

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

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|------------------|-----------------------------|
| HOME COMMANDS | - Policy |
| (Classification | - Defence of United Kingdom |
| by subjects) | - Movements |
| | - Operations |
| | - Allied Air Activity |
| | - Enemy Air Activity |
| | - Mining |
| | - Enemy Intelligence |
| | - U-Boats |
| | - Navigational |
| | - Technical |
| | - Casualties and Defects |
| | - Shipping and Convoys |
| FOREIGN STATIONS | - North Atlantic |
| (Classification | - South Atlantic |
| by stations) | - Mediterranean |
| | - East Indies |
| | - America and West Indies |
| | - Australia and New Zealand |
| | - U-Boat Campaign |

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

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

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

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes. Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland 2 Cruisers, 5 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait 1 " , 1 "

Re Adty. 1800/23/2 please cancel your
1902/29/2 and revert to patrol lines
in your 1054/26/2 (C. in C. H.F. 2217/1)
What action has been taken on my 1800/29/2.
(1st S.L. 1020/1).

Scapa.

Movements (A.C.O.S. 1827/1, F.O.C.O.S.
1802/1)

Rosyth.

Movements (C. In C. Rosyth 1914/1)

Nore Command.

Movements to 0700/2 (C. in C. Nore 0444/1)

RENOWN)
REPULSE)

Wind prevents movement from Hamoaze to Sound.
As separate escort not available, intend
to postpone sailing both ships 24 hours
(C. in C. W.A. 1211/1)

ENTERPRISE

My 1320/29. Will be 12 hours late (ENTERPRISE
1100/1)

S/M's.

0700/2 (R.A.(S) 1722/1, D.C. 2016/1)

Western Approaches. Dispositions 1800/1 (C. in C. W.A. 1803/1)

Fleet Tenders A & B. (Dummy battleships) arrived Scapa.

Operations.Operations W.R.

Adty. 0133/27/2. I am forwarding 5 photographs
taken in NORFOLK which have some bearing on
matter (C. in C. H.F. 1019/1)

ALTMARK

Length 160 metres. Net tonnage 11,000, gross
18,000. Ship able only to work one engine.
Sandefjord and Oslo only two places where
ship can dock. When towed it will be necessary
to wait for fine day as sea breaks in Siregrunn
Channel in bad weather. Believe Norwegian
Insurance Company are being approached to ~~two~~^{two}
ship with two vessels. (N.A. Oslo 1400/1)

MOST SECRET.



War Diary.

1.3.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Air raid on shipping.

KATVALDIS.

Master, J. Lejniaks. Bombed and machined gunned from 0502 to 0627 (G.M.T.) approx. 54° 20' N. 00° 20' W. Two hits, one bomb came to rest unexploded in coal bunker. Repaired damaged and continued voyage. After first S.O.S. her aerial was brought down. At least 6 bombs dropped. "Thanks to our zigzagging and manoeuvring and darkness the bomber never managed to fly over the length of the ship, but every time across, practically at right angles, bombing and machine gunning us as it flew over" (M.05203/40 Latvian S.S. KATVALDIS, Report of attack by enemy aircraft on 1.3.40.) (T.S.D.4060/40)

HOME COMMANDS

3

Air.

- Air Raid on Shipping. A new form of warfare opened up 1/3, consisting of the indiscriminate bombing of 3 ships at sea by night, showing that the Germans have now complete disregard for the rights of neutrals. (O.D. 1077/40. Breach of the Laws of War)
- Convoy F.S.9¹⁰⁹ 0625 Attacked in V.L.N.D.25. 2 bombs dropped and machine gun hear. No known casualties. (STORK 0625/1, 0645/1). Two fighter patrols were up in the vicinity at the time (D.C.N.S. 179)
- Convoy F.N.6¹⁰⁶ Also attacked. JUNO sent to assist (C. in C. Rosyth 0702/1)
- SCHIELAND 0522. Dutch 2249 tons attacked 5 miles S.E. Flamborough Head (SCHIELAND 0522/1)
- KATVALDIS. 0600 Latvian 3206 tons, Bombed off Whitby 54° N. 0° 20' W. bombs dropped, 2 hit, 1 failed to explode after making a hole in deck and lodged in coal bunker. Ship entered Downs. (F.O. Humber 0730/1, V.A. Dover 1926/2, 1812/3, 2333/3)
- CORBROOK 0634 British 1729 tons, attacked off Scarborough. (M.V. being attacked 0634/1) (F.O. Humber 0732/1) Not seriously damaged.
- VESTFOSS sunk. 0615 Norwegian 1380 tons. Not in convoy badly damaged by bombers 59° 1' N. 2° 30' W. STAR OF LIBERTY picked up survivors. Ship sank at 0925, no casualties. (STAR OF LIBERTY 0644/1, A.C.O.S. 1552/1)
Asking for information (1) Visibility at time of attack (2) what lights, if any, ship was showing (3) What flags, if any, ship was flying. (4) Were any flares dropped before the aircraft or aircrafts began the attack. (D.N.I. 1951/6)
Reply. (1) Clear weather (2) Nil. Attacks after midday inside Kirkwall (3) Norway and neutral power mark on ship's sides. (4) No. (Dormer Oslo 1400/7).
- BROTT 0600 Norwegian 1583 tons in Convoy F.S.9 bombed and gunned off Whitby. Crew took to 3 boats one returned to ship, one picked up by escort vessel, one missing. Two empty boats brought to Scarborough by fishing craft. BROTT now in Bridlington awaiting tug from Tees. (C. in C. Rosyth 1742/1) 6 men missing (Press) 4 missing (D.C.N.S. 180) Steering gear damaged by concussion.

HOME COMMANDS.

4

Air

COURAGE 0103 28 ft. motor fishing boat, bombed between Scarborough and Whitley. No hits. Engine silencer broken (Press)

STAR OF LEARNEY }
GLENOGIL } Aberdeen trawlers, attacked while fishing
SOUBRETTE } (no time given) Mr. Alec Coull, Skipper of the
DUGRA } DUGRA, states that attack lasted 15 minutes
and four bombs were dropped. No damage done.
Fishing gear cut away and ships returned to
port (Press Association telegram 1440/2)

S/INT ANNALAND 0545 Dutch. Machine gunned off Humber Lt. V.

ERGA 0645 Aberdeen trawler, attacked by aircraft which was unseen in the darkness, 8 miles S.E. (mag) from Ausskerry. 5 or 6 bombs dropped no damage. Working lights were on. 3 other trawlers fishing were not attacked. (C. in C. Rosyth 1155/2)

Other enemy air activity. Aircraft observed at Galley Head, Cork 0917 (C. in C. W.A. 1007/1)

Air reconnaissance. Of line of flak ships, 2/3. Orders (H.Q.C.C. 1822/1) Aircraft attacked 2 Flak ships 1635 with machine gun fire, result unknown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1916/1)
For 2/3 (C. in C. Rosyth 1932/1, 0810/2)
Normal patrols, except that weather prevented the flying boats carrying out their patrols from Shetlands to Norwegian coast.
Security patrols were carried out over the Sylt area, leaving at 1745 and 2100.
Photographic reconnaissance of Heligoland.
One warship was sighted in the harbour and 2 destroyers outside.

Mining.

Sweeping reports. Harwich no sweeping owing to rough weather. (F.O. I.C. Harwich 1928/1)
Sheerness nil (Cdre. I.C. Sheerness 1815/1)
No sweeping, weather (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1805/1)
do. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1710/1)
Nil. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1645/1)
D.W.I. cancelled for 1/3 (C. in C. Nore 0941/1)

Operation F.A 2 Completed. One mine exploded in sweep (DARTHEMA Tr. 1115/1, TEVIOT BANK 1335/1, C. in C. Rosyth 1546/1).

HOME COMMANDS

5

Mining (Cont).

Operation 1 E one. Carry out night 2-3 March (D.D.O.D.(M) 2051/1)

Unexplained explosion. 3 cables from KINGSTON SAPPHIRE at 0600/1 045° Noup Head. 8 miles. ~~My~~ have been a bomb, but sky was clear and no aircraft seen (A.C.O.S. 2058/1)

Shipping.

C.B's for Eire Ships. No C.B's to be issued to merchant ships registered in Eire (C. in C. S.A. 1049/1)

Downs. Boarding conditions impossible until 1400. 66 vessels remaining (V.A. Dover 1938/1)

S.S. STOCKHOLM See Miscellaneous.

Convoys. Rosyth arrivals and departures (C. in C. Rosyth 2331/1)

O.N. D.T.D. 1932/1 Owing to accumulation in U.K. ports two O.N. convoys will sail on 3/3 and 4/3 respectively. Will numbers for H.N permit all to be sailed in one convoy, on 6/3. (D.T.D. 2323/1, 0115/2 to B.C. Bergen, C. in C. Rosyth 1230/1 says 80 ships waiting) (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1029/2) Your 1230/1. Sail convoys as proposed using such destroyers of 7th D.F. as required for escort, risk of air attack on E. coast convoy being accepted (D.O.D.(H) 1810/1)

Situation. 2000/1 (C. in C. W.A. 1326/1)

FS and FN Forecast (C. in C. Rosyth 2016/1)

ON 17 My 1102/1 and 1230/1. O N 17 will run in two parts. ON 17 A leave Methil 1700/4, local escort. JERVIS, JUPITER, JANUS, JAGUAR, GURKHA, 16 ships from Methil 24 from Kirkwall (C. in C. Rosyth 1914/1) (C. in C. Rosyth 1230/1 sufficient escort for 2 convoys not available from Home Fleet, but GURKHA available in addition to local escort in C. in C. Rosyth's 1102/1. Consider it very undesirable to exceed 40 ships in any one convoy (C. in C. H.F. 1731/1).

Shipping.

Convoy H.X.21. H.M.S. ALAUNIA R. of P. (M.05798/40, M.05807/40) Remarks re Commodores worrying their convoys too much with manoeuvring exercises.

HOME COMMANDS.

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- HGF 21 Sailing telegram (F.O.C.N.S. 1710/1)
- HG 21 Destination (D.T.D. 2122/1)
- HX Convoys Revised forecast of ocean escorts (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 0932/1)
- Convoys Meeting. ⁹ OB 89 passed through inward-bound convoy steering opposite course 0230/11/2 in 53° 8' N. 5° 3' W. Third time it has happened to him. (C. in C. S.A. 1510/1.)
OB 89 hit mine through the middle.
- Swedish shipowners anxious. B.C. Gothenburg 1049/29. Routes on which escorts are provided and strength of escorts are divulged to nobody outside the Service. The route you mention has enjoyed high immunity from attack for some time and anxiety is not at present considered to be justified (A.C.N.S. 1936/1)
- Degaussing ✓ Commencing 6/3 certain ships with E. coast destinations will be diverted from convoy into Portland for degaussing (A.C.N.S. 2346/1)
- Consigns. ✓ Adty. 1935/27. Introduction of consigns designed to achieve simplicity and uniformity of convoy orders and to avoid necessity of special signals and instructions by Commodores of Convoys. (A.C.N.S. 2058/1)

Miscellaneous.

- Terschelling Bank Lt. V. Doubts as to positions. STERLET to fix. (D.O.D.(H) 1941/1)
- Scapa Defence. ✓ Re Plan R. Proposing additional pier be built. (R.A. Scapa 2331/1) Re loop (C. in C. H.F. 1249/1)
- S.S. STOCKHOLM Suspect neutral ship. Propose to sail in convoy provided another master sails in command. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1326/1) Approved (D.T.D. 1009/2)
- S.S. CANADIAN Panamanian ship. Havre for New York. French suspect she may try to get to Holland. If met to be sent to Kirkwall. (D.E.W.D. 1756/1)
- A/S, Orkneys and Shetlands. No trawlers A/S Striking Forces available in Orkneys and Shetlands area for next few days. (A.C.O.S. 1014/1)
- Trawlers patrols. H.BF Trawler patrols operating from Aberdeen are to be established by 0001/6 with 2 Trawlers in each area. Areas. Orders (D.O.D.(H) 2024/1)
- Difficulties with Drifters' crews. N.O.I.C. Dundee. 1230/1.
- Dutch skoots. Your 1159/24/1. Further steps are being taken to tempt all honest skippers to seek a place on our White List. Efforts to intercept these vessels and send them in should therefore be continued. (D.O.D.(H) 1228/1)

HOME COMMANDS.

Degaussing

Do not consider advisable to fit temporary degaussing arrangements as contemplated in ALD 1056/40. of 1/2/40, HF 466A/274 of 16/1/40. para 2 (d) and HF 466A 27 of 24/2/40 in any ships of SOUTHAMPTON class. Submit all efforts concentrated on early fitting of permanent scheme in these ships with steel strips and separate motor generators. (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 1847/29 recd. 0130/1)

Ice Report.

24th to 27th February (V.A.N.P. 2229/1)

WEATHER.

	Wind.	Visibility.
Shetlands	West, fresh	Good.
North Sea) East.	Good.
Channel		
Western Approaches) moderate to strong.	
Horns Reef	North. Light.	Good.
Outlook.	Similar.	

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German
Rhine
Shipping. ✓

Your 1300/29. Can you amplify numbers of German barges on Rhine, neutral barges on Rhine, and percentage of German and neutral cargoes carried under present conditions. (D.N.I. 1730/1, to Consular Office, Rotterdam)

Your 1730. All German barges reported to be working on German waterways. Number of neutral barges on German Rhine, 1500, 75 per cent. German, 25 per cent. neutral cargoes. (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 1406/2).

German
Shipping
Norway. ✓

Report name and/or number and description of any German ship or trawlers observed in or near respective ports on following dates in January:-
Haugesund, 27 to 29 and 30.
Kopervik, 11th.
Trondheim, 18 to 22.
Bergen 26th.
Stavanger, 29 and 30. (D.N.I., to Consuls at those ports, 1923/1).

Replies:-

Loaded German ship NEUENFELS passed southwards 30/1. Unable to account for Kopervik, but probably report Haugesund by 6/3. (Haugesund 1300/2)

Further information: 4 German ships BOCHUM, AMERIKA, BAURENFELS and THESEUS passed Haugesund Jan. 27, 28 and 30 respectively. (Haugesund 1915/9)

THESEUS and RAUENFELS present at Trondheim during this period. German ship name unknown ice-bound Malm. TRAUTENFELS receiving salvage assistance latitude 64° 30'. (N.C.S.O. Trondheim, 1200/2)

No German ships seen since 28th December. (Stavanger 1245/2)

FINNO-RUSSIAN HOSTILITIES.

Petsamo. ✓

Latest information: One large merchant ship escorted by 2 warships seen entering four days ago, one large merchant vessel in addition is at Linahamari. All nationality unknown. (Oslo 1520/1)

German S/M's. ✓

Rumour that German submarines at Libau unescorted but Defence Department has no confirmation (Oslo 1520/1)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ARK ROYAL Expects to be ready for sea 15/3 (C. in C. Portsmouth 2023/1)

SUSSEX Cannot be taken in hand at this yard without upsetting present approved programme of work. (A.S. Devonport 1004/1)

MAIDSTONE Defects. Has not refitted since May/38. (C. in C. S.A. 1301/1)

MOTH K1904 Crashed 2 officers slightly injured (Donibristle 1245/1)

A.M.C's. Refits. Difficulties. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2132/1)

RANPURA Complete 4/3 (F.O.C.N.A. 1608/1)

ASTURIAS Consider she should be taken for thorough refit instead of temporary repairs and no longer be considered a unit of Northern patrol (V.A.N.P. 1301/1)

S.S. EDERA *Probably Italian* Slightly damaged in collision with H.M.S. GRIMSBY (GRIMSBY 1906/1)

NEWCASTLE Cannot be taken in hand at Belfast. Adhere to present arrangements. To refit when both SHEFFIELD and GLASGOW have completed (D.O.D.(H) 1922/1, C. in C. H.F. 2346/1)

DOMALA Aground Goodwin Knoll. Got off. (D.O.M.A.L.A. 1320/1 N. Foreland Radio 1617/1, Portishead Radio 1621/1) She was attacked by aircrafts next day.

SULACO Marine casualty damaged (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1941/1)

ASTON VILLA } Collision at 0527/22/3 Damage to A/S trawler
PETRONEL } ASTON VILLA does not impair her efficiency. Damage to R.F.A. PETRONEL will not effect her refit programme. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1935/1)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Squared chart. Method of using. (C. in C. S.A. 1320/1)

C. in C.S.A. See Shipping.
1049/1.

S.L.F. 22 Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 0955/1)

C. in C.S.A. See Shipping.
1510/1.

Movements. Re C. in C. S.A. 1000/25/2 and RASAD 1607/16/2.
CORNWALL, CUMBERLAND leave Freetown 1630 for patrol
returning Freetown 20/3. You can take HAWKINS
to Falklands, leaving Plate area 6/3. (C. in C.
S.A. 1323/1 to RASAD)

WAKAMA
Crew.

Admiralty 1910/1 (Crew saved from WAKAMA)
Numbers in my 2201/12/2 and my 1951/19/2 are correct,
whole of crew, 10 officers and 36 men saved.
H.M.S. DORSETSHIRE's 2200/28/2 reads "Captain
Officers and men are all well, etc." (RASAD 19572/1)

FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

German mails In Italian ships. Re. F.O.C.N.A. 1316/17.
Would take a week or more to examine.
Considerations to be taken into account before
deciding to intercept a particular ship
(F.O.C.N.A. 0926Z/1)

French positions and convoys 1200/1 (D.C.0130/1), 1200/2
(D.C.2347/1) and movements (S.O.(I) Gib.
1514Z/1)

Portex Line I learn they are trading on behalf of the enemy.
Have stopped routeing their ships. Request
instructions (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1825/1)

America and West Indies.

Halifax Convoys. Estimated positions etc. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1026/1)
Forecast of ocean escorts (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 0932/1)

KORSHOLM ^{KORSHOLM} Ciudad Trujillo
Swedish GUIDAD TRUJILLO 28/2 to Halifax for
convoy. Rumour Master German sympathy. Swedish
crew at first objected to proceeding British
waters (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1129/1)

COLUMBUS seamen in FELLA San Francisco reports 35 German seamen ex
COLUMBUS will embark in Italian FELLA sailing
p.m. 28/2 for Italian ports via Canal and
Gibraltar, might tranship at Canada or even
Manganillo though ship not scheduled to call
at Manganillo. Shipping company alleges
all over 50 but I understand party includes
officers and technicians (D.N.I. 1821/1 to
S.O.(I) Gib. H.N. H.Q. Ottawa 1523/1)

SOUTHGATE False alarm. _{al} 4862 tons S.O.S. attacked by U-boat near Puerto
Rico U.S. C.G. cutter UNALGA and three destroyers
ordered to proceed to this spot. (Press)
Navy Department state SOUTHGATE located by
aircraft and in no apparant danger. (N.A.
Washington 1130/2)

SOUTHGATE Report of Master on encounter with 2 submarines
When he ignored signals to stop they made no
attempt to pursue but turned broadside to him
and disappeared towards north. One of them
fired 2 shots neither of which fell nearer than $\frac{1}{2}$
mile to steamer of was seen to burst. Master
did not open fire as from these movements he
thought they might be neutral. Encounter took
place about 19.58' N., 63° W., between 1650 and
1750, March 1. Estimated length of submarines
400 feet. (Ciudad Trujillo 1807/5).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Russian mines

Naval Secretary to Turkish Ministry of Defence states innumerable Turks received information that Russians had been laying mines for past 3 weeks off Batoum, Sevastopol, Odessa. (N.A. Angora 1728/1)

East Indies.

C.C. Aden.

Your 1035/29/2. Adty. 1117/27/2 states Admiralty intention re ships to be controlled and compliance with this was ordered by evening 0609/28/2. At present there is normally no compulsion for ships to call at Aden. It is realized ~~that~~ control cannot be enforced until you have adequate means for this purpose. (C. in C. E.I. 1101Z/1)

Ships at Aden.

ASKING what

PATRICIA
MAY
NINI BORN

Message from
Line Agent
etc. (C. in C.)



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

Report by captain of Finnish ship large German passenger ship escorted by Norwegian submarine left Haugesund a.m. 28/2. C.3. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1333/1)

IE
FRIEDRICH
BREME

Passed Haugesund South loaded 1400/1 (D.C. 1919/1)(Haugesund 1630/1)

SCHLESWIG
HOLSTEIN

Left Rotterdam for North Sea (Rotterdam 1956/1)

My telegram 1600/27/2 re search of German ship at Haugesund and Kopervik. No prisoners were on board (N.A.Oslo 0930/1)

TRAUTENFELS

Laden with ore, rudder lost, lying at anchor 186° MUNK Holm lighthouse 8 cables (N.C.S.O. Trondhjem 1200/1)

German Shipping

Numbers etc, on Rhine and in Norway - see Enemy Intelligence.

America and West Indies.

HEIDELBERG

Orders for DESPATCH to search and patrol. JEANNE D'ARC being asked to search similarly DUNDEE return to Curacao. PENZANCE patrol between Grenada and Trinidad before ANTILLA could arrive. DUNEDIN and ASSINIBOINE patrol Mona passage (C. in C. A. & W.I. 2030/1) Aruba reports sailed 2015/29 (S.O.(I) Kingston 0020/1, 1301/1, Aruba 0338/1 1115/1)

Ships at Aruba.

Asking what ships are still there (D.D.I.C. 2154/1)

PATRICIA)
ESTE)
MIMI HORN)

Message from German Consul Curacao to Hamburg Line agent at Curacao begins proposal approved etc. (S.O.(I) Kingston 0915/1)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.Ships attackedMIRELLA 0200
sunk.

Italian (5340 tons) outward bound from Tyne was torpedoed or mined 52° 27' N. 2° 8' E, 2 miles from where MARIA ROSA was sunk 3½ hours earlier. She was at anchor. WALLACE recovered one boat with 14 survivors, second boat missing. (WALLACE 0518/1, 0607/1) WIDGEON was ordered to board her and raise steam and start pumps. (N.O. I.C. Harwich 0132/2) Survivors picked up by WALLACE and CAPE ARGONA A/S Tr. (F.O. Humber 1807/1) SHEARWATER reports vessel still afloat 0945/1, weather unsuitable for boarding. Tugs are being sent when weather moderates (C. in C. Nore 1534/1, 1601/1) Party from WIDGEON boarded her. No. 2 hold flooded, 4 ft. of water in engine and boiler rooms. Ship apparently ceased making water. Steaming party could take ship to harbour (MALLARD 1600/1) 14 survivors (WALLACE 1008/2) WIDGEON reports A/S contact with wreck in 52° 26.5' N. 2° 6' E. which she considers must be MIRELLA (C. in C. Nore 1233/2)

Request report what steps taken after MIRELLA was damaged and abandoned to keep ship afloat in view of vital importance of conserving all British and neutral tonnage. (D.O.D.(H) to F.O.I.C. Harwich 1531/2) Your 1531/2 Tug MURIA was sent as soon as weather conditions permitted and when arrangements had been made for tugs LOWESTOFT and LEI BARBER to sail from Lowestoft and Yarmouth respectively. These 2 tugs reached MIRELLA in daylight but left again by dark without attempting salvage or waiting for MURIA, who was delayed by heavy sea. Ship had sunk before daylight (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0950/3) Your 0950 this matter seems to call for very thorough investigation (C. in C. Nore 1245/3 to F.O.I.C. Harwich) Can it be confirmed MIRELLA under way at time of explosion as it was originally reported she was at anchor. If so when did ship anchor?(C. in C. Nore 1713/4 to F.O.I.C. Humber) Reply. Confirmed by Master and Mate that ship under way at time of explosion. (F.O. Humber 1821/4)

1.3.40.
Friday.

15

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines reported.

Estimated positions (D.D.I.C. 1309/1)

0200

Submarine suspected in position 095° Lowestoft 14 miles. WIDGEON and MALLARD joining SHEARWATER and SHELDRAKE. (C. in C. Nore, 0733/1)

1400

Sighted by fishing boat Q.S.D.F.0802 steering south C.O. (C. in C. Rosyth 1758/1)

p.m.

CLAN MACNAUGHTON sighted object resembling periscope 55° 13' N. 5° 18' W. (C. in C. H.F. 1603/1)

1830

coastguard reported submarine seen on surface 10 minutes before submerging 49° 22' N. 2° 18' W B.2 C. in C. Portsmouth 2048/1, C. in C. W.A. 2235/1, D.C.2230/1, Customs, Guernsey 1920/1.

0200

500 ton U-boat 9 miles off Texel Course S.W. French report (D.N.I. 1226/2 1552/2)

Large U-boat 7 miles off Vlieland course N.W. same source as above (D.N.I. 1552/2)

North Atlantic.Vigo
Fuelling

Following from Vigo, two submarines reported to have entered Bay 2100 and to be near tanker. (F.O.C.N.A., 0110/1).

Identity marks.

Admty 1635/28. Agent stated all marks of identity removed on conning towers but numbers are still retained on bow. Marking small and apparently stamped on in relief. On first occasion number observed was nearly run down by submarine. French N.A. reports same number obtained by his people on two occasions by other means, also A.82 reported as having visited Vigo date unknown. Report of U.36 or A.36 on night Feb. 13/14 was by French via Lisbon. (Madrid 1751/1).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.S/M Attacked.58° 20' N. 02° 33' W. H.M.S. NIGER
(Lt. C. J.M.S. Cox) Aircraft Anson
N.9674. 269 Squadron 22.2.40
M.04430/40.



H O M E C O M M A N D S

Movements.

Home Fleet.

HOOD, VALIANT and 6 destroyers left Clyde to cover Norwegian convoys and Northern Patrol (F.O.C. B.C.S.1241/2).
REPULSE and 3 destroyers left Plymouth for Clyde 1825/2. Weather conditions prevented sailing of RENOWN from Devonport.

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C's
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

Forth Defences.

My 1640/15/12, look-out trawlers for Forth Defences. DESIRE, MAJESTY, CAMPAIGNER, SUSTAIN and SAPPHIRE at Buckie have been ear-marked. Request approval for crews from Patrol Depot, Lowestoft (C.in C. Rosyth 1637/2).

Scapa etc.

Ships at (A.C.O.S.1601/2) Movements (F.O.C.O.S. 1801/2).

Nore Command

Movements to 0700/3 (C.in C. Nore 0620/2).

Rosyth

Movements (C.in C. Rosyth 2331/2).

Submarines

Positions 0700/3. (D.C.1851/2) (R.A.S 1743/2).

UNITY to northern limit A - Z by sunset 3/3 thence to waiting position 270° Lyster light 5 miles by 0330/5/3. TRIDENT than to proceed Rosyth and UNITY to position off Josing Fiord. (R.A.(S) 0011/3).

REPULSE

Left Plymouth 1825 escorted by 3 destroyers for Clyde (C.in C. W.A. 1434/2).

RENOWN

Weather conditions prevented her from sailing from Devonport (C.in C. W.A. 1434/2).

~~H.M.S.~~ QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Sailed for New York 0700/2 G.M.T. Route etc. (F.O. Greenock 0959/2).

H O M E C O M M A N D SMovements. (contd.)Western Approaches Dispositions 1800/2 (C.in C. W.A. 1919/2).Operations.ALTMARK

Admty. 1506/27, re Hans Berndsen's German sailor killed during rescuing of British prisoners. There is no information available other than that in 0058/18/2. (Captain D 4, 1445/2).

Your 1505 and 2159/15/2. Can you disclose how you obtained this information. Can you confirm that ALTMARK did in fact pass Bergen at noon. Was she in the neighbourhood the night before and can you obtain any reliable information as to her entry into any other port? (D.N.I.1753/2 to N.C.S.O. Bergen). No change as regards ALTMARK. Tugs not yet settled. (N.A.Oslo, 1405/2).

AirPrecautions against attack.

Reports of recent air attacks on shipping at night have disclosed that attacks were made chiefly on ships which were showing lights or making smoke. Following action is to be taken:-

- A. Stern lights of all ships, including neutrals, in convoys are to be effectively screened from the air.
- B. Neutral ships which fail to comply with orders for darkening ship in convoy should be warned that a second offence will necessitate their being refused convoy.
- C. Commodores of coastal convoys and masters of ships should be reminded that the use of stern lights on bright moonlight nights is unnecessary.
- D. Merchant ships attacked by aircraft at night should fire a rocket in order to assist our fighters to locate them. Similarly, escorting vessels should fire star shell. (D.T.D. 2036/2).

Stern Lights too bright.

Dangers of stern lights being too brilliant. N.C.S.O's to bring this again to notice of masters. (C.in C., Rosyth 1810/2). Message from 13 Group via Fighter Command, points submitted for any action necessary as result of operations this morning. One pilot reports stern lights of vessels showed up from about 1500 feet. Ships fired at fighter in spite of aircraft showing navigation lights and flashing letter of day. Difficulty in locating ship or ships being attacked, suggest some form of SOS rocket signal. Inaccuracy of dead reckoning positions given to group and sectors increases time taken in getting aircraft to threatened area. (Air Ministry, 2253/2.)

H O M E C O M M A N D SAir (contd.)Aircraft action
against ships
at sea.

Cancel Adty. 1715/25/9/39 and substitute. All aircraft may attack without warning any enemy positively identified as such. Any ship in a "Special Area" which opens fire. Aircraft specially ordered to search for a particular ship being used openly or under disguise for naval or military purposes or particular enemy merchant ships, may divert any ship in the area which corresponds to description. Aircraft engaged in C.C. operations may divert merchant ships. Except as provided above no aircraft may attack or divert shipping. Procedure for diversion. As belligerent merchant ships have right of self defence aircraft must not provoke innocent merchant ship to open fire by approaching in such manner as to give grounds to apprehend attack (Head of M.1310/2).

Counter -
Offensive
Lacking.

Enemy aircraft were active over the Downs and off Kent Coast between 0428 and 0448 this morning, and later circled over Dover and Downs between 0645 and 0720. No attempt was made by fighters to intercept enemy until 3 Hurricanes from Kenley arrived over Dover at 0719 after enemy had moved on. Ample warning of enemy movements was available and given, especially on second occasion. Anticipate that enemy is liable to repeat this operation if no offensive action is taken. (V.A.Dover 1226/2).

Signalling
attack.

Any merchant vessel attacked by aircraft at night is to fire a rocket to assist our fighters to locate. Escorting vessels to fire star shell for same purpose (D.C.2037/2).

H.M.S. JAGUAR	0500	Bomber 55°32'N 1°32'W. by one aircraft
	to	(JAGUAR 0500/2) 6 bombs, missed, aircraft has
	0601	retired (JAGUAR 0522/2). 0601 attacked by
		2 aircraft 242 ZGGB 27 (JAGUAR 0601/2)
		attacked 3 times in all (JAGUAR 1305/2).
LORENZO	0517	Trawler. Attacked 4 miles S.W. Buchanness
		(LORENZO 0517/2, 0524/2) 57°26'N 1°40'E.
ELIZABETE	0533	Latvian (2039 tons) attacked 54°41'N 1°6'W.
		(ELIZABETE 0533/2) Bombed and machine gunned
		0520 no damage or casualties (1D Form AA).
DOMALA	0545	British 8441 tons bombed and set on fire
		100° St. Catherine's 30 miles. (VISCOUNT
		0615/2, 0650/2, 0725/2, 0815/2, 0845/2,
		C.in C. Portsmouth 0750/2, 0856/2, 0912/2,
		0922/2, 1121/2), she was bringing Lascars
		repatriated from Germany, still about 50
		Indians on board. Magazine in danger
		(VISCOUNT 0945/2). Dutch ship JONGE WILLEM
		proceeded with 48 survivors (VISCOUNT 1155/2)
		120 brought by VISCOUNT to Portsmouth
		(VISCOUNT 1240/2).

19 S

MOST SECRET.

2.3.1940.
Saturday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Air raid on Shipping.

DOMALA.

/bomb

I.D. Form A.A. Master, William A. Fitt.
Routed via Downs independently A/C sighted 0545.
Passed over ship and then returned 5 to 10
minutes later, 4 bombs, 3 hits. W/T not used
as first boat put it out of action. Bombs
released from 150 feet, one in each of four
attacks. One short burst of tracer bullets,
several hits. DOMALA fired 1 round A/A after
3rd bomb. Casualties approx. 102.

ELIZABETE.

I.D. Form A.A. In F.N. Convoy from Southend.
Attacked 5 miles E. by S. from Hartlepool L.V.
0520. Two bombs dropped, no hits. 10 to 20
rounds, machine-gun.

H O M E C O M M A N D SAir (contd.)

DOMALA (contd.)

At 1245, VENOMOUS, VISCOUNT and STALWART standing by DOMALA, abandoned and burning amidships. Destroyers have 189 survivors. Dutch JONGEWILLEM was standing by but is now proceeding up Channel. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1324/2, 1326/2). Guns on board DOMALA are loaded (VISCOUNT 1410/2). Request whether DOMALA was showing any lights when located and attacked and also what the visibility was. (D.O.D.(H) 1430/2). ANTHONY standing by (ANTHONY, 1511/2) Admty 1430/2. Chief officer reports ship was burning dimmed bow and fore steaming lights. Visibility V.G.I. about 10 miles moonlight. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1658/2). Orders to ANTHONY and STALWART (C.in C. Portsmouth 1824/2). DOMALA is derelict (position 145 Nab Tower 14.) (C.in C. Portsmouth 1949/2). VISCOUNT reported twice circled by enemy aircraft before that machine bombed DOMALA, similar to a Heinkel III. Chief Officer reports DOMALA attacked 0545, 30 miles E. of St.Catherine's. 4 bombs dropped in separate low flying attacks, first 3 hit and ship set on fire amidships. Complement 48 Europeans, including 2 women, 110 Lascars and 143 Lascar deck passengers returning from Germany. Survivors landed at Southampton, 19 Europeans, 126 Lascars, at Newhaven, 9 Europeans 39 Lascars picked up by JONGE WILLEM. Unlikely any other survivors DOMALA's position at 2022, 190° Nab Tower 11 miles, on fire, 2 tugs standing by. Heavy sea still running. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2214/2). Request navigational warning (C.in C. Portsmouth 2238/2). Did VISCOUNT open fire? (D.C.0111/3). Main thing is to prevent DOMALA sinking and get her beached or into port, thus avoiding needless tonnage losses. (D.C.N.S.035/3) (C.in C. Portsmouth 0952/3, 1146/3). Towed to Yarmouth Roads, I.O.W. and anchored. Still burning 2055/3. Total losses 102, include 2 European stewardesses stifled in cabin. JONGE WILLEM deserving of commendation for rescue work after having been bombed himself (D.O.D.(H) 1132/4, 1821/5, C.in C. Portsmouth 1015/5). DOMALA beached at Lymington and flooded down. Cargo. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1144/4). See O.D.1077/40, Breach of the Laws of War. Great credit due to Lieut.Cdr.Pilditch and officers and men of following vessels - H.M.S. ACHATES, H.M.tugs STALWART, REVUE and the Southampton tug CLAUSENPHUM for bringing DOMALA into port. Heavy sea running and the abandoned ship was burning fiercely and emitting much smoke and fumes but she was taken in tow at first opportunity and brought in through Needles Channel, an operation rendered more difficult as navigational aids have been removed for



H O M E C O M M A N D S .

Air (contd.)

DOMALA(contd.) security and DOMALA was drawing over 40 feet. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1924/7, 2nd S.L.1416/8). Credit due to VISCOUNT for saving survivors (2nd S.L.402/8) Subsequently refloated, expected to be ready for towing 15/3.

LOTHDALE 345 tons bombed and machine-gunned. No casualties or damage. (Sunderland Echo, Press telegram).

HYPERION Motor keel boats arriving Scarborough reported air attack by 2 planes before dawn. HYPERION, in which all lights were accidentally switched on, was subjected to a burst at close range but was not hit. (Press Association message 1205/2).

Enemy air raid.

Convoy MT 21 was attacked about 0430 15 miles S.E. by S. from Flamboro Hd. YXSV 1519. Fighter planes were sent up. At 0138 C.in C. Rosyth signalled there were indications that German air activity was possible within a few hours. (DUNOON 0030/2, C.in C. Rosyth 0138/2, AVANTURINE 0439/2, FLAMINGO 0500/2, EGRET 0515/2, 2007/2, F.O.Humber 0543/2, 0553/2, WALLACE 0545/2 (giving position 316° YXGB 13). Convoy probably found due to stern lights being too brilliant. N.C.S.O's to bring Masters' attention to dangers of infringement of instructions (C.in C. Rosyth 1810/2). In view of ease with which enemy aircraft found the convoy report if ships were fully darkened or any showing lights (D.O.D.(H) to EGRET 1123/2). Ships were well darkened but some stern lights were too brilliant. These ships appeared to be the target (EGRET 1328/2).

AVANTURINE 0555 Trawler, attacked by aircraft 15 miles S.E. by S. from Flamborough (AVANTURINE 0555/2).

QUEENS CROSS 0445 Tug, bombed 53°58'N 0° (Humber Radio 0445/2, I.C.0377/40).

H.M.T. CYPRESS 0505 Attacked off mouth of Tay 56°30'N 2°30'. Undamaged (I.C.0377/40).

BRIDLINGTON 0445 Bombed (Humber Radio 0445/2).

Unknown 0515 Attacked 52°2'N 1°34'E. 4 miles S.E. Orfordness (I.C. 0377/40).

Unknown 0725 Attacked off Smiths Knoll 52°54'N 2°10'E (I.C.0377/40).



HOME COMMANDS.

Air (contd.)

JONGE WILLEM 0420
/owers
 Dutch 1632 tons. Master states attacked by one German plane at 0420 G.M.T. in position 10 - 15 miles S. of Owen light vessel 50:23 N 00:48 W. 4 - 5 bombs dropped. No damage. 0530 sighted ship on fire bearing E.N.E. closed and arrived 0630 found destroyer standing by DOMALA. Picked up survivors from lifeboats, 51 alive, 3 dead. All landed Newhaven 1700 G.M.T. (N.I. in C. Ramsgate 1955/3, C.in C. Portsmouth 1015/5 VISCOUNT confirms JONGE WILLEM assisted rescue work (C.in C.W.A.1041/6).

ELZIENA sunk 0500
 Dutch, 197 tons, from Antwerp to Leith, attacked off Blyth 55:22 N 1:27 W. hit by bombs and sunk. 3 survivors landed by Dutch SINE 2 killed. Aircraft carried no lights. Proceeded with convoy as far as Humber then proceeded further north alone (C.in C. Rosyth 2147/3, A.M.L.O. 1444/4) See also 3/2 for further details.
3/3?

MELROSE 1940 (1589 tons). Bombed and machine gunned for 30 minutes no damage to ship owing to evasive tactics used by Skipper Captain J. Johnstone. In convoy. Attacked off Amble. Unarmed (13 group Intell. 1543/4).

AMAZON Dutch 1294 tons.)
 BOEKELO Dutch 2118 tons.)
 WASA Dutch
 Reported in Press to be among 7 Dutch ships bombed and machine gunned near Newcastle. Not hit. Arrived Fernenzen.

COMBER 0510 (Br.489 tons) Being escorted by A/S trawlers on passage Scapa. Aberdeen in
 RIMSDALE 0510 (Br.265 tons) convoy. Attacked by single aircraft from eastward, which after circling ship returned and attacked with machine gun. 9 or 10 bombs dropped, damage only to movable gear by concussion. No casualties. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1544/2, 2125/2).

SHELDON 1854 Trawler. Enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs, ship not hit. (SHELDON, via Humber Radio, 2011/2) Humber Radio 1958/2, 1911/2.

TEESWOOD 0530 864 tons, attacked by 1 aircraft 0530/2 off Hartlepool. Dropped 1 bomb ahead and 1 to starboard. No casualties or damage sustained. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1200/2, C.in C. Rosyth 1551/2).



H O M E C O M M A N D S.

Air (contd.)

Second Aircraft raid.

Enemy air activity on East Coast (C.in C. Rosyth 2010/2). Enemy air activity may be expected. One ship attacked off Humber (C.in C. Nore 2025/2). Fighters coming (C.in C. Rosyth 2042/2).

7 Trawlers night.

7 Scarborough trawlers were attacked off Scarborough. Aircraft driven off by gunfire from 2 warships. (I.C.0380/40).

DE RUYTER night.

(Dutch) Bombed in North Sea on passage to Flushing. No damage. Dutch FRISO was near during the attack. (I.C.0380/40).

Air Reconnaissance.

Heligoland.

List of lights seen night 1/2 March (Bomber Command 2015/2, 2150/2).

Wilhelmshaven.

Photograph see Enemy Intelligence.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Flak ships.

Reconnaissance under our X445 of 1/3 should be repeated in near future. Close watch should be kept for D.F. positions which might indicate re-establishment of Flak ships on this general line. Meanwhile under C.in C's direction to A.O.C. No.2 Group BC/ERLH/28A of 24/2 reconnaissance should be carried out to locate if possible Flak ships in estimated positions marked on diagram dated 11/1 B.E.F.G.H.J.K.M.Q.T (Air Min.F.O.O.1824/2 to Bomber Command received Admiralty 1830/13).

Mining.

Floating mines.

Reported 1130 56°1'N 1°58'W (N.E. St.Abb's Hd.) ZGND 3601 (URSULA 1802/2).

Unexplained explosion.

Reported by C.G. Fairlight 1135 and column of water seen 50°46'N 0°43.5'E. No ships near (V.A.Dover 1241/2).

Operation I.E.1.

D.20 EXPRESS with ESK, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE in company left Humber for operation I.E.1 (laying of minefield in Heligoland Bight) (F.O.Humber 1410/2). Operation successful (D.C.N.S.181).

Operation P.A.

Completed. 1 mine exploded in sweep (C.in C. Rosyth 1405/2).

Sweeping reports.

3 mines cut 2½ miles 230° from 20 E buoy. (F.O.in Charge Tyne 1942/2). 55°15'2"N. 1°22.6'E. No sweeping (C.in C. Portsmouth 1905/2).
Nil (Cdre in Charge Sheerness 1819/2).
No sweeping. Weather. (N.O. in Charge, Swansea 1825/2).
Nil. (F.O. in Charge, Portland 1700/2).
No sweeping M.sweep (N.O. in Charge, Falmouth 1235/2).

HOME COMMANDSMining. (Contd.)

24

War Channel reopened.

My 0840 (Re S.S. ABANO). Consider explosion was due to near miss bomb or drifting mine. Tyne reports operations described in his 1555 now completed, no mines cut or exploded. War channel is being reopened to traffic (C.in C. Rosyth 1641/2) F.O. Tyne 1555/2).

Shipping.ConvoysCross-Channel

Portsmouth to Havre and Cherbourg night 2 - 3 March (C.in C. Portsmouth 0103/2).

ON

N.C.S.O. Bergen 1029/2 and D.T.D.0115/2 see 1/3.

HN 15

Arrived 2045/1 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0904/2).

HGF 21

Convoy sailing telegram (D.T.D.1103/2).

OG 20

-do- (A.C.W.A.1107/2).

SL 21

Route etc. (C.in C. W.A. 1039, 1041/2).

SLF 21

16 hours late (C.in C. W.A. 1039, 1041/2, BULOLO, 2050/2).

F.N.9.

50 ships. (HASTINGS R.P. 2/3/40, M.05805/40)

Dutch Schoots.

Dutch CARIBIA and Belgium ADOLF URBAN add to list of suspicious ships. (My 1316/2).

Routeing.

Information of routeing of ships in or out of convoy cannot be divulged. One or more of these craft may however be attached to convoys if they have necessary speed to keep up (D.N.I.1318/2 to N.A. Oslo).

Norwegian ships and Kirkwall.

Norwegian ship owners instructing their Captains not to call voluntarily at Kirkwall, owing to fear of submarine attack. Not to be assumed such action means suspect cargo is being carried. (D.E.W.D.1928/2).

Miscellaneous.NOORDWIJK

Dutch, left Downs 1500/2 for River Plate. If sighted, course and speed to be reported. Description (C.in C. W.A. 2201/2). Position, course and speed at 0819. (C.in C. W.A. 1239/3).



H O M E C O M M A N D S.

Miscellaneous (Contd.)

- German coal Exports to Italy to be stopped from midnight 1/2.
- Air photos of Danish harbours. Published by Aero Express Copenhagen. Similar photos said to exist for Norway/Sweden. Endeavour obtain complete set (D.N.I.1435/2).
- Belgian Trawlers. Not recalled by Ostend radio on 23/2. Any message received of this nature was unofficial and false. (Asst.Military Attache, Brussels, 1327/2).

W E A T H E R

0500	Wind	Visibility.
North Sea. (W.gale in extreme north area.	Moderate
	E. Fresh in south area.	Good.
English Channel	E. Strong to gale	Good.
W. Approaches	N.E. Light.	Good.

Outlook similar.

Enemy Intelligence.

- German offer to Norway. ✓ German Government has offered aeroplanes to Norway but of a type unsuitable for Norwegian Air Force requirements. Representative of German Lufthausa to be stationed at Oslo, possibly for proposed North Transatlantic air route over neutral territories (N.A.Oslo 0935/2).
- German mined area. At 1942 B.S.T. D.F. bearings indicated presence of unidentified German naval unit in vicinity of S.W. corner of German declared mined area. (D.C.2039/2).
- Ice Position. Sweden. ✓ My 1801/23/2. Port is now open only by proceeding outside territorial waters due to ice packing. On this account neutral ships remaining in harbour. Swedish ship SIUA was seized recently causing much nervousness. (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1301/2).
- Naval unit. By D/F at 1825 B.S.T. in 53°50'N 2°40'E. Reliable fix call sign DBF (D.D.I.C.1841/2).
- KÖLN was probably the cruiser seen in photograph taken of Wilhelmshaven 2/3. PRINZ EUGEN is reported to be still undergoing trials (D.D.I.C.1159/8).



H O M E C O M M A N D S

26

F I N N O R U S S I A N
W A R .

Aircraft for
Finland.

Crash of 3 Lysander aeroplanes (N.C.S.O. Stavanger, 1741/2). 4 Hurricanes arrived, other pilot crashed, seriously injured. Imperative for large scale maps. Pilots unaware of position of aerodrome, 7 miles S.W. of Stavanger. (N.C.S.O. Stavanger 2201/2)

Use of parachute
Mines.

Vice
British/Consul at Skien reports Master of Finnish s.s. ERICUS states that Russian aeroplanes showed unexpected accuracy in dropping mines by parachute in (?) sand outside Abo which led them to suppose pilots were German. Definitely ascertained and informant had himself seen mines, that these were German manufactured magnetic mines. (N.A. Oslo 1920/2)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

27

MELITO,
CHIOS.

British s.s. MELITO, from Rotterdam for U.K., about 0300/2 collided when in charge of a Dutch pilot in the New Waterway with German s.s. CHIOS, bound in from the sea in ballast. Both ships considerably damaged, MELITO returned to port. (Report, N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 5/3 to D.N.I.)



CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

28

Home Commands.

FAIRPLAY II. ashore. Tug FAIRPLAY II ashore in fog Svan Rock 1115/2 Redcar FAIRPLAY III 1115/2) Cullcoats Radio 1225/2) (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2130/2) Attempt to refloat unsuccessful. Further attempt at 1200/3. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0240/3) Unless weather moderates fear total loss (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1145/4) (T.S.D. 4039/40)

Missing Trawlers. Danish Fishing Fleet operating Dogger Bank has returned Esbjerg except for 3 trawlers believe sunk by sea warfare, GERLIS, MERCATOR and POLARIS (Press)

VISCOUNT Some damage sustained in going alongside DOMALA (See Air)

BIRMINGHAM MOHAWK. Will be ready for sea p.m./15 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1927/2) Damaged by collision Although all damage is well above water-line she is temporarily unseaworthy (R.A.(D) 1145/2)

Positions of Wrecks. To be buoyed immediately by any of H.M. ships in vicinity and the fact included in report called for by C.A.F.O. 160/1940. (D.O.D.(F) 2315/2)

Overdue ships.

<u>Flag.</u>	<u>Name & tonnage.</u>	<u>Cargo.</u>	<u>From.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>To.</u>	<u>Date due.</u>
British	PONTYPRIDD 4458	In ballast	Milford	8/2	Halifax	20/2.
"	ETHEL RADCLIFFE 5673	In ballast	Milford	10/2	Halifax	22/2
"	CARSLOGIE 3786	5000 tons china clay	Falmouth	9/2	Portland	22/2
"	HARLINGEN 5415		Hull	8/2	Halifax	24/2
"	CORYTON 4553	In ballast	I. of W.	2/2	Savannah	24/2.
"	DROMORE CASTLE 5242	4021 tons general.	Mersey.	9/2	New York	23/2.
"	INDUNA 5086	6500 tons coal	Milford Haven.	11/2	Boston	26/2
"	BENGORE HEAD 2609	2619 tons of coal	Liverpool	9/2	Boston	23/2
Greek	PANACHRANDOS	-	The Dowsing	14/1	Key West (P.O.).	about 5/2.
Danish	KATRINE MAERSK 5530		Port Arthur Texas	3/2	Bilbao	24/2



CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

29

Home Commands.

<u>Flag.</u>	<u>Name & tonnage.</u>	<u>Cargo.</u>	<u>From.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>To.</u>	<u>Date due.</u>
Norwegian	SILJA		Trapani		Bergen	

(Passed Gibraltar 5/2 speed 8 knots (N.A. Oslo 1420/1
D.N.I. 1322/2)

FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic.

Convoys. Positions. (D.C.1855/2).

South Atlantic.

ALCANTARA R.A.S.D's 2245/24. It appears ALCANTARA may not be self supporting in fresh water. Request report whether, after further experience, this disability renders her unsuitable for service on your station. (D.O.D.(F) to E.in C. S.A.1655/2).

China

V.MAYAKOVSKY Russian ship left San Francisco 2300/19/2 for Vladivostok with copper, suspected destination Germany. Endeavour to intercept not less than 100 miles from Japanese Coast. (D.O.D.(F) 1827/2).

Neutral Warships. U.S. and Netherlands ships positions (Captain O.S. Singapore, 0526Z/2).

America and West Indies.

MICHAEL J. GOULANDRIS Greek, movements, no knowledge that transshipment of cargo took place (B.N.L.O.Marceau 0954/20/2, D.N.I.1206/2/3).

SAN RICARDO Mexican tanker, reported arrived New York 26/2 with 58,200 barrels of oil. Loaded 70500 at Tampico. Deficiency ascribed to dumping in rough weather, considered suspicious. Please investigate. (D.N.I.1608/2 to Consul General, New York).

MAKIS S.O.S. Greek cargo steamer MAKIS 3546 tons sent out S.O.S. according to Mackay Radio, cause of trouble not stated, position 41;20N, 57:30W. (Reuter, New York, 2300/2).

East Indies.

Shipping control. Control of all westbound British, allied and neutral shipping will commence here 15/3. Request all ships be advised to call at Aden (C.C.S.O.Aden 0732Z/2).

U-boats. Minister of Colonies informed S.N.O. afloat, Madagascar, 4 German submarines 1600 tons would have left Germany 2nd week Feb. for Indian Ocean. Can you confirm or refute? (C.in C. E.I. 0501Z/2 to D.N.I.).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.).

PALESTINE^A
carrying
Germans.

Left here to-day for Suez (Port Sudan
1118Z/2).

Flagship

Flag of F.O.C. 4 C.S. transferred from
SUSSEX TO KENT to date 1/3. (C-in-C.,
E.I. 0844Z/2).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.Home Commands.

FRIEDRICH BREME was sighted by British a/c's when off Obrestad at about 1030 GMT, 2/3 and made a signal requesting Norwegian escort. (D.D.I.C. 1308/2). Sighted by TRIDENT on patrol escorted by a warship, course south Eastward.

Trawler. Name unknown passed southward bound 1245/2/ (Cumming, Tromesoe, 1325/2). (TRIDENT's report).

NORDWEST Arrived (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1749/2).

HESTIA In harbour since 18/1 (-do-)

WOLFSBURG (6201 tons) intercepted 1330/2 by BERWICK 67°30'N 22°47'W. 70 miles N. of North Cape, Iceland on western edge of ice pack in Denmark Strait. On arrival boarding party found ship in flames and half full of water. She was sunk by gunfire, 11 officers and 43 men saved. She had left Pernambuco 2/2. Was disguised as Norwegian AUST. (BERWICK 1530/2).

TRAUFENFELS which again lost her rudder in bad weather on 14/1. Lying at anchor off Frondheim 2/3 (N.I.D.01507/39, 5/3/40).

INA LOTTE Arrived this afternoon with coal (Consul BLUMENTHAL Esbjerg 1930/2).

NEUENFELS) Arrived with coal (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1259/2).
SCHWANNECK)

German ship (name unknown) arrived in neighbourhood of Porsgrunn and is discharging potash. Reported by Skien (59°12'N. 09°37'E). (I.C.0380/40).

America and West Indies.

ANTILLA Aruba reports she is only ship still in harbour (D.N.I.0556/2).

HEIDELBERG (6530 tons) was intercepted by DUNEDIN 30 miles south of St. Domingo 17°52'N 69°36'W. near Mona Passage. Crew, who had set fire to and abandoned the ship were rescued by DUNEDIN and wreck was sunk. HEIDELBERG left Aruba 29/2. (C.in C. A.W.I.1530/2), DUNEDIN 0856/2). Was painted as HOEMSKERK, Holland, and hoisted Dutch colours during approach of DUNEDIN. At 4,000 yards was abandoning ship. Three 6" shots fired across bows when crew seen to be taking to boats. Salvage party on board within 18 minutes, but engine-room was flooded and filled with smoke; ship burning throughout shortly afterwards. 10 officers and 19 men prisoners (I.C.0379/40).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

33

South Atlantic.

UHENFELS Requires docking. Cannot be docked at Dakar before beginning of May. Request earliest date can be docked Gibraltar. (D.of D.0116/2 to A.S. Gibraltar.)

North Atlantic.

NORD ATLANTIC) Reported from French source 2/3 ready to sail
PLUS) from Vigo (I.C.0378/40).

ANTARKTIS) Same source states these two ships are acting
USARAMO) as supply ships for U-boats.

Supply ships for U-boats. Censored letter from British E.T.C. employee at Vigo dated 15/2 remarks "There are 4 oil tankers and it doesn't need a pair of field glasses to see them getting higher and higher out of the water week after week without 'apparently' discharging any oil. (I.C.0378/40).

Mediterranean.

CORDELIA. Bourgas report, CORDELIA has painted funnel grey and obliterated company's distinctive mark (S.O.(I) Malta, 1226/2).

Sh
LAGA^H
sun

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

LAGAHOLM

T.S.D. 4061/40 18th C.S. War Diary 1 - 15
March 1940.

ALBANO
sunk

STRATHC
fired

Submar

Estimat

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.Ships attacked.

LAGAHOLM 1030 Swedish 2818 tons) 59°34'N 5°10'W. Reported by
sunk aircraft of 269 Squadron at 1030/2 to be burning
(I.C.0377/40). Sank, 24 survivors picked up by
BELPAMELA Norwegian but a boat with 13 missing
(arrived at Ronaldsay). This same aircraft had
reported a submarine near the place 20 minutes
earlier. Three trawlers were detailed to search.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1132/2, VANP 2007/2) (A.S.W.D.181)
Sunk by U-boat (NORTHERN SKY 1750/2. Mined
(C.in C.Rosyth 2152/2).

Additional details from A/S.W.D.182:- Armed guard
on s.s.BELPAMELA reports that U-boat first fired
three rounds at BELPAMELA between 0130/2 and
0300/2. U-boat then sighted LAGAHOLM, stopped her
and gave the crew half an hour to abandon ship.
U-boat then fired about 35 rounds into LAGAHOLM
who caught fire and apparently sank. Crew and
armed guard of BELPAMELA, who had abandoned ship,
returned on board, picked up one of LAGAHOLM's
boats with 14 survivors and proceeded to Kirkwall.
Remainder of LAGAHOLM's crew, numbering 13,
refused to go on board BELPAMELA and proceeded in
their boat and landed on North Ronaldsay.
(VANP 2356/3).

ALBANO 0645 British (1175 tons) Hull to Bergen was sunk by
sunk. explosion (probably mine D.C.N.S.181) at mouth of
Tyne, WALLACE and a trawler picked up survivors.
2 dead. Sank in 2 minutes. Explosion came from
underneath ship which was degaussed at the time
(C.in C.Rosyth 1701/2, 0904/2). (I.C.0379/40).

STRATHCLOUA Aberdeen trawler, submarine fired a shell at her
fired at. a few days ago while she was fishing. Not hit
(Press Association).

Submarines reported.

Estimated dispositions (D.N.I.1224/2).

- 1010 59°34'N 5°31'W Aircraft sighting report course
270° (A/C 269 Squadron 1010/2, 1030/2).
- 1340 55°48'N 6°45'W P.s. reported by s.s.ROMANBY
(ROMANBY 1340/2).
- 0200 One 500 ton submarine 9 miles off Texel, course
S.W.A2 (N.A.Hague 1305/2)(Signal is marked "?"
cf. D.N.I.1226/2 submarine at 0200).
- 1942 D.F. bearings indicate presence of unidentified
German naval unit in vicinity of S.W. corner of
German declared mined area. (D.C.2039/2)†
- 2130 AVOCETA sighted submarine on surface 49°10'N
10°42'W.

HOME COMMANDSMovements

35

Home Fleet

REPULSE, escorted by 3 destroyers, arrived Clyde 2030.
 RENOWN, escorted by 3 destroyers, left Plymouth 1800 for Clyde.
 HOOD, VALIANT and 5 destroyers are 60 miles E. of Faroes, covering Norwegian convoys and Northern Patrol. To return to Scapa before dark 7/3 (C. in C. H.F. 0917/3).

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.
 Faroes to Iceland - 3 cruisers, 5 A.M.Cs.
 Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

Re altering patrol times. (C. in C. H.F. 1915/3, V.A.N.P. 2118/3) intend to do so 5/3. FORFAR arriving trawler rendezvous West Bergen 0500/4. Request trawlers burn navigation lights (FORFAR, 1200/3, 1745/3).

Scapa

Movements (A.C.O.S. 1026/3, 1900/3, 1802/3)
 Ships at (A.C.O.S. 0601/3).

Greenock

do. (F.O. Greenock 2021/3)

Rosyth

do. (C. in C. Rosyth 1847/3, 1752/3)

Humber

do. (F.O. Humber 1831/3, 1615/3).

Submarines

Positions 0700/4 (D.C. 1801/3, R.A.(S) 1714/3).

W. Approaches

Movements (C. in C. W.A. 1843/3)

Nore Command

do. to 0700/4 (C. in C. Nore 0638/3).

OperationsOperation V.O.

ARUCAS see German merchant ships.

Air.Faulty
Co-operation
Between
Services

Co-operation between the Services in Portsmouth area not as complete as it should be. This morning gun position R.D.F. positions are plotting aeroplanes, apparently hostile, flying over Isle of Wight and Nab area. Tangmere asked to investigate but they in turn have to ask Uxbridge and experience shows that I may not hear what is decided or what planes have been sent up. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1253/3).

HOME COMMANDSAir

36

Reconnaissance

List of lights seen night 2/3 March (H.Q. B.C. 1345/3)
Searches 4/3 (C. in C. Rosyth 1816/3, 1220/4).

Enemy Air activity

Air raids on shipping may be expected today. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0921/3) Unknown monoplane observed from Kilmichael Lop 1745. Came from N, altered course to E. at Arklow (C. in C. W.A. 1839/3).

^E
ELZINA
0500^A

Dutch trawler unarmed sunk by bombs from aircraft about 20 miles S. of Fame Is. 5 miles from coast. Captain and Engineer missing believed killed, 1 crew w., 3 survivors picked up by Danish ZINE and landed Blyth. Aircraft carried no lights. Trawler was done without lights. Had proceeded from Flushing to Downs southend, then with convoy as far as Humber, after which proceeded alone further north (A.M.L.O. 1444/4).
Note. Did this attack take place 2/3 (see that date).

Mining.Minelaying Operations

Operation E.1. Mines laid by 20 D.F. in German mined area in Heligoland Bight during the night. (D.C. 0745/3).

Sweeping reports

6 mines found (F.O. Humber 2235/3)
No sweeping (C. in C. Portsmouth 1821/3)
My 2234/2. One mine cut, still drifting, 53° 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' N. 1° 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' E. (F.O. Humber 0556/3).

ShippingConvoys

H.N.16 midway between Norway and Shetlands, escorted by 5 destroyers, and A/A cruiser, with 2 cruisers as close cover.

F.S.10 Details (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1038/3, 1039/3)

M.T. Escort (C. in C. Rosyth 1032/3)

O.A.84 Route (C. in C. W.A. 1025/3)

O.B.104 Route (C. in C. W.A. 1026/3)

T.M. Escort (C. in C. Rosyth 1034/3)
sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1629/3)

MOST SECRET.

37

3.3.40.
Sunday.



WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoy
F.N.10.

H.M.S. PELICAN, R. of P. 3-6 March
(M05853/40). Between 1300 and 1900
eleven British mines were sunk.

H O M E C O M M A N D S

Shipping

38

Convoys
Continued

M.T.22 sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil 0810/3)
 H.X.26 Route (D.T.D. 1259/3)
 O.A.104 Route (C. in C.W.A. 1025/3)
 O.N.17A Numbers (C. in C. Rosyth 1038/3)
 H.X.24 Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1533/3),
 Position, REVENGE returns Halifax
 (D.T.D. 1534/3)
 S.L.F.21 16 hours late (C. in C. W.A. 1256/3)
 O.A.102 Numbers & position (C. in C. W.A.
 1131/3, N.C.S.O. Thames 1441/3)
 F.N.9 Number and speed (N.C.S.O.Thames
 1229/3)
 F.N.10 List (N.C.S.O. Thames 1701/3)
 F.S.11 List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1635/3)
 Ocean Position (D.C. 1816/3)

Dutch NOORDWYCK ?
NOORDWIJK

Now in mid-Channel. TAMURA and submarine H.43
 to look out for her. (C. in C. W.A. 1324/3)

Miscellaneous

Scapa Defence

Progress report 3/3 (R.A. Scapa 1054/3)

Contraband
Control.
Coal for Italy.

Orders have been given that all ships carry-
 ing German coal to Italy, which leave an
 enemy or neutral port on or after 2/3 are
 to be detained. Four such Italian coal
 ships which had left Rotterdam loaded are
 reported to have been stopped by order of the
 Italian authorities at Hook of Holland and
 ordered to return to Rotterdam.

WEATHER

0500 Northern North Sea Wind W. Fresh to strong Visibility Moderate

Southern North Sea E. Moderate to fresh good
 and Channel

Outlook. No change.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

39

Enemy Unit

Reported by D.F. at 0020/3, bearings from 7 stations. (D.C., 0020/3)

Ships at Wilhelmshaven

Further examination of photographs taken over Wilhelmshaven on 2/3 shows following units present:--
Tirpitzhaven, 3 torpedo boats.
Scheerhafen, battleship SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN in floating dock.
Hipperhaven, battle-cruiser SCHARNHORST, 1 RAEDER class destroyer, 7 MAAS class destroyers.
Torpedoboothaven, 1 torpedo boat, 3 light craft.
Bauhafen, battleship TIRPITZ, building, No. 5 dock, ADMIRAL SCHEER or DEUTSCHLAND.
Ausrüstunghafen, 1 "K" class cruiser, 1 8" cruiser, probably HIPPER, but if so, a clinker screen has been added to funnel.

The battleship sighted in Brunsbüttel Locks on 29/2 is now known to be the SCHLESIEN. (I.C., 0379/40).

Rhine Barges

Your 1406/2. Request numbers of German barges working on German Rhine. (D.N.I. 2038/3, to Consul, Rotterdam).

German Units

Main German units at Wilhelmshaven on Saturday, 2/3:- One battle-cruiser, probably SCHARNHORST, cruiser HIPPER, one pocket battleship, one "K" class cruiser. (D.N.I., 1601/3)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

40

MARSHAL SOULT To transfer to Portsmouth to refit 15" turret as soon as possible (Hd. of M. 0142/3)

Aircraft From FURIOUS disembarked Squadron. Crashed on taking off. 4 k. (FURIOUS disembarked Squadron 1210/3, 0955/3)

Drifter Overdue Drifter THOMPSON left Milford Haven 29/2 due Falmouth 0915/1/3. Unknown drifter painted black passed Trevoise Head 1530/3/3. steering S.W. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1600/3)

FOREIGN STATIONS

41

SUSSEX

Refit at Liverpool on arrival in U.K. as Naval dockyards cannot take her (D.O.D.(F) 1911/3 to C. in C. Med.)

HIGHLAND
BRIGADE

In collision with SULACO. No injury to passengers or crew (B.C. St. Vincent C. Verde 2250/3)

South AtlanticP.B. and 2
U-boats reported

Asking whether he can confirm or deny press reports from Montevideo of German pocket battleship and 2 submarines off Rio Grande Do Sul steering S1/3 (D.N.I. 0005/3). No foundation. Similar rumours were current in Feb. see my 1824/21 (S.O.(1) Montevideo 0037/3)

GRAF SPEE
wreck

Admiralty 1212/2/1 and Millington Drake's No.61 of 28/2. Unexploded charge may have been intended to destroy the bow tube fitting of which details are urgently required. German assistance in the removal of this charge should accordingly be effectively controlled. (D.N.I. to N.A. Buenos Aires, 1332/3).

Cape Point
Reporting

My 1910/23/2, Admiralty 2027/24/2, N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 2214/28/2. Request necessary authority to route those ships proceeding to East via Cape of Good Hope and not call at Cape Town or any intermediate port between port of departure and Cape Town, to pass within visual signalling distance of Cape Point to report name and destination. (C. in C. S.A. 1159/3).

Force H.

Orders. Leave Freetown 4/3. Patrol. Return Freetown 20/3 (C. in C. S.A. 1200/3) CORNWALL is S.O. of Force H. (C. in C. S.A. 1050/3).

North AtlanticFrench Forces

Positions 1200/3 (D.C., 0058/3) submarines 1200/4 (F.O.C.N.A. 1544Z/3)

FOREIGN STATIONS

42

America & West IndiesGerman Shipping
Patrols

As only German ship ANTILLA remains at Aruba my 1522/16/1 to be modified as follows - DUNDEE, PENZANCE and 1 French unknown warship are to patrol in turn off Aruba. Ships of Jamaica Force to patrol in turn off Curacao. German ships should not normally be sighted except about dawn and as necessary during night and H.M. Ships should avoid trade routes during daylight as far as possible.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1559/3)

ChinaChinese owned
Coasters

Your 0445/29/2. Question is under discussion with other interested departments. Reply will be sent as soon as possible (Hd. of M. 1143/3)

Auger

My 1420/26/2. Mecassar reports reliably informed Auger left for Sourabaya 26/2 in Dutch police vessel SIRIUS. (C.O.I.S. Singapore 0312Z/3)

V. MAYAKOVSKY

Admiralty 1827/2 orders interception of V. MAYAKOVSKY (left San Francisco 19/2 for Vladivostok with 4,000 tons of copper. KANIMBLA and LIVERPOOL proceeding to intercept off Tsugaru Straits not less than 100 miles east of Japanese coast. No action required by PROTEUS. (C. in C., China, 0030Z/3). Asking for details of Soviet ships V. MAYAKOVSKY and ANDREI ZHDANOV (C. in C. China 0203Z/3) Details (Consul-Gen., San Francisco, 1201/3, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1015/4 and 1125/5)

East IndiesOverdue Ships

British HYLTON and TABARISTAN, due Aden 27/2 from Adelaide and Abadan respectively overdue. (C. in C. E.I. 0445/3) (Cancelled, C. in C. E.I. 0345Z/4)

Red Sea

Navigation. Routes for Allied and neutral ships (S.O.(I) Colombo 0701/3)

MOST SECRET.

S



WAR DIARY.

3.3.40. 43
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ARUCAS.
Scuttled.

MO5442/40 H.M.S. YORK R. of P including
an account of interception of German
S.S. ARUCAS on 3.3.40.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Command

44

ARUCAS
Scuttled

Sent out S.O.S. 63° 20' N. 14° 50' W.
Cancelled an hour later (ARUCAS 1154/3,
D.C. to N.P. 1125/3, ARUCAS 1230/3)
Intercepted by H.M.S. YORK, on Northern
Patrol, 0900/3, 63° 30' N., 15° 30' W.,
and proceeded to scuttle herself. Weather
too bad for boarding, but after one lifeboat
had capsized part of the crew were told to
remain on board and try and save the ship.
Engine room was flooded, however, and she
was sunk by gunfire at 1730/3 in 63° 15' N.,
13° 55' W. 42 of crew saved, 3 of whom died
on board YORK, 15 drowned. Boat work impossible
(D.C.N.S. 182), (I.C. 0379/40), (YORK 1206/3,
1307/3, 2042/3), (C. in C. H.F. 1424/3)
(F.O.C.N.P. 1353/3). Number of crew rescued
by YORK was 43, of whom 3 died. Total
complement was 53; it appears that 10,
including the Captain, were lost. (I.C.,
0380/40). ARUCAS carried a consignment of
mercury.

WAHEHE

(Captured 21/2). Left Kirkwall 1239/3 for
Glasgow.

Prizes

Admiralty 1851/15/11/39. Is it still intended
that prizes should go to Leith? Suggest
Glasgow would be preferable. (V.A.N.P. 1445/3).
Approved. Admiralty 1851/15/11 to be amended
by substituting Glasgow for Leith in two
places. (D.T.D. 2111/3)

North Atlantic

GEDANIA

At Las Palmas, transhipped remaining 4461 tons
of whale oil from Norwegian tanker JASPIS
3/3. (I.C., 0379/40)

3.3.1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Submarine
Patrol.

S.O. Force 'Y' proposed to C.in C. S.A.
for concurrence, to send one submarine
to patrol area Fernando Noronha - Natal -
Point Mucuripe, and one A.M.C. on
parallel West of St. Paul Rocks.
(South Atlantic War Diary, March, T.S.D.
4150/40). French submarine LE HEROS
sailed Dakar for this patrol 1400
G.M.T. 8/3.

MOST SECRET.

45

3.3.40.
Sunday.



WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines
attacked.

H.M.S. KELLY, report of attack on U/Boat
on 3.3.40. (MO4933/40).

U - B O A T C A M P A I G N & M I N I N G

46

Ships Attacked

CATO mined 1230 British 710 tons, mined $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles W. from Nash Point, Glamorgan, S. Wales ($51^{\circ} 24' N.$, $03^{\circ} 33' W.$). 2 survivors taken on board British trawler AKITA, 300 tons, were landed, 11 missing. WAKEFUL proceeded to assistance. Bristol Channel ports E. of Swansea temporarily closed. (D.C.N.S. 182) Uncertain whether mined or torpedoed, but a U-boat suspected in Bristol Channel about 26/2. (A.S.W.D. 181) (C. in C. W.A. 1239/3, N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1331/3, 1922/3)

Submarines reported

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C. 1142/3)

In connection with my 2235/29/1. A U-boat reported to be number 656 was patrolling $55^{\circ} 10' N.$, $04^{\circ} 15' E.$, on the evening of 22nd Feb. and 15 miles southward following night. Danish cutters were sunk off latter position. (Consul, Esbjerg, 1505/3).

North Atlantic

1530 Lisbon reports periscope apparently stationary 2 miles off Fuzeta between Faro and Tavira (doubtful) (F.O.C.N.A., 2245/4) (Consul Lisbon 2019/4)

Submarines Attacked

1600 By FAME and FORESTER, $58^{\circ} 29' N.$, $5^{\circ} 45' W.$, (098° Butt of Lewis 16'). Attacked contact. (FAME, 1615/3). A/S.W.D. 182 gives position $58.27 N.$, $5^{\circ} 46' W.$, and time about 0615. Each ship fired four patterns. Contact remained stationary and produced a moderate amount of lubricating oil. FORESTER remained in vicinity and at 1030/4 reported small streams of oil still issuing from contact, which was on bottom in 60 fathoms. Further reported having fired more patterns during forenoon of 4th without visible result. FORESTER, owing to boiler and condenser defects, left at 1230/4 and proceeded Scapa. (A/S.W.D., 182) (FORESTER, 1030/4)

HOME COMMANDS

47

Movements.

Northern Patrol Orkney to Faroes - Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 3 cruisers, 5 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

A.M.Cs. ANDANIA, ASTURIAS, AURANIA, CALIFORNIA,
CARINTHIA, CILILIA, CIRCASSIA, CORFU,
DERBYSHIRE, FORFAR, LETITIA, PATROCLUS,
SCOTSTOUN, TRANSYLVANIA, WOLFE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

A.B.Vs. Trawlers KINGSTON BERYL, JACINTH, ONYX, PERIDOT,
SAPPHIRE, TOPAZ, TURQUOISE, NORTHERN CHIEF,
DUKE, FOAM, GIFT, ISLES, PRINCESS, RENARD,
SKY, SUN.

Scapa Movements (A.C.O.S. 1850/4, 1802/4, 1758/4, 0601/4,
C.C.O. Lyness 0719/4.)

Greenock do. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1331/4).

Rosyth do. (C. in C. Rosyth 2011/4, 1940/4.)

Nore Command do. to 0700/5 (C. in C. Nore 0526/4)

Western Approaches Dispositions 4/3 (C. in C. W.A. 2024/4,
1736/4)

SNAPPER) On patrol. Movements (Capt. (S)3 1540/4)
SEALION)
STERLET do. (Capt.(S)3 1530/4)

ENTERPRISE C. in C. Portsmouth 1257/4, R.A.3 0932/1.
Presume delay in return of ENTERPRISE to
Halifax can be accepted (D.O.D.(F) 1926/4)

QUEEN ELIZABETH Route amended (D.T.D. 2306/4, 2312/4,
B.S.3 (1006/4)

RENOWN Escorted by 3 destroyers arrived Clyde 1330/4.

Submarines 0700/5 (D.C.1923/4)

Operations

ALTMARK Norwegian salvage vessels may be employed
to tow ALTMARK. All British Consuls on
W. coast Norway including Christiansand
South to inform D.N.I. any movements of
vessels suspected of proceeding to carry
out this task. (N.A. Oslo 0935/4)
Am trying to ascertain exact position pilot
embarked at Kristiansund. My 1600/20/11
it is now common knowledge that local naval
authorities took steps to intern WEST-WALD

continued.....

H O M E C O M M A N D S

48

OperationsALTMARK
continued

but she was released on instructions from Oslo (N.C.S.O. Trondhjem 1000/4)
ALTMARK's length is 600 ft. not 160 metres (N.A. Oslo 1155/4). Definitely know salvage vessel at Christiansund South bunkered at short notice 2100/2 and sailed immediately after for unknown destination (V. - C. Kristiansunds 1935/4)

AirEnemy Air Activ-
ity

Unknown aircraft over Bray Lop (C. in C. W.A. 1104/4, 1339/4)

Air Reconnaissance

Normal patrols were flown, except that those from Shetlands to Norway could not be carried out due to weather.

Normal security patrols were also flown, and also a reconnaissance of Heligoland Bight by bombers to locate Flak ships. During this patrol an enemy submarine was bombed (see U-boat campaign).

Bombing
restrictions

Special, no longer required. Cancel my 2355/27/2 (D.C. 1924/4 to A.O.C.C.)

Aircraft approach-
ing Merchant Ships

Reluctance of ships to open fire until they are certain aircraft are hostile. Then too late. Requesting that instructions may be given to merchant ships to open fire at any aircraft approaching a convoy.

Impracticability of identification. Would be of assistance if fire could be opened at once (C. in C. Nore 1629/4)

Boundary

Between French and British spheres of action from Dunkirk to 5° W. in Channel, requesting (H.Q.C.C. 2245/4)

MiningDanger Area

(PACIFIC RELIANCE) 5 miles radius from 50° 23' N. 5° 49' W. (C. in C. W.A. 2253/4)

Sweeping Reports

F.N.10 swept through danger area QZ 506. Outer Channel 2 mines exploded in position 146° 61 B Buoy 2 miles. (F.O. Humber 2045/4) Skid exploded magnetic mine QZ 192. No magnetic A sweeping. Some delay due to fog (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1933/4)

HOME COMMANDS

49

MiningSweeping Reports continued

Sweeping with skids was commenced in Downs today (V.A. Dover 1922/4) Peterhead, Invergordon no sweeping, due to weather (C. in C. Rosyth 1903/4)
 No sweeping (C. in C. Portsmouth 1804/4)
 One magnetic mine exploded by skids 52°40.75' N. 1°46.6' E. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1740/4)
 Weather unfavourable (A.C.O.S. 1730/4)
 Insufficient sweeping yet to justify opening channels referred to in my 1738/3. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1207/4)

Operation I.E.One

Preliminary report places minefield in planned position (D.D.O.D.(H)1611/4)

Operation P.A.3

Escort ICARUS and IMPULSIVE (D.20 1047/4).

