

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.

War Diary

1.5.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

NARVIK Area

H.M. the King of Norway and his Govt. were transferred from GLASGOW to the Norwegian ship HEIMDAL in Malanger Fiord at 2130/1. He intends to remain in the Tromso area, but not in Tromso itself, and communications will be made via the British Consul.

Grand Hotel, Harstad, the Naval Base headquarters, was bombed and hit, two ratings being killed. Three bombs fell near the S.S. ATLANTIS, hospital ship, which was lying quite apart. Something else was set on fire with 45 casualties, but the message was corrupt and this has not yet been cleared up.

The oiler BOARDALE, part of a convoy of 3 supply ships bound for Narvik, which was damaged by grounding off Lango Island at 1840/30, later caught fire and sank. No casualties.

Mosjoen, Mo.

ROYAL ULSTERMAN (Vice BEN MY CHREE, delayed) and MOHAWK left Scapa with the landing party for Mo at 2230/1. JANUS is held up by fog, and has not yet been able to land her party at Mosjoen.

Namsos Area

Evacuation in this area, which was to have started on the night 1/5-2/5, was postponed owing to fog. JANUS, who should have joined CARLISLE to assist in the evacuation, is also held up by fog. Both she and CARLISLE were bombed during 1/5.

C.S.20 considers that two nights will be required to evacuate Namsos.

War Diary1.5.40.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSSituation ReportAandalsnes Area

C.S.2 reports the evacuation operation completed. 2,200 troops were embarked from Aandalsnes, 120 Royal Marines from Veblunoses, which is across the fiord from Aandalsnes.

WANDERER, which went ashore near Aandalsnes at 2315/30, was towed off by SIKH, after jettisoning her torpedoes. She is damaged, but can still steam 25 knots.

Aandalsnes was bombed intermittently during the day. CALCUTTA and AUCKLAND had 150 bombs aimed at them without being hit, and were ordered to withdraw, being needed for evacuation at night.

Captain (D) 6, in SOMALI, left Aalesund at midnight 1/2, with the Primrose party, consisting of 9 R.N. and R.M. officers, 202 ratings and R.M.s., 24 wounded and 15 civilians. Two seriously wounded, including Mr. Bernardes, British Consul at Haugesund, who is not expected to recover, have been left behind.

AUCKLAND was left to embark the final covering party. General Paget is in MANCHESTER.

DIANA sailed for Tromso with Norwegian C. in C. and 30 of his staff.

Enemy Air Activity

Considerable enemy aircraft activity during the day, the meteorological flight being out as usual during the morning; reports indicate area of observation central North Sea, and an area east of Kinnaird's Head. Our Naval forces operating off the Norwegian coast were shadowed and attacked at various times during the day. 2 aircraft-carriers 5 cruisers, 1 sloop and 3 destroyers reported attacks on them. Enemy aircraft engaged in the transport of troops etc. were again active, this time taking troops from Oslo to Utersen.

There were extensive x-raids along the East Coast during the night 1/2 May. Ports from Blyth to the Humber are closed to shipping. At Blyth, one German aircraft flew round the South Harbour machine-gunning. Fog prevented interception by our aircraft.



War Diary.

1.5.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Enemy Air
Activity (continued)

Dunkirk is also closed, but traffic will probably be resumed there tomorrow. The port of Harwich is open.

British Air Activity

All patrols except one North of Scotland were flown.

At 0955/1, Coastal Command aircraft reported 1 aircraft carrier, 3 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 20 miles N.W. of Borkum (see Enemy Intelligence). Further aircraft were despatched to re-locate this force without success.

Bomber Command's latest report and photos give the number of German aircraft at Stavanger as 80. Six Bomber Command aircraft raided Stavanger, Six Aalborg, and six Fornebu.

MANCHESTER shot down one aircraft at 2115/1.

12 aircraft have been out on special duty in the northern part of the Sound and the Elbe.

V.A.(A) reported on the night 1/5 that ARK ROYAL had been heavily bombed and had shot down an enemy aircraft at 1915/1. As he stated that he could not operate close enough to the shore to support the troops, C. in C. ordered his force to return to Scapa.

Miscellaneous

Wrecks of two ships which are apparently German merchant ships sunk by mines have been reported from the Hague as being near Hubert Gat Buoy, at entrance to River Ems.

Diving operations on submarine UNITY have been begun.

The French destroyer MAILLE BREZE, which caught fire p.m. 30/4, sank in six fathoms at Greenock.

One magnetic mine was exploded in Liverpool Bay.

War Diary1.5.40.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSMovements

Northern Patrol In view of absence of neutral or enemy Eastbound shipping primary object of Patrol for the present becomes interception of disguised raiders. Courses of A.M.C's will be reversed at 1400 today Wednesday. V.A.N.P. 0901/1.

Submarines Positions 0600/2 and movements (V.A.S., 1917/1) (D.C. 2223/1).

Operations. Narvik.

Floatplane Organisation Under consideration to form for use in Narvik area, probably consist of 18 Roqs, 9 Swordfish (816) and 6 Walrus ex-cruisers under refit. (5th S.L. 2015/1).

Foreign Troops Request confirmation and date of arrival Foreign Legion at Ballangen in Ofot Fiord and Poles to Tromso. Understood Poles have Commanders and staff, but maintenance must be from France until French are established here. (Rupert Force to W.O. 1345/1).

Aircraft Carriers Admiralty 1526/30. Necessary for carriers to return to Scapa to be re-equipped before proceeding to Narvik area. (C. in C., H.F. 1857/1). See also Air.

Nets and Mines Adty 1706/27 and my 0019/1. Propose PROTECTOR lay approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of B.1 net west of Staksvollholm forthwith and then be released for Mediterranean. Remaining defence can be completed by boom trawlers and laying of mines when available. (F.O. Narvik, 2333/1).

Propose to send 260 mines in TEVIOT BANK and 80 in PLOVER leaving Immingham about 10/5. (D.O.D.(H) 0017/2).

Stores My 2230/30. Owing to delay with BEN MY CHREE, ROYAL ULSTERMAN to transport stores and personnel to Narvik area. (C. in C., H.F. 0921/1, 123/1). Sailed escorted by MOHAWK (C. in C., H.F. 2244/1).

War Diary1.5.40.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNarvik (continued)

Trawler Patrols Asking for increase of trawlers for patrol based at Skjel Fiord from 8 to 11. Patrols ordered are Bogen (2) Ofot (2) Skjel Fiord (2). 11 trawlers considered minimum. (PENELOPE 2204/1).

Floating Pier Adty 1459/29 (from F.O., Narvik, floating pier at Portsmouth to be sent Vaagø Fiord). Pier now at White's yard for alterations. Could leave 9/5 if first priority given. (A.S., Portsmouth 1947/1).

Situation Allied plan to arrange cone-shaped encirclement of Germans Narvik sector now completed. Narvik Cemetery demolished during naval bombardment silencing German battery in the Cemetery. Reliable information states Germans have given up positions highest areas Narvik being now entrenched shore with machine guns intended to prevent troop landings. Germans Narvik lacked heavy guns and British Navy now silenced all guns they had. Believed 4000 civilians still Narvik town. (Reuter, Stockholm).

Tromsø

Defences Summary of report from Consul Tromsø. No A.A. or other guns mounted. Only a few machine guns. At Naval Flying station Skattoyra are 4 Heinkel and 2 Norwegian reconnaissance planes. 207 Mines but no minelayers. 3 Trawlers with 3 inch guns.

Following are considered necessary by Norwegian authorities for defence of the Island. 8 in number 4 inch guns. 5 in number 4 barrel mounting 20 M.M. pom-pom. 20 lewis guns. Predictors and range finders. Ammunition and staff instructors. 2 destroyers. (F.O., Narvik, 1141/1).



War Diary

1.5.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Namsos

Coast Patrol

At earliest moment that they can be provided a division of destroyers should be detailed for the sole duty of patrolling coast and fiords from Namsos northwards to prevent movement of enemy troops by sea. Force to be based on Skjel Fiord. (D.O.D.(H), 1527/1 to C. in C., H.F.)

Mosjoen Party

On completion of transport of party of 50 men from Namsos to Mosjoen, join F.O.C. 1 C.S. off Kya Light, 64:29 N., 10:12 E., at 2000/1 unless otherwise ordered. (C. in C. H.F. 0002/1).

Mosjoen, Mo.

Request destroyer sent to Mo, 66:19 N., 14:16 E., to prevent enemy landing until arrival of detachment of troops in S.S. ROYAL ULSTERMAN about 3/5 (D.O.D.(H) 1236/1).

Trondheim

No Enemy Ships

Following from prisoner. No warships in Trondheim, 20 Junkers operating today from Vaernes. Reinforcements arriving Trondheim by aeroplane only. (V.A.(A) 2355/1).

War Diary

1.5.40.
Wednesday

7

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes, Aalesund, Molde.

Sickle Report From Norwegian H.Q. for War Office from Sickle. Message from Gen. Paget. Next 36 hours entirely dependent on degree air support forthcoming. If fighters impossible, ask ~~bankers~~ maintain continuous attacks from 0500/1 in Gudbrnasdal Valley. Stress continuous presence British aircraft essential. (no T.O.O./1).

Evacuation About 1500 remain to embark tonight, but Norwegian number uncertain. Constant heavy bombing during daylight but none during embarkation. (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 0425/1).

Numbers of Army ranks embarked Aandalsnes 0050/1. (ARETHUSA, 0656/1).

AUCKLAND Expect arrive Aandalsnes 0630 (AUCKLAND, 0415/1).

TARTAR May be required at Aandalsnes tomorrow night. To leave ULSTER PRINCE so as to be able to ~~re~~ comply. (C. in C., H.F., 1635/1)

SOUTHAMPTON Ordered to sail before dark tonight whether passengers are transferred or not. (F.O. 2 C.S. 1907/1).

Orders to MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, DIANA, CALCUTTA, AUCKLAND (C.S. 18, 0915/1).

Personnel
Position

As a result of continual bombing night and day, all personnel at Aandalsnes ~~are~~ including Brigadier and Captain Champness are shaken and it appeared no one there really knew the position at the front. Colonel Simpson has been evacuated wounded. Incendiary bombs dropped in a line have been the method of illuminating the area for night bombing. (F.O. 2 C.S., 1024/1).

Details on board, 12 officers 583 other ranks, (S.O. 18 C.S., 1101/1).

HOME COMMANDS

Aandalsnes, Aalesund, Molde

Personnel
Position
Continued

Numbers still to evacuate from Aandalsnes about 1800. Final evacuation commences at 2300 (CALCUTTA, 1303/1).

War Office estimates number British troops may be as high as 2900. Very important to embark bullion if at all possible. (C. in C., H.F., 1601/1).

Lieut. Col. Kettle, now in ARETHUSA, reports military evacuation plans assumed first base party would sail night 29/30. Not known withdrawal had been postponed 24 hours. Change of date dislocated arrangements, although *port front* line troops from Dombaas reached Aandalsnes last night. (C.S.2, 1252/1).

If SHEFFIELD and SOUTHAMPTON have only a few troops on board send them back to join F.O. 18 C.S. for tonight, as if there is a large rush of Norwegians at last moment F.O. 18 C.S. will not now have enough accommodation (C. in C., H.F., 1403/1).

A/A Ships

CALCUTTA and AUCKLAND ordered to withdraw at once (C. in C., H.F. 1729/1).

Carriers

Do not consider I can ~~xx~~ any longer maintain a position from which aircraft can give any support to our forces. Am withdrawing to N.W. and thence to Narvik area. (R.A.A., 1922/1).

Dutch Coast

Forces Ready

Operations KD, EF, DF, forces are to come to 12 hours' notice. (D.O.D.(H) 0011/1).

Situation

Unusual activity of German ships. (N.A., Hague, 1850/1). In consequence of Dutch Govt. air reconnaissance reports of German naval movements between Emsell and Jade today, grave cumulative indications of possible attack on Netherlands soon. All coast lights extinguished tonight and garrisons prepared. (N.A., Hague, 1910/1).



1.5.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Dutch Coast (continued)

Destroyers

To come to immediate notice (D.C. 1422/1)
My 1422. Destroyers revert to usual
notice for steam (D.C., 1935/1).

Convoys. Norway.

F.S. 2 Arrived Vaags Fiord 30/4. (F.O. Narvik,
2320/1).

N.S. 2 Hoped to sail for Narvik 2/5. Composition
(D.O.D.(H) 1526/1).

F.P.3 Sailed for Narvik. List and route
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0701/1, 0705/1).
WHIRLWIND sailed to join escort (F.O.I.C.,
Greenock, 1316/1).

BROOMDALE Oiler, to be ready for voyage to Narvik
by 0800/3. (C. in C., H.F., 2320/1).

F.S.3 Sailed (F.O.C.O.S. 0530/1).

Allied Submarines

SFAX French submarine SFAX patrol report.
Periodic enemy motor boat and seaplane
patrol. Drifting mines southward of
Jaederens. (SFAX 0030/1).

PORPCISE Patrol report 15-25/4 off Lister. (V.A.S.2312/1,
1246/1).

TETRARCH)
TRUANT) Requesting no publicity to lengthy hunts
endured recently by submarines such as
TETRARCH and TRUANT. Better let enemy
think they were successful than to continue
future hunts until air and battery power
of submarine exhausted. (C. in C., H.F.
1147 /1).

Norwegian Units.

SLEIPNER Arrived 0640 (N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne,
0645/1).

MOST SECRET.1.5.1940.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Aandalsnes and Molde -
First Evacuation.List of ships engaged (R.A.(D) H.F.
War Diary, T.S.D., 4612/40).Air.

M/V. GLADONIA (British 359 tons) (1 Lewis gun,
1 rifle.) Gunned 2200, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile
94° Heugh Lt. Apparently explosive
bullets. Slight damage. 1 man
slightly injured. (1 D Form AA).

HOLYROOD (1 Lewis gun) Fishing vessel.
Machine gunned. No hits.
2245, 5 miles S. of Souter Point.
Masthead light was on.
(1 D. Form AA).

War Diary1.5.40.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSAirBritish Activity

Cloud flying reconnaissance of Stade Wilhelmshaven, Schilling Roads and Ems Estuary (priority in that order) should be carried out with the object of locating EUROPA, BREMEN and enemy warships. Two Blenheim Squadrons should be in readiness for possible developments, one at 3 hours notice and second as relief. Consequent reduction in bombing effort tonight accepted. No.22 Sqdn. Beauforts will take this duty tomorrow 2/5 when Blenheims may stand down to be co-ordinated between Bomber and Coastal Command. (Air-Min. to Bomber Command, 1325/1).

Carrier Operations

Move further north. Following should be programme tomorrow Thursday:-

- (a) Fighter protection, Namsos.
- (b) Attack on objective in 1720/30 unless fighter defence is too strong.

On Friday repeat (b) at dawn if possible and then return to Scapa with your force. (C. in C. H.F. to Aircraft Carriers, 1853/1).

Do not consider I can any longer maintain a position from which aircraft can give any support to our forces. Am withdrawing to N.W. and thence to Narvik area (V.A.A., 1922/1) If you cannot carry out operations in my 1853/1, return to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 2052/1).

Northerly movement during today, during which carriers have operated at maximum effective distance from coast, has resulted in carrier squadron being continuously shadowed and bombed with accuracy 4 times. Consider operations in your 1853/1 are no longer practicable by a carrier force in this area. (V.A.A. 2230/1).

War Diary1.5.40.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSAir.British Air Activity (continued)

Operation "Zeal" Will not be carried out (my 1148/29).
(C. in C., H.F. to V.A.A., 1427/1).

Rye Aerodrome Reconnaissance report (H.Q. B.C. 0555/1).

Stavanger Reports of attacks (H.Q. B.C. 0525/1,
0610/1, 0820/1, 1305/1, 1315/1, 1355/1,
2015/1).

Fornebu Report of attacks. (H.Q. B.C. 0710/1,
0825/1).

Aalborg Report of attacks (H.Q. B.C. 0710/1).

Skua shot down Skua L.2905 shot down in error, both
occupants saved (NUBIAN, 2054/1).

Reconnaissance Nordesney, Schillig Roads, etc. (H.Q.
B.C. 1845/1, 0120/2, 0430/2).

Enemy Air Activity

Aandalsnes Continuous shadowing for last hour.
(CALCUTTA, 1135/1).
14 aircraft bombing Aandalsnes. (CALCUTTA
1620/1).
Anticipate more intensive bombing,
request fighter protection. (CALCUTTA,
1625/1).

Attacks on British Warships Bombing attacks were made on H.M. ships
continually during the day, the following
vessels being involved.
ARK ROYAL and GLORIOUS, aircraft-carriers.
CALCUTTA and CARLISLE, A.A. ships.
AUCKLAND sloop.
SOMALI, WALKER and JANUS, destroyers.

(contd.)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on
British Warships
(Continued)

- None of these attacks appear to have been successful or to have secured any hits, although in some cases up to 14 enemy aircraft were engaged in single attacks. CALCUTTA at Aandalsnes had over 150 bombs aimed at her during the course of the day, and other vessels were heavily attacked, the Aircraft Carrier Squadron being continuously shadowed and bombed with fair accuracy on four occasions.
- Two enemy aircraft were shot down, one by ARK ROYAL and one by MANCHESTER.
- WALKER 2 aircraft bombing SKJV 4010 (0335/1).
- D.6 Bombed (Capt. D.6, 0355/1). 1 aircraft, 6 bombs, no hits (0430/1). Position O55 PFOX 46 (0635/1).
- CALCUTTA Bombed, 100 PFRU 19 (0727/1) 17 bombs, no hits (0825/1). Shadowed, Aandalsnes, (1040/1). About 90 bombs, no hits. (1651/1). Over 150 bombs dropped, no hits, both withdrawing since 1645. (CALCUTTA, 1753/1).
- ARK ROYAL Bombed, PFOX 5847 (0755/1, 0825/1). Aircraft-Carrier Sqdn. being continuously bombed (ARK ROYAL, 1613/1. Very heavy attacks. One aircraft shot down. No hits. (R.A.(A) 1916/1).
- AUCKLAND Bombed, Blenheims engaging aircraft. (0755/1, 0808/1).
- GALATEA Bombed. (0354/1).
- C.S.18 8 aircraft, 4 attacks, no hits, positions XKTS XKOX, 1444 2236 (C.S. 18, 1425/1, 1610/1). One aircraft shot down in flames. (C.S.18 2114/1).
- CALYPSO trawler Master on returning Hartlepool reports attacked by 1E/A at 2210/30 9 deg. E.N.E. Hartlepool. Replied with Lewis guns. No hits either side. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1410/1).

War Diary1.5.40.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity (continued)

CARLISLE Bomed 190 RJGD 12. (1030/1).

DEVONSHIRE Bomed 154 QFJV 6 (1304/1, 1627/1).

JANUS Bomed 277 RJGD 19 (0920/1).

MiningEnemy Mines.
Dunkirk

Admiral Nord reports 2 or 3 magnetic mines laid apparently in Dunkirk Roads. All traffic is stopped but it is hoped to resume normal traffic during tomorrow. (V.A., Dover, 1755/1).

St. Mary's Light

55:04 N., 1:27 W. is an excellent leading mark for enemy aircraft dropping parachute mines, also U-boats. Suggest extinction. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1056/1). Cancel my 1056/1)F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1503/1).

Norway
Minelaying

C. in C., H.F.s 2345/30/4. Suggesting amendment of area ~~xxxx~~ which would have some effect and be easier from submarine's point of view. (V.A.S., 1804/1).

Hartlepool

Enemy aircraft reported dropped object $\frac{1}{2}$ mile East Heugh Light and 015° 1 mile south Gase. Have stopped all vessels leaving Hartlepool and Tees. (N.O.I.C., Hartlepool 2245/1).

Ports closed

Consequent on aircraft mining, Blyth, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Dunkirk Roads were closed. The Tyne was reopened. (I.C., 0438/40).

Heavy unexplained explosions were reported:-

0145	120° Sunderland	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	miles	(three).
0159	E. of Saltscar	2	"	(two).
0401	080° Heugh Lt.	$\frac{1}{2}$	"	(one).
0421	S.E. Tyne	8	"	(one).
0421	N.E. Saltscar	2	"	(one).

(I.C., 0438/40).

HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.German
Warships.

A /C report sighting 3 cruisers, 1 aircraft carrier and 3 destroyers in position 53° 45' N., 6° 44' E (20' N.N.W. of Borkum) at 0955/1, steering 075° at 12 knots. (I.C., 0437/40)
(A/C 206 Sqdn, 0955/1, 0959/1)
(C. in C. Nore 1036/1)

Information received suggests that the enemy are using two lines of leader cable running in W.S.W. direction for 40-50 miles from a position roughly 20' N.W. of Vlieland Island. (53° 10' N, 5° 00' E). (I.C., 0437/40)

A/C reports 4 enemy transports in LSJV 5450 course 270° speed 10 knots. (D.C.1020/1)
A/C reports a proportion of enemy transport proceeds to Laurvik (R.A.S. 1339/1)

Stavanger
Area.

Three merchant ships sighted by A/C in Gans Fiord and a large ship of about 8,000 tons in Havs Fiord at 0820/1.

A/C reported 2 ships estimated 6,000 and 8,000 tons at anchor ½ mile W. of Harland S.W. of Stavanger at 1720 (H.Q.Bt. 0120/2)

Oslo Area.

10 large transports were reported to have passed Vaderoarna at 1500/1, course N.

Lister Area.

Three 1,000 tons ships sighted by a/c at 2145/1 in Lunde Fjord (10' N.W. of Farnes).

A German ammunition ship believed unable to move is reported to be camouflaged and moored west of Brattholm, 60° 24½' N, 5° 06' E.

Shipping.

Cape Diversions.

Ships diverted to Cape or to Trinidad for orders (D.C.0211/1)

Tyne.

Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1330/1)

Convoys.

Positions (D.C. 1903/1)

Miscellaneous.

Suspicious Ship.

At 1000/1/5 A/C reported 5000 ton ship Nyderland in BQDN 1940 course, N.W. 8 knots: name on stern only. Nationality unknown. Regard as suspicious (V.A.N.P. 1815/1)

HOME COMMANDS.Miscellaneous.A/A
Ammunition.

Experience of sloops in Norway has shown that the output of H.A. ammunition, when subject to continual bombing attacks is only sufficient for about one day. Requested that H.A. ammunition for the 4 destroyers detailed for operation F.A. may be available at the most suitable base for rapid restocking (C. in C. Rosyth 1559/1)

WEATHER.

	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>	<u>Outlook.</u>
North Sea.	S.E. fresh or strong in N. and E. Moderate or light in S. and W.	Good in N. and E. Moderate or poor in S. & W.	Similar.
Channel	Variable, light.	Good in W. otherwise poor.	"
W. Approaches	S. or variable, light.	Good.	"
Horns Reef.	S.E. strong.	Good.	"
W. coast Norway.	S.E. fresh or strong, in S. veering to N.W. moderate in N.	Good or very good.	"

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.Home Commands.ARLETTA in
collision with
FOWEY.

ARLETTA, ex Convoy H.G.27, reports possible ramming and sinking of ship showing a red light over a white light at 2352/28/4 in approximate position 48°55'N. 06°43'W. Did stop owing to fog. Written report will be forwarded. (V.A. Dover 1251/1).

FOWEY reports collision with merchant ship 28/4. After cabin flat between stations 102 and 113 flooded. Bulkhead frames and decks severely damaged. Estimated period for repairs will be signalled after ship has been docked.

(C. in C. W.A. 1904/1, V.A. Dover 1251/1). Considered this collision was with FOWEY reported in 1904/1. Owing to thick weather ship's name not known to FOWEY. (C. in C. W.A. 2038/1.).

BEN-MY-CHREE

Unable to weigh due to defective winch. Repairs in hand. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0210/1).

NORTHERN PRIDE

Aground in Julsundet at 0445. (C.S.2. 1222/1).

ULSTER MONARCH

Cracked piston, another journey impossible, returning to Scapa. (D.6. 1146/1).

BLYSKAWICA

Polish destroyer, alongside VINDICTIVE having feed tank repairs. Propose sailing for Bogen 0700 tomorrow. (BLYSKAWICA 1650/1).

AGHIA VARVARA

Lost propeller. WINDSOR and tug to assist. (C. in C. W.A. 1809/1).

WANDERER

(Ashore near Aandalsnes). Towed off by SIKH, damaged, but can still steam 25 knots.



CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

America and
West Indies.

? AVOCETA

Broken rudder, being towed by BUTESHIRE
approximately 330 miles N. of Bermuda.
Ordered them to proceed Bermuda for
docking and repairs.
(C. in C. A. and W.I. 1650/1.)

SECRET.WAR DIARY.1st May, 1940.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Diversions,
Cape.My 1830/27. Ships diverted via Cape or to
Trinidad for orders. (D.T.D. to F.O.C.N.A. 0210/1)

South Atlantic.

QUEEN MARY.

1218 30/4 information incorrect. Press photographs
on QUEEN MARY released here that day. (N.O.I.C.
Simonstown to C.in C. S.A.0950/1)

ALBATROSS.

To proceed to Dakar to dock and return Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A.0915/1)

Mediterranean.

Enemy Trade.Captain of Egyptian ship ZAMZAM loading Constanza
saw hundreds of German railway trucks loading goods
for Germany. He suggests putting sand in axle
grease boxes. Suggest iron fittings or mercury.
(R.A. Alexandria, 1601/1) *fittings*

R.A. (D).

R.A.(D) Mediterranean requested to hoist his flag
in ORION tomorrow and proceed Alexandria as soon
as convenient after my arrival. (C.in C.Med.0947/1)

C.in C.

C.in C. in NEPTUNE, with ORION, DECOY and DEFENDER,
left Malta 30/4. (S.O.I., Malta 1137/1)

WARSPITE.

To await further orders at Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F)0127/1)

Fuel at
Alexandria.Italian CANGE asking for excessive oil bunker on next
visit to Alexandria. Request instructions re this
and similar cases. (R.A., Alexandria, 1706/1)

Movements.

Battleships and Destroyers. (D.C.0652/1)

SECRET.WAR DIARY.1st May, 1940.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

230 Squadron
R.A.F.Re move to Egypt. Stores and spares. (H.Q. Far
East Command R.A.F. to Air Ministry 0710/1)

Japanese Navy.

Admirals' appointments. (N.A. Tokyo 1101/1)

Shipping.

Your 0455/30 to Admiralty. Category (c) in
paragraph 2 of my 1835/21 may be taken to
include Thai, China, Manchukuo, Japan, but not
Russia. (Head of M. to C.in C. China, 2356/1)

East Indies.

Contraband
Control.Commencing 14/5 on all northbound shipping
unwilling to accept control Port Said. Export
control on all southbound shipping not having
naval clearance or not examined and cleared at
sea. Directions for Italian ships. (D.E.W.D.
1150/1 to C.C.S.O. Aden)

Australia.

Troop
Transports.Pending result of discussion between United
Kingdom and Australian Government, the latter
do not wish Australian troop transports to
proceed further than Colombo. (A.C.N.B. to
C.in C. E.I.06482/1)

SECRET.WAR DIARY.1st May, 1940
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

Troop
Transports.

Your 16082/1 not to Admiralty. N.Z.3 proceeding
according to original plans. (N.Z.N.B. to Admiralty,
A.C.N.B. F.O.C. A.S.2309Z/1)

SECRET

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

1st May, 1940
Wednesday

22

Home Commands.

WINNETOU My 1815/11/4. German tanker WINNETOU has not been reported since she left Las Palmas on 9/4. (Adnty 1200/1).

POSIDONIA (Sunk by TRIDENT) on 8/4) was one of two sister ships, tankers, built at Hamburg for the Ossag Co. 8,100 gross tons. The names which were to have been given them were DORSANUM and DISCINA; the former is thought to have been named POSIDONIA. (I.C.0438/40)

BARCELONA 3101 G.T., was ordered at 1909/1 to make for Stettin instead of Gdynia.

South Atlantic.

BABITONGA)
DRESDEN) Report, reliability unknown, dated 1/5 states these two ships have shipped masthead crow's nests.

WINDHUK A.1 report, Anglo-Mexican claim was to be paid into court by German Embassy 1/5. A new claim on behalf of Schroeders of London to the full value of WINDHUK's hull was to be made also on 1/5.

AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

HANNOVER Requesting information probable sailing date. (D.T.D. to S.O.I., Kingston 2221/1).

SECRET

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

1.5.40
WednesdayShips attacked.
Fate of Asdic
Gear.

When Asdic fitted ships have been lost the senior survivor on landing should at once be interviewed by Flag or Naval Officer in Charge to ascertain whether it is certain that steps have been taken to prevent the Asdic gear particularly the dome falling into the enemy's hands. Reports should be signalled at once to Admiralty D.A./S.W.1751/1.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions:- Indications that a U-boat may be cruising within a radius of about 20 miles between North and East and another within about the same distance between North and West of Muckle Flugga.

3 U-boats now reported to be in the approaches to Trondheim.

No indications of any other changes. (I.C.0437/40) D.D.I.C.1226/1).

1630

In mouth of Loch Eribol $58^{\circ}36'$ N, $6^{\circ}38'$ W (D.4 report) A.C.O.S.1850/1)

1500 - 1515

By A/C. B Q Z S 2018 (A/C 254 Sqdn.1515/1) U.25 partly submerged, preparing to attack destroyer, sighted from 15 miles and attacked with machine guns forcing him to submerge at 1500 hours. Patrolled area until 1556. (Donibristle, 1810/1) WANDERER hunting (WANDERER 1605/1).

1025

D.F., B.F.N.D.1535

1215

Sighted by French merchant vessel, $49^{\circ}43'$ N, $06^{\circ}16'$ W. (C.in C.W.A. 1303/1 1324/1). (H.Q.C.C.1815/1).

1300

Reported off Kabeloag West Flord, $68^{\circ}11'$ N, $14^{\circ}29'$ E. on surface. (PENELOPE 2254/1)

1355

By a/c, $61^{\circ}41'$ N., $1^{\circ}26'$ E, 054° Muckle Flugga $85'$, course 150° .

1021

Position approximate, $54^{\circ}15'$ N., $5^{\circ}35'$ E.

1039

Seen by a/c, $53^{\circ}50'$ N., $6^{\circ}24'$ E., N.W. off Borkum, course 90° .

Submarines Attacked.

1300

By WAKEFUL, $49^{\circ}34'$ N., $06^{\circ}08'$ W. doubtful contact, abandoned after dropping 1 D/C (WAKEFUL 1409/1)

1500

Attacked by a/c with machine guns, $61^{\circ}20'$ N., $0^{\circ}18'$ E., 053° Muckle Flugga $48'$ (I.C.0438/40)

War Diary2.5.40.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSSituation Report.Narvik Area

F.O., Narvik, reports that large scale administrative planning will be necessary before either harbour or town can be of any value to us. There are about 18 wrecks in Narvik harbour. Harstad can handle three ships at a time up to 8,000 tons, but it is still vulnerable to submarine attacks. There is safe anchorage at Skaanland, and small ships can be handled at Ballangen, but accomodation ashore at both these places is very limited. He proposes that all aircraft based at Skaanland on floats, and that a depot-ship be sent, pending facilities ashore.

ARK ROYAL is to embark aircraft at once for Narvik GLORIOUS and FURIOUS are also to transport fighter aircraft to Bardu Foss, in this area.

JANUS refuelled at Skelfjord 2/5, and returned to Mosjoen, where she landed her troops, approx. 128 men, without opposition and apparently unobserved about midnight 2/3rd May.

Aandalsnes

Ships carrying the evacuated troops from Aandalsnes arrived at Scapa. 2,145 men, including wounded, were embarked. MANCHESTER has 8 German prisoners among her passengers, and AUCKLAND Brigadiers Hogg and Hopwood, with the rearguard.

Nansos Area

Fog in the Nansos area continued to hamper operations. Captain (D) 5 in KELLY endeavoured to enter during the early hours of 2/5 without success. Later when the fog lifted KELLY and destroyers entered the Fiord, where they were bombed at 1100. MAORI sustained superficial damage from splinters, and suffered 3 killed and 20 wounded.

G.O.C., Maurice, stated that the evacuation could not be completed in one night, and that air support would be essential to-morrow, 3/5. On receiving information that no air support could be provided, it was decided to attempt the whole evacuation in one night, 2/3 May.



2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report (Continued)

British Air Activity

All normal patrols were flown during the day. Bomber Command raids at night appear to have been successful.

A German passenger ship of about 10,000 tons believed to be a transport was attacked off the River Ems by a Hudson on the Dutch patrol, and later by other aircraft.

3 ships, brilliantly lit and anchored close in shore to the West of Norderney, were observed at 2200/2.

Bomber Command programme for the night, 2/3:-

- 6 aircraft Rye (60 miles S. of Aalborg) aerodrome at dusk.
- 12 aircraft Rye (60 miles S. of Aalborg) later.
- 6 aircraft Security Patrols.
- 6 aircraft to Stavanger.
- 6 aircraft to Fornebo.
- 26 aircraft for special duty.

Bombs were seen to fall on the aerodrome at Rye, setting fire to two aircraft. The flash of an explosion in the aerodrome was also observed. No enemy aircraft were encountered.

Enemy Air Activity

There was remarkably little activity on the part of enemy aircraft on 2/5 compared with the daily events of the past few weeks. The usual meteorological flight was carried out in the direction of the Shetlands, returning down the Norwegian Coast.

A few H.M. ships operating off Norway reported sighting enemy aircraft which shadowed them, but this activity appeared to be much less noticeable than usual.

The only attack by enemy bombers was that made at 1100 on KELLY and MAORI at Namsos; the latter destroyer suffered superficial damage from splinters and a few casualties. Later in the day enemy aircraft were again shadowing operations at Namsos.

At least 12 aircraft are known to have been operating off Ostend during the night 2/3rd, probably laying mines.

War Diary2.5.40.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSSituation Report (Continued).British Submarine Activity

NARWHAL reports having attacked a convoy in the Kattegat with 4 torpedoes on 1/5. One possible hit. She has completed her mining operations and is now clear of Kattegat, returning to base.

* *Langennen* TRIDENT attacked a northbound supply ship 2/5, at the * *Langennen*, with torpedo and gunfire, driving her ashore, a total loss. Subsequent attacks by depth charges left TRIDENT undamaged.

Miscellaneous

Attempts to save the four men in the submarine UNITY were abandoned.

4 magnetic mines were exploded in the Humber area, and one in Tees Bay. Sunderland and Tyne are now open, subject to local routine instructions. Humber, Blyth, Dunkirk and Calais are closed.

MovementsScapa Arrivals

French BRESTOIS, BOULONNAIS, with SAUMUR and AMIENOIS 1245.

ICARUS, WHITETHORN and GUNVOR MAERSK 1535.

French MILAN, ^{LE}CHEVALIER PAUL, TARTU, with D'JEVNE and PRESIDENT DOUMER 1640.

JASON, GLEANER and French FOUROYANT with REINA DEL PACIFICO, DUCHESS of ATHOLL, SOBIESKI, LANCASTRIA, BATORY 1700.
(A.C.O.S., 1800/2).

Submarines

Psoitions 0600/3. (D.C., 2153/2).

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Policy - Narvik.

Headquarters of 3 services and maintenance organizations in Narvik area are subject to difficulty of deciding with present information. It is understood 30,000 men may be sent and large camp organizations will have to be built. Role of this force might be (i) to occupy Gablware Ore field. (ii) Protect Northern Norway against aggression (iii) Operate against enemy in middle and Southern Norway.

(i) May be ruled out for a long time to come, as Railway, only practicable line of communication and Narvik Harbour must take long time to repair and it may be anticipated that before this is effected enemy will capture Ore field from Baltic or will destroy Railway in Sweden.

(ii) Would require no addition to the present force with existing Military Headquarters and Naval Base Staff.

(iii) Would in my opinion require a joint staff to plan the advance and landing and the appointment of a General Officer to command troops in Scandinavia.

(F.O., Narvik, 2314/2).

War Diary2.5.40.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

NARVIK

- Lofoten Is. 2 flying boats arriving Harstad daylight 4/5 and 5/5 for aerodrome reconnaissance in area of Bodo and Lofoten Islands. (Air Min. to Adty. 1330/2). Orders to flying boats. (H.Q., C.C., 1800/2). (D.O.D.(H) to F.O. Narvik, 2019/2).
- DEVON CITY To sail for Harstad now by inner route with local pilot. (F.O., Narvik to GLASGOW, 1456/2).
- Fighter Sqn. Hurricane Sqn. to be transported to Narvik between 20/5 and 15/6. (Air Min. to Adty. 1530/2. Cancel my 1530/2. (Air Min., 1955/2).
- Destroyers Asking to expedite return of destroyer escorts from Narvik area as much as possible, owing to commitments and no margin. (C. in C., H.F., 2013/2).
- Floatplane Organisation Adty. 2015/1. Propose all aircraft be based at Skaanland on floats and depot-ship be sent until shore facilities are available. (F.O., Narvik, 2213/2).
- U-boat Escape Gear German submarine escape apparatus No. U.64 was recovered in BOGEN on 30/4 (F.O., Narvik, 2302/2).
- Rupert Force Further base personnel absolutely essential (Rupert Forces to W.O., no T.O.O., recd. 1915/2).
- Landings Hoped all news of renewed landings in Norway will be withheld until after it is certain that the Germans have discovered they have taken place. (C. in C., H.F., 2253/2).

War Diary2.5.40.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperations (Continued)

NAMSOS

Weather

My 1934/1. Visibility at Kya now one cable. If as appears likely these conditions continue it will not be practicable for ships to reach Namsos tonight Thursday. (C.S.1, 0040/2).

War Office to Maurice

Your cypher 024 2/5. Adty. are instructing C.S. 1 to get in touch. He can if visibility permits lift your whole force either altogether tonight 2/3, or in 2 nights. Shipping available either plan. Decision left to you in consultation C.S.1, but it may not be possible for naval officer conversant with detailed plan to arrive Namsos before 2000 hours. Adty. would much prefer embarkation in one night if that is practicable. Danger and difficulty of your situation fully understood. Every one doing damndest to help you over final fence and enable you successfully to extricate your force. All possible being done to provide air protection (Passed to Maurice from W.O., by D.O.D.(H) /2).

De Wiart reports (1000/2) situation getting serious and considers it essential to make contact with C.S. 20 or officer conversant with detached plan as soon as possible. (D.O.D.(H) to C.S. 1, C.S. 20. /2).

Destroyers

To refuel from cruisers if fog persists as relief cannot be sent yet. (C. in C., H.F., 1016/2 to F.O.C., 1 C.S.).

Evacuation

On completion of operations Klaxon 1 and 2 CARLISLE is to proceed to Skjel Fiord unless she has troops on board. (C. in C., H.F., 1255/2).

Dispositions

My 1934/1 and 0040/2. Flotilla reformed. Weather clear in position QFJV 2517. Am being shadowed. Norwegian T.B. GRIB in company. Capt. (D) with 3 destroyers hiding in fog off entrance to Fiord, visibility under one cable. 5 trawlers surviving in Fiord. Intend confirming with Klaxon 1 and 2 tonight if visibility permits. (C.S. 1, 0736/2).

War Diary2.5.40.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperations (continued)

NAMSOS

Trawlers

Your 0135/2. Presume you have left some ships to escort A/S trawlers (C. in C., H.F., to C.S. 18, 0936/2).

Your 0936. No, they sailed independently soon after 2200/1 and I doubt if they could now be concentrated. (C.S. 18, 1025/2).

Destroyers

If you are returning to base, any destroyers in excess of 8 from your screen are to proceed to RJCUC 1242 to join SOUTHAMPTON due there 1700/3. They should proceed to Sullom Voe first to refuel if necessary. (C. in C., H.F. 0925/2 to V.A.A.).

DIANA

Expect to arrive Tromsø 1100 B.S.T. 3/5. Norwegian C in C., General Ruge and staff on board. (DIANA 1635/2).

Evacuation must be completed tonight. Request YORK embark G.O.C. and 3 staff. Your plan to stand. (F.O. 20 C.S. to F.O.I.C.S 2038/2).

Cannot evacuate whole force one night. Not question of shipping but hours of darkness. Absolutely essential air protection tomorrow in view of broadcast Prime Minister's speech. (Maurice to War Office, passed C. in C., H.F. by D.C., 2050/2).

Repeat no chance of air support tomorrow Friday, Every endeavour should therefore be made in consultation C.S.1 to move whole force tonight. (War Office to Maurice, passed C. in C., H.F. and C.S.1 by D.C., 2143/2).

Oerlikon Battery

"B" Oerlikon Battery embarked complete in BIRMINGHAM. (BIRMINGHAM, 2208/2).

Royal Marines

Party embarked complete in BIRMINGHAM except 3 ratings presumed entered in another ship. (BIRMINGHAM, 2207/2).

Norwegian Ships

3 loaded pulp waiting escort to 50 miles off coast, 2 at Salsbruket, one at Lansles. (Maurice, 1648/2 to Adty. Passed to C. in C., H.F. 2201/2).

ST GORAN
sunk

(see Casualties).

War Diary2.5.40.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperations (continued)MOSJOEN, MO.

Landing Party Destination not reached owing to fog. Intend to proceed Skjel Fiord to oil when fog lifts and endeavour to land auxiliary vessel, Please confirm from French General at Namsos if this operation is to continue. (JANUS, 0320/2).

Your 0320. Operation is to continue (D.C., 0633/2).

Disembarkation of personnel for Narvik area from ROYAL ULSTERMAN and landing of stores at Mosjoen. (C. in C. H.F. 1144/2, 1522/2). Oil reserve in oiler ALDERSDALE. (PENELOPE, 1806/2).

ULSTER PRINCE to embark one company of 300 men and about 100 tons of stores for Mosjoen. ROYAL SCOTSMAN to embark 2 companies 600 men and 200 tons stores for Bodo. (D.O.D.(H) 1809/2).

H.Q.
Scissors

From Gen. Massey for O.C., No.1 Independent Co. in ROYAL ULSTERMAN:- H.Q. Scissors should be established Bodo 7/5 and will open communication with you by civil telegraph to Mo, addressed to you by your surname. (D. of P. to MOHAWK, 2011/2).

Re fuelling ROYAL ULSTERMAN (Diesel engines) (C. in C. H.F. 1144/2).

War Diary2.5.40.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperations (continued)

AANDALSNES, AALESUND, MOLDE.

Evacuation

Am leaving AUCKLAND to embark final covering party with orders to sail not later than 0230. All remaining troops embarked. No ships required for Thursday night as Germans will be in Aandalsnes at any time now. General Paget is in MANCHESTER. DIANA has sailed for Tromso with Norwegian C. in C. and 30 staff officers. (F.O. 18 C.S. 0135/2).

From General Paget to Troops. Enemy made contact 1500/30. Successfully held off till dark assisted by 4 Norwegian guns, first artillery support we have had. Forces got away about 2200 by train and lorries. Train wrecked en route and troops marched last 17 miles to Velma. Enemy made contact again 1730/1 but were held off till 2130, when forces withdrew to Aandalsnes and embarked. Cannot yet give strength of forces embarked. Though tired troops still in very good heart. (F.O. 18 C.S., 1130/2).

SOMALI with Primrose personnel, route. (Capt.(D)6, 0200/2).

Your 0345/2 and 0820/2. Position. All rear guard embarked including Brig. Hopwood. Expect arrive Scapa 0900/3. (AUCKLAND to 18 C.S., 1203/2).

Total number evacuated from Aandalsnes night of 1/5-2/5 approx. 2150 including wounded. MANCHESTER has 8 German prisoners. (C.S. 18, 1429 /2).

War Diary2.5.40.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSSubmarines

- CASABIANCA Patrol report, April 25-28, dived through Selbjorn Fird into Bjerne Fiord. (V.A.S., 1842/2)
- CLYDE To attack enemy transports and warships, also merchant ships in vicinity of Fro Havet. (R.A.(S) 1711/2).
- ORPHEE To return to base (R.A.S., 0831/2).
- SFAX Patrol report from 21/4 (V.A.S, 1247/2).
- TRIDENT Attacked a German supply ship with torpedo and gunfire at Languennen, near Bergen and drove her ashore, where she is a total loss.
- NARWHAL Possible hit by torpedo on ships in convoy attacked in the Kattegat on 1/5.

Norwegian Units

- Aircraft off Scotland W/T intercept, 2 Norwegian seaplanes making for Peterhead, asking for escort. (Scapa W/T 0310/2).
- SLEIPNER Capt. E. Ullring, destroyer SLEIPNER, wishes to offer his services to Admiralty in any capacity in which they would like to use him while his ship is refitting at Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1117/2).
- C. in C. Expect arrive Tromso 1100 B.S.T. 3/5 Norwegian C. in C., General Ruge and staff are on board. (DIANA 1635/2).
- C. in C. Navy Admiral Deisan is on board ECHO, part of convoy FP3. Wishes to get to Tromso. What is left of Norwegian Navy and Merchantile Marine has orders from him wither to make its way north or to Uik. (C. in C., H.F. to F.O., Narvik, 1653/2).

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norwegian Units (continued)

Norwegian Ship Arrived Kirkwall today. Left Bergen 9/4 after NIDARLAND the arrival of the Germans and sheltered off Floso and then Ekefjord until 30/4 on instructions of Capt. Sjon, an officer at the military post at Maaloy on Nordjord. (V.A.N.P., 2230/2).

By Boat from Norway 4 Norwegian naval ratings from the A.A. patrol ship FIREN, captured by Germans, reached Peterhead in an open boat from Slekke Fiord, near Stavanger, between 29/4 and 2/5. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1750/2).

Convoys

F.P.3 Position (C. in C., Rosyth, 0014/2).

OPERATIONS.

Narvik - Norway.

Trawlers,
Sunk.

Received from MASHONA; details of personnel embarked.

Include crew of trawler, CAPE CHELYUSKIN. This vessel and JARDINE sunk 30/4. Crew of latter in NORTHERN PRIDE. Trawler WARWICKSHIRE believed sunk 28/4, no details. (F.O.C. 18 C.S., 1215/2)

Mosjoen
Landing.

Report of CO., JANUS on loading of troops at Mosjoen 2/5.
M.09349/40.

Aandalsnes
evacuated.

Primrose embarked, leaving Aalsund now (D 60005/2)
All rearguard embarked. Expect to arrive Scapa 0900/3 (AUCKLAND 1203/2)

Air.

STAGSHEAD
L.N.25.

Fishing boat. Fired at by a/c, thought to be British a/c from No. 12 Group. F.C. Digby. In Wash (R.A.Humber I.D. 6686)

Mining.

Magnetic Mines

Operated by reversed polarity have been laid by enemy. Magnetic mines also fitted with delay action (Adty. 1947/2)

HOME COMMANDS.Air.Fleet Air Arm.

Movements to take place to equip ARK ROYAL on return to harbour.
(C. in C. H.F. 1951/2).

Narvik Base and Bordu Foss.

On arrival at Scapa, ARK ROYAL to complete with a/c and sail immediately for Narvik so as to give fighter protection until R.A.F. fighter aircraft can operate from Bordu-Foss. To enable R.A.F. fighter aircraft to operate at earliest possible date, both GLORIOUS and FURIOUS will be required to transport them to Narvik. Arrangements for flying on from Prestwick aerodrome.

Programme for A/A guns, etc. at Bordu-Foss. Question of sending an A/A ship with R.D.F. is under consideration. Arrival of R.A.F. fighters is of paramount importance. Not possible to send any float planes until after this operation is complete. (1st S.L. 2010/2).

My 2010/2. Numbers of aircraft to be carried in FURIOUS and GLORIOUS, and details of F.A.A. squadrons to be disembarked to Campbeltown.
(D.N.A.D. 2012/2).

British Air Activity.

Asking if can expect any air support today. (F.O. 1 C.S. 0036/2).
None available other than carrier-borne. (C. in C. H.F. 0415/2).
Regret carrier aircraft not available. (V.A.(A) 0545/2).

Transport Attacked.

A/C attacked large transport LSRU 4542. (A/C 206 Sqdn., 0830/2).

Enemy's course 290°, speed 10 knots. (A/C 206 Sqdn. 1010/2).

Reconnaissance Reports.

(HQ. B.C. 0856/3).

HOME COMMANDS.Air.Enemy Air Activity.

STELLA CAPELLA Attacked 63°N., 5°33' E.
 (STELLA CAPELLA, 0730/2).

ARGYLLSHIRE Attacked 60 miles 270° Bud Bet, Norway.
 (0812/2).

KELLY Bombed CKGD 3914.
 (1107/2).

C.S.20 Shadowed, Namsos. (C.S.20 1850/2).

GALATEA 3 A/C, course approx. 000°, 3,000 feet,
 my position 320° Muckle Skerry 4 miles.
 (GALATEA 2120/2).
 Friendly fighters are in vicinity.
 (Scapa W/T 2127/2).

MAORI Superficial damage from bomb splinters.
 3 killed, 20 wounded.
 (Capt.(D) 5, 1205/2).

Between 1700 and 2359 hours 1/5/40, there was considerable activity of German transport (or troop carrying) aircraft, and reports of landings at Stavanger, Hamburg and Trondheim were received. About 2228 hours enemy aircraft were engaged in minelaying off the North-East Coast. As a point of interest out of to-day's (1/5) enemy activities, it may be mentioned that on no fewer than 15 occasions they reported back unsuccessful attacks upon our surface craft, and only three as successful. (Hq. Coastal Command 1745/2).

HOME COMMANDS.

MINING.

EXPRESS
ESK
INTREPID

Will be sailed from Immingham for Scape p.m. 3/5 or a.m. 4/5. Outfits each ship 60 fourteen A fifteen A units with flooders and anti-sweeping devices. At your disposal for operations A one two and three. Request you will issue operation orders. If more than one outfit required it can be supplied. (D.O.D.(H) to C.in C. H.F.0016/2).

Explosions in Tyne and Tees Area.

3 loud explosions 3 = 1/2 miles 120°. Sunderland at 0154 and 2 further explosions 2 miles E. Saltsier Rock at 0159, reported by No.13 Group. One heavy explosion accompanied by flash 1,000 yds. 080° from Hengh Light at 0401 reported by P.W.S.S. Hartlepool and confirmed by examination vessel Hartlepool. One loud explosion 8 miles S.E. of Tyne and another 2 miles N.E. of Saltsier Rock reported at 0421 by No.13 Group. All explosions so far unexplained and cannot be reconciled with any known position of ship. Investigations proceeding (C.in C. Rosyth 0443/2).

Trondheim.

Unconfirmed report on Aalesund radio that a controlled minefield has been laid off Trondheim from Brattora running 300 metres N. of Munkholmen to Hovringen. (I.C., 0439/40)

SHIPPING.

Convoys.

Situation 2000/2. (C.in C. W.A., 1257/2)
Positions (D.C. 1913/2).

HOME COMMANDS.

SHIPPING (Contd.)

- Norwegian Ships. 3 loaded pulp waiting attempt to escape (Maurice, 1648/2).
1148
- Channel Services. Folkestone - Ostend, suspended. (Press Association, 0115/3).
- Navigation Lights. Amendment of area in which dimmed navigation lights should be shown. (D.T.D.1323/2, 1150/3).
- Danish Ships. Instructions for action regarding ships and aircraft wearing Danish colours. Warships to be attacked at sight. Aircraft with Danish civil workings to be treated as enemy civil aircraft; with military markings found E. of 10° W. as enemy military aircraft. Merchant ships wearing Danish flags to be treated as enemy merchant ships, but in certain areas as enemy warships. (Hd. of M., 1931/2).

MISCELLANEOUS.

- PELICAN To be towed by BRIGAND from Lerwick to Rosyth. WANDERER escorting. (R.A.(D) 0959/2).
- Norwegian Seamen. Arrangements to enter Norwegians of whale-catchers now arriving in England. (Hd. of N., to N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1505/2).
- Suspicious Ships. Admiralty 1724/30, report of suspicious ships by Master of LEADGATE. For 28/4 read 29/4. (Le Havre, 1140/2).

HOME COMMANDS.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

German Naval
Activity.

Following aircraft reports were received:-

- 0830/2. 1 large merchant ship, 9' north of Borkum, bombed, no results observed.
- 1308/2. 1 merchant ship about 2,000 tons, off Juist, course 220°.
- 2002/2. 3 enemy armed trawlers, 53°41' N., 6°34' E. off the Ems.
- 2005/2. 2 enemy armed trawlers, 53°38' N., 6°28' E. off the Ems.
- 2200/2. Large convoy of 50 ships, course north, 55°35' N., 2°20' E., Horns Reef. (Report considered doubtful).
(I.C., 0439/40).

Norwegian Waters.

At 0800/2, a/c, reported 19 merchant ships stationary between Haugesund and Stavanger and 2 merchant ships entering Stavanger.
(I.C., 0439/40).

Bergen Area.

Information from Pilot P.O. Gardner, ARK ROYAL, shot down near Bergen 12/4 and returned to-day, re aircraft, mines, submarine, etc., (C.in C. H.F., 0013/2). German submarine escape apparatus No. U.64 was recovered in Bogen on 30/4 (F.O. Narvik 2302/2).

M.T.B's.

PORPOISE reports while on patrol enemy M.T.B's were continually operating during daylight between Lister and Egersund. Would help submarines considerably if these M.T.B's could be attacked by Machine guns from aircraft. Request consideration of this. (D.O.D.(H) to Air Min., 1300/2).

Stavanger, etc.,

Information from Norwegian naval ratings landed Peterhead (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1701/2):- Only enemy naval units at Stavanger are 4 M.T.B's. At Christiansand North, 1 destroyer and captured Norwegian gunboat. A German A/C is reported to have had to return to Denmark to refuel owing to damage done to Stavanger aerodrome.

2.5.40.
Thursday.

41

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Merchant Ship
Sunk.

TRIDENT 0926/2 in Lang^{en} attacked northbound German merchant ship fired two torpedoes which may have run under. Engaged with gunfire until ship beached herself on Scorpa Island in Kors Fiord. Finished off with torpedo which exploded under forehold. Retired to open sea on surface at full speed. Dived for aircraft in entrance subsequently hunted by ~~R.A.N. 1500~~ from 1150 to 1515. Impracticable to patrol in Bjerne Fiord for more than two consecutive days unless utmost economy of battery has been possible on first day (S.2 1145/4)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

C. in C's
Office.

Transfer of my office from Malta to Alexandria will commence p.m. tomorrow (Friday) Communication arrangements. (C. in C. Med 1715/2)

East Indies.

Additional
Routes.

To avoid congestion following additional routes are established. Y1, Y1a, Y2, Y3, Z1, Z2, (details) (C. in C. EL 1114/2)

U.S.2.

In event of it being decided that U.S.2 is to proceed to Egypt, considered it will be desirable to provide destroyer escort from Aden. At first step, request you sail 2 destroyers, preferably R.A.N, for Suez, to await orders (D. U.D(F) 2005/2)

Australia.

U.S.3.

Commonwealth Govt. agree to escort for U.S.3 consisting of AUSTRALIA and LEANDER between Fremantle and Cape Town if this route is used and if N.2 Govt. can make LEANDER available (A.C.N.B. 1245Z/")

New Zealand.

N.Z.3

Departure Wellington portion of convoy N2 3 with escort (S.O.I. Wellington 0019Z/2)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

2nd May, 1940.

NORTH ATLANTIC.

French Positions. 1300/2 (D.C.0338/2) 43

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Fuelling Policy. Repeating text of A.T.1711/20 to R.A.S.A.D., re Admiralty policy for fuelling. Neutral ports to be avoided in normal circumstances last 3 months' rule prevent fuelling in emergency. (Hd. of M., 1929/2 to C.in C.S.A)

BELMOIRA. Norwegian, is heavy lift ship capable of handling weights up to 100 tons with own derricks. Suggest suitable for operations now in hand. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown,1710/2).

Trawlers. Re building of trawlers to Brazilian plans received. (D.S.V.P.1942/2 to A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)

MEDITERRANEAN.

Contraband Patrol. R.A.(D) requested to organise.(C.in C. Med., 1920/2).

Shipping Division. Your 1746/1, re division of shipping in Mediterranean. (1) Is under consideration. (2) Yes. (A.C.N.S. 2054/2 to R.A.Alexandria)

WARSPITE. Cancel ~~any~~ 1159/30 (C.in C. Med., 1214/2).

DELHI. To form part of 3rd C.S. (C.in C. Med.1535/2)

Store Ships. Admiralty 1837/29. Group 91 (4 ships) will sail for Alexandria p.m.3/5. Ships are embarking stores and equipment to full capacity. Remainder will be forwarded at first opportunity. (C.in C. W.A.1735/2).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

MEDITERRANEAN. (Contd.)

44

CANGE.

Italian. Your 1706/1. 650 tons should be supplied on this occasion (D.E.W.D.2018/2 to R.A. Alexandria).

BIRGITTE.

Danish, seized by French. Your 1203/1. Every endeavour being made to come to arrangement with the French. If an exchange can be effected BIRGITTE will sail under British flag. (Hd. of M. to Consul General Marseilles, 1652/2).

AMERICA AND WEST INDIES.

Bermuda Convoy Force.

Admiralty 2156/13 and 1950/15. A.M.C. from N.P. detailed for Bermuda Convoy Escort Force should reach Bermuda by 16/5 if possible. (D.O.O.(F) 1950/2).

AURANIA detailed to join. Request report when defects completed and ship ready to sail. (V.A.N.P.2215/2).

Curacao-Aruba.

Admiralty 0233/25 and Adm. 1125/28, re naval patrols for protection of Curacao and Aruba refineries from sea bombardment. Request early decision as French Cruiser PRIM AUGUET arrives Kingston, Jamaica, 14/5, to discuss arrangements for possible combining of operations. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1516/2).

EAST INDIES.

Italian Mails.

Treatment of Italian Colonial mail. (D.E.W.D. 1653/2 to C.C.S.O. Aden).

RANCHI.

To leave Diego Suarez P.m.4/5 for Mombasa direct, but examining Assumption Island on passage. (C.in C. E.I. 1229/2).

Information for Germany.

Adm. 0810/28, passing of information to Germany. Suggestion is that ships call Italian ships near Italy on 600 Kc/s and then work on 705 Kc/s in plain language (Italian). Messages are then passed to Germany from Italy. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 10182/2).

WAR DIARY.SECRETGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.2.5.1940.
Thursday.

Home Commands.

SCHIFFBEK.

2158 G.T. At 0839/2 gave her position as 53° 42' N., 6° 35' E., and reported she had sighted aircraft. (I.C., 0439/40).

OBERHAUSEN

1238 G.T., built 1939. Intercepted telegram dated 1109/30 stated ship was commandeered in the interest of the Reich and not available for carrying sawn timber from Reval to Delfzijl. (I.C., 0439/40).

America and West Indies.

STELLA

Yacht, 179 G.T., American Legation at San Jose, Costa Rica, reported to have confirmed this yacht now at Corinto has been sold to Nicaraguan Government. (I.C., 0439/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

2.5.1940.
Thursday,

S/M's	Reported.
0849	Admiralty A/C B.Q.D.N. 0010 course S. (C. in C. Rosyth 1210/2) 61° N., 1° 10' E., 080° Muckle Flugga 60'. (I.C., 0439/40)
1815	P/S reported by Coastguard, 55° 15' N., 1° 26' W. 034° Blyth 9'. (I.C., 0439/40)

Estimated dispositions:-

At least one still in West Fiord.
2 N.E. of Shetlands 1/5, one possibly
homeward bound.
1 still in Cape Wrath area. (D.D.I.C.1208/2).

War Diary3.5.40.
Friday.HOME COMMANDSSituation ReportNarvik Area

RESOLUTION and AURORA carried out a ^{on 1st day} successful bombardment of the Beis Fjord area. An ammunition store was exploded, the road was cut and many casualties inflicted on enemy troops. (The town of Narvik is at the entrance to this fiord).

Survey flights have been made from the Shetlands to investigate possible landing grounds in Hangoy and Andoy Islands, Harstad and Bardu Foss, 40 miles north of Narvik.

A report from the Norwegian Navy states that a heavily loaded steamer was seen at 1239/3 about 50 miles south of West Fiord, heading north. BASILISK and STORK have been sent to locate and capture this ship.

There have been air raids on Harstadt by high-flying enemy aircraft in pairs, or singly.

Evacuation

General Paget gives the number of men evacuated from Aandalsnes as 4,764, and estimates 1,800 casualties.

With the exception of a small rearguard the evacuation of Namsos was completed by 0200/3. The ships are sailing for Scapa in two groups. 60 miles apart, each with a liner. Except for BISON and AFRIDI (both sunk), no ships have sustained serious damage and no transport has been hit. YORK has 1,172 passengers, including G.O.C. Continuous air protection is being provided, and the second group is expected at Scapa about midnight 4/5/5. CARLISLE has 130 from BITTERN, and 35 wounded.

British Air Activity

At 0340/3, a report was received from an aircraft back from patrol that a convoy of 50 ships was sighted at Horns Reef at 2200/2 proceeding north. No attack was launched owing to A.A. and searchlights. 3 Hudsons were sent, and submarines informed.

The raid on Stavanger aerodrome on the night of 2-3/5 is considered to have been successful.

All the usual patrols were flown.

10 aircraft were sent out on special duty during the night 3-4/5).

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

3.5.40.
Friday.Situation Report (Continued)Enemy Air Activity

Activity by enemy aircraft on 3/5 was maintained throughout the day, both in the Norwegian area and off the East Coast. Shortly after midnight May 2/3, there were several reports of enemy aircraft off Lowestoft and Cromer, and WAKEFUL, escorting the HX convoy in the Channel, was attacked and bombed without success at 0600.

The usual meteorological flight operated over the central North Sea and as far North as the Shetlands before returning down the Norwegian Coast to Stavanger. Enemy reconnaissance aircraft were active from an early hour over the North Sea between the Shetlands and Norway. DEVONSHIRE and ships in company returning from Namsos were continually shadowed from 0430, and were attacked repeatedly from 0850 - 1400. In the course of these attacks, the French destroyer BISON was hit by a bomb, her foremost magazine exploded, and she had subsequently to be sunk; AFRIDI was also hit by a heavy bomb, and sunk. No transports were hit. Over 50 planes attacked, and 2 certainly were shot down. GRIFFIN was bombed later in the afternoon by 5 enemy aircraft, but no hits were obtained. WAKEFUL, escorting a convoy in Channel, was bombed at 0600/3.

After dark, enemy aircraft were again active, numerous reports (X raids) being received of machines off the S.E. Coast.

General - Home Commands

Three French destroyers started from Dunkirk on a clean-up of the Belgian and Dutch coasts.

TARTU, ^LCHEVALIER PAUL, MILAN, with SIKH and TARTAR, [^]are operating off Jaederens Point to intercept two German transports, escorted by two torpedo boats, believed to be approaching Stavanger.

GLASGOW, with JACKAL and JAVELIN on passage to the Clyde, has 23 tons of bullion, 23 officers and 179 others, including casualties, on board.

Humber is open, Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne are closed. 3 magnetic mines have been exploded in the Humber area, and the search there continues. One in Liverpool Bay and two at Dunkirk have also been exploded.



War Diary

3.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Situation Report (continued)

General - Foreign Stations

The Australian Convoy now off Ceylon will proceed via the Suez Canal.

MALAYA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, with H.M.A.S. STUART and VAMPIRE, arrived at Alexandria on 3/5, where there is a considerable French naval force.

Movements

Submarines

Positions in North Sea and Norway (C. in C., H.F., 1315/3).

RUBIS to transfer from 10th to 9th submarine flotilla as convenient. (V.A.S. 1717/3).

Positions at 0600/4. (D.C., 2008/3).

War Diary3.5.40.
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperations

NARVIK

Situation

Adty. 0031/3. My 1147/3 will I hope show that situation is appreciated here. Am grateful for support promised. Am hoping to concentrate all ships here, RESOLUTION and 3 cruisers plus destroyers, to support attack on Narvik Wednesday 8/5. In that case, however, there will be a large number of valuable ships in harbour with no A/A defence. (F.O. Narvik, 2146/3).

A/S Groups,
trawlers sunk

15th and 16th A/S Groups sailed for Skjel Fiord ST. GORAN, GAUL and ASTON VILLA badly damaged and sunk in deep water. (C.S. 20, 0434/3).

C.S. 20

Risk of Air
Attack

Owing to risk of air attack, Convoys to and from Narvik area to pass westward of a line joining (a) 63° N., 04° W., (b) 66° N., 01° W. (C. in C., H.F. 1703/3).

12 pdr. guns,
6-in guns.

To meet urgent requirements in Norway for personnel trained 12 pdr. equipment agreement has been given to taking personnel from 2 guns Drake's Island 12 pdr. batteries until fresh personnel are trained. (D. of L.D. 1802/3). Ditto, 6-in. and 12 pdr. equipments, Cliff End and Nodes Point. (D. of L.D., 1803/3).

L.L. trawlers

One pair of L.L. trawlers required for Narvik. RUNSWICK BAY and SATA to be completed and sailed from Liverpool. (D.M.S., 1804/3).

Tugs

Arrangements for. (C. in C., H.F. 1927/3).

Port Accom-
modation

Full when F.S.3 arrives. Accommodation and facilities limited. Suggest H.K.1 go to Tromso, where there is ready A.A. protection, or remains at sea. (F.O. Narvik, 2115/3).

Fuel Stocks

Details (F.O., Narvik, 1325/3).

War Diary3.5.40.
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperations (continued)

NARVIK

Empty Ships,
Escorts

Your 2013/2. Certainly will do everything possible to comply with your wishes and am only too anxious to get rid of empty ships. (N.O., ~~NARVIK~~ to C. in C., H.F., 1351/3).
Narvik

Boom Defence

Your 2322/1 approved. PROTECTOR to be sailed on completion for Rosyth. (D.B.D. to F.O., Narvik, 1938/3).

Oerlikon
Battery.

"B" Oerlikon Battery complete ex BIRMINGHAM to be sent to Narvik at first opportunity. (D.O.D.(H) 1834/3). Your 1834/3. Personnel have sailed for Clyde in ULSTER MONARCH. All their guns were destroyed before evacuation. (C. in C., H.F., 0032/4).

C. in C., H.F. 1616/3. No destroyer available Skjel Fiord. STORK has been sent. (PENELOPE, 1834/3 to D.8).

NAMSOS

Evacuation

Sailing of 1 and 2 completed. Approx. 6,400 troops embarked. Force is now all clear of Namsen Fiord. 5 trawlers sailed for Skjel Fiord. Am retaining CARLISLE, who has 130 survivors from BITTERN and 35 wounded. G.O.C. in YORK (C.S.1, 0446/3, 0543/3).

From Maurice:- Excepting small rear guard evacuation completed 0200 hours. Last party embarked about 0330. Presume you are recalling Mosjoen Party. Please wire personal instructions and orders for force. It will need considerable sorting out on shore. Units much mixed. (YORK, 1645/3).

Position, etc., at 1730. YORK has 1172 passengers, including Maurice and staff officers and about 20 sick and wounded. 1125 passengers are French, EL MANSUR (French transport) has 1744. NUBIAN has 2. In view of congestion on board intend turning over transport and HASTY to Capt. (D)5 at about 0800/4 and YORK to proceed with despatch with NUBIAN to Scapa. (YORK, 1735/3).

War Diary3.5.40.
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperations

NAMSOS. (Continued)

Evacuation
(continued)

All transports and cruisers to proceed Scapa. YORK to remain in company with EL MANSUR till 1600/4. (C. in C., H.F. 2348/3).

Situation

Transports, and escorts. Except for BISON and AFRIDI, no ships have sustained serious damage and transports have not been hit. Speed of advance limited to 17 knots owing to engine defects in French A.M.C. EL DJEZAIR. CARLISLE high angle ammunition exhausted. Over 50 planes attacked, and 2 certainly were shot down. Enemy air observation commenced 0400 and still continues. (C.S.1. 1826/3).

MOSJOEN, MO. BODO.Landing completed.

Operations completed unopposed and apparently unobserved (JANUS, 2350/2). (*Landing at Mosjoen*).

Stores

War Office no longer require stores in ROYAL ULSTERMAN to be landed at Mosjoen and they should be disembarked in Narvik area as desired by F.O., Narvik, preferably at Skjel Fiord. (D. of P., 1610/3).

ROYAL ULSTERMAN to discharge stores, mails, etc., for Narvik area into GRAFTON at Mo. (F.O., Narvik, 1923/3).

Army Companies

My 1809/2. War Office now wish 2 companies to go to Mosjoen and one company to Bodo. ULSTER PRINCE is therefore to embark 2 companies and stores for Mosjoen. ROYAL SCOTSMAN 1 company and stores for Bodo. (D.O.D.(H), 1831/3).

War Diary3.5.40.
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsAALESUND - PRIMROSE

Admiralty Thanks Their Lordships wish to express their high appreciation of the manner in which the Royal Naval and Royal Marine forces concerned in operation "Primrose" carried out their tasks. The difficulties which confronted them are well understood. Their determined action in support of the Army has proved invaluable. (First Lord, 1253/3).

Mails Request instructions for disposal of mail for Operation Primrose and Hammer. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1035/3). Return to men's ship or depot. (Hd. of M., 2040/3).

FAROES.

Nets. GUARDIAN to lay B.1 indicator net defences at Skaale Fiord, Faroe Islands. IMELDA or other boom trawler will also be required to proceed Skaale Fiord. (D.B.D. 1535/3).

German Transports

Destroyer Sweep TARTU (S.O.),^{LE} CHEVALIER PAUL, MILAN, SIKH and TARTAR to proceed to pass through position 58:45 N., 04:48 E. at 2200. Objective is two German transports escorted by two torpedo boats expected to be in this position at 2300 steering 325 degrees. Withdraw at high speed an hour before daylight and return Scapa. Positions of our submarines will be signalled but as these can only be estimated approximately submarines are not to be attacked. (C. in C., H.F., 1151/3 to R.A.D.).

Dutch Coast

Precautions Adty. 0011/1. Operations D.F. and E.F. Forces are to revert to 24 hour's notice. (D.O.D.(H), 1310/3).

GALATEA,
ARETHUSA

In view of the German threat to Holland, GALATEA and ARETHUSA are to be sailed for Sheerness and placed under orders of C. in C. Nore as soon as convenient and subject to degaussing gear being efficient. (D.O.D.(H) 2323/3)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Submarines Reports etc.

TAKU

To operate in Bjorne Fiord (R.A.S. 1724/3).

Norwegian Vessels

Escapes

Captain Hauge and 3 officers of Norwegian Navy arrived in a fishing vessel from Maloy. Details of escape. Companions have seized Danish S.S.FLYNDEBORD and are thought to have shaped course for Orkneys. He reports an order from Army authorities for Norwegians to hand in their arms to nearest depot. Anxious to have it contradicted by broadcast from London, as the Norwegian coast and islands are easily defended and this opportunity of harassing the enemy should not be neglected. (N.O.I.C., Lerwick, 2227/3).

Norwegian S.S.BORGUND, owner, Capt. Puntervald, Norwegian Navy, retired, of Aalesund, has arrived in ballast and carrying 42 German prisoners in charge of one Norwegian military officer and 4 privates. Prisoners being turned over to Military and will be sent south to Aberdeen in next mail steamer. Capt. Puntervald hopes that his ship may be able to continue trading. Have put him in touch with Norwegian Consulate. Request instructions as to this vessel. (A.C.O.S., 1014/3).

Submarine B.6

Norwegian submarine B.6 without any British instructions and possibly without adequate charts may be on passage from Sogne Fiord to an East Coast port and may attempt to identify herself to a British man of war. (R.A.(S) 1919/3).

Stores not Shipped

My 1302/2, stores for Norwegian authorities not yet shipped. These are to be returned to Military Depot, Stirling, and Army authorities informed. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C. Rosyth, 2153/3).

Operations (continued)

Convoys, Norway.

Escorts

For ULSTER PRINCE, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, etc. (C. in C., H.F., 0016/3). Send one destroyer back for SAINT ROHAN and GUNVORMAESK who have missed the convoy. (F.O.C.O.S., 1239/3 to JASON). Sailed escorted by WALKER two hours late. (F.O.C.O.S. 1535/3).

F.P.3

Orders, destinations, and escort. (F.O., Narvik, 1832/3).
BRITISH LORD and rest of convoy, orders to (F.O., Narvik, 2231/3).

F.S.3 and
F.P.3

Route until instructions from Narvik. (C. in C., H.F., 1558/3).

Returning
Convoys

All cruisers and transports proceed to Scapa. YORK is to remain in company with EL MANSUR till 1600/4. (C. in C., H.F., 2348/3).

F.P.2

Request you will sail PROVIDENCE to Brest with F.P.2. (D.O.D.(H) 1703/3 to C. in C., Rosyth).

H.K.1

To sail when ready 3/5 for Narvik. (C. in C., H.F. 0025/3).
Details (F.O.C.O.S. 2134/3).
Route amended (A.C.O.S. 1912/3).
Sailed from Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1913/3).

META

Adty. 1526/1, (Convoys). Request META sail for Scapa when ready. (C. in C., H.F. 0030/3).

Amending Adty 1526/1 for BALZAC, CHOBRY, etc. (D.O.D.(H) 1505/3).

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

FURIOUS Can accommodate 20 Gladiators in addition to aircraft for own protection. (FURIOUS, 1025/3).

Air Protection My 1151/3. Request air protection for force while returning a.m. tomorrow Saturday. (C. in C., H.F., 1154/3).

Rye Aerodrome Attacks on, report. (H.Q.,^B.C., 0115/3, 0400/3)

Security Patrol Report. (H.Q.B.C., 0515/3).

Stavanger Attack on, report. (H.Q.B.C., 0800/3).

Fornebu Attack on, report (H.Q., B.C., 0820/3).

Enemy Patrol Vessel Attacked by aircraft on patrol at 0832, JSRU 0238. No hits. No A.A. fire. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1309/3).

Enemy Air Activity

LONDONDERRY 1 aircraft approx. true course 270°, position 005 CPWY 30. (0042/3).

WESTON 2 aircraft course 220°, position CPWY 2910. (0044/3).

VALENTINE 1 aircraft course 270°, position CPWY 1701. (0151/3).

DEVONSHIRE Shadowed 1 aircraft position 163 RJGD 21. (0444/3, 0830/30, 0835/3). Bombed (0850/3). Continuous bombing 355 RJCU 46. (1017/3). 3 aircraft bombing (1352/3).

WAKEFUL Help, Jumbo (HXA Convoy). (WAKEFUL, 0600/3).

War Diary3.5.40.
Friday.HOME COMMANDSAir. (Continued)Enemy Air Activity (Continued)

BISON sunk Hit, 353 RJC 44. (DEVONSHIRE, 1010/3). Foremost magazine exploded. GRENADE, IMPERIAL, standing by. AFRIDI reinforcing MONTCALM's screen. 39 aircraft have attacked escort vessel (DEVONSHIRE 1030/3). BISON to be sunk (C.S.1, 1110/3). **SUPPLEMENT**

AFRIDI sunk Hit. (DEVONSHIRE, 1353/3). Sunk by heavy bomb from JU.87 in position 296 QFJV 34, (C.S.1, 1447/3). Had on board survivors from BISON. **SUPPLEMENT**

GRIFFIN Bombed, 5 aircraft (1530/3). Not hit. (1531/3).

CALCUTTA Summary of air attacks on CALCUTTA on 1st May. 40 high or medium level or dive bombing attacks. 156 bombs dropped. No hits. No casualties. 2 enemy aircraft shot down and seen to crash. 2 enemy aircraft probably shot down but not actually seen to crash. 2 enemy aircraft damaged so that their return to base is doubtful. (CALCUTTA, 0815/3).

German Air-craft fuelling Evacuated military officer says Norwegians report that aircraft from Germany land on beach at Egersund to replenish petrol on way north. (C. in C., H.F., 1021/3).

Mining

Whale Catchers List due Falmouth 6/5 to fit out for Double L minesweeping. (D.M.S., 1801/3).

Trawlers My 1249/30. Sailing of Double L trawlers to be postponed till further signal made. (C. in C., Nore, 1845/3).

BORDE Operation of BORDE postponed. Cancel my 1131/30/4. (C. in C., Nore, 1053/3).

Floating Mines Nine, apparently moored, reported on a line 2 miles from coast between 58:33 N., 58:45 N. ORZEL reports them in the same position for three days. (I.C., 0440/40).

HOME COMMANDS.
ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

58

Transport Transport and escort off Borkum (A/C 206 Sqd.0610/3)

Convoy A/C reports a large convoy of 50 ships in 55° 35' N., 7°20' E., at 2200/2, course N (D.C.0411/3, to S/MS on patrol and C.in C.H.F)

Merchant Ships Norwegian Navy reports heavily loaded steamer passed position 66° 45' N., 13°05', going North, flying Norwegian flag, A/A armament on bridge. (PENELOPE.1239/3) BASILISK and STORK sent to capture (PENELOPE 1834/3) D.8,1725/3) 1 M.V. 10,000 - 12,000 tons, 53°35' N., 6°30' E. at 0545/3 reported by A/C (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0958/3)

Seaplane Bases Norwegians report German seaplane base moved from Trelegsvik, 59° 26' 10" N., 10°23' 30" E., to Malvik, 59°28' 20" N., 10° 10' 30" E. and Sandheukt, 59°33' N., 10°16'E. Hovland racecourse near Narvik, 59°02'45" N., 10°03'E., has been reconstructed by Germans. (F.O.Narvik 1704/3).

German Troops From War Office. Intelligence Report to 1800/2. Germans believed to be in position approx. 2 kilometres S.W. of Elvenes and in area Skabvand. (D. of P.1507/3 to F.O.Narvik.

Suspicious Vessels Number of vessels showing lights reported during last 2 nights in area bounded by lat. 56°N., and 57°N., 2°E., and 4° E. believed fishing vessels. (see also S/MS reported)D.D.I.C.1630/3)

Trondheim Minefield Reported that a controlled minefield has been laid at Trondheim from position 1½ cables north of Munkolmen to Hovsingan (DDIC 1557/3)

Dutch Coast Belated report received 3/5 stated that 2 German minelayers and 2 U-boats were in a position 25' West of the Hook of Holland at 0530/2. Presumed were of the armed trawler type.(I.C.0440/40)

Oslo A/C reports several unidentified merchant ships 6-7 miles W.S.W. of Stromstad, Oslo Fiord, between 0010 and 0135/3.(I.C.0440/40).

Bjorne Fiord TRIDENT reports on returning from patrol 2 torpedo boats and 2 motor minesweepers in Bjorne Fiord whilst she was in that area (I.C.,0440/40).

German Signals. From N.O.I.C.Stornoway. Skipper of drifter TRANSCEND reports when fishing W.N.W.(mag.) 17 miles from Cape Wrath hearing extremely loud R/T signals in German on 173 metres from 0200 to 0207 today 3/5. Signals were mainly in figure groups finishing with Heil Hitler and seemed so near that Skipper thought a U-boat had surfaced close by him. (C.in C.Rosyth 2534/3).

HOME COMMANDS
Shipping.

59

Norwegian Ships Loaded with pulp, awaiting attempt to escape to proceed to Kirkwall. Ascertain from Maurice the position of Lansdesless where he reported on e ship, and inform JANUS immediately (.C.S.I.6529/3, C.in C.H.F. to YORK 0853/3) Maurice cannot give information (YORK 1730/3). Request position Lansless (JANUS to C.in C.H.F.1911/3).

Degaussing Six ships of S.L.29 for London ordered Portland for degaussing. (D.T.D.1945/3). 3 ships of H.G.F.29 ditto.(D.T.D.1829/3)

Convoys Positions(D.C.1818/3)

Fishing Areas available (D.T.D.1910/3)

MISCELLANEOUS.3.5.1940.
Friday.

"Q" Messages Insecure. Following received from Flag Officer-in-Charge Liverpool:-
 Details of Admiralty message 478 A Z were not communicated to H.M.S. VIMY while vessel was at sea, in spite of this vessel readily decyphered message of 'Q' series owing to similarity of their preamble and by so doing deduced the procedure detailed in 478 A Z. Suggest existing arrangements are therefore insecure. 1615/3. I entirely concur. (C. in C. W.A. 2122/3).

WEATHER

	Wind.	Weather	Visibility.
North Sea, N.	S.S.E. Moderate	Fair to cloudy.	Good.
North Sea, S.	N. - N.E., light to moderate.	Coastal haze.	Moderate.
Horns Reef. Channel	E., fresh. N., light to moderate.	Fair to cloudy. Coastal haze.	Good. Moderate.
W. Approaches.	N., light to moderate.	Fair to cloudy.	Good.
Norwegian.	S. - S.W. light to moderate.	Fair to cloudy, fog patches, probable.	Moderate to good, poor in fog.

Cutlook, no marked change.

3rd May 1940
Friday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

61

DUNOON Board of Inquiry to be convened (C.in C.Nore to F.O.Humber,
1854/3)

ST. GORAN)
GAUL) A/S Trawlers, sunk in deep water, badly damaged (see Narvik)
ASTON)
VILLA)

UNITY Assumed that remainder of crew of S/M UNITY are dead. (V.A.S.0027/3).

FOREIGN STATIONS
North Atlantic.

62

French
Positions

Convoys and Patrols (D.C.0046/3)

South Atlantic.

HAWKINS
Relief

Your 1242/30. Present intention is that HAWKINS should be relieved by AJAX in August 1940. (D.O.D.(F) 1601/1).

U.S.3

My 2345/3 (see Australia). No action to provide a second 8 in. cruiser for U.S.3 is required at present (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.S.A.2349/3).

Mediterranean.

Arrivals

My 1204/2/2. Italian Naval Attache today informed MALAYA and ROYAL SOVEREIGN have been added to Mediterranean Fleet and ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS have left Mediterranean. (D.N.I.1342/3) to N.A.Rome).

Arrivals 3/5:- MALAYA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, STUART, VAMPIRE, French battleships PROVENCE, LORRAINE BRETAGNE, French cruisers TIGRE, LYNX, French destroyer FORBIN. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1921/3).

U.S.2

Admty 2005/2 (destroyer escort from Aden if U.S.2 is to proceed to Egypt). No R.A.N. destroyers available owing to boiler cleaning. DECOY and DEFENDER detailed and arriving Suez p.m. 4/5. (C.in C.Med., 1333/3).

WARSPITE

Admty 1821/30. Hope WARSPITE will move to Alexandria as soon as considered safe, and not dependent on return of 3 French battleships to Western Basin. Urgently required as Fleet Flagship (C.in C.Med. 2009/3). To proceed Alexandria not calling Gibraltar or Malta. Passage through Straits to be made during dark hours. (D.O.D.(F) 2322/3).

Positions

MALAYA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN and 4 destroyers to Alexandria, also cruisers DELHI and CAPETOWN. (D.C., 0800/3).

Shipping

Your 1746/1. (1) Vessels with substantial amounts of ^{carfo} ~~corp~~ for Mediterranean posts may proceed, but vessels carrying small quantities will be considered individually and instructions sent. (2) Yes. (D.of S.T. to R.A. Alexandria 1027/3).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

63

U.S.2 Arrived Colombo 3/5, escorted by RAMILLIES and French cruiser.
SUFFREN (801 Colombo 0631 2/3)

Port Arrival 3/5 LIVERPOOL with flag of F.O.C.4 C.S. (R.O.Port Sudan
Sudan 1150/3)

Admty. 2351/30 and 5306/3 from Australian Naval Board.
Is U.S.2 to be sailed via Red Sea or Cape ? (C.E.in C. E.I.
1747/3)

KENT is to sail with U.S.2 from Colombo. In event of convoy
being diverted before reaching Aden, KENT will relieve SUFFREN for
passage to Cape. (D.O.D.(F)2006/3).

Your 1747/3. U.S.2 to be sailed according to programme via Red Sea.
(D.O.D.(F) 2324/3 to C.in C.E.I).

America and West Indies.

AURANIA Ready to sail for Bermuda 12/5 (F.O.C.N.P.2310/3)

Australia.

U.S.2. Cancel my 0648Z/1. Australian Govt. agrees to Convoy U.S.2.
sailing as originally arranged. (A.C.N.B.0306Z/3).

U.S.2 & 3 Admiralty intentions for escorts in event of diversion via the
Cape. (D.O.D.(F)2345/3 to Australia and New Zealand Naval Boards.

AUSTRALIA Offer in your 1245/2 to permit AUSTRALIA to escort U.S.3 to
Cape of Good Hope if diverted much appreciated. (Intentions detailed)
If no diversion and U.S.3 proceeds normally, KENT may have difficulty
in making Cocos Island R.V. In these circumstances, Admty. would be
grateful if Commonwealth Govt. would agree to AUSTRALIA remaining
with U.S.3 as far as Colombo (D.O.D.(F)2346/3)

3.5.40.
Friday.

64

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

Unknown Ship.

Attacked by TRIDENT with torpedo and gunfire and driven ashore in Lange Nuen, became a total loss. (I.C.0440/40)

North Atlantic.

KLAUS SCHOKE,
LUISE BORNHOFEN.

At Horta, Azores, wished to move to roadstead to save expense. Unable to do so, unable to obtain 75 tons of coal. (I.C.0440/40).

China.

MONI RICKMERS, WASGENWALD, WERDENFELS (at Sabang);

SONECK, BITTERFELS, WUPPERTAL (at Padang);

NAUMBURG (at Sourabaya). Fuel details and appearance of these. (I.C.0440/40). Capt. O.S. Singapore, 06542/3). DANAE reports all German ships at Sabang have raised or are raising steam.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.3.5.40.
Friday.S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C.1521/3).

0825

56° 30' N., 2° 30' E., 112° Buchan Ness,
150°. Indefinite position.

1205

D.F. unknown enemy unit, 57° 20' N.,
3° E. unreliable fix, probable U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C.1312/3).

1334

D.F. unreliable fix 56° 10' N., 2° 30' E.
(D.D.I.C.1501/3).

1205

Considerable enemy W/T activity since
1205 between 57° 20' N., 3° E., and
55° 30' N., 2° E. possibly U Boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1630/3).

2215

Norwegian report submarines outside
Bliksvaer, 66° 17' N., 13° 15' E., going
North. (PENELOPE 2301/3).

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Narvik Area

X Allied troops are now half way from Gratagen to Bjervik and and increasing pressure.

The construction of landing grounds for our aircraft in the Narvik area is being pressed forward.

Two store convoys are on passage.

ARK ROYAL, escorted by CURLEW and 6 destroyers sailed from Scapa at 1615/4 to provide fighter protection in the Narvik Area.

There was only one report of enemy air activity in the Narvik area, when the Polish destroyer GROM was hit from a height of 15,000 feet and sunk.

Mosjoen, Mo, Bodo

ROYAL ULSTERMAN, escorted by MOHAWK, landed 300 troops and stores at Mo, 4/5. Operation was apparently unobserved.

Evacuation, Namsos.

Troops evacuated from the Namsos area arrived at Scapa. Serious casualties from BISON and AFRIDI were transferred to the French hospital ship SPHINX at Sullom Voe for passage to Scapa.

Submarine Operations

SEVERN reported that she had sunk the Swedish ship MONARK, 1786 tons off the Lister Light.

British Air Activity

In addition to the normal A/S patrols, a reconnaissance of the Dutch coast was carried out; no enemy activity observed. 4 aircraft completed a Security Patrol. 17 aircraft were engaged on special duty during the night of 4-5/5.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report. (contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

Very little activity during the day. Enemy aircraft continued their overnight operations off S. and S.E. Coast between 0400 and 0600, several reports being received of aircraft off the coast between Yarmouth and Beachy Head, and one report from 12' E.N.E. of entrance to R. Tees.

Two meteorological flights were carried out during the day, one in southern half of North Sea, other over the northern North Sea to a latitude of 61° N.

It is believed that between 2056 and 2118/4 enemy aircraft circling low between Fair Island and the Orkneys. Mine-laying is suspected.

General

It has been reported that the Norwegian submarine B.6 may be on passage to England.

The following ports are closed - Tees, Hartlepool, Blyth and Middlesbrough. Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne are open to demagnetised ships.

RAMILLIES and SUFFREN, with the second Australian and New Zealand Convoy, left Colombo pm/4 for Aden.

Movements

CARLISLE

Numbers returning in, chiefly ex BITTERN. (C.S.1, 2131/4).

VERDUN

French, sailed for Brest with Rear-Admiral Moreau. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1355/4).

Destroyer.

Submarines

Positions 0600/5 (D.C., 2237/4) (V.A.S. 1744/4)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

NARVIK

GROM

Sunk (see Air).

Allied Aircraft

Directions when approaching Narvik (F.O., Narvik, 1149/4).

Petrol, etc.,
for Aircraft

To arrive Narvik 11/5 and 12/5. Carriers will not be required to sail before 11/5. (V.C.N.S. to F.O., Narvik, 1919/4).

A.A. Defences

Your 2125/3. Destination of all convoys is at your discretion. ARK ROYAL and additional A.A. ships should reach you on Monday and situation as regards A.A. defence should then improve. You are no doubt taking steps to keep as many transports and supply ships out of the danger area for next 3 days. (D.O.D.(H). 1926/4 to F.O. Narvik.).

Landing Grounds

Adty 2208/2. Reconnaissance of Bardufoss and second promising site found at Skaanland shows neither of these landing grounds can be prepared by 12/5 on account of thaw and inadequate resources to clear snow and make extensions. Under adverse circumstances possible that neither of these aerodromes will be ready before mid-June. As enemy appears to be relying on float planes for operations Narvik area considered fighters on floats would be an adequate counter. Strongly urged F.A.A. or French float planes should be employed here at once to cover period until aerodrome can be suitably prepared. (F.O. Narvik, 2329/4).

Civil Supplies

Desired shortly to introduce regular supplies for civil population of Northern Norway. Intended that ships should be included in N.S. Convoys from Clyde for onward routing by F.O., Narvik to northern ports returning to base for homeward convoy. (D.T.D., 1949/4).

Operations (Contd.)

NARVIK "

Skjel Fiord,
Trawlers

Trawlers CAPE PASSARO, SAINT KENAN, SAINT LOMAN of 15th A/S S.E., ANGLE of 16th A/S S.F., arrived Skjel Fiord. After fuelling intend send 15th A/S S.F. to water at Lodington and then reinforce Øfot Bogen at full speed. (PENELOPE, 2141/4).

Bardufoss
Aerodrome

From Wing Com. Atcherly. Bardufoss now covered 3 feet snow. Will signal as soon as estimate can be made of time to put aerodrome serviceable. Suitable for Gladiators but for Hurricanes only with great care. (F.O., Narvik, 1005/3).

Stores, Mails

ROYAL ULSTERMAN to discharge stores, mails, personnel, etc., for Narvik area into GRAFTON at Mo. (F.O., Narvik, 1923/3).

I.S.T.D.C. Pier

Your 1947/1. Work is to be given first Priority. (Alterations to pier, required for Vaags Fiord). (D. of L.D., to A.S., Portsmouth 1928/4).

AANDALSNES, NAMSOS, (Personnel from).

Troops on passage

Details of troops in transports French ships EL DJEZAIR and EL KANTARA (C.S. 1, Glasgow, 2058/4).

Numbers

Troops evacuated from Molde and Aandalsnes area in LANCASTRIA, SOBIESKI and BATORY - numbers. (C. in C., H.F., 0031/4).

Glasgow Arrivals

Details and arrangements for troops arriving at Glasgow. (D. of S.T. to F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2058/4).

War Diary4.5.40.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSOperations (Contd.)

MOSJOEN, MO, BODO.

Sweep

Your 1725. Nothing located in Bodo, Salt Fiord or vicinity. Intend to sweep for Submarines mentioned in your 2301/3 from Tennholmen Light returning to Ofot Fiord about 0730 (BASILISK, 0114/4).

Landing Operation

Operation completed apparently unobserved. All stores, mails, etc., excepting those landed at Mo were transferred to SCOTT. Ships sailed for Scapa 0645 (MOHAWK, 2205/4)

Iceland - Operation ForkOrders

A force is being sent to Iceland (total 817 officers and men) including R.M. Battalion, R.M. howitzer crews, R.M. gun crews. Force to be self-contained and provided with one month's provisions. To embark Greenock a.m. Tuesday 7/5 in ships detailed by C. in C., H.F., stores being consigned to Greenock and marked Force ~~FORK~~. (D. of P. 1903/4). *[Landed on 10th - (p. 187)]*

Details of Naval Howitzer Section from Portsmouth to accompany R.M. Battalion. (D.T.S.D., 1904/4).

O.C.

Cash £3,000 to be handed to Colonel R.G. Sturges, R.M., O.C. Force ~~FORK~~, prior to sailing (D. of P. 1930/4). *"Fork"*

Allied SubmarinesTAKU

Unknown number of enemy merchant ships expected to pass through LKND 3205 south-bound today Saturday. TAKU proceed through this position and thence coastwise to Selbjorne Fiord. (R.A.S. 0706/4).

STURGEON

Cancel my 0706. Enemy ships now expected to pass JSND 3205 on way to Stavanger. STURGEON proceed to JSND 3000 (V.A.S. 0944/4)

ORZEL

(see Enemy Intelligence).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Allied Submarines (Contd.)

Minelaying
Programme

Minelaying programme proposed for NARWHAL, SEAL and PORPOISE. (V.A.S., 1859/4). Cancelled (0406/5).

TRIDENT

Patrol report 25/4 to 2/5. (S.2, 1145/4). Refers to attack and destruction of German merchant ship at 0926/2 in Langeness. Ship beached herself on Scorpa Island in Koss Fiord. Finished off with torpedo.

TRITON

Patrol report 26/4 to 3/5. (TRITON, 0011/4)

Convoys, Norway.

F.P.3

Your 1832/3. F.^P.3 expects arrive R.V. 2000 with escort of ECHO as S.O., /with C. in C., Norwegian Navy and Staff on board) WARWICK, WHIRLWIND, AMAZON, BRAZEN, French cruiser EPERVIER. Request instructions for escort. (ECHO to F.O. Narvik, 0358/4). Reply, (F.O., Narvik, 1003/4).

N.P.2, N.S.2,) N.P.3, N.S.3,)

Arrangements for (D. of P. 1804/4 to F.O. Narvik).

MASHOBRA

Arrangements to send R.M.F.U. and MNBDO pier in. (Hd. of M., to F.O., Narvik, 1856/4, amended 2335/4).

HKI

Your 2125/3. Destination of H.K.I. and all other convoys is at your discretion. (D.O.D.(H) 1926/4 to F.O. Narvik).

^v
JANUARY

Sailed with HK1 and will not join N.S.2 (F.O.C.O.S., 1532/4).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (contd.)

Norway - Intelligence

Information received from Norwegian crew of HE.115 re Lt. Comdrs. G. Villiers and H. Stoddart of British Consulate, Bergen, and their families, also 3 Norwegian Captains, Ulstrup, Milbye and Hauze who have lost their ships. (H.Q., C.C., 2300/4) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1307/4).

Comdr. Herve, Royal Norwegian Navy and Capt. Motzfeldo, Norwegian Air Force, to sail in CHOBRY and report CLAVER HOUSE p.m. 6/5. (D.O.D.(H) 1905/4).

Comdr. Hauze, R.N.N., has arrived at Lerwick in a fishing vessel and is being flown to Invergordon today. (O.C. 0039/4).

Comdr. Hauze and Lieut. Hansen arriving London 0745/5. (R.A., Invergordon, 1437/4).

B.6 Submarine

Norwegian submarine B.6 may be on passage from Sogne Fiord to an east coast port and may attempt to identify herself to a British warship. (H.Q., C.C., to 18 Group, 1625/4).

Norwegian Ministers

Norwegian Foreign Minister and Minister for Defence arriving Euston 0642 tomorrow. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2050/4).

Air.

British Aircraft

Recognition
Markings

Following signal sent to all R.A.F. Commands at Home and overseas begins X.485. 1/5/40 following recognition markings to be painted on all aircraft earliest possible moment. Fuselage roundels to be encircled with yellow strip of same width as existing blue circle. Vertical stripe of red white and blue of same width to be painted on fins repeat fins. Blue to be nearest rudder but clear of hinge. Ends. This applies to Fleet Air Arm aircraft. (Hd. of Air Branch, 2159/4).

British Air Activity

Attacks on Flak
Ships

Ref. N.L.D. 4/5 ASD/210 11/4. Further to Coastal Command Tactical Instruction No.7 photographs show that certain ships which may be operating as flak-ships and patrol vessels are equipped with circular gun platforms fore and aft. These platforms show up clearly and in themselves are sufficient to show that the vessel forms part of an enemy fleet. Attacks on any small vessels equipped with these circular gun platforms seen in the Heligoland Bight anywhere south east of the line joining Westerland (Sylt) to Borkum would be justified even though it did not open fire provided it started to take avoiding action or to fire identification signals. Captains of aircraft would be justified in attacking such ships under the conditions stated unless they carried neutral markings. (H.Q., C.C., 1632/4).

HOME COMMANDS

Air. (contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

Very little activity reported during the day, but intensive activity (probably minelaying) during the night of 3-4/5. The first phase took place between 2116/3 and 0104/4 in the Downs and Straits of Dover; the second between 0302 and 0338 from 50 miles east of Yarmouth to the Straits of Dover. Enemy aircraft were again reported between 0416 and 0614, one travelling between 50 miles E. of Yarmouth and 45 miles South of Beachy Head, and another crossing and recrossing the coast in the regions of Cromer and Lowestoft respectively.

Two meteorological flights took place over the North Sea during the forenoon, one covering the southern North Sea (possibly one of the last two aircraft mentioned above), the other covering the northern North Sea as far as 61° N.

Enemy naval aircraft were probably patrolling off the Norwegian coast during the morning, and there were further reports of the usual troop carrying activity (controlled by Utersen and Stade); flights between Hamburg, Neumunster and Oslo were reported.

During the afternoon enemy aircraft were engaged in reconnaissance in the northern North Sea and up the Norwegian coast. One aircraft reported sighting nothing in the region of Mosjoen, and another reported sighting nothing in approx. position 62:12 N., 0:25 E. (H.Q. Coastal Command, 1758/4).

Portsmouth

Enemy air attack is imminent at Portsmouth (Portsmouth W/T, 0521/4).

Narvik
GROM sunk

During air attack this morning off Narvik. Polish destroyer GROM sunk. (F.O. Narvik, 0905/4). Was bombed from a height of 15,000 feet. (see also p. 76)

It is believed that a torpedo was detonated and the ship sank in 5 minutes. One officer and 65 ratings missing. 151 survivors, including 11 seriously wounded. British ratings and the liaison officer were saved (D.C.N.S.).

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday

75

HOME COMMANDS

Air (contd.)

Suspected
Minelaying

Between 2056 and 2118/4, thirteen plots were received indicating enemy aircraft circling low between Fair Island and the Orkneys. Minelaying was suspected, but owing to the depth of water only cruisers and above were advised to avoid the Channel. Fighters were sent up arrived six minutes after the last plot and found nothing. (D.C.N.S.).

HOME COMMANDS

76

Air

GROM
Sunk

Hit from ¹⁵21000 feet, believed torpedo detonated and ship sank in 5 minutes. Lieut. (E) Krakowski and 65 ratings missing. All British ratings and liaison officer saved. 151 survivors, including 7 serious wounded, in RESOLUTION; 4 in AURORA (RESOLUTION, 1316/4) *See also p. 74.*

Dive-Bombing
Attacks

Detailed report of air attacks on 3/5. C.S. (C.S.I. 2122/4) J.U. 87 U's dive bombing from 10,000 feet in nearly vertical spiral dive releasing at 1,000 ft., angle of sight from target throughout more than 65°. Virtually impossible to engage with any existing weapons except Oerlikons. (C. in C., H.F., War Diary 1/5- 15/5. T.S.D 4587/40)

Shipping

Feeling of
Norwegian Crews

Master of s.s. EUTAMEUS reports that Master of a Norwegian ship at Liverpool informed him that all Norwegian ships in British ports would be scuttled if Allies evacuated Norway, as their crews fear that in such event Allies would seize all Norwegian vessels and forget Norway. Officer i/c armed guard which returned to Glasgow yesterday from France reports that the crew of Norwegian ship GYDA were communistically inclined and declared the wish to return to Norway to fight. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1629/4)

HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- ORZEL Report Your 1843/2. 9 floating mines sighted in same position for 3 days so presumed moored. Run approx. line 2 miles from coast between 58°33' N., and 58°45' N. Jaederens light buoy appears removed, small whistle buoy only remaining. (ORZEL, 0001/4 to R.A.S.)
- Channel Ports. Admiral Nord states he is stopping all traffic whether ships are demagnetised or not both in and out of Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne, until he has been able to carry out further sweeps to-day. (V.A. Dover, 0106/4.)
- New Magnetic Mines. Germans believed to have invented new type of magnetic mine which nullifies degaussing process. (Press Association report).
- A/C Mines. A/C mining is suspected in an area 3 miles radius from position 189° Fair Island 19 miles (I.C., 0441/40) (see Air).

Enemy Intelligence.

- Trondheim Area. Notes on Lights, U-boats, controlled minefields etc. Surface force believed to consist of captured Norwegian T.B. LAKS and possibly one German gunnery training vessel BRUMMER class and one damaged destroyer (C. in C. H.F. 0127/4, to CLYDE). Additional details (1740/4).
- Horns Reef. 5 vessels reported in line ahead in position 120 miles W. of Horns Reef light vessel at 0120/4, no course given. (I.C., 0440/40.)
- Minesweepers 5 M. Class German minesweepers have been sweeping up coast and in entrance to Stavanger to-day. Thought they have swept or sunk by gunfire mines reported in my 0001/4 (ORZEL, 2200/4).

Shipping

- Ports Reopened. Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne now open to demagnetised ships. (V.A. Dover 1201/4)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET 79

4.5.40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

CRAIG.

British 3683 - Halifax to Downs.
Stranded during fog off Egg I., N.S. -
Vessel broke in two parts - crew
saved. (Shipping Casualties Ref.
W.K. 1940. O.N. 145749).

4.5.40
SaturdayCASUALTIES & DEFECTS
Home Commands.

80

DANEMAN)
WELLARD) Damaged by grounding. Permanent repairs required. To sail for
BLACKFLY) Scapa p.m. 6/5. (PENELOPE 1801/4)

MAGICIENNE Danish, ashore at Peaths Bay. Crew landed safely. (C in C. Rosyth
0038/4)

GROM Polish destroyer, sunk (see Air)

New Zealand

HECTOR - (see Foreign Stations)
THORSHOV

4.5.40
Saturday

81

FOREIGN STATIONS
North Atlantic.

WARSPITE Route for, on passage through to Alexandria. (FOCNA 1110A/4)
 French Positions, convoys and Patrols, at 1300/5 (D.C.2355/4)
 Units.

South Atlantic

BULOLO H.M.S.BULOLO required to transport Gambia Company of Sierra Leone Battn., R.W.Africa Frontier Force, from Bathurst to Freetown. Programme. (C.in C.S.A.1310/4)
 PATELLA Asking for news of PATELLA (D.T.D.1200/4) Sailed from Freetown 30/4 for Pointe a Pierre (C.in C.S.A.2219/4)

Mediterranean

Polish Personnel Polish authorities have enquired whether: (a) In view of Mediterranean situation do you advise continuation of shipping of Polish Military personnel from Split and Athens to Marseilles, or would it be advisable to ship them to Beirut instead. (b) As regards Admiralty instructions regarding British ships in Mediterranean, can s.s.PATRIS still be used either in Marseilles or Beirut transport. (c) Do you approve chartering by Poles of an Italian ship which is available for additional use in this traffic. (N.A.Belgrade 1700/4)

Italian Submarines } Official movements due about 10/5. (S.O.I.Malta 2133/4)

Dispositions, CAPETOWN, DELHI AND CALEDON on patrol; OTUS, OLYMPUS 35° North, 20° East to Malta; NEPTUNE 34° North, 24° East to Alexandria; RESOURCE, WATERHEN, VENDETTA and VOYAGER 34° North, 24° East to Alexandria. (D.C.0817/5).

East Indies.

Danish Ships. Unrest in AFRIKA and ELEONORA MAERSK at Colombo and Bahrein. (C.in C.E.I. 1542/4)

FOREIGN STATIONS
America and West Indies

82

- Bermuda
Convoys Admty. 1950/2 (A.M.C. to join Bermuda Convoy Escort Force) Request
name of A.M.C. and other details. (C.in C.A.W.I., 2301/4)
- Curacao - My 1237/20 and 1118/21 - As no adverse reports received, it has been
Aruba decided allow 2 Norwegian tankers to load simultaneously at Curacao
and 2 at Aruba. (D.of S.T. and C.in C.A.W.I. 2222/4).

New Zealand.

- HECTOR - Request reply to 02152/26/4 from C.N.S. in LEANDER be addressed to
THORSHOV C.N.S. Wellington. Repairs to both ships in hand provisionally
estimated to complete 21/5. Master of Norwegian THORSHOV holds
H.M.S. HECTOR responsible for damage and intends to claim.
(C.N.S. Wellington 04462/4).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.
Home Commands.

83

MONARK Swedish.1786. Under German control, was sunk by SEVERN off the Lister Light. The Master signed a statement that the ship was taken by charter at Stavanger and was forced to proceed to Germany. Crew were transferred to a power boat in a calm sea and SEVERN took the German prize crew of 5 on board. (D.C.N.S.)

Mediterranean

SALZBURG Left Braila for Russia ^{3/5} (Galatz 1325/4)

ATLAS At Barcelona, have steam up, and are rumoured to be landing cargo
BELLONA and ready to sail night 4/5. (I.C.0441/40)

South Atlantic

MONTEVIDEO According to Press report of 3/5, the German appeal against Schroder's attachment of MONTEVIDEO at Rio Grande, Brazil, has succeeded. The Brazilian naval authorities have not yet been informed officially and maintain guard on board. (I.C.,0441/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U.S. 2.

Admty. 2304/3 and 2351/30/4. U.S. 2. ¹⁵ Will
leave Colombo 2300Z/4 for Aden. (C. in C.,
E.I. 0820Z/4)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

SAN TIBURCIO mined and torpedoed at 1955 in
position 4.2 miles 165° Tarbetness light
house. No lives lost.

Position not in the swept channel but route
was in accordance with sailing orders.
Report asked for why the route given was
selected. (R.A. Invergordon, War Diary,
T.S.D. 4153/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

85

Ships Attacked.

SAN TIBERCIO
Mined,
Sunk

British, 5995 tons, struck a mine at 2005/4, 4 miles S.E. of Tarbet Ness, Moray Firth, and sunk at 2137/4. Was in ballast, not degaussed. A/S trawler LEICESTER CITY was escorting her, from Scapa to Invergordon, but she was not in convoy. Crew saved. (LEICESTER CITY 2010/4, 2020/4, R.A. Invergordon 2145/4, C. in C. Rosyth 2147/4) Master of SAN TIBERCIO and Captain of LEICESTER CITY report they consider ship undoubtedly sunk by magnetic mine. (R.A. Invergordon 2340/4) (I.C. 0441/ says "mined or torpedoed").

Submarines Reported.

Believed dispositions:-

- One off Bleksvaer, 66° 43' N., 12° 50' E. Several more seem to be passing down the North Sea Homeward bound (I.C. 0440/40) (D.D.I.C. 1202/4)
- 1205 57° 20' N., 3° 00' E., 255° The Naze 1400, position indefinite.
- 1334 56° 10' N., 2° 30' E., 120° Buchan Ness 165°, position indefinite.
- 1638 58° N., 2° E., 076° Buchan Ness 140', position indefinite.
- 1537 55° 30' N., 2° E., 041° Flamborough Head 105', reliable position.
- 2215 Outside "Bliksvaar" (? Blekvaer, 66° 43' N., 12° 50' E., Norwegian report, course N.
- 0100 53° 00' N., 05° 35' W., about 15 m. E. from Wicklow Head. Reported by a merchant ship, doubtful. MONTROSE ordered to attack. (C. in C.W.A. 1139/4, 1301/4).
- 1713 My 1713 (reported S/M) Sweep out Carnarvon Bay on passage. (C. in C.W.A. 1906/4 to BULLDOG)
- 1120 D.F. reliable position, unknown enemy unit, probable U-boat, 55° 20' N., 2° 20' E., (D.D.I.C. 1238/4)
- 1500 Periscope sighted by Commodore of HGF 28A Convoy, 140° Portland Bill 35.* (C. in C.W.A. 2231/4)
* ARABIS ordered to position.
- 2301 54° 30' N., 4° 40' E., 310° Borkum 90', position reliable

4. 5. 1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Attacked.

86

1515

ARABIS, Corvette, attacking contact in 50°04' N., 02° 45' W.
203° Portland Bill 29'. WOLFHOUND joining ARABIS.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1749/4) (I.C. 0441/40)

Situation Report

87

Narvik Area.

Enemy air attacks are becoming intensified. The enemy appear to be relying on float-planes for operations in the Northern Areas, F.O., Narvik, considers that fighters on floats would be adequate to counter them, and urges that the Fleet Air Arm or French float planes should be used at once to cover the period till an aerodrome is ready. Mid-June has been mentioned as the earliest probable date for this aerodrome. EFFINGHAM brought down one, possibly two, enemy aircraft. ENTERPRISE was bombed, but not hit.

Convoy F.P.3 arrived, and the ships have been distributed - 3 French transports carrying Polish Brigade, with BRAZEN, AMAZON and WARWICK, to Tromso; 3 transports with French troops, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA carrying British A/A guns crews, etc. with ZULU, BASILISK and WHIRLWIND, to Tjeldsundet Fiord, in Vest Fiord.

The air liners CARIBOU and CABOT, which landed Rear-Admiral Lyster and his staff at Narvik, were unable to proceed further owing to lack of fuel. While at anchor they were attacked by enemy aircraft at 1845/5, with six casualties, and have been beached at Harstad.

Mosjoen. Mo. Bodo Area.

Mo and Mosjoen are occupied by our forces, and MOHAWK and ROYAL ULSTERMAN are returning to Scapa. Reinforcements to Mo and Mosjoen are on the way.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command ceased offensive operations in Norway until further orders. All aircraft are being kept in reserve against the event of hostilities breaking out in the Low Countries.

Situation Report (contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

Activity in the Narvik area, as indicated in para 1, became more intense during the day. A number of attacks were made by enemy float planes.

120 enemy troop carrying aircraft were supposed to be leaving Kastrup aerodrome, Copenhagen, for the Narvik area on the morning of May 5, but no further report confirmed this movement.

An enemy aircraft crossed the East Coast at Hull shortly after dark and was later reported to have been located over Bradford and Fleetwood. It returned on an easterly course and passed over Whitby before midnight. It is assumed that this aircraft may have visited Ireland in the course of its flight.

Submarine Activity - British.

NARWHAL reported that when in the Kattegat on the afternoon of May 1 she sighted an escorted convoy of 10 merchant vessels each of about 3,000 tons. She fired six torpedoes and heard four definite explosions. 75 depth charges were dropped, but the only damage apparently was to NARWHAL's periscope.

SEAL reported herself filling with water owing to damage from a mine or depth charge, and was making for Goteborg, Sweden.

Troops from Norway.

A large convoy of transports carrying the troops from Norway left Scapa for the Clyde, escorted by 4 British and 3 French destroyers.

German Merchantmen

There is still considerable speculation about the possible sailings of German merchantmen from various ports. It is again pointed out that for want of dry-docking, their speed is much reduced.

Situation Report (contd.)

U-Boat Campaign and Mining

While there is no change in the situation generally, it is considered that preparations are being made for a further wave of activity, in which mines will be dropped extensively along the East Coast by aircraft, and that U-boats will be employed in mine-laying in West Coast areas, and also for attacks on surface craft, to the North and North-West.

Home Fleet

General Signal

^{During} ~~to~~ the last 3 weeks you have been engaged upon two of the most difficult operations of war that naval forces are required to undertake. You may be proud that you have carried out these operations with the loss at sea of only about 12 officers and men of the Army in the face of heavy air attack. I am proud to command a Fleet that has shown itself capable of meeting the heavy demands made upon it with such determination and success. (C. in C., H.F., 1200/5).

Movements

18th C.S.

Flag of R.A. 18 transferred to SOUTHAMPTON at 0800/5. (R.A.18, 0802/5).

A/A Ships

Flag of R.A.C., A/A Ships, to be hoisted in COVENTRY 7/5 and struck in CARLISLE. (C. in C., H.F., 1540/5).

Scapa

Progress report - guns, balloons, hutting, booms, etc. (R.A. Scapa, 1222/5).

Submarines

Positions 0600/6. (D.C., 1918/5).

French Destroyers

LE If French contre-torpilleurs MILAN, TARTU and CHEVALIER PAUL proceed to Brest request communication retings in all ships and Comdr. Ruck-Keene in TARTU may be disembarked before sailing, also that signal publications and charts be withdrawn and kept ready for re-issue if ships return. (R.A.(D) 2221/5)

HOME COMMANDS

90

Operations

Narvik

R.-Admiral Lyster ^(Flying Boat) CARIBOU left Invergordon 0045/5 with Rear Admiral Lyster and staff and 4 R.A.F. passengers for Bodo. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0126/5 to F.O. Narvik).

Flying Boats
Attacked

Hear from Wing Comdr. Atcherley that both his flying boats heavily attacked today. Both now beached, six casualties, none dead. Expect bombing attack shortly to demolish planes. Names of machines CABOT and CARIBOU. (F.O., Narvik, 1503/5).

Enemy Reports

Reported that 120 troop carrying aircraft leave Denmark early today, Sunday, for Narvik. Also that land mines have been laid in and around Narvik. Reliability of reports cannot be assumed. (D.D.I.C. 0720/5) (British Minister, Stockholm, 1918/4, 0145/5).

Ice Conditions

Gulf of Bothnia free of ice as far north as Kvarken. Ice clearing very rapidly. Reports from Sweden indicate that Lulea is likely to be open to navigation about 15/5. (D.N.I. to F.O., Narvik, 2225/5).

Harstad

2 catamarans required for trawler. (N.O.I.C. Harstad 0935/5).

Float Planes

Lieut. Holford reports Harstad eminently suitable for float planes. Depot ship not immediately necessary but no facilities are available for major repairs. (R.A., Narvik, 1040/5). Request for MANELA (D.N.A.D. to Air Min., 1709/5).

Fuel

No oil fuel remaining at Skjel Fiord. Coal at Balmaha 800 tons. (PENELOPE, 1044/5).

Bardu Foss

Extensions may take 2 months. New site located at Skaanland. Details of work required. (Wing Comdr. Atcherley, 0045/5).

HOME COMMANDS

91

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Base Staff

Personnel required for Narvik, Harstad, Lodingen, and Skaanland. (F.O. Narvik, 1907/5).

Stores

Your 1214/3. Stores for Adm. Stephenson's party should be merged into stock for use as required. (D.O.D.(H) to F.O. Narvik, 1827/5).

DIANA

Left Skjel Fiord 2300/4 with 14 sick and wounded ex Gravdal Hospital and with oiler ALDERSDALE for Scapa. (PENELOPE, 0246/5).

Fighter Patrol Needed.

As bombing of Harstad and Narvik is becoming much intensified should be grateful for a fighter patrol over area as soon as possible. Large transports will be unloading in Lavangj Fiord 6/5. (F.O. Narvik, 2002/5). Fighter aircraft should be operated over Narvik area tomorrow if this is in any way possible. (D.O.D.(H) to V.A.A., 2339/5).

CAIRO

Request CAIRO be sailed for Narvik area to work under F.O., Narvik. (C. in C., H.F. to C. in C., Rosyth, 2103/5).

A/S Forces

Anti-submarine trawlers at Skjel Fiord, Ofot Patrol, Bogen Patrol and Harstad (PENELOPE, 1027/4 recd. 1721/5).

Mosjoen - Mo - Bodo

German Tanks etc.

From War Office to VETERAN for Col. Gubbins (on board ROYAL SCOTSMAN) - Reliable information shows that small number of German tanks might be able to use road Grong-Mo. In addition, while snow lasts ski troops can operate anywhere between road and Swedish frontier. Cover is good. Local Norwegian troops probably fishermen rather than skiers. Narrowest part and easiest to hold probably eastwards from Hemnes (south of Mo.) Important that no ferries from Elsfiord to Hemnes should be available for Germans if they succeed in getting tanks or vehicles up the road. (2152/5).

Enemy Aircraft

Take no further action with my 1110 (not received in Adty.) Enemy aircraft have left Bodo. (PENELOPE, 1441/5).

HOME COMMANDS

92

Operations - Namsos Evacuations

British

British force evacuated from Namsos sailed in transports REINA DEL PACIFICO and DUCHESS OF ATHOL. Returns from ships show total of 192 officers, 2,520 ratings and other ranks excluding some 30 casualties in hospital ships. Naval personnel include R.M. Howitzer Battery, whose guns are in GRIFFIN, and survivors of BITTERN, AFRIDI, and trawlers ST. CORAN, ASTON VILLA and GAUL. Other passengers 25 members of British Red Cross Unit. (C. in C. H.F., 2348/5).

