling Pendeen to Lizard.

(2) CRANSTOUN arrange R/V direct with LOCH KILLIN. Codeword "Links Baker".

(3) Attention is called P.C.W.O.164. (4) Communications.

(5) CRANSTOUN acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 132313B to CRANSTOUN.)

E.G.15,
E.G.6.

Your 121445. Arrived 15th E.G.

(F.O.I.C.N.I., 131007B to PHILANTE.)

F.O.N.I. 130855. E.T.D. 1430B today Friday.

Margin of Unifoxer wires carried by Group 15.

S. of A. 14 knots.

(S.O. E.G.15, 131350B.)

Sailed E.G.15 DACRES (S.O.), INGLIS, LAWSON, MOUNSEY and LORING, C. in C. W.A's 121906* not to all, refers.

(2) Group carries 15 wires.

(3) Maximum speed of DACRES 17½ knots, my 021233/ (not to all) refers.

(4) S. of A. 14 knots.

(F.O.I.C.N.I., 131513.)

* F.O.I.C.N.I. requested to sail E.G.15 on 13th to relief E.G.6.

/ Not identified in War Registry.

On entering Plymouth Command proceed at sweeping speed by Coastal Convoy Route to join LOCH MORLICH vicinity Trevoze Head, arranging R/V direct with LOCH MORLICH.

(2) Anticipated E.G.6 will be relieved by E.G.15 about noon/14.

(3) NEW WATERFORD acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 131944B to NEW WATERFORD, ANNAN.)

On arrival 15th E.G. establish following patrols on Coastal Convoy Route: 1st div. 3 ships Pendeen to Trevoze codeword "Manganese Able". 2nd Div. 2 ships Trevoze to Lundy codeword "Manganese Baker". S.O. E.G.15 report dispositions and Senior Officers.

/ (2)

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

E.G.15,
E.G.6.
(Contd.)

(2) All Coastal convoys to be trailed.
(3) Attention is called to P.C.W.O. 164.
(4) Communications.
(5) On relief by 15th E.G., 6th E.G. proceed in company to Londonderry signalling E.T.A. direct.
(6) DACRES acknowledge.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 132316B to 15th E.G.)

Patrol. My 130853*. Cancel patrol area. Establish patrol on coastal convoy route 20 N.E. and 20 S.W. of Trevoze Head.
(2) Trail T.B.C. and B.T.C. convoys.
(3) LOCH MORLICH acknowledge.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131516B to LOCH MORLICH, LOCH ACHANALT.)
* N.T. in W.D.

OperationsWest Coast of France

Patrol by BULLDOG, BEAGLE. Nothing to report. R/V effected with BULLDOG and BEAGLE at 0700B. Day patrol along second meridian of long. between Arcachon and Sables d'Olonnes. Fuel remaining in percentages - HOVA - 78; BULLDOG - 86; BEAGLE - 80.
Sheet 67 received. Fine clear weather, light easterly breeze, sea slight.

(HOVA, 130837B to C.F.N.T.F.)

Detach BULLDOG and BEAGLE as necessary to take up patrol from daylight 14th April at 16 miles 220° from Chassiron to cover 30 French fishing ships who are proposing to escape from Oleron and to proceed to les Sables d'Olonnes.

(2) BULLDOG and BEAGLE to cover movements to vicinity of les Sables d'Olonnes keeping out of range of shore batteries then resume Patrol (A).

(3) Attention is called to Q.Z.X.995.
(C.F.N.T.F., 131040B to HOVA.)

Operation "Venerable" (Bordeaux). Weather permitting Sunderland aircraft followed by a second Sunderland aircraft will give close A/U escort from first light to last light tomorrow 14th April.
(2) Communications.
(3) Another Sunderland aircraft on coastwise sweep will co-operate with Patrol (A) of Force 27 during the day.
Communications.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 131650B to C.F.N.T.F. (in LORRAINE))

Request you will leave anchorage in Cawsand Bay not later than 2300B today 13th April with ships named to comply with para. 17 and 18 of your number 15 EM3 of 18th March 1945.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 131721 to C.F.N.T.F. in LORRAINE.)

Sunderland aircraft will again co-operate tomorrow 14th April as in para. 1, 2 and 3 of my 111718B* and will R/V at 0830B.

/(2) Aircraft ...

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Operation "Venerable" (Bordeaux). (Contd.) (2) Aircraft call signs. (3) Para. (3) of my 131650B refers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 131826B to S.O. Force 27.) * Sunderland aircraft on sweep to R/V Patrol (A) at 1100/12. Sailed C.F.N.T.F. in F.S. LORRAINE with F.S. DUQUESNE, F.S. BASQUE, F.S. LE FORTUNE, F.S. L'ALCYON, F.S. L'AVENTURE and F.S. LA DECOUVERTE in accordance with C.F.N.T.F.'s number 15 EM3. (C. in C. Plymouth, 132329B to C.T.F. 122.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

U.1024 sunk. LOCH MORE reports that tow parted in position 142 K.1 Buoy 4 miles. Group is standing by. (S.O. E.G.8, 130002B.) Regret to report U.1024 has sunk in position 081° K.1 Buoy 4 miles. (S.O. E.G.8, 130125B.)

Russian S.Cs. - S.C.1511. Your 130117. Search unsuccessful so far. Intend to arrive Loch Ewe 0700B/13th. Require 175 tons fuel. (HAIDA, 130341B to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.) HAIDA returned Loch Ewe from search. Result negative. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 130703B to C. in C. W.A.) If S.C.1511 is not located by 1900 tonight Friday sail HAIDA and remaining S.Cs. in execution of previous orders. (C. in C. W.A., 131246B to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

E.G.2, attack on target 12th April. No further contact. Intend to search area bounded by lat. 053° 36' and 054° 00' N., long. 004° 45' and 006° 00' W. and then support convoys in Force 37 area. (S.O. 2nd E.G., 130814B to C. in C. W.A.)

SS. WILL ROGERS torpedoed. Master of SS. WILL ROGERS reports his ship was hit starboard side abreast No.1 hatch at 1400B/12. Torpedo that hit not seen, but second torpedo observed to pass astern from starboard to port. Usual report on Form S.1533 being forwarded. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 131435B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Attack on contact. Am attacking contact in position 135° K.1 Buoy 3 miles. (H.M.S. MAN-O-WAR, 131351B.) Reference my 131531B*. Dropped one pattern. Negative result. Believed non-submarine.

Rejoining B.B.81. (H.M.S. MAN-O-WAR, 131614B.) * (?131351 intended - attacking contact.)

/Contact ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

- Contact attacked by LANCER. Am attacking contact 195° Chicken Rock 18 miles. (LANCER, 131505B.)
My 1505 - dropped one pattern 5 charges probably non-submarine, am joining Liverpool ships. (LANCER, 131540B.)
- LOCH ECK, FOLEY. On completion of defects sail p.m./Monday 16th to rejoin S.O. E.G.10 patrolling in vicinity of 50° 00' N., 10° 00' W.
(2) Report your E.T.A. this position to S.O. E.G.10 on sailing.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131543B to LOCH ECK, FOLEY)
- A/U search in Minches. ZEALOUS take ZODIAC, HURON, STORD, OFFA under your orders and passing Switha at 0900/14th proceed to Greenock, E.T.A. 0900/15th.
(2) Carry out search for German U-Boat along the north coast and in the Minches. Between Dunnet Head and Cape Wrath ships keep as close inshore as possible.
(3) ZEST proceed independently on completion of defects to arrive Greenock p.m./15th April reporting E.T.A. (R.A.(D) H.F., 131827B to ZEALOUS, ZEST, ZODIAC, HURON, STORD, OFFA.)
- E.G. 4. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail E.G.4 when ready tomorrow Saturday 14th via A.M. Q.Z.S.613 to 051° N., 011° W. further orders follow.
(C. in C. W.A., 132356B to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

Operations

Norway

- Operation V.P. V.P.75 and V.P.89 postponed owing to weather.
V.P. (2) Add 24 hours to all times given in my 121951B and my 121947B.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 130736B.)
Intend to sail S/M Chaser operation from Shetland
- (1) 0630B/14th from Scalloway.
(2) 068° from Sumburgh Head 13 knots.
(3) 2300B/14th.
(4) Between 2330B/14th and 0400B/15th.
(5) 248° to Sumburgh Head 15 knots.
(6) p.m./15th. (7) 068° Sumburgh Head. (8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131547B.)
My 131547. (1) 061° (?27') N., 004° 31' E.
(2) Ramose Hosiery. (3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131549B.)

/Intend ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operation Intend sailing S/M Chaser operation from
V.P. Shetland.
(Contd.) (1) 0630B/14th from Scalloway.
(2) 078° from Sumburgh Head 13 knots.
(3) 2300B/14th.
(4) Between 2330B/14 and 0400B/15th.
(5) 258° to Sumburgh Head 15 knots.
(6) p.m./15th. (7) 078° Sumburgh Head. (8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131551B.)
My 131551B. (1) 060° 33' N., 004° 47' 30" E.
(2) Ramose Wisdom. (3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131553B.)
V.P.75 and V.P.89 further postponed.
(2) Add 48 hours to all times given in my 121951B* and my
121947B/.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131922B.)
* Intend carrying out V.P.75 with 2 M.T.Bs.
/ Intend to carry out V.P.89 with 2 M.T.B.(I).

Operations

Northern Waters

Northern Concur in the plan proposed in your 011808 also
precautions in the patrols given in F.O.(S/M.) 072007.
against (2) Unless there are indications that enemy
"death ride" is on the move RODNEY will be withdrawn when
break-out. RENOWN becomes operational. Your para. 2(c)
refers.
(1st S.L., 130320B to C. in C. H.F. (Afloat))

Russian Intend sailing H.M.C.S. HAIDA at 2100/13 with
S.Cs. Russian S.Cs. numbers 1505, 1508, 1482, 1493, 1486
and 1497. S. of A. 12 knots. E.T.A. 2100/14.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 131557B to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)
The irregular behaviour of Russian S/M Chaser
1511 as indicated in HAIDA's 122022, which has been passed to
you, caused grave anxiety to all authorities concerned.
Surface craft and aircraft carried out extensive searches at
a large expenditure of fuel until N.O.I.C. Faroes's 131136 was
received advising safe arrival in the Faroes.
(C. in C. W.A., 132334B to Adnty.)

J.W. 66. The following six ships in J.W.66 are to be
sailed for Kola Inlet: SAMARITAN (Cdre.),
LAURELWOOD (T), BLACK RANGER (T), COPELAND
(rescue ship), KRONPRINSEN and KONG HAAKON VII
Norwegian store ships.
(2) KRONPRINSEN and KONG HAAKON VII may be detached by S.O.
Escort and ordered to Kirkenes direct if circumstances permit.
(3) Destination 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., 131619B.)

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E.G.19. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail E.G.19 to operate off Kola Inlet prior to the arrival of J.W.66 and subsequently as required by C.S.10 so as to ensure the safe departure of R.A.66.
(2) E.G.19 should be detached for U.K. when R.A. convoy is clear of Kola.
(V.C.N.S., 132340B to C. in C. H.F. (Afloat))

Navigational

Fog. Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 130837B.)
Cancel my 130837.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 131036B.)
Port closed owing to low visibility.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 131428B.)
Port of Portsmouth eastern entrance closed due to fog.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131659B.)

Emden. A.N.C.X.F. 101300B. It is not intended to open Emden as a supply port unless unexpected difficulties arise in opening Hamburg and Bremen when it might become necessary to use Emden for maintenance of forces operating in Schleswig Holstein. Plans are being formulated to meet this contingency.
(N.L.O. 21 A.G., 131457B.)

Seine River. Revised maximum allowable drafts for Seine River passage are as follows.
This supersedes all previous figures. N.X.
(C.T.G. 122.3, 131730B.)

Casualties and Defects

SOBIESKI, ESPERANCE - collision. SOBIESKI in collision with unknown ship has suffered considerable damage to stern above waterline. I am sending him back to St. Helens Roads screened by GARLIES and GORE. I am proceeding with EXPLORER.
(LOCH ALVIE, 130241B.)
My 130241. GARLIES and GORE are screening T.A. SOBIESKI and other unknown ship back to St. Helens Roads. Both ships apparently seaworthy.
(LOCH ALVIE, 130317B.)
Am escorting French ship ESPERANCE damaged in collision with SOBIESKI to St. Helens.
(GORE, 130340B.)

/SS. BARON ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

SS. BARON
DUNMORE,
SS. LYSLAND
collision. F.S.80. BARON DUNMORE from Tyne to London,
LYSLAND (Nor.) Humber to Southend for Caen, in
collision, entered Humber. Both ships may
require dry docking.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 130730B.)

Dispersal of various wrecks. Your 031122 and 101116*.
Approved to disperse STEEL TRAWLER. ^{VFL}
(2) With FORT MAISON NEUVE and EMPIRE BLESSING following considerations arise. Former carried 1,600 tons of explosives divided between Nos. 2 and 4 holds, EMPIRE BLESSING 3,000 tons explosives. Risk of damage from shock wave and debris from detonation of cargoes therefore exists. If detonation occurred craters would be formed sides of which might shoal the depths for a time.
(3) If dispersal is an operational necessity it is considered that no ship should be within 2 miles of wreck of former and 3 miles of latter when charges are fired.
(D.W.D., 131810B to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)
* Concerning wrecks SS. FORT MAISON NEUVE and EMPIRE BLESSING.

Movements

ANSON,
DUKE OF
YORK,
SUSSEX,
to work-up
in Meditn. C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to sail ANSON,
DUKE OF YORK and SUSSEX to Malta on 25th April.
A.M. 101700 March not to all refers.
(2) Escort is to be provided as follows:
(a) Through escort by TYRIAN, BARFLEUR and TUSCAN.
(b) 3 additional destroyers as arranged between C. in C. H.F. and C. in C. W.A. to 46° N. or as ordered by Admiralty.
(c) F.O.G.M.A. to arrange for escort to be reinforced in the Mediterranean Approaches if considered necessary.
(3) C. in C. Med. is requested to arrange for -
(a) TYRIAN and TUSCAN to complete working up before onward routeing to East Indies.
(b) Onward routeing of BARFLEUR to British Pacific Fleet.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 130331B.)

STORM. STORM sails U.K. 30th April and should arrive Philadelphia by 18th May provided onward escort from St. Johns N.F. can be arranged. C. in C. W.A. 121519 and my 031634 neither to all refer.
(F.O.S/Ms., 131134B to B.A.D.)

BARFLEUR. Urdis 112050B*. Sail p.m./14th F.S. BARFLEUR Brest/Oran 12 knots routed in accordance with Admiralty's 121338B. Understand ship carries Loxo and Anglo-French Code but no British

Liaison personnel on board.
(C.T.F. 122, 131145B to Comar Brest.)

* F.S. BARFLEUR destination Oran will be ready to sail from Brest 14th April.

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

SS. SPHENE.

Pass to N.C.S.Os.
T.B.C.125. SPHENE not arrived. Request
information.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 131755B to Com. i/c Southend)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

7th French
Escort
Vessels.

On completion of ranging approx. 1800A today
Friday sail in company to Casablanca.
(3) S.O.A. 12 knots, E.T.A. 1300/14th.
(F.O.G.M.A. 131136A to ANNAMITE, CHEVREUIL.)

M/S Flotillas
for E.I. &
B.P.F.

It is not intended to dock FRIENDSHIP or PERSIAN
at Gibraltar as no dock is available until 21st
April.
(2) Para. 2 of A.M. 081842 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A. 131552A to C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic.

U.S. 4th Fleet
allocation
of, etc.

As from April 15th title of 4th Fleet will be
allocated to part of Pacific Fleet. Present 4th
Fleet will become Task Force 27 of Atlantic Fleet.
Admiral Munroe will retain title of Comsolant.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 131150Z to Admty. for
D.N.I.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic. Following from V.59. Engaged 2 enemy escort vessels E-Boat on southerly course off Novi, one sunk, 4 torpedoes expended. No damage or casualties.
(L.C.H. 315 130437B to S.B.N.O. Zara.)

SS. Admiralty please pass to Admiral Archer (Moscow
ALMANZORA. pass to Constanza.)
ALMANZORA length 570 ft. 25.9 draught (approx.)
E.T.D. Istanbul 1200 G.M.T. 14th E.T.A. Constanza
0300 G.M.T. 15th, speed 14 knots. On board
2506 Russian army, 196 Czechoslovakian Mission, 8 Russian Mission.
(O.S.A. Istanbul 131226C to Admty.)

Danube,
GLASGOW. Para. (1) Suggest you arrange survey to establish damage and hoist British flag.
Para. (2) Meantime we are requesting Roumanian Commission for execution of armistice to arrange repairs. Also despatching certificate British ownership or Danube pass to next bag.
(B.M.M. Roumania 131630B to Macmiss (A.F.H.Q.))

Replacement
for SCOUT. Ship when nominated should be sailed for Ceylon. Your 021802 and B.A.D. 101717 refer.
(2) Request you will report your intentions.
(D.O.D.(F) 131757B to C. in C. Med.)

Situation
report No.
593. (1) Gulf of Genoa. Allied warships continue to carry out numerous and successful bombardments near Franco-Italian frontier. At 0430/12th April 3 M.T.Bs. intercepted escorted enemy convoy off Mesco Point. In face of heavy enemy fire they penetrated outer screen and fired 6 torpedoes at 1,000 yards.
A K.T. ship and a corvette were hit. Former believed sunk, latter probably sunk. We had no damage. 5 casualties.
(2) Levant. Ref. number 592 para. 1. Ship has been refloated.
(3) Adriatic. Partisan forces supported by L.C.G. and coastal craft landed Rab early 12th April and by 1,500 had occupied all enemy positions.
Night 11th April M.T.Bs. off Taglimenta encountered 3 enemy convoys and attacked one. Convoys then engaged each other, probably severely damaging one ship.
Following night coastal craft B.O. 2 action reported to be in Gulf of Trieste. 3 M.T.Bs. attacked enemy convoy after shadowing for one hour. 5 enemy craft were torpedoed disintegrated and sank. Our force which suffered no damage or casualties then retired under heavy enemy fire.
In Planinski Channel 2 M.T.Bs. and 2 M.G.Bs. attacked enemy craft southbound with torpedo and one ship believed to be T.B. definitely blew up and sank. No casualties or damage to our craft.
(C. in C. Med., 132133B to F.O.L.E.M.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- Convoy U.S. 25. Concur with use of NEWCASTLE for escort of SS. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND as in para. 3 of C. in C. B.P.F's 20755? not to all.
(2) Amend my 110716 accordingly deleting all ref. to SUFFOLK. Request convoy be routed to Colombo for escort to fuel as in para. 3 of signal.
(C. in C. E.I.S. 130634Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)
- S/M STURDY. STURDY from patrol passes through posn. A. 6.30 S. and 04.01 E. at 1600Z/7th May for passage to Ceylon and U.K. S.O.A. 10 knots. Request onward routeing.
(C.T.F. 71, 131016 to C. in C. E.I.S.)
- S/MS reliefs. Request confirmation that it is Admiralty intention not to relieve submarines of 2nd Flotilla when they become due for refit.
(C. in C. E.I. 131103 to Admty.) *Reply: 242042, p 465*
- A.F.Ds. 55, 30. Arrived EMPHATIC towing A.F.D. 55. ASSIDUOUS and ^{HEMNETTA} MOLLER towing A.F.D. 30. M.F.V. 1521 (S.O.), 1520, 1522, 1523, 1539, 1550. Departed TARTAR, TEAZER.
(Com. Aden, 131603Z to Admty.)
- Captain Class Frigates Escorts. The whole question of escort reinforcements to the Eastern Theatre on conclusion of the German war is now under study. There will be insufficient A.A. escorts to meet total requirements, and numbers will have to be made up by LOCH, CAPTAIN or RIVER class frigates. See Q.B. 106/44 to C. in C. E.I. only. Your 110549 refers.
(V.C.N.S. 132332B to C. in C. E.I.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 131316Z, Cominch 131457.)

Cable ship
JOHN W.
MACKAY.
Repairs to
main 1 & 2
Atlantic
Cables.

Presume positions for cable repairs, your 112341 refers, are 50.34 N. 28.59 W. and 50.45 N. 26.29 W. Regret that due to present heavy commitments, R.C.N. escorts cannot be spared for this assignment.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 131501Z to B.A.D.)

U/B report.

Cominch 122050 para. D. (1) should read P.C. 1264 para. D. (1) 131927Z transport A/C sighted surface submarine on course 150 which submerged 34.45 N. 69.14 W.
(C.C.M. Naval Gen., 132107Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Far East and Australia.

S/M Flotillas
B.P.F.
"S" class.

It is desirable from a maintenance point of view for flotilla to be homogeneous as far as possible and it is intended that eighth Flotilla should be adjusted to consist of "S" class only as it was expected that MAIDSTONE would have to look after 6 "T" class of fourth flotilla required for X.E. craft operations this adjustment was not feasible until both flotillas were in company at the advanced base.

(2) In view however of your 030526 such operations appear improbable before ADAMANT moves forward and it is intended therefore to transfer SUPREME, SELENE and SEASCOUT to the 8th submarine flotilla now.

(3) 8th flotilla proceeding to advanced base will then consist of these three submarines plus SPARK, STYGIAN, SOLENT and SLEUTH and any further "S" class allocated to the station up to a total of ten.

(S/M 4 130537Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Submarines.

Your 092002 March 101651 and 121213 not to all. Condition TRENCHANT, TERRAPIN, THOROUGH is such that they can carry on for an additional 3 months.

(2) Timing of patrol would then bring them to U.K. TRENCHANT, TERRAPIN about 20th Dec. THOROUGH one week later. Request early decision.

(Capt. S.4 130702Z to F.O.S., Admty.)

/Floating...

SECRET

A.W.I
241(a). 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.)

Rec'd. 30/4
in W.D.

131928 Z April

From Cinclant

Date. 30.4.45.

Recd. 0054

CCM NAVAL GEN 'S' BY T/P

Addressed CTG.60.1
Info. Cominch. Com.10th Fleet G. and R.
C.E.S.F. Comdeslant. Comservlant.
Com.3. Com.5. N.O.B. Bermuda,
Comnavzor. Admiralty. F.O.G.M.A.
C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw. S.B.N.O.
Azores. Commorseafron. N.O.B. Oran.

7-60.1
Intention?

Task Group 60.1 constituted Comdr. Price in
WAINWRIGHT MAYRANT TRIPPE KNIGHT BANGOR FALGOUT
ABNAKI. Escort UGS.88 departing New York and
Hampton Roads 22nd/23rd April for Western
Mediterranean. ABNAKI detached on arrival Oran
report Comnavnaw for temporary ?duty 12th Fleet.
Escorts lay over Oran. Return escorting GUS
repeat GUS.90 when C. in C. Med. directs.

131928Z

Advance Copy to Ops. O.D. Plot.

- U.W.R.
- Ops.(2)
- Plot(2)
- O.D.(6)
- O.D.8.
- O.I.C.(2)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.A/J.D.
- D.M.S.
- D.M.S.Citadel
- M.
- N.A.2nd S.L.(O.D)
- ails
- Movts.
- W.D.
- U.S.N.(3)
- D.T.D.(4)
- T.D.(C)

13.4.1945
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia - Contd.

Floating Transit Storage. Concur in proposed use of MARUDU, R.A.F.T's 091247* refers. Para. 2. Shortage of shipping is appreciated but owing to the total lack of shore storage in the forward area it is considered that there is a very real necessity for the employment of MARUDU as proposed and for her relief as naval store carrier by another vessel. Admiralty remarks are requested.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 130826Z to Admty.)

* Essential to have floating transit storage in the fleet train.

Defences of Advanced Bases B.P.F. etc.

Boom carriers for E.I.S. and B.P.F. Your 121202 refers. ETHIOPIAN is committed to operation "Dracula" and is part loaded and must leave Trincomalee 29th April.

(2) LEONIAN E.T.A. Trinco. 29th April which would make her two weeks late for "Venom"

(3) LEONIAN is more than half loaded to meet requirements for B.P.F. and can depart from Trinco. about 7 May.

(4) Estimate ETHIOPIAN after "Dracula" would not be ready to sail for Pacific until early July.

(5) Programme of ETHIOPIAN is as follows:

A. Complete laying Mandapam North landing craft moorings.

B. Keep on board other half cargo without laying yet Mandapam South moorings.

C. Load at Trincomalee for "Venom".

D. Load remainder of navigational aids at Calcutta.

(C. in C. E.I. 131352Z to Admty.) E.I. 150603 refers.

Digest 1178, 12.4.45.

(1) Privateers attacked and sank coaster and left freighter transport burning, both off Wenchow.

(2) Single Liberator bombed shipping Kiirun Harbour and docks night 11th dropping 6 half tonners amongst 5 ships.

(8) On Bohol Island our forces proceeding across Island unopposed. Moderate enemy opposition continues on Cebu and increasing resistance is being experienced on Negros vicinity Negritow.

(G.H. Q.S.W.P.A. 131915 to Admty.)

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13.4.1945
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

13th?

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0800Z/18th April.

Para. A. (1) Am. WILL ROGERS torpedoed and sunk
at 1200Z/12th April in lat. 53° 48' N. long. 04°
46' W.

(2) Torpedoes fired in vicinity of convoy at 1212Z/
12th in 55° 36' N. 06° 48' W.

(3) E.G. 8 attacked U-Boat at 1852Z/12th in 53° 40' N. 05° 02' W.

Para. B. (1) LANCER attacked contact at 1245Z/12th in 53° 48' N.
04° 48' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C O/103 sighted possible snort at 1315Z/12th in
52° 03' N. 05° 11' W.

(2) Fishing vessel ST. EBBA sighted possible periscope at 1215Z/
12th in 56° 01' N. 02° 15' W.

(3) E.G. 2 attacked contact probably non-submarine at 1852Z/12th
in 53° 42' N. 04° 51' W. Am. tankers MOLINDO DELREY and CERRO
GORDO reported sighting U-Boats at 1355Z and 1322Z/12th
respectively. Comment: Probably friendly submarine.

(D.D.I.C. 131210B to Cominch, N.3.H.Q.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 131319B to A.I.G. 331, Cominch.)

14.4.1945
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

U 1206

1(a) GARTH sank a midget U-Boat off Orfordness about 0030 to-day and picked up two prisoners. (b) The minesweeping trawler NODZU reported early to-day that she had picked up 25 survivors from a U-Boat off Peterhead. The Captain of the U-Boat, U.1206, stated that the U-Boat was abandoned on the surface owing to mechanical defects and hull leakage but was not scuttled. (cf. 13th April).

Channel.

2. In view of increased midget U-Boat activity in the Eastern Channel A.N.C.X.F. has asked for patrols and coastal defences to be reinforced.

West Coast of France.

3. The 8th Air Force despatched over 1100 bombers to attack coastal and A/A batteries and strong points in the Bordeaux area.

Norway.

4. Beaufighters this afternoon attacked enemy shipping in Josingfiord, South Norway. R.P. hits were made on a U-Boat, a naval auxiliary and a depot ship, and cannon hits on a merchant ship and A/A positions on shore.

Northern Waters.

5. RENOWN arrived at Scapa to-day from the Eastern Fleet.

Baltic.

6. 481 aircraft bombed Kiel harbour last night; results are considered good. 532 mines were laid off Kiel Harbour and in Danish waters.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Adriatic.

7. Last night 3 P.T. boats of the Yugoslav Navy attacked a heavily laden 2 masted schooner off the West Coast of the Istrian Peninsula and set her on fire and left her in a sinking condition.

14.4.1945
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

M.V. BELGIAN-
AIRMAN.
Torpedoed.

8. Belgian Motor Vessel (6,959 tons) BELGIAN AIRMAN is reported as torpedoed and sunk to-day in Lat. 36 degs. 09' N. 74 degs. 05' W. (80' N.E. of Cape Hatteras). 152120Z, 1621170.

Far East and Australia

China.

9. U.S.N. Privateers scored a direct hit on a small Tanker near Amoy and destroyed one small coaster off Takao (Formosa).

Japan.

10. FORMIDABLE joined the Fleet to-day when ILLUSTRIOUS withdrew to Leyte.

14.4.1945.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Midget U/B sunk. 1 Midget submarine craft position (752° 10' N., 00° 49' W). (TRENT, 140034). My 0034, midget submarine sunk, 2 survivors my position (752° 10' N., 1° 49' E). (GARTH, 140054B).

U.1206 sunk off Peterhead. My 140515. Minesweeper NODZU reports picking up 25 survivors from U-boat. Take off prisoners and proceed to Aberdeen. Signal preliminary results of interrogation. Endeavour to ascertain if U-boat was minelaying. (C. in C. Rosyth, 140525 to CAISTOR CASTLE). Ref. Your 140525B/April. From preliminary investigation results show U.B. sank in vicinity 29 buoy. Following is information from prisoners:- "U-boat 1206". Complement 49 (4 officers 45 ratings). Captain's name Lieut. Cdr. Karl Adolf Schlitt. Sailed 28th/29th March. Home port Kiel. Torpedo tubes 4 forward 4 aft 10 torpedoes carried. None have been fired. No mines carried. Captain ordered abandon ship 1830B to 1900B April 13th. U-boat was on surface. No other U-boats in company. Emphatically denied that ship was scuttled stated ship abandoned in emergency owing to mechanical defects and hull leakage. 2. Reference C. in C. Rosyth's 132000B, explosion reported by WILLIAM BRADY may have been connected with the sinking. 3. My 141500B re survivors refers. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 141745 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Operation "Doomsday". Your 121345 not to all. 1 L.C.T.(4) from No.95 Flotilla may be selected and detailed for this duty. (D.C.O.D., 140106B to C. in C. Rosyth).

Operations "Placket", "Cackle", "Clearway" "Fireball". My 021507 April. Sub Para. (B). At least 48 hours' notice will now be given. (A.N.C.X.F., 141120B to C. in C. Nore).

Sweep by M/S 18. Tomorrow Sunday unless otherwise ordered conduct E.G.M.S. sweeping as follows:- (A) Q.Z.Y.572 between N.F.5 and longitude 02° 48' E. (B) Either side of centre line joining N.F.5 to N.F.7 to H.K.1. (A) and first actuation of (B) between N.F.5 and N.F.6 to be completed before arrival of eastbound convoy expected time of arrival N.F.5 buoy 1030B. 2. Minelaying on night of 12th/13th. Probable on a line 100° one and a half miles from position 205° Q.Z.H.220 1 mile. Minelaying also suspected between N.F.6 and N.F.7 buoys. 3. Return to small Downs for the night. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore, 141150B to M/S 18).

/Sweeps....

14.4.1945.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea. - Contd.

Sweeps
by M/S 40.

Visibility between N.F.5 and N.F.7 since 1025 less than 2 cables. Have abandoned sweep. Returning Harwich 4 Fleet Sweepers in company. (S.O. M/S 40, 141210B to C. in C. Nore).

Contacts
by CAISTOR
CASTLE.

Raum 5.
(A) 2121B 057° 21' 20" N., 001° 39' 10" W.
(B) Asdic. (C) One Squid. (D) Wreck.
(A) 0018B 057° 16' 40" N., 001° 41' 30" W.
(B) Asdic. (C) One Squid. (D) Irregular bottom confirmed by E/S. KENILWORTH CASTLE Nil. (CAISTOR CASTLE 141303B).

Midget S/M
report.

Midget S/M in vicinity of D.C.1 buoy. (M.L. 101, 141310 to V.A. Dover).

Night
Dispositions
14th/15th
April.

Humber Force (Group 2), Harbour. CATTISTOCK (Group 3) Patrol. 2 ZETLAND, 3 ARENDAL, 4 TALYBONT, 6 GUILLEMOT, 12 SEYMOUR, 14 CHIDDINGFOLD, 16 STAYNER, 17 CUBITT, 18 HAMBLEDON, 19 RETALICK, 22 CAICOS, T.A.M. 39 SHELDRAKE, A.T.M. 124 WIDGEON. (Group 4) Harbour. KRAKOWIAK, QUANTOCK, EGLINGTON LAMERTON, RUTHERFORD, EKINS, RIOU, TORRINGTON, KITTIWAKE, MALLARD. Sheerness Force (Group 5). Patrol 1 PYTCHLEY, 5 BRISSSENDEN, 7 GARTH, 8 FERNIE, 21 TANATSIDE, A.T.M. 124 MENDIP, T.A.M. 39 WILTON, F.N. 88 OAKLEY. (Group 6) Harbour. BLENCATHRA, COTTESMORE, EASTON, HAYDON, HOLDERNESS, MELBREAK, MEYNELL, VANQUISHER, VIMY, BADDECK, CALGARY DRUMHELLER, LOOSESTRIFE, STATICE. At Southend ALBRIGHTON. (C. in C. Nore, 141541B to Admty).

Cositintrep No. Discharged by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A
375 Part 4 13th.
Section A. (S.H.A.E.F. (Main), 141630A).

Patrols for
night Sunday
15th April.

1 LAMERTON, 2 QUANTOCK, 3 CATTISTOCK, 4 COTTESMORE, 5 MELBREAK, 6 MALLARD, 7 HAYDON, 8 TALYBONT.
Coastal Force Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V with patrols at 2245 attention is called to my 121845.
2. 12 STAYNER with C/F from U.K. 14 CUBITT, 16 TORRINGTON with C/F from Ostend, 17 SOUTHDOWN, 18 CHIDDINGFOLD, 19 RUTHERFORD with C/F from Ostend, 21 FERNIE, 22 CAICOS with C/F from U.K.
Coastal Forces from Ostend R/V with frigates at 2145.
3. Escorts T.A.M. 40 - MEYNELL, QUILLEMOT, T.A.P. 5 - PYTCHLEY.
4. Coastal Forces from U.K.

/Patrol...

14.4.1945.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Patrols for night Sunday 15th April (contd).
Patrol 1, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.1 with LAMERTON.
2, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.2 with QUANTOCK.
3, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.3 with CATTISTOCK.
4, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.4 with COTTESMORE. 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.5 with MELBREAK. M.T.B. Unit F.C.6 with MALLARD.
7, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.7 with HAYDON. 8, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.8 with TALYBONT. 12, 4 M.T.B. Unit F.L. 2 F.L.3.
22, 4 M.T.B. Unit F.B.8, F.B.9.
ESTV 2922 3 M.T.B. Unit F.B.6. NYZZ 5035 M.T.B. Units F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3.
Patrol 1. 1 M.L. patrol 52, 1 M.L. From Ostend. ESUA 316 2 M.T.B. Unit F.A.8. ESUA 2100 2 M.T.B. Unit F.B.2. ESUA 4126 3 M.L. Unit F.G.5. ESUA 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. ESZZ 3836, 4 M.L. Unit F.G.4 (day only).
(C. in C. Nore, 141839B).

U-boat and S.B.U. Summary. To 1200B/14.
1. 0110/14th M.T.B.689 obtained doubtful contact off Folkestone North Gate buoy attacked without result.
(A.C. Dover, 141913B).

S.B.U. B.B.84 (went aground 10 April). My 101800B April. Two-man submarine is type SEEHUND.
2. The two torpedo pistols are removed. They are unarmed and intact, marked P.I 2.F.
3. Lieut. Comdr. Fenick, R.N.V.R., of VERNON mining centre Ostend has these pistols.
(S.N.O.B.O.P.(F), 141940).

Sweeping report for Saturday 14th April. (Extract).
1 blue magnetic mine detonated at 1020B in position 511530 N. 024300 E. approx. sweepers to North of channel owing to poor visibility.
Further sweeping restricted owing to poor visibility.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 142051).

M.S.F.10 Anchored off Harwich. Intend to proceed at 0545 tomorrow Sunday with 4 M/S to execute your 141801B. SHILLAY remaining at anchor keeping constant watch on 1780 k/cs.
(S.O. M.S.F., 10, 142231B to C. in C. Nore).

E.G.1 C. in C. Portsmouth 141215B*. Request you will sail ships of 1st E.G. for Portsmouth passing Dungeness 1100 tomorrow Sunday.
(C. in C. Nore, 142245B to A.C. Dover).
*N.T. in W.D.

War Diary.

14.4.1945.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

German in dinghy.

Cositintrep No. 375 Part 11 Naval. Walrus A/C picked up German Naval Rating from dinghy in approx. 10 miles N.N.W. over Flakkee Island yesterday, 13th April. (Burrough signed Eisenhower, 142300B).

Operations.

Channel.

M.T.B. patrol.

M.T.Bs. patrol last night. Nothing to report. (Comar Brest, 140846B).

E.G.17

Establish following patrols on Coastal convoy routes forthwith.
1st Div. 2 ships Pendeen to Lizard codeword "Links Able".

2nd Division. 3 ships Lizard to Eddystone Codeword "Links Baker".
S.O.E.G.17 report dispositions and Senior Officers.

2. Ascension acknowledge.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 140906B to E.G.17).

LOCH FYNE,
ZANZIBAR,
ST. HELENA
patrol.

1. Weigh at 1700B/14th and proceed to patrol 7 miles either side of route H between 50° 00' N., and route EW.
2. Leave patrol at 0700 B/15th and return to Portsmouth LOCH FYNE entering Harbour for 48 hour lay-over berthing as ordered by Capt. D.1. Further orders follow for ZANZIBAR and ST.HELENA.
3. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141119B to LOCH FYNE, ZANZIBAR, ST. HELENA).

E.G.1

(Extract).

4. C. in C. Nore is requested to sail four ships of 1st E.G. to Portsmouth Command when S.O.E.G.16 passes Dungeness.

5. S.O.E.G.16 acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141215B to S.O.E.G.16, C. in C. Nore).

Midget U/B activity in eastern Channel.

Snobop (F) BOP 43/201 of 9th April not to all. In view of increased midget U-boat activity in eastern Channel request Calais patrols be increased by one M.L. and one M.L. or trawler be provided at both Dieppe and Boulogne.
2. Provision of additional coastal defences is being taken up separately with 21 A.G. (A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 141255A to C. in C. Portsmouth A.C. Dover).

/Shelling...

14.4.1945.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel - Contd.Shelling
from
Alderney.

Shelling from Alderney continuing intermittently. One U.S. Army wounded since last report. Shore Radar contact west side Minquiers Rocks about 2130 13th picked up by P.Ts. then faded when approached. Passage OCC and COC convoys. 1045 today 14th three Radar Targets appeared three miles north St. Anne's Alderney. Target split two proceeding into St. Anne's third faded after moving northward one mile. All three definite Radar Targets. Distinct possibility one or all submarine.
(C.T.G.122.2, 141443B to C.T.F.122).

NORSEMAN.

In view of impracticability of carrying out original programme scheduled for cable ship NORSEMAN in South-Western approaches to Channel, Cable and Wireless have requested that vessel may undertake following repairs on Porthcurno-Carcavellos No.1 cable:- (details).
2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail NORSEMAN to Gibraltar in K.M.S. convoy on completion of present work at Dartmouth and F.O.G.M.A. is requested to provide the necessary escort for the above programme.
3. On completion of the above, a further programme in F.O.G.M.A area will be signalled if original programme in Plymouth area is still impracticable.
(D.S.D., 141507B to C. in C. Plymouth).

O.X. Brittany
S/M
Sanctuary.

C.B.03092 (43) a new submarine sanctuary for A/S exercises with aircraft is established within the following limits:-
Northern latitude 49° 12' N., Southern latitude 48° 57' N. Eastern longitude 04° 20' W. Western longitude 04° 42.5' W.
2. Sanctuary will be known as O.X. Brittany Sanctuary. Twenty mile border zone for aircraft will be applied.
3. Sanctuary is not yet in force but will be ready shortly and will then be brought in and out of force as requisite by C. in C. Plymouth.
4. C.B.03092 (45) R (45) now in press will be amended to include this sanctuary in Appendix IV.
(D.A.S.W., 142038B).

M.S.F.16

My 132053. Have searched from southern limit of area to lat. 049° 02' N., negative. Anchoring Morlaix tonight completing search tomorrow. On completion intend proceeding Falmouth Bay in anticipation of "Artisan" on Monday 16th.
(S.O. M/S F. 16, 142137B to C. in C. Plymouth).

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14.4.1945.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast of France.

Patrol off
Oleron.

No contact made with fishermen.
Am proceeding toward Sables D'Olonnes on perimeter of heavy battery on Ile de Re. Oil fuel remaining BULLDOG 72%, BEAGLE 61%. My position 045° 52' N., 001° 16' W. Weather report 9080 1772.
(BULLDOG, 140801B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Blockade of
Biscay coast.

Spotted by radar at 0200B 2 small ships in Pertuis D'Antioche on meridian 01° 33' W. course eastwards. 5 Large radarscreen buoys met at 0430B on bearing 260° from Chassoron Light 13 miles. BULLDOG and BEAGLE patrolling according to your 131040B, HOVA leaving area at 1200B to R/V MASTODONTE. Clear fine weather, no wind, slight westerly swell. BULLDOG reports nothing sighted.
(HOVA, 141038B to C.F.N.T.)
My 131826B. Owing to weather at base aircraft will leave area at 1600B today.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141145B to S.O. Force 27).

Patrol off
Oleron.

BULLDOG and BEAGLE are to leave patrol at 1800B/15 and return in company through (B) 47° 50' N., 05° 32' W. and (A) 48° 35' N., 05° 32' W. thence by Q.Z.S.697 to Plymouth.
2. Destroyers are to arrive at Plymouth with at least 10% of fuel remaining. Time of leaving patrol is to be advanced if necessary to ensure this.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141622B to S.O. Force 27).

Operation
"Venerable".

My 131650B.*
1. Owing to weather at Base, first Sunderland Aircraft will leave you at 1330B today. Second Sunderland has been cancelled.
2. Request you inform ships in company.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141131B to C.F.N.T.F., in LORRAINE) * Sunderland aircraft for close A/U escort.

One Sunderland aircraft followed by a 2nd Sunderland aircraft will give close A/U escort from dawn to dusk tomorrow 15th April weather permitting.

2. Communications.

3. Another Sunderland will carry out coastwise patrol during day between 047° 45' N., and 045° 50' N. Communications.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141815B to as last).

Operations.

Western Approaches.

E.G.19

Request you will sail E.G.19 as required by C. in C. H.F. A.M.132340 refers.
(V.C.N.S., 140004B to C. in C. W.A.)

/E.G....

14.4.1945.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

E.G.4 C. in C. W.A's 132356 not to all. Sailed 4th E.G. to rejoin Force 31. "High Tea" embarked. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 141205B).
4th E.G. join Force 31 and establish patrol between parallels 50° 30' N., and 51° 30' N., and meridians 11° 30' W., and 13° 30' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 141957B to E.G.4).

E.G.32 If not in contact E.G.32 is to leave Patrol and proceed via route C so as to arrive Milford Haven by noon/16th to fuel.
2. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail E.G.32 so as to support Bristol Channel Section of U.C.B.64 A from Milford Haven buoy and continue with U.C.B.64 A until ordered to detach. My 121310 (not to all) refers. HELMSDALE pass to BRAITHWAITE.
(C. in C. W.A., 141247B to E.G.32).

U/B H.M.C.S. RIVIERE DU LOUP in contact with report by possible submarine in 049° 36' N., 006° 40' W. E.G.C.3 H.M.C.S. ST. THOMAS ordered to support. (S.O.E.G.C.3, 142315B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 142315B. H.M.C.S. RIVIERE DU LOUP reports first attack explosion at 200 feet, second attack explosion at 100 feet, both Hedgehog.
(S.O.E.G.C.3, 142338B).

Operations.

Norway.

Operation Ramose Wisdom sailed ^{VIGRA}~~Vigra~~ at 0630B/14. V.P. + SC 2. Air escort not especially required on return journey.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 140635B).
Ramosé Hosliery. Sailed HITRA (S.O.) and HESSA at 0630B/14.
2. Air escort not especially required on return journey.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 140637B).
Cancel V.P. 75 and V.P.89. Weather unsuitable.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 141710B).
ISOH VIKING reports only shipping sighted was 2 small coasters and patrol vessels, the latter in Skudesnes Fiord.
(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 141615B to F.O.S/M)

TAPIR A.M. 131913 add to para. 1.
TAPIR leaves patrol to pass through 60° 46' N. 04° 01' E. at 0100B/15th then diving by day through 61° 04' N., 02° 02' E. and 61° 04' N., 00° 01' E. 115 miles per day.
(C. of W, 141128B).

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Flag of
C.S.1.

The flag of C.S. one will be transferred from SEARCHER to NORFOLK at 0930B/16th. Cancel 79Z. (C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 141036Z).

J.W.66,
R.A.66.

Your 122246 not to all addressees. 2 tankers equipped for fuelling escort are required for all north Russian convoys. This is specially desirable in case of J.W. and R.A.66 whose escorts include 3 Tribal destroyers and 4 old corvettes of low endurance. Request LAURELWOOD may be included in R.A.66 unless other tankers suitable for fuelling escort can be provided. (C. in C. H.F. (Afloat), 141805B to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Kiel
Canal.

Information at 6th April: Graded B.2. Only one lock at Brunsbüttel is at present serviceable and is now being worked by hand. 2. All bridges across Canal and all locks at Holtenu and Brunsbüttel are now prepared for destruction. (D.N.I., 141950B to C. in C. H.F.)

Navigational

Portsmouth.

Cancel my 131659B. Port of Portsmouth eastern channel now open. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 140312B).

Rosyth

Cancel my 131428*
(C. in C. Rosyth 140521)
*Port closed owing to low visibility.

Casualties & Defects

Dispersal
of various
wrecks.

From P.S.V.O.
(1) Dispersal of STEEL TRAVELLER will now proceed.
(2) Considering nature of cargo, the amount of traffic in vicinity, and the fact that FORT MAISONNEUVE and EMPIRE BLESSING are both less than 3 miles from shore and in direct line with towns, dispersal will be postponed until a more appropriate time. Your 131810B refers. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 141618B to Admty).

SS.
LEAGRANGE

Great Yarmouth 14th April departures Tugs CHAMPION and DIVERSION to assist SS. LEAGRANGE aground in 52° 40' N., 00° 47' 78" E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 141651B).

/My...

14.4.1945.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

SS.
LEAGRANGE
(contd).

My 141651B. SS. LEAGRANGE refloated at 1930 and anchored Yarmouth Roads for night proceeding at first light to Southend. Tugs DIVERSION and CHAMPION returned.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 142245).

?STRATHADAM

A.M.132250B* Cancel para. 2 and substitute:
"2. Accordingly, ammunition should be jettisoned and torpedoes rendered safe by removing pistols. Instructions for disposal of torpedoes should be given in port of preliminary examination" (V.C.N.S., 141851B to C. in C. W.A.)
*N.T. in W.D.

Movements.

E.G.30

Scapa departures - S.O.E.G.30 in PEVENSEY CASTLE with LAUNCESTON CASTLE and PORCHESTER CASTLE.
(C. in C. H.F. Ashore, 140619B).

RENOWN

Scapa arrival RENOWN escorted by CAVENDISH, CAMBRIAN and CARRON.
(C. in C. H.F. Ashore, 140650B).
My 131602.* In view of weather pass Hoxa at 1900B today.
(C. in C. H.F. Afloat, 141247B to RENOWN)
*Sailing of RENOWN.
My 141247. Sailing of RENOWN postponed owing to weather. Ship is at one hour's notice.
(C. in C. H.F. Afloat, 142033B)

T.G.63.1

Urdis. 131900Z, Comnaveu Dis. 121258, 121348 refer. T.G.63.1 is to be in all respects ready for sea and escort of convoy L.S.T.4 by 1200B/15. In performance of this duty T.G.63.1 will sail as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. Steaming notice remains as in Mydis 121453B. Upon departure Plymouth duty with C.T.F.127 completed.
(Comphibsukay, 140901B to C.T.G.63.1)

BELFAST

F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail BELFAST when ready in early May to Scapa.
2. On completion of sufficient preliminary practices at Scapa, for which two weeks is estimated, C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail ship for Mediterranean.
3. C. in C. Med. is requested to make arrangements to complete work up in his command.
4. On completion of work up, BELFAST should be sailed for Australia via Ceylon to join British Pacific Fleet.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 141010B).

14.4.1945.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements. (Contd.)

19th E.G.

Admiralty 132340 and Admiralty 140004 neither to all. Request you sail 19th Escort Group to arrive Scapa a.m./17. Request senior officer in LOCH SHIN may call at Greenock for discussion with C.S.10 before proceeding to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. Afloat, 141227B to C. in C. W.A.)

CLEOPATRA

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 121624 not to all approved for CLEOPATRA to carry out preliminary work up in the Clyde.

2. On completion F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship for Mediterranean.

3. Cancel para. 1 and 2 of A.M. 292319 March not to C.S.10. (D.O.D.(H), 141632B).

In view of A.M. 141632 cancel my 011224. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 142033B).

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14.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

E.G. II Ships addressed form Group II as from 0800A/15th April, SPIREA (S.O.)
(F.O.G.M.A. 141021A to SPIREA, CROCUS, JONQUIL.)

S/M
SPORTSMAN. Arrived Horta at 0902Z/14th, SPORTSMAN escorted by H.M.C.S. CARLPLACE.
(S.B.N.O. Azores 141052Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

6th M.S.F. 6th M.S.F. less POSTILLION, FRIENDSHIP (S.O.) plus Danlayers IMERSAY and LINGAY is to sail at 1900/14th to Alexandria for onward routeing to Ceylon. etc.
(F.O.G.M.A. 141221A to 6th M.S.F.)

South Atlantic.

River class Department of Defence is agreeable to manning River Class frigates your 192140 (N.T. in W.D.) March. First crew will be available in South Africa about 7th May, 1945. Request instructions for disposal.

(2) It is stated that a few specialist R.N. ratings will be required to complete complement. Details not yet known.
(C. in C. S.A. 141226 to Admty.)

14.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Boom Defence Your 121720B. In addition to 9 Bars there are for B.P.F. two Net class which whilst almost equally effective for port clearance do not have the same qualities (steaming) as the Bar class.

(2) While fully appreciating the importance of the comparatively long term programme of salvage and port clearance in Mediterranean the fleet requirements in eastern and Pacific theatres where there is still a substantial scale of submarine attack must be met.

(3) The diversion of Bars ordered in A.M. 111350 does not allow for casualties in eastern waters and is the minimum required for operations.

(4) Request urgent action be taken to implement A.M. 111350. It is important for these ships to arrive before monsoon.

(5) Two bar vessels will be sent from U.K. to reinforce Mediterranean as early as practicable.

(V.C.N.S. 141148B to C. in C. Med.)

BARMOND, BARCLOSE and BARFORD are to be sailed with despatch to Levant. BARFOIL is to be sailed with despatch to Malta.

(2) On arrival in Levant and Malta ships are to be taken in hand and docked if necessary as highest priority. They should be made as seaworthy for ocean passage as is possible in the time available to comply with Admiralty Message 111350 not to all.

(3) Salvage gear is to be landed.

(Caserta C.C.O., 141923B.)

U.S. 8th Fleet, change to Task Force. Effective 15th United States ships and shore establishments now forming the 8th Fleet will become a Task Force of the 12th Fleet, assigned Task Force No. 125.

(2) The Cdr. 8th Fleet will become Cdr. Task Force 125 and will also use title "Cdr. Naval Forces N.W. African Waters" (Comnavnaw.)

(3) Signals or correspondence concerning U.S. ships are to continue to be addressed or repeated Comnavnaw who will be responsible for passing on such information as is required by Cdr. 12th Fleet.

(4) New task organisation amended operation order number 6 - 44 dated (?25th) Nov. will be promulgated by Comnavnaw.

(5) Cdr. 12th Fleet has his H.Q. in London and uses alternative title Cmdr. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe (Comnaveu.)

(C. in C. Med. 141244B to Med. Stn.)

Hunt class destroyers. Request information when Hunts referred to in A.M. 101511 March and 232310 March will complete workup. (D.O.D.(H) 141929B to C. in C. Med.)

/Situation...

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14.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation
Report No.
594.

Reference Situation Report No. 593.

The enemy ship sunk in the Planinski Channel
has been identified as the T.B. SPICA.

(2) Adriatic. Night 13/14th 3 P.T. boats of the
Yugoslav Navy operating off west coast of the
Istrian Peninsula attacked a large heavily
laden 2 masted schooner which was set on fire and
left in a sinking condition.

(C. in C. Med., 142323B to F.O.L.E.M.)

14.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Interpretation A. 11th April. Conditions less than one tenth
 2 Ph. R/C cloud but haze making interpretation difficult
 of Singapore (1) Johore Strait. Naval shipping: previously
 by 20th Bomber reported damaged TAKAO class CA at same anchorage
 Command. opposite Naval Base. Damaged NACHI class CA
 has left Graving Dock, which is vacant, and is
 not seen elsewhere. Large floating dry dock and
 sunk ship therein no change. Merchant shipping 11 ships
 totalling 33 thousand 216.
 (2) Singapore Harbour area. Naval: in special dry dock 655
 foot NACHI or ATAGO class CA.
 Nature of damage not discernible but stem appears intact,
 therefore probably not heavily damaged, NACHI class CA which
 has left Naval Base Graving Dock. This is 1st photograph of
 major Naval Unit in Singapore Harbour area. 2 - 295 feet S/M
 berthed abreast near Greece dry dock. 201 DE in Thermia dry dock.
 Summary. 13 ships total 49,000 tons, gross (B) 12th April.
 (1) Johore Strait. Naval shipping, TAKAO class CA as above,
 no sign of repairs being carried out.
 Damaged NACHI class CA anchored near shore west of Naval Base
 undergoing major repairs astern and also to bow where section of
 deck plate appear removed. 300 feet minelayer and 275 feet DE
 at Naval Base.
 Merchant shipping, 14 ships totalling 35,500 tons gross (2)
 Singapore Harbour area. Naval shipping, Kings dry dock cloud
 obscured. Victoria Dock as above.
 One of FR mentioned above in Albert dry dock, others at
 Sheers Wharf. 1 SHIGURE class DD anchored in Outer Roads. 260
 feet DE in inner roads.
 Merchant shipping, 25 ships totalling 5,700 tons gross.
 (C. in C. E.I's. 140514Z to Admty., C. in C. B.P.F.)

S/M SEANYMPH. Arrived HIND, S/M SEANYMPH, M.Ls. 869, 868, 871,
 873.
 (Com. Aden 140609 to Admty.)

Whalecatchers Request you take action necessary on A.M. 111750
 Reduction (C. in C. E.I. 140924Z, and 171445.)
 local defence In order to assess demands on reconditioning
 craft. capacity and to secure max. allocation report is
 requested forthwith of anticipated arrival dates
 in South Africa of Whalecatchers referred to in
 para. 3 of A.M. 111750B which has been passed to
 Cdre. i/c Durban.

C. in C. S.At. pass A.M. 111750 to N.L.O. Capetown.
 (Hd. of M. 141252B to C. in C. E.I.)

37th M/S 37th M/S Flotilla your 121723* refers. H.M.I.S.
 Flotilla, ROHILKHAND (S.O.), BALUCHISTAN, BIHAR, CARNATIC,
 composition DECCAN, KATHIAWAR, KHYBER, KONKAN, KUMAR, ORISSA,
 of. OUDH, RAJPUTANA, BENGAL, BOMBAY, PUNJAB, LAHORE,
 AGRA, PATNA, POONA.
 (2) It is not intended to form 38th M/S F. at
 present.
 (C. in C. E.I. 141050Z to Admty.)
 * Allocation of M/S F.

/Defences...

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14.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Defences at
Kilindini.
Dismantling
of.

Further to my 071007. Now intend boom defences at Kilindini to be lifted. Serviceable equipment to be stored ashore pending disposal instructions. My 261059 March refers to review of static defences (C. in C. E.I. 141058Z to Admty.)

Dock and
tug situation

FLARE's tail shaft is seized. Divers can find no external cause. Intend to dock her on 17th April.
(2) EMPHATIC has some engine defects expect her to be ready to sail on 20th April.
(3) Docks will be sailed to comply with your 101251 and 130911 (neither to all) but if tugs are ready before arrivals of escorts and weather is favourable it is proposed to sail them unescorted.
(Com. Aden 141605Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Defence -
advance
bases B.P.F.

Your 131352Z (N.T. in W.D.) approved.
(2) Unless C. in C. B.P.F. specifically requires any moorings to be shipped in LEONIAN she should be loaded to capacity in accordance with para. 2 of A.M. 121202B.
(3) B.2 also H. Star and spar equipment and two floating dock moorings for Molcab to be off-loaded.
(4) Intermediate base mooring requirements for Pacific Fleet are being loaded now in FERNMOOR and ship will be topped-up with A/T defence.
(D.B.D. 142229B to C. in C. E.I.)

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14.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

PRINCE RUPERT frigate. H.M.C.S. PRINCE RUPERT is allocated to E.G. 27 to date 14th April.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 141312Z to R.C.N. Depot.)

CAPE BRETON frigate. H.M.C.S. CAPE BRETON is transferred from E.G. 6 to E.G. 9 to date 14th April para. 2 my 191512 March not to all refers. Accounting base to be changed from SHELBOURNE to NIOBE, Londonderry.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 141314Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Allocations. The following allocations are effective to date 14th April from new construction to Halifax Force. H.M.C.S. STRATHROY to Western Escort Force for duty with W.8, H.M.C.S. NEW LISKEARD.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 141318Z to N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 141329Z to A.O.C.E.A.C., Cominch 141543Z)

St. Lawrence opening of, additional escorts. Request E.G. 6 be sailed to Halifax when ready. A.M. 122037, not to all refers.
(2) If WASKESIU has not joined by time group ready to sail, request arrangements be made for ship to join group as convenient.
(N.S.H.Q. 141501Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Admiralty's 122037 para. 3. As anticipated in N.S.H.Q.'s 021937 not to all it will be necessary to maintain three river class destroyers ex E.G. 11 for operation C. in C. C.N.A.
(2) On completion of repairs about end of April OTTAWA will be retained by C. in C. C.N.A. until relieved by QU'APPELLE about 1st June. OTTAWA will then rejoin E.G. 11. QU'APPELLE will rejoin E.G. 11 when relieved by CHAUDIERE at a later date.
(3) Suggest that E.G. 11 be reformed with the four ships available in the U.K. when KOOTENAY and GATINEAU complete work up. Group to be operated by R.N. authority in U.K. waters.
(N.S.H.Q., 141629Z to Admty.)

SS. SILVER STAR PARK (tanker.) SS. SILVER STAR PARK in collision April 12th afloat and still burning. My 061929Z* not to Admiralty refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 141858Z to Admty.) * N.T. in W.D.

U/B report. Para. D. 141530Z Army A/C reported sighting U-Boat 32.20 N. 76.10 W. course 080, object submerged rapidly.
(Cominch 141953Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

14.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

- Directive V.A.(Q) B.P.F. Revised directive contained in your 080814* March approved subject to:-
- A. Inclusion of following sentence in para. 1 - "You will have the same relation to the other branches of the staff of V.A.(Q) B.P.F. as G.O.C.R.M. has to other Admiralty Staff Division and Departments."
- B. Insertion of work "and" immediately after word "station" in para. 2 B. (2nd S.L. 140142B to V.A.(Q) B.P.F., see 080238Z March.)
* N.T. in W.D.
- U.S. aircraft report. Shipping Singapore 11.4.45. A. Johore Straits. One damaged ATAGO class at anchor. Eleven merchant vessels aggregating 33,000 tons damaged NACHI class cruiser has left graving dock which is empty. This ship was not observed.
B. Singapore Harbour one NACHI class cruiser in King George V dry dock with hull intact. Two submarines near Albert Dock escort vessel in Victoria Dock. 13 merchant vessels aggregating 49,000 tons. (B.A.D. 141815Z to Admty., D.N.I.)
- C. in C.P.O.A. 2330 G.C.T. 14 April, 1945 as follows -
Communique No. 332. (1) Elements of the Marine 3rd Amphibious Corps. on Okinawa Island on 14 April advanced northward to the vicinity of Momobaru Town on the west coast and Arakawa Town on the East Coast. Resistance was negligible. The Marines on Motobu Peninsula are now in possession of most of that area and are attacking small concentrations of enemy troops which continue to resist. (2) In the southern sector during the early morning hours of 14 April the enemy mounted a small counter attack which was immediately beaten off by troops of the 96th Army Division. Enemy positions were brought under fire of Field Artillery ships guns and carrier and land based aircraft. (3) A few enemy aircraft appeared in the area off Okinawa during the day and 9 were shot down by our combat air patrol. (4) Aircraft from carriers of the U.S. Pacific Fleet bombed airfields on Ishigaki and Miyako Islands in the Sakishima Group on 14 April destroying 7 aircraft on the ground and damaging 25 more. (5) Without opposition carrier aircraft of the British Pacific Fleet struck airfields and installations at Matsuyama and Shinchiku on Formosa on 13 April. A number of aircraft were damaged on the ground and hangars, barracks, buildings, a railway bridge, a train and other targets were heavily hit. Several small groups of enemy planes attempted to attack surface units of the British force and three of these were shot down. The Task Force suffered no damage. (6) Fighters of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing bombed enemy islands in the Palaus on 14 April. (Radio Washington 142312 to Admty.)

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14.4.1945

Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0800Z/14th April.

Para. A. (1) WILLIAM BRADY heard underwater explosion and saw U-Boat on surface at 1710Z/13th April in approx. 57° 21' N. 01° 39' W.

(2) Fishing trawler FORT ERROL saw U-Boat course S.E. at approx. 1710Z/13th in 57° 20' N. 01° 36' W.

Para. B. (1) NODZU heard underwater explosion at 2224Z/13th in 57° 22' N. 01° 46' W.

Para. C. (1) LAMERTON attacked contact at 0516Z/12th in 52° 42' N. 02° 14' E.

(2) H.N.M.S. ARENDAL missed by 2 torpedoes at 0001Z/13th in 52° 54' N. 02° 08' E.

(3) LANCER attacked contact probably non-submarine, at 1305Z/13th in 53° 45' N. 04° 58' W.

(4) MAN-O-WAR attacked contact probably non-submarine at 1331Z/13th in 53° 44' N. 05° 06' W.

(5) Ref. A.M. 131210B para. A. (1) WILL ROGERS towed Holyhead and beached.

(D.D.I.C. 141118B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 141504B to A.I.G., Cominch.)

15.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- 12th Fleet. 1. A fresh organisation and command of the Task Forces of the 12th Fleet came into force at 0001 today.
- North Sea. 2. Five mines were destroyed off Ostend today.
- Channel. 3. Shelling of the Cap de la Hague area by guns on Alderney continues intermittently.
- West Coast of France. 4(a) Bombardment by the French Naval Task Force (see 13 April) in support of military operations against enemy held pockets at the mouth of the Gironde commenced this morning.
(b) Eleven hundred heavy bombers attacked Royan on the right bank of the river this morning.
- Port Facilities. 5. S.C.A.E.F. has decided that, to ensure the rapid defeat of the enemy, it will shortly be necessary to open a German North Sea port, preferably Hamburg. Essential pre-requirements are that all the German North Sea main land coast and the Danish coast as far as Esbjerg must be in our hands; and that the guns on Wangerooge must be neutralised and Heligoland batteries and naval base rendered ineffective.

Foreign Stations.

South Atlantic.

6.
4th Fleet Title of. As from today title of 4th Fleet will be allocated to part of Pacific Fleet. Present 4th Fleet will become Task Force 27 of Atlantic Fleet. 131150Z.

Mediterranean.

- U.S. 8th Fleet. 7. From today U.S. ships and Shore Establishments forming 8th Fleet become Task Force No.125 of the 12th Fleet.
Cdr. 8th Fleet becomes Cdr. Task Force 125 and will use the title of "Cdr. Naval Forces North West African Waters". (Comnavaw). 141244.

15.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Malaya

8. U.S. aircraft sank 5 small vessels and damaged 3 others off East coast of Malaya.

America & West Indies.

SS. OKLAHOMA
torpedoed.

SS. DELAWARE (tanker) reported last night that the SS. OKLAHOMA (Am. tanker 9,298 tons) was torpedoed on 28th March in lat. 13° 37' N., 41° 43' W. 790 miles north east of Cape Orange (North Brazil). Ship exploded and left burning stem to stern.

22 survivors were picked up by DELAWARE in position 11° 45' N., 66° 6' W. off the Venezuelan coast. The OKLAHOMA was overdue at Dakar since April 1st. 150801Z.

15.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

- 12th Fleet Cr. No. 750. Following organisation and command of Task Forces 12th Fleet effective 150001 April. Read in six columns. Begins:
- A. Task Force number. B. Administrative Title.
C. Commander. D. Short Title.
E. Operational Control. F. Logistical Support.
120. None. Admiral Stark. Com. 12th Fleet. Com. 12th Fleet. Comnaveu.
121. Fleet Wing 7. Rear Admiral McFall. Comfairwing 7. Coastal Command. Comnaveu.
122. U.S. Naval Forces France. Vice Admiral Kirk. Comnavforfrance. S.C.A.E.F. Comnaveu.
123. Amphibious Craft 12th Fleet. Commodore Korns. Comphibcraft, 12th Fleet. S.C.A.E.F. Comnaveu.
124. U.S. Naval Forces Germany. Vice Admiral Ghormley. Comnavforger. S.C.A.E.F. Comnaveu.
125. U.S. Naval Forces N.W. African Waters. Vice Admiral Glassfurd. Comnavnaw. S.A.C. Med. Cinclant.
126. U.S. Naval Ports and Bases Germany. Rear Admiral Robinson. Comusbasger. S.C.A.E.F. Comnaveu.
127. Amphibious Bases U.K. Commodore Korns. Comphibsukay. Com. 12th Fleet. Comnaveu.
128. U.S. Naval Technical Mission Europe. Commodore Schade. Comnavtechmiseu. C.N.O. Comnaveu. Ends.

Except in matters of Policy Task Force Commanders are authorised to deal directly with each other and with other service commands in matters involving mutual co-operation within their assigned areas of responsibility. Keeping Com. 12th Fleet appropriately informed.

My 081724 of July 1944 and modifications thereto cancelled. (Com. 12th Fleet 151018.) See amendment 161657B.

Force T. As from 0900/16 the title "Force U" will lapse at this time the force now known as "Force U" will be designated "Ferry Craft Squadron Force T". All administrative and operation duties now performed by me will be carried out by Commander D.G.M. Bradford, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N.R. (short title C.F.C.T.) under the orders of Naval Commander Force T.

(2) H.Q. of Ferry Craft Squadron Force T will be at Kweek School, Nijmegen and signals should be passed by route hitherto used by Force U.

(N.C. Force U, 151134B.)

*(2) Duties referred to in my 161505, 231500 and 271130 all of March none to all will also now be carried out by N.C. Force T. (A.N.C.X.F. Main 152305B.) *(Extract.)

/Surrender...

15.4.1945
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy - Contd.Surrender
of U-Boats
at sea on
"cease fire"Ref. C. in C. 012349A April and Admiralty 132250B
April. Propose following route and ports North Sea
route positions A 53° 45' N. 03° 00' E. B 59° 45' N.
01° 00' W. C 59° 45' N. 03° 00' W. thence Loch
Erribol. Port for preliminary examination Loch
Erribol. Port for final examination Invergordon.
(C. in C. Rosyth 151509B to Admty.)General.Cositintrep
No. 376.Part 2 naval.
Preliminary reports indicate that the Naval bombard-
ment by French Naval Task Force in support of
military operations against enemy held pockets at
the mouth of the Gironde is proceeding in accordance

with plans.

(2) Ref. Cositintrep 373, para. (6 omitted). Shelling has
continued intermittently.(3) L.C.A. and L.C.M. of Force T were employed ferrying vehicles
and stores across the Rhine near Arnhem.
(Burrough signed Eisenhower 152340B.)Operations.North Sea.CAISTOR
CASTLE,
search for
U-Boat.My 151001*. Heavy underwater explosion reported
at 0844 in position 025° Girdleness. 1 mile.
Search between Girdleness and Swept Chammel.
(C. in C. Rosyth 151008 to CAISTOR CASTLE.)

* Not yet identified in W.R.

E.T.A. 1600B. Your 151008 refers.

(CAISTOR CASTLE 151123 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 151008B. Intend searching area from coast to Q.Z.S. 322
between lat. 057° 03' 30" N. 057° 13' 30" N.
(CAISTOR CASTLE 151720B to C. in C. Rosyth.)Continue to search as in your 151720 and if not in contact
at 0700B/16 proceed to search coastwise in Moray Firth.

(C. in C. Rosyth 152101 to CAISTOR CASTLE.)

S.B.U. BB.84

My 141940. Add F.O. Belgium and N.O.I.C. Ostend
to repeated addressees.
(S.N.O.B.O.P.(F) 151024B.)Mines off
Ostend.

(Extract.)

3 ground mines detonated on 1st.* Actuation as
follows. A. 034° N.F. 7 4 cables. B. Close north
N.F. 7. C. about 1.2 miles 352° from N.F. 7.(2) C. Probably course acoustic detonated immediately
following explosive sweep.

(M/S 18 151303B.)

* W.D. Note. Presume 15th intended.

/Sweeping...

15.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Mines off
Ostend.
(Contd.)

Sweeping report for Sunday 15th April.
1 acoustic mine detonated at 0848B in position
51.23.5 N. 02.48.06 E.
1 acoustic mine detonated at 1622B in position
51.23.35 N. 02.43.24 E.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend 151940.)

Operation
"Glenoid VII"

Request that N.O.I.C. Blyth may sail M.F.V. 2043
on operation "Glenoid VII" to contact two Danish
fishing vessels in lat. 54.08 N. long. 02.09 E.
on the Outer Silver Pit, so as to be at R/V by
0900B/18.

(2) Special operational orders are being sent by bag to Rosyth,
and to Blyth by hand of officer.
(D.D.O.D.(I) 151321B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Cositintrep
No. 376.

Part 4 section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour
period ending 141600A April.
(S.H.A.E.F. Main 151330A.)

Patrols for
tonight 16th
April, Monday. 1 LAMERTON, 2 QUANTOCK, 3 BRISSENDEN, 4 EASTON,
5 TANATSIDE, 6 SHEARWATER, 7 EGLINTON, 8 MELBREAK.
Coastal force units F.C. 1 to 8 R/V with patrols
at 2245.

(2) 12 RUTHERFORD with C/F from U.K. 14 SOUTHDOWN,
16 EKINS with C/F from Ostend. 17 KRAKOWIAK,
18 ARENDAL, 19 RETALICK with C/F from Ostend. 21 HAYDON, 22
CUBITT with C/F from U.K. Coastal force units from Ostend R/V
frigates at 2145.

(3) Escort T.A.M. 41 VANQUISHER. T.A.P. 5 PYTCHLEY.

(4) Coastal forces. From U.K.

Patrol 1, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 1 with LAMERTON.

Patrol 2, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 2 with QUANTOCK.

Patrol 3, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 3 with BRISSENDEN.

Patrol 4, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 4 with EASTON.

Patrol 5, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 5 with TANATSIDE.

Patrol 6, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 6 with SHEARWATER.

Patrol 7, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 7 with EGLINTON.

Patrol 8, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 8 with MELBREAK.

Patrol 12, 4 M.T.B. unit F.L. 2, F.L. 3.

Patrol 22, 4 M.T.B. unit F.B. 8, F.B. 9.

NYZZ 5035 unit F.A. 1, F.A. 2, F.A. 3, 6 M.T.Bs.

ESTV 2922 unit F.B. 6, 3 M.T.Bs.

From Ostend.

ESUA 2316, 2 M.T.B. unit F.A. 8.

ESUA 2100, 2 M.T.B. unit F.B. 2.

ESUA 4126, 3 M.L. unit F.G. 5.

ESUA 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.

ESZZ 3836, 5 M.Ls. unit F.G. 4 (day only.)

(C. in C. Nore 151630B.)

My 151630B para. 4. Under patrols from U.K. add:

Patrol 51, 1 M.L. Patrol 52, 1 M.L.

(C. in C. Nore 151835B.)

15.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

M/S 18. Tomorrow Monday unless otherwise ordered conduct following E.G.M.S. sweeping.
A. Q.Z.Y. 572 between N.F. 5 and long. 02° 48' E.
B. Intensive sweeping between N.F. 6, N.F. 7 and H.K. 1 buoys and between N.F. 7 and N.F. 8.
(2) Return to Small Downs for the night. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Nore 151700B to M/S 18.)

U-Boat and S.B.U. Summary. To 1200B/15th April.
1253/14th M.L. 101 sighted two semi-submerged midget submarines steering west in vicinity of D.C. 1 buoy.
M.L. 101, IMPULSIVE, BENTLEY and HOSTE thoroughly depth charged area without result.
(A.C. Dover 151819B.)

?U/B. BIBER (?sighted) on the surface in position 268° N.F. 9 2 miles. 2 depth charge exploded within (740) feet of it. Small patch of oil remaining, no other evidence can be found.
(TORRINGTON 152302B to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations.

Channel.

?U/B. "Observant" yielded no contact. Intend investigating along course vicinity Dodman Point.
(LONGA 150755B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Force 28. M.L. 344 take M.L. 600 under his orders to form Force 28, pass Gate at 1200B/15 and proceed by Q.Z.S. 697 to Z. 49° 02' N. 03° 00' W. thence to establish patrol between A. 49° 02' N. 02° 37' W. and B. 48° 49' N. 02° 37' W. at about 2200B/15.
Objects: To cover C.O.C./O.C.C. convoy route against surface craft and movements outlined in Opas paras. 1, 2 and 3 (not held by all addressees).
(2) If no contacts by 0700B/16 Force 28 is to proceed by QZ.S. 572 to Granville. Whenever east of 02° 18' W. Force 28 will come under the operational control of C.T.G. 122.2 who is requested to assign patrols, in accordance with paras. 1A and 4 of my 131322B (not to all.)
(3) M.L. 344 and M.L. 600 hold Opas and Cousnæb Cherbourg No. 2-45 of 19.3.45. (4) Communications.
(C. in C. Plymouth 150951B as amended 151513B to M.Ls. 344, 600.)

/E.G. 1...

15.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

E.G. 1. (1) GARLIES and GORE R/V with E.G. 1 at F-Buoy at 1630B/15th.
(2) 1st E.G. proceed by Standard route to Belfast reporting own E.T.A.
(3) Your hard work in this command has been appreciated.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 151012 to S.O.E.G. 1 (BALFOUR), GARLIES, GORE.)

16th M/S F. 2 destroyers anchored Outer Road Morlaix from 2100B/14 to 0730B/15. No information held about names of ships and their movement.
(Comar Brest 151125B to C.T.F. 122.)
Your 151125B. Vessels were part of 16th M/S F. who have been (speaking)* in the vicinity and may use Morlaix again tonight. Regret that telephonic information of this movement, which was passed, does not appear to have reached you.
(C. in C. Plymouth 151807B to Comar Brest.)
* As received ? sweeping.

DACRES, Request you sail DACRES as soon as S.O.E.G. 15
S.O.E.G. 15. has been landed to rejoin E.G. 15 2nd division vicinity Trevoze.
(2) DACRES arrange R/V direct with INGLIS and report E.T.D.
(C. in C. Plymouth 151221B to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
Arrived DACRES and sailed to comply with your 151221B.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 151714B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Leave patrol so as to enter Plymouth at 1630B/16.
(2) Ship is to anchor in Jennycliff Bay where the new S.O.E.G. 15 will embark. Group A/S office is to visit A.C.H.Q. on arrival. Boat will be sent. DACRES acknowledge.
(C. in C. Plymouth 152035B to DACRES.)

Operation Carry out operation "Artisan" serial B.2 part 1 at
"Artisan". 0740B/16.
(2) M.S. 16 in TADOUSSAC with ILFRACOMBE, SHIPPIGAN and DORNOCH is to R/V with PLOVER escorted by BEAUMARIS and PARRSBORO in position 136° Lizard 10.8 at 0655B/16th.
(3) F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail ARMANA to R/V with M.S. 16 in position 136° Lizard 10.8 at 0655B/16.
(4) M.S. 16 is to arrange for skimming sweep of lay to 42 feet below chart Datum with ARMANA acting as Danlayer.
(5) PLOVER is not to carry out lay if weather is unsuitable for skimming sweep.
(6) On completion of lay PLOVER to Portsmouth escorted by 2 ships of 16th M/S F. Remaining ships of 16th M/S F. as ordered by M/S 16 who is to report names of ships detailed and intentions.
ARMANA to Falmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 151305B to M/S 16 (in TADOUSSAC), PLOVER, BEAUMARIS, PARRSBORO, ILFRACOMBE, SHIPPIGAN, DORNOCH, ARMANA, F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

/Your...

15.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

- Operation "Artisan." (Contd.) Your 151305. Intend sailing from Falmouth at 0500 On completion of (?sweep) BEAUMARIS and ILFRACOMBE escort to Portsmouth, remaining to Plymouth, detaching ARMANA at D.1 buoy. (S.O. M/S F. 16 151626 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- Calais patrols. Your 141255B*. No additional craft at present available at Dover. Q.Z.S. 606 is patrolled as far as D.C. 2 buoy. (A.C. Dover 151314B to A.N.C.X.F. (Main)) * Calais patrols to be increased by one M.L. and trawler.
- Shelling from Alderney. Shelling from Alderney continued intermittently since last report. (C.T.G. 122.2, 151345B.)
- Force 36. Intend patrolling off Rockabill thence support M.H. 84 suitable. (Force 36, 151352B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

West Coast of France.

- Operation "Venerable" My 141815. Sunderland A/C on both A/U escort and coastwise patrol indefinitely delayed owing to weather at bases. Further signal will be made. (C. in C. Plymouth 150106B to C.F.N.T.F.)
- My 150106B. Expect first Sunderland A/C about 1230B, 2nd about 1730B till dusk. Coastwise patrol Sunderland may now also be expected.
- (2) All communications as in my 141815. (C. in C. Plymouth 150855B to C.F.N.T.F.)
- Naval participation in operation "Venerable" commenced as scheduled. Proceeding very well. (C.T.F. 122, 150700B to A.N.C.X.F.)
- My 141815B para. 1 will be carried again tomorrow 16th April. Weather permitting. Callsigns W/T and R/T - KZO with Suffix 39 for first aircraft and 43 for second aircraft.
- (2) My 141815B para. 3 will also be carried out. W/T callsign JNFC 19. R/T callsign transom.
- (3) Communications. (C. in C. Plymouth 151811B to C.F.N.T.F. (in LORRAINE.))
- My 151811B para. 1. Request you will inform me as soon as possible of any necessary amendment to R/V for aircraft. (C. in C. Plymouth 151904B to C.F.N.T.F. (in LORRAINE.))

15.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast of France - Contd.

Blockade
of Biscay
coast.

Opas para. 14.
B. 046° 27' N. 002° 18' W. 080° in company.
C. BULLDOG 046° 24' N. 002° 05' W. BEAGLE 046°
14' N. 127 002° 13' 038°. Intend (?maintaining)
concertina patrol between Roche Bonne and Sables
d'Olonne until 1800. Weather report 9070 2334.
(BULLDOG 150308B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Intelligence. Advanced H.Q. D.A. A.T. L.G. 2 report of 15th
April includes following information.
(2) La Rochelle area at 0700 yesterday morning 2
trawlers and one gunboat of D.D. size stationed
themselves off Port Boyardville. At 0800 they left for La
Pallice. French sailors on Ile d'Aix state that since yesterday
morning they have seen 40 ships of all sizes heading toward La
Pallice from south.
(C.T.F. 122, 151045B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

E.G. 19
(to Scapa.)

Request you will sail 19th E.G. to comply with C.
in C. H.F. (Afloat) 141227* which has been
passed to you.
(C. in C. W.A., 150116B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
* N.T. in W.D.

To comply with C. in C. W.A.'s 150116B intend to sail S.O.E.G. 19
in LOCH SHIN at 1000B/15 to Greenock.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 150400B.)

To comply with C. in C. W.A. 150116B April intend to sail
COTTON (S.O.), ANGUILLA, GOODALL and LOCH INSH at 1900B/15 to
Scapa.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 150416B.)

U/B report
by E.G. C. 3.

H.M.C.S. ST. THOMAS and RIVIERE DU LOUP now
consider non-submarine, have instructed them to
rejoin. My 142338 refers.
(S.O.E.G. C. 3 150420B to C. in C. W.A.)

Contact
attacked
by E.G. 5.

GRINDALL and KEATS attacked contact classified
U-Boat in 050° 12' 012° 33'. 2 hedgehog hits.
Further signal follows.
(S.O.E.G. 5 150945B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 0945. GRINDALL obtained contact. Hedgehog
attacks from KEATS at 0925 producing 2 explosions
12½ seconds after projectiles hit water which

U. 285 sunk

/were...

15.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Contact
attacked
by E.G.C.3.
(Contd.)

were followed by 2 further explosions 6 seconds later and one more 50 seconds later.
(2) Hedgehog attack from GRINDALL at 0930 followed by one muffled explosion 12 seconds later. After one depth charge attack with pattern G contact disappeared.

(3) 3 (?star) cylinders surfaced and broke into longitudinal sections. 3 sections recovered. 3 ply plastic material outside diameter 18½ inch inside diameter 16½ inch length 26½ inch. Very thin layer of black material between each ply and lining cylinder which suggests acid resisting coating. Chalk numbers on surface of plastic material but under black coat on each section including W.179 over 3 and W.181 over 3 and 1200 Capital Omega. Figure 7 is continental. Wood screws through material.

(4) Torpedo evidently very difficult to sight and pick up in southerly gale. Consider U-Boat sunk. Am remaining in area. 2765 0857 unsuitable.

(S.O.E.G. 5 151210B to C. in C. W.A.)

My 151210 W.A.G.O. 703.

A. Range 1600 yards classified possibly 52 after investigating for 30 mins. classified submarine.

B. None. C. 160° 3 knots. D. None. E. As in A. F. 2 explosion after first hedgehog attack and 4 subsequent explosions
H. Consider submarine was shallow for first 30 mins. and went deep just before first attack.

W.A.G.O. 230 A. Above average allowing for weather.

B. Not applicable.

(S.O.E.G. 5 151221B.)

My 150945. Search to leeward provides no further evidence in gale.

(2) At 1600 returned to position of attack where large quantities of diesel oil is welling to surface. This combined with previous evidence and depth of water convinces me U-Boat destroyed. Amend position to 050° 13' 012° 48'.

(3) Am resuming patrol.

(S.O.E.G. 5 151748B to C. in C. W.A.)

If not in contact 5 E.G. proceed via Q.Z.S. 612 so as to arrive Milford Haven at daylight 17th for short layover.

(C. in C. W.A. 152354B to E.G. 5.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation
"V.P."

Ramose Wisdom VIGRA returned at 1520B/15.

(2) Operation successful.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 151529B.)

VENTURER,
patrol off
Norway.

Intend to sail VENTURER 1100B/17 through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles 061° 24' 000° 12' 061° 24' 002° 00' and 060° 46' 004° 00' to patrol Norwegian coast between 061° 05' and 060° 30'.

15.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

VENTURER
patrol off
Norway.
(Contd.)

(2) Diving by day east of 001° E. speed 8 knots till 001° E. then 85 miles per 24 hours.
(3) All positions north and east.
(S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, 151647B.)

S/M
Patrols.

Leave patrol so as to pass through position 060° 15' 004° 00' at 0100B/18 then to Lerwick through 061° 04' 002° 00', 061° 04' 000° 01' and 090° Muckle Flugga 10 diving by day east of 001° E. All positions N. and E. unless otherwise indicated.
(S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, 151703B to TOTEM.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/16th and movements for following 24 hours.

- (1) VARNE on patrol Skudesnes area.
- (2) TOTEM on patrol Korsfjord area.
- (C. of W., 151756B.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Contact
attacked by
BRIDGEWATER.

Am attacking contact in 58° 53' N., 02° 28' W. friendly submarine in company.
(BRIDGEWATER, 151416B to Scape W/T.)
My 151416, good contact and trace possibly S/M.
(BRIDGEWATER, 151431B.)

R.A. 66.

Your 141805. It is necessary for LAURELWOOD to remain in North Russia in accordance with A.M. 122246.

(2) If you consider a second tanker is required in R.A.66 request you will sail a fleet oiler from Scapa or Faroes to meet the convoy.

(V.C.N.S., 151950B to C. in C. H.F. (Afloat))

Port Facilities

German
North sea
port to be
opened.

S.C.A.E.F. has decided that, to ensure the rapid defeat of the enemy, it will shortly be necessary to open a German North sea port, preferably Hamburg at high priority.
(2) Have indicated that the essential pre-requirements are - (A) that all the German North Sea mainland coast, and the Danish coast as far as Esbjerg must be in our hands, (B) that the guns on Wangerooge must be neutralised and that Heligoland must be ineffective as regards its batteries and Naval base.

15.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Port Facilities.

German North
Sea Port
to be opened.
(Contd.)

(3) I recognise that these pre-requirements do not wholly fulfil the conditions you have stated in your No. 0960/17 of 15th March. However, the trend of current events has made the need for opening a N.W. German port an urgent one, and I consider that some risk must be accepted. I intend to ask that the Dutch E-Boat bases may be continually subjected to air attack. I do not think it is practicable for E-Boats to operate from the German Frisian Islands, and I hope that their decreasing fuel stocks will limit their activities from Dutch ports.

(4) It is not anticipated that the traffic initially using the selected port will be large, but will be in the nature of a bi-weekly convoy.

(5) It is realised that there will be a heavy commitment to protect both the minesweepers and convoys on this route at a time when little reduction in the scale of attack on the Schelde and East Coast convoys can be expected, but owing to the importance attached to this new requirement request you will give it your favourable consideration.

(6) I propose to send staff officers as convenient to you to discuss this matter further and also the reallocation of coastal forces and C.F.M.U's to meet this new commitment.
(A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 151832B to C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties & Defects.

AMIENS.

Request dry docking of F.3. AMIENS may be arranged to fit dummy asdic dome before sailing. Asdic dome has been lost during last trip of vessel.

It is considered unsafe for vessel to cross over in her present condition. Our 241615A/3 para. one refers.
(F.N.G.B. 151030B to Admty.)

F.3. AMIENS and JEANNE ET GENEVIEVE to be sailed to France.

Movements.

E.G. 1.

Orders for BENTLEY, HOSTE, STOCKHAM, BALFOUR to proceed to Portsmouth in accordance with C. in C. Nore's 142245.
(A.C. Dover 150020B.)

SEFTON,
SANFOIN,
ROCKSAND.

Report in accordance with C.A.F.O. 620/42.
A. Clyde. B. 27th April, 1945. C. East Indies Station via Mediterranean.
(C.O.D. (Mov.) 151205B to SEFTON, SANFOIN, ROCKSAND.)

276

15.4.1945
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

FRITILLARY. F.O.C.W.A.F's 111254 and A.M. 071026 February
neither to all. Destination in U.K. for
FRITILLARY is Portsmouth.
(2) FRITILLARY is to be paid off into reserve
Category "C" and will probably be laid up at Milford Haven.
(D.O.D.(H), 151341B to F.O.G.M.A.)

U-Boat
report.

Master of SS. SAMOLAND reports he is certain he
saw S/M in position 042 degs. 28' N. 032 degs.
15' W. steering 101 at 0040Z/13th.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 151440Z to Admty.)

South Atlantic

KENYA
(cruiser)

When ready sail KENYA for Freetown (for onward
routeing to U.K.) calling Capetown for Fuel.
Route etc.
(C. in C. S.A. 150926B to Comdr. Durban.)

War Diary15.4.1945
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

M/S Auxiliary Administration of GIRL MARGARET and PLOUGHBOY is
Grp. 403 transferred to V.A.M. Description as 403
cancelling of. Group is cancelled, Capt. M/S Med. 041855 not to
V.A.M. or Admiralty refers.
(C. in C. Med. 151000B to V.A.M.)

ULSTER QUEEN Sailed ULSTER QUEEN at 1730B/15th to Aden for
Fighter onward routing to Colombo F.O.L.E.M.'s 141008/Apr.
direction not to all refers.
ship. (2) E.T.A. 0900Z/19th S. of A. 15 knots.
(F.O.I.C.Suez, 151831B to Admiralty.)

PIONEER Sailed PIONEER at 1855B/15 to Colombo S. of A.
A/C mainten- 22 knots. E.T.A. 0500Z/22nd April.
ance ship. (N.O.I.C.Suez, 151859A to Admiralty)

Intelligence (1) Dodecanese. (A) Successful raiding
Report, operations by Allied Patrols on Calino night 7th/
No.172 8th. S/M cable cut and enemy position attacked
(week-ending with mortar and machine-gun fire. Patrols
15th.) withdrawn without loss.
(B) All German Garrison Commanders have received
orders to continue resistance to last man.
Although troops morale deteriorating and supply
situation very serious, no evidence of intention to surrender.
(2) Crete. As reprisal for Italian desertion (Intelligence
report No.170), group of Italians driven from German perimeter
and fired on with mortars by enemy. Some casualties but 80
Italians escaped to Allies.
(S.O.(I) Lem. 151907B to N.L.O.Black Sea.)

War Diary15.4.1945
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Force W. Lists of units allocated to Force "W" for operation
(Operation "Dracula" are contained in following signals.
"Dracula"). (A) D.T.G.150625 - Amphibious Force
See Lion (B) D.T.G. 150637 - Other Naval Force.
Copies. (C) D.T.G. 150701 - Fleet Train.
(2) Dates where given are dates of arrival in
Arakan.
(C. in C. E.I. 150603Z to S.O. Force W.)

Summary (1) German position on Western Front now generally
Internal regarded as hopeless. Far Eastern military
India. successes over-shadowed in public mind by
Russian denunciation of Jap. neutrality pact and
also Jap. cabinet crisis.
(3) Cloth shortage still main economic difficulty
throughout India.
(5) Troops Morale - European war news has raised high hopes of
speedier repatriation. War in east also regarded with optimism.
Short home leave scheme for British troops still not popular
owing to limited scope and fear of effect on repatriation.
Comments on gratuities continue scornful, and many want equal
gratuities irrespective of rank. Recent postal concessions
between U.K. and India extremely well received. Indian troops
elated by news from Burma, and now slightly more satisfied
about conditions in their homes though criticism soldiers' boards
etc. continues.
(C. in C. India, 151010 to W.O.)

Situation (1) Andaman Sea dawn 11th April Liberators of 222
Report Group attacked 1 Japanese merchant ship escorted
No.9. by 1 S/M Chaser 50 miles E. of Car Nicobar and
sank both ships. ROTHERHAM (Capt. (D) 11),
RACEHORSE, ROCKET and REDOUBT subsequently picked
up 68 prisoners. Between 9th and 11th April
these destroyers had operated from Moulmein to Mergui and in
Hastings Harbour Area and sank 5 small sailing craft.
(2) Sumatra QUEEN ELIZABETH (V.A.3) French Battleship RICHELIEU,
H.M.S. EMPEROR (C.S.5), KHEDIVE, LONDON, CUMBERLAND, SAUMAREZ
(Capt. D. 26) VIGILANT, VERULAM, VENUS, VIRAGO. Operated off
Sabang 11th April. Battleships and H.M.S. LONDON bombarded
Sabang. Destroyers bombarded Oleelhoe. Of 9 Oscars, 1 Dinah
sent against our forces 1 Oscar, 1 Dinah shot down. No casual-
ties from enemy action. Operations are continuing.
(3) Cocos unloading continuing satisfactorily. 1,500 yards Air
Strip cleared. 3,300 men, 106 vehicles landed.
(4) S/Ms. THOROUGH sank 2 900 ton coasters, One M.G.B. 3 landing
craft off North coast of Sumatra. RORQUAL sank 3 500 ton coasters
and 3 Junks off West Coast Sumatra.
(C. in C. E.I. 151314Z to Admty.)

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.E.I.S.

150625Z April

Date 15. 4. 45.

Received 2354

Operation Dracula
Amphibious Force

Naval Cypher W by W/T

Addressed F.O. Force W
Repeated Admiralty, S.A.C.S.E.A., C.S.5, F.O.3rd Battle Squadron, A.C.21, F.O.Air E.I., Cdr. Force 65, F.O.C.R.I.N., S.O.R.N.E.(I), Capt. E.I. Escorts Cmdr. M/S Bay of Bengal, Cmdr. D, N.O.I.C. Akyab, C.C.F. East Indies

Amphibious force allocated to DRACULA. My 150603 refers.

(1) Landing ships.

- (a) L.S.H.(L) H.M.S. LIRGS arrived Arakan.
- (b) (D) (5) H.M.S. WAVENEY (S.O. AG, W.1), H.M.S. NITH (S.O. AG, W.2) both 17th.
- (c) L.S.I.(L) SILVIO and H.M.S. GLENROY both 23rd PERSIMMON 22nd.
- (d) L.S.I.(M) H.M.S. PRINS ALBERT 22nd.
- (e) L.S.E.1. Expected time of arrival uncertain.
- (f) S.S. BARPETA as depot ship for minor landing craft.
25th

(2) Major landing craft. My 080752 April not to all addressees refers.

- (a) L.S.T.'s. 6 from the following, 2nd L.S.T. Flotilla Nos. 368, 406, 410, 421, 538. 4th L.S.T. Flotilla Nos. 199, 403, 163, 11. 6th L.S.T. Flotilla Nos. 413, 427.
- (b) 12 L.C.T.(4)'s from following, 71st Flotilla No. 915, 1056, 1057, 1144, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1330, 1332. 72nd Flotilla Nos. 1156, 1157. 70th No. 1143.
- (c) L.C.T.(5) 121st Flotilla Nos. 2425, 2310, 2440, 2487, 2120. Note following are loaded on L.S.T.'s of 4th and 6th Flotillas. 2483, 2339, 2287, 2275, 2297, 2038, 2296.
- (d) L.C.I.(L) 12 of following 270th Flotilla 121, 177, 277, 295, 301, 305, 310. 271st Flotilla 104, 125, 136, 183. 272nd Flotilla 115, 135, 166, 266, 311.