Operation D.M.L.9

Intend to carry out line D.3 7/3 (V.A. Dover 1807/4)

ShippingConvoys H.N.16

Homeward bound Norwegian, 31 ships off Sumburgh Head escorted by 5 destroyers, 2 cruisers providing cover.

O.N.17

Outward bound Norwegian, is in 2 parts; first, 41 ships escorted by 5 destroyers and a submarine, is N.E. of Aberdeen.

H.X.20

Arrived, escort ROCHESTER (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1215/4)

Ocean

Positions 1200/5 (D.C. 1922/4)

Norwegian Convoys. Organisation.

C. in C., Rosyth's 1840/3, repeated to Consuls, Bergen and Aalesund (D.T.D., 1247/4), as follows:- A convoy will consist of not more than 40 ships. Convoy will leave both Methil and Norwegian waters in 4 columns of 10 or less ships. All alterations of course will be made by wheeling. When proceeding on E. or W. course across North Sea, ships may be formed into 8 columns at discretion of escort commander by bringing rear half of each column up to beam of the leading ships. H.N. Convoy to be reformed into 4 columns before turning to southward.

Norwegian Pilots

Requesting information re settlement of claims for pilots embarked in O.N. and H.N. convoys. (N.C.S.O. Begen 1457/4)

HOME COMMANDS

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Miscellaneous

- Balloons adrift 4 balloons carried away during the night,
direction of drift E.S.E. (A.C.O.S. 0956/4)
- Reporting positions Co-ordinate method to be used in Home Fleet.
Asking Admiralty to issue instructions that
co-ordinate method is to be used exclusively,
instead of bearing and distance method.
(C. in C. H.F. 1458/4).
- RENOWN's aircraft. Prepare to disembark. Catapult requires
7 weeks work to render serviceable.
(Hd. of Air Brch. 1526/4).
- Baltic navigation Navigation in Baltic approaches unlikely to
be resumed before end of week (D.N.I. 1942/4)
- Dutch and Belgian Fishing Fleets Admiralty 1859/21/2. (a) Dutch (b) about
24 large trawlers. (c) area between 59° 0' N.
0° 0' and 4° 0' E. (N.A. Hague 1140/4)
- EVERSEN Dutch, observed behaving suspiciously by
VEGA while escorting F.N.100 23/2. Suggest
full examination of vessel at any port she may
make. No doubt if she is acting for enemy
she may be expected to change her name and
perhaps identity from time to time (C. in C.
Nore 1504/4).
- German Coal for Italy. Press reports that Gort. decided to allow
17 ships carrying German coal to Italy to
pass are without foundation and should be
ignored. Any such ships should be detained
and reported in usual way (M.E.W. 1625/4
to C.C.S.O. Weymouth) H.M.G. decision to stop
further exports by sea of German coal to Italy
may result in ships in this trade attempting
to evade control by passage by Northern route.
N.P. is being warned. Press and radio reports
about further exemption are without foundation
and should be ignored (M.E.W. 1727/4 to
C.C.S.O. Kirkwall).
- Gothenburg Sylt Owing to S.W. wind port is at present open to
shipping (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1243/4)
Open for ships (Consul Esbjerg 2345/4)

H O M E C O M M A N D S

51

Weather

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea and Horns Reef	Moderate, westerly	Moderate
Channel and Western Approaches	Light, easterly	Good

Outlook, no change.

Denmark - Milder weather reported, with strong S.W. winds.

Enemy IntelligenceLEIPZIG,
NÜRNBERG.

Please try and find out from U-boat prisoners
(a) How they operate in a rough sea;
(b) what battle cruisers or pocket battleships were in vicinity when SALMON torpedoed German cruiser LEIPZIG on 13/12; (c) what ships besides German cruiser NÜRNBERG were in vicinity when NÜRNBERG was torpedoed by URSULA on 14/12. (C. in C., H.F., 1503/4).

There are indications that changes are taking place in (W/T) traffic controlled by ~~KIEL~~ Kiel. (D.D.I.C. /4 to C. in C. H.F.).

Iron Ore traffic

What is maximum actual draught of merchant ships which do use territorial channel round Falsterbo in order to avoid minefields and when traffic is not affected by ice (D.N.I. 2114/4 to N.A. Copenhagen, A.N.A. Stockholm) 14½ ft. (B.C. Malmo 1300/6). 15 ft. Unlikely passage will be used until safety assured by sweeping (N.A. Copenhagen 1830/5). Deepest ship that has used channel drew 16 ft. When ice clears rocks will probably be removed giving maximum depth 19ft. 8 in. (A.N.A. Stockholm (1146/5)).

Identification of a harbour

Description. Asking Consul Bergen if he can identify. (D.N.I. 2113/4) Possibly Haugesund (Consul, Bergen 1915/5) Closely resembles Alesund (Consul, Bergen 1845/6).

Rhine Barges

Admiralty 2038/3. There are 3287 German barges registered on Rhine etc. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1345/4).

H O M E C O M M A N D S

Enemy Intelligence.

52

Merchant Traffic My 2300/12/2. Traffic is considerable and by night. South bound ships now coast East of Lyngvig at daylight (Consul Esbjerg 2330/4) TRUANT patrol report (V.A.(S) 2212/3).

Aircraft reported 6 merchant ships in unescorted convoy 45 miles N.N.E. Schillig Horn, proceeding on a northerly course.

BALDER
Norwegian
captured.

Bergen steamer BALDER, 1129 tons, which left Methil 24/2 for Drammen in convoy, stopped by Germans and taken to Wesermunde. Probably ship accidentally came outside Norwegian territorial waters owing to the storm. Owner informed, crew safe. No reason given for capture. (Reuter, Oslo 0020/14).

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTSHome Commands.

THURSTON British, 3072 tons, in collision 0150/4 with French S.N.A.1. 2679 tons, in 50.33 N., 05.47 W., about 40 miles west of Tintagel Castle, Cornwall. S.N.A.1. sank before 0400/4, crew rescued by THURSTON.

French.
S.N.A. 1. 2679 tons.
~~SNAI~~

In collision. THURSTON saved crew. Inform French Admiralty. Cancel distress signal (Lands End Radio 0130/4, 0148/4)

NORFOLK Turret defects to 7/3 (C. in C. H.F. 1847/4).

ASTURIAS Can be taken in hand at Belfast now (D.O.D.(H) 1548/4).

BURZA Completed 4/3 (A.S. Chatham 1725/4).

ENTERPRISE Safe temporary repair to mast will require at least 12 days. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1257/4).

BEN ATTOW Trawler, overdue, crew 9. STRATIBLANE reported on night 27/2 when trawling within sight of lights of vessel believed to be BEN ATTOW saw big explosion and lights disappeared. (Dundee Evening Telegraph 2/3)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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GLORIOUS

Complete 18/3, ready for service 25/3.
(C. in C. Med. 1133/4)East IndiesImperial Air-
ways Liner
wreckedHANNIBAL, located 25° 40' N. 57° 15' E.
H.M.I.S. HINDUSTAN proceeding to investigate
and assist as aircrafts cannot land
(C. in C. E.I. 0924Z/4, 1351Z/4). Application
made to Ambassador at Teheran for permission
to land search party. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf
1540Z/4).South Atlantic.

GRAF SPEE

Wreck bought for H.M. Govt. for £14,000
(Mr. M. Drake, Montevideo No. 66 4/3).Whale ShipsMovements of whale factory ships, Durban
arrival 3/3, UNIWALECO (S.O.I. Cape Town,
0958/4).Fuelling
H.M. ShipsR.A.S.A.D. 1446Z/2, A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro
1719/29/2. ~~As~~ shore stocks of fuel are not
now available for H.M. Ships in Brazil, it
may become necessary to fuel H.M. Ships from
own tankers in a Brazilian port or anchor.
Fuelling at sea is seldom practicable and
anchorage outside territorial waters free
from report and submarine attacks do not
exist. Admiralty 2332/3/10/39 deprecated
this practice but in view of existing condi-
tions request approval for Brazilian authorities
to be sounded as to whether this would be
allowed. I feel that under altered conditions
some way round Arts. 8 and 26 of Brazilian
neutrality regulations might be found.
Admiralty 1321/16/2 additional Admiralty oiler
not yet required but suggest changing OLYNTHUS
for modern oiler similar to ARNDALE
(R.A.S.A.D. 1423Z/4).

NEPTUNE

Leave Fretown 5/3 for Simonstown. To be
considered as part of Force G from estimated
time at Cape. 12 hours notice for 14 days
from 13/3, giving leave (C. in C. S.A. 1741/4)

FOREIGN STATIONS

55

Mediterranean.

GLORIOUS Re flying training off Malta. Arrive Aden 8/4, though longer flying training desirable. (C. in C. Med. 1133/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

~~Minesweepers recalled~~ Owing to situation in Home Waters the twin-screw minesweepers under your command must be recalled. ALBURY, LYDD, SALTASH, PANGBOURNE, ROSS to sail with despatch. Will be regarded as at fortnights notice to return to Mediterranean as it is appreciated that in event of necessity to give assistance to Turkey in accordance with Admiralty 1725/5/1 you will require these vessels (S.M.S. 1831/4).

Enemy Exports

Censorship indicates exports being sent in parcel mails through Suez Canal in Dutch and Italian liners. Ref. Admiralty 2255/8/1, par. 8, could outward-bound parcels be treated as cargo as in C.B. 1993, para 35? (C. in C. Med. 1115/4)

Italian Fleet

Disposition (O.I.C. Italian Weekly Report, I.C., 0379/40)

Minesweepers Recalled.

Owing to situation in home waters, necessary to recall twin-screw minesweepers under your command. Requested to sail ALBURY, LYDD, SALTASH, PANGBOURNE, and ROSS for their manning ports with despatch Appreciated that, in event of it being necessary to give assistance to Turkey in accordance with Admiralty 1725/9/1 you will require these vessels, and while in home waters they will be regarded as being at a fortnight's notice to return to Mediterranean. (D.M.S. (approved by D.C.N.S.) to C. in C., Med., 1831/4).

America and West Indies.

H.X.24

Arrived Halifax 3/3, escort SAGUENAY (S.O.(I) Halifax 0015/4).

German Seamen

My telegram 25 to Ministry of Economic Warfare, reported to you as my 1753/29/2. List of 35 names and ages supplied by Italian Line. They are travelling on passports specially issued by German Consulate-General and not on normal seamen's documents of identification. Destination given as Genoa. (Consul-General, San Francisco, 2301/2 to D.N.I., Ottawa, received Admiralty 2315/4)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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America & West IndiesFrench Submarines

Bermuda arrival BEVEZIERS and SIDI-FERRUCH (C. in C. A.W.I., 2320/4).

Arica

Consular Shipping Advisory Staff to be withdrawn on account of insignificant number of Allied Merchant vessels calling there. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2005/4).

ANTILLA

Dispositions to intercept. Orders for ASSINIBOINE, JEANNE D'ARC, PENZANCE, WAR BRAHMIN(oiler), (C. in C. A.W.I., 2115/4).

North AtlanticFrench Forces

Movements. (F.O.C.N.A., 2238/4) submarines' positions (F.O.C.N.A. 1502Z/4) Positions 1200/4 (D.C., 0225/4).

French Convoys

Movements and routes (F.O.C.N.A., 1156/4).

Oil Fuel Lighters

D.N.I.'s 1826/3, re identification marks of oil fuel lighters. Only similar craft known is Spanish naval fuel lighter painted K-14 near stern. (Consul Vigo 1758/4).

Australia.German Naval Construction

Details of new Naval tankers and T.B.'s (D.N.I. Melbourne 1312Z/4).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

57

Home Commands.Ships ex-
Vigo

Your 1223/4 (re 6 German ships that left Vigo).
Fully concur. A most satisfactory bag.
(D.O.D. (H) to C. in C. H.F., 2002/4).

WANGONI)
SAO PAULO)

Your 1500/27 (suspected presence of British
prisoners on board two German ships lately
arrived from Vigo at Kopervik and Haugesund),
and 0930/1 (ships examined, no prisoners were
on board). Can you identify ship at
Kopervik? It is presumed ship at Haugesund
was WANGONI. (D.N.I., 1102/4). Your 1102, (a)
SAO PAULO. (b) confirm. (Oslo, 1430/4).

HESTIA

After having been in port since 18/1, sailed
from Gothenburg 4/3 with a general cargo.
(Gothenburg 1230/4)

IDA BLUMENTHAL

Arrived near Porsgrund 2/3, discharging potash
(Nielsen, Skien 1632/4), 2 German ships with
coke arrived from Bremen and 2 expected.
(Consul, Esbjerg 2355/4).

America and West Indies.

ANTILLA

Likely to sail from Aruba night 4/3.
(I.C., 0380/40). (S.O.I. Kingston 0830/4)
Dispositions to intercept (C. in C. W.A.I.
2115/4)

North Atlantic.Ships at Vigo

Description of German vessels and tankers
lying at Vigo 4/3. (W.S.G. 25, 19/3).

U - BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

58

Ships Attacked

- PACIFIC RELIANCE 1120, British, 6700 tons, London to Liverpool was in unescorted convoy OA 102 but had broken away on passing Land's End. Mined or torpedoed 30 miles N. by W. from Lands End, 50.23 N., 05.49 W. C. in C. W.A. considers vessel was probably torpedoed, and ordered 3 destroyers to carry out submarine search of the area. Ship sank at 1315. (D.C.N.S. 183) 29 survivors landed by British MACVILLE, (S. FLORENTINO, 1120/4, Lands End Radio, 1235/4, (C. in C. W.A. 1243, 1523, 1548/4, KHARTOUM, 1745/4) officers convinced ship mined, but cannot explain first explosion 800 yards off (C. in C. W.A. 0847/5). Chief Officer W.T. Douglas was acting ~~as~~ Captain who was ill in Southampton. His report gives position of attack 50° 20' N. 5° 49' W, time 1210. Ship opened fire. "Liverpool Daily Post" 6/3/40 reported that the survivors of PACIFIC RELIANCE on raft were fired at in error for U-boat by men still on board PACIFIC RELIANCE. This is incorrect. (Casualty and Statistical Section, Trade Division).
- CHARLES F. MEYER 1930. British tanker, 10,500 tons, with oil cargo from Aruba to London, torpedoed while in convoy HX 20A, 15 miles south of Dungeness 50.28 N., 00.17 E. One tug and 3 destroyers sailed from Dover to assist her, and another tug from Newhaven.) (Scapa W/T, 2035/4, Plymouth W/T 2039/4) (North Foreland Radio 2102/4, 2305/4) (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0115/5) (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1655/5) Still afloat at 1220/5. Destroyers searching for submarine (D.C.N.S. 183) I.C., 0380/40 gives position 50.29 N., 00.18 E. (approx. 172° Beachy Head L/H 15.2 miles) (CHARLES F. MEYER, 0115/5 (FOWEY, 2015/4). Taken in tow by BOADICEA and tugs. (Capt. D.19, 0615/5, V.A. Dover 0955/5) Probably struck a floating mine (D.C.N.S. 184). Now in Sandown Bay, settling slowly. (BOADICEA, 1830/5). Anchored at 0105 off Castle Point. Consider can proceed to Southampton (Salvage Officer in C.F. MEYER, 0115/6) Report of C.O. FOWEY on arrival Dover, considers explosion probably due to floating mine aft. (V.A. Dover, 1126/5, 1220/5). Was got safely to harbour (Solent) (BOADICEA, 0016/6 D.O.D.(H) 2315/6). (Salvage Officer in C.F. MEYER 1225/7) C. in C. W.A. 0847/5 request copy of report from Commodore on board and of interview with Master, with Master's reasons why ship was not zig-zagging (D.T.D. 1148/6, 1149/6).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.America and West Indies.

59

EL CIERVO

2007 British tanker, 5800^{t.}, reported she was being chased by a submarine, 900 miles S.E. of Bermuda 22.10 N., 51.28 W. No British or French submarines known to be in this vicinity (D.C.N.S. 183) (Burnham on Sea Radio, 2340/4, Nore W/T, 2227/4) see 14/3.

THURSTON

0400. British, 3072 tons, was in collision with the French S.N.A.I., 2679 tons, at 0150/4 in 50.33 N., 05.47 W., about 40 miles W. of Tintagel Head Cornwall. French ship was sunk, and survivors taken on board THURSTON. ~~Later THURSTON.~~ Later THURSTON was sunk, probably by submarine about 0400/4. ^{or} Probably torpedoed by same submarine which later sank PACIFIC RELIANCE. (A.S.W.D. 184) Three survivors of THURSTON picked up and some survivors of SNAI were picked up by a trawler at 1500/5, 40 miles N. Lands End and taken to Milford Haven. (N.O.I.C. Milford, 1101/6). KHARTOUM reported passing through large quantities of floating wreckage at 1500/4 in approx. position where THURSTON sank. (D.C.N.S. 185). Master of British MOYLE reports picking up in 50.26 N., 06.00 W., at 1000/6, 3 native members of crew of THURSTON. MOYLE docking Cardiff 0500 (N.O.I.C. Cardiff. 0234/7).

GRUTTO

Dutch, 920 tons, missing. Raft found. (see 6/3).

SubmarinesReported

Estimated positions
(D.D.I.C. 1139/4)

0525

INTREPID

By trawler BENCHOURU 6 miles N.E. of Aberdeen. ~~INTREPID~~ ordered to investigate. (C. in C. Rosyth 1034/4). Explosion also heard. DELIGHT asked to report if convoy was in this position and whether anything is known of explosion. (C. in C. Rosyth 1036/4). Convoy was approximately in this position. Explosion was depth charge fired by NUBIAN. Submarine was NARWHAL astern of convoy. (DELIGHT, 1118/4). Cancel my 1034. INTREPID proceed in execution of previous orders. Submarine was NARWHAL with ON 17 (C. in C. Rosyth 1106/4, 1304/4).

1650

Merchant ship reports sighting and firing at a periscope in position 210° Q 13 miles at 1650/4. Possibly wreckage (N.O.I.C. Milford 1145/5) (C. in C. W.A. 2041/5).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

60

Submarines
Reported

- 1340-1640 By French seaplane in 47.30 N., 06.18 W., about 70 miles from Point de Raz in Brittany. (I.C. 0380/40) (Portsmouth W/T, 1930/4) D.D.I.C. 1826/4) (C. in C. W.A. 1826/4)
- 1400 Periscope reported 49.55 N., 05.56' W. by master of S.S. MARIE (Belgian) Search ordered in area S.W. of Land's End (C.C.S.O. Falmouth 2031/4) (C. in C. W.A., 2239/4).
- 0645 G.M.T. French Admiralty report 250 ton U-boat in 51.41 N 2.35 E. course N.W. 1825/4. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2350/4) (I.C. 0380/40) (Admiralty 1825/4).
- 1825 Submarine sighted by British ship AUCKLAND STAR (doubtful) in 49.26 N., 7.27 W., 237° Scilly Isles 51'. (I.C. 0380/40) (AUCKLAND STAR 1725/4) (C. in C. W.A. 1907/4) Brit. Cf. submarines attacked 1700/4.
- 0805 Unreliable report, conning tower and periscope seen by a postman off Highweer Point, W. of Lynmouth Foreland. Considered wreck of INVERDARGLE. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1437/4)

America and West Indies

- 2007 British tanker EL CIERVO reported being chased by U-boat (doubtful) 22.10 N., 51.28 W. (I.C. 0380/40) My 2230/4. Report confirmed by British ship SINNINGTON COURT. Master of British ship EL GERVO reports engaged submarine and saw wake of torpedo. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1257/14) Admiral Mastinque informs me report could not have concerned French submarine. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2319/14).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

61

Submarines
Attacked

- 1535 Bomber Command aircraft, while making a reconnaissance of Heligoland Bight, sighted a submarine steering north in Schillig Road, north of Wilhelmshaven. Aircraft dropped a stick of four 250-lb. bombs, the last of which was seen to hit the submarine between the conning-tower and stern, producing a cloud of black grey smoke. Aircraft crew are convinced that a direct hit was obtained with this bomb. (D.C.N.S., 183) (I.C., 0380/40) (H.Q. Bomber Command, 2045/4)
- 1659 H.M.S. LEITH, when escorting homeward-bound convoy H.G.20B, 80 miles W.S.W. of Land's End 49.56' N., 8.4' W., 271° Scilly Isles 69' - I.C., 0380) attacked a contact. VENETIA also attacked. Oil and air bubbles were seen to be rising. Submarine was seen to break surface after LEITH's first attack. (LEITH 1847/4) VENETIA standing by, and LEITH has rejoined convoy. (D.C.N.S., 183) (VENETIA 0845/5) Cf. submarines sighted 1825. (C. in C. W.A. 2358/5 gives position as 49° 58' 30" N., 07° 51' W.)
Report of attack M. 06021/40, 25.3.40.
- 1935 H.M.S. KHARTOUM attacked contact in 50.27 N., 5.25 W. Consider it to be a wreck. (KHARTOUM, 1935/4, 2155/4 (I.C. 0380/40) Area searched with KINGSTON and WAKEFUL. (KHARTOUM, 0737/5).
- 1650 S.S. WINDSOR WOOD, separated from Convoy HX 20 reports sighting and firing at U-boat in position 51° 19' N., 09° 10' W., at 1650/4 (B.4 report). Possibly wreckage. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1145/5). Was probably H.43 (C. in C. W.A. 1529/5).
- 2301 *Contact obtained by LEITH and WILD SWAN. (see 5/3).*

62 S
MOST SECRET.

5.3.40.
Tuesday.



WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Home Fleet.

NEPTUNE to join Home Fleet on relief
by GLOUCESTER in S.Atlantic Station.
(Adty. 1915/5) (T.S.D.4057/40).

Operations.

ALTMARK.

H.M.S. UNITY Patrol report. (M05818/40).

HOME COMMANDS

63

Movements

Home Fleet ✓ HOOD, VALIANT and 5 destroyers covering ON 17 of 41 ships and ON 17A of 40 ships.

Northern Patrol ✓ Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers only.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

Scapa ✓ Ships at (A.C.O.S. 0601/5).

Rosyth ✓ Movements (C. in C. Rosyth 1834/5, 2355/5).

Nore Command ✓ Movements (C. in C. Nore 0550/5, 1516/5).

Humber ✓ do. (F.O. Humber 1745/5, 1810/5).

Submarines ✓ Positions and movements (R.A.(S) 1651/5, D.C. 0025/5, 1826/5).

Western Approaches ✓ Dispositions (C. in C. W.A., 1325/5, 1621/5).

Operations

ALTMARK ✓ Orders to submarine ORZEL to relieve UNITY (Capt. S.6, 1847/5). N.A. reports rumours ALTMARK sailed 4/3. No confirmation available (Oslo 1415/5). No tugs had arrived by evening 3/3. No report of signs of departure by 1730/5 (Dormer, Oslo 1735/5).

Air

Borkum Security Patrol No sign of salvage operation. (H.Q. Bomber Command, 0010/5).

Enemy Air Activity At 0030/5 the R.D.F. plot showed one aircraft circling over the Barrow Deep area in Thames Estuary. This was probably enemy minelaying activity, but the swept channel did not appear to have been affected (D.C.N.S. 183). Unknown aircraft over Catlingford Lough (C. in C., W.A. 2130/5). Enemy air activity on East coast probable (C. in C. Rosyth 1120/5). Hostile aircraft QSNDOOIO course 310° (C. in C. Rosyth 1054/5)

H O M E C O M M A N D SAir.

64

Air
Reconnaissance

Normal patrols were flown. Ship appearance FASAN bombed 1255 YXSQ 0505 by our aircraft (Donibristle 1645/5, Thornaby 1145/6).

Aircraft bombed Dutch (Donibristle 1645/5, N. Foreland intercept 1224/5).

Mining.Danger Area

Due to mines 5 miles radius from 50:29 N. 0:18 E. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0012/5).
Due to mines 1 miles radius 49:46.3 N., 1:4 W. (D.M.S. 1532/5, Paris 1106/5).
Due to mines 5 miles radius 51:31:45 N., 4:3:30 W. (P.M. Brest 1410/5).

Mine Detectors

Refitting recorders to submarines (V.A.S. 1756/5).

Sweeping Reports

F.N. swept through danger area QZ 506. No other sweeping due to weather (F.O. Humber, 1855/5).
Yarmouth: No sweeping due to weather (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1820/5).
No sweeping (C. in C. Portsmouth 1800/5).
All operations abandoned due to weather (F.O. Tyne 1754/5).
No sweeping Lyness, Kirkwall; weather (A.C.O.S. 1730/5).

Floating mines

between position S.W. and S.E. 15 miles Beachy Head. Divert convoy to southward of this area (C. in C. Portsmouth 2236/5).

Operation P.A.3

Escort (D.O.D.(H) 1315/5).

Operation D.M.L.9,
Line 3.

Escort BURZA, BLYSKAWICA (C. in C. Nore 1832/5).

Destroyer mine-
laying operations

No further are contemplated in immediate future. (D.O.D.(H) 1315/5).

H O M E C O M M A N D S .Shipping.

Convoys

Positions 1200/6. (D.C., 1841/5).

TM 14 Armed (N.C.S.O. Methil 0715/5).

ON 17 24 hours late (C. in C. Rosyth, 0952/5)
(D.T.D. 1115/5).

FN 11 Position (VEGA 0326/5).

Nore Command positions (C. in C., Nore, 0550/5, amended
0917/5).

HX 25 Sailing telegram (Capt I/C Halifax, 1115/5).

HN 17 Organisation (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1302/5)
(N.C.S.O. Aalesund 1500/5).

Train ferry No. 3. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2010/5). Train ferry
No. 2 arrived (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1601/5).

MT 24 Sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil 1704/5).

SL 24 Route (DTD 1839/5). SL 23 addition (N.C.S.O.
Freetown 1746/5).

FN 15 Postponed 24 hours (C. in C. Rosyth 1544/5).

HGF 22 List etc. (F.O.C.N.A. 1527/5).

HN 16 Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1849/5).

ON 18 &
HN 18 Escorts (C. in C. Rosyth, 1536/5).

HG 21 Sailing telegram (D.T.D., 0930/5).

HGF 21 Route (C. in C. W.A., 1042/5).

HX 27 Route (D.T.D. 1331/5).

OB 104 sailed 2235/5 (N.C.S.O. Mersey 2241/5).

SL 23 Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1529/5).

Ships refusing to
go to Kirkwall

Ships are refusing to proceed to Kirkwall in increasing numbers. So far this has been dealt with by detaining the ships at sea till Masters agree to bring them to port. Danish VENUS lately demanded an escort. Trawlers may be used for this purpose provided efficiency of patrol not lowered (V.A.N.P. 1620/5). No objection (D.O.D.(H) 1135/6).

H O M E C O M M A N D S

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Shipping

- Casualties Commodores to be informed that in all cases of grounding or collision in their convoys a special report should be forwarded with fullest details. (D.T.D., 1428/5).
- Channel Traffic Between Barfleur and Levy mercantile traffic must be routed by more than 28 fms. depth (Paris, Marat, 0919/6).
- Italian Coal Any ship with German coal for Italy should be sent into Kirkwall for examination (D.E.W.D. 2058/5). List understood to have left Rotterdam 3/3 and 4/3. (D.N.I. 1629/5).
- French Commercial Telegrams Re French proposal to forbid mention of destination of ships in commercial telegrams. Objection to proposal as it may hamper business (D.T.D., 1931/5).

Miscellaneous

- Suspicious vessels French S.I.S. report at 1100/5 80 miles N.N.W. Zeebrugge 5 or 6 fishing craft wearing Dutch colours course unknown. Appear to have powerful engines and anxious to avoid contact. Do not seem to be Dutch. MALLARD, PINTAIL, to investigate. (B.N.L.O. Dunkirk 1201/5, C. in C. Nore, 1408/5, 1819/5).
- STOCKHOLM Danish. Suspected neutral. Master Heinrich Peterson. Sailed independently for Methil 0800/5 with instructions to make contact with other vessels of same line and proceed home in company (H.O.I.C. Tyne 1233/5).
- Weather report Intercepted by GLEAMER in English (C. in C. H.F. 1716/5).

Weather

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	N.W. strong to gale.	Moderate or good.
English Channel	N. moderate	good.
Outlook - Wind moderating slowly. Visibility good.		
Denmark. The milder weather changed to a cold spell again.		



H O M E C O M M A N D S

Enemy Intelligence

Smoke floats

Unconsumed smoke floats have been washed ashore on north coast of Norfolk. It is supposed they may have been dropped by German seaplanes or fast motor boats.

KAETTE, OLYMPIA

Danish trawlers, reported to be in German hands. Asking for confirmation and description (D.N.I. 1838/5 to B.C. Esbjerg). KAETTE released after fish purchased. Other cutter is at Ymuiden owing to being attacked by aircraft 24/2 whilst on passage to Grimsby (Consul Esbjerg 2030/6).

Rhine shipping

Admiralty 1610/5 very little reliable information as yet received. (A) No neutral vessels allowed to proceed above Mannheim. All cargoes for Switzerland are discharged at Mannheim and sent overland. (B) Traffic reported to be very busy between Mainz and Mannheim. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 2128/5).

Admiralty 1451/5. Dutch tugs and barges have been chartered for emptying Rhine Canal owing to shortage, so imagine all German barges in use. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1700/5).

Note. For Admiralty 1451/5 and 1610/5 see Shipping.

C A S U A L T I E S & D E F E C T SHome Commands.

68

RIJNSTROOM Dutch (695 tons) left Downs 3/2 for Amsterdam is missing (Reuter). Wreckage and life boat and lifebuoy with RIJNSTROOM sighted by BRANDARIS 0930/3, 51:33 N., 2:45 E. (F.O.I.C. London 1810/4).

URSULA Taken in hand (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1853/5).

TRUANT Docked (A.S. Rosyth, 1705/5).

GLASGOW Re armour. Completion date 20/3 must be adhered to (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1705/5, C. in C. H.F. 2220/5).

WANDERER Arrive Gladstone 1030. Urgent defects (WANDERER 2208/5).

S.S. CORDALE Struck obstruction which broke 4 blades off propeller 54:39:36 N., 0:54:24 W. (F.O. Tyne 1706/5, Scapa W/T 0603/5, Cullercoats Radio 0638/5, PELICAN 0715/5, VIVIEN, 0920/5). In tow of tug proceeding (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0945/5).

POLARIS)
MERCATOR)
GERLIS) Danish fishing cutters lost with crew of 12 near Dogger Bank. Danish fishing quarters ascribe loss to "war actions" (Transocean 1800/5).

S.S. SNABB ST. MELLONS being sent to assistance (A.C.O.S. 1541/5, Unknown aircraft 1150/5, NO Kirkwall, 1510/5).

S.S. POZZUOLI Machinery breakdown (N. Foreland Radio 1540/5).

S.S. SENJA Not under control, in tow of tug off Whitby, proceeding to Tees (N.O. Hartlepool, 1750/5).

S.S. GRUTTO Dutch (920 tons) London to Rotterdam lost with all hands off West Hinder, cause unknown (D.C.N.S.).



CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Foreign Stations

- KENT Completes 22/3 (C. in C. E.I. 1137Z/5).
- S.S. VENETIA In distress 24:1 N. 59:48 W (C. in C. A.W.I. 1725/5, 0500/11, 1503/13, 1523/13) Towing ship stated to be F.J. WOLFE (C. in C. A.W.I. 0201/14).
- HARLINGEN Reported overdue, arrived at Halifax 5/3, ten days late.

FOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticConvoys,
Co-ordination

Your 1129/18/2. After consulting staff of Admiral, Africa, on co-ordinating British and French convoys, propose following: Escort of all O.G. and O.G.F. convoys be directed to report to me on all occasions estimated amount early or late on time they will cross meridian 11:00 W. East of meridian 09:30 W., all O.G. and O.G.F. convoys be routed north of a line drawn 265° from position 290°, Cape Spartel 30 miles, and all H.G. and H.G.F. convoys south of this line. (F.O.C.N.A. to A.C.W.A., 1004Z/5).

Arming Merchant
Ships

Ships cannot be armed at Gib. until additional labour available. Many ships pass through Gib. without D.E.M.S. gunlayers or even merchant seamen gunners. (F.O.C.N.A. 1534/5).

French positions

1200/5 (D.C. 0039/5).

No transfer of
Portuguese ships

The Portuguese Minister of Marine has stated he will not allow any Portuguese vessel (including trawlers and drifters) to be transferred to a foreign flag. Decision is thought to be due to threats by German Minister at Lisbon that such transfers would be looked upon as an unfriendly act by the German Government and would result in the instructions to German submarines not to attack Portuguese ships being withdrawn.

French Submarine
Patrols

Agreed with Admiral, Africa, that French should carry out periodical submarine patrols in following area: Bounded West by a line 130° from Cape St. Vincent to the East by meridian 007:15 W. to the south by parallel 036:40 N. Request warships for Gibraltar be routed clear of this area. (F.O.C.N.A., 1000Z/5).

MediterraneanEgyptian Ships,
W/T Silence

My 1616/22/2. Director-General, Port and Light Administration has ordered Egyptian ships to keep W/T silence at sea except in cases of distress or emergency. (R.A.I.C., Alexandria, 1646/5).

Transport in
Mediterranean

Reply to D. of S.T. 1045/28/2. Egyptian vessels could accommodate 3 to 4000 troops between them. No other vessels available (See Transport Officer, Egypt, Port Said, 1834/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Danube, Ice.

Danube still frozen above Belgrade and Galatz, but navigation over certain sections of the river has recommenced and will probably be resumed more generally about the middle of the month.

China.

V. MAYAKOVSKY

(See 3/3). Your 0152/5, requesting confirmation of Lloyds' List number of Russian ship V. MAYAKOVSKY, confirmed (D.C., 0732/5). My 1827/2 to C. in C. China, V. MAYAKOVSKY may be intercepted within 100 miles of Tsugasu Strait so long as interception is out of sight of land and no Japanese ship or aircraft is witness to the action at the time. (D.C.N.S. 2335/5).

Germans in Japanese Ship

S.N.O. Canton reliably informed Japanese ship LUSMAN MARU sailed 0200/3 for Shanghai with 3 German men under 30 years of age on board (C. in C., China, 0215/5).

Purchase of German ships

Stated in Japanese Diet there are 350,000 tons of German shipping in Japanese and Far Eastern ports. Japanese Minister of Traffic investigating possibility of buying these ships and will give further details at a secret session of Diet.

CHAKDINA

To sail 11/3 unescorted to Columbo and Bombay (F.O.C. Singapore 0347Z/5).

South Atlantic.

WAKAMA

R.A. Harwood's suggestion of counter complaint to Brazil that WAKAMA was an actual or potential auxiliary (Mr. M. Drake, Montevideo, No.69, 5/3).

Fuelling Chuy River

Uruguayan surveying ship CAPITAN MIRANDA and tug left Montevideo 1900 to investigate report of U-boat fuelling in Chuy River. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 2245/5).



FOREIGN STATIONS

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America & West Indies

MALAYA Arrived Halifax 5/3 (C.S.O.(I) Halifax 1814/5).

Movements C.O.A.C., 1801/5, (N.C.S.O. Trinidad 1735/5).

Ice ° St. Lawrence River closed by ice. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2011/4, recd. 1047/5).

D.C.N.S. Ottawa Capt. L.W. Murray, visit to London, arriving 11/3 (C.N.S., Ottawa, 1047/5).

CISTULA Dutch tanker due to leave New York 5/3 instructed by owners in Holland to receive orders concerning destination U.K. from Scheveningen wireless station. Master refused to see N.C.S.O. New Orleans before leaving. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1045/5).

ANDINO thanked Request owner of British ANDINO be asked to convey thanks to Master for prompt report of sailing of German Merchant ship from Santiago de Cuba 5/3. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2105/5).

East Indies.

HANNIBAL (aircraft) Aircraft report of sighting wreckage now considered incorrect (C. in C. E.I. 1427Z/5, 0214Z/5).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands.

SANTOS (on way home from Rio de Janeiro) Left Narvik am/5 (Admiralty 1638/5). (Narvik 1049/5).

DALBEK) Arrived with 7000 tons coal from Danzig for
Latvian ~~Latvian~~ VENTA) Govt. Dept. (Vice Consul, Liepaja, 1354/5).

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK Information that embargo on WINDHUK, at Santos, may be lifted at any time and earliest date on which it can be reimposed is 16/3 (Admiralty 1847/5).

America & West Indies.

FRANKFURT) Arrived Talcahuano, Chile. Taking on stores
OSORNO) (B.U.P.).

SEATTLE) Reported sailed from Curacao during night
MIMI HORN) 4/5 March. Cable communication from Curacao
VANCOUVER) was cut 2000/4. They sailed shortly after. Fuel preparations said to have been hurried which may have been due to receipt of some message from higher authorities. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 0851/5, 1132/5, 1234/5, 2222/5) (Venezuela, 2025/5).

ESTE) Curacao reports preparing to sail from
HANNOVER) Caracas Bay (S.O.I., Kingston, 2149/5).

MOST SECRET.

S

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WAR DIARY.

5.3.40.
Tuesday.

U/Boat Campaign and Mining.

Submarines
Attacked.

2100. 52° 01'N., 6° 27'W. H.M.S.
WANDERER, Commander R.F. Morice.
Report of attack on U/Boat (considered
non-sub-contact). (M.05660/40, dated
19.3.40).
1400. 49° 26'N., 07 20W. Photographs
attack by H.M.S. WILD SWAN on U/Boat.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

75

Submarines Reported

Estimated dispositions (D.N.I., 1216/5).

- 1720 Off St. Abbs' Head, 1 mile N.E. proceeding North reported by shore observer. LONDON-DERRY ordered to investigate (C. in C. Rosyth 1808/5, 1838/5). Searched until dark without success.
- 1620 By aircraft of 224 Sqn. QSSP 5310-1. (aircraft 1620/5). Submarine has dived, remaining in vicinity awaiting instructions (aircraft 1650/5).
- ? time U-boat reported 4 miles N.W. of St. Ives Head. KHARTOUM, KINGSTON and WAKEFUL (Comdr. R.L. Fisher) ordered to attack. (C. in C. W.A. 1247/5). WAKEFUL's difficulties on this occasion see M.O. 5514/40, H.M.S. WAKEFUL R of P 27.2.40 - 6.3.40.)

Submarines Attacked

- At 0024 LEITH and WILD SWAN attacked contact in 49.27 N., 0733 W. and reported Diesel oil on surface.
- 0024-0647 Target is moving. Am attacking. (WILD SWAN, to H.M.S. LEITH, 0647/5). Are you still in contact (C. in C. W.A. to VENETIA 0746/5). Reply, still in contact. Target has not moved. Intend dropping 2 more patterns, leaving vicinity to rejoin convoy at 1200. Oil still coming to surface. (VENETIA, 0845/5), (C. in C. A.W.I. 1138/6). Four more patterns dropped this morning. Target is stationary and leaking oil (VERSATILE 1000/5) (C. C. W.A. 2358/5, 0806/5, WILD SWAN 0202/6).
- 2100 WANDERER attacked contact 52:2 N. 6:26 W. Thought to be a wreck (I.C. 0381/40) (WANDERER 2204/5).
- 1835 By flying boat N. 9028 in position 28 miles S.S.W. of Scillies. Attacked with bombs level. Estimated no hits. (F/B 1835/5, 1900/5). (C. in C.W.A. 1907/5). Report considered doubtful (C. in C. W.A. 2320/5).



H O M E C O M M A N D S

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Movements

Northern Patrol Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers only.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 7 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

Submarines Positions 0700/7 and movements (R.A.(S)
1754/6, D.C. 1942/6).

MOREA When ready for sea to proceed from Falmouth
to Gravesend (D.T.D. 1730/6).

PRINCESS VICTORIA To sail for Immingham on completion of refit
(D.D.O.D.(M) 1017/6).

HBF Trawler
Patrols Established. Re. Admiralty 2024/1 (N.O.
Aberdeen 1310/6).

Operations.

Operations S.R.? C. in C. H.F. 1323/4. Re signalling.
Admiralty 1607/6. Re passage through
barrier of submarines (R.A.(S) 1246/5,
C. in C. Rosyth 1846/5). Suggest Admiralty
initiate conference. Owing to depletion of
foreign southern North Sea provision of
suitable escorts for submarines from this
Command will probably prove impracticable
(C. in C. Nore 1040/6).

ALTMARK Proceed to position 10 miles North of
Hantsholm (R.A.(S) 1251/6 to UNITY)
~~ALTMARK passed Lister escorted by 2 Norwegian~~
~~destroyers 1010/6.~~ UNITY cease shadowing
and proceed to position 10 miles Northward
of Hantsholm to intercept in case ALTMARK
breaks across after dark. ORZEL proceed to
Eone (R.A.(S) 1253/6). ALTMARK passed
Uster 1010/6 escorted by 2 Norwegian destroyers
keeping in territorial waters speed 8 knots
(UNITY 1015/6). Bombing restrictions asked
for and cancelled (V.A.S. 1239/6, 1426/6).
Reported Norwegian Salvage Co.'s 2 largest
vessels are towing damaged Norwegian HOEGH
CARRIER which left Kristiansand 1/3 for
Bergen (Trondheim 1030/6).
UNITY's Patrol report see Capt.(S)6
No. 131/1 of 15/3/40.

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MOST SECRET.



WAR DIARY.

6.3.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

VIVIEN.

Engagement of enemy aircraft H.M.^{N.}Convoy
6/3/40. M05100/90.
1925 Attack by enemy aircraft on Convoy
F.N.12.6/3/40. M05009/40.
1955 Further attack.



HOME COMMANDS

Air

Ships opening fire

If aircraft approaches a convoy A.A. fire must be opened as soon as possible. Convoy should remain in formation (C. in C.W.A. 1142/6).

Enemy air attacks

Air attack on convoy expected now (C. in C. Nore 1603/6 to EGRET, FLAMINGO, Tr. WARWICKSHIRE, 1941/6). Enemy aircraft activity on East coast (C. in C. Rosyth 1954/6). Enemy seen to burn navigation lights (WHITLEY 2010/6, C. in C. Nore 2113/6). Aircraft circling T.M. (? position) 330 YXGB 19 (VIVIEN 2045/6). Fighters have been despatched (C. in C. Nore 2007/6, C. in C. Rosyth 2004/6).

Convoy FN112

- 1934 Convoy FN¹¹² has been attacked by enemy aircraft in HTND 4537 (EGRET 1934/6) 10 miles N.E. Spurn Head by aircraft burning navigation lights (C. in C. Nore 2113/6). Two bombs dropped on rear of convoy, no damage reported. Aircraft withdrew when engaged by escort (EGRET 1327/7)
- 1908 Danish. Am being bombed 10 miles N. Hartlepool. (1905/6) By aircraft burning navigation lights (I.C. 0382/40)

Convoy FN111

- 1958 Convoy FN11 has been attacked by enemy aircraft in 245 YXGB 7 (1958/6)

JACOBUS 1911 British (1262 tons) bombed off Tyne (Cullercoats Radio 2011/6)

SHELBRET II. 1930 Br. (695 tons) bombed and gunned 2½ miles S.E. Girdleness. 3 bombs, no hits. Heinkel III. Ship was showing sidelights only, not making any smoke. No damage to ship. 2nd mate on bridge hit. Ship has returned to Aberdeen (C. in C. Rosyth 2335/6).

ROYSTON 1908 British (2722 tons) bombed 15 miles N. Hartlepool (I.C. 0382/40). No casualties (I.C. 0383/40). Did not open fire owing to misunderstanding Captain's order over telephone. Time of attack 2000 - 2005 etc. Full details (A.M.L.O. Fighter Command 1647/7).

ROSEDENE 1915 British (376 tons) bombed off Hartlepool (I.C. 0382/40). No casualties (I.C. 0383/40) and machine gunned. Engaged aircraft. Description of attack (A.M.L.O. Fighter Command 1530/7)

MALLARD 1920 1st A/S S.F. Nore. Attacked 5 miles E by S Lowestoft (I.C. 0382/40).



H O M E C O M M A N D S

Air (Contd.)

PINTAIL 1920 1st A/S.S.F. Nore. Attacked 5 miles E. by S. Lowestoft (I.C. 0382/40)

Cross Sands
Lt. V. 1942 Bombed and machine gunned 8 miles E. Yarmouth I.C. 0382/40

DELFZIJL Dutch (227 tons) bombed and machine gunned while on way from Tyne to Rotterdam. Damaged. 1 w. (Reuter)

Corton L.V. 2002 Attacked 10 miles N.E. Lowestoft (I.C.0382/40)

Outer Dowsing
Lt. V. Reports that 9 bombs were dropped close to him last night, Wednesday. (F.O. Humber 1808/7) and the lens was put out of action, but there was no structural damage.

FOAM QUEEN 1930 In Convoy FN 12 (811 tons, British). Bombed 53° 39' 20" N. 0° 44' 30" E. from height 150 ft. 3 bombs, no hits. Opened fire with Bren guns. (I.D. Form A.A.)

Other enemy activity. Meteorological flight a.m./6. Did not approach nearer than 150 miles E. St. Abbs Head (I.C. 0382/40)
Two aircraft reported over Cromer 1545 and at same time two further enemy aircraft observed by S.S. MILFORD QUEEN 100° 35 miles Cromer Knoll Lt. V. steering E. (I.C. 0382/40)

Enemy aircraft's new technique dropping mines. Aircraft plotted last night faded out 20 miles South of Selsey Bill. ABERDEEN reports floating mines in this position this forenoon. This connected with mining of CHARLES F. MEYER and assumption that our own mines are safe when free may point to new technique of enemy aircraft dropping floating mines in waters unsuitable for magnetic mines (G. in C. Portsmouth 1217/6). Your 1217/6 and 2050/6. Please investigate and report (D.M.S. 1034/7)

Air
Reconnaissance

Heligoland area and Schillig roads and salvage operations (if any) of U-boat believed sunk. Encounter with enemy aircraft. No result. No enemy warships seen and no salvage operations. (H.Q. Bomber Command 0038/7). Lights observed night 6/7 March (Bomber Command 1130/7).



HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Mine Detectors V.A.(S) 1756/5. No knowledge at Admiralty. Report what is involved (D.A.(S)W. 1106/6). Description (Capt. A/S 1628/6) Re. supply (D.A./S. W.D. 2145/6)

Sweeping reports

Exploded one magnetic mine 210° 400 yards. TERUKUMIMARU 51°50' N. 1° 32' E. Skids destroyed, towing vessel damaged. One magnetic mine exploded near Cockle 52° 42' N. 1° 45' E. (F.O. Harwich 1915/6)
Weather unfit for magnetic sweeping (F.O. Tyne 1912/6).
No sweeping (C. in C. Portsmouth 1816/6)
D.W.I. operation cancelled in N. Goodwin area for 6/2 (C. in C. Nore 0929/6).
Newhaven reports one German mine type X or X star exploded 50° 23' N. 0° 6' E. 6/3 (C. in C. Portsmouth 2003/6)
Mines reported in last 24 hours in triangle 50° 26' N. 0° 10' W., 50° 39' N. 0° 50' E., 50° 14' N. 0° 36' E. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2150/6)

East Coast Mine Barrier.

Serial No. 8. Intend to lay a line of mines extending 6.3 miles 009° from approx. 51° 53' N., 2° 16' E. Skimming sweep will not be passed. (D.O.D.(H) 1336/6)

Floating mines
? laid by
aircraft.

Reported by ABERDEEN a.m./6 20 miles S. Selsey Bill See 'Air'.

Shipping

Norwegian
Pilots.

Your 1457/4. Further information required whether claims refer to pilots for British ships only or to those for neutral ships as well. Are any claims outstanding, and if so for what amounts. (D.T.D. to Bergen, 1212/6).

Convoys

Ocean 2000/6 (C. in C.W.A. 1340/6). Disposition at 1800/6 (C. in C.W.A. 1824/6).
GS 1 Sailed 0815 (N.C.S.O. Humber 1225/6)
HX 25 Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1214/6)
HG 20 B. Arrived with DEPTFORD 1335 (N.O. Liverpool 1342/6)
ON 18, HN 18 Dates, escort (D.T.D. 1107/6)



HOME COMMANDS

Convoys (Contd.)

Shipping

- ON 17 A. Will be 24 hours late at Point E. (C. in C. Rosyth 0902/6, D.T.D. 1213/6).
- OB 106 ... Route (C. in C.W.A. 1025/6)
- OGF 21 ... Sailing telegram (C. in C.W.A. 1051/6)
- FN 112 ... Ordered into Tyne until minesweepers have had time to sweep channel near 20 E buoy (See, Suspicious vessel - Miscellaneous)
- HN 17 ... Left (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1111/6)

Swedish Ships in Convoy.

Swedish Shipowners Assocn. request number of Swedish ships which have sailed in convoy outwards. (Gothenburg, 1807/6).

Dutch Shipping

Dutch coastal vessels at Antwerp disinclined to sail for East Coast of England owing lack of defence when recently attacked. Sailings from Rotterdam normal (N.A. Hague 1240/6)

Routes

My 2027/24. Cancel all after Cap^e Point (D.T.D. 1905/6)

TINDEFJEL Refusal to sail

Admty. 1606/4. Norwegian TINDEFJEL master reports refuses to sail his ship. to Aberdan. Is communicating with owners (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall, 1428/6)

Miscellaneous

Terschelling Bank Lt. V.

Adty. 1941/1. Lt. V. is in position given by Dutch Notices to Mariners. Reported by STERLET. (S30919/6).

Suspicious Vessels.

B.N.L.O. Dunkirk 1207/5. Area was immediately searched and no such vessels found. Considerable risks have been taken in past in fog and heavy weather investigating various reports from French I. sources. Could you discover who saw and reported these vessels 80 miles N.N.W. Zeebrugge, observing that this position is only 20 miles from Norfolk coast (C. in C. Nore 1904/6 to F.O. Dover).

SS LUMNEACH

fired at by French plane 1200 off Cherbourg (C. in C. W.A. 1015/7).



EMPLOYMENT OF FRENCH SUBMARINES

Question of employment of such French submarines as are available to co-operate with British forces. French offer:-

North Sea

- (1) 2 divisions of 4 submarines each to be sent to Harwich to operate in North Sea.
- (2) 16th Submarine Division (ORPHEE, ANTIOPE, ^{LA. 1} SYBILLE, AMAZONE) now at Brest. to proceed to Harwich at very early date.
- (3) 13th Submarine Division (DORIS, THETIS, CIRCE, CALYPSO) now at Bizerta to proceed to Harwich by middle of April.
- (4) JULES VERNE to Harwich within 3 weeks as submarine Depot and Repair Ship.
- (5) This force to be placed under command of a Captain.

Halifax Convoys

- (6) BEVESIERS and SIDI FERRUCH on way from Martinica to France to refit have been ordered to sail via Halifax and may be used as convoy escorts.
- (7) Following submarines also to be made available for this duty as shown:-
AJAX, ARCHIMEDE shortly.
PESEE, PONCELET early May.
AGOSTA, OUESSANT June.

Training

- (8) 3 M/L Submarines now at Brest to be used for A/S training of surface vessels.

(Head of M. 2330/6).



HOME COMMANDS

WEATHER

<u>0500</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	N. W. Moderate	Moderate
Horns Reef and Channel	N. Moderate	Moderate
W. Approaches	N. E. Moderate	Moderate

Outlook:- Similar

Enemy Intelligence

LATVIS }
 IRIS FAULBAUMS }
 BOHUS }
 Latvian, seized by Germany in Baltic (Message from Stockholm quoting reports from Riga) Swedish, taken to Bremen (do) See 28/2.

Patrol vessels Four enemy patrol vessels reported off Terschelling 0300 (I.C. 0382/40)

Trondheim ✓ Particulars required regarding possibility of Trondheim being used as enemy seaplane base (D.N.I. 1630/6)

German W/T Station. ✓ Reported that a German Muller at Narvik is operating secret W/T installation reporting movements of British Merchant vessels (D.N.I. 1857/6).

German Baltic Control. Trade to and from Latvian ports is said to be entirely controlled by Germany. For the first three months of war Latvian and other neutral steamers risked an occasional voyage to neutral ports but this traffic has now ceased (apart from a little to Holland) and the only country to which cargoes can be freely shipped is Germany. In order to obtain tonnage, shipowners require certificates of the "Anic" (Allgemeine Nederlandsche Import Centraal). This certificate guarantees that goods will remain in Holland solely for Dutch consumption but does not guarantee that when shipped they will pass the German control without loss of time, Neutral steamers are intentionally kept for weeks in German ports, while German steamers are released immediately to continue their voyage to Delfzyl, the nearest Dutch port to Germany. Germany wishes to use as many of her steamers as possible in the Baltic, the only sea left open to her, and as she is badly in need of foreign currency, it is difficult, if not impossible, for steamers of other nations to compete with her.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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RAINBOW Completes 8/3, ready for sea 11/3 (Cdre. Hong Kong 0824/6).

SUFFREN In hand 2/3 to 7/3 (A.S. Singapore 0640Z/6).

S.S. BISCAYA Norwegian damaged 2 plates by collision with one of H.M. Ships when leaving Gibraltar for Nice (C.G. Marsailles 1403/6).

FRESNO STAR Ran aground while leaving San Julian 49:20 S. owing to extinguishing of Punta Pena Lt.

North Atlantic

French positions (D.C., 0042/6) Submarine FRESNEL, route, (F.O.C.N.A. 0956/6).

Convoy positions (D.C., 1840/6).

Rumanian Suspect Fireman named Radu Niculai, alias Nicolo Rino, on board Belgian S.S. FREDERICK, ex-Panamanian TAKIS, leaving for Antwerp. Request further enquiries. (S.O.I., Gib. 1712/6).

Submarine acquired by Germany Spanish submarine in Barcelona handed to Germans in exchange for 200 motor trucks. Submarine being refitted by German crew of S.S. ATLAS who transmit W/T to German Admiralty between 0100 and 0200 daily. Several unmarked German aircraft at Pratt Aerodrome Barcelona which are not flown but maintained at immediate readiness. C.O. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1156/6).

Submarines at Vigo Movement of 4 tankers at Vigo further up harbour and launch patrol now rendered it impossible for submarines to go alongside. Spanish have no evidence that U-boats fuelled from these tankers but thought it significant that Germans protested vigorously against new orders (N.A. Madrid 1335/7).



FOREIGN STATIONS

86

America & West Indies

French Submarines

Your 1631/29. Should it be intended that a French submarine base party be sent to Halifax, suggested one officer and not more than 20 ratings would suffice. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1532/6). Arrivals at Halifax from Bermuda (C. in C. A.W.I., 1600/6).

Suspicious Tanker

Message in Merchant Navy code via Bunham Radio, time of receipt 2312/6. At 1000 G.M.T. in 12:46 N., 63:28 W., passed suspicious tanker in ballast steering south painted grey. From S.S. PECTEN. (C. in C. W.A., 0406/7). (See German Merchant Ships 7/3).

Oil Shipments

My 1617/19/2. Rio Grande do Sul reports that further 840 drums shipped per Brazilian ship FARRAPO (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1707/6).

French Submarine Base, Halifax

Admiralty 1631/29/2. If French submarine base party is to be sent to Halifax, one officer and not more than 20 ratings would suffice (F.O.C. 3 A.S. 1532/6).

Force I

East Indies.

My 2017/21/2 and Admiralty 1630/28/2. Cancel my 1134/29/1. Following are my intentions:

(a) Force I (GLOUCESTER, HOBART, EAGLE) will operate in Ceylon area.

(b) EAGLE to be detached 12/3 to refit at Singapore, completing about 9/4 or later if sailing of U.S.2 from Fremantle is delayed beyond 20/4.

(c) KENT flag of F.O.C. 4 C.S. complete refit about 22/3 and join Force I.

(d) On completion of refit of GLORIOUS and SUFFREN early April, Force I to be reconstituted with KENT, GLORIOUS, SUFFREN, GLOUCESTER having been sailed for Cape at end March.

(e) HOBART with A.M.Cs. will then act independently on patrol and escort duties.

(f) If no change and if proposal in Admiralty 1629/28/2 is agreed escort of U.S.2 from Fremantle to Aden will be RAMILLIES, EAGLE, SYDNEY (C. in C. E.I. 06312/6).

FOREIGN STATIONS

87

East IndiesMails Examination

Can further information be given on scheme proposed in your 2015/5/1 (examination of mails at Singapore, Colombo and Mombasa using Aden as "long stop". (C. in C., E.I., 1253Z/6).

Force I

Secret A.M. 1354/13/2 and my 0631/6/3. Composition Force I is now - GLOUCESTER, EAGLE, HOBART. Force M is in abeyance. (C. in C., E.I., 1713/6).

Aden Control

Your 0950/4 in reply to my 0702/3. Consider that before advising all westbound shipping to call at control at Aden experience should first be gained on ability of base to cope with increased number of ships resulting from Admiralty 1117/27. For the present, therefore, control is to be limited to westbound ships of all flags which now call at Aden. Further report to be made March 25. (C. in C., E.I., to C.C.S.O., Aden, 1103Z/6).

ChinaGermans in Japanese ships

9 Germans sailed in NAGOYA MARU from Sourabaya due Kobe 14/3. Max Augner was refused passage by shipping company. No action proposed. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0334Z/6). Intercepted bill of lading shows NAGOYA MARU sailed Sourabaya 3/3 direct for Kobe carrying 15,800 slabs of Banca tin for Kobe in transit destined Union Corporation of U.S.S.R. from Svirio import Moscow. (S.O.I., Singapore, 0917/6).

South Atlantic

Your 1409/8. Request immediate information whether poison was white arsenic or a soluble compound of arsenic. In what languages word poison written on packet? (Hd. of M., 1737/6). Analyst reported powder was commercial A.S. 203. Word poison printed in Spanish on paper wrapper ordinary type used in Uruguay. (S.O.I., Montevideo 1833/6).

FOREIGN STATIONS

88

South AtlanticGRAF SPEE
Wreck

Preliminary visit today by Mr. Bell. Able to reach top of control tower and inspect aerial frame, but inside tower seriously damaged by fire. Further visit tomorrow. (S.O.I., Montevideo 2247/6).

Force H.

Fresh orders, cancelling those in C. in C. S.A. 1200/3. To arrive off Freetown 20/3 (C. in C., S.A. 0941/6).

CAPITAN MIRANDA My 2245/5 Uruguayan surveying ship CAPITAN MIRANDA still in Montevideo but tug put into Punta del Este due bad weather. Am continuing investigation (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1727/6, S.O.I., Freetown, 1315/7).

PROMETHEUS

N.S.N. Ottawa 1720/2/2. Following received from St. Vincent (Cape Verde). Panamanian ship PROMETHEUS, arrangements in hand for German crew replaced by U.S.A. crew when transfer completed. Germans will be housed ashore St. Vincent pending arrangements for repatriation if possible via Sal, 1430/6. (S.O.I., Freetown, 2030/6).

Mediterranean.Italy and U/boat
War.

Master of Italian ship reported to have stated that Germany has recently put strong pressure on Italy to open Mediterranean to submarine warfare. After long deliberations, Italy made a joint refusal with Spain. (Reliability B zero). (S.O.I., Alexandria 1041/6).

War Trade
Centre

Agree with intention in MEW telegram 30, Feb. 22, to Ambassador, Cairo, and that War Trade Intelligence Centre for Near, Middle and Far East should be in Egypt, preferably Port Said. Does not remove need for shipping adviser at Malta. My chief requirement is that decisions should be communicated more promptly. (C. in C. Med., 1423/6).

FOREIGN STATIONS

89

Australia and New Zealand.

U.S.2
Transports

Under consideration to include QUEEN MARY, MAURETANIA, AQUITANIA, EMPRESS OF BRITAIN in U.S.2. Speed of some of other Transports will be below that at which these fast liners can be handled therefore necessary to divide convoy with Fast and Slow Groups, speeds 20 and 13 knots respectively. Two escorting forces therefore required. Slow group sail from Melbourne about 15/4, fast group from Sydney about 29/4. In order to minimise period when Colombo area will be without protection of hunting group following escort arrangements west of Freemantle proposed:

- (a) Slow group, 5 ships, Freemantle to Colombo and Aden - RAMILLIES, EAGLE, SYDNEY.
- (b) Fast group, 7 ships. Freemantle to near Cocos Is. - CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA. Onwards to Colombo and Aden - KENT, SUFFREN.
- (c) Red Sea. Slow group RAMILLIES who will proceed onward to Malta. Fast group one 6" cruiser (C.N.S. 1231/6).

Reply. Concur (Australian C'wealth Naval Board 0751Z/7).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

90

Home CommandsURUGUAY
Scuttled

(sailed Pernambuco 10/2) 5846 tons. Located by aircraft operating from BERWICK and intercepted by BERWICK 1630/6, 67:51 N., 16:12 E. Boarding party found crew had flooded ship and set her on fire. Wreck was sunk by gunfire, crew 14 officers 40 men rescued. Cargo believed to be copper and grain. (BERWICK, 2016/6 URUGUAY 1647/6).

At 1700/5 Hull trawler ST. WISTAN reported sighted American cargo vessel in 66:30 N., 23:30 W. Signal intercepted by BERWICK and resulted in interception of URUGUAY. Prompt action which had such important results much to be commended. (V.A.N.P., 2250/12).

North Atlantic

GEDANIA

My 1801/3. Has now refuelled from German CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and returned to anchorage at open roadstead. Norwegian JASPIS has sailed in ballast. (Las Palmas, 0900/6).

South Atlantic

WINDHUK

Admiralty 1847/5. Amount payable to clear original embargo on WINDHUK now considerably increased by invocation of Brazilian Law. Lawyers estimate at least one week for formalities to lift embargo from date of commencement of active steps by Germans, which have not yet begun. (A.N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1534/6).

DRESDEN

Positive evidence this vessel which reached Santos 4/12, 7 weeks after leaving Valparaiso, had endeavoured unsuccessfully to make contact with a German warship in order to provision it. A.N.A. has informed Brazilian Naval Staff and demanded internment of DRESDEN. (Sir G. Knox, Rio de Janeiro No. 48 6/3).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

91

Ships Attacked

GRUTTO,
missing

Dutch freighter GRUTTO, 920 tons, which left London 5/3, failed to arrive Rotterdam. Feared lost with crew of 18 between West Hinder and Thornton Ridge, (probably lost 4/3). Raft marked with name of ship sighted by Dutch BATAVIER II, now in London. Dutch RIJNSTROOM disappeared same position 3/3. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1726/7), (F.O.I.C., London, 2051/6, 2309/6).
Wreckage found 6/3, 51:29 N., 2:53 E. (I.C. 0387/40) See also Casualties and Defects 7/3, 6/3.

RIJNSTROOM
missing

Wreckage found 3/3 51:33N., 2:45 E. (I.C. 0387/40) probably lost 2/3.

VECHT
missing

Dutch, left Rotterdam 6/3 for Lobito. Missing.

Note

Several casualties have occurred between 10 and 20 miles off the Dutch coast, with no confirmation as to whether the vessels were mined or torpedoed. In addition to the above three the KVERNAAS and AMELAND were lost about the middle of February in that locality. The British BORTHWICK was lost 10/3 some miles to the north-eastward, but also in the same general locality. Though it is probable the vessels were all torpedoed the possibility of one or more minefields along the coast must be considered. Dutch shipping now hugs the coast as much as possible (M/S Summary No.21).

Submarines Reported

1325

Sighted on surface course Northerly by aircraft, 58:12 N. 1:51 E. (I.C. 0382/40).

0300

French Admiralty report two submarines of 250 tons and several patrol vessels five miles off Terschelling at 0300/6, course west. (D.D.I.C. 1521/6)(N.A., Hague, 1220/6).



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

92

Submarines Attacked

1117

By H.M.S. FOXGLOVE 50:10 N. 2:12 W., 23 miles S.S.E. of Portland. Contact was lost after the attack. KINGFISHER was sent to help and later relieved by ANTHONY. (A.S.W.D. 184). (FOXGLOVE 1105/6, 1117/6, 1250/6, HAVELOCK, 1415/6, Cin C., W.A., 1141/6, C. in C. Portsmouth, 1226/6).

By WILD SWAN (See 5/3). My 0202/6, C. in C., W.A., 0806/6. Consider wreck was attacked once last night. Have been investigating another contact 120° 0.75 miles from wreck. Considered non-sub. (WILD SWAN, 1112/6).



H O M E C O M M A N D S

93

Movements.

Scapa becomes main fleet base from today. (D.C., 2016/7).

Home Fleet

C. in C. H.F. in RODNEY, with RENOWN, REPULSE and 9 destroyers left Clyde for Scapa (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1615/7) (C. in C. H.F. 0948/7). HOOD, VALIANT and destroyers arrived Scapa 1800/7 (F.O.C.B.C.S. 1500/6) (F.O.C.O. & S. 1810/7) Railheads for stores (C. in C. H.F. 1201/7).

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 7 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 1 A.M.C.

BERWICK proceeding to Kirkwall with prisoners from URUGUAY.

Submarines

Positions 0700/8 (D.C. 2018/7) (R.A.(S) 1644/7).

S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH Berthed in New York 1630/7.

Operations

Submarines
on patrol

SEALION proceed in execution of previous orders. Possibility air patrols in area between buoys before dawn. SNAPPER patrolled to the southward of line between buoys and encountered no surface patrol. (Capt. S.3, 1223/7).

ALTMARK

Reported sailed at 0900/6, 14 knots, escorted by Norwegian minelayer OLAV TRYGVASON and 2 torpedo boats. Report appears reliable. (Stavanger, 1251/7). Reported passed to southward of Arendal 1700/6 escorted by 4 Norwegian torpedo boats. Believed proceeding to Sandefjord for repairs. (Arendal, 1350/7). Report that ALTMARK towed out by 3 tugs. Regret arrangements to report departure failed owing to Norwegians deferring to telephone. (Stavanger, 1701/7).

Air.

Identification

Pyrotechnic signals to be employed if possible when an aircraft wishes to identify itself to two or more ships in company. If letter of the period is flashed it will only be observed by the ship at which the light is directed. (Air Min., 1610/7).

HOME COMMANDSAir.

94

Air Raid
on Shipping

Enemy air attack expected about 2000 (C. in C. Nore, 1727/7) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1730/7).
Air raids on East Coast 2000/7. One enemy aircraft shot down 64 miles E. Carnoustie at 1409.

One large unidentified aeroplane observed at 1530 six miles north of Hook Head, came from west going east flying high and fast. Report from C.I.O. Canary. (C. in C. W.A. 1621/7).

Outer Dowsing
Light Vessel

1930. 7 bombs dropped. no direct hit, no casualties. One engine out of action, light still in working order. (TEVIOT BANK, 2005/7) Part of crew request medical attention (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1140/8).

AMELIA LAURO

1915. (Italian tug 5335 tons). "Bomba da aero" (AMELIA LAURO, 2027/7). S.O.S. from AMELIA LAURO at 1915 approx. Lat. 52.50 N., Long. 2.15 E. (North Foreland Radio 2019/7). On fire, TITANIA sent lifeboat to help crew 1949. (North Foreland Radio 2053/7). Anchored in 52° 54.5' N., 02° 17.5' E., burning fiercely. All survivors (29 including English pilot) on board Italian TITANIA will be landed in Downs including 3 injured; 1 killed left in AMELIA LAURO. (LONDONDERRY, 2313/7). TITANIA saved 29 of crew of 30 and English pilot. (North Foreland Radio, no TOR) Not in convoy. Cargo coal. Anchored and abandoned in position given above. Tugs have gone to locate. (C. in C. Nore 1603/8) Approx. 37 survivors in TITANIA (LONDONDERRY 1002/8) 29 survivors landed at Yarmouth by Gorleston lifeboat 0800/8 (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0900/8). Steam raised, proceeding Yarmouth in tow (N.O.I.C., Yarmouth 1303/9, 1615/9). Reported in press that small delay action incendiary bombs enclosed in larger bombs were used and exploded after 1 hour. Arrived Yarmouth Roads, 1615/9).

Convoy FS 14

1955. Attack being made (GREENWICH 1955/7) (PINTAIL, 1932/7) (LONDONDERRY, 1939/7)
Aircraft has withdrawn (LONDONDERRY 2016/7)
A claim was made by the Germans that the ship was bombed by British aircraft. Pieces of the bombs found in the ship were sent to Air Min. for examination.

PERSIAN
EMPIRE

2000 Scarborough fishing vessel machine gunned 12 miles E.N.E. Scarborough Castle. No damage. Fouled floating mines in above position and cut away trawl. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1050/8, 2040/8).

H O M E C O M M A N D S

95

Air.

- AUCUBA 2000 Scarborough trawler bombed 12 miles E.N.E. Scarborough Castle. No damage. Fouled mines etc. as PERSIAN EMPIRE (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1050/8, 2040/8).
- 11 Trawlers were machine gunned and bombed in area 54°0' to
1330 54°2' N. and 2°20' to 2° 40'E. (F.O. Humber,
to 2018/8). Besides PERSIAN EMPIRE and AUCUBA,
1900 includes EMULATOR, CONNIE, ISLE OF WIGHT. Two
latter were hit, no casualties. ("Northern Echo")
DONALDA (2 men wounded), RESMILO (1 wounded),
WARREN (1 wounded).
- Convoy ON 18 2 bombs dropped. Aircraft driven off by fighters.
1315 30 miles N.E. of Kinnaird Head. (I.C. 0384/40).
- S.S. LORMANT BOMBED and machine gunned in Downs. No damage.
1940 No casualties. (I.C. 0384/40). British 1561 tons.
One bomb dropped. Machine gunned. Replied to
by A/A and Lewis gun fire. (V.A. Dover, 1440/8).
- S.S. DOVER British 958 tons. Bombed and machine gunned in
ABBEY, 2005 Downs. No damage. No casualties. (I.C. 0384/40).
Two bombs dropped. Replied to by Lewis gun,
Bren gun, and rifle fire by ships. (V.A. Dover
1440/8).
- H 65 2000 Ostend fishing boat. Machine gunned. (Reuter).
- Z 4 Zeebrugge fishing boat. Machine gunned in North
Sea. (Statement by Skipper of H 65 -Reuter).
- H 13 As Z 4.
- DELFIJL Dutch M/V 227 tons, was attacked and damaged on
way from Tyne to Rotterdam. Six bombs were
dropped and one of crew was wounded by machine
gun fire (Reuter).
- LOW DOCK Trawler, was bombed and machine gunned 2 ½ miles
E. Scarborough (D.T.D.)
- CONFID 2000 Dutch, had dropped 10 miles astern of 6 other
unescorted ships. At approx. 2000 machine gun
fire was heard for about 10 seconds followed by
explosions which shook ship. All lights including
navigation lights were extinguished as soon as
machine gun fire ceased. No sound of aircraft
engines heard, no plane sighted, no second attack.
Explosions in water started a leak which was

continued.....

MOST SECRET.

7.3.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

96

HOME COMMANDS.
AIR.

Enemy aircraft attacks on fishing
vessels.

RODOSTO
RESMILO
DONALDA
WARREN

Details of attacks. (M04955/40).
"Port Fishing Captains have been
instructed to draw the attention of
all armed trawlers to the necessity
for having one gunner in each watch
so that fire may be opened at once
in case of attack."

C.O. H.M.S.
VEGA.

Report of Convoy F.N.11. M05813/40.

Aberdeen.

Air Raid. A/A guns used for first
time. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, War Diary.
T.S.D. 4035/40).

H O M E C O M M A N D SAir.

97

CONFID 2000 kept under by pumps. No injuries. Plane thought
(continued) to have gun mounted in nose and tail, judging
by angles at which bullets pierced deck.
Position was 350° 6½ miles Flamboro Hd.
(N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough to F.O.I.C. Tyne 9/127,
8/3/40.)

Air Recon-
naissance

Security patrol Borkum, Norderney, Sylt, night
7/8. Dropped bombs at small vessel thought to be
warship and large cargo boat. Submarine wrecks
not observed. (H.Q. Bomber Command, 0700/8)
amended report (H.Q. Bomber Command 2050/8).

Navigation
Lights

Reported that enemy aircraft burn navigation
lights when attacking ships at sea by night.
Air Ministry propose to issue order that all
friendly aircraft are to extinguish navigation
lights when flying over North Sea East of 4° W.
and over English Channel East of 1° W. This
order would provide that aircraft should light
navigation lights when crossing Coast coming in
from seaward. Admiralty should then be informed
that fire could be opened by ships at sea by
night on any aircraft showing navigation lights.
Since such instructions might give fighters and
ships guns opportunity of firing on self-
illuminated targets request you signal your
concurrence if you have no objection (Air Ministry
2241/7 to commands).

Air Attacks,
Information

Information requested on conditions under which
SCHIELAND, SINT ANNALAND and DE RUYTER were
attacked, (1) Visibility at time of attack
(2) what flags, if any, was ship flying, (4) were
any flares dropped before aeroplane began attack.
(D.N.I., 1634/7) to N.A., Hague).
Request you will interview Captain of Latvian
KATVALDIS, now believed to be Rouen, and ask
him details of air attack on his ship (a)
visibility at time, (b) whether ship flying
ensign. (c) what lights she was showing.
(D.N.I., 1537/7, to Consular Officer, Rouen).

HOME COMMANDS

98

Mining.Principal Searches

F.O.I.C., Greenock 2245/7, F.O. Humber 2124/7.
N.O.I.C. Swansea 1850/7 C. in C. Rosyth, 1845/7.
F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1830 /7, F.O.I.C. Tyne 1457/7,
1815/7, A.C.O.S. 1730/7. One mine exploded
56:5.9 N. 2:56.4W. (Firth of Forth) in QZ 121
(I.C. 0383/40).

East Coast)
Mine Barrier)
Operation)
DML9)

Deep line referred to in serial message No.8
has been laid extending for 6.2 miles in a
direction 010 degrees from position 51:53 N.
02:16:24 E. (D.D.O.D.(M) 2135/7).

ShippingConvoys

SL 21 arrived with VERSATILE (N.O.I.C. Liverpool,
0850/7).
HN 17 Route in case of separation (D.T.D. 0927/7)
SL 23
HX 23 Orders to escort (C. in C.W.A. 1021/7)
TM 20, FN 14 Arrived am/7 in dense fog (N.C.S.O. Methil 1132/7).

War Channel Traffic

My 0032 and 0102. Traffic through War Channel
is being resumed. (C. in C. Rosyth 1555/7).

Swedish Ships in Convoy

Your 1807/6, numbers of Swedish ships sailed
in outward-bound convoys, sixty to date 7th
March inclusive. (D.T.D., to Consul, Gottenburg,
1515/7).

Miscellaneous.Suspicious Vessels

Sighted by drifters stopped at E. buoy 2150.
Made off. Too fast to be overtaken. Minesweepers
will search at daylight (C. in C. Rosyth 0102/7)

Fishing craft flying Dutch colours off Norfolk
coast. Matter being investigated. (V.A.Dover,
1128/7, D.N.I. 0938/8).

^{Dutch}
BU STAD
SCHIEDAM

Ship searched, no unmanifested cargo found.
Complaint that Daily Telegraph account of British
aircraft attempting to warn him of mines was not
true. (Ramsgate 1740/7).

HOME COMMANDS

99

MiscellaneousTrawler
Skippers,
Employment

Admiralty 1345/30/11/39. Suggested appointment of ex-trawler skippers to cruisers normally working in North Sea and in protection of Norwegian Convoy for purpose of recognition, similar to those appointed northern Patrol. Request views. (D.O.D. (H). 2021/7).

TAURUS

Interception. MEW asked to take matter up with owners (V.A.N.P.0933/6, D.E.W.D. 1534/7).

Ice Situation

No through passage to Baltic likely for several days. Sweeping of channels near German mine-fields will be essential. Sylt harbour reported clear. (N.A., Copenhagen, 1814/7).

Weather.

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	N.W. light.	Good.
Channel	Light, variable.	Good.
W. Approaches	S.E. moderate.	Good.
Horns Reef	N.W. light.	Good.