French

French Force ex Namsos totalled approx. 3,020. Disposition in transports not known as French staff officers failed to report before sailing. Approx. figures: ^{PRESIDENT} DOUMER, 1040; D'JENNE, 320; EL DJEZAIR, 300; EL KANTARA, 260; EL MANSOUR, 1090. (C. in C., H.F. 2346/5).

Allied Submarines

TRITON

Reports 1st May, Hudson aircraft brought down into sea by 2 Messerschmitts off Imsa. Attempt to rescue crew forestalled by float plane. 3rd May, two M.V. sighted on passage from Karmsund to Kvidso, out of torpedo range. No surface patrols in Skudesnes Fiord and infrequent float plane patrols. Swept with asdic (MDU not fitted) for mines south of Imsa at entrance to Haasteens Fiord. Nothing detected at 2,000 yards. Dutch trawler DELFT investigated in position 58:01 N., 01:21 E., apparently genuine, fitted with W/T and D.F. (S.2, 1120/5).

Convoys. Norway

BALZAC)
CALUMET)

Adty. 1526/1 and 1503/3. Ships required at Narvik soon as possible. Should it be found that convoy is held back by META, latter should be detached with one of the escorting destroyers. (D.D.O.D., 1822/5).

H.K.1

Programme for oiler BRITISH GOVERNOR at Tromso, etc., (C. in C., H.F., 2104/5).

HOME COMMANDS

93

Operations - Iceland - Operation Fork.

BERWICK,
GLASGOW

BERWICK to sail for the Clyde at 1600/5, route via the Minches. Speed of advance 18 knots. On arrival to take GLASGOW under orders and carry out operation Fork in accordance with Adty. 1903/4 and any further instructions received. On return from this duty, BERWICK will be taken in hand for refit and turbine repairs, further signal about which will be made. (C. in C., H.F., 1157/5).

W/T

My 1903/4. Operation Fork. 2 W/T rations with 2 general purpose aircraft W/T sets with petrol generators from Signal School, Portsmouth, are to accompany force. (D.S.D. 1812/5).

M.N.B.D.O.

R.M. Artillery Force

Special train arrangements. Personnel from M.N.B.D.O. is now 7 officers and 124 other ranks. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2113/5).

Dutch Coast

GALATEA)
ARETHUSA)

May at your discretion be based on Dover. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., Nore, 1929/5).

Only 1 ship can be berthed at Dover at A buoy. Second could be berthed at Eastern Arm but is not recommended. (V.A., Dover, 2215/5).

As 2 cruisers have now been allocated to Nore Command, request information whether any arrangements that can be brought into force immediately whereby British and Dutch warships can establish their identity to each other. Recognition signal also necessary. Without such arrangements, operation of British naval forces on Dutch Coast would be very hazardous. Also essential to know the position of the Dutch minefields. (C. in C., Nore, 2208/5).

X.D.

Operation X.D. Port of embarkation of forces concerned has been changed from Chatham to Dover. Amended general idea and instructions will be forwarded. (D.O.D.(H) 1522/5 to C. in C., Nore, etc.).

HOME COMMANDS

94

Air.

British Air Activity

Reconnaissance Of Oslo Roads. 5 stationary ships seen. Reported not warships, but apparently armed as 1 aircraft sustained damage from flak fire. (H.Q., B.C., 0600/5, 1530/5).

Bunde Fiord, south of Oslo, 15 merchant ships anchored along the shore. (H.Q.B.C. 2350/5).

Security Patrol

By Wellingtons (H.Q.B.C., 0026/6, 0245/6, 0250/6, 0500/6).

Tasks for 6/5

Reconnaissance tasks for 6/5 in Norwegian waters. (Donibristle, 1655/5).

1 Hudson to reconnoitre Esbjerg (Bircham Newton, 1550/5).

Patrols for 6/5 (H.Q. Coastal Command, 1520/5).

Patrol Vessels Attacked

At 0427, aircraft bombed 2 patrol vessels in 55:00 N., 7:08 E. (43 West of List), but apparently scored no hits. (I.C., 0442/40).

British Aircraft

SUPPLEMENT

GLORIOUS, Hurricane Trials

Adty. 2010/2, 2012/2 and 1919/4. Intend to proceed as soon as there is sufficient wind to carry out deck landing trials with 1 Hurricane off Prestwick. Believed in GLORIOUS that without landing hooks Hurricanes ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~are~~ ^{are} useless in the hands of most experienced and skilful deck landing pilots will fail to make the deck. Observing that embarkation period is now extended till Saturday 11/5, suggest Hurricanes be crated and hoisted on board and re-erected. For this purpose additional Hurricane personnel would be required on board. GLORIOUS can stow 28 Hurricanes erected in the hangars in addition to 6 Gladiators and 6 Swordfish for ship's defence. (GLORIOUS, 1049/5).

Decided not possible to fly Hurricanes onto GLORIOUS. Now necessary to remove wings and hoist on board. (Air Min. 1815/5, D.N.A.D., 1708/5).

British Aircraft

Recognition To be painted on all F.A.A. aircraft.
Markings (Hd. of Air Branch. 1353/5) (see 4/5).

Enemy Air Activity

H.Q. C.C. 1700/5.

Enemy aircraft carried out reconnaissances and offensive action in the Narvik area during the morning, with but little success. Surface craft were also shadowed and attacked - from enemy reports these attacks were carried out on transports and naval craft, but without success.

There was also considerable activity of troop-carrying aircraft. It was first reported that 120 machines were leaving Denmark for some destination in Norway. Whilst this report cannot be confirmed, there has certainly been much movement between Western Germany to Norwegian areas of military importance. Aircraft on this service leave their bases, and, en route to their destinations, use Aalborg and Copenhagen (dependent upon the locality in Germany from which the troops are being carried), Oslo, and Trondheim, as intermediate stations.

The usual daily meteorological flight was active over the Southern North Sea, and Northern Dutch Coast. (H.Q., C.C., 1700/5).

EFFINGHAM Brought down 1 and possibly 2 enemy aircraft. (V.C.N.S.).

ENTERPRISE Unsuccessfully bombed, 2 casualties caused by a near miss. (V.C.N.S.)

5.5.1940
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

96

Mines Exploded. Paddle minesweepers report 2 mines exploded in sweeps, 1 mine swept (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2200/5).

Guns. My 2017/3. Two Cerlikon guns should be fitted in each trawler. (D.M.S. to A.C.O.S. 1146/5) (Refers to RUNSWICK BAY and SATA).

Minelaying. Operation D.M.L. 9 line D. two completed. (V.A. Dover, 1829/5 1949/5).
Operation B.S.2. postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1920/5).

Mines Exploded. One in Tees Bay, one near Boulogne.
Three moored mines cut off Norfolk Coast. (V.C.N.S., 245).

Submarine
Minelaying
Programme. My 1859/4, minelaying programme for NARWHAL, SEAL and PORPOISE. Propose A be cancelled, B be carried out by NARWHAL about 10/5, and C remain unchanged. Now preferred that both B and C should be flooders. (V.A.S. 1018/5) Approved (D.D.O.D.(M) 1905/5).

? 1965

Enemy Intelligence.

Aircraft for
Narvik. (See Narvik).

Transport. D.F. at 0932 B.38, unidentified enemy unit, probably transport, 57°40'N., 10°30'E, unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1049/5).

Enemy Ships. A/c reports at 0510/5 1 cruiser observed in L.S.J.V. 4113, stationary (this is doubtful I.C. 0441/40); 4 large merchant ships about 7,000 tons in Norderney Harbour; 20 - 30 small vessels in harbour E. of Heligoland. (C. in C. Nore, 0921/5).

Oslo. At 0100, 5 merchant ships were reported by A/c in the entrance to Oslo Roads (I.C. 0441/40).

5.5.1940
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

97

Enemy Intelligence (Continued).

Oslo (Continued). At 0040, 12 merchant ships were reported by A/c anchored off Bygdo, Oslo, some apparently armed (I.C.0442/40). At 0054, 15 merchant ships were reported by A/c anchored in Bunde Flord, south of Oslo (I.C.0442/40).

Submarine Traps. Norwegian Naval authorities at Tromso report Germans in Trondheim have placed large orders for floating buoys with Crnes Mechanical Workshop and also wire nets. They presume this means preparation of submarine traps on a large scale. (F.O. Narvik, 1422/5).

Shipping.

Convoys. Situation 2000/5 (C. in C. W.A. 1352/5)
Ocean Convoys, positions (D.C. 1814/5).

Ports Open. Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne are now open to all traffic also Hartlepool and Tees, after intense sweeping. Blyth is still closed. (V.C.N.S.245).

Miscellaneous.

Solent Traffic Control. Admiralty letter M.05927/40 of 16/4/40. Considered essential to institute a more stringent form of traffic control in Solent forthwith. Hulk urgently required fitted with gate signals, R/T and detecting apparatus. Old trawler unfit for sea would meet requirements (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2343/4, recd. 1310/5)

WEATHER.

<u>0500 B.S.T.</u>	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>	<u>Outlook.</u>
North Sea.	Light, variable in W., Moderate easterly in E.	Poor to moderate in W., good in E.	Similar.
Channel.	Light, northerly.	Poor to moderate.	Similar.

5.5. 1940.
Sunday.

98

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

WEATHER (Continued).

<u>0500 B.S.T.</u>	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>	<u>Outlook.</u>
W. Approaches	N.W. Moderate.	Good	Sea fog, becoming widespread.
Horns Reef.	No reports, probable easterly fresh.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
W. Coast Norway.	Light, southerly	Good, mist in fiords.	Freshening winds.

Contraband Control - Sweden.

Importance of allowing Swedish ships through the blockade with goods of purely Swedish origin destined for neutral countries, especially North and South America and return of such ships to Swedish ports with goods such as coal and phosphates which are necessary for Swedish economy (Mr. Mallet (Stockholm) No. 474 5/5).

Soviet pressure on Estonia

to grant them long lease of islands (?Nai)ssaar, Karl and Aigna which command entrance to Tallinn (Mr. Le Rougetel (Moscow) No. 197 5/5)

WAR DIARY.

SECRET.

5.5.1940.
Sunday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

99

Home Commands.

(25 miles W. by N. of Goteborg)

SEAL

My position MBAQ 4711. Submarine filling with water, stern to 129 bulkhead, caused by mine or depth charge. F.D.7 laid in 57°33'30" N., 11° 35' 30" E. Confidential books destroyed. No casualties. Am making for Swedish coast and will try for Goteborg. (SEAL, 0150/5) Was employed on minelaying operation in the entrance to the Kattegat.

FAULKNER

wreck
Have struck/Rombaks Fiord, 68° 27.1' N., 17° 38.7' E. No damage except A/S dome and directing gear out of action. Ship requires docking (Capt. (D) 8, 1714/5).

HUNTER.

(Sunk Narvik 10/4). 43 survivors interned at Gunmarn, in Vasterbotten, North Sweden. (Stockholm received 2053/5.)

ULYSSES.

Reported refloated after grounding. (Press telegram 1245/6)

EAST INDIES.

COCKCHAFFER.
Gunboat.

Fractured port propeller shaft and lost propeller. Is being towed from Bombay to Basra by H.M.I.S HINDUSTAN (C. in C.E.1 0758Z/5)

WAR DIARY.

5.5.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

100

South Atlantic.

COMORIN.

Has been transferred to America and West Indies Station in accordance with your 2155/13/4 and my 1005/18/4 and no action to comply with your 1234/4 can be taken by C. in C.S.A. (C. in C.S.A. to Admiralty 1400/5)

China.

Japanese Training Squadron.

Japanese Naval Attache, London, informed that Admiralty regret that in present circumstances not possible to accord to Japanese Training Squadron such facilities and entertainment as this occasion would demand, and that visit would better be postponed for present. (Hd. of M. 1009/5 to C. in C. China).

East Indies.

RANCHI

Ref. C. in C.E.1's 1747Z/2 (RANCHI to proceed to Mombasa). Ship arrived 0600/5. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0321/5).

U.S.2.

Convoy sailing telegram. Escort, RAMILLIES, KENT and SUFFREN (N.C.S.O. Colombo 0005Z/5).

America and West Indies Station.

HX41.

In view of abnormal number of ships Vice Commodore and staff should be sailed from Halifax with this convoy. (D.T.D. to C.O.A.C. Halifax 1549/5).

5.5.1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

101

North Atlantic.

RUDOLF ALBRECHT. Tanker, expected to sail shortly from
St. Miguel, Azores (I.C., 0442/40)

America and West Indies.

ESTE
HENRY HORN

Still under embargo at Curacao. HENRY HORN
received 50 tons of Diesel oil and 50 tons
of gas oil on 29/4. (S.O.I. Kingston 1128/5)

China.

FRIEDERUN.

At Menado, Celebes Islands, has been
reattached at the instance of a British firm.

5.5.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's Reported.

- 102
- Estimated dispositions. No reliable indications of any changes. (D.D/C 1159/5).
- 0005 Suspicious schooner rigged vessel possibly disguised S/M reported off Castle Bay Basse 0005 to-day. (C. in C. Rosyth 0229/5)
- 0825 Entrance to R. Ems, reliable position (I.C.0441/40)
- 1045 A/C reported periscope 57° 15' N., 01° 56' W. (off Aberdeen) (C. in C. Rosyth 1222/5)
1 Anson ordered to attack (Donibristle, 1250/5)
- 1427 By A/C JSHN 4404. Large patch oil with heavy scum. No size of U-boat (H.Q.C.C.1700/5)
- 1106 S/M reported at Buvaagen, 68° 09' N., 15° 27' E. (PENELOPE, 1106/5).
- 1603 Norwegian report, 1 S/M observed outside Moholman, West Fiord. 68° 09' N., 14° 25' E. (PENELOPE 1631/5)
- 2030 Report from trawlers (doubtful) 55° 42' N., 07° 24' W., 25 m. N.N.W. from Malin Head, Co. Donegal (343° Tuishtyahull 18').
- 0515 By WESTON, further attack in daylight (no position given) No results. (WESTON 0515/5).
- 2133 VALENTINE attacked contact possible S/M 3 patterns no sign on surface in position 52° 07' N., 1° 52' E. WESTON to remain until further orders, VALENTINE proceeding with convoy. (VALENTINE, 2133/5) Asdic operator reports water discharge noise 3 seconds duration at 2139. (VALENTINE, 0951(6) Doubtful (I.C.0442/40)

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report.

103

Narvik Area

In a signal to F.O., Narvik, at noon, V.A.A. indicated the necessity of refuelling his destroyers. PENELOPE reported that no oil fuel remains at Skjel Fiord, and the oiler BROOMDALE, part of Convoy H.K.1, is not expected to arrive for another day.

The flying boat CABOT was refloated, but enemy aircraft located and destroyed it at 0110/6. CABOT and CARIBOU must now both be written off.

FAME has relieved Capt. (D) 8 as Senior Officer of destroyers in the West Fiord area. The following are present under his orders - ZULU, BEDOUIN, WHIRLWIND, BASILISK, VANSITTART, WARWICK and BLYSKAWICA. FAULKNER (damaged), HESPERUS and WREN sailed for the United Kingdom.

BALSAC and COXWOLD, of Convoy N.S.2, with stores on the way to Narvik, grounded in the Minches during the night of 6th, but were refloated and ordered to Scapa and Loch Eire respectively.

Mosjoen - Mo Area.

A report from the Norwegian Legation in Stockholm stated that German motorised troops were already in Mo, and that over 100 troop-carrying planes had proceeded towards Narvik. It was also reported that neither the railway from Namsos to Mosjoen nor the road were destroyed, nor prepared for demolition.

Enemy air activity.

Little important activity. Coastal patrols off the Norwegian coast appeared to be maintained, and there were indications of enemy air reconnaissance during the forenoon in Narvik area, German air activity is increasing and the enemy appears to shadow movements of our surface vessels continually.

There was continued troop carrying activity by enemy aircraft operating from air bases in Denmark to points in Norway. It is thought that supplies and reinforcements are being conveyed by this means to the enemy in Narvik. (I.C., 0443/40).

British Air Activity

Usual patrols were flown.

Situation Report (contd.)

A/A Armament.

A report from R.A.(D), Home Fleet dated 5/5 states that the A/A armament of destroyers must be considered inadequate for modern needs. Four additional Oerliken guns would at least enable destroyers to fire at more than one aircraft at a time. C. in C., Home Fleet, to-day made further recommendations on this subject, stating that if necessary a portion of the torpedo or low-angle gun armament of destroyers must be sacrificed. (V.C.N.S. 246).

Movements

Escort of
French ships

to Brest. Admiral MONTCALM concurs in 1235/5 (C. in C., H.F. 1727/6).

Admiralty
Oilers

for Scapa not to be delayed awaiting escort. To be sailed independently if necessary. (D.T.D., 1811/6).

Operations - Narvik.

CAIRO

To proceed Narvik, route. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1103/6).

Fuel

No oil fuel remaining Skjel Fiord. Coal in BALMAIA unloading. (PENELOPE, 0943/6).

A.L.C.'s

Beg that all available A.L.C.'s. up to 12 may be sent immediately direct to Narvik and that I may be informed if and when they may be expected. (F.O. Narvik, 1209/6). Your 1209/6. All effective A.L.C.'s and M.L.C.'s were sent you in CYCLOPS and EMPIRE ABILITY. No more available until about third week in May. (D.O.D.(H)/6).

Minefield

Adty. 0017/2. Intend to lay surface minefield to protect southern entrance of Tjeldsundet and Ofot Fiords (details). (R.A., Narvik, 1430/6, 1435/6).

HOME COMMANDS

105

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Base Staffs

At Harstad, Lodingen etc. Re. 0026/1, 2301/1 (F.O., Narvik, 1907/5).

CALCUTTA
PENELOPE

To sail when ready to Skjel Fiord to provide A.A. protection to the westward as far as long. 01° E. if practicable to PENELOPE who may be ready to sail 8/5 probably in tow of BANDIT and BUCCANEER and also for similar portion of route to Convoy N.S.2. Return to Scapa on completion, affording A.A. protection to any convoy that may be sailing from Narvik area at that time. (C. in C., H.F., 1542/6).

Request PENELOPE sailed as soon as possible with escort of 4 destroyers. (C. in C., H.F. 1608/6).

Bardufoss
Aerodrome

For air Min. from Wing Comdr. Atcherley:- Norwegian Army Squadron insists on sharing Bardufoss. Apart from congestion consider this most undesirable. Tension resulting from evacuation of south still exists. Norwegian staff suggest we reform and re-equip their Army Squadrons in England immediately. Consider excellent solution. (F.O. Narvik, 1545/6).

COVENTRY

To sail 8/5 to Sullom Voe to refuel and thence to Narvik area following route ordered for CHOBRY. If this ship overtaken, remain to give her A.A. protection to destination and then as required by F.O., Narvik. (C. in C., H.F., 1620/6).

Harstad,
Float-planes

Your 1040/5. Is it possible to operate floatplanes from beaches at Harstad or must they be moored out. (D.N.A.D. 1808/6 to R.A., Narvik).

Operation

BISHOP "Bishop"
(H/c for Narvik)

My 2015/1. Now confirmed that 18 Rocs and 9 Swordfish as float planes and 6 Walrus will form the force, together with approx. 60 officers and 400 men. Force will operate from Harstad initially. Arrangements for stores and ammunition. Flying and squadrons maintenance personnel and aircraft sail in GLORIOUS on 12/5, remainder of personnel in MANELA on 11/5. Reserve aircraft leave in FOSSBECK about 15/5. MANELA as accommodation ship. Code name of this operation is

BISHOP. (D.N.A.D. 1939/6).

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Composition of force to operate from Harstad (D.N.A.D. 1939/6). Adty. 1808/6. Float planes must be moored out. (F.O., Narvik, 2317/6).

Bardu Foss
Aerodrome

In view of reports on Bardu Foss it has now been decided to transport F.A.A. floatplanes force in GLORIOUS, sailing as soon after 12/5 as possible. FURIOUS will be required to transport an R.A.F. Gladiator Squadron of 16 as soon as ready. FURIOUS will proceed to northward of Narvik and be ready to land Gladiators as soon as aerodrome is reported ready for use. If it is subsequently decided to transport a Hurricane squadron, the aircraft will be hoisted on board and not flown on (D.N.A.D. 1810/6 to C. in C., H.F.).

Aircraft
approaching
Narvik and
Harstad

Course to be taken (Air Min. 1725/6).

A.A. Guns

Requesting number of 8-in Oerlikon A.A. guns you could mount in H.M. trawlers in your command (D.T.S.D. to F.O. Narvik, 1950/6).

HILLSEA
WOOTTON

Southern Railway car ferries. Inquiring whether they are suitable to make passage to Narvik and take part in operations there (D.O.D.(H) 2009/6 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Local
Administration

Requesting arrangements with Norwegian Govt. re policy and administration for billeting, hire of ground, use of trucks, control of labour and payment. (For Mr. Lascells from Foreign Office). (D.O.D.(H) to F.O. Narvik, 2257/6).

Situation

(From War Office for Rupert Force): Intelligence Report to 1800/6. Our appreciation is that Germans are likely to push forward on all preparations with a view to early relief of Narvik and that meanwhile air attacks will continue. (D. of P., 2234/6 to F.O. Narvik).

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Aircraft
Carriers

Your 1415/5. Primary patrol area Tjeldslinden. Subsidiary area (1) Bogen, Narvik, (2) Harstad. Enemy aircraft apparently operate at about 13,000 ft. (F.O. Narvik to V.A.A.C. 0932/6).

Destroyers

FAME has relieved Capt. (D)8 as S.O., Destroyers in West Fiord area. 9 destroyers (including Polish BLYSKAWICA) under his orders. (Capt.(D)8 1700/6).

Convoy

Your convoy is required at Harstad earliest date possible but time of arrival must be 2100. Report first date you can do this. Two batalions are to land here. (F.O. Narvik to ECHO, 1403/6).

Flying Boats
Destroyed

Milson, Norway, reports CABOT refloated last night and towed to inconspicuous anchorage but located and destroyed 1100 hours bay side. Request assistance to evacuate crews of CABOT and CARIBOU. Enemy air activity increasing. Enemy intelligence appears good. Reconnaissance proceeding. Requires money for living expenses and transport. Request F.O., Narvik, assist in the evacuation of crews and provide Wilson with £100. (Air Min. to Adty. 1901/6).

Mosjoen - Mo - Budo.

German Moves

For D.M.1. Norwegian Legation reports German motorised troops already in Mo, and over 100 troop-carrying planes proceeded towards Narvik, some probably carrying food. Norwegian officer from Namsos reports neither railway nor road Namsos-Mosjoen was destroyed nor prepared for demolition. President Hambro has information that 200 German sailors in uniform have arrived Murmansk. He believes another is in preparation to seize Kirkenes where 4,000 men are now employed in iron fields. (Military Attache, Stockholm, no T.O.O., recd. 1745/6).

French
Troops

ULSTER PRINCE to embark French troops, approx. 100, recently landed at Mosjoen by JANUS and return them to Clyde. ROYAL SCOTSMAN is also to return to Clyde.

Guns

Request one escorting destroyer now with ULSTER PRINCE and ROYAL SCOTSMAN transfer the 2 Bofors guns, and crews from Mosjoen to.....

Operations - Mosjoen - Mo - Bodo (Contd.)

Guns
(contd.)

to Mo. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., H.F., etc., 1858/6).

Troops for Bodo

ROYAL ULSTERMAN to arrive Leith not later than a.m. 8/5 to embark about 450 troops and 200 tons stores for passage to Bodo, sailing from Leith p.m. 10/5 (D.O.D.(H) 1856/6).

Bodo (Operation ^{*SCISSORS*} ~~SCISSORS~~)

Troops.

To leave Leith about 10/5 in ROYAL ULSTERMAN for Bodo. Total approx. 39 officers 4520 R's 250 tons supplies in same ship or following shortly (D. of P.1809/6, Gen. Massy to Col. Gubbins in ROYAL SCOTSMAN).

Iceland - Operation Fork.

Destroyers

2 destroyers to accompany BERWICK. (C. in C., H.F., 0921/6) FEARLESS and FORTUNE detailed (R.A.D., H.F., 1216/6). Orders to BERWICK (C. in C., H.F., 1009/6).

Aircraft

If temporary arrangements for fuelling and maintenance can be made, you should consider leaving one Walrus from BERWICK and one from GLASGOW in Iceland at the disposal of Colonel Sturges. Possible facilities may exist at Vatnagardar near Reykjavik as a seaplane station or at Kaldadarnes, 63:56 N., 21:10 W. as a landing ground. (D.N.A.D., 1935/6).

Operations - Submarines

? SEAL

Press report German destroyer disabled British submarine with depth charge at noon 5/5 outside Vinga. Crew of submarine embarked in destroyer which then took submarine in tow and proceeded to southwards. (N.A., Gottenburg. 1217/6).

Patrol Positions

My 1524/6. Submarines are to proceed patrol positions as follows:-

STURGEON,	between latitude	53:40	and	53:30.
TRIAD,	"	"	"	53:20.
CALYPSO (Fr.)	"	"	"	53:10.
SNAPPER	"	"	"	53
SEAWOLF	"	"	"	52:50.
SHARK	"	"	"	52:40.

STURGEON to operate in A 5 West of 04:10 E., TRIAD, CALYPSO, SNAPPER, SEAWOLF, SHARK to operate East of 04° E. French submarines AMAZONE and DORIS to operate between lat. 53:10 and 53, and 53 and 52:50 respectively, and between long. 03:15 E. and 03:50 E. Submarines operating in 8 positions referred to above are not to attack other submarines unless definitely known to be hostile, and attacks are to be confined to enemy warships, merchant ships only being attacked if they are escorted by enemy warships. (R.A.(S), 1908/6).

Movements

After sunset today, following movements to take place:-

TAKU to MBRU. French submarines LA SIBYLLE and ANTIOPE to Harwich route as ordered by Capt. S.10. French CALYPSO to H.1. TRIAD from Rosyth to Northern half of N.2, SNAPPER to southern half of H.2, STURGEON to A.5. (R.A.(S), 1524/6, Capt.(S)10, 1701/6).

Positions

0600/7 (D.C. 1945/6, V.A.S. 1819/6).

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

110

Convoys - Norway.

N.S.2

Sailed 0230 for Narvik - MASHOBRA, BALZAC, CALUMET, COTSWOLD, escorted by JAVELIN, JACKAL, BRESTOIS and BOULONNAIS. Route. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0239/6).

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

111

British Air Activity.

Esbjerg Reconnaissance report (A.C.H.Q.Chatham 0740/6)

Stavanger Heavy attack to be made on Stavanger aerodrome tonight with object of reducing likely scale of attack on Narvik. Security patrols and "G" reconnaissance should continue.
(Air Ministry to Bomber Cmd. 1225/6)

Security Patrol By Wellingtons. (H.Q., B.C.0026/6, 0250/6, 0500/6)

NURNBERG See Enemy Intelligence.
cruiser to be
attacked.

Balloon At present much too thin. Proposals.
barrage, (A.C.O.S.1141/6)
Scapa Flow.

Air Searches For 7/5 (C.in C.Rosyth 1930/6.

M/O.D.1145/40 Proposed that a/c's of 821 or 823 Sqdns. carry out this operation (Head of M.1849/6)

~~Winkle~~ ^{Winkle}
"WINKLE" F/206 on "~~WINKLE~~" reports no enemy activity observed (Chatham A.C.H.Q.0718/6)

Re 1400/28/4 Second combat reported; one of our a/c's shot down (GLORIOUS 1600/6)

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy a/c's Reports received show that in last three weeks destroyer. A.A. gunfire of H.M.Ships has accounted for at least 30 enemy aircraft. This is great improvement on previous results, and if we can double the number of aircraft shot down for the same number of rounds, we shall be well on way to making bombing attacks on ships unprofitable. (1st S.L. 2103/6)

WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.6.5.1940.
Monday.Operations - Narvik.HUNTER Survivors

Swedish Foreign Office confirmed HUNTER survivors will be released rather than interned because Germans originally freed them at Narvik. Press A.S.D. Stockholm. 1758/6.

Convoys - Norway
F.S.S.

Arrived 1600/6. (F.O., Narvik, 1911/7).

A I REnemy Air Activity

Precautions, depth
charges.

Consider depth charges in A/A cruisers a considerable danger in present circumstances owing to possibility of their being hit by high velocity splinters. Propose they should be disembarked. (CARLISLE, 1120/6)

Destroyers' A/A
Armaments.

Lessons learned from enemy air attacks during last six weeks. Tendency to attack vessels with weaker A/A armaments. New dive-bombing technique. Enemy aware of limitations of A/A armaments in destroyers. Propose strengthening, also R.A.F. support in naval operations. (C. in C. H.F. 1001/6, R.A.D's 2330/5, Home Fleet War Diary. T.S.D. 4587/40).

Casualties and Defects.LILY (Danish).

Missing. No information since 25/4 when she left Kirkwall for Preston. Armed Guard on board (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1820/6).

WAR DIARY

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining.

6.5.40.
Monday 113

Mines 1 magnetic mine was exploded off N. Foreland
found. and a total of 8 were found in the WOULD. Four
had been destroyed (VCNS)

Narvik (See Narvik)
operation (Extension to the East Coast Mine Barrier) To be
B.S.2 carried out 7/5 (PRINCESS VICTORIA 0915/6)

Magnetic sent to drop approx. 131° Fixed Red Light Inner West
Mine Pier one cable. Parachute recovered, divers have
so far failed to determine whether mine present
(NOIC Blyth 2045/6)

Minelaying
Off Sogne
Fiord. By PORPOISE. Orders. Date of laying about
1515 (R.A.(S) 0128/6)

Danish Ship Flags. My 1931/2, paragraph 3, should read, "Danish ships being conducted to an Allied port will wear Allied ensign at the fore in addition to Danish flag. After requisitioning or adjudication they will wear Allied flag only". (Hd. of M. 1534/6 1535/6)

DELFT Dutch Trawler, asking whether he can confirm that ~~she~~ was fishing near $58^{\circ} 1' N 1^{\circ} 21' E$ on 4/5 (DNI 2258/6 to N A Hague)

Permitted countries. Belgium to be added to the list in 1835/21/4 (Hd. of M. 1929/6)

Enemy Intelligence.

BERGEN
Bergen.

Information from Master of Norwegian ELNAEC at Kirkwall who was in Bergen until 4/5. Camouflaged light cruiser on west side of West Pier, one minelayer carrying 2 seaplanes near to North entrance, and seaplane base. Master of Latvian EVERALDA who left Murmansk 28/4 reports a large German ship lying there loaded with phosphates. (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 2802/6). Possibly the cruiser was the BREMSE (Gunnery training ship) and the minelayer an A/C recovery vessel of HANS ROLSHOVEN type (IC 0443/40)

Convoy attacked by NARWHAL

1825/1, in $57^{\circ} 31' N 11^{\circ} 8' E$. 10 Merchant ships under surface vessel and air escort. 4 definite explosions heard, perhaps 2 more. NARWHAL was then hunted till 2100, 75 d.C'S; periscope damaged. Enemy shipping and air activity in East Skagerrak and Kattegat in tense 4/5. Escorts are miscellaneous collection of small craft, patrol vessels drop d.C'S at random all day (NARWHAL 1545/5)

Cruiser off Norderney

Cruiser of NURNBERG class reported 1915/6 close to Norderney A/C was chased by 1 enemy A/C, so did not attack. Returned to base to report, owing to W/T failure. (Chatham Broadcast 2115/6). If this report is correct, a channel must have been dredged between Norderney and Juist. (I.C. 0443/40)

Kiel Canal

On 3/5 the Captain of an Estonian vessel was informed the Kiel Canal was closed to neutral shipping (I.C. 0442/40)

German lights in Baltic.

Germany has broadcast that German lights in Western Baltic west of $12^{\circ} 25' E$ will be permanently extinguished and only shown on request. Until further notice no reliance can be placed on the burning of Kielsnor light (S extremity of Langeland). (Scapa W/T 1253/6)

Cruiser to be attacked

(See Cruiser off Norderney, above) 19 A/C's to bomb cruiser of NURNBERG class, reported anchored between Norderney and Juist, 5 A/C's to provide guard over target until bombing by first 10 A/C's completed. (ACHQ Chatham 2330/6).

6.5.1940
Monday 115HOME COMMANDS
Miscellaneous.

Scapa Defences Your 1208/2 (provision of A/T baffles to protect fleet anchorage at Scapa). Boom work at Scapa already given increased priority at the expense of other ports. Steps now being taken to keep number of boom vessels up to maximum possible and to despatch additional A/T baffle material from Rosyth. Request you arrange with A.C.O.S the priority to be given to providing protection against submarine, M.T.B. and torpedo bomber attack in order that boom work may proceed accordingly. Meanwhile, presume consideration has been given to possibility of providing some protection to heavy ships by suitable berthing of light craft for A/A fire and auxiliaries as baffles. (D.B.D. to C.in C., H.F. 1541/6)

AA guns for Lerwick. Ready to sail from Aberdeen pm/10 in HORSAL, also 370 military personnel in LOCHNAGAR (D.O.D.(H)1940/6)

German torpedo. 68°27'N 17°3' E. Not yet recovered owing to continual bombing. (Captain D 8 1204/6)

D.C's in A.A. Cruisers. Proposing that depth charges in AA cruisers be disembarked owing to danger in present circumstances of being hit by high velocity splinters. (CARLISLE 1120/6).

WEATHER.

	Wind.	Weather.	Visibility.
North Sea	S.moderate veering W.& N.W., moderate.	Rain spreading from west, showers later.	Generally moderate, improving with wind veer.
Horns Reef. Channel.	N.E.Moderate. Light and variable.	Cloudy. Cloudy with some coastal haze at first.	Moderate or good. Moderate.
Western Approaches.	N., moderate.	Cloudy.	Good.
Norwegian Coast. 58° - 64°N.	S., moderate.	Becoming overcast with rain later.	Moderate.
64° - 70°N.	S.-S.W.light to moderate.	Fine and cloudy.	Good.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

H.M.S. LOCH NAVER M/S Trawler, sunk in position 260° from
20 Buoy after collision with unknown ship.
Crew safe on board BREDA.
(BRED A, 0140/6, 0155/6).

SEAL See S/M's.

Overdue ships. The following have arrived:-
PATELLA, FRUMENTON, AMBERTON, PETERTON,
SCOTTISH TRADER, LANGLEHORSE, STANWELL.
(T.D.No.53)

SECRET.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
North Atlantic.

6.5.1940.
Monday.

French Forces. Positions, Convoys and Patrols, 1200/6 (D.C.0453/6)

Ocean Convoys. Positions etc., (D.C.1817/6)

Spanish Ships Your 1316/4, (Spanish armed trawler escorting Spanish merchant ships CASTILLO FIGUERAS and CASTILLO COCA). Under present political conditions it was considered inadvisable to carry out this procedure. Both vessels are normally engaged in coastal trade only. CASTILLO FIGUERAS entered Ceuta and subsequently arrived Algeciras (F.O.C.N.A., 1024/6 to Admiralty).

Fuel, U.S. Ships Fuel from Admiralty; stocks may be supplied to U.S.A. warships if a request is received. (D. of Stores to F.O.C.N.A., 1806/6)

Mediterranean.

C. in C. Flag of C. in C. Mediterranean, has been transferred to a ship of the 1st Battle Squadron, at Alexandria. Cancel my 1715/2 (transfer of office from Malta to Alexandria) as from 0800/6 (C. in C. Mediterranean, 0127/6)

Positions

RESOURCE, STUART, VAMPIRE, 32°N 29°E to Alexandria.
WATERHEN, VENDETTA, VOYAGER, 36°N 16°E to Malta.
OTUS, OLYMPUS, 36°N 15°E to Malta.
WARSPITE, VELOX, VORTIGERN, KEPPEL, 36°N 2°W to Alexandria.
DOUGLAS, WRESTLER, 36°N 4° W to Gibraltar.
(D.C.0945/6)

Spanish Fleet. Composition and distribution (D.N.A. Madrid 1921/6).

French Battleships.

Our decision that as the situation had not deteriorated WARSPITE was to proceed straight through to Alexandria has led to a slight misunderstanding with the French, which, however, I now feel sure has been cleared up satisfactorily.

WAR DIARY.

6.5.40.

118

Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.(contd)
Mediterranean.(contd)

French Battleships

You will see from A.M.1315/6 that French do not appear in any hurry for their battleships to return to Western Mediterranean. In order to improve our relations with them and incidentally to improve the state of affairs referred to in paragraph 2 of your 1327/19 I think it most desirable that you should propose some tactical exercises with the French battleships so as to try out the new Allied tactical code. Our attitude should be that we are very grateful to them for having sent their ships East at our urgent request and contrary to their original intentions, and we should not press for their return to Western basin, in spite of the fact that we should like both British and French ships to be at their war stations. (D.O.D.(F) from 1st S.L. to C. in C. Med /6)

East Indies.

U.S.2. Leakage of information of arrival at Ceylon. Arrangements to prevent in future (A.C.N.B. 03167/7)

America and West Indies.

AURANIA. V.A.N.P's 2310/3. Proposed AURANIA sails 13/5 so as to arrive Bermuda 0800/24/5. (D.O.D.(F) 1425/6).

WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS6.5.40
MondayEast Indies.Air Forces.

Re retention of coastal reconnaissance and seaward striking air forces in India in event of war with Italy, pointing out that Italy has in Red Sea 6 S/ms with 8000 miles surface endurance and 2 with 4000; also several protected minelayers; he cannot guarantee getting information if they reach Indian waters. He agrees his a/c's must, however, be released if urgently required elsewhere for action operations. (C. in C. E.I.0816 Z/6, 0727 Z/7, 1707 Z/7).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MININGS/m's attacked.0950

By JUNIPER. 58. 17. N., 2°30' W.
Considered non-sub. M. 09854/40.

6.5.1940.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HOME COMMANDS.

VOGESEN 4240 tons, with coal from Stettin to Oslo reported mined near the Vinga Lighthouse west of Gothenberg, and sunk. Crew landed. (D.S.)

TROYBURG Going to Karlskrona, Sweden, intercepted message from Karlskrona Radio dated 1120/6 asks whether ship need be lightened or differently trimmed. (I.C.0443/4).

INGO French Admiralty state she sailed from Venice, 0500/6 in ballast for unknown destination; not camouflaged (I.C.0443/40)

North Atlantic.

RUDOLF ALBRECHT. At St. Miguel, expected to sail shortly (FOCNA 1852/6).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.Ships Attacked.

s.s. BRIGHTON sunk. British, 5359 tons, from Immingham to Dunkirk with coal, was mined off Gravelines at 1150/6 (D.C.2026/6) and sunk. Crew rescued. She had not been degaussed, and was in a danger area at the time. (V.C.N.S.246).

ALMY Swedish fishing boat, was mined and sunk 0700/6 in same minefield as VOGESSEN (see German Merchant Ships). The 4 members of her crew were killed. (D.S.245).

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions:- 1 or 2 in West Fiord.
Possibly 1 in Clyde approaches N. of
7 Inishtrahull. (I.C.0442/40).

Reliable U-boat report in YNPV 4236 at 2030/5. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0842/6).
Request immediate air search, as convoy passes this position about 1400 (Capt.(D) 50946/6).

2243 60° 40' N. 1° 30' E. Position indefinite
(D.N.I.2311/6).

Situation ReportEvacuated Personnel

SUFFOLK (damaged), with destroyers and the large convoy of ships carrying troops used in the Norwegian campaign arrived at Greenock shortly after midnight 6-7/5.

German landings in the North

Germans are reported at Murmansk, and preparing to land at Kirkenes (M.S.M.)

East coast reinforcement

8 destroyers have been ordered to form a flotilla to reinforce the East coast.

Narvik Area

Distribution of the independent companies in Northern Norway, under the general command of F.O. Narvik.

- (a) MO (200 troops arrived 4/5).
- (b) Bodo (400 troops when operation is complete under Col. Gubbins with H.Q. probably at Bodo.)
- (c) Mosjoen (400 troops and administrative group due shortly, when French troops now there are to be evacuated.)

A report from Stockholm says that Germans are at Mo (M.S.M.) ARK ROYAL commenced operating in Narvik area a.m./7 CURLEW is carrying out A/A duties with her, CALCUTTA and CAIRO are on the way to Narvik for A/A duties in the area. STORK has arrived at Lavangs Fjord.



123

Situation ReportIceland Operation Fork

A force consisting of 42 officers and 775 other ranks embarked at Greenock a.m. for Iceland in GLASGOW and BERWICK, escorted by the destroyers FEARLESS and FORTUNE. The force is self-contained and is provided with one month's provisions.

A.M.C. CALIFORNIA of the Northern Patrol was ordered to patrol off the eastern Fjords of Iceland, to forestall any landing of enemy troops by trawlers or other small craft, especially near Seidis Fjord, the landing place of the telegraph cables; R.M. Battalion cannot provide a force to guard the latter.

British Air Activity

19 aircraft left at 0240/7 to bomb an enemy cruiser of the NURNBERG class reported anchored between the Island of Norderney and Juist at 1915/6. The cruiser was sighted and attacked by 5 a/c's which reached their objective, but no hit was obtained. One a/c failed to return.

Aircraft of the Bomber Command laid three mines during the night 6-7/5 and report having shot down one Messerschmidt.

Patrols off the Dutch coast and East of Orkneys and Shetlands were flown 7/5

Enemy air activity

Further troop transport activity is reported; Hamburg, Berlin, Oslo, and Trondheim being mentioned. Copenhagen has also been reported as an intermediate landing ground. Weather appears to have hampered this and other enemy air activity. A report suggests that work of some nature, possibly repairs, is in progress on Aalborg aerodrome (H.Q.C.C. 1722/7).

Situation ReportExperience gained in enemy air attacks (R.A. Vivian, quoted in M.S.M.)

Officers and men are being sent to hospital with neurasthenia, owing to the effect of continual bombing on personnel already tired out. Bombing on men who are fresh does not have the same effect.

During attacks a high relative wind should be maintained. AFRIDI was hit after a turn away down wind.

The dive bombing methods of the JU 87 can only be effectively countered by pom-poms in the ship being attacked. Barrage fire from other ships is not helpful, though their pom-pom fire may be.

Ships should operate in company, as one ship does not give a sufficient volume of fire to break up high level bombing or formations before they dive.

The Norwegian fjords restrict ships so greatly that operations such as those carried out at Namsos and Aandalsnes should not normally be attempted. The reason for ordering the A/A ships to remain at these ports was to keep the enemy high and support the army.

The need for improving "Aares is very great. R.D.F. is of very high value.

It is vital that enemy shadowing a/c's should be shot down before they can summon their bombers on the target.

Situation Report

125

Mining

The clearance of the Would continues.

Magnetic mines were exploded in Blyth and the port was reopened at 1900/7. Magnetic mines were also exploded in Margate Roads and Swansea, and a moored mine was cut 15 miles E. of the Goodwins.

Operation B.S.2. was completed.

Danish fishing vessels

Several Danish fishing vessels were reported about 150 miles East of the Yorkshire coast a.m./7. Two corvettes were sent to bring in any found there to the Humber. Two other captured Danish trawlers are being escorted to Aberdeen.

Mediterranean

The Mediterranean is partly reopened to shipping, reversion to normal routes being gradually applied. The closing of the Mediterranean has had considerable political effect.

POLICY

~~In~~ Experience of ships in central Norway operations has been that it is vitally important that ships should never be stopped whilst being bombed. (1st S.L. 1917/7 to F.O. Narvik).

Asking that Norwegian Govt. will instruct local authorities in areas not occupied by Germans to furnish Allied forces with any information re. German movements etc. Does not appear that this is being done at present. (F.O. 2256/7 to Mr. Lascelles, Norway.)

HOME COMMANDS

126

MovementsC.S. 20. in
COVENTRY

with CHABRY (C. in C. Rosyth 1211/7)

OperationsGeneralDestroyers to
reinforce East
Coast.

2) 8 destroyers to be concentrated under a Captain D. at Rosyth for service as a Flotilla on East coast or as ordered by Adty. (C. in C. H.F. 2335/7 to R.A.(D))

4) 8 modern destroyers including one leader to be sent to Harwich as soon as possible. To come under orders of C. in C. Nore (1st S.L. 2249/7 to C. in C.H.F.)

3) Your 2335/7. D.5 in KELLY, KIMBERLEY, KANDAHAR, JANUS, HYPERION, HEReward, HOSTILE. HAVOCK are detailed. (R.A.(D) H.F. 0125/8)

NarvikForces and Command

Following from Chiefs of Staff. With effect from your receipt of this message, all independent companies operating in Northern Norway come under your orders and will be maintained by you. No. 1 Company arrived at Mo on 4/5. Colonel Gubbins with No. 3 Company has sailed for Bodo, due 6/5, and will take over Scots Guards Company. Nos. 4 and 5 Companies have sailed for Mosjoen, due 6/5, and relieve French troops that place for evacuation to U.K. No. 2 Company with Administrative Group is due to sail about 10/5 for Bodo. Gubbins H.Q. will probably be at Bodo, from where he will establish direct W/T communications with you (1st S.L. to F.O. Narvik, 0027/7).

Flying Boat Crews

Air Ministry request your assistance in evacuation of crews of CABOT and CARIBOU and in providing Milson with money for expenses. (Hd. of M. to F.O. Narvik 0220/7). Both flying boats and one Norwegian seaplane completely destroyed. All secret gear destroyed. Secret documents retained by R.A.F. officers. Am retiring with 2 of the 5 wounded, leaving sufficient officers and men to complete their work here. (VAN-SITTART, 0351/7).



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

Operations

Narvik (Continued)

- VINDICTIVE Intend relieving PENELOPE as S.O. Skjel Fiord 1600/8 (VINDICTIVE 1330/7)
- PENELOPE Propose sailing 2200/8 or a.m./9 (PENELOPE 1926/7)
- Bodo facilities Ships can berth alongside in least depth 24 ft. 3 cranes are capable of lifting lorries. (C. in C. H.F. 1511/7 to NUBIAN, VETERAN)
- Narvik float plane organisation Your 1939/6. I hope all possible steps being taken to camouflage aircraft and that unless this camouflage is very successful base will be shifted frequently (C. in C.H.F. 1143/7)
- Aircraft for Narvik Trials show that Rocs on floats are unsuitable as fighters and it has been decided not to send them to Narvik. R.A.F. Gladiators and Hurricanes are being embarked in FURIOUS and GLORIOUS 10/5 and can arrive as follows if aerodrome is fit:
- Gladiators - 13/5
Hurricanes - 15/5
- Therefore important to make Bardu Foss ready for both Gladiators and Hurricanes at earliest moment. Report when A.A. defences are in position on aerodrome. (1st S.L. 2356/7 to F.O. Narvik).
- Operation Bishop Roc aircraft will not now be included. (D.N.A.D. 2114/7 to C. in C.H.F.)
- Bardu Foss aerodrome Norwegian army squadrons wish to share it. Congestion most undesirable, fighters must have priority. Suggest Norwegian squadrons reform in England and concentrate at Alta and Porbanger (Adty. 1135/7).
- West Fiord Patrol Enemy evidently have intentions in that locality and I consider a patrol ~~was~~ necessary there. If division of destroyers mentioned in your 1527/1 is not available suggest the 5 allotted to West Fiord area be increased to 7 and patrol could then be managed. (F.O. Narvik 1909/7 to Adty.)



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

128

Operations

Narvik area (contd.)

A.A. Defence

Your 1926/4. Is CURLEW the A.A. ship referred to? If so, I presume she is meant for A.A. defence of Narvik area, not of ARK ROYAL. (F.O. Narvik 1151/7 to Adty.)

Reply. CURLEW is for A.A. duties with ARK ROYAL; CALCUTTA, CAIRO are now on way to Narvik area. (V.C.N.S. 2342/7)

STORK arrived Lavang Fiord (STORK 1930/7, F.O. Narvik 1015/7).

MARINA to sail from Clyde to Stornaway as soon as possible to embark A.A. guns and M.T. from BALZAC (See Casualties) for transport to Narvik. (Adty. 2115/7).

2 batteries each of 3 20-barrelled unrifled projectors (U.Ps.) available with Naval crews for close defence of landing places. Are you ready to receive (Adty. 1906/7 to F.O. Narvik).

CAIRO

Proceed to Lavang Fiord (F.O. Narvik 1401/7)

Landing at Mosjoen

Your 1939/6. As time is of great importance VETERAN, JUNO, ULSTER PRINCE to proceed to Mosjoen without calling at Skjel Fiord. To approach coast at time when enemy air activity is likely to be least. (V.C.N.S. 1201/7 to C. in C.H.F., F.O. Narvik 1429/7).

Please instruct VETERAN if opposed landing is to be attempted. (C. in C.H.F. 1515/7).

Your 1940/6. Coastal steamers are interfered with and enemy intelligence good. Consider destroyers should be used. (N.O. Narvik 2152/7).

M.L.C's. Horse boats.

3 more M.L.C's. will be available mid May. Would up to 10 horse boats be useful. (D. of L.D. 2110/7)

Minefields

Proposing deep minefield between Baroy and Lodingen instead of shallow minefields proposed at Baroy and Ratver. Re. controlled minefields. (V.C.N.S. 2124/7 to R.A. Narvik)

Coast Defence Guns

One 6th battery, one 4.7" battery, 4 - 12 pdrs., 8 D.E.Ls. being sent in SS. KASHOBRA. with 4 - 4" Naval Q.F. in reserve (with no crews). Re. siting of defences. (V.C.N.S. 2124/7 to R.A. Narvik)



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

129

Operations

Convoy FS 3

Narvik Area (continued)

Convoy FS 3 arrived 1600/6 (F.O. Narvik 1911/7)

NS and NP Convoys

Next 4 sailings, provisional programme. (D.O.D. (H) 1634/7)

Independent Companies

operating in Northern Norway come under orders of F.O. Narvik from 7/5 and will be maintained by him. Col. Gubbins remains in command. (Adty. 1404/7)

Iceland - Operation Fork.

Defence of cable landing.

It is not possible for the R.M. Battalion to establish a small force at the fiord where the cables are landed. (M.S.M.)

Army to relieve R.M.

The War Office are prepared to relieve the Marines by a Brigade as soon as the latter can be moved. To be effected as soon as possible. (M.S.M.)

It has been represented to me by CS 1 that directly enemy hear of our landing in Iceland they may send small forces by trawlers or submarines to occupy fiords on Eastern side notably for instance Seidis Fiord where telegraph cables land. It is therefore recommended that one cruiser and one destroyer of Force Fork should proceed to Seidis Fiord directly main landing at Reyjavik is completed and land a party of marines with two 2 pounder guns at Budareyri Strand chart 3330. One Walrus to be left at Seidis Fiord.

In the meantime I will order V.A.N.P. to give orders to the ship occupying NP 51 to be particularly careful to examine all trawlers etc. in vicinity of Eastern Fiords and will also send 2 or 3 Northern Patrol trawlers up there. (C. in C.H.F. 1343/7 to Adty., 1615/7 to V.A.N.P.)

War Diary

7.5.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

130

Operations-Norway

Mosjoen
Situation

Your 1515/7 Information from Rupert Force now confirms that French detachment is still in Mosjoen and in communication with British detachment at Mo. Nearest enemy stated to be 100 miles away. Situation will be watched and instructions sent to VETERAN if necessary. (D.of P., to C. in C., H.F., 2253/7)

Troop Convoy
H.K. 1.

Admty. 1804/4, my 2125/3. Convoy H.K. One ordered to wait to westward. 2 ships are discharging and 2 waiting at Harstad, 2 waiting at Tromso without protection, 3 French discharging and 3 waiting at Skaanland under protection of H.M.S. STORK. Harstad has only two wharves with total average rate of discharge 2 ships in 5 days. In addition there are 2 oilers and 3 liners with 4 battalions of Poles. (F.O. Narvik, 1923/7)

A/S Patrols

Ref. A.L.M/A/S.W. 814/40 of 20.4.40. To enable me to take up duties on Norwegian Coast without delay if so ordered, request I may be kept informed from time to time of any fresh developments affecting A/S Patrols, Norway. Among other points, up to date information is desired regarding (a) requisitioning powers of Norwegian Government in relation to small craft, and whether Norwegian Naval Officers who have authority to take action on behalf of the Norwegian Government in this respect, will be available for attachment to S.A/S S.P. when he arrives on the Norwegian Coast, (b) ditto re buildings required as fitting out workshops, (c) billeting of personnel ashore, and (d) any change in rate of exchange of Kroner. Latest information held regarding above was obtained on 26th April, 1940. (S.A/S.P., 0927/7, in PHILANTE)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Dutch Coast

Sweep

My 1827/3, sweep by French warships of Belgian and Dutch coasts. The same operation will be carried out by these ships and aircraft leaving Dunkirk 1430 today 7/5 and returning p.m. tomorrow, 8/5 (V.A. Dover, 1155/7)

Keep steam at 12 hours' notice. (D.C. 2211/7 to FLORENTINO and 4 other ships)

Air- Enemy Air Activity

Precautions.
Depth Charges

CARLISLE's 1120/6. If you concur, request you will issue instructions that when operating in waters where heavy air attack may be expected, non-ascdic fitted ships should either land their depth charges or stow them below the upper deck. (D. A/S W., to C. in C., H.F. 2023/7)

Mining

Gear for
Destroyers

Minelaying gear to be sent to Immingham for ICARUS, IMPULSIVE, IVANHOE, INTREPID (D. of D., Bath, 1912/7)

The position where enemy minelayers were reported has been searched for contact mines without result. Two French destroyers were in the position given at 0500/7 and may have given rise to the report of minelayers. (I.C. 0446/40)

Rendezvous with H.M.S. CALIFORNIA in position $065^{\circ} 16'$ North $012^{\circ} 56'$ West at 0400 Thursday 9th May. Act under her orders. Object examine all trawlers in vicinity of Eastern Fiords of Iceland in view of possible activity of enemy small craft. Repeat back rendezvous. (FOCNA 1922/7 to KINGSTON JACINTH, NORTHERN DUKE, KINGSTON PERIDOT) Am leaving patrol 0400/8 (KINGSTON PERIDOT 2149/7).

Allied Submarines.

Positions. 0600/8 and movements for 24 hours (VAS 1812/7, D.C. 2131/7)

SNAPPER 2230/3 sighted 4 T.B.D.'s $57^{\circ} 13' N$ $7^{\circ} 25' E$ Course 0250 high speed, 1530/6 unsuccessfully attacked by 2 torpedoes in glassy calm sea single m.v. 3000 tons screened by A/C's and 1 T.B.D. (SNAPPER 0020/7).

Holland and Belgium (ARETHUSA, GALATEA)

Sweep by French warships off Belgian and Dutch coast as in V.A. Dover's 1827/3 to be carried out between 1430/7 and pm/8 (V.A. Dover 1155/7, by UNIS/ON (French Destroyer) (VA(S) 2311/7).

FLORENTINO) Keep steam at 12 hours notice. (D.C. 2211/7).

BORODINO
PACIFICO
ATLANTIC
GUIDE
TRANSEAS

Operation Naval parties and R.E. detachments to be at 2 hours' notice from X.D. 0800/8 (DOD(H) 2317/7)

Enemy Possibility exists of enemy troop movements by sea along Dutch troop coast. S/M's referred to in my 1806/6 (1908/6 intended) keep movements. to eastern end of their area (RA(S) 2309/7)

Troop Convoys etc.

MONARCH OF escorted by FAULKNER, AMAZON, IMOGEN for Scapa. Only one
BERMUDA destroyer has effective A/S. Asking for 2 more A/S vessels to
EMPRESS OF reinforce. (Capt. (D) 8.1803/7, 2004/7)
AUSTRALIA
VILLE D'ALGER

Convoy HK To keep not less than 150 miles from coast of Norway until
one further orders (FO Narvik 1616/7)

7.5.40.
TuesdayHOME COMMANDS
Air.

133

British Air Activity.

- Patrols Certain patrols and tasks cancelled owing to weather (C in C. Rosyth 0726/7, 1110/7)
- Operations for night 7/8 May Attack on Stavanger Aerodrome (Air Min. 1300/7).
- Proposed attack on Trondheim See mining.
- Attack on Bergen 8 Skuas of 806 Sqn. to leave Hatston 0500/8 to bomb objectives at Bergen. Request 18 Groups provide defensive patrol of Blenheims over Skuas during attack. Objectives: transports, supply ships, and enemy warships sighted. Each Skua will carry one 500 lb. bomb (A.C.O.S. 1620/7). *(Postponed owing to weather see page 151)* Asking for bombing attack on objectives in Bergen as early as possible (C in C H.F. 1147/7).
- Proposed attack on Trondheim Re C in C H.F. 1101/6 paragraph 5. C in C is under misapprehension. My Blenheims are long range fighters, not bombers. Trondheim is outside Blenheim's radius of action from Hatston (C in C H.Q. C C 2010/7)
- Air Searches For 8/5 (includes reconnaissance of Norwegian coast from Bergen to Lister and from Bergen to 61°N (C in C Rosyth 1920/7)
- Attack on cruiser At 0446/7 a vessel was bombed in 53° 42' N 7° 7' E (near Juist), and at 0450/7 a vessel was attacked in 53° 45' N 7° 0' E, no hits obtained in either case. At 0459/7 a patch of oil and wreckage was seen in 53° 40' N 6° 41' E (near Borkum) (A C H Q Chatham 1007/7, I.C.O. 444/40)

Enemy Air Activity.

See situation report. In addition, a somewhat unusual flight was made by one enemy A/C in the late afternoon, on a course from Dover to Flamborough Head about 30 miles from the coast. It is assumed that this was a shipping reconnaissance flight, but no attacks on shipping are reported (I C 0444/40)

Blyth Proposing to sweep with magnetic sweep skids. Colliery has been cleared (FOIC 1220/7, 2336/6)

My 2333/1. Mine has been exploded. Blyth will be reopened at 1900/7. (NOIC Blyth 1832/7, FOIC Tyne 2112/7)

East Coast Ports. All now open except Blyth (D.C.0800/7)
Operation A. Ships to sail for, 9/5 (C in C Rosyth 1013/7)
Unexplained explosion. E. of Beachy Head 2030/7 (IC 0444/40)
Operation D 2 I do not intend to lay mines in Froi Fiorden and Nogird Fiords (operation D 2) unless assured of co-operation of RAF by bombing aerodromes in Trondheim area at same time that mines are being laid, which would be 0130. Battle flight to be provided also for minelayers while withdrawing. Request I may be informed when above co-operation will be available, passage from Scapa to scene of operations will take about 30 hours. (C in C H F 1638/7, 1405/7).
Reply. Air Ministry are unable to undertake bombing of aerodromes in Trondheim area. Battle flight cannot reach Froi Fiorden and can only remain near Nogvid Fiord for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour (VCNS 1850/7, 2343/7).

Sweeping Reports. Magnetic mine exploded by AA sweep $51^{\circ} 27' 12'' N 4^{\circ} 2' 36'' W$ (NOIC Swansea 1550/7)
One German Y type mine out south of Q25 60 in $51^{\circ} 17'.5' N 1^{\circ} 48.8E$. One magnetic mine detonated due to unknown cause 6/S 1 mile N of Malo Les Bains Casino (VA Dover 2034/7).

Convoys OA & OB Sequence (DTD.1354/7)

MT No MT will sail 8/7 (C in C Rosyth 1104/7)

OB 145G)
OA 145G) To R.V. and become 0629 (C in C W.A.1019/7)

Portugal To be treated as adjacent neutral countries (DEWD 2109/7)
Spain
Turkey

Danish Trawlers My 097/7. Danish Trawlers are to be escorted to Humber instead of to Yarmouth (C in C Nore 1518/7 to WIDGEON, PUFFIN)
Several Danish reported fishing near $54^{\circ} 0' N 2^{\circ} 40'E$. When released by PRINCESS VICTORIA 2 corvettes are to proceed immediately to this vicinity and escort any Danish trawlers found to Yarmouth (C in C Nore 0907/7 to MALLARD). IMMANUEL and MACKENZIE came in under escort to Kirkwall with full cargo fish. Ships and cargoes have been seized and are being diverted under escort to Aberdeen for discharge of fish. (CCSO Kirkwall 1030/7, 1800/7).

TASMANIA (Danish) Naval prize, sailed for Gravesend, (NOIC Falmouth 1430/7)

German orders to Norwegian ships. To sail immediately for nearest neutral port and stay there; not to discharge cargo. Intercept from Bergen Radio (Burnham Radio 1845/7)

7.5.1940
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Minesweeping

Enemy minesweepers observed sweeping parallel to the coast near Stavanger (STURGEON 0035/7)

No cruiser seen between Juist and Norderney (c.f. 5/5.) About 33 small m.v.'s in or near harbour at Norderney, 2 M.V.'s 53° 39' N. 6° 46' E. 7 M.V.'s (one 10,000 tons) 53° 42' N. 6° 50' E. 1 M.V. 53° 42' N. 7° 0' E. (Chatham A/C H.Q. 1523/7). Photographs taken early in the afternoon 6/5 reveal only Vorposten vessels, dredgers and barges. (I.C.O.444/40)

Unidentified Units

By D/F at 1910/7 unidentified enemy units in 55° 45' N. 6° 25' E. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C.2121/7) 2338/7 unknown enemy unit in 55° 26' N. 4° 10' E. (I.C.O.444/40)

M.V. in Hardanger Fjord. Merchant ship about 8000 tons, presumed German, anchored in Hardanger Fjord 0735. (I.C. ~~0~~444/40)

2 Minelayers are reported to have been sighted between 0200 and 0500/7, between 51° 33' N. 3° 14' E. and 51° 30' N. 3° 4' E. (off Flushing). Presumed to have been of the armed type. (I.C. ~~0~~444/40).

German troops reported at M.O. and Murmansk.

Norwegian Legation Stockholm reports German motorised troops are already in Mo and also that over 100 troop carrying planes proceeded towards Narvik. A proportion would probably be carrying food.

Kirkenes to be seized.

2. From a Norwegian Officer just returned from Namsos it is learned that neither railway nor road Namsos-Mosjoen were destroyed nor prepared for demolition. There is an uncompleted gap of 50 kilometres in rail between Landh and Kjerringvatnet.
3. President Hambro has received information that 200 German sailors in uniform have arrived at Murmansk. He believes another operation is in preparation to seize Kirkenes where 4000 men are now employed in iron fields. Ends. No.T.O.O.

British W.O. assess this report as unconfirmed but worthy of consideration. (D.D.I.C. 1214/7 to F.O. Narvik & C.in C. H.F.).

I can send DEVONSHIRE to Kirkenes if desired (C. in C. H.F.). 1921/7

MISCELLANEOUS.

Dutch
precautions.

Press report Navy and Air Force leave also
cancelled.

Risk of d.c.'s
being hit by
splinters.

CARLISLES 1120/6. If you concur, please
issue instructions that when operating in
waters where heavy air attack may be expected,
non-asic fitted ships should either land
their depth charges or stow them below upper
deck. (D.A/S.W.2023/7 to C.in C. H.F.)
(PELICAN'S d.c's were detonated in this way -
M.S.M.)

HUNTER'S men.

Will not be interned but are free to leave as
soon as we can arrange their departure
(Mr. Mallet, Stockholm 0155/7).

Smoke Candles.

Observed $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles N.E. of contact of position
0930 and 1010/6. SHELDRAKE to investigate
(N.O.I.C. Harwich 1215/7).

WEATHER.

0500, B.S.T.

	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>	<u>Outlook.</u>
North Sea.	Westerly, light or moderate.	Moderate or good.	Similar.
Channel.	Variable or northerly light.	Moderate or good, mist on French coast.	Similar.
W.Approaches.	N., light.	Good.	Similar.
Horns Reef.	Variable, light.	Moderate or poor.	Wind becoming W. moderate, visibility improving.
W. Coast Norway.	S.W. Force 4-5.	Good in N., moderate or poor S. of 65° N.	Weather det- eriorating in North, similar in South.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

SEAL

A report from Sweden states that the crew of a pilot steamer which had arrived in Goteborg had witnessed the capture of a British S/M by a German destroyer, close to the 3 mile limit on the morning of 5/5. The crew of the S/M had been taken aboard the destroyer and the 2 ships had sailed in a southerly direction. This report is not believed either by V.A. (S) or in the Admiralty and N.A. Sweden has been asked urgently for details. (see 6/5 - Submarines).
(also 8/5. p. 158)

GROM

To be replaced by one of our new destroyers, to be manned by survivors of GROM and named after her. (Private Office 1030/7).

BALZAC

A.A. storeship, grounded in Minches 7/5. Arrived Stornoway 1330/7. Her gear is to be transferred to s.s. MARINA. (V.C.N.S. 247)

Foreign Stations.

s.s. MATAKANA

Badly damaged, cannot be refloated.
Off Bahamas. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1927/7)

War Diary

7.5.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Polish and
Norwegian Ships

Admty. 0006/29. It appears equally important to avoid losses of Norwegian or Polish ships. Request instruction whether these ships should either (a) be issued with envelope QQ and key signal for opening or (b) be given verbal advice as to action in event of Hostilities. (C. in C., Med., 1747/7)

East Indies

Danish Ship
IVAR

Governor instructed to hand her over: unsuitable for inner harbour berthing or defence boom maintenance. Could not be fitted with Mark I sweep but could be fitted and supplied with Mark 5 sweep from Aden. D'aft 13 ft 6' all officers and most of crew loyal. Instructions requested as to employment of ship and terms of engagement of crew. Docking 2 months overdue, no facilities at Aden. Danish tug PROTECTOR standing by. Officers and men in arrears for wages. Have authorised Admiralty agent to advance £200 for small advances of pay. Master wishes to know position regarding payment of arrears. (N.O.I.C. Aden to C. in C., E.I. 0716Z/7)

WAR DIARY.7.5.1940.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

French Positions. Convoys and Patrols, noon 7/5 (D.C. 0028/7)

Ocean Convoys. Positions, etc. (D.C.1958/7)

Sabotage at Gibraltar. Report that 5 men left Spezzia in a s/m with markings painted out. Will attempt to enter Gib. from Spain to study methods of Sabotage (N.A. Rome 1152/7)

South Atlantic.

Trawlers building. Asking whether Brazil will provide steel. Export of steel from U.K. presents difficulties (D.S.V.P.1204/7).

Oil fuel at Lobito. 1,300 tons in stock but ships cannot be supplied for some time owing to incomplete pipe line and no pump machinery. Up to 270 tons could be supplied in drums but very slowly. (S.O. (I) Cape Town 1210/7).

America and West Indies.

Convoy HX43. Position and route (D.T.D.1706/7)

Mediterranean.

Italian Cable Ship. Will be working between Sicily and Malta early in May (D.N.I.1644/7).

WAR DIARY.7.5.40.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.
(Continued).East Indies.Opening of
Mediterranean.

All British Merchant Ships which left Basra for United Kingdom via the Cape on or after 30th April, are to proceed to Aden for orders. (D.T.D. 0059/8).

Danish Ships.

Situation regarding Danish ships in Colombo is not altogether satisfactory and unless certain steps are taken harmonious working cannot be ensured when transfer of flag is completed. Details (C.in C. E.I. 1542Z/4).

U.S.3.

Your 1236/6. Your intentions are concurred in. Provision of 4 destroyers for U.S. 3 must be subject to review by Commander in Chief, Mediterranean nearer the time of the operation. Presume you will consider repetition of air escort on lines of that given to U.S.2. (D.O.D.(F)1905/7 to C. in C. E.I.).

Contraband Control.

Ships bound via Suez Canal for Spanish Mediterranean ports to be controlled at Aden or Port Said those for Spanish Atlantic or Portuguese ports at Gibraltar. Eastbound vessels for Spanish Mediterranean ports from Holland or Belgium to be detained Gibraltar until released by M.E.W. (D.E.W.D. 2109/7).

China.German Claims.

The Germans claim to have sunk battleships, cruisers, etc. recently. Requesting in future detailed denials may be communicated as soon as possible. Unfortunate effect in Japan. (N.A. Tokyo 1256/7)

Danish Ships.

Re Maersk Line ships (C.O.I.S. Far East 0509/7)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

141

HOME COMMANDS.

WALKURE. My 2302/6. German ship loading phosphates at Murmansk is WALKURE (4251 tons) (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1016/7).

VOGESSEN. Adding to my 1335/6. Press reports VOGESSEN with coal for Oslo mined 4 miles S.W. of Wingar 0600/5 (A.N.A. Stockholm 1201/7)

Four Swedish trawlers sunk and one enemy steamer damaged by mines off Vingar this morning (Mr. Mallet (Stockholm) No. 1494 7/5 for D.N.I. from Malmo).

MEDITERRANEAN.

MARITZA. Arrived Sibenik, Yugoslavia 7/5 to load with bauxite for Trieste, according to a French report (I.C. 0443/40).

CHINA.

SABANG. Reattached. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0806 2/7)
SURABAYA. Draught (do).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's Reported.

One about 74 miles E. of Muckle Flugga 2243/6 is probably homeward bound. The report of one in the approaches to the Clyde has not been confirmed (D.D.I.C. 1132/7).

1910. See Enemy Intelligence.

1155. Periscope reported by M/S QUEEN OF THANET in 56°07'N., 2°28'W. (I.C. 0444/40).

1130. S/M reported from shore in 56°50'N., 2°17'W. (Off Gourdon) Not confirmed by C.G. (I.C. 0444/40).

0500. French Admiralty report S/M 51°45'N., 2°45'E., course N. (I.C. 0444/40).

WAR DIARY.

7.5.1940¹⁴²
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's Attacked.

1829.

VALENTINE attacked contact in 56°14'N.,
2°18'W., (I.C. 0444/40)

SITUATION REPORTDutch Apprehensions

During the last 24 hours the Dutch Government has received various reports stating that a German attack on Holland is imminent. There have, however, been no reports of German military or naval movements for this purpose, but their military dispositions are such that an attack could be mounted at any moment and with a minimum of warning. Although the Dutch General Staff have stated that there is no indication of German military activity, the Dutch Government are taking wide precautions, including the laying of mines in their territorial waters, stopping leave in the defence forces, and calling up reserves. The reports referred to appear to have originated in Berlin and the only concrete evidence available is that Germany yesterday closed the Dutch frontier, which she has done before. (D.N.I. 1910/8, approved by V.C.N.S.)

The story of a forthcoming German attack, which has caused the present apprehension in Holland has been planted in many places throughout the world. The Dutch General Staff are not unduly apprehensive. (M.S.M.)

Reports of German seizure of Kirkenes imminent.

DEVONSHIRE is being sent to Kirkenes in connection with the above.

Narvik Area

CALCUTTA and CAIRO are providing A.A. protection. COVENTRY joins shortly. The arrival of ARK ROYAL had a marked effect for 24 hours, but bombing of all Narvik anchorages has begun again. CURLEW has been ordered to rejoin V.A.(A). One British fighter was forced down 8/5.

ISIS struck submerged wreckage in Balangen Fjord, near Narvik, which wrecked a propeller. She landed her troops and is being towed by ILEX to the base at Skjelfjord. ISIS is capable of slow speed on one engine.

The German claim to have entered Mo and Mosjoen is false.

Iceland (Operation Fork)

GLASGOW, BERWICK and 2 destroyers sailed 0510/8 and are expected at Reyjavik 0500/10.

The War Office are to relieve the R.M. Battalion by a Brigade as soon as possible.

Mining

There are reports of 2 ships and 4 trawlers sunk off Vinga. (See M.S.M. for the inference)

War Diary8. 5. 1940
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORTSweep of the Dutch and Belgian coasts

Was carried out by French destroyer UNISON.

Attack on enemy transports by TAKU

At 1750/8 TAKU 100 miles N.N.W. of Horns Reef attacked 2 transports escorted by 2 destroyers, with 10 torpedoes and estimates 3 hits. She was subsequently depth charged for 5 hours and retired to the westward to examine her damage. T/S MÖWE hit but low in - (F.D.S.)

British Air Activity.

An attack on Stavanger aerodrome was made during the night 7/8 May. Only one out of 17 aircraft reached Stavanger, low cloud preventing the others from locating the target.

The reconnaissance policy now being followed includes:-

- (a) strong A/S patrols in the Orkneys and Shetlands areas.
- (b) reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast.
- (c) searches up the Dutch coast.
- (d) reconnaissance of Horns Reef area.

Enemy Air Activity

At 1100/8 an enemy aircraft was reported over the Thames Estuary, which flew coastwise to Whitby before making off. An unidentified aircraft was reported in the Firth of Forth 1130/8. There was intermittent activity by enemy aircraft during the day, but nothing of any major importance occurred.

General

There is a serious shortage of communications ratings and it is impossible to meet all existing commitments. The situation should be eased at the end of June, when the ratings taken in at the commencement of the war will be coming forward.
(M.S.M.)



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

Movements

DEVONSHIRE is to be sent to Kirkenes (1st S.L. 0013/8, C. in C.H.F. 0917/8)

PENELOPE To be escorted to U.K. by ZULU, CAMPBELL, WITCH, BLYSKAWICA. (FAME 0423/8).

20th D.F. In view of your 2343/7, R.A.(S) 1006/8, reporting situation at Trondheim and also of possible development in south, I am sending 20th D.F. back to Humber now. (C. in C.H.F. to Adnty. 1529/8).

Operations

Narvik

RESOLUTION Your 2151/7. No objection to her use as proposed. Conditions.

AURORA }
ENTERPRISE } Not possible to send relief at present owing to situation in Holland.

CALCUTTA }
CAIRO } Are at Narvik.

COVENTRY Joins shortly.

A.A. Defence Use of ships as platforms for A.A. guns is most uneconomical, and must be regarded as temporary expedient only. Hoped that with capture of Narvik the scale of air attack will diminish. (1st S.L. /8)

CURLEW is to return to Harstad forthwith, fuel and rejoin V.A.(A). My 0604/8 to CURLEW is cancelled. (F.O. Narvik 0953/8)

D.6. }
ESCORT } Orders and route for (N.A.D.H.F. 0931/8)

Enemy Aircraft Reports. re method of W/T reports of enemy aircraft in Narvik area. (F.O. Narvik, 1044/8).

Force for Ballangen RESOLUTION, EFFINGHAM, ENTERPRISE, AURORA, Capt.(D)9, HAVELOCK, BEDOUIN, FAME, VINDICTIVE, PROTECTOR. Foregoing ships, one destroyer detailed by Capt.(D)9, 3 destroyers detailed by FAME, and 2 A/S trawlers detailed by AURORA to be off Ballangen at 1000/10. (F.O. Narvik 1851/8)

HOME COMMANDSOperations (Contd.)NarvikWest Fjord
Destroyer Patrol

Your 1909/7. Detail two from convoy escorts now in Narvik area. (C. in C.H.F. 1053/8)
Your 1053/8. When PENELOPE sails there will be 6 destroyers at Harstad, 3 duty, 2 troop carrying. In Ofot Fiord 5 destroyers and escort of 3 for RESOLUTION. 3 destroyers sailing with Polish Brigade ships. To detach 2 escort destroyers could only be done at expense of escort for RESOLUTION. (F.O. Narvik to C. in C.H.F. 1840/8).

Operation "Bishop"

Amendments to my 1939/6. Force reduced to 9 swordfish, 6 Walrus, 40 officers, 200 men etc. (D.N.A.D. 1820/8)

FURIOUS }
GLORIOUS }

Arrangements for aircraft in. Principle of my 2012/2 stands. (D.N.A.D. 1824/8).

Summary of Situation

Skaanland

I today visited Skaanland aerodrome, progress is slow and at least nine days required to allow of planes using it.

ARK ROYAL

ARK ROYAL's arrival had a marked effect for 24 hours, but bombing has begun again, all anchorages being attacked p.m. 8/5, as well as ships off Narvik.

Planes Shot Down

Ships have shot down three planes and fighters, one during the last week. One British fighter was forced down today. Several Poles rescued from water after GROM sank were suffering from machine-gun bullet wounds. Hope the manning of a British destroyer by crew of Polish destroyer GROM may have favourable consideration, they are excellent material.

Bjervik

Information as to abandonment of Bjervik appears quite unfounded. Perhaps the authorities should not be given such a high order of reliability.

French Landing

An operation involving a landing of French troops near Bjervik takes place night 10-11 May, having as its object capture of Oynejord Peninsula and establishment of artillery there and cleaning up of enemy opposing French and Norwegians south of Gratangen, the 24th Brigade at same time occupying Ankenes Peninsula and Bessford. I am now committed to this operation but shall prepare for more direct attack in case there is no apparent result on line indicated last night. (F.O. Narvik, 2154/8).

HOME COMMANDSOperationsNarvik (Continued)

- Stowage Plans Greatly facilitate unloading of store ships if stowage plans as well as bills of lading are forwarded. (R.A. Narvik, 1837/8).
- Harstad Staff Turn-round of ships delayed by shortage of staff. 4 R.N.R. officers experienced in handling cargo and clerical shipping staff asked for. (R.A. Narvik, 1003/8)
- A.A. Batteries Adnty. 1906/7 asking whether ready to receive 2 batteries and crews of 3 20-barrelled Unrifled Projectors (V.P's). Reply - Yes. (F.O. Narvik 1459/8)
- Southern Railway Car Ferries Re. Adty. 2009/6. Details of WOOTTON and HILLSEA. Suitable to make passage under fine weather conditions and to take part in operations. Withdrawal will leave Portsmouth only FISHBOURNE which is understood to be inadequate to deal with local military and dockyard traffic. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1627/8).
- BALZAC }
COXWOLD } Damaged and unable to proceed with Convoy NS 2. Contents of BALZAC will be transhipped into MARINA whom it is hoped to sail with NS 3. Petrol and oil ex. COXWOLD is being sent in ULSTER MONARCH, further supply arrives in NS 3. (D.O.D.(H) 1912/8).

Mosjoen - Mo - Bodo.

No German Troops in Mo. Intercepted Norwegian mail steamer HELGEL in ~~En~~ fiord, bound Mosjoen from Mo. Stating no Germans in ~~the~~ ^{the} but Germans one day march from Mosjoen last night. Proceeding Mo to investigate. (FIREDRAKE 1300/8)

Mosjoen

My 1300. Germans have reached Lake Majavarn, 50 miles S. of Mosjoen. Main Norwegian defence at Fellingfors, 25 miles S. of Mosjoen, are expected to check advance. 250 British troops at Mo and about 150 Allied troops at Mosjoen. Army consider landing at Mosjoen feasible. Am proceeding Skjel Fiord to oil. (FIREDRAKE 1510/8).

French force at Mosjoen communicated with Narvik at 1015 today and reported all well. This information forwarded in view of Press reports that Germans have entered Mosjoen. (D. of P. to VETERAN, 1705/8)

SECRET.OPERATIONS.8.5.40.
Wednesday.Iceland - Operation ^{Fork}~~FORK~~.Landing
Grounds.

Ref. paragraph 7 of orders to Col. Sturges. While it will be possible to occupy landing grounds near Reykjavik, a further landing ground is now reported to exist at Akureyre (65°40'N, 18°02'W.) Military force with demolitions is therefore to be despatched in a destroyer to put this landing ground temporarily out of action. Methods suggested, Wing Commander Barnes should be consulted. Force to return to Reykjavik when task completed. (D.O.D.(H) to BERWICK 1345/8).

Your 1343/7. The commitments of this force are already considerable in addition to which it has been necessary for the task contained in my 1345/8 to be carried out. In these circumstances, the occupation of Budaretri Jtrand must await the arrival of the infantry brigade which will relieve Force Fork at an early date (D.O.D.(H) 1346/8 to C. in C. H.F.)

Dutch Coast.Dutch
Mines.

Dutch have laid mines inside territorial waters N. of Terschelling Island and Vlieland. Extent of those areas has not been defined. (R.A.(S) 1136/8 to S/M's on Patrol)

Operations
X.D.
D.M.L.G.

In view of Admiralty 2317/7 (re operation XD, naval parties to be ready at 2 hours' notice) can it be accepted that 4 destroyers from Dover will take part in Operation DMLG on 10/5 vide my 1152/7? (V.A. Dover 1534/8) Reply. Yes. (D.O.D.(H) 1928/8)

SUPPLEMENT

WAR DIARY.

8th May, 1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Troop convoys.

Near Faroes. Estimated movements of convoys. (C.in C. Rosyth 1735/8)

ULSTER MONARCH To sail for Narvik area as soon as loaded. (D.O.D.(H) 1708/8).

SUPPLEMENT

Submarines.

Patrol of Fro Havet. Your 1006/8.(A) should like CLYDE to continue this patrol for present unless she is required urgently elsewhere, no relief need, however be contemplated.

(B) For various reasons I have had to abandon laying minefields 1, 2 and 3 in my 2345/30/4 by surface craft. Could any or all of these be laid by S/m's? (C.in C., H.F.1600/8 to V.A.(S))

Reply. Have ordered NARWHAL to carry out (2) of your 2345/30/4 now instead of JSND 5130 (58° 51'N 5° 30' E) in view of my 2112. (1) of your 1600 is not considered practicable on account of navigational difficulties. Vicinity of PFCU 3012 (63° 30' N 8° 12' E) is proposed as alternative, earliest date of laying in latter position will be about 1/6 (V.A.(S) 2338/8)

Positions 0600/9 (D.C.1853/8)

Signalling No signals are to be made to s/m's on patrol until further orders (V.A.(S)1912/8).

TAKU Attacks. 2 transports and 2 destroyers were attacked by TAKU at 1730/8 in position approx. 57° N. 6°E. (70' S.S.W. of Lindesnes). Possibly obtained 3 hits. (I.C.0445/40). *See p. 171.*

713 MönE hint but / from 3 hrs. (F.D.S.)
A Battle Flight of Hudsons was sent to this position.

SEVERN } Orders to (V.A.(S) 1537/8)
ORZEL }

WAR DIARY.8th May, 1940.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norwegian Naval Units.

Sub-Lieut. Berntsen, Royal Norwegian Navy, at present in Norwegian s.s. AKABAHRA at Kirkwall, reports that Norwegian destroyer TROLL, torpedo boat SNOGG, and submarine B.6 have been abandoned and left to be taken over by Germans. At 2200/5, these vessels were in Midtgulen, a creek of the Frojsjo, in lat. $61^{\circ} 4' N.$, $5^{\circ} 4' E.$, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile east of the town of Floro. Norwegian BERA, fully loaded with carbide, speed 6 knots, was lying in Sorgulen, a creek of Frojsjo, $60^{\circ} 45\frac{1}{2}' N.$, $5^{\circ} 7' E.$, at same time. Master and crew reported unwilling to take ship to British port owing to her low speed. (C.C.S.O., Kirkwall, 1405/8)

Cancelled, see 2203/9, page 172, (amended version).

WAR DIARY.8.5.40.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.AIR.British Air Activity.

Attack on Stavanger aerodrome by 17 R.A.F. a/c's. One a/c attacked aerodrome, remaining a/c's could not locate target owing to low cloud (H.Q.B.C. 0440/8).

2 Skuas of 806 Squadron to leave Hatston 0500/9 for reconnaissance of Bergen area, each carrying one 500 lb bomb which may be utilised against a suitable target. Depending on result of this reconnaissance, remaining Skuas of 806 Squadron to make a bombing attack later in the day.
(A.C.O.S.1800/8) (Donibristle 1850/8)

Tasks for 9/5 (Donibristle, 2000/8)

Reconnaissance of Stavanger, etc.
1022/8 to 1113/8 (Donibristle 1435/8).

British Air Activity.

Your 1101/6 paragraph 5, A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command, reports as follows:-
"My Blenheims are long range fighters not bombers. They can only carry four 25 lbs incendiary bombs. Also Trondheim is outside Blenheim radius of action from Hatston"(5th S.L. to C. in C. H.F. 1541/8).

My 1620/7, re bombing attack on objectives in Bergen. Operation postponed owing to weather. Skuas to be released to 2 hours' notice. (A.C.O.S. 1050/8 to Hatston).

Enemy Air Activity.Flights.

The North Sea Meteorological Flight approached the N.E. Coast of Scotland and covered the area to the East Coast of the Orkneys and Shetlands. An enemy a/c appeared over the Thames Estuary during the forenoon and flew coastwise as far north as Whitby, repeating a similar flight on the afternoon of 7/5. Another enemy a/c appears to have made a flight in the Southern North Sea during the afternoon, approaching within 25 miles of the East Coast and returning to its base by way of the Dutch Coast, presumably on reconnaissance.

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air (Continued).

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

Narvik. Air activity increased somewhat during the day in the Narvik area, all anchorages occupied by Allied vessels, also H.M. ships off Narvik, being bombed. H.M. ships reported enemy aircraft on coastal reconnaissance off Mosjoen during the lateafternoon. It is understood that four enemy aircraft have been shot down in the Narvik area during the past week. (I.C., 0445/40).

There were various reports of enemy aircraft off the East Coast and one unidentified off the Firth of Forth during the evening and after dark.

Dutch Coast. At 6718, an a/c was reported over Orford Ness Southwold, Bungay and Norwich and crossed the coast on a northerly course S.E. of Cromer, being finally lost track of at 0838 120 miles E. of Farne Islands. During the afternoon, a reconnaissance of the Dutch Coast from Flushing northwards was carried out apparently for purpose of reporting immediately all surface craft sighted. (H.Q.C.C. 1717/8).

Lessons. Summary of experience gained in air attacks. (A.C.N.S. 0221/8, 1524/8)

Defence Against Attack. Cancel my 1917/7. Experience of ships in Central Norway operations confirms that when subject to bombing attacks ships should when practicable shape course and speed to favour development of gunfire and so that the relative wind is high and if possible across the probable direction of final approach. It follows that if a ship is stopped she is a more favourable target for bombers. (A.C.N.S. to F.O. Narvik 1518/8).

MINING.

Operation B.S.3. Orders for. (D.D.O.D. (M) 2038/8)
 Operation Z.M.C. Orders for. (D.D.O.D. (M) 1704/8)

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining.

E. Coast Mine barrier. N.O.I.C. Leith reports that Dutch small craft state in conversation that there are fewer mines in East Coast barrier than the authorities make out. Speed with which some of these craft make the passage from Antwerp to N.E. coast ports tends to bear out that they ignore routeing instructions and cross the barrier at will (C.in C. Rosyth 0210/8)

Mines to be laid by NARWHAL. See Submarines.

Mines cut and exploded. A new German mine was cut in southern edge of the Goodwin - Fairy Bank Channel, 51°18.1'N., 01°59'E. There is a possibility of magnetic mines in 49°36'N., 00°01'E. - north of Le Havre.
 A heavy explosion S.W. from Newhaven was reported at 1507/8. 3 heavy explosions occurred at 2318/8 in 52°50'N., 3°50'E., 33 miles W.by S. of Texel. (I.C.0445/40).

Swedish Minefield. Sweden has announced defensive minefields within territorial waters off Stockholm. (I.C.0445/40)

The following was broadcast from Motala in Swedish at 1900/8

Announcement by the Swedish Admiralty in connection with minefields laid in Stockholm outer archipelago. In order to simplify Sweden's neutrality guard mines have been laid in the outer archipelago within Swedish territorial waters and within the outermost reefs which are not submerged permanently. Between latitude N.58 : 42' and latitude N.59 : 54' within an area bounded on the W. from the remainder of the archipelago by a straight line connecting the above latitudes.

WAR DIARY.

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

MINING.

Gulfs of
Bothnia and
Finland.

Finnish Naval staff announce that traffic to the ports of South and S.W. Finland must proceed only through the Aaland Sea. The ports of the Gulf of Finland will be open to traffic when ice conditions allow. Finnish territorial waters in the Aaland Sea, the Baltic and the Gulf of Finland are still dangerous for navigation because of mines. Further, during the Russo-Finnish War, the following areas were mined, and are dangerous to navigation:-

1. Gulf of Hango between meridian $23^{\circ}13'$ and $23^{\circ}0'$ East; the Southern limit extends to $50^{\circ}37'$ and the Northern to the Finnish territorial waters.
2. South of Helsinke, East meridian $25^{\circ}25'$ Eastern length, and South $59^{\circ}57'$ Northern length. Northern and Western limit to the Finnish territorial waters. (Lahti 2045/8).

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

1 Large M/V

Presumably enemy in Hardanger Fjord, anchored, no smoke from funnels. When proceeding up coast past Bergen observed very large fire burning in Bergen, flames reaching 200/300 ft. (Donibristle 0735/8)

20 Ships

Observed by security Patrol 53° 20' N. 4° 0' E. 2150/7, small cargo or trawler type, course could not be identified. (H.Q.B.C.0737/8).

WAR DIARY8.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Prohibition in Downs. Re. Navigation Order No.5/1940. Consider it very necessary to extend prohibition to use of rowing boats in Downs. Mined areas and danger of landing of enemy agents from neutral vessels render this precaution most desirable. Request immediate authority to extend this prohibition in view of imminence of Whitsun holidays. (V.A. Dover, 1507/8).

Ports Open. Reported at Staff Meeting at 1000/8.. that all ports are now open.

Mediterranean Has been re-opened to British Merchant Shipping. (D.T.D.0200/8)

War Diary

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

STYRBIORN

Swedish tug, is stated to have been among the ships sunk at Narvik on 10/4 or 13/4 (Lloyd's).

OXELOSUND

Swedish (5613 tons) was badly damaged at Narvik but was still afloat 13/4. (Lloyd's).

0500 B.S.T.

WEATHER.

	<u>Wind</u>		<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook.</u>
North Sea	In East. South In West. N.W.	} Moderate	Mod. to poor	Similar until late afternoon
Channel	Light. S.S.W.			
W.Approaches	Light, variable		Mod. to good, fog patches.	Similar, improving visibility.
Horns Reef	Light northerly		Mod. to good.	Similar, visibility deteriorating in afternoon.
W. coast of Norway.	Moderate southerly		Moderate	Similar.

WAR DIARY.8.5.40.
Wednesday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.ISIS
damaged.

Struck submerged wreckage in Balangen Fiord which bumped along bottom without apparent damage but wrecked propellers before they could be stopped. Troops landed safely. Have ordered ILEX to tow me to Skjel Fiord (ISIS, 1859/8) H.M.S. ISIS in tow of ILEX has damaged propeller but is capable of slow speed on one engine, arriving Skjelfiord a.m. tomorrow. (F.O. Narvik to PENELOPE 2312/8)

PELICAN

Taken in hand for damage repairs 8/5. (A.S. Chatham, 1306/8)

SEAL
capture.

Your No. 83. Attack on submarine was made by 2 German a/c with bombs in position 7 miles West Store Polsen light. S/M surfaced with a list and tail heavy and showing a white flag attached periscope. Subsequently taken in tow by two German minesweepers. A Swedish minesweeper had been sent out and may have been in vicinity. Source, Commanding Admiral, West Coast. German report in Stockholm Press says Captain and one rating taken off by seaplane and remainder of crew subsequently taken off by a patrol vessel. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1707/8).

COXWOLD

With patrol (damaged 7/5) escorted by BOULONNAIS is due at Scapa.

PENN
HERCULES
LEONORA.

British fishing smacks, overdue, regarded as lost (Lloyds)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Raider
Reports.

The following reports have been received:-
2048GMT 25/4 British Ship PRINCESA heard
QQQQ message followed by Lat 25°5' Long 37°
18' Signal appeared to be jammed. W/T
operator young and inexperienced.
0954/27/4 S.S. BRITISH CHIVALRY heard QQQQ
30°41'N 30°22' or 39°22' W. British S.S. DONAX
being chased.
It is presumed position in first report was in
North Atlantic. These reports indicate the
possibility of a raider being in the Atlantic.
S.S. DONAX is due at Houston shortly (I.C.0444/40)
Reports have now been cancelled (I.C.0445/40)

French
Positions.

Convoys and patrols 1300/9 (D.C.0037/9) 1200/8
(D.C.0011/8)

Swedish
Destroyers.

Admiralty 1505/9. Swedish destroyers have
fuelled and are still here waiting orders
for continuance of voyage to Sweden (N.A.
Lisbon, 1547/8).

South Atlantic.

Trawlers
building.

D.N.I.1204/7. Steel would be imported from
U.S.A. 6 steel trawlers offered as being quicker
in construction but wood can be substituted if
desired (A.N.A.Rio de Janeiro 1159/8).

America and West Indies.

WAR DIARY.Mediterranean.

8.5.40.

Wednesday.

Reopening. British merchant ships which have been recalled to Aden by G.B.M.S. message are to be instructed to proceed through the Mediterranean (D.T.D.0200/8 to NOIC Aden) SUPPLEMENT

PROTECTOR. Asking if he can have her back in Mediterranean to relay the indicator nets at Alexandria, which are in a bad way (C. in C. Med 0219/8 to Admiralty)

U.S.3. Admiralty 1905/7, re destroyers for U.S.3. Two more destroyers will be sent if situation is unchanged and immobilisation of battle squadrons can be accepted for period of their absence. (C. in C. Med. 2203/8)

East Indies.

Shipping All British merchant ships which left Aden south bound for U.K. via Cape on or after 4/5 are to return to Aden for orders (D.T.D.0113/8)

U.S.2. G.B.M.S. 3 messages 0059/8 and 0113/8. These changes are likely to cause congestion at Aden round about date of arrival of U.S.2 In order that U.S.2 and its escort may not be delayed thereby request orders for merchant ships may reach Aden before their arrival. (C. in C. E.I., 1801Z/8)

Air Escort. Ref. 1905/7/5. Such air escort as O.C., R.A.F. Middle East can provide is being resumed. Intend SHOREHAM shall be included in escort of U.S.2 as far as 22°N. (C. in C. E.I., 1839Z/8)

CARAIBE. French A.M.C. visiting Comoro Group and Western Madagascar ports between 8 and 20/5. (C. in C.E.I 1056Z/8)

→ SHOREHAM relief. Ref. provision of yacht for Persian Gulf to relieve SHOREHAM, SEABELLE II has been allocated and will fit out at Bombay. (D.P.S.1827/8)

China.

Hong Kong Dockyard. Representing that refitting programme in C. in C. China's 631 G./1/5 will presumably reduce capacity for work of the destroyers, and suggesting work be provided from other fleets or commercial work undertaken to maintain the yard for possible war requirements. (Care i/c Hong Kong 0402Z/8)

Australia.

U.S.3. Arrangements if it should be decided to divert U.S. 3 to Cape Town (Australian C.N.B. 0945Z/8)

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Hague reports that on 6/5, 6 German ships were discharging cargo at Delfzijl and 5 were loading for Heligoland and German ports.
(I.C., 0445/40)

North Atlantic.

RUDOLPH
ALBRECHT.

Tanker, sailed from Ponta Delgada, Azores, at 2100/8. Stated to have bunker for six days only (at 8 knots). As ship left Tampico on 10/8/39, and proceeded to Azores, where she arrived 29/8, she is probably well loaded (I.C., 0445/40) (F.O.C.N.A., 0932/9)

Mediterranean.

MARITZA)
INGO)

arrived at Sibenik 7/5, sailed 0500/8 for unknown destination (I.C. 0443/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

S/Ms. reported.

- 0650 *RESPARKO Trawler*RESCAPO! reported suspect at P/S
55° 43' N. 1° 37' W. (IC0.444/40)
- 1105 Periscope observed 226° D.R.G.D. (67° N
10° E.) 10 (CALCUTTA 1835/8) 66° 55' N.,
9° 40' E., 231° Skjel Fiord 120'.
- 1837 By D/F unknown enemy unit 56° 20' N.
4° 20' E. Reliable fix (D.D.I.C.1902/8)
- 0540 Grimsby trawler reported she had just
passed object like S/M P/S travelling
West 10 miles West Longstone. (C. in C.
Rosyth, 0655/8)
- 0820 P/S reported by A/C in Moray Firth, 58°
7' N, 1° 48' W., 016° Kinnaird Head, 27'.
(I.C.0445/40).
- 2252 Approx. position, 54° 35' N. 2° 10' E.,
Dogger Bank (I.C.0445/40).

Estimated dispositions 1 returning home through middle North
Sea. Indications between Stonehaven
and the Longstone suggest possible
U-Boat patrol. (F.O.C.N.P.1515/8).

S/Ms. Attacked.

- 0130 By BRESTOIS 58° 43' N. 3° 50' W. Contact now
considered non sub. (BRESTOIS 0130/8)
- 0520 By a destroyer (seen by A/C to drop 1 depth
charge), 57° 18' N., 1° 48' W., 52° Aberdeen
10'. (I.C.0445/40)

SITUATION REPORTLow Countries

Preparations have been made against invasion. GALATEA and ARETHUSA have arrived at Sheerness. BIRMINGHAM and 4 destroyers are at Rosyth and were joined by Captain D.5 in KELLY with KIMBERLEY and 2 other destroyers expected at Rosyth a.m./9 from the North. BIRMINGHAM and these 8 destroyers have been ordered to proceed to the Humber as soon as possible. There is a force of 6 destroyers in Dover.

KELLY torpedoed

At 7.30 p.m. BIRMINGHAM and the 8 destroyers on passage from Rosyth to the Humber were sent to intercept a small German naval force reported in position north of the minefield. At 10.40 p.m. enemy M.T.Bs. were sighted, one of which torpedoed KELLY, and one rammed BULLDOG and sank, causing only superficial damage to BULLDOG. The latter has taken KELLY in tow for Rosyth; a strong air escort has been sent.

NARVIK AREA

British, French and Norwegian troops have crossed the road between Herjangs Fiord (to the north of the town of Narvik) and Gratangen Fiord. The Germans are entrenched at Elvenes, on Gratangen Fiord and at Osevand, midway between the two fiords, but the main body in this sector have fallen back on Elvergaarden, Bjervik and Molnedalen on the north shore of Herjangs Fiord. There is a landing ground at Elvergaarden.

A British landing party at Efjorden to the west of the town of Narvik has been in action and a number of casualties are reported. The position along the railway is unchanged and the Germans are still holding their position at the end of Beisfjord to the south-east of Narvik.

Convoy HK1 with fuel and stores, which has been waiting to westward of Narvik owing to congestion in the anchorages, arrived 2000/9 to start unloading.

Operation "Scissors" NUBIAN escorting SS. ROYAL SCOTSMAN with 300 troops was unable to enter Bodo owing to fog and stood off until VETERAN reports all troops disembarked at Mosjoen and that the French are embarking in ULSTER PRINCE. The French report that 2 German battalions are 25 miles to the South.

Tyne Closed

At 2300/8 a trawler reported a suspicious surface craft near 23 buoy off Newcastle, which may have been minelaying. The report was partially confirmed by W/T detection of a fast vessel some 20 miles further north. Southbound Convoy FS 66 which had left the Tyne was turned back, but a northbound convoy which was ahead of time entered safely. The Tyne is now closed, pending search.



SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

The normal patrols (see 8/5) were flown.

Bad weather prevented night operations 8/9 May.

A Battle flight of Hudsons were despatched to locate and attack the convoy encountered by TAKU, but were unable to find it and returned at 1115 a.m.

Parallel track searches were carried out to find an enemy force of minelayers and destroyers. These were located and shadowed. (See BIRMINGHAM)

8 Skuas and 6 Blenheim fighters carried out a raid on Bergen in the evening. One ship, thought to be the BREMSE, is reported sunk by the Skuas. One Blenheim was lost.

31 Hampdens took off at 9 p.m. on special duty.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy aircraft are obtaining from steep-dive bombing more success than at first appeared, so that the JU 87 is the real menace at the moment. (M.S.M.)

About 8 enemy aircraft were active off the English and Scottish coasts from Wick to Dover during daylight. One Dornier was shot down off Wick and 2 other enemy aircraft are reported down.

AURORA bombed

AURORA reports 7 R.M. killed and 7 wounded and one turret out of action, apparently as the result of a direct hit by a bomb.

(See D.N.C. list of losses)

German ships sunk

The skipper of the Norwegian fishing vessel PURAT, who has arrived at Lerwick reports that on 2/5 a vessel of 5,000 tons carrying German troops was torpedoed by a British submarine (? TRIDENT) 4 miles inside Marsten Light (Bergen area), and that on 5/5 a Norwegian submarine torpedoed a German store ship of 2,000 tons in Soter (entrance to Bergen).

It is reported that on 9 April the Norwegian destroyer STEGG captured the AFRIKA and CLARA HUGO STINNES, which were later sunk to prevent recapture by the Germans.

HOME COMMANDS.Operations.BIRMINGHAM'S Force.

BIRMINGHAM and our destroyers will be operating between 57°30'N and 56°20'N as far east as 6° 0'E during night 9/10 May (R.A.(S) 1331/9). Your 0302/9. Intend to sail at 0645/9 (BIRMINGHAM 0558/9).

Turn to northward.

Turn to northward further instructions follow. (Adty 0856/9 to KELLY, BIRMINGHAM). Steer 080° 20 knots after passing May Island (V.C.N.S. 0900/9 to BIRMINGHAM, JANUS, HYPERION, HEReward, HAVOCK).

Turn to northward further instructions follow (V.C.N.S. 0907/9 to KANDAHAR, HOSTILE). Join BIRMINGHAM if practicable (V.C.N.S. 0920/9 to D.5, KIMBERLEY, KANDAHAR, HOSTILE).

REPULSE and destroyers return to harbour forthwith (C-in-C., H.F. 0951/9).

KELLY'S force to join

KELLY, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, HOSTILE join BIRMINGHAM. Position, course, speed. (C-in-C., HF. 1003/9).

Steer to meet enemy.

BIRMINGHAM and destroyers in company steer to meet enemy force of 1 T.B., 4 minelayers, 3 destroyers.

FURY'S force to join.

FURY with MOHAWK, FORESIGHT, BULLDOG, GALLANT are to be in position MBWY, 2122 (57°21'N, 2°22'E), at 1850 and after sinking 6 M.T.B's in that vicinity proceed high speed to join BIRMINGHAM. If nothing is sighted by 2230 forces are to search back to westward (C-in-C., HF, 1024/9 to FURY, BIRMINGHAM).

Despatch is necessary. FURY and destroyers raise steam for full speed and R.V. with MOHAWK off Switha. Release screen as soon as possible (C-in-C., H.F. 1038/9 to REPULSE, FURY, MOHAWK).

Your 1003, expect to reach 56°17'N, 1°4'E at 1200. Fuel remaining at 1200 KELLY 44% KIMBERLEY 33% (Capt. D.5 1116/9). BIRMINGHAM 1200 DKWS 1445. HYPERION, JANUS, HEReward, HAVOCK in company (BIRMINGHAM 1122/9).

A/C's to be sent.

Battle flight 3 Hudsons will join you 1330 (C-in-C., Rosyth 1126/9 to Capt. D. 20). KANDAHAR, HOSTILE will be 50% fuel short when joining you at 1700 (KANDAHAR, 1130/9 to C.S.18). Capt. D.20 with 3 destroyers and in daylight a battle flight of 3 Hudsons leave Buchan Ness at 1200/9 to pass through 55°18'N, 4°45'E, at about midnight then returning to Humber. (D.C.1131/9 to D.20. BIRMINGHAM, D.5).

Battle flight of 2 Hudsons will R.V. with you at 1400 and will be relieved at 1700 by battle flight of 3 Hudsons which will remain until dark (C-in-C., Rosyth 1316/9, to BIRMINGHAM).

HOME COMMANDS.Operations.BIRMINGHAM'S Force (Contd.).

KIMBERLEY
short of fuel.

Have been ordered to return to base on account of fuel shortage. Expect to arrive 1900/9. (KIMBERLEY 1608/9 to C-in-C., Rosyth). If nothing sighted by 0400/10 BIRMINGHAM Capt. D.5 and accompanying destroyers proceed to Humber. FURY, FORESIGHT, proceed to Rosyth. MOHAWK, GALLANT, BULLDOG to Scapa. (C-in-C., HF. 2228/9).

Enemy
sighted.

2 enemy war motor-boats bearing 030 distance 1 mile course 115 position MBOX.46. (KANDAHAR 2240/9). One enemy war motor boat bearing 000° distance 5 miles. Approx. course 150° position 133 MBND.245. (BIRMINGHAM 2256/9).

KELLY
torpedoed.

KELLY torpedoed 56°48'N, 5°9'E, a.m. taking her in tow (BULLDOG 2300/9). Require immediate assistance 56°48'N, 5°33'E (BULLDOG 2320/9). On completion of tonight's operation BIRMINGHAM and destroyers detailed should proceed to Humber (V.C.N.S. 2321/9). With adequate air and surface escort KELLY can be saved. BULLDOG has her in tow 56°47'N, 5°9'E ~~23~~ 2347/9 to Adty).

Dornier
shot down.

Dornier flying boat shot down but not sunk in DKWY 3316, 1930/9 (C-in-C., Rosyth, 2358/9 to BIRMINGHAM).



HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik

Floating pier

Is to be shipped to Narvik in EMPIRE ABILITY (M.S.M.). To be made ready for shipment on 13/5 (D. of L.D. 0034/9)

A.A. Guns

A further 24 A.A. guns are to be consigned to Narvik in the next convoy which leaves 11/5. One battery was in the ship (BALAC) damaged on passage through the Minch and now at Stornoway (M.S.M.)

→ GLORIOUS

Embarking Walrus today and Hurricanes 10/5, for Narvik area.

→ FURIOUS

to embark Gladiators 10/5 for Narvik area.

MANELA

Flying-boat base ship. Retention in Narvik area is only temporary. (M.S.M.)

→ GLORIOUS

→ FURIOUS AND
T.C.4.

In view of withdrawal of a flotilla to Harwich adequate escort cannot be provided for TC 4, vide your 2013/1/5 in addition to screens for GLORIOUS and FURIOUS and escorts for important convoys about to sail for Narvik area. Can escorts be provided from other sources. (C. in C. H. F. 1953/8 to Adty.)

PENELOPE

Not sailing tonight in view of weather report. (PENELOPE 2217/9). As PENELOPE not sailing am proceeding to meet N.S.2 about 1030 tomorrow. (CALCUTTA 2121/9).

Cruiser

to be available at Rosyth p.m./10 to convey Norwegian Foreign Minister etc. and Sir C. Dormer, etc. to Tromso. (D.O.D.(H) 2115/9).

Magnetic Mining

Enemy aircraft observed dropping parachute mines in over 100 fathoms. (F.O.I.C. Narvik 2130/9)

Narvik

Kirkenes

1st C.S. ordered to proceed to Tromso and communicate with Consul for latest information and then proceed to Kirkenes to investigate Admty. message 1214/7. What escort have you? Did you intercept my 0635/9 to Admty? (F.O. Narvik 1229/9). Reply - I have no escort. Your 0635/9 not intercepted by me. (F.O.I.C. 2002/9)

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

Operations

Narvik (Contd.)

Balloon Barrage

Mobile barrage of 9 waterborne sites is available. Composition 12 specially equipped trawlers with R.A.F. personnel. Additionally, second echelon of R.A.F. personnel and equipment comprising 50 all ranks and 540 hydrogen tubes. Barrage could be maintained for maximum of 7 days, and with tubes with second echelon for further 18 days. Have you a use for 9 balloons now? Can you receive and accommodate both trawlers and second echelon? (Air Min. to F.O. Narvik, 1640/9) Orders to Balloon Command. (Air Ministry 1140/9)

Signal Personnel

Your 1907/5. Number of communication personnel requested cannot be provided. Certain additional ratings will be sent when available. War Office Signals state there is large number of Army signal personnel already in Narvik area. Army Chief Signal Officer, Narvik Area, is taking passage in CHOBRY. (D.S.D. 1809/9, to F.O., Narvik.)

Operation

~~Squad~~ "Bishop"

Advance H.Q. approx. 7 officers and 74 other ranks, to arrive Glasgow 0900/13 for embarkation in SOBIESKI (D.N.A.D. 1913/9)

Efjorden
Landing
Casualties.

S.O. 12th A.S.S.F, reports My 2125/2. Following is position in Efjorden. My landing party fired on by Germans ashore. Have dead and wounded on board. Am closing destroyer. T.O.O. 0015/9. (VINDICTIVE, 0100/9)

GLORIOUS
FURIOUS

Desirable they should sail in company earliest possible date to avoid providing two escorts, (D.N.A.D. 1342/9)

A/C
Squadrons.

To Rupert Force (for Group Captain Moore on arrival). You should see my X.251 of 8/5. From reports of destruction of Gladiators at Lake Lejeskog, arrival of Gladiators and later Hurricanes at Bardu Foss or Skaanland likely to be opposed by enemy bombing. In consequence arrangements made with Admiralty for you to get in touch with Captains FURIOUS and GLORIOUS to enable you to give details regarding order in which you wish sections of flights of 263 and later 46 Sqn. to land on aerodrome and to issue instructions to fighters flying off to carry out necessary defensive patrol over aerodrome during arrival of remainder of squadron and while refuelling (Air Ministry 1310/9)

H O M E C O M M A N D SOperations.Narvik (Cont.)

The German High Command contemplates abandoning Narvik to the Allies, according to the Berlin correspondent of the Algemeen Handelsblad. In very well informed circles in Berlin, he says, Narvik is no longer regarded as the centre of great strategic importance. The German High Command is believed to hold the view that Narvik will only remain of value so long as the Allies continue to send or station ships there, which can be attacked by the German Air Force.
(Reuter, Amsterdam, 1750/9)

Bodo-Mosjoen-Mo.

Gubbins
Trawler
Flotilla.

Admty. 0027/7. Arrangements being made for a flotilla of about 10 trawlers and drifters to be provided for maintenance and transport of independent companies operating in Northern Norway, to be known as Gubbins Flotilla. C.O. of Flotilla Lt. Comdr. W.R. Fell, will arrive Bodo area with 6 or 8 vessels about 18/5. Lt. Comdr. H.E.H. Nicholls, 2nd in command of Flotilla will proceed Bodo in ROYAL ULSTERMAN arriving about 13/5. In addition to maintenance of companies, intended that some of these vessels should be at disposal of Col. Gubbins for operational purposes. (V.C.N.S. to F.O. Narvik 0046/9)

VETERAN
report.

Your 2351/8. French report 2 German battalions 25 miles south. All troops disembarked at Mosjoen French embarking in ULSTER PRINCE. Proceeding Scapa. Col. Gubbins interviewed Norwegian General to make liaison. Norwegian troops apparently good but unenthusiastically led. (VETERAN 0330/9) to F.O. Narvik).

Gubbins
Flotilla.

Details of organisation and supplies. (D. of P. to C. in C. Rosyth 1801/9)

Aerodromes
at Bodo.
at Bardu
Foss

Air Ministry insist it cannot be operated without RD/F. The aerodrome has not great possibilities. 4 Bfors guns have been mounted. (Lt. Col Hornby's quoted in M.S.M.)

Iceland (Operation Fork)

A/S search.

Two A/S Trawlers are to carry out a search of the coast of Iceland, after the escort for GUARDIAN has been provided for (M.S.M.).



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

170

Operations (Cont.)

GUARDIAN


On completion of Operation Fork, intended to sail GUARDIAN to lay indicator nets at Hvalfiord. Two A/S Trawlers will be sailed later for patrol of nets (V.C.N.S. 1536/9)

Infantry
Brigade
Operation
~~ALABASTER~~
"Alabaster"

Decided that Force Fork will be relieved by an infantry brigade as soon as possible. Anticipated FRANCONIA and LANCASTRIA with 3,500 troops and 30 days' supplies will be ready to leave Clyde p.m. 13/5. This operation will be known as ~~ALABASTER~~ "Alabaster" (V.C.N.S. 1713/9)

Spitzbergen.

At Staff Meeting 1000/9, D. of P. was directed to collaborate with War Office in examining proposed occupation of Spitzbergen.


HOME COMMANDS.Convoys.Norway.^R
CHOBRY^R
One troop of 3 light tanks sailed in CHOBRY from Clyde. To be transhipped at Narvik into suitable vessels and sent to Mosjoen for employment with Independent Companies. (A.C.N.S. to F.O., Narvik, from War Office for Rupert Force, 0200/9).MONARCH OF BERMUDA, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, VILLE D'ALGER and Tanker ~~LOT~~ to sail for Clyde as soon as ready escorted by BRESTOIS, BOULONNAIS and one British Destroyer. (C-in-C., HF.1201/9).NS.2

Six hours ahead of time quoted (C-in-C., HF's, 1542/6). META and WOLVERINE 100 miles astern. (JACKAL, 1630/9).

NS.3.

To be sailed for Narvik (Admty 1602/9, 1609/9). R.A.(D) to provide destroyer escorts (C-in-C., H.F. 1945/9).

EMPIRE ABILITY

Required at Southampton, orders, then to proceed Narvik (D.O.D., 2123/9, 0002/10).

FrenchSailed DJENNE, PRESIDENT DOUMER, FLANDRE, PROVIDENCE, escorted by TARTU^{LE}, CHEVALIER PAUL, for Brest. 9 officers, 60 ratings from BISON on board PRESIDENT DOUMER. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1405/9).

BELFORT

To sail for Scapa soon as ready, to complete with fuel and take orders from Admiral, MONTCALM, before proceeding to Narvik area. F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1301/9).

REDCAR⁹ ACRITY^A

Intend sailing, escorted by HERO and FOXHOUND for Narvik area leaving Leith Roads 0800/12. (C-in-C., Rosyth, 1655/9).

Operations.Allied Submarines.

TAKU 1730/8.

T/B MÖWE hit but
Towed in. (F.D.S.)

See p. 149

Attacked 2 transports escorted by 2 destroyers in position MBRU at 1730. Have been depth charged for 5 hours. Am retiring to westward to examine damage. 10 torpedoes fired, possibly 3 hits. (TAKU 0235/9).

Positions.

0600/10 (D.C. 2125/9, V.A.(S) 1808/9).

Orders toSTURGEDN, SNAPPER, CALYPSO (VA (S) 1647/9).1344/9
ACHILLE, CASABIANCA (R.A.(S), 1646/9), 0023/9
SEVERN (R.A.(S) 1532/9).
SEVERN, ORZEL (1402/9).
SHARK, AMAZONE, DORIS (R.A.(S) 1322/9).

HOME COMMANDS.Norwegian Intelligence.

Norwegian General reports he has denuded East Finmark of troops for Narvik operations, and he now has information that German marines have reached Murmansk by railway. Anxious that Murmansk be kept under observation and that Allies be ready to reinforce East Finmark. (F.O., Narvik, 0635/9).

TROLL,
B.6, etc.

Cancel my 1405/8/5. Sub-Lieut. Berntsen, Royal Norwegian Navy, at present in Norwegian S.S. AKABAHRA at Kirkwall reports Norwegian destroyer TROLL, torpedo boat SNOGG, and submarine B.6 were likely to be abandoned. At 220/5, these vessels were moored with sterns to the shore in 61.36'N., 5.04'E., $\frac{3}{4}$ mile east of Floro. GOR and VALE, very old small vessels used for minelaying, were anchored in small bay north of Kjoelkenoes Village on Midtgulen 61.44'N. 5.10'E. Norwegian BERA fully loaded with carbide lying at southern of Sorgulen, 61.42 $\frac{1}{2}$ 'N., 5.07'E. (C.C.S.O., Kirkwall, 2203/9).

WAR DIARY.

SECRET.

9.5.40. 173
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

British
Air
Activity.

Reconnaissance My 1800/8. Reconnaissance by Skuas will not take place. Necessary information will be obtained from 18 Group reconnaissance aircraft. (A.C.O.S.0228/9)
Special weather reconnaissance (Donibristle 0730/9).

Stavanger
Aerodrome.

Reconnaissance flight on night 8/9 May observed a number of bomb craters which appeared to have been filled in, and a large heap of debris at intersection of the runways. Accurate A.A. fire up to a height of 4000 ft. was encountered. (H.Q.B.C.)

Bergen
Attack.

My 1105/9. 8 Skuas, 806 Sqdn., escorted by 6 Blenheims 254 Sqdn., left Hatston 1630 to carry out bombing attack on objectives at Bergen. (A.C.O.S.1700/9) Report of escort 1 Blenheim lost (Hatston, 2152/9)
Result of attack, three hits on warship thought to be BREMSE, very little H.A. fire or activity seen, small depot ship, 4 M.T.B's and 2 destroyers in Fiord. One Blenheim down in Bergen. One Skua crashed on landing, crew unhurt. One Skua at Sumburgh with engine trouble. Low clouds made it difficult to select targets. Petrol dump machine-gunned, result not known. (Hatston, 2235/9)

Bombing
Restrictions.

for 10/5 (V.A.(S) 1226/9, 1644/9)

GLORIOUS
a/c's

Further X.361, 8/5, it has now been decided that two reserve Hurricanes, making 18, in all, are to be embarked in GLORIOUS. (Air. Min., 1125/9, to Fighter Command.)

Battle
Flight
Search

Battle Flight to proceed forthwith to M B R U 0000 and carry out square search to east of this position. If, clouds permit, any force located may be attacked but only after report has been made. Likely that enemy aircraft will be escorting the convoy and recon. should only be carried out if clouds afford cover. (Donibristle, 0530/9)

MOST SECRET.

174

9.5.1940.

Thursday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Enemy Air Activity.

FIDELITAS.