/(a)

- (e) L.C.G.(L) 334th Support Flotilla No.5, 6, 7, 1449.
- (f) L.C.H. No. 101. LCH 317 or 267
- (g) L.C.Q. Nos. 491 and 391.

(3) Minor landing craft

- (a) 71 L.C.A. of 525, 546, 557, 527 and 711 L.C.A. Flotillas.
- (b) One L.C.A.(OC) and 2 L.C.N. of 597 Flotilla
- (c) 24 L.C.M.(I) of 650 and 681 Flotilla.
- (d) 12 L.C.M.(3) of 651 Flotilla.

(4) Expected time of arrival of landing craft in Arakan given in Rear Link Force W 121857 not to all addressees.

150625Z

Advance copies sent D.C. and D.O.D.(F)

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(3)
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- U.W.R.
- D.O.D.(H)(4)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.C.
- D. of P.(2)
- D. of P.(Q)(3)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D.C.O.D.(4)
- D.C.O.M.(4)
- A.D.O.D.(C.O)
- D.S.D.
- Ad.Blake
- C.O.W.C.O.
- W.D.

en 149

IN

HUSH-MOST SECRET

~~CANCELLED~~

TOP SECRET

IN

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

150637Z April

From C. in C.E.I.

Date 15. 4. 45.

Received 2129

Operation Dracula
Naval Cypher W by W/T

Addressed S.O. Force W,
Repeated Admiralty, S...C.S.E...., C.S.5, Com. M/S,
S.O. 3rd Battle Squadron, Naval Com. Force 65,
N.O.I.C. Akyab, Bay of Bengal, F.O.C.R.I.N.,
S.O.R.N.E.(I), C.C.F.R.T., C.F.I.M.

Naval Forces allocated to DRACULA. My 150603 refers.

- (1) Close support group. H.M.I.S. CAUVERY 25th H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ 27th.
- (2) Carrier Group H.M.S. ROYALIST (A.C. 21), H.M.S. HUNTER, H.M.S. STALKER, H.M.S. EMPEROR, H.M.S. KHEDIVE, H.M.S. SAUMAREZ (D. 26) H.M.S. VENUS, H.M.S. VIRAGO, H.M.S. VIGILANT.
- (3) Fighter direction H.M.S. PHOEBE 19th.
- (4) Escorts H.M.S. BANN and H.M.S. SHIEL of Burma Escort Force. H.M.S. SPEY 18th. H.M.S. TAFF, H.M.S. HALLADALE and H.M.S. DEVERON all 24th. H.M.S. TRENT and H.M.S. LOSSIE both 25th.
- (5) M/S.
 - (A) M/S Flotilla 7th (ALGERINES) H.M.S. PICKLE (S.O.) H.M.S. RECRUIT (2nd S.O.), H.M.S. VESTAL, H.M.S. RIFLEMAN, H.M.S. PLUCKY, H.M.S. PINCHER, H.M.S. CH. MELEON 21st. Danlayer SANDRAY and SCARAVAY SCARAVAY 24th.
 - (B) R.I.N. (BANGORS/BATHURSTS) H.M.I.S. ROHILKHAND (S.O.) H.M.I.S. RAJPUTANA (2nd S.O.), H.M.I.S. PUNJAB, H.M.I.S. BIHAR, H.M.I.S. ORISSA, H.M.I.S. BENGAL, H.M.I.S. BOMBAY, H.M.I.S. KHYBER all 21st. Danlayer LAHORE PATNA AGRA all 22nd. Danlayer POONA POPPA 20th. Spare ship H.M.I.S. KULON 17th.
 - (C) Auxiliary sweepers. 8 of following: BYMS 2181 (S.O.) 2060, 2148, 2204, 2232, 2236, 2162 all 22nd. Motor M/S Nos. 107 and 196 both 20th 198 22nd.
- (6) Coastal Force. 2 Fairmile Flotillas 13th due 30th and 14th due 22nd.
 - (B) 1 H.D.M.L. Flotilla 147th due 24th.

/(c)

- (C) H.M.I.S. BARRACUDA and FT 14 due 25th.
- (7) Survey.
 - (A) Yacht H.M.S. VIRGINIA due Calcutta 19th.
 - (B) 3 L.C.P.(L).
 - (C) Whaler CYCLONE due 25th.

150637Z

Advance copies sent D.C. and D.O.D.(F) ..

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.(3)
- D.F.S.L.(2)
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
- U.W.R.
- D.O.D.(H)(4)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.C.
- D. of P.(2)
- D. of P.(Q)(3)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D.S.D.
- D.C.N.A.E.
- D.N.A.O.(2)
- D.A.U.D.
- D.M.S.
- D.D.O.D.(C)
- A.D.G.D.(C.O.)
- D.C.O.D.(4)
- Ad. Blake
- C.O.W.C.O.
- W.D.

en 149

~~IN~~ ~~HUSH-SECRET~~ ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

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.)

150701Z April

From C. in C.E.I.

Date 16. 4. 45.

*Operation Bramble
Fleet Train*

Received 0027

Naval Cypher (W) by W/T

Addressed S.O. Force W.
Repeated Admiralty, S.A.C.S.E.A., Battle Squadron 3, C.S.5,
F.O.C. 21st A.C. Sqdn., Cdre.(D), F.O.A.E.I.,
N.C.F.65, Cdre.M/S Bay of Bengal, F.O.C.R.I.N.,
N.O.I.C. Akyab, S.O.R.N.E. India, Capt.C.F.E.T.,
Capt.E.I. Escorts.

Fleet Train for DRACULA. My 150603 refers.

- (1) Oiler (A) ECHODALE due Akyab 19th
(B) EMPIRE SALVAGE to Kyaukpyu on relief by
ECHODALE at Akyab
(C) GOLD RANGER. Base tanker due D plus 6.
(D) All loaded furnace and diesel. (A) and
(B) spirit and some water in addition.
- (2) Small Tanker (A) HEYSER and EMPIRE MULL loaded spirit
(B) EMPIRE DOMBEY loading diesel
(C) EMPIRE DRURY loading water
(D) All above expected time of departure
Trincomalee 15th
(E) GLENPOOL loading half water half
diesel and distilling ship GRYFEVALE
now at Akyab.
(F) SPINDLETOP loading water will be held
at Trincomalee.
- (3) V.S.I.S. (A) CHINGTE due 20th
(B) BALTAVIA at Akyab
- (4) N.S.I.S. BONIFACE due 21st
- (5) A.S.I.S. (A) PHILOMEL due 15th loading 6 inch and smaller
(B) TING SANG at Akyab.
- (6) Details of loads in all above will be signalled to
those concerned.

150701Z

Advance copies sent D.C. and
D.O.D.(F)

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1st Lord | D.C. |
| 1st S.L.(3) | D. of P.(2) |
| D.F.S.L.(2) | D. of P.(Q)(3) |
| 4th S.L. | D.N.I.(4) |
| V.C.N.S. | D.D.I.C.(2) |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | D.S.D. |
| U.W.R. | Ad.Blake |
| D.O.D.(H)(4) | C.O.W.C.O. |
| D.O.D.(F)(2) | W.D. |

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War Diary15.4.1945
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies - Contd.

A.F.Ds. 49, 48, 30. It is intended to retain Tug ASSIDUCUS at Aden until it is known that FLARE is again operative. Should her defect prove more serious than anticipated it might not be possible to provide a relief tug intime to tow A.F.D.49 to Trincomalee before the monsoon. The onward passage of A.F.D.48 to Massawa does not appear urgent.

(2) Furthermore a powerful tug will be required to berth A.F.D.30 in Aden Harbour during the coming week.

(3) Anticipated that A.F.D.30 will be berthed and state of FLARE known by 20th. ASSIDUCOUS has completed boiler cleaning. (Com. Aden, 151429Z to C. in C. E.I.)

East Indies Fleet disposition signal. No. (?147).

(A) Battleship QUEEN ELIZABETH, F.S. RICHELIEU at sea - Operation "Sunfish".

(B) A/C Carrier STALKER at Colombo. IMPLACABLE (B.P.F.), EMPRESS, HUNTER at Trincomalee. SHAH at Kilindini. KHEDIVE, EMPEROR at sea - Operation "Sunfish". ARBITER (B.P.F.) on passage Trincomalee to Sydney (N.S.W.) ACTIVITY (B.P.F.) on passage Trincomalee to Cochin. AMEER refitting at Durban. CHASER (B.P.F.) left station.

(C) 8 inch cruiser SUFFOLK at Addu Atoll. CUMBERLAND at sea - Operation "Sunfish". LONDON on passage Colombo to Simonstown.

(D) 6 inch and 5.25 inch cruisers CEYLON, TROMP D.S. at Colombo. ROYALIST at Kyaukpyu. NEWCASTLE at Sydney. NIGERIA refitting at Simonstown. PHOEBE on passage Bombay to Trincomalee. NEWFOUNDLAND (B.P.F.) left station. (C. in C. E.I., 150533Z to Admty.)

War Diary15. 4. 1945
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

OKLAHOMA
(Tanker). This re-encipherment of SS. DELAWARE dispatch 142340 for action to Comcarib and for info. to Comforces Trinidad sector Usro Aruba and C.N.O. "22 survivors from SS. OKLAHOMA Texas Oil Co. picked up by SS. DELAWARE. 10 Merchant Seamen and 12 Armed Guard all in good health. Picked up position 11.45 N. 66.06 W. at 1950Z. Arriving Aruba 151000Z". (Cominch, 150801Z to C. in C. Lant)

Following is re-encipherment of 150337Z. From SS. DELAWARE etc. to addressees. "SS. OKLAHOMA torpedoed 28th March, 0145Q in position 13.37 N. 41.43 W. Ship exploded and left burning stem to stern (Garbled group) hand aft presumed lost. Ship still afloat at 281000".

(Cominch, 151115Z to C. in C. Lant.)

E.G.21. Your 102311Z E.G.21 consists of six U.S. Built U-Boat Destroyer escorts with British Asdics and normal attacks. equipment.
(2) In each of their four recent actions, initial detection was by asdic, ships speed 8 or 10 knots, foxers not streamed. Normal Hedgehog and Depth Charge attacks were carried out, the Hedgehog obtaining initial success in one case and destruction being shared between Hedgehog and depth charges in the other three. Short transmission unit proved of great value. Weather and asdic conditions were average.
(3) Preliminary reports indicate normal technique of ships well trained and experienced in inshore operations.
(D.A.U.D* 151322B to B.A.D. Washington, as amended 151654B)
* Approved A.C.N.S.(U.T.)

U-Boat 1200Z/15th April 2 leading West within 100 dispositions. miles of KA RX 1530 probably 1 off Halifax. 2 Genral Area North of BY West of QF. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 151337Z to S.A. N. of 40 degs. etc. and Cominch 151612Z)

HIGHLANDER Wind increasing rapidly West by South force 7 to Destroyer 8. Request weather forecast. Under A/S E.G.B.2. instrument space and possible other parts of forward bottom plates have carried away. I dare not risk bumping, am now steaming stern first to minimise this. Request tug may come to assistance. My position 045 degs. 48' N. 049 degs. 05' W. at 1107 O.P.
(HIGHLANDER, 151348Z to F.O.N.F.)

Alter course forthwith and proceed at best speed to assistance of H.M.S. HIGHLANDER reported in 45.48 N. 49.05 W. at 1348Z 15 steering stern first into wind. Report immediately when you will reach HIGHLANDER.

(2) H.M.R.T. TENACITY sails St. Johns about 1700Z to-day to HIGHLANDER's assistance.

(F.O.N.F. 151612 to MORPETH CASTLE, PRIMROSE.)

My 151612. H.M.R.T. TENACITY sailed at 1730Z/15th April to HIGHLANDER's assistance with parts of shipwrights and shoring

/lumber ...

War Diary.15.4.1945.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

HIGHLANDER, destroyer, E.G. B.2 damaged. (Contd.)

lumber on board.
(2) E.T.A. HIGHLANDER's vicinity 1230Z/16th April.
(F.O.N.F., 151750Z to B.2.)
MORPETH CASTLE and PRIMROSE report forthwith in accordance (?) para. 1 my 151612 giving P.C.S.
(2) HIGHLANDER report situation and weather.
(F.O.N.F., 152246Z to MORPETH CASTLE, PRIMROSE, HIGHLANDER.)

S/M STORM. H.M.C.S. SPRINGHILL will be available to escort STORM from St. Johns N.F. to Philadelphia, therefore recommend S/M and escort be sailed direct from U.K. to Philadelphia omitting Newfoundland.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 151406Z to C. in C. W.A.)

U/B report. Torpedoings etc.

(A) (1) 280545 March U.S. Tanker OKLAHOMA torpedoed and left burning 13.37 N., 41.43 W.
(2) 141550 Belgian M/V BELGIAN AIRMAN torpedoed 36.09 N., 74.05 W. All times Z.
(D) (1) 142039 long thin wake, course 010, sighted by P.V.31 55 N., 76.15 W.
(2) 151545 Army A/C reported periscope, wake and feather, course 140 in 33.00 N., 76.57 W.
(Cominch, 152120Z to Admty. for O.I.C.) See 162110.

Far East and Australia

Digest 1179, 13th April.

(1) Privateers from Clark Field strafed sunk single lugger anchored 122 miles west-south-west Hainan Island, destroyed 2 sea trucks anchored 100 miles west-south-west Hong Kong sank small river boat further west.
(2) Reports 12th April state Mindoro search planes damaged 1 sea truck or small coaster, sank 1 small vessel probably sank another Camranh Bay bombed strafed 3 small coasters near Cap Saint Jacques.
(5) Night 12th/13th April Rotai based P.T. sank 1 barge damaged another off north-east tip Halmahera.
(6) 43 Liberators dropped 105 tons bombs on fuel storage areas at Canton starting fires with black smoke.
(7) 17 Liberators escorted by 10 Mustangs dropped 63 tons of bombs on Hong Kong and Kowloon destroying empty fuel tanks, sinking 1 unidentified ship.
(8) Night 12th/13th April single Liberator dropped 3 tons of bombs on Kiirun harbour.

15.4.1945.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSFar East and AustraliaDigest
1179,
13th April.
(Contd.)

(9) Unopposed landings were effected Ealles* Island and Fort Drum Manila Bay. Total enemy casualties on Luzon to date number 110486 killed 1118 captured.

(15) 2 Liberators on shipping search 12th April in Gulf of Bone sank 1 schooner, damaged 16 others, also 1 motor launch. Another pair of Liberators searched southern Makassar Strait scoring near misses and straffing single large tanker off south-east Borneo also damaging single escort vessel and 1 lugger. Another 5 Liberators over Makassar Strait damaged single sea truck Makassar harbour, damaged another sea truck and 3 small schooners Pume Para harbour.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 150057Z.)
* As received.

Operational
report
No.5 covers
period 9th
to 14th
April.

a.m./9th April Com. 5th Fleet cancelled strikes by C.T.F.57 planned for 10th and requested him to strike specific airfields in north Formosa 11th to 12th, if within his capabilities.
p.m./9th, C.T.F.57 concurred.

(2) (A) Weather prevented strikes 11th.
(B) 12th carried out 44 plane strikes on each of Shinchiku and Kiirun. Few aircraft observed either field. Low cloud prevented full observation of results on ground. 16 enemy aircraft shot down. 5 damaged.

(C) 13th (?similar) strike bombed, straffed Shinchiku, Matsuyama air installations. Parked aircraft well hit. At Matsuyama Railway bridge, train, factory and ammunition or oil store hit. 4 enemy aircraft attacked Fleet before dawn. Ships gunfire destroyed one. Remainder retired. INDOMITABLE near missed by dud bomb. Two further abortive attacks. Fighters shot down 2 Zekes. Day's bag - destroyed 20 aircraft certain. damaged or destroyed good number of others by bombing.

(D) Total bag for 4th series of strikes. Destroyed 36 certain. Probably destroyed several more. Damaged 5 certain plus good number of others.

(E) Own losses light in spite of heavy flak.

(3) In view of heavy enemy air effort p.m./12th April C.T.F. 57 signalled intention to be available for strikes 16th-17th. Com. 5th Fleet concurred. Target to be Sakishima.

(4) Force replenishes in service area 14th to 15th, returning combat area a.m./16th April. Will fuel 18th on passage to Leyte. E.T.A. 20th.

(5) FORMIDABLE, replaced ILLUSTRIOUS 14th. ILLUSTRIOUS E.T.A. Leyte 16th to make good defects.
(C. in C. B.P.F., 150335Z to Admty.) See 180831.

B.P.F.
Forward
Bases.(C. in C. B.P.F., 150502Z to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

/Digest ...

TOP SECRET

IN

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

B.P.F. Forward Base

150502Z April

From: C. in C. B.P.F.

Date: 16.4.45

Recd: 0029

CCM (Naval) F.O's (S) by Cable

Addressed: Admiralty,
repeated: V.A.(Q), F.O.N.A.S. (A), RAFT, B.S. 1,
B.A.D. Washington.

Intermediate base. Reference one 152/BPF/0706/1/12 dated 3rd April 1945 by air mail to Admiralty not to all addressees. Reference two Admiralty message 171425 January. Reference three C. in C. B.P.F.'s 280239 March. The need for an intermediate base in the forward area is becoming more than ever clear. In fact I shall probably find it necessary to withdraw the major portion of the fleet to Australia for replenishment after about two months of operations, the reason being that the existing lack of facilities forward would make the replenishment there so slow that replenishment in Australia is just as quick in spite of the long passage involved. In either case the loss of operational time is serious.

2. The shore facilities required forward to avoid the necessity of withdrawing the fleet to Australia are as follows in order of importance

(A) Air facilities starting with facilities for storage of replacement aircraft and later increasing to the establishment of a MONAB.

(B) Storage space on a scale sufficient to enable the base to be employed as a terminal for bulk supplies of stores.

3. The shore facilities already planned (see reference two) will not fulfil the requirements in para. two (B) above. They will provide an amenities base (which will itself be most necessary) but not a store base.

4. It is estimated (see reference one) that one million square feet of storage space are needed to meet requirement in para. two (B) satisfactorily, and that half of this figure is the bare minimum necessary to fulfil the requirement (see para. six of reference one).

5. These figures, which are to some extent dependent on the size of the fleet train provided, are based on the assumption that the fleet train is built up to the size given in my 050604 February but as shown in para. two of reference

one.....

one, no reasonable increase in the fleet train would wholly do away with the need for shore storage facilities.

6. In fact, until half a million square feet or more of storage space is available forward, it will still be necessary to use Australia as the main store terminal and there can be very little improvement over the present situation.

7. As the construction of these facilities will take a considerable time, it must be phased so that the most important facilities are established first. These phases should be as follows.

Phase One. Air facilities.

Phase two. Essential amenities as already provided for by Admiralty (see reference two).

Phase three. Minimum storage space (see para. four above.)

Phase four. Full storage base as outlined in reference one.

150502Z

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|------|
| | W.D. | |
| 1st Lord | D.N.A.O. (2) | |
| 1st S.L. (3) | D.A.E. | |
| D.F.S.L. (2) | D.A.M.R. | |
| Controller | D.N.A.R. (3) | |
| Vice Controller | D.A.C.R. | |
| 4th S.L. | D.A.W.T. | |
| 5th S.L. | D.C.N.A.E. | |
| V.C.N.S. | Hd. of Air Br. | |
| A.C.N.S. (W) | A.C.N.P. | |
| A.C.N.S. (UT)(2) | D. of M. | |
| Secy. | D. of S. (3) | |
| Civil Lord | D. of V. | |
| Parl. Sec. | C.E. in C. | |
| Fin. Sec. | D.G.D. | |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | D.A.S. (L) | |
| A.C.N.S. (A)(2) | Hd. of W.G.F. | |
| Nav. Sec. | D. of D. | |
| Dep. Sec. | D.R.E. | |
| P.A.S. (S) | D.S.D. | |
| P.A.S. (NP) | D. of L.D. | |
| D. of L. | Admiral Blake | |
| D.O.D. (F)(2) | Dep. Contr. | |
| D.O.D.(H)(4) | D. of D. | |
| D.C. | D.A.S. | |
| D.N.I. (4) | C.E. in C. | Bath |
| D. of P. (2) | D. of S. | |
| D. of P.(Q)(3) | Hd. of C.L. | |
| Hd. of M. (6) | Hd. S.W.R. (3) | |

/MC 149

(M.058550/45) for action

IN

~~SECRET~~
~~HUSH-MOSTLED~~

15.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia - Contd.

Digest
1180,
14th April.
(Extract).
(1) Search Privateers over China coast scored direct rocket hit left smoking single small tanker heavily camouflaged near Amoy, destroyed single small coaster anchored Takao with direct hit.
(2) Palawan based Venturas strafed left sinking small coaster off Brunei Bay, sank 1 barge damaged 2 motor launches Jesselton.
(4) 13 Mitchells with 20 covering Mustangs swept Canton River sinking 1 river boat, 6 small luggers, probably sinking 1 river boat, damaging 18 barges, bombing straffing lighthouse, firing pier area stores navigation togers*.
(5) 3 Nocturnal Liberators hit Shanghai with over 3 tons of bombs scoring 2 near misses 1 of 2 ships, damaging large warehouse, bombing river shipping without seeing results. 2 other night Liberators hit Kiirun with over 5 tons.
(10) Liberators on shipping search south-eastern Borneo sunk single large sea truck, probably sinking another sea truck, damaging 1 sea truck one gunboat, 3 small coasters. Evening 13th April 2 Liberators searched southern Makassar Strait seeing convoy 1 destroyer, 2 small stack aft freighters, 1 sea truck: returning Liberators attacked convoy when off Laoet Island scoring near misses on destroyer.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 150917Z.)
* As recd.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary. 0800Z/14th April.
Para. (A) 25 Beaufighters attacked U-Boat and surface ship lying alongside quay in Josing Fjord with cannon and R/P at 1315Z/14th April.
Para. (C) H.M. Trawler reports torpedo heard at 0430Z/15th about 50° 08' N., 04° 46' W.
Para. (D) H.M.C.S. RIVIERE DU LOUP attacked probably non-submarine contact with H/H in 49° 36' N., 06° 40' W. at 2115Z/14th.
(D.D.I.C., 151045B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B
dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 151348B.)

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

HOME COMMANDS.

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

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

FOREIGN STATIONS

(Classification by stations).

- North Atlantic
- South Atlantic
- Mediterranean
- East Indies
- America and West Indies
- Australia and New Zealand
- U-boat Campaign

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

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

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

ADM 199

2316

16.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- France. 1. (a) At 0900 today the title Force U lapsed and this force became known by the designation Ferry Craft Squadron Force T.
(b) L.C.A. and L.C.M. of Force T are being employed in ferrying vehicles and stores across the Rhine near Arnhem.
- North Sea. 2. (a) SS. CONAKRIAN in convoy A.T.M. 125 was mined about midnight 15/16th April in 51.20.8 N. 02.36.1 E. (about 15 miles N.W. of Ostend) and was towed to Southend (arrived 17th April.)
(b) The British tanker GOLD SHELL in convoy T.A.M. 140 was sunk, probably by internal explosion, about noon today in 51.21 N. 02.54 E. (9 miles north of Ostend.)
(c) The cable ship MONARCH was sunk this evening off Orfordness. She was at first reported torpedoed, but later indications are that she was mined.
(d) The British tanker ATHELDUKE in convoy F.S. 84 was torpedoed and sunk off the Farne Is. in 110° Longstone 5 miles this evening.
(e) The frigate EKINS was mined this evening 13 miles N.W. of Ostend but reached Sheerness under her own power.
(f) VICEROY sank a U-Boat today in 105° Longstone 7 miles.
- Channel. 3. At 0010B today the frigate LOCH KILLIN with BURGESS and CRANSTOWN of the 17th Escort Group, escorting a B.T.C. convoy from Bristol Channel to the Thames sank a U-Boat in 50.09 N. 03.53 W. (about 11 miles W.S.W. of Start Point) and captured prisoners. The U-Boat is believed to be No. 1063.
- U.1063
sunk
- West Coast of France. 4. (a) The naval bombardment by the French Task Force under C.F.N.T.F. (operation "Venerable") was recommenced at 0700B today and was successfully completed at 1200B, at which time the blockade was re-established and the remainder of the Naval Force (LORRAINE, DUQUESNE and 4 French destroyers) withdrew to Brest. There were no casualties or damage to our forces. 485 Fortresses attacked Bordeaux this morning.
(b) The 31st M/S Flotilla this afternoon captured the German auxiliary armed trawler F.G.7 off the Gironde and took her into Brest.
- Norway. 5. Halifaxes last night attacked shipping at Rorvik U-Boat base.
- Northern Waters. 6. North Russia convoy J.W. 66, 26 ships, sailed late tonight from the Clyde.

16.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

Baltic.

7. 18 Halifaxes carrying 12000 and 1000 lb. bombs this afternoon attacked the pocket battleship LUTZOW at Swinemunde where she has arrived since 25 March. Several near misses are claimed. A/A fire was heavy and several of our aircraft were hit and one crashed alongside the LUTZOW.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Riviera.

8. Since the 11th till today bombardments have been carried out by ORION and Allied destroyers against enemy positions on the Franco-Italian frontier. Targets upon which direct hits were scored included radio and railway stations. (162230B.)

Gulf of Genoa.

9. During last night coastal forces operating in conjunction with aircraft intercepted an enemy convoy off Sestri Levante (Gulf of Genoa) one enemy vessel was torpedoed and another probably torpedoed. One of our craft sustained slight damage. (2070)

Adriatic.

10. (a) Tonight coastal craft attacked enemy convoy off Taglimento and sank two craft and probably a third.

(b) Tonight near Umago Yugoslav coastal craft and an M.T.B. attacked a convoy and blew up an F-Lighter, an R-Boat also probably sank. (182301.)

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Sumatra.
S/M patrols.

11. (a) S/M THOROUGH, 6th Far East patrol, reports sinking 2 900 ton coasters and 1 M.G.B., and 3 landing craft off north coast of Sumatra (Ulee Lhoe) between 2nd to 6th April.
(b) S/M RORQUAL, 3rd Far East patrol, reports sinking 3 500 ton coasters and 3 junks off west coast Sumatra between 25th March and 2nd April.
(c) S/M SELENE, 2nd Far East patrol, on 22nd March sank a 40 ton junk off Tamiang Point. (161249Z.)

Sumatra.

12. Today naval aircraft on operation "Sunfish" carried out a strike on Emma Haven and Padang scoring direct hits on a 4000 ton merchant vessel.

(p. 279)

America & West Indies.

U-Boats (2)
probably sunk.

U.1235 }
U.880 } sunk

13. During last night and early this morning U.S. destroyers STANTON, FROST and HUSE on patrol with Task Group 22.5 carried out several hedgehog attacks on U-Boat contacts in lat. 47.56 N. 30.25 W. (about 540' north of Azores). One submarine being seen and brought under fire by FROST who attempted to ram unsuccessfully due to heavy seas and poor visibility. It is believed two submarines were attacked and destroyed. (161954.)

Escort vessel
torpedoed.

14. At about 9.30 this morning an escort vessel^(minnow class) was torpedoed and sunk in the Halifax Approaches. (162110.) (ESQUIMALT, R.C.N.)

Far East and Australia.

Eastern
Archipelago.

15. (a) A Liberator sank a small transport with troops 35 miles S.E. of Kuantan (Malay Peninsula) tonight.
(b) Planes from Palawan today sank a single lugger 30' S.E. of Kuantan (Malaya), a small southwest bound coaster 90' north of Singapore and two other coasters and small vessels in same vicinity.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Far East and Australia - Contd.

- China. 16. (a) Mariners from Lingayan last night sank medium transport 25' S.E. of Taito and near missed destroyer 80' east of Hongkong.
(b) Mitchells destroyed 50 - 75 junks in sweep of river east of Hongkong today.
(c) During last night U.S. aircraft sank a merchant vessel 25' S.E. of Formosa. (D.O.R.2070)
(d) A large tanker was attacked and probably sunk by Mariners tonight 50 miles S.S.E. of Amoy.
- Philippines. 17. U.S. forces landed unopposed Caraboa Island (north of Panay). Naval forces supported landing.
- Japan. 18. C. in C. B.P.F. reports that all airfields on the Sakishima group were again bombed today and made unserviceable. One enemy aircraft was destroyed on the ground and one shot down.

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Organisation and Command of Task Forces 12th Fleet. Referring to Com. 12th Fleet dispatch 151018 Comphibsukay who reported to you for operational duty by his dispatch 240001A of September has been assigned additional administrative title of "Commander Amphibious Craft 12th Fleet" short title Comphibcraft 12th as Commander Task Force 123.
 (Comphibsukay, 161657B)

Operations

North Sea

SS. CONAKRIAN mined. SS. CONAKRIAN mined in approx. 51 degs. 20' 50" N. 02 degs. 36' 06" E. Have taken off 6 cot cases, none urgent. Have taken ship in tow. LORD PLENDER giving Asdic protection. My position N.F.5 buoy proceeding towards Thames S. of A. 5 knots. Request tug may R/V with me Elbow buoy.
 (L.S.T. 301, 160048B to C. in C. Nore.)

Only one Tug has shown up. Am assisting Tug to Margate Roads. Salvage Steamer required as Merchant Ship is making water slow 16 feet in number 4 hold and engine room.
 (L.S.T. 301, 160940B)

Harwich 16th April. Departure Tug ENIGMA to assist SS. CONAKRIAN.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 161157B)

M.V. GOLD SHELL. Explosion beneath Tanker. Suspect mine. Am carrying out A/S sweep survivors taken off by H.D.M.L. and H.S.L.
 (M.L. 207, 161245 to Ostend W/T)
 M.L. 206 reported at 1212/16th. Tanker exploded and sunk approx. 7 cables south 20 degs. W. N.F.9 possibly mined.
 (2) At 1221 MEYNELL reported SS. GOLDSHELL (? M.V. GOLD SHELL) mined and on fire position 051 degs. 21' 36" N. 002 degs. 54' 30" E.
 (3) 10 survivors landed Ostend by C.F. Craft and Fishing Boats.
 (4) PYTCHLEY proceeded from Ostend Roads 1415 to check position of wreck.
 (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 161531B to F.O. Belgium)

Anti-E/B. Patrol off Schelde. Cancel my 221104, January not to all addressees.
 (2) Starting tomorrow Tuesday BEEHIVE is to provide a patrol nightly with minimum of 3 boats two miles either side of position 51 degs. 40' N, 02 degs. 48' E. in 340/160 degs. Direction. Unit call sign F.B.3.
 (3) Object interception of E-Boats. Good look out is also to be kept for Midget U-Boats which probably pass close to this patrol while on passage from and to Dutch ports.
 (4) Frigate on 19 patrol is to be responsible for passing A/C shadowing reports and any other relevant information to F.B.3 by R/T and/or W/T Unit is to adjust position accordingly to intercept but is not to approach within 5 miles of Frigate Patrol line without permission of 19 patrol.

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Patrol
off Schelde.
(Contd.)

(5) Shadowing A/C drop skymarker when enemy cross parallel 51 degs. 45' N. (See N.O.M.116) this should provide good visual indication of enemy's position. If flare illumination is required S.O. of unit is to ask for it via 19 patrol. Some delay will have to be accepted.

(6) Should it be necessary to enter free bombing area (lat. 51 degs. 55' N.) in pursuit of enemy 19 patrol and C. in C. are to be informed. 19 Patrol is then to warn any A/C he may be in communications with.

(7) Communications: W/T 2333 K/Cs R/T 8440 K/cs Radar policy D.D.

(C. in C. Nore, 161300B to BEEHIVE, D.16)

U-Boat and
S.B.U.
summary.

To 1200B/16. Nil report.
(A.C. Dover, 161330B)

M/S.F.
18.

Tomorrow Tuesday unless otherwise ordered conduct E.G.M.S. sweeping as in my 151700.
Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore, 161642B to M/S 18)

My 161642/ EKINS mined one mile North of N.F.7

(2) On completion of E.G.M.S. of Q.Z.Y. 572 conduct following sweeping Oropesa search in "G" formation between N.F.6 and position of N.F.8 buoy from 5 cables North of centre line to 2 miles North of centre line.

(3) On completion, conduct E.G.M.S. of already swept Oropesa.

(4) Your 161210. Grenades will be sent from Harwich in SIR LANCELOT to R/V with you in Small Downs.

Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore, 162255B to M/S 18)

✓ Sweep for Tuesday.

To-day complied your 151700 as follows:

(2) Requirement (A) 1 Actuation.

(3) Requirement (B) (?16) actuations reading from N.F.7, 7 to 27 1, 4 to N.F. 6, 1 to N.F.5, 1 to N.F.8.

(4) All above actuations width 5 cables either side centre line. An eighth actuation also swept to H.K. 1 omitting Northern 2½ cables.

(5) Result negative. Explosive sweep used throughout. Sweeping awkward having 2 Flotillas whose area over lapped considerably, aggravated by traffic and reduced visibility.

(6) Your 161642 acknowledged. Intend DOON to remain Small Down, FARNE proceeding to Harwich as in my 161210 tomorrow Tuesday. M/S sailing 0500.

(7) Small Downs 5 M/S 2330 E.T.A.

(S.O.M/S.F.18, 162306 to C. in C. Nore.)

/M/S.F.10 ...

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MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

M/S.F.10. Tomorrow Tuesday unless otherwise ordered conduct E.G.M.S. sweeping as follows. Area between Q.Z.Y. 572 and N.F.5 to long. 02 degs. 48' E. and the centreline of Q.Z.S.684 between N.F.5 and the position of N.F.8 buoy. (2) Anchor off Harwich for the night. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore, 161644B to M/S.10.)

Contact attacked. IAUNCESTON CASTLE attacked bottomed contact in 055 degs. 49' N. 001 degs. 50' 30" W. wreckage coming up investigating. (S.O.E.G.30, 161739B to C. in C. Rosyth) Contact has been attacked 3 times. Consider it is a wreck. From flotsam which includes bunk boards and large pieces of tongue and groove, similar to the weather boarding on a merchant ship bridge. Am resuming patrol. (S.O.E.G.30, 161910B)

Cositintrep No.377. Part 4 secton A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/15th April. (S.H.A.E.F. Main, 161815B)

MONARCH (cable repair ship) sunk. MONARCH torpedoed in 52.02 N. 1.46 E. (JASPER, 161900 to Harwich W/T) My 1900 MONARCH mined in 110 degs. 54 B Buoy 2 Cables. (JASPER, 161922) MONARCH sunk. (JASPER 162011B)

Patrols for night Tuesday 17th April. (1) 1 OAKLEY, 2 QUANTOCK, 3 EGLINTON, 4 BLENCATHRA, 5 FERNIE, 6 KITTIWAKE, 7 LAMERTON, 8 BRISSENDEN. Coastal Force Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V with patrols at 2245. (2) 12 RETALICK with C/F from U.K. 14 ARENDAL, TORRINGTON 16 with C/F from Ostend (amendment 171551B). 17 CHIDDINGFOLD, 18 KRAKOWIAK, 19 SEYMOUR with C/F from Ostend. 21 MENDIP, 22 RUTHERFORD with C/F from U.K. (3) Escorts: T.A.M.42 CATTISTOCK. T.A.P.6 PYTHCLEY. (4) Coastal Forces from U.K. Patrol 1, 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.1 with OAKLEY. Patrol 2, 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C. with QUANTOCK. Patrol 3, 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.3 with EGLINTON. Patrol 4, 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.4 with BLENCATHRA. Patrol 5, 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.5 with FERNIE. Patrol 6, 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.6 with KITTIWAKE. Patrol 7, 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.7 with LAMERTON. Patrol 8, 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.C.8 with BRISSENDEN. Patrol 12, 4 M.T.Bs Unit F.L. 2, F.L.3. Patrol 22, 4 M.T.Bs Unit F.B.8, F.B.9.

/Patrol 51 ...

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night
Tuesday 17th
April.
(Contd.)

Patrol 51, 1 M.L. Patrol 52, 1 M.L.
 B.W.C.C. 5835 6 M.T.Bs Unit F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3.
 D.A.C.C. 4048, 4 M.T.Bs Unit F.B.3.
 From Ostend:
 D.A.Z.D. 2316, 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.A.8.
 D.A.Z.D. 2100, 2 M.T.Bs Unit F.B.2.
 D.A.Z.D. 4126, 3 M.Ls Unit F.G.5.
 D.A.Z.D. 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.
 D.A.C.C. 3836, 5 M.Ls Unit F.G.4, 4 (Day only)
 (C. in C. Nore, 161905B)

U-Boat
and S.B.U.
Summary to
1200B/16th.

(1) 1118/13. Beaufighter B/254 attacked Midget
 U-Boat 2 - 14 N. 02.34 E.
 (2) 1477/13. Barracuda L/810 attacked Midget
 U-Boat 51.57 N. 03.29 E. Two survivors reported
 Swimming.
 (3) 1802/13. Beaufighter E/254 attacked Midget
 U-Boat 52.06 N. 03.52 E. Claimed sunk.
 Barracuda H/810 attacked Midget U-Boat 5.03 N.
 03.45 E.
 (4) 2100/13.
 (5) 2130/13. Beaufighter A/254 sighted Midget U-Boat 52.00 N.
 03.00 E.
 (6) 0034/14. GARTH sank Midget U-Boat 52.10 N. 01.49 E. Two
 prisoners - one died.
 (7) 1755/14. Mosquito sighted probable Midget U-Boat 51.38 N.
 02.57 E.
 (8) 2149/15. TORRINGTON attacked Midget U-Boat 268 N.F.9 buoy
 A.P.2 miles.
 (9) 2335/15. SS. CONAKRIAN mined or torpedoed 51.20.8 N.
 02.36.1 E.
 (C. in C. Nore, 161940B)

ATHELDUKE
torpedoed.

ATHELDUKE mined or torpedoed in position 110 degs.
 Longstone 5 miles.
 (VICEROY, 161940B to C. in C. Rosyth)
 Attacked 6 widely separated contacts within 2 miles
 of wreck no result am rejoining F.S.84. All
 survivors in KING NEPTUNE. Senior 4th Engineer Mackenzie mis-
 sing. VICEROY's 161940B to C. in C. Rosyth only refers.
 (WOOLSTON, 16254B)

My 161940 carry out 5 mile square search around the position
 commencing from eastward. All contacts are to be attacked.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 162025 to S.O.E.G.30)

Confirmed ATHELDUKE hit by 2 torpedoes port quarter.

(WOOLSTON, 162301B)

/EKINS ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

EKINS
mined.

Can you send tug immediately EKINS mined and probably sinking 1 mile north of N.F.7. (SOUTHDOWN, 162125B to Ostend) EKINS has struck second mine. Has casualties. Am calling up M.T.B. to assist. I am standing by. (SOUTHDOWN 162140B to C. in C. Nore)

Schelde
sweeping.

Reference C. in C. Nore's 202319A/ March and 310007A/ March. Sixty per cent Oropesa search South of centre line carried out by 6 B.Y.M.S. One mine exploded in sweep in 51 degs. 24' 05" N. 03 degs. 13' 58" E. intend proceeding with Oropesa search tomorrow Tuesday. (N.O.I.C.Ostend, 162217B to F.O. Belgium) / Alternative channel 6 cable wide into Schelde. / Requesting channel be swept into the Schelde.

Cositintrep
No.377.
(Extract)

(2) Shipping casualty. British Tanker ^{M.V.} GOLD~~W~~ SHELL mined and sunk in Nore-Flushing Channel 356 degs. Ostend 8 miles. Wreck clear of Swept Channel. 10 survivors landed Ostend, 17 at Flushing. (3) Ref. Cositintrep No.373 para. 6. Shelling continues intermittently. (Burrough sd. Eisenhower, 162350B)

Operations

Channel

U-Boat
sunk by
LOCH KILLIN.

U.1063 sunk

Have sunk U-Boat in 50 degs. 09.2' 03 degs. 53.3'. (LOCH KILLIN, 160021B to C. in C. Plymouth) My 160021. Number of German U-Boat is believed to be 1063. Am picking up survivors. (LOCH KILLIN, 160121B)

Am proceeding to trail T.B.C.128 will detach to land survivors when abreast Plymouth. (LOCH KILLIN, 160233B)

Your 160236.

CRANSTOUN and H.M.S. BURGES both have prisoners on board who are too sick to transfer to me.

Propose bringing all 3 ships in. E.T.A. 0700B.

(LOCH KILLIN, 160435B to C. in C. Plymouth)

At 0021B/16 LOCH KILLIN, BURGES and CRANSTOUN of 17th E.G. sank U-Boat in approx. 245 degs. Prawle Point 7 miles. 3 Officers and 14 rating prisoners were picked up and landed Plymouth.

3 of the ratings sent to R.N. Hospital.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161122B)

LOCH KILLIN sank U-Boat at 0010B/16 in following circumstances.

(2) Whilst trailing 3 miles astern of B.T.C. convoy Asdic contact

/obtained ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

U-Boat obtained right ahead at 2200 yards. U-Boat
sunk by was proceeding along convoy route at 4 knots at
LOCH KILLIN. 130 feet depth.
(3) Convoy had apparently passed over U-Boat.
Prisoners now (?not) aware U-Boat had been located
till attacked.
(4) U-Boat surfaced after third Squid attack.
Schnorkel was in erected position.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161233B)
Sail when ammunitioning is completed p.m. to-day 16th and
proceed to rejoin E.G.17 2nd division. Report E.T.D.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161114B to LOCH KILLIN)

Patrol. (1) TOWY, PERIM, ZANZIBAR, ST. HELENA weigh St.
Helens at 1700B/16th and proceed to patrol area
limits route E. Q.Z.S.575. Lat. 50 degs. 15' N.
Q.Z.S. 673.
(A) leave patrol at 0700B/17th and anchor off Newhaven.
(B) Weigh as necessary to R/V with O.N.A. 297 escorted by VIMY
(S.O) DRUMHELLER and CALGARY E.T.A. C.1 A buoy approx. 1730B/17th
(C) Act as additional escort to westwards.
(2) LOCH FYNE, GOOD HOPE pass Nab outward at 0930B/17th and pro-
ceed to join TOWY at anchor off Newhaven then as in para. 1 (B) and
1(C) above.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161126B to TOWY, PERIM, ZANZIBAR, ST. HELENA,
LOCH FYNE, GOOD HOPE)
My 161126B cancel all reference to LOCH FYNE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161235B)

Channel One Radar target picked up 1252/15 halfway
Island. between Jersey and Guernsey. Tracked into St.
Peter Port Guernsey at 12 knots, arrived 1345.
One Radar target believed Red Cross ship VEGA
departed Guernsey on Southwesterly course at 1515/15.
One Radar target tracked from Alderney at 1523/15 towards Guernsey.
Speed 12. Faded at 1625 about two thirds of way to Guernsey.
Firing on Jobourg Radar continues at irregular intervals from
Alderney.
(C.T.G.122.2, 161343B)

Mines in About 60 mines destroyed since my 172141A of
Q.Z.X.1509 March of which 25 last 2 days. Indications mines
and 1491. are from Q.Z.X. 1509 and Q.Z.X.1491. Noted un-
usually large number of mines break loose during
spring tides which indicates heavy current may
be the main cause. Believe majority mines have
slipped cable at upper cable clamps with passage time consider
there is danger self disarming device this type mine may be
rendered inoperative from crustaceous growth corrosion or foreign
objects. Suggest serious consideration be given to removal of
mines Q.Z.X. 1509 and Q.Z.X. 1491.
(C.T.G. 122.2, 161423B to C.T.F.122)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

- Force 28. Intend to sail at 2300B/17 M.L. 346 (S.O.) and M.L. 309 by Q.Z.S. 697 through Z. 49° 02' N. 03° 00' W. thence to relieve Force 28 (M.L. 344 (S.O.) and M.L. 600) patrolling on meridian of 02° 13.5' W. between 48° 53' N. and 48° 47' N. at about 1000B/18.
- (2) Whilst on this patrol and whenever east of it Force 28 will come under the operational control of C.T.G. 122.2 (my 150951B* para. 2 as amended by my 151513B refers.)
- (3) M.L. 309 and M.L. 346 hold Opas and Cousnab Cherbourg 2 - 45 of 19.3.45.
- (4) Communications as in para. 4 of my 150915B+.
- (5) M.L. 309 and M.L. 346 are to pass Gate as requisite to comply.
- (6) On relief or earlier if fuel shortage necessitates C.T.G. 122.2 is requested to sail M.L. 344 and M.L. 600 by reverse of route in para. 1 to Plymouth.
- (C. in C. Plymouth 161845B, 162252B to C.T.G. 122.2, M.Ls. 309, 346.) See amendment 171347B.
- * M.L. 347 take M.L. 600 under orders to Form Force 28.
- + ? 150951 intended.

Minelaying. Pass Needles at 1115B/17th April and carry out serial H.1 part 2.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 161908B to WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN, LEITH.)

Operations.

West Coast of France.

Operation "Venerable". Upon completion of naval bombardment re-establish blockade keeping C. in C. Plymouth informed. Return with LORRAINE, DUQUESNE and escort to Brest. Detach AMIRAL MOUCHEZ group to St. Jean de Luz, do refuelling preparatory to promptly sweeping and buoying channel Gironde. Detach 31st M.S.F. to Plymouth.

My compliments to all naval forces participating in operation "Venerable" upon excellent performance of duty. Please acknowledge.
(C.T.F. 122 160815B to C.F.N.T.F.)

Contingent upon confirmation project 1200B. No further requirement naval gunfire support present phase of operation. Your bombardment invaluable assistance in accomplishment of my mission. Well done.
(C.G. DAATL, 160945B to C.F.N.T.F.)

Naval bombardment completed. Ships proceeding according my 160815. Present intentions retain 26th Squadron and F.O.B.S. at Cognac pending firm (decision?) possible future requirements d'Oleron phase.
(C.T.F. 122 161115B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/My...

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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.West Coast of France.

Operation "Venerable".
(Contd.)

My 151811B. Paras. 1 and 2. Aircraft were withdrawn early today owing to weather at base.

(2) A. Weather permitting one Sunderland aircraft will search 20 miles either side of a line 161° from 48° 00' N. 05° 22' W. commencing at 0700B/17 until R/V is effected when aircraft will give close A/U escort. A second Sunderland will follow if required.

B. Communications.

(3) Another Sunderland aircraft on coastwise sweep will co-operate with patrol A of Force 27 during the day. Communications.

(4) C.F.N.T.F. pass to ships in convoy.

(C. in C. Plymouth 161745B to C.F.N.T.F. in LORRAINE.)

Naval bombardment operation "Venerable" recommenced at 0700B/16th and was successfully completed at 1200B at which time blockade was re-established remainder of naval force withdrawing. Bombardment summary for both days as follows:

A. Total targets engaged approx. 50.

B. Ammunition expended 340 m.m. 320 rounds 203 m.m. 839 rounds no high explosive ammo. remaining, secondary battery and destroyer records incomplete.

C. Spotting aircraft effort: Sorties flown 71, air spotting shoots 35, flying hours 104.

D. Observers reports indicate shooting effective.

E. C.F.N.T.F. reported no casualties or incidents. Heavy air effort again today by both strategical and tactical air forces. Army artillery shelled Strait between Ile d'Oleron and mainland during the night to stop enemy traffic. Friendly forces crossed Seudre in three places during the night. Good progress being made N.W. of Royan area. One armoured spearhead at 14 Taiery near La Coubre batteries. Progress to Point Ile Grave troop line two miles short of anti-tank ditch at noon today expect to reach ditch tonight. G.2 consider Admiral Michaelles now at La Coubre will attempt to escape by sea. Lates warned. Royan completely destroyed.

(C.T.F. 122 162140 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Spanish Fishing Vessels.

The British Naval Attache in Madrid reminded the Spanish Ministry of Marine in October last that the declared dangerous area remained a zone of active military operation and that Spanish fishing vessels in that area ran a grave risk of being attacked and destroyed.

- (2) It is not however desired that Spanish fishing craft should be sunk unless their actions are provocative in the extreme.
- (3) I feel that the directions promulgated in my signal T.O.O. 231754A Feb. remain as sufficient guidance and it is pointed out that they do not in fact preclude drastic action in exceptional cases. Scaring tactics have been impossible lately owing to the absence of ships to do the scaring, but I think they will be effective again if the blockade is maintained.
- (4) C.T.F. 122's 112005B April, not to Admty., refers.
- (5) Admiralty is requested to consider advisability of repeating the reminder mentioned in para. 1 above. A.M. 191101 October, 1944 not to other addressees refers.
- (C. in C. Plymouth 161301B to Admty., C.T.F. 122.)

/Armed...

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast of France - Contd.

Armed
trawler
captured.

Have captured auxiliary armed trawler F.G. 7 (Germans). In 045° 34' N. 001° 32' W., one C.P.O. in command, 14 ratings taken prisoners. Armed party placed on board. Taking ship to Brest. Interrogation of prisoners indicate there may be 3 similar craft in vicinity of Gironde River Estuary.
(S.O. MS/F. 31 161705B to C.F.N.T.F. in LORRAINE.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

E.G. 10,
patrol.

If not in contact 10th E.G. shift patrol forthwith to area bounded by parallels 49° 30' N. and 48° N. and meridians 8° W. and 9° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 160042B to E.G. 10.)

Operation
"C.H."

Carry out operation "C.H." serial S.2 lines 678 0940/17th.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 160855 to ARIADNE.)

Contact
attacked.

THORLOCK and one (corrupt group) attacking probable German U-Boat in 043° 07' N. 019° 46' W. (S.O. Group C.9, 161116Z.)
Cancel my 161116. Now classified non-submarine. S.C. 172 P.C.S. 043° 12' N. 019° 15' W. 012, 8.8, 042° 50' N. 021° 32' W. Weather report 9080, 1001.
(S.O. Group C.9, 161217Z.)

E.G. 2.

If not in contact detail three ships including S.O. to proceed to Londonderry forthwith for short layover.

(2) On rejoining Force 37 the remaining ships of E.G. 2 will be sent in to Londonderry for short layover.
(C. in C. W.A. 161135B to S.O. 2nd E.G.)

Your 161135. WILD GOOSE, DOMINICA, LOCH RUTHVEN detailed. Force 37 now consists of LOCH FADA (S.O.) and LABUAN.
(S.O. Force 37 161354B to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G. 32.

Cancel my 141247B para. 2 not to all. On arrival at Milford Haven today 16th E.G. 32 are to remain for 48 hours short layover.
(C. in C. W.A. 161144B to 32 E.G.)

E.G. 4.

If not in contact 4th E.G. is to detach from Force 31 at daylight 17th and proceed via 52° N. 12° W. and 54° N. 12° W. to patrol area bounded by parallels 55° N. and 56° N. and meridians 8° 45' W. and 11° 15' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 161213B to 4th E.G.)

16.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

- Oil patch. Investigating oil patch 55° 49' N. 07° 56' W. position based on Gee fix obtained within half an hour of 1300. Dropped one depth charge. (A/C C/S TVH 91 161320B to 15 Group.)
- Situation Report at 2000. Section Home. Force 38, E.G. 22, HART, 4 escorts St George's Channel. Force 36, E.G. 8, LOCH ACHRAY 2 frigates Central Irish Sea. Force 37, LOCH FADA, (LOCH ALVIE?) Northern Irish Sea. Forces supporting convoys as ordered. Add to my 161151. (C. in C. W.A. 161515B.)
- E.G. 22. If not in contact detail three ships of 22nd E.G. (neg. S.O.) to support Bristol Channel section of U.C.B. 64A from Milford Haven buoy at 1430B/17 to R/V Irish Sea section off Tuskar at 1900V/17 thence to continue with convoy until further orders. (C. in C. W.A. 161521B to E.G. 22.)
- Force 31. Force 31, 4th E.G. (S.O.), BENTINCK, 4 frigates and 10th E.G.. HELMSDALE, 3 frigates patrolling vicinity all positions north and west unless otherwise indicated 051° 01' 012° 01' and 048° 50' 008° 30' respectively. Add to my 161220. (C. in C. W.A. 161529B.)

16.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

TAPIR,
 patrol
 report.

I.S.O.H. 30 TAPIR reports.

(1) April 12th 0749 in 060° 43.8' 004° 38.6' sighted U-Boat surfacing which had previously been detected by asdic at 0730. 0753 fired 8 torpedoes at range of 3200 yards course and speed of U-Boat 110° 14 knots. One hit, U-Boat seen to blow up and disintegrate. [U.486]

(2) April 13th 0653 in 060° 44.5' 004° 36' heard and plotted schnorkelling U-Boat on approx. course 190° 11 knots range 6500 yards.

(S.O.S/Ms Lerwick 161215.)

Operation
 "Invective".

Intend carry out following operations. All times Zone B.

(2) Force 2 consisting SCORPION (S.O.), SCOURGE, SAVAGE and ZAMBESI sail from Scapa a.m. D day and proceed at 24 knots to arrive west end of Q.Z.L. 68 at about 1730.

(3) Force 2 pass through Q.Z.L. 68 and turn southeastward to pass through position TA. 058° 06' N. 004° 20' E. and arrive position TB. 058° 06' N. 006° 10' E. about 0001 D + 1, thence sweep to northward about 5 to 7 miles off coast avoiding deep minefields. Northern limit of sweep is to be 058° 55' N. which should be reached by 0300.

(4) Force 2 turn westward not later than 0300 and retire through Q.Z.L. 68 to Scapa.

(5) C. in C. Rosyth is requested arrange with No. 18 Group C.C. for long range fighter escort to R/V Force 2 at eastern end of Q.Z.L. 68 at 0500 D + 1 and remain with Force until about 0900 if possible.

(6) Codeword in my 161239. D day in my 161244.

(7) Cancel my 121106 and 121120 neither to all.

(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 161234B.)

My 161234 codeword "Invective".

(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 161239B.)

My 161234 D day Tuesday 17th April.

(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 161244B.)

(Extract.)

Positions
 of submarines
 at 0800/17th.

And movements for following 24 hours.

(2) TOTEM off Korsfjord leaves patrol p.m. 17th to pass through 60° 15' N. 04° 00' E. at 0100/18th then through 61° 04' N. 02° 02' E. and 61° 04' N. 00° 01' E. to Lerwick diving by day east of 01° 01' E. at 115 miles in 24 hours.

(3) VENTURER leaves Lerwick 1500/17th passing through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles 61° 24' N. 00° 12' E. 61° 24' N. 02° 00' E. and 60° 46' N. 04° 00' E. on surface 8 knots until 01° E. then diving by day at 85 miles in 24 hours.

(C. of W. 161852B.)

/UTSIRA...

16.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

UTSIRA,
patrol
report.

UTSIRA reports in accordance with I.S.O.H.
(1) 5th April (A) 0652 small tanker 800 tons with 5 escorts including 1 M-class minesweeper, P.C.S. 64° 33' 10" 39' 040° 7 knots, commenced attack but put deep by escort and unable to complete.
(B) 1719 P.C.S. of 5000 ton M/V in convoy with 3 others one of 3000 and two of 2000 tons with 10 escorts including 1 M-class M/S. 64° 34' 10" 38' 225, 7 knots. Fired 4 torpedoes from 1300 yards. Two largest M/Vs and one whaler formed continuous line of target. Broke surface while firing and remained in sight for 40 seconds. Explosions 61, 72 and 97 seconds after firing first torpedo. Counter attack commenced 4 minutes later and continued for 3 hours. 25 D/Cs dropped some very close. No damage sustained.
(2) Remainder of patrol very bad weather experienced in Fro Havet. No shipping sighted.
(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick 162241B.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Russian
S.Cs.

H.M.C.S. HAIDA and 6 submarine chasers in company arrived Faroes.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 160420B.)

Operation
"Trammel".

Intend following minelaying operation. Admty. 301142 March and Admty. 151943 neither to all refers.
(2) Object. To lay deep minefield in approaches to Kola Inlet to prevent approach of U-Boats to favourable attacking position in this area.
(3) Force 5 consisting of APOLLO (S.O.), OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT and ORWELL with DIDO as A/A escort sails from Scapa p.m. 17th and proceeds to Kola Inlet by "Red" route ordered in my 071354 starting with position C.
(4) Speed made good 18 knots weather permitting. To avoid Zenit force 5 is not to pass 063° N. before 1400B/18th April.
(5) On arrival Kola Inlet p.m. 21st April Force 5 is to fuel and APOLLO, OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT and ORWELL are to prepare for minelaying.
(6) When ready and taking advantage of darkness as far as possible Force 5 is to proceed to lay deep minefield in approaches to Kola Inlet in accordance with detailed plan. Mines are to be adjusted to depth of 60 feet below chart datum.
(7) On completion Force 5 is to return to Scapa by reverse of outward route amended as necessary by S.O. Force 5 in order to pass clear of J.W. 66.
(8) S.B.N.O. N. Russia is requested to arrange with C. in C. Northern Fleet for all possible A/S measures in Approaches to Kola Inlet during arrival and departure of Force 5 particularly during actual period of minelay.

16.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Operation
"Trammel."
(Contd.)

(9) 19th E.G. will be operating in Approaches to Kola Inlet from about p.m./22 until arrival of convoy J.W. 66.
(10) Details of intended position of mines follows.
(11) Codeword in my 161229.
(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 161224B.)
My 161224 codeword "Trammel".
(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 161229B.)

C.S. 10.

Intend to transfer my flag temporarily to VINDEX tomorrow Tuesday.
(C.S. 10 161829B.)

Port Facilities.

Opening a
German North
Sea Port.

Your 151832. I am quite prepared to accept some risk. Operation will be severely handicapped if no base is available in Holland e.g. Den Helder. The more serious threat is from minelaying in Swept Channels by E-Boats or other forces. With present allocation of minesweepers operation could only be carried out slowly if "Placket" takes place concurrently.
(2) I am ready to discuss plans with your staff now.
(C. in C. Nore 161552B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Port
Parties.

Eclipse naval parties and all concerned with their formation are to be congratulated on the speed and enthusiasm with which parties are being prepared for service.
(2) Parties have been reported ready to move much earlier than had been expected and the rapid advances of our armies has made it necessary to order several parties to move now. The fact that naval parties have been able to compete with such a difficult time table after a late start reflects much credit on all concerned.
(3) The great assistance which has been given in every way by the Home Commands is very much appreciated.
(A.N.C.X.F. (Ph.) 161925B.)

Casualties & Defects.

SPEEDY.

Your 091826. Request information concerning defects and estimated date of sailing for Harwich.
(C. in C. Nore, 161008B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

SOBIESKI.

SOBIESKI temporary repairs will be completed Thursday 19th April. I submit that arrangements be made for the vessel to proceed to the Tyne for permanent repairs.
(P.L.O. Southampton 161650B.)

16.4.1945

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- ANTIGUA. ANTIGUA returning Barrow 0300B/17 owing to wiped main engine bearing. 4 other bearings suspected being wiped also.
(R.N.O. Barrow 161941B.)
- M.L. 150. M.L. 150 (B type Fairmile) has suffered the following damage as a result of a vessel colliding with her whilst secured to her berth at Le Havre.
A. - E. Details.
(HORNET 162112B.)
- LORING. My 162148 not to all addressees. LORING in collision with merchant ship* and damaged (corrupt group) aft, she is proceeding Falmouth under own power. Am keeping her company. Further signal will be made.
(INGLIS 162150B.) * SS. STAL.

Details of damage.
(LORING 162249B.)

LORING damaged aft in collision with merchant ship in position 236° Trevoise 16 proceeding to Falmouth, at 7½ knots escorted by INGLIS.

- (2) S.O.E.G. 15 in DACRES close and take charge on joining and report situation.
(3) Rescue tug ALLEGIANCE escorted by STONECROP leaves Falmouth shortly to join LORING.
(4) Use St. Ives Bay if condition of LORING necessitates.
(C. in C. Plymouth 162352B to S.O. 15th E.G., DACRES, INGLIS, LORING.)

Movements.

- SPEARHEAD, MORSE. SPEARHEAD and MORSE will be ready to sail 22nd April for Mediterranean. Request R/V at Clyde Boom for joining O.S. 124/K.M.S. 98.
(F.O. S/Ms 161158B to C. in C. W.A.)
F.S. MORSE has now completed work up. Intend to sail her in K.M.S. 98 for Gibraltar and onward routing as directed by C. in C. Mediterranean.
(F.O. S/Ms 161201B.)
- E.G. 6. E.G. 6 comprising NEW WATERFORD, LOCH MORLICH, LOCH ACHANALT, ANNAN is to be sailed from Londonderry April 18th to Halifax. (2) Route.
(3) ST. JOHN is to be sailed from Cardiff to R/V with E.G. 6 as arranged by Cdre. (D) W.A. and is to proceed in company to Halifax. (4) WASKESIU due April 23rd will be sailed to Canada subsequently to rejoin E.G. 6.
(C. in C. W.A. 161544B.)
- CLEOPATRA. Subject to satisfactory completion of preliminary working up intend to sail CLEOPATRA p.m. 30th April to comply with para. 2 of A.M. 141632.
Request approval.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 161804B.)

16.4.1945.
Monday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

S/M
SIDON

Intend to sail submarine SIDON to Malta at
1430 April 17th. (4) E.T.A. 1030 April 21st.
(F.O.G.M.A., 161701A to S. and A).

SS. J.W.
MCANDREW

Sailed from Ponta Delgada at 1015Z/16th U.S.A.T.
J.W. MCANDREW escorted by U.S.S. HENRY R. KENYON
to Baltimore via reverse U.G.S. route.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 161844Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

16.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operational control. Inshore Sqdn. F.O.N.A.M. Leghorn. On 18th April operational control of Inshore Squadron will be assumed by F.O.N.A.M. Leghorn and title of S.O.I.S. Petali lapses. It is signification of S.H.A. 275. (C. in C. Med. 161121B to S. & A. Med.)

German Ships. Please report what security measures port authorities have taken to ensure safety of German ships. (B.N.A. Madrid 162004B to R.O. Cartagena.)

German ships in Spanish Ports. As result of my representations to Ministry of Marine following orders have been issued in connection with safety of all German ships in Spanish ports:
 (1) Ships to be moved into shallowwater.
 (2) Marine guards to be put on board.
 (3) Thorough anti-sabotage search to be carried out.
 (4) On receipt of executive signal all crews will be removed.
 (2) I have insisted upon risk run in not removing crews at once. (B.N.A. Madrid 162045B to Admty.)

Comsitrep No. 89 ending 161200B (1) On the 11th TROMBE fired 35 rounds on personnel. Ineffective due to ? spotting. Thence 28 rounds on radio station. Six direct hits. Thence 26 rounds on O.P. Two direct hits thence 34 rounds on strong point. Ineffective owing to gyro failure. Thence 27 rounds at bridge and cross road position. Few rounds in target area.

On the 12th ORION fired 111 rounds on San Remo Harbour. Area well covered. One small craft direct hit. On same target, at night, 72 rounds.

On the 14th ORION fired 102 rounds on railway station of Albenca on reported ammunition trucks. Station hit, but doubtful if ammunition trucks were there.

METEOR fired 30 rounds on O.P. and Command post. Four direct hits. Very good shooting. Thence 49 rounds on radio station. Three direct hits.

On the 15th U.S.S. MACKENZIE fired 74 rounds on personnel and enemy occupied areas. Direct hits.

TEMPETE fired 77 rounds on mortar areas. Very effective shooting. Thence 48 rounds on occupied areas. Very good shooting. Thence 37 rounds on occupied building, one direct hit.

TIGRE fired 53 rounds on radio station. One hit on target. 3 rounds counter fire, near ship French S.C. picked up 151030B Italian pilot of explosive boat. Prisoner reported his boat was one of three, which had left San Remo in the previous night. Had sunk his ship voluntarily owing to motor failure.

On the 15/16th a French S.C. attacked and sunk small enemy craft probably M.T. M.S's. Only material damage on S.C. due to explosion of craft.

(2) Boats carried out patrol Z as usual. During night 10/11th P.T. boats attacked Vado Harbour. Launched 4 torpedoes. Explosions observed in harbour. (3) A few mines.

(4) At 121200B F.S. TIGRE joined Flank Force. (Comflanfor 162230B to F.O.N.A.M.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Reduction
of local
defence
craft.

Clause 4 of your 111750. DUSK is also
available for return to U.K.
(C. in C. E.I., 160536Z to Admty.)

A.F.Ds.
18, 20.

Rescue tug EMINENT returned Colombo in tow of
tug CHEERLY having sustained damage by fire and
destroying controls of port engine.
(2) CHEERLY leaves Colombo p.m./16th to overtake
A.F.D.20 and A.F.D.18. N.O.I.C. Cochin 090334
refers.

(3) In view of estimated time to complete EMINENT it is
intended to retain her on East Indies station on completion.
(4) Request DESTINY be returned to East Indies station as soon
as possible after completion of towing duties.
(C. in C. E.I., 160927Z to C. in C. B.P.F., Admty.)

S/M
TELEMACHUS.

Summary of TELEMACHUS 4th Far East patrol.
Owing to engine defects TELEMACHUS did not reach
her patrol area. 51 days at sea - blank.
(S/M.2, 161136Z to C. in C. E.I.)

S/Ms. SELENE,
THOROUGH,
RORQUAL,
operations.

SELENE 2nd Far East patrol 22 March off Tamiang
Point by gunfire sank one 40 ton junk.
THOROUGH 6th Far East patrol 2nd to 6th April
off Ulee Lhoe by gunfire sank M.G.B., 3 landing
craft with stores and naval ratings.
By torpedo damaged one 900 ton coaster along-
side pier last seen down by the stern with heavy
list. 10th April off Tamiang Point destroyed by gunfire one 900
ton coaster.
RORQUAL 3rd Far East patrol vicinity Padang west coast Sumatra
between 25th March - 2nd April carried out two special
operations and sank by gunfire one 350 ton coaster and two 500
coasters also 3 country craft totalling 45 tons.
(C. in C. E.I., 161249Z to Admty.)

Aircraft,
E.I.

A.M. 112132B* and A.M. 122103*. Shore-based
accommodation will be available in Ceylon and
south India.

(2) Adequate reserves of Corsair four-twenty
Barracudas two and the necessary stocks of spares are held.
(3) No pool of Barracuda crews exists. A limited number of
Corsair pilots will be available at the expense of B.P.F.
(C. in C. E.I., 161301Z to Admty.)

* N.T. in W.D.

16.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

HIGHLANDER At 1730Z/15th H.M.S. HIGHLANDER escorted by
destroyer. H.M.S. MORPETH CASTLE and H.M.S. ^{28/2803Z} ~~PRIMROSE~~ in
(gale damage) position 046° 07' N., 049° 15' W. making good 4
knots, course 300°.
(F.O.N.F., 160306Z to H.M.R.T. TENACITY).

My 160306. TENACITY having effected rendezvous HIGHLANDER
detach one escort for St. Johns N.F. Remainder proceed in
company to Bay of Bulls HIGHLANDER reporting E.T.A. Bay of
Bulls as soon as known.

(F.O.N.F., 160536Z to HIGHLANDER)

My 160536 not to all. H.M.C.S. MEDICINE HAT sailed St.
Johns at 0730Z/16th to R/V with you in approx. position 46.46 N.
50.59 W. at 1500Z/16th and provide escort to Bay Bulls.

(4) After you have secured alongside in Bay Bulls TENACITY
to be ordered to return to St. Johns.

(F.O.N.F., 160750Z to HIGHLANDER)

TENACITY closing now. Your 160536. Position 46.36 N.,
49.49 W. estimated Hove to PRIMROSE detached 0930 course 310°
speed 12 knots E.T.A. St. Johns 1930.

(HIGHLANDER, 160944 to F.O.N.F.)

MEDICINE HAT joined. Your 160750 part one para. 2.
MORPETH CASTLE detached 1900Z to proceed to St. Johns. TENACITY
now towing me. Course 305 speed about 3 knots. E.T.A. Bay
Bulls not yet predictable.

(HIGHLANDER, 161922Z to F.O.N.F.)

U/Boat Estimates.
Dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 161345Z to S. and A. and
Cominch, 161536Z).

Escort Escort Vessel torpedoed in Halifax Approaches
vessel approximately 0930Z/16th April.
(torpedoed) (C. in C. C.N.A., 161722Z to All Br. and U. Ships
in Area D).

U/Bs. (2 Cominch re-encyphers 161515 of C.T.G.22.5 in
attacked and which action is C. in C. Lant. infor. Cominch
probably and C.T.G. 22.1.
destroyed). Said message is now given Admiralty and Comnavzor
for Info. At 2346/15 in position 47.56 N. 30.25
U.1235 } W. STANTON of Screen had disappearing radar
U.880 } contact. Sound contact made immediately followed
by HH attack at 0004/16. Two underwater explosions followed at
0009/16 by terrific underwater explosion which severely shook
des. at contact and carrier. Strong odour of diesel oil noted
by des. At 0046/16 and 0109/16 STANTON made HH attack on
another target at 47.57 N., 30.28 W. Several underwater
explosions felt by des. Carrier and C.T.G.22.13 on patrol 10
miles away. At 0211/16 Radar contact made at 47.57 N., 30.20 W.
Target illuminated and submarine seen by three des. at 0226/16.
Brought under fire at 300 yards by FROST who attempted to ram
unsuccessfully due to poor visibility heavy seas and radical
manoeuvres of submarine. Between 0355/16 and 0422/16 FROST,
STANTON and HUSE held contact and made continual HH attacks.

/following...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies.

U/Bs. (2 attacked and probably destroyed). (contd).
 Following attack at 0422Z/16 underwater explosions felt 10 seconds after firing in position 47.57 N., 30.30 W. and at 0426Z/16 extremely heavy explosion rocked des. and severely shook carrier 15 miles distant. At 0444Z/16 sound contact regained. Target appeared motionless beneath oil slick noted by all des. Contact lost at 160453Z and not regained. Air search this morning disclosed no evidence due to 40-50 knot winds low visibility and state 6 seas. Sound conditions excellent throughout attacks. Believe two submarines were attacked and destroyed. All times Z. W.X. 5578 9858.
 (Cominch, 161954 to C. in C. Lant).

U/B Report etc.
 (minesweeper ESQUIMALT sunk)
 Cominch 152120 para. A(2) BELGIAN AIRMAN sank 142000Z. Para. A(1) 160930Z escort vessel torpedoed in Halifax Approaches. (ESQUIMALT, R.C.N.)
 2. Between 152346Z and 160453Z surface craft of Croatan Group made a series of attacks on radar, sound and visual contacts area 47.57 N., 30.25 W. resulting in several extremely heavy underwater explosions and oil. Para. B (1) 130040Z H.M.S. SOMALILAND sighted U-boat 42.28 N., 32.15 W. course 101. Para. D(1) 152245Z A/C radar contact 32.58 N., 76.50 W.
 (Cominch, 162110 to Admiralty for O.I.C. etc).

COATICOOK (Frigate).
 My P.C. and S. 039° 19', 059° 12', 328° 14.5.
 E.T.A. Sambro Light Vessel 2359Z/17th NEA HELLAS and H.M.S. ETTRICK in company.
 (COATICOOK, 162330Z to C. in C. N.A.)

Far East and Australia.

Troopships on round voyages.
 In compliance with Admiralty wishes troopships operating on round voyages between U.S. and India via Australia will call Melbourne to take on stores only when carrying passengers to or from that port. All bunkering in Australia will be done at Fremantle but it is not desired to embark or discharge passengers there when vessels omit Melbourne supplies may be procured at Fremantle if requirements are made known in advance.
 Westbound vessels will fuel at Fremantle with safe margin for voyage to Calcutta thence to Trincomalee where ships will fuel to capacity dropping off at Fremantle on eastbound trip. Action addressees requested to have ships comply.
 (C.N.O., 161510Z to Comwestseafron).

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSFar East & Australia - Contd.

Operations - 1868/Int. Cypher 16th April - Secret.
S.W. Pacific Enemy casualties Bougainville to 5th April -
extract. Killed 2,002, captured 40.
Ops. to 6th Enemy casualties to 5th April - Killed 2,904,
April. captured 63.
American Forces. Philippines.
Sea. Enemy activity Macassar Strait continues
on relatively high scale. Enemy submarines
reported Bismarcks, Dutch New Guinea, Philippines and Borneo
areas. Photos Kure on 28th March disclose 4 battleships, 2
converted battleships, 3 A/C carriers, 1 light carrier, 13
destroyers, 17 submarines, 16 Merchant vessels each over 200
feet, and many small auxiliaries. Considered these units seeking
refuge following damaging Allied attacks on ports in the Inland
Sea.
(L.H.Q. Melbourne, 161600K W.O. etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine For 24 hours 0800Z/16th April.
attack and U. 785 Para. A. (1) H.M. Ships GRINDALL and KEATS
sighting attacked contact with Hedgehog and depth
summary. charges from 0745Z until 1200Z 15th April in 50°
12' N., 12° 48' W.
U. 1063 (2) H.M.S. LOCH KILLIN attacked U-boat at
2221Z/15th 50° 9' N., 3° 53' W.
Para. B. (1) Heavy underwater explosion reported between two
merchant ships hove to at 0644Z/15th in 57° 9' N., 2° 4' W.
(2) Dakota A/C C/1680 sighted Schnorkel course 090° at 1345Z/15th
in 57° 50' N., 2° 38' W.
(3) SAMOLAND sighted U-boat course 101° at 0040Z/13 in 42° 28'
N., 32° 15' W.
Para. C. (1) H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER attacked contact at 1216Z/15th
in 58° 53' N., 2° 28' W.
(2) H.M.S. LUDLOW obtained suspicious radar contact at 2315Z
15th in 55° 15' N., 1° 18' W.
(D.D.I.C., 160920Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

17.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Force T. 1. L.C.A. and L.C.M. of Force T were employed today in landing a battalion at Renkum, 9 miles west of Arnhem.
- North Sea. 2. (a) A coastal command aircraft this evening attacked a U-Boat about 70 miles N.E. of Holy Isle and reported oil and wreckage after the attack.
(b) A Beaufighter this evening made two attacks on a possible midget U-Boat off the Schelde estuary. After the second attack a very heavy explosion was seen.
- Western Approaches. 3. ARIADNE carried out a minelaying operation from Milford Haven today.
- Norway. 4. Force 2 consisting of SCORPION (S.O.), SCOURGE, SAVAGE and ZAMBESI sailed from Scapa this morning to carry out a sweep off the S.W. coast of Norway. BIRMINGHAM sailed in support.
(Operation "Invector")
- Northern Waters. 5. APOLLO and DIDO, with OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT and ORWELL left Scapa this evening for a minelaying operation, *("Trammel")*
- Convoy J.W. 66. 6. VINDEX (C.S.10), PREMIER and 4 destroyers sailed from the Clyde to R/V with convoy J.W.66.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

- Riviera. 7. Tonight the French destroyer TROMBE was torpedoed by 2 E-Boats about 20 miles S.E. of San Remo. She was able to proceed at 3 knots and reached Toulon escorted by METEOR. There were 20 fatal casualties in TROMBE including 3 British ratings. One of the E-Boats was sunk. (D.O.R. 2070).

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

H.M.C.S.
ESQUIMALT
torpedoed.

8. Escort vessel torpedoed and sunk in the approaches to Halifax yesterday is the Fleet minesweeper H.M.C.S. ESQUIMALT. (172027Z.)

Far East and Australia.

Philippines.

9. Supported by cruisers and destroyers U.S. forces of the 7th Fleet landed unopposed at Parang and Malabang (Moro Gulf - Mindanao) and secured airfield at Malabang. *This was the last large amphibious assault in the campaign in the Philippines.*

Japan.

10. (a) U.S. naval aircraft sank 5 merchant vessels and damaged 3 others east of the Ryuku Archipelago. (D.O.R. 2070).

(b) Airfields on the Sakishima Group were again bombed and cratered by planes from British Task Force. Three enemy aircraft approaching the Fleet were shot down, our losses were slight.

SS. HOBBS
VICTORY
sunk.

(c) SS. HOBBS VICTORY (Am. 7607 tons) is reported sunk by aircraft on 6th April in 26.05 N. 127.14 E. off the Ryuku Archipelago. (172127Z.)

17.4.1945.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSPolicy.

- F.N.T.F. In view of S.H.A.E.F. Forward No. 19301 D.T.G. 161525 (begins passed) intend keeping F.N.T.F. in being until decision has been reached. (A.N.C.X.F.(Main), 171145B to Admty.)
- Loan of U.S. destroyer escort group(s). There appears to be a misunderstanding my 180958 refers. My interpretation is that Cominch is prepared to furnish a second group and perhaps a third only if needed and that Admiralty should initiate the request. (Com. 12th Fleet, 171533 to Admty.)
- M/S staffs. Experience has shown the economy in manpower which results from M/S staff being accommodated in and conducting operations from small H/Q ships in captured European Ports. (2) It is suggested therefore, that TARANSAY should be used for this purpose by Cdr. M/S. Dover when M/S operations to open up Dunkirk and approaches commence. (D.M.S., 171652B to A.C. Dover.)
- Reduction of R.C.N. services in U.K. on defeat of Germany. In order that plans may be made for the reduction of R.C.N. services in the U.K. following defeat of Germany, it is proposed for planning purposes that H.M.C. Ships in U.K. waters should be withdrawn as follows:
(A) R.C.N. corvettes and support groups on surrender of U-Boats and rounding up of lone wolves.
(B) The 65th M.T.B. Flotilla on the end of M.T.B. operations.
(C) H.M.S. Tribal and "V" class destroyers on the end of enemy U-Boat and surface operations.
(D) R.C.N. Bangor class minesweepers on the end of enemy resistance, subject to participation in such immediate post-war minesweeping operations as may be approved. It is intended that any R.C.N. Algerine or Bangor class minesweepers which it may be agreed to provide for long term post-war mine clearance should be supplied from Canada, so that crew adjustments and leave will have been affected.
(E) R.C.N. personnel in H.M.S. PUNCHER on the end of enemy U-Boat and surface operations, unless it proves necessary to withdraw such personnel at an earlier date to man light fleet aircraft carriers, transferred to R.C.N.
(2) The comments of Admiralty on the foregoing planning proposals are requested.
(3) For planning purposes, it is intended that the disposal of H.M.C. Ships in U.K. waters to implement proposals in para.1 should be as follows:
(A) Fleet destroyers and frigates to be sailed to Canada for refit if necessary, tropicalisation, crew leave and adjustment, and onward routing to the British Pacific Fleet, as proposed in C.N.M.O. Aide Memoire, C.S.21 (pp.20/44) dated 15th November 1944.

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSPolicyReduction
of R.C.N.
services
in U.K. on
defeat of
Germany.
(Contd.)

(B) Escort destroyers, Flower class corvettes, and Bangor minesweepers not required for immediate post-war minesweeping operations to Canada for paying off.
 (C) 65th M.T.B. Flotilla and H.M.S. PUNCHER to be paid off in the U.K.
 (D) Any R.N. ships on loan to R.C.N. operating in U.K. waters when A/S warfare is concluded to be returned to the Admiralty.
 (E) Canadian ships in reserve in U.K. waters probably to be declared surplus and disposed of in the U.K.
 (C.N.M.O., 171710B.)

GeneralCositintrep
No. 373.

Part II, Naval (extract).
 EKINS mined near N.F.7 Buoy at 2125/16 but later proceeded to U.K. under own power.
 (3) Aircraft sighted and attacked several midget U-Boats 13th - 15th April. Two claimed sunk.
 (4) L.C.A. and L.C.M. of Force T were employed landing a battalion at Renkum 17th April.
 (Burrough, signed Eisenhower, 172350B.)

OperationsNorth SeaAttack on
contact
(see ATHEL-
DUKE
torpedoed
16th April).

Intend "Observant" around position. If no contact will search area between 58° N. and 57° 45' N., 762° 5' W. and 1° 45' W. Your 162145* refers.
 (CAISTOR CASTLE, 170037B to C. in C. Rosyth.)
 * N.T. in W.D.
 Area has been well searched, 5 additional bottomed contacts attacked, most promising that attacked by VICEROY from which oil is coming up.
 (S.O. E.G.30, 170053B.)
 Your 17005(?3)B. Shift patrol 10 miles to northward.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 170350B to S.O. E.G.30.)
 No fresh contacts in second area. A/S conditions normal
 Wreck sank at 0815B.
 (S.O. E.G.30, 170945B to C. in C. Rosyth.)
 If not in contact abandon search so as to R/V with E.N.87 off May Island approx. 1630B today Tuesday.
 (2) E.N.87 - 10 ships escort 4 Trawlers (GRAEMSAY, S.O.) codeword "Sawmill". Support northward.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 171040 to S.O. E.G.30.)
 Have carried out 3 Squid attacks on contact in 057° 43' 10" N., 001° 28' 10" W., vicinity of aircraft marker (?10).
 Classified wreck. Now carrying out "Observant".
 (CAISTOR CASTLE, 171147B.)

/Positive ...

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Attack on
contact
(see
ATHELDUKE
torpedoed
16th April).
(Contd.)

Positive "High Tea" reported by P.86 in 57.45 N., 02.18 W. at 1645. Proceed to investigate. (C. in C. Rosyth, 171708 to CAISTOR CASTLE.) Your 171708B, am complying. (KENILWORTH CASTLE, 171846 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Doing square search round 057° 45' N., 002° 18' W. (KENILWORTH CASTLE, 172230B.)

M.L.
MACKAY.

Messages re cable operation and escort for same, in Dover Straits 18th April. (A.C. Dover, 171230B, 171241B, 171807B, C. in C. Nore, 171536B.)

MONARCH
(mined
16th April).

My 170015B*. Indications are that MONARCH was mined. 30 foot plume seen either side and slightly astern of ship which sank in 1 hour 10 minutes. Was apparently holed in engine room. No indication of torpedo damage. (2) Intensive sweep of area in progress negative result so far. Wreck will be checked for position and swept for depth over tomorrow Wednesday. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 171511 to C. in C. Nore.)
* N.T. in W.D.

U-Boat and
S.B.U.
summary to
1200B/17th.

(1) 1900/16 cable ship MONARCH torpedoed or mined 52.08 N., 01.52 E.
(2) 2120/16 M.L.593 attacked contact 034 N. Foreland 5 miles. Oil brought up. (C. in C. Nore, 171546B.)
Nil report.
(A.C. Dover, 171820B.)

Cositintrep
No. 378.

S.85368. Part 4, section A.
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/16th.
(S.H.A.E.F. (Main), 171700A.)

Clearance
of Q.Z.X.
1562.

Reference C. in C. Nore's 121611B.
Area cleared in G formation. Seven mines cut and one detonated in sweep. Swept depth 11 fathoms. Check sweep in a formation to width of 15 cables carried out either side of north and south centre line with no results.
(S.O. 15th M.S.F., 171805B.)

Patrols
for night
Wednesday
18th April.

1 TALYBONT, 2 OAKLEY, 3 BROCKLESBY, 4 ALBRIGHTON, 5 WILTON, 6 SHELDRAKE, 7 FERNIE, 8 SOUTHDOWN.
Coastal Force Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V with Patrols at 2245.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Patrols (2) 12 TORRINGTON with C/F from U.K.
for night 14 CHIDDINGFOLD. 16 SEYMOUR with C/F from
Wednesday Ostend. 17 KRAKOWIAK. 18 ARENDAL.
18th April. 19 STAYNER with C/F from Ostend. 21 MENDIP.
(Contd.) 22 CAICOS with C/F from U.K.
(3) Escorts T.A.M.43 - HAYDON, KITTIWAKE.
T.A.P.7 - COTTESMORE.
(4) Coastal Forces from U.K.
Patrol 1 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.1 with TALYBONT. Patrol 2 - 2
M.T.B. Unit F.C.2 with OAKLEY. Patrol 3 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.3
with BROCKLESBY. Patrol 4 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.4 with
ALBRIGHTON. Patrol 5 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.5 with WILTON.
Patrol 6 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.6 with SHELDRAKE. Patrol 7 - 2
M.T.B. Unit F.C.7 with FERNIE. Patrol 8 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.8
with SOUTHDOWN. Patrol 12 - 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. BWCC 5035 - 6 M.T.B. Unit F.A.1, F.A.2,
F.A.3. DACC 4048 - 4 M.T.B. Unit F.B.3.
From Ostend: DAZD 2316 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.A.8. DAZD 2100 - 2
M.T.B. Unit F.B.2. DAZD 4126 - 3 M.L. Unit F.G.5. DAZD 3312
4 M.T.B. F.H.3, F.H.4. Patrol 16 - 4 M.T.B. Unit F.G.2, F.G.3.
DACC 3836 - 5 M.L. Unit F.G.4 (day only).
(C. in C. Nore, 171819.) See amendment 181259B.

Prospective Information has been received that about 250
escape of Danish fishing vessels may escape to U.K. in
250 Danish the near future to avoid falling into enemy
fishing hands.
vessels. (2) They have been given the following
instructions:
(a) To make for Flamborough Head, approaching
on a south-westerly course from approx. 55° N.,
2° E.
(b) To arrive during the forenoon, spreading their arrival
over a period of 3 days.
(c) To leave a sufficient margin of fuel to reach the Firth
of Forth from Flamborough if required.
(3) C. in C. Nore is requested to make the necessary arrange-
ments for meeting these vessels off Flamborough Head. Up to
6 Danish Naval Officers will be available to assist.
(4) It would greatly facilitate security arrangements if,
all these vessels could be berthed in Hull and Grimsby.
Should this prove impracticable, C. in C. Rosyth is requested
to berth the surplus in his Command.
(5) Further details will be sent as soon as available.
(V.C.N.S., 171857 to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth.)

M.S.F 18.

(Extract).
Swept LL/SA E.G.M.S. 5 cables north, 2½ cables
south of Q.Z.Y.572 to 002° 48' E. Explosive
sweeps operated.

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Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

- M.S.F. 18
(Contd.) (3) Area 2 miles (?to) north of line joining N.F.6, N.F.7 and Q.Z.H.219 swept (?to) depth of 6 fathoms and LL/SA E.G.M.S. one actuation. Explosive sweep used both laps.
(4) All results negative.
(S.O. M/F.18, 171924B.)
- M.S.F.10. 6 actuations completed as in your 161644B. Explosive sweep in first 2 laps negative result. E.T.A. Harwich anchorage 2330.
(S.O. M/S.10, 171932B to C. in C. Nore.)
- Attack on contact. Following received from WOLFHOUND. Am attacking contact in 122° St. Abbs Head 11½ miles. (C. in C. Rosyth, 172210B.)
WOLFHOUND's 172122 appeared to be slight movement at first no movement now. Oil coming to the surface am obtaining sample then continuing attack.
(VIVIEN, 172231B.)

OperationsChannel

- F.N.T.F. My 161745*. Aircraft in para. 2 not expected to arrive before 1230 and in para. 3 even later owing to weather at base.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 170200B to C.F.N.T.F. (in LORRAINE))
- * Refers to C. in C. Plymouth 141815.
Proceed to Plymouth in lieu of Brest.
(C.F.N.T.F., 170730B to M/S.F.31.)
French Force - LORRAINE, DUQUESNE, L'ALCYON, LE FORTUNE, HOVA, L'AVENTURE, LA DECOUVERTE Brest at 170900B.
(Comar Brest, 170904B to C.T.F. 122.)

- M.T.Bs. 96, Nothing to report. My 161529B refers.
94, 227, 239 (Comar Brest, 170846B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
on patrol
south of
Groux.

- Cherbourg - Attack on Cherbourg Harbour or Approaches.
defence In the event of air, surface or submarine attack
arrange- on Cherbourg Harbour or Approaches H.M. Ships
ments. inside the harbour will come under the control
of C.T.G. 122.2 and may be ordered by him to
patrol or engage the enemy as necessary.

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- Cherbourg - defence arrangements. (Contd.) (2) The following table of alarm signals is promulgated for information.
(3) Action to be taken by ships on receipt of one of these alarm signals.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 171040B.)
- Fighter aircraft and U-Boats. A/S vessels are reminded that one method used by fighter aircraft to indicate to surface craft the presence of a U-Boat is to dive towards the position of the U-Boat.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 171208B.)
- Dispositions at 1600. (Extract.)
Patrols. (7) Manganese A 15th E.G. 2 ships. Trevoise to Pendeen.
(8) Manganese B 15th E.G. 2 ships. Lundy to Trevoise.
(9) Links A 17th E.G. 3 ships. Pendeen to Lizard.
(10) Links B 17th E.G. 3 ships Lizard to Start.
(C. in C. Plymouth 171211B.)
- Attack on contact. My 171044A to C. in C. Plymouth at position 46° 54' N. 06° 06' W. LUDLOW had good sonar contact classified submarine. Made five full pattern attacks no result. Remaining. Do not have sufficient escorts for further hunting.
(C.T.G. 63.1 in BENSON 171225 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth.)
- Force 28. My 161845 and 162252 neither to F.O.I.C. Falmouth. Owing to shortage of escorts M.L. 346 and 309 will be required to sail from Falmouth at 2100B/17th April as escort to C.O.C. 138 and will be unable to reach patrol line at time stated.
(2) C.T.U. 122.2 is requested to sail PEARL to relieve M.Ls. 346 and 309 of escort of C.O.C. 138 as requisite.
(C. in C. Plymouth 171347B.)
- Shelling from Alderney. No firing from Alderney since 1608B/16.
(C.T.G. 122.2 171625B.)
- Mines in Q.Z.X. 1509 and 1491. Request you will inform Admiralty contents of C.T.G. 122.2, 161423B not to A.N.C.X.F. consider sweeping quoted unnecessary.
(Comnavforfrance 171705B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
- M/S 31 contact. Cancel my 171725B submarine contact 047° 48' N. 005° 13' W.
(S.O. M/S 31 171730B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/My...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

M/S 31
contact.
(Contd.)

My 171730B H.M.C.S. KENORA carried out 2 attacks. Contact was lost at 1745. Characteristics of contact were (1) no hydrophone effects.

- (2) No movement of target.
- (3) Slight doppler.
- (4) Extent of target 10 to 25 degrees.

(5) No echo sound trace obtained French fishing ship in vicinity having seen nothing suspicious. Consider contact non-submarine if not in contact by 2000 intend proceeding KENORA has expended all depth charges.

(S.O. M/S 31 171915B.)

Operations.

West Coast of France.

BASQUE,
LA SURPRISE.

During the night patrol 16/17th April enemy shore batteries fired at us in position S.W. Pointe des Baleines 10 miles. No hit received. Fuelling interrupted after taking 60 tons owing to swell. Shall endeavour to fuel or tomorrow.

Fuel stock remaining BASQUE 66%, LA SURPRISE 60%.
(BASQUE 170912B.)

LA SURPRISE under very accurate fire from Pointe de Baleine battery on Ile de Rhe at ranges from 18,000 to 30,000 yards between 0415 and 0445 today. No damage or casualties. C. in C. Plymouth pass to Comar Brest.

(LA SURPRISE 171115B.)

Ref. Opas para. 14B. F.S. BASQUE, F.S. LA SURPRISE at Ile d'Yeu followed by prearranged patrol. Admiralty requested to pass to Comar Brest.

(BASQUE 171650B.)

Three Sunderland aircraft will carry out patrol in Bay of Biscay tomorrow 18th between 48° N. and 45° N. and W. and within about 70 miles of the coast, from dawn till 1800.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|
| Aircraft callsign | W/T | R/T |
| | RBC 38 | Howdah D. |
| | RBC 51 | Howdah K. |
| | RSW 70 | Hamper C. |

(C. in C. Plymouth 171851B to BASQUE, LA SURPRISE.)

Amend my 170912B to read - F.S. BASQUE 44% not 66%.

(2) Fuel remaining at 1900B 35%. Unable to fuel today owing to swell. Shall endeavour to fuel tomorrow morning.

(BASQUE 172000B.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

U/B report.

By D/F on 3800 k/cs at 2109Z U-Boat within 60 miles of 57.30 N. 19.30 W.

(D.D.I.C. 170001B to NORTHERN FOAM.)

/Minelaying...

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Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Western Approaches - Contd.

- Minelaying My 160855B April, sailed ARIADNE.
Operation "C.H." (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 171003B.)
"C.H." serial S.2 lines 6, 7 and 8 completed.
(ARIADNE 171543B.)
- SWEETBRIAR, O.S. 122/K.M.S. 96.
STUBBORN. Reference Admiralty 161911, not to all addressees.
Remain in company with STUBBORN to Gibraltar.
(2) Ships of your convoy have been informed they
may meet SPORTSMAN escorted by CARLPLACE on
north easterly course between 041° N. and 040° N.
(C. in C. W.A. 171026B to SWEETBRIAR.)
- Contacts in Am attacking A/S contact in 051° 24' 45" N. 004°
St. Georges 28' 35" W.
Channel. (NORTHERN PRIDE 171625B.)
My 171625. Reduced speed bottomed A/S target.
Am carrying out further attack.
(NORTHERN PRIDE 171644.)
- My 171644 no result now considered non-submarine, am proceeding
join.
(NORTHERN PRIDE 171656B.)
Attacking A/S contact 051° 38' 005° 17'.
(AYRSHIRE 171750B.)
- Force 31. Force 31 E.G. 10 HELMSDALE 3 frigates patrolling
vicinity 051° 01' 012° 01', LOCH ECK join from
eastward all to my 171222.
(C. in C. W.A. 171636B.)
- PEACOCK. Maintaining square patrol between 051° 25' N.
to 051° 40' N. 005° 20' W. to 005° 45' W. until
further orders.
(2) Suitable. (3) Visibility 100 yards.
(PEACOCK 171705B to C. in C. W.A.)
If not in contact join U.C. 64A, Irish Sea portion, forthwith
and continue to escort till further orders. Your 171705 and my
161521, not to all addresses, refers.
(C. in C. W.A. 171906B to PEACOCK.)
- E.G. 5. S.O. now transferred to AYLNER.
(E.G. 5 171955.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Destroyer
sweep off
Norway.

