

16.5.1945  
WednesdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

- North Sea 1. One mine was detonated in the East Schelde.
- Channel / 2(a) The Channel Islands liberation continues smoothly. The Germans are reported to be glad that the war is over, except two who were killed mine-lifting in Sark.  
(b) U.776 on arrival at Portland has been taken over by an all British crew for passage to London.
- West Coast France 3. Mine-clearance of the Gironde has started.
- Western Approaches 4(a) Seventh Escort Group is disbanded.  
(b) N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh reports that U.516 (who surfaced W.S.W. of Ushant on the 10th) is loaded with 13 tons of flour, 6 tons of cooking oil and 5 tons of butter for the Germans in St. Nazaire.
- Norway 5(a) Adm. Danielsen, R. Nor. N., is visiting N.W. Norwegian ports in STORD. Whilst so doing a convoy of 14 U-boats and 5 other ships was met in Vestfjord on passage from Narvik for Trondheim. D.17, escorting Convoy J.W.67, has detached E.G.9 to take charge of the U-boats and escort them to Loch Eriboll. They were numbers U\*278, 294, 295, 312, 313, 318, 363, 427, 668, 716, 968, 992, 997 and 1165.  
(b) 35 U-boats are reported at Bergen, 25 of them seaworthy.  
(c) At Kristiansund the 17 U-boats are numbers U.281, 299, 369, 712, 1182, 2321, 2325, 2334, 2335, 2337, 2350, 2353, 2354, 2361, 2363, 4706 and 2529, the last of 1600 tons.  
(d) At Stavanger the 9 U-boats are numbers U.637 (damaged by M.T.Bs. on April 26th), 901, 1171, 2324, 2329, 2342, 2345, 2348, and 3035.  
(e) Two, only, survivors of M.G.B.2002, mined and sunk on May 9th, have been picked up off Kristiansund.
- Northern Waters 6. A.C.I.C. is returning 3 Norwegian A/S whalers and one trawler to Norway.
- Baltic 7. F.O. Kiel reports 35 Seehund-type midget U-boats at Surendorf, together with 15 Molchs abandoned and 100 Marders under construction.

\* U.178 (See p 417)

a?

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SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

East Indies

Japanese  
10,000 ton  
cruiser  
sunk

8. The cruiser which was sighted by aircraft yesterday was sunk at 1 a.m. today by D.26 in SAUMAREZ with VENUS, VIRAGO, VIGILANT and VERULAM in 5° 00' N. 99° 35' E. (about 50° W.S.W. of Penang).

The remaining enemy ships were unaccounted for. The SAUMAREZ had one boiler room out of action.

Burma

9. During last night 4 M.Ls. destroyed an armed supply craft and killed 80 Japanese in the Irrawaddy delta. One M.L. was damaged and one rating killed.

Far East and Australia

Eastern  
Archipelago  
Singapore

10. Aircraft today from Palawan destroyed or damaged 14 small coasters and river steamers in Macassar area and damaged two tugs and 6 barges N.E. of Singapore.

Formosa

11. Mariners from Lingayen last night strafed and burned a lugger, left three motor boats dead in water 15 miles N.W. Takao and also left a small coaster dead in water off the Pescadores and strafed small craft off the China coast.

Japan

12. Today carrier aircraft from B.P.F. dropped 90 tons of bombs on airfields in the Sakishima Gunto rendering all unserviceable. Four new aircraft strafed on ground, a big explosion was caused in vicinity of Omaha town, oil dump fired and a small coaster and one lugger were left sinking. Two luggers and six barges were rocketted.

New Guinea

13. A sloop and a corvette and 2 M.Ls. of the Australian Navy bombarded shore positions in vicinity of Wewak in support of ground operations.

Submarine  
activity

14. American submarines sank a tanker, a medium sized cargo ship, a minelayer and a large trawler today.

Movements

15. SPEAKER has arrived at Leyte, NEWFOUNDLAND at Hollandia (New Guinea) ILLUSTRIOUS at Sydney.

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Ships to  
shew the  
Flag in  
European  
ports.

F.O. Holland's 141003 approved. C. in C. Nore is requested to arrange visits of short duration when ships are available. A.N.C.X.F. 151122 refers.

(D.O.D.(H), 160225B to F.O. Holland, C. in C. Nore.)

Scapa departure: BERWICK with HURON, HAIDA.

(C. in C.H.F., 160902B to F.O. Oslo.)

F.O. Holland 141003 being passed to M/S F.A.

This will be arranged when Capt. M/S F.A. reports these ports open provided a destroyer can be spared at that time.

(C. in C. Nore, 161718B to A.N.C.X.F.)

ZEALOUS and ZODIAC arrived Kiel 1200B today, 16th May.

(F.O. Kiel, 162310B to Admty.)

Use of  
German  
Merchant  
shipping

To augment the shipping resources available to the United Nations it is necessary to make the earliest possible use of serviceable shipping captured in German ports.

(2) It is desired to send to Hamburg as soon as possible a party of 84 merchant navy officers and men to bring over the first of these ships.

(3) As facilities for their transport by sea do not yet exist request air lift for this party and their personal kit be provided tomorrow Thursday.

(4) Request very early confirmation so that necessary rail movements of officers and men can be made today Wednesday.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 161304B to Air Ministry.)

Disposal  
of German  
ships

The following amplifications of my 151305 are issued in accordance with instructions received from C.C.S.

(1) All captured merchant shipping mentioned in para. (1)a except:

(a) Shipping required for local service with

German crews;

(b) Fishing vessels;

(c) Inland water craft;

is to be seized in prize in accordance with instructions contained in paragraph 109 Naval Prize Manual by the Naval Authorities in control of ports where ships are captured, i.e. Bremen and Bremerhaven by U.S. Navy and other ports by Royal Navy.

(2) Such shipping not required by S.C.A.E.F. will be sailed as directed to the United Kingdom. Arrangements will be made for providing necessary crews.

(3) Vessels excepted from seizure under para. 1 above are not to wear Nazi flag but are to wear from the peak the International code Flag "C" with a triangle cut from the fly to form a burgee.

(4) Further instructions will be issued regarding Merchant Ships mentioned in 1(b) of signal quoted.

(A.N.C.X.F., 162242B to F.O.I.Cs. and N.O.I.Cs. designate for or in Germany and Denmark, C.T.F.122, F.Os. Holland, Norway, N.O.I.C. Channel Is.).

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

U.2326 Intend sailing LOCH GORM a.m. 17th May to R/V with U.2326 at 23 buoy at 1200/17 thence to escort and lead U.2326 by searched channels to Duncansby Head and through Pentland Firth to Loch Eriboll, E.T.A. 1200/8. Speed of Advance 8½ knots. Communications Port Wave 1750 Kcs. On arrival PHILANTE is requested to sail LOCH GORM by onward route to Londonderry reporting her E.T.A. Mails for LOCH GORM to Londonderry as from 17th May. (C. in C. Rosyth, 161814B to Com. D.W.A. PHILANTE.) See 130842 and 140213.)

Discharge Situation Report Cositintrep No. 407. Part 4. Section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 151600B. May.

	<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	-	157	17902	-	4600	1201
Ostend	2468	394	2217	-	166	-
Caen	-	-	-	2281	-	-
Calais	4457	-	464	-	-	-
Total	6925	551	20583	2281	4766	1201
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	78	13804	-	-	828
Cherbourg	-	-	1106	1396	14542	-
Le Havre	130	165	4820	327	1529	-
Rouen	5	-	2084	337	-	-
Ghent	-	-	11373	-	1462	-
Total	135	243	33187	2060	17533	828
<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	-	27	7274	-	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	2746	399	5814	-
Nice	-	-	421	-	-	-
Total	-	27	10441	399	5814	-

Army Coal at: Dieppe 1508, Granville 635, Morlaix 500, Brest 450.

Cumulative totals 1 - 15 May (inclusive).

	<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	584	3547	199331	-	130073	12805
Ostend	34857	3698	37739	-	5007	3113
Caen	-	-	-	20980	-	-
Calais	77060	806	3162	692	-	-
Boulogne	260	158	-	-	-	-
Total	112761	8209	240232	21672	135080	17918*

\* Sic.

/U.S. ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Discharge  
 Situation  
 Report.

Cositintrep No. 407, Part 4.  
 Section A.  
 (Contd.)

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo.</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>						
Antwerp	-	1631	214676	-	-	4883
Cherbourg	284	463	33536	14899	56616	748
Le Havre	48835	2874	56898	4801	26396	3659
Rouen	42	158	49591	15753	25841	4466
Ghent	1	-	134626	-	1462	16586
<b>Total</b>	<b>49162</b>	<b>5126</b>	<b>489327</b>	<b>35453</b>	<b>110315</b>	<b>36942*</b>

\* Sic.

<u>U.S. South</u>						
Marseilles	17954	3552	156429	3920	3481	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	30628	8373	86045	597
Toulon	-	-	1590	-	-	-
Nice	-	-	1113	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>17954</b>	<b>3552</b>	<b>189760</b>	<b>12293</b>	<b>89526</b>	<b>597</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 161820B to Admty. and others.)

Situation  
 Report

Situation Report number 14.  
 Orders given for repairs to Merchant Ships occupying Graving Dock Blohm and Voss Yard to be commenced forthwith in order to free docks for our use if required.

(2) Brunsbüttel. Crews of Warships disembarked without incident and placed in billets ashore.  
 (N.O.I.C. Hamburg, 161910B to F.O. Wilhelmshaven, Admty, A.N.C.X.F.)  
 Cositintrep No. 407, Part II Naval. Port Situation Reports.

Information is additional to that given in previous Cositintreps.  
 (a) Amsterdam: (not open to shipping). Two blockships near Zaandam in North Sea Canal limit approach to a passage 20 feet wide and 6 feet deep. Petroleum Haven and Copenhagen including tanks demolished. All other facilities except cranes are intact. Naval yard in working order. Dry docks of Netherland Dock Company require about 6 weeks to repair. Three ships ex Yssel Flotilla in harbour. 50,000 tons inland water craft. Available stocks diesel oil 35 tons, boiler oil 160 tons, paraffin 23 tons, coal 1800 tons.

(b) IJmuiden. (Not open to shipping). Locks into North Sea Canal undamaged but can only be operated manually. 12 pilots available.

(2) Mine clearance of approaches to Gironde River has started. On completion, clearance will be continued as far as Pauillac and subsequently from Pauillac to Bordeaux.

(A.N.C.X.F., 162230B to Admty.)

/Your...

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Situation Report (Contd.) Your 100900 Sitrep. Following German warships lying at Den Helder.

(1) 17 E.boats. 2 have been detached to U.K. 10 M/S boats, 4 magnetic sweepers, 3 patrol boats, 10 harbour defence boats, 9 river gunboats, 35 water police boats, 3 gun lighters.

(2) For information concerning port see my 162355B.

(3) De-ammunitioning of small M.S.X. craft commencing tomorrow, Thursday.  
(N.O.I.C. Den Helder, 162358B to F.O. Holland.)

Sweeping of East Schelde Sweeping report for today Wednesday.

A. 2 M.M.S. swept 2 actuations of 5 cables channel from No. 10 buoy south of Zieriksee to Eastern end of Keeten and 4 actuations of Masgat. Both sweeps LL/SA E.G.M.S. with HG on first lap.

(b) 2 M.M.S. swept 16 actuations LL/SA EGMS over suspected minefield in Keeten. Sweeps (a) and (b) negative results.

(c) 2 B.Y.M.S. continuous shallow water sweeps of Zijpe Minefield 1 magnetic mine detonated 160°. Stooppolder light, 1 cable.  
(Com. M/S East Schelde, 162051B to F.O. Holland.)

Rotterdam mining Report of interview with Ober-Lieut. Schoenleben German Mining Officer from Schiedam regarding mining carried out at Rotterdam.

(2) In Rotterdam Harbour mines were all laid on or about 15th September, 1944.

(3) They are about 15 months old and almost certainly all are still active.

(4) The mines are all marked L.M.B. which seems to be what we know as mark C.

(5) He describes the mine units as mark one magnetic which have been in use since 1941. It is an unipolar unit and can be set either red or blue but in the case of this port all the mines were set blue. The P.D.M. in this unit required up to 12 actuations and advancement (group omitted) re set (?has) G time of 5 minutes.

(6) (?900) hydrostatic clocks and 489 6 day clocks were all set to two days.

(7) This information was received through an interpreter but great care was taken to reduce the risk of misunderstandings.  
(N.O.I.C. Rotterdam, 162240 to F.O. Holland.)

OperationsChannel

Situation in Channel Is. Cositintrep number 406 Force 135. Period ending 152300B at St. Peter Port. Part 1. Troop 614 Regiment R.A. carried out patrol in German area Jersey. Report Germans behaving with complete correctness and glad war is over. Sark. 2 Germans killed 151110 during mine lifting.  
(Force 135, No T.O.O. to Admty.)

/Cositintrep...

413

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Situation in Channel Is. Cositintrep number 407. Period ending 2300B/16 at St. Peter Port.

Part 1. Patrols into German area, Guernsey report that Germans are behaving in orderly manner. Local inhabitants state German other ranks have in some cases changed into officers' uniform. German Commander Col. Von Steuber order to investigate and stop this practice.

Part 2. Battery Group 614 Regt. R.A. sailed for Alderney 1200B/16. All troops disembarked and Union Jack hoisted 1600B/16. Engineers report about 40,000 mines to be lifted on Alderney. German electric power station and three crawler cranes serviceable with ample fuel. Germans, except care and maintenance party of 10, will be evacuated from Sark 17th May. Jersey. Final check of St. Helier harbour and installations completed. Removal of mined charges harbour entrance ten per cent cleared. Final engineer check of airfield reported all clear. Marking of particularly dangerous anti-personnel minefields completed. Mine clearance continues. Mines have been cleared by German prisoners under engineer supervision in following areas. Grouville Bay from Fort William to Fort Henry (beach and area east of coast road) hundred per cent cleared. Gorey harbour shells removed. St. Odens Bay area 6775 all S. mines stripped and explosives demolished. St. Aubins Bay mines hundred per cent cleared wire ten per cent cleared. Guernsey. Permanent lighting made good in all offices Elizabeth College. Repairs to new jetty St. Peter Port begun. Eight buried charges removed from White Rock pier. Inter Island ferry service has been arranged.

Part 3. Guernsey. Force is releasing at once for civil populations 40 tons bagged coal, four hundred tons German wood, 23 tons petrol, 165 tons German flour.

Jersey. Food on sale in shops 18th May as in Guernsey. Reichmark being withdrawn and replaced by sterling. General condition of population better than in Guernsey. Acute shortage of seed potatoes. Demand for 500 tons noted by Home Secretary. Both Islands. Fishing restarted. Supplies vegetable and milk adequate but no surplus. (Force 135, 162330B to Admty.)

Situation report. Alderney occupied by 250 troops this afternoon carried in L.C.I.16 and 123 DOCHET escorting. N.O.I.C. Channel Is. Guernsey landed with Force Cdr. and returned in W.D. Launch. Coaster BEAL landed supplies. Surrender orders apparently fully carried out. Unconfirmed rumours of execution foreign workers under investigation. L.C.Ts. return Guernsey 17th with Russian Todt workers. DOCHET remains as W/T link until R.N.O. established with W/T van.

(2) Guernsey and Jersey good progress unloading supplies.  
(3) Occupation Sark tomorrow 17th.  
(N.O.I.C. Channel Is., 162331B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Patrols...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols S.O. E.G.2 detach CAMROSE to Plymouth forthwith.  
(2) 2nd E.G. establish following patrols on coastal convoy route forthwith. 1st Division Lizard to Eddystone. 2nd Division Eddystone to Berry Head.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 160946B to E.G.2, CAMROSE.)

U.776 U.776 surrendered to the Royal Navy in Weymouth Bay at 1000 today 16th.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 161039B to Admty.)  
Lieut. Comdr. P.B. Marriott has today Wednesday assumed command of U.776 and is preparing her for surface passage with an entirely British crew. Anticipate she will be ready for sea p.m. repeat p.m. Friday 18th.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 161520 to Admty.)

Reinforce- Intend from Spithead Gate 1930B 16th to Channel  
ments to Isles following L.S.Is. escorted to off Portland  
Channel Is. Bill by HARGOOD (S.O.) WALDEGRAVE, KINGSMILL.  
(a) To Guernsey - INVICTA, EMPIRE RAPIER,  
EMPIRE LANCE.  
(b) To Jersey - H.M.S. ST. HELIER (Commodore)  
ROYAL ULSTERMAN, PRINCESS JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE.  
(2) Routed Q.Z.S.373, 552, 675. Route W. to 180° Portland Bill, 11 miles, thence 186° Portland Bill 13 miles, position X 315° Casquets Light 15 miles, position Y.49.31' 30" N. 03° 08' 00" W. and to position B. of Q.Z.S.733 thereafter convoy to Split as ordered by N.O.I.C. Channel Islands.  
(3) Speed 14 knots zigzagging in Portsmouth Command, and adjusted to arrive 186° Portland Bill 13 miles at 0200B 17th and position B. of Q.Z.S.733 at 0700B 17th.  
(4) N.O.I.C. Channel Islands is requested to sail HOLMES and THORNBOROUGH to relieve Portsmouth escorts off Portland Bill. C. in C. Plymouth's 151856B not to all refers.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161450B to HARGOOD, WALDEGRAVE, KINGSMILL, ST. HELIER, N.O.I.C. Channel Is.).

Operations

West Coast France

Disposition Your 151545B. LORRAINE and DUQUESNE may be  
of forces placed on 48 hour notice. Destroyers are to remain at Brest on four hours' notice C. in C. Plymouth's 151830B refers. HOVA granted 6 days' availability for repairs to damaged screw.  
(C.T.F.122, 161415Z to Marine Maris.)



415

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- U.255 U.255 P.C.S. 58° 00' N. 11.04 W. 070° 10.  
3407 0287.  
(S.O.E.G.12, 160325B to C. in C.W.A.)  
See 141049 Western Approaches.
- U.516 U.516 type IXC Commanding Officer Oberleutnant  
Petran surrendered when on passage with  
provisions for St. Nazaire. Has following  
stores on board:-  
13 tons flour in tins and 5 tons butter in tins  
both of which it is intended to remove here. 6 tons of  
cooking oil stowed in bulk in torpedo trim tanks will be sent  
on to Lisahally.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 160852 to Com. D.W.A.) -  
See 100935 W.A.
- U.255 R/V with one escorting U.255 my P.C.S. 58°11' N.  
09.50' W. 071° 8 knots. 6288 9566.  
(S.O.E.G.30, 160926B to S.O.E.G.18.)  
See 141049 W.A.
- E.G.7 E.G.7 is disbanded.  
(C. in C. W.A., 162202B to Capt. D. Greenock.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

STORD to Bjornoya. (1) Following from C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy: "Norwegian Naval Command in consultation with the Norwegian High Command, propose that H. Nor. M.S. STORD, after having called at Tromso with Admiral Danielsen's party, should proceed to Bjornoya to put ashore a small landing party with sufficient equipment for a stay there for some time, and with a wireless set to enable them to communicate with Admiral Danielsen in Tromso.

(2) Admiralty approval is requested and is requested to inform STORD before she leaves U.K.

(3) Admiral Danielsen will be informed direct by the Norwegian Naval Command. T.O.O. 111840."

(2) C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy has been informed that Admiralty approve.

(3) Necessary orders to carry out the operation have not been given to STORD.

(V.C.N.S. 160210B to F.O. Norway.)

STORD has been allocated for operation "Apostle" under the control of A.N.C.X.F. It is unlikely that she will rejoin Home Fleet for some time. Your 151255 refers.

(V.C.N.S. 160052B to C. in C. H.F.)

A.M. 160210B Admiral Danielsen was given this message personally by me and informed that no objection to his carrying out this operation which he stated he would do. A.M. 140120 has not been passed to Admiral Danielsen.

(C. in C. Rosyth 161031 to F.O. Norway.)

German convoy Have met German convoy steering 230° 10 knots in Vestfjord. Vestfjord consisting of 16 U-Boats and 5 Merchant Ships. They say they are sailing from Narvik to Trondheim. Is this in order?

(STORD 160819B to F.O. Norway.)

For information. N.S. STORD has reported 16 U-Boats in convoy with 5 merchant ships outward bound in Vestfjord a.m. today 16th May and reporting themselves bound for Trondheim.

(D.D.I.C. 161114B to D.17, C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C., QUEEN, C. in C. Rosyth.)

Admiralty is taking action on STORD's 160819B.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 161130B to F.O. Norway.)

D.17 is to detach one E.G. forthwith to intercept convoy of 16 U-Boats and 5 merchant ships reported in Vestfjord at 160819B proceeding from Narvik to Trondheim.

(2) U-Boats are to be escorted by escort group to Loch Eriboll and merchant ships to be directed to Trondheim.

(3) STORD is requested to instruct BROADWAY to take charge of convoy until relieved by escort group.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 161200B to D.17, STORD.)

(E.G. 9 detached see 161351, Northern Waters.)

My 0819 correct to read 14 U-Boat, 3 U-Boat depot ships, motor vessel STELLA POLARIS also an Aviso, GRILLE.

(N.S. STORD 161259B to Admty.)

/Yes...

417

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

German convoy in Vestfjord. (Contd.) Yes German submarines have been in touch with Trondheim. (F.O. Norway 161340 to STORD.) Your 161200B. Have taken over BROADWAY's passengers. She is proceeding to R/V with German convoy. BROADWAY has only B.C.K. and X.A. recypher/recoding tables, also Fleet Code and is keeping constant watch on H.D. and loudspeaker watch on 2410 k/cs. (STORD 161412B to Admty.)

My 161412B. Not to N.O.I.C. Trondheim. BROADWAY will have to refuel before returning to U.K. Suggest she escort motor vessels to Trondheim when relieved and fuel there.

(STORD 161524B to Admty.)

Report P.C.S. of convoy. Admiralty's 161200 refers. (C. in C. H.F., 161632 to BROADWAY.)

Following German P/L message intercepted from Captain U-Boats Northern Waters to Naval Chief Command Norway Operational Staff on 3260 k/cs.:-

Captain U-Boat's unit with GRILLE, HUASCARAN, KAMERUN, STELLA POLARIS, KARENTEN, U.178, U.294, U.295, U.312, U.313, U.318, U.363, U.427, U.668, U.716, U.968, U.992, U.997, U.1165 left Narvik at 2000B/15 for transfer passage to Trondheim by outer route. Position report every 6 hours.

(D.D.I.C. 161651B to C. in C. H.F.)

STORD 161524 and A.M. 161200B escort 5 M.V. to Trondheim further instructions follow.

(C. in C. Rosyth 161816B to BROADWAY.)

M.G.B. 2002 Following ratings seriously ill in Kristiansund Hospital suffering from effect exposure:-  
Thomas Henry Sheeham, P.O., Mechanician.  
Hine, A.B.

Ratings were picked up at 0630/16th May by Norwegian M/V URANUS from Carley Float and state they are survivors from M.G.B. 2002 from Aberdeen which was mined and sank at approx. 0345 on 9th May and that there are no other survivors. Next of kin not informed.

(N.O.I.C. Kristiansund 161440B to Admty.)

N.O.I.C. Arrived Trondheim in MACKAY with VICEROY and Trondheim. BANGOR in company. BLACKPOOL with M.M.S. 1078 and 1057 E.T.A. 0500/17th. (N.O.I.C. Trondheim 161500B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

U/Bs and torpedo depot at Bergen. Preliminary R/C shows that there are 35 German U-Boats berthed at Bergen, of which about 25 are fit for sea. Further reports will be made when complete inspection has been carried out. (N.O.I.C. Bergen 161604B to Admty.)

Bagervaag show 102 air torpedoes and 235 electric torpedoes including disabled TARE 5 and number of LUT torpedoes all in store. Pistols in store all P.11, P.12 and P.14C type. No torpedoes are carried in German U-Boats referred to in my 161604B (N.O.I.C. Bergen 161942B to Admty.)

/U-Boats...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

a.  
U-Boats at  
Kristiansund.

A.M. 160310B. 17 German U-Boats at Kristiansund. 1 of 1600 tons, 5 of 500 tons, 11 of 230 tons. (2) U.2529, U.281, U.299, U.369, U.712, U.1182?, U.2321, U.2325, U.2334, U.2335?, U.2337, U.2350, U.2353, U.2354, U.2361, U.2363, U.4706. (N.O.I.C. Kristiansund 161610B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

U-Boats at  
Stavanger.

A.N.C.X.F. 161115B. Following German U-Boats at present at Stavanger. Type 21 3035. Type 7 C.V. 637 damaged by M.T.Bs. off Stavanger 26th April, 1171, 901. Type 23 2324, 2329, 2342\*, 2345, 2348, none reported at other ports laid down in my area. (N.O.I.C. Stavanger 161811 to F.O. Norway.)

\* ? 2322 (C.C.H.F. 301102, Movement) b.772.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Withdrawal  
of Norwegians  
from Iceland.

My 141700. Sailed in accordance with your 142304\*, E.T.A. Tranoy 1300B/20th May. (2) Request Admiralty direct mails accordingly. (A.C.I.C. 160400B to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.) \* Sailing H.M.N.S. HONNINGSVAAG, NAMSOS, SVOLVAER, FARSUND.

Convoy  
J.W. 67.

Your 161200B. E.G. 9 detached P.C.S. of J.W. 67 66° 20' N. 01° 34' E. 046° 9½ knots. Weather report 4361 8635. (Capt. D.17 161351B to Admty.) For 161200 see Norway.

14 U-Boats  
ordered to  
Loch Eriboll,  
16th M.L.  
Flot. to  
reinforce.

In view of A.M. 161200 which is passed to addressees 16th M.L. Flotilla consisting of 6 M.Ls. can be sailed from Holyhead to Stornoway forthwith to operate under your orders. Request you will inform N.C.I.C. Holyhead direct if this force is required. (C. in C. W.A., 161620B to S.O. Loch Eriboll.)

Convoy  
R.A. 67.

Request every endeavour be made to sail Norwegian ships KRONPRINSEN and KONG HAAKON VII to U.K. in R.A. 67. (D.T.D. 161848B to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Baltic.

German delegates from Copenhagen.

Sailed German minesweeper M. 607 with returning delegates on board. M. 607 will be led to position A in Q.Z.H. 429 then proceeding independently to position 55° 00' N. 06° 25' E. thence via North Danish coastal route to Aarhus E.T.A. 0500/19th at a speed of 12 knots. M. 607 has been ordered to report her position every 4 hours on 500 k/cs addressing the message to C. in C. Rosyth (R) F.O. Denmark. (C. in C. Rosyth 161044B to F.O. Denmark.)

Operation "Crosskeys"

Operation "Crosskeys". Intend to sail "Crosskeys" convoy from Leith at 1700 on May 18th for Copenhagen at S.O.A. 8 knots. (2) Convoy consists of SHIPPIGAN, TASAJERA, L.S.T. 416 with stores, L.C.I.(L) 379, 10th and 11th M.L. Flotillas, 137 M.S.F. 150th M.S.F, 204th M.S.F. with tankers BRITISH TOMMY, Y.89 and store carrier SEDULITY escorted by SIDMOUTH. Commodore will be in SHIPPIGAN.

(3) Routed as follows:-

By S/C to 25 buoy and Q.Z.S. 729 to position I. 58° 03' 00" N. 06° 34' 24" E. at 1600/20th thence by route X-ray, Way 42 and Way 43 (chart M.O. 6594) to 58° 00' N. 11° 05' E. thence to position 270° Paternoster Light 5 miles at 1400/21st and thence by Swedish coastal route to Copenhagen E.T.A. approx. a.m. 22nd May.

(4) N.O.I.C. Stavanger is requested to arrange for six pilots to meet the convoy at position I. and F.O. Denmark for six pilots to be embarked off Paternoster Light. Pilots should remain in those ships which will be flying pilot flags.

(5) On arrival off Paternoster Light, SIDMOUTH is to detach and return by the reverse route to Kristiansund (S). F.O. Denmark is requested to sail SHIPPIGAN on arrival to Oslo. (C. in C. Rosyth 162022 to F.Os. Norway, Denmark, N.O.I.C. Stavanger.)

Midget U/Bs at Surendorf

20 in number SEEHUNDE afloat 15 in number SEEHUNDE ashore 100 approx. MARDER under construction 15 MOLCH apparently abandoned ashore in addition to the German U-Boats reported at Kiel in my 142357.

There are 2 large A/S Submarine afloat. Both out of action but could be made ready for sea after long refit. (F.O. Kiel 162247B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Formation of Naval Interrogation and technical unit

A.N.C.X.F.\* 141515. Strongly concur in proposal for joint investigation board. (2) Operational dislocation disposal of technical departments and inefficient communications make O.K.M. present requirements uncertain. (3) Fahburg is overcrowded and is not necessarily best permanent centre.

(4) If required accommodation could probably be arranged near Kiel later.

(F.O. Kiel 162355B to Admty.)

\* Proposed that a naval interrogation and technical unit should be formed on a joint U.S./Br. basis.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

U-Boat information. My 151017. 4th supplementary report from O.K.M. dated 15th May begins:  
(1) U.320 was sunk 7th May, so there was no attack on 9th May.  
(2) U.901 and U.764 have received orders from British Admiralty. U.776 in position B.F. 1172. U.255 has been located position corrupt. Accordingly 33 U-Boats have reported or are in Allied harbours.  
(3) U.874 according to information given by F.U. has not sailed from Horten.  
(4) U.183 has been ordered to Fremantle. Ends.  
(5) Signalled amendment to letter from S.H.A.E.F. Mission not yet received implies U.965 still at sea area A.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 161610B to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

m/v  
88. DOGGERSBANK. DOGGERSBANK due Falmouth p.m. 14th from Newport failed to arrive. Enquiries as to whereabouts made but with no result.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 161721B to Admty.)

Movements.

U.1010, U.1231. U.1010 type VII C and U.1231 type IX C in company. E.T.A. Lough Foyle buoy 1130/16th May.  
(KEMPTHORNE 160010B to Com. D. W.A.)

U.825, U.956. E.T.A. Lough Foyle buoy 0855, U.825 and U.956 in company. Both boats capable anchoring.  
(BLIGH 160013B to Com. D. W.A.)  
Arrived BLIGH, KEMPTHORNE, U.825, U.956, U.1010, U.1231.  
(Com. D. W.A., 161100B.)

ENTERPRISE, cruiser. Request you will sail ENTERPRISE when ready for Gibraltar for onward passage to Colombo.  
(2) Anticipated date of departure is to be reported when a further signal will be made concerning escorts.  
(3) Admiralty will promulgate route.  
(4) A.M. 121741 not to all refers.  
(D.O.D. (H) 160214B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
A.M. 091754 para. C. and A.M. 160214 neither to all.  
OAKLEY and HAYDON will escort ENTERPRISE from Portsmouth to Gibraltar. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to inform C. in C. Nore, date that they will be required.  
(2) HAYDON and OAKLEY are for onward routing to Malta and Taranto respectively for refit.  
(D.O.D. (H) 161539B to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

U.516, U.764, Following U-Boats in harbour 0900 today Wednesday  
U.244. 16th U.516, U.764, U.244  
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh 160948B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Intend to sail U.516 and U.764 escorted by KEATS  
northabout Skye to Lisahally 1800 today Wednesday  
16th. KEATS to make own E.T.A. direct.  
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh 161035B to Com. D. W.A.)  
E.T.A. Lough Foyle buoy 1230B Thursday 17th May U.516 and U.764  
in company.  
(KEATS 162330B to Com. D. W.A.)

SNOWBERRY, C.N.M.O's 151750 and 151754 being passed to D.1.  
MAYFLOWER, SNOWBERRY and MAYFLOWER can be released now.  
corvettes. Para. B of my 151825 not to C.N.M.O. and NIOBE  
refers.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 161139B to Admty.)

WILLEM VAN WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN is now at disposal of B.D.Z.  
DER ZAAAN, (2) A.N.C.X.F. is requested to remark on para. 2  
minelayer. of B.D.Z. 141214\* which is being passed to C.  
in C. Portsmouth and C. in C. Nore.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 161210B to B.D.Z., A.N.C.X.F.)  
\* Requesting that WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN be put at  
my disposal.

ORKNEY, C.N.M.O's 141330 Admiralty's 150200 neither to  
LA HULLOISE, all. Intend following arrangements for reduction  
THETFORD of ten per cent in R.C.N. escort force in U.K.:-  
MINES, A. E.G. 25 ORKNEY, LA HULLOISE, THETFORD MINES,  
JOLIETTE, JOLIETTE, STRATHADAM sail for Canada May 22nd.  
STRATHADAM, B. E.G. 26 BEACON HILL, JONQUIERE, SUSSEX VALE  
BEACON HILL, sail for Canada when released from present duty .  
JONQUIERE, with C. in C. Portsmouth. NEW GLASGOW on  
SUSSEX VALE, completion of defects at Rosyth end of May.  
NEW GLASGOW, RIBBLE available for return to R.N. when  
RIBBLE, released from present duty with C. in C.  
frigates. Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. W.A., 161638B to Admty.)

A.F.D. 69, H.M.R.T. MARAUDER towing A.F.D. 69, escorted by  
floating LA NANTAISE, estimated to pass 3° W. on Q.Z.S.  
dock. 694 at 0645B/17th May routed to Falmouth by  
Q.Z.S. 692, 560 and 690. Speed 6 knots.  
(2) Pass Gate 2359B/16th May and proceed to R/V  
with tug and tow at 3° W. and relieve LA NANTAISE.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 161712B to GWEAL.)

U.532. U.532 lost man overboard. Body not recovered.  
Delayed 2 hours.  
(GRINDALL 161755B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)  
Your 142146 arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 162345B to C. in C. W.A.)

/HAIDA...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

HAIDA,  
HURON,  
IROQUOIS,  
destroyers.

Admiralty's 160131. R.C.N. Tribals can be released on completion of present operations about Monday 28th May.  
(C. in C. H.F., 161957B to Admty.)

BALSAM,  
ALISMA,  
PETUNIA,  
corvettes,  
BIDEFORD,  
sloop.

Reference Admiralty's 180855B April and my 162043B May.  
A. (1) BALSAM and ALISMA. (2) Chatham. (3) 23rd May, 1945.  
B. (1) PETUNIA. (2) Portsmouth. (3) 23rd May.  
C. (1) BIDEFORD. (2) Devonport. (3) 23rd May '45.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 162045B to F.O.C.R.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

"Apostle"  
L.S.Ts.  
Hamburg to  
Norway.

Revised "Apostle" plan entails lift of personnel and vehicles by L.S.T. direct to Norwegian ports from Hamburg for British Forces and from Le Havre for U.S.

(2) Details and phasing will be communicated as soon as known but approx. 40 British and 13 U.S. L.S.T. lifts will probably be required.

(3) Target dates for first sailings are 30th May from Le Havre and 1st June from Hamburg.

(4) Early confirmation is requested that adequate hands for L.S.Ts. will be available at Hamburg.

(A.N.C.X.F. 161221B to Com. Hamburg, C.T.F. 122.)



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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Re U/Bs 541  
and 485 sail-  
ing to  
Londonderry.

Your 131214B and 141008B A.M. 151647B not to  
all addressees.

In view of the experience obtained by VAMPIRE's  
personnel with these U-boats machinery and their  
knowledge of the German key ratings necessary  
to steam the boats, it is considered to be the  
best solution for specified Officers and Ratings  
from VAMPIRE to take the U-boats back to Londonderry and return  
to Gibraltar by air. If approved it is anticipated that VAMPIRE  
would be available for training purposes by first week in June.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 161547B to C. in C. Med. concur 201135B).

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LE TRIOMPHANT Intend to enter F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT at 1930/16 for transit to Suez and onward routeing to East Indies Fleet.  
(Alex. 161143C to N.O.I.C. Suez.)

Operational F.O.N.A.M's Command Post at Leghorn closed down port Leghorn at 0001B May 16th. From that time N.O.I.C. (closing down) Leghorn will be responsible for movement of shipping in the Ligurian Sea east of Corsica and line joining Cape Corso to Franco-Italian Frontier and north of a line joining the following positions 042° 05' N. 009° 31' E. 042° 05' N. 011° 15' E. and 042° 22' N. 011° 27' E.  
(C. in C. Med., 161201B to Med. Station.)

Repatriation In view of decision to effect repatriation over- shipping. land after May, every endeavour being made for as many as possible British /U.S. .P.O.W. to reach Odessa by end of month.

(2) There are however some 12,000 P.W. of various nationalities (mainly French, Dutch and Belgian) now in Odessa awaiting repatriation having been directed there by Russians in accordance with plan that Odessa was the only port for repatriation.

(3) I am concerned that as number of ships available on Odessa - Marseilles service is being reduced for other commitments we will be unable to lift numbers quoted in para. 2.

(4) Request reconsideration of programme and confirmation that HIGHLAND MONARCH, ASCANIUS, TAMAROA and EMPIRE PRIDE may proceed Marseilles ex Odessa for this purpose.

(Adm. Archer, Moscow, 161501B to Admty. for D.S.T.)

A.F.D. 48. A.M. 221322. On arrival request ASSIDUOUS be sailed to Taranto for towage of A.F.D. 48 to Massawa. A.M. 041909, para. 3 refers.  
(D.O.D.(F) 161636B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Control A.N.C.X.F. Main 152050B May is concurred. of Ports. (S.H.A.E.F. Forward 161700B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Movements of French ships Request I may be kept informed of movements of transporting troops. French ships employed in transporting troops to and from Levant.  
(2) Policy signals such as C. in C. Med., 061129 May and Admiralty 051248 May are repeated to me but information requested in para. 1 has not up to date been sent.  
(N.A. Paris 161850B to Admty.) See 171745.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Dodecanese  
Sitrep.

As at 1800C/16th.

(1) C. in C. M.E. arrived Rhodes 1630C/14.  
Departed 1700C/15. Regent of Greece landed from  
Greek warship <sup>C101010</sup> AVEROFFO930C/15 and was met by  
C. in C. Comd. Force 281. Snodac. D.C.C.A.O.  
and local notables. Regent proceeded to  
Cathedral where he held mass.

(2) Rhodes harbour open.

(4) Provisional P.W. statement. German. Officers 282, O.R.  
9417. Total 9699. Italians. Officers 62, O.R. 6354.  
Total 6416. Grand total 16115.  
(C. in C. M.E. 161930C to A.F.H.Q.)

Destroyers.

Destination for LEDBURY and TETCOTT is Portsmouth.  
(3) F.O.G.M.A's 150910 not to all refers.  
(D.O.D.(H) 162139B to Admty.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Operations Cruiser sinking.  
 D.26. (Capt. (D) 26, 160140 to E.I.F.)  
 Cruiser Japanese NACHI Class Cruiser and one Destroyer (my  
 sunk. (HABURO) 140649 refers) sighted by A/C of 851 Squadron 1050  
 F.G. 15th May in position 006 degs. 55' N. 96 degs.  
 50' E. steering southeast. One small merchant  
 ship, one S/M chaser also in vicinity.  
 (2) One Avenger scored one probable hit, one near miss, with  
 bombs 1500 F.G.  
 (3) Cruiser was sunk about 0100 F.G. in approx. position 05 degs.  
 00' N. 99 degs. 35' E. by D.26 in SAUMAREZ with VENUS, VIRAGO,  
 VIGILANT, VERULAM. Remaining enemy ships not accounted for.  
 (4) SAUMAREZ - one boiler room out of action. Remainder 26 D.F.  
 not damaged.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 160309 and 181240B to S. and A. E.I.S)

Orders for C. in C. British Pacific Fleet 140911 (N.T. in W.D)  
 E.I.F. unless both CHERRYLEAF and ORANGELEAF arrive in  
 and B.P.F. Ceylon area in sufficient time it is extremely  
 doubtful whether para. 1 can be complied with.  
 CHERRYLEAF is expected towards end of May but  
 ORANGELEAF is uncertain.

(2) It is only with great difficulty that East Indies Fleet  
 operational requirements can be satisfied.  
 (3) The shortage of M.F.A's on this station has necessitated  
 the use of R.F.A's as base oilers at convoy assembly ports and  
 afterwards at captured ports with corresponding delay to their  
 refits and dockings.  
 (4) EAGLESDALE was selected to join the British Pacific Fleet  
 because she had recently completed refit and could sail on  
 arrival of the two LEAFS. ECHODALE is overdue for refit and will  
 require two months on her return from Burma coast.  
 (5) Of the remaining large R.F.A's GREEN RANGER is due for refit.  
 EMPIRE SALVAGE must be immobilised for approx. one month in  
 order to dock (long overdue) change crew and boiler clean and  
 OLWEN is also long overdue for boiler cleaning which will  
 immobilise her for three weeks.  
 (6) The sole remaining ship is EASEDALE which has to bear the  
 brunt of all operations until reliefs arrive.  
 (7) In view of the rapid progress of operations in this theatre  
 it is considered that to comply with your wishes ECHODALE will  
 not be refitted on this station and would be sailed for British  
 Pacific Fleet as soon as EAGLESDALE returns to Ceylon.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 160614Z to C. in C. B.P.F. and reply C. in C. B.P.Fa.  
 180235Z and 181935B)

S/M SIRDAR. Sailed SIRDAR with ASSIDUOUS in company at 0700Z/16  
 to Suez. SIRDAR for onward routing to U.K.  
 ASSIDUOUS to Alexandria. One Diesel engine of  
 SIRDAR out of action.  
 (2) E.T.A. Suez 0300Z/22nd S. of A. 9.5 knots.  
 (Com. Aden, 160840Z to N.O.I.C.Suez)

S/Ms on There are at the moment sufficient targets in the  
 E.I.Stn. East Indies station to justify the use of the small  
 number of S/Ms still based in Ceylon.  
 (2) After the capture of Singapore it is anticipated

/ that ...

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

S/Ms on  
E.I.Stn.  
(Contd.)

that these targets will no longer exist and that S/M warfare on the East Indies Station as at present defined will cease after the 31st December, 1945.

(3) It is considered that S/Ms will not be required for A.S.R. duties or clandestine operations after this date.

(C. in C. E.I.161209Z to Admty.) *See 300600 JULY.  
+ 380914 AUG.*

A.F.D.49.

Departed SNOWFLAKE, FLARE towing A.F.D.49,  
FLICKER, ASSIDUOUS, SIRDAR.  
(Com. Aden, 161624Z to Admty.)

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Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

L.S.I.(L)s. EMPIRE ARQUEBUS, EMPIRE MACE, EMPIRE BATTLEAXE  
E.T.D. Cristobal 17th May for New York.  
(Compgseafon, 160018Z to Cinclant, etc.)

E.G. 28 In vicinity Flemish Cap your 151316Z refers.  
My P.C. and S. 46.51 N., 45.25 W., 095, 7.  
Intend patrolling general vicinity south-west  
of Cap Small Berg sighted 47.00 N., 47.07 W.  
at 0400Z/16.  
(S.O. E.G.28, 161100Z to F.O.N.F.)

U/B 1200Z/16th May. No fresh information since  
dispositions my 151347Z.  
for (N.S.H.Q., 161352Z to A.O.C. E.A.C.)  
surrender. Enemy U-Boat estimate 1200Z/16th.  
Para. (A) No fresh information since Cominch  
151408Z.  
Para. (B) U-Boats under escort in U.S.  
strategic area estimated 1200Z/16th as follows:  
U. 234 in 45.00 50.30, C.250, S.12.  
U. 873 in 42.45 69.00, C.298, S.13.  
U.1228 in 42.45 67.45, C.271, S.11.  
(Cominch, 161405Z.)

U.S. C. in C. Med. give to S.A.C. Med. Hold in  
Amphibious abeyance return of U.S. Amphibious Forces in  
Forces. Med. including DUANE with Comphibgroup 10.  
(Release of) My dis. 282103\* C. in C. Med. 141712B refer.  
Report total numbers all U.S. Amphibious Forces  
now on station.  
(Cominch, 161402 to Comnavnav.)  
\* All U.S. Amphibious Forces in Med. will be  
released.

Task Groups, Task Groups 22.6, 22.8, 22.10 dissolved this  
dissolution. date. T.F.22, Cdr. Headland report F.A.O.  
New York for temporary duty.  
(C. in C. Lant, 161624Z to C.T.G. 22.8.)

? BEACHY Departing Esquimalt 0100 G.M.T. 20th May.  
HEAD. (A) H.M.S. BEACHY HEAD (no trace in lists) escort  
maintenance vessel.  
(B) San Francisco, California E.T.A. 1300 G.M.T.  
23rd May for onward routeing to East Indies.  
(C) Route thence to San Francisco, S.O.A. 10 knots.  
(C.O.P.C., 161814Z to C.W.S.F.)

T.G. 60.7 Task Group 60.7 constituted. C.T.G. 60.7  
constitution Cdr. Adams in STRAUB, MOBERLY, TRUMPETER,  
of. BUCKLEY. Escort convoy U.G.S.94 departing  
New York and Hampton Roads 22/23 May for  
western Meditn. When directed by C. in C.  
Med. return U.S. escorting G.U.S. 96.  
(C. in C. Lant, 162014Z to STRAUB.)

/Merchant ...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

Merchant  
ship losses  
etc. and the  
Press.

Since the end of the war with Germany it is not practicable any longer to restrain the Press from publishing merchant ship losses or accounts of the projection or launching of merchant ships. From recent stories in the Press it seems that similar difficulties have arisen in Washington. Publication of statistics regarding the repair output in individual ports and areas can also no longer be controlled and it is accordingly proposed that para. 20 and para. 22(c) of the "Report of the Conference convened to recommend Merchant Ship control measures after the cessation of hostilities with Germany" should be cancelled.  
(2) Request Navy Department concurrence or remarks may be obtained as a matter of urgency.  
(D.T.D., 162330 to B.A.D.)  
See 172117. *and 1932012 JUNE*

Security.

For information a directive from Cominch states that no relaxation of security regulations covering anti-submarine warfare will be permitted in the U.S.N. at present.  
(B.A.D., 162353Z to Admty.)

Far East and Australia

Monabs etc.  
and Re-  
organisation  
of Air Groups

F.O.N.A.S.(A), 160033Z and 160035Z to Admty.  
See Lion Copy.

ARBUTUS.

Approval given para. 2 your 140149 refers. Anticipate sail vessel on or about 28th May.  
(N.Z.N.B., 160316Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

R.A.(Q)  
B.P.F.

Flag R.A. J.W.Rivett-Carnac as R.A.(Q) B.P.F. to be hoisted in BEACONSFIELD at 0800K tomorrow Thursday 17th May.  
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F., 160552 to BEACONSFIELD.)

Blue  
summary  
15th.

Ryukyus.  
Enemy attempted counter landings Machinato Field area broken up by Naval gunfire. Little change in front line positions. Several counter-attacks repulsed after hand to hand fighting.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia

Blue C.C.58.  
Summary Kyushu and Shikoku night and day strikes 12th-  
15th. 14th. 2 motor boats, 2 luggers sunk, 15  
(Contd.) small ships and boats left burning, 5 others  
damaged. 10 of our aircraft lost.  
Searches Empire Area. FAW/1 sank 2 Med. AK  
heavily damaged 1 Med. 10 survivors of ditched  
planes rescued off Sasebo.  
Empire. Further on B.29 14th May mission Nagoya. 2,722 tons  
dropped. 23 enemy aircraft destroyed, 12 probably destroyed,  
36 damaged.  
Submarines. Blue submarines sank 1 large ship, 1 minelayer,  
probably sank 1 Med. AK and 4 coastal trawlers, 2 small craft.  
German submarine U.183 south of Mindanao reported to have  
acknowledged German Admiralty orders proceeds Australia to  
surrender. Search for submarine reported north-east of Oahu  
negative. P.C. reported submarine south-west of Corregidor.  
S.W.P.A. Search planes sank 2 small AKs. near Makassar,  
destroyed 4 SD, damaged 3 SD at Pontianak, Borneo. P.Ts.  
landed guerillas on Guintatan Island off northern Cebu: 27  
sorties Palau, 10 Yap. Truk reconnaissance bombed Param  
sank 1 SD. Heavy weather Iwo caused little damaged.  
(C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 160554 to all commands, etc.)

Digest 1211, (1) Navy search planes from Clark Field sank  
15th May. one tug Haiphong, sank one river boat, two  
(Extract). barges Canton River delta.  
(2) Planes from Palawan probably destroyed small  
coaster, damaged shipyard warehouse Mandar Gulf  
(south-western Celebes), strafed one sea truck,  
two small coasters. Previous day similar aircraft sank single  
small freighter transport Makassar, bombed shipping Bandjermasin,  
strafed two river tugs, destroyed four small coasters, damaged  
three others, strafed ten more also five river steamers fired  
shipyard Pontianak.  
(4) Single weather Mitchell destroyed small coaster Kiirun.  
(6) Daylight 14th May P.Ts. and landing craft gunboats operation  
Davao Gulf attacked enemy motor torpedo boat base destroying  
6 boats, one barge, 4 ammunition and fuel dumps also marine  
railway.  
(7) Dusk U.S.N. submarine chaser reported enemy submarine  
contact 2 miles south Corregidor in Manila Bay.  
(8) Australian troops attacked strong enemy positions Wirui  
Mission Key to Wewak defences, reached point within 7 miles  
of forces which landed east Wewak, cleared Sauri Villages of  
enemy. Sloop, Corvette and Fairmiles of Royal Australian  
Navy bombarded shore positions in support ground forces while  
6 Mitchells, 6 Thunderbolts hit enemy occupied villages near  
Wewak and along Sepik River.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 160910Z to Admty.)

LAMONT. LAMONT sailed Sydney (N.S.W.) 15th May for U.S.A.  
and U.K.  
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne, 161222Z to Admty.)



FEVA  
430A

**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.)

*Aircraft* 160033Z May  
From F.O.N.A.S.(A) *Monabs* Date 17. 5. 45.  
Received 1019

C.C.M.(Naval) F.O.(S) by T/P

Addressed Admiralty  
Info C. in C.B.P.F., V.A.Q.B.P.F., A.C.1

C. in C.B.P.F.'s 120714 May the main logistic requirements to support the full expansion proposed in A.M.181953A April involve increases in

- (A) Airfield accommodation
- (B) Supplies of aircraft and stores and in erection facilities
- (C) Maintenance facilities
- (D) Input of aircrews

(A) Airfield accommodation

2. Twelve airfields in addition to 2 R.D.J.'s and the TAMY will be required. We have at present three in Australia and one, with the possibility of a second at Manus. We shall therefore require at least seven more.

3. The rate of expansion visualised by the Admiralty is not known, but it must presumably be conditioned to a large extent by the availability of airfields and consequently by the rate of provision of MONABS to man them, assuming we can get the fields as fast as we can take them over.

4. It is assumed that MONABS can be formed in the U.K. shipped at the rate of one per month. MONAB 8 is due in August. Six more would be required and the fully expended force would then have the bare minimum of airfield accommodation by March 1946.

5. There remains the requirement to obtain the seven additional airfields in Australia. Past experience shows that they would not be developed in time from bare strips except possibly those due for completion in 1946. Airfields with accommodation ready built are therefore required. Six which may be suitable are now being surveyed. Transfer from the R.A.A.F. will have to be arranged.

(B) Aircraft stores and traction facilities.

6. A maximum capacity of 300 aircraft a month would be required. Assuming that the expansion is at the rate of about one carrier air group a month the requirements for erected aircraft could be met throughout the expansion with the two R.D.J.'s now arranged for and with the permanent employment on erection of a proportion of TAMY one's repair capacity.

**TOP SECRET**

**IN**

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

7. Supplies of aircraft and stores to the B.P.F. would have to be increased in phase with the expansion.

(C) Maintenance facilities.

8. Three more M.R. components will probably be sufficient to provide the necessary inspection and maintenance facilities.

(D) Input of aircrews.

9. Provision of replacement aircrews would require to be on the scale of 10% of I.E. monthly replacements required towards the end of 1945 would be about Corsair 40, Seafire 16, Hellcat 17, Firefly 8, Avenger 20, Barracuda 7. A further increase would be required if overbearing of present squadrons were raised to 50% as proposed in the A.M. These greatly increased numbers could not be trained with present resources in East Indies or Australia. F.O. Air E.I.S. 091223Z April and my 180654Z April refer general.

10. It will be seen from my 040327Z May, that to meet requirements of aircrews requiring reliefs and to build up Squadrons to 25% overbearing it has been necessary to disband or drastically reduce a number of the squadrons included in the calculations for implementing the proposals in A.M. 181953A April. This state of affairs, which will be further aggravated by the fact that C.V.E. Squadrons have arrived on the station with a considerable proportion of their crews having served 12 months or over in an operational Squadron and consequently being due for early relief, will increase the requirements for aircrews.

11. The steps which can be taken in Australia now towards meeting the new organisation are

(1) The procurement of airfields. This matter is being taken up on high priority.

(2) Such readjustment and expansion of Carrier Groups as can be done from existing resources. An appreciation of the possibilities is in my immediately following signal. It includes details of proposals for providing one spare carrier air group for ILLUSTRIOUS class, one spare Seafire Squadron and one spare Avenger Squadron for INDEFATIGABLE class.

(3) Extemporised arrangements for increasing the output of erected aircraft. These are in hand now.

160033Z.

Circulation over.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L. (Air)  
Vice Cont. (Air)  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)  
Sec.  
Dep. Sec.  
P.A.S. (S)  
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)  
Hd. of M. (5)  
Hd. of Air.  
D.N.A.C. (4) (A.O.D. 137/45)  
D.A.W.T.  
D.A.C.R.  
D.A.E.  
D.N.A.R. (3)  
D.A.M.R.  
D. of S. (3)  
C.N.R. (M.A.P.)  
N.A. 2nd S.L. (Air) (2)  
D. of W.  
Hd. of C.W. (2)  
Hd. of N.  
D.T.S.D.  
D.D.A.S. (L)  
Ad. Blake.  
W.E.  
D.A.S.  
D.N.C. }  
C.I.N.O. }  
Hd. of S.W.R. (3) } Bath.

vms 125

**IN**

**HUSH—MOST SECRET**

**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 this rule.)

*Reorganisation of  
Air Groups.* 160035Z/May.  
From. F.O.N.A.S.(A) Date. 17.5.45.  
Recd. 0756.

G.C.M. (NAVAL) F.O.(S) BY W/T.

To. Admiralty.  
Rptd. C. in C. B.P.F. V.A.(Q) B.P.F. A.C.1.

Further to my 160033 May. The following steps are those which can be taken in Australia to meet the reorganisation of air groups proposed in A.M. 181953 April. They will be taken as soon as practicable.

2. (A) To provide one spare group for ILLUSTRIOUS class.

(1) Begin the formation of a Corsair wing using 1843 Squadron and reconstituting 1845 from the surplus pilots of 1843 plus spare pilots from the other embarked Corsair Squadrons if the reduction of their I.A. proposed in A.M. 181953 April is accepted.

(2) Retain 854 Avenger squadron ex ILLUSTRIOUS.

(B) To provide spare squadrons for INDEFATIGABLE class.

(1) Increase 899 Seafire Squadron to its full I.E. of 24 aircraft but this can only be done if there is a greatly increased input of Seafire pilots.

(2) Form one Avenger Squadron from the surplus of 820 and 828 squadrons when their I.E. is reduced in accordance with A.M. 181953 April. It will be necessary for S.M.E. and the necessary supervisory ratings to be provided from the U.K.

NOTE. There is no prospect of providing a spare Firefly squadron from resources at present in sight.

(C) To provide spare squadrons for INDOMITABLE class.

(1) It will be possible to provide a spare Hellcat squadron when RANEE arrives. (about August) with 896 Sqdn. In the meantime I.E. of 1839 and of 1844 Hellcat Squadrons has been increased to 18 aircraft each by the disbanding of 1840 squadron and reducing 885 squadron. The remainder of 885 Squadron with an I.E. of 16 aircraft will have to be maintained for cap. duty in the service area.

NOTE. (1) No spare Avenger Squadron can be provided for INDOMITABLE.

(2) There is no prospect of adding a Firefly Squadron to INDOMITABLE group at present as 1772 which was destined for INDOMITABLE has been broken up to feed replacements into 1770 (INDEFATIGABLE) and 1771 (IMPLACABLE).

Circulation over/

160035Z.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L. (Air)  
V.C.N.S.  
V. Contr. (Air)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.G.N.S. (A) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)  
Sec.  
Dep. Sec.  
P.A.S. (S)  
D.O.D. (H) (4)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
B.C.  
D.P.I.C. (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.N.A.O. (4) (A.O.D. 137/45)  
D.A.W.T.  
D.A.C.R.  
Hd. of Air.  
D. of P. (2)  
D. of P. (3) (3)  
Hd. of M. (5)  
Ad. Blake.  
W.D.  
N.A. 2nd S.L. (Air)  
A.C.N.P.  
D. of M.  
Hd. of C.W. (2)  
Hd. of N.  
E.A.P.  
D. of S. (3)  
P.T.S.D.  
D.A.M.R.  
D.N.A.R. (3)  
D.D.A.S. (L)  
D.N.O.  
D.A.E.  
C.F.R. (M.A.P).  
D.L.E.  
D.N.O.  
C.I.N.O.  
Hd. of S.W.R. (3) } Bath.

was 125.

IN

HUSH-CANCELLED SECRET

CANCELLED

16.5.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U/B                      Para. (A) (a) Total arrivals now 29 including  
surrenders              U.858, U.805, U.776.  
estimated                (b) Estimated positions 1000B/16th May.  
positions.                U.1228 lat. 43.00 N., long. 68.00 W.  
                             U. 873 lat. 41.30 N., long. 66.30 W.  
                             U. 234 lat. 45.30 N., long. 48.30 W.  
                             U. 255 lat. 58.20 N., long. 09.00 W.

U.3008 in Frederickshaven Roads.

Para. (B) About a dozen unfixed 300 miles W. of U.K. possibly  
one still in English Channel.

(D.D.I.C., 161320B to A.I.G.331, Cominch.)

17.5.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. The American Task Group 120.1 is assembling at Derry for return to America.

North Sea.

2. (a) Ghent can now accept Liberty ships drawing 25 ft. (salt water.)  
(b) At Wilhelmshaven the 27 U-Boats are Nos. 8, 14, 17, 71, 60, 61, 62, 96, 353, 552, 604, 708 and 777, waiting to be scrapped, Nos. 137, 139, 140, 141, 142, 146, 148, 151, 152, \*2504 and 3006, serviceable, and Nos. 96, 429 and 3508 sunk in the air raid of April 29th.

\* 3504 - See 13/6. p. 329

Channel.

3. Six captured German minesweepers and two patrol vessels have arrived at Plymouth from the Channel Islands.

West Coast France.

4. No damage appears to have been done at St. Nazaire, where the French Navy has taken a U-Boat, a 9,000 ton tanker, a coaster, a hospital ship, 2 minelayers, 12 minesweepers, 12 tugs and 15 patrol craft.

Western Approaches.

5. (a) B.B./M.H. coastal convoys are being discontinued.  
(b) Twenty fourth Escort Group is disbanded.

Norway.

6. (a) Ninth E.G. has met STORD's Vestfjord convoy which includes also U.481 (making 15 all told,) and is proceeding with them for Loch Eriboll. BROADWAY, who should have escorted the 5 merchant auxiliaries to Trondheim, has broken down and put into Bodø. The 5 Germans are continuing to Trondheim.  
(b) Convoy R.N. 1 will sail from Methil for Norway at 1 a.m. 18th.  
(c) German Naval personnel in Norway number 84,661  
(d) At Bergen the 36 U-Boats are Nos. 2506, 2511, 3514, 539, 868, 875, U.D.5, 2328, 1061, 218, 1202, 1052, 298, 1271, 1022, 991, 778, 1057, 328, 1004, 1005, 907, 245, 324, 1272, 1104, 926, 928, 930, 1002, 1301, 1307, 228, 432, 256 and 993, the last 4 unserviceable due to bomb damage. The German Capt. Submarine is at Bergen.  
(e) At Holmstrand, near Horten, the 10 U-Boats are Nos. 170, 874, 975, 1108, 2502, 2513, 2518, 3017, 3041 and 3515.

17.5.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Movement.

7. JEANNE D'ARC (French cruiser) arrived at Beirut from Toulon.

America & West Indies.

U/B surrender

8. U-Boats 873 and 1228 have arrived at Portsmouth (Maine)

Far East and Australia.

Philippines.

9. U.183 is reported to have acknowledged the German order to surrender when south of Mindanao (Philippines). She is reported as proceeding to Australia.

Japan.

10. (a) Aircraft from B.P.F. continued bombing airfields at Ohama and Hirara towns. Only one airfield left possibly serviceable. Barges and two S.Ds. strafed and left burning. Our losses in combat two Corsairs, operationally, two Corsairs, three Avengers, two Hellcats and one Seafire in bad carrier crash in nil wind.  
(b) American aircraft mined Shimonoseki Strait and Wekasa Bay during last night.

R.A.(Q)  
B.P.F.

11. The flag of Rear Admiral J.W. Rivett-Carnac was hoisted in BEACONSFIELD (base depot, Melbourne) this morning as R.A.(Q) B.P.F.



17.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

British One submarine crew commanded by Lieut.-Cdr. Marriott has already been provided to man one of U-Boats. U-Boat, F.O.I.C. Portland 161520\* refers. A second complete crew is now being formed and will arrive Portland a.m. tomorrow Friday. Lieut.-Cdr. Marsham will be Commanding Officer. This crew should be competent to carry out a surface passage within a few days.  
(F.O.S/M., 171022B to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)  
\* Lt.-Cdr. assumed command of U.776.

As a result of the appointment of Captin R.M.G. Gambier in command of surrendered U-Boats in W.A. Command the title of Capt. S/M. 9th Flotilla has lapsed. Allied submarines of the 9th Flotilla will continue to be based on AMBROSE for time being and will be under the command of Cdr. Balfour who has been appointed AMBROSE in command and for duty with submarines (A.M. 161456 not to all addressees refers). Correspondence and signals for 9th Flotilla should in future be addressed to AMBROSE and not Capt. S/M.9. Request Admiralty will promulgate in A.F.Os. in due course.  
(F.O.S/M., 171032B to Capt. S/M.)

U-Boat Where possible Commanding Officers of U-Boats reports. surrendering are required to write a full report of their proceedings from the time of sailing for their last patrol to the time of surrender.

- (2) Detailed information on the lines of our own submarine patrol reports is required.
- (3) Com. (D) W.A. is requested to arrange this for U-Boats already at or on passage to Lisahally.
- (4) N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh is requested to obtain brief summaries from U.255 and all subsequent arrivals and to instruct C.Os. to prepare full reports to be handed in on arrival at Lisahally.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171211B to Com. (D) W.A., N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh.)

Release of Admiralty 141833B.  
Task Group Request Task Group 120.1 be assembled Londonderry 120.1. to make preparations for re-deployment.  
(Com. 12th Fleet, 171353 to C. in C. W.A.)

Task Group Task Group 120.2 activated 17th May comprising 120.2 to officers and men Task Group 25.12. Captain guard George A. Sharp, U.S.N. Task Group Commander. U-Boats. Task Group will base at Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Task Group functions are to establish and maintain close liaison with

Admiralty in all matters relative to captured and surrendered German U-Boats assemble officers and men and conduct intensive training in the nomenclature and operations of U-Boats, assist in the maintenance and upkeep of U-Boats without relieving the Royal Navy of the responsibility as custodians, and when a decision is obtained by higher authority as to the disposition of U-Boats, receive and return those allocated to United States.  
(Com. 12th Fleet, 171432 to Cominch, C.N.O.)

/Shewing ...

17.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy - Contd.

Shewing the Flag in Continental ports. Your 111702. "Hunts" can be accepted at Wilhelmshaven from Sunday 20th.  
 (2) Route from P.15 Buoy - (A) Number 4 conical spar buoy position 54° 00'00" N., 007° 57'24" E.  
 (B) Number 10 conical spar buoy position 53° 51'05" N., 07° 49'36" E.  
 (3) Between number 4 and number 10 buoy there are 4 conical spar buoys numbered 5 to 9 consecutively.  
 (4) Ships should keep within one cable westward of buoy.  
 (5) There is a wreck buoy with top mark of 2 triangles between buoy 4 and 5 and similar buoy between buoy 6 and 7. Wrecks lie close eastward of these buoys.  
 (6) E.T.A. number 10 buoy should be signalled and N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven is to arrange for German pilot to board and German M/S to lead ships in from this buoy.  
 (7) No immediate prospect of acceptance at Emden.  
 (F.O. Wilhelmshaven, 171816B to Admt.) *See 181519, p. 459.*  
 Intend to sail MACKAY to Namsos, Aalesund, Molde, Kristiansund to ascertain conditions in those ports and to show the Flag. Expect her to be away from Trondhjem for four days.  
 (N.O.I.C. Trondhjem, 171910B to F.O. Norway.)  
 Sail from Oslo at 1900B tomorrow Friday 18th with IROQUOIS and SAVAGE.  
 (2) Proceed to Copenhagen by Swedish neutrality channel.  
 (3) R/V with Swedish destroyer 0001B/19th in position 300° N.  
 (?) Hall (O?) light 1 mile and embark pilot and charts.  
 (F.O. Norway, 172005 to DEVONSHIRE.)

German ensign not to be flown. Subject: Wearing of Flags.  
 The Reich Flag Law of 15 Sept. 1935 is cancelled by a notification of the occupying power of 12 May 1945. In consequence I order: Until German Flag Law is laid down anew, those German vessels operating the minesweeping service on British orders will fly for identification pendant 8 of the National Signal Book at the Gaff.  
 (German C. in C. Navy, 171806 to All.)

Disposal of surrendered U-Boats. Request policy regarding disposal of U-Boats in Norway after disarmament may be communicated at an early date.  
 (F.O. Norway, 172025 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Procedure to produce U-Boat response & surrender. In view of continued lack of response by U-Boats still at sea it is considered that following modification of present broadcast procedure might prove advantageous and it is requested that you will direct German delegation to comply and also to improve standard of transmissions and signal strength which recently have fallen noticeably short of wartime

/efficiency ...

436

17.5.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSPolicy

Procedure  
to produce  
U-Boat  
response &  
surrender.  
(Contd.)

efficiency. In addition to stations at present transmitting it is considered that Bergen transmitters should be brought back into service for U-Boats even at the expense of other services as this station was more satisfactory. B.d.U. should supply their list of U-Boats still thought to be at sea giving name of Commanding Officer of each of these boats and should themselves draft a signal addressed jointly to all these boats by number and name of commander to this effect: - "You are in default by failing to comply with surrender signed and your conduct constitutes a breach of our signature and of the rules of war. Serious consequences for yourselves and Germany may ensue.. Surface forthwith and report your position in plain language to GZZ 10 on 5970 k/c/s. or to any Allied Coast Station on 500 k/c/s. Remain surfaced and await further orders". This message should be cyphered in current U-Boat cypher setting day by day and transmitted at beginning of each routine followed by present surrender messages (message texts in A.M. 020024 and 020211) and the routine should be closed by German P/L version of new message proposed above. Failing general compliance B.d.U. should address individually each remaining U-Boat thought to be at sea in current cypher setting with emergency prefix by number and name with peremptory order to report position forthwith. To provide for these last-mentioned signals further transmitters to be brought into service as may be necessary. It is requested that you will keep Admiralty informed of the progress achieved in giving effect to these arrangements and the time of origin of the relevant signals transmitted on U-Boat services.  
(1st S.L., 172345B to A.N.C.X.F.)

OperationsNorth Sea

Neutralisation  
of German  
controlled &  
observation  
minefields.

Have completed tracking 838 for German controlled minefields in following area with negative results: Coastal districts Cuxhaven to Bremen, Bremen to Wilhelmshaven and also the port Emden and no evidence or new reports of any controlled minefields having been laid. S.O. R.A.F. station observation minefield at Heligoland reported fired by Germans before occupation.

Minefields and control station apparently similar to Naples reported on in France. Propose C/M section N.P.1571 now return U.K. Request approval. Admiralty also pass information A.N.C.X.F.(PH.)  
(C.O. N.P.1571 at Bremen, 170135B to A.N.C.X.F.)

ADVENTURE  
for  
Cuxhaven.

Request ADVENTURE be sailed immediately to Cuxhaven. Capt. Force C will R/V at P.15 buoy to sweep and pilot through channels to port. Capt. M/S. Force C concurs. Request E.T.A. P.15 buoy.  
(N.O.I.C. Cuxhaven, 171206B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Scuttled ...

17.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Scuttled My 151835 following are the numbers of German  
U-Boats in U-Boats referred to. Type ~~2B~~ - 8, 14, 17, 71.  
Wilhelmshaven. Type ~~2C~~ - 60, 61, 62. Type ~~2C~~ - 96, 353, 552,  
(?604 or 632), 708, 777. All these were due  
to be scrapped. Type ~~2D~~ - 137, 139, 140, 141,  
142, 146, 148, 151, 152. Type ~~21~~<sup>xx1</sup>, 3006, 2504.

\* 3504. See 13/6 p. 328

All serviceable.

Following sunk in harbour by air raid on 29th April 1945.

Type (419(?C)) - 96, 429. Type ~~21~~<sup>xx1</sup> 3508. All (corrupt grp.)

(2) It is not intended to commence any salvage on these German  
U-Boats until their final disposal is known.

(N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven, 171225B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Minesweeping Following information regarding Zype minefield  
of East received from Germans.  
Schelde. (1) North line between 51.39.53 N., 4.6.27 E.  
and 51.39.32 N., 4.6.48 E. consisting of two  
mines A.M. mark 3 and one mine A.M. mark  
unknown and three mines P.M. mark 1.

(2) Centre line between 51.39.36 N., 4.6.30 E. and 51.39.27 N.,  
4.6.48 E. consisting two mines A.M. mark 3 and one mine A.M.  
mark unknown and one mine P.M. mark 1 and one mine Coarse ?.

(3) South line between 51.39.27 N., 4.6.21 E. and 51.39.1? N.,  
4.6.36 E. same lot as middle line.

(F.O. Holland, 171543 to Capt. M/S. East Schelde.)

Sweeping report for today Thursday.

(A) Keeten minefield from entrance of Zeirik Zee Canal to No.2  
Black Buoy in Keeten swept by 2 M.M.S. LL/SA S.G.M.S. proceeded  
by one M.M/S. sweeping SA/HG 5 cables ahead 2 actuations both  
polarities.

(B) Keeten minefield swept 4 actuations LL/SA S.G.M.S. with  
10 seconds pulsing for mines.

(C) 2 B.Y.M.S. completed shallow water sweep at northern exit  
of Zijpe Channel. All sweeps negative results.

(Com. M/S. East Schelde, 172114 to F.O. Holland.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 408, part 4, section A.  
Situation Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600B/  
Report. 16th May.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Coal</u>	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Pol.</u>	<u>G.F.</u> <u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British. -</u>						
Antwerp	-	276	15,123	-	7,827	1,093
Ostend	992	169	935	-	3,579	-
Caen	-	-	-	2,465	-	-
Calais	4,568	69	543	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,560</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>16,601</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>11,406</b>	<b>1,093</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>						
Antwerp	-	100	13,536	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	38	1,082	1,670	13,786	-
Le Havre	2,918	-	5,391	275	11,737	-
Rouen	-	-	1,695	315	1,053	7
Ghent	-	-	7,056	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,918</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>28,760</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>26,576</b>	<b>7</b>

/U.S. South ...

17.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Discharge Situation Report. (Contd.) Cositintrep No. 408, part 4, section A - Contd.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>G.F. Ammo.</u>
<u>U.S. South -</u>						
Marseilles	-	-	4,934	-	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	3,029	-	5,814	-
Nice	-	-	135	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>8,098</b>	-	<b>5,814</b>	-

Army Coal at Dieppe 1,386 tons, Morlaix 1,100 tons.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 171600B to Admty. and others.)

Situation at Ghent. Port advises that Liberty vessels of 25 foot salt water draft can now be accepted at Ghent.  
(H.Q. Com. Z., 171730B to U.K. Base.)

Minesweeping to Cuxhaven. My 161231B\* As far as can be ascertained no mines have been laid in vicinity of proposed route between position 55° 21' N., 06° 35' E. and (H), consequently do not intend sweeping or buoying this section of route proposed.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 171859 to C. in C. Nore.)  
\* Sweeping operations.

Operation "Dropkick", minesweeping to Hamburg. Operation "Dropkick".  
(1) 5 ships LAA in G formation from Hamburg to Cuxhaven. Channel widening boom to P.15, minimum total actuation 3.  
(2) Nil.  
(3) Nil.  
(Com. M/S. Force C, 171907B to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations

Channel

German prizes from Channel Is. Arrived NARBOROUGH and FAULKNOR escorting tug GROWLER and following captured German craft:  
Minesweepers - VAN RONZELEN, OST-FRIESLAND, ANNA BUSSE, FRINSIA, NELLY SOUSANNE and F.L.13.  
Patrol Vessels - ZIETEN and TEUTONIA.  
(2) Crews of patrol vessels are being removed as prisoners of war by military authorities.  
(3) Crews of minesweepers are remaining on board under armed guard.  
(4) Request disposal of minesweepers.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 172137B to Admty.)

/Situation ...

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17.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel - Contd.

Situation in Channel / Islands. Cositintrep Number 409. Alderney. Commander of German troops is Col. von Schwalm. Sark. 4 officers and 266 other ranks were evacuated to Guernsey 17th May and accommodated by Germans in their zone. Only German now in Sark is Medical Officer retained at request of Dame de Sark. Germans lifted 1,000 mines. 10,000 remain to be lifted. Jersey. 70 officers, 2,929 other ranks, 6 civilians - total 3,005 evacuated 17th May 2,477. This represents last of prisoners except those to remain for work. German tanks being taken over 19th May. Guernsey. Total number of enemy evacuated to date 9,548. Full parade of remainder to check exact number will be held on Sunday. German liaison staff are co-operating to full. All remaining prisoners less 1,500 to be retained for special tasks and labour pool will be evacuated Monday 21st May. Part 2. Alderney. 45 Russians evacuated to Guernsey 1930B/17th and accommodated in Camp Ursula, a camp established for freed Russians. Conditions being vigorously checked by Civil Affairs officers who are interrogating 14 Todt workers, 33 prison officials, 18 British subjects, 14 French, 30 Spaniards, 30 Italians. It is intended to evacuate approximately 2,500 enemy on 20th May. Patrols report all quiet Sark. One section 614 Regt. R.A. is on Sark and will be augmented by another section 19th May. Jersey. R.A.F. report Jersey airstrip available for use. East to west runway approximately 1,300 yards. No servicing facilities. Prisoners removing charges at St. Helier Harbour entrance under engineer supervision work, sixteen per cent completed. Collection of isolated German equipment in progress. Flame throwers on coast road St. Aubins Bay disarmed and made safe. Clearance of anti-air landing mines by prisoners under Royal Engineer supervision continues. Collection of enemy medical stores continues. 50 bed hospital established at Jersey College. Guernsey. Detachment of 614 Regt. R.A. still on Guernsey. Trinity House officials examined their installations at Rocquaine Bay 17th May and have today 18th May gone on same mission to Les Casquets. Jersey and Guernsey. Unloading of Civil Affairs supplies proceeding satisfactorily. Food in shops and on sale at approved prices and ration. Free issue of tobacco, cigarettes, soap and sweets being made 18th May today. Surplus separated milk on sale. Local butter being made at rate of about one quarter pound per head per week. (H.Q. Force 135, 172245B to Admtly.)

Operations

West Coast France

Fishing in the Bay of Biscay. Your 151245B May and 041720B April (both being passed to C. in C. W.A.) refer. (2) There is now no objection as far as the Plymouth Command is concerned to the extension of

/the ...

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17.5.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWest Coast FranceFishing in  
the Bay of  
Biscay.  
(Contd.)the day and night Bay of Biscay French Fishing  
area to the line Cape Villano to a point 10  
miles west of Ushant.(3) C. in C. W.A's concurrence is requested  
for that part of Western Approaches Command  
affected.(4) Fishing by night may now be permitted in  
the area already in force by day north of Penmarch Point.(5) It is requested that in particular regard to the proximity  
of the Ox Brittany Sanctuary the fishing limits may be strictly  
enforced.(6) In both areas it is requested that fishing vessels be  
ordered to show the appropriate lights.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171140B to A.N.C.X.F.)

German  
ships at  
Vigo.I went on board interned German submarine and  
BESSEL at Vigo yesterday.BESSEL is in good condition and has 700 tons  
fuel on board and could be sailed when  
required.(2) U-Boat well maintained but port engine  
abandoned and though starboard engine maintained it is doubtful  
if controllable. She would therefore have to be towed.

(3) Both units badly need bottom cleaning.

(Corunna (sic), 171410B to Admty.)

M.Ls. to  
Gironde.Intend to sail at 1000B/19th May M.Ls. 208 (S.O.),  
233, 122, 124 and 117 to R/V AMIRAL MOUCHEZ in  
Gironde Estuary in accordance with C.T.F. 122's  
121550 and 151410Z (neither to all).(2) Routed by Q.Z.S. 697 through positions  
(F) 48.33 N., 05.23 W. (G) 47.50 N., 05.23 W. (H) 46.05 N.,  
02.40 W. and (B) 45.39.48 N., 01.26.00 W. thence to R/V with  
AMIRAL MOUCHEZ who is requested to signal R/V position.

(3) Speed 13 knots, E.T.A. position (B) 1600B/20th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171832B to C.T.F. 122.)

Minefield  
off les  
Sables  
d'Olonne.U.255, on arrival in Loch Eriboll, reports  
having laid on 18th April 2 lines of mines, 4 in  
each, spaced 200 metres in line (A) and 300  
metres in line (B), in 18 metres of water off  
les Sables d'Olonne.*(see also p. 445  
Northern Waters)*Line (A) on a course of 180° starting from  
position 2 miles from breakwater light on the

northern limit of the northern white sector.

Line (B) on a course of 130 from approximately the southern  
end of Line (A).(D.D.I.C., 171935B to C. in C. Plymouth, C.T.F.122, Marine  
Paris, C.F.N.T.F., Comar Brest.)

/Situation ...

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17.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France - Contd.

Situation  
at St.  
Nazaire.

Friday noon St. Nazaire French Navy occupied areas and installations marked on overlays previously furnished Clun Kriegs Marine Depot. All installations and ships apparently not damaged by Germans and no apparent destructive measures taken except logs of ships burned.

Vessels in port as follows:

One submarine, one tanker 9,000 tons, one cargo 1,500 tons, one hospital ship 3,600 tons, two minelayers Jupeb type 1,600 tons, 12 minesweepers various types, 12 tugs AGL types, 15 patrol various types.

Material inventory in process. Small amount of fuel in vessels.

(Comar Nantes, No T.O.O. to C.T.F. 122.)

Operations

Western Approaches

E.G. 24.

E.G.24 is disbanded.

(C. in C. W.A., 171547B to Com. (D) W.A.)



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17.5.1945.  
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorwayGerman  
Vestfiord  
Convoy.

Your 161816B BROADWAY informs me by telephone that she has put into Bodo with defects and that her W/T is out of action. I have instructed her to sail independently to Trondheim. Convoy mentioned in 161816B is therefore unescorted. Expect BROADWAY to arrive Trondheim p.m./17th. (N.O.I.C. Trondheim, 170031B to C. in C. Rosyth).

Endeavour to establish communication with BROADWAY and ascertain P.C.S. of convoy. Speed reported by STORD was 10 knots.

2. When in contact with convoy comply with A.M. 161200 taking U-boats to Loch Eriboll. Auxiliaries are to proceed to Trondheim.

3. Fuel for submarines is available at Lerwick if necessary.

4. Report your intentions.

(A.C.N.S.(F), 170200B to E.G.9)

Request report whether convoy referred to in STORD's 160719 was ordered by you to sail from Narvik to Trondheim or whether it sailed under German orders. This is not clear from your 161340.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 170211B to F.O. Norway).

Decypher N.O.I.C. Trondheim's 170031.

(D.S.O., 170322B to S.O.E.G.9).

Have sighted convoy in position 65° 07' N., 01° 12' E. (S.O.E.G.9, 170515B to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, Admty).

Have ordered 5 Merchant ships to proceed to Trondheim and have started for Loch Eriboll with the following German U-boats: U. 278, U. 294, U. 295, U. 312, U. 313, U. 318, U. 363, U. 427, U. 481, U. 668, U. 716, U. 968, U. 992, U. 997, U. 1165.

(S.O.E.G.9, 170720B to C. in C. H.F., Admty. C. in C. Rosyth, D.17).

Capt. Surhen S.O., Arctic and Barents Seas on board GRILLE stated that his entire command had been withdrawn from Narvik. Names of ships for Trondheim: GRILLE, HUASCARAN, KAMERUN, STELLA POLARIS, KARTEN.

(S.O.E.G.9, 170842B to C. in C. H.F., Admty. C. in C. Rosyth)

My position, course and speed at 1300B. 65° 00' N., 07° 45' E. 227° 12 knots. Have still 5 Norwegian military passengers in the group.

(S.O.E.G.9, 171325B to C. in C. H.F.)

N.S. STORD, on passage to Narvik, met a convoy of 15 U-boats and five German Auxiliaries outward bound in Vestfiord at 0819 on the 16th May. On investigation it was found that the convoy was proceeding from Narvik to Trondheim.

2. Admiralty ordered BROADWAY, who was in company with STORD, to remain with convoy until relieved by E.G. Nine, which was detached from convoy J.W. 67.

3. BROADWAY developed defects, her W/T broke down, and she entered Bodo during the night of 16/17th.

4. German convoy was met by E.G. Nine at 0515/17 in position 65° 07' N., 10° 12' E.

5. In accordance with Admiralty instructions to E.G. Nine, the 15 U-boats are now being escorted to Loch Eriboll. The German ships in company with the submarines were the Submarine Repair Ships HUASCARAN and KAMERUN the Accommodation Ship STELLA POLARIS, the Yacht GRILLE and the small Tanker KARTEN. All these ships were ordered to continue their voyage to Trondheim.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 171912B to A.N.C.X.F.) (See 181135 et seq. under Northern Waters).

/Return...

17.5.1945.  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Return of 40th M.S.F. CATHERINE, GAZELLE, GRECIAN, TATTOO, ELFREDA, CYNTHIA, STEADFAST arrived.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 171041B to DEVONSHIRE).

Spitzbergen garrison. Your 211759. Please inform me whether the garrison still will be requested to remain for another season. Ends.  
("Ploughshare", 171120Z to Admty).

Recall of M.T.Bs. north of Bergen. F.O. Norway 161701B May (not to all).  
M.T.B. units North of Bergen are being recalled to Lerwick forthwith.  
(F.O.I.C. Lerwick, 171241B to C. in C. Rosyth, Admty. F.O. Norway).

Operation S.C. Ramose Overdraft.  
HESSA returned at 1315B 17th May.  
2. Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 171317B to C. in C. H.F.)  
Ramose Diploma. My 131835 and 131837. Return voyage of S/M Chasers indefinitely postponed.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 171557B to C. in C. H.F.)  
Sailed HITRA and VIGRA from Bergen for Scalloway E.T.A. 1000 tomorrow 18th. Delayed owing to local requirements.  
(C.S.1, 172001 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

Situation Report. Cositintrep No.407.  
Period ending 17/1500 May. Telephone communications opened with all Allied countries and Sweden under full Norwegian civil censorship. Tromso quiet telephone teleprinter links with Oslo working. Operations. No air lifts today due weather Norway. Tromso garrison one Norwegian police Bn and 5000 Milorg. Germans throughout Norway ordered 16 May dump all weapons outside reservations except officers pistols and minimum guards on dumps. Hope completed 23 May. Ship carrying personnel of Norge Bde. from U.K. due leave for Tromso 21/22 May.  
(S.C.O.F.O.R., 171505B to Admty etc).

U.901. A.M.152222BC.O. U-boat 901 states the only message received was on 13th May from Junkers ordering him to surface, fly black flag and report position. He complied and in absence of further instructions set course for Kiel reporting his position at intervals.  
When directed by aircraft on 15th May to proceed to Loch Eriboll he signalled insufficiency of fuel but steering west. After interval aircraft returned and ordered him to proceed to Stavanger with which he complied. U.901 had been at sea for one month.  
(N.O.I.C. Stavanger, 171601B to A.N.C.X.F., Admty).

/Return...

17.5.1945.  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Return of Norwegian ships to Norwegian Government.

Your 151101, following received from S.H.A.E.F. Forward begins:- Until this Headquarters reviews overall shipping position desire Merchant Shipping not be released to Norwegian Government. Request earliest details of ships found be furnished in conjunction with M.W.O. Representative Norway. Ends. Request you comply. (A.N.C.X.F., 171625 to F.O. Norway).

U-boats at Bergen.

Further to my 161604. Total German U-boats present 36 of which 4 are unserviceable due to enemy action or defects. U.228 subsequently located half submerged due to bomb damage.  
2. Numbers and types as follows - 3 type XXI, 3514, 2511, 2506. 2 type IX 421, 539, 868. One IX D2~~was~~, 875. One HLD, UD 5. One type XXIII, 232, 8. One type VII F, 1061. One type VC11 D, 218. 26 type VC11 C, 1202, 1052, 298, 1271, 1022, 991, 778, 1057, 328, 1004, 1005, 907, 245, 324, 1272, 1104, 926, 928, 930, 1002, 1301, 1307, 437, 228, 256, 993, last 4 unserviceable.  
3. For information. Capt. Rösing, in command of German U-boats Norway, is in Bergen.  
4. Interrogation of O.O. U.218 referred to in your 151510 May to C.S.1 is being carried out. (N.O.I.C. Bergen, 171706B to Admty).

U-boats at Stavanger.

\* xxiii

A.N.C.X.F. 161115B. Following German U-boats at present at Stavanger type ~~21~~ 3035. Type ~~VIIC~~ 637 damaged by M.T.Bs. off Stavanger 26th April. 117, 901, Type ~~23\*~~ 2324, 2329, 2322, 2345, 2348. None reported at other parts laid down in my area. (N.O.I.C. Stavanger, 161811 to F.O. Norway).

U-boats at Holmstrand.

Following German U-boats are at Holmstrand near Horten.

(1) German U-boat number	(2) Type
874	IX <del>D</del> D2
975	VII C
2502	XXI 21
2513	XXI 21
2518	XXI 21
3017	XXI 21
170	IX C
1108	VII C
3041	XXI 21
35 (?) 15	XXI 21

Inspected on May 16th and 17th and ready for sea. No torpedoes on board. Intend moving them to Oslo to facilitate supervision. (F.O. Norway, 171909B to Admty).

/Suspected...

17.5.1945.  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Suspected minefield off S.W. Norway.

Suspected moored mine field apparently newly laid GX mines from position 58° 00' N., 06° 45' E. on channel "Jupiter" to position X2. Following diversion recommended from position H through the following positions.

(1) 58° 03' N., 06° 38' E.

(2) 57° 56' 48" N., 07° 03' 12" E.

(3) 57° 55' 18" N., 07° 23' 12" E. Thence to position X4.

Search of diversion route and mined area proceeding.

(Capt. M/S Norway, 172330B to C. in C. Rosyth).

Operations

Northern Waters.

U.255

Arrived U.255 0730 today Thursday. Compliant.

(S.O. Loch Eriboll, 170812B to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 161243 not to S.O.E.G.5.

(A) (1) U.255 sailed 8th May with instructions to return to Norway and was not on patrol.

(2) Submerged from 8th to 12th and subsequently received only partial signals forbidding scuttling but instructions to proceed Loch Eriboll not received until British destroyers met.

(B) (1) Yes off St. Nazaire.

(2) Yes, on 18th April 2 lines 4 in each spaced 200 metres in line A and 300 metres in line B in 18 metres of water off Les Sables d'Olonne. Line A on a course of 180 starting from position 2 miles from breakwater light on the Northern limit of the northern white sector. Line B on a course of 130 from approximately the southern end of line A.

(3) Not on this occasion. One Police Lieutenant was transferred from La Pallice to St. Nazaire on previous sortie.

Note. Evidence of Captain and Engineering Officer does not agree and that of Captain is considered reliable.

(S.O. Loch Eriboll, 171158B to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy J.W.67.

J.W.67. Following 10 ships selected for White Sea proceeding direct when detached in single groups with Russian escorts all for Molotovsk

except as otherwise indicated - BRITISH PROMISE

(T), EMPIRE EMERALD (T), ADOLPH S. OCHS (Bakaritsa)

FORT HIGHFIELD (Bakaritsa), JOSHUA W. ALEXANDER, PHILIP F. THOMAS

ALANSON B. HOUGHTON, GEORGE H. PENDLETON, BERNARD L.N. BAKER.

BARBARA FRITCHIE.

(2) Group will be met by icebreaker at ice edge in vicinity 66° 03' N., Ice condition now rapidly improving with considerable amount water.

(3) Outgoing group will probably be passed in White Sea.

(4) Russian trade Authority and Bland (corrupt group) (?concur).

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 171544B to Admty. S.B.N.O. N. Russia).

Convoy R.A.67.

Herewith Captain Hostvedt's 171025 addressed C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy.

(A) Motor Vessel KRONPRINSEN left Kirkenes for Kola inlet escorted by EGLANTINE and trawlers JELOY and TROMOY at 0730B/17th. Escort

/strengthened...

17.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy  
R.A.67.  
(contd).

strengthened by two Soviet submarine CHALDU.  
(B) Motor vessel KONG HAAKON ~~SEVINNE~~ begins unloading 18th May. Discharge will take at least 3 weeks.  
(C) Only one merchant vessel can be discharged at a time. If more than one merchant ship comes in then the others have to wait their turn. Hostvedt. T.O.O. 171025.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 172057B to Admt).

Operations

Baltic.

Situation  
in Kiel  
area.

Dense concentration of disarmed persons in Oldenburg peninsula and Fehmarn will very shortly prelude guarding traffic in these areas.  
2. Naval Ordnance portable material being removed in general, remainder and installations will be destroyed.  
3. Boats and craft being withdrawn now.  
4. 8th Corps have been asked to maintain guard on (?A)lzerhaken but this can only be temporary. Any further (?disorganisation) would create (corrupt group)!  
(F.O. Kiel, 171711B to A.N.C.X.F.)

British  
minefields  
now time-  
expired.

Advice and information from German sources will be required for selecting safest routes particularly in Baltic.  
2. Can Germans therefore be told that all British mines laid since August 1944 should now be dead.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 171715B to Admt).

German  
destroyer for  
U.K.

Request approval to sail one <sup>Narvik</sup> ~~NARVIK~~ class destroyer next week to U.K. in company with ZEALOUS, and ZODIAC who can provide 3 steaming crew. Some German engineers may be required for passage.  
(F.O. Kiel, 172219B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Naval  
personnel in  
Norway.

Following figures of German Naval personnel in Norway were given today by German Naval High Command. Naval personnel including Coastal Artillery 84,661 Merchant Seamen approximately 4,000.  
(F.O. Norway, 170141 to A.I.530 F).

Casualties.

PROMPT  
minesweeper

On relief by EMPIRE POLLY request EMPIRE VINCENT be sailed to Ostend for towage of PROMPT to Grimsby. A.M. 152318B May not to all refers.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 171245B to N.O.I.C. Antwerp).

17.5.1945.  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

MANXMAN  
minelayer.

My 151810B May, sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 170659B to C. in C. Nore).

ENTERPRISE  
cruiser

Route ENTERPRISE A.M. 160214 refers.  
H. 180° Lizard 8 miles, J. 43° N., 10° W.  
K. 37° N., 10° W. L. 35.51 N., 06.10 W.  
(Plot (O.D.) 170906B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

HAWKINS  
cruiser.

Sailed HAWKINS at 1020B today 17th. Speed 20 knots. My 131434 and 140944 refer.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 171024B to C. in C. W.A.)

U.255

Intend to sail U.255 to Loch Alsh at 1200B today Thursday expected time of arrival 1900B. Escort BYRON. (2) No torpedoes.  
(S.O. Loch Eriboll, 171025B to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh).  
Arrived U.255 escorted by BYRON.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 172140B to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BIRMINGHAM,  
NORFOLK,  
BERWICK,  
DEVONSHIRE,  
DIDO,  
cruisers;  
ZEST,  
ZEALOUS,  
ZAMBESI,  
OBEDIENT,  
HAIDA,  
HURON,  
IROQUOIS,  
SAVAGE,  
ZODIAC,  
destroyers.

Following are intended future movements of H.F. Cruisers and destroyers:-  
A. BIRMINGHAM, ZEST,\* ZEALOUS leave Copenhagen Saturday 19th May, arrive Rosyth Monday 21st May.  
B. F.O. 1st C/S in NORFOLK, ZAMBESI, OBEDIENT leave Bergen Monday 21st May, arrive Scapa Tuesday 22nd May.  
C. BERWICK, HAIDA, HURON leaving Trondheim Thursday 24th May BERWICK to Rosyth, HAIDA and HURON to Scapa arriving Saturday 26th May.  
D. DEVONSHIRE, DIDO, IROQUOIS, SAVAGE and if no longer required at Kiel, ZEALOUS, ZODIAC leaving Copenhagen Thursday 24th May. DEVONSHIRE, DIDO and ZEALOUS to Rosyth. IROQUOIS, SAVAGE and ZODIAC to Scapa arriving Sunday 27th May.  
(C. in C. H.F., 171054B to A.N.C.X.F. and Ships concerned). \* ? ZEPHYR. See 20<sup>th</sup> p. 516

U.516  
U.764

Arrived KEATS, U.516 and U.764.  
(Com D.W.A., 171235B to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, C. in C. W.A.)

O.23  
TIGERHAAI,  
submarines.

Approved for H. Neth. M/S/Ms. O.23 and TIGERHAAI to give 14 days leave in Rotterdam (BDZ 111200 and F.O.S/M 121016 not to all refer).  
2. F.O.S/M is requested to sail S/Ms from Dundee as soon after 20th May as convenient for onward routing by C. in C. Nore for Rotterdam.  
3. On completion of leave S/Ms are to be sailed for Holy Loch for completion of work up.  
(D.O.D.(H), 171528B to B.D.Z., F.O.S/M, F.O. Holland, C. in C. Nore).

War Diary.17.5.1945.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSShipping & ConvoysConvoy  
R.N.1.

Convoy R.N.1 - speed  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
Sailing 0100 18th May escorts MONTERRAT, LOCH  
SCAVAIG, MAENAD, 10 ships including H.N.M.S.  
TOCOGAY, VARDØ, BREVIK, NORDKAPP.  
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 171017B to Admty. C. in C.  
Rosyth, F.O. Norway).

Destroyer  
couriers  
to Norway.

Commencing with WOLFHOUD and WESTMINSTER on  
Sunday 20th May, intend to institute a weekly  
personnel and store service, running to following  
timetable:-

- (1) 0900 Sunday 20th WOLFHOUD and WESTMINSTER  
sail from Rosyth, 1600 Monday 21st arrive  
Stavanger.
- (2) Northern Circuit. (A) 0600 Tuesday 22nd WOLFHOUD leaves  
Stavanger.  
(B) 1230 Tuesday 22nd arrives Bergen.  
(C) 1600 Tuesday 22nd leaves Bergen.  
(D) 1000 Wednesday 23rd arrives Trondheim.  
(E) 1600 Wednesday 23rd leaves Trondheim.  
(F) 1400 Thursday 24th arrives Stavanger.
- (3) Southern Circuit.  
(A) 2000 Tuesday 2nd WESTMINSTER leaves Stavanger.  
(B) 0630 Wednesday 23rd arrives Kristiansund.  
(C) 1030 Wednesday 23rd leaves Kristiansund  
(D) 2130 Wednesday 23rd leaves Oslo.  
(E) 0500 Thursday 24th leaves Oslo.  
(F) 2030 Thursday 24th arrives Stavanger.
- (4) 0800 Friday 25th WOLFHOUD and WESTMINSTER leave Stavanger,  
1500 Saturday 26th arrive Rosyth.
- (5) Tromsø will be serviced from Trondheim as arranged by  
N.Os. I.C.
- (6) Advantage should be taken of "Apostle" sailings for  
transport of personnel etc., from U.K. direct to Tromsø.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 171727B to F.O. Norway).

B.B./M.H.  
convoys  
discontinued.

After the sailing of B.B.116 tonight Thursday,  
the B.B./M.H. convoy schedule is to be  
discontinued and independent sailings resumed  
for this traffic. A.M. 191342 January refers.\*  
(V.C.N.S., 171914B to C. in C. W.A).

\* B.B. = southbound between Clyde and Barry Roats  
M.H. = northbound between Barry Roats and Clyde with  
branches to Liverpool and Belfast.

War Diary

17.5.1945  
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ETTRICK  
Frigate.

Request route to Southampton for ETTRICK.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 171008Z to Admty.)

South Atlantic

Frigates.

Following from D.S.A.N.F. "D.S.A.N.F. is anxious to be informed of anticipated movements of GOOD HOPE, NATAL, and TRANSVAAL). He understands that the first named is proceeding to Eastern Fleet via South Africa and the other 2 direct. If this is correct he would like to have the NATAL and TRANSVAAL made available at Alexandria or Port Said for 1 day when on passage."  
(C. in C. S.A. 171102B to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S's  
for U.K.

Intend sailing B.Y.M.S. 2257 to Dakar 18th May.  
(2) As risk of mining in this command no longer considered to exist propose B.Y.M.S. 2149 and 2150 from Bathurst join B.Y.M.S. 2257 at Dakar.  
All to proceed in company to U.K.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F. 171129Z to Admty. approved 182033B and 231124)



War Diary

17.5.1945  
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

V.N.136                      V.N.136 departing Naples 18th May will be last  
convoy.                      convoy of this series.  
                                  (2) Ships will be called forward by P.B.S. and  
                                  are to be sailed independently to arrive Leghorn  
                                  before 1800, otherwise stage at Piombino.  
(3) C. in C. Med. is requested to issue disposal instructions  
for Commodores and Signalmen of Naples pool.  
(F.O.N.A.M.170941B to N.O.I.C.Naples).

?                              R.A.C.1231/3151 of 5th May.    From Admiralty.  
                                  Your action should still be as outlined in para.  
                                  (4) of Admiralty Message 031700A/Nov. (N.T. in W.D.)  
                                  On no account initiate any action.  
(2) Request any further information be passed expeditiously.  
(Hd.of M. 171036B to B.M.M. Roumania)

Vessels on                    R.A.C. 1331/5419 cipher 17 May.    Restricted.  
Danube                      For M.W.T.    Our R.A.C.1228/109 May 5th para. 28.  
to hoist                      Para.1 Law of 17th decrees that 20 Danube vessel  
Italian                      at present flying Roumanian flag will hoist  
flag.                         Italian flag.    All measures taken civil  
                                  government 1943 in connection these vessels are  
                                  cancelled.  
                                  Para. 2. Vessels comprise 8 tankers, 2 tugs,  
                                  1 launch, 1 dredger, 8 pontoons.  
                                  (B.M.M. Roumania, 171315B and 261215)

Movements                    Your 161850 (being passed to C. in C. Med.)  
of French                      JEANNE D'ARC left Toulon on 13th May and is due  
Ships                         at Beirut to-day 17th May.  
transporting                    (D.O.D.(F), 171745B to N.A. Paris)  
troops.                         Following received from N.O.I.C.Beirut begins  
                                  JEANNE D'ARC arrived with approx. 600 (French?)  
                                  personnel.    Stated she is taking about the same  
                                  number back request permission to sail her to  
Bizerta as convenient by reverse of outward route probably  
leaving Monday 21st.    T.O.O.171154 Ends.  
(2) Have approved sailing accordingly.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 171901C to C. in C. Med.)

/S/M...

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17.5.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

S/M's  
SEANYMPH.  
SPEARHEAD.

Sailed <sup>SPEARHEAD,</sup> ~~spearhead~~ SEANYMPH at 0630C/17 May by standard Red Sea route to Aden. E.T.A. 0300Z/22 S. of A. 11 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 171835C to Admty.)

LE TRIOMP-  
HANT.

Sailed LE TRIOMPHANT at 1721C/17 to Aden E.T.A. 0300Z/20 S. of A. 22 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 172035C)

Repatriation  
Shipping.

D. of S.T. 172320B May, Admiral Archer, Moscow.  
See 201121B.  
See Lion Copy.

# 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.)

*Repatriation Shipping*

172320B/May.

To Admiral Archer Date 17.5.45.  
Moscow  
Info P.S.T.O. Mediterranean  
SHAEF Main for GA (Mov/TN)

Russian (X) & Naval Cypher (B).

From Director of Sea Transport.

Your 161501 were any of personnel referred to in your para 2 available before despatch from Odessa of STAFFORDSHIRE empty and ARANA with 154 only.

2. Your para 4 our understanding of programme from P.S.T.O. Mediterraneans latest signals is as follows:-

Ship.	Approximate E.T.D. Odessa.	Approximate Capacity.
MONGAI	21st May	1600
CIRCASSIA	25th May	2500
ASCANIUS	25th May	1950
CAP FOURANE	30th May	1400
EMPIRE PRIDE	8th June	2350
Total		9800

3. P.S.T.O. Mediterranean is requested to confirm para 2 and to state

- (a) how many of these ships he can arrange to proceed to Marseilles without serious prejudice to other requirements.
- (b) whether in the case of any ship which cannot ~~repeat~~ return to Marseilles he can arrange for personnel ex Odessa to be carried thither by transhipment.

4. After receipt of P.S.T.O. Mediterraneans reply to para 3 you are requested to state how many personnel of what nationalities will be left at Odessa.

5. Request you confirm that movement of P.W. to Odessa is being stopped.

6. Agreed.

172320B.

2nd S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (H).  
 A.C.N.S. (F)  
 P.A.S. (D)  
 U.V.R.  
 Ops (2)  
 C.D. (6)  
 Flot (2)  
 O.I.C. (3)

For D. of S.T. Extn 2186.

Prisoners at Odessa awaiting repatriation.

D.T.D. (4) D. of S. (3).  
 D.T.D. (C) U.S.N. (3)  
 D of S.T. (15) Ad. Blake.  
 M (10) W.D.  
 N.L. Mails.  
 C.N.I. (2)

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17.5.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Operation "Dukedom" my 100559 and 131351 neither to all refers. Forces have been redisposed in view of possible attempt by enemy to evacuate Andaman Is.

(2) Force 61 refuel today Thursday from Force 70 in approx. position 005° N. 090° E. subsequently remaining to eastward of long. 88° E.