Outlook. Wind backing to S.W. and becoming fresh in N. Scotland and Faroes, otherwise little change.

Enemy Intelligence

SCHARNHORST) Appearance slightly altered. Details (D.N.I.
HIPPER) 2025/7 General message Home and Abroad 2A).

Patrol vessels Four off E. entrance to Ems 1400/7 (N.A. Hague 2330/7).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

100

MALLARD
collision

Damaged bows as result of collision. No dock available Chatham until 13th and Sheerness have too much work in hand. Request vessel be taken in hand in London. (C. in C. Nore, 1219/7)
To be sailed for Tilbury 8/3 to be taken in hand (D.D.O.D. 1653/7).

CEDAR
collision

Stern damaged and fore peak leaking after collision with dockyard wall, Leith. Not fully seaworthy but can steam in sheltered waters for repairs. (Capt. I.C. Port Edgar, 1234/7).

Unknown
Swedish

Aircraft flew over wreckage consisting of barrels and a raft with Swedish colours painted on it 1510 DUHH 5420 (Donibristle 1940/7).

GRUTTO

F.O.I.C. London 2309/6. Dutch S.S. GRUTTO not yet arrived Amsterdam (F.O.I.C. London 1040/7). Passed Southend 5/3 for Rotterdam. Wreckage bearing her name found 6/3 51:29 N. 2:53 E. See U-boat campaign 6/3.

RIJNSTROOM

See U-boat Campaign 6/3.

FOREIGN STATIONS

101

North Atlantic

French Convoys Positions (C. in C. W.A. 0210/7)

British Convoys " (D.C., 2017/7).

Convoy Messages F.O.C.N.As. 1004/5, is concurred in, and propose it should be considered in conjunction with Admiralty 1810/27/2 and my 1953/29/2 (sending of message by outward-bound French & British convoys to avoid collision. (C. in C. W.A. 1306/7).

South Atlantic.

Coal Reserve Admiralty 1424/4 proposal to limit Admiralty owned reserve of coal. Concur. (C. in C.S.A. 1914/7).

Submarines off Uruguay My 1727/6. Confirmation that Uruguayan Govt. received information of submarines off the coast. They give very little credence to the report but have instructed their tug to investigate. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1602/7).

R.N.V.R. (South Africa) My 1848/23/2. Debate in S.A. Parliament yesterday regarding employment of R.N.V.R. (South Africa) in H.M. ships (details). Opposition from Hertzog, Pirow and Erasmus. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1602/7).

Action between Allied Steamers Naval battle took place by mistake some time ago between French and British steamers. 14 French killed. (Transocean (from Buenos Aires) 0800/7). Sect. V. says there is some truth in it. Press Divn. has the matter in hand.

East Indies

Removal of Germans C. in C.S.A's. 1818/21 (removal of Germans from neutral ships). Request policy I may adopt on East Indies Station (C. in C. E.I., 0458/7).

China

Max Augner My 0334/6. Max Augner now booked to sail by NITIRAN MARU. (C.O.I.S. Singapore 0146Z/7).

FOREIGN STATIONS

102

ChinaGerman submarine base

U.S.A.N.A. reports Russians have leased few kilometres of territory in Whale Bay (same as Kitou Bay) to Germans for use as submarine base and assembly yard for submarine parts sent over-land. Barracks and workshops being constructed and the first submarines are already being assembled. (S.O.(I) Shanghai 0959Z/7). (see 9/3).

Mediterranean.Italian S.S. CITTA DI BARI

Was "arraisonné" about 1400/2/2 by a British R.A.F. about 2½ miles from Fleves Is. Note of Min. For. Aff. asks these "arraisonnements" of Italian vessels should not be made in Greek territorial waters. (Sir M. Palairat (Athens) No. 134(R) 7/3).

Dockings at Malta

Your 0902/24. PETAR and PAVLA are on time charter to French Economic Mission in this country. Nothing known of CETVRTI and NETI, but no objection to dry docking at Malta subject to docks being available. (Hd. of M. to Ad. Supt. Malta, 1256/7).

Black Sea Operations

To guard against possible Russian submarine reaction from Black Sea to operations in connection with CLAM, am instituting a trawler A/S patrol in area CA from 11th March. If Russian action is threatened, may I assume Admiralty will give direction regarding British shipping in Black Sea. (C. in C. Med. 1615/7).

Spanish ship and W/T

S.O.I. Gib. 5422. Will suggest to Ministry of Marine that ATLAS may be using her wireless (N.A. Madrid, 1030/7).

Danube Ice Report

Belgrade Sava and Danube ice free. Budapest ice thawing probably open about 20/3. (Navat, Bucharest, 1150/7).

Command of Danube

C. in C. Med. 1237/7 see 6/3. Admiralty 1852/7 see 6/3.

FOREIGN STATIONS

103

America and West Indies.

Halifax
Facilities

Admiralty. 2330/6. Need for additional facilities has been represented in my No. 104/E74/2 of 16/2 and my 1533/6/3. My 1532/6/3 also refers. It is expected that as a temporary measure an armed merchant cruiser can be made available to provide some depot-ship facilities when submarines are in harbour. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1519/7).

Dispositions

To intercept HANNOVER, MIMI, HORN, SEATTLE, DUNEDIN and ASSINIBOINE in Mona Passage. DESPATCH covering channel E. of Puerto Rico. JEANNE D'ARC off Curacao. PENZANCE off Aruba. DUNDEE and 1 French submarine between Grenada and Trinidad. Remainder of French air and surface covering eastern Caribbean Sea passage as far as possible (C. in C. A.W.I. 0955/7).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

104

Home Commands

MINOS Arrived Gothenburg with general cargo (Gothenburg 1201/7).

LUNA Arrived Porsgrund with coke (Nielsen, Skien 2030/7).

PASAJES)
PITEA) Expected at Haugesund to land herrings (Haugesund 1700/7).
ERNA)

FRIEDERICH
BREME TRIDENT reports 1330/2 58:15 N. 6:12½ E. ship passed Southwards inside territorial waters escorted by Norwegian destroyer. (V.A.S. 1813/7).

North Atlantic.

GEDANIA has refuelled from CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN (German) and returned to her anchorage in the open roadstead at Las Palmas (Las Palmas 0900/6).

America and West Indies.

ESTE)
HANNOVER) One ship sailed from Curacao night 5/6 March, may have been tanker ESTE or HANNOVER (press report mentions that latter has left). British tanker PECTEN reports that she passed a suspicious grey tanker in ballast steaming S. in 12:46 N. 63:28 W., about 300 miles W. Curacao 1800/6 (A. & W. I., 0116/7) (D.C., 1120/7) ? ABBEYDALE (C. in C. A.W.I., 0955/7).
ABBEYDALE

ESTE Still at Curacao but preparing to sail soon. Reported to have little bunker coal but may use her coffee cargo in furnaces (S.O.(I) Kingston 1810/7).

HANNOVER Sailed from Curacao 0300/6. No definite report of her since sailing (C. in C. A.W.I. 0955/7). Believed sailed with only sufficient bunkers for 1300 miles. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1145/7). Dispositions to intercept her see A. & W.I. FOREIGN STATIONS.

MIMI HORN (sailed Curacao 5/3) Unconfirmed report ship was near Tucacas (10:46 N. 68:17 W.) 0300/6 and visited by Customs launch from Puerto Cabello. Painted white and flying French flag. Further report from Puerto Cabello ship was on horizon early am/7 (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 2240/7).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

105

America & West Indies

MIMI HORN)
SEATTLE)

No definite report since sailing. Martinique reports 2 unknown ships off Tucacas Point Venezuela 5/3 Panama has been asked to send observer in commercial aircraft along coast to Trinidad to investigate (C. in C. A.W.I. 0955/7).

PAULINE FRIEDRICH At Boston. Reported offered for sale for \$500,000 including cargo of lubricating oil value \$133,000. (O.I.C.).

East Indies

JANNENFELS)
UCKERMARK)

Reported armed. Probably incorrect. (C. in C. E.I. 0857/7).

South Atlantic

WINDHUK

It is believed that at least a week is required for the necessary formalities to lift the embargo on the ship. The Germans have not yet embarked on this and the amount payable to clear the original embargo has now considerably increased as Brazilian Law has been invoked. Legal formalities make it unlikely that any further embargoes will be effective for two months.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

166

Ships Attacked

SANGARA
chased
false report

Elder Dempster Co's SANGARA chased by submarine 0907 G.M.T., 26:55 N. 15:00 W. (Funchal, 1047/7) (Gibraltar W/T, 0807Z/7). Submarine was French (F.O.C.N.A. 1032Z/7).

Submarines Reported

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C., 1127/7, D.C. 2018/7).

1505 58:20 N., 02:40 W. INTREPID and 3 other destroyers and 2 A/S trawlers hunting. (F.O.C.O.S. 1802/7, 1531/7, 1530/7).

1030 LORD BARHAM Tr. reported suspected submarine submerged 52:45 N. 1:55 E. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile S.W. by S. Cross Sand Light Vessel (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1045/7, 1106/7).

1500 French report of 500 ton U-boat course W. 52:15 N. 4:16 E. (5 miles off Noordwijk. A.2 (N.A. Hague, 2330/7).

1035 S.W. by S. Cross Sands Light Vessel at 1035 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1045/7).

North Atlantic

0350 H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE sighted suspicious vessel apparently large submarine steering 020° in position 38:48 N., 18:17 W. challenge unanswered, disappeared in darkness. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, 0350/7, F.O.C.N.A. 0646Z/7).

Submarines Attacked

1710 (F.O.C.O.S. 1539. Good contact under oil patch attacked by INTREPID, GRIFFIN, FAME and SIKH in DVUR 1929 between 1710 and 1830 resulting in further oil. Target stationery. Have ordered INTREPID to continue hunt with GRIFFIN. Am proceeding to Scapa with SIKH (FAME, 1911/7). Why are you returning? If U-boat is not sunk return immediately to hunt. (F.O.C.O.S., 1959/7, to FAME). This position has been buoyed and INTREPID and GALLANT are resuming patrol (F.O.C.O.S., 1943/8).

107 S

MOST SECRET.

7.3.40.
Thursday.



WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines
Attacked.
0905.

61° 15'N., 1° 20'E., H.M.S. JERVIS.
Report of attack on U/Boat on 7.3.40.
(M05458/40).

By aircraft U/224 Squadron and
destroyers. (M04936/40, Photographs
of attack).

1715.

By INTREPID 58° 17'N., 2° 26'W.
(M06339/40).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Submarines Attacked (continued).

- 1505 By aircraft 224 Sqn. in position 58:20 N. 02:40 W. (aircraft 1505/7). Attacked with bombs, dive, estimate 1 hit (aircraft 1530/7). BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER, INTREPID and GRIFFIN ordered to close and hunt (A.C.O.S. 1530/7). Oil patch growing larger (aircraft 1600/7) Doubtful whether oil patches came from a submarine, at any rate an active one (I.C. 0383/40) (Donibristle 2005/7).
- 0927 Bombed by aircraft 60:31 N. 2:47 E. oil patches. Doubtful whether they came from a submarine, at any rate an active one (I.C. 0383/40)(F.B.K.6930, 0929/7).
- 0034 Contact attacked by FURY 53:48 N. 5:6 W. (I.C. 0382/40) (FURY 0034/7) Deep pattern failed to produce any oil or wreckage. (FURY, 0827/7).

HOME COMMANDS

109

MovementsHome Fleet

Owing to magnetic minelaying in Scapa RODNEY, REPULSE, RENOWN and destroyers spent the night at sea and entered Scapa 1100/9 (A.C.O.S. 1852/8, D.C. 0751/9).

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 9 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 2 A.M.Cs.

Submarines

Positions 0700/9 and movements (R.A.(S) 1632/8)
(D.N.I. 1828/8)

Submarine
Patrol

A few miles Eastward of Outer Dowsing Light Vessel 9/3 (C. in C. Nore 1552/8, V.A.(s) 1746/8, Capt. S.3 2243/8, N.O. Harwich 2339/8) see mining) Destroyers will thus not be required for this patrol after tonight (C. in C. Nore 2248/8)

Destroyer
patrol

Starting tonight 2 destroyers to patrol near to Eastward of Outer Dowsing Light Vessel to intercept U-boat or surface minelayer (C. in C. Nore 1648/8) Cancelled see submarine patrol above.

Blockship,
Blyth

JUNIATA at Blyth due to complete by 11/3, to be inspected before sailing for seaworthiness and security against sabotage. (C. in C. Rosyth 1153/8).

Submarine
Escort
Vessels.

V.A.S. AB. 107/100 of 20/2, para. 5. Arising out of conference held by C. in C., Home Fleet to discuss ALM/D 2040/40 of 2nd March, apparent that the provision of 3 vessels for escort duties with submarines at Harwich, Blyth and Firth of Forth is essential. Requested that three vessels may be requisitioned immediately for this purpose, priority for the one required Harwich. (V.A.S., 1139/8).

Operations.ALTMARK

N.A. Oslo reports ALTMARK has anchored outside Sandefjord on account of ice conditions off Swedish coast and will not be permitted to enter the Oslo defended area (D.C. 2336/8).

H O M E C O M M A N D S

110

Air.Air-raid

Strong indications that enemy air activity may be expected shortly on E. Coast (C. in C. Rosyth 0840/8) Cancel (C. in C. Rosyth 1046/8) One bomber over Kirkwall 10,000 ft. steering W (BERWICK 1344/8) at 1355, 2 bombs or mines were seen to drop approx. 1 mile 55° from N.E. end of Calf of Flotta (F.O.C.O.S. 1509/8, 1654/8, 1852/8) Heinkel brought down by Hurricanes from Wick 15 miles E. Stronsay (F.O.C.O.S. 1654/8).

Convoy ON.18

1315. Ships sailing from Kirkwall to join Convoy ON.18 being attacked by enemy aircraft (KANDAHAR 1315/8). My 1320, 2 bombs dropped by 3 Heinkels, no hits. (Capt. D.5 1325/8).

Outer Dowsing
Light Vessel

T.H.V. PATRICIA reports Outer Dowsing light vessel bombed two nights in succession. Lens out of action, no structural damage. Part of crew request medical attention. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth. 1140/8).

ONTARIO)
DONALDA)

Press report attacked during weekend.

Air
Reconnaissance

Amended report of C.E.H. 129, Bockum and Sylt Patrol, night 7/8 March. Aircraft fired on by a ship, believed destroyer. Over 40 ships in 2 convoys seen 30 miles N.W. of Terschelling. (H.Q. Bomber Command, 2050/8).

Merchant
Vessels Free
to engage
Aircraft.

From 1200 B.S.T., 9.3.40, all merchant ships and fishing vessels at sea between the East Coast and the declared mined area (Eastern Barrage) from North Foreland to Kinnairds Head and between Coast of Scotland and a line N. Ronaldshay to N.E. corner of Eastern Barrage may engage by day and night any aircraft not recognised as friendly approaching within the range of ships' guns. Effective range of guns in merchant vessels is about 850 yards, but aircraft should be warned not to approach within 1,500 yards of merchant ships and fishing vessels in areas described. Order does not affect necessity for aircraft to keep more than 6 miles away from H.M. Ships. (Air Ministry, 2016/8). (see also 9/3). Above repeated by D. of L.D. Admiralty, 2116/8, with reference to C. in C., Nore, 1629/4. Ref. C. in C., Nore, 1816/7, extension of above areas and matter of navigation lights are under consideration. (D. of L.D., 2116/8)

H O M E C O M M A N D SAir.

111

Convoys
Observed above
Clouds.

C.O. EGRET reports that on 6/3 with F.N. 12 off Outer Dowsing a Heinkel was sighted at 7,000-8,000 ft. above broken clouds at about 1915 whilst our fighters were over convoy about 2,000-3,000 ft. Convoy was attacked at about 1955. Suggested that Heinkels which attack after dark observe the convoy position previously from above clouds and that fighters before leaving should climb and investigate that area. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1815/8).

Mining.Suspected Area
Orkneys

To be swept tonight (F.O.C.O.S. 2116/8)
All exercises in Scapa Flow cancelled (F.O.C.O.S. 1503/8). Hoxa Sound was closed, but by 9/3 a sufficient area had been swept to allow of its being opened again.

Sweeping
Reports

No sweeping today (C. in C. Portsmouth 1846/8).
do. (Cdr. I/C Sheerness 1845/8).
One mine sighted, identified as H^a, sunk by ^{rifle} gunfire in area where floating mines were reported yesterday (C. in C. Portsmouth 1037/8) Vansittart sank 2 floating mines German type, 220 Dungeness 12 and 175 Beachy Head 9 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1953/8)

D.W.I. exploded one mine 8/3 6 cables 0° from wreck of DUNBAR CASTLE in N. Goodwin area (C. in C. Nore 1724/8).

Enemy Minelaying

Attacks on Outer Dowsing Light Vessel on 2 successive nights suggests intended minelaying in that area either by U-boat or surface ship; our surface patrols on E. coast have never yet succeeded in stopping an enemy minelayer and none available. Could submarine be placed on patrol for dark night period a few miles to Eastward of Outer Dowsing Lt. vessel? (C. in C. Nore 1552/8) See Movements.

Magnetic
Mine

Exploded in 51° 23' 54" N., 1° 36' 48" E. (I.C., 0385/40).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Code Words.
Convoys.

At 1315 today, H.M.S. KELLY when in charge of ships from Kirkwall to join O.N. signalled help "MARIA". This code-word is exclusively for use of O.N. convoy and not for a portion, consequently confusion occurred as to where fighters should be sent. Suggested that following subsidiary code-words be employed for portion of O.N. and H.N. which are not in company with main body - Alice west : westbound portion H.N. Maria north: Scapa portion O.N. Maria south: Kirkwall portion O.N. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1744/8).

Convoys Out
of position

Escorts of F.N. and F.S. Convoys to report if the position of their convoy differs by twenty miles or more from scheduled position, at following times: (a) one hour before daylight, (b) after a spell of bad weather by day, in which flying has been stopped, when flying again becomes possible. Information to be passed to H.Q., Fighter and Coastal Commands. (A.C.N.S., 2028/8).

H O M E C O M M A N D S .

113

ShippingConvoys

Forecast of sailings (C. in C. Rosyth, 2104/8).

- A
- ON 18 Owing to KANDAHAR's defects, will be one destroyer short unless destroyer can be provided from some other source (F.O.C.O.S. 1000/8).
- HX 26 Sailing distinctions (D.T.D. 1859/8) Deletion (Capt. D.Y. Halifax 1003/8).
- FN 15 Number and speed (N.C.S.O. Thames 1428/8).
- H.N. 18 Additions (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1334/8).
- OA 105G Details (N.C.S.O. Thames 1526/8, 1529/8).
- TM 22 List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1741/8, amended 1024/9).
- OB 107 Position and route (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1817/8, 1857/8).
- FS 16 List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1742/8 amended 1022/9) sailed (N.O.I.C. Newcastle 2114/8, 2121/8)
- GS 2 Sailed (N.C.S.O. Humber 1120/8).
- MT 26 Sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil 1811/8).
- HG 22 List (F.O.C.N.A. 1747/8).
- OB 106 List (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 2115/8).
- HX 23 Position (AUSONIA 1900/8).
- HN 17 Due Cape Wrath today (D.T.D. 0334/9).

Miscellaneous.Suspicious
Light

C.G. St. Mary's reports Green Verys light 110°
8 to 10 miles. No aircraft seen or heard.
T.O.D. 0450 (C. in C. W.A. 0507/8).

Outer Dowsing
Light Vessel

To be replaced by light float (D.M.S. 1938/8).

Light Vessels

Minor war vessels on patrol or passing near during daylight hours are to close following light vessels and ask if all is well: Smith's Knoll, Cross Sand, Newarp, Hammond Knoll, Haisboro' (C. in C. Nore 1813/8).



H O M E C O M M A N D S

114

Miscellaneous

Ice Situation All north of Stockholm frozen in. Minimum estimate of navigation open one week after thaw sets in. (Stockholm, 1125/8).

Weather.

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	S.W. strong in N. Light variable in S.	Fair.
Channel	Variable.	Good.
W. Approaches	S. Moderate.	Good.
Horns Reef	N.W. light.	Good.

Outlook - Similar in South, moderating and veering in North.

Enemy Intelligence.

German
Transport

Since 1/1/40, 100 Dutch barges have been time chartered to Germany. German commission is now negotiating purchase of 800 ton tankers (presumably for use in the Danube oil transport trade). Further similar vessels are to be built in the Dutch yards for German account. (MEW). Transfer to foreigners of ships and barges registered in Belgium is not authorised at present, but difficulty can be overcome by formation of a Belgian company, in which foreigners may be the sole partners, which would have the free management of this ship. The ship or barge may be chartered for foreign countries, though it must, under the present law, remain on the Belgian register (Censorship intercept).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTSHome Commands

115

H.M.S. BELFAST Considered transfer to a port for permanent repair in June. Has sustained extensive under-water, machinery and electrical damage and will require at least 6 months in dock. Report effect on other work at Belfast if this ship be sent to the port for permanent repair. (D. of D. to F.O.I.C. Belfast 0147/8) Would cause most serious delay in new warship and merchant ship construction, but machinery could be reconditioned if sent (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1650/8).

SOMALI Ready to sail 12/3 (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 1830/8).

KANDAHAR Has developed structural defects similar to KINGSTON and is not fit for sea in heavy weather. Recommend she be docked as soon as possible. (F.O.C.O.S. 1000/8).

MARIE YETTE French patrol boat, 275 tons, sunk in the Gironde after a collision. Reported 21 lives lost.

HARLINGEN Hull 2/2 to Halifax due 24/2, overdue.

OILTRADER Milford Haven 11/2 to Baltimore, due 28/2, overdue.

PANACHRANDOS Antwerp 13/1 to Key West, due 5/2, overdue.

Foreign Stations.

MILFORD Refit completed (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1938/8).

Following Ships on overdue list have arrived at their destinations.

ETHEL RADCLIFFE
PONTYPRIDD
CARSLOGIE
BENGORE HEAD
VERNON CITY
DROMORE CASTLE
INDUNA
CORYTON
HYLTON
TABARISTAN
KATRINE MAERSK

FOREIGN STATIONS.General.

116

Collisions,
Navigation
Lights.

The number of marine casualties to British shipping during the last 6 months is approx. double for similar period of peace time and large percentage have been due to collision. C. in C.'s abroad have discretion to relax restrictions on use of navigation lights in all areas except 1,6A, 7 and 9. (D.T.D. 1101/8).

South Atlantic.Oil Supplies

My 1719/29/2 and 1139/6. Anglo-Mexican informs me that owing to new arrangement re tankers now arrived at with Min. of shipping full normal fuel oil supplies will be available in Brazil for warships and merchant ships from 15/4. Up to 15/4 1000 tons straight fuel and 4000 tons bunker diesel will be available at Rio de Janeiro only (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1140/8).

Submarine off
Coast

My 1727/6 it is confirmed Uruguayan Govt. received information of submarine off coast. They give little credence to report but have ordered tug to investigate. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1300/8 forwarding S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1602/7).

French Patrol

French force from Dakar will maintain permanent patrol off Brazilian coast, one A.M.C. from St. Paul's Rock on the same parallel latitude to longitude 040° West, one submarine of REDOUTABLE class in area enclosed by line joining Ceasa-Fernando De Noronha-Natal. (C. in C. S.A. 1044/8).

U-boat
rumours

Enemy propaganda continually spreads rumours of arrivals of German submarines on East Coast of South America. Whether without foundation or not I consider it would be powerful deterrent to ultimate appearances of submarines and benefit to our prestige if British destroyers could again be shown on this coast. Proposals. If approved in principle visits should be in near future before winter conditions set in. (R.A.S.A.D. 0913Z/8).

China.Gunboats

Re manning 2 at Shanghai (C. in C. China 0440Z/8).

KAGLAND

Flag verification 3/3, 24° 48' 118° 50' warships (Sir R. Craigie Tokyo, No. 4048/3 to F.O.M. 1300/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS

117

Mediterranean.SUSAR's
report

Concerning interception of 2 British ships.
(S.O.(I) Malta 1415/7) Confirmation or otherwise
is desired (D.N.I. 1401/8).

CITTA DI BARNI

Minister Athens telegram 134 of 7/3 to F.O.
FIONA first communicated Italian ship CITTA DI
BARNI outside territorial waters and ordered her
to stop. In spite of firing blank rounds, order
not obeyed till ship inside territorial waters.
Boarding officer sent to request her to leave
territorial waters, which she did. Ship then
boarded and sent Malta. To avoid possibility of
unfortunate incident with Italians, attention of
C.O. was directed to necessity of avoiding
neutral waters, but I consider that in this case
he was justified. (C. in C. Med. 1139/8).

Danube
Operations

Re Admiralty 1852/7, Request name of ship.
Convenient if she could call at Malta (C. in C.
Med. 1431/8) 5 ratings left London for Bucharest
1820/7, 5 more leaving 9/3 (D.N.I. 1205/8).

Danube
Operations

Propose that operations on Danube which will be
under your general direction should come under
immediate command of an officer on the spot.
Capt. Despard, N.A. Bucharest proposed, with
rank of Commodore, 1st class. Appointment as
O.C. Naval Forces on Danube under C. in C. Med.
would be dormant, to be brought into force in
emergency by either British Minister, yourself
or Admiralty. (1st S.L. 1942/8 to C. in C. Med.).

North Atlantic.

French positions 1200/8 (D.C. 2306/7) Convoy positions (D.C.
1902/8).

HG 22

List. (F.O.C.N.A. 1747/8).

East Indies.Liner
requisitions

C. in C. E.Is. 1026Z/7. Full particulars liner
requisition scheme with Lloyd's Surveyor.
H.Q. India, Calcutta, and P.S.T.O., East Indies
(D. of S.T. 1551/8).

US 2
Transports

Re Admiralty 1231/6 (see Australia and New Zealand).
Re draught of British ships, fuelling etc.
(C. in C. E.I. 0701Z/8).



FOREIGN STATIONS

118

America & West Indies.

Enemy
Activity
apprehended

In view of possibility of enemy activity near East Coast of Canada in late spring urgently request information of best method of dealing with magnetic mines. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1135/8)

Australia

US 2
Transports

Admiralty 1231/6. In view of necessity of ~~survey~~ ^{SECRET} regarding identity of ships in slow convoy US 2 and fast US 3 it is proposed to allot reference numbers as follows: ships in US 2, YI-5. US 3, XI-7. QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, MAURETANIA will be XI-4 respectively. (Australian C'wealth, Naval Board 1215Z/8).

119

MOST SECRET.

8.3.40.
Friday.



WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HANNOVER.

Reports of capture by officers from
C.in C. America West Indies Station.
(N.L. 5728/40).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

120

Home Commands.

KONSUL CARL
FISSER Reported passed northwards 1230 (Haugesund
1250/8)

KONIGSBERG Arriving with coal)
PREUSSEN,) (Gothenburg 1330/8)
MARS Arriving with general cargo)

KIEL Bound Copenhagen, is reported stuck in the ice
6 miles W.S.W. Tyloe (Sweden) and was seeking
assistance of a Swedish ice breaker night 7/8(O.I.C.)

STRAUSS) Arrived Rotterdam 7/3, sailed again with coal
(CHARLOTTE) 1930/8 (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1805/8, 2000/8)
(CORDS) O.C. 2027/8)

HELENE RUSSE Passed Lyngnig 8/3 for Norwegian coast in ballast
(Consul Esbjerg 2230/8). Fog cancels my 2230
(Esbjerg 1020/9).

America & West Indies

HANNOVER 5600 tons, left Curacao 6/3 was intercepted
intercepted 0130/8 (?18° 26' N. 68° 18' W. off S.E. coast of
San Domingo) by DUNEDIN and set on fire by
crew to avoid capture. (DUNEDIN 0145/8).
Fire under control. Main engine damaged. Intend
taking in tow. Position 129° Eugano Lt. 6 miles.
One boat escaped, probably to San Domingo
(DUNEDIN 0719/8). Is being towed at slow speed
to Kingston, Jamaica by DUNEDIN. 8 officers
and 30 men escaped in boat (C. in C. A.W.I.
2255/9). Findad Trujillo states the escaped men
landed at Higüey, San Domingo (S.O.(I) Kingston
1745/11). Fire still smouldering in hold.
DUNEDIN doing about 4 knots with ship in tow,
ASSINIBOINE in company, expects to arrive Kingston
14/3. Has 11 officers 42 men prisoners.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1025/12).

MIMI HORN (sailed Curacao 5/3) reported aground near
Tucacas (S.O.(I) Kingston 2236/8).

South Atlantic.

LAHN Left Montevideo 1707/8. Entered Buenos Aires
A.M. 9/3. (I.C. 0385/40) (N.A. Buenos Aires,
1031/9)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

South Atlantic

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Crews

According to information from a German source men from the crews of German ships at Lobito, Portuguese West Africa, have been trying to return to Europe as stowaways in Italian ships (Transit Mail, quoted in D.S. 188).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.Ships Attacked

122

- Unknown Ship 1852 Submarine distress signal from unknown ship 58° 12' N. 9° 18' W. (315° St. Kilda 32 miles) (Scapa W/T 1955/8) (see submarines attacked and CHILTERN & CLOUGHTON WYKE below).
- S.S. COUNSELLOR
Sunk 2W. 1230 British 5068 tons, mined 53° 37' 4" N. 3° 23' 6" E. (Liverpool Bay) In Convoy HX 22, but was off her course and not in the swept channel. (D.C.N.S. 187) all crew saved (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1700/8) Why was she not in swept channel (C. in C. W.A. 1950/8 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
- CHILTERN, & Sunset,
CLOUGHTON WYKE Fleetwood trawlers gunned by submarine and replied with their guns, cutting away their fishing gear. Submarine only fired two shots then disappeared. Trawlers undamaged. (Press Assn.)

Submarines Reported

Estimated positions (D.N.I. 1200/8)

- 1315 51° 11' (?) N. 10° 45' W. submarine course 04, intercepted from unknown ship (Valentia Radio 1459/8).
- 1900 French report 2 submarines 700 tons seen 9 miles off Ymuiden steering south at 1900 today. (V.A. Dover, 2330/8).
- 0212 Unidentified crossing observed on No. 17 loop, probable direction West to East 6 knots. (V.A. Dover 1715/8. Report what action taken when crossing occurred (A.C.N.S. 0006/9). Details given. It will be noted that No. 17 loop lies across the French searched channel and crossing may likely be due to small coaster. (V.A. Dover, 1045/9). Crossing traced to French torpedo boat INCOMPRISE (V.A. Dover, 1212/9).
- 1925 Intercept 1925. DE SAINT DAY, N.Y. German submarine 32 miles N. by W. St. Kilda (Burnham on Sea Radio, 2027/8).

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S



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

8.3.1940.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Attacked.

1730 B.S.T.

50° 9' N. 2° 44' W. by ABERDEEN.
Considered non-sub. (M.06001/40).

60.32 N., 04.57'W. by H.M. Trawler
NORTHERN REWARD. (M.05923/40).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

124

Submarines Attacked

- 1834 NORTHERN REWARD dropped 4 depth charges 60° 25' N.
5° 44' W. (I.C. 0384/40) (NORTHERN REWARD 1834/8)
Non-ascic fitted trawler. FIRE/DRAKE later
searched but found no visible sign of damage to
U-boat (A.S.W.D. 187).
- 1852 Fishery Officer, Fleetwood, reports that on 8/3
the trawler CLOUGHTON WYKE and CHILTERN fired
two rounds each at a U-boat 32 miles North by
West of St. Kilda. CHILTERN claims to have hit
the U-boat, which disappeared. It was in this
position that a submarine distress signal was
received from an unknown ship at 1852/8 (D.C.N.S.
189. 11/3).
- 1730 By ABERDEEN, 50° 09' N., 02° 44' W., very good
contact with slight doppler. One depth charge
dropped. No apparent results. Considered non-
sub. (M.06190/40, Attacks on U.-Boats in Western
Approaches between 17.2.40 and 11.3.40).



HOME COMMANDS.

125

Movements.Home Fleet.

C.in C. in RODNEY, with REPULSE, RENOWN and 8 destroyers, arrived Scapa 1100. Hoxa Gate has been reopened (F.O.C.O.S. 1056/9).

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to
Faroes.

Trawlers.

Faroes to
Iceland.

2 cruisers, 8 A.M.C's.

Denmark Strait.

2 A.M.C's.

Submarines.

Positions 0700/10. (D.C. 1857/9) (R.A.(S).
1701/9).

Irish T.B.

M.I, first of six T.B's. ordered from Great Britain for Eire coast watching service (first naval unit in the country's history). Arrived Kingston, Dublin, late night 9/3 under Lieut. J.H. Carey, R.N., with Irish crew. (Press).

Operations.

ALTMARK.

Arrived Sandefjord 7/3. Reported to be negotiating for docking and repairs as it is believed she has lost her rudder and is steering by engines only. I myself saw picket boat flying German flag put off from Sandefjord this morning. Norwegian destroyer ODIN is at Sandefjord (Nielsen, Skien, 1425/9, N.A. Oslo 1530/9).

She appeared in Berne and Amtliche Lists as Fleet Auxiliary before the war (D.N.I.1848/11).

Air.Enemy Air Activity.

Four enemy air raids took place between midnight and 0400; one off Edinburgh Light Vessel (mouth of Thames); 2 off Barrow Deep Light Vessel (mouth of Thames); 3 North of Spurn Point in Holderness; 4 off mouth of Humber. A Plot of the raids showed that the A/C's. taxied off the water at 50/60 m.p.h. and then flew to the east. The sea was calm and the night starry and conditions were good for laying magnetic mines (D.C.N.S.). No attacks on shipping reported during the day (I.C. 0385/40).

At 1650, German aircraft were plotted approaching



HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

126

Air (contd.)

from a position 6 miles S.E. of Kirkwall. Five minutes later they turned to S.E. course. Fighters were sent up but failed to intercept. (D.C.N.S. 188).

Air
Reconnaissance.

Owing to weather, no reconnaissance was carried out over the North Sea south of 56° N. Heligoland Bight and Estuaries reconnaissance: no sign of salvage operations where Blenheim bombed a U-Boat 4/3 but sea too rough for such operations (Hq. Bomber Command 2030/9).

Merchant Vessels
Engaging Aircraft.

A.671, 9/3. French authorities to be asked to agree to extension of the instructions in my A.517, 8/3, to cover the area from North Foreland to Dungeness. If approved, this would imply that all merchant ships and fishing vessels at sea from Dungeness eastward to the eastern mine barrier would be free to engage by day and by night any aircraft not recognised as friendly approaching within range of ships' guns. (Air Min. 1927/9).

East Coast
Lightships.

British A/C's. asked to give all possible moral support to lightships between Smith's Knoll and Cromer Knoll. During daylight, fighters in the neighbourhood have been asked to fly low and make their identity known to the crews. (Air Min. 1435/9).

Mining.Enemy Mine
off Whitstable.

Second aircraft mine in sea off Whitstable, located last spring tide, when first was recovered, exploded spontaneously at 0300 on 1st March. Pieces of metal mine casing recovered to-day from the water. (C.in C. Nore, 1831/0).

D.W.I.
Operation.

Carried out to-day. 79 runs done. One mine exploded ~~mine~~ cables 000 degrees from wreck of DUNBAR CASTLE. (C.in C. Nore, 1630/9).

Safety in
Searched Channels.

Safety of traffic in searched channels is a primary responsibility of the Minesweeping Forces. Particularly important that all dangers in vicinity of the channels should be buoyed. Attention called to various methods of rigging, danbuoys, etc. (D.M.S. 1243/9).


HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

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Mining (Contd.)Enemy Minelaying
on Downs - Dutch
ports route.

See U-Boat Campaign.

Shipping.Trinity House
Vessels.

As Trinity House vessels are now armed, proposed that in future these ships should not normally be escorted. Since February 26, PINTAIL, SHELDRAKE and WIDGEON engaged on this escort work for 7, 6 and 2 consecutive days respectively, interfering with their normal time in harbour, (C.in C. Nore, 2141/9).

Dutch Fishing.

Owing to attacks on fishing vessels by aircraft Dutch fishermen of Ymuiden are making objections to their catch being sold to Germany. Only 14 ships of the fishing fleet sailed last week. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1312/9).

Convoys.

OG and OGF.

Signal of hours early or late in crossing meridian of 11 deg. West to be given to F.O.C. North Atlantic 12 hours before by Commodores of Convoys. (D.T.D. 1704/9).

Positions.

(D.C. 1906/9).

HGF 23.

Route (D.T.D. 1150/9).

OGF 22

Route (C.in C. W.A. 0959/9 amended 1246/9).

HX 23

Position (C.in C.W.A. 0051/9).

FS 16

Numbers (F.O. Tyne 1021/9).

HX 21

Successful (D.T.D. 1357/9).

FS 15

Arrived, numbers (N.C.S.O. Thames 1321/9).

HG 21

Route (C.in C.W.A. 1211/9).

OA 107

Programme (N.C.S.O. Thames 1151/9).

HOME COMMANDSShipping

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Convoys
(cont.)

FS 18	Escort (C-in-C Rosyth 1202/9)
SLF 23	Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 0827/9) (D.T.D. 1959/9) Position and escort (D.T.D. 1958/9)
SL 24	Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 0952/9)
OB 106	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey 0050/9)
OA 106	Portsmouth Section (C-in-C Portsmouth 0800/9)
FN 16	JAVELIN to cover (C-in-C Rosyth 1312/9)
ON 19	Route and escort (C-in-C Rosyth 1312/9)
HX 28	Route (D.T.D. 1729/9)
HG 22	Destinations (D.T.D. 1705/9)
HGF 21	Arrived with WHIRLWIND (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1445/9)

MiscellaneousAllocation
of French s/ms
to Harwich.

Re. Adty. 2370/6. Remarks re accommodation etc.
(R.A.(S) 1951/9).

Suspicious
Dutch vessel

Grimsby trawlers which were attacked by enemy a/c's 7/3 between 1330 and 1900 report having sighted a Dutch seine netting vessel at dawn in 54° 10'N, 2° 30'E. She remained in sight until a short time before the attacks commenced. Dutch vessels number IJN 27 with Holland and Dutch flags painted on sides. Vessel had W/T and it is reported that locality is most unusual for seine net fishing. (C-in-C Nore, 1518/9).

Dutch fish
in Germany

Owing to attacks on fishing vessels by a/c's fishermen of Ymuiden are making objections to their catch being sold to Germany. Only 14 ships of the fishing fleet sailed last week. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1312/9).



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HOME COMMANDSMiscellaneousWEATHER

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	W. Moderate	Poor
Horns Reef	S.W. Moderate	Poor
Channel	S. Light	Moderate
W. Approaches	S. Moderate	Moderate

Outlook:- Little change.

Enemy IntelligenceEnemy B.C.'s reported

Wick Radio reported that trawler IB reported 2 battle cruisers bound N.W. about 2012 no challenge. Passed to COSSACK by C-in-C Rosyth (C.C.O. Lyness 2042/9. C-in-C Rosyth 2204/9).

Munition ships

Reporting that 4 pilots were paid for piloting German ships with munitions for Murmansk (Dornier, Oslo 1515/9) The pilots concerned will probably be black listed by Pilot Association. Ship was probably JAN WILLEM reported in my 1500/6/2. (Dornier, Oslo 1500/11).

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTSHome Commands

- KELLY Damaged in collision with GURKHA 0520/9 and proceeded to Leith (KELLY 0655/9) GURKHA undamaged, KELLY damaged forecastle and will require docking. (F.O.C.O.S. 0921/9). Has hole in her side, Temporary patch essential before proceeding to dockyard. No casualties (Capt. D5. 1532/9)
- S.S. TIBERTON British (5228 tons) left Narvik independently 14/2 with iron ore, for Tees has not been heard of since.
- MAINDY HILL British, 1918 tons, Leith to France, reported to have been in collision 3 miles off Hartlepool and subsequently abandoned after attempts to beach her had failed. (Cullercoats Radio 2332/9, 2346/9) Sank S 78° E. 1 mile Heugh Lt. All crew rescued, one injured.
- SAINT ROSARIO SAINT ROSARIO with which collided now in Tees. (N.O.I/C Hartlepool 1145/10).
- ASHLEY British, 1323 tons, aground half-a-mile south of North Goodwin lightship, and in need of assistance. (N. Foreland Radio 1356/9, 1440/9, V.A. Dover 1817/9). Hope of saving her abandoned. Ramsgate lifeboat landed crew 17 a.m./11 (Press Assn.).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

Convoys Positions (D.C. 1906/9)

French Forces Positions 1200/9 (D.C. 0300/9)

OG and OGF Convoys If 6 hours or more early or late in crossing Meridian of 11° West, signal to be sent F.O.C.N.A. 12 hours before the estimated time given. (D.T.D. 1704/9).

South Atlantic

MOORDWIJK Dutch s.s. sailed from Schiedam 26/2 for Buenos Aires or Rosario. Future destination and anything unusual to be reported. (D.N.I. to S.O.I. Montevideo, 1813/9).

Mediterranean

CERES Proposed programme. Arrive Darwin 10/4
COLOMBO (C-in-C Med. 1733/9) Reply see Australia 11/3.

Command of Danube. N.A. Bucharest 2100/9 see 10/3

Oil for Germany French N.A. reports sure source informs him during last 5 days 4 trains made up of German tank waggons have been observed en route to Rustchuk. Believed these trains may be passed through Varna Glen. (A.N.A. Belgrade 2130/9).

French convoys Exchanged escorts and proceeded E. and W. respectively (S.O.I. Gib. 1228/9).

Leakage of information Disclosure of date of sailing of British ship. Is this an attempt to broadcast date of sailing of S.S. ATHLONE CASTLE from a neutral port? (R.A. Alexandria 1916/9).

America and W. Indies

9th Cruiser Sqn. disbandment Proposed that 9th Cruiser Sqn. cease to exist from a date convenient to you. 8th Cruiser Sqn. would then consist of ORION, DESPATCH, DIOMEDE, DUNEDIN. Commodore's broad pendant

FOREIGN STATIONS

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America and W. Indies (continued)

9th Cruiser Sqn. disbandment (cont) normally be worn in the cruiser employed on the West Coast of South America. (Hd. of M. to C-in-C A. and W.I. 1458/9).

Sabotage in U.S.A.

Consul-General, San Francisco, reports plot to blow up troop ships sailing from Australia and New Zealand, also to sabotage S.S. NIAGARA at Vancouver and later tankers or vessels carrying aeroplanes from San Pedro. U.S.A. military intelligence aware of plot (A.I.) (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1236/9).

East IndiesLights shown by merchant ships.

Following instructions substituted for those given in D. M. S. Part I, Article 47, and apply to ships navigating in Red Sea and between longitude 032.55'E. and the easterly limit of area 3. A. Side-lights and only one masthead steaming light may be exhibited at any time. B. Stern lights only to be used for purpose of avoiding collision and are to be extinguished as soon as danger of collision is past. C. Electric lights are always to be used where available. D. Masthead steaming light and side-lights must not be visible for more than 2 miles, and the stern light 1 mile. Important these limits are strictly adhered to. (C-in-C E.I. 0728Z/9).

ChinaGerman S/M Base

Information in S.O.I. Shanghai's 0959Z/9 mentioned to Vice-Admiral Iwamura in interview in interview 8/3. He professed ignorance of such report, but I received impression from behaviour of the Japanese present that they had in fact similar information. Admiral remarked that if true it would be grounds for declaration of war by Britain on Russia. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 0314Z/9).



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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSHome Commands

HERNCSAND 953 tons. Arrived Haugesund for herrings. (I.C. 0385/40) (Haugesund 1915/9).

SCHWANECK Left Gothenburg in ballast (I.C. 0385/40) (Gothenburg 1301/9).

LIPPE Arrived Narvik for ore (I.C. 0385/40) (Narvik 1137/9, 1203/12).

STRAUSS
CHARLOTTE CORDS Left 8/3 (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1415/9).

MARS Now discharging coal (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1301/9)

Pilotage
to Murmansk

Four pilots each paid 18,000 kroner for piloting German ship, date not known, with munitions for Murmansk. Included return pilotage. A person at Kopervik arranged pilotage. Money paid by German Govt. source, shipowner's permanent pilot. (N.A. Oslo, 1515/9).

America and West IndiesSupply of
fuel

Your 1625/10/2 and my 1850/12/2. Arrangements can be made to raise embargo on bunkers of remaining German ships in Dutch West Indies in order to tempt them to sail. Should you wish embargo raised, request you will inform Adty. when convenient for this to be done. (D.O.D.(F) to C-in-C A. W. I. 1136/9). Reply see 10/3.

ESTE

Left Curacao 0300/9 G.M.T. (I.C. 0385/40) (S.O.I. Kingston, 0345/9).

East IndiesBRAUENFELS
DRACHENFELS
EHRENFELS

Three German ships at Marmagoa, Portuguese India, BRAUENFELS, 7847 tons, DRACHENFELS, 6347 tons and EHRENFELS, 7752 tons, report that they can remain there in safety until May, when the monsoon breaks. They will then have to discharge their cargoes and will be unable to take in fuel owing to the shallowness of the harbour. Master of BRAUENFELS trying to arrange for payment of harbour dues by discharging cargo. Ships have experienced considerable difficulty owing to lack of money deterioration of hulls and disputes with the local agents. (D.S. 10/3).



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

South Atlantic

WINDHUK

Is there any chance of her sailing within next 10 days? (C-in-C S.A. to A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro and R.A.S.A.D. 0915/9).

LAHN

Entering Buenos Aires this morning Saturday. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1031/9) B.B.C. states LAHN has scuttled herself off Buenos Aires. Report details. Was H.M.S. ALCANTARA involved? (R.A.S.A.D. to S.O.I. Montevideo 1127Z/9).

North Atlantic

HELIOS
SEVILIA
HUNDSECK

Returned to Seville from Bonanza p.m. (Seville 2130/9).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

135^S

9.3.1940.

Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

CHEVY CHASE
sunk.

About 1558, 53° 18' N. 1° 13' E.
H.M. Tr. MONIMA picked up crew.
Sunk by mine when following in wake
of next ahead. (M. 05635/40
Convoy F.S.16 R. of P. 8-9 March
1940).

Submarines Attacked.

2308.

51° 30½' N., 3° 29' W.
H.M.S. CORNELIAN, Report of attack
on U-boat, 9/3/40, by Lieut H.
Fletcher-Hayes, R.N.V.R. C.O.
(M. 05513/40) Search by H.M.S.
WHIRLWIND and A/S yacht VIRGINIA
did not confirm presence of a
U-boat.

2042 and
2106

55° 48' N., 1° 41' W. H.M.S.
KANDAHAR Comdr. W.G.A. Robson.
Report of attack on U-boat,
9/3/40. (M. 05211/40)

2308.

51° 30½' N. 3° 29' W. by
CORNELIAN. Considered non-sub.
(M. 06009/40).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MININGShips attacked

CHEVY CHASE,
mined, sunk
1620

British 2,179 tons, mined and sunk 33 miles off Lincolnshire coast 53° 18'N, 01° 13'E. Was in convoy F.S. 16 with 4,000 tons of coal from Blyth to London. Appears to have struck a mine just outside the swept channel. No casualties. (D.C.N.S.) (WOOLSTON 1620/9) (I.C. 0385/40) Crew rescued by trawler MONIMA.

S/m's reported

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C. 1114/9)

Probable Reliefs

Probability based on estimate of periodic reliefs that U-boats will be passing through the area covered by anti-submarine air patrol L.5. during next two or three days. (D.C. 1954/9).

0600

250 ton s/m reported 05' off Ameland to-day course West. (A.2.) (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1515/9) (N.A. Hague, 1120/9)

0530

S/m reported by trawler in VLGB 2250. (C-in-C Rosyth 1448/9).

0530

Scarborough trawler JUST REWARD 54:22 N, 0:10 W 9 miles N.E. by E. Scarborough Castle, saw a submarine on surface. Immediately dived. (B.3) (I.C. 0385/40) (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1315/9).

Norwegian ship bound Portugal to Norway was stopped at night about 10 days ago 52° N 14°W by German s/m. Papers were examined and ship allowed to proceed. (N.A. Oslo 1500/9)

Information from a good source in Ostend that a trawler found a mine in her net /3 when fishing off West Hinder in same general locality as moored mines have been found on the Downs. Dutch ports route. U-boats appeared and forced trawler to hand over her fish. The trawler skipper thought the U-boats were mine-laying. (M.S. Summary No. 22).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MININGS/m's attacked

1412

GURKHA dropped a pattern of six depth charges on possible U-boat 60 miles E. of the Orkneys, 59:07 N, 0:35 W. ILEX standing by the position, reports target stationary, thin oil still rising and a strong smell closely resembling rum. (D.C.N.S. 188) (Capt. D4, 1756/9) (ILEX 1836/9) (I.C. 0385/40) FOXHOUND ordered to relieve ILEX in this position (C-in-C H.F. 2113/9).

HOME COMMANDSMovementsHome Fleet

Flag of B.C.1. to be transferred to RENOWN at sunset 11/3 (C-in-C H.F. 1252/10)

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes	Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland	2 cruisers, 8 A.M.C.'s
Denmark Strait	3 A.M.C.'s

Proceed to operate in circular area centre 58° 45'N, 0° 0', radius 30 miles. Probability of U-boats passing through area within next few days. Air patrol L 5 will operate round the area (F.O.C.O.S. 1046/10 to GALLANT, GRIFFIN)

S/m's

0700 (R.A.(S) 1659/10, D.C. 2015/10)

Operations

ALTMARK

Director of Sandefjord Dock informed a ship-owner that feelers were made by Captain of the ALTMARK for repairing ship at Sandefjord. Refused to have any connection with the ship. (N.A. Oslo, 1530/9, recd. 0136/10)

B.O. Norwegian N.O. informs me ALTMARK has been towed into Sandefjord where he believes she is still (Consul Kristiansands 1100/10)

S/m on patrol

HELENE RUSSE (German) leaves Esbjerg tonight for Kristiansands South. Endeavour to intercept her outside territorial waters during dark hours tonight. (R.A.(S) 1911/10 to ORZEL)

AirNavigation lights

From 1900/11 all friendly aircraft are to extinguish navigation lights when flying over North Sea east of 4° W, and north of Latitude of North Foreland. Aircraft should show navigation lights when crossing coast coming in from seaward. Fighters to be instructed to confirm recognition before attacking and to be warned that bombers

HOME COMMANDS

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Air (continued)Navigation
lights
(continued)

returning from operations may not know they have crossed the coast and therefore may be encountered over land unilluminated. Apart from above proviso fighters and ships at sea in area described above may fire by night at any aircraft showing navigation lights (Air Min. 2242/10)

Attack on
Scapa Flow
8/3
Defence of
Base

Large amount of non-operational flying which is taking place in this area is seriously handicapping Sector Commander at Wick and was a cause of confusion during the attack on the Flow afternoon 8/3. Additional measures required to enable Sector Commander Wick to carry out his function of defending the Fleet Base from air attack (A.C.O.S. 1656/10)

No flying is to take place over Flow at Scapa until further orders (R.A.N.A.S. 1455/10, 1842/11)

Air
Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance patrols were much restricted owing to low visibility.

MiningMagnetic mines
exploded

Off N. Foreland, 51° 24.2'N, 1° 36.8'E.
Firth of Forth, 56° 05'N, 2° 56.6'E.
Liverpool Bay, 53° 38'N, 3° 26'W.
(F.O. Humber 0858/10)
By D.W.I. 10/3 2 cables 270° from wreck of
DUNBAR CASTLE (C-in-C Nore 2230/10)

Unexplained
Explosion

Heard 1220 in N.E. direction. Confirmed by
WINTERTON (F.O.I/C Harwich 1220/10)

ShippingConvoys
Positions

D.C. 2014/10)

SLF 22

Route (C-in-C W.A. 0951/10)

HOME COMMANDSShipping (continued)Convoys (cont.)

SL 22 Details (C-in-C W.A. 0951/10, 1006/10)

FN 15 Cancel reference in my 2344/9 (Movements of Ships) (C-in-C Rosyth 0734/10)

FS 17 39 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1010/10)

OG 21 Route (C-in-C W.A. 1053/10)

HN 18 Sailed for rendezvous (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1119/10)
Route for ships which lose convoy (D.T.D. 1101/11)

OA 107 Number and speed (N.C.S.O. Thames 1159/10)

OA 108 GF Programme (N.C.S.O. Thames 1159/10)

OB 108 GF " (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1242/10)

TM 23 Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1108/10)

FS 18 List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1648/10)

HGF 22 Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1730/10)

Ocean Convoys

Positions (D.C. 2014/10)

ON 19 Arrive Point E 1000/14 S.O. local escort COSSACK

HN 19 " " E 1400/14 (D.T.D. 1631/10)

Routes

Ships reported sunk by mine 3 miles W. by S. mag. of Middle Bank Lt. Buoy. Routes between Downs and Rotterdam or Amsterdam should not for present pass between Schouwen Bank and Middle Bank (D.T.D. 1943/10)

MiscellaneousTugs.

Re. requirements at Ramsgate base. (V.A. Dover 6255/10)

WOLFE's
delayed
report

In a signal timed 1710/10 A.M.C. WOLFE reported "9 vessels, perhaps warships" sighted in position 50 miles from N.W. corner of Iceland, adding "shall I investigate?" For some reason, this signal was made on a wavelength which only Adty. could receive, and was not transmitted until 2037, addressed to "Scapa". The Adty.

HOME COMMANDS

141

Miscellaneous (continued)

WOLFE's
delayed
report
(cont.)

at once retransmitted it to the proper authorities and at 2131 C-in-C H.F. ordered WOLFE to report the result of his investigation. (WOLFE 1710/10, C-in-C H.F. 0046/11) Reply. Failure in clearing my 1710/10 due to inability to establish communication with Scapa as experienced also 9/3 (WOLFE 0748/11) Asking V.A.N.P. for full details (A.C.O.S. 1121/11) Possibly an eastbound convoy. Am of opinion there was at least one warship. Have searched. Nothing to report. (WOLFE 0745/11) Ordering WOLFE to report reason for delay in clearing 1710/10 (V.A.N.P. 0149/11)

Weather

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea (N. of 54' N.	W.N.W. Moderate	Good
North Sea (S. of 54' N.	S.W. Moderate	Moderate
Channel)	S. Moderate	Moderate
Western Approaches)		

Enemy Intelligence

KONIGSBERG

At Hamburg 26/2 C.3. (D.D.I.C. 1256/10)

Casualties and Defects

S.S. MAINDY HILL

sank S 78° E. 1 mile H⁴ugh Lt. after collision 2315/9 with S.S. SAINT ROSARIO. Latter now in Tees. (C.G. Hartlepool 0750/10, N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1145/10, 1520/10)

~~CEFN-Y-BRYN.~~
~~GAF-N-BRYN~~

Aground 12 miles S.E. Outer Dowsing Lt. V. (AGRET 1252/10) GRAFTON sent to assist (CURACOA 1403/10) also tug SEAMAN (C-in-C Nore 1531/10) Afloat and safe. Position of grounding (GRAFTON 1712/10) Arrived Humber 2130 (F.O. Humber 2205/10)



CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

142

Home Commands (continued)

KELLY Re+docking (D.D.O.D.(H) 1819/10)

DELIGHT Reserve feed tank leaking and boilers showing
3/10 density. (DELIGHT 1000/10)

Foreign Stations

ALEXANDROS S.O.S. requiring tow. Position (S.S. ALEXANDROS
0514/10, 2255/10) Disabled through engine
trouble in a storm off coast of Portugal is
being towed to Lisbon, due to arrive 12/3 (B.U.P.
Lisbon 11/3)

MOST SECRET.

10.3.1940.
Sunday.

143

5



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"D"Class
Destroyers.

Informed R.A.S.A.D. that state of mechanical reliability of "D" class destroyers did not make it advisable to allow them to proceed to South American Coast so far from a repair ship. (C.in C. S.A., 1307/10).

FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

French Positions 1200/10 (D.C. 0111/10)

144

Convoys Positions (D.C. 2014/10)

South AtlanticSweep from
Dakar

Force consisting of French PROVENCE (flag) and DUQUESNE and H.M. ships HERMES, DECOY and DEFENDER sailed from Dakar 1600/9 for sweep, returning to Dakar 16/3 (C-in-C S.A. 0932/10)

Whaling
expeditions

List of British whaling expeditions leaving fishing grounds between 9-27/3 and programme of movements. All vessels will ultimately proceed to United Kingdom with whale oil. General cover is to be given to these valuable ships on passage to Freetown; each has a crew of 300 or more. Not more than one or at most two ships should be included in any convoy from Freetown. They should be stationed in safest position in convoy. (D.T.D. 2229/10)

America and West IndiesPatrols

H.M.S. DUNDEE and French submarine CERES arrived from Trinidad-Granada. Patrol area. (N.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1905/10)

MediterraneanSailing
disclosure

My 1916/9. disclosure of date of sailing of British ship ATHLONE CASTLE from Rotterdam. Message received by wireless at 1754 G.M.T. from Kootwijk on 27.96 metres. (R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1531/10)

FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean (continued)

145

Dangerous area.

A Farsund broadcast declares a dangerous area in Gulf of Genoa between parallels

44° 13' 15" N
44° 13' 30" N
8° 30' 50" E
8° 33' 5" E

RIVA LIGURE

Italian tanker, to be detained at Malta until further orders. If ship already sailed to be brought back if possible (D.E.W.D. 1838/10)

ChinaMinesweepers

Adty. 1332/9. C-in-C E.I. to allocate China and East Indies minesweepers to best advantage with regard to weather and earliest date of arrival in Mediterranean. R.A. Malaya is then to propose passage arrangements of the Singapore ships (C-in-C China 0300Z/10)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSHome Commands

146

DIETER HUGO
STINNESReported to owners 0614/10 fast in pack ice
3 miles from Nakkehoved without ice-breaker
(I.C. 0385/40)

HELENE RUSSE

Proceeding north tonight, destination Kristiansand
for herrings (Consul, Esbjerg 1520/10)IDA BLUMENTHAL)
LUNA)

Left Porsgund (Dkien 1825/10)

ALTONA

Was stuck in the ice at 1840 56° 26'N, 12° 36'E
(6 miles N. of Hallands Vadero)

Unknown

Unknown German ship arrived 9/3 and now loading
ore, may sail tonight (D.D.I.C. 0937/10)America and West IndiesSupply of
fuel.Adt. 1136/9. In view of recent activity in
Caribbean involving prolonged periods of con-
tinuous sea time by H.M. ships suggest
undesirable to raise embargo on bunkers until
return of ORION to Caribbean early in April.
(C-in-C A.W.I. 0212/10)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MININGShips
Attacked

ABUKIR

Pilotage office, Antwerp, reports British steamer ABUKIR sunk by mine 3 miles W. by S. magnetic middle bank light buoy. Crew saved. (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1040/10).

BORTHWICK

0210 British 1097 tons mined or torpedoed off Dutch coast between Rotterdam and Flushing, near Schoorvoort Light Buoy 51° 44' 30" N, 3° 22' E. Captain reports ship struck two mines. Crew landed at Flushing. (I.C. 0385, 0386/40, D.C.N.S. 189) (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1040/10) (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1316/10)

AKELD

Cable from Flushing states that a wreck has been reported in 51° 43' 30" N, 3° 15' E, about five miles from where the BORTHWICK was sunk. May be wreck of British AKELD, 643 tons, which left Rotterdam 9/3 for the Downs and failed to arrive. (D.S. 188) Wreckage, including lifeboat, picked up by Dutch M/V VIKING was examined by Marine Supt. of AKELD's owner but he was unable to identify it. After explosion in BORTHWICK, AKELD was seen to turn to come to rescue, when second explosion was heard and lights of AKELD disappeared. A Belgian pilot vessel has located a wreck about 1½ miles from where BORTHWICK sank. Mined or torpedoed 51° 44' N, 3° 22' E. in 13 fathoms. (M.S. Summary No. 22).

S/M's reported

Estimated positions (D.D.I.C. 1110/10)
Single hearing obtained is believed to indicate U-boat in Western Approaches is now homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1338/10)

2207

49° N 8° W (230° Scillies 85 miles) Position indefinite (D.C. 2300/10) BROKE, WILD SWAN, WINCHELSEA attack (C-in-C W.A. 2329/10)

2100

Trawler BRAERIACK reported sighted s/m 45 miles N. by W. Noup Head West Ray (A.C.O.S. 1155/11) 60° 3' N, 3° 16' W.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

5

Submarines Attacked.

148

0738. 54° 17' N., 00° 09' W. H.M.S. KANDAHAR,
Comdr. W.G.A. Robson. Report of
attack on U-boat 10/3/40 (M.05211/40).
0313. 53° 47' N., 5° 16' W. H.M.S. HASTY,
Lieut-Com. L.R. Tyrwhitt. Report of
attack on U-boat, 10/3/40. (M.05542/40).
- 1044
1133
1307 58° 47.8' N., 02° 45.9' W.
H.M.S. FORESTER, Lieut-Com. E.C. Coats.
Report of attacks on U-boat 10/3/40.
(M. 05541/40).
1230. 59° 07.3' N., 02° 18.9' W.
H.M.S. KELLY, Capt. Lord Louis
Mountbatten. Report of attack on
U-boat, 10/3/40. (M.05469/40).
1725. 51° 32' N. 5° 21' W. By FOLKESTONE
(M. 06111/40).
1700. 57° 15' N. 7° 0' W. By JUNIPER
(M. 06021/40).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MININGS/m's
Attacked

149

- A.M. A/S trawler attacked contact (doubtful) off Liverpool, $53^{\circ} 30\frac{1}{2}'$ N, $3^{\circ} 26\frac{1}{2}'$ W. 246 Bar Light Vessel 5'. (I.C. 0385/40)
- 0433 HASTY attacked contact $53^{\circ} 47'$ N, $5^{\circ} 16'$ W (311° Skerries 30 miles) Probably non-sub. (HASTY 1245/10)
- 1725 By FOLKESTONE, $51^{\circ} 32'$ N., $05^{\circ} 21'$ W., with pattern of seven charges. Consider non-sub. (M. 06190/40, Attacks on U-boats in Western Approaches, 17.2.40 to 11.3.40).

HOME COMMANDS.

150

Movements.Home Fleet.

All capital ships are in harbour.

2nd C.S. Flag of R.A. 2 C.S. to be transferred to GALATEA at 1600/11. (R.A. 2 C.S. 0956/11).

B.C.S. Flag of V.A.C. B.C.S. transferred from HOOD to RENOWN at sunset 11/3. (C. in C. H.F. 1252/10).

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes
Faroes to Iceland
Denmark Strait

Trawlers
2 Cruisers, 8 A.M.Cs.
3 A.M.Cs.

S/ms.

Positions 0700/12. (D.C. 1911/11, 1732/11).

Western Approaches.

Dispositions of A/S and M/S craft 11/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1859/11).

Cruiser off Petsamo.

British cruiser and 2 destroyers reported lying off Petsamo. Cruiser appears to have been converted into a/c depot ship. (Reuter Stockholm).

Operations.

ALTMARK

Norwegian Govt. are in communication with German Govt. as regards length of stay of ALTMARK in Norwegian waters. Ship entered Sandesfjord at 14 knots steering by screws. (N.A. Oslo 1400/11). Manager Akers Gottsted has informed Commercial Counsellor he had been approached as regards repairing ALTMARK and had refused to do so. (N.A. Oslo 1510/11).

HOME COMMANDS.Air.

151

Enemy Air Activity.

2 a/cs. unknown, bearing 180° 1 mile course 270°, my position 200° Orfordness 10 miles. (N.G. Call sign, Block One 0720/11).

At 0034 an a/c (believed to be enemy) was reported 8 miles N.W. of Duncansby Head, and at 0500 a/cs. were heard over Scapa. It is thought that possibly mines may have been laid, but there is as yet no confirmation of this, (I.C. 0386/40).

Air Reconnaissance.

Of position where U-Boat was bombed by Blenheim 4/3. No salvage operations taking place but observed 4 buoys disposed in a square. (HQ Bomber Cmd. 1700/11).

Of Heligoland Bight and Estuaries. Patrol vessels or mine-sweepers seen. (HQ Bomber Cmd. 1800/11). Tried to sink a derelict dangerous to navigation by 4 bombs; failed to hit. (HQ Bomber Cmd. 2230/11).

Ships firing at a/cs.

Submit any a/c which dives on a ship or comes within range of short range A/A weapons of ships without being recognised or identifying itself can be fired on. (R.N.A.S. 1835/11).

Navigation Lights.

Ref. Adty. 2116/8. Orders issued by Adty, in sense of Air Min. 2242/10. (A.C.N.S. 1642/11).

Aerodrome Lights.

In view of difficulty of flying modern a/cs in darkness lights at and near aerodromes to be as required by a/cs and not limited by considerations of enemy air attack on aerodrome. (Air Min. 1912/11).

Mining ...

HOME COMMANDS.

152

Mining.

Sweeping Reports. One mine exploded by skids in Cockle Channel (F.O. I.C. Nore 1932/11).

Fog, no sweeping. (N.O. I.C. Falmouth 1825/11).

Mine exploded by skid 73° Inchkeith 6 miles, all traffic between Fidra and Inchkeith is to cease until further orders. (C. in C. Rosyth 1819/11, 1843/11). Traffic resumed in accordance with QZ 588 (C. in C. Rosyth 2217/11).

Mine exploded by skid 2 cables 145° from North Caister Buoy 1336/11. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1630/11).

Fog, no sweeping. (SANDWICH 1825/11).

Unidentified Explosions.

Off Newhaven 1825. Am of opinion drifting mine struck but no proof. (N.O. I.C. Newhaven 1920/11).

Swept Channel Closed.

Off N. Foreland. See NIRITOS mined.

Shipping. ...

153^S

MOST SECRET.

11.3.40.

Monday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoy F.N.18.

R. of P. (From VEGA) M.05914/40
(No particular interest)

Convoy F.N.17.

R. of P. (From PELICAN M.05918/40.

HOME COMMANDS.Shipping.

154

Convoys.

- HN 18. Halfway between Norway and Shetlands, escorted by 5 destroyers and an A/A cruiser, covered by EDINBURGH and ARETHUSA.
- OHN 19. Cover will be provided by EDINBURGH (C. in C. H.F. 2012/11). Additional escort FAULKNER, FORTUNE (C. in C. H.F. 1523/11).
- HGF 23 R.V. 0645/23. (F.O.C. N.A. 0950/11).
- ON May neutral ships brought into Kirkwall by Northern Patrol and released there join up with Kirkwall section of ON convoys if they wish? (V.A.N.P. 1100/11.). Reply: Yes. (A.C.N.S. 1211/12).
- Ocean. Positions. (D.C. 1910/11).
- HX 24 French C. in C. Dunkirk will provide escort 16/3 for ships bound Havre. (D.T.D. 1537/11).
- HX 26 Sailing telegram. (D.T.D. 1334/11).

AF Message.

48°35' N. 8°22' W. 1000 G.M.T./11.
(D.D.I.C. 1606/11). (EULOTA).

Routeing
Neutrals.

Your 1901/9 is it intended that neutral ships sailing from Norwegian ports independently to an east coast port in U.K. should be routed to the Downs. (Stavanger 1950/11 to Adty.).

Reporting
Convoys.

System to be standardised as follows. Method. When report is made by escort consideration should be given to desirability of parting company temporarily prior to breaking W/T silence. (D.T.D. 1801/11).

Routes ...



HOME COMMANDS .

Shipping (Cont.)

155

Routes.

For neutral vessels sailing independently (D.T.D. 1209/11).

For ships entering Firth of Forth independently from North bound for Methil. Details wanted. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1313/11). Reply: see 588 QZ (D.T.D. 1453/12).

Italian Coal.

13 ships in British Contraband Control, carrying German coal to Italy, ordered to be released.

Times of release. All sailed between 0600 - 0800/11 (Ramsgate 0924/11).

Miscellaneous.

WOLFE

C. in C. H.F. 0046/11, see 10/3.

Suspicious Vessels.

Your 2329 - French fishing boat. Appeared genuine. (WINCHELSEA 0515/11, 0759/11 yo C. in C. W.A.).

LENA.

Charts ordered for. Ship unknown. Please enquire and report. (D.N.I. 1605/11 to A.N.A. Stockholm).

WOLFE's delayed report.

C. in C. H.F. 0046/11, WOLFE 0748/11, 0745/11, A.C.O.S. 1121/11, V.A.N.P. 0149/11, see 10/3.

WEATHER.

	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>
0500		
North Sea.	Westerly. Strong in N. Light in S.	Moderate.
Channel.	S.W. light or moderate.	Moderate.
W.Approaches.	S. Moderate.	Moderate.
Horns Reef.	S.W. Moderate.	Good.

Outlook - Similar.

Enemy ...

HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence .

156

Treatment of
Neutrals.

German legation, Oslo, stated that according to German Prize Regulations all neutral ships in convoy assume the risks of war at sea, similarly all neutrals protected by belligerent a/cs. Unconvoyed neutrals sailing together or alone considered as neutrals by German Naval vessels inspecting for contraband. Such ships must not be armed and it must be clear from conduct and appearance that ships is neutral, manoeuvring such as zig-zagging must not be indulged in. Neutrals endanger themselves if blacked out or use radio when called on to stop. The statement published abroad, that a neutral ship which has once accepted convoy is considered enemy henceforth is denied. (Press).

UNITY, Patrol
Report.

Three darkened vessels sighted, may have been destroyers, 2200/7 23 miles W. Hantsholm, steering northwards slow speed. Attack not possible. UNITY dived. Apparently unobserved. (V.A.S. 1739/11).

Minesweepers.

Dutch ships arriving Amsterdam 11/3 report minesweepers active South of North Hinder. B.1.

Minefield.

Amsterdam reports minefield 51°30' N. 2°10' E. A.1.

Small Craft.

Large number of torpedo craft and seaplanes reported near Moderne Gap and Juist, 10/3. B.1. (N.A. Hague 2320/11).

Munition Ships.

Dormer, Oslo 1500/11 see 9/3.

FINNO-RUSSIAN HOSTILITIES.

The Press reports from Comstanz that Soviet destroyers have been intercepting neutral merchant vessels and taking them to Sevastopol, are without foundation. (N.I.D. XI).

CASUALTIES ...

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

157

Home Commands.

- O.A. BRODIN. Swedish, 1960 tons, ashore 2 miles N. St. Bees Hd. Leaking badly. (O.A. BRODIN 0511/11). WANDERER proceeding to assist. (WANDERER 0552/11, 0808/11). Visibility 1 cable, speed reduced to 15 knts. Should reach vicinity about 1000. (WANDERER 0800/11). Reached Whitehaven, Cumberland 13/3.
- KELLY Will be sent to Blackwall. Date will be signalled later. (C. in C. H.F. 1437/11).
- AKELD British 634 tons, left Rotterdam 9/3 for Downs, has not yet arrived. ? is she the wreck reported from Flushing 51°43'30" N. 3°15' E. about 5 miles from where S.S. BORTHWICK was sunk. See U-Boat Campaign 10/3.
- CLAN STUART In collision with unknown vessel. Sunk. French trawler NOTRE DAME DE MONTLIGEON saved all crew. 18 miles S.E. of Start. (CLAN STUART 1803/11, C. in C. W.A. 0044/12). Fog prevented sending tugs. (C. in C. W.A. 1859/11). (Lands End Radio 2128/11, 2020/11, C. in C. Portsmouth 2023/11, VETERAN 2225/11). Survivors landed Plymouth 12/3. Other ship was ORLOCK HEAD, Liverpool to Rouen. Damage not known. (C. in C. W.A. 1330/12, B.C. Rouen 1491/14).
- JOSE DE LARRINAGA Stranded in Bristol Channel 2220 in fog. (Burnham on Sea Radio 1121/11) intercept from J.D. LARRINAGA 2213 G.M.T., 2358/11).
- VETERAN In collision with HORN SHELL 176° Start Pt. 10 miles while looking for CLAN STUART. No casualties. Stern damaged. Can steam 12 knots.
Stem (C. in C. W.A.)
- HORN SHELL HORN SHELL leaking slightly proceeding Falmouth (VETERAN 2000/11, 2225/11, C. in C. W.A. 1204/12).
- H.M.T. HAWTHORN.) In collision off Scurdyness. (C. in C. Rosyth
S.S. SPEY.) 1023/14).

Foreign Stations.

- EFFINGHAM Adty. 1350/26/1. Provisional programme arrive Halifax 25/4. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1637/11).
- ARIADNE MOLLER Went ashore on passage from Wanchort to Shanghai. Refloated and proceeded. (B.U.P.)

HOME ...



HOME and ABROAD.

158

Removal of
Germans from
U.S. Ships.

Until further orders no Germans are to be removed from U.S.A ships except those calling voluntarily at British ports or diverted to a Contraband Control Base. (Hd. of M. 1836/11, 1153/12).

FOREIGN ...



FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

159

French Positions. 1200/11. (D.C. 0150/11).

Mediterranean.

GUNTHER.

Has arrived at Constanza and has been joined by second ship of same type. (A.N.A. Bucharest 1655/11).

British Ships in Black Sea.

British ships entering Black Sea should be warned not to reply to W/T messages asking for their position in Black Sea. (A.N.A. Bucharest 1655/11).

Turkish and Greek Ships held up by Russians.

and escorted to Sevastopol. Turkish General Staff state there is no truth in these reports. (D.N.I. 2012/10, N.A. Angora 1851/11).

East Indies.

HUNTLEY and minesweepers.

225/A.M. ref. 1332/9 and C. in C. China 0300/10.
(1) N.O. I.C. Aden is to sail HUNTLEY as soon as possible for Suez to come under orders of C. in C. Mediterranean.

(2) Intend to allocate one of 5 twin screw Minesweepers from Singapore to replace HUNTLEY at Aden about 8/4, remainder to proceed to Med. WIDNES will be retained at Colombo. (C. in C. E.I. 0721 Z/11.).

Re-coaling the 5 minesweepers on passage. (C. in C. E.I. 0015 Z/11).

America ...



FOREIGN STATIONS.

160

America and West Indies.

SAN RICARDO
renamed
MAPXO.

Mexican tanker which arrived suspiciously light at New York has been examined. The suggestion was that she had been fuelling U-Boats, but the evidence that she encountered very heavy weather is such as to prove her bona fides, even though the unusual quantity of 1665 tons of fuel were jettisoned. (N.C.S.O. New York 1337/11).

Neutrality
Laws.

Resolution of Neutrality Commission dated 2/2 and now published in Press re upholding neutrality of ports and waters by neutral states. (Sir G. Kuox, Petropolis No. 5 SAVING 2/3 recd. 11/3 to F.O.)

Australia.

CERES. }
COLOMBO. }

C. in C. Med. 1733/9. Owing to commitments US 2 and US 3 propose both ships proceed to Freemantle from Singapore, calls at N. Australian ports being cancelled. (Australian C'wealth Naval Board 0616/11).

GERMAN ...



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

161

SANTOS. Arrived Haugesund 10/ likely to proceed south to-night (D.D.I.C. 1755/11 to V.A.(S) and s/ms. on patrol) Arrived here 10/3. Anchored now in fairway. (Haugesund 1230/11).

HEDDERHEIM.)
2 Unknown.) In ballast 62°40' N. 6°30' E. 1850/10 bound northward (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 1400/11).

LIPPE Sailed p.m. 11/3 loaded with ore. (Gibbs, Narvik 1203/12).

America and West Indies.

ESTE Is at Curacoa. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1615/11).

HANNOVER. Members of crew when first interviewed by local press said interception took place 40 miles from Dominican coast and they had been rowing nearly 2 days but I have reason to believe German Minister trying to persuade Dominican Govt. it took place within territorial waters. (Mr. Paterson, Cuidad Trijillo 22 11/3 to F.O.)

South ...



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

162

South Atlantic.

LAHN
ANATOLIA.)
NIENBURG.)

Has berthed in Buenos Aires sock in same basin as ANATOLIA and NIENBURG. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1812/11).

China.

Ships preparing to leave.

Consul Sourabaya reports many indications, value varying from B2 to C3, all German ships in N.E.I. preparing for concerted departure towards end March. Negotiations for necessary coal in hand, but delivery held up till attachments lifted. (C. of I.S. Far East 0856 Z/11.)