Samuelson

Scapa departures SCORPION, SAVAGE, ZAMBESI,
SCOURGE.

(C. in C. H.F. (Ashore) 170944.)

Proceed so as to arrive in position TZ. 058° 56'
N. 001° 00' E. by 0300B tomorrow Wednesday ready
to support force 2 if required. Remain in
vicinity of position TZ. until joined by force 2 and return in
company.

(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 171120B to BIRMINGHAM.)

Scapa departure BIRMINGHAM.

(C. in C. H.F. (Ashore) 172014B.)

Positions of
submarines.

(Extract.) And movements for next 24 hours.

(1) VARNE off Skudesnes keeping north of 59° N.

(3) VENTURER 61° 24' N. 01° 10' E. to patrol
off Fejoesen routed as in my 161852.

(C. of W. 172217B.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Minelaying
operation.

Tammel

Scapa departures APOLLO, DIDO, OPPORTUNE,
OBEDIENT, and ORWELL.

(C. in C. H.F. (Ashore) 172204B.)

R.A. 66,
BLUE RANGER,
Air strike.

Admiralty 151950 not to all addressees.

Intend sailing BLUE RANGER escorted by 2 destroyers
at about 28th April to arrive position 071° N. 001°
E. by time R.A. 66 reaches long. 010° E. ready
to oil convoy escort if required by C.S. 10.

(2) If sufficient escort available intend sailing
escort carriers with this force parting company in about lat.
066° N. to carry out air strike on Norwegian coast.

(3) Admiralty recypher and pass to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.

(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 172314 to Admty. R.A.(D) H.F., C.S. 1,
C. in C. Rosyth, C.S. 10, S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Danish re-
quisitioned
shipping.

Danish shipping recent German requisitions.

A. Reported from Copenhagen that machinery for
controlling long bridge of south basin has now
been repaired thus enabling Germans to move 23
requisitioned vessels. B.1.

B. Following Admiral Sckaggerak's instructions at
end March to augment troop transport and other shipping by
further requisitions it is now learnt Germans intend to re-
quisition all remaining Danish vessels available. They are to
be manned by German crews and it is then intended to sail them to
Stralsund, Eckern Fjord and one or two ports in Southern

(Norwegian*) B.3.

(N.A. Stockholm 171717.)

*Presume Norway meant.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Danish re-
quisitioned
shipping.
(Contd.)

N.I.D. Comment:
Para. A. refers to some 30,000 G.R.T. of recently
requisitioned Danish shipping which, owing to
sabotaging of Langebro becomes immobilised in
South Harbour.

Norway.

Russian R/C approx. 1200B/16 showed A. In Narvik
(?8) merchant ships, 10 self propelled barges
and one floating base. B. In Harstadt 11 merchant
ships, 9 self propelling barges, 2 escort
vessels and 2 floating docks.

(2) R/C 17th April of Bardufoss aerodrome and adjoining landing
strip showed up to 41 bombers, probably Ju.88, and up to 15
fighters probably Me.109.

(3) Surfaced U-Boat observed from shore in Tanafjord 2 miles
north Mollvik (?11)00B/17th.

(4) Northern Fleet estimate 2 or 3 U-Boats have been operating
off Kola Inlet.

(5) One Ju.88 made R/C flight over Kola Inlet 2335 to 0040 night
16/17th.

(6) Usual Zenit flights over Greenland sea from Trondheim
reported. No details given.

(7) Admty. recypher and pass to C.S. 10, S.O. Force 5 and
S.O.E.G. 19.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 171850B.)

Casualties & Defects.

EKINS,
(mined 16th
April.)

Your 170135B (Not to all addressees.)
Proceed to Sheerness reporting E.T.A.
You will probably meet T.A.C. 98 and T.A.M. 413
near N.F. 1 at 0730. Sheerness is sending out
tug to take over tow.
(C. in C. Nore 170430 to EKINS.)

EMPIRE SCOBEL.

LEAMINGTON 151000. N.F. 2 buoy re-laid and re-
lighted. Proceeding N.F. 3. PATRICIA recovered
merchant service type raft marked MWT-L.279
found secured Elbow Buoy. Damage to EMPIRE SCOBEL
whilst weighing today.
(JASEUR 170914B.)

SOBIESKI.

Request arrangements be made to sail SOBIESKI to
Tyne for orders.
(2) Vessel will be ready for sea at 0700/19th.
(D.S.T.O. Southampton 171020B.)

Vessel 690
at Antwerp.

From P.S.V.O. 8000 ton unfinished vessel number
690 sunk at No. 18 river berth Antwerp refloated.
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 171502B.)

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Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

SS. Following received from SS. CONAKRIAN. Draught
CONAKRIAN. when beached 37 feet sinking fast. Draught now
30 feet ship afloat being beached higher on
East Cant Sands.
(Cdre. i/c Southend 171744B.)

Movements.

(U.S.) L.S.T. Have obtained release 17 L.S.T. and 4 L.C.T.
convoy 5. (6) leaving 50 L.S.T. and 44 L.C.T. (5) in
"Overlord". L.S.T. 493 recently stranded on
breakwater Plymouth and should be stricken from
the list as damaged beyond repair. Therefore
request Cinclant provide escort for L.S.T. convoy number 5
consisting 16 L.S.T. carrying L.C.T. to U.S. E.T.D. Plymouth
7 May. Upwards to 100 L.C.V.P. in addition to Davit load and 50
L.C.M. will be required? also as loading permits. C.N.O.
please inform Bureaus concerned regarding L.S.T. 493. Cominch
202120 Sept. not to all.
(Com. 12th Fleet 171337.)

U.S.S. Cr. No. 837. Request you sail U.S.S. REHOBOTH
REHOBOTH. independently to Norfolk when ready on or about
23rd April via southerly route as furnished by
Admiralty.
(Com. 12th Fleet 171346 to N.O.I.C. Avonmouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy A. 2359B/16. B. ZEPHYR (D.2), STORD, HURON,
J.W. 66. 7th E.G. CYGNET (S.O.), OFFA, OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE,
RHODODENDRON, LOTUS, ALNWICK CASTLE, BAMBOROUGH
CASTLE, ALLINGTON CASTLE, FARNBOROUGH CASTLE.
C. 26 ships. D. Cdre. Sir R. Gill C.B.E., R.N.R.
in SAMARITAN. E. Vice Cdre. Master of BENJAMIN HILL. F. Rear
Cdre. Master of LINN BOYD. All ships and escorts hold Outcon 85.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 170230B.)

Sailed escorting J.W. 66 Capt. (D) 2 in ZEPHYR, STORD, HURON,
CYGNET (S.O.E.G. 7), ALLINGTON CASTLE, ALNWICK CASTLE, FARNHAM
CASTLE, BAMBOROUGH CASTLE, LOTUS, OXLIP, RHODODENDRON, HONEYSUCKLE
7th E.G. carrying 57 wires.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock 170304B.)

J.W. 66. My 170230 April para. B for FARNBOROUGH CASTLE
read FARNHAM CASTLE.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde 171221B.)

J.W. 66 my 170230 para. B cancel OFFA.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde 171836B.)

ALLINGTON CASTLE has developed serious defect to steering
gear. It is estimated reliable repairs cannot be effected at
Scapa in time for her to rejoin to 66. She has been ordered
however to proceed Scapa reporting E.T.A.

(Capt. (D) Z (?D.2) 171847B.)

17.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- S/M STUBBORN. On convoy being dispersed escort submarine STUBBORN through CA and CB etc.
(2) Report your P.C.S. after dispersal of convoy.
(F.O.G.M.A. 171240A to SWEET BRIAR.)
- F.S. BARFLEUR If not essential for BARFLEUR to enter Gibraltar she is to proceed to Oran by basic eastbound route which you are to pass to her if necessary.
(F.O.G.M.A. 171332A to ENCHANTRESS.)
- Your 171332A. French auxiliary cruiser BARFLEUR intend to proceed to Oran by basic eastbound route.
(2) E.T.A. Europa Point 1500A/18th.
(ENCHANTRESS 171921A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- S/M SIDON. Departure 1505/17th submarine SIDON for Malta.
(F.O.G.M.A. 171836 to V.A.M.)

South Atlantic.

- Reduction of local defence craft. A.M. 111750. On arrival of whalers SORSRA and SOLVRA at Durban and MASTIFF, LURCHER and GENSBUCK at Simonstown, vessels to be destored and Admiralty gear and fittings removed.
(3) Vessels are then to be handed over to M.W.T.R. on demand.
(4) Dates of sailings, arrivals and handing over to be reported to Admiralty.
(D.S.V.P. 172059B to Cdre. Supt. Simonstown.)

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17.4.1945.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Air operations. Coastal details. 3 Wellingtons reced. in north Adriatic. An S.E. contact and a possible submarine were bombed, both with unobserved results. 2 of 4 Beaufighters on shipping recce co-operated with the Wellingtons. 3 Wellingtons co-operated with surface forces against shipping in the Gulf of Genoa. A convoy leaving Spezia was bombed, a near miss being scored on an E-Boat; 3 vessels were bombed near Genoa with unobserved results, and a probable direct hit was scored on 1 of 5 E-Boats attacked later. (M.A.A.F., 170822B to Agwar.)

HUNT class destroyers. BRECON, CALPE complete work-up at Malta April 30th, A.M. 041929B.
(2) AVONVALE leaves Taranto April 19th for Malta to commence working-up.
(3) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to reply to Admiralty as regards EGGESFORD.
(C. in C. Med., 170902B to Admty.)

S/M VENGEFUL (transfer of 3 'U' class submarines to Greek Navy). VENGEFUL escorted by SARKA sails from Malta at 0930B/18th April routed through (routeing). E.T.A. Piraeus 1630B/20th April. Speed 10 knots.
(V.A. Malta, 170943B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)
Greek Admiralty propose to mark transfer of H.M. S/M VENGEFUL with ceremony on St. George's Day, April 23, in view of S.B.N.O. Greece's 281800 Feb. presume there is now no objection to press release of ceremony. A.M. 201207 Feb. refers. (F.O.L.E.M., 171151C to Aden.)

Cositintrep No. 645. (Extract). Coastal Air Force. Wellingtons on shipping recce. bombed possible submarine in north Adriatic with unobserved results, and scored hits and near misses on E-Boats in Gulf of Genoa. (H.Q.M.A.A.F., 171315B to W.O.)

Linrep No. 248, 12-15 April. (Extract). Gulf of Genoa. Night of 10 April coastal craft fought 2 inconclusive night actions near Sestri Levante with enemy convoys. Following night 3 coastal craft intercepted escorted enemy convoy off Mesco Point. They penetrated outer screen in face of heavy enemy opposition to fire 6 torpedoes at 1,000 yards. A corvette and an armed coaster were hit. Former claimed latter probably sunk and later sunk. We had no damage or casualties.
Adriatic. Night of 10 April 2 coastal craft in Planinski Channel engaged 5 enemy craft and scored hits. 1 of our craft hit and severely damaged but had no casualties. Following night off Taglimento coastal craft found 3 enemy convoys and attacked 1. Convoys then fought each other probably severely damaging 1 vessel. On night of 12 April 2 actions were fought. In

/Planinski ...

War Diary.17.4.1945.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Linrep No. 248.
12-15 April
Extract.
(contd).

Planinski Channel 4 craft attacked enemy vessels southbound with torpedoes and hit a torpedo boat which blew up and sank. No damage or casualties to our craft. In Gulf of Trieste 3 craft attacked enemy convoy after shadowing for 1 hour and 5 enemy craft were torpedoed disintegrated and sank. One craft retired under heavy fire but had no damage or casualties. Landing and coastal craft gave support to Partisan force which landed on Rab. Night of 13th April Yugoslav Coastal Force on patrol in Gulf of Trieste attacked large enemy Schooner with gunfire, set her on fire and left her sinking.
(A.F.H.Q., 171514B to W.O.)

Danube (entry of).

1. These are indications that Soviet may be attempting to force delivery of river minesweepers by withholding inland transportation facilities for U.N.R.R.A. supplies to Central Europe.
2. For example they stated unofficially to American Representative that only available transport is via Danube when river is clear of mines.
3. Today when our Transportation Section asked Captain Tishkin about reception of ships with U.N.R.R.A. supplies at Galatz and Braila he stated evasively that owing to danger of mines in Sulina Channel and in mouth and Sea approaches it was very doubtful whether seagoing ships would be able to enter the Danube this year. Insufficient minesweepers were available to deal with channels to all Black Sea Ports at same time.
4. This contradicts previous information given by him that seagoing vessels up to 19-20 feet draft could enter the Danube and the statement by the Soviet Naval A.C.C. representative at Galatz that the Sulina Channel was navigable.
5. Tishkin admitted however that in due course river vessels could navigate in safety.

(B.M.M., Roumania, 171730B to W.O.)

E-boat attack.

It appears that the E-boats which attacked F.S. TROMBE were not discovered by Radar. So the ships on patrol must be very careful on sight search. S.O.P.E. GOLFE JUAN pass to P.T. Base and Group Surveillance.
(Comflanfor, 171908B to S.O.A.D.)

Situation report No. 595.

(1) Adriatic. Coastal and Landing Craft and Minesweepers continuing actively to support Yugoslavs. Night of 14th April Coast craft fired 4 torpedoes at enemy minelayers detected by radar off Caorle. Enemy never actually sighted. One large explosion heard.

(2) Gulf of Genoa. Night of 15th April 2 coastal craft aided by aircraft reports and illumination intercepted enemy convoy off Sestri Lite and under constant fire obtained one certain

17.4.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Situation
report No.
595.
(contd).

torpedo hit and one probable. Slight damage to one craft but no casualties. F.S. TROMBE attacked by 2 (?E-boats) in position 043° 39' N., 008° 05' E. was torpedoed night 17th April. She had 20 killed including 3 British ratings and proceeded to westward at 3 knots escorted by H.M.S. METEOR. One of the E-boats was sunk. (C. in C. Med., 172151B to F.O.G.M.A.)

17.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

PATHFINDER
destroyer.

Intend sailing PATHFINDER p.m. 17th April for Aden for onward routing to U.K.
(F.O. Bombay 170513Z to Cdre. Aden.)

U/B, Escorts
dispensed
with.

Consider U-Boat threat on Kilindini/Durban route no longer warrants escort of troop transports. A small force of escort vessels should be maintained at terminals of this route to be called upon should a threat arise.

(2) If you concur propose C.M. M.C. troopships run without escort but present cycle be maintained so that escort can be reinstated if necessary.

(3) A. TOTLAND, FISHGUARD, GORLESTON, FALMOUTH to be transferred to Indian waters.

B. HONESTY, JASMINE, FREESIA, DUMONT D'URVILLE to remain based at Kilindini.

C. VERBENA, MARGUERITE, GENISTA to be based in South Africa.

(4) Loan of latter three ships appreciated but cannot be usefully employed on E.I. Station and yet be accessible to meet threat in your area.

(5) Slow escorts. BLAAUBERG^w, ODBERG and SONNEBLOW can also be spared from Kilindini[^] now.

(C. in C. E.I. 170954 to C. in C. S.A.)

Reduction
local defence
craft.

A.M. 111750 and 141252 April. Intend to sail SOLVRA and LURCHER for Durban and Capetown respectively on Monday 23rd. Further signal will be made with regard to SORSRA, MASTIFF and GEMSBUCK.

(Com. E.A. 171445 to Com. Durban.)

E.A. Bases
defences.

Your 061032 April and Commodore East Africa 111037 March.

(2) Concur in proposal to close down the Shallow D.G. Range. The underwater equipment need not be recovered unless this is desirable for local reasons. In view of the age of the instruments and other equipment they should be dismantled and returned to A.S.D.G. Helensburgh.

(5) The loop range should be retained.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 172342B to C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary17.4.1945.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies

N.S.H.Q. No report since my 120145Z. Para. A. H.M.C.S. S/M Attack torpedoes and sunk about 0930Z/16th April in and sighting summary. 44.28 N., 63.10 W. Para. C. H.M.C.S. SARNIA attacked contact at 1317Z/16th in 44.28 N., 63.23 W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 170018Z to Admty., Cominch).

U/B Contact. Attacked contact with depth charges in position 46.20 N., 00.09 W. at 1211Z/17. Further signal. (MELVILLE, 171215Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney). My 171215. No further contact. Intend resuming patrol. Ordered 72 M.L. Flotilla to sweep to 46.20 N., 59.50 W. then to return Sydney. (MELVILLE, 171405Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney).

Radar contact. Attacking contact with depth charge position course and speed 043° 19', 060° 18' 288° 14 knots (QUESNEL, 171402Z to C. in C. C.N.A.) Contact non S/M. (QUESNEL, 171455Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U/B Dispositions. Estimates. (Cominch 171432Z and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 171436 to S. & A. Admiralty etc).

U/B Report. Admiralty give to H.Q.C.C. 0950/6th HOBBS VICTORY sunk by enemy A/C 26.05 N. 127.14 E. Refer Cominch 162110. A(1) H.M.C.S. ESQUIMALT torpedoes and sunk 44.28 N., 63.10 W.

B(1) Correct to British M/V SAMOLAND all times Z.
C(1) 1317/16th H.M.C.S. SARNIA attacked contact 44.28 N., 63.23 W.
D(1) 1211/17th H.M.C.S. MELVILLE attacked contact 46.20 N., 60.09 W.
2. 1010 /17th MISSION BAY reported two well defined oil slicks 47.10 N., 33.34 W. and 47.04 N., 34.25 W. (Cominch, 172127Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Far East & Australia.

Movement Force X arrived Suva. (C.A.N.F. Fiji, 170120Z to Comsepac, C. in C. B.P.F. etc).

/Digest...

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17.4.1945.
Tuesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSFar East & Australia - Contd.

- Digest
No. 1182
16.4.45
extract.
- Covering 16th April unless stated otherwise.
2. Search planes from Palawan sank single lugger 30 miles southeast Kuantan (Malaya), sank single small southwest bound coaster 90 miles North Singapore, sank two other small coasters one tug towing two small boats, damaged three luggers all same vicinity.
 3. Delayed reports Palawan searches for 15th state Liberators sank small stack after freighter off southeast Borneo, bombed Radar station Natoena Island, sank single lugger off Malay Peninsula, hit single medium transport at entrance Singapore harbour probably sinking same.
 5. Mariners from Lingayen night 15th-16th sank medium freighter transport 25 miles southeast Taito (Formosa) strafed small craft approaching area, near missed single destroyer heading east 80 miles east Hong Kong.
 6. Morning American forces landed unopposed Carabao Island rapidly secured entire surface with only underground forts to be eliminated. Naval forces supported landing while seven Mustangs dropped over three tons bombs just prior to landing.
 9. 12 Mustangs bomber strafed small shipping Canton River hitting two of about 35 barges and junks.
 10. Five Mitchells destroyed about 50-75 junks in sweep of river east Hong Kong.
 11. 20 tons of fragmentation bombs 15-20 aircraft (part corrupt) daylight 15th April 6 Mitchells on Borneo shipping search hit small coaster and lugger near Takao.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 170945Z to Admty).

CHALLENGER (surveying ship). Assuming your 150817 not needed by all has concurrence C. in C. S.W.P.A. release of H.M.S. CHALLENGER approved direct vessel report C. in C. East Indies Station for duty.
(Cominch, 171515Z to Comseventhflt).

KOLA (armament stores vessel) Your 040426 and C. in C. B.P.F.'s 042326. Regret no ships available at present, vide Admiralty Message 042120, para. 1 to replace KOLA. Requirement for larger A.S.I.S. vide your 250036 March noted for action when ban on shipping allocation is lifted.

2. Please confirm if KOLA allocated to U.S.A.A.F., vide R.A.F.T 190101 March, or still at Sydney, vide V.A.(Q) 240254 March.
3. Suggest KOLA be used to commence clearance U.S. magazines Sydney and Brisbane for R.N. reserves, vide V.A.(Q) 060219 April, pending availability additional freight.
(Head of M. App. D.F.S.L., 172103B to V.A.(Q) B.P.F., and 240317Z).

MESSAGE.IN*Pacific Operations*U.S.

172336/ April

From C. in C. Pac. C. in C. P.O.A. Date 18.4.45.

ADVHED

Recd. 0444

P/L BY T/P

To, Pac. Flt., Secnav.
 Info: Comcenpac. Forward Area, Com. 12, Mare Island, Calif
 (San Francisco Control) (Rad.), Cominch, Comcorpac,
 C. in C. B.P.F., V.A. Administration B.P.F.

Communique number 335 released as of 2345 G.C.T. 17th
 April 1945 as follows.

1. About two-thirds of the area of Ieshima was brought under the control of the 10th Army on 17th April East longitude date also as our attacking forces wheeled eastward to occupy a line running, ~~vegetation running~~, from the northeast corner of the airfield-along the base of the islands central pinnacle and through the town of Tegusugu to the southern coast. Resistance was moderate throughout the day.
2. Small pockets of the enemy continued to resist attacks of Marines of the 3rd Amphibious Corps on Motobu peninsular and in northern Okinawa.
3. In the south there was no change in the lines of the 24th Army Corps.
4. Our troops in both the northern and southern sectors were supported throughout the day by heavy Naval gunfire, Carrier aircraft and Army and Marine artillery. A few enemy reconnaissance planes were in the Okinawa area during the day.
5. Search aircraft of Fleet Air Wing 1 destroyed 2 small cargo ships at anchor near Tanega Island in the northern Ryukyus and demolished a warehouse on the island with a direct bomb hit on 17th April. In waters east of the Ryukyus fleet Air Wing 1 planes sank 3 small cargo ships and damaged 3 others on the same date.
6. United States Forces attacking the home islands of Japan and the islands of Japan and the island groups of the Ryukyus since initiation of the Ryukyus campaign on 18th March to 17th April inclusive have destroyed more than 2200 Japanese aircraft in the air and on the ground. Aircraft from the fast carriers of the Pacific Fleet have destroyed more than 1600 of this total. In addition units of the British Pacific Fleet operating in waters off the Sakishimas and Formosa have destroyed more than 80 enemy planes.
7. Search aircraft of Fleet Air Wing 4 made rocket and machine gun attacks on buildings on Tomari Cape on Paramushiru in the Northern Kuriles and strafed a trawler off the island on 16th April.

8/.....

8. Liberators of the 7th Bomber Command bombed concrete structures and runways on Marcus Island on 16th April. On the same date Marine Mitchells strafed ground installations at Kuishra Airfield on Kyishu.

9. Army Mustangs of the 7th Fighter Command strafed and bombed shipping in and around Chichi Jima in the Bonins on 17th April.

10. Corsairs and Hellcats of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing bombed and strafed targets in the palaus on 17th April.

11. Planes of Fleet Air Wing 1 attacked installations on Yap and Puluwat in the Carolines on 17th April.

12. Fleet Air Wing 2 planes continued neutralizing attacks on enemy held bases in the Marshalls on 16th April.

13. Mopping up operations on Iwo Island continued during the month of April our forces developed that island as an Air Base. A total of 22731 of the enemy were killed on Iwo from 19th February to 14th April inclusive and 624 were captured.

172336

1st S.L. (3)

D.F.S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (A) (2)

A.C.N.S. (W)

U.W.R.

D. Map Room

Ops. (2)

Plot

O.D. (6)

O.I.C. (3)

D.N.I. (7) (and for
D.N.L.O. (2))

M. (2) and for A.M. (35)

C.C.L.S.

A.L.O.

W.D.

Admiral Blake

C.W.R.

D.N.O.R.

Hydrog.

D.D.O.D. (C) (2)

C.N.I. (2)

Ad. James.

War Diary

17.4.1945.

Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarine
attack and
sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0800Z/17th April.

Para. A.

1. ATHELDUKE torpedoed and sunk at 1731Z 16th April in 55° 37' N., 01° 28' W.

2. H.M.S. MONARCH sunk at 1700Z/16th in 52° 02' N., 01° 46' E. Cause unknown.

3. H.M.S/M TAPIR attacked U-boat course 110° at 0553Z/12th in 60° 44' N., 04° 39' E.

4. H.M. S/M TAPIR heard U-boat estimated course 190° at 0453Z/13th in 60° 44' N., 04° 36' E.

Para. B.

1. A/C M/423 saw smoke and wake at 0930Z/16th in 55° 33' N., 06° 38' W.

2. A/C P/224 attacked wake or swirl at 1545Z/16th in 57° 57' N., 01° 55' W.

3. VICEROY attacked contact at 1810Z/16th in 55° 38' N., 01° 25' W.

Para. C.

1. A/C K/86 had positive H/T contact at 1912Z/16th in same position as attack by P/224.

2. A/C A/224 attacked possible wake or swirl H/T positive at 0530Z/17th in 57° 40' N., 01° 17' W.

3. WOOLSTON attacked 6 contacts before 1954Z/16th in vicinity of torpedoing of ATHELDUKE.

4. E.G.30 reported 4 more attacks before 2253Z/16th in approximately 55° 38' N., 01° 25' W.

5. A/C E/461 sighted possible U-boat at 1520Z/16th in 51° 37' N., 04° 42' W.

Para. D.

1. A/C G/311 attacked wake or swirl at 1822Z/16th in 58° 03', 03° 23' W.

2. A/C M/423 attacked oil-patch at 1120Z/16th in 55° 49' N., 07° 56' W.

(D.D.I.C., 171144B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

U/B
report.

My 221059 July 1942.

1. At 2052B on the 12th H.M.S. LOCH GLENDHU of E.G. 8 attacked an asdic contact and brought U.1024 to the surface. H.M.S. LOCH MORE took U-boat in tow but it sank at 2325. Thirty-

eight prisoners taken.

2. H.M.S. NODZU reported an underwater explosion 16' N.E. of Aberdeen at 0024 on the 14th, and at 0425 reported picking up survivors from U.1206. Prisoners state U-boat sank as a result of damage sustained by grounding.

3. H.M.S. GRINDALL and KEATS of E.G.5 attacked asdic contact 128' S.W. of Cape Clear. H.H. attacks produced explosions, wreckage and oil.

4. H.M.S. LOCH KILLIN of E.G.17 supporting a B.T.C. convoy attacked an asdic contact about 3' astern of convoy. After 3 Squid attacks U.1063 surfaced on port quarter of LOCH KILLIN and was sunk by depth charge and gunfire. Eighteen survivors were picked up.

5. H.M. Submarine TAPIR torpedoed and sank a fully surfaced U-boat 30 miles N.W. of Bergen on the 12th.

(D.A.U.D., 171716B to Cominch).

U/B
Dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 171431B to A.I.G., Cominch).

18.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

- 1(a) Seven prisoners were taken today from 5 explosive motor boats found ashore at Breskens.
(b) Convoy T.A.M.42 (Thames to Antwerp) was attacked early this morning about 10 miles east-south-east of the North Foreland and two ships, M.V. KARMT and SS. FILLEIGH were torpedoed and sunk.
(c) 951 Lancasters and Halifaxes of Bomber Command made a visual attack on Heligoland naval base today. Photographs show that severe damage to establishments and facilities was caused in the naval area.
(d) Coast artillery claim to have sunk a midget U-boat off Blankenberg today.

Western Approaches.

2. Convoy H.X.348 was attacked about noon today when in 48.00 N., 06.25 W. (some 60 miles west-south-west of Ushant), and two ships, the tanker EMPIRE GOLD and SS. CYRUS H. McCORMICK were torpedoed and sunk. SS. NICK STONER in the convoy reported that she rammed a U-boat.

Norway.

*(Operation
"Investive")*

3. BIRMINGHAM, SCORPION, SAVAGE, ZAMBESI and SCOURGE returned to Scapa this afternoon from a sweep off the coast of Norway. There was no contact with the enemy other than one submarine during the operation. Shore searchlights were engaged.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean

Adriatic

4. M.T.B.697 is reported mined and sunk close to Spena Light on Krk island. There were 21 survivors.

18.4.1945.
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

- SS. BEMIS HEIGHTS (tanker) (ashore) 5. Am. SS. BEMIS HEIGHTS (tanker 10172 tons) (Baltimore to India) reported ashore 23 miles from Perion in lat. 12.50 N., long. 43.06 E. Tugs have been sent to her assistance. 180210Z.
- Burma 6. 12 Liberators laid sea mines off South Burma and Siam today.
- Siam. 7. U.S. Liberators today attacked Bangkok. Five small vessels were sunk and several others were damaged.

America & West Indies

- SS. SWIFTSCOUT torpedoed and sunk. 8. SS. SWIFTSCOUT (U.S. tanker 8,300 tons) reported by SS. CHANCELLORSVILLE torpedoed at 1330 G.M.T. in lat. 37° 30' N, 73° 03' W. (120' East of Cape Hatteras).

Far East & Australia

- Philippines 9(a) U.S. Forces landed at Cotobate (West coast of Mindanao) near Parang and Malabang where they had made landings yesterday.
(b) An unopposed landing was made by the Americans on Balabac Island (S. of Palawan) today

18.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Disposal of Escort Vessels on defeat of Germany.

Further consideration had been given to the disposal of Escort Vessels - corvettes and above upon the defeat of Germany. A.L. M.0488/45 dated 15th February refers.

2. The two main objects once the U-boat threat has been removed are:-

(a) The early reinforcement of the East Indies and Pacific Fleets.

(b) The berthing and disposal of escort vessels surplus to the requirements so as to release the maximum number of seagoing personnel in the minimum of time.

3. For planning purposes the following escort vessels from those now allocated to Home Commands are required to reinforce the Eastern theatre as soon as they can be made ready and their complement adjusted for foreign service:-

(a) All A/A sloops.

(b) All BAY Class Frigates as they become ready for service.

(c) 40 R.N. Frigates comprising:-

(i) 5 RIVER Class (previously allocated to East Indies) from Western Approaches.

(ii) 15 LOCH Class from Western Approaches.

(iii) 10 Turbo Electric CAPTAIN Class or LOCH Class from Western Approaches.

(iv) 5 Turbo Electric CAPTAIN Class from Nore.

(v) 5 COLONY Class to be fitted F.D. 4 from Western Approaches and 1 from Nore.

4. Subject to existing operational commitments such as Operations "Eclipse" and "Apostle" and forces required for the surrender of U-boats, preparations are to be made to reduce escort strengths as soon as Admiralty direct that the U-boat threat permits to following target figures:-

Western Approaches. to 6 Escort Vessels.

Plymouth)

Portsmouth, Nore) to 3 Escort Vessels each.

and Rosyth.)

Post-war requirements for A/S Training Flotilla Target Vessels, Tenders for Experimental Establishment, etc., will be met from available ships in reserve or as they arise during the process of reduction.

5. In accordance with para. 3 and 4 above, Commanders in Chief are requested to prepare for the paying off of surplus escort vessels on the following general basis:-

(a) Into Category "B" - HUNT Class destroyers Type I, Escort destroyers A to I. LOCH class Frigates. RIVER Class Frigates, CAPTAIN Class Frigates. COLONY Class Frigates. CASTLE Class Corvettes.

(b) Into Category "C". - Escort Destroyers other than A to I. A/S Sloops. FLOWER Class Corvettes. KINGFISHER and GUILLEMOT class Corvettes.

6. When ready to dispose of surplus escorts, Commanders in Chief should report by signal to F.O.C.R.F. Admiralty (D. of M) infor. Combrax of Manning Ports:-

(i) Names of ships (ii) Manning Ports (iii) Dates ready to sail
On receipt of the above, F.O.C.R.F. after consultation with D. of M. will indicate:-

(i) Berths.

(ii) Date on which ships can be received at berth.

(iii) Date on which personnel should be discharged to depot.

7. HUNTS will be dealt with by separate signal.

(V.C.N.S., 180855B).

/On...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Disposal of Escort Vessels on defeat of Germany. (Contd.)

On the termination of the U-Boat war it is intended that all types II, III and IV Hunts shall be allocated to the Eastern Theatre. (2) It is further intended that all type I Hunts shall eventually be paid off into Reserve category B. (3) During an interim period, however, it will be necessary to allocate 12 Hunts type I to Commands as follows for use as emergency destroyers:-

Mediterranean 4. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Rosyth, 2 each. (4) C. in C. Nore will be requested to transfer ships to the other Home Commands as in para. 3 above and to pay off the remaining 7 Hunts, type I, including 2 lent from Mediterranean, as in para. 6 of A.M. 180855 not to all. (5) Until such time as provision has been made for disposal of Home Command Hunts those in the Mediterranean will remain on their station. (V.C.N.S. 18100B.)

Change over from "Overlord" to "Eclipse".

Fwd. 19403. From S.H.A.E.F. Forward signed Eisenhower cite SHGCT.

(1) An arbitrary date will not now be selected for the change-over from operation "Overlord" to operation "Eclipse", and there will be no declaration of A day, except in the event of a formal German surrender. (2) Operation "Eclipse" will be assumed to have begun in those areas of Germany progressively overrun by Allied Forces and all plans and preparations for the execution of the policy contained in S.H.A.E.F. "Eclipse" Memoranda, as appropriate to current operations, will be put into effect without delay. (3) This will not signify either the initiation of operations such as "Apostle", "Doomsday", "Nestegg", for which separate mounting orders will be given when conditions for their execution permit, or the redistribution of Forces into occupational zones. (4) In view of the large number of Allied prisoners of war still in German hands, captured personnel of German Service organisations will continue to be given prisoner of war status as at present. Rules of land warfare, and of belligerent occupation, applicable during active hostilities will continue to be given effect. (5) Enemy War material will continue to be treated in accordance with current practice pending the issue of further instructions. (6) Current restrictions on the distribution or discussion of the surrender terms will continue in force, but in other respects current restrictions, as set forth in S.H.A.E.F. A.G. 381 - 1 G.C.T. - A.G.M. dated 19th March 1945, are lifted subject to normal security requirements. The Military occupation handbook is reclassified as "Restricted". (S.H.A.E.F. Forward, 181300B.)

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HOME COMMANDS:

Policy. - Contd.

Loan of U.S. destroyer escort group(s) Agree with your 171533. (V.C.N.S. 181914B to Com. 12th Fleet.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Contact attacked. Your 172301* good contact but no movement. Small patch oil, have obtained sample. No wreckage of any description. Possible submarine, extent target 15°, am attacking again. (VIVIEN 180014B to C. in C. Rosyth.) *N.T. in W.D.

Have expended all depth charges. WOLFHOUND in company, small amount wood wreckage from last attack, unable to recover. (VIVIEN 180151B.)

Your 180151B, return to harbour. (C. in C. Rosyth 180305B to VIVIEN, (R) WOLFHOUND.)

Attack on T.A.M. 42, 2 ships sunk. Ship torpedoed South Falls, am investigating. (SHEARWATER 180547 to C. in C. Nore.) Merchant vessel torpedoed 210 South Falls Buoy 1/2 mile. (M.L. 585 180550B.) Second ship torpedoed in same position. (SHEARWATER 180554B to CATTISTOCK, C. in C. Nore.) 2 ships torpedoed. (LADY PHILOMENA 180555B.)

KARNTLAS (?KARMT) slowly heading for The Downs. Send tug as soon as possible. (SHEARWATER 180609B to C. in C. Nore.)

(motor vessel) Norwegian steamer, KARMT hit in position 207° 2 miles South Falls at 0545B. Finally sank 207° 5 miles at 0825B. 31 crew and 1 Belgian Pilot landed here uninjured. 3 slightly injured, 3 seriously injured, 4 killed by explosion. Names.

(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 181300B.)

Consider U-Boat is 500 tons type. Intend H.M.C.S. SPRINGHILL and STETTLER continue hunt to exhaustion. (2) 2 M.Ls. will maintain continuous patrol within 2 miles of South Falls buoy.

(C. in C. Nore 181031B to S.O.E.G. 16.)

CHARLOTTETOWN. My 171536. On completion of present duty, request CHARLOTTETOWN be sailed to join SPRINGHILL. (C. in C. Nore 181921B to A.C. Dover.)

(1) Proceed forthwith via swept channels in force to join and assist SPRINGHILL now carrying out anti-U-Boat sweep in vicinity of South Falls Buoy.

(2) Copy of C. in C. Nore's 181920, 171819 and 181259 my 181506 and 181742 are attached for your information.

(3) Keep constant W/T watch on 2333 k/cs and C.N. broadcast.

(4) Acknowledge.

(A.C. Dover 182246B to CHARLOTTETOWN.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping. Following sweep carried out with E.G. 10 on 16th April:-

One lap 40 yards wide between position 180° N.F. 9 buoy 5 cables and 51° 21' 42" N. 02° 57' 30" E.

Two laps each 40 yards between positions 51° 21' 42" N. 02° 57' 30" E. and 51° 22' 36" N. 02° 46' 08" E.

One lap 40 yards wide between positions 51° 21' 24" N. 02° 57' 30" E. and 51° 21' 42" N. 02° 52' 54" E.

Negative results.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend 181059B.)

Search
for U/B.

No contact in vicinity of 31 Buoy.

Intend to proceed to 057° 17' N. 001° 39' W.

(KENILWORTH/CASTLE 181218B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Detach one escort to R/V with KENILWORTH CASTLE on patrol between Kinnaird Head and Spey Bay. Report escort detailed.

(C. in C. Rosyth 181401B to S.O.E.G. 30.)

Patrols.

My 171819B paras. 1 and 4 amend to read patrol 1 ALBRIGHTON. Patrol 4 TALYBONT.

(C. in C. Nore 181259B.)

Patrols for night Thursday 19th April.

1 BLENCATHRA, 2 BROCKLESBY, 3 TALYBONT, 4 MEYNELL, 5 COWDRAY, 6 GUILLEMOT, 7 SOUTHDOWN, 8 GARTH.

Coastal forces units F.C. 1 to F.C. 8 R/V with patrols at 2245.

2, 12 SEYMOUR with C/F from U.K. 74 CHIDDINGFOLD,

16 STAYNER with C/F from Ostend, 17 TORRINGTON.

18 EGLINTON, 79 CUBITT with C/F from Ostend,

21 TANATSIDE, 22 CAICOS with C/F from U.K.

(3) Escorts T.A.M. 44, MELBREAK, SHELDRAKE, T.A.P. 8 COTTESMORE.

(4) Coastal forces.

Patrol 1 M.T.B. unit F.C. 1 with BLENCATHRA.

Patrol 2, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 2 with BROCKLESBY.

Patrol 3, M.T.B. unit F.C. 3 with TALYBONT.

Patrol 4, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 4 with MEYNELL.

Patrol 5, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 5 with COWDRAY.

Patrol 6, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 6 with GUILLEMOT.

Patrol 7, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 7 with SOUTHDOWN.

Patrol 8, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 8 with GARTH.

Patrol 51, 1 M.L. Patrol 52, 1 M.L.

Patrol 12 units F.L. 2, F.L. 3, Four M.T.B.

Patrol 22 units F.B. 8, F.B.

BWCC 5035, 6 M.T.B. units F.A. 7, F.A. 2, F.A. 3.

DACC 4048, 4 M.T.B. unit F.B. 3.

/From Ostend...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Patrols. From Ostend.
(Contd.) DAZD 2316, 2 M.T.B. unit F.A. 8.
DAZD 2100, 2 M.T.B. unit F.B. 2.
DAZD 4126, 3 M.L. unit F.G. 5.
DAZD 3312, 4 M.T.B. unit F.H. 3, F.H. 4.
Patrol 16, 4 M.T.B. units F.G. 2, F.G. 3.
DACC 3836, 5 M.L. unit F.G. 4 (day only.)
(C. in C. Nore 181850B.)

Night dis- Humber Force. (Group 1) patrols 1 ALBRIGHTON.
positions (Group 2) harbour BLENCATHRA.
April 18/19th. Harwich Force. (Group 3) patrols 3, BROCKLESBY,
4, TALYBONT; 6, SHELDRAKE; 8, SOUTHDOWN; 12,
TORRINGTON; 14 CHIDDINGFOLD; 16, SEYMOUR; 17,
KRAKOWIAK; 18, ARENDAL; 19 STAYNER; 22, CAICOS;
with T.A.M. 43, KITTIWAKE; A.T.M. 128, SHEARWATER.
(Group 4) harbour EGLINTON, LAMERTON, QUANTOCK, CUBITT,
RUTHERFORD, GUILLEMOT, MALLARD, RETALICK.
Sheerness Force.
(Group 5) patrols 2, OAKLEY; 5, WILTON; 7, FERNIE; 21, MENDIP;
with A.T.M. 128, SHEARWATER; T.A.M. 43, HAYDON; F.N. 91, MEYNELL.
(Group 6) harbour, GARTH, BRISSENDEN, COWDRAY, EASTON, MELBREAK,
HOLDERNESS, PYTCHLEY, TANATSIDE, CALGARY, CLEMATIS, KINGCUP.
(C. in C. Nore, 181530B.)

Minelaying, In view of C.T.G. 122.2's 161423* being passed to
Q.Z.X. 1509, you propose that laying of serial N of my O/
and 1491. 0221/227 of 8th February should be cancelled.
(2) Have concurred in last sentence of Commavfor-
France 171705 also being passed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 181548B to Admty.)
* Requesting consideration be given to removal
of mines Q.Z.X. 1509 and Q.Z.X. 1491.

U-Boat and Nil report.
S.B.U. (A.C. Dover 181619B.)
Summary to (Extract.)
1200B/18. (1) 1530/17 Beaufighter M/236 attacked suspected
schnorkel smoke 52.25 N. 03.30 E.
(2) 1910/17 Beaufighter D/36 attacked periscope
51.55 N. 03.50 E. Heavy explosion occurred.
(3) 0550/18 two merchant ships torpedoed and sunk near South
Falls Buoy.
(5) 1128/18 Barracuda A/810 attacked suspected periscope 51.11
N. 02.19 E.
(C. in C. Nore 181747B to Admty.)

VANITY. C. in C. Rosyth 171612. Programme as follows.
At 20 R at 1625/18, proceed to 20 T thence to
Flamborough Head thence to 20 C thence to Humber.
All at 16 knots.
(VANITY 181630B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/Have...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

VANITY. Have investigated possible schnorkel in position
 (Contd.) 034° 20' E. Buoy 2½ miles. No contacts.
 (VANITY 181740 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)
 My 181740. Smoke was sighted as from smoke candle
 at 3 miles distance. Smoke ceased when close
 position. No smoke canisters or candles seen in vicinity. Sea
 calm.
 (VANITY 181754B.)

Cosintrep No. Part 4 section A.
 379. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 171600A
 April.
 (S.H.A.E.F. Main, 181650A.)

Cositintrep Part 2 Naval.
 No. 379. Schelde area. 5 explosive motor boats were found
 ashore at Breskens. 7 prisoners taken.
 (Burrough Signed Eisenhower 182342B.)

Operations.

Channel.

Operation Carry out operation "Artisan" serial B.2 part 2
 "Artisan." at 1030B/19.
 (2) F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail
 SHIPPIGAN (S.O.), PARRSBORO, ILFRACOMBE and
 ARMANA to R/V PLOVER escorted by BEAUMARIS and
 DORNOCH in 120° Lizard 12.2 miles at 0950B/19th.
 (3) SHIPPIGAN is to arrange skimming sweep of lay to 42 feet
 below chart datum.
 (4) PLOVER is not to carry out lay if SHIPPIGAN considers
 weather unsuitable for skim.
 (5) On completion of lay PLOVER to Portsmouth escorted by
 PARRSBOROUGH and ILFRACOMBE. Remainder to Falmouth.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 181142 to SHIPPIGAN, BEAUMARIS, PARRSBORO,
 ILFRACOMBE, PLOVER, DORNOCH, ARMANA, F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
 F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail ships addressed
 as soon as possible to establish patrol along coastal convoy
 route between Lizard and Pendeen.
 Communications constant 2840 k/cs L/S R/T 2410 k/cs guards on
 CN and 19 R/C wave.
 (2) Leave patrol as requisite to R/V with PLOVER as in my 181142B.
 (3) SHIPPIGAN acknowledge.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 181757B to F.O.I.C. Falmouth, SHIPPIGAN,
 PARRSBORO, ILFRACOMBE.)
 SHIPPIGAN and PARRSBORO sailed to comply with your 181757B.
 ILFRACOMBE will sail at 2300B/18 to join SHIPPIGAN.
 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 182114B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

E.G. 3,
E.G. 16.

F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland is requested to sail E.G. 3 a.m. April 22nd to relieve E.G. 16 in Portsmouth Command.

(2) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail E.G. 16 negative SPRINGHILL on relief to Londonderry. My 121519* not to all refers. (C. in C. W.A. 181232B.)

* SPRINGHILL' is available to escort STORM.

LOCH KILLIN,
BURGES,
CRANSTOUN.

Leave O.N. 297 at 07° 00' W. and proceed at best sweeping speed establish patrol Pendeen to Lizard on coastal convoy route.

(2) If not in contact LOCH LOMOND, MOORSOM leave patrol at 1230B/19th and proceed Plymouth for layover.

(C. in C. Plymouth 181237B to LOCH KILLIN, BURGES, CRANSTOUN.)

Disposal of
defective
bombs.

E.X. 24017. Following vessels carrying 2177 tons, 206 tons and 669 tons respectively of 150 pound bombs for continental discharge will require delivery of their sound bombs at Havre and must dispose of the defective bombs by dumping in deep water: No. 165 location Havre-Pasture

anchorage S.P. 64 location Milford Haven N.Y. 800 location Milford Haven. Also there is at Le Havre on barges and in railway wagons a total of 1280 tons of bombs which also require dumping. Request you advise location of anchorage or port where bombs can be discharged, method of carriage into deep water and disposal area. Further request sufficient craft be made available for the carrying out of this operation.

(H.Q. Com. Zone (Signed Lee) 181427B to C.T.F. 122.)

TAVY,
BAHAMAS.

Sail so as to pass Gate at 0900B/19 and proceed overtake T.B.C. 131 S.O. escorts DAHLIA estimated vicinity D.1 buoy at 0930B/19.

(2) Trail T.B.C. 131 until B.T.C. 133 S.O.

escorts AZALEA is met then transfer and trail to

Pendeen.

(3) On completion establish patrol Pendeen to Trevose.

(C. in C. Plymouth 181446B to TAVY, BAHAMAS.)

Minelaying.
Operation.

Weigh at 0200B/19 and carry out serial H.2 part 1. (C. in C. Portsmouth 181640B to WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN, BOSTON.)

/German...

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trawler
F.G. 7.

Ref. M.S.F. 31's 161705B. Captured German armed trawler F.G. 7 in company of 31st M.S.F. with 14 prisoners E.T.A. Plymouth 1800B/18. (C. in C. Plymouth 181718B.) Arrived 31st M/S F. and SURSAY with German trawler F.G. 7. (C. in C. Plymouth 182124B.)

Contact
attacked.

CARAQUET and MINAS investigating 246° Rame Head 10 miles. (S.O. M/S F. 31 181715B.) My 181805. Unable to regain contact. Carried out 1 attack in 050° 14' 30" N. 004° 25' 00" W. at 1657. Intend continuing observant with MINAS until 1930 then proceeding to port if no contact gained. (CARAQUET 181858B.)

LORD
ESSENDON.

On completion of my 181744 not to all request you sail LORD ESSENDON to Granville. LORD ESSENDON is allocated to C.T.G. 122.2 for patrol duties Granville area as relief for PEARL. C.T.U. 122.2.3 is requested to sail PEARL as escort to O.C.C. 143. (C. in C. Plymouth 181745B to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

Force 26.

My 171540B para. 1. On relief by Portsmouth escorts in approx. 180° Portland Bill 15 request you will detach force 26 to return to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 181823B to C.T.G. 61.1 (in U.S.S. EDISON.))

ROBERTS,
EREBUS.

ROBERTS revert to 72 hours notice for operations. (2) EREBUS come to 72 hours notice for operations on completion of leave, date to be reported. (3) A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 141300B not to Admty. refers. (C. in C. Portsmouth 181844B to EREBUS, ROBERTS.)

E.G. 15.

Leave H.X.A. 348 at Portland Bill and proceed at best sweeping speed establish following patrols on coastal convoy route. 1st Division Lizard to Eddystone 2nd Division Eddystone to Berry Head DACRES acknowledge. (C. in C. Plymouth 182325B to E.G. 15.)

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWest Coast of France

Biscay Coast Blockade. Night patrol 17th/18th nothing to report. F.S. LA SURPRISE detach at 0800B for 15 miles patrol to bombardment area.
(2) Fuel remaining 0800 F.S. BASQUE ? 26% F.S. LA SURPRISE 56%. F.S. BASQUE leave North End Patrol area for Brest before 2359B to-day.

Further fuel impossible.

(BASQUE, 180830 to C.F.N.T.F., C. in C. Plymouth)

6 German Vessels, of which 5 are Trawlers, reportedly left La Rochelle at 1800/15th in the direction southwest.

(Marine, Paris, 181425 to C.F.N.T.F.)

My 171851B para. (1). This patrol will be continued from 2130B to-day until dawn tomorrow 19th April by 2 Sunderland A/C followed by 2 more Sunderland A/C as requisite between 47 degs N. and 45 degs. 50' N. and within about 90 miles of the coast.

(2) A/C Call Signs.

(3) Further signal will be made regarding air patrols for tomorrow 19th April.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 181554B to BASQUE, LA SURPRISE)

*ADA Ramour
no. 182350B
below.
While seizing French manned fishing ship from La Rochelle in position 046 degs. 01' N. 001 degs. 37' W. F.S. LA SURPRISE yesterday under accurate fire from 2 batteries on Ile de Re estimated in 046 degs. 13' 15" N. 001 degs. 32' 19" W. and 046 degs. 11' 09" N. 001 degs. 24' 30" W. as shown in intelligence summary No.42. Ranges from 24 thousand to 32 thousand yards. No damage or casualties.

(2) Fishing ship and crew of 4 are being taken to Sables D'Olonne.

(3) C. in C. Plymouth pass to Comar Brest, Marine Paris and Comar Rochefort.

(4) Request acknowledgement.

(LA SURPRISE, 181830B to C.F.N.T.F.)

I must leave patrol area at 2100B fuel remaining at 1900B 18.5%.

(BASQUE, 181930B to C.F.N.T.F., C. in C. Plymouth)

Direct route from Sables to Brest. Speed 12 E.T.A. 191530B. Admiralty requested to pass to Comar Brest.

(BASQUE, 182101B)

Intend sailing L'ALCYON at 0730B/19 to relieve BASQUE on patrol 27, passing through positions 047 degs. 33' N. 005 degs. 07' W. and 046 degs. 56' N. 003 degs. 40' W. to R/V LA SURPRISE 230 degs. Ile D'Yeu 6 miles. Patrol will be effected between positions 046 degs. 30' N. 002 degs. 08' W. and 045 degs. 21' N. 001 degs. 27' W. S. of A. 15 knots.

(C.F.N.T.F. 182243B to C. in C. Plymouth)

My 181830B. Following information given by crew of (captured) ship ADA RAMOUR.

(2) Several German M/Bs fish during daylight and anchor during the night about 7 miles 320 degs. from North corner of Ile d'Oleron.

(3) Every 5 days approx. 2 twin engine A/C thought to contain war material from Spain land at about 2300 at La Lfu North of La Rochelle and leave 2 days afterwards at about 0500.

(4) Other information will be forwarded by letter.

(5) C. in C. Plymouth pass to Marine Paris, Comar Brest and Comar Rochefort.

(6) Request acknowledge.

(LA SURPRISE, 182350B to C.F.N.T.F.)

/Spanish ...

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~~West Coast of France~~ - Contd.Spanish
fishing
vessels.Following from C. in C. Plymouth to Admiralty
C.T.F.122 Info A.N.C.X.F. begins (as C. in C.
Plymouth, 161301B. q.v.)(2) Request your remarks. Item IV of Minutes
of 63rd meeting of the U-Boat Warfare Committee
held on 12th April refers.

(Hd. of M. 181937B to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G.32.

F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail 32nd
E.G. at 1400B/18 via route B to join Force 31 and
patrol area bounded by parallels 49 degs. N.
and 50 degs. N. and Meridians 09 degs W. and

11 degs. W.

(2) Dacmo Force 31 Codeword "Siege".

(3) Attention is called to Q.Z.X. 246, 259 and 336.

(C. in C. W.A. 180003B)

Sailed 32nd E.G. to join Force 31.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 181437)

*Western Approaches.*Attack on
H.X.348
2 ships
sunk.

H.X.348 attacked. 2 ships torpedoed.

(S.O. C.7, 181015Z)

H.X.348 A.C.I. 501 para. 2 (A) (?201210B or 181210B)
position 48.05 N. 06.28 W.

B. 1 submerged.

*CYRUS H. C. ~~SN~~ McCORMICK torpedoed port side EMPIRE GOLD
torpedoed port side. Rescue ship GOTHLAND

picked up 48 survivors.

E. LANARK will remain until 1400B.

F. Merchant ship reports ramming U-Boat.

G. P.C.S. 48.20 N. 06.32 W. 350 9.5 knots.

(S.O. C.7 181135Z)

Proceed forthwith to 48 degs. N. 6 degs. 25 W. Two
ships torpedoed in H.X. 348.

(C. in C. W.A. 181257B to 10th E.G.)

STONECROP escorting H.M.R.T. ALLEGIANCE sails Falmouth
1430B, ALISMA escorting H.M.R.T. MAMMOUTH sails Plymouth 1445B
to assist you. Proceeding to position 48 degs. 00' N. 06 degs.
25' W.(C. in C. Plymouth, 181423B to C.7, S.O. in LANARK,
VERSATILE.)Rescue Tug MASTODONTE and Chasseur 12 sailed 1430B/18th to
position 48.00 N. 06.25 W. Direct route from position G.
Speed 11 knots.

(Comar, Brest, 181440B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Your 181423B. Both ships have sunk.

(S.O.C.7, 181450Z to C. in C. Plymouth)

Reference Comar Brest message No T.O.O. 2 merchant ships
torpedoed position 048 degs. 00' N. 006 degs. 25' W. at 1215B/18.
FS.HOVA and MASTODONTE are being sailed to this position
immediately. F.S. LA DECOUVERTE and F.S. L'AVENTURE will be
ready to sail 1700B if required. F.S. HOVA keep watch on
2300 K/cs, 2410 K/cs (Callsign Paste) and C.N. Broadcast.

(C.F.N.T.F. 181458B to C. in C. Plymouth)

/On ...

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperations~~West Coast of France.~~ *Western Approaches.*

Attack on H.X.348
2 ships sunk.
(Contd.)

On arrival of 10th E.G. close escorts rejoin convoy at best speed.
(C. in C. W.A. 181637B to MERITTONIA)
Your 181627B/.

Have commenced search 255 degs. position 142.
Attack 14 miles.
(S.O.E.G.10, 181715B to C. in C. W.A.)
/ Requesting E.T.A. at position of U-Boat attack.

F.S. HOVA sailed 1634B reference my 181458B. Understand no B.N.L.O. or ratings aboard, such knowledge being received too late to provide ship with recognition signals. Must also presume ship unable to decode British signals. Suggest signals addressed F.S. HOVA be passed to C.F.N.T.F. for onward routing in French cypher.
(C.F.N.T.F. 181724B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Rescue tug MASTODONTE escorted by Chasseur 12 sailed Brest 181430. Speed 11 knots.

H.M.R.T. ALLEGIANCE escorted by STONECROP sailed Falmouth 181430.

Speed 13 knots. H.M.R.T. MAMMOTH escorted by ALISMA sailed Plymouth 181445. Speed 11 knots.

(2) All tugs have been ordered to assist torpedoed ships.
(3) Report if ships are still afloat.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181738B to MERITTONIA etc.)

Proceeding in execution of your 181637B S. of A. 15 knots. Have left wreck of tanker to serve as datum H.M.C. ships CAMROSE, PARRY SOUND and HAWKS BURY in company relieved by E.G.10 (MERITTONIA, 181834 to C. in C. W.A. etc.)

SS. EMPIRE GOLD and U.S. CYRUS H. McCORMICK in H.X.348 torpedoed at 1215B/18th April in 48 degs. 00' N. 06 degs. 25' W.

(2) Both ships reported to have sunk at 1650B.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181845B to Admty.)
Report whether all survivors accounted for.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181953B to MERITTONIA, C.7 in LANARK)
Your 181738B/. One ship has sunk. Second ship still afloat but broken in 2 and both halves still burning. Consider both halves will sink.

(2) Search continuing much hampered by prevalence of non-S/M.
(S.O.E.G.10, 182006B to C. in C. Plymouth)
/ Report if ships (EMPIRE GOLD and CYRUS H. McCORMICK) still afloat.

No survivors on board ships in company. None seen in vicinity of wreck. Believe all were picked up by rescue ship before she rejoined H.X. 348. Your 181953B not to all addressees.
(MERITTONIA, 182143 to C. in C. Plymouth)

H.X. 348 my 181834B not to all addressees. Amend action addressees to read A.1 G.303 and information addressees to include C. in C. Plymouth.

(2) CAMROSE will detach on reaching 048 degs. 30' N. to overtake English Channel Section.
(3) Suitable.
(MERITTONIA, 182146B to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 181953B. 48 from McCORMICK and 4 from EMPIRE GOLD.
(S.O.C.7, 182149 to C. in C. Plymouth)
Confirm that both ships have sunk.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 182234B to S.O.E.G.10)

/Operation ...

War Diary18.4.1945
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperations*Western Approaches*
West Coast of France - Contd.

- Operation C.H. Carry out operation C.H. T.C. series S.2 line 9 and 10 series S. 1 line 1. 0930/19th.
(N.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 181109B to ARIADNE)
- E.G.31. Request you will sail 31st E.G. at 0800B/19th to join Force 38.
(C. in C. W.A. 181110B to F.O.I.C. N.I.)
Arrived 31st E.G. C. in C. W.A. 171616 and 171824 refer.
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 181309B)
- U-Boat reported off Blasket Is. Skipper of trawler ISER reports seeing a snort and periscope 3' S.W. of S. Blasket Island when sheltering at 1100B/13th.
(2) This was corroborated by a doctor on the 14th at Valentia who volunteered the information first and the skipper was told that information of this kind is transmitted to London by wireless.
(3) The coastguards has told the doctor on the 14th that the S/M had moved on the Dingle Bay.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 181221B to Admty, C. in C. W.A.)
- Patrol. Sailed at 1200B/18th special service trawler ADELPHI supported by H.M.T. LARCH, to patrol between Tuskar and Kish light vessel.
Communications: Constant watch 2190 K/cs returning Milford Haven p.m./22nd.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 181231B)
- COLUMBINE, AUBRIETIA. COLUMBINE is to sail April 19th to relieve AUBRIETIA as weather reporting ship fuelling at Milford Haven on outward passage
(2) E.T.A. in 50 degs. N. 20 degs. 2 to be reported.
(3) AUBRIETIA is to proceed to Liverpool by standard route C on relief.
(C. in C. W.A. 181436B)
- E.G.5. F.O.I.C.Milford Haven is requested to sail 5th E.G. at 1400 tomorrow 19th via Q.Z.S.613 to relieve 10th E.G. in Force 31.
(2) On relief 10th E.G. proceed to Milford Haven for short lay-over.
(C. in C. W.A. 181721B)
- E.G.2. Com. D. Western Approaches is requested to sail 3 ships of 2nd E.G. at 1800/18 to rejoin Force 37.

War Diary

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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast of France *Western Approaches.*

E.G.2
(Contd.)

(2) On arrival S.O. 2nd E.G. is to detach remaining 2 ships for short lay-over at Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A. 171842B)

Contact
attacked.

WEST YORK and BELLVILLE attacked contact in 51 degs. 50' N. 7 degs. 34' W. at 2107B/18th.
(2) Contact was considered S/M hydrophone effect. Good Doppler and movement were reported by BELLVILLE. Large air bubble second attack.

(3) 20 second E.G. took over firm contact after several attacks which produced no further evidence at 2230B.

(4) Fix by Q.H. 3 and cross bearing shore lights indicated within 1 mile of W.142. Winner subsequently heard and no result from two further attacks. Depth charge and Hedgehog.

(5) Square search three mile sides round contact with negative results. Consider this confirms W.142 attacked.

(6) Leaving contact now to support G.U.65.

(7) Suitable.

(E.G.22, 182252Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Add to my 182252Z.

BELLVILLE reported contact was bottomed after first attack. Echo sounding trace showed good outline but small. This confirmed by HART and MAGPIE who consider too small.

(E.G.22, 182324Z)

18.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Destroyer sweep. Operation completed nothing met. Engaged shore searchlights.
(Operation "Insective") (S.O. Force 2, 180300B.)
One S/M on the surface bearing 120° distance 7 miles course unknown. My posn. 108 59° 00' N. 4° 00' E., 17.
(SCORPION, 180355B.)
My 0355 S/M in sight not an immediate danger to the Fleet position 112 59° 00' N., 4° 00' E.
(SCORPION, 180400B.)
My P.C.S. - 058° 53' N., 003° 08' E., 283°, 28 knots.
No contact with enemy except one submarine. Shore searchlights engaged.
(S.O. Force 2, 180530B.)
Following messages received from SCORPION begins:
(As SCORPION 180355B and 180400B.)
(D.C., 180615B to BIRMINGHAM.)
Scapa arrivals: BIRMINGHAM, SCORPION, SAVAGE, ZAMBESI, SCOURGE.
(C. in C. H.F. Ashore, 181428B.)

Operation V.P. My 181157B*.
(1) 062° 42' N., 006° 11' E.
(2) Jersey.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 181159.)
* N.T. in W.D.

Intend to carry out V.P.75 with 2 M.T.B.
(1) 1030B/19th. (2) Not later 2359B/19th. (3) Not later 0600B/20th. (4) ?245° towards Noss Head not more 20 knots.
(5) Not later p.m./20th April. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 065° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 181931B.)
My 181(931)B.
(1) 065° from Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
(2) 061° 22' N., 004° 30' E.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 181933B.)

VENTURER, patrol. My 151657. Extend southern limit of patrol area to 059° 55'.
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 181210B to F.O.(S/M.), C. in C. Rosyth, VENTURER.)
151647 intended. Intend to sail VENTURER 1500/17th.

Positions of submarines. (Extract) At 0800/19th and movements for next 24 hours.
(1) VARNE off Skudesnes.
(2) TOTEM approaching Lerwick from patrol.
(3) VENTURER on patrol Korsfjord area.
(C.W., 181842B.)

18.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

- Operation S.C. Intend sailing S.C. operation from Shetland.
- (1) 2300B/18th from Scalloway.
 - (2) 050° from Muckle Flugga to 062° 58' N., 004° 22' E. thence 107°, speed 13 knots.
 - (3) 2300B/19th.
 - (4) Between 2330B/19th and 0400B/20th.
 - (5) 287° to 062° 58' N., 004° 22' E., thence 230° to Muckle Flugga, 14 knots.
 - (6) p.m./20th. (7) 050° Muckle Flugga. (8) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 181157B.)
- Intend to sail S.C. operation from Shetlands.
- (1) 0100B/19th from Scalloway.
 - (2) 053° from Muckle Flugga to 062° 30' N., 003° 30' E., thence 098° speed 13 knots.
 - (3) 2300B/19th.
 - (4) Between 2330B/19th and 0400B/20th.
 - (5) 243° to Muckle Flugga 15 knots.
 - (6) p.m./20th.
 - (7) (?063°) Muckle Flugga. (8) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 181631B.) My 181631B.
 - (1) 062° 23' N., 005° 34' E. (2) Ramose Vedette. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 181633B.)
- Ramose Jersey. Sailed HITRA at 2300/18th.
- (2) Air escort not especially required on return journey. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 182303B.)

Operations

Baltic

Proposed attack by Liberators on U-Boats near Bornholm. Your 131930. Soviet (?Naval) Staff have agreed to proposals subject to following modifications. (2) Area of action to be limited to west of the meridian of 16° E. and north of the parallel of Cape Arkona (Rugen Island) as both Soviet submarines and light forces are operating south and east of these lines. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. (Admiral Archer, 181146B to Admty.)

Mining operations. Soviet Naval Staff have requested that this information may be expedited. I have called their attention to areas given in your 061202 July, 1943. (Admiral Archer, 181521B to Admty.)

Notes by War Registry:
(1) Above was originally given a small distribution with footnote that originator had been asked to quote reference.
(2) Admiral Archer now states above refers to his 111131 April (subject - Soviet Naval Staff request for full details of mining operations in Baltic).

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSNavigational

Seine River. Revised maximum allowable drafts for Seine River passage are as follows. This supersedes all previous figures. (C.T.G. 122.3, 181456Z.)

Casualties and Defects

CONAKRIAN. Following received from Salvage Officer in CONAKRIAN "Ship refloated. Is being towed to St. Tudno Buoy, Holehaven. T.O.O. 180605B". Ship passed in Thames Gate 0812. (Cdre. i/c. Southend, 180827B.)

CITY OF KHIOS. Following received from ship number 36758. Do not expect to be able to proceed owing to engine trouble tug is required. Please inform owner, ends. Anchored at B.5. (WESTMINSTER, 181040B.)

Wreck dispersals. From P.S.V.O. It is proposed to carry out dispersal operations on following wrecks as requested by C. in C. Nore and local authorities.
(1) Name unknown - position 51° 25'02" N., 03° 29'02" E.
(2) ELEFANTHERIA - position 51° 22'05" N., 03° 07'02" E.
(3) Name unknown - position 51° 24'57" N., 03° 28'02" E.
Request necessary authority to commence operations.
C. in C. Nore's 221140 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 181056B to Admty,)

LOUIS. My 121219B* for 5th June substitute 28th May. (F.O.I.C.N.I., 171713B.)
* LOUIS. Work of making good damage due to fire should be completed say 5th June.

FELICITY. FELICITY has defects in main circulator and is being escorted Small Downs by LIBERTY for repairs. Both ships have been ordered to join me South Falls buoy at 0830 tomorrow Thursday. (S.O. M/S.F.10, 182050B.)

Movements

HIGHWAY, SS. MONOWAI. HIGHWAY (S.O.) destination Gibraltar and SS. MONOWAI destination Malta in company with BEAGLE, CRANSTOUN and COSBY sailed Plymouth 0900B/18 to R/V with K.M.F.43 in 50° 06' N., 07° 28' W. at 2000B/18 thence BEAGLE, CRANSTOUN and COSBY return to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 180954B.)

/HIGHWAY ...

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18.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

HIGHWAY,
SS. MONOWAI.
(Contd.)

HIGHWAY, MONOWAI with BEAGLE, CRANSTOUN and
COSBY are to return Plymouth forthwith.
Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181457B to HIGHWAY, BEAGLE.)

DUQUESNE.

Re sailing to Casablanca to replenish main
battery ammunition and load French destroyer
ammunition to fill allowances and return to
Brest. Her maximum speed is 24 knots.

French authorities are informing Comar Casablanca of amounts
each category involved.
(Comnavforfrance, 181129 to A.N.C.X.F., A.N.C.X.F. 181528B to
Comar Brest, D.O.D.(H) 181729B to Comar Brest.)

QUEEN EMMA.

A.M. 211833 March - R.A.L.S.C.U. 160901 - not
to all. Intend to sail QUEEN EMMA from Clyde
in K.M.S.99 for Gibraltar and onward routeing
to India.
(C.O.D.(Mov.), 181207B.)

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Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

General
Franco

CANARIAS, ALMIRANTE CERVERA.
Will dry dock to clean. Will leave for Canary
Is. with 3 destroyers. Reported General Franco
personally accompany them to inspect works Canary
Is.
(P.R.O. Corunna, 181230B to Admty.)

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18.4.1945
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanCositintrep
No. 646
Extract

Coastal Air Forces. Wellingtons and Beaufighters on shipping R/C in North Adriatic bombed S/E contact unobserved. Spitfires scored probable hit and near misses on E-boat Farenzo Harbour. Wellingtons on R/C Gulf of Genoa bombed E-boats unobserved and hit factory north of Varese good. (H.Q.M.A.A.F., 181320B to War Office.)

CARABINIERE
(Italian
Destroyer)
Special
duty.

Your 121148. Ship will be fleet destroyer CARABINIERE expected ready to sail from Taranto 10th May.
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 181631B to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy
activities
in Home
Water.
Extra
escorts

Reference para. one. My 031016A March and para. 3a, A.M. 021656A March intend sailing remaining Corvettes of 37th E.G. to U.K. as follows CAMPTON forthwith LA MALOUINE on completion boiler cleaning at Naples about April 30th.

(2) Trawlers A.M. 281911A February will be released MOONSTONE, KINGSTON, CYANITE, about end April remaining 4 end May.
(C. in C. Mediterranean 181632B to Admty.)

Situation
report
No. 596

(1) Adriatic. M.T.B. 697 mined and sunk close to Spina Light on Krk Island. 21 survivors. Off Tagliento coastal craft night on 16th April attacked enemy convoy and sank two craft and probably a third without sustaining damage or casualties. Near Umago, same night Yugo-Slav coastal craft and an M.T.B. attacked an enemy convoy. An F. lighter blew up and sank and an R-boat probably sank. 1 Yugo-Slav craft had two wounded and superficial damage.
(2) Gulf of Genoa. ORION took part latest series bombardment by warships.
(C. in C. Med., 182301B to Admty. etc.)

War Diary18.4.1945
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

SS. BEMIS HEIGHTS ashore Aground 23 miles 120° from Perim high light. Latitude 012° 50' N. longitude 043° 06' E. Required tugs and lighters to lighten ship unless advised to jettison cargo. Master. (BEMIS HEIGHTS, 180210Z to Admty. Aden) See also 200812 and 210959.

BEMIS HEIGHTS reported aground in position 012° 50' N. 043° 06' E. at 0210Z/18th. Tugs ASSIDUOUS and CONFEDERATE have been despatched to her assistance.

(Com. Aden, 180943Z to C. in C. E.I.)

FLAMINGO Intend to sail FLAMINGO to U.K. leaving Colombo
A.A. Sloop p.m. 20th April.
(C. in C.E.I., 18053Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Re Reference A.M. 211525 March (N.T. in W.D.), final
Landing tests now complete. Operation considered
and tests satisfactory. Despatch being expedited by air
freight direct to N.P. 2450 together with full
description and instructions.

The use of this half brigade operation envisages holding bridgehead up to 300 yards inland, smoke over beach and craft, and live effects from small covering force including aircraft where possible.

(2) Reference your 101210 (N.T. in W.D.) March, in view of no stated requirement and amount of work involved, no further standard operations are at present being prepared but consider N.S.U. should have others available. Following are suggestions:-

(1) Small operation for two craft giving approach but turning off short of beach as though cancelling landing and proceeding parallel with coast to another beach.

(2) Small landing operation for four craft or less with playing time reduced to 1 - 1½ hours. Rhinos would not be included. Tanks land from L.C.Ts.

Request your comments and proposals.

(3) As result of last tests, considered Poplin can compete with Blossom on equal terms and at same time convey realism.

(4) Basic library catalogue now ready and will be despatched by air earliest possible.

(D.D.O.D.(C) 181753B to C. in C. E.I.S.)

18.4.1945
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

S/M
SEA ROVER

H.M. S/M SEA ROVER escorted by H.M.C.S. GUELPH arrived St. Johns 0812Z/18th.
(F.O.N.F., 180820Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Berthing
in U.K.
Return of
R.C.N.
escort
vessels

Consideration has been given to the berthing problem, which will arise in U.K. on the cessation of the U-boat war.

(2) It is thought that you will wish for the return of R.C.N. Escort Vessels as soon as the U-boat situation permits.

(3) Accordingly, and in view of the shortage of berthing in the U.K., it is proposed that all R.C.N. escort vessels should return to Canada

upon Admiralty directive that the U-boat threat has so diminished as to permit of this.

(4) Request your concurrence or remarks.
(D.O.D.(H), 180913B to N.S.H.Q.)

U-boat
dispositions

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q., 181346Z and Cominch, 181527Z.)

U.S.
Hospital
Ships

War Department has designated two Hospital ships FRANCES Y. SLANGER (ex. Italian Flag Vessel SATURNIA) and REPUBLIC.

FRANCES Y. SLANGER:- Gross tonnage 24,470, length 630 feet. Four King Posts. Two Signal Masts. One Funnel. No poop or forecastle.

REPUBLIC:- Gross tonnage 17,886. Length 600 feet. Four Masts.
(Cominch, 181445 to U.S. Fleet.)

R.C.N.
volunteers
for War in
Far East.

(1) Following the defeat of Germany, only volunteers will be sent to the Far Eastern Theatre of War. All personnel will be granted thirty days' leave in Canada before proceeding to the theatre of operations.

(2) It is the intention that the R.C.N. contribution to the war against Japan will be

limited to modern and effective men of war such as Cruisers, Carriers, Destroyers and Frigates.

(3) It is, therefore, necessary for all personnel to state whether or not they are willing to volunteer for service in the Far East.

(4) Any who do not volunteer or who do volunteer but are not selected for service in the Pacific Theatre, will continue to serve as required elsewhere.

(5) Commanding Officers are to explain the situation, and give all Officers and Ratings an opportunity to sign the following undertaking - "I hereby volunteer for service in the war against Japan and agree to serve in the Pacific Theatre and/or any other theatre for the duration of hostilities should my services be so required."

(N.S.H.Q., 181917Z to All Senior Officers R.C.N.)

War Diary18.4.1945
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.Canada
Minister
of Defence
Resignation
of.

"A few days ago I placed my resignation as Minister of National Defence for Naval Services in the hands of the Prime Minister. Today he accepted my resignation and named the Honourable D.C. Abbott M.P. as my successor. I invite for Mr. Abbott the same loyal support and generous co-operation that were accorded me." Angus L. MacDonald.
(N.S.H.Q., 182028Z to All S.Os., R.C.N. Ships.)

U-boat
report

Para. (a) 180540Z. Azores based Liberator radar contact and subsequently illuminated surfaced U-boat 46.28 N. 33.59 W. course 250 speed 15. Admty. give H.Q.C.C. B.A.D. and N.M.C.J.S. have. (Cominch, 182042Z to Admty., for O.I.C.)

SWIFT SCOUT (Yacht)
(Yacht)
torpedoed.

SWIFT
(Yacht) SCOUT torpedoed 1330 G.M.T. 18th. April
037° 30' N. 073° 03' W.
(CHANCELLORVILLE, 182140Z to C.E.S.F.)
Ask permission to enter Chesapeake Bay with seriously injured men. Master.
(CHANCELLORVILLE, 182200Z to C.E.S.F.)

Far East and AustraliaDigest
Serial
1183.

3. Mariners from Lingayen night 16th - 17th April attacked single large tanker with small escort among many junks 50 miles S.S.E. Amoy heading North, Tanker believed sunk by one direct hit two near misses.

5. Liberator from Palawan saw single medium transport with two escorts 140 miles (W.S.E.) Jaeawak heading west destroyed single small coaster off south west Borneo, sank single small freighter transport loaded with troops 35 miles south-east Kuantan (Malay Peninsula) heading North, sank single barge off north Natoena Island.

7/4. 8. Supported by cruisers and destroyers of 7th Fleet American Forces landed unopposed at Parang and Malabang (Mindanao), secured Malabang airfield, vanneu out rapidly inland.

12. 16th April 3 single R.A.A.F. Liberators destroyed two barges, damaged another barge and two Phahus Flores sea, damaged Lugger off Cape Chater (Timor)
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 180710Z to Admty.)

Extracts
from
signals
interchanged
between U.S.
Com. 5th Flt.
& C.T.F.57.

(a) From Com. 5th Fleet replying to C.T.F.57 reporting further availability and intentions for strikes 16th and 17th April "affirmative. This is fine initiative and co-operation."
(b) From C. in C. Pac. referring to C.T.F.57's report of availability further to prolong

/operations...

18.4.1945
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONSFar East and Australia

Extracts from signals interchanged between U.S. Com. 5th Flt. & C.T.F.57 (Contd.)

operations to 19th April (since amended to 20th April) "Your 161246 to Com. 5th Fleet is noted with gratification.
(2) It is characteristic of your Force repeatedly to put forth extra effort whenever there is any chance of added damage to the enemy.
(3) You have my appreciation for an offer so in keeping with the traditions of the British Navy." (C. in C. B.P.F., 180831Z to Admty.)
It is with great pleasure that I have passed the sense of Com. Fifth Fleet 122330 and C. in C. Pac. 171249 to Admiralty and B.A.D. Washington in my 180831 not to you.
(C. in C. B.P.F., 180832 to C.T.F.57.)

PHILANTE Escort training ship.

Your 280321Z March.* Whilst PHILANTE has been found satisfactory for duties in connection with Group Training, she has no distilling plant and is fitted with special Diesel engines which may present difficulties in maintenance.
(2) Request confirmation that these limitations are acceptable and that increased communication facilities plotting offices etc. will not be required.
(D.O.D.(F) 181611B to C. in C. B.P.F.) Also 220249Z.

Aircraft Seafires "New type"

Your 070632. Following characteristics are necessary for operating Seafires in Pacific where a heavy swell is frequent:
(a) Larger flaps or device for landing? float.
(b) Smaller diameter propellor or means of reducing forward pitch on landing.
(c) Increased angle of glide.
(d) Softer non-bounce oloo legs.
(2) Following combat characteristics are considered necessary for Seafires being used for fleet defence in the face of continuous threat of enemy air attack:
(a) Four and a half hours' endurance at 180 knots to allow three hour patrols.
(b) Aircraft to be capable of being arrested and of fighting when carrying long range tanks.
(c) Two .5 inch guns or two 20 mm. guns to be substituted for four .303 guns at present fitted.
(d) Oxygen sufficient for three hours at 25,000 feet.
(e) Take-off at full load with long range tank not to exceed 400 feet in 30 knot wind.
(3) Following characteristics are required if Seafires are to be used for offensive sorties:
(a) Two thirds of tankage required by para. 2a to be protected.
(b) Drop tanks to be of the pylon type.
(c) Twin radiator system to be fitted with provision for using one radiator only if the other is damaged.
(A.C.1, 181728Z to C. in C., B.P.F.)

Organisation Admiralty - 181953B to C. in C. B.P.F., D.N.A.O.
of A/C B.P.F. See Lion Copy.

TOP SECRET

OUT

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied ^{181955B April} Services.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted ^{Date 18. 5. 45.}

To C. in C. B.P.F.
Info V.A.(Q)
F.O.N.A.S.(A)
+A.C.1
C. in C. E.I.
F.O.(Air) E.I.
+A.C.11

*Organised into Aircraft
B.P.F.*

C.C.M. F.O's Naval (S)

From Admiralty,

+IMPORTANT +BASEGRAM

Your 300340 December para. 1(A), 190743 January
V.A.(Q) 141034 January and A.M.031828 April para. 4.

The present arrangement of the aircraft squadrons for each carrier whereby the establishment of aircraft allocated to the ship is greater than the number of aircraft or the total of their associated personnel that can be carried on board has not proved entirely satisfactory. The ideal would be to provide each carrier with an air group wherein the number of aircraft and the total associated personnel with aircrews overborne 25% can be carried within the aircraft operating capacity or personnel accommodation of the carrier, whichever is the less, and to organise spare air groups to enable complete exchanges to be made. Shortage of manpower and the limited resources of the planned air expansion programme preclude such a policy in its entirety.

2. As a compromise which should go a long way to meet your requirements, it has been proposed to adjust the present carrier air groups to an operating strength which is more suitable to personnel accommodation in the carriers, and then by reorganising the surplus from each group and the squadrons from the present replenishment carriers to provide spare groups to the following scale. For Fleet Carriers 100%. For Light Fleet Carriers 50%.

3. To provide the above the following operating strengths have been approved as the basis for the proposed organisation:-

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| ILLUSTRIOUS Class | 30 Corsair, 15 Avenger |
| INDEFATIGABLE Class | 48 Seafire, 15 Avenger, 12 Firefly. |
| INDOMITABLE | 48 Hellcat, 15 Avenger, 12 Firefly. |
| Light Fleet Carriers | 21 Corsair or 12 Barracuda Seafire Firefly or Firebrand |
| Assault Carriers | 24 Hellcat or Seafire |

Under/

Under this organisation three General Purpose carriers will be provided with 12 Barracudas each from the end of the European War till about March 1946 after which there is no provision for General Purpose carriers.

4. The programme provides for the following in addition.

Night Fighters. Three groups of 12 Hellcat and
12 Firefly each.
P.R.U. Two units of 6 Hellcat each.
A.S.R. Five units of 6 Sea Otters.

Two Squadrons of 12 Mosquitos each are being formed during the later part of 1945 which are initially intended for special operations but will later be allocated to INDEFATIGABLE Class with squadrons also formed for the spare groups.

5. It is intended to provide at least one night fighter Light Fleet carrier but the earlier night fighter squadrons will be sent to the South West Pacific as soon as they are trained. The first Firefly squadron should leave U.K. about June and the first Hellcat squadron about September.

6. The following is the organisation which would follow your concurrence to the proposal.

| Carriers | Carrier Air Groups | Fighter Squadron | Strike Sqdn (1) | Strike Sqdn (2) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ILLUSTRIOUS Class 3 ships | Total 6 | 15 I.E. Corsair each | 15 I.E. Avenger each | - |
| | 1 | 1830 1833 | 854 | - |
| | 2 | 1834 1836 | 849 | - |
| | 3 | 1841 1842 | 848 | - |
| | 4 | 1843 1845 | 852 | - |
| | 5 | 1852 1837 | 853 or 855 | - |
| | 6 | 1838 1832 | 846 | - |
| INDEFATIGABLE Class 2 Ships | Total 4 | 24 I.E. Seafire each | 15 I.E. Avenger each. | 12 I.E. Firefly each. |
| | 7 | 887 894 | 820 | 1770 |
| | 8 | 801 880 | 828 | 1771 |
| | 9 | 899 882 | 855 or 853 | 1773 |
| | 10 | 897 895 | 851 | 1774 |
| INDOMITABLE 1 Ship | Total 2 | 24 I.E. Hellcat each | 15 I.E. Avenger each | 12 I.E. Firefly each |
| | 11 | 1839 1844 | 857 | 1772 |
| | 12 | 885 896 | 845 | 1775 |

/COLOSSUS

OUT

SECRET

~~HUSH CANCELLED~~

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.)

- 3 -

| Carriers | Carrier Air Groups | Fighter Squadron | Strike Sqdn. (1) | Strike Sqdn. (2) |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| COLOSSUS Class 4 Ships | Total 6 | 21 I.E. Corsair each | 12 I.E. Barracuda each | - |
| | 13 | 1846 | 827 | |
| | 14 | 1850 | 812 | |
| | 15 | 1851 | 814 | |
| | 16 | 1831 | 837 | |
| | 17 | 1835 | 824 | |
| | 18 | 1853 | 825 | |

After the first four ships it is planned to have another two Light Fleet carriers with Corsairs but that possibility depends on future assignments. The alternative will be Seafire 47 in due course for all the remaining Light Fleet carriers. The strike aircraft will be Barracuda, Firefly or Firebrand depending on availability.

7. The re-organisation would be affected as follows:-

Corsair Squadrons

Existing squadrons in the Fleet carriers and Light Fleet carriers to reduce to their new I.E. as soon as convenient. Consequent thereon to form 1852, 1837, 1838, 1832 Squadrons when required for their carrier groups. In view of ILLUSTRIOUS impending refit number 6 C.A.G. will not be required for some months. Number 1 C.A.G. should be reformed as soon as possible as a spare group by deferring the formation of 1852 and 1837 squadrons for number 5 C.A.G. or could be reduced and reformed at a date to conform with ILLUSTRIOUS future programme.

Seafire Squadrons

There is no change in the existing squadrons in Fleet Carriers. Three squadrons for replacement groups will be provided by re-equipping existing Wildcat squadrons with Seafires. This will be done after the European war when the squadrons concerned are released from operations.

Hellcat Squadrons

Existing squadrons in INDOMITABLE to increase to 24 I.E. each as soon as possible. Squadrons for replacement group are already formed.

/Avenger

Avenger Squadrons

Existing squadrons in the Fleet Carriers to reduce to their new I.E. as soon as convenient. Consequent thereon to form 852 and 855 squadrons for numbers 4 and 9 or 5 C.A.G. The Avenger Squadrons for numbers 6, 5 or 9, 10 and 12 cannot be provided until after the end of the European war when they will be withdrawn from their present carriers. It is hoped that increased Avenger assignments will enable the total I.E. to be increased to 180 required and maintain that figure until the Mosquitos are introduced.

Barracuda Squadrons

Existing squadrons in Light Fleet carriers to reduce to their new I.E. Consequent thereon to form the squadrons for numbers 17 and 18 C.A.G.

8. It is realised that these proposals have the effect of reducing the aircraft operational strength of the majority of carriers but taking accommodation overcrowding into account with the desirability for having spare groups, this solution is considered to be the most satisfactory. Any aircraft capacity which becomes available in the carriers is intended to be used for carrying replacement aircraft of the classification F.I.R. defined in A.F.O.1380/45.

9. The adoption of this policy will in fact remove the squadrons from the replenishment carriers. The policy for the use of those carriers to support operations will need some revision. Consideration is being given now to the possibility of providing aircrews to overbear squadrons by 50%. Should this be possible it is envisaged that the carriers will go into the line with 125% aircrews embarked and with the remaining 25% of the air group aircrews and those embarked from the pool in the replenishment carriers along with replacement aircraft. This is a problem which would be tackled if the main proposal is acceptable to you.

10. Request your early remarks.

181953B ⁵⁰⁰ 08/12/45 ^{MA 4} _{12/12/45}

D.N.A.O. (Tel. No. 181)
Approved A.C.N.S. (A)

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1st Lord | Nav. Sec. | D.A.C.R. | E.A.P. | C.I.N.O.) |
| 1st S.L. (3) | Sec. | Hd. of Air Br. | D. of S. (3) | Hd. of) |
| D.F.S.L. (2) | Dep. Sec. | D.A/S.W. | D.T.S.D. | S.W.R.) |
| 2nd S.L. | Par. Sec. | D.A.J.D. | D.A.M.R. | (3)) |
| 3rd S.L. | P.A.S. (S) | D. of P. (2) | D.N.A.R. (3) | |
| 4th S.L. | D.O.D. (H) (4) | D. of P. (Q) (3) | D.A.S. (L) | |
| 5th S.L. | D.O.D. (F) (2) | Hd. of M. (5) | D.N.O. | |
| V.C.N.S. | D.C. | Ad. Blake | D.A.E. | |
| Vice Contr. | D.D.I.C. (2) | W.D. | C.N.R. (MAP) | |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.N.I. (4) | N.A.2 S.L. (A) | D. of D. | |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | D.C.N.A.E. | A.C.N.P. | Dep. Contr. } | |
| A.C.N.S. (A) (2) | D.N.A.O. (4) | D. of M. | D. of D. } | |
| A.C.N.S. (W) | (A.O.D. 137/45) | Hd. of C.W. | D.A.S. } | Bath |
| A.C.N.S. (UT) (2) | D.A.W.T. | Hd. of N. | D.N.O. } | |

OUT

SECRET

CANCELLED
BIGOT

18.4.1945
Wednesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
 attack
 and
 sighting
 summary.

For 24 hours to 0800Z April 18th.

Para. A.

- (1) H.M.S. SCORPION reported U-boat on surface at 0155Z 18th April in approx. 58° 47' N. 04° 47' E.
- (2) Norwegian KARMT and British FILLEIGH torpedoed at 0347Z and 0354Z 18th April respectively in approximately 51° 19' N. 01° 43' E.
- (3) A/C J/206 attacked conning tower with depth charges at 1625Z 17th in 56° 28' N. 00° 15' W.

Para. B. (1) A/C M/236 attacked smoke presumed from snort with 2 depth charges at 1332Z 17th in 52° 25' N. 03° 30' E.

(2) U.S. Ships BENSON and LUDLOW attacked contact at 0944Z 17th in 46° 54' N. 06° 06' W.

(3) Training Catalina obtained radar contact course 245° at 2100Z 16th in 53° 55' N. 14° 55' W.

Para. C. (1) M.L.593 attacked contact at 1920Z 16th in approx. 51° 29' N. 01° 27' E.

(2) WOLFHOUND at 1922Z 17th and later VIVIEN attacked contact in approximately 55° 51' N. 01° 49' W.

(3) A/C P/86 attacked contact at 1335Z 17th in 57° 45' N. 02° 18' W.

(4) A/C H/86 attacked contact at 1515Z 17th in 57° 45' N. 02° 15' W.

(5) A/C S/86 reported wake and swirl at 1407Z 17th in 58° 08' N. 03° 15' W.

(6) A/C G/224 reported sighting object believed to indicate U-boat at 0455Z 18th March in 57° 40' N. 01° 40' W.

(7) A/C B/159 sighted 2 wakes each with smoke course 190° and 220° at 0906Z/17th April in 59° 50' N. 03° 21' W. and 59° 49' N. 03° 20' W. respectively attacked latter.

(8) AYRSHIRE attacked contact at 1550Z 17th in 51° 38' N. 05° 17' W.

(9) A/C B/105 attacked possible snort with bombs in 1134Z 17th in 49° 53' N. 01° 15' W.

(D.D.I.C., 181204B ~~and~~ Cominch N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

U-boat

Estimates.

dispositions

(D.D.I.C., 181414B, to A.I.G. Cominch.)

O.)
 E
 a
 H

19.4.1945..
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1. Several midget U-boats were sighted by aircraft off the Dutch coast last night.

Baltic.

2(a) Coastal Command aircraft today report that at 1630 an enemy force of 4 U-boats and a minesweeper were located 9 miles S.E. of Anholt (Kattegat) and were attacked with R.P. and cannon with the result that a 500 ton and a 740 ton U-boat were severely damaged and subsequently sank; a third was damaged, causing it to stop: the fourth submerged before an attack could be made. The minesweeper was left listing and emitting smoke following an explosion on the stern.

(b) Coastal command aircraft also report successful attacks on merchant shipping in the Kattegat and Skagerrak last night.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

U/B
probably
sunk.

U. 879 sunk

3. U.S.S. BUCKLEY with T.G.22.10 probably sank U/B at 0650Z today in lat. 42° 19' N., 61° 45' W. 160' S.E. of Halifax after Hedgehog attack. Two big explosions and various gear of German origin were brought to surface. Diesel oil continued to rise.

East Indies

Sumatra

4. A further report of operation "Sunfish" off west coast of Sumatra states that destroyers of the force sank 6 supply ships.

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19.4.1945.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Far East & Australia

China

5. U.S. Liberators and Privateers sank six small vessels and damaged four others off South China and Formosa and a lugger was left sinking 10 miles E. of Swatow.

19.4.1945
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

C.C.N.C.A. Reference recent conversation intend to assume title of Captain Commanding Naval Concentration Area (short title C.C.N.C.A.).
(2) My H.Q. are at Cavalry Barracks Bourg Leopold.
(Capt. P.H.G. James R.N. 191149B to A.N.C.X.F.)

OperationsNorth Sea

U-Boat attacked. BARDSEY, LEICESTER CITY 2220 Asdic 3.5 miles R.29 buoy.
5 attacks lost contact. Sweep in vicinity till daylight.
(BARDSEY, 190040B to C. in C. Rosyth)

Patrols. D.S.O. Article 31. Just issued.
Patrols are to be occupied in the following order of priority with craft available.
(1) D.C. (2) D.D. (3) D.F. (4) D.J. (5) D.K.
(6) D.H. (7) D.L. (8) D.M.
(A.C. Dover, 191142B to N.O.I.C.Ramsgate)

O.C.E.N.C.A.B. Captain P.H.G. James R.N. has assumed duty of Officer commanding "Eclipse" Naval Party Concentration Area Belgium ((Short title) O.C.E.N.C.A.B.).
(2) Headquarters at Bourglepold.
(3) Signals via B.N.S.C.
(A.N.C.X.F. Main, 191245B)

Operations "Placket", "Cackle", "Clearway", and "Fireball".
My 021507 para. (C). Request forces may now be held at seven days notice.
(A.N.C.X.F. (Main), 191302B to C. in C. Nore)

Minesweeping. My 190944/. Defect made good. Separated from Flotilla by thick fog.
(S.O. M/S.F.18, 191411B)
/ One Acoustic detonated 20 yards astern of READY. No casualties apparently little damage.
(N.T. in W.D.)

Tomorrow Friday unless otherwise ordered conduct following E.G.M.S. sweeping.

Q.Z.S.684. Either side of centre line N.F.3 to N.F.7.
(2) Anchor off Harwich for the night. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Nore, 191745B to M/S.10)

Your 191745B acknowledged. Intend proceeding with 6 minesweepers at 0430 tomorrow Friday.
(S.O.M/S.10, 191950B to C. in C. Nore)

War Diary19.4.1945
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.Search
for U-Boat.Your 191210. Search following area from south
to north on line of Scabbard search.

(2) Area joining following positions:

051 degs. 12' N. 001 degs. 35' E.

051 degs. 12' N. 001 degs. 52' E.

051 degs. 30' N. 001 degs. 43' E.

051 degs. 30' N. 002 degs. 00' E.

(3) Ships to search on E. to W. course. All contacts to be
classified by Echo sounding. Attention is called to C.B.4097

(4) (44) para. 593(B) and (C).

(C. in C. Nore, 191457B to S.O.E.G.16)

Reference C. in C. Nore's 202319A March and 310007A/
March. One actuation E.G.M.S. and explosive sweep 5 cables
South of centre line completed.