(3) Force 61 now comprises QUEEN ELIZABETH (B.G. 3), CUMBERLAND, EMPEROR, HUNTER and destroyer ROTHERHAM (Capt. D. 11th D.F.), ROEBUCK, REDOUBT, TARTAR (Capt. D. 10th D.F.) ESKIMO, NUBIAN. PALADIN and R.F.A. EASEDALE form force 70.

(4) PHOEBE and sloops H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ and H.M.I.S. CAUVERY patrolling midway between Port Blair and Mergui.

(5) Remainder of force return to Ceylon to replenish.

(6) 3 submarines remain on patrol in Malacca Strait until 19th May.

(C. in C. E.I. 171001Z to Admty.)

WAVENEY,  
L.S.H. (H)

(1) Sail as convenient on first tide tomorrow morning Friday 18th.

(2) Escort SONTAY and ISLAMI in accordance with route orders received.

(3) Thence to Colombo for onward routing to Bombay. S.O. Force W 101126 refers.

(N.O.I.C. Rangoon 171400Z to WAVENEY.)

R.I.N.  
Command.

As from Friday 18th May and until further orders' command of the R.I.N. will be exercised by the F.O. Bombay who will use the designation O.C.R.I.N. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 171401Z to R.I.N. general.)

C. in C.E.I.

Arrivals ULSTER QUEEN wearing flag of C. in C. E.I., VIRGINIA, L.S.T. 11, 410, 406, 413, 163, 421 199 and L.S.E. (?361.)

(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 171527Z to Admty.)

ENTERPRISE  
cruiser.

ENTERPRISE will leave U.K. on 19th May for Colombo routed via Gibraltar and Mediterranean.

(2) Ship is non-operational and is being employed on trooping duties.

(3) Authorities are requested to expedite passage.

It is desirable that stops west of Aden should not exceed 12 hrs. (5) After arrival in Ceylon return draft from East Indies Station should be embarked, and ENTERPRISE sailed for U.K. as soon as convenient.

(D.O.D. (F) 171804B to C. in C. E.I.)

Aircraft A.C.  
S.E.A.  
reduction.

Air Ministry are proposing that Maritime aircraft of A.C.S.E.A's Command should be reduced to a total of: 4 Flying Boat Squadrons. 2 LR/GR Squadrons. 1 MR/GR Squadrons. 2 Coastal/Fighter Squadrons.

(2) It is appreciated that the U-Boat threat will be very slight in your area during phase II.

(3) Request your remarks on proposed reductions.

(V.C.N.S. 171907B to C. in C. E.I.) See 180931Z.

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17.5.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B surrenders. No fresh arrivals reported. U.255 is due Loch Eriboll. U.1228, U.873 estimated to have arrived Casco Bay, U.S.A. U.234 43° 45' N. 54° 45' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 171317B to S. & A. Areas A.B.C.X.Y.Z.)  
1200Z/17th May situation unchanged.  
(N.S.H.Q., 171330Z.)

A. No fresh information.  
B. U.234 under escort in 43.45 56.00 at 1200Z/17.  
C. 248 S.12. U.873 and U.1228 arrived Portsmouth.  
(Cominch 171400Z to Admty.)

Russian Y.M.S. When ready for sea about 22 1400Q depart Ambrose Lightship for St. Johns N.F. HASTE with U.S. naval liaison officer aboard escort 6 Russian Y.M.S. via (route). S.O.A. 10 knots, E.T.A. St. Johns 270700Q. Arrival St. Johns Y.M.S. report F.O.N.F. for onward routing U.K. HASTE for return New York.  
(C.E.S.F., 171453Z to HASTE.)

SS. JOHN CROPPER damaged. Straggler report. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X. 354 JOHN CROPPER U.S. 13/5 collision damage.  
(N.S.H.Q., 171925Z to Admty.)

U/B reports. First report since Cominch 142026.  
Para. D. (1) 162342Z Fisherman reported periscope sighted approx. 44.37 N. 67.08 W. course S.E. estimated speed 5 knots.  
(2) 171410Z R.C.A.F. plane heard propeller beats 100 r.p.m. on Sonobuoy dropped 45.30 N. 67.25 W. All times Z.  
(Cominch 172045 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Air Sea rescue Stns. Pending availability British vessels Comnavau 161601 not to all Cinclant establish additional Air/Sea rescue stations in positions as follows.  
No. 16, 60.40 N. 13.40 W. No. 17, 53.50 N. 18.38 W. No. 18, 42.30 N. 13 W. No. 19, 39.11 N. 20 W. No. 20, 35.20 N. 16.10 W. No. 21, 9.40 N. 21.45 W. No. 22, Equator, 12.11 W.  
No. 22 not required until advised by A.T.C.  
Employment convoy escorts and D.Es. of Cinclant 151553. and proffered Brazilian vessels is authorised.  
(Cominch 172052Z to Cinclant.)

/Merchant...

17.5.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Merchant ship Unless there is pressing reason to contrary it losses and does seem undesirable to present proposal in the Press etc. A.M. 162330 to Navy Department where it is known there is much dislike of any further amendment to this formally agreed report. There was great difficulty in achieving modification of para. 22 (a) and (b). The paras. now referred to were specifically included at Admty. request.  
(2) It is recognised in Navy Department that there may be several cases where provision of conference report will be found to be impracticable but they consider it unnecessary and undesirable to continue amending report prior to the 2nd conference. The suggestion might however now be made to have this conference earlier than previously planned. Para. 25 was specifically included in anticipation of necessary modification to report.  
(B.A.D., 172117Z to Admty.)

Far East and Australia.

ILLUSTRIOUS. Intend ILLUSTRIOUS leave Sydney 24th May and proceed unescorted via Fremantle and Suez Canal to arrive U.K. by 1st July. Admiralty 081447 not to all refers.  
(3) Ship is non-operational and hull defects limit speed to 19 knots.  
(4) Approx. programme Fremantle 29th May Aden 11th June Suez Canal 15th June Gibraltar 22nd June Rosyth 30th June.  
(5) Request ship be sailed accordingly.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 170527 to C.S.W.P.S.F.) See 221946B.

CAP DES Your 011651 May not to all, para. 2B. F.O.I.C.  
PALMES. Sydney has examined CAP DES PALMES and reports machinery in good order. Owing excessive amount of work necessary to reconvert her to V.S.I.S. or store carrier do not consider her suitable for logistic support of B.P.F.  
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 170534Z to Admty.)

Blue Summary Ryukyus. Little change in ground situation  
16th. Okinawa. Searches Empire area. F.A.W. 1 plane sank  
(extract.) 1 small A.O. south of Korea and damaged 1 S.D.  
Submarines. Blue submarines report sinking 1 A.O.  
1 med. A.K. 1 minelayer, 1 large steam trawler, 2  
luggers. 1 submarine shelled radio installation  
at Shimushiru. Submarine rescuing 10 search planes survivors  
Tsushima Straits has rescued 20 airmen during present patrol.  
S.W.P.A. Search planes sank 3 S.D. 1 tug, 1 river boat, 2  
barges in Celebes Borneo and Hongkong sectors.  
(C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 170652.)

/Corsair...

17.5.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.- Contd.

Corsair  
squadrons.

It is understood that (a) 8 New Zealand Corsair Squadrons (18 aircraft each) are at present assigned to S.W.P.A. and disposed between the Solomons and the Admiralty Islands.

(b) Owing to a world shortage of Corsairs there may be some difficulty keeping these squadrons supplied with aircraft from America.

(2) The release of some of these Corsair squadrons to the B.P.F. would be most valuable in augmenting Fleet Air Arm personnel. Personnel thus turned over could be trained for carrier work locally.

(3) I have consulted the New Zealand Government who are prepared to meet us in this respect provided

(a) our requirements are urgent. (b) These squadrons are no longer required in S.W.P.A.

(4) It is suggested that the Combined Chiefs of Staff should be asked to consider releasing some of these squadrons providing that the requirement in S.W.P.A. is not more pressing.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 170850 to Admty.)

C.V.Es. for  
B.P.F.

The number of C.V.Es. attached to the B.P.F. has only been just sufficient to support the operations of our carriers up to date without taking into account (a) deck landing training, (b) damage and refits.

(2) In order to support a second fast carrier task group on arrival of the light fleet carriers and to allow for the requirement in para. 1A and B above, it is estimated that the full 15 C.V.Es. allocated to the B.P.F. in Admiralty 161818 March will be required.

(3) Request all possible action may be taken to (a) accelerate the arrival of PATROLLER, REAPER and RANEE at present shown by A.M. 021547 May as arriving in the Pacific in Sept.

(b) To despatch as soon as possible the six C.V.Es. referred to as available after the defeat of Germany in para. 2C of A.M. 161818 March.

(4) Further request I may be informed of the dates on which these ships may be expected to arrive.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 170853Z to Admty.) See 252130B.

Digest 1212,  
16,5,45.  
(extract.)

(6) On Mindanao 4 Mitchells attacked Pisa Point motor torpedo boat base Davao Gulf destroying 6, damaging another 6 M.T.Bs.

(7) Pair Liberators swept Makassar Strait leaving sinking 1 sea truck, probably damaging small coaster and schooner.

(10) One destroyer two destroyer escorts of 7th Fleet bombarded Pisa Point M.T.B. base 15th May, firing 264 rounds 5" shells plus 40 m.m. straffing thoroughly covering area, silencing rifle and machine gunfire.

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17.5.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

Digest 1212,  
16.5.45.  
(extract.)  
(Contd.)

(11) 1 sloop, 1 corvette, 2 R.A.N. gave support bombarding shore positions while 3 Bostons hit enemy occupied villages Wewak area.  
(14) Two patrol Liberators from Darwin attacking possible destroyer escort or torpedo boat off Southeastern Celebes.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 171200Z to Admty.)

U/B surrender  
U.183.

German Naval H.Q. Kiel today informed me High Command have complied with your 121100 and reported that only one of German U-Boats in Japanese waters is fit for sea. This latter has acknowledged the order.  
(F.O. Kiel 171229B to A.N.C.X.F.)  
See 200543.

R.A. 2nd  
Cruiser  
Squadron.

Rear Admiral Servaes, appointed Rear Admiral, 2nd Cruiser Squadron, accompanied by such of his staff and retinue as can be made available by that date, will leave U.K. by air for Malta on Tuesday, 5th June. His flag is to be hoisted in BERMUDA on his arrival and he will proceed in that ship to his station. Present intention is that BELFAST shall eventually become flagship of 2nd Cruiser Squadron.  
(Naval Secretary 171426B to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Organisation  
A/C B.P.F.

Your 120714. Initial adjustments are set out in A.M. 151918, 151921 and 151935. Details of future programme are being worked out now and will be signalled as soon as possible.  
(D.N.A.O. 172337B to C. in C. B.P.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B surrender

Para. A. (a) U.255 due Loch Eriboll.  
U.1228, U.873 estimated arrived Casco Bay, U.S.A.  
(b) U.234, 43° 45' N. 54° 45' W. 15 U-Boats escorted by E.G. 9 estimated N. of Trondheim en route Loch Eriboll. Para. B. No change.  
(D.D.I.C. 171339B to A.I.G., Cominch.)



18.5.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) Rotterdam can accept ships up to 27 ft. draught, 10 on each tide; Ymuiden, ships up to 20 ft.

- (b) Two mines were detonated in Maashaven.
- (c) One mine was detonated off Cuxhaven.

West Coast France.

2. The 4 German minesweepers which surrendered in the Channel Is. are to be sailed to Brest to operate under C.T.F. 122.

Norway.

3(a) BERWICK, HURON and HAIDA have arrived at Trondheim.

(b) The German Capt. U-Boats, Norway, reports 46 U-Boats at sea as follows:  
From Bergen Nos. 242, 244, 285, 287, 296, 321, 325, 326, 396, 398, 676, 739, 764, 774, 776, 905, 956, 963, 965, 738, 1001, 1010, 1017, 1024, 1063, 1106, 1107, 1206, 1274, 1277;  
From Kristiansund Nos. 2326, 2336;  
From Flensburg Nos. 190, 234, 518, 530, 546, 548, 853, 857, 866, 873, 879, 880, 881, 1235.  
Of these we have Nos. 244, 764, 766, 956, 1010 and 2326 in safe stowage.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

Movement.

4. GLORY (A.C.) arrived Gibraltar and left for Malta.

East Indies

Movement.

5. NIGERIA (C.S.5) with RICHELIEU, TROMP (Netherlands cruiser) and ROYALIST arrive Trincomalee after operations off Sumatra.

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18.5.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

Collision.

6. SS. GLACIER PARK (U.S. Tanker, 10,448 tons) was in collision today with the FLORENCE MARTUS (U.S., 7,198 tons) in 40° 16' N., 73° 26' W. Former bow crushed above waterline. Latter damaged amidships.

18.5.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Treatment of German ships and personnel Admiralty Message 101613. Following is promulgated for general guidance in dealing with surrendered German warships and Naval personnel:-

(2) Ships.

(a) Nazi flag is not repeat not on any account to be permitted to be worn. White Ensign only is to be hoisted on board ships lying in British ports.

(b) Any ships temporarily employed for Allied purposes with German crews, e.g. minesweepers, are to wear international code flag "C" with triangle cut from the end. This flag has been adopted by S.H.A.E.F. as a symbol of Allied control of vessels employed with German crews. When British naval officers are on board such vessels, White Ensign should in addition be hoisted superior to control flag.

(3) Status of Personnel.

Status of surrendered naval personnel detained ashore or on board German warships is not precisely defined. Pending further instructions they are not being declared Prisoners of War for reasons connected with the application of the Geneva Convention. For practical purposes, however, they should be dealt with on the same basis as Prisoners of War, but may be employed on care and maintenance duties to the extent required.

(4) Non-Fraternisation.

A policy of strict non-fraternisation is to be enjoined on all ranks coming in contact with surrendered naval personnel. This means that -

(a) friendliness or familiarity is not permitted and an attitude of stern courtesy adopted. The attitude of Allied personnel is to be just but firm, making it clear that immediate compliance with orders and instructions will be enforced.

(b) Contact with Germans is to be restricted to the minimum necessary to ensure execution of orders and the satisfaction of Allied requirements. There is to be no repeat no entertaining of Germans, whether official or otherwise.

(c) Salutes and military honours should not repeat not be accorded to German officers. German Commanders are not repeat not to fly their flags and German naval officers are not to be piped on board any Allied warship.

(d) Salutes by Germans are obligatory when carrying out duties with Allied officers, and salutes given by Germans are to be returned.

(V.C.N.S. 180619B to all authorities.)

Shewing the flag in Continental Ports.

F.O. Kiel reports ZEALOUS and ZODIAC arrived Kiel Wednesday, 16th.

(A.N.C.X.F., 180905B to Admt.)

F.O. Wilhelmshaven 171816B not to all being passed to D.16. Request you will sail SOUTHDOWN and BROCKLESBY as requisite tomorrow Saturday to arrive Wilhelmshaven on Sunday 20th May.

(2) Ships are to leave Wilhelmshaven so as to arrive Harwich on Friday 25th May.

(C. in C. Nore, 181517B to Capt. D.16.)

/Arrived...

18.5.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Shewing the  
flag in Con-  
tinental  
Ports.  
(Contd.)

Arrived 1545/17th BERWICK, HURON, HAIDA.  
(N.O.I.C. Trondheim 182140B to F.O. Norway.)

British  
manning of  
U-Boats.

Admiralty's 180323 and my 171022 neither to all.  
It is intended that Lt. Cdr. Marsham's crew  
should commission U.249.  
(F.O. S/M 181107B to Admty.)

Reduction of  
escort vessels  
to Category C

Reference minutes of meeting held on 30th April  
request following may now be made general at home.  
Begins:-  
A.M. 180855. Reduction of escort vessels to  
category C is to be given first priority and  
such overtime is to be worked as is necessary for  
vessels to complete reduction within 10 days. Provided that se-  
cret confidential valuable and inflammable stores and equipment  
are removed within this period remaining stores may be left on  
board in accordance with A.F.O. 335/45.  
(F.O.C.R.F. 181130 to Admty.)

U-Boat  
reports.

Your 171211. Experience to date is that U-Boats  
arriving at Lochalsh have in almost every case  
destroyed patrol records. Detailed information  
is not therefore available.

(2) Commanding Officers will be interrogated here  
and brief T/P reports sent as soon as practicable to C. in C.  
Western Approaches, Admiralty and Captain Submarine Lisahally.  
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh 181147 to C. in C. W.A.)

Interrogation  
of German  
Staff.

Your 141515 para. 6 and Comnavu's 151036.  
Concur that this opportunity to interrogate  
members of German naval staff should be fully  
exploited.

(2) A unit composed of qualified representatives  
from various Admiralty departments numbering 25  
all told, and about the same number from Comnavu will be ready  
to leave a.m. Monday 21st May. The majority of Comnavu's  
representatives will be supplied by Navtechmiseu.

(3) If you agree, request you will say when and where they  
should report.

(4) In addition to above numbers, unit will be accompanied by  
six British interpreters. U.S. interpreters will be supplied by  
Navtechmiseu who should report numbers direct to you.

(V.C.N.S. 181709 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Reference A.M. 181709. Admiralty is requested to arrange  
air lift commencing a.m. Monday direct to Flensburg E.T.A.  
being signalled to me. Captain Maund to arrange transport to  
meet party.

War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Interrogation of German Staff. (Contd.) (2) Party will be known as O.K.M. Interrogation and Technical Unit short title O.K.M.I.T.U.  
(3) Captain Lewes of my staff arrives Flensburg Monday to assist my representative Captain Maund as necessary.  
(4) Representatives should take blankets and pistols.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 182236B to Admty.)

Disposal of surrendered U-Boats. Your 172025. Pending decision as to disposal of U-Boats following action is to be taken:-  
A. Concentrate and detain in suitable ports.  
B. Maintain them in as seaworthy condition as possible.  
C. Reduce crews of seaworthy U-Boats to steaming parties.  
D. Reduce crews of damaged or broken down U-Boats to care and maintenance parties.  
E. Retain pool of U-Boat personnel in each port to fill vacancies.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 181840B to F.O. Norway.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Operation "Fireball" minesweeping to Rotterdam Operation "Fireball".  
(1) LL/SAA 6 M.M.S., E.G. M.S. H.K. 12 to I.M. one as in my 160013 para. one, 8 actuations on northwestern half.  
B. Block ship at Maasluis static pulsing completed to 15 actuations.  
C. Outer breakwater to Hook boom completed to 15 actuations (single ship.)  
D. Hook boom to Maassluis continues LAA.  
E. Parkhaven to Maashaven completed.  
F. Rijnhaven static pulsing E.T.C. Saturday 19th.  
(2) 2 blue magnetic by PP. in Maashaven.  
(3) Survey work continues.  
(5) 6 M.M.S. H.K. 12 to (corrupt group) one (my 160013 para. 1) 5 M.M.S. in new waterway hook to Maassluis LAA in new waterway above block ship 3 by M.S. 3 M.M.S. to Ijmuiden.  
(Capt. M/S F.A. 180302B to C. in C. Nore.)

Surveying of Elbe and Hook. F.O. Wilhelmshaven's 171207 and my 212225 April (not to all.) Propose survey unit now revert to my operational control for work in Wilhelmshaven Command as desired by Hydrographer. Request unit be sailed accordingly.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 181125B to C. in C. Nore.)

/Surveying...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Surveying  
of Elbe  
and Hook.

Your 181125B. Concur, except temporarily for H.D.M.L. 1053.  
(2) FRANKLIN and H.D.M.L. 1001 are being sailed to Cuxhaven.  
(3) H.D.M.L. 1053 has been sailed to the Hook for surveying work in accordance with your 212225 April (not to all.)  
(C. in C. Nore, 182303B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Route Hamburg  
to Norway  
ready June  
1st.

S.H.A.E.F. 111835 (not to all.)  
Confirmed that Hamburg will be available on 1st June for shipping required by revised "Apostle" plan and route will be available between Hamburg and Norway.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 181157B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Situation  
report,  
Amsterdam.

Sitrep received from N.O.I.C. Amsterdam. West of block ship west harbour (Ford) and Zaandam Harbour are intact. Outlook of ship repair. Possibilities favourable.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 181217B to F.O. Holland.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 409, part 4.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 171600B May.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
Antwerp	-	3	13,058	-	1,857
Ostend	1,851	270	2,860	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,744	-
Calais	309	73	65	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,160</u>	<u>346</u>	<u>16,577</u>	<u>1,744</u>	<u>1,857</u>
<u>U.S. North.</u>					
Antwerp	-	64	11,793	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	1,901	1,109	1,880
Le Havre	2,173	163	5,363	460	1,919
Rouen	1	-	3,323	211	6,202
Ghent	-	-	6,803	-	1,235
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,174</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>29,183</u>	<u>1,780</u>	<u>11,236</u>
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	-	261	12,382	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,658	1,410	10,465
<u>Total</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>14,040</u>	<u>1,410</u>	<u>10,465</u>

Army coal at, Dieppe 168 tons, Morlaix 1020 tons, St. Malo 1018 tons.

(S.H.A.E.F. 181600 to Admty., and others.)

/Situation...

18.5.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Situation report, North Frisian Islands.

German report on North Frisian Islands within my command discloses:

- (1) 1 500 ton German U-Boat No. 1100.
  - (2) 24 small war vessels. (3) 9, 15 c.m. guns.
  - (4) 24 flak batteries. (5) Large stocks 15 c.m. A/A and small arms ammunition. (6) Small stock liquid fuel. (7) 600 tons coal.
  - (8) 11500 personnel.
- N.O.I.C. Sylt is now established.  
(F.O. Wilhelmshaven 181832B to Admty.)

Operation "Dropkick" minesweeping to Hamburg.

Operation "Dropkick".

- (1) Channel widening from boom to P.15 with modification L and explosive sweep total actuations 4.
- (2) One ground mine 093° P.15 buoy 6.7 miles.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) Request 20 tons fresh potatoes and fresh meat if possible in ADVENTURE.  
(Capt. M/S Force C 181907B to C. in C. Nore.)

Situation report, Heligoland.

Preliminary report Heligoland.

(1) No gunnery torpedo mines or electrical equipment of special interest for development purposes.

(2) Large quantities of ammunition for all types of guns are intact. Samples of in Research Branch.

(3) Controlled minefield south of Ost Mole fired.

(4) Following equipment is now stored on Island,

A. Large number of diesel generators ranging from (?2) - 2000 h.p. main machines and portable emergency machines.

B. Well-fitted machine shops and tools.

C. 60 new 26 cell batteries for torpedoes.

D. One 1600 ton floating dock in U-Boat shelter.

(5) Following plans have been obtained,

A. Complete details of fortifications.

B. Details of U-Boat shelter.

C. Anti-ship minefields between Heligoland and dunes.

D. Anti-tank minefields round Heligoland and dunes and land minefields.

A. and B. are being forwarded to Admiralty with written report which follows.

(6) Other S.Ds. are known to be buried in safes under houses. These will be obtained during next visit which is now being organised.

(F.O. Wilhelmshaven 182009B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Situation report, Ymuiden.

Strep. Ymuiden. Soundings by H.D.M.Ls. show 30 feet M.L. W.S. in harbour N.K. M.S. 22 feet, M.L. W.S. in Zuider Buitumkanaal.  
Available (?8) berths 250 feet long 14 feet

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Situation report, Ymuiden. (Contd.)  
draft including iron ore quay with 3 cranes 30½, 4½ and 6 tons. 2 berths 250 feet, 2 16 feet draft including 1 berth with 1 4½ ton transporter crane and 1 berth with 1½ ton crane. 1 berth 250 feet long 18 feet draft with 3 3 tons transporter crane quarter of which are out of action. 5 berths 300 feet long 20 feet draft waterlogged in east side Noorpersluiss for harbour side discharge. 6 waiting berths at Dolphins in outer harbour. Maximum draft for vessels entering harbour 20 feet. (N.O.I.C. Ymuiden 182204B to F.O. Holland.)

Situation report. Cositintrep No. 409 part 2 naval. Rotterdam. Deepest draught acceptable 28 feet at high water springs, 27 feet at high water Neaps. Number of berths available for ships at different draughts are 27 feet 10, 25 feet 1, 24 feet 4, 23 feet 5, 21 feet 6 ins. 3, 21 feet 5, 19 feet 6 ins. 8, 18 feet 2, 16 feet 7, plus 2 cold storage berths 28 feet. 10 ships can be berthed on any one tide. At least 10 berths for ships waiting discharge. There is no length. (2) ZEALOUS, ZODIAC arrived Kiel 16th May after passage from Copenhagen via Little Belt. (3) U.2336 arrived Kiel. One type 23 German U-Boat reported afloat at Flensburg. (A.N.C.X.F., 182338B to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. ASSINIBOINE, GATINEAU sail so as to pass Gate at 0930B/19th and proceed establish patrol Eddystone to Berry Head on coastal convoy route. (2) WREN, PEACOCK establish patrol Eddystone to Lizard by 1000B/19th. (C. in C. Plymouth 181250B to ASSINIBOINE, GATINEAU, WREN, PEACOCK.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

Extended fishing in Bay of Biscay. C. in C. Plymouth's 171140 para. 2. Concur. (C. in C. W.A., 181447B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/German...



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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France. - Contd.

German minesweepers in prize from Channel Islands.

Your 172137 para. 4 minesweepers should be sailed to Brest to operate under C.T.F. 122. (D.M.S. 181704B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Weather-reporting ship.

LAVENDER is to sail May 20th to relieve AUBRETIA as weather reporting ship fuelling at Milford Haven on outward passage.  
(2) E.T.A. in 50° N. 20° W. to be reported.  
(3) AUBRETIA is to proceed to Liverpool by standard route C on relief.  
(C. in C. W.A., 181540B to F.Os. i/c Liverpool, Milford Haven, AUBRETIA.)

Air-Sea Rescue Stations.

An immediate requirement has arisen for providing air-sea rescue facilities on transAtlantic air routes for U.S. aircraft now returning to America.  
(2) Frigates or corvettes are required to be stationed on each of the following routes in the British Strategic zone.

Position No. 16 in 60° 40' N. 13° 40' W. on the Prestwick-Reykjavik route.

Position No. 17 in 53° 50' N. 18° 38' W. on the Prestwick-Stephenville route.

Position No. 18 in 42° 30' N. 13° 00' W. on the Paris-Azores route.

Position No. 19 in 39° 11' N. 20° 00' W. on the Paris-Azores route.

Position No. 20 in 35° 20' N. 16° 10' W. on the Casablanca-Azores route.

Position No. 21 in 9° 40' N. 21° 45' W. on the Dakar-Natal route.

Position No. 22 on Equator 12° 11' W. on the Monrovia-Ascension route.

(3) Ships are to be provided as follows: Number 16, 17, 18 and 19 by C. in C. W.A., No. 20 by F.O.G.M.A. Number 21 by F.O.C.W.Af. No. 22 is not required at present.

(4) Further details including communication orders will be signalled later.

(V.C.N.S. 182352B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A.: F.O.C.W.Af.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Norway

German  
General  
attached to  
S.H.A.E.F.

Cositintrep No.408 supplement A S.C.O.F.O.R. part  
4. Period ending 180100 May.  
Intelligence. General Von Bechtolsheim has been  
appointed by S.H.A.E.F. as Head of O.K.W.  
detachment with S.H.A.E.F. Operations N.T.R.  
All infm.  
(S.C.O.F.O.R.180105B to Admty.)

Suspected  
minefield  
off S.W.  
Norway.

Your 172330B. No indication of this minefield  
from German charts. Ships are only routed  
by me as far as position H and necessary action  
to deal with such situations must be taken  
locally.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 180509B to Capt. M/S Norway)  
Proceed by diversion given in Capt. M/S Norway

172330B.

Position X-ray 4 quoted by Capt. M/S is identical with position  
X-Ray 5 on Chart M.06594.

(3) V.F. Guard on Port Wave to Lister for communication with  
Capt. M/S through N.O.I.C. Kristiansand alternating communication  
by ship shore to U.K.

(4) N.O.I.C.Kristiansand pass to Capt. M/S.  
(DEVONSHIRE, 181017B to APOLLO)

All traffic Eastward from position H is to be routed diver-  
sion channel in accordance with my 172330, C. in C. Rosyth's  
180509 refers.

Weather has delayed search of Channel.

Sweepers if available should sweep independently in diversion  
channel until search has been completed.

(Capt. M/S Norway, 181207B to N.O.I.C.Rotterdam)

Recall of  
M.T.Bs.  
North of  
Bergen.

F.O.Norway 161701B (not to all) my 171241B,  
Lerwick arrival 0831B/18th May. M.T.Bs 711, 719,  
722, 764, 5020.

(2) Night of 16th May spent in Maaloy. Only  
German shipping seen one "R" boat and some "F"  
Lighters.

(3) No German ships boarded by any M.T.B. Officers,  
nor were any orders issued to or action taken in connection with  
such ships.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 180851B to C. in C. Rosyth)

Operation  
"Conan"  
Norwegians  
to Norway.

"Apostle" "Conan".

M.T.Bs. have now completed their task. No  
further requirement is foreseen in "Apostle".

(2) Information is not yet available as to  
supplies of 100 Octane in Norway or what  
maintenance facilities are available for coastal  
craft.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 181751 to Admty. C. in C. H.F.)

/U-Boats ...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Norway - Contd.

U-Boats,  
of Bergen  
Command.

Further to my 171706.  
Captain of German U-Boats (Norway) reports  
following information concerning German U-Boats  
under his command.

(2) At sea (A) ex Bergen - 11th Flotilla.

Type VII C. U.242, 244, 285, 287, 296, 321, 325,  
326, 396, 398, 676, 739, 764, 774, 905, 956, 963, 738, 1001, 965,  
1010, 1017, 1024, 1063, 1106, 1107, 1206, 1274, 1277.

Positions unknown. U.776 position on 14th May 50.20 N. 11.20 W.

(B) Ex Kristiansand (S. Norway) 15th Flotilla. Type XXIII  
U.2326 and 2336.

(C) Ex Flensburg - 33rd Flotilla. Type XB.

U.234 in position 50 N. (30 W.) on 13th type IXC U.190, 518, 530,  
546, 853, 857, 866, 873, 879, 880, 881, 1235, 548.

(D) Total 46.

(3) Considered to be in allied hands.

(A) Ex 11th Flotilla Type VIIC.

U. 249, 293, 485, 1009, 1023, 1055, 1058, 1105, 1109, 1305.

(B) 15th Flotilla. Nil.

(C) Ex 33rd Flotilla. Type IX C U.516, 532, 541, 802, 805, 825,  
826, 858, 889, 1228, 1231.

(4) U.874 is in Horten.

(N.O.I.C.Bergen, 181820B to Admty.)

STORD's  
visit to  
Bear Is.

Norwegian Naval Headquarters have proposed that  
Russians should be informed of visit to Bear  
Island after repeat after STORD has sailed from  
Tromso. If this proposal is approved by C. in C.  
Royal Norwegian Navy, you should inform S.B.N.O.  
North Russia when STORD leaves Tromso, requesting  
him to pass the information to Russian Naval Authorities.

(V.C.N.S. 182010B to F.O. Norway)

German  
personnel  
in Norway.

Your 170141.

Request detailed composition of German Naval  
personnel in Norway; particularly whether Dockyard  
and Maintenance personnel are including in uniform  
total. Could German terms be supplied where  
available.

(D.N.I., Admty, 182202B to F.O. Norway)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy  
R.A.67.

Capt.Hostvedt informs me that if KONG HAAKON VII  
is sailing at latest time to R/V with R.A.67 at  
sea 30% of cargo will remain on board. A.M.  
161848 refers, Request Capt. Hostvedt be  
informed if KONG HAAKON VII is to be sailed or  
not.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 181115B to Admty.)

/E.G.9...

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E.G.9 escorting 15 U-Boats from Vestfjord. My 171216 to S.O. Loch Eriboll only and S.O.E.G.9's 171325 to C. in C. H.F. (under Norway). Ships of E.G.9 having passengers and stores for Russia are to land them at Greenock before proceeding to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 181135B to S.O. Loch Eriboll) Am being held up by heavy Westerly weather. German U-Boat 312 shortly will have to fuel Lerwick.

Request local escort R/V with me in position 61.17 N. 00.31 W. at about 2300 to take charge of German U-Boat while remainder proceed North of Shetlands.

My P.C.S. at 1030B - 62.28 N. 02.30 W. 230 degs. 8.5 knots. (S.O.E.G.9, 181157B to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 181157. Your whole convoy is to proceed to Bressay Sound where local escort will meet you. Detach U-Boats requiring fuel to enter Lerwick with part of your escort group. Remainder of 9th E.G. is to continue to Loch Eriboll with remainder of U-Boats passing West of Orkneys. (C. in C.H.F. 181633B to S.O.E.G.9)

E.G.9's 181157.

Request you will take over control of the passage of these U-Boats to Loch Eriboll. (A.C.N.S.(H), 181652B to C. in C. H.F.)

E.T.A. Bressay Sound 0730B Saturday 19th May. 2 U-Boats require fuel. Nil British personnel. ST. PIERRE escorting. (S.O.E.G.9, 182012B to N.O.I.C.Lerwick)

Icelandic ship to visit Bergen and Copenhagen. Icelandic Government proposes to send a ship to Bergen and Copenhagen early June carrying relief food and clothing, passengers and mail, and bringing back Icelandic passengers and mail from Scandanavian countries. U.S. Garrison Authorities here have no objections. Request approval. If approval granted a request for routeing instructions will be made when definite programme is known. (A.C.I.C. 181214B to Admty.)

Convoy J.W.67. Destinations: (1) BRITISH PROMISE (T), EMPIRE EMERALD (T), JOSHUA W. ALEXANDER, PHILIP F. THOMAS, ALANSON B, HOUGHTON, GEORGE H. PENDLETON, BERNARD L. BAKER and BARBARA FRITCHIE. (8 ships) to Molotovsk. ADOLPH S. OCHS and FORT HIGHFIELD. (2 ships) to Bakaritsa. The above 10 ships are to proceed direct to White Sea when detached. (2) Remainder to Kola Inlet for Murmansk. (D.T.D. 181230Z to Commodore and ships of J.W.67)

U.2326. U.2326 arrived at 1200B to-day Friday. Compliant. (S.O. Loch Eriboll, 181243B to C. in C. W.A.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

U.320 Your 161610B not to A.O.C. in CCC.  
sunk on U.320 provisionally assessed sunk by A/C X/210 at  
7th May. 0443B/7th May in lat. 61degs. 32' N. 01 degs. 58' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 181327B to A.N.C.X.F. H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Intelligence

U-Boat My 161610 5th Supplementary Report from O.K.M.  
information. D.T.G. 160800 May.  
(1) U.901 (SCHRENK) arrived Stavanger Not known  
why this boat did not proceed to Loch Eriboll.  
(2) Signal received that U/889 (HRAEUCKER) arrived  
in a Canadian port. Also from Signals 2 further boats have  
arrived in Gibraltar and 1 in New Jersey. To date apparently  
a total of 40 boats are in allied ports or have declared their  
position.  
(3) F.Z.U. North Sea has despatched 15 boats from Narvik to  
Dronheim U.278, 294, 295, 312, 313, 318, 363, 427, 482, 668,  
716, 968, 992, 997, 1165. (See 170720, Norway)  
(4) U.3008 (MANSECK) received orders to proceed to Kiel without  
Escort. Escort arranged from Point Red 025 (Southern Exit from  
Belt.)  
(A.N.C.X.F. 181642B to Admty.)  
Following for Rear Admiral Parry.  
A. Number of U-Boats arrived in U.K.21 U.S.A. 6, Gibraltar 2.  
B. Following is number of U-Boats excluding those on slips or  
scuttled in occupied ports. Some may be damaged or laid up.  
Kiel 3. Flensburg 4, Wilhelmshaven 15, Eckernförde 1, Emden 1,  
Neustadt 3, Sylt 1, Aarhus 1, Fredericia 3, Frederikshaven 1,  
Kritiasand South 17, Bergen 36, Stavanger 9, Holmstrand 10.  
(3) Information received from Port Parties is not yet complete.  
(D.N.I. Admty. 181744B to N.L.O.21st A.G.)

Casualties and Defects

PROMPT, A.M. 152318.  
minesweeper. Intend to sail at 0530 tomorrow Saturday H.M.S.  
PROMPT in tow of EMPIRE VINCENT via Swept Channel  
in force to Southend for O/R to Grimsby.  
(2) Escort H.D.M.L. 1407 (S O) 1391 to South Falls  
Buoy. C. in C. Nore is requested to take over Escort at South  
Falls buoy H.D.M.L's returning to Ostend.  
(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 181550 to C. in C. Nore.)

Movements

A.F.D.69. A.F.D. 69 in tow of MARAUDER escorted by GWEAL  
floating arrived.  
dock. (F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 180745B to Cdre. Southend)

U.244 Following U-Boats in harbour 0900B to-day Friday.  
U.255. U.244, U.255.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 181010 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

/Intend...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

- U.244,  
U.255.  
(Contd.) Intend to sail U.244 and U.255 escorted by BLIGH at 1800 to-day North about Skye to arrive Lough Foyle buoy about 1230/19. Thence U-Boats to Lisahally, BLIGH to Belfast for repairs. My 172205B refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 181225B to Com. D.-W.A.)
- DEVONSHIRE,  
Cruiser. H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE, 181017 sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Oslo, 181015B to C. in C. Rosyth)
- C.T.G.120.1  
on Air/Sea  
Rescue. Report earliest vessels of your T.G. can be made ready sail Londonderry for extended patrols as Air/Sea Rescue Plane Guards. Details as to Stations to be covered. Radio Frequencies. Methods of reporting, etc. are contained in Cominch, C. in C. Lant and C.T.F. 24 Despatches which are being passed you. Further details later. Earliest possible arrival your T.G. on Station is urgent.  
(Com. 12th Fleet, 181051 to C.T.G.120.1)
- ENTERPRISE  
cruiser. A.M. 161539B/May. Intend to sail ENTERPRISE escorted by HAYDON and OAKLEY for Gibraltar, passing Needles 2230B/19th.  
(2) Routed Q.Z.S. 631, 629, 662 and route W to position (H) 180 degs Lizard Head 8 miles, thence as in A.M. 170906 not to all. S. of A. 18 knots weather permitting. Zigzagging in Portsmouth Command and thereafter at discretion.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181203B to F.O.G.M.A.)
- APOLLO,  
ARIADNE,  
minelayers. E.T.A. 25 Buoy 0800 tomorrow Saturday ARIADNE in company.  
(APOLLO, 181231 to C. in C. Rosyth)
- M.S.21  
German  
minesweeper. Reference your 081540. German minesweeper M/S 21 should be sailed back to Ijmuiden as convenient. A.N.C.X.F. is requested to arrange for her future employment.  
(D.M.S. 181850B to V.A. Dover)
- U.2326. Sailed U.2326 to Loch Alsh at 1900B to-day Friday E.T.A. 0800/18th Escort FITZROY.  
(2) No torpedoes.  
(S.O. Loch Eriboll, 181850B to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh)

War Diary

18.5.1945  
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Coastal Sailings between Loch Ewe and Bristol Channel. Independent coastal sailings in area between Loch Ewe and Bristol Channel are to be resumed on standard routes with the following exceptions:  
(1) Troop ships and large passenger liners carrying personnel.  
(2) Bell ships proceeding north of Oversay.  
(3) Ships may now sail late to overtake ocean convoys provided they can join by Oversay if routed northabout, and Ballycotten Island if routed southabout.  
(4) The use of alternative route north and east of the Isle of Man by monsters and important ships is to be discontinued.  
(C. in C. W.A. 181306 to Western Approaches Command)

U.R/R.U. and E.N/W.N. convoys. As from to-day, Friday, West Coast terminal for U.R/R.U. and all E.N/W.N. convoys is to be Loch Ewe instead of Belfast.  
(D.T.D. 181613B to C. in C. W.A.)

Pilotage into Stavanger. Your 131647B. 6 Pilots only G.A.P. Base at Stavanger and will not undertake to meet ships at position H. unless sent in warships. Due to lack of communication facilities with Norwegian Ports and distance of position H from Stavanger also having no Naval control or other suitable staff the duties in para. 4 of your signal cannot be undertaken at present with the exception of ships arriving or sailing from Stavanger. It is not considered necessary for pilots to meet Northbound ships until reaching the latitude or approaches to Stavanger.  
(N.O.I.C.Stavanger, 181746B to C. in C. Rosyth)

B.B. and M.H. convoys. B.B. and M.H. convoys have been discontinued. Cancel A.Ms. 202001 and 231625 both January.  
(D.T.D. 181748B to C's. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth, C.T.F.122)

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18.5.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

GLORY  
(11th A.C.  
Squadron).

Your 171712.  
(2) All Mediterranean publications required.  
Details all Q. Messages required will be passed.  
(3) Request instructions whether to R/V off  
Malta 21st May vide A.M. 121142.  
(GLORY, 180227B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Destroyers,

Intend to sail LEDBURY and TETCOTT in company  
at 1700B May 18th to Portsmouth.  
(2) S. of A. 18 knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 181113 to Admty.)

South Atlantic

Trawler.

STORMWRACK arrived Capetown.  
(C. in C. S.A., 181432B to C. in C. Med.)

U-Boats  
(rumours).

U.S. Naval Attache Buenos Aires inform that  
Argentine Government have received rumours  
that units of German submarines are proceeding  
toward Argentine and surrendering.  
(2) Argentine Navy Department state they are  
maintaining patrol of coast combined with air patrol with orders  
to capture.  
(3) In case submarines intend landing clandestine passengers  
or strategic material they inform that all police and Maritime  
Police are instructed to patrol the beaches.  
(S.O.(I) Buenos Aires, 182002Z to Admty. for D.N.I.)  
See 192058B.  
N.I.D. Note: S.O.(I) Buenos Aires has been asked to trace  
the origin of these rumours and to assess their reliability.



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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

AVONDALE  
for U.K.

S. of A. 15 knots to Gibraltar. Sail at 1800B/  
18.  
(2) E.T.A. 1300B/21.  
(V.A.M., 180845 to AVONDALE.)

Tugs.

On completion of repairs about 31st May,  
ASPIRANT should relieve VAGRANT who is then  
required to return to U.K. V.A.M. and  
F.O.T.A.L.I. are requested to arrange accordingly.  
(C. in C. Med., 180950B to V.A.M., F.O.T.A.L.I.)

DUKE OF  
YORK,  
programme.

Your 170057 (N.T. in W.D.) not to S.N.O.R.S.C.A.  
Following is proposed programme:

(A) Leave Malta p.m. May 25th.  
(B) Carry out bombardment practice off Gulf  
of Kanayis a.m. and p.m. May 27th. Disembark  
B.L.O. at Port Said. Your 171135 not to all  
refers.

(C) E.T.A. Itusnid 0530B May 28th berthing at 0700B. Overall  
length is 745 feet.

(D) In order to reduce draft to 32 feet necessary to discharge  
up to 200 tons oil fuel and shift 50 tons ammunition from aft  
to forward. The provision of three lighters and requisite  
towage is required to expedite shifting of ammunition.

(E) Enter Canal 1200B May 28th and anchor at Ismailia or Great  
Bitter Lakes for the night. In view of full moon consider  
possible delay in arriving at anchorage is acceptable. Leave  
at first light May 29th arriving Suez p.m. same day.

(F) Alternatively continue from Ismailia by night arriving  
Suez a.m. May 29th, 181501.

(G) Clean condensers and embark fuel and ammunition. V.A.M.  
120945 not to all refers.

(H) Leave Suez May 31st to join A.C.11 off Aden p.m. June 2nd  
for onward passage to Ceylon.

(DUKE OF YORK, 181530B to V.A.M.) See 241852Z.

Italian  
destroyer.

Sailed CARABINIERE 181715C by standard Red Sea  
route to Aden.

(2) E.T.A. 1200Z/21st May. S. of A. 17 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 181913 to Admty.)

Repatriation  
from Odessa.

(1) In spite of our efforts to the contrary  
due to Russian persistence in entraining 1,000  
of French to Odessa, situation there desperate  
regarding overcrowding and consequent danger  
of epidemics.

(2) Camp was designed to hold 10,000, at present there are  
20,000 including 18,000 French. Russians are sending further  
4,000 on 19th May.

(3) In view of danger of serious epidemic have instructed  
Odessa to embark 1,470 French for Naples in ARAWA, which other-  
wise has only 190 British and Americans on board.

(4) Your G.B.I. 389,506/18E 28th April. Fully realise that  
this conflicts with your permit regulations, but consider this

/step ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Repatriation  
from Odessa.  
(Contd.)

step advisable in view of circumstances now  
obtaining at Odessa.  
(5) French Mission Moscow informed and  
requested to make arrangements to receive and  
evacuate from Naples to Marseilles.  
(30 Mission Mil., 181931C to A.F.H.Q.)

War Diary

18.5.1945  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Shipping requirements  
(Personnel)

Reference your 150916 and previous signals on related subjects.

(2) We await your comprehensive estimate of personnel shipping requirements to meet S.E.A.C.'s operational needs up to end 1945.

(3) Until this is received and considered here we cannot reach a decision as to possibility of meeting whole of your deficiency by allocation of additional troopships to Indian Ocean area.

(4) We are, therefore, reluctant at this stage to approve your proposal to convert cargo ships for carriage of personnel. Objections to this proposal are (1) existing shortage of suitable cargo ships (11) strain on conversion facilities in India, particularly in view of your need to convert M/T ships and ambulance transports.

(5) However, in order that we may be in possession of all the facts necessary to come to a decision please report urgently details of your proposed method of conversion and implications on other work.

(6) Reference last paragraph of your 070601 not to all, no ships of EMPIRE BATTLEAXE class are available.

(7) Ambulance transports and M.T. ships form subject of separate signals.

(D. of S.T., 180230B to P.S.T.O. India.)

TELEMACHUS  
(Submarine)

Sailed TELEMACHUS at 0600Z/18 to Suez for transit to Port Said for docking for metalling of a frame (S.2's 060333 not to all refers) and 2 in number crank tin bearings. On completion to U.K.

(2) E.T.A. Suez 0700Z/23 S. of A. 11 knots.  
(Com. Aden, 180731 to N.O.I.C. Suez.)

Aircraft  
A.C.S.E.A.  
reduction

Concur with number and type of Maritime Squadrons mentioned in A.M. 171907 except that LR/GR should be 3 in number including one Dutch Squadron.

(2) The increase is proposed in anticipation of Dutch being withdrawn shortly from S.E.A.C.

(3) Above decision already reached in agreement with A.O.C. 222 Group.

(C. in C. E.I. Station, 180931Z to Admty.)

French ships  
LA GRANDIERE  
CAP DES PALMES

C. in-C. E.Is. 081009 and A.M. 011651 neither to all. French refitting programme provides for Colonial sloops being taken in hand at Le Ciotat as follows:-

LA GRANDIERE, June. DUMONT D'URVILLE, October.

(2) As there is little to choose between the two ships from point of view of length of service and as first escort re-inforcements from U.K. will now reach E.I. Station in July it is considered preferable that French programme should not be disturbed and that LA GRANDIERE should proceed direct to Le Ciotat.

(3) No Admiralty objection to LA GRANDIERE lifting cargo, but CAP DES PALMES would appear more suitable.

(4) B.A.D. and V.A.(Q) B.P.F. are requested to report intended programmes for LA GRANDIERE and CAP DES PALMES respectively.

(D.O.D.(F), Approved V.C.N.S., 181046B to C. in C.E.I.)

See 211212Z.

/Japanese...

18.5.1945  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

Japanese NACHI class Cruiser (Sunk) Your 160309 in view of Japanese reports and as no communique has been received from S.A.C.S.E.A., Admiralty communique is now being issued. (Chief of Naval Information, 181240B to C. in C. E.I.)

Movements Following arrived PENN, BARBERRY BARTIZAN, CLYDE, NIGERIA wearing flag of F.O.C.S.5. French Battleship RICHELIEU D.S. TROMP, ROYALIST wearing broad pendant A.C.21 RACEHORSE. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 181512Z to Admty.)

Movement <sup>H.M.S.</sup> Arrived BARFLEUR depart SAINFOIN, SEFTON, TELEMACHUS. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 181537Z to Admty.)

French ships for E.I. Station Admiralty Letter M.058964/45 dated 8th May contains list of French ships which Combined Chiefs of Staff have approved in principle for employment on East Indies Station. One of the conditions of such employment is that ships for repair supply and maintenance of French warships must be provided by the French.

(2) Following table shows provisional availability of French ships for proceeding to East Indies Station. This list is based on revised French refit programme forwarded by C. in C. Mediterranean.

<u>Class</u>	<u>During May</u>	<u>During Sept.</u>	<u>By end of Year</u>
Cruisers	-	EMILE BERTIN (July)	MONTCALM(Oct) GEORGES LEYGUES " GLOIRE (Nov.)
Contre Torpilleurs	LE FANTASQUE LE TRIOMPHANT	LE TERRIBLE LE MALIN	-
<u>Escorts</u> Captain Class	MAROCAIN HOVA SOMALI	SENEGALAIS ALGERIEN TUNISIEN	-
River Class	-	-	-
Colonial Sloops	-	SAVORGAN, DE BRAZZA	-
Avises Sloops	ANNAMITE COMMANDANT BORY LA BOUDEUSE LA MOQUEUSE COMMANDANT DELAGE	CHEVREUIL LA CAPRICIEUSE	GAZELLE COMMANDANT DUBOC COMMANDANT DOMINE LA GRACIEUSE
Fleet Train etc.	-	ELORN (oiler) QUERCY (Transport)	TOURVILLE(Nov.) Rapid Transport and Arm. Depot. JEANNE D'ARC(Oct.) Personnel Transport. BARFLEUR Material Transport

/Subject...

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Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

French Ships  
for  
E.I. Station  
(Contd.)

Subject to your remarks it is proposed to use  
this list as a basis for the discussion between  
Admiralty and Marine Paris proposed in the  
Admiralty Letter under reference.

(3) Request you will remark:

(a) Generally

(b) Particularly state what Fleet Train

facilities must be provided before further French war - ships can  
be received on East Indies Station.

(Head of M., Approved V.C.N.S., 181913B to C. in C.E.I.)  
See 211212Z and 260549Z.

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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies

Air Rescue stations. Request you establish and direct operation of stations 16, 17, 18, 19, 20. Cominch 172532 not to all and man with four ships of Taskgroup 129.1 and KNOXVILLE (My 180331Z) until British vessels take over. My 120746, 122329, 171837 not to

Admiralty apply.

(C. in C. Lant, 180354Z to Comnavu).

CR. No.1082. Comcortdiv 30 in KNOXVILLE is to proceed when ready to man Air Sea Rescue Station number 19 in position 3.9. 11 North 20 West. Cominch 17 2052 not to all being passed to you refers.

(Com. 12th Fleet, 182256 to Comnavzor).

U.190

Following is preliminary report on U.190. Commissioned 29th Sept. 1942, Deschimag Type 9C-40. X

Sailed Christiansand about 21st Feb. 1945.

Reached Operational area off Nova Scotia Mid March, departed 29th April after firing all torpedoes.

Claims 12th April to have hit tanker with one torpedo and steamship with 3 torpedoes.

Sank H.M.C.S. ESQUIMALT 16th. April German time.

Received Surrender Order 11th May.

57 crew expected to reach prisoner of war camps today.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 181450Z to Admty for D.N.I.)

U/B

Dispositions. 1200Z/18th May part A possible 2 or 3 within 400 miles south or east of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Part B Nil.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 181502Z to S. &amp; A. N. of 40°)

(A) Nothing new since Cominch 171400Z. Enemy

U-boat estimate 1200Z/18.

(B) U-234 in 42.45 63.15.

(C) 270 S. 14.

(Cominch, 181401Z to Admty).

CAILIFF  
(Trawler).

New stern tube for CAILIFF has now arrived St. Johns and will take approximately 2 to 3 weeks docking to complete fitting. As docking facilities are extremely limited ship cannot be docked St. Johns to undertake this work.

2. CAILIFF can proceed to U.K. with present stern tube fittings.

3. Providing present escort commitments for Nfld. Defence Force continue relief for CAILIFF will be required. To provide relief request TROIS RIVIERES may be returned St. Johns before CAILIFF sails for the U.K.

(F.O.N.F., 181523Z to C. in C. N.A., 212007).

Ships surplus to Canadian requirements. On completion of anti U-boat operations in the Atlantic the following ships will be surplus to Canadian requirements:-

7 River Class destroyers, 30 I.E. revised Flowers, 7 revised Flowers, 49 Flowers (long fo'c'stle), 5 Flowers (short fo'c'stle), Corvettes 28 steam

Bangors, 9 Diesel Bangors 6, 105 Foot wooden minesweepers and 65 Fairmile M.Ls.

2. If Admiralty have no use for any of the above these ships

/and...

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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies

Ships surplus to Canadian requirements. (contd). and their equipment will be declared surplus for disposal by War Assets Corporation. Request early advice of Admiralty requirements or otherwise.  
(N.S.H.Q., 181620Z to Admty). *See 041145E Times*

V.S.I.S. FORT CONSTANTINE V.S.I.S. FORT CONSTANTINE sailed from Vancouver B.C. for Sydney on 14th May. Air conditioning system for accommodation could not be completed before sailing and small amount of work will be necessary before installation can be operated.  
(N.C.S.O. Vancouver 181720 to Admty).

LOCKEPORT Fleet minesweeper. Detach H.M.C.S. LOCKEPORT forthwith to St. Johns N.F. for forward passage to the U.K. and return to the R.N.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 181819Z to OWEN SOUND). Your 181819Z acknowledged. LOCKEPORT detached.  
(OWEN SOUND, 182231Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Return of Surplus Ships. Since ships referred to in C.N.M.O. 101750 presently operating on this station are considered surplus to requirements intend sailing them without delay to the United Kingdom for return to the R.N.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 181823Z to N.S.H.Q.)  
H.M.C.S. ARROWHEAD, BITTERSWEET, EYEBRIGHT, HEPATICA, TRILLIUM and INGONISH are to be detached from their groups without delay and prepared to proceed to the U.K. at an early date for return to the R.N.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 181836Z to F.O.N.F., and 191650).

L.S.I.(L)s. My 160018. EMPIRE ARQUEBUS, EMPIRE MACE, EMPIRE BATTLEAXE departed Cristobal 2200/17th for New York. E.T.A. 1900/24th.  
(Compaseafon, 181927Z to Cominch)

Frigates for Pacific. In order to implement plans for tropicalization of frigates for service in Pacific request release of H.M.C. Ships CAPE BRETON, CARLPLACE and ST. PIERRE as soon as their services can be spared.  
(N.S.H.Q., 182112Z to Admty).

U.S. Hospital Ships. War Department has designated HOWARD A. MCCURDY (ex PRESIDENT TYLER) as Hospital Ship. Gross Tonnage 10533. Length 502 feet. Poop deck 44 feet. Forecastle deck 44 feet etc. etc.  
(Cominch, 182145 to U.S. Fleet)

/Policy...

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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Policy re-  
surrender  
German  
warships etc.

Reference F.A.C.S.221 and M.W.T. Bilge No.5754.  
A.N.C.X.F. with S.H.A.E.F.'s concurrence has  
promulgated the following:-

(a) All German warships, naval auxiliaries and merchant ships which were in German ports westward from Lübeck (inclusive) and in all Dutch and Danish ports at the time of the surrender to 21st Army Group, or who entered those ports subsequently but previous to the general capitulation, should be dealt with as captured enemy ships. Early arrangements will be made for sailing all the above to U.K. or Allied continental ports as ordered.

(b) All enemy warships, naval auxiliaries and merchant ships which were in the ports of Norway and the Channel Islands and in German controlled French ports at the time of the general capitulation, or who enter any harbour after the capitulation, should be regarded as surrendered enemy ships. These ships should be regarded as belonging to the United Nations and detained in the European theatre until agreement as to their disposal has been reached between the Allied Governments.

Merchant ships may be employed in the service of the Supreme Commander, but warships and naval auxiliaries will be detained in suitable continental ports pending further instructions.

2. Para. 1 of F.A.C.S.221 in terms covers only ships captured in German ports, but in our view necessarily covers also all German shipping captured within S.H.A.E.F.'s and S.A.C.M.E.D.'s theatres before general surrender.

3. Treatment of shipping as ordered by A.N.C.X.F. in para. 1 above seems to involve important point of policy but we understand S.H.A.E.F. are not referring it to C.C.S. As S.H.A.E.F.'s instructions entirely accord with our views and will enable captured shipping to be brought into service expeditiously we are inclined not to bring the issue before the C.C.S.

4. C.C.S. will inevitably have to consider the point sooner or later when dealing with assignment of warships and allocation of merchant ships. Request you consult B.M.S.M. and report whether you consider any serious difficulties are likely to arise from the fact that reference is not made now to C.C.S. (P.A.S.(L) Appd. 1st S.L., 182229B to B.A.D. reply 222259Z).

Far East & Australia

C. in C. E.I., 160614.

Oilers for  
B.P.F.

Your difficulties and the reason for which EAGLESDALE was selected to join the B.P.F. are fully appreciated. Request a tanker from E.I. may be sent as soon as she can be spared.



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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSFar East & AustraliaOilers for  
B.P.F.  
(contd).

2. R.A.F.T. is requested to report to you direct at an early date whether he would prefer EAGLESDALE or ECHODALE in the light of your paragraphs 4 and 7.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 180235Z to C. in C. E.I.)

C. in C. E.I.'s 160614. OLNA and WAVE GOVERNOR

should join Fleet Train by mid July and end July respectively (Tanker message) after loading Curacao and CHERRYLEAF has been unexpectedly delayed in Mediterranean.

2. Therefore suggest situation can best be met by deferring refit of one of the two Tankers mentioned in your 140911 for a few weeks leaving ECHODALE to refit in East Indies before transferring to Pacific.

3. Understand U.S. fast tankers destined for Leyte are sailed from Panama Canal area to Ulithi or Palau Islands unescorted. Request whether OLNA and WAVE GOVERNOR should be ordered to Leyte.

(D. of S., 181935B to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Operational  
report No.  
11.

Sakishima 16th May 90 tons bombs on airfields rendering all unserviceable four new aircraft staffed on ground, three others damaged inadvertent bombing Ohama town caused big explosion, so nearby buildings rocketted, Ops. oil dump fired four lorries with troops strafed, small coaster one

lugger left sinking, two luggers six barges rocketted, strafed two suicide type B.C.A.F.Q.\* destroyed several own planes damaged by flak.

2. 17th May Ohama, Hirara towns bombed all airfields re-bombed only one left possibly serviceable, barges and two S.Ds strafed, left burning no enemy air activity.

3. Own losses in combat two Corsairs operationally, two Corsairs three Avengers two Hellcats one Seafire bad Carrier crash in nil wind.

4. Comtaskfor 57 intends to strike 20th - 21st May, replenish in service area 22nd - 23rd May, return for final strikes 24th - 25th May, and then withdrawn for major replenishment.

5. Comtaskfor 57 in KING GEORGE V with TROUBRIDGE, TENACIOUS, TERMAGANT arrives Guam 28th May to visit C. in C. Pac., leaving Guam 30th May for Sydney.

(C. in C. B.P.F., 180334Z to Admty). \*As received.

Blue Summary  
17.

Ryukyus. Units of 6th Marines crossed Asato Gawa on West Coast Okinawa. Sugar Loaf Hill 400 yards N.E. of Takamotoji captured and town itself entered. 1st Marines reached outskirts of Wana 77 Div. advanced in surprise attack

without artillery preparation reaching vicinity of Ishimmi. T.F.57 hit Sakashima Gunto. T.A.F. planes struck Kikai and Amami. F.A.W. 1 planes damaged tug off Korea shot down fighter off West Kyushu.

Empire. 27 B.29s mined Shimonoseki Strait and Wekasa Bay night of 16-17.

Submarines. Blue subs. report sinking 2 Med., AK 1 A.P. 1 small AO.

S.W.P.A. Search planes sank 2 damaged 4 SD 1 SC 2 luggers in Shanghai Borneo and Formosa Straits sectors.

(C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 180739 to All Commands concerned).

War Diary

18.5.1945.  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia & Far East

Digest 1213  
17.5.45.  
Extract.

1. Navy Liberators from Mindoro bombed small coaster Courank\* 16th May, probably destroyed one of two small coasters off Cap Saint Jacques 17th.  
2. Mariners from Lingayen night 16th-17th May strafed Burned one lugger, left three motor boats ?dead in water 15 miles north west Takao, near missed seatruck, left small coaster two luggers dead in water Pescadores, strafed small craft off China Coast.  
3. Plane from Clark Field destroyed Salvage Ship Swaton, strafed ?boat low in water possible subchaser Haiphong, destroyed or damaged five small craft 10 trucks along China Coast.  
4. Navy Searchers from Palawan 16th May destroyed or damaged 14 small coasters and river steamers, sank one fired one damaged two small coasters Samarinda, damaged one small coaster Makassar, damaged two tugs 6 barges North East Singapore.  
4 other Liberators hit alternative targets including 6 seatrucks Suo Harbour whereof two sunk one capsized.  
13. Australian forces advanced east along Wewak coast to within one mile of Boram airfield Pbmom\* 9 Liberators dropped 19 tons fragmentation bombs Aup Village in support ground forces. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 181030Z to Admt). \*As received.

Submarines  
B.P.F.

Request you will confirm that the views stated in para. 3, 4 and 5 of your O20234 conform to those of C. in C. Pac.  
(D.O.D.(F), Appd. V.C.N.S., 181217B, to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Clearance of  
U.S.N. Magazines

Your 261126 April. Every effort being made to obtain shipping for clearance of U.S.N. Magazines and to augment A.S.I.S. and A.S.C. In meantime request that use be made of all available space including that vacated by mine units shipped to U.K. Suggest KOLA be used to freight ammunition to Brisbane, Cairns and Darwin.  
(D.A.S., 181419B to A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U-boat Surrender.

U/B  
Dispositions.

Para. A. (a) U.234 43. 25' N., 60. 20' W.  
(b) E.G.9 escorting 15 U-boats to Loch Eriboll. 62° 15' N., 02° 10' E.  
Para. B. Possibly a dozen U-boats who have not surrendered West of British Isles to 20° W.  
(D.D.I.C., 181210B to A.I.G., Cominch).

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19.5.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. DEVONSHIRE, IROQUOIS and SAVAGE have arrived in Copenhagen to shew the flag.

2. Macships are to be reverted to normal commercial status as they come to hand.

North Sea.

3. Two of the crew of U.287 have been picked up off Schulau. They say that 6 of them left her off Brunsbuttel on the night of the 14th with the intention of returning home, knowing the war was over.

Western Approaches.

4. Four frigates are being despatched to Air-Sea rescue stations in the Atlantic on the routes of aircraft plying from Prestwick and Paris to North America.

Norway.

5. (a) Owing to drifting mines off S.W. Norway ships must make the coastwise passage in daylight hours only.

(b) The wreckage of M.G.B. 2002 has been found ashore near Lister Light and afloat 21 miles south of the Naze, but no further survivors.

Northern Waters.

6. The 15 U-Boats from Vestfjord, escorted by E.G. 9, have arrived at Loch Alsh.

Baltic.

7. 25 U-Boats are reported scuttled or sunk at Travemunde.

Foreign Stations.

East Indies.

Movement.

8. SHAH and KHEDIVE (carriers) arrived Colombo from operations east of the Andaman Islands.

19. 5. 1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

U/B surrender 9. U.234 arrived at Portsmouth, <sup>N.H.</sup> ~~Maine~~, today.

Far East and Australia.

Borneo (east) 10. R.A.A.F. Liberators bombed Balikpapan sea plane base today with 20 tons of bombs.

China. 11. Aircraft hit an unidentified vessel 300 foot long off Hongkong.

Formosa. 12. (a) 50 Liberators unloaded 86 tons of bombs on Kaidun dockyard installations today causing intense fires.  
(b) Mitchells sank one coaster and damaged another between Tainan and Toseki.  
(c) Last night Navy Mariners attacked a five ship convoy 15 miles north of Kiirun sinking 4 of them (freighter transports.)

19.5.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Shewing the flag in Continental Ports.

Your 171054 not to all. F.O. Kiel is requested to confirm that ZEALOUS and ZODIAC are not required after 22nd May.

(2) It is proposed these ships should return to U.K. via Canal in view of mine risk in Baltic. (A.N.C.X.F., 191555B to C. in C. H.F.) DEVONSHIRE, IROQUOIS, SAVAGE arrived Copenhagen Saturday 19th May.

(Cdre. Denmark 191728B to Admty.)

It is requested that short visits to ports (other than Hamburg) in my 101810 and 111938 may continue until the end of June subject to ships being available and any special requirements of Flag Officers concerned.

(A.N.C.X.F., 192312B to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. H.F.)

Reversion of Macships to normal.

It being necessary to start the release for other duties of the flying personnel and ground staffs employed in Macship operations,

(a) Macships now in U.K. are to be reverted to normal commercial status forthwith.

(b) Those arriving in incoming convoys are to be similarly reverted as they become available.

(2) Admiralty Letter M/TD/DEMS 02011/45 of 17th May refers.

(3) Addressees pass to N.C.S. and D.E.M.S. staff officers concerned.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 192011B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.T.)

Operations.

North Sea.

U.1110

If able to disarm sail U.1110 unescorted Wilhelmshaven a.m. 21st and signal E.T.D. and E.T.A. at 15 Buoy. W/T watch on 500 k/cs communication in P/L. N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven to arrange pilotage if considered necessary. (F.O. Wilhelmshaven 191231 to N.O.I.C. Sylt.)

U.739.

U-Boat 739 is to be sailed Wilhelmshaven as soon as convenient.

(2) E.T.D. and E.T.A. Buoy P.15 to be signalled.

(4) N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven is to arrange pilotage if considered necessary.

(F.O. Wilhelmshaven 191240B to N.O.I.C. Emden.)

/Discharge...

19.5.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge  
 Situation  
 report.

Cositintrep No. 410 part 4 section A.  
 Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600B/18  
 May. British.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
Antwerp	-	401	11,358	-	-
Ostend	3,026	309	2,245	-	-
Calais	2,327	42	79	10	-
Caen	-	-	-	1,765	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,353</u>	<u>752</u>	<u>13,682</u>	<u>1,775</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>U.S. North.</u>					
Antwerp	-	70	6,894	-	-
Cherbourg	-	21	1,049	1,044	-
Le Havre	397	208	5,437	701	-
Rouen	-	-	3,531	381	946
Ghent	-	-	1,651	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>18,562</u>	<u>2,126</u>	<u>946</u>
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	-	11	10,917	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,203	-	12,465
<u>Total</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12,120</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,465</u>

Army coal at: Dieppe 1,583. Morlaix 870. St. Malo 950.  
 (S.H.A.E.F. 191400B to Admty., and others.)

U.287. My 191720. 2 men picked up in rubber dinghy off Schulau state that they with 4 others disembarked from U.287 East Brunsbüttel night 14/15th May last, mentioned 4 landed on coast with intention of returning home in Baltic area. German U-Boat had received signal war was over and Capt. intended proceeding Kiel via Canal but shied off.  
 (N.O.I.C. Hamburg 191709B to F.O. Wilhelmshaven, A.N.C.X.F., Admty.)

O.I.C. Comment: - U.287 was included in the list of U-Boats supplied to A.N.C.X.F. by the German Admiral Godt on 11th May which purported to give the whereabouts of boats on 8th May. In this list U.287 was described as "east of the Shetlands." It is noteworthy that on Friday, 18th May this U-Boat number was passed by O.I.C. to A.N.C.X.F. for inclusion as an addressee of the "default" message which the Germans were to broadcast that night, it was not included - perhaps because Godt knew of its fate.

My 191720 part 2\*. When he found Brunsbüttel occupied by

U.S.  
 (2) Small subsidence in Kiel Canal map reference 016003 probably attributed British troop armament with explosives. German canal engineer has repairs in hand, consequences not serious unlikely to cause blockage.

(N.O.I.C. Hamburg 191720B to F.O. Wilhelmshaven, A.N.C.X.F. Admty.) \* Note part 1 circulated separately under T.O.O. 191709.

/Opening...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Opening of Bremen and Bremerhaven. I have informed Com. Z.Z. that we cannot guarantee the use of Bremen for shipping by V.E. plus 60 or even V.E. plus 120 due to extensive mining both in the River and Port. Bremerhaven is available and I consider the mining risk there such as to allow urgent shipping to use the port in the near future. I advise that Bremerhaven be considered for routing shipping prior to opening Bremen. Advise me in due course. (a) Date you could accept ships at Bremerhaven if urgently required. (b) Apart from mine risk date you could accept routine shipping. (c) Date you will require destroyer see my 101810. (A.N.C.X.F. 191813B to C.T.F. 126.)

Operations.

Channel.

Underwater explosion off the Lizard. Underwater explosion and suspected torpedo heard by LA MALOUINE 195° 10 miles Lizard Head. Once more LA MALOUINE searching in the vicinity. (MIGNONETTE 190420B to C. in C. Plymouth.) Following has been received from DELIUS. "Metal target which was in tow is missing after lookout report seeing flash about time of explosion. Signed Master." (MIGNONETTE 190645B to C. in C. Plymouth, LA MALOUINE.) Found target in position 49° 49' N. 05° 22' W. based on Gee fix, investigating patches of oil in same area. (A/C TJF 67 191030B to 19 Group.) Derelict target is in position 221° Lizard Head 11 miles flying black flag on pole mast. It appears to be in no danger of sinking and to be salvable in present weather. (S.O.E.G. 2 191120B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Channel Islands Situation Report. Cositintrep 410. Force 135 period ending 2200B/19, part 1. Alderney. Germans being employed on mine lifting wire removal and general labour. Full details have been given by Germans of all arms ammunition petrol oil lubricants and food. Full co-operation has been given by Germans and no incidents have occurred. Guernsey. Final evacuation of prisoners (excluding those being retained for labour) will take place 21st May. Number to be evacuated not likely to exceed 800. Sark. Nothing to report. Les Casquets. 3 officers and 30 other ranks evacuated to Guernsey today 19th May. Jersey. 2477 prisoners evacuated 19th May. Part 2. Alderney. Royal Engineers demolished harbour boom.

/Guernsey...

19.5.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Channel  
Islands  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

Guernsey. Total charges removed are 7 British parachute mines one torpedo warhead 3 depth charges 600 French light anti-tank mines. 1045 mines lifted from airfield and Petit Bot 4303 (reference map GSGS 4205.) Clearance of blast wall and anti-landing obstacles started at airport. 3 coasters being discharged.  
Sark. Patrols organised to prevent looting by civilians from billets previously occupied by Germans.  
Jersey. 20% of charges at St. Helier Harbour entrance removed. Minefields Grouville Bay and Verclut cleared. Clearance of coastal and anti-air landing mines continues. 20 tons medical stores collected from locations vacated by Germans.  
(Force 135, 192215B to Admty.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Air-Sea  
Rescue  
Service.

A.M. 182352. It is probable that this service will be required for some months and the question of detailing special ships with reduced complements is under consideration.  
(V.C.N.S. 190007B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A. F.O.C.W.Af.)

On completion of fuelling and as soon as medical officers have embarked p.m. today 19th May, request you will sail ships of 18th E.G. at economical speed to the following positions.

(2) GOOD HOPE to position 16 in 60-40 N. 13.40 W.

PERIM to position 17 in 53.50 N. 18.38 W.

ST. HELENA to position 18 in 42.30 N. 13.00 W.

ZANZIBAR to position 19 in 39.11 N. 20.00 W.

(3) Further orders will be issued to ships.

A.M. 182352 not to all refers.

(C. in C. W.A., 191310B to Com. D. W.A.)

Air-Sea Rescue Service.

C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail ships as soon as practicable to patrol in vicinity of positions 16, 17, 18 and 19, reporting expected time of arrival.

(2) Ships occupying positions 18 and 19 will come under the temporary operational control of F.O.G.M.A. on crossing lat. 43° N.

(3) On relief by H.M. ship in position 19, U.S.S. KNOXVILLE will proceed as ordered by Com. 12th Fleet.

(4) Ships are to report their arrival and departure from air sea rescue stations and full details of any rescue operations carried out. Except in emergency survivors should not be landed until ships return from patrol.

(5) A total of 60 to 70 Fortresses and Liberators on the 3 Northern routes will leave Prestwick and Paris early a.m. daily in groups of 12. Each aircraft will be carrying 10 crew and 10 passengers.



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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Air-Sea  
Rescue  
Service.  
(Contd.)

(6) Further signal will be made when ships are required in positions 20, 21 and 22.

(7) Communication orders follow.

(8) A.M. 182352 not to all refers.

(V.C.N.S. 191807B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A. F.O.C.W.Af.)

A.M. 182352 para. 4. Communications.

(1) Ships are to keep continuous watch on appropriate area broadcast.

(2) In addition following watches are required:-

A. Continuous loudspeaker on 4220 k/cs R/T.

B. H/F D/F watch if so fitted and continuous W/T watch (transmitting and receiving) if not so fitted on 8280 k/cs.

(Special ship-shore-ship and U.S. aircraft safety wave see para.4)

C. M/F homing frequencies on which transmitters should be immediately available on request, to be expected on either A or B above are allocated as follows:-

Station.                      Frequency in k/cs.

16                              522

17                              457

18                              385

19                              542

20                              480

21 and 22                      Frequencies will be signalled later.

D. Ships equipped V. H/F set loudspeaker watch on 116.1 m/cs (world guard.)

E. In event of actual rescue operations involving use of aircraft R/T watch between ship and rescue, repetition rescue aircraft will be on 3000 k/cs instead of 4220 k/cs, to which frequency watch must therefore be temporarily shifted.

(3) I.F.F. interrogator responder to be permanently switched on.

(4) Aircraft are being briefed that if in distress they will broadcast a distress message 3 times on 8280 k/cs.

A. If no ship is heard to answer, aircraft may shift and re-broadcast on 500 k/cs. Arrangements are to be made that any messages so received ashore will be immediately re-broadcast on the appropriate shore to ship wave.

B. Limited shore W/T watch on 8280 k/cs is being kept by non-naval authorities and shore station may re-broadcast messages received on this frequency if, again, no ship has been heard to answer.

(5) In all communications concerned with Air-Sea Rescue operations, ships are to use callsign (or phonetic equivalent with R/T) NNWS (NAN NAN WILLIAM SUGAR) followed by number of station (e.g. NNWS 17.)

(D.S.D. 191815B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A., F.O.C.W.Af.)

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19.5.1945  
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorwayMines off  
S.W. Norway

Owing to the number of drifting mines in area passage between position H and Christiansand should be made in daylight hours until further orders.  
(F.O. Norway, 191005B to Admty.)

M.G.B. 2002

Wreckage of M.G.B. 2002 found ashore near Lister Light. Aircraft report floating wreckage in position 57.36 N. 07.00 E. no survivors. Investigating.  
(M.T.B. 718, 191253B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

A.M. 180002\*. A thorough search has been carried out throughout today, Saturday 19th May by 1 Liberator and 2 Warwicks with co-operation of M.T.B. 718 and M.G.B. 2009.

Wreckage of M.G.B. 2002 found ashore near Lister Light. Floating wreckage reported by A/C in position 57.36 N. 07.00 E. No survivors and this had been investigated by M.T.B. 718.

Ships and aircraft have been recalled and intend now to abandon search (C. in C. Rosyth, 191947B to Admty.)

\* Request C. in C. Rosyth sail M.G.B. 2009 and <sup>M.T.B.</sup> 718 to search in estimated position in which M.G.B. 2002 was mined.

Return of  
BROADWAY

Intend to sail BROADWAY at 0900 tomorrow Sunday 20th to Rosyth.

(2) Route via Grip Holen and positions 63° 33' N. 07° 26' E. 62° 45' N. 03° 30' E. 61° 01' N. 00° 25' W. thence by war channel to Rosyth. Speed of

advance 20 knots.

(N.O.I.C. Trondheim, 191222B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Vestfjord  
Convoy

A.M. 170211B May. Permission for German Naval Command to sail convoy from Narvik to Trondhjem was granted by disarmament Heralds who preceded joint force Commanders to Norway. Reason for request was shortage of stores and of accommodat-

ion for personnel landed after disarmament at Narvik.

(F.O. Norway, 191306B to Admty.)

Operation  
S.C.

Ramose Spectacle sailed S.C. HESSA at 2000B 19th May.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 192001B to N.O.I.C. Bergen.)

Return of  
Norwegian  
Govt. to  
Oslo in  
ANDES

SS. ANDES, 25689 G.R.T. length 669 feet, draught 28½ feet, has been allocated in place of SCYTHIA to convey the Norwegian Government to Oslo, sailing from Liverpool about 28th May.

(2) Unless safe passage through Vestre Lob can be guaranteed it is desired that passengers be disembarked by tender from the outer anchorage.

(3) Additional sweeping of channel through

Q.Z.X.1514 and of outer anchorage berth should be carried out by above date.

(V.C.N.S., 192005B to F.O. Norway.)

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19.5.1945  
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway - Contd.STORD's  
visit to  
Bear Is.

A.M. 182010. C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy approves that Russians should be informed of visit to Bear Island after N.S. STORD has sailed from Tromsø. N.O.I.C. Tromsø is requested to inform S.B.N.O. North Russia time of sailing from Tromsø.  
(F.O. Norway, 192105B to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

OperationsNorthern WatersVestfjord  
convoy

E.T.A. Loch Eriboll 1930B. Following British personnel, 1 officer, 2 ratings from LOCH ALVIE in U.668.  
(S.O.E.G.9, 190321B to S.O. Loch Eriboll.)  
Lerwick arrivals. H.M.C.S. ST. PIERRE.  
U.295, U.312.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 190630B to C. in C.H.F.)  
Lerwick departure:- ST. PIERRE U.295, U.312.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 190820B to C. in C.H.F.)  
Arrived at 1915 today U.278, U.363, U.968, U.294, U.992, U.1165, U.295, U.668, U.313, U.481, U.716, U.427, U.997, U.318, U.312.  
(S.O. Loch Eriboll, 192230B to C. in C. W.A.)  
Arrived 9th E.G.  
(S.O. Loch Eriboll, 192235B to C. in C.W.A.)

Convoy  
J.W.67

Admiralty message 181853 not to Capt. (D)17. Norwegian escort will meet J.W.67 at M.T. and escort ROALD ADMUNDSEN and IVARAN to Kirkenes direct.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 190930B to Admty.)

Convoy  
R.A.67

KONG HA-KON VII is to be completely discharged and then sailed as opportunity offers. Your 181115B refers.  
(D.T.D., 191529B to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Icelandic ship  
to visit Bergen  
and  
Copenhagen

Following is repetition of A.C.I.C.'s 181214B May begins:-  
"Icelandic Government proposes to send a ship to Bergen and Copenhagen early June carrying relief food and clothing, passengers and mail and bringing back Icelandic passengers and mail from Scandinavian countries. U.S. Garrison Authorities here have no objections. Request approval. If approval granted a request for routing instructions will be made when definite programme is known". Ends.  
(2) Proposal is under consideration in Admiralty. Request your observations.  
(Admiralty, 191837B to A.N.C.X.F.)

19.5.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Baltic

Situation  
at  
Flensburg

Following signals from N.O.I.C. Flensburg are passed to you for information:

- (1) F.O.I.C. Kiel from N.O.I.C. Flensburg. Preliminary investigations and German reports of Naval craft in fiord show a total of about 130 vessels of miscellaneous types including:
- (a) One Narvik class Destroyer.
  - (b) One Ex-Norwegian Torpedo-boat.
  - (c) About 10 Depot ships.
  - (d) 45 E-boats as yet not sighted but which are being moved to Mürwik from Geeting Bay.
  - (e) 37 M/S including:- (1) 15 R-boats. (2) 12 M class sweepers some of which require minor repairs.
  - (f) 12 Torpedo recovery vessels which are steam vessels of some 200 tons with a crew of 54 hands. All vessels unoperational for lack of fuel of which there is none of any kind. D.T.G. 161425B.
- (2) F.O.I.C. Kiel from N.O.I.C. Flensburg. Preliminary investigation of merchant shipping Flensburg Fjord shows:-
- (1) 5 Hospital ships total some 17,000 tons
  - (b) Some 8 tugs, one diving vessel and one water boat of private ownership.
  - (3) About 160 M/V of some 187000 tons including POTSDAM, CARIBIA and PATRIAN.
  - (4) About 30 miscellaneous state-owned (so called) tugs, water boats, diving vessels and ice breakers, including Cable Vessels NEPTUN and NORDENEY.
- There is no coal or fuel available and only two small ships DUISBURG and LEDA, have fuel for a sea passage of about two days. About 80% Merchant Shipping ready for sea, once fuel provided and about 50% of tugs, D.T.G.161437B. Ends.  
(F.O.I.C. Kiel, 190011B to Admty.)

U-boat  
off  
Flensburg

One U-boat stationary position 54.50 N. 09.30 E.  
(A/C TUM 53, 190930B to 18 Group.)

Proposed  
German  
destroyer  
for U.K.

Your 172219. Admiralty do not require the ship in U.K. for the present. She may be required to sail at a later date.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 191545B to F.O. Kiel.)

Liquidation  
of Admiral  
Doenitz's  
alleged  
Government  
and OKW  
at Flensburg

- (1) Members of the so-called German Government of Admiral Doenitz, and of OKW at Flensburg will now be arrested or otherwise disposed of by Exfor as rapidly as possible after consultation with Head of S.H.A.E.F. Control Party OKW.
- (2) Nominations of persons to be arrested will be made by S.H.A.E.F. Control Party OKW. Total numbers of personnel for disposal are estimated to amount approximately to 470 officers and 2,400 other ranks.
- (3) OKM Personnel will not be arrested as yet.
  - (4) Certain special personnel nominated by S.H.A.E.F. Control

/Party...

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsBaltic

Liquidation  
of Admiral  
Doenitz's  
alleged  
Government  
and OKW at  
Flensburg  
(Contd.)

Party OKW estimated to number not more than 30, will be transported to Ashcan under Exfor arrangements.

(5) Archives at Flensburg will be seized and secured by Exfor with a view to S.H.A.E.F. intelligence exploitation. They will be disposed of as directed by the S.H.A.E.F. control party.

(6) Exfor will report urgently when arrests have been completed.

(S.H.A.E.F., 191845B to Exfor.)

Reference our 191845B.

(1) S.H.A.E.F. Policy is to arrest all members of OKW in arrest categories and dispose of the remainder so far as this is possible without prejudice to Army Group requirements.

(2) 12th Army Group will arrange to arrest and dispose of OKW (South) in consultation with the Head of the S.H.A.E.F. Control Party OKW (General Rooks), who will be responsible for nominating personnel for arrest.

(3) Archives of OKW (South) will be seized and secured by 12th Army Group to arrange details. E.T.A. will be arranged direct between him and 12th Army Group.

(4) 12th Army Group will submit report by urgent cable when arrests are made, giving names of all Senior Officers arrested. (S.H.A.E.F., 191846B to 12th A.G., S.H.A.E.F. Control OKW.)

U-boats  
in  
Travemünde  
and  
Eckernförde

U-boat state at Travemünde and Eckernförde.  
At Travemünde - one type 7 hull afloat and useless  
twenty-five U-boats scuttled or sunk in harbour.

At Eckernförde - Two U-boats scuttled or sunk  
none afloat.

(F.O. Kiel, 192228 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Kiel  
command  
situation  
report

Situation at 2100 today Saturday.

Arrival of 33 M.L. Flotilla delayed. Reported  
mines explosion yesterday 9 miles east of  
Brunsbüttel causing subsidence of south (?bank) now  
appears to have been merely military fishing  
operations with H.E. Check sweep of canal will be  
carried out tomorrow and Monday. Clearance of

craft for concentration area nearly completed. Survey of merchant  
shipping proceeding in Kiel and Lübeck, and starting in Flensburg.  
(F.O. Kiel, 192321B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Enemy Intelligence

U.327, 287,  
1195, 1169.

A.M. 172345. U-boat numbers and names broadcast in  
Series K.33 have not included following U-boat  
numbers probably owing to difficult telephonic  
conditions when list was read to Capt. Owen on 18th  
May. U.327, U.287, U.1195, U.1169.

(D.D.I.C., 191139B to A.N.C.X.F.) Note: For U.287  
see 191709 (North Sea.)

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19.5.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

- U.2326. U.2326. Notes on equipment and performance from interrogation on board:-  
(2) Propulsion: Fuel capacity about 20 tons. Total consumption on first period of 8 days 1.9 tons. Range on surface at 5 knots on diesel 5800 miles. Submerged endurance claimed at least 10000 miles running 3 knots on silent motor and snorting only to charge battery. Max. speed on surface 10 knots on diesel or 8.5 knots with 500 ampere charge. Max. submerged speed 13 knots discharge rate 1300 ampere. Max. submerged speed on 50 h.p. silent motor 4.8 knots. 2 batteries 62 cells each 5800 ampere hours. Max. snort charging rate 1240 amperes at 290 tons. 460 litres fresh water no distilled.  
(3) Performance. Ideal snort depth 10.3 metres. Best diving time surface to 20 metres 12 seconds surface to 60 metres 42 seconds. Diving depth tested 110 metres (250% safety margin) claimed safe depth more than 200 metres. Bottoms comfortably and hydrophone reception still good.  
(4) Torpedo equipment. 2 500 ton type steel tubes not fitted for Walter Gnat or Lut. 2 T.3A Fat torpedoes ~~canned~~ <sup>can</sup>. External loading essential but routines can be ~~canned~~ <sup>can</sup> out by withdrawing for one third length. No fruit machine. D.A. obtained from tables. Firing by hydrophones not favoured. Range-finding by periscope fixed graticule scale. No asdics or radar. Balkon 22 microphone hydrophones. Incomplete S.B.T. tube fitted.  
(5) Signals equipment. G.S.R. equipment exactly as for 500 ton type. Normal M/F D/F set. Additional insulated R.O.D. aerial for H/F reception which dived gave even worse results than G.S.R. aerial.  
(6) Total crew 15 including 3 officers.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh 192230 to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

- U.2326. Arrived U.2326 escorted by FITZROY.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh 190951 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Intend to sail U.2326 (type 23) escorted by KEMPTHORNE at 1200 today, Saturday, northabout Skye to Lisahally. S.O.A. 8 knots. KEMPTHORNE to make own E.T.A. direct.  
(2) Crew reduced to C.O., Engineer Officer and 10 men. Owing to limited space armed guard also reduced to 1 officer and 5 men. Draught 13 ft. 6 ins.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh 191005B to Com. D. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

- U.244,U.255 Arrived BLIGH, U.244 and U.255.  
(Com. D. W.A., 190849B to C. in C. W.A.)

/NORFOLK...

19.5.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

NORFOLK, Intend sailing in NORFOLK with ZAMBESI and  
cruiser, OBEDIENT from Bergen at 0930 Monday 21st May  
ZAMBESI, leaving Korsfjord approx. 1130 thence to Scapa  
OBEDIENT, passing north of Q.Z.X. 1535 and East of Shetlands.  
destroyers. S.O.A. 19 knots. E.T.A. 0545 Tuesday 22nd.  
Request Hoxa 0630.

(2) C. in C. H.F. (Afloat) and C. in C. H.F.  
(ashore) acknowledge.  
(C.S. 1, 191203B to A.N.C.X.F, C. in C. H.F.)

GOOD HOPE,  
NATAL,  
TRANSVAAL,  
frigates.

GOOD HOPE, NATAL and TRANSVAAL are required to  
proceed to South Africa before joining East  
Indies Station.

(2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for  
GOOD HOPE and NATAL to proceed to Capetown as  
soon as practicable.

(3) On completion of working up at Tobermory,  
TRANSVAAL is to proceed to Capetown. My 121623, not to all  
refers.

(4) C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange with C. in C. E.I. for  
the three vessels to join East Indies Station when ready.

(5) C. in C. S.A. pass to D.S.A.N.F. with ref. to his 171102.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 191445B to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. S.A.)

U.1023,U.249. My 181107 and F.O.I.C. Portland 191025 neither  
to all. U.1023 should now be manned by Lt. Cdr.  
Marsham's crew instead of U.249 and should  
arrive Plymouth 25th May. Special trials with

U.249 can be carried out as may be mutually arranged between  
F.O.I.C. Portland and S.S.E.

(F.O. S/M 191457B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

A.F.D. 68,  
floating dock

Intend to sail A.F.D. 68 in tow of tug  
ENCHANTER escorted by CAPE COMORIN 1000B/20th  
May to Falmouth in accordance with C. in C.  
Plymouth's 161531 not to all addressees.

Communications dock V/S only. Tug constant  
W/T watch on 1740 k/cs and L/S R/T on 2410 k/cs shifting to  
2300 k/cs off Milford Haven buoy. Holds naval code X A tables  
Loxo Cofox. Callsigns W/T 6 P E Z R/T Overlap.  
Escort constant W/T watch on 1740 k/cs shifting to 2300 k/cs  
off Milford Haven buoy.

(2) CAPE COMORIN to Liverpool on completion.

(3) Mails A.F.D. 68 to Falmouth.

CAPE COMORIN remain Liverpool.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 191634 to Admty., F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

RODNEY,  
battleship.

Ref. Admty. Message 050020 May para. 2. After  
full investigation of the state of the ship's hull  
and structure consider RODNEY is unsuitable for  
reduction to reserve in category B without hull  
survey and repairs estimated time to complete 3 to  
6 months. Full details follow by letter.  
(C. in C. H.F., 192356B to Admty.)

19.5.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

S/M  
TANTALUS. Intend to sail S/M TANTALUS with M.K.S.102  
destination Portsmouth. F.O. S/MS 131033 not to  
all.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 191108B to F.O. S/M.)

Re: Sailing of Escort vessels and smaller H.M. ships through areas where U-Boats are operating. A.M. 110036B/April. Request I may be informed whether these restrictions are still in force.  
(F.O.G.M.A.191140B to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE  
Cruiser. Intend to sail NEWCASTLE to Plymouth at 1800B/20th.  
(2) S. of A. 18 knots. (3) Route.  
(4) E.T.A. 0800B/23rd May.  
(F.O.G.M.A.191322B to Admty.)

Air/Sea  
rescue  
service. Accordance Com. 12th Fleet, 182256 (N.T. in W.D.)  
departing Horta 1900Z/19 for Air/Sea rescue station  
N.R. 19 speed 16 knots. E.T.A. on station 2200Z/22  
(KNOXVILLE, 191810 to Com. 12th Fleet, Comnavu)

BICESTER  
(destroyer). F.O.G.M.A.181753/ not to all. Destination Chatham.  
(D.O.D.(H), 192108B to F.O.G.M.A.)  
/ Requesting destination in U.K. for BICESTER.

A/S  
protection. Request you will arrange A/S protection as  
requisite while in Azores waters for SS. CRAWFORD  
W. LONG which sailed from U.S. in convoy U.G.S. 93  
for discharge at Santa Maria and Terceira.  
(Cominch, 192112Z to Admty.)

ETTRICK Departed Horta at 1658Z/19th H.M.C.S. ETTRICK  
for Southampton routed as in Admiralty Message  
172223 not to all S. of A. 19 knots E.T.A.  
position C 0900Z/22nd.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 192118Z to F.O.G.M.A.)



War Diary

19.5.1945  
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

RAIDER  
destroyer.

Date of completion H.M.S. RAIDER will be 26th  
May ex trials.  
(Capt. Supt. Durban, 190712Z to Admty.)

Air/Sea  
rescues  
Trans-  
Atlantic air  
routes.

Intend sailing ABERDEEN at 1830/19th May to  
position number 21 09.40 N. 21.45 W. to arrive 21st  
May. Admiralty message 182352B and Cinclant  
180316 refer.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F. 191130Z to Admty.)

Release of  
Personel  
seconded  
to R.N.

Following is precis of letter dated 16th May,  
1945 from Chief of General Staff Pretoria Begins:  
Admiralty has agreed to Union Government's  
proposals for release of personnel seconded to Roy-  
al Navy to enable them to be demobilised according  
to service groups. Request all personnel in  
groups A, B and C. who have not volunteered for  
extended service may be returned to South Africa by 1st August,  
1945.

Groups A.B.C. comprise all personnel who commenced War Service  
between Sept. 1939 and December 1940 as indicated in Chief of  
General Staff's 231704 March. Request instructions may be  
promulgated accordingly.  
(C. in C. S.A. 191313B to Admty.)

U-Boats  
(rumours).

Your 182002/May. Every effort should be made to  
trace origin of these rumours and assess their  
reliability. Any further details would be of  
value.  
(Admty. D.N.I. 192058B to S.O. (I) Buenos Aires)

War Diary.19.5.1945.  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

B.Y.M.S. Intend sailing B.Y.M.S. 2246 at 1600B/19th to Port Said for onward routeing to rejoin 180 Flotilla.  
2. S. of A. 12 knots, E.T.A. Port Said a.m. 23rd. (V.A.M., 190930B to S.N.O., R.S.C.A.)

Syria (troubles). Message from Ninth Army received here 0830 hrs. forwards report timed 0630 hours 19th May from Col. Stirling Mil Liaison Officer on French action in Damascus. Report as follows:-  
One. Senegalese guard on French Offrs. club and French H.Q. largely reinforced.  
Two. Four gun bty. in position west of Mezze. Guns appear trained on Damascus and gun crews standing by. W/T truck setting up station between Mezze and airport. Two strong points on either side of airport previously abandoned have been re-occupied.  
Three. French moving tps. into strategic positions Damascus. Seven lorry loads tps. arrived French H.Q. Trouble probable today.  
Four. French reported as saying "Syrians are to be taught a lesson once and for all".  
Five. Paras. one to three above, believed French defence scheme Damascus.  
(C. in C. Med., 191215C to W.O.)

FERNMOOR Intend to enter FERNMOOR at 0630/21 for transit (Boom Carrier) to Suez and onward routeing Colombo.  
2. Speed for onward routeing 10 knots.  
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A., ?19131C N.O.I.C. Suez).

French Naval Task Force disbandment of etc. In view of circumstances I propose the immediate disbandment of the F.N.T.F. I then intend to take the following decisions:  
1. Sail LORRAINE to Toulon after a short stay at Cherbourg calling at Gibraltar for fuel. On arrival at Toulon LORRAINE will be placed under the orders of Premar 3 and used as gunnery training ship.  
2. DUQUESNE will be placed under the orders of Premar 2 and will remain at Brest at a few days notice for steam, to be decided later, in order to carry out work on boilers and condensers, whilst remaining at 8 days notice for any operations which may be required.  
3. Destroyers will also be placed under Premar 2's orders. They will remain generally based on Brest for any operations required with the exception of BASQUE which will be sailed for Cherbourg as soon as possible for long refit after a short call at Plymouth to take materials on board.  
4. HOVA will be sailed for Mediterranean as soon as she has docked for repairs to propeller. As the sailing of LORRAINE and HOVA entails a change of zone and is, thus subject to the consent of the combined Chiefs of Staff I therefore request Admiral Fenard to obtain the necessary agreement. If the need arises request you will give a favourable recommendation to them and to A.N.C.X.F.  
(A.N.C.X.F (Main's) 231840B\* refers.  
(Marine Paris, 191927Z to C.T.F.22) \*Not identified.  
/Mines...

19.5.1945.  
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Mines                      Ground mines in Genoa and Savona harbours are not responding to normal treatment.
2. Mines are stated to be L.M.B/S fitted with two units M.A. one A and M.A. two or AA two.
  3. Interpretation of para. two is that these mines are German C type fitted with A.M. mark three unit or double Acoustic unit having P.D.M. setting one to twelve.
  4. Instructions have been given to employ L.L/S.A. fluffing procedure concurrently operating explosive sweep.
  5. No information on sweeping of German C mines fitted with these units obtainable from German Minesweeping Officer without technical instructions held by Suk at Wik (Kiel).  
(C. in C. Med., 192258B to Admty).

19.5.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Landing ships Arrival LARGS, SILVIO.  
(F.O. Bombay 190301Z to Admty.)

Situation (1) Malacca Strait. Ref. Sitrep No. 13 para. 3.  
report No. It was appreciated that if Japanese A/C made no  
14. further sighting of East Indies Fleet Unit NACHI  
class cruiser and escorting destroyer might  
make second attempt to sortie.

NIGERIA and 4 destroyers left Trincomalee p.m.  
13th 15 reinforce Fleet already at sea to southwestward of  
Sabang.

(2) Enemy cruisers and destroyers sighted 1050 F.G. 15th May  
in position 006° 55' N. 096° 50' E. retiring southeast sighting  
was by Avenger of 851 Squadron (SHAH) operating from EMPEROR  
as SHAH had defective catapults. Almost simultaneous sighting  
by location of 222 group which shadowed until about 1400.

(3) At 1500 striking of 3 Avengers scoring 1 probable bomb hit  
1 near miss on cruiser which was then steering 90. This was  
last sighted in daylight at 1500. Nearest H.M. ships were  
26th D.F. (SAUMAREZ, VENUS, VIGILANT, VIRAGO, VERULAM) 240° 85  
miles from (corrupt group) steering 110° 27 knots to intercept  
after dark. Heavy ships and escort carriers all to westward of  
Sabang.

\* HAGURO

(4) 26th D.F. sank cruiser\* about 0100/16th 45 miles south west  
of Penang. Enemy destroyer probably damaged. (?Scale of)  
damage and casualties to (?own) ships were SAUMAREZ 1 boiler  
room out of action and 2 ratings killed.

(5) Fleet concentrated north of Sumatra (4th?) day 16th and made  
R/C flight Malacca Strait. Air attacks by about 5 fighter  
bombers not pressed home and were driven off. 2 Oscars damaged  
by our fighters. VIRAGO damaged above water line by near miss  
at sunset. 4 killed 8 seriously injured.

(6) Irrawaddy Delta night 15th and 16th May, 4 M.Ls. destroyed  
8 armed supply craft and killed 80 Japanese. 1 M.L. damaged  
with 1 rating (?killed).

(C. in C. E.I. 191131Z to S.A.C.S.E.A.)

Cochin air  
Station.

R.A.F. are closing down their station at Cochin.  
(2) Use of this station is for naval purposes  
H.Q. air command S.E.A. has agreed to the transfer  
of the air stations to the R.N. and detailed  
arrangements are being made with B.A. F.S. E.A.  
(3) Proposed date of transfer is 1st June.  
(F.O. Air E.I. 191147Z to C. in C. E.I.)

H.M.S. BEACHY HEAD  
Escort Maintenance  
Ship

Request BEACHY HEAD decision may be given in  
favour of E.I. Station.

(2) To compete with Rangoon we converted an  
unseaworthy merchant ship to meet essential needs  
of escort maintenance. BEACHY HEAD or similar

ship is essential to extend our operations during the next  
critical 3 months.

(C. in C. E.I. 191246Z to Admty.)

/Incident...

19.5.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Incident. Challenged by unknown light craft at 1315Z which gave incorrect reply letter - advised me that my recognition signal was incorrect - made suspicious suggestion about reply letter - asked where I came from. No reply was given and present location of unknown light craft unknown. My position 010° 25' N. 081° 29' E. My 191445.  
(ALFRED C. TRUE, 191530Z to Admty.)

Movements. Arrived B.Y.M.S. 2064, 2017, 2153, 2225, 2018.  
Departed BARFLEUR.  
(Com. Aden 191609Z to Admty.)

Escorts. Arrangements are now in hand for the re-deployment of escorts and the first reinforcements should reach the Eastern Theatre in July.  
(2) In view of changed situation since the appreciation given in your 050539 March, request you will re-appreciate your requirements for escorts up to December, 1945.  
(V.C.N.S. 191943B.) Reply 231225Z.

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19.5.1945.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U/B 1200Z/19 May.  
dispositions. No fresh information since my 181502Z.  
(N.S.H.Q., 191324Z.)  
Enemy U-Boat estimate 1200Z/19th.  
Para. (A) No fresh information since Cominch  
181401Z.  
Para. (B) U.234 arrived Portsmouth 191255Z.  
(Cominch, 191400Z to all concerned.)

T.G. 61.8 Task Group 61.8 reconstituted.  
Reconstitution C.T.G. 61.8 Capt. Litchfield in KRETCHMER,  
of. Comcortdiv. 57 in <sup>7-14-45</sup>W.J. GARY plus BRISTER, FINCH,  
KOINER, O'REILLY. ^  
(C. in C. Lant, 191351Z to C.T.G. 61.8,  
Comdeslant.)

Collision. Two ships collided May 18th in position 40.16  
N., 73.26 W. GLACIER PARK bow crushed above  
waterline, FLORENCE MARTUS (U.S.) damaged  
midship.  
(N.S.H.Q., 191608Z to Admty.)

Return of Your 181836\*. R.N. ships manned by R.C.N.  
surplus which are being released for return to U.K. are  
ships. to be reduced to steaming parties sufficient  
personnel being trained to carry out the  
necessary restoring incidental to reduction  
to reserve on arrival.  
(N.S.H.Q., 191650Z to C. in C. C.N.A.) See 231224Z.  
\* H.M.C. Ships ARROWHEAD, BITTERSWEET, EYEBRIGHT, HEPATICA,  
TRILLIUM and INGONISH to be detached from their groups and  
prepared to proceed to U.K.

Far East and Australia

Blue Ryukyus: Little change Okinawa front line  
summary positions. Enemy night hecklers over area  
18th. intermittently all night 17/18. Cap and night  
fighter downed 5, ships guns 4, suicide hit 1.  
Suicide plane hit DOUGLAS H. FOX (DD779)  
causing considerable structural damage but ship  
proceeded Kerama Retto under own power. Second Marairwing  
reports destroying total 259 enemy aircraft through 17 May.  
On 17th 387 ground support sorties flown by fast carrier C.V.E.  
and T.A.F. planes.  
Vice-Adm. Hill relieved Vice-Adm. Turner as C.T.F. 51.

/Searches ...

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War Diary.19.5.1945.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSFar East and Australia

Blue Searches Empire Area. FET (? OSEASEGES)  
Summary sank 1 small AK, probably sank OTAMED ABD  
18th. damaged 1 small AO. P.B.M. picked up 3  
(Contd.) airmen from Essex plane. F.A.W.18 planes  
sank 1 trawler, damaged 1 YS, hit radar  
installations near Shiono Misaki. Wrecked  
train near Hamamatsu.