Italian. Letter from a member of crew, written from Dover to his wife in Italy, says: "On May 9 we arrived at Flushing in Holland. The next morning, before leaving, we were awakened by the noise of aeroplanes and gunshots. We thought these must be manoeuvres, but when the bombs fell all around us we hid ourselves. We then went on to Anvers, and it must have been about 2 p.m. when a bomb hit us; the aeroplane was right above us and they kept on bombarding us. Two of our crew, both fathers of families, were killed and three more were wounded, and they still kept on bombing us, although they must have seen quite well that we were an Italian ship." (Postal Censorship, M.C.5, 20/5/1940).

British Air Activity.

Bergen.

Attack on Bergen by Skuas of 806 Sqn. and Blenheims of 254 Sqn. (M. 09344/40).

9.5.40.
Thursday.

175

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Air (Contd.)

Enemy Air Activity.

2 unidentified aircraft reported in Ostend area at 0510/9. Air attack imminent. (Portsmouth 0551/9)

S.S. ALKAID. (Dutch) was bombed 2100/9 off the Maas Lt. V (I.C.0446/40)

Activity by enemy a/c's was more marked than for some days past. Throughout the day from an early hour there were reports of enemy a/c's at different points off the S. and S.E. coasts. Most of these flights appear to have been for reconnaissance, as no attacks on shipping took place. 2 D.O.18 were shot down by our a/c's about 170 miles E. of Fifeness, and another is understood to have been shot down off Wick.

Enemy a/c's were active off the Dutch coast at dusk and after dark.

Dive Bombing.

At Staff meeting 1000/9, Captain Brind reported enemy aircraft were obtaining from steep dive bombing more success than at first appeared so that the Junkers 87 was the real menace at the moment. He suggested that close attention should be paid to the aerodromes from which aircraft of this type are operating.

Mining.

NARWHAL

Proceeding to lay mines in vicinity of XKRU 58 53 tomorrow, Thursday. (R.A.(S) 0006/9) orders (R.A.(S)1319/9) R.D.10 cancelled R.A.(S) to NARWHAL 0003/9)

3 unexplained explosions.

observed 2318/8 3 heavy explosions approx. C.P.T.S. 5050 (AMAZONE 0103/9)

EXPRESS, ESK, INTREPID proceeding from Buchan Ness are laying mines close eastward of Zone A 2 tonight (R.A.(S) 1449/9)

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd)

176

Mining. (Contd.)

9.5.40.
Thursday.

Operation
B.S.3.

Propose leaving Inmingham 0930/11
(PRINCESS VICTORIA) (The operation was
cancelled see

Tyne

Mine in Tyne entrance not yet located
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 2136/9)

Magnetic
Mines

Suspected in region of Wandelaar lightship
following accident to Belgian fishing
vessel. (Reuter, Ostend, 2145/9)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unidentified
unit

Admiralty 0035/9, see U. Boat Campaign

M.T.B's

Enemy high speed motor boats may be in your
vicinity (C. in C. Rosyth 0020/9 to
EGRET, WHITLEY)
Small enemy vessel transmitting, probably W.
of 4° E (D.D.I.C. 2114/9).
Frequent enemy signals in approx. 56° 30' N
3°45' E (D.D.I.C.2227/9)

3 destroyers
(see BIRMINGHAM'S
Force)

bearing 130° distance 6 miles 100° DKWY3132
(A.L.1845/9) Enemy's course our speed 100°
15 knots 3 destroyers (A/C1910/9)
A/C reports 3 destroyers 130° 6miles DKWY
3132 course 100° at 1845 (C. in C. Rosyth
1934/9 to BIRMINGHAM) (A/C220 Sqn., 1845/9)

4 Minelayers
3 destroyers
1 T.B.

bearing 180° 6 miles. Position 080 MBND
1830 (A/C1940/9)
Am still in touch with enemy. No change in
situation (A/C2005/9)

HOME COMMANDS.

177

Shipping.

ATHENE

Norwegian tanker, now at Grangemouth, being taken over by Norwegian Mission with present cargo intact. Directions. (D.T.D.1654/9)

Ocean Convoys. Positions (D.C. 2119/9) (C. in C. W.A. 1507/9)

Paravanes.

Merchant ships warned that owing to presence of underwater obstructions paravanes are not to be used when proceeding between the Downs and Dungeness. (D.T.D. 1739/9).

Miscellaneous.

Norwegian
Vessels
Building.

Requesting instructions regarding Norwegian destroyer DRAUG and Norwegian M.T.B's building at Vosper. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1817/9).

Risk to
D.C's from
Splinters.

Your 1815/7, recommendation of action to be taken when ships subject to air attack (PELICAN). A general signal and C.A.F.O. modifying the orders for readiness of depth charges is being issued but T.N.T. charges can be detonated by high velocity splinters even when not primed. To separate charges on deck sufficiently to avoid counter-mining is impracticable in ships carrying a large number of depth charges. (D.A/S.W. to C. in C. Nore, 1141/9).

HAGA sunk.

Swedish (1296 tons) has been sunk probably through striking a mine. Four of the crew have been killed and the remainder picked up by a German submarine (Press).

Weather.

North Sea.

(a) North of
56° N.

Wind. W, Moderate to fresh, strong locally.
Weather. Occasional drizzle or rain.
Visibility. Moderate to good.

(b) South of
56° N.

Wind. Light and variable.
Weather. Fine to cloudy, Coastal haze or fog.
Visibility. Moderate but poor in fog.

9.5.40.
Thursday. 179

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

AURORA.

See Situation Report.

KELLY.

Torpedoed see ~~Belgium and Holland~~ BIRMINGHAM'S FORCE
p.166.

SEAL.

No further information since she was seen by Swedish patrol vessel about 1200/5 to west of Gothenburg Archipelago afloat and in tow of 2 German naval trawlers heading S.W. (N.A. Stockholm 2004/9).

Unknown Schooner.

Sinking 40°0'N, 33°27'W. S.S. EXAMINER standing by (Valentia Radio 0013/9).

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

180

Falklands.

At Staff Meeting 1000/9, D.N.A.D. in conjunction with Air Ministry was asked to investigate the supply of a reconnaissance aircraft for use in Falkland Islands.

MEDITERRANEAN.

Shipping
Clearances.

Your 1302/8, re not giving clearances to neutral ships bound for Dutch and Belgian ports. Understand this message cancels your 1900/16/2 to C.in C. Med., allowing ships to pass through patrols. (C.C.S.O. Malta 1156/9)
Your 1156/9. No. My 1190/16/2 only refers to waiving guarantees to call. These ships still have to be examined and clearances must therefore only be given as far as Weymouth. (D.E.W.D. 1916/9).

Positions.

WARSPITE, WATERHEN, VOYAGER, VENDETTA in 34. N., 21. E., for Alexandria. (D.C. 0811/9).

Sabotage
Report.

Susak report German agent offered Master Yugoslavia ship £10,000 to explode bombs in cement cargo in Suez Canal. (S.O.I., Malta, 1435/9).
Turkish General Staff informed Military Attache to-day that Germans through Italians have bribed captains of one Yugoslav and one Greek ship to sink themselves in Suez Canal. Turks state source of information good. (N.A., Angora, 1011/9).

Constanza
Restrictions.

Commencing 8/5, Constanza Port closed to shipping between 1930 hours and 0500 hours and coloured lighthouses marking entrance will be extinguished. (Constanza, via Radio France, 2040/9)

Destroyers.

D.O.D.(F) at Staff Meeting 1000/9 said that 7000 troops would have to be embarked from France, but escorts could not be provided until WARSPITE reached Alexandria. The detaching of destroyers for escort duty would in turn immobilise the battleships.

EAST INDIES.

Shipping.

Vessels diverted Aden for orders (C.in C. E.I., 1251/9)

Air
Situation.

Your 0816/6. Agree that minelayers and submarines present biggest potential threats to shipping in present circumstances. No evidence, however, that these threats exist in Indian Ocean at present. In war with Italy, Red Sea is our most vulnerable point. We are very short of aircraft in Egypt, and on broad grounds it is considered that available air resources can be better employed in Egypt than in India if we are at war with Italy. For this reason, Nos. 11 and 39 Squadrons have been ordered to Aden and Egypt respectively. Not intended to move 60 Sqn. from India, but reserves of aircraft now in India must be regarded as primarily available to reinforce Egypt. In order to conserve these reserves Air Ministry have suggested limiting activities of 60 Sqn. for the present. Admiralty agree. If raider or submarine activity spreads to Indian Ocean, 60 Sqn. will be available as at present, and question of allocating reserves to it will be considered in light of situation at the time. 203 Sqn., Aden, now being re-equipped with long-nosed Blenheim aircraft. This together with redistribution referred to above should improve your position as regards Red Sea. (D.O.D.(F), 1328/9).

AMERICA & WEST INDIES.

ST. BLAZEY.

Your 1130/2 and 1644/8. Approved to retain ST. BLAZEY for target-towing and general duties until SANDBOY practically repaired. (Hd. of M. 1322/9 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Whale Ships.

LANCING and N.T.NIELSEN ALONSO to be advised to ignore all instructions sent them from Norway. (D.T.D.1444/9, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

IDA KNUDSEN.

Norwegian tanker, to proceed to Bermuda, covered for marine and war risks by British Govt. (D.of S.T., 2236/9 to C.O.A.C.)

WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.9. 5. 40
Thursday.CHINA.Japanese
Naval Visits.

Representing reaction to refusal for Japanese Training Sqdn. to visit British ports on grounds of inability to entertain them. Japanese cite case of Argentine Training Sqdn. visiting Capetown and Colombo. Suggests that rule should be made either that no neutral naval forces enter British Naval ports in time of war, or (if it is not desired that Japanese should even visit Rangoon, Calcutta) that visit of Argentine Training Sqdn. should be cancelled. (Mr. Gaigie, Hong Kong, No. T.O.O/9).

AUSTRALIA.

Troops.

Berth sailings arranged: STRATHEDEN leaving Sydney 22/5, 99 for Egypt, 731 for Marseilles. LARGS BAY leaving Sydney 28/5, 32 for Egypt, 515 for Marseilles. Cover is being provided focal point Australian Station. Request adequate cover be provided on other stations (Australian C.N.B. 0432 Z/9).

Home Commands.

AFRIKA sunk CLARA
HUGO STINNES sunk.

It is reported that on 9/4 the Norwegian destroyer STEGG captured AFRIKA, (6503 tons) and CLARA HUGO STINNES (5295 tons) and took them to Ulvik on Hardanger Fjord where they were sunk later in order to prevent the Germans from recapturing them. The AFRIKA, which had a cargo of 2000 tons of iron ore, was flying the Dutch flag and the CLARA HUGO STINNES, Danish colours. (N.O./C. Lerwick 1552/9)

STORE SHIP TORPEDOED.

It is also reported that on May 5 a Norwegian submarine torpedoed a German store ship of about 2,000 tons near Sund in Soter, at the entrance to Bergen.

CAPRI }
KURLAND }

Were ordered by W/T 9/5 to load at Dantzig (I.C.O.446/40)

SAAR

Reported she was arriving at Landsort 0500/9 (I.C.O.446/40)

KONIGSBERG

Was ordered at 0921/9 to proceed to Landsort (I.C.O.446/40).

REGINA

Reported she would arrive Riga 0500/9 (I.C.O.446/40).

ROBERT LEY

(Reported sunk in Skagerrak night 12/13 April). Press reports that Berlin has denied she was sunk.

North Atlantic.

RUDOLF ALBRECHT

Tanker, left Ponta Delgada, Azores, 2100/8. Description. (D.D.I.C.1332/9).

Mediterranean.

MARITZA

Arrived Sibetians 6/5 to load 5,000 tons bauxite for Trieste. (N.A. Belgrade, 1415/9)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Mediterranean (continued)

184

INGO Expected Bruat 9/5 (N.A. Belgrade, 1415/9)

ERNEST GUNTNER Small German vessel at Constanza was found to have secret W/T transmitter, existence of which had been denied. Vessel has been prohibited from sailing for Varna (I.C.O.446/40).

ITHAKA (1773 tons) is reported as being strengthened in dock at Constanza for offensive and defensive armament. She is the third German vessel to have had "repairs" effected there since the war (I.C.O.446/40).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/Ms. Reported.

2252/8

By D/F, unidentified enemy unit 54° 35' N. 2° 10' E., unreliable fix, probable U-boat. (D.D.I.C.0035/9). Two corvettes to be sent to investigate and see if fishing trawlers are intact. (C. inC. Nore, 0204/9 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

1850

By A/C 56° 35' N. 2° 30' E. (I.C.O.446/40)

Estimated dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1259/9).

Situation ReportInvasion of the Low Countries.

News was received at 5.20 a.m. that Holland had been invaded, and at 6.25 a.m. that Belgium and Luxemburg had also been attacked. The Germans have mined Dutch and Belgium ports with magnetic mines. The lock gates at Calais were damaged by a bomb. The first attacks were made on aerodromes not on the line: French aerodromes were bombed, preventing fighters from taking off. Three British flying fields were bombed without damage.

The prearranged operations have been put in train. These comprise operations "Lyster", XD, FA and CBX. BIRMINGHAM, GALATEA, ARETHUSA and a force of destroyers are to come under the orders of C. in C. Nore for work on the Dutch coast after escorting damaged KELLY to Rosyth.

Arrangements have been made for mutual recognition of British and Dutch Naval forces.

VALENTINE and WINCHESTER, A/A destroyers sailed from Dover 1600/10 for Dunkirk to provide A/A protection to the Belgian Army. WESTMINSTER and VIMIERA are to follow.

A broadcast was made on behalf of the Dutch and Belgian Governments ordering Dutch and Belgian ships not to proceed to Dutch and Belgian or German ports.

C.S.2. in GALATEA with ARETHUSA^s, KEITH and BOREAS arrived at Ymuiden at dusk 10/5 to escort 3 merchant ships with bullion to Southend. 22 (p. 217)

Small bodies of Germans landed by air on the beach North and South of the Hague were successfully attacked by our aircraft. Minesweeping Wellingtons operated off Ymuiden without result. 11 German aircraft were seen crashed on the beach south of where the Amsterdam Canal runs into the sea.

Parachute troops were dropped during the day in small parties at many points near the Dutch coast. Troop carrying aircraft landed on the beach at Schevninge and near Waasenaar.

There was considerable activity by German aircraft laying parachute mines at various points off the Dutch and Belgian coasts and in the Dutch waterways.

German parachute troops disguised in Dutch and British uniforms landed and seized the Dutch aerodromes at Yettenburg and Kykduin. About 1200 parachute troops landed and captured Waalhaven aerodrome near Rotterdam.

It has been reported in the Press that some 70 aircraft were shot down over Holland and Belgium during the day.

WHITSHED engaged in operations off Ymuiden was subjected to persistent air attack during the afternoon and suffered slight damage and several casualties. It is claimed that one or possibly 2 enemy aircraft were shot down.



Narvik Area.

187

→ PENELOPE postponed her sailing for the U.K. last night on account of weather. She sailed at 2300/11. The operations planned for tonight, has had to be postponed on account of bad weather.

Strong naval forces were off Ballangen, near Narvik at 1000/10.

Mosjoen, Bodo, Mo.

2 fast coastal steamers and one identified as s.s. NORD NORGE, carrying 400 troops, were sighted at 1000/10 about 50 miles S.W. of Mosjoen, proceeding North. CALCUTTA and ZULU were sent to destroy them. At 9 p.m. CALCUTTA reported that NORD NORGE was lying alongside the pier at Mo, sunk. CALCUTTA → and ZULU returned to Skjel Fjord to escort PENELOPE.

"York"

Iceland (operation ~~XXXX~~)

BERWICK arrived at Reykjavik at 0500/10. She landed her troops and stores and left at 1900 with GLASGOW, FEARLESS, and FORTUNE, GLASGOW is bringing the German Consular Staff and about 20 prisoners. Two Swedish and one Danish ships were boarded; the two former are being sailed to Kirkwall, the latter to the Clyde.

GUARDIAN has left to lay nets off the coast.

Enemy Air Activity. (See also Invasion of the Low Countries).

There was intense activity by enemy aircraft throughout the day, for the most part connected with the operations developing in Belgium and Holland.

KELLY in tow of BULLDOG was persistently attacked by enemy bombers throughout the afternoon in a position about 190 miles by N. from May Island, but without success. Enemy aircraft also shadowed MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD covering KELLY.

Enemy aircraft were active off the English and Scottish coasts between 0330/10 and 0530/10.

No attacks were made on shipping, although aircraft approached convoys off the coast. Enemy aircraft are reported to have dropped incendiary bombs at Chilham near Canterbury during the course of a flight over the Kent coast.

Italy.

It is rumoured that 75,000 Italian troops are concentrated in the South of Italy for embarkation. (MSM).



Suez Canal.

With reference to reports yesterday of German plan to sink a ship loaded with cement in the Suez Canal, local defence plans are in force (MSM).

Danube.

A Press report from Belgrade states that German shipping firms have been ordered to stop German oil tankers from going down the Danube.

Miscellaneous.

Hilversum at 1946/10 broadcast states that telephone communication between Germany and Hungary is cut.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown reports that the Italian s.s. DUCHESSA D'AOSTA has requested quick clearance from Simonstown, and has cancelled the cargo she was due to embark at Durban.

German ships in Dutch East and West Indies.

There are 19 German ships of 118,866 tons in the Dutch East Indies and 9 in the Dutch West Indies and Guiana. At Aruba the ANTILLA (4400 tons) scuttled herself and salvage is considered impossible. At Curacoa, the masters of all the 7 German ships in port have been captured and the crews interned: two of the ships, PATRICIA (3980 tons) and ALEMANIA (1383 tons) were set on fire by their crews, but the fires were later extinguished; and a third ship, the HENRY HORN (3160 tons) made an unsuccessful attempt to scuttle herself. At Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, the GOSLAR (6040 tons) is reported scuttled.

In the Dutch East Indies the position is not yet clear. The Governor General, N.E.I. informed Singapore that steps had been taken to "intern" all German ships in N.E.I. ports and Allied ships were expected to continue to respect N.E.I. territorial waters. Up to 1500/10 messages were being intercepted from Batavia instructing Dutch merchant ships not to call at British or French ports. C.in C. China has not received confirmation that German ships have been seized.



10.5.40.
Friday.

189

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

Policy.

Air Ministry
Orders.

Holland and Belgium were invaded by Germany early this morning. All operational commands should be prepared in all respects to act in accordance with situation and prearranged plans and to take offensive action. Full security measures against possibility of air attack should be taken by all commands. (Air Min.0717/10).

Germany has invaded Holland (D.C.0557/10, Admty General message 111A).

Admty letter NL/TD 2014/40. Make all preparations. (V.C.N.S.1007/10 to Cs in C and F.O's home commands).

Threatened Attack on Thames.

Summary of an anonymous letter by an alleged advance German agent threatening enemy bomber attack on Thames Estuary from Southend Pier to Leigh with parachute troops. (D.N.I. 1833/10). This seems not improbable, for following reasons:

- (a) Our warships' defence is very weak.
- (b) 2100 is 1 hour before low water on Maplin Sands.
- (c) 2100 is good hour to attack Thames because unlighted channels would prevent naval reinforcements from coming till daylight. (C.in C.Nore, 1940/10).

Information from Norway shows that German parachute troops when descending hold their arms above their heads as if surrendering, the parachutists, however, hold a grenade in each hand. These are thrown at anyone attempting to obstruct the landing. To counter this strategem parachutists if they exceed six in number are to be treated as hostile and if possible shot in the air. The largest crew carried in any British bomber is six persons. (Air Ministry 2015/10 to all Commands).

Precautions to be taken at aerodromes (Air Min.1415/10).



10.5.40.

Friday. 190

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

YORK Raise steam and proceed as soon as ready with all convenient despatch to Rosyth (C.in C. H.F.1040/10, 1116/10).

Destroyers. My present intention to send all available destroyers of 1st, 5th and 7th Flotillas to join Nore Command as soon as they can be released from their present duties. R.A.D., H.F. to arrange accordingly. Request C.in C., Nore, to release destroyers of 2nd, 4th and 8th Flotillas now under his orders as reliefs join. (C.in C. H.F., 1910/10).
See also Narvik.

In order to provide additional forces for southern part of North Sea at what is likely to be critical time request you will consider reducing ARK ROYAL screen by two, detaching ZULU and CALCUTTA from PENELOPE as soon as PENELOPE is well clear of land, and ordering SOMALI, ESCORT and WOLVERINE to return to Scapa immediately on arrival leaving transports to return unescorted. Request inform me how many destroyers you can release to south by this or other means. (1st S.L.2311/10). *Reply p. 220.*

Submarines Positions 0600/11 (V.A.S.1909/10) (D.C.2312/10).

Rosyth Movements for tonight. (C.in C. Rosyth 2134/10).

M.T.B's Cancel my 0914/10 (Movements of M.T.B's escorted by a corvette) (F.O. Harwich 1832/10).

Operations.Low Countries.(C.S.2 and BIRMINGHAM) ,).

Holland invaded.

KELLY,
orders
to BIRMINGHAM. Leave 2 destroyers in addition to BULLDOG with KELLY. Proceed with remainder of your force towards Terschelling at maximum speed (D.O.D.(H) 0616/10 to BIRMINGHAM).

KELLY
Air protection. Battle flight 3 Hudsons leaves Leuchars 0230 (C.in C. Rosyth 0036/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).

KIMBERLEY
Orders. On completion of fuelling proceed to Humber with moderate despatch (C.in C. Rosyth 0045/10 to KIMBERLEY).

SUPPLEMENT

10.5.40.
Friday.

191

HOME COMMANDSOperationsLow Countries.Operation FA (Dunkerque) *Protection of flank of Belgian Army.*

Open envelope FA (D.O.D. 0619/10 to WESTMINSTER, VALENTINE, VIMIERA, WINCHESTER.) Proceed to Dover with all despatch. (C.in C. Rosyth 0553/10 to WESTMINSTER, VALENTINE, VIMIERA) Ships named in above signal are proceeding to Dunkerque calling at Dover to commence operation FA (Adty. 0638/10 to Air Ministry H.Q.C.C.)

Ships named in above signal have been ordered to Dover with all despatch. Continue normal duty with your convoys (C.in C. Rosyth 0743/10 to LONDONDERRY, WESTON, VIVIEN, BREDA) VIMIERA sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0900/10). Expect to arrive 1230 (WINCHESTER 0932/10 to F.O.C. Dover).

VALENTINE arrived Dover 1142/10 (A.A. Dover 1146/10) VIMIERA expected time of arrival Dover 1945 (VIMIERA 1531/10 Arrived 2030 (Chatham 2035/10). WINCHESTER, VALENTINE left for Dunkirk 1600 (V.A. Dover 1604/10).

Operation CBX (Minelaying)

(EXPRESS, ESK, INTREPID, PRINCESS VICTORIA).

D.20 to escort. PRINCESS VICTORIA is to sail as soon as possible for operation CBX. D.20 act as escort. Further signal will be made as to position in which mines should be laid (D.O.D.(H) 0739/10).

CBX tonight. Operation CB is being carried out tonight 10/5 by PRINCESS VICTORIA escorted by 3 destroyers and will be referred to as operation CBX. Warn Dutch coastal batteries (D.O.D.(H) 0848/10 to N.A. Hague).

Positions of mines.

Operation CBX mines are to be laid in direction 280° from 52°32'N. 4°30'E. (D.O.D.(H) 0856/10 to PRINCESS VICTORIA). Re. A.L. M/PD08382/40. Minelaying operation C.B. will be carried out tonight 10/5 and will be referred to as CBT. Mines will be laid in area bounded by 52°40'N. 52°30'N. 4°10'E. and Dutch coast (D.O.D.(H) 0925/10, R.A.(S) 1109/10 to submarines on patrol) PRINCESS VICTORIA left Humber 0925/10 with WIDGEON, SHEARWATER, DUFFIN (F.O. Humber 0936/10).

When D.20 has taken over escort corvettes are to proceed to Harwich (C.in C. Nore 1002/10). Informing WHITSHED of PRINCESS VICTORIA's operations (V.A. Dover 1937/10). PRINCESS VICTORIA and 3 destroyers pass through position 146° Smiths Knoll, 5 miles at 1600 today 10/5, course 096°, speed 16 knots. Force is expected to leave Dutch coast at approx. 2145 and return by same route. (D.O.D.(M), 1358/10).



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

Operations.

Low Countries.

Operation CBX. (Contd.)

Your 1107/10, request for Smiths Knoll to continue at full brilliance from 0130/11 for 1 hour. Authorities informed, lights arranged. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1608/10).

Operation CBX completed (PRINCESS VICTORIA 2140/10).

^{"kyster"}
Operation ~~XXXXXX~~ (Blocking)

Prepare to carry out operations EF and DF. Forces D & E are to be brought to immediate notice (D.O.D.0610/10, 0825/10 to C.in C. Nore).

^{"kyster"}
Operation ~~XXXXXX~~ is being brought to immediate notice (D.O.D.0613/10 to Air Min.)

^{"kyster"}
Operation ~~XXXXXX~~ is being brought to short notice. Army signal units should proceed to Sheerness (D.C.0644/10 to W.O.)

Code words. Operation DF Olive
 Operation EF Robin
 (D.C.1118/10).

Bring EF and DF to immediate notice (C.in C.Nore 0601/10).

FLORENTINO Keep steam at 2 hours notice, coming to immediate
TRANSEAS notice by 0800/10 (D.O.D. 1235/10).
PACIFICO
BORODINO
ATLANTIC GUIDE

Operation XD (Demolition parties).

Prepare to carry out operation XD (D.O.D.0600/10 to C.in C.Nore).

Forces for operation XD are assembling. R.E. detachments should arrive Dover not later than 1000 (D.O.D.0617/10 to War Office).

My 0606/10 ships are detailed as follows:-
Party A WHITSHED, Party B WILD SWAN,
Party C, VERITY, Party D BRILLIANT.
(Adty. 0637/10 to V.A. Dover)

My 0606/10. Detachments are to be embarked (D.O.D.0807/10 to V.A. Dover).

My 0606/10. Forces are to be sailed forthwith (D.O.D.(H) 1120/10 to V.A. Dover).

Your enquiry re Flushing. Oostgat clear, but Wielingen Channel mined by Dutch up to limits



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

Operations

Low Countries.

Operation XD (Demolition parties).

of territorial waters. Make Wandelaar Light and proceed to Wielingen Light for pilot. If no pilot, return and enter Flushing by Schooneveld and Oostgat. (D.N.I., to V.A., Dover, 0957/10).

Situation ashore at Ymuiden and Hook of Holland obscure. German troops may be in vicinity. Approach with caution (V.A. Dover 1720/10 to WHITSHEED, WILD SWAN).

Parties landed. Certain amount of aircraft activity from fighters and reconnaissance machines. No bombing locally. Northern side of channel is reported to be blocked by magnetic mines. Parachute troops landed in vicinity. (WILD SWAN, 1752/10).

Dutch Foreign Minister states large amount of gold at Rotterdam, estimated weight 36 tons. Essential to get gold away tonight. Make all arrangements in cooperation with local authorities. Gold to be loaded in merchant ships or WILD SWAN as convenient. (D.O.D.(H) to WILD SWAN, 1831/10).

WIVERN arrives Hook at daybreak with Military Mission. Request for assistance from Dutch authorities against enemy landing by air at Waalhaven should be complied with by one or both destroyers as you think fit. (V.A. Dover, to WILD SWAN, 2136/10).

WHITSHEED
Report.

Subject to heavy persistent air attack off Ymuiden. Two dead, some wounded, several blown overboard may be lost. Steering gear apparently damaged, two holes. Demolition party now ashore. Town and district in friendly Dutch hands. Reception cordial. Local attitude confident. Reported 70 aircraft destroyed today. Military situation improving and aerodrome being recaptured from parachute troops. C.O. of landing party does not expect action for some time so intend returning Dover now. (WHITSHEED, 1940/10).

* 2 destroyers in addition to those employed on Operation XD are being sent Hook of Holland to co-operate in Dutch defence. (D.S.D.9, 2004/10, to N.A. Hague).

2 destroyers in addition to those carrying out operation XD are to proceed to Hook of Holland and get in touch with Dutch officers with a view to cooperation with Dutch defence (D.O.D.(F) 2012/10 to C.in C. Nore).

* Reported at Hook about 100/11, p. 227.

HOME COMMANDSOperations

194

Low Countries.

Operation XD.

WIVERN left for Hook of Holland, MALCOLM for North Goodwin Patrol (V.A. Dover 2035/10).

Arrange pilots for 4 trawlers and 2 drifters arriving a.m./11 (C.in C. Nore 2307/10 to VERITY). If fuel permits send two destroyers to enter Hook of Holland at daylight and co-operate defensive action with WILD SWAN and local authorities. (C.in C., Nore 2132/10, to BIRMINGHAM).

General.

- Calais dock damaged. Dock gates at Calais extensively damaged (by a bomb) No.1 Train Ferry immobilised in basin. Useless to sail train ferries to Calais. (V.A.Dover 0625/10).
- Wearing of 2 or 3 White Ensigns. Inform Dutch authorities that forces from Nore Command will fly 2 or 3 White Ensigns during first 48 hours on Dutch coast when within range of Dutch forts or warships. GALATEA, ARETHUSA, BIRMINGHAM may be off coast but will keep out of range of forts if possible. Giving numbers painted on our destroyers operating off coast (C.in C. Nore 0640/10, D.C.0829/10).
- Belgium Luxembourg Attacked (D.C.0648/10).
- Dutch and Belgian ports. Reported to have been mined by the Germans with magnetic mines, but Ymuiden is known to be clear (M.S.M.).
- Shipping. All British and Norwegian ships in Dutch and Belgian ports are to be sailed to United Kingdom as soon as possible. Too much attention should not be paid to reports of enemy minelaying. (D.P.D.0952/10). (p 209)
- Reported that South Shore of the Maas is in the hands of the enemy. (V.A.Dover 1421/10).
- French Military H.Q. report German parachute troops have landed at 0730 north of the Hague near beach of Katwijk and 100 aircraft are supposed to have landed. (D.D.I.C.1452/10).
- F.O. telegram from The Hague. According to advice of my Military Attaché, if the Germans continue to land troops at the present rate the Hague will soon be in German Hands. (D.D.I.C., 1453/10).
- F.O. telegram from The Hague. The Dutch Govt. are most indignant at the German assertion that they have occupied the Hague and say that they have the situation well in hand. They say, however, we must bomb the aerodrome at Rotterdam. (D.D.I.C. 1515/10).

HOME COMMANDSLow Countries.

195

General.

Following from French General H.Q. The Germans have landed from the sea near Wassewaar (between Scheveningen and Katwijk-Aan-Zee) Information considered reliable. (D.D.I.C., 1602/10).

Following from W.O. Dutch are insistent we must bomb Waalhaven and Ypenburg aerodromes. Germans continually dropping parachute troops there. N.A. Hague, insistent action should be taken as early as possible, as it is vital these landings be stopped. (D.D.I.C., 1603/10).

Military Mission.

One destroyer arriving from Portsmouth is to be available to convey British Military Mission to Hook of Holland. Military Mission expects to arrive Dover by bus about 1630. Request you will issue sailing orders and sail destroyer as soon as possible after Mission arrives. (D.O.D.(H) 1326/10, to V.A., Dover).

Evacuation of Nationals.

Foreign Office report from Sir L.Oliphant that he was making arrangements for the evacuation of British subjects in Belgium to Ostend. Hoped to arrange that the British subjects should be taken off in one of the Belgian ships. If this not possible, he might have to ask us to send a ship to Ostend for them. (D.I.C., 1400/10).

Adnty. 1400. Can one of your destroyers be made available for this on completion of XD?. (C.in C., Nore, 1729/10, to V.A. Dover).

Your 1729. A destroyer will be sent if request is made. (V.A.Dover, 2015/10, to C.in C. Nore). Send one destroyer (C.in C.Nore 2047/10 to BIRMINGHAM.)

Military Convoys.

Request you will send one destroyer to Portsmouth for escort duty with military convoys. Expected this destroyer could return to your command in a few days. (D.O.D.(H), 1444/10, to C.in C. W.A.) Adnty's 1444/10. Request you will send a destroyer to arrive at Spithead by 2000 tomorrow 11th for escort of military convoys. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1723/10, to C.in C., W.A.)

Belgium

War Office states Belgian Govt. requested via Belgian M.A. no British landings without previous notification to Belgian Govt. as they thought Germans might land in British uniforms. (D.D.I.C., 1401/10).

10.5.40.
Friday.H O M E C O M M A N D SOperations

196

General (contd.)

Scheveningen. HEReward ordered to proceed with despatch in accordance with C.in C. Nore's 2047/10, evacuation of British women and children from Scheveningen. (BIRMINGHAM, 2159/10).

Scheldt

Large amount of shipping observed in Scheldt and A.A. fire experienced from shipping particularly from large vessel with red mark on funnel. Apparently A/A fire also coming from shore batteries ends. (Air Min.1904/10).

Dutch General Staff appear satisfied with situation except that we have not bombed Waalhaven aerodrome. Other aerodromes again in Dutch hands. Fighting round Delft proceeding satisfactorily. Situation round Hague much better. Hope entertained of dealing with Rotterdam satisfactorily but heavy bombing of river outside Rotterdam and Germans still dropping parachutists at Waalhaven. Front line holding out well but position at Apeldorn a bit tender. One Dutch t.b.d. sunk near Rotterdam. (N.A. Hague, 2020/10).

Report on situation, from N.A. Hague. (D.D.I.C. 2030/10).

Telephone message from N.A. Hague, on situation, (F.O.R. about 1630/10).

Ditto, recd. 1800/10.

Waalhaven

Dutch ask that British warships should from New Waterway bombard Waalhaven aerodrome, now in German hands. Dutch destroyers doing this, one damaged. (N.A. Hague, 2105/10)

Dutch Naval Forces.

Dutch s/ms. and destroyers in two and under own steam proceeding Rotterdam and Flushing to the Downs tonight. (F.O.I.C. Dover, 2340/10).

Dutch Naval Attache reports, tonight after dark, accompanied by guardship, submarines O.21 and O.22 and destroyer ISAAC SWEERS will be towed from Flushing, submarines O.23 and O.24 under own power, and destroyers TJERK HIDDEN and CALLENBURG and submarine O.25 towed from Rotterdam, all proceeding to Downs. (D.C.2247/10).

Believed distribution of Dutch men-of-war prior to outbreak of war. (D.N.I.1936/10).

Operations - General.

DML9

Cancelled. HAMPTON proceed to Portsmouth forthwith (V.A.Dover 0646/10 to HAMPTON, MS6, D19).

10.5.40.
Friday.

197.

HOME COMMANDSOperations (Contd.)

→ KELLY damage

First air escort to return from KELLY reports her down by bow and listed to starboard with starboard forecandle rails awash but being towed bows first. Aircraft left KELLY at 0710 in DKOX 5605, BULLDOG gave course and speed of tow 250° 5 knots. 2 enemy aircraft were sighted and driven off (C.in C. Rosyth 1032/10).

Dutch Coast.

Reduce to moderate despatch and steer for 53° 30'N. 3°0'E. (C.in C. Nore 1126/10 to BIRMINGHAM) No need to hurry at present (C.in C. Nore 1447/10). Fly 2 White Ensigns when in submarine areas or in sight of Allied warships. You may be needed on Dutch coast during dark hours tonight returning Humber after any necessary action. Send to Humber to refuel now any destroyers that are too short of fuel (C.in C. Nore 1137/10 to BIRMINGHAM). BIRMINGHAM and 8 destroyers probably in vicinity Terschelling L.V. own forces must be expected in vicinity of Dutch coast (R.A.(S) 1141/10 to submarines on patrol).

Gold to be removed to U.K.

GALATEA, ARETHUSA to be off Ymuiden at dusk to escort to Southend ships with large consignment of gold (C.in C. Nore 1326/10 to C.S.2). Informing WHITSHED (N.O.I.C. Dover 1850/10).

Be ready at dawn to cover retirement of PRINCESS VICTORIA and escort from 47Q2 to Humber (C.in C. Nore 1512/10 to BIRMINGHAM).

FURY proceed Humber to fuel (HOSTILE 1550/10) → KELLY and escort being bombed. No fighters. DKTS 2747. (C.S.18 1550/10).

Request your position course and speed forthwith in order that battle flight may find you. (C.in C. Rosyth 1634/10 to C.S.18). Repeating Position course and speed DKTS 3034 260° 3 knots. (C.S.18 1653/10). Repeating position course and speed. No battle flight yet arrived. Have been bombed and now being shadowed (C.S.18 1713/10).

Enemy aircraft landing troops on beach at Scheveningen. Proceed with all despatch to bombard any aircraft seen there (C.in C. Nore 1640/10* to BIRMINGHAM) Your 1747 (telling her to report situation) cannot reach coast before dark. 5 destroyers with me all must fuel 11/5. My D.G. not effective against new magnetic mines (BIRMINGHAM 2010/10 to C.in C. Nore).

* Corulter, 1935/10
(p. 198)

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

198

OperationsDutch coast.

C.S.18 KELLY

Your position was DKTS 4930 second class by cross bearings at 1752. Aircraft instructed to search these if they fail to locate you in DKTS 3034. (C.in C. Rosyth to C.S.18 1810/10).

3 Hudsons now arrived. Request continuous fighter protection from daylight tomorrow Saturday. (C.S.18, 1815/10).

Bottom has been blown out of both boiler rooms of KELLY and patches would be difficult. (C.S.18 2033/10).

-->BIRMINGHAM

Your 1756, cancel my 1640 (orders to proceed to Scheveningen) Remain to N.W. submarines in area (C.in C.Nore 1935/10).

WHITLEY
VIVIEN.

Cancel my 1146/10. Proceed to arrive position Y early daylight then with all despatch to Sheerness where you will come under orders of C.in C.Nore (C.in C. Rosyth 1814/10).

Identification

of British destroyers approaching Dutch coast (Adty.0829/10, C.in C. Nore 0911/10).

→ Proceed to Humber with destroyers not detailed for other duties arriving in daylight hours (C.in C. Nore 2241 to BIRMINGHAM).

Before leaving port report estimated position course speed at 0400 in order that air escort may be provided (C.in C. Nore 2318/10 to C.S.2.)

Gold to be
moved.

Large quantity of Dutch gold is being embarked in Dutch ships at Ymuiden and should be ready to sail about 2000/10. Cruiser and destroyer escort will be off Ymuiden at dusk but will not enter. Ensure gold sails tonight. (D.O.D.(H) 1324/10 to WHITSHED).

Asking him to arrange for cruiser and destroyer escort for gold (D.O.D.(H) 1336/10 to C.in C.Nore).

Destroyers
from W.A.

Ships addressed are placed under orders of C.in C. Nore, and except H.M.S. VENETIA are to proceed to Dover with all despatch, fuelling at Plymouth en route. (A.C.W.A.1953/10 to H.M.S.VIMY, H.M.S. WESSEX, H.M.S. VIVACIOUS, H.M.S. WINDSOR, H.M.S. WALPOLE, H.M.S. VESPER, H.M.S. VENETIA, H.M.S. VERSAFILE.

10.5.40.
Friday.H O M E C O M M A N D S

199

Operations (contd.)

BULLDOG
KELLY
situation. Report situation and ships in company (BIRMINGHAM 0050/10 to BULLDOG) KELLY in tow. Am proceeding 7 knots course (²212°) no one in company (BULLDOG 0100/10).

MANCHESTER
SHEFFIELD to
cover KELLY. As soon as ready proceed with MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD to assist to cover withdrawal of KELLY vide my 0104 (C.in C. H.F. 0103/10 to F.O.C. 18 C.S.)

BIRMINGHAM'S
force to
cover KELLY. Unless in contact with enemy concentrate all your force and cover withdrawal of KELLY in tow of BULLDOG towards Rosyth. Position of KELLY at 2347 was 56°47'N. 5°9'E. (C.in C. H.F. 0104/10 to BIRMINGHAM, FURY).

My position course speed 215 MBOX 26 - 082 - 28 knots. Am going to assist KELLY and BULLDOG (KANDAHAR 0055/10).

GALLANT and
destroyers to
assist KELLY. Proceed to KELLY's assistance. Position. (BIRMINGHAM 0128/10 to GALLANT, MOHAWK, HAVOCK, JANUS, FURY, HYPERION.)
What is state of KELLY? (BIRMINGHAM 0135/10 to BULLDOG).

Maximum air
escort asked
for. My 0039/10. Please amend air escort to provide maximum air protection for KELLY (C.in C. H.F. 0122/10, 0125/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).

BULLDOG sinks
M.T.B. One M.T.B sank after ramming me at 2345/9 only superficial damage bulkhead watertight (BULLDOG 0209/10).

KELLY, extent
of damage. KELLY states boiler room and lower mess deck flooded (BULLDOG 0250/10 to BIRMINGHAM).

Re-escorts. Consider constant really effective fighter protection for KELLY essential and increased surface support desirable if further damage is to be avoided. Can this be sent please? (BIRMINGHAM 0255/10 to C.in C. H.F.). Your 0255/10
MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD sailed 0245. Hudsons have been sent (C.in C. H.F. 0423/10 to BIRMINGHAM).
Expect Battle Flight 3 Blenheims about 0600 (C.in C. Rosyth 0506/10 to BULLDOG).

KEITH, BOREAS
to join. KEITH and BOREAS join C.S.2. at the Nore with despatch (F.O.C. Dover 0801/10 to (D) 19, D.D.O.D. 0808/10 to V.A. Dover). They left at 0840 (F.O.C. Dover 0840/10).

BIRMINGHAM'S
force under
C.in C. Nore. My 0616/10 BIRMINGHAM and accompanying destroyers are placed under your orders (D.O.D.(H) 0926/10 to C.in C. Nore).

SUPPLEMENT

WAR DIARY.

10.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

200

Operations.

Narvik Area.

Landing at Bodo.

Disembarkation at Bodo completed.
Am sailing with transport.
(NUBIAN 0200/10).

Narvik.

CAIRO.

Arrived (F.O. Narvik 1700/10).

→ MANCHESTER.
SHEFFIELD.

Your 0928/10. Should work from Rosyth.
(D.O.D.(H) 1026/10 to C. in C. H.F).

FURIOUS.

In view of new situation have postponed embarking 263 Gladiators Sqdn. now waiting Prestwick until further instructions are received. (FURIOUS, 1010/10) Your 1010/10. Gladiator Sqdn. is to be embarked as soon as possible. (V.C.N.S. 1530/10)

Landing of French Troops near Bjervik Postponed.

Operation intended for tonight, Friday, has had to be postponed 24 hours owing to weather, which caused one M.L.C. carrying tank to founder, personnel saved. (F.O., Narvik, 0915/10).

1st C.S.

Your 1229/9. Intend to pass through position 70.45'N., 21.00'W., at 1800. Request A/S escort may join me there. Request information whether any of our own forces now at Tromso. (F.O.C., 1 C.S., 0817/10.

N.S.3.

Your 1655/9 and my 1945/9. Subject to confirmation from F.O. Narvik that Convoy can be received request Convoy N.S.3 may be sailed so that REDCAR and ACRITY can R.V. and proceed in company.
(C. in C. H.F. 1054/10 to C. in C. Rosyth).

→ Your 2115/9. Do you want MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD to work from Rosyth or further south. If so I can send YORK but this means sending up reserve of 8 inch ammunition. (C. in C. H.F. 0928/10 to Admiralty.)

Asking for crew to be sent for captured German Trawler MARGARET which will be commissioned as despatch vessel (R.A. Narvik 0702/10).

WESTCOTT, VOLUNTEER join DEVONSHIRE 70°45'N., 21°0'E at 1800/10. Complete with oil fuel at Tromso. No other force Tromso (F.O. Narvik 1122/10).

Request Norwegian sea pilots may accompany Course of Convoys to Norway (R.A. Narvik 1336/10)

10.5.40
Fri Day

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

201

Operations (Continued).

Narvik Area (Continued).

Proceed to Lavang Fiord 68°33'N., 16°35'E.
by Tjeldsunder (F.O. Narvik 1401/10 to C.S.20.
Repeated RESOLUTION).

PROTECTOR.

Has had to be used for troop movements, and no
nets have been laid. (R.A. Narvik, 0701/10)
PROTECTOR is urgently required in Mediterranean
and should be sailed for Rosyth without further
delay after laying nets (D.O.D. (H) 2013/10).

Enemy Troops.

2 fast coastal steamers and 1 other carrying
troops under air escort reported 225 degs.
Mosjoen 70 and 45 miles respectively going
north at 1000/10. Rendezvous and endeavour
to intercept. (F.O. Narvik, to CALCUTTA, ZULU,
1155/10).

ZULU.

Proceed towards Myken Light at present speed.
If nothing sighted R.V. 158° DRIF 10 at 1700
(CALCUTTA 1408/10).

Operation

BISHOP. Bishop

Two Sub-Lieutenants, R.N.N. to be attached
F.A.A. for liaison duties. (Fifth Sea Lord,
1939/10)

My 1820/8, Operation Bishop, ranks and ratings
detailed to sail in MANELA on 18/5 may be granted
leave, subject to immediate recall, up to
p.m.15/5. (D.N.A.D. 1334/10).

My 1939/6, para. 9. Reserves consist of
3 Walrus and 3 Swordfish floatplanes.
Arrangements for shipment will be signalled
later. (D.N.A.D. 1643/10).

Landing pier.

Reference Admiralty 2123/9 Paragraph 2 (c).
Arrangements should be made for loading pier and
craft mentioned. In addition for four horse
boats for Scapa 10 with moorings should be
made available at Southampton to meet
requirements for Narvik which will be signalled.
(D. of L.D. 1455/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

CALCUTTA
Operation
Transport
Sunk.

At 1000/10, 2 fast coastal steamers and a third
steamer later identified as probably s.s. NORD
NORGE carrying 400 troops were sighted about
70 and 45 miles respectively S.W. of Mosjoen.
CALCUTTA and ZULU were sent to intercept and at
2104/10, CALCUTTA reported the NORD NORGE sunk
off Mo. (I.C. 0447/40 CALCUTTA 2104/10),
(F.O. Narvik 1724/10, 1411/10).
Your 2104/10. Did you see anything of German
flying boats? (F.O. Narvik 2355/10).

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

202

Operations (Continued).

Narvik (Continued).

COXWOLD.

Seaworthy and fit for passage to Narvik with balance of petrol cargo (C. in C. H.F.1615/10).

CALCUTTA.

When you have done all you can to hinder enemy join PENELOPE who is sailing (F.O. Narvik 2231/10).

Am returning to Skjel Fiord with ZULU to pick up PENELOPE and her convoy (CALCUTTA 2200/10).

4 destroyers
to be
surrendered.

In view of the necessity of concentrating additional destroyer forces in the Southern part of the North Sea I must ask you to surrender four of those now under your command and that they be sailed for Scapa as early as possible. (1st S.L.2313/10 to F.O. Narvik).

Mo.

No ships at Mo. Pier intact (CALCUTTA 2130/10).

s/m reported.

See U-Boat Campaign.

Operation O.B.

Is postponed a further 24 hours. ENTERPRISE, HESPERUS, FLEETWOOD are carrying out separate operations. (F.O. Narvik 2157/10).

Destroyers.

One destroyer is to remain with ULSTER PRINCE. Remainder escorting ULSTER PRINCE and ROYAL SCOTSMAN are to leave their convoys and proceed to Scapa at maximum possible speed. On arrival of N.S. 2 JACKAL and JAVELIN are similarly to proceed to Scapa. (D.O.D. (H)1403/10 to VETERAN, JANUS, NUBIAN, FIREDRAKE, JAVELIN, JACKAL).

PENELOPE.

Your 1155 10th May PENELOPE is ready to sail at 2100 today Friday in tow of one tug with ISIS in tow of other tug. She has suffered following casualty and damage from near bomb miss one officer 2 ratings killed, 20 ratings wounded W/T Office temporarily out of action. She has only 300 rounds of A.A. Ammunition remaining. Reference C. in C. Home Fleet's 1608/6 and in view of probable renewal of bombing should convoy be sailed with Polish Destroyer BLYSKAWICA H.M.S. CAMPBELL and WITCH without waiting return of CALCUTTA and ZULU, if weather permits. If weather makes necessary 2 tugs for PENELOPE, ISIS being left behind.

(VINDICTIVE 1700/10 to F.O. Narvik).

(PENELOPE :-

10.5.40
Friday

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Continued).

203

Narvik Area (Continued).

PENELOPE

My 1700 10th May taking advantage of fine weather, darkness, and in view of almost certain renewal of bombing tomorrow have sailed H.M.S. PENELOPE in tow, H.M.S. ISIS in tow: British ship GMS (SEA VALOUR) and British ship GBBX (LOCHBE) in convoy. Escort H.M.S. CAMPBELL and H.M.S. WITCH. Convoy keeping following wireless guard, 138 kcs, 253 kcs and routine.

(VINDICTIVE 2210/1D).

FURIOUS
GLORIOUS

FURIOUS will be ready to proceed a.m. 11/5 and GLORIOUS a.m. 12/5. (GLORIOUS, 1926/10).

Bardufoss
Aerodrome.

Can you now confirm that Bardufoss will be able to receive Gladiators on 15th and that A.A. defences will then be complete? Your estimate when Bardufoss or Skanland ready to receive Hurricane should be expedited if possible as it governs sailing date of GLORIOUS. (Air Ministry 2015/10 to Rupert Force, C.in C. H.F.2314/10).

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

10.5.40.
Friday 204

Operations.

Kirkenes.

Your 0635/9 not to DEVONSHIRE.
Helsingfors reports similar rumours. Important that Kirkenes should be denied to Germans. Believed 2 Norwegian battalions there. Your 0635 may mean these have now been reduced. Suggest Norwegians be urged to reinforce. DEVONSHIRE is at your disposal for transport. War Office represent undesirability despatching small British or French detachment as if moved in H.M. Ship it would be immobile and lacking important equipment. Maintenance would also entail added commitment. You may wish send British Army Officer to report to you on situation at Kirkenes. Suggest Norwegian air force be used for reconnaissance East Finmark. (D. of P 2116/9 to F.O. Narvik)

Iceland (Operation Fork)

Landing completed.

Troops landed successfully. De storing commenced (BERWICK 0705/10)
VIGOUR (Force arrived) (BERWICK 0453/10)
BERWICK, GLASGOW, FEARLESS, FORTUNE left Reykjavik (BERWICK 1900/10)
Many landing grounds suitable for use of large a/C's excluding Reykjavik. Purpose no action be taken with Akureyre landing ground (Sturges, Reykjavik 1400/10)

GUARDIAN

Sailed from Scapa 2000/10 for Hvalfiord to lay ~~in~~ ^{indicator} Sicator nets (D.O.D.(H) 2338/10)

Situation.

Report from Col. Sturges, all quiet, inhabitants friendly, etc., Prisoners embarked in GLASGOW (BERWICK, 0930/10)

Submarines.

S/M's off Dutch Coast are to sink without warning any ships north of Texel which are coming from Germany (R.A.(S) 0548/10 to S/M on Patrol, C. inC. Portsmouth 1107/10 to L.25, L.26

SEA WOLF keep to east of 4° 25' E. SNAPPER proceed to area defined on Naud S. by 53° 20' and 53° 10', on E by 4° 25' E and on W. by 4° E (R.A.(S) 0718/10)

WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

205

Operations.SUBMARINES

L.23, L.26 H.28, H.44, H.49, H.50 will shortly leave Portsmouth for Harwich, V.A.S. will assume operational contact from time of leaving Portsmouth until they enter Area A. when Capt S.3 is to take over operational contact (V.A.S.1031/10)

TAKU to report situation (R.A.(S) 1631/10) ^{Ref. 237.}
 Orders to L.26 and WARRIOR 2 to proceed at dawn to 52° 8' N. 1° 53' E. Captain (S) 3 will give further orders. (V.A.C's) 1832/10
 Positions of S/M's on patrol (C. in C. Rosyth 1948/10 to VIVIEN, WHITLEY, VALOROUS)

SEVERN

Reports sinking Swedish MONARK of Stockholm under German prize crew 0345/4. Two members of prize crew from cruiser KONIGSBERG reported KONIGSBERG as having been successfully attacked by British aircraft in Bergen. Suggestions for informing our air force if carrying out raids in vicinity of submarines, also more precise guidance to unescorted neutrals in Skagerrak. (S.9., 1957/10)

Signals to S/M's.

Cancelling my 1912/8. Cancelling my 1009/9 (V.A.(S) 1028/10)

Norwegian Naval Units.

The Norwegian Red Cross stated that all the crews of the Norwegian warships TRYGG, GARM, HAUK, SNOGG, LYN, ROLF and FRIFF are safe. A report to the paper Gjengangeren states that there were on board the GARM eight passengers, and they are also safe. It is also stated that the crews of the submarines E.6 and D.3 are also safe. The destroyer STORM went ashore and the crew were saved. ODIN and GYLLER were captured by the Germans in Christiansand; the whaling steamer HVAL 5 was captured by German planes. (Oslo broadcast, 2845, BST, 10/5)

List of Norwegian naval officers, etc., arrived in fishing ketch VITA from Bergen (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1052/10)

Your 1259. In view of changed situation trust consideration has been given to surrendering the valuable potential in Norwegian M.T.B's which would be efficient fighting units if manned by us, but of uncertain value if manned by Norwegians. Also call attention to Greek MTB's at Vospers, one of which is ready. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1547/10)

WAR DIARY.

10.5.40.
Friday. 206

HOME COMMANDS(Contd.)

Operations.

Troop Convoys.

Admiralty 1634/7. To economise escorts, sailing of convoys N.S.4 and N.P.4 will be postponed for at least four days. Hoped to arrange for urgent items to be sailed with EMPIRE ABILITY expected to leave Scapa about 20/5 (D.O.D.(H)2236/10)

M.T. Ships

Owing to increased commitments in other theatres, shortage of M.T. Ships is becoming acute. Request report estimated date on which it will be possible to sail each of the following for U.K. - CYCLOPS, CHARLBURY, LYCAON, BELLEROPHON, MARGOT, CALUMET. (D.O.D. (H) 1222/10)

WAR DIARY.

SECRET.

10.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

207

British Air Activity. AIR

Security Patrol. 2 Small ships sighted 53°31' N 3°54' E 2135/9
6 medium sized lighted ships sighted 2148/9 53°
55' N 4°45' E (HQBC0715/10).

Waalhaven aerodrome. Near Rotterdam, to be attacked between 2200/10
and 0300/11. (Air Min., 1815/10)

Bergen to be attacked One section Blenheims is to co-operate with
six Skuas leaving Hatston at 0500/11 in order
to carry out bombing attack of Bergen. The
Blenheims are to arrive at scheduled arrival
time for the Skuas over objective and are to
maintain a defensive patrol during the attack
Skuas are to be escorted on homeward tracks
(Donibristle 1945/10).
Objectives are patrol tanks at Strudshavn and
enemy shipping in harbour (ACOS1300/10).

Co-operation between ships and a/c's. Re large number of occasions on which air
escorts and long range fighters have failed
to make contact with H.M. Ships. Asking
for steps to be taken to improve co-operation
(C. in C. H.F.1702/10)

Enemy air activity.

Convoy shadowed WINCHESTER 0357/10 etc.,

CISTULA Attacked by a/c 10 miles West of Kapelle
(CISTULA 1038/10)

Help DKTS 4544
(NGCS Block 6 1321/10)

BULL DOG Bombed DKWY 7050 (BULL DOG 1327/10)
are being bombed require immediate assistance
DKWY 3050 (BULL DOG 1326/10, 1332/10)

Enemy Air Activity Enemy are using delay action bombs. If
bombing attacks on this country develop all
unexploded bombs are to be regarded as dangerous.
(Air Min., 1055/10, D.C. 1256/10)

11 crashed a/c's a/c reports 11 crashed German a/c's on beach
south of Ymuiden by entrance to Canal
(HQCC Red 2100/10)

↓ SUPPLEMENT

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

10.5.40.
Friday.

MINING.

German
Magnetic
Mining

German A/C this morning placed magnetic mines in Flushing roads near Ostend and Zeebrugge. All sailings suspended. Having no experience themselves of destroying such mines they request immediate advice and would welcome despatch of British experts. (Brussels No. 125)

Unexplained
explosions.

heard in easterly direction a long way off (NOIC Newhaven 0919/10)

It is reported (B.2) that mines are being laid by German aircraft off Calais and Dunkirk and off the S.E. Coast from Lowestoft to Beachy Head. (D.D.I.C. 1450/10)

Mines off
Dutch ports.

As far as I can tell mines laid at entrances to ports are magnetic. No signs of any other types of minelaying (NA Hague NOTOO 0650/ 10)

Preparations
for minesweeping
operations on
Dutch and
Belgian
coasts.

The following movements have been ordered:-
5th M/S.F. from Tyne to Humber
4th M/S.F. from Humber to Harwich
6th M/S.F. is ready to carry out Captain Dangerfields' operation.

2 L.L. trawlers are ready to proceed to Flushing to-day.
(M.S.M.)

German a/c's have laid parachute mines off Ostend and Zeebrugge. Both ports closed. Ask French to send experts to advise Belgians at those ports (DMS2039/10 to V.A. Dover)

Orders to 4th M.S.F. (DMS 1113/10)

SUPPLEMENT

HOME COMMANDS.

10.5.40.
Friday

SHIPPING.

Dutch and
Belgian
Ships

Instructions have been issued from Holland and Belgium that all Dutch and Belgian merchant ships bound for Holland, Belgium or Germany are to proceed to the nearest British or Dutch port for instructions. Other Dutch and Belgian ships are to continue their voyages. (BBC broadcast) (D.T.D.1021/10)

British
ships

It is reported that there are at present no British merchant ships in any Dutch or Belgian home ports.

Trawling.

My 1313/17. Trawling is prohibited in Firth of Clyde north of the line joining Dunningham Point 55° 19' N., 5° 33' W., and Craigan Point 55° 03.5' N., 5° 03' W. Seine net fishing for white fish in this area is subject to local restrictions. (D.T.D.1236/10)

Darkening
ship

Your 1121/22, darkening of neutral ships while under escort of H.M. Ships, approved. (Hd. of M. to VANP 1711/10)

Ocean convoys

Positions etc., (D.C.1925/10)

All British and Norwegian Ships in Dutch and Belgian Ports are to be sailed to United Kingdom as soon as possible. Too much attention should not be paid to reports of enemy minelaying. (D.T.D.0952/10)

NOTE.

Sent to Hague, to pass to Amsterdam, Antwerp and Rotterdam.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.

Twelve de-gaussed Merchant Vessels will be leaving Antwerp for the Downs at 0500 May 11th Arrange/escort as far as possible. (Air Min., 1950/10 to HQCC)

Miscellaneous.

Sheerness.

Request it be added to list of areas to be evacuated. (C. in C. Nore, 1000/10) Matter will be considered by War Cabinet in so far as it affects all vulnerable areas East Coast (D. of L.D. 2223/10)

CASUALTES

VANSITTART acc p 218

WAR DIARY.

10.5.40.
Friday.

210

WEATHER.

0500 B.S.T.

<u>Area.</u>	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook.</u>
North Sea.	W., strong in N., variable light in S.	Mainly good coastal haze in S.	Wind veering N.W. in N.
Channel and W. Approaches	N.E., light or moderate.	Mainly good, mist patches on French coast.	Similar.
Horns Reef.	Westerly light.	Poor.	Wind freshening visibility improving.
West Coast Norway.	Variable fresh in S., S.W. fresh or strong in N.	Moderate or poor in S., moderate or good in N.	Wind becoming westerly, fresh. Visibility improving.

10.5.40

Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

211

General.

- (A) Holland has requested our assistance and has instructed their Naval authorities to get into touch with ours.
- (B) Belgium has called upon us to implement our guarantees.
- (C) You are to act accordingly.
- (D) French Naval Authorities are being informed similarly.

(D.O.D.(F) 0948/10 to C's in C. (Abroad).

North Atlantic.

French Positions.

Convoys, patrols, ships on passage.

1200/10 (D.C.0128/10).

French sloop D'ENTRECASTEAUX sailed Dakar 9/5, will operate morning 12/5 south of Gomera. (F.O.C.N.A. 1112/10).

Dutch Shipping.

Dutch shipping in ports of Portugal being held up owing to Shippers withdrawing cargoes bound for Belgium and Netherlands. Can I give any re-assurance.

(N.C.S.O.Lisbon 1630/10).

South Atlantic.

Italian Ships. Add to my 2147/10, re Italian ship DUCHESSA D'AOSTA. Prime Minister has personally authorised reasonable means of delaying ship to be exercised. Italian ship MONTE SANTO is also in Durban. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2252/10).

Dutch and Belgian Ships.

Your 1021 10th May. Request confirmation that Dutch and Belgian Merchant Ships bound for Holland, Belgium or Germany should proceed nearest British or French Port for instructions. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1918/10).

10.5.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

212

FOREIGN STATIONS (Continued).

Mediterranean.

WARSPITE) 32°N, 28°E, on passage to Alexandria
WATERHEN) (D.C.0655/10).
VOYAGER)
VENDETTA.)

GRAMPUS. 34°N, 24°E on passage to Malta
(D.C.0655/10).

CLANFRANALD. Sabotage (16/2/40 at Suez) See Mediterranean
volume.

Turkish Desired to invite Turkish officers to Malta
Cooperation. to see general system operating a British
defended post. Request War Office approval be
obtained. G.O.C. Troops, Malta, concurs.
(C. in C. Med. 1007/10).

PROTECTOR. See Narvik Area.

DANUBE. German shipping firms have been ordered to
Danube. stop German oil tankers from going down the
Danube (Belgrade to Daily Express).

10.5.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS (Continued).

213

East Indies.

- U.S.2. Position see M.S.M, Your 0432/9, sailings for troops. Adequate cover will be provided on East Indies Station. (C. in C. E.I. 11512/10 to A.C.N.B.).
- Dutch Ships. To be delayed sailing. (C. in C. E.I. 0803/10)

Australia.

- U.S.3. Position see M.S.M.

China.

- F.E.S.S. Cancel my 0724/10, re formation of F.E.S.S. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 14502/10, to Admiralty for D.N.I.).
- D.F. Station. Reported by Marconi engineer that Direction Island H/F D/F station is ready for service. Request early arrangement to send watchkeepers (D.D.I.C. to C. in C. China 1717/10).

America & West Indies.

- Dutch West Indies. Ref. to F.O. tel. No.19 and Bermuda 0947. All Germans on the islands including women were arrested by six a.m./10. All German ships captured and crews removed. My impression situation is fully in hand and landing party of Allied troops would not be welcomed. (Consul, Willemstad, Dutch W. Indies, 1410/10).
- Offer of 2 destroyers. By Canadian Government for offensive action in West Indies area. (C.N.S. Ottawa 1449/10).

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

10.5.40.

Friday.

214

Home Commands.

POLARIS.

Re-German trawler. Admiralty 1917/3.
To preserve secrecy proposed that vessels be
renamed. Early action is required for purposes
of mails, etc., (A.C.O.S.1830/10)

DUISBERG.

Informed Rugen station she had arrived Tallinn
9/5 and reported heavy ice.

ELISABETH
BORNHOFEN.

Ordered by W/T on 10/5 to load at Danzig.
(I.C., 0447/10)

America and West Indies.

PATRICIA
ALLEMANIA
HENRY HORN

Attempted scuttling, unsuccessful. (Reuter
Willenstad, Dutch West Indies 1935/10)

GOSLAR

Georgetown reports scuttled Paramaribo (A.2)
(S.O.I. Kingston 1936/10)

North Atlantic.

KLAUS SCHOKE
LUISE BORNHOFEN

Have now anchored off the harbour at Horta,
Azores (A.1)

GERMANIA

Tanker, attempting to sell her cargo of petrol.
(A.1) (I.C., 0447/40)

CORRIENTES.

Canary Islands (Las Palmas) damaged and
rendered unseaworthy by an internal explosion,
origin unknown, and has been moved with
OSTMARK to inner harbour 10/5 (I.C. 0447/40)

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.
(Contd.)

10.5.40.
Friday.

215

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK.

At Santos, Brazil, has been re-attached.

Montevideo reports 1210/10 a German shipping agent expected a German ship there on 10/5. (C. in C. S.A. 1750/10). Only ship known to be at large is WINNETOU, which left Las Palmas 9/4 and not since reported. (I.C.0447/40).

Mediterranean.

ARKADIA.

Arrived Braila 9/5 (

GALATA
1034/10)

Foreign Stations.

The following German merchant ships were in Dutch Colonial Ports on May 10:-

Dutch East Indies.

<u>Padang.</u>	BITTERFELD	7657
	FRANKEN	7789
	RHEINLAND	6622
	SONECK	2191
	WUPPERTAL	6737
<u>Sabang.</u>	LINDENFELS	8457
	MONI RICKMERS	5272
	SOPHIE RICKMERS	7033 <i>omit</i>
	WASGENWALD	4990
	WERDENFELS	6318
<u>Batavia.</u>	NORDMARK	7750
	RENDSBURG	6200
	VOGTLAND	6608
<u>Tjilitjap</u>	STASSFURT	7395
<u>Surabaya.</u>	CASSEL	6047
	ESSEN	5158
	NAUMBERG	5878
<u>Macassar.</u>	SCHEER	8298
<u>Menado.</u>	FRIDERUN	2464
<u>Dutch West Indies:-</u>		
<u>Aruba</u>	ANTILLA	4406
<u>Curacao.</u>	ALEMANIA	1383

ESTE....

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

10.5.40.

Friday.

216

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Dutch West Indies
(Contd.)

Curacao.

ESTE	7915
FRISIA	561
HENRY HORN	3164
KARIBIA	428
PATRICIA	3979
VANCOUVER	8269

Dutch Guiana.

<u>Paramaribo.</u>	GOSLAR	6040
--------------------	--------	------

U. BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked

HENRY
WOODHALL *pc*
sunk British (625 tons) in ballast Yarmouth to Saham was sunk by a mine at 1231/10, North of Spurn Point. 9 survivors 1 dead, 4 missing out of crew of 12 and 2 soldiers.

VIIIU ~~VEAL~~ 5 survivors, have been picked up from Estonian ? ~~VEAL~~ reported mined off West Hinder Buoy.

S/M's Reported.

Estimated disposition (D.D.I.C.1149/10)

1121 55° 12' N., 1° 15' W 070° 13' course 360° (A.S.)

no time! 70° 26' N., 22° 12' E in Soro Sound. Report from F.O. Narvik (B.3)

War diary.11.5.40.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORTLow Countries

Demolition parties were landed last night 10/11 May at Antwerp, Flushing, Hook of Holland and Ymuiden by BRILLIANT, VERITY, WILD SWAN and WHITSHED respectively. WHITSHED was bombed and had some casualties; minor damage was caused to the destroyer and her remaining ammunition is flooded, but she reports having brought down one or possibly 2 aircraft. She states that the Dutch arrangements for demolition are well thought out.

PRINCESS VICTORIA laid mines off Ymuiden last night, escorted by ESK, EXPRESS and INTREPID. p.241.

Blockships are being held in readiness to proceed to Ostend and Zeebrugge. The Germans have laid magnetic mines in both these ports, and both are closed.

BIRMINGHAM and 3 destroyers are returning to the Humber from the Dutch coast. HYPERION and HAVOCK have been detached to assist the Dutch in engaging German forces at Waalhaven aerodrome near Rotterdam. WILD SWAN and WIVERN are also assisting.

C.S.2 in GALATEA with ARETHUSA, KEITH and BCREAS escorted 2 merchant ships with bullion, for Southend, which left Ymuiden at 0220/11.

8 destroyers from the Western Approaches and 4 from Rosyth are being placed under the orders of C. in C. Nore.

British and French submarines are concentrated off the Dutch coast. German submarines have been reported off Terschelling.

The Military Mission disembarked at Flushing.

It is reported that the enemy are trying to get mechanised units into ships at Stavoren (east of Zuyder Zee) with the apparent intention of landing in neighbourhood of Amsterdam.

The Germans continued to drop parachute troops in considerable numbers, also to land troops at aerodromes temporarily occupied. CODRINGTON and Dutch S.S. IRIS were unsuccessfully bombed off Hook, and Dutch S.S. PRINS WILLEM VAN ORANJE was hit off Flushing.

British and Allied subjects, women, children are being evacuated from Scheveningen in trawlers, escorted by HEReward. Arrangements have been made for evacuation from Ostend, if necessary.

Various Dutch warships are being sent to the U.K.



War Diary

11.5.40.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT (contd.)

British Air Activity

Waalhaven aerodrome, near Rotterdam was bombed by our aircraft consistently between 2200/10 and 0300/11. The Dutch were asked to retake it at 0305/11.

5 Skuas bombed the aerodrome at Bergen today and set the fuel tanks at ~~FLOVVAASBYNT~~ on fire.
Flovvaasbynt

KELLY, in tow of FURY and escorted by KANDAHAR and covered by C.S.18 in MANCHESTER with SHEFFIELD is returning to Rosyth at about 3 knots. She was attacked from the air, but not hit. Two submarines which were shadowing her were attacked by her air escort. Tugs have been sent to her, as she is making no progress.

Narvik Area.

PENELOPE, which sailed at 2300/10 in tow of a tug, with ISIS, in tow of another, was bombed and had some casualties caused by a near miss.

COXWOLD is now seaworthy and is ready to sail for Narvik from Scapa with the remainder of her cargo of petrol.

There was considerable bombing in the Narvik area. VANSITTART was hit pm/10th and had 2 guns and her W/T put out of action and sustained casualties 2 officers killed and 1 wounded.

British reinforcements have arrived in the Narvik area.

Operation OB is arranged for 0100/13.

Mosjoen. Bodo. Mo.

The disembarkation of the independent company at Bodo from S.S. ROYAL SCOTSMAN was completed during the night 10/11.

ENTERPRISE, CAIRO, FLEETWOOD and HESPERUS are proceeding now to effect a landing at Mo or Bodo am/12.

The enemy occupy Mosjoen. They have been advancing by sea land and aircraft, coasting steamers being escorted by aircraft.



War Diary.

11.5.40.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT (Contd.)

Mine laying Operation

The French submarine RUBIS has completed her mine-laying operation at the entrance to the Skagerrak.

Enemy Air Activity off U.K.

Reconnaissance flights were made at intervals during the day off the S. and E. coasts, particularly off Orfordness and Harwich during the forenoon, but no attacks on shipping have been reported.

Italy

It is reported from Angora that the Turkish Government has learnt from a well disposed neutral source that Italy has ceded 20 submarines to Germany in return for 100 latest aircraft. Also that crews for at least 2 submarines have arrived in Italy.

Dutch West Indies

CARADOC and H.M.C.S. FRASER left Kingston 1230/11 with 2 coys. K.S.L.I. and S.S. JAMAICA PLANTER with M.T. at 1330, for Willemstad, Curacao. DESPATCH has arrived there, but at the request of the Governor no landing has taken place.

The French cruiser PRIMAUGUET arrived at Aruba pm/10 and landed detachments.

War Diary

220
11.5.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Destroyers

(p. 140)
Your 2311/10. I fully appreciate the situation and will do the best I can. Fresh commitments are continually arising and for this reason I must keep a very small margin to work on. At the moment there is not a single destroyer available here as a screen for Capital Ships if required. For the time being I do not think I can send any more destroyers South than those mentioned in my 1910/10/5 but will do so as soon as possible. I do think it important to get flotillas or at least divisions into some semblance of cohesion for work down South.
(C. in C., H.F., 1528/11).

War Diary11.5.40.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsPrecautions in U.K.

Eastchurch Aerodrome Eastchurch aerodrome and Sheppy Island are held by only about 100 men, but 1000 unarmed Polish airmen are in the island. Asking for loan of 750 rifles for 10 days: none otherwise available (C. in C., Nore, 1217/11).

H.49, H.50. Your object is to attack enemy warships and transports should they attempt to reach East coast of England. (Capt. S.3 1005/11).

Sheerness Will be included as evacuable area etc. (A.C.N.S. 2125/11).

German Parachute Troops Summary of tactics employed (Adty. 1840/11).

Possibility of Raid On Thames Estuary by German troops either airborne or Seaborne. Precautions to be taken. (C. in C. Nore, 1145/11).

Delay action bombs Delay may be up to one week, etc. Evidence bombs being dropped in pairs, one instantaneous, one delay (Air Min. 1130/11).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

KELLY

Battle Flight of 3 Hudsons to be at DKWY 4135 at 0430/11. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0006/11 to C.S.18).

Aircraft sent to search to eastward of you failed rejoin contact owing to darkness. Report searched 50 miles to eastward to a width of 30 miles, nothing seen. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0012/11).

Request weather report for KELLY (F.O., 18 C.S. 0406/11).

Speed of advance now below 3 knots. A tug if available might do better. Vessel difficult to control due to Yawing. Consider danger to cruisers from submarine attack under these conditions a very real one and recommend withdrawal of cruisers. (C.S.18, 0410/11 to C. in C., H.F.).

Expect to arrive 1045. Have following wounded ratings from KELLY, 13 cot cases, 4 serious, 6 non-cot cases. (KANDAHAR, 0502/11).

My 0410/11. In view of weather and report from capt (D)5, that KELLY is only just holding together request 2 ocean tugs be sent. (C.S.18 0551/11).

Your 0410/11. No necessity to remain in close proximity to KELLY as long as air escort is present, but you should keep sufficiently near to provide cover from surface forces using high speed. (C. in C., H.F., 0638/11 to C.S.18).

KANDAHAR ordered to refuel and rejoin KELLY as soon as possible. (C. in C., H.F. 0641/11).

18 C.S. 0410/11. Request tug may be sent to KELLY. (C. in C., H.F. 0644/11 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Tow parted at 0600. FURY still trying to pass fresh tow; Wind N.W., moderate. (C.S.18 0735/11). 2 tugs sailed (C. in C., Rosyth, 1129/11).

If KELLY or any ship in company breaks W/T silence for another reason request brief report by signal of proceedings on night of 9th-10th May. (C. in C., H.F. 1009/11).

War Diary

11.5.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (contd.)

KELLY
(Contd.)

Your 0410/11. No necessity to remain in close proximity to KELLY as long as air escort is present, but keep near enough to provide cover for surface forces using high speed. (C. in C., H.F. 0638/11 to F.O.C. 18 C.S.).

In view of weather and report from Capt. (D)5 that KELLY is only just holding together request 2 ocean tugs be sent (C.S.18 0551/11).

Cruiser and destroyers bombed. No hits. Our aircraft reports at least 2 submarines in vicinity. My position DKDN 1453 KELLY now in tow of FURY has made no progress since 0600 (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 1505/11).

Bottom has been blown out of both boiler rooms of KELLY and patches would be difficult. (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 2033/10).

Attacks on U-boats by destroyers and aircraft screening KELLY 1437/11, 1439/11. Also re bombing by enemy aircraft (Donibristle 1810/11).

Send 3 Hudsons to escort (Donibristle 1510/11).



War Diary

11.5.1940.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSOperation XD (Demolition parties)Situation.

Flushing quiet. Roads empty of (?) refugees. Demolition party remaining ashore. Am returning to Dover. Expected time of arrival 1045.

(VERITY 0704/11).

Military demolition party reports C.O. and one other missing since last night and placing of charges not yet commenced. They have been ordered to get into touch with Dutch Military and commence placing as soon as possible. Placing of charges by Naval demolition party at Hook is well in hand.

Situation in Rotterdam obscure. Immediate neighbourhood of Hook in control of the Dutch with exception of few isolated parachutist troops and only request from local authorities has been for A/A support.

In view of presence of magnetic mines in river to Rotterdam do not intend to move ships above Hook.

(HYPERION 1030/11 to Admiralty)

HYPERION, HAVOCK.
WILD SWAN

Your 1228. H.M.S. HYPERION and H.M.S. HAVOCK alongside. Placing the parcel charged for local demolition should be completed by 1600. Little air activity. Local isolated Groups of German troops in the vicinity. No details of Rotterdam party available. Am proceeding to bombard the wood to eastward of town at request of the Dutch Authorities (WILDSWAN 1324/11)

HYPERION

Military Demolition Party returned with full number. Dutch Military Authorities will not allow charge to be prepared or placed and have requested party stand by at the Hook. Officer Commanding estimates approximately the Eastern third of Rotterdam is held by the Germans including Waal Haven Aerodrome. Naval Demolition party has completed preparations and distribution of charge for the various objectives at the Hook but authorities will not allow them to be placed.

(HYPERION 1640/11)

WHITSHED

Damage and casualties from a/c bombing, 1 officer 7 ratings seriously wounded, 5 missing drowned, minor structural damage. Steering gear correct. Ammunition flooded

(WHITSHED 0315/11)



War Diary.

11.5.1940.
Saturday.

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

Operation XD (Demolition parties)

WILD SWAN Your 1250/11. WILD SWAN who is extra well degaussed is to proceed to Rotterdam to cooperate (VCNS /11)

Belgian British Minister Brussels reports 2046. Operation
Govt. agree. XD Belgian Government agree and are prepared to collaborate.
(DN1 0427/12 to V.A.Dover)

Operation
F.A.
Dunkirk.

VIMIERA Left for operation F.A. (V.A.Dover 0607/11)
WESTMINSTER.

Operation
Widnes.
"Lyster" Keep steam at 4 hours' notice coming to immediate
notice by 0800/12 (DOD (4) 1138/11 to blockships)

Royal Family Your 1050
Your L050/11. Are times BST. (DC 1601/11 to N.A.Hague)

WAR DIARY.

11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

226

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

Dutch Coast.

WIVERN.

H.M.S. WIVERN is proceeding to Flushing to land mission. Parachute troops are in close vicinity and communications to the Hague impracticable. Dutch authorities have cancelled request to Bombard Waalhaven Aerodrome.

(WILD SWAN 0541/11)

Orders to
VIVIEN,
→ WHITLEY.

(A) When fuelled and ready for sea proceed to patrol eastward of Brown ridge. You may be needed to support destroyers on Dutch Coast, perhaps to escort Dutch S.S. TITUS or to bring refugees from Ymuiden. C.O's are to visit C.S.2 before sailing to obtain latest information available.

(B) British submarines are in area north of 52° 45' and in vicinity of CPWY 2525.

(C) WILD SWAN, WIVERN, HYPERION and HAVOCK are at Hook of Holland VERITY and BRILLIANT at Flushing and Antwerp respectively.

(D) Fly 2 white ensigns when in sight of Dutch.
1122/11.

IMMEDIATE. VERY URGENT.

Situation very critical send us as many Warships as possible to fire at planes landing on the beach all possible aircraft co-operate.

(N.A. Hague 1215/11 to Adty.)

Recognition
Signals.

My 0029 - Another unknown Destroyer when challenged ships which are believed to be Dutch have replied OEM with bright blue light.

(ARETHUSA 0108/11 to C.in C.Nore.)

My 0029 - Believed to be Dutch (ARETHUSA 0046/11)
Note 0029 reported one destroyer one S/m sighted.

Dutch ask
for destroyers.

Following received from N.A. Hague:-

URGENT. No news of the two British destroyers promised to co-operate with the Dutch. Street fighting in Rotterdam, situation precarious. Dutch ask that destroyers should go up and assist. Can instructions be given to WILD SWAN to do what she can if local Dutch Naval authorities advise that this is possible? Fighters should be in attendance.

1105/40

→ Can suitable ship be sent to Ymuiden this evening to embark about 100 British and French Nationals, mostly women. If so, please state name of ship time of arrival. This is urgent as it is reported that Germans have started indiscriminate bombing at Delft.

1110/40 (WHITLEY sent see p. 228)

Report just received that oil tanks at Rotterdam in hands of Germans. Report not yet very definite.

1113/40.

(D.D.I.C. 1213/11 to C.in C.Nore,
V.A. Dover.)

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)
Operations.

227

Dutch Coast.

Hook

Urgent my 1105. 2 British destroyers now reported at Haa K. Communications are bad and have sent message to Senior Officers destroyers pointing out urgency of giving all possible help at Rotterdam and he must use his discretion after obtaining all available ?

(N.A. Hague No T.O.O. Rec.1343/11)

Consul-General Rotterdam requests 2 destroyers proceed Rotterdam. In view of presence of magnetic mines vide H.M.S. WILD SWAN's 0810 do not intend to comply without your approval.

(HYPERION 1250/11. to Adty.)

Situation seems critical here, street fighting, most urgent to send fighters, everything depends on stopping more troops landing from aircraft.

(2 X 2 No.T.O.O. Rec.1315/11 to D.N.L.O.)

Give all support practicable but the moment for your withdrawal must be entirely at your discretion.

(C.in C.Nore 1413/11 to HYPERION, HAVOCK.)

Hague.

Troops still landing on beach. Situation critical and depends on large numbers of fighters and destroyers off coast. (N.A.Hague 1510/11)

Landing
of Marines.

2 destroyers from Dover to embark 200 R.M. and take them to Hook to arrive if possible at dawn. (V.C.N.S.1936/11.)

Could troops with light equipment be landed at Hook or thereabouts, without enemy opposition, at dawn 12/5 from a destroyer?

(D.O.D.(H)1743/11 to HYPERION, WILD SWAN.)

Reply, Yes, unless situation deteriorates rapidly.

HAVOCK will patrol off entrance during night,

HYPERION, WILD SWAN remaining in harbour (HYPERION 1930/11).

Following for O.C.R.M. Force begins:-

(a) One Battalion strength about 750 expected to arrive Hook dawn 13th May.

(b) Collect as much motor transport as you can.

(c) Further signal will be made with regard to your re-embarkation. Ends.

(D.O.D.(H)2341/11 to VERITY)

VERITY, VENOMOUS left Dover 2345 for Hook with landing parties of R.M. arriving after daylight. (N.O.I.C. Dover 0005/12)

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)

Operations.

Dutch Coast.

228

Landing of
Marines.
(continued)

IMMEDIATE My 1936/11.

A. Object of this force is to hold the landing place at the Hook so that further landings can take place unopposed.

B. O.C. Royal Marine Force should get into touch with S.N.O. Hook and local authorities in order to obtain latest information.

C. Force has three days rations with it. It is intended to re-embark it before the end of the period.

(C.N.S.2121/11 to V.A.Dover.)

Your 1936 11th May, H.M.S. WILD SWAN will be at Hook Whistle Buoy by 0400 zone minus one tomorrow Sunday to meet destroyer. Air protection considered most advisable during disembarkation. (HYPERION 2025/11).

Situation.

Situation on the whole seems easier but in some towns 5th Column combining with troops landed from aircraft. Dutch troops very tired and much scattered. Strongly urge sending men one British battalion or Marines to Ymuiden. This would cheer the Dutch and consequent relief if ever that number of their troops would be helped, for presence of British fighters this afternoon has had considerable moral effect. Military and Air Attaches agree.

(N.A. Hague 1645/11.)

Evacuation
of Refugees.

WHITLEY to enter Ymuiden as soon as practicable after dark to embark about 100 British and French Nationals mostly women. Fly 2 white ensigns when entering. D1 and GRIFFIN to place themselves under orders of C.S.2 after bombardment for escort of WHITLEY and S.S. PERSEUS if she sails.

(C.in C. Nore 1609/11.)

Your 1110, am sending WHITLEY at nightfall. Very desirable refugees from Holland and Belgium should sail in merchant ships if possible. Most difficult to send warships. (C.in C. Nore 1616/11 to Adty.)

Minesweeping
at Flushing.

Your 1045/11. Reporting action taken (Trawlers etc. being sent, Dutch N.A. arranging for 8 Dutch wooden trawlers to be sent to Portsmouth to fit magnetic sweep etc. (R.A.M.L.1617/11 to N.A. Hague.)

Situation.

I. Main Bridge over river Maas at Rotterdam has been blown up.

II. Waalhaven Aerodrome is again in German hands.

III. Legation have asked our Air Ministry to bombard Aerodrome.

IV. Germans have no communications with each other across the river.

(Netherlands Legation 1715/11.)

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)

229

Operations.

Dutch Coast.

- WHITLEY. If German landings continue after dark by parachute flare you are not to withdraw to comply with my 1609 (evacuation of refugees). Report if more ships needed (C.in C. Nore 1759/11).
- VALOROUS
HEREWARD. May be needed to sail at 1930 to take troops to Hook. If not, sail at dawn 12/5 to relieve HYPERION and HAVOCK who operate in Hook or on coast to E. where troops were landed today from a/cs. Fly 2 White Ensigns when in sight of Dutch coast (C.in C. Nore 1816 /11).
- HYPERION. Your (? My) 1640/11. Request for destroyers to proceed to Rotterdam now cancelled by Naval Commander, Hook (HYPERION 1835/11.)
- German landings. Germans thought to have landed on beaches from Hook to Ymuiden mainly Scheveningen both sides of pier and from there South to Hook. Ships can get close in shore. (C.in C. Nore 1819/11 to Capt.(D)1, HAVOCK, HYPERION.)
- FURY. Bombed by a/c's. 048 DKDN 38 (FURY 1430/11)
Bombed (FURY 1724/11)
- HAVOCK. Bombed by 3 a/c's. (HAVOCK 1430/11)
My 1430 No hits (HAVOCK 1451/11).
- Evacuation of Refugees. 2 French destroyers being sent to Ymuiden to evacuate French refugees. (C.in C. Nore 1915/11).
- VIVIEN. Delay experienced in locating port. Expect to enter 2315 (VIVIEN 2250/11).
- Ships on the coast. Following ships will probably be operating off Hook of Holland and Brown Ridge tomorrow Sunday:-
- | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| CODRINGTON | VALOROUS | VIMY |
| GRIFFIN | HEREWARD | WINDSOR |
| HYPERION | MOHAWK | VIVACIOUS |
| HAVOCK | JANUS | VENETIA |
| VERITY | VENOMOUS | WILD SWAN |
- (C.in C. Nore 2359/11.)

Expect to arrive off Hook of Holland 1900.
Join me there.

(Capt.(D)1 1509/11 to VIVIEN, WHITLEY)

→ VALOROUS and HEReward leave Sheerness dawn for Hook relieving HYPERION and HAVOCK when they need fuel. Distribute these four as necessary between Hook and Ymuiden where Germans said to be landing today. Rejoin them yourself when C S 2 is within 60 miles of Harwich. Report if you need more ships. Withdraw if air attacks too heavy.

(C.in C. Nore 1930/11 to D1.)

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)

Operations.

230

Dutch Coast.

HAVOCK
WILD SWAN.

H.M.S. HAVOCK patrolling between Hook and Ymuiden endeavouring to destroy German troops seen to land by parachute flares and to deal with further landings. H.M.S. WILD SWAN completed bombardment on Wood close eastward of Hook. Both at request of local authorities.

(HYPERION 1440/11)

Your 1116 11th May and Capt.(D) 19 1100. Position 1300. C P W X Y 0445 speed 8 knots. H.M.S. BOREAS and s.s. IRIS in company. PERSEUS not seen. Intend to anchor as convenient during dark hours. (ARETHUSA 1312/11.)

Following from N.A. The Hague begins:-
Situation very critical, send us as many warships as possible to fire at planes landing on the beach, all possible aircraft co-operate (Ends).
Do all you can to co-operate.

(D.O.D.(H) 1638/11 to HYPERION.)

Your 1759. No landing since 1900. No activity visible on foreshore. Do not consider more ships needed at present. Have not yet met H.M.S. VIVIEN but am patrolling between Scheveningen and Hook.

(Capt. (D)1, 2026/11.)

VIVACIOUS
VENETIA
VIMY
WINDSOR

Sail VIVACIOUS VENETIA from Harwich and VIMY and and WINDSOR from Dover at daylight 12/5 for Maas Light Vessel to arrive at R.V. at 1200. They are to be prepared either to enter New Waterway at Hook of Holland in support of Dutch, or act under orders of D.l., or Senior Officer at Hook of Holland in repelling enemy air landings on beach from Hook to Ymuiden mainly near Scheveningen.

Ships near Dutch coast to fly two white ensigns.

(C.in C. Nore 2252/11.)

No sign of
parachute land-
ings.

C.in C's message 1609 and 1759 no sign of landing by parachute and flare. Am patrolling coast towards Ymuiden. Request rendezvous with H.M.S. WHITLEY and other ships to be escorted.

(Capt.(D) 1 2232/11 to F.O.C.2 C.S.)

Destroyers
off Hook.

From daylight tomorrow Sunday 4 or more destroyers under D 1 will operate from Hook to the eastwards wherever Germans are landing. I anticipate air support will be essential for D.l's success.

(C.in C. Nore 2259/11)

INTERCEPT. Your 2011. H.M.S. VIVIEN and H.M.S. WHITLEY are both evacuating personnel from Ymuiden under my orders as directed by C.in C. Nore.

(C.S.2 2145/11 to Capt.(D)1, VIVIEN)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Low Countries.

ARETHUSA) Proceed to Sheerness to fuel (C. in C., Nore
KEITH) 1116/11). ARETHUSA, BOREAS escorting S.S. IRIS
BOREAS) (see Air), KEITH, HEEMSKERK (Dutch warship)
escorting S.S. PERSEUS, S.S. TITUS not ready
before pm/11 (C.S.2 0221/11).

MOHAWK) To patrol near ^{Wn}Brook Ridge 0500/12 until further
JANUS) orders (C. in C., Nore, 1841/11).

KEITH) Request they be returned to Dover as soon as
BOREAS) they can be spared. (F.O.C. Dover, 1440/11 to
C. in C., Nore, C.S.2).

Dutch Naval Forces

Five Dutch submarines one Dutch destroyer
escorted by guard ship from Flushing one Dutch
submarine, 2 Dutch destroyers from Rotterdam for
Downs position uncertain. (H.Q. No 16 Group
0045/11).

JACOBS VAN HEEMSKERK ^C Order ^CHEEMSKERK (^{Cruiser}Flotilla leader) to Downs.
(C. in C., Nore 1116/11, D.D.I.C. 0320/11).

SUMATRA) Dutch Admiralty report SUMATRA (cruiser) departs
JAN VAN GELDER) night 10/11 from Wielingen to Humber. Minesweeper
JAN VAN GELDER to Downs. (D.D.I.C. 0320/11) .

Submarines
0.9. 0.10. Dutch Adty. report they will try to enter
Naval Base Den Helder. Inform British warships
in vicinity (D.D.I.C. 0332/11 to C. in C. Nore,)

Your 2247/10 (Dutch submarines and destroyers)
where should these vessels be sent from Downs.
(C. in C., Nore, 0901/11).

^{Acos}
J. VAN HEEMSKERK, S.S. TITUS → My position 052° 10' North 002° 07' East making
11½ knots uncompleted Netherlands Coast Defence
Ship JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK and Dutch ship TITUS
in company no sign of PERSEUS possibly not yet
sailed. (Capt. (D)19. 1100/11).

HOME COMMANDS

Dutch Naval Forces (contd.)

Submarines
021, 022,
ISAAC SWEERS

N.O.I.C. Ramsgate reports Dutch Tug
ZWARTZEE with destroyer ISAAC SWEERS in tow.
Tug SCHEDE and submarines 021 and 22 under
own power arrived in Downs. (V.A. Dover,
1255/11).

Disposal
in U.K.

Your 1125/11 Dutch Warships which are fit for
service will remain under the orders of the
Dutch Authorities and will continue to
work from Dutch Ports for the present.

SUMATRA, now proceeding to Humber is in
need of refit and her case is being considered
separately.

The question of Dutch Submarines is under
discussion. (Adty 1521/11 to C. in C., Nore).

JACOBS VAN HEEMSKERK^e
Flotilla leader.

Yacht WARRIOR 2 has taken her over to lead
her to Downs (Capt.(D)19 1505/11). Her
navigation arrangements are quite unreliable.
Intend to anchor her near Tongue 1540/11.
(Capt.(D)19 1325/11).

WAR DIARY.

11.5.1940
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

233

Operations.

Narvik.

GRAFTON
BURZA
ELYSIAWICA

Left Skjel Flord 2200/10 for Scapa
(F.O. Narvik 0959/11).

Destroyers.

Send JAGUAR and one Tribal back to Scapa
forthwith at best speed (C. in C. H.F.
0929/11 to V.A.A.).

PENELOPE.

ESCORT to reinforce screen (C. in C. H.F.
1406/11) F.O.C. 20 C.S. to remain with
PENELOPE until relieved by CALVERTA
(F.O. Narvik 1445/11).

Fighter protection can be given to ENTERPRISE
and PENELOPE until 0900 only 12/5 if
Operation O.B. is carried out (K.A.A. 2046/11).

ESKIMO.

Is it practicable for ESKIMO to be towed to
Lavg Flord. If so Skjel Flord can be
evacuated (F.O. Narvik 1835/11).

BEUDOUIN

Proceed to Scapa at best speed (F.O. Narvik
2004/11).
She sailed at 2340 (BEUDOUIN 2541/11).

Situation
Aerodromes
N.S.S.

No important developments Narvik area
(N.C. 0240/11).

See Aircraft carriers.

Intend sailing N.S.S. 2100/11. Names of ships
etc. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1329/11).

German
destroyers.

Your 1603/10 Enquiry regarding Master of
NORTH CORNWALL's Observations at Narvik.
Captain states: First German destroyers
arrived Narvik at 0430/9/4. There is number,
also one or two patrolling outside which did
not come in. Saw no distinguishing marks or
numbers but funnels were painted yellow. Was
subsequently a prisoner and saw no more.
(A.N.I. 1643/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

Gold.

Norwegian Government want 20 tons of gold
removed to U.K. (R.A. Narvik 1700/11).

Convoys.

For Narvik area should be sailed for Harstad
via Andenes and Vags Flord unless otherwise
ordered by F.O. Narvik (F.O. Narvik 1031/11).

Travels.

Visit of one of H.M. Ships to Troms would have
valuable moral effect (F.O. Narvik 0503/11)

11.5.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

234

Narvik (Continued).

Aerodromes.

Reference 0119/11 from R.A. Narvik. I have still no clear indication from you as to whether or not you have an aerodrome fit for Hurricanes to land on and if so by what date it will be ready. You have now been asked for this information three times. Essential you should report immediately on receipt of this signal. (Air Ministry 1910/11 to F.O. Narvik).

Operation OB will take place at 0100 Monday 13th May ships addressed are to be off Ballangen at 1000 tomorrow Sunday V.A.(A) is requested to provide maximum fighter protection from that time. (F.O. Narvik 2209/11 to V.A.(A):
H.M.S. AURORA: H.M.S. EFFINGHAM:
H.M.S. VINDICTIVE: H.M.S. PROTECTOR:
H.M.S. RESOLUTION: H.M.S. HAVELOCK: H.M.S. SOMALI: H.M.S. FAME: H.M.S. BASILISK:
H.M.S. WREN:

Convoys.

In order to economise in escorts and in merchant shipping, it is hoped to institute regular convoy sailings in the near future. (D. of P.1508/11 to F.O. Narvik).

Mosjoen, Bodo, Mo.

ZULU.

Return to Mosjoen to help Gubbins to establish himself wherever he wishes to go (F.O. Narvik 0551/11).
Indicate your position. Has Mo. been evacuated (F.O. Narvik 0934/11 to ZULU).

German landings.

INTERCEPT. Norwegian source reports (a) One large ship unloading south of Lardalsoen 066° 14' north 013° 21' east (b) Flying boats on water south of Hemdos. (F.O. Narvik 2151/11 to ENTERPRISE).

Bofors guns.

My 1443/7 were the two Bofors guns and crews transferred from Mosjoen to Bodo in accordance with Admiralty's 1858/6. (C. in C. H.F. 2246/11 to VETERAN).

Drifters.

Your 1835/10. These drifters have range of only 800 miles and are therefore unsuitable if bad weather is met (R.A. Scapa 2330/11 to Adty).

11.5.40.

Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

235

Operations.

Mosjoen, Bodo, Mo. (Continued).

Situation

Situation Mosjoen Bodo Area. Enemy occupy Mosjoen. They have been advancing North by sea, land and aircraft coasting steamers escorted by aircraft. 650 troops landed. Hemnes 15 230° from Mo. at 1930 10th May from Transport and 10 flying boats. H.M.S. CALCUTTA and H.M.S. ZULU sank this transport at 2100/10 probably before stores were unloaded. H.M.S. ENTERPRISE, H.M.S. CAIRO, FLEETWOOD HESPERUS with 820 troops and Store Ship MARGOT are proceeding now to effect landing at Mo. or Bodo A.M. 12th May. H.M.S. NUBIAN and transport WESTERMAN landed approximately 300 troops Bodo last night 10th May.
(F.O. Narvik 1130/11).

Ø MOST IMMEDIATE. H.M.S. JACKAL and H.M.S. JAVELIN are to proceed to Mo. 066° 19' North 014° 10' East and make contact with Colonel Gubbins' Force last reported at Sandnesjoen 066° 02' North 012° 38' East. To assist Gubbins establish him and when satisfied no further help from Navy is immediately required to proceed in execution of previous orders. Report fully on situation in Mo. Area from Naval point of view. One large enemy transport reported leaving Bergen Northward p.m. 10th May.
(F.O. Narvik 1354/11).

Ø Your 1130/11. It is not known what orders you have given to force being landed by ENTERPRISE but we are sure you have considered possibility of cleaning up the enemy troops landed at Hemnes (1st S.L.2310/11 to F.O. Narvik.

OPERATIONS

Kirkenes.

236

Admiralty 2116/9. Confirmed that there are now 2 Norwegian Battalions at Kirkenes but no information in Tromso of any intention to reinforce nor are any Norwegian troops available. Local opinion is that visit of one of H.M. Ships would have valuable moral effect. Further information is being sought locally and on receipt intend to proceed to Kirkenes. (F.O.C.I.C.S.0301/11)

French Naval Attache Helsinki received unconfirmed report that one division of German troops arrived Murmansk and are proceeding possibly by sea to Northern Norway. Grade C 3. (B.N.L.O.Marceau 1959/11)

Iceland (Operations Fork).

BERWICK
GLASGOW
Destroyers

BERWICK and GLASGOW proceed to Liverpool for refit and repairs respectively. Ships will probably arrive p.m. /12. GLASGOW has on board German Consular Staff including 3 women and 20 other prisoners. Destroyers to Scapa. (C.in C. H.F.1052/11) BERWICK has 33 prisoners. (BERWICK 1831/11).

The Government of Iceland has protested against the British infringement of its neutrality by having occupied the island and reserve the right to claim compensation for any damage which may be done. The German consul and 51 other Germans were arrested, documents were seized and a censorship has been set up. (S.O.(I) Iceland 0045/11).

Dispositions
of Troops etc.,

Total number of prisoners 52. (Jolly 0400/11). (S.O.(I) Iceland 0045/11).

1935/6 report arrangements made regarding disembarkation of "Walrus" aircraft and details of F.A.A. personnel, stores and fuel landed. (D.N.A.D.1851/11 to BERWICK).

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

Submarines.

6 British s/ms proceeding to patrol from Aldeburgh L.V.
2 French s/ms returning to Harwich from patrol (C.in C.
Nore 1528/11).

SNAPPER.
SWORDFISH.

Orders (Captain (S) 3 1717/11).

Bombing
restrictions.

12/5 onwards (S6 1812/11, S9, 1819/11,
S2 1142/11).

Enemy
Transport.

from southward expected to enter Trondheim
tonight. If you are in position to do so
try to intercept her. (R.A.(S)1314/11 to
CLYDE).

Positions.

0600/12 (Dc 2040/11, V.A.(S) 1854/11).

2 transports
torpedoed.

Effectiveness of patrol mitigated by evasive
routing, lack of darkness and wind. Air
patrol zealous. Surface patrol rare but
noisy. Monday attacked 2 southbound screened
transports, 570 class. Both apparently hit.
Confirm surface mines previously reported.
(SEALION 2201/11)

Allied Submarines.

TAKU.

Your 1631/10. No ships sighted since attack.
2 ships heard patrolling Thursday night in
low visibility, several Danish vessels in
vicinity. Occasional air patrols and
numerous under-water explosions at varying
distances. Suspect light damage to external
tanks from depth charges but no serious
defects. Suspect fishing vessels are being
employed in A/S work. (TAKU 0205/11 to R.A (S))

HOME COMMANDS.11.5.40.
Saturday.NORWAY.Aircraft Carriers.

Send JAGUAR and one Tribal destroyer back to Scapa forthwith at best possible speed (C.in C. H.F.0920/11 to V.A.A.)

Re Ministers etc., to be taken to Tromso by GLORIOUS (V.C.N.S.1346/11).

All a/c's embarked 2000/11 (GLORIOUS 2045/11)

Ready to sail.

FURIOUS, GLORIOUS will be ready to sail 12/5 FURIOUS carries Gladiators, GLORIOUS carries Hurricanes. Request confirmation that aerodrome likely to be available for Hurricanes within four days of arrival of GLORIOUS. If latter does not accompany FURIOUS escorts will probably not be available for her to sail for some time. (V.C.N.S.1310/11 to F.O. Narvik)
C.in C.H.F.2314/10, Admiralty 1919/4, aerodrome will not be ready to receive a/c's 16/5 (R.A.Narvik 1526/11).

In view of R.A.Narvik's 1526/11 propose GLORIOUS and FURIOUS should not sail 12/5. YORK is available at Rosyth to transport persons mentioned in your 1346/10. (C.in C. H.F.2216/11, D.O.D.(H) 2342/11)
When will aerodrome be ready? Carriers not sailing pending your reply (D.O.D.(H)2258/11 to R.A.Narvik)
Your 1310/11. Bantak aerodrome ready 15/5. Good progress Bardufoss and Skaanland but date cannot be given. Request GLORIOUS, FURIOUS sail 12/5 with Hurricanes and Gladiators to land Bantak. (F.O.Narvik 2329/11 2215/11).

Air.

British Air Activity.

Norwegian craft.

3 Blenheims leaving Hatston as soon as possible to make reconnaissance from Lister to 62°N (C.in C. Rosyth 0734/11).

Air Searches

for 12/5 (C.in C. Rosyth 2150/11)

MOST SECRET.11.5.1940.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Air.British Air Activity.Bergen.

Oil fuel tanks attacked by 6 Skuas of 806 Sqn. supported by 3 Blenheims of 254 Sqn. at 0700/11. 8 tanks at
 Fl Horsvaagspynt attacked. Complete surprise achieved and Skua's part was over in about 1½ minutes. 2 large tanks at once burst into fire, others apparently unhit. (M.09438/40).

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. PRINS
WILLEM
VAN ORANJE

Dutch (1303 tons) Bombed 1900/11 while anchored in Flushing Roads, hit by one bomb, cargo set on fire. Arrived Gravesend on fire, which was put out by River Fire Service. (I D. Form A.A.).

MANCHESTER.

attacked 1423 in 56° 12' N.
 1° 52' E. No damage.

SHEFFIELD.

in company, attacked 1440, 1455, 1500. No damage (M.011317/40).

HOME COMMANDS.

Air. (Continued).

British Air Activity.

Co-operation between
A/C's and ships.Conference to be held 1100/14 (D.S.D.
1445/11).

Attack on Bergen

To be made by 1 section of Blenheims and 6 Skuas p.m./12. Warships sighted and M.V.'s in Fjords or within 10 miles of Coast of Norway to be reported. Special importance attached also to reconnaissance of Stavanger Aerodrome. (Donibristle 2014/11). Objectives petrol tanks at Kvarven and enemy ships in harbour (A.C.O.S.1705/11)
5 tanks remain undamaged at Florvaaspynt 1204/11. Two camouflaged ships W.P.N.O. 5605 1220/11, 3 M.V's heading North Sea 1214/11 from Kors Fjord (Hatston 1623/11) All aircraft returned. Complete surprise achieved. Heavy damage to fuel tanks at Florvaaspynt Island two largest burning fiercely when last seen and fire spreading. Considerable short range fire from target in late stage of attack. (Distribution 1001/11= A.C.O.S.1040/11 to Admiralty.

IRIS (Dutch) attacked
(IRIS 0729/11)

All safe aboard s.s. IRIS. Planes disappeared S.W. direction. (IRIS 0748/11) ARETHUSA proceeding to join her. (ARETHUSA 1743/11)

PENELOPE

3 A/C's attacking convoy. (PENELOPE 1021/IF) See also Narvik.

FURY }
HAVOCK }

See Dutch Coast.

WHITSHED

Description of attack and damage. Charges on X gun deck ignited by near miss. Nine attacks, mostly dive bombing. Ship will be ready for sea in 24 hours. Casualties. (V.A. Dover 1314/11)

CODRINGTON

Bombed (CODRINGTON 1853/11)

s.s. PRINS WILLEM
VAN ORANJE

Hit by bomb off Flushing 1853. Want assistance. (Scheveningen Radio 1937/11)

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Enemy mining
on Dutch and
Belgian
coasts.

The situation is obscure, but reports of enemy mining have been received in following positions:-
Off Calais and Dunkirk (B2).

Flushing Roads near Ostend and Zeebrugge (B2)
5 miles off Ostend on a bearing between 015° and 020° (Ao).

Ymuiden harbour and seaward end of waterway to Rotterdam, about 1 mile from sea. Port of Ymuiden is still open (B2).

N.E. of Walcheren (B2).

5 miles from Flushing. Flushing Roads and Scheldt above flushing (B2).

A report from a neutral source states that the Germans have laid magnetic mines in all Dutch harbours (B2).

A Dutch pilot vessel has been mined near Rotterdam, at E end of Rozenburg Island.

240° Ymuiden South Pier Light, 7 miles. A2.

In the New Waterway as far up as Rotterdam. A1.

Possibly between Flushing and Wielingen outer Buoy.

In Roombot. B3.

(N.O.i/c. Dover 0058/11, I.C.0444/40, 0445/40
D.D.I.C.1420/11.)

S.E.Coast.

Reports of enemy a/c mining off S.E.Coast from Lowestoft to Beachy Head (B2) (I.C.0447/40).

RUBIS.

Your 1041/11 (proposed laying by RUBIS) Concur (V.C.N.S.1754/11 to V.A.(S)).

Sweeping
reports.

1 mine swept 52° 56'N 1°37³/₄' E (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1900/11). Magnetic mine exploded by LL sweep 28° 6' N 4° 2' 36"W. (N.O.I.C.Swansea 1438/11.)

Coast of
Low Countries.

Re Trawlers sweeping, A A protection etc. (D.M.S.1421/11.)

E.Coast Mine)
Barrier.)
EXPRESS)
ESK)
INTREPID)
Line BS3.)

Will be laying mines in 000° direction for 4.5 miles from 52° 36'N 2°56'E p.m./12.

(R.A.(S)1706/11, D.D.O.D(M)1531/11, 1326/11).

Operation
CBX.

Report of (PRINCESS VICTORIA 1115/11).
(Carried out 2107/10).

HOME COMMANDS.

243

Miscellaneous. (Contd.)

- Evacuees. MALCOLM to intercept and bring to Downs 3 or more Dutch trawlers which leave Scheveningen 1800/12 with British and French evacuees. (V.A.Dover 1832/11) Cancel. Trawlers have not sailed (V.A.Dover 0057/12)
- MONARK (Sunk by SEVERN 4/5) A.N.A. Stockholm to report if she was under charter or not (V.A.S.1114/11).
- Evacuees. Intercept L.N.E.R. steamer has probably been sent Ymuiden this evening to embark refugees. Carry out my 1445Ø and paragraph one of my 1609. (C.in C.Nore 1950/11 May to C S 2, VIVIEN. Capt.(D)1, WHITLEY).
- Landing grounds in Orkneys and Shetlands. V A C O S. No.555/OS 327 dated 7th May. I strongly support his proposals in paragraph 7 and request work be pressed on with. My views on the urgency of the construction of additional landing grounds in the Orkney and Shetlands area have been repeatedly expressed since the war began. (C.in C. H.F.1751/11).
- Evacuees. My 1450 and 1455 11th May. Dutch trawler refused to sail. Hague evacuees and those from Amsterdam sail tonight Saturday in S.S. DOTTEREL for Downs from Ymuiden. (N.A.Hague 1930/11).

Weather.

	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea.	Between N.W. and N.E. Light to moderate.	Very good.	Similar.
Channel.	Northerly, light.	Poor to moderate coastal haze.	Similar, visibility improving.
Western Approaches.	Northerly, light.	Moderate to good, coastal haze.	Similar.
Horn's Reef.	W., moderate.	Good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast.	Light, variable.	Moderate.	Similar.
W.Coast Norway.	In south, S.W. to W., fresh In north, easterly, fresh.	Good. Moderate, poor in showers.	Similar. Uncertain.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

244

Home Commands.

- BERWICK Proceed to Liverpool for refit. (C.in C.H.F.1052/11).
- GLASGOW Proceed to Liverpool for repairs (do.)
- KELLY Tugs sent to R V with KELLY 2300/11. (C.in C.Rosyth
(see also 1129/11, 1711/11, 1736/11, 1739/11, F.O.C.18 C.S.
p 222-3) 1610/11, Cruiser and destroyers bombed. No hits.
One A/c reports at least 2 S/m's in vicinity.
My position 56°14'N 1°53'E.
(S/m's KELLY now in tow of FURY has made no progress since
reported) 0600 (F.O.C.18 C.S.1505/11).
Cruisers return to Rosyth. If there are S/m's in
vicinity tow should be cast off until tugs arrive
and all 3 destroyers screen KELLY. Presume only
small party of KELLY's crew remains on board her
(C.in C. H.F. 1609/11 to C.S.18, D5, FURY).
KANDAHAR sailed 1640 at utmost speed (KANDAHAR
1712/11). Comply with C.in C.H.F.1609/11. 2 S/m's
were reported by a/c's in your vicinity and
SHEFFIELD has had several other firm contacts
between you and me (F.O.C.18 C.S. 1752/11 to Capt.D5).
Request fighter patrol 12/5 as from today.
Afternoon appears favourite time for bombing.
Suggest machines of highest performance are out then.
A/S air patrol also required. (F.O.C.18 C.S.1925/11).
- AURORA Details of damage (AURORA 1250/10).
- SEAL Lieut. T.B.J.D.Butler, SEAL, has been reported
through Red Cross prisoner of war wounded in
hospital in N.Jutland. This confirms your 1847/9
(C.W.1341/11 to V.A.(S)).
- VANSITTART. Damaged by air bombing at Narvik p.m./10. Deck
holed, W/T and 2 guns out of action, 2 officers
killed, 1 wounded. (D.C.N.S.251).

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

11.5.40.
Saturday.

245

French positions.

1200/11. Convoys Nil. Patrols one P.V. off Vigo (D.C.0011/11).

H.G.31.

Route (D.T.D.1133/11).

Arrangements if Italy hostile

Admiralty 1256/9. (ii) 26th Divn. Destroyers would be detached to Eastern Mediterranean and Captain (D) 13 and 25th Divn retained. (iii) A/S Trawlers. (iv) Assumed that Convoy commitment will cease. (v) French patrol to westward. (vi) Your estimate of Air Forces required considered insufficient. Require 12 flying boats and 5 Swordfish for full efficiency. FOCNA 1304/10 to Admiralty).

South Atlantic.

Belgian and Dutch ships

Asking if homeward bound Belgian and Dutch ships should be ordered to Freetown to join convoy (NCSO Pemambuco 1105/11)

Mediterranean.

Italian preparations.

Italian Navy are requisitioning number of motor fishing vessels and tugs. Similar action was taken in August 1939 and craft were then allocated mainly to N. Africa and Dodecanese. 2nd Sqn. appear to be concentrating at Naples. Situation otherwise unchanged. Army and R.A.F. Normal (Captain O.S. St. Angelo 1042/11)

x Probably S.O.(C) to V-A Malta

Arrangements if Italy hostile

1. Reprisals Order in Council will be extended to Italy.
2. If Gibraltar overcrowded ships may be sent to Casablanca or allowed to proceed to Allied port outside Mediterranean on Master's undertaking to go there.
3. Malta base will be closed. Black Sea, Aegean and Adriatic traffic directed to Haifa.
4. Traffic from Far East will be dealt with at Aden. Southbound traffic continue to be dealt with at Port Said. D.C. (ACNS 1657/11).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

11.5.40.
Saturday

East Indies.

U.S.3
SYDNEY

Your 2002/10 this was not my intention but SYDNEY will now R.V. with US3 in approx. 10° S, absence of all cruisers from Ceylon area being accepted for time being. (C. in C.E.I.0519Z/11) (Note 2002/10 assumed he intended SYDNEY to join escort for US3 at Cocos Is.)

Italian
Preparations.

Persistent rumours which I have no means of checking that certain Blackshirt units are being sent from Massawa to Kenya frontier. (C.G. Addis Ababa No45 10/5)

Australia.

Although the German ships in the Netherlands East Indies are now reported to have been seized by the Dutch East Indies Authorities, it would be much appreciated if CERES and COLOMBO could remain under the Orders of the C. in C. China for a further short period, until the whole position of the Netherland East Indies has been clarified. (ACNS 1935/11 to ACNB)

America and West Indies.

BHX
Convoy
Programme

Cancel programme in my 1415/27/4 and substitute (C. in C. AWI 0115/11)

Offer of
2 destroyers.

by Canadian Govt. Opportunity for offensive operations in West Indies now greatly reduced in view of calm prevalent in Dutch Islands and seizure or scuttling of all in V's. M.

One destroyer would, however, be very useful at Bermuda for local convoy escort duty and would be suitably placed to intercept Italian shipping on E. coast of U.S.A. if required or to return to Halifax at short notice. (C. in C. A.W.I.1350/11)

Admiralty 1302/11. Situation normal. Removal of Germans to Jamaica considered of great assistance. (DESPATCH2251/11) Asking if Admiralty can provide ship to carry 725 troops from Halifax 21/5 or 22/5 to Jamaica (CNS Ottawa 1123/11)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

11.5.40.
Saturday.

China.

FALMOUTH
CERES
COLOMBO

Once it has been confirmed that German Merchant ships in Netherlands East Indies have been seized by Dutch East Indies Authorities intend to withdraw all patrols off Netherlands East Indies, send H.M.S. CERES and H.M.S. COLOMBO to Australia and HMS FALMOUTH to Colombo. (C. in C. China 0204Z/11)

Your 0204/11. Concur with sailing of FALMOUTH for Colombo. Until, however, the whole position of the Netherlands East Indies has been cleared up, it is considered preferable to retain CERES and COLOMBO.

The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board are being requested to spare these ships for a further short period.

(D.O.D.(F) 1934/11 to C. in C. China)

WAR DIARY11.5.40.
Saturday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS
Home Commands

LOTTE (2,115 tons) reported 11/5 to Ruegen that she expected to arrive at Hamburg 0600/11 (I.C.0448/40) Known fact.

BARCELONA (3,101 tons) was instructed by owners to unload at Stockholm 0941/11. Known fact. (I.C.0448/40).

North Atlantic

KLAUS SCHOKE Have now anchored off harbour (Vc Horta 1630/10).

LUISE
BORNHOPER

East Indies

SOPHIE Of 19 German ships refuging in N.E.I. 18 were seized
RICKMERS 10/5 by Dutch authorities without incident, one
etc. SOPHIE RICKMERS at Saang scuttled in deep water
(C.G. Batavia No. 34 11/5).

UCKERMARK Reported they intend to leave ^{Kismayu P} Chisimais before monsoon
TANNENPELS breaks (D.E.W.D.1312/11 to C. in C. E.I.)

WAR DIARY

11.5.40.
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

China.

Reliable source reports 1,000 tons tungsten ore 400 tons tin recently loaded German ship possibly to avoid storage charges but may be destined Vladivostok.

BURGENLAND

Master of German ship BURGENLAND has stated Kobe ships have orders to sail for Vladivostok at first opportunity B.I.(Capt. O.S. Singapore 0452Z/11). German ships at Kobe are: BURGENLAND, KULMERLAND, MUNSTERLAND, SCHARNHORST, R.C. RICKMERS, ANNALIESE RICKMERS, ELSA ESSBERGER.

WAR DIARY.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

11.5.40.

250

Saturday.

Ships attacked.

Dutch Pilot Steamer sunk. Struck magnetic mine off E. end of Rozenburg Island. Believe gold was on board. No survivors located yet. Comdr. Hill and half crew of WILD SWAN were on board, proceeding to Rotterdam to evacuate gold (WILD SWAN 0818/11 2217/11, DDIC 1420/11) The wreck lies, as well as that of S.S. ROEK near the entrance to ~~Roerd~~ ^{Noord} ~~Geul.~~

S.S. ROEK
Sunk

VIIIU
Estonian

sunk

ARCTIC HUNTER reports 0230/11 picked up 5 survivors of mined Estonian S.S. VIIIU West Hinder Buoy (C. in C. Nore 0715/11) Note An explosion was observed 1040/11 10 miles E. of Noss Head (58° 28.5' N. 3° 3' W) See Mining.

TRINGA.

British (1930 tons) Antwerp to Glasgow was mined and sunk 51° 21.2' N 2° 26.2' E (1½ miles S. of W Hinder Buoy at 1312). She was not in the channel. 6 survivors landed at Ramsgate, 2 wounded (DCNS 251) FOC Dover 1524/11.