U-BOAT ...

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

163

Ships Attacked.NIRITOS.
damaged.

Greek, 3854 tons, S.O.S. 1105 51°25' N. 1°45' E. struck mine in swept channel. (N. Foreland Radio 1225/11 intercept 110 from NIRITOS). Crew in life-boats trying to board still floating ship. (KIRKPLEIN 1131/11 near NIRITOS). Two other ships standing by. I am again on board, mine apparently magnetic. No. 1 hold flooded. I am trying to reach Thames on own efforts. (NIRITOS 1132/11). Asking KIRKPLEIN to stand by, cannot ascertain yet whether possible to beach her (KIRKPLEIN 1137/11, all via N. Foreland Radio 1305/11). ^{T₀₃} ~~Try~~ sent from Ramsgate. Northbound traffic from Downs stopped and southbound traffic diverted from position X. to Southend. (C. in C. Nore 1301/11). Anchored in Downs, apparently in no immediate danger of sinking. (V.A. Dover 2205/11). She was not in convoy. (D.C.N.S.190.) Beached at Deal. (D.C. 2045/11). Salvage Officer considers NIRITOS blown up by magnetic mine. (W.S.G. 25, 19/3).

AMOR
Sunk.

Dutch, 2325 tons, mined or torpedoed 1030 51°24' N. 2°9' E. approx. Have on board full crew. (CITY OF BREMEN 1333/11 via N. Foreland Radio 1450/11). CITY OF BREMEN proceeding Antwerp (V.A. Dover 1631/11). She was not in convoy. (D.C.N.S. 190). Considered probable ship was torpedoed. (D.S.13/3) Master of CITY OF BREMEN, reporting sinking, states ship sank in 10 minutes. He was distant 049° mile and concussion seemed very slight. (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1257/12).

EULOTA
Sunk.

Dutch motor tanker (6236 tons). C. in C. W.A. 1313 (U-Boat report) Boat located with help of French a/c 170 R.M.K.Q. 19 at 1614. Crew of 42 on board WILD SWAN. No casualties. EULOTA was struck at 0145 but nothing seen. She hit something at 0215. Boarded again at 0730 but attempt to right ship failed. Curacoa from Rotterdam in ballast. Bow still afloat and intend to sink by gunfire. Position 48°35' N. 8°22' W. BROKE, WILD SWAN ordered to position (1313/11) hunting. FRONDEUR, CAPRICIEUSE proceeded to position from Brest p.m./11. BROKE reports EULOTA was torpedoed. (C. in C. W.A. 2319/11, 2244/11, BROKE 0131/12). She was not in convoy. (D.C.N.S. 190.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

164

Ships Attacked(Cont.)HALIFAX
Sunk.

Trawler, exploded a mine in her trawl at 1520 and sank after efforts to beach her had failed. Crew rescued. One man slightly injured. (N.O. I.C. Yarmouth 1130/12, F.O. I.C. Greenock 2234/12, C. in C. Rosyth 2031/12, 1849/12, F.O. I.C. Harwich 2021/12, F.O. Humber 1938/12, V.A. Dover 1901/12, F.O. I.C. Tyne 1814/12, N.O. I.C. Liverpool 1727/12). Sister ship IPSWICH Landed crew 9 at Lowestoft 12/3. (Press Assn.) 52°4' N. 1°59½' E. (M/S Summary 21).

S/ms. Reported.

Estimated dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1201/11).

1080

700 ton. German S/M. 6 miles off Terschelling A.2. (N.A. Hague 1735/11).

1811

By D/F 57° N. 12° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1929/11).

1035

In VDSE course 210°, BIDEFORD, HEReward hunting. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1035/11, 1058/11, C. in C. W.A. 1220/11). Reported by Woody Point lookout. 1035 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1050/11).

1023

C.G. Ventnor reports p/s, 1 mile S. of pier steering W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1050/11).

S/ms. Attacked.

1215

By a/c in Schillig Roads. 4 bombs dropped. One and probably 2 bombs were seen to hit just ahead of S/ms conning tower. Pilot reports he saw both ends of S/m. sticking upwards with water covering central section. (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 1700/11). Later in the day there were indications of enemy activity near the position of the attack. (D.C.N.S. 190.).

By FOLKESTONE on contact after 2 tracks likely torpedoed passed convoy 114° Holy I. 4. (FOLKESTONE 2001/11, 0044/12). Asking for further report of his 2001/11 (N.O. I.C. Greenock 0335/12).

My 1050. Thick fog. Hunt abandoned. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1846/11).

HOME COMMANDS .

165

Movements.Home Fleet.

HOOD.

If HOOD can be escorted by H.F. destroyers to Clyde, arriving 15/3, can you provide onward escort to Portsmouth. (C. in C. H.F. 1447/12 to C. in C. W.A.) C. in C. H.F. 1447/12 owing to shortage of destroyer escorts considered that HOOD should proceed direct to Malta, being routed well to westward and proceeding unescorted when clear of submarine zone until met by destroyers from Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(H) 2216/12).

Cover for
ON Convoys.

Cruiser cover for OHN Convoys to be provided by one ship of 18 C.S. until further orders. For ON 20 sailing from Methil 15/3 no objection to SHEFFIELD being detailed. (C. in C. H.F. 1746/12).

Cruisers for
Rosyth.

BERWICK, NORFOLK and YORK to proceed to Rosyth to arrive not later than 1600 to-morrow, Wednesday. (D.O.D.(H) 1601/12).

ARK ROYAL.

7/15/3

Under consideration for her to proceed to Mediterranean for one or two months' intensive training. If you concur should she sail when ready for sea about 15/2 or remain in Home Waters until GLORIOUS can relieve her about 20/4 after returning home and giving leave. (1st S.L. 0030/12).

S/ms.

Disposition 0700/13 (R.A.(S) 2049/12, D.C. 2226/12). Orders for patrol (R.A.(S) 1822/12).

Air ...

HOME COMMANDS.

166

Air.Firth of Forth
A/A Defences.

Considered most desirable that immediate temporary increase be made in A/A defences of Firth of Forth area. Requested transfer of 3.7" mobile A/A guns from Clyde area, and for skeleton balloon barrage at present flying to be augmented by all available balloons. (C. in C. Rosyth 1751/12). Reply see 13/3.

Aircraft in
Bridlington
Bay.

Observer Corps and Coastguard report that between 1920 and 1945 to-day aircraft believed hostile seen in Bridlington Bay flying very low close inshore, apparently both sea and land planes. Not observed to drop mines. Visibility bad. (C. in C. Rosyth 2045/12).

Between 1940 and 2000 4 or 5 enemy a/cs were off Flamborough Head area believed to be minelaying. (D.C.N.S. 191).

Air Reconnaissance. A long-distance reconnaissance a/c proceeded to East of Iceland to follow up WOLFE's report of a possible enemy convoy proceeding to the eastward, but sighted nothing except one Norwegian merchant ship.

Two Blenheim a/cs from Bomber Command carried out a reconnaissance in Heligoland Bight but saw nothing except some minor warships and merchant ships. (Bomber Cmd. 2145/12).

Mining.Mines Exploded.

Mine sweepers ahead of Convoy FS 19 exploded 2 mines N.W. of Cromer Knoll. (F.O. Humber 1938/12).

Sweeping Reports.

6 mines swept up in North Goodwin area close to position where NIRITOS was mined 11/3 (D.C.N.S. 191) I.C. 0388/40 says 8 mines.

Steam trawler HALIFAX exploded a mine in her trawl at 1520/11 and sank. Crew rescued; one man injured slightly. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1130/12).

F.O.I.C. Greenock 2234/12, C. in C. Rosyth 2031/12, 1844/12, F.O.I.C. Harwich 2021/12, F.O. Humber 1938/12, V.A. Dover 1901/12, F.O.I.C. Tyne 1814/12, N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1727/12.

Minelaying ...

HOME COMMANDS.Mining (Cont.).

167

Minelaying
N.E. of Kinnaird
Hd. in British
mined area.

150 mines laid in position 34 swept up. Have cancelled operation. (TEVIOT BANK, 0830/12). Hope it is certain mines not swept up took the correct depth and no further sweeping required. (C. in C. Rosyth 1445/12). Report whether mines were surface failures, if not, check depth reels on remaining mines. (D.D.O.D. (M) 1540/12).

QZ 586

Anxious and consider it most necessary to clear QZ 586 of magnetic mines as soon as possible. Request priority be given to this command in allocation of latest magnetic mine clearance vessels. (C. in C. Rosyth 1507/12).

Shipping.Routes.

Ships whose draught permits proceeding to Dutch ports north of Flushing from Thames and Downs are, for the present, to be routed through the Wielingen Channel to Flushing etc. Deep draught ships to be routed etc. Westbound vice versa (A.C.N.S. 0025/12).

Hd. of M. 1153/12. See 113.

Convoys.

Newport Fast. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/12).

HX 24. Meet. (C. in C. W.A. 1123/12 to VERSATILE, WALPOLE, WOLVERINE, WAKEFUL).

Ocean. Situation 2000/12 B.S.T. (C. in C. W.A. 1310/12).

HG 23. Route (D.T.D. 1843/12).

HG 22. Sailing telegram (F.O.C.N.A. 1730/12).



HOME COMMANDS.

168

Shipping(Cont.)

Norwegian Route.

Route followed by Norwegian owners for ships bound to and from Holland and Belgium. Outward course passes through minefield mentioned in QZ 475 and of which it is believed Norwegian Admiralty received notice from German Govt. (Oslo 1430/12).

Contraband Control.

Cancel Admty. letter M/E.W.D./378/40 of 4/3/40. Instructions re cargo loaded in British Empire. Cargo loaded in Canada, Eire, Egypt, Sudan and Iraq other than cargo covered by Navicerts issued at Alexandria or Port Sudan to be treated as though coming from a neutral country. (D.E.W.D. 1301/12).

Shipping from Belgian ports.

Is reported to be all held up on account of QZ 593 and 594 (? 595). (I.C. 0388/40).

WEATHER.

<u>0500.</u>	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>
North Sea. N.	N.W. Light	Good
North Sea. S.	S.W. Moderate	Moderate
Horns Reef.	W. Moderate	Fog
Channel and Western Approaches.	S. Moderate	Moderate. Fog patches.

Outlook: Little change.

Ice Report: V.A.N.P. 1545/12.

Enemy ...



HOME COMMANDS.

169

Enemy Intelligence.

Minefields.

According to press reports from Denmark the movement of ice following the present thaw has caused a number of mines in minefield in southern part of Little Belt to explode. The explosions are heard along the coast as far as Middlefast at the extreme north of the Little Belt.

Ice Report.

Sylt clear of ice. Elbe still difficult for merchant ships (Consul Esbjerg 2330/2).

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

170

Home Commands.

- H.M.S. WREN In collision with S.S. LACKLAN 180° Lizard 16 miles. Stern damaged, not making water. No injuries. Am returning to Plymouth, LACKLAN returning Falmouth (WREN 0737/12). Requires 5 weeks' repairs. (C. in C. W.A. 1204/12).
- CASTLEMOOR British, 6574 tons, Halifax (N.S.) 16/3 for Tees in Convoy HX 20, from which she became detached in bad weather, is now 7 days overdue.
- WOLSEY Grounded proceeding alongside an oiler in Firth of Forth and was slightly damaged.
- EDINBURGH Defects appeared. Ship must be withdrawn from present duties on completion of escorting convoys OHN 19. (C. in C. H.F. 1657/12).
- NEWCASTLE Admty. 1150/6. Consider 7 weeks should suffice to make good defects and that work on alterations and additions should be limited to that period. (F.O. 18 C.S. 1401/12).
- VECHT Dutch. Left Rotterdam 6/3 for Lobito. Reported in Press missing, believed mined off Dutch coast. Position believed to be 51°30' N. 2°10' E. QZ area declared. (I.C. 0391/40).
- HALIFAX See Mining

Foreign Stations.

- S.S. EMPIRE STAR. Delayed by collision in Sydney harbour 7/3. (D.N.I. Melbourne 0751 Z/12).
- PHILOPTIS British. Aground in Olhao harbour. (Daily Telegraph, Lisbon).
- S.S. VENETIA In difficulty 400 miles S.E.E. of Martinique. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1636/12).

FOREIGN ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

171

North Atlantic.French positions. 1200/12. (D.C. 0022/12).Ships Routed. Average number of merchant ships routed per week 16.5 (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1745/12).Positions. Of convoys, AQUITANIA etc. (D.C. 1815/12).Mediterranean.

DRAGON To join 3rd C.S. (C. in C. Med. 1356/12).

Areas of U-Boat Attack. Your 0913/11. Admty. message A.G. defines areas in which Admiralty considers U-Boat attack likely at present. D.M.S., part 1, article 23, is in abeyance in other areas, but C. in Cs. have discretion to issue additional instructions re zigzagging on their own stations. (A.C.N.S. to C. in C. Med., 2024/12).

America and West Indies.

ENTERPRISE Your 1718/19/2. Admty. desire arrangements made for refit of ENTERPRISE at Halifax, date to be arranged with R.A. 3 B.S. (D. of D. to C.N.S. Ottawa 0049/12).

MAURETANIA To leave New York 20/3 for Wellington via Colon, Balbao and Honolulu. Not armed. No passengers will be on board. (D. of S.T. 1202/12).

AORANGI, suspected sabotage. Your 0544 Z/12. Consul-General, San Francisco, reports evidence of plot is accumulating and situation may be very dangerous here although we think no danger to AORANGI sailing to Sydney tomorrow. Suggest Australian authorities be warned take all precautions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to Australian Naval Board 1656/12).

QUEEN MARY To leave New York for Sydney 20/3. Itinerary. Not armed. No passengers will be on board. (D.S.T. 1203/12).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

172

East Indies.

AQUITANIA

Your 0701/8. Draught of AQUITANIA can be restricted to 34 feet at Colombo so that she can be bunkered and watered there.

QUEEN MARY

Draught of QUEEN MARY cannot be reduced below 36 feet so that special arrangements for fuel and water will be necessary. (D. of S.T. 1201/12 to C. in C., E.I.).

China.

SUFFREN

Will leave Saigon 1/4 to continue duty under C. in C. E.I. (L.O. Saion 0245 Z/12).

Patrol.

LIVERPOOL reports has shifted patrol to eastward owing to presence of Japanese a/cs. (C. in C. China 1021 Z/12 to Ambassador, Tokyo re C. in C. China 0030/3).

SAIGON MARU,
BANGKOK MARU,
mails seizure.

Japanese liner SAIGON MARU visited by French authorities at Saigon and mails confiscated, according to information reaching owners and quoted by Domei Agency. Japanese liner BANGKOK MARU boarded by French naval and water police at Hai-phong, French Indo-China, on 7/3 and mails addressed to Germany removed. (Reuter Tokyo 13/3).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

173

Home Commands.

BOCHUM Left Kristiansands South 0900/12 in ballast.
Destination not known but rumoured Narvik.
(V.C. Krisiansands 1155/12). V.A.S. informed
(D.D.I.C. 1538/12).

SANTOS Left Haugesund this morning south bound (D.D.I.C.
1538/12 to V.A. (S) and s/ms. on patrol.
(Haugesund 1130/12).

LIPPE Sailed Narvik p.m./11 loaded with ore.
(D.D.I.C. 1719/12).

KONIGSBERG Sailed in ballast (Gothenburg 1730/12).
PREUSSEN After discharging coal.

AJAX. }
ELECTRA. } Arrived with coal (dO.)

KALMAR. }
NORDMARK. } At Haugesund to load herrings.
SONNENFELDE. } (Haugesund 1130/12).

CARL
KONSUL X FISSER Arrived Narvik 12/3 (N.I.D. 1/57).

FRIGGA)
FESCHENHEIM) In collision at Haugesund. Iron ore ships,
believed bound for Narvik. (N.I.D. 1/57).

America and West Indies.

ESTE Curacao reports has 100 tons bunkers A.l.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1428/12).

PATRICIA Painted silver grey. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1428/12).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

174

Ships Attacked.

GARDENIA 0530
sunk
British (3745 tons) not in convoy was mined and sunk in the searched channel north of Cromer Knoll, 53°4' N. 1°33' E. (?). Ship sank in 10 minutes. Ship was escorted by trawler VIVIANA which picked up all crew 33. (I.C. 0389/140).

ROSE EFPEUILLEE
French ^{s.v.} tanker, mined and sunk. Crew of five, two of them wounded by explosion, picked up. (D.S.).

S/ms. Reported.Estimated
dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1146/12).

1900 By a/c 120° Copinsay 15 miles. (Base Scapa 1928/12).

2016 52° N. 13° W. Position indefinite. (I.C. 0388/40).

0044 Your 0044/12. Contact is in position known non-sub. You should proceed in accordance with C. in C. W.A's. 1143/9. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0751/12 to FOLKESTONE).

French N.A. informs me he has received information from an officer in Defence Dept. that there are 6 German submarines in Motovski Gulf, Biskra Peninsula. (Oslo 1730/12).

S/ms. ...

MOST SECRET.

175-5



12.3.40.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Attacked.

2130.

58° 48. 3' N., 2° 19. 8' W.
H.M.S. HARDY, Capt. B.A.W.
Warburton-Lee. Report of attack
on 12/3, later classified non-sub.
(M. 05570/40).

2130.

58° 49' N., 2° 20' W. H.M.S.
FIREDRAKE, Lieut. Com. S.H. Norris.
Report of attack on U-boat on 12/3,
later considered wreck.
(M. 05507/40).

1955.

58° 16.5' N. 2° 22.2' W. (estimated)
by BUTTERMERE (M.06207/40).

2140.

58° 53' N. 2° 15' W. by TARTAR
(M. 05944/40)

1120.

57° 13' N. 1° 56' W. By LE TIGER
(M.06073/40)



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

176

S/ms. Attacked.

0840.

By a/c LMJT 3728. Estimate no hits. Have lost touch with s/m. (Duty U.269 Sqn. 0840/12). Contact doubtful. (Duty U 269 Sqn. 0840/12, 0900/12). Fleeting glimpse only. Enemy course is 045° uncertain. (Duty U 269 Sqn. 0953/12).

By VENETIA 48°10' N. 9°14' W. Attack on doubtful contact. (I.C. 0388/40).



HOME COMMANDS

177

MovementsHome Fleet
ARK ROYAL

Your 0030/12. Not understood why ARK ROYAL requires 1 or 2 months' intensive training. Ship commissioned in Jan. 1939 and was efficient unit when she left Home Fleet in Oct. 1939. If ship really requires this intensive training she should sail for Mediterranean as soon as possible, but I should like my requirements as set out in my 1653/28/2 modified so that 2 sqns. Fairey Battle replaced 2 sqns. T.S.R. to be fulfilled by Fleet Air Arm. I hope return of GLORIOUS to Home Waters will not postpone date of NEPTUNE joining Home Fleet vide Adty. 1628/28/2. C. in C. E.I. 0705/29/2, Adty. 1915/5/3 (C. in C. H.F. 2335/13). *Reply: 2324/14.*

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 7 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 3 A.M.Cs.

18th C.S. Pending further instructions
18th C.S. will not be available for service on N.P. (C. in C. H.F. 1526/13).

HOOD

Should spend at least 1 week in Portsmouth to give leave before proceeding to Malta (C. in C. H.F. 1123/13).

SUSSEX

Returning to U.K. Passes Gib. 0300/14 (F.O.C.N.A. 1116/13).

Submarines

0700/14 (R.A.(S) 1821/13. D.C. 2036/13) on patrol. URSULA, L 23 (V.A. (C) 1257/13) SEAWOLF (Capt. S.3 1443/13) orders for PORPOISE (V.A.(S) 1759/13).

Air.Firth of Forth
A/A Defences

Your 1751/12. H.Q. Fighter Cmd. consulted. Additional mobile guns cannot be removed from Clyde area as they are required to cover equally important objective. Full balloon field will be shone Forth. Arrangements being made for maximum fighter defence by local and reinforcing squadrons (D. of L.D. 2024/13).

Enemy Air
Activity

M/S Trawler reports 3 seaplanes dropped several objects near her in Bridlington Bay (F.O. Humber, 1314/13).



HOME COMMANDS

Air.

178

Bombing
restrictions

For 14/3 (V.A.S. 1831/13).

Scapa Defence

Air Ministry's proposals (D. of L.D. 1236/13 to A.C.O.S.)

Air Operation
Flak ships

X450 13/3. Blenheim reconnaissance 12/3 established presence of Flak ships west of Heligoland. By employing cloud flying aircraft you should locate and destroy Flak ships in Heligoland Bight. (Air Min. 1503/13(G.M.T.) to Bomber Cmd.).

Operation
Orders

Amending Bomber Command exercise operation order No. EX 402 of 12th March, para. 6. (Bomber Command, 1700/13).

Mining

Sweeping reports

3 mines cut; position will be reported when confirmed (F.O. Humber 2003/13).

Skidsweep. One mine exploded 74° Elbow Buoy 1.62 miles. Second mine exploded 100 yds. N.E. of this position. Fog prevented Oropesa sweeping (V.A. Dover 1937/13).

Fog hampered sweeping (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1926/13).

War Channel, weather prevented completion. Invergordon nil, weather (C. in C. Rosyth 1901/13).

Exploded mine Saint Anthony 180° 2.14 miles (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1830/13).

Exploded magnetic mine, position being confirmed (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1807/13).

Operations curtailed by weather (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1807/13).

2nd M.R.F.

To sail for Scapa to operate in suspected area 1 mile 55° from N.E. end of Calf of Flotta (R.A.M.L. 1516/13).

Dangerous
Area

Bridlington Bay. Magnetic mines suspected to have been laid by aircraft at 2000/12 (F.O. Humber 0942/13).

HOME COMMANDS

179

ShippingDanish Ship Routes

Admiralty 1730/27/1. Danish ship VIKING is at Frederickshaven awaiting route instructions to Firth of Forth. According to Danish law ships must cross North Sea in pairs except when passing north of latitude 061° N. Latter course impossible owing to shortage of bunkers. Request instructions whether she may be routed in company with another Danish ship. (Consul, Copenhagen. 1137/13). Reply: Yes. (D.T.D., 2003/13).

Suspicious Vessels

My 1730/27/1. Add Dutch DEO GLORIA, remove Danish STOCKHOLM. (Hd. of M., 1835/13).

Ships from Dutch ports

Admiralty 1730/12. Should ships bound for the Downs from here be detained until further instructions? (Consul-Gen., Amsterdam, 1240/13, repeated 2350/13 in response to request for verification). My 2350 refers to QZ messages 594, 337. (0130/14). (Reply 14/3).

Shipping from Belgian Ports

Your 2045/12. Shipping should not be held up but routed south of 585 QZ, north of 351 QZ, thence south of 593 QZ to position latitude 51° 19' N., 1° 42' E. thence to position 180° five cables North Goodwin L.V. (O.T.D. 1317/13 to Consul, Antwerp).

Belgian Fishing Vessels

Advantageous for Belgian fishing vessels to work in groups and avoid following areas (1) Area inside eastern side of our East coast barrage (2) Area covered by Dover Strait barrage and 15 miles to northward thereof (3) Area to westward of line joining Duncansby Head and Rattingray Head (D.N.I. 2002/13).

Scandinavian Ships

Copenhagen Foreign Office spokesman announced Danish application to England and Germany re safe-guarding of Danish shipping has been forwarded to London and Berlin. Applications are similar to those being presented by Sweden and Norway as a result of the Copenhagen Foreign Minister's meeting. Seek to terminate the torpedoing, mining, of Scandinavian ships as well as eliminating the dangers resulting to Scandinavian shipping by the result of British contraband control, and include request for a halt to mine laying or definite notifications of location of mines. (Press 2120/13).

180_S

MOST SECRET.

13.3.40.
Wednesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoy H.N. 18.

R. of P. from H.M.S. ESCORT,
Lieut Com.J. Bostock, 10/3 to
13/3. (M. 05924/40).

HOME COMMANDS

181

Shipping

C.C. System A Norwegian newspaper criticises the British Contraband Control system on ground that it gives German Naval forces easy task because ships are being taken in large numbers to known localities.

Route Ostend Radio announcement giving advice ~~has~~ to route to outgoing ships after passing danger zone in Wielingen Channel (N. Foreland Radio 1055/13).

Convoys

FN Escort My 2104/8 delete WOLSEY (C. in C. Rosyth, 1538/12).

HG 22 Sailing telegram (C. in C. W.A. 1049/13).

HX 29 Route (D.T.D., 1051/13).

HN 18 Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1123/13).

OB 109 Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1459/13).

HG 21 Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1619/13) (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1142/13).

Ocean Positions. (D.C. 2033/13).

HX 20 See A. & W.I.

Stern Lights Senior Officer of escort has again reported on danger arising from stern lights being either ~~too~~ much too bright or so dim as to be of no help to next astern. (D.T.D., 1321/13).

"Consignee Mail" United States ships will soon carry "Consignee Mail" in special pouches. Case to be taken to ensure speedy examination. (D.E.W.D. 1603/13).

Miscellaneous

Suspicious Vessels My 1730/27/1 add Dutch DEO GLORIA, remove Danish STOCKHOLM from list (Hd. of M. 1835/13).

Lettered Co-ordinates S.P.D. 02274/3 (Table of lettered co-ordinates) will be brought into force 20/3 to replace S.P.D. 02274 (Hd. of M. 1335/13 "A" Message Home & Abroad.).



HOME COMMANDS

182

Miscellaneous.

Ice

Ice conditions improving slowly. Northern approach to Sound still difficult, Little Belt blocked. Great Belt and Falsterbo passages not possible till ice permits sweeping by minefields. Gedser Warne Munde Ferry not yet operating. (N.A. Copenhagen, 1815/13). Eastern Kattergat still blocked though Copenhagen can be reached with icebreakers. Great Belt open, but drift and fog render navigation difficult. (D.N.I. 1843/13).

Weather

0500		Wind	Visibility
North Sea	North	N.N.E. to N.E. Moderate	Moderate
"	South	S.W. Moderate	Poor
Hornes Reef		S.W. Moderate	Poor, coastal fog
Channel		S.W. Moderate	Moderate
W.Approaches		N.E. Light	Good

Enemy Intelligence

A. Thick ice outside Tallinn but one narrow channel still open. B. No warships in Baltic Port or Hapsal. C. Many crates arrived at (?) Baltic port and Hapsal by rail last week believed to contain aerial torpedoes or mines, probably former. D. Aircraft on Osel only at Kuetsaari. E. No aircraft on Dago (Mily. Attaché Helsinki for N.A. 1840/13).

Minefield
off Rotterdam

My 1615/12 this report not now considered reliable. Minefield probably where VECHT sank. (N.A. Hague, 1830/13).



FINNO-RUSSIAN HOSTILITIES

183

Armistice signed

Military operations to cease at 12 o'clock noon, Leningrad time, 13/3. (Protocol, signed by Molotoff and Ryti, attached to peace treaty). Text of Peace Treaty - The Times 14/3).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

184

Home Commands

- GUILLEMOT In collision off Southwold with an unknown ship about 0300/13. WIDGEON is standing by her. Damaged described. Chatham, Sheerness cannot take in hand (C. in C. Nore, 1807/13). Arrived Harwich 1031/13 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1032/13).
- TIBERTON British 5225 tons 4 weeks overdue (Allied Newspapers)
- BUIZERD Dutch M.V. Capt. Roosienn went ashore at Kettleness near Whitby early am/13 and became total wreck. Crew rescued (Exchange Tel & Yorks. Evening Post).
- WILHELMINE 79 Fishing cutter. Missing since 3/3 (Danish Broadcast).
- CHETIGE Greek 2700 tons. Reported by B.B.C. overseas intelligence sunk in North Sea, date and position not known.

Foreign Stations

- S.S.VENETIA Tanker, British, 5728 tons. Tanker F.J.WOLFE transferred 68 tons oil fuel, towing her until she can raise steam and make St. Juan under own power (F.J.WOLFE 0100/13) (C. in C., A. & W.I. 1503/13, 1523/13, 0201/14) See 12/3.
- ROSSINGTON COURT sunk
ATHELVIKING damaged
British 6922 tons rammed and sunk by ATHEL VIKING, British tanker, 8779 tons, about 600 miles E. of Halifax. Both ships in Convoy HX 26 homeward bound. Crew saved. ATHELVIKING returning damaged to Halifax. (MALAYA, 1650Z/13). Admiralty 1841/14. ATHELVIKING became unmanageable about 0215 due to heavy wind and sea and went 42 degrees off course to port. Navigation lights switched on 0230, vessel brought back to course by using engine and swung 2½ points beyond by about 0240. Collision occurred at 0252 with ROSSINGTON COURT, latter being hit port side abath funnel by ATHELVIKING's starboard bow and stem. ROSSINGTON COURT apparently steaming 046° without lights at time of impact. weather clear. (Capt.; D.Y., Halifax, 1645/18, D.T.D. 1841/14 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. & A.C. 1010/15).



FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic & Mediterranean

Hospital
Ships

My 1701/18/2 and C. in C. Med. 1349/21/2 conveyance in Hospital ships may be permitted in case of sick personnel of those R.F.A.'s which are regularly attendant on the Fleet (D. of S.T. 2242/13).

North Atlantic

French
Convoys

Positions (D.C. 0330/13).

South Atlantic

GRAF SPEE

Investigations by Mr. Bainbridge Bell completed and he is returning. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1739/13).

America & West Indies

German
Merchant
Ships, Callao

Your 1111/12, interception of German merchant ships off Callao. Should the matter come up again any notice that you require can be arranged. (D.N.I., 1853/13 to C. in C., A. & W.I.)

Mexican
HIDALGO
German Cargo

Your telegram 106/12/3 to S. of S. for Colonies. Mexican schooner HIDALGO believed loaded Cargo from German ship at Curacao about 24/2. Requested inquiry into origin and ownership of cargo, and vessel not allowed to leave Georgetown until instructions received from Admiralty. (C. in C. A.W.I. to Governor, British Guiana, 1200/13).

Suspicious
Ship

S.O.I. Kingston's 1830/13, suspicious vessel in Turiamo on 9/3 has been investigated by PENZANCE and French sloop VILLE D'YS who report suspicious vessel painted white is U.S. surveying ship HANNIBAL. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2315/13).

Halifax
Escort Force

My 2330/6 paras. vi, vii. British submarines will not normally form part of Halifax Escort Force but a submarine from time to time will be sent from U.K. to escort one convoy home. (D.O.D. (F) 1604/13 to R.A.(3), 1607 to V.A.(S).)



FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

HX 20 Ships much scattered. Those in company were 56 hours late at R.V. Exceptionally bad weather and several cases of damage on that account. One ship damaged by floating mine while in company. CASTLEMOOR which lost convoy is overdue. (D.T.D. 1151/13).

Mediterranean.

French Warships

Movements. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 0942/13).

S.S.COLOMBO Mail

Your ARFAR No. 24 of 13/11. Was any mail removed from Italian S.S. COLOMBO and examined on that occasion. (D.E.W.D. 1507/13 to C.C.S.O., Haifa).

Boarding Greek Waters

Complaint received that Italian ships intercepted and boarded in Greek territorial waters. Jan. 4, PAOLA Z. PODESTA, Jan. 7 LERO, Feb. 4, ZARA, Feb. 6, BRIONI. Request report. (D.E.W.D., 2058/13). Reply. P.2. PODESTA boarded by CHAKLA 3½ miles from nearest land, LERO by CALEDON 4 miles, ZARA by CALEDON 4½ miles, BRIONI by CAPETOWN 5 miles (C. in C. Med. 1134/15).

Copper at Malta

Admiralty. 2144/10 and N.A. Rome's 1254/11. Details of copper available at Malta shipped by Copper Export Association of America in Italian S.S. BARBARIGO consigned to Trieste for Felton Guillaume of Budapest. F.O. telegram 1829/24/1/40, ARFAR 39,123 566 to Ambassador, Rome, refers. (C. in C. Med., 1901/13).

Palestine-Yugoslav Shipping

Formation of Company pending between Palestine Lighterage Company and Yugoslavia Zetzka Company whereby latter offered £10,000 by former for Partnership for coastal traffic under Palestine flag. Prewar value was 20,000. Agent at Istanbul acting for German Govt. offered £44,000 so that vessels can operate on Danube. £10,000 invested by British Govt. in this company would stop this. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1300/12, C. in C., Med., 1743/13).



FOREIGN STATIONS

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China

Hong Kong
Shipbuilding

My 1235/31/10/39 and Admiralty 1400/7/12/39 hoped to build two "Bangor" class minesweepers and 4 to 6 small defence vessels with the 5-million Hong Kong dollar appropriation which the Hong Kong Legislative Council has placed at disposal of Imperial Govt. for shipbuilding. (C. in C., China, 1224/13).

Japanese
Shipping,
alleged
interference

PANAMA MARU and YOSHU MARU challenged by searchlight from British men-of-war E. of Cape Erimo, Hokkaido, on March 8/9. Japanese aircraft also observed gun flash and smoke from (?) Cruiser about noon 10/3 in position 50 miles 145° from Cape Erimo. Ministry of Marine draw attention to undesirability of re-arousing public feeling displayed over ASAMA MARU incident and advise greater caution. Your 0030Z/3, Ambassador hopes your instructions to keep 100 miles from Japanese Coast will be rigidly observed. (N.A. Tokyo to C. in C., China, 1901/13).

Avoiding
Japanese
Coast

As far as is practicable you should comply with last sentence N.A. Tokyo's 1901/13 (keeping of 100 miles off coast of Japan). (C. in C., China, 1545/13, to LIVERPOOL, KANIMBLA, MORETON BAY).

Australia

RAMILLIES

On arrival at Sydney to be at 14 days' notice which will decrease by one day for each day of refit (Austr. C'wealth, N.B. 0709Z/13).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

188

- ESCHERSHEIM
wrecked Sinking at 1147 2 miles R.W. 96 deg. off
Hjortshals N. coast of Jutland, 57:36 N., 09:57 E.,
2 salvage steamers proceeding. (ESCHERSHEIM,
1147/13) (Blaavand Radio 1239/13, 1520/13, 1554/13)
Crew took to boats and apparently picked up
by lifeboat. Ship was known to have been loading
at Brake, near Bremerhaven on 9/3. Cargo of
coal for Norway. (D.C.N.S. and B.U.P.) (R.A.(S)
1653/13) (I.C. 0389/40).
- LA CORUNA
scuttled 7414 tons. Intercepted by A.M.C. MALOJA south
of Iceland, 64° N. 11° W. approx. at 0426.
Scuttled herself and crew picked up by MALOJA.
Was disguised as the Japanese TAKI MARU.
Sailed on Feb. 3 from Rio de Janeiro.
(MALOJA, 1208/13, V.A.N.P., 1511/13, MALOJA,
1555/13, 0250/14). 10 officers 50 men saved.
Ship on fire, finished off with gunfire.
(I.C. 0389/40).
German ship believed LA CORUNA made urgent
signals to all other German ships at sea 1439
G.M.T. reporting A.M.C. S.E. of Iceland.
(D.D.I.C. 1752/13 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.N.P.,
MALOJA.) What frequency? (C. in C. H.F. 2240/13).
- MATHIAS
STINNES Arrived Gothenburg with coal (Gothenburg 1235/13).
- KONSUL CARL
FISSER Loaded ore at Narvik and ready to sail
(Narvik, 1640/13).
- ALTONA Reported arriving Copenhagen 0800/14.
(I.C., 0389/40).
- FRIGGA)
FECHENHEIM) FRIGGA, due Haugesund 14/3 ~~due~~ ^{from} Kopervik, where
she and FECHENHEIM collided night of 13/3 whilst at
anchor. FECHENHEIM said to have lost both
anchors. FRIGGA damage estimated £800, both
to be repaired here. (Haugesund 1845/14).
- HANNOVER Arrived Kingston, Jamaica, towed by DUNEDIN.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1100/13).
- SEATTLE Reported sighted off coast of Venezuela.
(S.O.I., Kingston, 1953/13).
- MIMI HORN Reported seen near Northern Point of Cariaco
Peninsula. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1925/13)
Request source of information in view of
PENZANCE's recent investigation of this area.
Martinique requested to investigate by aircraft
again. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2330/13).



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

CHETIGE sunk Greek 2700 tons. Reported by B.B.C. overseas Intelligence sunk in North Sea date and place not known.
(Minesweeping Summary 21).

Submarines reported

Estimated U/boat dispositions (D.C. 1207/13).

- 1100 French report of enemy submarine in 49:52 N., 02:09 W., about 17 miles S.S.E. from Portland. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2202/13).
- 2015 57° N., 1° to 2° E., position indefinite.
- 2109 52° N., 14° W., 283° Fastnet 166', position indefinite D.F. (D.C., 2159/13) (C. in C., W.A., 2301/13).
- 1130 49:52 N., 2:09 W., 315° Cape La Hague, 12' submarine course 022° reported by French. (I.C., 0389/40) (C. in C., 1st Region, Cherbourg, 2140/13).

HOME COMMANDS

190

MovementsHome Fleet

All capital ships are in harbour.

ARK ROYAL

Reply to 2335/13. Explanation. Unless opportunity is given for adequate training at sea of F.A.A. personnel success in offensive operations which they alone are capable of undertaking will not be achieved. (V.A.A. 2324/14).

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 6 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait - 3 A.M.C.'s.

18th C.S. Cancel my 1526/13. Normal arrangements to be continued (C. in C. H.F. 1043/14).

Submarines on Patrol

Movements (Capt.(S)3 1151/14, 1848/14.
Positions 0700/15 (R.A. (S) 1716/14, Admiralty 1919/14, V.A.(S) 2144/14, submarines on patrol to bring S.P.O. 2319 into force 0001 GMT/ (D.S.D. 2013/14). 22

OperationsGerman destroyer off Gottenburg

W.S.G. 23 para. 8. Instruct URSULA to attack destroyer carrying out this patrol. (C. in C. H.F. 1507/14). German destroyer reported patrolling off Gottenburg. Proceed to vicinity and attack (R.A.(S) 1742/14).

Aberdeen

Extention of oil facilities recommended in view of anticipated operations at Aberdeen (C. in C. Rosyth, 1035/14). Approved (D. of S. 1238/15).

ALTMARK

Swedish S.S. BRAGELAND reports ALTMARK moved Josing Fjord stern to sea. Very near quay on 10/3 (LETITIA 1020/14) ALTMARK arrived Sandefjord in tow of 2 tugs. B.2 (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1704/14).

Air.Air Reconnaissance

In addition to normal patrols.

- (a) Submarine reconnaissance flight round Ireland by 2 flying boats.
- (b) Reconnaissance flight by an Empire flying boat up Norwegian coast to 64:30 N. On this flight ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER was sighted off Molde 1230, JBRA 5750, 045° (northward bound in ballast D.C.N.S. 193) and DUISBURG ½ mile W. of Egersund Lt. 180 (not mentioned by D.C.N.S. 193) (C. in C. Rosyth 2240/14).

HOME COMMANDS

191

Air.Unknown Aircraft

Sighted over Tromsøe 1215/14. (Tromsøe 1309/14).
Can you ascertain nationality. (D.N.I. 1136/15
to N.A. Oslo).

Balloons destroyed

5 water borne balloons in Southampton water
reported destroyed by lightning (H.Q. Balloon
Command, 1700/14).

MiningSweeping reports

No sweeping (F.O.I.C. Portland 1700/14).
No sweeping due to gale (Cdr. I.C. Sheerness
1825/14)
do. (V.A. Dover 1909/14).
do. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1937/14).

Operation P.A.3

Is area safe for navigation (D.M.S. 1129/14,
C. in C. Rosyth 1503/14).

Dangerous Areas

Suspected within circle radius 3 miles about
position 51:30 N., 2:10 E. due to mines
(D.M.S. 1957/14).
Admiralty 1957, three Oropesa trawlers from
Dover can sweep this area 15/3 if you concur
(V.A. Dover 2126/14). Thanking him but saying
inadvisable for trawlers to sweep this area
(C. in C. Nore 2327/14).
Due to mines in circle 0.5 miles about position
080° 7.5 cables from Bridlington Pier Lt.
(D.M.S. 2010/14, F.O. Humber 1915/14).

Magnetic Sweeping, Firth of Forth.

Your 1507/12. Necessity for more magnetic
sweeping material in Firth of Forth is
appreciated but owing to complexity of anti-
magnetic sweep production is slow. Arrangements
to augment (D.M.S. 1738/14).

ShippingShips from Dutch Ports

Your 1240/13. Ships should not be detained
but routed in accordance with my, etc.
(D.T.D., 0215/14 to B.C., Amsterdam).



HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

OA 110G Programme (N.C.S.O. Thames 1226/14).
 MT " (C. in C. Rosyth, 1234/14).
 OGF 22 Sailing telegram (A.C.W.A., 1103/14).
 OB 11 Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1043/14, 1229/14).
 HN 19 19 ships (D.T.D., 1034/14).
 HX 27 Position (D.T.D. 1742/14).
 FN 19 Arrived 1430. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1450/14).
 FN 21 Postponed 24 hours (C. in C. Rosyth, 1148/14)
 owing to weather (C. in C. Nore, 1101/14).
 SL 24 Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1043/14).

Miscellaneous

ORION Flag of V.A. Sir Charles E. Kennedy-Purvis
 K.C.B. was hoisted in ORION 0900/14 (C. in C.
 W.A. 1114/14).

Suspicious lights WOOLSTON to investigate succession of red
 Very's lights reported 4-5 miles 045° St. Abb's
 Head at 2018 (C. in C. Rosyth 2244/14).

Weather

O500	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	N. Moderate. E. in Thames.	Good in North. Poor in South.	N.E. wind. good visibility.
Channel	S.W. fresh. S.W. gale at Ushant.	Moderate.	Wind veering N., visib- ility improving.
W. Approaches	N.N.E. moderate.	Good.	Similar.
Horns Reef	N.N.E. moderate.	Good.	Similar.



CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

193

Home Command

SHEFFIELD Defects. Advisable remain Newcastle until 17/3 (N.O.I.C. Newcastle, 1816/14).

ST. BRIAC) Collision in Southampton Water. ST. BRIAC
SOMERSETSHIRE) damaged bows (Press).

DUKE OF ROTHESAY) Collision in Irish Sea (Press).
Tr. VIREO)

Foreign Stations

S.S. LOCH DEE) Collision (? date) (D.T.D. 1841/14 to C.O.A.C.
S.S. PORT FAIRY) Halifax). (C.O.A.C., 1010/15).

EAGLE Damaged by internal explosion. 1 officer, 12 men killed, 5 men wounded. (EAGLE 1701/14, 1723Z/14, 1751Z/14). Bomb exploded in bomb room 0730. Ship is not unseaworthy and is continuing to Singapore for detailed examination D.C.N.S. 194). Landing of injured has revealed that casualties occurred. Brief statement to press desirable. (F.O.C. Singapore 0806Z/16). Special measures to be taken to ensure secrecy, nothing to be allowed in press until Admiralty decides. (C. in C. China, 0755Z/15 to F.O.C. Malaya). Your 0806Z/16. Statement will be issued 1200/18 (D. O.D.(F), 2031/16).



FOREIGN STATIONS

194

North Atlantic

Enemy Agents

Your 1258/8. French officers at Gibraltar have no authority to arrest under French regulations enemy nationals in ships sent in to Gib. or any British port. You should ask French Liaison officer whether French authorities have evidence of these four Germans being enemy agents. If they reply yes, you should take them off under para. 4 of my 0034/13/10, otherwise they should not be taken off. (Hd. of M., 1717/14 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Dispositions

H.M. Ships and Convoys. (D.C., 1918/14).
French positions 1300/14 (D.C. 0045/14).

SEVILLA

Protection at Gibraltar, (see South Atlantic).

South Atlantic

FRESNO STAR,
grounding,
sabotage.

On night 6/3 British ship FRESNO STAR ran ashore whilst leaving San Julian, 49:20 S., caused by extinguishing of Punta Pena light, fortunately came off undamaged. Vice-Consul, master and pilot consider this to be attempted sabotage. I agree. Recommend all ships proceeding to ports in Southern Argentine where navigational dangers exist be warned to enter and leave harbour in daylight hours only. Advising Vice-Consul, San Julian, accordingly. (N.A., Buenos Aires, 1010/14, N.I.D. O. 1207/40 N.A.'s War Despatch No.9).

Routeing

Cancel my 1100/10/3 and substitute etc. (re routeing of neutral vessels) (S.O.(I) Freetown 1114/14).

SEVILLA

C. in C. S.A. 1213/12. SEVILLA to be sailed independently to Gibraltar for inclusion in an HG Convoy. In view of value of cargo, F.O.C.N.A. requested to consider some protection in approaches to Gibraltar. (D.T.D., 1322/14).



FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Contraband
Control

565 M.E.W. Summary, German Economic Developments, No. 22, para. 108 to 112. Key commodities whose export to Germany is expected to increase are carried on from Izmir to Istanbul in small Turkish coasting steamers or in Italian and U.S.A. liners. Owing to distance from Malta and low endurance of Turkish ships traffic from Izmir to Istanbul not normally diverted by patrols. Control could be more rigorously enforced for short period if this would assist negotiations mentioned in para. 110. Request I may be informed if and when this is required. (C. in C., Med., 1325/14).

COLOMBO,
Italian Mails

Admiralty, 1507/13. Italian ship COLOMBO, 4 bags of mail removed and examined, afterwards resealed and placed on board Italian VICTORIA, which cleared Haifa 1400/14/3 for Naples. (C. C.S.O., Haifa, 0900/14).

Illegal
Immigrants

Your 1245/17/2. My 1116/24/1 superseded my 1110/30/12. Special dispositions for intercepting these ships are not to be made by reason only of their carrying illegal immigrants. But such ships intercepted in the ordinary course of contraband control are to be sent in to Haifa. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., Med., 1157/14).

ATHLONE CASTLE

Your 1916/9. Matter is being investigated, but in any case information is incorrect (D.N.I. 1901/14).

CARLISLE

Asking when she will return to U.K. (D.O.D.(H) 1115/14).

America & West Indies

MAURETANIA

Admiralty 1211/14 and my 1730/14. Do not consider it desirable to transfer ammunition to MAURETANIA at sea outside territorial waters of U.S.A. Request MAURETANIA may be routed via Bermuda, where her ammunition outfit will be embarked at Murray's anchorage on arrival. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1745/14) ALAUNIA to take it (C. in C. S.W.I. 1730/14).



FOREIGN STATIONS

196

America & West Indies.

Transatlantic
Air Service

Press announcement, confirmed to me by President of Pan Airways that as from 18/3 all stoppage of Transatlantic Air service westbound as well as eastbound at Bermuda will be cancelled (Lord Lothian, Washington, 350 R to F.O. 14/3).

FAMWARNO

My 1200/13. FAMWARNO should be allowed to proceed if no further grounds for suspicion are found. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1224/14 to Governor, British Guiana).

New C. in C.

Flag of Vice-Admiral Sir C. Kennedy-Purvis hoisted in ORION 14/3 (M. 03525/40).

East Indies

Boom Defence
Aden

My 2026/29/2 Boom carrier LAOMEDON not to sail until further orders. (D.B.D., 1725/14).

Iranian oil-
fields defence

If no change in situation, I intend proceeding to Bombay in GLOUCESTER leaving Colombo a.m. 23/3 and arriving back 28/3. Besides points for discussion with F.O.C.R.I.N. I shall have opportunity to talk over projects for defence of Iranian oilfield with representative Chief of General Staff. (C. in C., E.I., 0704Z/14).

China.

Germans sailing

In NAGOYAMARU, NITIRAN MARU. Difficulty of obtaining concrete evidence, as Dutch authorities in order to safeguard neutrality will not give information. No seamen known to have left German ships for Japan, probably because according to strong rumours ships preparing to slip away end March (C.G. Batavia 17 to F.O. 14/3).

Ships off Japan

Similar orders to C. in C. E. Indies 0728/9/3 and New Zealand Naval Board 1332/12/3 have been issued in area 4, with the addition that in view of conspicuousness of darkened shipping in the crowded shipping lanes off the Japanese coast ships are to be undarkened and burning full navigation lights within 15 miles of Japan. (C. in C., China, 0815Z/14).



FOREIGN STATIONS

197

China

Interception of
Ships, escape of
V. MAYAKOWSKI

We appear to be drifting into acceptance of 100-mile limit of territorial waters in case of Japan, and N.A. Tokyo's 1901/13 indicates Japanese even question our right to illuminate anonymous Japanese merchantman at night. This in war time naturally cannot be accepted, particularly with possibility of disguised raider appearing. Appears V. MAYAKOWSKI may have slipped through our patrol or used another route, not unexpected as local press full of an approaching blockade of Vladivostok. Suggest better policy would be to intercept ships near to their port of departure, thus avoiding many complications apart from large expenditure of fuel as for present operation. C. in C., China, 1029Z/14.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

198

Home Commands

MIMI HORN)
SEATTLE)
VANCOUVER)

Request any available descriptions (sailed from Curacao 5/3). (V.A.N.P., 1255/14).
Reply (D.N.I., 1626/14).

FECHENHEIM
FRIGGA

(See 13/3 - FECHENHEIM) Informed German Consul, Haugesund, 0708/14 required berth at once and tugs as she had lost both anchors. Arrived 0930. At 0730 Utsira Radio informed her she was in Norwegian territorial waters and had no permission to use her wireless. FRIGGA arrived Haugesund 1200/14. (I.C., 0389/40, 0390/40) (Haugesund 1100/14, 1845/14).

APOLLO

Reported 0612/14 she was South of Ven, 55:55 N., 12:40 E. and impossible to reach Malmo without icebreaker. (I.C., 0389/40).

KONSUL CARL
FISSE

Loaded with ore and ready to sail from Narvik pm/13. (I.C., 0389/40). Sailed from Narvik am/14 (D.C., 2015/14).

OLDENBURG

Arrived at Narvik 14/3 (D.C., 2015/40, Narvik 1230/14).

SIMON VON UTRECHT

Arrived Narvik, 14/3. (D.C. 2015/14)(Narvik, 1230/14).

ARIADNE

Arrived with general cargo (Gothenburg 1235/14)

ELECTRA

Sailed in ballast (Gothenburg 1235/14).

DUISBURG

In position 58:27 N., 6:00 E., at 1500 steering S. (R.A.(S) 2254/14).

SCHWABEN

In port loading herrings (Haugesund 1100/14).

-

Master of Swedish BRAGELAND reports German trawler met with north of Bergen, 5 German ships in ballast anchored in Haugesund. (LETITIA, 1020/14)

AACHEN

Awaiting pilot off Vinga, 57:38 N., 11:37 E. at 1635/14 (I.C. 0390).



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands (Contd.)

ERIKA HENDRIK
FISSER

Sighted by Aircraft 62:57 N., 6:50 E., north of Aabsund proceeding north unladen at 7 knots probably for ore at Narvik, 1259/14. (I.C., 0390/40) (Aircraft 1259/14 to 18 (R) Group H.Q.).

North Atlantic.

GEDANIA

Admiral Martinique, reports Norwegian tanker JASPIS given 9000 tons oil fuel German GEDANIA at Luluz, Canary Islands. Former sailed for Curacao 4/3. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1600/14).

America & West Indies.

HANNOVER

Congratulating DUNEDIN, ASSINIBOINE on bringing her into port. DUNEDIN to make early report on general condition of ship and steps necessary to make her serviceable. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0413/14).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

200

Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C., 1141/14).

- 1240 Intercept, one submarine course 360 position LMAA 2536 (Rosyth Radio 1240/14).
- 1245 Very doubtful report periscope sighted by S.S. DAFFODIL in Largo Bay when on passage to Aberdeen 1245/14. Hunt is in progress. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1854/14). My 1854/14. Name of merchant ship is NAUIEDALE, now arrived Aberdeen. Am satisfied reported periscope was a dan buoy laid for navigation purposes recently. Hunt abandoned after complete search had been made. (C. in C. Rosyth 1157/15).
- 2145 GMT 51:29 N., 2:53 E. by Dutch ship (IC. 0391/40) (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1150/15).

North Atlantic

U-boat off Spain, report Report of sick German sailor ex U-boat landed by Spanish fishing vessel at Puerto Etienne de Santa Maria, Biassitz, and taken by ambulance to Municipal Hospital, Cadiz, (reliability unassessed). (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1132/14).

Submarines Attacked

- 2013 H.M.S. STORK attacked good stationary contact in position 254° Elic Ness 5, small trace of oil, no other result, investigation continuing (STORK 2013/14). This is a known non-submarine. (C. in C. Rosyth 2107/14).
- 1056 Aircraft of Coastal Command dropped 3 250 lb bombs on a submarine sighted 150 miles E. of Orkneys 59:25 N., 2:56 E., 092° Fair Isle 137'. No hits observed (D.C.N.S.) (I.C., 0390/40)

HOME COMMANDS

201

MovementsHome Fleet

Admiralty 2259/14. GALATEA, AURORA, 6th D.F. at Clyde sail for Scapa pm/15 (C. in C.H.F. 0237/15).

Admiralty 2259/14, 1st D.F., 7th D.F., 12th D.F., 20th D.F. are available to return to normal duties forthwith (C. in C. H.F. 0327/15).

HOOD

escorted by 3 destroyers is on passage to Clyde to give leave before proceeding to Malta to refit.

C. in C. with remaining heavy ships is at Scapa.

WARSPITE

To sail for Scapa escorted by 4 destroyers pm/16 (C. in C. H.F. 1443/15).

Northern Patrol

Admiralty 2259/14. 1st C.S. resume normal duty on N.P. 2 ships to proceed on patrol as early as practicable. Remainder proceed to Scapa as convenient. (C. in C. H.F. 0235/15).

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.

Faroes to Iceland - 2 Cruisers, 6 A.M.C.'s.

Denmark Strait - 3 A.M.C.'s.

Ex-Trawler Skippers. Admiralty 2021/7.

Owing to limited accommodation in ARETHUSA class and Flotilla leaders ex-Trawler Skippers could not be accommodated permanently in these ships. Might be useful for specific operations if readily available. (C. in C. H.F. 1249/15).

Submarines

0700/16 (R.A.(S) 1734/15, D.C. 1902/15).

French Submarines

To be based on Harwich from about 21/3 with JULES VERNE as depot ship. (Acquaint 428, M.0496/40).

A/S Groups

21st A/S Group proceed Dover, 23rd Granton, 12th and 13th Grimsby. 15th and 16th A/S S.F. to remain under your command with administrative base Aberdeen. 19th A/S S.F. constituted, names of 5 trawlers, to remain under your command, base as 15th and 16th. Information re balloon trawlers later (D.O.D.(H) 0017/15 to A.C.O.S.).

HOME COMMANDS

202

Movements

SUSSEX Return to Gib. and await further orders (D.O.D. (H) 1550/15) Cancel (D.C. 20/7/15).

SPEARFISH Join TM etc. (C. in C. Rosyth 1044/15)

W. Approaches Dispositions 1800/15 (C. in C. W.A. 1846/15).

OperationsSubmarines on Patrol

Dispositions ordered in my 1822/12 and 1257/13 are no longer required. Orders for UNITY URSULA. Redisposition on patrol. Bombing restrictions arranged for 16/3, 17/3. (V.A.(S) 0446/15). Further orders for L23 (Capt.(S)6 0539/15). Bombing restrictions asked for (D.C. 1744/15). Orders for NARWHAL, TRITON, THISTLE, SEAL, TRUANT, ORZEL, TRIDENT (Capt. (S)2, 1158/15). For SALMON, STERLET, SNAPPER (Capt.(S)3, 1059/15).

Operation R.3

Concentration of ships is being dispersed. See Movements.

SEALION

Patrol report. (V.A.S. 1946/15, Capt. (S)3 1720/15). See Enemy Intelligence.

ALTMARK

Quotation asked for today from Oslo agent of largest Dutch Tug Coy. to proceed to Josing Fjord to escort ALTMARK "both engines working but not rudder" to either Copenhagen or Goteborg. Coy. refused quote. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1920/15).

Air.Aircraft off Norway.

Admiralty 1136/15 (nationality of plane over Tromso). 3 or 4 Russian machines observed during past two days in same locality. During same period British machines have flown inside territorial waters between Hustadvika and Lister and dived on to ships. No German aeroplanes have been observed off Norwegian Coast for a considerable time. (N.A., Oslo, 1355/15).

HOME COMMANDSAir.Air Operation

To chase enemy minelayers and escort vessels reported VLUM 2553 at 0930. Unable to see anything owing to low visibility. (H.Q.B.C. 1700/15).

Balloons

10 casualties in Forth, 4 of which are adrift owing to strong wind. (Balloon Command 1100/15).

Enemy Air Activity

Expected on east coast (C. in C. Rosyth, 1012/15). Considerable air activity over southern half of North Sea 0800-1700. Unusual number of aircraft operating, possibly on reconnaissance, but probably extended training flights. None appear to have approached nearer than 75 miles from east coast. They used W/T extensively reporting their observations and movements and at least one appears to have been attacked by our aircraft but low cloud and haze prevented contact being maintained. (I.C. 0391/40).

British Air Activity

In addition to normal patrols, 15 bomber aircraft went out to locate an enemy minelayer and patrol vessel reported by German aircraft 80 miles N.W. Terschelling 0930, presumably because there was doubt of their identity. Our aircraft failed to find these ships due to bad weather. (H.Q.B.C. 1700/15). (H.Q.B.C., 0540/16).

Air Line.

Route to be adopted by Allied and Scottish Airways between mainland and Kirkwall (Air Min. 1652/15).

Interception Exercise

(See 12/3). Held today. Was of great value. Services of WOOLSTON much appreciated. (H.Q.C.C., 1715/16)

Mining.Sweeping reports

Peterhead operations abandoned, gale. Invergordon, Aberdeen operations abandoned owing to weather (C. in C. Rosyth 1847/15). No sweeping, weather (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1813/15). Lyness, Kirkwall nil, weather (A.C.O.S. 1615/15).

Floating Mine

New type sighted off Gris Nez. C.3 (D.C.2210/15)

204 S

MOST SECRET.

15.3.40.
Friday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoy H.X. 23.

R. of P. from H.M.S. ANSONIA.
26.2.40 - 9.3.40.
Collision between W. Port Fairy -
(S. Loch Dee M.06640/40).

HOME COMMANDS

205

MiningNorwegian
Mines

Your questionnaire 31/1, question 5. (B.3)
Norwegian N.O. asserts sufficient mines stored
at Marvaken to protect approaches to
Christiansand south. (Vice-Consul, Christian-
sand, to D.N.I., 1730/15).

ShippingConvoys

HN 19 36 ships, midway between Norway and Shetlands,
escorted by five destroyers and an A/A cruiser,
EDINBURGH providing close cover. (D.C.N.S.193).

HN 20 SHEFFIELD to cover. Sail am/17 (C. in C. H.F.
1013/15).

HX 25 Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1045/15).

OB 112 Route (C. in C. W.A. 0953/15).

OA 112 Route and escort (C. in C. W.A. 0952/15).

ON 20 Left Methil 1700 28 ships. 12 to join from
Kirkwall (C. in C. Rosyth 1750/15).

Situation 2000/15 (C. in C. W.A. 1450/15).

B.C., BC Fast,) Code words (D.S.D.+1553/15).
BC Return, AXS)

OGF 22 Position 1700/15 (F.O.C.N.A. 1646/15).

SL & SLF 22 Arrived (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0805/15).

SL 24 Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1938/15).

OA 110 G Number and speed. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1114/15).

Convoy Papers in
Neutral Ship

Norwegian S.S. BALDER seized Germans whilst
on voyage in ballast from Drammen to Bergen
and taken to Germany, sailed from Methil 27/2
in Convoy On 16. No record of return of
convoy papers by Captain. (N.A., Oslo, 1600/15).

Consular Visa

Your 2026/14. Explanation (D.E.W.D. 1827/15
to V.A.N.P.).

Neutral ships

Patrol off Lizard by yachts KILORAN, SAPPHO
to order them in since so many now have
instructions not to enter C.C. bases unless
formally compelled (D.E.W.D. 1825/15).



HOME COMMANDS

206

Shipping

Guns issued

Return of Lewis Guns and A/A devices issued to fishing and other vessels for week ending 12/3 (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1553/15).

Miscellaneous

NIEULAND

Dutch. Suspect neutral routed independently to Downs; bound for Rotterdam. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2001/15).

Scapa defence-balloons.

Re extending balloon field to cover fleet anchorage on N. and E. by floating balloon sites until kites are available. Trials by 10 R.3 trawlers (D.C.N.S. 2132/15).

AJAX magnetism

Propose to carry out experiment to remove permanent magnetism of AJAX at an early date. (VERNON, 1223/15).

Ice

Ice conditions improving slowly. Great Belt and Falsterbo passages not possible until conditions permit sweeping of minefields. (D.N.I. 1710/15).

WEATHER

0500	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea, North South	S. Gale. W. Moderate.	Moderate. Good.
Horns Reef	N.W. Moderate.	Good.
Channel	W. Light.	Good.
W. Approaches	S.E.	
Outlook - Similar.		

Enemy Intelligence

Belgian Ships seized.

Four small Belgian ships, GOUDA (suction dredger), tugs LOUCKY, MARIE HENRIETTE, DINA which were in Gdynia when port was bombarded Sept. 1939 are now reported to be in hands of Germans. (Lloyds).

HOME COMMANDS

207

Enemy Intelligence (continued)Patrols
Sweeping

SEALION's patrol report. Patrol very large trawlers 10 miles E. of SUNFISH's buoy. Apparently fitted hydrophones. Number of explosions suggesting possible explosive sweeps (V.A.S. 1946/15, Capt. S.3 1720/15 to SUNFISH).

Patrols

German patrol vessels probably converted fishing vessels of 400 to 600 tons nos. 110, 116, 146 painted on bows and carrying H.A./L.A. armaments reported operating off Kristiansand South and Lindeness (R.A.(S) 1201/15).

Minelayers

Enemy minelayers and patrol vessel believed to be operating near 54:25 N. 3:55 E. at 0930. A.I. (D.C. 1125/15). Indications enemy unit in same locality 2127 (I.C. 0391/40)

BLUCHER

Die Wehrmacht of 17/1 intercepted by Hong Kong Censorship has broadside and bow views of German BLUCHER as described in Admiralty 1526/14/12. (C. in C. China, 0448/15).

U.S.S.R.
Submarines sold
to Germany

Re report from German sailors at Sassnitz of transfer of submarines. Possible that some Russian submarines are being used by Germans for training purposes in Baltic. (N.I.D. X1/31).

German Fleet

Information from Good source that GNEISENAU was in Schillig Roads and SCHARNHORST, LEIPZIG, KOLN were exercising 9/3 in Heligoland Bight area. B2. (D.N.I. 1234/15).
From indications received it must be assumed LEIPZIG has completed repairs to damage caused to her 13/12 (I.C. 0390/40).

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR.

Peace Treaty ratified by Finnish Parliament.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

GOLDENGLAM Patrol Yacht. Ashore in Loch Ewe. Likely to become total wreck. No lives lost. (N.O.I.C. Port A. 0830/15, 1820/15).

H.M.S. PERIDOT
sunk Sunk by mine off Dover. No casualties. See U-boat campaign.

EDINBURGH To be taken in hand for refit on arrival 17/3 concurrently with repairs. (C. in C. H.F. 1733/15).

FIJI Commissioning postponed to 2/4 (A.S. Newcastle on Tyne, 1710/15).

WOLFE Defects. Dockyard assistance required (WOLFE 0800/15).

S.S. PANAGHIOTIS Aground 5 miles S.W. Dungeness. Not in immediate danger (Base Ship Scapa 2118/15 intercept). Distress now clear (N. Foreland Radio 2232/15).

NEREUS
(which?) Lost propeller (Naval Censor Portishead Radio 1240/15).

MELROSE Sunk 1307 51:21 N., 2:13 E. She was following 3 large neutral ships. Cause undetermined (I.C. 0391/40).

ELSONADOR Your 1935/13 no information since departure (D.N.I. 1039/15).

TIBERTON Considerably overdue at a N.E. coast port presumed lost. Was engaged in iron ore trade with Narvik. (Northern Echo).

LEO DAWSON Engaged in iron ore trade with Narvik was lost about a month ago (do).

Foreign Stations

LOWTHER CASTLE Overdue, ship arrived.

NORNA Swedish. Left Gib. 7/2 missing (A.S.D. Stockholm).

FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia & New Zealand.

AORANGI

Your 1656/12. AORANGI cleared safely from Sydney 14/3. (Australian Naval Board to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0226Z/15).

U.S.2

Proposals for movement 2nd and 3rd Australian Brigade Groups and New Zealand 2nd Brigade Group. US2 will be divided as in Admiralty 1231/6 and agreed in 0751/7, slow group 1st Australian Bde. Group and fast Group remaining Australian and N.2 Bde. Groups. Proposed movements slow group leave Melbourne about 15/4, 1 Fast Group leave Wellington about 1/5. (D. of S.T. 1702/15).

East Indies

Italian
Submarines
Somaliland

Your 0736Z/12. We have no knowledge of any Italian submarines visiting Somaliland since beginning of war. Presence of German submarines in this area considered impossible. (D.N.I., 1155/15 to C. in C. E.I.).

U.S.2

Admiralty 1231/6 and EAGLE 1701/4 in probable event of EAGLE not being available to escort slow group U.S.2 following alternative replacements are possible from Force than at my disposal, (a) HOBART (b) SUFFREN. (c) A.M.C. would remain with escort throughout. Prefer (a) especially if Force H. could be held ready to operate if required in Madagascar area where HOBART was to have been disposed during passage of whole of U.S.2. (C. in C. E.I. 1344Z/15 to Admiralty).

North AtlanticFrench Forces

Positions 1200/15 (D.C., 0022/15) 2000/14 (F.O.C.N.A. 1456/15).

Vigo Minefields

Asking whether there are any prohibited areas in Vigo or regulations for entering and leaving harbour which suggest presence of minefields (D.N.I. 1921/15). Reply 17/3.

Convoys

Positions (D.C. 1838/15).

FOREIGN STATIONS

210

South AtlanticWhale Ships

Admiralty 2229/10. In order that plans may be made for providing general cover and endeavour to obtain from agents probable date of sailing from Capetown and in case of last 4 ships probable dates of arrival at Falkland Is. (C. in C. S.A. 1003/15).

Capetown arrival 15/3, UNIWALECO from Durban, PELAGOS from Antarctic. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1028/15).

NEW

SEVILLA

British ship. Admiralty 1322/14. Sailed 1100/15. Route (C. in C. S.A. 1055/15).

Freetown Base

AFRIKANDER V. abolished as from 15/3. All officers and men for duty at Freetown will be borne on books of EDINBURGH CASTLE. (M. 0406Z/40, and Branch Acquaint 429, 16/3).

America & West Indies

EMERALD

Subject to satisfactory trials should be ready to sail for Halifax 4/4 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1103/15).

KIM

U.S.S.R. ship sailed Mauzanillo 24/2 6000 tons copper for Vladivostock (S.O.(I) Kingston 1630/15).

Sabotage
COMEDIAN

In order to facilitate investigation of sabotage of cargo of British S.S. COMEDIAN request confirmation that COUNSELLOR has been sunk and cause. Purser of COMEDIAN Mr. Michael McNamara transferred to COUNSELLOR prior to sailing. R.C.M. Palsowish to know if he was a survivor (C.O. Atlantic Coast, Halifax, 1705/15).

NIAGARA

My 2237/14, Consul-General, San Francisco, report on informant sent to Vancouver. Naval authorities, Vancouver, agree NIAGARA is probably safe, but precaution should continue in Australia and New Zealand. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1116/15). My 1856/12 and 1749/14. Capt. I.C. Dockyard, Esquimalt, reports investigations have failed to bring any definite sabotage plot to light. Activities of informant suspicious but after very careful check his story is considered false. No suspicious person sailed in NIAGARA and no trace of men reported proceeding to Vancouver has been found. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2239/15).

FOREIGN STATIONS

212

Mediterranean.German Coal

Italian Govt. express view that H.M. Govt. in present exercise of their belligerent rights are disregarding both letter and spirit of international law. H.M. Govt. point out account must be taken that they are fighting against enemy who has repeatedly flagrantly disregarded those principles and even the common precepts of humanity. H.M. Govt. prepared to accept marked disadvantage at which they are placed through refusal to initiate German barbarous methods, although action of enemy gives undoubted right to retaliation. (F.O. to Sir P. Loraine (Rome) 141 15/3).

C. in C. Med.

1134/15 see 13/3 Boarding in Greek Waters.

China

YA
V. MAIKOVSKY
Intercepted

Intercepted by KANIMBLA 42:0 N., 145:37 E. Weather too bad to board. I am proceeding towards Hong Kong at 7 knots, Soviet ship following. Will board when weather moderates. Jammed Soviet ship's transmission on 500 Kcs but I think he transmitted a message on H.F. (KANIMBLA 0630Z/15) (Cargo of copper believed destined for Germany).

If not required to assist KANIMBLA, H.M.S. MORETON BAY to resume patrol South Japan keeping out of sight of main Japanese Coast in daylight except when necessary to intercept enemy shipping. (C. in C., China, 0900/15).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

211

China.V. MAYAKOVSKY.

Interception of by KANIMBLA
see KANIMBLA R. of P.
23/2 - 27/3/40 (M. 01358/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS

212

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

213

Home Commands.

EUROPA) Arrived (Narvik 1317/15).
OSLEBHAUSEN)

SIMON VON UTRECHT Sailed with ore (do.)

OLDENBURG Loading ore (do.)

STOCKHOLM Has gone ashore at mouth of Elbe (S.O.S.)
(Burnham on Sea Radio, 2148/15).

America & West Indies

HANNOVER Description of damage, cargo still smouldering
in all holds. Supply of 3 lifeboats, one
anchor, repairs to minor items and generators
for auxiliary machinery will render ship
serviceable (DUNEDIN 1429/15).

South Atlantic

RIO GRANDE installing short wave wireless with permission
of Minister of Marine. (S.O.(I) Montevideo
1812/15, D.N.I., 1057 /16).

China

Ships Preparing My 0856/11. Activity continues. Ships at
to leave. Sousabaya, Tjibatjap, Macassar have full
bunker coal available or already supplied
and cargoes are being collected. (C.O.I.S.,
Singapore, 0940/15).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

214

Ships Attacked.

A/S Tr. PERIDOT
mined,
damaged.

A/S trawler, Skipper W.H. Burgess R.N.R. struck O255 by (believed floating) mine while on patrol 50:57 N. 1:29 E. (Minesweeping Summary 22 says 50:27 N., 1:29 E.) crew taken off by another trawler no casualties. BRILLIANT took her in tow at daylight, tow transferred to LADY DUNCANNON later. PERIDOT suddenly foundered 0945 while in tow in approx. 51:6 N. 1:25 E. no casualties (V.A. Dover, 1140/15, 0754/15). Your 1640/15, proposed inquiry into trawler striking mine, Approved. (D.C.N.S. to V.A. Dover, 1245/16).

MELROSE
sunk 1245

British 1589 tons sunk 1307 after explosion 1245, 51:21 N. 2:13 E. possibly by submarine. Not in convoy. Following 5 large neutral ships at time. Captain Johnson and 3 survivors landed at Zeebrugge (N.C.S.O. Antwerp, 2150/15 and Reuter). The 4 ships were roughly in line ahead and the neutrals had passed through position in which explosion occurred, consequently considered U-boat responsible. (A.S.W.D. 194) (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1025/16, V.A., Dover, 1301/16). Master of S.S. KAIDA, Estonian, saw ship blown up, gives position 51:22 N., 2:19 E. Saw Dutch motor vessel ANNA W. pick up 1 man and some wreckage. (N.C.S.O. London, 1501/18) on 21/3 3 mines were exploded in trawlers' sweep 51:10 W. 2:10 E., 3 miles S.W. (approx.) of position where MELROSE was sunk. Minesweeping Summary 22, 20/3/40, says mined.

Submarines Reported

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C., 1233/15).

0725

Aircraft sighted conning tower of submarine approx. 5 miles 078° from Buchan Ness lighthouse, 57:32 N., 1:40 W., submarine later submerged. Aircraft going to search. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0630/15, 0830/15).

1300

By aircraft 55:38 N., 1:20 E. submarine which crash dived immediately it saw aircraft. Course S.S.E. 110° true speed 5-6 knots. Just previous to diving submarine made challenge but aircraft had no time to answer (H.Q. Bomber Command, 1540/15).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

215

Submarines Reported

- 1044 50:23 N. 1:35 W. by civil aircraft.
(I.C. 0391/40).
- 1430 50:28 N. 1:30 W. periscope reported by aircraft course 260 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1626/15).
- 0500 51:41 N., 1:44 E., 032° N. Foreland 22'.
Reported by French source (C.2.) N.W.
(I.C., 0392/40). Report suggests magnetic minelaying in vicinity of buoy at North End of Knock Deep. (D.M.S., 1712/16).
- 2127 D.F., unknown enemy unit in 54:30 N., 4° E., unreliable fix, reporting course of aircraft N.W. at 2127 B.S.T., (D.C., 9248/15).

East Indies

Somaliland (See Foreign Stations).

South Atlantic

- 1330 Unknown submarine on surface, course N.,
04:43 S., 34:02 W. (? French). (S.S. NATIA
via Portishead Radio, 1330/15).

Submarines Attacked

By HERO submarine reported V.D.S.E. 2325 at
1157/15 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1531/15, 1157/15).
Flare dropping aircraft was sent out 2000/15
accompanied by observing aircraft, to search.
No indication of U-boat was seen (A.S.W.D. 194).

U.17 Possible wreckage.

Wooden fitting stamped U.17 picked up in
neighbourhood of the boom, appears genuine
and is being forwarded to D.N.I. (F.O.I.C.,
Greenock, 1835/15).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.S/M's Attacked.

By HERO, 1338. "It is not
considered that a U-boat was
attacked." (M.05741/40
H.M.S. HERO. Report of attack
on U-boat on 15.3.40).

HOME COMMANDS

216

MovementsHome Fleet

HOOD Admiralty 2216/12. Route for HOOD on passage to Gibraltar, and fuel requirements. (C. in C. H.F. 1001/16, 1003/16, C. in C. W.A. 1541/16, D.O.D.(H) 1554/16, F.O.I.C. Greenock 1608/16).

ARK ROYAL Being sailed for Mediterranean during next few days for one or two month's intensive training, suggested carried out from Alexandria. Request facilities including an attendant destroyer when one can be made available. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med., 1408/16). Request confirmation that Home Fleet destroyers are to carry out this duty. (C. in C. H.F., 1441/16). Your 1441/16 confirmed. Repeated no destroyers available any other source. (D.D.O.D. 1824/16).

GLORIOUS Unless you require GLORIOUS as soon as available, proposed she should continue training in Mediterranean for the present. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C. H.F. 1553/16

FURIOUS Your 1611/29/2. FURIOUS ready to sail P:M. 18/3. Regret no escort available. (C. in C. W.A. to C. in C. H.F. 1727/16).

Flag Appointment Rear Admiral M.L. Clarke appointed Rear-Admiral 2nd in Command, 18th C.S., to date 15/4/40. (M.O.4901/40) (Branch Acquaint, 16/3/40).

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 7 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait - 3 A.M.C.'s.

Eastern entrance to Kirkwall closed. Any ships brought in to be taken to Veanstrow Bay. (F.O.C.N.P., 2305/16).

Submarines

Positions 0700/17 (D.C. 2023/16, 2235/16, R.A.(S) 1646/16, 2029/16, orders to TRIAD, THISTLE, SEAL. (Capt. (S)2, 2126/16, V.A.(S) 1909/16. Quite agree with V.A.S.'s 1139/8, re 3 vessels for escort duties with submarines at Harwich, Blyth and Firth of Forth. (C. in C. H.F., 1652/16).

HOME COMMANDS.British Submarines.SEALION

Patrol report 5-16/3.
(M/06335/40).

NORFOLK
bombed.

Air.

In air attack on Scapa Flow.
Description of damage (F.O.I.C.
Glasgow War Diary 16-31 March,
T.S.D., 4084/40) Taken in hand
for repairs, 27/3.

HOME COMMANDS

217

OperationsALTMARK

French N.A. visited Sandefjord yesterday. Director, Framnass Docks conformed he had refused to undertake repairs to ALTMARK. Sailing thought to be dependent on ice conditions in Belts. (N.A. Oslo, 1030/16).