Empire: 4 P.47s. from Ryukyus night 17/18 heckled Kanoya,  
Miyazaki, Nittlgahpta in southern Kyushu. Nagoya photos hld.  
9 square miles destroyed in recent incendiary attacks. Total  
area destroyed now 11.3 square miles or 12 per cent of city.  
S.W.P.A.: 17th 15 B.24s. bombed Matsuyama and Langepo  
airfields, sank 2 SC in (?SO) Harbour north Formosa dropped  
Napalm on Taihoku. 25 B.25s. attacked railroads, plant,  
bridges Formosa shot down 2 enemy aircraft. 26 P.51s. hit  
Kato Kobi, Tainan airfields. 4 P.Vs. bombed assembly plant  
Formosa. On 18th 5 P.Vs. attacked Kudat Borneo. Philippines  
ground support plan. 10 sorties Chichi Jima, 25 Palau, 8 Yap.  
(C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 190525 to all commands concerned.)

Digest  
1214,  
18th May.  
(Extract)

- (1) Liberators from Palawan 18th May sank one  
small coaster, damaged another off Borneo  
coast.
- (3) Mariners from Lingayen night 17th/18th May  
straffed 4 motor boats, 3 barges Takao.
- (4) Liberators from Mindoro hit single small  
freighter transport north-west Tourane.
- (6) Supporting Fnfch\* Fleet 89 Liberators dropped 289 tons  
Formosa targets: 43 Liberators hit Tainan airfield and  
installations, 43 other Liberators attacked Taichu airfield  
possibly damaging single grounded aircraft causing explosions  
and fires: 2 enemy fighters ineffectively intercepted;  
remaining 3 Liberators hit Shoka, Takao, Koshil possibly  
damaging two grounded planes starting fires.
- (7) 39 Mitchells dropped 46 tons bombs also heavily straffed  
lines of communication along west coast Formosa causing wide-  
spread destruction to rolling stock and railway installations  
also hitting factories and Alcohol plants.
- (8) American troops on Luzon closed in on Osboy against intense  
resistance, advanced along metropolitan Waber Road to positions  
3,000 yards west Ipo, made limited advances of one to 200  
yards north of Balete Pass and on Villa Verde trail against  
strong opposition.
- (9) American forces Mindanao eliminated all resistance Mpygima  
Canyon, advanced 1 mile east Dalirig.
- (10) Australian troops advancing down Ahwak coast captured  
Cape Bokct and continued eastward drive.
- (12) Norsols aircraft all (R.A.A.F. except marine Mitchell  
and Navy Catalinas) sent out 106 Corsairs, 43 Mitchells, 7  
Venturas, 2 Catalinas dropping 100 tons also straffing bridges  
and huts on New Ireland, destroying 4 small craft starting  
fires Rabaul, hitting enemy troops and defence positions in  
support Australian forces Bougainville.
- (13) R.A.A.F. operations for 17th May involved additional 4  
Catalinas laying mines in enemy waters.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 190850Z to Admty.)

\* As received.

/ M.V. INDIA ...

19.5.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia - Contd.

M.V. INDIA. Your 171006 (N.T. in W.D.) M.V. INDIA (Norwegian) overdue missing and presumed lost. Recorded as marine casualty as no details known regarding date or cause of loss.  
(D.T.D., 191106B to A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U/B Surrender

U/B Request your concurrence to following proposal.  
surrenders. If measures in Admiralty message 172345 fail  
Penalties. to bring satisfactory response from U-Boats  
still at sea, following Allied threat should  
be issued by the Admiralty on current U-Boat  
frequencies:

Begins: From Allied Naval Authorities to all U-Boats at sea. The unconditional surrender of the German Armed Forces became effective on the 9th May. The B.U. at the direction of the Allied authorities have issued orders to you to surface forthwith, report your position in plain language to GZZ 10 on 5970 k/cs. and to any Allied coast station on 500 k/cs. Your failure to comply with these orders constitutes a serious breach of the act of unconditional surrender signed by the German High Command, and you are risking serious consequences for yourselves and Germany. By your conduct you are committing a breach of the rules of war and unless you comply immediately with the order to surface and report your position in plain language you will be liable to extreme penalties.  
(2) Comply immediately and after surfacing wear a black or dark blue flag, remain surfaced and await further orders. Ends.  
(1st S.L., 192000B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)



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20.5.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

North Sea.

- 1(a) The Skagerrak is reported to be heavily mined except for a narrow inshore channel each side.
- (b) The minefield alleged to exist 110 miles west of Heligoland has been swept with negative result.
- (c) One mine was detonated in the Heligoland Bight.
- (d) One mine was swept in Ymuiden approaches.
- (e) Rotterdam shipyards have suffered certain damage, and no electric power will be available for a month, due to fuel shortage. Shipyard machines and tools have been removed by the Germans. The blockships at Maasluis deny access to ships over 2,000 tons, and will require a month to clear.
- (f) In Amsterdam there is the same electric and fuel shortage. The 25,000 ton floating dock is heavily damaged, but 3 smaller ones are in working order. Blockships at Zaandam restrict access to Amsterdam to all but barges. It is hoped to make access available to coasters in a month and to larger ships in 2 months.
- (g) At Ymuiden the repair facilities left are nil.

Norway.

- 2(a) A heavy explosion in her engine room sank M.T.B. 715 at anchor in Fosnavaag yesterday at 0220. M.T.B. 709 was also badly damaged.
- (b) With reference to Situation Report of May 9th, U.874 has been at Holmstrand, near Horten, since March, and is now at Oslo, together with U-Boats Nos. 170, 975, 1108, 2502, 2513, 2518, 3017, 3041 and 3513.

Baltic.

3. F.O. Denmark reports 200 German minesweepers available in his command, of which he intends to make full use in the Kattegat, Belts and Sound.

Foreign StationsNorth Atlantic

U/B 963.

4. U.963 reported scuttled off Portuguese coast in 40 fms. Distress signal observed off Nazare in 39° 36' N., 9° 4' W. Lifeboat put out and collected crew of the U-Boat. Crew being taken to Peniche in charge of Portuguese Naval Authorities.

/Movement ...

20.5.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movement.

5. NEWCASTLE arrived at Gibraltar and sailed for Plymouth.

Mediterranean

Flank Force.

6. Flank Force has now been abolished. French cruisers and destroyers comprising this force have now reverted to operational control of Almed.

Levant.

7(a) Minor disorders occurred in Damascus against the French yesterday.  
(b) Today further demonstrations took place by students in Damascus and also at Aleppo where students attacked the Prevote Building. Reported that the French guard opened fire.

Far East and Australia

Philippines.

8. 24 U.S. Liberators bombed the M.T.B. base at Piso Point (Davao Gulf) starting fires.

Japan.  
Ryukus.

9. This evening attacks were made by 35 low flying enemy aircraft possibly co-ordinated with midget submarine on the U.S. fleet off Okinawa. Suiciders damaged 2 destroyers and 3 high speed destroyer transports. One L.S.T. previously hit by bomb and beached was also hit by suicide plane. 11 enemy planes were shot down by ships A/A and it is reported by C.T.F.51 all reported midget submarines believed destroyed.

20.5.1945.  
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Showing the Flag in continental Ports.

I should like to keep ZEALOUS and ZODIAC for a further 7 days or until they can be relieved by other destroyers.

(2) Consider a further visit to Flensburg and Lubeck is most desirable.

(3) Concur fully with your proposal that ships should return in due course to U.K. via Kiel

Canal your 191555 refers.

(F.O.I.C. Kiel, 200103B to A.N.C.X.F.)

F.O. Kiel 191821 (being passed) and my 192312.

Request Flensburg may be added to list of ports with first priority in view of O.K.M. being in its vicinity and the large number of German ships in harbour.

2. My 191555 para. 2 (not to C. in C. Rosyth) refers.

(A.N.C.X.F., 201244B to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Nore).

1. C.S.10 is requested to sail DIADEM and ORIBI from Rosyth p.m. Monday 21 May to proceed to Copenhagen to relieve H.F. ships at present there. F.O. Denmark's 191629 not to all refers.

2. Route by Q.Z.S. 738 thence route X modified as in my 191004 thence by way 42, and way 43 to position 8 on way 48 where F.O. Denmark is requested to arrange pilot to stand by from 1800B Tuesday 22nd May. Thence by Swedish Channel to Copenhagen.

3. F.O. Norway and Capt. M/S Norway are requested to signal any necessary amendments to route to DIADEM.

4. Owing to danger of drifting mines route X is to be passed in daylight.

5. Admiralty divert mails for DIADEM and ORIBI.

6. DEVONSHIRE pass to Com. Denmark.

(C. in C. H.F., 201510 to C.S.10, DIADEM, ORIBI).

Scrapping of escort vessels.

In order to avoid unnecessary towage and to expedite the release of personnel, it is requested that urgent consideration may be given to granting immediate approval to scrap some of those vessels ordered to reduce to category C by A.M. 180855 Apr.

Further that it be approved that these vessels should be sailed on reduction direct to Shipbreakers yards in anticipation of the sale contracts being signed. This particularly applies in Clyde area to which the closest berths for category C ships are Londonderry for corvettes only, and Milford Haven for larger vessels.

If this proposal is approved it is desired that approval should be put in the following specimen form - begins:

Approved for 2 or other number of escort vessels destroyers or smaller to be delivered to Shipbreakers yard at Troon (or other port) names to be reported.

(F.O.C.R.F., 201241 to Admty).

German merchant ships to U.K.

My 101410B. To enable M.W.T. to appoint suitable Managers and select crews particulars of Merchant Ships ready to be moved are to be signalled to M.W.T. repeated A.N.C.X.F.

2. When orders are received to sail Merchant ships to U.K. German crews may be used if

British crews are not available.

3. If delivery by German crews proves unsatisfactory for any reason it will be stopped.

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20.5.1945.  
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

German merchant ships to U.K. (contd).

4. Advance informations of sailing of ships with German crews must be signalled to facilitate arrangements for handling of German personnel in U.K.

(A.N.C.X.F., 201552B to F.Os. Kiel, Western Germany, Holland, Denmark, Norway, C.T.F.126).

Procedure for disposal of Allied small craft found in German possession.

Propose to adopt following procedure for disposal of Allied Small Craft up to 500 G.R.T. requisitioned and operated by German Navy.  
(A) Craft required for the purposes of the Supreme Commander to be retained and treated as Warships.  
(B) All other such craft to be disarmed and turned over to the National authorities concerned for disposal.  
(C) German crews of these craft to be treated as German Naval personnel.

(D) Any Allied members of these crews to be turned over to the National authorities concerned.

(A.N.C.X.F., 201605B to S.H.A.E.F.) *Reply: p. 638*

OperationsNorth Sea

Situation at Terschelling.

Terschelling harbour undamaged. Following shipping there. 6 Patrol boats, 2 Gunlighters, one air sea rescue launch, 3 Motor tugs 100, 150 H.P. coal burning, 3 Motor barges 92, 129 tons, one Motor barge 136 tons with broken motors. One dumb barge 20 tons, one dumb barge 57 tons.

2. German Commander reports mines laid 5 M water on North Sea coast. Suspect Katie type. States German Admiral at Bloemendraf holds mine charts.

3. Brandaris light not lit has own generator but no fuel. (Den Helder, 201001B to F.O. Holland).

M.T.Bs. to Rotterdam.

My 192238B\* (not to all). Weather unsuitable for M.T.B.

2. Party will embark in CUBITT and sail to arrive Hook Whistle Buoy at 1900B today Sunday. Request N.O.I.C. Rotterdam arrange pilot and accommodation for party.

3. Two German Officers also embarked. Request necessary arrangements.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 201027B to F.O. Holland, N.O.I.C. Rotterdam)  
\*Intend sailing M.T.B.483 (S.O.), 482, 452, 504, 502, 491.

Discharge Situation Report.

Cositintrep No.411 Part 4 Section A.  
Discharge by Sea - 24 hour period ending 1600B/19 May.

/British...

20.5.1945.  
Sunday

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>
Antwerp	49	41	10,827	-	-
Ostend	2,353	288	941	-	1,109
Calais	6,300	52	65	-	-
Caen	-	-	53	2,086	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,702</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>11,886</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>1,109</b>

U.S. North

Antwerp	-	110	8,284	-	-
Cherbourg	28	142	1,123	413	-
Le Havre	4,372	145	5,287	-	-
Rouen	-	-	2,562	-	4,462
Ghent	-	-	3,988	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>21,244</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>4,462</b>

U.S. South

Marseilles	1,864	33	12,454	-	-
Port De Bouc	-	-	-	1,034	9,095
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,864</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12,454</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>9,095</b>

Army Coal at: Dieppe 1620, Morlaix 900.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 201400B to Adnty. etc).

Minesweeping in Heligoland Bight. Ground mine detonated 1332 in position 019° P.15 Buoy 8 and 3 quarter mile.  
(Capt. M/S Force C, 201627B to C. in C. Nore).

Situation at Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Ymuiden. Following from Fleet Construction Officer concerning.  
1. Ship repair facilities at Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Ymuiden.  
2. Rotterdam. Some damage to shipyards. Both yards Wilton Co. employing about 3,000 men practically undamaged. Rotterdam Drydock Co. and New Waterway Cos. have seven floating docks sunk and 400 shipyard machines removed by Germans. Machinery and electrical repair work practicable in port.  
3. Drydocks. Three floating docks (Wilton) in working order. 14,000 tons, 8,000 tons, 4,500 tons. Also 650 ft. by 29 ft. draught graving dock and 1,500 ton slipway. Eleven other floating docks sunk or out of action.

/4...

20.5.1945.  
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Situation at  
Rotterdam,  
Amsterdam,  
Ymuiden.  
(contd).

4. No electric power in yards on account of coal shortage. Estimate power will be available in one month.
5. About 6,000 shipyard workmen available.
6. Repair materials except non-ferrous adequate. Local supply of oxygen and acetylene probably available later.
7. Endeavour being made to obtain information from German officials of whereabouts of shipyard machines and tools removed by Germans.
8. Blockships at Maassluis on Hook-Rotterdam new waterway at present make passage to Rotterdam for ships above 2,000 tons difficult - clearance is in hand. P.S.V.O. estimates about one month to reduce main obstructions.
9. Agreed P.E.C. Rotterdam and M.W.T.R. Netherlands.
10. Amsterdam. Drydock Co. (Repairs) undamaged. Netherland Dock Co. and Verschuure Co. (Repairs and Building) moderate damage. Some shipyard machines removed. Werkspoor (Engines) undamaged. Some machines removed. Netherland Shipbuilding Co. (New building) badly damaged.
11. Drydocks. Three floating docks in working order 7,500 tons, 4,000 tons, 3,000 tons. Three graving docks 640 ft. 550 ft. 430 ft. damaged. About 2 months for repairs. 25,000 tons floating dock heavily damaged.
12. No Electric Power available in yards on account of serious coal shortage.
13. Stocks of repair material adequate. Oxygen can be made.
14. Blockships at Zaandam on Ymuiden/Amsterdam Canal at present only allow passage of barges to Amsterdam. Expect clearance by dredging bank and cutting up wreck to commence shortly. P.S.V.O. considers Coasters might make passage in 1 month and large ships in 2 months.
15. Ymuiden. Local repair facilities practically nil. Some covered shops available.  
(F.O. Belgium, 201742B to F.O. Holland, A.N.C.X.F.)

Minesweeping  
to Hamburg.  
Op. "Dropkick"

Operation "Dropkick".

1. Three motor launches Oropesa swept Hamburg to Cuxhaven two Flotillas widening channel between Boom and P.15 Buoy modified L total situations 7.
2. One ground mine 092° P.15 Buoy 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles.
3. Nil.
4. Four complete with trawler type buoyant cable.  
(M/S Capt. Force C, 201907B to C. in C. Nore )

Alleged  
minefield  
110 miles  
West of  
Heligoland.

Your 161215 completed. Negative result.  
2. Am returning to Humber with BOOTLE, WORTHING, WHITEHAVEN, DUNBAR and CALVAY in company.  
(S.O.M/S F 15, 201940B to C. in C. Nore).

U-boat  
off Sylt.

One U-boat 55.03 N., 08.29 E. stationary.  
(A/C SS288 202115B to 18 Gp).

/Mining...

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War Diary20.5.1945.  
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.Mining of  
Skagerrak.

Your 151835 para. 6B. Information supplied by Mok Nord shows very thick minefields extending completely across the Skagerrak except for a narrow inshore channel each side. Western boundary of area is a line drawn from Lister Light to the obstructed entrance to Lim Fjord. Eastern boundary is a line drawn from Lillesand to position 57° 50' N., 08° 50' E. and thence due south to the Danish coast.

(2) Details being forwarded in accordance with appendix D of XF (corrupt group) 258.  
(F.O.W. Germany, 202200B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Minesweeping  
to Rotterdam.

Operation "Fireball". (1) Modified L (A) 5 M.M.S. in S formation that part of anchorage area in Q.Z.X. 1431 L.L/S.A.  
" Fireball " (B) 3 M.M.S. in new waterway. Now completed from breakwaters to Maasluis block ships 15 actuations. L.A.A.  
(C) 5 laps between Maasluis and Parkhaven (total 13) Maashaven and Rijnhaven continued Maic sweep. Oropesa.  
(D) IM to Ymuiden entrance completed to 5 cables each side of centre line.  
(2) 1 disposed of by party in Leekhaven.  
(3) Survey work continues in new waterway and North Sea Canal.  
(5) 4 M.M.S. Hook to Sheerness. 5 M.M.S. Hook 12 to IM 1.  
6 M.M.S. IM 1 to IM 7. 4 B.Y.M.S. Ymuiden Approaches 1 B.Y.M.S. Hook to Ymuiden.  
(Capt. M/S F. A, 202301B to C. in C. Nore).

Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep Nr. 410. Captured ports.  
(A) Rotterdam (open only to merchant shipping) Ref. Cositintrep No.409 number of berths available at draught 16 feet should read 2.  
Draught at cold storage berth should read 20 feet  
(B) Bremen (not open to shipping) subject to amendment. Deepest draught acceptable 28 feet at high water springs 26 feet at high water neaps.  
Limiting length for ships 425 feet. 4 berths available in Ubersee-Hafen, 4 waiting berths at Nordenham, 2 at Brake.  
(C) Bremerhaven (not open to shipping).  
In locked basins there are 15 berths of which 10 have crane facilities maximum draught 27 feet limiting length 550 feet. At Columbus-Quay berths for 1 tanker and 1 dry cargo ship maximum draught 35 feet no limit to length 2 ships enter locked basin on any high tide. There is anchorage for 7 ships off the port and unlimited anchorage at a point 18 miles down river.  
(D) Ymuiden (not open to shipping) maximum draught acceptable 20 feet. Berths available 2 length 250 feet draught 14 feet; 2 length 250 feet draught 16 feet; 1 length 250 feet draught 1 foot; 5 in Noorderluis length 300 feet draught 20 feet. 6 waiting berths at Dolphins in outer harbour.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 202320B to Admty).

20.5.1945.  
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches.

✓  
Air Sea  
Rescue  
Ships.

Arrived fuelled and sailed ZANZIBAR, PERIM, ST. HELENA, in accordance with your 191310B amended by your 200014B (not to all). All ships carry Medical Officers and hold Admty. messages 182352, 191807 and 191815 (Com. D.W.A., 200020B to C. in C. W.A.)

My 191310 and A.M. 191807 passed to H.M. Ships concerned. PERIM E.T.A. position 17 at 1100B/21. ST. HELENA E.T.A. position 18 at 2359B/22. ZANZIBAR E.T.A. position 19 at 2000B/23.

2. In view of A.M. 191445, sailing of GOOD HOPE to position 16 has been cancelled. This position will be filled by a ship of 10th E.G. name to be reported later. (C. in C. W.A., 200053B to Admty, F.O.G.M.A., Com. 12th Fleet).

Patrols

Request you will sail 14th E.G. from Gladstone Dock at 1000/21 to patrol area between parallels 49° 30' and 50° 30' and Meridians 10° and 12° codeword on patrol "Sinbad".

(2) 8th E.G. is patrolling area between same parallels and between Meridians 08° and 10° Codeword "Earphone". (C. in C. W.A., 201150B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Operations

Norway

Loss of  
M.T.B. 715.

My 142354B. Lerwick arrival M.T.B. 713, M.T.B. 758 M.T.B. 762.

2. At 0220B/19th May while force was sheltering from weather in Fosnavaag a heavy explosion took place in engine room of M.T.B. 715. No fire followed but boat filled up from forward engine room bulkhead aft and sank by stern. Back is apparently broken. M.T.B. 709 is standing by.

3. Further signal will be made. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 200017B to C.S.1, C. in C. Rosyth, F.O. Norway N.O.I.C. Trondheim).

M.T.B. 709

*damaged.*

M.T.B. 715 completely submerged in 15 feet of water. Both sides and deck in region of engine room blown away. Both torpedoes still in tubes salvage work very difficult. Starboard side and after deck of M.T.B. 709 badly damaged. (M.T.B. 709, 200205B to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

M.B.B. 2002

My 191947. M.T.B. 718 reports that floating wreckage indicates violent explosion under bridge. No survivors or bodies found. (C. in C. Rosyth, 200924B to Admty).



War Diary

20.5.1945.  
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Intercepted  
German  
message.

Following has been intercepted. Request your remarks on the circumstances which made the transmission of this message possible. A copy has been sent to my representative at O.K.M. for investigation and report of any action which may have been taken by O.K.M. or O.K.W. Begins:-

"T.O.O. 1815. Intercepted 2048/19/May recd. on 4020 k/cs in P/L from Captain, U-boats west to B.D.U. (Ops.) U-boat Base Stavanger reports that the British Flag was hoisted on board U.3035 and U.2324 on 17 May and the entire crews disembarked. An instructional detachment of a few men is brought on board under guard to instruct British Submarine personnel daily. The remaining personnel including the Commanding Officer were interned in the Victoria Harbour Barracks and fetched as required for labour service in transport of paving stones under British supervision. All work performed at the double under the threat of the bayonet. Boat equipment, clocks, binoculars and so forth were removed by the British between 17 and 18 May and kept as personal souvenirs. As only a part of the crew is on board for a few hours at a time to instruct the British the Commanding Officer is no longer able to accept responsibility for all the fittings. Under these circumstances responsibility for the boats and their installations can no longer be accepted. Request a protest may be entered against the reported treatment of the men."

(A.N.C.X.F., 201535B to F.O. Norway, N.O.I.C. Stavanger).

Holmstrand  
(near  
Horten)  
U-boats,  
including  
U.874, moved  
to Oslo.

U-boats referred in F.O. Norway's 171909B now berthed in Oslo harbour disarmed and crews reduced. No ships drawings of Type 2A<sup>1</sup> located. Germans state all left behind Hamburg or Bremen. It is pointed out that U.874 mentioned in Admty's 101650 is included in U-boats at Oslo. Commanding Officer states ship arrived Horten from Kiel on 19th March and prepared to sail for Japan but did not do so, possibly due to one main motor being unserviceable.  
(N.O.I.C. Oslo, 201640 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No.409 Secret. Supplement A Scofor Part 4 Section C. Period ending 19/2100 May. Int. Planning proceeding for removal arms of German troops from dumps to Central Dumps under Allied control. Personnel Norwegian Units mentioned para. 56 or 58 orders Allied Military Joint Commander to Commander German Land Forces to be transferred custody Norwegian Police. Ops. "Doomsday" Convoy arriving. Personnel ship not yet arrived. Locations. 1 Border Regt. Smestad 809498.

(S.C.O.F.O.R., No T.O.O. to Admty. C. in C. Rosyth).

20.5.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Personnel and stores to Spitzbergen. A request has been received from the Norwegian High Command to send about 30 personnel and 125 tons of stores to Ploughshare.  
2. Stores are now being assembled at Greenock and will be ready for embarkation by 11th June.  
3. Estimate present stocks in Ploughshare will last until end June.  
4. Request you will plan this operation to be carried out as convenient.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 201534B to C. in C. H.F. Ploughshare).

Convoy J.W.67. Kola Inlet 20th May arrived J.W.67 at 1620B less White Sea and Kirkenes groups detached at M.T. at 0830B/20th. Admiralty pass to M.W.T. (S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 201625B to Admty).

Operations

Baltic.

Convoy "Crosskeys". Your 191204B. "Crosskeys" E.T.A. position H in Q.Z.H.429 is 2000B today Sunday. Request information regarding minimum width of channel and whether buoyed. Also whether coastal lights are exhibited.  
(SIDMOUTH, 200955B to Kristiansund South).

Minesweeping of Western Baltic. F.O. Denmark reports over 200 German minesweepers available in his command. Intend him to make full use of them on routes in Kattegat Belts and Sound which are not at present considered safe for normal traffic further signal will be made after consulting F.O. Denmark as to best machinery for operating this large number of ships. It will be desirable for him to have an experienced Captain M/S on his staff for dealing with German M/S organisation. If such an officer is available suggest he should be provisionally selected now to enable him to study problems involved.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 201105B to Admty).

Following is assessment of present mining situation. Width of searched water F.O.I.C. Kiel area of German West Baltic Channels either side of centre line extends as follows:  
Ways 1 and 3 and 8 for 200 metres.  
Ways 4 and 6 and 7 and 9 for 100 metres, either strip dangerous waters, centre of all Channels extends 50 metres each side including all buoys.  
Warships and Large vessels restricted to ways 1 and 8 must be preceded by Sweepers. Medium vessels ways 1 and 3 and 8 and 9. Small vessels all channels speed restriction 8 knots.  
Careful navigation essential on account of mines.  
No Channel considered safe for battleships.  
(F.O. Kiel, 201310B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Signals...

20.5.1945.  
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Baltic - Contd.

Signals to U-boats. From Captain Alleyne to A.N.C.X.F. Reference 18 1230. Investigation and interrogation discloses following facts.  
Germans claim deterioration in signal strength is due to season. Frequencies would normally have been changed before now. Unable to do so, due to loss of control of U-boats at sea.  
(2) Expected that Bergen transmitter will become operational tomorrow or soon after.  
(3) Signal to U-boats 182027 B.S.T. has been and is being transmitted at routing periods on usual H.F. Frequencies details of which can be supplied if required.  
(4) Only available transmitters at Flensburg are 3 mobile senders 2.5 K.W. and 1.20 K.W.  
(5) Believe only signal made to U-boats by O.K.M. since 18th May is 182027. Any further T.O.O. will be signalled to you if made.  
(6) Non-compliance with your 151715 by B.D.U. was due to failure of German signal distribution. Has now been complied with. (O.K.M. 201926B to B.N.S.C).

Kiel Situation. Situation at 2100 today Sunday. Landing remaining refugees delayed by inability of this congested area to receive them. Clearing and control of shipping proceeding. Check sweep of Kiel Canal in progress - disarming of ships in Canal being carried out with assistance, Commodore Hamburg. Scuttled U-boats fouling Tirpitzhafen, South Mole. Military demolitions in Kiel have commenced. Large area Schleswig to Kappeln in River Schlei containing large number of valuable small ships and craft still uncontrolled owing to shortage of Officers. (F.O. Kiel, 202346 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Destroyer desired for Flensburg. In view of 24th May being D-day for arrests could destroyer asked for in F.O. Kiel Command 191821 arrive Flensburg by that date. (Capt. Maund, O.K.M. 201601, and others, 201607 to A.N.C.X.F.)

War Diary20.5.1945  
SundayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

State of LEIPZIG. Beached Cruiser LEIPZIG has been damaged by ramming in No.3 boiler room port side. The whole side including main deck is open down to Keelson. Bulkhead fore and aft is intact, the after bulkhead being well shored. Of bottom tank Nos. 10 and 11 and No.9 port side superficial defects. Ship is not leaking and has made voyage from Gdynia to Sonderburg at a speed of 7 knots on draft Diesel. Ship has no main boiler, only 2 small auxiliary boilers. The ship has been temporarily strengthened by placing 2 18-inch 30 6-inch steel bars Pesaro over damage before leaving Gdynia. (B.S.O. Sonderburg 201100B to Cdre. Denmark)

Movements

BIRMINGHAM cruiser; ZEPHYR, ZEST, destroyers. Sailed BIRMINGHAM, ZEPHYR, ZEST to-day Sunday 20th May in accordance with my 181228. (Cdre. Denmark, 200605B to C. in C. H.F. C. in C. Rosyth) My position at 2200 - H speed 23 knots. (BIRMINGHAM, 202201B to C. in C. Rosyth)

PATROLLER, A/C carrier. E.T.A. Clyde boom 210700B. Have following passengers and stores. One Lieut. Cdr. R.N. 3rd Officer W.R.N.S. 13 women and 7 children, 20 youths, 6 C.P.O's, 10 P.O's 23 other ranks for various (?depots) including one for civil imprisonment, 2 for detention. 45 F.6 F. A/C, 1 Zero Mk.2 (MBKE) 50 tons general cargo for N.S.O. Request escort and transport for prisoners. (PATROLLER, 200945Z to F.O.I.C.'s Greenock, Glasgow)

ENTERPRISE, Cruiser. My 181203 and 192200 sailed 0830B/20th. (2) E.T.A. Gibraltar 0700Z Wednesday 23rd. (3) Total number of passengers embarked 38 Officers, 531 ratings. (4) On arrival ENTERPRISE requests berth at Buoy or at detached Mole not at South Mole or Main Wharf. (5) Requirements on arrival. (A) ENTERPRISE 750 tons oil fuel 150 tons fresh water and fresh fruit. (B) HAYDON and OAKLEY 250 tons oil fuel, fresh water, meat 400 lbs. bread 400 lbs. potatoes 500 lbs. fresh vegetables and fruit. Above amounts for each ship. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 200953B to F.O.G.M.A.)

U.2326. Arrived KEMPTHORNE and U.2326. (Com. D. W.A. 201145B to S.O.Loch Eriboll)

U.776. (1) Intend sailing at 0830/21 U.776 escorted by FLEETWOOD to Gravesend. (3) Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. Thames Gate 0500/22. (F.O.I.C.Portland, 201205B to F.O.I.C.London)

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20.5.1945  
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

APOLLO.  
minelayer.

Intend sailing APOLLO noon Tuesday May 22nd to Christiansund (S) and Oslo with Norwegian Naval Officers and ratings, now waiting passage for Norway.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 201305B to Admty)

U.294,  
U.427,  
U.481,  
U.997,  
U.716.

Intend to sail to Loch Alsh U.294, U.427, U.481, U.997, U.716 at 200B to-day Sunday escorted by ninth E.G. less H.M.C.S. ST. PIERRE E.T.A.0800/21.

(2) No torpedoes.

(S.O.Loch Eriboll, 201515B to N.O.I.C.Loch Alsh)

U.541,  
U.485.

S/M positions at 0800/26th and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) TIGJERHAAI and O.23 Escort FORT ROSE approaching the Hook on passage to Rotterdam.

(B) TANTALUS R/V with MIGNONETTE in 49.30' N.

07 W. at approx. 0800/26 and thence to Portsmouth.

(C) U.541 and U.485 escorted by WOLVERINE in position 51 degs. N. 06.30' W. to Londonderry. 12½ knots.

(C. of W. 201715B to A.I.G.25)

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SundayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

U-Boats 541 and 485. U.541 and U.485 will be ready to sail p.m. 22nd May in accordance with your 151647.  
(2) AVONVALE en route to Devonport arrives Gibraltar p.m. 21st May A.M. 131905 May refers.  
(3) Request approval to sail AVONVALE with 1 of Gib. escort force as escort for U-Boats subsequently proceeding in accordance with A.M. 131905.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 201329B to Admty, approd. 211108B)

Air/Sea Rescue Service. Request you will sail ships in accordance with A.M. 182352 to patrol in vicinity of positions 20 and 21.  
A.M. 191807 paras. 4 and 6 and A.M. 191815 also refer.  
(2) 20 to 25 Liberators and Fortresses each carrying crew of 12 will be flying daily on each route.  
(D.O.D.(H), 201705B to F.O.G.M.A. etc.)  
Being in all respects ready for War slip at 0800B/21st and proceed to position 20 35 degs. 20' N. 16 degs. 10' W.  
(2) Route is through Northern half of strait to (X) 35 degs. 59.05 degs. 10' W. thence (20) 35 degs. 20' N. 16 degs. 10' W.  
(3) S. of A. 12 knots.  
(4) On arrival position 20 act in accordance with A.M. 182352B and A.M. 191807B A.M. 201705B being passed.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 202305B to WELLINGTON)

B.Y.M.S. Destination of B.Y.M.S. 2257 and B.Y.M.S. 2258 is Dartmouth, England. F.O.C.W.Afs. 171129 not to all refers.  
(D.M.S. 201815B to F.O.G.M.A.)

U.963 scuttled. At 0300B/20th distress signal was observed off Nazare 039 degs. 36' N. 009 degs. 04' W. Life-boat put out and collected crew 47 in number of U-Boat 963 from rubber boat. S/M reported sunk in 40 fathoms. Crew are being taken to Peniche under care of Portuguese Naval authorities. U.S.A. Naval Attache in vicinity and is making further enquiries.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 201830B and 211832B to Admty.)  
B.B.C. reports U.963 has scuttled off Portuguese coast. Request confirmation and details.  
(D.D.I.C. 202135B to N.A.Lisbon)

Air/Sea Rescue Service. When KNOXVILLE relieved direct her return to U.S. reporting by despatch to Comdeslant for duty. Comdeslant assign her NYD availability equipping as weather ship. New subject Admty. 19 18 07 B (Six) Station 21 requires manning now. Station 20 not mentioned.  
(C. in C. Lant, 201843Z to Connaveu)

20.5.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Flank Force (abolished) Flank Force has now been abolished. The French cruisers (?and) destroyers comprising this force have now reverted to the operational control of Almed. Admiral Jaugard retains his appointment as Admiral Commanding 4th French cruiser squadron. (C. in C. Med., 201120B to Med. Stn.)

Repatriation Shipping. Admiral Archer, 201121B to D. of S.T. See Lion Copy.

Casualty figures, Italy. A.F.H.Q. 201207B to W.O. See Lion Copy.

Levant. Trouble in. (1) 18th May N.T.R.  
(2) 19th May. Damascus minor disorders. Reported several injuries caused by grenades thrown by French. Two French trucks burnt out.  
(3) 20th May to 1030 hours. Syria. Damascus students demonstration. Town closed. Tripoli, Homs towns closed quiet so far. Deir es Zor town open quiet. Soueida town open.  
(4) Aleppo. Early 20th May small student demonstration stoned French Prevote Building. Guard and inmates remained calm. Later larger demonstrations again attacked Prevote Building. Reported French guard fired, 3 wounded. Demonstrations still proceeding 1100 hours.  
(5) Lebanon. Beirut town, closed quiet so far.  
(6) JEANNE D'ARC leaving 21st May. Unconfirmed reports she will take away 170 to 270 tps. (C. in C. M.E., 201325C to W.O.)

ILEX destroyer. Your 311303 Jan. ILEX is to be placed in Reserve (Category C) at Malta. (Vice Controller, 201736B to C. in C. Med.)

Communications economies. Pass to N.C.S.Os. and R.Os. concerned. To effect economies in communications arrangements have been made between Admiralty and Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) to exchange summaries of movements of merchant ships in their respective Atlantic areas either side of the "Chop" line.  
(2) As from today originators of Route signals and Vesca arrivals and departures of ships whose voyages lie wholly within the British area of control east of the Atlantic "Chop" Line are to exclude Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) (indicator HOYLE) from addressees of these signals.  
(3) Signals concerning merchant ships which cross the Atlantic "Chop" Line are to be addressed to Bank Block, Admty., Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) and other appropriate British and U.S. addressees as at present.  
(4) N.C.S.I. 85 will be amended accordingly. (D.T.D., 201810B to C. in C. Med., etc.) *See 181120 B JUNE*

/Levant ...

SECRET

519A  
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.)

*Repatriation Shipping*

201121B/May

From: Admiral Archer, Moscow.

Date: 20.5.45.

Recd: 1821.

RUSSIAN (X) BY W.T.

To : D. of S.T.,  
INFO: C. in C. Mediterranean, P.S.T.O. Mediterranean.  
Allied Forces H.Q., S.H.A.E.F. Main, G-4 (Mov/TN)  
Troopers (QM(8)).

IMPORTANT

1. Your 172320, para. 1. Other Nationals were available Odessa, but ARAWA was sailed in accordance with P.S.T.O. Med.'s 011030 with British and Americans only. Similar restriction was understood for STAFFORDSHIRE vide P.S.T.O. Med.'s 031050.
2. Following intended programme at Odessa :-
  - (A) 21 May. MONOWAI for Marseilles with 1069 Dutch and 500 French.
  - (B) 23 May. ARAWA for Naples with 200 British and United States, thence Marseilles with 593 Belgians 900 French. P.S.T.O. Med.'s 181645 not received in time to embark British and United States in MONOWAI.
  - (C) 23/24 May. STAFFORDSHIRE for Port Said with 4 Indians and 2000 French. This is being done in view of grave situation at Odessa. French mission at Moscow assure me reception facilities will be made.
  - (D) 25 May. GREGASSIA for Port Said with 2500 French. See clause (C) above.
  - (E) 26 May. ASCANIUS, Marseilles with 1950 French.
  - (F) 6 June. C.P. TOURANE for Marseilles with 1400 French.
  - (G) 7 June. EMPIRE PRIDE for Marseilles with 2350 French.
  - (H) 8 June. MONOWAI for Marseilles with 1600 French.
3. Any British and United States available will be embarked for Naples in selected ships in above programme.

40 20000000

P.T.O.



- 2 -

4. Various signals from various authorities indicated that HIGHLAND MONARCH and TAMAROA would be available. I have not received any cancellation of their sailing to Odessa.

5. Above programme will lift total approximately 15000. For present total in Odessa, see my M.W.L. 73029 (3028) of 18 May, but this may be reduced after French pressure on Soviet Authorities. French camp is overcrowded and insanitary, and Russians have been asked :-

(A) To stop sending French to Odessa,

(B) Remove surplus from Odessa.

6. I have asked Russians to stop sending British United States prisoners of war to Odessa who cannot arrive there by end of May, but see B.B.M.M.'s R.A.C. 1356/4640 of 18 May, not to all, regarding movement of British from Balkans. See also Moscow telegram 1908 of 17th May to Foreign Office regarding repatriation of French and other Nationals.

7. P.S.T.O. Med.'s signals quoted, not to all. All numbers given for lifts are approximate. (Admiralty pass. all addressees, Negative S.H. ... F.P. (Main)).

201121B

Advance copy Ops. O.D. Plot.

Sailing of STAFFORDSHIRE.

A.C.N.S. (F)  
 J.W.R.  
 Ops. (2)  
 Plot. (2)  
 O.D. (6)  
 C.O.D. (Mov) (4)  
 O.I.C. (2)  
 D.T.D. (4)  
 D.T.D. (C)  
 D. of S.T. (15)  
 M. (10)  
 Mails.  
 D. of S. (3)  
 D.S.O.  
 W.D.  
 U.S.N. (3)

# SECRET

Med  
5198  
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.)

*Casualty figures*

201207B/May

From. A.F.H.Q.

Date:- 21.5.45.

Recd:- 0100

## CIPHER TELEGRAM.

To. War Office, AGWAR Washington.  
Info A.N.P.B.

FX 78983 cipher 20th April.

Cite FHGDS 319383 Signed Alexander.

Administrative summary No 62 for week ending 6 May.

1. Casualty figures cumulative to 16 May.

Formation            X & Z killed and missing            Y wounded.

Eight Army		
British & Dominion.	22,648	60,338
Polish	2,338	8,270
Italian	861	2,135
Greek	87	280
Total Eight Army	25,934	71,023
Fifth Army - US	32,675,	78,200
British & Dominion.	17,515	30,466
French	6,824	20,848
Italian	888	820
Brazilian	516	1,743
Total Fifth Army	X & Z 58,338	132,080

MAAF:

<u>Formation</u>	<u>X Killed</u>	<u>Y Wounded</u>	<u>Z Missing</u>
AAF MTC.	3,962	3,479	14,136
RAF	1,125	541	1,237
Dominion	547	345	774
Other Allied	39	34	135
Total MAAF	5,673	4,399	16,282
Greekmil:	no change.		

2. Prisoners of War (admitted into Army cages or evacuated through medical channels): Eighth Army: German and Austrian 26,372. Italian 2,609. Russian 8,142. Miscellaneous 3,584. Unclassified 33,873 total 10 April-16 May 1945 74,580. Fifth Army: German and Austrian 146,797. Italian 14,324. Russian 13,929. Miscellaneous 3,368 unclassified 38,139. Total 10 April-16 May 1945 216,557. Cumulative grand total from 3 September 1943 436,063.

3. Surrendered enemy personnel (in Initial or final concentration areas): Eighth Army; unclassified 111,000.

Fifth Army: Germans 183,734. Italians 2,495. Others 3,642. Total Fifth Army 189,871.

4. General administrative position unchanged. Maintenance in forward areas northeast Italy and Austria is making maximum demands on available road transport, air lift and landing craft.

5. Details regarding maintenance as follows: (A) most forward railheads in operation: no change. (B) further rail routes in North-Italy now rpt now open include: Genoa-Alessandria-Vercelli-Milan-St Gothard tunnel. Genoa-Alessandria-Vercelli-Domodossola. Turin-Milan-Brescia. (C) most forward pol pipeheads in operation: Eighth Army: no rpt no change. Fifth Army: Modena-4 inch line, Bologna 2-4 inch lines. (D) forward port daily discharges for week ending 12 May 1945 averaged as follows: Ancona 3,110 TPD, Leghorn 4,110 TPD. Discharge at Genoa and Trieste proceeding by landing craft. C. 6. (Teleggrams).

201207B

Distribution by M.O. 5.

Received in War Registry 23 0900 circulated by War Office to War Office Depts and War Registry, Admiralty A.M.C.S. Air Ministry Defence Map Room.

1st Lord.	U.W.R.	Advance copy sent to Ops, O.I.C.
1st S.L. (3)	Ops. (2)	
D.F.S.L.	Plot	
5th S.L.	O.D. (6)	
V.C.N.S.	O.I.C. (3)	C.N.I.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.N.I. (4)	C.C.L.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)	M. (2)	W.D.

20.5.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Levant  
Sitrep.

To 1600 hours 20th May.

One. All shops and places of entertainment closed in all big towns Syria and Lebanon. Demonstrations in most places but no serious trouble except Aleppo.

Two. Aleppo. Disturbances reported by GO/14176 of 20th May not merely student affairs, some shooting and casualties. First report casualties. Killed 1 French offr. 1 Senegalese O.R. 1 Syrian Gendarme, 2 civilians. Wounded 8 unspecified nil 12 civilians. Town now quiet. French patrolling streets with two armed cars and two carriers.  
(C. in C. M.E., 201935C to W.O.)

521

20.5.1945

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force 69, Intend to maintain a force of 1 cruiser and up  
etc. to 3 sloops in Andaman Sea north of lat. 010° N.  
Force No. 69 is allocated to this force.  
(2) Object to attack shipping A. between  
Tenasserim coast and Andaman Is. B. On  
Tenasserim coast between lat. 010° N. and 015° N.  
(3) Cruiser details will be in command of Force 69 which will  
be under operational control of C. in C. E. I.  
(4) Following ships are to form Force 69 now. PHOEBE, H.M.I. Ships  
SUTLEJ; CAUVERY; CEYLON will replace PHOEBE later.  
(5) Codeword for operation is contained in my 200603.  
(C. in C. E. I., 200551Z to Admty.)  
Codeword for operation in my 200551 is "Adoption". *Cancelled 1512107*  
(C. in C. E. I., 200603Z to Admty.)

Operation "Dukedom" completed my 171001 refers.  
"Dukedom" Force 61 and 70 are to return Ceylon.  
completed. (2) PHOEBE and ?CEYLON carrying out operation  
"Adoption" as in my 200551.  
(3) Force number 5, 62 and 67 lapse now,  
numbers 61 and 70 lapse 1200 F.G. 22nd May.  
(4) Signals quoted not to all.  
(C. in C. E. I. S. 200619 Z to Admty.)

Movement. Arrived French ship LE TRIOMPHANT L.S.T. 331  
(S.O.) 371, 373.  
(Com. Aden 201519Z to Admty.)

20.5.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

BEACHY HEAD  
 Escort  
 Maintenance Ship.

BEACHY HEAD departed <sup>Esquimalt.</sup> ~~ESQUIMALT~~ 0200Z/20th May for San Francisco. Route in accordance with S.O. B.D.I. P.C. 019-128 of 16th May and C.O.P.C. S. 161814Z. S.O.A. 10 knots. E.T.A. San Francisco 1300Z/23rd May.  
 (N.O.I.C. Esquimalt 200238Z to N.S.H.Q.)

Return of escort groups. Arrangements have been made to sail E.G. 25 and E.G. 26 to Canada. C. in C. W.A's 161638 and C. in C. Portsmouth's 171452 refer.  
 (2) A further signal regarding the return of remaining R.C.N. escort vessels including groups 9 and 16 will be made as soon as the U-Boat situation is clarified. C.N.M.O's 141330 and N.S.H.Q's 182112 not to all refer.  
 (A.C.N.S.(H) 201023B.)

U/B dis-positions.

1200Z/20th May part A. No fresh information on 2 or 3 that may be within 400 miles south or east of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland part B nil.  
 (N.S.H.Q., 201334Z to S. & A. North.)  
 Paras. A and B. Nothing new since Cominch 191400Z. Enemy U-Boat estimate 1200Z/20.  
 (Cominch 201456Z.)

Escort.

Ships addressed H.M.C.S. ANNAN (S.O.) leave patrol as necessary to R/V Halifax section C.U.71. Two ships ATHLONE CASTLE and RANCHI off Chebucto Head at 1115Z/21st May then at S.O.A. 14 knots and via Q.J.A. 296 proceed escorting direct to junction C.U. 71 in position TE. 41.03 N. 58.35 W. at 1200Z/22nd.  
 (2) C.U. 71 escort T.G. 61.7, S.C.O. in U.S.S. PETTIT routed in part through etc. Speed 14 knots.  
 (C. in C. C.N.A., 201540Z to ANNAN, LOCH MORLICH, LOCH ACHANALT.)

Announcement re War v. Japan.

Tomorrow 21st May, 1945, the Minister will make a public announcement on the Navy's participation in the war against Japan. Existing policy in this regard will not be altered by the announcement.  
 (2) Copies of the Minister's official statement are being air mailed to the Commands for General Promulgation.  
 (N.S.H.Q., 201910Z to all S.Os. R.C.N. ships, etc.)

20.5.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

Equipment for aircraft B.P.F. C. in C. B.P.F's 010041. Request earliest possible action to send out stocks of general American and British equipment and spares, and stocks of type spares and equipment for Corsair IV, and type equipment and spares for Barracudas.

(2) Unlikely that normal methods of despatch will enable these stores and spares to be available for light fleet carriers by the time they are required.

(3) Request special fast means of transport may be provided, using air transport if necessary.

(4) Unless these items reach Sydney very quickly the present unsatisfactory air store situation will be much aggravated when the C.V.Ls. arrive.

(V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 200148Z to Admty.)

C. in C.Pac. Blue Summary 19th. Ryukyus. No significant change in front lines on Okinawa. Estimated enemy dead as of 182400/1 (-9) 51668. LONGSHAW (DD.559) lost to enemy shore fire on 18th after grounding on reef S.W. of Naha Airstrip while engaged in fire support. 30 to 35 enemy planes attacked in 10 raids from N.E. N.W. and W. from dusk to 2330 on 18th. 9 enemy aircraft splashed by cap. 5 shot down by ships A.A. 1 suicider crashed L.S.T. 808 and 1 missing Sims (A.P.D.50) splashed close aboard for total of 16 enemy aircraft destroyed. 339 ground support sorties flown by T.F. 58 and T.G. 52.1 on 18th. T.A.F. struck Sakishima Gunto and sent night Hecklers to Sakishima and Kyushu. From 16 through 18 May T.F. 58 planes attacked Minami Yaku Takara Tukuno Kikai Gaja and Amami Shima installations. Sank 15 small craft and destroyed 5 aircraft on the ground. Sejches Empire Area. F.A.W. 1 planes sank 1 med. A.O. 1 small A.K. south of Korea. F.A.W. 18 planes sank 1 S.D. probably sank 1 S.C. 1 S.D. 3 fishing boats south of Hammamatsu and left 1 S.D. sinking of Shiono Misami. Empire. 266 B.29s bombed Hammamatsu by radar from 24,000 feet in daylight raid. 11 other B.29s bombed targets of opportunity. No enemy aircraft opposition. Flak heavy meagre and inaccurate. 3 B.29s lost. On night 18th 30 B.29s laid 282 mines in Shimonoseki Straits and Wakasawan S.W.P.A. 18th. 87 B.24s bombed Tainan and Taichu aerodromes in Formosa and 22 B.25s attacked communication facilities. Search planes sank 1 med. A.K. 6 small A.K. and probably sank 3 med. A.K. 1 small A.K. north of Formosa and along the China coast. Usual support of ground operations. Submarines. Cap plane north of Okinawa straffed surfaced submarine. 2 D.E. investigating submarine reported by army plane near Wotje. 35 Sorties Palau Chiuhi Jima. (C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 200503 to all interested in Combat Reports, etc.)

U.183. Besuges German Prisoner Warrant Officer Navigator positively identified his submarine as U.183. Although extremely security minded veracity seems established by answers to other questions. Urdis. 142032 action to Comsubpac. refers. Submarine sank in matter of seconds. C.O. Fritz Schneewind transferring prisoner direct to Com. 7th Fleet. (Comsubs. 7th Fleet 200543 to Cominch.)

/Submarines...

524

20.5.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia - Contd.

Submarines  
B.P.F.

Paras. 3, 4 and 5 of my 020234 represent the stated views of Comsub. 7th Fleet to whom all British submarines have been assigned by C. in C. Pac.

(2) I have no reason to suppose that his policy differs in any way from that of his immediate superior C. in C. Pac.

(C. in C. Pac., 200759Z to Admt.)

KINGSMILL  
H.Q. ship.

Your 080803 May. Further investigation shows that KINGSMILL will not be entirely satisfactory because:-

A. accommodation is less suitable than that of an ordinary CAPTAIN class frigate still less so than of a RIVER class frigate.

B. Communications are only superior to those of an ordinary frigate in respect of short range V.H/F.

C. Even if ship can be taken in hand now it is unlikely that she could leave U.K. before August.

(2) In view of the above and the maintenance difficulties connected with KINGSMILL, it is intended to detail for this a RIVER class frigate, which with suitably adjusted communication complement, will leave U.K. in June or early July.

(V.C.N.S., 202317B to C. in C. B.P.F.) *See 121320 B June.*

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B surrender

A. There are no surrendered U-Boats at sea, U.234 arrived Portsmouth Maine 1455B/19th and E.G. 9 with 15 U-Boats arrived Loch Eriboll 1915B/19th May.

B. About eight between 49° N. and 60° N. east of 15° W.  
(D.D.I.C. 201020B to A.I.G., Cominch.)



21.5.1945.  
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. (a) A second reduction of 10% of the original strength of escort vessels (following that of May 15th) is now to be effected.  
(b) DIADEM and ORIBI have sailed to show the Flag in Copenhagen; WOLFHOUND and WESTMINSTER have arrived at Stavanger.

North Sea.

2. (a) Two mines were detonated in Heligoland Bight.  
(b) Nearly 50,000 tons of food and 11,000 tons of coal have been turned over to the Dutch authorities.

Western Approaches.

3. Third, Fifteenth, and Twentythird Escort Groups have been disbanded.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Movement

4. JEANNE D'ARC (French cruiser) sailed from Beirut.

East Indies

Force W

5. Flag Officer Force W and operational staff have moved to Delhi. (p. 539)

Submarine operations.

6. (a) S/M CLYDE on her 7th Far East patrol reports that on the 15th May in the vicinity of Chance Island she sank by gunfire one 10 ton junk and carried out a special operation successfully.  
(b) S/M STATESMAN on her 7th Far East Patrol covered operations "Dracula" and "Dukedom" in vicinity of the one fathom bank, reported Japanese cruiser of the Nachi class on the 10th and 12th May. Sank 3 native craft totalling 70 tons. Carried out a special operation successfully.

/Movement...

21.5.1945.  
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

Movement

7. QUEEN ELIZABETH (B.S.3), CUMBERLAND (C.S.5), HUNTER and 7 destroyers in company arrived Trincomalee from operations off the Andaman Islands.

Far East & Australia

China

8. U.S. aircraft damaged four loaded junks off N. Hainan and destroyed one small coaster and damaged two others N.E. of Foochow - sank a freighter off Hangchow.

Japan

9 (a) Further strikes were made by T.F.57 (B.P.F.) on Sakishima Gunto yesterday and today. Owing to fog yesterday only one strike took place at Hirara. Today all the airfields were left unserviceable and fires were started in Hirara town and port, radio stations, barracks, barges were all damaged or left on fire.  
(b) During last night 30 American aircraft mined the Shinonoseki Straits and Waksaswan.

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War Diary21.5.1945  
MondayHOME COMMANDSPolicyReduction  
of Escort  
Vessels.

A.M.150200.

A further reduction of 10% of the original strength of all escort vessels, corvettes and above, can now be effected in Home Commands.

(2) Following considerations should govern selection of ships for release:

- (a) 10% of R.C.N. ships should be included;
- (b) R.N. ships should be those due to pay off into reserve;
- (c) As far as possible ships should be equally divided between manning depots.

(3) Request you will release ships accordingly reporting names of ships selected in accordance with A.M. 180855 April para. 6. (D.O.D.(H), 210008B to Cs. in C.W.A. Nore, Plymouth, Portsmouth.)

Shewing the  
Flag in  
Continental  
Ports.

C. in C.H.F. has agreed to your retaining ZEALOUS and ZODIAC until their relief by three further Destroyers. Relief may overlap if necessary. Your 200103 not to all.

(2) ZEALOUS or ZODIAC should be sailed to arrive Flensburg by 24th May. Captain Maund at O.K.M. 201601 not to all refers.

(3) Destroyers while in your command may visit ports at your discretion keeping A.N.C.X.F. and C. in C.H.F. informed.

(4) N.O.I.C. Flushing pass to Captain Maund.

(A.N.C.X:F., 211300B to F.O. Kiel.)

C. in C.H.F.'s 201510. DIADEM and ORIBI sailed. *(for Copenhagen)*  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 211557 to C.S.10.)

Intend to sail VIVACIOUS at 1000 Wednesday 23rd to Stavanger by Q.Z.S.738 to position H, thence in accordance with my 191652 E.T.A. Feinstein 1600 Thursday 24th.

(2) Ship will disembark personnel at Stavanger then proceed to relieve WOOLSTON at Bergen.

(3) N.O.I.C. Bergen is requested to sail WOOLSTON to Rosyth for boiler cleaning on relief.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 211737 to N.O.I.Cs. Bergen, Stavanger.)

Arrived 1430 WOLFHOUD, WESTMINSTER.

(N.O.I.C. Stavanger, 212209B to Admty., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O. Norway.)

OperationsNorth SeaMinesweeping  
in the Bight

Daily progress report of 10th M/S Flotilla. Area P.10 to P.13 between  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cables and 10 cables northeast of centre line received for actuation.

(2) Detonated one blue magnetic  $339^\circ$  P.13 11 cables and one red magnetic  $079\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  P.10 19 cables.  
(S.O. M.S.F.10, 210009B to C. in C. Nore.)

It is understood that 147 British Overlap ground mines were laid unsterilized in the Heligoland Bight area of A.M. Q.Z.X.1194 between October, 1943 and March 1944.

(2) There is at present no method of sweeping these mines though they can be rendered temporarily passive by method described in article 1034 and 1035 of (C.B.) 4063 (42).

(3) Allowing for errors in minelaying it is probable that about 10 of these mines lie in our searched channels in the area and this number will increase as searched channels are widened and new searched channels instituted.

/(4)...

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War Diary21.5.1945  
MondayHOME COMMANDOperationsPolicy

Minesweeping in the Bight (Contd.) (4) It is necessary for German or British M/Sweepers to protect in accordance with paragraph 2 all traffic sailing in this area where the depth of water is insufficient to provide safety until these mines can be considered inert due to exhaustion of their batteries which is understood to be at least 2 years after date of laying or until a method of sweeping them has been devised and used.

(5) The necessity for discovering a method of sweeping these mines is obvious.

(C. in C. Nore, 211300B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Situation  
in Holland

Sitrep.

(a) Evacuation of German navy in German naval craft commences from Den Helder to Wilhelmshaven 22nd May.

(b) Evacuation of German Army commences 25th May Navy assisting with L.C.Ts. from Den Helder to Harlingen.

(c) Rotterdam. Work starts shortly on widening channel past blockships at Maasluis. Vessels can now pass at one to two hours and six to nine hours after high water.

(d) IJmuiden. Work starts shortly on widening channel past blockships at harbour entrances on level of Nordzee Kanaal now Nap minus 40.

(e) Amsterdam. Abundant harbour facilities available when navigable channel is established past blockships. Ford and Zaandam Harbour west of blockships intact.

(f) Minesweeping. N.F. Seven to Hook nearly completed Hook to IJmuiden swept for moored mines ground M. sweeping incomplete. IJmuiden to Den Helder swept for moored mines but not ground mines. Approaches to Hook and New Waterway to Rotterdam swept. Rotterdam harbour not yet completed. IJmuiden approaches and harbour sweeping in progress. Beveland Canal Dordschetil Nieuwe Mercede progress slow.

(Relief.) 1. Cumulative total gross tonnages handed over to Dutch authorities. Food 46,700 tons coal 11,000 tons Pol, 1840 tons Med. stores 37 tons soap 110 tons detailed distribution to Dutch people continues and soap rations now being issued.

(2) Detailed survey at Leiden shows starvation situation worse than originally thought. Med. feeding units have situation under control.

(3) New typhoid outbreak details not yet available.

(4) All preloaded barges soaps and coal now moving into B.2 area. Intention now continue loading barges at Hertogenbosch but cease loading at Oysterwout and Nijmegen.

(5) Dutch morale high.

(F.O.I.C. Holland, 211017B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Situation report Kornwerder Sand. Large lock heavily damaged. Small lock workable but empty barges sunk inside. North entrance of bridge destroyed. South entrance damaged, 1700 tons barge half loaded with ballast. North row sliding valves in drainage sluice blocked. 50 ton floating crane needed to lift these and secure in open position to enable flow of south row to drain water lowering Ysselmeer water level.

(F.O. Holland, 211514B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/British...

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War Diary21.5.1945  
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth SeaBritish  
Ambassador  
to  
Rotterdam ✓

Your 202030B\* being passed to A/S Chatham, GARTH detailed.

(2) A/S Chatham is requested to arrange berth for GARTH in short reach for night 24/25.

(3) To facilitate quick departure on 25th May, suggest heavy baggage be sent to Chatham and embarked p.m. 24th May.

(C. in C. Nore, 211038B to Admty.)

\* Requesting destroyer to convey British Ambassador to the Netherlands from Chatham to Rotterdam.

U.287

Commodore Hamburg ✓ 191720 and my 191736 neither to all.

Two members of crew of U.287 are in our hands having been disembarked night 14th/15th May off Brunsbüttel together with 4 others. U-boat had received signal war was over and intended proceed Kiel via Canal but decided otherwise when he found us at Brunsbüttel.

(2) Have O.K.M. any information?

(A.N.C.X.F. 211315 to O.K.M. for Capt. Maund.)

U.1110

Your 191231 reference German U-boat 1110 E.T.D.

Sylt 1100 Tuesday 22nd May. E.T.A. German buoy number 10 2300, speed 15 German knots C.O. request pilotage.

(N.O.I.C. Sylt, 211535B to F.O. W. Germany.)

✓ Minesweeping  
to Hamburg

Operation "Dropkick".

(1) Channel widening from boom to P.15 buoy either modified L. Total actuation 8: 3 ships L AA sweep Cuxhaven to Huasco. One S.A. sweep tanker to Brunsbüttelkoog. 2 pairs special

combined L AA and modified L sweep for special assembly mines from boom to number 2 buoy searched area width 1 cable. This sweep will be hereafter referred to as "Lamod."

Sweep ahead of ADVENTURE. 2,3,4: Nil.

(Capt. M/S Force C., 211907B to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation "Dropkick". Combined progress report of 10th and 18th M/S Flotilla.

(1) 18th M/S Flotilla swept width 3 cables either side A line 6½ cables N.E. centre line P.13 to P.15.

(2) Actuators to S.W. one actuation to N.E. of (corrupt gp).

(3) 6. (4) 6.

(5) Sea and visibility conditions unfavourable for sweeping.

ADVENTURE swept in by COCKATRICE with (?type) C. 10th M/S Flotilla with ONYX and danlayers at Cuxhaven for fuel and maintenance. 1 drifting GX mine sunk 2 miles S.E. P.13 buoy. (S.O.M.S.F.18, 211931B to C. in C. Nore.)

/De militarisation...

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21.5.1945  
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

De-  
militarisation of Heligoland Following are my proposals for Heligoland with a view to reduce guarding and other commitments.  
(a) Demilitarise immediately.  
(b) Evacuate completely unless required by army as concentration area.  
(c) Institute periodical visits by coastal craft.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 211940B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Situation Report Rotterdam. (Open only for urgent shipping). Report on ship repair facilities. Some damage to ship yards. Three floating docks 14,000, 8,000, 4,500 tons in working order. Also graving dock 650 feet by 29 feet draught and 1 slipway 1,500 tons. No electric power due to coal shortage. 400 shipyard machines removed by Germans. Main part of obstruction at Maas Sluis estimated can be removed in about 1 month until when passage of ships over 2000 tons is difficult.  
Amsterdam. (Not open to shipping). Report on ship repair facilities. Moderate damage to shipyards. Three floating docks 7,500, 4,000 3,000 tons in working order. No electric power due to coal shortage.  
IJmuiden. (not open to shipping). Report shows ship repair facilities practically nil. Some covered ships available.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 212045B to Admty.) (or shops)

Minesweeping of East Schelde Sweeping report for today Monday.  
(a) 2 M.M.S. Swept LL/SA/HG 4 actuations for ZIJPE to Dintelsas.  
(b) 2 B.Y.M.S. completed 8 actuations SA/HG of Channel from Dintelsas to Willemstorp.  
(c) All sweeps negative results.  
(d) B.Y.M.S. 2032 refoated and steamed to Wemeldinge no apparent damage suffered.  
(Com. M/S E. Schelde, 212059B to F.O. Holland.)

German merchantmen to U.K. Captured ships from Hamburg with British runner crews should be sailed to Humber when ready.  
(2) Nominal list of further ships for which runner crews are required is awaited.  
(3) Further instructions will be issued as regards the use of German crews. Your 201552 not to all refers.  
(D.T.D. 212147B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

West Coast France

German minesweepers ex Channel Is. to Brest (Contd.) Intend to sail at 1800B/21st F.S. LE FORTUNE (S.O.) and NARCISSUS escorting ex-German Minesweepers VAN RONZELEN, OSTFRIESLAND, ANNA BUSSE, FRIJSIA, ZIETEN and TEUTONIA to Brest. Ex-German Minesweepers are manned by German crews.

/(2)...

21.5.1945  
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France

German minesweepers ex Channel Is. to Brest (Contd.)

(2) Routed by Q.Z.S.697 thence through (F) 48° 33' 40" N. 05° 23' 00" W. and by Q.Z.S.617 to destination. Speed 8.5 knots. E.T.A. 1600B/22nd

(4) On completion of escort duties PREMARDEUX is requested to sail NARCISSUS by reverse route to Plymouth escorting any M.Vs. which may be ready to sail.

(5) LE FORTUNE take NARCISSUS under his orders, R/V in Sound at 1745B/21 with vessels listed in paragraph (1) and pass gate as requisite to comply.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211139B to C.T.F.122, LE FORTUNE, NARCISSUS) Sailed LE FORTUNE and NARCISSUS escorting 6 Ex-German minesweepers. My 211139 refers.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211833B to C.T.F.122.)

Operations

Western Approaches

- ✓ E.Gs. 25 and 26 for Canada Intend to sail E.G.25 (5 ships) to Greenock p.m. 23rd May and E.G.26 (2 ships) to Greenock p.m. 24th May. E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0900B 24th and 0900B/25th respectively. Both groups for onward routing to Canada after embarking service personnel. Admiralty's 201023B May and C.N.M.O.'s 181834B May refer. (Com. D.W.A., 211207B to C. in C.W.A., Admty.)
- ✓ T.G.120.1 (E.G.32) for U.S.A. Intend to sail Task Group 120.1 (escort Group 32) from Londonderry to U.S.A. p.m. 24th May. Destination and routing instructions are requested (Com. D.W.A., 211205B to Com. 12th Fleet, C. in C. W.A.)
- When ready on or about 24th May request you sail Comcordiv. 66 in WILLIAM T. POWELL with SPANGENBERG. ALEXANDER J. LUKE and ROBERT I. PAYNE to United States as routed by Admiralty. Cinclant furnish desired destination. Maximum speed PAYNE 18 knots C.T.G.120.1 Dis. 201437 not to all refers. Upon departure Task Group 120.1 dissolved. Comcordiv. 66 report Cinclant for duty. (Com. 12th Fleet, 211523 to F.O.I.C. N.I.)
- ✓ E.Gs. 3, 15 and 23. E.G.3, E.G.15, and E.G.23 are disbanded. (C. in C.W.A., 212222B to Com. D.W.A.)
- ✓ E.G.9 *disbanding 25/5.* N.S.H.Q's. 181212 Admiralty's 210008. (1) Intend ST. PIERRE, CAPE BRETON, CARPLACE to sail for Canada in company about May 25th. (2) C.N.M.Os. 101750. LOCH ALVIE, MONNOW, NENE will be ready for return to R.N. May 25th. (3) Intend MATANE to take the place of CARPLACE in E.G.16. (4) These arrangements entail disbanding E.G.9 on May 25th. (C. in C.W.A., 212226B to Admty.)

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21.5.1945  
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway✓ U-boats  
at  
StavangerP.R.U. shows 10 U-boats in Stavanger 1200B/20th May, including 4 500 tonners. Is this figure for 500 tonners correct? if so please report identification numbers. [Reply: page 554]  
(D.D.I.C., 211719B to N.O.I.C. Stavanger.)✓ BERWICK  
at  
TrondheimYour 201037 not to F.O. Norway. In order to avoid unnecessary depletion of stocks at Trondhejm intend to sail from Trondhjem on 24th. 1500 tons of fuel oil (short?) and to reduce stocks of provisions to 2 months, fresh provisions to 1 week.  
(BERWICK, 211831B to C. in C. H.F.)OperationsNorthern Waters✓ Convoy  
R.A.67

From N.C.S.O.

(1) Intend to sail for Clyde at 1900B 23rd Kola portion of R.A.67 to R/V with white sea portion at M.T. repeat M.T.

(2) Speed  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots.

(3) Route red as in C. in C. H.F. 051243B and amended by 091616B.

(4) Reference positions same as ocean route.

(6) Recoding Table S.P.2406 (944) S.P.2272 (36) and (37).

(7) British ships SAMARITAN, LAURELWOOD (T), RATHLIN, EMPIRE GARRICK (T), total 4 ships.

American Ships BENJAMIN HILL, PARK BENJAMIN, OWEN WISTER, LINN BOYD, ALBERT C. RITCHIE, WOODBRIDGE N. FERRIS, JOSUAH THOMAS, AUGUST BELMONT, STEVENSON TAYLOR. Total 9 ships. Norwegian

Ships KRONPRINSEN, EGERO (T). Total 2 ships.

Admiralty pass to addressees outside Russia. = 15 ships.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 211345B to Admty.)

P/R of  
BLACK WATCHDuring passage of R.A.67 intend aircraft from QUEEN should carry out P/R of the wreck of BLACK WATCH at Kilbotn.  
(D.17, 211843B to C. in C.H.F.)OperationsBaltic

U.3008

U.3008 arrived Kiel p.m. today Monday.  
(F.O. Kiel, 212301B to Admty.)



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War Diary21.5.1945  
MondayHOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects

PROMPT minesweeper PROMPT in tow of EMPIRE VINCENT sailed.  
(Cdre. Southend, 210746B to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

SS. My 051244 and K.R. and A.I.897.  
EMPIRE UNITY (2) Vessel boarded by Chief Engineer and five others of crew supplemented by four of NORTHERN SPRAY's ship's company. Proceeded to Hvalfjord under own power with NORTHERN SPRAY standing by.

(a) EMPIRE UNITY on M.W.T. Charter, in ballast.  
(b) Now at Reykjavik under repair.  
(2) No salvage agreement made, Salvage claim on behalf of NORTHERN SPRAY being forwarded. Request Treasury Solicitor represent them.  
(A.C.I.C., 211505Z to Admty.)

OperationsMovements

A.F.D.68 floating dock My 191634. Amend E.T.D. 1200B/21 speed 4 knots. Routed inside Snalls to pass position 51.03 N. 04.36 W. at 0600B/24.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 210135 to Admty., F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)  
My 191634 amended by my 210135. Sailed ENCHANTER towing A.F.D.68 escorted by CAPE COMORIN.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 211140B to Admty., F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

PATROLLER escort carrier Arrived Clyde PATROLLER ex. C.U.69.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 210548B to Admty.)

Vestfjord U-boats Arrived U.294, U.968, U.481, U.997, U.716 escorted by 9th E.G.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 210800 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
U.716 is fitted with Kurier F.T. Gerät (Squash) in full working order. Captain and P.O. Tel. co-operative will proceed in U-boat with gear to Lisahally.  
(E.G.5, 211022 to Admty.)  
Owing to small number of Torpedoes on board inspection will be completed today. Intend sailing all remaining German U-boats (10) to Loch Alsh tonight escorted by S.O. M.T.B. Flotilla 21 who will provide armed guard to final destination for 5 German U-boats My 191420 Para. 3 and 4.  
(S.O. Loch Eriboll, 211145B to C. in C.W.A.)  
U.294 and U.968 have insufficient fuel for passage northabout Skye to Lisahally.  
(2) Subject to approval from C. in C.W.A. intend to sail U.294 and U.968 escorted by LOCH TARBERT at 1600 via Kyle Rhea and Sound of Sleat adjusting speed to arrive Lough Foyle buoy 0600 on 22nd May.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 211208B to Com. D.W.A., C. in C.W.A.)  
Intend to sail U.481 and U.997 escorted by KEATS at 1700 northabout Skye to arrive Lough Foyle Buoy 1100 on 22nd May.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 211211B to Com. D.W.A.)  
My 211211B sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 211700 to Com. D.W.A.)

/BIRMINGHAM...

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21.5.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

BIRMINGHAM,  
cruiser.

E.T.A. 1215B.  
(BIRMINGHAM 210904B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

DELHI,  
cruiser.

F.O.C.R.F's 181115B not to all addressees.  
Request information when DELHI can be received  
at Chatham for destoring, removal or armament,  
etc. for reduction to reserve category C.  
(2) DELHI is to disembark all ammunition,  
explosives and armament stores at Sheerness before arrival  
Chatham, detailed arrangements being made direct with S.A.S.O.  
Upnor. N.C.G.O. 120/45 refers.  
(3) As far as possible all valuable stores radar W/T A/S and  
similar valuable and secret equipment are to be dismantled and  
packed before arrival at Chatham in order to reduce time re-  
quired at Chatham to minimum guns and mountings should also be  
prepared for removal.  
(4) Minimum passage stores are to be retained for passage to  
Falmouth.  
(C. in C. Nore, 211015B to A.S. Chatham.)

RODNEY,  
battleship,  
NORFOLK,  
cruiser.

(1) My 151549 intend to proceed in RODNEY with  
C.S. 1 in NORFOLK in company escorted by  
OPPORTUNE and OBEDIENT passing Hoxa at 1800B  
tomorrow Tuesday.  
(2) E.T.A. Oxcars 0700B Wednesday 23rd.  
(3) RODNEY and NORFOLK will pass over Burntisland  
Deep Range before entering.  
(4) Request anchor berth for NORFOLK. RODNEY will secure to No.  
14 buoy.  
(C. in C. H.F., 211036B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

PALOMARES,  
fighter  
direction  
ship.

PALOMARES is to be sailed to Gibraltar on 10th  
June for onward routeing to Ceylon.  
(2) On arrival in Ceylon PALOMARES is allocated  
to East Indies Station as fighter direction ship.  
(V.C.N.S., 211357B to Cs. in C. W.A., Med., E.I.)

ARIADNE,  
minelayer.

Intend sailing ARIADNE at 0830 Tuesday 22nd May  
by S/C route north and westabout by shortest  
normal route to Plymouth. S.O.A. 30 knots. E.T.A.  
Plymouth 1700/23rd.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 211805B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Reduction...

21.5.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

Reduction of  
Escort  
Vessels.

Admiralty 210008 not to all.  
Following ships nominated for release to category  
B reserve:

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Manning Port</u>	<u>Ready to sail</u>
COOKE	Devonport	May 30.
BERRY	Chatham	
DOMNETT	Devonport	
INGLIS	Portsmouth	May 24
MOUNSEY	Devonport	
LAWSON	Chatham	
LOUIS	Portsmouth	May 29
CRANSTOUN	Devonport	Now
TAVY	Devonport	On release by C. in C. Rosyth
BAHAMAS	Portsmouth	
SOMALILAND	Portsmouth	
PITCAIRN	Chatham	
SARAWAK	Chatham	
MONTSERRAT	Portsmouth	May 25
PAPUA	Chatham	
NYASALAND	Chatham	June 1.

(C. in C. W.A., 212227B to F.O.C.R.F., Admty.)

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21.5.1945.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

U. 963. My 201830.  
Scuttling of. Details of contact with shore after arrival of U-Boat 963 off Nazare areas yet obscure, but one Portuguese official boarded the ship and was shown damage.

(2) Major Gen. informed me of a report received today from his representative at Nazare to whom C.O. Submarine had stated that he sailed Norway on April 23rd and was attacked and severely damaged by aircraft west of Hebrides on night of May 6th. There after he decided to make a neutral port and selected Lisbon, but only just to Nazare in sinking condition. He had received the surrender signal but disbelieved it.

(3) The above interim report is forwarded for what it is worth.

(4) Officers and men are in the custody of Portuguese Naval Authorities pending further orders.

(N.A. Lisbon, 211832B to Admty.)

A.M. 202135. You should request Portuguese to investigate at once whether U.963 had received orders to U-Boats issued by German Admiralty. A.M. 120110 refers. Additional personal message was addressed to Commanding Officer of U.963 by U-Boat Command late p.m. on 18th May. If so why did U-Boat not comply? If not when did U-Boat first become aware of general surrender and what led Commanding Officer to scuttle off Portugal?

(2) Failure to comply with orders was in any case breach of the signed surrender and it is desired in order to make example that Portuguese should hand over crew as soon as possible. Request information whether Portuguese will agree to hand them over, the Allies now being in control of Germany.

(V.C.N.S., 211904B to N.A. Libson.) See 222044B.

Escort  
Group 32.

Sailed Task Group 120.1 to New York for upkeep and further orders later.

(C. in C. Lant, 212028Z to Comtwelfthflt.)

South Atlantic

Air/Sea  
Rescues.

Report arrival at and departure from air/sea rescue station to F.O. W. Africa repeated Admty. and Cmd. Sth. Atlantic Force also details of any rescue operations carried out. Except in emergency survivors are not to be landed until return from patrol.

(F.O.W. Africa, 211102Z to ABERDEEN.)

Air/Sea rescue station 12 manned by BRAZ DE BOCAINA at 212040Z. Interested Brazilians and local Army have by other means.

(Comsolant, 212140 to R.A. Washington, etc.)

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21.5.1945  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

BICESTER Sail at 1130B/22nd May S.O.A. 15 knots to Gib.  
(Hunt . (2) E.T.A. Gib. 0630B/25th.  
destroyer) (4) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to onward route  
BICESTER to U.K. C. in C. Med.'s 031058 refers.  
(V.A.M. 210935B to BICESTER.)

Fr. cruiser. Intend to sail French ship DUGUAY TROUIN at 1600  
May 22nd to Gibraltar. (2) 22 knots.  
(4) E.T.A. 1200 May 23rd.  
(Comar Alger, 211040B to F.S. DUGUAY TROUIN.)

Escort As soon as convoy escorts are no longer required  
reductions it is considered that all destroyers, frigates,  
and closings sloops, corvettes and K.I.Ls. of the Gibraltar  
down at Escort Force could be dispensed with except for -  
Gibraltar. A. two old destroyers. B. Three corvettes.  
Ships released would in general be sailed to U.K.  
(2) Para. 1 A above VERITY and ACTIVE would be  
retained. If ACTIVE is required in U.K.  
WOLVERINE would be retained instead but the latter will shortly  
require a 10 weeks refit.  
(3) Para. 1 B above. These ships are required so long as  
commitment in A.M. 182352 continues.  
(4) Once the Gibraltar Escort Force has been reduced Capt. D.  
Gibraltar with his training and maintenance staffs will no  
longer be necessary. The Commanding Officer of the Senior  
Destroyer in para. 1A above should be of Commander's rank.  
(5) The above proposals would enable the Gibraltar drafting pool  
together with its concomitant ratings to be reduced thereby  
effecting the release of some 500 men. Early Admiralty approval  
to be above proposals is requested.  
(C. in C. Med. (Gib.) 211310B to Admty.) Appd. 241247B.  
Further to my 211310 if it can be accepted that no working  
up facilities will be required at Gibraltar during Japanese war  
it is proposed to close down the shore A/S facilities and the  
A/A range which would enable further manpower reductions to be  
made. My 301523 Nov. 1944 refers.  
(2) Request confirmation that this can be accepted.  
(C. in C. Med., 211550B to Admty.)

L.S.G. DEWDALE now arrives position 399 at 0500C/22nd.  
Request you arrange Canal transit and onward  
routing to Bombay 25 Hamilcar 161742B and  
141402 April not to all addressees refers.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 211341Z to S.O.R.S.C.A.)

Contraband Request the early concurrence of M.E.W. may be  
control base obtained to the closing down of the contraband  
closing down control base at Gibraltar. It would appear that  
Gibraltar. this organisation is now redundant and its  
abolition would not only release 16 officers and  
66 men but would also make the 3 armed boarding  
vessels now at Gibraltar available for disposal.  
(C. in C. Med., 211738B to Admty.) See 261952.

/Levant...

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21.5.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Levant  
Sitrep.

GO/14458 cipher 21 May. For M.O.4. To 1700  
hours 21st May.

(1) Syria. Damascus. 1000 hours demonstrations  
dispersed by Gendarmerie. Later student demon-  
stration in front Serail dispersed after Syrian  
M.F.A. had told them to return to University.

French field guns mentioned my GO/13792 of 19th May have been  
removed from Mezze. M.G. strongpoints still occupied.

(2) Aleppo. No incidents reported today. French and  
Gendarmes patrolling streets. Revised casualty list 20th May.  
Killed French 3 incl. one officer civs. 8 wounded French 12  
civs. 22. B.L.U. informed by French that 9 Zouaves ex JEANNE  
D'ARC would remain Tripoli until end May.

(3) Remainder Syria and Lebanon N.T.R.

(4) JEANNE D'ARC sailed from Beirut 0820 hours today carrying  
233 assorted French personnel.

(C. in C. M.E., 211955C to W.O.)

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War Diary21.5.1945  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

HIGHWAY (L.S.D.) Intend that HIGHWAY on conclusion of her present trip should return to Port Said to lift L.C.T. (E) 372 and one L.C.G.(M) number 103 back to India.  
(2) Request you take necessary action on her arrival.  
(C. in C. E.I.Stn. 210741Z to S.O.R.N.E.India.)

S/M Operations. CLYDE 7th Far East Patrol. 15th May vicinity Chance Island by gunfire sank 1 10 ton Junk. 1 Special operation successful. STATESMAN 7th Far East Patrol. Covered operations "Dracula" and "Dukedom" in vicinity 1 fathom Bank sighted and reported Jap. Cruiser NACHI class on 10th and 12th May also sank 3 native craft totalling 70 tons. 1 special operation successful.  
(C. in C. E.I. 210945Z)

F.O. Force W. F.O. Force W. and operational staff have moved to Delhi. All signals for him concerning future operations are to be routed to Delhi C.C.O. all other signals are to continue to be addressed to Rear Link Force W. and routed to Bombay C.C.O.  
(C. in C. E.I. 211149Z to All S.O's E.I.)

LA GRAND-IERE. French Sloop LA GRANDIERE is omitted from your 181913. Does this mean that she is no longer allocated to E.I. station Para. 1 of B.A.D. Washington 19211 and your 181046 refers.  
(C. in C. E.I. 211212Z to Admty.)

Release of Aircraft from E.I. Station to B.P.F. A.M. 181953/April, F.O.(Air) E.I. 191015/April not to C. in C. B.P.F. or C. in C. E.I. and C. in C. B.P.F. 120714. Implementing para. 6 of A.M. 181953/April will involve the withdrawal of Avengers from G.P. carriers to provide squadrons for the Fleet Carrier Air Groups.  
The supply of Avengers and spares is not sufficient to maintain a first line I.E. in U.K. Ceylon and Australian areas and it is most desirable to transfer the first line squadrons from E.I. to B.P.F. as soon as possible.  
(2) When F.O.N.A.S.(A) can accept the Avenger training it will be essential to transfer all the remaining aircraft spares and equipment.  
(3) In view of para. 1 and the absence of S/M threat in the East Indies request you propose an early date for the release of 851 Squadron and EMPRESS with 845 Squadron to the B.P.F. SHAH will remain on your station. Further signal will be made regarding her employment.

21.5.1945  
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Release of  
Aircraft  
from E.I.  
Station to  
B.P.F.  
(Contd.)

(4) With reference to para. 3 of F.O. (Air) E.I. 191015/April whilst the Avenger training commitment remains in Ceylon 756 Squadron should be limited to 12 T.S.A. Avengers. Sufficient spares should be available from those retained under A.M. 310327/March together with those thrown up from EMPRESS and SHAH.

(5) Request particulars of spares required to effect repair to A/C referred to in para. 4 of

F.O. (Air) E.I. 191015/April be furnished by Air Mail when supply will be made from U.K.

(Hd. of Air Branch appd. V.C.N.S. 211530B to C. in C. E.I.)

Movements.

Following have arrived QUEEN ELIZABETH bearing flag of B.S. 3 CUMBERLAND Capt. D (11) in ROTHERHAM, ROEBUCK, REDOUBT, ROCKET, HUNTER Capt. D (10) in TARTAR, NUBIAN, ESKIMO, H.M.I.S. LAHORE. Sailed H.M.I.S. HINDUSTAN, H.M.S. WHITE BEAR. (Comic, Trincomalee, 211544Z to Admty.)



War Diary.

21.5.1945  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

E.Gs. BUCKINGHAM (S.O.), INCH ARRAN departing position T. 047° 18' N. 052° 30' W. at 1230Z/21st May to relieve you in position 047° 00' N. 046° 00' W. On relief ST. THERESE and FORT ERIE in company return direct St. Johns N.B.  
(2) H.M.C.S. BUCKINGHAM is to indicate E.T.A. of ? relief position to above.  
(F.O.N.F., 211240Z to S.O.E.G. 28.)  
Your 211240 E.T.A. ?(1457)Z  
(H.M.C.S. BUCKINGHAM 211905Z to F.O.N.F.)

✓ Air-sea Rescue. *Azores.* Request diplomatic arrangements be made base P.C.S. and S.C.S. at Ponta Delgada Horta and/or Praia Terceira as required connection Air-Sea Rescue for Green and White projects. Total four vessels.  
(C. in C. Lant, 211312Z to Cominch.)

U/B dis-positions. 1200Z/21st May. Nothing new since N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 201334Z.  
(N.S.H.Q., 211321Z to A.O.C.E.A.C.)  
Enemy U-Boat estimate 1200Z/21st.  
No fresh information past 24 hours.  
(Cominch 211346Z to Admty.)

✓ Bermuda - British Submarines. Reference C. in C. C.N.A.'s 191443/5 (not to all) stating that it is unlikely any more escorts will work up at Bermuda until first frigates for Far East are ready in about six weeks. Consider it undesirable for British submarines to remain idle at Bermuda for such a long period. F.O. Submarine may wish to take advantage of long interval of inactivity to relieve present three submarines.  
(2) Request confirmation that R.C.T. ships will work up at Bermuda before proceeding to Far East and that three British submarines will still be required.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 211354Z to N.S.H.Q., F.O. Submarines, etc.)  
Request you arrange to sail UPRIGHT under close escort as soon as convenient direct to Digby N.S. My 211501 not to all refer. Bermuda C.C.O. pass UPRIGHT. Com. Four pass S.O. Philadelphia.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 211915Z to SOMERS ISLES.)

CALIFF, trawler. Your 181523 relief for CAILIFF not considered necessary. Request firm date when ship will be ready to proceed U.K. vide para. 2 your reference message.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 212007B to F.O.N.F.)

O.N. 302. O.N. 302 W.4 ROSTHERN (S.O.), DUNDAS, TRAIL 1000Z sail St. Johns 22nd May to relieve you in Westomp 43.03 N. 51.04 W. at 1400Z/23.

21.5.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- O.N. 302.  
(Contd.)
- (2) On relief, B to proceed direct St. Johns two escorts being detailed to escort ships bound east coast, Newfoundland Ports to St. Johns. (F.O.N.F., 212108Z to ships.)
- Monsters. Ref. 142217Z from B.A.D. to Admiralty. All work on QUEEN MARY is proceeding on understanding vessel will be ready for sailing within three days after receipt of notice of intention to sail.
- (2) Position regarding D.E.M.S. and other work on QUEEN ELIZABETH will be eased if you can confirm intention is to sail QUEEN ELIZABETH not earlier than five days after QUEEN MARY sails.  
(B.M.W.T. New York 212141Z to D. of S.T.)

Far East and Australia.

- ✓ 11th A/C Squadron. C. in C. B.P.F. 010041 May. 11th Aircraft carrier Squadron is allocated to British Pacific Fleet. A.M. 112132 April is cancelled.
- (2) On arrival at Ceylon VENERABLE, VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS are to carry out modifications to aircraft and complete with air stores A.M. 171747 May refers. Before departure from Ceylon all available spare Barracuda II are to be embarked, also any Corsairs or other aircraft that can be carried.
- (3) C. in C. E.I. is requested to sail A.C. 11 in VENERABLE with VENGEANCE and COLOSSUS to Sydney as soon as possible, but not later than 7th July.
- (4) C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to sail GLORY to Ceylon on completion of work up about 1st July. GLORY is to complete with air stores in Ceylon and embark all available spare Barracuda II and such other aircraft for passage to Australia as can be carried. On completion C. in C. E.I. is requested to sail GLORY to Sydney.
- (5) Signals quoted not to all.  
(V.C.N.S. 210043B to C. in C. B.P.F.)
- ✓ Digest 1215, 19.5.45. (1) 50 Liberators unloaded 86 tons mixed bombs on Kaidun Dockyard installations midday demolishing buildings also causing intense fires. Mitchell sweeping west coast sank one coaster damaged another coaster between Tainan and Toseki.

21.5.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

Digest 1215, (2) 3 Navy Mariners out from Lingayan night 18/  
 19.5.45. 19th had successful encounters with Jap. ships  
 (Contd.) north Formosa and China coast. 1 plane attacked  
 five ship convoy 15 miles north of Kitrun headed  
 thereto sinking four ships described as one  
 medium freighter transport, 1 small freighter  
 transport, two small engines-aft freighters and setting fifth  
 ship, another medium freighter transport, ablaze by straffing  
 deck cargo which burst into intense flames: 2nd Marine  
 straffed coaster or small freighter with bombs southern  
 Pescadores and could not find ship during later search but  
 straffed and hit Motor boat in area, also straffed 2 Junks off  
 Swatow, third Marine bombed and hit lone 300 foot unidentified  
 ship off Hongkong failing locate ship when searching subsequently.  
 (5) On Mindanao American Forces continued advance in Davao  
 area progressing 1½ miles north of Sassa airfield and entered  
 Panagan without opposition. Two Mitchells attacked Jap. P.T.  
 boat base at Piso Point destroying one boat.  
 (8) On Tarakan Australian troops meeting strong defences in  
 Central Hills 1 - 2 miles northeast of airfield. 18 Liberators  
 9 Lightnings attacked these defences of light small units  
 (destroyers or lighter) bombed 18th Mayolopm rpt.  
 (11) 6 R.A.A.F. Liberators bombed Balikpapan sea plane base  
 midday with nearly 20 tons bombs.  
 (14) Night 18th May R.A.A.F. Catalinas mined enemy waters,  
 to southeast Borneo and three Hongkong.  
 (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 210306Z to Admty.)

Operations. Little change in Okinawa front line positions  
 Ryukyus. on flanks. In centre enemy salients north of  
 Shuri eliminated. Marines occupied Kutaki Shima  
 off Nakagusuku Wan to establish triangulation  
 station. Unloading beach at Machinato completed and operational.  
 Enemy air attacks on Yontan airfield on the 18th destroyed 1  
 P.B.4Y, damaged 16 F.4U's 1, F.5 and temporarily made runways  
 in-operational. T.F. 57 attacked Sakishima Gunto.  
 Empire area. F.A.W. 1 planes sank 1 Med. A.P. probably sank 2  
 small A.K. south of Korea. Off Fukue Shima 4 P.47s assisted  
 Privateer in sinking picket boat. 30 B.29s mined Shimo-Noseki  
 Straits and Waksas Wan (sic) night of 20/21.  
 Submarines. Mership reported firing on periscope between Eniwetok  
 and Marianas.  
 S.W.P.A. 19th Formosa Sorties. 102 B.24s attacked Kiirun  
 Harbour. 20th Borneo, 6 P.Vs. attacked Broketon Brunei Bay.  
 9 B.24s bombed Marcus. 19 sorties Palau. 8 B.24s bombed dock  
 area at Kataoka.  
 (Cinpac. Adv. H.Q., 210626Z to All commands etc.)

Programmes Your 181046B have no programme for CAP DES PALMES  
 for intended my 120534Z refers Admiralty pass B.N.A. Paris and  
 programmes. Com. E.A.  
 LA GRANDIERE (V.A.(Q) 210704Z to Admty.)  
 CAP DES PALMES.

21.5.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia - Contd.

✓ Clearance of U.S.N. Magazines. Your 181419 May A.S.I.S. KOLA is now being used to send part replenishments to Manus for B.P.F. and is sailing 22nd May.

(2) Storage situation in Australia is serious due to non clearance of U.S.N. Magazines at Sydney and Brisbane and to lack of lift forward of essential reserves for fleet train.

(3) Attention again invited to para. 3 of my 240254 March.

(4) Request efforts to obtain shipping for clearance of magazines may be continued as this seems only solution.  
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 210737 to Admty.)

Digest 1216  
20.5.45  
(Extract.)

(1) Palawan based Liberators sank lugger Balikpapan, damaged 2 small coasters Pontianak.  
(3) Clark Field based planes 18th May destroyed 1 small coaster off Amoy sank another small coaster east Foochow, damaged single small freighter transport Kiirun.

(4) Mariners from Lingayan night 19/20th May fired drove aground single sea truck off Formosa, strafed 1 junk same area, attacked 3 sea trucks off Swatow leaving one sinking craft, 2 down by stern.

(14) 19th May Liberators in Makassar Strait, bombed Balikpapan float plane base destroying bomb dump, another pair Liberators swept Makassar Strait leaving single small coaster listing, sinking one schooner, damaging 2 others while one Liberator hit Bica shipyards Celebes.

(15) Australian patrols on Tarakan Island reached Mount Tabgkol  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles north Djoata oilfields. 5 Liberators 12 Lightnings supported ground forces.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 210900Z to Admty.)

22.5.1945.  
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. Convoys E.N./W.N. and W.V/V.W. are to be discontinued, F.N/F.S. are to disperse off, or assemble at, the Humber, and B.T.C. to disperse at F buoy. Between Flamborough and the Butt of Lewis ships will now burn navigation lights at full brilliancy.

✓ North Sea.

(p. 548)  
2. (a) 33rd M.L. Flotilla has arrived at Brunsbüttel for onward routeing via Kiel Canal to the Baltic.  
(b) U.287 is now reported to have been mined and sunk in the Elbe on May 16th and U.96 to have been sunk in an air raid in Wilhelmshaven.  
(c) U.776 was brought to Westminster by a British crew, but failed to bed in the mud and took a 45° list. She will have to be moved to London Docks.

West Coast France.

3. The 6 German minesweepers taken in the Channel Islands have arrived at Brest.

✓ Norway.

4. (a) C.S. 1 reports his uneasiness about the situation at Bergen, where the Germans, still armed are in a majority, and the Russian ex Prisoners of War are without officers and giving trouble. C. in C. H.F. is sailing C.S.10 in BIRMINGHAM with ZAMBESI, and Admiralty is sailing the Norwegian-manned 54th M.T.B. flotilla from Lerwick. C.S.1 and C. in C. H.F. both ask for the removal of the 32 seaworthy U-boats from Bergen as soon as possible.  
(b) At Stavanger a P.R.U. reconnaissance showed four 500 ton U-boats instead of the 3 reported by N.O.I.C. on May 16th. N.O.I.C. now confirms the total number as 10, including 4 500 tonners, and names the extra boat: U.673.

✓ Northern Waters.

(White Sea Section)  
5. Convoy J.W.67 has arrived at Archangel.

✓ Baltic

6. (a) Kiel Canal may be considered clear of mines  
(b) German ships in Denmark of over 800 tons number 114, with 11 floating cranes and 2 floating docks.

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22.5.1945.  
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Movement

7. AJAX arrived Trieste from Taranto.

East Indies

Malaya

8. Today and yesterday 2 Liberators laid mines in the Klang Straits (Near Port Swettenham).

Far East and Australia

Formosa

9. 89 U.S. Liberators supported naval forces on attacks on the island. The main attack was on Toshien where large fires were started. Okayama airfield was also attacked.

22.5.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSPolicyShewing the  
Flag in  
Continental  
ports.

Intend to sail OPPORTUNE (S.O.), OBEDIENT and OFFA from Rosyth p.m. Thursday 24th May to proceed to Kiel to relieve ZEALOUS and ZODIAC.  
 (2) Route by standard East Coast Channel, Q.Z.S.727, Q.Z.S.732, Q.Z.S.737 and Kiel Canal.  
 (3) F.O. Kiel is requested to arrange pilot to board OPPORTUNE in approaches to Cuxhaven p.m.

25th May.

(4) OPPORTUNE signal E.T.A. position P.14 to F.O. Kiel.  
 (C. in C. H.F., 221046 to Admty., A.N.C.X.F., F.O. Kiel.)

Expected time of arrival Copenhagen 0745B tomorrow  
 Wednesday, ORIBI in company. No Danish money is held.  
 Request 4 thousand pounds worth may be available on arrival.  
 (DIADEM, 222055B to Cdre. Denmark.)

Movement  
 of ships  
 from  
 Germany  
 to U.K.

Your 112212B. As soon as ships to be moved are known Ministry will arrange for crews to proceed by air to Germany. Crews for two ships of about 2,000 gross tons reported as ready at Hamburg went by air on 18th. Advance parties of two Dutch crews for two Dutch ships also sent by air.

In order that appropriate crews may be selected and despatched M.W.T.Rs. or F.Os. i/c. at ports should give particulars of ships ready to be moved. This will enable Ministry appoint suitable managers and facilitate selection of crews.

Consideration now being given to arrangements that should be made to deal with German crews ordered to bring ships to United Kingdom and to return them by air to Germany, but arrangements for dealing with German crews at this end are not yet finalised. Delivery of ships in United Kingdom by German crews has many advantages and we suggest it should be tried. If it proved unsatisfactory for any reason it could be stopped.

Advance information should be given of the sailing of ships to United Kingdom with German crews to enable managers to arrange to take over on delivery and to facilitate arrangements for handling German personnel.

(D. of S.T., 221457B to A.N.C.X.F.)

OperationsNorth Sea

Rotterdam  
 shipping.

Following is a repetition of my 201620 to C. in C. Nore, begins:  
 Ships up to 28 feet in draught can now be accepted at Rotterdam. Ends.  
 (N.O.I.C. Rotterdam, 221112 to Admty.)

/Destruction ...

22.5.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Destruction of German war material. Destruction of war material prejudicial to military and public affairs is now to be carried out. This includes -  
(A) Special weapon installations.  
(B) Coast Defence emplacements. Arrangements are being made to the extent necessary to make them unusable by the enemy even if this involves damage to the guns and equipment contained therein.  
(C) A/A installations.  
(D) Installations and E-Boat pens and the machinery connected with them.  
(E) Weapons, ammunition and other war material the destruction of which is essential to public or military security.  
Attention is drawn to military occupation hand-book para. 310(C) which makes army responsible for carrying out these demolitions.  
(F.O. W.Germany, 221144B to Cdre. Hamburg, N.Os. 1/c. Emden, Wilhelmshaven, Cuxhaven, Heligoland.)

M.L. Flotilla 33 for Kiel. Intend to sail on arrival Flotilla 33 (S.O. in M.L.588) to Brunsbüttel at 1300B Tuesday 21st May, E.T.A. 1430B for onward routeing (for) Kiel. (see p. 549)  
(2) Constant W/T watch on 2150 k/cps and W/T guard on Kiel Port Wave 2300 k/cps.  
(3) R.N.O. Brunsbüttel is requested to sail flotilla (and) sweep to (corrupt group) in company via Canal as requisite to Kiel (corrupt group) May 23rd.  
(4) F.O. Western Germany's 181914B and my 190911 (neither to all) refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Cuxhaven, 211154B to F.O. Kiel, R.N.O. Brunsbüttel.)

U. 287. My 211650. Not to all. OKM state U.287 sunk by mine when entering Elbe on night of 16th May and that there were only 4 survivors.  
(Capt. Alleyne, 221158B to A.N.C.X.F.)  
Report any information concerning loss of German U-Boat 287.  
(2) MOK NORD suggests she hit (corrupt?) (corrupt?).  
(3) Admiralty message (?211)336 and Cdre. Hamburg's 191720 refers.  
(F.O. W.G., 221256B to Cdre. Hamburg, N.O.I.C. Cuxhaven, R.N.O. Brunsbüttel.)

U. 96. My 171225. U.96 type <sup>VII</sup> C German U-Boat was sunk by air raid. It was not scuttled.  
(N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven, 221205 to F.O. W.G.)

Sweeping into Emden. Request information if sweeping into Emden is in progress, and if the channel into Delfzyl could be included in this operation.  
(F.O. Holland, 221655B to A.N.C.X.F.)



22.5.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

✓ Demilitarisation of Heligoland.

Reference A.N.C.X.F. Main 211940B dated 21st May, 1945, do you require Heligoland as concentration area? If not this headquarters agrees with A.N.C.X.F. proposal as short term policy without prejudice to ultimate complete destruction of fortifications. Request your views.

(S.H.A.E.F., 221715B to Exfor. Main.)

✓ Situation in Hamburg area.

33 MLF

Sitrep. number 18. Hamburg. Dumps of explosives discovered on quay sides near Hansahafen suspected Werewolf material.

Brunsbüttel. 33 M.L. Flotilla and patrol Tanker Y.50 for Baltic arrived Brunsbüttel 1430 sail 0700 via Kiel Canal for Baltic.

(Cdre. Hamburg, 221825B to F.O.W.G., A.N.C.X.F.)

Discharge Situation Report.

Cositintrep No. 413, part 4, section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600B/21 May.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
<u>British -</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	7,268	-	14,713
Ostend	2,278	320	1,376	-	-
Calais	5,414	61	86	-	-
Rotterdam	-	-	1,881	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,692</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>10,611</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,713</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>					
Antwerp	-	34	11,734	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	668	-	10,366
Le Havre	951	95	2,182	-	-
Rouen	-	-	3,571	1,300	895
Ghent	-	-	8,870	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>27,025</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>11,261</b>
<u>U.S. South -</u>					
Marseilles	486	-	11,911	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	306	348	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,217</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>-</b>

Army coal at Granville 1,967; Morlaix 590; Brest 1,200. (S.H.A.E.F., 221845B to Admt. and others.)

✓ Minesweeping to Hamburg.

Operation "Dropkick".

(1) 3 ships LAA sweep Hamburg to Cuxhaven. Channel widening from boom to P.15 buoy with modified L. Total actuation 9. LAMOD from boom to P 11th buoy 1 cable each side centre

line SA protective sweep for METHILHILL.

(2) Nil. (3) Nil. (4) Nil.

(Capt. M/S. Force C, 221907B to C. in C. Nore.)

/Minesweeping ...

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22.5.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

✓ Minesweeping Operation "Fireball".  
to (1) LL/SA. (a) 6 M.M.S., E.G. M.S.I.M. one to  
Rotterdam. I.M.7 whole width of channel one actuation.  
(b) The whole approach channel from I.M.7 into  
and including Ijmuiden outer harbour has been  
given 16 actuations and the port may be  
considered open for shipping of draught less than 22 feet.  
Oropesa. (c) Widening approach to 1 mile north-east of centre  
line completed.  
LA/A. (d) Southern shore new waterway Park Haven to Maasluis  
continues.  
(2) Nil.  
(3) Surveying of wrecks in Ijmuiden entrance and entrance to  
Hook continues.  
(5) 1 R.M.L. Hook to Sheerness (My 220729 refers). 1 R.M.L.  
Ijmuiden to Hook. 6 M.M.S. H.K.12 to I.M.1 (LL/SA). 5  
motor launches I.M.1 to I.M.2 (Oropesa). 3 B.Y.M.S. completing  
widening Ijmuiden approach channel. 1 M.M.S. darning Ijmuiden  
anchorage (Your 235170A para. (B)).  
(Capt. M/S. F.A., 22222B to C. in C. Nore.)

OperationsChannel

Return of Please direct twelve U.S. S.Cs. report Cousnaab  
12 U.S. Southampton for temp. duty on 29th May.  
S.Cs. to Admiralty 141905B refers. Further instructions  
U.S. to U.S.N. authorities later.  
(Com. 12th Fleet, 221427 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Ref. 141905B. Your 100911. The 12 U.S. S.Cs.  
can be released whenever you require them.  
We would be grateful if they can be retained meanwhile until  
convoy escorts are no longer required.