→ AMAZONE
(French s/m)

Attacked midnight 10/11 by an unknown S/M 20 miles W. of Texel (DCNS 251)

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions (DDIC 1308/11)

0434 B.S.T. D.F. reliable fix, probable U-boat (DC.0545/11) Probably surface craft (DDIC 0729/11)

→ Unknown s/m CPOX 5426 (AMAZONE 0100/11) one s/m passed Vojkoy 68° 25' N 13° 58' E at high speed. Reported from shore. (VINDICTIVE 3125/11)

1435

310 KELLY 25 (a/c 224 Sqn. 1453/11)

0750

by islander 5 miles N.N.E. Fair I. going E. 9 knots. Cannot confirm (Scapa W/T 0750/11).

S/M's attacked.

1439

See KELLY (No hits were obtained)



251

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

12.5.40.
SundayLow Countries

Situation 1630/12.

16 German divisions have been identified in the Low Countries, half of which are armoured or mobile.

Holland

The situation has deteriorated. The Zuyder Zee Dyke, if lost, will enable the Germans to enter North Holland. In the South, Moer Dijk bridge has been passed by armoured cars, and unless the bridges at Dordrecht are destroyed the Germans South of Rotterdam will be reinforced.

Belgium

It seems possible that the German plan may be to reinforce the original thrust from Maastricht by a similar thrust to the North.

Helder

The Germans were stated at 1630 to be attacking the East end of the Ajshuit Dyke across the Zuider Zee, and the Dutch C. in C. asked for a ship to bombard the East Coast of the Zuider Zee and 2 M.T.B's. to patrol southward of the dam to prevent the Germans crossing by steamer.

GRIFFIN was sent through the Texel Channel to help the Dutch defence, being later relieved by H.M.S. VALOROUS supported by 4 Blenheims; but the Dutch had to fall back across the Dyke at 1720/12. Attack from the north on Germans advancing along this Dyke is difficult as there is a wall 8 feet high on the seaward side behind which they can move unmolested. Three M.T.Bs entered the Zuyder Zee through the North Holland Canal from IJmuiden as the Germans are reported to be embarking mechanised transport in flat bottomed boats for an invasion of the Province of North Holland behind the Dutch front in the Provinces of Gelderland and Utrecht.

Rotterdam

Waalhaven aerodrome is thought to have been rendered unfit for use by our aerial bombing; and the Germans today occupied a car park and stadium south of Rotterdam and are using them as a landing ground.

Naval assistance for the recovery of the Waalhavn aerodrome at Rotterdam was declined by the Dutch at 1335/12. About two hours later the situation at Rotterdam, where the Germans have landed artillery which had been brought in Swedish ships and are receiving reinforcements by air in troop carrying.....

War Diary.12.5.40.
SundaySITUATION REPORTLow CountriesRotterdam
Contd.

carrying aircraft of which 15 arrive every hour escorted by fighters, became worse. The Dutch asked for British destroyers to bombard, and HEReward was sent.

Hook

Thirteen destroyers are operating off the Hook today, wherever Germans are to be seen landing; and 2 are to patrol off Brom Ridge, in the North Sea.

*hans
p 229*

200 R.M.s were landed at the Hook early this morning from VERITY and VENOMOUS, to hold the landing place pending the arrival of a larger force.

LL trawlers arrived at the Hook at dawn to to operate. The Wellington mine sweeping flight is standing by at short notice. Magnetic mines were exploded and at 1755/12 HYPERION reported that the sweepers reported the branch channel to the Hook clear.

Flushing

The French are now strongly established in Walcheren Island, and the presence of the small British force which provisionally occupied Flushing is no longer considered necessary. Two German air raids on Flushing on 12/5 sank a Dutch gunboat but caused few casualties among the troops.

Refugees

Refugees for the U.K. are being embarked at Ymuiden in S.S. DOTTERELL. S.S. MALINES arrived at Tilbury today with 200 refugees.

The military mission has been landed at Flushing.

Mines

Rotterdam, Ostend and Zeebrugge are closed, and enemy magnetic mines have been laid off Ymuiden.

Air

Intense aerial activity continued throughout the day. CODRINGTON, HAVOCK, HEReward, MOHAWK, VIVACIOUS and other ships were attacked almost continuously by dive bombers from 0700 onwards in various positions off the Dutch coast, though there are no reports of ships being hit.

Enemy aircraft bombed Flushing, Hook, and Breskens.

Contd.....



253

War Diary

12.5.40.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Low Countries

Air (contd.)

The landing of parachute troops has continued at many points and troop carrying aircraft have landed on the beach north of Scheveningen at low water.

The Dutch S.S. PRINCESS JULIANA was attacked and hit by bombs after being mined off the Dutch coast.



SITUATION REPORT

Norway

The enemy have taken Mosjoen and are advancing by sea, land, and air. The 400 troops in NORD NORGE were landed about 15 miles S.W. of Mo before CALCUTTA sank her. ZULU is to remain in the vicinity of Mosjoen, and 2 cruisers, 1 destroyer, a sloop and a store ship with 450 troops from the Narvik area ~~and~~ landed at Bodo during the forenoon 12/5.

Mo is held by the Norwegians. 1000 Germans are reported to be holding Hemmes Peninsula, disguised in Norwegian uniforms.

Enemy aircraft continued coastal reconnaissance flights in Narvik and Harstad area; ENTERPRISE, FLEETWOOD and supply ship MARGOT were attacked continuously during the forenoon whilst unloading at Mo.

It is understood that troop transport activity continues actively in Norway and our aircraft report a considerable concentration of enemy aircraft at Stavanger.

GLORIOUS and FURIOUS sailed about midday, but were recalled to the Clyde at 1415/12.

No date can be given when the aerodromes at Bardufoss and Skaanland be ready but the carriers were ordered to land their Gladiators and Hurricanes at Banak aerodrome which will be ready by 15/5.

PROTECTOR is to leave for the Mediterranean and every small ship which can be spared is being sent to the U.K.

DEVONSHIRE at Kirkenes reports that the situation there is quiet.

War Diary12.5.40.
SundaySITUATION REPORTMiscellaneous

KELLY reported at 0745 that she was in tow of 2 tugs and going well. A battle flight and Sunderland A.S. escort were then in contact with her. She was again attacked from the air during the forenoon, but without any material success.

SEALION attacked 2 southward bound screened transports in Skagerrak 6/5 and believed she made 2 hits.

Air

Aircraft from 15 out of the 16 first line long range bombing Geschwader have been identified as taking part in air operations in Norway, the Low countries, and France. It is estimated that 60% of the Squadrons of the whole long range bomber force have now been engaged.



256

War Diary12.5.40.
SundayHOME COMMANDSMovementsVEGA
WALLACE

Suggest VEGA now refitting at Chatham should be placed under orders of C.C. Nore and WALLACE should be retained under order of C. in C., Rosyth. (C. in C., Nore, 1159/12).

Submarines

Positions 0600/13 (D.C., 2025/12)(V.A.S. 1852/12).

British PrecautionsTyne

Local military and civil authorities have suggested sinking ships in Tyne and Tees to immobilise ports in event of Germans attempting invasion. Have refused to consider this suggestion as practicable. (F.O., Tyne, 1110/12).

Eastchurch

Supplied with rifles and ammunition from Chatham. (C. in C., Nore, 1147/12).

Operations (General)N. Goodwin Patrol

MALCOLM return to harbour. WIVERN remain on patrol (V.A.Dover, 0755/12).

↳ Unless you have Dutch Mission on board relieve WIVERN on North Goodwin patrol. WIVERN return to harbour. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 0853/12 to VENOMOUS).

GRENADE

Intend sailing GRENADE for Dover 0900/13. With all despatch. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1050/12).

WOLSEY

Sailed 0945 for Dover (C. in C., W.A., 1132/12).

Patrols

For night 12/13 May.

↳ North Goodwin Patrol - VENOMOUS
Trawlers on D.C. 3 to 7
Flare drifters disposed along coast.
(V.A. Dover, 1935/12, N.O.I.C. Harwich, 2144/12).

Conditions under which Norwegian ships may pass patrols.

My 1453 22nd April after Egypt add Netherlands East Indies. From exceptions delete Dutch possessions. (F.O.C.N.P. 2237/12 to N.P.).



257

War Diary12.5.40.
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations - Dutch Coast (General)Troops
Requested

Ref. telegram 41 of May 11. Sending of troops additional to those suggested in my telegram of May 11 to Ymuiden is strongly recommended by Military Attache, proposes they be sent to Hook of Holland to operate between there and Hague. H.M. Minister stresses importance of our doing all possible to assist in safeguarding the Hague. (N.A., Hague, 0240/12).

Cruisers

If enemy cruisers move towards Holland I should be glad to have strong cruiser reinforcements. (C. in C., Nore, 0951/12).

Your 0951/12. MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD and YORK are at Rosyth at two hours notice at your disposal. MANCHESTER is not degaussed but arrangements have been made to fit temporary D.G. if ship is placed at four hours' notice. (C. in C., H.F., 1037/12).

Please place MANCHESTER at 4 hours' notice and continue work of degaussing. (C. in C., Nore, 1217/12).

BIRMINGHAM,
etc.. Orders

Remain in harbour at half-hour's notice. Sail without further orders if you hear definite news of German surface warships moving towards Dutch coast. (C. in C., Nore, to BIRMINGHAM, C.S.2, and destroyers, 0855/12).

If our destroyers harass enemy the German Army may demand naval help. It is suggested that additional magnetic mines in entrance to German harbours, would be beneficial. (C. in C., Nore, 1012/12).

MOHAWK
JANUS

Proceed towards Scheviningen, Capt. D.1 is to call on you if he needs further support. If not carry out A/S search towards Ymuiden and return to Humber if air attack too heavy (C. in C., Nore, 0401/12).

MALCOLM
WIVERN

MALCOLM
Malcolm return to harbour, WIVERN remain on patrol. (V.A.Dover, 0755/12).



War Diary

258
12.5.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Dutch Coast (General)

Troop Trans-
ports

4 fast liners Zeeland Steamship Co. with reduced crews arrived Gravesend awaiting orders are available for troop transport to Holland - PRINSES# BEATRIX, KONIGIN EMMA, PRINSES# JULIANA, MECKLENBERG. (Message received 13/5/40 via D.N.L.O. - PRINSES# JULIANA had meantime been bombed and abandoned off the Hook, at 1116/12).

Military
Situation

Reports at 0840 and 1030 from Military Attache, The Hague, recd. 1040 and 1520/12.

→ HAVOCK

Return to Harwich for fuel now. (C. in C., Nore, 1205/12).

WHITLEY

Proceed forthwith to Dover with all despatch (Cdr. I.C. Sheerness 1838/12).

WINDSOR

Not now required for refugees and will sail 2200 to rejoin HEReward who is to give her a R.V. (Capt. (D)2, 2142/12).

→ HAVOCK,
relief for.

(c) Your 1705 will advise HEReward to send one destroyer into Hook at daylight 13/5. (Capt. D1, 1733/12 to HYPERION).

(b) Your 1638 (joining with Capt. D.1 off Whistle Buoy) who will take over here as HAVOCK is proceeding direct to Harwich to oil? (HYPERION 1705/12 to Capt. D.1).

(a) Join me off Whistle Buoy 1840/12. (Capt. D.1 1638/12 to HYPERION, WILD SWAN).

→ PRINSES#
JULIANA

Dutch S.S. PRINSES# JULIANA has sailed for Flushing with troops and expects to arrive Ymuiden 0600/12. (C. in C., Nore, 0413/12 to Capt. D.1, MOHAWK). (Bombed and abandoned, see Air);

ARCTIC HUNTER

Your 1915, not to Admiralty. Remain at Hook if possible. If not retire to Flushing. Commander Peterson at Flushing may give you further orders. (C. in C., Nore, 2155/12).

Cancel my 2155. Remain at Hook if possible and keep entrance clear. If necessary retire to Flushing. Commander Peterson at Flushing may give you further orders. (C. in C. Nore, 2301/12).

War Diary12.5.40.
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations - HelderM.T.B's

3 M.T.B's expected to arrive Ymuiden on passage to Amsterdam 2030/12 (C. in C., Nore, 1641/12 to GRIFFIN, Capt. D(1), Adty. Hyperion).

Measures to be concerted with Dutch

Destroyer to be sent with despatch to Helder to discuss with Dutch possibility of cooperation in Zuyder Zee. Report if M.T.B's can be used (C. in C., Nore, 1001/12).

→ GRIFFIN

Is short of fuel and has been ordered to return to Bundaberg as soon as your 1001/12 is complied with. (Capt. D.1 1138/12).

Germans have taken N.E. part of Zuyder Zee Barrier Dyke up to locks. If aircraft cannot be sent Marine-staff urgently request anti-aircraft machine guns with personnel to be sent to Helder soon as possible. (2x2, 1630/12).

Request for M.T.B's

Flushing heavily bombed by planes. Island of Walcheren strongly held by French forces. French troops are beyond Antwerp and Antwerp is strongly held. Dutch ask urgently that M.T.B's of not more than seven feet draught be sent to the Helder to operate in Zuider Zee. (French Adty., 1043/12)(D.D.I.C. 1203/12)

Commander Peterson has arrived Flushing. (KIMBERLEY, 1100/12).

Ad. Furstner asks for early provision of craft to operate against imminent German thrust Zuider Zee. Maximum draught seven feet. KINGFISHER class appears suitable. M.T.B's very useful. French being also asked to provide. M.T.B's should proceed Ymuiden, other types Texel. 0815. (N.A., Hague, 1230/12). Passed to V.A., Dover, 1355/12).

→ GRIFFIN*Helder.*

To proceed immediately if possible and attack Germans crossing the Long Dam across Zuider Zee, chart 2322. (C. in C., Nore, 1930/12). Withdraw daylight if attacks


HOME COMMANDSOperations - Helder.GRIFFIN
Contd.

attacks too heavy. Another destroyer will relieve you later. (C. in C., Nore, 1950/P). D.1 to detail one destroyer (not MOHAWK or JANUS) to collect local pilot at Helder and relieve GRIFFIN after daylight (C. in C. Nore, 1952/12).

3d M.T.B. Flt.

To 3rd M.T.B. Flotilla: Urgently required to stop Germans now pouring across new Zuider Zee dam. Consult with Dutch whether M.T.B. might fire torpedoes running shallow to destroy lock gates. (C. in C., Nore 2007/12). 3rd M.T.B.F. proceeding (D.1, 0023/13). Understood Zuider Zee dyke has a thick protective wall 8 ft. high on northern side, making it possible for troops to pass unobserved from seaward, and destroyer fire possibly ineffective. If possible confirm practicability of attack with local authorities before taking action. (C. in C., Nore, to GRIFFIN, 2146/12).

GRIFFIN,
continues.

Situation at Helder given by C. in C. at 1900 today. Germans attacking East end of Dam. He stated Dutch holding them and requested assistance of ship to bombard East Coast of Zuider Zee by Dam. Dutch warship is proceeding to this tomorrow. He also requested motor torpedo boats to patrol Zuider Zee to southward of dam to prevent Germans crossing by steamer. Most urgent need he stated was fighter aircraft, an aerodrome is available at Anna Paulowna. GRIFFIN was not able to oil and sailed 2000 owing to necessity of clearing Channel before dark. Your 1930 and you 1952 were received after sailing, am returning to Harwich to oil. Have no high explosive ammunition left on board. (GRIFFIN, 2200/12).

Dutch CoastWaalhaven
Aerodrome

WILD SWAN proceed up river and bombard Waalhavn aerodrome if Dutch concur.* LL sweepers sweep ahead of you if available. (C. in C., Nore, 1154/12). * Did not occur, see next page.

N.A., Hague, has requested through Dutch N.L.O. that Waalhaven Aerodrome should be constantly bombarded in view of Rotterdam's position, which Dutch troops can no longer reinforce. Germans landing every hour with 15 planes accompanied by 8 fighters.

contd.....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Dutch Coast

Waalhaven
Aerodrome
(contd.)

N.A. Hague, has also requested that Stavoren should be bombarded where large preparations are being made for crossing Zuyder Zee in boats. (D.D.I.C., 1149/12, to C. in C., Nore).

Your 1154.^(p. 260) Dutch authorities do not concur. This operation is not being carried out. (HYPERION, 1335/12 to C. in C., Nore).

Bombing attack on Waalhaven 2140-2200/12, report, (Chatham, A.C.H.Q., 0125/13, 0130/13).

Dutch Coast - Rotterdam

Following received from Netherlands Govt. situation Rotterdam extremely critical. If landing of German troops at Waalhaven is not stopped immediately and continually, Rotterdam will be untenable and general consequence disastrous. Allied bombers and fighters therefore considered vital. Germans have landed artillery at Rotterdam from Swedish ships. (Naval, Hague, No. T.O.O. recd. 1538/12).

As German planes land troops on foreshore from Scheveningen northward at about low water this would be a good time for our ships to stand in (N.A., Hague, 1404/12 to Adty.)

Repeated to MOHAWK, who was ordered to take JANUS under his orders and operate on coast as necessary. Next low water at Scheveningen 0120/13. (C. in C., Nore, 2214/12).

R.M. Landing, Hook of Holland.

VERITY and VENOMOUS left Dover at 2345 for Hook of Holland with landing parties of Royal Marines arriving after daylight. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 0005/12).

Coastal Command to provide protection for disembarkation of marines at 0600 B S T 12/5. Fighter Command to support Blenheims with 8-gun fighters. (Air Ministry, 0145/12).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations
R.M. Landing, Hook of Holland

VERITY, VENOMOUS arrived, Royal Marines landed. Major-Gen. Oorschot, Lieut.-Col. Zegers and 2 Dutch naval officers taking passage to U.K. in VERITY and VENOMOUS, sailing 0800 B S T. (HYPERION, 0640/12).

Battalion can
be sent

W.O. can send one composite Guards battalion tonight. Force is too small to restore a bad or deteriorating situation but by its moral rather than its military effect might tip the scales if situation is nearing restoration by Dutch. Report on situation (V.C.N.S. 1053/12 to Major Mitchell R.M.)

Pass to O.C. Royal Marine Force. If Guards Battalion is sent tonight Sunday, ship will also carry two wireless trucks. Endeavour to arrange for 60 gallons of petrol to be provided on quay and for crange to disembark trucks. Maximum weight 3 tons. (D. of O. 1732/12).

Following from Major Mitchell, Royal Marines. Am of the opinion that one composite force in support of my force would not have any material effect without aircraft support being considerably strengthened. General situation still, but appears unchanged in vicinity of the Hook. (HYPERION, 1405/12).

Following from Marines, Hook; large numbers parachute troops reported landing beyond woods 1 1/2 miles to my front at 1900. All destroyers sailed tonight and am now without supporting fire should this be required at the present time. (V.A. Dover, 2038/12) (C. in C., Nore, 2207/12 to HEReward).

Imperative one destroyer arrives Hook forthwith to support Marines. (C. in C., Nore, 2236/12) Your 2236. I am endeavouring to enter (HEReward 2328/12).

War Diary12.5.40.
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations - Hook - Operation ^{"Harpoon"}~~HARPOON~~

My 2121/11 and 2341/11. CANTERBURY and MAID OF ORLEANS to embark one composite Guards Battalion of about 650 men and about 100 tons of stores and sailed to the Hook of Holland. Hoped that they will be ready to sail by 1930. 20,000 rounds of R.A.F. ammunition, about 5 tons weight, now at Dover and consigned to the Commandant Maritime, Middelen, Amsterdam, are also to be embarked and turned over to O.C., R.M., Force. Dutch authorities have been informed and are making arrangements to transport it to Amsterdam. Ships are to return to Dover on completion of unloading. A second Battalion may be sent to Hook during the night 13th/14th May. It is probable that the R.M. Detachment will be withdrawn in the ship carrying this Force. This operation will be known as ~~HARPOON~~ "Harpoon" (V.C.N.S., 1656/12).

Ships sailed. Expected time of arrival 0300/13 (F.O., Dover, 2010/12). Request fighter protection at Hook during disembarkation Harpoon (V.A., Dover, 1945/12). Heavy air escort imperative if battalion is to be got ashore tomorrow (Hook, 2245/12).

Dutch Coast, HookDestroyers,
Hook

Take charge of all destroyers in vicinity of Hook, C. in C., Nore, to D.1, 0421/12).

Other source of information slow and unreliable. Essential you report exactly where ships are needed and when you have to withdraw. (C. in C., Nore, to Capt., D.1, etc., 0453/12).

Try to establish communication between ships and shore, preferably at Scheveningen, alternatively Hook, to keep us informed of requirements and supply intelligence. (Capt. D.1, to HYPERION, 0836/12). (see also Mining).

Situation to 0600. No landing seen on fore-shore since 1900/11. Town behind Scheveningen apparently Delft burning fiercely throughout the night. (Capt. D.1, 0616/12).

SUPPLEMENT

War Diary12.5.40.
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations - Dutch Coast - Hook.Destroyers,
Hook (Contd.)

My 0616. Destroyers attacked by bombing aircraft at 0700 but presence of Blenheims seems to have kept down bombing. Request relief aircraft if possible. HAVOCK, GRIFFIN and probably HYPERION will have to leave area pm. today to fuel. At present have adequate forces. (Capt. D.1, 0809/12).

Adty. 2341/11, transport for 1 battalion Marines. Authorities here unable to collect any transport at present. (HYPERION, 1535/12).

Dutch Coast - Operation XD

Situation at Flushing now considered sufficiently stabilised by presence of French Army to warrant withdrawal of XD Party. Admiral Nord agrees. Situation at Antwerp should permit similar withdrawal shortly. (V.A., Dover, 1053/12).

Your 1053/12. Approved to withdraw destroyer from Flushing. Demolition party is to remain for present (V.C.N.S. 1345/12 to V.A. Dover).

Request O.I.C. Demolition Party to signal his appreciation of situation in Antwerp as regards necessity for retention of BRILLIANT and/or his party there. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1319/12).

Dutch Coast - Operation Lyster

Keep steam at four hours' notice, coming to immediate notice by 0800 to-morrow Monday. (Capt. Dangerfield, to H.M.S. FLORENTINO, TRANSEAS, PACIFICO, BORODINO, ATLANTIC GUIDE, 1146/12).

Dutch CoastDestroyers
(contd.)

VERSATILE grounded. Taken in tow by WALPOLE. Proceeding Sheerness. (VERSATILE 0940/12). Your 0940. Tug proceeding from Sheerness to take over tow. Route (C. in C. Nore, 1057/12). In event of damage to destroyers off Dutch coast intend to send rescue tugs to them. Most undesirable that other destroyers should be used for towing. (C. in C., Nore, 1031/12).

War Diary12.5.40.
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperationsDutch Coast.Destroyers
(Contd.)

Keep well clear of Capt. (D)1, who leaves Ymuiden for Harwich about 2200 tonight Sunday. (C. in C., Nore to WALPOLE, 2217/12).

CODRINGTON with VENETIA and VIVACIOUS and passengers left Ymuiden 2340/12, expected arrive Harwich 0700/13. (Capt. (D)1, 2358/12). *Should be on p. 267.*

Bombardment
of aerodrome
asked for

Following from Naval Attaché, Hague begins:- Germans have occupied car park and stadium South of Rotterdam and using as an aerodrome. Marine staff request British Destroyers bombard from waterway 1926. Ends. Deal with this situation. (C. in C., Nore, 1953/12 to HEReward). *21. 10. 1940*

Dutch Coast - Operation J (Evacuation of Royal Family)

Arrangements for (Naval Secretary 0950/12, 1858/12).

Operation J will probably take place tonight embarkation at 2200 (N.A. Hague, 1159/12 B.S.T.).

For 2 nights have sent strong forces to Ymuiden at considerable risk to embark Royal party. Destroyers need rest. Am extremely reluctant to send ships again unless it is certain passengers intend to embark. (C. in C., Nore, 1458/12).

Your ¹⁴⁵⁸F.O. 58 May 12. Position fully appreciated but postponement has been due to internal dangers. In all these operations owing to constantly, fluctuating situation some alteration to plans will be inevitable although every effort will be made to keep them as far as possible. (N.A. Hague, 1830/12). Passed to C. in C., Nore, by D.C., 2117/12. My 1320. Carry out operation J tonight. (C. in C., Nore, 1715/12 to Capt. (D)1).

Contd.....

War Diary12.5.40.
SundayHOME COMMANDSDutch Coast - Operation J (Evacuation of Royal Family)

Contd.

Not possible to have ships standing by for operation J every night. This should be explained and party should embark tonight Sunday without fail. (D.O.D.(H) to N.A. Hague, 1353/12). HYPERION to send urgent message to this effect on arrival. (C. in C., Nore, 1725/12).

Operation J consists of embarking passengers. If ordered tonight HYPERION and one other are to be off Ymuiden by 2040 B.S.T. One destroyer to embark Royal party, other to take refugees which S.S.*COTTRILL? cannot take. Third destroyer if available will be required if bullion ship probably S.S. PERSEUS also sails. This destroyer is not to enter Ymuiden. Destination for Royal party Harwich, others Southend. (C. in C., Nore, 1300/12).

* S.S. DOTTEREL

N.A. Hague reports. Your 1836/11. Apparently you did not receive message from me through Netherlands Adty. that operation J was postponed. It is certain that departure takes place after dark tomorrow 12/5. 2155/11 Ends. (D.O.D.(H) 1710/12 to C. in C. Nore).

My 1320 prepare to carry out operation J tonight. Send as escort for Royal party 2 more destroyers that need rest or fuel. Select one to take charge on coast when you leave. (C. in C., Nore, 1502/12 to D.1, HYPERION).

* S.S. DOTTEREL

Your 1320 and 1502. CODRINGTON detailed for Royal party with WILD SWAN, VENETIA as escort. HYPERION will take overflow refugees from *COTTRILL? VIMY detailed for bullion ship if she sails. HEReward will be left in charge on coast (Capt. D1, 1644/12). See later signal p. 265

War Diary12.5.40.
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperationsLow Countries - Refugees.

Dutch officer has boarded WHITLEY inside harbour and states no refugees or royal personages to embark. S.S. PERSEUS not sailing tonight. 8 magnetic mines have been laid 240 degs. 7 miles from harbour entrance. Am returning to Sheerness with VIVIEN and WHITLEY. CODRINGTON and GRIFIN returning to Hook. (F.O. 2 C.S. 0131/12). See later signal p. 265

Requesting destroyers be sent to embark 250 people in DOTTEREL. (N.A., Hague, 1630/12). Cancel my 1630/12, but escort essential for DOTTEREL (N.A., Hague, 1805/12).

Your 1644, ships detailed for refugees, etc., WILD SWAN to remain under orders of V.A., Dover. Use another destroyer. ? COTTRILL*
* S.S. DOTTEREL.
not available, extra destroyer required instead. (C. in C., Nore, 1824/12).

Dutch Warships

Cruiser SUMATRA class 10 miles N. of Cromer Steering W.
(Capt. D.20, 1130/12).

	ISAAC SWEERS	Destroyer)	
JAN	VAN GELDER	Minesweeper)	left Downs for Spithead
JALOB VAN	HEEMSKERCK	Cruiser)	(V.A. Dover, 0852/12).
	0.18, 021, 022	Submarines)	

SUMATRA (cruiser) sailed and will arrive off Humber soon after 1200/12 (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0700/12).

12/5/1940
Sunday.

268

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.Narvik.

COVENTRY

Joining me in Ofot Fiord (F.O. Narvik, 0725/12)

Aerodromes
Banak.

My 0119/11 and F.O. Narvik 0015/12 Banak aerodrome is not suitably placed for use at present. O.C. R.A.F. now arrived, states neither Bardu Foss nor Skaanland can be ready to receive aircraft before 22/5. (R.A. Narvik, 1121/12) Your 2215/11 and 2329/11. We consider it most inadvisable to land fighter squadrons at Banak aerodrome, which is well within range of enemy bombers working from Trondheim. (Reasons) Consider you should retain both fighter squadrons in the carriers until either Bardufoss or Skaanland is ready to receive them. (D.O.D. (H) 1309/12 to F.O. Narvik) Concurring in this (F.O. Narvik, 1645/12)

M.L.C.L.
Horse Boats

Admiralty 2110/7 and 2123/9 Owing to changed situation 3 M.L.C.L. cannot now be sent. Request immediate reply in regard to requirements of Horse Boats. (D of L.D. to R.A. Narvik, 1602/12 10 Horse Boats required (F.O. Narvik, 1857/12)

General Marion

To visit Lord Cork and French and Norwegian H.Q. from General Gamelin (D of P 1752/12)

Kistenes

Situation normal. Morale appears good. (C.S. 1, 1827/12, to D.O. Narvik)

C.S. 20.

Ordered to proceed Skjel Fiord and protect French submarine L'ESPOIR from attack. When relieved by VINDICTIVE, proceed Lavang Fiord. (F.O. Narvik, 2126/12)

Supplies.

Your 1508/11 Consider time has now arrived when Admiralty should take over responsibility for all supplies for ships in Narvik area. Propose necessary oilers, colliers, ammunition carriers and Naval and victualling store ships be assembled at Rosyth or Clyde for inclusion in suitable Narvik convoys. (C in C., H.F. 1010/12)

SUPPLEMENT

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

Bodo Party.

Mosjoen, Mo, Bodo.
Embarked Colonel Gubbins and 100 men. Further 350 in Norwegian steamer conveyed by JAVELIN. Both proceeding Bodo. (YORK 0444/12).

Company with Colonel Gubbins is still reported to be at Sannessjoen. Investigate. (F.O. Narvik to ENTERPRISE, 0532/12). Gubbins reported en route Bodo. (F.O. Narvik to ENTERPRISE, 1043/12). Col. Gubbins and Governor from JACKAL landed Bodo 1000/12. Remainder entered Bodo 1145. Nothing further required. Have supplied quantity of provisions and ammunition. JACKAL and JAVELIN proceeding. (JACKAL 1206/12).

Mo.

Mo in Norwegian hands with local British H.Q. Another small British force is in contact with 1,000 enemy in Norwegian uniforms. Peninsular of Hennes with H.Q. at Surd. (JACKAL 0239/12).

Motor Drifters.

In view of R.A. Scapa's adverse report on endurance and seaworthiness of the motor drifters, these craft will not now be included in Gubbins Flotilla. 5 trawlers to be sailed to Bodo when ready. (D. of P.1425/12).

Bofors guns.

Your 2246/11. No. In view of situation at Mosjoen these were left in accordance with Colonel Gubbins' instructions (VETERAN 0139/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

Your 0107/12. I regard it as most important to check German advance into district which will give access to aerodromes. ENTERPRISE in charge of operations had orders to get in touch with Gubbins whose position from a garbled message seemed somewhat precarious. If Mo is not practicable force will go to Bodo. (F.O. Narvik 1026/12 to 1st S.L.)

Should situation permit H.M.S. HESPERUS with MARGOT is to proceed to Scapa passing through position 066°N. 004°E. then as ordered by C.in C. Rosyth. H.M.S. FLEETWOOD to return to Lavang and complete with ammunition. H.M.S. ENTERPRISE go to Bodo. H.M.S. CAIRO remain at Mo. R.A. Narvik inform F H Q. (F.O. Narvik 2119/12).

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

Iceland - Operation Fork.

- Situation Still quiet. Estimate 90% population favourable or neutral, 10% impassively hostile. Further details (Reykjavik, 1327/12).
- Floatplane. Admty 1851/11. ~~WALRUS~~ ^{Walrus} disembarked and moored Fossvoegr Fiord. Sub-Lieut.(A) Broadwood in charge. (BERWICK, 1249/12).
- British Subjects. Admty. 1959/10, number of British subjects in Iceland. 12 men, 6 women, 3 children. (S.O.I. Iceland, 1726/12).
- Trawler Visits. My 1914/7. Iceland. Reykjavik area, now occupied by British. Trawlers should visit all eastern fiords between Papey and Langanes. Ascertain no enemy forces present and be friendly with inhabitants. (V.A.N.P.1510/12).
- F.O.C. Northern Patrol's 1510. Act accordingly when visibility permits. H.M.S. NORTHERN DUKE all Fiords from Papey to Reydar inclusive. H.M.S. KINGSTON JACINTH between Horn and Borgar latitude 065°32' North longitude 013°47' West, H.M.S. KINGSTON PERIDOT engage Langanes. (CALIFORNIA 1745/12).

War Diary12.5.40
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations.
Submarines.

Cancel my 1254 17th. April (re British Submarine operating North of Bergen) (R A (D) H.F. 1316/12)

Aircraft CarriersGLORIOUS
FURIOUS

To sail after party mentioned on Adty. 1346/11 have been embarked (Diplomats etc.,) (C. in C., H.F. 0801/12)

FURIOUS sailed (FOIC Greenock 1119/12)
GLORIOUS sailed (FOIC Greenock 1339/12)
Both ships ordered to return to Clyde (VCNS 1415/12) Returned Clyde (NOIC Greenock 1756/12)

In view of my 1415/12, passengers and officers mentioned in GLORIOUS 1137/12 are to be transferred to SOBIESKI or BATTERY (D.O.D. I H 1927/12)

Requesting information of position of Bard^{en} Foss landing ground. (GLORIOUS 1450/12)

Norwegian Units

Requesting which units of Norwegian fleet remain in Norwegian hands, and whether land or sea communications exist between Tromso and Kisenes. (D.N.I. 1712/12 to N.A. Narvik.

Convoys - Norway.

N.S. 3.

Sailed 0815 for Harstad, escorted by WALKER and BEAGLE (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0901/12)

N.S. 2.

N.S. 2 and MELTA arrived 11/5 (N.O.I.C. Narvik 0937/12)

Loading

reloading of BATTERY and SOBIESKI (D of S8 to F.O. Glasgow, 1125/12)

BELFORT

French Admiralty request to sail for Narvik with N.S. 3. She is supply ship for French flying boats asked for by Gen. Bethouast. (D.O.D. (H) 1135/12) Captain of BELFORT states endurance insufficient for route of N.S.3. (C in C H.F. 2008/12)

N.P. 3.

Request may be sailed for Narvik area when ready (D.O.D. (H) 1657/12)

N.S. 4.)
N.P. 4.)

Cancel Admiralty 2236/10. Future convoy sailings amended and as far as possible combined.

Composition of N.S. 4 and N.P. 4 (D.O.D. (H) 1659/12)

HOME COMMANDS

272

AirBritish Air Activity

Requesting air protection for British destroyers operating on Dutch coast from Hook to eastwards wherever German aircraft are landing. (D.C. 0220/12 to Air Ministry).

Skua combat with one Dornier 215 at 1230/12 off Bergen. Report (Hatston, 1452/12).

Reconnaissance report, Flushing (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2120/12).

Ship escorted by 2 torpedo boats attacked 1158 in approx. 60° 5'N, 5° 20'E. Six 500 lb. bombs dropped, no hits. (Hatston 1435/12).

Enemy Air ActivityNorwegian Campaign

Principles evident from Norwegian campaign in landing forces in face of hostile aircraft attacks. (1st S.L. to C-in-C Med. 1356/12).

CODRINGTON

Bombed (CODRINGTON 0650/12)
Bombed C.P.O.X. 0202 C.P.O.X. 0509
(CODRINGTON 0852/12)
Bombed C.P.O.X. 0102 (CODRINGTON 1030/12)
Send fighters C.P.O.X. 0102 (CODRINGTON 1100/12)

HAVOCK

Bombed C.P.O.X. 1015 (HAVOCK 0702/12)
Enemy still bombing (HAVOCK 0714/12).

S.S. SEMBILAN
(Dutch)

Bombed 51° 20'N, 4° 5'E. (SEMBILAN 0701/12).
S.O.S. 52° 22'N, 4° 8'E. (SEMBILAN 0706/12)
Distress traffic ended. Distress call is clear (SEMBILAN 0743/12).

HEREWARD

Bombed C.P.T.S. 0044 (HEREWARD 1032/12).

PRINSES JULIANA
See also U-boat
campaign.

2908 tons, carrying troops from Flushing to Ymuiden. Heavy hit by bombs off Hook. Ship still afloat, being abandoned. Continuous a/c attack for past hour. (CODRINGTON 1116/12) HAVOCK to salve confidential papers. (HYPERION, 1308/12) WILD SWAN and trawler took survivors to Hook. No hits on H.M. ships (Capt.(D) 1236/12).

HOME COMMANDS

273

Air (continued)Enemy Air ActivityFlushing

1 a/c bombing Flushing (KIMBERLEY 1147/12).
20 bombs on Flushing (KIMBERLEY, 1155/12)
12 a/c's bombing Flushing and Breskens
(KIMBERLEY 2125/12).

MOHAWK

Bombed 342 C.P.O.X. 17 (MOHAWK 1211/12).

FURY

Bombed 360 D.K.D.N. 12 (FURY 1212/12).

VIVACIOUS

Bombed 1523 C.P.O.X. (VIVACIOUS 1358/12)
8 a/c's C.P.O.X. 1925 (VIVACIOUS 1912/12)

Hook

Help, Hook enemy bombing. (Dover, 2104/12).
S.N.O. Hook reports "Repeated bombing attacks,
several wounded. Request help and instructions".
(V.A. Dover 2110/12).

Narvik Area

My 1141 enemy aircraft bombing continuously.
MARGOT or another ship will soon be hit unless
fighters are sent (ENTERPRISE, 1145/12).

Owing to continuous bombing, unloading of
MARGOT will be long job if ships is not hit
in meantime. Please send fighters. FLEETWOOD
running out of ammunition. (ENTERPRISE 1330/12)

HOME COMMANDS

274

MiningOperation
FD 12

NARWHAL reports Operation FD 12 completed (V.A.S. 1014/12).

Magnetic
mines

→ Magnetic mines reported laid 240° distant 7 miles from Ymuiden. (HYPERION, 0548/12).

C-in-C Nore's 0651 to VIMY. One explosion possibly M mine immediately after dropping from aircraft ahead of CODRINGTON in North Channel on leaving Ymuiden (Capt.(D)1, 0720/12).

Dutch coast

→ Request instructions whether sweepers should clear river to Rotterdam on completion of work here in view of somewhat obscure situation in Rotterdam. (HYPERION, 0945/12).

2 Ansons will escort from 1300 to-day at Smith's Knoll until 1600. "Help" messages to be made on 280 kc/s. in addition code word "Pasts" (C-in-C Nore, 1045/12 to D.20).

O.I/C
Minesweeping

→ Your 0945. Attempt should be made to clear River, but sweepers should retire if opposition met. Cmdr. Peterson arrives Flushing to-day in charge of minesweeping in Holland (C-in-C Nore, 1155/12 to HYPERION).

Hook

→ Sweepers report that entrance channel to Hook is now clear of magnetic mines. One more exploded this afternoon. (HYPERION, 1755/12).

Mines off
Rotvaer I.

Have not been laid. Delete para. 2 of 27Q.Z.X. (D.M.S. 1538/12).

Mines in
German harbours

were laid last night and will continue to be laid (C-in-C Nore 1012/12, V.C.N.S. 1400/12).

Do you think magnetic mines could be usefully used to stop Germans crossing Zuider Zee, if so in what position. They could be laid either by a/c's or preferably by M.T.B.'s. (V.C.N.S. 1814/12 to GRIFFIN).



HOME COMMANDS

275

Mining (continued)

Mines off
Helder

Floating mines were seen in approaches to Helder
(GRIFFIN 2300/12).

Hook.

~~Sweepers report that branch channel to Hook
is now clear of magnetic mines one more
exploded this afternoon (HYPERION+ 1755/12).~~

See previous page.



276

HOME COMMANDSShippingNOTOS

Norwegian, left Convoy OB. 144 0200/11 in 11° W, fine weather, circumstances suspicious (C-in-C W.A. 0101/12) Reported engine damage. Lands End Radio, 1524/12).

Convoys

Positions (D.C. 1825/12) (C-in-C W.A. 1417/12).

Trawling

Area west of Morecambe l.v. available for trawling bounded by 53° 50'N, 54° 0'N, 3° 40'W and 4°W. (D.T.D. 1619/12).

MiscellaneousGermans in Dutch fishing vessels

Arriving at Aberdeen. Proposal to intern German members of crews (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0110/12).

Weather

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	W. or N.W. Light	Fine to cloudy except for occasional showers in Shetland area.	Good
Horns Reef & Dutch Coast	N.W. light to moderate	Fine to cloudy	Good
Channel	N.E. light to moderate	Little or no cloud	Good
W. Approaches	N.E. light to moderate	Little or no cloud	Good
Norwegian Coast	W. or S.W. light to moderate.	Mainly cloudy with occasional showers.	Mainly Good.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Command.

KELLY

H.T.B's were encountered lying almost stopped in track of ships being very difficult to pick up. Attack took place at 2235/9 116° from 57° N 4° E 46 miles. Enemy fired torpedo at 600 yards. Tracks and splash of discharge visible. They then retired under their own smoke. Some had small tripod masts. Boat which hit KELLY with torpedo afterwards rammed with KELLY and BULLDOG after former was in tow and sank alongside. None sunk by gunfire. (CS 18 1031/12)

A/C reports following message from KELLY. "In tow with tugs going well 0745" Battle flight over Sunderland A/S escort in contact (C in C., Rosyth 1002/12) Air escort report (Donibristle, 2355/12)

SEAL

S/m. Official communique, overdue and presumed lost. Foreign reports suggest some of her crew may be prisoners of war. (issued 1253/12)

SHANDWICK

Trawler, has major engine defect. Intend taking trawler ELDORADO in place of SHANDWICK (S.O., Gubbins Flotilla., 1641/12)

BLYSKAWICA

Polish destroyer, urgent defects, class A. (GRAFTON, 1401/12) request tug may assist to pass boom gate about 1830 today (GRAFTON, 1357/12)

VERSATILE

Requires docking after grounding. Now in tow for Sheerness. Request arrangements be made to dock in Thames as neither Chatham nor Sheerness can undertake the work (C. in C., Nore., 1157/12) Grounded off Dutch coast 0940 (VERSATILE 0940, C. in C., Nore 1057/12) See also Operations.

WILD SWAN

Developed screw vibration at 20 knots and above. Proceed to Dover at best speed (HYPERION 1545/12, Captain. (D) 1. 1855/12) MALCOLM to proceed Hook at 0300 tomorrow Monday to take over duties of WILD SWAN. (V.A. Dover 1958/12)

FOREIGN STATIONS

. North Atlantic

French
Branch Positions. Convoys and patrols 1300/12 (DC 0048/12)

Italian Mail Admiralty 1026/11 Bag removed owing to unusual address to Genoa Post Office instead of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome. (C.C.S.O. Gib., 1430/12)

NCS Fayal Will cease to function after 15/5 Staff is being transferred to San Miguel (Porta Delgada) (DT D 1857/12)

South Atlantic

DUCHESSA
D'AOSTA Your 2147/10, 2252/10, 1355/11. Detained by Union Govt., on pretext of suspected case of smallpx. Please report reason, as it is undesirable in present circumstances to give Italians cause for complaint (ACNS (A) 1550/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Belgian and Dutch Joining convoy. Your 1105/11 reply Yes.
Ships for ships between 9 and 15 knots (80 (1) Freetown 1131/12)

Mediterranean

Air Summarising lessons of Norwegian campaign re forces disembarking in face of hostile air attacks. (1st SL 1356/12 to C. in.C Med)

Oil Fuel Improbable that unless Germany can supply more tank cars the present average rate of despatch from Varna will increase (2000 tons weekly) (Mr. Rendel, Sofia No 42 SAVING recd. 12/5)

Dodecanese 2 Greek sources who left Dodecanese 26/4 state conditions were normal. No special warlike preparations or troop movements. B2 (SBNO Suez Canal Area 1722/12)

Shipping Your 1747/7 Norwegian and Polish ships should be issued with envelope "Q.Q". In spite of relaxation in diversion orders it is intended to continue the issue of this envelope for the present but so as to reduce the risk of compromise you should arrange as far as possible to have withdrawn at Gibraltar and Port Said from ships leaving the Mediterranean. Instructions concerning Dutch and Belgian ships will be signalled later. 1521/12 to C. in. C., Med.)

FOREIGN STATION

Mediterranean

Italian
preparations.

Any assembly of transports or storeships at Bari, Brindisi or Barletta and any information suggesting possible embarkation of troops at these ports should be reported at once (DNI 1153/12 to Consul Bari, to (1) Malta)

Transfer of
submarines to
Germany.

Asking for source of his 1517/11 and further information (DNI 1154/12 to NA Arkara)

East Indies

U S 2

Arrived Aden 0510 2 escorted by RAMILLIES, KENT, DECOY, DEFENDER, SUFFREN (N O I C Aden 0537 Z/12) Expected to sail 0900 Z /12 (FOC 4CS 0630 Z/12 Arrived (NCSO Aden Z/12) left 0950, escort LIVERPOOL (CS4 flag) RAMILLIES, DECOY, DEFENDER, SHOREHAM, SUFFREN (N O I C Aden 09512/12)

U S 3

and escort left Fremantle 12/5 (ACNB 0959Z/12)

Patrol off
Kismayu.

CARTHAGE to proceed at best speed to patrol to intercept UCKERMARK and TANNENFELS see Adty. 1312/11 (C in C., E11754Z/12)

RANCHI route KARANJA by route M3 await order there to proceed independently to Berbera. RANCHI then to proceed best speed to patrol off Kismayu (C in C., E 1 1847 Z/12)

Sabotage
Precautions

My 1329/12. Information received that in the event of war, Italian subjects have been instructed to commit acts of sabotage on an extensive scale British authorities at Abadan are aware of situation, but in view of importance of preventing blocking operations in the river and in the Rooka Channel by Italian ships, decided that one sloop should for the present be stationed in the vicinity of Shatt-Al-Arab. Italian Tankers PROMETEO and ANTONIA CAMPANILLE are due at Abadan 15/5, but should not be interfered with under present circumstances. (D.O.D.(F) 1831/12)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

Curacao

Small British force landed to safeguard oil refineries, French have landed small force at Aruba for similar purpose (DMI 12345/12)

Transport of
Troops to
Jamaica

C.N.S. Ottawa 1123/11. Considered essential that vessel locally available be used. LADY boats would appear suitable. (D of ST 1917/12)

My 1350 11th May. If necessary I can spare a cruiser to escort troop transport from Halifax to Jamaica. In this case I suggest that only one Destroyer accompany transport and proceed to Bermuda on completion of escort. (C in C., A.W.I. 0222/12 to C.N.S. Ottawa)

Australia

Your 1935/11 Commonwealth N.B. concurs. (ACNB 1023z/12 to Admiralty) re CERES, COLOMBO remaining under orders of C in C., China until position of Netherlands East Indies clarified.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Command

ANHALT

(5870 tons) ordered to proceed to Hamburg to discharge, load and for repairs (ANHALT was in collision off Hantsholm 12/2) (IC 0449/40)

HOHENHORN ?

(not listed at Lloyds) ordered to proceed to Station. 12/5 (IC0449/40)

SIMON VON
UTRECHT

(4949 tons) ordered 12/5 to load at Oxelosund and not Gefle (IC 0441/40)

Mediterranean

INGO

(2300 tons) Press report arrived 12/5 at Dubrovink laden with bōxite destined for Germany. Leaves 14/5 for Trieste.

Ships Attacked.

SS PRINSESS
JULIANA (See
also Air)

(2908 tons) carrying troops from Flushing to Ymuiden was mined /12 but was still afloat at 1200. WILD SWAN and HAVOCK took survivors to Hook. HAVOCK to salve confidential papers. (HYPERION 1308/12)

St. DENIS

^{? Sighting}
~~2490~~ magnetic mine in river between Hook and Rotterdam. Approx 51° 54' north 04° 21' E This is same position that pilot cutter carrying gold was sunk and channel is partially blocked. (HYPERION, 1105/12) [D.R. 1337 says ST. DENIS sunk at Rotterdam]

→ AMAZONE

French submarine was unsuccessfully attacked twice. viz. about 0001/12 in 52° 55' N 40° 28' E (2490 Ymuiden 30 miles) after which she attacked the enemy U boat. The second attack on the AMAZONE was made at 0327/12 in 52° 53' N 40° 28' E (2440 Helder 10 miles) and was unsuccessful (IC 0445/40 0449/40, AMAZONE 0001/12 2340/12) **SUPPLEMENT**

ROEK

N A Hague reports wreck near entrance to Noord Geul 51° 53.6' N 4° 19.8' E (DDIC 1310/12) **SUPPLEMENT**

Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions.

One in about 56.17' N., 2.08' E., p.m. 11/5. No other indications from which deductions can be drawn. (D.D.I.C., 1148/12)

1316

Imperial Airways Air craft sighted U-Boat 50° 7' N 1° 0' E which submerged on sighting air craft (I.C.O. 449/40)

2330/11

Drifter SILVER NIGHT believes she saw submarine near Outer Dowsing L.V. C.4 (FO Humber 1556/12)

Submarines Attacked

→ About
0001.

By French submarine AMAZONE, 52.55' N., 4.28' E., 3490 Ymuiden 30'. Reported as unsuccessful. (I.C., 0445/40) (AMAZONE 0001/12 0129/12)

SITUATION REPORT

283

Low Countries

Helder, Texel,
Zuider Zee.

3 M.T.B's entered the Zuider Zee from Ymuiden during the night. VALOROUS entered the Texel today but her local pilot would not take her far enough for her to operate against the Germans on the East shore of the Zuider Zee, and she left at 1600. One of her escorting Blenheims shot down a ME 110. The 3 M.T.B.s in the Zuider Zee are to be reinforced by five 60 ft. boats leaving Harwich 0900/14, weather permitting.

Ymuiden

S.S. PERSEUS with the remaining Dutch gold left Ymuiden 0400/13 escorted by VIMY, and proceeded to the Thames Estuary. S.S. PHRONTIS (Dutch) with 900 prisoners of war left Ymuiden 1030/13 for Downs. WALPOLE left Ymuiden 2200/13 with diamonds.

Hook

A composite Guards battalion of about 650 men landed at the Hook early this morning. A second battalion may be sent on the night of 14th. HEReward arrived during the night 12/13 to support the R.M.'s who landed at the Hook 12/5, and Capt. D.16 in MALCOLM with VERSATILE and VIVIEN commenced operating there at daylight today. There was an air raid at 0500 but the actual landing of the troops was unopposed. The Marines have been ordered to remain at Hook until ordered to return.

Royal
Evacuees

Princess Juliana with her husband and children arrived at Harwich this morning in CODRINGTON from Ymuiden. HEReward left Hook at noon with the Queen of the Netherlands and arrived at Harwich at 5/pm.

Rotterdam

HEReward went up the river at midnight 12/5. The Holland Amerika Line and the 28,291 ton liner STATENDAM were reported to be on fire at that time. HEReward reported that bombardment of the aerodrome in the hands of the Germans, south of Rotterdam, was not practicable.

The demolition parties at Amsterdam and Rotterdam have been instructed to destroy the oil tanks at those places. At Rotterdam the operation was carried out at 1600/13.

SITUATION REPORT

284

Low Countries

Dieppe

The S.N.O. has closed the port to about 200 Dutch trawlers which wish to enter, for fear of 5th column activity.

Norway

A combined operation was successfully carried out at 0100/13, when 2 battalions of Foreign Legion were landed at Bjervik with the object of joining hands with the Chasseurs.

~~There is a shortage of oil at Narvik:~~ oiler OLEANDER is in Convoy N.S.3 of 13 ships which is being sent. DEVONSHIRE who is returning to Narvik, is to inquire at Tromso whether to embark the remaining 20 tons of Norwegian gold.

ENTERPRISE left Bodo to avoid drawing unnecessary attention to the place. ESKIMO who has been heavily bombed for some days, is to be towed by VINDICTIVE from Skjel Fiord to a safer anchorage. S.S. ROYAL ULSTERMAN landed her troops at Bodo.

CLYDE intercepted a German Transport in the Stadlandet area and bombarded her, but low visibility forced her to break off the engagement.

Enemy Air Activity

Continued to be intense over Holland, Belgium and Northern France throughout the day, including reconnaissance, troop carrying and bombing. Extensive bombing took place at Ymuiden and the Hook, and a number of ships operating off the Dutch coast were attacked. The only ship hit or damaged was VERSATILE. Enemy aircraft also bombed a group of 4 merchant ships N.N.W. of Hook, but no damage was done.

The.....

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

The Dutch S.S. BUSSUM was bombed and hit off the West Hinder L.V. but was towed in. 3 enemy aircraft were sighted approaching F.S. Convoy 20 miles E.N.E. of Cromer at 1730, but the convoy was not attacked.

Enemy air activity in the Narvik area continues.

General

British Air Activity

In addition to normal patrols and searches special searches were flown during the afternoon to look for enemy M.T.B.'s, of which none were seen.

One of our aircraft on reconnaissance attacked a force of 7 minesweepers near Horns Reef. None was hit, but one was observed to be stopped after a near miss.

Italy

Anti-British agitation continues in Rome, and the attitude of the Italian Govt. is seriously threatening the position and independence of the Vatican.

Casualties

At 8.45 pm 13th VERSATILE was bombed and hit while patrolling the Dutch coast. Her engine room and after boiler room are flooded. JANUS has taken her in tow, and has her wounded with casualties from the Irish Guards at the Hook, on board. Two tugs will relieve JANUS. MALCOLM reports damage to her starboard propeller. KELLY arrived in the Tyne at 1531 in tow, escorted by 4 destroyers and aircraft.



War Diary

13.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

286

Precautions

Following instructions have been issued by Army Commander-in-Chief, Home Forces:-

In view of the German action in Holland in landing German troops in British uniforms by parachute or troop carrying aircraft any men so dropped in this country should be treated as enemy and at once engaged by the nearest troops with all available weapons and with the utmost ruthlessness. Speed is the essence of the problem. This does not apply to individual airmen making a forced descent by parachute from damaged aircraft. All troops on actual protection duties as directed by General Officers Commanding-in-Chief Commands will act as if in contact with the enemy maintaining constant vigilance and standing to at dusk and dawn.

(Adty. 1013/13, General Message 516A).

Dover

Suggesting a flight of Balloon Barrage at Dover for protection of train ferry dock and Marine station. (V.A., Dover, 1550/13).

Humber

Reporting that all military guards for N.E.P. ships had been removed from Hull Docks, thus without any armed guard against low flying aircraft or sabotage. Security control officer has made representations to military without result. (F.O., Humber, 1750/13).

Movements

Dutch Queen

Taken from Hook to Breskens (on mainland opposite Flushing) at her request by HEReward escorted by VERSATILE who has been ordered to return to Hook (Capt. D.16 Rec. 1244/13, 1241/13).

Submarines

Orders to TRUANT, TRIDENT, TRITON and ORZEL (V.A.S., 2134/13).

Operations

C.S.2 & BIRMINGHAM

Revert to 1 hours' notice for steam (C. in C., Nore, 1517/12 to C.S.2.)

Dutch Coast

PERSEUS

Sailed Ymuiden 0400 8 knots (VIMY 0415/13). My 0400 (re ship aground inside outer harbour at Ymuiden) refers to unknown M.V. Am escorting PERSEUS (VIMY 0802/13).

WINDSOR

Am on my own patrolling coast south of Ymuiden (WINDSOR 0500/13).

WALPOLE

VIMY 0400, can you help him without endangering yourself (C. in C., Nore, 0649/13 to WALPOLE).

VIMY

Cancel my 0649 if VIMY is safe (C. in C., Nore 0753/13 to WALPOLE).

Your 0651, not mined. 3 ships have safely passed entrance since explosion was heard. (VIMY 0710/13 to C. in C., Nore).

No sign of troops landing between Scheveningen and Zandvoort during dark hours. (MOHAWK, 0830/13).



HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

Helder - Texel - Zuider Zee

VALOROUS

Zuider Zee

290, 293, 303 (an attack)

(b)

Intend ~~authorising~~ ^{anchoring} Knock Deep 2230 today Monday expected to arrive Sheerness 0730 14th May. would like to see Staff Officer if possible to amplify my signal timed 1601. Suggestion of bombing Germans at Zuider Zee. (VALOROUS, 1831/13)

(a)

Dutch Admiral Jolles informs me that Germans are massed at Friesland end of Zuider Zee dyke, Dutch fort is holding out strongly at present. No ship with draught over 8 ft. can approach within 18,000 yards to bombard Germans and Admiral suggests bombers would be effective. Admiral says he could supply petrol if British made air station south of Wieringen. Consider only need for ship at Helder is liaison. (VALOROUS, 1601/13)

Dutch Coast

Bombardment of Aerodrome.

Your 1953/12, bombardment of car park used as aerodrome south of Rotterdam This bombardment is not practicable. (Capt. D.I.; 1053/13) (C. in C., Nore., 1435/13)

OPERATIONS

Ymuiden - Evacuations.

Refugees will depart from Ymuiden in various ships for the next two or three days. Some defence against air attacks is advisable. Consul-General and Shipping Adviser will try to send word of departure. Hope that good ship will be put at disposal. (N.A., Hague, 1700/13)

Following from F.N.L.O., London, to French N.A. at the Hague. Two French destroyers to arrive at dawn 14/5 at Ymuiden to take there General Mittelhauser. Said destroyers may take in personnel to be repatriated Should not be made to call at Hook on way back unless in case of extreme urgency. (F.N.L.O., to Capt. Hastings 1745/13)

F.O. Official to go to Ymuiden.

Holland Evacuations

I am very reluctant to risk a destroyer with an official from Foreign Office from Harwich to Ymuiden observing Ymuiden has been mined, water is shallow and air attacks are intense. Propose that an M.T.B. be used instead if the journey is of urgent importance. (1917/13)

CYCLONE
SUIROCO

French destroyers, will be proceeding to Ymuiden tonight (F.O.C. Dover 1957/13)

→ WINDSOR

Bringing 70 Dutch Govt., and officials Belgian and Norwegian legations, expect to arrive Southend 0700 (WINDSOR 2001/13)

VIVIEN

Expect to arrive Sheerness 0730, 89 British, French and Belgian refugees (VIVIEN 2050/13)

→ WINDSOR

Your 2001 Disembark passengers at Tilbury returning to Sheerness on completion. (C. in C., Nore., 2219/13)

WESSEX

Proceed to Hook for Refugees. VESPER reduce to cruising speed (C. in C., Nore., 2231/13)

MOHAWK

Expect to arrive Tongue L.V. 0700/14 with H.M. Minister and 250 refugees (MOHAWK 2248/13)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Dutch Coast (contd.)

VERSATILE to patrol

Cancel my 2358/12 join MOHAWK off Dutch coast and take More destroyers under your orders. Capt. (D) 16th D.F. in MALCOLM is at present senior officer in Hook Maintain patrol off coast and act as circumstances require keeping Capt. (D) 16th D.F. informed.

(C. in C., Nore, 1010/13 to VERSATILE).

Enemy M.T.Bs.

Ships operating off Dutch Coast should bear in mind the possibility of attack from M.T.B.s operating from Ems. An air reconnaissance of the Dutch Coast is made at dusk every day. (D.S.O., 2256/13).

Zuider Zee

VALOROUS to bombard with Dutch warship.

GRIFFIN is returning to Harwich. Dutch warship is to bombard east coast of Zuider Zee by dam. Collect local pilot and assist. Floating mines were seen in approaches (C. in C., Nore, 0208/13 to VALOROUS, repeated HEReward etc.).

See page 288

293

303

Rotterdam

Summary of information from reliable sources May 12th:

(a) North Bank. Germans believed holding bridge head not more than 100 yards radius - sporadic outbursts of firing - local Nazi-Socialist-Bund snipers in houses. Otherwise Dutch in control.

(b) Centre. Holland-Amerika Line dock area in flames.

(c) South. Heavy firing. Germans reported retreating towards Dordrecht but Dutch General Staff reports troops land continuously Waalhaven aerodrome and Feyenoord sports arena. (The Hague, 0532/13).

HOME COMMANDS.

291

Operations - Dutch Coast

Hook of Holland - Operation Harpoon.

Force
Disembarked

Disembarkation at Hook of Holland unopposed but interrupted by constant air raid alarms, hostile aircraft sighted, no bombing. (D.16, 0732/13).

Landing of
Battalion

Following received from Hook. Landing of battalion should be completed by 1000 providing there is no hold-up. (V.A.Dover, 0846/13).

R.M.

Royal Marines are not to return until ordered. (V.A.Dover, 0849/13).

Larger Force
Suggested

Guards Battalion intend to advance through Marines who will remain securing bases at Hook of Holland until relieved. It seems an opportunity to send a larger force and advance while still unopposed. Have landed Lieut. Robertson with type 53 W/T apparatus as Liaison Officer with Guards. (Capt.D.16, 0940/13).

Harpoon
Operation
Completed.

Harpoon completed. WIVERN and BOREAS with CANTERBURY sailed 0945. Am proceeding now with MAID OF ORLEANS (Capt.(D)19, 1120/13).

Second Battalion referred to in my 1656/12 will probably be sent to arrive Hook during night 14-15th May. R.M. Force will probably be withdrawn in ships bringing this battalion. (D.O.D.(H) 1923/13 to V.A., Dover).

HOME COMMANDS

292

Operations - Hook of Holland

A.A. Defence
Needed.

WILD SWAN reports that anti-aircraft gun defence of Hook is essential if port is to continue to be used. Heavy air attack would quickly demolish piers and vessels alongside are very vulnerable. (V.A., Dover, 1148/13).

Royal Marines

Report situation re victualling Royal Marines at Hook of Holland and how long they can be maintained from local resources. (C. in C., Nore, 1317/13).

Your 1317. Marines have obtained provisions for a further two days. While town is intact they can be maintained indefinitely. (Capt.D.16, 1520/13).

A.A.
Ammunition

Essential that until further notice at least 500 rounds per day of 4-in. H.A. ammunition should be made available for replenishment of A.A. destroyers on Belgian Coast. (V.A., Dover, 1216/13).

Evacuations

From conversation with N.A. and B.N.L.O., Rotterdam, it appears likely considerable number may be evacuated from Hook. In this event transport must be sent or evacuation carried out in destroyers. Heavy bombing tonight is anticipated which may destroy quay unless fighter protection can be provided. (Capt.D.16, 1549/13).

Naval Attache

Your 1510/13, asking whether to remain for any special purpose. Unless you yourself have any particular reason for remaining you should embark with Legation. (D.D.O.D.(H), 1748/13).

✓ see p 293

Operations - Hook of Holland

VALOROUS

Have been informed Germans have not been able to advance along dam. Expect to arrive main channel Kuyjl about 1330. Request fighter protection at that time. (VALOROUS, 1059/13).

W.O. for Harpoon. Instructions. (D.N.I. 0018/13 to D.19, V.A. Dover).

Evacuations

Reply on
p. 292

Ref. my immediately preceding telegrams. ST. DENIS cannot come down river owing to fresh mines and ships sunk. Request Destroyers for Government, Legations and Evacuees total possibly 400 at 1800 hours today at Hook of Holland. French Naval Attache requests Admiral Dunkirk be asked send 2 Destroyers to assist. Submit you discuss your decision those concerned as regards operation X.D. Authorities here maintain if oil tanks Rotterdam destroyed water supply will be contaminated. Destroyer cannot go up river from whence to take part in operation. Do you wish me to remain here for any special purpose. ST. DENIS will be sunk. (N.A., Hague, 1510/13)

→ WINDSOR
VIVIEN

Proceed to Hook forthwith and stand by to embark refugees. (C. in C., Nore 1615/13).

No sign of activity on beach from seaward. VERSATILE informs me beaches are strongly held by Dutch soldiers. (MOHAWK, 1544/13).

→ MOHAWK, WINDSOR and VIVIEN ordered to sail for Southend after embarking at Hook British Ambassador with staff and some 400 refugees. (C. in C., Nore, 1632/13).

Flushing

Flushing heavily bombed 12/5 and 13/5. Intend to transfer to Zeebrugge with magnetic sweepers. No communication possible with London except by W/T (Comdr. Peterson at Flushing via KIMBERLEY Rec. 2340/13).

SUPPLEMENT

LL Trawlers

Essential that LL Equipment should not fall into enemy hands. Scuttling charges are to be fitted to LORD GREY, CLYTHNESS, LORD INCHCAPE and RIFNESS before sailing. Tails must be lashed to sink with ship when not streamed and switchgear destroyed if possible. Extra scuttling charges are to be shipped.....



War Diary

13.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

294

Operations - Flushing (Contd.)

LL Trawlers
Contd.

shipped in these trawlers for fitting in four LL trawlers already in Holland and these instructions passed to them and to Commander Peterson at Flushing on arrival. Orders for sailing will be made tomorrow Tuesday. (D.M.S., 1406/13).

Dutch Coast - Operation X.D.

Commander in Chief will not give decision to allow operation X.D. although he states oil has already been rendered unserviceable. Government anxious to evacuate Queen and selves. I hope allied air operations on a large scale may be immediately started. This might bring about stauncher attitude. (N.A. Hague, 1015/13).

Amsterdam R.E.s parties established at 3 oil installations. All demolition prepared. (V.A. Dover, 1224/13).

H.M.G. instruct that all oil stocks in the neighbourhood of Amerst~~dam~~ are to be destroyed at once, even though local authorities do not agree. (D.O.D.(H) 2217/13 to WALPOLE).

X.D. completed

Adty. 2218/13. Am informed from Rotterdam that Operation X.D. was carried out at 1600. Tremendous fire can be seen blazing from that direction, presumably oil tanks. (Capt. (D)16, 2331/13).

If no other means exist a boat is to be sent to Rotterdam with orders to X.D. party that H.M.G. instructions are that oil stocks at Rotterdam are to be destroyed even though local authorities do not agree. (D.O.D.(H) 2218/13 to Capt.(D)16).

Operation Lyster

Keep steam at 4 hours notice. (Cdr. Garnons-Williams, 1137/13 to H.M.S. FLORENTINO etc.)



HOME COMMANDS

295

Dutch Coast - Operation X.D.

Magnetic Mines Following from Comdr. Goodenough, Force X.D.A. Add to situation report, magnetic mines laid in inner harbour after departure of CODRINGTON approx. 0230 today, and Dutch merchant ship sunk clear of Channel. (KIMBERLEY, 1324/13).

Demolition Following from N.A., Hague, to pass to Demolition Party, Rotterdam. Unless contrary orders received from Admiralty via Hook, destroy oil tank at 2000 this evening unless physically prevented by local force and then go to Hook. (ends) Have been in communication with Vice-Consul, Rotterdam, but neither he nor I can get in touch with Rotterdam Section of Demolition Party. (Capt. D.16, 1502/13).

Trawlers Adty. 1406. Humber and Harwich are each to place an extra scuttling charge on board each trawler for the four trawlers already in Holland, informing them and Comdr. Peterson of the instructions in Adty. signal. (C. in C., Nore, 1601).

Situation From Service Attaches. Military situation no worse, weak spots are C. in C., General and Naval Staffs, and bad intelligence. Big air effort may yet turn the scale. From Naval Attache, if oil tanks started at ebb about 2000 am informed no serious consequences. Propose to implement this part of X.D. that arrangements decided on to sink ST. DENIS. (The Hague, 1626/13).

HOME COMMANDS

296

Operation J.

My 2358/12. Royal party (Princess Juliana and children, etc. embarked. (Capt. D.1 0116/13).

Dutch go so far as to ask that arrangements for evacuation of the Queen and Cabinet may be prepared. Said this unthinkable now, but if Dutch begin to go downhill rapidly - which not anticipated if we bring maximum scale of air attack to bear - standby arrangements for above evacuation are necessary. (N.A., Hague, 1150/13).

*Breskens
(near Flushing)*
Have sailed HEReward with Queen of Netherlands from Hook to Breskens at her request. Also Dutch Military Mission headed by Col. Van der Plassche on to Dover and to replenish ammunition. (Capt.(D)16, 1210/13).

Ref. 1210/13 form D.16. Queen of Holland here now expressed a wish to be landed at Harwich. Expect to arrive 1730. (HEREWARD, 1500/13).
My 1500. Expect to arrive 1700. (HEREWARD, 1610/13).

Low Countries.

Situation

Situation so critical that if German advance is not immediately stopped with help of Allied support the struggle will have to end. Immediate assistance can save situation (on behalf of Cabinet Council, De Geer, Prime Minister, 1030/13).

Minister of Defence states German armoured cars have crossed Moerdijk bridges ~~REMF~~ and he requests bridges near Dordrecht be bombed at once. (N.A. Hague, Rec. 1030/13).

Dutch Warships

Submarines

013, 020, 021 at Portsmouth and 2 more expected. Proposals for utilisation (V.A.S. 1824/13).

SUMATRA

Condition (F.O. Humber, 1819/13).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Low Countries

297

Naval assist-
ance in Zealand

/e

Gen. Giraud commanding 7th Army appreciates enemy will attempt occupation of Schouwen and Tholen Islands tonight. French naval forces understood to be going to watch Channel Flushing to Antwerp. Gen. Giraud anxious obtain naval watch in Channel South of Schouwen and Tholen to prevent enemy crossing in light draught vessels and pontoons from these to Walcheren and Bereland Islands. Can you represent this need to appropriate authorities. Ends. (Air Min. 1840/13 to Adty.).

Refugees

1549 from D.16. Have sent 3 destroyers to Hook to embark refugees. As Warships are liable to continuous air attack it is urged that future refugees should come in Merchant ships or move overland to Belgium and France. (C. in C., Nore, 1852/13).

Dutch Warships & Merchant Ships

2 submarines trying to leave New Waterway tonight. Please give escort. Speed 20 knots (N.A. Hague, 2105/13 to Adty).

Following ships available troop transport to Holland now at Gravesend, PRINSES BEATRIX, KONIGIN EMMA, MECKLENBURG, ORANGE NASSAU. None degaussed. Also BATAVIER II and IV, 15 Knots, already degaussed. (Dutch Legation, London, 1100/13).

Scheveningen Bank light vessel still manned. If opportunity arises, please collect crew. (Dutch Chief of Naval Staff, no T.O.O., 13/5)

OPERATIONS

Norway. Narvik. Bodo. Kirkenes

ESKIMO

Recommend ESKIMO be moved soon as possible. Officers and men suffering from great nervous strain. (C.S.20 1112/13) to be taken in tow by VINDICTIVE and go to Skaanland, 68° 35'30"N 16° 31'30"E. (F.O. Narvik 1123/13) **SUPPLEMENT**

~~Kirkenes.~~
~~KIRKENES~~

In view of satisfactory nature of your report, return to Scapa with 2 destroyers. (F.O. Narvik to F.O.C. I.C.S. 1059/13) Position etc., (F.O.C. I.C.S. 1600/13) DEVONSHIRE to remain in north for present. (C. in C., H.F. 0007/14)

Gubbins Flotilla

Suggesting a submarine operates in Gubbins Flotilla area (C. in C., H.F. 1647/13) TRUANT to proceed Harstad (VAS 2351/13) Gubbins Flotilla sailing p.m. today. (A.C.O.S. 1132/13) to go to Skjel Fiord and not Bodo (D.O.D. (H) 1415/13)

BELFORT

French Admiralty require BELFORT to proceed Narvik area. Directions. (C. in C., 1838/13)

~~BALLOON BARRAGE~~
Balloon Barrage.

540 Hydrogen Cylinders to load in MANELVA for balloon barrage Narvik. (D.O.D. (H) 1932/13)

ENTERPRISE

Left Bodo at request of Norwegians and British authorities who fear bombers might be attracted, proceeding Lavange (ENTERPRISE 1349/13)

GLORIOUS
FURIOUS

In view of paramount importance having modern fighters here, consider it essential GLORIOUS and FURIOUS should be within 200 miles of Norwegian coast in vicinity of Lofoten Islands by 18/5 (F.O. Narvik 1953/13)



War Diary

13.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

299

Norway, Contd.

Bjerkvik Landing

Successful combined operations carried out 0100/13. 2 Battalions Foreign Legion landed Bjerkvik with object of joining hands with Chasseurs operating in Hartvig area and occupying Odi Fjord Peninsula. Resistance machine gun and rifle fire not serious in face of ships bombardment. Naval casualties 1 officer 1 rating. (F.O. Farvik 1954/13)

Minesweeping

Norwegian Naval authorities at Bodo request swept channel be maintained between the 100 fathom line and shore between Howden and Bremnesodden to facilitate passage of Norwegian Coastguard and supply vessels. (ENTERPRISE, 1230/13)

TRUANT

Could proceed 15/5 to patrol in Harstad area. (V A S 1134/13) Will leave Rosyth a.m. 16/5 for Harstad (V.A.S. 2351/13)

B.U.P.

German transports and destroyers were sighted steaming southward off Swedish Coast 13/5, it was revealed in Gothenburg. The Ships kept outside Swedish territorial waters. (B.U.P. report 0810/14)

Norway, Submarines.

PORPOISE
NARWHAL

Laying mines in Oslo Fiord between 16/5 and 18/5 (V.A.S. 2134/13)

Norwegian Convoys

N.P. 3.

Sailed Route (F.O. Greenock 2129/13)

N.P. 4.)
N.B. 4.)

Admiralty 1659/12 3 escorts can be provided (C in C., H.F. 1215/13)

HOME COMMANDS

300

Operations - Norway

Trawlers,
Drifters.

Five trawlers armed with Lewis guns will leave Scapa for Skjel Fiord p.m. 13/5, have R/T communication to a range of about 40 miles only. Five R.N. Patrol Service drifters' crews are held in readiness for transport to Bodo and to take over local craft if required. (D.O.D.(H), 1422/13).

Gubbins
Flotilla

re TRUANT to operate a patrol, further to my 1647/13. (C. in C., H.F., 1651/13).

Landing
Grounds

Asking for report on suitability of Salameen, 68:52 N., 17:51 E., and Elevegardsmoen, 68:40 N., 17:30 E., as advance landing grounds. (Air Min. to Wing-Comdr. Atcherley, 1836/13).

Bardufoss

Your 1450/12. Air Ministry confirm position Bardufoss landing ground 69:03 N., 18:31 E., about two kilometres west of village. (D.D.I.C., 1350/13, to GLORIOUS).

Norwegian Convoys

N.S.3.

Early arrival in Narvik area of five M.T. ships in N.S.3 is of first importance. Other ships if they delay convoy are to follow behind. (D.O.D.(H), 1153/13). Names of ships, and repeating instructions (C. in C., H.F. 1400/13) R.V. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2024/13).

N.S.4.
EMPIRE
ABILITY

No M.L.Cs will be embarked in EMPIRE ABILITY. Fast motor boats and horse boats, also army launches, to be embarked Southampton for Narvik. Convoy N.S.4 will not proceed Scapa, and should be routed direct from Clyde to Narvik. (D.O.D.(H), 1922/13).



War Diary

13.5.40.
Monday

301

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Iceland - Operation Fork.

Trawler
Patrols

KINGSTON JACINTH's 2300/12. Any Germans should be captured and transferred to the ship on N.P.51. (C. in C., H.F., 1035/13). My 0945/13. Any Germans are to be captured and transferred to H.M.S. CALIFORNIA. (F.O.C.N.P., 1122/13).



War Diary

13.5.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

302

OPERATIONS

Allied Submarines

CLYDE

One enemy transport, position, course and speed are XKOX, 130, 16. Am Chasing. (CLYDE, 1316/13) My 1316. Gun engagement broken off due to low visibility. Transport last seen in XKND 26 7, course 130 deg. Am proceeding to intercept in position PFJV, 1500. (CLYDE, 1530/13)

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

Enemy Air Activity.

Hook

Bombed (W/T Station Hook 0500/13)

VALOROUS

Bombed C.P.OX 5241 (VALOROUS 0647/13
2 Heinkels, no hits 0705/13)

→ KIMBERLEY

Bombed C.P.O.X. 2826 (KIMBERLEY 1131/13)
7 bombs, 4 near merchant ship, not
hits. CPOX 1201 (KIMBERLEY 1429/13)

~~UNKNOWN SHIP~~

→ Unknown Ship

Bombed, sinking West Hinder, north
side, assistance wanted going life-
boats (via Stavanger Radio 0724/13)
Ref 0724/13 Am proceeding to assist
expect arrive 0930 (VENOMOUS, 0825/13)

S.S. TETI

Attacked from air at 1325 G.M.T.
position P.B.W. 210 degrees (TETI 1326/
13)

→ S.S. BUSSUM

(Dutch, 3636 tons) Bombed near
West Hinder Bank at 0716/13 towed
to N. Goodwin by HARRIER (VA Dover
1316/13 VENOMOUS 0015/14)

Hook

Disembarkation at Hook of Holland
unopposed but interrupted by constant
air raid alarms, hostile aircraft
sighted from time to time, no
bombing. (Captain D.16. 0732/13)

Enemy air craft bombing Hook
(MALCOLM, 2035/13)

→ Ymuiden

Being bombed by air craft
(KIMBERLEY 1120/13)

F.S. Convoy

Shadowed L.S.D.N. 0448 (AUKLAND 1722/13)
Convoy not attacked. (AUKLAND 1731/13)

VERSATILE

Hit, Hook. (MALCOLM, 2045/13) SUPPLEMENT

→ re 0724 from Whitehall W/T (unknown
vessel attacked by aeroplanes-
sinking) am proceeding to assistance
expect to arrive 0930 (VENOMOUS
0825/13)



War Diary

13.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS.

304

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

HESPERUS

Near miss, bomb damage. Ship seaworthy.
(F.O., Narvik, 2357/13).

SUPPLEMENT



War Diary

13.5.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

305

Enemy Air Activity

PELLICE

Italian, arrived from Beachy Head, reports at 1600 G M T today was fired on by air plane, 50.04'N., 4.28'W. Plane was monoplane painted all red believed to be converted mail plane. State A/A guns heard from shore at same time. (C.C.S.O., Falmouth, 2041/13)

War Diary

13.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

306

Air craft mine
Ymuiden.

Mining.

Is Harbour mined (C. in. C., Nore
0651/13 to VIMY)

Your 0651 to VIMY. One explosion
possibly by mine dropping from air
craft ahead of CODRINGTON in
northern channel on leaving Ymuiden
(Captain D.I. 0720/13 to C. in C.,
Nore)

Enemy laid magnetic mines in inner
harbour today but not in channels
Am assisting Dutch in attempts to
explode by skid. (Comdr. Goodenough,
Ymuiden XD 1224/13)

Magnetic mines laid in outer harbour
after departure of CODRINGTON
(Operation J) approx. 0230/13 and
Dutch M.V. sunk clear of channel.
(Comdr. Goodenough, Force X D A
KIMBERLEY 1324/13)

At least 2 aircraft mines are re-
ported off Flushing in 51° 26'N 3°
33'E and 51° 25'N, 3° 36'E (P.A.)
(IC 0449/10)

6th M.S.F. to carry out sweep in
8 Q Z but will still be available for
operations D E or D F (DMS 0026/13)



War Diary

13.5.1940
Monday

307

HOME COMMANDS

WEATHER

	WIND	VISIBILITY	OUTLOOK
Horns Reef	N.W. Moderate	Moderate or Good	Wind backing
Coast of Norway	N or N.W. Moderate or Fresh	Good	Wind backing S.W. Visibility deteriorating in rain
Dutch Coast	N.W. Light or Moderate	Mainly Good	Wind Backing.

War Diary

13.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

308

Enemy Intelligence

Norway

British Vice-Consul, Bergen, arrived here to-day, states fairly definite that the Germans in South Norway have only three motor torpedo boats operating on 9/5 in Sogne Fiord, previously in Hardanger Fiord. Three weeks ago, SCHARNHORST (?) a big battle-cruiser, disabled, being disguised at coaling quay, Marineholmen, Bergen, and painted black. Perhaps still there as repair facilities inadequate. (N.O.I.C., Lerwick, 1347/13).

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE

See also Norway

- 2 Outpost Vessels 55° 30 'N 7° 28'E attacked with bombs, no hits but 2 which fell very close may have damaged 1 ship. (IC. 0450/40)
- Enemy Unit Located approx. 58° 40'N 3° 30'E (70 miles W.S.W. Stavanger) at 2048/13. Probably surface unit (IC. 0450/40)
- 2 Outpost Vessels 2 Enemy auxiliary vessels bearing 360 distance 2 miles course 360 position 55° 0'N 7° 35'E (Aircraft 220 squadron, 0940/13) Machine gunner (IC 0450/40)
- 7 Minesweepers 7 Enemy minesweepers bearing 050° distance 1 mile course 360 position YNJV 3030 (Air craft squadron, 0901/13)
- 7 Minesweepers 4 flak ships Attacked by a Hudson 55° 30'N 7° 30'E 55° 30'N 7° 28'E, 55° 00'N, 7° 35'E., while on special reconnaissance. (Donibristle, 1238/13)

SHIPPING

- Dutch & Belgian ships For the future unless special instructions to the contrary are received it will be unnecessary to exercise either contraband or Enemy export control over cargoes going to or coming from our Allies Holland and Belgium.
This message is not intended to affect in any way naval control over the Movements of shipping but relates merely to the operations of Contraband and Enemy export control. (M.E.W. No T.O.O., recd. 1205/13)
- Convoys Situation at 200/13 (C. in.C., 1306/13)

WEATHER

0500	WIND	VISIBILITY	OUTLOOK
North Sea	Variable or N.W. light or moderate	Good	Wind becoming W or S.W. in North. Visibility deteriorating in rain.
Channel & W approaches	Variable, light	Mainly good local haze.	Similar

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

WILD SWAN Broken blade of starboard propeller
(V.A. Dover, 1646/13)

KELLY Arrived with D.5. in tow of rescue tugs
WATERMEYER and BRAHMAN (F.O.I.C. Tyne,
1721/13) TL's. congratulate D 5 C in C.,
Rosyth, C S 181 BIRMINGHAM, BULLDOG,
KANDAHAR, GALLANT, FURY, WATERMEYER,
BRAHMAN on their determined and successful e
effort. (1st S.L. 2325/13)

BUSSUM Dutch S.S. (3636tons) damaged by bombs and
in tow of HARRIER towards N. Goodwin.
(V.A. Dover 1316/13) (VENOMOUS 0015/14)

HAMLA S.S. Main boiler believed gone,
abandoning ship, 50°03'N, 27°W (HAMLA ~~is~~ via
Niton, Isle of Wight, 2321/13). S.O.S. ~~is~~ l
cancelled, requires assistance (Niton W/T,
0116/14)

CABENDA Breakdown expected to get under weigh
shortly. (C in C., W.A. 2146/13)

SUPPLEMENT



War Diary

13.5. 1940.
Monday.

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS

311

VERSATILE

JANUS is taking VERSATILE in tow. VERSATILE has one boiler room and engine room out of action. Request she may be met by tug at daylight. JANUS has wounded on board from VERSATILE and Irish Guards. (Capt. D.16, 2140/13)

JANUS with VERSATILE in tow will be in position C P T S 0429 at 0400 Tuesday 14/5. Urgently request air escort. (JANUS, 2250/13) VERSATILE was bombed off Hook, 2045/13)

SUPPLEMENT



War Diary

13.5.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

312

Mediterranean

Italy

An officer, wishing to book passage for wife in ALA LITTORIA plane was discouraged by officials of the line unless she travelled before 15/5. (S.O.I., Malta, 2005/13)

Spain

Five military classes have been called up in Balearic Is. only. I consider this additional evidence of Spain's intention to resist any Italian attempt. (N.A. Madrid, 1259/13)

Hungary

Following from N.A., Budapest for D.N.I. Your 1201/11. Telephonic and telegraph communication between Hungary and Germany is normal. German-Hungarian frontier has been closed on Germany for some days and has not yet been re-opened. (O'Malley, Budapest, 2029/13)

War Diary.

13.5.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

313

North Atlantic.

French Positions

1 200/13 (DC 0249/13)

South Atlantic

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA

Explanations why she was detained. Political situation—pressure of Italian Charge d'Affaires at Durban. Prime Minister personally authorised all reasonable steps to be taken to delay sailings (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1448/13)

Belgian & Dutch
Ships

Add to my 1131/12. The same order applies as for British Ships. (S.O.I, Freetown, 1001/13)

Mediterranean.

Italian Preparations.

Reports received from various sources that merchant vessels have been requisitioned Leghorn. Six others requisitioned Adriatic are being sent to Brindisi. Two ships of Adriatic Line being armed at Brindisi. Trawlers being requisitioned Bari. Net defence placed at Leghorn. Mines have been placed off Durazzo (C 2) and other mines being held in readiness for laying off Valona and Port Edda (Santi Quaranta) B 2 on 15th May to which date significance is attached. Additional A.A. guns being mounted Brindisi (A one) 7 troopships Naples May 11th loading troops ammunition and foodstuffs. (N.A. Rome, 2059/13)

China

Position of C. in.C.,

At present Hong Kong best central position for C. in. C., China, but I am ready to go to Singapore at short notice in case situation in British E.I. requires my presence. (C. in C., China, 0455 z/13)

Dutch East Indies.

My 1901/10 Necessity for adherence to this instruction arises out of delicacy of situation created by Japanese insistence upon maintenance of Status quo in Dutch East Indies and desire on our part to do nothing which might interfere with present favourable trend of United States opinion. Whole question is being examined and you will be informed of result in due course. (D.O.D. (H) 1408/13)



War Diary

13/5. 1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

314

China

Dutch East Indies

My 1605/11. Dutch Naval C. in C. has no knowledge of such warnings or reasons for them. He would be grateful for any information regarding danger to island area where Japanese Fleet might assemble unknown to himself. Intend keeping him informed through Consul-General, Batavia, of general situation of Japanese Fleet as known here. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0335 z/13)



War Diary

13.5.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

315

China

German Ships

In view of renewed reports of intention of German merchant vessels to proceed Vladivostock I intend for next 3 or 4 weeks to keep one armed merchant cruiser off east coast of Japan.
(C. in C., China, 0359 z/13)

East Indies

U S 3

Asking for air escort (C in C., E.I. 1332 Z/13)

America & West Indies.

Dispositions

Following dispositions are to be assumed as soon as convenient. CARADOC+ to remain at Curacao for the present. DUNDEE to operate in Cura cao ~~CURACAO~~ area as required by CARADOC, then resume duty West Indies Oil Protective Force. DESPATCH to patrol approach to Colon. H.M.C.S. FRASER as required by Flag or Senior Officer Jamaica Force. (C in C., A.W.I. 1250/13)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

316

Home Commands

CAMPINAS

(4541 tons) French source reports she was mined 10/5 2 miles S of Drogden. This has also been reported in Swedish press on 13/5, which states that ship sank. (B.I) (I.C. 0449/40 Reuter, Stockholm) Stockholm, 1307/13)

ANHALT

(5870 tons) same French source states that a large German Transport was stranded at Malino. Swedish press stated 13/5 that ANHALT went aground but was refloated (I.C. 0449/40 Reuter Stockholm)

STUTTGART

(13,387 tons) Swedish press 13/5 states a German vessel of "25,000 tons" with makeshift red cross on funnel entered Swedish territorial waters off Gothenburg and was stopped by a Swedish destroyer. (STUTTGART was reported going to Oslo 1914 as a hospital ship) (I.C. 0449/40 Reuter, Stockholm)

Dutch East Indies.

No further information. Press, however reports all German ships have been seized and crews interned.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

317

Ships Attacked.

SS VAN RENSSELAER

Dutch, (4141 tons) mined 8230/13 inside outer harbour of Ymuiden (I.C. 0449/40) Reported 0130/13 that she hit a mine while "inside the north pier" (? at Amsterdam where she arrived 8/5) (To Humber 0350/13 VIMY 0400/13) Reported aground inside the outer harbour, 5 passengers missing.

SALLY

Finnish, mined in Fairway north of Helsinjoer, a.m. 11/5 (Stockholm, 1307/13)

Submarines Reported.

0735

COVENTRY reported submerged U boat off Skjelfjord approx. 68° N 13° 15' E A 2 (I C 0450/40)

1100 & 1233

By fisherman 55° 24' N 6° 27' W, course W. D 4 (IC, 0450/40) (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1315/13)

1830

58° 10' N 6° 10' W P/S and C/T sighted by civilian course E. D3 (IC.0450/40)

2100

58° 17' N 5° 20' W sighted by soldier from shore course N.E. D5 (IC 0450/40)

1303

50° 15' N 10° 56' W reliable fix. VANQUISHER to attack (C in C., W.A. 1509/13- (see attack)

Estimated dispositions.

No deductions possible (D.D.I.C. 1135/13)

Submarines Attacked

1303

By French armoured trawler AIGLON 58° 15' N 10° 56' W French report as reliable and as having been first sighted by air craft (IC 0450/40)

SUPPLEMENT



SITUATION REPORT

Holland (1630/14).

318

Situation in Holland has continued to deteriorate. Dutch are now cut off from Allies in the South. Owing to dispersal of Dutch troops south of the Maas and withdrawal of allied covering forces to the Dutch-Belgian frontier area an attack from N.E. against Antwerp may develop.

All units of the German Air Force long range bomber force have now taken part in the operations on the Western Front with the exception of 2 geschwader. 2 of the 10 long range bomber-reconnaissance gruppen are now thought to be engaged. 3 of the 11 short range dive-bomber gruppen are now thought to be engaged.

Scale of bombing attack in Holland has been intense. In France the number of attacks has diminished. This indicates major air effort is in the North to support the break-through of the army. Unofficial estimate for 13/5 of British fighter losses compared with enemy aircraft confirmed losses is nearly one to four in our favour. (D.N.I., 2252/14).

Arrangements were made to evacuate the Dutch troops during the night. Dutch proclamation broadcast from Hilversum tonight, Tuesday, that Germans commenced to bombard Rotterdam and threatened to blow it in pieces and the Hague, unless the Dutch gave in. Dutch C. in C., issued an order that the soldiers were to cease fighting but retain their arms and keep order in Rotterdam and the Hague until German troops arrived to take over. Broadcast is believed to be genuine. (D.C., 2326/14).

North Holland

The R.M. and demolition party were successfully evacuated from the Hook this evening by MALCOLM, and the Guards battalion in VESPER and WHITSHEP. Air escort was provided. The M.T.B's which have been operating in the Zuider Zee left, having embarked the remaining British troops in that area. WINDSOR, MOHAWK and VIVIEN evacuated the Dutch Govt. and officials with the British, Belgian and Norwegian Legations, with 400 refugees, from Hook last night and landed them at Tilbury.

Contd.....

SITUATION REPORT

319

Holland

North Holland
(Contd.)

The destruction of the oil supplies at Amsterdam was carried out. Orders were given for the Northern Breakwater at the Hague to be sufficiently damaged to ensure the silting up of the harbour entrance and for other Dutch ports which the enemy might use as Naval bases, to be wrecked.

Belgium

The British minesweepers have left Flushing and are operating with the French at Zeebrugge.

Norway.

GLORIOUS and FURIOUS sailed from the Clyde at 2100/14 for Narvik area, screened by 4 destroyers. They are to operate within 200 miles from the coast of Norway from 18/5.

It is understood that enemy reinforcements are still being transported regularly to the North by troop carrying aircraft. (I.C. 0451/40).

The Allied Force is now consolidated and moving forward to Narvik. More troops have landed at Bodo.

DEVONSHIRE is patrolling off Tromso to prevent any German landing in the extreme North.

Iceland

FRANCONIA and LANCASTRIA left the Clyde at 2000/14 with troops for Iceland, to relieve the Royal Marines.



War Diary

14.5.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

320

Gibraltar.

5 A.M.C's are being sent to operate against shipping off the coast of Portugal.

Mediterranean.

Although it is not considered that war with Italy is likely to break out in the very near future preparations are being made actively. An A.A. cruiser, a number of destroyers, and 3 sloops are preparing to sail for the Mediterranean.

Casualties

GRENADE has been holed above the water line by collision with a trawler in fog.

VERSATILE (damaged 13/5) arrived in harbour 1900/14.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

321

My 1948/15/4. In view of enemy fifth column activities the possibility is pointed out that a vessel purporting to carry refugees may enter a small port and land an organised force. (D.T.D., 2157/13 to C. in C.'s & F.O.'s).

A case has occurred of aircraft bearing Dutch markings behaving in a suspicious manner off British coast. Details of precautions to be taken (Air Min. 1833/14):

Location of all open spaces within 5 miles of Fleet Air Arm aerodromes to be reported (D. of L.D. 2033/14).

Coast Defences Dover (V.A.Dover 1305/14) Harwich, Lowestoft. (D.M.O.I. 1645/14).

Lympne O.C. Lympne aerodrome wishes to deny landing ground to enemy aircraft by placing obstructions on surface. (D.A.M., 1347/14, to Air Ministry).



War Diary

14.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

322

Policy

Your 0248, I suggest situation demands in first place air reconnaissance followed by air attack if enemy starts crossing. I would at once consider sending a destroyer to Bergsluis to assist if crossing is attempted, M.T.B's would be useless. (C. in C. Nore, 0359/14 to Adty.). Passed to Air Min. (D.C., 0514/14).

Destroyers
overworked

C. in C., Rosyth's 1101. I am very anxious to reduce passenger trips to Holland and non-fighting commitments so that Rosyth can be helped and more destroyers can get rest. (C. in C., Nore, 1305/14).



War Diary

14.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

323

CURLEW

Is required to go to Mediterranean at once and cannot be relieved for about 10 days. Can you do without an A/A cruiser in meantime? (C. in C., H.F. to R.A. (A) 1117/14).

18th A/S S.F.

Adty. 1630/30/4, 2052/13. 18th A/S S.F. sailed for Scapa am/14 in accordance with Adty.'s 1849/11 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1103/14).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

324

✓ Helder - Texel - Zuider Zee

Asking for air bombardment of the air base at Wieringen. Impossible for any ship to get near enough to bombard Germans at present. (C. in C., Nore, 1045/14).

Ymuiden

VESPER

Proceed to Ymuiden and deliver Adty. messages 2146/13, 2147/13, and 2217/13 which are being passed to you now to their addresses. While there try and obtain news of M.T.B.'s working in Zuider Zee from Amsterdam and then return to patrol. (C. in C., Nore, to VESPER, 0255/14).

Situation

At Ymuiden in hand and confident. Adty. 2217/13 now being obeyed. Magnetic mines inside harbour. Considerable local disturbance Amsterdam 13/5. Consulate evacuated to Ymuiden today, VICEROY entered night 12/5. No developments expected here for some days. (VESPER 1000/14).

Your 1812/14 Request destination for troops from Ymuiden (HAVOCK 2126/14). Reply Tilbury (C. in C., Nore 2159/14).

Your 1812 have encountered H.M.S. HAVOCK and have detached her to Ymuiden and H.M.S. VIVACIOUS to ~~Helder~~ to make all preparations. H.M.S. VIVACIOUS will deal with your 1539 to H.M.S. VESPER and your 2029.

Consider it imperative that adequate fighter patrols should be over ~~Helder~~ at dawn to protect ships whilst embarking and escort them on passage. (Capt. D. 2154/14 to C. in C., Nore).

Dutch Army in Ymuiden has surrendered. Demolition programme completed. Am embarking what Dutch I can from Fishing boats. Request H.M.S. HEReward and H.M.S. VENETIA join me off Ymuiden to assist. Understand situation is same all over Holland and suggest channel steamers be returned. Will proceed towards Harwich. (HAVOCK, 2339/14).

3rd Motor Torpedo Boat Flotilla reports coming out.....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

325

Ymuiden (Contd.)

out tonight about 2200. Please meet him off harbour. Ends. (C. in C., Nore, 2313/14 to HAVOCK).

Hook - Operations Harpoon and Ordnance - (Evacuation)-(Including part of Operation XD)

Ref. message despatched at 0030/14 from Heywood Mission, F.O., War Office, A.M., and Adty. V.A. Dover should make immediate arrangements for evacuation which may be required at short notice. (D.O.D.(H) 0506/14).

In event of Ordnance taking place, and destroyers into Hook as requested by D.16 and sail them to Dover as loaded. MALCOLM is damaged and short of ammunition. She can only steam about 12 knots. You may have to take charge in shore. (N.A. Dover, to D.19, 0622/14).

Evacuation Preparations

If necessary to evacuate Harpoon today fighter protection imperative. Request preparations be made for this. (V.A. Dover, 0629/14).

Have picked up Ad. Dickens off Scheveningen. WESSEX alongside Hook awaiting refugees. Visibility poor, shadowed by enemy aircraft. (Capt.(D)16, 0647/14).

in MALCOLM

Your 1203 (Northern Breakwater at Hook to be damaged by torpedoes and gunfire) arranged (Capt. D.16, 1258/14).

Destroyers

Request 2 destroyers berth alongside quay astern of MALCOLM, bow west, in case of evacuation and 2 A/A destroyers anchor in stream. (Capt. (D)16 to Capt. (D) 19, 1001/14) VIVACIOUS and VENETIA to berth alongside quay astern of MALCOLM. (Capt. (D)16, 1013/14). If evacuation of Hook of Holland takes place, Capt. (D)16 will be in charge on shore and will call on you for destroyers as requisite. (V.A. Dover, to Capt.(D)1, 0946/14).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Hook - Harpoon and Ordnance - (Evacuation)

326

Troops can
fulfil no
useful purpose

From Heywood Mission. In view of political and military situation do not consider Irish Guards or Mission can fulfil useful purpose by remaining at Hook. Dutch C.S. states Rotterdam likely to fall this afternoon. W/T station out of action (D.16, 1105/14 to V.A. Dover).

KEITH, BOREAS, BRILLIANT, WIVERN, VERITY, WOLSEY for operation "Ordnance" 0649 (V.A. Dover, 0947/14).

Motor Boats

First 4 destroyers are to leave motor boats and drivers in Hook for evacuation of small demolition rear-guards. Boats berth ahead of MALCOLM. (Capt.(D)16, 1116/14).

Destroyer
Orders

Raise steam and proceed with despatch to R.V. with WHITSHED in position 270 Maas light vessel 10 miles and stand by to carry out evacuation from Hook (C. in C., Nore, 0853/14 to Capt.(D)1, GRIFFIN, HEReward, repeated F.O., Dover, Capt(D)16, Capt.(D)19, WHITSHED and F.O. Harwich).

→ VIVACIOUS and VENETIA, 40 miles from Hook, are at your immediate disposal if needed. VESPER follows. (C. in C., Nore, 0838/14 to Capt. (D)16).

Ready to embark as soon as destroyer arrives, WHITSHED here now (Capt.(D)16 1241/14 to N.O.I.C. Dover).

→ VIVACIOUS and VENETIA are to be off Scheveningen at 1300 to be ready to evacuate Naval Staff at request of Dutch C. in C., join me on completion. (Capt. (D)1 to VIVACIOUS, 1159/14). *Cancelled - See next page.*

3 Destroyers
urgently
required

Three destroyers urgently required, proceed with utmost speed (D.16, 1240/14 to Destroyers).

On arrival off Hook D.19 is to take over from D.1. D.1 and Nore destroyers not in Hook should return to Harwich or as ordered by C. in C., Nore. (V.A., Dover, 1244/14).

HOME COMMANDS

327

Operations - Hook - Harpoon - Ordnance etc.

6 destroyers arriving 1500 one being A/A
(Capt.D.19, 1101/14 to Capt. D.16).

Operation
Ordnance

My 1228. Operation Ordnance is not to take
place (D.O.D.(H) 1301/14 to V.A. Dover).

Cancel my 1216. Operation Ordnance is not
to take place yet (V.A. Dover, 1302/14 to
D.1, D.19, D.16).

Cancel my 1159. Enter Hook forthwith
(CODRINGTON 1317/14 to VIVACIOUS, VENETIA).

From Major General Hayward. Your 1302
(cancelling operation "Ordnance"). With-
drawal from Bridge Head started 1025 after
heavy air attack. Half battalion embarked
and sailed at 1300. Do you wish us to
return? Heavy casualties likely. (WHITSHED
1340/14 to F.O.C., Dover).

Colonel of Guards reports impossible to hold
on here (Capt.D.16, 1319/14 to N.O.I.C.,
Dover).

Your 1302. Majority of Guardsmen have left
(Capt. D.16, 1317/14 to N.O.I.C., Dover).

Carry out operation Ordnance, that is
evacuation forthwith (V.A. Dover, 1415/14
to WHITSHED, D.1, D.19, D.16).

WHITSHED arrived Hook (Capt. D.16, 1159/14).

Following for ^{"Harpoon"}~~HARPOON~~ from War Office.
Begins. Anxious that your battalion should
not get too deeply committed and arrangements
for your re-embarkation tonight have been
made.

In withdrawing your battalion it is important
that as many Dutch troops as possible
should be withdrawn too.

You should plan accordingly and unless
situation is far different from what we
suppose here and you can usefully maintain
your position in conjunction with Dutch,
your re-embarkation and that of as many
Dutch troops as possible will take place
tonight.

Report.....

HOME COMMANDS

328

Operations - Hook - Harpoon - Ordnance etc.

Report urgently your intentions and in particular number of Dutch troops to be evacuated so that Royal Navy may complete their plans. Ends. (D.O.D.(H) 1415/14 to D.16).

N.O.I.C., Dover's 1415/14. Present situation Marines and demolition parties on board MALCOLM alongside Hook. I have already sailed remainder of Guardsmen and Military Mission in WHITSHED and VESPER for Dover. Demolition of Wharf Fort and Breakwater not yet carried out, charges laid. (Capt. D.16, 1501/14).

Destroyers in harbours impress on all Dutch authorities the vital importance of wrecking before capture the ports of Ymuiden, Hook and any others that might be used as enemy naval bases, also evacuating all possible light craft and small steamers. They would otherwise be used by German Army. (C. in C., Nore, 1220/14 to HAVOCK, MALCOLM, VESPER, VENETIA).

Operation ^{"Ordnance"} ~~ORDNANCE~~ is to be carried out as soon as possible. Fighter protection will be afforded for 1½ hours each side of the time of sailing from Hook. (D.O.D.(H) 1228/14 to V.A., Dover).

CODRINGTON, HEReward, GRIFFIN expected time of arrival Maas L.V. 1345 assuming visibility does not deteriorate further. (Capt. D.1, 1025/14).

WHITSHED, WHITLEY, WINCHESTER proceed into Hook forthwith. Expect to arrive 1420 (Capt. D.1, 1251/14).

My 1319. Intend to embark all soldiers into destroyer alongside. (D.16, 1346/14) Approved, as many Dutch troops as possible to be given opportunity to leave if they wish (D.D.O.D., 1421/14).

When no longer required, D.1 and Harwich destroyers proceed to Harwich. (V.A., Dover, 1501/14).

HOME COMMANDS

329

Operations - Hook etc. (contd.)

2 Destroyers
for Rosyth

C. in C., Rosyth's 1101/14. On completion of tonight operation two destroyers are to be placed under orders of C. in C., Rosyth, these need not repetition not be A/A destroyers. (V.C.N.S. 1500/14 to C. in C., Nore).

WINDSOR and VIMY detailed (C. in C., Nore, 2115/14).

Dutch C. in C.
objects to
demolition

All troops and demolition parties embarked charges placed for demolition of wharves. Dutch C. in C. objects, have withdrawn demolition parties as this appears unimportant. Can torpedo dam if required. Intend to remain off Hook for the present. (Capt. D.16, 1459/14).

Dutch Submarines'
torpedoes

All spare torpedoes for Dutch Submarines are in Lighters at Helder. Imperative Dutch Authorities tow them to sea sending also maximum number of Torpedo Personnel. Will send Ship to Escort when they have sailed. (C. in C., Nore, 1539/14 to HAVOCK, VESPER).

My 1539. Proceed to Helder and expedite arrangements urgently. (C. in C., Nore, 1715/14 to VESPER).

Cancel my 1603 (C. in C., Nore, 1715/14 to VESPER).

Urge Dutch Authorities imperative to sail submarines with ample torpedoes before port is lost. No sweepers can arrive today tomorrow very doubtful. We have no evidence of German mines off Helder. Note Q Z X 55. (C. in C., Nore, 1632/14 to VESPER).

Have detached VIVACIOUS and VENETIA to Scheveningen to embark Dutch Naval Staff if there. Have ordered them to wait one hour to withdraw if attacked and to reestablish Brown Ridge patrol if staff not located. Am returning to Harwich with HEReward and GRIFFIN. (Capt. D.1, 1601 /14)

War Diary

14.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

330

Operations - Hook etc. (Contd.)

Cancel V.A. Dover's 1501. Report number of destroyers which have not been used for operation Ordnance and will be available for evacuation of part of Dutch army tonight probably from Ymuiden and Halden. These destroyers are to cruise off Brown Ridge until further orders. C. in C., Nore 1616/14 to Capt. D.1).

Dutch
Submarines'
Torpedoes

Prepare 8 M/S Trawlers to go Helder in Texel to tow lighters number unknown containing torpedoes believed to be sailing tonight. VESPER now proceeding Helder will conduct operation. Sail trawlers as ready and report times of departure. (C. in C., Nore, 1643/14 to N.O.I.C., Yarmouth).

L.L. trawlers LORD GREY and CLYTHNESS are to be sailed tonight. Urgently required at the Helder to release submarines and important naval stores and if practicable should proceed direct under escort or have protection provided from daylight tomorrow Wednesday. If operation at The Helder is impracticable they are to proceed to Zeebrugge and report to Commander Peterson. (D.M.S. 1652/14 to C. in C., Nore)

Wharves not
to be destroyed

Return to Dover forthwith. Do not destroy wharves. (V.A. Dover, 1701/14 to D.16).

C. in C., Nore's 1616. Request available destroyers may join me in position CP TS 3529. My expected time of arrival rendezvous 1930. 1809/14.

Evacuation
of Guards

Expect to arrive Dover 2100 14th May 350 Welsh and Irish Guards. (VESPER, 1600/14).

Brown Ridge
Patrol

Your 1616 CODRINGTON, HEReward and GRIFFIN available and now proceeding to Brown Ridge. My 1601 VIVACIOUS and VENETIA will also be available am ordering them to join me. (Capt. D.1, 1721/14).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Hook etc. (Contd.)

331

Evacuation
of Dutch Troops

My 1446/14. Dutch Authorities have been informed that opportunities for evacuation of Dutch troops will be available at ports tonight Tuesday. A ship should be sent to each of Helder, Ymuiden, Scheveningen and Hook if practicable and other ships should be standing by off ports to enter if conditions allow. If Dutch troops evacuate as many as possible should be embarked some overcrowding being accepted. Place of landing at your discretion. (D.O.D.(H), 1703/14 to C. in C., Nore).

Remain in vicinity of Hook with destroyers not carrying troops or evacuees and await further instructions. Report names of destroyers then in company. (V.A., Dover, 1624/14 to D.19).

Dutch Submarines'
Torpedoes

Ref. Adty's 1652. Sail trawlers as soon as possible, detailing a destroyer to escort them as far as entrance to Helder. Destroyer cruise towards Brown Ridge while waiting. Complete demolition essential if trawlers are lost. (C. in C., Nore, 1803/14 to F.O. Harwich).

M.T.B.16

Reports have embarked remaining British troops, all British destroyers have left, am sailing for Harwich. (C. in C., Nore, 2000/14).

Troops

When you sail embark all troops possible (C. in C., Nore, 1844/14 to HAVOCK).

Evacuation
of Dutch Troops

Part of Dutch Army are to be embarked tonight Tuesday from the Hook and Scheveningen using Transports and Destroyers. CANTERBURY and KING GEORGE V will arrive rendezvous 1 Mile 270 from Charted Position Maas L.V. by 0130/15 and 0230/15 respectively and are under your orders. At Hook if conditions allow, send one Transport in at a time, a destroyer being sent in beforehand to make arrangements including pilots. Destroyers should also be used to embark troops at Hook. Do what you can at Scheveningen using Destroyer and local craft. All arrangements are at your discretion. Acknowledge forthwith. (V.A. Dover, 1825/14 to Capt. D.19).

Adty. 1415/14. Intended to evacuate Dutch Army.....

War Diary

14.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

332

Operations - Hook etc. (Contd.)

Evacuation of
Dutch Troops
(Contd.)

Army tonight. Cross Channel steamers MAID OF ORLEANS and MONAS QUEEN from Dover and perhaps MALINES from London are ordered to be 10 miles northwest of charted position of Maas Light at 0030. Divide them and your ships between Ymuiden and Helder and evacuate all possible fighting forces. You go Helder and deal with my 1539 and 1603 to VESPER. Destroyers are to enter first to arrange for pilots. (C. in C., Nore, 1812/14 to D.1).

After waiting half hour I sent in a boat and the Naval Staff were told to come down as quickly as possible, there were no signs of them 50 minutes later, am proceeding to rendezvous expect to arrive 2024. (VIVACIOUS 1901/14 to Capt. D.1).

My 1812 if possible have pilots waiting outside both ports from 0200. When you sail embark all troops possible. (C. in C., Nore, 1844/14 to HAVOCK).

HAVOCK's 1505. Ships for evacuating very unlikely to reach Helder or Ymuiden before daylight. (C. in C., Nore 1924/14 to Adty,)

Germans reported in Rotterdam. I consider chances of embarking military from Hook and Scheveningen hazardous even if they wish to come which is most doubtful as they have capitulated. I am prepared to slip at any time will report later. (Capt. D.19 2204/14 to V.A. Dover).

Your 2204. Send destroyer in to ascertain conditions and bring off troops. Question of sending in transports is then at your discretion. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 2345/14 to Capt. D.19).

With reference to evacuation of Dutch Army we have already provided as many ships as can be made use of tonight.

Will inform you tomorrow regarding operation tomorrow night as soon as we know the situation. (Adty. 2229/14 to Admiral Nord at Dunkirk).

HOME COMMANDS

333

Operations - Hook etc. (Contd.)

Dutch Submarines' Early information about Lighters and
Torpedoes Torpedoes very desirable. Which Destroyers
go to Helder. (C. in C., Nore, 2222/14 to D.1).

GRAFTON is to R.V. off Adleburgh L.V. at
0500/15 with five or more M/S trawlers
from Yarmouth. Trawlers to be escorted
to Helder where they are to escort self
propelled and tow dumb lighters approximately
20 in number containing submarine torpedoes
to Harwich. Hoped that Dutch craft may tow
majority of lighters. (C. in C., Nore, 2237/14
to F.O.I.C., Harwich).



War Diary

14.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Dutch Coast - Rotterdam.

334

Dutch Naval Staff believes attack on Moerdyk bridges by torpedoes fired from M.T.B.'s might cause heavy damage. (D.N.L.O. 0657/14). Passed to C. in C., Nore, (D.C., 0720/14).

Oil Stocks

Adty. 2218/13, destruction of oil stocks at Rotterdam. General Heywood says this was done yesterday Monday. (WHITSHED, 1810/14).

Operation XD

Your 0915. All preparations being made as rapidly as possible. Dutch R.M. Commander Van Leenen says he is going to fight but undertake to make all preparations for demolition and will carry out operation on receipt of orders from Dutch C. in C. Request 2 M.T.B.'s to evacuate last of demolition party (D.16, 1016/14 to N.O.I.C., Dover).

Reply. 2 M.T.B.'s being sent (V.A. Dover, 1152/14 to D.16).

XDB

Following information from Captain Goodwin operation XDB (i) Oil fuel on south side destroyed. (ii) Destruction of Vegetable oil and every-thing on North side stopped by Dutch Govt. (iii) 200 boxes of Gold sunk in Pilot steamer between Rotterdam and Hook; (iv) Royal Engineers party arrived Hook. (Capt. D.16, 0929/14).

Evacuation of
demolition
parties

2 M.T.B.'s to proceed to Hook and join D.16 to embark demolition parties after general evacuation. Torpedoes are not to be carried. (C. in C., Nore, 1203/14 to F.O., Harwich).

XDA

Captain Davis Landed. Amsterdam being evacuated. Have arranged to close harbour for more removals tonight Tuesday in view of magnetic mining and immediate air attack when ships enter harbour. C.O. Force XDA does not consider it justifiable to send Destroyers in for evacuation and has made arrangements to evacuate eventually with Dutch Force by local craft. (HAVOCK, 1505/14),



14.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

335

Dutch Coast - Operation Lyster.

If blockships not needed request very early orders to move them to Spithead or elsewhere. Danger here that they might be sunk in harbour by air attack and block river Medway. (C. in C., Nore, 0956/14).

Your 0956. Spithead not acceptable until situation in Belgium is classified. Suggest you anchor blockships in West Swin after searching sweep of anchorage for magnetic mines has been carried out. Before FLORENTINO and BORODINO leave Medway they should be issued with administrative code (E), etc. CAROLINE MOLLER should be retained at Sheerness for transport of Comdrs. Tupper-Carey and Shears. (D.O.D.(H) 2253/14).

Dutch Coast - Flushing

Demolition

Demolition at Flushing is being efficiently carried out at present by German bombs. Flushing XD party now in Middleburgh. French military Commander has his H.Q. there and party is working under his direction. Am also in close touch with Dutch naval authorities in Middleburgh and Flushing. (Com. Cazalet at Flushing, via KIMBERLEY no T.O.O./13).

Intend to leave H.M.S. BRILLIANT and BOREAS at West Hinder Buoy at 1830 G.M.T. and proceed Flushing in accordance with previous orders. (WINCHESTER, 1736Z/14).

Dutch Coast (General)

Situation

Following from N.A. Hague:- The impression is that Holland will give up soon, possibly today. Fighting reported between the Hague and Hook. (Capt. (D)16, 0658/14).

Evacuation of Govt.

VIVIEN with refugees, WINDSOR with Dutch Govt. and officials, Belgian and Norwegian legations, MOHAWK with British minister etc. and refugees expected to arrive Tilbury am/14. (C. in C., Nore, 0035/14).

PERSEUS

(with gold) expected to arrive Southend 1100/14. To proceed to Tilbury (C. in C., Nore, 0107/14).

War Diary



14.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

336

Operations - Dutch Coast (General)
Cont'd.

Dutch Naval Staff ✓

Dutch Naval C. in C. asks for destroyer off Scheveningen to evacuate Naval Staff at 1300 (Capt. D(16) 1112/14 to Capt.D.1).

WESSEX

Proceed to Dover, report your passengers (Capt. D.16, 0849/14 to WESSEX).

HOME COMMANDS

337

OPERATIONS

Narvik

Withdrawal of
A.A. Cruiser.

Your 117/14. Yes, by (aircraft group further north which will mean fighter patrols will be very intermittent. ARK ROYAL will be down to 40% fuel by 18/5 and will not be able to operate long after that. Until fighter aircraft are established on shore do not consider risk of fuelling at Harstad can be accepted, also boiler cleaning now overdue, should be taken in hand shortly. (V.S.A. to C in C., H.F. 1337/14)

German landing at
Hennes

Reference landing of Germans by NORD NORGE at Hennes. Request report what steps you consider practicable to prevent such action by Germans at sea in this area in future. (V.C.N.S. 0058/14 to F.O. Narvik.

P.W.S.S.

On Rotvoer Island, re (R.A. Narvik 1942/12)

Information received from reliable source to the effect that German Government having been refused permission to use Swedish railways for transport of arms and ammunition to Narvik are now sending daily considerable numbers of sealed trucks said to contain food supplies. (Gothenburg 1559/14)

4 Destroyers to be
surrendered

Your 2313/10 following action being taken. HAVELOCK, HESPEROUS, BASILISK with defective A/S trawlers CAPE PASSARO and ST LOMAN sail with convoy to U.K. 14th May. WOLVERINE and FONDRYANT sail with CHROBRY from Bodo 15th May. WESTDOTT and VOLUNTEER released from duty here form part of escort for ARK ROYAL. Am retaining SOM ALI, FAME, BRAZEN, ECHO, WREN, WARWICK plus WHIRLWIND and VANSITTART for RESOLUTION. (To Narvik 1607/14)

GLORIOUS
FURIOUS

F.O. Narvik 1953/13 GLORIOUS and FURIOUS should be sailed accordingly (D.O.D. (H) 1210/14) To sail for Vaags Fiord area, escorted by VETERAN VISCOUNT, WITHERINGTON, DIANA, as soon as ready so as to arrive a.m. 18/5 (C in C., H.F. 1403/14) To sail as arranged tonight, Tuesday, R.A.D. to detail a destroyer to R.V. with GLORIOUS to take place of WITHERINGTON (C. in C., H.F. 2037/14 AMAZON

War Diary

14.5.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

338

OPERATIONS Contd.

detailed (R.A.D.H.F. 2139/14)
GLORIOUS and FURIOUS sailed 2130 (F.O. Narvik, 2240/14)

Mines ✓
re proposals to lay minefields off Tjeldsundet and Ofot Fiord (R.A. Narvik 1931/13)

Tromso & Kirkenes
Your 1059/13 to C.S.I. In view of persistent reports of possibility that Germans may attempt to get footing in N. Norway either from Murmansk or sea and great risks they show themselves prepared to take in sending troops by sea DEVONSHIRE will remain under your orders to prevent any such operation C. in. C., H.F. to give orders re- retention of destroyers (1st S.L. 0059/14 to F.O. Narvik)

DEVONSHIRE
Will cruise to northward of Tromso (? probably DEVONSHIRE 0759/14)

C.S.1.
Proceed Tromso (Narvik 0920/14)
Am complying with tour 0920/14 arriving Tromso 0200/15, consider A/S protection essential (F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1744/14)

A/S Trawlers ✓
Your 1744/14 3 A/S trawlers should reach Tromso p.m. /15 (F.O. Narvik 2247/14 to F.O. I.C.S.)