Air.Fighter escort for convoys

Admiralty accept, pending re-examination, limiting conditions suitable for Fighter escort of Convoys clouds not below 1000 ft. and visibility not less than 1500 yds. (Air Min. 1451/16).

Air raid on Scapa

At 1950, just before dark, about 15 enemy aircraft attacked the Fleet in Scapa. Five minutes warning was received. Ships present included RODNEY, VALIANT, RENOWN, REPULSE, IRON DUKE, NORFOLK, 6 6-in. cruisers and 16 destroyers. Fighters went up but had to retire owing to the A.A. fire of the Fleet and did not make contact. RODNEY, NORFOLK, IRON DUKE (only) known to have been attacked.

H.E. and incendiary bombs were dropped around the ships. NORFOLK was hit on quarter deck and holed by a near miss aft, having 2 killed, 6 wounded. IRON DUKE was slightly damaged by 2 near misses.

Bombs were dropped on shore near Hatston Aerodrome and at Waith Bridge on Kirkwall - Stromness Road, (1 civilian killed, ? wounded, 5 cottages damaged). The Eastern entrance to Kirkwall has been closed as it is considered possible mines were dropped in it. One or two enemy aircraft are believed to have been shot down by guns of Fleet. (C. in C. H.F., 2210/16).

WOOLSTON, 2023/16, A.C.O.S., 0109/17, 1035/17.

NORFOLK requires immediate docking. Propose ship refit concurrently with repair (C. in C. H.F. 1147/17) 2 killed 6 wounded. On land 1 civilian killed, 7 wounded. (D.C. 0750/17). Casualties NORFOLK, 2 officers killed, 1 missing, 1 officer, 5 ratings wounded, may be others in flooded compartments (C. in C. H.F., 2328/16) D.O.D.(H) 1331/17 can be taken in hand Glasgow.

3 ratings wounded, 2 officers killed, 2 missing, 4 wounded (NORFOLK, 1015/17, 1019/17) Damage (C. in C. H.F., 0233/18) Important NORFOLK sailed for Clyde via Minches as soon

HOME COMMANDS

218

Air.Air raid on
Scapa (Contd.)

as destroyer escort available. Proposals etc. I am driven to ask A.C.O.S. whether IVANHOE and GALLANT can be spared. (C. in C. H.F. 1727/18).

Incendiary bombs fell on foreshore near Hatston, reports of incendiary bombs received from Eastern end of Flow. Incendiary bombs also dropped on foreshore between Kirkwall and Carness and report of possible parachutes to eastward of Hellier Holm.

Eastern entrance to Kirkwall has been closed while magnetic sweeping takes place (A.C.O.S. 1035/17).

Bombing
Restrictions

Requested for submarines from daylight 17/3 until further notice between parallels of 57° N., and 58:30 N. between meridians of 4° E. and 9° E. (D.C., 2126/16).

Air reconnaissance

Normal patrols flown and East coast lightships visited. Reconnaissance flights made by Bomber Command aircraft over Borkum, Frisian Islands and Heligoland early A/M. Nothing important sighted. Few bombs dropped on auxiliary craft without result. (D.C.N.S. 195) (I.C., 0392/40) (H.Q., Bomber Command, 1600/16).

MiningSweeping reports

9/3 trawler 221 is reported to have brought up a mine 20 miles S.S.W. of N. Hinder (I.C. 0391/40).

Humber 2 mines cut in 53:37:30 N., 00:18 E. (F.O. Humber, 2008/16).

Harwich MAIDA struck a mine and one mine swept up in 51:25:30 N., 01:45:10 W. (LORD MELCHETT, 1900/16).

Cardiff Mine report 51:20 N., 3:38 W. approx. Ports closed east of Barry inclusive. Inward ships to Swansea and ships from Swansea outward bound unchanged. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff, 1800/16).

HOME COMMANDS

219

MiningSweeping reports (Contd.)

Nore Request SCZ 77 and 114 cancelled and new searched channel established, 1 mile wide, centre passing through -

- (a) 53:05 N., 01:30 E.
- (b) 53:05:30 N., 01:18 E.
- (c) 53:20:30 N., 01:03 E.
- (d) 250 degrees 3 miles from charted position of Outer Dowsing Lt. V. (C. in C. Nore, 1123/16).

Unexplained explosions

- 1100 7 miles W.S.W. of Dungeness. (I.C., 0392/40)
- 1134 2 explosions off Bawdsey, (52:0.5 N., 1:26 E.) (I.C., 0392/40).

ShippingU.S. and C.C. Ports

U.S. Govt. have announced to Press that ships of other nationalities leaving U.S. ports may enter control stations for which they have not cleared only if compelled to do so and that masters may be called upon to produce evidence of this compulsion. To avoid complications on next visit to U.S.A. of such a ship it is necessary for a formal order to proceed to a contraband control base to be given even if ship is calling there voluntarily. Requirements will be met if such ships are spoken and given necessary orders by signal and this will have to be done in future. Similar action should be taken as a ship approaches a C.C. base in case she has not previously been spoken. (D.E.W.D., 1331/16)

Dutch & Belgian Shipping

Dutch N.A. has requested no Dutch ships should be permitted to sail eastward from the Thames or Downs for the present. (D.T:D., 1339/16) My 2150/15. Hove held up all shipping pending instructions suitable ships be routed via Dunkirk. (N.C.S.O. Antwerp, 1025/16).

HOME COMMANDSShippingHalvorsen
Ships in Convoy

Uneasy at Halvorsen's ships being allowed to join convoys in view of his notorious pro-German attitude. Halvorsen is the person who lately negotiated agreement with Germany concerning safety of Norwegian ships. (N.A., Oslo, 1100/16).

Danish Ships
Intercepted

Complaint that Danish FRODE and KATHOLM, Copenhagen to Manchester, brought into Kirkwall 10/3 by KINGSTON PERIDOT. Appears ships should have been allowed to proceed as destination was a British port. (D.E.W.D. 1330/16). Ships were escorted in as boarding was impossible and identity had not been established. (V.A.N.P. 1751/16).

Passengers in
Westbound neutrals

Your 1751/28/2. Westbound neutral ships carrying passengers whose names not reported to you as approved by H.M. representatives abroad are to be sent in for examination (D.E.W.D. 1711/16 to V.A.N.P.)

Fighter escort
of convoys

Air Min. 1451/16 see Air.

Convoys

FS 22 (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1112/16) (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0916/16).
 HN 19 Estonian BEGONIA (D.T.D., 1055/16, 1350/16).
 TM 27 Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1117/16).
 GS 6 Sailed (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1100/16, 1104/16)
 OA 110 Details (A.C.W.A., 0948/16) sailed (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0436/16).
 OB 113 GF Route (C. in C. W.A. 1033/16).
 MT 32 Sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0814/16).
 HX 24 Remainder arrived (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1600/16).
 OA 111 Number and speed (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1519/16).
 OB 112 R.V. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1340/16).
 HN 20 Additions (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1414/16).

My 1743/5, for KIMBERLEY read KASHMIR. Destination of BRIARWOOD changed. (D.T.D., 1348/16).

HOME COMMANDSMiscellaneousSuspicious
Vessel VREDE

British ship RYE reports motor vessel VREDE, Holland, behaving suspiciously between Fairy Bank, West Hinder and Dyck light buoy 1700/16, also observed 7 floating mines of which 2 German vicinity Fairy Bank. (N.C.S.O., Antwerp 1030/16, D.C., 0137/17).

WEATHER

0500	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea		
North	N.W. strong.	Good.
South	W. Moderate	Good, coastal haze.
Horns Reef	W.N.W. strong.	Moderate.
Channel	W. moderate.	Good, coastal haze.
W. Approaches	S.W. light.	Good.

Enemy IntelligenceGermany and
Holland

Story from Paris, Germans bringing pressure on Dutch to yield naval and air base in Holland. (D.N.I., 1851/16). Your 1851/16. French N.A. informs me origin French G.H.Q. reliability not known. No rumour heard here. (N.A., Hague, 1810/17).



CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

PANACHRANDOS Greek 4661 from Downs 14/1 for Key West over-
due presumed lost. (B.U.P. Athens).

FLORA 1878 tons Sunderland 22/1 for R. Plate over-
due presumed lost. (B.U.P. Athens).

NORAN Swedish 1022 tons, Gib. 7/2 for Stockholm
much overdue.

ALYN Aground pm south side of Fort Island,
Derbyhaven, Isle of Man. Was bound for Belfast
7 crew saved by life-saving apparatus, 2 lost
1 body ashore. Vessel breaking up. Cargo
coal. (Press Bureau, from Isle of Man Govt.,
1055/17).

NORFOLK)
IRON DUKE) See Air.

XANIA)
ABERDEEN) Trawlers in collision 16/3. XANIA sank.
No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven,
1301/18).

Australia

KAHIKA, sank Union S.S.Co's KAHIKA struck rock in fog and
sank, 41:10 S., 144:45 E., 1130Z/16.
No lives lost. Vessel bound Melbourne from
Strahan, Tasmania, with iron pyrites.
(Australian Naval Board, 0411Z/18).

FOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticFrench Convoys Positions (D.C. 0200/16).Ocean Convoys Position (D.C. 1844/16).South AtlanticUnknown Cruiser French Colonial authorities report cruiser resembling SCHEER passed Bahia 15/3 heading south. Can you confirm, deny or give further information. (D.N.I., 1748/16). Could this have been one of H.M. ships? (S.O.I., Montevideo to N.O.I.C., Falklands, 1757/16).Whale Oil Carriers Capetown departure 16/3 UNIWALECO and FEDER BOGEN, both D.E.M.S. for Freetown, PELAGOS for Walvis Bay and Norway. (S.O.I., Capetown 1208/16).America & West IndiesMAURETANIA
QUEEN MARY Admiralty 1202 and 1203/12. New York reports sailings dependent upon arrival of ANTONIO at New York, due 18/3. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1016/16).MediterraneanSwiss complaint Re removal of Swiss subject from CONTE VERDE outside Port Said (Hd. of M. 1657/16) see 17/3.Italian Shipping My 2320/4/1, goods shipped by Italian Govt. to Italian East Africa. Arrangement has been prolonged pending further instructions (D.E.W.D., 1914/16 to C. in C., Med., etc.).B.S.T. Gibraltar Comes into force at Gibraltar today. (F.O.C.N.A. 1146/16).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

V. MAYAKOVSKY ✓ Cargo listed as copper. Intend to make passage passing south of Hachijo Jima, Estimate arrival at Video Island 24/3. (KANIMBLA 1305/16) KANIMBLA's 0630/15 and my 0900/15. LIVERPOOL is proceeding independently to refuel from oiler APPLELEAF in vicinity of Saddle Island am.19/3 and will afterwards be available if necessary to join KANIMBLA and tow V. MAYAKOVSKY. (C. in C. China, 0259Z/16).

EAGLE
Explosion Your 0806, issue of statement re accident in EAGLE, approved. (C. in C., China, to A.C., Malaya, 1247Z/16).

East Indies

EAGLE Your 1344Z/15. Request early confirmation that EAGLE will be unable to meet commitment for U.S.2. (D.O.D.(F), 1939/16).

Australia

Greek Ship
PELEUS Connected perhaps with I.R.A. (Australian Board, 0627Z/16). Was due at Colombo 10/3 from Albany (Australian Board, 0219Z/17).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

225

Home Commands

JOHANN BLUMENTHAL Arrived Asendal for ore. (Asendal, 1235/16, D.D.I.C., 1611/16) Description (Capt.(S)2, to SEAL, 2319/16).

AMERIKA Arrived Narvik (I.C., 0392/40).

GOLDENFELS)
BOCHUM) Arrived Narvik (Narvik, 1242/16).
BORBECK)

AACHEN Arrived Gottenburg with coal. (Gottenburg, 1235/16).

ARIADNE Sailed from Gottenburg (Gottenburg, 1235/16)

INGORATA Arrived Rotterdam A.M., Probably sailing tonight. (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 1329/16).

FRIGGA 557 tons, has sailed. (Haugesund, 2030/16)

FECHENHEIM Still here (Haugesund, 2030/16).

SCHWANECK Loading (Haugesund, 2030/16).

HOMBERG Arrived Haugesund for herrings (I.C., 0392/40).

STRAUSS Previously reported left Rotterdam, 8/3, now reported left there at 2300/16. (I.C., 0313/40) (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 1300/17, cancelling his 1030/?).

STOCKHOLM Small ship, 618 tons, ashore near Elbe lightship and reported sinking. (W.S.G., 25, 19/3).

South Atlantic

DRESDEN At Santos, Brazil, reported to be loading Diesel oil from Rio Grande do Sul. (I.C., 0392/40).



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

America & West Indies

HANNOVER

H.M.S. DUNEDIN's 1429/15. Consul-General, New York, being asked whether British crew can be provided for local pool. Comdr. A. Morison, R.N., will be in command and will arrive Kingston about 25/3. (C. in C., A. & W.I., 2035/16).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

226

C.-in-C. A. and W.I. Report from H.M.S. DUNEDIN on Capture of German S.S. HANNOVER. N.L. 4218/40.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

228

Ships AttackedMAIDA sunk
1045

H.M. Drifter, skipper R.K. Utting R.N.R. sunk 1045 by mine, 51:25:30 N., 1:45:10 W/E (moored minefield E. of Margate) C.O. and 5 ratings missing. About 10 miles E. of N. Foreland 1045. 6 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1614/16 D.C., 2024/16, F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1140/16).

SLAVA sunk
1245

Yugo-Slav (4512 tons) sunk by mine in Bristol Channel 5 miles S. Nash Point, 1245. Not in convoy. Was out of swept channel navigating in prohibited area. (D.C.N.S. 195). Probably mine (A.S.W.D.194) (I.C., 0392/40). Intercept from GEORGES MABRO (Burnham on Sea Radio, 1300/16, 1404/16, Lands End Radio, 1314/16). Barry and ports to eastward were closed for one day and the searched channel was amended to lead further south of the area. 51:20 N. 3:38 W. (Minesweeping Summary 22).

Submarines Reported

Estimated disposition (D.D.I.C., 1211/16)

0856 By D/F 54:40 N., 5:40 E. Reliable (D.D.I.C. 0943/16).

2106 59:50 N., 2° W., 266 Sumburgh Head 21', position indefinite. (I.C., 0392/40) (D.D.I.C., 2156/16).

1615 In position DVSE 4238. Aircraft ordered to investigate. At 1640 observed oil trail. Remained searching till 1800, nothing further observed. (Donibristle, 1940/16).

1120 Aircraft reports bubbles rising to surface and slight oiliness on water in HTSV 0320. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1417/16).

1300 Suspected submarine in D.V.S.E., 4238 bearing 140-4 from H.N. 19. (F/B. K.6929, 1515/16).

2000 Dutch scout VIEDE reports that about 2000/16, 2 miles N.N.E. Fairy Bank Buoy sighted what appeared to be derelict submarine. Ship being held for further intelligence. (V.A., Dover, 1507/17).

War Diary

16.3.40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

229

Submarines Attacked

1236

By destroyers and aircraft 58:42 N.,
1:22 W., 168° Fair Bland 53'.
D/Cs. and 1 bomb dropped on oil tank.
(I.C., 0392/40) This is position of a
known wreck (I.C., 0393/40). (A/S.W.D. 196).

MOST SECRET.

16.3.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

V.A.C. 2nd C.S.
H.M.S. EDINBURGH

Attack with d/cs. M. 05693/40.

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

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| HOME COMMANDS | - Policy |
| (Classification | - Defence of United Kingdom |
| by subjects) | - Movements |
| | - Operations |
| | - Allied Air Activity |
| | - Enemy Air Activity |
| | - Mining |
| | - Enemy Intelligence |
| | - U-Boats |
| | - Navigational |
| | - Technical |
| | - Casualties and Defects |
| | - Shipping and Convoys |
| FOREIGN STATIONS | - North Atlantic |
| (Classification | - South Atlantic |
| by stations) | - Mediterranean |
| | - East Indies |
| | - America and West Indies |
| | - Australia and New Zealand |
| | - U-Boat Campaign |

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

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

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

HOME COMMANDSMovementsHome Fleet

WARSPITE arrived Scapa 1600.
ARK ROYAL, escort. (C. in C.H.F. 1645/17) (C. in C. Portsmouth 1113/17)
GLORIOUS. Concur your 1553/16 GLORIOUS should remain Mediterranean for the present. (C. in C. H.F. 1515/17) (see 'Mediterranean')
SHEFFIELD is off Shetlands proceeding Norway to cover next homeward Convoy.

Submarines

Positions 0700/18. (D.C. 1913/17) (R.A.S. 1729/17)

French S/m

SIDI FERRUCH. R.A.3's 0954/16 and 1744/10.
Admiral Ovest will send escort to meet off Scilly Islands and requests time and position. (D.O.D.(F) 1215/17).

OperationsOperation SR3

Request permission to disperse stores and personnel. (V.A.(S) 0926/17). Approved 2039/17)

AirAir Raid on Shipping.

Air attacks on shipping may be expected a.m. today (C. in C. Portsmouth 0217/17).
Enemy aircraft reported off May Island (D.C. 0805/17)

0730-1000

Enemy aircraft active between Aberdeen and St. Abbs. GUARDIAN and 4 ships attacked but no damage or casualties. (D.C. 2038/17). (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/17, 1947/17) (D.C.N.S. 196) (VALOROUS 0739/17, 0805/17) (I.C. 0393/40).

0730

SS. REDHALL, collier, 1093 tons, 1 mile outside Aberdeen. Attacked by Heinkel III from north, high, machine gunned. No damage, no casualties. (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/17) Crew replied with Lewis gun and drove off aircraft.

0930

S/T. MIRABELLE from Orkneys. 5 miles N.N.E. of Aberdeen. Machine gunned. Enemy aircraft apparently chased off by 2 fighters. No damage, no casualties. (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/17)



HOME COMMANDS

Air (Contd.)

Enemy
Air
Activity
(Contd.)

? 0930 BRACONLEA } (trawler) Bombed and machine gunned
AVONDE } (trawler) Exact position not known,
but believed to be in
company with MIRABELLE. No damage or
casualties. (I.C. 0393/40)

0845 A/S trawler NORTHERN PRIDE reported by V.S. to
Peterhead, bombed and machine gunned by 2
Heinkels. One mark on hull. No casualties.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1141/17) Returned fire, one
enemy aircraft disappeared over land with part
of tail missing and making black smoke. (A.C.O.S.
1051/18). Slight damage to hull (I.C. 0393/40)

0743 W/T intercept from A/S trawler STOKE CITY,
attacked by enemy aircraft off Gridleness.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0743/17, C. in C. Rosyth
1947/17). No damage or casualties.

0810 H.M.S. GUARDIAN attacked off Bell Rock (I.C.
and 0837 0392/40) (GUARDIAN 0810/17) Single aircraft,
machine gun only. (GUARDIAN 0837/17). 1
aircraft over May Island steering west.
(GUARDIAN 0925/17). No damage or casualties.

Further
Raid

1530 Raid off the Yorkshire coast. M/V CHARLES M.,
403 tons, bombed and machine gunned by 3 sea-
planes 1 1/2 miles N. of Robin Hood's Bay. No
casualties or serious damage to ship. Attack
repulsed by machine guns of ship. (D.C.N.S.
196) (I.C. 0393/40). Several torpedoes were
dropped (T.S.D. 4063/40)

CHARLES M.

SOAR
A 284

Presumably attacked. See 'CASUALTIES AND
DEFECTS' 18/3. I.C. 0395/40 says it is under-
stood she was not among the vessels attacked
on morning of 17.

DAGNY

Swedish (804 tons) bombed off N.E. coast of
Scotland. No damage, aircraft was driven off
by sight of British fighter in distance.
(Press)

At least nine German aircraft active off Weser
Light Vessel, course west, at 1701. (D.D.I.C.
1726/17) (I.C. 0393/40). Enemy aircraft were
not transmitting. Information was obtained
from Flakschiff report. Cancel my 1846/17
(re. frequency used) (C. in C.H.F. 2234/17).

S/m reported

German aircraft reported s/m on surface in
57° 30' N. 03° 13' E. at 0942. (R.A.(S) 1027/17)



HOME COMMANDS

Air (Continued)

British Air Activity.

Patrols over the northern North Sea were not flown 17th owing to weather conditions. (D.C.N.S. 196)

Reporting air attacks in P/L

✓
Fullest use should be made of plain language for reporting attacks by enemy aircraft. Most vital to reduce the time factor to minimum. (C. in C. Rosyth 1646/17)

Area for M/S to Engage.

✓
Admty. 2116/18, merchant ships engaging any aircraft not identified as friendly. It is suggested area to be extended to Dungeness. (V.A. Dover, 1705/17)

Scapa Base

✓
Requirements as result of week's experience at Scapa during which 12 warnings were issued that did not materialise and culminated in attacks on Fleet last night. (C. in C.H.F. 2357/17, A.C.O.S. 1921/19).

Mining

Sweeping Reports

Exploded magnetic mine in Dundee skeleton trawl 1200/17 4 cables 336° Western Light Buoy in southern approach channel. This area was along line of flight of enemy aircraft at 0840/17 but nothing was seen to drop though visibility was small. Probable this mine has been there since loss of ANU. Do not consider necessary to close port (N.O.1/c Dundee 1435/17, C. in C. Rosyth 2105/17).

✓
One German K type mine swept in approx. position 250 deg. 2 miles from Fairy Bank Buoy p.m. today. 10th M.S.F. to carry out sweep tomorrow. (V.A. Dover 1845/17, 1923/17.) This is quite close to where MELROSE was sunk on 15/3. (I.C. 0393/40). Traffic eastward from Thames and Downs stopped until sweeping completed. (D.C.N.S. 196).

Operation P.A.4.

✓
2 ships of 1st M.S.F. to arrive Invergordon p.m. 19/3. Required for operation P.A.4. (C. in C. H.F. 1726/17).

HOME COMMANDSMining (Contd.)Minelaying from Fishing Smacks

Our serial 1975 ENEX DU MAPIA. Ship searched and no unmanifested cargo found. Captain reported that 2 German fishing smacks operating under Belgian and Norwegian flags respectively had been taken into French ports and were found to have magnetic mines on board. (Ramsgate 1630/17)

Kirkwall

Eastern entrance closed while magnetic sweeping takes place (A.C.O.S. 1035/17).

ShippingFinnish Ships

JULIETTE, LOTTO and LEENA not to sail until further orders. (D.T.D. 1217/17)

Belgian Ships

Your 1025/16. Resume the sailing of shipping. French Naval authorities are against the routeing via Dunkirk of shipping for U.K. (D.T.D. to Consul, Antwerp 1403/17).

German Coal

My 1606/4/12, neutral ships carrying German coal to Italy is cancelled. (D.E.W.D. 1408/17).

Dutch Ships

Dutch Admiralty anxious for route of smaller ships from Dutch ports for France and England via Dunkirk. French N.A. proposed this to French Admiralty. N.C.S.O. Rotterdam concurs. Suggest matter be taken up with French Admiralty. (N.A. Hague 1755/17). Message from Dutch N.A. to be passed to Dutch ships wishing to leave London and the Downs for Holland. (D.T.D. 1325/17)

Convoys

SL 25 .. Advance sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1057/17)
SL 24 .. Addition (N.C.S.O. Freetown 0911/17)
HGF 24 .. Route (D.T.D. 1156/17)
HN 20 .. Ships sailed to join (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 0800/17)
HG 22 .. Orders to escort etc. (C. in C.W.A. 1023/17)
HX 30 .. Route (D.T.D. 1400/17)
HGF 22 .. Arrived (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1610/17)
OA 110G. Add to my 1344/15 (N.C.S.O. Thames 1506/17)
OB 113
GF .. Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1441/17)
Ocean .. Positions (D.C. 1912/17)
FS 23) FLAMINGO's R of P 17-22/3/40. (M.O. 6322/40).
FN 25)
ASTRID Too slow for convoy, to be sailed independently (D.T.D. 1745/17).



H O M E C O M M A N D S

Miscellaneous

SPHINX Wreck

All ammunition, provisions and recoverable stores removed, and naval working party withdrawn. (R.A. Invergordon 1030/17)

Folkestone W/T Station

Admty. 1826. Folkestone W/T Station handed back to S.R. on 11/3 (V.A. Dover 0945/17)

Suspicious Vessel VREDE

N.C.S.O. Antwerp reports 1030/16 British RYE reports motor vessel marked VREDE - HOLLAND behaving suspiciously steering abnormal course between Fairy Bank, West Hinder and Dyck Light Buoy 1700/16, also observed 7 floating mines of which 2 German vicinity Fairy Bank. (D.C. 0137/17, N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1030/16) (See also 16/3).

WEATHER

<u>0500</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	S. Gale in N. S.S.E. Fresh in S.	Moderate	Poor visibility
Channel	S.E. Fresh in E. S.W. Moderate in W.	Moderate	Similar
W. Approaches ...	S.S.W. Moderate	Fog	Similar
Horns Reef	S.E. Light	Very good	Wind freshening. Visibility deteriorating

Enemy Intelligence

Iron Ore Traffic

Narvik ore trade again in full swing. Three ships sailed from Narvik between 11th and 16th March, and on 17th there were seven ships in port either loading or waiting to load. In addition, the HEDDERNHEIM and one other, name unknown, passed Aalesund, northbound, at 0800/10 and have not been reported since. May have proceeded to Kirkenes for ore. (I.C. 0393/40)



CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

EGTON }
CAVEROCK }

British EGTON 4,363 tons, and CAVEROCK, 1,332 tons, collided 22 miles N. of the Smalls at S.W. corner of Wales at 0130. Both in an outward-bound Gibraltar convoy. (D.C.N.S. 195) Tug SALVONIA proceeded to assist. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 0640/17) (Admiral, Devonport, 0144/17)

LOUISE MARGUERITE

Ashore on Bishop de GLD (LOUISE MARGUERITE 0458/17). Distress cleared. (Lands End Radio 0417/17, 1315/17).

SUFFOLK }
BELLE~~WYN~~ }

^{WYN}
SS. BELLE~~WYN~~ at 1750 collided with H.M.S. SUFFOLK in Princes Dock. SUFFOLK requires docking, but no delay in ultimate completion anticipated (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1212/17)

INTREPID }
OCEAN DRIFT }

INTREPID was in collision A.M. with Lowestoft trawler OCEAN DRIFT, 227 tons, 50 miles N.E. Kinnaird Head. Trawler sunk. but INTREPID sustained damage to her stern. and proceeded Invergordon. 8 survivors from trawler picked up. (INTREPID 1035/17) Damage described (INTREPID 2053/17). 2 d. in trawler (Allied Newspapers 20/3)

SS. VERBANIO

requires assistance, insufficient coal to reach port (Wick Radio 1332/17)

GOTHIC

Grounded W. of Kentish Knock 0445 (GOTHIC late CLEMENCEAU 1939/17).

South Atlantic

AQUITANIA

Grounded 1240 253 deg. Cape Sierra Leone light 14.7 cables (C. in C.S.A. 1827/17, 2015/17). Refloated. No apparent damage (C. in C.S.A. 1543/18). She was holed by an oiler before sailing for the Cape but is apparently seaworthy. Arrangements have been made for her repair at Simonstown.

FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- Vigo Minefields Admty. 1921/15. Know of nothing at Vigo suggesting presence of minefields (Consul Vigo 1158/17)
- French positions At 1200/17. (D.C. 0014/17)
- S/m supply vessels My 2132/26/2. Re. Spanish CARMELITA and another Velero named ANGELITA or ARGELITA of 150 tons which when ready will operate in area of Straits and will supply submarines on special occasions but normally will engage in legitimate trade as cover. (N.A. Madrid 1244/17)

Australia & New Zealand

- US2 - RAMILLIES D. of S.T. 1701/15 and 1702/15. As N.Z. transports are not included in US2 (slow) propose RAMILLIES remain in Sydney until 10/4 approx. and then proceed Melbourne to escort US2. Extra period in Sydney would greatly assist refit (Australian Commonwealth N.B. 1116/17). Your 1701 and 1702/15. Concur. In order to save unnecessary steaming intend to retain Y3 at Fremantle where 1400 troops already there will embark. (Australian Commonwealth N.B. 1229Z/17).

South Atlantic

- Cruiser Resembling SCHEER Admty. 1748/16. R.A.S.A.D. informs the report could not refer to a British or French warship. Request further details of report and grading. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1051/17). No information (Consul Bahia 1609/17). No information Rio de Janeiro or from Montevideo (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1439/17).
- South African R.N.V.R. My 1602/7. General Smuts has informed Parliament (a) S.A. Division, R.N.V.R. can only be mobilised by Union Govt. (b) Division has not been mobilised. (c) Some members of Division have volunteered for service in R.N. and accepted as individuals. (d) They are being paid by R.N. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1054/17).



FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.)

East Indies

EAGLE Admty. 1939/16. Latest date EAGLE would have to leave Singapore is now 14/4. Request whether ship can be ready. (C. in C.E.I. 0429Z/17)

U.S.2. D. of S.T. 1702/15. Recommend X-3 and larger ships of fast group U.S.2. proceed if possible from Colombo to Suez without calling Aden for fuel and water (C. in C.E.I. 0727/17).

Mediterranean

Danube Sabotage Report Galatz reports, reference Admty. 1933/1/1, Admiral Janakonlis, formerly connected with Jewish immigrant scandals, is to leave Greece next few days for Danube to organise sabotage on British ships. (B.3.) (S.O.(I) Malta 1403/17).

GLORIOUS Admty. 0030/12, 1201/16, 1408/16. Intended to sail GLORIOUS for U.K. 28/3. BULLDOG and WESTCOTT proposed retain Mediterranean to provide escort and attendant destroyers for ARK ROYAL. Escort for HOOD and GLORIOUS in West Mediterranean will be provided from Med. destroyers (C. in C. Med. 1041/17)

Signalling and D/F Stations. Your 1837/13. Request Dingli D/F Station be employed on Station Fleet etc. One station at Ismailia work in conjunction with Dingli on Italian frequencies and other keep watch on Russian frequencies. (D.D.I.C. to C. in C. Med. 1252/17).

Swiss Complaint Admty. 1657/16. Julius Muller was taken off Italian ship CONTE VERDE by French despatch vessel LASSIGY off Port Said on 12/3. C.C.S.O.'s Ports Said not concerned. Report attached S.554 CONTE VERDE gives details of this. Muller and Steiner associates of Muller. (C.C.S.O. Port Said, 1159/17).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSHome Commands

ERIKA HENDRIK
FISSER Arrived Narvik (I.C. 0393/40) (Narvik 1204/17)

KONSUL CARL FISSER Passed Haugesund, southbound 1600/17. (I.C. 0393/40) (Haugesund 1850/17)

ILSE L.M. RUSS)
KURT HARTWIG -) Arrived Haugesund unladen 17/3 (I.C. 0393/40)
SIEMERS)

HELENE RUSS My 1911/10, ORZEL reports 0040/11, 2 vessels believed to be one destroyer and German ship HELENE RUSS inside territorial waters off Thyboron Light. (R.A.S. 1932/17)

KÖNIGSBERG
PREUSSEN (Ice-bound 3 miles N. of Kullen Light 56.17 N. 12.28 E.) Reported free on 16/3 and proceeding W. to a home port (W.S.G. 25).

South Atlantic

WINDHUK At Santos, Brazil. German Embassy have re-opened embargo case, but reported no likelihood of ship being released before Easter (I.C. 0393/40)

DRESDEN Santos reports berthed alongside 1st March to load into No. 1 hold 1680 drums of Diesel oil ex Rio Grande do Sul. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1733/17).

America & West Indies

HANNOVER C. in C.A.W.I's 0413/14. Further information should be obtained if possible re destination, fuel, scuttling orders, etc. (D.N.I. 1406/17 to S.O.(I) Kingston).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MININGShips Attacked

CAPITAINE AUGUSTIN French, 3173 tons, sunk, probably mined, 2 miles E. of Tongue Light ship (D.C. 2038/17) 51° 30' 36" N., 1° 25' 24" E. (I.C. 0393/40) Not in convoy. 2 of crew injured, 2 missing, 1401 26 landed Margate. (N. Foreland Radio, SSSS 1401, 1506/17). Re. dangerous areas declared see M.S. Summary No. 22.

^{SINT}
~~SE~~ ANNALAND 1200 Dutch, 2248 tons, sunk by mine at 1200/17. (D.C. 2038/17). I.C. 0393 gives position 51° 23' N. 2° 1' E., which is also that given by N.C.S.O., Antwerp 1805/17. Not in convoy. Crew saved (D.C.N.S. 196) (Scheveningen Radio 1317/17) (N. Foreland Radio, 1335/17).

ABBOTSFORD From Flushing on 8/3. Missing. Sailings from Belgian ports have been suspended owing to the numerous casualties between North Foreland and the Schouwen Bank (W.S.G. 25, 19/3).

S/ms. Reported

Estimated dispositions - 1 E. of Shetlands homewards. No other information from which a deduction can be made (D.D.I.C. 1201/17)

2113 D.F., probably U-boat, position cannot be estimated but frequency suggests North Sea area. (D.D.I.C. 2235/17)

1205 Fleet rescue tug SALVONIA reported sighted a U-boat some 20 miles N.N.W. of Land's End 50° 23' N., 05° 58' W., surfaced and crash dived. WAKEFUL and WINDSOR sent to search (A/S.W.D. 195) (C. in C.W.A., 1403/17, 1653/17). Doubtful. (I.C. 0393/40) (Plymouth W/T 1205/17).

2243 U-boat suspected in vicinity of Fairy Bank buoy. 10th M.S.F. from Dover escorted by 3 French destroyers will be sweeping in vicinity between 0800 and dark tomorrow owing to possibility of mines. 2 P.A.Vs. to patrol between Kentish Knock and a position distant 130 deg. 15 miles to act as A/S force if required. (C. in C. Nore 2243/17)

Cancel my 1454 and my 1626 (no trace in W.R.) Rendezvous with SHEARWATER in position Y. at 0745 and carry out orders in C. in C. Nore's 2243 (presence of U-boat). (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2243/17).

V.A. Dover, 1507/17. See 2000/16.

HOME COMMANDS.
Movements.

7th D.F. Adty. 0036/18 (placing 7th D.F. under orders of C-in-C., H.F.). Request 7th D.F. may be sailed for Scapa as soon as possible (C-in-C., H.F. 1047/18).

Northern Patrol	Orkneys to Faroes	Trawlers
	Faroes to Iceland	2 cruisers of A.M.'s.
	Denmark Strait.	1 cruiser 2 A.M.C's.

S/M's ✓ Positions 0700/19 and movements (R.A.(S) 1816/18, D.C.1932/18).

Fleet Tender C. Proposing to ask ACOS to spare IVANHOE and GALLANT to assist escort damaged NORFOLK to Clyde, ESKIMO and PUNJABI taking their duty as escort to Fleet Tender C. (C-in-C., H.F.1727/18). The consequent orders etc., are in FOCOS 1018/19, C-in-C., Portsmouth 1203/19.

Air.

Catapult A/C's. In view of flexibility of Fleet dispositions it has been decided to combine all catapult A/C's into one nominal squadron numbered 700. (H.S. of Air Branch, 1430/18).

Shark K.5615 force alighted, sank 16/3, no casualties, (F.O.W. 1304/18).

Balloons. 6 adrift from Thames barrage (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 0850/18). 0850/18).

Air reconnaissance. All searches delayed by weather except patrol O.3 (see his 1616/17) and escort for H.M. 20 (C-in-C., Rosyth 0846/18).

Extension of area in which merchant ships engage any A/C's not identified as friendly. ✓ Your 1705/17. Matter is being examined in conjunction with French Authorities (D. of L.D: 1739/18 to V.A. Dover).

Enemy Air Activity. One enemy a/c was heard N.N.E. of N. Foreland 0002/18, and it is suspected that this may have been a further attempt at minelaying, but there is as yet no confirmation. (I.C. 0394/40).

INGER MARIE Danish fishing boat, stated on returning to port that a German a/c dropped 2 bombs during the night (? date) without hitting his ship (Press). Captain Nielsen.

PROTINUS sunk. Dutch fishing vessel, 202 tons, No. 85 from Ymuiden, attacked while fishing by one a/c with bombs and machine-gun fire, although ship was marked in 7 places with Dutch markings. Captain and one deck hand k, and 2 of the 8 survivors, who were wounded, died of exposure in the boat. Position of attack near Middle Rough Bank. Hit twice and sank. (V.A.(S) 1759/29).



HOME COMMANDS.

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Air.Aircraft.
PROTINUS.

UNITY (proceeding to Heligoland Bight patrol), rescued 8 Dutch seamen 6 days in open boat. (UNITY 1855/25). Trawler AGATE sent to R.V. with UNITY to take survivors off. (Capt. (S) 6 1846/26, 1903/26, 2147/26).

Mining.

Possible A/C mines are reported in Eastern Approaches to Kirkwall, 59°1.5'N., 2°54'W. (I.C.0393/40, 0394/40). Investigation showed that there were bombs, not mines (M.S. Summary No.22).

Minesweeping reports.

3 Type mines swept including one yesterday (V.A. Dover, 2219/18). Aberdeen, Peterhead nil owing to weather, Invergordon nil ships coaling. (C-in-C., Rosyth 2100/18). 2 mines cut 321° Humber Lt. V. 5.8 miles. Sweeping had to be abandoned owing to poor visibility. (F.O. Humber, 1945/18).

Swept Channel N. Goodwin Lt. V. to Fairy Bank.

Propose should be established in view of enemy minelaying between these two positions. Maintenance of this channel by present M/S forces at Dover would necessitate abandoning routine sweeping by trawlers in searched channel westward from Dover or use of 10th M/SF for routine searching with consequent delay in completion of skimming Varne Minefield. Establishment of surface patrol between N. Goodwin Lt. V. and Fairy Bank is considered to be of great importance but destroyers at present available at Dover render this impossible in view of other requirements. P.A.V's considered very suitable for this duty. Not considered possible to extend sweeping beyond Fairy Bank to westward (V.A. Dover 1124/18) Reply. ~~Confer~~ in establishment of swept channel and use of 10th M/S.F. temporarily for routine searching. When 5th M/S.F. is available extend searched channel eastward of W. Hinder if possible. (D.M.S.2055/18).

Controlled mining base.

A.L.M/L.D. 0109/40 of 9/3 para 13. It is intended to erect a controlled mining base on lines of Plan R item "O". What ships will be available for maintenance purposes (F.O.C. O.S. 1244/18 to Adty).

Unexplained explosions.

Several heavy explosions were reported in the Approach to Bristol (51°25'N 3°W - P.A.). 1000/18. An explosion in this vicinity occurred on 25/11/39. (I.C. 0394/40).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

- Convoys. Position (D.C., 1844/18) Situation 2000/18
(C-in-C., W.A. 1315/18).
- ON.20 Escorted by 6 destroyers and an A/A cruiser,
approaching Norwegian coast.
- HGH.23. Extract from sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1114/18).
- HN.20. Destinations, etc. (D.T.D., 1216/18, 0140/18).
- DA.114. Escort and route (C-in-C., W.A. 1306/18).
- SL.23 &
SLF.23. (C-in-C., W.A. 1209/18, 1218/18).
- ON.21. Escort for ships joining (C-in-C., Rosyth 2220/18).
- HN. Admty 2308/17, Point E. 1400/22/3. (N.C.S.O.,
Bergen, 1013/18).
- Belgian
Ships. Ref. Admiralty messages QZ. 407, 585, 596, 609,
610 have held up shipping. Request instructions
as to routeing in view of your 1403/17. (N.C.S.O.,
Antwerp, 1045/18). Reply (D.T.D., 1406/18).
- VIKING My 1137/13 and Admty 2003/13. Danish ship VIKING
left Frederickshavn yesterday 0730 for Methil.
(N.C.S.O., Copenhagen, 1200/18).
- Master of
Stockholm. Request whether Petersen, Master of Danish STOCKHOLM
is relieved when ship next returns to Danish waters.
(Hd. of M., to Consul, Copenhagen, 1344/18).
Reply, 19/3.
- Traffic
stopped. ✓ All traffic bound East from Downs and Thames is to
be held until further orders. (C-in-C., Nore.,
1623/18).
- Convoy
escorts. ✓ "Acute shortage of destroyers for convoy escorts"
(C-in-C., W.A. 1952/18).
- Routeing
Dutch and
Belgian
Ports. ✓ Until further orders ships proceeding between
Thames or Downs and Dutch or Belgian ports whose
draught permits should be routed via Dunkirk and
Zuydcote Pass. Other ships should be held
(D.T.D. 2001/18).
- Downs-
Wandelaar
Lt. Convoy. ✓ Under present conditions considered essential that
a daily convoy should run each way between Downs
and Wandelaar Light ~~Boyy~~. Approx. schedule, leave
Downs 1900, arrive Wandelaar Lt., 0400, leave
Wandelaar Lt., 0900, arrive Downs 1800. Considered
2 escorts required for each convoy, necessitating
total of 5 - 6 vessels. Convoy to be operated by
C-in-C., Nore. Co-operation of Dutch authorities
essential, but as first action request your early
remarks. (D.T.D., to C-in-C., Nore, 1234/18).



HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Weather forecast.

Request forecast for area at entrance to Skagerrak for period p.m. 19th to a.m. 21st be transmitted p.m. to-day Monday and revised subsequently as necessary. (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 1019/18).

Kirkwall.

Eastern entrance to Kirkwall is now reported by N.O. i/c Kirkwall to be open to traffic (ACOS 1835/18). Cancel my 2305/16 (re closing eastern entrance to Kirkwall). (F.O.C.N.P. 1448/18 to N.P.).

Ice report.

V.A.N.P. 0050/18.

WEATHER.

<u>0500/18</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>
North Sea	S., fresh to gale.	Poor.
Horns Reef.	S.E. moderate.	Good.
Channel and Western Approaches.	S., fresh.	Poor.

Outlook - similar.



HOME COMMANDS.

244

Enemy Intelligence.

Mines.

German mines washed ashore on coast of Norway are reported to be of 10 different kinds. (V-C., Kristiansand 1530/18).

Ships attacked between Narvik and U.K.

By enemy up to 23/1, Narvik Police ask for list. Endeavouring to trace German W/T communication with Narvik can you supply information (Gibbs, Narvik 1215/18). Reply see 19/3 Shipping.

Iron ore trade.

Pilot knows 2 places where southbound ore ships from Narvik habitually go outside 3 mile limit. Please make contact and report (D.N.I. 1741/18 to B-C., Tromsøe).



HOME COMMANDS.

245

Casualties and Defects.

GOTHIC Refloated 0515 (?) anchored, presumed undamaged (North Foreland Radio, 0458/18).

SOAR
A.284. Aberdeen trawler presumably grounded in gale and thick weather night 17/18 March approx., 1 mile S.W. of Gourdon. Four bodies washed ashore show marks of enemy action such as bullet wounds and are estimated to have been in water not more than 8 hours (C-in-C., Rosyth 1235/18).

ABBOTSFORD Ghent 8/3 to Dundee, is a week overdue (Dundee Evening Telegraph).

CAPITANE
AUGUSTIN Position of wreck 126° Tongue Lt. V. 1.4 miles (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1700/18).

IMOGEN Defective A/S transmitter (IMOGEN 1727/18).

GALLANT Refit due, hope you can undertake at early date. No relief from Nore Command is available without creating acute shortage in 1st D.F. Recd. from C-in-C., Nore, 1255 (C-in-C., Rosyth 1523/18 to ACOS).

VESPASIAN }
EX BETTA }

Aground off Folkestone (N. Foreland Radio intercept 1213) Former got off after 24 hours (Exch. Tel.).

MOST SECRET.

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S



War Diary.

18.3.1940.

Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

S/M Patrol,
Canaries.

Admty. 1624/18 reported that French Admiralty had ordered Admiral, Afrique, to reduce submarine patrol in Canaries to one submarine owing to inactivity of German merchant shipping. (S.A. War Diary, T.S.D. 4150/40)



FOREIGN STATIONS.

247

EAGLE


Work of repair cannot start before 21/3.
Tentatively 6 weeks for repair. (F.O.C.,
Singapore 0441Z/18 to C-in-C., E.I., Adty.).

KAHIKA

Struck rock in fog and sank 41°10'S, 144°45'E
1130Z/16. No lives lost (Australian Commonwealth
Naval Board 0411Z/18).

DAUNTLESS

Main condenser trouble. Cannot be relied on
for continuous steaming at high speed. Not fit
for active service until both condensers re-tubed.
Suggest this be done at Hong-Kong as soon as
convenient after her arrival (F.O.C., Singapore,
0449Z/18).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.French Positions.

At 1200/18. (.D.C. 0034/18).

S/M Patrol reduced.

In view of inactivity of German merchant ships in Canary Islands, French Admiralty have instructed Admiral Afrique, to reduce the submarine patrol in that area to one submarine. To exploit deterrent effect, S/M will in future reveal her presence. (D.O.D.(F), 1624/18).

CASSEQUEL MARSHAL

Portuguese. Stopped by French warship off Lisbon Bar. Feeling aroused. (N.A., Lisbon, 1642/18).

Horta weather report.

My 1726/5. GLEANER reports reading similar weather report at 0300/18, originating from Horta W/T station. (C-in-C., H.F. 1258/18).

America and West Indies.MAURETANIA sailing.

D. of S.T's 1202/12 and 1203/12. New York Press printed tonight correct rumour of these ships sailing. Permission given to release in Canada provided made clear simply reprint from U.S.A. Press. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1941/18).

Ammunition.

Your 1745/14 and 1730/14. Concur in arrangements proposed. Ship will be routed to Bermuda. (Hd. of M 2208/18 to C-in-C., A.W.I).

Organisation of 8th C.S.

In view of your concurrence proposals in my 1458/9 as amplified by your 1350/10 are now approved (Hd. of M, 1530/18 to C-in-C., A.W.I).

T.C.4.

Your 0932/1, Concur in proposed dates for refits subject to further review. Dates when troops will be ready to sail. EMERALD will complete 31/3 and be ready to sail 4/4. Temporary repairs to ENTERPRISE's foremast will take 3 or 4 weeks. Re. para. 2, escorts will be required as follows: for (a) Cruiser, for (b) Battleship, for (c) and (d) requirements will be communicated later. (D.O.D.(F) 1323/18 to R.A.3). Your 1323/18. No alteration in programme up to HX.35 then as follows. (List). Although HXF Convoys have been abolished even number convoys are still approximately double odd (? odd) number convoys due to 5 and 3 days' interval and escorts inferior to EFFINGHAM are regarded as unsatisfactory for these. (F.O.C. 3 B.S 1028/19).

Curacao Pilots.

All N.C.S.O's in Jamaica Intelligence area to warn Masters of British ships to exercise care in discussions with pilots at Curacao, especially Van Ghent. (C-in-C., A.W.S. 2250/18).

China.

249

V. MAYAKOVSKY.

Diary of Boarding party of
H.M.S. KANIMELA on board Soviet
Ship V. MAYAKOVSKY and Intelligence
Report of Passage (M. 010637/40)

FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Identification.

Procedure to be carried out by H.M. ships, South Atlantic Command, with object of making identification easier and thus avoiding Allied warship being reported enemy raiders. (C-in-C., S.A., 1325/18).

German Units, report.

B.O. report from Buenos Aires, search source of investigation German ship LAMN and 2 groups of GRAF SPEE ratings, that DEUTSCHLAND and ADMIRAL SCHEER left Cuxhaven 23/2 and 26/2 respectively. One probably contacted ANTONIO DELFINO and both said to propose to operate South Atlantic. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 2127/18).

China.German routine.

FEDO, Part IV amendment No.17. My 02252Z/9, add Admty 1142/17, re routine between German warships and their base. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0551Z/18).

SALEIER.

Dutch ship due Belawen about 20/3. Request watch ship when near Singapore and if she goes past bring her in. (D.E.W.D. 1622/18).

V. MAYAKOVSKY.

KANIMBLA's 1305/16. It is assumed sufficient guard on board V. MAYAKOVSKY to prevent ship being scuttled. (D.O.D.(F) 1613/18). To oil from APPLELEAF outside territorial waters unless this is quite impracticable. Position 30°21'N, 22°18'E, South Tuscan Island has been used in past. LIVERPOOL to remain in vicinity until MAYASKOVSKY has completed fuelling, when she is to return to Hong-Kong (C-in-C., China, 0620Z/18). My position 0900Z/18, 35°00'N., 143°15'E., making good 9 knots. Cargo details. (KANIMBLA, 1040Z/18).

East Indies.Contraband

French Consul informed that BRENTA loading cargo including leather from German ships in Bandar Shapar on 3/3, consigned to Hamburg. BRENTA believed to be in Basrah. ANFCRA cleared Colombo 16/3 for Genoa via Aden Massawa, Port Said with contraband cargo. (S.C.I., Colombo, 1033Z/18).

Defence of Iranian oilfields.

Re. Middle East Conference on project for defence of Iranian oilfields. Naval operations on Shatt-el-Arab and Tijoris may be required. Request consideration be given to allocation to Persian Gulf of at least 2 river gunboats. Early action would be necessary in view of approaching monsoon conditions. (C-in-C., E.I.1336/18).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies.

- GLORIOUS My 0030/12 and 1516/18, your 07052/29/2. Decision as to whether GLORIOUS ultimately rejoins your command will depend on circumstances, but it is probable that in near future there will always be one carrier in Mediterranean with which to reinforce you if situation requires.
- GLOUCESTER GLOUCESTER should be sailed so as to relieve NEPTUNE at Simonstown on or about 8/4 (D.O.D.(F) 1852/18 to C-in-C., EI).
- R.I.N. Vessels taken over by R.I.N. for naval service (Secret Branch acquaint, 431/18/3, M. 05360/40).

Australia & New Zealand.

- RAMILLIES. Your 1116/17. Concur. Regret moral effect of visit of RAMILLIES to N.Z. will be lost but it will be realised change in plans is inevitable as she has neither speed nor endurance to accompany fast group. Presume Australian and N.Z. Navy Boards will now eventually arrange for escort of N.Z. contingent across Tasman Sea. (D.O.D.(F) 2359/18).

Mediterranean.

- Palestine shipping. (see 13/3). Can you state whereabouts now of 5 sea-going barges, also particulars, tonnage, etc. (Hd. of M., to N.O.I.C., Haifa, 2210/18). Reply 19/3.
- GLORIOUS Your 1041/17. On conclusion of one week's training arranged in your 1133/4 GLORIOUS to continue training in Mediterranean for the present. BULLDOG and WESTCOTT to remain Mediterranean for attendance on ARK ROYAL and GLORIOUS. My 1408/16, allocation of training areas to ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS is at your discretion. (D.O.D. (F) to C-in-C., Med., 1516/18).
- Black Sea Mines. Admty 1823/14. Turkish General Staff advise that mines found off Black Sea Coast are old and covered with much marine growth. Some are empty and appeared to have been used as buoys. (A.N.A., Ankara, 1716/18).

- Minesweepers. Minesweepers ABINGDON, STOKE, DERBY, BAGSHOT and FAREHAM have sailed from Singapore, four for Mediterranean, and one to relieve HUNTLEY at Aden, which ship also to proceed Mediterranean. (Secret Branch Acquaint, 431/18/3, Admty 1332/9, C-in-C., to I., 0721/11).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

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HELENE RUSS Reported (A.1) left Christiansund north 17/3 loaded with fresh fish. (N.C.S.O., Aalsund, 1028/18).

GODFRIED Arrived Narvik 17th (Narvik, 1134/18) (D.D.I.C.1900/18).
BUEREN

FRIGGA " " " " " " " "

EUROPA Now loading ore.

CHARLOTTE Arrived Rotterdam a.m., expected to sail tonight at
CORDS 2000. (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 1128/18) (D.N.I., 1322/18).
Sailing 2300/18 (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam 2200/18).

SIMON VON Passed Haugesund southward 1745 loaded. (Haugesund,
UTRECHT. 1910/18).

HEDDERNHEIM From north, anchored in fairway. (Haugesund, 1910/18).

MATHIAS STINNES Sailed in ballast. (Gothenburg 1758/18) name and registry part painted out. Crew wear naval cap with flash abaft (Gothenburg 1757/18).

MINOS Sailed with general cargo. (Gothenburg 1758/18).

THÜRINGEN German trawler believed THÜRINGEN passed westbound 1600. (Tromsøe, 1720/18).

East Indies.

5 ships at Bandar Shapar (see FOREIGN STATIONS).

America & West Indies.

VANCOUVER (Reported sailed from Curacao 5/3). Still at Curacao 18th. (I.C., 0394/40) (D.N.I. 1343/19).

South Atlantic.

LAHN) See FOREIGN STATIONS. South Atlantic, re raider
ANTONIO) contacts.
DELFINO.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

253

Ships Attacked.TINA PRIMO 1710
sunk. & 1822

Italian, 4853 tons, inballast from Rotterdam to Italy, ~~mined~~ 15 miles E. of North Foreland. Ship sank after second explosion at 1822. 36 survivors and one dead landed at Ramsgate. (D.C.N.S.) 51°20'N, 1°42'E. (N.O.I.C., Ramsgate 1720/18, 1930/18). Master of tug KENIA from Ramsgate Base reported that on approaching ship to pass tow rope on board noticed wire over TINA PRIMO propeller. Further explosion took place which in Master's opinion was caused by second mine (N.O.I.C., Ramsgate, 2114/18).

Later report gives position for mining as 51°20' 30" N., 1°46'E. (I.C., 0395/40, Minesweeping Summary 22). Trawler MARMION reports vessel drifted for nearly 2 hours before sinking. Position at time of explosion (as in I.C.0395). (C-in-C., Nore, 1101/19).

S/M's Reported.Estimated
dispositions.

1 Moray Firth area, possibly off Pentland Firth. Possibly 1 in Channel or Bristol Channel. No other information from which a deduction can be made. (to D.I.C. 1309/18).

0726

D.F., German naval unit, probably U-boat, transmitting urgent signal in 56°40' N., 3°20' E, (near N.W. corner of German minefield), unreliable fix. (D.C. 0759/18).

1145

Doubtful report of U-boat 29 miles S.S.E of Selsey Bill. (A/S.W.D.196). ANTHONY ordered to hunt enemy S/M in position VDGB, 1629 (C-in-C., Portsmouth, 1145/18). ARROW, ANTHONY, IMOGEN ordered to cease hunting. (C-in-C., Portsmouth, 1840/18).

C-in-C., Nore's 2243/17. Suggest PINTAIL and SHEARWATER search to north of 51°19'N., and east of 2°16'E. (V.A., Dover 1015/18) This will be done to-day but it takes two thirds of my total available PAV's and therefore cannot stay long. (C-in-C., Nore, 1311/18) (A/S.W.D.,196).

1000

2 S/M's reported off Terschelling, course W., also 1 off Borkum at 0600 course W. Remain on patrol during night. (C-in-C., Nore, 1624/18).

S/M's Attacked.

1410

By FOWEY, doubtful contact, absence hydrophone effect suspicious. (FOWEY 1410/18, BIDEFORD, 1900/18). (? fish). BIDEFORD - M, 07063.

HOME COMMANDSMovementsHome Fleet

5 Capital ships, 5 cruisers at Scapa.
C-in-C RODNEY, with WARSPITE, VALIANT, RENOWN,
REPULSE and 15 destroyers left Scapa 1500/19
for Operation D.U. (Seep Operations)

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland 2 cruisers, 8 A.M.C.'s
Denmark Strait 1 cruiser, 2 A.M.C.'s

1st C.S. to work from Clyde as before. Ships
to return the e on next occasion of leaving
patrol (C-in-C H.F. 1301/19)

s/m's

0700/20 (R.A.(S) 1709/19, 2034/19, D.C.
2203/19 Capt.(S)6 2001/19

MACKAY

Hove to, weather. Minor upper deck damage.
50° 34'N, 10° 36'W (MACKAY 0418/19)

INTREPID

Entered Aberdeen owing to state of sea.
(INTREPID 2350/18, N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0030/19)

B.E.F. Main-
tenance.

Programme for period 24-31/3 (D.O.D.(H)
1934/19) (Routes Southampton to Havre and
Cherbourg.)

Operations

ALTMARK

Whole crew of ALTMARK deserted after removal
of British prisoners by COSSACK and had to be
rounded up by Norwegian police. A further
attack was feared and the Captain was not
reassured there was no further danger until
a Norwegian warship anchored across the
entrance to the fjord (Rear-Admiral Boyes).

Operation D.U.

Battle Fleet to operate in support of Operation
D.U. and to sweep up Norwegian coast to
endeavour to intercept shipping outside
territorial waters (C-in-C H.F. 1147/19)
Operation D.U. postponed a further 24 hours
(F.O.C.S.2 1755/19) It is a beautiful calm
evening out here (Home Fleet was then about
25 miles North of 59° 12'N, 3° 51'W) (C-in-C
H.F. 1926/19) Your 1926 my 1755 was based
on Adty. 1234 received 1700 and forecast
obtained from NORFOLK. Destroyers now employed
hunting s/m's reported in Holm Sound surfacing
near blockships at 1730 and 1810 which may have
entered Flow (F.O.C. 2C.S. 2240/19) The
operation will take place on nights 21 and 22/3.

HOME COMMANDS

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OperationsOperation D.U.
(continued)

Ships taking part (2nd C.S. and 8 destroyers) are at Scapa.

s/m's on patrol
Capt.(S)3
1800/19 in Bight

Orders for SEAL, THISTLE, TRIAD consequent on postponement of Operation D.U. (R.A.(S) 1642/18, 1929/19)

AirEnemy air activity

Air attack on aerodromes may be expected tonight or on subsequent nights as reprisal for attack on Sylt (D.C.N.S. 2012/19, Air Min. 2100/19)

Several, possibly minelaying, raids were reported off the N. Foreland and Thames Approaches between midnight and 0200/19.

Parachute apparently moored to submerged object sighted 1200/18. 6 cables W. of Shingles Patch No. 3 Buoy by S.S. BRITISH GENIUS (N.C.S.C. London 1730/19)

Air attack, date unknown.

MARRI

Danish fishing boat bombed and machine-gunned by one aircraft (Press).

PROTINUS
? date

See 25/3

NORDSØE

Danish fishing cutter machine-gunned by 2 aircraft. Crew cut fishing tackle and sailed northward. Planes pursued it and dropped bombs. No hits, no casualties. (Press)

Air raid

on German seaplane station Hornum. (30 Whitley and 20 Hampden bombers were used. 3 failed to reach objective. 20 tons of bombs were dropped.) All but one aircraft returned safely. First reports appear satisfactory. (D.C. 0800/20) One large vessel like warship seen 60 miles W. of Nornum, 3 possible Flak ships, one s/m, 6 destroyers (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 0535/20) One Whitley aircraft missing. Weather conditions over target clear moonlight gradually clouding over towards morning. Intense A/A fire experienced. One enemy fighter approached our aircraft, sheered off when fired at. One enemy float plane encountered, fired

HOME COMMANDSAir (continued)

256

at, result unknown. Many hits on station, including 8 bursts near hangars, 4 direct hits on one hangar, several hits near oil storage tanks where flames noticed, also on jetty and light railway. Hits on living quarters. Southernmost hangars observed burning. Our aircraft is believed to have violated Danish neutrality (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 1250/20) Kalundborg Radio (1900/20) stated that 4 bomb craters were formed at Faroe (Denmark, 15 miles N. of Sylt) and a few others at various places, but little damage was done.

Attack on
Flak Ships ✓

Two naval auxiliary vessels bombed. No hits (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 2015/19) Thought to be STRAHL and DRACHE (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 0615/20)

Air
Reconnaissance

My 1730/15. All air searches cancelled on account of weather except O3 and escort for HN 20 and ON 21 (C-in-C Rosyth 1134/19)

Aircraft
crash ✓

on passage to ARGUS. No casualties. Machine wrecked (D.N.A.D. 1850/19)

Balloons ✓

Casualties Thames Barrage 5, 2 due to lightning, 3 adrift. (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1220/19) 3 more adrift. (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1330/19) One more adrift and 5 from Harwich (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1535/19) Ten more destroyed by lightning Thames Barrage (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1720/19)

MiningMinesweeping
reports

Nil, weather (N.O.I.C. Swansea 2140/19, N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1748/19)
Curtailed, weather (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2041/19,
V.A. Dover 2004/19 " " 2000/19)
Aberdeen, Peterhead nil, weather (C-in-C
Rosyth 1853/19)
Parachute see Air-Enemy activity.

German mines ✓

Experience shows that German moored mines continue to rise for some weeks after a mine-field is discovered and that buoys close to a channel tend to attract magnetic minelaying. Proposals for proposed searched channel (C-in-C Nore, 1158/19)

HOME COMMANDSMining (continued)

257

German mines
(continued)

Reports of floating mines in the Channel have almost ceased and off Kentish coast they are much reduced. A few reports are coming in from the N.W. corner of British declared area (N.I.D. 01507/39)

Operation PA 4

Orders. (R.A. Invergordon 1443/19) Postponed 24 hours owing to weather (N.O.I.C. Invergordon 1752/19)

Traffic resumed

between the Thames and Downs and Dutch ports resumed (See 17/3)

ShippingConvoys

Positions (D.C. 1920/19)

ON 20 Has arrived Norway, but was considerably scattered in recent gale. (D.C.N.S. 197)

HN 20 Sailed p.m. 18/3 with SHEFFIELD as cover (D.C.N.S. 197) (D.T.D. 1230/19)

OG 22 Sailing telegram (C-in-C W.A. 1052/19, 1058/19)

ON 21 Sailings (N.C.S.O. Methil 1142/19) Sailed 1700 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0947/19, 1717/19, D.T.D. 1809/19) (C-in-C Rosyth 2220/19)

HN 21 Already filled. Anticipate rate of ships applying will increase. Discontent caused if excluded. Request instructions. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1131/19) (Reply 20/3) Your 1131/19 How many ships do you anticipate will want to sail in HN 21 (D.T.D. 1703/19) Your 1703/19 To judge by last 2 days probably 60 ships (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 2009/19)

OA 112 Arriving Lizard 1700/20. (WOLVERINE 2000/19)

OB 113 GF Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey 2140/19) Details (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 2137/19)

HGF 23 Destinations (D.T.D. 2204/19)

OBM 112 Sailed (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1410/19)

HOME COMMANDS

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ShippingConsular
Clearances

My 1335/26/1. Have now been put into force, and will be issued by British and French Consuls. (D.E.W.D. 1532/19)

Routeing
Dutch and
Belgian ports

My 2001/18. Heavy draught ships may now be sailed, routed in accordance with My 0025/12, thence through following positions:-
(a) 180° Fairy Bank Buoy 3 miles, (b) 51° 19' N 01° 42.4' E. (c) 180° North Goodwin light vessel 5 cables. (D.T.D. 1233/19) Your 1020. Concur (D.T.D. 1231/19 to C-in-C Nore)

BLACKHEATH

Sails 1900/19. (N.C.S.O. Blyde, 1230/19)

Swedish ships
inspection

Swedish shipowners wish to know if ships can now be inspected at Halifax or Kingston instead of Kirkwall, also assembly port for convoys for United Kingdom for ships from Panama Canal (A.N.A. Stockholm 1638/19)

Light draught
ships

Adty. 2001/18. Have arrangements been made for C.C. of light draught ships sailing to and from Dutch and Belgian ports now that they will not pass through the Downs (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1050/19 to Adty.)

Leave ships

Question of whether they are to be allowed to sail without air escort (Air Min. 1705/19)

Ballast
Clearance passes

Issue of (see FOREIGN STATIONS, Mediterranean)

Route to and
from Downs

For eastbound heavy draught traffic consequent on mining of TINA PRIMO (C-in-C Nore, 1020/19)

Routeing
Bristol Channel

Ships sailing in convoy bound for Bristol Channel ports should be directed to call at Milford Haven for onward routeing instructions (D.T.D. 1235/19)

STOCKHOLM
Master

Adty. 1344/18. Petersen remains in command. Expect to sail or Methil 20/3. Ref. Adty. 1835/13. Can he sail with convoy or be given route instructions? (N.C.S.O. Copenhagen, 1915/19) Reply No. (D.N.I. 2340/20)

HOME COMMANDS

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Shipping (continued)

Ships sunk
ex Narvik
See 18/3
Enemy
Intelligence

Your 1215/18. Following ships sunk enemy action Narvik to United Kingdom:-
STRINDHEIM, Norway, off Tyne, 15th December.
POLZELLA, Britain, off Shetlands, 17th January.
DEPTFORD, Britain, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off Stadt, 13th December
No other attacks homeward bound ships known
(D.N.I. to Consul, Narvik, 1801/19)

Fast and
slow convoys

Reports indicate that insufficient use is being made of G.S. and S.KG. convoys, and unsuitable ships are being included in FN and FS convoys, may be due to fact that masters anxious to join faster convoys are making false reports about their speeds. N.C.S.O.'s to endeavour to allocate vessels to their appropriate convoys and to refrain from drawing unnecessary attention to fact that S.G. and G.S. are slower than F.N. and F.S. (D.T.D. 1917/19)

FINTRA
sabotage

3 incendiary bombs found in bunker in S.S. FINTRA almost, certainly put on board at Sane on 13/3. Police informed (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1234/19)

Miscellaneous

Suspicious
ships VREDE

^{RE}
VREDE, Dutch, English owned left Ymuiden 16/3 for Caen. British S.S. RYE on arrival Flushing reported seeing Dutch ship marked with Dutch flag and named VREDE steering E. and acting suspiciously close to W. Hinder Buoy about 1600/16. Consider it possible ship seen by RYE was not genuine VREDE but German ship masquerading under Dutch flag and name of VREDE (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1500/19)

STOCKHOLM

N.C.S.O. Copenhagen see Shipping.

Oil for Swedish
ship

Swedish Adty. consulted me as to safe anchorage for refuelling destroyer from Swedish PATRICIA during return voyage from Spezia to Sweden starting about 1/4, distance from Vigo to Faroe Is. being beyond destroyer capacity. Suggested Bantry, Tralee, or Loch Swilly. Any Adty. objection? (A.N.A. Stockholm 1522/19)

Gunfire heard

0350 to 0455, 200 to 300 rounds off Berwick.
(C-in-C Rosyth 0620/19) Cancel, entirely false report (C-in-C Rosyth 1036/19)



HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous (continued)

260

Mails, removal from BERGENSFJORD DROTTNINGHOLM

U.S. authorities New York have refused clearance to Norwegian BERGENSFJORD, DROTTNINGHOLM unless they carry mails contrary to agreement with us under which they would have been exempted from call at Kirkwall.
As mails have been forced on them assurances given for current voyage only that these 2 ships will not be diverted to Kirkwall. Most desirable that mails be removed at sea unless weather forbids. Quantity probably small. Date of sailing probably to-day but will be confirmed (D.E.W.D. 0845/19 to V.A.N.P.)

Sabotage

3 incendiary bombs found in S.S. FINTRA (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1234/19)

Boundary

Desirable that boundary between W.A. and North Atlantic Commands should coincide with that between Admirals Ouest and Afrique. Proposed new common line is parallel of 41° N. (D.O.D.(F) 1445/19) Concur (C-in-C W.A. 1919/19)

Scapa defence

In my 1043/23/10/39 I first advised provision for large labour battalion at Scapa and have done so several times since. It is still an urgent requirement. There are numerous works which have made little or no progress on which labour battalion should be employed (C-in-C H.F. 1303/19)

Ice report.

(F.O.C.N.P. 2147/19) (N.A. Copenhagen, 1900/19)

Weather

	<u>0500</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	North	S.E. gale	Moderate but poor in rainstorms
	South	S. to S.S.W. strong	Moderate to good.
Horns Reef Channel		S.E. moderate	Poor, rain and local fog.
		S.S.W. strong	Moderate
W. Approaches		S.W. to W. strong to gale	Good.

HOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

261

W/T heard

Unknown station heard transmitting (C-in-C H.F. 0050/19)

Pocket battleships

Your 2127/18. One pocket battleship was located by aircraft in dry dock at Wilhelmshaven 2/3. No reliable information concerning the other p.b. but she is believed to have been in German waters on 1/3 (D.C.N.S. 1401/19 to S.O. (I) Montevideo.

My 1941/19. More than one unit may be in vicinity. (D.C. 2018/19)

German torpedo

Ashore and secured 4 miles south of Bridlington (R.M.S.O. 0725/19) Description (R.M.S.O. Bridlington 1835/19)

Russian s/m's

I learn Germans have sent s/m instructions and experts to Murmansk, Vladivostock, Odessa and Kronstadt, to get Soviet s/m's into working order. Instruments being sent and expected that 110 to 125 s/m's can be rendered first-class. (Sir R. Campbell, Paris No. 222 Saving 19/3 to F.O.) Unlikely that these technicians and instruments could be spared from Germany. Report is probably propaganda. Number of s/m's fantastic (N.I.D. XI/31)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTSHome Commands

262

- JERVIS in collision YXSE 3534 0300 approx. with Swedish S.S. TOR~~s~~ now proceeding Tyne. JAVELIN, JANUS standing by. (Capt. D7 0314/19, C-in-C Rosyth 0456/19, 0504/19) Extensive hull damage above and below w.l. 2.d., 15 missing from JERVIS (Capt. D7 0500/19) Reached Tyne ~~04~~5/19.
- MACKAY Minor upper deck damage due to weather (MACKAY 0418/19)
- S.S. ALBIONIC Reported 0206 that she was on fire off Lundy Island and later that her crew had taken to boats. Later reported out of danger and lifeboat standing by. (Burnham on Sea Radio intercept 0620, 0612/19, intercept 0541, 0648/19, Portishead Radio 0239/19, ALBIONIC 0206/19) Proceeded up Bristol Channel under own steam with tugs in attendance (T.Divn. C&S Sect.)
- NEWCASTLE Recommending she refit at South Shields on completion of GLASGOW (C-in-C H.F. 1309/19)
- EDINBURGH To be taken in hand 20/3 (N.O.I.C. Newcastle upon Tyne 2030/19)
- ASTURIAS Anticipate rudder defect will delay completion from 9/4 to end of April (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1235/19)
- S.S. ASTRA Engine broken down 250 miles W. Malin Head send salvage boat (Balentia Radio 2110/19) Tug ENGLISHMAN dispatched (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0200/20) Tug was diverted, see CILICIA collision 20/3) No tug yet (C-in-C Rosyth 1343/23 intercept 0927 G.M.T. from ASTRA)
- VIMIERA S.S. CLERMISTON VIMIERA in minor collision with S.S. CLERMISTON on 17/3 during passage of FN 22 Convoy. Damage unimportant (VIMIERA 1434/19).
- H.M.S. LADY PHILOMENA LOWDOCK A/S trawler LADY PHILOMENA in collision with trawler LOWDOCK of Fleetwood about 2230/19 five miles E. of Todd Head. LOWDOCK sank immediately. Mate T. Atkinson of Fleetwood sole survivor. (C-in-C Rosyth 0837/20) Sunk 20/3 (T.D. C & S Section BMSM No. 14 21/3)

19.3.40.
Tuesday

War Diary



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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Foreign Stations

AQUITANIA

See 17/3. Description of damage. To proceed
Table Bay or Simonstown (C-in-C S.A. 1245/19)

FOREIGN STATIONS

264

North AtlanticHELIOS
German ship

Cancel my 1202, requesting investigation of sighting German ship HELIOS. Proceed in execution of previous orders (F.O.C.N.A. to WISHART, 1535/19).

French
Forces

Positions, Convoys and Patrols (D.C. 0006/19)

Boundary
Line

Between Western Approaches and North Atlantic Commands (to coincide with boundary between Admirals Nord and West)
Adty. 1445. Concur (C-in-C W.A. 1919/19)
Concur but propose Oporto remain in my Intelligence area (F.O.C.N.A. 1314/20)

WISHART
CHACAL

Your 1817/16. WISHART to join French cruiser CHACAL 21/3. (F.O.C.N.A. to C-in-C W.A. 1854/19)

South AtlanticGerman
units

S.O.(I) Montevideo's 2127/18 (re. DEUTSCHLAND and ADMIRAL SCHEER). Is there later information than that contained in Adty. 1601/3? (C-in-C S.A. 0923/19)

French
Intelligence

D.N.I.'s 1748/16 and my 1439/17. French N.A. Rio de Janeiro states intelligence of this sort received from French colonial source generally unreliable. Only from French Naval source can intelligence regarding South America be accepted as reliable. (A.N.A. Rio 0959/19)

America and West IndiesAUSONIA.
BEVEZIERS

Intend sailing AUSONIA and French s/m BEVEZIERS as escort for HX 29 on 21/3. AUSONIA to proceed U.K. for leave and refit. Request escort for BEVEZIERS from Scilly Is. to Brest. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1027/19)

FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies (continued)

265

Submarines
proceeding
Halifax

Adty. 2330/6/3 and 1604/13/3. Request contents of my 1209/13/11/39 be communicated to all submarines proceeding Halifax. In view of message QJA 11 first sentence should be amended to read: "Submarines approaching Halifax are to proceed on the surface and should arrive in daylight and pass through position 44° 00'N, 63° 15'W., thence proceeding on course 345° by searched channel JA 6". (F.O.C.3 B.S. 1723/19)

QUEEN MARY
MAURETANIA

D. of S.T. 1202/12 and 1203/12, sailing of QUEEN MARY and MAURETANIA, N.C.S.O, New York, reports owners' agents in New York have just received completely different orders from London. Please confirm. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1341/19)

ALGERIE

Destroyer and air escort to meet 15 miles W. of Sambro lightship. (C.O.A.C. 1114/19)
F.O.C. 3B.S. 1028/19 see 18/3.

MediterraneanRECCO
Italian
protest

Italian tanker, diverted to Malta for control arrived 1615/19 had to remain under way all night unable to berth in Marsa Scirocco to which she was ordered. Request report (D.E.W.D. 1943/19) Reply 21/3.

Merchant ships
zig-zagging

All British merchant ships in Area 2. Unless a U-boat is reported merchant ships other than transports need not zig-zag whilst in Meditn. East of Malta (C-in-C Mediterranean 1346/19)

Palestine
Shipping

Adty. 2210/18. S.S. ALBANIJA, 285 tons, lighter PLAVNITZA, 800 tons cargo, 4 lighters 60 tons of cargo each, etc. All ships now at Kotor, Yugoslavia (N.O.I.C.. Haifa, 1030/19).

FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean (continued)Algiers Fuel Shortage

Algiers reports until fuel replenished Algiers and Oran not suitable for bunkering British merchant ships. (S.O.I. Malta, 1821/19)

NEA HELLAS stopped

Enemy propaganda states NEA HELIAS, Greek, stopped in territorial waters and taken Malta. Presumably this refers to O341/27/2 from CALEDON. Request material for a reply. (D.E.W.D. 1726/19) (Reply 20/3)

Ballast Clearance Passes

Arrangements have been made for issue by British and French Consuls of "Ballast Clearance Passes" which exempt neutral ships in ballast from calling at a contraband control base for enemy export examination. British or French Consuls in Mediterranean and Black Sea areas will inform you of the issue of a ballast clearance. (D.E.W.D., to C-in-C Med. 1758/19)

Australia and New ZealandU.S.2

EAGLE will be unable owing to accident, to join slow group of US 2 at Fremantle. Considered RAMILLIES and SYDNEY will afford adequate protection and reconnaissance for the smaller group and it is not proposed to provide a relief for EAGLE (D.O.D.(F) 0001/19)

ChinaProspective U-boat base

Completely reliable source reports presence of buildings and searchlights at Trinity Bay (Whale Bay) 45 miles S.W. Vladivostock. (cf. report about a week ago that Germans had leased an area in Whale Bay for use as s/m base) (N.I.D. XI/31)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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Home Commands

BORBECK Now loading Narvik (D.D.I.C. 2025/19, Narvik 1352/19).

OLDENBURG
EUROPA Loaded and sailed 19/3 (D.D.I.C. 2025/19,
OSLEBSHAUSEN Narvik 1352/19).