✓ S.N.O. A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 151044B and my 151442Z refer.  
B.O.P.F. Conference with S.N.O.B.O.P.(F) today completed  
to be under arrangements to transfer to C.T.F.122 the  
C.T.F. 122. operational control of Calais and for liaison  
at Boulogne and Dieppe effective 0001/1st June.  
Agreed in undertaking this that no U.S.  
personnel are required and that administration,  
logistics, minesweeping, salvage, port rehabilitation and  
maintenance are to remain as at present. B.N.L.Os. and  
British Naval communication network are to be continued under  
S.N.O.B.O.P.(F).  
(C.T.F.122, 211923B to A.N.C.X.F.)

OperationsWest Coast France

German mine- Your 211833B arrived Brest.  
sweepers from (Premar 2, 221400B to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Channel Is.

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22.5.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

Reception of surrendering U-Boats. "Pledge". (1) In view of the smaller numbers of U/Bs. now expected to surrender from sea, it is considered that the Loch Eriboll Force can be reduced. The following are my intentions.

(2) At 0001 May 24th a force of 4 trawlers from Aultbea is to be at Eriboll. This force is to be maintained by N.O.I.C. Aultbea and the Senior Officer is to become S.O. Eriboll. Name of S.O.'s ship is to be reported by signal to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C.H.F. and N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh by N.O.I.C. Aultbea.

(3) After 0001 May 24th no further U-Boats are to be boarded or examined at Loch Eriboll. The following organisation is to come into force:

(A) S.O. Eriboll is to maintain 2 trawlers on patrol at entrance to the Loch.

(B) Two trawlers are to be at short notice in Loch Eriboll.

(C) Incoming U-Boats are to be met and escorted by two trawlers towards Loch Alsh until relieved by an escort vessel as arranged by N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh. On relief trawlers are to return to Loch Eriboll.

(D) On arrival at Loch Alsh an armed guard is to be placed on board the U-Boat. Procedure now carried out at Eriboll is to be undertaken at Loch Alsh in addition to the existing routine.

(4) When the new organisation comes into force PHILANTE is to sail ships as follows:

(A) PHILANTE to Greenock to disembark submarine party and to lay-over at 8 hours notice for sea.

(B) E.G.21 and E.G.30 as in S.O. Eriboll's 191420 not to all.

(C) 18th M.L. Flotilla to Clyde. Admiralty is requested to notify final disposal.

(D) Trawlers as required by N.O.I.C. Aultbea.

(E) Rescue Tug to Loch Ewe.

(C. in C. W.A., 221158B<sup>x</sup> to Admty., F.O.I.C. Greenock, S.O. Eriboll, N.Os. i/c. Aultbea, Loch Alsh.) \* *In abeyance, see 231115, p.574.*

Air/Sea Rescue arrangements. (1) Americans have already begun large scale air re-deployment programme westward across the Atlantic. Programme involves transit of approximately 100 U.S. aircraft a day westbound over Northern route through Iceland. Estimated this programme will continue at this intensive scale for about two to three months. U.S. aircraft using Southern route through Azores will probably continue to number about forty a day in each direction for next nine to twelve months.

(2) Request you make such redistribution of your available A/S.R. aircraft as you consider best to meet emergencies arising out of the above programme whilst at same time retaining sufficient aircraft suitably disposed to meet your normal rescue commitments. Request also that you will concert your A/S.R. arrangements with Admiralty who are marking special provision for surface craft to be available for rescue.

(3) Account will be taken of the above commitments in the programme of reduction of your A/S.R. units to the State II target level.

(Air Ministry, 221431B to Coastal Command.)

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22.5.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

Situation  
at Bergen.

(1) C.S.10 is requested to sail from Rosyth in BIRMINGHAM p.m. Wednesday 23rd May and proceed to Bergen passing East of Orkneys and Shetlands and north Q.Z.X. 1535 thence to Korsfiord.

(2) Com. (D) H.F. is requested to sail ZAMBESI to R/V with BIRMINGHAM east of Pentland Firth as required by C.S.10 and to continue to Bergen in company.

(3) N.O.I.C. Bergen is requested to arrange pilot to board BIRMINGHAM at entrance to Korsfiord p.m./24th May at time notified by C.S.10.

(4) BIRMINGHAM and ZAMBESI are to proceed to Bergen through Korsfiord and Byfiord by route given in Snip (GH) 40/45 paras. 5, 3 and 4.

(C. in C. H.F., 221605 to C.S.10, BIRMINGHAM, ZAMBESI, C. in C. Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Bergen.)

(A) Following has been received from C.S.1 as a result of his visit to Bergen. Begins: To C. in C. H.F. from C.S.1 221146B May.

I am rather concerned about the stability of the situation at Bergen, depending as it does on the continued discipline and good sense of the German armed forces, the Norwegians and the Russian ex prisoners of war. Any small incident combined with the deterioration of discipline, which seems bound to occur before long, may well lead to a clash which would be serious as the Germans still have some arms and outnumber the rest. There is the further important point that the Germans, and particularly the German Navy, are occupying shipyards, buildings and houses in and around Bergen, which are needed by the Norwegians before conditions can start to return to the normal.

(2) As a start I consider it most desirable that the 32 seaworthy U-Boats should be sent away from Bergen as soon as possible as they and their crews are so much in evidence in the town. In addition, even if it is not yet possible to carry out a large scale evacuation of the remaining German Naval personnel, at least a token few should be evacuated to Germany now so as to show both Germans and Norwegians that the situation is not stagnant. This also applies to the German Army, though except for headquarters personnel, the majority have already been concentrated away from Bergen.

(3) It is also most desirable to get rid of the Russians as soon as possible. It is they who are giving trouble at the moment and they have none of their own officers to control them.

(4) I suggest some Norwegian M.T.Bs. should return to Bergen to work under N.O.I.C. They would be very useful to him and I am informed there is plenty of 100 Octane available. They should take their own chocks for slipping and necessary maintenance personnel and gear. Ends.

(B) In view of above I am sailing C.S.10 in BIRMINGHAM with ZAMBESI to Bergen - my 221605 refers.

(C) I propose sailing 54th M.T.B. Flotilla to Bergen.

(D) I concur with C.S.1 para. 2 that it is very desirable to remove U-Boats from Bergen.

(C. in C. H.F., 221620B to Admty.)

/Information ...

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22.5.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Situation at Bergen. (Contd.) Information received from N.O.I.C. Bergen indicates that Norwegian M.T.B. from Lerwick would be extremely useful there. 100 Octane is available. Propose arrangements for maintenance be made direct between N.O.I.C. Lerwick and N.O.I.C. Bergen if approved for them to proceed.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 221710B to Admty.)

Subject to concurrence of A.N.C.X.F. 54th M.T.B. Flotilla (Norwegian manned) is to be sailed forthwith to Bergen. (V.C.N.S., 222330B to C. in C. Rosyth, A.N.C.X.F.)

Operation S.C. Ramose Spectacle. My 192001B S.C. HESSA arrived Scalloway 1650B/22nd May. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 221653B to N.O.I.C. Bergen.)

Shipping of forces to Norway from Hamburg and Le Havre. My 161221\* (not to all). (1) Revised "Apostle" plan now requires only 13 L.S.T. to sail from Hamburg on 1st June. Further requirements are as yet unknown. A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) has arranged for L.S.T. to arrive Hamburg and Havre in time for loading. (2) Destinations and number of L.S.T. from Hamburg are Oslo 5, Kristiansund 2, Stavanger 2, Bergen 1, Trondheim 3.

(3) Route. (a) P.15 Buoy. (b) P.11 Buoy. (c) Position 55° 21' N., 6° 35' E. (d) Position H for How of Q.Z.S.738.

(e) Thence as routed by C. in C. Rosyth to destination.

(4) Commodore Hamburg is requested -

(a) To load and sail on 1st June, L.S.T. convoy which will include one coaster bound Oslo and Trondheim.

(b) To report which L.S.Ts. are detailed for respective destinations.

(5) Commander in Chief Rosyth is requested to provide necessary escort.

(6) C. in C. Nore is requested to arrange protection required by A.G.M. 786A of 21st May.

(7) C.T.F.122 is requested to make necessary arrangements for L.S.T. convoy, which will include one coaster, to sail on 30th May from Le Havre to Rosyth, for onward routeing to Oslo by C. in C. Rosyth. C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, and C. in C. Rosyth are requested to provide necessary escort when in the limits of their commands.

(8) Exfor. Rear is requested to keep authorities concerned informed of any change in requirements.

(A.N.C.X.F., 221750B to Cdre. Hamburg, C.T.F. 122.)

\* Revised "Apostle" plan entails lift of personnel and vehicles by L.S.T. direct to Norwegian ports from Hamburg for British Forces and from Le Havre for U.S.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

✓ U-Boats at Stavanger.

A.M. 211719B.  
10 U-Boats present of which 4 are 500 tonners namely 1171, 901 also 637 and 673 both damaged. U.673 should be added to list contained in my 161811B to C. in C. Rosyth.  
F.O. Norway only.  
(N.O.I.C. Stavanger, 221823B to Admty., A.N.C.X.F., F.O. Norway.)

Operations

Northern Waters

✓ Convoy J.W. 67.

My 171544 arrived.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 220942B to S.B.N.O. N. Russia, Admty.)

P/R of BLACK WATCH.

Your 211843. Reconnaissance is not to be carried out as flak ship is still present and it is not desired to provoke reaction.  
(C. in C. H.F., 221010B to D.17.)

Operations

Baltic

✓ Kiel Canal mineswept.

Situation at 2100 today Monday. Check sweep of Canal completed with negative results. Intend final sweep with Sperrbrecher tomorrow. German authorities appear confident Canal is clear, control of shipping proceeding, U.3008 arrived.  
(F.O. Kiel, 220045B to A.N.C.X.F.)

✓ German merchantmen in Denmark.

Following are latest figures of German ships in Denmark.  
(1) Over 800 gross tons - (A) 92 cargo ships.  
(B) 6 hospital ships. (C) 2 troopers.  
(D) 9 passenger ships. (E) 5 tankers.  
(2) 70 ships under 800 gross.  
(3) (?59) tugs various sizes. (4) 11 floating cranes size unknown. (5) 2 floating docks size unknown. (6) 89 lighters.  
(7) Unidentified small craft of various types, full list being sent London. Please advise if first list sent on 15th May received.  
(M.W.T.R. Copenhagen, 221723B to M.W.T/N.W.E.)

/PRINZ EUGEN ...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Baltic - Contd.

PRINZ  
EUGEN,  
NURNBERG to  
Wilhelmshaven.

- (1) Request you sail PRINZ EUGEN and NURNBERG northabout to Wilhelmshaven on 24th May with Home Fleet ships. C. in C. Home Fleet 171054.
- (2) Admiralty is requested to provide route and instruction for H.M. Ships.
- (3) C. in C. Nore is requested to provide protection as in A.G.M. 786A.
- (4) F.O.W.G. is requested to arrange for pilots. (A.N.C.X.F., 222300B to F.O. Denmark.)

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Missing U-Boats. Following from ALLEYNE 12th O.K.M. Approx. 200 German U-Boats are still unaccounted for. From records held O.K.M. it is impossible to trace these. Request instructions whether Ministerial control team is pursuing this matter if so request latest state of U-Boat Fleet may be sent by air. T.O.O. 221157 Ends.

(N.T.S. Submarine H.Q. (Br.) 221510B to A.N.C.X.F.)

U-Boats Nos. 1405, 1406, 1407. U-Boats Nos. 1405, 1406, 1407 at present unlocated are of great technical interest. Immediate notification and special arrangements for guarding are to be made should they surrender. (2) They are reported to have left Kiel about 5th May. They may have been sunk or scuttled in the Denmark area.

(A.N.C.X.F., 221556B to F.Os. Kiel, W.G. Denmark, Norway, C.T.F. 126.) ~~Water~~

Interrogation indicated only 3 ~~WALCHER~~ type German U-Boats to be operational were at sea namely U.1405, U.1406 and U.1407. Port of return not known.

(30 A.U. 222100B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties & Defects.

M.G.B. 2007. My 221722B (not to all addressees). M.G.B. 2007 ashore in entrance channel Aberdeen Harbour with heavy swell. Holed and making water. Salvage operations in progress. Crew taken off. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 222205B to Admty.)

Movements.

APOLLO minelayer, *for Christiansund (S)*. Intend to sail APOLLO at noon Tuesday 22nd with personnel for passage to Christiansund (S) and Oslo by Q.Z.S. 738 to position H thence by route as in my 191652 to X.2. (2) WESTMINSTER and VALOROUS are to R/V with APOLLO off Oksolyn at 0600B Wednesday 23rd and transfer passengers. APOLLO will return by reverse route immediately on completion of disembarkation. (3) Passengers for Oslo should embark in WESTMINSTER and for Christiansund (S) in VALOROUS. (4) No delay can be accepted in APOLLO's programme. If WESTMINSTER or VALOROUS are likely to be delayed VERDUN may be diverted otherwise minesweepers or other craft must be arranged. (C. in C. Rosyth 220009 to F.O. Norway.) My 220009B sailed. (C. in C. Rosyth 221345B to F.O. Norway.)

U.294, U.968. Arrived Loch Tarbert, U.294, U.968, N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh's 211208B May refers. (Com. D. W.A., 220620B to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, C. in C. W.A.)

/NORFOLK...



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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

- NORFOLK,  
cruiser,  
ZAMBESI,  
OBEDIENT,  
destroyers. Scapa arrival C.S.1 in NORFOLK with ZAMBESI  
and OBEDIENT.  
(C. in C. H.F., 220628B to A.N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C.  
Bergen.)
- U.992, U.427, U.1165, U.668, U.<sup>175</sup>278  
U.1165, U.<sup>178</sup>278. Arrived U.992, U.427, U.1165, U.668, U.<sup>175</sup>278  
escorted by CONN, FITZROY and CAISTOR CASTLE.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 220900 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
- BROADWAY,  
Aircraft  
target  
ship. Your 201031 arrived.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 220957B to N.O.I.C. Trondheim.)
- ARIADNE,  
minelayer. My 211805B. ARIADNE sailed.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 221029B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- U.295, U.312, U.313, U.318,  
U.313, U.318, Arrived U.312, U.295, U.318, U.363 and U.313  
U.363. escorted by RUPERT, DEANE and BYRON.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 221040 to F.O.I.C.  
Greenock.)
- U. 481,  
U. 997. Arrived KEATS, U.481, U.997. N.O.I.C. Loch  
Alsh's 211211B refers.  
(Com. (D) W.A., 221050B to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh,  
C. in C. W.A.)
- U.312, U.716, U.992,  
U.992, Intend to sail U.716, U.1165, U.992, U.312 all  
U.1165. type 7C at 1800 today Tuesday escorted by CONN,  
FITZROY, RUPERT, DEANE, northabout Skye.  
Speed of advance 12 knots. E.T.A. Foyle Buoy  
approx. 1130/23rd, thence escorts to Belfast.  
(2) U.716, U.992 have type A crews. U.1165,  
U.312 have type B crews.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 221109 to Com. (D) W.A.)
- U. 532. Intend to sail GRINDALL escorting U.532 at  
1600B/24th May to Barrow. Speed 11 knots.  
E.T.A. Lightning Knoll Buoy 2000B/24 entering  
Barrow 1100B/25. My 191747B and my 8315A of  
21st May are amended accordingly.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 221201B to R.N.O. Barrow.)
- U. 776. Southend arrived at 0510B/22 U.776 escorted by  
FLEETWOOD.  
(2) Departure to Portsmouth FLEETWOOD, E.T.A.  
Portsmouth 0030B/23. Keeping constant watch on  
command port waves.  
(Cdre. Southend, 221252B to C. in C. Portsmouth,  
F.O.I.C. Portland.)

/Concerning ...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

U. 776. Concerning conversation with F.O.S. only,  
(Contd.) U.776 failed to bed in mud and took 45° list at 1925. Normal draft of vessel is 15 to 16 feet, and there is no other river berth above Tilbury Landing Stage suitable for public display. Am exploring possibility of moving CHRYSANTHEMUM alongside PRESIDENT and using berth of former, but am not optimistic of outcome.  
(2) Meanwhile following has been arranged -  
(A) Shift berth 2200 tonight Tuesday to Battle Bridge Buoys by London Bridge.  
(B) Proceed to Westminster tomorrow Wednesday forenoon and open to visitors at 1130.  
(C) Leave Westminster 1500 Wednesday for Battle Bridge Buoys.  
(D) Proceed 1200 Thursday arriving 1500 at permanent floating berth at No.5 berth North Quay Western Dock, London Docks which is convenient for public entry.  
(F.O.I.C. London, 222150 to Admty., F.O.S.)

Z. 33, My 201528B sailed R. 132 escorting.  
STEINERIC. (N.O.I.C. Cuxhaven, 221306B to F.O.W.G.)

LA MALOUINE, Your 221347 not to all. Request ships be  
CAMPION, sailed as follows:  
corvettes. BULLDOG to Dartmouth for reduction to Category B.  
LA MALOUINE to Preston and CAMPION to Liverpool for reduction to Category C.  
Latter two ships should de-ammunition before sailing. On completion of reduction ships to retain minimum passage stores and be sailed under their own power to Milford Haven for laying up in mud berth.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 221711B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

RODNEY, Scapa deaprture C. in C. Home Fleet in RODNEY,  
battleship; C.S.1 in NORFOLK, escorted by OPPORTUNE and  
NORFOLK OBEDIENT.  
cruiser; (C. in C. H.F., 221802B to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
OPPORTUNE,  
OBEDIENT  
destroyers.

U. 1110. U.1110 arrived Wilhelmshaven (?21)00.  
(N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven, 222209B to F.O.W.G.)

Shipping and Convoys

Convoys To reduce delays to shipping -  
F.N./F.S., (a) F.N. convoys are to disperse off the Humber  
E.N./W.N., as directed by C. in C. Nore commencing with  
W.V./V.W., F.N. 17.  
B.T.C. (b) F.S. convoys are to assemble at the Humber  
commencing with F.S.11.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

- Convoys  
F.N./F.S.,  
E.N./W.N.,  
W.V./V.W.,  
B.T.C.  
(Contd.)
- (c) E.N. and W.N. convoys are to be discontinued.  
(d) B.T.C. convoys are to disperse at F Buoy commencing with B.T.C. 167.  
(e) W.V. and V.W. convoys are to be discontinued except for personnel ships.  
(2) Traffic between Flamborough Head and the Butt of Lewis is to burn navigation lights at full brilliancy. M.A.R.I. is being amended.  
(3) It is to be explained to Masters that -  
(a) These are local instructions only and that the precautions enjoined in A.M. 131503 May cannot yet be relaxed in all areas.  
(b) The mine danger requires strict adherence to the prescribed routes.  
(4) Pass to N.C.S.Os.  
(V.C.N.S., 221120B to A.I.G.12, C. in C. H.F.)  
Inform N.C.S.Os. concerned. A.M. 221120B para. 1(A).  
Commencing with F.N.17, F.N. convoys are to disperse on passing 62 E. Buoy, ships thence proceeding independently to destinations.  
(2) Escort will part company at 62 E. Buoy and proceed as ordered by D.16 or D.21.  
(C. in C. Nore, 221917B to Com. Southend.)

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22.5.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

U.541 and 485. Intend to sail ex German submarines U.541 and U.485 with WOLVERINE and AVONVALE as escorts for Londonderry. C. in C. Mediterranean 201135 not to all refers.  
(2) S. of A. 12.5 knots. Routed.  
(5) Submarines carry extracts of recognition signals and can fire flares but not grenades.  
(6) AVONVALE proceeds to Devonport in accordance with Admty. 211108.  
(7) After arriving Londonderry WOLVERINE returns to Gibraltar. (F.O.G.M.A., 221143B to Admty).  
My 221143\*ships sailed at 1700B/22nd WOLVERINE, AVONVALE. (F.O.G.M.A., 221751B to Admty. F.O. Submarines).  
\*Intend to sail ex German Submarines U.541 and U.485 with WOLVERINE and AVONVALE as escort for Londonderry.

Codfishing Portuguese fishing trawler JOAO CORTE REAL left Newfoundland fishing banks for Lisbon 20th by reverse of outward route. My 091945\* Feb. para. 4 refers.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 221148B to Admty).  
\*Fishing fleets will be divided into 5 groups.

U.963 Your 211904\* Para. (one) My 211832 refers. Further enquiry being made.  
Para. Two. Portuguese will agree, vide despatch number 486 of May 21st from British Ambassador to Foreign Office.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 221202B to Admty).  
\*Scuttling of U.963 off Portugal.  
Officers and men of U-boat 963 are now held at Fort Maias at entrance to Tagus. Suggest one of ~~H.M. Ship~~ be sent early to anchor off Caxias 3 miles west of BELEM CASTLE where Portuguese Naval Authorities will transfer prisoners of war. Transfer preferred after dark. Request date and expected time of arrival of recovering ship.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 221745B to Admty).

It is possible that U.963 was subjected to attack by aircraft. Information of the results and extent of damage are of importance. Request you will endeavour to obtain the following information:-  
(a) Time, latitude and longitude of the attack by aircraft West of Hebrides on May 6th.  
(b) Exact position of damage, i.e. forward, midships or aft in U-boat.  
(c) Nature and extent of damage.  
(d) Details of attack as observed by U-boat's crew.  
(e) Any other points of interest.  
2. Request your reply be graded Top Secret.  
3. Paragraph 1 of your 211832B refers.  
(D.A.U.D., 222044B to N.A. Lisbon).

Appian: Appian. Departure 1658 22nd Flight J composed as in my 211656.  
Flight J. (F.O.G.M.A., 221905B to V.A. Malta).

War Diary

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Movement

Intend sailing KILKENZIE, KILDWICK at 1200Z/22nd May to R/V WYE at position and time ordered in F.O.C.W.Af. 191300Z.\*  
(French Admiral Commanding Dakar, 221021Z to F.O.G.M.A.)  
\*sailing KILDWICK and KILKENZIE to come under orders of WYE.

Air sea  
Rescue  
patrol.

U.S.S. MIAMI, BOCAINA, on air sea rescue patrol  
005° 00' 026° 30'.  
1 M.L. off Lagos. 1 M.L. off Takoradi.  
ST. ZENO, H.M.S. LADY ROSEMARY, 006° 32' S.  
003° 46' E. to Takoradi 8½.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F. 221145Z to R.N.O. Lagos, Admty).

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

✓  
M/S  
Trawler  
groups  
reforming  
of.

On 4 June 1st A/S M/S trawlers on the Med. Station are to reform into M/S trawler groups as follows:  
2nd M/S trawler group based at Piraeus - CUMBRAE (S.O.), BURRA, (2nd S.O.), ISLAY, ROMEO, OTHELLO-STROMA.

\* RONALDSHAY

11th M/S trawler group based at Piraeus - HOY (S.O.), STAFFA (2nd S.O.), \*RONALD CLOSE, ROUSAY, RUSKHOLM, EGILSAY, FILLA, UNST.

27th M/S trawler group based at Malta - H.M.S. MINUET (S.O.), H.M.S. HORNPIPE (2nd S.O.), H.M.S. COVERLEY, SALTERELLO, TWO STEP, H.M.S. FOXTROT, H.M.S. GAVOTTE, H.M.S. PIRQUETTE.

34th M/S trawler group based at Leghorn - GILLSTONE (S.O.), SKOKHOLM (2nd S.O.), GRAN, GULLAND, KITTERN, AILSA CRAIG, CROWLON, MEWSTONE.

S.Os. of trawler groups will have short titles of T.G.2, T.G. (?11), T.G.27, T.G.34 respectively.  
(C. in C. Med., 222252, to Med. Station).

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Titles and organiza-  
tions lapsed  
and cancelled. (A) Force 66 and 77 Escort Group. Cancel E.I.  
General Messages 464 C 17th March 478 C 24th  
March 507 C 4th April.  
(B) ø 6th Com. Force 65.  
(C. in C. E.I. 220445Z E.I.G.M. and all senior  
N.A.S.)  
/ T.O.O. 171207/March.  
(1) E.G. 60 will consist of TAFF, LOSSIE, ODZANI,  
BARLE, PLYM, HALLADALE.  
(2) Force 66 will consist of EMPRESS, SHAH and  
E.G.160.  
ø as received.

Movements.

Arrived QUEEN EMMA, SPEARHEAD, SEANYMPH  
Departed SPEARHEAD, SEANYMPH, QUEEN EMMA  
French ship LE TRIOMPHANT.  
(Com. Aden, 221656Z to Admty.)

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22.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

✓ Air-Sea  
Rescue.

Cinclant with Cominch approval has proposed standardization of addressees this traffic to effect better co-ordination between U.S./Brazilian Commands and vessels and to eliminate retransmitting pertinent despatches Comsolant and C.T.F. 24. In general following are considered as those who should know. North of 15° N. Cominch, Admiralty, Cinclant, C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A., C.T.F. 24, Comnavzor, C.M.S.F., Com. N.O.B. Iceland, Com. N.O.B. Bermuda, A.T.C. South of 15° North, Cominch, Admiralty, Cinclant, Comsolant, F.O.C.W.Af., A.T.C. This applies to co-ordination between areas of responsibility and is not intended to prescribe addressees within areas of responsibility. Request your consideration and concurrence.  
(Comnavu 220917 to Admty., concur D.S.D. 241904B Comnavu.)

E.G. 28.

Relieved by BUCKINGHAM and INCH ARRAN. Your 211240Z. My P.C.S. 47.15 N. 49.58 W. 280, 16 knots. E.T.A. St. Johns 2000Z/22nd. Defects STE. THERESE small leak in port main condenser. FORT ERIE hedgehog gyro stabiliser.  
(S.O.E.G. 28, 221300Z to F.O.N.F.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

1200Z/22nd May, no fresh information.  
(N.S.H.Q., 221316Z.)  
Enemy U-Boat estimate 200Z/22.  
Nothing new past 24 hours.  
(Cominch 221432Z.)

✓ Naval Air  
Station  
Piarco.

Request approx. date now be given for closing Naval Air Station Piarco, S.B.N.O. Trinidad reports that having no idea as to this date considerable difficulty is being experienced with regard to future. Unless Piarco is to be closed shortly another ship of suitable size and good speed will be required to replace CORSAIR, no local ships being suitable.  
(S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic 221439Z to Admty.)

FENNEL  
corvette.

My 141801. Request H.M.C.S. FENNEL be retained in the U.K. on arrival ex H.X. 356 for return to R.N.  
(2) If reduction in strength of group is not acceptable suggest R.C.N. <sup>FLOWER</sup> FLOWER corvette returning to Canada be used to augment group.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 221826Z to C. in C. W.A.)

SHEFFIELD,  
cruiser.

When ready about 29 May sail independently SHEFFIELD Boston to Portsmouth, England.  
(Cominch 221856Z to Cinclant.)

/Policy...



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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Policy re  
enemy war-  
ships etc.

A.M. 182229, para. 4. B.M.S.M. has been consulted. It is not considered that any serious difficulties are likely to arise if reference is not made to C.C.S. now. (B.A.D., 222259Z to Admty.)

F.S. LA  
GRANDIERE.

B.A.D. concurring Cominch as executive agent C.C.S. authorizes transfer of F.S. LA GRANDIERE to British operational control for employment in East Indies Fleet. French Navmipoin is in agreement. Cincpac. sail ship when ready to destination to be designated by C. in C. E.I. (Cominch 222317Z to Cincpac., Adv. and Pearl, C. in C. E.I.)

T.G. 61.8.

T.G. 61.8 hereby constituted. Captain Litchfield in POPE, Comcortdiv. 4 in PILLSBURY, FLAHERTY, CHATELAIN, NEUNZER. (C. in C. Lant, 222357Z to C.T.G. 61.8.)

Far East and Australia.

Blue Summary  
21st.

Ryukyus. 96th Inf. Div. On left flank reached outskirts of Yonabaru Town. Patrols entering town reported it deserted. 77th Inf. Div. Captured Taima Machi just north of Shuri. Little change in positions on the right flank.

On 20th from 1830 to 2000/1 (-9) attacks by 35 low flying enemy aircraft possibly co-ordinated with midget submarine activity inflicted following damage:-

\* JOHN C. BUTLER  
intended (D.E. 334)  
See p. 586.

BUTLER (D.M.S. 29) 2 suicide hits on mainmast. No hull damage or personnel casualties.

THATCHER (D.D. 514) suicide hit amidships. Proceeded Kerama Retto under own power.

TATTNAL (A.P.D. 19) bomb hit.

REGISTER (A.P.D. 92) suicide crash on deck. Caused some hull damage.

CHASE (A.P.D. 54) suicide crash alongside caused flooding of engineering spaces.

L.S.T. 808 previously hit by bomb and beached, hit by suicide plane.

11 enemy planes shot down by ships A.A., 9 by T.A.F. Cap. 2 or 3 midget submarine contacts but no attacks made on our ships.

/C.T.F. 51...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

Blue Summary C.T.F. 51 states all reported midget submarines  
21st. believed destroyed or damaged by SEIBERLING  
(Contd.) (D.E. 640) FINNIEGAN (D.E. 307) and BARBER  
(A.F.D. 57).  
Bad weather limited close air support on 20th  
to 85 sorties by planes of T.F. 58 C.V.Es. and  
(?A.F.)  
T.F. 57 hit Sakishima Gunto 20th and 21st with weather limiting  
operations on 1 strike on 20th.  
Searchers Empire Area. F.A.W. 18 plane left 1 S.C. and 5  
Fishing Boats sinking and damaged 1 Pete. F.A.W. 1 reports  
from 14 through 20 May planes sank 8 ships totalling 14,980 tons.  
Damaged 12 ships totalling 10,850 tons. Destroyed 3 enemy  
aircraft and damaged 3, since arriving in Okinawa area F.A.W.  
1 planes have sunk 86,880 tons, damaged 81,500 tons, destroyed  
21 enemy aircraft, and damaged 15 submarines.  
Blue submarine reports sinking 1 small A.K., 1 deep sea trawler.  
1 enemy submarine sighted off Leyte another northeast of Ulithi.  
S.W.P.A. Formosa 20th. Searches 21st. Following shipping sunk,  
2 S.C. off Borneo, 2 luggers off Celebes, 1 S.D. off Matsu  
Island, 1 large A.K. in Hangchow Bay.  
Search plane over Ponape on 20th sank 4 small craft.  
(C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 220657 to Depcom. 20, etc.)

A.F.D. 20. A.F.D. 20 and DESTINY escorted by WARRNAMBOOL  
and INVERELL arrived Darwin 0403Z/22nd May.  
Remainder of convoy W.O. 4A E.T.A. Darwin a.m.  
24th.  
(N.O.I.C. Darwin 220717Z to Admty.)

Digest 1217, (1) Search planes from Clark Field damaged four  
21.5.45. large loaded junks North Hainan, destroyed one  
(extract.) small coaster damaged two others northeast  
Foochow.  
(2) Mariners from Lingayan night 20/21 May  
damaged thirty junks hit small craft off China  
coast.  
(3) Privateer from Palawan sank two sea trucks fired another,  
damaged three sea trucks two small NASTERYOB (sic) and JERMASIN  
(sic), Liberator sank two luggers Makassar Strait.  
(4) Liberator dropped one ton on single sizeable freighter  
Hangchow sinking vessel.  
(9) Mindanao forces advanced six and one half miles North  
Panacant capturing Bunawan secured Malaybalay airfield and  
seized Malaybalay town.  
(10) Australian patrols Tarakan Island fanned out one mile West  
Mount Tanfaol: 16 Lightnings supported, hitting enemy gun  
positions, naval gunfires support continues.  
(11) Delayed reports 20th May involve 24 Liberators hitting  
Pido Point motor torpedo boat base Davao Gulf starting fires.  
15 Liberators, 12 Mitchells covered by seven Lightnings hitting  
Balikpapan shipping sinking single large freighter transport,  
probably sinking two small coasters, destroying saw mill  
hitting barracks, two Liberators sweeping gulf of one damaging  
small coaster, hitting Barito shipyards.

567

22.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

Digest 1217,  
21.5.45.  
(extract.)  
(Contd.)

(13) Australian forces cleared high ground South Boram New Guinea: Lightnings supported bombers straffing Sepek river villages while R.A.N. sloop and corvette bombarded enemy positions South Boram. Single corvette of R.A.N. supported Australian forces Bougainville. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 220930Z to Admty.)

Floating  
Transit  
Storage  
B.P.F.

R.A.F.T. 221010Z to C. in C. B.P.F. V.A.(Q).  
B.P.F.  
See Lion Copy. 220825Z June.

✓ Mines for  
B.P.F.

C. in C. 012314Z stocks of submarine mines in Australia and still expected amount to about three hundred M Mark one and 250 Mark 16.  
(2) Mines storage is full see A.C.N.B. 181037Z (not to all.)

(3) Intend to reduce stocks in Australia to one hundred of each type.

(4) Request consigning instructions for balance of 350 mines of both types.  
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 221044 to Admty.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 170527 not to Port Said.  
Request ILLUSTRIOUS may take minimum fuel at Aden and Gibraltar and max. at Port Said.  
(D.O.D.(F) 221946B to C. in C. B.P.F.)

FEJA  
567A

**TOP SECRET**

**IN**

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

*Shorting Transit Stage  
B.P.F.*

221010Z/May.

From. R.A.F.T. B.P.F.

Date. 22.5.45.

Recd. 2215.

C.C.M. (5 Service) H.C. BY W/T.

To. C. in C. B.P.F. V.A.(Q).  
Rptd. Admiralty. B.S.1. A.C.N.B. R.A.(D) B.P.F.  
C.E.F. B.P.F. F.A.A.C.A.

IMPORTANT.

Admiralty 112228 and your 140909 neither to all.

Calculations from recent experience give the minimum additional number of each type of ship required over and above those shown at each two monthly period in QB.106/44, amendment number seven, dated 1st April.

(2) Assumptions are:-

- (A) That no further rear base replenishment will be possible during the period June to November.
- (B) That the nearest logistic support will be at Sydney and that the forward anchorage will be at any rate no nearer to it than Leyto.
- (C) That the total fleet allocated should be adequately served and maintained by the total fleet train available at any period.
- (D) Reductions due to refits in combat units operating would be paralleled by corresponding reduction in fleet train operating.

(3) All figures are increases required above QB106/44 figures.

Type of ship.	July.	Sept.	Nov.	Remarks.
(A) V.S.I.S.	2	9	10	Monabs not included. 80% perishable stores to be available. If 2 small fast refrigerated carriers (1500 cubic tons each) were provided in July and one more in Sept. and Nov. a 30% reduction in the overall figures could be accepted. V.A.(?Q) 16(?0)747 May refers.

Cont. (B) ...

<u>Type of ship.</u>	<u>July.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
(B) <u>N.S.I.S.</u>	2	2	2	Can possibly be met in earlier stages by (?retention) of CITY OF DIEPPE, advance of arrival dates of NORIS ROCALIE?, SANDUSKY and WAYNE.
(C) <u>N.S.C.</u>	0	2	4	-
(D) <u>A.S.I.S.</u> and <u>A.S.C.S.</u>	14	17	19	<i>Based on</i> 2,000 (5ton) capacity ships required. These figures are based on the assumption that there will be no large scale requirement for ammunition at sea, and will require revision according to the extent the latter is required. My 181114 refers.
(E) <u>Small tankers and water tankers.</u>	0	0	0	Capacity of those allocated must be not less than 1000 tons each and must arrive to dates shown. They are already late.
(F) <u>Fresh water freighter.</u>	1	1	1	Additional to <sup>large</sup> small water tankers already allocated above.
(G) <u>Large tankers.</u>	<del>4</del> 6	<del>4</del> 8	<del>4</del> 8	Essential to meet task unit commitments. AASE MAERSK requires unjustifiable major alterations to make her efficient and it is proposed to convert her to water freighter when build up permits. My 240810 February refers.
(H) <u>A.I.R.I.S.</u>	0	1	1	-
(J) <u>Hospital ships.</u>	2	2	2	Should be fast carriers <del>not fast</del> carriers. This is due to long haul and no shore facilities.
(K) <u>Repair ships.</u>	-	-	-	DILIGENCE, ASSISTANCE and ALAUNIA all required during September.

Cont. (L)

IN

HUSH-MOST SECRET

CANCELLED

**TOP SECRET**

**IN**

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Type of ship. July. Q.T.B. are expected from this rule.)

(L) <u>S.R.R.D.</u> <u>ships.</u>	2	1	1	Some workmen for repair ships must be carried in S.R.R.D. ships.
(M) <u>Escort</u> <u>M.S.</u>	2	2	2	For increased numbers of escorts (subject to C.I.F.'s remarks).
(N) <u>Armament</u> <u>Maintenance</u> <u>ships.</u>	2	2	0	To contain stowage for G.M. stores and spares beyond existing capacity of subsidiary G.M.S.V. in Dullisk Cove. Estimate approx. total requirements 100 tons, 10,000 cubic feet.

(4) Consider six bulk issuing naval store ships asked for in my 240816 February should be pressed for particularly in view of long supply lines.

(5) It is most desirable that a radio stores issuing ship be provided.

(6) Marudu is dealt with in separate signal.

(7) Barrack ships, craft repair, maintenance and crew accommodation ships form the subject of a separate letter.

(8) The one amenities ship now allocated will only allow each man to attend entertainment in her once every six weeks. Request is not being made for increase in period under review as it is known that no other specially fitted ship can be made available.

(9) Detailed analysis showing reasons for all above essential requirements is being submitted.

(10) All ships to be oil burning.

(11) R.A.D. C.E.F. and F.A.A.C.A. are requested to signal any required increase in auxiliaries.

(12) Attention is invited to Admiralty's 102112 under heading Cuxhaven, Copenhagen and Wilhelmshaven.

221010Z.

amended by  
230850

See 2622 + 110707Z June

Circulation over 120747 June

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(3)  
D.F.S.L.(2)  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
Vice Contr.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.(Air)  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
Nav.Sec.  
Sec.  
Dep. Sec.  
Vice Cont.(Air)  
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)  
Hd. of M.(5)  
D.C.O.D.(4)  
D.G.D.  
D.R.E.  
D. of S.(3)  
D.D.A.S.(L)  
D. of V.  
D.S.V.P.(3)  
A.C.N.P.  
D. of M.  
D.T.S.D.  
D.N.A.O.  
D.A.W.T.  
D.A.C.R.(2)  
D.A.E.  
D.N.A.R.(3)  
D.A.M.R.(2)  
Hd. of Air  
D. of D.  
D.N.O.  
D.T.D.(4)  
D. of S.T.(6)  
Ad.Blake  
W.D.  
Dep. Cont.  
D. of D. } Bath  
D.N.O.  
D.A.S.  
Hd. of S.W.R.(3)

en 125

IN

~~HUSH-MOSTED SECRET~~

~~CANOTED~~

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23.5.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- ✓ 1. Convoys T.B.C./B.T.C., E.W.L./W.E.L., E.W.C./W.E.C. and C.O.C./O.C.C. are to be discontinued. (p.580)
  
- ✓ 2(a) Escort strength is now to be reduced to 50%, exclusive of trans-atlantic close escort groups. (p.570)  
(b) C. in C. Portsmouth nominates 9 escort ships, and C. in C. Plymouth 11, for reduction to Category C, Reserve.
  
- ✓ 3. Ships of the Home Fleet are no longer to be manned with full war complement. (p.570)
  
- ✓ 4. WARRIOR, MAGNIFICENT and CRESCENT class flotilla of destroyers are to be lent to the Canadian Navy. (p.571)
  
- North Sea. / 5(a) Important German warships are to be concentrated at Wilhelmshaven. Flak-ships Nos. 21, 22 and 23 have arrived from Cuxhaven; PRINZ EUGEN and NURNBERG will be sailed from Copenhagen tomorrow.  
(b) One mine was detonated in the Bight.
  
- Channel. / 6. Q.Z.X.967 has now been swept. Three mines were detonated.

Foreign Stations

East Indies

- Malacca. / 7. At Singapore today a single U.S. aircraft observed two heavy cruisers, eight tankers, approximately 100 sea trucks and coasters and one floating dock containing a large merchant vessel.



23.5.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

Escort Group,  
dissolution  
of.

8. E.G. 6 (R.C.N.) was dissolved today.

Movement.

9. RANEE (Escort Carrier) sailed from Norfolk, Virginia for New York.

Far East and Australia

Borneo.

10(a) U.S. aircraft destroyed 4 sea trucks and three small coasters off Bandjermasin (Borneo) also demolished sheds containing five small vessels and set fire to eight other small vessels and started large fires in shipyards.  
(b) One small coaster and two small craft destroyed and five small coasters, four luggers and a motor launch were damaged off S.E. Borneo by U.S. aircraft.

China.

11(a) Today and yesterday U.S. aircraft scored hits on approximately 20 schooners, junks and luggers off the China coast.  
(b) Liberators sank two small freighter transports and one large sea truck and attacked four other vessels in the Yangtze river mouth and bombed the oil depot at Shanghai.

Movements.

12(a) RAJAH arrived Pearl Harbour from San Diego, California.  
(b) ATHELING left Pearl Harbour for the U.S.  
(c) NEWFOUNDLAND arrived Auckland from Manus.

23.5.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

Further  
Reduction  
of Escort  
strength.

C's in C. are to reduce escort strength to 50% of British and Canadian ships now allocated to their commands. This number to be exclusive of trans-Atlantic close escort groups which will not be reduced until ships are released from convoy.

(2) The consequent reduction in escort of coastal convoys is accepted.

(V.C.N.S. 230109B to C's in C. W.A., Nore, Plymouth, Portsmouth)

Reduction  
in comple-  
ment of H.F.  
ships.

The cessation of hostilities in Europe now renders it unnecessary for ships of the Home Fleet to be manned with full War complements.

(2) In view of the urgent need for release of manpower the complements of all Home Fleet ships are to be reduced on the basis that the following are no longer required:

(a) Simultaneous manning of H.A. and L.A. armaments.

(b) Continuous simultaneous manning of Radar Sets.

(c) Full torpedo tubes crews.

(d) Engine Room ratings in excess of peace complements.

(3) Request you will inform Commodores of Manning Depots repeated Admiralty of the reduction possible on the above lines, together with any other reductions you consider can reasonably be made.

(Note: The local detailed answers will not be included in the War Diary).

(V.C.N.S. 230115B to C. in C. H.F.)

Showing  
the Flags  
in Continental  
Ports.

H.M. Ships DIADEM and ORIBI arrived Copenhagen to-day Wednesday 23rd May. Admiralty's 201510 refers.

(Cdre. Denmark 230803B to C. in C. Rosyth, C.S.10.)

A.N.C.X.F. 211300 not to Flensburg.

ZEALOUS sailed for Flensburg 1300/22nd May and ZODIAC 0330/23rd May.

(F.O.Kiel, 230951B to Admty, C. in C. H.F. A.N.C.X.F.)

My 192312. It would be much appreciated by Polish troops in Wilhelmshaven area if Polish warships could visit this port when the opportunity occurs.

(A.N.C.X.F. 232335B to C. in C. H.F.)

Broadcasting  
of surrender  
orders to  
U-Boats.

Surrender orders for U-Boats are to continue to be broadcast until 2359Z on 29th May. These transmissions are authorised in accordance with para 1A of my 211436 being passed to Admiralty.

(A.N.C.X.F. 231525B to O.K.M. for Capt. Maund)

/Amenities ...

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War Diary23.5.1945  
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSPolicy - Contd.Amenities  
with  
Sweden.

In view of efficient arrangements recently made by Swedish Authorities in providing escorting destroyers and pilots to enable considerable number of British Warships to reach Copenhagen via Swedish waters, I suggest it would at this juncture be timely for you to authorise me to convey message of appreciation to Head of Navy from British Admiralty.  
(N.A.Stockholm, 231758 to Admty.)

Transfers  
to R.C.N.

Your letter dated 7th May No. M.S. 160-1-1. Approved for WARRIOR, MAGNIFICENT and CRESCENT class flotilla of destroyers to be transferred on loan to the Royal Canadian Navy.

(2) Concur that terms of sale of the light fleet carriers be discussed if and when option to purchase is exercised.

(V.C.N.S. 232024B to C.N.M.O.)

OperationsNorth Sea

U.287.

Reference F.O. W.Gs. 221256 and N.O.I.C.Hamburg's 191720. Following is summary of information available.

2 German U-Boat ratings picked up from rubber dinghy by Port Security Police between Schulau and Blankenes ~~See~~ 2230/18/May. Interrogated a.m. 19/May/45. Prisoners stated they came from U.287 which left Kiel 14th April proceeding via Norwegian coast and Shetlands to West Coast Ireland where signal re cessation of hostilities was received, then proceeded Brunsbüttel surfacing near Heligoland and entering Elbe River surfaced unchallenged. 6 men left U. 287 in rubber dinghy night of 14/15. 4 landed slightly east of Brunsbüttel remaining 2 were picked up proceeding with dinghy towards Hamburg. Later intentions of U-Boat not known to prisoners. U.287 had no contact with other German U-Boats during last cruise, and transmitted no signals. Sighted convoy in Shetlands area but did not attack.

Report follows.

(N.O.I.C. Hamburg, 231123B to F.O.W.G.)

War  
materiel  
taken at  
Dunkirk.

Captured enemy naval war materiel Dunkirk of importance as follows:  
4 Midget S/MS 14 meters long bussing diesel powered speed 7 knots apparently intact.  
11 small craft varying from 12 to 50 meters in length origin of all vessels not known.  
German shore battery consisting of one 150 mm4

105 mm. guns.

1 Gun 50 mm 2 guns 40 mm and other small arms and miscellaneous matter.

1 French shore battery intact original installation radio station consisting of 10 transmitters varying from 5 watts to 800 watts and 7 receivers. Other captured materiel of lesser

/ importance ...

23.5.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

War materiel taken at Dunkirk. (Contd.) importance including Ammo stores will be included in detailed general report being prepared by French Naval Authorities. Instructions regarding disarmament of enemy personnel and captured equipment and destruction of hazardous materiel have been complied with. Radar installation considered pertinent A/C detection accordingly custody assumed by 21st Army Group. Port facilities and captured naval war materiel are under control French Naval personnel. (U.S. N.L.O. Boulogne, 231420B to Comnavforfrance)

Discharge Situation Report. Cosintintrep No.414 part 4 Section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600B/22 May.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	-	150	9,154	-	13,444
Ostend	2,127	108	1,913	-	-
Calais	5,967	93	41	-	-
Rotterdam	-	-	1,708	-	-
Caen.	-	-	71	400	-
Totals:	<u>8,094</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>12,887</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>13,444</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	105	11,560	-	-
Cherbourg	-	21	403	-	5,616
Le Havre	4,377	53	1,924	-	739
Rouen	2	-	4,158	330	2,493
Ghent	-	-	10,916	-	-
Totals:	<u>4,379</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>28,961</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>8,848</u>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	2,000	85	9,018	-	-
Port De Bouc	-	-	361	-	-
Totals:	<u>2,000</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>9,379</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Army coal at: Granville 102, Morlaix 300, St. Malo 815, Dieppe 1,076. Propose discontinuing this section 1 June. Any addressee considering report still essential reply before 28 May.

(S.H.A.E.F. 231445B to Admt. and others)

Important German warships to concentrate at Wilhelmshaven. For security purposes it is intended to concentrate Important German Warships at Wilhelmshaven. (2) Steaming parties should be retained onboard and remainder of ships company landed. (A.N.C.X.F. 231556B to F.O.W.G.) Flak (ships) 21, 22 and 23 arrived Wilhelmshaven. (N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven, 232148B to N.O.I.C. Cuxhaven.)

/Minesweeping...

War Diary

23.5.1945  
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping  
to Hamburg.

Operation "Dropkick".

(1) Four ships (?search channel) Cuxhaven to Hamburg. Two flotillas widening channel modified L Boom to P.15 Buoy. Total actuations 11. Two pairs operation "Lamod". Completed width

1½ cables.

(2) One ground mine 092 degs. P.15 Buoy 12.7 miles.

(3) Nil. (4) Nil.

(Capt. M/S Force C. 231907B to C. in C. Nore.)

206th Minesweeping Flotilla, all fitted modified L and two ships fitted C mark IV can be sent to Cuxhaven to operate under your orders if required and if they can be accommodated.

(C. in C. Nore, 231917B to Capt. M/S Force C.)

Operations

Channel

Sweeping  
of Q.Z.X.  
967.

Modified L sweep of Q.Z.X. 967 completed. Area has been covered twice being subjected to 12 impulses each time. 3 Magnetic Mines as previously reported were detonated. Request instructions. Full report being forwarded by N.D.B.S. to Capt. M/S.

(M.S.F. 142, 230901B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Mining of  
Channel  
Islands.

Reference S.O.142 M.S.F. 230901. Further information makes it certain that 7 mines reported in my 090913 to C. in C. Plymouth only as having been swept by Germans in Q.Z.X. 967 were not in that area but were parachute mines dropped by an A/C in June or July, 1944, in an area approx. 120

Castle Breakwater Light 15 cables and 076 degs. Castle Breakwater Light 9 cables.

(2) Request full information total number mines dropped in St. Peters Port area during these raids as further twelve were recovered unexploded on shore and foreshore by Germans.

(N.O.I.C.Channel Is. 231940B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations

Western Approaches.

Air/Sea  
Rescue in  
North  
Atlantic.

Reference Admiralty's 220157B.

(1) It is proposed that Castle Class corvettes, in spite of their full speed being three knots less, should be used instead of Captain Class frigates for the following reasons:

/a) ...

23.5.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Air/Sea  
 Rescue in  
 North  
 Atlantic.  
 (Contd.)

- (a) Better endurance.
- (b) 50% less engine room complement.
- (c) Their maintenance is much simpler.
- (2) It is therefore proposed that
  - (1) E.G. 30 and E.G.31 comprising 10 ships should be detailed.
  - (ii) These ships should be reduced to
    - (a) 6 officers including Medical Officer.

(b) 100% original engine room complement.

(c) 60% of remainder of complement.

(3) It is intended to commence reducing E.G.31 forthwith in accordance with para. 2 (ii) in order that they should be ready to release the present ships on patrol by the time they have to refuel.

(C. in C. W.A. 230113B to Admty)

Reception  
 of surrender-  
 ing U-Boats.

Pledge one. My 221158 is in abeyance. Exist-  
 ing organisation is to remain in force till  
 further orders.

(C. in C. W.A. 231115B to Admty. N.O.I.C. AuLbea.  
 Loch Alsh, Eriboll)

Operations

Norway

U-Boats from  
 Horten to  
 U.K.

Request you will sail MONTSERRAT to Horten.  
 C. in C. W.A. 241637/ not to N.O.I.C. Stavanger  
 refers. (sic)

(C. in C. Rosyth, 230946 to N.O.I.C. Stavanger)  
 / MONTSERRAT, LOCH SCAVAIG, BAHAMAS, PAPUA are  
 detailed to escort U-Boats from Horten to U.K.

54th M.T.B.  
 Flotilla  
 to Bergen.

Concur with A.M. 222330 subject to there being  
 no immediate requirement for supply of 100 Octane  
 to Bergen and maintenance being undertaken in  
 U.K.

(A.N.C.X.F. 231020B to C. in C. Rosyth, Admty.)

My 222145B/ Para. 2. (not to NARVIK) proceed so

as to R/V with me in Bergen A.M. 25th May.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 232041B to H. Nor. M.S. NARVIK)

/ Intend proceeding in M.T.B. 717 to Bergen.

Situation at  
 Bergen.

Intend to sail from Rosyth at 1700B to-day  
 23rd to comply with C. in C. H.F. 221605.  
 R/V with ZAMBESI 0230B/24th 090 degs. Pentland  
 Skerries light 10 miles. N.O.I.C. Bergen is  
 requested to arrange pilot at 1700B/24th.  
 (C.S.10, 231348B to N.O.I.C. Bergen, R.A.D. H.F.  
 N.O.I.C. Bergen, ZAMBESI.)

SECRET

574A  
IN

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

Rec'd in  
W.D.  
4/6/45 \*

230006B/May

Date 5.6.4.5.  
Time 1149

From C. in C.W.A.

Naval Cypher RR by T/P

Reduction of Escort Bases.

Addressed F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland,  
F.O.I.C. Liverpool, Cdre. (D) W.A.  
Repeated Capt. (D) Belfast, F.O.I.C. Glasgow,  
N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, N.O.I.C. Cardiff,  
Capt. (D) Liverpool, Capt. (D) Greenock.

It is anticipated that escort bases will be clear of W.A. escort vessels by latter half of July and that by then ships at present allocated to Far East will have completed refit and those allocated to reserve will have been handed over to F.O.C.R.F.

2. F.Os. are to submit to C. in C.W.A. their proposals for reduction in base staffs and ancillary service in relation to following dates which have been arbitrarily fixed for planned purposes

- (A) Cessation of convoys, 29th May
- (B) Return from convoy duty of last escort vessel to base, 15th June
- (C) Final clearance of escort vessels from bases subject to para. (3) below, 31st July.

3. Allowance should be made for following modified factors

- (A) It may be necessary to refit at Belfast turbo Captain class frigate for Far East, for which 3 months should be allowed.
- (B) Londonderry is proposed as base for 6 remaining W.A. escort vessels and 10 air sea rescue ships (Castle class corvette) until taken over by other command or allocated to other duties.

4. Separate signal is being made regarding training and instruction facilities at escort base.

5. My W.A. 023 of 3rd May refers and report already made in accordance with that letter should now be adjusted in light of date given in para 2 above.

\* Note. This signal requested by War Registry - referred to in C. in C.W.A.'s 021320 (closing of escort vessel base at Greenock).

Advance Copy Duty Capt, D.O.D. (H).

Marking over/.....

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L. (3)  
 D.F.S.L.  
 2nd S.L.  
 3rd S.L.  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)  
 P.A.S. (S)  
 D.C. (2)  
 D.S.O.  
 O.D. (6)  
 D. of P. (3)  
 M. (2)  
 W.D.  
 Ad. Blake. (4)  
 D. of P. (Q) (3)  
 A.C.N.P. (4)  
 D. of M.  
 O.I.C. (2)  
 D.T.D. (4)  
 D.D.O.D. (C)  
 D. 57. O.B.  
 D. A/S.W.  
 D. A/U.D.  
 D.T.S.D. (2)  
 Dep. Contr. (3)  
 D. (4) } Bath. (17)  
 S.W.R. (6) }

bas

(A38)



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Intercepted  
scurrilous  
German  
message.

Request early reply to my 201535.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 231750B to F.O. Norway)

Sailing of  
U-Boats  
to U.K.

My records show that there are now about 90  
U-Boats in Norwegian Ports the majority of which  
are seagoing. The maintenance of such a large  
number may well be beyond the capacity of your  
small party.

I propose to arrange with Admiralty for as many  
as possible to be sailed to U.K. at an early date. First  
priority should be given to Bergen where the congestion  
appears to be most acute. Request your early remarks and  
sailing proposals.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 231846B to F.O. Norway)

Operations

Northern Waters

Visit to  
Spitzbergen.

Your 201534 not to all. Intend to use BERWICK  
and one destroyer for transport of personnel and  
stores from Greenock to Spitzbergen. Request  
two L.C.V's may be allocated complete with  
crews for this operation to be embarked by  
BERWICK at Greenock on 11 June.  
(C. in C. H.F. 231042 to Admt.)

Convoy  
R.A.67.

My 051219 para. 10. On arrival about position  
C ONSLOW and OBDURATE proceed to Scapa. QUEEN  
and 4th escort group continue with R.A. 67.  
QUEEN proceeding to Greenock.  
(C. in C. H.F. 231452B to D.17)

From N.C.S.O.

- (1) R.A.67 Kola portion (Room 6088).
- (2) Toros Island 1900B/23rd May.
- (4) 9½ knots.
- (5) My 211345B paras. 3 and 4.
- (13) (A) Cdre. G.E. Sutcliff R.N.R. in SAMARITAN.
- (B) Vice Cdre. of convoy Master W.D. Buron.
- (14) S.P. 2406 (944) S.P.2272 (36) and (37).
- (15) X.G. (16) EGERO.
- (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 232035B to Admt.)

Visit to  
Bear Island.

Admiralty's 120221B May. Intend to sail N.S.  
STORD with party for Bear Island on May 24th or  
25th.  
(2) After R/C from seaward armed party of 24  
men will be landed at Nordhamna to reconnoitre  
from landward.

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Visit to  
Bear Island.  
(Contd.)

(3) If successful, meteorological party of 5 men will be landed at Tunheim with W/T equipment type 3 mark II and supplies for one month.

(4) C.O. N.S. STORD has authority to modify plan as necessary.

(5) Communications constant watch on H.D. and

4205 K/cs.

(6) Estimated time required to complete operation between 50 and 60 (?hours).

(7) Request early approval.

(N.O.I.C.Tromso, 232100B to C.in C. Rosyth)

[Operation conducted on 28.5.45. See p.620.]

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsBaltic

Situation in Kiel Command  
 Situation at 2100 today Tuesday. A belated report of inspection confirms German statement that all Radar equipment on Ahmarn Island was destroyed before capitulation. Hospital ships GENERAL SANMARTIN and PRETORIA with 5000 wounded from Denmark will be passing through Canal a.m. Thursday 24th. Final deck sweep by Sperrbrecher should be completed tomorrow H.M.S. ZODIAC proceeded beyond Rendsburg to show the Flag in Canal returning p.m. sailed ZEALOUS for Flensburg. Destroyer PAUL JACOBI transferred to Kiel under armed guard. Disarmament of M/Vs in Flensburg Fiord practically completed. Preparation of captured M/Vs by N.O.I.C. Kiel progressing well. (F.O.Kiel, 230915B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Situation in Denmark  
 Middleground and Flak Forts now evacuated by Germans and under Danish control. (Cdre. Denmark, 231722B to A.N.C.X.F.)

~~PRINCE~~ PRINZ EUGEN and NÜRNBERG to Wilhelmshaven  
 DEVONSHIRE, DIDO, SAVAGE and IROQUOIS should be sailed to escort PRINCE EUGEN and NÜRNBERG leaving Copenhagen on 24th May. (2) Route. From Copenhagen by Swedish neutrality channel to Paternoster and by Way 43 and Way 42. Thence as ordered by F.O. Norway to position (H) of Q.Z.S.738. Thence through position 55° 21' N. 06° 35' E. to P.11 buoy and P.15 buoy. F.O.W.G. is requested to provide route from P.15 buoy to Wilhelmshaven. (3) On reaching position (H) cruisers are to part company and proceed to Rosyth by Q.Z.S.738. Destroyers are to accompany German ships to Wilhelmshaven. (4) A.N.C.X.F.'s 222300 not to all refers. (D.O.D.(H), 231919B to A.N.C.X.F., F.Os. Norway, Denmark, W.G.)

Enemy Intelligence

U-boats type XXI  
 Information has been obtained from an A 1 source of a conversation overheard between German U-boat Captains in Bergen in which the opinion was stated that German U-boat type XXI will not be allowed to reach U.K. owing to nature of new apparatus on board. (N.O.I.C. Bergen, 231055B to F.O. Norway.) See 241710 Norway.

U-boat situation  
 My 181744B May situation now as follows:-  
 (a) Number of U-boats arrived in U.K. 36, U.S.A. and Canada 7, Gibraltar 2, now on passage to U.K.  
 (b) Number of active U-boats in occupied ports:  
 Kiel 2, Flensburg 2, Wilhelmshaven 18, Eckernförde 1, Neustadt 1, Brunsbüttel 1, Cuxhaven 2, Aarhus 2, Fredericia 3, Kristiansand South 17, Bergen 25, Stavanger 9, Holmstrand 10. (N.I.D., 231320B to N.L.O. 21 A.G., A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

50 knot hydrofoil craft at Travemünde

A sixteen metre aluminium craft fitted with controllable Hydrofoils located at Travemünde is reported to be capable of achieving fifty knots at sixteen tons displacement, having two in number 750 H.P. engines. Lieutenant (E) Moss of D.C.F.M. has interrogated the designer and inspected the craft drawing and data relating to Hydrofoils of this and other craft. Results of such trials as have already been carried out are available. The craft could be made ready for further trials in about one month if required. Request instructions.  
(F.O.I.C. Kiel, 232310B to Admty.)

Movements

RODNEY, battleship;  
NORFOLK, cruiser;  
OBEDIENT, OPPORTUNE, destroyers

Your 221802 RODNEY, NORFOLK, OBEDIENT and OPPORTUNE arrived.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 230621B to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE cruiser

Arrived NEWCASTLE.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 230746B to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Request consideration may be given to NEWCASTLE disembarking all ammunition and surplus oil before proceeding to Tyne.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 231205B to Admty.)

APOLLO minelayer

Return to Rosyth.  
Report E.T.A. 25 buoy.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 230833B to APOLLO.)

Vestfjord U-boats

Following U-boats in harbour 0900B today 23rd May. U.427, U.668, U. 278, U.295, U.318, U.363, U.313. (N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 231014B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Intend to sail U.318, U.427, U.363, U.313 at 1600, today Wednesday North about Skye to Lisahally, escorted by CAYMAN and BARBADOS. Speed of advance 12 knots, E.T.A. Lough Foyle Buoy 1000 24th. U.363, U.313 have extra personnel in List 2. All U-boats Type 7C.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 231147B to Com. D.W.A.)

UPSTART, UNTIRING submarines

It is expected that both UPSTART and UNTIRING will be available to leave Portsmouth mid June for Mediterranean and subsequent turn over to Greeks.  
(F.O.S.M. 231519B to Admty.)  
Intend UNTIRING should be the 3rd U-class submarine to be turned over to the Greeks.  
(F.O.S.M. 231529B to Admty.)

Sloops and frigates for the East.

When ready ships are to be sailed via the Mediterranean as follows:-

/(a)...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Sloops and  
 Frigates  
 for the East  
 (Contd.)

(a) ERNE, HART, MAGPIE, MERMAID, AMETHYST, BLACK SWAN, AIRE, to join B.P.F.  
 (b) DART, EVENLODE, to join East Indies Station.  
 (2) Opportunity should be taken by A/A Sloops to carry out A/A practices at Malta while on passage. (D.O.D.(H), 231543B to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth, Nore.)

Escort ships  
 for reserve  
 Category C.

Ref. A.M. 230109B May.  
 Report in accordance with A.M. 180853 April para. 6. Read in three columns.  
 BEAGLE Devonport 24th May.  
 THORNBOROUGH Portsmouth Defective, date of completion as yet unknown.  
 NARCISSUS Chatham 24th May.  
 STONECROP Devonport 24th May.  
 LONDONDERRY Devonport 25th May.  
 AZALEA Devonport 27th May.  
 DAHLIA Portsmouth 28th May.  
 CLARKIA Chatham 25th May.  
 ALGOMA Niobe 24th May.  
 VILLE DE QUEBEC Niobe 24th May.  
 KITCHENER Niobe 24th May.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 231730B to Admty., F.O.C.R.F.)

A.M. 230109B not to all.

Following ships nominated for reduction to category C. in accordance with A.M. 180855 April not to all.

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Manning Port</u>	<u>Ready to sail</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Manning Port</u>	<u>Ready to Sail</u>
LEITH	Chatham	26th May	GENTIAN	Portsmouth	27th May
MYOSOTIS	Chatham	26th May	SNOWDROP	Portsmouth	27th May
BURDOCK	Chatham	26th May	DIANTHUS	Devonport	27th May
WESTON	Portsmouth	26th May	PRIMULA	Chatham	Refitting at
CONVOLVULUS	Devonport	26th May			Antwerp.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 232138 to Admty., F.O.C.R.F.)

BIRMINGHAM  
 cruiser

Rosyth departure - C.S.10 in BIRMINGHAM.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 231734B to C. in C. H.F.)

ARIADNE  
 minelayer

Arrived - ARIADNE.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 231804B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

U.739

Your 191240B May. Estimated time departure 0600 Thursday, 24th, E.T.A. 0600 Friday, 25th May. (N.O.I.C. Emden, 231823B to F.O. Western Germany)

Shipping and Convoys

German small  
 craft in  
 channel Is.

Two German Merchant Ships KLAUS WILHELM (250 tons) and DOROTHEA WEBER (250 tons 818½) are very suitable to relieve inter-Island W.D. Coasters (?SK)AL and ZUID (2716) now allocated who on relief could be returned to U.K.

/German...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

German small craft in Channel Is. (Contd.) German ship would be manned by German crew and a guard provided when at sea.  
(2) French tug LOIRET manned by German crew is required for harbour duties in St. Peter's Port.  
(3) Request your approval to utilise above ships as indicated in paras. 1 and 2.  
(4) Para. 2 of your 151305 refers.  
(5) Full details of all ships surrendered in Channel Island ports will be forwarded as early as possible. (N.O.I.C. Guernsey, 231056B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Release of Rescue ships. When ocean convoys cease rescue ships will no longer be required for service in W.A. Command.  
(2) Following is the present position regarding rescue ships.  
Clyde: ACCRINGTON, PERTH, EMPIRE PEACEMAKER, COPELAND (due to sail 26th May), FASTNET (due to sail 26th May), SYRIAN PRINCE (due to sail 31st May), EMPIRE SHELTON (due to sail 31st May).  
Halifax: DUNDEE, EDDYSTONE, GOTHLAND, ST. CLAIRE, ZAMALEK.  
Homeward bound E.T.A. Clyde: ABOGNE (31st May), MELROSE ABBEY (28th May), RATHLIN (29th May), EMPIRE LIFEGUARD (25th May), EMPIRE COMFORT (28th May).  
Outward bound: BURY, DEWSBURY, GOODWIN, EMPIRE REST. (C. in C. W.A., 231820B to Admty.)

Release of U.S. L.S.Ts. and others. At meeting at S.H.A.E.F. today in accordance with S.H.A.E.F.'s 191915 not to all the following releases from the "Overlord" Forces were agreed.  
(A) Now 20 U.S. L.S.T., all U.S. L.C.T. (56) and (6) all U.S. L.C.I.(L).  
(B) May 26th 4 U.S. L.S.T.  
(C) May 31st 15th L.C.T. (3) Flotilla 24 non-operational L.C.T. (4).  
(D) After "Apostle" about June 8th. Remaining 26 U.S. L.S.T.  
(E) June 15th 24 non-operational L.C.T. (4) 263rd L.C.I.(L) Flotilla.  
(F) During June 10 non-operational L.S.T.  
(2) Date of release of U.S. L.S.T. in (D) is dependent on a C.C.S. ruling about use of U.S. L.S.T. in "Apostle" for which S.H.A.E.F. is asking.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 231935B to Admty., Comnavcu.)

Convoys T.B.C./B.T.C., E.W.L./W.E.L., E.W.C./W.E.C., C.O.C./O.C.C. The following coastal convoy schedules are to be discontinued: (a) T.B.C./B.T.C. (b) E.W.L./W.E.L. and E.W.C./W.E.C. (c) C.O.C./O.C.C.  
(2) Traffic so released is to burn navigation lights at full brilliancy. Masters being warned as in para. 3 of A.M. 221120.  
(3) Pass to N.C.S.Os. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 232051B to A.I.G.12, C. in C. H.F.)

/Convoys ...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSShipping and Convoys - Contd.Convoys  
W.V.P./  
V.W.P.

A.M. 221120B authorises discontinuation of cross-Channel convoys except for personnel ships.

(2) The following arrangements are to come into force at 0900B Friday 25th May:

- (A) W.V.P. and V.W.P. convoys composed of the 14 knot and over L.S.I. and troop-carriers currently in service on the Southampton/Havre shuttle will continue as at present, escorted by ships of Portsmouth Escort Force. Scale of escort will be reduced, routes and timing as at present. These will be known as W.V.P.(F) (for 'fast') and V.W.P.(F) convoys. Routes "Yoke" and A.S. [*Suffix F dropped, 291240, p.720*]
- (B) Liberty and M.T. ships in which troops are embarked in numbers which with the crew, exceed the ships' own boat capacity are to be treated as personnel ships, and are to be sailed in convoy, escorted. These will be known as W.V.P.(S) (for 'slow') and V.W.P.(S) convoys. Leave Isle of Wight or Havre 2100B. Routes "Yoke" and A.S. [*Cancelled by 291240, p.720*]
- (C) (1) L.S.T. sailing from Solent to Havre and Cherbourg will sail unescorted, in groups, leaving St. Helens at 2200 and 2100 respectively, routed by Route ZK west and Route CH respectively. M.T. and coasters will not be included in these groups. (2) L.S.T. returning from Havre and Cherbourg to the Solent will sail unescorted in groups, unless C.T.F.122 prefer otherwise. He is requested to indicate his intentions in this respect.
- (D) L.C.T. will continue to be sailed in "Starlight" (U.K. to France) and "Bluesky" (France to U.K.) groups escorted by a trawler or coastal craft as navigational leader and W/T link, as long as these are available.
- (E) All other cross-Channel shipping will sail independently by day or night.
- (1) Solent to Havre shipping is to be routed by Route ZK. Havre to Solent shipping is to be routed by Route ZK east.
- (2) Solent to Cherbourg shipping is to be routed by Route CH. Cherbourg to Solent shipping is to be routed by Route ED. It may be possible shortly to reinstitute the pilotage service at the Needles, shipping between Solent and Cherbourg will then be enabled to use the Needles Channel. Further directions covering this will be given.
- (3) Directions regarding burning of navigation lights are being issued separately.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth, 232228B to Portsmouth Command.)  
Amended by 291240B, q.v., p. 720

\* Para 2a cancelled when personnel cross-channel convoys were ordered to cease (C. in C., Portsmouth 011722B/June, page 19)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SS. MANGALORE (Swedish) distress. Detail 2 escorts to proceed forthwith at best speed to assistance of Swedish ship MANGALORE making S.O.S. in approx. position 38° 30' N. 35° 00' W. at 2014Z/22nd, originally steering 180° 14 knots. Names of ships detailed to be reported.

(C. in C. W.A., 230025 to Escorts U.C. 68A.)

Your 230025B PLUNKETT proceeding at 25 knots and S.L. EVANS following at 19 knots.

(C.T.U. 61.4.1, 230050A to C. in C. W.A.)

C. in C. W.A., 230025B. Air search from Azores E.T.A. 38.30 N. 35.00 W. 0630Z/23rd May.

(S.B.N.O. Azores 230050Z to Escorts U.C. 68A.)

C. in C. W.A., pass to all. Arrived 0500Z your estimated position MANGALORE searched general area result negative. 0634Z received on 500 k/cs following position report from MANGALORE position 0600 G.M.T. lat. 36.34 N. long. 35.10 W. course 231, speed 16. Gave no indication of trouble. While awaiting your further orders proceeding with EVANS Vest\* 15 knots.

(PLUNKETT 230954 to C. in C. W.A.) \*As recd. (?West) intended.

My 230050Z not to all. Aircraft sighted Swedish SS. MANGALORE in position 35.21 N. 37.10 W. course 224, speed 15 at 1250Z/23rd. Ship is in no need of assistance.

(S.B.N.O. Azores 231406Z to Admty.)

Your 230954Z. Abandon search and rejoin convoy.

(C. in C. W.A., 231513 to PLUNKETT, S.L. EVANS.)

By despatching plane provided S.B.N.O. Azores 0050B/23rd intercepted MANGALORE at 1330Z/23rd position lat. 35.20 N. long. 36.58 W. course 231, speed 16, who stated he did not make any distress reports. Unless otherwise directed, EVANS will rejoin U.C. 68A, course 277, speed 18.5, position 2000Z/23rd lat. 38.36 N. long. 39.45 W. PLUNKETT will rejoin course 271, speed 17, position 2000Z/23rd. lat. 38.20 N. long. 39.35 W.

(PLUNKETT 231645 to C. in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic.

Air-Sea Rescue - (U.S. aircraft returning America).

Admiralty's 182352B and 191807B WELLINGTON in position, all the following positions are north and west unless otherwise indicated 035° 20' 016° 10'.

(N.N.W.S. 20 230427B to F.O.G.M.A.)

U. 963.

Request you will order AVONVALE to proceed to TAGUS to embark C.O. and Engineer Officer of U-Boat 963 for transfer to U.K.  
 (3) Further signal follows about remaining prisoners.  
 (D.O.D.(F) 231137B to F.O.G.M.A.)

/A.M....



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

U.963.  
(Contd.)

A.M. 231137. Request you will arrange for one or more ships of Gibraltar Escort Force to transfer remaining prisoners to Gibraltar and for their return to U.K. by first available transport, guard being provided from service personnel already on board.

(D.O.D.(F) 231211B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Your 211904 para. 1. C.O. of U-Boat 963 was questioned by Portuguese and stated that (1) General order issued by German Admiralty was received from a British station and disbelieved: it was not received from a German station.

(2) Personal message transmitted 18th May not received.

(3) Orders not complied with as signal disbelieved.

(4) No knowledge of general surrender.

(5) Scuttled owing to damage.

(6) Your 222044 and my 221745. If my suggestion is followed consider further questioning through medium of Portuguese prejudicial to thorough interrogation later by British authorities as officers and men not segregated.

(N.A. Lisbon 231254B to Admty., F.O.G.M.A.)

Detach AVONVALE forthwith to proceed to Tagus and anchor off Ft. Maias 3 miles west of Belem Castle to comply with Admiralty Message 231137.

(2) AVONVALE to report E.T.A. to N.A. Lisbon (R) F.O.G.M.A.

(3) On completion of embarkation AVONVALE proceed to rejoin you.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 231610 to WOLVERINE.)

Intend to act in accordance with Admiralty's 231137B without waiting for your instructions E.T.A. 1845.

(AVONVALE 231640B to F.O.G.M.A.)

My departure from Lisbon depends on Ambassador's decision on extradition of German U-Boat officers.

(2) Regret I cannot decypher any messages in C.C.M. Request any signal for me be sent in naval code or naval cypher.

(AVONVALE 232215 to F.O.G.M.A.)

ENTERPRISE  
(trooping.)

Departure 1700B/23rd ENTERPRISE for Port Said.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 231736B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Air-Sea  
Rescue Stn.

All times Z. Relieved air-sea rescue station 19 at 1800/23 by Zanzibar. Bound Horta for 50,000 gallons fuel. Speed 16.5 knots. E.T.A. 2000/24th.  
(Comcoartdiv. 30 231810 to Com. 12th Fleet.)

ESCAPADE  
(destroyer.)

ESCAPADE sailed at 2200B/23rd May my 221101 refers.  
(2) S.O.A. 22 knots E.T.A. 2000B/26th May.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 232256B to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S.  
for U.K.

Intend to sail B.Y.M.S. 2257, 2149 and 2150 at 0700Z/24 May for Gib. for onward routing to U.K.  
F.O.C.W.Af's 171129 May refers. (3) S.O.A. 9 knots  
(5) E.T.A. Gibraltar p.m. May 31.  
(Comar Dakar 231124Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

Frigate.

JED arrived.  
(N.L.O. Port Elizabeth 231505Z to C. in C. S.A.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

HUNT class  
destroyers  
(tropicali-  
sation of.)

Anticipate that 4 HUNT class destroyers additional to HAYDON, OAKLEY and ZETLAND could be taken in hand for refit and tropicalisation for Eastern Theatre commencing during July one each at Malta, Gibraltar, Taranto and Ferryville. Also probably a further three during August at Gibraltar, Taranto and Alex.

(C. in C. Med. 232004B to Admty.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

MANCHESTER CITY for B.P.F. In view of urgency of requirement referred to in V.A.(Q) B.P.F's 240317 April, propose sailing MANCHESTER CITY direct to Australia. (2) With C.M. stores on board vessel can carry additional 2,500 tons. By dumping 500 tons mines and sinkers and 2,000 tons ballast, capacity would be increased to 5,000 tons. My 010503\* refers. (C. in C. E.I., 230519Z to Admty.)  
 \* Full load of C.M. stores carried by ship which is required to call Addu Atoll and Mauritius.

Title. F.O.N.I.C. 657 intend to use (convoy?) title  
 R.M. for R.M. for route Rangoon to Madras or Ceylon  
 Convoys. and M.R. (for?) reverse route.  
 --(C. in C. E.I., 230638Z to Admty.)

Escorts for E.I. Escorts. Requirements are substantially the same as in my 050539 March.  
 (2) The 8 escorts for political reasons will not be needed if reply to my 111158 May is favourable.  
 (3) The requirements for 30 R.N. escorts and 18 "Hunts" is confirmed.  
 (4) The total R.N. frigates, sloops, cutters and corvettes on the station is now only 40 due to diversions to B.P.F. and some units becoming beyond repair with station resources.  
 (5) To keep pace with increasing tempo of operations the date in para. 3 of my 080351 must now be advanced to mid-July.  
 (6) To make operational planning possible request number and types of reinforcements may be signalled. Your (191943) refers.  
 (7) Some "Hunt" class destroyers are required now for Carrier training.  
 (8) The reduced numbers on the Admiralty planned figure of 142 escorts on this station will still require all the maintenance facilities in Admiralty plan M/PD 029/45 of 10th April refers.  
 (C. in C. E.I., 231225Z to Admty.) *See 051532 B JUNE.*

AUSONIA (Fleet repair ship) refit at Bombay. Sailed AUSONIA at 1100Z/23rd.  
 (2) E.T.A. 0600Z/29th, S. of A. 12 knots. (Com. Aden, 231541Z to F.O. Bombay.)

Movements. Arrived SHOOTING STAR, SANDSTORM, SIGFRA, ROCKSAND. Departed AUSONIA, ROCKSAND, B.Y.M.S. 2064 (S.O.), 2017, 2153, 2225, 2018, I.S. CARABINIERE.  
 (Com. Aden, 231611Z to Admty.)

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23.5.1945.  
Wednesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West IndiesRe U-boats  
at Bergen,  
Norway.Reference C.O.S.(W) 877. Following report has  
been received by C. in C. Home Fleet from C.S.I.  
after visit to Bergen. Begins:

I am rather concerned about the stability of the situation at Bergen depending as it does on the continued discipline and good sense of the German armed forces, the Norwegians and the Russians ex Prisoners of War. Any small incident combined with the deterioration of discipline, which seems bound to occur before long, may well lead to a clash which would be serious as the Germans still have some arms and outnumber the rest. There is the further important point that the Germans, and particularly the German Navy, are occupying shipyards, buildings and houses in and around Bergen which are needed by the Norwegians before conditions can start to return to normal.

As a start I consider it most desirable that the 32 sea-worthy U-boats should be sent away from Bergen as soon as possible as they and their crews are so much in evidence in the town. In addition, even if it is not yet possible to carry out a large scale evacuation of the remaining German Naval personnel, at least a token few should be evacuated to Germany now so as to show both Germans and Norwegians that the situation is not stagnant. This also applies to the German Army, though except for headquarters personnel, the majority have already been concentrated away from Bergen. Ends.

This fully substantiates our argument that U-boats in Norwegian waters should be moved to U.K. You should at once inform Cominch and emphasise the need for a very early decision on C.O.S.(W) 877.

(P.A.S.(L) App. V.C.N.S., 230001B to B.A.D. Washington).

BEACHY HEAD,  
FLAMBOROUGH  
HEAD.

Your 222107Z. BEACHY HEAD departed p.m. Saturday 19th May. Date for FLAMBOROUGH HEAD indefinite due to non arrival of any of engine room complement and no personnel from same depot available Aden. My 161814,\*131847 and Combrax Chatham 171801B both latter to B.A.T.M. and Admiralty refer.

(C.O.P.C., 230004Z to N.S.H.Q.)

\*Departing Esquimalt 0100 G.M.T. 20th May. H.M.S. BEACHY HEAD Escort. Maintenance Ship given route.

✓Draft for CN.1004 arrived Vancouver minus ERA's Stoker P.Os. leading Stokers, and Stokers.

✓Crews for M.T.C.E./C.I. left U.K. 29 April crew for M.T.C.E/C.2 awaiting passage.

E.G.6

E.G.6 is dissolved to date the 23rd May.  
2. H.M.C.S. ANNAN, H.M.C.S. LOCH MORLICH and H.M.C.S. LOCH ACHANALT are to be prepared to proceed to the U.K. as soon as possible for return to the R.N. N.S.H.Q., 191650 not to all refers.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 231224Z to Capt. D. Halifax).

U/B  
Dispositions.

Enemy U-boat estimate 1200Z/23. No fresh information since Cominch 221432.  
(Cominch, 231347Z to Admtly).

/1200Z/23...

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23.5.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

- U/B Dispositions. (contd). 1200Z/23rd May part A one possibly homeward bound about 300 miles south or south east of Cape Race Part B No surrendered German U-boats in area.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 231349Z to S. and A. etc. and Admty).
- BITTERSWEET (Corvette). Request BITTERSWEET be reduced in accordance N.S.H.Q. 191650\* passed to you and when ready sailed to St. Johns N.F. for onward routing to U.K. and return to R.N.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 231801Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney).  
\*Re H.M.C. Ships to proceed to U.K.  
C.R.No.10233.
- Task Force 20 Dissolution of. When Rear-Admiral Rockwell hauls down his flag as Comphibtralant on 25th May all functions and responsibilities of that Command will be assumed by Cotclant and Task Force 20 dissolved.  
(C. in C. Lant, 231942 to Allant No.2).
- S O S Search. With INCH ARRAN in company proceed forthwith to search vicinity 045° 25' N., 044° 00' W. where S O S originated by unknown ship at 0430Z/23rd.  
2. POUNDMAKER, H.M.C.S. LEASIDE detached from O.N.S.50 at 1430Z/23rd in position 045° 24' N., 045° 07' W. to search area.  
3. Effect junction with POUNDMAKER and H.M.C.S. LEASIDE as soon as possible and continue search until further notice under POUNDMAKER's orders.  
(F.O.N.F., 232024Z to BUCKINGHAM and 251448).
- E.G.6 Anticipate E.G.6, H.M.C.S. ANNAN, H.M.C.S. LOCH MORLICH, LOCH ACHANALT will be ready to proceed to United Kingdom with adjusted complements p.m. May 28th C. in C. C.N.A.\* 231224 refers.  
(D. Halifax, 232031Z to C. in C. C.N.A., see 241753Z).  
\*E.G.6 is dissolved to date the 23rd May.
- U.190 When U.190 is sailed for Shelburne N.S.H.Q.'s 161931 refers, additional submarine ratings will be required for passage approximately as follows:-  
2. Request provision may be made to hold these ratings in readiness for early passage to St. Johns.  
3. Date by which ratings should arrive St. Johns will be signalled when U.190 arrives St. Johns.  
4. U.190 will be sailed from Bay Bulls to St. Johns as soon as weather permits. Your 211501\* refers.  
(F.O.N.F., 232045Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)  
\*A small number of officers and ratings from SEAWOLF and L.23 can be usefully employed at Halifax.
- Escort W.7 O.N.S.50. W.7 COBALT S.O., WETASKIWIN, DAUPHIN, DAWSON sail St. Johns 1000Z/24 May to relieve you in Westomp 4310 N., 50.39 W. at 1300Z/25.

23.5.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Escort W.7.  
(Contd.)

(2) On relief C.8 proceed direct St. Johns one escort being detailed to escort ships found east coast Newfoundland ports to St. Johns. (F.O.N.F., 232118Z to Ships escorting O.N.S.50.)

Far East and Australia

Loan of  
N.Z. ships.

My 112315 not to all. Loan of H.M.N.Z. ships WAIPU and AROHA has now been approved but it is regretted that New Zealand officers will not now be available. (N.Z.N.B., 230245Z to V.A.Q.)

Clock  
repairs  
in B.P.F.

Provision in the Fleet Train of a small well-equipped workshop for repair of clocks and watches and manned by an experienced watchmaker would be very useful. Could this be provided in repair ships fitting out. A suitable and varied assortment of spare parts would be necessary. (C. in C. B.P.F., 230518Z to Admty.)

This is  
Blue Summary  
22nd.

Ryukyus. 7th Inf. Div. in early morning Okinawa attacked drove through Yonabaru and gained high ground south of town. Rain and mud limited operations in other sectors of the front line. On 21st dusk attack by 12/15 enemy aircraft from west in 2 raids repulsed without damage to our ships. 8 enemy aircraft destroyed by ships A/A and suicide attempts. As result bad weather only 62 support sorties flown. R-Adm. H.Price Comfaw 1 relieved R-Adm. Kikand as S.O.P.A. Koluto Retto. R-Adm. McCormick Combatdiv 3 relieved R-Adm. Smith Comcrudive 5 as C.T.F.54. On 20th <sup>JAN</sup> W.C. BUTLER (DE 339) damaged by suicides instead of BUTLER<sup>A</sup> (DMS 29) as reported in Blue Summary 1st. Searches Empire Area. F.A.W.1 planes left 4 SD burning south of Korea. Damaged 4 SD outside Hangchow Bay and 2 luggers off Shanghai. On 21st/22nd F.A.W.18 planes sank 5 luggers along southern Honshu coast. Damaged 2 small AK. Destroyed Sally towing glider. Submarines. Mership reports sighting submarine along Eniwetok Ulithi shipping lanes. British submarine sank 2 small craft on 16th. S.N.P.A. On 21st 4 B.24s. flew night heckling missions Formosa. Search planes attacked communications, warehouses and airfields Indo-China and sank 1 schooner off Hong Kong. 6 P.Vs. attacked Seria South of Brunei Bay on 22nd.

/C. in C. ...

23.5.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia

This is Blue Summary 22nd. (Contd.)

*force carriers*  
C. in C. E.I. reports DDs. sank NACHI class CA 50 miles south-west of Penang early morning of 26th. Carrier planes had scored probable 1 bomb hit and 1 near miss afternoon of 15th, also damaged 1 enemy DD. 1 British DD damaged. 31 sorties Palau 7 JY's 4 Sonsoral night of 21st, 5-6 enemy aircraft detected (?Avijxt) off Iwo Jima. A/A shot down 2 possibly shot down 2 more. Betty which crashed on central air-strip caused minor damage. (C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 230602 to All commands interested.)

Digest 1281, 22nd May. (Extract)

(1) Search plane from Palawan attacked 10 small coasters damaging 4 Pontianak Fotma.  
(3) Incomplete reports state Navy search planes from Clark Field burned 9 small landing craft beached 60 miles north-east Foochow.  
(4?) Mariners from Lingayen night 21st/22nd May fired one small ship strafed junk Formosa area, hit 7 schooners Hong Kong area.  
(9) Australian Forces on Tarakan Island occupied feature 700 yards north Hill 105, continued attacking strong enemy positions between Hills 105 and 102. 6 Liberators supported ground forces 21st May.  
(10) Delayed reports from 21st May. 4 Liberators on Utkmssar Strait shipping search sinking small freighter transport off Laoet Island, hitting Samarinda shipyards, possibly sinking small coaster. 12 Mitchells hitting Lawas Town Brunie Bay, 3 Lightnings firing buildings and luggers Sandakan, 4 Lightnings sweeping Jesselton airfield.  
(13) 2 Catalinas, 1 Mitchell on negative search for suspected submarine off Buka Island.  
(14) R.A.A.F. operations for day involved 4 minelaying Catalinas, 6 Liberators hitting Balikpapan dispersal areas starting large fires, damaging 3 small craft Flores Island. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 231000Z to Admty.)

Movement. Arrival Auckland NEWFOUNDLAND. (N.Z.N.B., 232315Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-Boat Surrender

U.1110 has arrived Wilhelmshaven from Sylt, otherwise nothing to report. (D.D.I.C., 231120B to A.I.G. 331.)

24. 5. 1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. / 1. With Rosyth replacing Scapa as operational base for the Home Fleet the two berths allocated for destoring to ships reducing to reserve are no longer available. F.O.C.R.F. points out that this will delay reduction of ships to reserve.
- Norway. / 2. (a) BIRMINGHAM and ZAMBESI have arrived in Bergen.  
(b) All U-Boats now in Norway are to be brought to the U.K. The intention is to sail them with German crews with the exception of Type XXI boats, which will be sailed with British crews, since the Germans have been reliably overheard deciding that in view of the new apparatus on board them "they shall not reach Britain."  
a? / (c) The "Doomsday" convoy has arrived at Oslo.  
(d) Kristiansund can accept 23 ships between 12 and 29 ft. draught.  
(e) Trondheim can accept 17 ships 440 ft. long and 27½ ft. draught.
- Northern Waters. / 3. Skaalefjord (Faroes) baffles have been dismantled.
- Baltic. / 4. (a) A.N.C.X.F. presses C. in C. H.F., for destroyers for Flensburg and Kiel, where the Germans are occasionally defiant.  
(b) F.O.I.C. Kiel has arrested 4 German Admirals and their staffs.  
(c) Lübeck can accept 23 ships drawing 19 ft. and 5 drawing 14.  
(d) Travemünde can accept 5 ships drawing 22 ft.

Foreign Stations.

East Indies.

- Malacca St. / 5. Last night 4 Liberators laid mines off Singapore and the Klang Straits.



24.5.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Far East and Australia.

- Borneo. 6. P.Ts. destroyed 6 small craft numerous canoes also barrack buildings ashore at Dewhurst Bay (N.E. Borneo.)
- New Guinea. 7. H.M.A.S. SWAN (sloop) silenced enemy gun positions in support of ground forces.
- Bougainville. 8. H.M.A.S. KIAMA (corvette) supported Australian Forces on the N.E. coast of the island and destroyed three barges.
- Japan. 9. 500 super Fortresses dropped 3536 tons of incendiaries on Tokio.  
16 U.S. super Fortresses are missing. 11 enemy aircraft were destroyed in combat and two damaged.
- Movement. 10. AUSTRALIA sailed from Sydney for Bora Bora (Society Islands.)

24.5.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Shewing the Flag in Continental Ports  
 OPPORTUNE take OBEDIENT and OFFA under your orders and proceed passing Oxcars at 1630 today 24th May to Kiel in accordance with my 221046. Speed of Advance 20 knots.  
 (C. in C.H.F., 240918B to OPPORTUNE.)  
 F.O. Kiel reports that present situation necessitates one Destroyer continuously in Flensburg area and two at Kiel to assist in control of shipping and to bring home defeat to the Germans whose present moral is high and, on occasion, even defiant.  
 (2) Request that this may be arranged if possible.  
 (3) A further signal will be made when conditions improve.  
 (A.N.C.X.F. 241752B to C. in C.H.F.) *Reply: Admiralty, 260103B, page 638*

Post War mine clearance bases

The following list gives ports which it is intended to use as Post War Mine Clearance Bases with the minesweeping Forces proposed as a first allocation.

<u>Bases</u>	<u>Fleet Sweepers</u>	<u>M.M.S.</u>
Dover	1 Flotilla	2 Flotillas.
Sheerness	-	3 Flotillas.
Lowestoft	-	3 Flotillas.
Grimsby and Immingham	1 Flotilla	4 Flotillas.
Granton	2 Flotillas	1 Flotilla.
Harwich	3 Flotillas	
North Shields	1 Flotilla	1 Flotilla.
Scapa	1 Flotilla.	
Aultbea	1 Flotilla.	
Milford Haven and Swansea	1 Flotilla.	2 Flotillas.
Liverpool	-	1 Flotilla.
Plymouth	-	1/2 Flotilla.
Portland	-	1 Flotilla.
Portsmouth	-	2 Flotillas.

One Flotilla of Fleet Sweepers will be allocated between Plymouth, Portland and Portsmouth.

(2) Allocations of M/S Forces are tentative pending replies to A.L. M/M.S. 0251/45 dated 9th May, but selected bases should be considered settled and are promulgated for information and to assist planning.

(3) Fleet sweepers and some M.M.S. commitments cannot be met concurrently, and allocations will depend on the decisions of the International Mine Clearance Board.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 242256B to A.I.G.12. )

Operations

North Sea

Important German Warships to Wilhelmshaven

A.M. 231919 (in Baltic). Cancel paragraph 3 and substitute:-  
 (3) DEVONSHIRE and DIDO are to escort as far as P.11 buoy. Destroyers are to accompany German ships to Wilhelmshaven.  
 DEVONSHIRE and DIDO are to return to U.K. by reverse route as far as position H, thence to Rosyth via Q.Z.S.738.  
 (D.O.D.(H), 240025B to A.N.C.X.F., F.Os. Norway, W.G. Denmark.)

/Sailed...

24.5.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Important German Warships to Wilhelmshaven (Contd.) Sailed 1200B. My 231604B\* refers. (Cdre. Denmark, 241535B to F.O. Norway.) \* DIDO, IROQUOIS and SAVAGE. My 231556 being passed. Request you sail German destroyers as convenient to Kiel for onward routeing via canal to Wilhelmshaven. Your 221905 not to all. (A.N.C.X.F., 241420B to F.O. Denmark.)

Minesweeping to Wilhelmshaven My 230934 and my 231626 neither to all. With a view to expediting widening of channel P.10 to P.15 having due regard to breakdowns and convoy escort requirement intend to widen channel on South West side to 6½ cables only. (2) Additional points in favour of this policy

are:

- (a) Channel well buoyed and lit full brilliancy.
- (b) Cross set slight.
- (c) Good holding ground for buoy.
- (d) (corrupt group) 20 fathom of water.
- (e) Shipping escorted.
- (f) Prevailing weather from South West.

In these conditions 1 mile either side of buoy a luxury.

(3) This proposal reduces by nearly one half the work outstanding in channel from P.10 to P.15.

(M.S.F.18 241002B to C. in C. Nore.)

U.287 Your 211315 and Captain Alleyne's 221158B. Suggest interrogation of survivors to determine why O.K.M. reports U.287 mined 16th May when survivors were disembarked night 14th/15th May. (D.D.I.C., 241143B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Information on Midgets at Rotterdam My 171848B state as follows. (2) 2 Bibers sank alongside at Poortershaven end Dec. 1944 and early Jan. 1945 each carried 1 mine and 1 torpedo only, 1 torpedo was recovered. (3) Unconfirmed rumour of Bibers sinking in waterway whilst in tow on route to operational area.

(4) Craft of all types reported to have passed consistently over position where mines were lost.

(5) All midget submarine records including losses and accidents are being taken in hand at Flensburg. Kapt. Lieut. Bastian at present at IJmuiden might have further information.

(6?) No more details available in Rotterdam.

(N.O.I.C. Rotterdam, 241315B to F.O. Holland.)

Reductions to Reserve at Rosyth Following received begins:  
To: F.O.C.R.F.  
From: C. in C. Rosyth.

Reference the meeting held at Pitreavie in April attended by your C.O.S. to discuss arrangements for reducing ships to reserve - It was agreed that two

/berths...

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Reductions  
to Reserve  
at Rosyth  
(Contd.)

berths alongside at Rosyth would be available for destoring. The situation has, however, now changed and in view of operational requirements both for R.E.F. and Home Fleet Ships these berths will not be available until further notice.  
T.O.O. 241212B. Ends.  
This will considerably delay reduction of ships to reserve.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 241320 to Admty.)

Minesweeping  
to Bremen

Operation "Dropkick".  
There are approximately 17 German M/S and 2 Sperrbrechers available for service and the question of their employment in clearing channel to Bremerhaven and Bremen has been suggested.

(2) After consultations with F.O. W. Germany today he is arranging a meeting with U.S. Naval Authority at Bremerhaven on Tuesday next May 29th to discuss whether channel sweeping by German ships is acceptable.

(3) Request policy may be communicated and instructions regarding operation "Dropkick" in event of U.S. employment of these German resources.

(Capt. M/S Force C. 241600B to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report

Cositintrep No. 415 part 4, Section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending  
231600B May.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	W.A.	297	16002	-	23184
Ostend	2198	170	971	-	-
Calais	5884	41	28	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	-	-
Rotterdam	-	-	1152	W.A.	-
Total	8082	508	18153	-	23184
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	66	15916	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	261	-	3653
Le Havre	2019	51	2172	-	3925
Rouen	-	-	569	-	-
Ghent	W.A.	-	8693	-	W.A.
Total	2019	117	27611	-	7578
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	-	35	8715	1213	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	402	-	-
Nice	-	-	355	-	-
Total	-	35	9472	1213	-

Army total at Granville 1742 tons, Morlaix 396 tons, St. Malo 600 tons, Dieppe 1583 tons.

Propose discontinuing this Section 1 June any addressee considering report still essential reply before 28th May.

(S.H.A.E.F., 241600B to Admty., and others.)

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Retention  
of  
German  
Naval  
chain of  
Command

Your 191901. <sup>no trace in WD.</sup> Unless there is clear evidence that the German Naval Chain of Command is being deliberately used to hinder our efforts I would prefer to retain it from O.K.M. downwards until  
(a) The German Naval forces have been transferred to concentration area except for frozen personnel.  
(b) We have obtained all the information required from O.K.M.

(c) The majority of German warships and Merchant vessels have been sailed to U.K. or otherwise disposed of.

(d) Remainder of these vessels can be placed under sure guard against sabotage.

(2) If, however, Admiral Foerste personally has been obstructive, you may relieve him by a more co-operative officer. His staff can in any case be reduced to the minimum necessary to carry out administrative duties.

(A.N.C.X.F., 241928B to F.O.W.G.) *See also H09350, p. 690.*

✓ Minesweeping  
to Hamburg

*7 copy book*

Your 231917B.  
206th M/S Flotilla cannot be accommodated at present. Further signal will be made.  
(Capt. M/S Force C., 242330B to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations

Channel

Patrols

E.G.22 pass Gate at 1830B/24.  
Following patrols are to be established at 1900B/24th.

E.G.22 Eddystone to 03° 00' W. E.G.2 - 1st Div.  
Eddystone to Lizard. E.G.2 - 2nd Div. Lizard to Pendeen.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 241102B to E.G. 22, 2.)

Abolition of  
C.N.L.O.  
Portsmouth

On the assumption that it is not now intended to base any of H.M. Canadian ships in Portsmouth Command for further operations, I propose that the office of the Canadian Naval Liaison Officer should close down on July 15th. C.N.L.O. agrees that all outstanding matters affecting the R.C.N. should have been cleared up by that date. Request approval.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241729B to Admty.)  
Approved for June 15th. (Admty. 302121B)

Operations

Norway

Norwegian  
Government  
to Oslo

Admiralty's 231325 not to all.  
(1) HESPERUS and HAVELOCK are allocated to escort ANDES to Oslo.  
(2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ANDES accordingly A.M. 192125 refers.  
(C. in C. W.A., 240115B to Admty., F.O.I.C. Liverpool

/Request...

War Diary

24.5.1945  
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Norwegian Government to Oslo (Contd.) Request information where you propose to berth ANDES. A.M. 192005 para. 2 refers. (D.O.D.(H), 241517B to F.O. Norway.)

Situation at Bergen Scapa departure. ZAMBESI. (C. in C. H.F., 240129A to C.S.10.) Arrival 24th May. BIRMINGHAM, ZAMBESI. (N.O.I.C. Bergen, 242035B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Troops to Oslo Supplement A Scofor Part 4, Section C. Oslo arrival "Doomsday" convoy complete. (S.C.O.F.O.R., 240830 to Admty.)

Provision of arms and equipment for Norwegians Norwegian Command have raised with Admiralty and War Office provision of arms, uniforms and equipment for 3000 guard troops for Norwegian coastal defences beyond the authorised liberated manpower total. F.O. told Rolstad War Office can supply uniforms if force commanders report operationally essential. Suggest guards might be issued with German arms and equipment but uniforms must come from War Office stocks. This may raise difficulties with S.H.A.E.F. Suggest you telegraph commanders recommendations to S.H.A.E.F. Troopers and Admiralty. (S.C.O.F.O.R. 240930B to Admty.)

Operation S.C. Ramose Calculate. (1) Intend sailing Ex American S/M chaser HESSA, HITRA, and VIGRA flying Norwegian flag from Scalloway at 1900B 24th May for Bergen. E.T.A. 1100B 25th May. (2) Ships carrying stores for S.F. detachment Bergen. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 240935B to N.O.I.C. Bergen.) Ramose Calculate. My 240935B at request of S.F.H.Q. intended S/C should remain Bergen under your orders for S.F. detachment of M/S. Understand Lt. Birger-Larsen Royal Norwegian Navy is available in Bergen for liaison. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 240937B to N.O.I.C. Bergen.) Ramose Calculate. My 240935B. Sailed S.C.(s HESSA (S.O.) HITRA and VIGRA at 1915B 24th May. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 241922B to N.O.I.C. Bergen.)

U-boat Reports In the case of U-boats which arrived in your ports from patrol request you will obtain a report of any incidents of interest which occurred during their last period at sea. (A.N.C.X.F. 241110B to F.Os. Norway, Kiel, W.G.)

/U-boats...

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24.5.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

U-boats at Bergen My 171706B May.  
Further investigation of German U-boat situation at Bergen as follows:-  
Unserviceable German U-boats 437, 228, 256, 993, 926. Major defects require approximately 3 months to repair German U-boats 324, 1202.  
Minor defects require 10 days to repair German U-boats 778, 1002. These are being taken in hand.  
Crews of major defective German U-boats are being reduced to care and maintenance.  
(N.O.I.C. Bergen, 241200 To Admty.)

Type XXI and other U-boats in Norway for U.K. It is required to bring all U-boats now in Norwegian ports to U.K. as soon as possible.  
(2) Escorts are being provided by C. in C.W.A. as follows:-  
Trondheim 3, Bergen 5, Stavanger 3, ~~Christiansand~~ (S) 4, Horten 4,  
(3) When ready and after arrival of escorts, U-boats other than type 21 are to be sailed with German crews for Loch Eriboll. <sup>xx1</sup>  
(4) Following are special arrangements for Type ~~21~~ U-boats all of which are to be sailed with British crews:-  
(a) F.O. (S/M) is providing 30 officers and 250 men at Rosyth a.m. Saturday 26th May.  
(b) The balance necessary to complete crews to 3 officers, 1 engineer officer and 27 men is to be provided from personnel now in Norway.  
(c) C. in C.H.F. is requested to provide one destroyer at Rosyth p.m. 25th to embark nucleus crews for a total of six U-boats at Horten.  
C. in C. Nore is requested to sail two escorts to arrive Rosyth p.m. 25th to embark nucleus crews for three U-boats at Bergen, one U-boat at Stavanger and one at ~~Christiansand~~ (south). These ships should be sailed from Rosyth as soon as ready.  
(d) Of the escorts referred to in para. 2 one should be retained at each of the following ports:-  
Bergen, Stavanger and ~~Christiansand~~ (South)  
Two to be retained at Horten. These ships are to escort Type ~~21~~ <sup>xx1</sup> U-boats to Loch Eriboll.  
(5) S.O. escorts should be ordered to report by immediate signal expected times of arrival of groups at Loch Eriboll as soon as this can be forecast.  
(D.O.D.(H), 241710B to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C.H.F., C. in C.Nore, C.S.J.)  
See 231055 Enemy Intelligence.