One Blue mine detonated at 0837B in 51.23.30 N. 02.48.40 E.

One red mine detonated at 0829B in 51.23.30 N. 02.48.40 E.

(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 192929 to F.O. Belgium)

Request channel may be swept to a width of one mile radius
instead of 6 cables.

Sweeping report for Thursday 19th April (Extract).

1 Acoustic mine detonated at 0852B in position 51.23.06 N.
02.49.48 E.

(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 192021)

Cositintrep
No.380.

Part 24 Section A.

Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/18
April.

(S.H.A.E.F. Main, 191515A.)

Disposal of
defective
bombs.Request you designate disposal area defective
bombs. Com. Z.181427B being passed to you
refers.

(C.T.F.122, 191600 to A.N.C.X.F.(Main)

Your 181427B/ not to all refers. No ship con-
taining such cargo should be brought within 4
miles of any port. No future ships of this nature should be
sailed to the continent. Recommend all personnel not necessary
for ship operation be removed as soon as possible from No.165
now in Pasture with 1280 tons defective bombs. For safety
your personnel recommend that bombs be placed on old barges
towed to dumping ground and sunk. Area for disposal of bombs
has been requested.

(C.T.F.122, 191605 to Com. Z.) / E.X. 24017.

U-Boat and To 1200B/19th. Nil Report.
S.B.U. summary.(A.C. Dover, 191647B)

/3 S.B.U's...

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19.4.1945
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

- 3 S.B.U's. My 180944, not to all. Two Control Boats and one Linse have been recovered intact and in running condition complete with all control gear and explosives. Craft are now at Ostend. Request instructions as to disposal. (N.O.I.C.Ostend, 191609 to Admty.)
- Fleet M/S.F. required. A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 151832B / . Request an additional Fleet Minesweeping Flotilla may be temporarily allocated to Nore Command to operate from Humber. (C. in C. Nore, 191701B to Admty.) / German North Sea Port to be opened.
- Navigation lights in Straits of Dover. British B.A.M.S. lettered message Q.E. is cancelled, instructions have been promulgated to those concerned by other means. (D.T.D. 191950B)
- Cositintrep No.380. Part II Naval. (Extract). Ostend. As a result of wreck dispersal and dredging least depth in entrance channel, Evant and Nouvel Avant ports is now 15 feet. Entrance Channel 200 feet wide between wrecks. Maximum dimensions of ships acceptable, length 400, beam 56 draught, 23 feet. (2) Force T. Party landed from 3 L.C.A. at mouth of River Grebbe at 0250/19 and withdrew at 0310/19 from M.R. 522748. No contact made with enemy. (Burrough signed Eisenhower, 192335B)

Operations

Channel

- U-Boat attacked. Am attacking S/Ms position 085 Eddystone 9.8 miles. (LUNDY, 190016B to C. in C. Plymouth)
- Patrols. When SOMALILAND arrives CRANSTOUN proceed join LOCH KILLIN BURGES on patrol Pendeen to Lizard. (C. in C. Plymouth, 191120B to CRANSTOUN.) On completion of duties as in my 181142 para. 3. ships addressed proceed establish A/S patrol on coastal convoy route Lizard to Start. (2) On relief by 15th E.G. about 2100B/19 SHIPPIGAN, DORNOCH, BEAUMARIS return to Falmouth. (3) Communications as in my 181757B/. SHIPPIGAN acknowledge. (C. in C. Plymouth, 191132B to SHIPPIGAN, DORNOCH, BEAUMARIS) / Operation "Artisan".

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19.4.1945
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.

^{shippigan}
 Mine-laying
 Artisan

Your (281)520B Part 2 completed and skimmed to 42 feet below chart datum negative result.

(2) PLOVER to Portsmouth escorted by PARRSBORO, WESTRALIA.

(3) SHIPPIGAN, BEAUMARIS, DORNOCH, ARMANA to Falmouth E.T.A. 1330.

(SHIPPIGAN, 191138B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Series B 2 part II.

(A) Initial position 049 degs. 49' 34" N. 005 degs. 01' 12" W. halt 230 degs. for 3.227 miles.

(B) PLOVER. (C) 19th April, 1945, 1024.

(D) 61 to 60½ feet. (E) 13 XVII assembly 1 and 87 XX II assembly 26/XVII assembly 8.

(PLOVER, 191608B)

A/S sweep.

Your 191121. Carry out A/S sweep to the W. and S. of Scillies adjusting speed to arrive Plymouth at 0900B/20 for lay-over.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 191504B to LOCH LOMOND, MOORSOM)

Channel
Is.

No firing from Alderney since last report.

2 targets tracked from Guernsey to Alderney between 1635/18 and 1900/18. Speed about 7.

2305/18 target picked up 10 miles west of

Flamanville on Esterly/ course. P.T.'s sent to

investigate could not locate target. Target not confirmed by

other Radar stations but regular characteristics and evasive

tactics tend to establish existence of actual target as very

small boat speed up to 12 knots. Faded 4 miles E. of Sark at

0200/19. 90 mm. battery at Vauville picked up another

target at 0120/19 6 miles southwest Cap de la Hague. Fired on

target which faded soon afterward. This target not confirmed

by other Radar stations. 2 targets tracked from Alderney to

Guernsey between 1722/19 and 1855/19. Speed 8.

(C.T.G.122.2, 192033B) / As received - letter omitted.

OperationsWest Coast of France

Blockade of
Biscay Coast.

Night patrol 18th/19th from all N. and W. 046 degs. 30' 00l degs. 58' to 045 degs. 45' 00l degs. 37'.

Nothing to report. Fuel stock remaining at 0800B-

314 tons 48.5%. Intend to escort French Mail

Ship this morning from Ile D'Yeu towards Fromentine

Admiralty pass to Comar, Brest.

(IA SURPRISE, 190745B)

BASQUE arrived Brest 1405B relieved on patrol 27 A by L'ALCYON which sailed from Brest at 0800B/19th.

(Comar, Brest, 191445B)

Cancel paras. 2 and 3 of my 182331B.

(2) Patrol similar to that in para. (1) of my 181554B will be flown by Sunderland A/C again tonight and tomorrow 20th April.

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19.4.1945
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsWest Coast France

Blockade of Biscay Coast. (Contd.) A/C call signs. (3) In addition one Sunderland A/C will leave vicinity Brest on coastwise sweep as far South as 45 degs. 45' N. and will contact patrol A of Force 27 if sighted. A/C will return along coast and then carry out an A/U sweep to westward from vicinity 47 degs. N. 03 degs. W. A/C callsigns R/T Hamper W/T UDV.30.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 191911B to Force 27)
L'AVENTURE will relieve F.S. LA SURPRISE on patrol 27 tomorrow morning. At 1800B/20 F.S. LA SURPRISE returns Brest by reverse route E.T.A. 1200B/21.
(C.F.N.T.F. 192242B)

DUQUESNE. Sailed DUQUESNE, L'AVENTURE, HOVA to comply with 181729B Admiralty. S. of A. 18 knots N. of 45 degs. 30' N. 19 knots afterward.
(Comar, Brest, 191012B)

Addition to my 191012B. E.T.A. DUQUESNE 1900B/21st. L'AVENTURE detached Position B for patrol 27 A. Speed 15 knots. HOVA will return to Brest from Position B Speed 16 knots.
(Comar, Brest, 191152B)

Western Approaches.

Attack on H.X.348 18th April. Your 182234B. One ship sunk, the other in 2 parts, still burning.
(S.O.E.G.10, 190004B to C. in C.Plymouth)
One half of wreck has sunk other half still burns, is not repetition not salvagable and will sink very shortly. Your 190523 refers.

Search unproductive so far. Operating conditions have improved.
(S.O.E.G.10, 190820B to C. in C. Plymouth)
Both parts of wreck have now sunk. Search so far has only revealed Non-S/Ms, Asdic operating conditions good. Suitable for Schnorkeling. Following is weather report 0070 2123.
(S.O.E.G.10, 191127B)

E.G.22, E.G.31, E.G.13 (Force 38). On being relieved by E.G. 31 E.G.22 is to proceed to Liverpool to lay-over.
(2) HART is to be detached at Ple should this be earlier.
(C. in C. W.A. 190036B to E.G.22)
Sailed 31st E.G. to comply with C. in C. W.A's 181110/. S. of A. 12 knots. Group carries thirty wires.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 190807B).
31st E.G. to join Force 38.

My 191108. Will patrol vicinity K.3 Buoy until you arrive in area, cancel reference to M.H. 88 in my 190916 owing to shortage of fuel.
(E.G.22, 191146B to E.G.31)

/Proceed ...

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War Diary19.4.1945
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperations~~West Coast France~~ *Western Approaches.*

- E.G.22,
E.G.31,
E.G.13,
(Force 38).
(Contd.)
- Proceed direct to R/V with Bristol Channel Section U.C.B.64B escorted by U.S.S. KOINER off St. Govans L/V at 0130Z/20 and escort to Tuskar R/V.
(2) On joining Main Irish Sea Section detach and form Force 38.
(C. in C. W.A. 191640B)
LANCASTER CASTLE attacking bottomed contact in 53 degs. 10' N. 05 degs. 14' W. suitable.
(E.G.31, 191919B)
My 191919B. Classified non-S/M. Am proceeding to join U.S.S. KOINER. Suitable.
(S.O.E.G.31, 192004B)
- E.G.10.
- If not in contact detach two ships to search for Wellington A/C believed down in 47 degs. 40' N. 09 degs. 18' W. at 0155B/19. Report names of ships detached. Wellington callsign M.V.Y.65 is searching the area. 15 Group R/C frequency.
(C. in C. C.W.A. 190258B to S.O.E.G.10)
- Operation
CH.
- My 181109B April. Sailed ARIADNE.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 190935)
C.H. Serial 1 Line 1 and Serial 2 Line 9 and 10 completed.
(ARIADNE, 191815B)
- Reasay
S/M
Sanctuary.
- It has been found that areas E and F of Reasay Sanctuary contain a number of uncharted Pinnacle Rocks which have already resulted in several unexpected groundings and damage to one S/M. S/Ms are naturally rather nervous of going deep in this area. As practice with 147B would be eliminated if deep diving is prohibited I have at present, persuaded Captains S/M that the shallow areas have been mainly located and that further mishaps are unlikely. I do not feel that this is satisfactory and request that an effort should be made to obtain a surveying vessel. A rough survey only with Echo sounder is required and it is considered that it could probably be completed in about 3 days.
(T.C. PHILANTE, 191202 to C. in C. W.A.)
Note: Above message is referred to in C. in C. W.A's 201149B.
- NATAL.
- Sailed NATAL (S.A.N.F.) 7½ hours late. My 182008B refers.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 191334B to S.O.E.G.8)
- T.G.63.1.
- My position 1200Z - 42.45 N. 14.44 W. Compliance Admiralty's 191129B to all requires heading E. Request verification. Had good sound contact at 1200Z. Dropped charges, unable to definitely classify.
(C.T.G.63.1, 191405Z to Admty.)
/E.G.5 ...

War Diary19.4.1945
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperations*Western Approaches*
West Coast of France - Contd.

E.G.5 Sailed 5th E.G. (S.O. in AYLNER) to relieve 10th
(Force 31). E.G. in Force 31.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 191443B)

TYLER At 1750 in 051 degs. $46^{\circ} \frac{1}{2}$ North 006 degs. 30'
strikes a W. TYLER struck submerged object putting asdic
whale. out of action. Speed $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots Unifoxers
streamed. AYLNER and BLIGH searching in case
object was U-Boat.

(2) Second division KEATS (S.O) complying with
your 191529/ S. of A $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Suitable.
(S.O.E.G.5, 191830B to C. in C. W.A.)
/ Not yet identified.

My 191830 not to all addresses. Dome and Oscillator in
TYLER probably lost. TYLER proceeding to Milford Haven for
examination E.T.A. 2200.

(S.O.E.G. 5, 191910B)

Have abandoned search. Whale sighted in area. Complying
with your 191529 speed 21 knots BLIGH in company. My 191830
refers.

(S.O.E.G.5, 192108B to C. in C. W.A.)

Programme for Amend my 281826 March as follows.
support E.G.6 delete. E.G.12 delete. Further signal
groups. will be made.
E.G.14 sail 30/4. E.G.16 return 25/4 sail 5/5.
(C. in C. W.A. 191848B)

U-Boat and To 1200B/19th.
S.B.U. Summary. (1) 2025/18. Mosquito sighted 5 wakes which
pilot considered were possibly caused by U-Boats
type 23 in 53.42 N. 06.18 E. Course 260.
(2) 238/18. A/C reported Midget U-Boat 53.56

N. 06.44 E. Course 250.

(3) 0059/19 Wellington D/407 reported illuminated Midget U-Boat
52.17 N. 03.52.17 N. 03.46 E. (as received).

(4) 0310/19 Wellington D/407 reported illuminated Midget U-Boat
52.50 N. 03.33 E.

(C. in C. Nore, 191912B)

As from 2200B/19th, Force 31 is disbanded.

(C. in C. W.A. 192128B)

S/M for My 071907 Nov. 1944 understood from F.O.S/M that
sinking in 2 further S/Ms are available for sinking.
Reasay (2) Experience SEA LION shows training value
Sanctuary. is considerable for escorts in Clyde area.
(3) Sunken German U-Boat(s) now provide facilities
off Londonderry but there is no guarantee that
another will become available for group training
under training Capt. PHILANTE. Owing to natural bottom in
Reasay Sanctuary it is difficult for our S/Ms to bottom and
there is now a requirement for one to be sunk there.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast of France *Western Approaches*

S/M for
sinking
in Reasay
Sanctuary.
(Contd.)

(4) Request therefore that one S/M may be allocated, sinking being undertaken by Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association as for SEA LION.
(5) A further request for the second S/M will be made when further requirement is more definitely known.
(C. in C. W.A. 192134Z to Admty.)

Operations

Norway

TOTEM,
patrol
report.

TOTEM reports in accordance with I.S.O.H.
(1) 11th April 0430 heard high speed H.E. probably U-Boat in position 270 degs. Marstein Light 5 miles. H.E. faded before attack could be carried out. Nothing sighted.
(2) No shipping sighted other than Fishing Boats. (S.O.S/Ms. Lerwick, 191420B)

Operations

Northern Waters

Operation
S.C.

Ramose Vedette. Sailed VIGRA at 0100B/19th.
(2) Air Escort not especially required on return journey.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 190101B)

U-Boat
report.

D/F on 4950 K/cs. indicates German U-Boat in vicinity of 071 degs. 35' N. 025 degs. (752'. 10') E. at 0958B/19th.
Admiralty recode and pass to all addressees.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 191121B to Force 5, Escorts of J.W.66, 19th E.G. Admiralty)

Use of
EMPIRE
BUTTRESS
to unload
HORACE
BUSHNELL.

M.W.T. to Murmansk Mast. No.684.
Your signal 205. While we are prepared to assist the Russians as far as possible, we feel that there are too many unknown factors to enable us to come to a decision in London.
(2) We should therefore be prepared to agree to use of EMPIRE BUTTRESS subject to the following conditions.
(a) That S.B.N.O. is satisfied that the venue is one in which the crane ship can operate in safety and that she would at all time receive adequate protection from enemy action.

/ (b) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Use of
EMPIRE
BUTTRESS
to unload
HORACE
BUSHNELL.
(Contd.)

(b) That you and the Master are satisfied that the work to be undertaken is within the compass of the crane ship and that depth of water and operating conditions are such that vessel runs no undue risk through grounding, through possibility of HORACE BUSHNELL shifting during process of discharge or otherwise.

(c) That use of EMPIRE BUTTRESS for this purpose will not be allowed to impede discharge of ships arriving in convoy or prejudice their catching next homeward movement.

(d) That Russians undertake to bear all cost and indemnify us against loss or damage to EMPIRE BUTTRESS arising from the operation.

(3) If answer to (a) above is negative, then we are not prepared to pursue the matter farther. Otherwise (b) above is contingent on you and the Master of EMPIRE BUTTRESS, together with such other persons as you may require, being allowed to visit and inspect HORACE BUSHNELL, take or verify soundings and to your being given any other facilities which you consider necessary to enable you to come to a decision.

(4) As the request was made originally to Embassy by P.C.F.T. Moscow H.M. Ambassador is being asked to reply on lines of paras. 2 and 3 above.

(5) Admiral Archer please copy to Commercial Secretary.
(D. of S.T. 191711B to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

2 U-Boats
reported.

Faeroese H.M. STANLEY T.G. 328 reports sighting two surfaced S/MS in 62.59 N. 19.02 W. a.m. 0300B/19. S/MS were signalling to each other by lamp and were observed to submerge on course Southeast at 0305B/19. Visibility poor. Report graded C.2.
(A.C.I.C.191954B to Admty.)

Force 5.

Proceed at best speed between longitudes 015 degs. E. and 025 degs. E.
(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 192032 to Force 5)

Enemy Intelligence

U-Boats at
St. Nazaire.

French report in St. Nazaire pens seven April two large German S/MS of recent model and wide beam not hitherto observed there. French presume both leaving for Spain. Five new S/MS believed due soon.
(C.T.F.122, 190704 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Tanker or
depot ship.

Report (graded B.2) states that tanker of over 10,000 G.R.T. in ballast escorted by two mine-sweepers passed Vartdalsfjord (lat. 62 degs. 14' N. long. 05 degs. 55' E.) at 2005B/18th course South speed 10 knots.

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy IntelligenceTanker or
depot ship.
(Contd.)Comment: Probably either fleet tanker NORDMARK
or U-Boat depot-ship PELAGOS from Narvik. Likely
to have proceeded to Bergen.
(D.D.I.C. 191644B to C. in C. H.F. (Afloat).)PRINZ
EUGEN.German major units. Cruiser believed PRINZ
EUGEN accompanied by 2 destroyers observed on
northerly course in Drogen Sound at 1700 hours
to-day April 19th. B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm, 191919)German major warships, my 191919 another report stated PRINZ
EUGEN was observed passing Copenhagen northbound p.m. to-day
April 19th. B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 192154)C.F. for
Baltic
etc.My 191755/ not to all. In view of priority for
opening German port, propose that C.F. earmarked
for Baltic and North Germany in ~~EMPIRE~~, but
which are now required by C. in C. Nore remain
in his command until they can be spared reduction
in C.F. Patrols in Baltic must be accepted. Itis however desirable that one M/S M.L. Flotilla remains earmarked
for Copenhagen.(2) In view of there still being a requirement for C.F. in the
Scheldt C.F.M.U.1 will not be available for North German port now.(3) Request therefore (a) C.F.M.U.2 be prepared as soon as
possible and sailed in TASAJERA to the Scheldt for onward route-
ing overland to Wilhelmshaven.(b) C. in C. Nore will state what type and number of craft will
be based on C.F.M.U. 2 so that any necessary adjustments to
stores and spares can be made before sailing.(c) A.M. 190356/ be cancelled and that maintenance party ex Rhine
Flotilla be allocated to N.P. 1737 in place of C.F.M.U.2 if
approved. This party to reform in U.K. and prepared to service
one M/S.M.L. Flotilla.

(A.N.C.X.F. 192248B to Admty.)

/ Former not identified in W.R. / Request disposal of M.T. and
stores.Casualties and Defects.SS. CLYDES-
DALE.Here CLYDESDALE ashore in sound of Mull position
uncertain thought at Fuenary Morven.
(GWJM (SS. CLYDESDALE) No T.O.O. Recd. 0445Z).
Position 2 miles W. of Salin Mull can you arrange
tug from Oban.
(GWJM No T.O.O.)Sailed Tugs EMPIRE ARIEL and EMPIRE PLANE to CLYDESDALE ashore
2 miles W. of Salen Mull.

(N.O.I.C. Oban, 190841B)

Now refloated by Tugs. Proceeding Tobermory.
(CLYDESDALE No T.O.O.19)

U.S.S. EDISON. Your 182025B(N.T. in W.D.) not to all.

(2) Proceed with despatch to Falmouth for repairs
reporting E.T.A. as soon as possible.(3) Route. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 191313B to
C.T.G.61.1 in U.S.S. EDISON)

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Russian
S.Cs etc.

Faeroes departure HONEYSUCKLE, LOTUS, OXLIP, RHODODENDRON and 16th S/M chasers escorted by IROQUOIS and HAIDA.
(N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 190641B)

BERMUDA.

Admiralty 221534. Anticipate BERMUDA will be ready to sail for Mediterranean on 30th April.
(C. in C. H.F.(Afloat), 191736B)

MONOWAY,
HIGHWAY.

A.M. 101901 and A.M. 121417 not to all. Owing to diversion of K.M.F.43, MONOWAI and H.M.S. HIGHWAY were unable to join. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail them in company for Gibraltar on 21st April.

- (2) Addressees are requested to provide escort as follows:
(a) C. in C. Plymouth one escort to Gibraltar.
(b) C. in C. Portsmouth E.G.9 to lat. 45 degs. N.
(c) F.O.G.M.A. additional escort as considered necessary.
(3) E.G.9, is to return to Western Approaches Command on completion of duty in para. 2 (b).
(4) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail H.M.S. HIGHWAY for Plymouth as soon as landing craft have been disembarked escorted by H.M.S. EGGESFORD and ship referred to in para. 2 (a).
(D.O.D.(H), 192306B)

NELSON.

To sail for Malta on 28th April. A.M. 031137 and C. in C. Mediterranean's 041111 neither to all refer.
(2) (3) Arrangements.
(D.O.D.(H), 192311B)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

S/M
UNSWERVING

Intend to sail submarine UNSWERVING with M.K.S.96 destination Sheerness.
(F.O.G.M.A., 191044A to Admty).

U/B sunk
probable.

U.S. 79 sunk

At 0650Z/19 in 42.19 N., 61.45 W. U.S.S. BUCKLEY obtained echo sound contact at 0729Z/19 launched Hedgehog attack. After 20 seconds loud explosion After two minutes another greater explosion. After five minutes two extremely heavy explosions.

Recovered from water a metal swastika nameplate on panel, tube of lubricant with German label, three small pieces of fresh flesh, several dozen pieces of fresh broken cabinet wood, two pillows, diesel oil still rising, water depth 1200 fathoms. Will conduct retiring search this area before proceeding in accordance with your 172105Z.
(C.T.G.22.10, 191213Z to C. in C. Lant).

Safety of
German ships.

Your 162004B. I am reliably informed although no guard is on board there is constant vigilance being kept on German vessel by Naval Authorities.
(R.O. Las Palmas, 191650 to B.N.A. Madrid).

U.S.S.
KRETCHMER
(Destroyer)

Unless otherwise ordered, proceeding direct Horta Azores position at 2100Z 46.41 N., 18.57 W. Speed 10. E.T.A. Horta 1400Z/22nd. Approx. 30 fms. one inch tire mooring hawser badly fouled in port shaft. Proceeding on stbd. shaft only. Best speed 10 knots. Men under water one hour but unable to clear hawser at sea. Propeller appears unharmed.
(KRETCHMER, 192123 to S.B.N.O. Azores).

South Atlantic

E.G.58
Frigates.

Request information when ROTHER and FAL may be expected to rejoin escort group 58, when WEAR can be released for refit now two months overdue.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 191109Z to Admty).

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Assessment
of attacks
on U-Boats,
areas of
responsi-
bility.

Plate No. 8A of C.B. 04050/45 (2) delineates area of responsibility for assessments of attacks on U-Boats by Mediterranean Assessment Board as eastwards of a line drawn 180° from Cape St. Vincent.

(2) Attacks occurring to the eastwards of a line drawn 180° from Europa Point have hitherto been assessed by Mediterranean Assessment Board as being inside Mediterranean, Submission Number 75/M

Med. 00225 of 19th August, 1943, para. 8 refer.

(3) Request clarification.

(C. in C. Med. 190905B to Admty.) See 212041.

19.4.1945.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Operation
"Sunfish"
(off coast
Sumatra).

Following is proposed communique on operation "Sunfish" to be issued by S.E.A.C. after Admiralty approval and confirmation by C. in C. E.I. in further signals: during past week units of the E.I. Fleet including a French Battleship have carried out an offensive sweep off the coast of Sumatra and strikes against enemy occupied ports.

2. Port of Sabang was bombarded by battleships and cruisers with effect. Destroyers bombarded Port of Kota Baya damaging shipping.
3. Naval Aircraft carried out a strike on Emmahaven and Padang scoring direct hits on a 4,000 tons merchantman. Three enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground and one shot down in combat.
4. Our destroyers sank 6 small supply ships between outlying islands and mainland.
5. During these operations a number of attempts were made to attack the force from the air. These attacks were frustrated by our fighters, which shot down 3 aircraft and damaged several others.
6. One of our aircraft is missing. No damage or casualties were sustained by our ships.
7. The Naval Forces employed in these operations were commanded by V.A. H. T.C. Walker, C.B. Ends.
(C. in C. E.I., 190241Z to S.A.C., S.E.A. and Admiralty etc).
Approved 192100B.

Force 63 arrives Ceylon 20th April. Breakdown of Catapult in EMPEROR necessitated postponing PR operations two days.

2. 11th April battleships and LONDON bombarded Sabang no shipping present. SAUMAREZ, VIGILANT, VERULAN bombarded Olee Lhoe one small coaster hit. No opposition. Force subsequently attacked by nine Oscar 1 Dinah. One Oscar one Dinah shot down by fighter. 3 Hellcats lost by accident during landing on KHEDIVE.
3. 12th April Force 63 refuelled from Force 70. LONDON detached to Simonstown.
4. PR Operations carried out 14th and 15th April and practically completed. One PR aircraft shot down on Malacca Strait. 2 crashed landing on EMPEROR. 1 Oscar shot down 15th April.
5. 16th April air strike on Emmahaven one 4,000 tons Merchant ship and Marine workshop hit. 1 Oscar shot down by fighters 3 Dinahs damaged on ground. VENUS, VIRAGO swept from Ayerbangis Bay to Natal road 6 junks sunk.
6. Proposed communique contained in my 190241 not to all addressees.
(C. in C. E.I., 190636Z to Admiralty).

Arrival
dates of
Whalecatchers.

Admiralty Message 141252 and C. in C. E.I.S. 181019Z LURCHER and SOLVRA E.T.A. Durban 1200Z 30th. MASTIFF, GEMSBUCK and SORSRA. E.T.A. Durban approx. 10th May.
(Com. E.C. 191324Z to Admty).

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

~~SWIFT~~ ^{Tanker} SCOUT ~~yacht~~
torpedoed.

Ship sank within 40 minutes. 45 survivors aboard. Chief Engineer unaccounted for.
(CHANCELLORVILLE 190010Z to C.E.S.F.)
Note by W.R. CHANCELLORVILLE's 182140Z (torpedoing of ~~Yacht SCOUT~~) refers.
_{Tanker SWIFTSCOUT}

S/M SEA ROVER Propose sailing SEA ROVER escorted by H.M.C.S. GUELPH from St. Johns 25th April for Philadelphia. (F.O.N.F. 190026Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Regret it is not acceptable to delay SEA ROVER.

(2) Request you sail submarine without delay direct to Philadelphia under escort H.M.C.S. WETASKIWIN replacing this escort in W.7 with H.M.C.S. GUELPH.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 191433Z.)

On arrival SEA ROVER an extensive training programme was immediately implemented for both seagoing and shore personnel. C. in C. W.A's 060923B refers.*

(2) In order that full advantage may be taken of this opportunity request SEA ROVER may be delayed until 25th April. My 190026 refers.

(3) If this not possible request a submarine from CORNWALLIS may be sailed to this command for training purposes for a period of 14 days. In my 171357, not to all, still considered necessary consider this most important.

(F.O.N.F. 191554Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

* Training boarding U-Boat parties.

My 190243 not to all. H.M.C.S. GUELPH S.O. escorting SEA ROVER sails St. Johns N.F. 1930Z/20th April for Philadelphia, route, etc.

(2) Speed 10 knots, E.T.A. position EE. 0530Z/26th.

(F.O. Newfoundland 192054Z to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, etc.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. 191335Z, Cominch 191600Z.)

Return of
Canadian

Concur your 180913. Para. 3 with following exceptions.

Escort Vessels A. It is proposed that any R.N. ships on loan to on cessation R.C.N. operating in U.K. at the time be returned of U-Boat war. to R.N. and crews returned to Canada.

B. H.M.C.S. MULGRAVE to be scrapped in U.K.

C. H.M.C.S. CHEBOGUE will probably be declared

surplus and disposed of in U.K.

(2) It is further proposed that R.N. ships on loan in addition to A above be sailed to U.K. as soon as convenient, after German defeat for return to R.N.

(N.S.H.Q. 191550Z to Admty., etc.)

/Convoy...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy precaution. U.C. 63B to avoid U-Boats and facilitate air cover from Bermuda alter immediately for new RO. 37.40 60.01, new RP. 37.55 69.02 thence Z. Stragglers route same as convoy route lettered S and T.

Comeastseafroon detach THOMAS H. BARRY at appropriate position. (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 191938Z to C.T.U. 61.5.2.)

Tankers for U.K. escorts. It is unlikely MAGICIENNE will be ready until early June. My 271923 March refers, therefore propose sailing tankers about 5th May escorted by ETTRICK for the Azores for onward routing to U.K.

(2) Movement could be supported by R.C.N. escort until clear of the Canadian zone.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 192047Z to Admty.)

Concur Admty. 261822B.

U/B report. A. (1) 1325/18 SWIFTSCOUT torpedoed and sunk 37.30 N. 73.03 W.
(2) Following W. sound contact at 0650/19 in 42.19 N. 61.45 W. U.S.S. BUCKLEY made hedgehog attack at 0729/19 resulting in several explosions two of which were extremely heavy. Debris with German markings. Oil and human flesh.

(3) 0215/19 Azores based Liberator sighted surfaced U-Boat which submerged 46.28 N. 33.09 W.

C. (1) About 0155/19 U.S.C.G. ALGONQUIN attacked sound contact 43.18 N. 62.42 W.

(2) About 0418/19 U.S.S. DAVENPORT attacked sound contact 39.47 N. 69.20 W. Results negative. All times Z.

D. (1) 2034/18 T.G. 60.12 attacked sound contact 36.56 N. 74.27 W. and at 2215/18 BK/72 attacked sound contact in same area.

(2) 1910/18 P.B.M. radar contact 36.17 N. 73.48 W.

(3) 1840/18 patrol bomber sighted periscope and conning tower approx. 30.03 N. 80.39 W.

(Cominch 192106Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Convoys - (port congestion & turn-round) To reduce size of convoys and therefore port congestion and decrease turn around time of ships particularly tankers, propose sailing C.U/U.C. convoys every five days and eliminate present A and B sections of westbound U.C. C. in C. Lant comment practicability re-adjustment and size for escorts. Admiralty comment

requested on provision augmented protection in U.K. danger areas. Request recommendation earliest date implement change. (Cominch 192120Z to Admty.)

/LA GRANDIERE...

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Thursday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

LA GRANDIERE Admiral Renard has informed Cominch that the
(sloop) French agree with the proposal to employ LA
CAP DES PALMES GRANDIERE and CAP DES PALMES on the East Indies
A.M.C. Station.

(2) The French, however, first wish the CAP DES
PALMES to proceed via Diego Suarez to France so
that she may

A. transport an important cargo from Madagascar to France, and
B. subsequently to transport from France supplies for warships
in the East Indies.

(3) As regards LA GRANDIERE Admiral Renard states that she is
scheduled by the French Admiralty for overhaul at La Ciotat in
August 1945.

(4) Cominch asks for Admiralty's reactions to this French
requirement.

(5) A.M. 181017 March not to all refers.

(B.A.D. Washington, 192211 Z to Admiralty.)

Far East and Australia.

Digest 1184
18.4.45

(1) Navy search planes from Clark Field sank
single small coaster anchored South Liuchow
Peninsula, sunk another small coaster laden with
oil drums 60 miles South Foochow, bombed Taito
Docks, sank small coaster anchored N.W. Formosa.

Navy search planes 17th April strafed left dead in water single
lugger 15 miles E. Swatow.

(3) Liberators from Mindoro destroyed small coaster 40 miles
south southwest Cap Saint Jacques.

(10) American forces landed unopposed on Balabac Island South
of Palawan dominating Balabac Strait.

(11) Two Liberators Makassar Strait shipping search sank one
schooner, attacked 9 other schooners damaged single small
coaster, bombed radar station Balikpapan.

(13) Delayed reports 17th April state two Liberators on
shipping search southern Makassar Strait sank one sea truck,
destroyed two schooners, damaged 5 schooners and one small
coaster.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 191050 to Admiralty.)

Japanese
suicide
bombing.
Combatting of.

Your 300210 March.

BERMUDA and CLEOPATRA are both due to join
British Pacific Fleet in June satisfying your
radar requirements excepting Y.E. or Y.G.
Beacons.

(2) Arrangements are being made to fit H.M. ships
JAMAICA and GLASGOW with Y.E. Beacons.

(Hd. of M. II, Appd. Controller, 191743B to
C. in C. B.P.F.)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Far East and Australia - Contd.

A.F.D. 17 Request information whether A.F.D. 17 will be ready in time to make the passage via Australian Bight or whether detour via Torres Strait will be necessary.
(D.O.D.(F) 191807B to A.C.N.B.)

Force X. Sailed ^{Suva} ~~Suva~~ 191950Z F.O. Force X in EMPIRE ARQUEBUS with EMPIRE MACE, EMPIRE BATTLEAXE for Papeete, E.T.A. 1700Z/26. British Consul Papeete has another way. Knots 12 via standard Sopac to Papeete, thence Bora Bora for fuel thence Banboa by Wheaton. Guarding W.V. reporting from Bora Bora time of shifting to Bilbao F.Q.S.A. 40, Q.S.B. 15, Q.M.B. 199.
(Canf. Fiji, 192115 to Comsopac.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0800Z/19th April.
Para. A. (1) A/C A/114 reported U-Boat course 250° at 0540Z/18th in 46° 28' N. 33° 55' W.
(2) A/C E/114 sighted surfaced U-Boat at 0215Z/19th in 46° 28' N. 33° 09' W.
Para. B. (1) A/C D/254 and C/S 54 sighted five U-Boats course 260° at 1828Z/18th in 53° 42' N. 06° 18' E.
Para. C. (1) A/C G/206 sighted smoke and thin wake course 260° at 0935Z/18th in 56° 35' N. 01° 57' W.
(2) A/C A/810 attacked periscope wake course 120° possibly midget at 0928Z/18th in 51° 11' N. 02° 18' E.
(3) VANITY sighted smoke from possible snort at 1540Z/18 in 55° 17' N. 01° 17' W.
(4) H.M. ships CARAQUET and MINAS attacked contact at 1457Z/18th in 50° 14' N. 04° 25' W.
(5) H.M.A/S trawler LUNDY attacked U-Boat at 2216Z/18th in 50° 13' N. 04° 02' W.
(6) H.M. ships WEST YORK and BELLEVILLE attacked contact at 1907Z/18th in 51° 50' N. 07° 34' W.
(7) H.M. trawler attacked asdic contact at 2020Z/18th in 57° 26' N. 01° 36' W.
(8) U.S. A/C reported U-Boat at 1920Z/18th in 50° 30' N. 08° 20' W.
Para. D. (1) A/C E/59 reported smoke and oil streak H.T. negative 1310Z/18th in 55° 34' N. 10° 16' W.
(2) A/C O/112 sighted smoke believed to be from smoke light, H.T. negative at 0748Z/18th in 51° 13' N. 05° 57' W.
(3) A/C H/311 investigated possible periscope at 1915Z/18th in 54° 04' N. 00° 05' W.
(D.D.I.C., 191148B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 191420B to A.I.G., Cominch.)

War Diary

20.4.1945.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

U.S. L.S.Ts.
returning to
U.S.A.

1. Owing to the shortage of escorts U.S. L.S.Ts. returning to U.S.A. are to sail in O.N.S. convoys. About 16 L.S.Ts. will sail in O.N.S.50.

North Sea.

2. 2nd Tactical Air Force today severely hit with R.P. a 2,000 ton ship in the Elbe Estuary and left it on fire.

West Coast
of France.

3(a) C. in C. Plymouth envisages the possibility of U-boat activity in the area Ushant to Gironde and at his suggestion C.F.N.T.F. put into force certain changes in the patrol line of Force 27; There have been persistent reports from French sources of the presence of U-boats in enemy held Biscay Ports; and H.X.348 was attacked two days ago, 60 miles W.S.W. of Ushant.

(b) Allied operations in the Gironde area have finished except for clearing the Ile d'Oleron in the estuary.

(c) Two ground mines were detonated in the approaches to Brest today.

Western
Approaches.

4. The steam trawler ETHEL CRAWFORD was sunk by explosion this morning in the Firth of Clyde. Later, a magnetic mine was detonated in the Firth. There appears to be some doubt, however, as to the presence of mines in the Firth (cf. A.M. 271843B to C. in C. W.A., para. 3).

Baltic

5(a) N.A. Stockholm reported yesterday (graded B.2) that PRINZ EUGEN and 2 destroyers were seen passing Copenhagen northbound p.m., and PRINZ EUGEN was reported to have arrived at Copenhagen this morning. Photographic reconnaissance of Sassnitz at 3 p.m. today showed that PRINZ EUGEN and one Seetier destroyer had departed since 15th April. Submarines were brought to short notice, and VARNE and VENTURER were redispensed on patrol. No further movement of the enemy was reported, however.

(b) Off Anholt (Kattegat) last night, Halifaxes hit and set on fire a 5,000 ton merchant vessel and made a hit and several near misses on an escorted convoy in the same area.

20.4.1945.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

East Indies

Malacca
Strait.

6. During last night 4 aircraft laid mines in the Malacca Straits off Penang.

Movement

7. QUEEN ELIZABETH (B.S.3) with RICHELIEU, KHEDIVE and 5 destroyers arrived Trincomalee from operations off Sumatra coast.

Far East & Australia

French
Indo China.

8. 20 Liberators attacked a convoy including a cruiser at Saigon scoring two direct hits on a medium freighter transport.

Philippines

9. U.S. Forces made two further landings today, one on Katanduanes Island (Lagonsy Gulf, S.E. Luzon) and the other at Danao town 16 miles N.E. of Cebu city.

20.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Treatment of enemy shipping captured in German waters. (A.M.S.S.O., 200950Z, 201015Z to J.S.M. Washington.) See Lion Copy.

Sequence of command in Plymouth area. The following signal which has been made to ships and authorities of the Plymouth command is passed for your information. Begins - There are many times at sea, such as the reinforcement of the close escort of convoys, the meeting and joining of ships and convoys and on other occasions when it has become necessary to modify the disposition of H.M. ships when there may be doubt on whom the responsibility of command shall rest. (2) In the circumstances where the senior officer has not been designated or is not known, the officer in original charge is to continue in this capacity until an officer senior to him has indicated that he has taken over command. (3) The incoming Senior Officer is to bear in mind the general instructions contained in A.C.Is. articles 2 and 93, when they are applicable. If he has been instructed to act as additional escort as a short term policy he is, unless he has particular reasons to do otherwise, to leave the senior officer of the escorts met in charge, conforming, himself, to the directions of the escort commander. He is on joining, to inform the senior officer, escorts, of his intentions. (4) These instructions will be embodied in Plymouth command war orders. (5) Plymouth memorandum No. Ply. 01487/227 of 30th January 1945 is cancelled. T.O.O. 181737B April 1945 - Ends. (C. in C. Plymouth, 201817B to Cs. in C. Home.)

Operations

North Sea

A/S patrol by E.G.30. Sail at 1500B today and proceed to establish Gamma between 61.00 N., 05.00 W. and 60.34 N., 04.03 W. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Rosyth, 201030 to S.O. E.G.30.)

Fighter cover. Number A.O.212 April 20th. Owing to present position of battle fronts, reduction of G.A.F. and number of airfields still available to them, it is considered that the threat of attack by day to base area and to shipping in area "Lunch" no longer warrants retention of day fighters in these areas. These fighters will therefore be moved eastwards and after Sunday 22nd April no such aircraft will be based west of Twente. Fighter protection of shipping proceeding to German North Sea ports will be provided as soon as such traffic begins. (Main H.Q. Second Tactical Air Force, 201030B to A.N.C.X.F.)

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)

To J.S.M. Washington

Date 20. 4. 45.

Cipher

Circulation at request of
1st S.L.'s Office

From A.M.S.S.O.

IMPORTANT

OZ 2504

COS (W) 783

20th April 1945

*Enemy shipping captured
in German waters.*

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

We are assuming that FACS 113, paragraph 3, will apply to enemy shipping captured in German waters before the surrender or declaration of defeat of Germany. We think it essential to keep this shipping free for allocation by S.C.A.E.F. or C.S.A.B. pending clarification of Soviet attitude and general policy concerning booty and reparations. Otherwise Russians, who appear to be seizing property captured in Germany as booty, will obtain unfair advantage and, even more important, early employment of valuable ships, including troopers, may be prejudiced.

2. Existing S.H.A.E.F. instructions for implementing FACS 113 are that merchant ships not required for immediate local service should be sailed to United Kingdom as quickly as possible, but should not be seized in prize without instructions. There may however, be practical difficulties in getting captured ships away immediately from German ports. To safeguard the status of these ships as captured ships, and because in any event it will be necessary to give the ships a legal status in order to put them into service, we think seizure in prize is most desirable.

3. We propose that all German merchant ships captured by forces under S.C.A.E.F.'s command should be seized in prize with the exception of:-

- (a) ships held for local service with German crews;
- (b) fishing vessels;
- (c) inland water craft.

4. The simplest course will be for seizure to be effected by the Naval authorities controlling the particular port, i.e. on the river Weser by the U.S.N. and in other ports by the R.N. Seizure would be solely designed to achieve the objects set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 and would in no way prejudice ultimate title nor the process of allocation by C.S.A.B. Ships would at once be requisitioned out of prize for immediate employment.

5. Ships falling into S.C.A.E.F.'s hands after surrender or declaration of defeat would not be seized in prize but held for disposal as surrendered ships. Decision whether ships previously seized in prize should be treated in same manner as surrendered ships would be reviewed at appropriate time.

6. We also think it undesirable that any captured shipping should be allowed to wear Nazi flag. Pending international agreement concerning German flag, we consider that:-

- (a) ships required locally with German crews,
- (b) inland water craft,
- (c) shipping falling into S.C.A.E.F.'s hands after surrender should fly at the peak the international code flag C. with triangle cut from the end. We have in mind to propose this flag for German ships during the Control Commission period.

7. It would be enough that warships should be disarmed their flag lowered and reference made to the C.C.S. as directed in paragraph 3 C of FACS 113.

8. It is accordingly recommended that C.C.S. should issue directive to S.C.A.E.F. and S.A.C.M.E.D. as in our immediately following telegram. Should United States Authorities be strongly opposed to actual seizure in prize, we should accept as an alternative that the R.N. or U.S.N. should merely take possession of the ships as captured through their appropriate procedures. In that event, paragraph 109 of Naval Prize Manual would be varied to extent that Nazi flag would be lowered and White Ensign alone worn.

200950Z

Circulated by A.M.S.S.O. to:
Defence Office
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1st S.L.
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A.M.C.S.(C)
Minister of War Transport

/ 050133/Dec/44

Ad. Blake
P.N.L.O.
D.T.D.(4)
W.D.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(3)
D.F.S.L.
Controller
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
P.A.S.(L)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.O.D.(H)(4)
D.C.
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
D.of P.(2)
D.of P.(Q)(3)
Hd. of M.(2)

103

~~OUT~~

~~SECRET~~

~~BIGOT CANCELLED~~

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 disclosure)

Date 20. 4. 45.

To J.S.M. Washington

Circulation at request
of 1st S.L.'s office

CYPHER

From A.M.S.S.O.

OZ 2505 COS (W) 784 IMPORTANT

Reference COS (W) 783 following is proposed Directive
to SCAIEF and SACMED.

Begins:

Unless otherwise directed FACS 113, para. 3, is to be applied to all German shipping captured by forces under your command in German ports before the surrender or declaration of defeat of Germany.

2. Accordingly, shipping not required within your theatre is to be sailed as soon as possible to the United Kingdom. Arrangements for providing necessary crews should be made in consultation with representatives in Germany of M.W.T. and W.S.A.

3. Captured shipping is to be seized in prize with the exception of:-

- (a) Shipping required for local service with German crews,
- (b) fishing vessels,
- (c) inland water craft.

4. Seizure in prize should be effected by the naval authorities in control of ports where ships are captured, i.e. Bremen and Bremerhaven by U.S.N., and other ports by R.N. Seizure in prize is required for technical reasons and will not in any way fetter exercise of your rights under para. 3 A of FACS 113; neither will it affect disposal by C.S.A.B. nor ultimate title.

5. You will receive further instructions regarding the treatment of shipping falling into your hands upon surrender or declaration of defeat.

6. It is undesirable that vessels excepted from seizure under para. 3 above should fly the Nazi flag. They should therefore be instructed to fly from the peak the international code flag C with a triangle cut from the end to form a burgee.

7. Warships should be disarmed, their flag lowered, and reference made to C.C.S. in accordance with para. 3B of FACS 113.
Ends.

201015Z

Circulation over/

Circulation
Defence Office
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord
C.6. Tels
A.M.C.S.(C)
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D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
P.L.S.(L)
D.O.D.(H)(4)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.C.
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
D. of P.(Q)(3)
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Ad. Blako
P.N.L.O.
D.T.D.(4)
W.D.

MW
103

IN

SECRET

~~CANSTLED~~

BIGOT-MOST

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War Diary.20.4.1945.
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

?

Subject to following provisions:

- (A) The risk from ground mines is not increased.
- (B) The passage of ships through shallow water is not affected and
- (C) No delay is incurred in the embarking and disembarking of pilots. Propose that N.D. fitted ships should keep nets streamed on the East Coast between Beachy Head and Firth of Forth and between North Foreland and Flushing.
- (C. in C. Nore, 201122B to Admty.)

Humber - Reference C. in C. Nore's 181822B. Propose mines and sailing from Humber at 1700/22 and arriving at minesweeping. D.6 Buoy at 0400/23 carrying out double Oropesa search in H formation of southern half of Channel to Pit Buoy and returning to D.6 sweeping northern half of the Channel. E.T.A. D.6 Buoy 2200/23.

(2) T.H.V. to R/V with 15th M.S.F. at 0600/24 at D.6 Buoy when Flotilla will sweep ahead of T.H.V. and escort in K formation to Pit buoy, returning to D.6 on completion.

(3) If required a searching sweep in H formation from D.6 Buoy to H.3 Buoy will be carried out before returning to Humber.

(4) T.H.V. to comply with para. 6 of C. in C. Nore's 181822B on 25th April.

(M/S.15, 201401B to Capt. M/S. Humber.)

Your 201401B.

Programme approved except that Oropesa search of two miles each side of centre line D.4 to D.6, is to be carried out before T.H.V. enters this area. Amendment to programme to be signalled.

(C. in C. Nore, 201714B to M.S.15.)

Commencing Sunday 22nd April Fleet minesweepers and Tug PATRICIA with JASEUR as escort will be employed sweeping and buoying a channel the centre line of which joins the following positions: (A) 53° 37'00" N., 01° 20'00" E. (B) 53° 37'00" N., 02° 24'50" E. (C) 54° 20'00" N., 04° 29'00" E.

(2) Width of channel 4 miles. Speed whilst sweeping 7 knots.

(3) Vessels taking part in the operation will be in this area day and night.

(4) Request air protection and bombing restrictions may be arranged as from 1800B/22. Date of completion of operation will be communicated later by C. in C. Nore.

(C. in C. Nore, 201813B to 16 Group.) See amendment 210938.

Ground mine detonated at 1557 in position 306° 57 F

1.6 miles.

(F.O. Humber, 201929B, 202005B.)

Your 201714B and my 201401. Amend first para. to read as follows:

"Propose sailing from Humber at 1000/22 and arriving at D.4 Buoy at 1600/22 to carry out double Oropesa search in H formation 2 miles both sides of centre line between D.4 and D.6 p.m./22nd" - then to carry out remaining sweeps as shown in paras. 1 and 2 of my 201401.

(M/S.15, 202104B to C. in C. Nore.)

/Bomb ...

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20.4.1945.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.Bomb
disposal
areas.

Your 191600 (being passed) and your 191605.
Suitable disposal areas are -
(a) Within area enclosed by lines joining
following positions 50° 19' N., 00° 20½' E.,
50° 06' N., 00° 43' E., 49° 58' N., 00° 14½' E.
or (b) within area A of 972 A.Z. of 150816 March.
(A.N.C.X.F. (Main), 201431B to C.T.F.122.)

250
escaping
Danish
fishing
vessels.

A.M. 171857B*, para. 4.
The surplus could be berthed up to about
fifteen vessels in each of the following ports:
Scarborough, Whitby, Middlesborough, Hartlepool,
Sunderland, Newcastle, Blythe and Berwick,
Leith, Methil and Dundee would also be available
if required.

(2) It is recognised that the splitting up into
small groups will add to security difficulty and the situation
will be reviewed when the situation arises to ameliorate this
aspect.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 201451B to Admty.)

* About 250 Danish fishing vessels may escape to U.K. to avoid
falling into enemy hands.Opening of
German port -
arrangements.

A.N.C.X.F.'s 192248, para. 3. In view of present
commitments in southern North Sea I intend in
first instance to base the M/S. M.L. Flotilla
of Operation "Dropkick" and one A/S M.L. Flotilla
at the selected north-west German port.

(2) Suggest therefore that ex-Rhine maintenance
party if made mobile would meet requirements observing the A/S
M.L. Flotilla maintenance staff would accompany the Flotilla.

(3) Should it be necessary to augment coastal forces in north-
west Germany at later date when enemy in Dutch ports has been
liquidated consider C.F.M.U.1 should then be available to back
up or replace ex-Rhine maintenance party. This would obviate
need to disrupt present arrangements for C.F.M.U.2.

(4) Request confirmation that all types of fuel required by
coastal forces and auxiliary M/S can be provided from Army
sources.

(C. in C. Nore, 201553B to Admty., A.N.C.X.F. Main.)

Cositintrep
No. 381.

Part 4, section A.
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/
19th April.
(S.H.A.E.F., 201640A.)

U-Boat and
S.B.U.
summary.

To 1200B/20th - nil report.
(A.C. Dover, 201735B.)

/Patrols ...

20.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Patrols for night Saturday 21st April. 1 OAKLEY, 2 KRAKOWIAK, 3 QUANTOCK, 4 MENDIP, 5 CATTISTOCK, 6 SHEARWATER, 7 SOUTHDOWN, 8 ALBRIGHTON. Coastal force units F.C.1 to 8 R/V with patrols at 2245. (2) 12 RETALICK with C/F from U.K. 14 LAMERTON. 16 CURZON with C/F from Ostend. 17 ZETLAND. 18 ARENDAL. 19 SEYMOUR with C/F from Ostend. 21 BRISSENDEN. 22 CUBITT with C/F from U.K. Coastal force units from Ostend R/V frigates at 2145. (3) Escorts T.A.M.46 - MALLARD, FERNIE. T.A.P.11 - GARTH. (?4) Coastal forces from U.K.: Patrol 1, Unit F.C.1 - 2 M.T.B. with OAKLEY. Patrol 2, Unit F.C.2 - 2 M.T.B. with KRAKOWIAK. Patrol 3, Unit F.C.3 - M.T.B. with QUANTOCK. Patrol 4, Unit F.C.4 - 2 M.T.B. with MENDIP. Patrol 5, Unit F.C.5 - M.T.B. with CATTISTOCK. Patrol 6, Unit F.C.6 - 2 M.T.B. with SHEARWATER. Patrol 7, Unit F.C.7 - 2 M.T.B. with SOUTHDOWN. Patrol 8, Unit F.C.8 - 2 M.T.B. with ALBRIGHTON. Patrol 12, Unit 4 M.T.B. - Unit F.L.2, F.L.3, Patrol 22, Unit 4 M.T.B. - Unit F.B.8, F.B.9. Patrol 51 - 1 M.L. Patrol 52 - 1 M.L. BWCC 5035 - 6 M.T.B. Units F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3. DACC 4048 - 3 M.T.B. Unit F.B.3. From Ostend: DAZD 2316 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.A.8. DAZD 2100 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.B.2. DAZD 41256 - 3 M.L. Unit F.G.5. DAZD 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. DACC 3836 - 3 M.Ls. Unit F.G.4 (by day). DAZD 2525 - 3 M.Ls. Unit F.G.4 (by night). (C. in C. Nore, 201821.) See amendments 211737B and 21111B.

Bergen-op-Zoom - discharges. Bergen-op-Zoom. During first half of April 13th coasters and 86 barges arrived in the port. Total tonnage discharged was 17016 including 4067 relief cargo. (Burrough signed Eisenhower, 202350B.)

Operations

Channel

Contact attacked. Am attacking contact in 049° 49'36" N., 000° 15'24" W. (BURDOCK, 200742B.) Ref. my 200740. Contact - buoyed - no movement. Continuing investigation. (BURDOCK, 200820B.)

Contact. Sound contact W.S.W. from (St.?) Albans Head 5 miles time 1250B. (Am?) continuing search. (S.C.1290, 201315B.)

/Spanish ...

20.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel - Contd.

Spanish N.O.I.C. Falmouth 191901B*. E.T.A. Portland
TORNES. Bill 1900B/20th.
(STONECROP, 201317.)
* Spanish TORNES escorted by STONECROP.

Midget U/B A.N.C.X.F. Main's 141255.
activity in (2) Owing to depletion of Escort Forces, no A/S
Eastern trawlers can be spared for this commitment.
Channel. (3) The only possible contribution Portsmouth
can give is to transfer temporarily the 10th
M.L. Flotilla (now based on Newhaven and
employed sweeping ahead of B.T.C./T.B.C. convoys
between Newhaven and Dover) to A.C. Dover, who could operate
them as required for all the commitments in A.N.C.X.F.'s signal
referred to.

(4) This would mean, however, that the B.T.C./T.B.C. convoys
could not be covered, and in my opinion the importance of the
latter far outweighs that of patrols off Dieppe.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201347B, 201832 to Admty.)
My 141255B.

Request proposal in para. 3 of C. in C. Portsmouth 201347B
may be approved or alternative craft allocated. A.C. Dover
151314B and your 101955B not to all refer.

(A.N.C.X.F. Main, 202150B to Admty.)

Minelaying. Weigh at 0530B/21 and carry out Serial H.2 part
2.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201533B to WILLEM VAN DER
ZAAN, MAYFLOWER.)

C.T.G. 61.1. Originator will depart Falmouth 0730Z/21.
Proceed Southampton and hoist pennant in U.S.S.
SAVAGE 2000Z/21.
(C.T.G. 61.1, 201715.)

Operations

West Coast of France

Biscay Patrol night 19th/20th no sighting O.N.P. between
coast 2300 and 0100 contacted low flying aircraft not
patrol. showing I.F.F. in approx. position 20 miles west
of Chassiron O.N.P. fuel remaining at 0800B;
L'ALCYON 73%, LA SURPRISE 41%.
(L'ALYCON, 200803B.)

Consider that attack by U-Boat on convoy on 18th April 60 miles
west-south-west of Ushant, together with persistent reports from
French sources of presence of U-Boats in enemy held Biscay
ports indicates possibility of U-Boat activity in the area
Ushant - Gironde.

(2) Request you will consider advisability of altering patrol
line of Force 27 from time to time in order to avoid too rigid
a patrol.

/(3) It ...

20.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast of France

Biscay
Coast
patrol.
(Contd.)

(3) It is considered essential that ships in the above area should take full A/S precautions. (C. in C. Plymouth, 201715B.)

Following patrols will be flown tomorrow 21st April.

(A) One Warwick aircraft followed by a second Warwick aircraft will carry out A/U patrol from

0630B to 2200B between 45° 00' N. and 46° 40' N. within 60 miles from the coast.

Aircraft call sign

W/T

R/T

1st aircraft

LLF.41

Grasshopper.

2nd aircraft

LLF.10

Grasshopper.

(B) 1 Sunderland aircraft on coastwise sweep from vicinity of Brest will contact patrol A of Force 27 in vicinity of Ile(?) d'Yeu at about 0830B. Aircraft will continue sweep to southward returning to continue patrol A Force 27 as mutually arranged before returning to base. Call signs.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 201725B to Force 27.)

In accordance with C. in C. Plymouth, T.O.O. 201650* and 201715, and to meet changing situation on West Atlantic front, the following will be put into force forthwith.

(1) Effect patrol, varying your line patrol from time to time, to prohibit passage between German held pockets on either side lat. of Sables d'Olonne and of evasive movement to Spain from Oleron and Bay of Antioch.

(2) A most vigilant and continuous A/S search will be maintained.

(3) Ships will not anchor during patrol.

(4) Ships will keep within distance 15 miles from each other.

(C.F.N.T.F., 202232B.)

* Not identified.

Spanish
fishing
craft.

A.M. 181937, para. 2.

My views are contained in letter W.A.1306/0543/1 dated 14th April, addressed Admiralty with copy to C. in C. Plymouth.

(C. in C. W.A., 201216B to Admty.)

Operations

Western Approaches

H.X. 348
(attacked
18th April).

Report name of ship claiming to have rammed U-Boat. Your *181135Z refers.

(C. in C. W.A., 200051B to S.O. C.7.)

* U-Boat attack on H.X.348.

Your 200051B. NICK STONER.

(S.O. C.7, 200554B to C. in C. W.A.)

Contact
attacked.

Am attacking possible U-Boat in 056° 43' N., 006° 35' W., MAENAD in company.

(SERENE, 200050.)

My 200050 consider contact was non-submarine, am proceeding.

(SERENE, 200225.)

/ETHEL ...

War Diary.20.4.1945.
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches - Contd.

ETHEL Fishing vessel has been blown up position 3 miles 020 W. of number 4 Buoy. (HATANA (?HATANO), 200845.)
CRAWFORD blown up in Firth of Clyde. Have searched wreckage no survivors layed dan buoy in position. (HATANA (?HATANO), 200955B.)
Fishing vessel blown up at 0845 off Clyde Light Vessel. Investigate. (C. in C. W.A., 200937B to Force 37.)
Re my (?) 200845B (?). Three miles south 20° W. of 05 (?). Now amended lat. 55° 13'12" N., long. 5 (?)° 14' W. (MATANA (?HATANO), 201300B.)
Fishing vessel sunk by explosion 180° Clyde No. 4 Buoy 3 miles at 0845B this morning.
(2) M.M.S.174 detonated magnetic mine in 081° Pladda 3.2 miles at 1220B.
(3) Intend to implement my 001/2408 (Sig/001/2048 to Admiralty only) dated 2nd Feb. 1945.
(4) Request Q.Z.S. in accordance with para. 1 be issued forthwith. Ships from N. Channel should leave Route K, at position C.
(5) Sweeping of this alternative route has commenced. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 201534B to Admty.)
Your 201509B* April. THOMAS ALTOFT and CYPRESS sweeping alternative Channel today, tomorrow Saturday M.M/S.309, 174 and 72 will sweep alternative channel. OHM, CYPRESS, THOMAS ALTOFT and HATANO will sweep Oropesa from the Cumbræes to No. 5 Buoy and back, covering a channel three cables wide on either side of the centre line of Q.Z.S.398. TUMBY, TARTAN and MARIA LUDOVICA will be dan-layers. PORTIA is being sent No.5 Buoy to divert traffic. Request that you will recall her when no longer required. I intend to sail in OHM. (Capt. M/S. Clyde, 201740 to Admty.)
*(N.T. in W.D.)
Reference fishing vessel blown up to 0845B this morning in 180° Clyde No.4 Buoy 3 miles evidence from wreckage shows this was steam trawler ETHEL CRAWFORD. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 202004B.)

Reasay S/M sanctuary. T.C. PHILANTE's 191202 is passed to addressees. The proposed survey is most important for the safety of submarines and consequently for essential training. Request early arrangements may be made for carrying out a bottom survey. (C. in C. W.A., 201149B.)

E.G. 8. If not in contact proceed to Milford Haven for short lay-over. (C. in C. W.A., 201503B to E.G. 8.)

Operation C.H. Carry out Operation C.H. serial S.1, lines 2, 3 and 4 0850/22nd. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 201745 to ARIADNE, C. in C. W.A.)

/E.G.6 ...

20.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

E.G. 6. On arrival at position (B) 6th E.G. proceed direct to Horta to fuel reporting E.T.A.
(2) On completion of fuelling S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to sail group direct to position (E) and thence as ordered by C. in C. C.N.A.
(3) My 161544B* and my 201142B* are to be amended accordingly. (C. in C. W.A., 202152B to 6th E.G., S.B.N.O. Azores.)
* N.T. in W.D.

Operations

Norway

Preparations for escape of PRINZ EUGEN. B.2 report states German Cruiser PRINZ EUGEN and 2 destroyers entered the sound northbound at 1900B/19th.
(2) Keep one salvo for cruiser and above. (F.O.S/Ms., 200351B to S/Ms. operating N. of 51° N.)
Following S/Ms. to be brought to immediate notice my 071948 and my 200526 refers.
(2) (A) TOTEM and TAPIR at Lerwick. (B) DOLFIJN and DZIK at Dundee.
(3) Capt. (S) 9 to sail DOLFIJN and DZIK to Lerwick as soon as escort can be arranged. (F.O.S/Ms., 200549B.)
Submarines are to take up patrol position forthwith on a line 040° 220° 7 miles either side of following positions reference my 200351 not to all.
(A) Varne position T.E.1 lat. 57° 58' N., 06° 35' E.
(B) VENTURER T.E.11 lat. 58° 14' N., 06° 04' E.
(2) Object R/C report of enemy cruisers and above.
(3) My 071948 not to submarines addressed refers. (F.O.S/Ms., 200526 to S/Ms. north of 51° N.)
A.M. 191825 amend as follows.
Para. (A) delete VARNE and VENTURER.
(2) Add new paras. (G) VARNE shifting patrol at 0630/20th from Skudesnes area to patrol south-east of Lister diving by day.
(H) VENTURER proceeding from Korsfjord area at 0630/20th to patrol south-east of Egersund diving by day 95 miles in 24 hours.
(J) DOLFIJN and DZIK escort EBOR ABBEY sail Dundee 1000/20th to Lerwick 9 knots. (C. of W., 200733A to A.I.G. 25.)
Request you will sail VIKING for Lerwick as soon as possible. My 200549 refers. (F.O.S/Ms., 200739B to S/M.6.)
Your 200739. UNBENDING being prepared in place of VIKING. (S/M.6, 200949B to F.O.S/Ms.)
Submarines at Lerwick and reinforcements on passage from 6th and 9th Flotillas are to be held at 8 hours notice, my 200526 refers.
(2) My 200351 not to all, cruiser German PRINZ EUGEN arrived Copenhagen this forenoon 20th (B.2 report).
(3) Orders for VARNE and VENTURER are not being altered for time being. (F.O.S/Ms., 201718B to S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick.)

/(Extract) ...

20.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Preparations
for escape
of PRINZ
EUGEN.
(Contd.)

(Extract)
Positions of submarines at 0800/21st and move-
ments for following 24 hours. All times zone
B.
(4) UNBENDING escort KUVERA off Girdleness to
Lerwick 8½ knots, E.T.A. 0730/22nd.
(C. of W., 201851B, 202111B.)

Operation
V.P.

V.P.89 again postponed.
(2) Add 48 hours to all times given in my
181941B.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 200809B.)
V.P.75. M.T.B. 713 and 723 returned at 1905B

today 20th April.
(2) Very bad visibility prevented unit from penetrating into
Leads further than two miles S.W. of Kinn.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 201922B.)
Ramosse Vedette, VIGRA returned at 2250B/20th.
(2) Operation successful.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 202301B.)

Operations

Northern Waters

DENBIGH
CASTLE.

Northern Fleet have abandoned idea of beaching
DENBIGH CASTLE on an even keel, my 040846 March
refers, but salvage operations have been carried
out for past week and following gear recovered
(details).

(4) Request information whether any further salvage is required
observing diver can only obtain access by cutting holes in
starboard side of hull at low water as was done to enter ward-
room. (?If not) may wreck be abandoned.
(5) None of above quoted message to Head of British Naval
Mission Moscow.
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 201019B.)

Use of
EMPIRE
BUTTRESS
to unload
HORACE
BUSHNELL.

Your 111106B. My 191711B (Mast 684) refers.
Admiralty concur.
(D.T.D., 201411B to Admiral Archer.)

U/B
reports.

By D/F on 5710 k/cs at 1307Z U-Boat estimated
within 20 miles of 60° 20' N., 04° 25' E.
(D.D.I.C., 201556B.)
By D/F on 4600 k/cs. at 1845Z U-Boat estimated
within 20 miles of 60° 15' N., 04° 30' E.
(D.D.I.C., 202112B.)

20.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Three unexplained underwater explosions.

Cancel my 072242.
(C. in C. H.F. Afloat, 201718B.)

Attack on U/B.

C.A.F.O. 1954/44 Uben.
(1) H. Nor.M. M.T.Bs. 716 and 822.
(2) 1350B/19th.
(3) 60° 17' N., 00° 25' E. Approx. 180°, approx. 4 knots.

- (4) En route to carry out anti-shipping sweep in Hjeltefjord.
(5) Not applicable. (6) Not applicable. (7) No. (8) No.
(9) The navigating officer in M.T.B.716 sighted periscope by eye at range of 500 to 800 yards moving on southerly course and making pronounced feather. Periscope visible for one to two minutes. (10) One. (11) No.
(12) M.T.Bs. in line ahead on course 080° at 15 knots.
(13) Not applicable.
(14) M.T.Bs. attacked in line abreast at 20 knots. Two depth charges released by each by eye, depth settings 250 feet.
(15) 1413B/19.
(16) No visible evidence. Hydrophone watch set from 1400 to 1413 but produced no results.
(17) None. No schnorkel seen at any time.
(18) None.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 201719B.)

Operation S.C.

Intend sailing S.C. operation from Shetlands
(1) 0700B/21 from Scalloway.
(2) 068° from Sumburgh Head 13 knots.
(3) 2300B/21.
(4) Between 2330B/21 and 0400B/22.

- (5) 248° to Sumburgh Head 15 knots.
(6) p.m./22. (7) 068° Sumburgh Head. (8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 201757B.)

My 201757B.

- (1) 061° 02' N., 004° 31' E.
(2) Ramose Supremacy.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 201759B.)

Russian Air R/C.

Admiralty recode and pass to Force 5. Russian Catalina will fly from Kola at 0430B tomorrow 21st, along route Red, weather permitting. Guard on 4050 k/cs. should be arranged in accordance with K.I.G.M. Article 102.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 202131B to Force 5.)

War Diary.

20.4.1945.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

PRINZ EUGEN. Following report received graded B.2.
PRINZ EUGEN and 2 destroyers passed Drogden northbound at 1900B/19.
Comment: Probably bound for Copenhagen or Oslo Fjord.
(D.D.I.C., 200103B to C. in C. H.F. (Alfoat), C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.B.C., F.O.S/M.)
Following report received graded B.2.
PRINZ EUGEN arrived Copenhagen 1000Z/20.
(D.D.I.C., 201704B to as last.)

German My 191829.
Refugee (1) Arrivals April 18th/19th.
Transport (A) Transports TRAVE from Hamburg; NURNBERG
and small from Stettin; KROENFELDT possible ex. CAP
warships ARCONA and MERKATOR all with refugees.
Copenhagen. (B) Auxiliary cruiser MÖWE
(2) Departures April 17th to April 19th.
Transports ADELE TRABER, HOMBERG and STEINHOF destination unknown. F.2.
(3) Source 050545/19 convoy of one 10,000 ton vessel with 3 small steamers escorted by one ILTIS torpedo craft and 5 small escorts entered Sound passage off Stevns Rev course north. B.1. (N.A. Stockholm, 201521.)

Casualties and Defects

TOWY. Regret TOWY damaged in collision requires docking, estimated time two weeks. Docking port not yet allocated.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201536B.)

Movements

L.S.Ts. C.R. No. 1074.
returning Cominch has stated that due shortage escorts
to U.S.A. U.S.L.S.Ts. returning United States should be entered O.N.S. convoys. Expect about 16 L.S.T. now Plymouth will be ready return U.S. in O.N.S.50. Request your concurrence.
(Comnavu, 201538 to Admt.)

M.F.Vs. for A.M. 031141 March and 021648 neither to all.
Eastern F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail M.F.Vs.
Fleet. 1026, 1055, 1059, 1090, 1109, 1117, 1123, 1129, 1147, 1525 for Gibraltar in company with B.Y.M.S. 2080 and EMPIRE DOWNLAND on 27th April, weather permitting.

(2) Escort is to be provided by SQUIRREL, CALGARY and one trawler detailed by C. in C. Plymouth.
(3) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to provide relief escort for CALGARY and Plymouth trawler in vicinity of lat. 43° N.
(4) On relief CALGARY is to be detached to proceed to Horta, Azores, for onward routeing to Halifax for refit in Canada.
(5) C. in C. Nore is requested to sail SQUIRREL and CALGARY to arrive Falmouth by 26th April.
(D.O.D.(H), 201756B.)

War Diary

20.4.1945.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

S/M
STUBBORN

Intend to sail submarine STUBBORN to Malta at
1430 April 21st.
2. 11 knots. 4. E.T.A. 1030 April 25th.
(F.O.G.M.A., 201031A to S. and A).

German
ships.
(Security
measures).

Your 191650B. Ministry of Marine informs me that
orders were issued on 11th April to place Guards
on board but orders were sent by sea. Other
measures included were moving of ships into
shallow water and anti-sabotage examination.
Please report progress.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 201847B to Las Palmas, Reply
221215).

War Diary.20.4.1945.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Operation "Sloboda". By 0200/20th one L.C.I. and 4 L.C.Ts. unloaded at Co Romasna S.N. 4th L.C.T. stuck on the only beach thus preventing 5th from unloading.
2. Attempting to tow her off. Wind freshening.
3. L.C.Gs. report weather unsuitable for indirect bombardment.
(S.N.O. N.Adriatic in L.C.H.315, 200743B to F.O.T.A.L.)

Danube mining. B.M.M. Roumania 201245B to S.O. See Lion Copy.

Linrep No. 249. 16th - 18th. Extract. Adriatic. Coastal and Landing craft and Minesweepers continue actively to support Yugoslavs.
Coastal Craft - Night of 14 April - fired 4 torpedoes at enemy convoy detected by Radar off Caorle. 1 large explosion heard. Enemy never actually sighted. Night of 16 April off Taglimento Coastal Craft sank 2 craft and probably a third in attack on enemy convoy without sustaining damage or casualties. Same night near Umago Yugoslav Coastal Craft and an M.T.B. attacked enemy convoy. 1 enemy craft blew up and another was probably sunk. 1 Yugoslav craft had superficial damage 2 wounded.
Gulf of Genoa. A French Destroyer attacked by two E-boats in position 43° 39' N., 8° 5' E. was torpedoed on night of 17 April and had 20 killed. She proceeded to westward at 3 knots with an H.M. Destroyer standing by. One of the E-boats was sunk. Night of 15 April 2 Coastal Craft aided by Aircraft reports and illumination intercepted enemy convoy off Sestri Levante. Under heavy fire they obtained 1 probable and 1 certain torpedo hit. No casualties slight damage to 1 craft. H.M. Cruiser ORION took part in latest series of bombardments by Allied Warships near Franco Italian Frontier.
(A.F.H.Q., 201522B to W.O.)

Mediterranean Mine-clearance Directive for. C. in C. Med. 201547B to Admiralty. See Lion Copy.

Libyan Ports restoration of. Med. 45/1092/6/1 of 7th Feb. In view of the work entailed restoration of Benghazi Harbour would not appear to be as reasonable a proposition as restoration of Tobruk which is a natural harbour.
2. I would be glad of your views after consultation with the G.H.Q. mid east.
(C. in C. Med., 202004B to F.O.L.E.M.)

SECRET

389A
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.)

Mines in Danube

From: B.M.M. Roumania
Date: 21.4.45
Recd: 0515

201245B/April

ONE TIME PAD

To : The War Office, Admiralty
INFO: C. in C. Mediterranean, F.O.L.E.M.
Admiral Archer, Moscow, B.M.M. Sofia

IMPORTANT

312278

RAC.1082/3303 cipher 20th April. Secret.

Following is summary of official letter received from Roumanian Naval Authorities.

Begins. Soviet Danube Flotilla command has requested details of British and American Air Mining of Danube in 1944.

- (A) Zones and number of mines laid.
- (B) Distance between each mine.
- (C) Dates when laid.
- (D) Number of actuations of PDM in each magnetic mine.

Since the information not held by us request British Mission supply us that we may comply with urgent Soviet request. Ends.

Para. 2. Following reply made.

- (A) To Roumanians. Begins. Regret unable supply information requested which is not available in Bucharest. We are informing Soviet Authorities of responsible British Authority from which information should be sought. Ends.
- (B) To Russians. Begins. We have received urgent request from Roumanian Naval Authorities for information on British American mining of Danube - copy enclosed. Matter is being handled by B.M.M. Sofia. Suggest your Naval Authorities apply direct for any information required. Ends.

Para. 3.

Para. 3. C. in C. Mediterranean 131439 December
para. 2 (? direct to) Admiral Archer refers.

201245B Reply 221141B

Received in War Registry at
0627/22 (Advance copy).

1st Lord
1st S.L. (3)
D.F.S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Sec.
U.W.R.
Ops. (2)
Plot
C.D. (6)
O.I.C. (2)
P.A.S. (L)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel
D.D.O.D. (M)
D.N.A.O. (2)
D.N.I. (5)
M. (3)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q) (3)
Hydrog. (2)
D. of N.
Admiral Bellairs
Ad. Blake (4)
W.D.

SECRET

3898

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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*Mine clearance of Mediterranean
Directorate for*

201547B/April

From C.in C. Mediterranean

Date 21.4.45

Recd 0311

Naval Cypher (XD) BY W/T

To Admiralty.

I consider that suggestion of having French President or Joint President of Mediterranean Zone Board for mine clearance should be very firmly rejected and that alternative of dividing Mediterranean into two Zones is unacceptable. A.L. M. 017 65/44 dated 2nd April refers.

(2) Mediterranean Zone Board will direct operations by British, French, Greek, Jugo-Slav, Italian and possibly Turkish forces. Our more steadfast Allies such as the Greeks could with some reason argue that French effort in the war at sea has not been commensurate with their assuming direction of all Allied Forces in Mediterranean even for post war mine clearance.

(3) As language used by Board and its records will presumably be that of President a British President is most desirable. Preparation of necessary mining and minesweeping intelligence is already well advanced, and indeed nucleus of a mine clearance Board, already exists on my staff. Any attempt to transfer these records to another authority would inevitably lead to loss of time and efficiency, introduce language difficulties and involve loss of accumulated knowledge of my staff.

(4) Direct French interest in post war mine clearance is limited to few remaining minefields in Gulf of Lyons and off coast of Corsica and no French Officer has sufficient knowledge and experience of minesweeping to fit him for Presidency of the Board. French sweeping forces are of only moderate efficiency.

(5) By Cunningham agreement, C.in C. Mediterranean operates Italian Navy and imposition of Board with executive powers between him and that Navy appears illegal unless it is run by a British Officer in his name. Furthermore relations between the Italians and French are such that considerable friction would be inevitable if orders were given by a Board with a French President.

(6) Certain mining intelligence is restricted to British personnel only and unless Admiralty policy has changed, information on latest methods of minesweeping cannot be given to French.

(7) As unified Naval Command is likely to continue in Mediterranean for some time after collapse of Germany and as experience shows that a check sweep by British minesweepers will almost invariably be desirable if not actually essential, I consider that President of Mediterranean Zone Board should be a British officer who is on staff of C.in C. Mediterranean.

/(8) see over.....

(8) Letter with remarks on draft agreement on International organisation for clearance of mines in European waters (third revise) follows).

201547B

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (3)
D.F.S.L.
2nd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Sec.
Nav. Sec.
P.A.S. (S)
P.A.S. (L)
U.W.R.
Ops (2)
O.D. (6)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
D. of P. (3)
D. of P. (Q) (3)
M. (5)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.
D.T.D. (4)
D.D.O.D. (M)
D.T.S.D.
D.T.M. (2)
P.N.L.O.
Hydrog (2)
D. of N.
W.D.
Ad. Blake (4)

PEH

War Diary20.4.1945.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

A.F.D.40 Sailed H.M.S. TULIP 0530Z escorting tug H.M.S. PRUDENT with A.F.D.40 in tow to Cochin. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 200545Z to Admiralty).

SS. Tanker GARD has been diverted to stand by BEMIS HEIGHTS aground in position 012° 50' N., 43° 06' E. to assist by transferring fuel if necessary. Ships have been instructed not to prejudice safety of vessel by transfer. Tugs ASSIDUOUS and CONFEDERATE endeavouring to refloat my 180943 not to all refers. (Com. Aden, 200812 to C. in C. E.I.S.)

S/M H.M.S. SIBYL arrived Trincomalee 21st April. SYBIL 2. Intend to sail her to join B.P.F. Flotilla pending reply to my 131103. (C. in C. E.I., 201049Z to Admty).

BARBAIN R.F.A. GREEN RANGER towing H.M.S. BARBAIN (Boom defence vessel) expected ready to sail p.m./25th April. Request you will sail them as convenient to Port Darwin for onward routeing as required by C.C. B.P.F. for B.P.F. 2. H.M.S. GREEN RANGER is to slip H.M.S. BARBAIN as convenient when off Port Darwin, for entering harbour under own steam. 4. Estimate S.O.A. 10 knots. (C. in C. E.I., 201126A to N.C.S.O. Colombo).

"Highobridga" It is considered advantageous to have 2 craft. "Highobridga" craft in each Flotilla. Request the following re-allocation may be made. From 270 Flotilla to 272 Flotilla L.C.I.(L) 270, 293 from 272 to 270 Flotilla L.C.I.(L) 4, 216. (S.O.B.G. Force "W", 201500Z to S.O.R.N.E.(I)).

A.F.Ds. 55, Intend sailing EMPHATIC towing A.F.D.55 to and 49. Bombay tomorrow 21st. Docks and ROSEBAY will be sailed to overtake as soon as Tugs. ready. 2. FIARE expected to be ready about 27th April when she will be sailed towing A.F.D.49 to Trinco escorted by SNOWFLAKE. 3. ASSIDUOUS now standing by stranded BEMIS HEIGHTS vide my 180943. May I retain her until return of CONFEDERATE from Karachi about mid-May or alternatively use her to tow DUMB HOPPERS to Karachi since otherwise there will be no (?tug) salvage ship or powerful escort vessel to send to the assistance of Marine casualties which occur so frequently in this vicinity. My 130816, 141605 and 151429 refer, signals quoted not to all. (Com. Aden, 201647 to C. in C. E.I.)

/Flying...

20.4.1945.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

Flying boat depot ships, for E.I.

My AX. 78 March 16. The requirement for flying-boat depot ships for operations in the Far East has been reviewed in the light of the following factors:-

(A) Very low scale of U-boat attack against our shipping expected in the Indian Ocean.

(B) Neither of the two ships previously allocated for conversion would be suitable for the operation of flying-boats without major modification.

(C) The work involved could only be done at the expense of urgent requirements for Naval or Merchant shipping and could not be completed in time for the ships to take part in the advance towards Singapore on current planning dates. Therefore they are not essential requirement.

2. In view of above factors Chiefs of Staff have decided that project for providing you with two flying-boat depot-ships from U.K. should be abandoned. SS. MANELA will thus be only ship available to you for operation of flying-boats in the forward areas.

(A.M.W., 201939Z to A.C.S.E.A.)

20.4.1945.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

N.S.H.Q. Submarine Attack and Sighting Summary. No report since my 170018Z. All times Z. Para. A. (1) U.S. T.G.22.10 Asdic contact 0650 19th April in 42.19 N., 61.45 W. followed by H/H attack 0729. Para. C. (1) U.S.C.G. ALGONQUIN attacked Asdic contact about 01.55 19th April in 43.18 N., 62.42 W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 200322Z to Admiralty, Cominch).

U/B Dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 201331Z and Cominch 201505Z).

SEAWOLF A/S Training Submarine. SEAWOLF is now due for semi-annual docking and training. Submarine cannot therefore be spared. Your 191554*refers. (C. in C. C.N.A., 201906Z to F.O.N.F.) *On arrival an extensive training programme was immediately implemented for both seagoing and shore personnel.

Convoys. Concur in proposed 5 day cycle for C.U./U.C. convoys. Your 192120Z. Escorts will consist of 9 Groups with 7 Escorts each Group. Recommend implementation with C.U.68 departing U.S. 2nd May and U.C.68 from U.K. 17th May. (Cinclant, 201927Z to Cominch, and 211929).

S/M SEAROVER H.M.C.S. GUELPH (S.O.), H.M. S/M SEAROVER sailed as in my 192054. (F.O.N.F., 202016Z to C. in C.N.A.)

Radar contacts etc. Para. (C). 1. 192025 P.V. had disappearing Radar Contact 36.28 N., 73.40 W. 2. K.70 had made contact about 1416/20 verified by K.78 at 1435/20 in 37.08 N., 74.47 W. All times Z. Para. D. 1. 191837 U.S.S. DAVENPORT attacked Sonar contact 40.23 N. 68.58 W. 2. 201415 P.V. reported Radar contact 34.55 N., 75.10 W. (Cominch, 202043Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

War Diary20.4.1945.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia & Far East

- Digest 1185
19.4.45.
Extract.
2. Last night Navy Mariner sank lone schooner off Takao.
5. Search plane over coast northwest Borneo effectively attacked small ships Brunei Bay destroying 1 Sea truck 1 river steamer, leaving 1 launch sinking and damaging 1 large tug 1 river boat.
11. 18th April 5 more Mitchells attacked small ships off Tawdo destroying 1 coaster 1 lugger, damaging 2 barges.
12. 2 Liberators of 13th Air Force patrolling South Celebes waters morning strafed and damaged 4 schooners in Tiworo Strait, sank 1 barge probably sank 1 tug off Makassar also strafed 1 gunboat which ran aground near Makassar.
13. Single R.A.A.F. Liberator from Darwin searched Flores sea during day strafing and burning 1 lugger beached off northwestern Flores Island.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 200818Z to Admiralty).

RANEE
(ferry
carrier).

My 022018. Upon completion unloading and voyage repairs sail H.M.S. RANEE about 2nd May for U.K. Operational control this command terminates upon sailing.
(Comcartransronpac, 202050 to Comfairwestcoastox).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0800Z/20th April.

Para. A. 1. A/C R/235 sighted U-boat on surface at 1736Z/19th in lat. 57° 09' N., long. 01° 10' E.
2. Mosquito A/C of Squadrons 235, 143, 333 and 248 sighted 4 and attacked 3 U-boats Co.360° at 1435Z/19th in lat. 56° 38' N., long. 11° 51' E.

Para. B. 1. A/C sighted possible conning tower at 2255Z/18th in lat. 57° 25' N. long. 11° 30' E.
2. C.T.G.63.1 attacked contact at 1200Z/19th in lat. 42° 45' E. long. 14° 44' W.

Para. C. 1. H.M.S. LANCASTER CASTLE attacked contact at 1719Z 19th in lat. 53° 10' N., long. 05° 14' W.
2. A/C N/236 attacked periscope Co. 160° at 1050Z/18th in lat. 51° 33' N., long. 03° 02' E.

Para. D. 1. Faroese ship STANLEY sighted 2 U-boats on surface which dived at 0100Z/19th in lat. 62° 59' N., long. 19° 02' W.
2. H.M.S. BURDOCK attacked contact at 0542Z/20th in lat. 49° 50' N., long. 00° 15' W.
(D.D.I.C., 201204B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U/B Estimates.
Dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 201412B to A.I.G.331, Cominch).

War Diary21.4.1945
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

North Sea.

1(a) RETALICK whilst on patrol off Ostend this morning engaged several explosive motor-boats, sinking four and taking four prisoners.

(b) Two ground mines were detonated North-West of Ostend to-day.

(c) A Wellington in the early hours of to-day attacked three midget U-Boats 14 miles West and 13 miles North-West of Maas Light.

One vessel was straddled by 250 lb bombs and machine gun strikes were seen on the hull of another.

Channel

2(a) CONCERTATOR destroyed a moored mine in 49.56 N. 05.09 W. (off the Lizard) this morning.

(b) A.N.C.X.F.(Main) has agreed to the U.S. Amphibious Base at Portland being closed and the embarkation of all U.S. troops and vehicles being centralized at Southampton.

(c) Shelling from Alderney recommenced at 1847 to-day.

Western Approaches.

3. Approach Channels to Belfast, Londonderry and Liverpool (in that order of priority) are to be swept as soon as possible for the possible presence of magnetic and acoustic mines, either moored or ground.

Northern Waters.

4. Force 5 (The fast minelayer ~~APOLLO~~ APOLLO with DIDO and 3 destroyers) arrived at Kola Inlet this morning to carry out a minelaying operation in the Approaches to the inlet to prevent the approach of U-Boats to favourable attacking position in this area (Operation "Trammel").

Baltic.

5(a) A Liberator to-day attacked a fully surfaced U-Boat 16 miles East of Lacao (Kattagat). 4 x 600 lb A/S bombs straddled the target, and several minutes later an orange flash and an explosion were seen.

(b) Halifaxes in the early hours made direct hits on two 3/4000 ton merchantmen off Anbolt, leaving one of them on fire.

Foreign StationsNorth Atlantic

Movement.

6. French cruiser DUQUESNE arrived Casablanca from Brest.

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Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

- Burma. 7. Beaufighters attacked shipping and Rangoon to-day sinking a merchant vessel and damaging many river craft.
- Indian Ocean. 8. A base area and R.A.F. station have been established in the Cocos Is. From to-day 8 Spitfires will be operating from here. 211700.
- S/M STATESMAN. 9. Between 5th and 15th April S/M STATESMAN on patrol in Southern Malacca Straits sank 12 small craft and coasters totalling 950 tons and a convoy of 7 landing craft carrying personnel and stores, 2 bags of official mails were captured. 211700Z and 231251Z.

Far East and Australia

- China. 10 (a) U.S. Air Force Privateers attacked shipping in the Canton area destroying river craft and leaving a tanker, freighter and an M.T.B. on fire. 220820Z.
(b) U.S. Naval aircraft sank two river steamers S.E. of Wenchow and set on fire three coasters 30 miles North of Amoy.
(c) Last night a large transport was bombed and set on fire 15 miles South of Toreki, Formosa by Mariners.

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SaturdayHOME COMMANDSPolicy

Procedure for dealing with French Naval matters

Your O71225 is not fully understood. It is assumed that S.H.A.E.F. Mission to France, including Naval Section, will remain in Paris. Accordingly, Admty. procedure for dealing with French Naval matters will be:-

(a) Matters the concern of S.H.A.E.F. involving questions of policy will be handled through A.N.C.X.F., who will presumably deal with French through S.H.A.E.F. Naval Mission.

(b) Matters the concern of S.H.A.E.F. involving only detailed administration will be handled by Admty. through S.H.A.E.F. Naval Mission, A.N.C.X.F. being kept informed as necessary. Where British interests primarily are involved Admty. will communicate through Captain Wharton. Admty. Message 221646 Dec. para.3c refers

(c) Matters not the concern of S.H.A.E.F will, as heretofore, be dealt with between Admty. and Marine Paris through N.A. Paris.

(2) Proposals are under consideration for direct liaison and communication with French Admty. for passing routine information concerning shipping and operational matters.
(P.A.S.(L), 210047B to A.N.C.X.F.)

L.S.Ts. returning to U.S.A.

Concur in 16 U.S. L.S.T. sailing in O.N.S.50. L.S.T. should proceed to Belfast to join convoy. Your 201538 not to F.O.I.C.N.I. refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 211919B to Commaveu.)

OperationsNorth Sea

4 E.M.Bs. destroyed

Am engaging several explosive M.B. in position 030° Ostend 28.
(Unit F.H.1, 210042)

During early hours this morning Saturday 21st April H.M.S. RETALICK on patrol 19 engaged several explosive motor boats four reported sunk and four prisoners taken two of whom have since died. RETALICK E.T.A. Ostend 0900. Prisoners will be landed and interrogated.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 210810)

Humber minesweeping

My 201813 para. 4 amend to read "as from noon, Sunday 22nd April."
(C. in C. Nore, 210938B to 16 Group.)

Patrols

My 201821B para. 2. Amend to read:-
12 CUBITT, 16 RETALICK, 22 CURZON.
(C. in C. Nore, 211116B.)

My 201821 para. 2. Delete CURZON. Para. 4. Amend to read - Patrol 22. 4 M.T.Bs. Force callsign F.B.7 Unit callsigns F.B.8 and F.B.9.
(C. in C. Nore, 211737B)

Tactics against S.B.Us.

On a midget U-boat being detected or sighted an immediate attack should be carried out. It is unlikely that Asdic contact will be obtained if the Midget dives.

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Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Tactics against S.B.Us. (Contd.) (2) Starshell and Rocket illumination have been reported as useless at close range. Snowflakes have been reported as excellent for this purpose. (C. in C. Nore, 211119B to D.21, D.16, etc.)

Proposed Dover-Calais shuttle service First. Proposed for agreement action addressees that commencing with craft arriving B.L.A. 1st May L.C.T. Shuttle Service be operated Dover-Calais not Dover-Boulogne. Second. Acceptance capacity Calais 8 rpt. 8 L.C.T. per daylight tide. Third. For Buco and Serial Ten. Request that except in case of serials specifically called forward to Calais or accepted there by special arrangement only awkward V.E.H.S. unsuitable for L.S.T. be loaded in L.C.T. to Calais. Fourth. To enable maximum notice be given all concerned replies requested soonest. (Exfor. Rear Movements, 211200B.)

Patrol off Calais Commencing tomorrow Sunday 22nd April duty trawler is to patrol Q.Z.S.606 from Calais Harbour entrance to D.C.3 Buoy. Period of patrol to be from 30 minutes before first to 30 minutes after last movement of personnel ships or train ferry. Constant W/T watch on 1700 Kc/s is to be maintained Times of leaving and entering harbour will be promulgated in local daily movements signal. (S.N.O. B.O.P.(F), 211204B.)

Tanker GOLD SHELL (sunk 16th April in T.A.M.40) N.O.I.C. Ostend 161544B. Following information obtained from sources indicated. (a) M.L.207 at 4 cables M.M.S.216 at 5 cables and H.M.S. SEAHAM at 2 miles from GOLD SHELL report no underwater shock felt and no disturbance of water observed. (b) M.L.207 and H.D.M.L. 1399 obtained no Asdic reaction from explosion. (c) Ships engineer on watch and another engineer in deck cabin aft felt slight explosion estimated in vicinity of pump room under bridge. No information whether fire or explosion occurred first. Main engines not affected. (2) Ship was 5th in convoy, speed approx. 7½ knots, following close astern of next ahead. Cargo 8,000 tons 100 octane spirit. (3) All observers report no external damage visible on hull or deck. (4) Consider mine unlikely cause of this casualty. (F.O. Belgium, 211255 to Admty.)

Proposal to transfer 10th M.L.F. from Portsmouth to A/C Dover. C. in C. Portsmouth's 201347B as amended by 201832B concur with paragraph 3, though in view of standing patrols in Dover Command, one M.L. sweeping ahead of B.T.C./T.B.C. Convoys would be acceptable between C.2 buoy and Sandhead Buoy. (2) Do not consider use made of Boulogne necessitates provision of patrol. (3) Concur that a patrol is desirable off Calais.

/ (4)...

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SaturdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Proposal to transfer 10th M.L.F. from Portsmouth to A.C. Dover. (Contd.)

(4) Suggest therefore: (a) 10th M.L.F. remains based at Newhaven since no further maintenance can be undertaken by Dover Command. (b) Two M.Ls. of 10th M.L.F. be berthed at Calais to maintain Calais Patrol, being relieved as necessary for maintenance at Newhaven. (c) Remainder of Flotilla maintain one or two M.Ls. sweeping ahead of B.T.C./T.B.C. convoys.
(A.C. Dover, 211310B to Admty.)

Add to references in line one of my 211310B "And A.N.C.X.F. (Main)'s 141255B".
(A.C. Dover, 211814B.)

Dover Patrols

Dover Secret Order. Article 31. para. 4. Amend patrols as follows: Patrol DH (Callsign FO 7) - 045° D.C.1 buoy 1.5 miles. 270° D.C.2 buoy 2 miles. Patrol DJ (Callsign FO 8) - 270° D.C.1. buoy 2 miles. 240° D.C.2 buoy 1.5 miles.

(2) Add additional Patrol DN (Callsign FP 3) as follows: From one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, 360° Calais East breakwater light 1 mile to D.C.4 buoy. By night - D.C.5 buoy to D.C.4 buoy to D.C.2 buoy.

(3) 16 Group pass to 822 Squadron.
(A.C. Dover, 211334B to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate.) See amendment 231845B. My 191142B* not to all. New Patrol DN (my 211334B refers) is to be maintained in preference to Patrol DM for the present. Amend order of priority accordingly.

(2) New Patrol DN is to be established as from a.m. tomorrow, Sunday.

(3) 16 Group pass to 822 Squadron.
(A.C. Dover, 211338B to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate.) * Patrols are to be occupied in the order of priority with craft available.
My 211334B* para. 2. Amend to read Calais east breakwater light 0.5 miles.
(A.C. Dover, 211637B.) * Dover Secret Order Article 31.

C.C.N.C.A. My 191149B* cancel para. 1. My title is as laid down in A.N.C.X.F. 191245B.
(Capt. P.H.G. James R.N., 211346B.)* Intend to assume title of Captain Commanding Naval Concentration Area.