EMSHORN Arrived Narvik 19/3 (Narvik 1352/19)

PRIAMUS Arrived Trondheim (Trondheim 1700/19)

TREUENFELS Arrived Gothenburg (Gothenburg 1240/19)

Ships in Norway

Positions of German merchant ships in Norwegian waters noon 19/3 (D.N.I. 1340/19)

Refrigerator Ship

German refrigerator ship expected shortly Svolvær, Lofoten Island, to load fresh fish for Germany (Tromsøe, 1809/19)

America and West Indies

ALEMANIA	Curacao, fuel supplied,	400 tons fuel oil.
ESTE	" " "	100 " coal
PATRICIA	" " "	900 " gas oil
VANCOUVER	" " "	1200 " fuel oil
HENRY HORN	" " "	100 " gas, 450 tons diesel oil.

(S.O.I. Kingston 0845/19)

North Atlantic

HELIOS Reported sailed from Guadalquivir 1000 (F.O.C.N.A. 1202/19) Cancelled (F.O.C.N.A. 1535/19)

19.3.40.
Tuesday

War Diary



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

South Atlantic

268

KÖNIGSBERG

Admiral Martinique reports loading rubber at Para. Could sail 20/3 (S.O.I. Kingston 1145/19) (D.N.I. 1342/19)

China

SONECK
FRANKEN

SCNECK under arrest, reported to have discharged cargo to FRANKEN by arrangement between their masters without knowledge of owners agents. Both ships at Padang. (D.S.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

269

Ships
AttackedVIVAGEL
false reportSSSS 34° 40' 7" N, 0° 7' W (VIVAGEL 1020/19)
Cancel submarine distress (VIVAGEL 1115/19)GAROET
? mined

Dutch S.S. GAROET, when in vicinity of Fairy Bank Buoy, paravane towing wire parted following small explosion. Slight shock felt. Expert examination of wire and paravane not possible while ship was in Downs, but GAROET sailed in prize for Falmouth a.m. today. (V.A. Dover, 1830/19)

MINSK ?2300
sunk 2245

Danish, 1229 tons, Manchester to Esbjerg in Kirkwall, torpedoed 30 miles N.W. of Kinnaird Head 58° 7' N, 2° 39' W. H.M.S. ESK picked up nine survivors at 1050/21 and landed them at Aberdeen. Not in convoy. 11 of crew unaccounted for (C-in-C Rosyth 1852/21, 2233/21, ESK 1248/21)..

CHARKOW about
sunk 2100

Danish, 1026 tons, in ballast for Methil, was 3 miles ahead of MINSK when torpedoed. No heard of since. Not in convoy. (C-in-C Rosyth 1852/21, 2233/21) One body recovered from raft by M/S BRABANT 1915/22. (C-in-C Rosyth 1931/22) Presumed sunk by torpedo (I.C. 0397/40) (A/S.W.D. 201).

Estimated dispositions

It is thought all larger U.B.'s may have been withdrawn at present and there is no evidence that any have yet been sent out to take their places. (D.D.I.C. 1158/19)

S/m's reported

- 1839 N.W. of Orkneys, position indefinite. (I.C. 0395/40) (D.D.I.C. 1941/19)
- 2029 Reported by trawler at 2000/19 in 60° 40' N, 02° 03' W. (31 m. N. of Foula Island).
- 1915 Report from 2 soldiers of M.8 A/A battery that they had seen a submarine surface in Holm Sound. A/S precautions taken. Consider report was false. (A.C.O.S. 1018/20)
- 2000 Fishing vessel reports s/m in position 60° 40' N, 2° 03' W., Course 180° at 2000/19. (C-in-C Rosyth 1330/20).

MOST SECRET.

270

19.3.40.

Tuesday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Attacked.

H.M.S. FOXHOUND. Report of attack on Enemy S/M.
M. 06941/40.

H.M.T's GAUL,
ASTON VILLA
and CAPE
PASSARO. Reports of attacks on U/Boat,
M. 07023/40. Probable non-sub
(wreck of tanker).



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

271

S/m's attacked

1551

By A/S trawlers ASTON VILLA, C. PASSARO, and GAUL, 7 attacks in 59° 07'N, 5° 55'W, 2'W. of N. Rona. Attacked good contact. (I.C. 0395/40) Large quantity of oil observed. (F.O.C.O.S. 1551/19)



HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

Tender C. One destroyer of escort diverted to assist CILICIA (R.A.(D) H.F. D.F. 0516/20).

NORFOLK escorted by 4 destroyers is on way from Scapa to dock at Glasgow to repair damage by air attack.

Proposed SUFFOLK be selected as second flagship in 1st C.S. (D.O.D. (H) 1803/20).

ARK ROYAL. Route to Gibraltar (A.C.W.A. 1154/20).

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 6 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 2 A.M.C's.

A/A Cruisers

Flag of Rear-Admiral J.G.P. Vivian hoisted in COVENTRY as Rear-Admiral, A/A Cruisers. (C. in C., Nore, 1201/20).

CURLEW to sail for Scapa soon as possible and act as ordered by F.O.C.O.S. for the defence of Scapa. (D.O.D.(H) 1141/20).

Submarines

Positions 0700/21. (D.C., 1920/20, R.A.(S) 1809/20).

Operations

ALTMARK

Norwegian authorities have sent telegram to ALTMARK to be prepared to sail at 24 hours notice. As yet no date fixed.

Evidently Swedish authorities are not anxious to have the ship laying up in their waters. (Dormer, Oslo, 1500/20).

Reported that tug DRAUGEN owned by Fladman Salvage Co., Aalesund, towed ALTMARK from Josing Fjord (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1321/20).

Operation D.U.

2nd C.S. and 8 destroyers sailed from Scapa 2330 to carry out the sweep into the Skagerrak.

Air.

Convoy HN 20 shadowed

Gladiators being despatched to ^{"Alia"} ~~ALICE~~ now (C. in C. Rosyth 1300/20 to KASHMIR)
3 Blenheim aircraft being despatched, may be joined later by Battle Flight of 3 Hudsons (C. in C. Rosyth, 1338/20, 1700/20).
The Blenheims did not find the convoy, but the 3 Hudsons did and stayed with it until dark.

Reports of enemy aircraft (LONDONDERRY 0242/20 SHEFFIELD 1159/20, KASHMIR 1206/20, ELECTRA 1247/20, A.C.O.S., 1251/20, ELECTRA 1315/20)
The convoy was shadowed from 1220 to 1730, but not attacked.

Enemy aircraft has reported position of your convoy, attack probable shortly (C. in C., Rosyth, 1554/20, 1556/20).

CAIRO 1205

Am engaging an enemy aircraft 207 WPZS 10 (CAIRO 1205/20).

Later there was an indication of an enemy aircraft down in the sea 72 miles N.W. of Texel (I.C. 0396/40). Crew was picked up by a Dutch trawler and landed at Ymuiden. (Press) Asking for details (D.N.I., 1947/22).
Reply - Two German aircraft attacked trawler probably S. of Dogger Bank. One aircraft hit and came down 1600/20 in 53:30 N. 3:40 E. German airmen stated trawler flew red pendant but no ensign. Am enquiring (N.A. Hague, 1330/23).

Attack on ships from Kirkwall for HN 20

1916 SCOTTISH 1916/20.

NORTHERN COAST
1930

British (1211 tons) damaged, returned to Kirkwall (A.C.O.S. 1258/21). She was one of 3 ships from Kirkwall for HN 20 escorted by SCOTTISH and IMPERIALIST. Position of attack 18 miles E. Copensay. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1251/21).

HOME COMMANDS

274

Air.ERLING 1840
LINDOE 1857

Norwegian (1281 tons) damaged 59 miles E. Scapa returned to Kirkwall (A.C.O.S., 1258/21).

Attack on
Convoy ON 21

HN 20 and DN 21 passed close to one another about 1900 east of the Orkneys, and the latter was attacked. Two Skuas proceeded to join ON 21 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1344/20 says "proceeding to H.N.") also 3 Hurricanes from Wick at 1830, but the latter failed to find it. Attacks developed on ON 21 between 1840 and 2000.

The 2 Skuas made contact with 7 enemy aircraft and drove them off. They claim to have hit them all. No other aircraft made contact.

UTKLIPPAN (see below) was the only ship hit in the main portion of Convoy ON 21; the other ships damaged were in the Kirkwall and Methil sections of ON 21 and HN 20.

Convoy ^{"Mama"} MARIA is being attacked 629 JSBP 51-5 (JANUS 1840/20, S.O. 10th A/S S.F. 1853/20). Attacked by 6 enemy aircraft (IVANHOE, 1930/20) JAVELIN 1957/20. Attacked by 2 Heinkels 1840-1952, one believed hit (JAVELIN 2031/20).

TORA ELISE

Norwegian 721 tons. Damaged and proceeding to Kirkwall. (IVANHOE 2200/20) 3 killed, 3 wounded.

SVINTA

Norwegian 1267 tons, hit, steam pipe burst. ?CYANUS (Norwegian) standing by have not made contact with JAVELIN. Am continuing with convoy to destination, my position LKBP 0020 (IVANHOE 1930/20) 59:ON. 1:40 W. (A.C.O.S. 2201/20). Abandoned and reported sinking. Tug sent to her assistance. She was torpedoed and sunk 2210/21, 4 miles off Copinsay while in tow of tug ST. MELLONS see U-boat Campaign. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1115/21, F.O.C.O.S. 0009/22, 1016/21, IVANHOE, 2200/20.

UTKLIPPAN 1957

Swedish 1599 tons hit by incendiary bomb. (JAVELIN, 2035/20).

PEET

Report by British members of SVINTA's crew Estonian ship PEET (2111 tons) in ON 21 hit by 3 bombs sank at once none saved (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1201/22). No information (D.N.I. 1913/23).

*Not a record of the
A.R. 1387*

HOME COMMANDS

275

Air.

At 1527 enemy aircraft were again reported 45 miles E. of Scapa on a southerly course approaching the ON convoy, presumably for the purpose of shadowing. Between 1715-1740 a number of enemy aircraft were located leaving the Bight on a N.W. course, and later 6 enemy aircraft were reported 26 miles off Peterhead.

Attack on
10th A/S S.F.

Off Ness Head at 1853 and again at 1944.

WINDERMERE 1944

Attacked North of Kinnaird Head. Being towed into Aberdeen by IVANHOE. Has casualties (IVANHOE 0940/21). Was towed in 1130 by A/S trawler THIRLMERE. Severly damaged (C. in C. Rosyth 1251/21).

Various attacks

Air raids taking place now (C. in C. Portsmouth 2312/20) The aircraft had previously been pursued by fighters as it passed Dover and had made off over French coast and evaded the fighters before the attack.

BARNHILL 2133

Bombed 50:34 N. 0:2 W. (Portishead Radio? 2133/20, Scapa 2243/20). Now on fire approx. 3 miles S.S.W. Beachy Head. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 2253/20). Niton Radio recd. 2142/ from BARNHILL. On fire. 27 survivors landed by Eastbourne lifeboat. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0240/21). Captain, 2nd officer, 4 others missing. (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 0245/21). Direlict (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 0300/21). She should have been in Convoy HX 25A but apparently had proceeded ahead for reasons unknown. Not armed. Abandoned. Total crew 34, 30 rescued, 4 missing, 7 in hospital, 1 dead this am. Vessel is now high and dry (C. in C. Portsmouth 1255/21, N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0831/21, RESOLVE tug went to rescue (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0048/21).

TSD, 4090/40, Dover War Diary. TSD, 4080/40, Portsmouth Diary

SALACON 1715

Attacked off Norfolk coast. See also 21/3.



MOST SECRET.

5
276

20.3.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

AIR.

JUPITER.

Account of attack / a/c - on
Convoy O.N. 21.

THISTLEBRAE.

British 4747 tons bombed by a/c.
in North Sea. (Shipping
Casualties).

Shipping.

S.S. TORNA ELISE

(Norwegian) Enemy a/c. attack
bombing and machine gunning.
M.06193/40.

War Diary20.3.40.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSAir.GOLDEN EAGLE
? date

On duty as patrol vessel has been attacked and bombed off East Coast (Evening Standard)

PROTINUS
? date

See 25/3.

THISTLEBRAE

Arrived Trondhjem 23/3 for repairs to engine caused by concussion due to bomb explosion close to ship 20/3 (N.C.S.O. Trondhjem, 1300/26).

A.C.O.S.
Raid Warnings

Agreed that as from midnight 20/21 March air raid warning messages will not be sent to Orkneys and Shetlands by national warning system, and that A.C.O.S. will be vested with sole authority and responsibility for the initiation of air raid warning messages to civil and service authorities in this area. (D. of L.D., 2025/20).

Anticipated
Enemy Raids

As result of last night's attack on Sylt, expected that enemy will retaliate against similar objectives as suitable occasions offer. Objectives may be aerodromes but also may be fleet anchorages or any naval establishment. Likely time of attack in immediate future is dusk or by night. (D.O.D.(H), 1411/20).

A/C Reports

Reports of aircraft made by KASHMIR and ESCAPADE, eastward of Orkneys on 16/3, also, reports by VALOROUS off Firth of Forth on 17/3, were of such a low standard that their warning value was negligible. Obvious need for extreme rapidity in the initiation and transmission of enemy reports, particularly those dealing with aircraft. (D.D.O.D.(H), 1320/20).

British Air
Activity

Patrols to the north west of Scotland were flown. Other reconnaissance patrols were prevented by bad weather. Flights by aircraft of Bomber Command were made in the Heligoland Bight - Norderney area. A few bombs were dropped on patrol vessels without result.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Control of
Civil Flying,
Orkneys, Etc.

X.162, 20/3, in three parts (Air Ministry, part I, 1825/20, part II, 1830/20, part III 1840/20).
Amended (Air Min. 1253/21).

Mining.

Sweeping Reports

S.C.Z 64. One mine cut in 53:40:2 N.,
00:15:6 E. (F.O. Humber, 2001/20).

No sweeping, weather. (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1856/20), (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1802/20), (N.O.I.C., Swansea, 1745/20).

D.W.I. exploded one mine today in position one cable S.E. of wreck of LOWLAND, position of wreck 51:51:18 N., 1:29:48 E. (C. in C., Nore, 1910/20).

Summary to date

Apart from casualties. 260 moored or contact mines and 67 magnetic mines have been accounted for up to date by various methods (M.S. Summary No. 22).

Sullom Voe
Minefield

Your 1244/18. Controlled minefield at Sullom Voe designed to provide a double line of mines in 2 separate minefields, consequently the expenditure of any one loop, or a defect, leaves the port fully defended. Case and maintenance of the field to be carried out as necessary by LINNET or RINGDOVE, operating from a base ship or Cromarty. It is not the intention to build a base at Sullom Voe. (T. & M. Dept. 1405/20).

Minelaying
by neutrals

Reported that two small vessels under Belgian and Dutch flags laying mines in waters near the Dutch narrow channels Oostgat and Wielgien stopped by a British warship. Feared that similar German camouflaged ships are laying mines. No official confirmation. (Daily Mail, Amsterdam).

HOME COMMANDS

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Mining

Cromer Knoll
danger area

As from today convoys were not swept through the Cromer Knoll danger area. The new channel having been established. (M.S. Summary No.22).

Sweeping Convoys

In order to test possibility of sweeping convoys throughout the entire length of the East Coast War Channel the M/S trawlers ROWAN and WALNUT sailed 20/3 on a trial searching sweep at 8 knots between May Is. Firth of Forth and Outer Dowsing off the Humber. (M.S. Summary No. 22).

Shipping

Convoys

- ON 21 40 ships, escorted by 4 destroyers and 1 submarine, off Kinnaird Head (D.C.N.S.198)
- HN 20 44 ships, escorted by 6 destroyers and an A/A cruiser and covered by SHEFFIELD, is near the Shetlands (D.C.N.S.198).
- ON 21 Escort. My 2220/18 amended. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1236/19).
- HN 21 Ships to sail 0600/20. (N.C.S.O., Aalsund, 1000/20).

HM Convoys

Your 2009/19. No possibility of running an additional convoy at present (D.T.D., 1116/20).

Belgian Warning

Belgian Newspaper "Ecco de la Bourse" says that on night 20/3 Belgian Shipowners and Captains of ships drawing more than fourteen feet of water received warnings not to sail through the fairways near the Dutch town of Flushing but to anchor their ships in Antwerp or Flushing. Reported that a British warship in the North Sea had stopped two small vessels flying Belgian and Dutch flags, but which were laying mines in the waters near the Dutch Narrow Channels called "Oostgat" and "Wielgien". Believed the two vessels had been seized and brought to England. It is feared that similar German camouflaged ships are laying mines, but up to now it has been impossible to get official confirmation. (Daily Mail, Amsterdam).



HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous.

A/S Training

Time has come when regular weapon training, particularly A/S training on submarine targets must be insisted on. All asdic fitted vessels to have practice on submarine target at intervals of not more than 4 months. French have given permission for practice base to be instituted at Quiberon. Proposed scheme of training (D.A/S.W. 0113/20).

Suspected Ships
STOCKHOLM

Your 1915/19. STOCKHOLM should not sail with convoy and should not be given route instructions similar to other ships (D.N.I. 2340/20).

Ice report

Kattegat free except some floating ice East of Anholt and near Swedish coast. Sound passable on E. side. Great Belt has ice drifting northwards near Sprogø. Little Belt closed (D.N.I. 1939/20).

WEATHER

0500	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	S. gale Shetlands to Skagerrak. W. fresh elsewhere	Moderate	(Moderating visibility improving)
Channel	W. fresh	Very good	Similar
W. Approaches	W. strong	very good	Similar
Horns Reef	S.W. moderate	Good	Similar

Enemy Intelligence

Contraband Control

SKODSBORG (Danish) stopped (?date) off Esbjerg and taken into a German port. Later released, with cargo after inspection. The owners have instructed the master to paint white Maltese crosses on her, and told him this will ensure safety against German attacks. The same instructions have been sent to S.S. AALBORG which is sailing in company (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1505/20)



Enemy Intelligence

BALDER (Norwegian) captured by German SILVIE or SYLVIA (evidently armed auxiliary) off Homborsund doubtful if in territorial waters or not. Daily Telegraph gives date 1000/9. THYRA (Danish) Captured about same time (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1236/20).

German ore ships tracks

Reported that German ships from Narvik now follow the Scandanavian coast until they reach the neighbourhood of Gottenburg and there cross over the Skaw. (Gawthrop, Oslo, 2315/20).
✓

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

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H.M.S. CILICIA)
H.M.S. CARINTHIA) In collision 0143/20 approx. 56:11 N.
8:20 W. now returning to Clyde. Tug
ST. MELLONS to assist. Tug ENGLISHMAN
proceeding. CILICIA unable to steer;
request tug. (ENGLISHMAN was proceeding
to assist Norwegian S.S. ASTRA) A/S
screen provided. CILICIA seriously
damaged, CARINTHIA standing by (CARINTHIA
0143/20, CILICIA 0235/20, 0400/20,
F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0314/20, 0340/20,
0355/20, 0520/20, D.C. 0640/20). One
destroyer of escort for tender C. to
proceed with all despatch to provide
A/S protection (R.A.(D) H.F. D.F. 0516/20)
Send tug ST. MELLONS to assist CILICIA
(D.C., 0640/20, to A.C.O.S.). Cancelled
(1124/20). Tug MARAUDER to assist.

(C.C.R.T., 1219/20, sailed at 1255,
N.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1256/20).
Now GALLANT has arrived, CILICIA no longer
requires us to stand by. Proceeding
Greenock 0600 tomorrow. Fore peak and
chain locker only flooded. (CARINTHIA,
1851/20). CILICIA ordered to Belfast,
(F.O.C.N.P., 2012/20). Arrived (N.O.I.C.
Belfast 0853/21). Tug MARAUDER, recalled.
(C.C.R.T. 2254/20). CARINTHIA arrived
Greenock, damage details (N.O.I.C.,
Greenock, 0755/21, 1908/21).

VERBANIA

Italian (6640 tons) Aarhus for Tyne,
short of coal. Lost reported 1510/20,
61:8 N. 3:31 W. Tug WATERMEYER searching
for her. (See 21/3).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

283

French positions 1200/20 (D.C. 0130/20)

Ocean Convoys etc. (D.C. 1826/20).

Boundary F.O.C.N.A. 1314/20 see 19/3.

Suspected Vessels Vice-Consul, Gijon, has received report that sailing ship VEIGUELA of Ferrol has been brought by Senor Collingwood, Vegadeo. Real owner believed to be German of Bilbao. Reported heavy oil engine will be fitted and suspected that fuel shipped for engine may be disposed of elsewhere. Hamburg-American Line agents, Von Jess, of Vigo, advertising for sailing vessel, 150 to 250 tons, preferably with auxiliary motor. B.2 report, firm is trying to secure 6 vessels of this type and suitable vessels will be inspected by 2 officers from German ships here and 2 men from Neptune Line, Barcelona. (Consul, Vigo, 2029/20).

South Atlantic

ULYSSES Sabotage Bunker fire at Cape Town, 18/3. Suspected sabotage. Ship sailing 20/3 for Freetown and U.K. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1631/20). No evidence of sabotage here (N.O.I.C., Durban, 1641/20).

Mediterranean.

NEA HELLAS, Greek interception Greek ship NEA HELLAS was stopped at 0215/27/2, 9 miles from land in position 37:07 N., 23:30 E. Master told boarding officer that he had received from me international code of signals A.M. Plain language signal made by me was "Stop, am sending officer". Copy of signal made by me was given to officer of armed guard and shown to Master, who realised how his mistake had arisen. Master never raised question of territorial waters to me or officer of armed guard. (CALEDON, 0951/20).

Mails in U.S. ships Nine sample bags landed from U.S.S. EXCHANGE for examination (C.C.S.O., Gib. No. 564 20/3 to F.O.).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia & New Zealand

284

Your 2359/18. Govt. uneasy whether escort proposed from N.Z. to Australia and thence to 160° E. is strong enough. (N.Z. Naval Board 1856/20 to Admiralty).

Reply. Escorts are considered adequate but AUSTRALIA could join trans Tasman escort in N.Z. if desired (Austr. C'wealth, N.B. 0240Z/21).

EAGLE
RAMILLIES
SYDNEY

Admiralty 0001/19, last sentence, concur. (Austr. C'wealth N.B. 1000Z/20).

America & West Indies

MAURETANIA

Re. defensive arming (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1614/20).

China

V. MAYAKOVSKI

My 0259/16. KANIMBLA has fuelled and provisioned V. MAYAKOVSKI, expects to arrive Hong Kong with her 27/3. LIVERPOOL and oiler APPLELEAF are returning Hong Kong. (C. in C., China, 0251Z/20).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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Home Commands

BORBECK Sailed from Narvik with ore 20/3 (Gibbs, Narvik, 1125/20, C. in C. H.F., 1811 /20).

ASIEN Has arrived Narvik (do).

BOCHUM Now loading Narvik (D.D.I.C., 1811/20) (Narvik, 1125/20).

ALERIKA Now loading Narvik (D.D.I.C., 1811/20) (Narvik, 1125/20).

Intercepted ship reports large tanker suspected German in 55:38 N., 20:00 W., on 17/3 heading toward Denmark Strait. (V.A.N.P., 2345/20).

JOHANN My 1255/17 (B.3) Local shipping agent states BLUMENTHAL ship will leave here Saturday pm. 23/3 in time to drop pilot at approach of darkness and will then cross direct to Danish Coast. (Oslo, 2315/20).

CHARLOTTE Delayed by weather. Definitely sailing CORDS tonight Thursday (!) (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1208/21).

America & West Indies

RHEIN Which has been at Tampico since 14/9 is reported to be trans shipping to Norwegian WYVERN a large cargo of scrap iron for Japanese ports (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1724/20).

COLUMBUS Ministry of Foreign Affairs state about 60 of crew embarked in Italian FELLA 27/2 at San Francisco proceeding to Italy via Panama. Will be repatriated overland to Germany, all over 52, hope ship will not be inconvenienced or delayed (Sir P. Loraine, Rome to F.O. No. 256(R) 20/3).



War Diary

20.3.40.
Wednesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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North Atlantic

LUCY
ESSBERGER

Reported about to be transferred to Portuguese flag under name SACOR and proceed from Cadiz to Lisbon. (A.I) (D.C., 0147/21).

China.

My 0940/15. Sourabaya reports information for reliable source German ship at Sourabaya intends bombing 25/3 and in event of sailing will shelter off trade routes until initial search is relaxed. Medan reports no indication of any movement at Sabang at present. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0801Z/20).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

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Ships Attacked

PHOBOS, mined, 0730. Dutch, 7412 tons, mined about 0730, 4 miles E. of N. Goodwin (I.C., 0395/40) damaged. In the new proposed channel, 51:21 N., 1:42 E. Anchored with heavy list 103 deg. North Goodwin L., 8.5 miles BRILLIANT standing by and tugs sent. (V.A. Dover, 1106/20, 1735/20). (N. Foreland Radio, 0843/20, 0845/20, 0855/20). Crew abandoned ship. Towed into small Downs. Mate killed. 13 officers and 39 Chinese landed. Two injured Chinese taken on board Greek TASSIA bound for Antwerp. Probably damaged by magnetic mine. (V.A., Dover, 1806/21) See Mining 22/31. Later investigation points to a contact mine. (D.C., 26/3).

BOTHAL 0500. Danish 2109 tons, torpedoed without Torpedoed, warning. 5 survivors of crew of 20 picked sunk. up 58:21 N., 2:22 W., by Wick lifeboat and landed 30-40 miles E. of Pentland Firth at 0610/21. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0719/21). Not in convoy. Two explosions at 15 seconds interval. In ballast Frederickshaven for Blyth in company. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1700/21, 0948/21).

VIKING 0510. Danish, 1153 tons, torpedoed without Torpedoed, warning 30-40 miles E. of Pentland Firth. sunk. 2 survivors of crew of 17 picked up by Wick lifeboat, 58:21 N., 2:22 W. and loaded at 0610/21. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0719/21, 0948/21). Not in convoy. She was half a mile astern of BOTHAL and also hit by 2 torpedoes at about $\frac{1}{2}$ minute interval and 10 minutes after BOTHAL. In ballast Frederickshaven for Blyth in company. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1700/21). Raft found by aircraft which guided trawler to it JSBP 0726 (Donibristle, 1655/22).

ALGIER sunk Danish, 910 tons, New York to Copenhagen, had called Kirkwall, torpedoed. (? time) 4 of crew and 1 woman passenger drowned. 18 survivors landed Scalloway on West coast of Shetlands. (F.O.C.O.S. 1825/20). (A/S.W.D. 201). Probably sunk in same area as CHRISTIANSBORG. See also 21/3.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines reported

288

One, possibly two, patrolling in vicinity of Orkneys. No other reliable reports (I.C., 0395/40). (D.D.I.C., 1215/20).

1400

One submarine bearing and distance unknown, position 4423 0829 at 1400 (Admiral, West, 1735). Attack enemy submarine reported in 44:23 N., 08:29 W., reliable fix, at 1500 (A.C.W.A., 1755/20). FOLKESTONE hunting. (FOLKESTONE, 1800/20). My 1755. 1 French destroyer and 2 patrol vessels in the vicinity. (C. in C. W.A., 1955/20). Submarine reported 44:23 N., 08:29 W. at 1400. Capt. (D)9 ordered to attack. (D.N.I., 1902/20, to F.O.C.N.A.).

HOME COMMANDS.

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Movements.Home Fleet.

See Operation D U.

NORFOLK escorted by 4 destroyers arrived in Clyde 2300/20. She made good 10 knots on passage and the tug in attendance was not required.

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 7 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 "

ARK ROYAL

V.A.A intends sailing her escorted by only ISIS, IMOGEN. HAVOCK not required (C. in C. Portsmouth 1317/21) HAVOCK was delayed V.A.A. 0942/21)

 IVANHOE
 THIRLMERE
 10th A/S, SF.)

To operate in Moray Firth see 1007/19. There is a U-boat in the Moray Firth area. (A.C.O.S. 1020/21) Cancelled (A.C.O.S. 1101/2)

S/M's.

Positions 0700/22 and movements (R.A.(S) 1647/21, D.C. 1757/21, 2136/21.

U-boat hunting in Moray Firth

Arrangements for 4 destroyers to act under orders of F.O.C.O.S. in view of renewed U-boat activity in Moray Firth (D.O.D.(H) 1715/21, F.O.C.O.S. 1128/21).

A/S S.F.
West of
Scillies.

WOLVERINE, VANSITTART, VIMY, VENETIA to leave Plymouth 23/3 and act as A/S S.F. in area W. of Scillies before making Convoy HX 26 at 0745/24 (C. in C. W.A. 1325/21)

French
S/M's.

16th Division (ORPHEE, AMAZONE, ANTIOPE, SYBILLE with depot ship JULES VERNE arrive Harwich p.m. 22/3 or a.m. 23/3.
13th Division (DORIS, THETIS, CIRCE, CALYPSO) arrive Portsmouth beginning of April. Numbers printed in brick red on conning towers. These S/M's will be under command of V.A.(S) (D.O.D.(H) 2252/21).

HOME COMMANDS.

290

Operations.

Note. At 1227/21 Adty. passed to all concerned a summary of positions of German merchant ships on Scandinavian coast. Told to decode it. (D.D.I.C. 1657/21)

Operation D U

(Sweep into Skagerrak by 2nd C.S. and 8 destroyers which sailed from Scapa 2330/20) (F.O.C.O.S. 2330/20) C. in C. H.F. in RODNEY, with WARSPITE VALIANT, RENOWN, REPULSE and 15 destroyers is N.E. of Shetlands (0730) in support. Two of the destroyers operated during the day off Norwegian coast in Lat. 62°
Force B. GALATEA, AURORA, SOMALI, SIKH, FOXHOUND FIREDRAKE.

Force C. ARETHUSA, PENELOPE, MATABELE, MASHONA, FAME, FORESIGHT.

Battle flight will r.v. with you 0730/22. Leader will ask for r.v. for further battle flight at 1600 (C. in C. Rosyth 1756/21 to C.S.2) Battle flight delayed by weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0652/22)

S/M's on patrol.

HEDDERNHEIM sunk, URSULA sank, HEDDERNHEIM about 2300/21 8 miles E. of Skaw. URSULA damaged by ice but can dive. She has been ordered to keep E. of line Kristiansand Hanøholm until 0600/23, if this not practicable she is to say so before passing to W. of it. (R.A.(S) 0519/22, D.C.2317/21, URSULA 0100/22, R.A.(S) 0451/22.

HEDDERNHEIM intercepted 8 miles E. of Skaw steering west. Tried to escape, gave nationality Estonian and employed delaying tactics which were hastened by shot over funnel. After whole crew safe in boats in flat calm water ship was torpedoed and sank in 5 minutes. Crew then picked up by unknown ship which approached from south burning searchlights. German boat's crew reported Captain had shot himself. Chief Engineer Sinn taken prisoner and stated HEDDERNHEIM carrying 7000 tons ore. (V.A.(S) 1709/25)

JOHANN
BLUMENTHAL

Adty. 1227/21. At 0001 23/3 SEAL is to proceed towards Arendal to intercept JOHANN BLUMENTHAL No bombing restrictions arranged-if ship not intercepted by 2200/23 SEAL is to proceed as desired by you (R.A.(S)2234/21 to Capt (S) 2)

CHARLOTTE
CORD

definitely sailing Rotterdam tonight 21/3 proceed down close to Dutch territorial waters and endeavour to intercept and capture (Capt. (S) 3 to SUNFISH 2043/21).

HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

291

- ALTMARK Sailed from Sandefjord 0300/21, German tug in attendance (N.A. Oslo 1700/26)
- Air.
- Enemy air activity. Some fishing trawlers gunned in North Sea (D.C.2011/22) One a/c course 090° Key position 090 Peterhead 4 miles (ESCAPADE 1105/21)
- TUSCAN STAR reported 0926 bombed by a/c Beachy Head. 040° 18 miles. Cancelled 0928. O.K. now (C. in C. Portsmouth 1030/21)
- RECORDO Tr. 1500 Attacked off Norfolk coast. Unexploded 200 lb. bomb on board machine gun damage. Master wounded (D.C.N.S. 201)
- SALACON Tr. 1500 Attacked off Norfolk coast. Missed by bombs, machine gun damage, Master wounded. (D.C.N.S. 201)
- KIEL
LINA FISSER
BUENOS AIRES
(Swedish) } Bombed by British planes, first 2 in N. Sea, last one in Heligoland Bight (Reuter, Berlin).
- Balloon barrage. Inflate all balloons in barrages covering Naval ports on East and South coasts. (Air Min. 1841/21) Air Min. are issuing instructions for increased balloon barrages to be flown at E. and S. coast naval ports (D. of L.D. 1928/21)
- Bombing restrictions. For daylight 24/3, 25/3 (R.A.(S) 1012/21, D.C. 1449/21.)
- Scapa Raid. Your 1615/20. Routine is to extinguish all lights immediately air raid warning is given. On this occasion lights had been asked for at 2000. Air raid started in daylight before 2000 and order to extinguish lights was therefore not passed with warning. When about 2010 it was noticed lights were on orders to extinguish were at once given. Not considered lights aided bombers which arrived before they were exposed but steps will be taken for future. (A.C.O.S. 1048/21 to Adty.)

Air.

- Recognition of A/C's. Air Ministry's proposals. Over N. Sea E. of 4° W. and N. of lat. of N. Foreland Lighters may open fire at sight by night of any a/c showing navigation lights. Ships anywhere at sea may fire by night at any a/c within range, whether burning navigation lights or not. Do French wish area to be extended? This cancels A.748 10/3, A.747/10/3. (Air Min. 2150/21)
- I agree and concur with use of inter-service system of reporting hostile a/c's. Suggest ships use P/L for sighting reports when speed factor is primary consideration e.g. when visibility is small. (C. in C. Rosyth 2202/21)

HOME COMMANDS.

292

Jersey Airways Neutral a/c's. Permission granted to transfer to Tangemere in event of Shoreham going unserviceable and for neutrals to Lynne. Qualifications (Air. Min. 1105/21)

Mining.

V.A. Dover's 1735/20. Search for contact mines should be carried out over whole length of route to Wandelaar Lt. buoy. Traffic should be released after search has started 21/3. Magnetic ground mine is not considered likely cause of damage to PHOBOS but area of casualty should be searched with available resources for magnetic mines. An. M.D. ship will not be available for some time (D.M.S. 0027/21 to C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover).
But V.A. Dover 1806/21 says Adty. representative considered damage probably caused by magnetic mine.

Operation PA4 Completed.

Minesweeping Reports. One mine cut in N. Goodwin area. Heavy traffic is still held up in Downs. The area is to be cleared 22/3 by 5th M/S. F. Trawler AGNES NUTTEN caught British mine in trawl 58°26' N 1° 9' W. 21/3. She was fishing in forbidden area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1821/22).

Shipping.

Convoys. HN 20 H N 20 has split. Two destroyers are escorting 7 ships down west coast, and 4 destroyers are escorting the remaining 33 ships to Methil; this section was off Kinnairds Head 0730.

ON 21 33 ships escorted by 4 destroyers, a submarine and 2 cruiser (one AA) is off Shetlands.

FS 27,29. Postponed 24 hours (C. in C. Rosyth 1308/21)

Convoy forecast. March 26 to 31 inclusive. (C. in C. Rosyth 1932/21, 1502/28)

Positions. (D.C. 1840/21)

HG 24 Route (D.T.D. 1701/21)

OA 114 Details (N.C.S.O. Thames 1334/21)

HGF 23 Orders to escort (C. in C. W.A. 1047/21)

Routes. Adty. 1233/19. Hold heavy draft ships until further orders. (D.T.D. 1441/21)



HOME COMMANDS.

293

Shipping (Cont.)

Routes. Your 1050/19 not understood. My 2000/18 merely states new route for light draught ships proceeding between Thames or Downs and Dutch or Belgian ports (D.E.W.D. 1230/21)

Miscellaneous.

Scapa blockships. Adty. 2026/20 accepting ships of less than 2000 tons for eastern entrance although unsuitable. By next autumn presume permanent blocking will be well advanced (R.A. Scapa 1254/21)

*Great Belt,
Ice.*

W.I.R. No. 1 incorrect re. Great Belt. It has not been navigable throughout its length. Ice conditions unchanged since my 1900/19 (N.A. Copenhagen 1731/21)

WEATHER.

	Wind.	Visibility.	Weather.
0500.			
North Sea (except extreme east)	Mod. Westerly.	Good.	Cloudy.
Channel			
W. Approaches			
Horns Reef (and E. shores of N. Sea.)	South, mod.	Poor.	Rain.

Outlook. Moderate westerly winds and good visibility spreading to all areas today.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German
Contraband
Control.

Short article is in W.I.R. No. 2.
21/3/40.

MOST SECRET.

294

5

HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Following information (graded B2) has been received (I.C.0396/40.)

GNEISENAU at Wilhelmshaven 13/3.

KARLSRUHE, EMDEN at Kiel 13/3.

SCHLESIEEN (training battleship) at Pillau 13/3.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN (d) at Sassnitz 13/3.

Following forecast of movements (graded B3) was also received, but last minute alterations may have occurred (I.C.0396/40.)

SCHARNHORST } Carrying out practices from Brunsbuttel
NÜRNBERG } Heligoland and Schillig Roads 13-25 March
KÖLN }

LEIPZIG) Duty cruisers Heligoland Bight area 13-20
KÖNIGSBERG) March.

BLÜCHER) At Kiel between 19 and 25 March.
PRINZ EUGEN)

ADMIRAL SCHEER Wilhelmshaven area between 13 and 26/3.

(D.D.I.C. 1216/21 to N.A. Hague, Oslo, Copenhagen Stockholm)

Raider.

Friendly neutral attache to Berlin tells me following obtained from dependable private sources (a) LÜTZOW and ~~tanker~~ ^{7754 tons} NORDMARK, after equipping at Gdynia sailed end of Feb. for N.Sea port. They left for commerce raiding first week March. (Account 24)

U-boats.

(b) Sailings of U-boats Wilhelmshaven recently, suspended. Big offensive expected shortly. Available U-boats advised ready sail 1/4 or 2/4. (N.A. Copenhagen 1731/21) Asking nationality and grading (D.N.I. 1718/22) American B3 (N.A. Copenhagen 0910/23)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

296

TRIBUNE Engine defects. Escort required for passage to Greenock (R.A.(S) 1111/21)

NORFOLK Approx. date of completion between end of June and mid July (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1304/21, 1840/21)

DIANA Asdic gear damaged (DIANA 1110/21)

JUPITER Density 015 in both boilers, ordered to Scapa, request relief. (JAVELIN 0510/21)

SNABB Finnish, hit submerged object 59° 27' N. 2° 25' W 2300/6. Damage not known. No leak (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 173/21)

VERBANIA Position. WATERMAYER proceed and take in tow (A.C.O.S. 1638/21) See 20/3. NORTHERN DUKE standing by 103 Munken Rock 54 at 0350 (V.A.N.P. 600/22) 61° 35' N. 3° 50' W. (Cable intercept.)

DUNLUCE Fire in No. 2 hold at 2040/21. No casualties
CASTLE Ship beached in Ore Bay as precaution (R.A. Scapa 1105/22)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

297

North Atlantic.

French positions. At 1300/21. (D.C. 0035/21)

Convoys. Positions. (D.C. 1840/21)

South Atlantic.

Removal of Germans from Neutral ships. in Union ports. Union Govt. unwilling to do so automatically but will grant request in specific cases; would however prefer removal to take place at sea when practicable. I do not think more satisfactory arrangement is obtainable. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1111/21)

Re protest. Brazilian attitude (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1039/21)

Mediterranean.

RECCO Ship could not enter Grand Harbour owing to cargo of naptha. Exchange of signals re cargo was not completed in time for her to enter Marsa Scirocco before dark, so she was ordered to enter at daylight 30/1. She did not enter until 1025. (C. in C. Med. 1919/21)

Danube Navigation. Sudden break of ice cleared gorges of iron gates yesterday, but entrance at Donja Milanovac still blocked. Ice breaking along whole of river and Hungarians using aeroplanes to accelerate process by bombing. General navigation expected beginning of April. (A.N.A. Belgrade 1350/21)

Possible S/M warfare. French intelligence report, Bizerta, refers to great activity among German agents, East Coast of Majorca, suggesting preparation for submarine warfare in Mediterranean. Booms placed at most Italian ports in September 1939, have been removed. (S.O.(I) Malta 2036/21).

East Indies.

Berthing Large Ships, Aden. C. in C. E.I's 0727/17. Experience in berthing. EMPRESS OF BRITAIN indicates undesirability of both ships of such size at Aden. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0541/21)



FOREIGN STATIONS.

298

Australia.

U.S.2.

My 1702/15 and 1203/12 in regard to itinerary of QUEEN MARY to Australia and subsequently in U.S.2 Requirement bunkers and water at ports concerned (D. of S.T. 1228/21) Your 1228/21 confirmed. (Australian N.B. 03412/22)

America and West Indies.

QUEEN MARY
MAURETANIA
cover for.

You are no doubt taking steps to cover movements of QUEEN MARY and MAURETANIA from A.M.C. raider without actually providing them with escort. D.O.D.(F) 1829/21) Your 1829 confirmed. Arrangements made for DUNDEE, PENZANCE, local, escort 4 French aircraft, DESPATCH and ASSINBOINE (C. in C. A.W.I. 2255/21).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

299

Home Commands.

HEDDERNHEIM
intercepted
sunk.

At 2113/21 the HEDDERNHEIM, which had passed Haugesund southbound from Narvik on 18/3 was intercepted by H.M.S. URSULA 8 miles east of the Skaw and sunk 8 miles off coast after crew abandoned ship by order 0100/22 in flat calm. (D.C. 2317/21) URSULA 0100/22) 57° 47' N. 10° 58' 30" E. (N.C.S.O. Copenhagen 1740/22) Chief Engineer taken prisoner (captain escaped owing to disguise as seaman) Patrol Report of URSULA. 16/3 to 25/3, (V.A.S. No. 28/S.M. 1068, 2/4./40.

EUROPA

My 1646 report of additional German M.V. EUROPA in BQOX 0746 course south coastal at 1030. (C. in C. Rosyth 1836/22)

HELENE RUSSE

Sighted by special flight into Skagerrak in cooperation with the sweep by naval forces, 25 miles E. of Kristiansand south, steering a S.W. course (C. in C. Rosyth 1648/21 A/C 1045/21, 1210/21 Donibristle 1635/21).

EMS HORN

Arrived Narvik (Gibbs, Narvik 1303/21)

AMERIKA

Left Narvik with ore (Gibbs, Narvik 1303/21) (D.C. 1949/21)

BOCKUM

Loading, ore Narvik (Gibbs, Narvik 1303/21)

ERIKA HENDRIK
FISSER.

Loading ore, Narvik (Gibbs, Narvik 1303/21)

PRIAMUS

Arrived Trondheim probably for ore. (D.D.I.C. 1227/21)

JÜRGEN FRITZEN

Arrived Gothenburg with coal (D.N.I. 2251/21)

NEUENFELS

Left Gothenburg (D.N.I. 2251/21) (Gothenburg 1730/21)

NORDSTERN

Left Gothenburg (D.N.I. 2251/21) (Gothenburg 1730/21)

CHARLOTTE
CORDS.

Leaving Rotterdam (D.C. 1722/21) SUNFISH ordered to intercept (Capt. (S) 3, 2043/21, 0035/22)



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

300

Home Commands.

JOHANN
BLUMENTHAL

Adty. 1227/21. SEAL to proceed towards Arendal
at 0001/23 to intercept. (R.A.(S) 2234/21)

2 German merchant vessels leaving Borkum tonight
for Rotterdam (A.2) (N.A. Hague 1823/21)

North Atlantic.

LUCY
ESSBERGER.

Tanker 881, tons, now at Cadiz. Reported
she is to be transferred to Portuguese flag and
renamed SACOR (D.C.0147/21)

South Atlantic.

KÖNIGSBERG

British Consul, Para, reports loaded wax and
oil seeds, reported to be preparing to load
rubber. Can clear officially and leave any time.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 0745/21)



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

301

Ships attacked.

CHRISTIANSBORG
sunk. 0315 Danish 3270 tons, Philadelphia to Copenhagen had called Kirkwall, torpedoed 36 miles W.N.W. of Sumburgh Head, Shetlands. $60^{\circ} 17' N. 2^{\circ} 49' W.$ (F.O.C.O.S. 1152/21) $60^{\circ} 17' N. 2^{\circ} 48' W.$ (I.C. 0397/40) DISCOVERY II rescued 24 out of crew of 25 and sank derelict by gunfire (A.C.O.S. 1223/22, V.A.N.P. 1817/22)

SVINTA
torpedoed
sunk. 2210 Norwegian 1267 tons, which had been damaged in German air raids 20/2, was torpedoed and sunk at 2210/21, 4 miles off Copinsay, Orkney, while in tow of tug ST. MELLONS. (F.O.C.O.S. 2257/21, 0609/22) 040° Copinsay 4.75 miles (F.O.C.O.S. 0009/22) $58^{\circ} 57' N. 2^{\circ} 36' W.$

ALGIER ? a.m.
sunk. ? 2400/20 Danish (1654 tons) sunk by torpedo west of Shetlands (I.C.0397/40) 5 drowned, 18 survivors landed at Scalloway. See also 20/3.

S/M's reported.

- 2200 At about 2200/21 battery at north end of Burray fired on what they thought was a submarine. At 0342/22 a complete swing was registered on No. 1 mine guard loop in Switha Sound and a section of 16 mines was fired. Divers are being sent out to investigate. (A.C.O.S. 1017/22) See 22/2.
- 1922 a.m. S/M bearing 45° from Pointe Quenard (C. in C. Charbourg 2305/21) By S.S. MEGRIX $49^{\circ} 46' N. 2^{\circ} 8' W$ (3 miles (Customs Guernsey 1922/21) N.E. Quenard Pt. Alderney (Officer of Customs Guernsey 1922/21)
- 1600 Doubtful report by PARAME $50^{\circ} 56' N, 05^{\circ} 03' W,$ southerly course. (C. in C. W.A. 0500/22, 1127/22)
- 1144 By NORTHERN REWARD S/M bearing 259° 3 miles approx. true course 90° from 020° Cape Wrath 98 miles (NORTHERN REWARD 1144/23).

North Atlantic.

- 1400 Portuguese schooner reports spoke 2 U-boats near Cape Sinej, W. coast. Portugal steering S. in territorial waters (F.O.C.N.A. 1152/23)

War Diary.



22.3.40.
Friday.

"A" Message Home and Abroad 28 A.

302

Raider
Reported.

Reports that pocket battleship accompanied by tanker of ALTMARK class left Germany first week in March for commerce raiding. Possibility of raider being abroad cannot be ignored as only one **pocket battleship** can with any certainty be located in German waters. (D.C.N.S. 1550/22).

My 1550/22. Reports not graded higher than B.3. In view of confusion caused by term 10,000 ton ship and change of name, ship referred to may be a pocket battleship or a 10,000 ton cruiser. (D.D.I.C. 1333/24).

HOME ...

HOME COMMANDS.

303

Movements.Home Fleet.

Engaged on Operation DU.

Northern Patrol.Orkneys to Faroes
Faroes to Iceland
Denmark StraitTrawlers.
2 Cruisers, 6 A.M.Cs.
1 Cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

ARK ROYAL

Sailed for Mediterranean.

S/ms.Positions 0600 and movements. (D.C.2012/22)
(D.C. 0045/23, R.A.(S) 1701/22, 2121/22,
Capt.(S)3 1821/22, R.A.(S) 1659/22).French S/ms.3 French S/ms. and a depot ship have arrived
at Harwich.Operations.Operation DU.At 0730 C. in C. in RODNEY, with WARSPITE,
VALIANT, RENOWN, REPULSE and 13 destroyers
were 120 miles W. of Sogne Fjord, 62° N. 5° E.Battle Flight due to rendezvous with C.S. 2
0730/20 delayed by weather. (C. in C. Rosyth
1940/22, 0650/23).S/ms. on Patrol.Passing them information re OLDENBURG, PASAJES,
Trawlers and LAUNENBURG (See German Merchant
Ships) (D.C. 0003/23).Destroyers off
Norway.Alleged infringement of neutrality in firing
on German herring trawler BUTT. (See German
Merchant Ships).

22.3.40.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.

304

Operations (Cont)S/ms. on Patrol.

My 2043/21 to SUNFISH. Two other German merchant ships reported sailing from Brakum to Rotterdam to-night. Proceed close to Dutch territorial waters and endeavour to capture. SNAPPER is to keep N. and SUNFISH S. of Lat. 053° (Capt.(S)3 0035/22 to SNAPPER, SUNFISH).

Orders to URSULA. (Capt.(S)6 1421/22 re her 0100/22. see 21/3).

SEAL to proceed to intercept JOHANN BLUMENTHAL (Capt.(S)2 1041/22).

Orders for THISTLE, TRIAD, TRUANT (Capt.(S)2 1030/22).

Orders for SUNFISH, SNAPPER (Capt.(S)3 0901/22).

Air.Enemy Air Activity.

One A/c plotted off Norfolk coast 0145. Sighting reports F.O. I.C. Glasgow, 1721/22, D.N.I. 1803/22).

Probably trying to locate convoys. (I.C. 0397/40).

See also Mining.

FRITZS

Finnish, 1475 tons, attacked and bombed by 2 A/cs. in North Sea late afternoon, engine disabled and steering gear wrecked. Two trawlers put out from Peterhead, tried to tow, but failed. Tug sent from Aberdeen. (Daily Mail). Towed into port night 23/24 with broken rudder post. (D.T.D. 0204/24 to B.C. Bergen 2226/23). In ON 20. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1113/23).

WILLIAM WESNEY
0715

H.M. Trawler. Engaged 2 Heinkels near rough buoy off Harwich. 6 rounds. (C. in C. Nore 1600/22). See also Mining) (parachute mines).

HOME COMMANDS.

305

Air (Cont.)British Air Activity.

Normal patrols were flown in North and North-West.

In the North Sea they were prevented by weather.

German A/C shot down by trawler.

Evening Standard report, 21/3, of 4 German airmen rescued 110 miles off Ymuiden by Dutch trawler, landed there 21/3, said plane shot down by British trawler. Request further details as to British trawler responsible, time and position of action. (D.N.I. 1947/22, to N.A. Hague).

Air Warning to Shipping. Proposals.

Issue of Warnings. A. Adty. to issue to Area B as well as Area A. B. English Channel to be divided into E. and W areas at 3° W. In absence of warning from Adty., C. in C. Portsmouth to warn in E. portion, C. in C. W.A. W. portion.

Other areas in W. Approaches Command to be designated Bristol Channel and Irish Sea. Ships at sea to report all unidentified and enemy a/cs. at once to Adty. and S.O. of Command.

Method of Signalling Warnings. Rapidity essential. Procedure self-evident code.

<u>A. Signification.</u>	<u>Code Word.</u>
(1) Enemy a/c may be approaching or there is possibility of attack (in area).	APPO
(2) Unidentified a/c sighted (in ... area or in position).	APUN
(3) Enemy a/c (in ... area or in position).	APEN
 <u>B. Signification of area.</u>	
(1) Eastern Channel (E. of 3° W.)	WITE
(2) Western Channel and Approaches (W. of 3° W)	PLYM
(3) Bristol Channel	BRIT
(4) Irish Sea	IRIS
(C. in C. W.A. 1939/22).	

Recognition of a/cs. Re. Adty. 2116/8 and 1642/11. Escort of FS 24 report friendly a/c approached close to convoy with navigation lights burning night 20/21 March. (C. in C. Nore 1845/22).

Adty. 2056/21. Concur Inter-Service system should be normal method. Further proposals (C. in C. Nore 1739/22). Adty. 2256/21. Concur. (C. in C. H.F. 0938/22).

Adty. 1310/2 do instructions in Adty. 1406/30/11/39 still apply? (C. in C. H.F. 0843/22).

HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

306

Mine Sweeping Reports.

One type Y swept in 51°20.2'N. 1°43.9'E.
(V.A. Dover 2112/22). This is near
PHOBOS, mined 20/3.

Skid exploded mine St. Anthony 005° 2.64 miles
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1701/22).

Two moored mines were swept at South end of
Fairy Bank, between the Downs and Holland.
(D.C.N.S. 201).

Daily Sweep by French.

By destroyer will be carried out between
Wandelaar and position 090° W. Hinder 1.5
miles. Details (V.A. Dover 1852/22).

Parachute Mines.

Suspected within radius $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of 51°6"N.
1°28'6"E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1611/22).

H.M.T. WILLIAM WESNEY engaged 2 Heinkels
0715/22 near rough buoy off Harwich, saw
2 parachutes drop 1 to 1½ miles N.W. of rough
buoy. Are being investigated with skids.
(C. in C. Nore 1600/22) 51°55.5'N. 1°30'E.

The normal channel was forbidden and a tem-
porary one substituted.

Floating Mines.

Reported by Oslo Radio sighted 58°32'N.
5°5' E. at 1315/22 and 56°59'N. 6°49'E.
at 1510/22 (D.C. 2125/22).

Dumny mines.

To be laid (practice lay by NARWHAL) about
10 miles to E. of W. limit of E. Coast
barrier between 55°55' N. and 56°10' N.
(D.O.D.(H) 1315/22 etc. V.A.(S) 1616/20.)

Shipping. ...



HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

306

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Dummy mines.

To be laid (practice lay by NARWHAL) about 10 miles to E. of W. limit of E. Coast barrier between 55°55' N. and 56°10' N. (D.O.D.(H) 1315/22 etc. V.A.(S) 1616/20.)

Shipping. ...

HOME COMMANDS.Shipping.

367

Convoys.

- HN 21 31 ships for E. Coast, 9 for W. Coast (D.T.D. 1323/22). Sailed (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1047/22).
- HN 20 Arrived Methil 0630 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0840/22). 42 ships (8 British, 34 neutral).
- ON 21 Off Bergen escorted by 3 destroyers, 1 submarine and 2 cruisers. JUNO left Scapa at 1800/21 to reinforce escort and replace JUPITER, returning to Scapa with condenser trouble. (D.C.N.S. 200).
- ON 22 Arrives Point E. 1630/26/3. (D.T.D. 0930/22).
- HN 22 Leaves Point E. 1900/26/3. (D.T.D. 0930/22). Additions (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1313/22).
- H.M.S. BREDA. My 0930/22. H.M.S. BREDA may be identified by Master as yacht commissioned as man-of-war. Captain of Convoy leader carried out duties of Commodore. (D.T.D. 1455/22).
- HG 24 Rendezvous. (F.O.C.N.A. 1142/22).

Protection off Tyne.

I have no vessel for patrolling round convoys anchored off entrance waiting to enter, their times of leaving and entering being governed by tide and conditions in river, not by time of arrival or departure of convoys. Grave risk of S/m. action. Number of ships often 30 waiting for 3 or 4 hours. Request at least 2 patrol vessels for this duty. (N.O.I.C. Newcastle on Tyne 2211/22 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Convoy
HN 21

D.C. 1834/22.
Sailed for rendezvous p.m. 21/3 (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1047/22, D.T.D. 1318/22) (C. in C. Rosyth 1904/22).
Believed reported to German Consul 0900/22 by German fishing vessel NORDLAND (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1731/22). Route if weather bad (C. in C. Rosyth 1301/22) (D.T.D. 2001/22).

Altered Cycle
HX Convoys.

HX 30 to arrive rendezvous in W.A. 6/4 instead of 7/4. Subsequent HX Convoys to sail to arrive at 4 day intervals from this date. (D.T.D. 1341/22).

Altered Cycle
OA, OB Convoys.

D.T.D. 1338/22.

HX 31

Rendezvous (Capt. D'kyd. Halifax 1001/22).

HGF 25

Route (D.T.D. 1731/22).

W/T Silence.

British merchant ships should not break W/T silence to answer call by neutral W/T station (D.S.D. 1543/22).

Air warnings
to shipping.

See Air.

Miscellaneous. ...



HOME COMMANDS

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Miscellaneous.

Suspect Skoot.

Seen by S/T LEONORA 1320/22 near E.Dudgeon acting suspiciously. Dutch flag.
(F.O. Humber 1945/22).

Suspicious Ship.

JERNLAND, Norwegian. I am refusing convoy, probable his application is for purpose of spying. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1145/22).

Danish Fishing Fleet.

W/T sets will be sealed before sailing. (Consul Esjberg 1625/22).

Scapa Defence.

My 1303. Switha Gatrand minefields now in operation. (F.O.C.O.S. 1917/22).

Transfer of V.A.(S) Ho.

Stage 3 0800/30. (V.A.(S) 1751/22).

WEATHER.

<u>0500</u>	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>
North Sea - Shetland.	Local E.gale.	5 miles
North Sea	Light S.	5-10 miles.
Horns Reef } Channel E. } Channel W. } W.Approaches. }	S.W. 3.	5-10 miles, local mist.
	South 4.	15-20 miles, showers.

Outlook - No immediate change.

Enemy ...

HOME COMMANDS.

309

Enemy Intelligence.

LÜTZOW

Asking source of his 1542/8 stating LÜTZOW refitting at Danzig 21/2 together with sister ship of ALTMARK class named NORDMARK fitting out and embarking 11 inch ammunition. B.O. (D.N.I. 1252 to A.N.A. Stockholm). Reply. Swedish naval reserve officer name(?) unknown there recently returned from Danzig, through Cdre. Staff College (A.N.A. Stockholm 1140/23). *See 21/3/40 page 295*

Internal Situation.

Wife of highly placed German officer states internal situation in army is becoming critical. Active pre-revolutionary mood which must explode before very long; and army and navy realise explosion inevitable unless there has been a very considerable success and definite improvement in conditions by August. Military chiefs said to be urging Hitler towards an (? impetuous, inadvisable and quite unscrupulous) offensive. This is immediately expected. (Mr. Osborne (the Vatican) No.29 D.I.P.P. 22/3).

N.I.D. Note: All other reports mention distress in Germany but all stress that the people are resolved to carry on until the business is finished.

I am again assured Blitzkrieg may start at any moment and Mussolini presumably satisfied it could not fail; if Hitler should have initial success most likely Mussolini will attack in Mediterranean. If we should have considerable success he will probably become our best friend. (Mr. Osborne (the Vatican) No.28 D.I.P.P. 22/3).

CASUALTIES ...



CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

310

BARHAM Undocked p.m. 21/3. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1415/22).

EXPRESS.)
MANX ADMIRAL) In collision 2100. Damage not serious, but
Tr.) EXPRESS has returned to port, for repairs.
(Capt. D. 20 2132/22).

H.M.T. JASPER)
Tr. KINELLAR) In collision 1231/22 in Granton harbour.
No serious damage to either. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1725/22).

BATAVIER IV Obstruction with paravane bearing Fairy Bank buoy 243 true distance about 3 miles. (N. Foreland Radio, recd. 1155/22).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

311

French Convoys.

Positions. (D.C. 0428/22).

CONTE DI SAVOIA

Has she arrived Gibraltar? (D.C. to F.O.C.N.A. 0833/22).

S/m warfare off Majorca.

Your 1304/22 (re preparations). No confirmation. No information re from Palma. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1902/22 to D.N.I.).

OA, OB Convoys.

Altered cycle. (D.T.D. 1338/22).

South Atlantic.

Unknown Ship.

Apparently patrolling without lights sighted by French S.S. FLORIDA 1730/20 25 miles E. of 27°19' S. 48°23' W. Description (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1319/22). Description amended. (A.N.A. Rio 1049/25).

Whale Factory Ships and SALUTA.

Re communicating with them. Ordered to proceed direct from South Georgia to Freetown without calling at Falklands. (D.T.D. 2121/22 to C. in C. S.A., R.A. S.A.D.)

GRAF SPEE

Report that on 16/12/39 crew of GRAF SPEE refused to proceed to sea and appeared mutinous. Asking for report. (D.N.I. 1828/22 to N.A. Buenos Aires).

America ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

312

Halifax
Assembly
Port.

A.N.A. Stockholm's 1638/19. Ships cannot be inspected at Halifax or Kingston. Assembly port for convoys for ships from Panama Canal for U.K. is Halifax. (D.T.D. 1103/22).

QUEEN MARY.
MAURETANIA.

Leakage of information re. ultimate destination. Investigate and report whether Cunard Office, N. York is to blame. (D.N.I. 2009/22 to N.C.S.O. New York). Please investigate (C. in C. A.W.I. 1130/22 to N.S.HQ. Ottawa). Details as to leakage re fuelling arrangements should be reported (D.N.I. 2010/22 to S.N.O. Trinidad, S.O.(I) Jamaica, C. in C. A.W.I. re 2225/21) MAURETANIA expected time of arrival Colon, 1900 R/25/3 (C. in C. A.W.I. 1640/22). Arrived and left Bermuda 22/3. (Capt. I/C. Bermuda, 1800/22).

French Ships.

Arrivals and departures (Canadian S.O.(I) Halifax 1450/22).

EX Convoys.

Revised cycle of sailings see Home Commands.

Mediterranean.

S/m Warfare,
Majorca.

Can you confirm or amplify S.O.(I) Malta's 2036/21 (preparation for submarine warfare off E. Coast of Majorca. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1304/22). French Intelligence, Bizerta, reports great activity among German agents East Coast of Majorca suggesting preparations for submarine warfare in Mediterranean. Booms placed at most Italian ports in September, 1939, have been removed. Have you any confirmation? (D.N.I. to N.A. Madrid, 1317/22).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.Home Commands.

313

CHARLOTTE CORDS. Left Rotterdam 2359/21. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 0867/22).

LAUENBURG Tr. Passed going south in company with another trawler, both fully laden. (Tromso 1650/22).

HANS LEONHARDT. Arrived from the South (Bernardes, Haugesund 1940/22).

LEDA Waiting to load (do.).

OLDENBURG Sailed south laden with ore (do.)

PASAJES Sailed south laden with fish (do.)

PLANET Reported 22/3 sailing northwards in Norwegian territorial waters N.W. of Bergen. (N.I.D.8) 61°0'N.4°46'E. at 1100/22 reported by A/c (D.N.I. 1803/22).

ANKA. } Arrived Rotterdam. Both appear to be
ELSTER. } going to sail again same night. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1900/22).

? Recently passed over 10 miles W. of Lyngvig steering for Norman Dyb. (Consul Esbjerg 1600/22).

EUROPA All ships Rosyth East to decode C. in C. Rosyth's 1836/22 re EUROPA (D.C. 1949/22).

BUTT Herring trawler. Alleged to have been stopped by British destroyer within Norwegian territorial waters a.m. 22/3. Destroyer fired warning shot which fell on Norwegian territory. (Transocean W/T, 0001 G.M.T. 27/3.) Norwegian Admiral reported that at 0929/22 Obrestad Coastguard Station observed 9 British destroyers in S.W. 2 nautical miles from land. At 0940 1 fired warning shot against BUTT going southwards, projectile fell 60 metres west of main road by Lerbekke farms, approx. 800 metres from the beach, did not explode but ricochet made craters 2 metres long and 30 to 40 cm. deep. Norwegian Legation, London, instructed to protest. (Cable intercept from Norwegian Foreign Minister 25/3).

War Diary.



22.3.40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

314

Mediterranean.

LARISSA

Cleared for Poti 20/3 states she was
unable to go to Batum owing to labour
difficulties at that port. (S.O.(I)
Malta 1315/22).

U-BOAT ...

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

315

S/ms. Reported

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C. 1242/22)

1150 By aircraft 59° 12' N., 4° 36' W. (about 40 miles N.N.E. Cape Wrath) (A/c 269 Sqn. 1150/22)

1630 By aircraft 59° 20' N., 3° 54' W. (about 33 miles N.W. Stromness) (A/c 269 Sqn. 1630/22)

S/ms attacked.

1845 Aircraft dropped 2 bombs on a U-boat 20 miles N.W. Orkneys. Both bombs appeared to hit the submarine but failed to explode. The s/m then dived. (I.C. 0398/40) gives time 1820, also A/S.W.D. 201). ELECTRA and ENCOUNTER sent to search.

0342 No. 1 time Loop (16 mines) in the Switha entrance to Scapa was fired during night. Diving is being carried out to see whether a U-boat has been destroyed. (F.O.C.O.S. 1303/22)

1150 By aircraft (M.269) 59° 12' N., 4° 36' W. (319° Sule Skerry 9 miles). U-boat had submerged before the attack. No known result. (A/c 269 Sqn., 1845/22, Donibristle 2042/22, 2230/22).

2158 By SHEFFIELD, 2 attacks in 61° 05' N., 03° 35' E. at 2158, and 60° 19' N., 0° 17' W. on 23/3. (SHEFFIELD 1022/23). Results unknown. (A/S.W.D. 201).

War Diary

23. 3. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

316

Movements

Home Fleet See Operations.

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

Submarines

Positions 0600/24 and movements (R.A.(S)
1901/23, D.C. 2015/23, 0201/24).
Submarines on patrol (Capt. (S)2 0136/24.

Operations

Operation
D.U.

2nd C.S. and destroyers were near Lister
Light at 0730, returning to bases.

C. in C. H.F. and heavy ships as 22/3.

The operation produced no result. Only 3
enemy merchant ships were sighted, all inside
territorial waters.

Policy towards
German Fishing
Craft.

C. in C. H.F. 1927/10/2 para (e) AUCKLAND
is to be placed at disposal of C. in C. H.F.
from 26/3 (D.O.D.(H) 1406/23, 1625/23).
Will be available 31/3 (C. in C. Rosyth
1934/23). Cancel my 1406/23 (D.O.D.(H),
1158/27).

Submarines
on patrol.

Orders for SWORDFISH, UNITY (R.A.(S) 2214/23).
SUNFISH, SNAPPER, Patrol reports (V.A.(G)
1853/23).
Movements of HANS LEONHARDT and BORBECK
(D.C., 2319/23 to C. in C. H.F.).
Movements of ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER (D.D.I.C.,
1830/23, to C. in C. H.F., etc.).

EDMUND HUGO
STINNES IV,
sunk

Learn on good authority EDMUND HUGO STINNES IV,
with coke for Copenhagen, sunk probably by
submarine, last night off Thorsminde (Nissum
Fjord), west coast of Jutland. Master
reported prisoner (N.C.S.O., Copenhagen,
1555/24). Position of wreck reported to be
56:22:12 N., 08:02:06 E. (N.C.S.O.,
Copenhagen, 2000/24). Ship, 2129 tons, sent
out an S.O.S. at 1155/23. TRUANT operating
in this area. (D.C.N.S., 203).

(continued)

HOME COMMANDS

317

Operations.

EDMUND HUGO
STINNES ~~IV~~,
sunk.
(continued)

Intercepted off Bowbjerg Light, 306°, 3.6 miles 2200/23, shadowed her until ½ mile outside territorial waters. There ordered to stop, not use wireless. She continued, blank rounds fired. Ship altered course towards land and used wireless and re-entered territorial waters. Two rounds H.E. were fired at her bridge superstructure, both hit. Ship sent out S.O.S. So 8 more rounds of H.E. were fired, 3 minutes later ship, now in territorial waters began to list and settle. Crew abandoned ship which was finished off by torpedo to prevent salvage and since TRUANT expected the arrival of enemy aircraft.

Position 2 miles 290° from Thorsminde, 1 German officer was wounded. German Master taken prisoner on board.

TRUANT ascertained that no person was left on board, before sinking the ship. Wreck lies in 8 fathoms of water in middle of track used by coasting shipping. Need for a small boat for boarding was again felt. When E.H. STINNES was stopped, a boarding party fully equipped was ready to board the ship with view to stopping scuttling operations and bring prize into home waters. The German boats refused to come alongside, pulled hard for the beach and each had to be chased in turn. By then it was too late to consider taking ship in prize. (TRUANT 0705/25, Capt. (S)2, 1146/26, TRUANT's Patrol report 12/3/40 to 26/3/40. (Capt. (S)2, No.05998 of 27/3/40). I learn unofficially that vessel took 10 hours to sink. Proposed Danish protest. (N.A. Copenhagen, 1901/25).

Air.

Air Searches

Off North Cornish coast at day light for possible U-boat. Orders (C. in C. W.A. 0010/23).

Owing to poor visibility only the Northern patrols were flown.

Balloons

Cancel my 1324. 8 extra balloons are now in position at Harwich (C. in C. Nore, 1033/23)

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

Suspected minelaying raids by aircraft during night 22/23 off the Tay, the Farne Is., and Flamborough Head.

Our aircraft at 6000 was sighted over Scapa 1030 and R.D.F. indicated some activity off Kirkwall at 1425.

Mining

Minesweeping reports

Further delay with M. sweep (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2255/23).

Fog prevented clearing sweep. 2 mines cut 6 cables N. of centre line in 2:6.5 E. One mine cut 1.2 miles N. of centre line in 2:8.5 E., one mine cut 6 cables south of centre line in 2:8 E. Seven mines swept 51:17.6 N. 1:50.2 E. Explosion occurred under BROCK, type of mine at present unknown, slight damage suspected (V.A. Dover, 1954/23).

Nil (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1431/23).

Magnetic sweep exploded 4 mines near Tongue Light V. (Thames estuary) (D.C.N.S. 202).

Shipping

Convoys

- HN 21 40 ships, was halfway between Norway and Shetlands at 0730/23, Escort 6 destroyers, 1 submarine, 1 AA cruiser. Cover: SHEFFIELD. 9 ships due Cape Wrath 24/3 (D.T.D., 1852/23).
- OA 117 Escort, route (C. in C. W.A. 0948/23).
- OB 117 Route (C. in C. W.A. 0939/23).
- ON 22 Sailed from Methil 1500 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1904/23).
- Ocean Positions and escorts (D.C. 1916/23).
- HG, HGF Signalling positions. Admiralty 1500/7/2 para. 4. In future 2 positions will be given. If not met at R.V. convoy should pass through first position and then steer for second (D.T.D. 1215/23 to F.O.C.N.A.).
- HG 25 Route (D.T.D., 1800/23).

HOME COMMANDS

319

Shipping

Convoys (continued)

SL 23 Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1401/23).
FN 27 R. of P. from LONDONDERRY (M.O. 6801/40).

Awaiting Convoy

Total of 49 ships awaiting convoy. (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1307/23).

BERGENSFJORD) Weather permitting mails to be removed at
DROTTNINGHOLM) sea, except diplomatic mails. Ships are
not to be diverted to Kirkwall. (V.A.N.P.,
1534/23).

Heavy Draught
Ships

Your 2001 /18, 1441/21. Are these messages
still in force? Ships are arriving here by
SC 2 Form 125 (N.C.S.O. Antwerp, 1120/23).
Yes. Ships were sailed in error. (D.T.D.
1832/23). SC 2 Form 125 is not yet in force.
Heavy draft ships should continue to be held
in accordance with my 1441/21. (D.T.D. 1851/23
to B.C. Amsterdam, Rotterdam).

Miscellaneous

WOLFE's
Report

WOLFE's 1710/10. Extremely improbable ship
or convoy were sighted. Circumstances of
10/3 were reported on subsequent occasion in
similar weather. Ships turned out to be ice.
(V.A.N.P. 1020/23).

C. in C. H.F.
1507/23

See 27/3.

French Policy

M. Reynaud states that in general he is in
favour of getting on with the war at the
expense of treating the neutrals with less
tenderness than we had hitherto shown.
(Sir. R. Campbell (Paris) No. 235 SAVING 23/3).
We must expect to be pressed for stronger
and more rapid action in any and every field.
(Sir R. Campbell (Paris) No. 236 SAVING 23/3)



War Diary

23. 3. 40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

320

WEATHER

0500	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	S.E. fresh in N. S.W. moderate in S.	Moderate Fog patches	Similar
Channel	S.W. moderate	Moderate	Wind freshening
W. Approaches	S.W. moderate	Moderate	Wind freshening
Horns Reef	S.E. moderate	Poor	Similar

Enemy Intelligence

German Contra-
band Control

BALDER (Norwegian) Drammen to Bergen, had to leave Norwegian territorial waters in a storm. Seized and released. (Lloyds).

OSMUSSAR (Estonian) Taken to Hamburg 20/11/39. Released 17/3/40. (do).

ROMEO (Estonian) seized and released . (do).

GNEISENAU

Reported to have arrived at Hamburg 1200/14. C.2 (D.D.I.C. 1500/23).

Kiel Canal

reopened. No movement of merchant shipping by night. Elbe open below Brunsbüttel. (Consul Esbjerg 1945/23).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

321

TAMWORTH

Steering gear damaged by collision. Tug CAROLINE MOLLER sent from Harwich (C. in C., Nore, 1823/23, 1825/23) 027° Kentish Knock Lt. V. 8 miles.

PLM 26

French. Ashore 4 cables N.E. of Longsand Buoy. Tug SECURITY standing by. Tug MURIA from Harwich and another tug from Gravesend proceeding to relieve SECURITY (C. in C. Nore, 1643/23) Anchored safely afloat. Stop sending men and boats (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0331/26)

YOSYUMARU

Stranded S.W. coast Hokkaido (cable intercept)

H 58

Belgian fishing steamer, 14 days overdue (Transocean Radio 0500/23).

SANDE

Swedish 1326 tons. Sank in Oslo Fjord night 23/24 after collision with NUOLJA (Transocean Radio, 1800/23).

LOCH ASSATER,
mined, sunk.

Look-out trawler LOCH ASSATER, in hauling her trawl, detonated two mines in position (by her reckoning) 61 miles N.E. of North (magnetic) from Kinnaird Head at 1430/23. In attempting to clear third mine in her trawl this exploded and sank the vessel, which had certainly trawled across the British deep minefield. All crew picked up 0530/24 by S/T STRATHTUMMEL. Skipper and two others seriously injured. Instructions not to use nets have been reissued and emphasized. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1320/24, 1649/24, 1710/24).

These vessels have orders to pretend to be fishing, but not to use any form of net in prohibited areas (M/S Summary No. 23).
58:25 N. 1:15 W. approx.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

322

French positions 1200/23 (D.C. 0023/23).
Convoy positions 2000/23 (C. in C. W.A. 1322/23).
Suspicious tanker 1200/22, 5 miles west of Moledo, R.Minho, until 1500 when she steered west (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 2247/23).

South Atlantic

Oiler My 1153/8/2. Owing to over-riding commercial considerations regret impossible to provide you with a special fast tanker. (D.O.D.(F) 1810/23 to C. in C. S.A.

SEVILLA With valuable whale oil cargo. Proceeding to Gib. Asking for escort in view of report of submarine 32:42 N. 11:20 W. (C. in C. S.A. 2145/23) Admiral Abrique asked to provide escort (C. in C. S.A. 2130/23) (see 24/3).

Raider Reported by Marine AOF that 10,000 ton cruiser sailed from Germany with ALTMARK class tanker beginning of March. Is this in addition to possible pocket battleship mentioned in Admiralty 1550/22 (C. in C. S.A. 1831/23). Refers to same vessel (D.D.I.C. 1055/24).

Whale Factory
Ships and SALUTA Your telegram 22/3 received. Sailings of SOURABAYA, SALVESTRIA, NEW SEVILLA for Freetown. SVENLFOYN ready for sea. Shall she be detained pending further orders? W/T apparatus SALUTA listens for Portishead at 19 and 20 hours GMT (Salvesen, South Georgia, 23/3, received 1644/24/3).

Belligerent rights Your 1940/14/2. No intention of restricting. Although desirable to avoid unduly offending susceptibilities of American states it is essential to lose no opportunity of capturing ships. Protests will be made irrespective of position where we intercept. Preferable to treat each case according to circumstances of moment rather than impose any general restrictions on our actions. (Hd. of M. 1336/23 to R.A.S.A.D.).

FOREIGN STATIONS

323

Mediterranean

British ships
in Black Sea

Asking that they may be warned not to reply to W/T messages asking for their positions. Record of such messages to be kept and reported to British consul at next port of call (C. in C. Med. 1310/23 to Admiralty).

America & West Indies

French Submarines

French wish them to join an OA convoy when they sail from Brest for Halifax. (D.O.D.(H) 1530/23).

QUEEN MARY

Admiralty 2010/22. Information QUEEN MARY fuelling at Trinidad known of here 21/3. Date of arrival and destination not known. Intelligence officer investigating source. (S.N.O., Trinidad, 1112/23).

Admiralty 2009/22. Satisfied no leakage occurred from Cunard White Star or elsewhere. Reports only intelligent conjectures by American Press. Submit even now no mention of correct immediate destination of either ship has occurred. (N.C.S.O., New York, 1523/23). Reply see 28/3.

Australia ■ New Zealand

Darwin-Timor
Patrol. MANOORA.

Australian C'wealth N.B. 02312/23 to C. in C. China.