Troops for passage to Bergen and Trondheim in cruisers To expedite the arrival of troops request you will consider conveying 2 battalions, strength of each 600 to Trondheim and Bergen respectively in Cruisers.  
(2) Troops will be ready to embark at Rosyth about May 28th and will probably require to take 15 days' provisions with them approximately 100 tons in each ship.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 241910B to C. in C.H.F.)

Reply: 251226

/Acceptances...

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ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway - Contd.Acceptances  
at  
Norwegian  
and  
Baltic ports

Kristiansand (S). Limiting dimensions of ships acceptable length 600 feet draught 29 feet. There are 23 berths available for ships drawing between 12 and 29 feet and 60 berths for ships waiting discharge.

Trondheim. Limiting dimensions of ships acceptable length 440 feet draught 31 feet at high water springs 27½ feet at high water neaps. There are 17 berths and 10 waiting berths.

Lübeck. Limiting dimensions of ships acceptable length 420 feet draught 19 feet there are 23 berths for ships at 19 feet and 5 at 14 feet draught 25 waiting berths in Umschlag-Hafen and a limited number in Travemünde Roads.

Travemünde. Limiting dimensions of ships acceptable length 480 feet draught 22 feet. There are three berths 480 feet long and 2 berths 270 feet. Waiting berths 1 length 480 feet and 2 lengths 270 feet at Dolphins and a limited number in the Roads. (A.N.C.X.F., 242335B to Admty.)

OperationsNorthern Waters.Convoy  
R.A.67

R.A.67 Items 10, 11, 12.

SAMARITAN 1523 tons Apatite, 35 tons Ammunition, 800 tons potash 140 bags Russian Mail, Clyde.

RATHLIN (Rescue Ship) Passengers, Clyde.

LAUREL ~~WATERLOO~~ (T), Ballast, Clyde. EMPIRE GARRICK (T), Ballast, Clyde. BRITISH RESPECT (T), Ballast, Clyde. EGERO (T), Ballast, Clyde. KRONPRINSEN, Ballast, Clyde.

WILLIAM D. BYRON, 759 standards timber, Clyde. KEITH PALMER, 792 standards timber, Clyde. DAVID B. JOHNSON, 743 standards timber, Clyde. BENJAMIN H. HILL, Ballast, Clyde for U.S.A. ALBERT C. RITCHIE, Ballast, Clyde for U.S.A. JOSHUA THOMAS, Ballast, Clyde for U.S.A. WOODBRIDGE N. HERRIS, Ballast, Clyde for U.S.A. OWEN WISTER, Ballast, Clyde for U.S.A. STEVENSON TAYLOR, Ballast, Clyde for U.S.A. LINN BOYD, Ballast, Clyde for U.S.A. AUGUST BELMONT, Ballast, Clyde for U.S.A. PARK BENJAMIN, Ballast, Clyde for U.S.A. LORD DELAWARE, 1388 cords timber, Clyde for U.S.A. JOHN GIBBON, 1652 tons chrome ore, Clyde for U.S.A. WILLIAM TYLER PAGE, 1969 tons asbestos, Clyde for U.S.A. RENALD FERNALD, 1540 tons chrome ore and 222 tons General, Clyde for U.S.A. CECIL N. BEAN, 1966 tons chrome ore, Clyde for U.S.A. NELSON W. ALDRICH, 1497 cords pulpwood, Clyde for U.S.A. Total 25 ships.

13(a) Commodore G.E. Sutcliff R.N.R. in SAMARITAN.

(b) Master of WILLIAM D. BYRON.

(D.T.D., 241703B to C. in C.W.A.)

Baffles  
removed  
from  
Skaalefjord  
entrance

Your 151120B BARLOW completed.

(2) Intend to sail BARLOW to Lerwick at 0600B/26th May. Escorted by H.M.T. NORTHMAN. Speed of advance 8 knots. Expected time of arrival 1200B/27th.

(3) Request confirmation of destination. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 241817B to C. in C.H.F., B.D.O. Lyness.)

/STORD...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

STORD  
to Bear  
Is.

STORD sailing for Bear Island 2130 today.  
My 232100, Admiralty's 120221B May, neither to  
all, refer.  
(N.O.I.C. Tromso, 242048B to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Operations

Baltic

LEIPZIG

German Cruiser LEIPZIG has deammunitioned, ship  
can steam, has fuel for 120 miles.  
(F.O. Denmark, 241701B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/ Arrests of  
German  
Naval  
Officers

Situation at 2100 today Wednesday.  
General Admiral Warzecha possibly satisfactory  
successor to von Friedeburg if required. Acting  
on information received I ordered the arrest Vice-  
Admiral Heye and staff also Meendsen-Bohlken and  
staff. Very large sum money seized in Heye office  
admittedly supplied for payment of foreign agent.  
Also arrest Vice-Admiral Lützow, Naval Propagandist, and Admiral  
Fuchs. All above held until interrogation by Admiralty experts  
completed. Final part follows by air.  
(F.O.I.C. Kiel, 232349B to A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Torpedo  
equipment  
in  
destroyer  
T.14.

German destroyer T.14 is equipped with torpedo stabilising sight T.F.C/1 B.L.C-N.R/32 remote control T - S.C. (?V) - R/22 (and?) spreading sight Towas/1 Siemens T.Z.A. number 33751940/ (corrupt group) and main stabilising unit P.K. 18 A.B.C. Propose sailing T.14 with German crew for U.K. on Monday 28th with SOUTHDOWN. If approved request destination be indicated. (F.O.W.G. 242235B to Admty, see 252255 Enemy Intelligence).

Casualties

M.G.B.2007

M.G.B. 2007 broken in two down on beach vessel complete wreck will salve everything possible when weather permits.  
(C.S.V.O. Aberdeen, 240630B to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen)  
My 222205B May M.G.B.2007 now broken in two, complete wreck, everything possible will be salvaged.  
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 241705B to Admty).

M.F.V.1142  
or 1542.

M.F.V.1137 returning to Falmouth under own power, M.F.V.1142 engine seized. Have directed LADY MADELEINE to tow M.F.V.1142 to Brest then rejoin. Request authority at Brest be advised my P.C.S. at 0530B 48° 39' N., 05° 55' W. 195° 7. (RIMOUSKI, 240746B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Am proceeding to Brest with M.F.V.1542 in tow. Expected time of arrival 1630B.

(LADY MADELEINE, 240859B to C. in C. Plymouth).

ALBRIGHTON,  
destroyer,  
v  
L.S.T.238.

ALBRIGHTON reports having been in collision with L.S.T.238 at 0412 23rd May in position 300° North East Shingles buoy 1.2.  
2. Preliminary report of damage to ALBRIGHTON shows forecastle deck and ship's side severely buckled 18 to 37 station port and holed 22 to 24 station port above waterline.  
(C. in C. Nore, 241155B to Admty).

Movements

APOLLO  
minelayer..

APOLLO arrived.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 240520B to N.O.I.C. Kristiansund)  
Request you will sail APOLLO for Southampton forthwith where she will be taken in hand for docking and essential defects.

2. Only such A.s and A.s as can be progressed or completed during period in hand for defects will be undertaken.

3. Work will be carried out by Messrs. Harland and Wolff.  
(D.D.O.D.(M), 241118B to C. in C. Rosyth).

Admiralty 241118 not to all. Intend to sail 1400 today Thursday for Southampton by normal swept channel and would route then Q.Z.S.437 to 39 Buoy Q.Z.S. 263, 446, 468, 458 and then normal swept channel. Q.Z.Y.570 also refers. E.T.A. Nab Tower 1400 tomorrow Friday.

(APOLLO, 241121 to C. in C. Rosyth).

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Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

U.313, N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh's 231147B May arrived.  
U.318, (Com. D.W.A., 240917B to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh).  
U.363,  
U.427.

U.739. My 231823. Sailed 0704 today Thursday 24th May.  
(N.O.I.C. Emden, 240951 to F.O.W.G.)

U.478, Intend to sail U.295 escorted by AYLNER and  
U.295, U.478, U.668 escorted by TYLER at 1400 today  
U.668. Thursday, north about Skye to Lisahally. Speed  
of advance 12 knots, E.T.A. Foyle Buoy 0730 25th.  
U.668 and U.295 have list 2 personnel. All  
U-boats type VII C.  
If either AYLNER or TYLER proceeds Belfast, request armed  
guards may proceed thither by train and escorts part company  
from U-boats off Moville.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 241040B to Com. D.W.A.)

British- 1. Intend sailing at 0800/25 U.1023 escorted by  
manned KINGSTON ANDALUSITE to Plymouth.  
U.1023. 2. Routed Q.Z.S.642, 694, 692 and 697.  
3. Speed 11 knots, E.T.A. 1600/25.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 241222 to C. in C. Plymouth).

U.532 My 221201B May sailed GRINDALL escorting U.532  
(with cargo). mails to Barrow.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 241600B to R.N.O. Barrow).

H.M.S.A.S. Further to my 211800. TRANSVAAL now accepted  
TRANSVAAL from Builders has following Tropicalising Items  
outstanding requiring allocation of fittings  
C.A.F.O. 891/45 para. 1 refers:-  
Nos. 6, 7, 14, 15.  
2. Ship is expected to be ready to sail for South Africa after  
working up about June.  
3. Request similar action for TRANSVAAL as in paras. 4, 5 and  
6 of my 211800.  
(Capt. D. Greenock, 241610B to C. in C. W.A.)

VIMY, Your 221912. Request VIMY and VOLUNTEER may  
VOLUNTEER, de-ammunition at Sheerness and progress reduction  
VANQUISHER, to category "C" as far as possible in accordance  
destroyers. with A.M. 150200.  
2. It is requested that VIMY should sail to  
arrive Immingham on completion of reduction of  
VANQUISHER about the 1st June. On completion  
to retain minimum passage stores and proceed to Firth of Forth  
under own power to berth in mud berth.  
3. Further signal will be made regarding destoring port for  
VOLUNTEER.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 241915B to C. in C. Nore).

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24.5.1945.  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Convoys Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.  
T.B.C/B.T.C. A.M. 232051B. Convoy T.B.C.168 and subsequent  
C.O.C/O.C.C. convoys will not sail.  
2. Com. Southend is requested to sail ships released from these convoys independently complying with para. 2 of A.M. 232051B.  
3. Milford Haven escorts are to be sailed independently by Com. Southend to Milford Haven.  
(C. in C. Nore, 241108B to Portsmouth, Plymouth, W.A. Commands, A.N.C.X.F.)  
T.B.C/B.T.C. and C.O.C/O.C.C. convoys are being discontinued forthwith. Independent shipping will be burning navigation lights at full brilliancy.  
2. T.B.C. and B.T.C. convoys now at sea are to remain as convoys as previously ordered.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241120B to Admty. and others).  
A.M. 221911\* Feb. regarding ships of 14 knots and over is cancelled. They should be sailed independently.  
(D.T.D., 241635B to C.T.F.122, C. in C. Portsmouth).  
\*Ships of 14 knots and over are not to be sailed in T.B.C. Convoys.

Routes for Pass to F.Os. I.C. and N.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.Os.  
Cherbourg, A.M. 232051B. Routes for shipping from Poole,  
Havre and Portland and West of England to Cherbourg and  
Dieppe. Havre by searched channels in force and/or route  
E to H.2 Buoy thence:-  
For Cherbourg: to position 50° 00' N., 01° 30' W.  
thence H.10 Buoy.

For Havre: from H.2 Buoy to Kansas Light and Bell Buoy (F.N.M. 5393/45) and searched channels to Havre.  
2. To Dieppe: by route E to C.2 A Buoy thence Q.Z.S.575, 576.  
3. Same routes to be followed in reverse direction.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 241144B to C. in C. Western Approaches, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Poole, C.T.F.122, C.T.G.122.3, C.T.G. 122.2, Comar Dieppe).  
Amend para. 2 E (II) of my 122228B May as follows:-  
Solent to Cherbourg and Cherbourg to Solent. Shipping in both directions is to be routed by route ED, that is Q.Z.S.675, 552, 313.  
2. For information, H.8 Buoy will shortly be lifted.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241147B to Portsmouth Command).  
My 241142B and 241144B. Recommend that these routes be incorporated in N.E.C.R.I.S.  
2. For routes for shipping between Isle of Wight and Cherbourg and Havre, see my 232228B as amended by my 241147B.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241149 to Admty).

Shortage of Signed Eisenhower Cite S.H.G.D.S.  
shipping for This is S.C.A.F.412.  
S.H.A.E.F. A. 1. "Overlord" shipping is subject (Ref. No. F.W.D.22321). Present availability of L.S.T. is 23 British and 50 U.S. approximately 50 percent of former undergoing maintenance. Vehicle lift commitments were "Apostle", "Doomsday", and cross channel movement for Army requirements. Civil affairs vehicles included in the latter are essential for rehabilitation and internal economy. Owing to change of plan for "Apostle", signal S.C.A.F.

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Shortage of shipping for S.H.A.E.F. (contd). 294, increased use of L.S.T. necessary for mounting part of force from the Continent. Plan now required 13 L.S.T. for United States Force "Nightlight", 20 L.S.T. for 21 Army Group units from Holland. These L.S.T. have commenced movement for loading and should have completed task by 8th June.

B. In addition, operation "Doomsday" is employing 9 L.S.T. British and will not complete task before 21st June.

C. Cominch in his 171555 through Comnaveu, requests that release of all United States L.S.T. from European theatre be made immediately.

D. Admiralty also pressing for release of 10 British L.S.T. in June. If no United States L.S.T. used for "Apostle" as F.A.C.S. 228 stipulates and even if Admiralty's demands not met until "Apostle" completed, effect will be to prolong "Apostle" for several weeks which is considered operationally unacceptable.

E. British L.S.T. are in poor state of repair and only 7 are useable for "Apostle".

2. Position regarding M.T. ships is that in January, "Overlord" allocation was 24 British and 16 United States since when 14 British and all United States have been released on the definite understanding that replacement in kind would be made when required. This does not obtain and understand from M.W.T. and W.S.A. that replacement will not be made without your sanction. M.W.T. forecast that if you agree British M.T. ships could be made available in three weeks. No forecast made by W.S.A. All expedients suggested in signal F.A.C.S. 228 have been followed but only shipping available for "Apostle" in "Overlord" resources are L.S.T. and M.T. ships: 5 of latter are committed to this operation.

3. Agreed at meeting, S.H.A.E.F., today that 24 United States L.S.T. can be released by 27 May and 10 British L.S.T. during June commencing 8th June. Details of releases L.C.U. and L.C.I.(L) to follow. Cross channel vehicle lift requirement estimated for June: (A) 21 Army Group 11000. (B) Com. Zone 28100 to meet which it is estimated that 24 M.T. ships will be required allowing for assistance from L.C.T.

4. Your ruling, therefore, required: (A) Whether United States L.S.T. can be used for "Apostle" involving retention 26 until 8th June or will you accept administrative and operational difficulties and delays.

(B) Authority for M.T. ships for use in "Overlord" to be increased to 24 and whether M.W.T. or W.S.A. provide. Estimates of vehicle lift and shipping required do not allow for any assistance in movement of UN.R.R.A. purchased vehicles. (S.H.A.E.F., 241800B to Agwar).

Troop Movements to Norway.

In order to facilitate and expedite planning and carrying out of intended troop movement to Norway in LARGS BAY, BENFORA, EASTERN PRINCE and BERGENSFJORD request you (a) agree detailed programmes for embarkation and disembarkation ports etc. with Movements S.C.O.T.C.O. and

C. in C. Rosyth; (b) Issue necessary instructions to ships concerned so that movement can be carried out with maximum economy of shipping; (c) send us agreed signals giving details of your intended programmes for ships concerned; (d) keep Norwegian ports informed as necessary and give them instructions

/as to...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Troop  
Movements  
to Norway.  
(contd).

as to ports in the U.K. to which ships should return.

2. If above procedure is not satisfactory to all concerned request report.

3. Agreed with War Office.

(D. of S.T., 242150B to P.S.T.O. Clyde and Scottish).

Neutral  
Shipping  
for French  
Ports.

Propose you promulgate the following revised instructions for acceptance of neutral shipping at French ports. Quote. In future application for acceptance of neutral shipping at French ports except Marseilles should be made to the French Authorities. They alone are responsible but they should obtain the agreement of Com. Zone

or 21 Army Group as appropriate in the case of ports in which S.H.A.E.F. has an interest.

Agreement must still be obtained before a neutral ship can be accepted at Marseilles. Unquote.

(A.N.C.X.F., 242155B to S.H.A.E.F.)

East and  
Westbound  
shipping  
in Channel.

In view of C. in C. Plymouth's 241757B (not to all) request independent shipping passing through this command be routed:-

(A) Eastbound by Q.Z.S. 629, 623 route E.

(B) Westbound by route W Q.Z.S. 623, 629, 694.

2. Cs. in C., pass to Sub-Commands and N.C.S.Os.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 242238B to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth, Nore).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U-Boat 963. Embarkation of German U-Boat officers delayed, sailing postponed until about 1500/24th May. (AVONVALE 240010 to F.O.G.M.A.)  
 F.O.G.M.A.'s 231610. AVONVALE reports she is held up owing to lack of decision concerning extradition of German officers in para. 1 of A.M. 231137.  
 (2) N.A. Lisbon is requested to make every effort to expedite decision. It is desired to remove these officers quickly to facilitate interrogation. Para. 6 of your 231254, not to all, refers.  
 (3) F.O.G.M.A. in carrying out A.M. 231211, is requested to comply as far as possible with Portuguese requirements in N.A. Lisbon's 221745.  
 (P.A.S.(L) 241800B to N.A. Lisbon.)  
 AVONVALE arrived 1950 May 23rd and departed 1900 May 24th having embarked passengers.  
 (2) Admiralty please pass to WOLVERINE.  
 (N.A. Lisbon 241918B to Admty.) *[See also p. 606]*

Air-Sea Cr. No. 1392. Urdis 231810\* not to all. Upon  
 Rescue. arrival Horta temporary duty 12th Fleet completed. Report Comdeslant. by despatch accordance C. in C. Lant 201843+ not to all. S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to sail KNOXVILLE when ready to U.S. destination desired by C. in C. Lant.  
 (Com. 12th Fleet 240943 to Comcortdiv. 30.)  
 \* All times Z. Relieved Air-Sea Rescue station 19 at 1800/23 by ZANZIBAR. Bound Horta for 50,000 gallons fuel. Speed 16.5 knots. E.T.A. 2000/24.  
 + When KNOXVILLE relieved direct her return to U.S. KNOXVILLE arrived Azores 1800Z/24 May. K.S. Request destination in U.S.  
 (2) Com. 12th Fleet 240943 refers.  
 (S.B.N.O. Azores 241934Z to Cinclant.)

Escorts. Being in all respects ready for war HYDERABAD is to take KILMELFORD under his order and sail at 2100B/24th May to R/V convoy of small craft in position X. 042° 12' N. 010° 00' W. at 1800B/26th May, and act as escort to Gib.  
 (2) On HYDERABAD and KILMELFORD taking over escort of convoy H.M.C.S. RIMOUSKI and LADY MADELEINE are to return Plymouth and Liverpool respectively as previously ordered.  
 (3) Route and composition of small craft convoy follow in my 241033 to HYDERABAD only.  
 (F.O.G.M.A. 241025B to HYDERABAD, H.M.C.S. RIMOUSKI, LADY MADELEINE.) Amended by 241249B.

Dispensing of In view of C. in C. Med. (At Gib. 211310,\* it is  
 all Gib. for consideration whether WOLVERINE should be  
 escort force retained in U.K. and paid off thereby releasing  
 when convoy no ships company and officers at at early date.  
 longer (F.O.G.M.A. 241127B to Admty.)  
 required. \* WOLVERINE to return to Gib.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

U.963 (prisoners of war.) Group 7. (1) Consisting of BELLWORT S.O., JONQUIL and CROCUS will detach from M.K.S. 103 on crossing 039° N. and will enter River Tagus at approx. 2000B/27th May.  
(2) S.O. Group 1 has orders to signal E.T.A.  
(3) Group 1 will proceed to anchor off Fort Maias 3 miles west Belem Castle to embark prisoners of war ex U.963. (F.O.G.M.A. 241135B to B.N.A. Lisbon.) See 280103B.

SPITEFUL. Intend to sail submarine SPITEFUL in M.K.S. 103 destination Devonport. (F.O.G.M.A. 241153B to Admty.)

COLUMBINE. P.C.S. at 1500 036° 16' N. 009° 18' W. 100°, 9 knots. E.T.A. Europa Point 1330B/25th L.S.T. (I) 311 is in company and requires 24 hours in Gibraltar to effect engine repairs by own staff. (COLUMBINE 241507B to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

Air-Sea Rescue. Intend sailing AMARANTHUS 1800Z/25th May to Air-Sea Rescue station number 21 to relieve ABERDEEN a.m. 27th May. (F.O.C.W.Af. 241139Z to ABERDEEN.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Local forces, Following allocation of local forces (apart from allocation of those required to be retained temporarily for air-sea rescue duties A.M. 182352) has been approved for the period whilst hostilities continue against Japan:  
Gibraltar local defence flotilla, 2 escort destroyers, West Africa, 2 frigates, 4 trawlers for training of West African ratings, West Atlantic, 2 frigates, South Atlantic, nil apart from S.A.N.F.  
(2) Further signal will be made regarding details of withdrawal of forces surplus to these requirements.  
(V.C.N.S. 241235B to C. in C. Med., F.O.G.M.A., F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C.S.A., S.B.N.O. W.A.) See 261524B.

Italian Corvettes. MINERVA and DANAIDE are remaining at Ancona for escort duty to Venice.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 241244 to N.O.I.C. Ancona.)

Escort Reductions Gibraltar. Your 211310 approved.  
(2) ACTIVE is not required in U.K.  
(V.C.N.S. 241247B to C. in C. Med.)  
Intend to sail ACTIVE to Gibraltar on completion of essential defects. E.T.C. p.m. 29th May.  
(2) Your 071218B para. 3 refers.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 241346C to C. in C. Med.)

DUKE OF YORK. Take TYRIAN under your orders and sail at 2000B/25th May S.O.A. 22 knots for Port Said adjusting speed so as to arrive off Gulf of Kanayis first light 27th for bombardment practices during this day E.T.A. Port Said 0630C/28 berthing at 0800C.  
(3) Detach TYRIAN to arrive Port Said 1930C/27 in accordance with F.O.L.E.M.'s 220850.  
(4) My 170057 and DUKE OF YORK's 181530 refer.  
(V.A. Malta, 241852Z to DUKE OF YORK.)

BERMUDA, CLEOPATRA, cruisers. Para. 3 of my 111845B not to all.  
C.S. 2 in BERMUDA with CLEOPATRA expect to sail from Malta Tuesday 6th June for bombardment practices on Alexandria range on 8th entering Alexandria last light 8th.  
(2) After storing leave Alexandria p.m. 11 June to arrive Port Said daylight Tuesday 12 for transit of canal that day.  
(3) After fuelling leave Suez a.m. 13 to arrive Aden p.m. 15. Sail a.m. 16 Colombo.  
(V.A. Malta, 241732 to C. in C. Med.)

German shipping, (surrender). Ref. F.A.N. 556 S.H.A.E.F. are treating all German shipping acquired under the tactical surrender to 21st Army Group as captured and governed by F.A.N. 463.  
(2) Request early report - A. of any German merchant ships and warships captured in consequence of German surrender in the Med. B. whether any such ships in Italian waters are being dealt with under F.A.N. 463, observing that surrender in N. Italy was a tactical surrender.  
(P.A.S.(L) 242329B to C. in C. Med.)

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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesEMINENT  
(Tug).

Until defect to No.2 generator is rectified H.M.S. EMINENT cannot undertake any towing operations as this generator is the only means of driving towing winch, capstan and windlass. Difficulty to obtain spare part at all ports is being experienced.  
(EMINENT, 240235Z to N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam)

R.A.F.  
station  
Cochin  
(closing  
down of).

Transfer of Station mentioned in your 191147 is approved in principle but further details of financial and for material liabilities involved are requested.  
(C. in C. E.I., 240813Z to F.O. Air E.I.)

Karachi,  
A/S  
defences.

A/S fixed defences Karachi ceased operating 9th May. Your 261059 March, not to Admty., refers.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 240838Z to C. in C. E.I.S.)

F.S. LA  
GRANDIERE.

Request present location of F.S. LA GRANDIERE. Admiralty states she is due for refit at Le Ciotat in June. Request you will sail ship accordingly. Cominch and C.N.O. 222317 refer.  
(C. in C. E.I., 241149Z to C. in C. Pac. Advance and Pearl.)

"Shackle"  
(development  
of).

Request Admiralty policy with regard to the phased development of "Shackle" including requirements outside the Naval Base Area E.6 Monabs etc., my 021006 refers.  
(2) In view of the increased speed of operations this information is urgently required for planning purposes.  
(3) Request information of any supplies and personnel earmarked for "Shackle" not yet notified to me.  
(C. in C. E.I., 241305Z to Admty.)

A.F.D. 55.

SUBTLE, SCYTHIAN arrived.  
Departures H.M.A.S. BUNDABERG, VIGILANT, A.F.D. 55 towed by H.M.R.T. EMPHATIC.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 241632Z to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

British C.V.E's for Ferry Duty B.P.F. Cominch states that the present C.V.E. lift in Pacific is inadequate to care for the plane transportation problem incident to redeployment and stepped up Pacific operations. He has directed me to ask for early allocation of additional British C.V.E's to the U.S. Pacific Fleet for ferry duty. A total of 13 British C.V.Es can be so employed for an indefinite period. Will appreciate early information upon which to base reply.  
(Comnaveu, 241112 to Admtty) See 280341B.

Convoys. In order to obtain the earliest possible advantage from the abandonment of trade convoy (S.D.G.7) it is intended to detach the faster ships in H.X. and S.C. convoys then at sea in such a way as to even out arrivals.  
(2) It appears that even greater savings would result from calling forward ships from O.N. and O.N.S. convoys particularly those for destinations other than Halifax or New York. There would be no Admiralty objection to this.  
(D.T.D. 241446B to Cominch)

SHEFFIELD (Cruiser) When ready about 29th May proceed independently from Boston to Portsmouth England etc.  
(C. in C. Lant, 241432Z to SHEFFIELD)

Task groups. Task Groups 22.2, 22.3, 22.4, 22.7, 22.9, 22.13, 22.14 hereby dissolved.  
Task Group 22.5 reconstituted C.T.G.22.5 Capt. Craig in CROATAN plus Cortdiv 48. Task groups 22.1 and 22.5 are only remaining groups of Task Force 22.  
(C. in C. Lant, 241522 to T.G.22)

HEPATICA (corvette) LOCKEPORT F. Mswpr. N.S.H.Q. 191630 not to all. Intend to sail HEPATICA and LOCKEPORT from St. Johns 27th May to join H.X. 358 for passage to the U.K. for return to the R.N.  
(F.O.N.F. 241542Z to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boat report. Situation remains the same as Cominch, 231347Z. Enemy U-Boat estimate 1200Z/24.  
(Cominch, 241351Z to Admtty.)

Ships for U.K. Your 231047B not to C.N.M.O. Anticipate sailing ANNAN, LOCH MORLICH, LOCH ACHENALT p.m. 28th Capt. (D) 232021 refers.  
(2) ARROWHEAD, EYEBRIGHT, HEPATICA, TRILLIUM, LOCKEPORT proceeding U.K. in H.X. 358. FENNEL in H.X.356.  
(3) Anticipate BITTERSWEET, INGONISH will be ready to sail about 28th May.  
(4) CAILIFF proceeds U.K. with S.C.177, My 231248 refers. Remaining Western Isles Trawlers less BAFFIN will be underway

/ to ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Ships for  
U.K.  
(Contd.)

to United Kingdom by about 28th May.  
Anticipate BAFFIN will be ready to sail about  
mid-June.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 241753Z to Admty.)  
/ Diversion of mails.

Far East and Australia

ILLUSTRIOUS. In view of the probable course of the war in the Pacific it is desired that ILLUSTRIOUS shall return to I.B.P.F. at the earliest possible date consistent with making good defects. My

030558 para. 1 refers.

(2) The main governing defects which are (shown ?) are as follows etc.

(3) It is proposed that only such alterations and additions should be carried out as can be completed within the time required to make good defects. Importance is attached to the modernisation of Radar, improvement of A/C operating facilities and alterations to the Island structure where this can be done within this time.

(4) I am however prepared to accept the ships early return to the station if necessary without these and in view of the reduced scale of underwater attack expected. The fitting of the R.P. to the armament is not considered essential.

(5) Commanding officer has been consulted and is in full possession of my views.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 240243Z to Admty.)

A.F.D.18.

A.F.D. 18, and CAOPRIAN, SALVOR escorted by HELFORD and PLYM together with ODZANI, CHEERLY, ADVANTAGE and EMPIRE SAM arrived Darwin 0102Z/24th May.

(N.O.I.C. Darwin, 240309Z to Admty.)

AUSTRALIA  
(cruiser).

Departed Sydney 0227Z/24th May AUSTRALIA for Bora Bora (Society Is.). E.T.A. 2200Z/31st May S. of A. 17 knots.  
(F.O.I.C. Sydney, 240405Z to C.S.W.P.S.F. Admty.)

Blue  
Summary 23rd.

Ryukyus. Rain<sup>^</sup> and mud continued to hamper operations on Okinawa along the front line. 2 Marine battalions forded Asato River on North outskirts of Naha to establish a bridgehead. Estimated enemy Ki as of 222400/1 (9) totals

56,190. C.V.E. planes attacked Sakishima Gunto on 22nd and 23rd with weather limiting operations on 23rd.

T.G. 58.4 departed Ulithi for operating Area. 31 B.29'd

/mined ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia.

Blue mined Shimonoseki Straits night of 22-23.  
 Summary 23rd. F.A.W. 1 plane sank 2 S.D. and damaged 2 S.D.  
 (Contd.) South of Korea sank 1 fishing boat between Saishu  
 and Shanghai. F.A.W. 18 planes sank net tender  
 and 1 small A.K. in Suruga Wan.  
 S/Ms. Convoy returning from Okinawa reported 2  
 torpedoes 500 miles northwest of Saipan. Search planes on 22nd  
 burned 9 small landing craft North of Matsu Island.  
 (C. in C. Pac. A.I. and H.Q. 240559 all commands etc.)

Digest (2) Delayed report concerning Clark Field  
 1200 Searchplanes for 22nd states one plane sank  
 23.5.1945 single large ocean going tug towing two Junks  
 extract. west Hong Kong.  
 (3) Lingayev based Mariners night 22nd-23rd hit  
 about 20 Schooners Junks Luggers off China Coast.  
 (4) Delayed reports 22nd May, 2 Night Liberators  
 sank two small freighter transports one large sea truck, harassed  
 single unidentified ship and patrol boat Yangtze River mouth.  
 (5) On 22nd May 89 Liberators dropped two hundred twelve tons  
 Northern Formosa supporting 5th Fleet.  
 (6) Night 22nd-23rd May four Liberators dropped one ton on  
 unidentified freighter and large barge in Yangtze River, two tons  
 Texaco Oil Depot Shanghai.  
 (9) 22nd May. 4 Liberators Makassar Strait shipping search  
 sank single small coaster bombing Balang Floatplane Base  
 Malimpapan.  
 (10) In New Guinea 6th Australian Division captured Cape Moem,  
 attacked strong enemy positions near Brandi Plantation delaying  
 Junction of Eastern and Western columns, one sloop SWAN bombarded  
 enemy positions Bracdi plantation 22nd May.  
 (G.H.Q..S.W.P.A. 241000Z to Admty)

American Para. 4 of your 010041 and A.M. 210043. Since  
 publications (vide A.M. 101941 Jan. para. 1 (b) the normal  
 for C.V.L's. policy is not to supply books of liaison teams  
 until ships arrive on station, regret no exception  
 can be made in this case.  
 (2) Ships will however, have received some working  
 up in U.S. systems while in Mediterranean.  
 (3) They are also not supplied with special typewriters.  
 (D.S.D. 242243B in C. in C. B.P.F. and 270736Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-Boat Estimates. Para. A. No fresh surrenders  
 dispositions. during last 24 hours.  
 Para. B. Up to 8 may still be at sea between  
 49 degs. N. and 62 degs. N.E. of 20 degs. W.  
 (D.D.I.C. 241205B to A.I.G. Cominch)

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Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. "Non-combat" areas have been declared, to include the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, the Baltic, North, Mediterranean, Black and Red Seas, the South Atlantic from Cape Town to 74 degs. W, and the Pacific East of 82 degs. W. Trade convoys in these areas are to cease, except that in the North Sea, owing to mine dangers, F.N/F.S., T.A.M/A.T.M., T.A.P/A.T.P., T.A.L/A.T.L. Ostend/Dutch Ports and U.K./German Ports convoys will continue to run, and a new C.U.L/L.U.C. series, Humber to Cuxhaven, is being instituted with a 4 day cycle. Independent returns from North Russia will be routed to Kirkwall.

North Sea.

2. (a) GARTH carried H.B.M. Ambassador to the Netherlands to the Hook.  
(b) British minesweepers are to concentrate on clearing Cuxhaven and Hamburg; German minesweepers are to clear Bremerhaven and the Weser. The results are to be compared.  
(c) One mine was detonated 2 miles West of P.10 buoy.  
(d) One mine was detonated 2.7 miles North of the Hook.  
(e) U.979 ran aground on Amrum Is. Details are not yet to hand.

Channel.

3. Jersey harbour entrance is reported clear of obstructions.

Western Approaches.

4. Sweeping in the Bristol Channel has cleared 120 mines, 16 of which detonated.

Norway.

- 5(a) Oslo can accept 35 ships between 16 and 29ft draught.  
(b) Stavanger can accept 28 ships between 12 and 30ft draught.  
(c) Tromso can accept 6 ships between 16 and 24ft draught.

Northern Waters.

6. STORD has landed a party at Bear Is. She reports no sign of recent occupation.

Baltic.

7. F.O. Kiel reports 27 U-Boats scuttled or sunk in Flensburg.

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Movement. 8. DUKE OF YORK left Malta for Port Said.

Far East and Australia

- Borneo. 9. Mariners from Tawi Tawi co-operated with P.T's and destroyed two large luggers damaged six small coasters at Sandakan (N.E. Borneo).
- New Guinea. 10. H.M.A.S. DUBBO (corvette) effectively bombarded enemy positions in support of Australian forces in the Wewak area to-day.
- Japan. 11. Strikes by the British Pacific Fleet have again been made on Sakishima Gunto. 36 tons of bombs were dropped on the islands yesterday and 44 to-day. All airfields have been left unserviceable and the town of Sukomo was set on fire. The barracks and amphibious tank base and barges at Nobara were bombed. The fleet is now withdrawing for replenishment and to repair battle damage.

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy.

Polish destroyers to show Polish Flag in Polish occupied area. A.N.C.X.F.232335B and Admiralty 241522B both not to all. Request you will sail KRAKOWIAK and SLAZAK as requisite on Monday 28th May to arrive Wilhelmshaven on Tuesday 29th May.  
2. Ships are to sail from Wilhelmshaven to arrive back in Harwich on Monday 4th June.  
3. N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven is requested to provide pilots. F.O. Western Germany 171816B refers.  
4. Communications. Constant watch on broadcast C.N. with a guard on 1780 k/cs shifting to Wilhelmshaven command Port wave 2150 k/cs on crossing 004° E. (C. in C. Nore, 251237B to D.16).  
Your 251237. Polish Troops have now left this area and visit of these destroyers is not now considered necessary. (F.O.W.G., 251917B to C. in C. Nore).

Operations

North Sea

Operation "Dropkick". Your 241600B. The first requirement of Operation "Dropkick" is the clearing of Approach Channel to Cuxhaven and River Channel to Hamburg.  
2. You should report when you consider this been accomplished.  
3. Subsequent positions will be decided by A.N.C.X.F. (C. in C. Nore, 250113B to Capt. M/S Force C).  
C. in C. Nore 250113 being passed C.T.F.126. My policy is as follows:-  
(1) Hamburg route is paramount and all available British Minesweepers should be concentrated on it until completion of "Apostle" movement.  
(2) Meanwhile German Minesweepers should be concentrated on Bremerhaven Approach (my 161810 not to all) with special party and Sperrbrecher starting Weser clearance (my 211706 not to all).  
(3) On completion of "Apostle" movement decision as to further employment of British and German Minesweepers will be given in light of comparison of sweeping results in para. (1) and (2) above.  
(4) Subject to remarks of C. in C. Nore and F.O. West Germany intend opening Hamburg to normal traffic up to and including Liberty Ships 1st June with precautions in A.G.M.786A. (A.N.C.X.F., 251330B to Admty, C. in C. Nore, F.O.W.G., C.T.F.126).

Minesweeping in the Bight. One ground mine detonated in position 272° P.10 buoy 21 cables on 1st actuation under blue pulse of 1st Division immediately after explosive sweep salvo. Moderate explosion no plume. (S.O.M.S.F. 18 250910B to C. in C. Nore).  
Sperrbrecher 153 and 154 fitted with G.B.T. and V.E.S. gear will be ready for sweeping by June 1st. Tonnage of both ships 1000 draught 11 feet.  
Ships considered suitable for local operations and estuary sweeping but do not give 100% security to Merchant ships from over lap mines when sweeping ahead of them.  
Request instructions for their future employment and disposal. (N.O.I.C. Cuxhaven, 251454B to F.O.W.G.).

/British...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

British Ambassador to Holland. / GARTH with MIDDLETON in company E.T.A. Hook 1730B My 231102B refers. (C. in C. Nore, 251037 to N.O.I.C. Rotterdam).

U.979 German U-boat 979 aground on Amrum Island. C.O. and some of crew arrested other officers escaped. Detailed account later. (F.O.W.G., 251239B to Admty).

Minesweeping Hook to Ymuiden. Your 161630B May. Routine sweeping and widening of Channel between Hook and Ijmuiden will be taken over from Force A when 181 M/S is available. Request Flotilla may be sailed to Hook as soon as possible. (F.O.I.C. Holland, 251300B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Fish food for famished foreigners. Inshore fishing is starting but important in view of food question to work trawlers between Dogger and other grounds and here. Rotterdam and Ijmuiden can be used, question of sailing and routeing trawlers in the most expeditious way requires consideration. Admiralty pass to Netherlands Ministry of Fisheries. (F.O.I.C. Holland, 251355 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Demilitarisation of Heligoland. / Your F.W.D.22171 of 221715B Heligoland is not required as concentration area. (Exfor, 251415B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Navigation of Elbe and Weser. / A.M. 081824. Adequate navigational aids available in Rivers Elbe and Weser. Light buoys not repetition not now required. (A.N.C.X.F., 251450B to Admty).

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.416 Part 4 Section A. Discharged by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600B 24 May.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
Antwerp	-	-	15,644	-	2,620
Ostend	2,961	385	79	-	-
Calais	5,993	34	94	-	-
Caen	-	-	274	3,943	-
Rotterdam	-	-	1,194	1,650	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,954</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>17,285</b>	<b>5,593</b>	<b>2,620</b>

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Operations

North Sea

Discharge  
Situation  
Report  
(contd).

<u>U.S. North</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
Antwerp	-	-	15,757	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	15	290	4,033
Le Havre	833	67	3,041	-	-
Rouen	-	-	3,888	2,539	3,633
Ghent	-	-	10,632	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>33,333</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>7,666</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	-	16	7,368	870	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	252	-	3,333
Nice	-	-	445	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8,065</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>3,333</b>

A.R.Y. Coal at Granville 1,222 tons, Morlaix 485 tons, St. Malo 1200 tons, Dieppe, 2,577 tons.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 251600B to Admty etc).

Minesweeping Operation "Fireball" (A) L.L/S.A. 3 B.Y.M.S. -  
to I.M.7 to I.M.1 - 1 Actuation whole width (B)  
Rotterdam. L.L/S.A. 6 M.M.S. - I.M.7 to T.X.4 - 2 actuations  
whole width. (C) L.L/S.A. South east Part Hook  
Anchorage (F.O.I.C. Holland 170945) (D) L.A.A.  
New Waterway Park Haven to Maasluis south shore  
completed. (E) Oropesa motor Launches completed Area S.E. of  
I.M.1 (?to) I.M.2.  
(2) One red magnetic 001° North breakwater Hook 2.7 miles one  
floating mine sunk North breakwater Hook 2.8 miles.  
3. Surveying wrecks Hook and Ijmuiden approaches.  
4. Nil.  
5. One M.L. and one M.M.S. to Den Helder, 5 B.Y.M.S. and 2 M.M.S.  
to Den Helder, 3 M.M.S. - I.M. 7 to T.X.4 and return 2 M.L. to  
Sheerness Chant 6 to Den Helder.  
(Capt. M/S F.A., 251949B to C. in C. Nore).

Operation "Clearway". Operation "Clearway" completed.  
(C. in C. Nore, 252215B to Admty).

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Channel Islands Situation Report. / Cositintrep 416. Force 135. Period ending 2100 hours 25 May. Jersey. Divers report harbour entrance clear of obstructions. Clearance of berths St. Helier proceeding. Four slipways opened. Guernsey. Clearance wire defences old harbour complete and repairs to berth number 5 new pier and transit shed under way. All charges removed from pier St. Peter Port disposed of. (Force 135, 250120B to Admty).

Patrols On completion of present duty establish patrol Lyme Bay. My 251116 refers. (See Shipping). (C. in C. Plymouth, 251205B to E.G.17). E.G.2. First Division establish patrol forthwith between Lizard and Trevoise. My 251116 refers. (C. in C. Plymouth 251448B to S.O.E.G.2).

German M/S available in Channel Is. C. in C. Plymouth 250940 being passed C.T.F.122 and Marine Paris. German M/S.M. 432, 442, and 452 allocated C.T.F.122 who is requested to inform C. in C. Plymouth and N.O.I.C. Channel Islands to which Port they should be sailed. (A.N.C.X.F., 251325B to C. in C. Plymouth, C.T.F.122).

Operations

West Coast France

Gironde Estuary buoyage. / 6 German ocean buoys are now in the Gironde Estuary well to south of the channel and outside British mined area. Request an ocean buoy laying vessel be assigned to weigh these buoys and relay them in swept channel at earliest. Dan buoys now being laid are inadequate and subject to drift. (C.T.F., 122, 251245 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Minesweeping priorities. / Present intention is to sweep an approach channel in the Gironde Estuary and Garonne River to Bordeaux, Paulliac and Blaye. It is understood that following above operation your expressed order of priority for the sweeping of approach channels to ports is follows:  
St. Nazaire, Nantes, Lorient, La Pallice, La Rochelle.  
In view of the importance of this undertaking it is considered that the clearance of areas should not be commenced until all necessary swept channels have been established. Logistic responsibilities for the Gironde sweepers remain with Comar Bordeaux. My 141847B refers. Logistic support for other minesweeping operations should be obtained as usual through Marine Paris. Your comments are requested. (C.T.F.122, 251502 to Marine Paris).

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Minesweeping / While sweeping in Q.Z.S.301 the following mines in Bristol Channel. have been encountered. In Q.Z.X.1577 lines 3 and 4, 21 mines, line 5, 26 and line 6, 54. Total 101. 13 of which were detonated losing in consequence 9 otters and 4 kites.

Intend to continue while stock of otters lasts. Report being forwarded.

(Com. M/S Bristol Channel, 251445B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Further to my 251445B. Two sweepers operating today in Q.Z.X.1577 line 5. 16 mines cut 3 detonated total 19, today.

(Com. M/S Bristol Channel, 252015B to F.O.I.C. Milford).

OperationsNorway

U-boats in / A.M. 241710. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to Norway for order routes and control the passage of these U.K. U-boats from the time of sailing from Norwegian Ports until arrival off Loch Eriboll, after which, C. in C. W.A. is requested to assume control.

2. If necessary, arrangements should be made with C. in C. H.F. (Ashore) for the temporary berthing of U-boats at Scapa if they cannot be immediately received at Loch Eriboll.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 250002B to Cs. in C. Rosyth, W.A., H.F.)

C. in C. W.A., 241642B\*. Proceed to Methil for orders.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 250011B to BARBADOS, CAYMAN, TYLER)

\*BARBADOS, CAYMAN, TYLER, LOCHECK are detailed to escort U-boats from Christansand South to U.K.

Raise steam and proceed when ready to Methil for routing orders, thence to Stavanger. C. in C. Western Approaches' 241644/ refers. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 250944B to BAYNTUN).

TAVY, HELMSDALE, BAYNTUN detailed to escort U-boats.

Proceed to Tyne. Embark S/M parties from S/M 6 and all fresh provisions required, thence to Rosyth for orders.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 250956B to EGLINTON, TALYBONT).

A.M. 241710. Intend to sail PIORUN with U-boat nucleus crews from Rosyth p.m. Saturday 26th May to Horten routed as follows:- (A) Q.Z.S.738. (B) 58° 03' N., 06° 38' E. (C) 57° 56.8' N., 07° 03.2' E. (D) 57° 55.3' N., 07° 23.2' E. (E) Position X.5 on secret chart M.06595, thence by way X to position X1, way 42 and way 42A.

2. PIORUN is to signal E.T.A. off Faerder Light to N.O.I.C. Oslo, who is requested to provide pilot in this position.

3. F.O. Norway and Capt. M/S Norway are requested to signal any necessary amendments in route to PIORUN.

4. F.O. Norway is requested to sail PIORUN for Rosyth on completion.

(C. in C. H.F., 251326B to Admty).

On sailing of each group in accordance with A.M. 241710, request I may be informed by immediate signal repeated C. in C. H.F. (Ashore, C. in C. Rosyth, S.O. Loch Eriboll and N.O.I.C. Loch Alesh.

(A) of the number of U-boats in the group of each type

(B) whether or not torpedoes are carried

(C) to what extent crews have been reduced

(D) which U-boats are not capable of anchoring

/(E)...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

- U-Boats in Norway for U.K. (Contd.) (E) Whether crews have been medically examined in accordance with C.B. 3074, para. 17. (C. in C. W.A., 251642B to A.N.C.X.F.) Admiralty's 241710. Request you will sail U-Boats other than type ~~22~~ from Stavanger as soon as ready escorted by BAYNTUN and TAVY routed to position H thence by Q.Z.S. 738 to 25 Buoy and searched channel route to Pentland Firth and Loch Eriboll.
- (2) Understood no guards are to be embarked in U-Boats. (C. in C. Rosyth, 251915B to F.O. Norway, N.O.I.C. Stavanger.) Admiralty's 241710. Request you will sail U-Boats other than type ~~22~~ from Horten as soon as ready escorted by LOCH SCAVAIG and BAHAMAS routed to position H thence by Q.Z.S. 738 to 25 Buoy and searched channel route to Pentland Firth and Loch Eriboll.
- (2) Understood no guards are to be embarked in U-Boats. (C. in C. Rosyth, 251921B to F.O. Norway, N.O.I.C. Oslo.)
- Troops for passage in cruisers. Your 241910 passed to C.S.1, NORFOLK and BERWICK. This will be arranged. Ships detailed, NORFOLK to Bergen, BERWICK to Trondheim. (C. in C. H.F., 251226B to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
*See amendment, 261227B, p.643.*
- Norwegian arrivals in Bergen. Arrival 25th May H.M. Norwegian ship NARVIK, M.T.B. 711, 709, HESSA, HITRA, VIGRA. (N.O.I.C. Bergen, 251306B to N.O.I.C. Lerwick, Admty.)
- 54th (Norwegian) M.T.B. Flotilla to Bergen. If Norwegian authorities agree request approval to transfer base staff (reference message from A.N.C.X.F., T.O.O. 222330) of 54th Norwegian manned M.T.B. Flotilla from Lerwick complete with necessary equipment, spare gear and stores to set up base for this Flotilla in Bergen. (2) Consider it most undesirable that base staff should remain in Lerwick longer than necessary and that it would be uneconomic to attempt maintaining Flotilla in Shetlands whilst operating from Bergen. (3) If whole organisation is transferred complete the Flotilla can be self-contained as regards maintenance and Lerwick naval base can be closed down. (4) If considered desirable it would be feasible to supply provisions, stores and spare gear from Lerwick until that base closes down. (5) Anticipate (that?) Nor. M.S. NARVIK and M.F.Vs. HAUGEN and SJOLIVET will be available and can cope with necessary transport required for para. 1 and 4 above. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 251741B to C. in C. H.F.)

/Situation ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Situation at Stavanger. / Your 121158 (not to all). Following information applies to Stavanger.

- (a) Deepest draught acceptable at M.K.W.S. 33 feet.
- (b) Maximum length of ship which can be accepted 600 feet.
- (c) Number of berths available, 1 ship 600 feet draught 30 feet, 2 ships 350 feet draught 26 feet, 2 ships 350 feet draught 20 feet, 9 ships 250 feet draught 15 feet, 14 ships 200 feet draught 12 feet.
- (d) Number of vessels which can berth at one time 28.
- (e) Anchorage available for ships awaiting discharge. (F.O. Norway, 251829B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Situation at Oslo and Tromso. / Cositintrep No. 416, part II, Naval. Oslo. Limiting dimensions of ships length 700 ft. draught 30 feet 50 vessels including small coasters can berth at one time and there are almost unlimited waiting berths. Alongside berths available 4 at draught 29 ft., 6 at draught 26 ft., 5 at 20 feet, 20 at 16 feet.  
(2) Tromso. Limiting dimensions of ships length 600 ft. draught 28 ft. at high water spring, 26 ft. at high water neaps. 27 cargo vessels and 2 tankers can berth at one time. Alongside berths available 1 at draught 24 ft., 1 at 19 ft., 2 at 18 ft., 2 at 16 ft. but discharge is difficult at some quays.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 252330B to Admty.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Destruction of O-type obstructions. / Your 241817B. Request BARLOW and escort be routed through positions 61.25 N. 01.00 W. and 61.12 N. 01.00 W. to search for and destroy any O-type obstruction found in that vicinity.  
(C. in C. H.F., 251232B to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Situation at Bear Is. / Your 232100B. Party landed at 1700B today. No sign recent occupation, houses derelict.  
(2) Intend to leave 0300B/26th, E.T.A. Tromso 2300B/26th.  
(3) Request C. in C. Rosyth pass to Norwegian authorities in U.K.  
(N.S. STORD, 251845B to N.O.I.C. Tromso, C. in C. Rosyth.)

/U-Boat ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

U-Boat reception. / Following forces are to be established for reception and onward escort of U-Boats arriving from Norway:

(A) At Loch Eriboll - L. TARBERT (S.O.), L. ACHRAY, L. GLENDHU, L. MORE, GARDINER.

(B) At Loch Alsh - AYLNER (S.O.), BLIGH, BALFOUR, STOCKHAM, ROTHER.

(2) (A) L. TARBERT is to proceed from Loch Alsh to L. Eriboll to arrive May 28th.

(B) L. ACHRAY, L. GLENDHU, L. MORE are being ordered to proceed to Belfast forthwith for fuel and are subsequently to be sailed to arrive L. Eriboll May 28th.

(C) GARDINER from Liverpool is to be sailed to arrive L. Eriboll June 1st.

(D) AYLNER and BLIGH are now at Loch Alsh.

(E) BALFOUR, STOCKHAM from Belfast. ROTHER from Liverpool are to be sailed to arrive Loch Alsh June 1st.

(C. in C. W.A., 252308B to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, F.Os. 1/c. N.I., Liverpool.)

Operations

Baltic

German personnel arrangements.

Your 250400\* subject to your approval it is intended that Baccken-Kohler shall be relieved by Warzecha on the latter's return today.

(2) Intend interviewing both officers at 1500 today. Further signal will be made after interview to enable you to promulgate appropriate orders.

(Capt. Maund, OKM, 250930B to A.N.C.X.F., F.O. Kiel.)

\* It is not clear whether you propose that Baccken-Kohler will ultimately be replaced by Warzecha or when this will occur.

Your 250930, approved.

(A.N.C.X.F., 251050B to Capt. Maund.)

U-Boats at Flensburg. /

German U-Boats state at Flensburg. U.2351 afloat. About 27 scuttled or sunk in harbour. U.2351 will be sailed shortly for Kiel.

(F.O. Kiel, 251011B to A.N.C.X.F.)

25.5.1945.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

Asdics in U. 3008. U.3008 now at Kiel. Is fitted with latest German asdic set. Nibelung (note frequencies?) are received on cathode-ray tube and loud-speaker, and set appears to be wired for recorder but non fits has no range scale is marked up to 8000 metres but no check on performance can be made since oscillator is in conning tower and above water. (F.O.I.C. Kiel, 251210B to Admty.)

Torpedo equipment in T.14. Your 242235. Not approved. This signal should have been addressed to me. (A.N.C.X.F., 252255B to F.O.W.G.)

Movements

U. 295, N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh's 241040B May, arrived.  
U. 478, (Com. (D) W.A., 250814B to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh,  
U. 668. C. in C. W.A.)

U. 532. Your 241600, arrived.  
(R.N.O. Barrow, 251040 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

NARCISSUS, Your 231730B May.  
STONECROP, Request NARCISSUS and STONECROP may be sailed to  
Corvettes. Milford Haven to de-ammunition and thence to  
Preston and Liverpool respectively for reduction  
to Category C. On completion of reduction  
ships should retain minimum passage stores  
and be sailed to Milford Haven for laying up in mud berths.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 251137B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

U. 739. <sup>VII</sup>  
Type ~~V~~ German U-Boat 739 arrived from Emden.  
N.O.I.C. Emden's 240951 not to all addressees  
refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven, 251419B to F.O.W.G.)

LONDONDERRY, C. in C. Plymouth's 231730 and Portsmouth's  
sloop; 232138 not to all.  
AZALEA, (2) Request LONDONDERRY be reduced to Category C  
CLARKIA, at Devonport.  
SNOWDROP, (3) Request AZALEA and CLARKIA be sailed to  
DIANTHUS, Milford Haven for de-ammunitioning and routed  
Corvettes. onward to Cardiff for reduction to Category C.  
(4) Request SNOWDROP and DIANTHUS be sailed to  
Penarth for reduction to Category C to arrive  
about 31st May.

(5) On completion of reduction all ships should steam with  
minimum stores for passage to Milford Haven for laying up  
in mud berth.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 251501 to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/CAMPION ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

CAMPION, Intend to sail CAMPION at 1000B/26th May by  
corvette. standard route and F.N.M. 951(T) of 1945 (Route  
"A") to Liverpool. F.O.C.R.F. 221711 not to  
all refers.  
(2) CAMPION sail to comply reporting speed of  
advance and expected time of arrival direct.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 251719B to F.O.I.C.  
Liverpool.)

RHODODENDRON, My 161621B, para. 2.  
HONEYSUCKLE, In view of Commodore (D) W.A's 221834B no ships  
corvettes. should be sailed to lay up in mud berths at  
Londonderry till further instructions are  
received.  
(2) Request that RHODODENDRON and HONEYSUCKLE  
may be sailed for Milford Haven.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 251720 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

OTWAY, My 121908 April, 1944 para. 2(F).  
submarine. Intend to scrap OTWAY now. Request instructions  
for disposal of vessel and her equipment.  
(F.O.S/M., 251753B to Admty.)

WOLVERINE, WOLVERINE is to be sailed on completion of escort  
destroyer. duty, to Plymouth to give 7 days' leave to each  
watch and prepare as far as possible for Reserve  
Category C concurrently. Minimum stores  
required for steaming to laying up port should  
be retained on board. One fifth of ship's company is to be  
discharged to R.N.B. on arrival at Plymouth.  
(2) F.O.C.R.F. is requested to allocate laying up berth and  
inform C. in C. Plymouth when ship can be accepted.  
(3) Balance of foreign-service leave to be given after paying  
off.  
(4) F.O.G.M.A. 241127, not to all refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 251900B to F.O.I.C.N.I., F.O.C.R.F., C. in C.  
Plymouth.)

PATROLLER, Sailed PATROLLER.  
Escort (F.O.I.C.N.I., 252231B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)  
Carrier.

Release Admiralty 230109, not to all.  
of Escort Following ships are nominated for release to  
ships. reserve:

<u>Category B</u>		
<u>Frigates</u>	<u>Manning Port</u>	<u>Date of sailing</u>
GARLIES	C	31/5
GORE	P	"
HOSTE	P	"
BAZELY	C	1/6
DOMINICA	D	"
DRURY	D	"
FOLEY	P	"

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Release  
of Escort  
ships.  
(Contd.)

Category B (Contd.)

<u>Frigates</u>	<u>Manning Port</u>	<u>Date of sailing</u>
LABUAN	C	1/6
Lt <sup>comd</sup> FADA	P	"
PASLEY	C	"
TOBAGO	P	"
PERIM	C	2/6
ST. HELENA	P	"
ZANZIBAR	P	"
CHELMER	C	13/6
EXE	D	"
INMAN	P	"
SEYCHELLES	C	"
BARBADOS	D)	On conclusion of U-Boat escort.
BAYNTUN	P)	
CAYMAN	P	"
GARDINER	C	"
GRINDALL	C	"
KEATS	D	"
KEMPTHORNE	C	"
Lt <sup>comd</sup> DUNVEGAN	D	"

Category B

<u>Corvettes</u>	<u>Manning Port</u>	<u>Date of sailing</u>
AMBERLEY CASTLE	P	29/5
KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE	C	"
LEEDS C.	C	"
RUSHEN C.	D	"
OAKHAM C.	D	8/6
MORPETH C.	D	10/6
FLINT C.	D	13/6
TINTAGEL C.	D	"
OXFORD C.	D	17/6

Category C

AUBRETTIA	P	11/6
DIANELLA	C	"
STARWORT	C	"
SWEETBRIAR	P	"
PENNYWORT	P	14/6
ABELIA	RNPS	20/6
COLUMBINE	D	"
CAMELLIA	RNPS	21/6
WALLFLOWER	D	"
LAVENDER	D	26/6
CELANDINE	D	27/6
PIMPERNEL	C	"
PRIMROSE	C	"
GERANIUM	D	30/6
HYDRANGEA	P	"
LOTUS	D	"
POPPY	C	"

(2) In view of cessation of trade convoys, close escorts have been included.

(3) The above nominations are subject to ships not being needed for post-war requirements in accordance with Admiralty's 180855 April para. 4 not to all addressees.

(C. in C. W.A., 252323B to F.O.C.R.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Communi-  
cations  
orders for  
British  
Armed  
Merchant  
ships.

The following does not apply to transports carrying 250 troops or more which shall comply with all war-time communication instructions heretofore effective. While ships are in non-combat areas radio communications from ship to shore and shore to ship are permitted under the following conditions.

(a) All radio communications between ship and shore or vice versa shall be routed through naval operated or controlled channels. All coastal stations now or hereafter listed in W.I.M.S.3, Appendix A and also all U.S. commercial coastal and marine relay stations are considered to be naval controlled.

(b) Messages may be in plain language using international call signs except that no message will be sent in plain language which may disclose to the enemy information of impending movements into combat areas. For this purpose Aden, Capetown and Balboa shall be considered as coming within the combat area.

(c) No private messages, that is messages other than those concerning essential ship business are permitted. Ships shall continue to guard B.A.M.S. schedules from zone and area stations.

Special single and two operator watchkeeping periods contained Appendix B W.I.M.S.3 remain in force for all ships except those operating exclusively in U.K. or Continental European coastal trade which shall revert to international periods. Coastal radio stations will revert to direct method of communicating with merchant ships. See article 10 W.I.M.S.3. Effective 1001Z/29th May.

(D.T.D., 250002Z to B.A.M.S. in all areas.)

"Combat" and  
"Non-Combat"  
areas.

Pass to F.Os. i/c., N.Os. i/c., N.C.S.Os.,  
B.R.L.Os. and Reporting Officers.

For the purpose of control and routeing of merchant vessels the following are non-combat areas:

North Atlantic Ocean including Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

Arctic Ocean, Baltic and North Seas.

Mediterranean, Black and Red Seas.

South Atlantic Ocean east of 74° W. to longitude of Capetown.

North and South Pacific, east of 82° W.

(2) All other areas are combat areas for these purposes.

(3) The ports of Capetown, Aden and Balboa shall be considered as being in the combat area.

(D.T.D., 250201B: A.G.M.)

Merchant  
ship  
reporting &  
routeing.

Pass to F.Os. i/c., N.Os. i/c., N.C.S.Os.,  
B.R.L.Os., and Reporting Officers.

As from 0001Z on 29th May, 1945, the procedure contained in S.D.G.6, already transmitted by mail, regarding merchant ship reporting and

/routeing ...

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Merchant ship reporting and routeing. routeing arrangements is to come into force in the non-combat area as designated in my 250201B. (Admty., 250202B to S.Os. (I) Abroad, Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, W.A., Nore, Rosyth, H.F. (Ashore and Afloat), F.O.C. Dover, all Mediterranean Ocean Routeing Authorities, all British and U.S. F.Os. i/c. and N.Os. i/c on the Continent, S.B.N.O. N.Russia, S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Trade convoys in non-combat areas to cease. Pass to F.Os. i/c., N.Os. i/c., N.C.S.Os., B.R.L.Os. and Reporting Officers. No further trade convoys are to be sailed in the non-combat areas after 0001Z on 29th May, 1945. M.A.R.I. is to be cancelled on receipt of "Pharos" now in course of distribution. (2) Ships that would have sailed in trade convoys in the non-combat areas are to be sailed independently and be routed and reported in accordance with instruction S.D.G.6. They are not to zig-zag and guns need not be manned. By night they are to burn navigation lights at full brilliancy and may proceed unblack-out. They will observe International Regulations for the prevention of collisions at sea. (3) The existing restrictions in C.A.F.O. 470/45 and G.I.R.O. on the number of passengers carried by ships sailing without escort may be disregarded for passages through non-combat areas, including passages as far as Capetown and Aden. Passengers for destinations in or beyond the combat areas should not be embarked in excess of existing regulations for the area concerned without Admiralty or Cominch approval. (4) Separate signal will be made giving instructions for the conduct of troopships. (D.T.D., 250203B to same addressees.)

Exceptions to 250203. Notwithstanding A.M. 250203B the mine danger in the Nore Command requires that the following traffic be retained in convoy for the present:  
(a) Between Thames and Humber.  
(b) Between Thames and Dutch or Belgian ports.  
(c) Between East Coast ports in U.K. and ports in N.W. Germany, Scandinavia and Denmark as directed by Cs. in C. concerned.  
(2) These restrictions will be lifted as soon as the mine clearance situation is sufficiently advanced.  
(3) Cs. in C. Nore, Dover and Rosyth pass to F.Os. i/c. and N.Os. i/c. concerned.  
(D.T.D., 250230B to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Dover, C. in C. Rosyth, F.Os. i/c. Holland, Western Germany, Belgium, Kiel, Denmark, Norway.)  
Pass to F.Os. i/c., N.Os. i/c. and N.C.S.Os. concerned.  
A.M. 250230B. The following convoys will continue to run in the Nore Command:  
(a) F.N./F.S. (b) T.A.M./A.T.M. (c) T.A.P./A.T.P.  
(d) T.A.L./A.T.L. (e) Ostend/Dutch ports. (f) U.K./German ports.

/(2) ...

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Cuxhaven  
Convoys.Shipping and ConvoysExceptions  
to 250203.  
(Contd.)

(2) As from 0001Z on 29th May, these convoys normally will be escorted by 1 escort vessel only.

(3) Groups of tugs and tows, barges and other small craft carrying Army equipment will also be sailed from U.K. to Continental ports

under escort. Dates of sailing of these groups will depend on escorts being available.

(C. in C. Nore, 251636B to C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.I.C. Holland, F.O.I.C. Western Germany, F.O.I.C. Belgium, F.O.I.C. Kiel, F.O.I.C. Denmark, F.O.I.C. Norway, A.C. Dover.)

Intend to sail regular escorted convoys from Humber to Cuxhaven and return commencing with convoy L.U.C.1 sailing from Humber p.m. Sunday 27th. Ships for N.W. German ports will be included in these convoys for onward routing from Cuxhaven.

(2) F.O.I.C. Western Germany is requested to sail return convoys from Cuxhaven commencing with C.U.L.\* using escort of L.U.C.1 for return convoy.

(3) L.U.C. convoys will sail every 4 days from Humber, C.U.L.\* convoys returning on a similar cycle in order to conserve escorts.

(4) Speed  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots adjusted for L.U.C. convoys to pass P.10 buoy at 1100B.

(5) Authorities are requested to arrange plans whenever possible to allow ships to sail in these convoys, as availability of escorts and minesweeping arrangements will not permit of further sailings from Humber except in exceptional circumstances.

(6) M/S.10 in conjunction with Capt. M/S. Force C is to arrange for L.U.C. convoys to be met at P.10 Buoy and given protection from mines until arrival. F.O.I.C. Western Germany is requested to make similar arrangements for protection of C.U.L.\* convoys from Cuxhaven to P.10 Buoy.

(7) Request Admiralty concurrence (approval) for use of short titles L.U.C. and C.U.L.\* C.A.F.O. 2338/44 para. 2 refers.

(C. in C. Nore, 251847B to Admty., A.N.C.X.F., M.O.W.T., F.O.W.G., F.O.I.C. Humber.)

Reply: Admty., 300024B.

\* My 251847B. For C.U.L. read U.L.C. throughout.

(C. in C. Nore, 301235B.)

Plymouth  
Command  
procedure.

Consequent on the introduction of independent sailings on coastal convoy routes, the policy for support groups at sea in Plymouth Command is as follows.

(A) To provide cover to shipping proceeding along coastal convoy routes.

(B) To act as striking force in the event of attack.

(C) to direct shipping which has strayed from the prescribed channels.

(D) To act in support of ocean convoys when ordered.

(2) Groups covering coastal channels are to patrol to seaward of route.

(3) Until further notice all independent shipping in Plymouth Command will be routed by standard coastal route and not by Routes E. and W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 251116B to E.Gs. 2, 17, 22.)

/East ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

East Coast sailings for overseas before May 29th.

Merchant ships for overseas destinations which are ready to proceed from East Coast ports before May 29th may be sailed to Falmouth or Loch Ewe. (2) Ships should be provided with overseas routes in accordance with "Pharos" and Masters warned that they may be ordered by B.A.M.S. message to proceed on their voyage without calling at Falmouth or Loch Ewe. (3) Pass to N.C.S.Os. (D.T.D., 251339B to Cs. in C. Nore, Rosyth, V.A. Dover.)

Tugs (not) required for Western Germany.

F.O.W.G. reports that the only tug required for Western Germany is Rescue Tug ALLEGIANCE now sailing to Cuxhaven. (2) Requirement for Hamburg and Cuxhaven of 10 harbour, 9 T.I.D. tugs and the other rescue tug stated in my No. C/5173 of 21st Feb., not to Admty., is therefore cancelled. (A.N.C.X.F., 251617 to Admty.)

Junctions of Atlantic and U.K. coastal routes.

Pass to F.Os. i/c., N.Os. i/c. and N.C.S.Os. On the abolition of the convoy system in the non-combat area, shipping using Atlantic routes is to be routed so as to join or leave the United Kingdom coastal routes as follows:  
(1) Northern approach between lines drawn  
(a) from 59° 07' N. 7° 10' W. to 58° 47' N. 5° 12' W.  
(b) from 58° 13' N. 8° 24' W. to 58° 43' N. 5° 09' W.  
(2) North-western approach -  
(a) between a line drawn from 57° 40' N. 9° 05' W. to Oversay Island, and  
(b) North coast of Ireland.  
(3) South-western approach -  
(a) via Route B or Route C extended to 51° 06' N., 10° 00' W. (Fleet Notice to Mariners No. 452/45 refers).  
(b) via Routes E or W (Fleet Notice to Mariners No. 871/45 as amended by Q.Z.H. 471).  
(4) Southern approach, between lines drawn -  
(a) from 47° 56' N. 9° 00' W. to position 180° Bishop Rock 6 miles.  
(b) from 46° 28' N. 5° 14' W. to position 180° Lizard 14 miles.  
(5) The ocean route described in S.D.G.6, para. 3 (i), Note (a) is to commence or terminate at the western limits of these approaches.  
(6) It is intended to include these approaches in future editions of N.E.C.R.I. (D.T.D., 251652B to General.)

Routeing from N. Russia.

Merchant ships returning independently from North Russia should be routed to Kirkwall for orders unless destination in U.K. has been advised. A.M. 250203B refers. (2) Pass to N.C.S.Os. and M.W.T.Rs. (D.T.D., 251717B to S.B.N.Os. N. Russia, Archangel, N.O.I.C. Kirkwall.)

/Swedish ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Swedish  
shipping.

M.O.W.T. are anxious that any Swedish ships which are loaded should be sailed as soon as possible.

Request you will sail and route such shipping to Methil for orders and report as soon as possible numbers and readiness dates.  
(D.T.D., 251839B to F.O. Denmark (sic))

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

A/S trawler. Being in all respects ready for war sail at 1000B May 27th to Horta unless otherwise ordered by S.B.N.O. Azores.  
(3) S.O.A. 9½ knots. (4) E.T.A. 1030B/1st June.  
(6) KINGSTON AGATE is to be used in effecting R/V of joiners with U.G.S. and G.U.S. convoys until these convoys are discontinued. (F.O.G.M.A., 251152B to KINGSTON AGATE.)

South Atlantic.

Allocation of local forces while hostilities continue against Japan Your 241235. Only frigates available for retention are WYE and DOVEY both of whom are three months overdue for refit. Suggest they be relieved by FAL and ROTHER.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 251232Z to Admty.)



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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Major and Minor landing craft. Disposal of. / When the reduction of British Amphibious Forces in the Mediterranean is authorised.  
(2) Earliest possible Admiralty decision stating which craft are (a) to be returned to U.K.  
(b) to be placed in Pooled reserve on this station,  
(c) disposed of locally would be appreciated.  
(3) Pooled reserve craft in large numbers could not readily be berthed in any of the permanent naval bases and whilst there is space at Kabret additional facilities would be required in view of the already heavy Applan commitment.  
(4) Understand R.H.N. need craft urgently for various harbour and inter-Island services and would appreciate transfer of considerable number of L.C.T. and L.C.I.(L).  
(5) It will be realised that any information that can be given will permit arrangements for disposal of craft being progressed and thus expedite return of crews to U.K.  
(C. in C. Med. 251206B to Admty.)

Closing down at Gibraltar. / Your 211550. No working up facilities for surface craft will be required during Japanese War.  
(2) A/S Shore training equipment and A/A range should be placed on a care and maintenance basis. Gear should not be dismantled more than necessary.  
(3) One officer should be retained as Port A/S Officer.  
(D.A/S.W. 251610B to C. in C. Med. 271010B)  
No working up facilities will be required at Gibraltar.

Disbandment of F.N.T.F. / Proposals in Marine Paris 191927 (being passed) are approved subject to concurrence of combined Chiefs of Staff in the cases of LORRAINE and HOVA.  
(2) Marine Paris should keep A.N.C.X.F. C.T.F.122 and appropriate British Home Commander-in-Chief informed of movements of these ships.  
(3) C. in C. Plymouth, 242011 also refers.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 251840B to C.T.F.122)

Tobruk development of. / C. in C. M.E.F. has stated that the development of Tobruk as a port is essential requirement for the maintenance of Army and Air Force Cyrenaica and has asked for salvage operations to be put in hand to allow for an initial intake of 1,000 tons per day.  
(2) I also consider that Tobruk would form an essential minor naval base for escort and coastal craft in any future Mediterranean war.  
(F.O.L.E.M.252001C to C. in C. Med.)

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25.5.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

S/M RORQUAL

Refer C. in C. B.P.F. 012313Z. RORQUAL departs Fremantle about 7th June for Trincomalee and U.K. via safety lane through A. and B. S.O.A. 10 knots. (C.T.F. 71, 250227 to C. in C. E.I.S.)

Movement  
of troops.

P.S.T.O. India's 191018\* is referred for approval in accordance with C.A.F.O. 470/45+ para. 4 A/S. This concession is also required to cover Rangoon Approaches and subsequently waters to the southward as operations progress.

(2) Consider this concession should be allowed. (C. in C. E.I., 251156Z to Admty.)

\* Not received in Admiralty now repeated under T.O.O. 251216.

+ Ships sailing trade convoy or without escort restrictions on number of passengers (M.058346/44 15th March, 1945.)

It is requested that consideration may be given to the carriage in Bay of Bengal of max. 150 troops in unescorted M.T. ships which are fitted for troops. This would be in excess of capacity allowed by C.A.F.O. 247/43 but request is submitted in order to allow for guards for M.T. and to assist with large numbers of troops requiring movement.

(C. in C. E.I., 251216Z to Admty.)

(The above is a repetition of P.S.T.O.I's 191018.)

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25.5.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

F.O. Force X. Have struck my flag EMPIRE ARQUEBUS 0401Z/25th May. A.M. 012305B refers.  
(F.O. Force X 250400Z to Admty.)

T.G. 61.9 reconsti-  
tution of. Task Group 61.9. Reconstituted C.T.G. 61.9. Captain Benson in DAVIS Comcoortdiv. 46 in PRIDE MENGES. This group escort transports in C.U. 73. Departing New York/Boston 30/31 May for continent and U.K. Return escorting (transports) in U.C. 73 when Admiralty directs.  
(Cinclant 250453 to C.T.G. 61.9)

U/B dis-  
positions. Nothing new past 24 hours enemy U-Boat estimate 1200Z/25.  
(Cominch 251246Z to all commands.)  
1200Z/25th May part A possible one heading N.E. about 300 miles south or east of Cape Race.  
Part B. Nil.  
(N.S.H.Q., 251311Z to A.O.C.E.A.C.)

S.O.S. and Search. C. in C. C.N.A. 231057\* and my 232024+ Abandon search at last light today.  
(1) L.N. 2481 POUNDMAKER proceed direct Halifax fuel permitting.  
(2) LEASIDE proceed direct St. Johns N.F. (3) H.M.C.S BUCKINGHAM, INCHARRAN resume patrol vicinity Flemish Cap until further directions.  
Extreme caution is to be exercised when passing through iceberg area.  
(F.O.N.F., 251448Z to POUNDMAKER, LEASIDE, INCHARRAN, H.M.C.S. BUCKINGHAM.)  
\* C.8 detach two units C.8 forthwith to search vicinity.  
+ H.M.C.S. BUCKINGHAM with INCHARRAN in company proceed forthwith to search.

Corvettes & minesweeper for reserve. EYEBRIGHT, ARROWHEAD, HEPATICA, LOCKEPORT and TRILLIUM proceeding in convoy H.X. 358.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 251756Z to Admty.) See 281303Z.

Ships in non-combat areas not to zig-zag or guns manned from 29th May. A.M. 250003 (N.T. in W.D.) and A.M. 250203 para. 4. It is proposed to issue the following instructions for Monsters and troop convoys until S.D.G. 7A is brought into force.  
For the present Monsters and troops convoys and their escorts are to continue to observe all wartime precautions.  
(2) Request your early concurrence.  
(V.C.N.S. 261815Z to Cominch.)

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25.5.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

Blue Summary Ryukyus. Mud mired self propelled guns and tanks  
24th. . and limited advances along most of the front  
line on Okinawa. Jap. plane reported to have  
landed on Yotan with wheels up disgorging on run-  
way several Japs. who attempted to destroy  
parked planes with hand grenades. C.V.E. planes continued  
neutralization of Sakishima.  
F.A.W. 18 planes sank one S.D. 3 fishing boats off Chibuo, left  
one F.T.D. dead in water off Shiono Misake. Destroyed 4 luggers  
damaged 1 P.C. off Hamamatsu. 2 B.P.J. left 1 large ship sinking  
1 small ship dead in water off Honshu.  
Empire. 469 Bawoss night of 23/24 dropped approx. 3700 tons  
incendiaries on South Tokio Urban area visually and by radar  
from 12,000 feet encountering limited but aggressive aircraft  
opposition. Flak was light to heavy. Meager to intense.  
Inaccurate to accurate. 14 B.29s were lost.  
S.W.P.A. (beginning 27 May report of S.W.P.A. operations will  
be discontinued in Blue Summary. Search planes 23rd destroyed  
4 S.C. 3 S.D. and shipyard installations Dandjermasin. Sank 1  
S.D. off Malay, 1 S.C. off Hongkong.  
(C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 250653 to All commands interested in  
Combat reports.)

BERRY HEAD,  
FLAMBOROUGH  
HEAD.

BERRY HEAD E.T.D. 23rd June 1945.  
(2) Date for FLAMBOROUGH HEAD uncertain owing to  
delay in arrival of engine room ratings but they  
have now left U.K.  
(D.O.D.(F) 251403B to C. in C. B.P.F.)  
See 280703Z.

MANCHESTER  
CITY.

Your 240317 April. Routeing of MANCHESTER CITY  
via Sydney and Manus is not approved. Arrangements  
in para. 3 of A.M. 211630 April should be adhered  
to.  
(2) Clearance of U.S. ammunition forward is under  
discussion with Ministry of War Transport.  
(D.F.S.L. 251857B to V.A.(Q) B.P.F.)

C.V.Es. for  
B.P.F. and  
E.I.

C. in C. B.P.F. 170853. The number of C.V.E.  
and spare squadrons available for the B.P.F.  
differs from that forecasted in A.M. 161818 March\*  
because:-  
(1) The introduction of the spare air group system  
reduces the number of General Purpose carriers  
from six to three, A.M. 181953 April para. 3 refers.  
(2) In order that 11th A.C. Squadron may join B.P.F. as soon  
as possible it has been necessary to allocate certain C.V.Es.  
temporarily to C. in C. E.I. for operations in S.E.A.C.  
(II) Summary of present and forecast dispositions of C.V.E.  
are as follows:

/ (3) ...

25.5.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Far East and Australia.

C.V.Es. for (3) For East Indies Fleet.  
B.P.F. and A. AMEER, ATTACKER, HUNTER, STALKER, KHEDIVE,  
E.I. (Contd.) EMPEROR, SHAH, EMPRESS, BEGUM already on the  
station.  
B. PURSUER (Hellcat) should join in August.  
Action is being taken with C. in C. S.A. to adjust  
length of PURSUER's refit at Durban to suit this date. SEARCHER  
(Wildcat), allocated for ~~ZIPPER~~<sup>ZIBBER</sup>, joins by 28th July. Ref. C.  
in C. E.I. 220301 not to all every effort will be made to  
advance this date.  
C. SMITER and TRUMPETER both with Barracuda squadrons are  
temporarily allocated for ~~ZIPPER~~<sup>ZIBBER</sup> as ferries for R.A.F. fighters  
and will reach Ceylon about 7th August. Barracuda squadrons  
should work up ashore while carriers are ferrying. <sup>Zibber</sup>  
D. 896 Squadron should be embarked in EMPRESS for ~~ZIPPER~~<sup>ZIBBER</sup> and  
will remain allocated to East Indies Fleet.  
E. CAMPANIA, ferry, will probably arrive Ceylon in September  
to assist BEGUM and ACTIVITY in ferrying between Ceylon and  
Australia.  
F. TROUNCER (flagship) will arrive in September.  
(4) For Pacific Fleet.  
A. SLINGER, SPEAKER, STRIKER, FENCER, RULER, CHASER, ARBITER  
already on station.  
B. VINDEX (ferry), arrives Sydney mid August. REAPER (ferry)  
arrives Sydney end August.  
C. PATROLLER with a spare Light Fleet Carrier Group arrives  
Sydney early September. RANEE with 881 Hellcat Squadron  
from Wingfield arrives about mid October. It will not now be  
necessary to make the exchange referred to in para. 2B of A.M.  
161818 March.  
D. SMITER with 815 Barracuda squadron and TRUMPETER with  
821 Barracuda squadron arrive after ~~ZIBBER~~ about mid October.  
QUEEN with 810 Barracuda squadron may reach Sydney in September  
but date is uncertain.  
E. It is under consideration to transfer SHAH with two  
squadrons each of 8 Avengers from E.I. to B.P.F. after operation  
Zipper ~~ZIPPER~~ and when she can be spared. Further signal will be made.  
(V.C.N.S. 252130B to C. in C. B.P.F., C. in C. E.I.) See 272350B.  
50151103Z JUNE

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B dispo-  
sitions.

Estimates. Para. A. Nothing fresh to report.  
Para. B. No change from A.M. 241205B.  
(D.D.I.C. 251303B to Cominch.)

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26.5.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. The Home Fleet will be able to release 950 seamen, 115 engine room ratings and 50 marines consequent on the reductions envisaged in Situation Report of May 23rd.

North Sea.

- 2(a) PRINZ EUGEN and NÜRNBERG, under escort of IROQUOIS and SAVAGE, arrived Wilhelmshaven from the Baltic.  
(b) Sweeping and buoying of a Dutch coastal route from the Nore-Flushing route up to the Texel has been completed.  
(c) One mine was detonated at Vulcaanshaven.

Western Approaches.

3. The new Canadian cruiser ONTARIO has arrived at Greenock from Belfast.

Baltic.

- 4(a) F.O. Kiel reports that as a consequence of the recent order relieving Germans of the necessity to salute British officers the Germans are becoming insolent.  
(b) The 33rd M.L. Flotilla will be based on Eckernförde, Kiel conditions being insanitary.  
(c) All coal supplies are running out.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Italy.

5. GENEPESCA I (Italian trawler, 1,600 tons) sank at midday today after striking a floating mine in lat. 43° 16' N., 10° 17' E. (15 miles south of Leghorn). The entire crew and all passengers were saved by the Italian merchant vessel SESTRIERE.

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26.5.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

- Burma. 6. It is reported that the Rangoon river is open up to Hastings anchorage for ships of 29 ft. draught.
- Andaman Sea. 7. PHOEBE and two sloops have patrolled northern Andaman Sea since 16th May. The Tenasserim coast was patrolled in daylight, no enemy were sighted and the whole coast appeared dead. On the 20th a boat was intercepted with 4 Indian fishermen who had left Port Blair where the food situation is acute.

Far East and Australia

- China Seas. 8(a) Mariners from Lingayen last night attacked about 60 small craft between Formosa and the Pescadores hitting a 100 foot vessel.  
(b) U.S.N. aircraft destroyed seven and damaged three sea trucks off Hainan Island.
- Japan.  
Ryukus. 9(a) Land-based aircraft and gunfire from NEW YORK, VINCENNES, NEW ORLEANS killed an estimated 500 enemy troops spotted moving 2' south of Naha (Okinawa) today. The RALPH TALBOT destroyed 2 native boats filled with troops and explosives off Nakagasuku Wau.  
(b) T.F. 57 left combat area off Sakishima today.
- Movement. 10. FENCER left Sydney for Simonstown.

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War Diary.26.5.1945  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Reduction of Home Fleet Complements. / Consequent on reduction of complements of H.F. ships anticipate following approx. number will be available assuming ships have full complements of non-substantive rates:-

A. Portsmouth.  
Ex BERWICK, BIRMINGHAM, DIADEM, SCOURGE, MYNGS, ORIBI:-  
Seamen, 350. Marines, 30. E.R. ratings, 40.

B. Devonport. Ex DEVONSHIRE, ONSLOW, OBDURATE, OFFA, ONSLAUGHT, SCORPION:- Seamen, 300. Marines, 20. E.R. ratings 40.

C. Chatham. Ex BELLONA, DIDO, OPPORTUNE, ORWELL, OBEDIENT, SAVAGE, SERAPIS. Seamen, 300. Marines, Nil. E.R. Ratings, 35.

(2) While there is still danger of damage by mines, cruisers must steam in units, using one boiler on each unit for cruising speeds and complements must provide for certain damage control parties, and therefore reduction in E.R. complements are small.

(3) No reduction in ordnance, radar, torpedo and W/T maintenance ratings can be accepted unless material is removed from ships. (C. in C. H.F., 260026 to Admty.)

Shewing the flag in Continental Ports. / Reference your 241752. Except as may be required by special circumstances it is not intended to provide cruisers and destroyers for duties in German and Danish ports after 7th June.  
(V.C.N.S., 260103B to A.N.C.X.F.)  
My 251917B not to all. Polish destroyer will arrive in accordance with C. in C. Nore 251237B.  
(F.O.W.G., 261342B to N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven.)

ZEALOUS and ZODIAC arrived Kiel 1230B today.  
(F.O. Kiel 261816B to Admty.)

Intend to sail SAVAGE for Scapa p.m. 27th May. It would be appreciated if IROQUOIS could be retained until Thursday 1st June owing to the number of German warships at Wilhelmshaven and to allow for the overlap of the destroyers as arranged by C. in C. Nore. C. in C. Nore's 251237A refers.

(F.O.W.G. 262055B to C. in C. H.F.)

OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT and OFFA arrived Kiel 2245B today Saturday.

(F.O. Kiel 262255B to Admty.)

Disposal of German small craft. / Following comments are given to paras. in your 201605B of 20th May. (P. 508)

A. Agreed. B. Suggest should read as follows:

(1) Other craft captured or surrendered in ports of liberated countries to be disarmed and handed over to the national authorities in those countries for disposal.

(2) Other craft captured or surrendered in German ports to be retained as property of United Nations pending further instruction from Control Authority. It makes no difference whether these craft were captured or surrendered.

Your paras. C. and D., all personnel should be treated initially as German enemy personnel. Personnel described in para. D. should later be disposed of in accordance with S.H.A.E.F. letter of 2 Dec. 1944, A.G. 383.2 GAP-ADM, subject: "Handling allied nationals who have collaborated or served with the enemy."  
(S.H.A.E.F. 261030B to A.N.C.X.F.) See also p. 681

/Exchange...



War Diary.

26.5.1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - Contd.

Exchange of facilities for information with Russians.

Following is a re-encypherment of S.H.A.E.F. Forward's 241920B May to Eisenhower. Begins: Reference Military Mission to Moscow Cable M.X. 24438 of 24th May (S.C.A.F. 376 refers.) Para. 1. Russians were invited to join our control party for O.K.W. in S.C.A.F. 376. This was considered to be a purely military target of joint U.S./British/Russian Military concern.

Para. 2. Subsequently the presence of the heads at least of certain civil German Ministries in addition to O.K.M. were uncovered in the same area. Investigation of these by Russians clearly raised much wider issues, particularly as no reciprocal offer of investigations by us in the Russian occupied areas have been made.

Para. 3. Consequently when General Trusov made a verbal request for permission to investigate O.K.M. orders were issued that this matter must be referred by the Soviet High Command to the Allied Supreme Command, but that specific information on minefields etc., in the Russian zone which we could obtain from O.K.M. was to be passed to General Trusov, by our Control Party at O.K.M. Antonov's letter is therefore only partly correct as information from O.K.M. will not be withheld from the Russians though investigation by Russian Officers for the time being not authorised.

Para. 4. In my opinion we have now an excellent opportunity to ask the Russians for some reciprocal action on their part. In return for according them facilities to visit O.K.M. and O.K.L. which is established near Berchtesgaden, I would propose to ask them for authority to send parties to Berlin to examine military intelligence targets there and also to raise again the long standing questions of a Naval visit to Gydnia and of air photography of Berlin which they have stalled over during the past few weeks.

Para. 5. I recommend that I should be authorised to proceed on these lines confining the whole matter purely to Military targets. Ends.

(A.N.C.X.F., 261520B to A.N.C.X.F. Ph.)

Shipping of enemy material to U.K.

Admiralty approval must be obtained before enemy Naval material for which Admiralty may ultimately be responsible is shipped to U.K. Admiralty message 241844 (not to all) refers. (A.N.C.X.F., 261538B to all F.Os. i/c and N.Os. i/c on the Continent.)

Reorganisa-  
tion of  
Commands.

Ref. C. in C. W.A., W.A. 1613/023 of 9th May, consider the Liverpool and South Wales areas should become part of Plymouth Command and Greenock, Glasgow, and N. Ireland areas should be included in C. in C. Rosyth area. C. in C. W.A. is requested to suggest the most convenient boundary between the Liverpool area and the N. Ireland area which would also form the boundary between the Plymouth and Rosyth Commands.

Cs. in C. Rosyth and Plymouth are also asked for their comments. (V.C.N.S., 262039B to Cs. in C. W.A., Rosyth, Plymouth.)

War Diary.

26.5.1945  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

PRINZ EUGEN, / M/S 18 met at 0705B H.M.C.S. IROQUOIS, H.M.S.  
NURNBERG, SAVAGE, German cruiser PRINZ EUGEN and German  
to Wilhelms- cruiser NURNBERG detached at 0800B to Wilhelms-  
haven. Am proceeding to Rosyth with DIDO in  
company. S.O.A. 24 knots.  
(DEVONSHIRE 260859B to Cdre. Denmark.)  
Arrivals p.m. Saturday 26th May IROQUOIS and  
SAVAGE. German cruisers PRINZ EUGEN and NURNBERG.  
(N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven 261807B to Cdre. Denmark.)

Opening of / Request you will report when each of the following  
Dutch ports. ports can be declared open to normal traffic:-  
A. Rotterdam. B. Ijmuiden. C. Amsterdam.  
D. Den Helder.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 261100B to F.O. Holland.)  
Reply, (F.O. Holland 300933B.) (Page 135)

U.287. Your 241143. Re examination of Seaman Ex. 287  
points to probability that C.O. disembarked those  
members of crew who did not wish to volunteer  
for a final desperate gesture. He may have  
scuttled or been sunk. O.K.M. statement appears suspect in  
view of practically unmined condition of Elbe.  
(N.O.I.C. Hamburg 261110B to Admty.)

U.979. Flag Officer, Western Germany's 251239B.  
Request the following may be obtained from the  
survivors of U.979. If possible a full report  
of proceedings, together with track chart and  
details of ships attacked and hunting forces encountered. This  
information will be of great assistance in assessing the effect  
of our counter-measures.  
(2) A.N.C.X.F.'s 241110B and Admiralty's 161400B, latter not to  
all, refers.  
(A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 261315B to A.N.C.X.F., F.O.W.G.)

Fish food F.O. Holland's 251355 consider only safe route by  
for famished which trawlers can at present enter area pro-  
foreigners. mulgated in 96 A.Z. is via N.F. Channel, East  
Coast Channel and Gap D in view of the importance  
of increasing food supply to Holland, request you  
will consider clearing German minefield S.W. 11  
in approx. position 53° 25' N. 04° 00' E. at an early date to  
allow direct access to the area from the Texel.  
(2) F.O. Holland pass to Neth. Ministry of Fishing.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 261509B to C. in C. Nore.)

/H.B.M....

26.5.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

H.B.M.  
Ambassador  
in GARTH.

Your 231102 Ambassador has to return to Embassy on Tuesday 29th and has asked if GARTH could remain in dock till then and give him passage. Request favourable consideration as no other suitable sea transport is available. If escort is necessary request MIDDLETON may also remain and sail with GARTH.

(F.O.I.C. Holland 261522 to C. in C. Nore.)

Your 261522B not to N.O.I.C. Ostend. Approved for GARTH to remain Rotterdam.

(2) Request you will sail MIDDLETON to arrive Ostend p.m. tomorrow Sunday 27th May to provide escort for Ostend/Hook convoy on Monday 28th May. On completion of this duty MIDDLETON is to remain Hook for night 28/29 and provide escort for GARTH on Tuesday.

(C. in C. Nore, 261708B to F.O. Holland.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 417 part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600B/25  
May. British.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
Antwerp	-	381	16,504	-	8,783
Ostend	1,649	44	471	-	1,109
Calais	4,333	53	99	16	-
Caen	-	-	100	748	-
Rotterdam	-	-	1,864	368	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,982</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>19,038</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>9,892</b>
<u>U.S. North.</u>					
Antwerp	-	14	15,841	-	-
Cherbourg	-	7	333	543	-
Le Havre	4,430	126	3,089	-	-
Rouen	6	-	3,485	1,057	2,676
Ghent	-	-	4,504	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,436</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>27,252</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>2,676</b>
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	-	61	7,752	1,153	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	549	-	6,111
Nice	-	-	98	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>8,399</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>6,111</b>

Army coal at, Granville 1,256, Morlaix, 830.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 261730B to Admty., and others.)

Operation  
"Fireball".

Operation "Fireball".

(1) A. LL/SA 3 M.M.S/I.M. 7 to 187 4 and back one actuation whole width.

B. One M.M.S. and one M.L. explosive and modified L C Mark (4) TX. 4 to Den Helder.

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26.5.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Operation "Fireball".  
(Contd.)

C. Oropesa 5 B.Y.M.S. number 4 to Den Helder.  
D. LL/SA 6 M.M.S. completed Hook Anchorage (F.O. Holland's 170945). My 262123 part one.  
E. L.A.A. new water way completed Maashaven and Vulcaanshaven.  
(2) One red mine detonated Vulcaanshaven.  
(3) Surveying Yellow Den Helder.  
(Capt. M/S F.A. 262133B to C. in C. Nore.)

Situation report.

Cositintrep No. 417 part 2 Naval.  
Rouen Petite Couronne Tanker basin dredging completed. Draft 21 feet low water.  
(2) Sweeping and buoying of the Dutch coastal route from the Nore - Flushing route to a point off the Texel has been completed.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 262216B to Admty.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

E.G. 11. Admiralty 230109 not to all. Intend E.G. 11 to sail for Canada May 30th.  
(C. in C. W.A., 260111B to Admty.)

Difficulties in mass-reductions to category C. No further ships can be taken for de-storing and reduction to category C until present ships are completed.  
(2) BIDEFORD and DELPHINIUM have had to be brought to Cardiff from Penarth owing to shortage of labour.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 261131B to F.O.C.R.F.)

Further to my 261131B. 4 corvettes can be berthed at Penarth and crews reduced to 2/5th of complement vide C. in C. W.A.'s letter No. W.A. 7150M of 19th May, para. 4.  
(2) Then ship can be taken in hand at Cardiff for destoring and reductions to category C as berth becomes available on completion of ship already in hand.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 261540B to F.O.C.R.F.)

E.G. 32. (1) The designation "32nd E.G." is hereby cancelled  
(2) U.S.S. WILLIAM T. POWELL, ALEXANDER J. LUKE, SPANGENBURG and ROBERT I. PAINE revert to U.S. designation.  
(3) British S.Ps. have been disembarked.  
(4) My 052239 April is cancelled.  
(C. in C. W.A., 261901B to W.A. Command.)

/Sweeping...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Sweeping of  
N. Channel.

Area in my 231811 being passed to Admiralty completed. Completed 8 cables either side of centre line of area bounded by following positions  
A. 55° 09.2' N. 05° 19' W. B. 55° 10.6' N. 05° 27.3 mins. W. C. 55° 07.6' N. 05° 28.8' W. D. 55° 06.3' N. 05° 20.3' W.  
(No mines swept 2047B/26.)  
(M.S.F. 11 262052B to Capt. M/S Clyde.)

Operations.

Norway.

Escorts for  
U-Boats.

C. in C. W.A's 241642.  
Collect routeing instructions from N.O.I.C. Methil, thence proceed when ready to Christiansand South.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 260915B to BARBADOS, CAYMAN, TYLER)  
Proceed at 1400 today Saturday passing Oxcars at 1430 to comply with my 251326.  
(C. in C. H.F., 261131 to PIORUN.)

Admiralty's 241710. Request you will sail U-Boats other than type 21 from Bergen as soon as ready escorted by 30 E.G., less one escort being retained, routed north of Q.Z.Y. 595, east of Shetlands, north of Orkneys to Loch Eriboll.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 261131B to F.O.I.C. Bergen, F.O. Norway.)  
When Nucleus crews have been embarked proceed to Horten routed A. Q.Z.S. 738. B. 58.03 N. 06.38 E. C. 57.56.8 N. 07.03.2 E. D. 57.55.3 N. 07.23.2 E. E. Position X.S. in Secret Chart M 06595 thence by way X to position X.1 Way 42 and Way 42A.

(2) Signal expected time of arrival off Faerder Light to N.O.I.C. Oslo who is requested to provide pilot in this position.

(3) Movements after arrival Horten will be signalled.

(C. in C. Rosyth 261135B to PAPUA.)

Sailed in company to Kristiansund (S) at 1400/26 BARBADOS, CAYMAN, TYLER S.O.A. 14 knots. E.T.A. position H 1600/27.

(N.O.I.C. Methil 261420B to F.O. Norway, N.Os. i/c Kristiansund, Stavanger.)

Admiralty's 241710. Request you will sail U-Boats other than type 21 as soon as ready escorted by CAYMAN, TYLER and BARBADOS, routed to position H, thence by Q.Z.S. 738 to 25 Buoy and searched channel route to Pentland Firth and Loch Eriboll.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 261603B to N.O.I.C. Kristiansund, F.O. Norway.) a/

E.T.A. Trondheim 0300B Sunday 27th May. KEATS and KEMPTHORNE in company. No pilot on board.

(LOCH FYNE 262240B to N.O.I.C. Trondheim.)

Troops to  
Norway in  
cruisers.

My 251226. Amend to read:-  
C.S. 1 in NORFOLK to Trondheim, BERWICK to Bergen.  
(2) F.O. Norway pass to S.C.O.F.O.R. (Main) and 88 Group.  
(C. in C. H.F., 261127B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Troops to  
Norway in  
cruisers.  
(Contd.)

C.S. 1 is requested to sail from Rosyth in  
NORFOLK with D.2 in ZEPHYR on completion of  
embarking stores and personnel (C. in C. Rosyth's  
241910 refers) p.m. Tuesday 29th May and proceed  
to Trondheim passing east of Orkneys and Shetlands  
and north of Q.Z.Y. 595 thence through positions  
62° 45' N. 03° 30' E. and 63° 33' N. 07° 26' E.

by Grip Holen and Edo Fjord to Trondheim.

(2) N.O.I.C. Trondheim is requested to arrange pilot to board  
NORFOLK off Grip Light p.m. 30th May at time notified by C.S. 1.

(3) C.S. 1 is requested to sail NORFOLK and ZEPHYR to Rosyth  
by reverse route on completion of disembarking stores and  
personnel.

(4) F.O. Norway pass S.C.O.F.O.R. (Main.)

(C. in C. H.F., 261945B to C.S. 1, NORFOLK, ZEPHYR, C. in C.  
Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Trondheim.)

BERWICK take ZEST under your orders and sail from Rosyth  
when stores and personnel referred to in C. in C. Rosyth's 241910  
have been embarked p.m. Tuesday 29th May, and proceed to Bergen  
routed east of Shetlands and north of Q.Z.Y. 595, through  
Korsfjord and Byford by route in S.N.I.P. (GH) 40/45 paras. 5,  
3 and 4.

(2) N.O.I.C. Bergen is requested to arrange pilot to board  
BERWICK at entrance to Korsfjord p.m. 30th May. BERWICK is to  
report E.T.A. at this point.

(3) Return by reverse route to Rosyth on completion of disem-  
barking stores and personnel.

(4) F.O. Norway pass to S.C.O.F.O.R. (Main.)

(C. in C. H.F. 261951 to BERWICK, ZEST, C. in C. Rosyth,  
N.O.I.C. Bergen.)

U-Boats and  
personnel  
at Bergen.

Owing to necessity to move all shore based naval  
personnel into concentration areas no shore labour  
is available in Bergen for repairing major  
defective German U-Boats referred to in my 241040B  
to Admiralty. Request instructions as to disposal  
of these 2 German U-Boats and 5 unserviceable  
German U-Boats.  
(N.O.I.C. Bergen 261707B to F.O. Norway.)

4 U-Boats  
to leave Oslo.

Ref. A.M. 251921. Intend to sail U.874, U.975,  
U.170 and U.1108 escorted by BAHAMAS and LOCH  
SCAVAIG from Oslo at 1900B on Sunday 27th May.  
Routed by Q.Z.S. 738 to 25 Buoy thence by searched  
channels and Pentland Firth to Loch Eriboll.  
S.O.A. 13 knots.

(2) W/T on H/D and port wave.

(3) Rosyth pass authorities in U.K.

(N.O.I.C. Oslo 261819B to F.O. Norway.)

/Stavanger...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Stavanger  
report.

Cositintrep 416 supplement A, part 4 section C.  
Period ending 2100/26. Int. N.T.R.  
Ops. Stavanger zone 50 thousand mines lifted to  
date. All informed.  
(S.V.R. N.E. signed Eisenhower 262132B to Admty.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Reception of U-Boats at Loch Eriboll for Loch Alsh. A.M. 250002 being passed to S.O. L. Eriboll and N.O.I.C. L. Alsh. Controlling Factor in my Organisation for reception of U-Boats into C. and M. is berthing accommodation at Loch Alsh where max. of 12, but preferable only 10, U-Boats can be berthed at a time.

Depending upon whether U-Boats arrive with or without torpedoes, flow of U-Boats through L. Alsh will vary between 4 and 6 per day.

(2) Anchor berths are available at L. Eriboll for up to 35 U-Boats. It has been found, however, that 50% of U-Boats are unable to weigh anchor owing to defective capstan gear, and it would be preferred therefore, if numbers in L. Eriboll at any one time were kept down to 15.

(3) S.O. L. Eriboll is authorised to deal direct with C. in C. H.F. concerning movements of U-Boats from Scapa to L. Eriboll. (C. in C. W.A., 261315B to C. in C. H.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Baltic

Cruise of U.2336, Your 241110. U.2336 was operating in the North Sea between 2nd May and 12th May and was in the Firth of Forth near May Island on 7th and 8th May. The C.O. states he has nothing to report. His track chart is held in Kiel but all other documents were destroyed.  
(F.O.Kiel, 260924B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Situation at Kiel. Situation at 2100 to-day Friday. The recent order<sup>/</sup> relieving Germans of the necessity of saluting British officers gives a loophole for veiled insolence of which advantage is already being taken.

Two cases of Typhus reported amongst civil population. All coal supplies running out. Have ordered German Naval authorities to find accommodation for 2nd Admiral Baltic and his staff at Edhof Barracks, Kiel. Fresh attempt will be made to salve Hospital Ship DER DEUTSCHE off Fehmarn. German salvage company has raised U-Boat in canal at kilometre 66.8.

British SS. SALERNO, temporarily MARKIRCH, will be sailed after degaussing and adjusting compasses.

33rd M/L Flotilla being degaussed. In view of crowded and insanitary conditions in Kiel they will be based on Eckernförde. A small convoy containing personnel and mining material of evacuated SVK arrived Kiel from Svendberg.