✓ Iceland- Operations ^{"Alabaster"} ~~"Alabaster"~~
Sailed FRANCONIA, LANCASTRIA, escorted by FOXHOUND and HAVANT for operations Alabaster. Locate. Expected arrive 17/5 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1940/14)

Situation Report ✓
2 Unidentified aircraft seen 13/5 (Jones Reykjavik 1930/14)

OPERATIONS

Low Countries

Dieppe closed to
Dutch Trawlers

French S.N.O. has closed port to all Dutch Trawlers day and night of which 200 are expected in next 24 hours. British Military Authorities much disturbed anticipating any 5th column activities. French Naval authorities say that proper examination prior to entry impracticable. Request instructions. Trend S.N.O. requesting instructions from Admiral. Havre. (N.C.S.O. Dieppe, 0025/14)

All ships over 500 tons have left and 80% of total shipping (Newhaven Mission 1230/14)

Zeebrugge

Following by telephone from Peterson. Flushing has been damaged by enemy bombing and impossible to work from there. I have moved to Zeebrugge, where am working in close cooperation with the French. 2 of my sweepers have gone Hook of Holland. British N.A., Hague, told me send 2 others to Ymuiden I refused and was supported by French Admiral here, who considers as I do that the Wandelaar Flushing Channel is vital. Cannot assume clearance of this channel with only 2 sweepers and request 2 more double L type. Have moved the skid to Zeebrugge to avoid damage. Dutch naval authorities can make nothing of it, say they have not the knowledge or the material. One of my drifters, LICHEN, with magnetic sweep, has not been demagnetised and is dangerous. Coal, petrol and provisions arranged but have no means of paying for them. There are definitely no Belgian mines outside Zeebrugge. Danish ship GORM sunk outside entrance harbour in position 1.3 miles 020° end light on Zeebrugge Mole, head points 200° (B.N.L.O. Dunkirk, 140/14)

Your message received, ARCTIC HUNTER and ST. MELANTE are returning to you but unaware of move to Zeebrugge. Reliefs for casualties being sent (D.M.S. 1956/14 to B.N.L.O. Dunkirk, for Cmdr., Peterson.

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

Dutch & Belgian Warships and Merchant M.Vs.

Submarines.

Dutch legation state all Dutch submarines now in harbour. (D.C., 0220/13
Dutch tug and submarines D9 and D10 anchored in Downs 0530 (V.A. Dover, 0941/14)

J
PHRONTUS

Arrived in Downs (V.A. Dover 1039/14) carrying 900 prisoners Report if seen and escort her to Downs (N.O.I.C. Dover 0440/14 to VENOMOUS) position VENOMOUS see 0938/14)

PERSEUS

(with gold) Escort to Southend then proceed to Sheerness (C. in C., Nore 0737/14 to VIMY)

Submarines.

HAVOCK endeavour to get in touch with Trawlers ASMA and NORSE proceeding from Flushing to Ymuiden. Direct them to proceed to Helder and sweep 2 Dutch Submarines to sea. On completion trawlers to proceed to Zeebrugge. (C in C., Nore 1229/14)

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAK

Minelayer, arrived in Downs (V.A. Dover 1215/14)

Submarines

Intend to sail Dutch Minelayer WILLEM VAN DER ZELBEN tug B V Five and ~~submarines~~ submarines O 9, O 10, and O 24. at 0500/15 for Portsmouth speed 8½ knots (V.A. Dover 1943/14)

My 1242 Request any further Dutch submarines arriving may proceed to Portsmouth (V.A.S., 1757/14)

Your 1824/13 (A) Concur that submarines should be based on Blyth after completion of one patrol. (B) Dutch Naval Attache agrees in principle with your suggestions and as officers and men become available will comply as far as possible (D.O.D (H) 1154/14 to V.A. (S))

War Diary



14/5/1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

341

OPERATIONS Contd.

Dutch & Belgian Warships & Principal
M.Vs. (Contd.)

Trawlers

A large number of Dutch Trawlers are expected shortly at Spithead. C. in C., Portsmouth is requested to arrange suitable anchorage in Spithead or The Solent and for examination on arrival. Arrangements for final disposal are under consideration.
(D T D 1327/14)

To be routed to Downs for further instructions (D.T.D. 1132/14)

LIBRA #

VENOMOUS escorting expect to arrive N. Goodwin L.V. 2330 VENOMOUS 2153/14)

War Diary



14.5.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

342

Submarines.

Positions

0600/14 (D.C. 0004/14)
0600/15 (V.A.S. 1648/14, D.C. 1957)
seen off Dutch coast between $52\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N
and $53\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N (D.C. 1958/14)

Enemy Transport.

Your 1631 14th May (see enemy
intelligence) Do not act on my 1422
14th May unless there is no further
chance of intercepting transport.
(Capt., S9 1858/14 to CLYDE)



HOME COMMANDS

343

AIR

British Air Activity

British Aircraft not to fly over enemy or neutral countries unless fitted with destructor units complete and ready for touching off. (Air Min. 1837/14)

Aircraft fired at by own trawlers 2030 B.F.W.Y. 1030 (Donibristle 2305/14)

Skua Force for Attacks on Bergen.

16 Skuas are going to be stationed at Hatston. Proposed to use them primarily to attack targets in vicinity of Bergen and also enemy warships destroyers and above and transports between Utvoer and Egersund. (C. in C., H.F. 1640/14)

Best bomb for attack of frozen lake landing ground is 250 lb. G.P. fused N.D.T. which should make hole 20ft in diameter. (Hd. of M., 0945/14)

Enemy Air Activity

There is indication of enemy air activity in Northern part of the North sea. (D.D.I.C. 1005/14)

Flying Boat Sunk

Flying boats presumed hostile close in shore 2½ miles S.W. Scheveningen. Inform Dutch authorities (Capt. D 16 to WESSEX, 0512/14) My 0512, one sunk (D.16, 0515/14)

MATABELE

Bombed D.R.X.T. 2500 (MATABELE 0550/14)

WESSEX

Attacked and bombed by aircraft at Hook (WESSEX 0917/14) Am being heavily bombed (WESSEX 0923/14, 0927/14, 0930/14) Bombed C.P.T.S. 0427 (WESSEX 0954/14)

Hook

Large number aircraft bombing Hook Holland. (MALCOLM, 1420/14, 1425/14) Enemy aircraft bombing Hook (MALCOLM 0907/14) Ditto (CODRINGTON 1425/14)

SUPPLEMENT



War Diary

14.5.1940.
Tuesday.

AIR Contd.

344

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

MALCOLM

Enemy aircraft attacking and bombing Hook (MALCOLM, 0907/14) Attacked and bombed at Hook (MALCOLM, 1024/14, 1029/14, 1420/14 large number aircraft bombing Hook Holland (MALCOLM, 1425/14, 1509/14 3 air craft C.P.O.X. 250-16 (MALCOLM, 1708/14) 5 aircraft 355 V.X.S.T. 32 (MALCOLM, 1924/14)

CODRINGTON

Enemy aircraft bombing Hook (CODRINGTON, 1425/14)

VESPER

Enemy air craft bombing in position C.P.T.F. 29417 (VESPER 1646/14)

WHITSHED

Bombed while evacuating troops from Hook (I.C. 0451/40)

WIYERN

Bombed near Hook. *Slightly damaged.*

SUPPLEMENT



HOME COMMANDS

Mining

345

Sweden has declared a mine field North of Falsterbo bounded by 55° 29'N 55° 26'N, 12°47' 8'E and 12° 50' 5'E.,

NARWHAL

F.D. 12 completed 1730/11 without incident within 1½ miles 62° 58'N 6° 48'E. No surface patrols occasional air patrols near lying position never dark (Capt. S6 1528/14)

Propose minelayers should effectively mine all Dutch ports as soon as it is known that we have lost them. (C. in. C., Nore., 1740/14 to Admiralty)

Shipping

Ocean Convoys

Positions (D.C.1953/14)

Dutch Tankers

Immediate information required of presence or arrival of small Dutch Tanker in U.K. (DT.D. 2149/14)

S.S. ACCRINGTON

Suspected sabotage. Degaussing cable cut. Probably caused by workmen discontented at being asked to work Whit Monday (F.O. Humber 1909/14)

HOME COMMANDS

346

Enemy Intelligence

One Transport with
Aircraft

One enemy transport accompanied by
air craft position of enemy was 63°
 $9'N$ $4^{\circ} 28'E$ 28 at 1602. Am attempting
to regain touch lost in low visibility
My position $63^{\circ} 3'N$ $4^{\circ} 32'E$ (CLYDE
1631/14 D.N.I. 1836/14)

Trawlers might be
used as Transport.

3 German trawlers were captured just
prior to 9th April off coast of Norway
between Tromso and Norwegian-Finnish
border. Information obtained from them
suggests further Trawlers may still be
fishing in the area probably from Russia.
Some are fast and might be used by
enemy for transport of troops. (C in C.,
H.F. 1726/14)

Swedish Attitude

Large enemy hospital ship proceeding
through Kattegat to Norway May 13th.
No. 2. Several Danish Ships have been
ordered to do the same owing to fear
of mines. No apparent action is
being taken by this Government. (Actg.
Consul, Malmo 1810/14)

Convoy, 4 Ships

Convoy of four ships with 2 Destroyers
sighted by aircraft in B.Q.Y.V. 5039
at 1500/14 course southerly (C.in C.,
Rosyth, 2232/14)

Convoy 11 Ships

French submarine, CASABIANCA sighted 11
enemy transports with escort ship 2
aircraft bearing 240° distance 8 miles
course and speed 120° 15. My position
8 miles southward of Lindesnes course
 180° , and attacked. (CASABIANCA, 0855/14
O.D.I.C., 1126/14)

2 Merchant Ships

Of 1,000 and 1,500 tons respectively
were sighted in $53^{\circ} 57'N$ $7^{\circ} 30'E$ steam-
ing 130° (36 miles N.W. Wilhelmshaven) at
0435/14 A.I. (I.C. 0451/40)

Surface Unit

Unknown surface unit was located in
 $56^{\circ} 20'N$ $6^{\circ} 20'E$ (60 miles N.W. Horns
Reef) at 1930/14 A.I. (I.C. 0451/40)



War Diary

14.5.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

347

MISCELLANEOUS

Swedish Lights

All lights on the East Coast of Sweden, including those on internal waterways, have been extinguished. Radio Beacons are no longer working (Ruegn Radio, via Scapa W/T No T.O.O./14)

WEATHER

0500/14

	WIND	VISIBILITY	OUTLOOK
North Sea	Light Westerly	Moderate to Good	Wind backing to S.W. moderate to fresh.
Channel	S.W, light.	Moderate to Good	Freshening wind
W. Approaches	S.W. to W Moderate	Good	Freshening Wind
Horns Reef	Light Westerly	Moderate	Similar
Taschelling	Light Westerly	Good	Similar

HOME COMMANDS

348

Casualties and Defects.

GRENADE

In collision in fog with ^{MS} trawler
CAYTON WYKE, 51° 5' 1" 21'E Trawler
undamaged. GRENADE holed above water
line, no immediate assistance re-
quired (GRENADE A.D.E. 0936/14)

HESPERUS

Your 2357/13 HESPERUS can be taken in
hand for docking and repairs at
Dundee (D.O.D (H) 1859/14 to F.O.
Narvik.

VERSATILE

Damage by bomb, watertightness of ship
not affected. One engine out of use.
consider repairs can be effected in
Sheerness (Cdre. I/C Sheerness 2037/14)
Steaming 12 knots on one engine but
this is very unreliable. JANUS also
with her (HYPERION 0937/14)

HAVORN

Aground in S. Vosrovay harbour (N.O.IC.
Stornoway 1415/14., 1601/14) refloated
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0039/15)

NARWHAL

0200/9 one piston port engine partially
seized cylinder cut out. (Capt., S 6
1528/14)

SUPPLEMENT



FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Dutch & Belgian
Ships.

Your 1942/12th May Dutch authorities in Lisbon eager to assist but state they have orders to keep homeward bound Dutch ships in port pending further orders. Request Dutch Government in London be asked to issue necessary orders. Will all ships sailing to allied ports be fully covered against all risk? (1300/14) Dutch and Belgian ships bound for Dutch or Belgian ports to be brought into U.K.

Off Coast of
Portugal.

Suggest old nets should be supplied as soon as possible to Portugese Navy in view of possible use of Lisbon by British warships if Italy enters war (N.A. Lisbon 1709/14)

Admiralty's 1809/14 PATROCLUS and ASTURIAS on patrol ordered to steer 180° CARINTHIA in Irish Sea ordered to steer for Western Approaches. DERBYSHIRE and CHESHIRE at Clyde ready to proceed P.M. Wednesday or A.M. Thursday. Endurance of ships on moving at 15 knots with 3 days margin additional ASTURIAS at least 16 PATROCLUS at least 15 CARINTHIA 15 CHESHIRE 16 DERBYSHIRE 21. (V.A.N.P. 2340/14)


Convoys & Patrols

French Positions

1300/14 (D.C. 0035/14)

Italian Ships

re Rome, 1313/13 to D.N.I, French C. in Cs have received instructions that if Italian merchant ships escorted by warships are met no action is to be taken except to identify them and their escort. Request early instruction whether British warships are to act similarly. (F.O.C.N.A. 1452/14)


FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

350

Concentration
Destroyers

Tripoli

Four ~~TRIPOLI~~ and four K class Destroyers also nine Destroyers of A to I class one A/A cruiser with R.D.F. and three sloops with good A/A armament to assemble at Plymouth and sail for Mediterranean in one or more groups as soon as practicable (Admiralty to C. in C., H.F. C102/14)

Admiralty C102/14 Following Destroyers selected HYPERION, HOSTILE, HAVOCK HEReward, INGLEFIELD, IMOGEN, ILEX, IMPERIAL, SIKH, ZULU, MOHAWK, NUBIAN, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, KHARTOUM, KINGSTON. Captain (D) 4 to be appointed to one of the triðals.

It is intended that HERO & HASTY should go in the first place being relieved by INGLEFIELD & IMOGEN when ready. (C in C., Home Fleet to Admiralty 1021/14)

Trawlers & ESPADON

My 1021 Admiralty 1515 to First Lord (C. in C., H.F. 2317/14) 4 trawlers and French submarine ESPADON arrived Alexandria (S.S. (1) Alexandria 1516/14)

MIRAGLIA

Italian aircraft transport and tender arrived here this morning (Gonsul, Tripoli 1716/14)

Transport Sailings
to be resumed. ✓

It has become urgently necessary to resume transport sailings from Marseilles. C.in C., Meditn. to arrange with F.O.C.N.A. to provide two Destroyers of 13th Flotilla as escorts for group sailing 19th May. A.C.N.S (A) 1818/14~~h~~)

Roumanian Tankers

Manager of STEAUA ROMANA requests that in event of war with Italy following tankers flying Roumanian flag on run from Marseilles Tripoli should be detained in or ordered to French Port. OLTENIA 19,800 tons, STEAUA ROMANA 700 tons, CAMPINA 4000 tons, (N.A. Bucharest 1933/14)

CONTI DI SAVOIA

Report immediately if she has sailed (D.C. for Prime Minister 0737/14 to B.C. Genoa) Scheduled to sail 15/5 (Edmond, Genoa 1900/14)

Fleet
~~FLEET~~ Exercises

The Allied Fleet is proceeding to sea A.M. tomorrow Wednesday May 15th. returning to Harbour the same evening. (C. in C., Medtn. 1121/14 to B.N.A. Rome)

FOREIGN STATIONS

351

Mediterranean, Contd.

Escort for REX ?

Reuters Correspondent hears Italian Navy intend sending Escort for REX who sailed from New York Saturday May 11th Homeward bound. Report lacks confirmation (N.A. Rome 1313/13 to D.N.I.)

Italian Preparations.

Report from Trieste (Bl) than Naval Officers and men on leave have been recalled. Reports from Genoa and Rome that certain Naval Reservists have been called up (Bl) (N.A. Rome 1934/14)

Naples reports much naval and military activity during past few days. (S.O.(1) Malta, 1357/14)

WARSPITE

My 1342/3 Italian Naval Attaché today informed WARSPITE has now joined Mediterranean Station (D.N.I., 2012/14)

Precautions

The situation with regard to Italy has apparently deteriorated during the last few days, and although it is not repetition not considered that war is likely to break out in the very near future a close watch should be kept on Italian shipping in order that plans for interception may be rapidly put into force. (D.O.D. (F) 2327/14)

SALZBURG

1756 tons left Bandirma 11/5 (I.C. 0451/40)

NORBURG

(2392 tons) left Batavia 11/5 (I.C. 0451/14)



14.5.40
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

352

East Indies

Precautions against Italy.

Following received from Admiralty begins: Information has been received that in the event of War Italian subjects have been instructed to commit acts of sabotage on an extensive scale.

British authorities at Abadan are aware of the situation but in viewing as preventing blocking operations in Riyadh and in Rooka Channel by Italian ships, it has been decided that one sloop should for the present be stationed in the vicinity of Shatt-el-Arab.

Italian tankers PROMETEO and ANTONIA, CAMPANILLE, are due at Abadan May 15th but should not be interfered with under the prevailing circumstances. Ends. Paragraph 2. Have instructed H.M.I.S. INDUS now at entrance to Shatt-El-Arab to reinforce floating defences Inner Zone. S.N.O.Persian Gulf. 1015 Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Basra.

SUPPLEMENT



14.5.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

353

America & West Indies.

An unconfirmed report states that an unidentified destroyer on Sunday night stopped a tanker three miles off the Panama Pacific coast. 70 miles from the Capital. The destroyer either searched or refuelled from the tanker beginning at 5 a.m. and continuing until it was dark. An American Army 'plane is reported to have investigated the incident, but at present no official statement is available. (press)

CARADOC 1300/13 Parts 2 and 3. Consider risk of air attacks in - sufficient to justify special supply of fighters in view of situation at home. Have asked Ministers of Venezuela and Colombia for their views on the possibility of air raids by German pilots. Governor Jamaica has agreed to accept 200 German prisoners in one month's time. Intended to meet Dutch requirements for patrol of Dutch islands as far as possible. Do not intend to lock up any forces permanently.

Part 4. Approved except as regards DESPATCH vide my 1250/13th C in C., A.W.I. 1353/14 to Admiralty)

Your 1254/12 to 5th Sea Lord. Admlty. 1333/11 re use of reserve Walrus at Bermuda, indicates the correct policy to be pursued, Until this can be implemented you must be sole judge of the use for I.R. aircraft on your station. Walrus crews are not immediately available. (5th S.L. to C. in C., A.W.I. 1155/14)

14.5. 1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

354

Ships Attacked

GORM

Danish (2156 tons) reported to have been mined and sunk 1 mile from South Mole Light, Zeebrugge (Lloyds) 1.3 mile 020° from Zeebrugge Mole (I.C. 0451/40)

Submarines Reported

0600

48°37'N 6° 50'W by air craft reliable. VANQUISHER, SALADIN, to attack (C. in C., W.A. 0826/14, 1831/14, 0901/14)

0645

S/Tv: LEYS saw U-Boat surfacing 56° 26'N 2° 30'W B 2 (I.C. 0451/40)

2248

54° 20'N 7° 10'E in definite position (I.C. 0451/40)

Estimated Dispositions

One in Western Approaches now in Ushant area (D.DIC 1238/14)

Fact of 3 U-Boats being reported in one day after a period of inactivity points to a probability of a renewal of U Boat campaign in Western Approaches. The fact that no attacks on shipping have taken place gives rise to a suspicion that U Boats may be Italian. (C. in C., W.A. 1259/14)

SITUATION REPORT

355

Home.

In view of possible air raids on Harwich the 3rd and 10th submarine Flotillas are to be transferred to Rosyth. The Dutch submarines will operate from Portsmouth.

Low Countries

Evacuation of
Dutch Troops
Cancelled

Preparations were made to evacuate the Dutch troops during the night 14/15, and all available warships and certain merchant ships stood by to carry out the operation. Owing to the capitulation of the Dutch the evacuation was cancelled shortly after midnight 14/5 and the ships left the coast before dawn 15/5.

Demolitions

The Naval demolitions at Amsterdam and Ymuiden were successfully carried out and the demolition parties have returned. All 3 locks at Ymuiden are destroyed and all channels are believed to be blocked. The Northern Breakwater at the Hook has been blown up. Some of the party are still unaccounted for. At Rotterdam the objectives were largely achieved.

Casualties

With the exception of one at Flushing all our destroyers have left the coast of Holland. WINCHESTER was damaged this morning by a near miss. VALENTINE was hit by 2 bombs off Walcheren Island and had to be beached at Terneuzen, near Flushing. WIVERN was damaged off the Hook 14/5. HUSSAR (mine-sweeper) was bombed and hit off Brown Ridge, but reached port safely.

5 magnetic mines have been exploded off the Dutch coast; the sweepers were continually attacked by aircraft.

SITUATION REPORT

Norway

356

CHROBRY (Polish transport 11,442 tons), on passage from Tjelsundet (south of Narvik) to Bodo with Irish Guards was bombed by 4 aircraft at midnight 14/15 May and set on fire. The escorting destroyers took off 1000 survivors and landed them at Harstad. CHROBRY has been abandoned.

SOMALI, who went to her assistance, was also bombed by 6 aircraft and damaged, her fore-part being flooded. She is proceeding to Scapa at reduced speed, escorted by FOUDROYANT and CURLEW, the latter being on passage to the Mediterranean. GLORIOUS and FURIOUS sailed last night with aircraft for landing. Lord Cork hopes to operate their shore based aircraft 19/5. CLYDE, which has been operating in the Andalsnes area, left for Dundee today. FOUDROYANT is operating at Mo. 3 A/S trawlers were due at Tromsøe today to protect DEVONSHIRE. A special watch is being kept for fast German trawlers suitable for troop carrying, which may be ostensibly engaged in fishing.

Iceland

3,800 troops are on passage to Iceland.

Miscellaneous

Italian Preparations

Naval and military activity has been observed at Naples, and it is reported that Italian Naval Officers and ratings on leave have been recalled and that Naval Reservists have been called up. Certain sailings of Italian merchant ships have been suspended, other ships have been ordered to accelerate their voyages.

Mining

Our aircraft laid 17 mines last night.

War Diary

15.5.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Miscellaneous (contd.)

357

Casualties

DORIS (French submarine) which has been operating in the Texel area is overdue at Harwich from 12/5.

BOREAS and BRILLIANT were in collision in the Thames Estuary and have proceeded to Sheerness.

SOMALI, HUSSAR, WINCHESTER, VERSATILE and WIVERN were damaged by air attack, and VALENTINE was extensively damaged and beached.

War Diary

15.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

358

British Precautions.

Guards for shipping

In view of experience in Holland and Norway that German troops or stores arrive and remain concealed in Merchant ships arriving in ports it is necessary to place guards on board pending examination by customs and security police. Latter are few in number and military owing to other commitments cannot be spared for this duty. Civil police which have been largely augmented since commencement of war would appear to be available for this duty. Suggest that Home Office be approached as soon as possible with a view to adopting this procedure in East Coast ports. It is realised that this involves the policy of using civil forces on duties that might be described as military but in view of the present and possible future situation it is considered that this should be faced now. The police force number thousands of able bodied men. (C. in C., Nore, to Adty. 1412/15)

HOME COMMANDS

359

Movements

(1) Having come to the conclusion that immediate action should be taken to transfer 3rd and 10th Flotillas from Harwich in view of threat of enemy Air action intend to take action as follows forthwith:-

- (a) Transfer CYCLOPS and 3rd submarine Flotilla to Rosyth.
- (b) Transfer JULES VERNE and 10th Submarine Flotilla to Dundee.
- (c) Transfer CLYDE and SEVERN from Dundee to 6th Submarine Flotilla at Blyth.

(2) It is now intended to operate Dutch submarines from Portsmouth in the Southern Area of the North Sea.

(3) From the point of view of dispersion it may be desirable later to transfer some submarines from Blyth, Rosyth and/or Portsmouth to Invergordon. With this possibility in view and as one or more existing depot ships may be put out of action I would now like MAIDSTONE kept available in United Kingdom, though for the time being she could be used as a fleet repair ship. (V.A.S., 1831/15).

HOME COMMANDS

360

Operations - Dutch Coast - Hook of Holland

Helder
Surrendered

Do not come Helder. Part 2 follows (VIVACIOUS to Capt. D.1, 0127/15). I was met by a gunboat outside and 3 Naval Officers in a tug. They state Helder has surrendered and all lights have been put on in town in order that Germans can march in, the few remaining soldiers have surrendered. Naval Officers state submarine(s) and torpedo (? boats) have left. Entrance to harbour has been mined and am returning to Brown Ridge rendezvous. (VIVACIOUS to Capt. D.1, 0128/15).

Ymuiden

HAVOCK's 2339/14. Join HAVOCK off Ymuiden and evacuate as many Dutch as possible. Essential all ships are clear of coast before dawn. Further evacuation cancelled. (C. in C., Nore, 0136/15 to D.1). Cancel my 0136. (C. in C., Nore, 0153/15). Close HAVOCK and evacuate any Dutch coming off in boats. Essential all ships are clear of coast before dawn. (C. in C., Nore, 0158/15 to D.1).

Evacuation

My 1703/14. Ships must be clear of Dutch coast by dawn, evacuation being abandoned if necessary to comply with this. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 0039/15 to D.19) (D.C., 0057/15) to C. in C., Nore). Your 2204/14. If there are no Dutch troops to be evacuated or those there do not wish to be evacuated, abandon operation. (V.A. Dover, 0009/15 to D.19). Evacuation of Dutch forces will not now take place. Special air escort by fighter aircraft not now required. (D.C. 0131/15, to Air Ministry). Evacuation of Dutch troops and lighters cancelled. Withdraw to Brown Ridge. (C. in C., Nore, to D.1, 0120/15). Your 2251/14, evacuation of K.L.M. aircraft at Amsterdam, could not be complied with as it was not received until after KEITH had left Hook. (D.19, 1054/15 to Adty.).

Magnetic Mines (see Mining).

SUPPLEMENT

Demolition
Successful

C.O. HAVOCK reports that he brought back part of naval and military demolition parties from Ymuiden, including Lieut. Hermans and Captain Keeble R.E. and Capt. Davis, having been heavily machine-gunned by Heinkels in the Harbour. Arrived in an exhausted.....

SUPPLEMENT

[Go on at Page 362]

HOME COMMANDSOperationsHook of Holland - Operation Harpoon

Report on this operation by Major B.G.B. Mitchell, R.M., in command. Force consisted of 200 men from Chatham Division. Embarked at Dover in VERITY and VENOMOUS p.m. 11/5, sailed at about 0015/12, arrived Hook, 0515/12. Withdrawn, 1245/14, in MALCOLM, and arrived Dover at 2340 and Chatham at 0410/15. (Adjutant-General, R.M., No. P.P. 1947, dated 18/5/40).

Ymuiden
Amsterdam

All demolitions carried out. South Channel and Main Entrance blocked, but both might be passed by Light Craft in fine weather. (V.A. Dover 2022/15 to Adty.)

SUPPLEMENT

Flushing

Two M.T.B.'s to be sent to Flushing to assist French (D.O.D.(H) 1220/15 to C-in-C Nore).

France

Dinant reported fallen. In Antwerp Area fortified zone now held entirely by Belgians. (Needham Mission 0722/15)

Air.

PRINSES IRENE

Bombed by enemy a/c 1800-1900/15 (B. of T. Form A.A.)

FOREIGN STATIONSChinaDutch East
Indies

French Admiralty signal, for information, that good source states Japanese contemplate sending warships and disembarking in certain Dutch East Indies ports. It would be stated occupation temporary and in order to maintain status quo. Real intention would be to obtain control over exchange to stop essential trade being reserved entirely for Allies. Report states Japanese determined even to face American Navy. Japanese Govt. would make point of view known during meeting of Japanese Parliament and occupation could take place within eight days of Parliament meeting. Batavia not informed. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0070/15)

Operations - Dutch Coast - Hook of Holland - Helder

Demolition
Successful
(Contd.)

[Continued from p. 360]

exhausted condition were not cross questioned but said that all demolitions went according to plan except for mining of Dutch men of war to act as block ship, substitute was provided and all channels are believed to be blocked. Capt. Davis told C.O. HAVOCK that he had seen Commander Goodenough about 2130/14 and he appeared satisfied that all demolitions were nearly complete. (F.O., Harwich, 1315/15).

SUPPLEMENT

CODRINGTON and GRIFFIN in company with British ships MAID OF ORLEANS, MONA'S QUEEN, returning to U.K. VIVACIOUS reports submarines and torpedoes have left Helder and she is proceeding to patrol Brown Ridge. HEReward and VENETIA have reinforced HAVOCK. (Capt. D.1, 0228/15 to C. in C., Nore).

Dutch Coast - General

The Dutch wireless broadcast that the Burgomaster of Rotterdam makes known on instructions of the German Command that no ship of whatever nationality may leave Rotterdam or the Nieuwe Waterweg. Any ship attempting to leave will be stopped by force. (2253/15, Press).

Walcheren
Situation

Admiral Nord informs me Germans making heavy attack on Walcheren and Beveland Islands. Situation there critical. VALENTINE reported wrecked. Am sending WOLSEY and WESTMINSTER. VIMIERA will follow when ammunitioned. (V.A. Dover, 1504/15).

Brown Ridge
Rendezvous

On completion tonight's operation, 2 destroyers to be maintained vicinity of Brown Ridge until the situation becomes clearer. (D.O.D.(H), 0002/15) JAGUAR and GRAFTON to proceed 0800 today to carry out A/S patrol south of Brown Ridge. (C. in C., Nore, 0302/15). Fully authorised to withdraw at high speed if air attack becomes unpleasant. (C. in C., Nore, 0846/15).

Zeeland

Morale Dutch troops in Zeeland broken. Unlikely they will offer further effective resistance. French are holding south Beveland Canal. Germans probably now advancing towards Korimingen. (Balfour
Hegwood.....)

HOME COMMANDS.

363

Operations - Dutch Coast - General.

Zeeland
(Cont'd.)

Hegwood Mission, Middelburg, via H.M.S. WHITLEY, 1340/15).

If high authorities wish to hold these islands to guard left flank then our battalion from north and any other reinforcements very desirable. But if this position only a hold, one more now would only embarrass future difficulty of rearguard action. General Durand agrees. Uruiningen situation clear and enemy pressure not increasing. A/A batteries are invaluable to relieve destroyers. (Balfour, to War Office, 1900/15).

Walcheren to be Defended

Ref. previous telegram and telephone conversation today, Captain Cazalet and Captain Angerford (corrupt group). General Winkelman has given orders to Admiral Van Der Stad to continue resistance in Zeeland. At Conference at Middleburg between 0015 hours and 0039 hours Admiral Van Der Stad, Admiral Platon, General Durand present, it was decided to defend Islands of Walcheren and Beveland at all costs. General Deslaurens continuing to land his troops in South Beveland. Germans are in touch with Dutch positions East of Rilland. No contact made so far with Germans in Tholen Area. From Balfour, Second Liét. 0800/15. ends. (Balfour-Heywood Mission, Middleburg, via H.M.S. VALENTINE, 0830/15).

WEGA

Consul General Amsterdam landed at Ramsgate today Wed. reports that important confidential documents are in Dutch ship WEGA which has not arrived in Downs. (V.A. Dover, 2301/15).

Operations Lyster - DF -EF

Come to immediate notice by 0800 tomorrow, Thursday. (Com. Garmons - Williams, to FLORENTINO, TRANSEAS, PACIFICO, BORODINO, ATLANTIC GUIDE, 1539/15).

Orders for Operation DF and EF are being sent to you now. Should the 6th M/S Flotilla be instructed to take part in these operations they are to be issued with these orders before sailing (D.O.D.(H) 1927/15 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Your 1539/15 ordering ships to come to immediate notice tomorrow, will be carried out. (FLORENTINO, 1741/15 to Adty.).



War Diary

15.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

364

OPERATIONS

Dutch Navy

Chief of Staff

Admiral Furster, Dutch Chief of Naval Staff, is now at Dunkerque with some 10 officers of Dutch Navy. Admiral Nord intends sending them to Dover in French destroyer tomorrow morning. (B.N.L.O. Dunkerque, 1135/15)

0.23

Dutch submarine 0.23 near South Fall Buoy in Q.Z.S. 60 course 270°
→ (VENOMOUS, 0340/15) Passed Dungeness westwards at 1215 unescorted (V.A. Dover, 1229/15)

BRINIO

Dutch armoured gunboat BRINIO expects to arrive Shipwash 1330/15 to be met and escorted into Harwich. (C. in C., Nore, 0434/15) N.O.I.C. Harwich 0831/15)

Dutch warship with 3 submarines passed through the Downs for Portsmouth at 0545 speed about 9 knots. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 0630/15)

MEDUSA

Dutch minelayer accompanied by 2 others in position 023° VXWY 22 steering 270°
→ (VENOMOUS, 1900/15)

T.B. Z.6.

Arrived Sheerness 1456/15 (C. in C., Nore, 1017/15, 1649/15)

SUMATRA

Cruiser to be sailed for Spithead as soon as degaussed. (D.O.D.(H) 1715/15)

T.B.Z.8. & DEMOK

Torpedo boat Z 8 and gunboat DEMOK in position West Hinder L.V. speed 12 knots (VENOMOUS, 1301/15)
→



War Diary

15.5.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

365

Belgian Coast

Ostend Evacuees.

Six Belgian steamers capacity 700 to 800 passengers now in Ostend. Ships not degaussed. 1200 British refugees await transport. (G.H.Q. to War Office 0023/15)

B.N.L.O. Marceau reports 1300/15, two mail steamers will leave Ostend at 1900 today with 800 British refugees. As mines may be encountered consider some form of escort desirable. (D.S.O. 1615/15 to C. in C., Nore)

Zeebrugge

Extra LL trawlers are not being sent now. Four LL Trawlers will be kept available at Harwich to relieve your present ones if this is necessary. If position at Zeebrugge becomes untenable retire on Dover. (D.M.S., 1807/15 to Comdr. Peterson, Zeebrugge)

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

366

Norway- Narvik.

PROTECTOR

By 2013/10 Essential that PROTECTOR should sail immediately. D.O.(D)H /15)

~~Supplies~~ Supplies.

C in C., H.F's 1010/12 Admiralty will assume responsibility for provision of oilers, colliers, ammunition carriers, naval and victualling store ships for Narvik area. (D. of P. 1325/15)

Operation
Bishop

Personnel to arrive Glasgow for embarkation in MANELA p.m. 17/5 (R.A.N.A.S., 1702/15) Cash for MANELA (D.N.A.D. 1925/15)

ACRITY

To sail for Harstad, escorted by 2 A/S trawlers detailed by A.C.O.S. (D.O.D.(H) 1739/15)-

TRUANT

Submarine TRUANT to sail for Harstad 0930/16. (S.2, 1732/15)

Destroyers

Capt. (D) 9 has assumed duty of S.O. Destroyers in Narvik area, (D.9,1523/15)

A/A Ship

Request COVENTRY will provide A/A protection as unobtrusively as possible to puffer embarking troops at Arkenes for passage to Harstad tonight (F.O. Narvik, to C.S., 20 1817/15)

Mosjoen-Mo-Bodo ✓

SOMALI Bombed

Bombed at 2230/14 in Mo area. Road is very exposed in many places and has already been reconnoitred by enemy aircraft. Doubt whether supply by this route is practicable and supply by sea is uncertain and hazardous. For these reasons I consider that to continue to hold Mo is militarily unsound as long as German air superiority continues. At same time aerodrome is important and withdrawal will greatly depress Norwegians. Area can be held if supply by sea can be assumed but guns and heavy M/guns are required. (Capt. (D) 6, 0744/15)

Mo Precarious

SUPPLEMENT



HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

367

Iceland-Operation Alabaster.

From War Office. Alabaster expects to arrive about 1400/17. Accommodation required for 180 Officers, 3628 other ranks. Force will be ready to operate actively if required. (D.O.D. (H) 2033/15 to Fork)

Admiralty 1955/14 Escort for A.B. 2. will be available after return of Alabaster. Balance of 50 troops can if necessary be accommodated in escorting destroyers, but cannot emergency accommodation be provided for this small number in the ships of the convoy.

Norway- Convoys.

2nd French Light Division now at Clyde is to proceed Brest as soon as possible. Sailings for convoys F.R.1., F.R.2., F.R.3., (D.O.D. (H) 2031/15)

Plan for re-embarking Deuxieme Division de Chasseurs (FLD Greenock 2308/15)

N.S.Z.

Route (C. in C., Rosyth, 1840)

BELFORT

Previous instructions cancelled. BELFORT is to proceed to Clyde at once, route via Minches (C. in C., H.F. 1947/15)

Submarines

German aircraft sighted some of our submarines off Dutch coast before sunrise this morning (V.A (S) 0941/15 to submarines on patrol)

Bombing

Submarines in submarine sanctuaries must never be bombed. Submarines may be bombed anywhere else in North Sea except in such areas as are restricted by signal from H.Q.C.C. (H.Q.C.C. 1410/15)

Positions

0600/16 (V.A.S. 1844/15)



War Diary

15.5.1940
Wednesday

HOLE COMMANDS

368

Submarines Contd.

French Submarines

Your 1831/15 Concur generally. French submarines should not, however, be based on an undefended port and should for preference go to Rosyth. (D.O.D (H) 2349/15 to V.A.S)

SUNFISH

Patrol report 4/5 to 9/5 (V.A.S., 1756/15)

TAKU

Patrol report 5/5 to 13/5 On 8/5, 1715 position M.B.R.U., attacked 2 transports screened by 2 torpedo boats and at least 2 aircraft. Fired 10 torpedoes Heard 3 explosions before depth charging commenced. Hunted for 5½ hours, no apparent damage. One transport certainly sunk (S.2,1114/15)



15.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

369

OPERATIONS

✓ Operation Quixote-Cutting of Cables.

Orders for operation Quixote, to cut simultaneously and as soon as possible the following cables in about $03^{\circ} 20'E.$, or as near this longitude as you consider advisable.

- (a) Mundesly- Norderney
- (b) Bacton - Borkum No 1
- (c) Bacton - Borkum No 2
- (d) Bacton - Borkum No 3
- (e) Lowestoft- Norderney
- (f) Lowestoft - Borkum

6 M/S trawlers from Yarmouth to be used. Can be assumed that the enemy will detect and locate the leaks in the cable to nearest mile as soon as they are cut so that air escort as well as suitable surface escort will be essential. (D.A/S.W., 2055/15 to C in C., Nore.,)



HOME COMMANDS.

370

Air.

British Air Activity.

Skuas with Blenheim escort leave Hatston 1100/15 to bomb objectives at Bergen. (A.C.O.S. 0950/15). Returned owing to fog. (A.C.O.S. 1345/15).

Raids in Germany.

Bomber Command are undertaking heavy attacks of important objectives within Germany tonight in consequence of which retaliation is likely. You should be prepared in all respects against this eventuality. (Air Ministry to all home commands, 2300/15) (D.C., 0045/16).

Enemy M.T.B's.

8 gun fighters not to be employed against M.T.B's, their role being the destruction of enemy bombers. Such air support as is practicable against this form of attack will be undertaken by A/C of Coastal Command. (Air Min., 1945/15).

Enemy Air Activity.

WINCHESTER

Bombed 170 C.P.T.S. 25. (WINCHESTER 0440/15). 3 attacks, 1 dynamo, 1 air pump out of action, port turbine fuel fractured, position 188° C.P.T.S. 26 course 235° (WINCHESTER, 0574/15). No. 2 oil tank leaking (WINCHESTER, 0648/15).

SPEEDWELL.

Bombed 068 OFS 60 (SPEEDWELL, 0920/15).

VERSATILE

VERSATILE bombed off Dutch coast yesterday, 7 dead, 13 wounded. Ship has arrived Sheerness. (Adty. to B.N.L.O Marceau, 2011/14).

Unknown ship.

Damaged steering gear, forced to enter Zeebrugge. (N. Foreland Radio, 1220/15). Bomber first missed us, already damaged this morning, passing Zeebrugge bound for Ostend. (N. Foreland Radio, 1256/15).

EUGENIA

? *Greek ss.*
(D.O.R.)

Receiving continuous bombing from German aeroplane (N. Foreland Radio, 1627/15). Bombed outside Zeebrugge (N. Foreland Radio 1641/15, 1724/15). Distress call cleared (Portishead Radio 0217/16).

SUPPLEMENT



HOME COMMANDS.

Air (Contd.).

371

- VALENTINE Hit by two bombs and aground near Terneuzen. One boiler exploded. No officers killed. Probably 20 men killed and some other casualties. Understood ship cannot be salvaged. All C.B.'s and secret matter destroyed. C.O. intends to destroy guns, etc. (V.A. Dover, 1813/15).
- WIVERN Damaged by bomb splinters above water line. Wardroom wrecked. Ship can steam. Request where she can be received. (V.A. Dover, 1202/15).
- SOMALI Bombed at 2330/14 in Mo area (Capt. D.6 0744/15). CURLEW to join her and escort to Scapa. (C-in-C., H.F. 1236/15). Flooded forward to 30 bulkhead also "A" shell room and pom-pom magazine. Maintaining 12 knots, but bad weather might cause further flooding. French destroyer FOU DROYANT escorting. Minor casualties to 5 ratings only. (Capt. (D) 6, 0915/15).
- CHOBRY Bombed and abandoned see Situation Report.
- HUSSAR Has 3 killed, 10 wounded (dangerously 2 seriously) HUSSAR will require tug. (S.O. 4th M/S Flotilla, 1423/15, C-in-C., Nore, 1817/15).
- BOTHNIA Swedish, 1948 tons. Swedish report says bombed by A/C of unknown nationality on 12/5. Crew landed at Aarhus after being picked up by German minesweeper.
- TETI Greek, 2747 tons, arrived Gravesend with damage to forepart from a bomb. (D.S. 15/5).
- FOSCOLO Italian, 3059 tons, reported 1245 GMT from Ostend Radio bombed, attacked, sinking. Immediate assistance. No position given. (N. Foreland Radio, no T.O.O/15) (Ostend Radio, 1346/15).
- S.S. PANAGHIOTIS, THEODOROS^{S.S.}
COUMANTAROS.¹ Asking permission to enter Zeebrugge, having been bombed by German aeroplanes. Captain Fafoutakis. (Intercept, addressed Ostend, from A.C.O.S. no T.O.O/15). Intercept from EUGENIA, 2034/15, reported COUMANTAROS left Flushing p.m. after having sustained many air raids. At 0500/p.m. (?1700) German A/C bombed and machine-gunned 3 times, considerable damage to hull and machinery. Crew unhurt so far. Trying to refuge at Ostend. (N. Foreland Radio, 2156/15).
- VILLE DE BRUGES Belgian 13,869 tons, believed to be a total loss (left Antwerp 14/5). Probably bombed (D.S.15/5).
- BRABO Belgian 3699 tons, twice bombed near Zeebrugge, steering gear damaged. (D.S. 15/5).

SUPPLEMENT
f32

SUPPLEMENT

THEODOROS

3658 2400H3



HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

372

Trawlers
for
Zeebrugge.

4 trawlers to be held ready to sail (D.M.S. 1158/15 to C-in-C., Nore).

Operations
P.C.

Completed (S.O. 4th M/S.F. 1420/15).

Sweeping
reports.

1 mine exploded by skid in Shambles area (F.O. I/C Portland 1620/15). 7 mines encountered, off mouth of Tyne (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2110/15).

Operation
F.D.

¹⁵
RUBIS
R.U.B/S to carry out F.D.~~F.O.~~ (V.A.S 1248/15).

Minelaying
off Dutch
Coast.

by 5 destroyers night 15/6 (R.A.(S) 1733/15). Positions where actually laid (R.A.(S), 1002/16).

Dutch Coast,
Enemy mines.

Following from D.19, Hook of Holland. Magnetic mines were dropped in positions 280° 6 cables and 276° 4 cables from G.P. OCC. High Light at 2300/14. (V.A., Dover, 1221/15).
Customs Grangemouth have passed mining report from Master of S.S. DUNMOIR referring to period 0300 to 0515/10/5 off Flushing. 3 enemy A/C over Sordijn Gap flew on line between 51°26'40"N., 3°33'30"E and 51°24-½'N, 3°28½'E., dropped about 8 mines. Parachutes and splashes seen. (C-in-C., Rosyth 1617/15).

British Mines.

Requesting air co-operation for Operations CBX,2 and CBX,3 (Admtly 1538/15). Contact position CBX,3 on a general line 258° extending for 15 miles from a position 258° Scheveningen Light seven miles. (D.M.S. 1646/15). INTREPID to carry out operation CBX.2 (INTREPID, 1816/15).



HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

373

Transport
Convoys
sighted.

Certainly sunk by TAKU 8/5 (S2 1114/15).
SUNFISH sighted escorted southbound convoys
57°58'N, 10°08'E and 57°54'N 10°10'E 4/5 both
out of range; 9/5 made unsuccessful attack on es-
corted convoy 57°57'N, 10°42'E course 290°
(V.A.(S) 1756/15).

Suspicious
motor boat.

VENOMOUS chasing fast motor boat on westerly
course in QZs ~~8~~ etc. No reply to challenge
(VENOMOUS 0320/15).

EMDEN

German cruiser, lying since 12/4 alongside
VIPPETANGBRY GGEN at Oslo. There are bomb
dumps on Gronli quays and ammunition in sheds
on Utsikker (A.2). (Stockholm, 1831/15).



HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

374

Shortage of Pilots.

At Portland is causing serious delay to movements of ships. (F.O.I.C., Portland 1920/15).

C.C. Bases.

to be closed. Skeleton staff to be retained at Kirkwall, Deal, Weymouth. (Press).

Rotterdam-Lloyd.

Management transferred from Rotterdam to Batavia. Sailings to Europe postponed. Atlantic, Pacific sailings maintained (Press, Singapore, 1723/15).

Routes.

Ships proceeding independently Northbound through the Irish Sea should be routed West of a line joining positions 270° Smalls 12 miles, 270° Skerries 12 miles, 54° 00'N. 05° 03'W, 54° 30'N, 05° 10'W, and 55° 00'N. 05° 27'W. Southbound shipping and convoys are routed to the Eastward of this line, and when between the latitudes of the Skerries and the Smalls keep within a zone joining positions 270° Skerries 12 miles, 270° Skerries 5 miles, 270° Smalls 5 miles and 270° Smalls 12 miles. (D.T.D. 1710/15).

Miscellaneous

Rosyth Defences

Shortage of military S/L's. (C. in C., Rosyth 1151/15).

Bothnia Ice

1754/14. Gulf of Bothnia porous ice in the Skerries and in shore heavy ice at sea preventing navigation. Lulea not expected to be open before the end of May but much depends on wind. Reliability unassessed. (A.N.A. Stockholm, 1232/15).

Dutch Time

Special Message in Dutch from Hilversum. Tonight at midnight Dutch time will be placed on same footing as German time. Therefore all watches and clocks at midnight must be advanced one hour and forty minutes (1.40) (Hilversum, 2140/15).

HOME COMMANDS

375

Weather.

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea N. of 55° N.	W. moderate, fresh locally.	Showers.	Mainly good.
S. of 55° N.	Light, variable.	Fine to cloudy.	Mainly good, moderate in coastal haze.
Horns Reef.	E. light to moderate.	Cloudy.	Mainly good except for haze.
Channel.	Generally N., light.	Cloudy.	Good.
W. Approaches.	N.W. light.	Fine to Cloudy.	Good.
Coast of Norway.	S.E. to S., moderate, fresh locally.	Rain, fog patches in South, cloudy in North.	Moderate to poor in fog.

War Diary

15/5/1940
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ELGIN

flat M/S Trawler damaged. Fortnight re-³⁷⁶
quired for repairs (F.O. Humber 1229/15)

SOMALI

Bombed and damaged, see Air.

BRILLIANT
BOREAS }

In collision yesterday and are now
at Sheerness (V.A. Dover 1304/15)
BOREAS hull damaged above and below
waterline forward. BRILLIANT hull
damaged 132/152. Starboard propeller
and starboard A frame probably damaged
BRILLIANT also due for refit. Both
ships require docking. (C. in C.,
Nore, 1519/15)



FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

377

5 A.M.C's for
Coast of Portugal.

My 1809/14. The 5 A.M.C's will come under your orders. Concert with Admiral Afrique as to their employment in area covered by your commands. Admiral Ouest should be kept informed of your dispositions and will co-operate with his patrol forces. (1st S.L 0053/15) to F.O.C.N.A)

F.O.C.N.A) issue early preliminary instructions to A.M.C's pending final decision arrived at after consultation with Admiral Afrique. DERBYSHIRE and CHESHIRE have sailed. Para 1 of my 1809/14 is not intended to restrict watch to Vigo and Lisbon (D.O.D.(F) 1515/15 to F.O.C.N.A)

CHESHIRE can sail 0500 today, DERBYSHIRE can sail 1030 today. (V.A.N.P.,) 0230/15

Patrol Areas

624 Para (i) Pending agreement with French, following provisional patrols are established.

A.E. between parallels 038° 30' North 042° 30' North and Meridian 010° 30' West and 011° 00' West.

A.F. between parallels 041° 45' North 044° 00' North and Meridian 014° 00' West and 015° 00' West.

A.H. between parallels 039° 25' North 041° 31' North and Meridians 014° 00' West and 015° 00' West.

AJ between parallels 037° 00' North 039° 10' North and Meridian 014° 00' West and 015° 00' West.

A.K. between position 036° 30' North 014° 00' West and position 034° 30' North 011° 30' West.

Assume patrols as follows; CARINTHIA, A.K., DERBYSHIRE, A.F., CHESHIRE, A.H., PATROCLUS, A.J., ASTURIAS, A.E., Report expected time of arrival on patrol.

Para (ii) Ships on patrol A.E. are to steam Northward during darkness. North bound French Convoy may be met within area A.E.

Para (iii) Object to intercept and capture Italian shipping endeavouring to reach Lisbon and Vigo if hostilities commence against Italy.

Para (iv) Information regarding French co-operation and disposition of forces will be passed by signal. (F.O.C.N.A., 1822/15)



15.5.1940
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

378

North Atlantic, Contd.

Portugese Trade

My 1300/14 Can get all Portex Line to carry cargo between Portugal and U.K. if owners assured that ships sent U.K. will be permitted to bring return cargo to Portugal. Details (N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1200/15)

Italian Move.

Known fact the 4 Italian trawlers fishing from Las Palmas received instructions to complete with oil fuel embark all depot stores and return to Italy. (N.C.S.O., Las Palmas, 1735/15)

South Atlantic

CUMBERLAND

Your 2302/14 CUMBERLAND will be required at Cape as escort for US 3 in South Atlantic. Sail her accordingly (AC.N.S (A) 1354/15 to C in C., S.A., R.A.S.A.D)

BRIDGEWATER

To prolong stay at Lagos and provide A/S protection for troop transport arriving about 29/5 (C. in C., S.A. 1642/15)

MERCATOR

Belgian training ship, arrived at Lobito 13/5 (S.O.I. Capetown 1208/15)

Mediterranean

Concentration

My 0102/14 Ships will take out to Mediterranean additional depth charges and ammunition including 2800 rounds of 4.7" H.E.T.F. for destroyer guns any quantities of this ammunition not yet despatched in accordance with my 1645/22/4 are to remain (D.T.S.D., 1740/15)

Naval Mails

Routeing of naval mails via Italy has been temporarily suspended. (Hd of M., 1902/14)

Policy

Unconfirmed report, graded C.3, states that from now onwards Italian merchant vessels will be escorted, REX in particular has been mentioned. While legally it would be correct to stop senior ship of escort to ascertain nature of cargoes and details of passengers, it is at the present moment of the very greatest importance that we should avoid any incident with Italy that might result in war. Our whole policy is directed to ensuring that if war should come it shall be clear beyond all doubt that it is Italy who has forced it on us. For these reasons

FOREIGN STATIONS

379

Mediterranean Contd.

no attempt is to be made to interfere with Italian escorts or escorted vessels. (D. of P., 0003/15, to C. in C., Med., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C., E.I., and S.O.R.F.S.)

Istanbul Sailings

Asking if can confirm Italian Adratica Line has suspended sailings to Istanbul. (D.N.I., to A.M.A., Istanbul, 1834/15)

MOTO MARU

Japanese ship with enemy cargo. cancelling Admiralty 1150/24/4 re interception (DEWD 1327/15 to C. in C., Med.,)

Italian Reservists

My telegram No 1934 May 14th. On enquiry at Ministry of Marine today N.A. informed reservists called up were only those ratings required for special training in various branches which was a matter of routine. (N.A. Rome, 1304/15)

Destroyer Concentration

As it is essential to get destroyers to the Mediterranean without delay, ZULU, SIKH, ISIS, IMOGEN, and INGLEFIELD will not proceed. ILEX is to defer boiler cleaning and be sailed so as to be ready to join destroyers leaving Plymouth p.m. 17/5. Captain D.7. is to detail two destroyers from JANUS, JAGUAR and JUNO, which should be ready to sail from Plymouth 17/5. Names to be reported. Captain D.7. should embark in one himself. (D.O.D. (H) 1818/15)

Admiralty 1818/14 WISHART and WRESTLER to arrive Marseilles 1600/18 (F.O. Gibraltar 1230A/15.)

Reinforcements

Programme for Sailing

Group 1. KINGSTON, KHARTOUM, KANDAHAR, NUBIAN, HYPERION, HOSTILE, HASTY, leave Plymouth 16/5.

Group 2. AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, EGRET, leave Plymouth 16/5.

Group 3. CARLISLE, KIMBERLEY, MOHAWK, ~~HAVOK~~ HEReward, HERO, ILEX, JANUS, JUNO, IMPERIAL. leave Plymouth pm /17 or as soon as ready.



FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean Contd.

380

All groups proceed Gibraltar at best speed (C. in C., Med., issue orders for onward sailing from Gibraltar D.O.D. (H) 1951/15)

- At request of C. in C., Nore CARLISLE has been made available to proceed to Mediterranean and has been ordered to proceed to Plymouth (C. in C., H.F. 1200/15)
- CONTE DI SAVOIA Sailed 13/5 according to usual routine for Naples and is due to return here and sails for New York (Mr. Edmonds Genoa, NO 46 14/5)
- ANTENOR Need not remain in Mediterranean in event of war with Italy (Admiralty 1559/14, C. in C., Med. 1140/15)
- CARLISLE To proceed to Mediterranean (C. in C., H.F. 1200/15)
- CUPLEW Required to go to Mediterranean at once and cannot be relieved for about 10 days. Can you do without an A/A carrier in meantime? (C. in C., H.F. 1117/14 to R.A. (A))
- Aircraft Mines Efficient look out service for parachute mines is most important both at Alexandria and Suez Canal. Steps are to be taken in case magnetic minesweepers do not arrive E. Mediterranean in time. (D.M.S. 1318/15)
- D.W.I. Aircraft 8 being flown to Egypt. (D.M.S. 1806/15)
- Fiume SS. SUSAK reports entrance to Fiume Harbour closed 13th May by two lines of netting held afloat by Can buoys from end of breakwater to Mole opposite. No defences on breakwater. Another report states Italian authorities at Iagosta reported a mine broken adrift; this mine was found off Korcula by Yuog-slavi Authorities. Both reports assessed A. one. (S.O.I. Malta, 1147/15)

MOST SECRET.

15.5.1940.

Wednesday.

381



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Cable Cutting. My 1827 of 19/4, and 1545 of 26/4, and para. 322 of M.00697/39. Action to be taken in Western Mediterranean should be in order of importance, first Malaga-South America, Malaga-Azores, and Malaga-Lisbon to westward of Strait, and second Malaga-Rome and Malaga-Barcelona to eastward of Malaga. Cutting of Barcelona-Rome would be undertaken by French. Sub-paras.(a) (b) and (c) of para. 322 should be disregarded (Hd. of M. 1550/15 to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. Med.).



FOREIGN STATION

East Indies

Mediterranean
Concentration.

RORQUAL arrived Suez (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal 1017/15) Left 1738 (S.N.N.O. Suez Canal 1758/15) **SUPPLEMENT**

Convoy U.S. 2.

Your 1304/13. Air escort similar to U.S.2 can be provided. Do not propose to carry out Gulf of Suez patrol unless you consider absolutely essential (H.Q.R.A.F. Mid. East 0955 Z/15 to C. in C., E.I.)

→ LEANDER

My 1620Z/15 LEANDER is to proceed Colombo forthwith. (Anstration N.B. 1621Z/15)

America & West Indies

German Ships

Asking for confirmation of Press reports that German ships at Tampico~~s~~ preparing to sail (D.D.I.C., 2227/15) China

Japanese W./T. traffic.

Doubled in last 48 hours. General air of activity. (C.O.I.S. Singapore 0433Z/15)

Australia

Admiralty 1338/15 Assume you will recall H.M.A.S. SYDNEY A.C.N.B. are advising route and position of R.V. with SHROPSHIRE in accordance with my
→ 0951Z/8 LEANDER is being instructed to proceed to Colombo (Australian N.B. 1620Z/15) Admiralty concur (D.O.D. (F) 2009/15)

US 3 to steer towards
Cape of Good Hope

Route R.V. with SHROPSHIRE (A.C.N.B. 1745Z/15. D.O.D. (F) 1338/15)

China.

Japan and Dutch
East Indies.

(See under Home Commands, Operations, 20 pages back)
(P. 361)



War Diary

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

383

Mediterranean

SALZBURG

Arrived Braila (Macrae, Galatz, 1636/15)

China

SOPHIE RICKMERS

(7033 tons) Reported in Press that she attempted to scuttle herself at Sabang but was put ashore and can probably be salvaged.

South Atlantic

MONTEVIDEO }
WINDHUK }

Remains under Guard (C. in C., S.A. 0901/15)



War Diary

15.5.1940.
Wednesday.

U- BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

384

Ships Attacked.

ROEK

British, (1041 tons) sunk by magnetic mine in River Maas near Rotterdam 12/5
Crew repatriated. (D.S. 15/5)

Submarines Reported

0645

Sighted by S./T. LEYS 56° 26'N 2° 30'W
→ (off Tay)

0700

60° 22'N, 02° 00'W Steering 300° (C.3)
(F.O.C.O.S., 0857/15)

1110

Suspicious trail bubbles JSHI 3716
(Aircraft 224 Squadron., 1110/15)

Estimated Dispositions

1- in W. Approaches

1- W of Shetlands

1- Off Firth of Tay (D.D.I.C., 1310/15)

→ Submarine Firth of Tay now reported as friendly (D.D.I.C.,)(1706/15))



16.5.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

385

Low Countries

Mines were laid off the Dutch coast last night by 5 ships under the direction of Capt. D.20.

1,500 British refugees arrived at Dover at 2030/16 from Ostend, after being delayed there by severe enemy air attacks. Three Belgian mail steamers with refugees, mostly British, from Ostend, anchored off the North Goodwin light vessel, awaiting passage to Folkestone.

The master of the Dutch ship BODENGRAVEN reported that the Ymuiden entrance is closed by four blockships.

WOLSEY, VIMIERA and WHITLEY are providing A.A. protection off Dunkirk to the Allied left wing.

Dutch Navy

The following ships have now arrived in British waters: 2 cruisers, 1 destroyer, 3 T.B.'s, 3 M/L's, 1 M/S, 1 M/L, 9 S/Ms 1 armoured gunboat.

Narvik Area

Flag Officer, Narvik, has transferred & his flag and staff to the shore at Harstad. H.M. submarine TRUANT sailed from Rosyth at 0930/16 for the Tromso area. PROTECTOR, netlayer, left the Narvik area for the United Kingdom at 1400/16.



SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

386
Little enemy air activity over the North Sea. The meteorological flight took place early in the morning in the direction of the Shetlands. A number of aircraft were reported in the Northern North Sea during the afternoon apparently heading in the direction of Stavanger.

Intense activity was again reported over Belgium and France. Ostend was bombed in the morning and Lille in the afternoon by a large force of aircraft. Troop transport activity was again reported between Oldenburg, Oslo, Stavanger and Trondheim.

The destroyers FOU DROYANT (French) and SOMALI (British) were bombed on their way to the United Kingdom by six aircraft at 0245/16.

O.A. 149, outward-bound convoy, was attacked by enemy aircraft at 2245/16 off the Royal Sovereign light vessel.

British Air Activity

The usual patrols were flown, also additional searches to intercept any M.T.B.s approaching the British Isles.

Bergen was raided by 9 Skuas and the oil tanks set on fire. All our aircraft returned.

Mediterranean

Ships bound for the United Kingdom from west coast of India and Persian Gulf are to be routed via the Cape. No British or Norwegian merchant vessels are to be sailed eastbound from Gibraltar or westbound from Port Said, Alexandria, Haifa or Cyprus for the present.

Seven destroyers and two sloops left Plymouth for the Mediterranean. A third group, consisting of one anti-aircraft cruiser, one sloop and nine destroyers, is to follow p.m. 17/5.



War Diary

16.5.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

387

South Atlantic

Enemy mines have been laid off Cape Agulhas (South Africa). Likely that an armed merchant raider may be abroad in the South Atlantic or Indian Ocean. The British ship SCIENTIST, which left Durban 27/4, is overdue at Freetown, where she should have arrived on 10/5.

Convoy U.S.3, consisting of seven ships, escorted by AUSTRALIA and CAMERRA, has been diverted to the Cape, and should arrive there about 25/5. SHROPSHIRE left Simons-town 16/5 to meet U.S.3 as additional escort. LEANDER, which was with this convoy, has been detached and is proceeding to Colombo, and SYDNEY has been ordered to return to ~~COLOMBO~~. Colombo.

Casualties

WESTMINSTER, destroyer, which was in collision with a wreck in Dunkirk west approach channel at 2200/15, was towed into Dunkirk at 0430/16 and dry-docked. No casualties.

The French submarine DORIS is overdue and must be considered lost.

War Diary

16.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

388

Precautions

- Balloon Barrage Parkeston Quay. Asking for increase (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1110/16).
- Naval Guns Ashore Proposed to allocate some guns of damaged ships likely to be in Chatham Yard for over one month temporarily to best local advantage either on shore or in ships of Thames Local Defence Flotilla. Adty. approval requested. (C. in C., Nore, 1307/16).
- Dispersal of Destroyers Owing to Probability of Air Attack have dispersed destroyers between Humber, Harwich and Sheerness. 2nd C.S. have poor H.A. armament and at Sheerness are exposed to M.T.B. attack. I should therefore like to keep them at Portsmouth or Spithead for the present, intend sailing them p.m. today. (C. in C., Nore, 1030/16).
- Southend. Approval requested to mount one 2 pdr. pom-pom Mark II converted on Southend Pier for protection of convoy anchorage. (C. in C., Nore, 1311/16).
- Dover Urging evacuation of children etc. at early date. (V.A. Dover, 1344/16).
- Balloons, Dover Adty. 2032/14. Air Min. averse to flying balloons at Dover unless absolutely necessary because of interference with fighter activities our own bombers returning from action in France, and R.D.F. at Dover, but in certain circumstances these disabilities might have to be accepted. Reconnaissance to be made of Dover to decide on deployment. (Air Min., 1310/16).
- GALATEA,
ARETHUSA To be retained in the Portsmouth area for the present. (D.C.N.S.).

HOME COMMANDS

389

Operations - Operation D.F. - E.F.

^{14.5.40}
Test to ~~LYSTER~~ 0800 hours/17/5.
(D.O.D.(H) 0918/16, to War Office).
Request you will detail destroyer as
S.O.'s ship of Forces D.F. and E.F.
Report name of destroyer and place of
embarkation. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C. Nore,
0919/16). Times etc., (D.O.D.(H) 0931/16).

F.O. D.R. and staff arrive Sheerness
1100/16. (Cdr. Garnons-Williams, 0932/16).

Request available ships of 6th M/S Flotilla
be sailed to R.V. with Forces D and E at
North Goodwin at 1800/16. (D.O.D.(H) to
C. in C., Nore, 0933/16).

Forces to Sail

Sail Forces D and E for Operation D.F. and
E.F. Time of arrival of Force E to be
0715/17 (D.O.D.(H) 0934/16 to C. in C.,
Nore).

Air Min. informed (D.O.D.(H) 0936/16).
Requesting A/S escort (D.O.D.(H) 0937/16
to C. in C., Nore).

Adty. 0919. VEGA detailed, place of
embarkation Sheerness (C. in C., Nore,
0945/16).

Sailing Cancelled

Cancel my 0918/16. Force not sailing
for the present (D.C. to War Office
1135/16, 1134/16).

Operation XD - Dutch Coast

56 Chatham personnel and several officers
of XD parties have returned here. Work
admirably done. (C. in C., Nore, 1301/16).

Their Lordships congratulate the officers and
men of parties A and B in operation XD on
the skill and determination displayed and
on the successful results which attended their
efforts under such difficult and confusing
conditions. (D.O.D.(H) 2038/16).

Master Dutch vessel BODENGRAVEN reports
Ymuiden entrances closed by blockships
NAALDWIJK, JAN PETERZON COLEN and one
trawler. (C.C.S.O., Falmouth, 1555/16).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Belgian Coast

390

WHITSHED

To proceed to Ostend with despatch and bring as many British refugees to Dover as possible and report situation Ostend. (V.A., Dover, 0948/16). ~~And~~ protection from 1100 today requested (V.A., Dover, 1032/16).

Following received from WHITSHED, presumably from British Minister in Brussels. For Foreign Office. French Ambassador and I arrived at Ostend mid-day 16/5 with his staff. Am staying at Imperial Hotel to which telegrams should be addressed, but have no cypher. Regret British refugees could not be evacuated this morning. Ship subjected to repeated bombardments by enemy aircraft. They also did some damage in the Embassy. French Ambassador and I may be visiting Brussels to-morrow. (V.A. Dover, 1725/16)

WHITSHED requests immediate fighter protection Ostend. (V.A., Dover, 1511/16)

Refugee Ships

Further to V.A. Dover's 1032/16. Additional refugee ships will be leaving Ostend to-day. Request if possible air protection until further notice. (D.C., to Air Min., 1247/16).

3 fighter aircraft to proceed to Ostend to afford air protection to MONA'S QUEEN, four trawlers and possibly WHITSHED whilst they embark refugees (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1705/16).

4 Belgian Mail steamers 2 with refugees left Ostend at 1945 for Folkestone. Endeavour to intercept and cover them. They are to anchor in safe position off North Goodwin Light Vessel till daylight. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 2210/16 to VERITY)

HOME COMMANDS

391

Dutch Warships & Principal M.V's.

Warships

Sailed for Portsmouth 0810/16:-
M/L's NAUTILUS, JAN VAN BRAKEL, T.B.'s
Z5, Z8, G 13, Yacht DE MOK (N.O.I.C.,
Ramsgate, 0905/16).

Arrived M/L WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN, Submarines
O.9, O.10, O.23, O.24, Tug BV 5 (C. in C.,
Portsmouth, 0928/16).

AMSTERDAM and
~~NAVAL TRAWLERS~~
Naval Trawlers.

Armed Tug AMSTERDAM and Naval Trawlers
V.45, V.42, sailed to Spithead at 0515/16
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0750/16).

GRUNO and BRINIO

Request consider their allocation to
Thames Local Defence Flotilla for defence
of A/B Boom (C. in C., Nore, 1146/16).

FLORES

Request from Dutch Naval Attache for
ammunition from Dutch warships now at
Portsmouth for Dutch gunboat FLORES,
C/o Vice-Admiral, Dover, for Admiral,
Nord, Dunkirk. (D.N.L.O., 1334/16, to
C. in C., Portsmouth).

JACOB VAN

(Flotilla leader)
HEEMSKERCK, ISAAC SWEETERS, JAN VAN GELDER,
and submarines O.13, O.21 and O.22 can now
be inspected by Adty. technical officers.
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 1653/16).

HOME COMMANDS

392

Operations - Narvik Area.

- Netlaying / On completion of netlaying in Iceland, GUARDIAN to proceed to Harstad to lay nets as required by R.A. Narvik. (D.B.D., 1547/16).
- F.O. at Harstad My flag and staff transferred to shore at Harstad. (F.O. Narvik, 1830/16).
- Trawler Base Your 1422/13. Have trawlers been sent to Harstad, as Skjel Fiord is closed as a base headquarters. Nearest ship is in Ofot Fiord. Craft are being taken up in Harstad for five drifter crews. (F.O., Narvik, 1818/16).
- Limiting Sea Traffic Adty. 0058/14. The prohibition in Northern Norway of all water transport except under a system of licences by military authorities would probably be effective. Norwegians, however, very dependent on water transport for all supplies. Prohibition would have to be enforced by local steamer taken up and preferably manned by British Navy with few Norwegian ratings on board. But vessels could not deal with submarines and would lack speed. If any Hunt class vessels available that could work with aircraft they might be of use to support patrol. Question of limiting traffic is now being considered. (F.O., Narvik, 0019/16).
- A/A Guns F.O. Narvik's 1634/8. Consider second Oerlikon gun essential in auxiliary craft under present conditions. Request 19 guns and ammunition be sent together with spare barrels for all guns and A/A ratings if available. (R.A. Narvik, 1801/16).
- TRUANT Left Rosyth 0930 proceeding on surface to Harstad. (R.A.S., 1014/16). Intend TRUANT on arrival shall operate with Norwegian submarines B.1 and B.3 from Vardo from about 21/5. Norwegian C. in C. proposes B.6 should return to operate with this force. Request instructions if Admiralty concur. (F.O.C.1 C.S., 2242/16).
- Positions / Your 1957/15, requesting whereabouts. MATABELE at Harstad, ROYAL ULSTERMAN unknown. (F.O., Narvik to C. in C., H.F., 0047/16).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Narvik Area.

393

Ice Conditions

My 1855/13. Owing to delay in thaw, Canal is not expected to be open before 20/5. Expected that news of vessels passing into the Canal from the Baltic will be received in Adty. about 48 hours after the event. (D.N.I., 1546/16, to F.O., Narvik, etc.).

Enemy Troops arriving in Aircraft

H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE Enemy Air Report of 1200/16. Observer in ENTERPRISE considers aircraft were troop carriers. After circling Tromso they finally proceeded south. Local Authorities state they were traced from Andenes to Tromso and thence back to Lodaingen and have no information of landing of troops Air Route and local Authorities identify as Heinkel 111's (C.S.1 2103/16).

French Advance

My 1817/15. Movement from Ankenes to Harstad begins between 0800 and 1000 this morning. French hope to advance to north shore of Romlaks in 24 hours and ask co-operation of destroyer patrol in watching north bank and preventing use of railway route by enemy. (F.O. Narvik, 0043/16 to F.O.C. 20 C.S.).

Shortage of Ships

I am not asking for reinforcements but point out my force has much water to control under increasing enemy consolidated pressure. Reduction from 10 to 6 destroyers renders it difficult to provide submarine escorts for extra N.E.S. duties eg. DEVONSHIRE. Would welcome 2 additional A/S escort ships. FLEETWOOD has been much shaken up by near misses and should be relieved. After meeting pressing commitments in next few days propose sailing AURORA for U.K. observing her B turret is out of action but I can only spare AURORA if force is otherwise kept intact. ENTERPRISE needs a change she has withstood much bombing and has little to resist it with. She needs superficial repairs. If no older ship with good A/A armament is available suggest EMERALD might relieve her. In 6 days time we should have our own aircraft available when position will no doubt improve. I am seeking to avoid repetition of the CHROBRY incident by sending ship by long route to Bodo avoiding Tjeldsunde from which I suspect departures are communicated to enemy. Am taking steps to stop this. 4 planes appeared to be awaiting CHROBRY convoy. I dismiss any idea of giving enemy easy success by taking incident too seriously. Another battalion is being.....



HOME COMMANDS

394

Operations - Narvik Area.

Shortage of
Ships (Contd.)

is being prepared for Bodo while Irish Guards refit and plan decided upon goes forward. (F.O., Narvik, 0033/16).

Operations - Submarines.

CASABIANCA
(French)

Heavily depth charged during last 2 days in area by motor torpedo boats and trawlers with asdics. Have been sighted on surface. Continued enemy patrol, unable to charge. Proceeding M.B.N.D. 44 14 to charge and await instructions. (CASABIANCA 2325/16).

SEAWOLF

To have patrol 17/5. Orders (Capt.(S) 1017/16).

3rd and 10th
S/M Flotillas

V.A.(S) will assume operational control from 1600 today. (V.A.S. 1201/16).

Positions

0600/17 (D.C. 2115/16, A.S. 1911/16).
2117/16

Air.

British Air Activity

Jersey Airport

Jersey air port now being used by F.A.A. Adty. therefore responsible for local protection against parachutists and air-borne land troops. Suggestions. (Air Min. 2240/16).

Searches

Air searches tomorrow, Friday. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2230/16).

Squadrons moved

Air Min. signal X.68, 14/5, re placing certain F.A.A. T.S.R. squadrons under Coastal Command. Arrangements completed for reception of 821, 823 and 825 Squadrons at North Coates, Detling and Thorney Island respectively. (Air Min., 1940/16).

Operation ^{"Bottle"}~~XXXXXXXX~~

Adty. letter M/OD 1145/40 of 25/4/40. Intend to carry out this operation with 6 Swordfish of 823 Sqdn. Short title, Operation ~~BOTTLE~~. Aircraft will leave Hatston at 2230 tomorrow Friday or on first following day on which weather conditions appear suitable. (A.C.O.S., 1846/16).

F.A.A. Fighters

My 1733/12, 806 Sqdn. and Roc Flights of 800 and 80 to cease operations, was the decision of the War Cabinet. Until further instructions are issued F.A.A. fighters at Hatston should only be used in emergency. (D.N.A.D., 1346/16).

Reconnaissance.

To be undertaken daily at dusk from 17/5 of area between parallels 59 and 61 N., meridians 01 to 03 W., to report and attack enemy surface vessels attempting to raid Shetlands. (H.Q., C.C., 1900/16).

Attack on Bergen

9 Skuas leave Hatston 1100/16 to bomb objectives in Bergen. Escort by Blenheims not required (A.C.O.S. 1000/16). Attack successful. (Hatston, 1542/16).

Sullom Voe Aerodrome

Could be in use two months after work started (A.C.O.S. 1140/16).

Air.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Attack on Stavanger

8 Hudsons from Coastal Command attacked Stavanger aerodrome night of 16-17/5. Reported hits on hangar, which was partially demolished, and slipway. (D.C.N.S.).

Aircraft Markings

Ref: C.A.F.O. 4021/39, roundels red centre then white circle with blue circle outside are being painted on the underside of both lower wings of all British fighter aircraft. F.A.A. aircraft are to conform as soon as practicable. Roundels to be as large as possible but clear of aileron hinges and ailerons. (Hd. of Air Branch, 1725/16).

Balloon Sites

Harwich request to increase balloon barrage sites around Parkeston Quay by at least six referred for remarks. (D. of L.D., to Air Min., 1751/16).
From May 17, a barrage balloon will be flown at Aberporth, Cardigan, during daylight hours only. (Air Min., 1812/16).

Enemy Air Activity

Ostend

Being bombed, ship with refugees cannot leave port. Fighters required (Air Min. recd. 1005/16).

PANAGHIOTIS

Greek (see 15/5). Intercept 1300 to M.T. to Port Captain, Zeebrugge, ship's condition now very critical, heavy list, sinking slowly, request assistance (N. Foreland Radio, 1417/16). (p. 404)

FOUDROYANT
SOMALI

On leaving Narvik for U.K., attacked and bombed by enemy aircraft at 0245/16. No details received (D.C.N.S., 256, I.C., 0453/40). Attacked by 6 Junkers 87 dive bombers from astern, which released bombs at low altitude. (Capt. D(6) 0245/16).

WAR DIARY

HOME COMMANDS.

16.5.40.
Thursday

Operations
Narvik Area.

397

I am satisfied that enemy landing at Kirkenes would meet with sufficient resistance to enable me to intervene, even if I were at Tromso when I heard the news. If enemy landing in force is contemplated consider it would be made much further to westward. Porsanger Fjord likely. This would deny to us use of only aerodrome at present suitable for Hurricanes and is defended by only 30 troops. For examination of landing places and also for A/S screening destroyers are essential; two seriously required. (F.O. Narvik 2230/16).

Operation C.B.X.2

Report of operation by INTREPID on 16/5
(M.09689/40).

A I R.

PINEWOOD

British 2466 tons. Bombed and machine-gunned at 2240 at 50°42'N. 00°42' E. Damaged by M.G. bullets. No casualties. (I.D. Form A.A.)

FULHAM III

British 1594 tons. Machine-gunned at 2240 three miles S.W. of Royal Sovereign L.V. No damage. (I.D. Form A.A.)

Enemy Air Activity

PRINCESS IRENE

Dutch. Report on effect of bomb explosion and passage to Hull. (I.D. Form A/S, I.D. 7327).

EMMA Swedish.

Bombed 0540/16 4 miles West of Mandelaer L/V. No damage. (I.D. Form A.A.)

KINGSBURY.

British 4898 tons. Machine-gunned by a/c. 1020/16. One killed and 3 injured. Ship damaged, but remained seaworthy and proceeded. (Shipping Casualties 165603).



War Diary

16.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

398

Air.

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Tromso

DEVONSHIRE and ENTERPRISE reported activity by enemy aircraft believed to be troop carriers in the vicinity of Tromso, but no evidence of any attempts to land troops. Aircraft in question may have been Heinkel 111's. (I.C., 0453/40).

German Seaplane Destroyed

1 German seaplane believed to be a Dornier was brought down by M.T.B. 24 and observed to sink off Ymuiden at 2215 B.S.T. on Tues. May 14. (S.O., 3rd M.T.B. Flot., 0902/16).

KINGSBURY

2135 G.M.T., KINGSBURY being machine-gunned off Royal Sovereign. (via Portishead Radio, 2137/16).

→ GLADIOLUS

OA 149 (Outward convoy). Am being attacked by enemy aircraft in position 300 R.S.8. (GLADIOLUS, 2246/16).

Portsmouth

An air raid is imminent in the Portsmouth area. (Portsmouth W/T, 2246/16).

→ OA 149.

*Outward bound convoy. attacked off R. Sovereign L.V.
No details known.*

RESOLUTION.

Bombed 1132/16, ¹⁰⁴⁵ anchored in Hol anchorage, Tjeldsundet, 68.33.2 N., 16.25.3 E. Damaged. (See 17/5 and Supplementary Diary). *also see 1 page*



MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

399

Air-British Air Activity

Bergen
Attacked

Nine Skuas of 806 Sqdn. left Hatston 1100/16 to attack Bergen. No warship or transport found, and Squadron was led to secondary objective, fuel tanks at Skaalevik (Knarven). Hits obtained and two tanks set on fire, emitting heavy black smoke, seeing this, remaining aircraft diverted their attack to completing destruction of two remaining tanks at Florgaaspynnt and two petrol tanks at Strudshaven, both targets being destroyed. Though partially surprised, enemy appeared more on the alert than formerly, and fire, though inaccurate and badly controlled, was prompt. He continued to fire a form of barrage for some time after aircraft had withdrawn. Squadron led by Lieut-Com. C.L.G. Evans, R.N. All aircraft returned Hatston at 1450. (M. 010365/40)

Enemy Air Activity

RESOLUTION

Attacked by enemy aircraft, believed 4 Heinkel 111's when anchored in Hol anchorage Tjeldsundet in position 68°33'2" N., 16°25'3" E., Aircraft approached down sun, and not observed until after bombs had been dropped. About 50 bombs dropped within a few minutes. One hit 4½ ft from the ship's side passing through quarter deck. Casualties, 27 injured, 1 killed and 1 died of wounds. Estimated height of aircraft 15,000 feet. Bomb pierced upper deck and main deck into armature store below, through the deck of the armature store and then struck the sloping protective deck, made up of two 40-pound plates of high tensible steel. Bomb apparently burst on hitting sloping deck at a distance of -17 feet from the position of entry. Fires started, and damaged compartments were flooded and closed down for fire to die out. Temporary repairs made by ship's staff. C. in C., states (29/5/40) these give adequate support to side armour and ship is now perfectly seaworthy. (Report of Attack, M. 010719/40)

~~WINCHESTER~~.....

War Diary

16.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

460

Mining.

Operation B.S.5 Initial laying position 52:56 N., 2:56 E. Minelayers PRINCESS VICTORIA and 5 ships of 20th D.F., to be carried out on 18/5 or as soon after as practicable. (D.O.D.(M) 1403/16).

Mines Laid British mines have been laid in approx. position 52:42 N., 04:10 E. (D.D.O.D.(M) 0625/16).

Operation C.B.X.2 Owing to observation by enemy aircraft during approach, centre field has been laid 286° 16 miles approx. down initial position ordered. (INTREPID, 0436/16).

Aalesund Area PORPOISE has laid mines in the Aalesund area. (D.C.N.S., 255).

Mines Exploded Two magnetic mines have been exploded in the Humber area and one was trawled at Margate. (D.C.N.S.).

Ostend WHITSHED reports Channel and harbour magnetic mined but swept. (V.A. Dover, 1445/16).

Home Commands

Shipping

461

Trawling Area

Additional area available for trawling bounded by (a) Lat. $55^{\circ} 55' N$ (b) a line joining St. Abbs Head and Lat $56^{\circ} 10' N$ long $2^{\circ} 03' W$ (c) western edge of declared mined area (Admiralty 2019/16)

Downs Traffic

In the event of traffic in the Downs being stopped for any cause, particularly enemy mining all Guard ships and H.M. Ships will fly the International Signal II (You should remain where you are) No ship is to get under weigh while this signal is flying unless definite instructions to do so are given by a Boarding Officer. (D.T.D., 1648/16)

BOTHNIA

Report received by Swedish Lloyd that BOTHNIA arrived last night at Kiel. Captain and 10 men who left in a lifeboat are on board, all well. (B.B.G., intercept Motala, 2130/16)

Suspicious Fishing Vessels

Sighted by Italian S.S. BARBANAG in approx. $50^{\circ} N 11^{\circ} W$ (C.C.S.O Falmouth 1550/16)

Miscellaneous

WIVERN Commended

In returning WIVERN to you to have her honourable scars made good I am returning a ship whose officers and Ship's company have in adversity displayed morale of the highest quality. (V.A., Dover to C. in C., Portsmouth, 1550/16)

Port B.

First line of net defence is now being laid (No I/C Port B 2210/16)

Enemy Intelligence

Transport

(Attacked by CLYDE 14/5) Nothing further seen, left patrol off Stadlandet (CLYDE 0352/16)

SEALION

Patrol report 4th to 9th May., On 6th May, on Skaw-Oslo rout, fired six torpedoes at two southbound M.V.'s, one of which believed REICHENFELS. Seven minutes later torpedo detonated, 40 seconds later second torpedo detonated, third torpedo heard to detonate some time later. Convoy subsequently observed in disorder apparently stopped. Slight list on one transport. Much Indiscriminate depth charging. May 7 to 9, nothing seen except patrols. (V.A.S., 1831/16)



HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence Contd. 402

3 Transports

3 Large transports reported at 1948 in position 051° 44' North 002° 40' East course 230 speed 15 knots. Patrol in vicinity North Goodwin Falls Bank to intercept. (V.A. Dover, 2310/16) KEITH, VERITY, VENOMOUS)

North Atlantic

ASTURIAS, PATROCLUS, CARINTHIA, CHESHIRE, DERBYSHIRE.

Proceed direct to patrol area, cancelling my 0002/16 (C. in C., W.A. 1033/16)

French Positions

1200/16 (D.C. 0200/16)

Capture of Danish Ships

Your 1530/16 it can be arranged that ships are captured by French patrol and sent to Gibraltar. Request you inform me of details of ships and times of sailing (F.O.C.N.A. 2336/16 to Admiralty)

Should be on p. 405

Your 2017 request instructions regarding Polish and other allied ships. (F.O.C.N.A. 1116/166)

No British and Norwegian Merchant ships to be sailed Eastbound from Gibraltar at present.

0500

Weather

AREA	WIND	VISIBILITY	OUTLOOK
North Sea	E or S.E. Moderate or fresh	Moderate or Good	Similar
Channel (East)	Variable, Light.	Poor	Wind becoming N. Visibility im- proving.
Channel (West)	N.N.W. Fresh	Good	Similar
Horns Reef S. Norway	E.S.E. Fresh or Strong.	Good	Similar
W. Coast Norway	S. Moderate or Fresh	Good	Similar
Dutch Coast	E. Fresh	Moderate or good	Wind becoming variable



MOST SECRET

463

War Diary

16.5.1940.
Thursday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

WINCHESTER

Destroyer, O200/16, off Dunkirk,
struck on wreck, was towed back
on May 20 and beached Portsmouth.
(M. oi3316/40)



War Diary

16.5.1940
Thursday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

404

HUSSAR M/S damaged by mine (F.O. I/C Harwich 0654/16)

TAKU Defects as result of d/c's 8/5 (S2 1217/IS)

WESTMINSTER Damaged in collision with wreck in Dunkirk W. Approach Channel. Forward boiler room flooded, port propeller shaft damaged, W/T out of action. Towed to Dunkirk by tug 0430/16 and dry docked (B.N.L.O. Dunkirk 1020/16)

S.S. PANAGHIOTIS, THEODORE
COULANTAROS ^ Making water fast listing heavily off Zeebrugge (N. Foreland Radio 0934/16). Crew 36, many W., 4 refugees (Scapa W/T 0525/16)

PENELOPE Arrived with ACASTA, ESCORT and tug BANDIT (F.O. Greenock 2303/16)

ESKIMO Work on ESKIMO held up until receipt of oxygen, acetyline, etc., (VINDICTIVE, 1100/16)

~~WESTMINSTER~~ ~~Damaged in collision with wreck off Dunkirk west approach channel. No casualties. (B.N.L.O., Dunkirk 1020/16)~~
See above.

SOMALI If condition permits, to proceed Liverpool with FOUDROYANT in company CURLEW to part company at Cape Wrath and proceed Scapa (C. in C., 2224/16)

Position 2000 C.X.W.S. 1808 course 205 11 knots. CURLEW and FOUDROYANT in company. Damage has not increased and ship is steaming comfortable. Tug BRIMAND not required so have ordered her to return to base. In view of her previous orders am now instructing CURLEW to proceed to Scapa also. (Capt. (D) 6 2150/16)



War Diary

16.5.1940
Thursday.

405

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic (part of page displaced, see under Enemy Intel; p.402)

French Patrols

French patrol up to 40 miles off Spanish and Portuguese Coast. French dragueur ELAN between 41° N and 41° 30' N., ~~steer~~ m/s COMMANDANT DUBOC between 42° 30' N and 315° from Corunna. ~~steer~~ m/s CHEVREUIL between 315° from Corunna and long 07° W. Auxiliary patrol vessel MEDOC and aircraft E of 07° W Patrol vessel CAPRICORNE on patrol off River Tagus. Patrol vessel TERRE-NEUVE on patrol off Cape St. Vincent. Patrol vessels BISON and LAITA on patrol from Huelva to Cadiz. (F.O.C.N.A., 2258/16 to A.M.C's on patrol)

Las Palmas,
Air bombs

Known fact 25 tons of war explosives and 250 aerial bombs of 250 kilos each landed here yesterday Wednesday. (N.C.S.O., Las Palmas, 1150/16)

Ocean Convoys etc.

Positions (D.C. 1355/16)

Danish Ships.

Re negotiations to capture them just outside Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1530/16)

South Atlantic

DUNVEGAN CASTLE

To act as escort to convoy S.L.32 Route C. in. C., S.A. 1221/16)

Italian Warships

Requesting information of whereabouts of any Italian warships and submarines known to be outside Mediterranean. (C. in C., 0857/16)

Enemy Mines

Enemy moored mines were found off Cape Agulhas. 34° 50' S., 20° 00' E., on 15/5. (D.D.I.C., 2015/16)

Possible Raider

It is likely that an armed merchant raider may be abroad in the South Atlantic or Indian Ocean. The British ship SCIENTIST, which left Durban on 27/4, is overdue at Fremantle, where she should have arrived on 10/5. (I.C., 0453/40)

Mediterranean

Depot Ship

Reinforcements of Med. Fleet Destroyer Flotillas make presence of a destroyer depot ship at Alexandria very necessary. C. in C., Med., 1813/16)

GRIMSBY

To sail for Med. as soon as possible instead of EGRET (D.O.D., (H), 1536/16)



War Diary

16.5.1940
Thursday.

406

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

Italian Mine Layer

Cruiser not clearly identified but probably TERRANTO seen in inner Brindisi Harbour, 15/5. Loading mines (C.2) Net defence and boom vessel reported at entrance to harbour. (N.A., Rome, 1737/16)

REX)
CONTE DI SAVOIA)

Not to be interfered with. If they call voluntarily at Gibraltar to be allowed to proceed without examination. (D.O.D., (H) 2120/16)

Searched Channels

Admiralty 1857/3 It is not desired to establish any secret search channels for warships in Mediterranean until mine-sweeping force is increased. (C. in C., Med., 1425/16)

Italy, Istanbul Sailings

Admiralty 1834/15 report suspension of sailings to Istanbul by Adriatica Line no confirmation and at present no indication. (A.N.A., Istanbul, 1246/16)

Instructions to Shipping

My 0045/18^b. Instructions contained in first sentence are cancelled. Ships from West Coast of India and Persian Gulf bound through the Mediterranean are to be routed via Cape of Good Hope. (1st. S.L., 1622/16)

CALEDON & CAPETOWN

At sea eastern Mediterranean positions unknown.

RORQUAL

33° N 28° E to Malta (D.C. to B.N.L.O. Marceau 0731/16)

Shipping Diverted

Until further orders no British or Norwegian merchant ships are to be sailed eastbound from Gibraltar, or Westbound from Port Said, Alexandria, Haifa or Cyprus. (A.C.N.S., 2016/16, 2017/16)

Reinforcements

Your 1951/15. Intend to sail Group 1 about 2000 and Group 2 less EGRET at 1630 today Thursday. Probable date of completion of EGRET cannot be stated at present (C. in C., W.A. 1243/16)

Air escort required ~~by~~ 2 destroyers escorting one battalion to embark at Gib. in ORONSAY for Malta (D.O.D. (f) 1858/16 to F.O.C.N.A)



War Diary

16/5/1940
Thursday.

467

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

Asking for Aircraft.

Governor apprehensive of air raids or raids by sea by small parties of Germans from Venezuela. Recommend one flight fighter aircraft based Hato air port Curacao. Request detachment A/A and S/L now at Bermuda be sent here earliest opportunity (Willenstad 0156/16)

Convoy H X 43

Sailed from Halifax 16 May (Canadian S.O. 1) Halifax 1325/16)

DIOMEDE

My 0222/12 Request date by which DIOMEDE is required at Halifax to escort troop transports to Jamaica. (C. in C., A.W.A., 1320/16)

China

Mischievous Reports

Examples of reports made by ill-advised persons to cause uneasiness and compromise our position with third powers. Every effort should be made to trace and discredit such reports. (C. in C., China, to C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0205/16)

Australia

Convoy U.S. 3.

In view of possible holding up of X 5 and X 6 Cape Town owing Asiatic crew trouble suggest ORCADES due Colombo homeward bound 17th May and STRATHNAVER British due Aden homeward bound 17 May be diverted to Cape Town to replace X5 and X 6 for onward passage to U.K. Convoy due Cape Town 26th May. (Australian Commonwealth Naval Board to Admiralty 0901/16)

SHROPSHIRE and AUSTRALIA to escort convoy from rendezvous "A" to Capetown and SHROPSHIRE and CUMBERLAND from Capetown to Freetown (C. in C., S. Atlantic 0550/16)

Manning New Ships

Admiralty 1900/14. proposed to man new ships with Australians. Commonwealth Govt., agree in principle to these proposals and request details be arranged between Naval Control Service staff and Commonwealth Naval Board. C.N.B., are glad to get such satisfactory reports of Australian personnel and welcome opportunity for further co-operation in home waters (A.C.N.B., 0759/16)



WAR DIARY

FOREIGN STATIONS

16. 5. 40.
Thursday

408

America & West Indies.

Dispositions.

To be assumed in event of war against
Italy in near future.
(C. in C.A.W. 11425/16).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

A/C of 220 Squadron

Attacked S/m. 200 miles N.W.
Horn's Reef. Four bombs dropped
U-boat incidents No. 254.



War Diary

16.5.1940
Thursday

409

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

STEINBERG

1319 G.T. ordered by W/T at 0552/16 to enquire at Southern Pilot Station, Great Belt. (I.C., 0452/40) For course through Great Belt.

WILHELM A RIEDEMANN

Tanker 10326 G.T. informed Tallin she would arrive 2200/16 (I.C., 0452/40)

RHEINLAND

2570 G.T. informed at 0953/15 her port of discharge was Lubeck. (I.C. 0452/40)

REICHENFELS

Submarine SEALION reports that on 6/5 she fired 6 topedoes at two southbound M.V's, one believed to be REICHENFELS. 3 detonations heard and one transport observed to have a slight list. (D C N S)

America & West Indies

RHAKOTIS

Reported (A.I) about to sail at 2300 G.M.T. today 16/5 for Hamburg (G.O.L., Callas, 1429/16) sailed at 2350 G.M.T. cleared for Hamburg but probably sailing for Vladivostock with additional engineers other German ship at Callas. W/T installation has been returned (S.O. (I) CALLAS 1859/16)

U- BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

HAGA Swedish, mined or torpedoed to the westward of entrance to Skagerrak at 1500/16 Four of crew lost, 12 rescued by enemy submarine (D.C.N.S) Gothenburg, 1503/16)

Submarines Reported

0930 By aircraft 56° 5'N 28° 0'E (aircraft 0930/16)(See Attacks)

Estimated Dispositions

1 in 56° 05'N, 4° 28'E at 0930/16, co N Possibly 1 patrolling north channel Possibly 1 in W. Approaches No further deductions possible. (D.D.I.C. 1352/16)

Submarines Attacked

2138 By aircraft 53 48'N., 05.50'E off Terschelling, unsuccessful. (I.C., 0453/40)

0930 By aircraft, 220 Sqdn., 56°05'N., 4° 28'E., result not known. aircraft 0930/16 (I.C., 0452/40)

1158 By ATHERSTONE, 59.05' N., 05.56'W., 320° N. Rona 4'. Presence of U/B doubtful. (I.C.)

Air craft reported when off North Rona (Skye) 1600 she saw a destroyer circling round an extensive oil patch. The destroyer, ATHERSTONE, signalled that she considered the submarine was on the bottom and had been destroyed. (Donibristle 1810/16)

The wreck of a Norwegian merchant ship in the above position has been attacked 3 times previously in mistake for a U-Boat.

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.



SITUATION REPORT.

411

HOME.

Mining.

Mines are still being cut and detonated in the Tyne area, and also in the Yarmouth area and a magnetic mine in the Forth.

The Minefields in Dover Straits and off the East Coasts are to be strengthened. Operation R.M. was continued last night.

New Cruisers

FIJI and BONAVENTURE are now in commission.

LOW COUNTRIES

Flushing

Demonstrations
~~Demonstrations~~ by the Naval party under Comdr. Cazelet commenced 1730/17.

Five refugee ships left Ostend 1600/17. There is no further news of them yet.

NORWAY

Casualties

EFFINGHAM grounded at 1750/17 and was badly holed and is total loss. (p. 419)

MATABLE, which was with EFFINGHAM was also slightly damaged and returned to Harstad with COVENTRY and CAIRO, EFFINGHAM'S ship's company and all military.

RESOLUTION hit by bomb^{16/5} and slightly damaged.

Convoy Attacked

3 Hudson aircraft carried out a bombing attack on a convoy of 7 ships with destroyer escort at 0715/17, 10 miles West of Lister. There were several near misses, and one of the convoy was seen to be listing heavily and emitting steam. There was no opposition from enemy aircraft.

Air Raid on Stavanger

A successful air raid was carried out at 0145/17 on Stavanger Aerodrome, one hanger and run ways being damaged.

W/T intercepts showed that 2 groups of enemy aircraft estimated to number 30 aircraft, were operating off the Norwegian coast at 1900/17, flying towards Narvik.

ICELAND

The Troop convoy arrived at Rykjavik 1200/17. Disembarkation began at 1700.

Casualty

GUARDIAN, laying nets on the coast grounded on an uncharted rock on the coast 16/5. She is still able to proceed, but will require to return to U.K. for immediate docking.



412

War Diary17.5.1940.
Friday.SITUATIONS REPORTFOREIGN STATIONSRaider

It is possible that a raider is at large. On 2/5 SS CITY OF EXETER sighted a suspicious vessel, in the South Atlantic.

SS SCIENTIST is overdue; and mines were found 15/5 off Cape Agulhas. The German wireless states (18/5) that these mines were laid by units of the German Navy.

It would have been possible for the ship sighted 2/5 to have sunk the SCIENTIST and also to have laid the mines off Cape Agulhas.

On 4/5 a tanker was sighted in the South Atlantic. The German tanker WINNETOU has been unreported since 9/5.

Italian Situation

New York

With small exceptions, Italian merchant shipping programmes remain normal. Loading of Italian tankers in Mexico continue according to programme. The REX, inward bound from ~~NEW YORK~~, did not call at Gibraltar 17/5. CONTE DI SAVOIA (48,502 tons) outward bound for New York called voluntarily at Gibraltar, but was not subjected to control.

No more British or Norwegian ships are being routed through the Mediterranean at present. The civil populations of Aden and Gibraltar are to be evacuated forthwith.

Enemy Air Activity

Activity by enemy aircraft in all areas was less than normal today.

Transport aircraft were busy throughout the day and reports were received showing flights Jever/Stavanger, Trondheim/Oldenburg, with intermediate refuelling at Aalborg, and Aalborg/Utersen. At 1730, one aircraft announced that he had carried out his task and was flying to Gardermoen, the first instance in which an aircraft of this type has been reported landing in that area (Oslo).

Norwegian activity was very much less, although messages from enemy aircraft may relate to a bombing incident in the Narvik area.

The meteorological flight was out as usual, the area of observation being the north central area of the North Sea, this activity was first heard at 0700 hours.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

River Clyde

Nineteen neutral ships searched by Customs last night with quite satisfactory results. (F.O. Glasgow, to Adty. 1044/17).

Clyde

In view of possibility of neutral ships entering Clyde with intention of sinking themselves in channel or landing troops, orders have been given for all such ships to be detained at examination anchorage and searched. Request that examination staff may be re-inforced forthwith for this purpose from contraband control service. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to Adty. 1107/17).

Home Security

D. of L.D. gave details of decisions made on 16th May by the Home Defence Executive. Demolitions etc. at mercantile ports were being arranged to render the ports unserviceable for seven days. (M.S.M.).

Cruisers at Nore.

In view of enemy's destroyer and transport commitments in Norway, I doubt if destroyer attack in Nore Command is likely at present. GALATEA and ARETHUSA are boiler cleaning at Portland. If you need them North I am quite ready to surrender them until situation changes. (C. in C. Note to C. in C. H.F. 1304/17)

See next page.

You will realise that cruiser support for our destroyers is an urgent need on any occasion when the enemy shows signs of making an attack with surface forces. (C. in C., Nore, 1324/17 to C. in C., H.F.).

Wick Aerodrome

Defence against parachute troops causing some concern. Request consideration to strengthening defences and to stationing reinforcements at Thurso. (A.C.O.S., 1750/17).

Lowestoft

Am improvising examination service at Lowestoft and have closed that harbour from sunset to sunrise to all ships unless they have permission from Commander M/S, Lowestoft. No lights will be shown in harbour at night. (N.O.I.C., Yarmouth, 1640/17).

Jersey Airport

Repeating Air Min. 2240/16. Adty. consider responsibility pertains to Governor of Jersey with whom S.N.O. Jersey should co-operate. (Hd. of A., 2317/17).



War Diary

17.5.40.
Friday

414

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

GALATEA
ARETHUSA

Offer to release them if needed. (C. in C.,
Nore to C. in C., H.F., 1304/17). Thank
you. I think they are better down south
at present. (C. in C., H.F., 1404/17).

See previous page.

Submarines

Position 0600/18 and movements for 24 hours
(V.A.S. 2019/17).

MAIDSTONE

Your 1431/16. Approved to relieve CYCLOPS
in 3rd Submarine Flotilla. To be sailed
for Rosyth as soon as escorts available.
(D.O.D.(H) 0040/17).

MONTCALM
BRESTOIS
BOULONNAIS

French Cruiser MONTCALM with French Destroyers
BRESTOIS and BOULONNAIS left Brest 1500
16th May. (F.O.C.N.A., 1004/17).



HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Dutch Coast

Zeeland, Surrender.

Following received Humber Radio:
S.O.S. To German General in Command,
Netherlands. Dutch Troops have laid down
their arms in Walcheren and North Beveland.
Please stop bombardment of towns and villages.
Commander, Zeeland. (F.O. Humber, 1950/17).

Terschelling
Lightship

Dutch request that crew of Terschelling
Lightship should be removed. Request you
will arrange for this to be done by a
submarine. (D.O.D.(H) to V.A.S., 1456/17).

L.23 detailed for this duty. (V.A.S., 1739/17)

Operations D.F. & E.F. Belgian Coast.

Force sailed

Force has sailed and expect to arrive 0830/18
(Adty. to B.N.L.O. Marceau 1925/17, D.O.D.(H),
1022/17).

Operations D.F. and E.F. are to proceed but
blocking is not to take place without orders
from Adty. (V.C.N.S. 1247/17 to VEGA).

F.O.D.E. and staff arrive Sheerness 1200/17
(Com. Garnons-Williams, 1013/17).

S.O.'s ship VEGA expects to leave Sheerness
at 1300/17. Route to Ostend and Zeebrugge.
(D.O.D.(H) 1030/17). Requesting A/S escort
(D.O.B.(H) 1031/17).

Sail forces D and E. Time of arrival of
Force E to be 0830/18 (D.O.D.(H), 1035/17).

Request available ships of 6th M.S. Flot.
be sailed to R.V. with D and E at N. Goodwin
at 2000/17. (D.O.D.(H) 1041/17).

F.O.D.E. has assumed command of Forces D and
E in VEGA (F.O.D.E. 1401/17).

Request you will detail 2 destroyers to take
demolition parties with stores to Ostend
and Zeebrugge. (D.O.D.(H) 1914/17).

War Diary17.5.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations
Belgian Coast - Operations D.F., E.F.Operation postponed

For Comdr. Peterson. Operation postponed. Keep approaches to Ostend and Zeebrugge clear as far as possible (D.O.D.(H) 2318/17 to B.N.L.O. Dunkirk). Anchor as convenient in swept channel. (C. in C., Nore, to F.O.D.E., VEGA, 2046/17). Forces anchored in swept channel (F.O.D.E. 2200/17). Operation postponed and force returning to Sheerness. (D.C., 2221/17 to Air Min.)

Refugees

Of the 300,000 refugees the French wish to evacuate from Belgium 100,000 will be brought to Folkestone and Southampton and 200,000 to French west coast ports. Two railway steamers are already working from Zeebrugge and Ostend. (M.S.M.)

3 ships sailed with refugees (V.A.Dover, 1325/17).

Operations - Dutch Warships

GRUNO

Your 1146/16. Dutch authorities have agreed to GRUNO working under your orders for Thames Local Defence, but she should be degaussed before service. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., Nore, 1454/17).

Z.6, Z.7

Dutch T.B.'s Z.6 and Z.7 arrived. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1849/17). See p. 418

List

Particulars of Dutch Naval Forces in home waters. (D.N.I. 2120/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

Submarines

Submarines of the Dutch Flotillas now forming at Portsmouth will shortly be operating in southern part of North Sea. Instructions for escort and liaison (V.A.S., 1941/17). Surface vessel required to escort them between Portsmouth and the Downs, etc. T.B.'s Z.6 and Z.8 are suitable (V.A.S., 1839/17).

Minesweepers

Intend sailing Dutch minesweepers DIRKJE, CLAESJE, AMSTERDAM, BLOEMENDAAL, OMMERING for Portsmouth 0530/18. (N.O.I.C., Ramsgate, 2140/17). Sailed ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Harwich to Spithead (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1053/17).



War Diary

17.5.1940
Friday

417

HOME COMMANDS

Norway-Narvik

Swordfish
Refuelling

Swordfish may require refuelling landing ground near Porsanger or Veranger Fiords. Confirm that Banak available. Reports on this and military aerodrome near Nyborg required urgently stating firm date when serviceable for Swordfish (Air Min. 1237/17)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Dutch Warships

MEDUSA and
DOUWELAUKES

Dutch Minelayers arrived Dover 0835. T.B. 17 sailed for Spithead with Z.6 from Ramsgate (V.A., Dover, 0852/17). See p. 416.

Operation Quixote, Cutting of Cables.

Adty. 2055/15. Intend to carry out operation Quixote commencing at daylight Sunday 19/5. Air and destroyer protection (C. in C., Nore, 1644/17). Orders to PUFFIN and JACKAL (C. in C., Nore, 1714/17)

Norway - Narvik.

A.A. defence

Spare barrels for Oerliken guns, twelve additional guns and A.A. rates asked for cannot be supplied at present (D.T.S.D. to F.O. Narvik, 1256/17).

N.S.3

Owing to heavy air attacks on ships in this area and congestion in harbour OLEANDER, CYPRIAN PRINCE and PIONEER of 1st part of N.S.3 and 7 ships of 2nd part are being kept at sea probably until fighter aircraft are available on 22/5 (F.O. Narvik, 2009/17).

WALKER, FIREDRAKE to escort MARINA, DROMORE CASTLE, PEMBROKE COAST, GUNVOR MARSK to Harstad, arriving 0500/19. Remainder of convoy remain within 50 miles to N.W. of 71° N., 8° E. until otherwise ordered. STORK, FLEETWOOD to meet you 19/5. (F.O., Narvik, 1453/17).

Trawlers

Your 1818/16. Trawlers have been ordered to proceed to Skjel Fiord, nearest safe anchorage to Bodo where they are required but it was considered inadvisable to send them direct to Bodo owing to possible developments. (D.O.D.(H) 1453/12 to F.O. Narvik).

ENTERPRISE

Proceed as necessary to anchor off Harstad 1600/18 (F.O. Narvik, 1945/17).



HOME COMMANDS

419

OPERATIONS

Narvik

M.A/S.B's.

F.O. Narvik's 0033/16 Capt. D.8 after experience in Narvik area suggests motor A/S boats would have many advantages over trawlers or destroyers for A/S operations in inland waters Narvik area. Suggest this to release destroyers (C. in C., H.F. 1032/17 Not possible, only 3 available and no depot ship. Fairmiles will be sent later if practicable, not available before July (D.A.S W. 2145/17)

Air Reconnaissance

Requested, to discover enemy aircraft at or using Rombaken and Rombaks Fiord, and signs of movement south shores of Rombaks Fiord etc Request bombing of targets in these areas particularly Sildvik Hundalen (F.O. Narvik, to R.A.A., 1731/17)

Iron Ore

Ministry of Shipping anxious to send approx. one ship a week to Kirkenes to load iron ore. One Finnish ship now available Petsamo for this purpose. Any Objection? (A.C.F.S., 1822/17) Prize German ship DOED sailed from Tromso for Kirkenes to load ore, escort trawler ULLSWATER. (F.O.I.C.S., 2141/17)

Norwegian Warships

List in Northern Norwegian waters (D.N.I., 1727/17)

EFFINGHAM
MATABELE grounded.

EFFINGHAM has touched rock and is holed. (F.O. to C.S., 1951/17) Boiler room, Engine room and some magazines flooded, fear will become total loss. MATABELE starboard A bracket damaged and spirit room flooded, otherwise sound. (F.O. to C.S. 2044/17)

SUPPLEMENT 812

833

COVENTRY, CAIRO and MATABELE returning to Harstad with all military and EFFINGHAM'S ship's company, leaving Capt. Howson in ECHO. trying to arrange to tow EFFINGHAM into deep water and sink her. (F.O. to C.S., 2301/17)

Can VINDICTIVE approach and be of use? If EFFINGHAM is as bad as you fear do not risk efficient ship to save her. Concentrate on getting troops ashore and crew in safety and destroy her. (F.O., Narvik, 0005/18)

RESOLUTION Bombed

RESOLUTION in the Narvik area was hit by a bomb 10/5 which pierced 3 decks and caused slight damage. The casualties are one dead and 9 wounded. RESOLUTION is returning to U.K. (D.C.D.S 19/5)



War Diary

17.5.1940
Friday

420

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

Iceland- Operations Fork, Alabaster. ✓

GUARDIAN netlaying grounded

Admiralty 1547/16. Expect to complete net-laying Iceland approx. 22/5. Ship touched ground 16/5 damaging and putting out of action A.3 and B.7. oil fuel tanks, both reserve feeding tanks, after wireless compartment and flour store. Ship can safely steam but immediate docking on leaving Iceland essential, escort desirable. (GUARDIAN, 0930/17) Struck uncharted pinnacle rock in position 351° 1.3 miles from Eyrarfjall. May require re-survey. (Reykjavik, 2223/17)

Alabaster Arrived

Arrived noon, disembarkation of unit commences 1700. (Sturges, Alabaster, Reykjavik, 1636/17) troops being landed throughout night (Reykjavik 2222/17)

Convoy A B 2

Convoy A.B. 2. (2 M.8 ships, store ship and patrol ship) will leave Clyde 23/5 (D.O.D.(H) 2007/17 to Jolly, Reykjavik)

Submarines

CLYDE

Patrol report, May 3-15 (5.9, 1251/17)
Arrived Dundee (5.9, 0613/17)

ACHILLE

French. Obligated to dive for last 48 hours owing to calm sea, moon, aircraft and surface patrols. Have been sighted on surface and closely bombed on 4 occasions (ACHILLE 1221/17)

Air

British Air Activity

Reconnaissances

To be flown daily until further orders. (C. in C., Rosyth 2214/17)

Air Searches for tomorrow (C. in C., Rosyth, 2044/17)

Squadron Commands

My 1254/17 and Air Min. X501/17/5. 815, 819, 825 and 826 Sqdns. to come under operational control of Coastal Command as from receipt of this signal (to N.A.D., 2020/17)

Your 1335/17. As the war at sea is by no means over and as aircraft carriers and their squadrons may be required on their proper

SUPPLEMENT

Air Contd. (Squadron Commands)

duties at any time, it is essential that these F.A.A. Squadrons should be maintained ready for embarkation in their ships. Admiralty, however, are agreeable to certain squadrons operating temporarily under Coastal Command on the distinct understanding that they are only used against sea targets or for Gardening or counter-invasion duties. Should not be used for operations over land without prior admiralty agreement. (D.N.A.D., 2009/17 to Air Ministry)

Position of Aerodromes in Norway

D.N.I. to C. in C., Home Fleet 0044/17.

Attacks on Stavanger Aerodrome

Donibristle to H.Q.C.C., 0720/17
Naval Annexe, Donibristle to Adlty. 0420/17. Dropped all bombs in salvo over runways. (Donibristle to Admlty. 0445/17)

Reconnoitring Norwegian Coast

One section of Blenheims leave Shetlands about 0630/ to reconnoitre coast from 62° N to 59° N (C. in C., Rosyth 0554/17)

Reconnaissance of German Ports

Special photographic reconnaissance of the German main bases and harbours was attempted twice 16/5, but was prevented by cloud. (M.S.M)

Enemy Air Activity

Narvik

2 groups of enemy aircraft off Norwegian coast. Appears to be unusual amount. May be directed against Narvik area. Position at 2010 59° 00'N 05° 30'E and 68° 00'N., 16° 00'E. Total numbers about 30 (D.C., 2209/17)

Mining

East Coast Barrage

529 A Z. East Coast mine barrage. Serial No 18. Line B.S.S. is about to be laid extending for 6.75 miles in a direction 360° from position 52° 56'N., 02° 56'E. (D.D.O.D. (M) 1141/17)

Extension of deep minefield between the Varne and Colbert shoals is to proceed under the orders of V.A. Dover. HAMPTON is to be employed on this operation. Mines being embarked at Portsmouth. D.D.O.D. (M) 1234/17

Operations R.M.

125 mines were laid last night (M.S.M)

Shipping

Dutch Trawlers

All found north of a line joining Dover and Calais, whether fishing or not, should be captured and sent in (D.T.D., 1938/17)

Dutch Shipping in German hands.

It is estimated that approximately 242,994 tons of merchant shipping was in Dutch ports, and consequently in German hands 17/5. This figure excludes (a) Ymuiden where it is probable that the few ships present were sunk when the port was destroyed by the Allies.

(b) Flushing, where demolitions commenced 17/5.

(c) Ships launched within the last 3 months or still on the slips.

Of the 41 ships at Rotterdam totalling 207,555 tons, two, the STATENDAM (28391 tons) and VEENDAM (15450 tons) are reported to have been badly damaged by fire.

N.C.S.O. returned from Amsterdam reported that only five ships over 1000 tons and only 23 smaller were left there. (M.S.M)

EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER

{ French ship, is missing in Convoy (EPERVIER to N.O. Z/Z Greenock 0450/17)
* Had collision about 0100 close Ailsa Craig. (EPERVIER to NO Z/Z Greenock 0830/17) *see p. 445*

Miscellaneous

Iceland

Landing facilities at Reykjavik and Hafnarfjordur (Jolly, Reykjarvik to Admlty. 0930/17)

Swedish Destroyers

My 1020/15, fuelling of Swedish destroyer and depot ship at Queenstown and Kirkwall. Expect to sail for Queenstown via Vigo about 21/5. (N.A. Lisbon, 1558/17)

Lifeboat Sighted

French steamer SAN MATEO reports sighting water-logged ships lifeboat with name LONDON on it on 12th May. at 032.45 N 012 12'W. (S.O.I. Gibraltar to Admlty. 1232/17)

* *British ss. ST. KEANAN, 691 tons, was sunk in collision with a ship thought to be the Dutch ss EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER. (D.O.R., 258, 19.5.40)*



HOME COMMANDS

WEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	N.E. Moderate	Good, Hazy on Coast.	Similar
Channel	N.E. Moderate	Moderate to Good	Similar
Western Approaches	Variable Moderate	Very Good	S.E., Moderate Moderate Visibility.
Horns Reef.	N.E. Moderate to Fresh.	Good	Similar
Terschelling	East, Moderate	Moderate to Good.	N.E., Moderate Visibility Good.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

M.V. Hit

Two enemy convoys sighted by aircraft A.M. today off S. Norway. Course S.E. Attacked and believed one M.V. hit. (Admiralty, to B.N.L.O. Marceau)(1925/17)

Convoy Attacked

At 0125, 2 destroyers accompanying 7 merchant vessels were sighted by aircraft 10'N.W. Egersund, course 150. This convoy apparently joined up with another consisting of 5 ships escorted by 2 destroyers and both were in position approx. 60 miles W of Hantsholm steering 100° at 0810. The Ships were bombed, apparently without result. (I.C., 0453/40)

Aircraft Reports

Two destroyers and seven merchant vessels in J.S.N.D. 3040 at 0125/17 (Duty Captain to submarines on patrol 0314/17)

Two destroyers, five merchant vessels in M B J R 5025 and two destroyers with seven M/V's in M B J V 4534 (Aircraft 224 Squadron to 18 group R.H.Q. 0835/17)

Two convoys one of seven ships and two destroyers other of five ships and two destroyers at M B R U 0750 (Aircraft 233 Squadron to 18 R.H.q. 0810/17)

Attacked enemy with bombs level. Estimate no hits. (Aircraft 224 Squadron to 18 R.H.Q. 0857/17)

War Diary

17.5.1940
Friday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

425

EFFINGHAM

Grounded, badly damaged (See Operations Narvik)

MATABELE

Grounded, slight damage. (do)

GUARDIAN

Grounded, damaged (See Operations, Iceland)

EXPLORATEUR GRANDIER

In collision 0100/17 near Ailsa Craig (see Shipping)

JAN PIETERSZOOEN COEN

(11,140 tons) sunk in south entrance of Ymuiden as block ships by British Naval forces during operations in Holland.

NAALDWIJK (Tr)

DORIS

French submarine overdue and considered lost. (D.N.I. 2138/17)



War Diary

17.5.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

426

North Atlantic

A.M.C'B.

My 2258/16 and 1822/15 Admiral Africa is in agreement with my initial dispositions. French dispositions in my 459/16 can be maintained (F.O.C.N.A., 1132/17)

REX

Passed West to East 1430 without entering. (F.O.C.N.A. 1512/17)

CONTE DI SAVOIA

After voluntarily calling, proceeded westward (F.O.C.N.A. 1246/17)

Danger Area

Intercept. Genoa informed Tripoli and Benghazi that it is necessary to avoid area Voltorno between parallels $40^{\circ} 54'$ $40^{\circ} 54' 50''$ N and $41^{\circ} 0'$ N and Meridians $13^{\circ} 52' 50''$ E and $13^{\circ} 58' 40''$ E because of submerged obstacle. (G.G(1) Malta 1537/17)

South Atlantic

Enemy Mines

Following O.G.A. 29 issued from Cape town. Agulhas Bank. Enemy moored mines have been laid on bank. All ships should avoid passing over bank within 100 fathom lines. (S.O(I), Colombo, 0344/17 to all concerned)

Mines may have been laid by suspicious ship seen near St. Helena 2/5 (D.C. 1925/17)

Suspicious Ships

*This was Raider C
ATLANTIS,
Captain Bomhard
Rogge*

A vessel is reported to have been sighted at 1500/2 by SS CITY OF EXETER in $16^{\circ} 38'S$ $1^{\circ} 12'E$ (600 miles West of Portugese West Africa). She had Japanese colours painted on the side, but there is believed to be no Japanese ship in this area. The SS SCIENTIST, which is overdue at Freetown, would have been in this area 3/5 (I.C.C. 454/40)

Suspicious ship sighted 4/5 $26^{\circ} 10'S$ $26^{\circ} 30'W$ described as 10,000 old type steam driven tanker, fully loaded, black funnel and hull, grey upperworks. Steering N.W. 10 knots.