250 Danish Fishing Vessels. C. in C. Rosyth 201451B. Accommodation arranged for 200 Trawlers at Grimsby and 50 at Hull. Any surplus will be directed to ports in numbers and sequence stated by C. in C. Rosyth.
(F.O.I.C. Humber, 211357B to Admty.)

E.G.23 Sail at 0800B tomorrow Sunday to vicinity of Cape Wrath to relieve 30th E.G. as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth. Report E.T.A. to C. in C. Rosyth.
(T.C. PHILANTE, 211514B to E.G.23.)

/Cositintrep...

21.4.1945
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations
North Sea - Contd.

Cositintrep No. 382. Part 4 - Section A.
 Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 201600A April.
 (S.H.A.E.F. Main, 211530)

U-boat and S.B.U. summary to 1200B/21st. (1) 0140B/21 SPRINGHILL attacked contact 140° E. Goodwin No. 2 buoy. Latter classified as non-submarine contact. (A/C Dover, 211724B.)
 (1) 1234/18. Coast artillery claim sinking midget U-boat off Blankenberg.
 (2) 0042/21 and 0142/21. RETALICK sank 4 E.M.Bs. approx. 030° Ostend 31 miles. 4 prisoners but 2 died.
 (3) 0108/21. Wellington F/407 reports illuminated 2 Midget U-boats 52.04 N., 03.40 E. (C. in C. Nore, 212040B.)

Operations "Placket", "Cackle", "Clearway", and "Fireball". Cancel my 141120.
 (2) Request M/S Force B may now be held at 24 hrs. notice.
 (3) My 021507 para. (b) refers. (A.N.C.X.F., 211845B to C. in C. Nore.)
 Your 201553 para. 4 cannot be confirmed.
 (2) To bridge gap before tanker can enter S.H.A.E.F. is being asked to transport 600 tons of 87 Octane during first fortnight after capture of port. Overland transport for diesel fuel cannot be provided but carrying trawlers can be made available to accompany auxiliary M/S Forces and to remain at advanced base. (A.N.C.X.F. (Main), 212145B to C. in C. Nore.)
 Request you will arrange for HYDROGRAAF, FINELLA and JACOB to be held at 24 hours' notice to act as attached surveying vessels to mine-sweeping force for operation "Cackle". (A.N.C.X.F. (Main), 212220B to F.O.I.C. Holland.)
 FRANKLIN will be available on completion of repairs and M.L. 1001 and M.L. 1053 are now at 48 hours' notice to act as surveying units for operations "Placket" (B) and "Dropkick" as required by you. (A.N.C.X.F. (Main), 212225B to C. in C. Nore.)

Opening of a German Port C. in C. Nore's 201553 paras. 1, 2 and 3 concur.
 (2) S.O. N.P. 1761 should report to office of C. in C. Nore as soon as possible to arrange details. (A.N.C.X.F. (Main, 212215B.)

Operations
Channel

Patrol Sail so as to pass Gate at 0845^B/22 and proceed establish patrol Pendeen to Lizard on coastal convoy route.
 (2) If not in contact LOCH KILLIN, BURGES,

/CRANSTOUN...

400

21.4.1945
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelPatrol
(Contd.)

CRANSTOUN leave patrol so as to enter Plymouth at 1500B/22 for lay-over.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211101B to ASCENSION, MOORSOM, LOCH LOMOND.)

U.S.
Amphibious
Base at
Portland

Your 192130* not to all, is being examined in conjunction with a proposal to close the U.S. Amphibious Base at Portland to centralize embarkation of all U.S. Troops and vehicles, including those for the French re-armament and U.N.R.A. programmes, at Southampton.

(2) Provisional agreement has already been reached to discontinue embarking U.S. Awkward vehicles in L.C.T. at Portland, but L.C.I.(L) lift must remain available there so long as U.S. L.S.T. continue to load at this port.

(3) Subject to confirmation at a meeting to be held at Portsmouth on Tuesday it is proposed that the 51st and 59th L.C.T.(4) Flotillas should be withdrawn from the Shuttle Service to provide the 24 operational craft required in para. 1 of your signal under reference but that they should remain based on and administered by ATTACK until required for service. N.C. Force T (Rear) agrees.

(4) It is further proposed that the 263rd L.C.I.(L) Flotilla complete should provide the 6 craft required by para. 2 of your 192130. Permission is, however, requested to continue to use these craft if necessary to supplement the U.S. Troop lift in L.S.I. until the U.S. L.C.I.(L) at present based at Portland become available.

(5) C. in C. Portsmouth concurs with the foregoing.
(A.N.C.X.F., Buco, 211140B to A.N.C.X.F.)

* 24 L.C.T.(4) now required day's notice.

Your 211140 approved subject to agreement and confirmation referred to in paras. 2 and 3 respectively.

(A.N.C.X.F. (Main), 212300B to A.N.C.X.F. (Buco)).

Force 26
Patrol
off
Lannion

BEAGLE take COSBY under his orders to form Force 26. Pass Gate at 1600B today 21st April and proceed by Q.Z.S.697 thence direct to establish patrol between positions.

(a) 49° 23' N. 03° 55' W. and
(b) 49° 06' N. 03° 49' W. by 2000B.

Objects:- To cover COC/O.C.C. convoy route against surface craft and to give effect to Opas. paras. 1, 2 and 3 (not held by all addressees).

(2) If no contacts by 0700B/22 Force 26 is to return by reverse of route to Plymouth.

(3) Force 26 hold Opas and Cousnaab Cherbourg 2 - 45 of 19.3.45 with amendment.

(4) Communications.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211216B to BEAGLE, COSBY.)

Mine off
Lizard.

My 211440B*

H.M.T. CONCERTATOR reported moored mine detonated in 49° 56' N. 05° 9' W. at 0920B today.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211726)

* Area dangerous owing to suspected mines.

/U-boat...

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SaturdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.U-boat
reportGOOD HOPE in contact bottom echo possible U-boat
position 050° 26' N. 002° 54' W.
(LOCH FYNE 212330B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)OperationsWest Coast of France.Biscay
Coast
blockadeMy 201725B* A/C delayed by weather.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 210533B to Force 27.)
Dispositions at 2000:-
(1) Force 27. L'AVEVENTURE, L'ALCYON, vicinity
Ile d'Yeu.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211421B.)1 Sunderland A/C, on coastwise sweep from vicinity of Brest,
will contact patrol A of Force 27 in vicinity of Ile d'Yeu at
about 0830B tomorrow 22nd April. A/C will continue sweep to
southward returning to contact patrol A as mutually arranged
before returning to Base.

Callsigns.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211711B to Force 27.) *Patrols to be flown
21st April.Anti-Radar
apparatusThis is encipherment by C.T.F.122 of his Dis.
211732B.
"French report Phare Des Baleines Lighthouse on
Ile de Re and Chassirion Lighthouse on Oleron have
apparatus neutralizing Allied Radar for 30Kilometer radius similar to Pen Men Lighthouse apparatus which
blew out M.T.B. Radar tubes on 6 - 7 April."
(C.T.F.122 211820B to A.N.C.X.F.)G.2
Summary
No.111Part I dated 21st April covering period 2400B/19 to
2400B/20.(1) Operations.
Allied operations Gironde area finished except
clearing Ile d'Oleron in estuary. About 8,500
prisoners of war for operations.
(S.H.A.E.F. Forward, 211830B.)WELLS,
TRIENTATwo trawlers WELLS and TRIENTA with Liquors and
Aperitifs are at Port St. Nazaire 18th current
month probably having come from Spain. Ships
are similar, 50 metres long, black hull, diesel
motored, grey superstructure, except for names no
special markings. 2 H.D.Ls. with 1 unloading Derrick between
them. Above deck-house double motor 25 AA gun as armament.
This information for SRO-DAAT.
(Comar L'Orient, no T.O.O. 21st Received 2159 to Marine Paris.)

21.4.1945
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

- E.G.5 On relief by 20th E.G. detach from M.K.S.95 and proceed to search area bounded by parallels 49° and 50° and meridians 09° and 11°.
 (2) On detaching from Force 31 codeword "Siege".
 (C. in C.W.A., 211149B to S.O.E.G.5.)
- Use of searched channels Until further orders searched channels in force are to be strictly adhered to by all ships when north and east of a line joining Mull of Kintyre Light and Coresewall Point Light.
 (2) Ships are not to cross this line to hunt U-boats without orders from C. in C.W.A., or unless in contact with a known U-boat.
 (C. in C.W.A., 211303B.)
- Sweeping approaches to Belfast, Londonderry, Liverpool. Approach Channels to the following Ports and in the priority shown below are to be swept for possible presence of magnetic and acoustic mines either moored or ground.
 (a) Belfast. (b) Londonderry. (c) Liverpool.
 (2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail M/S Forces as soon as possible as follows:-
 109th Aux. M/S Group and Danlayer to Belfast.
 4 L L.M/S Trawlers to Londonderry.
 (3) On arrival 100 per cent sweep is to be carried out and immediately on completion, vessels are to be sailed for Liverpool to carry out sweep of Liverpool Channels.
 (4) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail 3 Oropesa Trawlers as soon as possible to Liverpool where they are to operate under orders of F.O.I.C. Liverpool until return of sweepers in Para. 2, when they are to be sailed to Milford Haven.
 (5) Reduction of Local A/S Patrols must be temporarily accepted.
 (6) Local patrols maintained Aultbea are to continue.
 (C. in C. W.A., 211601B.)
- E.G.16 Escort duty. It is intended to allocate E.G.16 for next turn of duty as escort to fast troop convoys between U.K. and Gibraltar. This duty has hitherto been performed by an R.N. Support Group but planning requirements make it convenient to use E.G.16 on this occasion.
 (2) The Group will escort three successive convoys between May 5th and June 28th when they will return to service in U.K. During this period the group will lay over at Gibraltar and will only call at U.K. ports for a few hours at a time.
 (C. in C.W.A., 211603B to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- Cases of undiscipline by Merchant Ships Ref. C. in C. C.N.A.'s 201209Z*. Consider the Commodore of the convoy should be consulted and his concurrence obtained before making these reports by signal.
 (2) Propose general instructions to escorts as agreed by Admiralty. N.S.H.Q. and Cominch should be promulgated in A.C.I.'s for all convoys on this point.
 (C. in C.W.A. 211626 to Admty.)
 *201409 intended.

/U-boat...

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21.4.1945
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches - Contd.U-boat 636
sunk
110 miles
N.W. Malin
Head.

German U-boat destroyed in 055° 50' N. 010° 31' W. (X). Asdic contact by DRURY at 1412 who attacked with depth charge. Depth charge attack BAZELY at 1508 produced 2 underwater explosions at 1512 and 1515. Human ?lung, German (corrupt group) currency and various wreckage recovered. Much oil. (S.O.E.G.4 211645B.)

Non-
S/MS
established

The following non-S/MS have been established today 21st.

- (1) Wreck 052° 16' 15" N. 006° 03' 30" W. (X) 18 feet high 220 feet long direction N.E. (?).
 (2) Non S/M 052° 07' 30" N. 005° 22' (?) 36" W. (X) 101 (?) feet long 34 feet high.
 (3) Non-S/M 052° 06' 30" N. 005° 24' 12" W. (X) 42' high 255 feet long.
 (S.O. Force 38, 212248B to C. in C.W.A.)

OperationsNorwayOperation
V.P. + S.C.

Ramose Jersey HITRA returned to Lerwick at 0130B/21st April.

(2) Operation unsuccessful.
 Ramose Supremacy postponed E.T.D. now 0700B. 22nd April.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 210617B.)

V.P.8 Cancelled weather unsuitable.
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 210812B.)

Preparations
for escape
of PRINZ
EUGEN

No further movement of enemy has been reported.

- (2) Sail TURPIN and TOTEM for Holy Loch on 22nd April making arrangements with S/M 3.
 (3) Recall VARNE to leave patrol 22nd.
 (4) VENTURER to patrol in area given in my 261724* not to all. Paragraph 3 of that signal also applies.

(5) Retain UTSIRA, DOLFIJN, DZIK, UNBENDING at 8 hours notice. (F.O.S/MS, 211342B to S.O. S/MS Lerwick.)

* N.T. in W.R.

Patrols
(S/M)

Leave position 057° 58' 006° 35' at 2300B/22nd thence to Lerwick. (Route)

(2) Diving by day, east of 001° E.
 (S.O. S/MS Lerwick, 211840B to VARNE.)

(1) Proceed forthwith to patrol in area bounded by North 059° 10' West. 004° 10' East. South 058° 15' and a line running 230° from position 058° 23' 006° 03' E. East Norwegian Coast except in Skudesnes Fiord where limit is 005° 37'.

- (2) Attack restrictions are in force for this area.
 (3) Between 2300 B/22 and 0400B/25 do not approach within 20 miles of VARNE route. My 211842 refers.
 (S.O. S/MS Lerwick 211845B to VENTURER) See amendment 220912B.

/Positions...

21.4.1945
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Patrols
(S/M)
(Contd.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/22nd and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone B.
(a) VARNE as in A.M. 201851.
(b) VENTURER on patrol S.E. of Egersund.
(C. of W., 211914B.) See Amendment 220714B.

Operations

Northern Waters

Force 5

Force 5 arrived 1015/21st. C. in C.H.F. (Ashore) 172204 not to all addressees refers. Admiralty recypher and pass to seagoing addressees.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 211033B.)

In answer
Admiralty H.M.S. OPPORTUNE from S.O. Force 5, Admiralty recode and pass to E.G. 19. My T.R.A. dated 17th April. Advance all times 6 hours.

(2) Line B.1 has been moved to new position 1.5 miles south of B.2.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 211447B.)

S.O. Force 5's 211447. For '6 hours read '7 hours'.

S.O. Force 5's 211951 to S.B.N.O. North Russia only refers. Admiralty recode and pass to E.G. 19 and S.O. Force 5.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 212107B.)

U-boat
report

Admiralty recode and pass to all addressees. Probably German U-boat observed 0950B in approx. 069° 19' N. 033° 32' E.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 211130B.)

Force C.

Situation 2201B 21st April.
Force C. NAMSOS, 2 Whalers vicinity Skagi. U.S.S. DEARBORN 064° 02' N. 024° 38' W. to vicinity 063° 00' N. 031° 30' W.
(A.C.I.C., 211250B.)

"Ploughshare"

Following from C. in C. Royal Norwegian Forces begins:- (Enquiry as to what equipment and personnel are required.)
(D.O.D.(H) 211759B to "Ploughshare".)

Enemy Intelligence

U-boats
reported

German U-boats reported refuelling 19th April position 278542 on sheet L.4.
(H.Q. 30 A.U. 211007B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Military
transport
between
Norway and
Denmark.

My 191704 and 201726, following transport movements reported from Norway.
Larvik:
(a) FEODOSIA arrived 1440 March 30th with about 50 troops and about 20 tons materials. She left /same...

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Transport
between
Norway
and
Denmark.
(Contd.)

same day at 2000 escorted by small destroyer and two small escort vessels with 120 troops, 250 Russian prisoners, 3 to 400 horses and M/T.
 (b) CEUTA arrived 2400 April 1st escorted by small destroyer and 2 escort vessels. She left 2130 following day with same escort and 2 U-boats carrying 100 Vlassow Russians about 400 prisoners and 3 to 400 horses.
 (c) HANSA I arrived April 5th escorted by new type of U-boat and small destroyer. She dis-

charged large covered cases contents unknown.

- (2) Fredrikstad:
 (a) CATANIA left April 13th with troops and horses.
 (b) LISSAGNE was reported loading in Fredrikstad April 10th and April 11th.

B.2

(N.A. Stockholm, 211151.)

N.I.D. Comment: Para. C. A previous B.2 report stated that HANSA I left Fredrikshaven on 5th April for Norway with 500 leave troops.

German military transport between Norway and Denmark.

Following transport movements have been reported from Norwegian ports.

- {1} Moss.
 (a) German ferry PREUSSEN arrived Moss April 10th and discharged 6 locomotives having previously disembarked 400 troops of 50 to 55 years in Drobak.

She embarked 1,000 men and 250 horses and waggons and left 2300 10th.

- (b) My 181248 OSTLAND which left Oslo April 10th called at Moss same day and loaded following additional men and material:
 600 G.A.F. 50 motor vehicles, 12 guns calibre 8.8 and 4.5 cm.
 50 horses and 20 waggons.

She sailed 1930/11.

- (C) CATANIA arrived April 11th and discharged provisions and equipment. She left in ballast 0630/12.

{2} Oslo.

- (a) My 091642 para. (D) ANGAMOS newly equipped as troop transport began loading 1700/15 and left Oslo with troops and material 0700 16th.

- (b) See my top secret Quest 141714. PREUSSEN arrived Filipstad 1400/14th and discharged following: 100 cycles and 3 or 4 cars. 10 or 12 8 wheel trucks each 10 to 15 metres long containing covered objects believed V.2 which were then loaded on railway trucks.

She left 1230/15th fully loaded with troops and material including motor transport and field kitchens. See also my top secret Quest 201626 para. (c). B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 211801.)

Casualties and Defects

HIGH TIDE
 (foundered
 31/3/45)

Your 311845 March. Request any further information on the loss of HIGH TIDE and report of enquiry. (Admty., 211013B to N.O.I.C. Holyhead.)

/Your...

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(Foundered
31/3/45)
(Contd.)

Your 211013B. Report of Board of Enquiry convened by me is being forwarded to C. in C.W.A. today, 21st April. Loss of this vessel was caused by lack of stability due to overloading. Casualties are as in N.O.I.C. Holyhead's 311845 March. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 211550B to Admty.)

ULTIMATUM

ULTIMATUM's 201434B* not to all addresses. Request you will sail ULTIMATUM to Tilbury for defects to be taken in hand as convenient today 21st April. (C. in C. Nore, 211206B to Com. Sheerness.)

Movements

E.G.23, 30

PHILANTE is requested to sail 23rd E.G. at 0800 22nd to Pentland Firth then as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth.
(2) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail 30th E.G. on relief to lie over at Londonderry.
(C. in C.W.A., 211547B.)MONOWAI,
HIGHWAYA.M. 192306 not to all. Intend to sail MONOWAI and HIGHWAY escorted by HOLMES at 0030/22nd to Gibraltar.
(2) - (6) Arrangements.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211713B to F.O.G.M.A.)

NORSEMAN

A.M. 141507 not to S.B.N.O. Azores. Prior to carrying out work on Porthcurno - Carcavellos No. 1 cable, NORSEMAN is required to proceed to Azores to carry out following repair work in Fayal Channel:-
(W) Fayal - Terceira No. 1.
(X) Fayal - San Miguel (2 breaks)
(Y) Fayal - St. Vincent.
(Z) Fayal - Porthcurno No. 1.
(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail NORSEMAN in K.M.S.98 F.O.G.M.A. is requested to arrange for escort to R/V with convoy in vicinity of latitude 41° N. and escort NORSEMAN to Azores. (D.O.D.(H), 211902B.) + 151157B May Ad. FOGMASPEARHEAD,
MORSESailed H.M.S. SPEARHEAD and F.S. MORSE in convoy K.M.S.98 (for Med.).
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 212204B.)Shipping and Convoys

Monsters

Monsters when westbound to New York, are to address E.T.A. signals to Com. 10th Flt. (C. and R.) and Comeastseafon. A.M. 081953B/ July, 1944, refers.
(D.T.D., 211930B to C. in C.W.A.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- U.S. destroyers. Intend to sail Comdesdiv 32 in U.S.S. BOYLE with CHAMPLIN, NIELDS, ORDRONAUX at 221800 to U.S.A.
(2) S.O.A. 15 knots to Azores then 20 to destination. (3) Routed in Med. through, etc.
(4) E.T.A. 1000 Horta a.m. 26th.
(6) Reports to C. in C. Lant for duty upon departure Med. (Commob Oran 211525 to Admty.)
- F.S. A/S training submarines. French have proposed reallocation of A/S training submarines which includes NARVAL ex BRONZO stationed at Casablanca for French A/S school.
(2) As proviso in A.M. 171717 Jan. 1944 not to F.O.W.M. is now over a year old proposal appears reasonable provided French keep three A/S training submarines at disposal of British and five at disposal of U.S. in accordance with directions from C.C.S.
(3) Request approval to concur in French suggestion provided they adhere to ref. in para. 2.
(4) A.M. 171717 was repetition of B.A.D's 121709 Jan. 1944. (C. in C. Med., 211555B to Admty.)
- Fr. S/M RUBIS. On completion mid May French submarine RUBIS should be sailed in slow convoy to Gibraltar for onward routing to Oran.
(D.O.D.(H) 211847B to F.O. Submarine.)
- Towage to Eastern Theatre. There is a heavy towage programme to the Eastern Theatre at the end of the monsoon period involving the movement of 13 floating docks and a large number of ancillary craft for the towage of which it will be necessary to muster all available high horsepower, long endurance tugs.
(2) To meet this requirement it will be necessary to withdraw four ASSURANCE class tugs, viz. HENGIST, RESTIVE, CHARON and FRISKY.
(3) The following, which are the only tugs available, are being allocated as reliefs:
A. Twin screw tug Marauder arriving Med. mid May.
B. Twin screw tug EXPERT (NIMBLE class) commissioning in August for dockyard service at Malta.
C. Single screw diesel electric 100 H.P. tugs BUSY and CONFIDENT due to arrive Gibraltar mid May.
(5) Tugs named in para. 2 are required in U.K. as early as possible, request you will, if practicable, arrange for refits of tugs concerned pending arrival of reliefs.
(V.C.N.S. 211924B to C. in C. Med.) See 281404B.
- U/B assessment limits. Confirmed that Western limit for Mediterranean U-Boat assessment board is a line drawn 180° from Europa Point.
(2) Printing error in Plate No. 8A, C.B. 04050/45 (2) is being corrected in the next issue.
Your 190905B refers.
(A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 212041B to C. in C. Med.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- Renumbering of destroyer division. As from 1st May 16th Destroyer Div. (P class) will be re-numbered 20th Destroyer Division and will form part of 10th Destroyer Flotilla. (C. in C. E.I. 210419Z to all S.Os. E. I. Stn.)
- BEMIS HEIGHTS. BEMIS HEIGHTS refloated after jettisoning about 2600 tons cargo and has arrived Aden. GARD, ASSIDUOUS and CONFEDERATE have also returned to Aden. (Com. Aden 210959 to C. in C. E.I.S.)
- S/Ms. Intend VIGOROUS and VIVID to carry out operational patrols when not required for A/S training. (C. in C. E.I.S. 211019Z to Admty.)
- PATHFINDER, destroyer. Sailed PATHFINDER at 1100Z/21st to Suez for onward routing to Alex. to land stores thereafter to U.K. (2) E.T.A. Suez 0300Z/24th S.O.A. 20 knots. (Com. Aden 211453Z to N.O.I.C. Suez.)
- A.F.D. 55. Departed EMPHATIC towing A.F.D. 55, PATHFINDER. (Com. Aden 211534Z to Admty.)
- Situation Report No. 10. (1) Sumatra. Force described in para. 2 of situation report No. 9 refuelled at sea 12th April. LONDON detached to refit remainder then proceeded to operate off Padang. Successful P.R. carried out 13th and 14th one A/C lost. 16th April air strike on Emmahaven one 4000 ton merchant ship and marine workshops hit. VENUS, VIRAGO sank 6 junks during sweep between Ayerbangis Bay and Natal. 2 enemy A/C shot down by fighter 3 damaged on ground. (2) STATESMAN in each offensive sank 12 small craft and coasters totalling 950 tons and convoy of (?7) landing craft carrying personnel and stores. 2 bags official mail captured. (3) Cocos Is. base area and R.A.F. Stn. established and A/A defences erected. 8 Spitfires will be operational 22nd April. (C. in C. E.I. 211700Z to Admty.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

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

Para. C. (1) A/C G/145 sighted smoke white streak and oil slicks at 1515Z/19th April in 43.57 N. 63.05 W.
(2) A/C R/116 sighted possible schnorkel wake and vapour at 1800Z/20th in 44.26 N. 62.48 W. (N.S.H.Q. 210037Z to Admty., Cominch.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 211305Z, Cominch 211515Z.)

Whalers for
S. Africa.

Request you sail HAUGEN (sic) for Trinidad as soon as ready she will be required to sail for South Africa in company with four whalers from Trinidad.
(2) Whaling gear should be replaced and superfluous topweight such as temporary deck structure removed before leaving Jamaica. D.G. should also be removed.
(3) Report E.T.D. Jamaica and E.T.A. Trinidad also if any Norwegians volunteer to remain after ship turns over to whaling. (S.B.N.O. W.A. 211423Z to R.N.O. Jamaica.)

Convoys.

Concur in proposed 5 day cycle for C.U. /U.C. convoys commencing as proposed in C. in C. Lant's 201927Z.
(2) It is the intention to give additional support to these convoys in the approaches to U.K. whenever necessary.
(D.T.D. 211929B to Cominch.)

U/B contacts.

Para. C. (1) 211710 U.S.S. GARFIELD THOMAS attacked sound contact 40° 22' N. 69° 46' W. Admiralty hand Info. to H.Q.C.C.
(2) 201800 Canso A/C sighted Schnorkel wake 44° 26' N. 62° 48' W.
(3) 191515 Ventura A/C sighted smoke and oil slick 43.57 N. 63.05 W. All times Z.
(Cominch 212052Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

E.G. 27,
contact.

Submarine in position 44.00 N. 63.01 W., am attacking contact possible.
(S.O.E.G. 27 212121 to A.I.G. 302.)
My 212121Z. Lost contact at 2230Z after four attacks commenced retiring search. Ref. Wago.703.
A. 1200 yards by A/S. D. 250-300 feet by 147B. E. Possible U-Boat.
(S.O.E.G. 27 212330Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

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Digest 1186, (1) Navy Liberators from Clark Field sank 1
20.4.45 small coaster, 2 luggers 35 miles S.S.E. Kiirun,
(Extract.) destroyed 1 truck 30 miles N.N.E. Taitosca,
destroyed radio installation Bakli Bay (Hainan Is.)
(2) Delayed reports 19th bombed small coaster
and wharf Tonkon Point (Hainan), sank 1 river-
boat, 2 gunboats 25 miles E.N.E. Foochow, sank 1 sea truck, 1
small coaster. Same day other searchers over China coast
damaged river boat 30 miles N.W. Macao, sank 1 river boat
damaged another 5 miles E. Canton, left lugger listing sinking
10 miles E. Swatow.
(4) Mariners from Lingayan night 19/20th April sank 2 luggers
40 miles S.W. Macao.
(6) 20 Liberators attacked shipping Saigon. Total shipping
seen 8 medium merchantmen, 1 destroyer, 1 gunboat, 1 warship
described heavy or light cruiser, shipping attacked 2 large,
1 medium freighter transport, 2 merchantmen, 1 possible heavy
cruiser, results were medium freighter transports viciously
damaged by 2 direct hits 6 near misses with 1000 pounders,
possible cruiser attacked but results unobserved.
(13) American forces landed Danao Town (16 miles N.E. Cebu
city) without opposition and advanced south.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 210012Z to Admty.)

MANCHESTER
CITY
(controlled
mining base
ship.)

In view of V.A.(Q) B.P.F's 292344 March that no
requirement for C.M. (L) defences can be fore-
seen at present and in view of the need for
returning merchant tonnage to M.W.T. for trade,
it has been decided to release MANCHESTER CITY
from naval service now.

(2) ALCA could be tropicalised and sent to you
after the German war should you require her.

(3) Request arrangements be made for the return of MANCHESTER
CITY to U.K., notifying sailing in due course.
(Hd. of M. 211630B to C. in C. B.P.F.) See 240317. + 257857/8 May.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0800Z/21st April.

Para. A. (1) A/C L/206 attacked U-Boat at 2344Z/
20th April in 57° 15' N. 11° 34' E.

(2) Steam trawler ETHEL CRAWFORD 200 tons blew
up (probably mined) at 0645Z/20th in 55° 13' N.
05° 14' W.

Para. B. (1) Catalina A/C attacked U-Boat at 0650Z/20th in 69°
30' N. 35° 38' E.

(2) A/C L/333 sighted possible U-Boat with convoy Co. N. 15
knots at 0805Z/20th in 59° 17' N. 10° 35' E.

(3) A/C K/86 obtained contact at 0855Z/20th in 61° 04' N.
02° 00' E.

(4) Trainer Mosquito A/C sighted P/S Co. 200, 3 - 5 knots at
1054Z/20th in 51° 57' N. 05° 47' W.

/Para. C....

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

Para. C. (1) M.T.Bs. 716 and 722 sighted P/S Co. S. and attacked with D/Cs at 1150Z/19th in 60° 17' N. 00° 25' E.

(2) A/C D/112 dropped D/C on apparent swirl and smoke at 1250Z/20th in 51° 35' N. 04° 25' W.

(3) Submarine chaser 1290 obtained contact at 1050Z/20th in approx. 50° 33' N. 01° 51' W.

Para. D. (1) M/V CITY OF YOKOHAMA reported submarine on surface (probably friendly) at 0330Z/21st in 09° 13' N. 74° 51' E. (D.D.I.C. 211207B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 211410B to A.I.G., Cominch.)

22.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) SS. BENJAMIN H. BRISTOW in Convoy A.T.M.132 was mined this afternoon about 10 miles west of Flushing, but reached Terneuzen safely.
(b) A midget S/M. is reported ashore on Walcheren. One prisoner was taken.
(c) Patrols have been landed by L.C.A. on the islands between the Maas and the Waal. The patrols withdrew next day, having taken 10 prisoners.
- Norway. 2. Coastal Command aircraft attacked a 3,000 and a 1,000 merchant vessel off Vaagso this morning and left them smoking.
- Northern Waters. 3(a) APOLLO reported Operation "Trammel" (minelaying off Kola Inlet, see 21st April) completed at 1716B today.
(b) The Russian SS. ONEGA was torpedoed and sunk this morning about 30 miles N.W. of Kola Approaches. Later, SS. IDEFJORD was also reported torpedoed in approximately the same position; this ship was towed to the Inlet.
(c) A Russian destroyer claims to have sunk a U-Boat this morning about 25 miles N.W. of Kola Inlet, in 69.41 N., 33.17 E.
(d) Five Halifaxes attacked shipping in the Skagerrak and Kattegat in the early hours of today. Two or three direct hits were made on a 4,000 ton merchantman east of Frederikshaven, and a hit and six straddles on a 7,000 ton tanker west of Larvik.
- Baltic. 4. Over 100 heavy bombers of the R.A.F. attacked the U-Boat base at Kiel last night and reported good results. Lancasters laid 118 mines in the Kattegat last night.

Foreign Stations

Far East and Australia

- French Indo-China. 5. 20 Liberators today dropped 40 tons of bombs on Saigon Naval yards and shipping. Started fires and sank one large transport and damaged another - scored near misses on a submarine. 230837Z.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

U.S.S. ADONIS. A.N.C.X.F. (Main) Dis. 271146A, Mydis. 301755A both of March neither to all refer.
(1) U.S.S. ADONIS released from "Overlord" this date.
(2) Insure that ship is in all respects ready for sea and ocean convoy by 2400B May 3rd and that all effective orders regarding departure of ships from this theatre are fully complied with.
(Comphibsukay 221705B to Cousnaab Plymouth.)

Disposal of escort vessels upon the defeat of Germany. With reference to A.L.P. 03330/45 dated 7th April, 1945, para. 4B and A.M. 180855A April, para 3 it is not intended at present to lay up for refit, any of these vessels in W.A. Command, owing to the grave shortage of escort vessels for the present intense anti-U-Boat operations in Home Waters.
(C. in C. W.A. 222031B to Admty.)

Operations.

North Sea.

"Ronso" A.N.C.X.F. (Main's) 211845* not to all. Request "Ronso" may be brought to 24 hours notice. (F.O. Holland 221158B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
* Request M/S Force B may be held at 24 hours notice.

Operation "Cackle". A.N.C.X.F. (Main's) 212220B. Motor Boats attached to HYDROGRAAF are JACOB and BRIT.. FINELLA is required in Schelde.
(CIZ 221159B to F.O. Holland.)

"Crosskeys" Four Norwegian Y.M.S. and 159th M/S Auxiliary Group are allocated Commodore N.P. 1737 (for "Crosskeys") as from 1st May.
(2) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to inform C.T.F. 122 to which port ships should be sailed and C.T.F. 122 to sail them accordingly.
(3) Comnavu is requested to arrange with Admiralty for transfer and diversion of spare for Norwegian Y.M.S.
(A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 221231B.)

Bomb disposal areas. A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 201431*. Request that actual position of dumping may be signalled in due course. (C. in C. Portsmouth 221242B to C.T.F. 122.)
* Giving positions of suitable disposal areas.

Cositintrep No. 383. Part 4 section A. Discharged by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/21.
(S.H.A.E.F. Main, 221415.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

SS. BENJAMIN
H. BRISTOW,
mined. SSSS mined.
(Ship No. 17 of A.T.M. 132, 221417Z.)
SSSS ship mined and in danger of sinking, send
tugs position N.F. 14 buoy. Ends.
(Ship No. 17 of A.T.M. 132, 221636B.)
We are in danger of sinking, expedite tugs to
N.F. 14 buoy. Master.
(Ship No. 17 of A.T.M. 132, No T.O.O.)

U-Boat and
S.B.U.
Summary. To 1200B/22. Nil.
(A.C. Dover, 221754B.)

Nore
Patrols. Patrols for night Monday 23rd April.
1 BLENCATHRA, 2 KRAKOWIAK, 3 BROCKLESBY, 4
HAMBLEDON, 5 COWDRAY, 6 KITTIWAKE, 7 EASTON,
8 HAYDON.
Coastal Force units F.C. 1 to 8 R/V patrols at
2300B.

(2) 12 CURZON with coastal forces from U.K.
14 CHIDDINGFOLD, 16 TORRINGTON with coastal forces from Ostend.
17 TALYBONT, 18 ZETLAND, 19 STAYNER with coastal forces from
Ostend.

21 MEYNELL, 22 CAICOS with coastal forces from U.K.
Coastal forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2145B.

(3) Escorts for T.A.M. 48 WIDGEON and ALBRIGHTON.
T.A.P. 13 BLANKNEY.

(4) Coastal forces.

Patrol 1 unit F.C. 1, 2 M.T.Bs. with BLENCATHRA.

Patrol 2 unit F.C. 2, 2 M.T.Bs. with KRAKOWIAK.

Patrol 3 unit F.C. 3, 2 M.T.Bs. with BROCKLESBY.

Patrol 4 unit F.C. 4, 2 M.T.Bs. with HAMBLEDON.

Patrol 5 unit F.C. 5, 2 M.T.Bs. with COWDRAY.

Patrol 6 unit F.C. 6, 2 M.T.Bs. with KITTIWAKE.

Patrol 7 unit F.C. 7, with EASTON.

Patrol 8 unit F.C. 8, 2 M.T.Bs. with HAYDON.

Patrol 12, F.L. 2, F.L. 3, 4 M.T.Bs.

Patrol 22, F.B. 8, F.B. 9, 4 M.T.Bs.

Patrol 51, 1 M.L. Patrol 52, 1 M.L.

BWCC 5035, F.A. 1, F.A. 2, F.A. 3, 6 M.T.Bs.

DACC 4048, F.B. 3, 3 M.T.Bs.

From Ostend.

DAZD 2316, F.A. 8, 2 M.T.Bs.

DAZD 2100, F.B. 2, 2 M.T.Bs.

DAZD 4126, F.G. 5, 3 M.T.Bs.

DAZD 3312, F.H. 3, F.H. 4, 4 M.T.Bs.

Patrol 16, F.G. 2, F.G. 3, 4 M.T.Bs.

DACC 3836, F.G. 4 (day) 3 M.Ls.

DAZD 2525, F.G. 4 (night) 3 M.Ls.

(C. in C. Nore, 221800B.)

/Dover...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Dover patrols. A.M. 081810A November, 1943.
 A. Patrol allocations. M.T.B. 617 from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset: 360° Calais East Breakwater Light 0.5 miles to D.C. 4 Buoy. By night D.C. 5 Buoy D.C. 4 Buoy to D.C. 2 Buoy. M.T.B. 652 from 045° D.C. 1 Buoy 1.5 miles to 270° D.C. 2 Buoy 2 miles M.L. 589 from S. Goodwin No. 2 Buoy to S. Goodwin L.V. to 360° D.C. 1 Buoy 2 miles. M.L. 909 from 180° A Buoy 2 miles to 090° S.W. Gate Buoy 2 miles. M.L. 213 from 180° S.W. Gate Buoy 2 miles to 090° D Buoy 2 miles. S.G.B. GREY OWL from 180° D Buoy 2 miles to 360° P.B. 1 Buoy 1 mile. M.L. 597 from 270° D.C. 1 Buoy 2 miles to 270° D.C. 2 Buoy 2 miles M.L. 101 from Inner Lade Buoy to position 055° Inner Lade Buoy 5 miles. M.T.B. 611 from 250° D.B. 1 Buoy 1.5 miles 250° D.B. 2 Buoy 1.5 miles.
 B. (Boats available for service.) Omitted.
 C. (Boats unserviceable)
 (A.C. Dover 221804B.)

Dover-Calais L.C.T. Shuttle Service. Your 211200* para. 1, agree. (A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 221835B.)
 * Proposed for agreement that commencing with craft arriving B.L.A. 1st May, L.C.T. Shuttle Service be operated Dover-Calais not Dover-Boulogne.

Air patrols in Dover Command. 52D. Anti-midget U-Boat patrols are being flown by Barracuda aircraft as follows:-
 A. From dawn minus 30 minutes to dusk plus 30 minutes in approx. area north Goodwin Light Vessel 51° 38' N. 02° 15' E. N.F. 6 Buoy - Calais, Dover - north Goodwin Light Vessel.
 B. From dawn minus 30 minutes for 2½ hours and from 2 hours before dusk for 2½ hours along main convoy route between north Foreland and Dungeness.
 (2) Aircraft will fly at 700 feet and will attack confirmed U-Boats.
 (3) Portsmouth General Message 49D of 13th April* is cancelled. (C. in C. Portsmouth 221845B.) * 131900B.

Day fighter cover. Ref. Main H.Q. 2 T.A.F. 201030B intend to discontinue daily "lunch" signal. (N.O.I.C. Osterd 222219.)

Air attack restrictions. A.C.N. 676 22 April 1945, secret. My A.C.N. 587 12/4/45* and A.C.N. 906/20.10.44. In response to Telecon request from H.Q. 2nd T.A.F. Cancel my A.C.N. 587. Substitute surface vessel air restriction by day is cancelled from first light April 23rd 1945, in area south and east of a line joining Wanaroog+ 53° 45' N. 08° 00' E. to southern extremity of Sylt 54° 44' N. 08° 18' E. As hospital and Swedish relief ships

/bearing...

22.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Air attack
restrictions.
(Contd.)

bearing International Red Cross markings pass through this area it is considered essential that all air crew be briefed on their latest P.C.S. to avoid attack in error.
(H.Q.C.C. 222245B.) * 121835 April.
+ Wangerooge evidently intended.

Cositintrep
No. 383.

(Extract.) Part 2 Naval.
(2) Midget submarine was sunk by coast artillery off Blankenberg at 1234/18.
(3) Midget submarine reported ashore on Walcheren. One prisoner taken.

(4) Shelling from Alderney began again at 1847/18 and continued intermittently until 0338/22.

(5) Force T. Patrols have been landed by L.C.A. on the islands between the Maas and the Waal.

(6) Reference Cositintrep 377 para. 2. Preliminary investigation indicates probability of Internal Explosion rather than mine or torpedo*.

(Burrough signed Eisenhower 222310B.)

* Refers to SS. GOLD SHELL, sunk 16th April.

Adm. Engel.

Admiral Engel and C.O.S. Magne captured today at Buxterhude.
(30 A.U. 222341B.)
See amendment 230238B.

Operations.

Channel.

U.1195 -
salvage.

(sunk 6/4)

Diving operations on U.1195. These are now in progress but there is some doubt as to the object in view.

(2) It is requested that a Directive may be issued stating -

A. Whether salvage of the whole U-Boat is desired.

B. If this is not desired, a list of items to be recovered giving their priority of importance, and C. a list of items to be examined without recovery and the purpose of the examination.

(3) In the event of total salvage being required, request Salvage Department may be instructed to take charge of the operation. Every assistance will be given by C. in C. Portsmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth 221031B to Admty.)

Note: Ref. in D.N.I's 242102 has been amended to conform.

U.S. Amphi-
bious base
at Portland.

Do not concur in proposals in paras. 2 and 3 of A.N.C.X.F. (Buco's) 211140*.

(2) In order to ensure L.C.T. and L.C.I.(L) are fully operational when required consider they should be attached to Force T now.

(N.C. Force T (Rear) 221127B to A.N.C.X.F.)

* Para. 2. Agreement has been reached to discontinue embarking U.S. Awkward Vehicles in L.C.T. at Portland but L.C.I.(L) lift must remain. Para. 3. Re proposal to withdraw 51st and 59th L.C.T.(4) Flotillas from Shuttle Service.

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War Diary.22.4.1945
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel - Contd.

UNRIVALLED. Intend to sail UNRIVALLED escorted by H.M.T. PEARL at 0900V/23 by Q.Z.S. 697 thence direct to B. 49° 12' N. 04° 20' W. where UNRIVALLED will enter OX. Brittany Sanctuary and PEARL will return by reverse route to Plymouth.

- (2) Communications.
(3) UNRIVALLED and PEARL pass Gate as requisite to comply.
(C. in C. Plymouth 221200B.)

Shelling from Alderney Shelling from Alderney recommenced 1847/21. Intermittent firing until 0338/22. Two radar targets tracked from Guernsey to Alderney between 1625 and 1743/21st. Speed 7.
(C.T.G. 122.2, 221505B.)

Force 28. Intend to sail at 0900B/23 M.L. 116 (S.O.) and M.L. 117 by Q.Z.S. 697 through Z. 49° 02' N. 03° 00' W. thence to take up patrol Robert (C.T.G. 122.2's 171623B not to all refers) at about 2000B/23 as Force 28.
(2) Whenever East of a line Cap Frehel - La Corbiere Force 28 will come under the operational control of C.T.G. 122.2 (my 150951B para. 2 as amended by my 151513B*refers.)
(3), (4) Communications.
(5) M.L. 116 and M.L. 117 are to pass Gate as requisite to comply with para. 1.
(C. in C. Plymouth 221544B.)
* M.L. 344 take M.L. 600 under his orders to form Force 28.

Operation "C.H." serial S.1 lines 2, 3 and 4 completed.
"C.H." (ARIADNE 221600B.)

SS. RIVERTON. All survivors from RIVERTON picked up by H.M. tug DIRECTOR. Casualties uncertain possibly 2. DIRECTOR attempting to tow derelict into St. Ives, escorted by BENBECULA.
(ROSELYS 221706B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Search of Q.Z.Y. 573. Proceed with available ships of 16th M.S.F. and ARMANA at first light 23rd April and complete search of Q.Z.Y. 573 in K formation as deep as practicable.
(2) On completion, BEAUMARIS and DORNOCH to Plymouth, remainder to Falmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 221749B to SHIPPIGAN.)

? Riverton not torpedoed until 1535/23 (see p. 435)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast of France.

WELLS,
TRIENTA.

Following from: Marine Paris (No T.O.O.)
Info. C.T.F. 122. Following received:
From Comar Lorient 191450Z.
(Repeats Comar l'Orient No T.O.O/21 recd. 2159).
(C.T.F. 122, No T.O.O/22, recd. 0142/22.)

Patrol 27.

F.S. LE FORTUNE sailing Brest 1800B/22 to
relieve F.S. L'ALCYON on patrol 27. R/V
0800B/23 in vicinity Ile d'Yeu. F.S. L'ALCYON
return to Brest E.T.A. 2100B/23.
(C.F.N.T.F. 220945B.)

One Sunderland aircraft will leave vicinity of Brest at about
0700B tomorrow 23rd April on a coastwise sweep to the southward
returning along the coast before proceeding to base.
Aircraft will contact patrol A of force 27 if met.
Aircraft callsigns.
(C. in C. Plymouth 221634B.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Wreck or
shoal.

Investigating large wreck or shoal in 051°
24' N. 008° 34' W. approx. 750 feet long by 66
feet high. Gave off slight oil slick after
attack.
(S.O.E.G. C. 4, 220719B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation
"C.H."

My 201745 sailed ARIADNE.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 220755.)

Contact
(wreck)

BERKELEY CASTLE attacking A/S contact in 051°
47' 06" N. 005° 31' 48" W. (X) suitable.
(S.O. Force 38, 220942B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 220942. Non-submarine definite wreck, much
wood wreckage. Suitable. A. Above average.
B. No.
(S.O. Force 38 221005B.)

Corvettes.

Your 111950B. Arrangements have been made to
exchange Milford Haven based corvettes, with
Plymouth based corvettes for periods between
boiler cleaning, commencing with the French
corvettes.
(C. in C. Plymouth 221139B to Admty.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

- E.G. 32, patrol. If not in contact detach from H.X.A. 349 on passing Bishop Rock and establish patrol in area bounded by parallels 49° and 50° and meridians 07° and 08°. (C. in C. W.A., 221220B to S.O. E.G. 32.)
- Suspected schnorkel. No. 112 reported suspected schnorkel port side OAKHAM CASTLE investigating position 029° Skerries 12 miles. (LEEDS CASTLE 221440B to C. in C. W.A.)
- Patrol off Tuskar. Sailed at 1530B/22nd special service trawler JACQUELINE CLASINE supported by H.M.T. ELSIE CAM to patrol between Tuskar and Kish Light Vessel. Communications. Constant watch 1740 k/cs. Returning Milford Haven p.m./26. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 221531.)
- Contact off Tuskar. ATHOLL in form but doubtful contact 52.03 N. 06.07 W. Stationary. WHITBY in company. (S.O.C. 4 221615B to C. in C. W.A.) My 221615B. ATHOLL still in contact reports target to have moved easterly one mile by (?plot), target length about 140 feet height 21 feet. Slight smell of kerosene in area. No wreckage.
(2) WHITBY has joined convoy.
(3) Request instructions for ATHOLL. (S.O.C. 4 221820B to C. in C. W.A.)
S.O. Force 38 detached LANCASTER CASTLE and CARISBROOKE CASTLE to join ATHOLL at 2000B. E.T.A. ATHOLL 2330B.
(2) ATHOLL reports target moved 200° 1800 yards since dropping buoy. Suggests possible submarine. My 221615B and 221820B refer.
(S.O.C.4, 222012B to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 221820. ATHOLL rejoin convoy as soon as contact has been taken over by Force 38.
(C. in C. W.A. 222046B to S.O.E.G.C.4, ATHOLL.)
- E.G. 4, patrol. If not in contact detach from O.N.S. 48 on crossing 13° W. & establish patrol in area bounded by parallels 55° and 56° and meridian 08° 45' and 11° 15'. (C. in C. W.A., 221910B to S.O.E.G. 4.)
- Attack on contact. In position 44.51 N. 22.32.5 W. U.S.S. HOWARD D. CROW made series attacks on sound contact commencing 2030Z/22. Two possible underwater explosions. No visible results. U.C. 64B above position 245 14. Weather 5570 9833. (C.T.U. 61.6.2, 222356Z.)

22.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "V.P." Ramose Supremacy postponed. E.T.C. now 0700B/23.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 220635B.)

VARNE. Para. A of A.M. 211914.
Add leaves patrol to pass through 57° 58' 06° 35' at 2300/22nd thence through 57° 58' 05° 39' 58° 15' 04° 10' 58° 10' 04° 10' and to northward diving by day 85 miles in 24 hours. Positions N. and E.
(C. of W. 220714B.)

VENTURER. My 211846 para. 3. For 211842 read 211840.
(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick 220912B.)

Operation "Judgement." Intend following operation. My 172314 not to all addressees refers. All times Zone B.
(1) Force 1 consisting of NORFOLK (Flag C.S. 1) DIADEM, SEARCHER, QUEEN and TRUMPETER with five destroyers and Force 2 consisting BLUE RANGER with two destroyers sail from Scapa on D day and proceed passing through position C. 062° 00' N. 004° 40' W. at 1200 D + one thence proceed northward. Destroyers top up from BLUE RANGER as required.
(2) On arrival about lat. 066° N. C.S. 1 is to detach Force 2 to proceed vicinity of position ZA. 071° N. 001° E. until ordered by C.S. 10 to join convoy R.A. 66.
(3) Unless ordered to join convoy R.A. 66 by 1200 D + 5 Force 2 is to return to Scapa by reverse of outward route.
(4) After detaching Force 2 C.S. 1 is to proceed with Force 1 to carry out air attack on German U-Boat depot ships at Kilbotn 068° 43' N. 016° 34' E. or alternatively on shipping targets between Andfjord and Trondheim as weather and other circumstances permit.
(5) On return passage if circumstances permit minelaying strike may be carried out at Ramsøysund all positions N. and E. unless otherwise indicated - 064° 19.7' 010° 27' or Skatestrommen 061° 52.5' 005° 13'.
(6) Force 1 is to return Scapa by D + 8.
(7) D day in my 221124. Codeword in my 221109.
(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 221044.)
My 221044 - codeword "Judgement".
(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 221109B.)
My 221044 D day Sunday 29th April.
(C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 221124B.)

/Operation...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Operation "V.P." Intend carrying out "V.P. 81" with 2 M.T.Bs.
 (1) 1030B/23. (2) Not later than 2359B/23.
 (3) Not later than 0600B/24. (4) 260° towards Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.
 (5) Not later than p.m./24. (6) No. (7) No.
 (8) 080° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 221931B.)

My 221931B. (1) 080° from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.
 (2) 060° (755') N. 004° 42' E. (3) Blank.
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 221933B.)

Intend to carry out "V.P. 85" with 2 M.T.B.
 (1) 1030B/23. (2) Not later 2359B/23. (3) Not later 0600B/24.
 (4) 250° toward Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots. (5) Not later p.m./24. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 070° Noss Head Bressay.
 (9) No.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 221935B.)

My 221935B. (1) 070° from Noss Head. No more than 20 knots.
 (2) 061° 22' N. 004° 46' E. (3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 221937B.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

SS. ONEGA sunk. Russian merchant ship ONEGA torpedoed and sunk
 0750B 140°. TSYP Navolok 7 miles.
 (S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 220830B.)

U/B report. U-Boat sighted in position 270° KIL 7.
 (Via Murmansk W/T 221713C.)

Operation "Trammel". Following repeats APOLLO's 221716B which
 Admiralty is requested to re-code and pass to C. in C. H.F. (Afloat), E.G. 7, E.G. 19, C.S. 10
 and D.F. 2. begins:
 Operation "Trammel" completed. T.O.O. 221716.
 Ends.
 (S.B.N.O. N. Russia 222335B.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Long-range SEEHUND. German midget U-Boat type SEEHUND reported (B.2)
 fitted with saddle-tanks giving additional fuel capacity 500 litres, total fuel capacity
 1,000 litres, or 220 gallons.
 (2) Surface endurance of craft fitted with saddle tanks estimated 550 miles at 8 knots.
 (3) A.G.M. 315A of 9.2.45 and Snips (M.P.) 31/45 refer.
 (D.N.I. 221231B to A.G.M. Home & Abroad 644A (B.4))

/Enemy...

22.4.1945
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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Enemy Shipping, Copenhagen, April 21st. A. 21 medium and small transports names already reported, hospital ship - PRETORIA, F-Lighter and (?20) small motor cutters.
B. All pilots together with pilot boats from Copenhagen and Elsinore have escaped to Sweden today.
C. Danish patriots have sunk 2 block ships at Copenhagen, 300 metres North Knippelsbro, thus blocking for a while channel from 42 basin where a number of requisitioned ships are now lying. B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 221858.)

Navigational.

Schelde. All lights buoys on river Schelde between Hansweert and Antwerp are now lit and night navigation may now take place on this section of the river.
My 220946 February not to all refers.
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 221046B to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

L.C.A. 841. L.C.A. 841 sunk on operations.
N.C. Force T's 211856 not to all refers.
Request replacement.
(N.C. Force T (Rear) 221158B.)

SS. WILNO. Departures at 1353 tug DIVERSION, at 1420 tug CHAMPION with salvage officer on board to assist SS. WILNO aground on Caister Shoal. CHAMPION returned at 1505. DIVERSION at 1612. Vessel refloated and has lost both anchors.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 221637B.)

HADLEIGH CASTLE. Arrived for engine repairs.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 222211B.)

Movements.

HIGHWAY, MONOWAI. Sailed codeword "Liege" at 0250B/22 HIGHWAY as S.O.
(C. in C. Plymouth 220335B.)

U.S.S. REHOBOTH. Cancel my 211329B April not to all addressees.
Fresh arrangements for sailing to Norfolk.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 221518B.)

/DOLFIJN...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

DOLFIJN,
DZIK,
UNBENDING.

DOLFIJN and DZIK should be sailed for Dundee and UNBENDING for Blyth as convenient after 1200/23.
(2) My 201718 para. 2. Ship is still at port named. (B.2.)
(F.O. S/Ms 221918B.)

Shipping & Convoys.

SS. NURTURETON. For NURTURETON. If not in company with convoy proceed to Horta Azores reporting E.T.A. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. W.A., 221541Z to Ships and Stragglers O.N.S. 47.)

Convoy
J.W. 66.

Destinations. (1) To Molotovsk WILLIAM D. BYRON, LORD DELAWARE, JOHN GIBBON, KEITH PALMER, WILLIAM TYLER PAGE, DAVID B. JOHNSON, RENALD FERNALD, EMPIRE GARRICK (T), CECIL N. BEAN. BRITISH RESPECT (T), NELSON W. ALDRICH.

The above 11 ships are to proceed direct to White Sea when detached.

(2) Remainder to Kola Inlet for Murmansk.
(D.T.D. 221620Z.)

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22.4.1945.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

F.S. Request permission to sail and route for F.S.
DUQUESNE. DUQUESNE to Brest.
(C.M.S.F., 220915A to C. in C. Med.)
Ref. my 220915A ship will be ready sail 0100A/
23rd. French Admiralty urgently requests ship
sail at that time as ammunition carried for Group Lorainne.
(C.M.S.F., 221137A to C. in C. Med.)
DUQUESNE (F.S.) Intend be sailed to Brest on completion
of fuelling and loading at Casablanca, A.N.C.X.F. 181528 not
to C.M.S.F. refers.
(2) Admiralty is requested to provide route.
(C. in C. Med., 221317B to Admty.)
Route F.S. DUQUESNE. C.M.S.F. 220915 and C. in C.
Med.'s 221317. Thence by Q.Z.S.617 to Brest.
(Plot. (O.D.), 222217B to C.M.S.F., etc.)
Urgently request reply my 221137A. Vessel ready sail.
French state vessel required arrive Brest with ammunition
25th April. Request Admiralty furnish route.
(Commorseafron, 222348A to C. in C. Med.)

German Your 201847B*. Naval Guard has been placed on
ships board German vessel since April 20th.
(security (R.O. Las Palmas, 221215 to B.N.A. Madrid.)
measures). * Security measures for safety of German ships.

Spanish Sail at 2230B tonight Sunday to intercept
ship Spanish ship SAC 8° and accompany same to
SAC 8°. Gibraltar.
(2) SAC 8° sailed from Casablanca at 0930B today
Sunday for Seville speed 7½ knots.
(3) Anticipate you will intercept SAC 8° in
position 35.59 N., 06.56 W. at 0700B tomorrow Monday.
(4) C.M.S.F.'s 221620* (not to all).
(F.O.G.M.A., 222103B to CROCUS.) See 230944B.
* Not identified.

22.4.1945.
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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

SS. MONOWAI. MONOWAI Code No. G.13 speed 14 knots, sailed from the United Kingdom with a special escort on 21st April for Odessa calling en route at Malta for replenishments. 1,610 Soviet Nationals are on board.
(2) Agreed.
(D. of S.T., 220341B to C. in C. Med.)

Cruisers and destroyers. Intend CLEOPATRA, BERMUDA, TYRIAN, TUSCAN all work-up at Malta. Cruisers should arrive about May 6th. C. in C. H.F. 191736B, F.O.I.C. Greenock 161804B, Admiralty message 130331B, none to all, refer.
(C. in C. Med., 221054B to V.A. Malta.)

Danube, mines. Your R.A.C.1082/3303 of 201245. Full details of Danube mining include photo-prints of relevant maps were handed to Soviet Naval authorities in Moscow in Oct. and Nov. 1944.
(2) Details were complete up to and including mining operation of the night of 4th October 1944.
(3) Attention of Soviet Naval Staff has been called to this fact.
(Admiral Archer, 221141B to B.M.M. Roumania.)

Greek Naval Authorities. Now as follows:
(A) Greek Admiralty. (B) Greek Superintendent of dockyard. (C) Flag Officer Greece short title Grefo. (D) N.O.I.C. (name of port) short title Greno (name of port).
(C. in C. Med., 221243B to Med. Station 533B.)

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22.4.1945.
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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Ship loan to
Royal Indian
Navy.

Intend to sail BURNET to Cochin for onward
routeing to Bombay leaving Colombo a.m./24th
April.

(4) On arrival Bombay, ship is to be handed
over to R.I.N. in accordance with Admiralty
171734 Dec.

(C. in C. E.I., 220522Z to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Operation
"Dracula".
(amendment
No.1).

(C. in C. E.I., 220523Z to F.O. Force W.)
See Lion Copy.

ASSIDUOUS.

On completion of tow ASSIDUOUS is to return to
Alexandria pending further orders.
(D.O.D.(F), 221322B to C. in C. E.I.)

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 C.in C. "O.T.P." are excepted from this ~~date~~ ^{22.4.45.})

*Operation Dracula -
amendment No. 1.*

Recd. 2023

NAVAL CYPHER (GG) BY W/T

Addressed F.O. Force W.,
Repeated Capt. E.I. Escorts, Admiralty; Cdre. (D)
S.A.C.S.E.A., F.O. Air E.I., C.S. 5.,
F.O. A/C Carriers 21, F.O. 3rd B.S.,
C.C.F.E.T., S.O.R.N. Establishments India,
Naval Cdr. Force 65, Com. M/S Trawlers
Bay Bengal, F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.i/c Akyab.

Operation DRACULA.

Units allocated to Force W (my 150603 April
and associated signals refers) amendment No. one.

(I) Amphibious Forces (my 150625) para. 2.(F) add
L.C.H. 317 or 267.

(II) Covering Force (my 150637)

(1) The following arriving 26th April

- (A) Carrier Group - para. 2.
- (B) H.M.S. PHOEBE - para. 3.
- (C) SANDRAY and SCARAVAY - para. 5
- (D) ~~(corrupt group)~~ para. 7.

CYCLONE ←

(2) Escort H.M.S. LULWORTH temporary replaced
H.M.S. LOSSIE. H.M.S. LOSSIE now due about
4th.

(3) Add para. 8 Weather Reporting ship H.M.S.
BLACKMORE expected time of arrival 23rd

(III) Fleet Train (my 150701)

(1) Small tanker para. 2 delete and substitute

- (A) EMPIRE MULL loaded spirits due 24th
- (B) EMPIRE DOMBIE load diesel arrived
- (C) EMPIRE DRURY due 24th SPINDLETOP due 26th
HEYSER (now at Madras repairs expected time
of arrival ~~(corrupt group)~~ all loaded water.
- (D) GLENPOOL loaded half water half diesel and
distilling ship GRYFEVALE now at Akyab.
- (E) EMPIRE BUTE loaded part spirit part water
expected time of arrival uncertain.
- (F) CROMWELL will be held in reserve at Trincomalee
to be loaded as required.

uncertain. →

(2) Delete TING SANG add CARPIO expected time of
arrival D plus 8.

220523Z

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

1st Lord
1st S.L. (3)
D.F.S.L. (2)
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
U.W.R.
D.O.D.(H)(4)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.C.
D. of P.(2)
Hd. of M.(2)
Force W (Rear Link)

D. of P.(Q)(3)
D.N.I.(4)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.C.O.M.(4)
D.O.O.D.(4)
A.D.C.O.D.(Mov.)
Ad. Blake.
C.C.O.(2)

D.A.U.D.
D.M.S.
D.D.O.D.(C)
D.C.N.A.E.
D.N.A.O.
D.S.D.
C.C.W.C.O.
W.D.

IHb.

22.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 221346Z, Cominch 221512Z.)

U/B (A) (1) 2334/21 U.S.S. MOSLEY had radar contact
report. followed by sound contact 30 mins. later in
44.17 N. 38.09 W. which was lost 0221/22. 1
screening attack made. 0253/22 explosions
heard on Sonobuoys.

U-518
Junk

(2) 0047/22 U.S.S. CARTER had sound contact 43.26 N., 38.23
W., H/H attack 0108/22 resulted in explosions after 16 secs.
Heavy explosions heard 1 min. 35 sec. later and again at 0119/
22. Large oil slick observed. All times Z.

(C) (1) 2121/21 E.G.27 attacked possible contact 44.00 N.,
63.01 W.

(2) About 0024/22 U.S.S. NEWPORT heard possible torpedo noise
and found fresh oil slicks 37.17 N., 74.10 W.

(D) (1) 2015/21 and 2025/21 P.V. had disappearing radar
contact 38.55 N., 73.18 W.

(2) 2310/21 Army A/C reported sighting U-Boat 49.43 N., 64.30
W.

(Cominch, 222032Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M. Para. (C) (1) At 2121Z/21st April E.G. 27 made
attack and two H/H and one D/C attacks on asdic contact in
sighting 44.00 N., 63.01 W. No explosions followed H/H
summary. attacks.
(N.S.H.Q., 222345Z to Admty., Cominch.)

Far East and Australia ,

PHILANTE,
(suitability
of) to
accommodate
Capt. Escort
Forces and
Staff.

In view of para. one of Admiralty 181611 being
passed to repetition addressees, PHILANTE is
not considered suitable for duty in my 100237
February.

(C. in C. B.P.F., 220249Z to Admty.)

Defence
forward
bases,
B.P.F.

N.Z.N.B. have offered loan of two or three M/S
A/S CASTLE type coal burning trawlers for use as
Gate Vessels at forward bases. My 070701 April
para. 4 refers, not to R.A.F.T.

(2) Propose to accept three trawlers and
enquiries being made concerning their conversion.

22.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia

Defence forward bases, B.P.F. (Contd.) (3) A requirement will exist for a Collier fitted with a large distilling plant if possible to be permanently at the intermediate base to bunker these ships and the four Bar Vessels from East Indies which will be employed there. (V.A.(Q) B.P.F., 220356Z to Admty.)

Aircraft etc., B.P.F. (IMPLACABLE, 220731Z to C. in C. B.P.F.) See Lion Copy.

Digest 1187, 21st April. (Extract) Privateers from Clark Field sunk single four decker river boat Canton area, destroyed one river boat 30 miles south-east Wenchow, left single small freighter transport, one motor torpedo boat, one probable small tanker burning with crew abandoning ship 30 miles north Amoy, strafed 20 junks outside Kiirun Harbour firing

two. (3) Mindafen Mariners night 20th/21st damaged single sea truck Pescadores, scored two direct hits with 500 pound bombs single large transport unloading 15 miles south Tosmki (Formosa) causing violent explosion engulfing vessel in flames. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 220820Z to Admty.)

B.P.F. staff. V.A.(Q)'s 090746Z. Paras. 1 and 2. An officer has been appointed and will be sent by air as soon as possible after 24th April. (2) Para. 3. In view of policy outlined in para. 5 of A.M. 101904 March and appointment of R.A.(Q) and nucleus staff (A.M. 120309 April refers) you are requested to consider modifications of requirements in your 080238 March, and to state which officers are intended for staff of R.A.(Q) and which for intermediate Base Staff. (V.C.N.S., 221739B to C. in C. B.P.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. U.636 For 24 hours to 0800Z/22nd April. Para. (A) (1) BAZELY and DRURY (E.G.4) attacked U-Boat at 1308Z/21st in 55° 50' N., 10° 31' W. Para. (B) (1) A/C R/162 sighted object believed to be U-Boat and attacked with negative result at 1250Z/21 in 52° 32' N., 13° 12' W. Para. (C) (1) A/C K/206 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1620/21 in 59° 53' N., 03° 58' W. (2) A/C U/422 sighted possible periscope at 1830/21 in 50° 41' N., 05° 16' W.

/(3) GOOD HOPE ...

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.)

Aircraft B.P.F

220731Z/April

From H.M.S. IMPLACABLE

Date 23.4.45.

Recd 1317.

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T

To C. in C. B.P.F.
 Info Cdre. T.F. 57 V.A. (Q) B.P.F. Melbourne C. in C. E.I.
 Station F.O. (Air) E.I. Admiralty FONAS Australia
 FOC 1st Aircraft Carrier Squadron

IMPORTANTYour 030446Z not to all ~~addressees~~.

- (A) Average 1040 hours. Maximum 1152 hours.
- (B) Ready for operations. Understand F.O. (Air) E.I. is reporting separately on technical state of Avenger.
- (C) If ship is to clean boilers at Sydney N.S.W. desires to take advantage of this period and to disembark as much as possible of air group as follows:-

- (1) 1771 Squadron 12 Fireflies of which only 8 are embarked vide paragraph 3 31 officers 21 P.Os. 82 ratings for further RP and D.L? training. *→ of which 46 are embarked vide para 3.*
- (2) 30 Wing 48 Seafires. 57 officers 45 P.Os. 287 Ratings for assault training and Reharmonizing of guns.
- (3) 828 Squadron 21 Avengers I of which only 17 are embarked vide para 2 53 officers 48 P.Os. 194 ratings for further bombing and night flying training.
- (4) H.Q. Squadron 14 officers 25 P.Os. 50 ratings.

2. Your 080420 para.3 not to all ~~addressees~~.
 4 ~~replacements~~ unserviceable Avengers I left at Trincomalee. Minimum of 4 replacements therefore required at Sydney N.S.W. Out of 17 Avengers embarked 12 have not modifications 765 and 794 10 have not modification 522 and 15 have not modifications 91.

3. Minimum of 4 ~~replacements~~ ^{Fireflies} replacements required on arrival Sydney N.S.W.

4. FONAS (A) 150229Z not to all ~~addressees~~.

- (A) 828 Squadron 26 Air crews and one TAG.
- (B) 1771 Squadron 14 Air crews and 3 observers. 2 replacement pilots additional to above required on arrival Sydney.
- (C) 801 Squadron 26 air crews. 2 replacement pilots additional to above required on arrival Sydney.

/(D).....

(D) 880 Squadron 28⁷ air crews plus one Wing Leader.

one replacement pilot in addition to above required on arrival Sydney (A.S.W)

220731Z

amended by 231205Z

- D.F.S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
- D.C.N.A.E.
- Ops. (2)
- E.A.P.
- N.A. 2.S.L. (Air) (2)
- D.N.A.O. (2)
- D.W.P.
- D.A.E. (4)
- D.A.M.R. (2)
- D.N.A.R. (3)
- D.A.C.R. (3)
- Air Branch
- A.C.N.P. (4)

- C.W. (2)
- N.
- D. of S. (6)
- D.A.S. (L)
- O.D. (6)
- D. of P. (3)
- D. of P. (Q) (3)
- D. of M.
- W.D.
- D.A.S. (4) }
- D.N.O. (4) }
- C.I.N.O. } Bath
- S.W.R. (6) }

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22.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

- (3) GOOD HOPE obtained contact at 2130/21 in 50° 26' N., 02° 54' W.
(4) A/C L/53 attacked contact with negative result at 1450/21 in 62° 22' N., 13° 10' W.
(5) Soviet A/C attacked U-Boat at 2140/21 in 69° 54' N., 32° 48' E.
(6) Possible U-Boat sighted at 0750/21 in 69° 19' N., 33° 32' E.
(D.D.I.C., 220915Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 221349B to A.I.G.331, Cominch.)

23.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) Two bridgeheads have been established across the Maas.
- (b) SS. SVERRE HELMERSEN in convoy A.T.M. 133, was mined or more probably torpedoed 13 miles east of Ramsgate late today and was towed to Cowes Roads on 26th.
- (c) VALSE claims to have sunk a U-Boat at 1700 today in the approaches to the Firth of Forth in 56.33.05 N. 02.07.55 W.

Channel.

2. SS. RIVERTON in convoy T.B.C. 13⁵ was torpedoed or mined 16 miles S.W. of Trevoise Head today and was towed to St. Ives Bay. (p 435)

Northern Waters.

3. (a) Force 5 sailed from Kola Inlet this morning for Scapa.
- (b) Norwegian Naval Headquarters intend to establish at Mageroy (North Cape) a W/T station similar to that already established at Soroy.
- (c) Escort Group 19 this evening attacked a contact in 69.35 N. 33.45 E. (about 20 miles north of the entrance to Kola Inlet and brought to the surface boots and a German emergency food pack. After the attack contact was lost and was not regained during extensive search.
- (d) An aircraft depth charged a submerged U-Boat this morning, 53 miles N.N.W. of Cape Wrath and brought up oil and two pieces of wreckage.

*U. 396 sunk
by a/c U/S6*

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

Movement.

4. DUQUESNE (French cruiser) left Casablanca for Brest.

Mediterranean.

Submarine for Greek Navy.

5. H.M. Submarine VENGEFUL was transferred to the Greek Navy at 11.30 a.m. today and renamed the DELFIN.

War Diary.

23.4.1945
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Gulf of
Genoa.

6. (a) Allied coastal craft sank 7 enemy coastal craft tonight - in addition 6 or 7 craft ran aground on French coast, were scuttled.
(b) MONTCALM and DUGUAY TROUIN together successfully bombarded San Remo and Porto Maurizio tonight.

East Indies.

Movement.

7. IMPLACABLE and 3 destroyers left Trincomalee to the southeast.

America & West Indies.

SS. KATY
(Nor.)
tanker,
torpedoed.

8. SS. KATY (Nor. 6825 tons) reported torpedoed at 1835Z today in lat. 35.56 N. 74.52 W.

Far East and Australia.

French-Indo-
China.

9. Liberators dropped 72 tons of bombs on Saigon Naval Base starting several fires, scored direct hit on freighter in dry dock.

China.

10. 20 U.S. Liberators dropped 56 tons of bombs on shipping in Yulin Harbour (Hainan Is.), one small freighter transport sunk and three small coasters and 12 barges sunk and one small freighter transport probably sunk.. Barracks were damaged.

Philippines.

11. The B.P.F. arrived at Leyte today having been at sea for 31 days. During their first period of operations in the Pacific the fleet was replenished at sea 7 times by ships of the fleet train. (300743Z.)

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23.4.1945
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth SeaAdmiral
Engel.Correct my 222341B. Before Magneç insert
"Thoroughly examined".
(30 A.U. 230238B)

E.G.23.

If not in contact at 1600B to-day Monday group
proceed as follows:(2) 3 ships search towards Pentland Firth thence
south via Swept channel until convoy E.N.88 is
met. When met support northward.(3) Two ships proceed to patrol between Cape Wrath and Strathie
Point.

(4) Details of E.N.88 will be signalled.

(5) Report disposition.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 231015 to S.O.E.G.23)

Cancel my 231015.

3 escorts remain with contact of U/86. Detach two escorts to
proceed south to meet E.N.88.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 231159 to S.O.E.G.23)

Cancel my 231445 and 231159. 23rd E.G. proceed with
despatch to vicinity of Kinnaird Head.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 231629 to S.O.E.G.23)

Your 231159 LOCH GORM S.O. and NYASALAND detached.

Carrying out box search with remaining 3 ships in "High Tea"
pattern.

(S.O.E.G.23, 231630B to C. in C. Rosyth)

Your 231629 and 231635 my P.C.S. 059 degs. (?01' 29' 31' or
43') N. 005 degs. 19' W. 140 degs. 16.

(S.O.E.G.23, 231725B to C. in C. Rosyth)

Your 232110B. Detach 2 escorts to search between 32 Buoy
and longitude 02.40 W. Conning tower sighted and attacked in
position 5 miles North of Fraserburgh at 1530/23rd.(2) Remainder of Group proceed south to meet and support north-
ward convoy E.N.88. My 231210 refers.

(3) Report disposition.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 232245 to S.O.E.G.23)

Nore:

Night

Dispositions.

April 23rd/

24th.

Humber Force (Group 1) Patrol BLENCATHRA,

(Group 2) Harbour MENDIP.

Harwich Force (Group 3) Patrol 2 KRAKOWIAK,

3 BROCKLESBY, 4 HAMBLEDON, 6 KITTIWAKE, 12 CURZON,

14 CHIDDINGFOLD, 16 TORRINGTON, 17 TALYBONT,

18 ZETLAND, 19 STAYNER, 22 CAICOS, A.T.M. 133,

SHEARWATER, T.A.M.48, WIDGEON.

(Group 4) Harbour Eglinton LAMERTON,

QUANTOCK, SOUTHDOWN, CUBITT, RETALICK, SEYMOUR, GUILLEMOT,
MALLARD.

Sheerness Force (Group 5) Patrol 5. COWDRAY, 7 EASTON,

8 HAYDON, 21 MEYNELL, A.T.M. 133, TANATSIDE, T.A.M. 48, ALBRIGH-

TON.

(Group 6) Harbour CATTISTOCK, GARTH, BRISSENDEN, COTTESMORE,
FERNIE, HOLDERNESS, MELBREAK, OAKLEY, VERSATILE, LOOSESTRIFE.

At Southend BLANKNEY (For T.A.P.113)

(C. in C. Nore, 231546B)

War Diary23.4.1945
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

Cositintrep
No.384. Part 4, Section 4.
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/22.
(S.H.A.E.F. (Main) 231715A)

U-Boat
and S.B.U.
Summary
to 1200B/23. (1) 1230/22. N.O.I.C. Antwerp reported Midget
U-Boat ashore on Walcheren. One prisoner and
one still at large.
(2) 2130/22. A/C Dover reported Midget U-Boat
281 Cape Gris Nez 4.5 miles.
(C. in C. Nore, 231718B).
/ deleted false report 241600B.
Nile.
(A.C. Dover, 231825B)

Dover
Patrols. My 211334. Correct patrol D.H. to read -
045 degs. D.C. One Buoy 1.5 miles.
090 degs. D.C. Two Buoy two miles.
(A.C. Dover, 231845B)

U-Boat
attacked. Following received from H.M.S. VALSE -
Attacking S/M 25 degs. 24 Buoy 4 miles, 231858.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231931B)

Disposal
of defective
bombs. Ref. No.E.X. 36451, Secret. Multiple.
No ships containing these bombs will be brought
to Continent after three ships now this theater
nominated for discharge in Seine Area have been
completed (Signed Lee) subject 150 lb Tare one
bombs your 191605Z/ 150 lb Tare one bomb tonnage
of these ships is: S.P. 64 FRANK P. WALSH, 206 tons Ny 800
VOLDOSTA VICTORY, 669 tons No.165 CHARLES NORDHOFF2,177 tons.
16th port H.Q. will arrange discharge these vessels at whatever
anchorage you direct making necessary arrangements to load on
each barge maximum tonnage of 150 lb bombs and towing barges to
area you direct. Barges are to be sunk and no attempt made to
discharge them. Remainder of sound cargo on board will be
brought to Havre and cargo disposal instructions complied with.
Every effort will be made by 16th port H.Q. to discharge S.P.64
and Ny.800 promptly in order to expedite turnaround of these
vessels leaving No.165 to be finished soon as possible inasmuch
as this vessel has on board 217 tons of subject bombs instead
of 1,280 tons which was mentioned your cable. Latter figure
applies to tonnage of defective 150 lb bombs which is now in
Havre on barges and railway wagons.
(H.Q. Com. Z. 232230B to C.T.F.122, Normandy Base.) / Defective
bombs.

SS. SVERRE. Ship mined or torpedoed in 090 degs. 2½ miles
HELMERSEN. South Fall.
(SHEARWATER, 232309B to C. in C. Nore)
Ship reported torpedoed 090 degs. South Fall Buoy
2 and ½ miles. Proceed forthwith to carry out
hunt with Group.
(2) M/Ls carrying out hunt in the vicinity.
(C. in C. Nore, 232325B to S.O.E.G.3)

/Cositintrep ...

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23.4.1945
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations.North Sea - Contd.Cositintrep
No.384.

Part II Naval. 132

SS. BENJAMIN H. BRISTOW mined or torpedoed in
A.T.M. 123 at 1655/22 030 degs. Knocke Tower
2.6 miles. Ship towed to Terneuzen.(2) Reference Cositintrep 383 para. 5. Patrols
have withdrawn having taken 10 prisoners. Two bridgeheads
established across the Maas.
(Burrough sgd. Eisenhower, 232345B)Operations - Channel

E.G.20.

My 221553B.

20th E.G. leave convoy when 32nd E.G. join then
proceed patrol as ordered.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231001B to E.G.20)

Operation
"Artisan"
(A/U deep
mining).(1) At 0700B/24 carry out operation "Artisan"
Serial B.2 part III.(2) PLOVER escorted by DORNOCH and BEAUMARIS is
to pass Gate at 0200B/24th and proceed to R/V
SHIPPIGAN in 107 degs. Lizard 14 as 0625.(3) F.O.I.C.Falmouth is requested to sail SHIP-
PIGAN with ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH and ARMANA in
company as requisite to R/V PLOVER as above.(4) SHIPPIGAN to arrange skimming sweep of Lay to 42 feet
below Chart Datum.(5) PLOVER is not to carry out lay if SHIPPIGAN considers
weather unsuitable for skim.(6) On completion of lay PLOVER to Portsmouth escorted by BEAU-
MARIS and DORNOCH, remainder to Falmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231110B)

My 231110B Para. 3 for DORNOCH read PARRSBORO.

(2) Para. 6 for BEAUMARIS read PARRSBORO.

(3) On completion of lay BEAUMARIS is to proceed to Plymouth
for B/C.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231603)

Mine off
Trevose
Head.Following received from FOWEY begins ABELIA
reports having detonated mine with Unifoxer in
293 degs. Trevose Head 7.1 miles at 2024B
212258B message ends.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231145B to Admty.)

Patrols.

Sail so as to pass gate at 0900B/24 and proceed
patrol Lizard to Eddystone on Coastal Convoy
route.(2) DACRES, LAWSON establish patrol Eddystone to
Barry Head by 0900B/24.(3) INGLIS, MOUNSEY leave patrol so as to enter Plymouth at
1100B/24 for lay-over.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231436B to LOCH KILLIN, BURGESS, CRANSTOUN.)

If not in contact leave patrol so as to enter harbour at
0930B/24.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231451B to NARBOROUGH, COSBY)

/On ...

War Diary23.4.1945
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel.

Patrols (Contd.) On leaving O.N.A. 298 DACRES, LAWSON proceed patrol Pendeen to Lizard.
(2) INGLIS, MOUNSEY patrol Lizard to Start. Trail T.B.C. 136 far as Lizard then enter Plymouth, for lay-over. Cancel my 231436B para. 3.
(3) LOCH KILLIN, BURGESS, CRANSTOUN on leaving harbour at 0900B/24 proceed patrol Lizard to Pendeen.
(4) DACRES, LAWSON, Trail B.T.C. 137 as far as Start Pt. then patrol Start to Lizard.
Previous patrol orders are cancelled.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231757B to E.G.15, E.G.17)

SS. RIVERTON RIVERTON torpedoed or mined 050 degs. 25.5 minutes. torpedoed. 005 degs. 25 minutes.
T.B.C. 135 (GODETIA, 231535B to C. in C. Plymouth)
GODETIA 23.15.35. Intend joining hunt.
(BERRY, 231549B)

Ship torpedoed in position 50 degs. 25.5' N. 05 degs. 25' W. at 1535B.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231619B)
Am closing position of torpedoing in T.B.C.135. E.T.A. 1645B.
(S.O.E.G.17, 231650B to C. in C. Plymouth)
Attacking suspicious contact my position 051 degs. 10' N. 004 degs. 30' W.
(RIMOUSKI, 231724Z to C. in C. Plymouth)
My 231724 - contact classified non-S/M proceeding.
(RIMOUSKI, 231738)
Have attacked A/S contact with depth charge and Hedgehog position 050 degs. 43' N. 004 degs. 57' W. light oil still in contact.
(GODETIA, 231820B to C. in C. Plymouth)
Regret to report British M/V RIVERTON in T.B.C.135 presumably torpedoed at 1535 to-day 23rd April, in 50 degs. 25.5' N. 05 degs. 25' W. Still afloat at 1700/23rd. Tug DIRECTOR, attempting to tow to St. Ives Bay, has survivors on board except 4 missing.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231843B to Admt.)
My 231820B - heavy explosion and heavy oil followed second Hedgehog attack.
(GODETIA, 231846B to C. in C. Plymouth)
Several bottom contacts attacked but none very promising. F.S. ROSELYS has rejoined convoy. Tug towing RIVERTON towards St. Ives Bay with difficulty (?) escorted by BENBECULA and continuing search with 6 Frigates. M.AD Catalina and Wellington co-operating.
(S.O.E.G.17, 231940 to C. in C. Plymouth)
E.T.A. St. Ives Bay 0300 B.S.T./24. Intend anchoring tow condition precarious. Landing 44 survivors none injured.
(?DIRECTOR, 232300 to C. in C. Plymouth)
Cancel my 231801/ (not to all).
(2) H.M.R.T. DIRECTOR towing torpedoed merchant ship in 234 degs. Trevoze Head 22 miles at 2225B/23 proceeding St. Ives, H.M.T. BENBECULA standing by. H.M.R.T. ALLEGIANCE escorted by MINALTO also proceeding to assist.

War Diary

23.4.1945
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

SS. RIVERTON
torpedoed.
(Contd.)

(3) Proceed forthwith to act as A/S screen to tugs and tow until further orders.
(4) Acknowledge.
(5) Add KINGCUP to repeated addressees.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 232351B to RIMOUSKI)
/ Not circulated by W.R.

BERRY,
DOMETT,
COOKE.

When E.G.20 joins about 2300B/23 detach BERRY, DOMETT, COOKE to proceed Portsmouth Command.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231643B to S.O.E.G.17)

? U-Boat
Report.

Sighted possible S/M smoke 175 Lundy Island 4 miles. Have carried out depth charge attack result unknown.
(M.L.396, 231905B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Proposals
for Sur-
render of
U-Boats.

C. in C. Plymouth, 232021.
See Lion copy.

Operations

West Coast of France

Patrol
27.

F.S. LA DECOUVERTE sails Brest 231700B to relieve F.S. L'AVENTURE on patrol 27 at 240700B, F.S. LE FORTUNE with order R/V vicinity Ile d'Yeu. L'AVENTURE E.T.A. Brest, 242100B.
(C.F.N.T.F. 230955B to C. in C. Plymouth)

My 221701B. / Nothing to report.
(Comar Brest, 231231B).
/ M.T.B.91 239 on patrol.

Tomorrow 24th April one Sunderland A/C will operate in Barry (?Biscay) Area as in my 221634. Communications.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231740B to Force 27)

Operations
in Gironde.

Sitrep for 230000B. Prisoners: Royan 5,400, Pointe De Grave 3,000 total 8,400. Our losses killed 346. Wounded 1501. Missing 32. No activity La Rochelle area.
(C.T.U.122.1.1. 231216)

Operations

Western Approaches

ATHOLL,
CARISBROOKE
CASTLE,
LANCASTER
CASTLE,
contact
attacked.

Relieved by CARISBROOKE CASTLE who is now in contact. My P.C.S. 52.03 N. 06.07 W. 065 12 knots. Suitable.
(ATHOLL, 230015B to C. in C. W.A.)

/Contact ...

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.)

TOPSECRET

232021B/April

From C. in C. Plymouth

Date 24/4/45
Time 0929

*Proposals for
surrender
of U-boats.*

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty

Repeated: C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth,
C. in C. Home Fleet (Ashore), A.N.C.X.F., F.O. S/M
C. 1, Commodore W.A., A.C. Dover, F.O.I.C. Falmouth,
Captain S/M. 5th S/M Flotilla.

Following are my proposals for surrender of U-Boats at
sea in English Channel.

2. It is proposed to divide the English Channel into two
areas by line drawn 180 degrees from Start point to French Coast.

3. Western Area. Preliminary examination anchorage Falmouth
Bay. Port for final examination Falmouth.

4. Approach routes. Route WHITE:

(A) 49 degs. 00' North 06 degs. 00' West
(B) 49 degs. 30' North 05 degs. 00' West

Route BLACK:

(A) 49 degs. 00' North 04 degs. 00' West
(B) 49 degs. 30' North 05 degs. 00' West

5. U-Boats to report their position by plain language
signal to Admiral Plymouth on surfacing and join nearest route.
Ammunition to be jettisoned and torpedoes rendered safe by
removal of pistols before reaching position 49 degs. 30' North
05 degs. 00' West where U-Boats will be met by A/S Escorts, and
brought to Falmouth by route which will be given to escorts by
C. in C. Plymouth.

6. Eastern Area. Preliminary examination anchorage Weymouth
Bay. Port for final examination Portland.

7. U-Boats in area between Start point and Portland Bill are
on surfacing to report their position in plain language to
Admiral Plymouth jettison ammunition and proceed direct to
50 degs. 00' North 03 degs. 00' West where they will be met by
A/S escorts and brought into Weymouth Bay by route which will
be given to escorts by C. in C. Plymouth.

8. /

8. Eastern Area. Approach route, Route ORANGE

- (A) 50 degs. 30' North 00 degs. 50' East
- (B) 50 degs. 10' North 00 degs. 30' West
- (C) 50 degs. 10' North 01 degs. 50' West

9. U-Boats to the eastward of the line joining Portland Bill and Cap de la Hague are, on surfacing to report their positions in plain language to Admiral Portsmouth and proceed direct to route ORANGE. Ammunition to be jettisoned and torpedoes rendered safe by removal of pistols on reaching position 50 degs. 10' North 01 degs. 50' West where U-Boats will be met by A/S vessels and escorted through position 50 degs. 36' North 02 degs. 24' West into Weymouth Bay.

10. Purpose of proposed rendezvous position is to avoid incidents due to surfaced U-Boats crossing principal convoy routes unescorted.

11. The above proposals are concurred in by C. in C. Portsmouth.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 232021B H.A.V.)

Advance copy D.C. D.O.D.(H) D.D.I.C.
P.A.S.(L)

MMB

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (3)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
- U.W.R.
- D.O.D.(H)(4)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.C.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D. of P.(2)
- D. of P.(Q)(3)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.A.U.D.
- D.T.D.(4)
- Admiral Blake (4)
- D.S.D.
- P.A.S.(S)
- P.A.S.(L) for action
- Hd. of M.(2)
- W.D.
- C.N.M.O.

~~IN~~

~~HUSH-SECRET~~

~~CANCELLED~~

437

23.4.1945
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

- ATHOLL,
CARISBROOKE
CASTLE,
LANCASTER
CASTLE,
contact
attacked.
(Contd.)
- Contact attacked by ATHOLL with 4 Depth Charge patterns and 3 Hedgehog. CARISBROOKE with 4 Squid and LANCASTER CASTLE 1 Squid. CARISBROOKE CASTLE obtained good E/S traces. Considerable quantity of petrol rising. No wreckage. Consider definite non-S/M. Rejoining E.T.A. 0600.
(LANCASTER CASTLE, 230240B to S.O.Force 38)
- Force 32.
- Am complying your 230039/ searching area North of Scilly Isles. Medium sized fresh oil slick sighted. Suitable.
(S.O.E.G.32, 230401B to C. in C. W.A.)
/ Not yet identified.
- E.G.10.
- C. in C. W.A.'s 221534/ sailed E.G.10 to comply. (2) C.C.M. defective in BRAITHWAITE and LOCH DUNVEGAN.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 230925B to C. in C. W.A.)
/ Support of U.C. 65A and O.N. 298/O.S.
- E.G.21.
- On completion of training p.m. to-day 23rd, request you will sail 21st E.G. to Merville.
(C. in C. W.A. 231059B to PHILANTE)
PHILANTE's 232145B/ BYRON's defects made good. She is proceeding to Merville with 21st E.G.
(S.O.E.G.21, 232324B)
/ Former not identified.
- KIHNA
~~KHINA~~,
contact
attacked.
- Have carried out attack contact in 055 degs. 42' N. 005 degs. 06' W.
(~~KHINA~~, 231115B to F.O.I.C.Greenock)
- E.G.9.
- On detaching in 43 degs. N. (A.M. 221157 not to all refers) proceed at best speed without incurring weather damage via North Cornish coast to Milford Haven buoy reporting E.T.A.
(2) Escort RICHMOND CASTLE from Milford Haven buoy to Cumraes and then proceed to Londonderry to lay-over.
(3) F.O.I.C.Milford Haven is requested to sail RICHMOND CASTLE accordingly.
(C. in C. W.A. 231120B to S.O.E.G.9)
- CLARE,
contact.
- Is there a non-S/M contact in 054 degs. 59' Point 06' N. 004 degs. 53' Point 07 mins. W. Good stationary contact. Have attacked twice.
(CLARE, 231227B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 231227. (2) Contact in 053 degs. 59' 37" 004 degs. 53' 42" consider non-S/M. Intend returning to harbour.
(CLARE, 231735 to C. in C. W.A.)

23.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

C.4. GLACE BAY in firm contact with stationary target position 55° 04' 24" N., 05° 21' 12" (good echo trace length 150 feet height 32 feet) PETROLIA in company (no sign of wreck 102 charted in near vicinity). Suitable.
(S.O. C.4, 231235B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 231235B. Not to F.O.I.C. Greenock contact non-submarine or wreck 102 (proceeding Moville PETROLIA in company) E.T.A. 1730.
(S.O. C.4, 231338B to C. in C. W.A.)

Contact off Tuskar. C. in C. W.A's 221534*. Sailed 8th E.G. to comply LOCH ACHRAY sails 1700B/23.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 231439B to C. in C. W.A.)
* N.T. in W.D.

WALKER. WALKER proceed to pass Clyde Boom 0930B/24 to Larne to relieve WESTCOTT on Ferry escort duty. E.T.A. 1430B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 231528B to WALKER.)

E.G.4, contact. Attacking possible S/M contact in 056° 28' N., 012° 02' W.
(S.O. E.G.4, 231752B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Norway

Operation ~~W.F.~~ S.C. Ramose Supremacy sailed HESSA at 0700B/23.
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 230703B.)

Operations

Northern Waters

U/B reports. Admiralty recode and pass to all addressees. U-Boat located by D/F in approx. 069° 57' N., 032° 33' E. at 0138B.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 230230B.)
At 1430B H.F/D.F. bearing on 4985 k/cs indicated
U-Boat in approx. 70° 23' N., 34° 35' E. Admiralty recode and pass to escorts J.W.66.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 231514B.)

U/B sunk. U-Boat in my 220830* claimed sunk by Russian destroyer 0812B/22 in 69° 41' N., 33° 17' E.
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 230955Z.)
* Russian SS. ONEGA sunk off Navolok.

/Force 5 ...

War Diary.

23.4.1945.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Force 5. Kola Inlet. Force 5 departed 1000B/23rd.
C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) 161224, refers.
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 231128B.)

Operation Intend sailing S.C. operation from Shetlands.
S.C. (1) 2359B/23 from Lerwick.
(2) 060° from Muckle Flugga speed 14 knots.
(3) 1200B/24.
(4) Between 1500B/24 and 1500B/26.

(5) 240° to Muckle Flugga 15 knots.
(6) a.m./27. (7) 060° Muckle Flugga. (8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231229B.)

My 231229B Assault.

(A) (1) S/M Chaser HILTRA will search a circular area 40 miles
in diameter with centre at position 062° 00' N., 002° 52' E.
in an endeavour to R/V with Norwegian M/V (HA ?) VGARD fishing
number SF.39.D, length 70 feet.

(2) Ramose Noble. (3) Blank.

(B) Request that no Norwegian fishing ship be attacked 20
miles either side of position 062° N., 002° 52' E. and 061°
54' N., 005° E. between a.m. April 24th and p.m. April 27th.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231232B to C. in C. H.F. (Afloat))

Operation Norwegian Naval Headquarters intend to establish
"Bedspread". W/T station at Mageroy (North Cape) similar to
that already established at Soroy.

(2) W/T party will proceed by Catalina probably
during night of 25/26 April.

(3) When established W/T Station call sign FU will communicate
with Polyarnoe W/T at same periods as Soroy viz: 0900B and
2100B.

(4) One time letter pads are being supplied to permit inter-
communication between Soroy and Mageroy and London as well as
between Mageroy and Royal Norwegian Naval Headquarters.

(D.S.D., 231850B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Codeword for operation given in my 231850 is "Bedspread".

(D.S.D., 231911B.)

Movements

DUQUESNE. A.M. 222217 being passed to Comar Brest.
Escort should be provided for F.S. DUQUESNE
from 45° N. if possible. They should be sailed
to be in 45° 00' N., 08° 20' W. at 0800Z/24.

(2) DUQUESNE amend time at R/V as necessary.

(D.O.D.(H), 231302B to Comar Brest, F.S. DUQUESNE.)

Your 231302B. Request escort for R/V in 046° 00' N.,
006° 40' W. at 0600Z repetition 00* April 25th. Impossible
to amend speed to R/V in accordance with your signal.

(DUQUESNE, 231843Z to Admty.)

* As received.

A.M. 231302. For 0800Z/24 read 1800Z/24. C.M.S.F's
230118 refers.

(D.O.D.(H), 231905B.)

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War Diary.23.4.1945.
Monday.HOME COMMANDSMovements - Contd.