China

Conduct of
Japanese Aircraft

Your 1901/13. As result of letter addressed to S.N.O., Shanghai for my predecessor by Admiral Hasegamah on 6/10/1937 full precautions have since then been in force to avoid danger of misunderstanding by aircraft of both sides flying close to Japanese and British ships engaged on war operations. To avoid complications I have hitherto refrained from protesting at Japanese aircraft shadowing and flying close to our patrols since ASAMA MARU, but must now suggest that Japanese observe their part of long-standing agreement.

(cont'd.)

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S

MOST SECRET.

23.3.40.
Saturday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

EAGLE.

Report on disembarkation at Singapore of dangerous bombs from EAGLE after an explosion in F bomb room (reported in C.O. EAGLE's 00338 of 17/3). (M. 012767/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China.

Conduct of Japanese Aircraft
continued

LIVERPOOL on return to harbour confirmed that no gun was fired. Point out extreme unlikelihood of such an allegation and that no incident is likely to occur unless Japanese provoke it by actions of their aircraft. (C. in C., China, to N.A. Tokyo, 0624Z/23).

Dispositions

To intercept German ships reported sailing from Dutch East Indies ports on 29/3:-

DANAE left Singapore 21/3, show off Batavia, patrol off Sourabaya, refuelling from oiler. PEARLEAF on patrol 28/3 vide my 0425/21.

DURBAN arrives Singapore 24/3, sails to patrol off Padang 25/3, on patrol from 28/3 onwards.

RAINBOW sails for Sunda Strait patrol 25/3.

PERSEUS sails to reinforce RAINBOW 27/3.

TENEDOS and STRONGHOLD sail 26/3 for patrol off Sabang based at Penang. French C. in C. informed. (R.A., Malaya, 0425Z/23).

Your 0241/23. Approved to use FALMOUTH for interception of German ships leaving Dutch East Indies ports until arrival of CERES and COLOMBO, vice C. in C. East Indies 0456/23. (C. in C. China, 1025/23 to R.A., Malaya).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

326

Home Commands

SIEMENS Left 23/3 loaded with ore (Gibbs, Narvik 1236/23).

RABE Arrived 23/3 (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1704/23).

AKKA, RABE Probably sailing Rotterdam between 2100/23 and 2300/23 (D.C. 2105/23 to V.A.(S), SEAWOLF, N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1704/23).

KÖNIGSBERG-)
PREUSSEN,)
MASUREN) Following torpedoing of HEDDERNHEIM by URSULA 21/3 both ships received on 22/3 identical orders from their agent in Copenhagen to return at once to Northern part of Sound. Both ships are probably bound for Gothenburg (O.I.C.).

ERIKA HENDRIK
FISSER Sailed from Narvik 23/3 with ore. (D.D.I.C. 1830/23).

HANS LEONHARDT Sailed from Haugesund 23/3 believed going North (D.C. 2319/23).

NORDWEST Arrived (Gottenburg 1300/23).

MARS Sailed in ballast (Gottenburg 1300/23).

BORBECK Passed southward 1620 loaded followed by unknown German ship. Description (D.C. 2319/23).

EDMUND HUGO
STINNES ~~IV~~ Intercepted by TRUANT, sunk (see Operations) S.O.S. intercept 2231 GMT (Humber Radio 2355/23) See Operations.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

327

False alarm 1100

French ship reported gunned by submarine 32:42 N. 11:20 W., (Gib. Radio (intercepts) 1344/23, 1405/23, 1417/23, 1432/23, 1530/23, 1421/23, 1532/23, C. in C. S.A. 2145/23).

Note. The submarine was French.

Submarines Reported

Estimated positions (D.D.I.C. 1112/23).

0215

By SHEFFIELD. Contact WPDN 5540 (SHEFFIELD 1022/23).

1425

By SHEFFIELD. Contact 335° WPZS 21 (SHEFFIELD 1435/23, 1519/23).

1200

By NORTHERN REWARD 19° Cape Wrath 98 miles. Wreckage and empty raft also sighted (NORTHERN REWARD 1200/23). 60:15 N., 4° W. Aircraft sent to patrol - see Attacks 1705. (A/S.W.D. 201).

Submarines Attacked

1705

By aircraft WPOO 1638 (Flying Boat K 5258, 1705/23).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

1140.

60° 12' N. 3° 50' W.
H.M.S. NORTHERN REWARD
M.O. 6865/40.

HOME COMMANDS

328

Movements

Home Fleet

C. in C. in RODNEY, with WARSPITE, VALIANT, RENOWN, REPULSE and 15 destroyers in on patrol in northern waters.

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer.

Submarines

Positions 0700/25 (D.C., 1826/24) 0600/25 and movements (R.A.(S) 1709/24).
Request aircraft instructed not to bomb submarines in certain areas (R.A.(S) 1058/24).

Port "B"

Suggesting 2 aircraft vessels based temporarily on Port B while GUARDIAN is laying nets at that port. No A/S vessels available from Rosyth Command. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1538/24).

Scapa

Progress Report. 56 heavy A/A guns in action 2 6" boom defence guns mounted at Hoxa. 10 balloons ashore and one on trawler, etc. etc. (R.A. Scapa 1029/24).

French Submarines

Admiralty 1530/23, procedure to be followed by French submarines leaving Brest. Concur. Ref. para. 3, there are 2 alternatives (a) For submarines to proceed to St. Helens Roads and sail with that section of OA Convoy, (b) For submarines under French escort to join OA Convoy at a convenient time after convoy passes the Lizard, usually at 0630 GMT (C. in C. W.A., 1826/24).

Operations

Submarines on Patrol

German OSTPREUSSEN, 3030 tons, is ashore six miles S.W. of Hirshals Light, near the Skaw, after striking a submerged object. TRIAD, on patrol off South Coast of Norway, has been sent to investigate. (D.C.N.S., 203).
For signals see German Merchant Ships.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Air searches & escorts

My 1902/23. All air searches except N.O.S. 5 and 6 postponed indefinitely on account of weather. Anticipated escorts able to proceed later. (C. in C. Rosyth 0710/24).

329

Aircraft of 2 Skuas for each HN and ON convoy will operate normally during daylight hours while convoys are on passage between Rattray and Sumburgh. (C. in C. Rosyth 0002/24).

Air reconnaissance curtailed by bad weather. Evening searches to the Dutch coast and towards Skagerrak were flown.

Submarines

R.A.(S) 1000/3/2. Request aircraft be instructed not to bomb submarines in certain areas until further notice (R.A.(S) 1058/24) (D.C., 1529/24).

Squadrons at Hatston

Fighter Command A.263/22/3. 800 Sqn. comes under operational control of Sector Command, Wick, when disembarked at Hatston. It is for local naval authorities to decide whether 800 and 803 squadrons should operate as separate squadrons or in conjunction (Air Ministry 1700/24).

Sabotage

Bombs rendered unsafe ^{in stowage} on camp. (R.M.A.S., Hatston, 1512/24).

Aircraft Action against shipping

Air Min. signal R.363, 4/2, instructions governing action of aircraft against shipping at sea, should be amended. (Air Ministry, 1230/24).

Enemy Air Activity

None except usual meteorological flight in early morning.

HOME COMMANDS

330

Air.

Delay in Reporting

A Bomber Command intelligence report giving the position of an aircraft carrier 15' off Lowestoft - turned out to be a false report - was not passed to Admiralty until 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours after the aircraft had landed and over 9 hours after the sighting. Delay being investigated. (D.C.N.S., 203).

Report was Bomber Command Intelligence Report, No. 317, 24/3, of three Wellington aircraft landed at Mildenhall, 0127, 0150 and 0257. (Bomber Command, 0955/24, Received 1111/24).

Extract: "WCA 180 at 53:0 N., 03:10 E., at 0010 hours, 1500 feet, two trawlers 4 miles apart, no lights, steaming 200 degrees approximately. These trawlers were also seen by WCA 182, at 52:30 N., 02:10 E., at 0030, 1500 feet, aircraft carrier stationary, one aircraft seen to take off with navigation lights on. This was also seen by WCA 182, but reported as being at 52:0 N., 2:30 E."

Foregoing report amended by Bomber Command Intelligence Report No. 318. Delete information regarding suspected aircraft carrier and substitute:- "At 52:30 N., 02:10 E., at 0030 hours, pilot of aircraft WCA 182 observed two long lines bright white lights on water extending in north west direction, slightly converging. Also some odd red light among white lights. Pilot states he saw a small biplane in flight which he thinks took off from these lights. He thought he saw the vague outline of a ship. This observation was only made by the aircraft WCA 182 and not by a second aircraft as originally reported. Pilot being re-interrogated by Group Naval Liaison Officer." (Bomber Command, 1340/24).

HOME COMMANDS

331

Mining

QZ 475

V.A.(S) reports QZ 475 restricts operation of submarines to an undesirable degree. If this area and that in Admiralty 1125/15/3 could be searched it would considerably facilitate operations besides being a most desirable precaution (ends). It is considered possible that the losses in area of QZ 475 were caused by torpedo, but it is requested you will investigate with T.S.D.S. fitted destroyers when opportunity occurs. (D.M.S., 1137/24 to C. in C. H.F.).

Safety of L.L. Trawlers

My 2220/23, defects to L.L. trawlers which exploded 4 mines yesterday inspected by Engineer Admiral and C.E. Sheerness. Description of damage, and suggested action to increase safety of L.L. trawlers. (C. in C. Nore, 2135/24, to Admiralty). Take action now as recommended in para. 1, 2135/24, in all L.L. trawlers fitted or fitting out. Further instructions will follow regarding action in paras. 2 and 3. (C. in C. Nore, 0031/25).

Sweeping

One mine cut N.W. of the Humber Light Vessel, and 3 mines cut in the Fairy Bank area during 24/3. (D.C.N.S., 203).

Shipping

Dutch shipping route

LAERTES sailed 23/3, Dutch Naval Authorities in form me they have instructed all further shipping from Flushing to proceed via Zuidcoote Pass (C-G. Amsterdam, 0430/24).

Convoys

Situation at 2000/24 (C. in C. W.A., 1334/24).

HN 21

Has split. 9 ships with 2 destroyers proceeding to West coast. 31 ships with 4 destroyers and a submarine are N. of Kinnaird Head (0730) proceeding to Methil.

ON 22

24 ships of Methil portion is off Kinnaird Head (0730) escorted by 4 destroyers. 8 ships of Kirkwall portion and 2 cruisers not yet joined.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

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Convoys (continued).

OA 116 Details (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1024/24, 1103/24).
OGF 24 OB 118 GF to R.V. with OA 118 GF at
 1630/29, then becomes OGF 24. (C. in C.,
 W.A., 1116/24).
OB 116 Details (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1207/24).
 Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1408/24).
OA 115 G Addition to my 1157/23 (N.C.S.O. Thames,
 1131/24).
SL 24 3 ships for degaussing. (D.T.D., 1614/24).

Denmark-Norway
Traffic

Requesting whether a ship of 20ft. draught
can be routed from Copenhagen to Bergen with-
out leaving neutral territorial waters.
(D.T.D. to Consul, Copenhagen, 2307/24).
Reply, it is possible by crossing the
Sound between Elsinore and Helsingborg
(4 miles, considered international)
and following Swedish and Norwegian Coasts.
(N.C.S.O., Copenhagen, 0310/25).

Training Gunners

Ref. DEMS 68, in cases where Army personnel
have a knowledge of Lewis guns opportunity
should be taken for training merchant
crews of coasters and short sea traders
in use of this weapon during voyages.
When available, Lewis gun may be mounted
in vessels for this purpose in addition
to Bren guns and should be retained
permanently when Army personnel is with-
drawn from the vessel. (D.T.D., 1111/24).

Ships Waiting
Convoy

Total of 63 ships awaiting convoy,
excluding ships from Aalesund. (N.C.S.O.,
Bergen, 1317/24).

War Diary

24. 3. 40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Weather

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0500

Wind

Visibility

North Sea

S.E. to S.W. moderate.

Moderate.

Horns Reef

S. Moderate

Poor

Channel &

W. Approaches S. to S.W. Moderate

Moderate

Outlook - Similar in North Sea, winds veering W. and visibility improving in Western Approaches and Channel.

Enemy Intelligence

Reported Raider,
Denial.

Berlin denies a report that the pocket battleship DEUTSCHLAND is in the Western Atlantic in search of the QUEEN MARY. (Rome Radio).

LÜTZOW

Polish source B.1 reports sailed Gdynia 27th returned 5 days later, oiled, ammunition and sailed 8/3, destination unknown (N.A. Copenhagen 1128/24).

D.D.I.C. 1333/24 see 22/3.



War Diary

24. 3. 40.
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

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Home Commands

VILLE DE BRUGES

Short of water and with engine trouble
0849/24, 245 miles W. Bishops Rock.
SLAVONIA proceed to assist. (C. in C.
W.A. 1040/24) (N.O.I.C., Falmouth,
1145/24) (Lands End Radio, 0844/25).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic

French positions 1300/24 (D.C. 0100/24).

British Convoys Positions (D.C., 1808/24).

OG 22 Gibraltar Section arrived. (F.O.C. N.A., 2004/24).

South Atlantic

SEVILLA escort Your 2145/23. Submarine reported 1300-GMT/23 in 32:42 N., 11:24 W., is French PROTEE, which escorted French tanker ARAGAZ. Destroyer escort not available for SEVILLA and apparently unnecessary. (French C. in C., S.A., to C. in C., S.A., 0953/24).

Force H. DECCY DEFENDER Instructions, providing cover for whale oil ships (C. in C. S.A., 1530/24).

Mediterranean.

Danube Navigation

Repeating for information Belgrade T.H.I. 1315/19. Cold weather during last days delayed thaw and general navigation not expected until April 1. River mainly free Regensburg to Linz but congested Linz to Vienna. River free Vienna to Bratislava but mainly congested to Zemun. Local navigation thereafter until near Iron Gates where river much congested by heavy ice. (D.N.I. 1323/24 to C. in C. Med.). N.A. Bucharest keep C. in C., Med. informed regarding ice and navigation situation and instruct your assistants at Belgrade and Budapest accordingly. (D.N.I., 1325/24).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Black Sea, W/T
Warning.

Admiralty message AX. British ships entering Black Sea warned not to reply to W/T messages asking for their position. Record of such to be kept and details reported to British Consul at next port of call. (D.S.D., 2330/24).

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America & West Indies.

REVENGE

To act as escort for convoy HX.30 on 25/3, subsequently returning Halifax (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1053/24).

MAURETANIA

Your 1640/22, (MAURETANIA expected time of arrival Colon). Not known whether the ship has been measured for Canal certificate. To be carried out immediately on arrival. To avoid delay propose ship be docked and fuelled at Cristobal while awaiting early daylight transit Tuesday. Police guard at dock provisionally arranged. (N.C.S.O., Colon, 1102/24). N.C.S.O.'s 1102/24 passed to D. of S.T., Admiralty, with request for reply. (C-in-C., A.W.I., 2345/24).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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America & West Indies

Commodore, West Coast.

Appointment of Commodore C.G.B. Coltart, broad pendant in DIOMEDE, amended to "Commodore, West Coast of S. America" as from 18/3/40. (Secret Branch Acquaint 438, 24/3).

China

V. MAYAKOVSKI

French Govt. asked to take her into a French port. Call at Hong Kong should be avoided if possible. (D.E.W.D. 1113/24)

Removal of Germans

Your 0242/24. Generally Admiralty leave such matters to local discretion, since only those on the spot normally possess information on which to judge whether effort involved in removing persons in question would be justified. In present case unless you have reason to consider this man highly important any but slight diversion of H.M. ships from other duties would not appear warranted (vide my 1747/18 para (c). (Hd. of M., 1332/24 to C. in C., China.)

Removal of Mails

As result of removal of mails from Japanese FUSHIMI MARU at Singapore, Japanese Consul General suggests to Tokyo possibility of adopting firmer attitude "from standpoint of international law". He fears possibility of detention of ship if he refuses examination of mails. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0525/24).

War Diary24. 3. 40.
SundayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

OSTPREUSSEN Reported beached approx. 6 miles S.W. Histshals Light after striking submerged object. (N.C.S.O. Copenhagen, 1945/24). (R.A.(S) 1634/24) (D.D.I.C. 1537/24) (D.C.N.S. 203) (See also Operations).

AFRIKA Arrived Narvik. (D.D.I.C. 1914/24) (Narvik 1310/24).

BOCHUM Sailed loaded with ore (D.D.I.C. 1914/24) (Narvik 1310/24).

FRITZ SCHOOP Arrived Liepaja 23/3 with coal for State Dept. (Vice Consul, Liepaja 1845/24)

ELSE HUGO STINNES Arrived Liepaja 23/3 with coal for State Dept. (Vice Consul, Liepaja 1845/24).

3 German ships left 23/3 with timber and Russian grain cargo. (Vice Consul, Liepaja, 1845/24).

EDMUND HUGO STINNES 4 Sunk off Thorsminde (Nissum Fjord), 56:22:12 N., 08:02:06 E., probably by submarine, last night. (See operations, 23/3).

JOHANN BLUMENTHAL My 2315/20. Now expected to leave 26/3. (Arendal 1120/24).

America & West Indies

GEDANIA Master of Norwegian JASFIS reports intention to take enough fuel oil to reach Germany from another ship at Les Palmes. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1254/29, C. in C. A.W.I., 1831/24)

VANCOUVER Curacao reports Grosvenor has ordered Shell Oil Co. to supply 1000 tons oil to VANCOUVER immediately. (I.C., 0400/40).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

BECHEVILLE 1144 British, 4228 tons, made a raider distress signal 20 miles E. of Kirkwall 59° N., 2:27 W. Subsequently ship stated that an explosion took place close to her but no ship was in sight. 6 destroyers proceeded from Scapa to hunt. BECHEVILLE arrived Kirkwall with boiler trouble (DCNS) (Scapa W/T intercept 1144/24) (BECHEVILLE, 1202/24) Reported missed by torpedo (I.C., 0400/40).

General

In week ending Sunday 24/3, inclusive, no British or Allied ship was sunk. Eight neutral ships were sunk - Italian TINA PRIMO, Danish MINSK, CHARKOW, BOTHAL, VIKING, ALGIER, and CHRISTIANSBORG, Norwegian SVINTA - total 16561 tons. (Admiralty communique, The Times 27/3/40).

LOCH ASSETER See Casualties and Defects.

Submarines Reported

There are indications of an enemy submarine concentration in the Orkney-Shetland area and between Shetlands and Norway (DCNS 202). Still no reliable evidence that there are any other ocean-going U-boats at sea. The Moray Firth patrol may be resumed at any time (D.D.I.C., 1139/24).

1930 U-boat on surface reported approx. 57:57 N., 05:47 W. steering N. 15th and 16th A/S Striking Forces endeavour to intercept. (A.C.O.S., 2202/24). 58° N., 5:44W., 153° Butt of Lewis 38', reported by coast watcher. (I.C., 0400/40) (C. in C. Rosyth, 2133/24).

Submarines Attacked

- 1237 AUCKLAND attacked firm contact in 55:49 N.,
01:55 W. No visible result. (AUCKLAND
1425/24). Owing to large extent of target
and no change in doppler on all bearings
consider it non-submarine. (HASTINGS
1625/24).
- 1900 By FAME 58:50 N. 2:15 W. (M. 06602/40).

HOME COMMANDS

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Movements

Home Fleet

C. in C., in RODNEY, with WARSPITE, RENOWN, REPULSE and 15 destroyers, is covering the Northern Patrol and operating to-day north of the line Faroes - Langanaes (E. extremity of Iceland).

Available destroyers of 6th and 4th Flotillas at Scapa will be hunting submarines in co-operation with extensive air patrols westward of Orkneys and Shetlands.

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes, trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland, 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait, 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

Submarines

Positions 0600/26 (D.C., 2022/25)
(R.A.(S) 1656/25).

Operations

Submarines on
Patrol.
Iron Ore Trade.

TRIAD to leave patrol after sunset 26/3.
TRIDENT to relieve. (Capt. (S)2, 1459/25)

Seems probable that the submarines which sank the German merchant ships slightly exceeded their instructions. Submarines now on patrol are likely to follow the example of the first 2 unless specially ordered not to do so. Not my intention to issue any such order at present. So long as our submarines do not infringe neutral territorial waters and the safety of German crews is assured, we are unlikely to offend the susceptibilities of neutrals and may succeed in temporarily dislocating the German iron ore trade. (V.A.(S) 1136/25 to C. in C. H.F.

SEAL

SEAL, operations of from 17/3 and interception of Danish CYRIL, closely resembling JOHANN BLUMENTAL, 23/3, (V.A.(S), 1707/25).

SEAWOLF

SEAWOLF to investigate report from aircraft proceeding and returning from patrol fired on in position 53:35 N., 04:25 E. (R.A.(S) 0745/25).

TRIAD

My 1634/24. At your discretion resume patrol in accordance with Capt. (S)2, 1856/23. (R.A.(S) to TRIAD, 1128/25).

SALMON

Patrol report from 7/3 to 16/3 (V.A.S., No. Ab. 197/1031) (N.I.D., 01219/40).25/3/40.

Operations

Mines, false report.

Daily Telegraph report 25/3 concerning new German mines after loss of HEDDERNHEIM untrue. (N.A., Copenhagen, 1835/26).

Air.

Searches for tomorrow (C. in C., Rosyth, 1628/25).

Attack on Trawler

My 1330/23, German aircraft attacked trawler South of Dogger Bank. Information given to me by Dutch naval authorities. (N.A., Hague, 1208/25).

Mining

Humber Area

Dangerous area due to mines enclosed between lines joining North Middle Buoy, Middle Light Vessel, and 270° North Middle Buoy 1 mile. (D.M.S., 1253/25).

Minesweeping reports

D.W.I., exploded 2 mines today 049° 3.3 miles and 055° 4.4 miles from Tongue L.V. (C. in C. Nore, 1814/25). Clearance of Downs - Holland area is continuing - 2 mines were cut and one exploded in a sweep 25/3. (D.C.N.S. 204).

Scapa

No evidence of any mine in the Flow at present, but if mine recovery vessels FRONS OLIVAE, and ACHIEVABLE not required elsewhere, suggest they might remain here for present. (A.C.O.S. 1155/25).

HOME COMMANDS

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Mining

Explosions
Reported

- 0645 8 m. 160° Bawdsey.
0735 5 m. S.S.E. Clacton.
0922 3 m. S.S.E., Frinton.
0920 2 m. W.N.W. Mouse L.V. (2).
0917 1 in vicinity of E. Goodwin.
(I.C., 0400/40).

C. in C. Nore reports that between 0640 and 1219/25 at least 7 and possibly 9 explosions were heard between Lowestoft and Walton, most of them from a considerable distance. One of these explosions seems to have been due to mines exploded by D.W.I. and another to a floating mine exploded off Felixtowe. The remainder are unexplained.

Unexplained explosions were also reported off mouth of Humber, and two heavy explosions were reported at 0920 near Maplin Sands (I.C. 0401/40).

Dover Minefields

Admiralty 1912/24, para 4. As operation lies outside Dover Command, do not consider I can satisfactorily exercise the close control which is necessary in this operation. Submit orders for it should be issued under direction of C. in C. Nore. Owing to enemy mining to eastward of Goodwins no advantage would be gained by sending PRINCESS VICTORIA to Dover. (V.A. Dover, 1216/25).

V.A. Dover's 1216 and Admiralty's 2011/20. Better and more logical for subsequent lines to be laid by order of V.A. Dover. Area Varne-Colbart is much nearer to Dover while lines D.1 and D.2 are in area where V.A. Dover has already completed part of the operation. Nore Command will owe all assistance possible but consider the determining factor is the expert knowledge and minelaying experience possessed by Dover Command. (C. in C. Nore, 1900/25).

Shipping

Convoys

Dispositions. (D.C., 1809/25).

- HN 21 Arrived Methil. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1104/25)
- ON 22 (Six destroyers and SHEFFIELD and AURORA as cover) is off Sumburgh Head before crossing North Sea.
- HN 23 Due to leave Norwegian territorial waters 30/3 will have to run in two parts owing to accumulation of shipping (D.D.D.(H), 1250/25).
- OG 23 15 ships. WANDERER, ABERDEEN remaining in company until dark 27/3. French escort TIGRE, VIKING (C. in C. W.A., 1158/25).
- HX 24 On time at R.V. but only 20 ships in company. Straggling due to weather conditions on first 3 days. (D.T.D., 1631/25).
- SL 26 Ships for. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 0917/25).

Ships Waiting Convoy

Owing to congestion in harbour authorities are stopping ships at outside anchorage and number of ships does not therefore, represent total waiting convoy. (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1233/25).

HX Convoys, Rendezvous

In view of large number of ships in HX convoys which lose touch with the convoy during the first few days, considered that a daylight rendezvous should be given in approx. 40° W., so that stragglers which have the speed may rejoin. Standard route system should not take effect until eastward of this longitude. Request remarks. (D.T.D., 1741/25 to C.O.A.C., Halifax).

HX Escorts

R.A. 3's 1027/19 and my 1215/17. Request you will make similar arrangements direct with Admiral Ovest with regard to French submarines BEVEZIER and also on all future occasions when French submarines escort HX (D.O.D. (F) 1611/25 to C. in C. W.A.).



War Diary

25. 3. 40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

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SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU

Reliable information indicates capable
of 30 knots. (A.D.N.I.(E), 1314/25).

Weather

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	S. - S.E., light.	Moderate, coastal fog.
Channel	E. light.	Moderate, coastal fog.
Western Approaches	E. - N.E., moderate.	Moderate.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

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^H
DRECHTDYK.

Aground, probably Varne. (N. Foreland Radio, no T.O.O., recd. 1950/25, 2125/25). Approx. position 50:59 N., 1:21 E. (N. Foreland Radio, no T.O.O., recd. 2210/25).

VERBANIA

Distress in 60° N., 11° W. NORTHERN DUKE searched but unable to contact tug. D/F of tug unsatisfactory. (NORTHERN DUKE 1910/25). Effected contact with BRIGAND, VERBANIA, NORTHERN WAVE and NORTHERN GEM, estimated 60:16 N., 11:24 W. (NORTHERN DUKE 0950/26). Tow to Stowaway (F.O.C.O.S. 1229/26).

EMPIRE HENCHMAN

? in tow. (Lands End Radio 0826/25).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

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French Positions

Convoys and patrols (D.C., 0353/25)
(F.O.C.N.A., 1042/25).

Italy's attitude,
Asking for French
Co-operation

Re- reports about LUTZOW and tanker having left Germany early March to raid trade. French also received reports, but both from same source and not considered to be very positive. Desirable, however, that one or more battle cruisers be sent to Dakar. Freetown area. Possible also that Italy's attitude may call for concentration in Mediterranean and in order to provide necessary battleships for this RENOWN and REPULSE must be kept in North Sea arm. HOOD not available as her condensers must be retubed. Please ask Admiral Darlayⁿ if he could send now either one or two French battle-cruisers to to Dakar in case a raider is out. Even if raider is not out it would have very good deterrent effect if it were known there were battle-cruisers in Dakar area (D.O.D. (F) 1454/25 to B.N.L.O. Marceau).

South Atlantic

NEW SEVILLA)
SVENDFOYN)
Whaling Ships)

Movements (D.T.D. 1225/25, 1227/25).

Convoy

SL 26, ships for. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 0917/25).

GRAF SPEE
medical
complement

Your 1203/23. Even allowing for extended cruise of GRAF SPEE, 50 grossly excessive. Medical war complement of comparable H.M. ships 4 officers, 5 ratings. Argentine authorities should be urged to refuse, if not, to examine most carefully claim of any officer or man to be regarded as part of medical staff before exempting him from internment. (Hd. of M., 1925/25, to N.A., Buenos Aires).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

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Force H.
DECCY, DEFENDER

Movements, sweep to provide cover for SOURABAYA and SALVESTRIA (whale factory ships) which left South Georgia for Freetown 20/3 and 21/3. (C. in C. S.A. 1001/25).

Mediterranean.

Suez Bay,
QUEEN MARY.

D. of S.T.'s 1228/21. Submarine cables in Suez Bay much restrict area available as anchorage and berths for all ships of U.S.2 fast group can be provided at one time only by accepting serious interference with field of fire of shore battery. Extra patrol craft therefore desirable to protect convoy in anchorage. QUEEN MARY will probably have to pass Newport Rock Channel near high water on departure or alternatively embark oil and water to south of it. Soundings being taken in Channel to confirm charted depth. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area, 1826/25).

SAKARYA

Stopped by British and ordered to proceed to Beirut. Carrying 2,000 Jews from Constanza trying illegally to enter Palestine (Press).

America & West Indies

Routing Ports

No ships routed since outbreak of war from Turks Island, St, Kitts, Grenada, St. Vincent. Suggest discontinuing them as routing ports. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1450/25).

QUEEN MARY

Left Trinidad 25/3. Expects to arrive Cape Town 2/4.

China

Russian Ships

Admiralty 1113/24 understood. French C. in C. not yet received any instructions. Operation facilitated if decision could be given on U.S.S.R. SELENGA so that French ARAMIS could take both ships to Saigon together. V. MAYAKOVSKY expected off Hong Kong 27/3, to be fuelled and provisioned,

(continued)

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

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Russian Ships
Continued

as not enough to reach Saigon. (C. in C.,
China, 0325/25).

S.
U.S.R. ✓ MAYAKOVSKY

which was intercepted E. of Japan 15/3
has developed steering defects. She is
being sent into Mirs Bay, for fuel and
repairs, after which the French will take
her to Saigon.

Australia

MANOORA

C. in C. China's 0433Z/24. MANOORA arrives
Darwin 29/3. (Australian N.B., 0355Z/25)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

350

Home Commands

ANDROS Intercept anchored yesterday 2300. To Elbeweser Radio (A.C.O.S. 1258/25).

~~ILSE~~ L.M. RUSS Arrived 0550/25 with fish oil and sailed south 1600 B.S.T. Description (Douglas Aalsund 1500/25) Passed to C. in C. H.F., TRIAD, V.A.(S) etc. (D.N.I. 2202/25).

ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER Passed Aalsund 1900 fully loaded with ore south bound (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 2230/25). Passed to C. in C. H.F., TRIAD etc. (D.N.I. 0036/25).

ANTONIO DELFINO Reported arrived at Haugesund 0930/25, escorted by a Norwegian warship (N.A. Oslo 1535/25). Passed, as B.1, to C. in C. H.F., submarines on patrol etc. (D.D.I.C. 1821/25).

OST PREUSSEN No attempts to refloat yet observed. (TRIAD 1030/25). Captain informed Press she will probably be a total loss.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

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Ships Attacked

BRITTA. 0652
sunk

Danish, 1146 tons, inward-bound, sunk at 0700, 40 miles north of Sule Skerry. (D.C.N.S.) (S.S. NANCY, 0652/25, 0700/25, 0743/25).

ELECTRA proceeded to help, (ELECTRA, 0725/24)

59:47 N., 4:30 W., 012° C. Wrath 75'.
Torpedoed. (I.C., 0400/40) (A.S.W.D. 203).
Crew saved by NANCY (Dutch S.S.).
Aircraft found wreckage, no survivors
(Aircraft 269 Sqdn., 0920/25)

DAGHESTAN sunk
2013

British tanker (5742 tons) apparently torpedoed at 2013/25 and sunk while on passage from Scapa to Sullum Voe under trawler escort, 5 miles N.E. Pentland Skerries 58:47 N., 2:50 W. 212 Copinsay 9'. Was under Government charter.
NORTHERN DAWN 2013/25. Still afloat (NORTHERN DAWN, 2015/25, 2052/25, 2128/25).
Ship broke in half, stern sank at 2218/25.
BUCCANEER and tug KROOMAN sent to attempt salvage (A.C.O.S. 0140/26) 1 Marine DEMS rating missing (A.C.O.S. 1852/26)
58:46 N., 2:50 W. 2012 (M/S Summary No.23).

Crew 29, Master, 2nd Mate, Marine Gunner and 1 A.B. lost. A/S vessels NORTHERN DAWN and BRONTES picked up survivors. (S.O.(I) Orkneys & Shetlands No. 497 29/3/40).

MOST SECRET.

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25.3.40.
Monday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

9A
C.in C. Western Approaches
attacks on S/Ms. M. 06755/40
KIRKELLO and BANDOLERO.

Air Ministry - Reports of
4 attacks on S/M's.
12.3.40, 14.3.40 and 22.3.40 (2)
M. 06327/40.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

353

Submarines Reported

- 1 East of Orkneys, 1 West of Orkneys,
1 West of Shetlands, possibly 1 in
Northern part of the Minches or homeward-
bound therefrom. (I.C., 0400/40)
(D.D.I.C., 1229/25).
- 1515 Reported by A/S trawlers in 51:10 N.,
04:20 W., about 9 miles N.W. of Bull Point,
Devon. (C. in C. W.A., 1620/25).
- 1115 Aircraft reported suspected submarines
YNPV 4641. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1234/25).
Report considered unreliable (C. in C.,
Rosyth 1442/25).
- 1500 U-boat sighted off Ilfracombe (C. in C.,
W.A., 1549/25, 1626/25).
- 0640 U-boat reported off Bude Haven, 270°
1 1/2 miles reliable fix. ACASTA & VIVACIOUS
ordered to attack. (C. in C. W.A.,
0734/25, 0847/25, VIVACIOUS, 0803/25.)
- circa ICARUS, IMPULSIVE, FIREDRAKE and 19th and
2000 21st A/S S.F. sent to search for
assailant of tanker DAGHESTAN. (A/S.W.D. 204)
- circa ELECTRA, HOTSPUR and HERO sent to search
0700 for assailant of BRITTA. (A/S.W.D. 203).

Submarines Attacked

- 1445 By H.M.T. KIRKELLA and BANDOLERO in
Barnstaple Bay. Dropped 18 D.Cs.
Submarine came to surface, Keel upwards
at angle of 50° and then sank instantly,
after which bubbles and thick oil appeared.
(D.C.N.S. 204) (I.C., 0401/40). 51:20 N.,
4:20 W., 228° Bull Point 9'. (KIRKELLA,
1900/25, C. in C. W.A. 1620/25, 2211/25).
(A/S W.D. 203, 204). After attack U-boat
broke surface. Both ships made further
attack. BANDOLERO then observed periscope
and later bows of U-boatbreaking surface
and opened fire at 150 yards closing
to under 100 yards. KIRKELLA carried out
further attack, target remained stationary
with large quantities of oil surfacing.
(A.C.W.A., 1625/25). Seems almost certain
submarine sunk (C. in C. W.A., 2218/27).
ACASTA investigated, was unable to discover
target. HAVANT searched, obtained contact
1805/29, dropped d.cs., no visible result,
considered nature of target "doubtful".
(A.S.W.D. 208, HAVANT 1805/29).

H O M E C O M M A N D S.

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Movements

- Home Fleet C. in C. in RODNEY, with WARSPITE, RENOWN, REPULSE and 15 destroyers covering the Northern Patrol in the area north of Iceland - Faroes. An extensive air and destroyer A/S search of the Orkney area has been arranged for 26/3 and 27/3.
- Northern Patrol ✓ Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C.s
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.
- French Positions 1200/26. (D.C. 0130/26)
- 13th French S/m Division. May be ready to leave Brest about 10/4 for Portsmouth (D.O.D.(H) 1943/26)
- Submarines ✓ Positions 0600/27 (R.A.(S) 1629/26, D.C. 1801/26)

Operations.

- S/ms. on Patrol ✓ Report received that if British ships take action against ANTONIO DELFINO in Norwegian territorial waters Norwegian warships have orders to open fire (B.O.) (D.C. 1943/26 to V.A.(S) (R.A.(S) to s/ms. on patrol 2145/26)

Air

- Enemy Air Activity. NEWCASTLE reported 1 aircraft identity unknown bearing 120° 6 miles course 100°. Her position D.K.W.S. 5657 (NEWCASTLE, 0740/26).
- British air activity North Sea patrols were largely curtailed by weather.

Mining

- NARWHAL Programme (R.A.(S) 1334/26)
- Sweeping reports Harwich and Yarmouth no sweeping on account of weather. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1940/26)
- Fog interfered (F.O.i/c Tyne 1901/26)
- do - (F.O.i/c Humber 1836/26)

H O M E C O M M A N D S

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Mining (Contd.)Sweeping Reports
(Contd.)

Conditions unsuitable (Cdre i/c Sheerness 1836/26)

Weather interfered (F.O.i/c Greenock 1829/26)

D.W.I. postponed (C. in C. Nore 1701/26)

Seven mines cut in the N. Foreland - Holland route 26/3 (D.C.N.S. 205)

Unusual mines

Unusual type of mine exploded 1945/23 by M/V ANNE M 045° Folkestone Gate 2 miles (N.C.S.O. London 1616/26)

New German Mine

Reliably reported that a small type of mine, 8 to 10 inches out of water, has been sighted in large numbers, in groups of from 5 to 12, over a wide area centred roughly 70 miles N. by E. of Ostend (I.C. 0401/40).

ShippingConvoys

ON 22 24 ships, was east of Shetlands at 0730, escorted by 6 destroyers and an A.A. cruiser, and covered by SHEFFIELD and AURORA. Delayed. (D.T.D. 1036/26)

Situation At 2000/26 (C. in C.W.A. 1246/26) (D.C.1829/26)
OA 117 (N.C.S.O. Thames 1309/26, 1221/26, C. in C. Portsmouth 1740/26)

HGF 24 Route (F.O.C.N.A. 0930/26) List (F.O.C.N.A. 0943/26).

HN 22 34 for E. Coast, 6 for W. Coast (D.T.D. 1533/26, 1226/26). Route (D.T.D. 2308/26). Route in case of separation (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1115/26)

HX 26 Arrived with VIMY (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1555/26) (After being delayed 48 hours).

OA 119 Route (A.C.W.A. 1001/26)

OG 23 Route etc. (C. in C.W.A. 1127/26, 1128/26)

OHN 23 GALATEA and ARETHUSA to cover (F.O.C.2.C.S. 0915/26, C. in C. Rosyth 1518/26).

Slow Convoys .. Forecast (N.C.S.O. Humber 1715/26).

Protection of Danish Ships

Request information as to protection for Danish ships to West Coast ports after crossing North Sea in convoy. Master unwilling to sail to West Coast unless protection is available throughout voyage from Bergen. (N.C.S.O. Copenhagen, 1720/26) Reply, anxiety not considered justified (D.T.D. 1358/27)



HOME COMMANDS

356

Shipping (Contd.)

Pilotage Fee

Refusal of Norwegian COLOMBIA in ON 15 to pay. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1211/26) Your 1211/26. Masters were told in general statement at conference that pilots were being arranged for all ships. Master of COLOMBIA made no objection. (D.T.D. 1828/27).

Miscellaneous

BRANKSEA
Sabotage

My 1637/10/2. Prolonged investigation has not disclosed any grounds for suspicion of sabotage (C. in C. Rosyth 1815/26)

Ice Conditions

On Northern Patrol (C.S.I. 1200/26). Esbjerg and West Coast now clear. Kattegat drifting ice not affecting shipping. Little Belt blocked. Great Belt and Sound heavy drifting ice making navigation difficult. German mines in drifting ice prevent night ferry service. No through passage to Baltic. (A.1.) (N.A. Copenhagen 1835/26).

WEATHER

<u>0500</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	Variable, easterly	Moderate	Similar
Channel	N.E. Fresh	Moderate	Similar
W. Approaches ..	N. Fresh	Moderate	Similar
Horns Reef	Variable, light	Fog	Wind becoming easterly,

Enemy Intelligence

Concentration at Kiel.

Report of Finn named Thorsten Fock, states master of Finnish ship HERMES, lying Kiel, that between 15 and 21/3, 45 to 50 German merchant vessels concentrated through Canal to Kiel. Range up to 8,000 tons, armed fore and aft and with A.A. gun. German ships MONTE ROSA and MONTE SARMIENTO, former taking in large quantity of apparent provisions and having flying personnel on board. Fock told destination of ships was Stettin, also that evacuation plans for Hamburg and other places were to be put into force April 1. C.2. (A.N.A. Stockholm, 2020/26, 1146/27).

Hamburg evacuation



CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

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Home Commands

RYAL

British M.V. slight damage, grounding. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1655/26)

PRINSKNUD
Lloyds states British

Went ashore 2/2 in Goswick Bay, Northumberland. Refloated 1819/26 and is being towed to Tyne. (C. in C. Rosyth 1937/26).

Foreign Stations

CLAN MACDOUGALL

Cancel my 0948/25. Ship arrived 20/3 Durban (S.O.(I) Cape Town 1131/26)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North AtlanticConvoys Positions (D.C. 1829/26)French Forces Positions (D.C. 0130/26)South Atlantic

DIAMOND To proceed forthwith at 20 knots to cover cable ship MIRROR repairing St. Vincent to Bathurst cable in position 5 to 9 miles S. of St. Vincent Verde Is. (C. in C.S.A. 102L/26).

French Patrol off Brazil coast. My 1044/8. These patrols have been temporarily withdrawn pending decision by French. (C. in C. S.A. 1012/26)GRAF SPEE Admty. 1828/22 and S.O.I. Montevideo's 1559/24, re report of refusal of GRAF SPEE crew to proceed to sea on 16/12. From personnel observation do not think that more than a small party of men were involved in the disturbance. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1750/26)

L'ESTEREL Incident of armed boat of French A.M.C. L'ESTEREL off Amazon on 8/3 detained by police. (A.N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1600/26)

French Patrols My 1044/8/3. These patrols have been temporarily withdrawn by French (C. in C.S.A. 1812/26)German Charts German merchant ships have exceptionally good Brazilian coast charts. If any captured, request spare copies. (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1100/26).Visit to Para If in near future one of H.M. ships is south bound from West Indies, submit that call at Para would be beneficial (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1059/26).

Force H. Instructions for covering of NEW SEVILLA, SOURABAYA and SYLVESTRA. (C. in C.S.A. 1325/26) (Whale oil ships).

FOREIGN STATIONSChina

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German ships

Japanese Government considering whether plan can be devised which would liberate some of these ships without conferring any sort of benefit on Germany, thus ensuring British assent (Sir R. Craigie (Tokyo) No. 500 26/3.

German Merchant Ships.

In Dutch East Indies, appreciation. Information indicates some ships may be ready to sail at beginning of April. Previous activities in Dutch East Indies in relation to movements of raider have suggested merely designs to keep our force occupied. In present case evidence is circumstantial and preparations must be costing considerable sum. (Capt. on Staff, SULTAN, 0952Z/26)

My 0952Z/26. Is there any hardening of Germany's attitude to Holland which might account for reported intention of German ships to sail from N.E.I.? The generally anticipated sailing of further Australian convoys may be suggesting to Dutch authorities an opportunity of sailing unmolested. (C.I.S. Singapore 1146/26).

SALAIER, Dutch Contraband.

Dutch SALAIER sailed Downs 19/2, master giving undertaking to call Singapore to discharge certain cargo ordered placed in prize. Eluded GRASSHOPPER on approved patrol night 24-25/3 and proceeded for Batavia. Suggest action with Dutch authorities in view of failure to fulfil obligation. (R.A. Malaya, 0747Z/26, 0247Z/26) Your 0747. Ship arrived Toftossen 27/3. Prize cargo will be shipped to Singapore. TALISSE, 29/3. Netherland S.S.Co. owners, state that instructions from Amsterdam were to this effect. (Consul-General, Batavia, 0840Z/27).

East IndiesDefence of Oilfield.

Army reconnaissance of Basra in connection with defence of oilfield starting 5/4 at Basra. (C. in C.E.I. 0401Z/26).

America & West IndiesCHIOS S/m. supply ship

D.N.I. Melbourne's 1239/12, CHIOS reported used as supply ship for German s/ms. CHIOS (Greek) left 25/3, Gibraltar 13/4, nitrate for Venice. S.O.I. Kingston, 1713/26.

MOST SECRET.

S



26.3.40.

Tuesday.

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War Diary.

AMERICA AND W. INDIES STATION.

C.O. H.M.S. DUNEDIN Interception
of German Ship HINDENBURG ? HEIDELBERG.
N.L. 4217/40.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSHome Commands

- JOHANN BLUMENTHAL Left Arendal between 1900/25 and 0700/26.
(D.D.I.C. 1214/16, Garuthrop, Arendal 1010/26)
- ANTONIO DELFINO Report that if British ships take action in Norwegian territorial waters, Norwegian war-ships ordered to open fire. (R.A.(S) to s/ms. on patrol 2145/26) (D.C. to V.A.(S) from north with white line around hull same as vessels of Norwegian shipowner Knutsen. (Haugesund 1625/26) Entered Norwegian waters in vicinity of Tromso. ship searched and nothing suspicious found. (N.A. Oslo, 1700/26)
- ALTMARK Sailed from Sandefjord 0300/21. German tug in attendance. (N.A. Oslo 1700/26). (D.D.I.C. 1123/27).
- P.C. 102)
P.G. 290)) Trawlers, loaded, passed southward 1530
(Haugesund 1635/26) (D.D.I.C. 1123/27)
- ILSE L.W. RUSS My 1500/25. Returned during night. (N.C.S.Q. Aalsund, 0900/26) (D.D.I.C. 1555/26 to C. in C.H.F., V.A.(S) TRIAD, etc.)
- FRIANUS Left Trondheim, 24/3. (N.C.S.O. Trondheim 1500/26) (D.D.I.C. 1123/27).
- HERO Arrived Trondheim - do -

America and West Indies.

- HANNOVER My 1750/20. Generator failed test, armature being re-wound. Crew not now required before 14/4. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1700/26)

South Atlantic

- KÖNIGSBERG Loading 2000 tons rubber, ready to go. (Cable intercept, Rio, 1100/26.)
- BABITONGA Santos report (A.2.) Berthing shortly to load cargo. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2206/26)
- DRESDEN -do-
- WINDIUK A.3. report, endeavouring to take on board replacement engine parts removed by Brazilian authorities. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2206/26)



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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China

RENDSBURG At Batavia. Especially active
VOGTLAND AT Batavia. Especially active
CASSEL At Sourabaya. Especially active.

(B.O.) (M.O.I.C. Port Darwin, 1032Z/26)
(See also FOREIGN STATIONS; China).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

363

Ships Attacked

COMETA sunk 0100 Norwegian, 3794 tons, torpedoed and sunk 80 miles west of Shetlands 315° Noup Head 67. Bound from Oslo to Buenos Aires with general cargo, but was intercepted north of Faroes and was on passage to Kirkwall for examination with an armed guard. Crew (31), passengers (6) and armed guard (5) rescued by armed boarding trawler NORTHERN SKY. (D.C.N.S. 205) (NORTHERN SKY 1600/26). No casualties. Survivors landed Kirkwall 0800/27. The Chief Officer took the ship's manifest to the submarine. The German commander allowed an hour for ship to be abandoned and after making sure that all the lifeboats were clear he sank the ship by torpedo and gunfire. The Chief Officer took care not to inform the enemy that a British Guard had been on board and were later in the boats. (V.A.N.P. 1147/27, as corrected, MO6487/40). Asking what explanation can be given for ship being sent to Kirkwall (N.A. Oslo, 1400/2) COMETA was being brought in in normal course for examination of cargo and passengers. No report of sailing or request for special facilities was received by Adty. or M.E.W. On last inward voyage Master stated Navicerts were being held for all cargo when it is practically certain he must have known same had been refused. Therefore ship was not regarded with confidence (D.N.I. 1716/7 to C. in C.H.F.

S/ms. Reported

Estimated dispositions. 1 E. of Orkneys, 2 patrolling westward of Orkneys and Shetlands, possibly 1 in northern part of North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1222/26).

0818 My 2211/25. Investigate KIRKELLA's contact. (C. in C.W.A. to ACASTA 0818/26). Corrected posn. 328° Bull Point 9 miles (C. in C.W.A. 0959/26) (Bristol Channel). My 1950/26. KIRKELLA was in contact from time of attack till 0700/26 when her asdic broke down. Target being stationary. Carry out further search. (C. in C.W.A. 1158/27 to ACASTA).

2310 D.F. unknown, German unit, probably U-boat, north of 60° N. (D.C. 2355/26).

S/ms Attacked.

HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

364

Home Fleet.

Extensive air and destroyer A/S search off Orkney area is continuing; latter was cancelled 1322 on account of weather. Home Fleet arrived at Scapa 1120/27.

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait 1 " , 1 "

1st A.I.
A/S.B.
Flotilla.

Holyhead base too far from their patrol areas. Intend to use Douglas, I. of Man as advanced base, Holyhead as main base (C-in-C., W.A. 1311/28).

Western Approaches.

Situation 2000/27 (C-in-C., W.A. 1251/27).

37th A/S group.

To sail for Grimsby forthwith (D.A./S.W. 1359/27).

A.B.F. Patrol.

To be withdrawn now (D.O.D(H) 1449/27). (See 2/4.)

A/S Patrol.

Destroyers on, to return to Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1322/27) (on account of weather).

S/M's

0600/28 and movements (V.A.(S) 1617/27, 2052/27 D.C. 1845/27, 2312/27).
10th Flotilla allocated to French S/M's. (Hd. of M. 1837/27).

Patrol craft.
Falmouth.

C-in-C., W.A. 2234/15. Arrangements to provide are being made. Will not be available until mid-April. (D.M.S. 1224/27).

D.O.D. (H) 2030/27, 1100/27, 2145/27, C-in-C., H.F. 1407/27, C-in-C., W.A. 2031/27. See Mediterranean.

Operations.S/M's on
Patrol.

UNITY hove to in MBDN 0003. Request bombing restrictions 28/3. (UNITY 2145/27) Bombing restrictions for 28/3. (C-in-C., Rosyth, 2334/27 to UNITY). TRIAD, patrol report 14/3-27/3 (VAS no 40/SM 1052 4/4/40).

Propaganda
value of
sinkings of
iron ore ships.

M.A. Copenhagen reports splendid propaganda effect on Danish public of recent sinkings of German iron ore ships. Danes feel we are taking initiative in North Sea (D.O.D.(H) 1923/27).

S/M's ordered
into Bight.

Two S/M's ordered into the Bight consequent on the report from a/c of German surface ships at sea. (V.A.(S) 2052/27 to STERLET, SEAWOLF). 2 KOLN class cruisers 2 destroyers LSRU 5505 course 360° 16 knots at 1327 (R.A.(S) 2035/27 to S/M's on patrol).


HOME COMMANDS.Operations (Contd).

365

ALTMARK

Passed through Great Belt night 26/27 March and anchored between Lolland and Longeland early am/27 presumably to await arrival of German minesweepers. She took great risk in making passage still considered impossible by expert opinion. There are still no navigation aid test positions to assist passage through either minefield (N.A. Copenhagen 2037/27).

Air.British Air Activity.Flakships
Attacked.

Four Flakships bombed YNJV 4056 0925, one believed sunk (A/C 220 Sqn. 1100/27, Donibristle the No. T.O.O. re. 1450/27).

Cruisers &
destroyers
attacked.

2 KOLN class cruisers, 2 destroyers sighted 1327 53°55'N 6°5'E (off Borkum) one destroyer bombed, missed. (HQBC 1720/27) Further bomber a/c's were sent out to locate this force but failed to make contact.

Cruisers &
destroyers
attacked.

2 KOLN class cruisers 2 destroyers sighted 1327 53°55'N, 6°5'E (off Borkum) one destroyer bombed, missed. (HQBC 1720/27). Further bomber a/c's were sent out to locate this force but failed to make contact.

Offensive
reconnaissance.

In Heligoland Bight, 53°57'N, 5°55'E, believed cruiser and 4 destroyers at 1338. Not bombed owing to absence of cloud. Believed 4 destroyers ROEDER class 53°52'N, 6°7'E, 134° 35 knots course 290°, later attacked in 53°13' 56'N 6°13'E no hits. Attacked later 2 small vessels and 6 patrol boats, no hits (HQ Bomber Cmd. 1926/27). Full reconnaissance patrols were flown.

New Air
Search S.10.

Instuted (C-in-C., Rosyth, 1226/27).

Enemy Air
Activity.

Enemy a/c's action in Northern Part of North Sea. Estimated course N.W. (D.N.I 1406/27).

Ships firing
at a/c's.

Propose to limit for the present the area in which ships may fire at any a/c by night to North Sea E. of 4°W and English Channel E. of 2° W. (Air Min. 1449/27 to HQFC).

Lighthouses.

Arrangements made by Adty for them to be lit on any part of East and South coasts on request, to serve as navigational aids to a/c's returning from operational missions (Air Min. 1301/27).

Floating
balloon
Sites.

Adty. 2132/15. Trials are now being carried out. (A.C.O.S. 1803/27).


HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

366

Sweeping reports.

Curtailed by bad weather (V.A. Dover 1921/27). Granton, curtailed. Peterhead, Aberdeen nil. Invergordon curtailed, weather (C-in-C., Rosyth 1901/27) M.Sweeping abandoned. All operations curtailed by weather. Hartlepool nil. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1845/27). Nil, weather (F.O. Humber, 1843/27,) Cdn. I/C Sheerness 1836/27, N.O. I/C Liverpool, 1713/27, ACOS 1630/27. Harwich, curtailed. Yarmouth, nil, weather (F.O. I/C. Harwich 1836/27, COVXF 1821/27.

Operation N.M.S.2.

BORDE to sail 28/3 for operation. (C-in-C., Nore 2339/27).

Unexplained explosions.

Heard 1704 by Mundesley C.G. followed by large column of water 034° 3 miles Mundesley lookout. No shipping near (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1735/27). See also 28/3.

Shipping.Stern lights etc. Ships unfit to join convoy.

Several cases recently, mostly neutrals, of ships arriving Kirkwall unable to dim navigation lights, have no shaded stern light, no proper communication from bridge to engine room, unable to darken ship. No time or facilities to prepare ships at Kirkwall; Strong effort to be made to ensure they are fit for inclusion in convoys. (D.T.D., 1551/27).

Your 1720/26. Degree of protection in any one area varies according to circumstances and is secret. In area mentioned ships in convoy receive certain protection and have enjoyed immunity from attack for some time. Anxiety of Masters not justified at present. (D.T.D., 1358/27 to B.C. Copenhagen).

Clyde.

Re. proposed near channel for merchant shipping (D.O.D.(H) 1842/27). Consider undesirable in principle and would require additional M/S vessels (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1912/28).

Convoys. Positions.
ON.22

(D.C., 1839/27).
24 ships, escorted by 6 destroyers, 1 A/A cruiser and 2 cruisers, expected off Norway at daylight. (D.C.N.S.).

HN.22

40 ships, to leave Norway on arrival of ON. convoy. (D.C.N.S. (D.T.D. 1204/27), (1734/27)).

OA.117

VANESSA left with Portsmouth Section. (C-in-C., P., 0551/27).



HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping.

Convoys.

ON.23 C-in-C., Rosyth's 1816/25 and HZ.11 para 16. As convoy is now being routed westwards of Shetlands propose to sail to rendezvous with ON.23 in vicinity of Muckle Flugga p.m. 29/3. (F.O.C. 2 C.S., 1020/27). Sailed (C-in-C., Rosyth 1602/27). (N.C.S.O., Memhil 1451/27).

OB.119 Route (W.C.S.O., Mersey 1115/27).

HN.23.B. Leave 1900/31/3. (.D.T.D., 1827/27).

HX.30. Ocean route 4th position. (D.T.D.1112/27).

SL.24 24 hours late at R.V. (C-in-C., W.A. 1457/27).

Situation

2000/27 (C-in-C., W.A. 1251/27).

Consigns.

Report when ready to issue. (D.T.D., 1550/27, to Consuls, Bergen, etc.).

Miscellaneous.

M.F. & H.F.
D/F Stations.

Inefficiency of station in Shetlands. (C-in-C., H.F. 1507/23 recd. 27/3).

Ice
Conditions.

Ice conditions at Spitzbergen now permit first 2 ships, MUNIN and VIRMA, to proceed there, sailing from Harstad to-day or tomorrow. (Tromsøe, 1305/27).

WEATHER.

<u>0500</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>
Eastern North Sea) Horns Reef.)	E. Moderate	Poor.
Western North Sea) Channel) Western Approaches)	N. Strong to gale.	Poor.

Outlook. N.W. winds over whole area, moderating.

HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

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2 KÖLN-class
cruisers and
2 destroyers
at sea. (See Air). Passed to all ships (C-in-C., H.F. 2350/27). Passed to S/M's on patrol (R.A.(S) 2035/27).

Other war-
ships sighted. See Air.

Dutch trawler
seized. By 2 German armed trawlers 21/3 54° 3'N, 4°E
A1. Minor details etc., Netherlands Press
Summary 26/3 (N.A. Hague, 1220/27).


German
Trawlers. Pilots ordered to take 35 large German trawlers
northward through fjords, leaving German port
when passage is free for navigation (A2). One
German Harstad 4/3 northward (A1) Several German
trawlers fishing off Andenes since beginning of
March calling Harstad. (A1) (Narvik 1615/27).

Coal traffic. Colliers stopped sailing east coast of Denmark etc.
See German Merchant Ships.

Operations.

Iron ore
Traffic. Ref. O.I.C. Daily Report, 21/3, information that
Narvik ore ships follow coast to Gothenburg then
cross to Skaw is graded B.3, no further confirmation
received. (D.D.I.C., 1124/27).

German
routes. A.1, Bremen has stopped sailing colliers East Coast
of Denmark via Skagerrak. Esbjerg only Danish
port. My 2300/12/2. Larger vessels passing to
westward and are using Normans Dyb, where patrol
vessels have now been increased. (Consul, Esbjerg,
0030/27).


FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.French positions. 1300/27 (D.C., 0010/27).Convoys etc. Positions (D.C., 1839/27).South Atlantic.Whaling Ships. Movements etc. (D.T.D., 1830/27).

D.O.D.(F) 2147/27 see Mediterranean.

AQUITANIA Is at Capetown.

Mediterranean.Contraband Control. Your 1325/14. No action required at present. Whole subject of contraband control Eastern Mediterranean is undergoing examination. (D.E.W.D. to C-in-C., Med., 1731/27).Italian ASMARA Your No. 65/40 to D.N.I. Ask Ministry of Marine same questions as your French colleague. Question concerning cargo should be first. (D.N.I. 1705/27 to N.A. Rome). Refers to Italian naval auxiliary ASMARA engaging in commercial activities. (Reply 1/4).French Forces. Movements (S.O.I., Gibraltar 1214/27).America & West Indies.

QUEEN MARY Admly. 1053/27, reported leakage of information. My 1138/23 refers. Full report will be furnished when N.C.S.O. New York's report has been received. MAURETANIA (N.S.A.D., Ottawa, 1053/27). MAURETANIA passed through Panama Canal 27/3, left Balboa for Honolulu 27/3.

S/M Reported of Ocos (between San Jose and Sabador frontier) seen bay over 100 people. Cannot dismiss it as a mare's nest. (Mr. Leche (Guatemala) No. 62, 26/3).

East Indies.Italian VOLPI ARFAR telegram 44 of 14/3, cargo in Italian VOLPI (concerned is below). All other cargo, unloading would greatly delay ship. Suggest Singapore. (C-in-C., E.I. 0202Z/27).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies.

✓
4S/M's to
proceed to
Mediterranean.

D.O.D.(F) 2146/27 see Mediterranean.

China.

✓
S/M's to
proceed to
Mediterranean.

D.O.D.(F) 2148/27 see Mediterranean.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.Home Commands.

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ANTONIO
DELFINO. In ballast alongside jetty at Kopervik, C.3.
(N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1248/27). Still here. Please
telegraph her recent position should there be
any possibility of her having laid mines.
(Bernardes, Haugesund, 1810/27). Due to sail
28/3 or 29/3, Al. (N.A. Oslo, 1900/27).

¹
DERNDJE Arrived from south loaded. To complete with herring
meal (Bernardes, Haugesund, 1810/27).

BOCHUM Passed southwards 1350 (Bernardes, Haugesund,
1810/27) loaded with ore (D.D.I.C. 2240/27 to
S/M's on patrol etc.).

Coal
Traffic. A.1 report, Bremen has stopped sailing colliers
East Coast of Denmark via Skagerrak. Esbjerg
only Danish port. My 2300/12/2. The larger
vessels are passing to westward and are using
Normans DYB, where patrol vessels have now been
increased. (Consul, Esbjerg, 0030/27).

MIMI HORN Reported arrived vicinity Tromso 25/3. (D.D.I.C.,
1123/27).

SEATTLE Reported arrived vicinity Tromso 25/3. (D.D.I.C.,
1123/27).

ILSE M. RUSS Sailed from south (N.C.S.O Aalsund 1930/27, D.C.
0127/28 to S/M's etc).

Disguised
ship. German vessel or fishing vessel possibly disguised
as a neutral suspected of using W/T in Norwegian
territorial waters may pass by Haugesund on or
about 28/3. Please report name and / or number
of any suspicious vessel. (D.N.I. 1738/27).
Expected to enter Stavanger night 27/3. (D.N.I.
1948/27).

THESEUS Sighted in air search JSND 2650 320 (C-in-C.,
Rosyth 2232/27). Intercept at 1603 GMT believed
to be S.O.S., and 1605 position 58°32'N., 05°40'.,
word jammed believed to be S.O.S. (F.O. Humber, 1901
/27), May be ashore. S.O.S. (D.N.I. 2010/27)
Cancel my 2010/27 (D.D.I.C. 1707/29).

ALTMARK Passed Great Belt last night. Risk of this
passage. (N.A. Copenhagen 2037/27).

KIEL Arrived 27/3. (Gibbs, Narvik, 1249/27, D.D.I.C.,
1746/27 to S/M's etc.).

GODFRIED
BUREN. Now loading ore (do).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.Home Commands.

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NORDSTERN Sailed with general cargo (Gothenburg 1630/27).

North Atlantic.

ANTARKTIS Tanker ANTARKTIS has moved alongside BRAKE.
BRAKE (Consul, Vigo, 1735/27).

America & West Indies.

? VANCOUVER Curacoa reports a ship loading Ceracas Bay 28/3
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1752/27).

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK German Embassy's appeal against embargo opening
3/4 (AN.A Rio de Janeiro 1029/27). Endeavoring
to make on board replacement engine parts removed
by Brazilian authorities. Reported to be shortly
proceeding to sea, A.3. (At Santos) (S.O.(I)
Freetown 1655/27, A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1739/27).

BABITONGA) N.I.S.O. Santos reports shortly berthing to load
DRESDEN) cargo, A.2, (S.O.(I) Freetown 1655/27) Will shortly
be sailing (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1739/27).

China.

SCHEER R.O. Macassar reports loading cargo. Estimated
ready to sail night 31/3. Possibly distraint
may be lifted shortly. C3. (C.O.I.S. Far East
1616/27). Another copy of the signal calls her

SCHARNHORST SCHARNHORST, not SCHEER.

SONECK Consul reports ships at Surabaya, Batavia, and
SONECK at Padang on 26/3 commenced loading cargo,
B2. mostly consigned to Germany or by German
consignors in N.E.I, B.3. This appears to give
expected movement a definite object and action is
similar to that which preceded attempts by ships
on other coasts to break through to Germany. Most
likely destination Vladivostok as doubtful that
ships have sufficient fuel for more than 7000 to 9000
miles, C3. Intercepted letters indicate Vladivostok,
BO. (C.O.I.S. Far East 09472/27).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.S/M's reported.

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C.1140/27).

- 1158 ACASTA ordered to carry out further search for KIRKELLA's contact (C-in-C., W.A. 1158/27) see Z6/3.
- 1933 By D/F 50 miles N.W. of Scilly Is. 3 destroyers ordered to hunt 50°45'N, 7°W approx. (I.C.0403/40). Probably making for the Fastnet (C-in-C., W.A. 2130/27).
- 1654 57°N 0° to 1°E. Position indefinite (I.C.0403/40).

U.21 Interned.

- 1300 Reported from that a S/M had gone aground off Mandal, South Norway (58°28'N, 7°20'E) and had refloated 1800 with an engine damaged (Dornier, Oslo 2100/27, D.N.I. 2312/27, 1335/28).
- 2136 D/F of enemy unit making a long message S.W. of Mandal 58.02 N, 07°30'E, 25 miles W. of Kristiansand possibly same S/M as above, returning to Germany. British S/M's on patrol were informed. HQ. Coastal command sent 3 Hudsons to search in the area north of Horns Reef at 0800/28.
- Al. French Vice Consul informs me a German S/M in damaged condition just arrived Christiansund south escorted by a Norwegian warship (V-C., Kristiansand 1430/28) U.21 ran ashore midnight 26/3 refloated 1200/27 and proceeded into shelter in Norwegian waters with one engine damaged. German N.A. informed Defence Dept. that S/M had been damaged at sea and through stress of weather obliged to proceed into Norwegian waters. Capt. of S/M's statement of damage being caused through running ashore was however known at Norwegian Adty. and decision was taken at midnight to intern the S/M. (N.A. Oslo 1100/28). Suspected that S/M intended to enter very good shelter for a rest, missed entrance by narrow margin (N.A. Oslo 1830/28) U.21 interned (N.A. Oslo 1045/28). U.21 was interned solely on grounds that she had entered Norwegian territorial waters even though it was due to fault of navigation. Norwegian Naval Authorities not sure their Govt. was right. It is felt Govt. wish to make a gesture in view of late articles in British and French press. Norwegian Naval forces were sent before German Minister, Oslo was informed as it was feared German Govt. might send forces to rescue. In addition, all telephonic communications between Sorlandet and Oslo and abroad was stopped. Strong German protest expected. German N.A. has given Norwegian Govt. a stronger hand by remarking on telephone, and taken off on dictaphone, to Duty Officer, Norwegian Adty., if it was not possible to release S/M before receiving Norwegian Naval Officer's report on spot as their S/M commanders are young and inexperienced and consequently not good navigators and also not well acquainted with neutrality regulations. Commander of U.21 is 25 years old. (N.A. Oslo 1800/28).

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

1st M. A/S. B.
Flotilla

C. in C. W.A. L311/28 see 27/3.

A/S Group 28

Is to be prepared for foreign service.
Report date ready for sailing (D.A./S.W.
2135/28). Earliest date 5/4 but
recommend date be extended to 7/4 (V.A.
Dover 1201/29). To be ready to sail 8/4
a.m. (D.A./S.W. 1942/29).

A/S Group 5

To be prepared for foreign service.
Report when ready to sail (D.A./S. W.
2134/28) Ready 3/4 subject to relief
(C. in C.W.A. 1108/29). To be ready am
9/4 (D.A./S.W. 1943/29).

Submarines

Positions 0700/29 and movements (V.A.(S)
1711/28) D.C. 0006/29).

EMERALD)
ENTERPRISE)
EFFINGHAM)

With bullion (Hd. of M. 1554/28).

RESOLUTION

With bullion (Hd. of M. 1553/28).

French Forces

Surface forces now operating in area E.
of 2:30 E. (V.A. Dover, 1736/28)

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

A Hudson on patrol intercepted 2 Dornier in the middle of the North Sea. One was engaged and seriously damaged. At 1230 fighters shot down a Heinkel off Wick, which had been shadowing and reporting our convoys.

Bomber Command aircraft sighted 2 destroyers and other ships close to the German coast, south of Sylt. Owing to a misunderstanding bombs were not dropped.

Enemy Air Activity

Flare dropped near Convoy FN 30 CPNY 3005 (AUCKLAND 0100/28).

Five large parachute flares in half an hour between N. and E. from 147° LSWY 22 (VALOROUS 0031/28).

Reports of aircraft (A.C. 224 Sqn. 1210/28, OA aircraft 224 1815/28, ESCAPADE 1924/28, Donibristle 1259/28.

Attack on French

The French 11th D.F. was attacked by aircraft north of Ostend at 2015. Three bombs were dropped. No damage.

Attack on Convoys ON 23 and HN 22

3 Blenheims being sent (C. in C. Rosyth, 1230/28) Convoy HN 22 being attacked WPHI 2540 (D.8 1254/28). Convoy being shadowed (KASHMIR 1255/28) SHEFFIELD being shadowed (SHEFFIELD 1259/28).
3 Hudsons leaving Wick 1320 to join HN 22 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1310/28). Aircraft now shadowing (D.8, 1314/28). Fighter aircraft on way to assist convoy ALICE (Rosyth 1316/28) Convoy HN 22 is being attacked (? read by Scapa Base ship 1920/28) One aircraft dropping bombs (Capt (D)8 1925/28). Convoy ON 23 being attacked 335 JSBP 8-5 (JANUS WISTARIA 1956/28). WISTARIA being attacked 000° Kinnaird Hd. (WISTARIA 2000/28). Aircraft made off eastward proceeding with convoy HN 22. (WISTARIA 2030/28). Damage to WISTARIA's steering gear (C. in C. Rosyth, 1821/29). Single aircraft attacked Methil portion of HN 22 dropping 5 bombs. No damage. After dark the aircraft appeared to fire tracer bullets at convoy. Damage unknown (Capt. (D) 8. 2109/28).

(continued)



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

AIR.

JAVELIN 1950

Attack by enemy a/c. on Convoy O.N.
23. M.06695/40.

WISTARIA.

Attack by enemy a/c. Report
(M./07531/40).

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MOST SECRET.

28.3.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Attack on Convoys
ON 23 and HN 22
Continued

No bombs ^{to} have been dropped on Convoy ON 23. The Skuas which were with it may have been mistaken for enemy aircraft. One Skua made a forced landing in the sea S.E. of Orkneys 1900. The crew were picked up. Report of CAIRO (covering Starboard side of HN 22) (CAIRO 1015/29).

Other Air attacks

S/T PRINCESS At 2000 bombed and machine gunned 40 miles
ROYAL SN 209 S.S.W. (mag.) Bressay Light by 2 aircraft
detached from formation of 8 then steering
W. Leaks caused by near misses.
Skipper and 1 crew wounded. Trawler
replied with Lewis gun. (C. in C. Rosyth,
1821/29).

S/T INVER- At 2000 bombed, superficial damage,
NEIL 1 wounded. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1821/29).
Lewis gun kept aircraft at 1000 ft.
(D.C.N.S. 208).

I.S. GROEN Dutch trawler machine gunned in North Sea
No casualties (Press from Amsterdam
denied by Transocean Radio 1800/31)

VIKINGBANK Dutch trawler. 4 bombs dropped near her
in North Sea. No casualties.
(Press from Amsterdam).

Liaison

Your 1253/3. R.A.F. have arranged for
Liaison officer to be appointed to your
staff (D. of L.D. 1046/29 to C. in C.,
Portsmouth).

French Aircraft

Now operating in area E. of 2° E. and
surface forces East of 2:30 E.
(V.A. Dover, 1736/28).

28. 3. 40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation F.D.

V.A.(S) 1352/28, 2017/28, 1514/29.

Sweeping Reports

BORDE. One German mine swept 276°
Sunk Light Vessel 2.9 miles. (C. in C.
Nore, 2338/28).

Harwich, Yarmouth no sweeping, weather
(F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1934/28).

COVXF, no sweeping, defects and weather.
(COVXF, 1928/28).

Granton, Aberdeen, curtailed. Peterhead,
Invergordon nil, weather. (C. in C.,
Rosyth, 1859/28).

No sweeping. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1858/28).

Curtailed, weather. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1831/28).

Nil (F.O.I.C., Falmouth, 1830/28).

Nil, weather (F.O., Humber, 1807/28).

Lyness nil, weather. (A.C.O.S., 1805/28).

Nil, weather. (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1724/28)

? Explosive
Cutter

being used on mine moorings by Germans.
While sweeping in area in which mines were
cut 27/3 MEDWAY QUEEN's sweep parted
following explosion not large enough for
a mine detonating. (V.A. Dover, 1042/28).

Unexplained
explosions

Mine sweeper observed 5 explosions
presumably from moored mines in a line
roughly 5 miles long 350° from 53:10 N.,
1:23 E. 1600 to 1630/27 (F.O. Humber,
1005/28).

Shipping

Convoys

FS, FN, Forecast C. in C., Rosyth, 2102/28.

French Positions (D.C., 0330/28).

HN 22 40 ships escorted by 6 destroyers and CAIRO and covered by SHEFFIELD and AURORA is east of Shetlands, 0730.

ON 23 25 ships, is off Kinnaird Head escorted by 4 destroyers and 1 submarine (0730) GALATEA, ARETHUSA to join. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1450/28).

OHN 24 PENELOPE to form part of crew (F.O.C. 2nd C.S. 0945/28).

FN 30 Delayed (AUCKLAND 0504/28). As heavy seas and frequent snow storms make enemy unlikely propose convoy air escort should be ordered to return to base (AUCKLAND 0915/28).

HX 27 Arrived with VANDC (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1000/28).

HG 24 Sailing telegram (F.O.C.N.A., 1806/28).

Ocean Convoys D.C. 174/28).

Black List STOCKHOLM to be put back on list. VIKING to be removed. (Hd. of M. 1605/28).

Miscellaneous

Suspicious Vessel My 1813/9. NOORDWIJK arrived Rosario
NOORDWIJK 27/3. (S.O.(I), Montevideo, 1045/28).

Weather.

0500	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	N.N.W. strong	Good, showers
Horns Reef	N.W. fresh	Moderate, "
Channel	N.W. fresh	Good, fair.
W. Approaches	N. light	Good, fair.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

BLÜCHER)
KÖNIGSBERG) Reported to have left Brunsbüttel for
North Sea 0600/21. C.3 (D.D.I.C., 1215/28)

Pocket Battleship My 1333/24 (see 22/3). Ship referred to
was a pocket battleship. B.3.
(D.NI, 1131/28).

Shipping route Reported in Copenhagen Press that German
merchant ships ordered not to cross the
Skagerrak by the Skaw as they have been
doing, but to proceed inside Norwegian
territorial waters, owing to torpedoing
of HEDDERNHEIM and E.H. STINNES.

PRINZ EUGEN According to preliminary information
received of photographic reconnaissance
today one cruiser of HIPPER class, possibly
PRINZ EUGEN, was berthed alongside the
Stenbenhoft, Cuxhaven. (I.C. 0404/40).

Force at Sea Reported that in the early morning 28/3
one large cruiser escorted by at least
6 destroyers and one aircraft were sighted
off Kristiansand South steering West at
high speed. C.3. Possibly the force
sighted 30 miles N.W. of Borkum at
1327/27 may have subsequently proceeded
north for a sweep into the Skagerrak.
(I.C. 0405/40).

Types of mines Rumanian M.A. usually reliable states
2 types of magnetic mines being made,
bottom and floating, former to be laid
by submarine or fast motor boat, latter
by aircraft. Mines said to be ineffective
after a month or so. (N.A. Stockholm,
1801/28).

LEIPZIG At Bremen damaged and paid off (N.A.,
Stockholm, 1801/28).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

- DOMALA (Attacked by aircraft 2/3) was docked at Southampton 27/3 (D.T.D.).
- TASSIA S.O.S. (N. Foreland Radio intercept 0818) TASSIA 0908/28. Resumed normal working (N. Foreland Radio Recd. 1028/28). In no immediate danger. Anchored 300° LSWY 13. Require tug. (HASTINGS 1225/28) Tug on way (Humber Radio, 1837/28).
- VERBANIA Arrived with tug BRIGAND and escort (N.O.I.C. Stormoway 0925/28) (Drifting in Atlantic without coal).
- JOBHAVEN Aground near Dunkerque breakwater (JOBHAVEN, 0934/28).
- KAISSON In distress 52:55 N., 2:0 E. Tug GEORGE LEE BARBER sailed Yarmouth 1055/28 (NO.I.C. Yarmouth, 1100/28). Tug BARBER returned. Trawler CAPE MELVILLE reports KAISSON does not require assistance (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 2205/28, 1100/28).
- NUBIAN, DIANA, FAME Damage to asdic gear. (R.A.(D) 1344/28).
- LA RAILLEUSE, sunk French destroyer, sank after explosion in Tangier harbour (? date). Sabotage believed responsible. A few days earlier crew had a brawl with sailors from a British warship. On demand of British Captain 3 French sailors were courtmartialled. On the day of the court martial LA RAILLEUSE was ordered to sea; explosion occurred a few hours earlier (Leipzig Radio, 2315/28).
- FIRE DRAKE, ICARUS Damage when former went alongside latter at Invergordon. ICARUS superficial. FIRE DRAKE seaworthy except in heavy following seas (FIRE DRAKE, 0145/28).