Reference this report, the German tanker WINNETOU (5115 tons) built 1913, reciprocating steam engines is unreported. Left Las Palmas 9/4 and could have been in above position at the time stated.

FOREIGN STATIONS

427

South Atlantic (Contd.)

German Tanker RUDOLF ALBRECHT (3815 tons built 1922, reciprocating steam engines left Azores 8/5 and has not been reported since, and may therefore be acting as a supply ship. (I.C. 0454/40)

Mediterranean.

Albanian Ports,
Defences placed.

Durazzo reports approaches to all Albanian ports have been mined and boom placed at Durazzo Harbour entrance. (S.O.I. Malta to Admiralty 1401/17)

RANCE

French oiler, arrived Gibraltar 17th May 1915 and sailed eastwards 1923 (S.O.I. Gibraltar at Admiralty 2334/17)

Egypt Air Defences

Fifty Hurricanes are being prepared for flying out to Egypt at the end of June. (M.S.M.)

Diversion of Shipping

D.T.D. reported that no more ships were being allowed to enter the Mediterranean. Admiralty tankers west of Aden were continuing to Suez but other traffic was being diverted round the Cape. (MSM)

AASE MAERSK

Managers report that master and officers refuse to sail. Report reason. (D.T.D. 0236/17 to N.C.S.O. Haifa) Fear of reprisals on their families in Denmark (N.OIC Haifa 1907/17)

Gibraltar

Understand Colonial Office have ordered evacuation of civil population to be implemented forthwith. Re shipping arrangements (D of S T 1045/17)

Reinforcements

Your 1951/15 Intended to sail CARLISLE HEReward, HAVOCK, ~~HERO~~, HERO and IMPERIAL about 2100/17. Captain D.14. in JANUS with JUNE, MOHAWK, ILEX, and KIMBERLEY to sail later when Royal Air Force stores have been embarked. GRIMSBY to sail independently when ready. C. in C. W.A. 1227/17)

re A.A. Defences at Alexandria.

Admiralty 0003/15 (Italian escorts and escorted vessels not to be interfered with) will with hold order as long as

Mediterranean Contd.,

possible but present situation is most unsatisfactory on account of permission given for Italian bombers to pass through Egypt landing at Alexandria. Squadrons are due 19/5 and 26/5 and I consider warning Government to be urgently asked to withdraw this permission or at least prohibit use of aerodromes near Alexandria. Understand French aircraft are now proceeding via Abadan to Syria so no question of reciprocity arises. (C in C., Med. 1319/17)

East Indies

FALMOUTH

Excessive wear in propeller shaft bush. To dock at Colombo 19/5 (C. in C., E.I. 1436/17)

LEANDER

To remain under East Indies Command for the present. (D.O.D.(F) 0041/17)

CARAIBE

French armed Fleet Auxiliary arrived Durban 1500 16th May from Tulean Madagascar (N.O.I.C. Durban to C. in C., E.I. 0805 Z/17)

Aden

Understand Colonial Office have ordered evacuation to India of Civil population numbering approx. 180 Europeans and 2000 Indians forthwith. Re. ships to be used (D. of S.T. 1038/17)

Shatt-el-Arab

Situation- Italian ships unloading (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1015Z/17)

HILDA

Italian ship with cargo of explosives (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1059/17)

Quteibi

Air H.Q. Aden 1024/17

U.S. 2.

RAMILLIES, SUPFREN arrived Suez with convoy U.S.2. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal to Admiralty 0927/17)

America and West Indies.

Degaussing.

Large numbers of ships arriving for Bermuda Convoy require degaussing or repairs to degaussing equipment. Minimum time to degauss 6 days in dockyard or 10 days private contract. Only 2 ships can be undertaken at same time. Is this delay acceptable in case of loaded ships? (C. in C., A.W.I., 1330/17)

War Diary

17.5.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies Contd.

429

Transport and escort required for 4800 troops ready at Halifax 3/6 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to Admiralty, 1809/16)

Your 0222/12, (One destroyer required to escort troop transport to Jamaica) After local escort duties 24/5 one destroyer will be at your disposal. Assume you will issue orders regarding when she will part company from convoy and return to Bermuda.

Your 1320/16, (date by which H.M.S. DIOMEDE is required to escort troop transport) Military unit sailing in 2 parts in LADY DRAKE first sailing 24th May and second about 6th June from Halifax. (C.N.S. Ottawa 1713/17 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

C.N.S. Ottawa 1713 17th May if EMERALD is not required to supplement REVENGE as escort for T.C. 5 it is probable she could be made available as escort for second part if this would help. (R.A. 3 B.S. 18/42/17 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Australia

U.S.3.

Sailed from Fremantle with following personnel QUEEN MARY 4381, AQUITANIA 3200, EMPRESS OF BRITAIN 1900, MAURITANIA 2300, EMPRESS of CANADA 1300, EMPRESS OF JAPAN 1150, ANDES 1450. Each ship provisioned for 36 days all types plus seven days dry stores. (Australian C.N. Board to C. in C., South Atlantic 1449Z/16)

My 0432Z/9 in view of Italian situation should these vessels be routed via Cape Town (A.C.N.B. 0144Z/17 to Admiralty)

AUSTRALIA

Admiralty 1730/5 Commonwealth Govt. agree to H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA being made suitable for service on 19th June for period of not less than year in exchange for an 8-in cruiser of R.N., C.N.B., appreciate that arrangement may not be practicable for some time. (A.C.N.B. 1059Z/17)

China

Obliterating M.V's
Names etc.,

S.O.(1)'s to inform shipping that as indiscriminate attack is unlikely on China station, the instructions that ships are to obliterate names and port of registration do not apply. (C. in C., China 1030/17)



War Diary

17.5.1940
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

430

America & West Indies

RHAKOTIS

My 1859/16 RHAKOTIS also commenced painting superstructure grey before sailing. (S.O.I., Callao 1637/17)

Ships at Tampico

ORINOCO

IDARWALD

PHRYGIA

RHEIN

Re press reports 15/5 of imminence of sailing of German ships from Tampico it has been confirmed from Tampico that ships have been ready to sail for a long time, but there is no indication that they intend to sail immediately. (17/5) (I.C.0454/40)



War Diary

17.5.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

431

Submarines Reported

0245

Westward of German Minefield, North Sea. Position indefinite. (I.C., 0453/40)

1255)
1309)

4 miles N.E. of N Foreland $51^{\circ} 30' N$ $1^{\circ} 35' E$, P/S seen by observer corps from shore. B4 (I.C. 0454/40)

1921

$54^{\circ} 10' N$ $6^{\circ} 10' E$ indefinite (I.C. 0454/4)

Estimate Dispositions

Absence of indications of U/Bs at sea suggests a considerable number are available for any special operations (D.D.I.C., 1341/17)

SUPPLEMENT



SITUATION REPORT

432

Channel & Low Countries

Antwerp Demolitions

Report of demolitions at Antwerp shows that all dry docks and heavy cranes and about 150,000 tons of petrol and oil have been destroyed; and that one lock has been blocked. Extensive air activity on the Dutch and Belgian coasts showed signs of increasing during the day and enemy air craft were in action in the straits of Dover area.

Observers report the dropping of parachute mines in the Downs. Dunkirk was severely bombed about 2230 and parts of the town set on fire; Dieppe was attacked at the same time, and it is suspected that magnetic mines have been dropped in the harbour entrance. The Port is closed.

PRINCESS VICTORIA was mined and sunk off the Humber 2330/18. Survivors number 12 officers and 79 ratings. The PRINCESS VICTORIA was returning from laying mines in the East Coast barrier some 40 miles East of Cromer.

Norway

Mines Laid

F.A.A. Aircraft from Hatstyon laid mines in Hangesund night 17/18 May (M.S.M)

Heavy enemy air attacks in the Narvik area continue. F.O. Narvik is keeping as many as possible of his unarmed ships at sea out of harm's way until fighter protection is available.

Considerable military activity is reported at Trondheim.

Mediterranean

Reinforcements

The third group, comprising one A/A cruiser and 9 destroyers, left Plymouth 2100/17 and 0100/18.



War Diary

18.5.1940.
Saturday

433

POLICY

Invasion.

If the battle on the Western front does not go favourably the possibility of invasion of the U.K. will have to be faced. It is therefore undesirable to disperse our forces at present to reinforce our ocean forces, particularly since RODNEY, RENOWN and VALIANT are the only up-to-date capital ships in Home waters. (MSM)

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

434

Immobilising Ports

Re reports from N.O.I.C., Leith, Dundee and Aberdeen of meetings convened to discuss steps to be taken to immobilise their ports in emergency, I received no notice of meetings and was not represented. As it is considered that immobilisation of Ports in U.K. must be a matter of concern to the Admiralty, request I may be informed of policy of T.L. with regard to immobilisation of ports in my command. (C. in C., Rosyth), (1151/18)

Your 1151. Policy is under discussion with W.O. preliminary arrangements are being made for military commands in conjunction with naval and harbour authorities concerned to reconnoitre and prepare schemes for immobilisation of certain ports for period of 7-10 days. You will be informed as soon as decision is reached. (D of LD 2040/18)

Germans Threaten Reprisals

For our alleged bombing of open towns. Attacks must be expected tonight or in the immediate future (Air Min. 2000/18 Admiralty 2025/18)

Harwich Balloon Barrage

Your 1751/16. Any increase in Harwich Balloon barrage at this stage will be at expense of existing barrages. Further balloons not considered justified unless importance of Harwich has materially increased (Air. Min. 1235/18)

Orfordness Aerodrome

Experience of Dutch Officer who landed there. No measures on aerodrome which would have prevented him doing damage. Steps to be taken at all aerodromes (Air Min. 0915/18)

Search of Neutral Ships

Your 1412/15 Police are not available for this service. Chiefs of Staff Sub Committee has agreed that Authority should be given to Customs Service to carry out a search of neutral ships in British ports. Army armed guards will be available to assist the Customs authorities in carrying out this task. (D. of L.D. 1959/18 to C. in C., Nore)

War Diary

18.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

435

Movements

KINGSTON JACINTH

C. in C. 1252/18 (screen for Battle Fleet and Battle Cruisers) JACINTH to sail for Harstad escorted by 2 A/S trawlers (D.O.D. (H) 1923/18).

WITHERINGTON
MASHONA

In order to provide a screen for Battle Fleet and Battle Cruisers WITHERINGTON is to take the place of MASHONA with T.C.4. MASHONA proceed to Scapa with all convenient despatch. Sailing of N.S.4 to be postponed until escort is available for T.C.4. (C. in C., H.F., 1252/18 to R.A.(D)).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

✓ Operation Lyster. (D.F. and E.F.).

Proceeding (F.O.D.E., 0852/18).

Expected time of arrival, first ships 1200, last 1430. (VEGA, 1022/18).

Anchor at Great Nore. Demolition parties will meet you. You may have to sail again. (C. in C., Nore, 1129/18).

Commander Peterson and all his ships are now returning to Dover. Inform him by W/T through trawlers that operation referred to in Adty. 0002/17 is taking place tomorrow (Sunday) at approx. times stated in para 2. All serviceable units are to contact and accompany convoy who will approach along 60 Q.Z.S. and 85 Q.Z.S. tonight, Saturday, then sweep ahead into harbour. (D.M.S., 1317/18 to C. in C., Nore). Repeated to ARCTIC HUNTER, ASAMA and VEGA, (C. in C., Nore, 1427/18).

Sail forces D and E for Operation D.F. and E.F. (D.O.D.(H) 1508/18).

Escort and sweepers are to remain with Forces D and E. (C. in C., Nore, 1851/18).

F.O.D.E. has returned and anchored Prince's Channel. Join him if daylight permits, otherwise anchor as convenient in swept channel. (C. in C., Nore, 1954/18).

✓ Operation X.D.

Following demolished at Antwerp by Party "D", operation XD. Approx. 150,000 tons petrol and oils, dry docks, all heavy cranes over 20 tons lifting capacity. One lock blocked, one lock not blocked. No casualties to party. (V.A., Dover, 1605/18).

HOME COMMANDS

437

Operations - Dutch Coast.

Terschelling L.V. Embarkation of crew of Lt. V. by L.23.
Anticipated light will burn till 19/5,
nothing on board sabotaged and W/T equipment
available should anyone board and use it.
(Comdr. (S) Harwich, 1915/18).

Dutch Warships

MEDUSA)
DOUWE-AUKES) Minelayers, left Dover for Spithead.
(V.A., Dover, 0918/18). Arrived. (C. in C.
Portsmouth, 2220/18).

O.8 and O.11 My 2120/17 (list). Heading sunk should
include O.8 and O.11, both might be raised.
(D.N.I. 1047/18).

GRUNO Gunboat. Condition and defects. (F.O.,
Harwich, 1240/18).

M.T.B. 78 Arrived Dover. (V.A., Dover, 1916/18).

FLORES)
VAN MEERLANT) Arrived Dover 2005. (V.A. Dover, 2009/18).

DIRKJE)
CLAESJE)
AMSTERDAM)
BLOEMENDAAL)
OMMERING) Arrived (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2220/18).

T.B.'s to escort Your 1839/17 approved. (V.C.N.S., 2206/18
new Dutch Submarine to V.A.(S)).
Flotilla

18.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Narvik

→ GLORIOUS
FURIOUS

As GLORIOUS and FURIOUS took only such aircraft stores for the R.A.F. fighters and the Narvik Walrus Squadron as could be flown ashore in the aircraft in their one trip from ship to shore, there does not appear to be any necessity for these ships to risk being bombed by entering the Narvik area.

GLORIOUS to confirm this. (1st S.L. to F.O., Narvik, 0232/18). Reply, arrangements do not necessitate approach within 100 miles of Narvik. (R.A.(A) 0943/18).

"Hunt" Class

R.A.(D) H.F.'s 1058/17. Concur "Hunt" class eminently desirable in this area. It is, however, for the present most important 3 destroyers are maintained in this area owing to their larger carrying capacity. (F.O., Narvik, 1019/18).

EFFINGHAM Loss

EFFINGHAM with Battalion of S. Wales Borderers proceeding in company with COVENTRY, CAIRO, MATABELE, ECHO to Bodo, struck uncharted rock in position 67:17.6' N., 13:58 E. at 2045 yesterday 17/5 and is total loss. All C.B.'s and S.P.'s destroyed, no casualties. Only other damage MATABELE's starboard propeller and "A" structure, speed reduced to 20 knots. Forde returned to Harstad. (F.O., Narvik, 0900/18, Rupert, 0755/18).

Cannot EFFINGHAM be beached somewhere where her A/A armament can be used? (V.C.N.S., 1356/18).

N.P.3

Arrived escorted by DELIGHT, ANTELOPE, MILAN 2000/17 (F.O., Narvik, 1317/18).

→ GLORIOUS

Fly off 263 Sqn. 0600/21. 46 Sqn. cannot be received until 26/5. After flying off 263 Sqn. proceed to U.K. to fuel then return to Narvik area to fly off 46 Sqn. (F.O., Narvik, 2231/18).

War Diary18.5.40.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSOperations - NarvikRotvoer Island

Your 1940/12. Adty. consider it essential to establish P.W.S.S. on Rotvoer Island. Personnel arrangements. (A.S.L. to R.A., Narvik, 1111/18).

RESOLUTION

To proceed to Scapa. (F.O. Narvik, 1157/18).

Enemy Air Losses

Estimated at 150 (See Air).

Operations - Northern Norway.

Maalsnes Pier will need strengthening for 7 tons weight, road suitable. Road to Tromso - Bals fiord open. Both roads cut just N.E. of Junction Reigen Fiord road. Repairs estimated complete in 7 days. (C.S.1, 0247/18).

Base

Owing to congestion and limited water supply at Harstad it is essential for Anglo-French forces to have subsidiary base at Tromso. Urgent. (F.O., Narvik 1207/18 to C.S.1 for British Charge d'Affaires).

Intelligence organisation

To be established forthwith in Northern Norway, with S.O.(I)'s at Tromso and Kirkenes (D.N.I., 1510/18).

SUPPLEMENTSubmarinesL.26 picks up Refugees

L.26 picked up 9 refugees from open boat 52:23 N., 03:05 E., 0450/18. Some reputed to be ex German influential business. (L.26, 0525/18, V.A.(S), 2258/18).

Positions

0600/19 (D.C. 2002/18, 2325/18, V.A.(S) 1727/18)

Allied Submarines

Positions 0700/19 (D.C., 1954/18) 0600/18 (D.C., 0008/18).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

F.A.A. Sqdns. Adty. 2009/17. Thank you for your offer. These squadrons will not be used for bombing operations without prior reference to you. (Air Min. 0003/18).

Operation Bottle Successfully completed. (Hatston, 0413/18).

Enemy Air Activity

Losses in Norway. Following from N.A. Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs states General Ruge estimates German air losses at 150. This includes losses due to bombing of air bases. Several reports received of German planes found destroyed in mountains due to damage inflicted by naval A/A fire. (C.S.1, 2301/18 to Adty.)

OSTD (unknown ship) Attacked 3 miles north of Middelkerk South Bank buoy. (Portishead Radio, 1533/18).

PRINCE BAUDOUIIN Bombed 1557 between Kwintebank and West Hinder. (PRINCE BAUDOUIIN, 1656/18, N. Foreland Radio Rec. 1709/18). (Had 1500 refugees on board).

PRINS ALBERT Attacked outside Ostend. (N. Foreland Radio, (no T.O.O. /18). Had 1500 refugees on board. (V.A., Dover, 0028/19).

Threat of Reprisals Germans announce that they intend to take reprisals for alleged bombing of open towns. Attacks may therefore be expected tonight or in the immediate future. (D.O.D.(H), 2025/18).

KEITH Bombed 51:20 N., 2:0 E. (KEITH 1529/18, 1536/18) Fighter aircraft are being sent to your assistance (C. in C., Nore, 1549/18 to KEITH).

SUPPLEMENT

WILD SWAN Bombed (WILD SWAN, 1533/18).



18.5.40.
Saturday.

441

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Enemy Mines,
Dieppe

Adm. Commanding at Le Havre reports that magnetic mines have probably been dropped at 2200 in the entrance between the jetties at the Port of Dieppe. Request all traffic for Dieppe to stop. The Port of Dieppe has been bombed at 2225. (D.S.T.O. Le Havre, 2350/18).

→ CORFIELD, etc.,
Borrow Deep

C. in C., Nore's 1109/18. Code word allotted BOPUP. (D.S.O., 1509/18).

Operation B.S.5

Completed. First mine laid at 1556. Aircraft report unknown submarine dived at 1620 in position 52:55 N., 02:58 E. (PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1714/18).

East Coast
Barrage.

20th D.F. are now doubling the barrage in the Smith's Knoll area. (M.S.M.)

→ CORFIELD

The second Mine Destructor ship commenced operations in the Thames Estuary, 18/5 (M.S.M.).

War Diary18.5.40.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSShippingDutch Trawlers

Arrivals. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2344/18, 1334/18). Any Dutch trawlers or other vessels attempting to return to Holland will be arrested. (M.S.M.).

Depot for Dutch Ships

and crews is being rapidly formed at Falmouth, (M.S.M.).

Dutch Shipping

The Netherlands Shipping Committed now operating in London, is issuing instructions to Dutch shipping.. It has ordered all Dutch ships, fully loaded and proceeding to ports in North Europe, to make for Great Britain. (Adty. 1736/18).

Allied Shipping

Defensive and degaussing equipment is being supplied to merchant ships of Allied powers under certain conditions, and the necessary arrangements for training members of the crews in use of defensive armament can be made. (Adty. 1424/18).

Refugees

COTE D'AZUR arrived in Downs with 800 refugees from Ostend and is being sent to Folkestone 1000/19 (V.A., Dover, 2041/18).

Ocean Convoys

D.C. 1921/18, C. in C., W.A., 1356/18.

Dutch Trawlers

My 2344/18. Dutch trawlers named are all warships. (C. in C., Portsmouth to Adty, 1216/19.

MiscellaneousLoyalty of King Haakon's staff

Your 1837/17. Nothing occurred in GLASGOW which supports supposition. (GLASGOW, 1203/18)

Oil Tanks

At Bergen, Stavanger, Haugesund. Particulars (D.N.I., 1554/7 to C. in C., H.F.).

Swedish destroyers

and depot ship sail for Queenstown via Vigo about 21/5 (D.N.I., 1844/18).

Reporting by Hospital Ships

Hospital ships and carriers may report, immediately by W/T if they see enemy aircraft dropping parachute mines. (Adty. 1527/18).

War Diary18.5.40.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSWeather.

	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Weather.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>
North Sea	Light & variable except in S. Moderate in extreme N.	Fine to cloudy local coastal haze or fog.	Good except on coasts.
Horns Reef & Dutch Coast.	N.E., moderate.	Fine to cloudy.	Good except in local haze on coast.
Channel.	Light & variable.	Fine to cloudy, local coastal haze or fog.	Good except on coasts.
W. Approaches.	S. light to moderate.	Cloudy.	Good.
Coast of Norway.	Light, mainly from S.	Fine to cloudy.	Good.



War Diary

444
18.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence.

✓ Methods adopted by the Germans during their attacks upon Norway and Holland included the following:-

1. Use of neutral colours on German ships.
2. Smuggling of arms and supplies, over a long period, into German-owned warehouses.
3. Cargo steamers filled with troops were sent to selected points for several days in advance of the attack, the men being kept under hatches.
4. Men landed from cargo steamers disguised as merchant seamen and armed with hand grenades and light machine guns seized jetties and other important points.
5. Naval escortcraft posed as British and French ships, hailing or communicating with port authorities in the appropriate language or code.

BISMARCK

Photographic air reconnaissance showed Battleship BISMARCK, almost complete, alongside in the Steinwerder Ufer, Hamburg. (I.C. 0455/40).

Trondjhem ✓

English woman just arrived from Trondjhem states great military activity there and local transport being collected and parked. German General Headquarters reported to be in Trondjhem where air activity has been renewed after quiet period. German submarines reported to be discharging oil into main oil tanks there and no other shipping seen there for some time. (A.A. Stockholm to Air Min. 1650/18).



CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

PRINCESS VICTORIA

Mined 1 mile S.E. Humber L.V. (D.20, 2320/18, F.O. Humber 2358/18) 12 officers 79 ratings survivors. (F.O. Humber 1035/19)

CHALLENGER

Main engine major defects, speed 3 knots. attempting to make Belfast, shore assistance necessary before proceeding further (CHALLENGER 1011/18)

My 1100. Can now maintain 8 knots. Expect to arrive Belfast 2000. Anticipate 48 hours required for repairs. (CHALLENGER 1321/18)

* SS ST. KEARAN

British (691 tons) sunk about 0100/17 in collision with ship thought to be SS EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER (see 17/5) 8 miles S.E. of Pladda Lt 55° 26'N 5° 7'W, in the Firth of Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1302/18)

* ? ST KEANAN see p. 422

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Group 7.

ASTURIAS, CARINTHIA, CHESHIRE, DERBYSHIRE, and PATROCLUS are to be designated as Group 7 as from 0001 G.M.T. 19/5. (D.O.D. (F) 1313/18)

French Positions

D.C. 0725/18

Spanish Shipping

Undesirability of putting into force at this critical moment drastic tightening up measures of Commissioners control of Spanish shipping between Spanish ports (N.A. Madrid, 2038/18)

Complaint received that Spanish Ships CELTA and CASTILLO DAROCA boarded 26th March and 28th March in Spanish Territorial waters. Request report. Admiralty, 1740/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

A/S Defences, S. Africa

In view of possible entry of Italy into the war, consideration should be given to the strengthening of A/S defences at South African ports. Equipment is not available at home, but action should be taken with the Government with a view to increasing security by local measures (D of L.D. 1318/18 to S.N.O. Simonstown)

Mines Off Cape

Deutschlandsender 1315/18 announced that the mines which have been found off Cape Agulhas, were laid by German Naval Units

Mines off Cape Agulhas. Raider believed to be at large. Information as given in situation report 17/5 (C. in C., S.A. 1005/18 D.D. 1010/18, D.C. 2001/18)

Mediterranean

Syracuse

Boom repaired and placed in position. A.I. (S.O. (I) Malta 2007/18)

2. Probably unacceptable to delay destroyers arrival at Alexandria by using them to escort sloops or CARLISLE These latter are intended for Red Sea and if necessary must be diverted via Cape.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

3. Re. C. in C., E1 1857/16 at least one division of destroyers should be sent on to Red Sea.

4. Cruisers. By about 23/5 C. in C., E.I will have at Aden LIVERPOOL (Flag S.O.R. S.F.), GLOUCESTER, HOBART, SYDNEY, LEANDER. GLOUCESTER and two 8 inch gun cruisers should then join you. Later when sloops and CARLISLE reach Red Sea you may wish to exchange one of your 8 inch gun cruisers for LIVERPOOL.

5. EAGLE will arrive Aden 22/5. propose she should pass up Red Sea with cruisers if situation permits.

6. You 1813/16 to Admiralty. Regret impossible at present. (1st. S.L 0035/18 to C. in C., Med.)

East Indies

Convoys from Bombay

Arrangements (C. in C., E.I. 1645Z/18)

Destroyers

Re Admiralty 8035/18. One division 14th D.F. will be sailed for Aden as soon as possible after arrival at Alexandria. (C. in C., Med to C.E.I.)

Movements

Your 2237/16 OTRANTO, ORFORD sailed to R.V. with CALYPSO, RORQUAL in 290^o 18 miles Ras-el-Tin Lt. a.m./19. (C in C. Med. 1107/18 to S.B.N.O. Suez.)

Muscat

Your 0502/1/4 (re using Muscat as small advance base) Permission to use anchorage at short notice has been granted. (Hd. of M. 1528/18 to C. in C., E.I)

America & West Indies.

Degaussing of Japanese Ships

Asking for Admiralty policy (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1128/18)

SS ROMA

New York reports her sailing 18/5 and reliable report states that spare equipment usually stored here is being put on board. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1603/18)

China

Submarine Report

C 2 Telegram 4161(?) to London. Am endeavouring to discover if Dutch S/M's were in vicinity (C.I.S. Singapore 0306 Z /18, to C. in C., China)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

South Atlantic

RIAKOTIS

Left Callao 2350/16 cleared for Hamburg but possibly for Vladivostock. Description (D.D.I.C. 1227/18 to N.B. Melbourne O.N. 2) Commenced painting her upperworks grey before sailing (I.C. 0454/40)

WALDTRAUT HORN

HORN.
HEINZ HORN

Appear to have reached Germany safely with cargoes from S. America. (Port & Tel Summaray 256)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MININGShips AttackedPROCYON

Swedish tanker (8721 tons) reported struck a mine on journey from Gothenburg to Baltic, but was able to proceed to Trelleborg for repairs (Press, Sweden)

Submarines reported.

1132

By Air craft in position K.L.Y.U.
49° 48'N., 5° 50'W.,

1155

S. of Lands End 15' (Aircraft 217 Sqdn.
to ABERDEEN, 1132/18, 1155/18)

ABERDEEN to attack (C. in C., W.A. 1151/
18 1217/18)

Report now considered unreliable (C. in
C., W.A. 1523/18)

1141

59° 7' N 0° 36' W (aircraft (? COURAGEOUS)
1141/18)

1606

52° 55' N 2° 58' E by aircraft.

1405

→ P/S seen steering 180° 5 knots 58° 20' N 5° 23' W (BRABANT 1405/18, 1755/18) about one cable distant from us (BRABANT 1535/18, C. in C., Rosyth 1708/18) SABRE to hunt (C in C., Rosyth 1614/18, 1718/18, 1939/18, R.A. (D)H.F. 2243/18.

Your 0022/18, No trace War Registry, There is a known non sub in approx. 058° 41' N 003° 51' W. Unless you are convinced that contact is a U-Boat proceed in execution of previous orders (F.O.C.O. S. 0913/18 to SABRE)

Estimated Dispositions

D.D.I.C. 1432/18

My 1151. Report now considered unreliable. Believe EPENVIER (C. in C., W.A. 1523/18 to VANQUISHER)

1405

→ Submarine sighted 58° 20' N 5° 23' W
→ (BRABANT 1405/18)

1132

49° 48' N 6° 10' W (Aircraft 1132/18)

0700

By French Submarine ACHILLE suspected
57° 05' N 4° 40' E (I.C. 0455/40)

War Diary18.5.1940.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MININGSubmarines Attacked

- 1022 By aircraft 59° 34'W 6° 16'W (aircraft 1022/18)
- 1143 By aircraft 49° 48'N 5° 50'W no hits (aircraft 1143/18) see submarines reported 1132/18.
- 1205 By aircraft 59° 26' N 7° 37'W. By trawler 1425 (Donibristle 2352/18, aircraft 1820/18,) Estimate no hits (aircraft 1205/18)

L SUPPLEMENT

SITUATION REPORT

Low Countries

The blockship operation was again postponed.

The destroyer WHITLEY was bombed two miles off Nieuport at 0530/19 and her back was broken.

All the British forces under Admiral Nord which had been providing A/A protection off the Belgian Coast have been withdrawn.

Norway

S.S. ROYAL ULSTERMAN with A/A ammunition urgently required in the Narvik area was prevented by trouble with her crew, from leaving Scapa 1200/19 as Scheduled. She left at 1800/19 with a Naval crew, escorted by CURLEW, who is to remain for A.A. protection in the Narvik area.

GLORIOUS and FURIOUS are about 100 miles off the Lofoten Is., waiting to fly off their fighter aircraft as soon as landing grounds are ready.

Four ships of Convoy N.S.3 with stores, arrived at Vaagsfiord 0700/19. In order to avoid enemy bombing, the remaining 10 ships stood off, awaiting further orders.

In the Narvik area progress was made to the south east of Bjerkvik, as part of a general encirclement of Narvik. The main German force was reported to be still along the Narvik-Lulea Railway, repairing damage to the railway.

A strategic retirement was made from Mo, along the road to Bodo (130 miles to the North). The road follows the valley of the Ranen river and offers strong natural facilities for defence. The enemy forces at Elsfjorden, the road terminus south of Hemnes, were estimated at 3000.

Two enemy aircraft were captured at Sandnessjven, near Mosjoen and 18 enemy airmen captured.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean reinforcements

7 destroyers from Home Waters for the Mediterranean have arrived at Gibraltar. One A.A. cruiser and 9 more destroyers are off the coast of Portugal on their way south.

SITUATION REPORT

452

Foreign Stations (contd.)

Italian Situation

It is reliably reported that the Italian Govt. has ordered the immediate mobilisation of the Army and Air Force in Italian East Africa.

British Air Activity

Normal patrols were flown, including dawn and dusk and anti-M.T.B. patrols in the north and middle of the North Sea. Moonlight patrols were also flown.

About 200 aircraft having been reported at Vaernes (Trondheim) aerodrome by reconnaissance aircraft, of which 140 were bombers and the remainder fighters, a night raid was made on this aerodrome 19th/20th by six Hudsons of the Coastal Command.

A Hudson, east of the Dogger Bank, reported 2 Danish smacks were being circled by a Dornier p.m. 19/5, which the Hudson attacked. The smacks also fired at our aircraft and were bombed.

Enemy Air Activity

Much enemy air activity took place in the Eastern Channel, Dover Straits and Southern North Sea on the night of the 19th/20th, but all attacks were apparently directed towards the French Coast.

Magnetic mines were laid at Dunkirk, and the harbour was closed. Aircraft were also observed dropping bombs and magnetic mines in Carross Road, near Le Havre. Le Havre was closed, and an escorted convoy from Portsmouth diverted to Cherbourg. Dieppe was mined and bombed during the night. French authorities considered that the port would be closed for about 4 days. There is also a report of a parachute mine off Treport (50:3.5 N. 1:22.5 E)

WHITSHED reported having damaged an aircraft attacking a convoy off North Foreland at 1730/19.

VENOMOUS shot down a seaplane off the Goodwins at midnight, 19th.

War Diary

19.5.40.
Sunday



SITUATION REPORT

453

Casualties

WHITLEY, destroyer which was bombed two miles off Nieuport at 0530/19, was set on fire and destroyed by KEITH later in the day.

SOMALI, damaged, arrived at Liverpool from Norway.

Policy

Your telegram of May 17th.

I approve your action in opposing scheme for neutralising North Norway. Following arguments useful in persuading Norwegian Govt. to reject it.

1. Despite spread of war to a closer and more intense battlefield, H.M. Govt. are as determined as before to press forward vigorously with the campaign in Norway with immediate object of capturing Narvik and establishing a secure cover behind which Norwegian Govt. may function safely.
2. Narvik is ready to fall into our hands and our plans in North Norway are on a fair way to success. Fact that Germans have put forward scheme is evidence of their conviction that they cannot hold out in Narvik and cannot conquer North Norway. To accept scheme now would be to play into German hands and surrender to them by agreement what they cannot win by force of arms.
3. No possible faith could be put into German assurances to keep their part of bargain. Example of Czecho-Slovakia is sufficient to show what use Germany makes of a truce or compromise solution.
4. Campaign in Norway is of greatest importance since it contains largely superior German forces away from main field where final decision will be reached. Norway is no side show but a vital element in Allied strategy. France and this country are engaged in life and death struggle with Germany on the Western Front and can reasonably expect Norway to hold on and play her part in encompassing the defeat of Germany.
(Adty. 1948/19 to V-C Tromso, F.O. to Mr. Lasalles).

Precautions

Holton Heath
Cordite Factory

In view of danger of air and parachute attack consider present defence personnel and equipment totally inadequate. Additional platoon of R.M. urgently required. No A/A searchlights yet provided by army. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1843/19).

Commandant R.M. Portsmouth instructed to provide platoon (Adty. to C. in C. Portsmouth 2236/19).

HOME COMMANDS

455

Precautions (Contd.)

The Broads and Eastern Estuaries

Request action to extend local defence volunteer organisation to cover waterborne protection against possible air attack. (C. in C., Nore to Adty. 1254/19).

Shetlands A.A. Defences

In view of enemy occupation of S. Norway recommend as urgent action increase of A.A. defence of Shetlands by ten Bofors light A.A. Guns and increase present one and a half troops to one light A.A. battery of four troops. (A.C.O.S. to Adty. 1831/19).

Movements

Destroyers

Following organisation and distribution of destroyer forces in Nore Command will be brought into force at 0800/20. (C. in C., Nore, 1516/19).

Low Countries - Operation Lyster
(D.F. & E.F.)

Force is sailing 1400. Expect to arrive 0130/20 (D.O.D.(H) 0200/19 to Air Min.) F.O.D.E. in VEGA reports am proceeding 1330/19 T.O.O. 0300/19 (C. in C. Nore, 0830/19).

Drifters NAUTILUS and STARLIGHT RAYS have been sailed to R.V. with convoy in substitution for WILLING BOYS and MONARDA (D.M.S. 1106/19 to VEGA).

Do not sail. Instructions follow (C. in C., Nore, 1158/19 to VEGA). Operation D.F. & E.F. is postponed 24 hours. (B.N.L.O. Dunkirk pass to Cdr. Peterson and trawlers RIFNESS and LORD INCHCAPE (V.C.N.S. 1308/19 to F.O.D.E. etc.)

Operation F.A.

Ships are to be with-drawn and join V.A. Dover's Command (V.C.N.S. 1815/19 to V.A. Dover).

HOME COMMANDS

456

Operations - Norway.

ROYAL ULSTERMAN
refuses to sail

A naval crew from capital ships is being sent to take over ROYAL ULSTERMAN this Sunday forenoon and it is now intended to sail her at 1800 after trials in the Flow. (C. in C., Home Fleet 0913/19).

ROYAL ULSTERMAN has been temporarily commissioned as H.M. ship and sailed 1830 19th May with CURLEW. Expected arrive 18 hours from Andenes 0900 21st May. (F.O.C.O.S to F.O. Narvik, 1908/19).

ROYAL ULSTERMAN arrived late at Scapa at 1400/18 having proceeded first to Stormoway. Majority of officers and crew refused to sail with ammunition without armament or escort. When CURLEW detailed as escort refusal to sail persisted. Crew were on foreign articles and now in charge of Chief Constable Kirkwall. Request consideration as to measures in any such future cases. (C. in C., H.F. to Adty. 1956/19).

Convoy N.P.3

Three British M.V.s escorted by WALKER and FREDRAKE arrived 0700. Remainder of convoy awaiting orders to enter. (F.O. Narvik, 1601/19).

Fighters needed

Troops withdrawing north of Mo urgently need fighter protection. Comply if possible (F.O. Narvik, 1253/19 to V.A.(A)).

Withdrawal from
Mo.

Withdrawal from Mo commenced this morning. Gubbins has been instructed to delay enemy by every possible means in cooperation with Norwegians. (N.W.E.F. 0210/19).

Raids

Norwegians anxious to guard against raids in small coasting craft at several points simultaneously, desire presence of armed Norwegian trawlers and assurance that H.M. Ships within reach. (F.O. Narvik, 1413/19).

GLORIOUS,
FURIOUS,
ARK ROYAL

Your 2231/18. Suggest GLORIOUS leave for U.K. forthwith and ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS return in company when Gladiators landed. If approved request arrange destroyer screens. (R.A.(A) to F.O. Narvik, 1308/19).

War Diary

19.5.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

457

Operations - Norway.

CURLEW to provide A/A protection After escorting ROYAL ULSTERMAN to destination CURLEW is available A.A. protection duty in Narvik area. CALCUTTA leaves Rosyth for Narvik area 23rd May. CURLEW has Brigadier Frazer on board. (C. in C., H.F. to F.O. Narvik 2038/19).

One Iron ore ship a week to load at Frickenes Add to my 1114/18 one objection would be probable need for escort. C.S.1 has already allocated one of his 2 A/S trawlers for this duty. Norwegian Submarines might also be used when available. (F.O. Narvik, 1607/19).

TRUANT Patrolling off Tromso (TRUANT 1902/19).

Enemy Reinforcements Enemy reinforcements landing behind our lines are conveyed in coastal steamer armed with machine guns and also aircraft. To counter this am taking up Norwegian coastal steamer manned by EFFINGHAM and local resources. Asking for Oerlikon guns and 3 or 6 pdr. guns etc. (R.A. Narvik, 2025/19).

Submarines

Positions 0600/20 (Adty. 2127/19)(V.A.S. 1838/19).

Air.

British Air Activity

3 Grimsby trawlers trawling, 2 Danish fishing smacks circled by DO 18 which was attacked by our aircraft. The fishing smacks also fired at our aircraft and were bombed. 54:50 N. 2:0 E. (Donibristle, 2132/19).

At 0415 this morning our aircraft attacked four trawlers flying Danish colours 84 miles 304° from Horns Reef L.V. apparently without result. (Donibristle 0705/19).

Attack on Vaernes Aerodrome To be carried out night 19/20 by 2 battle flights of Hudsons. (D.C. 1702/19).

HOME COMMANDS

458

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

WHITSHED Bomed 097 N. Foreland 29 (WHITSHED 1731/19)
By 3 aircraft (WHITSHED 1739/19) and one
enemy aircraft damaged (WHITSHED 1745/19).

Convoy

Convoy is being attacked 097 North Foreland
29 (WHITSHED 1735/19, 1737/19) Fighters
have been sent (C. in C. Nore, 1744/19).

Aircraft gone, no damage to WHITSHED,
VENOMOUS or convoy. (WHITSHED 1755/19).

Seaplane shot
down

106° N.F. 2 12 (VENOMOUS 2345/19).
Fighters are being sent to you (V.A. Dover,
0035/20 to VENOMOUS).

Havre

Aircraft dropping bombs and magnetic mines
in Carross Road near Le Havre (Scapa W/T
T.O.R. 0028/20, C. in C., Portsmouth, 2328/19).

WHITLEY

bombed 6° 2 miles off Nieuport at 0526.
Both boiler rooms flooded, ship's back
broken. Guns and equipment understood
salvable. VIMIERA and tugs attempting to
salve. D.19 should be there by now also.
LADY BRASSEY and Salvage Officer sent.
4 E.R. ratings lost. (VIMIERA 0832/19,
V.A. Dover, 1112/19). Set on fire heavily
forward by gunfire from KEITH. Owing to
her position ashore cannot guarantee
complete destruction A/S under water fittings.
Suggest bombing by aircraft. Position 51:9 N.
2:40 E. (Capt. D.19 1312/19).



War Diary

19.5.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

459

Air-British Air Activity

0833/20

A/C ~~5-233~~ sighted a submarine and attacked in position JSHI 0157, but it was subsequently proved that his reckoning was 60 odd miles out and that the submarine was ACHILLE (C. in C., Rosyth, War Diary, T.S.D., 4987/40)

See p. 520

Enemy Air Activity

ALEXANDER
KENNEDY

Attacked by enemy A/C in Trinity Bay 2300/19 (B. of T Form A.A.)

STORK

~~M.V. 767 tons~~ ^{M.V. 767 tons} Attacked by A/C in Boulogne Harbour, STORK brought down A/C. (Interview with Master, Shipping Casualties Section, Trade Division)

BELGRAVIAN

3136 tons. Attacked by A/C in berth at Havre 0000 1 killed. 2 injured. Damage through near miss. No hits (Particulars of Attacks on M.V's by Enemy A/C)

VENOMOUS

Attacked 2240 in 51° 19' N., 2° 12' E. No damage. (M. 010535/40)
Attacked 1203 in 51° 19' N., 2° 11' E., No damage (do)
Attacked 2350 in 51° 20' N., 1° 45' E., No damage (do)

KEITH

Attacked 0035/19 while on North Goodwins Patrol with WILD SWAN. No damage. Attacked again 0605. Dornier tried to shift target to WILD SWAN and nearly crashed into the sea. No damage (M.010521/40)

WHITLEY

Destroyer, bombed off Nieuport at 0620/19 both boiler rooms flooded, back broken, was abandoned. (M. 013316/40)

~~U BOAT SAMPLING...~~

War Diary

19.5.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

460

Mining

Humber Approach Channel

Spurn to Humber L.V. closed to traffic until further orders (on account of mining of PRINCESS VICTORIA) (F.O. Humber, 0135/19)

Aircraft Mines

Possible aircraft mines reported near 52° 3'N 1° 46'E (C. in C., More, 0338/19)

Dunkirk Roads

Area dangerous due to mines (Cherbourg 0800/19, 0805/19) Note. The port is closed.

Sweeping French Ports

Following additional forces to operate under V.A. Dover, primarily to assist in keeping important French ports open. L.L. Trawlers LORD GREY, CLYTHNESS, LORD INCHCAPE, RIMNES on completion of present operation. DAROGAH and SUNLIGHT. M.D. ship CORFIELD, CORBURN for Le Havre, trials to be hastened. Comdr. Peterson will act as M/S.L.O. (D.M.S. 1351/19)

Area between Goodwin Fork and Deal Bank Buoys in which 2 mines were reported dropped but last night has been searched. Report considered very doubtful. (V.A. Dover, 1954/19)

Operation B.S. 6.

To be carried out 20/5 or as soon after as practicable. Positions. (V.C.N.S. 1259/19)

Enemy Mines Shipwash

Possible aircraft mines reported in 52° 03'N 01° 46'E (I.C. 0455/40)

Enemy Mines The Downs

Magnetic mines were laid in the Downs (I.C. 0455/40)

Treport

Report of a parachute mine off Treport 50° 03.5'N 01° 22.5'E at 1250/19. (I.C. 0456/40)

Dieppe

Port closed by magnetic mines eleven dropped two detonated. French N.O. Z/Z states Havre sweeper expected (N.C.S.O. Dieppe to Adty. 0125/19)

Magnetic mines very probably dropped at 2200/19. Stop all traffic destined for Dieppe. Recd from Admiral Cmdg. at Le Havre. (D.S. to Ler Havre 2350/18)

French authorities consider that port will be closed for 4 days. Special sweepers arriving 19/5 from Havre (N.C. S.O. Dieppe, 1133/19)



War Diary

19.5.1940
Sunday.

461

Home Commands

Enemy Intelligence

Trondjhem

Reconnaissance aircraft over Vaerness aerodrome Trondjhem reports approximately two hundred enemy air craft on aerodrome of which 140 are medium bombers. Intermediate landing ground noticed at Surendalen (D.D.I.C. 1424/19)

Wilhelmshaven

Photographic reconnaissance on 19th May shows TIRPITZ fitting out LUTZOW ex DEUTSCHLAND in dock, three destroyers, seven M.V's (I.C. 0456/40)

Bremerhaven

Photographic reconnaissance 19th May shows no unusual activity (I.C. 0456/40)

Shipping

French Convoys

Position Noon/19 (Adty. to C. in C., W.A. 0128/19)

Ocean Convoys

Positions (D.C. 1859/19)

Miscellaneous

LONDONDERRY

Felt very slight impact 55° 13 6'N 10 18.41' W 1645/17 no damage. Presumably submerged wreck. Nothing seen, (C. in C., Rosyth 1659/19)

Suspicious Ships

At 1200 two small floating mines observed in position NFDN 5132 in wake of Belgian fishing vessel Z30 and in path of leave boat which just missed mine. Photograph taken of vessel which proceeded to Boulogne. (A.C.M.Q. Chatham 1335/19) Later report is that she passed Boulogne without stopping (I.C. 0456/40)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>WEATHER</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	S. Moderate in North. N.N.E. moderate in South		Mainly good local mist patches	Similar
Channel	Easterly, light.		Moderate or good	Wind variable
W. Approaches	SSE moderate		Good	Similar
Horns Reef	N.E moderate		Good	Similar
Norwegian Coast	Variable, light in S. S.W. moderate in North		Good	Similar
Dutch Coast	N.E. Moderate or light		Mainly good Local mist patches.	Similar



War Diary .

19.5.1940.
Sunday.

462

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

HUSSAR

Arrived (F.O.I.C, Tyne 2005/19)

WESTMINSTER

To be towed from Dunkirk to Portsmouth
20/5 (V.A. Dover, 1846/19) (D.D.O.D.
1911/19)

WHITLEY

Bombed, ashore 06'2 miles West of
Nieuport. Total loss. 4 E.R. ratings
lost. (see air) (D.C. 1954/19,
VIMIERA 0832/19)

PRINCESS VICTORIA

Position of wreck 215° Humber L.V. 5.3
cables (F.O. Humber 2228/19) Returning
from laying mines in E. Coast Barrier
was mined 2330/18 and sunk off Humber
(D.C. 0756/19)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Cables Cut

North Atlantic.

Cables recently reported as broken but suspected of being cut in 3 positions 100 miles N of Lisbon, 50 miles S. of Lisbon 170 miles W of Gibraltar, Spanish trawlers purchased by Germans are suspected of being engaged in this work. Close watch to be kept on trawlers, particularly those flying Spanish flag. (D of P 1611/19 to R.O.C.N.A.)

Contraband Control of Spanish Shipping

Charge d'Affaires Madrid is representing to F.O. the undesirability of tightening up Contraband Control of Spanish Shipping between Spanish ports as proposed by F.O. telegram 0216 Arfer 16 May. I agree and submit most important to reconsider. (N.A. Madrid to D.N.I. 2036/18)

Italian Tankers

Report by signal average detention during last eight weeks of Italian Tankers whose release has been authorised by M.E.W. before arrival "subject to verification of cargo" (D.EWD 1640/19, to C.C.S.O. Gib)

ASTURIAS
CESHIRE

ASTURIAS and CESHIRE to leave patrol without relief to arrive Casablanca 1400 and 1600 respectively on 21st May. After watering there to sail to arrive Gibraltar 0730 and 0830 respectively 23rd May. CARINTHIA and PATROCLUS will be relieved 27th May and DERBYSHIRE on 3rd June. (F.O.C.N.A. 13332/19)

South Atlantic

Agulhas Minefield

No further mines reported. Minesweepers temporarily withdrawn to fuel etc., and reorganise with others from up the coast. Strong Westerly gale blowing. Minesweepers expected to sweep 100% in Vicinity 20/5 (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1828/19)

Enemy Ship

D/F bearings Adty. 1526 15th May indicate probability enemy ship in square K one CUMBERLAND to proceed to 026° 00'S 005° 00'E, and search, arriving Simonstown not later than p.m. Friday 24th May. (C. in C., S.A. to CUMBERLAND 1051/19)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

464

Iron Ore

With stoppage of Swedish supplies 2/3 of our iron ore requirements are being met from N. Africa amounting to 300,000 tons a month. The figure for June will rise to 450,000 tons, average 12 ships a week for May and 16 in June. Alternative supplies difficult to arrange. Principal export ports are Bona, La Goulette, and Algiers, 50% of total comes from Bona. Other essential ports from N. Africa. Route thus vital to us. What arrangements have you made with French for inclusion of British ships in French convoys; are you satisfied these will be adequate in view of greatly increased importance of this route. (V.C.N.S. 0533/19 to C. in C., Med.)

re CHABAR
KLAGENFURT

C. in C., Med. 2345/19

PROVENCE
BRETAGNE

And destroyers. French propose to withdraw them from Alexandria, to Bizerta. We have concurred. Understand that SUFFREN will proceed to Alexandria and DUGUAY-TROUIN will also be sent there from Western Basin, for troop transport duties (D.O.D. (F) 1639/19)

French Warship
Movements

French cruiser MONTCALM passed Gibraltar west to east, French destroyers BRESTOIS and BOULONNAIS arrived Gibraltar from west 0600 French ~~LA~~^{MIS} LA CURIÈSE^U sailed eastward 1030 (S.O. Gibraltar 1812/19)

Submarine Patrol
Crate.

Not considered necessary in view of Adty. Message 0003/15. Submarines are at two hours notice (C. in C., Med. 0421/19)

Cruisers and EAGLE

Re Adty. 0035/18 para 4. Concur in Adty suggestions re ultimate allocation of cruisers if C. in C., E.I. has no objections, Para 5. Concur re EAGLE (C. in C., Med. 0401/19)

Italian African Army
& Air Force Mobilisation

F.O.C. Malta to C. in C., Med 0631/19) see East Indies.

East Indies

Italian Army & Air Force
Mobilisation

H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East inform me immediate general mobilisation of army and air force in Italian East Africa has been ordered. (C. in C., East Indies to Adty. 0931Z/19, F.O.C. Malta to C.in C., Med. 0631/19)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

~~THE~~ COMMADE

East Indies Contd.

465

Red Sea Force

Re Adty. 0035/18 and C. in C., Med. 0401/19 (1) Initial strength of Red Sea Force would be very weak for its war task and even later it would not have strength expected. (M 00697/39 31/12/1939) (11) Cruisers are no proper substitute for destroyers, should like to keep LIVERPOOL, GLOUCESTER, HOBART, LEANDER. until destroyers arrive Aden, when GLOUCESTER and LEANDER will be released. (111) If above proposal approved intend to escort EAGLE with SYDNEY to Suez and with 2 other cruisers to ZEN as arranged by F.O.C. 4 C.S. (C. in C., 0944Z/19) My 0944/19 Para (11) neither the GLOUCESTER nor LEANDER could be released on arrival of destroyers at Aden if convoys are then moving and CAPLISLE and sloop have not arrived, since 3 cruisers will be required with each convoy to provide adequate AA fire (C. in C., E.I. 1429Z/19)

America & West Indies.

MAN KINSBERGEN

Dutch cruiser, placed by Dutch Govt. under orders of C. in C., W.I. Desirable she should proceed to sea as soon as a task can be assigned. (D.O.D. (F) 1606/19)



War Diary

19.5.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

466

Ships Attacked

ERIK FRISELL
Sunk

Swedish (5066 tons) 0425/19 57° 25' N., 9° 15' W., submarine observed astern after a shot in sea 2 life boats manned. Entire crew saved and picked up Armed S/T COBBERS and taken to Stornaway 0645/20 (N.O.I.C. Stornaway 20/5 No 058/1

Submarines Reported

Ref SSSS message from British SARASTONE from position 39°48' N., 11° 35' W., As result of interrogation of Master there is no doubt concerning report as the submarine broke surface and remained on surface short period. Submarine was painted dark grey- and had dirty appearance. Have no knowledge of any French submarine movement in this area. (F.O.C.N.A., 1232/22)

War Diary

19.5.1940
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

467

ERIK FRISELL

Swedish (5066 tons) sunk by submarine by gunfire $57^{\circ} 25' N$
 $9^{\circ} 15' W$, 35 miles S.W. of St. Kilda
0530/19. 34 survivors landed
Stornoway, picked up by ^{Amia 5/19} ~~28~~ COBBERS
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1139/19, N.O.I.C.
Stornoway 0604/20)

Submarines Reported

1347

Confirmation that two or more U-Boats
passing N.W. Scotland outward. At
least one now off S. Hebrides and
possibly another near Islay (Adty.
1347/19)

1000

^{Amia 5/19}
→ ~~28~~ COBBERS reports submarine in 57°
 $25' N$ $9^{\circ} 15' W$ course 220 (C. in C.,
Rosyth 1140/19)

North Atlantic

1909

s.s. SARASTONE sighted submarine
periscope $39^{\circ} 48' N$ $11^{\circ} 35' W$ (I.C.
0456/40)

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

468

Home Waters

JAVELIN with destroyers and trawlers has cut the cables between East Coast and Borkum and Norderney and has rescued five survivors from a Whitley bomber.

Dunkerque, Calais, Boulogne, and Le Havre were bombed during the night 20-21 May; mines were probably laid in Thames Estuary and eastern end of Channel; the M/S trawler RIFSNES was bombed and sunk at 1008/20; and a near miss caused casualties in MALCOLM.

The French PAVON, 4128 tons, was bombed near Calais by enemy aircraft, set on fire, and sunk at 2257/20.

At 1330 four enemy fishing vessels were attacked 70 miles off Horns Reef and one left in sinking condition; and at 1915 nine M.T.B.s were attacked by 3 Anson aircraft. No hits with bombs but one M.T.B. heavily machine-gunned and one Anson shot down.

Precautions are being taken against a possible enemy seaborne or airborne invasion.

Schemes are to be prepared to immobilise certain ports for 7 to 10 days in the event of invasion.

Enemy report

An aircraft of the Bomber Command, en route for a raid, reported one battleship and many destroyers five miles north of Norderney, course west, speed 15 knots, at 0015/20. Having bombed and missed, the aircraft reported a similar course, speed 10 knots, at 0150/20. A Hudson was sent at 0250 to verify this report. RENOWN, MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, SOUTHAMPTON, BIRMINGHAM, GALATEA, ARETHUSA and destroyers were brought to immediate notice. A torpedo bomber squadron and a bomber squadron were also ordered to be ready by 0700/20. At 0500, Hudson aircraft reported four destroyers off the Ems proceeding in the direction of Heligoland at high speed, and no sign of a larger ship.. Further investigation indicated that the original forces consisted of a heavy ship and only four destroyers. It therefore seemed likely that the heavy ship proceeded to the Ems.

Netherlands

German M.T.B.'s have started operating off the coast of Holland. Nine were attacked by our aircraft at 1901/20 25 miles 330° from Yjmuiden, results not known.

SITUATION REPORT

469

Norway

F.O. Narvik reports that the enemy are landing reinforcements behind our lines, using aircraft and a coastal steamer armed with machine guns.

Strong Allied forces, however, including French, British, Polish, and Norwegian troops, are advancing towards railway north of Rombaks Fjord.

Gladiator aircraft have been flown off GLORIOUS and FURIOUS to an aerodrome in Narvik area; and Coastal Command aircraft bombed aerodromes at Vaernes and Stavanger on the Night of 20-21 May starting fires at both.

In Vaagsfjord on night of 20-21 May enemy aircraft set on fire the transport PEMBROKE COAST and supply ship BALTEAKO. PEMBROKE COAST (which carried petrol supplies) has been beached and must be regarded as total loss.

A report has been received of U-boats being used as petrol carriers to Trondheim (M.S.M. 20 May).

Italian
Situation

It is reported from Rome that Senator Bullitt has recommended to President Roosevelt that the U.S. Atlantic Fleet should be sent into the Mediterranean.

Movements

Raise Steam
(enemy reported)

for full speed with all despatch (C. in C. H.F. 0155/20 to RENOWN, SOUTHAMPTON, MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, BIRMINGHAM). Steam ready 0400 but unable to proceed unless dense fog clears. (BIRMINGHAM 0420/20 to C. in C., H.F.).

If BIRMINGHAM proceeds intend proceeding in her with CODRINGTON, GRAFTON, GALLANT in company (D.I. 0528/20 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

18th C.S. and RENOWN keep steam at one hour's notice (C. in C., H.F. 0714/20 to B.C. one, C.S.18).

Proceed to Rosyth when visibility permits provided channel is clear (C. in C., H.F. 0129/20 to BIRMINGHAM).

Northern area

Movements taking place (C. in C. H.F. 2103/20)

Home Fleet

Movements in Northern area, RESOLUTION returning to Scapa, convoys for Harstad and from Harstad, etc. (C. in C., H.F., 2103/20).

MILAN

French, to return to Clyde as soon as possible. (Cdt., Force Z, 1535/20).

Cruiser for
Narvik

Sail one ship of 18th C.S. for Narvik as soon as practicable to take place of AURORA and ENTERPRISE, both of which require repair (Adty. 0050/20 to C. in C., H.F.).

Submarines

Positions 0600/21. (V.A.S., 1704/20).
3rd and 10th Flotillas, control. Cancel my 1201/16 (V.A.S., 2123/20).

Precautions

Invasion,
Immobilising
Ports

It has been decided that schemes should be prepared to enable certain ports to be immobilised for seven to ten days in the event of invasion. Military authorities have been instructed to consult with naval and harbour authorities in the preparation of these schemes. Request you will arrange for co-operation of Flag and Naval Officers concerned in your command. Ports for which schemes are to be prepared are:-

Great Yarmouth	The Tees
Lowestoft	Humber Area
Harwich Area	Boston
Sheerness	Peterhead
Dover	Aberdeen
Folkestone	Montrose
Newhaven	Dundee
Blyth	Methil
The Tyne	Burnt Island
Sunderland	Leith
Seaham Harbour	Granton
Hartlepoons	

(D. of L. D. 2250/20 to C. in C.'s).

A.A. Ammunition

Re ammunition supply of guns defending Chatham against low-flying aircraft, our 20 Lewis guns could fire for about 5 minutes and the case for 10 minutes, after which the defence would cease to function. In view of the probable scale of enemy attack it is urged that the ammunition supply should be greatly increased as rapidly as possible. (C. in C., Nore, 2235/20).

Raids by
Submarines

My 1341/17. Considered possible that the advanced forces of an enemy raiding party might be carried in U-boats. Coast watching personnel should be warned accordingly. (D. A/S.W., 1809/20).

Portsmouth
Establishments

Transfer of vital experimental organisation and material of schools might become necessary. I am examining processes for removal but should like information as to possible alternative sites so that these can be reconnoitred. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1223/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

472

Operations

Operation - Lyster.

Time fixed.

Proposed times of sailing. Trawlers and drifters 1030. Forces D and E 1130. (F.O.D.E., 0920/20).

Your 0920. Sailing of Forces D and E approved. (C. in C., Nore, 1037/20).

Operation postponed

Operation postponed, return to anchorage. Trawlers and drifters have been informed. (C. in C., Nore, 1152/20, to F.O.D.E., VEGA).

44. Trawler RIFNESS^S bombed and sunk app. 10 miles west of Ostend. (V.A. Dover, 1008/20)

Forces D and E passed North Goodwins 1400 (F.O.D.E. 1115/20).

Two M.T.B.'s from Sheerness joining you tonight by 2300 to secure astern of you or patrol round convoy as you direct (C. in C. Nore to VEGA 2058/20). M.T.B.s 22 and 24 to join VEGA at Prince's Channel (C.S. Sheerness 2120/20) and to return Harwich after daylight 21/5 (C. in C., Nore, 2237/20)

Operation XD

Continuation of XD

Parties E, F and G for continuation of operation XD are assembling at Chatham Barracks and are to be at 4 hours' notice. Embarkation will take place at Dover to which port stores are now in transit. (D.O.D.(H) 2312/20).

Operation Quixote (Cutting of Cables)

Operation Quixote, Group B have completed cutting Borkum No. 1 and No. 2. Suggest Post Office tests. (JAGUAR, 0600/20). Situation at 0900/20. Group A still searching. Group B, both cables cut. JAGUAR and trawlers returned to Yarmouth. Group C. Northern cable cut. JACKAL and trawlers now leaving Yarmouth to search in position 52:35² N., 02:34 E. (C. in C., Nore, 0930/20, JACKAL (group C) 0249/20, JAGUAR (Group B) 0600/20).

Orders (C. in C., Nore 1016/20 to PUFFIN, JAGUAR, JAVELIN, JACKAL).



War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

473

Operations - Operation Quixote

Informed test on No. 2 Borkum cables are as before operation. May be due to enemy action between recent operations and Bacton. Only way to make sure isto go to ALERT's repair 17/8/22 and raise and cut there, as there is possibility of an abandoned cable. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1654/20).

Operation Completed

Operation completed. Trawlers escorted by JAVELIN and JAGUAR expect arrive Yarmouth Roads 0400. JAVELIN has 5 survivors of Whitley bomber including wounded officer. (JAVELIN, 2121/20).

Operations - Narvik

Military Situation

Situation 0900/19, Ankenes Peninsula. 2nd Bn. Poles have relieved 12th Bn. Chasseurs who have returned to Bogen.

Bjervik Area. Norwegian reports state 80 parachute troops were dropped Rundfjell 15/5 and 10 dropped Bjernfjell 16/5. Mo (corrupt group) 1700 hours. Scots Guards withdrawn from Mo where road and rail bridge destroyed. Portion of rearguard company lost, one enemy aeroplane destroyed. (N.W.E.F., 2210/20).

Destroyers. Skaanland Aerodrome.

Your 1308/19 have no destroyers I can send you. Earliest date Skaanland aerodrome can receive Hurricanes is 26/5. Can GLORIOUS be back by 26/5 (F.O. Narvik, 1041/20 to C. in C., H.F.).

Convoy Escorts

The requirements for destroyers make it essential that escorts for convoys to Narvik should be reduced to a minimum. Risk of attack by surface ships must be accepted. Convoys should be routed well to the westward. (D.D.O.D. to C. in C., H.F., 0052/20). Cancel my 0052/20. (V.C.N.S., 1011/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

474

Operations - Narvik.

Relief for
AURORA &
ENTERPRISE

Request you will sail one ship of 18th C.S. for Narvik as soon as practicable to take the place of AURORA and ENTERPRISE, both of which require repair. (Adty. 0050/20 to C. in C., H.F.) (SOUTHAMPTON was sent).

Code Names

^{"Chamois"} ^{"Boreal"}
~~CHAMOIS~~ and ~~BORÉAL~~ are now the code names for C. in C., French troops in Scandinavia and the Commander French troops Narvik area respectively. (Adty. to C. in C., H.F. 1622/20).

TRUANT

Sailed to patrol between 025° 48' E. and 029° 00' E. south of 071° 15' N. (F.O., 1st C.S. 1810/20).

Hvalfjorðv
Net Defences

~~Completed in position J. on S.B.D. drawing B.D. 620 (GUARDIAN 1815/20).~~

Convoys

Routes for homeward bound convoys and escorts (TARTAR, WESTCOTT, WARWICK, MATABELE). (C. in C., Rosyth, 1900/20).

Your 1228/19 N.P.4 can be received 30/5 N.S.4 about 3/6. Present situation 20 merchant ships in anchorage in Harstad area which are frequently bombed. 11 ships of N.S.3 kept at sea, 2 of them names not previously reported lack fuel and with 4 others enter harbour 22/5. PIONEER, HEILO CARMINSTERI.G. SPICA BELFAST being kept at sea under escort of one destroyer. ROYAL ULSTERMAN arrives 22/5 ACRITY 23/5. Movements of MANELA not known. Thus 29 ships in harbour and due. 4 ships can be cleared 24/5, 4 or 8 additional by 30/5. As requested in my 2239/8 it is essential that convoy should be sailed only by direction of Narvik and that contents of ships be signalled as early as possible. (F.O., Narvik, 2245/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

A/S trawlers

Relief desirable in view of arduous service and increase in subjections to air attacks. (R.A. Narvik, 1252/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Aircraft carriers.

475

Your 2231/18. Consider it essential to Air operations that a report one hour before flying off at 0600 to-morrow Tuesday that visibility on the Coast is suitable for Aircraft to make landfall. Since in any event the attack must leave for Scapa at 0800 to-morrow Tuesday I suggest if and when conditions are suitable Gladiators should be directed to fly to Bardu-Foss today Monday. The visibility at sea today is less than one mile and the 5 T.S.R. Escort Aircraft would probably have to remain at Bardu-Foss until H.M.S. GLORIOUS re-embarked them on 26th May. (GLORIOUS 1121/20 to F.O. Narvik).

Your 1041/20 and GLORIOUS 1121/20. GLORIOUS and FURIOUS will sail for U.K. directly Gladiators are landed. GLORIOUS should be able to return by am/27. ARK ROYAL will retain present destroyer screen and leave area am/21 (V.A.(A) 1600/20).

Vaernes
Aerodrome

Adty. 1424/19. You will be the best judge as to whether an attack on Vaernes aerodrome is a feasible proposition on your way south. (5 S.L. to V.A.(A) 2004/20).

FURIOUS
unable to fly
off aircraft

Should fog persist FURIOUS must either take Gladiators back to Scapa or remain for weather to clear. 300 tons fuel required for every 24 hours delay after 0800/21. In any event GLORIOUS will return to Scapa 0800/21. Request instructions. (FURIOUS 2050/20 to F.O. Narvik).

Your 1121/20. Fly off now (Narvik 2101/20 to GLORIOUS)

ARK ROYAL

Request personnel be retained in U.K. and not sent to this base (R.A. Narvik, 2126/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Iceland.

476

Convoy

✓ FOXHOUND expected Reykjavik 0700/21.
Convoy not ready to sail until p.m. 21/5.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1800/20).

Alabaster Force

"Alabaster's"
~~Alabaster's~~ 1401/18 para. 3. Drifters
capable of accommodation 20 men each could
be made available, but would require prior
modification. Your 1615/19 and C. in C.,
Home Fleet's 1030/20 suggest that
requirements might be met by use of local
resources. Request early report if this is
practicable. (D.O.D.(H) 2017/20).

Shipping
Precautions

From the point of view of security some form
of inspection of ships arriving Reykjavik
appears desirable in lieu of pending establish-
ment of examination service. This could
take the form of visit by officer accompanied
by armed guard. Minister has no objection
and Port authorities are prepared to co-operate.
Traffic inconsiderable. (N.O.I.C. Iceland,
1114/20).

→ FOXHOUND)
GUARDIAN)

Your 1100/19. Concur in use of FOXHOUND
but sailing of GUARDIAN and convoy must
not be delayed as destroyers cannot be spared
to remain in Icelandic waters. (C. in C.,
H.F. 1025/20 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

Net defences Hvalfjord completed in position
J on S.B.D. drawing B.D. 620. (GUARDIAN,
1815/20).

Trawler
Reconnaissance

My 1615/7. First trawlers have returned.
They landed at settlements in the following
Fjords: Copna, Nord, Eski and Faskruds.
Only ships met besides local fishing craft
were Govt. mail steamers SUDIN and ESJI and
one small refugee Norwegian fishing boat.
Local Sheriffs at first three places friendly
and reported no German ships or nationals
seen since hostilities began. There is flat
ground at the head of Nord Fjord but
improbable that it could be used as a landing
ground. Stocks of coal meagre and expensive.
Largest 400 to 500 tons at Nord. Small
shipwright and engineering repair jobs can
be done at Nord but at no other place
visited. Reykjavik Radio reported unidentified
aircraft over Borgarnes Fjord on May 12th.
(C. in C., H.F., 1030/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

477

Allied Submarines

ANTIOPE
attacked
LA SIBYLLE

At 0100/20 French submarine ANTIOPE fired
3 torpedoes at LA SIBYLLE (French).
All 3 torpedoes missed. (D.C.N.S., 259)

Your 0320 (attack on supposed U-boat
after hunting for six hours). Regain
your patrol zone. (R.A.(S), 0623/20 to
ANTIOPE).

Dutch War Vessels

Trawlers,
minelayers,

To proceed to Falmouth to come under Dutch
administration there. Also propose to sail
6 minelayers and minesweepers as soon as
degaussed. One tug and one vessel suitable
for harbour work, dispersal of which the
Dutch Admiral will discuss on his return.
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 1657/20). Your 1657.
How many trawlers are there available?
(D.O.D.(H) 1934/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

478

Fishing craft

Attacked by aircraft with bombs and machine gunned 55:40 N., 4:20 E. at 1330. Left in a sinking condition and abandoned (Donibristle, 1810/20). Had "DANMARK" on side, hoisted swastika as aircraft approached. (Donibristle, rec. 2100/20).

Reconnaissance

Open boats, apparently refugees, and floating mines. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0922/20)

Enemy M.T.B.s

Four fishing vessels were attacked 70 miles off Horns Reef at 1330 and one left in a sinking condition. Nine M.T.B.'s were attacked by 3 Ansons at 1915. No hits with bombs, but one M.T.B. heavily attacked with machine guns. One Anson shot down. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2250/20). See also Enemy Intelligence.

Stavanger
Attacked

At 0300/20, British aircraft attacking Stavanger started four fires and put a searchlight out of action. Other aircraft dropped incendiary bombs on Vaernes aerodrome, in the Trondheim area, at 0012/20) where a concentration of 200 enemy aircraft had been reported. Bombed aerodrome 15 miles S.E. Stavanger, believed dummy. (Donibristle, 0550/20, 0730/20).

Lympne
Aerodrome

Necessary for R.A.F. to take over accommodation as quickly as possible. Request alternative arrangements for accommodation of F.A.A. personnel. (Air Min. 2000/20 to Adty).

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

479

Enemy Air Activity

- PAVON 4128 tons. Bombed near Calais, set on fire, and sank at 2257/20. (D.S.)
- RIFSNESE M/S trawler. Bombed from 0740 for about 2 hours 10 mins. W. of Ostend. Hit and sunk (V.A.Dover, 2335/20, 1008/20).
- MALCOLM Bombed 1720. Casualties caused by a near miss, 3 dead, 10 seriously W. (V.A.Dover, 2335/20). Minor damage (V.A. Dover 1201/21). SUPPLEMENT
- LORD INCHCAPE M/S trawler. Bombed from 0740 for about 2 hours 10 mins. W. of Ostend. (V.A. Dover, 2335/20).
- ARABIS Bombed by 2 aircraft. No damage (ARABIS 2230/20, 0100/21).
- CHOUDS Bombed off Calais 2258 G.M.T. on fire. (N. Foreland Radio, T.O.R. 0003/21).
- PEMBROKE COAST Transport (with petrol supplies). Bombed and set on fire at Vaagsfiord. Total loss.
- ~~BALTEAKO~~^K BALTEAKO Supply ship. Bombed and set on fire at Vaagsfiord.
- Signals Reported that enemy aircraft over the Skagerrak are using night identification signals similar in colour and possibly identical with our own. (French submarine ACHILLE, 0034/20).
- Seaplane Destroyed VENOMOUS shot down a seaplane off the Goodwins at midnight 19-20/5. (D.C.N.S. 259).
- S.S. KOMET Attacked 0912/20 without success. "Expect bomb dropped 5 miles 076° of Dungeness". (N. Foreland Radio Rec. 1030/20).
- ACHILLE Severely bombed by unknown aircraft at MBZS 0605 at 0840 (French S/m ACHILLE 0925/20).



War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

480

Enemy Air Activity

R.F.A. BERTA Bomed off Beachy Head leaving 288 distance
12 miles at 2200 (Niton Radio 2250/20).

BATAVIER II Attacked by enemy aircraft off Beachy Head
bearing 306 about 8 miles (BATAVIER II,
2323/20).

Dunkirk,
Calais,
Havre,
Boulogne. Bomed between 2000/19 and 2000/20.
(V.A. Dover, 2335/20).

Havre. Heavy air raid in progress since 2230.
Many fires damage in docks. All traffic
stopped between Roken and coast owing to
magnetic mines. Raid still in progress.
French Adty. telegraphed British Adty.
stopping convoy (B.C. Havre 0030/20)
See also Mining.

War Diary

20.5.1940
Monday

Home Commands

481

Mining.

Floating Mines

Reported by aircraft in $51^{\circ}32'N$ $2^{\circ}11'E$
and $51^{\circ}32'N$ $2^{\circ}10'E$ at 0803 aircraft
endeavoured to sink without success.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0922)

Minelaying, Jaedernes

Your 2213/19 concur in laying off
Jaedernes first, but should like mines
in the other position to be laid same
time.

Suspicious objects.

Like a small bomb, with fins around the
top, appeared to be floating, not
moored, and about 3 ft out of water.
8 in all over 40 miles between $50^{\circ}28'$
 N $1^{\circ}3'W$ through $50^{\circ}27'N$ $0^{\circ}47'W$
then 071° to Beachy Head. Sighted
by tanker TORNUS 0840 G.M.T. 17/5.



War Diary

20.5. 1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

482

Mining

Havre Mined

Aircraft dropped bombs and magnetic mines in Carross Road near La Havre (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 0028/20, C. in C., Portsmouth, 2328/19, 0114/20)

Dieppe

Mines in entrance (Dieppe Radio 0200/20, Scapa W/T. T.O.R. 0308/20)

Dieppe was again mined by aircraft on the night 19-20 May, estimated three mines (I.C. 0457/40)

Shipping

Belgian Trawlers

To be sent to Dartmouth. Arrangements for their future employment will be made through Belgium Shipping Commission. (A.C.N.S. 1103/20) Does not apply to Belgian vessels fishing regularly from West Coast Ports. (A.C.N.S. 1331/20)

O-342 and O-83 arrived with 16 and 57 refugees respectively. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1443/20)

O-224 and O-80 with 20 and 72 refugees, and O-88 for orders (N.C.S.O Milford Haven 1910/20)

Convoys

Situation at 2000/20 (C. in C., 1420/20)

Italian Ships Detained

Complaints have been received from Italian Government that Italian ships bound for the Tyne in ballast have been held up at Falmouth. This is said to be on the instructions of the Contraband Committee and to apply at present time to SS BARBANA G and SS ANDREA. Is there any foundation for the protest? If so please furnish full explanation (M.E.W, 1135/20 to Falmouth)

Miscellaneous

Baltic ✓

Since my last report 27/4 there has been greatly increased Russian activity of warships tanks and aircraft and large increase of the garrison. Arrived additional 1 large and 2 smaller cruisers. Since 14/5 there has been large passenger ship JOSEPH-STALIN in war-harbour and similar passenger ship anchored in outer harbour.

the/

HOME COMMANDS

483

Miscellaneous (continued)

Baltic, Contd.

The inhabitants of N.W. Laivu and Kromu Streets are being removed.

Since my last report 7 ships have arrived with German coal for state department and 3 Russian tankers with oil for Russia. (Vice Consul, Liepaja, 0830/20)

Continental Telephones Stopped.

At 2255 G.P.O. reported that there was no public telephone service to France, Italy or Switzerland. Reason, bomb hit repeater station.

Swedish Destroyers in Eire

Admiralty 1430/16 and 1844/18 Eire authorities state no arrangements were made to supply fuel oil, as Swedish Consul when applying to them for facilities merely asked that water and provisions should be available. (N.A., Dublin, 1300/20)

Weather

North Sea

Wind, light, northerly. Visibility very good, moderate on English coast. Outlook similar.

Channel

Wind, N.E., light to moderate. Visibility good, Outlook, mod. northerly wind.

Western Approaches.

Wind, E to S.E., light to moderate. Visibility, good. Outlook Similar.

Horns Reef

Wind, northerly, moderate to fresh. Visibility, very good. Outlook, visibility becoming mod.

W. Coast Norway (South)

Wind, northerly, light to moderate. Visibility, very good. Outlook similar.

Ditto (North)

Wind, westerly, moderate to fresh, Visibility, moderate to good, fog patches on coast. Outlook similar.

Dutch Coast

Wind, N.E. moderate. Visibility good, hazy. Outlook, similar.

HOME COMMANDS

484

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Naval Forces.

(see situation report)

M.T.B's.

Eight enemy war motor boats bearing 090° distance one mile course 194° from position CPOX 4815 (aircraft squadron 1901/20, C. in C., Nore, 2103/20 to JACKAL, JAGUAR, JAVELIN) Enemy's course 194° 25 knots, (aircraft 48 squadron, 1915/20) 9 enemy M.T.B's in C.P.O.X. 4915 (52° 49'N 4° 15'E) at 1900 attacked at 1950 by aircraft damage to M.T.B's not known. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2250/20) See also Air.

2 Fishing vessels sunk

At 0300/20 sank 2 Danish fishing vessels in 54° 8'N 3°35'E. Rising sea and lack of accommodation prevented action against 5 others later. Fishermen have information of Kattegat operation. Have 7 men 1 dog on board. (SPEARFISH 1135/20) your 1435/20 boats were fishing in Mukden ? 8/4-27/4 down to 56° 30'N. Some apparent knowledge over this period of German minefields etc. (SPEARFISH 1803/20)

Explosive Fountain Pens

Commander of province of Antwerp states Germans dropping by parachute fountain pen containing detonator with explosive. Detonator explodes when cap of pen is taken off (C. in C., Nore, 1614/20)

North Atlantic.

French Positions

Convoys and patrols. (D.C., 0105/20)

Portugese Patrol

My 0808/19. Patrol A.H. has been abolished. A.F. and A.J. have been extended as follows. A.F. between 44° N and 40° 30' N. A.J. between 37° N and 40° 15' N. Longitudes remain unchanged. (D.C., 1827/20)

South Atlantic

Suspected raider

My 1051/19. D.F. bearings at 1200 zone X.I. today indicate possibility of suspected being to eastwards of position given. (C. in C., S.A. 2141/20)

Re Ascension keeping continuous W/T watch.

Can decision be given on my 218/1190 of 20/12/39. With possibility of a raider being in South Atlantic it is considered that possibility of distress messages being received and so retransmitted to a Naval Authority will be increased very considerable if continuous watch can be maintained on 500 Kcs at Ascension. Experience in the case of NEWTON BEECH proves possibility of SCIENTIST having sent out raider report which has not been received by a shore station. (C. in C., S.A. 1921/20 to Admiralty)

Weather Reports

Suggesting coding of Madagascar weather broadcasts which are continuing in plain language. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1515/20)

Mediterranean.

D.W.L. Aircraft

5 D.W.I. Wellington aircraft flying to Egypt via Malta should arrive 23/5, for employment magnetic mine sweeping of Suez canal and Alexandria. (D.S.M., 1946/20)

Movements.

HYPERION, HASTY, HOSTILE, KINGSTON, KANDAHAR, KHARTOUM, NUBIAN, 38N, 5 E, to Malta. WISHART, DOUGLAS, 37 N 12E., escorting ORONSAY to Malta. DRAGON left Alexandria 16/5 (D.C., 0754/20) (to B.N.L.O. Marceau)

Threat to block Suez Canal

French Consul Trieste received anonymous letter stating Italian intention to block Suez Canal with old warships before declaring war. Same source also reports MIRAGLIA arriving Suez. 23rd or 24th May with excuse carrying aircraft to East Africa. (B.N.L.O. Marceau to Adty. 1850/20)

FOREIGN STATIONS

486

Mediterranean Contd.

Tanker Sailings

A.M. 2016/16, sailings westbound from Port Said, Alexandria, Haifa and Cyprus. Sailings westward of tankers from Tripoli have also been stopped. (C. in C., Med. 0701/20)

Crete

A.C.N.S. (A) Will arrange with C. in C., Med. for one submarine to patrol off Suda Bay to forestall any Italian occupation. (M.S.M.)

Italian Warships

Report from Imperial Airways pilot (A.I) Italian cruiser TARANTO spent 4 days loading mines. 2 merchant ships from Trieste being fitted out as minesweepers with paravanes and a gun forward and aft. Radio station which normally broadcasts weather reports every 3 hours off the air 19/5. Italian explanation "Struck by lightning" proved untrue. (G.O.I., Alexandria, 1847/20)

Yugo Slav General Staff states (a) 19/5 one Italian destroyer and 2 tugs, each towing a monitor arrived at Zara (A.N.A. Belgrade 1800/20)

East Indies

Tankers

A.M. 0010/20. Northbound chartered tankers are to be kept at Aden for the present, but if your information should indicate that situation is becoming critical they are to be sailed for Bombay without further orders. (C. in C., E.I. to N.O.I.C., Aden, 0856Z/20)

America & West Indies.

Degaussing

Your 1330/17. Delay up to 6 days acceptable. Preference should be given to ships bound for London or East Coast U.K. ports. Tankers must not be degaussed when loaded. (D.T.D., 1826/20 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

T.C. 5 & T.C. 6.

R.A. 3's 1842/17 REVENGE alone is considered sufficient escort for T.C. 5 and REVENGE and EMERALD for T.C. 6. Request report whether the forces now at your disposal for convoy escort duties are adequate. Assume you regard all A.M.C.I's now allocated to Halifax and Bermuda as one force for purpose of operations and refits. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., A.W.I. 2314/20)

War Diary

20.5.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

487

ARAWA, KANIMBLA,
MORETON BAY

Cancel my 0359/13 ARAWA to leave
patrol so as to arrive Hong Kong 27/⁵/~~6~~.
Unless situation changes, KANIMBLA will
sail for patrol off Japan 29/5 and
MORETON BAY arrives Hong Kong 10/6.
C. in C., China 0512/20)



War Diary

20.5.1940.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

488

Home Commands.

✓ The demolitions at Delfzyl by the Dutch have blocked the entrance to the harbour and prevented the German ships inside from putting to sea. Among those temporarily imprisoned in this way are the AUGUST BOLTEN, 3065 tons,

* BOLTENHAGEN 3335 tons
Sec P. 510

~~HEINRICH~~, (~~BOLTENHOF~~, 3307 tons)
JERSBEK, 2804 tons, CASABLANCA, 2313 tons
NORDLICHT (?) WITTEKIND, 4028 tons,
PALERMO, 1461 tons, THIELBEK, 1883 tons
WOLFGANG L.M. RUSS (?) ZEUS, 2500 tons.
(D.S. 21/5)

South Atlantic

RUDOLF ALBRECHT

My 1157/18, RUDOLF ALBRECHT arrived
Teneriffe 18/5. (C. in C., S.A., 1011/20)

East Indies

TANNENFELS)
UCKERMARK)
~~TANNENFELS~~)
ASKARI)
KIONGA)

Admiralty 1312/11 RANCHI reports
TANNENFELS and another ship almost
certainly UCKERMARK plainly visible at
Kismaya. ~~TANNENFELS~~ now has buff panel
2 vessels resembling ASKARI and KIONGA
also seen. (C. in C., E.I., 0441/20)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

LA SIBYLLE missed.

→ Enemy submarine fired 2 torpedoes at her 0150 both missed. My position 53° 23'N 3° 51'E (LA SIBYLLE 0127/20) It was ANTIOPE who attacked LA SIBYLLE, see submarines attacked)

Submarines reported

1600

→ 52° 52'., 01° 37'E, 12 E by S from ~~Cromer~~ ~~Sowby~~ ROSEMARY (ROSEMARY 1600/20) see submarines attacked. Unreliable (C. in C., Portsmouth 2000/20)

1635

58° 00'N, 10° 00'W. possible periscope reported by A.M.C. SCOTSTOUN (doubtful) I.C. 0456/40) (SCOTSTOUN 1635/20, 1700/20)

1600

50° 44'N 0° 10'E 3'W Beachy Head. aircraft report. Hunt unsuccessful (I.C. 0457/40)

Estimated Dispositions

2 or possibly 3 U-Boats off W and N.W. Ireland southbound. Possibly 1 near North Channel D.D.I.C. 1205/20)

Submarines Attacked.

0900

By aircraft position 58° 1'N 1° 58'N level bombs, hits not estimated. (Air craft 233 Sqdn., 0900/20) Amend position to 57° 12'N 1° 52'W. Submarine now considered friendly. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1030/20)

1915

→ ROSEMARY and ENCHANTRESS attacked a suspected enemy submarine off Beachy Head. Oil and bubbles appeared and search being continued. (C. in C., W.A. 1721/20 ENCHANTRESS 2215/20) Contact now established. non sub (ENCHANTRESS 0705/21) see submarines reported.

0055

→ LA SIBYLLE 0127. Fired 3 torpedoes at supposed U-Boat 0055 53° 23'N 3° 44'E after hunting for 6 hours (ANTIOPE (S/M) 0320/20) (This was LA SIBYLLE)

My 2209 contact now definitely established as shoal of fish (GRIMSBY 0019/21) (probably refers to 1915 above)

21.5. 1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

490

Low Countries and France

German thrust continues to be directed towards the sea with a view to cutting lines of communication of Allied forces north of the break through. Enemy aircraft active along the coast between Flushing and Etaples. 9 Enemy M.T.B's were sighted and attacked by our aircraft off the coast of Holland at 1915.

The Blockships for Ostend and Zeebrugge are still being held at short notice (D.C.N.S. 22 May)

An unknown ship was sunk by a mine outside Havre during the night 20/21, and an oiler was sunk in the Dunkirk area. The Port of Havre is closed.

NORWAY

The G.O.C., N.W.E.F. reports that he cannot hold himself responsible for the safety of his force if it is reduced as suggested by the War Office, and the enemy exercises his undoubted ability to attack. If H.M. Govt. decide that Northern Norway must continue to be held with diminished resources laid down then he will make every effort; but he cannot pretend there is any reasonable certainty of his being able to achieve the object given him in his instructions. The morale of both the Naval and Military forces is being steadily undermined by German air superiority and is causing anxiety. The air forces envisaged are insufficient, whilst the A.A. artillery which the War Office propose to supply amounts to only one third of the original estimate prepared by the General Staff and and less than half of General Archintek's considered demand. (N.W.E.F., G.136 21/5 to W.O.)

Swedish Minister in Berlin on 18/5 was presented by Ribbentrop with further strongly worded demands to allow sealed consignments of food for German forces at Narvik to pass through Sweden. This has been met by obstinate refusal. (D.N.I., 0027/21)

The Gladiators having flown off FURIOUS, all three carriers are going south from the Narvik area. GLORIOUS will fuel and return to fly off her Hurricanes. (M.S.M.)

During the night 20/21st two store-ships were

lost/

SITUATION REPORT

Norway. Contd.

lost by bombing in the Narvik area; PEMBROKE COAST with petrol was set on fire and BALTEAKO was holed on waterline and beached. Between 20 and 30 M.V's in Harstad anchorage are being frequently bombed. (D.C.N.S. 22 May)

Iceland

The original party of R.M's who landed in Iceland and have since been relieved by troops left Reykjavik for the Clyde at 2200/21 in FRANCONIA and LANCASTRIA with two destroyers and the damaged GUARDIAN.

British Air Activity

Bad weather delayed air patrols of C.C. in Northern area till late p.m./21 when all normal patrols were flown. All southern patrols were flown; and many successful attacks were carried out by Bomber and Fighter Commands. Sixteen aircraft went out on Minelaying operations; and the C.C. also attacked Stavanger and Varnes aerodromes. 22 aircraft attacked the oil tanks at Rotterdam during the night 20/21 and estimated that 15 hits were obtained.

Enemy Air Activity

There has been a marked increase of transport aircraft to Baltic stations; and two aircraft from a reconnaissance unit of the High Command were operating at Putnitz on the Baltic coast. The total confirmed German aircraft losses up to and including 20th May are 756, not including any brought down by B.A.F.F. during past three days. (Air Ministry to M.Qs 1800/21)

U-Boats

There are now several U boats at sea whose destinations and objectives cannot be confidently estimated, but important developments may be pending.

A Swedish vessel of 5000 tons was torpedoed after due warning off the Hebrides early on 19/5 and her master has reported that the U-boat concerned was of 750 tons, appeared to be brand new, and that it went off to the S.W.

Two or possibly 3 U boats are known to be west of Iceland proceeding south.



SITUATION REPORT

492

Italian Situation

Italy continues to
increase her state of
preparedness

Signor Mussolini has replied to President Roosevelt's latest message that latter as realist must understand two fundamental facts. 1. Italy is and intends to remain allied with Germany. 2. She cannot remain absent when fate of Europe is at stake. During last 48 hours it is considered that likelihood of Italy entering war has increased, but cannot be regarded as certainty. Appears unlikely she will take any action for next five days. (D.N.I ., 0027/21)

The Admiralty have instructed C. in C., Med. to institute a submarine patrol off Crete to forestall any attempted landing.

C. in C., A & W.I. envisages the possibility that Italian submarines and disguised raiders may commence to operate before any declaration of war.

HOME COMMANDS

493

Precautions

Patrol off Aldeburgh

For the present 2 destroyers are to patrol near Aldeburgh Light Float being relieved every 24 hours (C. in C., Nore 1239/21)

Patrol off Firth of Forth

Destroyer patrol established between 54 and 54B Buoy (C. in C., Rosyth 2152/21)

C. in C., Rosyth 1851/603 of 15/5 and Admiralty 0221/8/5 (summary of experience against aircraft in Norway) strongly urge that A/A practice facilities may be improved so that advantage may be taken of summer months. (C. in C., H.F. 1612/21)

Movements.

GALATEA
ARETHUSA

To sail for Humber not later than a.m./22 (C. in C., Nore 1212/21)

PROTECTOR

To leave Plymouth for Gibraltar a.m./28 (C. in C., Rosyth 1039/21)

Sail 3 destroyers for Dover to be placed under orders of V.A. Dover, temporarily (D.O.D. (H) 1444/21. to C. in C., Nore)

VENOMOUS

Sailed (from Sangatte) with refugees and stores (VENOMOUS 1430/21, 1500/21, N.O.I.C. Dover 1432/21)

VIMY, WINDSOR proceed to Dover (C. in C., Nore 1539/21 to F.O. Humber)

S.10. Submarines

10th Flotilla and JULES VERNE to go to Dundee. Obvious difficulties in operating three flotillas from Rosyth. (S.3, 1213/21)

Operation X.D.

My 2312/20 Parties are to be at immediate notice for leaving Chatham. (D.O.D. (H) 1310/21) My 1310/21 Parties are to be at 2 hours notice (D.O.D. (H) 1910/21)

Operation Lyster.

Do not wait for me, can catch you up. Can anchor but cannot weigh (TRANSEAS 0950/21 to VEGA)

2 M.T.B's to join VEGA now anchored at Prince Channel and act under orders of F.O.D.E. maximum fuel to be carried but not torpedoes or depth charges (C. in C., Nore 1019/23 to N.O.I.C. Harwich)

HOME COMMANDS

494

Operation Lyster Contd.

Tugs for F.O.D.E. (C C R T 1106/21) concur with proposals in your 0400 M.T.B's have been detailed (C. in C., Nore 1210/21 to F.O.D.E., VEGA)

Expect to arrive N. Goodwin 1500 (F.O.D.E. 1323/21)

Return to anchorage and be at 4 hours notice. (C. in C., Nore 1330/21 to F.O.D.E.)

All ships of forces D and E weigh at daylight 22/5 and proceed to anchor at Great Nore (C. in C., Nore 2010/21)

Operation DF. If possible, arrange for two motor boats at Ostend only to meet ships as they approach harbour for landing shore demolition parties. (D.M.S., to Dunkerque to pass to Comdr. Peterson, 1355/21)

Operation Quixote

Group C completed and arrived Yarmouth 0130/21 (JACKAL 0130/21)

Request search may be made for HECTOR if not already located (JACKAL 0305/21)

M/V HECTOR approaching Yarmouth (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0603/21)

Test of Results

From N.O.I.C. Yarmouth's test appears to show that all cables are cut except Banton Borkum No 2 and Lowestoft Borkum (Great Yarmouth 1515/21)

Further Cables to be cut

ALERT to cut Dampton Gap-Borkum cable about 10 miles to seaward as soon as possible. (D A/S W 2018/21)

It has been decided to cut the following cables using ~~trawlers~~ ^{Quixote} trawlers and personnel:-

- Lowestoft to Zandvoort- one
- Benaern to Zandvoort- 2
- Aldeburgh to Domburg - 4

(D A/S W 2140/21) *Completed, see p. 553.*

Return to Harwich (C. in C., Nore 1223/21 to JACKAL, JAVELIN, JAGUAR)

War Diary

21/5/1940.
Tuesday

MINOR OPERATIONS

Operation Hunter

(1) If attack by enemy M.T.B's is reported or expected C. in C., More will make signal "carry out operation Hunter" followed if possible by position.

(2)-(4) Arrangements. (5) Action to be taken by destroyers, corvettes, trawlers, reserve tugs, M.T.B's. (C. in C., More 1546/21)

1000 hours

Report from 1st Flotilla destroyers at Rosport 1000 hours, 1000 hours and 1100 hours of observation in Channel, sea and guns not already in service, but none of them will not be in service until 11.00 AM (11/5/40)

1100 hours

French military mission state they do not propose to carry out operations at Calais and Boulogne at present. (11/5/40) of these units at present the 1st Flotilla Military Mission U.K. 11/5/40

1200 hours

Called with 1st Flotilla 1200 hours and 1300 hours Report to 1st Flotilla 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800, 1900, 2000, 2100, 2200, 2300, 2400, 2500, 2600, 2700, 2800, 2900, 3000, 3100, 3200, 3300, 3400, 3500, 3600, 3700, 3800, 3900, 4000, 4100, 4200, 4300, 4400, 4500, 4600, 4700, 4800, 4900, 5000, 5100, 5200, 5300, 5400, 5500, 5600, 5700, 5800, 5900, 6000, 6100, 6200, 6300, 6400, 6500, 6600, 6700, 6800, 6900, 7000, 7100, 7200, 7300, 7400, 7500, 7600, 7700, 7800, 7900, 8000, 8100, 8200, 8300, 8400, 8500, 8600, 8700, 8800, 8900, 9000, 9100, 9200, 9300, 9400, 9500, 9600, 9700, 9800, 9900, 10000 (11/5/40)

Fighter patrols over English coast

Consider that if present transport operations are to be carried out with any success it is a vital necessity that continuous fighter patrols should be maintained over Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk in daylight and be present in order that these ports may be kept open (W.A. Dyer, 1000, 1000/40)

Operations Report

1300 hours

Result of 1300 hours evening's work. 1st Flotilla called on fire with petrol 1300 at Rosport, 1300 hours. Oil charges working. 1st Flotilla called Rosport and reached. (11/5/40)

1400 hours

Four 1st Flotilla and 1st Flotilla. 1st Flotilla arrived Rosport 1400 hours and 1500 hours (11/5/40)

1500 hours

In presence of 1st Flotilla (C. in C., 1500, 1500/40) 1st Flotilla 1500, 1500/40

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Low Countries & France.

Northern Ports

In event of serious damage to the Northern ports it might become essential to land supplies on the beach. Please give preparations for this your immediate and serious consideration in conjunction with Adty. and W.O. Labour and special craft would be required (P.S.T.O. French Ports 1555/21 to D of S.T., Min. of Shipping)

All C.B's destroyed by fire in emergency. (N.C.S.O. Dieppe 2055/21)

Troops and Anti tank guns for Boulogne

Request you will detail a destroyer to transport 8 anti-tank guns, 100 men and 1200 round of ammunition to Boulogne. Men and guns are already at Dover, but ammunition will not arrive before 1400. D.O.D. (H) 1144/21)

Demolitions at Ostend & Zeebrugge

French military mission state they do not propose to carry out demolitions at Ostend and Zeebrugge at present. Vital importance of these ports at present. (No 9 (Needham) Military Mission H.N. 102 2045/21)

Refugees

Sailed with approx. 200 refugees and stores. Expect to arrive Dover 1535. (VENOMOUS, 1430/21) Are refugees on board? (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1447/21) Your 1447, all refugees, also crew and stores from Sangatte on board. (VENOMOUS, 1500/21)

Fighter Patrols over French Ports

Consider that if present transport operations are to be carried out with any success it is a vital necessity that continuous fighter patrols should be maintained over Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk in daylight for the present in order that these ports may be kept open (V.A. Dover, 1505, 1614/21)

Operations Norway

British Petrol Stock destroyed

Result of this evening's raid. PEMBROKE COAST on fire with petrol still on board. total loss. Oil wharves burning. BALTEAKO holed waterline and beached. (R.A., Narvik, 0145/21)

Gladiators

Your 2L50 and 0434/21. Gladiators arrived Weather conditions now unsuitable (F.O. Narvik, 0901/21)

SOUTHAMPTON

To proceed to Narvik area (C. in C., H.F. 1045/21) (To replace AURORA, ENTERPRISE)

HOLE COMMANDS

496

Operations-Norway, Contd.

3 Pdr. guns

Asking for 6 to be sent to R.A. Narvik (D.N. O. 1130/21 to C. in C., Rosyth) Suspend action (D.N.O. 1919/21)

BANDIT

To proceed to Narvik area to tow ESKIMO (C. in C., H.F. 1206/21)

→ ENTERPRISE

Leaving for England shortly. To embark Norwegian gold for passage forthwith (F.O. Narvik 1914/21)

COXWOLD

To sail for Harstad as soon as possible owing to loss of PEMBROKE COAST (D.O.D. (H) 2319/21)

Aerodromes

Stop all work on sites Bodo area. Future policy as regards use of Bodo for advanced landing area now under review. (Air Min. 1750/21)

Convoy

French store ship ARLENIER is to be included in convoy N.S. 4. (D.O.D.(H), 1415/21)

Oil Storage at Bergen

N.O.I.C., Lerwick states information from Norwegian refugees from Bergen that up to a.m./18 petroleum storage tanks have been destroyed by our aircraft as follows:

At Florvaagpynt opposite Kvarven Lt. 6 tanks out of 10. At Skaalevik 1/2 mile S.W. of Kvarven, a considerable number of tanks but figure not known.

There are storage tanks near Klampevik 85 miles 284 degrees from Kvarven and also at Lillevaag 3 miles 33 degrees from Kvarven which have not been attacked. It is known that some of these are petrol but no details are available. 1314/21 Ends. (A.C.O.S. 1728/21)

→ Norwegian Gold

Arrange for ENTERPRISE to embark Norwegian Gold for passage forthwith. (F.O. Narvik, to C.S.I. 1914/21)

North Norway

Possibility of enemy expeditionary force

C.S.I. reports possibility of considerable enemy forces accompanied by U-Boats due N. Norway via White sea canal last week May. Russia may aid with 14 destroyers 24 submarines. Russian aircraft identical with German type frequently reconnoitring. F.O. Narvik 1800/21)

HOME COMMANDS

497

Operation-North Norway Contd.

Possibility of
Enemy expeditionary
Force, Contd.

Part 2 of 1800. Little resistance can be expected by Norwegian troops. High speed asdic vessels and aircraft badly needed. submarine patrols Tana, Lajsef, Porsanger will be established with TRUANT and 2 Norwegian submarines when available. To meet threat of enemy expeditionary force F.O.I.C.S. requires additional 4 destroyers and 2 British submarines, also aircraft and A/A guns. (F.O. Narvik 1804/21)

MONARCH OF BERMUDA
ROYAL SCOTSMAN

Of N.P.4 to be sailed to arrive Tromso 26/5 or 27/5 if escort available (F.O. Narvik 2146/21)

Iceland

Troop Landing

Officer and 40 men of 1st/5th Bn., W Yorkshire Regt., satisfactorily established in Seidis Fiord. (DISCOVERY 2 1941/21)

Patrol

Your 1155/21 (SUDIN intercepted with British troops on board for escort in) SUDIN is ship referred to in my 1443/20 (re DISCOVERY'S patrol off Reykjavik) (V.A.N.P., 1538/21)

Movements

^{DU}
GUARDIAN, FOXHARD, HAVANT, FRANCONIA, and LANCASTRIA sailed for Clyde 2030 (N.D.I.C. Iceland, 2220/21)

Aircraft Carriers

Aircraft Landed

16 Gladiators landed Bard^unfoss. 3 Swordfish left for FURIOUS 2 Gladiators 1 Swordfish overdue. Return to Scapa. (F.O., Narvik, to FURIOUS, 1117/21)

re GLORIOUS 1121/20. If Gladiators not flown off by 0800/21 arrange for GLORIOUS to refuel in Northern waters (1st S.L. 0910/21 to F.O. Narvik) Cancel my 0910/21 (D.S.O. 1347/21)

Operation completed. 16 Aircraft of 263 Sqdn. arrived Bard^unfoss. 2 Gladiators and 1 Swordfish failed to arrived, missing. (FURIOUS, 1149/21)

Propose detaching GLORIOUS to oil from GREAT EMPEROR proceeding myself to Scapa (FURIOUS 1211/21)

Admiralty 1347/21 FURIOUS, GLORIOUS, proceeding to Scapa (FURIOUS 1730/21) (escort V.A. (A) 1920/21)

Requirements for aircraft carriers in near future. (1st. S.L. 1932/21)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Submarines

Targets are likely to be few and far between in zones submarines are now patrolling. Main tain one River class submarine on patrol in area off Trondheim to Statlander (C. in C., H.F. 1041/21, V.A.S. 1331/21)

Probability of Invasion

Your 1045/21^{dis} positions referred to in my 1456/17 were made after ascertaining that in Admiralty's view the most serious threat at the moment was possibility of seaborne invasion of England.

(b) Owing to (1) recent breakdowns in French submarines, (2) necessity of relieving strain on our submarines, (3) despatch of TRUANT and shortly SEVERN to Tromso area the number of submarines in patrol areas given in my 1456/17 are even now too few properly to compete with threat of invasion of England. C.D. Proposals (V.A.S. 1332/21 to C. in C., H.F.)

SNAPPER, CALYPSO, SUNFISH to join convoys FN 77,78,79 (C. in C., Rosyth 1026/212208/21)

Dutch Warships

FLORES

Request Dutch FLORES be lent to Nore Command where she should prove very useful in Thames Estuary. (C. in C., Nore, 1700/21)

Air.

British Air Activity

Rotterdam Oil tanks (operation 19) attacked by 22 aircraft 2330/20 to 0050/21. 15 hits estimated. No enemy aircraft opposition. No damage to our aircraft except slight damage to one tailplane. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0630/21, 0500/21).

Air searches All air searches postponed owing to weather except escort for RESOLUTION (C. in C., Rosyth, 0630/21).

M.T.Bs Attacked 9 M.T.Bs in position 52:49 N., 4:15 E. attacked by 3 aircraft at 1915. 2 dive bombing attacks made and 1 aircraft got severe bursts of M.G. fire into leading M.T.B. 1 aircraft failed to return. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2325/21).

Vaernes Photographs confirm large number of aircraft probably JU.88 on Vaernes aerodrome, which was attacked by Hudsons on night of 19/20. (D.N.A.D. to V.A.A., 1631/21).

Enemy Air Activity

PEMBROKE COAST 625 tons, attacked during night of 20-21/5 in Vaagsfiord set on fire, probably total loss (R.A. Narvik, 0145/21).

VENOMOUS Bombed, Calais Harbour (VENOMOUS 1422/21).

BURKE Bombed 180 N. Foreland (BURKE 1916/21).

BELGRAVIAN British, 3136 tons, severely bombed during night of May 21-22. Anchored six miles off Dungeness. (N. Foreland Radio, 0243/22).

HOME COMMANDS.

500

Operations - Iceland. Operation Fork.

N.C.I.C.
Iceland.

Report on assuming charge etc. 17-21/5/40.
M01262/40.

Air

FIRTH FISHER
sunk.

Bombed and sunk in Boulogne Harbour, 7 of crew missing. Ship bombed ~~armed ships~~ and sank in 30 seconds. Survivors picked up by S.S. SPARTA. No assistance from French. (Interview with Master - no number)

MAVIS.

Bombed 20/5 off Calais. Interview with Chief Officer. (T.D. Shipping Casualties Section, 23 May 1940). *See next page*

HUBBA/STONE.

British, 872 tons, bombed alongside pier at Dieppe 0830/21, believed sunk (settling when abandoned). Chief Engineer, 1 seaman and 1 fireman missing: 3 slightly wounded. Crew of 12, (11 British, 1 Norse) 9 arrived Southampton from Havre (LD Form A.A.) Report of loss M. 010077/40)

LORI ONT.

Contraband control guardship. Attacked 2338/21 by enemy a/c. Slight damage (M.010196/40)

FREIDIG.

Norwegian attacked by a/c 11 miles E. Orfordness 2330/21. Vessel damaged, but not abandoned. No hits but near misses (Attacks on M/VS by a/c)

BELGRAVIAN.

British 3136 tons, Attacked by a/c 1800/21 while waiting for pilot outside Boulogne. Lewis gun fired. Bren gun jammed Machine-gunned, hit by bullets. 3rd Engineer injured. (Attacks on M/Vs by a/c)

BAWTRY

Bombed and sunk at Dunkirk 21/5. Interview with Master. (T.D. Shipping Casualties section, 23 May 1940).

War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

501

MAVIS British (935 tons) was bombed and sunk
20/5 off Calais. Master w., 4 crew k.
Enemy air activity 2000/20 to 2000/21.

A/S trawlers)
LADY PHILOMENA,) Bombed and damaged by near misses.
KINGSTON OLIVINE)

Other A/S trawlers bombed on patrol but undamaged.

R.F.A. BERTA) Bombed off Beachy Head, undamaged.
BATAVIERII)
(refugee ship)

BURKE Bombed off N. Foreland and bombs dropped
in Downs anchorage.

VENOMOUS Bombed in Calais.

KEITH Bombed in Dunkirk.

GREY MIST Bombed in Boulogne.

WILD SWAN Bombed on N. Goodwin patrol.

Dunkirk)
Calais) Repeatedly bombed during this period.
Boulogne) (V.A. Dover, 1044/22).

Havre Aircraft laid 6 to 8 mines last night.
Port closed until the channel is cleared.
No bombs dropped. Dunkirk to Boulogne
heavily bombed last night and much German
naval activity in Norderney area.
(B.N.L.O. Marceau 1015/21).

War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

502

Mining

Mine exploded Magnetic mine exploded 95° Humber Lt. V.
18 cables 1530/21 (F.O. Humber, 1904/21).

Clyde Reinforcement of Clyde sweepers essential
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2234/21).

Own Minelaying Six mines laid off Ems by C.C. last night
(M.S.M., 22/5).

Shipping

Convoys Not to sail until further orders.
N.F.4, N.S.4 (D.O.D.(H) 1836/21).

Ocean convoys Positions (D.C. 1915/21).

Weather

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	N.E. or N., light to moderate fresh locally.	Rain & fog patches in North, cloudy elsewhere.	Generally moder- ate, poor in fog.
Horns Reef	N.N.E. moderate or fresh.	Cloudy with occasional rain.	Moderate to good.
Channel	N.E. or E. light to moderate.	Fine to cloudy.	Generally good.
W. Approaches	E.N.E. light to moderate.	Fine.	Good.
Coast of Nor- way, 60-65 N.	N.E., light to moderate.	Cloudy, fog patches in South.	Mainly good except for fog patches.
65-70 N.	W. moderate to fresh, strong locally.	Rain or showers. Fog Patches.	Moderate. Poor in fog.



War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

Enemy Intelligence

503

Netherlands
M.T.Bs.

One enemy M.T.B. reported 18' West of Yjmuiden at 0420/21 and six others 14' West of Texel at 0430/21. (I.C. 0456/40). 3 Hudsons to attack (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0425/21). (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0617/21). 9 M.T.Bs in position CPOK 4915 at 1915/21, attacked by aircraft (see air).

Heligoland
Bight

Aircraft reported two destroyers app. 10 miles 342° from Norderney at 0217/21 (I.C. 0456/40).

Fishing Craft

Fishing vessels known to be German have been sighted in Zone A2, A3, and A5, with word DANMARK painted in white on side, 2 triangular white sails, 2 masts, wireless aerial, wheelhouse aft. (V.A.S. 0052/21).

M.T.B.

B.N.L.O., Dunkirk reports French destroyer SIROCCO sighted M.T.B. believed to be German N.N.W. of Mardyck last night. Later a German torpedo was washed up at ~~Loon~~ Plage, may have been fired by M.T.B. details of torpedo. (V.A. Dover, 1122/21).

Miscellaneous

Dundee

Examination service has been commenced at Dundee pm/21. (N.O.I.C., Dundee, 1658/21).

Dutch recog-
niton signals

Dutch recognition signals are to be treated as suspect. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1905/21).

Stopping
Tanks

For consideration of H.M. Govt. My 1016/20. Cotton or other material fluff used as cloud would clog air intake filter of enemy's tanks if so fitted and so stop engines. Carborundum addition to cotton cloud necessary to prevent enemy discarding filter under penalty of carborundum entering cylinders. (N.C.S.O. Tampico, 1033/21).

Suspicious
ship

Reported by KINGSTON ONYX off Glettinganes. Chased by CIRCASSIA, KINGSTON TURQUOISE. Disappeared in fog (KINGSTON ONYX 1100/21, CIRCASSIA 1115/21).

War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

504

MALCOLM

To sail for Portsmouth to make good minor damage caused by bomb (V.A. Dover, 1201/21).

VANSITTART

Damage from bombing. Suggest repair and refit concurrently (R.A.(D) 1936/21).

PROCYON

Which struck a mine while on passage from Gotenburg to Baltic has put into Trelleborg for repairs.

Foreign Stations

RAMILLIES

Condition is such that refit and docking are essential. Intend to undertake this forthwith at Alexandria. (C. in C., Med., 1613/21).

War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

505

North Atlantic

A.M.C. to
proceed to
Azores

Sail one A.M.C. of group 7 to Azores as soon as possible. To be capable of remaining in area for some days. Further instructions will follow. (A.C.N.S. (A) 1411/21 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Detain Dutch tankers entering Medit. en route for Italy pending decision of Dutch Govt. (D.T.D. 2313/21 to C.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic

Suspected
Raider

Adty. 1545/20. Ship using call sign JEGD heard at 2020/11/5 bearing 315° from Cape Point. At this time Japanese JEGD (ARABIA MARU) was on passage from Port Elizabeth to Capetown. Possibility of transmission emanating from enemy vessel N.W. Cape Point has been accepted. (C. in C., S.A. 1135/21).

Mediterranean

Cruisers

Asking if he can spare any C and D class cruisers in view of cruiser reinforcements coming from E.I. station, as troop movements in Atlantic and Indian Oceans leave little except A.M.Cs for cruiser and anti-raider duties. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 0911/21).

Shipping

Present position in Eastern Mediterranean. (C. in C., Med. 1219/21).

Submarine
patrol off
Crete

To be instituted now, although there is no appreciable change in situation. (1st S.L. 0106/21 to C. in C., Med.).

Italian Ships

Telegram No. 1175. Failing receipt of instructions to contrary I am carrying out usual ~~and~~ contraband control procedure with Italian OCEANIA now in harbour and any others that may arrive. (C.C.S.O., Gib., 1145/21). Approved (D.E.W.D. 1511/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (contd.)

506

→ Suez Canal,
Possible
Blocking.

A report, low graded, received that when Italian seaplane carrier **MIRAGLIA** passes through the Canal on or about 25/5 en route for Massawa she may endeavour to scuttle ship and block Canal. Difficult with present state of tension to delay a warship. Can you suggest any reason for temporarily delaying her passage, or if this is not possible, any means for preventing her blocking canal should she endeavour to do so. (1st S.L., to C. in C. Med., 2342/21).

Italian
Tankers

To avoid diversion of tankers carrying oil for Italian Govt. from Black Sea ports, H.M. Ambassador, Rome, will in future inform you direct of dates of sailing and relevant particulars so that you may instruct patrols to pass ships subject to identification. As we reserve right also to verify cargoes, request you will periodically order this to be done at sea. (D.E.W.D., 1854/21, to C. in C., Med.).

→ MIRAGLIA

Aircraft-carrier **MIRAGLIA** left this afternoon. Present complement said to be thirty planes. (Consul, Tripoli, 1945/21).

Routeing of
Shipping

Summary of instructions now in force regarding British and Norwegian shipping which would normally proceed into or through Mediterranean.

(a) All westbound through Medit. traffic to be routed via Cape except ships with Medit. cargoes which are to proceed to Mombasa for orders or will be held at Colombo.

(b) Tankers arriving Abadan to lead are to be routed to U.K. via Cape.

(c) Northbound tankers on Adty. charter at Aden 20/5 proceed Suez.

(d) Southbound shipping at Suez 20/5 continue voyage.

(e) Westbound shipping in Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Cyprus to be held pending further orders.

(f) Eastbound shipping at or arriving at Gib. to be held. (D.T.D. 1603/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS

507

Mediterranean (contd.)

Aircraft over
Egypt

is that have been
Egyptian Govt. have informed Italian Legation that instructions issued by the Military Authorities, no foreign military aircraft, allowed to fly over Egypt or the Sudan until further orders and have made it clear that this applies to all flights including those already sanctioned, and public notice issued that aircraft flying over prohibited zones will be fired at with live ammunition, after one warning shot. R.A. Alexandria is being kept informed by H.M. Representative, Cairo, of above arrangements, and also about methods of control of civil aircraft. (Hd. of M., 1830/21)

East Indies

Kismayu Patrol Orders for CARTHAGE, RANCHI (C. in C., E.I. 0846Z/21).

Routeing of ships via Cape of Good Hope Your 0808/17 approved (D.T.D. 2106/21 to C. in C., E.I.).

Operation Orders East Indies Operational Orders 3, 4, and 6 are in force adapted to suit force available. (C. in C., E.I., 1858/21) Amendments (C. in C., E.I. 0759Z/21).

DORYSSA Tanker with Adty. cargo. Sailed for Suez 1430Z/21. Another (corrupt groups) sailed 0725Z/21).

America & West Indies

Bermuda Convoys Concur N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1506/20. Starting with B H X 46, ships in Bermuda Convoy section will always be given an odd number of miles to starboard of standard route. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2132/21).

Italian Fishing British Vice-Consul, Saint Pierre, reports 3 Italian fishing vessels normally operating Newfoundland Bank instructed to abandon fishing and return to Italy immediately, arriving there before June 15. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0957/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

508

Understand 8 British battalions leaving Bombay about 2/6 for U.K. in convoy of 8 ships. If situation not improved intend to route by Cape. 2 A.M.C's and KENT can be made available for escort, but this would leave only 1 British and 1 French AMC for protection of Allied Shipping and other duties in Indian Ocean (C. in C. E11314Z/21)

(I) Re emergency convoys which might be required during critical period or very early stages of war to clear Aden or Suez of shipping, see my 1427/19 and 1429/19.

(II) If no convoys are run until after CARLISLE, sloops and destroyer flotilla have arrived GLOUCESTER, LEANDER can be better spared but only 1 cruiser will be available for protection of any allied shipping and rounding up of any Italian ships which may be in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden when war with Italy breaks out. The second cruiser must be retained on Perin patrol (C. in C. E 1 1029Z/21)

Your 0727(?) /19 and 1421/19 and Admiralty 0035/18. It is not intended to send any further destroyers to Red Sea other than 29th Division destroyers (C. in C. Med.1607/21 to C. in C. E1)

America and West Indies.

In event of H.M. ships being ordered to commence hostilities against Italy Canadian Government have approved this order being immediately applicable to H.M.C. ships. (C.N.S. of Canada 1203/21)



War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

509

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Danish Seamen

Your 1302/18. Interference at Gib. with Danish seamen ex S.S. ERRIA returning home on CONTE DI SAVOIA is very improbable, but it is not our policy to issue safe conducts. If Master of ERRIA will not sail for Vancouver without an express guarantee for these men, then in this instance guarantee is to be given. (Hd. of M., to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1552/21).

VAN KINSBERGEN

Dutch cruiser. Future employment (A.C.N.S.(A) ~~XXX~~ 2340/21).

Italian Submarine menace

Italian situation very serious. Possibly Italian submarines may commence to operate before declaration of war. Italy possesses some submarines of large endurance which may appear in West Atlantic and attack by disguised raiders in this area must also be regarded as possible. Utmost vigilance should be exercised. (C. in C., A.W.I., to R.A.3 B.S., etc., 1129/16, repeated to Adty. for information, 21/5).

REVENGE

Adty. 1326/21. In these circumstances, arrival June 6 will suffice. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to inform REVENGE. (F.O.3 B.S., to Adty., 1441/21).

Australia

Italian Shipping

Reporting intercepted radio signals to Italian merchant ships CONTE ROSSO, CHISONE and ALMERIA. (D.N.I., Melbourne, 0901Z/21).
ALMERIA LYKES?