(F.O.I.C.Kiel, 261100B to A.N.C.X.F.)  
/ Details requested by A.N.C.X.F. 301312B.

Your 201635<sup>/</sup>. Chaotic conditions prevailing before capitulation and influx of naval personnel from other areas still continues precluding a useful percentage estimated now.

(2) Intend to freeze about 12,000 Kriilgs. Marines in Kiel Command for labour units including minesweeping.

(F.O.Kiel, 261141B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/ Enquiry what percentage of German Naval personnel have been transferred to concentration areas.

Enemy Intelligence

Asdics in U.3008. F.O.I.C. Kiel's 251210B May. This equipment has been inspected by my representative Commander Vigoureux and a set is being forwarded to A/S.E.E. Fairlie.  
(C.A/S.E.E. 261234B to Admty.)

Hamburg Experiment Tank. Hamburg, Experiment tank. Position has been examined by Constructor Captain Gawn and situation is as follows:  
Tank damaged but fully operational, research personnel amount to approx. 112 available and anxious to work all under guard which will be considered.



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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Hamburg Experiment Tank. (Contd.)

(2) There are two alternatives:  
(A) allow fundamental research problems set by us to be carried out in order to keep tank in operation.  
(B) Retain personnel under strict surveillance permitting no work to be done.  
(3) Alternative (A) would require appointment of at least one technical officer with special qualifications and knowledge of German to ensure against risk of work being carried out underground. Propose therefore unless orders to the contrary adopting proposal (B) for the present British Military Authorities being requested to take adequate steps to prevent tanks being sabotaged or dispersal of research personnel.  
(4) Constructor Captain Gawn returning next week will give full details.  
(N.O.I.C. Hamburg, 261931B to F.O.W.G.)

Movements

AVONVALE, destroyer, U.485, U.541. F.O.G.M.A. 221751X.  
AVONVALE was detached p.m. 23rd May to Tagus to embark Commanding Officer and Engineer Officer of U-Boat 963.  
(2) AVONVALE departed from Tagus at 1900 on 24th May for Devonport.  
(3) Request you will hold prisoners pending instructions from Admiralty.  
(Admty. 260036B to C. in C. Plymouth)  
X Ex German S/M U.541 and U.485 with WOLVERINE and AVONVALE as escort sailed 1700/22 for Londonderry.  
E.T.A. Merville 1130B Sunday 27th May U.541 and U.485 in company.  
(2) U-Boats have no anchors but have wires and can secure to buoys.  
(WOLVERINE, 260950 to Com. D. W.A.)

BERWICK cruiser. Rosyth arrival BERWICK.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 260804B to N.O.I.C. Trondheim)

American destroyers to America. Your 081216 not to all. D.E's can be released middle of June P.C's and P.T's can be released now except 4 P.C's earmarked for C.T.F.126.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 261435B to Com. 12th Fleet)

American P.C's to America. When ready on or about 5th June sail 13 P.Cs. to U.S. via Azores. Ship to U.S. all spares not required for 4 P.Cs remaining in theatre. Admiralty please provide C.T.F.122 with route to Azores. Cinclant from Azores to destination desired. Comnavzor make refueling arrangements.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 261444 to C.T.F.122)

/H.M.C.S. ...

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H.M.C.S. C. in C. C.N.A.'s 221826Z/ and my 211601B not to  
FENNEL, all. Request FENNEL may be ordered to Greenock #  
corvette. for de-ammunitioning and reduction to Category  
"C".  
(2) Laying up port will be signalled later.  
(F.O.C.R.F. 261447B to Admty.)  
/ Request H.M.C.S. FENNEL be retained in the  
U.K.

LUDLOW, Admiralty 180855B April and 221120B May - the  
WINDSOR, requirements for operation ~~ABASIC~~, including  
VIVACIOUS, R.N. and N.R. convoys, my 131647B May refers  
destroyers. and weekly personnel and store service, my 171727B  
refers, require that 14 destroyers of the Rosyth  
escort force remain operational. The above will  
also cover the requirement for an emergency des-  
troyer at Rosyth.

(2) It is therefore only possible at present to release three  
destroyers for reduction to Category "C" reserve namely:  
LUDLOW (Devonport) - immediately available.  
WINDSOR (Portsmouth) - available Monday 4th June.  
VIVACIOUS (Portsmouth) - available Thursday 7th June.  
(3) Reference my 241212B May to F.O.C.R.F. A berth in the basin  
at Rosyth can be made available for destoring.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 261719B to F.O.C.R.F., Admty.)

ONTARIO H.M.C.S. ONTARIO arrived.  
cruiser. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 261746B to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

HAWKINS Discharge completed. Weather permitting intend  
training to sail L.C.T's at 1000 and H.M.S. HAWKINS at  
cruiser. 1400 tomorrow Sunday for Firth of Lorne.  
Request weather report by 0800 and mail may be  
sent Oban.  
(HAWKINS, 261920B to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

Shipping and Convoys

Release of L.S.T. Release of L.S.T. and landing craft is subject.  
Following releases agreed at S.H.A.E.F. meeting  
23rd May.  
(A) Immediately 20 U.S. L.S.T. all U.S. L.C.T.(5)  
and (6) all U.S. L.C.I.(L).  
(B) After sailing 26th May 4 U.S. L.S.T.  
(C) May 31st 10 British L.C.T. (3) 24 non-operational British  
L.C.T.(4)  
(D) After "Apostle" about June 8th remaining 26 U.S. L.S.T.  
(E) June 15 24 non-operational L.C.T. (4) one flotilla L.C.I.(L).  
(F) During June 10 non-operational British L.S.T. dependent on  
retention of U.S. L.S.T. as required for "Apostle" (see (D) above)  
authority from Agwar has been requested for additional M.T.  
ships required to meet military cross-channel vehicle commitment  
after allowance has been made for lift on L.C.T.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 261130B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Convoys ...

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Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Convoys My 251847B. Request you will sail convoy L.U.C.1  
L.U.C/C.U.L. at 2359B on Sunday 27th May. Escort RETALICK.

(2) Sailing signal is to be repeated to M/S 18,  
M/S 10 and Capt. M/S Force C and tonnage of  
merchant ships included in this signal.

(3) Escorts of L.U.C. convoys are to be instructed in accordance  
with my 231213B not to Admiralty being passed to D.16 and  
RETALICK.

(C. in C. Nore, 261321B to F.O.I.C. Humber)

C. in C. Nore, 251847B. Request you will co-ordinate  
sailings from North German Ports.

(F.O.W.G. 261335B to Cdre. Hamburg.)

C. in C. Nore's 251847B.

Intend to sail C.U.L. Convoy Brunsbüttel anchorage in 4 days  
cycles, commencing C.U.L. 1 buoy 1400B/31st May, 1945.

(2) Ships for inclusion must arrive convoy anchorage not  
later 1200B on day of sailing.

(N.O.I.C.Hamburg, 261712B to C. in C. Nore, Admty. F.O.W.G.  
A.N.C.X.F. D. of S.T.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

EVADNE  
A/S  
Yacht

My 251152 EVADNE (S.O.) sails in company with KINGSTON AGATE.  
(2) EVADNE is embarking S.O.B. Gibraltar and seven ratings for passage to Azores.  
(3) On completion of S.O.T. duties in Azores request you return EVADNE to Gibraltar embarking pool of trawler ratings and any other officers and ratings for return to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 260929B to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

ENCHANTRESS,  
sloop

ENCHANTRESS sails 1200B May 27th to relieve WELLINGTON in position 20 A.M. 182352 (N.T. in W.D.) and my 202305 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all refer.  
(2) E.T.A. position 20 0800B May 29th.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 261251B to Admty.)

KILDWICK  
(A/S  
Vessel)

Intend detaching H.M.S. KILDWICK to Gibraltar daylight 27th with serious engine defect. My P.C.S. at 2000B/26th - 033° 04' N. 012° 00' W. 021° 13½.  
(WYE, 262316B to F.O.G.M.A.) See 271501.

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Danube.  
Hoist  
Italian  
flag.

(1) Are these 20 craft genuinely ex-Italian owned and not acquired under duress during war period.  
 (2) Our records show Italian pre-war Danubian tonnage was 3 tugs and 3 barges.  
 (M.W.T., 261215B to Allied Control Commission Roumania).

GENEPESCA  
(Italian  
trawler).

GENEPESCA sunk at approximately 1200 (today) 26th after striking floating mine in approximate position 043° 16' N., 010° 17' E.  
 (N.O.I.C. Leghorn, 261247B to C. in C. Med.)  
 My 261247, position confirmed. Total crew and passengers saved by SESTRIERE written report follows to F.O.N.A.M.  
 (N.O.I.C. Leghorn, 261543Z to C. in C. Med.)

CORBRAE,  
M/S. Main-  
tenance ship.

Sailed CORBRAE 260800C to Aden for onward routeing to East Indies, E.T.A. 011100Z, S. of A. 9 knots.  
 (N.O.I.C. Suez, 261301C to Admty., Com. Aden.)

U.S. Ships  
for U.S.A.

Intend sail U.S. P.C. 1796 C.T.U. 125.10.6 embarked with P.C. 1140, 1168, 1169, 1173, 1174, 1244, 1246, 1593, 1594, 1595 and 1597 at 0530/27 to Bermuda for onward routeing U.S.A. U.S.A. DEE INVTIRNS assigned by C. in C. Lant.

(2) Speed 10 knots.

(3) Route, etc.

(5) Comnavzores requested to signal E.T.A. Bermuda.

(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 261510 to Admty.) See 280615Z. *Ry...*Med. Fleet  
(strength  
of).

The intended strength of the Mediterranean Fleet in Phase II of the war is -  
 Cruisers - 5, Destroyers - 16, Escorts - none,  
 Destroyer Depot ship - 1.

(2) Eight of the destroyers will eventually be CHEQUERS class (A.M. 220310 March). Would

you prefer remaining 8 to be FLEETS or HUNTS or a proportion of each.

(3) Request you will arrange to withdraw corvettes and whalers as they can be spared, giving priority to the two South Africa whalers due to return to South Africa.

(4) Separate signal has been made about the Gibraltar Escort Force. A.M. 241235.

(V.C.N.S., 261524B to C. in C. Med.) Reply: 291238B.

TAURUS,  
S/M.

Sailed TAURUS 261800C to Aden for onward routeing to Trincomalee.

(2) E.T.A. 310400Z, S. of A. 12 knots.

(N.O.I.C. Suez, 261901C to Admty., Com. Aden.)

/Contraband ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Contraband Control at Gibraltar. / Your 211738. As long as Censorship of mails between Europe and Latin-America continues outward bound shipping will continue to be navicerted via Gibraltar for control. The maintenance of the C.C. Base at its present strength is therefore essential. For your

information Censorship will continue for at least 3 months from VE-day.

(2) Reference A.B.Vs. It is desirable to continue Straits Patrol to make clear to neutrals that we are maintaining our belligerent maritime rights, but for that purpose an intermittent patrol would suffice, e.g. patrol could stand off for a day periodically at irregular intervals.

(3) For your information, however, interception of 2 Portuguese ships per month is about to be ordered. My 011617 Feb. to F.O.G.M.A. refers. With reductions of forces at Gibraltar the yachts might prove useful for such interceptions now that U-Boat menace no longer exists?

(4) If these duties can be effected by two yachts the third can be sent home.

(V.C.N.S., 261952B to C. in C. Med.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

French ships for E.I. Station. Para. 3 of A.M. 181913 May.  
A. Last sentence of para. one of Admiralty signal quoted is contradicted by subsequent para. 2 which shows complete absence of Fleet Train until September.  
B. Immediate requirements for train before ships shown in column 2 para. 2 can be used in operational areas are - one Harbour Depot and Repair Ship for maintenance of units below cruisers. Armament supply ships to carry one outfit for each French ship on the station one victualling supply ship. One large and two small seagoing oilers. Supply and maintenance resources near and in the operational area on this station already fall short of requirements of H.M. ships some of which are below local economic repair. If French ships must be sent to the East Indies Station it is proposed that they concentrate at Diego Suarez training from that base until their train is complete at that port subsequently they could be called forward to operational areas with such of their train as would be necessary. The arrival of new French units in this station without their own means of maintenance and supply will be a great embarrassment at a time when we are all busy and will jeopardise in the near and immediate future which we can carry out without the assistance of French ships other than RICHELIEU. On the other hand, a French squadron firmly established in their own base may well prove an asset before the war is over.  
(C. in C. E.I., 260549Z to Admty.)

Situation report 15. (1) Andaman Sea. PHOEBE and 2 sloops, have patrolled Northern Andaman Sea since 16th May. Boat intercepted 20th May containing 4 Indian and Burmese Fishermen evacuating Port Blair where food situation acute. Tenasserim Coast between 10° N. and 14° 30' N. patrolled in daylight. No enemy sighted and whole coast appeared dead. Operations continue.  
(2) 222 Group R.A.F. operating against shipping in Southern Andaman Sea. Liberators destroyed 2 small merchant ships (1 by depth charges) 22nd May between Sabang and Nicobar.  
(3) Rangoon River open to Hastings anchorage for 29 foot draught ships, 4 long and short berths available alongside and 10 harbour anchor berths for 21 foot draught. Submarine VIGOROUS available to assist with electrical power supply. Eastern half town may have supply shortly. Admiralty fuelling depot installations completely destroyed. N.H.Q. set up in Port Commissioners Office. Shore W/T established.  
(4) M.L. patrol Sittang River withdrawn. Ref. para. 5 Sitrep 13 all personnel recovered no casualties.  
(C. in C. E.I. 261130Z to Admty.)

Submarine TRADEWIND. Intend sail TRADEWIND 5 June for Aden and U.K.  
A. B., S.O.A. 10 knots.  
(C.T.F. 71, 261515 to C. in C. E.I.S.)

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U-boat dispositions      Enemy U-boat Estimate 1200Z/26.      No change since Cominch 251246Z. (Cominch, 261245Z to Admty.)

S/M UPRIGHT      Request sailing of H.M.S/M UPRIGHT be expedited. Report anticipated sailing date without E.T.A. (C. in C. N.A., 261303Z to SOMERS ISLES.) Your 261303\*. Anticipate H.M. S/M UPRIGHT will be ready to sail 4th June. (SOMERS ISLES, 262031 to C. in C. C.N.A.) \* Request sailing of H.M. S/M UPRIGHT.

U-Boat dispositions      1200Z 26th May, no fresh information for past 24 hours. (N.S.H.Q., 261351Z to A.O.C.E.A. etc.)

Return of Squadrons U.S. Fleet air wing      Reference our 241534 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all requesting release F.A. W.7. Your concurrence also requested release of F.A.W.15 squadrons at earliest date to effect redeployment desired by Cominch. Ref. 241534. In order to implement urgent Cominch redeployment plans for Fleet Air Wing seven squadrons intend to return squadrons to United States first week June. Your concurrence requested. (Comnaveu, 261441 to Admiralty.) Your 241534 May. Concur. (A.C.N.S.(H), 262204B to Comnaveu.)

WEAR Frigate      WEAR arrived Bermuda. (S.B.N.O. West.At., 261549Z to Admty.)

CAP DES PALMES      Cominch is anxious to effect transfer of CAP DES PALMES forthwith. Such transfer has hitherto been dependent upon V.A. (Q)'s report as to her suitability for employment in logistic support of French ships in the East Indies. Your 011651 refers. (2) In view of V.A.(Q)'s 170534, can CAP DES PALMES be sailed forthwith to East Indies for transfer to operational control of C. C.E.I. observing that she is now under control of Comsopac? If so, B.A.D. will arrange for Comsopac to sail her. (B.A.D., 261637Z to Admty.)

"Monsters" (air escort discontinuing of)      Subject to the concurrence of Cominch it is proposed, owing to the reduction programme of operational squadrons in Coastal Command, to discontinue air escort of "Monsters" after 0001Z 29th May. (D.O.D.(H), approved A.C.N.S., 261800Z to Comnaveu). Concur 271518Z from Cominch.

/Rescue...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Rescue ships A.M. 250203B (N.T. in N.T.). Request Rescue Ships now at Halifax and subsequent arrivals may be sailed two or three in company if possible to Clyde for orders.  
(D.T.D. 262051B to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Far East and Australia

Digest 1220 24.5.45 Extract  
(2) Mariners from Lingayen night 23rd - 24th May sank one Seatruck near missed another hit six smaller craft off China Coast.  
(3) Planes from Palawan sank two sea trucks two small coasters, damaged another small coaster Pontianak.  
(4) Delayed report covering Palawan based searches 23rd May states Privateer over Singapore saw one "Nachi", one "Atago" Class heavy cruiser 4 large, 4 small tankers about 100 seatrucks and small coasters, one floating dock with large Merchantman inside both low in water; Liberator over East Coast Malaya destroyed one Seatruck, two small coasters probably destroyed one tug or steamer, killed many Japanese in water; another Liberator over a Band-Jermasin destroyed 4 Seatrucks, 3 small coasters demolished (?sheds) with 5 more small ships inside, fired 4 seatrucks, 4 small coasters, started fires in shipyards visible 25 miles; other search-planes destroyed one small coaster, 2 small craft, damaged 5 small coasters, 4 luggers, 1 motor launch.  
(8) 2 night Liberators damaged several freighter transports, one small coaster, bombed Traaco Oil Plant Shanghai.  
(10) 13th Air Force operations for 23rd May. Single Liberator on Makassar Strait shipping nearby leaving single Seatruck sinking, single small coaster listing.  
(11) On New Guinea Coast Eastern and Western columns sixth Australian Division joined at Randi Plantation, completed clearing Cipemosa secured enemy positions to South. H.M.A.S. SWAN (Sloop) silenced enemy gun positions in support ground forces. H.M.A.S. KIAMA (corvette) supported Australian Forces Bougainville Island embarking (?Tinplate) Harbour N.E. Coast destroying or damaging 3 barges.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 260030 to Admty.)

AORANGI Accommodation Ship, Submarines As long as 4th S/M F. remains at Fremantle it is considered AORANGI can be more profitably employed as an accommodation ship for the Fleet in a forward area for which there is a vital and urgent requirement and I regret I must withdraw her from you.  
(2) Request you will arrange to restore submarine gear from AORANGI and report date ship can be ready to leave Fremantle. C.W.S.P.S.F. is then requested to sail AORANGI for Sydney as soon as possible.

/(3)...

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AORANGI (3) First class moorings should remain on board accommodation until arrival at Sydney.  
ship. (4) Pending Admiralty decision on the numbers of  
Submarines. British S/Ms. to be attached to 4th Flotilla  
(Contd.) proposals should be forwarded to V.A.(Q) for the  
shore accommodation at Fremantle for S/M personnel  
in excess of those which can be accommodated on  
board ADAMANT based on present estimated build up  
of submarines. V.A.(Q) is requested to give all necessary  
assistance.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 260601 to S/M Four.)

Corsair Your 170850. Further information is requested on  
Squadrons the following points:-  
(N. Zealand) (a) How many of these squadrons do you propose  
should be transferred?  
(b) Is it intended that replacement aircraft for  
such squadrons should be provided in part or wholly from British  
resources? Corsairs available from British resources are expected  
to be sufficient only to support the present Fleet and Light Fleet  
Carrier air groups and the recently planned spare group totalling  
altogether 306 F.A.E.  
(c) Can the necessary carrier training be undertaken with your  
existing resources?  
(d) Do you intend to employ the whole of the squadron personnel  
or aircrews only? If the latter, will squadron aircrews be kept  
together or used for replacement purposes?  
(e) Will the personnel involved remain part of the N.Z.A.F. or is  
it intended that they should transfer to the R.N., retaining their  
appropriate ranks and ratings?  
(Hd. of M., Approved V.C.N.S., 260844B to C. in C.B.P.F.)  
See 310857Z.

CAP DES A.C.N.B. is requested to sail CAP DES PALMES for  
PALMES Diego Suarez and onward routing to France reporting  
intended programme.  
(2) N.A. Paris is requested to report destination  
in France and confirm that French will give instructions  
direct for loading at Diego Suarez.  
(3) V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 120534 and 210704 neither to all refers.  
(D.O.D.(F) 261903 to A.C.N.B.)

Floating 221010Z May, para. 11. Assume auxiliaries with  
Transit which F.A.A.C.A. is concerned are Air Stores  
storage Issuing Ships and that escorts for C.V.E. and other  
B.P.F. craft for the Air Section of the Fleet Train will  
be covered in consultation with R.A.D. A.C.30 and  
C.E.F.  
(2) The revised figures for Air Store Issuing  
Ships appear adequate subject to the following observations:-  
(a) Ships to be stored on basis of expenditure as revealed in  
operations adjusted to altered initial equipment consequent on  
relief of VICTORIOUS by IMPLACABLE.  
(b) The policy laid down in A.M. 182044Z May, (not to A.C.N.B.  
(R.A.D.) or C.E.F. is implemented.

/(c)...

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Far East and Australia -

Floating  
Transit  
storage  
B.P.F.  
(Contd.)

(c) Adequate arrangements for the stowage in sufficient numbers of Drop Tanks and large oxygen cylinders are made in my letter 1474/226/E of May 4th, para. 13, (4) and 1499/0220 of May 20th para. 2 (neither to all), refer.

(3) The need for N.L. Pontoons for Lightering aircraft and L.C.M. for the movement of stores has already been stressed in letters referred to above.

(4) R.D.O. Manus shoot action to C.T.F.12 and fling info. to British Admiralty, C. in C. Britpacflt. Vice Admiral (Administration) Britpacflt C.T.F.57, A.C.N.B., R.A.D.B.P.F. and C.E.F.B.P.F. (F.A.A.C.A., 262218 to R.A.F.T., C. in C. B.P.F. etc.)

Digest 1221  
25.5.1945  
Extract.

(2) Four Nocturnal liberators sank medium freighter Yangtze River.

(9) H.M.A.S. KIAMA (Corvette) continued support Australian Forces Bougainville bombarding shore positions Northeast coast.

(11) R.N.A.F. Operations for 24th May.

3 Catalinas laying mines in enemy waters; for 25th May; single patrol Liberator firing and sinking lugger off Northern Flores Island.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 262344Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-boat  
dispositions

(a) U.979 arrived Amrum Island 25th May.

(b) About 6 may be between 49° N. and 62° N. east of 20° W.

(D.D.I.C., 261216B to All Ships and Authorities.)

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Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. Admiralty routing staff will cease to function from May 29th.
- North Sea. 2. Rotterdam and Ymuiden are now open and Den Helder will be on June 2nd, but Amsterdam only after removal of blockships.
- Western Approaches. 3. U.485 and U.541, under escort of WOLVERINE, have arrived at Londonderry from Gibraltar.
- Norway. 4. N.O.I.C.Stavanger has sailed 8 U-Boats for Loch Eriboll, omitting to state their numbers. They, and all future sailings of U-Boats, have been redirected to Scapa.
- Baltic. 5. Experimental Walther-propulsion fitted U-Boats Nos. 1405, 1406 and 1407 are reported sunk in Kiel Canal near Rendesburg.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Black Sea. 6. SS. GLENBANK (Br. 5151 tons) reported as having struck a mine 15 miles east of Cape Tuzla at 1245 to-day on her way to Constanza. She is now aground with Soviet salvage tug standing by. There were no casualties. Since reported she has reached port. [p. 724]

America and West Indies

7. Convoy O.N. 303 reported by S.O. EG.B.1 in CHELMER, in position 43 degs. 8' N. 49 degs. 18' W. as encountering ice with large icebergs to-day, (about 280 miles S.E. of Cape Race).

/ Up ...

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SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

Up to 11 ships reported as being in collision, 3 or 4 seriously damaged. Details are incomplete but SAMUSTRAL (Br. 7,255 tons) is reported to have hit an iceberg and ARABIAN PRINCE (Br. 1,960 tons) was in collision. Tug TENACITY has been sailed to their assistance and another tug has been ordered from Argentina.

Further report from H.M.C.S. CHELMER states that HADLEY F. BROWN (Am. 7,176 tons) had 10 ft. water in No.1 hold which she was unable to pump out she is being detached to St. Johns N.F.

SS. MONTANA  
(Tanker)  
on fire.

8. SS. MONTANA (U. S. Tanker, 9,319 tons), reported herself on fire in lat. 5 degs. 20' N. 45 degs. 15' W.

Far East and Australia

China.

9. Four R.A.A.F. Catalinas mined Wenchow waters last night.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Cessation of Admiralty routeing. Pass to N.C.S.Os. The Admiralty routeing staff will cease to function from 29th May.  
(2) From that date A. C. in C. W.A. is to be responsible for issuing westbound trans-Atlantic routes for Monsters and U.C. convoys.  
B. Cs. in C. are requested to issue through ocean routes for other convoys not covered by S.D.G. 6 and for H.M. ships sailing from their commands and also to initiate any necessary diversions.  
C. F.O.G.M.A. is to issue such routes as are required by S.B.N.O. Azores.  
(A.C.N.S. 270017B to A.I.G. 12.)

Shewing the flag in Continental Ports. OPPORTUNE and OFFA sailed for Flensburg E.T.A. 0630 Sunday 27th May.  
(F.O. Kiel 270110B to Admty.)  
Your 262055. Request you keep SAVAGE and sail IROQUOIS to Scapa.  
(C. in C. H.F., 270804B to F.O.W.G.)  
(Corrupt group) SAVAGE is to be ready to sail at 1130 today Sunday and ship will be out locked at noon and given protection by German M/S (to) number 4 buoy. F.O.W.G. 262317 refers. SAVAGE is to proceed Scapa reporting E.T.A., route.  
(N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven 270944B to SAVAGE.)  
C. in C. H.F. Afloat's 270804. Intend to sail IROQUOIS and SAVAGE for Scapa at 1600B/27th in view of shortage of fuel in SAVAGE.  
(F.O.W.G. 271216 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Sailed at 1230B today 27th ZEALOUS and ZODIAC to Brunsbuttel for onward routeing to U.K.  
(F.O. Kiel, 271341B to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

Closing down of Plot and Routeing Officer at Admiralty. Pass to N.C.S.Os. The combined plot and Duty Routeing Officer in Admiralty will cease to function as from 1030B/29th May.  
(2) From that time enquiries of the type formerly telephoned to Admiralty 1240, 4323 or 4324 should be addressed to Admiralty 959, 983, 4330 or 4333.  
(D.O.D.(H) 271641B to A.I.G. 12.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Reductions to reserve at Rosyth. The speedy reduction of ships to reserve is of great importance owing to the urgent need for the release of manpower.  
(2) It is therefore necessary that berths for destoring be made available.  
Your 241212 refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 271134B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/Operation...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Operation "Fireball". Request 131st M/S Flotilla be sailed to Ymuiden as soon as convenient.  
(Capt. M/S F.A. 271206B to N.O.I.C. Rotterdam.)  
Operation "Fireball".  
(1) A. LL/SA 3 M.M.S. E.G. M.S. 1 M 7 to T.X. 4 and back one actuation whole width. B. Oropesa 5 B.Y.M.S. Den Helder approaches completed.  
(2) Nil. (3) Survey of positions of buoys and hydrographic survey at Den Helder letter following.  
(Capt. M/S F.A. 272139B to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge Situation Report: Cositintrep No. 418 part 4 section A.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 261600B May. British.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
Antwerp	-	236	13,139	-	5,277
Ostend	1,360	79	1,624	-	-
Calais	4,399	35	95	-	-
Caen	-	-	-	553	-
Rotterdam	-	-	2,119	329	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,759</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>16,977</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>5,277</b>
<u>U.S. North.</u>					
Antwerp	-	12	15,825	-	-
Cherbourg	1,826	-	544	851	15,092
Le Havre	108	108	4,060	-	-
Rouen	4	-	3,192	645	-
Ghent	-	-	6,138	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>29,759</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>15,092</b>
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	-	8	7,052	626	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	75	-	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7,127</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>5,000</b>

Army coal at: Morlaix 820, Dieppe 2,372, Granville 908.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 271400B to Admty., and others.)

Opening of A.N.C.X.F. 261100.  
A. Rotterdam. A. and B. now. C. After removal of blockships.  
B. Ymuiden. D. Saturday 2nd June.  
C. Amsterdam. (Capt. M/S F.A. 271922B to F.O. Holland.)  
D. Den Helder.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrol.

Sail so as to pass Gate at 1000B/28 and proceed patrol Lizard to Berry Head. My 251116 refers. (C. in C. Plymouth 271057B to ASCENSION, LOCH KILLIN, BURGESS, MOORSOM.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Treatment  
of U-Boats.

There are still a number of U-Boats at large. If one is detected submerged and does not immediately surface to surrender, all available forces are to be employed to kill it. One escort should however remain with the convoy for Sheep Dog duties. (C. in C. W.A., 271132B to W.A. Command.)

Mine clearance  
in Clyde  
Approaches.

Present minesweeping position is as follows:-  
Q.Z.S. 716 is now clear to a width of 5 cables and sweeping of this Channel has now ceased.  
(2) Examination of German charts indicate that 9 mines were laid in Pladda area and 4 mines in the channel through the prohibited area south of No. 4 buoy. Of the former 8 are accounted for and a comparison of chart and time in German operational memoranda establishes, beyond reasonable doubt, that remaining mine was laid in old Q.Z.S. 398 and not off Lamash Northern Entrance. The position has been repeatedly swept and sweeping continues.  
(3) One mine only of Southern Field has been accounted for by loss of ETHEL CRAWFORD on 20th April. Position of this loss assists to establish position of remaining three mines but repeated sweeps have not located them.  
(4) Intend to find wreck of this trawler using asdics of 11th M/S F. and then to depth charge the vicinity liberally in case sinker release of these mines failed to function. The clearance of the remainder of the late Q.Z.S. 398 continues and is nearing completion.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 271148B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

8 U-Boats  
from  
Stavanger.

Sailed TAVY, BAYNTUN, with 3 type <sup>VII</sup>VC U-Boats and 5 type ~~23~~ for Loch Eriboll in accordance with C. in C. Rosyth 251915B. C. in C. W.A. 251642B.  
A. As above. B. No.. C. Reduced to 60%.  
D. All type 23.. E. No.  
(N.O.I.C. Stavanger 270930B to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your destination is now Scapa.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 271546B to TAVY, BAHAMAS.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Minesweeping off the Naze. My 172330B 16th M/S have completed clearance area bounded by the following positions on the north by:-

A. 57° 55' 36" N. 07° 03' 50" E.

B. 57° 58' 18" N. 06° 55' 30" E.

C. 58° 03' 33" N. 06° 36' 30" E.

On South by:-

A. 58° 01' 36" N. 06° 35' 18" E.

B. 58° 00' 33" N. 06° 41' 42" E.

C. 57° 53' 30" N. 07° 02' 54" E.

(2) Watching mine German type G.X. probably from deep field in Skagerrak and re-moored on reaching shallower water were cut and sunk in the following positions:

A. 58° 01' 24" N. 06° 35' 30" E.

B. 57° 56' 39" N. 06° 59' 24" E.

(Capt. M/S Norway, 271047B to F.O. Norway.)

Intend operating 6 German M/S attended by 2 British M/S on clearance of northern portion of Skagerrak minefields between 07° 38' E. and 08° 00' E. 57° 40' N. and 58° 02' N. daily weather permitting commencing Monday 28th May. Daily intentions signal will be made to local authorities.

(Capt. M/S Norway 271705B to F.O. Norway.)

U-Boat escorts arrivals.

LOCH FYNE, KEATS and KEMPTHORNE arrived 0300/27.

(N.O.I.C. Trondheim 271115 to C. in C. H.F.)

Arrival 26th May. PEVENSEY CASTLE, KENILWORTH

CASTLE, CAISTOR CASTLE, LAUNCESTON CASTLE,

PORTCHESTER CASTLE.

(N.O.I.C. Bergen, 271209 to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boats from Kristiansand.

My 261603, for Loch Eriboll read Scapa.

(C. in C. Rosyth 271528B to N.O.I.C. Kristiansand).

A. Your 251642. Intend to sail 5 500-ton U-Boats

and 10 230-ton U-Boats at noon Tuesday 29th May

escorts CAYMAN, TYLER, BARBADOS and LOCH ECK.

B. No torpedoes carried. C. Minimum steam party. D. All 230

ton U-Boats. E. No. C.B. 3074 not carried. S.O.A. 8 knots.

(N.O.I.C. Kristiansand 271655 to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boats from Trondheim.

My 261245B. For Loch Eriboll read Scapa.

(C. in C. Rosyth 271529B to N.O.I.C. Trondheim.)

U-Boats from Bergen.

My 261131B. Amend to read north of Q.Z.Y. 595

east of Shetlands east of Orkneys to Scapa.

(C. in C. Rosyth 271537 to N.O.I.C. Bergen.)

/Norwegian...

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Norwegian  
Government  
to Oslo.

Intend to sail GRECIAN, TATTOO and ELFREDA at 0600/29th May to position H to R/V with HESPERUS and HAVELOCK escorting SS. ANDES at 0930/30th May thence to Oslo.

(2) Fleet minesweepers will act under the orders of HESPERUS from position H and will sweep ahead at max. speed in H formation to a depth of 10 fathoms.

(3) Request Fleet minesweepers may be sailed to Rosyth as soon as convenient on completion of operation.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 271735 to F.O. Norway.)

C. in C. W.A.'s 240115. Intend to sail SS. ANDES escorted by HESPERUS and HAVELOCK 1200Z/28th May to Oslo. S.O.A. to position H 20 knots, thence 10 knots. E.T.A. 25 buoy 1800Z/29th May. Position H 0930Z/30. Oslo 0530Z/31. Routed in accordance with N.E.C.R.I. Nos. 5 and 4 via Minches and Pentland Firth to No. 25 buoy (outer route N.E.C.R.I. No. 4) thence in accordance with Q.Z.H. 429 and C. in C. Rosyth's 191652B May. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 271825 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Oslo.)

Operations.Northern Waters.

Search for  
"O"  
obstruction.

BARLOW and escort search, position 061° 25' N. 001° W. and 061° 12' 001° W. "O" for oboe not seen, continuing search while heading for Lerwick E.T.A. 2000.

(BARLOW 271100 to C. in C. H.F.)

Substitution  
of Scapa for  
L. Eriboll  
in U-Boat re-  
ception  
arrangements.

Further consideration of the situation implied in para. 3 of my 261315 convinces me that the Loch Eriboll link between Scapa and L. Alsh is uneconomical and unnecessary.

(2) In anticipation of your concurrence therefore I am sending PHILANTE with her submarine parties to Scapa to continue under your orders the duties she has hitherto been carrying out at L. Eriboll.

(3) The four M.Ls. of the 18th Flotilla and the four A/S trawlers which have been operating with PHILANTE are being held available should you require them later. Five escorts allocated to L. Eriboll are also being diverted to Scapa. My 271232 and my 271246 refer.

(C. in C. W.A., 271229B to C. in C. H.F.)

As soon as ready proceed in PHILANTE to Scapa with full submarine parties. My 271229 in transit refers. M.Ls. are to be sailed to Stornoway and trawlers to Loch Ewe to await further orders.

(C. in C. W.A., 271232B to S.O. Loch Eriboll.)

My 252308 not to all. Destination of ships in address is amended to Scapa.

(C. in C. W.A., 271246B to F.Os. i/c N.I. Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh.)

Concur with proposal in para. 2 of your 271229.

(2) It would be appreciated if the 4 M.Ls. and 4 A/S trawlers could be sailed for Scapa in addition to the five escorts. They will be released as soon as possible.

(C. in C. H.F., 271515B to C. in C. W.A.)

/Your...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Substitution of Scapa for L. Eriboll in U-Boat reception arrangements. (Contd.)

Your 271551. 4 M.L. of 18th Flot. will sail 0600/28th to Thurso for onward routing to Scapa. They have no appropriate charts.  
 (2) BOMBARDIER and LADY BERYL will sail 2300/27th to arrive Scapa 0800/28th.  
 (3) LEEDS UNITED detached to return S.O. E.G. 5 to Loch Alsh owing to unsuitability air passage thence Scapa.  
 (4) N.O.I.C. Aultbea is requested to order KING SOL to Scapa.  
 (S.O. Loch Eriboll, 272010B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Baltic.

Kiel Situation Report.

Situation at 2100 today Saturday.  
 SS. SALERNO, first recovered British ship, sailed for Brunsbuttel and the U.K.  
 ZEALOUS and ZODIAC arrived p.m. from Flensburg. The first mine was swept during operations near Fehmarn Island to sweep a passage for the stranded hospital ship DER DEUTSCHE which it is hoped to salvage shortly.  
 Hospital ships ANTONIO DELFINO and SACHSENWALD arrived Kiel from Copenhagen with a total of 6,800 troops, 200 Kriegsmarine, 20 wounded, 680 Marinehelferinnen and 500 refugees. Accommodation of the two latter presents great difficulty here.  
 Red Cross ship JAMAICA with minesweeper M. 801 arrived Lübeck. OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT and OFFA expected.  
 Intend sailing OPPORTUNE and OFFA with 7 M.Ls. to Flensburg where the situation is reported to be uneasy, though threat of immediate trouble has receded for the moment.  
 (F.O.I.C. Kiel, 271030B to A.N.C.X.F.)

German mine-sweeping resources in Kiel area.

Have completed investigation Kiel area and of R (?L) D organization for minesweeping. Large number of M/S vessels of all types and particularly shallow water craft are available. After meeting M/S requirements Kiel area personnel will be frozen temporarily in anticipation of requirements in other areas.

(2) Am proceeding Cuxhaven and Bremen 28th May to investigate minesweeping position and special equipment reported at Bremen.  
 (3) Returning to U.K. as soon as possible with list of ships known to be available operationally.  
 (Cdr. Whitford 271841B to Admty., N.O.I.C. Hamburg.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Experimental / From Captain Alleyne, O.K.M. to A.N.C.X.F.  
Walter- U\_ "On 26th May a search party under O.K.M.I.T.U.  
Boats U.1405, have located with reasonable certainty U.1405,  
U.1406, and U.1406, U.1407 type experimental U-Boats. They  
U.1407 located are all sunk. Their positions in Kiel Canal  
are all near Rendsburg, as follows:  
(1) Point 71 in the Kiel Canal. Sunk and red  
buoy marking it on north side of Channel.  
(2) Point 679 in a back water near a signal station. Two red  
buoys mark it, U-Boat is issuing bubbles and a little oil  
probably from fire hatch.  
(3) Point 64 in Eiderhaven of Rendsburg. The top of conning  
tower has been reported as just visible but it was not sighted.  
Gherdi U.S.N. was present and is informing U.S. authorities  
as these are experimental type about 350 tons with Walter  
propulsion and were operationally fitted. It is suggested one  
should be raised." T.O.O. 271346. Ends.  
(N.T.S. Sub.-H.Q. 271800B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties.

M.G.B. 2002. My 161440 and your 261621B not to all addressees.  
Survivors now state they left U.K. on 11th May  
and were sunk at approx. 0345 on 12th May when  
about 12 hours steaming from Gothenburg at 15  
knots. Survivors continue to make satisfactory progress.  
(N.O.I.C. Kristiansund 271452B to Admt.)

Movements.

U.485, U.541. Arrived WOLVERINE U.541 and U.485, F.O.G.M.A's  
221143B May not to all refers.  
(Com. D. W.A., 271030B to C. in C. W.A.)  
U.541 and U.485 have arrived with a total of 22  
electric torpedoes on board, 9 of these are Gnats.  
Intend landing these torpedoes to charge of N.O.I.C. Londonderry.  
(Capt. S/M LISAHALLY 271740B to C. in C. W.A.)  
*Lisahally*

DEVONSHIRE, Arrived DEVONSHIRE and DIDO.  
DIDO. (C. in C. Rosyth 271243B to F.O. Denmark.)  
Cruisers.

MERASHEEN, Suggest that MERASHEEN fitted out as an M/S repair  
M/S repair ship for Force B might be usefully employed  
ship. elsewhere. This ship is equipped with an electric  
welding plant, oxy-acetylene cutting plant, a  
small power lathe and power drill shallow water  
diving gear and has ample space for S.A. LL spares  
and repair stores.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 272221 to C. in C. Nore.)

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27.5.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Disposal of  
Rescue ships

C. in C. W.A's 231830. D. of S.T. is issuing instructions to P.S.T.O. Clyde and Scottish Ports as to disposal of Rescue ships now in Clyde and subsequent arrivals.  
(D.T.D. 270535B to C. in C. W.A.)

Routeing of  
ships return-  
ing from  
Norway.

Ships are at present routed by C. in C. Rosyth to position H by Q.Z.S. and subsequently as in my 191652.  
(2) As this entails either a lengthy signal or all ships calling at Methil for routeing instructions suggest you ask Admiralty forthwith, to issue the routes as in my 191652 as Q.Z.S. observing that these have been in continuous use and no alterations been proposed.  
(3) Above will solve present difficulties.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 271855B to F.O. Norway.)

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27.5.1945  
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Italian submarines and closing down at Gibraltar

In view of Admiralty's 251610 not to all consider Italian Submarines JALEA and NICHELIO are not now required at Gibraltar and it is proposed to sail them with CORMORANO as escort as soon as possible after arrival of NICHELIO. F.O.T.A.L.Is. 221035 not to all refers. If you approve request that the Port of destination may be signalled.  
(2) A.O.C. Gibraltar concurs.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 271010B to C. in C. Med.)

Ships now sailing independently

In view of A.M. 250202, it is assumed ships for M.K.S.104 and M.K.F.45 are to be sailed independently and all subsequent convoys are to cease.  
(2) Clarification requested in view of paragraphs 5 and 12 of S.D.G. Six re Troop Transports.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 271206B to Admiralty)  
See 281216.

Movement

Intend to sail WILLOWHERB at 2000B May 27th to investigate large wood and concrete object reported by HYDERABAD in position 41.36 N. 09.55 W. at 1601B May 26th.

- (3) S. of A. 12 knots.
- (4) E.T.A. (J) 1300B May 29th.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 271236B. to Admty.)

KILDWICK  
A/S vessel

My P.C.S. at 1500B today 034° 50' N. 009° 17' W. 069° 9 knots.  
E.T.A. 1500B tomorrow Monday. WYE 262316B refers.  
(KILDWICK, 271501B to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

Air Sea Rescue patrol

Leaving Air Sea Rescue Station number 21 having been relieved by AMARANTHUS. Proceeding to Freetown at 10 knots, E.T.A. 2100Z/29th.  
(ABERDEEN, 271100Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)  
Sloop heading S.S.W. in 05.00 N. 26.05 W. steaming very slowly. Suspicious.  
(FORT DOUGLAS, 271714Z to RRRs.)

BOCAINA on air sea rescue patrol in position 005° 00' 026° 00'.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F., 271844Z to FORT DOUGLAS.)

/U-boat...

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27.5.1945  
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

U-boat  
threat  
ceased

In view of fact that A.O.C. West Africa has been directed to "Roll up" all his squadrons, and in view of A.M. 250203, it is considered that U-boat threat has now ceased.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F., 271311Z to Admty.)  
Confirmed by Admty. 301214B.

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27.5.1945  
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

ABERCROMBIE (Monitor) ABERCROMBIE is urgently required in S.E.A.C. for operations by mid August.  
 (2) If all work on the ship, including installation of A.I.O., other than that absolutely essential to bombardment operations, were cancelled now, what would be the earliest date ship could complete refit and any essential trials?  
 (D.O.D.(F), 270230B to V.A. Malta.) *Cancelled by 091837 B. June -*  
 Reply 311415B.

Training submarines The whole question of Training Submarines is under consideration by Admiralty and a reply to your 121812 will be made shortly.  
 (Head of M., 270301B to C. in C. Med.)

H.M.T. destroyers Request you sail BEAUFORT and BELVOIR as soon as practicable to Gibraltar for onward passage to Devonport. A.M. 251616 refers.  
 (C. in C. Med., 271038B to F.O.T.A.L.I. )

Convoy sailings cancelled The sailing of M.K.S.104 and G.U.S.93 and subsequent M.K.S. and G.U.S. convoys is cancelled.  
 (2) Ships that would have sailed in these convoys are to be sailed to destination as soon as ready.  
 (3) Masters are to be instructed in terms of Admiralty message 250203\* being passed to C.S.A. Istanbul and S.B.N.O. Greece.  
 (C. in C. Med. 271207B to Commorseafron.)  
 \*No further trade convoys in non-combat areas.

Casualty Figures re Italy A.F.H.Q., 271819B to W.O.  
 See Lion Copy.



# SECRET

IN

670A

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.)

*Casualty figures re.  
Italy.*

271819B/May

Date 28.5.45

Recd. 0115

From A.F.H.Q.

CYIPHER

Addressed The War Office, A.S.M.R. Washington  
Info: A.N.P.B.

FK 83132 cypher 27 May.  
321102  
Cite MICDS signed Alexander

Administrative summary No. 63 for week ending 23rd May.

1. Casualty figures cumulative to 23rd May

<u>Formation</u>	<u>Killed and Missing</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
<u>Eighth Army</u>		
British and Dominion	22,648	60,338
Polish	2,345	8,289
Italian	361	2,135
Greek	87	280
Total Eighth Army :-	25,941	71,042

Fifth Army

U.S. rpt. U.S.	32,675	78,201
British and Dominion	17,515	30,466
French	6,824	20,848
Italian	808	823
Brazilian	516	1,743
Total Fifth Army :-	58,338	132,081

<u>Formation</u>	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
M.A.A.F.			
AAF/MTB	3,991	3,494	14,240
R.A.F.	1,136	541	1,219
Dominion	554	346	704
Other Allied	39	34	135
Total M.A.A.F. :-	5,720	4,415	16,298

CASUALTY No change

2. Prisoners of War (admitted into army cages or evacuated through medical channels)

Eighth Army : German and Austrian 26,590, Italian 2,609, Russian 8,459, Miscellaneous, 3,584. Unclassified 38,867  
Total 10th April to 23 May 80,109

.../Fifth

Fifth Army German and Austrian 146,797. Italian 14,324, Russian 13,929. Miscellaneous 3,368. Unclassified 33,139  
 Total 10 April to 23 May 216,557

Cumulative grand total from 3 September 1943 : 463,663

3. Surrendered enemy personnel in concentration areas (as at 24 May 45)

Eighth Army Germans and Austrians 153,169. Italians 122. Russians 490  
 Others 113,470. Total 266,810

Fifth Army : Germans and Austrians 160,419. Italians 778 Others 2,082.  
 Total 163,279

4. General administrative position unchanged.

5. Details regarding maintenance as follows :

- a) Most forward railheads in operation : no change
- b) Most forward POL pipeheads in operation :

Eighth Army : Padua - 1 X 4 inch line, Castel S. Pietro 1 X 4 inch line  
Fifth Army : no change

c) Forward port daily discharges for week ending 19 May 45 averaged as follows : Ancona 3,780 TLD, Genoa 860 TLD, Leghorn 5,000 TLD Trieste 860 TLD

271319B

Received in War Registry at 291235.  
 Circulated by W.O. to W.O. Depts. and Admiralty,  
 Air Ministry and D. Map Room

1st Lord  
 1st S.L. (3)  
 D.F.S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 A.C.N.S. (F)  
 D.C. (2)  
 D.S.O.  
 O.D. (6)  
 O.I.C. (3)  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 L. (2)  
 C.N.L.  
 W.D.

JWB  
 11A

27.5.1945  
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

GOMBROON. GOMBROON will be employed as an Escort Force Base ship and administered by Capt. E.I. Escorts. (C. in C. E.I. 270237Z all S.O's ships)

L.S.I.(L)  
SILVIO. Concur in action proposed in D.G.S.R. 231049 (N.T. in W.D.).  
(2) Extent of work and time required in Dock make it impracticable to carry out permanent repairs on Station or South Africa.  
(3) Request earliest date SILVIO can be accepted at Mediterranean or U.K. Port for permanent repairs.  
(C. in C. E.I. 270601Z to Admty.)  
Additional damage to SILVIO.

HIGHWAY  
(L.S.D.) Arrived SQUIRREL, HIGHWAY.  
Departed HIGHWAY.  
(Com. Aden, 271635 to F.O.L.E.M.)

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27.5.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B 1200Z/27/5.  
dispositions. (A) Possible one home bound east to north-east of Flemish Cap.  
(B) Nil.  
(N.S.H.Q., 271317Z.)  
Enemy U-Boat estimate 1200Z/27. Situation unchanged since Cominch 261245.  
(Cominch, 271428Z to Admty.)

Fairwing C.R. No. 1629. *cu 26/5 P 634*  
7 Sqdns. 171747, 221601 Admiralty concur in release Fairwing 7 Squadrons for re-deployment first week June.  
Ref. 171747. Following is proposed disposition 5 Liberator Squadrons and F.A.W.7 etc. ... Commencing date specified by Cominch on cessation submarine activity etc. ... above is guide for planning purposes to be cleared with British Authorities.  
Ref. 221601. My 171747 effective this date. You are authorized to transfer squadrons any order desired.  
(Comnaveu, 271318 to Cominch and C.N.O.)

SS. MONTANA On fire 5.20 N., 45.15 W.  
(tanker) (MONTANA, No T.O.O./27.)  
on fire.

Task Group C.T.G. 60.9. Cdr. Dennett in ~~F.M.~~ <sup>FRANCIS H.</sup> ROBINSON,  
60.9 SOLAR, FOWLER escorts transports U.G.S.96  
(reconsti- departing New York. When C. in C. Med. directs  
tution of) return U.S. escorting G.U.S.98.  
(C. in C. Lant, 271650Z to C.T.G. 60.9.)

Task Group C.T.G. 61.1. Capt. Gallaher in SOMERS  
61.1. Comcordiv 79 in CARTER, <sup>W.A.</sup> SCOTT escort  
(reconstituted) transports C.U.74 departing New York and Boston  
4-5 June to Continent and U.K. When Admiralty  
directs return U.S. escorting (transports)  
U.C. 74.  
(C. in C. Lant, 271706Z to C.T.G. 61.1.)

O.N. 303, Following is recoded version of CHELMER's  
Icebergs / 271627 to F.O.N.F. Convoy met icebergs.  
(collision). One or more collision. Send tugs position  
43.08 N., 49.18 W. (S) at 1930Z.  
(F.O.N.F., 272047Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)  
Your 261634 (N.T. in W.D.)

Tugs being sent from St. Johns and Argentia, details follow.  
(F.O.N.F., 272052Z to S.O. B.1.)

My 272052. H.M.C.S. MEDICINE HAT escorting H.M.R.T.  
TENACITY sailed St. Johns 2145Z/27th. May to assistance.  
(2) B.1 keep above addressees informed of situation.  
(3) Admiralty pass to C.C.R.T.  
(F.O. N.F., 272159 to S.O. B.1.)

/My ...

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27.5.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

O.N. 303, My 271637Z\* not to all.  
Icebergs O.N.303 encountering ice with large icebergs.  
(collision). Up to 11 ships in collision, 3 or 4 of which  
(Contd.) seriously damaged. Number cannot be confirmed.  
Convoy's proceeding course 090° dead slow to  
clear ice. Intend altering to southward later.  
My position 043° 08' N., 049° 18' W. (S)

Visibility nil.

(S.O. E.G. B.1, 272105Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

\* Embodied in F.O.N.F's 272047Z.

My 272105Z not to all. Convoy is proceeding 180° at  
about 4 knots.

(2) INMAN who is with convoy has been instructed to alter  
course of convoy to 270° at daylight and report position to  
shore authority at that time.

(3) EMPIRE STUART is acting Cdre.

(4) It appears that all damaged ships are able to proceed at  
slow speed.

(5) CHELMER, TINTAGEL CASTLE and POPPY are remaining in rest  
of stragglers.

(6) Cdre. in TINTAGEL CASTLE at present.

(S.O. E.G. B.1, 272358Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

See 280845Z.

Contact? Attacked doubtful contact position 51.14 N.,  
attack. 37.14 W. at 2055Z/27th. Fish brought up contact  
soon faded am proceeding course 243°, 15 knots  
ST. PIERRE and CARLPLACE in company. C. in C.  
C.N.A. 271659Z and 271705Z acknowledged.  
(CAPE BRETON, 272125Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

BITTERSWEET, Departure 2345Z/27 H.M.C.S. BITTERSWEET indepen-  
corvette. dently to St. Johns Newfoundland for onward  
routeing to U.K., speed 13 knots, routed etc.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney, 272356Z to F.O.N.F.)

Far East and Australia

UGANDA, My 240821\* in transit is cancelled.  
cruiser. Investigations by Task Force Commander and  
C.S.4 show that efficiency under present  
operating conditions cannot be maintained at  
any rate of dilution which would be consistent  
with release of ratings in reasonable time to implement  
Canadian Government policy.  
(2) I therefore propose that UGANDA shall return Canada to  
recommission with volunteers and I think there is now no  
alternative.

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27.5.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSFar East and AustraliaUGANDA,  
cruiser.  
(Contd.)

(3) To maintain the number of cruisers in the Task Force at the necessary 6, the earliest she can be spared is mid-July, when ARGONAUT rejoins on completion of refit.

(4) It is requested that a very early reply be given.

(5) That UGANDA should have apparently sailed for Pacific without knowledge of conditions of service, the form of announcement and with many rumours proceeding it, have placed the C.O. and all on board in most difficult position. It will have caused a fine ship to be withdrawn from line for other than operational reasons. It will cause (?me) difficulty in forming the Fleet into 2 self-contained Task Groups which I had promised the Americans could be done in late summer.

(6) I should be most grateful if signals such as N.S.H.Q. 231620/ which so vitally affect welfare and fighting efficiency of a ship serving with my Fleet could be repeated to myself and F.Os. concerned.

(C. in C. B.P.F., 270201Z to Admty.)

Concur - 281319B and 291554 from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

\* Relief of 576 ratings of UGANDA.

/ Not identified in War Reg.

Blue  
Summary  
26th.

Ryukyus.

Heavy rains and deep mud restricted activity along entire front line on Okinawa. Further on enemy air raids 24/25 May. C.T.F. 51 estimates total of more than 200 enemy planes attacked. Reports total of 166 destroyed between 241800 and 251200 I (-9)\* with no raids reported thereafter. Cap credited with 94 shot down. Ships A/A 30. Shore A/A 27. Suicides and misses 15. Included in above are 34 enemy planes downed by P.47s. of 318th Group returning from abortive Kyushu strike. We did not lose any planes in air combat. BATES (APD 47) hit by 2 suicides capsized during salvage. BARRY (APD 29) badly damaged was beached. L.S.M. 135 was beached and abandoned. Ground support limited to 7 sorties. Empire area. 439 B.29s. dropped 3,700 tons of incendiaries on Tokyo urban area night of 25/26 from 8,000 to 15,720 feet visually and by radar. 6 B.29s bombed targets of opportunity. 25 B.29s. lost.

Submarines. Blue submarine reports sinking submarine chaser. 1 Aviator from VICTORIOUS, 1 pilot from 21st Fighter Group, 5 B.29 airmen reported rescued by submarines. Blue submarine bombarded Ishigaki airfield.

(C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 270724 to all commands.)

\* As received.

SS. DALGOMA  
(overdue).DALGOMA due Fremantle 23rd from Madras, has not arrived.  
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 270726Z to Admty.)

/American ...

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27.5.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSFar East and Australia - Contd.

American publications. Your 242243. This is understood.  
(2) Have ANSON and DUKE OF YORK received. American publications and liaison teams, if so request brief details.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 270736Z to Admty.)  
See 292118B.

Digest 1222, 26th May. (Extract)  
(1) Liberators from Mindoro sank large junk off Tourane.  
(3) Mariners from Lingayen night 25th-26th May attacked about 60 small craft Formosa - Pescadores hitting 100 foot vessel.  
(4) Liberators from Palawan 25th May sank single small coaster Uxri area, strafed net-Teyding tug same area, damaged single small coaster south-west.  
(5) Mariners from Tawi Tawi 25th May co-operated with P.Ts. destroying two large luggers Sandakan, hit remaining shipping Sandakan mostly already damaged but damaged six small coasters.  
(6) Delayed reports state P.Ts. 24th destroyed six small craft numerous canoes also barracks buildings ashore Dewhurst Bay north-east Borneo.  
(7) Night Liberators damaged single small freighter transport Yangtze river.  
(11) Australian patrols Tarakan Island penetrated to within one mile south-east Cape Djoesta (north-west Tip Tarakan). Naval gunfire support provided 25th May hitting enemy headquarters north-east airfield.  
(14) H.M.A.S. DUBBO (corvette) effectively bombarded enemy positions in support Australian forces Wewak area 25th May. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 270936Z to Admty.)

S/Ms. movements. Programme for RORQUAL your 151830 and 250341 leaves Fremantle 3rd June, Colombo 18th June, Aden 26th June, Port Said 8th July, Gibraltar 18th July.  
(2) TRADEWIND sails for Aden direct and U.K.  
on 5th June.  
(3) TERRAPIN sails for U.K. in approximately three weeks, date will be reported.  
(S.4, 271558Z to Admty.) See 300954Z.

C.V.Es. for B.P.F. A.C.11 251926 May, para. 5(A). No escort carriers other than those in A.M. 252130 May can be provided.  
(2) It is likely that light fleet carriers will be able to lift most, if not all, aircraft available for transfer to Sydney from Ceylon and still remain operational for the passage.  
(3) Arrangements were made for 11th A.C. Squadron to stay about four weeks in Ceylon for especial purpose of making modifications referred to in para. 3. These are to be completed.  
(V.C.N.S., 272350B to C. in C. B.P.F., C. in C. E.I., A.C.11.)

see 091940 June

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27.5.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U/B  
dispositions.

A.M. 261216B, para. A. Please read Amrum  
Island. No change in last 24 hours.  
(D.D.I.C., 271422B to A.I.G. 331, Cominch.)



28.5.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. It is intended to lay up all Type XXI, all 1200 ton, and 10 500 ton U-Boats at Lisahally, and the remainder at Loch Ryan.
2. Broadcasts of U-Boat surrender orders are to continue until further orders.

North Sea.

3. (a) Hamburg repair facilities are beginning to be exploited. So far 2900 German workers are starting in on 27 captured merchantmen required by M.O.W.T.
- (b) All German coast defence guns N.W. of the Kiel Canal have now been "neutralized" and all merchant ships demilitarised.
- (c) The U.S. merchantman JOHN WOOLMAN was mined in convoy off Ostend but towed into Southend.

Western Approaches.

4. (a) E.G. 22 is disbanded.
- (b) Cominch confirms that Liberty ships with approx. 300 troops may be sailed across the Atlantic independently.

Norway.

5. (a) SS. ANDES has sailed from Liverpool with the Norwegian Government on board for Oslo, escorted by HESPERUS and HAVELOCK.
- (b) Oslo, Stavanger, Tromso, Trondheim, Kristiansand and Bergen are now open to normal shipping.
- (c) Kristiansand is to be the terminal point for sailing of Norwegian "N.R." convoys.
- (d) C.S. 10 reports 3 Type XXI U-Boats segregated at Bergen, and that 13 ordinary U-Boats will sail for Scapa May 30th and another 13 on return of their escort. He proposed to return to Rosyth May 31st.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Gulf of Genoa.

6. (a) Mine clearance is progressing alongside inshore route and in approaches to ports but difficulty is being experienced in harbour of Genoa by a new type of mine.

/ (b) ...

28.5.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- Gulf of Genoa. (Contd.) 6. (b) 9 landing craft broached to on beach east of Genoa during a gale and since considered total loss.
- Adriatic. 7. (a) At Trieste where cruisers ORION and AJAX and 2 destroyers are now present the situation is quiet from a naval point of view.  
 (b) Mine-sweeping has been carried out and the swept channel to Ancona is buoyed and complete. Channel from Ancona to Venice is nearly completed and the approach channel to Pola is completed.
- Movements. 8. VENERABLE (A.C.11) COLOSSUS, VENGEANCE, and DUKE OF YORK arrived Port Said from Alexandria and sailed again same day.

America & West Indies.

- U-Boat attack. 9. Corvette KAMSACK reports attacking a submarine in 40.31 N. 63.43 W. Torpedo fired. Hedgehog attack carried out. Search being carried out after losing contact. Oil slicks on the surface.

Far East and Australia.

- Japan. Ryukyus. 10. (a) From early yesterday to this morning an estimated 150 Japanese planes attacked the U.S. Fleet in 56 raids off Okinawa. One ship was hit by a suicider and sank and 13 other ships were damaged by the same means.  
 (b) 79 enemy aircraft were destroyed.  
 The U.S. battleship MISSISSIPPI completed three day mission in knocking down walls of Shuri Castle.  
 (c) Between yesterday and today 116 enemy aircraft were destroyed off the Ryukyus by U.S. forces.

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28.5.1945  
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Showing the flag in Continental Ports.

F.O. Kiel's 262351B N.O.I.C. Brunsbüttel is requested to sail ZEALOUS and ZODIAC and to arrange direct with Capt. M/S Force "C" and S.O. Mine-sweeping Flotilla 18th for outward sweeping to P.10.  
 (N.O.I.C. Hamburg, 280209B to N.O.I.C. Brunsbüttel)

Display of U.776 and U.1023 to the Public.

Particulars of U-Boats on show and requirements during stay at each port are as follows.

(2) Length 220 feet beam 20 feet draught 15 feet height from waterline to top of fixed structure 20 feet freeboard at hatchways 5 feet distance between brows 60 to 100 feet. S/Ms have no gangways for access by boat and must be berthed alongside jetty.

(3) Two 30 foot brows not more than 2 feet wide with hand rails both sides are required.

(4) Accommodation required for 4 Officers, 9 Chief and P.O's and 21 ratings. Distance of accommodation from S/M is immaterial provided that motor transport is readily available between 0700 and 2100 to permit a watchkeeping routine to be worked. Service accommodation for ratings is desirable to facilitate checking to and from shore leave.

(3) Officers and ratings will require victualling ashore subsequent to the first meal after arrival. Provisions to cover the next passage will be required shortly before leaving each port.

(6) All arrangements aboard can be met by the S/Ms but they have insufficient personnel to give any assistance in providing shore sentries or in marshalling the public. About 4,000 people per day have passed through U.776 in London from 1000 to 1900 which are the maximum practicable hours for opening, while another 12000 filed past daily without boarding.

(F.O.S.M. 281009B to Home Commanders-in-Chief.)

U-Boat final laying-up ports.

Following are intended allocations of U-Boats to laying up ports.

- (a) To Lisahally. All Type XXI (Maximum 11)  
 All 1200 tonners (Maximum 3)  
 10 - 500 tonners.
- (b) To Loch Ryan. All Type XXIII (Maximum 18)  
 All 740 tonners (Maximum 4)  
 Remaining 500 tonners (About 35)

(2) Request endeavour is made to allocate to Lisahally 500 tonners of greatest draft which are not desirable at Loch Ryan. If refuelling is necessary only minimum should be embarked in Loch Ryan boats. Aim should be to arrive at Loch Ryan with about 30 tons. U-Boats for Loch Ryan should be instructed to reduce draught as much as possible on passage. Maximum figures given in para. 1 will probably not in fact be reached.

(C. in C. W.A. 281228B to Com. D. H.F. N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh)

/U-Boat ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy - Contd.

U-Boat threat liquidated. (1) Admiralty state is is considered the threat of U-Boat attack on ports in your area is now negligible.  
(2) Coast artillery need not therefore by maintained in an operational state of readiness.  
(3) Future of coast artillery equipment and personnel including any authorisations to care and maintenance will be discussed later by Defence of Bases Committee when instructions will follow.  
(War Office, 281430B to General Officers, Commanders in Chief)

Colour bar at Dartmouth. Admiralty's 201815B/May. /  
It is understood that the crews of these 2 B.Y.M.S's are Trinidadians. Submit Dartmouth would be an unsuitable port for these to be received in the United Kingdom, and that they may be diverted elsewhere.  
(N.O.I.C.Dartmouth(Vice Adm. A.C. Strutt) 281503B to C. in C. Plymouth)  
/ Destination of B.Y.M.S. 2257 and 2258 is Dartmouth.

Lapse of Western Approaches Command. Your 262039. Propose that on withdrawal of C. in C. W.A. the boundary between Plymouth and Rosyth Commands should be the existing Northern boundary of Liverpool Sub-Command as shown on chart Y.7. Propose also that boundary in the Atlantic should be a line drawn 270 degs. from Slyne Head (53.24 N. 10.14 W.) to boundary of home station.  
(C. in C. W.A. 281655B to Admty.)

Surrender orders to be broadcast to U-Boats. / My 231525. Broadcasts of surrender orders are to continue until further orders.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 282130B to O.K.M. for Capt. Maund)  
Request broadcast by German Naval W/T Stations of Surrender Messages may be continued after 2359Z/29th May until further orders.  
(D.S.D. 282245B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Threat of air attack ceased: H.F. complements to be reduced. As the European Theatre is no longer a combat area and the threat of air attack no longer exists it may be necessary to effect immediate reductions of complements of ships of the Home Fleet.  
(2) Request you signal by noon tomorrow Wednesday proposals for such reductions for ships under your administration: Commodore (D) for O and S. class destroyers only.  
(3) Anti-A/C, Radar and Torpedo complements should be reduced to minimum required and engine-room complements reduced allowing for short periods of high speed only.  
T.O.O. 221331. Ends.  
(C. in C. H.F. 282150 to Admty)

/U-Boat...

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy - Contd.

U-Boat precautions to be taken.

All H.M. Ships in the non-combat area are to continue for the present to observe full war-time precautions against attack by U-Boat.  
(2) Destroyers and below are to burn dimmed navigation lights.  
(V.C.N.S. 282200B to "A" message)

Disposal of Allied small craft requisitioned by German Navy.

The following procedure is to be adopted for disposal of Allied small craft up to 500 G.R.T. requisitioned and operated by German Navy.  
(A) Craft required for the purposes of the Supreme Commander to be retained and treated as warships.  
(B) Other such craft captured or surrendered in ports in liberated territory to be disarmed and handed over to the National Authorities for disposal.

(C) Other craft captured or surrendered in German ports to be retained as property of United Nations pending further instructions from control authority. No distinction to be made between surrendered and captured craft.

(D) All personnel on board should be treated initially as German enemy personnel and dealt with as laid down in (E) and (F).

(E) German personnel are to be treated as personnel of the German Navy.

(F) Allied personnel are to be screened by the National Military Authorities concerned. Those who prove to be members of hostile military or uniformed para-military organisations of German or non-German origin are to be treated as prisoners of war. The remainder, including those who are under an agreement similar to our T.124 will be classed as civilians and will be discharged to their own countries as displaced persons unless suspected of being willing collaborators, in which case they will be dealt with by their National Authorities.

(A.N.C.X.F. 282247B to F.O.'s Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Kiel and W.G.)

Operations

North Sea

Laying up of ships in Reserve B at Harwich.

Your 271256B. No action can yet be taken by F.O.I.C.Harwich in laying buoys for ships paying off into Category B as Admiralty approval has not yet been given.

(2) Harwich is still to a large extent operational and potentially in need of all present berths.

Ships referred to in your signal can be taken but it will be of great assistance if some forecast of future commitments can be given.

(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 280955B to F.O.C.R.F.)

/ Shipyard ...

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Shipyard  
materiel  
etc. at  
Hamburg.

Following is information concerning control of shipyard and materiel etc. in Hamburg after discussion with S.E.O. A.N.C.X.F. and Fleet Constructor Officer.

- (2) Blohm und Voss. Heavy damage, building slips with 14 S/M under assembly superficially damaged. Howaldtswerke, considerable damage.
- Deutsche (Werftleshaft) Finkenwärder, S/M shops heavily damaged, remainder of yard in working condition. Deutsche Slotrft (?Reinhertieg) Yard destroyed. Stulcken considerable damage.
- (3) Dry Docks. 8 floating docks serviceable, 1 under repair, 23 sunk. Total 32. Written reports forwarded 11th and 21st May. 1 Graving dock being cleared of damaged ship.
- (4) Ship repair requirement. 27 captured Merchant Ships (some previously Allied) required by M. of W.T. to be refitted prior use by Allies. Very substantial additional number expected. Naval requirement not fixed.
- (5) Arrangements being made to concentrate work as far as practicable at Deutsche Werft, Finkenwärder (corrupt group) Stulcken and Blohm und Voss Graving Dock in view of condition of yards, docks, etc. Numbers of workmen to be strictly controlled. Present total authorised 2900. Former total about 42,000.
- (6) Construction and repair control committee with usual administration formed under my chairmanship to deal with fore-going. Records of shipyard material, machines, etc. not destroyed are being prepared by German firms. Work will advanced.
- (8) About 375 U-Boat Sections (8 per boat) in various stages of completion in port. Arrangements being made to cut up and bring to production limited number of incompletd units using German shipyard labour. 20 complete, 30 incomplete Lorient type 21 U-Boat engines 6700 and 2 Lorient pocket Battleship diesels (4800 H.P.) engines available in Lorient Works. Written Report sent.
- (9) To assist in foregoing the following economic divisional staff (Control Commission Shipbuilding Branch) are desirable as as soon as practicable - 1 Assistance Controller, 1 (?C.T.) A.2 (?S.T.) A. 2 T.A. from H.Q. Staff. Road transport necessary to carry out duties.
- (10) Blohm und Voss have completed 225 U-Boats during war. Progress schedules available and boats on production lines can be seen now. Visit by representative of warship production Supt. Admiralty appears desirable to investigate this sinister achievement.
- (11) Various drawings of Warship, records, etc. from Blohm und Voss and other Firms have been sent to Admiralty. 26 additional cases being forwarded shortly. Large amount of detailed drawings etc. remain and need screening before despatch. Request temporary service of 3 Draughtsmen (Hull, Machinery and Electrical) preferably with knowledge of German.
- (12) My 261931 refers to Hamburg experiment tank.
- (13) Agreed M.W.T.R.  
(N.O.I.C.Hamburg, 281030B to F.O.W.G.)

/German ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

German Coast Defences spiked. All Coastal and Heavy and Light A/A Defences in Area North West of Kiel Canal to Danish Border and Heavy A/A in Gau of Hamburg have been neutralized by Army. Detailed report follows. (Cdre. Hamburg, 281113B to F.O.W.G.)

German ships for minesweeping. Your 271901. My 151835 not to C.T.F.124 para. 7. refers. (2) Request you will arrange with F.O.W.G. for necessary transfer of suitable German ships if none at present in your command. (A.N.C.X.F. 281205B to C.T.F.126)

German merchantmen demilitarised. All Merchant ships Hamburg to Brunsbüttel inclusive and Canal to Rendsburg inclusive have now been searched and de-militarised. Ammunition and bord-flak ratings removed. Latter disbanded. Final report follows. (N.O.I.C. Hamburg, 281211B to F.O.W.G.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.419 Part 4 Section A. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600B/27th May.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	-	159	12,578	-	7,467
Ostend	1,084	108	2,154	-	-
Calais	7,468	25	119	-	-
Caen	-	-	95	122	-
Rotterdam	-	-	1,400	-	-
Totals:	8,552	292	16,337	122	7,467
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	15,263	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	821	330	-
Le Havre	1,482	134	4,211	-	-
Rouen	-	-	3,845	-	-
Ghent	-	-	5,598	-	-
Totals:	1,482	134	29,738	330	-
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	3,490	19	8,343	-	-
Port De Bouc	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	3,490	19	8,343	-	-

Army coal at - Morlaix 750, Dieppe 2,073, Granville 1,000. (S.H.A.E.F. 281330B to Admt. and others)

/Mining ...

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SS. JOHN  
WOOLMAN.

JOHN WOOLMAN mined in engine room flooded to sea level. All other compartments dry and bulkheads sound. Draft 11 ft. forward 26 ft. 6" aft. Proceeding to Southend under tow of EMPIRE JANE and LADY BRASSEY. S. of A. 6 knots. E.T.A. Southend 1700. Salvage vessel LINCOLN SALVOR in attendance. Lt. McBride in charge. Vessel in good condition, but has no anchors. Will have to moor to buoy on arrival. Am returning Dover, BLENCATHRA is escorting. (C.S.V.O. Dover, 281450B to C: in C. Nore.)

Coastal  
Fishing off  
Germany.

Commodore Hamburg's 131200B not to all. Coastal fishing may for the present be carried out in an area bounded by the German Coast, including estuaries of rivers and lines joining the following positions:  
(a) N.W. corner of Borkum.  
(b) 53.48 N. 06.30 E. (c) 53.55 N. 07.14 E.  
(d) 54.21 N. 07.52 E. (e) 54.02 N. 08.23 E. and  
(f) Thence 128 degs. to the coast.  
(2) Admiralty's 96AZ, request whether policy allows German trawlers to fish in area defined. (F.O. Western Germany, 281610 to A.N.C.X.F.) Amended by 031300B June q.v.)

Minesweeping  
in the Bight.

General directive for 18th and 10th M.S.F's whilst sweeping Heligoland Bight Channel.  
(1) Duration of sweeping is entirely dependent on the continuance of sweeping of British mines in the area. It is hoped to withdraw one Fleet

Minesweeping Flotilla shortly.

(2) Sweeping technique. As only British mines appear to be present 19" diaphragms are now to be used and not 27" diaphragms.  
(3) Routine sweeping and protection of shipping is to be so adjusted that all ships in rotation have a regular maintenance period of 5 days at Cuxhaven.  
ADVENTURE is available for assistance in maintenance work. Flotillas to be combined as requisite to allow for this.  
(4) Channel from P.10 to P.15 to be widened for the present 6½ cables only on South West side. Your 241002 refers.  
(5) Boiler clean programme as in my 241646. Early notice to be passed to F.O.I.C. Harwich of stores and spare parts required by individual ships returning from far shore.  
(6) Suppression of overlap mines. Owing to wear and tear of S.A. gear type C mark IV sweepers should only use this gear between P.15 and P.11 or P.10 in following priority.  
(A) For "Apostle" Convoys.  
(B) Special large units.  
(C) Convoys containing ships of over 5,000 tons provided sweepers are available.  
Commodore Hamburg is requested to inform M/S 18 M/S 10 and Captain M/S Force C of sailing of "Apostle" Convoys. Suppression between P.15 and ports should continue as far as practicable for all except small ships.  
Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Nore, 281703B to M.S.F.18, 10, Cdre. Hamburg)

/Situation ...



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Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Situation at Flushing.      Sitrep.  
(A) Lock Repairs.  
(1) Ebb Gate 35 metre entrance closed on 28th May and water impounded in the basin.  
(2) Eight metre gate completed.  
(B) Schele Dockyard.  
(1) Number of employees 2508.  
(2) M.M.S.183 in small drydock CAISSOON of 35 MR Lock OILPONTOON, OLIPHANT and OILLIGHTER SHELL 6 in Big Drydock for repairs.  
(C) Harbour Repairs.  
(1) Pontoonbridge obstructing North side of Het Dock entrance cleared away and 3 pontooncraft salvaged.  
(2) Unknown wreck inside 20 MR. Lock lifted and dumped.  
(3) Sill of 35 MR. Lock entrance successfully dredged clean by Galleons Reach.  
(4) Flushing-Harwich Pontoon salvaged and handed over to Rijkswaterstaat.  
(5) Tug ACHILLES patched pumped and salvaged.  
(6) Salvage operations upon Liverpool Car Ferry and 500 feet coal pontoon continuing.  
(7) SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN and KINGARTH refitting.  
(N.O.I.C. Flushing, 281831B to F.O. Holland)

German ships      M.W.T.R. has requested me to draw attention to 9  
German manned      German ships with German crews in convoy leaving  
in. convoy.      Cuxhaven 31st May. Consider 2 Naval Officers per  
ship are necessary. Request 18 Officers may be  
flown to arrive Schleswig Airfield a.m. 30th  
at latest. Kiel will supply R.M. Guard.  
(F.O. Kiel, 282358 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Situation Report.      Summary No.144 dated 28th May, 1945 covering  
period 262400B to 272400B.  
Operations. Continued reports of isolated small  
groups still at large. Files seized at Walchem  
(D.9263) included much Top Secret information on  
Diplomatic Technical and Espionage matters: also counter-  
feiting plates photo proofs and watermark samples of British money  
seals and official stamps of various countries and much other  
equipment for falsifying documents. This corroborates statement  
of internees that they as specialists were employed to  
counterfeit British currency at Sachsenhausen (D.9263):  
supposedly 20 million pounds of this already circulated in Allied  
countries by S.D. agents.  
170 A/C engines discovered Brick Kiln vicinity P.6419.  
At Graslitz (K.3902) evidence of preparations for launching ramps  
and other devices for 50 millimeter anti-A/C rockets.  
P.W. technical expert on jet and rocket planes stated M.E.163  
(rocket propulsion 16 mns. flying time speed faster than sound)  
built on V.2 principle with steering apparatus. P.W. also  
familiar with M.E. 262 (Jet). Stated both planes being built  
in Japan: also that 8 January, 1945, 25 A/C engineers two  
completed Jet planes and 12 Turbine engines left for Japan by  
S/M.

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Operations

North Sea

Situation  
Report  
(Contd.)

\*Cologne

1600 hours 20 May estimated 5000 Germans held mass demonstration Köln\* to welcome Buchenwald prisoners: carried signs complaining that Americans too easy on Nazis and urging taking matters into own hands. Demonstration broken up by firing over crowd's head.  
(S.H.A.E.F. No T.O.O. to Admty. and others)

Operations

Channel

Mine off  
Falmouth.

Mine exploded ahead convoy 49.52 N. 04.55.30 W. No damage.  
(VOLUNTEER, 281345B to C. in C. Plymouth)  
Your 281345. Report full details of explosion and whether noise makers were being towed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281510B to VOLUNTEER)

Your 281510B. Explosion took place about 1500 yards on my starboard as I was in position A. It threw up a column of water about 25 feet high. No escorts were towing noise-makers. No debris came to the surface and no track was observed. No contacts were reported on Asdic. About 10 mins. before 2 M/Vs. escorted H.M.T. FIR joiners from Falmouth passed over the spot as they joined from ahead. Submit explosion was caused by detonation of a British mine.  
(VOLUNTEER, 281625B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operations

West Coast France

German  
Minesweepers  
432, 442, 452  
to Lorient.

Request you sail German M/S 432, 442 and 452 to Lorient.  
(2) Point of rendezvous 5 miles 245 degs. of the Penman lighthouse in the proximity of the first buoy in the swept channel.  
(3) Lorient can send VEDETTE with pilot to the point of R/V provided it is advised 6 hours ahead

of the arrival of the minesweepers. Ends.  
Request also that all spare parts and other gear available be loaded and this command advised of any which cannot be put aboard.  
(C.T.F.122, 281450B to C. in C. Plymouth)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Air/Sea  
Rescue  
ships.

F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail four ships of E.G.31 as soon as ready to relieve LOCH DUNVEGAN, PERIM, ST. HELENA, ZANZIBAR as air/sea rescue ships in position 16, 17, 18 and 19 respectively.

(2) Ship proceeding to position 17 is to act also as weather reporting ship and is to embark AUBRETIA's Met. party before sailing.

(3) Names and E.T.A. in respective positions to be reported.

(4) On relief LOCH DUNVEGAN proceed to Londonderry. PERIM to Greenock. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to detach ST. HELENA, ZANZIBAR to Greenock.

(5) My 241836 and 261316 to Capt. (D) Greenock refer.

(6) Weather reporting ship is to remain in close vicinity of A.S.R. station 17.

(C. in C. W.A. 281521B to F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.G.M.A.)

Intend to sail LANCASTER CASTLE, DUMBARTON CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE, passing Clyde Gate at 0830B/29th to positions 16, 18 and 19 respectively. S. of A. 13 knots.

LANCASTER CASTLE E.T.A. position 16 2100B/30th May.

DUMBARTON CASTLE E.T.A. position 18 0300B/1st June.

BERKELEY CASTLE E.T.A. position 19 0400B/2nd June.

(2) CARISBROOKE CASTLE will be sailed to position 17 when Met. Party have joined.

(3) C. in C.W.A. 28 1521 and Admiralty's 182352B not to all refer. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 281834B to C. in C. W.A. F.O.G.M.A.)

E.G.22.

E.G.22 is disbanded.

(C. in C. W.A. 281857B to Capt. (D) Liverpool.)

Operations

Norway

U-Boats  
from  
Kristiansand.

Your 271655B to C. in C. W.A. One escort is to be retained to escort type 21 U-Boats vide Admiralty's 241710B para. 4 (D). My 261603 also refers.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 280855B to N.O.I.C.Kristiansand) My 271635B. Delete reference to LOCH ECK.

LOCK ECK being retained to escort type 21 U-Boat. (N.O.I.C.Kristiansand 280915 to C. in C. W.A.)

Sail in company at 1400B tomorrow 29th and escort German U-Boats 281, 299, 369, 712, 1163, 2321, 2325, 2334, 2335, 2337, 2350, 2353, 2354, 2361, 2363 to Scapa Flow. Proceed by route Jupiter as amended to position H thence Q.Z.S. 738, 322, 323 Pentland Firth and Hoxa Sound to Scapa Flow. S. of A. 8 knots E.T.A. 25 buoy 1330B/31st. TYLER is to signal E.T.A. Scapa. S.O. escort is to report P.C.S. every 8 hours. C. in C. Rosyth's 281004B refers.

(N.O.I.C. Kristiansand, 281731B to TYLER, CAYMAN, BARBADOS)

/Q.Z.S. ...

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Operations

Norway - Contd.

Q.Z.S. channels off Norway. C. in C. Rosyth's 271855B not to all addressees. Propose that all recommendations for promulgation of Q.Z.S. should be initiated by me as at present. Q.Z.S. have already been proposed to you for the following channels:  
Kristiansand (S. Norway) Approaches, Stavanger Approaches, coastal route from position H to Kristiansand and onwards to Oslo.  
My 202210B, 232320B, 271049B, 280135B and 280136B refer. Further Q.Z.S. for Bergen and Trondheim areas will be proposed shortly.  
(Capt. M/S Norway, 281117B to F.O. Norway)  
Approved: F.O. Norway, 291409B.

Norwegian Government to Norway. My 271825B. Sailed HESPERUS and HAVELOCK escorting S.S. ANDES.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 281307B to Admt. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Oslo.)

Mooring Vessels, Stavanger. Mooring vessel VELINHELI and REVELLO arrived 0130 28th May. M.A.P. Personnel on board.  
C. in C. Rosyth pass except D. of S.T. Oslo.  
(N.O.I.C. Stavanger, 281809B to D. of S.T.)

Base staff of (Nor.) M.T.B.F.54 to Bergen. N.O.I.C. Lerwick's 251741. No objection.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 281907B to C. in C. H.F.)

Troops to Norway in cruisers. Have received signal from S.C.O.F.O.R. Main ordering early despatch 304 Inf. Bde. less one Inf. Regt. to Tromso instead of Bergen. Have recommended to S.C.O.F.O.R. Main that your offer sail BERWICK with 637 Inf. Regt. to Tromso instead of Bergen be accepted. Grateful you would arrange this subject to specific signal to contrary to be received not later than 0900 hours 29th May.  
(S.C.O.F.O.R., 281946B to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 261951. You may be required to proceed to Tromso instead of Bergen. If necessary further signal will be made giving route. S.C.O.F.O.R. (Rear) 281946 passed to all refers.  
(C. in C. H.F., 282155B to BERWICK.)  
W.D. Note: Bergen decided on (290830B).

Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 419, Part II, Naval. Following Norwegian Ports are now open to normal routine shipping.  
Stavanger, Oslo, Tromso, Trondheim, <sup>K</sup>ristiansand (S), Bergen.  
(2) Port Situation Reports.  
(A) Hamburg (open to urgent shipping).  
Shore stowage for 10,000 tons of coal being made available at Kohlen, Schiffhafen.

/Transporter ...

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Operations

Norway

Situation Report. (Contd.)  
Transporter facilities for loading and unloading efficient. Draught at berth at low water 19 feet. Shore stowage for liquid fuels solely for Naval purposes not yet available. R/C not complete. Storage afloat in lighters available.  
B. Kiel (open to urgent shipping)  
Alongside berths available for three ships length 400 feet, draught 24 feet.  
Many anchor berths.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 282359B to Admty.)

Situation at Bergen. (1) 3 type <sup>XXI</sup> German U-Boats were removed from main base to-day and re-berthed with British ships. German crews have been taken out and these German U-Boats will be sailed when British crews are conversant with material.  
(2) 13 German U-Boats will be sailed on Wednesday 30th May, with 4 ships of 30th Escort Group. The remaining 13 will be sailed on return of Escort.  
(3) Marineholm (R.N.N. Base) was ceremonially turned over to R.N.N. to-day Monday by N.O.I.C. Bergen representing the supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force.  
(4) I feel it unnecessary for ships of Home Fleet to remain at Bergen after Thursday 31st May. Failing further instructions, intend to sail for Rosyth with ZAMBESI in company at 0800B Friday 1st June proceeding through the Leads to Wlister Light to show the Flag, thence by Q.Z.S. 738 arriving p.m. Saturday 2nd June.  
(C.S.10, 282218B to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy R.A.67. R.A.67. 4 altered destinations broadcast to ships SAMARITAN, DAVID B. JOHNSON, WILLIAM, D. BYRON, to Kirkwall KEITH PALMER to Mersey.  
(2) Report number of Soviet civilians in RATHLIN.  
(C. in C. W.A. 281259B to Escorts of R.A.67)  
R.A.67. C. in C. W.A. 281259. E.T.A. 3 ships Kirkwall 1130B/29 (S.O.E.G. 4, 281713B to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 281259B para. 2.  
Soviet passengers - 7 men, 6 women and 9 children. Also 1 Russian Wife of Army Officer.  
(S.O.E.G. 4, 281730B to C. in C. W.A.)  
Scapa arrivals - D.17 in ONSLOW and OBDURATE.  
(C. in C. H.F. 282153B to S.B.N.O. N. Russia, Admty.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Baltic.

Retention of O.K.M. I intend to maintain O.K.M. and German naval chain of command in existence for the present.  
(2) Staffs may be reduced locally at your discretion but senior German naval officers are not to be displaced without previous reference to me except in cases of grave emergency. In all cases reasons are to be reported to me.  
(3) My 241928 also refers.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 280935B to F.Os. Kiel, W.G., C.T.F. 126, O.K.M. for Capt. Maund.)

Kiel Situation Reports. Situation at 2100 today Sunday (27th).  
OPPORTUNE, OFFA and 33rd M.L. Flotilla sailed for Flensburg arriving a.m. No new developments there.  
Kapitän zur See. Bramsfeld, head of the Sperrversuchs-Kommando, recently arrived from Denmark, was removed for transfer to concentration area as he appeared to be a restraining influence on the scientists of his command.  
A.A. guns in Eckernförde and Canal areas reported neutralised. The most serviceable minesweepers in other ports are being concentrated in Kiel with a view to forming a suitable force for clearing Baltic in my area. Detailed proposals will be forwarded. ZEALOUS and ZODIAC sailed for Brunsbüttel and U.K. Clearance of hospital ships for Denmark proceeding.  
(F.O. Kiel, 280959B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Situation at 2100 today Monday. U.2351 was transferred from Flensburg to Kiel.  
M.W.T.R. has requested nine German ships with German crews to be sailed to U.K. in convoy from Cuxhaven. R.M. guards can be found at the expense of local commitments but no officers are available. A pool of officers for this purpose is required. Landing of mixed personnel from so-called hospital ships from Copenhagen is proceeding with difficulty: this area is reaching, if it has not already reached the saturation point for refugees. Ships in canal are being cleared and shifted to Kiel. Salvage of DER DEUTSCHE presents greater difficulty than expected but is being continued.  
(F.O. Kiel, 282301B to A.N.C.X.F.)

U.2336. Ref. F.O. Kiel 260924B.  
Request you will arrange for Track chart to be forwarded to Admiralty.  
(D.D.I.C. 282334B to A.N.C.X.F., F.O. Kiel.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

U-Boat situation at 1239 on May 28th. My 231320B May, situation now as follows:-  
A. Number of U-Boats arrived in U.K. 38, U.S.A. and Canada 7.  
B. Number of U-Boats reported active in occupied ports: Kiel 2, Flensburg 1, Wilhelmshaven 18, Eckenförde 1, Neustadt 1, Brunsbüttel 1, Cuxhaven 2, Aarhus 1, Fredericia 3, Kristiansund South 17, Bergen 25, Stavanger 10, Horten 10, Trondheim 13.  
(D.N.I. 281239B to N.L.O. 21 A.G.)  
Comment. These figures do not allow for any U-Boats on passage from Norway to U.K.

German sailings from Sweden. Port Police inform me German Motor Vessels HUMMEL (G.R.T. 46) and NORD (number 157) sailed 1430 May 28th for Hamburg from Gothenburg. (Gothenburg 281553 to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. JOHN WOOLMAN. My 280809B not to all addressees. If condition and draught allow escort tug and JOHN WOOLMAN to Southend. Report situation and intentions. (C. in C. Nore 280959B to BLENCATHRA.)  
Your 280959B. Ship in tow of LADY BRASSEY and EMPIRE JANE with LINCOLN SALVOR alongside. Intend escorting Southend.  
(BLENCATHRA 281128B to C. in C. Nore.)  
Arrived Southend towing casualty U.S. JOHN WOOLMAN with EMPIRE JANE and LADY BRASSEY. Secured to Chapman Buoys Engine room and stoke hold flooded controlled by three pumps. Instructions from S.S.V.O. Dover have handed casualty over to Captain Wright. KINGLEAR P.L.A. Request instructions returning Ostend.  
(LINCOLN SALVOR 281805Z to Cdre. Southend.)

Movements.

U.2336,  
U.3008,  
U.806,U.155,  
U.680,U.1233. Subject to F.O. Wilhelmshaven being able to accept them the following U-Boats if seaworthy are to be sailed for that port with minimum steaming parties as soon as convenient:-  
2336 and 3008 from Kiel. 806 from Aarhus. 155, 680 and 1233 from Fredericia.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 281007B to F.O.I.C. Kiel, F.O. Denmark.)

GLASGOW, cruiser. When ready for sea GLASGOW is to proceed to Rosyth and will be administered by C. in C. H.F.  
(2) Sufficient ratings ineligible for foreign service will be drafted to the ship to enable her to leave the Tyne.  
(3) It is hoped that sufficient ratings eligible for foreign service will be available in August to commission the ship.  
(4) Ship is to be at 14 days' notice.  
(V.C.N.S. 281100B to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

/GOATHLAND...

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

GOATHLAND,  
destroyer.

My 181534. GOATHLAND has today been accepted into category C, reserve fleet.  
(S.O.R.F. Clyde, 281154 to F.O.C.R.F.)

DAHLIA,  
corvette.

Request DAHLIA be de-ammunitioned, armament stores landed and reduction progressed in accordance with A.M. 150200 para. 3, at Devonport.  
(2) Ship should be sailed to arrive Cardiff about Sunday 10th June for completion of reduction to category C.

(3) Minimum stores for passage from Cardiff to Milford Haven should be retained.

(4) Ship will be laid up in a mud berth.  
(F.O.C.R.F. 281635B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

ROBERTS,  
monitor.

ROBERTS escorted by FLEETWOOD and ANCHUSA routed by route W thence by standard coastal route to Liverpool. Estimated in position 180° Portland Bill at 1600B/28th, speed 10 knots.

(2) MIGNONETTE take PETUNIA under his orders pass Gate at 0900B/29th and proceed to R/V with ROBERTS in position 180° Portland Bill at 1600B/29th. On joining MIGNONETTE and PETUNIA are to relieve FLEETWOOD and ANCHUSA as escorts.

(3) ROBERTS is requested to detach MIGNONETTE and PETUNIA in vicinity Lundy Island to return to Plymouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 281641B to MIGNONETTE, PETUNIA.)

VIDETTE,  
destroyer.

Following received from S.O.R.F. Forth area repeated as above begins -  
"A.M. 091758 request VIDETTE may arrive here so as to be ready for acceptance into category C reserve on or before 6th June with a view to beaching 8th June, ends."

With reference to A.L.D. 11080/44 dated 14/7/44 and Portsmouth Yard letter No. 710 dated 2/2/45 request beaching of VIDETTE may be deferred until after the ship has been docked for scientific inspection, preferably not before October, 1945.  
(A.S. Portsmouth 281700B to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Troop carriers  
may sail  
independently  
across  
Atlantic.

Cominch confirms that Liberty ships carrying approx. 300 troops may be sailed across Atlantic independently commencing 29 May.  
(Com. 12th Fleet 281311 to Admty. C.T.F. 122.)

/Return...



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28.5.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Return of  
Norwegian  
Tonnage.

It has been decided by the Ministry of War Transport representative, Norway, that all Norwegian ships under German control, either by requisition or charter are to be released to the Royal Norwegian Government after disarmament and removal of German personnel. The ultimate employment of all Norwegian tonnage is a matter for settlement by the Royal Norwegian Government in concert with the United Armed trawlers authorities.

(2) Request you will take steps to remove German crew as soon as the Norwegian shipping authorities are ready to take the ships over. This should be done in co-operation with the local representative of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Shipping. (F.O. Norway, 281903 to N.Os. i/c Oslo, Kristiansand (S), Stavanger, Bergen, Trondheim, Tromso.)

N.R. convoys

N.R. convoys. It is intended that all N.R. convoys shall be sailed from Kristiansand. F.Os. i/c and N.C.S.Os. and N.Os. i/c at Norwegian ports will route all ships to this port on completion of discharging of cargoes. Convoy N.R. 1 will be sailed from Kristiansand on June 3rd. Names of escort will be promulgated. (F.O. Norway, 281906B to Admty.)

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28.5.1945.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

U. 963, prisoners of war. Group 1 intend sailing 0100/28th May. Your 241135G refers. (N.A. Lisbon, 280103B to F.O.G.M.A.) (1) E.T.A. 0301/29th. (2) Reference C.B. 3074, para. 15(A). 4 officers and 41 ratings prisoners embarked p.m./27th May. (S.O. Group 1, 280200B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Gibraltar Escort Force. Return of ships to U.K. C. in C. Med.'s (at Gib.) 211310 and Admty. messages 241247, 241235 and 261524 intend that SPIRAEA, JONQUIL and CROCUS should be corvettes retained for A.S.R. duties. (3) Request ports of destination for remaining ships of the Gibraltar Escort Force. (4) Intend to sail three ships of the G.E.F. for U.K. in company with ASTURIAS, MAHSUD and tugs when ready approx. Wednesday May 30th these ships to remain in U.K. (F.O.G.M.A., 281055B to C. in C. Med.)

Sailing of ships independently. Your 271206B. (1) Reference M.K.S.104 confirm C. in C. Med.'s 271207. (2) Reference M.K.F.45. This is to be sailed as a convoy. Signal regarding release of troopships will be made later. (D.T.D., 281216B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Portuguese ships (interception of). M.E.W. desires interception of one Portuguese ship outward bound to South America. (2) Lisbon will report to you immediately sailing dates of next two or three are fixed so that you may act when most convenient. (D.E.W.D., 282100B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Movements. Arrivals 27th Italian CORMORANO, Italian submarine NICHELIO from Taranto; 28th H.M. submarine SPIRIT from Malta. Departure 28th PIROUETTE for Malta. (F.O.G.M.A., 282243B to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

GORLESTON, Arrived GORLESTON.  
cutter. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 280921Z to Admty.)

Reduction / Ref. Admiralty message 241235B, para. 2.  
of ships To expedite reduction of this Station to post  
on station. European war status and consequent return of  
personnel to U.K. decision is required on  
disposal of M.Ls. and "KILS" and confirmation  
that OXNA, REGAN, COPINSAY and SOUTHERN GEM  
may be retained. My 191105 and A.M. 171701 refer. Intend  
retaining 56th E.G. less "KILS" for Air/Sea Rescue Service  
pending further instructions.  
(4) DANCE class trawlers and four old M/S Trawlers HOLLY,  
SYRINGA, ST. MELANTE and RUNSWICK BAY available for disposal.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 281146Z to Admty.)

West African (F.O.C.W.Af., 281955 to Admty.)  
Naval See Lion Copy.  
Forces.

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# 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.**

*West African Naval Forces*

281955/May.

Fran. F.O.C.W.Af.

Date. 29-5-45.

Reed. 0731.

Naval Code (X) by W/T.

To. Admiralty.

I am doubtful of obtaining sufficient numbers for continuation of West African Naval Force from among those serving under conditions offered, as this entails relinquishing 56 days pay and two pounds plain clothes gratuity. Ready money takes first place in African mind and tendency will be to take discharge and benefits and, in many cases, hope to be taken on again under fresh agreement.

2. Ratings can be compulsorily held under present term engagement but these would at the end of the period of emergency be automatically entitled to full discharge benefits, whereas volunteers to re-engage would receive war gratuity only. In order full position may not appear anomalous with consequent discouraging effect upon potential volunteers it is suggested that those re-engaging for three years should be guaranteed 56 days pay and two pounds plain clothes gratuity on final discharge subject to usual qualification as regards conduct, notations to be made on service certificate accordingly. Very early decision is requested as it is most desirable to settle this question before Ports are closed.

3. Decision is also requested whether the "period of emergency" will be held to continue as regards West Africans serving ashore or afloat till the end of the Japanese War observing that (A) this is a non-combat area in which no conscription exists but that (B) as soon as it is declared that the period of emergency has ceased all West African ratings other than volunteers to re-engage will under the terms of their engagement be entitled to release.

281955.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
Nav. Sec.  
Parl. Sec.  
Fin. Sec.  
Sec.  
Dep. Sec.  
D. of F.  
P.A.S. (D)  
P.A.S. (S)  
P.A.S. (N.P.)  
D. of P. (2)  
M. (6)  
D. of L.

A.C.R.  
N. (2) for action.  
C.W. (4)  
A.C.N.P. (4)  
N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)  
D. of M.  
C.N.I.  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
U.S. (L).  
W.D.  
Dep. Contr. (3) )  
D.N.A. )  
S.W.R. (6) )

Bath.

All.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

BELVOIR destroyer. . . . . Sail at 0800B/29th by basic westbound route to Gibraltar.  
(2) S.O.A. 15 knots. E.T.A. 0600B/1st June.  
(4) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to onward route BELVOIR to U.K.  
(V.A.M., 280910 to BELVOIR.)

Italian submarines JALEA & NICHELIO. . . . . Approved your 271010B (N.T. in W.D.)  
(2) F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to signal port of destination.  
(C. in C. Med., 281150B to F.O.G.M.A.)

GLENBANK mined. . . . . GLENBANK reported by Soviet Naval Authorities to have mine\* (15?) miles off Cape Tuzla 12 miles south of Constanza at 1245/27th May.  
(2) First report stated vessel sinking and crew abandoned ship but later report states Master and Pilot aboard ship proceeding Constanza with skeleton crew. Remainder crew aboard Soviet Enquiry Craft which standing by. No casualties.

(C.S.A. Istanbul 281219 to Admiralty.) See 291154C.

\* As received ? "struck" omitted.

(1) Gildman reports from Constanza <sup>n/v.</sup> SS. GLENBANK failing to pick up approach buoy struck mine north Constanza 27 May. Now aground. Damage one hole approx. six by eight metres. No casualties.

(2) Soviet salvage tug standing by. Hoped salvage all cargo. Suggested W.S.A. ship DELMAR may assist by ferrying cargo. (B.M.M. Roumania 281300B to W.O.)

Odessa reports GLENBANK struck a mine in position approx. 15 miles east of Cape Tuzla at 1245 May 27th whilst en route Constanza.

(2) Ship understood to be still afloat and making to port with Russian assistance.

(3) Soviet naval staff have been asked for full report.

(Admiral Archer 282001B to Admty. for M. of W.T.) See 301101.

ACTIVE. . . . . Sail to pass position 309 at 0915C/30th May and proceed. (2) Speed 14 knots. (4) E.T.A. Gibraltar 1530C/4th June.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 281348C to ACTIVE.)

Situation Report 612. . . . . (1) Adriatic. At Trieste where cruisers ORION and AJAX and 2 destroyers are now present situation from Naval point of view is quiet. Buoyed swept channel from Ancona is complete. A small force of M/S has arrived Venice via Port Malamocco. Main Ancona to Venice swept channel is now nearly completed and approach channel to Pola is completed.  
(2) Gulf of Genoa. Although mine clearance is progressing alongside inshore route and in approaches to ports (?difficulty)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation  
Report 612.  
(Contd.)

is being experienced in harbour of Genoa and this is due to a new type of mine. 9 Landing Craft broached to on beach (?eastward) of Genoa during a gale.

(3) Leghorn. Italian coaster GENEPESCIA<sup>1</sup> hit floating mine and sank in position 043° 16' N. 010° 17' E.

(C. in C. Med., 281611B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Movements.

Port Said 28th May '45. Arrivals VENERABLE, COLOSSUS, VENGEANCE, DUKE OF YORK, RAGLAN CASTLE. Departures VENERABLE, COLOSSUS, VENGEANCE, DUKE OF YORK, TYRIAN, TUSCAN, ENTERPRISE, L.S.T. 347, 383.

(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 281745C to Admty.)

Programme for  
ANSON,  
NELSON and  
SUSSEX.

As far as Ceylon, para. 3 of my 111845 refers. (2) Three ships sail in company from Malta June 14th and arrive off Alexandria bombardment range first light 16th. ANSON then remains on the range until p.m. 17th when she proceeds direct to Port Said E.T.A. p.m. 18th.

(3) NELSON and SUSSEX continue to Alexandria. E.T.A. noon June 16th.

(4) NELSON remains at Alexandria to store until p.m. 20th when she sails for two days on the range subsequently arriving Port Said p.m. 23rd with SUSSEX in company.

(5) SUSSEX sails so as to be on the range 18th and 19th returning to Alexandria for two days storing and leaves p.m. 22nd to rejoin NELSON.

(6) Programmes from Port Said are as follows.

A. ANSON a.m. 19th enter Canal to arrive Suez p.m. 20th. a.m. 23rd leave Suez to arrive Aden 26th. Sail from Aden to arrive Colombo July 1st.

B. NELSON and SUSSEX. a.m. 24th enter Canal to arrive Suez by p.m. 25th. p.m. 27th leave Suez and proceed direct to Colombo arriving July 7th.

(V.A. Malta 281801 to Admty.) See 292101. Concur from C. in C. E.I. 300551Z.

5th Des-  
troyer Flot.  
(abolition  
of.)

Consequent upon departure of Capt. D. 5th D.F. in BEAUFORT and reduction of number of HUNTS on the Med. Station, it is intended to abolish the 5th D.F. as from June 1st and to concentrate all remaining ships of this type in the 22nd acting under D.22 in EXMOOR.