MOST SECRET.28.3.1940.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Force for
Mediterranean.

Admty. 2030/27, received at 2255/28, states it may be necessary to concentrate considerable force in Eastern Mediterranean at short notice. As preliminary action, certain depot and repair ships and submarines are being sailed for Alexandria.

Admty. 2147/27, received at 2255/28, orders RESOURCE to be sailed for Alexandria with escort of two destroyers as soon as practicable. MAIDSTONE being sent out from U.K. to Freetown after short refit. (S.A. War Diary, T.S.D., 4150/40).

QUEEN MARY
AQUITANIA

Leakage of information re movements (S.N.O. Simonstown War Diary April 1940. T.S.D. 5036/40)
Note. Further entry about this on 17/4 in above Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

HOOD Position where destroyers to meet her.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1222/28).

French positions F.O.C.N.A., 1130/28, D.C. 2336/28.

South Atlantic

GRAF SPEE mutiny Re communique issued to Press by
Admiralty. Reasons why doubtful whether
mutiny really occurred. (Mr. M. Drake,
Montevideo, No. 92 EMPAX 28/3).

Mediterranean

ESPANA Flying Spanish flag, carrying German goods,
plying between Italian and Majorca ports.
Persistent rumour that German Consulate
Palena is virtually her owner. Possible
the story is German propaganda designed
to illustrate inefficiency of blockade.
(Consul Palena, Majorca, 1345/28).

America & West Indies

MAURETANIA Press message from Christobal Canal Zone
25/3 stated she expected to arrive
Christobal before midnight 25/3 and to
pass through Canal early 26/3 on way to
Australia via Balboa. Please investigate
source of message and report whether
leakage has occurred. (D.N.I. 1315/28 to
N.C.S.O., Colon).

QUEEN MARY Your 1523/23 suggest extra crew brought
by S.S. ANTONIA may have been source of
leakage (D.N.I. 1316/28 to N.C.S.O. New
York). Reply. Press speculations began
with arrival of ANTONIA, but believed due
to basic fact of arrival rather than
leakage from crew (N.C.S.O., New York,
1757/28).

French positions BEVEZIERS (submarine) arrived Halifax 28/3
(S.O.(I) Halifax, 0855/28).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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China

MEDWAY

Trouble anticipated with Chinese ERA's shipwrights if ordered to sail for Alexandria. (C. in C. China, 0315Z/28).

M/S Duties

C. in C. E.I. 1338/18. Preparation of gunboats for M/S duties at Singapore has been deferred pending Admiralty's decision. (C. in C., China, 1006Z/28).

Policy of disclosing damage to H.M. Ships

Air Ministry signalled names of ships damaged in Scapa raid. Not first time this discrepancy has been observed (C.O.I.S. Far East, 0346Z/28).

East Indies.

Fleet oilers

Situation on station at present (C. in C., E.I., 1111Z/28).

Australia & New Zealand

W/T restrictions

on use of W/T by foreign merchant ships on passage between U.K. ports and outside territorial waters. Asking for information. (D.N.I. Melbourne 0530Z/28).

U.S. Convoys

Your 1856/20. Responsibility of providing adequate escort rests on Admiralty. Under existing conditions only type of raider likely to be met in Tasman Sea is of merchant vessel type, consequently present arrangements are adequate. Not possible to concentrate all the transports in one convoy. Question of adequacy of escorts is continually under consideration (D.O.D. (F) 1227/28 to N.2 Naval Board).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

385

Home Commands

THESEUS (956 tons) arrived Stavanger 27/3 with cargo of galvanized steel pipes and flying German flag (Platt, Stavanger, 1329/28).

FRIGGA At Narvik loading ore (Gibbs, Narvik, 1134/28).

CHIOS At Rotterdam has been undocked and is in ballast.

AKKA Has returned to port and is waiting with steam up. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 2002/28).

APOLLO Arrived with coal (Gottenburg 1730/28).

MIMI HORN TRANSYLVANIA on patrol in Denmark Strait at 1100/28 intercepted MIMI HORN (4007 tons) (left Curacao 5/3). Unable to prevent ship being scuttled and set on fire. Crew of 41 picked up.

20,000 ton liner At 1710/28 58° N., 5:52 E. steering 180° (R.A.(S) 2326/28 to submarines on patrol.

ANTONIO DELFINO Sailed southward 0945 (Bernardes, Haugesund 1000/28). V.A.(S) and submarines on patrol informed (D.D.I.C. 1240/28.) Reported likely to leave Haugesund tonight or 29/3.

GODFRIED BEUREN Now loading Narvik will probably sail tonight.

DERINDJE Arrived 27/3.

NORDSTERN Sailed Haugesund 1650/27 Southbound.

NORDWEST Sailed in cargo Gottenburg 27/3. Reported pilots ordered for 35 large German trawlers to leave for Norwegian fjords as soon as Belt passage free for navigation. Trawlers said to be fishing off Andenes (69:19 N. 16:8 E.) since early March and calling at Harstad, Lofoten Is.

(D.D.I.C. 1132/28 to submarines on patrol etc.)

America & West Indies

VANCOUVER

Has finished bunkering in Caracas Bay and is now alongside the ESTE (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1601/28).

South Atlantic

RIO GRANDE

which was intending to sail from Rio Grande do Sul early in January, is again reported to be taking on stores and preparing for sea. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1142/28) (S.O.(I), Freetown, 1740/18).

WINDHUK)
BABITONGA)
DRESDEN)
RIO GRANDE)

All considered auxiliaries, preparing to sail at short notice. A.N.A. Rio reminded Brazilian C.O.S. we had requested internment of last 3 at various dates and as long as they are free we shall maintain close watch (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1729/28).

China

SCHEER

at Macassar since September is reported to be loading cargo and preparing to sail at end of March (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0616/27).

WASGENWALD)
WERDENFELS)
MONI RICKMERS)

Reported from Sabang to have received 5,500 tons of coal and have had orders to sail at end of March or beginning of April (C.O.I.S., Far East, Singapore, 1046/28)

It is reported that German ships at Surabaya, Batavia, Tjilitjap and Padang are repainting and in some cases, painting out their names. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0432Z/28).

REGENSBURG)
ELBE)

Loading sand ballast at Yokohama. Expected to proceed to Kobe. (Capt. D.S. Singapore, 0433Z/28).

ESSEN

Has steam up, but still legal difficulties (N.O.I.C. Port Darwin, 1215Z/28 quoting N.E.I. broadcast).

387 S

MOST SECRET.

28.3.1940.

Thursday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

1825.

58° 11.8' N. 05° 43' W.
H.M.S. FORESTER. M/06621/40.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

388

Ships Attacked

BURGOS

Norwegian (3220 tons) in southbound Convoy FS 31 was mined 1325 LSDN 1809 sunk 1400 LSDN 1808 (off Cromer), whole crew and British pilot rescued by PELICAN, 2 slightly injured. For some unexplained reason she was $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles out of the swept channel. (D.C.N.S. 207, C. in C. Nore, 0915/29 PELICAN 1325/28, 1400/28, 1416/28, 1450/28).

Submarines reported

Estimated dispositions Situation obscure. (about 50 miles E. of Kinnairds Head 0749/28 is possibly bound for Moray Firth. Possibly 2 still patrolling to westward of Orkneys and Shetlands. Possibly 1 off Norwegian coast north of 60° N. 1 N.W. of Lands End 1933/27 may be homeward bound through English Channel or via Fastnet (D.D.I.C. 1216/28).

1200	By aircraft 53:50 N., 3:53 E. heading N. Lost owing to bad weather and rough sea, 54:44 N., 6:20 E. 1235. (H.Q. Bomber Command, 2000/28).
0137	54:40 N., 3:40 E. position approx. (I.C. 0403/40).
0749	57:40 N. 0:30 W., position approx. (I.C. 0403/40).
1830	56:50 N., 6:0 E. Position indefinite. (D.N.I., 1902/28).
1805	53:8 N., 1:49 E. Possible enemy trawler sighted by aircraft. TASSIA (see Casualties) is anchored near. (C. in C., Nore, 2237/28).
1933	50:45 N., 7:0 W. unreliable fix. May be returning up Channel. WILD SWAN and HAVANT to search. Anson aircraft will co-operate. (C. in C., W.A., 1212/28).

SECRET



Narrative noon 21/3/40 to noon 28/3/40.

Operation D.U.

HOME WATERS

The sweep by the 2nd Cruiser Squadron and eight destroyers into the Skagerrak on the evenings of 21st and 22nd March, supported by the capital ships of the Home Fleet, produced no results. Only three German merchant ships were sighted, all inside territorial waters.

389

Better fortune, however, attended the submarines on patrol. On 21st March the German S.S. HEDDERNHEIM (4947 tons) with a cargo of iron ore, presumably loaded at Kirkenes, as the ship did not call at Narvik, was encountered by H.M. s/m URSULA who followed her until within eight miles of the Skaw where the crew could easily reach the Danish coast in their boats the weather being calm. Giving the crew fifteen minutes to abandon ship, the URSULA sank her, taking the Chief Engineer prisoner, the Captain eluding him by disguising himself as a seaman. Two nights later the submarine TRUANT intercepted the EDMUND HUGO STINNES (2189 tons) off Bovbjerg with a cargo of coke for Copenhagen and shadowed her until outside territorial waters off Thorsminde on the West Coast of Jutland, where the TRUANT called on her to stop. The German ship made for territorial waters, sending out SOS: accordingly the TRUANT opened fire, and after the crew had abandoned ship finished her off by torpedo to prevent salvage. It is uncertain from the TRUANT'S signalled report whether the German ship assisted the sinking by scuttling. One German was slightly wounded, and the TRUANT took the master prisoner on board.

The Military Attache, Copenhagen reports that the propagandist effect on the Danish public of the sinkings of the HEDDERNHEIM and E.H. STINNES are "splendid". The Danes feel we are taking the initiative in the North Sea. Following the torpedoing of the HEDDERNHEIM two German ships, the KONIGSBERG-PREUSSEN and MASUREN, both probably bound for Gothenburg received identical orders from their agent in Copenhagen to return at once to the Northern part of the Sound. On 22nd March the British Consul at Esbjerg reported that Bremen had stopped the sailing of colliers on the East coast of Denmark via the Skagerrak.

Reporting on the operations of the URSULA and TRUANT Vice-Admiral, Submarines says that the submarines probably slightly exceeded their orders, but it is not his intention to issue any orders to discourage the repetition of such action at present. Submarines on patrol have, however, been warned that it is reported that if British ships take action in Norwegian territorial waters against the ANTONIO DELFINO Norwegian warships have orders to open fire. The ANTONIO DELFINO left Haugesund southbound at 0945 on 28th March.

On 4th March it was learnt that the German S.S. OSTPREUSSEN (3030 tons) was ashore 6 miles

SECRET



Narrative noon 21/3/40 to noon 28/3/40.

HOME WATERS.

S.W. of Hirtshals Light, near the Skaw, after striking a submerged object. The s/m TRIAD, on patrol off the South coast of Norway was sent to investigate and reported that there was no sign of any attempt to refloat her. The Captain of the OSTPREUSSEN is reported to have told the Danish Press that the vessel will probably become a total loss. 390

On the conclusion of the sweep into the Skagerrak the capital ships of the Home Fleet remained on patrol in Northern waters, returning to Scapa on the morning of 27th March in a gale of wind which necessitated cancelling the firing practices which had been arranged and the withdrawal of the destroyer anti-submarine patrol which was arranged on account of the concentration of German submarines off the Orkneys.

The Norwegian convoys have continued to cross without incident, other than the difficulties caused by ships, mostly neutrals, arriving at Kirkwall with their internal arrangements unfitted for inclusion in Convoy, unable to dim navigation lights, lacking shaded stern lights, without proper means of communication between bridge and engine room, and even unable to darken ship. Generally speaking, convoy is becoming increasingly popular amongst neutrals, whose crews frequently refuse to sail out of convoy, even in defiance of the instructions issued by their Governments.

(insert sinking of COMETA by U-boat) (see page 363)

AIR OPERATIONS

There have been no further large scale enemy air attacks on shipping. On the afternoon of 22nd March the Finnish s.s. FRITZ S (1475 tons) in Norwegian convoy ON20 was bombed by two aircraft and towed into port disabled. H.M. S/M UNITY, proceeding to the Heligoland Bight patrol on 25th March rescued eight Dutch seamen of the Dutch trawler PROTINUS, sunk six days previously by German night bombing aircraft. The trawler AGATE was sent to rendezvous with the UNITY off Kinpa Head, to take off these men. (see 183)

Rough weather has curtailed British air reconnaissance and patrols in the North Sea. On the morning of 27th March, however, aircraft on reconnaissance in the Horns Reef area attacked four Flakships (enemy Anti-Aircraft patrol vessels) which had opened fire on her off the Frisian Islands and apparently sank one of them. Later in the day, Blenheim aircraft from the Bomber Command sighted two German cruisers of the KOLN class (and two destroyers off Borkum, and bombed one of the destroyers without hitting. Further bombers were sent out to locate this force, but failed to make contact. Two of our submarines have been ordered into the Bight to try to find and attack the enemy force.

SECRET



Narrative noon 21/3/40 to noon 28/3/40.

U 21.

On 27th March it was reported from Oslo that a submarine had gone aground off Mandal, South Norway and had refloated later with one engine damaged. An enemy unit was heard at 9.36. p.m. making a long message, from a position S.W. of Mandal; British submarines on patrol were informed and H.Q. Coastal Command arranged to send 3 Hudsons to search in the area North of Horns Reef at 8 a.m. on 28th March. Later it was reported that the submarine was U 21: that she did not sail and has been interned by the Norwegians. Up to date there is no further information.

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FOREIGN WATERS
Possible Raider.

On 21st March a report was received that a German heavy ship, either the pocket battleship LUTZOW (Ex-DEUTSCHLAND) or a 10000 tons cruiser, accompanied by a tanker of the ALTMARK class left Germany during the first week in March for commerce raiding. The possibility of a raider being abroad cannot be ignored, as only one pocket battleship can with any certainty be located in German waters; and a warning to this effect has been sent to all ships and authorities at home and abroad.

The French will have the battleship PROVENCE, two 8 inch cruisers, submarines and eventually the aircraft carrier BEARN at Dakar; and Admiral Darlan states that he intends shortly to send a force de raid to the Oran-Gibraltar where they will be ready to move East or West.

CONCENTRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Consequent upon the uncertainty as to the future attitude of Italy it may become necessary to concentrate at short notice a considerable force in the Eastern Mediterranean. As a preliminary, certain depot and repair ships are being ordered to sail for Alexandria now, also submarines from the China and East Indies Stations. The HOOD is to sail on 29th March, but will not be available at present as the retubing of her condensers is to be taken in hand at Malta. The aircraft carrier ARK ROYAL left England on 22nd March to work up in the Mediterranean.

allowed to
Decompose (193)

QUEEN MARY & MAURETANIA.

The intention to employ these ships as transports for the Australian and New Zealand troop contingents and the arrangements for fueling en route have become known through leakage at New York and elsewhere in America and the West Indies. It has not yet been definitely established whether the leakage was intelligent anticipation by the American Press or whether it may eventually be traced to the extra crew brought by the s.s. ANTONIA. On 22nd March the C.-in-C. America and West Indies reported that the

SECRET



Narrative noon 21/3/40 to noon 28/3/40.

QUEEN MARY & MAURETANIA.

392

MAURETANIA which left Bermuda that day expected to arrive at Colon at 7 p.m. on 25th, on the latter day a Press message from Christobal stated that the ship expected to arrive before midnight and to pass through the Panama Canal early next day, on her way to Australia. The QUEEN MARY left Trinidad on 25th March, and expects to arrive at Cape Town on 2nd April. The AQUITANIA is at Cape Town.

DANUBE OPERATIONS.

✓
The MARDINIAN, carrying eight officers and 60 men, with guns, ammunition and equipment and stores for arming Danube river craft is due to arrive at Sulina on 29th or the morning 30th March.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

Redistribution

Following redistributions to take place as soon as practicable. A. 7th D.F. to remain under C. in C. H.F. who is in future to provide all escorts for Scandinavian Convoys. B. 5 ships now running in 12th D.F. to be exchanged for 5 V's and W's from Western Approaches and this force, with BOREAS and BRASEN to be placed under F.O.C.O.S. for A/S work in Moray Firth and Orkneys area. C. DUNAN and ECHO on completion to join C. in C. W.A. relieving one leader and one destroyer to join F.O.C.O.S. D. GRIFFIN and GALLANT to rejoin Capt. D.1 under C. in C., Nore. E. (This was postponed by 1st S.L. 1037/30) 2nd C.S. proceed to Humber and be based there. Will normally operate under C. in C. Nore for protection of East coast, but may be placed at disposal of C. in C. H.F. for specific operations (1st S.L. 2237/29) see 30/3 also.

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 3 cruisers, 7 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 2 A.M.C's.

Clyde

Requirements for Patrols in Clyde Area (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1132/29).

Humber Force

Orders in M. 0843/39 of 31/8/39 are cancelled (D.O.D.(H) 2303/29).

HOOD

To retube condensers at Devonport instead of Malta, owing to political situation. Can be taken in hand now (D.O.D.(H), 1505/29) sailed from Clyde 0345/30 escorted by 3 destroyers.

Patrol by 19th A/S. F.

14 day patrol commencing 30/3 in area limited by 5° W., Long. and Lat. of North Rona, and 60° W. (A.C.O.S. 1656/29).

TRITON

sailed with despatch ~~from~~ pm/29 for patrol (area given) (Capt. (S)2 2139/29).

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Submarines

0700/30 and movements (D.C. 2025/29, V.A.(S) 1739/29. Later programmes, (R.A.(S) 1849/29).

UNITY

Land Dutchmen (PROTINUS survivors) at Rosyth etc. (Capt.(S) 6 0016/29) (All were stretcher cases).

REDSTONE

Blockship. Required at Scapa 8/4 without fail (A.C.O.S. 1256/29).

WOLBOROUGH

To be prepared for foreign service (V.A. Dover, 1202/29).

Operations

Operations on Line D.U.

To be carried out at more frequent intervals provided destroyers available. Areas: E. limit 9° E., south limit 57° N., north limit 58:26 N. Would 20 hours notice be sufficient to get submarines clear? (C. in C. H.F. 2250/29 to R.A.(S) Concur but would prefer southern limit to be 57:10 N. when West of 6:30 E. Reasons. (R.A.(S) 1142/30).

Air.

Enemy Air activity

Expected on East coast (Capt (S) 2 2015/29 to submarines near East Coast). Asking that such signals may be passed to submarines on patrol as early as possible (V.A.S. 1544/29). Enemy aircraft active in North sea (D.D.I.C. 0920/29) Enemy aircraft near you (C. in C. Rosyth 1934/29 to AUCKLAND, BRAZEN, HASTINGS). One aircraft crashed in sea. No survivors or wreckage found. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2327/29). Later. Wreckage was found and attempt made to salvage it.

MOST SECRET.

29.3.40.
Friday.

395



WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.
AIR.

AUCKLAND.

Attack by aircraft on Tyne-Methil
Convoy M06382/40.

JEDMOOR.

Attack by aircraft in convoy.
(M06927/40).

FLAMINGO.

Attack by aircraft on convoy F.N.31.
(M06469/40).

EAST ANGLIA.

Attack by aircraft 15' S.E. by S.
off Flamborough. No number given.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Attacks

Convoy 1950
FN 31
25 ships

Convoy being attacked 332 B.F.Zs. 28 (FLAMINGO 1950/29) 10 miles north of Scarborough.
2 bombs dropped amongst leading ships of convoy, not hits.
Aircraft driven off to Eastward.
FLAMINGO hit by machine gun fire no casualties (FLAMINGO 2040/29) Brief report of engagement (CAIRO 1015/29).
One aircraft bombed convoy. No apparent result (HASTINGS 2100/29).
AUCKLAND's account (C. in C. Rosyth, 1753/30) WALLACE fired one round of 4-in. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1234/30).

EAST ANGLIAN

2008 British (870 tons). Attacked 15 miles S.E. Flamborough. (I.C. 0405/40, Humber Radio 2000/29).

Convoy T.M.35
(15 ships)

2026. Bombed by aircraft 18 miles N. by E. River Tyne. No damage (I.C. 0405/40)

Reports

of enemy air activity to be passed to submarines on patrol as soon as possible (V.A.(S) 1544/29, C. in C., Rosyth, 1020/30).

of enemy or unidentified aircraft to shore authorities by H.M. Ships and F.A.A. aircraft, revised procedure (Admiralty 2001/29).

Patrols recalled

All patrols being recalled owing to weather. Aircraft remaining with convoys for present. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0942/29).

Protection of
Scandinavian
Convoy

Requesting the convoy be routed as close to Shetlands, Orkneys and Kinnaird Head as practicable, to enable fighter support to be given (Air Min. 1545/29). These arrangements are already in force (D.O.D.(H) 1131/30).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Dutch Prohibited Area.

Off Schouwen is modified, western boundary 3:39:5 E. instead of 3:38 E. (Norwegian broadcast).

Mines in Belt

Large number of mines reported floating in Great Belt (I.C. 0404/40).

Mines to be laid off Norway.
Operation WILFRED

It has been decided to lay mines off certain places on Norwegian coast, to force traffic outside the limits of Norwegian territorial waters. Areas selected are Stadlandet, Bud, West Fjord. All these areas will be notified as dangerous at same time, but mines will only be laid off Stadlandet and in West Fjord in first instance. Ships to be used. Date of operation 5/4 for both places. Details of areas to be notified as dangerous. Plan of operations, C. in C. H.F. to conduct the operation. Laying of mines is to proceed even if Norwegian warships are present. If latter take hostile action minimum amount of force necessary to prevent interference with minelaying is to be used. (1st S.L. 0008/29 to C. in C. H.F.).

Admiralty 0008/29. Do you wish German ships warned by patrol of mined areas, I suggest not, as they will turn back in territorial waters, wait till nightfall, proceed into open sea and escape. (C. in C. H.F., 2351/29).

Operation F.D.I.

NARWHAL's movements (C. in C. Rosyth, 1629/29)

Sweeping Reports

One mine cut 264° T. buoy 4 miles (V.A. Dover 2124/29).

One mine cut 144° Humber Lt. V. 3.1 miles (F.O. Humber, 2139/29).

One mine, suspected magnetic, exploded by sweep 150° Sunk Lt. V. one mile (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 2048/29).

Lyness weather unfavourable (A.C.O.S. 1800/29)
M/C drifters sweeping nil weather (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1755/29).

3 mines exploded by D.W.I. 29/3 S. 056° 4.15 miles 057° 4.15 miles and 057° 5.25 miles Tongue Lt. V. (C. in C. Nore, 1626/29).
29/3 One magnetic mine exploded 5 cables 315° from 57B buoy. (C. in C., Nore, 1748/30).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Mine exploded

Explosion, apparently magnetic mine, 1½ miles 093° from 244 BFDN 20 when WOOLSTON fired d/cs at a contact subsequently proved non-sub. (WOOLSTON, 1222/29).

Shipping

Downs-Flushing route

Sweeping continues on this route and deep draught traffic on it is still held up.

Submarines stopping ships

French want more definite instructions regarding treatment of merchant ships than is given in S.W.M. their Proposals.

1. If she refuses to obey signal to stop A. Fire shot across bows, B. over bridge, C. into non-vital spot, D. If still refuses sink with H.E.
2. Under no other conditions may neutral ship be sunk unless she opens fire on a submarine.
3. An enemy merchant ship who obeys all orders cannot be sunk unless safety of crew can be ensured. I have approved (V.A.S. 2057/29).

Convoys

Ocean Convoys

D.C. 1901/29.

Code words

HN 23A Alice one, HN 23B Alice Two (C. in C., Rosyth, 1246/29).

ON 23

Is late. Will arrive Point E. 0900/31. (D.T.D. 1151/29).

HN 23A, B

No change in times of departure but escorts are exchanged (do)

HX 21

Sailing telegram (Capt. D'kyd. Halifax, 1215/29).

MiscellaneousDanish patrols

Only Danish warship off west coast Jutland is BESKYTTEREN. Only proceeds to sea occasionally as fishery protection vessel. All Danish fishing vessels have colours prominently displayed. (D.O.D.(H) 1847/29)

Strike of Shipwrights

At Milford Haven. Continuance will seriously delay completion of trawlers being fitted out as minesweepers and boom defence vessels. (F.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1750/29)

Suspicious Ship VREDE

Reported in Evening Standard 30/3 (400 tons) placed under arrest by Dutch authorities on suspicion of unneutral conduct. VREDE arrived Amsterdam about 29/3 from Caen. N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, reported 1500/19 suspicious behaviour of Dutch VREDE, probably same vessel, near West Hinder buoy. Please investigate (D.N.I. 1236/31 to N.A. Hague). See 1/4.

Weather

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
0500			
North Sea	Variable, light	Good	Becoming S. or S.W.
Channel	S. light	Good	Freshening
W. Approaches	S. fresh	Good	S. or S.W. gale
Horns Reef	N.W. light	Very good	Wind backing

Enemy IntelligencePolish ships seized

By Germans at Gdynia. Following are believed to have been seized: ROBUR VII (820 tons) (bunkering ship), PROGRESS I (510 tons) (depot ship), SKARBOFERME, (592 tons) (depot ship), TORUN (2018 tons), GDANSK (547 tons), Gdynia (586 tons), TCZEW (760 tons) (Lloyds 29/3).

HOME COMMANDS

400

Enemy Intelligence

Force at Sea

8 minelayers, 1 destroyer and 1-250 ton submarine were reported to have left Ems steering West at 0300/29. A.2. (N.A. Hague, 1915/29, D.C. 2331/29) (B.2 I.C. 0405/40).

✓
Asking for description of the minelayers (D.D.I.C. 1115/30). Reply: Converted trawlers (N.A. Hague, 1310/30, D.D.I.C., 1758/30 to V.A. (S) etc.).

Asking for further details of the minelayers (D.N.I. 1235/31). Probably minesweepers rather than minelayers (I.C. 0406/40).

Trawler

Flying German flag passed south bound 1330/29 (Cumming, Tromsø, 1356/29).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

401

Home Commands

HOOD See Movements.

TETRARCH Minelaying equipment unsatisfactory
(VERNON 1621/29).

NORFOLK To be paid off and rendered to C. & M.
as repairs will take more than 3 months.
(Hd. of M. 1937/29).

AJAX Completes approx. mid July. (A.S.Chatham
1431/29).

B.24 ADELINE Belgian fishing vessel, missing since
months, wreckage washed upon Belgian
coast (Transocean 0800/29).

THISTLEBRAE Engine defect. (N.C.S.O. Trondhjem,
1700/29).

Foreign Stations

NORTHMOOR 28:40 N., 14:14 W. broken tail shaft
(Gibraltar W/T 1340/29, Las Palmas,
1000/30).

TROCAS Tanker, 9790, broken down S.E. of Sicily
29/3, crankshaft broken. In tow H.M.S.
for Malta. (Casualty Section, No.25,
3/4).

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1940.
Friday



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

French
Patrol.

C.in C. S.A's 1755/29 to B.N.L.O.,
Dakar for S.O., Force "Y", suggests
that French A.M.C. and Submarine Patrol
between St. Paul's Rocks and Brazilian
Coast is resumed as soon as possible,
and Force "Y" held in readiness in
view of likelihood of escape of
WINDHUK, BABITONGA, DRESDEN and
RIO GRANDE.

RESOURCE.

C.in C. S.A's 1750/29 informed
Admiralty of intention to sail
RESOURCE a.m. 4/4 on completion of
repairs to CHERRY LEAF and transfer
of necessary stores to shore storage.
(C.in C. S.A., War Diary, T.S.D.,
4150/40.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Suspected Ship
NORSE LADY

Expected Capetown 31/3 from Batavia, bound for West Indies. Is special examination to be made or action taken. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1133/29).

Routes

Proposed to be used for ships sailing U.K. independently (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1356/29).

GRAF SPEE

Officers reported arrived at Havana (Sir Ogilvie Forbes, Havana, No.24, 29/3).

Mediterranean.

WARSPITE

Asking whether she could be spared on understanding she would return to Home Fleet if one of the 4 remaining capital ships was damaged. C. in C. Med. to proceed to Alexandria fairly frequently for important conferences with Turks; at present he has only DELHI which cannot accommodate his staff (W.S.L. 0210/29 to C. in C. H.F.).

LAOMEDON
BURGONET
MAGNET

My 1551/8, asking early reply regarding status if required to proceed to Turkish waters (C. in C. Med. 1533/30).

Yugoslavia and
Oil Supplies

A.1 report, Yugoslav authorities are stopping all products in transit which are or can be made into aviation benzine or lubricating oil. 32 lighters consigned to Germany and 3 consigned to Hungary now held up at Bezdán. (A.N.A., Budapest, 2358/29).

East Indies

Your 0211/29. (i) My present forces are insufficient to meet this contingency should it arise and at same time give proper protection to shipping and transport against German attack. (ii) When U.S.2 is on passage I shall have only HOBART and one A.M.C. not committed to its escort, since GLOUCESTER is withdrawing to S. Atlantic Station, since if tanker cannot be provided to water QUEEN MARY my other 2 A.M.C's. will have to be used for this.

(continued)

War Diary.29. 3. 40.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies (continued)

(iii) Also Seaward Local Defence is almost non-existent and must be strengthened well in advance of Italy becoming hostile.
 (iv) Projected defence of Iranian oil fields is another possible commitment requiring Naval forces perhaps as early as June. (C. in C. E.I. 2026Z/29).

China

MEDWAY

To embark ammunition and torpedo reserves for the 10 submarines from China and E. Indies reserves (D.O.D.(F) 1747/29).

SELENGA
 U.S.S.R. V. MAYAKOVSKY

Handed over near Hong Kong to French Naval authorities for escort and contraband examination at Saigon. The Russian crews refused to sail and were replaced by French sailors. (D.C.N.S. 405).

America & West IndiesNavigation Lights

To be shown at full brilliancy when within 300 miles of East Coasts of Canada, U.S.A. and Newfoundland between Lat. 35° N. and 53° N. (D.T.D. 1637/29).

War DiaryGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS29. 3.40.
FridayNorth Atlantic

ANTARKTIS Returned to anchorage.

NORD ATLANTIC Has taken her place alongside BRAKE.
All 3 have had engines working,
presume some movement of cargo has been
going on with BRAKE.

USARAMO,)
LA PLATA)
LECH)

Have moved further out. (Consul Vigo,
1506/29).

Home Commands

Passenger Ship 20,00 tons sighted by air search JSND
1552 180 (C. in C. Rosyth, 0034/29)

NEUENFELS)
MARTHA HENDRIK FISSER) Arrived 29/3 (Gibbs, Narvik 1519/29).
FECHENHEIM)

EMSHORN Now loading ore (do).

FRIGGA)
GODFRIED BUREN) Loaded with ore (do).

Passed to submarines on patrol 0031/30.

HERO Sailed from here during dark hours
(Trondhjem 1300/29).

PITEA Sailed from Christiansund 0005 with fish
transhipped from North (N.C.S.O. Aalsund,
1400/29).

THESEUS Passed northward 1980 with some cargo
(Haugesund 1155/29).

ILSE L.M. RUSS Arrived from North (do).

AKKA Left at 2045 (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam,
2242/29).

War Diary

29. 3. 40.
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Mediterranean

ANKARA

Trieste reports (C.2) returned to Trieste recently and has loaded drums of lubricating oil. At midnight 27/3 left harbour in a southerly direction. (S.O.I., Malta, 1335/29).

China

FRIDERUN

At Menado commenced loading Copra 28/3. Able to proceed at any time, is under restraint but vital parts not removed, B.I. (Capt. I.S. Singapore, 0434Z/29).

Two German ships at Sourabaya have finished loading and one of them, the ESSEN, 5158 tons, has steam up though they cannot legally sail before April 3. Of the 5 German ships lying at Padang one, the SONECK, 2191 tons, is reported to be ready to sail. At Batavia the NORDMARK, 7750 tons, RENDSBURG, 6200 tons, and the VOGTLAND, 6608 tons, are the centre of intense activity in the inner harbour. (Reuter, Amsterdam, 29/3).

4075

MOST SECRET.

29.3.40.

Friday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

2355.

59° 15½' N. 3° 8' W. H.M.T.
KINGSTON BERYL M.07120.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships attacked

ORONSAY
? false alarm

S.S.S.S. 40° 31' N., 13° 42' W. (234°
Finisterre 242 miles) 0858/29 and 0907/29.
DOUGLAS to investigate (F.O.C.N.A. 1057A/29,
1315/29, Portishead Radio 0920/29).
DOUGLAS searched from 1750/29 to 0600/30
without result, then left the area owing
to shortage of fuel (F.O.C.N.A., 0918/30).

ORONSAY was not heard to transmit but
S.S.?S.S. was passed in by U.S. MANHATTAN.
Latter has now arrived at Gibraltar and
can throw no further light on the matter
(F.O.C.N.A. 1104/30).

DOUGLAS found and sunk a large derelict
whistle buoy in position where ORONSAY
reported a U-boat. Probable this was
cause of distress signal (A.S.W.D. 209).

Danish S.S.

Admiral Commanding states submarine
nationality unknown fired a shot at a
Danish steamer towards dark 29/3 in
South Norwegian waters about 10 miles off
coast (N.A. Oslo, 1530/30).

Submarines reported

Estimated distribution (D.D.I.C. 1210/29).

- 0725 Feather of p/s sighted by aircraft 58°N. 2:3W
(356° Kinnairds Head 20 miles) (C. in C.,
Rosyth, 0914/29).
- 0300 1 submarine (250 tons) 8 minelayers and
1 destroyer reported to have left Ems
steering West B.2 (I.C. 0405/40).
- 1250 Possible p.c. reported by merchant ship
180° St. Catherines 16 miles (C. in C.,
Portsmouth, 1956/29).



War Diary

30. 3. 40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

My 2237/29 para E. Retain 2nd C.S. with you for the present (1st S.L. 1037/30 to C. in C. H.F.).

WARSPITE

To sail for Mediterranean when convenient (1st S.L. 0137/30 to C. in C. H.F.). Can be spared (Reply to Adty 0210/29). (C. in C. H.F. 1112/29).

R.A.C. 18th C.S.

R-Admiral Clarke not to hoist flag in SOUTHAMPTON until 21/4 (C.S. 18, 1230/30).

Redistribution 12th D.F.

My 2237/29. B. Exchange of 12th D.F. with ships from W.A. is not to take place for the present (D.O.D.(H) 1759/30) if C. in C. W.A. 1810/30).

Scapa Fleet Tenders

Tenders A, B & C unsuitable for work at Scapa. Suggest using them as blockships in eastern entrances, or one as a coal hulk. (Co. C.H.F. 1050/30).

Submarines

Positions 0600/31 and movements (R.A.(S) 1549/30, (D.C., 1837/30).

Operations

Danish steamer fired at.

Towards dark 29/3 by submarine nationality unknown in South Norwegian (waters) about 10 miles off coast (N.A. Oslo, 1530/30).

Operation against German shipping

Desired to stage an operation against German merchant shipping on Norwegian coast using captured trawler HERRLICHKEIT as an auxiliary. Essential that her German characteristics should not be altered. Can she be made available? (C. in C. H.F. 2132/30). Reply. HERRLICHKEIT is undergoing trials with view to making her efficient for such an operation. Should she be fitted with asdics? (D.O.D.(H) 1332/31).

War Diary30. 3. 40.
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSAir.Bombing
Restrictionsfor 31/3 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1629/29,
D.C. 1108/30).Protection of
Scandinavian
ConvoysWhen situation permits H.Q.F.C.A. to
provide for this convoy when in range
standing patrol by day of 2 aircraft from
F.A.A. Skuas Hatston (H.Q.F.C.A., 1825/30).British Air
ActivityNormal patrols were flown over North Sea
with exception of reconnaissance online
Buchan Ness - Orkneys to Norwegian coast
and the cross over patrol west of Lister
which were cancelled by bad weather.9 Blenheims from Bomber command carried out
an anti-Flakship operation off Horns Reef
and sighted a number of minor warships.
Only one of these ships opened fire on our
aircraft and bombs were dropped without
result (H.Q.B.C. 2250/30).MiningOperations
WilfredMy 2237/29 para E. Retain 2nd C.S. with you
for the present (1st S.L. 1037/30).Sweeping ReportsWeather unsuitable for MG sweepers
(F.O., Humber, 1900/30).
Nil (Cdr. I.C. Sheerness 1742/30, F.O.I.C.
Peterhead, 1720/30).SUTTON damagedM/S SUTTON (4th M/S F) working from
Grinsby at 2010 exploded a mine under her
stern off Cromer Knoll. Steering gear put
out of action and after compartments
flooded. No immediate danger. Returned
to Immingham. (SUTTON, 2010/30).Magnetic mine was exploded in 53:8.6 N.,
1:23.5 E. close to JEVINGTON COURT and
CLAN MORRISON (I.C. 0406/40). (Note:
Probably identical with magnetic mine
reported in C. in C., Nore's 1748/30 see
29/3).



411

War Diary30. 3. 40.
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSShippingConvoys

ON 23 25 ships, escorted by 6 destroyers, 1 submarine, 2 cruisers and an A/A cruiser is N.E. of Shetlands.

HG 23 Arrived (N.O.I.C., Liverpool 0615/30, N.C.S.O., Ramsgate 1145/30).

OB 122 Cancelled (Capt. D. Liverpool, 1656/30).

HN 23A,B (Two portions of HN 23) A escorted by 5 destroyers sailed 1900/30, B to sail 0700/31 with ships which escorted ON 23 (see 29/3).

HN 22 Arrived 1230/30 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1256/30)

SL 27 Ocean route (D.T.D. 1647/30).

SL 26 Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 0938/30) There will be no convoy SLF 26 (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1811/30).

Continental
Traffic released

Traffic to be released to follow M/S 5 which will commence sweep as soon as weather suitable. To commence 1430. In event of a mine being cut traffic is to return to Downs or Continental Ports. (V.A. Dover, 1134/30, 1346/30, 1407/30, 1432/30).

My 1753/20. (Re hold up of traffic bound east from Downs which cannot be routed by Dunkirk and Zuydcote Pass) Traffic may now be released (C. in C., Nore, 1511/20).

31

Convoy Signals

F.O.C.N.A., 1312/29. Undesirable to break W/T silence unless necessary. Procedure in force. (D.T.D., 1318/30).

BRAVORE

Norwegian. Position and course wanted. Left Boulogne 23/3, passed Dover 29/3 for Dunkerque (D.N.I. 1835/30).

War Diary30. 3. 40.
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSMiscellaneousFleet Tenders
A.B.C.

Unsuitable to lie at anchor in ordinary British weather. Recommendation as to their disposal (C. in C. H.F. 1050/30).

WEATHER

<u>0500</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	W. fresh to gale	Poor
Horns Reef	S. moderate	Moderate
Channel & W. Approaches	W. moderate	Moderate

Outlook - Weather improving for short period.

Enemy IntelligenceForce at seaA large cruiser, one aircraft and at least 6 destroyers were reported off Kristiansand South, steering West at high speed, early morning 28/3.
C.3 (D.D.I.C. 1156/30).

War Diary30. 3. 40.
SaturdayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSHome Commands

FREDERICK Dutch 363 tons went ashore off Whitby. Refloated. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1045/30).

WESSEX Completion delayed by strike of shipwrights (N.O.I.C., Cardiff, 1041/30).

HAPPY RETURN Motor fishing vessel must be considered lost, probably foundered in gale last night (V.A., Dover, 1755/30).

M/S SUTTON See Mining.

WALSINGHAM Abandoned after collision with LOM (Norwegian) in Knock Deep ~~in~~ Convoy GS 17. Appears salvageable. Crew are in H.M.S. GOLDEN EAGLE (PELICAN 1710/30, 1800/30) Sank 1535/31 (Admiralty, Salvage Officer 2040/31) (N. Foreland Radio, 1535/31). *In Convoy* F.N. 33.

America & West Indies

S.S. KING EDWARD Which sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia 25/3 in convoy was disabled at 0430/30 in 43:28 N., 43:21 W. PORT HARDY standing by, (R.A. 3 B.S. 2311/30) Greek ship DIMITRIOS INGLESSES collided with KING EDWARD, and had slight damage forward. Steering gear breakdown apparently caused accident. Tug left Halifax 0400/1 G.M.T. (Capt. H.M.D.Y., Halifax, 0710/1).

ABBEY DALE)
ORANGELEAF) Fire at Bermuda, see 31/3. *F426*

War Diary30. 3. 40.
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticFrench Positions 1300/30 (D.C. 0047/30).

BURNEJNSSEN Dutch. Your 1908/29. Expected to arrive here early 31/3 and to leave for Lisbon same day. (Consul, Funchal 1645/30).

Convoy Positions (D.C., 1853/30).South AtlanticWhale oil Carrier CORONDA to be sent to Gib. for convoy on account of slow speed (C. in C. S.A., 1602/30).

ANSHUN (Govt. charter. 3188 tons, Freetown 17/3) Not yet arrived Simonstown (S.O. (I) Capetown, 1208/30).

German Oil Supplies Your 1824/26, report is probably out of date, see my 0959/19. 2000 tons diesel oil imported Jan. and Feb. traced on board German ships RIO GRANDE at Rio Grande do Sul and DRESDEN and BABITONGA at Santos. No consignment this route since. (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1129/30).Mediterranean

WARSPITE To sail for Mediterranean when convenient (1st S.L. 0137/30).

Merchantmen Coaling British merchant ships calling at Algiers, Oran, Bona can be supplied with bunker coal so long as stocks available. Re my 1821/19 (S.O. (I) Malta 1331/30).ChinaNORBRYN copper for Germany Norwegian cargo 3000 tons copper, 2000 tons brass in transit to Leningrad suspected destination Germany. Intercept out of sight of land to Eastward of Japan, no Japanese ship or aircraft witness (D.E.D.D. 0007/30).



30. 3. 40.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (continued)

Russian Sub-
marines

and German base in Possiet Bay and Hainan. Rumours. If N.L.O. Shanghai 0951/10/1 and my 0511/29/12/39 (C. in C., China, 0246Z/30).

N.E.I. ports,
patrol.

C. in C., Med. 1733/9, 1921/12, C. in C., China, 0501/18, 1025/23. In order to maintain continuous patrol off N.E.I. ports it will be necessary to employ CERES and COLOMBO to relieve "D" class cruisers and FALMOUTH perhaps for a few weeks. Proposed arrangements (R.A. Malaya 0401Z/30).

Australia & New Zealand

Transport X6

Left Sydney 0600Z/29 for Wellington. Expected time of arrival 2230Z/31. (Australian C'wealth N.B. 0350Z/30).

War Diary

30. 3. 40.
SaturdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSHome Commands

IMATRA 990 tons lying Christiansand South and preparing to leave. Destination rumoured Narvik. (V.C. Kristiansand 1200/30).

GAUSS Arrived with general cargo (Gottenburg 1330/30).

NEUENFELS)
MARTHA HENDRIK)
 FISSER) Arrived Narvik 29/3.
FECHENHEIM)

EMSHORN Loading

FRIGGA) Departure loaded with ore.
GODFRIED BUEREN)

(D.C. 0031/30 to submarines on patrol etc.).

OSTPREUSSEN Now afloat and is due at Copenhagen am/30 (D.D.I.C. 1011/30 to V.A.(S), C. in C., H.F. etc.) (see 24/3).

ASIEN Now loading ore. (Narvik, 1240 /30).

EMSHORN Left loaded with ore (do) (D.N.I. 2104/30 to submarines on patrol etc.)

China

Report from Batavia stated Dutch Courts are accepting Bank Guarantee and ships will be free to sail by 1/4. There is evidence to show that the SOPHIE RICKMERS, 7,033 tons, had less than 200 tons of coal on board at the end of January, of a quality which would require about 40 tons a day to give her ten knots. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1311/30, 0311Z/30).

It is believed in Surabaya that German ships in that port are likely to make for the Jilolo and Molucca passages as they are asking for charts of that area which is between the Celebes and Dutch New Guinea. (C.O.I.S. 1205Z/30). SONECK unloading at Padang (Cable intercept).

War Diary30. 3. 40.
SaturdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSChina (continued)

LINDENFELS)
 WASGENWALD) Air sighting reports (in harbour)
 WERDENFELS) (C.O.I.S. Far East 1201Z/30).
 MONI RICKMERS)
 SOPHIE RICKMERS)

America & West Indies

ALEMANIA)
 PATRICIA)
 CARIBIA) Curacao reports embargo likely to be
 removed as debt owing to shell oil co.
 is being paid off. (S.O.(I) Kingston
 1523/30).

HENRY HORN)
 FRIEDENAU) Description (S.O.(I) Kingston, 2115/30).
 PATRICIA)
 ALEMANIA)

ANTILLA No guard on board but about 8 in guard
 house 1 mile S. of lighthouse (do).

German ships are reported to be sailing
 from Talcahuano (Chile) 30/3 or 31/3
 (S.O. Callao 1125/30) (Passed to DIOMEDE
 and RAJPUTANA)

COLUMBUS San Francisco reports unrest among German
 seamen ex COLUMBUS now on Angel Island
 who do not wish to return to Germany.
 (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1302/30).

South Atlantic

DRESDEN at Valparaiso) 2000 tons of diesel oil
 BABITONGA at Santos) imports from Montevideo
 RIO GRANDE at Rio Grande do Sul) have been traced on board.
 (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro,
 1129/30).

War Diary30. 3. 40.
SaturdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSMediterranean

ANKARA

Split reports she arrived Dubrovnik 29/3 and is loading 4000 tons bauxite for Trieste consigned Guiline. Estimated time of loading 1 or 2 days. Al. (S.O.(I) Malta 1957/30).

ARKADIA

Is trading in Marmara (DRAGON 1820/30).

419

S

MOST SECRET.

30.3.1940.

Saturday.



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

1605. 58° 48' N. 1° 7' W. H.M.S. FIREDRAKE
M/06523/40.

58° 47' N. 2° 46' 12" W. LADY ELSA
M/06582/40.

War Diary

30. 3. 40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

420

Ships Attacked.

M/S SUTTON See mining.

Estimated distribution

One in Moray Firth, probable patrol in Skagerrak, no indication yet that U-boat in middle of North Sea has moved, no confirmation of possible U-boat off Portugal (D.D.I.C. 1248/30).

Submarines reported

Submarines Attacked

1912 ROSEMARY investigated doubtful contact, 49:28:30 N., 03:58 W. Classified non-submarine after dropping two single charges. Rejoined convoy. (ROSEMARY, 1912/30, 1933/30).

HOME COMMANDSMovementsHome Fleet

DEVONSHIRE, YORK, BERWICK to arrive Rosyth 3/4 (C. in C.H.F. 1230/31). 2nd C.S. Dispositions. AURORA to Clyde by 5/4. PENELOPE to Scapa arriving 7/4, 18th C.S. cruiser to relieve her on present duty for this purpose. GALATEA, ARETHUSA to be available as striking force at Rosyth 3/4 (C. in C.H.F. 1233/31). 18th C.S. Dispositions. One cruiser to Rosyth 3/4. BIRMINGHAM continue with operations D.V. Remaining 3 cruisers provide cover for OHN Convoy, 2 ships at a time. These 3 ships to be available as a striking force from Scapa. All ships to be withdrawn from Northern Patrol as and when required. (C. in C. H.F. 1235/31, F.O. 18th C.S. 1702/3, 1732/31.) HOOD arrived Plymouth to refit.

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 3 cruisers, 7 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 1 " 12 "

The patrol between Faroes and Iceland has made one of its periodic changes in its area of operations and is working 180 miles to eastward of its previous patrol lines.

Submarines

Positions 0600/1/4 and movements (R.A.(S) 1941/31, D.C. 1854/31, V.A.(S) 1604/31). French submarines may be met near positions Y and Z. They are very similar both in colour and silhouette to U-boats. (C. in C. Rosyth 1309/31).

Patrol

by Harwich destroyers (C. in C. Nore 1426/31)

A/S Striking Forces

state of, at 1900/31 (A.C.O.S. 1930/31).

Operations.Operation D.V.

(operation against enemy fishing fleets). BIRMINGHAM, HOSTILE, HASTY to sail for operation p.m. 31/3. (C. in C.H.F. 1530/31, F.O.C.O.S. 1801/31, BIRMINGHAM 1741/31). FEARLESS to replace HASTY, latter damaged (FEARLESS 2345/31, R.A.(D) H.F. 0606/1).



HOME COMMANDS

422

Air

- Enemy Air Activity 2 ships and 8 shore batteries at Scapa opened fire 0834 at 4 enemy aircraft apparently on reconnaissance flight (A.C.O.S. 1134/31) (Fighters were sent up, without result. No bombs were dropped). Probable that no more than 3 and possibly only 1 reconnaissance aircraft was concerned. (A.C.O.S. 1820/1).
- MIRA Norwegian, 72 passengers, 35 crew. Left Tyne 0400 for Norway. Bombed 0845 by aircraft. No hits. Entered an E. coast port. See 2/4 (Press)
- British Air Activity. All air searches now being abandoned on account of weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0826/31)
- Air Wreckage Wreck of German aircraft located in 55° 14' N., 1° 32' W. Request investigate possibility of salvage. (C. in C. Rosyth 1020/31 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Mining

- Sweeping reports: 10 mines, positions (V.A. Dover 1932/31) (Traffic in the N. Foreland - Holland route was stopped. One British mine swept up and exploded (F.O.i/c Harwich 1920/31). M/G sweep, weather unsuitable (F.O. Humber 1906/31). P.M.S. weatherbound (F.O.i/c Greenock 1902/31) Aberdeen, Peterhead, nil, weather; Granton sweeping curtailed (C. in C. Rosyth 1857/31). Nil. (Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1844/31). One German "Y" type mine cut 133° R. buoy 3.5 miles after sweep had been cut by small explosion (V.A. Dover 1600/31). 5 German mines cut. Positions (V.A. Dover 1555/31). Mine detonated in MEDWAY QUEEN's sweep, SAN DOWN's sweep cut in same position by small explosion (V.A. Dover 1355/31) (Note:- This and the 5 mines in next previous report are probably included in the 10 in V.A. Dover's 1932/31). Mine swept up during search of Channel (F.O.i/c Harwich 1020/31). Was British; amended position 51° 33' N., 2° 18½' E. (F.O.i/c Harwich 1100/1).

Dummy Minefield

Laid by NARWHAL in East Coast Barrier. Arrested POLAR PRINCE found fishing in forbidden area, see Shipping.

HOME COMMANDS.

423

Shipping.

Convoys.

Positions (D.C.1755/31).

HN 23

Is in 2 portions. HN 23A (40 ships) escorted by 5 destroyers sailed 1900/30. HN 23B (36 ships) sailed 1900/31 N.C.S.O. Bergen 1131/31 with ships which escorted ON 23 (see 29/3) HN 23A was partly scattered by gale to day.

ON 23

25 ships arrived off Norwegian coast 0700/31.

SL 26

Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 0938/30).

Military.

Crossing from Southampton 6/4 - 5/5 (C.in C., Portsmouth 1817/31).

ON 24

Sailed from Methil 1200/31 19 ships for Point E. (C.in C., Rosyth 1319/31).

SL 24

Arrived (N.O.i/c Liverpool 1645/31).

SL 27, SLF 27.

Your 1647/30. ? R.V. incorrect (.N.C.S.O.Freetown 1000/31).

Favouritism of Germans by Norway.

FECHENHEIM arrived March 29 proceeded along side 30/3 while 10 British ships are anchored, all of which arrived before her. NVOLJA (Swedish arrived 30/3) proceeded along side immediately, both now loading ore. Submit Malen export be asked to explain system of rotation of loading (Narvik 1232/31) (Section 1 Essays there is nothing in this).

Continental Traffic.

Cancel my 2207/30. Heavy draughtships are to be held until further orders (D.T.D.1603/31 to Antwerp, Amsterdam, Rotterdam).

Delay.

Ships are being greatly delayed at Dunkirk (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1654/31) Reply Admiralty 2001/18 is still in force (D.T.D.2321/31).

POLAR PRINCE Tr.

Arrested by NARWHAL 55° 56' N. 1° 29' W. (NARWHAL 1050/31)(in Ecost Mine barrier)(C.in C. Rosyth, 1231/31, 1725/31).



War Diary.

31. 3. 40.
Sunday.

424

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued).

DROTTNINGHOLM
(Swedish)

If possible mails to be removed at sea (D.E.W.D. 1829/31).

IT
CRYNSEN
(Dutch)

Admiralty 1908/29. Arrived 0800 G.M.T. Probably sailing 1200 G.M.T. 31/3 (N.C.S.O. Funchal 0805/31) Sailed 1215 G.M.T. for Lisbon (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1120/31).

Heavy Draught Ships. Cancel my 2207/30. Heavy draught ships are to be held until further orders (D.T.D. 1603/31).



War Diary.

31. 3. 40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

425

Miscellaneous.

Scapa Defences. ✓

Progress Report (R.A.Scapa 1349/31).

Casualties -
Personnel to end
of March. ✓

	Killed	Wounded	Missing
Officers	188	34	13
Men	2735	252	84

Weather.

0500

Wind

Visibility

North Sea North
North Sea South
Horns Reef
Channel
W. Approaches

S.S.W. gale
S.S.W. moderate
S. light
S.W. moderate
S.W. strong to gale

Moderate.
Moderate coast mist.
Moderate.
Moderate.
Moderate.

Outlook. Wind freshening in South.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

426

Home Commands.

- HASTY Damaged when berthing in gale and is unseaworthy (FEARLESS 2345/31) Damage to side plating and framing. Will not require docking (D.A.D.0014/2)
- ⁰
SAPHOS Trawler. Disabled west of Fair I. (Wick Radio 1002/31, ? COSSACK 1139/31) Trawler NORTHERN PRINCESS arrived in tow. (COSSACK 1414/31) Report of Salvage (V.A.N.P. 2335/3).
- AUSMA Aground near Eierland. 5 men saved (N.Foreland 1223/31 intercept 1122; 1244/31 intercept 1138).
- ARGOLIKOS Intercept 1126 addressed Dunkerque, both anchors cut, immediate assistance. (N. Foreland, No.800/31)
- GIPSY (Destroyer, wreck). Further lift and vessel taken further on the shelf into 10 ft. low water soundings. (Comdr. Doust, 1800/31).
- NYDALEN Norwegian, 625 tons, ran aground on Isle of Coll. Feared total loss (Exchange Telegraph).

East Indies.

- ROSLIN CASTLE Ashore since about 2202Z in Perim Small Straits. CORNWALLIS standing by and salvage by PROTECTOR proceeding from ADEN. (C.in C.E. 0105Z/1). No immediate danger, no lives lost (CORNWALLIS 0305/1) PROTECTOR time of arrival (C.in C.E. 0711Z/1).

America and West Indies.

- ABBEY DALE
ORANGELEAF Fire occurred in oiler ABBEY DALE 30/3 involving oiler ORANGELEAF as ships were alongside. Damage not extensive. (Capt i/c Bermuda, 1133/31).

S

MOST SECRET.

31.3.1940.
Sunday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

French Patrol.

Information received from B.N.L.O. Dakar, that French do not consider Submarine and A.M.C. Patrol off N. East Brazil worth while, and propose to maintain forces at Dakar to sail when German sailings from South America are reported. (This appears quite useless as submarines, etc., will arrive too late to intercept.) (South Atlantic War Diary, March T.S.D., 4150/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

¹³
CRJNSSEN

N.C.S.O. Funchal D805/31 see ~~Shipping~~ ^{Shipping}.

French Positions

1200/1 (D.C. 2351/31).

French Convoys

(D.C. 0331/31).

South Atlantic.

Whale oil carriers.

TERJEVIKEN arrived Cape Town 30/3 (S.O.C1) Cape Town 0858/31). Routes &c. of 20 to leave South Georgia for U.K. (D.T.D. 1722/31)

St. PAULS ROCK
? refuelling base.

off coast of Brazil. Reported it was being stocked with oil last year. Stated a main S. American Air Service was making use of St. Pauls Rock as refuelling base at that time; last June German ships seen entering and leaving small bay at southernmost point of Gulf of Darren 8° 10' N 77° W. approx. which has good anchorage and is in uninhabitated locality. (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1721/31).

Whale Catchers
Requisitioned.

20 whale catchers owned by Messrs. Selvesen have sailed from South Georgia for Freetown and will be requisitioned on arrival in U.K. (D.T.D., to Consuls, Pernambuco, Bahia & Rio, 1722/31).

Mediterranean.

Sabotage.

Insufficient attention being paid to anti-sabotage watch in harbour by masters of British merchant ships. Submit matter be re-emphasised. (C.in C., Med., 1101/31).

APHIS and LADYBIRD

At your discretion to fit them for minesweeping from station resources. (D.O.D(F) to C.in C., Med. 1314/31).

Destroyers.

Your 1750/29. South Atlantic destroyers will not be required for escort in Mediterranean. (C.in C., Med., to C.in C., S.A., 1203/31).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

429

China.

Re Reports.

OTUS, OLYMPUS, ROVER, REGULUS, REGENT (C.in C. China 0502Z/31).

GRAMPUS
RORQUAL

Not to take mine outfits before leaving Singapore (for Med.)(C.in C. China 0130Z/31,C.in C. Med. 1137/31)(D.O.D.(F) 1312/31).

U-boats for Vladivostock.

Admiralty 1759/31 report of U-boats being sent to Vladivostock. Matter being investigated immediately (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 2246/31).

Australia.

German Ships, Interception.

Indications that German ships in Dutch East Indies ports will break out shortly. Important to intercept, and would be a great help if CERES and COLOMBO could act under orders of C.in C., China, for about 3 weeks after their arrival at Singapore (D.O.D.(F)0038/31). A.C.N.B. concur. Cabinet concurrence being sought (Australian N.B., 1013Z/31).

America and West Indies.

St. Lawrence Navigation. In view of opening of St. Lawrence, proposed area prohibited to westbound traffic to minimize danger of collision with convoy. (N.S. H.Q. Ottawa, 1211/31).



War Diary.

31. 3. 40.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

430

Home Commands.

ASIEN	Left Narvik 31/3 (D.D.I.C.1735/31)(Gibbs, Narvik 1103/31).	
FECHENHEIM	Now loading at Narvik Narvik 1103/31).	(do) (Gibbs,
FRIELINGHAUS	Arrived Narvik 31/3 Narvik 1103/31).	(do) (Gibbs,
CHARLOTTE CORDS.	Arrived Rotterdam 31/3, probably sailing evening 1/4 (D.D.I.C. 1749/31)(N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1437/31).	

North Atlantic.

EULER }
MELILLA }
KLIO }

At Gijon, expected to sail very soon (I.C.0406/40)

MOST SECRET.

S
431



War Diary.

31.3.1940.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING.

1843.

36° 01' N. 7° 02' W. DOUGLAS
M/07382/40.



War Diary.

31. 3. 40.
Sunday

432

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Estimated disposition.

No reports from which deductions can be made (D.D.I.C. 1159/31).

Submarines reported.

1840

Enemy S/M $49^{\circ} 50'$ N., 6° W., A GH 19 LE (French report, 1840/31).

North Atlantic.

1330

1 S/M submerged, bearing, distance, course unknown (Gib W/T 1529/31).

0825

S/M submerged, position $36^{\circ} 03'$ N., $07^{\circ} 08'$ W. (Casablanca, 0923/31).

1430

2 reliable reports from French torpedo craft indicate U-boat in $35^{\circ} 50'$ N., $07^{\circ} 15'$ W. French and British vessels and aircraft searching.

Submarines attacked.

2320

My Yacht RHODORA, 030° Bull Point 9 miles. 2 A/S Trawlers near (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0108/1) (A/S N.D. 210).



WAR DIARY

1914

1914

REPORT CONTAINING A SUMMARY

S U P P L E M E N T A R Y P A G E S .

CHAPTER I
GENERAL

1. The object of this report is to give a summary of the work done during the year 1914 in connection with the investigation of the causes of the failure of the British fleet at the Battle of Jutland.

CHAPTER II
DETAILS

2. The details of the work done during the year 1914 are given in this chapter. It is divided into three parts: (a) the work done by the Admiralty, (b) the work done by the Royal Naval School of Gunnery, and (c) the work done by the Royal Naval School of Artillery.

CHAPTER III
CONCLUSIONS

3. The conclusions reached during the year 1914 are given in this chapter. It is divided into three parts: (a) the conclusions reached by the Admiralty, (b) the conclusions reached by the Royal Naval School of Gunnery, and (c) the conclusions reached by the Royal Naval School of Artillery.

CHAPTER IV
RECOMMENDATIONS

4. The recommendations made during the year 1914 are given in this chapter. It is divided into three parts: (a) the recommendations made by the Admiralty, (b) the recommendations made by the Royal Naval School of Gunnery, and (c) the recommendations made by the Royal Naval School of Artillery.

CHAPTER V
APPENDICES

5. The appendices to this report are given in this chapter. They are: (a) a list of the names of the officers and crew of the British fleet at the Battle of Jutland, (b) a list of the names of the officers and crew of the German fleet at the Battle of Jutland, and (c) a list of the names of the officers and crew of the neutral fleet at the Battle of Jutland.



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

4.3.40.
Monday.

433

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked
PACIFIC.
RELIANCE.

S.S. PACIFIC RELIANCE, report of sinking of this vessel in Convoy OAL02 (MO480/40) Considered sunk by a Torpedo from submarine, and not by a mine.

CHARLES F
MEYER.

Damage probably caused by floating mine. (H.M.S. FOWEY R of P S.S. CHARLES F MEYER mines in Convoy 4.3.40 MO565/40.

Submarines
Attacked.

1902) 50° 31.2' N 5° 24.4' W.
1940) H.M.S. KINGSTON report of attack on U/Boat on 4.3.40. (MO4782/20).

1831. 50° 27' N 5° 25' W H.M.S. KHARTOUM. Report of attack on U/Boat on 4.3.40. (MO5101/40) "Considered non-Sub".

2308. 49° 29' 2" N., 7° 34' W.
(H.M.S. LEITH M.06014.
(H.M.S. WILD SWAN.)
(H.M.S. VEKSATILE.)



WAR DIARIES - No. 12 of the War Office, London, 1914.

1914

List of Docketed Papers
(War Diaries, Reports of Proceedings etc.)
Dealing with Events of This Month.

South Africa

War Diary No. 12 of the War Office, London, 1914.

India

War Diary No. 12 of the War Office, London, 1914.

Colonial Office

War Diary No. 12 of the War Office, London, 1914.

Foreign Office


War Diary No. 12 of the War Office, London, 1914.

War Office

War Diary No. 12 of the War Office, London, 1914.

War Office

War Diary No. 12 of the War Office, London, 1914.


WAR DIARIES, R. of P., etc., received for month of 434
MARCH, 1940.

South Atlantic.

War Diary for March. (T.S.D., 4150/40). Three parts, I., Operations, II., Freetown, III, Dakar. Part I. chiefly convoy protection, reports of possible commerce raiders, and patrols against likely escape of WINDHUK, BABITONGA, DRESDEN and RIO GRANDE. Part II, has enclosure with list of Convoys sailing from Freetown during March, and numbers of South African R.N.V.R. Part III., nothing of importance. (Remainder indexed chronologically).

South Atlantic.

(South American Division)(M09655/40)
War Despatch No.1. 3/9/39 - 28/3/40.
(Battle of River Plate sinking of German M.Vs. noted chronologically.

ODIN.

R. of P. 5/2 - 31/3/40. (M.09677/40).

Colonial Office.

Report on Naval Activities in Nigeria 1/9/39 - 1/3/40. (M011589/40)

F.O.I.C.
Portland.

War Diary 26/2 - 15/3. Start of a Degaussing Station, work of Contraband Control Base, Weymouth. (T.S.D. 4054/40).

Operation P.A.2.

R. of P.(M.04593/40). Track Chart of TEVIOT BANK (M.05877/40). Laying position of mines 58.30 N., 01.27 W, on a course 012 with a stern bearing of Rothsay Head Light.

Commodore,
Hong Kong.

War Diary March 1940.(T.S.D.4638/40)
No major incidents. Mines adrift from West Lamma field. Boom work. D.E.M.S. Degaussing Contraband Control Service.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries, etc., received for
March 1940

435

V.A. Dover, War Diary. 16/3 to 31/3 (T.S.D. 4090/40.)

Casualties from mines on route to Belgian and Dutch ports.

Further work carried out on the Loops.

S.S. BARNHILL bombed and set on fire 20/3.

Routine A/S patrols, escorting of convoys to and from the Downs, and cross-Channel B.E.F. leave boats.

Northern Patrol

R of P., 15/3 to 31/3/40. M09212/40.

Persian Gulf Division

War Diary March 1940. T.S.D. 4861/40.

N.O.I.C. Aberdeen

War Diary. 1/3-14/3/40. T.S.D. 4035/40.
Commissioning and fitting out of trawlers, and -first air raid over Aberdeen. (7/3)

PROTEUS

R. of P., off Vladivostock 8/3-14/3 (M.010361/40) Examination of Kitov for reported German submarine base.

N.A. Buenos Aires

War Despatch No 10. 15/3/40. N.I.D. 02034/40.

V.A.C. 2 C.S.

War Diary 16/3-31/3 T.S.D., 4125/40.
Ordered to Humber to be based there for protection of East Coast, but subsequently to remain with C. in C., H.F. for the present.

KANIBLA

(China Station) R. of P., 23/2- 27/3/40.
(M 01358/40) Interception of YOSYU MARU 8/3 and PANAMA MARU 9/3.

Patrol line moved 9/3.

Interception of V. MAYAKOVSKY 15/3.

Suez Canal Area

War Diary, March 1940. (T.S.D. 4737/40)



War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries received for March 1940.

Aberdeen, War Diary 1 - 14 March 1940 (T.S.D 4035/40).

436

N.C.S.O. Methil, War Diary 14 March 1940 (T.S.D. 4036/40.

Conditions in Norway since cessation of Russo Finnish War (N.I.D. 1546/40). Remarks of British Consul, Aalesund on routing of ships etc., to join Scandinavian convoys.

Tyne Area,

F.O. I/C Diary 1 - 14 March (T.S.D 4049/40). S.S.ABANO sank 2/3. Port closed. Later in day reopened. Drifter patrol abandoned owing to lack of ships, 13/3. Shortage of coal delaying sailings of vessels in T.M. convoys.

N.A.Buenos Aires, War Despatch No.9 16/2/40 - 15/3/40 (N.I.D. 01207/40).

GRAF SPEE. Internment of crew. State of wreck. FRESNO STAR. Sabotage. German Merchant ships. Visits of H.M. Ships.

Rosyth War Diary

1 - 14 March, 1940 (T.S.D 4048/40). Chronological Diary; no detail. Special occurrences are the subject of detailed reports).

SALMON, Patrol Report. 7 - 16 March, 1940 (M.O. 5960/40).

V.A Battle Cruiser Squadron, War Diary 1 - 15 March 1940. (T.S.D., 4059/40). (Not important).

Conditions on Coast of Norway. (N.I.D 1709/40).

Lack of co-operation between various German Naval authorities. Norwegians definitely anti-German.

Tees-Hartlepool, War Diary 1 - 14 March, 1940 (T.S.D. 4039/40).

Dundee, War Diary. 6 - 31 March 1940 (T.S.D. 4064/40).

F.O.I.C., Glasgow, War Diary. 16 - 31 March, 1940. (T.S.D. 4084/40) T.S.D. 4051/40.

V.A. Dover, War Diary. 1 - 15 March, 1940. (Bombing of S.S. DOMALA).



War Diaries, R. of P, Summaries received for March 1940.

437

- 1st C.S., War Diary 1 - 15 March 1940 (T.S.D. 4068/40).
Contains some references to an operation
(see Special Operations Volume).
- Hartlepool. War Diary. 15 - 31 March 1940 (T.S.D. 4063/40).
- Western Approaches. Attacks on U-Boats in, between 17.2.40 and
11.3.40 (M.06190/40). All except one con-
sidered non.sub.
- C-in-C., Home Fleet. War Diary. 1 - 15 March, 1940 (T.S.D. 4057/40)
Destroyers - longitudinal construction too light
through striving for extra half knot. 2/3.
- Nore Command. War Diary. 1 - 15 March 1940 (T.S.D. 4060/40).
Reports were received from French sources every
day from 1/4-9/4, except 3/4, of U-boats off
Dutch coast from Ameland to Ymuiden. Dutch
vessel reported sighting U-boat 14/3 at 2245
51°29'N, 2°53'E. Large minefield of moored
mines made its appearance between Rosing Bank
and N. Goodwin 11/3 when 2 ships were mined.
- AUCKLAND, R. of P. 23 - 30 March 1940 (M. 06788/40).
Convoys MT. FS.28, FN.30.
- R.A. Invergordan. War Diary. 1-31 March, 1940 (T.S.D 4070/40).
- Methil. War Diary. 15 - 31 March, 1940 (T.S.D. 4062/40).
- SEA WOLF. Patrol report 9 - 14 March (M.O. 5910/40).
- C-in-C., Rosyth ✓ Attack on U-boat. M.O. 4430/40 1/3/40
- N.O.I.C. Aberdeen War Diary 15 - 31 March T.S.D. 4067/40.
- Second Cruiser Squadron War Diary. 24 March T.S.D. 4050/40.

Enemy bombs directed on GALATEA while acting
as target ships to NARWAAL.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries received for March 1940.

SEAL (Patrol Report) ✓ 12-25 March 1940 M.O. 6453/40
S/M SUNFISH (Patrol Report) ✓ 12-23 March 1940 M.O. 6454/40
S/M SNAPPER (Patrol Report) 14-23 March 1940 M.O. 6455/40
V/A commanding North Atlan- 1-31 March 1940 M.O. 7383/40
tic, Gibraltar. ✓

Search for S.S. ORONSAY. Navy Control
Services. Convoys sailed during March.
Straits Patrol. French Liaison.

H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE 21 March, 1940 M.O. 5833
R. of P. Convoy.

F.O.I.C., Tyne, War Diary 15th to 31st March 1940. (T.S.D., 4079/40).

JERVIS seriously damaged in collision 19/3. Air attack on
T.M. Convoy 29/3.

C-in-C., Portsmouth War Diary, 15th to 31st March 1940. (T.S.D.4080/40).

Bombing and beaching of S.S. BARNHILL, anti-mine and torpedo devices.

H.M.S. CALYPSO R. of P. 19th to 27th March, 1940. M.O. 07498/40.
'Neutral Importers guarantee' Disharmony of procedure
between British Consular and Naval Authorities.

H.M.S. L.23. R. of P. 11th to 24th March 1940. M.O. 6483/40.

H.M.S. ARK ROYAL War Diary 1st to 31st March 1940. T.S.D. 4094/40.

E. Indies Station. Report S.O. Colombo. ✓ N.I.D. 0592/40.

Riviera Fleet expected in Black Sea and Caspian.

C-in-C., Western Approaches War Diary 16th to 31st March 1940.
T.S.D. 4085/40.

V.A. ^(S)Northways. Report of Patrol, H.M.S. ~~STARLET~~
19th to 3/3/40. N.I.D. 01396.

C-in-C., Western Approaches War Diary. 1st to 15th
March, 1940. T.S.D. 4058/40.

Bombing of S.S. DOMALA.
Sinking of M.V. PACIFIC RELIANCE.
Sinking of S.S. COUNSELLOR.
Mining of S.S. CATE.

C.O. H.M.S. BROKE. R. of P. 17-22 March, 1940. M.O. 6768/40.

SEAWOLF. Patrol report 22/3 to 31/3/40. N.I.D. 01395/40.

NOIC BLYTH War Diary 1/3 to 14/3/40. T.S.D. 4040/40.

C-in-C., Rosyth. War Diary 15/3 to 31/3/40. T.S.D. 4082/40.

V.A.C. 2nd C.S. R. of P. Operation D.U. 21-23/3/40 M.O. 6208/40.

C-in-C., A.I.W.1. Record of Activities 1-31/3/40. T.S.D. 4097/40.
Scuttling of S.S. TROJA.

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc., for March 1940.

DESPATCH. R. of P. 26/2/40-2/3/40 M.O.7490/40.
Scuttling of S.S. TROJA and
S.S. HEIDEBERG.

V.A.N.P. Request of proceedings 1-14/3/40. M.O.7290/40.
Scuttling of 4 German merchant ships.

ELECTRA R. of P. 21-25/3/40 M.O.7258/40

ASCANIA R. of P. Convoy HX.27 13-31/3/40 M.O.7487/40

THISTLE R. of P. 13/3 to 26/3/40 M.O.6346/40

F.O.I.C. Portland. War Diary. 16/3 to 31/3/40. T.S.D.4093/40

C-in-C.. Nore. R. of P. Convoys FS.28 and FN.30. M.O.6973/40.

TRIAD Patrol Report 14/3 to 27/3/40. M.O.6559/40

SEAWOLF Patrol Report 22/3 to 31/3/40 M.O.6751/40.

STERLET Patrol Report 19/3 to 31/3/40 M.O.6752/40.

ACASTA K. of P. 19/3 to 30/3/40. M.O.7747/40.

URSULA Patrol Report 16/3-25/3/40 M.O.6452/40.
Sinking of German S.S. HEDDESHEIM.

ARGUS R. of P. for March 1940. M.O.8378/40

N.O.I.C. War Diary for March 1940. T.S.D.4083/40.
LERWICK. Collision of KELLY & GURKHA.
Collision of Norw. S.S.LISTO &
Panama BARSAS which sank.
Assistance to S.S. VERBANIA.
Torpedoing of Danish S.S. ALGIER.

C.C. Orkneys and Shetlands. War Diary for March/40. T.S.D.4081/40

1/3 bombing of Norwegian S.S. VESTFOS^T
2/3 sinking of Swedish S.S. LAGA^HHOLM. (LAGAHOLM)
3/3 interception of German S.S. ARUCAS.
6/3 interception and sinking of German S.S. URUGAY.^U
7/3 probable sinking of U-boat.
13/3 German S.S. LA CORUNA scuttled.
16/3 A/C attack NORFOLK and IRON DUKE damaged.
20/3 A/C attack S.S. SVINTA abandoned. (Norwegian).
21/3 S.S. CHRISTIANSBORG sunk without warning (Danish).
25/3 S.S. COMETA sunk by U-boat.
Oiler DAGHESTAN blown up.

C-in-C.. S.A. R. of P.
A/S exercise carried out with French S/M's 1/3/40
M.O.6677.

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc., for March 1940;

R.A.(D) H.F. War Diary 15-31 March, 1940.
 20/3 A/C attacks, damage to Norwegian SVINTA, TORÆLISE
 ERLING LINDOE and British NORTH^{ERN} COAST.
 H.M.S. WINDERMERE hit in Moray Firth.
 Probable sinking of U-boat by FORTUNE.

T.S.D.4102/40

22&23/3 Attacks on U-boats.

26/3 Attack by BEDOIN on U-boat.

RASAD Report of visit to Montevideo in HAWKINS M.O.7647/40
 4-5/3/40.

TRUANT Patrol Report 12/3-26/3/40. M.O.6451/40
 Sinking of German S.S. EDMOND HUGO STINNES
 23/3/40.

C-in-C., Mediterranean Station. War Diary for March 1940. T.S.D.4112/40

- 1) Withdrawal of twin-screw minesweepers.
- 2) Refusal of Italy and Spain to agree to extension of S/M warfare to Mediterranean.
- 3) A/S Patrol at entrance to Dardanelles.
- 4) Contraband Control.
- 5) British Merchant Shipping in the Black Sea.
- 6) German naval units in Black Sea.

N.O.I.C. Aden. War Diary 1/3-31/3/40. T.S.D.4128/40

PRINCESS R. of P. 1/1-31/3/40. M.O.8384/40
 VICTORIA

1st Cruiser Sqn. War Diary V.A.C. 1 C.S., 16/3-31/3. (T.S.D.4111/40).

Leith and Granton. War Diary N.O.I.C., 1/2-14/3. (T.S.D.4055/40).

South America Division. War Diary of R.A.C., S.A. Div., March, 1940 (T.S.D.4142/40)

3rd Battle Squadron. War Diary of R.A. 3 B.S. March 1940 (T.S.D. 4131/40).
Halifax Escort Force.