NELSON. Sailing of NELSON is to be deferred until 29th April in order to facilitate provision of Western Approaches escorts. A.M. 192311 refers.
(V.C.N.S., 231443B.)

HOVA. With your concurrence intend sailing F.S. HOVA to Plymouth to embark ammunition and stores at 2000B/24. E.T.A. 0700/25. F.T.O. will advise those concerned of requirements.
(C.F.N.T.F., 231615B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Shipping and Convoys

J.W.66. Broadcast message has been sent giving destinations as in your 220926, the remainder being ordered to Kola Inlet for Murmansk.
(D.T.D., 231359B to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Estimate you will arrive (MT) at 1000B/25th. Russian and Norwegian escorts will sail accordingly by Q.Z.S. 705 to R/V you. Admiralty recypher and pass to addressees*.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 231138B to C.S.10.)
* Passing action being taken by War Registry.

Your 231138 - not to C. in C. Home Fleet (Afloat). J.W. 66 E.T.A. position (MT) 0600B/25th.

Admiralty recypher and pass to all addressees*.
(C.S.10, 232307 to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)

* Passing action being taken by War Registry.

K.M.S./O.S. Convoys. While present U-Boat situation persists it is necessary to delay sailing of Channel section of K.M.S./O.S. Convoys to make the R/V in vicinity of Scilly Is.

(2) Until further orders C. in C. Nore, is requested to fleet K.M.S./O.S. shipping to Portsmouth in T.B.C. Convoys.

(3) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail Channel section, C. in C. Plymouth assisting with escorts if required.

(4) Cs. in C. pass to F.O.I.C., N.O.I.C. and N.C.S.Os. concerned.

(D.T.D., 231624B.)

T.B.C. Convoys. With the present time-table, T.B.C. convoys pass Eddystone at approximately 0430. Owing to the Coastal Command Flare paths in Plymouth Sound it is undesirable to sail merchant ships in the dark to join. Ships are at present sailed to Falmouth, to join T.B.C. convoys from there on the following day.

(2) Request that time-table of T.B.C. convoys be amended to pass Eddystone at 0800, to enable joining ships to be sailed in daylight, thus saving one day.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231819B to Admty.)

23.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Spanish ship SAC 8°. Aircraft has located ship in position 035° 36' N., 006° 43' W. Am proceeding to intercept. My P.C.S. 036° 11' N., 006° 55' W., 145°, 13 knots.
(CROCUS, 230944B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Asdic contact. At 1815Z on 22nd April in position 039° 23' N., 010° 06' W. firm asdic contact was obtained at 700 yards. Counter-attack was carried out and no further contacts were obtained. FRITILLARY, CLOVER continued search until 1940Z and then rejoined convoy. LOWESTOFT was kept informed throughout.
(FRITILLARY, 230945Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

PRINSES BEATRIX. (L.S.I.(M)) Sail at 2000/23rd for Port Said. (2A) 18½. (3) Basic eastbound. (4) E.T.A. Port Said 0800/28.
(F.O.G.M.A., 231222 to PRINSES BEATRIX.)

U/B. SSSS position 1900 34.40 N., 9.57 W. sighted periscope.
(CAPE TRAFALGAR, 231901Z to General.)

Disposal of U-Boats at sea on "Cease fire". Reference para. 4 of A.M. 132250. The following are my comments and proposals.
(2) The proposals set forth in para. 2 of C. in C. W.A. 012349 are in general applicable to U-Boats operating to south of Finisterre.
(3) Since however the number of U-Boats south of Finisterre is likely to be small and since there is no isolated anchorage at Gibraltar it is requested that the proposals in para. 2(E) of C. in C. W.A. signal be brought into force for U-Boats ordered to Gibraltar and that they be instructed to jettison all ammunition and fire torpedoes before arrival at R/V.
(4) Admiralty is requested to route all U-Boats south of 43° N. and east of 25° W. to a R/V position in (A) 36° 00' N., 11° 00' W. where ships of the Gibraltar Escort Force will R/V and escort to Gibraltar. U-Boats to be ordered to report E.T.A. at position (A) in plain language to A.D.M.L. Gibraltar on 500 k/cs.
(5) There is no R.M.S. Officer at present at Gibraltar and it is requested that such an officer be sent here in order to be present at the preliminary and final inspections.
(F.O.G.M.A., 231902B to Admty.)

23.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

MIRROR
(cable
ship).

(1) Intend sailing cable ship MIRROR unescorted to Bathurst to repair Bathurst-Sierra Leone cable. Estimated time sailing 0700Z/25th, E.T.A. 27th.

(2) On completion, N.O.I.C. Bathurst is to sail MIRROR to St. Vincent (route), thence St.

Vincent (?subsequently) (corrupt group) to repair following:

(A) St. Vincent-Pernambuco. (B) St.Vincent-Madeira.

(C) St. Vincent-Bathurst.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 231225Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

KENYA
(cruiser)

Sailed KENYA in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 150926 (not to C. in C. E.I. and F.O.G.M.A.)

(2) S. of A. 19 knots.

(3) E.T.A. Capetown 0800Z/25th, E.T.D. Capetown 0700Z/27th, E.T.A. Freetown 1400Z/4th May.

(Commodore Durban, 231444Z to Admty.)

23.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Greek Navy. H.M. Submarine VENGEFUL was transferred to
S/M VENGEFUL. R.H.N. at 1130 today 23rd April and renamed
DELPHIN. DELP IN+
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 231617B to C. in C. Med.)
+ As recd.

23.4.1945.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesTroopship
escorts,
Abolition
of.

Release of troopships escorts. My 190358 Feb. refers. Now intended to extend area referred to in para. 1 to include Mozambique Channel to limit of East Indies.
 (2) C. in C. S.A. agree to release from regular escorts on coastal route between South Africa and East Indies limit.
 (C. in C. E.I., 231042Z to C. in C. S.A.)

S/M
STATESMAN,
operations.

STATESMAN 6th Far East patrol 5th April vicinity southern Malacca Strait completely destroyed by gunfire convoy of 7 landing craft from which official mail was taken.
 Between 5th and 15th April same vicinity by gunfire and demolition sank 13 re-assembled craft totalling 900 tons. *? small coastal*
 (C. in C. E.I., 231251Z to Admty.)

Employment
of VIGOROUS
and VIVID on
operational
patrols.

It would appear that C. in C. E.I's 211019 is based on the supposition contained in C. in C. E.I's 131103 that submarines of the 2nd Flotilla were not being relieved when due for refit.
 (2) In S/M.04009/489 on A.D.1151/45 it was proposed that 2nd Flotilla should be stabilised at nine submarines plus possibly RORQUAL. If this is approved it may be that the need to employ

VIGOROUS and VIVID for operations will not arise.

(3) The employment of the two last named submarines for operations would seem to suggest an excess of submarines for A/S training in East Indies Station in particular since TRIDENT is also to be used for operations (C. in C. E.I's 060626 refers) and it might be more desirable to employ these two 'U' class submarines for A/S training elsewhere.

(4) Further it had been intended not to relieve 'U' class in Eastern Theatre by 'U' class from U.K. when the former became due for refit, but to arrange for them to carry out local refits on the Station until end of Japanese war. If 'U' class are to be generally employed on operations this will necessitate their returning to U.K. for refit with consequent addition to submarine manpower and refitting requirements.

(5) If it is approved that 2nd Flotilla should consist of nine submarines it is proposed that C. in C. E.I. be asked to confirm whether he still intends to use these two 'U' class submarines for operational cum A/S training duties.

(F.O.S/M., 231916B to Admty.)

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23.4.1945

MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesConvoy
H.X. 351

N.S. and N.K. Recommend H.X. 351 be diverted forthwith to steer 175° until crossing latitude 39.45 N. thence through 40° N. 40° W. and by Great Circle to Fastnet.
(Admty. 231002B to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U-boat
attack

Attacking submarine in position 50.01 N. 42.00 W.
(GIFFARD, 231220Z, to F.O.N.F.)
Lost contact oil slick after second attack (J) submarine course 150° speed 6. My 231220 refers.
(GIFFARD, 231325Z to F.O.N.F.)

Your 231325* suggest cable operations be suspended if convenient air coverage will be provided as soon as weather permits.

(F.O.N.F., 231531Z, to GIFFARD)

Consider U-boat may be damaged have regained and lost further contact. Cable operations suspended. Carrying out search.

(GIFFARD, 231845Z to F.O.N.F.)

Your 231845 amplifying reports required forthwith in accordance with C. in C. C.N.A.S. O.S.7 and 48. Report any changes your movements and LORD KELVIN.

(F.O.N.F., 231958Z to GIFFARD.)

Your 231959.

- (a) Radar 2400 Yard amplitude One X 271 Q 0520 P.
- (d) Not known estimate 400 feet.
- (e) Definite S/M.
- (f) Slight oil slick after 2nd attack.
- (h) On regaining 4 hours later position of contact changed (precisely?) one mile initial A/S contact not gained until approximately 1½ hours after radar contact which disappeared at 0522A my position and LORD KELVIN unchanged.

Weather report 4762 1123.

(H.M.C.S. GIFFARD, 232310Z to F.O.N.F.)

U-boat
dispositions

Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 231341Z to S. and A., and Cominch, 231400Z.)

HAUGEN
(Whalers
for South
Africa)

Your 211423. * Deck structures already removed from HAUGEN. Vessel now undergoing boiler cleaning removal of D.G. and Oropesa sweep.
(2) E.T.D. Jamaica 1000R/4, E.T.A. Trinidad 1000R/9 (B.N.O. Jamaica, 231451R to S.B.N.O. W.At.)*HAUGEN to be sailed to Trinidad to accompany 3 whalers to S.Africa.

E.G.11

Concur in your 141629. E.G.11 is being reformed in U.K. accordingly.
(D.O.D.(H), 231943B to N.S.H.Q.)

T.G. 60.3
(recon-
struction
of)

T.G. 60.3 reconstituted Capt. Longfellow in EARLE Comcortdiv 45 in VANCE, LANSING, DURANT, QUICK. Escort convoy U.G.S.90 departing New York and Hampton Roads 2 - 3 May Western Mediterranean. Escorts lay over in Oran. Return U.S. escorting G.U.S.92 when C. in C. Med. directs.
(Cinclant, 232035Z to C.T.G. 60.3.)

/U-Boat...

23.4.1945

Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-boat report
 Para. (a)(1) 231835 (Norg.) KATY reported torpedoed 35.56 N. 74.52 W. All times Z.
 Para. (c)(1) 231220 H.M.C.S. GIFFARD attacked contact 50.01 N. 42.00 W. course 150 speed six.
 Para. (d)(1) 230236 A/C Radar contact 38.35 N. 73.45 W.
 (2) 231400 A/C attacked oil slick 35.00 N. 75.15 W. (Cominch, 232115Z to Admty., for O.I.C.)

E.G. W.2
 O.N.295 2200Z P.C.S. 40.35 N. 65.57 W.(X), 235, 9. E.T.A. point Z. New York 1300Z/25th. SS. EMPIRE MARINER leaking port shell plating number 5 lower hold, making 5 inches per day. (S.O. W.2, 232334Z to C.E.S.F.)

Far East and Australia

Tugs for B.P.F.
 In view of great shortage of large tugs. Request that arrangements be made to requisition tug ST. GILES from Waratah Tug Company Limited on behalf of British Pacific Fleet and earliest date available reported. (V.A.(Q) 230717 to A.C.N.B.)

Digest 1188 22.4.45 Extract
Navy Privateers from Clark Field.
 sank two, damaged two or four small coasters six small craft 30 miles south Kiirun, sank single lugger 15 miles north by west Takao.
 (2) Delayed report states Ventura from Palawan 21st April sank river steamer north Borneo, damaged camouflaged barge same vicinity.
 (4) Total enemy Luzon casualties to date number 118,286 killed, 1240 captured.
 (5) 20 Liberators dropped 40 tons on Saigon naval yards and shipping hitting buildings starting fires with black smoke, scored near misses one submarine, sunk already damaged large transport, scored direct hits another damaged transport. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 230837Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine attack and sighting summary.
 For 24 hours to 0800Z 23rd April.
 Para. a.(1) Russian ONEGA, 1603 tons, torpedoed and sunk at 0550Z 22nd in latitude 69° 38' N.

/longitude...

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.)

230657Z/April.

From R.A.F.T.

*Storage. B.P.F.*Date. 5.5.45.
Recd. 0316NAVAL CYPHER F.O. (X) BY CABLE

Addressed C. in C. B.P.F.
Repeated V.A.(Q) A.C.N.B. Admiralty.

Further to my 091247 / para 2 (B) the location of radio repair stores in ships of the Fleet Train and Depot Ships has been indicated in A.M. 060657A/March, but no information regarding the quantities involved is given.

2. It is realised that lack of storage space has limited the amount of repair stores that can be carried in these ships, and it is considered that the quantities are likely to be insufficient to deal with action damage repairs.
3. Items such as Radar and W/T Aerials, UNF W/T sets etc are very vulnerable, and expeditious replacement of repair of damaged equipment is of great importance.
4. This can only be done if adequate stores are available in the forward area. Space in MARUDU would be invaluable in meeting at least part of this requirement, and would relieve the burden on air transport to the Forward Area.
5. If the proposal contained in my 091247 is approved, a limit of items which it is considered should be carried will be prepared and forwarded. If at all possible it would be preferable for the gear in question to be packed and stowed in MARUDU before leaving Sydney.

230657Z

1st Lord
1st S.L.(3)
D.F.S.L.(3)
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(W)
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
D. of P.(3)
D. of P.(Q)(5)
D. of P.(C)
D.H.I.(5)
W.D.
Ops.(2)
Plot.(2)
M.(6)
C.I.C.(3)
D.T.D.(C)

/ Essential to have some form of floating transit storage in the Fleet Train together with requisite Naval Store Staff to deal with general shipment work which is expected to be considerable.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| D.T.D.(4) | Dep. Contr. (3) | } |
| D. of S. (3) | Dep. Sec. | |
| D. of S.T. (15) | D.R.E. (3) | |
| D.T.S.D. | D.S.D. (2) | |
| D. of V. (3) | L. | |
| C.E. I | D.E.E. (3) | |
| D.E.E. | D. of S. (2) | |
| C.W. (2) | C.E.II. | |
| N.A.2.S.L.(2) | S.W.R. (6) | |
| Sec. | | |

Bath

447

23.4.1945
MondayWar DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarine
attack
and
sighting
summary
(Contd.)

longitude 33° 21' E.

Para. B.

(1) A/C P.518 saw smoke believed to be from
U-boat at 1215Z 22nd in latitude 56° 36' N.
longitude 10° 39' W.(2) A/C L.110 attacked U-boat at approx. 1500Z/
22nd in latitude 49° 44' N. longitude 01° 05' W.(3) A/C N/489 saw Schnorkel at 1336Z/22nd in
latitude 57° 46' N. longitude 02° 28' W.(4) Russian A/C saw U-boat at 1413Z/22nd in latitude 69° 23' N.
longitude 33° 43' E.(5) Russian A/C attacked U-boat at 0026Z/23rd in latitude 69°
41' N. longitude 33° 22' E.(6) Russian A/C attacked U-boat at 0400Z/23rd in latitude 70° 50'
N. longitude 33° 41' E.(7) A/C J/206 attacked U-boat at 2257Z/22nd in latitude.
57° 22' N. longitude 11° 23' E.

Para. C.

(1) M/V in O.S.124 (Liverpool portion) reported suspected
Schnorkel at 1240Z/22nd in latitude 53° 36' N. longitude 04°
26' W.(2) A/C S/304 attacked wake or swirl at 2055Z/22nd in latitude
49° 57' N. longitude 06° 31' W.

Para. D.

(1) H.M.C.S. ATHOLL had firm but doubtful contact at 1415Z/22nd
in latitude 52° 03' N. longitude 06° 07' W.

(D.D.I.C., 231124B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U-boat

Estimates.

Dispositions

(D.D.I.C., 231411B.)

24.4.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- Channel. 1. PLOVER was engaged today in the laying of a deep A/U minefield (Operation "Artisan").
- Baltic. 2. A 6,000 ton merchant ship was hit and set on fire by a Liberator 16 miles north of Anholt in the early hours of today; and a Halifax made two or three hits on an 8,000 ton merchant ship W.S.W. of Laeso.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- West Italy. 3. Early this morning enemy craft made an unsuccessful attack on Leghorn. 2 of them were sunk by shore batteries and 1 by aircraft.
- Corsica. 4. 3 small enemy craft surrendered today in the Gulf of Porto Ma~~ir~~rrizio. They had been sent to carry out sabotage. The craft were scuttled. (251904B)

America and West Indies

- U/B 546 sunk. 5(a) After numerous attacks by T.U.22.71(BOGUE's Escort Group) a U-Boat (546) was forced to surface and destroyed by gunfire at 2044 today in lat. 43° 54' N., 40° 22' W. (about 490' W.N.W. of Azores). There were 33 survivors. (252054Z)
- U.S. destroyer escort FREDERICK C. DAVIS torpedoed and sunk. (b) FREDERICK C. DAVIS was torpedoed and sunk in lat. 43° 52' N., 40° 15' W. (500' W.N.W. of Flores) at 1040 today.

24.4.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Far East and Australia

China.

6. U.S.N. Privateers sank 4 medium river boats and damaged 4 other small vessels 30' N.W. of Macao and sank one lugger off the Pescadores.

450

War Diary24.4.1945
TuesdayHOME COMMANDSPolicy

KINGSMILL An urgent requirement has arisen for a L.S.H.(S) frigate type as Command ship for the Service Force Commander at sea with the B.P.F.
 (2) KINGSMILL is the only available ship of this type, and C. in C. B.P.F. is being asked whether she would be suitable. Request you will report whether she can be released now and if not when.
 (V.C.N.S., 242048B to A.N.C.X.F.)

OperationsNorth Sea

E.G.23 Your 232245*. One. LOCH GORM S.O. and NYASALAND detached, my P.C.S. 205° 34 buoy 5 miles 146° 15.
 (S.O.E.G.23, 240025B to C. in C. Rosyth.)
 Search between 02.00 W. and 03.00 W. South of 58.00 N.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 241048B to LOCH GORM.)
 My 241048. Abandon search. Proceed forthwith to meet convoy W.N.87 3 ships escort 3 trawlers (GRAEMSAY S.O.) passed Cape Wrath 1230B today Tuesday 8 knots. Codeword "Pasture", Support southward.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 241525 to LOCH GORM.)

Fleet M/S Cancel my 081232* March.
 Following routine for Fleet Minesweepers to come into force forthwith.
 (Refers to maintenance and exercises.)
 (C. in C. Nore, 241057B.)
 * Routine to come into force on the next turn round of Fleet Minesweeping Flotillas.

250 My 201451B was intended to give berthing facilities after, fishing vessels had been through Security Control at either Humber or Firth of Forth.
 (2) In view of F.O.I.C. Humber's 211357B, request arrangements be made on the arrival of any fishing vessels at ports south of the Tyne, for them to be conducted to Humber without delay.
 (3) Any vessels arriving at Tyne on ports north of Tyne should be conducted to Methil.
 (4) Subsequent allocation for berthing in Rosyth Command and future fishing activities, if any, will be by arrangement between F.O.I.C. Humber, F.O.I.C. Tyne, and C. in C. Rosyth.
 A.M. 232225B refers.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 241134B to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

M.S.F. 16th M.S.F. can be made available for operation 16, 31.
 "Dropkick" at 5 days' notice. C. in C. Nore 191701 not to C. in C. Plymouth refers.
 Operations (2) A.N.C.X.F. is requested.
 "Dropkick" (a) To make 31st M.S.F. available for operation and
 "Nestegg". "Nestegg" during absence of 16th M.S.F.

/(b)...

451

24.4.1945
TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth SeaM.S.F.
16, 31,
Operations
"Dropkick"
and
"Nestegg"
(Contd.)

(b) To assist C. in C. Plymouth by loan of 31st M.S.F. for M/S operations when this flotilla is not required on the French coast.
 (3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange for S.O. 16th M.S.F. to visit C. in C. Nore at first convenient opportunity to be briefed for "Dropkick".
 (A.C.N.S.(H) 241223B.)

Mines -
Ostend

Two mines were detonated yesterday in Q.Z.S.685 and one today, Tuesday. Request permission for Q.Z.S.649 to be re-opened. This channel has been swept regularly and is considered safe.
 (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 241506B to C. in C. Nore.)

Nore
night
dispositions
April 24th
to 25th

Humber Force.
 (Group 1) Patrol 1 BLENCATHRA,
 (Group 2) Harbour MENDIP.
 Harwich Force:
 (Group 3) Patrol 2 BROCKLESBY, 3 HAMBLEDON,
 4 CHIDDINGFOLD, 6 GUILLEMOT, 12 CUBITT, 14 EGLINGTON,
 16 TORRINGTON, 17 TALYBONT, 18 SOUTHDOWN,
 19 STAYNER, 22 CAICOS.

A.T.M.134 WIDGEON, T.A.M. 49 KITTIWAKE.

(Group 4) Harbour KRAKOWIAK, ZETLAND, LAMERTON, QUANTOCK, CURZON, SEYMOUR, RETALICK, MALLARD, SHEARWATER.

Sheerness Force:

(Group 5) Patrol 5 HOLDERNESS, 7 COWDRAY, 8 EASTON, 21 CATTISTOCK, F.N.95 BRISSENDEN. A.T.M.134 ALBRIGHTON, T.A.M.49 OAKLEY.

(Group 6) Harbour GARTH, BLANKNEY, COTTESMORE, MELBREAK, MEYNELL, TANATSIDE, VERSATILE, VIMY, HAYDON, PRESCOTT, ARMERIA, BADDECK, DRUMHELLER, LOOSESTRIFE.

At Southend FERNIE (for T.A.P.14)

(C. in C. Nore, 241525B.)

U-boat
and S.B.U.
summary to
1200B/24.

(1) 2309/23 SS. ^{SVERRE} HELMERSEN probably torpedoed 090 south Falls Buoy 2.5 miles.
 (2) 0205/24. Wellington F/407 attacked midget U-boat 52° 24' N. 04° 13' E.
 (3) 0634/24. A/C A/254 attacked midget U-boat 52° 12' N. 03° 40' E. Possibly same midget.
 (4) Incident (2) in my 231718 was false report and should be deleted.
 (C. in C. Nore, 241600B.)

At 0900/24th M.L.101 reported attacking with depth charges possible Midget Submarine 090° S.W. Gate 2 miles. Patch of oil observed. No Hydrophone effect.

(A.C. Dover, 241638B.)

Dim-out
in
Rosyth and
Leith

(1) I am informed by the Chief Constable of Dunfermline that the Borough of Dunfermline, which includes Rosyth Dockyard, is an area where the dimout regulations still apply.
 (2) The Borough of Edinburgh, which includes Leith and Granton, is also such an area.

(3) In order to expedite work in Rosyth and Leith it is highly desirable that there should be a relaxation of the dimout

/regulations...

War Diary.24.4.1945.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth SeaDim-out
in Rosyth
and Leith.
(Contd.)regulations in the above areas.
(4) It is considered that such relaxation will
be of no operational or material help to
enemy vessels navigating off the coast.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 241605 to Admt.)

M/S.1.

E.G.M.S. sweeping tomorrow Wednesday unless
otherwise ordered.(a) Q.Z.Y.572 from N.F. 5 to 02° 48' E.
Convoy E.T.A. N.F.5 0900B.(b) N.F.7 to H.K.1. Two actuations either side of centre line.
(c) Between longitudes 02° 40' E. and 02° 48' E. from centre
line of Q.Z.S.684 to 2 miles north of centre line. Weight
all dans laid.
(2) Return to Small Downs for the night. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Nore, 241617B to M/S.1.)

M/S.40.

E.G.M.S. sweeping for tomorrow Wednesday unless
otherwise ordered.(A) Either side of centre line of Q.Z.S.468.
(B) Q.Z.S.684 either side of centre line South

Falls to N.F.5.

(2) Anchor off Harwich for the night. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Nore, 241620B to M/S.40.)Cositintrep
No. 385.Part 4, section A.
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 231600A
April.
(S.H.A.E.F., 241715B.)Ostend -
sweeping
report.Sweeping report for Tuesday 24th April.
6 B.Y.M.S. swept LL/SA I.G.M.S. and explosives
sweep of Q.Z.E.649. 4 actuations full width of
channel and 2 actuations E.G.M.S. full width of
channel of Q.Z.S.699 from N.F.7 Buoy to N.F.12
Buoy. Explosive sweep used continuously.

Negative results.

3 M.M.S. swept LL/SA I.G.M.S. and explosive sweep of Q.Z.S.649,
1 actuation full width of channel and 1 actuation E.G.M.S. of
1 mile wide, channel of Q.Z.Y.572 from N.F.9 Buoy to position
005° O.D.1 Buoy 1.9 miles. Negative result.3 M.M.S. swept LL/SA E.G.M.S. and explosive sweep of Q.Z.S.685
from O.D.5 Buoy to N.F.7 Buoy. 2 actuations full width of
channel. Intensive sweeping carried out in vicinity of O.D.2
and O.D.3 Buoy. 1 blue magnetic mine detonated at 1330B in
position 075° O.D.3 Buoy 1½ miles. Grenades remaining
sufficient for one day sweeping only.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 241830B to F.O. Belgium.)

/Coastal ...

24.4.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Coastal Force dispositions night 24/25 April.

From U.K.:

Patrol 2 - Unit F.C.2, M.T.Bs. 5005, 765.
 Patrol 3 - Unit F.C.3, M.T.Bs. 678, 673.
 Patrol 4 - Unit F.C.4, M.T.Bs. 754, 779.
 Patrol 5 - Unit F.C.5, M.T.Bs. 383, 381.
 Patrol 6 - Unit F.C.6, M.T.Bs. 380, 391.
 Patrol 7 - Unit F.C.7, M.T.Bs. 392, 386.
 Patrol 8 - Unit F.C.8, M.T.Bs. 469, 456.

BWCC 5035 - Unit F.A.2, M.T.Bs. 496, 497, 446. Patrol 12 - Unit F.L.2, M.T.Bs. 482, 478, 450; F.L.3, M.T.B. 453, 451.
 Patrol 22 - Unit F.B.8, M.T.B. 454, 447; F.B.9, M.T.B. 487, 488. DACC 4048 - Unit F.B.3, M.T.B. 489, 415, 414. ZFED 3500 - Unit F.A.5, M.T.B. 775, 730, 753; F.A.6, M.T.B. 702, 701. Patrol 51 - M.L.1468. Patrol 52 - M.L.593. Patrol 53 - M.L.586.

From Ostend: DAZD 2316 - Unit F.A.8, M.T.B. 745, 5013.
 DAZD 2100 - Unit F.B.2, M.T.B. 746, 797. DAZD 4126 - Unit F.G.5, M.L.252, 276, 153. DAZD 3312 - Unit F.H.3, M.T.B. 472, 477; F.H.4, M.T.B. 473, 476. Patrol 16 - Unit F.G.2, M.T.B. 748, 726; F.G.3, M.T.B. 724, 734. DAZD 2525 - Unit F.G.4, M.L. 347, 912, 190, 445.
 (C. in C. Nore, 241657B.)

Nore patrols. Patrols for night Wednesday 25th April.
 1 MENDIP, 2 BROCKLESBY, 3 LAMERTON, 4 QUANTOCK, 5 BRISSENDEN, 6 MALLARD, 7 MELBREAK, 8 GARTH.
 Coastal Force Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2300B.

(2) 12 STAYNER with Coastal Forces from U.K. 14 SOUTHDOWN.
 16 SEYMOUR with Coastal Forces from Ostend. 17 TALYBONT.
 18 CUBITT. 19 RETALICK with Coastal Forces from Ostend.
 21 CATTISTOCK. 22 CAICOS with C/F from U.K.
 Coastal Forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2200B.

(3) Escort for T.A.M.50 - COTTESMORE, GUILLEMOT. T.A.P.15 - FERNIE.

Coastal Force. From U.K.: Patrol 1 - 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.1. with MENDIP. 2 - 2 M.T.B. F.C.2, BROCKLESBY. 3 - 2 M.T.B. F.C.3, LAMERTON. 4 - 2 M.T.B. F.C.4, QUANTOCK. 5 - 2 M.T.B. F.C.5, BRISSENDEN. 6 - M.T.B. F.C.6, MALLARD. 7 - M.T.B. F.C.7, MELBREAK. 8 - 2 M.T.B. F.C.8, GARTH. 12 - 4 M.T.B. F.L.2, F.L.3. 22 - 4 M.T.B. F.B.8, F.B.9. Patrol 51 - 1 M.L. Patrol 52 - 1 M.L. Patrol 53 - 1 M.L.
 BWCC 5035 - 6 M.T.B. Unit F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3. DHCC 4048 - 4 M.T.B. F.B.3.
 From Ostend: DAZD 2316 - M.T.B., Unit F.A.8. DAZD 100 - 2 M.T.B., F.B.2. DAZD 4126 - 3 M.L., F.G.5. DAZD 3312 - 4 M.T.B., F.H.3. FHJR.
 Patrol 16 - 4 M.T.B., F.G.3. DAZD 2525 - 3 M.L., F.G.4.
 (C. in C. Nore, 241705B.)
 Amended 251629B.

/Flushing ...

24.4.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Flushing.

(Extract)

In view of the proposed demolitions of E-Boat pens necessitating some of the available coastal force berths in Ostend being allocated to A.S.R. boats and in view of the location of new M.L. patrols, it has become both necessary and desirable to use Flushing more extensively.

(2) I intend therefore to base the 21st, 11th and 2nd M.L. Flotillas exclusively on the THAMES QUEEN at Flushing. Accordingly A/S maintenance party will be conducted from there.

(4) F.O. Holland has been consulted.
(C.F.M.U.1, 241816B to C. in C. Nore.)

Cositintrep
No. 385.

Part II, Naval.
Nothing to report.
(Burrough signed Eisenhower, 242250B.)

Operations

Channel

E.G. 17,
E.G. 20 -
contacts.

My 231940. Further bottom contacts, including that marked by M.A.D. Catalina at 1923. Have been attacked without result. All considered non-submarine. Search continues.
(S.O. E.G.17, 240036B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Cancel my 231757, para. 3.

LOCH KILLIN, BURGES, CRANSTOUN proceed at best sweeping speed join S.O. E.G.17 hunting vicinity position 50° 25.5' N., 05° 25' W.

(2) When E.G.17, 2nd Division arrives, 20th E.G. proceed patrol Pendeen to Lizard.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 241103B to E.G.17, 20.)
If not in contact 17th E.G. proceed establish following patrols at 0800B/25. First Division Pendeen to Trevoise. Second Division Trevoise to Lundy.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 242210B.)
Am attacking bottomed contact in 050° 25.4' N., 005° 29.5' W.

(S.O. E.G.20, 241254B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
My 241254. Non-submarine small rock not unlike a German U-Boat. Position accurate.
(S.O. E.G.20, 241317B.)

Operation
"Artisan".

Your 231110B and 231603B.
SHIPPIGAN, PARRSBORO, ILFRACOMBE and ARMANA sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 240502B to C. in C. Plymouth)
"Artisan" serial B.2, part 3 completed and

skimmed to 42 feet below chart datum. 2 mines cut in 49° 50'24" N., 04° 58'30" W. sunk by rifle fire.

(2) PLOVER to Portsmouth escorted by ILFRACOMBE (S.O.) and DORNOCH.

24.4.1945
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Operation "Artisan" (Contd.) | (3) BEAUMARIS, PARRSBORO to Plymouth. PARRSBORO with defective gyro compass. (4) SHIPPIGAN and ARMANA to Falmouth. (SHIPPIGAN, 240823B.) |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Protection of Convoys Terms | The following terms will be used where additional forces are detailed for the protection of convoys: (a) "Act as additional Escort" - For ships sent to join and form part of the close escort of a convoy which already has an escort. (b) "Cover" - To direct ships to "Patrol in the Vicinity" of a convoy without forming part of its escort. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241005B.) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Channel Is. | Tracked two surface targets from Alderney to Guernsey between 1152 and 1300/23, speed 11 knots. Two from Guernsey to Alderney between 1104 and 1255/24, speed 10. (C.T.G.122.2, 241401B.) |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| U.S. Amphib- iousbase, Portland. | My 211140. Your 212300 and N.C. Force T Rear's 221127, the latter not to all. (1) Confirm that no more U.S. awkward vehicles will be shipped from Portland. The 51st L.C.T.(4) and 59th L.C.T.(4) Flotillas can, therefore, be released from the shuttle service now. Details of the future basing and administration of these craft have been agreed between C. in C. Portsmouth and N.C. Force T.(Rear). (2) It has been agreed that the U.S. Amphibious base at Portland shall close and that after 7th May all U.S. personnel and vehicle movement including that for French re-armament and U.N.R.R.A. will be programmed through Southampton. (3) In view of para. 2 and of a reduction in projected requirements for U.S. personnel lift the 263rd L.C.I.(L) Flotilla can now be released without proviso to Force T. and the request contained in para. 4 of my 211140 is withdrawn. (4) C.in C. Portsmouth's 241521 not to all, also refers. (A.N.C.X.F. (Bucco.), 241522B to A.N.C.X.F.) |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Force 28 | Intend to sail at 0900B/25 M.L.343 (S.O.) and M.L. 346 by Q.Z.S.697 through (Z) 49° 02' N. 03° 00' W. thence to take up patrol Robert (C.T.G.122.2b 171623B not to all refers) at about 2000B/25 as Force 28. (2) Whenever east of a line Cap Frehel, La Corbiere Force 28 will come under the operational control of C.T.G.122.2. (My 150951B para. (2) as amended by my 151513B refers.) (3) and (4) Communications (5) M.L.343 and M.L.346 are to pass Gate as requisite to comply with para. (1) (C. in C. Plymouth, 241553B.) |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| E.G.20 E.G.15 | When BARBADOS joins 20th E.G. establish following patrols on coastal convoy route. First Division 2 ships Pendeen to Lizard. Codeword "Gladstone A". |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

SECRET

IN
455A

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.)

Tactics against doubtful contacts.

241745B/April.

Date. 26.4.45.

Time. 0812.

From. C. in C. Portsmouth.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed. Portsmouth patrol and escort forces, Flotillas of Fleet Minesweepers operated by C. in C. Portsmouth, Capt. (D) One, MARSHAL SOULT, Cdr. M/S Force, Portsmouth, F.O.s i/o Southampton, Portland, N.O.s i/c Newhaven, Isle of Wight, Poole, H.M.S. HORNET, Capt. S/M 5.
Info. Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Western Approaches, C. in C. Plymouth, A.C. Dover, C.T.M. 122, C.T.G. 122.3, C.T.G. 122.2, R.A.F. Thorney, No. 19 Group. (54D)

BASEGRAM

Search after attack by U-boat - doubtful contacts.

During the initial search following a recent attack on a convoy an escort obtained a doubtful contact and

- (A) delivered a careful and deliberate attack, which, however, failed to produce satisfactory evidence.
- (B) Buoyed the position and continued the search.

2. Later the attack proved to have scored a hit on the U-boat and survivors came to the surface.

3. The action of the escort was correct for the following reasons.

- (A) Importance of combined search plan.

It is important to form up for and carry out the combined search plan as soon as possible to guard against the U-boat getting clear of the area and escaping.

- (B) Doubtful contacts - saving of time.

One careful and deliberate attack of on a doubtful contact is preferable to a number of hasty attacks and/or runs to obtain evidence by echo sounder and takes less time.

- (C) Reinvestigation of attack areas.

Buoying the position forms a datum on which to base further search if subsequently considered advisable.

4. Recovery of Dan Buoys attention is drawn to Pasi Para 23 with regard to the recovery of Dan Buoys.

(Cin Portsmouth 241745B)
Adv. copy D.A./S.W.

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| 1st Lord. | U.W.R. | | |
| 1st S.L (3) | Ops. (2) | D.A./U.D. | M. (2) |
| V.C.N.S. | Flot | D.T.D. (4) | W.D. |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | O.D. (6) | Hydrog. (2) | |
| A.C.N.S. (UT) (2) | O.I.C. (3) | D.N.O.R. | |
| A.C.N.S. (W) | D.A./S.W. | | |

24.4.1945
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel - Contd.

E.G.20
E.G.15
(Contd.)

Second Division 2 ships Lizard to Eddystone. Codeword "Gladstone B". S.O.E.G.20 report dispositions and Senior Officers.
(2) DACRES LAWSON trail D.T.C.137 until T.B.C.137 is met then transfer and trail to Eddystone. On completion proceed patrol Eddystone to Berryhead. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241653B to E.G.20, 15.)
Am investigating A/S contact in 049° 56' N. 005° 34' W. (E.G.20, 242218B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

U.1195

Your 221021B. In view of other salvage commitments it is not proposed to attempt to raise U.1195.
(2) A representative of D.N.I. is visiting Portsmouth tomorrow Wednesday to discuss the possibility of salvaging certain items inside the U-boat.
(3) No special items are required to be examined without recovery, but a general report on the diving operation will be of interest and may result in a requirement for such examination. (D.N.I., 242102B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations

West Coast of France

Patrol
27.

Weather permitting one Sunderland aircraft will again operate in Biscay area tomorrow 25th April as in my 221634. A/C callsigns:- W/T XXD C 14, R/T Underhill C.14.
(C. in C. Plymouth 241,621B to Force 27.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Sinking of
S/M in
practice
area.

C. in C.W.A. 192134 (not to Comnaveu) and A.L. M.013353/44 of 10th March to Comnaveu only. F.O. (S/M) is requested to arrange for sinking one of the Submarines P.511, P.555 and P.556 as required by C. in C.W.A.
(2) A U.S.A. Officer must be present at the sinking and information about the time, date and place of the operation should be forwarded in sufficient time for necessary arrangements to be made.
(3) Comnaveu also requires photographs of the sinking and C. in C. W.A. is requested to Arrange for these to be taken. (Hd. of M. 250123B to F.O. S/Ms.)

E.G.21,
E.G.4

Request Com. D.W.A. will sail 21st E.G. at daylight tomorrow 25th to relieve 4th E.G. operating in area bounded by parallels 55° and 56° and meridians 08° 45' and 11° 15'.
(2) On relief 4th E.G. proceed to Belfast for lay over disembarking all "High Tea" equipment at Moville in EMPIRE CONTROL en route.
(C. in C. W.A., 241103B.)
Your 241103B. E.T.A. Eastern end area 1200B 25th. (S.O.E.G.21, 242300B to C. in C.W.A.)

/Co-operation...

War Diary

24.4.1945
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Co-operation with M.A.D. Catalinas. C. in C. W.A. 241131B. See Lion Copy.

FOLEY. On completion of A/S Exercises at 1900B to-day proceed to Bangor Bay to complete with diesel oil thence to join E.G. 10 patrolling in area bounded by following positions 48.00' N. 49.00' N. 08 degs. 30' W. 09 degs. 45' W. E.T.A. Bangor is to be reported on departure.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 241155B to FOLEY)

U-Boat report. Have sighted object believed to indicate enemy S/M in 55.12 N. 9.22 W. Gee fix 1600.
(A/C CSNYX 96, 241645B to 15 Group)

Operation C.H. Carry out operation C.H. serial S.I. lines 5, 6 and 7 0940/26th.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 241733B to ARIADNE, C. in C. W.A.)

Firth of Clyde exercise areas. It is desirable that the use of exercise areas in Firth of Clyde be resumed as soon as possible and it is considered that if a 60% Oropesa search of exercise area G.G. gives negative results, resumption of exercises is justified. Oropesa trawlers available in your command appear to be adequate if, say CAVALCADE, ROSE OF ENGLAND, SAND-RINGHAM, SYCAMORE, CAPE BARRACOUTA and OAK are concentrated at Greenock for this purpose.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 241937B to C. in C. W.A.)

BERKELEY CASTLE contact. BERKELEY CASTLE attacking doubtful bottom contact in 052 degs. 23' N. 005 degs. 08' 30" West (X). Suitable.
(S.O. Force 38, 242355B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Norway

Operation V.P. V.P.81 M.T.B. 715 and M.T.B. 709 returned at 1315B to-day 24th April.
(2) Poor visibility made penetration of leads difficult. No shipping was sighted while Force was in Hjeltefjord between 0150 and 0400/24.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 241336B)

V.P. 85 M.T.B. 717 and M.T.B. 704 returned at 1345B to-day 24th April.
(2) At 0327B/24 in entrance to Stangfjord attacked convoy consisting of one escort vessel, two Merchant ships, one escort

/vessel ...

SECRET

IN^{WA}
457A

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.)

*Cooperation with
M.A.D. Catalinas.*
241131B/April

From C. in G. W.A.

Date 24.4.45.
Recd. 2250

F/L BY T/P

Addressed TOM WAGM (N) 269

Catalina aircraft of the U.S.N. fitted with M.A.D. are now co-operating in anti-U-Boat operations in Coastal waters of the United Kingdom. After a U-Boat has dived, a Radar contact has disappeared, or an M.A.D. detection has been made, the aircraft carries out the tracking procedure described in F.T.F. 223A, paragraphs 2910 to 2934.

2. Ships should close the position at high speed until the range is 3 miles, when speed is to be reduced to slow. It is important that there should be no indication to the U-Boat that he is being hunted, and Asdic transmission intervals should not be altered.

3. While waiting until the aircraft has attacked with retro-bombs A/S vessels should proceed at slow speed to surround the area to prevent the escape of the U-Boat should the aircraft lose contact, but they are to remain outside a distance of one mile from the aircraft during its tracking procedure. If contact is gained with the U-Boat, A/S vessels should hold it until requested to close by the aircraft, or until the aircraft's attack is complete.

4. The estimated track of the U-Boat will be marked with a line of markers, and when requested to close, the latest of these will mark the datum point for the search by surface vessels.

5. Ships are to inform aircraft if an attack with ahead throwing weapons is intended so that aircraft may keep clear.

241131B

1st. S.L. (3)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
A.C.N.S. (A)
A.C.N.S. (W)
U.W.R.
Ops (2)
Flot

O.D. (6)
O.I.C. (2)
D.N.I. (5)
D.A.S.W.
D.A.U.D.
D. of F. (3)
C.C.L.S. (2)
A.L.O.
D.G.D. (2)

D.T.S.D.
U.S.N. (3)
Ad. Blake.
D.S.D. (2)
M (2)
W.D.

D.H.
103

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operations
V.P.
(Contd.)

vessel, southbound for Askevold port C.C.R. non-contact torpedo fired by M.T.B. 717 exploded prematurely, causing the starboard to run irregularly and to miss. Alteration of course to port by enemy, unobserved in very heavy rain squall, caused torpedoes fired by M.T.B. 704 to miss ahead. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 241421B)

Intend to carry out V.P.81 with 2 M.T.B.

- (1) 1030B/25th. (2) Not later 2359B/25.
- (3) Not later 0600B/26. (4) 260 degs. toward Noss Head.

Not more 20 knots.

- (5) Not later p.m./26. (6) No. (7) No.
- (8) 080 degs. Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 241636B)

My 241636B. (1) 080 degs. from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.

- (2) 060 degs. 41' N. 004 degs. 42' E. (3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 241638B)

Intend carrying out V.P.86 with 2 M.T.B.

- (1) 1030B/25. (2) Not later than 2359B/25.
- (3) Not later than 0600B/26. (4) 284 degs. toward Noss Head

Not more than 20 knots.

- (5) Not later than p.m/26. (6) No. (7) No.
- (8) 104 degs. Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 241641B)

My 241641B (1) 104 degs. from Noss Head. Not more 20 knots.

- (2) 059 degs. 22' N. 005 degs. 02' E.
- (3) 7 miles.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 241643B)

Operation
S.C.

Ramose Supremacy.
HESSA returned at 1415B/24. Operation successful.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 241419B)

Intend sailing S.C. operation from Shetland.
(1) 0630B/25 from Scalloway.

- (2) 090 degs. from Sumburg Head 13 knots.
- (3) 2300B/25. (4) Between 2330B/25 and 0400B/26.
- (5) 270 degs. to Sumburg Head 15 knots.
- (6) p.m. 26th April.
- (7) 090 degs. Sumburg Head. (8) No.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 241533B)

My 241533B. (1) 059 degs. 53' N. 005 degs. 04' E.

- (2) Ramose Gracious. (3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 241535B)

S/M
patrols.

Leave patrol so as to pass through 059 degs. 10' 004 degs. 10' at 0400B/26th thence Lerwick through 060 degs. 39' 003 degs. 01' 061 degs. 04' 002 degs. 00' 061 degs. 04' 000 degs. 01' and 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles.

- (2) Diving by day East 001 degs. E.
 - (3) All positions are N. and E. unless otherwise indicated.
- (S.O.S/Ms Lerwick, 241630B to VENTURER)
See amendment 250927B)

/Positions ...

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

S/M
patrols.
(Contd.)

(Extract). Positions of S/Ms at 0800/25 and movements for next 24 hours.
(1) VENTURER on patrol Skudesnes area.
(2) VARNE 60 degs. N. 03 degs. 30' E. to Lerwick.
(C. of W. 241942B)

Following for D.N.I. Norway order of battle late April. My 161054.
Following decisions have recently been reached.
(1) Withdrawals from Norway are now to be discontinued probably after movement of 109 has been completed. Original decision to move out 7th Mountain 14th G.A.F. and 700 2nd Infantry Division has now been revoked.
(2) Decision has been reached to hold Narvik area (see my 281616 March). Outposts to Northward of Lyngen line will now be withdrawn and apart from a small encroachment in Finland it is reported by May 1st Lyngen line will be main line defence.
B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 241724 to Admty.
N.I.D. Comment - Para. 1 should presumably read 199th Division instead of 109 the withdrawal of 199th has probably now been completed. There is no confirmation the decision to withdraw further troops having been revoked.

Operations

Northern Waters.

U-Boat attacked 20 miles N. of Kola Inlet. At 2000B/23rd attacked contact in 069 degs. 35' N. 033 degs. 45' E. producing boots and German emergency food pack. After attack contact lost and not regained during extensive search.
(S.O.E.G.19, 240431B)

U-Boat reports. Admiralty recode and pass to all addressees. U-Boat on surface sighted by Coast-Watchers in position Four Miles Northborn Omgang, Nordkynhalvoka (Nordkynhalvöya intended) 0815B.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 241128B)

FARSUND sighted periscope position 64 degs. 06' N. 23 degs. 00' W.
(S.O. Force Iceland A/S 241645Z to Iceland W/T)
D/F of U-Boat transmissions 14985 K/cs at 1644B give fix in approx. 071 degs. 25' N. 032 degs. 10' E.
Admiralty recode and pass to information addressees.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 241735B to Admty. (Tactical Urgency)
(R) Escorts of J.W.66, E.G.19)

ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, SUSSEX. My 241250 following is approx. state of working up of ANSON, DUKE OF YORK and SUSSEX.
(2) All ships completed full power trials D.G. D/F calibration (except H/F for DUKE OF YORK) and majority of Radar calibration other than W.A. height calibration.

/(3) ...

War Diary

24.4.1945
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters.

ANSON,
DUKE OF YORK,
SUSSEX.
(Contd.)

(3) Main armament confined to S/M calibre only.
(4) A/A armaments hope to carry out first sleeve firings on passage.
(5) Certain preliminary A/A exercises carried out but considerable target indication and A/C direction exercises now required.
(6) ANSON has been instructed to inform V.A. Malta by signal of details of practices that Force 10 would like to carry out before entering Malta.
(C. in C. H.F. Afloat, 241639Z to C. in C. Med.)

RODNEY. Cancel A.M. 031138 paras. 1 and 2 of A.M. 031136 and para. 2 of A.M. 130320 none to all.
(2) It is intended that RODNEY shall act as your harbour Flagship until the end of the naval war with Germany.
(3) A further signal will be made regarding her readiness for service and size of complement.
(V.C.N.S. 242344 to C. in C. H.F. (Afloat))

Port Facilities

Harlingen,
Nieuwezijlen,
Zoutkamp.

State of Ports.
(F.O. Holland, 240930B)
See Lion Copy.

Casualties and Defects

HADLEIGH
CASTLE.

My 222211B.
Engine repairs completed. HADLEIGH CASTLE sailed to rejoin Force 38.
(N.O.I.C.Holyhead, 240915B)

SS. EMPIRE
BERMUDA.

SS. EMPIRE BERMUDA on route to Rouen grounded near buoy 13 in Seine Channel about 230900 on falling tide. Vessel was refloated at 232043 cracks in forepart of bridge were reported at time of grounding. Arrived Rouen 241550.
(C.T.F.122, 241440)

SS. SVERRE
HELMERSEN.

Damaged steamship SVERRE HELMERSEN cannot be dealt with in Downs. Propose sailing her to Cowes Roads in tow of tugs LADY BRASSEY and SAUCY with Salvage Vessel ROSELYNE in company. Request relief tugs Salvage Vessel, and escort may be despatched from Portsmouth to meet tow as early as possible since no tugs will be left available in Dover Command.
(A.C. Dover, 241849B to C. in C. Portsmouth. A.N.C.X.F.(Cotug))
(1) R/V with AKERSHUS Spithead Gate at 2359B/24.
(2) Take AKERSHUS under your command and proceed to relieve GREY SHARK and ROSELYNE escorting SS. SVERRE HELMERSEN.
Routed Q.Z.S. 736, 707, 708.

/(3) ...

CONFIDENTIAL.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.

*State of Harlingen,
Nieuwezijlen &
Zoutkamp*

240930B/April

Date. 24.4.45

Recd. 2210

From F.O. Holland

P/L BY T/P

Addressed A.N.C.X.F. (Main)
Info Admiralty, N.C. Force T, Neth District H.Q.

Sitrep received from Naval Recce party.

Harlingen. No demolitions or damage to port or shipbuilding yard.

2. 1 350 ton coaster on stocks, hull completed, engine fitted and ready for launching.
 3. No mining in harbour. Indications of mining outside.
 4. Harbour considerably silted up, entrance has 7 ft. at low water.
 5. 15 craft sunk in port area also one in harbour entrance and one in harbour.
 6. Clear entrance channel is 80 ft. wide
 7. New turbine for large ship in 600 ton barge. New lathes and other machinery from Amsterdam in sunken barge in harbour which should be salvaged as soon as possible.
- Nieuwezijlen. One 1500 ton barge with highly valuable shipbuilding material from Smit shipbuilding yard Rotterdam 1000 ton barge with engine and other material 500 ton barge with probable electric crane motor.
8. Between Delfzyl and Harlingen only ZO(UT?) Kamp and Nieuwezijlen can be used as advanced fuelling bases.
 - A. Fuel installations nil, only well-water available.
 - B. No indication of? sea mining and no demolitions or fittings at either practicable.
 - C. Some main channel buoys are in position, others available for replacement.
 - D. (A) Zout Kamp. Locks length 115 feet, breadth 26 ft. depth in SI low water 7 ft.
 9. Nieuwezijlen locks length 102 ft. breadth 26 ft. depth in SI L low water 5 ft. No accommodation available.

240930B

Advance copies Ops. O.D.
O.I.C. D.T.D.

Distribution over/...

0 - 2 -

1st Lord
1st S.L. (3)
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
Vice Contr.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (W)
U.W.R.
D. Map Coom
Cps. (2)
Plot.
O.D. (6)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
D. of P. (3)
D. of P. (Q) (3)
D.D.O.D. (M)
M. (2)
C.N.I. (2)
W.D.
Admiral Blake
C.W.R.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel
Hydrog. (2)
D. of N.
C.O.D. (Mov.) (4)

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

SS. SVERRE
HELMERSEN.
(Contd.)

- (3) Escort SS. SVERRE HELMERSEN to Cowes Roads.
- (4) On completion anchor, in area 28 at half an hours notice.
- (5) Acknowledge.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth, 242148B to BOSTON)

Movements

M/S.31.

M/S 31 in THUNDER taken KENORA, CANSO, CARQUET, MINAS, BAYFIELD and SURSAY under your orders, pass the Gate at 1900B/24th April and proceed to Brest to comply with C.T.F.122 231337 (not to all).

- (2) Route.
- (3) Constant watch on C.N. and 2300 K/cs.
- (4) You are warned of S/M UNRIVALLED exercising in OX Brittany Sanctuary (see A.G.M/AZ.32)
- (C. in C. Plymouth, 241218B to M/S.31)

Force 10.

Force 10 consisting of ANSON, DUKE OF YORK and SUSSEX leave Scapa passing Hoxa at 1600B/25 and proceed escorted by TYRIAN (S.O) BARFLEUR, TUSCAN, CAVENDISH, CAPRICE and CARRON by route ordered

- in Admiralty 231734, Admiralty 130331 not to all refers.
- (2) Speed made good as far as position M is to be at least 20 knots weather permitting thence best speed permitted by destroyers' Endurance and weather.
- (3) On arrival at lat. 46 N. CAVENISH, CAPRICE and CARRON are to be detached to proceed to Falmouth unless otherwise ordered by Admiralty or C. in C. W.A.
- (4) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to signal direct to Force 10 instructions for destroyer screen on passing Gibraltar.
- (5) Mediterranean standard eastbound route to Malta passed to ships concerned.
- (6) Admiralty divert mails as necessary.
- (C. in C. H.F. 241250)

Shipping and Convoys

J.W.66.

Norwegian Escorts (EGLANTINE S.O) for two Kirkeness Merchant Vessels and Russian Escorts, six Destroyers, Seven Hunter Craft will proceed independently to R/V as in your 232307.

- (2) C. in C. Northern Fleet has again asked that you should detach escorts to reinforce White Sea Group if possible.
- (3) Soviet A/C may be seen in Kola Approaches.
- (4) Admiralty encypher and pass to addressees.
- (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 241055B to C.S.10)

J.W.67.

Pass to N.C.S.Os concerned.

The following ships for J.W.67 are to assemble in the Clyde not later than p.m. 9th May.

From Manchester - FORT HIGHFIELD, EMPIRE PROWESS
(Fitted for Commodore) (2 ships)

From Birkenhead - ROALD AMUNDSEN (Nor.) (1 ship)

From Clyde - LUCERNA (T), RATHLIN (Rescue ship) (2 ships)

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

J.W.67 (Contd.) In H.X.350 due Clyde 28th April:
GEORGE WEEMS, CARDINAL GIBBONS, ROBERT J. COLLIER,
SAMUEL MCINTYRE, EDWARD N. HURLEY, CHARLES BULL-
FINCH, HENRY WYNKOOP, JULIAN POYDRAS, BARBARA
FRIETCHIE. (9 ships).

In H.X. 351 due Clyde 3rd May:
JOSHUA W. ALEXANDER, GEORGE H. PENDLETON, PHILIP F. THOMAS,
JOHN IRELAND, CAESAR RODNEY (5 ships).

In H.X.352 due Clyde 6th May:
ALANSON B. HOUGHTON, BERNARD N. BAKER, JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS,
BRITISH PROMISE (T), EMPIRE EMERALD (T), IVARAN (Nor.) and
THOMAS SIM LEE (7 ships). Total 26 ships.

(2) M. Forms should be forwarded to N.C.S.O. Clyde in good time
and it is essential that ships are in all respects ready for ocean
convoy.

(3) Admiralty (Ext.716) should be informed immediately if any
ship is unable to sail.

(D.T.D., 241210B to C. in C.W.A.)

Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.

The following ship for J.W.67 is to be sailed for the Clyde to
arrive not later than p.m. 6th May where she is to complete
loading at Faslane.

From Middlesborough ADOLPH S. OCHS.

(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 (Ext. 716) should be informed immediately if
ship is unable to sail.

(D.T.D. 241819B.)

Dover Q.M. 6204 Secret. Reference our Q.M.5678 D.T.O.
Calais 211200B now all agreed L.C.T. shuttle service
L.C.T. will operate Dover-Calais commencing with arrivals
Shuttle Calais 1st May. Basis of acceptance Calais 8
Service. L.C.T. per daylight tide.
Request arrangements be made accordingly.
(Exfor Rear, 241720B.)

T.B.C. convoys. *Amended time-table as proposed in C. in C.
Plymouth's 231819 para. 2 would be welcomed by
this command.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 242227B to Admty.)

* Time table of T.B.C. convoys.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

24th E.G.

Arrived Horta at 0737Z/24th Escort Group 6.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 240936Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

HIGHWAY,
(L.S.D.)

Sail at 1400B/24th, S. of A. 15 knots to R/V
HIGHWAY and SS. MONOWAI in position (X) 35.58
N., 09.18 W. at 0300B/25th and act as additional
escort to Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A., 241023B to WOLVERINE.)

E.G. 1
(formation
of).

Ships addressed form Group 1 as from 0800B/25
April - KILMINGTON (S.O.)
(F.O.G.M.A., 241115B to KILMINGTON, ENCHANTRESS,
CYCLAMEN.)

24.4.1945
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

French
Ports.

In view of the very large number of U.S. troops which may be handled in south of France ports during redeployment S.H.A.E.F. are anxious that close contact shall be possible between naval and military authorities on all levels during

both planning and the execution of the operation. Suggest possible alternatives for making this practicable are:-

A. Comnavforfrance to be authorised to deal direct with your Liaison Party (Comlab.) in south of France on shipping and port matters whilst A.N.C.X.F. continues to deal with C. in C. Mediterranean on matters of policy.

B. French to become responsible to A.N.C.X.F. instead of C. in C. Mediterranean for control of these ports and for handling shipping. Routeing and escorting of convoys and command of the sea to remain under C. in C. Med. as with home commands of north coast of France.

(2) Alternative B only appears necessary if redeployment programme is likely to be very involved and subject to many changes. It will presumably require C.C.S. approval and there appear to be a number of points which will require careful consideration before a concrete proposal could be forwarded (e.g. requirements for refit of all ships, mine-sweeping and local defence.)

(3) It is most desirable that any alterations in present responsibilities should be effected well before the redeployment commences.

(A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 241312B to C. in C. Med.)

See 301140, 301738. *See 14/2/8 B May + 152855B May.*

S/M
ARCHIMEDE.

C.C.S. 358 para. 2. Intend French submarine ARCHIMEDE should proceed Dakar in near future for A/S training duties under British control as relief for French submarine now so employed. Para. 1 of my 211555 not to F.O.C.W.Af. refers. (C. in C. Med. 241502B to B.A.D.)

PATHFINDER,
destroyer.

Destination in U.K. of PATHFINDER is Dartmouth. (D.O.D. (F) 241724B to C. in C. Med.)

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Tuesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Submarines, Your 131103 not to C. in C. B.P.F.
(distribution of, between Following is an outline of Admiralty policy on
E.I. Stn. & the build up of British submarine forces in the
B.P.F.) eastern theatre and their distribution by
classes between East Indies Station and British
Pacific Fleet.

(2) Long range submarines of T and A classes should join the British Pacific Fleet, the S class being divided between the two fleets. The three short range T class, TORBAY, THRASHER and TRIDENT, will however remain on the East Indies Station where they are more suitable than S class for the many special operations, entailing extra personnel, required on that station.

(3) The 2nd S/M Flotilla will be stabilised at 9 submarines i.e. 3 short range T class as in para. 2 and 6 S class. When the total of British submarines operational in the Pacific reaches 30 the 2nd Flotilla will be increased to 10. This operational total of 40 submarines is not expected to be reached before March 1946.

(4) C. in C. East Indies is requested to allocate S class submarines joining the Eastern Theatre so as to implement the policy in para. 3 above.

(5) The three short range T class fall due for refit at the end of 1945, and they may then be paid off. Consideration will be given later to whether they will be replaced by T or S class submarines. This will depend upon progress of the submarine build up and the relative requirements of the two stations at the time.

(V.C.N.S. 242042B to C. in C. E.I.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- U/B search. Carried out search ten miles square to N.E. and S.E. nothing to report resumed screening LORD KELVIN position unchanged. (GIFFARD 240146Z to F.O.N.F.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M attack & sighting summary. No report since my 222345 para. C. H.M.C.S. GIFFARD obtained radar contact at 0820/23 and two asdic contacts between 0950 and 1845 in 50.01 N. 42.00 W. attacks produced slight oil slick all times Z. (N.S.H.Q., 240201Z to Admty., Cominch.)
- U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 241314Z, Cominch 241508Z.)
- Cable repairs. Ascertain from master of LORD KELVIN when he anticipates returning St. Johns. (F.O.N.F. 241428Z to GIFFARD.) Your 241428. LORD KELVIN requires ten days more to complete present repairs. Considers there is a further break 52 N. 33 W. but no instructions regarding this. (GIFFARD 241835Z to F.O.N.F.)
- T.G. 31.4. This reconstitutes Task Group 31.4 Captain Rooney in WOOLSEY, Comcortdiv. 58 in PRICE, Cortdiv. 58, C.L. Evans. Escort convoy C.U. 68 departing New York and Boston 2-3 May for Continent/U.K. When Admiralty directs return U.S. escorting U.C. 68. (C. in C. Lant 241714Z to Comdesron 13.) Cancelled by 261919Z.
- Sailing of convoys. Following C.U/U.C. schedule proposed to avoid possible conflict with H.X. O.N. and K.M.S/M.K.S. convoys in New York and U.K. Sail C.U. 69 from New York 10th May thence every 5 days. Sail U.C. 69 from Southampton 24th May then at 5 day interval. Request comment. C. in C. Lant. 201927Z and Admty. 211929B refer. (Com. 10th Fleet, C. & R. 241910Z to Admty.) Concur 251455 from Comeastseafon, 251945.
- U/B reports. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. KATY, torpedoed at 231845, Cominch 232115 refers. All times Z. A. (1) 241040 U.S.S. FREDERICK C. DAVIS torpedoed and sunk 43.51 N. 40.15 W. sonar contact in same area at 241123. B. (1) 231700 U.S.S. STRAUB attacked sound contact with negative results 37.55 N. 71.10 W. course of target 225 speed 3.

CONFIDENTIAL.

466A

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.

*Censorship Navicert System
(Continuation of)*

241605Z/April

From: J.S.M. Washington.

Date 24.4.45

Recd 1807Z

CYPHER BY TELEKRYPTON

Addressed: A.M.S.S.O.

IMPORTANT

JSM 737.

Reference COS(W) 485 (T.O.O. 041150/December 1944).

Following reply received from U.S. Chiefs (CCS 735/2).

Begin:

1. The United States Chiefs of Staff have considered the views of the British Chiefs of Staff outlined in C.C.S. 735/1 and have discussed them fully with interested agencies of the United States Government.
2. It is noted that the approved censorship policy of His Majesty's Government accords with that of the United States, in that censorship must be maintained after German hostilities cease in respect to all lines of communication, the control of which is necessary for purposes of intelligence, blockade or security in relation to the Japanese war. The most important of such lines of communication will be those between European neutrals and Latin America, where existing control measures are considered inadequate to prevent onward transmission of valuable Military information to the enemy.
3. It will be recalled that in C.C.S. 735 the United States Chiefs of Staff invited attention to the effectiveness of the Navicert System as a means of controlling Trans-Atlantic mail between Latin America and the European neutral countries and to the volume of enemy traffic which Allied authorities had intercepted due to the application of that control measure. They do not share the view of the British Chiefs of Staff that communications between Latin America and Europe will not present any particular security or other danger in relation to Japanese war.
4. In collaboration with the Office of Censorship and other interested agencies of their Government, the United States Chiefs of Staff have endeavoured to find a

/satisfactory.....

satisfactory substitute for the Navicert System as a means of Trans-Atlantic mail control, but without success. Due to geographical and other considerations, the application of internal measures within the United States will not prevent information of Military value from reaching Latin American points from which it can be relayed to the Japanese.

5. The United States Chiefs of Staff, therefore, do not concur in the proposal to discontinue censorship of mail between Europe and Latin America three months after the cessation of German hostilities.

6. In view of the fact that effective censorship of such mail depends very largely on continuance of the Navicert system substantially in its present form until the final defeat of Japan. The British Chiefs of Staff are requested to place the above views before His Majesty's Government with a view to obtaining its agreement to continue existing control measures until such time as it is mutually agreed they are no longer necessary to prevent information of Military value from reaching the enemy.

Ends

2. May we have your instructions please.

241605Z

Received in War Registry at 2127/25.
Circulated by A.M. to A.M. Depts, Defence
Office, Foreign Secretary and Admiralty.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(3)
D.F.S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
Sec.
P.A.S.(L)
D.N.I.(5)
D. of P.(3)
D. of P.(Q)(3)
M. Branch
D.T.D.(2)
D.E.W.D.
O.I.C.(3)
W.D.
Ad. Blake

MMcQ

(72)

467

24.4.1945

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

U/B reports. C. (1) 231615 P.C. 56 exploded and sank from
(Contd.) unknown cause 43.28 N. 70.05 W. possibly by
U-Boat. U.S.S. SELFRIDGE attacked contact in
same area at 231659.
(2) 240102 P.C. 1218 attacked sound contact
37.46 N. 71.57 W.
(3) 240350 A/C had disappearing radar contact 37.45 N. 71.41 W.
(4) About 232330 planes and blimps reported sound contacts in
oil slicks 36.20 N. 74.45 W.
D. (1) About 240700 R.A.F. Liberator had disappearing radar
contact 26.00 N. 76.44 W.
(2) 232103 P.B.M. had radar contact and positive sonobuoy
indications 25.45 N. 75.00 W.
(Cominch 242114 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

U-Boats In event of surrender of German High Command or
surrender Naval Command the following surrender terms will
terms. be enforced.
"All German submarines at sea are to surface
at once fly a black flag or pendant and report
their position in plain language immediately to
the nearest British, U.S., or Soviet coast wireless telegraphy
station on 500 k/cs (600 metres), and proceed on the surface
to the nearest German or Allied Port or such Port as the
Allied Representatives may direct and remain there pending
further directions from the Allied Representatives. At night
they are to show lights."
Similar orders for German surface vessels require search
lights to be displayed at night with beams held vertically.
(Cominch and C.N.O., 242155 to Navop/6.)

Far East and Australia.

Clearance of Your 111630B April.
U.S. Request urgent consideration to routing
magazines MANCHESTER CITY via Sydney and Manus to assist
and stores. in clearance of U.S. ammunition forward.
(2) Your 172103 April (not to C. in C. E.I.)
KOLA is still at Sydney and her future employment
has not yet been decided.
(3) As already urgently represented congestion of available
storage in Australia is acute due to lack of opportunity to
clear U.S. magazines and to lack of A.S.I.S. and A.S. carriers.
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 240317Z to Admty.) See 011843B May.

/Digest...

24.4.1945
Tuesday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia - Contd.

- Digest 1189, (Extract.)
23.4.45. (1) Privateers from Clark Field sank 1 lugger Hongkong.
(2) Navy Liberators from Mindoro left burning and sinking single small coaster off Cape Saint Jacques.
- (5) 20 Liberators dropped 63 tons shipping (Yalii repeat Yulit*) Harbour (Haikan*), preliminary report states Liberators sunk one small freighter transport, 3 small coasters, 12-15 barges, probably sank 1 small freighter transport.
- (7) 20 Liberators dropped 72 tons Saigon Naval Base starting one large several smaller fires with smoke to 7500 feet, scoring 1 direct hit on stern of freighter in Naval Yard dry dock.
- (12) Previous day 22nd April 2 Liberators on search Sama area near missed single small coaster leaving vessel listing and burning, bombed strafed barge inflicting damage, also damaged schooner.
- (17) Delayed report states small naval transport craft strafed Japanese installations Cebu 22nd April also destroyed motor torpedo boat and beached barges along coast.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 240918Z.)
* As received.

Command ship A.M. 201805A March. KINGSMILL (Diesel - Electric for service Frigate) at present serving as L.S.H. (S) with Force A.N.C.X.F. is only ship of similar type and Commander. would be available when released from present duty.
(2) Request your views on suitability of KINGSMILL. In view of maintenance difficulties, shortage of spares, etc., present policy is not to send these vessels to East.
(V.C.N.S. 242047B to C. in C. B.P.F.) 080803 May-

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

- Surrender of 1st Sea Lord, 241201B to Cominch, Cs. in C. U/B Fleet. See Lion Copy, (p.470 A)
- S/M attack For 24 hours to 0800Z/24th April. & sighting Para. A. (1) Nor. IDEFJORD 4287 tons torpedoed at summary. about 0550Z/22nd in lat. 69° 38' N. long. 33° 21' E.
(2) Russian destroyer attacked U-Boat at 0612Z/22nd in 69° 41' N. 33° 17' E.

469

24.4.1945
Tuesday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M attack
& sighting
summary.
(Contd.)

- (3) E.G. 19 attacked contact at 1800Z/23 in 69° 35' N. 33° 45' E.
 (4) A/C U/86 attacked contact at 0921Z/23 in 59° 29' N. 05° 22' W. *U. 396 sunk.*
 (5) Nor. KATY 6825 tons torpedoed at 1835Z/23 in 35° 56' N. 74° 52' W.
 (6) Nor. SVERRE HELMERSEN 7209 tons of A.T.M. 133 mined or torpedoed at 2109Z/23 in approx. 51° 19' N. 01° 47' E.
 (7) Br. RIVERTON 7345 tons torpedoed at 1335Z/23 in 50° 26' N. 05° 25' W.
 (8) A/C E/206 attacked U-Boat at 2300Z/23 in 55° 39' N. 15° 30' E.
 Para. B. (1) H.M. A/S trawler VAISE attacked U-Boat at 1825Z/23 in 56° 30' N. 02° 12' W.
 (2) A/C attacked U-Boat at 1330Z/23 in 57° 47' N. 02° 00' W.
 (3) A/C A/86 attacked contact at 1223Z/23 in 60° 54' N. 05° 00' W.
 (4) GODETIA attacked contact at 1620Z/23 in 50° 43' N. 04° 57' W.
 (5) M.L. 396 sighted possible U-Boat smoke and attacked with D/Cs at 1705Z/23 in 51° 06' N. 04° 37' W.
 (6) A/C V/63 attacked contact at 1737Z/23 in 50° 24' N. 05° 25' W.
 (7) A/C X/120 attacked contact at 2332Z/23 in 55° 17' N. 08° 49' W.
 Para. C. (1) A/C K/144 sighted wake at 1129Z/23 in 57° 10' N. 01° 40' W.
 (2) A/C G/206 attacked suspicious disturbance in water at 1430Z/23 in 56° 24' N. 02° 02' W.
 (3) KIHNA attacked contact at 0915Z/23 in 55° 42' N. 05° 06' W.
 (4) E.G. 17 attacked several contacts at about 1335Z/23 in approx. 50° 26' N. 05° 25' W.
 (5) A/C X/120 had disappearing radar contact at 0120Z/24 in 55° 27' N. 09° 15' W.
 (6) H.M.C.S. GIFFARD attacked U-Boat at 1220Z/23 in 50° 01' N. 42° 00' W.
 Para. D. (1) E.G. 4 attacked contact at 1552Z/23 in 56° 28' N. 12° 02' W.
 (2) Am. CAPE TRAFALGAR sighted P/S at 1901Z/22 in 34° 40' N. 09° 57' W.
 (D.D.I.C. 241300B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-
positions.Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 241424B to A.I.G., Cominch.)

U/B report.

- (1) At 1800 on the 17th Lib. J/206 on A.U. patrol sighted smoke and wake and obtained H.T. contact 80 miles E. of Firth of Tay. At 1845 reported U-Boat surfaced and was attacked with D.C. One mile patch of diesel oil, yellow objects believed to be rafts and other wreckage seen after attack.
 (2) At 1630B on the 19th Coastal Command Mosquitoes on R/C in force in the Kattegat sighted 4 fully surfaced U-Boats escorted by a minesweeper. The leading U-Boat dived, the remainder were attacked with R.P. Hits were scored on all three and one was seen to sink.

/(3)...

470

24.4.1945
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B report. ^{U636}(3) DRURY of E.G. 4 on patrol N.W. of Ireland
(Contd.) attacked an asdic contact with D.Cs. 85 miles
N.W. of Bloody Foreland at 1412B on the 21st.
BAZELY attacked the same contact at 1500. Two
underwater explosions produced diesel oil,

German wreckage and human flesh.

(4) E.G. 19 attacked an asdic contact 44 miles N.E. of
Murmansk at 1800Z on the 23rd. Wreckage of undoubted German
origin was brought up.

(5) My 220159 July 1942 refers.

(D.A.U.D. 242013B to Cominch, etc.)

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.)

241201B/April

Addressed COMINCH ✓
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa ✓
Admiral Archer
Info. A.N.C.X.F.
A.N.C.X.F. (PH)
B.A.D.
A.I.G. 12 ✕
COMNAVEU
H.Q.C.C.
C. in O. Mediterranean
C. in C. East Indies
C. in O. South Atlantic
F.C.C. West Africa
F.O.G.M.A.
Air Ministry

Date 24.4.45

NAVAL CYPHER (A) O.T.P. T/K

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT to ✓

Surrender of U-Boat Fleet.

It is considered that at the cessation of organised resistance or other time that may be decided -

- (a) the Special Orders to the German Navy agreed in Moscow should be issued by SCAEF, SACMED and by Russians, if possible through German naval authorities and, in any case, by Allied broadcasts;
- (b) The Special Orders should be supplemented as necessary by Theatre Commanders within their Theatres and for ships at sea in North Sea, British Home waters and Atlantic by COMINCH, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and Admiralty.

2. SCAEF and SACMED are understood to have their supplementary orders ready. General plan is now urgently required for effecting surrender of U-Boats at sea, and following is proposed by Admiralty:-

3. Upon the action in para. 1(a) U-Boats at sea should be -
 - (a) ordered by broadcasts in plain language in German from appropriate W/T stations to surface and remain surfaced, to report position, fly black or dark blue flag and burn navigation lights by night in compliance with para. 1(c) of Special Orders.
 - (b) ordered to jettison ammunition and render torpedoes safe by removing pistols.
 - (c) ordered to proceed by fixed routes to prescribed unfrequented anchorages for preliminary examination, /adjusting

adjusting speed to arrive between daylight and 1600 G.M.T.

- (d) inspected at anchorage in (c) and armed guard placed on board.
- (e) sailed to selected port for full examination; at this port instructions should be given for disposal of torpedoes and crews reduced to minimum steaming party.
- (f) U-Boats should then be sailed to laying up port where crews would be further reduced to care and maintenance party or altogether removed.

4. It is suggested that surrender of all U-Boats surfacing

- (a) east of 26 degs. W. and in the Barents Sea west of 30 degs. East should be controlled by Admiralty.
- (b) west of 26 degs. W by Cominch and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.
- (c) in the Barents sea east of 30 degs. E by the Russians.
- (d) in the Baltic approaches between the lines adjoining the Naze and Hantsholme on the west, and Trelleborg and Lubeck on the east, should proceed to Kiel.
- (e) in the Baltic east of a line adjoining Trelleborg and Lubeck, should be controlled by the Russians.

5. Admiralty have in mind -

- (a) Loch Eriboll should be used as anchorage for preliminary examination of all U-Boats surfacing in the Atlantic east of 26 degs. W. north of Cape Finisterre, and in the North Sea north of 58 degs. N.
- (b) U-Boats east of 26 degs. W. south of Cape Finisterre should surrender at Gibraltar and F.O.G.M.A. has been requested to make proposals on the lines of para. 3.
- (c) surrender in Irish sea, Channel and North Sea south of 58 degs. N; should be controlled by appropriate British Home Commands.
- (d) in the Mediterranean should be controlled by C. in C. Mediterranean.
- (e) in the event of any U-Boats reporting a position in the West Africa, South Atlantic and East Indies Stations, their surrender should be arranged ad hoc by authority concerned.

6. Following are the approach routes to Loch Eriboll which it is intended to prescribe:-

/Route.

OUT

HUSH-MOBY SECRET

CANCELLED

TOP SECRET

OUT

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

| <u>Route</u> | <u>Positions.</u> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blue | (1) 49 degs. N. 9 degs. W. (2) 53 degs. N. 12 degs. W. (3) 58 degs. N. 11 degs. W. (4) 360 degs. Butt of Lewis 10' |
| Red | (1) 52 degs. N. 15 degs. W. (2) 53 degs. N. 12 degs. W. (3) 58 degs. N. 11 degs. W. (4) 360 degs. Butt of Lewis 10' |
| Green | (1) 58 degs. N. 11 degs. W. (2) 360 degs. Butt of Lewis 10' |
| Yellow | (1) 61 degs. N. 5 degs. W. (2) 59.10 degs. N 5 degs. W. (3) 360 degs. Butt of Lewis 10' |

Approach route from position 360 degs. Butt of Lewis 10'
through positions:

- (1) 360 degs. Cape Wrath 4'
- (2) 360 degs. Faraid Hd. 4'
- (3) 270 degs. Whiten Hd. 1'

7. On further consideration it is thought W/T instructions in paras. 1(b) and (c) of Special Orders to German Navy require amplification, and it is proposed to amend instructions in both paragraphs to read as follows:-

"report their positions in plain language immediately to the nearest British, U.S. or Soviet Coast W/T station on 500 kc/s (600 metres) and to the call sign GZZ 10 on one of the following high frequencies - 16845, 12685 kc/s or 5970 kc/s and are to proceed" etc.

8. COMINCH and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa are requested to comment and if the above is generally agreed to state detailed arrangements for surrender of U-Boats West of 26 degs. W. Admiral Archer is requested to ask Soviet Naval Staff if they accept responsibility as in para. 4(c) and (e) and, if so, what procedure they intend.

9. If amendment to Special orders suggested in para. 7 is also agreed, Admiral Archer is requested to concert with Admiral Olson and secure agreement of Russian Naval Staff.

10. Admiralty are preparing detailed orders for promulgation to U-Boats at sea and upon receipt of information from COMINCH N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and F.O.G.M.A. concerning arrangements for their respective areas, will forward draft of these orders, adding details of Soviet arrangements if available.

11. Draft instructions to operational authorities for treatment of U-Boats apparently disobeying Allied orders will also be prepared for consideration.

241201B
P.A.S.(L) (86)
Approved 1st Sea Lord.
/Circulation

■ F.O.'s in charge and N.O.'s in charge in U.K.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(3)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
U.W.R.
D.O.D.(H)(4)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.C.
D.of P.(2)
D.of P.(Q)(3)
D.A/S.W.
D.A.U.D.
D.T.D.(4)
A.I.Black(4)
D.S.D.
P.A.S.(S)
P.A.S.(L)
Hd.of M.(6)
D.M.S.
D.D.C.D.(C)
W.D.
D.D.I.C.(2)
C.N.M.O.
D.N.I.(4)

MEG.

OUT

HUSH-MOSTLY SECRET

~~CANCELLED~~

25.4.1945
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Northern Waters.

1(a) ANSON, DUKE OF YORK and SUSSEX sailed from Scapa to-day for the Mediterranean where they will work up before proceeding to join the Pacific Fleet.

(b) 13 merchant ships and 16 Russian S.Cs. of Convoy J.W.66 arrived at Kola inlet this afternoon. The 2 ships for Kirknes were reported arrived on the morning of 26th, and the 11 ships for the White Sea had then arrived at the ice edge.

West Coast of France.

2. Aircraft report attacking a U-Boat to-day in the Chanssee de Sein (approach to Brest) in 48.12 N. 5.42 W. The U-Boat was subsequently reported sunk.

Foreign Stations

South Atlantic

Movements.

3. KENYA arrived Capetown from Durban. LONDON arrived Simonstown.

East Indies

Burma.

4. Liberators dropped 102 tons of bombs on Rangoon.

Malaya.

5. Between yesterday and to-day 8 Liberators mined Klang and Singapore.

Far East and Australia

French Indo-China.

6. 66 Liberators to-day dropped 138 tons of bombs on Saigon Naval Docks and barracks scoring

/ near ...

25.4.1945
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Far East and Australia

French
Indo-China
(Contd.)

near miss on one S/M, hit several river craft
and a freighter in dry dock. Causing explosions
and fires.

GLENEARM
(L.S.I.L)
explosion.

7. H.M.S. GLENEARM is reported as having been
damaged by a petrol explosion while on passage
between Manus and Leyte on 9th April.
Casualties included killed and wounded who were
landed at U.S. Naval base hospital at Hollandia.

25.4.1945
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

RENOWN.

Future service of RENOWN is under consideration but arrangements for leave in my 071328 will not be affected whatever decision is taken. My 242344 refers.
(V.C.N.S. 250023B to C. in C. H.F. Afloat.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Midget S/M reported.

1 midget submarine bearing 076° Dungeness 19.8 miles.
(Unit F.P. 1 250716 to Dover Port Wave.)

M.S.F. 31 -
Operation
"Nestegg".

Request you will comply with para. 2 of A.M. 241223 which is passed to you and C.N.M.O.
(A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 250912B to C.T.F. 122.)

Operation
"Hais",
"Hammel",
"Hais 7".

My 171950 and 181500. Line "Hais", "Hamel", "Hais 7", reported available for operation 100%
(S.N.O. "Pluto" 250945.)

LOCH GORM.

Part company with PASTURE off May Island thence search to eastward of Swept Channel to Kinnaird Head, thence search in Moray Firth passing through following positions:
A. 57.50 N. 02.00 W. B. 57.50 N. 03.30 W.
C. 58.20 N. 02.50 W.
(C. in C. Rosyth 250950 to LOCH GORM.)

My 250950. Recent aircraft sightings suggest there is a piece of wreckage in vicinity 057° 42' N. 002° 22' W., visible at low water and may give rise to false reports.
(2) Investigate this position at next low water and endeavour to locate and destroy.
(C. in C. Rosyth 250958B to LOCH GORM.)

E.G. 23.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 231705B not to all. Leave patrol as necessary to R/V with EASTWAY escorted by LOCH TARBERT and MERMAID off Cape Wrath at about 2230/25 speed 14 knots and

escort to Rosyth.

(2) When R/V is made LOCH TARBERT and MERMAID proceed to Liverpool.

(3) EASTWAY communications S2/45, table 2 (1).

(C. in C. Rosyth 251140 to S.O.E.G. 23.)

U/B reports.

Possible U-Boat in your vicinity.

(C. in C. Nore 251457B to S.O. M/S F. 15, JASEUR.)

By D/F on 6335 k/cs at 1129Z unidentified enemy unit in area within 30 miles of 55 N. 05 E. Possibly U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 251515B to S.E.E.C.C.D., M.S. 15.)

25.4.1945
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Nore patrols. My 241711B. Delete coastal force units F.C.1 and F.C. 2.

(C. in C. Nore 251629B.)

Patrols for night Thursday 26th April.

1 MENDIP, 2 EGLINTON, 3 LAMERTON, 4 QUANTOCK, 5 HAYDON, 6 SHEARWATER, 7 COWDRAY, 8 TANATSIDE.

Coastal force units F.C. 1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2300B.

(2) 12 CUBITT with coastal forces from U.K.

14 KRAKOWIAK, 16 RETALICK with coastal forces from Ostend.

17 SOUTHDOWN, 18 ZETLAND, 19 SEYMOUR with coastal forces from Ostend.

21 BLANKNEY, 22 CURZON with coastal forces from U.K.

Coastal forces from Ostend R/V frigates at 2200B.

(3) Escort for T.A.M. 51 WIDGEON and MEYNELL.

T.A.P. 16 BLENCATHRA, F.N. 97 EASTON.

(4) Coastal Forces from U.K.

Patrol 1, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 1 with MENDIP.

Patrol 2, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 2 with EGLINTON.

Patrol 3, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 3 with LAMERTON.

Patrol 4, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 4 with QUANTOCK.

Patrol 5, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 5 with HAYDON.

Patrol 6, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 6 with SHEARWATER.

Patrol 7, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 7 with COWDRAY.

Patrol 8, 2 M.T.B. unit F.C. 8 with TANATSIDE.

Patrol 12, 4 M.T.B. unit F.L. 2, F.L. 3.

Patrol 22, 4 M.T.B. unit F.B. 8, F.B. 9.

BWCC 5035, 6 M.T.B. unit F.A. 1, F.A. 2, F.A. 3.

DACC 4048, 4 M.T.B. unit F.B. 3.

Patrol 51, 52, 53, 54 and 55, 1 M.L. on each.

From Ostend.

DAZD 2316, 2 M.T.B. unit F.A. 8.

DAZD 2100, 2 M.T.B. unit F.B. 2.

DAZD 4126, 3 M.L. unit F.G. 5.

DAZD 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.

DAZD 2525, 4 M.L. unit F.G. 4.

(C. in C. Nore 251800B.)

U-Boat &

(See next signal.)

S.B.U.

(C. in C. Nore, 251711B.)

Summary to
 1200B/25.

Possible midget submarine periscope sighted in position 076° Dungeness 19.8 miles at 0716/25th. Attacked with depth charges. No result. (A.C. Dover 251713B.)

Cositintrep
 No. 386.

Part 4 section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/24 April. (S.H.A.E.F. Main 251745A.)

Cositintrep
 No. 386.

(Not used). (Burrough sgd. Eisenhower 252350B.)

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel.Smoke
attacked.Smoke attacked with 4 depth charges nothing seen.
(A/C C/S NXQ44 251005 to 18 Group.)My 1005 2 planks seen on the surface instructions
requested.

(A/C C/S NXG44 251025B to H.Q. 18 Group.)

Patrols.

Weigh at 1700B/25th and proceed to patrol area
limits position NN. 58E Buoy. Position 49°
33' N. 00° 50' W. L.1 Buoy.(C. in C. Portsmouth 251132B to BERRY, DOMMETT,
COOKE.)Weigh at 1700B/25th and proceed to patrol area limits Q.Z.S.
629. Route E between 01° 40' W. and 02° 20' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 251140B to LOCH FYNE, GOOD HOPE.)

Sail so as to pass Gate at 0900B/26 and proceed patrol
Lizard to Start.

(C. in C. Plymouth 251243B to INGLIS, MOUNSEY.)

(Extract.) (2) DACRES, LAWSON leave patrol so as to R/V
convoy M.K.S. 96 in 49° 00' N. 06° 00' W. and support Channel
section to Portland Bill then proceed Plymouth for layover.

(3) UNSWERVING is with Channel section.

(C. in C. Plymouth 251245B to DACRES, LAWSON.)

On completion of convoy duty PERIM is to R/V with LOCH FYNE
and GOOD HOPE from patrol in 50° 10' N. 01° 00' W. at 1000B/26.

(2) PERIM arrange R/V further orders follow.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 251559B to PERIM, LOCH FYNE, GOOD HOPE.)

At 1000B/26 E.G. 17 2nd division establish patrol on
convoy route from 20 miles N.E. of Trevoise Head to Pendeen.

(C. in C. Plymouth 251645B to LOCH KILLIN.)

182nd and
183rd M/S
Aux. Groups.A.N.C.X.F's 131706 and A.M. 151152 not to C. in
C. Rosyth and A.M. 191159 not to C. in C.,
Portsmouth.(2) Request 182nd and 183rd M/S Aux. Groups may
be sailed to arrive Ostend by 4th May.(D.M.S. 251217B to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in
C. Rosyth.)

Convoy.

In view of present U-Boat situation do not
consider H.M.T. RUBY sufficient escort to five
merchant vessels which includes Y.42.

Marine Bayonne 231500* (not to all refers.)

(2) Request an escort be sailed from Brest to reinforce.

(C. in C. Plymouth 251324B to C.T.F. 122.)

* N.T. in W.D.

/Channel...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

Channel Is. Since last report, one surface target tracked from Alderney to Guernsey between 1522 and 1645/24 speed 11.
(C.T.G. 122.2 251441B to C.T.F. 122.)

Asdic survey of the Command. Object: to make an up-to-date asdic survey of the Command fixing all non-submarines by Q.H.
(2) At 1000B/26th PERIM escorted by LOCH FYNE, GOOD HOPE proceed to patrol area lat. 50° 00' N. to 50° 10' N. between 00° 30' W. and 01° 00' W.
(3) At 1000B/26th BERRY escorted by DOMNETT, COOKE proceed to patrol area lat. 49° 50' N. to 50° 00' N. between 00° 30' W. and 01° 00' W.
(4) If time permits area is to be swept both up and across tide.
(5) At 1800B/26th PERIM, LOCH FYNE, GOOD HOPE proceed to anchor off Newhaven. BERRY, DOMNETT, COOKE proceed to anchor in Portland.
(6) Positions of non-submarines are to be passed by secret hand message at first opportunity.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 251600B to PERIM, LOCH FYNE, GOOD HOPE, BERRY, DOMNETT, COOKE.)

Tactics against doubtful contacts. C. in C. Portsmouth 241745B.
See Lion Copy. (See Page 455A)

Midget U-Boats. P.G.M. 45D* of 12th April - amend heading to read "Midget U-Boats in Central Channel area".
(2) Also amend first para. to read "Midget U-Boats of the SEEHUND type may now be met throughout the Portsmouth area. A.G.M. 644A of 22nd April also refers."
(C. in C. Portsmouth 252146B.)
* T.O.O. 120004

Operations.

West Coast of France.

Patrol 27. Fuel remaining ^{LE}FORTUNE 55% ^{LA}DECOUVERTE 85%.
(2) Upon signal by French aircraft at 1930B/24 found and boarded small French sailing vessel number A.5955 name ERNEST GEORGINA in position 166° Church St. Saviour Ile de Yeu 9.7 miles. Said to be coming from Sables d'Olonne waiting convoy of other sailing ships escorted by F.S. CALAIS to Concarneau. Boat towed to Port Breton and told to await orders.
(LE FORTUNE 250843B to C.F.N.T.F.)

/Opening...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast of France - Contd.

Opening of Bordeaux. C.F.N.T.F. will be responsible for mine clearance of Approach Channel and Rivers Gironde and Garonne for the opening of the port of Bordeaux. M.S. 31 will be in operational control of 31st M.S.F. for sweeping of Approach Channel as laid down in my 191547B. AMIRAL MOUCHEZ will be in operational control of F.Y.M.S. and M.Ls. (if allocated). Stores will be drawn by AMIRAL MOUCHEZ from Comar Brest for logistic support of F.Y.M.S. and M.Ls. (C.T.F. 122 251330B to C.F.N.T.F.)

U/B attacked in Chaussee de Seine.

U 1107 sunk by U.S. APC K/103

Aircraft reports attacking U-Boat in 48° 12' N. 5° 42' W. at 2000B. Submarine possibly damaged request you sail if available 2° to search area. (2) Convoy passes through vicinity northbound at 0100. (3) Communication broadcast B.N. and 2300 k/cs. (C. in C. Plymouth 252331B to C.T.F. 122.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

FOLEY. Arrived fuelled and sailed FOLEY to join E.G. 10. Speed 15 knots. N.O.I.C. Campbelltown's 241155 (not to all) refers. (2) Request S.O.E.G. 10 arrange R/V direct. C. in C. W.A's 241637 passed to FOLEY for information. (F.O.I.C. N.I. 250021B to C. in C. W.A., S.O.E.G. 10.)

Force 38. My 242355. Details of attack on doubtful bottom contact. DUMBARTONCASTLE in company. HADLEIGH CASTLE, CARISBROOKE CASTLE and LANCASTER CASTLE with B.B. 92. A. Above average. B. None in area. Suitable. (S.O. Force 38 250330B.) My 242355B and 250330B. Wreck. Last echo at sounder trace length 325 feet, height 30 feet. Slight fuel oil rise. (2) Intend sweeping toward Irish coast then support M.H. 94. A. Above average. B. Not applicable. Suitable. (S.O. Force 38 250901B.)

M.F.V. convoy for Gib.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 241833. If weather permits intend sailing convoy on 27th April in accordance with A.M. 201756* not to all. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 250945B to Admty.) * Intend to sail M.F.Vs. 1026, 1055, 1059, 1090, 1109, 1117, 1123, 1129, 1147, 1525, for Gib. in company with B.Y.M.S. 2080 and EMPIRE DOWNLAND on 27th April.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Submarine
to be sunk
in Reasay
Sanctuary.

A.M. 250132* passed to submarine 7 and F.O.I.C. Greenock. Request you will arrange with F.O.I.C. Greenock either for P.511 or P.555 now at Roseneath to be sunk as required by C. in C. W.A. (F.O. S/Ms 251004B to S/M 7.)

* ? 250123 intended.

Explosions
in Carnarvon
Bay.

Frequent heavy but distant underwater explosions, often not heard on asdic, have been experienced during last 3 days in Carnarvon Bay area. These were previously thought to be ship's noises but check from other ships proved otherwise. Suitable.

(S.O. Force 38 251105B to C. in C. W.A.)

Clyde
minesweeping.

Ref. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 201534 April para. 2 minesweeping report No. 5.

(1) Details of mine detonated at 1217B/20 in position Pladda Lighthouse 081° 3.2 miles. (Capt. M/S Clyde 251140.)

Whilst the desire expressed in A.M. 241937, not to F.O.I.C. N.I. to open up the exercise areas in the Clyde as soon as possible is fully reciprocated, it is strongly felt that its satisfaction cannot be justified at the expense of the safety of shipping in the Approaches to my major ports.

(2) In pursuance of this policy, the following are my dispositions for the employment of the 23 Oropesa trawlers remaining in my command:-

Milford Haven 5, Liverpool 3, Belfast, 3. Clyde 7, Aultbea 5. Allowing for boiler-cleaning periods, these dispositions will barely meet the requirements of a daily sweep of the main shipping channels.

(3) I am unable to concur that a negative result from a 60% search of the Suda Sanctuary would justify resumption of exercises in the whole of the Firth of Clyde, and consider that no area can be opened for exercises until a thorough search has been carried out in the area itself. It is also felt that the more important northern areas should be cleared first.

(4) In order therefore that this clearance can be begun at once and carried through with the max. despatch, it is requested that if available, a Flotilla of Fleet Minesweepers may be sailed to the Clyde now.

(C. in C. W.A. 252002B to Admty.)

T.U. 61.2.1.