War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

510

Home Commands

WARTBURG 900 G.T. 300 cases of arms shipped in her from Stettin to Tallin 18 May. (I.C. 0458/40)

FALKENFELS 6320 G.T. Baltic to Travemunde. Instructed 0825/21 to report time of arrival. (I.C. 0458/40).

AUGUST BOLTEN	3665 G.T.)	
BOLTENHAGEN	3335 G.T.)	
CASABLANCA	2313 G.T.)	These ships are reported shut in at Delfzyl by the blocking operations carried out there by the Dutch on 10th May. (I.C. 0458/40).
JERSBEK	2900 G.T. 2804)	
NORDLICHT	possibly a lighter)	
PALERMO	1461 G.T.)	
THIELBEK	1883 G.T.)	
WITTEKIND	4029 G.T.)	
WOLFGANG L.M. RUSS	3750 G.T.)	
ZEUS	2500 G.T.)	

Mediterranean

NORBURG Arrived Galatz 20/5 (I.C. 0458/40).

CORDELIA)
DELOS) Were at Batum on 19/5 (I.C. 0458/40).
YALOVA)

America & West Indies

RHAKOTIS 6753 G.T., which sailed Callao 16/5 was reported by Dutch ship SOCRATES at 1400/21 in approx. 23° S. 70:30 W. estimated course 160° speed 10 knots. (I.C. 0458/40).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

511

FORTH FISHER

British (574 tons) Sunk by magnetic mines east of Boulogne Pier Head within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of land at 1840. Rescue ship ss SPARTA bombed. Master and 5 others saved, 5 survivors landed Deal. (N.O.I.C., Ramsgate, 0640/22, 0903/22)

LE NIGER

French naval tanker, sunk off Dunkirk (? mined) while making for the Downs shortly after midnight 20/21/5. Seven men missing from crew of 114. Said to have had a cargo of about 5,000 tons on board. (D.S.)

Submarines Reported

0724

50° 44'N., 00° 10'E, 3 m W from Beachy Head reported by D/C.

0230

Icelandic trawler reports sighted submarine on surface off Adalvyk steering S.E. (grading B 4) N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2007/21 later report of unidentified submarine was sighted by reliable fishermen in 66° 25'N 23° 20'W at about 0300/21. Steering S.W. no markings observed and it subsequently submerged. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2254/22)

Azores

21/5, time unknown, coast watcher San Miguel sighted submarine submerged but showing one metre of periscope. Outline of submerged submarine going east was sighted from Feiteiras in South Island. (A.O.) (Lisbon, 1745/21)

0724

52° 52'N 1° 37'E. 108° Cromer 12° Sighted by aircraft in a Q.Z area (IC 0457/40) (A/C 206 Sqdn., 0724/21) JACKAL ordered to hunt. (C. in C., Nore, 0808/21) Cancel my 0808 (C. in C., Nore 0820)

Estimate dispositions

Majority of U boats appear to be still in harbour but are available for operations. Two or three off Ireland. Possibly one in Channel. (D.D.I.C, 1412/21)

SITUATION REPORT

512

East Coast

76 Naval 6" guns are being provided for East Coast defences, but there are no defences in Eire.

French Ports

General Brownrigg and V.A. Dover will co-ordinate Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne with a view to disposing military forces to best advantage.

Boulogne

Two battalions Irish Guards and an anti-tank battery successfully landed at Boulogne A.M. 22nd.

VENEMOUS with 200 refugees, mostly women and children, escorted MONA'S QUEEN with 2000 British troops from France to Dover. Fighter air escort provided throughout. Panic reigns; inhabitants are streaming along the Calais road.

Calais

Situation still well in hand; but four magnetic mines, in pairs, have been exploded in the approaches. S.S. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH has arrived with tanks; and WINDSOR and VENETIA are maintaining contact off the port.

Dunkirk

Situation reported critical, presumably due to recent incessant air attacks. German column reported near. Admiral Nord and B.N.L.O. have destroyed secret books, etc.

French coast general

27 enemy aircraft were shot down 22/5 between Dunkirk and Boulogne.

Sangatte Loop Station has been dismantled and abandoned.

German Naval Movements

More German M.T.B.'s have been sighted off the coast of Holland and minesweepers north of the German declared mined area.

German W/T traffic indicated considerable movements in the Baltic, and it is possible there may have been a movement of shipping from the Baltic to the North Sea. W/T appears also to have been connected with activity in the lower half of the Heligoland Bight. (I.C. 0459/40).



War Diary

22.5.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

513

Norway .

With their occupation of Mo the Germans possess an aerodrome from which they can increase their aircraft operations; and there are no decklanding pilots in Northern Norway who can fly Gladiators or Hurricanes if required.

Home Commands

British Air Activity

At 0545 an aircraft patrol sighted eight armed M.V.'s in the North Sea, and a Bomber flight attacked them.

For the second day in succession few patrols were flown owing to low visibility.

Enemy Air Activity

One aircraft was detected over central London 0100/22 (D.C.N.S. 22 May).

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

514

- Jersey Airport Jersey Airport particularly vulnerable to bomb attack owing to ease of approach from sea and weak A.A. defence. Arrangements proposed. (R.A.N.A.S., 1227/22).
- Merchant A/A Defence Suggest all merchant navy ships fitted with A/A guns are manned in P.L.A. areas continuously. (Morse, 0815/22).
- Portland Dorset Your 1417/20. Home Office are being asked to make County of Dorset a coastal prohibited zone, as a matter of urgency. Request for Portland to be made protected area for aliens was made on May 8. (Head of N.L., to C. in C., Portsmouth, 1144/22).
- Immobilisation of Home Ports Reference Adty. 2250/20 primary object of scheme is to deny to enemy all port facilities for off-loading motor transport and tanks even if this will immobilise the port for more than ten days. Request you co-operate with military and dock authorities to prepare schemes accordingly. (Adty to C. in C., Rosyth 0001/22).
- C.G. Patrols Extra C.G. patrols are operating on East coast between War Watching Stations (D. of L.D. 1953/22).
- Dundee Impracticable to sink ships in approaches to close port. Most vulnerable. Controlled mine-field proposed (C. in C., Rosyth, 1935/22).
- Moray Firth Unguarded aerodromes and landing grounds. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1839/22).
- Clyde Your 1107/17. Precautions against concealed troops on board ships arriving. (A.C.N.S. 2034/22 to F.O.I.C., Greenock.)

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

515

French Warship and Convoy positions 1200/22
(Adty. to C. in C., W.A. 0134/22).

Night patrol

ARROW, FORTUNE patrol during night on meridian
1° W. between 58° N. and 59° N. to intercept any
suspicious vessels including fishing vessels
and also M.T.B.'s and U-boats. Leave patrol
0600/23 and return to Scapa. (R.A.(D) 1927/22).

Striking
Force

VANQUISHER, MONTROSE proceed towards 49:30 N.,
11:0 W. and act as striking force within
50 miles of this position (C. in C., W.A., 1921/22)

Destroyers for
special duty
(Part of Dingle Bay)

1 destroyer and 1 M.T.B. to be at ½ hour's
notice for special duty by 1700/22 (C. in C.,
Nore, 1450/22 to F.O.I.C., Harwich).

Dover Patrols

For night 22/23 (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 1924/22).

Submarines

Positions 0600/23 (V.A.S., 1807/22, D.C., 2131/22)

A/A Ships

Your 1420/22. In view of possible vital need
for A/A ships in Channel area in near future,
request CALCUTTA's destination be altered to
Portsmouth, where she should join C.S.2 and
be placed temporarily under orders of C. in C.
Nore, (D.O.D.(H), 1844/22).

Operation Lamp

Operation Lamp, will be carried out as ordered
(F.O., Humber, 1555/22 to Adty.)

CODRINGTON and JAGUAR will be near 53:15 N.
3:15 E. from 1800/23 to 0300/24 to act in
support of operation concerned if required.
This operation which concerns SALMON only takes
place west of zone A5 between times stated.
(R.A.(S) 1721/22 to submarines on patrol).

Carry out operation Lamp as previously arranged
(R.A.(S) 1722/22 to SALMON).

Your 1723 (received as 1722/22) Light vessel
concerned believed removed (SALMON 2355/22 to
R.A.(S)).



HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Quentin" (Cutting of Cables).

516

Orders

Operation Quentin; trawlers to be sailed to commence sweeping daylight 23/5 in accordance with Adty. 2140/21 and 1841/22 except that longitude in para. 2 (B) of 2140/21 is to be amended to read 1:57 E. Escort will not be provided but 2 destroyers will be on patrol near. Air co-operation asked for (C. in C., Nore, 2223/22 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

Operation XD

Orders

Parties for F and G are to be ready to embark at Dover 1000/23. V.A., Dover to sail them for Calais and Boulogne (D.O.D.(H) 1855/22 to C. in C., Nore, etc.). Party E for Dunkirk also embark at Dover 1800/23 (D.D.O.D. 0015/23).

Captain Dangerfield's Operation

(Blocking of Dunkirk - Op. "C.K.")

My 1156/20. WESTCOVE left Hull in convoy pm/21. GOURKO left Hull am/22. EDV: NISSEN due Chatham today from Gravesend (Adty. 1155/22 to C. in C., Nore, for Capt. Dangerfield).

My 1156/20. RIVER TYNE due Plymouth pm/22. JACOBUS and KAUPU left Tyne in convoy pm/21 (Adty. 1156/22 to C. in C. W.A. for Capt. Dangerfield).

My 1156/20. MOYLE & EMERALD WINGS left Tyne in convoy pm/21. HOLLAND leaves Tyne pm/22 (Adty. 1157/22 to C. in C., Portsmouth for Capt. Dangerfield).

Operation Dynamo

Four empty Dutch coasters in Poole 200-300 tons to be sent immediately to Southampton to load military supplies. Will be manned by naval crews and work under War Office. As many of remainder as are in light condition, will be taken over and manned by Naval crews and when ready placed at disposal of V.A., Dover. (D.O.D(H), 1730/22 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Four.....

HOME COMMANDS

517

Operation Dynamo (Contd.)

Four Dutch coasters 200-300 tons in ballast in Port of London to be sent immediately to Deptford, 1730/22 (D.O.D.(H) 1704/22 to C. in C. More). The operation for which these ships are being prepared will be known as Dynamo, (D.O.D.(H) 1944/22).

Operations

Low Countries & France.

Food for Refugees

S.S. MARQUIS 795 tons due Ostend day break/23 with food for refugees (D.C. 0520/22).

Boulogne

Clouds are lifting, no fighter aircraft have been seen for some time but may be there. Town and jetty very congested. General is very anxious air protection should be adequate (WHITSHED 0949/22 to N.O.I.C. Dover).

Boulogne

S.T.O. Boulogne, reports sky clearing rapidly. No British aircraft sighted for half an hour. Dock still crowded with troops and equipment (VENOMOUS 1442/22).

Keep Adty. informed of situation at French ports and Havre, Dieppe, Cherbourg at regular intervals (D.C. 1903/22 to B.N.L.O. Marceau).

Havre

Now burning C.B.'s (Formby N.S.C.O. Havre, 1100/22).

Sangatte

Sangatte Loop Station dismantled and abandoned (V.A., Dover, 0020/22).

Refugees

French vessels carrying refugees en masse should be diverted to French western ports. British refugees should be landed. (D. of S.T., 1806/22)

200 refugees evacuated from Boulogne, some British wounded removed from Dunkirk. (D.C., 2056/22).

WOLSEY

Join WILD SWAN off Dunkirk forthwith. Both escort ST. HELIER back to Dover. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1659/22).

HOME COMMANDS

518

Operations - Low Countries.

WOLSEY
(contd.)

Proceed alongside FELIX FAURE and evacuate British wounded. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1833/22).

VENOMOUS
(Boulogne)

Expect to sail with MONAS QUEEN containing 2000 troops at 1615. VENOMOUS has 212 refugees. Request immediate escort (VENOMOUS 1550/22). Sailed with MONAS QUEEN (VENOMOUS 1640/22).

Operations - Norway.

Gladiators
Operating

Gladiators operating in area from now on. (R.A., Narvik, 1340/22 General).

Mines also aviation spirit in COXWOLD urgently required owing to loss of PEMBROKE COAST (F.O., Narvik, 1449/22).

816 Sqn.

Your 1319/21. Request 816 Sqn. Aircraft are not sent to Harstad until further signal is made. Also request 3 IR Walrus to replace one sunk by bombs and one sent to DEVONSHIRE and one remain I.R. (F.O. Narvik, 1846/22). R.A. Narvik takes over operational control and administration of ships from 0800/24. F.O. Narvik will continue to conduct offensive operations (F.O., Narvik, 2044/22).

CALCUTTA

To sail for Narvik area 23/5 (C. in C., H.F., 1420/22).

M.L.C.'s

Asking when M.L.C.'s 16 and 17 may be expected. Urgently required. (R.A., Narvik, 1122/22).

Convoy N.P.4

F.O. Narvik's 2240/20. Convoy N.P.4 will not sail before May 26. It would however, be advantageous if ULSTER PRINCE could be sailed for Faroes. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., H.F. 1842/22)
See next page

A/S Trawlers

Reliefs. In future approx. 12 trawlers only will be available for Narvik area. (A.C.N.S. 1644/22).



War Diary

22.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

519

Iceland & Faroes.

A/C Reports

Local inhabitants report several unidentified aircraft. Essential we should be kept informed of movements of H.M. ships and F.A.A. operating near Iceland (N.O.I.C. Reykjavik 1401/22).

Possible
Enemy
Attack

Report from neutral source that German Naval and Air Commands consider attacking Iceland and Faroes to obtain air bases for attack on Scotland and air domination of North Atlantic. C.2. (D.N.I. 1946/22 to O.C.R.M. Faroe Is., 1315/23).

Local Craft

Adty. 2017/20. Details of minimum requirements for a week necessary to keep isolated troops supplied and carry out essential services. (N.O.I.C., Reykjavik, 1514/22).

ULSTER
PRINCE

Adty. 1842/22 (see Norway) R.A.D. to detail 2 destroyers to escort ULSTER PRINCE to Faeroes as soon as available and F.O.I.C. Greenock to sail ship accordingly. (C. in C., H.F., 2249/22).
See previous page

Other Ships

My 2249. In view of F.O. Narvik's 2146/21, F.O.I.C. Greenock requested to sail in company MONARCH OF BERMUDA and ROYAL SCOTSMAN for Tromso and ULSTER PRINCE for Faroes. R.A.D. to detail escort of three destroyers, of which one is to part company with ULSTER PRINCE for Faroes. (C. in C., H.F., 2326/22).

Submarines

Special
Operations

1 trawler and SALMON operating in LSTS 4010 between 1800/23 and 0300/24. CODRINGTON, JAGUAR to patrol near LSTS 1515 between these hours then return to normal patrol. Orders. (C. in C., Nore, 1516/22).

Positions

0600/23 (V.A.S. 1807/22, D.C. 2131/22,
0700/23 (D.C. 2130/22).



War Diary

22.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

520

French
Submarines

Approved to base all French submarines at Dundee, arrangements. (D.O.D.(H) 2059/22, V.A.(S) 2252/22).

Capture

Have captured Danish 20 ton fishing boat, $\frac{1}{4}$ full of fish, apparently property of skipper. Appears genuine (TRITON 2341/22). If you can accommodate crew sink her, otherwise let her go. (R.A.(S) 0617/23).

Dutch
Submarines

Q9, Q10 unsuitable for patrol in North Sea. To be employed on A/S training. Q13 will be ready for patrol in few days; Western Approaches proposed for first patrol (V.A.(S) 1519/22).

CASABLANCA

Patrol report 14-16 May (V.A.(S) 1514/22).

ACHILLE

Patrol report 14-20 May. Bombed by own aircraft 0833/20 in 57:0 N., 0:8 E. (V.A.(S) 1516/22).

Operations - Aircraft-Carriers

Admiralty
Control

As a temporary measure whilst the future requirements of carriers are under review and in order that full use may be made of disembarked squadrons for co-operation with R.A.F. Coastal Command during the present emergency, movements of carriers and F.A.A. squadrons (other than those at Hatston) will be directed by Admiralty. C. in C., Home Fleet, V.A.A. will be kept fully informed. (1st Sea Lord, 1534/22).



HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

521

Stavanger

Aerodrome bombed at 0015/22 by coastal Command aircraft and large fires started. (Donibristle 0410/22)

Dutch Coast Patrol

British aircraft operating off Dutch coast until 2200/22 with object of bombing submarines sighted on surface (V.A.S. 1649/22)

M.T.B's to be Attacked

Make arrangements with C. in C., Nore so that British aircraft attack any M.T.B's sighted (H.Q.C.C. 2210/22 to 16 group)

8 Minesweepers

Attacked 0915 55.45'6.2'E no hits. (Donibristle 1330/22, 1305/22, 1220/22) see Enemy Intelligence.

Reconnaissances to be made

(1) Enemy aerodrome in preparation near Bomoen 60.38'N 6.26'E and probably near railway Bergen-Oslo at Voss.

(2) Enemy aircraft in preparation at Forms 1/2 mile N. of Lura 58.52'N 5.45'E.

(3) KONIGSBERG reported being repaired alongside quay at Rosenberg to N.W. of Stavanger (H.Q.C.C. 1300/22)

Air Routes

K 349 May 22 Service and civil air routes between Shoreham and Le Bourjet will be moved to the line Shoreham Ouisstreham-Le Bourjet with effect from 0300/22 (Air Min., 1546/22)

ILLUSTRIOUS aircraft carrier

To proceed to Clyde and then to Devonport before sailing Dakar (Admty, 1700/22)

Norway Reconnaissance

~~At first opportunity, reconnaissance should be made following the line included in the reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast. Re KONIGSBERG, above if not at Rosenberg, search Buo. (H.Q.C.C. 1300/22)~~

Enemy Air Activity

Ship being attacked by aircraft 190° from Folkestone (Nore W/T 0659/22)

Recd. 0555 G.M.T. from V.C.B.U. another ship being attacked by aircraft 190° from Folkestone (N. Foreland Radio 0700/22)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

522

MAID OF KENT
BRIGHTON
HUBBASTONE

Army hospital carrier, bombed and burning
(?21/5) BRIGHTON still mined in.
HUBBASTONE holed. S.T.O. left aforesaid.
Request instructions (M.C.S.O. Dieppe
0958/22)

VENOMOUS

Help, Boulogne harbour (VENOMOUS 1636/22)
(1841/22) (She was attacked during bombing
of Boulogne by a large number of enemy
aircraft)

GRAFTON

Bombed C.P.D.N. 1555 (GRAFTON 1902/22,
1905/22) No hits (GRAFTON 1906/22)

M.T.B. 25

Attacked by aircraft off Dunkirk. (M.T.B.
25 T.O.R. 2203/22)

BAWKY

British, 835 tons, bombed and sunk off
Dunkirk. (D.S.)

SPARTA

British, 708 tons, engaged in rescue work
at Boulogne, bombed and hit. 7 lost,
4 survivors landed Dover. (D.S)

SS BELGRAVIAN

Bombed repeatedly 0140 G.M.T. Life boat
gone. Anchored 6 miles 245° Dungeness (N.
Foreland Radio 0243/22) Some damage done
(I.C. 0459/40) SUPPLEMENT

H.F.S. SANDOWN

Bombed 1 mile 220° Goodwin L.V. (SANDOWN
0516/22) 4 bombs dropped, only one ex-
ploded (I.C. 0459/40)

TLEMEN

French. Bombed, no position given off
Gravelines (TLEMEN, 1308/22) was afterward
in collision with British EFFORD, which was
sunk.

Ship off Grisnez destroyed by fire
(WHITSHED 0635/22)

OPHELIE

French tanker, was bombed and sunk off
Boulogne night 20/5. (I.C. 0459/40)

HILDA

Finnish (1144 tons) bombed at Dunkirk,
hit in bow, unable to anchor (I.C. 0459/40)

1 SUPPLEMENT

HOME COMMANDS

523

Mining

Beachy Head

Explosion south of Beachy Head at 1605/21 (I.C. 0458/40)

Calais

4 mines exploded today in approach channel (V.A. Dover, 2121/22)

E.S. 7.

20th D.F. leaves Immingham 0800/23 to carry out (M.A. (S) 2041/22, D. 20 1705/22) Laying position etc., (D.D.O.D. (M) 1234/22)

Boulogne

2 magnetic mines reported off Digne Camot breakwater Request ~~2~~ warning to ships not touse anchorage inside breakwater. (V.A. Dover 2235/22, VENOMOUS 1440/22)

Cherbourg

Danger area due to mines (Adty. Cherbourg 1405/22)

Havre

A pair of trawlers sent to sweep off Havre have not been heard of since. Another pair is being sent from Portsmouth (M.S.M)

Shipping

T.C. 4.

Arrived Liverpool 0600/12 (D.C. 0738/22)

Ocean Convoys

Positions (D.C., 1840/22)

N.E.P. ships

Owing to heavy demands for troops and reduction of number of neutral ships military guards for N.E.P. ships have been reduced but not removed from ports mentioned (D of L.D. 1611/22 to F.O. Humber re his 1750/13)

Miscellaneous

Refugees

Should Weymouth fill to capacity small craft may disembark refugees at Brownsea Island, Poole. Small craft bringing refugees to Western ports should be sent to Milford Haven. (Adty to all C. in C.s 0410/22)

Suspicious Swedish Trawlers

2 destroyers to investigate group of 2 or 3 trawlers flying Swedish colours reported fishing in 58° 28' N 1° 6' W. 1405/21. Regarded as suspicious, may be German or Danish (C. in C., H.F. 0500/22 to R.A. (D))

Russian Ships

All Russian warships and also passenger ships left here May 19 and have not yet returned. The Russian tanker has arrived here with cargo of oil for Russia. (Vice-Consul, Liepaja, 1245/22)



HOME COMMANDS

524

Enemy Intelligence

ADMIRAL SHEER

It is now confirmed that the pocket battle-ship in dock at Wilhelmshaven. 19/5 was the ADMIRAL SHEER. (I.C. 0459/40)

4 M.T.B's

4 German M.T.B's were in 52° 50'N 3° 40'E at 1815. Course 190° speed 30 knots. (V.A. Dover 2204/22 to Capt. D 19, WINDSOR, VENETIA)

Armed Trawlers

Eight armed trawlers reported by A/craft at 0443 in position 56° 27'N 5° 26'E; also two balloons at 3000 feet in position 56° 35'N 5° 26'E; (Donibristle 0745/22) Attacked. See Air.

M.T.B's

Reliably reported that German M.T.B's entering their bases hoist a special flag at masthead. Report nature of flag if sighted. (D.D.I.C. 1223/22)

U-Boats

A large number may be operating in Straits of Dover. Exercise extreme Vigilance. (V.A. Dover to destroyers 1040/22)

There are indications that U boats are operating or about to operate in North Sea south of 53° N. This may be prelude to operations by enemy surface forces in this area. (V.A. (S) 1722/22 to submarines on patrol)

MISCELLANEOUS

Weather.

Wind.

Visibility.

Outlook.

	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>	<u>Outlook.</u>
North Sea.	E. or S.E. moderate or light.	Mainly good, fog patches.	Similar in north, wind veering in south.
Channel.	S.E. or variable, light.	Good.	Wind veering W. or S.W.
W.Approaches.	Variable, light.	Good.	Wind becoming S.W.
Horns Reef.	E. light or moderate.	Moderate, fog patches.	Similar.
Dutch Coast.	S.E., moderate.	Moderate or good.	Similar.
Norwegian Coast.	Easterly light in S., Northerly light in N.	Mainly good, fog patches.	Wind becoming variable in N.



CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

525

EFTORD

Sunk in collision with TILMSEN 2 miles off Dover entrance, all crew safe (N Foreland radiod intercept 1746, 1756 Recd. 1855) V.A. Dover 2155/22)

EFFINGHAM

SOBIESKI has crew (TARTAR 2137/22 to F.O. Greenock)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

EMPERESS OF AUSTRIA^{AL} has been diverted to Gibraltar; bunker and water her sufficient to reach Halifax and despatch as soon as ready.

DUCHESS OF ATHOL has been diverted to Halifax direct due about 27/5 (D. of S.T. 0031/22)

FOREIGN STATIONS

526

North Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE

To be sailed for Devonport with moderate despatch. Will be required to escort troop convoy leaving U.K. about June 8. (D.O.D. (F) 0110/22, to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Ships

Positions, 1200/22, Convoys and Patrols. (D.C., 0134/22)

Italian Trawlers

N.C.S.O. Las Palmas 1735/15 (4 Italian Trawlers to embark depots stores and return to Italy) 4 Italian trawlers have passed eastward (G.O. (I) Gib. 1248/22)

South Atlantic

Durban

A report dated 13 May indicates possible presence of enemy minefield S of Durban within five miles of coast (I.C. 0458/40)

Suspected Raider

Following from N.C.S.O., St. Vincent, Following message in plain language intercepted by British CITY OF EDINBURGH 0900/20. From British ships BRITISH ARDOUR to British ship GBXZ (?) 31.20'N., 29.50'W. Unknown merchant cruiser chasing. Nothing further heard. T.O.O., 1035/22/5. (C. in C., S.A., 1426/22)

My 1426/22. French at Dakar report that French A.M.C.* was in position 31.50' N., 30.20' W., at 0900/20/5. (C. in C., S.A. 0635/23) *VICTOR SCHOELECHER, see page 546.

Mediterranean

MIRAGLIA

Re Adty. 2342/21 delaying her in transit through canal 1331/22, 1816/22)

Sailed from Tripoli p.m. 21st. Complement said to be thirty planes. (Adty. to C. in C., Med. 0345/22)

Contraband Control

During the last eight weeks the average detention of Italian tankers in Contraband Control ports for cargo verification has been only $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

British Shipping

So far as is now known there are only three British ships in Italian ports. BALTARA 3292 tons at Palermo, ALPERA 1777 tons and CERVANTES 1810 tons at Leghorn. The British liners ORFORD 20043 tons and OTRANTO 20026 tons left Port Said on 19th May for Toulon, both under Government charter.

FOREIGN STATIONS

527

Mediterranean Contd.

Rumour

Now about all circles Bucharest that France has asked for armistice and Gamelin committed suicide doing grave harm. B.B.C. should at once contradict. (N.A. Bucharest 2245/22)

Diversions of Shipping

Your 1219/21. General intention is to keep central portion of Mediterranean as clear of British and Norwegian shipping as possible for present. Full diversion now in force except for ships carrying Govt. stores, and will be continued until situation improves. Inconsistencies due to different views held by French and ourselves. Your action regarding shipping through Aegean approved. (A.C.N.S. 0014/22 to C. in C., Med.)

"D" Cruisers

Admiralty, 0911/21. DELHI and DRAGON will be made available. DRAGON can be sailed now. DELHI completes refit approx. June 8. If this delay cannot be accepted one of C class cruisers will be sent at once. (C. in C., Med., 1117/22)

Italian Tankers

On 21/5 Rome made cypher message to 15 Italian tankers in Atlantic, Mediterranean and Indian Oceans (D.N.I. 1948/22 to C. in C., Med.)

Italian Ships

Are still sailing from the Mediterranean for British ports. (I.C. 0459/40)

East Indies

Italian Preparations

Report by daughter of British Consul, Benghazi: (G.O. (I) Malta 1905/20)

Degaussing

Admty. 1308/11. Re degaussing local coasting vessels. (C. in C., E.I., 0901Z/22)

Sabotage

Precautions against, at Abadan. (S.N.O., Persian Gulf, 1353Z/22)

Contraband

Admty. 1532/8, traffic of contraband by Arabs to Germany.

Italian Ships

Unloading in Shatt-el-Arab. My 1015/17 rumour of evidence of attempted sabotage is available and such precautions as can be imposed under present conditions are in operation. Details (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1000/22)

FOREIGN STATIONS

528

East Indies, Contd.

French Troops

Almost continuously some 5000 French troops or Military labour passing through Station from Saigon or Madagascar. Majority are bound for Marseilles and still have orders to proceed via Suez. French C. in C., Far East has informed French Admiralty but to save time request you will take the matter up with them direct with a view to transports being diverted via Cape as soon as possible. (C. in C., E.I. 1113/22)

China

Shipping

From June 12, N.Y.K. westbound ships are ordered to reserve one hold for bunker coal, probably a precaution to ensure ships can proceed via Cape without bunkering. Their agents in Rome are to be advised by all ports of arrivals and departures of Levant and European service. (C. in C.'s office Hong Kong, 0239Z/22)

America & West Indies

Suspicious Ship

20/5 12 (740) suspicious vessel similar ALTMARK 6.27'N 28.36'W steering N.W. (SILVER WILLOW 1911/22)

Italian Preparations

Reported from San Francisco 21/5 that Italian Lines have instructed their agents to load their ships with maximum quantities for Italian consumption; That the number of American loading ports is to be restricted, and ships are to proceed homewards at full speed. (Ottawa) (I.C. 0459/40)

12/5/

War Diary



22.5.1940.
Wednesday.

529

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RHAKOTIS

Has been sighted at 23° S 70° 30' W sailing
in a S.E'ly direction. (I.C. 0458/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MININGShips AttackedDUNSTER GRANGE

British, 9494 tons, shelled by enemy submarine at 2157/22, 49.20' N., 8.40' W. Sunderland flying boat was sent (C. in C., W.A., 2313/22, 2349/22, Scapa W/T 2157/20 D.C., 2350/22) V.A. Dover says 49.30' N 9.0' W at 2332 (V.A. Dover 0125/23) SUPPLEMENT

Submarines Reported0025.

By fishing boat, 10 miles E.S.E. Barra Head, course north. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0850/22) Periscope and conning tower reported by motor drifter CILICIA, $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile distant (C. in C., Rosyth, 0939/22)

1030.

By H.M.S. DEPTFORD, 48.11' N., 5' W., about 100m. W from Brest.

1330.

Periscope reported by French ^{M/S} ~~escort~~ vessel COMMANDANT RIVIERE, 36.18' N., 08.30' W., about 48 m. S.S.E. from Cape St. Vincent in Portugal. (F.O.C.N.A. 1636/22)

2055.

Periscope reported by French ^{M/S} ~~patrol~~ boat CHEVREUIL, 50.15' N., 01.55' W., about 26m. E.S.E. from Portland. (Portsmouth W/T T.O.R. 2229)

2157.

49.20' N., 08.40' W., about 120m. S.W. from Land's End. Attacked British DUNSTER GRANGE.

0020.

53.20' N 04.40' E 17 miles N.W. from Texel. Reported by aircraft.

Estimated Dispositions

U-boats probably operating south of latitude of Cromer. 1 probably in Linches, north bound. 2 or 3 off S.W. Ireland. (D.D.I.C., 1256/22)

The SARASTONE, which reported a periscope about 100 miles W of the Burlings 1909/19 now states on arrival at Gibraltar that the submarine broke surface and remained on the surface a short time. (I.C. 0459/40)

Submarines Attacked.

1030

By DEPTFORD 48.11' N 8.15' W. (WHITEHALL 1248/22) SUPPLEMENT

SITUATION REPORT

Precautions
Against landings

Two destroyers are proceeding to patrol off Dingle Bay (S.W. Ireland) to prevent any attempted landings from enemy submarines or small craft.

Boulogne

After heavy fighting throughout May 23rd. at Boulogne between German tanks and a motorised regiment and the two battalions of Guards and 200 R.M.'s with 200 Naval Ratings sent there, all of whom were subjected to heavy aircraft attack, it was decided at 2000 to evacuate the troops, and nine destroyers embarked all but 200 though all ships sustained casualties. It is believed that the R.N. and R.M. parties succeeded in carrying out most of the demolitions ordered.

Calais

The port was worked last night. A Naval demolition party was landed this A.M. and two battalions with M.T. in four ships arrived later.

Dunkirk

A naval demolition party was landed a.m. 23rd.

Severe air attacks were made on other Northern French ports; a trawler and a hospital ship being sunk alongside at Dieppe and a trawler outside, partly blocking the channel: the port is still closed on account of mines. The central station, Grande Vitesse shed, and Vitesse Magazine Generale were burnt out by incendiary bombs at Havre. Magnetic mines have been dropped at all these ports.

Low Countries

During the night 23/24 May a continuous air patrol was maintained on the Belgian and Dutch coasts to give warning of any enemy M.T.B.'s trying to attack shipping.

Netherlands
Naval Activities
during attack
on Low Countries

T.B.Z. 5 and ^{M.T.} ~~M.T.~~ B. 51 prevented further German troops from crossing the river at Rotterdam, Gunboats FRISO, BRINIO, GRUNO, and ^{JOHAN HANCKES VAN} HASSAU repelled German attacks across the Zuyder Zee, and submarines O.23 and O.24 proceeded through the mined New Waterway at Rotterdam and reached England.



War Diary

23.5.40. 532
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Narvik

R.A. Narvik reports that, owing to casualties, only seven A/S trawlers remain effective. He needs 16 for efficient patrols.

Both Bjervik and Lilleborg piers were bombed last night whilst troops and stores were being transferred. Regular air patrols have been asked for.

Italian Situation

Chairman of Thos. Cook & Son reports that Italian Lines have sudden orders that Lloyd Triestino sailings (i.e. to Far East) have been suspended, Italian Lines (to North and South America) have been postponed, but Adriatic lines (Medit. traffic) are still running. He was told Press was not to be informed; but Lloyds have no confirmation of this.

There were ten Italian ships in U.K. ports on 23rd and ten more due within 48 hours.



War Diary

533

23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Immobilising
of ports

My 2250/20. Report when schemes are ready to be put into operation at ports in your command (1st S.L. 1244/23 to Rosyth, Nore, Portsmouth, Dover).

Lerwick

At present in Lerwick 12 Norwegian fishing vessels with total crew of about 50 and 10 Norwegian soldiers. Difficult to vouch for bona fides, some may be a potential danger. Request immediate action to clear up the situation with Norwegian authorities, also decision about disposal of Norwegian fishing vessels, which are causing considerable congestion in harbour. (F.O.C.O.S., 1137/23).

Aerodrome
Guards

Requesting permanent military guards for Lossiemouth and Kinloss aerodromes whether or not R.A.F. squadrons are utilising (Air. Min., to H.Q., Home Forces, 1830/23).

Refugee ships

Large number of ships with refugees passing through defences at Portsmouth bound to Southampton. Consider essential provide expert personnel to assist customs to rummage all these ships. (C. in C., Portsmouth to Adty. 1242/23).

L.D.V.

Local Defence Volunteers to be formed in Adty. Civil Establishments to augment existing Police, Naval, and Military Guard. Request communicate with appropriate Army Commands as to forming these Volunteers. (Adty. to A.C.O.S. 2014/23).

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday 534

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

Fleet fog-bound

Fleet at Scapa is fog-bound. (C. in C., H.F. 2335/23).

Submarines

Positions 0600/24 (V.A.(S) 2129/23).

Patrol P.

C. in C., Nore's 1008 JAVELIN and JACKAL detailed (to replace CODRINGTON and JAGUAR on Patrol P during operation Lamp). What time should they R.V. with you? (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 1121/23 to Capt. (D)1).

Operation ^{Lyster} ~~Dynamo~~

Operation D.F., E.F.

Your 1658/20, Yarmouth 1014/22 (whether crews available for Dutch motor boats). Crews are being sent (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1606/23).

Operation Lyster (see also Operation XD, EF & G) Weigh and proceed 0900/23. (F.O.D.E. 1910/23 to Forces D and E).

Naval forces will sail at 0830/24 for operations D.F. and E.F.. Expect to arrive 0330/25 (D.O.D.(H) /23).

Carry out operation E.F. Time of arrival for Force E to be 0330/25. Sail force E and mine-sweepers accordingly. Demolition parties and stores are to be disembarked before sailing (V.C.N.S. 1343/23). My 1343/23. Blocking is to be carried out at both ports immediately on arrival (D.O.D.(H) /23) ships to be commissioned 23/5, 24/5, 25/5, 27/5, 11 in all. (Hd. of M. 2033/23).

Cancel my 0930/16. Following forces formed:

Force D.
BORODINO
ATLANTIC GUIDE
CAROLINE MOLLER
SUNLIGHT
DAROGAH
1 M.T.B.
1st A/S S.F.

Force E.
VEGA
FLORENTINO
TRANSEAS
LORD GREY
CLYTHNESS
2 M.T.B.'s
2nd A/S S.F.
6th M/S Fl.

S.O. Force E in VEGA is S.O. of both forces (D.O.D.(H) 1559/23).

HOME COMMANDS

Operation XD, EF & G.

D.D.O.D. 0015/23 see 22/5.

My 1855/22. Party G is to be ready to embark at Dover at 0900/23 (D.D.O.D.(H) 0428/23).

For the present demolitions at the ports should not be carried out except by order of the Adty. (V.C.N.S. 1016/23 to VIMY, WILD SWAN, VENOMOUS).

Am landing demolition party now (VIMY 1140/23).

Operation XD, Party J have assembled, it will arrive pm/23. To be at 4 hours' notice. Embarkation will take place at Dover where stores are being sent (D.O.D.(H) 1227/23).

Your 1155 (North Sector demolition suggested) No. (N.O.I.C. Dover 1238/23 to VIMY).

Request more assistance (WILD SWAN 2114/23).

Have landed evacuation being bombarded by artillery (WILD SWAN 2055/23).

Your 2010/23. Most of them have been done I think (WHITSHED 2050/23).

Military component of Party J to sail for Havre on arrival at Dover (D.O.D.(H) 2309/23).

Boulogne (Force Buttercup)

Boulogne shelled

D.S.T.O. Boulogne reports position at port being shelled no fighting troops here. Have ordered troops to march to Wimereux ~~where~~ where H.Q. are. Send yacht back to Dover to pick up anything on the way. (V.A.Dover, 0035/23).

Force for Boulogne

Approx. 380 Officers and men returned to Dover from Boulogne. With object of restoring control of docks area request 100 R.M., 100 seamen be sent to Dover from Chatham forthwith. Intend to sail them to Boulogne on arrival (V.A.Dover, 0314/23)



23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

536

Boulogne (Force Buttercup) Contd.

100 R.M. &
100 seamen for
Boulogne

Your 0314/23 (Sailing of 100 R.M. and 100 seamen to Boulogne) approved. C. in C., Nore to arrange. Parties should sail with XDG at 0900/23 (D.D.O.D.(H) 0456/23 to V.A., Dover).

Major Holford R.M. C.O. of party mentioned in V.A. Dover's 0314/23 report to V.A. Dover for orders (D.D.O.D.(H) 0645/23).

Situation at
Boulogne

VERITY at Boulogne quiet at 0100. Irish Guards heavily attacked at 2300 by tanks followed by infantry. Railway damaged by bombs and shell fire. (VERITY 0130/23, 0325/23). Enemy estimated 1 tank battalion and regiment infantry attacking North Sector "Buttercup" has been driven in. Cannot hold on much longer. Suggest demolition blown forthwith (VIMY 1155/23). Brigadier Guards Bde. considers he can hold out until evening. Demolition being prepared. WHITSHED going ~~to~~ Boulogne and has been informed demolition is not to be done (V.A. Dover, 1415/23).

Stay and
fight it out

Instruct Buttercup from W.O: No armed men are to be embarked at Boulogne. They are to stay and fight it out. (D.C. 1422/23).

Do not hesitate to open fire on any enemy objective (V.A. Dover, 1530/23 to KEITH, WHITSHED, VIMY).

Enemy occupied Boulogne excepting bridge head. No anti-tank guns now in action. Estimate of enemy force as 1155/23. Estimated casualties Buttercup 50% (Buttercup 1530/23).

Join D.19 off Boulogne with all despatch (V.A. Dover, 1538/23 to VENETIA, VENOMOUS). Expect to arrive 1735. (VENOMOUS, 1625/23).

Adty.1422. Men of no military value may be embarked (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1616/23 to Capt. D 19, D.C. 1630/23 to D.19, WHITSHED, WO to Buttercup).

Proceed to Dover with all despatch if you can reach there before dark. (C. in C., Nore, 1910/23 to WESSEX).

Have had to withdraw heavy machine gunnery from North side of harbour, many casualties D. ~~19~~ gone (D.19, 1905/23).

No allowing destroyers in Boulogne until heavy fighter force appears (WHITSHED 1855/23).

Fighters.....

2 Capt. D.19.

Boulogne (Force Buttercup) Contd.

Stay and
fight it out
(Contd.)

Fighters must be sent (WHITSHED 1833/23)
(see also Air).

Fighter Command report own aircraft repeatedly
fired on by destroyers off Calais and Boulogne
(V.A. Dover 1817/23 to Dover destroyers).
Expect to arrive 1845 Boulogne. (VIMIERA,
1744/23).

Am being attacked by enemy aircraft in Boulogne
Harbour. (VENOMOUS, 1825/23).

Enemy holds north bank of whole town. Intense
bombing. If Buttercup is to be rescued (message
corrupt) Capt. D dead. (WHITSHED 1920/23).

Going in (WHITSHED, 1920/23). Welsh Guards
still in wood on north side of harbour.
(WHITSHED, 1935/23).

Several killed and wounded in all destroyers
(WHITSHED 1922/23) Am I to evacuate? (WHITSHED,
1938/23 to F.O. Dover).

Am carrying out evacuation of Welsh Guards.
Anticipate further bombing shortly (WHITSHED
1955/23). Buttercup is to withdraw (Dover W/T
2002/23 to WHITSHED). Have been promised
continuous fighter protection by Fighter Command
(V.A. Dover, 2013/23 to WHITSHED).

WHITSHED and VIMIERA sailed. (WHITSHED, 2014/23).
* Vital to maintain fighter escort (WHITSHED
2027/23). Request more assistance (WILD SWAN,
2114/23 to Dover). S.O. destroyers take
charge and use discretion as to appropriate
action. Report. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 2123/23
to WILD SWAN, VENETIA, WINDSOR, VENOMOUS).

Join WILD SWAN with all despatch at Boulogne
if oil fuel permits. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 2125/23
to WESSEX).

Free to
evacuate

You have complete freedom of action to act as
you think fit and to withdraw if opposition too
strong. Darkness may help you (N.O.I.C. Dover,
2145/23 to WILD SWAN, WINDSOR, WESSEX, VENETIA,
VENOMOUS).

* Fighter escort gone, enemy aircraft over town.
(WHITSHED, 2025/23).



23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

538

Boulogne(Force Buttercup) Contd.

Free to
evacuate
(contd.)

Harbour is under field gun fire from heights to northward, destroyers should not enter without covering fire from seaward. Considerable number military left. Regret consider further evacuation impracticable. (WILD SWAN 2234/23 to N.O.I.C. Dover).

Operations

Coast of France.

GREY MIST is returning from Boulogne with 250 troops on board. It is thought that German mechanised troops have entered Boulogne (V.A., Dover, 0007/23).

Calais

Military authorities state demands for Naval assistance were originated by enemy agent. No enemy tanks in immediate vicinity of Calais. Am proceeding with VENETIA to patrol off Sangatte Road to attack any tanks seen proceeding towards Calais at daylight. (WINDSOR to V.A. Dover, 0030/23, V.A. Dover, 0245/23 to Adty.).

Dunkirk

Admiral Nord has asked for dawn reconnaissance of country round Dunkirk today and immediate action by Bomber Command against any enemy troops sighted. If Dunkirk is to be held he considers this action vital necessity. I concur. (V.A. Dover, 0136/23, 0214/23).

Calais
Boulogne

French appear to be retiring on Calais no strong resistance in Boulogne, except isolated units. Situation appears critical. (V.A. Dover, 0259/23).

Telephones

In view of probability that telephone lines to U.K. from Belgium and Northern France are tapped, you should be particularly discreet in any telephone conversations you may hold regarding Naval operations. (1st S.L. to N.A., Belgium, 0317/23).



23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

539

Coast of France (Contd.)

VERITY reports following from General Brownrigg. After disembarking at Dover surplus personnel may I return in destroyer and command these ports from her. All communications except from destroyers cut. Ends. (V.A. Dover, 0410/23).

2 Battalions
& A-T Batty.
for Calais

W.O. to Gen. Brownrigg. V.C.I.G.S. has decided that the 2 battalions and anti-tank battery will sail to Calais as ordered (D.C. 1056/23 to V.A. Dover).

Dieppe
Situation

Channel blocked by magnetic mines, sweeping in progress. Uncertain date port will be open. Following sunk by bombs. One hospital ship and one trawler alongside. One trawler outside probably blocking channel. Small craft in harbour causing little obstruction. S.T.O's staff have left for Havre. French would much like them to return. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1158/23).

Shipping

Until further orders no ships are to proceed to French ports other than those to westward of Havre. Ships bound for Havre, Rouen, or French ports northward of Havre are to be sailed for St. Helens where they will receive instructions as to new destinations. (D.T.D., 1956/23).

Evacuation
figures

Figures of evacuations from French ports by destroyers, transports and auxiliary vessels to 1800/22. British Military and R.A.F. non-combatants 250 officers, 2800 O.R. to Dover. About 5000 refugees of all nationalities to Dover and Folkestone (V.A. Dover, 1312/23).

Conditions
at Le Havre

S.S. BELGRAVIAN very slight damage from bombing. Several magnetic mines in channel and outer roadsted. Wharves and quays in full working order but quays in outer port congested with ships waiting to sail and vessels moved from Upper Harbour. Port closed except for degaussed vessels in emergency. Mines being cleared up but believed fresh mines laid early am/23. Rail facilities normal. Military Commander states some troops evacuated but are being brought back as required. S.S. SIREHEI is loaded 8000-10000 tons but unable to sail owing to state of port. Few refugees left, no more being sent. Garrison Comdr. and D.S.T.O. consider.....



War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

540

Operations - France

Conditions
at Le Havre
(Contd.)

consider that if evacuation ever contemplated places should be made at once. Might be 8000 - 10000 troops to be evacuated by sea. Appears probable that unless defence against laying mines in channel can be strengthened to cope with situation the port will be permanently rendered useless. D.S.T.O. Havre 1300/23 (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1540/23).

Calais

After M.T. ships berth VIMIERA join WINDSOR off Calais. Object of both ships is to destroy by gunfire any enemy units attempting to advance on Calais by road from west. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1644/23).

No more
refugees to
embark

No more refugees apart from British to be embarked for U.K. until further notice (D of S.T. 1717/23 to D.S.T.O. Brest, Cherbourg, Dieppe, St. Malo, Calais, Caen, Fecamp, Rouen). Asking for steamer to take 1000 British refugees to be sent to Leverdon (Bordeaux 2100/23).

Situation
at Cherbourg

1730/23. No air raids today. All wharves and quays intact. Port open. Rail facilities intact. Some congestion in the port due to troops plus large numbers of refugees (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 2151/23).

Battery of
12 12 pdrs.
to be formed
for Calais

Battery of 12 12 pdr. guns to be formed followed by a second battery of 12 guns forthwith manned by Naval and R.M. personnel at Portsmouth for anti-tank defence of Calais from landward. Operation is to take highest priority (V.C.N.S. 2253/23).

Operation Quixote

Cable cutting

To be carried out as soon as possible after Quentin. (a) 2 trawlers, escorted, to cut Bacton - Borkum No 2 and Lowestoft - Borkum in about 2:30 E. (b) remaining trawlers to cut all 6 cables involved in Quixote about 5 miles from shore (D.S.D. 1516/23).

See also Mining (C. in C., Nore, 2010/23).

HOME COMMANDS

541

Cross-Channel Cable

ARIEL to lay new Cross-Channel cable from Dartmouth to France via Jersey, and FARADAY to carry spare cable for ARIEL. Ships to sail in O.A. Convoy leaving Southend 26 or 27 May for Dartmouth and Plymouth respectively. Request escort for ARIEL during the operation. (D.D.O.D. (H), to C. in C., W.A. 1826/23).

Operation Quidnunc

On completion of present cable-cutting operations, following trawlers to carry out Operation Quidnunc under your orders - CAPE MELVILLE, GRAMPIAN, PELTON, MILFORD QUEEN, MILFORD PRINCESS, JAMES LAY. All cables running from Newbiggin to Scandinavia, 6 in number, to be cut, preferably at distance of about 70 miles from Newbiggin. As soon as she can be spared, cable ship MONARCH is to cut and seal Peterhead-Egersund cable, preferably about 60 miles from Peterhead. Object of cutting is to prevent use by enemy either for leader purposes or for communication in event of landing. For former reason cutting should be well out from coast but distances quoted are subject to your discretion. (D.S.D., 1804/23 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Operations - Norway.

Both Bjerkevik and Lilleberg pier were bombed last night whilst stores and troops were being transferred. French military require stores to be transferred every other night. Request air patrols from 0001 to 0300 every other night commencing 25/5 (FAME 1045/23).

Shortage of
A/S trawlers

Your 1644/22. Due to casualties 7 A/S trawlers remain effective in Narvik area of which 5 are available for patrol. 8 craft are necessary for effective A/S patrol which necessitates a force of 16. A/S trawlers are not suitable for local conditions, smoke from coal burning craft invites air attack and they are susceptible to sinking by near misses. (R.A. Narvik, 1401/23).

Northern entrance to Harstad is closed to navigation (R.A. Narvik, 1820/23).

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

542

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Norway

Shortage of
A/S trawlers
(Contd.)

In view of present situation it is essential to keep as many destroyers as possible in home waters. Convoy arrangements (D.O.D.(H) 1907 to F.O. Narvik).

✓ North Norway

Your 1800/21. Investigation shows no evidence of German troops or ships proceeding North Russia. (D.N.I. 0316/23 to F.O. Narvik).

Manning of
Steamer

Your 2025/19. No Oerlikon guns are available. No 6 pdr. or 3 pdr. guns can be spared for this service. (A.H.O. 1729/23 to R.A. Narvik).

Submarines

In view of possibility of U-boats operating in Southern part of North Sea I have arranged with V.A.(S) that our ships shall keep North of a line joining Smith's Knoll and Hook of Holland and ships of Nore Command South of this line. V.A.S. has been told that eastward of 2:50 E. there will normally be no Naval patrols within 15 miles of this line (C. in C., Nore 1250/23).

Air.

British Air Activity

In addition to usual patrols aircraft undertake continuous moonlight reconnaissance nightly during present moon from Calais to Hook of Holland to warn of possible attack by enemy M.T.B.'s on shipping in Belgian or North French ports (H.Q.C.C. to Adty. 1315/23).

ILLUSTRIOUS
Sqdns.

My 2020/17. Nos. 815 and 819 Sqdns. will be required to embark in ILLUSTRIOUS shortly. Should be released from co-operation duties with Coastal Command forthwith and sent to R.N.A.S., Ford. (D.N.A.D., 1325/23).



HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

There was a decrease in German aircraft operations on 22/5 in comparison with previous 4 days, due to less favourable weather conditions. Operations included attacks on shipping between South East Coast and Belgium, and probable mine-laying off Holland.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Evidence is accumulating that German Air Force is consolidating in Holland and in occupied parts of Belgium and North East France.

Established that German troops conveyed by gliders participated in capture of Fort Ebenmael in Belgium. Their success may encourage Germans to exploit these tactics.

German Air Force casualties lost and severely damaged since 10.5.40 are 1417. This does not include reports from H.Q., B.A.F.F., which have not been received for four days.

- VENOMOUS Being attacked in Boulogne harbour (VENOMOUS, 1825/23).
- WHITSHED Bombed (WHITSHED 1909/23). Fighter escort gone enemy aircraft over town. (WHITSHED 2025/23) Bring bombed by 60 bombers. Capt. D wounded (WHITSHED 1850/23) Aircraft bombing (WHITSHED 1909/23).
- VENETIA Bombed at Boulogne (VENETIA 2040/23).
- CORMARSH Bombed 53:25 N., 1:0 E. (CORMARSH 2045/23). Position Dudgeon L.V. bombed 2020 (CORMARSH TOR 2133/23).
- Dudgeon L.V. Bombed 2030 (Scapa W/T TOR 2122/23).
- CAPE PASSARO (A/S Tr.) sunk by bombs 21/5 at Narvik.
MELBOURNE (A/S Tr.) sunk 22/5 (R.A. Narvik, 1105/23).
- Enemy's Air-craft shot down During the day destroyers shot down 2 enemy aircraft at Boulogne and one at Calais (I.C. 0460/40).

HOME COMMANDS

544

Mining

Operation P.D. 4th M/S F. to carry out 24/5 (C. in C., Nore, 1150/23).

Aircraft mining Enemy dropping parachute mines in 51:5 N., 1:44 E. (VERITY 2236/23).

M. Mining by U-boats

There are indications that German Submarines are about to operate in the Southern portion of the North Sea and Magnetic Minelaying may be expected.

2. The proposed clearance of the Would Channel is postponed and every effort is to be made to maintain existing channels.

3. In particular the following are considered likely areas for magnetic minelaying, Humber, Yarmouth, Harwich, Nore. Details. (D.M.S. 1641/23).

In view of importance of your 1641 I propose to give it priority and to deal with your 1516 (Operation Quixote) as soon as practicable. Request with several of 6 trawlers ordered by your 1804 may not be pressed until situation is much clearer (C. in C., Nore, 2010/23).

Enemy Intelligence

Germans using Norwegian Flag

Norwegian C. in C., reports that Norwegian warships captured by Germans and now being operated by them have ~~XXX~~ at times been observed flying Norwegian colours. Request this may be promulgated (C. in C., H.F. 2301/23).

T.B.'s

2 enemy T.B.'s are reported 7miles N. of Dunkirk. Not very reliable. (F.O. Dover, 0130/23, 0125/23).

Shipping

French Convoy and Patrol positions at 1200/23 (Adty to C. in C., W.A. 0145/23).



HOME COMMANDS

545

Shipping (Contd.)

Shipping not to proceed to North French ports

Until further orders no ships are to proceed to French ports other than those to W. of Havre. Ships bound for Havre, Rouen or French ports N. of Havre are to be sailed for St. Helens for instructions (D.T.D. 1956/23)

Miscellaneous

Scapa Defence

A.C.O.S. 1625/22 (Blocking of Eastern Entrances of Scapa Flow). As Scapa is now within easy reach of enemy M.T.B.'s working from S.W. Norway request this be done immediately (C. in C., H.F. 1335/23).

S.S. BALTICA¹_h

Swedish (1966 tons) with German prize crew on board reported sunk by British 14/5, just after leaving Stavanger, according to Swedish Radio; Swedish crews reached Sweden (Reuter).

Weather

0500	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	Between N.E. & S.E. Light.	Moderate to poor extensive fog patches.	Similar.
Channel	S.E. light to moderate.	Poor to moderate.	Temporary improvement.
Western Approaches	E. to S.W. moderate.	Moderate to good.	Fresh S. wind Fog Patches, poor visibility.
Horns Reef	Moderate E.	Good.	Similar.
W.Coast Norway	Easterly moderate.	Good.	Similar.

FOREIGN STATIONS

546

North Atlantic

Positions Convoys and British ships. (Adty. to B.N.L.O. Marceau 1902/23).

French Positions At 1200/23 (Adty to C. in C., W.A. 0145/23).

A.M.C. to sail to Azores Your 1411/21 Request instructions (F.O.I.C. Gib. 0710/23).

Spanish trawlers cutting cables Cables recently reported cut 100 miles N. of Lisbon, 50 miles S. of Lisbon, 170 miles W. of Gib. Spanish trawlers suspected. Suggest you ask Portuguese to renew Naval patrol off Cascaes (Hd. of M. 1904/23 to N.A. Lisbon).

South Atlantic

Suspected Raider S.S. SILVER WILLOW reports vessel similar to ALTMARK on 20/5 in 5:27 N., 48:36 W. steering N.W. S.S. CAPULET may have been in this vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1844/23).

C. in C., S.A. 1426/22. Following received from Admiral Africa. ~~is~~ VICTOR SCHOELCHER could be in vicinity mentioned at time indicated. Has not reported by W/T (F.O.C.N.A. 1118/23).

Protection of shipping at Cape C.O.S. hopes Adty. will be able to provide necessary aircraft for protection of shipping. Shortage of aircraft and A/S trawlers. In view of all valuable ships proceeding round Union Coast I consider situation serious and suggest that strong request be sent for Union of S.A. to retain reconnaissance force on coast (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1625/23).

Mediterranean

Preparations for sabotage By ships of Royal Hungarian Danube Sea Navigation Co. suspected. Manned by crews of officers class. Precautions to be taken. (C. in C., Med. 2121/23).



FOREIGN STATIONS

547.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Italian
Plans

Italian entry into war contingent upon German success in France. As soon as this is assured operations against Corsica will commence. Preparations to gain control of Western Mediterranean already made. Italian Submarines left for Balearic Is. 21/5 others sent to Cadiz. Intention is to establish submarine bases both places. Attack on Corsica will be combined with attack on Gibraltar with Spanish co-operation followed by attack on Nice from seawards. Inform War Office. (N.A. Rome, 2154/23).

Italian
Preparations

Reports received that four ships 4000 to 5000 tons recently chartered for River Plate ~~grain~~ grain trade were requisitioned 21st May with five or six others and some of them said to be loading material (N.A. Rome to D.N.I. 1303/23).

MIRAGLIA
(seaplane-
carrier)

F.O. agree to adoption of course (a) in S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area 1331/22 should you decide on this action. Decision left to you. If it is clear that MIRAGLIA carries aircraft it is unlikely she would be used for blocking purposes. How to proceed if force is used. The general situation appears to be undoubtedly deteriorating (1st S.L. 2135/23 to C. in C., Med.).

S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1331/22. Consider none of these methods acceptable as they would result in also stopping movements of our own ships and cannot be continued indefinitely. Intend to let MIRAGLIA transit Canal taking such unobstrusive precautions as are possible. (C. in C., Med. 1035/23).

Is MIRAGLIA still at Benghazi? Report date and time of sailing (D.N.I. 1151/23 to Consul). Report also number of aircraft carried and whether any aircraft are disembarked at Benghazi (D.N.I. 1715/23).

Sail DRAGON and one "C" class cruiser immediately for Aden (1st S.L. 2116/23 to C. in C., Med.).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

548

Italian and U.S.A. ships not to be stopped

No Italian or U.S.A. ships inward or outward bound to or from any Mediterranean ports are to be stopped or diverted for any contraband or export control including examination of mails or passengers. Ships may be stopped for normal identification. Any ships calling voluntarily at an allied port or base are to be controlled as usual with minimum delay (A.C.N.S. 2316/23)

Italian Warships

Inferences from W.I.T. traffic. No indications imminent hostilities. (Capt. O.S., ST. ANGELO, 1746/23)

Services Suspended

Trieste has informed Lloyd Triestino, Singapore express service suspended until further notice. Comment-Express services are CONTE ships. (C.O. I.S., Far East. 0801Z"23)

Italian Preparations

My 2305/21. Recent measures taken include mounting guns in small 14 knot ships similar to BRIONI of Adriatic Line, requisitioning of trawlers on East Coast and placing of nets and Boom defences at principal ports including Benghazi and Zuara Tripoli, Report (d) (4) that two or three ships are loading cement at Naples for the purpose of blocking Suez Canal names not obtained. General indication is that warlike preparations are being made by fighting services in (? time) (N.A. Rome, 1727/22)

East Indies

FALMOUTH

Your 0321Z/18. It is intended that FALMOUTH shall be temporarily attached to the Red Sea Force. (D.O.D. (F) 1657/23)

KENT

Cruising off West Coast of India to keep a watch for Italian shipping expected to pass there. (C. in C., E.I. 0935/23)

China

British M.V's laid up in Yangtse

Request immediate telegraphic report of particulars of such ships suitable for naval use in view of possible bargain with Japanese over Danish and Norwegian ships chartered to them. (Admty. to C. in C., China 0017/23)

Italian Shipping

Trieste has informed Lloyd Triestino Singapore Express service suspended until further notice. Comment. Express services are not Conte ships. (C.O.I.S. Far East 0801Z/23)

Australia and New Zealand

WESTRALIA

My 0913 Z 14 May A.C. Naval Board have ordered WESTRALIA to proceed to Fremantle. (A.C.N.B. 0610Z/23)

Ships Attacked

H.M.S. ROCHESTER Missed by torpedo 0800/23 in position
→ 49:11 N., 8:45 W. apparently about 10 miles
to Southward of position where DUNSTER
GRANGE was attacked at 2157/22. A minute
later ROCHESTER gained an asdic contact and
carried out 3 attacks. No visible results
(A.S.W.D. 261). SUPPLEMENT

Submarines Reported

0800 Reliable fix, position 49:11 N., 9:15 W.,
at 0800. MONTROSE and other ships ordered
to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1051/23).

0811 → U/B attacking British DUNSTER GRANGE last
reported in 49:30 N., 09:00 W., steering
105° at 2334. WAKEFUL, ARABIS, ROCHESTER,
and DEPTFORD hunting. (C. in C., W.A.,
0811/23).

1330 35:36 N., 6:16 W. P/S reported by French
dr. TRAMONTANE B.4 (I.C. 0460/40).

South of Cromer

Asking if estimate of number of U-boats south
of Cromer can be given. (C. in C., Nore,
1639/23). No estimate can be given.
(D.D.I.C., 2016/23).

1548 } Unreliable fix, enemy submarine reported in
1719 } 47.30 N., 09:30 W. (C. in C., W.A., 1812/23)
1806 } My 1812. More reliable D/F fix places U-boat
1956 } in 48:30 N., 08:10 W. at 1806. (C. in C.,
2019 } W.A., 2002/23) WAKEFUL and WINCHELSEA ordered
to hunt. Warning DORSETSHIRE of this and
0800 report (C. in C., W.A., 1945/23).

1330/22 By CDT. RIVIERE. Now considered informed.
(I.C. 0460/40).

Submarines Attacked

0801 By ROCHESTER see ships attacked.

German Merchant Ships

SALZBURG Leaves Galati 26 May for Istanbul.
RHAKOTIS Arrived Antofagasta 1100/23.



SITUATION REPORT

550

Calais

At ¹²³⁰1544/24 the Brigadier reported that he was holding the perimeter of the town. He had no reserves of S.A.A., no artillery other than A.T., no tugs or drifters, no ships in port, no power or water in the town, no cranes working. The French forces had evacuated and all roads were held by the enemy, who were attacking on S. and W. faces.

WESSEX
BURZA
VIMIERA
WOLFHOUND

The Germans cover the harbour entrance by a concealed battery to westward of Calais and the 4 destroyers sent to support our troops were heavily bombed. WESSEX was bombed and sunk, BURZA was hit forward by two bombs and proceeded for Portsmouth at 5 knots, VIMIERA was extensively damaged by near miss and will require docking; she has no casualties. Most of the crew of WESSEX are safe. All destroyers have now withdrawn, the naval and military authorities having agreed that they serve no useful purpose.

The hospital ship ST. JULIEN was shelled by coastal guns off Calais at 2230/24.

Hayre

French trawlers have destroyed 3 magnetic mines and one floating mine.

Zeebrugge

The French demolitions were to be carried out at 2000/24.

Norway

R.A. Narvik took over operational control and administration of the ships at 0800. R.A. 18 in SOUTHAMPTON arrived at Harstad 24/5.

The GLORIOUS with 3 destroyers left Scapa p.m. /24 and is expected to fly off her Hurricanes to Skaanland 26/5. The destroyers FAME and FIRE-DRAKE have been slightly damaged by shell fire.

LÜTZOW

The crews of 2 Danish fishing vessels sunk by SPEARFISH S.E. of Dogger Bank at 0300/20 confirm the time and place of SPEARFISH'S attack on a German warship 11/4 which they state to have been LUTZOW; she was beached near ~~Trudvikshaven~~ subsequently refloated and sunk in Kiel Bay, and is a total loss.

Canadian Destroyers

The Canadian Govt. have undertaken to send 4 R.C.N. destroyers to the U.K. They have asked that CARADOC or another cruiser may be sent to Halifax to assist in A/S protection. The destroyer FRASER is also to proceed to Halifax.

Cables

Trawlers operating from Yarmouth have cut four telegraph cables between Aldeburgh and Domburg.



24.5.1940.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT

551

Cables Contd.

Spanish trawlers are suspected of cutting cables in the Lisbon and Gibraltar areas; and it has been suggested that the Portuguese Naval patrol of Caescaes should be reinstated, to prevent these operations.

British Air Activity

The more important southerly patrols were flown a continuous patrol of the Belgian and Dutch Coast, as far North as the Maas L.V. was flown from 2200/23 to 0600/24 and will be flown nightly during the present moon from Calias to the Hook with the object of giving warning of enemy E.T.B's attempting to attack shipping at Belgian and North French ports.

Coastal Command night operations were not flown owing to bad weather.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

552

Beach Landings

Proposing A/A guns which can cover beaches be used to engage enemy landings unless actually occupied in primary role of H/A fire (D of L.D. 2308/24) Appropriate action taken (Air. Min. 1425/25)

Fifth Column Activity

Letter containing NELSON's proposed programme had been opened amateurishly and resealed. (C. in C., (H.F. 1858/24)

Movements

Destroyers under V.A. Dover are being reinforced by 3 from Home Fleet and 2 from Harwich to replace those damaged in recent operations off French coast. (D.C. 2008/24)

Operation ~~W~~ Lamb

? H.M. Trawler

Operation completed. BARBADOS arrives Grimsby 1800 tonight Friday (F.O. Humber to Adty. 1544/24) by 1544. Result negative (F.O. Humber 2135/24)

Operation Lyster

Naval Forces sail 0830/24 for operation EF (Adty. to Air Ministry Carry out operation EF. Force E to arrive 03330/25. Sail force E and Minesweepers accordingly. Demolition parties and stores to be disembarked before sailing (Adty. to C. in C., Nore 1343/23)

My 1343/23 Blocking is to be carried out at both ports immediately on arrival. (D.O.D.(H) to F.O.D.E.

Operation DF is not to be carried out tonight Friday. BORODINO, ATLANTIC GUIDE and CAROLINE MILLER to return to Sheerness with suitable escort. (D.O.D. (H) to F.O.D.E. 1400/24)

On arrival Force D to remain at four hours notice. (Adty. to C. in C., Nore 2141/24)

Operation XD

Following from Com. Swinley of XD Party F. C.R. primers not yet arrived here. Delay has seriously jeopardised success of operation. Request instructions. (V.A., Dover, 1609/24)

Operations Quentin and Quixote

Cable cutting

The four Aldeburgh Domburg cables have been cut (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth to Adty. 0910/24)

Operation Quentin and Quixote, ref Adty. 1516/25) para 1. to commence daylight 26th May. Request arrange escort. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth to C.in C., Nore. 1612/24) (R 540)

24.5.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

553

Operations Quentin and Quixote Contd.

Operation Quentin, ref. Adty. 2140/21, completed. Signal 1841/22 (as to cable cutting) not yet carried out (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth to Adty. 1745/24)

Boulogne

French demolitions delayed owing Belgian opposition not expected to take place about 200/24 and in any case before ^{town} evacuated by Belgian troops (D.O.D. (H) 1858/24 to F.O.D.E.)

Calais

FRENCH COAST

WOLFHOUD to enter Calais as Guardship and for close action against enemy. Small enemy parties reported to have landed on quay (N.O.I.C. Dover to WOLFHOUD)

Request armed guard of 100 R.M.'s be sent to Dover immediately for duty on quays at Calais (Dover to Adty. 1342/24)

Brigadier is holding perimeter of town. No reserves of S.A.A., no artillery other than A/T guns, no tugs or drifters, no ships in port, no power or water in town, no cranes working. French forces evacuated. All roads held by enemy who are attacking on S. and W forces. (Situation at 1230/24 as received from Commodore Gandle P.S.T.O. V.A. Dover to Adty. 1344/24)

BURZA to join VIMIERA and WESSEX for close support of Calais (V.A. Dover to BURZA 1429/24)

Enemy aircraft attacking Calais (WESSEX to Dover 1624/24)

Enemy in Southern portion of Calais (V.A. Dover to Adty. 1743/24)

200 Tanks going from Wissant to Calais. Immediate help required. Am proceeding to investigate (VIMIERA to Adty. 1634/24)

GALATEA and ARETHUSA to be prepared to bombard a concealed battery ashore to W. of Calais. (D.O.D (H) to C.S. 2. 1349/24)

Havre

Request ruling as to keeping ships at outer harbour quays to evacuate 8000 to 10,000 men as requested by French Commander of Garrison (B.N.L.O. Marceau to Adty. 1705/24)

HOME COMMANDS

554

Operations, French Coast, Contd.Boulogne, Ships
Damaged.

As result of action at Boulogne yesterday, Dover destroyers damaged as follows (details re WILD SWAN, WHITSHED, KEITH, VENOMOUS, and VENETIA) Consider it very desirable that all these ships should return to their home ports as soon as possible for repair and rest (V.A. Dover, 1345/24)

Boulogne, Evacuation

One more ship must be sent (VIMIERA 0209/24 to F.O. Dover) About 200 are left (VIMIERA 0301/24)

Request 2 destroyers suitable for operating on French Coast may be lent to Dover as soon as possible (V.A. Dover 0712/24 to C. in C., Nore)

Calais

WESSEX repeated GULZAR from V.A. Dover, do not take any further action as regards evacuation at present (V.A. Dover, 0924/24 to Adty. for information)

NarvikMANELA

Four full trucks and three half trucks of H.A. ammunition shut out from MONARCH OF BERMUDA and urgently required at Narvik are to be embarked in MANELA. (D.O.D. (H), 1146/24)

Harstad

The Northern entrance is closed to navigation (R.A. (S) to TRUANT 1922/24) Request you sail Military Hospital Ship A.B.A. immediately to Harstad. (D. of S.T.O. Liverpool 1954"24)

One A/A cruiser is to be sailed for U.K. and placed under C. in C., Nore (Adty. to F.O. Narvik. 2313/24)

SEVERN

To spend most of her patrol between Bud and Halten Islands. (V.A.S. to S.9. 1229/24)

Norwegian Seamen

Request decision whether unemployed Norwegian merchant marine officers and men may be given passage in returning convoy to England to obtain employment. Numerous applications received but impossible to verify bona fide intentions other than virtual production of discharge books. (R.A., Harvik, 1742/24)

Floatplanes

Adty. 1201/22, Para. 7, and my 1846/22. In view of altered conditions here consider ~~Swedish~~ float planes are unsuitable for use here. Tromso would be suitable base for ~~Swedish~~ but this has no A/A gun defences. It is therefore proposed that 816 Squadron should not be sent, but that 701 Squadron strength should be maintained at G I E and 3 I R WALRUS which type is eminently suitable for present

ferrying/

HOME COMMANDS

555

Operations- Narvik

Floatplanes, Contd.

ferrying and A/S duties. Further propose in view of danger to MANELA from air attack and feasibility of accommodating present maintenance of personnel and stores ashore that she should return to U.K. (F.O. Narvik, 1654/24)

Aircraft Carriers

GLORIOUS

To be sailed so as to be ready to fly off Hurricanes to Skaanland on 26 May (Adty, to C. in C., H.F. 0115/24)

To sail at noon 24th to a position North of Andesnes Point suitable for flying off 46 Squadron R.A.F. to Skaanland which should be reached p.m. 26th. Then to return to Clyde. (C. in C., H.F. to GLORIOUS 2331/23)

GLORIOUS screened by ARROW, HIGHLANDER, and WREN sailed from Scapa for Narvik (C. in C., to F.O. Narvik, 1945/24)

Request exchange HAVELOCK to ARROW in GLORIOUS screen (C. in C., H.F. to F.O. Narvik 1935/24)

Iceland

Port Services

Brigadier and N.O. i/c Reykjavik consider introduction of Examination Services at Reykjavik and Hafnar Fiord essential, for which two 6" batteries with personnel urgently required. Brigadier considers he cannot at present protect sea-approaches. (N.O. i/c Reykjavik to Adty. 1401/24)

Local Defence

Naval Reconnaissance today Friday at Hafnarfiord shows very accessible pier there a source of grave danger. Large vessels with troops and artillery supported by warship gunfire could easily effect surprise landing. (N.O. i/c Iceland to Adty. 2238/24)

Adnty. 1188/22. Craft can be obtained locally. System of inspection put forward in my 1114/20 is now in force, harbour launch being used costing £2 per day. (N.O.I.C. Iceland) (1032/24)

Submarines

Positions

0700/24 (Adty. 0011/24)



HOME COMMANDS

AIR

556

British Air Activity

Carrier Squadrons

My 1932/21. 803 and 804 Sqdns. to be brought forthwith the their authorised I.E. complements of aircraft (12 Skua and 12 Gladiator respectively) (D.N.A.D., 1240/24)

Your 1240. 804 Sqn. now completed to twelve Gladiators at Hatston (Hatston to Adty. 1636/24)

A/A Defence, Ships in Port

Adty 2326/22 Agree that armed M/V's in port may engage hostile Aircraft with own guns and Lewis guns with fuses set at permanent settings as supplied, but only after public air raid warning sounded and only if enemy is actually attacking. A/A Defence Commanders will give assistance acting through N.O's i/c of ports. Request Adty. be asked to issue parallel orders (H.Q. Fighter Command to Air Ministry 1730/24)

Enemy Air Activity

WESSEX
BURZA
VIMIERA

WESSEX bombed and sunk off Calais. Majority of crew saved. BURZA hit by 2 bombs speed reduced to 5 knots requires docking, no casualties. VIMIERA damaged near miss. will require docking, no casualties. (Y.A., Dover, 2036/24) **SUPPLEMENT, p 838 (VIMIERA)**

Heinkel Markings

Heinkels (? observed) with black and white under wings in imitation of our Fighters (Narvik to Ships Narvik Area 1137/24)



War Diary

24.5.40.
Friday

557

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Havre

French trawlers destroyed three magnetic and one floating mine on 24th (B.N.L.O. Marceau to Adty. 1730/24).

Suspicious Objects

Pentland Firth

Object, possibly floating mine, observed from S. shore of Pentland Firth in 004^o W. (T.O.O. 0001/24).

Channel

Unidentified floating objects have been reported in Channel recently (I.C. 0460/40).

A red double conical floating object floating on its side observed 18 miles S. of Portland. (I.C. 0460/40).

Torpedo-shaped objects, painted yellow with propellers showing above water, eighteen inches to two feet out of water, four propeller blades; one sighted 3 miles S. of Start Point, and another 5 miles W.S.W. of St. Catherine's Point. (I.C. 0460/40).

Enemy Intelligence

2 M.T.B.'s

2 enemy War Motor Boats reported by aircraft 180^o distance 2 miles from 188 CPWY 52 (Aircraft No. 16 Group to Chatham 0217/24).

3 ships

In line ahead course N. 53:45 N., 6:0 E. (3 miles N. Borkum Riff) 2130. Aircraft report (I.C. 0461/40).

1 trawler

1 enemy trawler flying Danish colours in 56:23 N., 4:53 E. (100 miles 302^o Horns Reef). Bombed but apparently not hit 1950. (Donibristle 1950/24).

2 Convoys

Sighted 17/5 See German Merchant Ships.

1 M.V. Bombed

One enemy M/V 800 tons at 51:45 N., 03:09 E. bombed by aircraft at 0145/24. Damage unknown. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham to H.Q.C.C. Adty. 0420/24).

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Enemy Aircraft Casualties

German Air Force casualties lost and severely damaged since 10 May are 1417 not including reports from H.Q.B.A.F.F. not received for four days (Air Min. to H.Q. 1747/23).

2 M.T.B.'s Attacked

Two Motor T.B.'s attacked by Aircraft at 0320/24 in position 51:05 N., 01:55 E. Result unknown (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, to H.Q.C.C. 0730/24).

Outpost Vessels

2 salvage vessels and 3 escorting vessels, possibly outpost vessels, off Rottumerog (N. of Ems) 0600-0700 aircraft report. (I.C. 0461/40).

1 M.V. and 5 escorting vessels, probably "outpost vessels" stationary 53:45 N. 6:42 E. (10 miles N. of Borkum) 0642. Aircraft report (I.C. 0461/40).

M.V. bombed

M.V. about 4000 tons bombed 53:35 N., 6:38 E. (9 miles N.W. Borkum) 0645 aircraft report (I.C. 0461/40).

Shipping

Foreign Small Craft

Request report names and types of foreign naval and fishing craft previously reported without names as having arrived your port. (D.S.V.P., to N.O.I.C., Dartmouth, Harwich, etc., 1142/24).

Miscellaneous

Strike

At Camper & Nicholson (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1726/24).

Peterhead - Egersund Cable

Anticipated operation to cut it will take place about 3/6 and occupy not more than 2 days given good weather. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1721/24).

s.s. ADVANCE

Finnish, suspect (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2320/24).



War Diary.

24.5.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous (Contd.)

559

Ice Bothnia

Gulf of Bothnia closed due to ice. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1224/24). Swedish heavy ice-breaker YMER has been operating at Kvarken so far without success. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1601/24).

Weather

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	Light and variable.	Extensive fog particularly in North.	Very poor in N. moderate to good elsewhere.
Horns Reef	Light and variable.	Showers mist.	Moderate.
Channel	S.W. light to moderate.	Cloudy occasional showers.	Moderate to good.
Western Approaches	S.S.W. light to moderate.	Overcast.	Good.
Norwegian Coast	Light and variable.	Fine or cloudy fog patches in South.	Good, but poor in South.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

S.S. LAURISTON^E

Ashore near Greenlines, Stronsay (Wick Radio, TOR 1849/24).

EFFINGHAM

Press report that sabotage on part of Norwegian pilot is alleged to have been responsible for loss of EFFINGHAM (Allied Newspapers).

S.S. RAJPUT

Reported by Daily Mail ashore in Hoogly River, p.m./23.



War Diary

24.5.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

560

North Atlantic

SUPPLEMENT

French Positions At 1300/24 (Adty. to C. in C., W.A. 0024/24).

U.S.S. MANHATTAN Adty. 1322/19 and 2316/23. U.S.S. MANHATTAN+ was due a.m. 25/5. Unless ordered to do so it is doubtful if Master will come in voluntarily on account of Neutrality Act. (F.O.C.N.A. 1130/24).

South Atlantic

Sal Island Is owned by the Italian Consul and has large aerodrome under Italian control in event of war. Request early action to force Portugese maintain efficient guard there with Allied observers in view possible threat to Dakar, Freetown, and Convoy route. (C. in C., Med. to Adty. 0929/24).

Germans in Uruguay My 1945/20. Steps being taken against German underground activities in Uruguay. Consider that report that arms have been found is without foundation. Uruguayan people are beginning to realize their danger, but doubt whether they can offer much resistance. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1941/24).

Guiana Invasion Reported Germans in Brazil planning to invade Guianas with 6000 men transported in German ships now in Brazilian port. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1109/24).

Mediterranean

15th D.F. Propose 15th Destroyer Flotilla should revert to old title of 2nd Destroyer Flotilla (C. in C., Med. to Adty. 2002/24).

Italian Fleet Positions etc. (C.O.S. ANGELO 1658/24).

Majorca Reports recent arrival from Spain of five Messerschmidt Fighters formerly used in Civil War (S.O.(I) Gibraltar to Adty. 1012/24).

REX Sailing Genoa 29/5 postponed (Press Asst. Rome) officially stated in Rome sailing postponed for technical reasons (B.U.P. New York).

FOREIGN STATIONS

561

Mediterranean

Italian Preparations

Italian fishing trawlers of which normally about ten in Istanbul have been gradually sailing for Italy last few days and it is reported not expected to return. This is unusual as fish still plentiful. Also Adriatic Fishery Offices here reluctant to book definite truck space near Future. (Beyoglu 1150/24).

Egyptian Defence

I concur with Ambassador Egypt's telegram 342 May 18th to F.O. Financial arrangements with Egyptian Govt. on defence expenditure must be generous and cover whole field. (C. in C., Med., 1455/24).

Italian Preparations

My 1303/23. Italian Steamship ~~PO~~ 7289 tons being converted into Hospital Ship at Trieste where due 24/5. Rumoured that Port Naples will be closed to passenger traffic from June 5th and reserved for military transports. *Mines layers* LERO and MONTE GARGANO, reported loading mines about May 22nd. Sailing of ~~MERG~~ POLO *MARCO* from Trieste to Egypt postponed. There are signs of an Expeditionary Force being prepared. Rumours name Greece or Egypt or Corsica as probable objectives. (N.A. Rome, 0114/24).

America & West Indies

SUPPLEMENT

Canadian Destroyers.
CARADOC. FRASER.

On account of situation in Home Waters Canadian Govt. offer to send 4 R.C.N. destroyers to U.K. They request CARADOC or another cruiser may be sent to Halifax. In order to assist in A/S protection of Halifax it has been decided FRASER should also proceed to Halifax. Be prepared to sail cruiser and FRASER at short notice (A.C.N.S. (A) 2009/24 to C. in C., A.W.I.).

China

Italian Preparations

Shanghai reports Italians making hurried land sales in French concession (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0908Z/24).

Shanghai reports agent stated all Lloyd-Tries-Fino ~~SALES~~ sailings from Italy, will be stopped early June. Comment. My 0801 2/23 refers. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0923Z/24).



FOREIGN STATIONS

562

Australia & New Zealand.

Troop
Transports

Your 0255/23. Cover for these sailings is of little value in wide oceans. If close escort not available for entire passage adequate security will be provided in present circumstances if liners are escorted for 2 or 3 days from ports of departure and arrival and given widely evasive routes. Arrangements for AUSTRALIA etc. In view of new situation created by diversion of shipping via Cape sailing of considerable number of troops in single liners greatly complicates escort problem; hope movements of troops will in future be restricted to regular convoys as far as practicable (A.C.N.S.(A) 1932/24 to A.C.N.B).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Convoys

17th May two Convoys of ten and four ships respectively sighted steering 130 degrees through position 57:50 N., 06:00 E. Range too great to attack or see whether ships loaded or light (V.A.S. to Adty. 1814/24).

China

AUGSBURG 6512.

N.D.L. Line Dairen has been informed that AUGSBURG is to be delivered to Dutch Captain arriving end of May. (D.D.I.C., 1501/24).

Ships Attacked

KYMA Greek ship, states torpedoed and sunk without warning at 0012/24 in position 110 miles S. of Ireland on passage to Avonmouth. SUPPLEMENT (ENCHANTRESS to C. in C., W.A. 2030/24).

Submarines Reported

0855 → Submarine contact by SCIMITAR at 230 N.F.B.P. 19 (Similar to C. in C., Portsmouth 0855/24).

1200 Unidentified submarine sighted by fishermen app. 063:55 N., 022:45 W. graded BO. (S.O.I. Reykjavik to Adty. 1432/24).

1513 Military report submarine at 58:58 N., 03:25 W. Graded C.4 (A.C.O.S. to Adty. 1601/24).

1947 By D/F enemy unit probably U-Boat at 59:55 N., 00:00W. (D.D.I.C. 2123/24).

17th May Submarine believed German communicated Island of San Miguel in Azores by boat with two men on night of 17th May. Graded B.2 (N.A. Lisbon to D.N.I. 0929/24).

0536 Indefinite position off Mouth of Ems. Graded A.1.

0012 63:55 N., 22:45 W. (30 miles W.S.W. of Reykjavik) by fishermen.

Submarines Attacked.

0905 → Submarine attacked by SCIMITAR at 220° NFBP 13 (SCIMITAR to C. in C., Portsmouth 0905/24). Result doubtful (SCIMITAR to C. in C., Portsmouth 1200/24).

2042 VANSITTART carried out Depth Charge attack on suspicious contact at 315° JSBP 21. (MAIDSTONE to C. in C., H.F., 2115/24).



War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

564

Zeebrugge

The French carried out a modified scheme of demolition as approved by the King of the Belgians. Photographic reconnaissance will be made am/26 to ascertain the exact positions of the blockships and the effectiveness of the demolitions. The blockships arrived at 0300/25, having been attacked by aircraft on passage.

The Germans landed parachute troops early 25/5.
(Incorrect - no German troops. (Capt. Hestall, 13.6.44))

Dunkirk

Four French ships arrived pm/25 with ammunition for the B.E.F. The Belgian Govt. were evacuated in 2 M.T.B.'s to Dover.

Calais

The whole of the harbour from the entrance to Quay Paul Devot was under rifle and shell fire and large fires were caused.

Batteries west of Calais shelled, amongst others, hospital ships sailing to and from Dunkirk.

Calais was heavily attacked by the Germans with about 200 tanks and motorised columns. 3000 British and 800 French troops are defending the town but have only two or three tanks left out 40. The Brigade Group, 48th Divn. from the East is marching to their assistance. VERITY has taken ammunition and 60 R.M.'s and 4 officers for duty on the quays.

x No: see "Ellis"

Dieppe

Enemy bombers have done considerable damage to shipping in the harbour and buildings surrounding the docks. In addition to the hospital ship MAID OF KENT (sunk 21/5) the hospital ship BRIGHTON, has been sunk and also the Greek S.S. GALAXAS (4393 tons).

Havre

Sweeping of the Channels was continued today and 3 mines were exploded. The Panama tanker JOSEPH SEEP (7088 tons) swung over a mine at 0320/25 and was sunk. Some ships left the harbour, but shipping in the Seine is still held up.

Gulf of Bothnia

A Swedish icebreaker has been operating at Kvarken (130 miles from Lulea) so far without success.



War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

565

German M.T.B.'s An M.T.B. was bombed and believed sunk at 0214 west of the Texel.

Two enemy M.T.B.'s were seen and attacked by our aircraft some 15 miles west of Texel; both M.T.B.'s were hit with M.G. fire and several bombs were close misses; one Anson was shot down, but JAVELIN rescued the crew.

Mining

Further mine laying in the East Coast Barrier was completed.

Casualties

Armed trawler CHARLES BOYES was blown up off Yarmouth.

T.S. Mine sweeper HARRIER was damaged by a bomb early am off the S.E. coast but returned to Sheerness without casualties.

SOUTHAMPTON was holed by bomb splinters (3 below waterline), temporary repairs effected by plugging, Captain, 10 officers and 7 ratings wounded. Off Narvik.

CAIRO bombed, 4 wounded, main wireless and D/T aerial shot away.

British Air Activity

Night patrols were flown over the Ems, the Dutch and Belgian coasts and southern North Sea during the night 24/25. Eight Hudsons attacked the fuel tanks at Rotterdam during the night 24/25 and obtained 3 direct hits. Gardening continued. A direct hit was obtained on an M.T.B. off the Hook at 0214/25 by an aircraft of Coastal Command.

11 Swordfish successfully bombed various targets near Gravelines.

Enemy Air Activity

A few bombs were dropped at aerodromes near the East coast. No damage was caused.

The meteorological flight extended to 62:30 N., 7.00 W., unusual so far north and west. There was much activity against ports on Belgian and French coasts and at Narvik.



War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

566

Precautions

Northern
Patrol

Suggested should be shifted to a line N.W. from approx. 56:00 N., 8:00 W. as a guard and warning against enemy ships approaching Ireland. Request your views. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., H.F., 2330/24).

Trawlers'
Machine Guns

Adty. have made available for ground defence 600 machine guns ex trawlers. (Air. Min. 1220/25)

Harbour Defence

Desired to investigate use of torpedo tubes to guard harbour entrances. Dover, Southend. Ramsgate appear suitable (D. of L.D. 1648/25).

Liverpool

Requesting Defence Regulations, 1939, Part I article 14, Section 1 (B) be put into force in connection with Royal Liver Buildings, Liverpool, in which Adty. offices are situated. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1524/25).

Glasgow

Requesting alternative line of communication to the telephone in this area (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1610/25).

Neutral Ships

Adty. 0120/24. In view of possible use by enemy of ostensible neutral vessels to transport troops, request advance information of known movements of neutral merchant ships round northern coasts be communicated to me. (C. in C., H.F. 1123/25).

Parkeston
Quay

Additional personnel and stores required owing to departure of CYCLOPS and all naval defences of west end of Parkeston Quay. (C. in C., Nore, 1735/25).

Coast Defence
Batteries.

Re A/A S/L for use with 47 naval 6" coast defence batteries about to mount. (D. of Home Defence and A/A 1900/25). Adty. 2142/24. Arrangements for battery crews and parties for Hythe, Margate, Deal, Tyne, Walton-on-Naze and Aldeburgh. (D. of L.D. 1547/25, 1915/25).



War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

567

Precautions (contd.)

Demolition

Adty. 1244/23 (immobilisation of ports)
Demolition schemes now ready at Newhaven, Littlehampton, Worthing, Shoreham, Brighton and Eastbourne. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1747/25)
Proposals are to be forwarded for blocking entrances to harbours at Shoreham and Littlehampton (C. in C., Portsmouth, to N.O.I.C. Newhaven. 1913/25).

Berthing

When berthing Allied and Neutral vessels, care to be taken that they are not placed near any points of vital importance where this can be avoided, telephone exchanges in particular. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1829/25).

Ships' Demolition Outfits.

To be reduced to minimum necessary to provide scuttling charges and to destroy asdics in vessels so fitted, remaining stores being despatched to depot. (C. in C. Nore, 1540/25).

Landing S.E. Coast

In view of the unavoidable delay in moving Nore forces through the Downs during dark hours, necessary to point out that any attempted landing during the night south of Ramsgate can be dealt with initially only by forces under your command. (C. in C., Nore, to C. in C., Portsmouth and V.A., Dover, 1116/25).

Tyne

Vulnerability of Warkworth Harbour, (North Sea Pilot Part III p.59). German and Dutch colliers have used harbour regularly. Beach to Northward shelving and sandy suitable for landing amphibious tanks. Land in rear suitable for parachutists. Action taken - patrol drifter off entrance, military guard at harbour, dredger and barge ready to be sunk at short notice. Suggest more drastic action of blocking harbour. (F.O., Tyne, 1705/25).



War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

568

Movements

Allied
Submarines

Positions 0600/25 (V.A.S. 1742/24). Positions
0600/26 (V.A.S., 1739/25, D.C., 2114/25).
Positions 0700/26 (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 2131/25).

Operations - French Coast and Belgium

Zeebrugge

Parachute troops have landed in Zeebrugge.
(VEGA, 0420/25). *Incorporated - not confirmed. (Randy Water 12/29)*

Le Havre

D.S.T.O. Le Havre reports sweeping of Channels continued and also around shipping. No mines exploded. 59 ships left the harbour and roads. Ships are allowed to proceed in and out only with permission. Everything here quiet. Quays have been considerably cleared. Am endeavouring to sail or bring out into tidal harbour all British vessels (ends). (B.N.L.O. 1737/25).

Dieppe

S.T.O. Dieppe reports vessels 12 ft. draught can tie up in outer harbour at S.R. quay. However there is no A/A protection and all bombing was from low altitude. French authorities state that if vessels are sent to port it will only lead to further raids. Suggest 2 minesweepers be sent to clear Channel and if necessary shallow draught personnel vessels could enter provided they remain for an hour either side of high water. Port at present closed. Estimated 2 magnetic mines inside pierhead and about 12 outside entrance. 3 dredgers sunk, also hospital ships MAID OF KENT, Greek ship GALAXIAS and (hospital ship) BRIGHTON, one small trawler. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1843/25).

Situation at Dieppe a.m./25/5. Air bombardment of port p.m. yesterday by eight aircraft. Hospital ship BRIGHTON sunk alongside. Entry to port partly blocked by trawler sunk in entrance but port closed due to suspected magnetic mines. No sweeping facilities available all these being employed at Havre and in the Seine. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1514/25).



War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

569

French Coast

Ships for
Dunkirk

4 French ammunition ships proceeding Dunkirk arriving about 1430 with ammunition for B.E.F. Fighter protection required during approach to Dunkirk and unloading (Air Min. 0830/25).

Hospital ships to and from Dunkirk are being shelled by batteries westward of Calais. (V.A. Dover, 1847/25).

Zeebrugge

Positions of block ships (D.C. 0756/25) **SUPPLEMENT**
(~~Operation~~ E.F.) 840

Cherbourg

From D.S.T.O. Cherbourg. No air raids. Wharves and quays intact. port open. Rail facilities intact. Troops and ~~CALMNS~~ embarking hospital carrier loading. 300 Dutch troops remaining. (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 1446/25)

Bordeaux

My 2100/23 (request for steamer to evacuate British refugees). Local circumstances having improved, special arrangements no longer appear necessary at present. (Consul, Bordeaux, 1600/25).

Calais
Demolition

From O.I.C. Demolition, Calais. Ready for the service ordered. Propose exploding charges as enemy attack. 0951 (V.A. Dover, 1039/25).

Calais
Defence

Sec. of State to Brig. Nicholson. Defence of Calais to the utmost is of highest importance to our country as symbolising our continued co-ordination with France. The eyes of the Empire are upon the defence of Calais, and H.M. Govt. are confident you and your gallant regiments will perform an exploit worthy of the British name. (D.M.O. & P., 1358/25).

Hospital Ships

Hospital ships to and from Dunkerque are being shelled by batteries westward of Calais. (V.A. Dover, 1847/25).

Aircraft
Reconnaissance

One Anson to carry out a reconnaissance of beaches between Calais and south of Boulogne with object of locating any parties of British troops said to be making their way south. Positions to be noted and ~~pass~~ passed by V/S to our trawlers patrolling within 5 miles of French coastline. (CHATHAM 1930/25).

War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

French Coast (Contd.)

570

Calais,
Message to
Troops

Following to be sent to Calais by boat as arranged by Commander M/S. From War Office to O.C. Troops, Calais. Every hour you continue to exist is of greatest help to B.E.F. Govt. has therefore decided you must continue to fight. Have greatest possible admiration for your splendid stand (ends). Evacuation will not take place and craft not required for above purpose are to return to Dover. ~~4~~VERITY and WINDSOR to cover Commander M/S and his retirement. (F.O.I.C. Dover, 2330/25).

Operation Quixote

Trawlers will be working in approx. positions LSWY 0515 and CPWY 3430 tomorrow (Sunday). Destroyers on patrol to act in support if required. (C. in C., Nore, 1715/25).

Narvik.

RESOLUTION

Asking if she is still required (D.O.D.(H) /25).

Plans

Adty. 2005/24. How far are French aware of decision? If French forces not informed, request in interest of secrecy the information should be given through me, not through French Govt. Fully appreciate necessity for secrecy and of active action against enemy. Could any light force be spared to harry coast between Mosjoen and Bodo and so delay German advance north working preferably with carrier planes? (F.O. Narvik, 0932/25)

Norwegian
Warships

Norwegian Naval C. in C., informs me he is now sending FRIDTJOF NANSEN, U.K. urgently requests she may be docked, refitted and equipped with A/A armament (F.O., Narvik, 1544/25).

ECHO

To return to Harstad and direct CORMINSTER to proceed there (F.O. Narvik, 1620/25).

Skaanland

Confirmed Skaanland ready to receive Hurricanes after 2000/26 (R.A., Narvik 2008/25).

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.

25.5.1940
Saturday.Operations.
Narvik.

My 1306/24. Yesterday 23/5 I had interview with King, Prime Minister, etc. Gen. Ruge informed me he had been appointed C.in C. of all Norwegian fighting forces. Apart from wish to make contact my purpose was to impress upon all authorities absolute necessity for greater control of civilian population both ashore and afloat, greater collaboration of civil Government with British military authorities in order to comprehend this control effectively. Necessary measures had been discussed by Gen. Auchinleck and myself and put on paper. The King kept me off any serious topic, but was cordial and friendly and said he knew the object of my visit. The subject had already been introduced between Gen. Ruge and Col. Pollock, and certain incidents had caused the General to realise its necessity. He undertook to see everything was done that was necessary with Cabinet, and matter was left at that, Pollock having all information as to what was required. With due regard to Norwegian feelings, I feel sure that all will go well with military arrangements including stationing of troops when required. Naval C.in C., Adm. Deier, was also understanding and helpful, and with him I left a paper with suggestions for control of shipping. C.S.1 had already seen him on the subject. The three members of the Govt. I spoke to on general lines of subject. They were helpful and anxious to comply with all requirements, I felt, always provided what was done was done in their names. More liaison officers were promised and a Government representative to be sent to Harstad to smooth out all difficulties. At this point an air raid occurred, bombs being directed at H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE, and Prime Minister became somewhat disturbed, but there was little more to say and I withdrew. Same points cropped up as they always do - need for A/A artillery, and equipment for their ships which they said had been promised by H.M. Govt., the training of their pilots, and refitting and return of small ships that are in England to be expedited. Would urge this, for their presence in these waters would be of great assistance. My impression of this brief visit was that there was every desire

13.43.

GERMAN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

.....B E R L I N, MAY 23.....TODAY'S GERMAN HIGH COMMAND
COMMUNIQUE STATES:

"GERMAN FORCES ARE SLOWLY ADVANCING IN FLANDERS ACROSS
THE SCHELDT IN FACE OF STRONG ENEMY RESISTANCE. THE BATTLE
IS STILL GOING ON.

"THE TERRITORY OF MORMAL, SOUTH-EAST OF VALENCIENNES,
HAS BEEN CLEARED OF FRENCH FORCES.

"ENEMY ARMoured FORCES ATTEMPTED TO ATTACK NEAR CAMBRAI.
THEY WERE, HOWEVER, PUSHED BACK BY A JOINT COUNTER-
ATTACK OF GERMAN LAND AND AIR FORCES. HEAVY LOSSES WERE
INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY IN THESE FIGHTS.

"IN WESTERN ARTOIS GERMAN TROOPS ARE ADVANCING IN A
NORTHERLY DIRECTION TOWARDS CALAIS.

"ON THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE FRONT BETWEEN THE RIVER
MEUSE AND THE RIVER SOMME THE ENEMY OCCUPY DEFENCE POSITIONS.

"IN THE FORTRESS OF LIEGE THE BATTICE FORT HAS SURRENDERED
WITH TWENTY OFFICERS AND 650 MEN.

"SOUTH OF NAMUR SEVERAL FORTIFICATIONS ARE STILL BEING
HELD BY THE ENEMY.

SECRET

5708

to be helpful and to continue the fight, but a disappointment at what they considered the non-fulfilment of promises made to them.

(F.O., Narvik, 1306/25)

13.43.

GERMAN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

3% LOCAL...86 OFF 1/2 4% VICTRY...109-1/2 OFF 1/2

INDUSTRIALS: AIR COM..7/3 OFF 3D AUSTIN...13/6 OFF 3D

B A T S...4-25/32 UP 1/32 CROMPTON...14/6 OFF 6D

DISTILLERS...60/6 OFF 3D FURNESS WITHY...15/3 UP 3D

SUDAN PLANT...23/9 UP 1/3

OILS: ANG IRAN..2-15/32 UP 1/32 BURMAH..3-5/32 UP 1/32

MEX EAGLE...4/1-1/2 UP 1-1/2D V.O.C...1-7/32 UP 1/32

INTERNATIONALS: CAN PAC..6-3/4 UP 1/8 HYDROS..2-3/4 UP 1/8

TRACTIONS...7-1/2 UP 1/8

RAILWAYS: G W R...36-1/2 UP 1/2 L M S...16 UP 3/4

MINES: ROAN ANT..13/4-1/2 UP 1-1/2D

SEL TRUST...8/1-1/2 UP 1-1/2D

MISCELLANEOUS: MIDLAND...78/- UP 1/9 --REUTER

M-2

12.53

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENT

MAY 23.

THE CARDINAL INVESTMENT TRUST LTD

War Diary25.5.40.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSNarvik (Contd.)

Naval Batteries Adty. 1930/10. Personnel, material and ammunition of Naval U.P. Batteries now in MANELA to be disembarked. Personnel to return to Depot. Material and ammunition to be despatched to Parkhead and retained there for present. (D.O.D.(H) 2236/25).

Trawlers C.S.1 2230/23. Request 3 A/S trawlers lent to Tromso for D/S patrol may return to Harstad, urgently required to replace casualties. (R.A. Narvik, 0955/25).

Convoys Escorts for N.P.4 and N.S.4 (C. in C., H.F. 2314/25). Revised composition of N.P.4 and N.S.4 (D.O.D.(H) 1448/25).

Aircraft C. in C., H.F.'s 1935/24. R.A. Narvik's 2008/25. Request HAVELOCK R.V. with GLORIOUS in 70° N. 12° E. at 1700/26. At 2000/26 GLORIOUS will be in 70° N. 15° E. ready to fly off 46 Sqdn. on receipt your order to do so and confirmation that conditions on coast are suitable. (GLORIOUS 2309/25).

East Finmark Your 0930/24. Situation in E. Finmark unchanged except for small improvements in details of defence. O.C. Troops is personally confident Russians will not assist Germans in attack on Finmark, but he received today message handed in Tromso 1600/24 from Norwegian Military H.Q. to effect that British Military H.Q. Harstad now fear attack from Murmansk by German units in transports or aircraft. As this is in direct contradiction to Adty. 0316/23, request elucidation (C.S.I. to F.O. Narvik, 1854/25).

Supplies Through Sweden. Adty. 120 Minister for Foreign Affairs today informed H.M. Minister that no sealed trucks were allowed through Sweden in any circumstances, no convoys of food were being sent through, all consignments from Germany to Norway were most carefully searched. (A.N.A. Stockholm, 1652/25).



542

War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Faroes - Iceland

Situation

All possible precautions in being, but force is dispersed more than I like due to wide area to cover. Enemy could undoubtedly land in other parts of this large island without my being aware as I have insufficient aircraft at disposal to obtain information. Occupation of Faroe Islands by enemy real danger not only to me but to civilian population here, as not only could they establish base without my being aware but bomb Reykjavik and civilians from Faroes. Have no real A/A defence. Consider stationing of 6 flying boats, not Sunderland aircraft at Reykjavik equipped for bombing essential. Wing Com. Barnes concurs (Alabaster, Reykjavik, to W.O. 1426/23, received in War Reg. 2215/25).

ULSTER PRINCE

Not to sail without further orders. When is it expected she will be ready? (C. in C., N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1032/25).

ACASTA)
ARDENT)

To remain at Faroes. Will be required to R.V. with oiler BROOMDALE and convoy 5 other ships bound for Narvik area to U.K. (C. in C., H.F. 1346/25).

HOME COMMANDS

573

AIR

British Air Activity

Bergen

In view of Admty. 1952/24, intend carrying out bombing attack on suitable targets in Bergen at first possible opportunity utilising Skuas of 806 Sqdn. (A.C.O.S. 1205/25)

Stavanger Aerodrome

12 Hudson aircraft from Wick and 3 from Leuchars detailed to attack Stavanger Aerodrome commencing 0200/26 and finishing 0236/26 (C. in C., Rosyth 1802/25)

Bergen

Attack by Skuas Cancelled (A.C.O.S. 1205/25, 1615/25)

Bombing restrictions

Cancel all submarine bombing restriction areas at 1759/25 institute restriction areas 1800/25 as follows (16 group H.Q. 1600/25, H.Q. C.C. 1532/25)

Recognition Signals

Probable that S.D. 158 routeing, recognition and identification of aircraft has fallen into enemy hands. All recognition signals should be treated with great reserve. (Air Min. 1224/25)

Norwegian Coast

No reconnaissance of Norwegian coasts possible today owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1210/25)

French Aircraft

French offer services of 11 Chance Vaught Dive Bombers from Cherbourg (Air Min. 0845/25)

803 Sqdn.

Admty. 1240/24 3 Skuas for 803 Sqdn to be despatched Hatston tomorrow (Sunday) four remaining replacement aircraft to follow as early as possible. (C.D.B., 1609/25, 1611/25, 1613/25)

M.T.B's Attacked

Aircraft reports that at 1912 hours two M.T.B's sighted in position CPOX5518, course 193 degrees T 25 knots. Correct recognition signal of the hour was sent with no reply other than A.A. Fire which burst very close to Ansons A/48, U/500, F/500. A dive bombing attack was carried out from 1400 feet to 300 feet, no direct bomb hits but very close misses, well directed bursts of front and rear gun fire was seen to enter both M.T.B's. U/500 was seen to be hit in the port engine at a height of about 500 feet and disappeared under control at about 100 feet in an easterly direction. Crew of aircraft U/500 picked up by destroyer. (Chatham 2235/25)

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

Enemy Air Activity

574

Am being attacked VXWY 2253 (unknown ship, 0103/25)

Air Attacks continue VXTS 2309 (0235/25)

GREYHOUND

4 aircraft bombing VXDN 0032 (GREYHOUND 1131/25)
No hits (1145/25)

SAON

A/S trawler, attacked 154 South Foreland 9
(SAON 1134/25)

DEVONSHIRE

Bombed (F.O. Narvik, 1306/25 (see Narvik)

CAIRO

acc p 721 4 wounded, bombing casualties today. Main W/T
and D/F aerial shot away. (F.O. Narvik 2230/25)

SOUTHAMPTON

Captain, 1 officer and 7 ratings wounded.
Ship has 150 holes above water line varying
1-5 inches, 20 below platform deck, and 3
below water line. (F.O. Narvik 2230/25)

Meteorological
Flight

On 21/5 German daily meteorological flight
extended to 60°N, 5°W. On 25/5 it covered
area between Shetlands and Faroes. Unusual
for these flights to extend so far west.
D.D.I.C. 1641/25)

Mining

Ports Closed ✓

Dover and Portsmouth closed owing to heavy
minelaying raids night of 25-26 (I.C. 0462/40)

French Coast

At Dieppe, estimated 2 mines inside the pier
head and about 12 outside entrance.

At Havre, JOSEPH SEEP mined and sunk while
shifting berth. Passage between Havre and
Rouen suspended. The northern entrance and
outer part of Seine Channel swept by British
sweepers, 3 mines exploded. (I.C. 0462/40)

Tyne

Magnetic mine exploded 087° 1.8 miles from
N. Tyne Pier light. (I.C., 0462/40)

Milford Haven

Two floating mines were reported in 51.34.5'N
5.48.5'W., at 2100/25 (Off Milford Haven)
(I.C., 0463/40)

Shipping

Ocean Convoys

Positions (D.C., 1839/25)

Economic Warfare

My 2316/23. Para 2. Ships calling
voluntarily are not to be detained any
longer than is necessary for accomplishment
of purpose of call. Even if examination
cannot be completed in that time ship is to
be allowed to proceed. Usual cargo reports
are to be rendered but ships are to be re-
leased without waiting for authority from

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Economic Warfare
Contd.

Ministry of Economic Warfare. (D.E.W. 575)
1853/25 to C. in C's and C.C.S.O's)

Miscellaneous

ETTRICK, refugees

Transport, to proceed from Gibraltar to Bordeaux to embark approx. 1000 British refugees and then continue to Glasgow, not Liverpool. (D. of S.T. 2251/25)

Cancel my 2001/21 Refugee vessels should be sent to Weymouth. (C. in C., Portsmouth)

Swedish Destroyers

Your 1221/24 No objection to Swedish destroyer calling Haroes to refuel. (D.O.D. (H) 0036/25) (to A.N.A., Stockholm) Re call at Queenstown on 30/5 to fuel from tanker CASTOR. (N.A. Dublin, 1953/25)

WEATHER

<u>0500 H.S.T.</u>	<u>WIND</u>	<u>VISIBILITY</u>	<u>OUTLOOK</u>
<u>North Sea</u>	Variable light	Moderate, Fog in North.	Wind becoming S.E. Fog slowly clearing.
<u>Channel</u>	S.E. Light or moderate.	Moderate or Good.	Wind freshening
<u>W. Approaches</u>	S.E. Fresh	Moderate	Wind veering
<u>Horns Reef</u>	S.W. Light	Moderate	Wind backing
<u>Dutch Coast</u>	S.S.W. light	Moderate	Wind backing
<u>Coast of Norway</u>	Light or Moderate. S.E. or variable.	Mainly good local morning fog in fiords.	Similar

Enemy Intelligence

2 M.T.B's

Sighted 1912 52.55'N 4.18'E course 193° 25 knots. Bombed, near misses. aircraft report (Chatham 2235/25)

1 M.T.B.

Bombed and apparently hit and sunk 0214 52. N 4° E, course 360° (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0545/25)

3 vessels

Sighted by aircraft 2130/24 in line ahead size unknown, course northerly, in 53° 45'N 6° 0'E (D.C. 0259/25)



CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

576

EFFINGHAM

Lying on her starboard side. Bow submerged up to bridge. Doubt if anything could be salvaged. (AURORA, 0555/25)

ss. TENNESSEE

(Norwegian)
5667

Damaged by collision and ashore near Roana Bay east side of Deerness (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 16/25/25)

FAME
WINDRAKE

}

Destroyers, slight damage from shell fire. Narvik, (D.S.)

MASHOBRA
BALTEARO

}

Supply ships, damaged and beached, Narvik (D.S)

25.5.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

577

Allied submarines

Positions 0700/25 (Adty. to B.N.L.O.
Marceau 2007/24)

French Forces

Positions, Convoys and patrols 1200/25
(D.S. 0253/25)

German ships at
Vigo

It is possible that German ships may shortly attempt to break out from Vigo. Arrange for one of group seven to act as support of French inshore patrols, in concert with Admiral West (A.C.N.S.(A) 2044/25)

South Atlantic

SUPPLEMENT

Air Reconnaissance
force on Union
Coast

N.O.I/C Simonstown's 1625/23. This question is being dealt with by Admiralty and Air Min. (A.C.N.S.(A) 1716/25)

Watch for Raiders

Admiralty 1840/22 (Watch to be kept by cable and wireless operators to receive reports of raiders) Coastal watch on 500 Kc/s is now being kept by Ascension. Request this fact may be promulgated generally (C. in C., S.A. 1521/25)

Mediterranean

Situation

Your 0403/24 H.M. Govt. do not intend legal niceties to prevent action but are in the best position to decide when relations have become critical and you will be informed. Should you consider the situation has become or is becoming critical, you must obtain approval before taking action. (1st S.L. to C. in C., 1734/25)

PATRIS

Your 1700/4 For time being it is considered further sailings should be suspended and SS PATRIS removed from danger area (A.C.N.S. (A) 0300/25 to N.A. Belgrade)

Italian Tankers

Following from S.O. (1) Stamboul. Italian fishing Trawlers which have been gradually sailing from Black Sea to Italy are not expected to return although fish still plentiful. Adriatic Official at Stamboul unwilling to book space for near future. Alexandria-Authorities report Italian Steamship ICCW (MARCO POLO) not repeat not returning to Alexandria all local Authorities informed (corrupt group) (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1221/25)

Italian Shipping

My 2316/23 implements agreement being negotiated that Italian ships will embark cargo covered by Navicerts. Same arrangement applies to U.S. Ships and the few remaining neutrals will probably come in. Until agreement is established and proved reliable

and/

FOREIGN STATIONS

578

Mediterranean

Italian Shipping
Contd.

and in case naval control should be resumed, observation and identification of traffic in Aegean should be carried on, using no more ships than necessary. Special care should be taken to give Italy no possible excuse for claim that neutrality of Greek territorial waters is not being respected. (D.E.W.D. 1322/25 to C. in C., Med)

Press reports sailing of Italian liners postponed, REX from 29th May to 12th June. CONTE DI SAVOIA from 12th June to 23rd June. NEPTUNIA from 25th May to 21st June. AUGUSTUS due to sail 27th May also postponed

Cargo vessels in American waters reported not as yet affected. (D.N.I., 1042/25)

Italian Shadowing

On 12 May H.M.S. CHAKLA when in position 35° 44'N 27 42' E, was circled 4 times at very close range by 2 Italian flying boats. In view of difficulty in identifying neutral aircraft it is requested that danger of this practice may be pointed out to Italian authorities. (C.S..3, 0057/25, to Amty and Ambassador, Rome)

PATRIS
WARSAWA

Sailing from Split with Polish troops. Polish authorities propose to accept risk and continue transport of such personnel to Marseilles, but if situation further deteriorates to ship them instead to Beirut. (A.N.A., Belgrade 1800/25)

Greek Ships

Asking for any information of assumption of control of Greek merchant ships by Greek Navy. (D.N.I., to N.A., Athens 1452/26)

East Indies

Dispositions

Intend CALEDON, DRAGON shall for present operate in East African and Ceylon areas respectively (C. in C., E.I. 1934Z/25)

Your 1651/23 In order to have one A/S vessel in Persian Gulf as soon as possible and to add one L/S sloop to Red Sea Force. I would prefer PALMOUTH to go to Persian Gulf. On arrival there CLIVE would join Red Sea Force. (C. in C., E.I. 1959Z/25)

Consider mine sweeping should now be situated at Port Sudan. (C. In C., E.I. 1936Z/25)

FOREIGN STATIONS

579

East Indies Contd.

R.A.F. Squadrons

Ground personnel of Nos 11 and 39 Sqds., R.A.F. urgently required to proceed Aden and Egypt. Understood held up due to Diversion of shipping. Report what is situation (D.T.D to EOCRIN. 1935/25)

Ammunition

Admty. 1202/24 British GLENORCHY due Colombo 28/5 from Hong Kong has 4.7 in ammunition for Alexandria. Intend transhipping this and other naval stores arriving Colombo for Mediterranean to Bombay for storage ashore there pending first convoy, if F.O.C.R.I.N. can arrange storage. (C. in C., 6322/25)

China

Cruisers

→ COLOMBO, CERES will be withdrawn for service elsewhere unless you urgently wish to retain them on your station. (A.C.N.S. (A) 2045/25 to C. in C., China)

Danish Seamen

Objection to defence arming on grounds of not being at war with Germany and feared retaliation on families. Propose ship should sail to U.K. unarmed and crew relieved by allied crew in U.K. (R.A.C., Malaya) (03092/25)

Australia

CERES 7
COLOMBO

→ Commonwealth Govt. is informing U.K. Govt. that proposed services in Australia of CERES and COLOMBO are relinquished. (A.C.N.B., 0329/25)

→ A.C.N.B. 0329. Unless you urgently wish to retain COLOMBO and CERES on your station they will be withdrawn for service elsewhere. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., China 2045/25)



25.5.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

580

America & West Indies.

Canadian Destroyers.

N.S.H.Q., Ottawa's 1052/24 and your 1001/25
Para B of my 2009/24 assumed that the four
R.C.N. destroyers would be sent to U.K. from
Halifax force. Selection of course rests
with C.N.S., Ottawa (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C.,
A.W.I., 1911/25)

Adnty. 2009/24, FRASER to be sailed to make
fourth destroyer for U.K. as in my 1052/24.
SAGUENAY in need of refit. ASSINIBOINE will
be refitted by 30/5. OTTAWA should be
servicable by 15/6. Will co-operate to
utmost with any disposition you suggest.
(C.N.S., ~~OTTAWA~~, to C. in C., A.W.I.)



25.5.1940.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

581

Ships carrying iron ore continually passing through Gota Canal. Nationality uncertain. Further report will be sent. (Goteborg 1641/25)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

582

Ships AttackedCHARLES BOYES

M/s trawler. Blown up in Would whilst sweeping (N.O.I.C., Yarmouth, 1410/25) C.O., (Temp. Skipper G. Reynolds, RNR) 1 officer and 13 ratings missing (Admty. communique 1515/26)

JOSEPH SEEP

Panamanian tanker, 7088 tons, swung over a mine at Dieppe and was sunk at 0320/25 (I.G. 0462/40, D.S. 26/5)

Submarines Reported0202

Reported by JACKAL in 52.15'N., 03.04'E., about 50. E.S.E. from Lowestoft at 0202. (JACKAL, 0215/15) GALLANT and JAGUAR sent to assist in hunt. (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 0352/25)

1830/23

HIBISCUS reports that at 1830 G.M.T. 23/5, in 52.25'N., 5.34'W., contact was made with submarine. Contact investigated and after approx. half an hour HIBISCUS prepared to attack. Submarine then made British submerged identification signal on Fessenden. HIBISCUS remained in contact approx. one hour until merchant ships in neighbourhood had passed clear, then proceeded on course. (F.O.I.C., Portland, 1135/25) Contact obtained could not have been a British or Allied submarine. (C. in C., W.A., 1331/25)

0856

Bearing of U-Boat from Brest at 0856 was 356° distance unknown. (C. in C., W.A., 1001/25)

French report (doubtful) indicates possibility of 2 submarines being between Laroche and Cadiz on 23/5 (F.O., Gibraltar, 0152/25)

Estimated Dispositions

3 in Western Approaches, of which 1 is towards Channel Approaches, probably 1 near Shetlands, some in Southern North Sea, probably one near S.W. Iceland. (D.D.I.C. 1355/25)



HOME COMMANDS.

from p 574

Operations.

583

Submarines.

V.A.S. 2309/24. Concur this is worth trying. It would also assist surface ships which might be required to make the passage from the north outside the destroyed area. Too much reliance would not, however, be placed on the buoy being in position as the enemy may sink it. (C. in C. H.F., 1221/25)

SEVERN

Upper c.t. hatch leaking. Returning to effect repairs (SEVERN 0220/26) (Sailed for Statlandet area with despatch 2141/25 (Capt. (S) 9. 2144/25)

SPEARFISH

Patrol Report. Sperry out of action from 13th May onwards and magnetic compass very unreliable due to wiping. 0300/20 took off crews and sank two Danish fishing vessels in B F T S 5835. Danes confirm place and time of SPEARFISH attack on ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER but say ship was LUTZOW, that she was beached close to Frederikshaven subsequently refloated and towed towards Kiel but sank in Kiel Bay off Point Gulstav and is a total loss. Danes also state (1) German minefield in vicinity of Hertha's Flat. (2) Frederikshaven-Skaw Channel runs close inshore. (3) Als and Frederikshaven used for embarking troops and tanks (4) Norwegian submarine was brought to Frederikshaven. (V.A.S., 1736/25)

Air Craft Carriers

ARK ROYAL
FURIOUS

My 1932/21. It has now been decided that ARK ROYAL should be kept fully equipped with her squadrons. 810, 820, and 800 are, therefore, to remain on board and 821 will be embarked shortly.