(C. in C. Med., 281809B to Admty.)

/F.S. GLOIRE...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

F.S. GLOIRE  
(Sultan of  
Morocco.)

(1) After dry docking in Oran F.S. GLOIRE will be sailed direct to Casablanca.  
(2) As requested by French Government following is intended programme for GLOIRE as ordered by Marine Paris.

A. Leaves Casablanca 111600B June for Cherbourg carrying H.M. The Sultan of Morocco. E.T.A. 140900B June.  
B. After short stay in Cherbourg sails for Marseilles calling on her way at Oran, Algiers, Toulon and carrying naval personnel.  
C. Leaves Marseilles 021000B July for Casablanca carrying H.M. The Sultan on board E.T.A. 041700B July.

(3) Request approval.  
(Almed., 281832B to C. in C. Med.) Concur 301108B.

ENTERPRISE  
(cruiser)  
trooping.

Sailed ENTERPRISE at 1700C/28 to Aden for onward routing to Bombay.

(2) E.T.A. 1300Z/31. S.O.A. 19 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez 282351C to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

St. Pauls / S.A.C. 1082 2 Supreme Allied Commander South  
Island East Asia has given covering approval to  
Weather establishment of weather reporting station on  
reporting St. Paul Island 38° 43' S., 77° 31' E.  
station. (2) C. in C. L.I.F. will carry out recce of  
Island.  
(3) Personnel will be provided by provisional  
French Government.  
(S.A.C.S.E.A., 280503 to R.A.A.F. Melbourne etc.)

LE F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT has just arrived and the  
TRIOMPHANT Commanding Officer in a written report states  
(unsuitability "Use of this class of ship in tropical waters  
of, in is a complete failure".  
tropics). (2) At 20 knots on two boilers engine room  
temperatures are between 140 and 148°.  
(3) Inexperienced crews are suffering from heat  
exhaustion but are in good heart and making  
the best of it.  
(4) Refrigerators are useless, food and wine are going sour.  
(5) Copy of Commanding Officer's Report is being forwarded  
by air mail. I anticipate the conclusion that ship and others  
of her class are useless on this station.  
(6) Am making her awnings for humanitarian reasons.  
(C. in C. E.I., 280557Z to Admty.) See 291940B and 031118B  
June.

MANCHESTER Intend sailing MANCHESTER CITY direct to U.K.  
CITY. p.m./1st June. Admiralty's 251857 to V.A.(Q)  
B.P.F. refers.  
(C. in C. E.I., 280917Z to Admty.)  
See 291942B.

PATHFINDER PATHFINDER (Tug) due 26th May not arrived.  
(tug) (N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 281011Z to Admty.)  
overdue.

DUSK As DUSK F.S. not required by C. in C. E.I.S.  
(trawler) 160536 April refers. Request approval to  
for U.K. sail her for U.K. forthwith.  
(Com. E.A., 281030Z to Admty.)

BULAN No further employment for BULAN can be foreseen  
(cable on this station.  
ship) (2) On completion, refit and recover average of  
cable at Karachi ship can be released.  
(C. in C. E.I., 281046Z to Admty.)

L.S.I.(L). Arrival ROCKSAND.  
(F.O. Bombay, 281131Z to Admty.)

S.O.S. S S S S 11.54 S. 48.58 E. suspicious.  
T.O.R. 1844Z.  
(UNITA, No T.O.O./28 General.)



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Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

C.V.Es. Your 241112. Experience in operations has shown  
for the need for all the C.V.Es. that we can provide,  
B.P.F. indeed C. in C. British Pacific Fleet has lately  
signalled an urgent request for more C.V.Es. with  
which to support his Fleet.

Four Light Fleet Carriers are shortly being sent  
to the Pacific; they must be supported by C.V.Es. and spare air  
groups, and the ferry work will increase proportionately.

(2) The situation is aggravated by:

(a) The continued absence of an Intermediate Base in the  
Philippines for which we have asked.

(b) The increased tempo of operations in S.E.A. where the  
assault operations are now to a large extent beyond the range of  
support by shore based aircraft.

(c) The small assignments of U.S. aircraft which make it more  
than ever necessary to reduce the time spent in transporting  
aircraft to operational carriers. Transport by C.V.E. is  
considerably faster than by commercial shipment; also C.V.Es.  
can take erected aircraft and thus avoid the waste of time in  
preparing aircraft for commercial shipment and erecting them  
again at their destination.

(3) In view of the foregoing it is much regretted that no  
British C.V.Es. can be made available to the U.S. Pacific Fleet  
and that it is now necessary for us to ask for the return of  
ATHELING, RAJAH and TRACKER whose present assignment terminated  
with the conclusion of hostilities in Europe.

(Head of M.11, Approved V.C.N.S., 280341B to Comnavu.)

U.S. ships Com. Task Unit 125.10.6 in P.C.1596 reports for  
for U.S.A. duty with P.Cs. mentioned in Com. N.O.B. Oran's  
261510\*.

(C.T.U.125.10.6., 280615Z to Cinclant.)

\* Details of intended sailings.

O.N.303 My 272358Z, not to all. O.N.303. In view of  
Convoy C. in C. C.N.A.'s 280009Z convoy is proceeding  
Collisions 180° 6 knots in an endeavour to gain improved  
with visibility.  
Icebergs (2) Under present conditions it is not possible  
to reform or determine extent of damage.

(3) Believe all ships to be proceeding under own  
steam.

(S.O.E.G.B.1, 280845Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Main body of convoy 64 ships altering course at 1717Z to  
300° 6 knots in position 041° 01' N. 049° 03' W. proceeding  
direct to Munro. Visibility 10 miles.

(2) INMAN and LOTUS with main body. POPPY near turning  
position. My 281814Z part 1.

(S.O.E.G.B.1, 281807Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

O.N.303 Bams signal has been made requesting ships requiring  
assistance to report their P.C.S. H.M. tug TENACITY E.T.A. in area  
at 0230Z 29th.

(2) Report your P.C. and S. and R/V for 1500Z 29th as soon as  
possible.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 281851Z to Ships escorting O.N.303.)

My 281807Z part 2 not transmitted. Situation 1900 P convoy  
70 ships reforming. All B.1 E.G. present.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

O.N.303  
convoy  
Collisions  
with  
Icebergs.  
(Contd.)

(2) Request R/V for 291400Z 042° 08' N. 052° 13' W. may broadcast on B.A.M.S.  
(3) (Battleships?) not present consider 1 to Northward proceeding independently.  
(4) No ships in danger of sinking under present conditions.  
(5) P.C.S. 041° 08' N. 049° 54' W.  
(X) 300° 7.5 weather report 0945 1322 suitable.  
(S.O.E.G.B.1, 282355Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

M.M.S.  
for U.K.

Departure Halifax 0900Z/28th May M.M.S.1058 (S.O.)  
1059 1067 in company to Horta Azores  
E.T.A. 0800Z/5.  
(3) Upon arrival Horta request you sail M.M.S. to U.K. or as directed by Admiralty.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 280926Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

U.G.S./G.U.S.  
convoys

As of 0001Z/29th May will discontinue U.G.S./G.U.S. convoy system on basis of being a trade convoy.  
(Cominch, 281325Z to Admty.)

U-boat  
dispositions

1200Z 28th May. No fresh information.  
(N.S.H.Q., 281343Z and Cominch 281345.)

Patrol  
recall

Abandon patrol forthwith and with INCH ARRAN in company proceed direct Halifax.  
(2) Attention is drawn to C.T.G. (?30.7) Daily Ice Bulletins.  
(3) Report E.T.A. Halifax as soon as known.  
(F.O.N.F., 281424Z to BUCKINGHAM.)  
Your 281424 acknowledged. E.T.A. Halifax 302100Z.  
(BUCKINGHAM, 282005Z to F.O.N.F.)

SHEFFIELD  
(Cruiser)

SHEFFIELD originator departs Boston Light Vessel 2300 29th May.  
En route U.K. Speed 22.5 until 2300 31st May thence 19.  
E.T.A. Portsmouth 0600 Gate, 0700Z 5th June.  
(SHEFFIELD, 281502 to Admiralty.)

Convoy  
U.G.S.95

U.G.S.95. When appropriate after daylight tomorrow Tuesday disperse convoy to proceed independently to destinations complying with International rules of the road.  
Commodore and Vice Commodore with Staffs transfer to escort vessels for return U.S.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 281610Z to C.T.G.60.8.)

E.Gs.  
dissolution /  
of

Escort Groups 27 and 28 hereby dissolved.  
H.M.C. Ships ST. THERESE (S.O.) COATICOOK, LASALLE are designated temporarily W.13 to be employed as in para. 2 N.S.H.Q. 252303 not to all.  
(C. in C.C.N.A., 281839Z to Capt. D. Halifax.)

28.5.1945  
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

L.S.I.(L)s  
ex Force  
from  
Pacific

EMPIRE MACE Senior Officer with EMPIRE ARQUEBUS  
and EMPIRE BATTLEAXE E.T.D. New York Gate 1430/  
29th May for United Kingdom. Thence to United  
Kingdom port to be designated. S.O.A. 13 kts.  
E.T.A. Fastnet 0330/8th June.  
(EMPIRE MACE, 282010Z to Comeastseafon.)

U-boat  
attack

Attacking submarine in position 40.31 N. 63.43 W.  
Torpedo fired.  
(KAMSACK, 282046Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)  
My 282046. Two attacks carried out, oil slicks  
on surface. One Hedgehog one depth charge.

Lost contact carrying out Square search.  
(KAMSACK, 282215Z and 290330Z, to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Monsters?

Your 142217 and 152244. D. of S.T. has been  
informed that the risk to these ships is now  
very slight and that Admiralty have no objection  
to their operating in the N. Atlantic.

(2) Proposed programme will be put forward through usual  
channels.  
(D.O.D.(H) 282251B to B.A.D.)

Far East and Australia

BERRY HEAD

Your 251403\*. It is probable that BERRY HEAD  
will be required to proceed from Vancouver to  
Leyte via Manus.

(2) Request confirmation that she will be fitted  
and manned in all respects ready for service without having to  
call Australia.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 280703Z to Admty.)  
\* BERRY HEAD E.T.D. 23rd June. FLAMBOROUGH HEAD date uncertain.

Promulgation  
of signalled  
operational  
reports of  
B.F.  
operations

(1) The following arrangements are intended and  
will be brought into force in latter part of June.  
Reports will be:

(a) Passed to addressees of this message.  
(b) Addressed to "B.P.F. operational report No...  
from C. in C. B.P.F."  
(c) Normally operational priority Top Secret.

(2) From a signal routing point of view C. in  
C. B.P.F. wishes to keep recipients of these  
reports to a minimum. There is, of course, no objection to  
authorities addressed making further arrangements for their local  
dissemination.

(3) It is requested that H.M. Ships and selected Officers on  
passage to the Pacific may be given access to these reports as  
necessary.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 280849Z to C. in C. Med. etc.)

703

28.5.1945  
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSFar East and Australia - Contd.

Blue  
Summary  
27th.  
Ryukus.

Land based aircraft and gunfire from NEW YORK (BB 34) VINCENNES (CL 64) and NEW ORLEANS (CA 32) killed an estimated 500 enemy troops spotted moving South about 2 miles southeast of Naha on 26th. RALPH TALBOT (DD 390) destroyed 2 native boats filled with troops and explosives off Wakagasuku Wan. P.C.1603 hit by 2 suicide planes was abandoned. Close air support by T.A.F. limited to 51 sorties by weather. 6 enemy aircraft splashed by CAP CVE planes struck Sakishima Gunto on the 26th. Further reports on 24/25 enemy raids show ships' guns shot down 4 additional enemy planes. T.A.F. now reports 1 pilot missing. C.T.F.58 shot down 4 enemy aircraft near Force 1 additional. Com. 3rd Fleet relieved Com. 5th Fleet of command of Naval Forces in combat area 272400/1 (Minus 9). T.F.57 departed combat area on 26th.

Searches Empire area. F.A.W.1 plane sank 3 SD 1, SC 1 coastal trawler. Damaged 1 DE 3 SD. F.A.W.18 planes sank 1 F.T.C., 3 fishing boats. Probably sank 1 diesel trawler. Damaged 2 SD.

Empire. 28 B.29s night 26/27 mines inland sea. 88 enemy aircraft attacks reported 23 enemy aircraft destroyed. 48 B.29 airmen have been rescued. 82 B.29s sustained battle damage. Photo plane over Tokyo 26th reported many fires in palace area. Clouds prevented photo assessment.

Submarines. 4 S.W.P.A. pilots rescued by Blue Submarine. 3 Submarine contacts reported in Okinawa area. (Cincpac Adv. H.Q., 280911 to All Commands.)

Digest  
1223  
27.5.45  
extract

(1) Privateer from Palawan inspected Singapore closely for 25 minutes midday 26th sighting two previously reported heavy cruisers (one Nachin plus one Takao) in usual positions Johore Strait. Plus one other vessel of heavy cruiser size EB barge nearby. Other ships seen general Singapore area included 18 escort type vessels, 5 large merchant ships, scores of small coastal freighters also convoy consisting of five freighter transports two escort vessels with fighter cover 30 miles East of Singapore Boudse 10°.

(2) Special Singapore search dusk 27th sighted two known heavy cruisers in Johore Strait also additional heavy cruiser, Nachin class apparently fully operational, anchored outside Singapore Breakwater. Several merchant ships seen but nil other warships identified.

(6) Four R.A.A.F. Catalinas mined Wenchow waters night 26th.

(15) Warhawks and P.T. boats jointly attacked Sandakan forenoon: several barracks buildings demolished, gun positions hit and minimum 3 sea trucks destroyed.

R.A.N. Sloop and Motor Launch strafed Jap positions on Islands off Wewak 26th.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 281120Z to Admty.)

UGANDA  
C. in C. B.P.F. 070201. Admty. concur that UGANDA should return to Canada as soon as she can be spared by C. in C. B.P.F.  
(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S., 281319B to N.S.H.Q., C. in C. B.P.F.)

/Movements...

28.5.1945

Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia - Contd.

Movements Arrival 26th Brisbane H.M.A.S. DIAMANTINA;  
H.M.A.S. Morotai H.M.A.S. BUNBURY; Biak Island H.M.A.S.  
BATAAN BATHURST, H.M.A.S. COWRA.  
commissioned 27th. Morotai H.M.A.S. LACHLAN, H.M.A.S. WAGGA;  
Madang H.M.A.S. STUART.  
Departure 26th Sydney H.M.A.S. STRAHAN for  
Townsville; Morotai H.M.A.S. BUNBURY for Biak  
Island. H.M.A.S. BATAAN (Tribal class destroyer) commissioned  
at Sydney N.S.W. 25th.  
(A.C.N.B., 281631Z to Admty.)

Aircraft F.O.N.A.S.(A) 282352Z Admiralty, C. in C. B.P.F.)  
repairs See Lion Copy.  
B.P.F.  
(requirements  
etc)

U-boat There is nothing fresh to report on the U-boat  
reports. situation. As from today this daily signal  
Discontinuing will be discontinued.  
of (D.D.I.C., 281451B to A.I.G. Cominch.)

SECRET

F E & A.

IN  
704A

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: F.O.N.A.S. (A)

*Aircraft repairs etc.*

282352Z/May

*B.P.F. requirements* Date: 31.5.45

*maintenance*

Recd: 2240

CCM (NAVAL) GEN. (SEC) BY W/T

Addressed: Admiralty

Info: C. in C. B.P.F., V.A. (Q), A.C. one, R.A.F.T.

Further to my 160033Z/May (not to R.A.F.T.) and to my 210455Z/March the requirements for major inspection and medium repairs at the rate of 12% per month or a maximum IE of 1,200 have now been considered. (Note figures denote IE which each facility will support and estimated output of aircraft per month) existing and planned facilities have the following capacity -

(A) Fleet aircraft maintenance groups. PIONEER and DEERSOUND 150 (18)  
PERSEUS and HOLM SOUND 150 (18)  
UNICORN and CULLIN SOUND 125 (15). Total 425 (51).

(B) TAMY one Brisbane 125 (15)

(C) MR.1 and MR.2 200 (24) a total of 750 (90) leaving a deficiency of 450 (54).

2. The addition of MRs 3, 4 and 5 would provide for 300 (36).

3. This will leave an outstanding deficiency of 150 (18). It seems preferable in every way to try to meet this as far as possible from existing civilian resources rather than to provide and set up additional naval facilities. If negotiations now in progress with DAF are successful, the capacity of Clyde Engineering Bank Town added to that of Australia National Airways Mascot will provide for 100 (12) and the deficiency of 50 (6) could be disregarded for the present. If negotiations are not ~~repeat-not~~ successful proposals will have to be forwarded for additional MR capacity. Further signal will be made.

4. Engine overhaul. The present arisings are extremely low - about 4% per month. Assuming a rate as high as 10%, the requirement is for 120 engines which can be covered adequately by the FAMAG and TAMY one which has been laid out for 100 engines per month and could attain this figure if manned up. (My 271435/January not to A.C.1 refers). No further action required but the possibility that one of the engine repair ships will not be required on this station might be borne in mind.

Component repair. The method of operation of the carriers necessarily reduces the arisings of repairable aircraft and components to a low figure. So far as can be seen the FAMAG and TAMY ONE should be fully capable of dealing with the load. Civilian repair capacity also exists and the capacity of TAMY ONE is capable of expansion if necessary. No further action required.

6. TAMY TWO. The additions of TAMY TWO is not ~~repetition not~~ considered necessary as adequate engine overhaul and component repair capacity to cover the total IE is considered already to exist.

7. Reserve storage. The total requirement is estimated as 12 MSR components of which 3, 4, 7 and 8 have been formed on the station. MSRs 9 and 10 may be required with Monab 7. F.O.N.A.S. (A) 120309Z May. Para. 3 not to AC or RAFT refers. The necessity for MSRs 11 and 12 and further MSRs will depend upon the rate of build up and numbers of reserves being provided.

282352Z

Top secret circulation.

1st Lord  
 1st S.L.(3)  
 D.F.S.L.(2)  
 2nd S.L.  
 3rd S.L.  
 4th S.L.  
 5th S.L.(Air)  
 V.Cont.(Air)  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S.(F)  
 A.C.N.S.(A)(2)  
 A.C.N.S.(W)  
 A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
 Sec.  
 Dep.Sec.  
 r.a.s.(S)  
 C.D.(6)  
 O.I.C.(3)  
 D.N.I.(5)  
 D. of P.(3)  
 D. of P.(Q)(3)  
 M.(2)  
 Air Br.

D.N.A.O.(2)(AOD 137/45)  
 D.A.W.T.  
 D.A.C.R.(3)  
 D.A.E.(4)  
 D.N.A.R.(3)  
 D.A.M.R.(2)  
 D. of S.(6)  
 C.N.R.(M.A.P.)(3)  
 N.A.2 S.L.(Air)(2)  
 E.A.F.  
 A.C.N.P.(4)  
 D. of M.  
 C.W.(2)  
 N.Br.  
 D.T.S.D.  
 D.D.A.S.(L)  
 Ad.Blake  
 W.D.

Dep.Cont.(3)  
 D.A.S.(4)  
 D.N.O.(4) } Bath (19)  
 C.I.N.O.(3) } by courier  
 S.W.R.(6)

DP  
60

# RESTRICTED.

E. EAST  
OF AUSTRALIA.

704 B

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.**

*Release of men in B.P.F*

280811Z May

Date 16.6.45

Received 0825

From: C. in C.B.P.F.

C.C.M.(5 Services) GEN R BY CABLE

Addressed: B.P.F. 140P

The latest information regarding:

(1) The relief in the B.P.F. of men to be released to civil life and

(2) The B.P.F. home service roster for men who will continue to serve but who are near to completing their period of service abroad is as follows.

2. Class A releases, reliefs to effect these are going ahead and from all available records the following is the position today:

- (A) Groups 1 - 4 all have been relieved except three higher ratings and are on their way home.
- (B) Groups 5 - 6 contain 61 men. Reliefs except for two have arrived in Australia and the majority are being sent to ships as soon as possible.
- (C) Group 7 contains 68 men. Reliefs for the majority are on way by sea and will arrive in Australia mid June.
- (D) Group 8 contains 37 men. Some can be relieved mid June. All reliefs have been asked for.
- (E) Groups 9 - 12 contain 135. A certain number will be relieved shortly and the majority will have been relieved by October.
- (F) Groups 13 - 20. So far as is known these groups will continue to be relieved at regular intervals as is done for earlier groups.

3. Class B releases. These will be made by nomination of individuals from sources in the U.K. No information is yet available.

4. Officers. There are 30 officers in groups 1 - 4 and 120 in groups 5 - 12. None have yet been relieved but warning signals about some officers in group one have been received. It is hoped that a number of officers in groups 1 - 7 will be relieved on the station before the end of the year.



5. Passage home. Men relieved are sent home by special transports at monthly intervals. The passage takes 4 - 6 weeks.

6. Instructions about releases, A.F.O.s on insurance, issue of plain clothes, pay during leave after release, continuation of allotments, gratuities etc. have been issued and will shortly be received by the Fleet.

7. Home service roster. Ratings who are not due for discharge to the shore are placed on the home service roster on completion of two years service abroad and it has so far been possible to relieve the majority at two years and three months.

8. C. in C.'s remarks. Whilst endeavouring to carry out the plans laid down by the Government individual cases of delay must occur since I have to consider the merits of urgent compassionate relief, sickness, shortage of certain key ratings and the fighting efficiency of the Fleet.

9. I give my personal attention to all these questions and the Admiralty is doing its best to assist.

280811Z

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)  
2nd S.L.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
Sec.  
Dep. Sec.  
Nav. Sec.  
P.A.S. (D)  
P.A.S. (NP) (2)  
D. of P. (3)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
O.D. (6)  
D.T.D. (6)  
M. (6)  
N.  
A.C.N.P. (6)  
D. of M.  
C.W. (4)  
N.A.2 S.L. (4)  
N.L.  
A.C.R.  
D.C.O.P. (5)  
Naval Repat. Office  
G.O.C.R.M. (4)  
D.A/S.M. (2)  
D.W.R.N.S. (2)  
D.T.S.D.  
W.D.

D.P.

705

29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. Coast artillery defences in the U.K. are no longer required on an operational basis, and all guns and searchlights are to be placed in care and maintenance.

North Sea. / 2. Cuxhaven is now open to urgent shipping. All repair facilities are available, but German labour is not at present allowed on board

Channel. / 3. On release from operations, all the French ~~FLOWER~~ class corvettes are to assemble at Plymouth prior to sailing for Cherbourg.

4. C. in C. Plymouth left in FAULKNER to visit the Channel Islands.

/ 5. Supplementary rations, from indigenous supplies, were available to the public in Jersey today, and 522 cases of oranges arrived.

Western Approaches. / 6. Escort Group C.1 (HALLOWELL, GIFFARD, ARNPRIOR and BELLEVILLE) left the Clyde today for St. Johns N.F.

7. The Canadian corvettes VILLE DE QUEBEC, MOOSEJAW, ALGOMA and SUMMERSIDE left Greenock today for Halifax, N.S.

/ 8. The King of Norway hopes to return to his country on June 7 (anniversary both of his departure and of the separation of Norway from Sweden). Admiralty have placed the NORFOLK, escorted by the DEVONSHIRE and four destroyers, at his disposal.

Norway. / 9. BERWICK, with the destroyer ZEST, left Rosyth for Bergen, and NORFOLK, with the destroyer ZEPHYR, left for Trondheim, carrying troops.

/ 10. The 54th (Norwegian) M.T.B. Flotilla is to be transferred from Lerwick to Bergen.

11. N.O.I.C. Trondheim sailed 10 U-Boats for Scapa at 1300B, and N.O.I.C. Kristiansand sailed 15 U-Boats for Scapa at 1400B.

/Baltic...

29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

Baltic. / 12. M.T.B. 631, captured by the enemy from the Norwegians, has been located at Flensburg by the OPPORTUNE and towed to Eckernforde.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Greece. 13. The Dutch ship MARS (1582 tons) carrying high octane was mined at 6.20 p.m. today in approaches to Patras. She was proceeding from Alexandria to Preveza (west coast Greece). She was completely burnt out.

Levant.  
Syria  
disorders. / 14. Trouble has been brewing for some time in Syria between the French and the Syrian Government. Disorders broke out in Damascus today. Firing was general and the town was bombed by the French.

America & West Indies.

Movement. 15. SHEFFIELD left Boston (U.S.A) for Portsmouth (U.K.)

Far East and Australia.

Formosa. / 16. 110 U.S. Liberators dropped 316 tons on docks and military installations at Kiirun today causing a large explosion and starting fires.

Japan. / 17. 480 escorted U.S. Super Fortresses dropped 3429 tons of incendiaries on Yokohama. Results were excellent.

Movement. 18. ILLUSTRIOUS left Fremantle for Aden.

707

29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Showing the  
flag in  
Continental  
Ports.

Scapa arrival at 0605 SAVAGE.  
(C. in C. H.F., 290708B to N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven.)

Escort Group  
C.1 for  
Canada.

Take ships addressed under your orders and proceed to pass Clyde Gate at 1230B today 29th to St. Johns N.F. for onward routeing to Halifax. S.O.A. 12 knots, reporting own E.T.A. (Route).  
(3) Admiralty is requested to divert mails as necessary.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 291014B to S.O.E.G. C. 1,  
F.O.N.F. Info. Admty., and others.)

Sailed S.O.E.G.C.1 in HALLOWELL, with GIFFARD, ARNPRIOR, BELLEVILLE in accordance with my 291014.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 291244B to F.O.N.F.)

Corvettes  
for Canada.

Sailed VILLE DE QUEBEC (S.O.) MOOSEJAW, ALGOMA and SUMMERSIDE in accordance with my 281144.  
Mails to Halifax.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 291106B to C. Supt. Halifax.)

Lapse of  
W. App.  
Command,  
boundaries.

A.M. 262039 and C. in C. W.A's 281655. Concur that Northern boundary of Liverpool sub-command as shown on Chart Y.7, should be the dividing line between Plymouth and Rosyth Commands.  
(2) Consider, however, that in order as far as possible to cover the coast of Eire by the command of one C. in C., the boundary in the Atlantic

be described by a line drawn 270° from Malin Head to boundary of Home Station.

(C. in C. Plymouth 291115B to Admty.)

Reply: From C. in C. Rosyth see 301337B.

A.M. 262039B not to C. in C. Nore and C. in C. H.F.

Consider: A. Division between C. in C. Nore and C. in C. Rosyth should be a line drawn along 55.46 E. from Berwick-on-Tweed to Denmark.

B. Division between C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C. Plymouth should be existing present boundary of Liverpool sub-command as shown on chart Y.7 and Atlantic boundary a line drawn 270° from Sligo Bay lat. 54.20.

C. Between lines A and B, C. in C. Rosyth's command should be all Scotland and include Orkneys, Shetlands and Western Isles and North Ireland.

D. Eastern, northern and western boundaries should be those of Home Stations.

(C. in C. Rosyth 292156B to Admty.)

Reply from C. in C. Nore 011518B June.

/Flag...

29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - Contd.

Flag of F.O.N.A.S. Intend that the flag of Vice Admiral D.W. Boyd, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.C., be hoisted at N.A.S. Eastleigh at 0800 on 1st June. My flag to be struck in DAEDALUS at sunset on that date and flag of Vice Admiral Boyd to be transferred to DAEDALUS at 0800 on 2nd June.  
(F.O.N.A.S. 291140 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

U-Boat laying up Ports. / It appears that all U-Boats coming from Norway are likely to arrive without torpedoes and with crews already reduced. Their call at L. Alsh will consequently become unnecessary.  
(2) N.O.I.C. L. Alsh is requested therefore to sail AYLNER and BLIGH to Scapa as soon as submarine parties, interpreters and other specialists have been embarked.

(3) Intention is that subject to concurrence of C. in C. H.F. preparation of U-Boats for laying up should now be completed at Scapa and that U-Boats should sail from there direct to Lisahally or Loch Ryan.

(C. in C. W.A., 291259B to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, C. in C. H.F.)

My 281157 and 291259 neither to all. Amend destination of GRINDALL to read Scapa.

(C. in C. W.A. 291604B to N.O.I.C. Barrow.)

Sailed E.G. 5 in AYLNER, BLIGH in company. E.T.A. Scapa 0700B/30th May. C. in C. W.A.'s 291259B refers.

(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh 292201B to C. in C. H.F.)

It is requested that the 12 U-Boats arriving tomorrow, Wednesday, may be allocated as follows:-

Lisahally, five 500 tonners and one 1200 tonner.

Loch Ryan, one 740 tonner and five type XXIII.

It has been confirmed that Captain Submarine Loch Ryan is prepared in this instance to accept his six U-Boats in one group.

(2) Of the 15 U-Boats arriving from Christiansand South about 1st June, the five 500 tonners should go to Lisahally and the ten type XXIII's to Loch Ryan.

(3) Thereafter, all U-Boats except the 1200 tonners and type XXI's should be sailed to Loch Ryan. Captain Submarine Loch Ryan after experience has been gained, is requested to report at what rate he can receive U-Boats and whether their E.T.A's are required to be adjusted to fit tides.

(4) For escort and armed guard duties between Scapa and laying-up ports all available escorts may be employed subject to the following requirements:

A. E.G. 30 to arrive Londonderry as soon as possible after return from Bergen.

B. AYLNER, BLIGH, STOCKHAM, BALFOUR, HELMSDALE, TYLER are available for U-Boat escort until operation is completed.

C. Remaining ships are required at their bases as soon as they can be spared.

(5) Cdre. (D) W.A. and N.O.I.C. Stranraer are requested to ensure a rapid turn-round of escorts and armed guards at their respective laying-up ports.

(6) My 281228 and 291259 refer.

(C. in C. W.A., 292239B to Cdres. (D) H.F., W.A. N.O.I.C. Stranraer, Capt. Submarine Loch Ryan.)

709

29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. - Contd.

French  
Corvettes,  
disposal.

Request that on release from operations, all the French FLOWER class corvettes may be gathered at Plymouth in order to replenish their stores, ammunition and fuel, prior to their sailing to Cherbourg.

A.M. 260404B, addressed to Marine Paris, C. in C. Portsmouth and C. in C. Plymouth, refers. (F.N.G.B. 291430B to Admty.)

Cornish  
operational  
ports closed.

Intend Fowey, Newlyn, St. Ives, Scillies and Padstow cease to be operational ports from 0001B Friday 1st June.. Any relevant signals to be addressed to F.O.I.C. Falmouth. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 291650B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

COLONY class  
frigates,  
Bofors  
mountings.

Your 281843. Request you will report what delay to other work would be involved if the removal of Bofors mountings from COLONY class frigates were to be undertaken by base maintenance staffs. (D.O.D.(H) 291832B to C. in C. W.A.)  
Reply: C. in C. W.A, 011035B June.

Anti-U-Boat  
precautions.

A.G.M. 818A\* Request this restriction may be removed for Nore Command as soon as possible. (C. in C. Nore, 291939B to Admty.)  
\* All H.M. ships in the non-combat area are to continue for the present to observe full war-time precautions against attack by U-Boat.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Reduction of  
coast  
defences.

For information. It has been decided and the War Office have been informed that there is no further naval requirement for coast artillery defences in the U.K. to be maintained on an operational basis.  
All coast artillery guns and searchlights in the U.K. will therefore shortly be placed in care and maintenance.  
(D. of L.D. 292131B to Cs. in C., etc.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Mine,  
Cuxhaven.

Floating mine sunk 2200B/28th May in position 317° Cuxhaven Beacon 2.3 miles. Type GY Star with top horn blanked off or broken and possibly with Snagline attached. Top half painted white and mine appeared to be in fairly new condition. Mine was first sighted on south side of boom where boom vessels had been working.  
(Capt. M/S Force C 290645B to N.O.I.C. Cuxhaven.)

/Return...

710

29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Return of  
King of  
Norway.

King of Norway has expressed desire to return to Norway in one of H.M. ships if possible arriving on 7th June, the anniversary both of his departure from Norway in 1940 and of the separation of Norway from Sweden.

(2) NORFOLK escorted by DEVONSHIRE and four destroyers is being placed at the disposal of H.M. and it is intended that she should sail p.m. 5th June to arrive Oslo p.m. 7th June.

(3) Request confirmation that these arrangements are acceptable to S.H.A.E.F. Immediate reply is requested as H.M. desires to have four days' notice of date of sailing.

(4) F.O. Norway pass to General Thorne.  
(V.C.N.S. 290937B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Minesweeping East Schelde. Ref. your 171543. Following sweeping has been done over north and central lines.

A. LL/SA/HG 32 actuations.

B. Pulsing hammers, actuations.

C. Static sweep 24 hours T.1000 amps.

D. Routine IZACBAR A sweeping for 5 days after static sweep.

(2) During A. detonated 2 coast acoustic and 1 a.m.

(3) Consider mines in north and central line no longer dangerous.

(4) Intend completing static sweep of southern line on return of M.M.S. 1030 from U.K.

(Com. M/S East Schelde 290937B to F.O. Holland.)

Minesweeping, Heligoland Bight. Your 281703 (general directive for 18th and 10th M/S F. whilst sweeping Heligoland Bight Channel). Present commitments make it impracticable to comply with para. 3. My intentions consequently

are for 10th M/S Flotilla to complete minimum of 12 actuations to 6.5 cables east centre line

P.10 to P.15 B. as in A. but for east read west, C. p.m. 2nd June 10th M/S Flotilla to Cuxhaven for fuel and 5 days maintenance period, D. 18th M/S F. escort convoys, assisting 10th M/S F. as required and sweeping as a flotilla when sufficient ships rejoining and convoy escorting allowed.

(2) Earliest date of completion A. and B. above, 2nd June.

(3) All repair facilities now available Cuxhaven including slipping but German labour not at present allowed on board.

(4) Provision of maintenance shore spares is dealt with in signal following.

(S.O. 18 M/S F. 291156B to C. in C. Nore.)

Sweeping by German M/S.

Request you will signal following information to A.N.C.X.F., Info. Admiralty, when a mine is swept by German M/S.

(a) Ship sweeping mine. (b) Position of mine.  
(c) Type of mine (ground or moored).

(2) Form in which amplifying reports are to be rendered will be communicated as soon as decided.

(A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 291545B to F.Os. Denmark, Norway, W. Germany, Kiel, Holland.) Addition, see 012238B.

/Situation..

War Diary.

29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Situation report.

Summary No. 145 dated 29th May, 1945.  
Covering period 272400B to 282400B.

Para. 1. Operations.

At Freimann (Y.8562) 68 tons of documents found thought to include records all party members list of party district courts and records of highest party court; also S.A. administration files and correspondence between Chancellory and S.A. leaders.

Abundance German counterfeit money circulating area St. Johann (E.5391), Salzburg appears source. South of Spittal (C.69) small area with strong security system reported held by undetermined number Germans including SS.

Small plant for production jet aircraft located Q.870585; Czech guards in control.

Papers found on suspect Düsseldorf included list of names and details of plan whereby Werewolf members to be introduced into C.I.C. and M.G. circles: five people apprehended so far. (S.H.A.E.F. 291615B to Admty., etc.)

Convoy C.U.L. 1.

- (1) Intend sailing convoy C.U.L. 1 from Brunsbüttel anchorage at 1400B/31st to Humber.  
(2) Speed 7.1/3 knots. E.T.A. P.10 buoy 0200/1st, D.6 buoy 0300/2nd, Spurn Point 1400 /2nd.  
(3) Escort LOCH RONALD.

\* V.L.C. intended, see page 627

(4) British ships ROLFSBURG, ERICUS, TOLSTAHEAD, SALERNO, SAN UBALDO. American ship Y.71, Belgian ship ESPAGNE, Dutch ship GOUWE, German ships SYLT, ILL, QUERSEE, KATTENTURN, GINNHEIM, SPRAX, NEIDENFELS, CAMMIN, PAUL HARNETT, POSEIDON, GRETE, OSTFRIESLAND, MITTELMEER, \*RUDOLF ALBRECHT, WANGONI.  
(Care. Hamburg 291647B to C. in C. Nore., N.O.I.C. Humber.)

\*RUDOLF ALBRECHT

Minesweeping to Hamburg.

Operation "Dropkick".

- (1) 4 pairs Lamod sweeping between Boom and P.15 buoy. Oropesa Cuxhaven to Brunsbüttel by 5 M.L. One ship S.A. protective escort L.A.C. one.  
(2) Nil. (3) Nil. (4) Nil.  
(Capt. M/S Force C, 291907B to C. in C. Nore.)

A.N.C.X.F. Situation report.

Cositintrep No. 420 part 2 naval. Cuxhaven, open to urgent shipping. Storage facilities available for 30,000 tons of oil fuel and 2,000 tons of diesel oil. Depth of water at 668 berth is 30 feet at low water.

(2) U.S.S. JOHN WOOLMAN mined while in convoy 16 miles N.E. of Dunkirk at 2253/27th, but was later taken in tow and arrived Southend 1805/28th. (Burrough, 292330B.)

/Minesweeping...



29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Minesweeping Operation "Fireball".  
to Rotterdam (1) A. LL/SA - E.G.M.S. Fransche Bankje to T.X. 4  
and 11 actuation whole width.  
B. LL/SA - E.G.M.S. - I.M. 7 to T.X. 4 - 2  
actuation whole width.  
C. L. AA. North Sea Canal commenced.  
D. Oropesa by 3 M.Ls. at Amsterdam.  
(2) One in Maashaven not previously reported.  
(3) Survey work in Ymuiden anchorage and Marsdiep foreshore.  
(4) 2 cwt. 507 A paint.  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. G 20 paint.  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. 502 blue  
paint.  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. 501 black paint. 1 cwt. 376 paint.  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. 503  
paint.  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. paste dryers. 5 gallons varnish. 5 gallons white  
spirit.  
(5) 10 M.M.S. and one R.M.L. to Den Helder, 3 M.M.S. I.M. 7  
to T.X. 4 and return 4 B.Y.M.S. Ymuiden anchorage, B.Y.M.S. 2213  
and WARDOUR to Sheerness, one M.L. Den Helder to Ymuiden, 5  
M.M.S. (L.A.A.) North Sea Canal, M.L. 221 to Den Helder and  
return, M.L. 217 Den Helder to Ymuiden.  
(Capt. M/S F.A., 292359B to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations.

Channel.

C. in C. Sailed FAULKNER. My 262214\* and 281026+ refer.  
Plymouth (C. in C. Plymouth, 290727B to N.O.I.C. C.I.)  
to Channel \* Intend visiting Channel Islands on 29th and  
Islands. 30th May in FAULKNER.  
+ FAULKNER pass Gate at 0730 and proceed to Jersey.

Channel Cositintrep 420, force 135.  
Islands Part I period ending 2000B/29th May at St. Peter  
Situation Port. Para. 1. Sub-para. C. Guernsey.  
Report. One German killed 28 May lifting mines and one  
so severely injured that he died in hospital  
same evening.  
Para. 2. Sub-para. A. Guernsey. Officers no  
change. Other ranks seem subdued possibly on account of accident  
referred to in para. 1., sub-para. C. above.  
Para. 3. Sub-para. B. Alderney. 618 Field Company Royal Engineers  
are engaged in supervision of mine lifting, wire clearing, and  
repairs to machinery for essential services.  
Sub-para. E. Alderney. 20% posts and 400 yards barbed wire  
removed 727347. Minefield area 717345, mines lifted 207.  
Minefield area 755344, mines lifted 142. 280 mines destroyed  
29 May.  
Guernsey. Minefield Jerbourg 470029, mines lifted 19.  
Les Terres Point 472055, mines lifted 22.  
Les Terres 470058, mines lifted 49.  
Minefield area 472032 cleared.  
Lanresse Common 4811, mines lifted 552.  
Mont Saint 4007, mines lifted 187.

/Underwater...

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29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Channel  
Islands  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

Underwater obstacles.  
Rocquaine Bay squares 3806 and 3805, mines cleared and stakes 30% cleared.  
La Lague 3704, mines cleared and stakes 80% cleared.  
Jersey. Total mines cleared 28 May, 2874.  
Para. 4. Sub-para. C. Jersey. Civil affairs report supplementary ration from indigenous supplies were available to public 28 May. 2 ounces Butter, 4 ounces Fresh Meat, children under 6 excluded. 522 cases oranges arrived 28 May.  
(Force 135, 292030B to Admty.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

Ex-German  
M/S for  
Lorient.

C.T.F. 122's 281450B (being passed to Admiralty).  
When ready and complete with fuel, request you will sail ex-German M/S 432, 442 and 452 escorted by HOLMES to Lorient.  
(2) Route. Comar Lorient is requested to arrange for Vedette with Pilot to meet ships at R/V.

(3) Attention is called to last para. of C.T.F. 122's 281450B.  
(4) On completion of escort duties HOLMES to return to Plymouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291212B to N.O.I.C. Channel Islands.)  
Amended by 301116B, q.v.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Air-Sea  
Rescue ships

Sailed LANCASTER CASTLE, DUMBARTON CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE in accordance with my 281834B.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 290836B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A.)

2nd E.G.

2nd E.G. leave patrol at 0500B/30 and proceed to Liverpool signalling E.T.A. direct. WILD GOOSE acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291217B to 2nd E.G.)

Smoke floats  
from A/C in  
Western  
Approaches.

Cancel my 060029A February, 1945.  
(C. in C. W.A., 291815B to F.Os. i/c., etc.)

29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Norwegian Government to Oslo.

C. in C. Rosyth's 271735B amended by 281000B, sailed T.B. 290815.  
(LOCHINVAR, 290815 to F.O. Norway.)

Troops to Norway in cruisers.

My 282155.  
Proceed to Bergen as originally arranged.  
(C. in C. H.F., 290830B to BERWICK.)  
BERWICK and ZEST sailed.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 291815B to N.O.I.C. Bergen.)  
Sailed NORFOLK and ZEPHYR.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 291907B to N.O.I.C. Trondheim.)

Eight U-Boats from Stavanger Wednesday, 30th May.  
C. in C. Rosyth's 271546B. E.T.A. 1230B  
BAYNTUN 3 500 ton and 5 250-ton German U-Boats in company.  
(E.G. 20 in TAVY, 290953B to C. in C. H.F.)

When U-Boats have entered Scapa TAVY and BAYNTUN proceed to Bergen. Route east of Orkneys and Shetlands and north of Q.Z.Y. 595 to position 60.08 N. 04.52 E.  
N.O.I.C. Bergen is requested to arrange pilot to meet in above position.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 291745B to TAVY, N.O.I.C. Bergen.)

Ten U-Boats from Trondheim.

Intend sailing at 1230B today Tuesday 29th the following German U-Boats to Scapa Flow escorted by LOCH FYNE (S.O.), KEATS and KEMPTHORNE.  
(2) 9 type ~~2~~ C as follows: U.483\*, U.773, U.775, U.953, U.978, U.994, U.1019, U.10(723)+, U.1203, one type ~~SDC2~~ number (?) 861.  
(3) Route A. 063° 33' N. 007° 26' E. B. 062° 45' N. 003° (? 30' or 35') E. C. 060° 54' N. 000° 26' W. D. 060° 24' N. 000° 36' W. E. 058° 48' N. 002° 00' W. thence Scapa Flow.  
(4) S.O.A. 10 knots, E.T.A Hoxa Gate 1900B/31st May.  
(N.O.I.C. Trondheim 291015B to C. in C. H.F.)  
\* C. in C. H.F., 311805 gives this number as 482.)  
+ C. in C. H.F. 311805 gives this number as 1064.) } See p. 775  
My 291015B and C. in C. W.A.'s 251642.  
A. 9 type ~~2~~ C and 1 type ~~SDC2~~.  
B. No. C. To about 80%. D. None are capable. E. No.  
(N.O.I.C. Trondheim 291020B to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 291015B sailed 1300/29.  
(N.O.I.C. Trondheim 291715B.)

Q.Z.S. Channels off Norway.

Your 281117 (recommendation for promulgation of Q.Z.S.) approved. Request you address these direct to Admiralty, repeated to C. in C. Rosyth and F.O. Norway.  
(F.O. Norway, 291409B to Capt. M/S Norway.)

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29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

- 54th (Nor.) M.T.B. Flotilla to Bergen. All authorities having now concurred. Your 251741B is approved.  
(2) On completion of transfer decision to be obtained whether NARVIK is to remain Bergen or proceed to Trondheim where she was originally allocated.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 291550B to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)
- 15 U-Boats from Kristiansand. My 271635B and 281731. TYLER, CAYMAN and BARBADOS escorting 5 500-ton $\ddot{s}$  and 10 230-ton $\ddot{s}$  German U-Boats sailed 1400B today 29th May.  
(N.O.I.C. Kristiansand, 291626B to C. in C.W.A.)
- STORD, from Tromso. Request you sail N.S. STORD for Rosyth as soon as practicable.  
(2) Ship will be required to join escort referred to in A.M. 290937 not to N.O.I.C. Tromso.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 291732B to F.O. Norway.)
- Four U-Boats from Oslo. When U-Boats have entered Scapa BAHAMAS and LOCH SCAVAIG proceed to Bergen. Route east of Orkneys and Shetlands and north of Q.Z.Y. 595 to position 60.08 N. 04.52 E. N.O.I.C. Bergen is requested to arrange pilot to meet in above position.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 291749B to BAHAMAS, N.O.I.C. Bergen.)
- Passing 26 Buoy. E.T.A. Scapa 0800 tomorrow Wednesday 30th, S.O.A. 11.  
(BAHAMAS, 291815B to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
BAHAMAS 291815 is passed for information.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 292318B to Admty., etc.)
- 13 U-Boats from Bergen. Ref. C. in C. W.A., 251(642?)  
A. 13 Submarines, U.1052, U.1022, U.1061, U.(?707) U.227, U.328, U.868, (?U).245, U.1272, U.1104, U.930, U.1002, U.928 escorted by 30th E.G.  
B. Torpedoes not carried. C. Crew reduced to 30.  
D. Will be signalled by S.O.E.G. E. Crew have been medically examined. Intend sailing 0900/30th May. S.O.A. 12 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Bergen, 291803B to C. in C. W.A.)

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29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy R.A.67. R.A. 67. E.T.A. Clyde Boom (18?)00B/30th. E.T.A. Ben L. vessel 1 ship 0300B/31st. (S.O.E.G. 4 291010B to C. in C. W.A.)

Passage of J.W./R.A.66 (April.)

Convoys J.W./R.A. 66 passed through the U-Boat danger area of the Kola Inlet approaches on 25th April and 29th April without loss to the merchant ships in spite of the presence of probably over half the Arctic U-Boat force.

(2) The measures taken to safeguard the convoy included, in addition to the usual asdic screens -

- A. Use of many scaring depth charges.
- B. Russian submarine chasers to obstruct U-Boat movement at periscope depth near the convoy.
- C. An asdic search well ahead of the convoy.
- D. Sono-buoy barriers laid ten miles ahead of the outer screen by aircraft.
- E. Use of C.S.A. smoke to restrict periscope visibility.

(3) The combined effect of these anti-U-Boat measures appears to have neutralised the enemy's efforts to harm the convoy. It would, however, be of great value if you can ascertain from the U-Boats now in your hands, which formed part of the Arctic force at the time, the extent of the enemy's difficulties which resulted from our counter measures.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 291448B to C. in C. W.A.)  
Reply 301955B, *page 742.*

Ships for Murmansk.

Russian authorities at Murmansk when told of cessation convoy sailings asked me for earliest possible information about sailing of ships earmarked for J.W. 68. Discharge of J.W. 67 proceeding rapidly and they would accept more ships at Murmansk as soon as they can arrive. (S.B.N.O. N. Russia 291824B to Admty. for M.W.T.)

Operations.

Baltic.

Kiel Situation report.

Situation at 2100. Difficulties in completing and screening crews, the absence of coal for bunkers which does not arrive till tomorrow, and the lack of officers to take charge of armed guards have led to postponing sailing merchant ships. Up to 16 should be ready for convoy C.U.L. 2 if officers can be provided by them. Two officers who could ill be spared, left for Hamburg to take passage in L.S.T. to inspect submarine store carriers at Bergen.

/Minesweeping...

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29.5.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Baltic.

Kiel  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

Minesweeping proceeding satisfactorily with minimum supervision.  
/ M.T.B. 631 which was captured from Norwegians was located at Flensburg by OPPORTUNE and has been towed to Eckernförde.  
Situation at Flensburg reported quiet.  
Vice-Admiral Heye and key staff have been concentrated at T.V.A. Nord, Eckernförde for interrogation.  
Have today inspected Flenderwerke Shipyard between Travemünde and Lübeck approx. size of Portsmouth Dockyard. First class machinery shops more up to date than the best U.K. all very complete. Vast store rooms with mixed naval stores. One floating dock for 10,000 ton ships ready to tow away.  
Arranging for Germans to muster above stores.  
(F.O.I.C. Kiel, 292358 to A.N.C.X.F.)

# SECRET

717A IN

Received in W.D.  
10.6.45.

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.)

291444/May

From: Comnaveu

Date: 10.6.45.

Recd: 0615.

P/L BY D/R

Addressed: Cominch

IMPORTANT

With reasonable certainty U-Boats U 1405, U 1406, U 1407 located sunk in Kiel Canal.

291444

Note by W/R. No trace of previous receipt in W.R. Copy of this signal obtained in view of Com. 12 Fleet 071359

1st Lord	O.I.C. (2)
1st S.L. (3)	D.N.I. (5)
D.F.S.L.	D.A/S.W.
V.C.N.S.	D.A/U.D.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.T.D. (4)
A.O.N.S. (F)	D.T.M. (2)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	D.R.E. (3)
P.A.S. (L)	M. (2)
D.C. (2)	Ad. Blake (4)
D.S.O.	W.D.
O.D. (6)	C.N.I. (2)
D.H.O.R.	D.S.R.

PRF  
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29.5.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

HUMMEL, My 281553 (German Motor Vessels HUMMEL (G.R.T.46) and  
NORD, NORD (No.157) sailed for Hamburg. (? 281533  
from intended). Dutch Consul Varberg informs me  
Gothenburg. HUMMEL arrived there a.m. 29th May. Master  
requests our instructions before proceeding  
Hamburg.  
(2) NORD 157 (net registered tonnage) also  
arrived Varberg. She is Dutch ship RISICO seized by Germans.  
Dutch Consul has had her arrested.  
(Consul General Gothenburg, 291402 to Admty.)

Movements

ROBERTS. My 281447B (ROBERTS escorted by FLEETWOOD and  
ACHUSA). Sailed.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 290825B to F.O.I.C.  
Liverpool)

VESPER. (1) Sail at 2000B to-day Tuesday to Rosyth to  
comply with F.O.C.R.F. 231200B/May.  
(2) Weather permitting, speed on passage 20 knots.  
(3) Report E.T.A. to C. in C. Nore before sailing.  
(D. 21, 290953B to VESPER)

German German "Narvik" Class Destroyer Z.39 is to be  
Z.39. sailed to Wilhelmshaven at 0800 tomorrow Wednes-  
day 30th May.  
Lieut. Cdr. Morgan R.N. and Lieut. Weendam R.N.V.R.  
with armed guard provided by 117 R.M. Brigade will  
board ship at (20700). N.O.I.C.Kiel will arrange steaming  
party. F.O.W.G. is requested to arrange sweep as necessary and  
for return of British personnel to Brunsbüttel. E.T.A.  
Brunsbüttel ~~2000~~ 1630.  
A.N.C.X.F. Main's (231)545 refers.  
(F.O. Kiel Command, 291041B to N.O.I.C. Kiel)

CAESAR. Subject to satisfactory completion of trials  
CAESAR expects to be ready to sail p.m. Tuesday  
5th June.  
(2) Request consideration be given to at least  
10 days work-up at Scapa, particularly in view of the complexity  
of the new equipment fitted.  
(D.6, 291155B to Comm. (D) H.F.)

Y.49, Y.49, Y.50 and Y.107 sailed 1115B/29th to U.K.  
Y.50, (F.O. Kiel Command, 291247B to Admty.)  
Y.107.

RUBIS, Escort for RUBIS and TURPIN will be provided.  
TURPIN. Further signal will be made. F.O. S/M 281636  
refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 291316B to F.O. S/M)  
RUBIS and TURPIN to proceed to Gibraltar un-  
escorted.

/LARGS BAY...



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29.5.1945

Tuesday

War DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements

- LARGS BAY. LARGS BAY sailed 0900/29th escorted by SCOURGE, CARYSFORT for Leith.  
C. in C. Rosyth's 271845B refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Tromso, 291432B to C. in C. Rosyth)
- DAHLIA. Your 281635/ Suggest DAHLIA disembark ammunition and armament stores and progress reduction to Category C at Milford Haven since she is already there.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291434B to F.O.C.R.F. etc.)  
/ Request DAHLIA be de-ammunitioned, armament stores landed and reduction progressed at Devonport.
- JAMAICA. On completion of trials JAMAICA is to remain in the Portsmouth Command at 14 days notice until a foreign service crew can be provided.  
(D.O.D.(H) Approved V.C.N.S. 291450B to C. in C. Portsmouth)
- VIDETTE A.S. Portsmouth's 281700. Concur in deferring beaching of VIDETTE provided Reserve Fleet do not thereby lose destoring berth in dockyard or berth suitable for Category (B) ship.  
(2) Presume ship will have completed reduction and that dockyard will assume control and provide shipkeepers.  
(F.O.C.R.F. 291514B to Admty.)
- PRIMULA. Your 281727B (PRIMULA will be ready to sail from Antwerp 9th June. Request destination).  
Request PRIMULA be sailed to Harwich for reduction to category 'C' to be taken in hand on completion of KINGCUP.  
(2) On completion of reduction she should be laid up in a mud berth at Harwich.  
(F.O.C.R.F. 291641B to C. in C. Portsmouth)
- BIRCH,  
DEODAR,  
BLACKTHORN,  
ACACIA. A.M. 282227 (List of ships to be converted to dan-layers). Intend sailing BIRCH, DEODAR 30th May  
BLACKTHORN, ACACIA 1st June.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291743B to Admty.)
- U.249. A.S.E. trails with U.249 have been completed.  
Subject to concurrence of C. in C. W.A. propose vessel should proceed to Loch Ryan for laying up.  
(F.O.S/M, 291802B to Admty.)  
Concur (C. in C. W.A. 300020B)
- KRAKOWIAK  
SLAZAK. Polish destroyers KRAKOWIAK and SLAZAK arrived.  
Your 281203, not to all refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven, 291815B to N.O.I.C. Harwich)

29.5.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

L'ADVENTURE,  
LA DECOUVERTE  
and SURPRISE.

Subject to Admiralty concurrence in my 291837 request intended date of arrival may be communicated as soon as possible and ships sailed in company to C.M. to comply.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291846B to C. in C. Plymouth)

SPITEFUL  
(on passage  
to U.K.)

S/M positions at 0800/30th May and movements for following 24 hours.  
(A) SPITEFUL with M.K.S.103.  
(D.C. 291951B)

FAL.

When ready on completion of work-up FAL should be sailed to Plymouth to adjust complement before rejoining F.O.C.W.Af.  
(2) After adjustment C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail FAL accordingly.  
(D.O.D. (H), 292350B to Cdre. WESTERN ISLES etc.)

Shipping and Convoys

Convoys  
W.V.P.  
V.W.P.

Com. 12th Fleet 281311 not to all confirms that Liberty ships carrying approx. 300 troops may be sailed across the Atlantic independently.  
(2) My 232228 May is therefore amended as follows:  
Para 2A - the suffix (F) for (Fast) can be dropped.

Para. 2B - is cancelled and these Liberty ships will sail independently either direct from Havre to the United States or from Havre to Solent if required to call at Southampton. It is not expected that there will be similar sailings in the reverse direction.

(3) Naval Commodores will not be employed on the W.V.P. and V.W.P. convoys.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291240B to Portsmouth A/S Patrol and Escort Forces C.T.G.122.3 etc.)

Convoy  
C.U.L.1.

*U.L.C. 1 intended,  
see p. 627 + 748*

(1) Intend sailing convoy C.U.L. 1<sup>x</sup> from Brunsbüttel anchorage at 1400B/31st to Humber.  
(2) Speed 7½ knots. E.T.A. P.10 buoy 0200/1st D 6 buoy 0300/2nd. Spurn Point 1400/2nd.  
(Cdre. Hamburg, 291642B to C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C.Humber) *[See also page 711.]*

Canadian  
Park ships  
from U.K.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa requires earliest advance information of sailing of Canadian Park ships from U.K.

(2) N.C.S.O's having such ships in port are to keep in touch with their agents and report expected sailing dates as soon as fixed to Admiralty Extension 276.

(3) Pass to N.C.S.O's.

(D.T.D. 291921B to F.O's i/c, N.O's i/c in U.K.)

War Diary29.5.1945  
TuesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping and Convoys - Contd.Sailing of  
Independent  
ships.

Recommend independents be sailed as follows:

(1) Ships proceeding Northern Continent - Ex vessels loaded with cargoes predominantly for Hail should be sailed "To Solent for onward routeing to a North France discharge Port".

Vessels loaded with cargoes predominantly for Wipe should be sailed "To Downs for onward routeing to a Scheldt river discharge Port" (exceptions: wipe vessels with maximum arrival drafts exceeding 25 feet and all wipe vessels with beams larger than Liberty type vessels should be sailed "To Downs for onward routeing to Antwerp.")

(2) Vessels loaded with Legs cargoes should be sailed "To Marseilles for orders."

(3) Vessels loaded with Ugly cargoes should be sailed "To Mersey for orders." Further recommend that masters sailing orders incorporate warning that changes of destination may be necessary. Such changes will be radioed by Admiralty acting as agent of United States Army to be accepted as superceding original orders given on sailing. Above is in reference WARX 89342 concerning cancellation convoy.

(H.Q. Etousa, from Lee, 292217Z to Agwar)

Convoy  
C.U.L.2.

My 282358. As officers are not available and due to difficulty in completing crews and bunkers, intend to delay sailing till C.U.L. 2. 16 ships should be ready then so 32 officers will be required.

"Apostle"  
convoys.

/ Revised programme "Apostle" convoys Nos. 2 to 8 (details).

(4) Escorts for convoy from Kirkwall and Firth of Forth will be arranged by C. in C. Rosyth.

(5) C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide escort for EASTERN PRINCE for whole voyage if possible.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 292315B to F.O. Norway, C. in C. H.F. A.N.C.X.F.)

Convoy  
L.U.C.1.

L.U.C.1 escorted from P. 15, 10 P.P.15 by COCKATRICE, RATTLESNAKE, FELICITY.

(2) TANGANYIKA and ships in para. 1 fuelled and berthed Cuxhaven at 4 hours notice for steam.

FELICITY has (corrupt group) defects, otherwise

all ships operational L.L (?A) and type C.

(3) Intend sailing FELICITY to rejoin 10th M/S Flotilla when repairs are completed and remainder will sail as necessary to escort C.U.L. 1.

(M/S 18, 292355B to C. in C. The Nore.)

722

29.5.1945  
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

THYME  
(corvette) Report time of being relieved and your E.T.A. Greenock.  
(Gibraltar C.C.O., 290838B to THYME, E.I.St.)

S/M  
SPIRIT Intend to sail Submarine SPIRIT escorted by OAKHAM CASTLE and COLUMBINE at 1600B/30th May to Portsmouth destination of OAKHAM CASTLE and COLUMBINE as ordered by Admiralty.  
(3) S. of A. 12 knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 290946B to Admty.) See 301255.

A/S  
Trawler Force Intend to sail LADY HOGARTH (S.O.), ST. NECTAN and LORD HOTHAM at 1200Z/31st for Gibraltar.  
(Azores, 291039Z to Plymouth.)

Tug  
BUSY My 261635A\*. French Naval Tug HIPPOPOTAME with Tug BUSY in tow with Chasseur 85 and Tug CONFIDENT in company sailed Agadir at 0830/29. Tugs to Gibraltar. Chasseur 85 to Casablanca.  
(2) 6 knots.  
(4) 1630/01.  
(Commorseafon, 291122A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
\* Sailing Tug BUSY in tow of French Naval Tug HIPPOPOTAME with Tug CONFIDENT.

NORSEMAN Request you will sail Cable Ship NORSEMAN independently for Plymouth on completion of present operations. A.M. 151157 refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 291227B to S.B.N.O. Azores.)  
Cancelled by 021846B June.

Distress signal Distress signal received 1500 kcs. from ship using callsign GBTN in position 38° 15' N. 25° 55' W. at approximately 1745Z. SALVONIA is being sent.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 291825Z to Admty.)

L.C.Ts. K.M.S. 104 arrived OAKHAM CASTLE and L.C.T. 1103 1100 both ex tow of SS.FORT AKLAVIK passed Gibraltar 1530B 29 SS. EMPIRE NEWTON towing L.C.T. 1141, 1227 bound Port Said.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 292252B to Admty.)

South Atlantic

Cessation of U-boat threat. Pending reply to my 271311. Outposts on this station are being maintained on war footing.

/A.M. ...

29.5.1945  
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSSouth AtlanticCessation  
of U-boat  
threat  
(Contd.)A.M. 082218 also refers.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F., 291121Z to Admty.)MONKSHOOD  
(Corvette)Intend sailing MONKSHOOD 0800Z 30th May coastal  
to Durban.  
(2) S. of A. (11?) knots.  
(3) E.T.A. 0800 31st May.  
(N.O.I.C. E. London, 291244Z to Admty.)Allocation  
of H.M.  
ships  
W. AtlanticA.M. 241235 (N.T. in W.D.) not to F.O.C.R.F.  
ROTHER is allocated to East Indies Station.  
WEAR is allocated to S.B.N.O. West Atlantic for  
station duty.  
TEES is to return to U.K. to reduce to reserve  
category "B" now.  
WYE is to return to U.K. to reduce to reserve  
Category "B" on relief by FAL.DOVEY is to follow WEAR for refit at Bermuda as arranged by you  
with S.B.N.O. W.At., afterwards returning to West Africa via  
U.K. where she will give leave and adjust complement.Kils are to return to U.K. to reduce to reserve category "B",  
ARRAN, COPINSAY, OXNA are allocated for training of West  
African ratings. Remaining A/S M/S and M/S trawlers should be  
sailed for U.K.SOUTHERN GEM is to be sailed to Capetown for reconversion to  
fishing. Allocation of relief (oil-fired) is under considerat-  
ion and further signal will be made shortly.ABERDEEN and 3 corvettes should be retained temporarily for  
air/sea rescue duties.(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S., 292231B to F.O.C.W.Af.) See  
011731Z.

A.M. 292012B and 292231B.

On completion of refit, WEAR should be sailed to U.K. to give  
leave and adjust complement.(2) On return of WEAR to your station, BALLINDERRY should be  
sailed to U.K. to give leave and adjust complement, subsequently  
returning to your station.

(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 292232B to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

29.5.1945  
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

GLENBANK  
 (mined)

Alusna Athens reports by letter that GLENBANK struck a mine number 2 bottom starboard side. Planned to beach ship discharge holds one and two into lighters, effect temporary repairs and dock ship to complete discharge.

My 281219 May refers.

(C.S.A. Istanbul, 291154C to Admty, pass to Moscow.)

- (1) Lt. Commander Marston and Lt. Col. Kendall left for Constanza on 29th to investigate mining of GLENBANK and salvage possibilities. Their preliminary report expected 30th.
- (2) Soviet did not notify B.M.M. of accident.
- (3) At weekly meeting with Tishkin 29th we asked for full details. He at first professed no knowledge beyond rumours but later mentioned accident. He stated GLENBANK ashore close to port. Sea 5/10 rough. Extent of damage not known. He thought no outside salvage assistance necessary as Soviet salvage unit could handle. He agreed to bring tugs and lighters from Danube if necessary. He confirmed Constanza dry dock still occupied and not available.
- (4) Commander Popoeici Roumanian navy states ship flung on to mine barrage off Tuzla in fog. Two explosions heard.
- (5) Goldman reports 29th that little salvage work accomplished owing to rough sea strong winds and administrative difficulties. (B.M.M. Roumania, 291430B to W.O.)

Master of GLENBANK reports that he has beached his vessel and is commencing to discharge but has every prospect of refloating. My 291154 refers.

(C.S.A. Istanbul, 291658C to Admty.) *See also pages 751 & 779.*

Situation  
 report  
 number 613

Black Sea. SS. GLENBANK struck a mine approximately 1500 East of Cape Tuzla while en route to Constanza. Ship understood to be still afloat and making to port with Russian assistance. (C. in C. Med., 291728B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Area limits  
 Western  
 Mediterranean  
 (Almed.)

544B. 25th April para. 4 and 551B 29th April refer. Operations in Northern Sub-area having ceased area to northwards of line between Cape Creus and Cape Rosso including South Coast of France will be transferred to operational control of Almed at date and time to be promulgated later.

- (2) Eastern limit of Almed.'s area will, at same time, be amended to lie from Franco-Italian Frontier to position 3 miles 360° from Cap Corse Light. Thence along a line 3 miles to seaward of East Coast of Corsica to Lavezzi Rock (041° 19' N. 009° 15' E.) thence to position 041° 26' N. 008° 28' E. thence as for existing boundary.
- (3) Prefect Maritime Troisieme Region will become responsible to Almed. instead of to F.O.N.A.M. for operation of ports in South of France.
- (4) A modified Anglo U.S. Liaison organization charged with duty of assisting French in South of France in their dealings with allied shipping and naval and military authorities will be brought into being. Head of this organization will be Cdre. W.R.D. Crowther O.B.E. (Cdre. (Liaison) American and British Marseilles) who will be responsible for efficiency of its liaison and advisory work to C. in C. Med. direct.

/Cdre. ...

725

29.5.1945  
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Area limits Cdre. (Liaison) American and British Marseilles  
Western will not be an operational authority.  
Mediterranean (5) V.A.M. will be administrative authority  
(Almed.) for British personnel in Cdre. (Liaison) American  
(Contd.) and British Marseilles organization.  
(6) Reference 545B 25th April para. 2(b). W/T  
area GB will be amended to include area north of  
line between Cape Creus and Cap Rosso and also to  
conform with Easterly limit of Almed.'s area as in para. (2)  
above. W/T (?Station) kept by Ajaccio B.N.L. will remain  
unchanged.  
(C. in C. Med., 291200B to Admty.) See 021340B June.

Mediterranean Para. 2 A.M. 261524. I would prefer the  
Destroyers remaining eight destroyers to consist of one  
Division of four Fleets and one of four Hunts.  
(2) Pending relief by newer ships the Fleets to  
be retained would be those requiring the least  
maintenance probably MILNE, MATCHLESS, JERVIS, JAVELIN.  
(3) The remainder of my present Fleet destroyers will be  
returned to U.K. one by one on relief by Chequers class.  
(C. in C. Med., 291238B to Admty.)

ANSON,  
NELSON,  
SUSSEX

Programme in your 281801 (passed to F.O.L.E.M.  
Afloat) quite convenient.  
(2) Intend all ships transitional immediately  
on arrival Port Said. Draught should not  
exceed 33 feet.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 292101 to V.A. Malta.)

726

29.5.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Convoy O.W. 6. Expect U.S.S. GENERAL W.F. HASE will sail from Fremantle 3rd June for Calcutta as convoy O.W. 6.  
(3) Cruiser escort will not be provided.  
(4) S.N.O.A.(T) is requested to sail destroyer nominated by S.O.D.(T) to R/V with convoy in position (O) 00° 11' N., 085° 42' E. at 0630Z/9th June.  
(C. in C. E.I., 290633Z to N.O.I.C. Fremantle.)

Employment of 'U' class S/Ms. in E.I. Your 0120(?25).  
(1) It is desired to use VIGOROUS and VIVID for operations west 097° E. whilst not being employed on A/S training.  
(2) WOLFE can maintain them if no additional manning or early commitments are anticipated.  
(3) This will in no way interfere with A/S training of destroyers and escorts.  
My (?211)019 April and 101023 also refer.  
(C. in C. E.I., 290914Z to Admty.)

S/M STURDY. Sailed STURDY at 1400Z/29th to Suez for onward routeing to U.K.  
(Com. Aden, 291447Z to N.O.I.C. Suez.)

W/T stations. (Hd. of M. II, 291638B to C. in C. E.I.)  
See Lion Copy.

Shortage of Pilots. Ministry of War Transport are greatly disturbed by a report from their representative in India that a serious hold-up of shipping is occurring at Calcutta, apparently due to an acute shortage of pilots.  
(2) Request you will support M.W.T. Representative in any immediate steps which may be necessary to rectify the position.  
(Sec. A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 291824B to C. in C. E.I.)

LE TRIUMPHANT, unsuitability of in tropics. Following is repetition of C. in C. E.I.'s 280557 addressed to Admty. only. Begins. F.S. LE TRIUMPHANT etc. Ends.  
(2) Request you will enquire from Marine Paris what steps are being or can be taken to alleviate these conditions in other ships of class before proceeding to East Indies Station.  
(3) Meanwhile is it desired to return F.S. LE TRIUMPHANT to France?  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 291940B to N.A.Paris.)  
Reply: 011935B.

MANCHESTER CITY. Your 280917 not to all. MANCHESTER CITY should be sailed to Falmouth for onward routeing.  
(Hd. of M. Branch II, 291942B to C. in C. E.I.)

/DUSK ...



# SECRET OUT

726A

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).

*W.T. Stations*

291638B/May.

To : C.-in-C. East Indies.

Date : 29.5.45.

C.C.H. NAVAL GENERAL 'S' OLD DRUMS)

From : Admiralty.

DEFERRED

Plan 'S' and Plan 'T'.

2. Your 060558 October and 091156 September, the numbers of plan assembled <sup>W/T Stations</sup> are approved but those dated 1946 in the latter message are to be considered as Plan 'T' and an extension of Plan 'S'.
3. In view of remarks in your 060558 October, Plan 'T' must be assumed to cover the requirements also in the Pacific estimated now at 2 each Minor and Midget Stations.
4. Consequent revision of completion dates is given in A.M. 092353 February, to which your 171256 February refers.
5. A.M. 211708/September items (C) and (D), it has been approved to provide you with 2 parties as under to supervise the erection of stations and undertake W/T installations.
  - (a) One S.S.H.E. (Lt. R.N.V.R. in charge);
  - (b) One Technical Assistant (C.P.C. Tel.);
  - (c) 4 P.O. Radio Mechanics;
  - (d) 8 Leading Radio Mechanics;
  - (e) One Supply P.O;
  - (f) 2 Leading Supply Assistants.
6. First party is now being assembled for final instruction to be available for erection of first Station (Majas V). Your 270611 April refers.
7. Second similar party should be available for you by August, 1945.
8. Constructional, electrical and other services required in building these stations should be covered by R.M.E. Battalions under your direction.
9. Proposals for the eventual conversion of Plan 'S' and 'T' Stations into permanent stations should be forwarded separately in due course as occasion arises.

291638B + 311246.

for Hd. of M.II.

Circulation overleaf.

1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
Vice Contr.  
Civil Lord  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (I)  
D. of P. (O) (3)  
D. of P. (3)  
M. (M055462/44) (3)  
D.R.E. (2)  
D.S.D. (2)  
C.E.-in-C.  
E.-in-C.  
Ad. Plake  
A.C.N.P. (4)  
D. of P. (3)  
D.N.I. (5)  
~~O.I.C. (3)~~  
W.D.  
Dep. Contr. (3)  
C.E.-in-C. (2)  
E.-in-C. (4)  
D.R.E. (3)  
D.E.E. (3)  
EMC. S.W.R. (6)

)  
)  
) Bath  
) (22)  
)  
)

727

29.5.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

DUSK,  
Trawler.

Your 281030Z\*. Instructions will be signalled  
when decision on future of DUSK is made.  
(D.S.V.P., 292044B to Com. E.A.)

\* Request approval to sail DUSK for U.K.

728

War Diary.29.5.1945.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Convoy O.N. 303. Detached from O.N.303. POPPY and LOTUS in company. My P.C. and S. 041° (?23') N., 050° 25' W. in 12 knots. CHELMER, TINTAGEL CASTLE remaining with convoy till daylight today 29th. (INMAN, 290100Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Convoy U.G.S. 95. Comply Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.) 281610Z escorts to New York for upkeep and further orders later. Task Group dissolved on arrival New York. Turn Task Group files over to F.A.O. New York. (C. in C. Lant, 290148Z to C.T.G. 60.8.)

U/B attack. 9 minutes after first contact (C. in C. C.N.A.'s 290106 refers (N.T. in W.D.)) H.E. electric engines heard starboard side. Then very rapid H.E. from starboard quarter. Altered away. Dropped three single charges. H.E. passed up starboard side. Nil explosions from hedgehog oil shark ? covering small area with smell of paraffin and faint underwater explosion heard after depth charge attack about 90 minutes after original contact. Unable to retain contact. (KAMSACK, 290330Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Frigates for return to R.N. Departure Halifax 0300Z/29th May H.M.C. Ships LOCH MORLICH (S.O.), LOCH ACHANALT in company to the United Kingdom for return to R.N. Routed. (C. in C. C.N.A., 290517 to Admty.)

U.S. Cruising cutters (ice search) COMANCHE report to MOJAVE for search of area south of Banks for ice as soon as released by S.O. B.1. Upon completion MOJAVE direct COMANCHE proceed Argentinia. Critical area for this search between 48 W. and 52 W. and south ?24° 30' N. (C.T.F.24, 291243 to S.O. B.1.)

INGONISH (Fleet Minesweeper.) Departure Halifax 1230Z/29th May H.M.C.S. INGONISH independently to St. Johns Nfld. for onward routing to U.K. via Azores routed. (C. in C. C.N.A., 291253Z to F.O.N.F.)

U-Boat contact. 1200Z/29th May. (A) Contact at 2046Z/28th in 40.31 N., 63.43 W. may indicate U-Boat moving north-east. (B) Nil. (N.S.H.Q., 291327Z to S. & A. north of 40° N. etc.)

/Contact ...

War Diary.29.5.1945.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.U-Boat  
contact.  
(Contd.)Contact by H.M.C.S. KAMSACK 40.31 63.43 at  
2046Z/28th tentatively considered doubtful.  
Enemy U-Boat estimate 1200Z/29.  
(Cominch, 291537Z to Admty.)U/B  
reports.Reports in accordance with my 221059 July, 1942  
are being discontinued. For information of  
Cominch, the attack by M.A.D. fitted Catalina  
R/63 on the 30th April, 1945, in position 48°  
N., 6° 30' W. has been assessed "U-Boat probably  
sunk".  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 291449B to Cominch.)UGANDA.  
(cruiser)Concur UGANDA should proceed to Esquimalt as  
soon as ship can be spared.  
(2) It is intended that UGANDA volunteers be  
given 30 days leave plus travelling time and  
rejoin for further service. Additional volunteers to complete  
complement will be available in Esquimalt by 1st August. Ship  
could therefore leave Esquimalt to commence work-up 1st August  
or six weeks after arrival in Canada whichever is later.  
(3) Opportunity will be taken to dock ship and make good any  
defects.  
(4) Your 270201 not to all refers.  
(N.S.H.Q., 291554 to C. in C. B.P.F.)S/M  
TRUCULENT.Anticipate TRUCULENT ready to sail from U.S.A.  
about 6th July. My 182200. Request  
destination.  
(B.A.D., 292206Z to Admty.)Air stores  
Issuing  
ship for  
Pacific.My 122137. FORT LANGLEY now expected to be  
ready to sail 20th June. Departure will be  
expedited if possible.  
(B.A.D., 292227Z to Admty.)

Escort.

With TENACITY in company my P.C.S. at 2000Z/29  
043° 37' N., 052° 11' W., 357°, 11. Detach  
by S.O. W.8 as not required. E.T.A. St. Johns  
N.F. 1830Z/30.  
(H.M.C.S. MEDICINE HAT, 292151Z to F.O.N.F.)MISCOU,  
LISCOMB,  
Trawlers.Departure 2300Z/29th H.M. Ships MISCOU, LISCOMB,  
in company to St. Johns Nfld. for onward  
routing to United Kingdom.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney, 292316Z to F.O.N.F.)

29.5.1954.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East and Australia

Aircraft (F.O.N.A.S.(A), 290120 to Admty.)  
for B.P.F. See Lion Copy.  
maintenance.

Constructional Your 301840 April, para. 3(A) probable that  
material for charges will be made for materials only.  
forward areas Para. 3(B) New Zealand Government have under  
B.P.F. consideration dismantling buildings by New  
Zealand Army personnel and re-erection as  
required by R.N.Z.A.F. works squadron.  
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F., 290546 to Admty.)

C. in C. Ryukyus.  
Pac. Blue Positions before Shuri remained relatively  
summary 28. static as advances continued on both flanks  
at Okinawa. 1st March. Div. captured Naha  
suburb of Asato.  
From 270730 to 280830 an estimated 150 enemy  
planes attacked in 56 raids. <sup>DREXLER</sup> (DD 741) hit by suicider sank  
in 2 minutes. BRAINE (DD 630), FORREST (DMS 24), REDNOUR  
(APD 102), LOY (APD 56), SANDOVAL (APA 164), P.C.S. 1396,  
L.C.S. 11, 9, merships JOSIAH SNELLING, BROWN VICTORY, MARY  
LIVERMORE damaged by suicide hits. ANTHONY (DD 515),  
GAYETY (AM 239) damaged slightly by near misses. GILLIGAN  
(DE 508) hit by underwater object which did not explode.  
79 enemy aircraft destroyed including suiciders. 45 downed by  
Cap 21, by ships A/A 13 suicides. Weather continued to  
hamper air support on 27th limiting direct support to 55  
sorties by T.A.F. and C.V.E. planes. C.V.E. planes hit Saki-  
shima Gunto. MISSISSIPPI (BB 41) completed 3 day mission  
knocking down walls of Shuri Castle.  
Searches Empire Area. F.A.W.1 planes south of Korea 27th sank  
4 SD, 1 large AK, 1 DD or large DE, 1 schooner. Damaged 2 SD,  
1 coastal vessel. 28th shot down 1 Nate. F.A.W.18 planes  
probably sank 1 SC, 1 FTD off south Honshu.  
Empire. 45 P.51s. attacked Kasumigaura airfield near Tokyo  
at noon. Shot down 1 enemy plane. Destroyed 5 on ground  
and damaged 35. Photos of Tokyo 28th show total of 51.3  
square miles or 46 per cent of city destroyed.  
Submarines. Entire crew of F.A.W.18 search planes picked up  
by Blue submarine. Another recovered in S.W.P.A. C.T.F.31  
says believes LERAY WILSON (DE 414) sank submarine south-east  
of Kerama Retto. L.S.T. convoy approaching Okinawa from  
east-south-east reported being attacked by submarine.  
25 P.51s. attacked Chichi and Haha Jima sank 1 SD, 4 PVS  
attacked small boats Paramushiru. 29 sorties Palau. 4 Yap.  
(C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 290719 to all commands.)

ANSON and Para. 2 of your 270736. Yes.  
DUKE OF YORK. (2) Each ship has liaison team comprising 1  
Lieut.-Cdr. and 1 Lieut. (JG) and 1 C.R.M., 1  
R.M.I.C., 1 R.M.2.C., 1 C.S.M., 1 S.M.I.C., 1  
Y.I.C. and a class four Pacific allowance  
books also typewriters.  
(D.S.D., 292118B to C. in C. B.P.F.)

# 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.)

*Aircraft for B.P.F. 290120  
Maintenance*

From F.O.N.A.S. (A) \_\_\_\_\_ Date 31. 5. 45.  
Received 0210

Naval Cypher ID by 1/7

Addressed Admiralty  
Repeated C. in C.B.P.F., V.A.(Q).

Further to my 282352 because of the delay in completion of works at Schofields and availability of Hangars, Workshops and accommodation, M.R. 2 has been installed at Bankstonn.

2. The considerable expansion of the I.E. in Australia which will result from the arrival of the light fleet carriers and the formation of the reserve carrier groups makes it necessary to provide additional maintainance facilities as quickly as possible. All necessary works at Schofields should complete in July and it is proposed that M.R.3 should sail mid-July for Australia.

3. If considerable delay is to be avoided in establishing M.R.4 and M.R.5 they will have to be housed at ready made stations with requisite hangars and workshop buildings taken over from the R.A.A.F. Negotiations are proceeding now. The date when M.R.4 and M.R.5 will be required depends also upon the rate of build-up. Proposals for two of the MONAB's arriving later in the year to be formed initially with M.R. components will be forwarded later.

le. 4. Intend that the MM and MS component released from le MONAB 111 by M.R.3 should not be absorbed in a later MONAB for the present. It has been necessary to use MM 1 for the forward aircraft pool at Samar and a similar requirement may arise for MM 2.

290120

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(3)  
D.F.S.L.(2)  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L. (Air)  
Vice Contr.(Air)  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
Dep. Sec.  
P.A.S.(S)  
Civil Lord  
D.O.D.(H)(4)

D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)(3)  
Hd. of M.(2)  
Hd. of Air  
D.N.A.O.(AOD.137/45)(2)  
D.A.W.T.  
D.A.C.R.  
D.A.E.  
D.N.A.R.(3)  
D.A.M.R.  
D. of S.(3)  
C.N.R.(MAP)  
N.A.2nd S.L.(Air)  
E.A.P.  
A.C.N.P.

D. of M.  
Hd. of C.W.  
Hd. of N.  
D.T.S.D.  
D.A.S.(L)  
C.E. in C.  
Ad.Blake  
W.D.  
Dep. Contr.  
D.A.S.  
D.N.O.  
C.E. in C.  
C.I.N.O.  
Hd. of S.W.R.(3)h

} B  
a  
t

IN

HUSH-MOST SECRET

~~CANCELLED~~



731

29.5.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSFar East and Australia - Contd.

- Distiller  
for B.P.F.            Your 220356Z April, para. 3.  
                          (2) Arrangements are being made to fit a  
                          distilling plant of 200 tons per day capacity  
                          to Collier EMPIRE BOSWELL at present fitting  
                          out in U.K. for naval service in the Pacific.  
(3) The distilling plant will be a repeat of that fitted to  
STAGPOOL.  
(Hd. of M. Branch II, 292323B to V.A.(Q) B.P.F.)
- Digest                    (1) Privateers and Liberators over Singapore saw  
1224,                    one heavy cruiser, two large transports, 40  
28th May.                small coasters and sea trucks: no other warships  
(Extract).                seen due weather.  
                          (4) Mariners from Lingayen night 27/28 May  
                          bombed strafed single sea truck Pescadores  
                          leaving vessel down by stern, strafed one lugger.  
(5) 48 Liberators dropped 103 tons marshalling yards, rolling  
stock, railroad installations along French Indo-China coast  
from Phan Rang to Saigon causing widespread destruction.  
(8) Two night Liberators sank two small freighter transports,  
near missed single large freighter Yangtze River.  
(11) 29 Liberators with 73 tons, 13 Lightnings with Napalms  
supported Australian forces mopping up Tanakaa Island 27th May.  
Next day naval gunfire support provided in hitting Japanese  
headquarters area north-east airfield.  
(12) Daylight 27th May P.Ts. co-ordinating with R.A.A.F.  
Warhawks and Navy Mariners raided Sandakan Harbour wrecking  
one small coaster, 7 luggers, 6 small craft, destroying large  
sawmill probably containing suicide boats.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 291050 to Admty.)

Tanakaa

30.5.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. Future air requirements by the Admiralty from Coastal Command, R.A.F. are outlined in 301711B.

North Sea.

2. Rotterdam and Ymuiden are now open to normal traffic. Den Helder will be open on June 2, and Amsterdam in about six weeks.

Channel.

3. An operation for sinking bombardon units in Hurd Deep (North-West of Chamel Islands) will begin on June 11 under the orders of F.O.I.C. Portland.

4. The office of the Canadian Naval Liaison Officer, Portsmouth, is to close down on June 15.

5. Areas in which fishing may be resumed in the Dover Command are defined by The Admiral, Dover.

Western Approaches.

6. Revised orders for notice for sea in the Western Approaches Command are promulgated in 301202B, (page 134).

7. Convoy R.A. 67 from North Russia (25 ships) arrived in the Clyde to-day.

8. Escort Groups 1, 2, 4, 12 and 20 have been disbanded.

Norway.

9. N.O.I.C. Bergen sailed 13 U-Boats for Scapa at 0900, escorted by Escort Group 30.

10. Six German U-Boats (type 21) are expected to be ready to sail from Oslo on June 3.

Northern Waters.

11. Eight U-Boats from Stavanger, three of 500 tons and five of 250 tons (numbers not given), arrived at Scapa, escorted by the TAVY and BAYNTUN.

12. Four U-Boats from Oslo, U.874, U.975, U.170 and U.1108, arrived at Scapa, escorted by the BAHAMAS and LOCH SCAVAIG.

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War Diary

30.5.1945  
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

America and West Indies

SS. ALEXANDER R. SHEPHERD. (Ashore). 13. SS. ALEXANDER R. SHEPHERD (Am 7198 tons) reported aground at 2105Z to-day in 49.32 N. 55.55 W. near Duck Island (Newfoundland). She was later hauled off damaged and leaking. She is able to proceed under her own power.

Far East and Australia

Formosa. 14. To-day 120 U.S. Liberators dropped over 324 tons of bombs on warehouses barracks and gun positions at Takao causing explosions and fires.

Ryukus. 15(a) U.S. C.V.E. planes continued attacks on Sakishima Gunto. Isolated enemy raids attacked shipping (Okinawa). Minor damage to TATUM (A.P.D.81). 8 enemy planes shot down.

Japan. (b) (U.S.) ANZIO (C.V.E. 57) of the Hunter Killer group reported an enemy submarine definitely sunk, 400 miles S.E. of Okinawa. (010836).

734

30.5.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Showing the  
flag in  
Continental  
Ports.

IROQUOIS arrived Clyde.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 301107B to Cdre. H.F.)

Lapse of  
W. App.  
Command,  
boundaries.

C. in C. Plymouth's 291115 (not to C. in C. H.F.,  
and C. in C. Nore) para. 2.  
(2) Concur as proposed and request my 292156  
last line of B be amended to read "Atlantic  
boundary A line drawn 270° from Malin Head."  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 301337B to Admty.)

Air Require-  
ments from  
Coastal  
Command.

The following are future air requirements:-  
A. Normal air cover for troop convoys up to 0001Z/  
4th June when all escort ceases.  
B. 2 L.R. A/C to be available at all times for  
emergency duty in the Atlantic.  
C. 2 L.R. A/C of 18 Group to be kept similarly  
available.

D. Patrols as arranged in your A/640 May 27th to 2nd T.A.F.  
(Main.)  
(2) No further "Stipple" requirements.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 301711B to H.Q.C.C.)

Destroyers  
for Canada.

Further to my 281049. Request IROQUOIS, HAIDA  
and HURON may be delayed up to 4th June to await  
type 242M equipment, and sailed on loading of the  
equipment. If equipment, has not arrived by this  
date request you sail ships p.m. 4th June and  
forward equipment to Halifax by fast transport.  
(C.N.M.O., 301755B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Sailed E.G. 11 in ASSINIBOINE with SASKATCHEWAN, GATINEAU and  
KOOTENAY. My 301628B refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 302237B to C. in C. C.N.A.) See p-739

Notice  
for Sea.

The following orders for notice for sea for escort  
vessels are to be brought into force forthwith:-  
Short Notice. When available, one duty escort  
vessel in each sub-command is to be at one hours  
notice for sea. The name of the duty escort vessel

is to be reported when taking over duty.  
Standard Notice. The Standard Notice for sea for all ships ready  
for service is eight hours, and ships are to revert to this  
notice after securing unless otherwise ordered.

Extended Notice. During boiler cleaning periods ships are to be  
at 48 hours notice for sea.

(2) W.A.G.O. 1 dated 23rd August, 1943, and C. in C. W.A.'s  
231823A December, 1944 (not to all are cancelled.)  
(C. in C. W.A., 302102B to S. and A. W. Approaches.)

/Abolition...

735

30.5.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - Contd.

Abolition  
of C.N.L.O.  
Portsmouth.

Your 241729. Approved to close down office of  
C.N.L.O. on 15th June. C.N.M.O. concurs.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 302121B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Opening of  
A. Rotterdam.  
B. Ymuiden.  
C. Amsterdam.  
D. Den Helder.

Your 261100. As far as entry is concerned  
A. Now. B. Now. C. Estimated 6 weeks, further  
reply will be made. D. 2nd June.  
For berthing see Sitreps. Otherwise it must be  
some considerable time before any of the ports  
can be called normal.  
(F.O.I.C. Holland, 300933B to A.N.C.X.F. (Main))  
The ports of Rotterdam and Ymuiden are now open  
to normal routine traffic.  
(Burrough 302258B to Cositintrep No. 421 part  
2 Naval.)

A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 261100. Port of Rotterdam.

- (2) Ships. Limiting draught 28 feet - no limit to length.
- (3) Berths. 5 deep draught alongside berth and 30 at Dolphins.
- (4) Harbours. At present unusable are Vulcanhaven, Maashaven and Rijnhaven due to mines and blocks.
- (5) Dock installations. Approx. 10% of peace time bulk cargo capacity in working order, remainder destroyed. Approx. 80% general cargo crane in working order.
- (6) Minesweeping.
  - A. Rijnhaven (?). No enemy intelligence been received with regard to number of mines in these harbours they would now be declared safe. There are 3 assumptions with regard to these harbours: - (a) Enemy intelligence was faulty. (b) The mines are inactive. (c) They are fitted with a device which does not respond to normal sweep. M.F.Vs. fitted with locators have been requested to locate these mines.
  - B. Vulcanhaven. Sweeping not yet completed.
  - C. New waterway. 3 or 4 magnetic Oysters accidentally laid alongside quay at Portershaven. Germans have dived to locate these with negative results. All kinds of craft have continually passed over this area during past 5 months and it is thought these mines are by now inactive.
- (7) Consider that port of Rotterdam can be declared open to normal type of traffic but lot of traffic is limited by the above consideration.  
(N.O.I.C. Rotterdam 301540B to F.O. Holland.)

Minesweeping,  
Firth of  
Forth area.

Aberdeen trawlers are to carry out a clearance in  
G formation to a depth of 12 fathoms an area  
bounded by the following positions:-  
A. 56° 30' N. 02° 25' W. B. 56° 30' N. 02° 19' W.  
C. 56° 27' N. 02° 19' W. D. 56° 27' N. 02° 25' W.  
(2) Q.Z.Y. 355 refers.  
(3) Mines are to be recovered and landed at  
Aberdeen.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 300957B to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

/Minesweeping...

736

30.5.1945

Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea - Contd.Minesweeping  
Dutch Ports.

Part of Commander M/S East Schelde Force can now be spared for additional work. Suggest these ships be used for sweep from Hellegat to Hellevoetsluis in order to open up latter port. (F.O. Holland, 301251B, to A.N.C.X.F., Main.) Reply 311320B.

Fishing,  
Dover Command

Admiralty messages 271550B, and 272351B. There is no operational objection to the resumption of fishing by day and night in all areas of this command, with the exception of those mentioned in para. 3.

(2) The following area is considered safe except for a slight risk of mines having shifted from known areas.

A. North Foreland. B. 51° 17' 45" N. 01° 44' 00" E.

C. 51° 13' 30" N. 01° 44' 00" E.

D. 51° 07' 15" N. 01° 31' 30" E.

E. 50° 55' 36" N. 01° 18' 48" E.

F. 50° 53' 24" N. 01° 21' 36" E.

G. 50° 46' 24" N. 01° 15' 48" E.

H. 50° 47' 48" N. 01° 11' 12" E.

I. 50° 42' 00" N. 01° 06' 00" E.

J. 50° 35' 30" N. 00° 54' 00" E.

K. Hastings.

(3) A. All Q.Z.Y. and Q.Z.X. areas in force must be considered dangerous until swept.

B. The following area is considered unsafe on account of suspected enemy mines.

(a) Cap d'Alprech Light. (b) 50° 42' 48" N. 01° 27' 12" E.

(c) 50° 35' 24" N. 01° 23' 30" E. (d) 50° 05' 00" N. 00° 59'

00" E. and thence along the northern edge of Q.Z.S. 576 and

Q.Z.S. 605 to Le Treport.

C. Trawling within the areas promulgated in notice to mariners 2670/44, 1383/45 and 279/45 and Q.Z.N. 846 can on no account be permitted.

(4) It is for consideration that the application of restrictions to British Fishing Craft which do not apply to French fishing craft in the same area is undesirable.

(5) Fishing vessels must show normal navigation lights and it is desirable that they be instructed to keep clear of Swept Channels.

(A.C. Dover, 301411B as amended 301650B to Admty.)

Para. 3B amended, see 041255B June.

/Discharge...

30.5.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 421 part 4 section A. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 291600B May. British.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol</u>
Antwerp	-	169	10,397	-	4,211
Ostend	2,156	168	786	-	-
Calais	5,874	28	552	-	-
Caen	-	-	123	3,070	-
Rotterdam	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>8,030</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>11,858</u>	<u>3,070</u>	<u>4,211</u>
<u>U.S. North.</u>					
Antwerp	-	14	11,973	-	-
Cherbourg	1,221	-	572	-	-
Le Havre	1,216	66	4,697	-	-
Rouen	-	-	3,309	1,469	1,642
Ghent	-	-	11,929	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,437</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>32,480</u>	<u>1,469</u>	<u>1,642</u>
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	-	29	11,244	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	581	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>11,825</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Army coal at: Morlaix 800, Dieppe 1225, Granville 70.  
 (S.H.A.E.F. 301430B to Admty., etc.)

Release of Force T. Your 141530B. Para. 3C, 104th L.C.T. Flotilla can now be released.  
 (N.C. Force T (Rear) 301543B to A.N.C.X.F.)  
 (A.N.C.X.F., 301831B to Admty.)

L.S.T. 319, VAISE, BARDSEY for Norway. Intend sailing L.S.T. 319 (S.O.) escorted by VAISE and BARDSEY at 0800B tomorrow Thursday 31st May by A.G. Chamel to position where VAISE will detach and proceed to Kristiansand. S.O.A. 8 knots. E.T.A. position H 0500B/2nd June.  
 (2) BARDSEY will proceed as escort to L.S.T. 319 to Stavanger. L.S.T. 319 for subsequent onward routing to Kristiansand and Oslo, BARDSEY to relieve FLATHOLM N.O.I.C. Stavanger is requested to sail FLATHOLM to Leith on relief.  
 (3) Communications constant W/T watch on 1570 k/cs.  
 (4) Ships sail to comply.  
 (N.O.I.C. Leith 301812B to F.O. Norway, N.O.I.C. Stavanger, N.O.I.C. Kristiansand, N.O.I.C. Oslo.)

30.5.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Sinking of Bombardon in Hurd Deep.	Sinking of Bombardon in Hurd Deep. A.L. M/MWD 0335/44 of 17th May, not to all, refers. (2) Unless Admiralty can provide 3 tugs for towing of units operation will be attempted by using trawlers each towing 1 unit. First group of 3 tows leaving Portland Monday 11th June. Names of trawlers will be signalled shortly. Requested that their services may be retained until operation is completed, anticipated period 6 weeks.
------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

(3) D.M.W.D. is requested to advise on gear required in towing ships. Understood that Portland can provide any additional gear required.

(4) Trawlers referred to in para. 2 will be employed in sweeping Approach Channel 2 miles wide, through Q.Z.Y. 588 and area in vicinity of sinking position which will be in position 003° Casquets Light 7 miles. Centre line of approach channel will run 003° from sinking position.

(5) Proposed to retain FLEETWOOD as a Q.H. fitted ship is considered essential for assistance in the sweeping, towing and sinking in correct position.

(6) VERNON (M) will be responsible for fitting charges and for sinking units. Intend to detail a suitable small craft to be available at Portland by Saturday 9th June to accompany tows with demolition party, who will require to board units before sinking, if weather permits.

(7) F.O.I.C. Portland is requested to:

A. Prepare 12 units by Friday 8th June so that VERNON (M) can enter each compartment and fit charges and subsequently as required by VERNON (M) attention is invited to Special Regulations for Ventilating Bombardon Compartments.

B. Issue necessary orders for the operation sailing tows as far as possible to arrive at the sinking position at about slack water.

(8) Intend C.O. of ship proposed in para. 5 to be in command at sea advised as necessary by Bombardon Staff Officer and VERNON (M).

(9) Units must not be sunk in less than 80 fathoms. Any unit breaking adrift on passage is not to be sunk but towing ship must stand by and attempt to recover.

(10) Requested that Lieut. D.N. Burrows, R.N.V.R, should be appointed temporarily to the staff of F.O.I.C. Portland as Bombardon Staff Officer for the period of this operation, and that the Bombardon working party should be retained under the orders of F.O.I.C. Portland.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 301731B to Admty., etc.)

Channel Is. Situation Report.	Cositintrep 421, force 135. Part 1. Period ending 1900B/30th May, at St. Peter Port. Para. 3. E. Alderney. 407 mines lifted 28 mines exploded 10 per cent of mined charges removed from Braye Pier.
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Pier St. Peter Port continues. 1163 mines lifted. Clearance of anti-air landing and underwater obstacles

/progressing...



30.5.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Channel Is.  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

progressing satisfactorily.  
Jersey. Minefield clearance proceeding.  
Para. 4. B' Jersey. 2 prisoners injured in  
mine accidents.  
(H.Q. Force 135, 301915B to Admty.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

Ex-German  
M/S for  
Lorient.

My 291212B (ex-German M/S 432, 442, 452 escorted  
by HOLMES be sailed to Lorient,) not to all, copy  
to CAMROSE and LUNENBURG. For HOLMES read  
CAMROSE (S.O.) and LUNENBURG through.  
(2) Intend to sail CAMROSE and LUNENBURG at 1430B  
today by Q.Z.S. 697, 733 and 734 to St. Peter  
Port, Guernsey. E.T.A. 2230B/30.  
(3) CAMROSE and LUNENBURG pass Gate as requisite to comply.  
(4) N.O.I.C. Channel Islands is requested to sail HOLMES forth-  
with to Plymouth.  
(5) My 291212B, para. 2. Attention is called to Q.Z.X. 1176.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301116B to N.O.I.C. Channel Islands, CAMROSE,  
LUNENBURG.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Escort Groups/  
disbanded.

E.Gs. 1, 2, 4, 12 and 20 are disbanded.  
(C. in C. W.A., 300002B to Capt. (D) Belfast,  
Capt. (D) Liverpool, Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Escort Group  
C.7 for  
Canada.

Cancel my 301026B May.  
Intend to sail C.7 E.G. LARNARK (S.O.),  
COPPERCLIFF, PARRY SOUND, MERRITONIA and  
HAWKESBURY from Lough Foyle at 1100B/31st May  
to Greenock for onward passage to Canada.  
Routeing instructions already passed to all  
ships.  
C. in C. W.A.'s 232245B May refers.  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 301248B to F.O.I.C. Greenock,  
C. in C. W.A.)

E.G. 11  
for Halifax.  
See p. 734

Intend to sail E.G. 11 in ASSINIBOINE with  
SASKATCHEWAN, GATINEAU and KOOTENAY for Halifax  
at 2100B today 30th May, S.O.A. 15 knots (route)  
Admiralty is requested to direct mails to  
Halifax forthwith.  
If fuel is required ships will proceed to St.  
Johns.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 301628B to C. in C. C.N.A.)

30.5.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Air-Sea  
Rescue  
dispositions

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 281834 and Cominch 291435, neither to all. DUMBARTON CASTLE is to relieve ST. HELENA in revised A.S.R. station 18 in position 45° 00' N. 11° 30' W. and will remain under operational control of C. in C. W.A.

(2) BERKELEY CASTLE relieve ZANZIBAR in revised station 19 in position 41° 30' N. 18° 30' W. and will come under operational control of F.O.G.M.A. on crossing 43° N.

(3) Report E.T.A.

(C. in C. W.A., 301758B to BERKELEY CASTLE, DUMBARTON CASTLE.)

Cominch's 291435 being passed to all. Request you will instruct ships concerned to adjust station accordingly and report when in new positions.

(2) Ship in position 18 will revert to operational control of C. in C. W.A., A.M. 191807 para. 2 refers.

(D.O.D.(H) 301845B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A.)

Notice for  
Sea.

Revised orders.  
(C. in C. W.A., 302102B)  
See Policy.

Operations.

Norway.

10 U-Boats  
from Trond-  
heim.

My P.C.S. at 0800B 062° 48' N. 003° 48' E. 246°  
11½ knots.

(LOCH FYNE 300815B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My P.C.S. at 1600B 061° 57' N. 001° 50' E. 225°  
10½ knots.

(LOCH FYNE 301606B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

In view of N.O.I.C. Trondheim's 291015 not to all, cancel para. 2 of my 292239 (allocation of 12 U-Boats) being passed to F.O. Submarine and substitute "2 of the subsequent 500 tonners arriving five only should go to Lisahally."

(C. in C. W.A., 301632B to Cdre. D. H.F., Cdre. D. W.A., N.O.I.C. Stranraer, Capt. S/M Loch Ryan, C. in C. H.F., PHILANTE, F.O.I.C. Greenock, Capt. S/M Lisahally, C. in C. Rosyth, Admty., F.O.S/M.)

On reaching lat. 60° 10' N. detach KEMPTHORNE to Bergen.

If fuel is required KEMPTHORNE to fuel at Lerwick thence proceed to Bergen. Route north of Q.Z.Y. 595, to position 60° 08' N. 04° 52' E. reporting E.T.A. to N.O.I.C. Bergen in this position.

(2) KEMPTHORNE to join CAISTOR CASTLE at Bergen to escort type

xxl ~~21~~ U-Boats to Scapa.

(C. in C. Rosyth 301818B to LOCH FYNE.)

E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 1600B tomorrow 31st May.

KEATS and 10 German U-Boats in company. All German U-Boats unable to anchor.

(LOCH FYNE 302300B to C. in C. H.F.(Ashore), R.A.(H) H.F.)

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Norway - Contd.13 U-Boats  
from Bergen.

My 291803 sailed negative CAISTOR CASTLE.  
(N.O.I.C. Bergen 300958 to C. in C. W.A.)  
P.C.S. at 1600B 060° 34' N. 003° 10' E. 295°  
12½ knots. 13 German U-Boats in company. All  
submarines capable of anchoring and weighing.  
(S.O.E.G. 30, 301601B to C. in C. Rosyth)

STORD  
from Tromso.