C.U. 66. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail one escort of Task Unit 61.2.1 detailed by Comtaskgroup 61.2 to layover at Cardiff on completion of present duty.

(C. in C. W.A., 251459Z.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

E.G. 8. If not in contact leave patrol so as to R/V with C.U. 66 in 046° 30' N. 006° 01' W. at 1000B/26th and support main convoy and Irish Sea section until ordered to detach.

(2) C.U. 66 (C.T.G. 61.2 in U.S.S. SOMERS) routed through 048° 40' 006° 01' thence to 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles 14½ knots. (C. in C. W.A. 251522B to S.O.E.G. 8.)

Disappearing radar contact in 049° 58' N. 008° 40' W. (S) NATAL gained A/S contact classified submarine but lost contact shortly after. Intend hunt. Suitable. Fog.

(S.O.E.G. 8 251900B to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 251905* passed to other addressees. Join C.U. 66 not later than 048° 40' 006° 01' where English Channel section detaches. E.T.A. of convoy at splitting position 1830B/26th.

(C. in C. W.A., 252253B.)

* ? 251900B intended.

Intend sailing LOCH MORE at 1030B/26th to rejoin 8th

E.G. C. in C. W.A.'s 251522 refers.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 252205B.)

My 251905B not to C.T.G. 2, T.F. 61. Intend hunting until 0700B/26th and if contact has not been regained by this time proceeding to join C.U. 66. Fog. Suitable.

(S.O.E.G. 8 252345B to C. in C. W.A.)

TOBAGO. Intend to sail TOBAGO 1000B/26th April to join Group in North Irish Sea. S.O.A. 14 knots. S.O. E.G. 2 is requested to arrange R/V, mails remain Liverpool.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 251606B to S.O.E.G. 2 in WILD GOOSE, TOBAGO.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation Ramose Noble. HITRA returned at 0320/25th.

"SC. " (2) Operation successful.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 250325B.)

Ramose Gracious. Sailed VIGRA at 0730B/25.

(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 250742B.)

S/M patrols. My 241633B*. para.2B. For 061° 04' N. 001° 00' E. read 061° 04' N. 000° 01' E.

(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick 250927B.)

* 241630 intended.

(1) VENTURER leaves patrol 0400/26th through 59° 10' 04° 10' thence 60° 39' 03° 01' and 61° 04' 02° 00' diving by day.

(2) VARNE 60° 50' 02° 30' to Lerwick diving by day.

(C. of W. 251800B.)

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Operation V.P.81, M.T.B. 713 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 719.
V.P.86, M.T.B. 711 (S.O.), M.T.B.723 sailed at
1027B today 25th April.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 251029B.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Force 5. ORWELL reduced to 15 knots by damaged propeller.
APOLLO proceeding Faroe Is. E.T.A. 0100/26th
requires 200 tons fuel.
Remainder of Force 5 E.T.A. Faroes noon/26th
S. of A. 13 knots. Request light accordingly.
(APOLLO, 251130B.)

If fuel permits APOLLO proceed direct to Milford Haven
detaching DIDO and destroyers to Scapa.

(C. in C. H.F.(Afloat), 251611 to Force 5.)

C. in C. H.F.(Afloat) 251611. Intend leaving Faroe
Islands 0800/26th, E.T.A. Milford Haven 1100/27th.
(APOLLO, 252121B.)

"Ploughshare". Following for C. in C. Royal Norwegian Forces.

Begins: Your 211758B*.

(1) Re relief of personnel.

(2) Re provisions.

("Ploughshare", 252010Z to Admt.)

* 211759B intended.

Re means of transport required.

("Ploughshare", 252050Z.)

ANSON,
DUKE OF
YORK,
SUSSEX.

Scapa departure ANSON, DUKE OF YORK and SUSSEX
escorted by TYRIAN, BARFLEUR, TUSCAN, CAVENDISH,
CAPRICE and CARRON in accordance with C. in C.
H.F. (Afloat) 241250B.
(C. in C. H.F.(Ashore), 251940B.)

Enemy Intelligence

German
Naval
Staff.

German Naval operations are believed to be moving
today from Rheinbeck to Flensburg. B.3.

(N.A. Stockholm, 251601.)

N.I.D. Comment: This is probably a reference
to the "Use of Tonnage" section of the authority
Reich Commissar for Sea Shipping, known to have
been located at Rheinbeck (near Hamburg) for at least a year.
It is clearly not a reference to the Operations Division of the
Naval Staff, which is reported (B.2) already in the Kiel area.

/Norway ...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Norway and Denmark: coal situation. Norway and Denmark coal situation. Part I, Norway. My 241321 March and 031715. (1) Shipping. Further reports have been received regarding gradual paralisation of shipping. (A) Fjord steamers in Stavanger area were reported late March beginning to use wood fuel and services now curtailed to half that operating in 1944. (B) In Bodo area coastal services expected to cease shortly though early April steamer was running every fortnight. (C) North Trondhjem, Lodingen and Stokmarnes are only bunkering ports with coal remaining. (2) Railways: (A) Coal stocks amounting in all to 18,000 tons on April 6th have been apportioned to supplement wood fuel on certain railway sections and this may eke out for quite a number of days yet. (B) Troop trains were reported late March to have ceased running in Grong area owing to coal shortage. (3) Industry. Trondhjem, Mekaniske, Verksted was reported mid-March to receive coal only for two or three days at a time. Part II, Denmark. Reference my 171747 March para. (D). It now appears that by including certain old stocks of poor quality, total Danish coal stocks early April are estimated at 280,000 tons. Total monthly consumption by railway, gas and electricity services was estimated at 105,000 tons. There are in addition certain limited German stocks but details are lacking. All B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 251831 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

L.C.I.(L) 109, suspected sabotage. Report by letter by C.O. L.C.I.(L) 109 of suspicion of sabotage in his craft is in post. Incident discovered 1015/23 report received by N.O.I.C. Oban 1730/24 and contents immediately passed to D.N.I. by telephone. D.N.I. sending a representative to investigate. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 250950B.)

SS. RIVERTON. Request you will sail SS. RIVERTON in tow of H.M.R.T. DIRECTOR and H.M.R.T. ALLEGIANCE to Mumbles, escorted by CONQUEROR and H.M.C.S. RIMOUSKI.

(3) Sailing authorities are requested to expedite passage of DIRECTOR to Belfast.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 251118B to R.N.O. Penzance.) My 251118B sailed.

(3) S. of A. 4 knots. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 251540B.)

GORGON. Number 4 engine overboard discharge pipe in GORGON corroded through on sea side valve. Cement box now in place but ship only suitable for sweep in an emergency. Intend keeping her as spare ship tomorrow Thursday detaching her to Harwich for examination all overboard discharge pipes and routine maintenance on arrival STEADFAST. (S.O. M/S.F.40, 251957B.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

T.B.C.
Convoys.

T.B.C. Convoys, C. in C. Plymouth's 231819 refers. Request your comments on suggested revision of time-table.
(D.T.D., 251235B to C. in C. Nore, A.C. Dover.)
A.M. 251235B, not to Com. Southend. No

objection to proposal in C. in C. Plymouth's 231819B provided T.B.C. convoys pass Dumpton Buoy before dusk. Suggest time-tables be amended in order that sailing times at Southend are approximately 2½ hours later than at present.
(C. in C. Nore, 252126B to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

German Ships Security measures. Your 162004B. Cartagena, following report of German preparation to take ships out to sea for scuttling, after replacement by locally made parts of essential machinery parts removed by Spanish Authorities, have now placed the armed trawler ARCILA and Oiler TERCIO DE BEGONIA in a position to obstruct passage to open sea. Naval Authority Pasajes has also requested authorization from Spanish Admiralty to intern remainder of crew ashore replacing same by Spanish Marine guard on each 5 ships. (SAN SEBASTIAN, 250915B and 262012B to B.N.A. Madrid)

SS. NIEUW AMSTERDAM (Monster). Request you sail one of LAUB and McLANAHAN to R/V SS. NIEUW AMSTERDAM in position (P) 36.40 N. 10.17 W. at 1800B/26 and act as Escort to Europa Point then enter Gibraltar. (F.O.G.M.A. 251040B to C.M.S.F.)

HIGHWAY (L.S.D.) Intend to sail HOLMES (S.O) and EGGESFORD escorting HIGHWAY for Plymouth 2000B April 26th. (2) Route. (3) S. of A.15 knots. (F.O.G.M.A. 251224B to C. in C. Plymouth)

S/M Report. 31.55 N. 31.05 W. S/M surfaced about 1,000 yards astern submerged immediately. (ZANESVILLE VICTORY, 252015Z) My 252015Z unknown S/M last sighted steering approx. 180 degs. from position 31.55 N. 31.05 W. at 2015Z no attack made, my position 31.58 N. 30.21 W. course 089 degs. speed 17.5 knots. (ZANESVILLE VICTORY, 252145Z to Connav)

South Atlantic

S.A. local defence craft. (1) In view of C. in C. E.I. 170954 releasing three Corvettes and four S.A.N.F. Whalers for return to South Atlantic Station it is no longer considered necessary to keep the six trawlers and two whalers approved for retention in A.M. 102235. (2) The eight S.A.N.F. whalers mentioned in para. 3 or my 081236 (which include the four referred to above) will revert to S.A.N.F. operational control for local defence. D.S.A.N.F. has agreed that in emergency up to four S.A.N.F. whalers will be made available to operate with the three Corvettes.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

S.A. local
defence
craft.
(Contd.)

(3) Return to S.A.N.F. of their eight whalers will provide sufficient vessels for local A/S Patrols now require any Royal Naval Trawlers for this purpose.

(4) Arrangements are being made for the seven requisitioned Trawlers to sail for U.K. as soon as possible. Intend retaining all six Admiralty owned Trawlers for conversion to Water Carrier. Disposal instructions are requested for the Six Trawlers and two Whalers referred to in para. 1 above.
(C. in C. S.A. 251456B to Admty.) *See 251515 B JUNE*
Approved to retain temporarily 84 Trawlers and 2 Whalers.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air operations ending 1800 24th April. (Extract) Wellingtons on armed shipping R/C of Gulf of Venice saw convoy of 7 vessels, comprised of F and E-Boats, M/V and barges, and bombed with mainly unobserved results. 1 vessel later seen apparently on fire and another stationary, was bombed with near miss. Other Wellingtons bombed groups of E-Boats and K.Ts. Gulf of Genoa and possibly sunk 2 E-Boats and had direct hit or near miss on a K.T.

Balkan Details: 36 Marauders and 24 Baltimores bombed railway yards at Popocaca and Banova Jaruga and bridge south of Krix, with good results and also attacked and started fires in the harbour, buildings and main jetty at Porto Briono. (M.A.A.F. Caserta, 250930B.)

Return of fishing fleet handed over from Bulgaria to Greece. Following was text 161150B Feb. addressed Admty., inform C. in C. Med. and S.B.N.O. Greece. Begins: Soviet Naval Section A.C.C. Bulgaria request return to Bulgarian Government of their (?fishing) fleet and plant handed over to Greek authorities at Kavalla in Sept. 1944 and Nedeanch in October, 1944 on evacuation Greek territory by Bulgarians. Present request relates to 9 small trawlers 7 fishing schooners and 40 small boats with gear and inventory curing plant deck and engine stores and office furniture. Full inventories as signed for by Greeks held here. Request instructions. Ends. (A.C.C. Bulgaria (R.N.), 251211B to W.O. for Admty.)

Forthcoming changes of Command Western Meditn. and of area limits. (Transfer to French) Following arrangements will come into force at times and dates to be promulgated later. (2) Command of Western Mediterranean area will be transferred by F.O.W.M. to Amiral Mediterranee (Almed) who will be subordinate to C. in C. Med., and assume normal responsibilities of a British F.O. He is also Chief French Administrative Authority, in Mediterranean and as such will deal direct with C. in C. Med. on behalf Marine Paris and remaining (?French) Commanders.

(3) Title of F.O.W.M. will lapse.
(4) Area limits of Western Mediterranean and adjacent commands will be amended as follows:
(A) Western boundary will lie between borders of French and Spanish Morocco and Cape de Gata (eastern limits of area of F.O.G.M.A. will be adjusted accordingly). Eastern boundary, from administrative aspect, will extend from Franco-Italian frontier to Cape Corse (043° 12' N., 009° 24' E.) thence along western Corsican coastline to Aquila Point (041° 34' N., 008° 47' E.) thence to 040° 50' N., 007° 30' E., thence to 038° 51' N., 007° 30' E., thence to border between Algeria and Tunisia.
(B) When operations cease in northern sub-area, operational boundary to east of Western Mediterranean area will be identical with above. Until, however, this situation arises, area to northwards of line between Cape Creuse (042° 19' N., 003° 19' E.) and Cap Rosso (042° 14' N., 008° 33' E.) will remain under operational control of F.O. Northern area Meditn.

/ (C) ...

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Forthcoming
changes of
Command
Western
Meditn. and
of area
limits.
(Transfer
to French).
(Contd.)

(C) While operations continue in Northern sub-area, existing operational organisation involving F.O.Northern Area Mediterranean, Cdre. Liaison American-British, and Premar III will be retained. Limits of sub-area will, however, be modified to conform with para. (B) above.
(5) F.O. Tunisia will haul down his Flag. Comar Bizerta will take over operational command under V.A.M. He will also be in administrative control of Tunisia from Naval aspect. The northern boundary of Tunisian sub-area will be prolonged to westward and western boundary will be amended to conform with para. (4).

(6) Capt. L.A.K. Boswell, D.S.O., R.N. will become B.N.L.O. on staff of Almed (short title B.N.L.O. Algiers), and be C.O., H.M.S. HANNIBAL. In latter connection he will be responsible to V.A.M.

(7) Capt. the Honourable W.S. Carson, R.N. will become S.B.N.O. Tunisia, carrying out liaison duties with Comar Bizerta and be C.O., H.M.S. HASDRUBAL. He will be responsible to V.A. Malta.

(8) U.S.N. organisation at Bizerta will continue to function as required by Com. U.S. Naval Forces N.W. African Waters (8th Fleet).

(9) French will assume operational control at following ports:
(A) Algiers. A British liaison team to supervise repair and store work at Algiers and Oran will remain. N.C.S.O. and S.T.O. will also remain temporarily. Officers and men will be borne on books of HANNIBAL. HANNIBAL will recommission as independent command with accounts borne in H.M.S. ST. ANGELO.
(B) Bone, Bougie, Philippeville, Tunis. No British personnel will remain.

(C) Bizerta and Ferryville. A British Liaison team will remain in area to supervise repair and store matters. It will be headed by Commander D.J.B. Jewitt, R.N. who will be appointed as B.N.L.O. Ferryville. N.C.S.O. will remain at Bizerta temporarily. Personnel will be borne on books of HASDRUBAL. HASDRUBAL will recommission as independent command with accounts borne in H.M.S. ST. ANGELO.

(D) Oran. U.S. Navy will retain facilities desired by U.S. N.F.N.W.A.W. (8th Fleet). U.S. Routeing organisation and liaison personnel to supervise U.S. repair and store matters will remain. Existing port organisation will continue but will be progressively transferred to French. B.N.L.O. Oran will remain. British personnel will be borne in H.M.S. HANNIBAL.

(10) Liaison parties in French Warships will be administered by V.A. Malta, accounts being borne in H.M.S. ST. ANGELO.

(C. in C. Med., 251700B to Med. Station.)

My 251700B, refers. Request you will report dates by which you will be ready for new arrangements to be put into effect. It is desired to transfer command to French as soon as possible.

(C. in C. Med., 251758B to F.O.W.M.)

Reply: 262254 and 271152B. + 29/200B May.

/Situation ...

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25.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation
Report
No. 597.

(1) Gulf Genoa. Allied coastal craft sank 7 enemy coastal craft night of 23rd April. In addition 6 or 7 craft ran aground on French coast or were scuttled. F.S. MONTCALM and F.S. DUGUAY-TRQUIN have made successful simultaneous bombardment of San Remo and Porto

Maurizio.

(2) Leghorn. Early on 24th April enemy craft made an unsuccessful attack on Leghorn. 2 sunk by shore batteries and 1 by aircraft.

(3) Corsica. 3 enemy small craft sent to carry out sabotage surrendered 24th April in Gulf of Porto Maurizio. Craft were scuttled.

(C. in C. Med., 251904B to F.O.L.E.M. amended by 262012B.

War Diary.

25.4.1945.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

S/M SEANYMPH. Intend to sail SEANYMPH to Suez on 26th April for transit to Port Said to instal new battery in anticipation of approval by C. in C. Med. to A.M. 211340* not to all.
(Com. Aden, 250855Z to N.O.I.C. Suez.)
* New battery to be fitted in SEANYMPH at Port Said.

AUSONIA,
(Fleet
repair
ship). The cessation of "Appian" movement during the monsoon period should permit of AUSONIA proceeding to Trincomalee to augment repair facilities there.
(2) Request you will arrange dates for departure and return and inform Admiralty.
(3) Flotilla Maintenance Party lent for Base
Staff duties now on board is to be sent to Kabret during AUSONIA's absence.
(Controller, 251912B to C. in C. E.I.)

L.S.T. for E. Indies. The following L.S.T.(2) sailed in K.M.S.98.
H.M. L.S.T.(2) 371 of 6th Flotilla with P.B. Unit No. 13 embarked.
H.M. L.S.T.(2) 373 of 6th Flotilla with L.C.T. (5) 2037 embarked.
(2) Balance of Molcab No.2 is also embarked in above L.S.T.(2).
(3) A.M. 212027 March and Admiralty letter C.O.D.0467 Dec., 1944 - neither to all, refer.
(C.O.D.(Mov.), 251914B to C. in C. E.I.)

RICHELIEU. Unless you have any objection Admiralty intend to release the fact that RICHELIEU is operating with East Indies Fleet.
(V.C.N.S., 252227B to Admty.)
No objection: 270631Z.

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War Diary.25.4.1945.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesLORD
KELVIN
cable
repairs.

U.S.S. BEAUFORT joined 242050Z detached him to carry out extended H/F to north-eastward until daylight.

H.M.C.S. GIFFARD screen LORD KELVIN position 050° 01' N., 042° 05' W.
(H.M.C.S. GIFFARD, 250132Z to F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A.)U/B
dispositions.Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q., 251333Z, Cominch, 251513Z.)C.U. & U.C.
Convoys,
schedule.Concur your 241910.
(Comeastseafron, 251455 to Com. 10th Fleet.)
If C.U.69 takes normal eleven days on passage tankers cannot be turned round before 25th May. Propose this date for sailing U.C.69. Your 241910 refers.
(D.T.D., 251945B to Com. 10th Fleet.)Censorship
and Navicert
system,
continuation
of.(J.S.M. Washington, 241605Z to A.M.S.S.O.)
See Lion Copy. (See Page 466A)

Escorts.

O.N.S.47. W.4, HEPATICA (S.O.), DUNDAS, TRAIL, ROSTHERN sail St. Johns 2200Z/25th April to relieve you in Westomp 42.26 N., 50.28 W. at 0900Z/27th.

(2) On relief B.3 proceed direct St. Johns as ice permits. 2 escorts being detailed to escort ELG and CAP FAGNET through position (CC) 46.31 N., 53.02 W. to St. Johns. Escorts detailed order CAP FAGNET to detach in (CC) and proceed independently to St. Pierre reporting E.T.A. and time of detaching (CC).

(F.O.N.F., 252012Z to S.E. O.N.C.47.)

U/B report.

Para. (A) (1) After numerous attacks by T.U.22.7.1 U-Boat was forced to surface and destroyed by gunfire at 242044 in 43.54 N., 40.22 W. 33 survivors including C.X.

Para. (C) (1) 250445 U.S.S. WYFFELS attacked sound contact 36.39 N., 74.10 W., target movement north.

(2) 240515 U.S.S. MARAK reports U/B contact 42.19 N., 62.27 W.

(3) About 241630 C.G. 92004 reported contact area 43.28 N., 70.01 W. All times Z.

Para. (D) (1) 250153 P.B.M. disappearing radar contact 36.15 N., 68.35 W. Life raft later sighted in area.

(2) At 240730 and 240753 P.B.M. had disappearing radar contacts 25.05 N., 75.10 W. and 25.21 N., 75.30 W. respectively.

(3) 242015 P.B.M. disappearing radar contact 26.02 N., 75.59 W.

(4) 240506 P.B.M. disappearing radar contact 25.25 N., 75.25 W.

(Cominch, 252054Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

/ U/B ...

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Price 15.4.50

HARDMAN-JONES.—In proud and ever-loving memory of our beloved son, RICHARD EVERARD, Acting Commander R.N., Commander H.M.S. Glensirn, who died on active service in the Pacific on April 15, 1945, from injuries received while trying to save others after an explosion on board ship; mentioned in Dispatches, 1943.

25.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B
contact.

Attacked sonar contact 251935Z in 42.57 N., 36.39 W. Fired 13 mark 8 charges magentic settings. 4 charges exploded 7 seconds sinking time. No debris. Conducted observant no results. Am conducting retiring search number Two FOQ TARE PETER * 223A. (Unknown ship at sea, 252320 to C.T.F.24, C. in C. Lant.)
* As received.

Far East and Australia

MAIDSTONE,
S/M depot
ship.

My 030730 Feb. not to all. Intend MAIDSTONE with escorts USK and BARLE to leave Sydney a.m./4th May to arrive Subic Bay by 21st May calling Manus and Leyte for fuel and disembarkation passengers.
(2) F.O.I.C. Sydney is requested to sail ships

accordingly.

(3) C.T.F. 112 please order subsequent movements USK and BARLE. My 060245 not to all, refers.
(C. in C. B.P.F., 250049Z to F.O.I.C. Sydney.)

GLENEARN
(L.S.I.(L))
explosion.

GLENEARN damaged by petrol explosion while on passage Manus to Leyte a.m./9th April.
(2) Casualties killed and wounded were landed at U.S. Naval Base Hospital 17 at Hollandia and P.D. Hollandia has reported nominal lists direct to Admiralty.

(3) GLENEARN now at Leyte investigating extent of damage. Report expected soon.

(4) Not yet known whether damage will prejudice relief of LAMONT as base ship Manus.
(C. in C. B.P.F., 250700Z to Admty.)

Digest
1190,
24th April.

(1) Navy Privateers from Clark Field saw 3 sea trucks Swatow, sank 4 medium river boats, damaged 2 others whereof 1 left burning, damaged 1 small stack 1 petrol craft all 30 miles north-west Macao, sank 1 lugger Pescadores.
(2) Delayed report for 23rd Ventura sank 1 river

steamer Borneo causing numerous personnel casualties wherein single Lightning helped by dropping Napalm bomb on survivors in water, strafed another river steamer same area; Liberators damaged small coaster 30 miles west Cape Dato.

(8) Further mopping up operations on Leyte and adjacent Islands brings enemy casualties to total 79,386 killed; 816 captured; known enemy casualties on Mindoro and adjacent Islands now total 1,247 killed, 73 captured; on Cebu Island casualties

/total ...

25.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia

Digest 1190, 24th April. (Contd.) total 3,748 killed, 69 captured; on Negros Island 1,430 killed, 14 captured; on Mindanao casualties for Cotabato province were 89 killed, 16 captured; for Zamboanga province and adjacent Islands, 3,682 killed, 32 captured. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 250848Z to Admty.)

Ammunition storage and reserves, B.P.F. Here are paras. (6) to (10) of C. in C. B.P.F's 110449Z omitted in error - begins:
(6) Your para. 6. Concur in division of reserves on the basis quoted.
(7) Your para. 7. U.S.N. are doing all possible at Sydney to concentrate serviceable explosives in minimum number of buildings.

Three buildings have so far been taken over. All unserviceable ammunition is already now in open as is a large amount of serviceable explosives at Brisbane. Only effective solution is to get lifts to clear magazines.

(8) Your para. 8. V.A.(Q) will reply regarding priorities.

(9) Your para. 9. Proposals follow.

(10) It is desired again to stress the inadequacy of the Fleet of A.S.I.S. and, particularly, of A.S.Cs. The immediate critical situation will be temporarily relieved if a large proportion of the Fleet returns to Sydney for major replenishment after the next cycle of operations. This is at present under consideration. Nevertheless, A.S.I.S. and A.S.Cs. as in my 280311 Jan. are a firm requirement for adequate support of the July Fleet. See, however, V.A.(Q) 240254 March and R.A.F.T's 190101 March proposing larger ships be allocated for service as A.S.I.S. Ends.

(C.C.O. Sydney, 251003Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0800Z/25th April.
Para. (A) (1) VICEROY attacked bottomed contact at 1425Z/24th April in lat. 55° 36' N., long. 01° 24' W.

Para. (B) (1) A/C F/423 attacked U-Boat at 0839Z/24th in lat. 54° 14' N., long. 04° 48' W.

(2) A/S Whaler FARSUND sighted p/s at 1645Z/24th in lat. 64° 06' N., long. 23° 00' W.

Para. (C) (1) A/C S/202 sighted moving oil patch at 0752Z/24th in lat. 55° 48' N., long. 07° 48' W.

(2) A/C G/224 attacked schnorkel at 1825Z/24th in lat. 57° 42' N., long. 02° 22' W.

(3) BERKELEY CASTLE attacked doubtful bottom contact at 2155Z/24th in lat. 52° 23' N., long. 05° 08' W.

25.4.1945.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

(4) A/C W/120 attacked suspicious object and
wake at 0032Z/25th in lat. 55° 30' N., long.
08° 58' W.

(5) A/C M/162 sighted possible schnorkel or p/s
at 1210Z/24th in lat. 60° 18' N., long. 16°
34' W.

Para. (D) (1) A/C M/172 sighted object believed
U-Boat at 1445Z/24th in lat. 55° 38' N., long. 09° 22' W.

(2) Fishing vessel CREST sighted p/s at 1200Z/24th in lat.
57° 55' N., long. 01° 50' W.

(3) SS. ATLANTIDA sighted suspicious smoke at 1930Z/24th in
lat. 21° 00' N., long. 86° 37' W.

(D.D.I.C., 251127A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B

Estimates.

dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 251410B to A.I.G.331, Cominch.)

26.4.1945
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) In view of the danger from attacks by midgets and U-Boats near the Pluto lines and the limited damaging effect of explosives the Admiralty have decided that no restrictions should be imposed on attacks on those targets.

(b) M.T.B. Unit F.A.6 sank by torpedo a gun coaster which was with a convoy off Terschelling last night.

(c) The Allies occupied the greater part of Bremen to-day, where enemy opposition weakened.

Western Approaches.

2. A boy of 17 who was rescued from a raft off Donegal to-day states that he was a member of the crew of SS. MONMOUTH COAST which was sunk by explosion when 80 miles out from Sligo from which port she sailed early on 24th. C. in C. Western Approaches considers that the ship was torpedoed.

Norway.

3. M.T.Bs 711 and 723, returning from Operation V.P.86 had an encounter at 0504 to-day, in broad day light, with a U-Boat, probably of 500 tons, close S.W. of Utsire. Torpedoes fired by the M.T.Bs missed and a running action ensued at close ranges, as the result of which the U-Boat was left on fire and apparently sinking close inshore near Klovningholmen. M.T.B.711 had one rating killed and two wounded by enemy fire, but neither of the M.T.Bs. was damaged.

Foreign Stations

South Atlantic

Movement.

4. PURSUER (Assault Carrier) sailed from Capetown for Durban.

Far East and Australia

China.

5. Aircraft damaged two junks 100 miles S.S.W. of Hongkong. U.S. Mitchell scored near misses on a coaster off Formosa.

War Diary

26.4.1945
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

KINGSMILL

A.M. 242048. In view of operational requirements regret it is essential for KINGSMILL to remain with Force T. Matter will be kept under review. (A.N.C.X.F. Main, 261315B.)

Operations

North Sea

E.G.23
U.Bs sunk
16th April
by VICEROY
and 23rd
April by
VALSE.

Part company with EASTWAY off May Island thence proceed to position 105° Longston 7 miles where U-boat was sunk by VICEROY on 16th April.
(2) Locate wreck and endeavour to produce Echo Sounder traces to determine type.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 260855 to S.O.E.G.23.)
My 260855. On completion carry out search northwards east of swept channel. Adjust speed to arrive in 56.33.05 N. 02.07.55 W. at daylight 27th. Establish charted wreck in this position then

search in vicinity for possible U-boat claimed to have been sunk by VALSE at 1700/23 April.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 261530 to S.O.E.G.23.)

Result of E/S seem very unsatisfactory owing to faulty E/S in LOCH SCAVAIG. Target appears to be 250 feet in length and 40 feet in height.

All other wrecks in vicinity were identified. Asdic conditions were good and target was easily located. (Your 260855B.)

(S.O.E.G.23, 262225B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Sweeping
in Oostgat

At the request of the Dutch authorities repairing the dykes at Walcheren intend to sweep as soon as possible for ground mines with two ships of 138th Flotilla between main swept channel in Oostgat and 5 F.T.M. line from centre in gap of dyke at West

Kapelle up to one quarter mile on either side of gap.

(2) Cdr. M/S Terneuzen is requested to have M.M.S.225 and 281 ready for sailing on Wednesday morning, 25th. Lt. Cdr. Van Welligen R.N.N. will embark and be in charge of this operation.

(3) N.O.I.C. Flushing pass to Dutch authorities.

(F.O. Holland, 231225B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Depth
charge
dropping
near
Pluto
lines

In view of vulnerability of Pluto installations request if you concur that A.Z. Message prohibiting dropping of depth charges within the area quoted in N. to M. 279/45 may be promulgated.

(A.C. Dover, 261343B to Admty.)

In view of the danger from attacks by Midgets and U-boats in the vicinity of the Pluto lines and the limited damaging effect of explosives it has been decided that no restriction should be imposed on

attacks on these targets.

(2) A.C. Dover's 261343B not to all refers.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 261641B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

War Diary

26.4.1945
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

250
Danish
fishing
vessels

From latest information received from Denmark it appears that number of boats will not exceed 250 and that first arrivals may be expected on Saturday, 28th April. A.M.171857 refers. (D.O.D.(H), 261434B to C. in C. Nore.)

Cositintrep
No. 387

Part 4, Section A.
Discharge by Sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/25th April.
(S.H.A.E.F., 261445B.)

Operation
by M.T.Bs.
4th and
31st
Flotillas

(S.O. Lieut Cdr. J.S. Price R.N.V.R.) on night 25/26th April.
(2) Unit F.A.5, M.T.Bs.458 (S.O.) 380 and 382 unit F.A.6 M.T.Bs. 383 and 381.
(3) Force arrived initial position 2255B at 2350B aircraft reported A.S.V. contacts emerging from Bookens Diep and steering 060° course set to intercept and enemy further reported consisting of 4 M/Vs with sea and landward escorts. At 0045B in 033° Terschelling 7.5 miles enemy sighted and shadowed on seaward beam to identify targets ultimately found to be 1 small trawler or gun coaster, 3 T.L.Cs. 3 gun coasters and possibly 1 3 (sic) or R-boat at rear, the whole group being interspersed and flanked by the 3 T.L.Cs. speed about 9 knots.
(4) Unit F.A.6 (S.O. Lieut D. Shaw R.N.) ordered to close enemy's rear then steered parallel course to gain bearing and select targets. So ordered Radar to be switched on and immediately afterwards enemy opened erratic fire in general direction of unit. Considered unlikely better opportunity would be offered by such targets accordingly decided to attack immediately using zone on last ship but one in line (gun coaster) at 0059 torpedoes fired at 1600 yards by which time unit had been sighted and was under heavy and fairly accurate fire. A flash and cloud of smoke observed on target and explosion heard - one hit claimed and vessel considered sunk.
(5) At 0101B unit F.A.5 attacked second ship in line (small coaster) with 3 boat zone at 1200 yards from seaward. No result observed. Force then withdrew informed Wellington aircraft that bombing could be carried out and returned to Harbour.
(6) Results:- 1 Gun coaster considered sunk. No damage or casualties to own forces.
(7) Torpedoes expended.
18 in number, 18 inch M.K. X.V. No ammunition expended.
(8) Weather during action. Wind East 2 Sea 1 - 0 visibility 3 - 5 miles in thin cloud and moon.
(C. in C. Nore, 261536B)

Mine off
Humber

Ground mine detonated at 1357 in position 159° E. Dudgeon 8 cables.
(F.O. Humber, 261602B, 261745B)

U-boat
and S.B.U.
Summary
to 1200B/26.

Nil.
(A.C. Dover, 261620B.)

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

U-boat and S.B.U. Summary to 1200B/26. (Contd.)

(1) 1329/25 unidentified enemy unit possibly U-boat within 30 miles of 55° N. 05° E.
 (2) 1403/25 Wellington reported Midget U-boat 52.06 N. 03.35 E.
 (3) 1645/25 Swordfish reported Midget U-boat 51.45 N. 02.30 E.
 (4) 2311/25 Wellington F/407 sighted Midget U-boat 52.23 N. 03.46. E.
 (5) 2357/25 Wellington F/407 attacked Midget U-boat 52.07 N. 03.41 E.
 (C. in C. Nore, 262359B.)

Nore patrols

Patrols for night Friday 27th April
 (1) CHIDDINGFOLD, 2, LAMERTON, 3 ALBRIGHTON, 4, EGLINTON, 5 TANATSIDE, 6 KITTIWAKE, 7 COWDRAY, 8 EASTON,
 Coastal Force Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V patrols at

2300B.
 (2) 12 RETALICK with Coastal Forces from U.K., 14 KRAKOWIAK, 16 TORRINGTON with Coastal Forces from Ostend, 17 HAMBLEDON, 18 ZETLAND, 19 RIOU with Coastal Forces from Ostend, 21 HAYDON, 22 CURZON with C/F from U.K.

Coastal Forces from Ostend R/V Frigates at 2200B.

(3) Escorts for:- T.A.M.52 OAKLEY and SHEARWATER, T.A.P.17 CATTISTOCK, F.N.98 MELBREAK.

(4) Coastal Forces from U.K.:-

Patrol 1 - 2 M.T.Bs. Unit F.C.1 with CHIDDINGFOLD.
 Patrol 2 - 2 M.T.Bs. Unit F.C.2 with LAMERTON.
 Patrol 3 - 2 M.T.Bs. Unit F.C.3 with ALBRIGHTON.
 Patrol 4 - 2 M.T.Bs. Unit F.C.4 with EGLINTON.
 Patrol 5 - 2 M.T.Bs. Unit F.C.5 with TANATSIDE.
 Patrol 6 - 2 M.T.Bs. Unit F.C.6 with KITTIWAKE.
 Patrol 7 - M.T.Bs. Unit F.C.7 with COWDRAY.
 Patrol 8 - 2 M.T.Bs. Unit F.C.8 with EASTON.
 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.
 DACC 4048 Unit F.B.3 4 M.T.Bs.
 BWCC 5035 Unit F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3, 6 M.T.Bs.
 Patrol 51 to 55 1 M.L. on each.

From Ostend:-

DAZO 2316 2 M.T.Bs. Unit F.A.8.
 DAZD 2100 2 M.T.Bs. Unit F.B.2.
 DAZD 4126 3 M.Ls. Unit F.G.5.
 DAZD 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.
 DAZD 2525 3 M.Ls. Unit F.G.4.
 (C. in C. Nore, 261700B.)

Midget S/M

Am attacking Midget Submarine in 120° 51 buoy 4.5 miles.
 (Unit F.B.7, 262154B to Nore Port Wave.)

/Contact...

497

26.4.1945
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.Contact
by CURZON

My 262154*. Gained small Radar contact at about 200 yards. Contact lost at 400 yds. Midget observed diving as it passed close down starboard side. 2 - 13 charge attacks made. No further contact gained. Am proceeding to patrol. (CURZON 262245B to C. in C. Nore.) *Former not identified.

Cositintrep
No. 387.

Part II Naval. (Extract)
Belgian fishing vessel sunk by explosion at 1000/26 - 348° Ostend 9 miles. Two survivors landed at Ostend.
(Burrough signed Eisenhower, 262355B.)

OperationsChannelOperation
"Artisan"

Reference PLOVER's 251122B (not to all). At 0710B/27 April carry out operation "Artisan" Serial B.2 part IV.
(2) F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail SHIPPIGAN (S.O.) TADOUSSAC and ARMANA to R/V PLOVER escorted by ILFRACOMBE and DORNOCH in 099° Lizard 16 point 5 miles at 0630B/27th.
(3) SHIPPIGAN is to arrange skimming sweep of lay to 42 feet below Chart Datum.
(4) PLOVER is not to carry out lay if SHIPPIGAN considers weather unsuitable for skim.
(5) On completion of lay PLOVER to Portsmouth escorted by two ships detailed by SHIPPIGAN. Remainder to Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 261142B.)

TAVY

Sail as soon as defects are completed about 1600B/26 and proceed rejoin S.O. E.G.20 on patrol Lizard to Pendeen arranging R/V direct.
(2) Report E.T.D.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 261238B to TAVY.)

German
armed
trawler
F.G.7

German armed trawler F.G.7 which was captured in 45° 34' N. 01° 31' W. on 16th April by M.S.F.31 was ordered into Plymouth by C.F.N.T.F.: Subsequently arrived at Plymouth on 18th April and 14 P.O.W. were landed. M.S.F.31's 161705B my 181718B and 182124B refer. Request disposal instructions.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 261540 to Admty.)

Contact
attacked
by E.G.20

My 261830B. Have carried out one Hedgehog and 3 depth charge attacks. No visible results. Am hunting in the vicinity to confirm with TAVY's echo sounding.
(E.G.20, 261746B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
* See next signal.

/Investigating...

War Diary

26.4.1945
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Contact
attacked
by E.G.20
(Contd.)

Investigating bottomed contact in 49° (09).4' N.
05° 39.6' W.
(E.G.20, 261830B.)
My 261830. Classified non-submarine, rock on
bottom.
(E.G.20, 262240B.)

Contact
attacked
by
T.G.61.2
U.S.S.POOLE

At 2255Z/26 POOLE attacking sound contact in 49.52
N. 04.08 W. NARBOROUGH ordered to assist. One
Hedgehog attack results negative so far. Still
in contact.
(C.T.G.61.2, 262259Z.)
Obtained Sonar contact 2318/26th in 49.43 04.06.
Made 2 deliberate H/H attacks explosions on
bottom at 2352/26 and 0005/27 respectively and
one D/C at 0055/27. NARBOROUGH attacked twice
with depth-charges at 0030/27 and 0045/27. Slight down doppler
noticed by both probably due to current. Target course 070 1/5
kts. No H.E. heard. Contact classified non-submarine.
(U.S.S. POOLE, 262358Z.)

Operations

West Coast of France

U-boat sunk
in Chaussee
de Sein

My 252331. A/C reports attack was carried out
1940, enemy's course 180, speed 6 knots, one dead
body brought to surface.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 260043B to C.T.F.122.)
Detach two escorts to examine vicinity of 48° 12' N.
5° 42' W. where U-boat was sunk by A/C. After 2
hours search they are to rejoin convoy.
(2) Report names of ships detached.
(3) 2 French destroyers may be in vicinity.
(C. in C.W.A., 260105B to S.O.E.G.10.)
BRAITHWAITE and BAYNTON detailed. Your 260105 refers.
(S.O.E.G.10, 260247B to C. in C.W.A.)
Sailed F.Y.M.S. D.312 and D.316 at 0234B/26th to proceed
position 048° 12' N. 005° 48' W. ref. your telephone message to
Comar Brest. R/T watch on 2410 kc/s.
(C.F.N.T.C., 260545B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Search by BAYNTON and BRAITHWAITE was unsuccessful your
260105 refers.
Search: A. above average B. Not applicable. Suitable
weather report 0944 0971.
(S.O.E.G.10, 260850B to C. in C.W.A.)

Enemy
reports

Following sighted by A/C at 0912B/26 Small steamer
500 tons P.C.S. 45° 16' N. 01° 54' W. 185° 4 knots.
(2) Small craft P.C.S. 45° 15' N. 02° 08' W. 190°
3 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 261026B to Force 27.)

/POOLE...

26.4.1945
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast of France - Contd.

POOLE -
contact

U.S.S. POOLE had Radar contact in 45.28 N. 07.12 W. at 260102Z. Held for four minutes and disappeared results after one hour search negative. (C.T.G.61.2, 261135Z to C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Plymouth.)

Patrol 27

One Sunderland A/C will operate tomorrow 27th in Biscay Area as in my 221634 weather permitting. Callsigns.

(C. in C. Plymouth 261744B to Force 27)

Sailed F.S. BASQUE and F.S. LA SURPRISE at 2000B/26th to patrol 27 in accordance with my plan 48.E.M.3.

(2) F.Y.M.S.312 and 316 arrived Brest (?after) 8 hours searching area. Result negative. My 260545B, not to all addressees, refers.

(C.F.N.T.F., 262142B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

LE FORTUNE F.S. left patrol area at 2130B/26th to return Brest. E.T.A. 0730B/27th.

(C.F.N.T.F., 262232B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

F.S. LA DECOUVERTE sails from patrol 27 at 0800B/27th without relief for Brest. E.T.A. 2100B/27th.

(C.F.N.T.F., 262344B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

BASQUE, LA SURPRISE left patrol at 262320B in accordance with your 262215B in French Cypher. E.T.A. Brest 271130B. Route direct.

(LE FORTUNE, 262350B to C.F.N.T.F.)

Mine off
Brest

Following received from M.M.S.1054 have detonated mine magnetic in position 254° 2 miles from Ninou Light 1603B/26.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 262129B to C.T.F.122)

Operations

Western Approaches

E.G.21
contact

My 252124B not to all addressees. Have investigated contact reported by 355, W.4. Oil classified probably lubricating covering large area which A/C reports was present before attack.

2 bottomed contact exists near apex of oil one 400 feet long 36 feet high the other 180 feet long, 25 to 35 feet high 75 feet broad which appears to be large wreck in 2 pieces. Consider this to be contact reported to me by E.G.4 in approx. same position which is now established as being in lat. 055° 49' 20" long. 008° 39' 30" by Q.H. Intend remaining in vicinity until daylight then resuming patrol.

(S.O.E.G.21, 260108B to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G.8
contact

My 251905B and 251345. Bottomed contact attacked in the vicinity. Classified non-submarine and probably not the original contact. Proceeding in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 252253. Suitable. (S.O.E.G.8, 260825B to C. in C.W.A.)

/Operation...

500

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches - Contd.

Operation C.H. Serial S.1 lines 5, 6 and 7 completed. (ARIADNE, 261605B.)
Carry out operation C.H. Serial J. Lines 1, and 2 1030B April 28th. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 261851B to ARIADNE.)

Force 37 Com. D.W.A. is requested to sail 25th E.G. at daylight 27th to relieve 2nd E.G. as force 37. (2) On relief 2nd E.G. proceed to Liverpool for lay over. (C. in C. W.A., 261050B.)

E.G.21 1st Division is to patrol new area between following points.
(a) 55° 20', 08° 20'.
(b) 56° 05', 09° 20'.
(c) 55° 00', 11° 40'.
(d) 54° 05', 10° 40'.
(2) 2nd Division (FITZROY S.O.) is to support all convoys on passage between Altacarry and 57° 36' in Minches. Between convoys Division is to patrol Little Minch south of 57° 36' and area between 55° 30' and 57° N. and 08° W. and Scottish Coast. (C. in C.W.A. 261251B to S.O.E.G.21, FITZROY.)

E.G.8 My 252205* sailed at 1300B/26. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 261313B.)
* LOCH MORE.
Sailed AIRE to rejoin E.G.8. Speed 15 knots
2 wires carried. C. in C.W.A.'s 241936 refers.
(2) Request S.O. E.G.8 arrange R/V direct.
(3) Mails to Greenock. (F.O.I.C. N.I., 262032.)

E.G.2,
E.G.27. My 251606B* April sailed at 1240B. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 261405B to S.O.E.G.2.)
* Intend to sail TOBAGO to join group in North Irish Sea.
Amend para. 1 of my 261050*.
Request you will sail 25th E.G. (S.O. in LA HULLOISE) when ready p.m. 27th to relieve 2nd E.G. (C. in C. W.A., 261723B to Com. D.W.A.)* Com. D.W.A. is requested to sail 25th E.G. at daylight 27th to relieve 2nd E.G. as force 37.

ROYAL MARINE Contact. Am attacking contact 053° (58') 30" N. 004° 56' W. (ROYAL MARINE, 261256B to C. in C.W.A.)

LONGUEUIL Schnorkel My P.C.S. schnorkel in sight 046° 38' 019° 41' 210° 9½ knots. (LONGUEUIL, 261516B to Whitehall W/T.)

/My...

26.4.1945
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

LONGUEUIL
Schnorkel
(Contd.)

My 261516B. Original sighting by M.A.C. A/C.
Searched area. ASBESTOS, KINCARDINE in company
negative results. Whales in vicinity intend
rejoin by dusk.
(S.O.C.2, 261737B to C. in C.W.A.)

SS.
MONMOUTH
COAST
sunk.

No. 40. Department of External Affairs state
that Eric Cragg of West Derby aged 17, was
rescued today near Arranmore, Donegal, from raft
on which he had been for 46 hours. Cragg, who
is in confused state, says that he is a
survivor of SS. MONMOUTH COAST, of Coast Lines,
Glasgow, which sailed from Sligo on 24th April
at 0500 L.S.T. An explosion occurred when
vessel was 80 miles from Sligo and she apparently sank. Cragg
saw two other men in a boat but no other survivors have yet come
ashore. Crew numbered 16.
(Eire (Rep), No T.O.O. 26th.)

26.4.1945
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Norway

Operations
V.P. U-Boat
sunk.

During V.P.81 carried out on 23/24 April information was received from fisherman in Hernar area that U-Boats are regularly using Fejzoyon inwards and outwards between 0600B and 0700B each day. Upwards of 8 U-Boats have been seen on various occasions between these times.

(2) Same source stated that for more than a week he had seen no shipping moving in Hjoltrfjord by night.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 261256B)

V.P.86, M.T.B. 711 and M.T.B. 723 returned at 1330B to-day 26th April.

(2) At 0504B/26 close S.W. of Utsire, in broad daylight U-Boat (probably 500 tons) surfaced on starboard bow of M.T.Bs who had set course for base. Both M.T.B.S. carried out individual torpedo attacks against U-Boat which took avoiding action at high speed. All torpedoes missed. In a running gun-action carried out at high speed, at ranges from 30 yards to 600 yards, and lasting 35 mins. while M.T.Bs manoeuvred for position to drop depth charges, many hits were scored with 6 pdr. and smaller guns. U-Boat burst into flames around conning tower. A heavy explosion took place inside U-Boat abaft conning tower. Four depth charges dropped, which exploded under U-Boat between conning tower and stern. U-Boat apparently entirely out of control, listing heavily and down by stern, drifted very close inshore near Klovningholmen, south of Utsire. M.T.Bs set course for base. U-Boat last seen with bows and part of blazing conning tower out of water. Apparently sinking.

(3) One rating killed and two ratings wounded in M.T.B.711 by enemy fire. No damage to M.T.Bs.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 261431B)

V.P.81, M.T.B.713 and M.T.B. 719 return at 1430B/26.

(2) No shipping sighted.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 261451B)

Operation
S.C.

Ramrose Gracious, VIGRA returned at 1545B/26
(2) Operation successful.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 261547B)

S/M patrols.

(Extract). Positions at 0800/27 and movements for next 24 hours.

(1) VARNE 61 degs. 04' 00 degs. 30' E. on the surface to Lerwick.

(2) VENTURER 60 degs. 30' 03 degs. 10' E. thence as in A.M. 251800 and through 61 degs. 04' 00 degs. 01' E. to Lerwick on the surface West of 01 degs. E.

(C.W. 261849B)

Operations

Northern Waters

U-Boat
report.

Wake of U-Boat periscope observed 0130B in 68 degs. 38' N. 38 degs. 02' E. course 315 degs.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 260215B)

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSPort Facilities

Lemmer, Sitrep from Naval R/C party.
Stavoren. Lemmer. No damage to lock gates. 5 barges sunk across entrance, but clear channel 39 feet wide exists. 2 ten ton floating cranes in harbour and undamaged. Stavoren. No blockship in harbour. Outer lock gate slightly damaged. Repairs in hand will complete in one week. Bridge over locks blown. (F.O. Holland, 261110B)

Harlingen, From P.S.V.O. Para. 5 and 6 and 7 of F.O. Hollands 240930B/ salvage Officer is being sent to investigate possibility of salvage. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 261150B)
/ 15 craft sunk in port area, clear entrance channel is 80 ft. wide.

Casualties and Defects.

GLEANER My 251924 not to all addressees. GLEANER has a defect which will prevent her sailing until about 0800. Have ordered her to join me when defect is made good reporting her time of sailing. (S.O. ~~S~~/B.F.1, 260327B to C. in C. Nore.)

COPPER CLIFF Regret to report have been in collision with
Corvette, H.M.C.S. COPPER CLIFF when approaching Oiler.
v. ORKNEY, COPPER CLIFF appears fully seaworthy but ORKNEY
frigate. holed between frames 51 and 53 port side above water line to within about 2 feet of water. Number 4 port oil fuel tank leaking. Detailed report will follow. No casualties. Propose bringing ORKNEY up river then rejoining Group with S.O. Staff. (ORKNEY, 261005B to Com. D. W.A., C. in C. W.A.)

SS. RIVERTON. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 261033B)

Movements

Force 5. APOLLO's 251130B. Proceeding with Force 5 to Scapa making good 17 knots. E.T.A. Hoxa 2130/26th.
(2) ORWELL reports temporary repairs satisfactory but will require docking.
(3) Request hospital drifter close DIDO on arrival to disembark sick passengers.
(DIDO, 260928B)

Force 10. On crossing long. 15.30 W. alter course for new position.
R 56 degs. N. 18 degs. W. rejoin your route in position N.
(Admt, 261005B to S.O. Force 10)

/NELSON ...

War Diary

26.4.1945
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

NELSON escorts. A.M. 192311B/ para. B. CAVENDISH S.O. and CAPRICE are allocated C. in C.H.F. 241250 para. 3 also refers.
(2) On completion this escort duty F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail CAVENDISH and CAPRICE to arrive Liverpool a.m. 8th May.
(C. in C. W.A. 261156B)
/ 2 escorts for H.M.S. NELSON.

STORM. Capt. (S) 5th S/M. Flot. 260925 not to all addressees. Route, to 045 degs. 02' 045 degs. 01' thence as ordered C. in C. C.N.A.
Capt. (S) 5th S/M Flot. pass to STORM.
(C. in C. W.A. 261720B)

A.F.D.69, 67. H.M.R.T. MARAUDER is detailed for towage of A.F.D.69 as far as Port Said.
(2) H.M.R.T. FLAUNT is detailed for towage of A.F.D.67 as far as Massawa.
(3) Both tows will leave U.K. about mid-May.
(4) On completion of tows -
(a) MARAUDER is allocated as harbour and rescue tug to C. in C. Mediterranean. A.M. 211924 to C. in C. Mediterranean only refers.
(b) FLAUNT is allocated to C. in C. E.I. A.M. 042003A December to C. in C. E.I. only refers.
(D.O.D.(F), 261804B)

SPEARHEAD, MORSE. O.S. 124/K.M.S. 98. On dispersal of convoy S/MS SPEARHEAD and MORSE are to be escorted by CAMELLIA to Gibraltar proceeding on convoy route.
(C. in C. W.A. 262323B)

Shipping and Convoys

J.W.66. Kola Inlet. Arrived 13 merchant ships and 16 Russian S/M Chasers at 1510B/25 escort J.W.66 and 0030B/26 Russians report 2 merchant ships arrived Kirkenes and 11 ships for White Sea have arrived ice edge White Sea.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 260856B)

T.B.C. Convoy. Your 251235B. No objection to C. in C. Plymouth's 231819B.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 261023B to Admty.)

26.4.1945.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

German
ships.
(Security
measures)

San Sebastian's 250915. I today called at
Ministry of Marine and once again urged necessity
of removing crews and pointed out that it was
useless to prevent escape only to enable ships
to scuttle in harbour.

Ministry state impossible remove crews without
orders from M.F.A.

Embassy are presenting note to M.F.A. reminding Spanish Govt.
of their responsibilities and pointing out only safe course is
(a) to remove crews (b) thorough internal and external
examination of ships.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 262012B to Admt.)

South Atlantic

Disposal
of trawlers
and whalers.

My 251456. As NORTHERN DUKE requisitioned
trawler is fitted as transmitting ship for D/F
calibration at Durban intend retain her for this
duty.

(C. in C. S.A., 261012B to Admt.)

War Diary.

26.4.1945.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

BARFLEUR,
destroyer.

C. in C. Home Fleet 241250, para. 4.
Request you arrange for BARFLEUR to fuel and
remain 24 hours at Malta.

(2) V.A. Malta is requested subsequently to
onward route BARFLEUR to join B.P.F. vide

Admiralty message 130331.

(3) B.

(C. in C. Med., 261226B to V.A. Malta.)

BARFLEUR struck submerged object and fractured asdic
after dome pedestal request necessary docking may be arranged
Gibraltar or Malta.

(S.O. Force 10, 261523B to C. in C. Med.)

Situation
Report
No. 598.

Reference number 597, para. 1, first sentence.
In addition 6 or 7 craft ran aground on French
coast or were scuttled.

(C. in C. Med., 262012B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Transfer
of command
Western
Meditn.

Your 251758. Consider new arrangements can be
put into effect at any time.

(V.A. Malta, 262254 to C. in C. Meditn.)

FLAMINGO,
A/A Sloop.

Destination in U.K. of FLAMINGO is Liverpool.

C. in C. E.I. 180538 to C. in C. Med. and
F.O.L.E.M. only refers.

(2) On arrival about mid-May ship will be taken
in hand by Messrs. Grayson Rollo and Clover Docks,
Liverpool for refit and modernisation.

(D.O.D.(F), 262305B to C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.26.4.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesOperation
"Dracula".
(amendments)

Operation "Dracula" units allocated to Force W my 150603 April and associated signals refer. Amendment number 2 Amphibious forces my 150625 para. 2?(B) delete L.C.T.(4) 915, 1056, 1057 and 70th Flotilla 1242, 1054, 71st Flotilla. 1331 para. 2(A) delete L.C.I.(L) 136, 135, 311 and 270th Flotilla 249, 271st Flotilla 180, 272nd Flotilla 116.
(C. in C. E.I., 260613 to S.O. Force W.)

Movements.

Arrived FLAMINGO. Departed SPITEFUL, SEANYMPH, FLAMINGO, L.C.T.(R) 436, 459 in tow of PORT LOUISBERG, CONFEDERATE, I.S. ERMITREA.
(Cdre. Aden, 261730Z to Admty.)

Movement.

Sailed SPITEFUL and SEANYMPH in company at 1500Z/26th to Suez. SPITEFUL for onward routeing to United Kingdom and SEANYMPH to Port Said to change defective main battery.

My 250855 not to all refers.

(2) E.T.A. 1100Z/1st May. S. of A. 11.5 knots.
(Com. Aden, 261734 to N.O.I.C. Suez.)

Manning of
frigates by
S.A.N.F.

S.A.N.F. have now offered to man 3 or 4 RIVER class frigates with personnel ex local defence vessels who have volunteered for service in the Eastern theatre. It is intended that so far as possible ships refitting in South African ports should be nominated by C. in C. E.I. for

this purpose. On completion ships will return to East Indies Station and C. in C. E.I. is requested to make the necessary arrangements for working up. Allowance should be made for the fact that crews have been previously employed in minesweepers.

(2) The first crew will be available in South Africa about 7th May and a few specialist R.N. ratings will be required, to complete complement; these can be drawn from the existing crew of the selected vessel. C. in C. S.A. is requested to inform C. in C. E.I. of details when known.

(3) C. in C. E.I. is requested to nominate a frigate to meet the requirement in para. 2 above. SWALE would seem appropriate observing that this ship still has about 18 months to run before completing 2 years foreign service.

(4) C. in C. S.A. should keep C. in C. E.I. informed as other crews become available. C. in C. S.A. 141226 to Admiralty only refers.

(5) C. in C. S. Atlantic is requested to state Union Government's views on para. 4 of A.M. 221647 December to C. in C. S.A. only.
(V.C.N.S., 262055B to C. in C. E.I.) *See 311154B AUG*

26.4.1945.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

N.S.H.Q. S/M
attack and
sighting
summary. No report since my 240201Z.
Para. (D) Canso F/161 sighted oil slick at
2040Z/25th and obtained H.T. contact at
2104Z/25th in 45.08 N., 65.20 W.
(N.S.H.Q., 260507Z to Admty., Cominch.)

LORD
KELVIN. Your 231845* and 241835 report forthwith when
cable operation recommenced and if any change
in anticipated time of completion of cable
repair.
(F.O.N.F., 261328Z to H.M.C.S. GIFFARD.)
* Cable operation suspended.

Your 261328. Cable operation still suspended due to weather.
LORD KELVIN requires at least 3 to 5 days without interruption.
Anticipate 10 days necessary.
(H.M.C.S. GIFFARD, 261818Z to F.O.N.F.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 261335Z, Cominch 261601Z.)

T.G.61.4 Cancel my 241714Z not to all Task Group 61.4
reconstitution reconstituted Captain Rooney in WOOLSEY.
of. C.T.U. 61.4.1. Captain Rooney in WOOLSEY,
Comdesdiv 34 in CRAVEN, PLUNKETT, HISSEM,
STOCKDALE. C.T.U. 61.4.2 Cdr. Garcia, Comcort-
div 58 in PRICE, STRICKLAND, FORSTER, W.L. EVANS. Escort
convoy C.U.68. Departing New York and Boston 2/3 May for
Continent and U.K. when Admiralty directs T.U. 61.4.1 A section
T.U. 61.4.2 B section.
(Cinclant, 261919Z to Comdesron 13.)

Stragglers Stragglers Report No. 99.
Report. One returned New York from H.X.351, FRANCIS B.
OGDEN (U.S.) April 19th - fresh water
contaminated.
One arrived St. Johns Nfld., from H.X.350,
LAVORO (Ital.) April 20th - engine defects.
One arrived Norfolk from U.G.S.88, JOSEPH N. TEAL (U.S.)
April 24th - boiler defects.
From C.U.67. One returned New York BULKCRUDE (U.S.) April
24th - no reason given.
One arrived Halifax from H.X.352, EL MIRLO, April 26th - engine
defects.
(N.S.H.Q., 261948Z to Admty.)

Surrender Concur your 241201B including para. 7.
of U-Boat Points of surrender as follows: (A) Lat. 43.30
Fleet. N., long. 70° W. and (B) Lat. 38.20 N., long.
74.25 W. Approach in each case from Point 15
miles due East.
(Cominch and C.N.O., 262026Z to Admty.)

Furtherance my 242155/6. Points of surrender in U.S.
designated as lat. 43.30 N., long. 70 W. and lat. 38.20 N.
long. 74.25 W. Submarine to approach through point 15 miles due
east. In addition to reporting position on 500 k/cs. submarine
/will ...

509

26.4.1945.
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Surrender
of U-boat
Fleet.
(contd).

will also report to the callsign GZZIO on one
of following high frequencies: 16845, 12685 or
5970 k/cs.

Be alert for acts of treachery and be ruthless
in countering. Cominch will:

(A) Attempt to inform U-boats of above and will
further direct (B) Ammunition jettisoned

(C) Torpedo pistols removed and torpedoes otherwise made safe and

(D) Prescribe route for those U-boats which report at a distance
from above surrender points.

Above points are designated for preliminary inspection U-boats
and placing armed guard aboard prior entry port. Ref. 242156/6.

In event of surrender of German High Command or Naval Command
the following surrender terms will be enforced. "All German
submarines at sea are to surface at once fly a black flag".

(Cominch, 262030 to Navop).

U/B
Contacts.

Para. C (1) Beginning 0550/26 U.S.S. MICKA and
U.S.S. GUSTAFSON made repeated attacks on sound
contacts 36.12 N., 72.49 W., at times Z.

Para. D (1) 0200/26 P.B.M. had disappearing radar
contact 24.43 N., 75.15 W.

(2) (2) 0250/25 R.A.F. Aircraft had disappearing radar contact
25.35 N., 76.38 W.

(3) Canso A/C had sonobuoy indications following sighting of oil
slick at 2040/25 in 45.08 N., 65.20 W.

(4) 1935/25 U.S.S. LORAIN attacked Sonar contact 42.57 N., 36.39
West.

(5) 2015/25 M.V. ZANESVILLE VICTORY sighted surfaced U-boat
31.55 N., 31.05 W. course 180.

(Cominch, 262111Z to Admty for O.I.C.)

Far East and Australia

FENCER.

C. in C. B.P.F.'s 180706*(to A.C.30 and F.O.N.A.S.

(A) only) it is proposed to route FENCER via
Sydney for inspection of her close range armament
and to place the necessary number of single Bofors

mountings and ready use lockers on board for fitting at
Simonstown.

C. in C. S.A.'s 191604 refers.

(V.A.(Q) B.P.F., 260524Z to F.O.I.C. Sydney)

*FENCER allocated to Simonstown for refit.

Digest 1191
25.4.45
(extract).

1. Privateers sank lugger 40 miles west north
west Tainan, destroyed 2 small coasters 1 lugger
100 miles north east Formosa, damaged 2 small
coasters Ishigake Island.

5. 66 Liberators dropped 138 tons bombs Saigon
Naval Docks Barracks areas scoring very near

/misses...

26.4.1945.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia

- Digest 1191
25.4.45
(extract).
(contd).
- misses 1 submarine, hitting small river craft, destroying small dry dock, 17 slipways, 12 warehouses, small bridge hitting freighter in dry dock causing explosion and fire, damaging barracks and buildings.
9. 24th April. 2 Liberators sank 1 small coaster damaged 2 barges 30 miles south east Pomelaa Celebes.
10. Night 24th-25th. 2 Liberators sank small coaster off south east Borneo.
12. 9 Mitchells destroyed sea truck Brunei Bay, destroyed 1 small coaster, 1 lugger, straffed, fired 2 barges, bombed warehouses, bombed straffed another small coaster left listing, straffed 2 motor launches leaving them burning and listing, half sunk 1 barge, straffed 2 already damaged barges.
14. R.A.A.F. On 25th April, 3 Liberator patrols from Darwin attacked torpedoing boat south Boeteeng Island.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 260934Z to Admiralty)

Congratulatory Their Lordships wish to congratulate the British message on Pacific Fleet on the successful completion of operations. their first major operation with the U.S. Fleet in the Pacific. The great administrative difficulties that have been overcome in the preparation of the Fleet for this operation, and the sustained effort required by all officers and men during prolonged operations of this nature are fully appreciated by Their Lordships. It is evident that the task assigned to the British Pacific Fleet in this operation was efficiently executed. (Sec. 1st Sea Lord, 261042B to C. in C. B.P.F., C.T.F.57: and 270720).

Storage Reference C. in C. B.P.F. message 110449 April (Australia). para. C. A careful check has been made of space available in Australia depots and accommodation figures given in Admiralty message 042120B should read 35775, 8000, 27775 the deficiency of 17225 tons is due to (a) inability to obtain possession of U.S.N. Magazines at Mount Cootha and Mewington, transfer of which may be delayed for as much as six months.
(b) Overall reduction of 5,000 tons in original estimate of total space vide para. C. section 5. Moreover the vacant storage space at Cairns and Darwin cannot be made use of because carriers are not available to effect transfers of ammunition. Open storage will become necessary for the accommodation of ammunition already in transit.
(A.C.N.B., 261126Z to Admiralty).

26.4.1945.
Thursday

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0800Z/26th April.

B. 1. Aircraft N/210 attacked smoke believed
to be from U-boat at 0730Z/25th in:-
lat. 63° 23' N., long. 01° 12' W.

2. U-boat P/S wake reported from S.B.N.O. Russia
at 2330Z/25th in:- lat. 68° 38' N., long. 38° 02'
E.

US C. 1. Aircraft K/206 sighted possible U-boat at 1535Z/25th in
lat. 61° 36' N., long. 00° 32' E.

U.1167 mark 2. Aircraft K/103 attacked Schnorkel, smoke and wake at 1539Z
25th in lat. 48° 12' N., long. 05° 42' W.

3. Bomber aircraft sighted U-boat on surface at 1525Z/25th in
lat. 54° 19' N., long. 06° 08' E.

D.1. Am. ZANESVILLE VICTORY reported sighting U-boat at 2015Z/25
in lat. 31° 35' N., long. 31° 05' W.

2. Unknown ships reported positive Sonar Contact at 1940Z/25th
in lat. 42° 57' N., long. 36° 39' W.

(D.D.I.C., 261207B to Cominch).

U/B Estimates.

Dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 261428B to A.I.G., Cominch).

27.4.1945.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Western
Approaches.

1. The frigate REDMILL was torpedoed this morning in 54.23 N., 10.36 W. about 25 miles north-east of Blacksod Bay whilst on patrol with the 21st Escort Group. REDMILL has 22 missing.

Foreign Stations

South Atlantic

Movement.

2. KENYA sailed from Capetown for Freetown.

Mediterranean

Italy

3. Preliminary reports from Spezia show that the entrance to the port is blocked effectively. The damage however, to the docks and harbour facilities is not as great as had been expected.

East Indies

Minelaying.

4. Last night Liberators laid mines off Bangkok - Jumbhom - (Siam) and Padang (Sumatra).

Movement

5. QUEEN ELIZABETH (B.S.3), RICHELIEU, CUMBERLAND (C.S.5), CEYLON, SUFFOLK, TROMP (Netherlands Cruiser), SHAH, EMPRESS and 6 destroyers in company sailed from Trincomalee to the Eastward.

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27.4.1945.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Far East and Australia

Japan

6. CANADA VICTORY (U.S. 7,608 tons) was sunk by enemy aircraft off Okinawa at 3.12 p.m. today.

War Diary

27.4.1945
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Naval bombardments. Request confirmation that no further requirement for naval bombardment in connection with German pockets will arise after completion of operation "Venerable".
(A.N.C.X.F.(Main), 271602B to S.H.A.E.F. Forward.)

Operations

North Sea

Capture of Bremen. (Extract). We occupied the greater part of Bremen where enemy opposition weakened.
(S.H.A.E.F. Forward, 271100B)
R/V Party Task Force 126 plus similar party from 378 U.S. infantry Regiment temporarily assigned to T.F.126 for guard duty entering Bremen April 27th. Remainder Naval Parties and 378 Regiment will be phased in as authorised by Commanding General 30th Corps when he considers Eclipse conditions exist locally.
(Commaveu, 271601)

Fast escort for main cross-channel route. Request relief for IMPULSIVE may be sent to Dover to arrive 2nd May.
(V.A.Dover, 271159B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

F.O. Holland's Advance H.Q. F.O. Holland's advance H.Q. has now been established at Tilburg.
(2) Request signals and correspondence for F.O. Holland be continued to be sent as at present to Brussels.
(3) F.O. Holland's H.Q. at Brussels will be known as F.O.Holland(Main) and H.Q. at Tilburg known as F.O. Holland (Advance).
(4) Though signals should not be addressed F.O.Holland (Adv.) they may be originated by him from time to time.
(F.O.Holland, 271301B to A.N.C.X.F., Admty. C. in C. Nore.)

E.G.23. My 261530. Abandon search as necessary to R/V with convoy E.N.89 ten ships escort three trawlers (OPHELIA S.O.) codeword "Riband" off May Island approx. 0130B/28.
Support northward.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 271513B to S.O.E.G.23)
Your 272220/ transferring to PAPUA. MONSERRAT's E.T.A. Scapa 1700B/28th.
(S.O.E.G. 23, 272358B to C. in C. Rosyth)
/ N.T. in W.D.

Nore Patrols. Patrols for night Saturday 28th April.
1 HOLDERNESS, 2 BROCKLESBY, 3 TALYBONT,
4 CHIDDINGFOLD, 5 ALBRIGHTON, 6 SHELDRAKE,
7 MELBREAK, 8 BRISSENDEN.
Coastal Forces Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V patrols

/ at ...

War Diary.

27.4.1945
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Nore Patrols. at 2300B.
(Contd.) (2) 12 TORRINGTON with coastal forces from U.K.
14 KRAKOWIAK, 16 RIOU with coastal forces from
Ostend, 17 HAMBLEDON, 18 SEYMOUR, 19 STAYNER with
coastal forces from Ostend, 21 FERNIE,
22 CAICOS with coastal forces from U.K.
Coastal Forces from Ostend R/V PAT Frigates at 2200B.
(3) Escorts for T.A.M.53 BLANKNEY and KITTIWAKE,
T.A.P.18 CATTISTOCK.
(4) Coastal Forces from U.K.
Patrol 1, 2 M.T.B. Unit - F.C.1 with HOLDERNESS.
Patrol 2, 2 " F.C.2 " BROCKLESBY.
Patrol 3, 2 " F.C.3 " TALYBONT.
Patrol 4, 2 " F.C.4 " CHIDDINGFOLD.
Patrol 5, 2 " F.C.5 " ALBRIGHTON.
Patrol 6, 2 " F.C.6 " SHELDRAKE.
Patrol 7, 2 " F.C.7 " MELBREAK,
Patrol 8, 2 " F.C.8 " BRISSENDEN.
Patrol 12, 4 " F.L.2, F.L.3.
Patrol 22, 4 " F.B.8, F.B.9.
DWCC 5035 6 " F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3.
DACC 4048 4 " F.B.3.
Patrols 51 to 55 1 M.L. in each.
From Ostend:
DAZD 2316 2 M.T.B. Units, F.A.8.
DAZD 2100 2 M.T.B. Units, F.B.2.
DAZD 4126 3 M.L. F.G.5.
DAZD 3312 R.M.T.Bs. F.H.3, F.H.4.
Patrol 16 4 M.T.Bs. F.G.2, F.G.3.
DAZD 2525 3 M.L. F.G.4.
(C. in C. Nore, 271715B)

LIONESS, LYSANDER. LIONESS and LYSANDER are to be diverted to Clyde to operate temporarily under F.O.I.C. Greenock. A.M. 271843B not to all refers.
(2) Further arrangements will be made for AS/work up on completion of Clyde operations.
(Admty, 271907B to C. in C. Rosyth, D.O.I.C. Greenock)

Situation Report. Zwart, Sluis. Sea channel clear large lock. 2 150 ton barges sunk in lock. One vessel sunk outside inner lock entrance. All lock gates badly damaged. Small lock, no damage. Kampen. 4 barges sunk one mile west of bridge.
Clear channel 200 feet wide.
Elburg. Two barges sunk completely blocking entrance.
Harderwijk. 3 sunk craft completely block entrance. One 350 ton barge sunk across channel about 100 yards inside entrance. (N.H.N.R.U.272010B to F.O. Holland)

U-Boat and S.B.U. Summary to 1200B/27. (1) 2154/26 CURZON attacked midget U-Boat 120 degs. 51 buoy 4.5 miles.
(2) 0047/27 Wellington K/407 sighted midget U-Boat 52.10 N. 03.42 E.
(C. in C. Nore, 272021B)

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FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Operation "Artisan". Capt. M/S (corrupt gp.) serial B.2 Party IV completed and skimmed to 42 feet below chart datum. Negative result. One mine broke adrift in 049 degs. 51' (corrupt group) North 004 degs. 54' 54" W. sunk by gunfire.

(2) PLOVER escorted by SHIPPIGAN, ILRACOMBE to Portsmouth.
(3) DORNOCH, TADOUSAC escorting ARMANA to D one Buoy, thence on patrol in accordance with your 261530B not to all addressees. (SHIPPIGAN, 270839 to C. in C. Plymouth)

E.G.20. Have transferred to TAVY. Request necessary authorities be informed. (S.O.E.G.20, 271050B to C. in C. Plymouth)

DORNOCH contact. My 1110/ probable non-S/M, one pattern dropped. (DORNOCH, 271125B)
/ Not yet identified.
My 1125B non-S/M, resuming patrol. (DORNOCH, 271201B)

BERRY, DOMETT, COOKE. (1) Remain at half an hours notice during night as striking force.
(2) Weigh at 0600B/28th and proceed to continue Asdic survey of command in area latitude 50 degs. 10' N. to 50 degs. 20' N. between 00 degs. 30' W. and 01 degs. 00' W. complying with para. (4) and (6) of my 251600B.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271222B to BERRY, DOMETT, COOKE.)

Hunt for U-Boat by NARCISSUS, E.G.17, BULLDOG. NARCISSUS reports torpedo missed at 1520B position 200 Bolt Tail 4 miles. ASCENSION, LOCH LOMOND, MOORSOM close with despatch and hunt with NARCISSUS, LUNENBURG.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 271455B to S.O.E.G.17)
Suspected U-Boat activity in 50 degs. 10' N. 03 degs. 54' W. at 1520B.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 271620B to all concerned)

Your 271027B.
At 1520 in 50 degs. 10' N. 03 degs. 54' W. course 090 degs. 13 knots A/S contacted torpedo H.E. bearing 060 degs. Altered course 070 degs.
Contact next bearing ahead thence 075 degs. and passed down starboard side. 15.23 doubtful contact red 30 19 00 yards. Closed and lost contact at 1100 yards.
(NARCISSUS, 271715B to C. in C. Plymouth)
Am in good contact 112 degs. Eddystone 11.5.
(BULLDOG, 271755B to Plymouth W/T)
After 2 hedgehog attacks large quantity of fish.
Fish not considered cause of echo. Am carrying out Operation "Observant".
(BULLDOG, 271846B)
Am in firm contact in 216 degs. Bolt tail 8.8 echo sounder show trace at 32 fathoms. Bottom at 40 fathoms.
(BULLDOG, 282016B)

/Have ...

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War Diary

27.4.1945
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Hunt for
U-Boat by
NARCISSUS,
E.G.17
BULLDOG.
(Contd.)

Have taken over bottom contact from BULLDOG in
100 degs. Eddystone 12. LOCH LOMOND, MOORSOM,
DELPHINIUM and ALISMA in company. BULLDOG,
BEAGLE, NARCISSUS and LUNENBURG have proceeded.
Ships have attacked several doubtful contacts in
the vicinity.

(S.O.E.G.17, 272215B)

My 272215. Further squid, Hedgehog and depth
charge attack carried out without result.

Consider all contacts so far obtained definitely non-S/M.

Intend to proceed searching Eddystone and Start Point.

(S.O.E.G.17, 272347B)

German trawler Your 261540. Request you report -
F.G.7.

(a) When and in what country F.G.7 was built.

(b) Whether she was built as a warship or converted
(Hd. of M. 272110B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operations

West Coast of France

Unknown
destroyer.

One unknown Destroyer 47 degs. 39' N. 05 degs.
17' W. course (7003 degs.) 25 knots, request
instructions.

(A/C C/S XXDC 12, 270820B to H.Q. 19 Group)

Patrol
27.

BULLDOG take BEAGLE under his orders pass Gate
when ready at about 2202B/28 and proceed by Q.Z.S.
697 thence through (A) 48 degs. 35' N. 05 degs.
32' W. and (B) 47 degs. 50' N. 03 degs. 32' W. to
take up patrol A of Force 27 on arrival vicinity

Belle Ile at about 2200B/28. Patrol between vicinity of Belle
Ile and Ile de Re and in accordance with F.N.T.F.'s No.27 E.M.3
of 22nd 1945 special attention is to be paid to the possible
escape of U-Boats from Lorient St. Nazaire or La Pallice.

(2) On crossing 48 degs. 30' N. BULLDOG and BEAGLE come under
operational control of C.F.N.T.F. and are to act in accordance
with C.F.N.T.F.'s No.27 E.M.3 as of 22nd April 1945.

Attention is drawn to C.F.N.T.F.'s No.48 E.M. 3 of 25.4.45.

(3) Reports are to be made in accordance with para. 14 and 15 of
Opas.

(4) Communications.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 271812B to BULLDOG, BEAGLE)

As received by W.D.

C.F.N.T.F.
afloat.

From 1200B tomorrow, April 28th, C.F.N.T.F. will
fly his flag in F.S. DUQUESNE. Subsequent
changes will be signalled.

(C.F.N.T.F. 272239B to C. in C. Plymouth)

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War Diary27.4.1945
FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

SS. MONMOUTH COAST. Keep good look out for boats, rafts or wreckage from MONMOUTH COAST which was reported to have sunk, probably torpedoed, 2 days, 80 miles out of Sligo. (C. in C. W.A. 270425B to S.O.E.G.21)

E.G.21 REDMILL torpedoed. REDMILL torpedoed. REDMILL torpedoed in 054 degs. 23' N. 010 degs. 36' W. (S.O.E.G.21, 270924 to C. in C. W.A. Admty.) My 270924. REDMILL still afloat, have ordered FITZROY to join me. No contact yet, request tug. (S.O.E.G.21, 270944B)

Detach one ship to join CONN 054 degs. 23' 010 degs. 36' best speed. (C. in C. W.A. 270957B to FITZROY) My P.C. and S. 055 degs. 57' N. 007 degs. W. 228 degs. 22 knots. (FITZROY, 270959 to C. in C. W.A.) Proceed forthwith will all despatch to Merville. You may be required to proceed from Merville to assist REDMILL torpedoed in 54 degs. 23' N. 10 degs. 36' W. 21st E.G. will be in vicinity and W/T call signs are given in my 271012B not to all addressees. Maintain continuous W/T watch on 1740 K/cs. (N.O.I.C. Campbelltown, 271010B to JAUNTY) REDMILL torpedoed right aft at 0925 when starboard wing ship in line abreast sweep 8 knots. Consider torpedo Gnat which countermined second torpedo close to her quarter. Short burst of H.E. heard by RUPERT suggest possible presence of fast U-Boat. Situation well under control in REDMILL. No contact as yet. Weather report 5782 1973. (S.O.E.G.21, 271054B to C. in C. W.A.) REDMILL reports casualties as follows 22 missing. Wounded one seriously one slightly several minor injuries. (S.O.E.G.21, 271345B) REDMILL position 054 degs. 15' 010 degs. 28' drifting 149 degs. 2 knots. On arrival of second division intend one ship to take her in tow proceeding Northwards with additional ship as escort until tug and escort is met, remainder of group expanding scope of search in endeavour to locate German U-Boat. (S.O.E.G.21, 271421B to C. in C. W.A.) On arrival of BOMBARDIER and JAUNTY. (A) Detach BOMBARDIER at best speed independently to Liverpool. (B) Detail one ship of 21st E.G. to escort tow to Lisahally. Your 271421 not to all refers. (C. in C. W.A. 271724B to S.O.E.G.21) RUPERT has REDMILL in tow. P.C.S. 054 degs. 14' N. 010 degs. 28' W. 000 degs. 4 FITZROY screening. (2) When JAUNTY has joined and taken over tow BOMBARDIER will be detached RUPERT will escort tow and FITZROY rejoin me. Your 271724B refers. (3) CONN, BYRON and INVER continuing searching for U-Boats. (S.O.E.G.21, 272045B to C. in C. W.A.)

/Clyde ...

27.4.1945
Friday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Clyde minesweeping. Para. 1 and 2 or your 252002B. Concur.
(2) Ref. para. 4 a Fleet Minesweeping Flotilla cannot be diverted to this task.
(3) Even if one could be made available the task of clearing the Exercise Area 100% would take about 2 months. Such a degree of security though desirable cannot be obtained without uneconomical use of Minesweepers. Considering the doubt that exists as to whether the incidents were, in fact, caused by mines, it is considered that sufficient security can be achieved by a 60% search of a representative area, an example of which was given in Admiralty's 241937B.
(4) Two ships of 11th M.S.F. now forming LIONESSE (S.O) and LYSANDER due at Tobermory for A/S workup are being diverted to Greenock for this purpose and can be spared for seven days.
(D.M.S. 271843B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Norway

S/M patrols. (Extract) Positions of S/Ms at 0800/28th and movements for subsequent 24 hours.
(1) VENTURER about 61 degs. 04' N. 00 degs. 50' E. to Lerwick on the surface.
(C. of W. 271918B)

S/M sighted 18th April. VARNE reports being illuminated by Star Shell from friendly destroyers at 0325/18th. Evidently Admiralty's 180615 refers/.
(F.O.S/M. 272309B)
✓ S/M sighted by SCORPION.

27.4.1945
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Danish Shipping Danish shipping your 262216B. Owing to later information following should be substituted for my 251651 para. 2. Remaining four tugs at Copenhagen and following tugs employed at Aarhus AALBORG and ODENSE have been requisitioned by

Germans.

AROS 150 horse power, HERMES 495 horse power, JUNO 250 horse power, SAINT KNUD 480 horse power. B.2 repeat B.2.

(2) HALFDAN 1448 tons has also recently been requisitioned. B.2. repeat B.2.

(3) It is reported to prevent escape of Danish vessels to Sweden in future all ships navigating Sound and Kattegat are to be manned by at least one third German crew. C.3.

(N.A. Stockholm, 271531 to Admty.)

Navigational

Pilots for German ports It appears very unlikely that more than a small proportion of the pilots required in German ports will be found from Allied services. Deficiency will have to be made up by use of Germans.

(2) Request that S.H.A.E.F. approval be sought for this proposal and that 21st A.G. be asked to make special efforts to trace and segregate all available German dock, river, and sea pilots as ports are captured.

(A.N.C.X.F. (P.H.), 271654 to A.N.C.X.F. (Main.))

Casualties and Defects

SS. RIVERTON SS. RIVERTON beached at 0830/27 in approximate position $2\frac{1}{2}$ cable N.N.E. Mumbles Light House to effect temporary repairs. (N.C.S.O. Swansea, 271530.)

GORGON Your 251957. On two occasions of 40th M.S.F. proceeding to sea this month GORGON has developed a defect.

(2) During each of the last three periods in Harwich GORGON has been berthed alongside for making good defects.

(3) Report in writing is to be rendered on the operational efficiency of this ship.

(C. in C. Nore, 271622B to M/S 40.)

Movements

SANFOIN Sailed in K.M.S.99 for Med. for onward routing to India.

SEFTON Arrangements.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 270118B.)

TAURUS TAURUS will be ready to sail for Far East May 2nd; request R/V at Clyde Boom for joining O.S. 126/ K.M.S. 100.

(F.O.S/Ms, 271301B to C. in C., W.A.)

/NELSON...

27.4.1945
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

NELSON

Route to Malta.
(O.D., 271919B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Shipping and Convoys

J.W.67,
J.W.68.

Request you will plan to sail J.W. convoys on
the following dates:-
J.W.67 12th May.
J.W.68 9th June.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 271125B to C. in C.H.F.(Afloat)).

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27.4.1945.
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

Escorts

My 271118 part 1.
KILMINGTON proceed forthwith to rendezvous
CAMELLIA escorting NORSEMAN and 2 S/M.
2. KILMINGTON is to escort (Cablesip NORSEMAN)
to Horta unless otherwise ordered by S.B.N.O. Azores, routed
through (route).
CAMELLIA estimated position at 2000B/27th is (HO) 042° 08' N.,
012° 00' W. routed through etc.
3. KILMINGTON report intended rendezvous with CAMELLIA also
P.C. and S. when in company with NORSEMAN (CLEVELAND) and CYCLA-
MEN to return to Gibraltar when Lisbon ships have joined.
(F.O.G.M.A., 271118B to S.E.C. M.K.S.97).

SS. MONTE
MONJUICH.

H.M.S. WELLINGTON sails at 2000B April 27th to R/V
Spanish MONTE MONJUICH in position 35.16 N.,
07.54 W. and accompany her to Gibraltar.
2. Admiralty's 171609 not to all refers.
(F.O.G.M.A., 271148B to C.M.S.F.)

Force 10.

H.M.S. MALCOLM (S.O.) and H.M.S. WOLVERINE sail
0930B/28 to R/V Force 10 in position (A) 037°
42' N., 011° 43' W. and act as additional escort
as far as Carnero Point.
2. On passing Carnero Point S.O. Force 10 is requested to
detach MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, TYRIAN and TUSCAN to enter Gibraltar.
3. Unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Mediterranean BARFLEUR
is to continue to Malta with Force 10.
4. TYRIAN and TUSCAN will be sailed for Malta on completion
of fuelling.
(F.O.G.M.A., 271202A to S.O. Force 10).

S/M
SPEARHEAD.

SPEARHEAD sailed in O.S.124/K.M.S.98 for
Gibraltar, Malta and Far East.
(Capt. (S) 3, 272245B to F.O.G.M.A.)

French
Submarine
MORSE.

F.S. MORSE sailed in O.S.124/K.M.S.98 for
Gibraltar and Algiers.
(Capt. (S) 3, 272247B to F.O.G.M.A.)

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27.4.1945.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

East London
Graving
Dock.

East London Graving Dock South African railways and harbours administration now planning lay out workshops and other facilities adjacent to dock site. Space available is severely restricted and incapable expansion. Conference held at East London, 7th February at request Union Authorities and information requested following points (1) to what extent is it intended to utilize graving dock for naval ships destroyer or cruiser classes observing that skilled labour available ship repairs unlikely to be much greater than now available for refits corvettes and trawlers. etc. etc., (C. in C. S.A., 271050 to Admiralty). *See 192334 B. June -*

Tugs
BUSY and
CONFIDENT.

On completion of tows to St. Vincent, A.M.201927 April (not to C. in C. Mediterranean) refers, tugs BUSY and CONFIDENT are allocated to C. in C. Mediterranean.
2. Request they be sailed to Gibraltar and thence as required by C. in C. Med.
(F.O.C.W.Africa, 271601B to F.O.G.M.A.)

27.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

LINGAY
(Danlayer)
6th M.S.

Sailed LINGAY 262114C to Aden to await arrival of M/S.6. F.O.L.E.M's 242018C April not to all refers.
(2) E.T.A. 020300Z, S. of A. 10 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 271057 to Admty.)

Transfer of
command of
Western Med.
Area to
Admiral
Mediterranee
(Almed).

Propose Tuesday 1st May. Your 251758.
Almed concurs.
(F.O.W.M., 271152B to C. in C. Med.)

MOORSMAN,
(B.D.V.)

Sailed B.D.V. MOORSMAN 270650C to Aden for onward routing to East Indies.
(2) S. of A. 8 knots, E.T.A. 040400Z.
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 271237 to Admty.)

Movement.

Arrivals 27th April - AJAX, Landing Craft Tank 619 and 157.
(N.O.I.C. Taranto, 271955B to Admty.)

Situation
Report
No. 559.

Preliminary reports from Spezia indicate that although entrance is very effectively blocked, damage to docks and harbour facilities is not so extensive as was thought likely to be the case.
(C. in C. Med., 272219B to F.O.G.M.A., etc.)

27.4.1945.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

DUSK
M/S Trawler.

Presume instructions for H.M.S. DUSK will be given. My 160536 refers.
2. Request reply to my 071007 reference disposal of joint fixed defences.
(C. in C. E.I., 270910Z to Admty).

"Mauritius"
fuelling
base.

Intend to discontinue use of Grand Port Mauritius as fuelling base for H.M. Ships. Propose oil fuel installation is to be put on care and maintenance bases and tanks to remain empty.
(C. in C. E.I., 271209Z to Admty).

Operation
"Dracula".

Units allocated force W (My 150603 and associated signals refer). Amendment number 3 fleet train (my 150701) para. 1 (C) GOLD RANGER, due Kyaukpyu 1st May. para. 2 (E) delete EMPIRE BUTE add CROMWELL, due Kyaukpyu 1st May load 480 tons 100 octane 750 tons water.
(C. in C. E.I., 271219Z to S.O. Force W).

27.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

- S/M
SEAROVER. Philadelphia arrived 26th April H.M.C.S. GUELPH escorting SEAROVER.
(N.S.H.Q., 270022Z to Admty.)
- E.G. B1. B.1 - CHELMERK (S.O.), INMAN, TINTAGEL CASTLE, all H.F/D.F., POPPY, DIANELLA, STARWORT sail St. Johns 1300Z/27th to relieve you in Westomp, 43.59 N., 49.50 W. at 1400Z/28th H.X.352.
(2) On relief W.3 proceed direct St. Johns.
(F.O.N.F., 271142Z to S.E. H.X.352.)
- Surrender of U-Boat fleet. Cominch has concurred in Admiralty message 241201.
(2) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's very early comments are requested.
(3) Admiral Archer is requested in concert with Admiral Olsen to obtain Soviet views on paras. 8 and 9 as a matter of urgency.
(V.C.N.S., 271254B to N.S.H.Q.)
- U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 271324Z, Cominch 271528Z.)
- M/V
SS. PANAMA (overdue). PANAMA straggler from O.N. 294 since 14th when convoy was in 45.13 N., 45.13 W. is overdue. Possibility exists that ship is broken down and has drifted east-north-east. Request you will have planes transiting area, keep lookout for this ship.
(Com. 10th Fleet, 271446Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- M/V
SS. PANAMA due Philadelphia ex O.N. 294 has not arrived.
(N.S.H.Q., 271558Z to Admty.)
- SHEFFIELD, (Cruiser). SHEFFIELD expects to be ready to leave U.S.A. about 3rd June after 17 days working up.
(2) Request port to which she should proceed.
(B.A.D., 271455Z to Admty.)
- U/B report. Para. (C) (1) 270543Z M.V. WILLIAM F. MACLENNAN reported sighting U-Boat 36.59 N., 74.28 W.
(D) (1) 270720Z U.S.S. DELONG had brief radar contact 25.33 N., 76.24 W.
(Cominch, 272035Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)
- Submarine sweep. When ready 28th April T.Gs. 22, 5, 22, 13 depart Argentia for ultimate operations against Sowest bound submarines located general area 51 N., 31 W. on 26th April. En route make good sweep from long. 55 W. along 52.30 N. to long. 43.30 W. thence towards 50 N., 35 W.
(C. in C. Lant, 272248Z to C.T.Gs. 22.5, 22.13.)

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27.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia

ACHILLES,
(Cruiser). Having completed refit H.M.N.Z.S. ACHILLES departed Auckland 26th for Sydney en route to join British Pacific Fleet, E.T.A. 29th. (N.Z.N.B., 260012Z to Admty.)

Appreciation. T.L. message 261042, is much appreciated. (C. in C. B.P.F., 270720Z to Admty.)

Digest
1192,
26th April.
(Extract) (3) Search planes from Palawan sunk lugger Natoena Island and demolished one truck 70 miles south-west Brunei.
(4) Mariner from Lingayen night 25th/26th April scored hit and near misses on north-west bound large sea truck 15 miles by north Hainan.
(8) 4 Mustangs scored 2 direct hits single sea truck north Baman Island (off northern Luzon) also fired vessel by straffings.
(15) Night 25th/26th P.Ts. from Lingayen fired 4 torpedoes at possible small freighter transport at mouth Cegayan River, without seeing results.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 270848Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary. For 24 hours to 0800Z/27th April.
Para. (A) (1) M.T.Bs. 711 and 723 attacked surfaced U-Boat at 0304Z/26th in approx. lat. 59° 16' N., long. 04° 41' E.
(2) Br. MONMOUTH COAST 878 tons reported sunk following explosion on 24th approx. 80' from

Sligo, Ireland (R).
(3) H.M. Ship attacked by U-Boat at 0724Z/27th in lat. 54° 23' N., long. 10° 36' W.
Para. (B) (1) A/C attacked surfaced U-Boat at 0405Z/27th in lat. 71° 00' N., long. 32° 00' E.
(2) U.S.S. POOLE attacked contact at 2255Z/26th in lat. 49° 52' N., long. 04° 08' W.
(3) A/C B/461 sighted object indicating U-Boat at 1830Z/26th in lat. 56° 00' N., long 11° 07' W.
Para. (C) (1) Fair Isle radar station sighted trail of smoke at 0825Z/26th in approx. lat. 59° 36' N., long. 01° 29' W.
(2) A/C N/224 sighted possible schnorkel smoke at 1400Z/26th in lat. 62° 15' N., long. 02° 50' W.
(3) H.M. A/S Trawler ROYAL MARINE attacked contact at 1056Z/26th in lat. 53° 59' N., long. 04° 56' W.
(4) CAMBRIAN attacked doubtful contact at 2128Z/26th in approx. lat. 55° 13' N., long. 05° 13' W.
(5) A/C P/112 sighted schnorkel or large P/S at 0655Z/26th in lat. 49° 53' N., long. 01° 06' W.

(REDMILL)

27.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

(6) U.S.S. POOLE obtained radar contact at 0102Z/26th in lat. 45° 28' N., long. 07° 12' W.
 (7) A/C B/162 sighted schnorkel and smoke at 1002Z/26th in lat. 62° 26' N., long. 17° 14' W.
 Para. (D) (1) H.M.C.S. LONGUEUIL reports schnorkel sighted by M.A.C. A/C at 1316Z/26th in lat. 46° 38' N., long. 19° 41' W.
 (D.D.I.C., 271124B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B
 dispositions.

Estimates.
 (D.D.I.C., 271325B to A.I.G.331, Cominch.)

C.A.S.O.
 No. 8 -
 Use of
 Squid-fitted
 ships for
 attack.

From recent reports of proceedings it would appear that in deep water operations the superiority of Squid and the value of depth prediction asdic are not always appreciated.
 (2) In a recent action against a deep U-Boat the one Squid-fitted ship present was sent to do an "Observant" while two other ships not fitted with type 147 carried out a series of unsuccessful hedgehog attacks and eventually

lost contact.

(3) On certain other occasions, however, the successful destruction of a U-Boat in difficult circumstances has been attributable to the forbearance of a Senior Officer, not fitted with Squid, withholding attacks until they could be delivered by a Squid-fitted ship.

(4) It is not desired to diminish faith in the hedgehog, which is scoring an increasing number of kills, but in deep water a hedgehog, not assisted by depth prediction asdic, is at a definite disadvantage compared with ships which are so fitted, and still more so in comparison with Squid-fitted ships.