To comply with A.M. 291732 STORD must arrive  
Rosyth not later than p.m. June 4th. Request  
you take necessary action and inform me if this  
is possible.  
(F.O. Norway, 301329 to N.O.I.C. Tromso.)

6 U-Boats  
from Oslo.

6 type ~~21~~<sup>xx1</sup> German U-Boats now expected to be ready  
to sail for U.K. on June 3rd.  
(N.O.I.C. Oslo, 301601B to F.O. Norway.)

Norwegian  
Govt. to  
Oslo.

On completion of disembarkation F.O. Norway is  
requested to sail SS. ANDES escorted by HESPERUS  
and HAVELOCK by reverse route to Liverpool.  
(D.O.D.(H) 301312B to F.O. Norway.)

Frigates  
for Bergen.

Scapa departure BAHAMAS, LOCH SCAVAIG, E.G. 20  
in TAVY, BAYNTUN.  
(C. in C. H.F., 301708B to N.O.I.C. Bergen.)

Troops to  
Norway.

Arrivals 30th May BERWICK, ZEST.  
(N.O.I.C. Bergen 301730B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

U-Boat  
surrenders,  
publication.

Your 281851. Number of U-Boats surrendered in  
Norway may be communicated when the final batch  
have been sailed, adding simply that those in  
seaworthy condition are being sent to U.K. for  
maintenance pending decision on their final  
disposal.  
(V.C.N.S., 301732B to F.O. Norway.)

Minesweeping  
report.

61 mines have been swept at Bergen in North Byfjord  
and west Byfjord and were all German moored mines  
type GX. It is considered these 2 fjords are now  
clear of mines. German M/S are continuing  
clearance of a minefield in Hjelte Fjord.

Anchorage and approach channels to Kristiansand (S. Norway)  
have been given high percentage search for moored and ground  
mines with negative result.  
18 mines have been swept at Stavanger in approach channel and  
anchorage which are now considered clear.  
These were an old laying of Norwegian moored mines. A.Ms.  
Q.Z.S. have been requested for approach channels to Kristiansand  
(S. Norway) and Stavanger.  
(Capt. M/S Norway 301807B to F.O. Norway.)

/U-Boats....

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

U-Boats from Norway. Ref. No. Fwd. 22783. Combined Chiefs of Staff in F.A.C.S. 231, ref. number W.87099, dated 24th May direct arrangements be made with Admiralty to sail all U-Boats in Norwegian waters to U.K. for laying up pending decision on ultimate disposal. Take necessary action to carry out this directive and report progress.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 301900B to A.N.C.X.F.)

German-manned M/Vs reception. A.N.C.X.F. 241645B, 291015B.  
F.O. Norway 281906, N.O.I.C. Kristiansand (S) 282318B (none to all addressees) refer.  
(1) Request confirmation that German manned merchant vessels in Norway should be routed direct to Humber by Q.Z.S. 752 and 727.  
(2) If sailed to Methil for other ports, request procedure for reception and control.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 301918B to Admty.)

Troops to Norway in cruisers. In order that BERWICK and ZEST may give leave both watches propose they return with me on Friday. My 282218 para. 4 refers.  
(C.S. 10, 302132 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

U-Boats from Norway, reception. My 252308 (forces to be established for reception and onward escort of U-Boats arriving from Norway.) Request you will sail BALFOUR, STOCKHAM to arrive Scapa June 1st.  
(C. in C. W.A., 300023B to F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland.)

Supplies for Spitzbergen. Ship selected for operation in A.M. 201534 May (request from the Norwegian High Command to send about 30 personnel and 125 tons of stores to "Ploughshare") should supply 4000 pounds of boneless meat to "Ploughshare". Request ship concerned be instructed to adjust stock to provide 1,500 pounds beef, 1,500 pounds mutton and 1,000 pounds pork for this.  
(D. of P. (Q) 301736B to C. in C. H.F.)

Passage of J.W./R.A.66 (April). Request for enemy intelligence. A.M. 291448. All commanding officers of the 15 U-Boats intercepted off Narvik and now at Lisahally have been dispersed to P.O.W. camps. Only maintenance personnel remain whose interrogation it is considered would be of little value.  
(2) Of the U-Boats now passing through from

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Passage of  
J.W./R.A.66  
(April.)  
Request for  
enemy  
intelligence.  
(Contd.)

Norway, PHILANTE, whose 301148 not to Admiralty refers, is requested to ascertain a report by signal the numbers of any which took part in the operations off Kola on 25th and 29th April in order that subsequent interrogation at laying up ports may be arranged.  
(C. in C. W.A., 301955B to Admty., PHILANTE.)  
Reply: 312331B.

Operations.

Baltic.

U.2336.

A.M. 282334B. Track charts being forwarded today by A.D.L.S.  
(F.O. Kiel Command, 301009B to Admty.)

Germans and  
Saluting,  
Kiel.

Request details of order referred to in para. 1 of your 260100\*  
(A.N.C.X.F. Main, 301312B to F.O. Kiel.)  
\* ?261100 intended (situation at Kiel.)  
*Kiel Situation Report, see Enemy Intelligence, p. 744.*

Shipping  
at Lübeck.

Approx. 55 ships at Lübeck require docking before movement to U.K.  
Programme of work being commenced on the assumption that large floating dock 10,000 tons is retained for approx. three months at minimum.

Request your early concurrence.  
Smaller dock will be required for about a year.  
(F.O. Kiel, 301600B to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

NORD  
(ex-RISICO)

Your 291402. Request further details of NORD (ex-RISICO) including name of owners and port of registration.  
(D.N.I. 301623B to Consul General Gothenburg.)  
Reply: 311706.

Shipyard  
control.

Representative conference held today under my chairmanship concerning control of shipyards and ship repairs in my command. Following provisional arrangements being made.  
(2) Command Committee formed including representative of M. of W.T. N.O.I.Cs. 8th Corps and Military Government to co-ordinate control and allocation of requirements.  
(3) M. of W.T. has more than 200 merchant ships requiring short or long refit prior to leaving German ports for service.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Shipyard  
Control.  
(Contd.)

(4) Arrangements being made to use port shipyard facilities for foregoing. Labour and work being under strict control and only limited number of yards used.

(5) Economic Division (C.C.) staff to assist in shipyards have been asked for in my 301621.

(6) Work will be carried out under British orders and supervision through German civil shipyard management (subject to satisfactory security reports) German naval staff will only be retained if essential. Allied naval commitments appear likely to be limited at present.

(7) Agreed M.W.T.R. Fleet Engineer Officer and Constructor Officer concur.

(F.O.I.C. Kiel 302212B to A.N.C.X.F. Main.)

Kiel  
Situation  
Report.

Situation at 2100 today Wednesday.

Destroyer Z.39 sailed for Wilhelmshaven under armed guard. A conference to discuss policy on ship repair and the employment of shipyards in the Kiel Command area was attended by F.E.O. Fleet Constructor Officer and representatives

of N.Os. i/c and M.W.T. Proposals have been signalled.

Salvage work on hospital ship DER DEUTSCHE continue.

One case of suspected Typhus reported in SS. KURLAND.

All precautions taken.

Sperrbrecher No. 11 on passage from Kiel to Flensburg damaged by mine in Flensburg Fjord. Ship afloat but immobile. Further report awaited.

Have now been minesweeping for three weeks and has 2 ships working each day during 3rd week, which is considered very satisfactory.

(F.O.I.C. Kiel, 302358B to A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

EAGLE,  
Water  
Barge.

Water barge EAGLE in tow of H.M.R.T. SEAMAN  
sank at 0300/20th May in position 226° 3  
miles from Fairlight Buoy.  
(2) Request authorities concerned may be  
informed.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301550B to A.N.C.X.F.  
(Cotug))

Movements

U.2336,  
U.3008,  
U. 806,  
U. 155,  
U. 680,  
U.1233.

All German U-Boats can be investigated at  
Wilhelmshaven. A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 281007 (List  
of U-Boats to be sailed to Wilhelmshaven) refers.  
(F.O.W.G., 300011B to F.O. Kiel Command.)

U. 249.

Your 291802 (Proposing U.249 should proceed to  
Loch Ryan for laying up). Concur.  
(C. in C. W.A., 300020B to F.O.S/M.)

L.C.T.(M)  
146.

Your 231201B (Preparation of L.C.T.(M) 146 for  
tropical service estimated to take 5 weeks -  
propose to retain her in commission during this  
period). Approved.  
(D.C.O.P., 300407B to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

U-Boats  
from Oslo.

Scapa arrival - U.874, U.975, U.170, U.1108,  
escorted by BAHAMAS, LOCH SCAVAIG.  
(C. in C. H.F., 300828B to N.O.I.C. Oslo.)

OAKHAM  
CASTLE,  
COLUMBINE.

F.O.G.M.A's 290946 (Intend to sail submarine  
SPIRIT). Destination of OAKHAM CASTLE and  
COLUMBINE on completion of escort is Liverpool,  
(C. in C. W.A., 300946B to F.O.G.M.A., OAKHAM  
CASTLE.)

VANITY,  
destroyer.

VANITY arrived.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 301009B to N.O.I.C. Stavanger.)

Escort  
Group C.7.

Intend to sail C.7 E.G. LANARK (S.O.), COPPER  
CLIFF, PARRY SOUND, MERITONIA and HAWKESBURY  
from Lough Foyle p.m./31st May, routed in  
accordance with C. in C. W.A's 232245B May.  
C.N.M.O's 291510B May refers (N.T. in W.D.)  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 301026B to C. in C. W.A.)

/PROOF ...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMovements - Contd.

PROOF, Intend to sail PROOF, Motor Launches 222, 112,  
M.Ls. 114, 184 and 153 at 1500B/31st May by Ways 40A,  
42 and 43 to position 9 yards direct to  
Paternoster.  
(2) B.N.A. Stockholm is requested to arrange  
pilots and onward routing to Copenhagen. S. of A. 9 knots.  
E.T.A. Paternoster 0500B/1st June.  
(N.O.I.C. Kristiansand, 301051B to Cdre. Denmark.)  
Note by War Registry - No trace of previous receipt of this  
signal in War Registry. It has now been decoded and circulated  
in view of Kristiansand's 311528 and 312157.)

U-Boats for Intend sailing -  
Lisahally (1) 2 500-ton~~s~~ and 1 1,200-ton~~s~~ U-Boats escorted  
and Loch by LOCH GLENDHU at 1200/30 to Lisahally, E.T.A.  
Foyle. 1600/31 May.<sup>xxiii</sup>  
(2) 5 ~~U-Boats~~ and 1 740-ton~~s~~ U-Boats escorted  
by LOCH MORE and 2 trawlers at 1000/31 to Loch  
Ryan. E.T.A. 1300/2 June.  
(3) 3 500-ton~~s~~ U-Boats escorted by BLIGH at 1700/31 to Lishally  
E.T.A. 0800/2 June.  
(C. in C. H.F., 301110 to Com. (D) W.A., Capt. S/M. Lisahally,  
Capt. S/M. Loch Ryan.)  
Ref. my 301110, para. 1.  
Scapa departures U.975, U.874, U.1108 escorted by LOCH GLENDHU.  
(C. in C. H.F., 301558B to Com. (D) W.A., Capt. S/M.  
Lisahally.)

LOCH ALVIE, Intend to carry out final inspections prior to  
MONNOW, acceptance into Category 'B' on Monday 11th June.  
NENE, (2) If satisfactory, ships will be accepted  
RIBBLE, for return to R.N. as at that date.  
for Reserve. (3) There is no objection to surplus officers  
and ratings whose work of reduction is  
completed being discharged prior to the  
inspection.  
(4) Admiralty are requested to appoint officers and Combrax's  
to draft ships' companies to arrive not later than Saturday  
9th June. Admiralty's 262215B not to all refers.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 301137B to LOCH ALVIE, MONNOW, NENE, RIBBLE,  
Admty. (C.W., D. of M.), Combrax's Chatham, Devonport,  
Portsmouth.)

ONTARIO, Intend sailing for Clyde a.m. Saturday 2nd June.  
cruiser. Request if convenient M/F D/F calibration may  
be carried out before entering harbour  
commencing 0900.  
(ONTARIO, 301154B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

U-Boats from Scapa arrival TAVY, BAYNTUN escorting 8 U-Boats.  
Stavanger. (C. in C. H.F., 301245B to N.O.I.C. Stavanger.)

/L' AVENTURE ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

L'AVENTURE, Intend to sail at 1800B/31st May L'AVENTURE, LA  
LA DECOUVERTE and LA SURPRISE by Q.Z.S.697, 692,  
DECOUVERTE, and Route "E" of Fleet Notice to Mariners No.  
LA SURPRISE. 871 (T) of 1945. Q.Z.S.618 and 373 to Ports-  
mouth.  
(2) S. of A. 14 knots. E.T.A. Spithead 0700B/1.  
(3) Constant watch on 2300 k/cs. shifting to  
2450 k/cs off Portland Bill.  
(4) L'AVENTURE take LA DECOUVERTE and LA SURPRISE under his  
orders and pass the Gate as requisite to comply.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301619B to C. in C. Portsmouth and ships  
named.)

3rd S/M Destination Holy Loch for 3rd S/M. Flotilla.  
Flotilla. B.A.D. 292206 refers and passed to S/M. 3.  
(F.O.S/M., 301619B to Admty.)

TANTALUS Intend to sail TANTALUS escorted by DOMETT at  
(ex-Pacific 0930B Friday June 1st to Dundee, E.T.A. 0900B  
Fleet). Sunday 3rd June.  
(2) Communications.  
(3) Surface speed 12 knots adjusted accordingly.  
(4) On arrival N.O.I.C. Dundee is requested to  
sail DOMETT to Hull forthwith.  
(5) Admiralty is requested to divert mails for TANTALUS to  
Dundee and for DOMETT to Hull after first delivery 1st June.  
(S/M. 5, 301658B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

U. 249. Request you will sail U.249 with escort to Loch  
Ryan as convenient. C. in C. W.A. 300020 and  
Admiralty 301300 refer.  
(F.O.S/M., 301818B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

STORD. To comply with A.M. 291732 STORD must arrive  
Rosyth not later than p.m. June 4th. Request  
you take necessary action and inform me if this  
is possible.  
(F.O. Norway, 301829B to N.O.I.C. Tromso.)

FARNDALE. C. in C. Nore is requested to sail FARNDALE when  
ready about 2nd June to Gib.  
(2) C. in C. Med. is requested to arrange a short  
work-up in the Mediterranean and onward route  
FARNDALE to East Indies Station on completion.  
(D.O.D.(H), 301901B to C. in C. Nore, C. in C.  
Med.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys p. 627

Humber-  
Cuxhaven  
Convoys.  
*L.U.C. and  
U.L.C.*

Para. 7 of your 251847 refers. Convoy titles as follows confirmed:  
From Humber, L.U. From Cuxhaven, U.L.  
Third letter, normally C, should indicate nature of convoy. My 031341 October, 1944, not to all, refers.  
(D.T.D., 300024B to C. in C. Nore.)  
My 251847B. For C.U.L. read U.L.C. throughout. A.M. 300024B not to all refers.  
(C. in C. Nore, 301235B to Admty., etc.)

Convoy R.A. 67. R.A. 67. Arrived BYARD. S.O. E.G4's 291415 refers.  
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 301506B to C. in C. W.A.)

*\* U.L.C. 1  
intended  
see p. 627,  
and 300024  
(above)*

Convoy C.U.L.1, *Brunsbüttel to Humber.*  
F.O. Kiel 291041.  
Request you will sail German Narvik class destroyer Z.39 in company with C.U.L.1 to Number 4 Buoy.  
(2) N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven requested to arrange sweeping for Z.39 necessary from Number 4 Buoy.  
E.T.A. Number 4 Buoy 2000/31st.  
(N.O.I.C. Cuxhaven, 301528B to R.N.O. Brunsbüttel.)  
Your 302014 (War Reg. signal (at request of Trade Division) requesting repetition Cdre. Hamburg's 291649 (Nore C.C.O. have presumed 291647 intended). Following is message requested begins:  
To C. in C. Nore, F.O.I.C. Humber, repeated Admty., A.N.C.X.F., A.N.C.X.F.(Buco), F.O.W.G., N.O.I.C. Cuxhaven, F.O. Kiel Command, N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven, Capt. M/S. Force C, M/S.10(?), M/S.18, R.N.O. Brunsbüttel, D. of S.T., P.S.T.O.N.W.E., M.W.T. London, From Com. Hamburg, 291647B.  
(1) Intend to sail convoy C.U.L.1 from Brunsbüttel anchorage at 1400B/31st to Humber.  
(2) Speed 7 1/3 knots. E.T.A. P.10 Buoy 0200/1st, D.6 Buoy 0300/2nd, Spurn Point 1400/2nd.  
(3) (F) Loch Ronald. British ships ROLFSBURG, ERICUS, TOLSTAHEAD, SALERNO, SANUBALDO. American ships Y.71 *(other, p. 776)*  
Belgian ships ESPAGNE. Dutch ships GOUWE. German ships SYLT, ILL, QUERSEE, KATTENTURN, GINNHEIM, SPRAMEX, NEIDENFELS, CAMMIN, PAUL HARNEIT, POSEIDON, GRETE, OSTFRIESLAND, MITTELMEER, RUDOLF, ALBRECHT, WANGONI - 291647B. (Ends.) *[N.O. Note: Only 3 German ships sailed, para 776]*  
(C. in C. Nore, 302350 to Admty.)

German shipping for U.K. Request all signals referring to arrangements for sailing of German merchant ships to U.K. may be repeated to me.  
(2) Request tonnage of such ships may be included in "intend to sail" signals. If tankers, this should also be indicated. Com.Hamburg's 291647B, not to all, refers. It is understood that several new construction German ships bear the names of old ships of different tonnage.  
(3) Request accommodation ship may be indicated in "intend to sail" signals. Para. 2 of your 241645B, not to all, refers.  
(C. in C. Nore, 301800B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Swedish ...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Swedish  
ships.

A.Ms. 251839B and 261906B. Amend first sentence to read as follows:  
M.O.W.T. are anxious that any Swedish ships which are loaded and present themselves for routeing should be sailed as soon as possible provided that approval to voyage has been given by Swedish Authorities under United Maritime Authority arrangements. (D.T.D., 301910B to F.O.I.C. Denmark.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Ships for  
U.K.

Intend to sail WOODRUFF (S.O) COLTSFOOT and CYCLAMEN escorting D.S. ZWARTE ZEE towing SS. MAHSUD and H.M.R.T. GROWLER and REWARD towing SS. ASTURIAS at 1600B/May 30th to U.K. (F.O.G.M.A. 300931B to Admty)

OAKHAM  
CASTLE,  
COLUMBINE.

F.O.G.M.A's 290946. Destination of OAKHAM CASTLE and COLUMBINE - Liverpool. (D.O.D. 301255B to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

Operation  
"Tabarin".

Following has been received from N.O.I.C. Falklands begins: Governor informs me Ref. my letter R.13 dates 17th May copy to you, that Secretary of State has signalled that it is most improbable that a special ship will be available for operation ~~WILLIAM~~ 1945/1946 season. He requests WILLIAM SCORESBY may be refitted.

(3) Governor asks if you would consider employing trawler or trawlers of S.A.E.F. to relieve personnel and take stores to Antarctic base observing that H.M.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY can ship only maximum of 7 tons of stores. Ends.

Do not consider any ship of the S.A.E.F. suitable for Antarctic operations.

(C. in C. S. Atlantic, 301426 to Admty.)

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WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Troubles in Syria. C. in C. Mid. East, 300035C and 301410C to W.O. See Lion Copy.

WHADDON Hunt destroyer. My P.C.S. at 0700B/30th 034 degs. 37' N. 019 degs. 55' E. 294 degs. adjusting speed to arrive Malta at 0630B tomorrow 31st May. (WHADDON, 300705B to V.A.M.)

SS. MARS (Dutch) mined. Dutch SS. MARS struck a mine approximately 1815/29th May in approx. position 3 miles N.W. Papas light. Naval caïque sent to assist 1830 H.M.S. AMBU followed at 1930. Ship carried 1033 tons 8-8 Octane. Completely burnt out last seen drifting in South Westerly direction. AMBU will report exact position of wreck if visible. Total complement 32 known survivors 27. 1 D.E.M.S. Gunlayer is missing. Report being posted. (S.N.O. Patras, 300952B to S.B.N.O. Greece, see 311716 B)

F.O.N.A.M. H.M.S. LOOKOUT flying flag of F.O.N.A.M. will sail from Genoa at 2000/30, E.T.A. Toulon 0830/31. (LOOKOUT, 301059B to Comar, Toulon)

SS. GLENBANK mining of. My 282001 not to F.O.L.E.M. Soviet Naval Staff reported GLENBANK was damaged by mine in position 44.09 N. 28.54' (?E) at 1238 on May 27th. (2) Ship had not embarked Pilot at Constantza Approach Point. (4) GLENBANK was holed on starboard side between number two and number three hold. She remained afloat with 13 degs. list to starboard. The crew except the Master abandoned ship and were taken to Constantza in the torpedo boats. There were no casualties. (5) The damage control party made temporary repairs pumped out the water and GLENBANK (corrupt group) definitely being swept in by Minesweeper. (6) Request Masters be impressed with necessity of following Black Sea routes and of embarking Pilot at pre-arranged point. (Adml. Archer, 301101 to Admty.)

GLOIRE (Sultan of Morocco) Approved your 281832 not to B.A.D. Washington anticipation of concurrence of C.C.S. to ships temporary absence from Mediterranean Station and subject to agreement of Admiralty who are required to obtain clearance for voyage to Cherbourg. (C. in C. Med. 301108B to Almed - and 312005Z.)

/ M.K.F.45 ...

# SECRET

Med  
751A

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.)

*Troubles in Syria*

Syria

300035C/May

From C. in C. Middle East

Date 30.5.45  
Recd. 0350

ONE TIME PAD CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office,  
Info. 9th Army.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

78/16952 cipher 30 May.

046216

H.M.M. Beirut requests following message timed 23:15 hours 29th May be passed to Foreign Office. Message begins:

"Para. 1. Secretary of Syrian President and Chief Syria police have given independent versions of outbreak of disorder in Damascus today.

Para. 2. Firing started at 1900 hours outside Serail. Some TS ~~report~~ TS deserted and were fired on by French from barracks opposite. Crowd tried to shelter them and fired back at the French. Firing spread along the street to the bridge. Gendarmerie joined in the firing which become general. A few minutes later French started mortar and artillery fire on to town. A French plane flew over the town and dropped two bombs one of which hit the Citadel now Gendarmerie H.Q. wounding 18 Gendarmes and a prominent Deputy.

Para. 3. British Head of O.C.P. states that lorries filled with French troops suddenly appeared in vicinity of Serail before firing started.

Para. 4. Yet too early to form an accurate appreciation of course of events. Apart from French sources there is no ~~(report no)~~ evidence of simultaneous Syrian attack on French installations. The concluding sentences of General Olive Rogers pamphlet reference Beirut telegrams 421 are significant message ends.

300035C

Advance copy 1st S.L.

Note by M.O. 4.

The concluding sentences of Gen. Olive Rogers' pamphlet which was issued to the French citizens, stated that a big row was imminent, and all accounts would be settled as one blow.

Received in War Registry p.m./31st May.

Circulated by War Office to War Office Depts. Defence Office Defence Map Room Foreign Office Admiralty

Air Ministry.

/Circulation

SECRET

1st Lord  
 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)  
 D.Map Room  
 D.C.(2)  
 D.S.O.  
 O.D.(6)  
 O.I.C.(3)  
 D.N.I.(5)  
 D.of P.(3)  
 D.of P.(Q)(3)  
 M(2)  
 C.N.I.(2)  
 W.D.  
 Ad.Blake  
 P.A.S.(L)  
 Sec.  
 Nav.Sec.

MEG

# SECRET

751B

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.)

*Tamites in Syria*

301410C/May

From C. in C.Middle East

Date 30.5.45  
Recd. 2300.

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office  
Info.G.O.C. in C. Persia/Iraq Ninth Army G.O.C.in C.  
Egypt, G.O.C.Palestine and Transjordan.

IMMEDIATE

046551. GO 17154 cipher 30 May

Levant Sitrep to 1200 hours 30 May.

One. Damascus 29 May 1900 hours extensive firing broke out in centre of town. Started by French firing on TS deserters and soon became widespread including mortar and tank gun fire. 2000 hours French plane flew over town dropping two bombs and machine gunned streets. One bomb reported hit Gondarmerie HQ cas wounded 18. 2230 hours firing stopped. 2359 hours town shelled by mortars and arty which continued intermittently through night and still going on 1100 hours 30 May. 0100 hours 30 May French occupied Syrian Parliament House. Total cas figures not known but reported 100 civs admitted hospital. Two Brit Offrs wounded one since died.

Two. Brit civs Damascus are to be conc in keep and French advised of time of move so as to provide safe conduct.

Three Hama. 30 May 0715 hours French plane having dropped 5 bombs was met by small arms fire and believed hit. 1000 hours French attack from south with armd cars arty and inf.

Four. Homs Aleppo. NTR but atmosphere uneasy.

Five. Deraa. Midnight 29/30 May French keep captured by Syrians. French being held as hostages against of air attack.

Six. Dair Es Zor. 29 May fracas during tribal meeting at Serail. Cas French killed one wounded one Syrians killed 3 incl one Shiek wounded three. French withdrew to barracks.

Seven. Rest of Syria and Lebanon NTR. Repercussions expected through Mideast when news Damascus fighting generally known.

Eight. H.M.Minister has been provided with scort cars and escort of two armd cars wef first light 30 May for protection himself and Consular personnel.

301410C

Advance copy C.N.S.

in relation



Circulated by War Office to War Office Depts.  
Defence Office Foreign Sec. Foreign Office C.N.S.  
C.N.S.

Received in War Registry a.m. 1st June.

1st Lord  
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)  
D.C. (2)  
D.S.O.  
O.D. (6)  
O.I.C. (3)  
D.N.I. (5)  
D. of P. (3)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
M (2)  
C.N.I. (2)  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake  
C.W.R.  
P.A.S. (L)  
Sec.  
Nav. Sec.

MEG.

752

30.5.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.F.45  
to form  
convoy.

In order to fit in with planned disembarkation programme, it is necessary that the troopships scheduled to form M.K.F.45 should proceed in convoy from Gibraltar to U.K. even if the general signal to discontinue troop convoys (S.D.G.7A) has been made.

(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail M.K.F.45 so as to arrive U.K. on 9th June.

(D.O.D.(H), 301313B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Trawlers  
released  
from Med.

All trawlers referred to in A.M. 170705 (N.T. in W.D.) which was passed to you are to be sailed to Falmouth, in accordance with the quoted signal which amends A.M. 091122 Dec.

(C. in C. Med. 302013B to F.O.L.E.M.)

753

30.5.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

L.C.T's for  
India.

L.C.T.(E) 372 and L.C.G. (M) 103 should be sailed to Aden as soon as possible.  
(2) It is intended that HIGHWAY should return to Aden to lift them back to India.  
(3) Request you report if the two landing craft can be at Aden by 9th June my 210741 May refers.  
(C. in C. E.I. 300636Z to F.O.R.S.C.A.)

Italian  
Fleet  
Destroyer.

Departure I.S. CARABINIERE E.T.A. Colombo 0130Z/May 31st. S. of A. 17 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 300737Z to Admty.)

SILVIO  
L.S.I.(L).

S.O.R.N.E.I's 280935. Request you sail SILVIO to Aden to await Admiralty decision on para. 3. of my 270601 which is being passed to Com. i/c Aden.  
(C. in C. E.I. 301144Z to F.O, Bombay and 311105Z)

754

30.5.1945  
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Ships for U.K. Departure a.m. 29th May H.M.C.S. INGONISH to U.K., H.M.C.S. ANNAN, LOCH MORLICH, LOCH ACHANALT to U.K.  
(C.O.P. Halifax, 300135Z to Admty.)

Trawlers Departure a.m. 29th May, H.M.S. ANTICOSTI, MAGDALEN, to Horta.  
(C.O.P., Halifax, 300133Z to Admty.)

O.N.303 damaged ship (Icebergs) Your 291346Z (N.T. in W.D.) SKOTAAS heavily holed probable docking. Diplodon stem badly buckled (forepeak?). Tank leaking frame and plates buckled requires docking. VILLANGER badly holed number 5 head from deck below water line. Hold full of water requires docking. Proceeding New York ahead of convoy.  
JOHN HENRY fore peak holed. Requires docking.  
PAINE WINGATE hull plating cracked from turn of binny upwards for 20 feet one foot forward. Engineroom bulkhead four frames bent number 3 hold flooded. Requires docking.  
Following ships sustained damage (this?) extent unknown.  
FORT COLUMBIA bow badly damaged above water line. Lifeboats smashed proceeding Halifax for survey.  
ALEXANDER BELL no details.  
SAM AUSTRAL not serious.  
WILLIAM MULHOLLAND not serious.  
FORT PERROT not serious.  
EMPIRE RAY boats smashed damaged starboard bow and anchor.  
EMPIRE MCMAHON slight damage.  
JONATHAN TRUMBULL slight damage.  
EMPIRE YUKON hit ice damaged port bow and quarter not making water.  
JOHN B. HOOD holed 15 feet above water line.  
JAMES KYRON WALKER collision extent damage unknown.  
JOSEPH H. HOLLISTER bow holed 15 feet above water line.  
SAM OLAND slight damage.  
HENRY VILKARD in collision no details not serious.  
PENNSYLVANIA holed made temporary repairs no details.  
OLUVA hull above water damaged tanks slightly bent.  
Where not otherwise stated ships are going to their correct destinations.  
(S.O.W.8, 300630Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

BITTERSWEET Departure 1100Z 30th May H.M.C.S. BITTERSWEET independently to Londonderry for onward routing to laying up port.  
(2) E.T.A. (B) p.m. 5th June.  
(4) Holds Q.Z.H. 478 (C-16) L.79, S.751, X.1657, Y.594, S.P.2272. (36) (37) (38).  
(F.O.N.F., 301246Z to C. in C. W.A.)

U-boat dispositions 1200Z/30th May. No fresh information.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 301301Z to Ships and Authorities)

/Enemy...

755

30.5.1945  
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesU-boat  
dispositions  
(Contd.)Enemy U-boat Estimate 1200/30.  
No fresh information.  
(Cominch, 301433Z to Admty.)

O.N.S.51

O.N.S.51. BEAUHARNOIS (S.O.) BATTLEFORD sail  
~~St. Johns~~ 0800Z/31 May to relieve you in Westomp  
42.13 N. 49.01 W. at 1800Z 1st June.  
(F.O.N.F., 301732Z to S.E. O.N.S.51.)O.N.303  
(Icebergs)O.N.303.  
Following are changes of destination passed  
B.A.M.S. GEORGE LEONARD, JOSEPH H. HOLLISTER,  
JOSEPH LEIDY, WALT WHITMAN four to Boston  
FRANCIS D. CULKIN to Searsport Marine.  
(C. in C. Med., 301756Z to Ships escorting  
O.N.303.)TENACITY  
tug(2) Admiralty pass to C.C.R.T. H.M.R.T. TENACITY  
escorted by MEDICINE HAT returned St. Johns 1845Z  
30th May.  
(F.O.N.F., 301918Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)Surplus ships  
to Canadian  
requirements  
on completion  
of anti-U/B  
operationsCan a reply now be made to my 181620 as some  
ships are now being taken in hand for destoring  
preparatory to being turned over to War assets  
Corporation for disposal.  
(N.S.H.Q., 302106Z to Admiralty.)Far East and AustraliaBlue  
summary  
29th May.Ryukus. 6th March. Div. crossed canal in Naha  
and moved southeast to secure all but small  
section of the town. Patrols landed on Onbyama  
Island in Naha Harbour. SHUBRICK (DD.639) hit  
by suicide plane on 28th. Total enemy planes  
destroyed 27th - 28th No. 116. T.A.F. credited  
with 17 additional splashes and ships AA.18 C.V.Es. continued  
attacks on Sakishima Gunto. Fast carrier T.A.F. and C.V.E.  
planes flew 111 close support sorties on 28th and T.G.33.3  
departed operating area for Leyte with RANDOLPH (C.V.15) going  
to Guam. V. Adm. McCain assumed command of T.F.38.  
Searches Empire Area. F.A.W.1 planes sank 1 Med. A.K.2 small  
A.K. probably sank 1 S.D. C.F.A.W.1 reports 9,200 tons sunk  
84,680 tons damaged.  
Empire. 435 B.29s dropped incendiaries on Yokohama urban  
industrial area from 17,800 to 20,000 feet visually and by radar  
in daylight raid.  
Submarines. Blue submarine reports rescue of 8 B.29 survivors

/and...

756

30.5.1945  
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSFar East and AustraliaBlue  
Summary  
29th May  
(Contd.)

and 8 Army P.B.Y. airmen. Mustang pilot rescued pilot rescued by another submarine. Blue submarine reports raising flag on Pratas Island. 3 Submarine contacts reported in Philseafron. Search for submarine reported E.S.E. of Okinawa negative. (C. in C. Pacific, A.H.Q. 300634 to All commands interested.)

Digest  
1225  
29.5.1945  
Extract.

1225 covering 29th May Rpt. unless another date indicated.  
(3) 3 nocturnal Liberators dropped 3 tons Shanghai shipping sinking single small freighter transport.  
(4) Continuing support 5th Fleet operations 110 Liberators dropped 354 tons (sic) Kiirfva military docks stores installations causing large explosion. (sic) Large fires, 4 straggling Liberators hit other Formosan targets. Single Mitchell on armed reconnaissance Formosa sank 1 submarine chaser off east coast.  
(6) Total enemy casualties to date number 157,858 killed, 2302 captured.  
(9) In New Guinea Australian forces captured large enemy supply dumps in former enemy headquarters area 1 mile south-west Wirui Mirbion. Between 17th and 24th May when enemy casualties in Aitape-Wewah-Hansaobay area increased by 399 killed, 7 captured bringing total to 24th May to 13,445 killed 287 captured (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 300940Z to Admty.)

TRADEWIND  
submarine

Anticipated departures: TRADE WIND. My 271558 not to Com. Aden refers. Fremantle 5th June, Aden 25th June, Port Said 6th July, Gibraltar 16th July. (Submarine IV, 300954Z to Admty.)

757

31.5.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

1. A.N.C.X.F. considers that while the concentration of ex-German warships continues, there should be an Allied warship continuously at Wilhelmshaven, and that until the situation is more normal visits should continue to the Kiel-Flensburg area. Further visits to Norway appear unnecessary.

\* See p. 775 + 776, 777.  
North Sea.

2(a) The first convoy from Hamburg, ~~U.3035~~ U.3035.1 (11 ships) sailed for the United Kingdom, escorted by the frigate RETALICK and four minesweepers.  
(b) Delfzyl is open to urgent shipping.

Norway.

3. The Norwegian Government returned to Oslo in SS. ANDES escorted by the destroyers HESPERUS and HAVELOCK.

4. NORFOLK (C.S.1) and ZEPHYR (D.2) arrived at Trondheim from Rosyth with troops.

5. The frigate HELMSDALE left Stavanger escorting U.3035 for Loch Eriboll.

6. U.985 has been found beached in Topdals Fiord badly damaged by mine and dismantled. N.O.I.C. Kristiansund considers she is not worth salvaging.

7. U.4706 at Kristiansand has a defective main engine and requires a new piston.

Northern Waters.

8. Ten U-Boats from Trondheim, escorted by the frigates LOCH FYNE and KEATS, arrived at Scapa. The KEMPTHORNE, from this group, arrived at Lerwick.

9. Thirteen U-Boats from Bergen, escorted by the 30th Escort Group (PORCHESTER CASTLE, PEVENSEY CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE and LAUNCESTON CASTLE) arrived at Scapa.

10. Three of the four U-Boats which arrived at Scapa yesterday from Oslo, U.874, U.975 and U.1108, reached Lisahally today.

31.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

Northern  
Waters.  
(Contd.)

11. Five of the eight U-Boats which arrived at Scapa yesterday from Stavanger, U.2322, U.2324, U.2329, U.2345 and U.2348 with U.170 from Oslo, left today for Loch Ryan. The other three U.637, U.901 and U.1171, left for Lisahally.

12. U.2334, one of the 15 which left Kristiansand on the 29th, ran a hot bearing and had to be taken in tow by the frigate BARBADOS. The other 14 arrived at Scapa escorted by the frigate TYLER.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean

Movements. / 13(a) ARETHUSA (F.O.L.E.M.) sailed from the Piraeus for Beirut.  
(b) DUKE OF YORK left Suez for Aden.

East Indies

Submarines  
operations.

14(a) S/M SEADOG on her 2nd Far East patrol sank one 300 ton steamer in Oleleh by torpedo on the 18th May. On 20th May she sank a 50 ton schooner by gunfire.  
(b) S/M SCYTHIAN on her 3rd Far East patrol in vicinity of Arao Island on 11th May sank by gunfire a 100 ton coaster and two lighters carrying troops and on 18th May sank two 50 ton junks by gunfire near Pulo Berhala.  
(c) S/M SUBTLE on her 5th Far East patrol on 12th May in position 3° 13' N., 100° 39' E. fired 6 torpedoes at Jap. NACHI class cruiser escorted by one destroyer. Torpedoes missed. Counter-attack of 13 charges caused considerable minor damage.



759

31.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Far East and Australia

Formosa.

15. 119 U.S. Liberators dropped 339 tons of bombs on enemy headquarters at Taihoku, large fires were started.

760

31.5.1945  
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicyBEEHIVE  
(Felixstowe)  
WILDFIRE III  
(Sheerness)

In view of probable C/F commitments during next few months intend that BEEHIVE and WILDFIRE III shall not close down for the present.  
A.L.M.012456/44 of 27th December, 1944 refers. Possibility of removing base personnel at BEEHIVE will be investigated.  
(C. in C. Nore, 311013B to Admty.)

Corvettes  
for Canada

PRESCOTT and MIMICO can now be released on 5th June for return to Canada.  
(C. in C. Nore, 311046B to Admty.)

Reductions  
to Reserve

Following numbers of escort vessels are expected to arrive from F.O.G.M.A. by 15th June:  
Devonport manned 6, Portsmouth manned 2, Chatham manned 2.

(2) It is desired that ships should proceed to home ports to give 7 days leave to each watch immediately on arrival and to progress reduction to category (C) in accordance with A.M. 150200 para. 3 while so doing.

(3) Destoring ports will be indicated in due course.

(4) Balance of foreign service leave will be given on completion of reduction to reserve.

(5) Fifteen K.I.L. class A/S vessels are also expected from abroad within a month.

Request information whether a proportion or all of these can be taken in your command for reduction to category (b) without detriment to other reserve fleet requirements.

(F.O.C.R.F., 311139B to C. in Cs. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth. Info: Admty.)

Yarmouth

Gt. Yarmouth Naval Plot closed down at noon today Thursday 31st May.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 311229B to C. in C. Nore.)

Dispositions  
in German  
Danish and  
Norwegian  
waters

Reference your policy that it is not intended to provide Cruisers and Destroyers for duties in German and Danish Ports after 7th June except in special circumstances, it is urgently requested that:

(a) while the concentration of ex German warships remains, there should be an Allied warship continuously at Wilhelmshaven.

(b) Until the situation becomes more normal and the large number of ships and personnel have been dispersed, visits should continue to the Kiel - Flensburg area.

(2) No other special circumstances are foreseen and further visits to Norway appear unnecessary.

(A.N.C.X.F.(Main), 311239B to Admty.) Reply: Admty 041401 June.

Cross-  
channel  
movements

Cite S.H.G.D.S. Fwd. 22945. With effect from 15th June functions in connection with Cross-channel movement hitherto carried out by Buco. G. (S.D.) will be assumed by W.O.

/(2)...

761

31.5.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Cross-Channel Movements. (Contd.)

(2) Arrangements for control of White Ensign ships and craft are being agreed between Admiralty and A.N.C.X.F.

(3) War Office is requested to publish the necessary instructions regarding submission of bids for vehicles and personnel movements.

(4) Admiralty in conjunction with Commaveu is requested to advise Com. Zone method of submission of U.S. requirements in ships and craft.

(5) 21 Army group will arrange necessary General Staff representation at War Office who request that this should consist of 2 Officers now serving with Buco. Detachments from Buco will be attached to each service Ministry during the transitional period which will commence about 15th June. (S.H.A.E.F. Forward, 311835B to 21 Army Group Main, 21 Army Group Rear, A.N.C.X.F. Main, W.O. Admty.)

Operations

North Sea

Opening of Hamburg. Your 281855 and 121613.

(A) Ships are swept into Cuxhaven from P.15 Buoy. Pilot boarded at E.A. Buoy (FIANKLIN's 261845 refers).

(B) Maximum draft 24 feet.

(C) 11 berth for maximum draft 24 feet, 2 berth for maximum draft 23 feet. Limiting factor as regards working ship is amount of debris obstructing road and jetties and the number of ships that can be worked at Kiel Canal capacity simultaneously is still obscure. Further signal will be made. (F.O.W.G. 311032B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Mine-sweeping Dutch Ports. Your 301251. Concur provided completion of operation "Cackle" is not delayed thereby.

(2) Request estimated date of completion of "Cackle". (A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 311320B to F.O. Holland)

/Discharge ...

31.5.1945  
Thursday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No.422 Part 4 Section A.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600B/  
30th May.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	-	216	0,157 <sup>4</sup>	-	17,685
Ostend	467	109	2,025	-	3,310
Caen	-	-	130	2,562	-
Calais	5,820	73	68	-	-
Rotterdam	-	-	625	675	-
Totals:	6,287	398	13,005	3,237	20,995
	<sup>4</sup> sic.				

U.S. - North

Antwerp	-	-	11,457	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	669	-	1,159
Le Havre	685	100	4,466	-	-
Rouen	-	-	1,659	978	5,876
Ghent	-	-	9,830	-	-
Totals:	685	100	28,081	978	7,035

U.S. South

Marseilles	162	94	9,258	-	15,463
Port De Bouc	-	-	523	-	-
Totals:	162	94	9,781	-	15,463

Army coal at Granville 1,257, Morlaix 510, Dieppe 750.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 311630B to Admty. etc.)

"Apostle"  
convoy for  
Norway.

Cancel my 271051, my 291105 and my 301905  
(Repetition circulated under 302005B)  
(2) Intend to sail "Apostle" convoy from Bruns-  
bittel at 1200 on 2nd June.  
(3) Route Q.Z.S. 749 and 732 to P.11 Buoy, thence  
to position 055 degs. 21' N. 006 degs. 35' E.

thence to position H of Q.Z.S. 752. E.T.A. position H.2130 on  
3rd June.

(4) S. of A. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots to Cuxhaven thence 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots.

(5) Destination Oslo U.S. L.S.T. 983, 508, 497, 500, 519.

Kristiansand (S) L.S.T. 198, 363. Trondhiem U.S. L.S.T. 292,  
293, 294, 503, 58. Bergen L.S.T. 430, 401. Stavanger L.S.T.  
63, 361, 365.

(6) Escorts RIOU to position H thence as in Rosyth's 291614B  
not to all. RIOU to (?) sweep to Harwich on relief using  
Q.Z.S. (752?) to P.11 buoy thence by normal swept channel.

(7) Communication. RIOU constant watch area broadcast and  
2410 K/cs. also appropriate port wave when within 100 of shore.  
L.S.T's 2410 K/cs.

(8) Mine sweeping as arranged by C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C.  
Nore.

(Cdre. Hamburg, 311750B to A.N.C.X.F. and others)

/German ...

763

War Diary31.5.1945  
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.German  
ships for  
Humber.

C. in C. Rosyth's 301918B (Request confirmation that German manned Merchant Vessels should be routed direct to Humber). In view of the mining situation it is considered that greater safety would be insured by sailing these ships by Q.Z.S. 738 and thence by East Coast channel to

Humber. It is appreciated that this would entail additional steaming of approx. 100 miles.  
(C. in C. Nore, 311752B to C. in C. Rosyth)10th M/S  
Report.Daily (?progress) report of 10th M/S Flotilla  
(1) Continued widening South West side P.15 to P.10 to 6½ cables modified L.S.A. 3 actuations.  
(2) 2 blue mines detonated on 4th actuation in area as follows:(a) By 1st Division 285 degs P.13 buoy 14 cables no plume.  
(b) By 1st Division 166 degs P.11 buoy 7 cables (?incomplete) plume.(3) 6. (4) 6.  
(LIBERTY, 311844 to C. in C. Nore.)First  
convoy  
from  
Hamburg.

Situation report No.22. First outward bound convoy of 11 ships consisting of collier ROLSFBURG 4 American Y tankers, 3 British recovered ships and 3 German ships taken in prize sailed for U.K.

(Cdre. Hamburg, 311945B to F.O. W.G. A.N.C.X.F.  
(Main) Admty. D. of S.T.)  
W.D. Note: For list see shipping.Minesweeping  
Scheldte.Sweeping report for to-day Thursday.  
(A) 2 M.M.S. swept L.L/S.A. 1 G.M.S. 2 actuations of Keeten Minefields. Negative results.

(B) Static sweep made by M.M.S.1030 on line between 2nd and 3rd position given in your

271625. Pulsing at 1000 Amps. commence 1600.

(C) C.I.S. sweep to locate line between first and 2nd position given in your 271625. One object located and danned.

(D) 4 M.F.Vs swept 20 actuations L.A.A/S.A. from Dintelsas to Willemstad and 17 actuations from Willemstad to D.K.M.G. Buoy at W.D.

(E) 1 M.M.S. begin static sweep with wire cable of remaining mine in Zype minefield.

(Com. M/S East Schelde, 312057 to F.O. Holland)

18th M/S  
Report.

18th M/S Flotilla progress report.

(1) TANGANYIKA, RATTLESNAKE, FELICITY sail 1600 from Cuxhaven to escort U.L.C.1.  
ONYX joins at P.15 to make a total of 4 type C M/S.

(2) COCKATRICE at Cuxhaven repairing damage sustained when entering American Hafen. Survey revealed damage to plating and frames abreast 83 station starboard.

/Temporary ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

18th M/S  
Report.  
(Contd.)

Temporary repairs to be completed and ship ready for sea p.m. tomorrow Friday.  
Form S.232 is being forwarded.  
(3) L.L. wire and type C sweep operations in all above ships but in FELICITY subject to trial under working load.  
(S.O. M/S.F. 18, 312136B to C. in C. Nore)

Minesweeping  
to  
Rotterdam.

"Fireball". (1) (A) L.L/S.A. I.M. 7 to T.X. 4  
1 actuation whole width.  
(B) L.L/S.A. T.X. 4 to Franschebank completed to 15 actuations whole width.  
(C) L.L/S.A. Marsdiep continued.  
(D) L.L/S.A. Ijmuiden anchorage commenced.

- (E) Modified L/S.A. Franschbank to Den Helder entrance continued.
  - (F) Oropesa North Sea Canal at Zaan Dam.
  - (G) L.A.A. North Sea Canal Chowra.
  - (2) Nil.
  - (3) Survey work at Ijmuiden and Den Helder continued.
  - (4) Flour 1400 pounds fresh meat 1000 pounds jam 144 pounds, tomatoes, 288 tins baked beans 288 tins.
  - (5) M.L. 489 and M.L.250 to Sheerness anchorage, M.M.S. Ijmuiden anchorage area, 3 M.M.S. Marsdiep anchorage area, 5 M.M.S. (modified L) Den Helder approach, 5 M.M.S. (L.A.A.) North Sea Canal.
- (Capt. M/S F.A. Operations, 312241B to C. in C. Nore)

Delfzyl  
open.

.Cositintrep No.422 part II Naval.  
Delfzyl open to urgent shipping. Ref. Cositintrep No.394. Maximum acceptable draught now 23 feet.  
(Burrough, 312330B to Usual Cositintrep addresses)

Operations

Channel

Sinking of  
Bombardon,  
in Hurd  
Deep.

My 301731B. C.M.S.F. is requested to sail BRESSAY and DAMSAY to arrive Portland p.m. Monday 4th June, ships carrying out any necessary calibrations of sweeps en route.  
(2) FLEETWOOD is to sail independently to arrive Portland by 2000B Monday 4th June.  
(3) F.O.I.C.Portland is requested to sail FLEETWOOD, BRESSAY, DAMSAY and three Isles Class Trawlers arriving Portland p.m. Monday 4th June from Plymouth as follows:  
(a) Tuesday 5th June to exercise off Portland.  
(b) Wednesday 6th June to carry out a search one mile either side of a line between the following positions: -  
(1) 003 degs. 18 miles from Casquets Light.  
(2) 003 degs. 6 miles from Casquets Light search to commence at 0600B/6th June.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Sinking of  
Bombardon  
in Hurd  
Deep  
(Contd.)

(4) Search to be carried out in King formation, sweeps being adjusted to give a swept depth of 15 fathoms.  
(5) On completion FLEETWOOD, BRESSAY and DAMSAY are to return to Portland and the three Plymouth Trawlers to Plymouth as ordered by F.O.I.C. Portland.

(6) FLEETWOOD is requested to convene a conference with Minesweepers on arrival at Portland on 4th June to discuss details of the programme.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 311737B to F.O.I.C. Portland, C.M.S.F. FLEETWOOD)

Amended by 011135B June q.v.

Cross-  
Channel  
Movements.

Transfer of control to War Office (S.H.A.E.F. 311835B).  
See Policy.

Channel  
Islands  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep 422 Force 135 Part I period ending 1900B/31st May.

At St. Peter Port.

(3) (b) Guernsey R.E. work includes repairs to No. 5 berth St. Peter Port, fenders and roadway at new jetty St. Peter Port. Coasters CAMEO and SANDHILL discharging.

(e) Alderney: Mine lifting and removal of wire air landing posts and beach obstacles continues. 1529 mines destroyed. 12 per mined charges removed from Braye pier.

Guernsey: 1474 mines lifted. Clearance of anti-air landing and under-water obstacles continues.

Jersey. Total mines lifted 30th May 2527. Work on opening slips to allow seaweed collection proceeding well.

(4) (b) Guernsey: As before plus work on cable under supervision Royal Navy.

(c) Jersey. Conference held about controlled return of Channel Islanders from United Kingdom.

(H.Q. Force 135, 311935B to Adnty.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Minesweeping  
Clyde  
Area.

As the Oropesa Trawlers now based in the Clyde are likely to be fully employed on clearance operations for some weeks at least it is proposed that the operation called for by A.L.2895/43 of 17th Dec. 44 shall be carried out at an early date by the trawlers based in the Minches under the orders of Lt. Cdr. Engebrettsen R.N.R. now in HARLECH CASTLE.

(Capt. M/S Clyde, 311010 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)  
Your 311010. Concur subject to approval of C. in C. W.A.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 311159B to Capt. M/S Clyde)

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War Diary

31.5.1945  
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

OLNA Fleet Oiler OLNA (Tanker Message) is urgently required in Pacific and on completion trials in the Clyde vessel should be ordered Curacao to load, my 182015 not to Western Approaches refers.

(2) As machinery is of new type, on arrival Curacao Captain should furnish report for transmission to Admiralty stating how machinery has behaved during voyage.

(3) If machinery has run satisfactorily and there are no major defects vessel should proceed to Pacific, after loading. Actual destination will be given later.

(4) If, however, defects have occurred which require Yard assistance to make good, vessel should return to Clyde after loading.

(Dir. of Stores, 311509B to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

Post-War / Admiralty's 242256B (List giving names of ports mine clearance. to be used as post-war Mines Clearance Bases) From information received from minesweeping Division Admiralty, it is intended to base all the ships mentioned for operations in this area, at Swansea. Milford Haven will be used as an anchorage only.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 311544B to F.O.I.C. Cardiff)

Air-Sea Relieved in station 18 by DUMBARTON CASTLE.  
Rescue E.T.A. Greenock 1600/2nd June.  
Service. (ST. HELENA, 311550B to C. in C. W.A.)

Minesweeping Conditions unfit for sweep to-day Flotilla  
31st hove vicinity 048 degs. 43' N. 009 degs. 31' W.  
M/S.F. south west gale. Condition improved anticipate resuming operation June 1st. Intend to proceed Falmouth p.m. June 1st to refuel.  
(S.O. M/S.Flot. 31, 312030B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Minesweeping / Add to my 251445B.  
Bristol The following additional mines have been en-  
Channel. countered in Q.Z.X. 1577 line 5:-  
25th May 16 cut 3 detonated  
29th May 11 cut 2 "  
30th May 4 cut 1 "

Total 37 mines with loss of 6 Kits Otters.  
Trawler SICYON sustained damage to main inlet by detonation in kite using 75 F.M.S. kite wire repairs taken in hand.  
No further sweeping due to weather.  
(Cdr. M/S Bristol Channel, 312040B to F.O.I.C.Milford Haven)



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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

"Apostle"  
Operation  
"Doomsday".      Your 271830B, L.S.T. 761, 165, 180, 200, 214,  
239 arrived Oslo.  
(F.O. Oslo, 310901B to N.O.I.C. Leith and  
Granton)

NORFOLK,  
ZEPHYR.            Arrived C.S.1 in NORFOLK with D.2 in ZEPHYR.  
(N.O.I.C. Trondheim, 311200B to C. in C. Rosyth)

Norwegian  
Govt. to  
Norway.            / Your 281307 (sailed HESPERUS and HAVELOCK  
escorting SS. ANDES) arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Oslo, 311202B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)  
Your 271735. GRECIAN, TATTOO, TRAILER (?ELFREDA)  
arrived Oslo Harbour.  
(N.O.I.C. Oslo, 311201B to C. in C. Rosyth)

ANDES arrived 1230/31 May.  
Disembarked 603 passengers Norwegian Government.  
(S.S.T.O. Oslo, 312100B to D.S.T.)

BANFORA,  
FOLEY.            BANFORA escorted by FOLEY sailed . E.T.A.  
Christiansand (S. Norway) 1600/31st.  
(N.O.I.C. Stavanger, 311237 to N.O.I.C.  
Kristiansand)

PROOF,  
M.L's.            My 301051 (PROOF and M.L's 222, 112, 114, 184,  
and 153). Sailing postponed.  
(N.O.I.C. Kristiansand South, 311528B to Cdr.  
Denmark)  
My 301051 and 311528.  
Amended E.T.D. 1500/1st June.  
Times as in my 301051 plus 24 hours  
(2) Add M/V EMPIRE HARCOURT in company.  
(N.O.I.C. Kristiansand, 312157B to Cdr. Denmark)

U. 3035.            HELMSDALE escorting U.3035 sailed 1400/31st May.  
Speed 13 knots E.T.A. Loch Eriboll 1100/2nd May.  
(?June intended).  
(N.O.I.C. Stavanger, 311530B to C. in C. Rosyth)

U.4706  
U.985.            Your 311615B not to N.O.I.C. Bergen (N.T. in W.D.)  
German U-Boat 4706 type 23 has defective Main  
Engine and requires new Piston. Spares may be  
available at Bergen and probably at Hamburg or  
Kiel, and could be fitted here. My 230942  
refers. General U-Boat 985 has been found beached in Topdals  
Fiord badly damaged by mine and dismantled, do not consider  
worth salvage.  
(N.O.I.C. Kristiansand, 312325B to C. in C. Rosyth)

War Diary

31.5.1945  
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

NORFOLK  
(to Norway  
with King)

Request you will berth NORFOLK alongside as convenient on return to Rosyth. NORFOLK will be required to sail at 1415 June 5th.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 311707 to A.S. Rosyth)

German  
M/V's  
guards.

It is probable a number of German manned merchant vessels will be arriving at intervals at Methil in the near future to be taken over by the M.O.W.T.

(2) Military guards will be required on board the ships until the German crews are removed.

(3) It is hoped that accommodation ships will arrive with the convoys to which the German crews of the Merchant ships will be removed and subsequently embarked for passage back to Germany.

(4) Should accommodation ships not arrive with convoys, request accommodation be arranged ashore under Military Control till such time as ships are available for transport of crews back to Germany.

(5) No dates or time limits are yet available.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 311939 to S.C.O.T.C.O)

Passage of  
J.W/R.A.56  
(April)  
Request  
for Enemy  
Intelligence.

Your 301955B para. 1.

Request you will extract from U-Boat reports, obtained in accordance with Admiralty's 161400B/May, as much as possible of the information relevant to Convoy J.W/R.A.66 specified in Admiralty's 291448B.

(2) Reports should be forwarded to D.N.I. Admty. copy to D.A.U.D.

(D.A.U.D. Apprd. A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 312331B to C. in C. W.A.)

Baltic - Operations

Removal of  
German  
Ships from  
Sweden.

German (?vessels) in Swedish Ports.

(1) My 191329 and R.S.1127 May 21st. Swedish Authorities desire early departure of German vessels now held at Swedish Ports, particularly SS. HAUSSA 2,818 tons, carrying 800 tons explosives.

(2) Having regard to your 120130B (Not identified in W.R.) it is requested that routing instructions to enable these vessels to leave may now be forwarded.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 311139 to Admty.)

Mine damage.

Sperrbrecher No.11 damaged by mine in position 54 degs. 50' 1" N. 9 degs. 51' 2" E. Vessel afloat but immobile. Further report after survey.

(F.O.I.C.Kiel, 311240B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Kiel...

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsBaltic - Contd.

Kiel Situation Report. Situation at 2100 to-day Thursday 31st May. Recent additions to complement have been more than offset by additional commitments. Provision of Officers in German manned ships during passage westward through Canal is considered advisable and will affect other control operations until movement has been completed. Sperrbrecher No.11 towed into Flensburg. Engine repairs estimated likely to take three weeks. Docking thought unnecessary on first inspection but survey is being made. OFFA arrived Kiel from Flensburg. Selection of Naval personnel for "freezing" is proceeding. Number likely to be required now appears higher than originally estimated. Military Government has required the fishermen should also be frozen. (F.O.I.C.Kiel, 311258B to A.N.C.X.F.)

TASAJERA (landing ship) Request you sail TASAJERA with C.F.M.U. stores and personnel not required at Copenhagen to Kiel or as required by F.O. Kiel. (2) TASAJERA may be sailed direct if you and F.O. Kiel can make satisfactory arrangements for her safe passage otherwise ship should be sailed northabout and via Canal. (3) F.O. Kiel is requested to sail ship to U.K. via canal after unloading and to report whether N.P. 1761 can then be released. (4) F.O. Kiel's 281621 and my 131350 neither to all. (A.N.C.X.F.(Main), 311502B to F.O. Denmark)

ORANJE-FONTEIN. M.W.T. request release of Dutch M.V. GRANJEFONTEIN now used as Depot ship for Naval Party 1742 to sail June 15th. Medical Authorities most insistant that Kiel parties should be accommodated afloat, propose using late E-Boat depot ships HERBERT VON WISSMANN for N.P. 1742 and OTTO WUNSCH for N.P.1743. Early action necessary to avoid delaying ORANJEFONTEIN. (F.O.Kiel, 312021B to A.N.C.X.F.) Concur A.N.C.X.F.011206B.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German minefields in Atlantic.

Your 251117 (N.T. in W.D.) Following received from O.K.M. (begins): German Naval Authorities report that owing to loss of documents they are not able to provide information of minefields laid by U-Boats off Cape Henry before 15 June, 1942; off Port

Castries before 28th July, 1942; and off Halifax or St. John in 1943 or 1944.

Some of the documents were lost in the fire in O.K.M. Berlin in November, 1943, and recent details were submitted to C. in C. Nore, by Korvkapt Nembing and have not been returned.

D.T.G. 301546B (Ends.)

(A.N.C.X.F. Main, 311452B to Comnaveu.)

U-Boats sunk (March 30)

Your 302011 (request for check and repeat of numbers of type 7C U-Boats and of date of air raid in N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven's 171225.) 2 types of 7C German U-Boats, number 96 and 429, were sunk at Wilhelmshaven on 30th March, 1945. (N.O.I.C. Wilhelmshaven 311500B to Admty.)

U-Boats in Norway Ports.

Confirmation is requested that the only U-Boats in harbour are as follows:-  
6 type 21 at Oslo. 1 type 21 at Kristiansand (S).  
1 type 21 at Stavanger. Trondheim nil.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 311615B to N.Os. i/c Stavanger, Oslo, Kristiansand (S), Trondheim.)  
Reply: 011020B.

NORD (ex-RISICO)

Your 301623. Present owner NORD, Rederei of Hamburg. Vessel seized by Germans 13th September, 1944. Vessel built by Scheepswerft de Dageraad, Woubrugge Holland. Year not known. (Consul General Gothenburg 311706 to Admty.)

Minesweepers, building at Emden.

O.K.M. report that 10 in number H.M.G. 50 mine-sweeping units are under construction at Nordesee Werke at Emden. H.F.G. 50 is self-propelled minesweeping device constructed from pressure hull of 7C type U-Boat.

(2) It is proposed to authorise completion of any of these units whose construction is far advanced. Request you investigate and report.

(3) Steps should be taken to freeze suitable personnel to man any of these units which can be completed in next few months. The crew of each unit is about 10 in all.

(A.N.C.X.F. Main 311910 to F.O.W.G.)

Reply: 050830B June.

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence - Contd.

U.1061, (1) U.1061 is a converted 500 ton torpedo  
U. 1272. carrier.  
(ex Bergen) (2) C.O. of U.1272 Ober-Lt. Z. see Schautteburg  
is ardent Nazi particularly unco-operative.  
(PHILANTE, 312245B to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects

HEBRIDES, Intercept 0344 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. (begins)  
grounding. S O S de GPK, S O S de GFTC (HEBRIDES) aground  
Gunna Sound four thirty a.m. Vessel making  
water landing passengers Tiree.. 0337 G.M.T.,  
now abandoning. 310337 (Ends).  
(Ormesby Radio, 310548 to F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.)  
Received 0630Z 500 k/cs. Type B. (begins):  
Port Patrick HEBRIDES, GFTC. GWJM (CLYDESDALE) standing by.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 310830B to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)  
Intercept at 1248 G.M.T. on 500 k/cs. A2 D.F. Bearing not  
obtained direction west. Automatic Distress Signal.  
(Ormesby Radio, 311450 to F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.)  
Intercepted at 1257 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. A2 D.F. bearing 305°  
2nd class automatic distress signal using S O S and A.A.  
(Ormesby Radio, 311458 to F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.)

Movements

U-Boats My P.C. and S. 60° 56' N., 00° 11' W., 200°, 13  
ex Bergen. knots. 13 German U-Boats in company.  
(S.O. E.G.30, 310001B to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Scapa arrival at 1630 PORCHESTER CASTLE,  
PEVENSEY CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE, LAUNCESTON  
CASTLE escorting U.1052, U.1022, U.1061, U.D.5, U.298, U.328,  
U.868, U.245, U.1272, U.1004, U.930, U.1002 and U.928.  
(C. in C. H.F., 311731B to N.O.I.C. Bergen.)

PALOMARES. Sailed PALOMARES for R/V at 1800B/31st in  
position 54° 10' N., 04° 10' W., PUNCHER's  
271533B (not to all) refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 310053 to PUNCHER.)

BERWICK, Your 302132\*. Approved.  
ZEST (C. in C. H.F., 310230 to C.S.10.)  
from Bergen. \* In order that BERWICK and ZEST may give leave  
both watches propose they return with me on  
Friday.

KEMPTHORNE Lerwick arrival KEMPTHORNE.  
(from (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 310540B to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Trondheim).

/U-Boats ...

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31.5.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMovements - Contd.

U-Boats  
ex Oslo  
for  
Lisahally. My P.C. and S. at 0630 057° 35' N., 007° 00' W.,  
186°, 11 knots. E.T.A. Dunagannu Point 1930  
today 31st May. U.874, 975, 1108 in company.  
(LOCH GLENDHU, 310607 to Cdre. (D) W.A.)  
Arrived LOCH GLENDHU and U.975, U.874 and U.1108.  
(Com. (D) W.A., 312000B to C. in C. H.F.)

LOCH FYNE My P.C. and S. 059° 31' N., 001° 27' W., 204°,  
(U-Boats ex 11 Knots.  
Trondheim (LOCH FYNE, 310802B to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
for Scapa).

CARYSFORT. On arrival at 060° N. proceed to Scapa, report  
E.T.A.  
(2) SCOURGE will continue escort to Leith.  
(F.O.(D) Home Fleet, 310946B to CARYSFORT.)

ST. AUSTEL BAY. Intend to sail ST. AUSTEL BAY at 0700B/3rd  
June. E.T.A. Tobermory 1800B same day.  
Admiralty's 261257 refers (Work-up in U.K. for  
newly commissioned BAY class frigates and A/A  
sloops).  
Admiralty is requested to divert mails to Tobermory.  
(F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland, 311012 to Cdre. WESTERN ISLES.)

JERVIS. Intend to sail JERVIS at 0900B June 2nd routed  
as in C. in C. W.A. 281721, to Gibraltar.  
E.T.A. 1100B June 5th. C. in C. Med. 221808  
also refers.  
Admty. is requested to divert mails to Malta.  
(F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland, 311034 to F.O.G.M.A.)

U-Boats My 301110, para (2). Scapa departure U.170,  
for Loch Ryan. U.2348, U.2345, U.2324, U.2329, U.\*2322 escorted  
by LOCH MORE, LEEDS UNITED, KING SOL thence  
trawlers in accordance with C. in C. W.A's  
281631 not to all.  
(C. in C. H.F., 311102 to Com. (D) W.A.,  
Capt. S/M. Loch Ryan.)  
(See N.O.I.C. Stavanger 161811 to F.O. Norway) p. 418.

U. 2334 U.2334 has run a hot bearing and has a maximum  
(ex Kristian- speed 4 knots. BARBADOS has taken her in tow.  
sand). Propose U-Boat should proceed Dundee to make good  
defects if approved request escort may be sent  
out to relieve BARBADOS. E.T.A. 25 buoy (12)45.  
(TYLER, 311107B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

TYLER's 311107B. BARBADOS remain in company with U-Boat and  
both proceed to Dundee.  
(2) No relief considered necessary.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 311310B to TYLER, BARBADOS.)

Your 311310B. E.T.A. N.W. Tay Buoy 1730.  
(BARBADOS, 311421B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/My ...

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31.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

U.2334 (ex Kristiansand). (Contd.) My 311310 not to all. As soon as defects in U. 2334 have been made good N.O.I.C. Dundee is requested to sail her escorted by BARBADOS to Scapa, reporting E.T.A. (C. in C. Rosyth, 311415B to BARBADOS, N.O.I.C. Dundee.)  
Your 312027B (N.T. in W.D.) Cancel my 311735B. My 311415B to apply. (C. in C. Rosyth, 312254 to N.O.I.C. Dundee.)

NEWCASTLE. Owing to delay in E.R. 3517 (GLASGOW) and J.14057 (BEAULY FIRTH) and shortage of berthing facilities, request consideration may be given to arrival of NEWCASTLE at Tyne being deferred till 4th July. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 311124B to Admty. and Bath.)

SAVAGE. Com. (D) H.F's 301516B not to all. Ship can be received at Chatham Locks at 1800B on Saturday 2nd June.  
(2) Request Com. Sheerness arrange for ship to be defuelled on arrival 1800/1st June and S.A.S.O. Upnor arrange for lighters to be alongside ship at 0600/2nd June.  
(3) Pending decision on completion date 14 days leave may be granted to ship's company from p.m./2nd June not more than two thirds being on leave at one time.  
(C. in C. Nore, 311208B to SAVAGE.)

M.M.S. 42. M.M.S.42 is allocated to 138th M.S.F.  
(2) Request you will sail vessel to Terneuzen on completion of trials.  
(3) Accounts are to be carried in MINOS.  
(4) Your 291445B not to all refers.  
(D.M.S., 311315B to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

FROBISHER, cadets' training. Request permission to carry out following cruise:

<u>Arrive</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leave</u>
-	Rosyth	p.m. Monday 4th June.
p.m. Tuesday 5th June	Ullapool, Loch Broom	a.m. Friday 8th June.
p.m. Friday 8th June	Ballachulish	a.m. Monday 11th June.
p.m. Monday 11th June	Portree	a.m. Thursday 14th June
p.m. Friday 15th June	Rosyth	-

(2) Propose to proceed to Ballachulish through Kyles of Loch Alsh and Sound of Mull.  
(3) FROBISHER is now the Cadets' seagoing training cruiser. (FROBISHER, 311545B to C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. W.A., Info. C. in C. H.F.)

/NABOB ...

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War Diary.31.5.1945.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSMovements - Contd.

NABOB  
(escort carrier).  
C. in C. Rosyth 071618. NABOB cannot be broken up but she is to be laid up on a suitable mud berth.  
(Hd. of M.II, 311632B to C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.C.R.F.)

LOCH  
MORLICH,  
LOCH  
ACHANALT,  
ANNAN.  
C. in C. C.N.A. 290517 (Departures Halifax 0300/29 H.M.C. Ships LOCH MORLICH (S.O.), LOCH ACHANALT in company to U.K.) Request LOCH MORLICH, LOCH ACHANALT and ANNAN may be instructed to proceed to Sheerness for reduction to Category (B) Reserve.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 311650B to C. in C. W.A.)

HEPATIC, A,  
TRILLIUM,  
ARROW HEAD,  
EYEBRIGHT.  
My 211601 and your 221839, neither to all. Request HEPATICA and TRILLIUM may be instructed to proceed direct to Clyde for de-ammunitioning removal of armament and to complete reduction to Category (C).  
(2) Request ARROWHEAD and EYEBRIGHT may de-ammunition and land armament stores in Northern Ireland and thence to Liverpool and Preston respectively to complete reduction to Category (C).  
(3) On completion of reduction all ships should be sailed with minimum passage crew and stores to Milford Haven for laying-up in mud berths.  
(4) If desired for any reason to interchange the destoring ports of these ships F.O.C.R.F. has no objection.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 311652B to C. in C. W.A.)

VIMY.  
Intend sailing VIMY to Immingham 0800 Sunday 3rd June to comply with para. 2 of F.O.C.R.F.'s 241915B May.  
(D.21, 311703B to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

FARNDALE.  
Intend to sail FARNDALE from Sheerness to Gib. at 1200B June 2nd by searched channels in force. Speed 15 knots. A.M. 301901B not to all refers.  
(2) Request Admty. divert mails to Malta after last delivery Chatham 1st June.  
(C. in C. Nore, 311709B to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Postpone my 311709B 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Nore, 312323B to F.O.G.M.A.)

U.637, U.901,  
U.1171 to  
Lisahally.  
My 301110, para.(3).  
Scapa departure U. 637, U.901, U.1171 escorted by BLIGH.  
(C. in C. H.F., 311711B to Com. (D) W.A., Capt. S/M. Lisahally.)  
Arrival, see 020750B June.

/SPITEFUL ...



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31.5.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

SPITEFUL (ex Pacific) Arrived S/M. SPITEFUL ex M.K.S.103.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 311722B to F.O.S/M.,  
F.O.G.M.A.)

GOATHLAND. GOATHLAND accepted into reserve Category (C)  
by F.O.C.R.F. on the 28th May.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 311755B to Admty.)

U-Boats ex Scapa arrival U-Boats 482, 773, 775, 953,  
Trondheim. 978, 994, 1019, 1064, 1203, 861 escorted by  
LOCH FYNE (S.O.), KEATS.  
(C. in C. H.F., 311805 to N.O.I.C. Trondheim.)  
\* 483 ? (See p. 714)

L'AVENTURE, My 301619, sailed.  
LA (C. in C. Plymouth, 311917B to C. in C.  
DECOUVERTE Portsmouth.)  
and LA  
SURPRISE to  
Portsmouth.

FRITILLARY A.M. 151341 April not to all refers.  
for (C) (1) Intend FRITILLARY to sail 1200B/1st from  
Reserve. Portsmouth for Milford Haven.  
(2) Speed 12 knots. (3) Route.  
(4) E.T.A. 1800B/2nd. (5) Communications.  
(6) Request mail diversion to Milford Haven.  
(7) FRITILLARY acknowledge and sail to comply  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 312205B to FRITILLARY,  
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

TYLER E.T.A. 0630B (?) 1st June.  
(14 U-Boats CAYMAN and 5 Mark VII (?) C and 9 Mark 23  
ex Kristian- German U-Boats in company.  
sand). (TYLER, 312307B to C. in C. H.F.)

Shipping and Convoys

German My 241645 (F.Os. i/c. should now sail German  
ships for ships which are not required for local use to  
Humber. the Humber with Allied or German crews as soon  
as fuelled). Para. 4, for 15th June read 25th  
June.  
(A.N.C.X.F. Main, 311302B to F.O. Kiel, F.O.W.G.  
N.L.O. 21 A.G.)

First  
Hamburg -  
U.K. Convoy.

C.U.L.1\* under way and proceeding.  
(RETALICK, 311420 to Cdre. Hamburg.)

\* W.D. Note - U.L.C.1 intended,  
see page 627 and page 748.

/(1) ...

31.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

First Hamburg - U.K. Convoy. (Contd.)

(1) My 291647B May sailed.  
(2) Amend para. (3) to read RETALICK.  
(3) Codeword "Joe Uncle Oboe".  
(4) Following ships sailed:  
British SAN UBALDO (light), ROLFSBURG (light),  
TOLSTA HEAD (loaded), SALERNO (light).  
American Y.71, Y.107, Y.50, Y.49 (all light).

German QUERSEE (998 ton - light), KATTENTURM (1,933 tons - cargo 1050 tons iron ore), SYLT (842 tons - cargo 600 ton Kraft paper).  
(Cdre. Hamburg, 311603B to C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Humber.)  
(Cdre. Hamburg 311945B.) - (See North Sea).  
18th M/S. Flotilla progress report.

(1) TANGANYIKA, RATTLESNAKE, FELICITY sail 1600 from Cuxhaven to escort U.L.C.1. ONYX joins at P.15 to make a total of 4 type C M/S.  
(S.O. M/S.F., 18, 312136B to C. in C. Nore.)

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31.5.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

Air/Sea Rescue. LOWESTOFT sails 1600B/31st May to relieve ENCHANTRESS in position 20. Admiralty message 182352\* and my 202305/, not to all, refer. (2) E.T.A. position 20, 1200B/2nd June. (F.O.G.M.A., 311116B to Admty.)

\* Immediate requirement for providing Air/Sea Rescue facilities on trans-Atlantic air routes.  
/ WELLINGTON to slip at 0800/21st proceed to position 20 (35° 20' N., 16° 10' W.)

B.Y.M.S. Arrived B.Y.M.S. 2257, 2149, 2150.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 311704B to F.O.C.W.Af.)

DUMBARTON Am now in revised station 19 in 41.30 N.,  
CASTLE to 18.30 W. (?C. in C. W.A.) 301758B refers.  
relieve (ZANZIBAR, 311744B to F.O.G.M.A.)  
ST. HELENA.  
BERKELEY  
CASTLE to  
relieve  
ZANZIBAR.

Movements. Arrivals WELLINGTON, WILLOWHERB from west,  
F.S. GRENADIER from Casablanca. Departure  
LOWESTOFT west to patrol position 20.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 312322B to Admty.)

South Atlantic

Corvette. H.M.S. MONKSHOOD arrived.  
(Cdre. Durban, 310634Z to Admty.)

Air/Sea Intend sailing DITTANY 1800Z/1st June to Air/Sea  
Rescue Stn. Rescue Station Number 21 to relieve AMARANTHUS  
No. 21. 3rd June.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 311200Z to AMARANTHUS.)

Closing down Consequent upon the dispersal of Freetown escort  
of naval forces closing down of Naval bases at out ports  
bases West and disbandment of certain R.A.F. establishments  
Africa. in West Africa it is estimated that following  
personnel will be available for return to United  
Kingdom on or about dates shown. Numbers given  
are approximate and are in addition to normal

/military ...

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31.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Closing down of Naval bases West Africa. (Contd.) military requirement to (A) 30th June 1,800 R.N. all ranks X 1,000 R.A.F. all ranks.  
(B) 31st May 2,000 R.A.F. all ranks.  
(C) Probably up to 2,000 R.A.F. at later date not yet known.  
(2) Propose to utilize CAIRO CITY on return to United Kingdom to lift part of above.  
(S.T.O.I.C. W.Af., 311545 to D. of S.T.)

Flag Officer West Africa. Proposed change. It is considered that when the closing of out ports and departure of Freetown Escort Force has reached a certain stage that V.A. and Staff will no longer be necessary on this station.  
(2) It is strongly recommended that until the out ports are completely closed the Air/Sea Rescue duties completed and Freetown reduced to its post war status that this station should remain an independent command. Absorption by C. in C. S.A. or F.O.G.M.A. before this stage would, due to lack of communication both by sea, air and signals be bound to considerably slow up the process of reduction.  
(3) During this period, it is suggested that an officer in rank of Cdre. 1st Class should combine the duties of F.O.C.W.Af. and Cdre. Freetown. There will be many dealings to complete with Governors, Resident Ministers and General Officer C. in C. which render this rank desirable.  
(4) It is suggested therefore that in the near future I should strike my flag and return to England, the command to be assumed by Cdre. Menzies in rank of Cdre. 1st Class. He should be given additional table money to help meet the considerable entertaining expenses which will fall to his lot. 2 pounds per diem is suggested. Cdre. Menzies if not required for other duties to complete the process of reduction of the station before turning over to a more Junior Officer. If the process becomes unduly protracted he should be relieved observing that his normal tour ends in July.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 311810Z to Admty.)

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War Diary31.5.1945  
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Re: Following from Lieutenant Commander Marston with  
 GLENBANK Lieutenant Colonel Kendall at Constanza.  
 (mined) Went aboard GLENBANK 30th and saw Captain Dibble  
 (Extract.) who volunteered following information and requested  
 it be passed to owners.  
 (1) Ship struck mine 1115 zone time 27th. No  
 casualties. 3 tugs arrived 1700 hours after mine-  
 sweepers had swept passage to ship 2 or 3 mines thus exploded.  
 Taken in tow and beached 2300. Ship now aground forward in 35  
 feet water. List 13 degs. to port. Stern afloat draft 14  
 feet. Position approx. 1 miles south Constanza harbour light.  
 Ship's head pointing east sea calm position comfortable.  
 Provisional estimate of damage - one hole 5 by 7 metres starboard  
 side bilge (?forward) end of number two hold etc.  
 Russian port authorities giving every possible assistance.  
 Approx. 100 tons cargo taken off (29th?) by Russian steamer. etc.  
 Hope to get ship into harbour in a few days. Statement ends.  
 (2) Following information from Russian port authorities. They  
 have necessary equipment available for temporary repairs when  
 cargo is discharged. Present intention is to lighten ship in  
 order to get vessel into harbour to complete discharging and  
 then survey damage and make ship seaworthy.  
 Special salvage vessel available from Russian Black Sea port if  
 necessary. Russian port authorities conducting preliminary  
 enquiry into circumstances of accident and have promised copy  
 will be supplied.  
 (3) American colleague Lieutenant Richardson, W.S.A. representa-  
 tive, and Kisselgoff, Soviet shipping representative, giving  
 every assistance.  
 (B.M.N. Roumanian, 310930B to M.W.T.)

Minesweeping It is understood that Air Ministry have issued  
 Med. instructions for 624 minespotting Squadron to be  
 disbanded in June. In view of lengthy mine-  
 sweeping commitments remaining in the Med.  
 request immediate steps be taken to have this  
 decision reversed.  
 (C. in C. Med.311217B to Admty.)

Syria I have placed one Div. less one Bde. Gp. at  
 troubles. / notice in case of need. If I am authorised to  
 take over Comd. Levant I hope it will not be  
 necessary to move more than one Bde. Gp. from  
 Palestine to Syria. I intend to make full use  
 of 31 Ind. Armd. Div. less lorried Inf. Bde. I should of  
 course like to have another Div as Garrison in Palestine when  
 ever you can spare one from elsewhere.  
 (C. in C. M.E. 311150C to W.O.)

I leave by air for Beirut 0630 hours tomorrow 1st June  
 arriving about 0900 hours when I shall at once see General  
 Beynet and inform him that I have by order of my Government  
 assumed Supreme Command in the Levant. I hope that he will  
 accept situation and obey my orders but am prepared for any  
 eventuality. Will wire you result of interview. Shall  
 then go to Damascus. Have instructed G.O.C. 9th Army to  
 inform General Beynet tonight that he is now under my orders that  
 all firing is to cease and French troops to be withdrawn to

/barracks ...

31.5.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Syria troubles. (Contd.) barracks except those guarding V.Ps who will remain at their posts till relieved by British troops. I hope to have situation in hand shortly.  
High Commissioner Palestine will be kept informed of all troop movement out of Palestine.  
Squadron of Spitfires and 2 destroyers arrive Beirut tomorrow same time as I do.  
(C. in C. M.E. 312320C to W.O.)  
General Hurblot informed G.O.C. 9th Army at 2000 hours tonight that (?word omitted) has received instructions from Paris not to oppose my order.  
(C. in C. M.E. 312345 to the W.O.)

Levant Stirep to 0900 hours 31 May. (1) Damascus. 30 May 1200 hours firing incl. arty. died down except occasional sniping and M.G. fire. 1800 hours evac. Brit. incl. a few American civs to keep completed. 1845 hours firing incl. arty. and mortar recommenced and increased 2015 hours. Firing continued varying scale till midnight 30 May. 31 May 0500 hours town quiet several fires burning centre of town.

Telecomms to outside have been out.

(2) Hama. 30 May 1000 hours French attacked town from south with armed cs. two carriers one fd gun one lorried inf. trucks twenty five. Fighting continued all day. G.O.C. 9th Army passed an appeal from Mohafez to French for truce to collect Syrian casualties which Mohafez reports as more than 100 killed and 100 wounded. French replied that truce would be conditional on Mohafez accepting unknown French terms in advance.  
31 May B.S.M. rep. has arranged meeting 31 May Mohafez Hama with French delegee at Homs. French promised no further attacks on town pending results of meeting.

(3) Homs Aleppo Lattakia Tripoli N.T.R.

(4) Deir es Zor. Situation in town obscure. No effective control by Mohafez. No signs yet of large scale tribal moves but reported that leaders of Ageidat Baggara Afadla Wulda and other tribes have informed Mohafez their readiness to co-operate against French. 31 May 0700 hours. French plane bombed town and hit Brit. Mil. H.Q. bldg. No cas.

(5) Soueida. Signs of Emir Atrash losing control of his followers.

(6) Beirut. Situation quiet. Demonstrations expected 31 May.  
(C. in C. M.E. 311220C to W.O.)

ABERCROMBIE (Monitor) for S.E.A.C. Admiralty message 270230/ ABERCROMBIE can be completed by end of June ex trials.  
(4) Giving ship 14 days for trials and working up, ABERCROMBIE could be sailed on 15th July and arrive Colombo 12th August.  
(5) It is most desirable that crew arrive before 20th June. My 081623 Dec. and 071535 refer.  
(V.A.M. 311415B to Admty.)  
/ ABERCROMBIE urgently required in S.E.A.C. for operations by mid-August.

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31.5.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Disposal  
of landing  
craft.

Your 291225. It may well be that the return of the five L.S.T. to the U.K. as required by Admiralty's 112201 May will coincide with the release from this station of several L.C.T. flotillas and minor landing craft flotillas. In which case personnel from these major and minor

landing craft flotillas will be returned in the L.S.T's.  
(2) Is it desired that as many as possible minor landing craft referred to under heading A of Admiralty's 251206 should be returned by this means to U.K. or is it intended craft shall be transferred direct from Mediterranean to S.E.A.C. Only operational flotillas will require overhaul and/or refit before they can be considered operationally sound.  
(C. in C. Med. 311655Z to Admty.)

DUKE OF  
YORK.

Sailed DUKE OF YORK at 311000C. C. in C. E.I's 281208 and F.O.L.E.M's 262206 not to all refer.  
(2) S. of A. 24 knots E.T.A. off Aden 021700C.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 311715C to Admty.)

SS MARS  
(Dutch)  
mined.

SS. MARS struck a mine 1820 and sunk 2220/29th May.  
(Master SS. MARS, 311716B to Medship)

Syria  
(developments)

Developments in Syria and Lebanon make it possible that Almed will either:  
(A) Request permission to sail French warships to Levant or  
(B) Sail them without my permission.

(2) Request guidance observing that F.O.L.E.M. has informed me that C. in C. M.E.F. has been instructed to prepare to intervene in Syria and that it may be necessary to use force for this purpose.  
(C. in C. Med. 311800B to Admty, and Ply.010004B.)

Loss of  
9 L.C.T's by  
stranding.

Regret to report (that) during the night of 21st/22nd May 9 craft of the 27th L.C.T. Flotilla having broached extensively to the beach near Genoa in bad weather were flooded and severely damaged. Written report and minutes of the Board of Enquiry will be forwarded in due course.

(2) 6 of these craft number 550, 552, 559, 586, 554, 615 must be considered as damaged beyond repair. The remaining 3 number 548, 561 and 578 are damaged to a slightly less extent but the so positioned that from a salvage point of view they are fouled by other craft.  
(3) Under these circumstances it is intended to write off all 9 of these craft and return crews to U.K.  
(4) Early Admiralty authority is requested to offer these 9 L.C.T. for sale to the Italian Government or to private firms as they stand, having previously removed the guns, stores, C.B's and S.P's.  
(C. in C. Med. 311847B to Admty.)

/F.O.L.E.M...

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31.5.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

F.O.L.E.M. / My 311935B (N.T. in W.D.) add C.S.15 to  
for Beirut information addresses.  
in ARETHUSA. (F.O.L.E.M. 312110C)

Report No.614. The first convoy reached Venice on 29th May. The Dutch ship MARS carrying High Octane has been mined in approaches to Patras and was completely burnt out. Ref. No.613 GLENBANK is now beached. (C. in C. Med. 312145 to F.O.L.E.M.)

Ships for E.I. and B.P.F. Ships destined for East Indies Station or British Pacific Fleet are expected to arrive at Malta to work up as follows:-

June CAMPERDOWN  
8 Hunts  
1 Bay class frigate  
5 A/A sloops.  
WIZARD.

July BELFAST,  
TRAFALGAR,  
4 HUNTS,  
4 BAY class frigates  
5 A/A sloops.  
ONTARIO.

August GLASGOW,  
HOGUE,  
ARMADA,  
4 HUNTS,  
2 BAY class frigates  
4 A/A sloops.

(D.O.D.(F), 312224B to V.A.M. and C. in C. Med. see 021123 June amended by 021312B)

*Cancel July/Aug - see 041845 B JULY.*

B.Y.M.S. for B.P.F. B.Y.M.S. 2045 and 2080 allocated to C. in C. British Pacific Fleet are at present in Mediterranean.

(2) C. in C. Med. is requested to operate these vessels temporarily until monsoon conditions enable them to be onward routed to the Pacific.  
(3) C. in C. East Indies is requested to call ships forward when conditions are suitable.

(D.M.S. 312321B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

See C. in C. Med. 181106 B Admiralty

*August  
Request for the two B.Y.M.S. to remain on Med. Station to replace coxswains in 153<sup>rd</sup> mfs Flotilla.*



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31.5.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Submarine operations. (1) S/M SEADOG 2nd Far East patrol 18th May in Olehleh sank one 300 steamer by torpedo. 20th May off Sigli by gunfire sank 50 ton schooner.  
(2) S/M SCYTHIAN 3rd Far East patrol 11th May vicinity Aroa Island by gunfire sank one 100 ton coaster and two lighters carrying troops. 18th May vicinity Pulo Berhala sank two 50 ton junks by gunfire.  
(3) SUBTLE 5th Far East patrol 12th May at 0705 in position 003° 13' N., 100° 39' E. fired six torpedoes at Japanese ?HACHI class cruiser escorted by one destroyer. Target took avoiding action, torpedoes missed, counter-attack of 13 charges causing considerable minor damage.  
(C. in C. E.I., 310439Z to Admty.)

SILVIO Operation "Zipper". SILVIO will not now be available for operation "Zipper". My 270601 May refers.  
(2) Request relief if available may be sailed to arrive Bombay by 1st August so that total lift of Force W may be maintained.  
(C. in C. E.I., 311105Z to Admty.)

VERBENA (corvette) Ships in your 291956 (N.T. in W.D.) Not required on E.I. Station. VERBENA proceed as in my 290447 (N.T. in W.D.)  
(C. in C. E.I., 311231 to C. in C. S.A.)  
See 011025.

W/T Stations. Re plans S. & T. Plan S. A.M. 291638 May. Intend to ship all that remains of Majas 2 to Singapore in case you are unable to comply with request in my 070610 May. Only other firm requirements for plan is 1 Midgas for shipment in (? August) 1945. No firm requirements for plan T can yet be given.

Request 2nd construction party may be routed to Colombo to take over Majas 2.  
(C. in C. E.I.S., 311246 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrived ENTERPRISE, L.S.T. 157, 380, S/M TAURUS. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 311704Z to Admty.)

Force Numbers. Your 020430. In order to avoid confusion with Force numbers allocated to Naval Commands request you will arrange with S.A.C.S.E.A. for any Force numbers used in future by forces operating under his command not to clash with those contained in A.M. 101157 Nov., 1944.  
(2) No objection to Force number 136 being retained by S.A.C. S.E.A. as a special case.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 311756B to C. in C. E.I.)

/Cargo ...

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31.5.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

Cargo  
shipping  
for  
Operations  
"Zipper".

(D. of S.T., 312030B to P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O.  
M.E., P.S.T.O. Med.)  
See Lion Copy.

**TOP SECRET**

**OUT**

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

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

312030B May

To P.S.T.O. India  
P.S.T.O. Middle East  
P.S.T.O. Mediterranean

Date 31.5.45

*Cargo shipping for  
Operation ZIPPER*

NAVAL CYPHER XD

From Director of Sea Transport.

IMMEDIATE

Formal authority has now been given for the taking up of cargo shipping for operation ZIPPER. (c)

2. On the basis of P.S.T.O. Middle East's 131910 Middle East can fit only 25 ships for M.T. in the time available. As there is insufficient time to fit and despatch ships from U.K. we estimate that the maximum number of fitted M.T. Ships which can be made available in time will be 55 unless India is able to absorb the balance of fitting to complete the total requirement of 64 M.T. ships. C. in C. India 89019/18 May/Q Mov.2 refers.

3. For P.S.T.O. Middle East. Following ships are nominated for Sea Transport service for fitting in Middle East and fitting should be put in hand as soon as possible subject to P.S.T.O. India's immediate notification by signal to Middle East repeated to D. of S.T. that vessels with only 5 ton derricks are acceptable as M.T. ships. Heaviest derrick is indicated after the name of each ship. BLAIRCLOVA (5) CLAN MURRAY (30) GLENAFFARIC (40) EMPIRE MIRANDA (50) OCEAN PILGRIM (30) MARGALAU (20) all now in Middle East. FORT FINLAY (50) FORT GASPERAU (50) and FORT ENTERPRISE (50) all now in Italy and expected available about 10 June in Middle East.

TAMELE (50) now Malta available Middle East about 10 June. FREDERICK BANTING (50) and TREVAYLOR (20) both in Italy BUTESHIRE (30) now in Middle East GORJISTAN (30) and EMPIRE CANNING (50) both now in Persian Gulf, all expected ready Middle East about 15 June. BARON CAWDOR (10) BARON RENFREW (5) due Middle East EMPIRE MARLOWE (5) Middle East TREVETHOE (50) in Marseilles SAMOTHRACE (50) SAMTRUTH (50) STANCLLEEVE (50) FORT AKLAVIK (50) FORT TURTLE (50) and RIVERCREST (50) in Italy and all ready Middle East about 20th June.

4. It should be borne in mind that these are the only ships which can be made available in the Middle East in June.

5. P.S.T.O. Mediterranean is requested to sail FORT FINLAY, FORT GASPERAU, FORT ENTERPRISE, FREDERICK BANTING, TREVAYLOR, RIVERCREST, SAMOTHRACE, SAMTRUTH, STANCLLEEVE, FORT AKLAVIK, FORT TURTLE and TREVETHOE to Middle East with the least possible delay.

A separate signal is being sent to M.W.T.R. Basra to sail GORGISTAN and EMPIRE CANNING to Middle East.

/P.S.T.O. Med.

BIGOT MOST SECRET OUT

~~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.)

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P.S.T.O. Med. and Middle East are requested to advise M.W.T.R. Med. and Middle East of these nominations.

6. For P.S.T.O. India. According to our records you already have available the following 42 ships on Sea Transport service.

BUCEGI	GAMARIA	PASHA
BURNSIDE	GEOLOGIST	RISALDAR
CITY OF AUKLAND	HARPALYCE	SAMHAIN
CITY OF DERBY	IKAUNA	SAMLEA
CITY OF DURBAN		SAMTROY
CITY OF EVANSVILLE	ITAURA	SAMWIS
CITY OF RANGOON	ITOLA	SAMANA
CITY OF WORCESTER	ITRIA	MALIKA
DRAMATIST	JALAKRISHNA	SAMGAUDIE
EMPIRE BEAUTY	JALAVEERA	TWEED BANK
EMPIRE CAPULET	JALAYAMUNA	SAMGARA
EMPIRE FOAM	MARTABAN	BAHARISTAN
EMPIRE RAJA	MAHADZVI	FORT LOUISBERG
EMPIRE RANI	NURANI	TACTICIAN
		URBINO

Of these you have fitted or intend to fit the following as M.T. ships. CITY OF AUKLAND, EMPIRE CAPULET, EMPIRE RANI, GEOLOGIST, IKAUNA, ITAURA, ITOLA, ITRIA, RISALDAR, SAMHAIN.

For the balance of store ships and of additional M.T. ships you require to fit in June we suggest that in addition to ships on local coastal service you consider the following

COLLEGIAN	FLORISTAN
EMPIRE VOICE	LEVERN BANK
CITY OF DUNDEE	LOSSIE BANK
CITY OF DUNKIRK	NELEUS
CITY OF FLORENCE	OCEAN VESTAL
CITY OF SYDNEY	BARON INCHCAPE
CITY OF WINDSOR	DEEBANK
EMPIRE NIGER	TYNEBANK
EMPIRE TUGELA	BARON SCOTT
ESKBANK	BARON HERRIES
ETTRIC BANK	EMPIRE MORLEY

Selection should be made in conjunction with M.W.T.R. bearing in mind need for minimum dislocation of existing programmes. Earliest advice of the vessels you require to take up should be signalled.

7. Mule ships. We are assuming that EKATERINI COUMANTAROU will have completed her present commitment shortly and we are counting her as equivalent of two ships against the 8 you require. We await your suggestions and nominations regarding the other 6 ships as fitting in India seems the only possibility.

8...

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8. Bel ships. LA PAMPA can be taken up as a heavy lift ship your 180811 to D. of S.T. only refers.

9. Coasters. A further signal will be sent you regarding the prospects of obtaining coasters from the Mediterranean.

10. We must stress paramount necessity to take up minimum number of ships and that phased programme of taking up should be arranged to avoid wastage of ships time.

312030B

for D. of S.T.  
Ext. 2657

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

NMB/MEG

OUT

BIGOT-MOST SECRET

785

War Diary31.5.1945.  
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies

SS. ALEXANDER R. SHEPHERD (ashore). H.M.R.T. TENACITY escorted by H.M.C.S. BRANDON sailed St. Johns 0009Z/31 May to assistance of SS. ALEXANDER R. SHEPHERD reported aground Duck Island 49.32 N., 53.55 W. at 2105Z/30th. (F.O.N.F., 310015Z to C. in C. C.N.A.) My 311759Z. ALEXANDER R. SHEPHERD hauled off at approximately 2230Z/31 now at anchor off Duck Island. She reports "Firepeak entirely flooded number one double bottom flooded number two port side double bottom leaking number two deep tank leaking both sides number three double bottom doubtful number four port side double bottom flooded. Able to proceed under own power at present". Weather and visibility permitting intend escorting her and TENACITY to St. Johns Newfoundland departing first light tomorrow. (BRANDON, 312354Z to F.O.N.F.) SS. ALEXANDER R. SHEPHERD (U.S.) aground Duck Island Newfoundland. Ship can be salvaged. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 312006Z to B.R.L.O. New York).

SHEFFIELD (cruiser). Boston sailed 29th May. SHEFFIELD for Portsmouth. (N.S.H.Q., 311232Z to Admiralty).

Fleet Destroyers. C.N.M.O. 231624 to N.S.H.Q. only. It is proposed that when ships in para. (a) are ready to join the B.P.F. they should be temporarily attached to the 28th Destroyer Flotilla (R.C.N. Crescent class).  
2. When sufficient R.C.N. Fleet Destroyers are available to form a second R.C.N. Flotilla it is proposed to designate the second flotilla so formed the 20th D.F.  
3. Request your remarks and whether Captains (D) will be available. (D.O.D. (F), Appd. A.C.N.S. (F), 311312B to N.S.H.Q.) Concur see 041953Z.

BALLINDERRY (Frigate) allocated to S.B.N.O. West Atlantic for station duty. Reference para. four A.M. 292012 May, request you sail BALLINDERRY for Bermuda as convenient informing me of date. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 311314Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

U/Bs estimates. 1200Z/31st May. Nothing new past 24 hours. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 311336Z to A.O.C., E.A.C., O.C.) Situation unchanged since Cominch 301433Z. Enemy U-boat Estimate 1200Z/31st. (Cominch, 311338 to All Commands interested in U-boat dispositions).

KAMSACK Corvette. H.M.C.S. KAMSACK arrived Bermuda. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 311659Z to Admty).

/CAP...

31.5.1934.  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies - Contd.

CAP DES PALMES. As executive agent C.C.S. with B.A.D. concurrence Cominch hereby transfers F.S. CAP DES PALMES to British Operational Control for employment in East Indies Fleet. French Naval Mission in U.S. in agreement. Ship is being sailed by Admiralty to Diego Suarez thence to France prior reporting to East Indies Fleet.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 311931Z to C. in C. Pac. etc).

GLOIRE (Sultan of Morocco). Request name of ship and programme involved so that Cominch may be informed assuming agreement of Admiralty to this movement. Your 301108 refers.  
(B.A.D., 312005Z to C. in C. Med).

Air Sea Rescue Stations. A.T.C. requests that all trans-Atlantic Air/Sea Rescue Stations be manned commencing 5th June.  
(Cominch, 312135Z to Admty. Cinclant, and 011407).

O.N.303, Damage to ships in Icefloe. SUNETTA slight damage requests following signal made to Furness New York begins: On arrival Lloyds surveyor (?confirmed) no serious damage Ends.  
GEORGE HARRISON SMITH. Hole in number 11 main cargo tank from deck to water line requests owners be informed.

JOHN B. HOOD reports begins: Do not consider it safe to house anchors if possible notify port officials to inspect damage and permit me to dock without anchoring, ends.  
WILLIAM MULHOLLAND requests operators be advised she has hole in side. My P.C. and S. at 2000Z/31 41.31 N., 53.55 W., 235, 10 knots.  
(S.O.W.8, 312355Z to C. in C. N.A.)

Far East & Australia

U.183 sunk? Consider German submarine U.183 is sunk and therefore not expected to surrender at an Australian port. Request remarks.  
(A.C.N.B., 310155Z to Com. Seventh Fleet, and 011157B from Admty).

Blue Summary 30th. Ryukyus. Little change front line positions on Okinawa. 1st Mardiv. expanded Shuri Salient seizing northwest half of city. Estimated enemy killed to 292400/1 totals 61,066. Rainy weather continued to hamper all operations. Y.M.S.81 aground north end of Nakagusuku Wan. Isolated enemy raids 295 1 of which came from South west.

/"Total...



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31.5.1945.  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Far East & Australia

Blue Summary 30th. (contd). "Total of 8 enemy planes splashed. Minor damage to Tatum (A.P.D.81) L. C.V.E. Planes continued attacks on Sakishima Gunto". T.F.38 planes struck Amami. Close support by T.F.38, T.A.F. and C.V.E. planes totalled 140 sorties. Empire Area. F.A.W. 1 planes sank 1 S.D. damaged 1 S.D. off east coast China. F.A.W.18 plane shot down 1 Topsy off Shiono Misaki, damaged radio tower on O Shima. Total B.29s striking Yokohama 29th now 459. Total 2609 tons dropped. B.29s claim 5 enemy aircraft destroyed 5 probably destroyed 11 damaged. 140 B.29s. damaged by flak. Submarines. Blue submarine reports recovering 7 airmen from 39th Bomber Group making total of 28 rescued airmen aboard. Blue submarines report Sinkings 1 A.K., damaging "1 A.O., 1 A.K." 14 P.47s attacked Truk, 10 B.24s hit Marcus. 10 P.51s bombed Chichi Jima. 27 Sorties Palau. 4 Sorties Yap. (C. in C. Pac. Adv. H.Q., 310549 to Comgen etc).

Corsair Squadrons (New Zealand). Replies to your 260844 with (?reference 1 group omitted) to New Zealand Corsair squadrons are as follows:  
A. Three squadrons. Two to form a reserve wing for a fleet carrier and one for a light fleet carrier or other duties.  
B. It is intended that these squadrons should (1) Initially help the build-up of reserve carrier groups. (2) Finally act as an addition to existing planned replacement squadrons. Consequently replacement aircraft should be provided from British resources.  
C. The New Zealand authorities would be asked to provide all facilities for the Naval training of these squadrons in New Zealand. British instructors would be required. D.L.T. would take place in Australian waters and it is hoped that by the time this would be required a C.V.E. for D.L.T. will be available.  
D. It would be a condition of the transfer that the New Zealand squadrons should be employed as integral units.  
E. This would be a matter for later decision, but it is thought that it would be preferable for personnel to remain part of the R.N.Z.N.F.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 310856Z to Admty).

Your 260844. My principle reason for suggesting use of New Zealand Corsair Squad is that the shortage of air personnel has been a limiting factor in the scale of operations that we can carry out in this theatre, and consequently the inclusion of these trained New Zealand personnel would -  
(A) initially help to build up a reserve carrier group.  
(B) subsequently acting as an addition to the replacement squads already planned.  
2. Considerable use can also be made of their equipment and A/C even if further flow of replacement Corsair A/C were to be cut off from America.  
3. I also consider that this would be a good opportunity for New Zealand to make a start in forming a F.A.A. (as is now being considered in Australia).  
4. Detailed replies to your 260844 which are in my 310856 (not received) should be considered in the light of the above.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 310857Z to Admty). *123/13 June*