(5) The general policy in mixed groups should be as follows:

(a) When detailing ships to attack a U-Boat in deep water, preference should be given to Squid-fitted ships, or ships with hedgehog and depth prediction asdic.

(b) When a U-Boat is detected in waters where, due to the existence of a layer, or for any other reason, evasive action by the U-Boat is likely to be successful, it is desirable, if a Squid-fitted ship can be put into contact without delay, for the first attack to be delivered by Squid. Normally, however, it is better for the first attack to be made by the first ship in contact.

(c) The above considerations do not apply to a contact which is an immediate menace to the convoy or unit screened; such contacts must of course be attacked without delay by the first ship in contact.

(A.C.N.S.(W.), 271656B to A.I.G. 18, etc.)

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28.4.1945
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Western
Approaches.

1. REDMILL has been taken in tow by rescue tug JAUNTY.

Northern
Waters.

2. The White Sea section of convoy J.W. 66 has arrived at Archangel.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

3. H.M.B.Y.M.S. 2053 was mined and sunk in Adriatic today in 44° 41' N. 12° 37' E. (60 miles S.E. of Venice). 2 ratings were killed.

Far East and Australia.

Borneo.

4. Allied light cruisers bombarded Tarakan (N.E. Borneo) yesterday and today causing fires. There was no retaliation.

Indo-China.

5. Mitchells co-operating with Lightnings hit Saigon shipping at midday. One medium and one small freighter probably sunk, two others were hit and left burning.

28.4.1945.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Possible
U-boat
surrenders.

It is possible that enemy submarines may, of their own volition, show a desire to surrender, for example, by coming to the surface, displaying a white flag, extending periscopes or assembling crews on deck.

2. If any of these conditions are fulfilled no offensive action is to be taken but careful watch should be kept for treachery.

3. An immediate report is to be made and the U-boat is to be escorted to the nearest British or Allied port.
(V.C.N.S., 282333B to all Authorities).

Operations

North Sea.

Escort
reinforcements
for Nore
Command.

EGGESFORD, BRECON and AVONVALE are allocated to the Nore Command for temporary service on return to U.K.

2. C. in C. Nore is requested to provide the fast escort referred to in A.M. 081551 (not to all)* as from 2nd May. A.C. Dover 271159 not to all.

(D.O.D. (H), 281239B to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth V.A. Dover).

*Fast Escort to be provided for cross-Channel troop movements.

Relief food
supplies for
Western
Holland.

Negotiations are being conducted with a view to sending relief food supplies to Western Holland for civil population. Chiefs of Staff have offered limited safe conduct to Swedish Ship HALLAREN for voyage from Borkum to Rotterdam subject to following provisos:-

(A) HALLAREN to be brightly illuminated and report position by radio every three hours.
(B) If necessary Allied air patrols to be withdrawn from appropriate area during period of HALLAREN's voyage provided patrols by Naval craft can be maintained.
2. Sailing of ship dependent on agreement by German Authorities. Further signal will be made when date of sailing is agreed.
(Air Ministry 281445B to H.Q.C.C.)

Discharge
Situation
Report.

Cosintrep No.389 Part 4 Section A.
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending
1600A/27 April.

/British...

28.4.1945.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Discharge
Situation
Report
(contd).

| <u>British</u> | <u>Personnel</u> | <u>Vehicles</u> | <u>Stores</u> | <u>Bulk Coal</u> | <u>Bulk Pol.</u> | <u>G.F. Ammo</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Antwerp | 77 | 348 | 13,032 | 599 | 9,817 | 1,397 |
| Ostend | 1,766 | 105 | 2,488 | - | - | 717 |
| Caen | - | - | - | 1,420 | - | - |
| Calais | 5,870 | - | 111 | - | - | - |
| Boulogne | 154 | 74 | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 7,867 | 527 | 15,631 | 2,019 | 9,817 | 2,114 |
| <u>U.S. North</u> | | | | | | |
| Antwerp | - | 147 | 30,605 | - | - | 1 |
| Cherbourg | 16 | 165 | 3,681 | 536 | 1,380 | 1,630 |
| Le Havre | 1,038 | 159 | 5,261 | 300 | - | 1,271 |
| Rouen | 1 | - | 6,492 | 600 | 706 | - |
| Ghent | - | - | 9,898 | - | - | 1,334 |
| Total | 1,055 | 471 | 55,937 | 1,436 | 2,086 | 4,237 |
| <u>U.S. South</u> | | | | | | |
| Marseilles | 3 | 99 | 10,356 | - | - | - |
| Port de Bouc | 1 | - | 2,234 | - | - | - |
| Toulon | - | - | 282 | - | - | - |
| Total | 4 | 99 | 12,872 | - | - | - |

(Signed Eisenhower Cite S.H.G.D.S).
(S.H.A.E.F., 281500A to Admiralty etc).

Patrols My 271715B Coastal Forces from U.K. remaining in Harbour at 30 minutes notice.
(C. in C. Nore, 281750B to Nore Command).

Operations

Channel

Possible U-boat. Attacks on good bottomed contact in position 50° 08.1' N., 03° 47' W, have produced diesel oil. Am carrying out further attack.
(S.O.E.G., 17, 281108B to C. in C. Plymouth).
My 281108 Further attacks have produced large quantities of diesel oil. No other evidence.
(S.O.E.G., 17, 281337B to C. in C. Plymouth).

/My...

28.4.1945.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Possible
U-boat.
(contd).

My 281337 Echo sounder trace shows object on bottom approximately 10 feet high and 110 feet long. 13 attacks by various ships and have produced (only?) more diesel oil and one new life buoy painted dark grey and of doubtful origin (S.O.E.G.17, 281645B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Midget
U-boats.

Midget U-boats in Central and Eastern Channel Areas.

Midget U-boats of the SEEHUND type may now be met throughout the Portsmouth and Dover Command Areas.

2. Ships sighting a Midget U-boat are to make an enemy report in plain language on appropriate port wave. Precedence "Emergency". Full use is also to be made of R/T for informing ships in company.
3. The chances of obtaining Asdic contact are small but immediate counter action should be taken without it as Midgets are particularly susceptible to depth charges.
4. If sighted a counter attack is to be made.
5. If Midget dives or if Midget activity is suspected without a sighting a likely area is to be plastered with depth charges.
6. The attack restrictions quoted in P.G.M.45 D para. 6 are lifted and no restrictions are now in force on attacks on these targets.
7. P.G.M.45 D (120004) and P.G.M. 55 D (252146) are cancelled. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 281423B to Portsmouth Command).

Patrols.

Your 281645. When satisfied your target is not a U-boat proceed at sweeping speed to establish patrol in area bounded by 49° 45' N., 50° 10' N., 05° 10' W. 06° 35' W.

2. When two convoys are in area each division trail one. My 281714 to LOCH KILLIN refers.
3. Scilly Isles area should receive special attention.
4. Report intentions.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281914B to S.O.E.G.17).

Operations

West Coast France.

Possible
U-boat
minelaying.

Further to my 201715B not to all addressees. In view of continued evidence of menace of U-boats in Biscay Area the probability of the laying of moored or ground mines cannot be excluded.

2. Consider therefore that ships on patrol in Bay of Biscay should avoid areas where such activity might occur and should not enter ports unless the approaches thereto have previously been swept for both types of mines. (C. in C. Plymouth, 281333B to C.F.N.T.F.)

C. in C. Plymouth's 281333. I do not consider this should prevent present plan being carried out. (A.N.C.X.F., 282231B to C.T.F.122).

28.4.1945.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France - Contd.

F.S. DUQUESNE F.S. DUQUESNE and escort sailed 1331B/28. My plan 48 E.M. 3 refers. (C.F.N.T.F., 281341 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Alleged Enemy anti-radar apparatus. "Reourdis" 211732B. French report further investigation disproves M.T.B. Radar tubes blown by enemy apparatus. (C.T.F.122, 281610B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

Western Approaches.

REDMILL torpedoed. REDMILL taken in tow by JAUNTY. P.C. and S. 54° 36', 10° 15', 045°, 8 BOMBARDIER detached to Liverpool. RUPERT escorting tow. FITZROY rejoining S.O., E.G.21. (FITZROY, 280830B to C. in C. W.A.)

Survivors in FOLEY and BAYNTON. Propose to detach FOLEY to Milford Haven to land survivors one of whom is seriously injured. (S.O.E.G.10, 281034B to C. in C. W.A.) My 281034B. Propose to detach BAYNTON with FOLEY as second patient is unfit for transfer and requires to be landed as soon as possible. (S.O.E.G.10, 281115B to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-boat deep mining. Torpedoing of SS. RIVERTON on 23rd April indicates renewal of U-boat activity on North Cornish Coast. 2. Large numbers of wrecks in this area presents great difficulties to hunting forces. 3. It is therefore proposed that area of deep

minefields be extended from Q.Z.X. 1464 southward to northern limit of cable area in vicinity Pendeen.

4. Proposals are based on following assumptions:

- (a) One fast minelayer can be made available.
- (b) Each lay will consist of 156 mines laid 200 feet apart.
- (c) Mines to be laid at 60 feet below chart datum in minimum depth of 17 fathoms.

(d) 35 feet safety switches fitted to all mines.

5. Detailed proposals which follow consist of eleven lines of mines each 5.16 miles in length.

| <u>Line Number</u> | <u>Latitude</u> | <u>Longitude</u> | <u>Direction</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 50° 10.2' N. | 05° 43.2' W. | 336° |
| 2 | 50° 14.2' | 05° 42.8' | 360° |
| 3 | 50° 11.6' | 05° 40' | 360° |
| 4 | 50° 17.8' | 05° 37.2' | 360° |
| 5 | 50° 20.9' | 05° 34' | 360° |
| 6 | 50° 19' | 05° 31' | 360° |
| 7 | 50° 18.5' | 05° 27.5' | 360° |
| 8 | 50° 22.6' | 05° 24.6' | 356° |
| 9 | 50° 20.6' | 05° 21.9' | 356° |
| 10 | 50° 24.8' | 05° 19.2' | 356° |
| 11 | 50° 26' | 05° 13.8' | 356° |

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28.4.1945.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Anti-U-boat
deep mining.
(contd).

6. Proposed order of priority for laying - Lines one, two, four, six, eight, three, five, ten, seven, nine, eleven.

7. Request approval and allocation of fast minelayer.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 281204B to Admty).

Date to begin this laying, see 051448B, page 96, May.

Freedom of
river Clyde
from mines.

Your 272123 and A.M. 271843.

Until greater certainty can be reached by means of further sweeps that Clyde is free of mines, it is desired to retain use of Q.Z.S. 716 which passes through the least likely area for enemy mine-laying. It is requested that Clyde minesweeping

forces may extend the width of this channel to the westward.

2. It is further requested that search by LIONESS and LYSANDER to be conducted in an area where mines are most likely. The area to the eastward of a line 10 miles long drawn 205° from Pladda is recommended.

3. Decision when to revert to the original searched channel will depend on the result of the above search.

(C. in C. W.A., 281845B to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Anti-U-boat
deep water
tactics.

A recent A/S action in deep water that was finally brought to a successful conclusion has served to emphasize the point that a support group may, at any time, become involved in this type of action, when it will be necessary to forget the tactics recently developed for shallow water

operations and concentrate on those previously so successful in deep water.

2. For the ship whose Asdic equipment has been fully modernised and is working efficiently 8E Type 144, (i.e. Type 144, Type 1478 "Q" attachment and slant range corrector) the deep U-boat should present no special problems.

3. The less fortunate, however, must be prepared to revert to such stratagems as the creeping attack (C.B.4097 (2), para. 253 et seq.) and should remember that an inaccurate attack expeditiously carried out when the U-boat is still shallow may save them a lost of time and trouble.

(C. in C. W.A., 282016B to Western Approaches Command).

Loss of SS.
MONMOUTH
COAST.

My 272045.

(3) Search of Donegal Bay during night and south part of patrol area today has had no trace. Intend resume patrol in general area.

(2) One new Board of Trade pattern Kapok life belt and several pieces wood wreckage only sighted approx. 54° 15' N., 10° 40' W. Your 270425B refers.

Weather report 6468 2175.

(S.O.E.G.21, 282146B to C. in C. W.A.)

28.4.1945.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway.

Convoy J.W.66. White Sea section J.W.66 arrived a.m./28th April. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 281247B to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Patrols. I.S.O.H. 30, VENTURER reports:-
(1) 24th April 0903. Position, course and speed of Flush Deck M/V 1500 tons towed by small tug with three small coasters astern 58° 34', 05° 36' E. 160° 8 knots. Fired four torpedoes range 1600 yards missed. Torpedoes seen to explode on shore. Target may have been Rhine barge.
(2) 25th in Skudesness Fjord. Two A/S trawlers after carrying out sweep, seen at anchor off S.E. coast of Karmoy alongside each other, fired one torpedo from 500 yards. No explosion although torpedo was heard to run for about 25 seconds and then stop with a slight concussion, one trawler only got under way and dropped 10 single depth charges to seaward not very close.
(3) Some small craft sighted.
(S.O.S.M., Lerwick, 281505B to F.O.S.M.)

Movements

DIDO cruiser. My 271456. (1) Proceed by war channels to Rosyth passing Hoxa at 2130B today Saturday.
(2) Weather permitting speed of advance to May Island 24 knots.
(3) E.T.A. Oxcars 0700B/29th.
(4) Pass over Burnt Island D.G. range before entering.
(5) After passing Oxcars act as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth.
(6) Admiralty divert mails.
(C. in C. H.F., 281059 to DIDO).

NELSON, battleship. My 271919. NELSON is to proceed through 180° Portland Bill twenty miles then to 180° Start Point twenty miles.
(Plot (O.D.) 281114B to C. in C. Portsmouth)
Admiralty's 271919B. Following is Mediterranean standard eastbound route as given in Mediterranean convoy instructions.

| <u>Numbered position</u> | <u>Latitude</u> | <u>Longitude</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 57 | 35.59 N. | 05.21 W. |
| 72 | 35.42 N. | 03.01 W. |
| 109 | 35.53 N. | 00.38 W. |
| 122 | 36.38 N. | 01.03 E. |
| 120 | 36.53 N. | 03.05 E. |
| 51 | 37.00 N. | 03.51 E. |
| 36 | 37.11 N. | 06.21 E. |
| 121 | 37.10 N. | 08.02 E. |
| 79 | 37.18 N. | 08.54 E. |
| 140 | 37.25.00 N. | 09.44.36 E. |
| 207 | 37.17.36 N. | 10.05.48 E. |
| 123 | 37.15.00 N. | 10.25.30 E. |
| 214 | 37.08 N. | 11.07 E. |
| 275 | 36.40 N. | 12.00 E. |
| 251 | 36.14 N. | 14.49 E. |

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281310B to NELSON).

/With...

War Diary

28.4.1945.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movement

NELSON battleship (contd). With HARGOOD (S.O.), WALDEGRAVE, VIDETTE and WATCHMAN under your orders, take departure from Nab at 1100B 29th April and sail for Malta in accordance with A.M. 192311B April.
2. Routed to Dunnose Buoy thence to 50° 30' N., 01° 10' W. thence to 50° 22' N., 02° 15' W. thence 180° Portland Bill 20 miles thence 180° Start Point 20 miles and thereafter in accordance with A.M. 271919B April. Details of Mediterranean Standard Eastbound route are contained in my 281310 to NELSON and Admiralty only.
3. Speed of advance 16 knots E.T.A. 180° Start Point 20 1830B 29th, E.T.A. lat. 46° N., 1200B/30th, E.T.A. Europa Point 2230B 2nd May.
4. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to signal arrangements for relieving escorts in vicinity of 180° Start Point 20.
5. 19 Group is requested to provide A/S cover from 1100B until last light 29th. Codeword Faust. From 180 Start Point 20 course is 233°. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 281425B to NELSON).

A.F.D.69, floating dock. F.O.I.C. London is requested to sail A.F.D.69 in tow of MARAUDER when ready about 6th May for Falmouth.
2. Cs. in C. concerned are requested to arrange escorts to Falmouth. (D.O.D. (H), 281344B to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth Plymouth, F.O.I.C. London).

Shipping & Convoys

Troop Movements. Following is summary No.88 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool to 31st May:-

| <u>Serial No.</u> | <u>Convoy</u> | <u>Ship</u> | <u>Port</u> | <u>Sails</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <u>(A) In:-</u> | | | | |
| (1) | A.T.206 | PASTEUR | Liverpool | a.m. 4.5 |
| (2) | C.U.67 | NEA HELLAS | Clyde | 5.5 |
| (3) | M.K.F.43 | As shown in Summary 87 except that ORDUNA and JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT proceed to Clyde for disembarkation and to await berth in Liverpool | | 5.5 |
| (4) | A.T.207 | ILE DE FRANCE | Clyde | 9.5 |
| (5) | C.U.68 | VOLENDAM | Probably Liverpool | 13.5 |
| (6) | A.T.208 | AQUITANIA | Clyde | 15.5 |
| (7) | - | JOHAN DE WITT | Clyde | about 13.5 |
| (8) | S.D.65 | LARGS BAY | Clyde | 15.5 |
| (9) | C.U.69 | STIRLING CASTLE | Probably Liverpool | 18.5 |
| (10) | C.U.70 | SCYTHIA | Probably Liverpool | 23.5 |
| (11) | - | ANDES | Liverpool | about 23.5 |
| (12) | M.K.F.44 | Composition will be notified later. | | 23.5 |
| (13) | C.U.71 | ATHLONE CASTLE | Liverpool probably | 28.5 |
| (14) | - | MAURETANIA | Liverpool | End May |

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Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Troop
Movements
(contd).

| <u>Serial No.</u> | <u>Convoy</u> | <u>Ship</u> | <u>Port</u> | <u>Due</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>(B) Out:-</u> | | | | |
| (15) | U.C.66A | ATHLONE CASTLE | Liverpool | 1.5 |
| (16) | U.C.66B | RANCHI | Clyde | 4.5 |
| (17) | K.M.F.44 | Composition as Notified | | 5.5 |
| (18) | D.S.65 | LARGS BAY | Clyde | p.m. 8.5 |
| (19) | - | PASTEUR | Liverpool | 9.5 |
| (20) | J.9 | RANGITATA | Liverpool | 9.5 |
| (21) | U.C.67B | DUCHESS OF BEDFORD FRANCONIA BRITANNIC | Liverpool | 13.5 |
| (22) | T.A.207 | ILE DE FRANCE | Clyde | 14.5 |
| (23) | J.8 | DOMINION MONARCH | Liverpool | 17.5 |
| (24) | T.A.208 | AQUITANIA | Clyde | 20.5 |
| (25) | K.M.F.45 | Composition will be notified shortly | | 23.5 |

2. The above is for your information and guidance and is liable to alteration during period to 5th May when further signal will be made.

(D. of S.T., 282035 to P.S.T.Os. Clyde, and Scottish Ports, N.W. Ports).

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. MONTE
MONJUICH
(Spanish).

E.T.A. Carnero 0130/29th. MONTE MONJUICH
in company.
(WELLINGTON, 281843B to F.O.G.M.A.)

28.4.1945
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Danube mining. Your R.A.C. 1082/3303 of 201245 April. Full details of Danube mining, including plotted charts, were handed to General Biruysov's Chief of Staff in Sofia by Captain Maund in early November. These were flown to Officer Commanding Soviet Danube Flotilla on following day.
(Head of M. 280001B to B.M.M. Roumania)

Boom defence Vessels. Departure DEVON CITY, BARMOND, BARCLOSE, BARFORD.
(N.O.I.C.Suez, 281055C to Admty.)

Towage to Eastern Theatre. A.M. 211924 para. 5.
(2) RESTIVE refitted in Jan. and will be sailed as early as possible.
(3) HENGIST completes refit in Mid-May and will then be sailed.
(4) CHARON and FRISKY require refit but cannot be spared for that purpose until relieved when they can either be taken in hand on this station or sailed to U.K. Request decision which alternative should be adopted.
(C. in C. Med. 281404B to Admty.)

Mines at Ports. Instances have shown that complete safety from ground mines cannot be assured in spite of extensive minesweeping operations due to temporary defects in some ground mine units becoming active later.
(2) It is however considered that this risk of mine damage is now sufficiently small to allow vessels up to 5,000 tons to proceed to certain French Ports in the Mediterranean but it should be made quite clear that this must be entirely at the risk of the vessel concerned.
(3) Undegaussed vessels over 5,000 tons are not permitted to enter French Ports at present.
(4) It is suggested that neutral ships not exceeding 5,000 GRT should be wiped at Gibraltar before proceeding France area, this could be done in 36 hours.
(C. in C. Med. 281903B to Comnavaw)

Situation report No.452. Advanced party arrived Genoa evening of 27th April. Weather is at present unsuitable for M/S H.M.S. AURORA is standing off.
(C. in C. Med. Flt. 282049B to F.O.L.E.M. and others)

HENGIST Rescue Tug. On completion of HENGIST's refit in mid-May F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail her to U.K. to destination indicated by Admiralty.
(C. in C. Med. 282235 to F.O.G.M.A.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

- DUSK
M.S.Trawler. Your 160536Z/April. H.M.T. DUSK is under consideration for further service in Eastern Theatre.
(2) Further signal will be sent.
(D.S.V.P. for Head of M. 280107B to C. in C. E.I.)
- A/S Trawlers. Your 021103Z/ April. Trawlers LYDIARD and VICTORIAN are under consideration for further service in Eastern Theatre.
(2) Further signal will be sent.
(D.S.V.P. for Hd. of M. 280108B to C. in C. E.I.)
/ Reduction in local defence craft.
- S/Ms. Approved to retain SIBYL and for STRONGBOW to return U.K. for refit end May.
Your 270313 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all.
(C. in C. E.I. 280534Z to Capt. (S/M) 2)
- S/M
CLYDE. A.M. 081745 March and 092059 April being passed to N.O.I.C. East Africa. Intend Capt. (S) 2 remove any gear he requires from H.M.S. CLYDE at Trincomalee.
(2) H.M.S. CLYDE to be sailed to Kilindini mid-June for pay-off and disposal.
(3) Work required is similar to that done on H.M.S. OSIRIS.
(5) Capt. (S) 2 is requested to arrange disposal of all personnel.
(C. in C. E.I. 280610Z to Admty.)
- S/M
TANTALUS. Sailed TANTALUS at 0600Z/28th to Suez for onward routeing to U.K.
(Com. Aden, 280714Z to N.O.I.C. Suez.)
- Cable repairs. 646. Kilindini 08Z 29th Cable ship RECORDER (escorted by H.M.S. HONESTY) repairs position
(G) 8th May knots 7½.
(E) 009 degs. 24' S. 047 degs. 05' E.
(F) 011 degs. 25' 050 degs. 05'
(G) 020 degs. 46' 055 degs. 22'.
(Kilindini, 280814Z to Admty.)
- A.F.D.39. Arrived LOCHY, VERBENA, A.F.D.39.
(N.O.I.C.Seychelles, 280830Z to Admty.)

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U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 281302Z to Admty and Cominch 281511Z)

Surrender of U-Boat Fleet. Concur in Admiralty 241201B including amendments outlined in para. 7.
We propose further amendments as follows.
Para. Three (C) For G.M.T. read Zone time.
Para. Seven. Suggest W/T instructions be expended to include nearest Canadian

Coast W/T.
(2) Points of surrender designated by R.C.N. are (A) Lat. 47 degs. 18' N. Long. 52 degs. 30' W. Approach from position 47 degs. 18' N. 51 degs. 30' W. on course 270 degs.
(B) Lat. 43 degs. 31' N. Long. 65 degs. 05' W. Approach from point 42 degs. 59' N. 64 degs. 28' W. on course 320 degs.
(N.S.H.Q. 281414Z to Admty, Cominch)

Operations against S.W. bound S/Ms. Departing Argentina 1930 April 28 route 50 N. 35 W. E.T.A. 1430/3. All times Z. S.O.A. 12 sweeping and flight operations en route complying C. in C. Lant's 272248/.
(C.T.G.22.5, 281515 to C. in C. Lant.)
/ T.G's 22,5,22.13 depart Argentina for operations against Southwest bound S/Ms.

T.G.60.4. This reconstitutes C.T.G.60.4. Capt. Gordinier in PHELPS, CALCATERRA, CHAMBERS, MERRILL, PEORIA, depart New York and Hampton Roads 7-8 May escorting U.G.S.91 to Western Mediterranean.

Escorts lay over Oran. When C. in C. Med. directs return U.S. escorting G.U.S.93.
(C. in C. Lant, 281558Z to C.T.G.60.4.)

U.C/C.U. Convoys. Sailing U.C/C.U. convoys on 5 day interval will commence with C.U.69 sailing 10 May. Sailing U.C.69 as one group from U.K. on 24th May or 25th May awaiting confirmation Admty.
Sailing U.C.69 is presently scheduled 25th May subject to later advancement to date indicated above.
(Com. 10th. Fleet C. & R. 281646Z to C. in C. Lant.)

Contacts. C (1) 1438Z/27 U.S.S. GLEAVES had several sound contacts and made an attack in 43.11 N. 69.43 W. Admiralty pass info. to H.Q.C.C.
D (1) Beginning 2345Z/27 A/C had several intermittent Radar contacts 37.08 N. 75.15 W.
(Cominch, 282027Z to Admty for O.I.C.)

U-Boat Surrender. Due consideration must be given to possibility German U-Boats may surrender prior cessation

/hostilities ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat
surrender
(Contd.)

hostilities in Germany and without being aware of special instructions given in my 262030-07. Desire to surrender may be indicated by steps such as the following: surfacing with engines stopped, showing white flag, extending periscopes, crew on deck with rubber dinghies displayed etc.

Ref. 262030-07: furtherance my 242155/6. Points of surrender in U.S. designated as latitude 43.30 N. long. 70 W. and lat. 38.20 N. long. 74.25 W. S/M to approach through point 15 miles due east ... etc.
(Cominch C.N.O. 282054 to Navop)

U.S.
Amphibious
Forces
(Release of)

On 15th May all U.S. Amphibious forces in Mediterranean with the exception of 10 L.S.T. and 10 L.C.I.(L) will be released. Return forces so released including DUANE with commander amphibious group 10 and staff embarked to U.S. ships will be readied for distant service. Return proportionate amount spare parts and reduce personnel in amphibious bases accordingly. Decision on release date of the remaining 10 L.S.T. and 10 L.C.I.(L) will be made 10 May. Submit schedule of returning vessels. If desired you may hold 10 L.C.T's for return in the 10 L.S.Ts mentioned first sentence.
(Cominch, 282103Z to Com. 12th Fleet) *see 16/402 May.*

Far East and Australia

Movement.

Departure Fremantle 1130/28th April.
H.M.S. NEWCASTLE for Colombo escorting EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.
(N.O.I.C.Fremantle, 280430Z to C. in C. E.I.)

B.P.F.
operations.

It is observed from your 250747(N.T. in W.D.) that Fleet is back at Leyte. Request brief report on final strike. Your 190234 para. 4. (D.O.D.(F) Approvd. V.C.N.S. 281346B to C. in C. B.P.F. reply 300743Z.

DIAMANTINA
(Frigate).

Commissioned at Brisbane 27th. H.M.A.S. DIAMANTINA (Frigate).
(N.B.Melbourne, 281951 to Admty.)

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28.4.1945
Saturday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0800Z/28th April.

Para. A. (1) NARCISSUS missed by torpedo at
1320Z/27th in 50 degs. 10' N. 03 degs. 54' W.

(2) A/C F/489 attacked U-Boat on surface at
0120Z/27th in 58 degs. 10' N. 08 degs. 30' E.

Para. B. (1) H.M.S. BULLDOG attacked contact
with 2 H.H. at 1555Z/27th in 50 degs. 04' N. 04 degs. 00' W.
(2) H.M.S. BULLDOG obtained contact at 1816Z/27th in 50 degs.
06' N. 03 degs. 51' W.

(3) A.S. Trawler CAPE NYEMETSKI experienced two unexplained
explosions at 1435Z/26th in 51 degs. 38' N. 05 degs. 33' W.
(D.D.I.D. 281153B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

U-Boat

dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 281405B to A.I.G.331 and Cominch)

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29.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. NELSON has sailed from Portsmouth for the East Indies.

North Sea.

2. (a) SHELDRAKE sank a midget U-Boat 2.5 miles S.S.E. of 3C Buoy.
(b) One mine was detonated 2 miles south of the East Dudgeon.

Western Approaches.

3. REDMILL has arrived in port in tow of JAUNTY.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

M/V
SS. PANAMA,
(loss of.)

4. H.M.C.S. CAPILANO in E.G.C.2 escorting O.N. 298 picked up 5 survivors this afternoon about 240' N.W. of the Azores. Believed to be from SS. PANAMA (Brit. 6,650 tons) a straggler from convoy O.N. 294. She is said to have capsized by ballast shifting on 11th April, 310' N.N.W. of Flores. (291636Z.)

Mediterranean.

Italy.

5. Preliminary reports at Genoa state that public services are normal. Many quays intact and cranes and gantries standing. Bad weather has so far prevented minesweeping in the approaches to the port.

Adriatic.

6. B.Y.M.S. 2053 was mined about 60 miles S.S.E. of Venice and later sank in tow, 2 ratings are missing. (On 28th, vide p. 529)

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29.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Far East and Australia.

Borneo.

7. Today cruisers and destroyers of U.S. 7th Fleet continued bombardment of shore defences at Tarakan.

Pacific.

8. Two Mitchells severely damaged the floating dock at Truk today.

War Diary

29.4.1945
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

- Return of French Fishing Vessels to France. After discussion with representatives of authorities concerned consider it most desirable to alter existing arrangements for obtaining Admiralty permission to sail French fishing vessels to France after completion of refits thus avoiding unnecessary delay.
(2) Propose these requests be forwarded direct to Admiralty by FNGB after obtaining approval from Marine Paris. S.H.A.E.F. has no objections to French fishing vessels proceeding from U.K. to French operated ports. (A.N.C.X.F. 291350B to Admty.)
- Captured Enemy Shipping. A meeting held by S.H.A.E.F. strongly recommended that the instructions for dealing with captured enemy shipping contained in paras. 2 and 26 of S.H.A.E.F. memorandum No. A.G. 546 - 1 G.D.S. - A.G.M. of 30th May, 1944 should be clarified and that if necessary prize proceedings should be taken in the area of operations.
(2) In the present circumstances it is likely that this procedure will be desirable and I propose to inform F.O.I.C. accordingly. (A.N.C.X.F. 291718B to Admty.) *Reply: 031142 May, page 40.*
- Possible U-Boat surrenders. Request you will comply with A.M. 282333B as far as is practicable. (D.O.D.(H), 291722B to H.Q.C.C.)
The following instructions on the action to be taken when U-Boat offers to surrender are to be brought into force forthwith.
(1) It is possible that enemy S/Ms may of their own volition show a desire to surrender, for example, by coming to the surface displaying a white flag extending periscopes or assembling crews on deck.
(2) The following action is to be taken by A/C when a U-Boat offers to surrender.
(3) A white flag is to be the only signification of surrender that is to be accepted by A/C.
(4) The A/C is to circle the U-Boat with its guns trained on the conning tower and is to signal base using the spelling tables from A.R.C. pending the allocation of a spare group from the ARG indicating U-Boat offers surrender in position. This is to be followed by a group from Page 9 of the ARC indicating remaining in position until (time).
(5) The A/C will then by means of Aldis lamp instruct the U-Boat to proceed to a British Port in the form "S" steer 270 degs. for "Rosyth".
(6) Aircrews are to be briefed by A.C.H.Q. before take off regarding the British Ports to which U-Boats are to proceed.
(7) In the event of an A/C which has accepted surrender, being compelled to leave the U-Boat before being relieved the Captain is to report the fact and return to base after repeating his latest instructions to the U-Boat. No offensive action is to be taken.
(8) Article 40 to Ccmauq is to be considered cancelled unless the Captain of A/C observes signs of treachery in which case the instructions laid down in Article 40 will apply.
(9) A/C are to resume patrol on the arrival of Allied Surface Escort.

29.4.1945
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Possible U-Boat surrenders. (Contd.) (10) Should a U-Boat signify its desire to surrender after being attacked the instructions laid down in Article 40 will apply. Acknowledge. (H.Q.C.C. 29203OB to all Coastal Command Operational Stns.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Anti-U-Boat land defence of Milford and Fishguard. R.A. 546. C.A. Secret. Reference conversations Caplen-Wilson. C. in C. W.A. considers possible attack by determined U-Boat might be made on Milford Haven or Fishguard. All coasts Artyb equipments Westco now relegated to C. and M. basis but at request of Navy, local arrangements made for one 6 inch gun to be manned at West Blockhouse from existing personnel. Similar arrangement could be made at Fishguard but no ammunition. Special issue of 6 inch ammunition would have to be made. In view of the basis of present coast Arty. reduction, please confirm you consider temporary manning of 6 inch gun at Fishguard operationally essential. These arrangements only possible so long as personnel remain unposted. (Home Forces, 291200B to Admty.)

Operations

North Sea

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.390 Part 4 Section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 281600A April.

| <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 | 57 | 378 | 16,662 | 1,302 | 13,244 | 1,304 |
| Ostend | 1,623 | 116 | 3,090 | - | 1,980 | 845 |
| Caen | - | - | 31 | 1,472 | - | - |
| Calais | 5,577 | - | 94 | - | - | - |
| Total: | 7,257 | 494 | 19,877 | 2,774 | 15,224 | 2,149 |

U.S. - North

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Antwerp | - | 178 | 26,612 | - | - | - |
| Cherbourg | 9 | 228 | 2,436 | 1,289 | 3,528 | 520 |
| Le Havre | 779 | 112 | 4,934 | 155 | - | 1,420 |
| Rouen | 4 | - | 5,986 | 1,046 | - | 422 |
| Ghent | - | - | 9,130 | - | - | 1,822 |
| Total: | 792 | 518 | 49,099 | 2,490 | 3,528 | 4,184 |

U.S. South

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Marseilles | - | 177 | 15,772 | 2,038 | - | - |
| Port De Bouc | - | - | 2,087 | - | - | - |
| Total: | - | 177 | 17,859 | 2,038 | - | - |

(S.H.A.E.F.291320A to Admty and others)

29.4.1945
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping on East Coast. Ground mine detonated at 1416 two miles South of East Dudgeon Buoy. (F.O.Humber, 291452 to C. in C. Nore, Admty.)

Midget U-Boat activities. U-Boat and S.B.U. Summary 1200B/27th April to 1200B/29th April. (1) 0525/29th SHELDRAKE sank Midget U-Boat 160 degs. 3 C Buoy 2.5 miles. (C. in C. Nore, 291523B to Admty.)

Cross-Channel fast escort. Request you will detail and sail one Hunt Class Destroyer to arrive Dover a.m. 2nd May for Patrol Duties under orders of A.C. Dover. (2) Period of duty should be for 14 days if possible. (C. in C. Nore, 291749B to D.21)

Patrols. Patrols for night Monday 30th April. 1 COWDRAY, 2 ZETLAND, 3 ARENDAL, 4 MENDIP, 5 MELBREAK, 6 WIDGEON, 7 LAMERTON, 8 EASTON. Coastal Force Units F.C.1 to 8 R/V patrols at 2300B. (2) 12 STAYNER with Coastal Forces from U.K. 14 EGLINTON, 16 CUBITT with Coastal Forces from Ostend. 17 SOUTHDOWN, 18 QUANTOCK, 19 RETALICK with Coastal Forces from Ostend, 21 TANATSIDE, 22 CURZON with C/F from U.K. Coastal Forces from Ostend R/V Frigates at 2200B. (3) Escort for T.A.M. 55 BLENCATHRA and GUILLEMOT, T.A.P.20 HAYDON. Coastal Forces from U.K. Patrol 1, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.1 with COWDRAY. Patrol 2, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.2 with ZETLAND. Patrol 3, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.3 with ARENDAL. Patrol 4, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.4 with MENDIP. Patrol 5, M.T.B. Unit F.C.5 with MELBREAK. Patrol 6, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.6 with WIDGEON. Patrol 7, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.7 with LAMERTON. Patrol 8, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.C.8 with EASTON. Patrol 12, 4 M.T.B. Unit F.L. 2 F.L.3. Patrol 22, 4 M.T.B. Unit F.B.8, F.B.9. BWCC 5035 6 M.T.Bs Units F.A.1, F.A.2, F.A.3. DACC 4048, 4 M.T.Bs. Unit F.B.3. Patrols 51, 52, 53 1 M.L. on each. From Ostend: DAZD 316, 2 M.T.B. Unit F.A.8. DAZD 2100 2 M.T.B. Unit F.B. DAZD 4126 3 M.L. Unit F.G.5. DAZD 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. DAZD 2525 3 M.L. Unit F.G.4. (C. in C. Nore, 291750 to Nore Command)

/Report ...

War Diary

29.4.1945
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Report on Bremen. A.N.C.X.F. 181927B (continued ??) preliminary R/C. Bremen to-day west to region of Easting, Hafenfox to Oelhafen inclusive foul with various sunken craft, unidentified except one Dutch one Belgian coaster type lying on side in Kohlenhafen. Inner lock gate damaged by near bomb hit, immovable at present in retracted position. Outer lock gate operable now in closed position retaining water in at Oelhafen apparently 60% damaged not closely examined as fighting going on immediately to westward. Horsea M/V GIJON 3,000 tons D.W. sunk by near miss on even keel outer end Ueberseehafen probably salvable. 6 small M.Bs afloat fit for patrol, serviceability unknown. Thus far nothing available river patrol. Salvage and "P" Parties established Bremen waterside expected commence operations tomorrow. T. forces will complete operations at Hausden Reiches and Deschimg and will withdraw tomorrow. Forces from 378 U.S. Infantry regiment take over guard patrolling area above Borkum Buildings. Some Naval stores near inner end Ueberseehafen. (C.T.F.126, 292233B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

Channel

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Reference PLOVER's 281021B (not to all). At 0710B/30th April carry out operation "Artisan" Serial B.3 Part I. (2) F.O.I.C.Falmouth is requested to sail TADOUSSAC (S.O) PARRSBORO and ARMANA to R/V PLOVER escorted by SHIPPIGAN and ILFRACOMBE in position 155 Degs. Lizard 11.5 miles at 0630B/30th. (3) TADOUSSAC is to arrange skimming sweep of lay to 42 feet below chart Datum. (4) PLOVER is not to carry out lay if TADOUSSAC considers weather unsuitable for Skim. (5) On completion of lay PLOVER to Portsmouth escorted by two ships detailed by TADOUSSAC. Remainder to Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291031B to TADOUSSAC, SHIPPIGAN, ILFRACOMBE, PARRSBORO, ARMANA, PLOVER, F.O.I.C.Falmouth)

Possible U.Boat. Your 281914 attacks have now been carried out, Diesel oil is still rising and MOORSOM's last echo sounder tracers shows target now in 2 pieces. No other evidence, if it was German U-Boat consider (it is?) now destroyed. (2) Ship of First Division are all short of ammunition after previous search off St. Agnes Head followed by heavy attacks yesterday and to-day. (3) Intend proceeding to Plymouth for ammunition before complying with you 281914. (S.O.E.G. 17, 282115B to C. in C. Plymouth)

550

29.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France

Patrols. Nothing to report during night patrol. BASQUE carrying out orders given. L'ALCYON fuel remaining 0800B 61.5 per cent. (BASQUE, 290950B to C.F.N.T.F., C. in C. Plymouth.)

Intend to sail UNRIVALLED escorted by PEARL at 0900B tomorrow 30th April, by Q.Z.S. 697 thence direct to (B) 49° 12' N., 04° 20' W. where UNRIVALLED will enter OX Brittany Sanctuary and PEARL will return by reverse route to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291216B to UNRIVALLED, PEARL, F.O.S/M., Admty.)

Opas para. 14.
(A) 47° 01' N., 02° 59' W. Intend Force 27 to sweep south-eastwards from Belle Ile and to establish a patrol north-eastwards from Rochebonne Whistle Buoy, speed 15 knots throughout. (S.O. Force 27, 291536B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Release of LORRAINE and DUQUESNE after Operation "Venerable". It is anticipated that Operation "Venerable" will be completed about 1st May except for the minesweeping. (2) No further requirements for Naval bombardment is foreseen in this area and therefore French ships LORRAINE and DUQUESNE can be released from "Overlord" if required elsewhere. (3) It is still desirable that the blockade of the German pockets should be maintained in a reduced scale. If this cannot be carried out by Commander in Chief Plymouth with his present forces it is proposed that at least some of the remainder of the French Naval Task Force be retained as a French Unit operating under him for this purpose. (4) French Minesweeping Forces will be required for opening Bordeaux. (5) Admiralty are requested to communicate their intentions. (A.N.C.X.F., 291527B to Admty.) *Reply from C-in-C Plymouth, 201836, p. 53*

Operations

Western Approaches

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. ARIADNE arrived Clyde. Weather unsuitable for lay. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 290424B to C. in C. W.A.)

Probable U-Boat. M.H.97. Explosion at rear of convoy. Suspect Gnat. Position 51° 12' N., 04° 54' W. (LOCH TULLA, 291159B to C. in C. W.A.) Explosion in vicinity of convoy. Column of water 50 feet high, suspect Gnat. (LOCH TULLA, 291202B to C. in C. W.A.) LOCH TULLA's 291202. Continue on your voyage. (C. in C. W.A., 291239B to S.O. E.G.26.)

/Patrols ...

29.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Patrols. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail 14th E.G. from Rothesay at 0800/30th to relieve 10th E.G. as Force 38.
(2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ESCAPADE to R/V with Group off Skerries and to sail ICARUS when ready to rejoin Group.
(3) On relief 10th E.G. is to proceed to position 56° 45' N., 10° 00' W. Further orders will be given.
(C. in C. W.A., 291509B to F.Os. I.C. Greenock, Liverpool, S.O. E.Gs. 10, 14.)
My 291509. If weather is suitable you will probably be required to lay H.T. barrier in vicinity 56° 45' N., 10° 00' W. before returning for lay-over.
(C. in C. W.A., 291515B to S.O. E.G. 10.)
Proceeding to investigate 355W.9's 1815*, - E.T.A. 0130/30th.
(S.O. E.G.21, 291834B to C. in C. W.A.)
* Am over 5 U-Boats.

Torpedoed Arrived REDMILL towed by JAUNTY escorted by
REDMILL. RUPERT.
(Com. (D) W.A., 291627B to C. in C. W.A., S.O. E.G.21.)
Following report in accordance with C.A.F.O. 509/45 received from REDMILL.
(1) 54° 23' N. 10° 36' W. (2) 0930B/27th April. Not in contact. (3), (4), and (5) Not known. (6) Zig-zag 30° either side of M.L.A. every 5 mins. i.e. course 055° at 0920, 355° at 0925, 055° at 0930, 15° starboard wheel was actually on when ship was hit. Revs. 120-8knots had been steady for previous 40 mins. (7) 8 knots, 120 Revs. (8) None.
(9) 0930 - under quarterdeck. (10) Faint H.E. heard on red 20 - 30 secs. before - A/S C.O. and H.S.D. were classifying and about to sweep reciprocal bearing when hit. No track seen. (11) No water plume. Large amount of debris and smoke about 100 feet high. (12), (13), (14) and (15) Nil.
(16) Zig-zag at safe speed. (17) B.C.P. 8 20 miles vis. sea and swell 24 wind N.4. (18) RUPERT, CONN and REDMILL line abreast 1½ mins. apart. Sweeping. (19) No. (20) No indication of any U-Boat other than that, this was a probability area.
(C. in C. W.A., 292308B to Admty.)

U-Boat One submarine submerged 320° Bardsey Island 19. (VIZALMA, 292050B to F.O.I.C. Milford.)
My 2050 have dropped a 10 charge pattern and a 5 charge counter-attack. Still in contact.
Am bottoming position, request support.
(VIZALMA, 292120B to F.O.I.C. Milford.)
Close position 320° Bardsey Island 19 where VIZALMA reports contact.
(C. in C. W.A., 292209B to S.O. E.G.10.)

/Possible ...

29.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches. - Contd.

Possible
U-Boat.

Have detached HADLEIGH CASTLE S.O. and
LANCASTER CASTLE at best speed to (?search)
(2 corrupt groups) in 784 W. 21's T.O.R. 2016
E.T.A. 0200. Suitable.
(S.O. Force 38 292140B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation
"Judgement".

My 221124 postponed to Monday 30th April.
(C. in C. H.F., 291024B to Admty., C.S. 1, C.S.10).

Operation
"S.C."

Intend to sail "S.C." operation from Shetland.
(1) 0400B/30th April from Scalloway.
(2) 053° from Muckle Flugga to position 62° 34'
N. 03° 48' E. thence 107° speed 13 knots.
(3) 2359B/30th April.
(4) Between 0030B/1st May and 0400B/1st May.
(5) 244° to Muckle Flugga 15 knots.
(6) p.m. 1st May. (7) 16 to Muckle Flugga. (8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 291247B to C. in C. H.F.)
My 291247B.
(1) 62° 21' N. 05° 30' E. (2) Ramose Maize. (3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 291249B to C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties & Defects.

SILVER CREST,
drifter.

A.F.O. 2210/40. Torpedo recovery drifter
SILVER CREST temporarily unserviceable hit by
practice B Bomb 1548 off Anstruther Firth of
Forth. No casualties. Fishhold flooded and
vessel now in St. Monanco Harbour. Damage not
serious and temporary repairs being undertaken. Written report
follows.
(N.A.S. Crail 292145 to R.A.N.A.S. (N))

Movements.

TAURUS,
submarine.

TAURUS will sail in O.S. 126/K.M.S. 100.
(2) R/V Clyde Boom 0400B/2nd May.
(3) Cs. in C. addressed are requested to pass
to N.C.S.Os. concerned.
(4) Capt. (D) Liverpool pass to escorts O.S. 126/
K.M.S. 100.
(C. in C. W.A., 290003B to F.O. S/M, F.O.G.M.A.
C. in C. Med.)

DIDO,
cruiser.

Your 282127 arrived.
(C. in C. Rosyth 290731B to C. in C. H.F.)

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29.4.1945
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.BERMUDA,
CLEOPATRA,
cruisers.

My 241510 not to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen. Departure BERMUDA and CLEOPATRA for Med. is postponed about 2 days to await arrival storeship ROBERT DUNDAS with important stores.
(C. in C. H.F., 291023B.)

Route BERMUDA and CLEOPATRA by Q.Z.S. 15 to Q. 360° Sule Skerry 10 miles. R. 59° 00' N. 05° 50' W.
S. 59° 00' N. 06° 30' W. T. 60° N. 09° W. U. 60° N. 14° W.
V. 53° N. 20° W. W. 45° N. 20° W. X. 37° N. 15° W. Y. 35° 51' N. 06° 10' W. thence Mediterranean standard eastbound route to Malta.
(2) S.O.A. between Scapa and position U. also between V. and W. should be 26 knots. Endurance and weather permitting.
(Plot (O.D.) 291148B to C. in C. H.F.)

In order to arrive Gibraltar with 10% fuel remaining regret CLEOPATRA is unable to comply with requirements in para. 2 of Admiralty 291148.

(2) It is estimated that a S.O.A. of 19 knots could be maintained on this route to arrive with 10% fuel remaining.
(CLEOPATRA 291943 to C. in C. H.F.)

NELSON,
battleship.

My 281526B April sailed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291155B to C. in C. Med., F.O.G.M.A., V.A. Malta.)
To avoid M.K.S. 97 from position R steer for new position W. 45.50 N. 05.30 W. thence to S.
(Plot (O.D.) 291949B to NELSON.)

OCEANWAY,
NORTHWAY,
L.S.Ds.

Known lifts for L.S.D. are at present insufficient fully to employ both OCEANWAY and NORTHWAY.
(2) It is suggested that, unless heavy L.S.D. commitments are envisaged, NORTHWAY might be released for service elsewhere.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291325B to A.N.C.X.F.)

CAMPION,
LA MALOUINE,
corvettes.

On arrival in U.K. CAMPION now with M.K.S. 97, and LA MALOUINE are allocated to Plymouth Command.
(2) C. in C. Med.'s 181632 not to all refers, and has been passed to C. in C. Plymouth.
(D.O.D.(H) 291950B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

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War Diary29.4.1945.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- Sinking of U.300. H.M. Ships EVADNE, PINCHER and RECRUIT are considered jointly responsible for the sinking of U.300.
2. Request you will convey our congratulations to EVADNE.
3. Admiralty's 161425A/March not to C. in C. Med., and 202231B April refers.
(D.A.U.D., Approved First Sea Lord, 290300B to Admty).
- E.G.3 Ships addressed Form Group 3 as from 0800B/30th April. WOODRUFF (S.O.)
(F.O.G.M.A., 291020 to WOODRUFF, COLTSFOOT, HYDERABAD).
- F.S/M ARETHUSE. At 1230 April 30th. Intend to sail SPIREA^A escorting F.S/M ARETHUSE to Casablanca M.S.C.I.5. C.M.S.F. is requested to sail SPIREA to Gibraltar on completion of 48 hours in harbour and embarking Commander Aegrave R.L. for passage.
(F.O.G.M.A., 291236B to C.M.S.F.)
- M/V
SS. PANAMA
loss of. Recovered 2 Danish survivors from motor vessel PANAMA capsized when ballast shifted at 0115 April 11th. Men have not seen other survivors since but believe 6 others got away in raft. Z.R.S.55 reports more survivors in 042° 15' 030° 00'. Am closing this position.
(CAPILANO, 291301Z to S.B.N.O. Azores).
Probably British 6650
17.13
- At 1330Z aircraft reported further dinghy with 3 survivors in position 042° 15' N., 030° 00' W.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 291400Z to CAPILANO).
Aircraft reports H.M.C.S. CAPILANO picked up 5 survivors Danish ship (sic) in position 041° 56' N., 030° 54' W. No further information at present. My 282116 not to Admiralty refers.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 291402Z to Admiralty).
Aircraft remaining until 2100. Report if air assistance is required for further search tomorrow 30th.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 291424Z to CAPILANO).
Survivors are from PANAMA capsized by ballast shifting at 0115 11th April. My 291452*not to N.S.H.Q. refers.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 291636Z to Admty).
*Presumably 291402 intended. (Aircraft reports H.M.C.S. CAPILANO picked up 5 survivors Danish ship 041° 56' N., 030° 54' W).
Have picked up 3 more survivors of M. Vessel PANAMA 043° 20', 030° 20'. Four rafts, no boats got away. Four rafts have been sighted today. Chief Officer considers further survivors unlikely. Intend sweeping area with Z.R.S.57 until 2100 then rejoining O.N.298.
(CAPILANO, 291731Z to S.B.N.O. Azores).
- BARFLEUR E.T.A. Breakwater 0700/30th.
(destroyer) (BARFLEUR, 292102A to F.O.G.M.A.)

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29.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Transfer
of Western.
Meditn.
Command.

Arrangements in 544B will come into force 1200B
Tuesday 1st May. Reference para. 4 operations
in Northern sub-area continue.
(C. in C. Med., 290857B to Med. Stn. and
Admty.) + 291200B May.

JEANNE
D'ARC.

Request approval to sail F.S. JEANNE D'ARC from
Bizerta to Toulon as soon as ready with
material and personnel awaiting repatriation
then to await orders at Toulon for proposed
mission my 281126* para. 2 not to all.
(F.O.W.M., 291106B to C. in C. Med.)
* N.T. in W.D.

Situation
Report
No. 601.

(1) Genoa. Preliminary report state public
services, electric light, telephone and water
normal. Many quays intact cranes and gantries
standing. Bad weather has so far prevented
any M/S in approaches.

(2) Adriatic. B.Y.M.S. 2053 mined in position
044° 41' N., 012° 37' E. later sank in tow. 2 ratings
missing.
(C. in C. Med., 291856B to F.O.L.E.M.)

556

29.4.1945.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

LAOMEDON
(Boom
Carrier).

Sailed H.M.S. LAOMEDON loaded commercially for U.K. via standard coastal route to Madura, thence Suez. E.T.A. Cuddalore 3rd May, Suez 25th May speed $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 290419Z to Admty).

Situation
Report No.
11.

(1) Oil schemes base ships for Palk Strait White oil scheme have arrived on station and laying of moorings is in progress. First pipe at Chittagong Sea terminal in position second will be hauled out shortly. Pipe lines now operation Akyab and Kyaukpyu.
(2) No offensive operations past week.
(C. in C. E.I., 290654Z to Admty).

A.F.D.39

Departures LOCHY, VERBENA and A.F.D.39.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 290715Z to Admty).

S/M
SPITEFUL.

Sailed SPITEFUL 0700Z/29th to Suez for onward routing to U.K.
(2) E.T.A. 0400Z/4th May. S. of A. 11.5 knots.
(Com. Aden, 290813Z to N.O.I.C. Suez).

Movements
(landing
craft).

Arrived SAMSCALIA towing L.C.T.(R) 434, 440
SAMGARA towing L.C.Ts. 1104, 1148, SAMLORIAN
towing L.C.T.1175, 1176, FORTMUSQUARRO towing
L.C.Ts. 1060, 1320, M.F.V.1549.
Departed SPITEFUL, SAMSCALIA towing L.C.T.(R)
434, 440.
(Com. Aden, 291525Z to Admty).

A.F.D.40

Arrivals, H.M.S. TULIP with tug PRUDEN^T and
A.F.D.40.
(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 292137Z to N.O.I.C.Kilindini).

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29.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

LORD KELVIN,
(cable
repairs.) H.M.C.S. BEAUHARNOIS sailing St. Johns N.F.
1130Z/29th April to relieve you screening LORD
KELVIN routed (R) 044° 30' N. 050° 01' W. (S)
044° 30' N. 045° 59' W. E.T.A. your vicinity
0400Z/2nd May.
(F.O.N.F. 291131Z to H.M.C.S. GIFFARD.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q., 291302Z, Cominch 291504Z.)

H.M.C.S. The following transfer is effective to date 28th
TRILLIUM. April from the Midocean Force for duty with C.3.
to the Halifax Force H.M.C.S. TRILLIUM.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 291326Z to F.O.N.F.)

E.G. 27, H.M.C. ships DUNVER (S.O.), LEVIS, LASALLE,
(U/B sweep). PRINCE RUPERT, COATICOOK as E.G. 27 leave Halifax
Approaches when ready about 1630Z today 29th April
at S.O.A. 12. On A/S sweep towards D. 43.00 N.
61.00 W. thence E. 42.40 N. 55.00 W. for U-Boat
believed homebound thence hunt at your discretion for U-Boats
estimated crossing 55.00 W. westbound a.m. 30th N.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 291447Z to S.O.E.G. 27.)

E.G. 6. E.G. 6 detach from H.X. 352 as convenient to
junction and support O.N.S. 48, 22 merchant ships
from first light 30th April until further
directions.
(2) O.N.S. 48, P.C.S. 2000Z/29th, all positions N. and W.
045° 42' 042° 19' 233° 7.5 knots for (P.W.) 042° 02' 049° 00'
thence 270° escort C group S.O. in H.M.C.S. HALLOWELL.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 291510Z to S.O.E.G. 6 in NEW WATERFORD.)

Contact. U.S.S. GROTON reported attacking sound contact in
position 042° 53' N. 064° 34' W. at 1457Z/29th.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 291901Z to Connav, Admty.)

U/B attacks. H.M.C.S. DAWSON and WETASKIWIN in contact with
possible submarine at 1745Z in 39.30 N. 68.34 W.
Several attacks carried out and ships named
remaining in area. Heavy oil patches sighted
and contact now lost.
(SAULT STE. MARIE 291910Z to C.E.S.F.)

29.4.1945
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

- Digest 1194, (2) Liberator searching for shipping vicinity
28.4.45. Shanghai attacked and sank one small freighter
transport while Navy Mariner strafed six of many
Junks or small craft sighted off Foochow. Other
Privateers shot up numerous small craft China
coast including one large unidentified ship off Canton inflicting
moderate damage.
- (3) 11 Mitchells co-operating with 19 Lightnings hit Saigon
shipping midday. Mitchells probably sank one medium transport
one small freighter transport. Left another small freighter
transport burning and caused explosion by direct hit on third
small freighter transport. Lightnings blew up one small engines-
aft freighter.
- (4) Liberator damaged one small merchantman off Cape Saint
Jacques.
- (9) 3 Mitchells bombed strafed Miri forenoon destroying one
barge damaging two motor launches and strafing three trucks along
shore.
- (10) Allied light cruisers bombarded Tarakan 27th and 28th April
causing fires without retaliation. In addition three
Lightnings set afire hundred foot river boat near Tawao.
- (14) Single Jap. plane bombed docks at Manus after nightfall
causing slight damage nil casualties.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 291004Z to Admty.)

L.S.I.(L) Request EMPIRE ARQUEBUS wearing my flag with
EMPIRE MACE and EMPIRE BATTLEAXE may proceed
direct from Colon to U.K. about mid-May.
C. in C. B.P's (T/S) 160443Z March not to all
refers.
(F.O. Force X 292211Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0800Z/29th April.
& sighting B. (1) A/C E/206 attacked possible U-Boat at
summary. 1710/28 in 55° 27' N. 01° W.
(2) Russian A/C attacked U-Boat at 0325/28 in
69° 55' N. 33° 54' E.
C. (1) E.G. 17 attacked bottom contact at 0900/28
in 50° 08' N. 03° 47' W.
(D.D.I.C. 291103B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 291400B, to A.I.G., Cominch.)

War Diary

30.4.1945
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea

1. One mine was detonated off Ostend.

West Coast
France

2. C. in C. Plymouth reports that he cannot maintain the blockade of the German ports in the Bay of Biscay with his present forces.

French troops with naval support, landed at Obou on Ile d'Oléron, at the mouth of the Gironde.

Western
Approaches

3(a) Fourteenth Escort Group has brought up oil and German lettered wreckage from a contact provided by Aircraft SWL 86 of Coastal Command in 53° 42' N. 4° 55' W.

(b) First Escort Group is attacking another oil-producing contact provided by Aircraft TQP 53 in 48° N. 6° 30' W.

Northern U.307
Waters sunk

4. Convoy R.A.66 has sailed from Kola. Shortly before its departure ^{LOCH SHIP} S.O. of Nineteenth Escort Group, gunned and sank a ^{**}U-boat, which may have suffered previous mine damage from operation "Trammel". A little later GOODALL, frigate of the same Escort Group, was torpedoed by a second U-boat who was then herself probably destroyed by GOODALL's consorts. The burning wreck of GOODALL was later sunk by Allied forces. Two officers and 29 ratings were rescued.

* See Mon Itly A/S Report (C.B. 04050) 45 (4) 7(5) Op. 2 May '45 (** U.307)

U. 286 sunk

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Adriatic

5. Aircraft attacked shipping in Adriatic today and yesterday and claim to have sunk a coaster and damaged two E-boats.

Greece

6. SS. SAMCLYDE, British, (7,219 tons) reported having been mined in Gulf of Salonica tonight. The position given was 2½ miles outside the swept channel. She is making port under own steam. There were no casualties.

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30.4.1945
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Burma
operations

7(a) Today at 2 a.m. (local time) Force 62 consisting of ROEBUCK (Commodore D) RACEHORSE and REDOUBT patrolling between the Rangoon River and Moulmein destroyed a convoy of 10 small vessels proceeding from Rangoon to Moulmein.

(b) At dawn Force 63 consisting of QUEEN ELIZABETH (B.S.3) RICHELIEU, CUMBERLAND (C.S.5) CEYLON, SUFFOLK, TROMP (Dutch cruiser) SHAH, EMPRESS and 3 destroyers bombarded air strips on Car Nicobar.

(c) In the afternoon Force 63 bombarded Port Blair (Andaman Is.)

Far East and Australia

China

8. Between yesterday and today U.S. Mariners bombed a medium sized vessel off Swatow causing 2 violent explosions and scored hits on numerous small craft round the Pescadores.

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30.4.1945.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSPolicyPossible
U-Boat
surrenders.

Enquiries are being received from both R.A.F. and United States Authorities, Iceland on subject of possible surrender of German submarines with particular reference to the Ports to which such vessels should be directed. Presume U.K. Ports only will be used observing

that Iceland is a neutral country. Request Ports may be named. Admiralty message 282333 refers.

(A.C.I.C., 301336A to Admty.)

(1) Reference Coastal Command 292030B. As 19 Group aircraft are operating in areas of Western Approaches, Plymouth and Portsmouth Commands it has been found necessary to issue the following additional instructions.

(2) It is at present impossible to brief crews as to the Port to which the U-Boats which have surrendered, should be instructed to proceed, as this depends on the position where the U-Boat is located and also the Command in which this position falls. The following procedure is therefore to be adopted:

(3) (i) On sighting a U-Boat flying a white flag, the aircraft is to report to Base as instructed in the above quoted signal and is then to instruct the U-Boat to heave to and await instructions. This signal should be sent in German as follows: "Standort halten und befehle warten". It may be

as well to follow this signal by instructions to the U-Boat to reply in English as follows: "Antworte auf Englisch".

(ii) Having passed the message the aircraft will remain with the U-Boat and will automatically start homing on 385 k/cs. At the correct listening periods he will himself listen for further instructions. When Naval authorities have decided what steps are to be taken, the aircraft will either be informed that surface vessels are on the way, and will in that case instruct the U-Boat accordingly in the following form: "Schiffe unterwegs", or he will be instructed to tell the U-Boat what Port he is to steer for. This will be sent in the form ".... Grad nach Steuern" (literallydegs for steer, e.g. 045° for Portland steer).

(iii) If the destination is given in latitude and longitude the words for 'north' and 'west' are 'nord' and 'west' respectively. If the U-Boat is to be instructed to proceed to a given Port through a certain position, the message will be passed in the form "steerdegs for (position) then (destination), the word for 'then' being 'dann'.

(iv) If the aircraft is forced to leave before relieved by air or surface forces, he will inform the U-Boat as follows: "I go now. Do not dive, carry out previous orders". In German this signal will read: "Ich fahre jetzt ab. Nicht untertauchen ausfuhren forgehende befehle".

(4) It is emphasised that should a U-Boat signify its desire to surrender after being attacked or should it dive after being given instructions by the aircraft, the U-Boat is to be treated as hostile and sunk. C. in C. Plymouth concurs.

(H.Q. 19 Group, 301730B to 19 Group.)

Reference A.G.M. 55. Ref. A.M. AZ-B.3 of 28th April and H.Q.C.C.'s A.961 of 29th April neither to all addressees. In the event of a U-Boat surrendering to an aircraft in Western Approaches Command before a formal German National surrender it is preferred that the aircraft should instruct the U-Boat to remain stopped on the surface until the arrival

/of ...

30.4.1945.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Possible U-boat surrenders. (contd). of surface force. Destination of U-boat will be signalled to surface escort sent to assist. (2) Request Air Authorities concerned may forthwith brief air crews accordingly. (C. in C. W.A., 302333B to Admty. H.Q.C.C.)

Post-peace U-boat surrenders. My 151509B April to Admiralty. In view of small number of U-boats likely to be in area allocated to Rosyth, propose subject to your concurrence that after their arrival at Loch Erribol, these be taken under your orders for final examination and laying up, thus avoiding passage to Invergordon and back again to your Command. (C. in C. Rosyth, 301930 to C. in C. W.A.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Anti-U-boat land defence of Milford & Fishguard. Understand Home Forces have been requested to re-man one 6 inch gun each at Milford Haven and Fishguard. Home Forces report considerable administrative difficulty in so doing. 2. Reduction of these batteries to care and maintenance was approved in Sept./Oct. 1944 notwithstanding slight risk of attack by small offensive craft. This decision holds good. 3. Home Forces 291200 not to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven or C. in C. Western Approaches refers. (D. of L.D., 301349B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

North Sea.

Cross-Channel fast escort. C. in C. Nore's 291749B April (being pass to BLANKNEY). Proceed Dover at 0830B/2nd May speed 20 knots reporting own E.T.A. (D.21, 301604B to BLANKNEY).

Minesweeping on Far Shore. Sweeping report for Monday 30th April. 3 M.M.S. Swept L.L/S.A. I.G.M.S. of Q.Z.S.649 and E.G.M.S. of Q.Z.Y.572 from N.F.9 Buoy to long. 02.47 E. 1 Actuation of Q.Z.S. 649 and 1 actuation 5 cables north of centre line of diversion channel only. 2 B.Y.M.S. swept L.L/S.A. E.G.M.S. of Q.Z.S. 685 1 actuation north side of centre line O.D.5 to O.D.3 Buoy and 1 actuation full width of Channel O.D.3 to O.D.2996. E B.Y.M.S. swept L.L./S.A. E.G.M.S. of Q.Z.S.649 and Q.Z.S.699 from long. 02.47.00 E. to N.F.12 buoy. 2 Actuatuions of Q.Z.S.649 and 1 actuation full width of channel from long. 02.47.00 E. to N.F.12 Buoy. 1 Red Magnetic mine detonated at 1300B in position 265° N.F.9 Buoy 2.2 miles. Sweeping curtailed owing to deteriorating weather conditions. Explosive sweep not used. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 302024 to F.O. Belgium).

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30.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. TADOUSSAC, PARRSBORO and ARMANA sailed to comply with your 291031B. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 300426B to C. in C. Plymouth) Your 291031. Skim completed. One mine cut and sunk. PLOVER and escort detached to Portsmouth. Remainder to Falmouth, E.T.A. 1100. (S.O. M.S.F. 16, 300841 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Patrols. (1) Weigh and proceed forthwith and establish anti-Midget patrol on a line between E.A.3 Buoy and position 50° 28'30" N., 00° 31'30" W. (2) Occasional scaring charges are to be dropped. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 302302B to DOMETT, COOKE.)

Operations

West Coast France

Operation "Venerable". A.N.C.X.F. 291527B, para. (3). Regret blockade cannot be maintained with my present forces. (C. in C. Plymouth, 301836 to Admty.) BULLDOG and BEAGLE must leave Patrol (A) of Force 27 at latest by 1800B tomorrow 1st May and return to Plymouth. (2) Request you will instruct them accordingly and keep us informed. (C. in C. Plymouth, 301449B to C.F.N.T.F., in F.S. DUQUESNE.) My 301449B, para. (1) Request you will amend time for BULLDOG and BEAGLE to leave Patrol (A) to read 1200B/1. (2) Ships are required to arrive Plymouth by noon on 2nd May at latest. (C. in C. Plymouth, 301942B to C.F.N.T.F.) DUQUESNE, BASQUE, LA DECOUVERTE, L'AVENTURE sailed for Brest at 301900B through positions 45° 48' N., 01° 43' W., 46° 05' N. 04° 00' W., 48° 10' N., 04° 46' W. E.T.A. 011230B. (2) LE FORTUNE, L'ALCYON remaining area to continue bombardment Tuesday with HOVA, LA SURPRISE, MASTODONTE and 1 Chasseur. (3) ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ and 9 F.Y.M.S. sailed for St. Jean de Luz at 301900B. E.T.A. 011200B. (4) After bombardment Tuesday, LE FORTUNE, L'ALCYON will return Brest. MASTODONTE will sail for Brest in company with 1 Chasseur. HOVA and LA SURPRISE will maintain patrol 27 and keep Gironde channel under observation. (C.F.N.T.F., 301917B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Evasive U-Boat. My 292055B. At 2040 aircraft attacked smoke and wake 2 miles ahead of convoy and dropped smoke markers, in position 320° Bardsey Island 19 miles at 2050 and in approximate position of

/markers ...

30.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Evasive markers I obtained A/S contact at 2100 yards. Attacks were made at 2104 and 2114 on a good U-Boat. (Contd.) contact with no result. Contact was lost after second attack and was not regained by 2205 when due to weather, poor visibility and only definite non-submarine contacts being received I proceeded to rejoin B.B.97. A dan buoy was dropped in position indicated. Suitable. (VIZALMA, 300320B to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols. Ships of 10th E.G. not required to comply with my 291515 not to all, are to be detached forthwith to form Force 36 until further orders. Report names of ships. (C. in C. W.A., 301141B to S.O. E.G.10.)

LOCH DUNVEGAN, LOCH ECK and FOLEY detached to form Force 36. Your 301141 refers.

(S.O. Force 38, 301314 to C. in C. W.A.)

Sailed at 1305/30th April special service trawler JACQUELINE CLASINE supported by M.L.918 to patrol between Tuskar and Kish Light Vessel. M.L.918 will be relieved on patrol by M.L. 924 p.m./2nd May. JACQUELINE CLASINE and M.L.924 return Milford Haven p.m./4th May.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 301315B to C. in C. W.A.)

When SOMALILAND arrives 20th E.G. establish following patrols. First Division - 2 ships Pendeen to Trevoze, codeword "Gladstone A". Second Division - 2 ships Trevoze to Hartland, codeword "Gladstone B". S.O. E.G.20 report dispositions and Senior Officers.

(2) 17th E.G., 2nd Division establish patrol Pendeen to Lizard by 2300B/30.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 301545B to S.O. E.Gs. 20, 17.)

If not in contact 1st E.G. is to leave present operations so as to R/V with H.X. 351 at 0600B/2nd May in position 51° 20', 10° 30'.

(2) English Channel section detaches off Fastnet and 1st E.G. is to support this section to vicinity Scillies when further orders will be given.

(C. in C. W.A., 302356B to S.O. E.G.1.)

Coastal
Command's
U-Boat.

After interrogating aircraft SWL.86 consider best datum is position 53° 42' N. 04° 55' W. Intend searching on assumption that German U-Boat has bottomed in this vicinity.

(S.O. E.G.14, 301436B to C. in C. W.A.)

My 301436B. Contact on bottom in position within 1 mile of 53° 42' N., 04° 55' W. has been broken open. Diesel oil obtained and have recovered many pieces with German inscription VOLLEIPULVER date of filling July, 1944. Target buoyed. LOCH DUNVEGAN now endeavouring to obtain further evidence. Intend proceeding to relieve Force 38.

(S.O. E.G.14, 301850B to C. in C. W.A.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Coastal Command's second U-Boat. Am proceeding with BENTLEY and STOCKHAM to investigate aircraft TQP.53's 1840B*. GARLIES, GORE, HOSTE remaining in patrol area. Am in communication with aircraft.
(S.O. E.G.1, 301923B to C. in C. W.A.)
* Reporting schmorkel attacked 48.00 N., 06.30 W. One explosion.

My 301923B. Arrived in area at 2300. Have now sighted oil slick, TQP A/C's 1840B refers, and found bottomed asdic contact at head of it which is hard to hold. Intend attacking it for evidence at daylight. My position 47° 54' N., 06° 56' W.
(S.O. E.G.1, 302345B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Norway

Operation S.C. Ramose Maize sailed HITRA at 0400B/30th April.
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 300409B to C. in C. H.F.)
Ramosé Maize. (1) HITRA returned Scalloway 0630B/30th April owing weather conditions.
(2) Operation will be repeated as soon as circumstances permit.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 300717B to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation "Judgement". My 221124, postponed to Tuesday 1st May.
(C. in C. H.F., 300848B to Admty.)
Report graded B.3 states SS. SIGURD JARL (2335 G.R.T.) was due to leave Stokmarknes (68° 34' N. 14° 56' E.) with at least 200 Nazis bound for Oslo on board as well as many Senior Officers. Others will join during southward passage.
(2) Will probably leave Stamsund p.m. today 30th.
Comment: Further information expected.
(D.D.I.C., 301026B to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy J.W. 67. It appears probable that the interval between the arrival of R.A.66 and sailing of J.W. 67 will be 4 or 5 days only. Since a minimum lay-over of 7 days will be required for E.G.7, it will probably be necessary to use a support group which will be inexperienced in Russian convoy work as close escort for J.W.67 unless the sailing of the convoy can be delayed.
(C. in C. W.A., 300015B to Admty.)
ADOLPH S. OCHS sailed from Middlesbrough for Faslane to join J.W. N.D. gear inoperative.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 301637B to Admty.)

/Loss ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd. See Monthly A/S Report (C.B. 04060 (4) 2/3 May '45 7(5))

Loss of GOODALL; sinkings of U-Boats. During operation connected with sailing of R.A. 66 p.m./29th April LOCH SHIN sank by gunfire surfaced U-Boat in approach to Kola Inlet. (2) GOODALL subsequently torpedoed same area and second U-Boat attacked by S.O. E.G. 19 who reported oil and wreckage from bottomed target. (3) Survivors from GOODALL embark VINDEX, 2 officers, 29 ratings. S.B.N.O. N.Russia is taking casualty action.

(C.S.10, 300342B to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., Admty.)
C.S.10's 300342.

Told burning wreck of GOODALL was subsequently sunk by Russians who report they did not board her. Consider no risk of compromise of S.P. and C.B.

* U. 307 (2) S/M sunk by LOCH SHIN was in position 69° 25' N. 33° 38' E. and may have been previously damaged on Operation "Trammel" minefield.

(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 300918B to Admty., C. in C. H.F., C.S.10.)

My 300918. Russian authorities now report GOODALL was sunk by a British destroyer.

(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 301146B to Admty., C.S.10, C. in C. H.F.) (see also S.O.E.G. 19, 041038/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy R.A. 66. H/F D/F bearings on 4985 k/cs. at 0609B indicate U-Boat in vicinity of 69° 50' N., 33° 30' E. (S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 300656B to Admty., Convoy R.A. 66.)

Reliable H/F D/F bearings on 4985 K/cs. at 0712B indicate U-Boat in approx. position 70° 05' N., 33° 20' E. (S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 300748B to Admty., Convoy R.A. 66.)

Kola Inlet departed R.A. 66 at 2300B/29th with "ROUNDEL" escort and 19th Escort Group less GOODALL, see my 300918, C.S.10 departed 0400B/30th. S.B.N.O. Murmansk 271515 (not to all addressees) refers.

(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 300920B to Admty.)

From N.C.S.O.

(1) R.A. 66 (Room 6088). (2) Toros I. 2300B/29th April. (4) 9 knots. (5) My 271515 paras. 3 and 4. (13) (A) Cdre. Sir R. Gill, K.B.E., R.D., R.N.R. in FORT YUKON. (B) Vice-Cdre. of Convoy Master SAN VENANCIO. (14) S.P. 2406 (943), S.P. 2272 (35) and (36). (15) 7 C. (16) BLACK RANGER. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 300940B to Admty.) As amended by 301531B.

Casualties and Defects

WITHERINGTON, destroyer. My 292235B. Tow parted on entering harbour, vessel drifted ashore and sank in position 187° approx. 400 feet from South Pier Lighthouse. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 301038B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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30.4.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

SS. ORVILLE
HARDEN
.v.
SS. JOSIAH
TATNALL.

H.X. 352. Your 301505 being passed to F.O.G.M.A. and S.B.N.O. Azores if either of ships appears unable to maintain convoy speed, tug should be requested from Azores to R/V at or before position (CO).

(2) Weather forecast for next 4 days - wind S.W. to W. not exceeding force 5.

(C. in C. W.A., 302304B to S.O. E.G. B.1.)

Movements

BERMUDA,
CLEOPATRA,
cruisers.

Admiralty's 291148. Owing to CLEOPATRA's endurance intend: (1) Speed of advance Scapa to position (U) and from position (V) to position (W) 22 knots.

(2) Speed of advance for remainder of passage to Gibraltar 15 knots or better if circumstances

permit. This should allow CLEOPATRA to have 10 per cent fuel remaining on arrival at Gibraltar.

(C. in C. H.F., 301636 to Admty.)

BULOLO,
L.S.H.(L).

On completion of engine, radar and communications trials, it is intended to sail BULOLO to Clyde prior to sailing for India on 10th June.

(Admty., 301802B to F.O.I.C. Southampton, R.A.L.S.C.U.)

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Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

S/M
SPEARHEAD M S C I 5 intend to sail submarine SPEARHEAD to Malta at 1430 May 1st.
(2) 11 knots. E.T.A. 10.30 5th May.
(F.O.G.M.A., 301233B to Ships and authorities.)

F.S.MORSE M S C I 5 intend to sail French submarine MORSE to Oran at 1430 May 1st.
(F.O.G.M.A. 301241B to Ships and authorities.)

NORSEMAN My P.C.S. at 1400Z was 038° 34' N. 025° 08' W. 267°
(Cable ship) 9. Cablesip NORSEMAN in company E.T.A. Horta 0800Z 1st May.
(KILMINGTON, 301414Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

SUSSEX SUSSEX is to be diverted to Gibraltar to fuel and
(Cruiser) await further instructions.
(D.O.D.(F) 301544B to S.O. Force 10.)
Request you will sail SUSSEX forthwith with all convenient despatch to Bermuda where she should fuel and provision.
(2) B.A.D. inform Cominch.
(D.O.D.(F), Approved V.C.N.S., 301812B to F.O.G.M.A.) See 021618B.

Force 10 M S C I 5 sail at 301930 to overtake and rejoin Force 10.
(2a) 25.
(F.O.G.M.A., 301729B to TYRIAN, TUSCAN.)
Your 301729B acknowledged. Consider R/V impracticable at 25 knots which I do not wish to exceed in war channel.
(TYRIAN 301905 to F.O.G.M.A.)
Passed Gibraltar West to East 1425 30th. ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, SUSSEX (sic) BARFLEUR, TYRIAN, TUSCAN arrived fuelled sailed to overtake.
(F.O.G.M.A., 302025 to V.A.M.)
Your 301905. TYRIAN and TUSCAN proceed in company at 25 knots to Malta.
(F.O.G.M.A. 302111B to TYRIAN.)

South Atlantic

Trawlers Expect to sail trawlers from Capetown to Freetown
for U.K. for onward passage to U.K. as follows:-
(a) LADY ROSEMARY and ST. ZENO May 4th.
(b) ST. LOMAN, VIVIANA, INDIAN STAR and NORTHERN CHIEF 14 May.
(2) Ships will call at Walvis Bay and Takoradi.
(3) My 251456 and 261012 refer.
(C. in C.S.A., 301411B to Admty.)

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30.4.1945
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Navigation lights. Within Med. all warships and all merchant ships are to burn navigation lights (including second steaming light) at full brilliancy except in Adriatic north of 043° N. and as specifically ordered by F.O.L.E.M. in Aegean. Cancel Med. Station 504B not in UKAC series. (C. in C. Med. 300934B to Med. Stations.)

B.Y.M.S. 2053 sunk. Regret to report H.M.B.Y.M.S. 2053 mined and sunk on 28th April in approx. position: 044° 41' 54" N. 012° 37' 22" E. Killed, Reynolds, W.T. Stoker II LT/KX 666507. Missing, believed killed, Genge, Ronald. Wireman C/MX 693257.

Injured, Ross, Hugh. Seaman LT/JX 530125. Fractured femur. In Military Hospital, Corsini, Condition believed serious but not dangerous. Remainder of ship's company accounted for. Next of kin not informed. (Capt. M/S Adriatic 301121A to Admty.)

French destroyers. No objection to retention of BASQUE, ^LFORTUNE, L'ALCYON, HOVA, A.N.C.X.F. 291527B para. 3 as no operational requirement for these ships now exists in Mediterranean. (C. in C. Med., 301134B to Admty.)

French ports, handling of U.S. troops. Following from S.H.A.E.F. is passed for information begins:- Signal from A.N.C.X.F. 241312 of 24th April refers. Alternative B is preferred by S.H.A.E.F. and Com. Zone as it is considered that military and naval control of all ports in this theatre should be centralised to ensure closest possible planning and executive contacts. Problems are already arising, e.g. over the diversion of shipping, the answers to which need urgent decisions which can only be made if all authorities concerned are in close contact. Agreed Com. Zone. Ends. (A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 301140B to Admty.) Admiralty are not in agreement with alternative B proposed in A.N.C.X.F. (Main 241312B April especially in view of recent changes in Western Mediterranean Command, but will withhold comment until your remarks are received. (2) S.H.A.E.F. Main 292000B to Admiralty only also refers. (V.C.N.S. 301738B to C. in C. Med.)

PRINSES BEATRIX, (L.S.I. (M)) Sailed PRINSES BEATRIX 300603C to Aden for onward routing F.O.L.E.M.'s 281020B April refers. (2) E.T.A. 030300Z S.O.A. 19 knots. (N.O.I.C. Suez 301301C to Admty.)

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30.4.1945
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

H.M.'s Congratulatory Message. The following message from Field Marshal Alexander Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean is to be brought to the notice of all officers and men, begins:-
I have just received following message from His Majesty The King and desire that it be passed to all officers and men under your respective commands. To you all and all those under your command I send my heartfelt congratulations on the overwhelming victory by which you are bringing to so triumphant an end your long and arduous campaign in Italy. George R.I.
This gives me immense satisfaction and I have replied on behalf of you all as follows:
With my humble duty I thank Your Majesty personally and on behalf of all those sailors, soldiers and airmen whom I have the honour to command for your very gracious message which is deeply appreciated. Ends.
(C. in C. Med. 301448 to G.M. Mediterranean.)

BRECON & CALPE, destroyers. Intend sailing BRECON at 1200/2nd May to Bizerta for onward routeing to Gibraltar and U.K. S.O.A. 20 knots.
(2) Request BRECON be sailed to R/V CALPE for passage in company to Gib.
(V.A. Malta 301715 to F.O. Tunisia.)
Intend to sail CALPE at 0700/3rd May to Gibraltar for onward routeing to U.K.
(2) S.O.A. 20 knots E.T.A. 1000/5th.
(V.A.M. 301803 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Minesweeping, Riviera. San Remo. Anchorage swept outside of harbour. Working to open a narrow way in the blockships at entrance. Porto Maurizio sweeping of the harbour is being carried out. Will require one week. Piers are safe. S.C. and Y.M.S. can enter. Oneglia Harbour completely blocked. Work will begin when Porto Maurizio completed. A 400 yards wide channel has been swept along the coast between San Remo and Maurizio.
(Comflanfor 301812B to F.O.N.A.M.)

SS. SAM CLYDE mined. SSSS 40.22 N. 22.51 E. mined.
(SAM CLYDE No T.O.O/30th to Admty.)

S. Aegean Summary, 29.4.45 (1) Shipping and Military. Rhodes. Two reliable reports give strong indication that Wagener has received orders to surrender and is making preparations accordingly. Confirmation being sought urgently.
(C. in C. M.E. 301300C to W.O., etc.)

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War Diary

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Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Cable
repairs

Sailed HONESTY 0800Z/29th escorting cable ship
RECORDER through position E. to position 020° 46' S.
055° 22' E. for cable repairs, etc.
(N.O.I.C. Africa (East) 300846 to Admty.)

Internal
situation,
India

C. in C. India No. T.O.O. to War Office.
See Lion Copy.

Movements,
(L.C. Ts.)

Arrived CONFEDERATE, BAHARISTAN towing L.C.T.(E)
320, 384.
Departure BAHARISTAN towing L.C.T.(E) 320, 384.
FORT MUSQUARRO towing L.C.T. 1060, 1320.
SAMGARA towing L.C.T. 1104, 1148.
(Commodore Aden, 301647Z to F.O.L.E.M.)

SECRET

571A
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.)

C.in C. India.

No. T.O.O.
Date. 30.4.45

Internal Situation India

Recd: 1210

Cipher

TO: The War Office.

IMPORTANT

83945/GSI(B) cipher 30 April. 037259.
From DMI.

My 4 79136/GSI(B) 15 (or 18) April. Following Summary Internal India.

One. With Allied Victory in Europe assured general public turning their attention to post war problems. Choice of Indian Representatives at San Francisco severely criticised in Nationalist Press. Roosevelt's death caused regret though disappointment was expressed that he had not intervened in Indian Affairs.

Two. Little change expected in political situation before outcome of Lord Wavell's visit is known. Opposition to Sapru plan hardening amongst orthodox Hindus and Muslims. Former object to parity of representation between Muslims and Caste Hindus. Muslims demand territorial independence. Sikhs approve Sapru proposals as precluding local domination by any single community.

Three. Cases of labour unrest owing to economic difficulties still reported from many districts.

Four. DIB agrees.

Five. Morale. British Troops Morale remains high and great hopes are entertained of early end of war. Comment on repatriation much reduced and better feeling apparent. Mail between U.K. and India is cheap and excellent and greatly appreciated. Extension of Jap Campaign pay to Indian Army well received except by emergency Commissioned Officers in India Command who now receive no extra allowance for service with Indian Troops. Indian Troops morale unchanged.

No. T.O.O.

Advance copy sent Ops.O.I.C. Received in War Registry at 01/
1433.
Circulated by War Office to War
Office Depts. and A.M.C.S. Air
Ministry, Foreign Office, India
Office and Admiralty.

Circulation over :-

4 151010 April

(2)

1st Lord
1st S.L. (3)
2nd S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
U.W.R.
Cps. (2)
O.D. (6)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
Sec.
Dep. Sec.
M. (2)
C.N.I. (2)
A.C.N.P. (4)
D. of M.
V.D.
D. of P. (3)
D. of P. (Q) (3)

RM
(A13)

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30.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. No report since my 260507Z.
S/M attack Para. C. (1) U.S.C.G. GROTON attacked XRPT
& sighting sound contact in 42.53 N. 64.34 W. at 1457/29.
summary. (2) H.M.C.S. DAWSON and WETASKIWIN made several
attacks on contact in 39.30 N. 68.34 W. at 1745/29.
Heavy oil patches. All times Z.
(N.S.H.Q. 300717Z to Admty.)

DAWSON Relieved by P.67 and P.92 in position 48.25 N.
corvette. 68.50 W. at 0300Z today Monday. Lost contact
2000Z/29th. E.T.A. Ambrose 2000Z today Monday.
(H.M.C.S. DAWSON 301003 to C.E.S.F.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 301401Z, Cominch 301535Z.)

TOWY On completion of working up request TOWY join
frigate. E.G. 26 A.M. 281654 not to all refers.
(2) TOWY will relieve H.M.C.S. NEW GLASGOW to
refit Admiralty, pass to E.G. 26 TEME, TOWY.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 301514Z to Admty.)

U-Boat 546, Preliminary interrogation U.546 sunk 242044Z
(report re 43.54 N. 40.22 W. by C.T.U. 22.7.1.
sinking of.) (1) U.546 was operating with five other U-Boats
as Group SEA WOLF on patrol LINX crossing
Atlantic from east to west. Subsequently U-Boats
were to operate off American coast from Newfound-
land Banks to Florida.
(2) U.546 carried 13 torpedoes, 4T-5 and 9 LUT. torpedo
fired at DAVIS was a T-5.
(3) U.546 departed Christiansand 21 March 1945 and surfaced
nightly about 2300 beginning 7 April. Early 16 April sighted
carrier escorted by destroyers and was attacked by destroyers
but escaped undamaged. Sighted destroyer at 2200/22 April.
No other contacts until DAVIS incident on 24 April. All times
presumed B. Comment: It is considered likely that two or
three other U-Boats of this group have already been sunk by
C.V.E. task forces.
(Cominch 301756 to C. in C. Lant., etc.)

LORD KELVIN Cable operation completed LORD KELVIN anticipate
(cable ship) returning St. Johns N.F. 0100Z/1st May.
(H.M.C.S. GIFFARD 302000Z to F.O.N.F.)

U/B report. B.(1) Following sound contact and periscope
sighting U.S.S. NATCHEZ made an attack at 300210
in 36.34 N. 74.00 W. after which a series of co-
ordinated attacks were made by surface units in
same area.

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30.4.1945
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B report. C.(1) 301500 S.C. 988 attacked sound contact
(Contd.) 37.27 N. 74.26 W. All times Z.
D.(1) 300705 S.C. 1277 reported sighting U-Boat
42.05 N. 70.23 W.
(2) 300445 S.C. 985 sound contact 40.04 N. 73.22 W.
(3) 300230 U.S.S. UMPQUA radar contact 30.38 N. 77.15 W.
300010 training A/S reported sighting surfaced U-Boat 41.56 N.
69.45 W.
(Cominch 302121 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Cable Departure Halifax 30th April cable ship CYRUS
repairs. FIELD to effect cable repair in 043° 10', 061°
55'.
(C. in C. C.N.W.At. 302157Z to Admty.)

Far East & Australia.

Operational Signal delayed pending arrival of summary of
report No. 7. Fleet Train operations from R.A.F.T. just received.
Admiralty's 281346 April refers.
(2) 20th April T.F. 57 struck Sakishima. No
enemy aircraft airborne in area. Few fresh
aircraft on airfields strafed. No visible result. 75 tons
bombs unloaded on airfields. All rendered unserviceable.
Barracks and possible radar station Iromote left burning.
(3) Fleet arrive Leyte 23rd April in good spirits and the minor
replenishment has been effected satisfactorily with much help
from the Americans in the many details which are essential for an
anchorage.
(4) Aircrews tired but the relief pilots we could send were a
great encouragement and they are now all ready to take on any
task. I am hoping, and believe, that C. in C. Pac. will employ
us yet closer to Japan.
(5) Altogether seven replenishment sorties were made by the
Fleet Train who have done a fine job, and the successful arrival
of the mail has made all the difference.
(6) C.T.F. 57 intends to leave Leyte a.m. 1st May top off a.m.
3rd and strike Sakishima 4th and 5th May subsequently
replenishing in service area. Anticipated cycle is two days
striking, two days replenishing.
(7) ILLUSTRIOUS for onward passage, ARGONAUT, WAGER, WHELP for
refit, leave Leyte about 1st May for Sydney.
(8) I have much pleasure in adding that the work and bearing
of the Fleet in the Pacific area has created an excellent
impression and, whilst our relations with the Americans have
always been cordial, we are now regarded as one of the family.
(C. in C. B.P.F. 300743Z to Admty.)

/Digest...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East & Australia - Contd.

- Digest 1195, (Extract.) Digest serial No. 1195 follows
29.4.45. covering 29th April unless otherwise stated.
- (1) Privateers from Clark Field sank one lugger 6 miles west Toseki Formosa left three large junks sinking south Macao.
 - (2) Liberators from Palawan strafed 2 power boats 90 miles west southwest Koching leaving one burning, probably sank barge same vicinity. Previous day sank large tug, large barge fired, sank picket boat probably sank sea truck Balikpapan.
 - (3) Mariners from Tawi Tawi damaged one barge off eastern Borneo, damaged one truck near Tawao, damaged sailboat and riverboat south Tarakan.
 - (4) Mariners from Lingayan night 28/29th strafed 20 junks 10 miles off Swatow, hit two junks off Hainan, strafed six junks N.W. Toshihn Formosa, strafed sea truck and small coaster 10 miles E.S.E. Kiirun leaving small coaster burning furiously, sea truck headed for beach and later seen wrecked and lying on side, strafed left head in water, fired motor launch or motor torpedo boat same vicinity.
 - (6) Total enemy casualties Luzon present number 125,357 killed, 1,373 captures.
 - (12) 11 Lightnings, 12 Mitchells bombed Tarakan buildings out positions and defences. Cruisers and destroyers of 7th Fleet continued bombardment Tarakan shore defences.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 300815 to Admty.)

Hospital Request consideration be given to permit one
ship for British or Allied hospital ship attached to Fleet
forward area, train to be in vicinity of Oiline force during
operation periods.

- (2) This is in conformity with U.S. Navy practice and would not only serve to expedite delivery of action casualties into the best care but would also provide healthier conditions for all patients in the hospital ship at present confined to an unhealthy anchorage.
- (3) Full hospital ship procedure would be observed and the ship would remain within reach of the logistic support force which by present practice is usually met every third day.
(Comtaskfor 57 301525 to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Constructional Your 160314Z April. Approved to place bid with
materials for New Zealand Government for constructional
forward materials for forward areas, provided personnel
areas. for re-erection are also available.

- (2) If personnel are not available, request you will ask New Zealand Government to keep the offer open until labour can be provided from the U.K.
- (3) Can you give any indication of A. the New Zealand Government's attitude regarding re-imburement for material and for labour.
B. The character, i.e. whether Naval, Army or civilian, for the labour.
(1st Lord 301840B to V.A.(Q) B.P.F.)

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
 & sighting
 summary.

For 24 hours to 0800Z/30th April.

Para. A. (1) Unexplained explosion reported in rear of convoy M.H. 97 at 0959Z/29th in 53° 12' N. 04° 54' W.

(2) LOCH ~~INSM~~ ^{U307 ~~U307~~ sunk} attacked surfaced U-Boat with gunfire. H.M. ship attacked by U-Boat and U-

Boat attacked on bottom by E.G. 19 p.m. 29th in Kola Inlet Approaches.

Para. B. (1) A/C Q/120 attacked snort or possibly 2 snorts with depth charges at 1713Z/29th in 56° 04' N. 11° 07' W. *U.1017 sunk*

(2) A/C P/202 attacked smoke and wake course S. with depth charges at 1754Z/29th in 53° 16' N. 05° 11' W.

(3) A/C Q/202 attacked smoke and wake at 1812Z/29th in 53° 20' N. 05° 20' W.

(4) A/S trawler VIZALMA attacked contact at 1904Z/29th in approx. 52° 59' N. 05° 11' W.

(5) A/C H/201 reported U-Boat which dived course 180° at 0810Z/30th in 53° 42' N. 04° 55' W.

(6) A/C attacked U-Boat at 1503Z/29th in 69° 43' N. 34° 55' E. 2335Z/29th in 69° 36' N. 34° 08' E. and 0055Z/30th in 69° 35' N. 33° 48' E.

Para. C. (1) A/C Y/202 attacked oil slick apparently moving course 020° at 1401Z/29th in 55° 49' N. 08° 38' W.

(D.D.I.C. 301206B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-
 positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 301424B to A.I.G. 331, Cominch.)

*U.286
 sunk*

*U.325
 sunk*