FURIOUS is to land 801 squadron complete to Abbotsinch for subsequent transfer to the South if ordered. 818 squadron complete to be landed at Campbeltown for subsequent transfer if ordered.

As previously arranged 803 and 804 squadrons will remain at Hatston and 806 squadron proceed to Worthy Down. (5 S.L., 1315/25)

SECRET

War Diary

26.5.1940.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

584

Dover and Portsmouth closed

Were closed, owing to suspected magnetic mine laying by enemy aircraft during the night 25/26. 35 enemy aircraft were located in the Portsmouth area.

It is believed that 23 enemy bombers accompanied enemy minelayers which operated off Portsmouth, but no bombing took place; possible targets were obscured by fog or mist.

A report that 22 parachutists had landed near Dover proved to be false.

Dunkirk

The port is open and French reinforcements have arrived in the area. The port was, however, heavily bombed by the Germans, and the railway and oil tanks were reported in flames.

Calais

At 1300 the situation was critical. 300 men under Comdre Gandell were holding the Quay Maritime and the remainder were in the Citadel. The Germans held the greater part of the Northern Town. The French troops at Fort Risban were quite demoralised. It might be possible to evacuate some 300 troops but decision is essential today as to either reinforcement or evacuation.

The harbour was under shell fire and disembarkation of howitzers considered impracticable.

Aircraft report a large fire at Calais at 2237/26.

GALATEA escorted by GRAPTON and air escort and spotter aircraft bombarded German positions at Calais at 0730/26. At 1830, ARETHUSA, screened by GRAPTON, continued the bombardment begun by GALATEA with aircraft spotting, to destroy the batteries harassing shipping bound for Dunkirk.

WINDSOR and VERITY are on patrol off the port.

Boulogne

French troops are holding the Citadel. The docks are on fire. There is heavy firing. Small craft have been trying to rescue Guardsmen on the beach in the neighbourhood.

Dieppe

The entry of the port is still partly blocked by a sunken trawler and the port is closed due to suspected mines. No sweeping facilities are at present available, sweepers being employed at Havre and on the Seine. Extensive damage to buildings and shipping in the harbour by enemy bombers. There is no anti-aircraft protection whatever for the port.

Le Havre

The channel from Tanfardville to the Havre

SITUATION REPORT

585

Le Havre Contd.

Barrage in the estuary of the Seine was swept by 3 trawlers. A convoy of 25 ships proceeded safely to sea and 20 ships afterwards entered the port.

Cherbourg

At 1446/25. The port was open, wharves, quays and rail facilities intact. No air raids.

Zeebrugge

Aerial photographs of the position of the blockships were taken.

Norway

ENTERPRISE arrived at Scapa at 1900/26 with about 20 tons of gold, and was to sail for Plymouth a.m. 27/5.

TRUANT is to leave the Tromso area to patrol the west coast of Norway.

CURLEW, providing AA protection in Narvik area with COVENTRY, was bombed and sunk at 1945/26.

Fleet oiler OLEANDER was seriously damaged by a near miss at Harstad at 2230/26, and was beached. It is feared she will be a total loss, though attempts to salvage the cargo are being made.

Boom defence trawler LOCH SHIN was bombed at Harstad 26/5 and capsized after beaching. She is a total loss.

British Air Activity

Normal patrols were flown. 9 Patrols, involving 57 aircraft, were flown over France and Belgium, where large formations of enemy aircraft were encountered. 86 bomber aircraft bombed their alternative targets owing to low mist. (Bombers are now given alternative targets). 18 Blenheim aircraft left at 0600 to bomb river crossings at Courtrai. 18 Blenheims left at dusk to bomb an aerodrome north of St. Pol, where Germans were unloading air borne petrol.

Enemy Air Activity

Meteorological flights between Spurn Head and Le Havre during 26th are believed to be preparatory to further enemy air operations.

Offensive activity continued in Dutch, Belgian and French Coast area, Dunkirk and Calais being heavily bombed, and British aircraft spotting for ships bombarding were also attacked.

Italy.

Preparations for entering war at shortest notice continue; but considered Mussolini may await outcome of present fighting in



26.5.1940.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

586

Italy Contd.

France before deciding. It is rumoured that many young Germans now swarming into Italy are part of a German parachute contingent to operate with Italy which now has no parachute corps.,

U.S. 3.

The Australian Troop convoy (QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, MAURETANIA, ANDES) arrived at Cape Town a.m. 26.



HOME COMMANDS

587

Precautions

Search of Ships

Admty. 2110/15 If action not already taken, all foreign ships in British waters except French ships are now to be thoroughly searched without delay. You should call on the Military, Customs and Police for any assistance required. (Md. of M., to all C's in C., and F.O.'s in C. at home. 0507/26)

Tyne Ports

Your 1705/25 Are there any other small ports in your sub. command not mentioned in the list for immobilisation which you consider could be used by the enemy for landing tanks or other armoured vehicles (C. in C., Rosyth, 1209/26 to F.O., Tyne)

Search of Ships

All Foreign ships in Hartlepool have been searched. Nothing to report. (N.O. Hartlepool to C. in C., Rosyth 1845/26)

Norfolk Broads

Steps to be taken with police to render incapable of use at short notice all motor craft on Norfolk Broads. (Hofor London & 0126/26, 2119/26)

Landing Grounds

Aircraft Pilots instructed to inform local Chief Constable of any land observed made suitable for enemy air craft use (Air Ministry 1200/26)

Telephone Exchanges

Re possible disruption of telephone centres by Fifth Column, consult local Military and Police and place guards on local Telephone Exchanges (R.A.N.A.S. to Home Air Stations 1504/26)

Movements

GLORIOUS

At 2000/26 GLORIOUS will be at 070° N 015° E ready to fly off 46 Squadron if so ordered and coast conditions suitable (GLORIOUS to R.A. Narvik 2309/25)

Walrus
WARBUS A/c.

Walrus
WARBUS will R/V with you 070° N 012° E at 1700/26 (R.A. Narvik to GLORIOUS 1316/26)

ENTERPRISE

Arrived Scapa 1740/26 (with Norwegian gold) F.O.C.O.S. to Admty. 1820/26)

REVENGE

To escort ANTONIA and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND leaving U.K. 30th May for Halifax (Admty. to C. in C., Rosyth 2136/25, C in C., Rosyth 1503/26) Reason for escort (D.O.D. (F) 2132/25)

Nore Command

State of ships 26/5 (C. in C., Nore 064 /26)

Home Commands

Operations

588

Operation ~~SHINE~~ ^{Dynamo}

W/T Link

A ship probably A/A destroyer to proceed to Dunkirk to act as additional W/T Link arriving after dark (Adty. to C. in C., Nore 1706/26)

Sailing of Dutch Coasters

Forty-five Dutch coasters to sail as soon as possible to French ports indicated (Adnty to C. in C., Portsmouth 1834/26, Adty. to C. in C., Nore 1835/26, Adty to C. in C., Rosyth 1836/26, Adty. to C. in C., W.A. 1837/26)

To commence-Covering Forces

Operation ~~SHINE~~ ^{Dynamo} is to commence (Adty. to V.A. Dover 1857/26)

All available forces to be used for covering operation Dynamo tonight Sunday. (Adty. to C. in C., Nore 1937/26)

Operation Dynamo will be conducted by V.A. Dover starting tonight 26th. Very large number of small vessels required. Embarkation from Belgium and adjacent French Coasts (Adty. to C. in C., H.F. etc., 2017/26)

CODRINGTON, JAVELIN, JAGUAR, GRENADE to be in position 52° 10' N 3" 0'E. At 0400 and patrol from there to Brown Ridge Buoy as distant covering force. C.S. 2 in GALATEA to rendezvous with GALLANT, VIVACIOUS, and Polish Destroyer BLYSKAWICA at position X at time ordered by C.S. 2. to patrol between position X and South Falls Buoy. (C. in C., Nore, to C.S. 2. 2240/26)

Operation E.F.

Operation E.F. to be repeated forthwith using BORODINO and ATLANTIC GUIDE. Mine-sweepers and LL trawlers not required (Adty. to C. in C., Nore, 1336/26)

Naval Forces sailing about 1600/26. Expect arrive 0400/27. Request fighter protection Zeebrugge earliest daylight. (Adty. to Air Ministry 1514/26)

Sailed (D.C. 2025/26)

French Coast

Calais

Situation at 0800. Enemy hold greater part of Northern town. They have one heavy and one light battery and plenty of ammunition, but are weary. Our troops in Citadel and round

26.5.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

589

Operations - French Coast

Calais Contd.

Port are dead beat and require food and water. No tanks left. French troops at Fort Risban in large numbers but quite demoralised. Might be able evacuate say three hundred troops by ferrying to waiting trawlers. Decision essential today as to either reinforcement or evacuation (V.A. Dover to Adty. 1352/26)

GALATEA detailed for bombardment. Expects arrive Calais 0750 with 180 rounds H.E. ammunition (C.S.2 to Adty. 0315/26)

GRAFTON to escort GALATEA from Downs onward. (N.O. Dover to GRAFTON 0346/26)

British ship CANTERBURY reports being fired at from shore when she was just East of Calais No. 6 Buoy

Report of aircraft spotting for GALATEA's bombardment of battery near Calais. Attacked about 0915 by 2 M.E. 109. Observer thrown out and considerable damage to aircraft. (Chatham 1309/26)

R/V with ARETHUSA at 1745 in position 135 South Foreland 2, transfer Army Maps, and provide submarine escort to ARETHUSA (N.O.I. C. Dover to GRAFTON 1618/26) On completion bombardment ARETHUSA proceed Portsmouth, GRAFTON escort ARETHUSA till dark and then return Dover. (V.A. Dover 1906/26)

ARETHUSA to be sailed forthwith to carry out bombardment at Calais (D.O.D. (H) /26)

All ammunition expended aircraft does not appear to be able to spot C.P.C. bursts and is returning to base, fuel exhausted, visibility has deteriorated propose re-turning to base Sheerness. (C.S. 2. 1014/26)

Dieppe

It is estimate there are two mines inside pierhead and about 12 outside entrance.



26.5.1940.
Sunday.

HOLE COMMANDS

590

Operations- Narvik

Aircraft Landings

Recommendations and precautions for landing aircraft at Skaanland (R.A. Narvik to GLORIOUS 0044/26)

Mining

Request S.O. Minelayers or other expert be sent forthwith to settle details of mine-fields before arrival of mines. Most desirable mines be laid immediately on arrival because of possible air attack. (R.A. Narvik to Adty. 1224/26)

H.A. Ammunition

My 1948/25 estimate of ammunition assumes early arrival of MONARCH OF BERMUDA with 200 tons 4 inch H.A. Ammunition. Without this only three to four days supply remains. (R.A. Narvik to Adty. 1230/26)

S.A. Ammunition

In consequence your 72024/25 it is imperative that 500,000 rounds belted S.A.A. ammunition be sent in fast H.M. ship at once. (F.O.I.C. Narvik to Adty. 1604/26)

CURLEW

Bombed and sunk today. Believed twenty-five killed and ten slightly wounded (F.O. Narvik to Adty. 1808/26) (See also Air)

LOCH SHIN

Boom defence trawler, bombed at Harstad 26/5. Capsized after beaching and is a total loss. (I.C. 0464/40)

OLEANDER

See Air.



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

26.5.1940.

Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

591

Enemy
Air
Operations.

CURLEW.

Hit at 1524 in position off Skuteness,
Lavang Fiord, Norway, 67.32.20 N., 16.37.30E.
Sank 2 Cables from S.E. end of Fiord at 1710
in 20 fathoms. Report of C.O. and
observations why no Court of Inquiry held.
(M.011754/40).

Casualties and Defects.

CERES.

French (3073 tons) reported sunk by A/C
between Rouen and Dunkirk. (D.S.)

War Diary

26.5.40
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

592

Air.

British Air Activity.

At 0400/26 in 56:33 N., 4:02 E. Aircraft attacked Danish fishing vessel with D/F loop on wheelhouse. Ship shaken and crew abandoned her. (IC, 0463/40)

Reconnoitring
Patrols

Following air patrols flown tonight Sunday: Three aircraft from 60° N. to Stadlandet at dawn and two aircraft in area 59 to 61° N. 1 to 3° E. at dusk.

French Coast

Our aircraft shot down thirteen bombers off French coast today and possibly sixteen others without loss to our fighters (Adty. to B.N.L.O. Marceau 2113/26).

Enemy Air Activity

CURLEW sunk

H.M.S. CURLEW sunk by air attack in Narvik area at 1945/26. 25 killed. (I.C., 0463/40) See also Narvik.

R.F.A. OLEANDER

(Oiler) severely damaged by near miss, beaching with full load on board. Attempting to salvage cargo. Fear ship is a loss without proper salvage appliance (R.A. Narvik, 2228/26)

2 Trawlers bombed

At about 0815/26, about 12 Junkers attacked 2 trawlers in approx. position 51:00 N., 01:45 E. Trawlers not hit but probably damaged by very near misses. (Chatham Broadcast to Adty. 1309/26)

Mining.

Operation B.S.
Mine

2 parallel lines 360° from 52:51 N., 02:47 E. to be laid on Monday 27th May or as soon after as practicable (Adty. to C. in C., Nore, 1227/26).

Mines
Exploded.

2 magnetic mines exploded today by L.L. Trawlers in positions 048° Knuckle Lt. one mile and 073° Knuckle Light 6 cables (V.A. Dover to Adty. 1854/26). 2 magnetic mines have been exploded off Portsmouth.



War Diary

26.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

593

English Coasts

German Aircraft active laying of parachute mines off S.E. and S. coasts of England. Portsmouth is now closed. (Adty. 2150/26).

S/L's in I. of Wight state that 3 aircraft circled the Needles for 45 minutes and splashes and 1 explosion were heard. (Air Min. D.S. 313).

Enemy Intelligence.

S/M. TETRARCH

*Enemy
fishing
areas.*

Patrol Report. Danes from captured fishing boat state Germans allowed them to fish, North of German declared area and East of 04 E., but W. of this longitude liable to bombing; also that no Danish fishing vessels are operating S. of 56:30 N. (V.A.S. to Adty. 1435/26). They may not fish inside line Rons Channel to Naze and must keep within 3 miles of Danish coast when going to fishing ground. They said our declared Minefield quite safe as all mines have been swept. (C. in C., Rosyth to Adty. 2033/26).

War Motor Boats

Aircraft contact with 4 enemy War M/B's at 52:54 N., 04:11 E. (22 miles W. by S. of Texel) course 240 speed 40 at 1855/26).

W/T Activity

German W/T traffic abnormal, messages broadcast on frequencies associated with minesweepers, patrol vessels and the larger units of the Fleet, Volume of traffic decreased during the night to below normal. Possible some operation is impending. (I.C., 0463/40).

Shipping

Norwegian Ships

Reported that Masters of Norwegian ships are being intimidated by German threat to take their wives and families into Germany, (B.2). (D.N.I., Melbourne, 0631Z/26).



War Diary

26.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

594

Weather

0500 B.S.T.	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	S. light, moderate.	Good except in heavy showers.	Similar.
Channel	S.W. light.	Moderate to good in fog patches.	Wind backing to S.E. becoming fresh.
Western Approaches	S.E. to S. fresh	Generally good with fog patches	Wind veering to S.W. fresh.

Probable Weather

Horns Reef	Light variable.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
West Coast Norway.	Light to moderate, southerly.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast	Light southerly.	Moderate to good.	Similar.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

North Atlantic

ASTURIAS

Serious fire broke out 0200/26. Still burning but under control. Damage serious and will require extensive repair. No casualties. (F.O.C.N.A., 0930/26).

South Atlantic.

CEFN-Y-BRYN

S.O.I Cape Town reports British ship CEFN-Y-BRYN due Cape Town 18/5 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1250/26). Arrived Durban 26/5 (S.O. (I) Cape Town, 2208/26).

FOREIGN STATIONS

595

North Atlantic

French positions

At 1200/26. (Adty. to C. in C., W.A. 0035/26).

Patrols for German Shipping

German ships may shortly attempt to leave Vigo. Orders for patrols by CHESHIRE and DERBYSHIRE. (F.O.C.N.A., 1006/26).

South Atlantic

Sal Island & Azores

Your 0929/24. Matter has been taken up with French and Portuguese. French ~~urgently~~ urged to keep A.M.C. in vicinity and prepare effective countermeasures. Portuguese urged at once to send effective force to prevent coup. Measures also taken for Azores (Adty. 2142/25 to C. in C., S.A.).

Air Defence of Trinidad

Your 347 of 11/26. Owing to depletion of my forces I have been compelled to withdraw cruiser from Dutch West Indian waters thus leaving Governor Curacao to rely solely upon his own Naval and Air Forces. I therefore do not consider the moment opportune to ask him for loan of aircraft which are presumably being converted for defence of Dutch Islands. Further consider bombing efficiency of these machines manned by any but trained crews very problematical. Suggest you rely upon such reconnaissance aircraft as you are able to make use of working in co-operation with local Naval forces. (C. in C., A.W.I. 2201/26 to Governor, Trinidad).

Mediterranean,

Italian Shipping

Italian shipping agents Port Said state all Lloyd Triestino and Adriatica sailings now delayed and Adriatica sailings to S. Africa cancelled. P. & O HIMALAYA with two other ships are reported not to have sailed from Italian ports, reliability B.2. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal to Adty. 1108/26).

War Diary

26.5.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

596

Greek Shipping

Asking for any information of control of Greek merchant ships by Greek Navy. (D.N.I., 1452/26 to to N.A., Athens).

Italian preparations

Spezia X

Reported A.2, that ferry steamers normally running between Naples and islands being requisitioned. B.2, that 2nd Sqn. with battleship **VITTORIO** **VENETO** in company sailed from Spezia 23/5 and passed Ventotene Island 25/5. (N.A. Rome, 1901/16).

Situation

As soon as German success in France is assured Italy will commence operations against Corsica. Preparations to gain control of Western Mediterranean already made. Italian submarines left for Balearic Is. 21/5, others sent to Cadiz. Intention is to establish submarine bases both places. Attack on Corsica will be combined with attack on Gibraltar with Spanish co-operation followed by attack on Nice from seawards. Co-operation of present Spanish Govt. considered unlikely (D.N.I. 0025/26).

East Indies

Troopships

8 British battalions in 7 troopships for U.K. leave Bombay 6/6 via Cape. **KENT** escorts from Bombay to Durban (C. in C., E.I. 1226Z/26)

Convoy U.S. 3/1

Arrived Cape Town am/26 expected sailing 29/5 (N.O.I.C. Capetown, 1156/26).

* **TAKLIWA**
(S/S 4936)

*? French A.M.C. **CARAIBE** escorting transport **TAKALINA** sailed Durban at 1120 for Tynemouth. (N.C.I.C. Durban to Adty. 1130Z/26).



War Diary

26.5.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

597

China

CERES)
COLOMBO)

Adty. 2045/25. CERES and COLOMBO no longer required. Presence has been very great help round Dutch East Indies while this was necessary. (C. in C., China, 1427/26).

America & West Indies.

Italian Shipping

My 1004/25. Italian S.S. LEME now detained San Francisco on orders from Genoa. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1016/26).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

It is reported from Kobe that German ships in the port cannot sail without permission from the Japanese Govt. and that some Japanese interests are pressing for facilities to charter the ships. (O.I.C.)



War Diary

26.5.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

598

Ships Attacked

CORRALES at 1134/26 heard SSSS 44° N.
140 (portion missed) W. Turgez. (LEITH
144/26).

Submarines Reported

- 0015/24 U-boat sighted 18 miles S. of Galley Head
at 0015/24, course westerly (C. in C., W.A.
1309/26).
- 1935/26 Unknown submarine my approx. position
53:00 N. 03:00 E. (Aircraft No 220 Sqdn.
to 18 Rec. H.Q. 1935/26).
- 1500 Portuguese authorities state that at 1500/26
a submarine was ten miles S.W. of Sagres.
Source A.O. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon to D.N.I.
2237/26)
- 2013 D.F. unknown enemy unit, reliable fix,
probably U-boat, 55:50 N., 14:45 W.
(D.D.I.C., 2040/26, 0921/27).

SITUATION REPORT

Dunkirk Evacuation
of B.E.F.

During the night 26/27 3,800 troops of the B.E.F. were embarked in small craft from the beaches of Dunkirk.

A further 15000 were to have been evacuated during the night 27/28, but the situation deteriorated rapidly during the day, and evacuation continued under machine gun fire and air attack, about 10,300 more men being evacuated during the day.

At 0700/27, batteries believed to consist of at least 40 guns were reported to have been established by the Germans between Calais and Gravelines and were shelling ships approaching Dunkirk. Traffic to Dunkirk was diverted to a new channel to avoid the fire of these batteries.

Dunkirk was continuously bombed during the day. KYN0 which was to have landed guns was ordered to return to Portsmouth without unloading. Two hospital ships arrived at dusk.

The German batteries appear to be at intervals of about 600 yards along the coast and about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile inland.

6 Swordfish of No 825 squadron destroyed the first two batteries, 9,960 lbs of bombs were released.

Calais

Situation obscure since 0800/26.

British ships ISLE OF MANET and MONAS' ISLE report being heavily shelled off Calais at 0810 and 0816 respectively. ss SEQUACITY was shelled at 0700, 2 miles E of Calais and KING ORRY at 0905. The former was sunk.

The bombardment of the shore batteries west of Calais by ARETHUSA 27/5 was cancelled.

The R.A.F. dropped water and ammunition in Calais during the day, 9 Swordfish cooperating with naval units obtained a direct hit on an enemy machine battery.

Le Havre

The channel from Tanfreville to the Havre Barrage in the estuary of the Seine has been swept by 3 trawlers. A convoy of 25 ships proceeded safely to sea, and 20 ships have since entered the port.

Dieppe

Magnetic mines are known to have been laid close off the pierheads, and further raids to block available berths are anticipated. The port is without A/A protection.

Cherbourg

D.S.T.O. reported 1730, no air raids, wharves and quays intact, port open, and port rail facilities intact.

SITUATION REPORT, Contd.

Zeebrugge

The additional block ships for Zeebrugge were heavily attacked by aircraft at 0356 and 0415/27. SHEARWATER, acting as one of the escorting vessels, was also attacked by M.T.B. at 0120. The first squadron of aircraft to provide fighter protection did not take off until 0450, about an hour after the attack on the blockships.

Narvik Area

British troops have taken up a position 45 miles south of Bodo, on the Bodo-Mo road. Bodo (125 miles south of Narvik) is strongly garrisoned by British forces. Road communications between the 2 places are poor. Progress has been made north of Rombaks Fiord by French troops of the Foreign Legion.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy reconnaissance aircraft were in action off the east coast and in the Channel, before dawn and after dark, reports of sightings being received from off Cromer, Lowestoft, Harwich and Kent Coast and Beachy Head. The s.s. YEW GLEN was heavily bombed when approaching the Downs from Calais.

In the Dutch, Belgian and French coast area reconnaissance activity was general, but offensive activity was centred near Dunkirk, Zeebrugge and Ostend. The Former port was bombed continuously throughout the day, as many as 40 aircraft being engaged at one time. Considerable damage was done and much disorganisation caused in the port. A number of H.M. ships were attacked in this area during the day.



27.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

601

Policy

Submarines

In view of serious situation now developing I consider it most important that all submarines should be available for operation in the centre of southern portion of North Sea. If you concur, request you will order TRUANT to be withdrawn from Northern Norway now and that I may divert SEVERN to patrol in Central North Sea. Further proposed that minelaying by submarines on Norwegian Coast be discontinued so that minelaying submarines may be available for patrol. (V.A.S., 1102/27)

Belgium

It seems possible that the Belgians may ask for an Armistice tonight. (Adty. to C. in C., H.F. 2214/27)



27.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

602

Precautions

- Northern Patrol In order that the identity of all ships reported by air searches in the Northern Patrol area may be checked, it is considered most desirable that the movements of all ships, both British and foreign, round the north coast or bound to Kirkwall should be reported by N.C.S.O.'s to V.A.N.P. (V.A.N.P., 0001/27) Order for this (D.T.D., 1206/27).
- Berthing Positions When berthing allied and neutral vessels care to be taken that they are not placed near any points of vital importance where this can be avoided. (D. of L.D., 1224/27).
- Inchkeith Asking that Forth Area H.A. Umbrella may be again extended to cover Fortress of Inchkeith. At present its only A/A defence consists of 2 or 3 pom-poms. (C. in C., Rosyth 1921/27).
- Portsmouth Proposing dispersal of production and supply of signal equipment, all of which is concentrated in Signal School. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1907/27).
- Warkworth Adty. 2142/24 and 2147/24. Battery despatched for installation at Tyne is now to be installed Warkworth Harbour. (D. of L.D., 2011/27).
- Burntisland Your 1823/26. Please confirm that blockship for Burntisland will always be available locally. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1149/27, to N.C.S.O., Methil).
- Ports, General Adty. 1904/25. Any preparations which involve undue interference with present working of ports or shipping or existing contracts are to be submitted for prior Adty. sanction. (D. of L.D. 2313/27).
- My 0901/1st May. In addition to disguised raiders enemy may try to pass ships through Patrol containing Troops and War Materials. All westbound ships should be identified and examined. (V.A.N.P. 2309/27).



War Diary

27.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

603

Precautions

Aerodromes

Policy with regard to immobilisation of aerodromes. To apply to F.A.A. aerodromes (A.C.N.S.(H) 1158/27).

Movements

JAGUAR, JAVELIN and GRENADE left Harwich at 0042 for special Operation. (F.O.I.C. Harwich to Adty. 0102/27).

Submarines

Positions 0600/28 (V.A.S., 1741/27). Allied submarines 0600/28, seven off Dutch coast between $52\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N., and $53\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. (D.C. 2210/27).

Submarine Patrol

Concur in your 1657/25. (D.S.D. to C. in C., Portsmouth, 1916/27).

Operations

Dunkirk, evacuation of non-combatant units of B.E.F.

Evacuation proceeding from Dunkirk. 3,800 troops taken off last night (D.C. 0816/27).

Air Raid apparently finished. Your 0029/27 (sailing ARLEY to act as wireless of D.S.T.O. Dunkirk). No sign of ARLEY. Have only 60 rounds a gun left. Request relief. (WOLSEY, to F.O., Dover, 1215/27).

Dunkirk again being bombed. Fighters engaging enemy. (WOLSEY, 1235/27).

Enemy aircraft bombing Dunkirk. (WOLSEY, 1323/27).

From B.N.L.O., Dunkirk. When may we expect more hospital ships. Situation deteriorating. (WOLSEY, 1520/27).

Hospital ships now approaching. Request continuous patrol. (WOLSEY, 1550/27).

Two hospital ships and personnel ships are proceeding home with VIMY. Is this correct? (WOLSEY, 1837/27) Your 1837. As far as we know, yes. (WOLFHOUD, 1852/27).

War Diary

27.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

604

Operations

Dunkirk, evacuation of non-combatant units
of B.E.F. (Contd.)

Two hospital ships due Dunkirk about 2100.
(N.O.I.C., Dover, 1956/27).

Your 1922 (re hospital ships requirements).
No, two others have passed me. (VIMY to
WOLFHOUND, 2055/27).

Following 3 Dutch schuits if loaded with
Army supplies are to proceed La Panne,
ORANGE, PRINSES~~SE~~ JULIANA and GORECHT.
(N.O.I.C., Dover, 1641/27).

Dive bombing attacks, 4 very close misses,
no damage, my position 51:16 N. 3:41 E.
(WOLFHOUND, 1635/27).

Dunkirk and anchorage being continuously
bombed. Fighters must be sent. (WOLSEY,
1850/27).

My ammunition very nearly expended. Please
let me know if I can help, if not, when I
can return. (WOLSEY, 1858/27).

Arrived Dunkirk with (? party) via Zuidcoate
Pass, 4 hour passage. Much dive-bombing, only
minor damage. Dunkirk burning fiercely,
further report after landing. (S.N.O.(A)
Dunkirk, 1735/27).

Bombed terrible. (Dunkirk to Marine,
Paris, no T.O.O. recd., 1844/27).

French M.T.B. 24 sailed for Dunkirk at 1845.
(V.A. Dover, 1847/27).

Please send every available craft east of
Dunkirk immediately. Evacuation tomorrow
night is problematical. (S.N.O., Dunkirk,
1958/27).

Port continually bombed all day and on fire.
Embarkation possible only from beaches,
east of harbour. Send all ships and
passenger ships there to anchor. Am ordering
WOLFHOUND to load there and sail. (S.N.O.,
Dunkirk, 2005/27).

WOLFHOUND and WOLSEY are evacuating from the
beach and will sail before dawn. (WOLFHOUND
2100/27).



War Diary

27.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

605

Operations

Dunkirk, evacuation of non-combatant units
of B.E.F. (Contd.)

MAID OF ORLEANS not to enter Dunkirk but anchor close inshore between Marte-les-Bains and Zuyd Coote to embark troops from beach. All available ships should be diverted to the beach. (V.A. Dover to S.N.O. Dunkirk, 2101/27).

Close the beach at La Panne at 0100 tomorrow Tuesday and embark Air Officer Commanding British Troops, using your boat. This is our last chance of saving them. (V.A. Dover, 2127/27 to GRAFTON and BLYSKAWICA) DOGGERSBANK, VREDE, HILDA and REIGER, released from Southend this evening, are to be intercepted at N. Goodwin L.V. and routed to close the beach between Zuidcoote and Marte-les-Bains, that is, 1 to 3 miles E. of Dunkirk. To be released so as to reach their destination at 2200/28. (C. in C. Nore, to N.C.S.O., Ramsgate 2129/27).

Request up to 200 Lewis Guns with boat mountings be supplied to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate for small craft operating French Coast (V.A. Dover to Adty 1309/27).

Evacuation of
B.E.F.

GRAFTON and Polish Destroyer BLYSKAWICA to close beach at La Panne at 0100/28 and embark all possible British troops in own boats. This is our last chance of saving them. (V.A. Dover, to GRAFTON 2127/27). GALLANT, VIVACIOUS, WINDSOR, VIMY, CALCUTTA, ANTHONY, IMPULSIVE to close beach one to three miles East of Dunkirk with utmost despatch and embark all possible British troops using own boats. This is our last chance of saving them. MAID OF ORLEANS, LORMONT, seventeen Drifters and other craft will be operating. (V.A. Dover to GALLANT etc. 2142/27). Cancel my 2142. Proceed to Lapanne with similar orders (V.A. Dover to CALCUTTA 2235/27). Twenty Cutters with half crews and coxswains to leave Sheerness at 0900/28 in tow of tug for Dover (C. in C., 2259/27). Unless fighter protection provided continually from dawn tomorrow dive bombing will be very serious (Air Liaison, Dunkirk, to F.C. 2350/27).



27.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

606

Operations

Dunkirk, Operation Dynamo, Evacuation of Non-Combatant
Units of B.E.F.

Evacuation of
B.E.F. Contd.

A buoyed channel five cables wide to be established through seven positions between North Goodwin L.V. and Dunkirk. Execution to begin at 1300/27 by SKIPJACK, HALCYON, IMPULSIVE and PATRICIA. (T.H.V.)

Is it possible to accommodate L.L. Sweepers in Dunkirk or Ostend (N.O. Dover to B.N.L.O. 0747/27) Your 0747. Yes, Dunkirk (B.N.L.O. Dunkirk to N.O. Dover 0956/27)

17 drifters arrive Dunkirk from Westward tonight. Divert to beach as necessary. (V.A. Dover, 2158/27 to WOLFHOUND & WOLSEY).

Calais

Many guns between Les Hommes and Gravelines interfering with shipping (D.C.0816/27). ISLE OF THANET reported at 0705 under heavy shell fire off Calais. (N. Foreland Radio, 0810/27).

KING ORRY reported at 0905 being shelled off Calais (North Foreland Radio 0905/27).

Aircraft report large Field Batteries App. 7.5-inch firing into Calais from S.W. and S. of Canal Basins 2 and 3 miles from Town, and A/A Battery to W. of Calais firing app. 4-inch shells. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. to H.Q.C.C. 0127/27).

38 Lysanders dropped 224 gallons of water, 22,000 rounds of ammunition and 864 grenades over Calais; 6 Hectors and 9 Swordfish bombed targets in the vicinity during the operation. 3 Lysanders and 1 Hector failed to return.

ARETHUSA bombardment. Cancel my 2328/26 and 2337/26. Operation will not take place. (V.A. Dover to Coastal & Fighter Commands, etc. 0807/27).

Rouen and Havre

French unable to provide escort for store ship AMIENOIS from Greenock for Havre. No British escort available, ship to sail unescorted. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1537/27, D.O.D., 1915/27). Request policy for British shipping now at Le Havre and Rouen. Port liable to be bombed and channel blocked with magnetic mines. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1506/27).

War Diary

27.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

607

Operations

Calais

SEQUACITY
sunk British SEQUACITY bombarded by shore batteries two miles to eastward of Calais near Green Buoy at 0655/27. Three hits, ship sank at No. 2 Buoy between south Goodwin and Calais. Crew saved, chief engineer wounded. (N.O.I.C., Ramsgate, 1725/27).

MONA'S ISLE Intercept 0912, shelled off Calais. (N. Foreland Radio, no T.O.O., /27).

YEW GLEN Making for Downs from Calais, attacked by enemy aircraft (N. Foreland Radio, 0726, 0852/27).

KYNO (with 12 pdr. batteries for Calais) is to be sailed for Portsmouth (D.O.D.(H) 1433/27).

Rouen and Havre

Master of British ship FLUOR saw 3 parachute mines dropped near him when in Havre Roads 19/5 and 21/5 in approx. position 49:29:21 N., 01:36 E. (N.C.S.O. Le Havre 1200/27).

D.S.T.O. Le Havre reports condition unchanged. Shipping passing in and out and up the Seine. Searching of channels continues. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 2342/27).

Belgian Coast

Following message from Phantom for your action:- A.27,27/5. G.Q.G. request hospital ship off Ostend tomorrow morning. Can you pass Adty. Last message. Closing down. Moving Middelkerke. T.O.O. 1555. Message repeated to Back H.Q., R.A.F. Component, B.E.F. (North H.Q., B.A.F.F. to Air Ministry, 1730/27).

Adty. from Adm. of the Fleet Keyes. As many M.T.B.'s as possible would be invaluable for evacuating important people in certain eventualities. Minimum of (?3) should be held available to proceed to Nieuport immediately on call. (No.9 (Needham) Military Mission to War Office, 1021/27).

Cancel my 1846. 2 M.T.B.'s left Harwich for Nieuport 1930, another at 2100. (C. in C., Nore, 2031/27).



War Diary

27.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Lyster. (9 FE)

608

Operation successful (F.O.D.E. to Adty 0724/27)
If opportunity occurs you are to put an
M.T.B. alongside the Wandelaar Light Vessel
and capture the crew (C. in C., Nore to
VEGA 0012/27).

Cable cutting.

Operations Quentin, Quixote.

Aldeburgh-Omburg 4 and 5 cut on beach.
Lowestoft-Norderney cut 4 miles from
Lowestoft. Bacton-Borkum 2 cut 002 deg.
15' East. (N.O.I.C., Yarmouth, 0945/27).

Iceland

Precautions,
Defence Needs

After consultation with N.O.I.C., agree that
examination service required at early date
both at Reykjavik and Hafnafjordur, for which
two 6-inch batteries necessary. Further,
to guard sea approach coast defence batteries
both places essential. In opinion of N.O.I.C.
10,000-ton cruiser or ship could go alongside
quay and disembark 1,000 men in ten minutes.
This being so, my back doors are wide open
at present. Have taken all possible steps
to stop landing at piers and beach but as a
consequence am to await further orders.
(Alabaster, Reykjavik, 2220/25).



HOME COMMANDS

Operations, Narvik Area

Movements

Harstad arrivals British ships OIL PIONEER and CORMINSTER from Scapa. Sailings, British DEVON CITY, German prize ALSTER with iron ore, H.M.S. LASSO and destroyer ESKIMO in tow tug BANDIT, escorted by FLEETWOOD. DEVON CITY and ALSTER have approx. 300 marines ex MASHOBRA on board. (R.A., Narvik, 1036/27)

18th A/S.S.F.

1401/23. 18th A/S Striking Force have arrived. Owing to further casualties and increased requirements of military situation it is necessary to retain INDIAN STAR, LADY ELSA and ST. KEMAN for the present. (R.A., Narvik, 1120/27)

MASHOBRA

Coast defence equipment remaining on board British MASHOBRA, and cannot be removed until ship is salvaged. Request replacements may be sent with reformed R.M.F.U. (R.A., Narvik, 1150/27)

ALSTER

PENELOPE reports that German ALSTER left Skjelfjord for Tromso on 20/4 to disembark cargo, and as far as is known was still there on 10/5. She has a prize crew consisting of 4 officers and 62 ratings from PENELOPE. (F.O., Glasgow, 1212/27)

Horse Boats

Request 10 horse boats and L.S.T.D.C. Pier in EMPIRE ABILITY may be sent to Harstad as early as practicable. (F.O., Narvik, 1322/27)

Norwegian Seamen

Your 1742/24. Unemployed Norwegian Mercantile Marine officers and men should not be given passage to U.K. (Hf. of M. to R.A., Narvik, 1918/27)

ESKIMO

Propose Convoy proceed independently and FLEETWOOD assist towage of ESKIMO. Progress of ESKIMO is 6.9 knots and steering difficult. (FLEETWOOD, 2255/27)

DEVONSHIRE

Must remain in Northern waters. (1st S.L. to C. in C., H.F. 1550/27)

DALLINGTON COURT

Sailed for Harstad (F.O.I.C. Greenock to Adty. 1715/27)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN

To embark H.E., 2 pdr., and Oerliken ammunition for Narvik before sailing (D.T.S.D. 1802/27 a.m.)

DEVONSHIRE

A.M. 1550/27. Expect arrive Tromso 0600/28 (C.S.I. to F.O. Narvik 1925/27)

British Ship COXWOLD arrived escorted by PRESTON NORTHEEND and LINCOLN CITY. (R.A. Narvik to Adty. 2240/27)



27.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

700

Narvik Contd.

Transfer all available S.A.A. ammunition and belting machine for Hurricanes to one of escorting destroyers for immediate transport to Harstad (D.O.D.H to GLORIOUS 2259/27)

Operation for capture of Narvik began at 2340/27 One battalion of Foreign Legion and one Norwegian battalion landed near Narvik, supported by gunfire of fleet and by R.A.F. fighters. (D.C. 0806/29)

Pages wrongly numbered from here.

Should be 610

Page numbers 610 to 699 cancelled.



27.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air

701

British Air Activity

Enemy M.T.B.'s

Request 806 Sqn. may proceed from Worthy Down to Detling dawn 28/5 to provide striking force against enemy M.T.B.'s Sqn. will return to Worthy Down at dusk. (H.Q. C.C. 2115/27)

Reconnaissance

Voss and district. Aerodrome apparently under construction. At 0716, sighted two large M/V's estimated 15,000 tons in 60° 49'N 5° 20'E (Donibristle., 1100/27) (2020/27)

Bergen

3 Hudsons from ~~Letchars~~ to attack M/V's reported in Bergen at Dawn 28/5. (C. in C., 1954/27)

Stavanger

Report of raid at 0740-0745 (Donibristle, 1005/27)

Hardwick

Report of attack on A/A batteries, N.W. Hardwick, by 6 machines at 1745 (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, to T.O.O./27)

Enemy Air Activity

WINDSOR

Bombed 5'N.W. Calais shortly after dawn by 8 enemy aircraft. (I.C., 0463/40)

SS YEW GLEN

Heavily bombed when approaching the Downs from Calais, (I.C. 0464/40)

VEGA

Attacked by aircraft 51° 22'N 03° 03'E (VEGA 0356/27) Help 51° 22'N 03° 03'E (VEGA to Whitehall 0610/27)

WOLFHOUND

Help (WOLFHOUND to V.A. Dover 1622/27) bombed at 51° 16' N 3° 41'E no damage, (WOLFHOUND to N.O.I.C. Dover, 1635/27)

A number of H.M. ships were attacked during the day off the coast of France and the Low Countries.

LOCH SHIN

Trawler LOCH SHIN bombed and sunk in Narvik area. (F.O. Narvik to Adty. 1958/27)



27.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

702

Activity

Unusual German W/T activity together with very wide German meteorological air reconnaissance may indicate an impending operation. (D.C., 0228/27)

Danish Fishing Vessel

Air craft report Danish Fishing Vessel in 61° 48' N. 05° 40' W steering N.W. at 0400 (P.O.C.N.A. to AQUAMARINE 1410/27) See also Miscellaneous.

SHEARWATER

Being attacked by E.T.B's 51° 20' N. 02° 16' E (about 15' NNW from Dunkirk) (SHEARWATER 0120/27)

HIPPER, Destroyers

HERMANN

Your 2030/26. Cruiser HIPPER and 2 destroyers, viz., PAUL JACOBI and either ^{THEADON} RIEDEL or SCHOEMANN, entered Trondheim on 9/4, time of arrival not known. (D.D.I.C., 1346/27 to C. in C., H.F.) Your 1346. If this is so which ship was with the battle-cruiser that RENOWN engaged? (C. in C., H.F. 1434/27) Your 1434. Up to present it has not been possible to deduce what part cruisers NURNBERG and LEIPZIG played in Norwegian invasion, and it is thought possible that one of these two ships was in company with battle-cruiser GNEISENAU when latter was engaged by RENOWN. (D.D.I.C., 1653/27)

EMDEN

Reported by Norwegian traveller German cruiser EMDEN lying alongside jetty, naval yard, Oslo, undergoing repairs. (Goteborg, 1633/27)

M.T.B.'s

1255

1 M.T.B., 51.59' N., 4.04' E., Hook of Holland (Aircraft report)

1259

1 M.T.B., 52.56' N., 4.38' E., 5 miles west of Helder, course 030°, attacked but no hits. (Aircraft report 220 Sqdn.)

1835.

1 M.T.B., 52.07' N., 2.22' E., West of Orfordness. (Aircraft report 235 Sqdn.) (Attacked by 4 bombs, no hits (Air Min., D.S., 313)

1902

4 M.T.B.'s 52.46' N., 4.05' E. (A/C report)

2230

4 M.T.B.'s, 52.00' N., 4.00' E. (P.O., Dover, 2230/27)

2 large M.V's

Sighted by aircraft 0716, 60° 49' N 5° 20' E estimated 15000 tons (Donibristle 1100/27, 2020/27)

German Attacks on Finmark

By air or road (C.S.I. 1854/25) The possibility if not probability is always present and must be guarded against. (P.O. Narvik. 1828/27, to C.S.I.)

27.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

Situation at 2000/27 (C. in C., w.70.3
1327/27) Positions (D.C., 1900/27)

Fishing

Area permitted to Danes (C. in C., Rosyth
1657/27)

Special instructions are being sent to N.O's I.C. and Fishing Officers on receipt of which Norwegian, Belgian, Dutch trawlers and Seine net fishing vessels, as well as Danish vessels now in prize are permitted to fish from ports to which they will be allocated by the M. of Agriculture and Fisheries., This is a temporary measure on the understanding that two-thirds of the fishing vessels may later be required for Naval Service. (A.C.N.S., 2332/27)

Mining

Magnetic mine exploded 55° 1'46" 1° 21' 54
W. (F.O.I.C. Tyne to C. in C., Rosyth 1502/
27)

Barry Closed

Barry and ports to Eastward closed. Ships entering Channel being diverted to Mumbles Bay. Area within two miles of 51° 18'N 3° 45'W is dangerous due to mines (F.O.I.C. Cardiff to Adty. 1037/28)

Portsmouth

Was reopened late p.m. (27) (I.C.0464/40)

M/S Trawlers at
Stornoway

Reference AL.M010210/40 it is considered that majority if not all M/S trawlers now at Stornoway should be redispersed between Peterhead and Granton. Risk of minelaying in Minches seems less than on East Coast. Request you redispse as think best (D.M.A. to C. in C., Rosyth 1558/27)



HOME COMMANDS

704

Miscellaneous

Force "Z"

Rear Adm. Derrien succeeded in command to-day by Rear Adm. Cadart, flag remains in auxiliary cruiser EL DJEZAIR (Adm., Force Z 1900/27)

Swedish Destroyers

Re supply of fuel. (N.A. Dublin, 1540/27)

Danish Fishing Vessel

AQUAMARINE to proceed up E. coast Faroes and examine all trawlers sighted. (V.A.N.P. 1410/27)

WEATHER

North Sea	S.E. moderate to fresh in North, light and variable elsewhere.	Occasional rain or showers, local fog or mist.	Moderate generally poor in fog.
Horns Reef	S. to S.W., light to moderate	Rain or showers, local mist.	Moderate
Channel	S.W. Moderate	Cloudy, local mist in east	Moderate to good
W. Approaches	S.W. Moderate.	Cloudy.	Good
Norwegian Coast	Light and variable in north, S.E., moderate in south.	Fine to cloudy with local fog in south	Good generally except in fog.



CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

705

R.E.A.
CREAMER

Severely damaged by near miss at Narvik, beached and feared total loss. (R.A. Narvik to Adty. 2228/26)

LOCH SHIN

Boom defence trawler, capsized after beaching at Harstad after damage by bombs, fear total loss. (R.A., Narvik, 1206/27)

ASTURIAS

Fire extinguished after 30 hours. Slight damage to hull, but ship considered seaworthy. (F.O.C.N.A., 1320/27)

SEQUACITY

Bombarded by heavy gunfire 2' East of Calais. Sank later between Calais and South Goodwin L.V. (N.C.I.C. Ramsgate to Adty. 1725/27)

SUPPLEMENT



27.5.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

706

North Atlantic.

French Positions

Convoys and patrols (D.C., 0202/27)

Cables

Your 1228/24 Approved to defer repairs to breaks in cables off Vigo and Lisbon until provision of A/S escorts can be arranged. (D.O.D.(F) 1754/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SEBASTIAN

Spanish ship. Complaint brought into Gibraltar and there served with Admiralty Court writ. Report urgently required. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 2007/27)

South Atlantic

BRIDGEWATER

Amended programme, Lagos to Simonstown. (C. in C., S.A. 1850/27) Cancel my 1850/27 (C. in C., S.A. 1025/28)

U.S. 3.

Radius of ships in days at sea, fuel consumption, etc., (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1235/27)

West African Convoy

And troop convoy from India. Re escorts (A.C.N.S. (F) 2300/27)

Mediterranean

Merchant Ships

Your 1243/8/4. Arrangements have been made with owners of ASIS for all communications to be sent through naval channels. Request you inform masters accordingly. (D.A.S. to C. in C., Med. 1238/27)

PATRIS

Your 1800/25, Concur in sailing of PATRIS for transport of Polish troops. (N.A., Belgrade, 1241/27)

Italian Warships

Naval secret call sign identifications. (C.O.S., St. ANGELO, 1604/27)

7th C.S.

Your 1312/26. Newly formed Mediterranean Squadron should be designated 7th Cruiser Squadron. (Hd. of M., 2331/27 to C. in C., Med.)



Foreign Stations

707

Mediterranean Contd.

Communication

My 1447/25 and your 0545/26. Please report for information of War Office whether there is any special cypher means of communication between yourself and ship. It is presumed arrangements have been made for communication between ship and party when landed. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2009/27 to C. in C., Med.)

Greek Shipping

Admty. 1452/26 and S.O.I. 1846/26. Greek Navy have not assumed control of merchant shipping. Ship referred to has been requisitioned for Greek Govt. (A.N.A., Athens, 1915/27)

Italian Preparations
See also German
Merchant Ships

Report received Italian MARCO POLO requisitioned for conversion to Hospital Ship. Italian Main Fleet at Taranto. Supply of petrol to private motor cars will be stopped on 1st June. (N.A. Rome to D.N.I. etc., 1820/27)

S/M Sanctions

Can be ordered by local Authorities as required to cover expected submarine movements (C. in C., Med. to Fleet 1235/27)

British KNIGHT OF MALTA reports Cable ship for past week been working S. of Cape Passaro Steamed North at 1300/26 leaving a buoy 12 miles S. of Cape Passaro, and her attending destroyer remained. (S.O.I. Malta to Adty. 1309/27)

East Indies

R.A.F. Squadrons

Admty. 1933/25 Moves of ground parties of Nos 11 and 39 Sqdns. postponed owing to small pox. (F.O.C., R.I.N., 08022/27)

LIVERPOOL

Arrived Aden 27th May. (N.O.I.C. Aden to Adty. 1449/27)



27.5.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

708

America & West Indies.

CARADOC

Sailed from Willemstad for Bermuda, 1400/27
(CARADOC, 1655/27)

DOMEDE
DESPATCH
DUNEDIN

Expect to send CARADOC to Halifax to
operate under your orders arriving about
June 5. Intend DOMEDE to remain in
Caribbean Sea. DESPATCH and DUNEDIN com-
pleting refit will be available Bermuda in
case of emergency. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0922/
27 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

4 Canadian Destroyers

Arrival in U.K. (C.N.S., Ottawa, 1729/27)

China

Danish Ship

Your 0309/25 Approved to sail ship un-
armed. (D.T.D. to A.C., Malaya, 1116/27)



27.5.1940.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

709

Home Commands

Swedish Ports

A.N.A. Stockholm reports German traffic to Swedish ports is normal. (I.C., 0464/40)
(A.N.A. Stockholm 1808/27)

Norwegian Ports

80 Norwegian vessels of 80,000 total tonnage are in German occupied Norway. 70 of these are destined to carry coal to Hamburg, Emden and Bremen. (Moscow Broadcast, I.C. 0464/40)

Mediterranean

Italian Preparations

Reported that possibly four ships at Trieste of German Hansa Line have been requisitioned by the Italian Government. (I.C., 0463/40)

South Atlantic

KONIGSBERG

B.2 report, has requested police permit to sail for Pernambuco, possibly tonight. (C. in C., S.A., 2220/27)

East Indies.

WEISSENFELS

7861 tons, at Bandershapur, reported to have received 35 heavy packages from an Italian ship and to be erecting something in her bows. (A.I.) (I.C., 0464/40)

HOHENFELS

STURMFELS, MARIENFELS and WILDENFELS are also at Bandershapur and might engage in sabotage activities in oil area. (I.C., 0464/40)



27.5.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

710

0001

By Dutch vessel AMAZON off the Owers
(N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 0425/27)

Submarine reported off Owers (C.in C.,
Portsmouth, to WHITEHALL, 0539/27)

Abandon hunt, return to harbour, (C. in
C., Portsmouth to SABRE, SCIMITAR, SHIKARI,
1001/27)

Position of unknown enemy unit at 2013/26
was 295° 50 N., 14° 45' W. (C. in C., W.A.
1042/27)

Estimated dispositions

3 in W. Approaches or further south.
1 in about 56° N., 15° W at 2013/26,
probably outward bound.
Probably 1 off S.W. Iceland.
Possibly some in Southern North Sea. (D.D.I.C.
1149/27)

SUPPLEMENT



28.5.1940.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

711

Dunkirk Evacuation

At 0400, the Belgian Army, which was on the left of the Allied Armies in Belgium, capitulated on the order of King Leopold.

During 27/5 the situation had deteriorated rapidly. Every available craft was therefore sent to Dunkirk, and the evacuation has been proceeding under intense machine gun fire and air attacks. The Germans were reported near Dunkirk at dawn 28/5.

S.S. QUEEN OF THE CHANNEL was bombed while returning from Dunkirk and is sinking.

Three M.T.B.'s were sent to Nieuport last night to embark important persons. At 0130/28, a signal was received stating that they declined to embark.

30 Spitfires of the Fighter Command were due at dawn to protect the troops embarking from the beaches east of Dunkirk.

Coastal Command arranged for the calling up of additional battle flights, and every aircraft available was sent.

By 2200/28, 16,500 troops had been landed in U.K., and 2,500 more were estimated to be on passage. Evacuation carried out by 27 destroyers and many small craft; 7 destroyers embarking troops from the pier and others from beaches east of Dunkirk.

Two destroyers and four corvettes are screening operations off Nieuport, and seven M.T.B.'s are patrolling to N.W. of Blankenberghe. Effective protection has been given by our fighter aircraft. One ship left U.K. with food during the day. During the night 28/29, our aircraft attacked four enemy destroyers and 21 M.T.B.'s.

Zeebrugge

Blocking of the harbour has been successfully completed. Demolitions were carried out by a party from the French ^{CORSAIRE}. Sea gates and mechanism of the canal lock are destroyed. Canal gates of lock are shut and immovable, being filled with cement and scrap iron. Mechanism is destroyed. Spare gate and gear are destroyed.

SITUATION REPORT

712

Norway

night Operations for the capture of Narvik began 27/28; the place was entirely in the hands of the Allies by 2200/28. One battalion of Foreign Legion and one Norwegian battalion landed on S. shore of Rombaks Fiord, covered by guns of Fleet, French artillery, and R.A.F. fighters. They encountered little opposition. H.M. ships have been heavily bombed, but remain in support. The enemy are counter-attacking. The submarine TRUANT left Harstad at 0400/28 for Rosyth.

In the Bodo area British troops were heavily attacked by enemy aircraft and withdrew from Pothus to a line thirty miles E. of Bodo.

Italy

Preparations for war short of avowed mobilisation continue. Sailings of all largest liners are postponed. The arming of many small craft continues. Italian cable cutting activity in the Mediterranean is suspected.

Casualties

The s.s. ~~ABUKIR~~, 694 tons, was torpedoed and sunk 50 miles N.E. of North Foreland at 0130/28.

^{H.M.} The ^Atrawler THURINGIA was lost after an external explosion, believed mine, whilst on patrol off the Belgian Coast.

^{H.M.} The ^Adrifter OCEAN REWARD was sunk with all hands while on examination service off Dover, after collision with s.s. ISLE OF THANET.

Sa. June
The paddle minesweeper BRIGHTON BELLE sank in the Downs after collision with a submerged wreck.

1 British
^(H.M.T.) The THOMAS BARTLETT ^A was lost through striking a mine when avoiding shell fire off Calais.

The s.s. ALCA was attacked by U-Boat at 0128, about 180 miles west of Ushant, no further report received.

HOME COMMANDS

713

Policy

It now seems probable that Belgians will cease fire at 4 p.m. 28th May, Belgian time. (Adty, to C. in C., H.F. etc., 0256/28)

Precautions

Coast Defence

Naval guns being mounted at all previously undefended ports from Sullom Voe to Poole. Dundee, Lowestoft and Aberdeen are now defended ports (D. of L.D. 1946/28) List of ports where naval guns are being mounted (A.C.N.S. (H) 1956/28)

Leith

Blocking (C. in C., Rosyth 1913/28)

Shetlands

Your 1859/23 Regretted existing resources and demands will not permit of further heavy and light A/A guns and searchlights being sent to Shetlands at present. Concur in your re-disposition to cover Lerwick. In present circumstances, A/S craft should operate from Sullom Voe where some cover exists. (A.C.N.S. to A.C.O.S., 1729/28)

Yarmouth

Adty. 1244/23 Schemes prepared for Yarmouth Lowestoft. (C. in C., 1739/28)

N.I.D. 002102/40

See Operations Volume.

Harwich

Moving into new operations room in customs building near Parkeston Quay a.m. tomorrow (F.O., Harwich, 1715/28)

Guns

Your 1307/16, allocation of guns of damaged ships, approved in principle, but intended re-allocation must be referred to Adty. for approval. (D. of L.D., 2014/28)

Belgian Shipping

Detain all Belgian shipping in allied ports on best pretext available but do not treat as enemy. Belgian ships at sea to be diverted to British or French port. (Adty. A. Message: 1137/28)

Immobilisation of Ports

Adty. 2230/26 Bridlington should be added (C. in C., More, 0952/28) Adty. 1244/23 Schemes have been prepared for Scerness, Harwich, Humber and Dockyard Caltham (C. in C. More 1016/28) Arrangements at Humber (F.O. Humber 0027/28) at Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Dundee, Montrose (C. in C., Rosyth 1239/28) Lerwick (A.C.O.S. 1325/28) Yarmouth, Lowestoft, (C. in C., More 1737/28)

Dover

Naval U.P. Batteries now in RAMBLA to be landed for close defence of Dover Harbour and important targets (V.C.N.S. 1207/23)



HOME COMMANDS

714

Precautions Contd.

Naval Adviser
Coast Defences

Admiral Sir Frederick ^eDwyer.

Chatham

Re return of Lewis guns which formed part of the defences of Chatham (C. in C., Portsmouth 1440/28)

Division of
Shipping

Re M/TD 2021/40 telegram "Painstaker aggravated generally" has been issued. Co-operate (D.T.D. 1511/28 to all C's in C. and F.O.'s i/c on shore)

Coast Defence

Army providing M/T drivers for 12 pdr. and 3 pdr. batteries (Adty. 1536/28) Possibility of siting torpedo tubes at Lerwick (D. of L.D. 1728/28) Machine Gun Coy. of Land Defence Force of M.N.B.D.O. is to be brought forward for service. (D. of L.D. 2015/28)

Block Ships

Work of fitting out CAP NORTE as a troopship is not to be impeded. If still available when occasion arises and sufficient notice is received she can be used as an outer blockship. Meantime, alternative schemes to be prepared by which any ships available at the moment can be used as blockships. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1913/28)

Lerwick,
Orkneys

Admty. 2230/26. Lerwick to be added to list of ports for which immobilisation of port facilities in the Orkneys, which are under maximum protection, except at Kirkwall, where an adequate scheme is now in force. (A.C.O.S., 1325/28)

Movements

YORK

Under present dispositions YORK is to work under C.S. 18. Should cruiser support become necessary in southern part of North Sea, I assume Admiralty will give C.S. 18 available intelligence and any necessary instructions. In the event of ships at Scapa proceeding to sea to co-operate I should expect 18 C.S. and YORK to be placed under my direct control should such circumstances make this desirable. (C. in C., H.F. to Admty., 2013/28)
YORK to keep steam at 1 hour's notice pending further orders from C.S.18. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2237/28)

Portsmouth
Patrols

By 2117/22 Patrols will be established from 1200/29. Areas (C. in C., Portsmouth 1703/28)

Submarines

Positions 0600/29 (D.C., 1827/22)



HOME COMMANDS

Operation Dynamo
(Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk) 715

Today likely to be the most difficult day ever experienced by British Army. R.A.F. will make every effort to assist both Army and Navy (A.M. to Commands 0125/28)

Senior officers at beach to use discretion in ordering withdrawal. Strong fighter protection expected after dawn. (N.O.I.C. Dover to CAL - CUTTA, etc., 0142/28)

WORCESTER
MACKAY

Proceed with all despatch to meet and support vessels returning from evacuation near Dunkirk (N.O.I.C. Dover 0146/28)

SABRE

Expect arrive 0445 request berth to land wounded (SABRE to F.O.C. Dover 0405/28)

VIVACIOUS

Expect arrive Dover 0550 three hundred military and six cot cases on board (VIVACIOUS to N.O.I.C. Dover, 0413/28)

Dunkirk

Request air protection for embarkation now (S.N.O. Dunkirk to V.A. Dover by WAKEFUL 0430/28) S.N.O. requires all vessels alongside East Pier (WAKEFUL to F.O.C. Dover 0436/28)

Report on situation on beach (N.O.I.C. Dover to WAKEFUL 0444/28)

Shortage of Boats

Plenty troops, few boats. Conditions good alongside Dunkirk East Pier protected by smoke (WAKEFUL to V.A. Dover 0507/28)

WAKEFUL's 0436. Is it practicable to get any more destroyers into Dunkirk (N.O.I.C. Dover to S.N.O. Dunkirk 0515/28)

Am halfway back to Dover. Dunkirk is practicable with air protection. Four Destroyers were off beach delayed through lack of boats. (WAKEFUL to F.O.I.C. Dover 0600/28)

VEGA, WOLFHOUD, SABRE, WORCESTER, MACKAY, proceed alongside East Pier Dunkirk with all despatch. (V.A. Dover 0606/28)

ANTHONY

Proceed with all despatch to meet and support vessels evacuating B.E.F. from Dunkirk (V.A. Dover to ANTHONY 0626/28)

Hospital Ship

Please send Hospital Ship and signal Time of Arrival (S.N.O. Dunkirk to Dover 0700/28)

La Panne
Evacuation completed

Expect arrive Sheerness 1045/28 with about seven hundred Troops- Evacuation of La Panne completed (CALCUTTA to C. in C., More 0716/28)

HOME COMMANDS

716

Operation Dynamo-Contd.

Protection Patrol

→ CODRINGTON, JAGUAR, JAVELIN, GRENADE to establish patrol from 0500 between West Hinder buoy and Kwint buoy, to provide cover for vessels working on Belgian coast (C. in C., More 0026/28)

Cancel my 2032/27 (proposed use of CALCUTTA as A/A protection on Z S 60 (V.A. Dover 0701/28)

In adjusting your effort ensure protection of Dunkirk and beaches (3 miles on either side of town) from first light until darkness by continuous fighter patrols in strength. Additionally you should have due regard to protection of bomber sorties and provision of support in B.E.F. area. (Air Min. 0205/ 8 to F.C.)

Your 1309/27. Hoped about forty Lewis gun equipments will arrive Ramsgate next 48 hours. No more available at present (D.T.S.D. to V.A. Dover 0032/28)

Fighter protection asked for

Request maximum fighter protection throughout 28th. Suggest C/C patrol Ostend to North and Sandette Bank and Fighter Commands Dunkirk and adjacent beaches. Skuas from Detling are patrolling North Goodwin to Nieuport from 0800 to 1300. (V.A. Dover to C/C F/C 0855/28)

S.N.O. Dunkirk to report every hour the number of men to be embarked from Dunkirk. If the older class destroyers and other vessels cannot compete with the situation destroyers of all classes are to be used for bringing the men off (D.C. 0754/28 to V.A. Dover)

SS ABUKIR Sunk

→ CODRINGTON and destroyers in company have picked up 33 survivors of British SS ABUKIR in approx 51° 29'N 2° 16'E. Ship left Ostend 2300/27 with several hundreds on board including No 3 British Mission and party of Needham Mission etc., Stated by survivors to have been attacked first by submarine then torpedoed by M.T.B. about 0130/28. 2 of survivors are women. (Capt. (D) 10801/28)

My 2227/27, 10 craft escorted by tug FOSSA sailed 0800 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Thames 0809/28 to C. in C., More)

CALCUTTA

Fill up CALCUTTA with military and sail her for Sheerness (N.O.I.C. Dover, 0858/ 8 to S.N.O. Dunkirk)

Boats & Water needed

Your 0758. There are at present 2000 men

HOME COMMANDS

717

Operation-Dynamo

Boats and Water
needed, Contd.

on a Dunkirk beach 7000 men on a (?) dune for which I have no boats available. They are now in need of water which army cannot supply. Unlimited numbers are falling back on this area and situation in present circumstances will shortly become desperate. Am doing my best to keep you informed but shall be unable to report for hours. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 0935/28)

CODRINGTON, JAGUAR, JAVELIN, GRENADE, ANTHONY proceed to East Pier Dunkirk by North Channel and Zuydecote Pass (N.O.I.C. Dover 1007/28)

Channels should be
swept

Suggest magnetic mine sweeping of channels being used from Dunkirk is advisable and preferably (? at night) S.N.O. Dunkirk 1725/28)

Route

Route to be used by ships when proceeding from Dunkirk to Dover night 28/29 V.A. Dover 1830/28, D.C. 0623/28)

Boats needed at
Braye

I must stress the need for boats and motor launches required at Braye where further 25,000 troops are expected. Much provisions also are required for troops waiting for embarkation (GRAFTON 2229/28 to N.O.I.C. Dover) (Mutilated)

C. in C., Nore 0939. Proceed with all despatch to reach beach 126° (F.O.I.C. Dover 1410/28 to WAVERLEY, GOSSAMER)

M.T.B.'s are patrolling tonight from charted position of Wandelaar L.V. to that of Whistle Buoy (51° 33' 1/2" N 2° 36' 15" E) SHELDRAKE, SHEARWATER close latter position 2015 till 2100 as guide for M.T.B'S arriving

All Corvettes R.V. with VEGA at West Hinder Buoy 51° 22' 1/2" N 2° 26' E at 2140 and patrol between S and T buoys Notices to Marines 903/40 99 to (?133) QZS 60 (C. in C., Nore 1646/28 to VEGA, SHELDRAKE, SHEARWATER, MALLARD, WIDGEON)

Food & Water

As a temporary measure destroyers lying off beach should endeavour to ensure that the inshore motor boats and cutters are supplied with provisions of water and fuel. (N.O.I.C. Dover 2125/28)

Braye

Proceed to beach off Braye, where troop concentration is now heaviest. (N.O.I.C. Dover, to MACKAY and HARVESTER 2037/28)

Patrols

All available M.T.B's from Nore and Dover

HOME COMMANDS

718

Operation-Dynamo

Patrols, Contd.

Commands are to be made available for patrol tonight 28/29 May as ordered by C. in C., Nore (A.C.N.S. (H) 1303/28) Orders for patrol to guard evacuating vessels (C. in C., Nore 1524/28 to F.O.I.C. Harwich, Dover)

Train ferries to be sent

2 train ferries are to proceed to Dover as soon as ready to operate under orders of V.A. Dover (C. in C., Nore 1247/28 to F.O.I.C. Harwich) Nos 2 and 3 sailed 1423 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1436/28)

Hospital Ship not arrived

Hospital ship not yet arrived (Dunkirk W/T 1510/28)

Motor Boats

Adty. 2035/27 Utmost endeavour should be made to hasten despatch of motor boats to Dover (D.O.D. (H) 1635/28)

Braye

Need for boats and motor launches at Braye when further 25,000 troops are expected. Much provisions also required for troops awaiting embarkation. (GRAFTON 2229/28)

~~Proceed to beach off Braye where troops concentration is now heaviest. (N.O.I/C Dover 2037/28 to MACKAY, HARVESTER)~~

See p. 717

Oil tanks at Dunkirk and Calais still burning. Dense cloud of smoke over both areas (Chatham H.Q. 2108/28. aircraft report)

Operation XD (E)

British demolitions at Dunkirk. 1. New Locks. 2. Tristram Locks, 3 Guillaume Lock. D.C.'s fitted or placed. (D.O.D. (H) 2146/28)

Operation Lyster

Intended to carry out operation against Ostend, naval forces sailing from Sheerness at 1400/29, expected time of arrival Ostend 0530/30. Guns of naval forces will have to engage enemy shore defences and continuous fighter protection from earliest daylight 30/5 until withdrawal of all forces well clear of the coast is therefore essential for the success of the operation request early information may be given as to whether this can be provided. (V.C.N.S. 2356/28)

Reply: 742.

28.5.1940.
Tuesday.



HOME COMMANDS

719

Operation Lyster-Contd.

Ostend

? Zabruff

Block ships appear to effectively block both channel and canal (aircraft report, Chatham Broadcast 2354/28)

Operations-Coast of France

Rouen

British tanker TORNUS to proceed Rouen to load maximum possible cargo aviation spirit on permitted draught, and then return to Havre to complete loading. (D.T.D., 22.4/28)

Dieppe

S.T.O. reports position unaltered. (BNLO Marceau, 2230/28)

Cherbourg

D.S.T.D. reports 0930/28 and 1730/28 No air raids, wharves and quays intact, port open, railway facilities intact, nothing further to report. (BNLO Marceau 0940/28, 1922/28)

Naval 12 pdr.
Batteries
for Calais Etc.

Admty. 2253/23, 12 pdr, guns and crews are not now required for service. KYNO, KELSO, TRENTINO should be unloaded and returned to their former service. (D.O.D. (H) 1656/28)

HOME COMMANDS

720

Operations- Norway

TRUANT

Sailed from Harstad at best possible speed for Mosyth (F.O. Narvik 0400/28)

Ammunition

Transferred from GLORIOUS to ARROW.
(GLORIOUS 0545/28)

Request as early information as possible regarding attack on Narvik Town (1st. S.L. 1036/28 to F.O. Narvik)

Ammunition
required

My 1948/25 and 1230/26 and 1425/27 when may ammunition be expected? All reserves AA issued. (R.A. Narvik 1356/28)

Adnty. 0050/28, Following are capacities of personnel ships. Could probably be increased in emergency. All have 11 days water and 14 days food for numbers given. (D.O.D. (H) 1634/28)

WHIRLWIND
WALKER
CAIRO

Your 1958/27 (re damage to WHIRLWIND, WALKER, CAIRO) Damaged ships must be retained as long as they can be used as it is not possible to send others to replace them. (1st S.L. 1737/28 to F.O. Narvik)

Enemy transports

Transports carrying possible enemy transports of reinforcements. See Enemy Intelligence)

SOUTHAMPTON

To relieve COVENTRY at Narvik as necessary for COVENTRY to refuel at Harstad. (F.O., Narvik, 1602/28)

ATLANTIS

Hospital ship. Do you require her? (D.O.D. (H) to F.O. Narvik 2147/28)

Submarines

From 1200/29 British and Dutch submarines will be operating in English Channel between 3° W and 1° E. Between these limits submarines are not to be attacked until they prove hostile. (C.in C. W.A. 2026/28)

Temporary submarine sanctuary, boundaries. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1707/28)

Operation FD 15

RUBIS reports operation FD15 carried out a.m. /27 (V.A. (S) 1459/28)

SEVERN, Norway

Your 1102/27. Consider SEVERN should continue present patrol and that minelaying by submarines should continue. I am of opinion that a seaborne expedition is just as likely to sail from Norwegian waters as from anywhere else. (C. in C.m H.F. to V.A.S., 2203/28)



War Diary

28.5.40.

Tuesday

721

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

Re M.Vs. engaging hostile aircraft (D. of L.D. to C. in C.'s 1230/28).

French Coast

Aircraft carried out protection over areas given from 1615 to 1915. No sign of enemy surface vessels or aircraft. Oil tanks still burning at Dunkirk and Calais. (Chatham H.Q. 2108/28).

Enemy Air Activity

CAIRO

^{see p 574}
Damaged by 2 bombs. 7 killed 25 wounded. Requires dockyard repairs. (CAIRO, 1027/28). Sailed from Harstad for Scapa at best possible speed. (R.A., Narvik, 1926/28). **V SUPPLEMENT (p. 242)**

QUEEN OF THE CHANNEL

bombed and sinking at 51:05 N., 02:40 E. (North Foreland Radio to C. in C., Nore: No T.O.O.: Recd. 0323/28, 0447/28).

WAKEFUL

Bombed 330° Ostend 9 miles (WAKEFUL 1404/28) Bombed 060° Dunkirk 3 miles (WAKEFUL 1507/28).

CODRINGTON Attacked off Dunkirk (CODRINGTON 1407/28).

GRAFTON

Bombed B. R. A. 7 (GRAFTON 1515/28).

~~WORCESTER~~
~~WORCESTER~~

Bombed position West Hinder Light Buoy (~~WORCESTER~~ 1536/28).

Convoy

Odd numbered O.A. Convoy being attacked aircraft in position 180° Beachy Head 10. (GLADIOLUS 2242/28).



War Diary

28.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

722

Mining

Operation See submarines.
F.D.15

Sweeping reports One Magnetic mine exploded 100° Adty. Pier Lt.
4 cables (V.A. Dover, 2050/28).

M/S Trawler reports having exploded a magnetic mine 57:40 N., 3:45½ W. Have stopped sailing from Invergordon and Inverness (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1530/28).

Lowestoft. Concentration of M/S drifters and danlayers (D.M.S. 1910/28, 1916/28).

7th & 8th To sail for Harwich with all despatch to operate
M/S.F. under orders of V.A. Dover (D.M.S. 1631/28).

Minesweepers 2 L.L. trawlers for Cherbourg (D.M.S. 1305/28,
for coast of D.S.T.O. 1240/28).
France 12th M/S.F. to arrive off La Parme 2200/28
5th M/S.F. to arrive off beach between
Zuidcoote and Marte Les Bains, i.e. beach 28
between 1 mile and 3 miles E. of Dunkirk at 2200/
(C. in C., Nore, 0939/28).

Enemy Intelligence

EMDEN Has again been reported alongside at Oslo,
undergoing repairs. (I.C. 0464/40).

M.T.B.'s 3 M.T.B.'s bearing 190° 20 miles, my position
52:42 N. 3:45 (Aircraft 220 Sqn., 1730/28)
(Chatham, 2200/28).
6 M.T.B.'s bearing 280° 12 miles, my position
53:29 N., 5:30 E. (Aircraft 206 Sqn., 1640/28).
3 M.T.B.'s 52:23 N., 4:18 E. (Aircraft 500 Sqn.
2000/28, 2006/28)
3 M.T.B.'s 52:20 N., 4:18 E. (Aircraft 500 Sqn.
2005/28).
4 M.T.B.'s stationary 015° Terschelling 32
miles. Attacked by Hudson aircraft. No damage
observed (Air Min. D.S. 314).

HOME COMMANDS

723

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

4 Destroyers

4 destroyers, 360°, 1 mile, course 150°, my position 53:29 N., 5:42 E. (Aircraft 206 Sqdn. 2115/28, 2117/28).

Depot Ship

At 1410 aircraft sighted 2 enemy naval vessels believed to be depot ships of Saar class off Ymuiden. (Chatham 2200/28).

2 M.V.'s

A Hudson aircraft attacked 2 M.V's at head of Fens Fiord. Bullets hit superstructure of both ships. Another Hudson dropped bombs at three M.N.'s near Nasfjorden. Result unknown. (Air Min. D.S. 314).

Baltic Sound,
Base

Your 2002/28, preparation of Baltic Sound as a base for Walrus aircraft. Concur. (C. in C., H.F. to A.C.O.S., 2201/28).

M.Vs.

Three M.Vs. attacked in Fens Fiord, 60:51 N., 5:20 E., at 0250. No hits. (Donibristle, 0615/28).

Reconnaissance of this position, nothing sighted. (Donibristle, 0730/28) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXX~~.

Two M.Vs. attacked in 60:50 N., 5:31 E. at 0300. Bombs did not explode. Incendiary bombs exploded on cliff above ships and started forest fires. Ships machine-gunned, hits on superstructure. No sign of life in either ship. (Donibristle, 0800/28).

Belgian
Coast

No enemy surface or aircraft in area of patrol, large numbers of transports seen. Machine-gun fire encountered from main jetty Ostend outer harbour. (Chatham, 2349/28) Blockships appear to block both channel and canal effectively. (Chatham, 2354/28).

Ymuiden

M.V. across entrance to harbour bombed. No hits. (Chatham, 2200/28).

Large number
of transports

Swedish source reports 27/5 a large number of small transports proceeding North along Norwegian west coast. Possible reinforcements for Narvik. B.O. (D.D.I.C. 1918/28).

HOME COMMANDS

724

Shipping

Havre and Rouen open

Cancel my 1338/26. Degaussed British and Norwegian ships may now proceed to Havre and Rouen (A.C.N.S.(T) 2035/28).

Reduction of Lewis guns in trawlers

Number of Lewis guns mounted in A/S and M/S trawlers to be reduced from 3 to 2 in order to provide A.A. weapons for auxiliary war vessels now fitting out. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1058/28).

Belgian Ships

All encountered to be directed into a British port. Do not treat them as enemies. (V.A.S., 1402/28).

Ocean Convoys

Positions. (D.C., 1905/28).

Miscellaneous

Escorts for hospital carriers.

Under present circumstances should loaded hospital carriers be sailed without escort? (BNLO Brest 1525/28)

Weather

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	E. or S.E. moderate or fresh in E. S.W. light in W.	Moderate or poor extensive fog patches in East and North.	Visibility improving slowly. Wind backing S.E. in West.
Channel	S. or variable light.	Good.	Visibility deteriorating in rain. Wind veering S.W.
Western Approaches	S.W. moderate.	Very Good.	Similar
Horns Reef	S.E. moderate.	Poor, fog patches.	Wind veering S.W.
Dutch Coast	S.W. or variable light.	Moderate.	Wind backing S.
Norwegian Coast	S.E. in South. S.W. in North, moderate.	Moderate in South fog patches, good in North.	Similar.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

→ ISLE OF THANET In collision with unknown ship which sank off Dover. Area searched, no survivors. ISLE OF THANET proceeded on voyage (N. Foreland Radio 0157/28, 0300/28, 0421/28, ISLE OF THANET 0326/28 V.A. Dover, 0440/28).

QUEEN ELIZABETH Cannot be completed before 30/3/41 owing to necessity for removing men for work of highest priority (Dkyd. Portsmouth 1787/28).

TENNESSEE (Norwegian) BRIGAND reports she is breaking up rapidly and any further attempt to refloat her is hopeless. Crew is being taken off (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1345/28).

French P.V. In distress in Downs. (V.A. Dover, 0440/28).

SUPPLEMENT

Foreign Stations

S.S. ALAVI British overdue at Aden since 25/5 (C. in C., E.I. 1121Z/28).

→ OCEAN REWARD H.M. Drifter. Lost in collision with S.S. ISLE OF THANET at about 0300/28, while on station as examination vessel off Dover. Skipper L. George and 7 others missing believed drowned, also Lieut. H.C. Slater, R.N.R., Examination Officer, and 3 examination personnel. (V.A. Dover, 2012/28 0925/29).

BRIGHTON BELLE Paddle M/S. Lost after collision with submerged wreck in Downs. No casualties. (V.A. Dover 2044/28).

THOMAS BARTLETT Lost, mined. (See U-boat Campaign & Mining).

THURINGIA H.M.T. Lost, presumed mined (See U-boat Campaign & Mining).

FOREIGN STATIONS

726

General

My 1043/28. It is intended that:

- (a) CERES and COLOMBO remain under orders of C. in C., E.I.
- (b) DRAGON to join S. Atlantic Station.
- (c) DELHI to sail from Malta to join South Atlantic Station via Gib. on completion of refit about 8 June.
- (d) CALEDON to rejoin Mediterranean Fleet as convenient before departure of DELHI (A.C.N.S.(F) 1044/28). *See next page*

North Atlantic

CASTILLO
DOROCA

Adty. 1740/18. Position of boarding Spanish S.S. CASTILLO DOROCA was not recorded as she was well clear of territorial waters. (FERMOY 0900/28).

Convoys

Your 1121/28, proposals for escort of convoys. Concur. (F.O.C.N.A. to C. in C., W.A., 1840/28).

My 1140/28 and Ambassador Madrid's 238/27 to F.O. Very desirable in interest of relations with Spain that ship should be released. (F.O.C.N.A. 1540/28).

South Atlantic

Uruguay

Serious danger of Nazi coup d'etat reported (Hd. of M. 1602/28 to C. in C., S.A.).



War Diary

28.5.40.
Tuesday.

727

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Positions (D.C., 0708/29, 0731/28).

Cables CAPETOWN reports red pillar buoy in 36:14:30 N., 13:36 E., p.m. 23/5. Two British cables run close to this position. Italian cable cutting activity suspected. Am having course of British cables followed up with orders to sink any buoys seen. (C. in C., Med., 1301/28).

Situation Distribution of principal Italian ships. Arming of numerous small craft continues. Sailings of all largest liners postponed. Number of specialists recalled to Army increasing daily. Preparations for war short of avowed mobilisation continue. (N.A., Rome, 1922/28).

Libya War vessels at Augusta 26/5. Further reported shock troops militia will sail for Libya 29/5 in Italian ship ARBOREA from Syracuse. (S.O.I., Malta, 2309/28).

East Indies

My 1044/28. No objection to DRAGON carrying out operation ordered in your 0725/28 before proceeding to S. Atlantic Station (D.O.D. (F) 1850/28 to C. in C., E.I.)

CALEDON return to Aden, DRAGON proceed with moderate despatch to Durban calling at Mombasa for fuel. On arrival at Durban DRAGON will come under orders of C. in C., S.A. (C. in C., E.I. 1319/28).

CERES &
COLOMBO to
reinforce E.I.
Station

CERES and COLOMBO have been released by Australian Commonwealth Govt. and are placed under orders of C. in C., E.I. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1043/28).

DRAGON proceed to Bombay to escort KHANDALLA with 300 Indian troops and M.T. sailing 3/6 for Aden and Suez, until darkness on second day out. (C. in C., E.I. 0725/28).

RANCHI orders for sweep to cover shipping. German ships at Kismayu show no signs of leaving (C. in C., E.I., 0611Z/28).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Blocking of
Shat-el-Arab

Amendment to S.N.O. Persian Gulf 2345/26
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 2030Z/28).

America & West Indies

Chilean Coast

Your tel. 099/27 to F.O. (See Enemy Intelligence)
Regret impossible to send cruiser to West
Coast of South America at present. My forces
now much depleted. Reliance placed on
interception in other areas. (C. in C., A.W.I.,
to Ambassador, Santiago de Chile, 1002/28).

Bermuda Convoys

Adty. 2314, re convoy escorts. Request two
additional A.M.C.'s may be allocated if possible.
In view of COMORIN's low endurance reported in
my 1731/25, request she may be replaced by
another vessel. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1303/28).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

South Atlantic

KONIGSBERG

Sailed 0530/28. (N.C.S.O., Para, 0700/28).
Possible use of Condor plane, which had been
grounded for a week at Para alleged awaiting
spare part. (C. in C., S.A., 0615/28).

America & West Indies.

RHAKOTIS

Left Callao as soon as DIOMEDE passed through
Panama Canal, and has now reached Callao.
Could another Cruiser be sent to this coast?
(Sir C. Bentinck, Santiago No.99 27/5).

HOME COMMANDSIceland

729

Canadian Govt. will despatch approx. 1,000 troops to Iceland as soon as possible. Can a special ship be provided for purpose? If not suggest one ship arranged for T.C.5. should transport. Troops for Iceland can be made ready to sail by 10/6. (N.S.H.Ottawa 1753/28)

Air

KELVIN

Report of engagement with enemy a/c 1117/28.
M. 010873/40

Casualties and Defects

OCEAN REWARD
ISLE OF THANET
In collision

ISLE OF THANET (Hospital Carrier) in collision with OCEAN REWARD (Examination Vessel) off Dover Harbour. OCEAN REWARD sunk 8 lives lost. ISLE OF THANET badly damaged. (Shipping Casualties 105657)

S.S. CARARE

Mined 0930/28 off the Foreland. Sank later in approx. 51° 17' 30" N, 3° 45' 0" W. H.M.Y. RHODORA saved 86 and 2 dead. Survivors included about 10 women and 5 children. Fast R.A.F. boat landed 4 seriously injured. H.M.T. CAMBRIDGESHIRE landed 2 and 4 dead (2 females). (Reports of C.O. RHODORA and CAMBRIDGESHIRE and Unit Comdr. CAMBRIDGESHIRE)

FOREIGN STATIONSNorth America and West Indies

1900 G.M.T.

British ship DANBY reports sighting periscope and wake in 019° 25' N, 108° 23' W. Seen again at 019° 45' N, 108° 56' W and opened fire. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1042/3 to C-in-C N.A.&W.I.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

THURINGIA

Report of loss by mining (C.A.P. Dover)
17011339/40



WAR DIARY.

28.5.40.
Tuesday.

U / Boat Campaign and Mining.

Ships Attacked.

730

DAN-Y-BRYN. 19° 25'N., 108° 22'W. ID Form SA.
(M013858/40).

TELENA.

British, shelled by S/M off Spanish coast. 30 shots fired from range of about 1/4 mile. 3 hits in cargo caused fire. Towed into Vigo 30/5. Germans were on board one hour after arrival. Chief Engineer not allowed to go on board until after 3 weeks interval. S/M believed Italian* but no evidence to support this. (Statement of T.B.Hogg, first engineer to Dy. Supt., Dundee 9.7.40).

* Actually U 37 (Dehrn) sub.

War Diary

28.5.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

731

Ships Attacked

- JULIEN French 117 tons, sunk by submarine at 1600/28 about 68 miles W. from Cape Finisterre, Spain. 10 members of the crew landed. (N.A., Madrid, 2132/29).
- S.S. ALCA British (tons) attacked by U/b 0128 in 47:51 N., 9:8 W. 180 miles west of Ushant. (D.C., 0828/28)(Portishead Radio, 0128/28). No further report received. Not in convoy.
- ~~JULIETTE~~ French trawler. Sunk 1700 by gunfire from U-boat 42:50 N., 10:40 W. (I.C. 0466/40).
- S.S. ABUKIR British (694 tons) with several hundreds evacuated from Dunkirk. 33 survivors picked up by CODRINGTON and destroyers in company in approx. 51:29 N., 2:16 E. Survivors stated ship was attacked first by submarine then torpedoed by M.T.B. at 0130. (Capt (D) I. 0801/28).
- THOMAS BARTLETT Lost through striking mine when avoiding shell fire off Calais. 8 missing, presumed drowned. (V.A. Dover, 2044/28).
- THURINGIA H.M.T. Lost after external explosion, presumed mine, whilst on patrol in 51:20 N., 2:03 E. Casualties 14 missing, presumed drowned, including Chief Skipper D.W.L. Simpson, D.S.C., D.S.M., (V.A. Dover, 2044/28).

Submarines Reported

Estimated Positions

Four in Western Approaches or farther South. Probably one off S.W. Iceland and possibly some in Southern North Sea. (D.D.I.C. 1106/28).

2 Submarines

Sighted by fighter aircraft submerging 10 miles N.W. of Dunkirk (V.A. Dover 1200/28). (C. in C., W.A., 1304/28).



War Diary

28.5.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

732

Submarines Reported (contd.)

- 2215 By C.G. Strathie Pt., bearing 285° 10 miles course S.W. SIKH investigated, found no contact (A.C.O.S. 2310/28, R.A.(D) H.F. 2325/28, SIKH 0601/29).
- 1902 Suspected submarine $356:59$ N., $2:0$ W. 44 miles (? to R.N.A.S. Hatston 1902/28)
- 0742 G.M.T. $42:30$ N. $10:55$ W. by French patrol (A.C.O.S. 2157/28 Burnham on Sea Radio 2157/28).
- 1915 Report received of 3 submarines painted green off Dunmore Head, Dingle Bay, at 1915, steering S.E. (C. in C., W.A., 2301/28).

Submarines Attacked

- 1609 By WORCESTER(180° W. Hinder Lt. buoy 2 miles) Result wooden wreckage no oil (WORCESTER 1609/28)



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

733

Submarines

Reported by French P.V. ENSEIGNE HENRY	}U- boat }Inci- dents }No. }267
42° 30'N, 10° 55'W at 0742/28. By Fighter	
a/c sighted 2 s/m's 10 m. N.W. Dunkirk at about 1200/28.	
3 s/m's painted green reported off Dunmore Head. Dingle Bay 1609/28.	

Submarines
attacked
WORCESTER

Attacked contact 150° West Hinder Lt. Buoy 1609/28. Wooden wreckage but no oil.	}U- boat }Inci- dents }No. }267

SITUATION REPORT

North France
Military Situation

The B.E.F. is withdrawing in the direction Dunkirk and the main bodies are North and West of Ypres in the area of Proven-Poperinghe- Ypres- Bixchoote. The rear Division is at Poperinghe; and regular Troops have taken over the defence of the Corunna Line from Berges to Nieupoort.

734

One German armoured Division has advanced to the East and reached a point South of Bergues, and two more are at Merville and Estaires respectively.

The French 1st Army were reported at 0330/29 to be on the line of the Lys about Armentieres, and contact is maintained between the French and the B.E.F.

Evacuation of the
B.E.F.

During the forenoon 29th evacuation proceeded satisfactorily with little interference from enemy aircraft though made difficult by a fresh S.W. wind.

Up to 2200 hours 28th 16,500 had landed in England, and 2,500 were estimated on passage. At midnight 29th/30th 61,171 had been landed in England.

Evacuation is being made by 27 destroyers and every kind of small craft from Dunkirk and from the beaches East of Dunkirk; 7 destroyers embarked troops from the pier; others operated off the beaches.

Two destroyers and 4 corvettes are screening the operations on a line off Nieupoort and 7 M.T.B's are patrolling a 20 mile line from Blankenberge to the North West.

Protection has been given to the operation by large numbers of fighter aircraft, and has been effective.

Naval casualties have been: WAKEFUL with 630 troops was torpedoed and sunk 0250 29th off Nieupoort; GRAFTON was torpedoed in the same position at 0309. She had no troops on board; WINDSOR damaged by bomb yesterday; MACKAY aground East of Dunkirk; MONT-ROSE was in collision with a vessel towing small boats loaded with troops.

n/v.
#RUJA

A number of merchant seamen at Dover refused to take their ships to sea for evacuation. They were replaced by Naval ratings from Chatham.

Dieppe

Two magnetic mines inside the pier heads and about 12 more outside. Port likely to be open soon. 8 steamers and six trawlers are sunk in the basins. The railway is undamaged.



29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

735

Havre

A/A guns have arrived and sweeping may now be started with safety. No reason why the port should not now be opened.

Dunkirk }
Calais }

Oil tanks burning fiercely last night.

Air

Besides the air protection for the evacuation of the B.E.F. air attacks on the back areas have been maintained. M.T.B.'s were attacked by our aircraft off the Dutch coast last night, without result. During the day our aircraft destroyed 77 German aircraft with the loss of 16 of our own.

Norway

On the evening of 28th May the Germans were driven out of Narvik for 2 miles and 200 to 300 prisoners taken.

Italy

Count Ciano informed our Ambassador that Italy's entry into the war is certain but he has suggested no date. Contraband and clearing negotiations have been broken off by direct order of Mussolini who was incensed at prominence given to their expected success in British press. Mussolini is unwilling to enter into discussions of any sort with the Allies. Situation appears graver than at any time hitherto.

United Kingdom

It is believed that air attack on British aerodromes and ports is imminent.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Re Leith workmen

Hd. of M. 1724/29 to C. in C., Rosyth re his 1616/26.

Coast batteries

Organisations of batteries manned by R.N. and R.M. personnel (D of L.D. 1317/29)

Patrol off Wick

Admty. 1956/28 take necessary action for establishment of patrol off Wick (C. in C., Rosyth 1309/29 to A.C.O.S.)

Loch Kileth
torpedo tubing

Impracticable to fit fixed shore torpedo tubes on Loch Kileth. Refitting 6 trawlers or drifters (C. in C., Rosyth 1103/29)

Continuing German
M.T.B. Attack

Admty. 1157/29. Am much concerned at difficulty of countering German M.T.B's. our destroyers prove too big and are not effective. Our M.T.B's are small and too few. Enemy M.T.B's can use any Dutch Port Only effective counter appears to be heavy bombing attack after locating them in Harbour. (C. in C. Nore, 1424/29)

Submarine Patrol off
Dingle Bay

Admty. direct that submarine patrol is to be established forthwith off Dingle Bay to destroy U-Boats and stop and examine outside Irish Territorial waters any M.V's making for Dingle Bay. (V.A.(S) 2207/29)

Foreigners

Request that all foreigners now being evacuated from France may be landed at approved ports as security control is only organized at these ports. (HOMER London, 2200/29)

Air attack expected

Reliable information indicates that air attacks on British aerodromes and ports is imminent. Most likely objectives are ports and aerodromes in S.E. and South coasts. (Air Min. 1430/29)

Information indicates three Bomber Gruppen standing by for operations. Objective may be south east and south coast ports. (Air Min)(1130/29)

Reliable information received that bomber attack on S.E. ports and aerodromes by a Geschwader of D.O. 17's and H.E. 111's was laid on for today. Understand that attack postponed owing to bad weather in Germany. (Air Min. 1610/29)



HOME COMMANDS

737

Movements

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND-
ANTONIA

REVENGE and escort to R.V. with them.
position, route, (F.O.I/C Greenock 1731/29)

My 1949 Fleet fogbound. (C.in C., H.F.
2142/29)

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk

Situation 0940

3 Transports and 12 auxiliaries in Docks
52.58'N 4.47'E lorries driving up to
transports, Auxiliaries probably M/S
(aircraft 220 Sqn. 0940/29)

~~ST~~
ST. CLEARBS shelled

~~ST~~
ST. CLEARBS ^(Tug) under shell fire 0325 from Dun
kirk Roads passing B W Buoy (N. Foreland
Radio No 7000 Recd. 0435/29)

More boats required

Essential more conveyance boats are sent
immediately. only 4000 men evacuated
since 1800 and there are 32 (Corrupt
Group) waiting on beach with more arriving
here (Corrupt Group) (Brigadier Raikeskern
0130/29 to N.O.I.C. Dover)

3rd Corps. B.E.F. to
be embarked

3rd Corps B.E.F. and C. in C., are now
at La Panne. Make every endeavour to
concentrate all destroyers and light craft
in neighbourhood with object of embarking
this force as soon as possible. (V.A.
Dover 0127/29 to CALCUTTA)

Embarkation too slow

Brigadier General in charge states present
rate of embarkation from shore to ship
quite inadequate. Beach bombed throughout
the day (LEDA 0220/29)

Ships to land
beach parties

S.O's of groups at beaches are to detail
ships to land adequate beach parties to
assist troops to embark. Men are not to
be left behind by their ships but to be
relieved as necessary when ships sail.
(F.O.I.C. Dover 0255/29 to Destroyers,
minesweepers)

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

738

More Boats re-
quired

Destroyers motor boats are inadequate to deal with numbers on beach. More boats urgently required. Weather now difficult for boat work (Capt. (D) 16 0428/29)

Surf on beaches

Owing to surf on beach most important move as many troops as possible from La Panne and Bray to Dunkirk (V.A. Dover 0431/29 to S.N.O. Donibristle)

Fighters required

No enemy interference at present. Embarking 2000 per hour. This can be kept up provided supply of transports is maintained. Swell prevents use of beach (? passage) to Dunkirk. Any air attack would be disastrous. Maximum fighter protection essential. Passenger transport not loaded mined and sunk about 2 miles E of Dunkirk pier light (S.N.O. Dunkirk. 0709/29)

HEBE to be H.Q.
of S.N.O.

Tell Capt. Buck in M.T.B. 68 to use H.M.S. HEBE as his H.Q., frequent reports are necessary as to situation and requirements from beach. (V.A. Dover, 0832/29 to HEBE)

Food and water to
be sent

Food and water should be sent to Dunkirk as soon as possible, also a staid guard for control of traffic. Army are quite unable to help or organise any thing. Keep on sending ships. Cannot West channel be used. Good Medical Officer with staff required. Army unable to provide. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 0930/29)

20 Thames barges in tow of 5 tugs expected at Ramsgate 1780/29. For consideration that these might be used as piers (V.C.N.S. 1255/29 to V.A. Dover)

Please secure an M.T.B. now (S.N.O. Dunkirk 1232/29 to F.O.I/C Dover)

Aircraft called for

Enemy troops reported N.E. of Nieuport. Request destroy concentrations on roads. N.E. of town. Attack not to be made west of railway coast Nieuport Dix made (C. in C., Liason Officer Dover 1100/29)

Enemy Shelling

S.N.O. Dunkirk state enemy shelling pier with shore batteries from S.E. request bombers to counter. Vital. (IVANHOE 1105/29)

HOME COMMANDS

739

Evacuation-Contd.

R.A. Wake-Walker
appointed S.N.O.

R.A. Wake-Walker is proceeding in ESK to HEBE to carry out duty of S.N.O. Dunkirk in charge of all evacuation arrangements (N.O.I.C. Dover 1943/29, Admty. 1748/29)

Destroyers not to
stop to help ships
in distress

During present operations on Belgian coast where many small craft are present destroyers are not to stop to render assistance to ships in distress (D.O.D (H) 1105/29)

Dunkirk bombed

Enemy aircraft bombing Dunkirk (GRENADE 1155/29, 1205/29)

Dunkirk heavily bombed at 1300, objectives troops and transports. Request fighter protection may be increased. Embarkation is being carried out normally now. (S.N.O. 1330/29)

Situation 1358

(S.N.O. Dunkirk 1358/29)

Belgian troops to be
embarked

Belgian troops at La Panne to be allowed to embark in British ships, as we are using Belgian ships and crews for our own embarkation. (V.A.N.S. 1347/29, N.O.I.C. Dover, 1735/29)

Stick it a little longer. You alone can save our army. (V.A. Dover 1426/29 to Dover Force B.N.L.O. Dunkirk)

Fighters needed

My position Nieuport Bank Buoy. Request fighter protection (D. 20 1800/29)

Ships being sent
by French

Your 1635/29. All small ships in Channel requisitioned by French. About 130 being sent to Dover (B.N.L.O. Marceau 1841/29)

My 1259. MOSQUITO to proceed to beach at Braye Dune 6 miles E. Dunkirk and LOCUST to beach at La Panne 9 miles E Dunkirk. Both ships to embark British troops to maximum capacity using own and inshore boats (W.O.I.C. Dover, 1901/29)

Giving positions where troops are on beaches (V.A. Dover 1907/29)

ANTHONY to proceed to evacuate troops. (N.O.I.C. Dover 2345/29)

Route for ships (F.O.I.C. Dover 1806/29)



HOME COMMANDS

Orders for the night

Evacuation of British Troops to continue at maximum speed during night. If adequate supply of Hospital ships cannot be maintained to Dunkirk East Pier Destroyers will be sent there as well. All other craft except Hospital Carriers to embark from Beach which is extended from one mile east of Dunkirk to one mile east of La Panne. Whole length is divided into three equal portions referred to as La Panne, Bray and Malo from east to west with a mile gap between each port. La Panne and Bray have troops concentrations pointing to each end and in the middle. Malo on each end. These points should be tended by inshore craft. Pass this message by visual signalling to ships not equipped wireless as opportunity offers. Destroyers at Dunkirk pass to S.N.O. Dunkirk (V.A. Dover 1907/29)

Small Craft

Investigate urgently provision of additional small craft which can be made available within 48 hours from all parts in your command for operation Dynamo. (D.O.D. (H) 1115/29 to C. in C. Portsmouth, More)

French Ships Needed

French troops beginning to arrive at Dunkirk and on beaches, but there are only 3 French destroyers and one French vessel to evacuate them. Impress on Admiral Darlan necessity for large number of destroyers, passenger ships and small craft. (1st S.L. 1635/29 to B.N.L.O. Marceau)

Route

Route to Dunkirk (F.O.I.C. Dover, 1331/29 1721/29)

SALADIN Damaged

Naval personnel and gear landed, few soldiers and wounded survivors picked up no more ammunition or boats left, am returning with VERITY and SALADIN who is damaged and can only do 15 knots. Heavy and continuous bombing of ships. (SABRE 2025/29)

Ships to take Troops from Destroyers

Intercept all personnel ships approaching Dunkirk and instruct them not to close harbour but to remain off Eastern beach to collect troops from ships (N.O.I.C. Dover 2128/29 to REBE)

Requirements

In order to complete disembarkation L.C.'s or power craft in charge of F.O.'s, rope, Naval beach parties imperative. (BIDEFORD 2130 Z/29)



29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

741

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation Contd.

French Ships

To avoid possible incidents on beaches suggest all beaches are informed immediately that French ships evacuating are proceeding to Dunkirk. (V.A. 2314/29 to S.N.O. Dunkirk, HEBE)

Fighters Essential

Fighters essential. Continuous bombing Capt. D 20 1707/29 1812/29)

Embarkation taking place from Dunkirk

Have sent JAVELIN and three Destroyers into Dunkirk landing place S.N.O. Other soldiers marching to Dunkirk as boat work on beach very slow (Capt. D 16th D.F. to LEDA (?) 0531/29)

Fighters to be maintained

Special task for 30/5 is to provide maximum cover for concentration of B.E.F. Dunkirk area. Periods without fighter cover should be kept to minimum (Air Min. to Fighter Command 2315/29)

Vessels carrying troops not to stop to pick up survivors from ships sunk but are to inform other near ships (MCI.C Diver 0806/29)

Hospital Ships asked for

Army now ask for four hospital ships. You will have continuous calls for these vessels. (S.N.O. Dunkirk to F.O.C. Dover. 1010/29)

Situation 1822/29

Naval shipping plan now approaching maximum efficiency. Subject to weather and reasonable immunity enemy action. expect lift about 16,000 Dunkirk and 15,000 from Beaches. Surf has subsided and beaches being worked today at reduced rate. Total arrivals during 12 hours to noon 29th are 13,711. Total since start of plan to 1500/29 is 39,000 disembarked and 7,500 en route for home, or 46,500 in all. (General Lloyd, Dover to W.O. 1822/29)

Admty. 1956/28. Report number and type of craft required stating names of any available locally and whether local manning possible (D. of L.D. to C. in C. 2330/29)



HOME COMMANDS

742

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Impossible to embark more troops at present

Continuous bombing for 1 1/2 hours One destroyer sinking, one transport with troops on board damaged. No damage to pier. Impossible at present to embark more troops. 'SABRE 1825/29)

Dunkirk

Can you confirm harbour is blocked (Dover W/T to HEBE 2057/29)

Thames Barges being sent

20 Thames barges in tow are being sent. Can they usefully be used as pier for loading troops at point on beach or do you consider they would be more usefully employed for ferrying troops. Report as soon as possible. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1456/29)

Operation Lyster D.5

Air Protection uncertain

Your 2356/28 In view of heavy fighter commitments 29/5 in connection with evacuations and uncertainty as to time required to complete evacuations am unable to give any undertaking regarding operation Lyster until evening 29/5 when matter will be reviewed in light of situation at that time. (Air Min. 0105/29 to Adty.)

Force D. (MARTIS, PACIFICO, CAROLINE MOLLER, 3 destroyers, 3 corvettes, 2 M.T. B.s may be required to sail for an operation 29/5, (D.O.D. (H) 0006/29)

Adty. 0006/29. Operation will take place Objective. Arrangements (D.O.D.(H) 1018/29)

Force D formed as follows:- WOLSEY, VILLY, VIVACIOUS, MALLARD, WIDGEON, SHEARWATER, PACIFICO, MARTIS, CAROLINE MOLLER, 2 M.T.B. S.O. in WOLSEY (D.O.D. (H) 1018/29)

My 1018/29 Force D is due to arrive at destination 0500/30 (D.O.D. (H) 1736/29)

MALLARD, WIDGEON, SHEARWATER R.V. with Force D at N. Goodwin Lt.V. at 2030/29 for modified operations DF (C. in C. Nore., 1226/29)

On completion of operation D.4. ^F destroyers are to proceed as directed by V.A. Dover to assist in evacuation (V.C.N.S. 1608/29)

HOME COMMANDS

743

D.F. Lyster- Contd.

Fighting Protection Impossible

Regret unable to provide fighter protection for operation Lyster 30/5 Air. Min 1930/29)

PACIFICO torpedoed at anchor off N.W. Shingles Beacon. To be towed back to harbour. Operation continues (WOLSEY 1938/29, C. in C. Nore 2251/29)

Cancel Operation D.F.

Cancel operation D.F. Destroyers to re-join V.A. Dover, (Admty. to S.O. Force D 1938/29)

375 Operation D Q (? D F) cancelled by Admiralty. S.O. force D. is to (corrupt groups) CAROLINE MOLLEN MARTIS PACIFICO and ~~Corvilles~~ (? before sailing) and instruct them to return to Sheerness at daylight. Destroyers return to Dover. M.T.Bs. return to Harwich. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore 1944/29 to Force D, WOLSEY)

French Coast

Le Havre

Condition: no mines exploded, shipping moving freely. Informed by Col. Pinder C.C. the Port, that four L/A guns have now arrived, therefore consider sweeping operations may now be started with safety but better if sweepers had escort. No reason why port should not ~~now~~ now be opened. Vessel of 12' draft may enter at any time. (R.N.L.O., Marceau, 9150/29)

Dutch Coast

Helder

Entrance appears to be blocked by half submerged M.V. leaving only narrow channel (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1231/29)

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

744

✓ Operations-Norway

Re-presentation of ~~surety~~ ^{iv} regarding a certain operation (1st S.L. 2308/28)

Tjeldsundet is closed to traffic owing to mines. (R.A. Narvik 1124/29)

Hospital Ship to Sail

Hospital Ship ATLANTIS to be sailed for Harstad as soon as possible (D.O.D. (H) to F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2137/29)

Request sail MARINA for Harstad as soon as ready. MARINA is taking place of CYCLOPS (D.O.D.H.) to A.C.O.S. 1730/29)

Narvik Captured

Entirely in hands of Allies by 2200/28 Norwegian and French battalions capturing town. (D.N.I. 1939/29)

Submarines

7th S/M.F.

Following Dutch submarines are now at Portsmouth. O.9 O.10 O.13 O21 O 22 O 23 O 24. Intend they be known as Seventh Submarine Flotilla as from 1/6.

Intend that Dutch Torpedo boats Z.6 and Z.8 also at Portsmouth should form part of 7th S/M F. Flotilla will be under command of Commander Hellingman of Netherlands Navy and will work in close co-operation with fifth S/M.F. and under general direction of Captain S. 5. and will normally be based at Portsmouth and Portland. Fifth and Seventh Flotillas do not form part of Home Fleet and in consequence S. 5 and S 7 are not included in the address Captains (S) Home Fleet. (V.A.S., 2114/29)

Submarines

Positions 0600/30 (V.A.(S) 1904/29, D.C 2302/29

Submarines operating in Channel will be addressed as 5th S/M Flotilla (Capt. (S) 5 1551/29)

29.5.40.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSAir.

745

British air activity.

At least 2 bombs on ship moored outside Bergen harbour (Donibristle received 1756/29) sighted by aircraft 1300/29. (Donibristle 1645/29). Confirmed results of Wednesday's air fighting, 77 German aircraft shot down, our losses 16. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 0207/30)

Enemy air activity.KING ORRY

Bombed alongside at Dunkirk. No sign of military (Received 1927. N. Foreland Radio 2030/29).

GRAFTON

Enemy bombing Braye. (GRAFTON 0010/29).

PAXTON. BOY ROY

H.M. Drifters damaged by enemy aircraft and beached near Dunkirk. No casualties. (V.A. Dover 6513/29).

VEGA

Help VXWY 2433 (VEGA 0855/29)

GRENADE.

Help enemy aircraft bombing Dunkirk (GRENADE 1153/29) 20 enemy aircraft bombing Dunkirk (GRENADE 1205/29) I'm being heavily bombed Have seen no shore batteries (GRENADE 1217/29).

GALLANT.

Enemy aircraft bombing VXWY 0410 (GALLANT 1205/29)

KILLARNEY

Bombed at Dunkirk 1106 (N. Foreland Radio received 1235/29).

D 20.

Attacked at La Panne (D. 20 1254/29)

WORCESTER

Attacked at Dunkirk (WORCESTER 1255/29).

Preparations to attack U.K.

Information indicates 3 bomber Gruppen standing by for operations. Objective may be S.E. and S. coast ports (Air Ministry 1130/29). On 28/5 and a.m./29 bomber reconnaissance aircraft operated as far as Portsmouth, preparatory to intended attack on aerodromes and harbours on S.E. coast (Air Ministry 1840/29)

Braye.

Enemy aircraft bombing off Braye (MALCOLM 1255/29) 1545/29, 1551/29) Help MALCOLM 1552/29) (Capt. D. 20 1657/29, 1716/29, 1552/29).

Dunkirk.

Heavy bombing (MALCOLM 1257/29, 1714/29, GRENADE 1559/29, ICARUS 1919/29, VERITY, 1949/29) Fighters required (ALBURY 1955/29).

CODRINGTON

Help Dunkirk (CODRINGTON 1258/29)

SUTTON.

Bombed (SUTTON 1545/29) still bombed La Panne Roads (SUTTON 1555/29).



HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

746

La Panne. Bombed (MALCOLM 1545/29).
ANTHONY Bombed help VXST 1235 (ANTHONY 1555/29) Bombed
VXTS 2222 (ANTHONY 1645/29).
LOCH GARRY Bombed West Dyck Buoy 1618 G.M.T. (W. Foreland
Radio 1725/29).

Enemy Air Activity.

VERITY. Help fighters (VERITY 1800/29).
SABRE Help Dunkirk (SABRE No. T.O.O. Received 1846/).
GRACIE FIELDS Hit by bomb 3 miles West Middle Kerke Buoy
(GRACIE FIELDS 1830/29) Not making water
Requires tug. Transferring troops to other
vessels (SHIKARI to F.O.I.C. Dover 2115/29)
SHIKARI. Attacked (SHIKARI 2035/29).

SUPPLEMENT

Operations.

747

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk.

Bombing of beaches and pier Dunkirk has now commenced without evident opposition from fighters. If they hit pier embarkation will become very slow. Beaches between Dunkirk and La Panne are covered with troops congregated in large masses. Very slow embarkation taking place from Eastern beach. French Authorities at Dunkirk feel strongly they are defending Dunkirk for us to evacuate, which is largely true. Perimeter must be strongly held, food and water issued and bombing of Dunkirk pier prevented. There is no other alternative to take off more than a fifth of men now on beach before they are bombed continuously. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 1358/29).

Air.CLAN MACALISTER.

British 6787 tons. bombed and sunk off Dunkirk. 18 of crew missing. 16 out of 23 survivors in hospital. (War Cabinet, Chief of Staffs Committee - Weekly Resume No. 40)

FENELLA.

British 2376 tons. Bombed and sunk off Dunkirk. 10 survivors (War Cabinet, Chief of Staffs Committee - Weekly Resume No. 40)

LORINA.

Attacked by enemy a/c's near Dunkirk and sunk. 8 lives lost, 41 saved. (Board of Trades).

Enemy Intelligence.Cruiser damaged.

* correct tonnage
6,097.

Yugoslavia General Staff informs me (a) Two new S/M's launched at Hamburg 29/5 and immediately sent to sea. (b) Transport GREISENAU 1800 tons sunk by British off Frisian Islands, 1200 troops and 40 tanks on board, very few men saved. German transport BUENOS AIRES, 9000 tons, sunk in Norwegian waters. (c) Cruiser KOLN class 2300 Hamburg badly damaged May 29. (W.A. Belgrade, 1255/11/6)

U-boat Campaign & Mining.Ships attacked.MARIE JOSE.

(3 and)

Master of British ELLAROY reports lost at 0445/29/5 in position 42°32'N., 09°11'W., he witnessed submarine shelling merchant vessel of about 5,000 tons. 3rd or 4th shot scored hit and M.V. was soon in flames. ELLAROY has no wireless or gun. Master reports no French patrol vessels in vicinity. (P.O.I.C., Cardiff, 1200/3/6.)

War Diary

29.5. 1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Aircraft Carriers

ARK ROYAL

Leave Scapa 0800/31 with GLORIOUS. Fly on 803 Sqdn. after leaving. Arrive Bodø 48 area a.m./2 June (V.A.A. 1231/29)

Mining

Magnetic mines have been exploded off the Tyne, Dover and Moray Firth.

Invergorden.

Invergordon is still closed. (D.C. 0806/29)

Aircraft dropped three magnetic mines about 110° South Foreland (BLYSKAWICA to F.O. Dover 2346/29) It would appear that further magnetic mines were laid by enemy aircraft off the South Foreland during the night.

Tjeldsundet Channel is closed to traffic by suspected mining (R.A. Narvik 1124/29)

3 mines reported dropped in searched channel N.W. of Ostend. (O.I.C. 30 May)

Shipping

Convoys

Positions (D.C., 1839/29)

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

Now arriving Galway 1/6 (Hd. of M 2016/29) of utmost importance she should proceed without interference. (C. in C., W.A. 0910/29)

Belgian Ships

In Home Waters may proceed to any port in France or U.K. armed guards should be dispensed with unless master or other members of crew suspected.)M. 0003/29)

Home Commands

749

Enemy Intelligence

2 M.T.B.'s Attacked no apparent damage my position 51. 56'N 3.30'E (Aircraft 0220/29)

3 M.T.B.'s Course 260° speed 20 knots my position 52.50'N 4.30'E)Aircraft 0444/29)

2 T.B.'s See submarines attacked.

Destroyer With 2 funnels in harbour at Ijmuiden.

4 ? 4 M.T.B.'s 52.45'N 1.47'E course 360° 1225 (Aircraft
1 M.V. reports Chatham. 1638/29)

1 M.V. 1000 tons & At Texel about 1450, strong A/A fire, plane
3 small auxilliary damaged (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1756/29)
vessels

3 M.V's about 5000 Reported by aircraft at the Helder 0930/29
tons. 12-15 Auxilliary (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1257/29 At 1330/29.
vessels, probably M.V's however aircraft reported no ships at the
Helder. (I.C. 0466/40)

Ships off Bergen See Air

Miscellaneous

Military personnel sailings from Cherbourg to Southampton arranged for 30/5 and 31/5, ships crossing by night. If Southampton is closed ships should be diverted to Weymouth. Crossings should not be suspended due to absence of escorts. (D.O.D (H) 1807/1807/29)

M.T.B.'s building Re taking over (Admty. 1627/29)
for Norway

WEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	Light Variable	Moderate to poor fog patches	Visi.Improving
Channel	S.W. to W. Light	Good to very good.	Similar
Western Approaches	N.W. Moderate	Very good	Wind backing to Freshening
No reports received for Follg. Propable weather:-			
Horns Reef	Light Variable	Moderate to Good	Similar
W. Coast Norway	Southerly moderate	Moderate to good.	Similar
Belgian Coast	S.W. light to moderate	Moderate	Wind veering visibility improving to very good.



CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

750

WAKEFUL

by E-Boat DMM
Torpedoed and sunk 29/5 during operations Dynamo (V.A. Dover 0230/30) Re destruction of asdic sets. (C. in C. Nore 2157/29) Many refugees military and R.A.F. on board. Hit by at least 2 torpedoes which tore ship in half, sank in little over minute. Submarine surfaced and opened fire with machine guns on people in water, including women and children (Report by 2 R.A.F. W/T operators. Recd. by phone 1845/29. D.D.I.C. and C. in C. Nore still consider it likely that ship was sunk by M.T.B.)

GRAFTON

by U62 DMM
Torpedoed during Operation Dynamo 29/5. Abandoned sinking. Have taken off personnel (IVANHOE to F.O.C. Dover 0525/29) Torpedoed ~~by M.T.B.~~ (IVANHOE to N.O.I.C. 0635/29) Re destruction of Asdic sets (C. in C. Nore 2157/29) . **SUPPLEMENT** 1343

MONTROSE
M.V. RUJA

Damaged in collision with a tug near No. 2 buoy. with engine defects anchored North of Goodwin Fork.
LADY BRASBEY left at 0150 to assist both (V.A. Dover 0224/29)

Am grounded in Zuydcoote at low water (MACKAY 0016/29).

GRENADE
CALVI
CRESTED EAGLE
WAVERLEY

Bombed and sunk off Dunkirk 29/5 (V.A. Dover 0230/30 VERITY 1736/29)

COMFORT
GIRL PAMELA

Sunk in collision off Dunkirk 29/5 (V.A. Dover 0230/30)

BIDEFORD
GREYHOUND
BALLANT
JAGUAR
INTREPID
SALADIN
GRACIE FIELDS
POLLY JOHNSON

Damaged by bombs off Dunkirk 29/5 BIDEFORD severely (V.A. Dover 0230/30)

JOHN CATTLING

Missing during operations off Dunkirk 29/5. (V.A. Dover 0230/30)

GREYHOUND

Badly damaged near miss. An attempting to steam to N. Goodwin. Docking essential. Extent of damage not known. Many casualties among crew and soldiers on board. (GREYHOUND 1652/29) BLYSKANICA taking her in tow. (BLYSKANICA 1859/29) Expect to arrive Dover 0001/30 (BLYSKANICA 2232/29)



751

CASUALTIES AND EFFECTS

- CAIRO (Damaged 25/5) Only one 4 inch mounting effective in A/A fire. (CAIRO 1516/29)
- JAGUAR in tow of tug unable to steam, now proceeding to Dover. GALLANT and GRENADE also damaged by bombs. (C. in C. Nore 1813/29)
Particulars of A/C attack and damage 29/5. (JAGUAR 0732/30.) Position in Nien Fort Bank Buoy.
Request fighter escort (D.20 1800/29).
- GRACIE FIELDS Under govt. Charter. bombed 51° 14' N. 2° 40' E.
Not making water. Requires tug. Transferring troops to other vessels. (SHIKARI 2115/29) Making water fast (GRACIE FIELDS Recd. 2053/29)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

752

Completion dates. OTTAWA 10/6. ASSINIBOINE 5/6. Intend to dock SAGUENAY when both the above are ready for sea (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1627/29)

North Atlantic.

Invasion of Ireland. Thought possible a German seaborne expedition to invade Ireland may be prepared at Vigo. Please takes steps to confirm or deny. French Admty. asked to maintain a special watch off Vigo. (D.N.I. to N.A., Madrid, 2010/29)

S/M positions. In area B. at 0600/30 (S.5. to Adty. 1800/29)

French positions. Convoys and Patrols at 1200/29 (D.C. to C. in C. W.A., 0117/29)

South Atlantic.

Banana. Re establishing observation post and extinguishing lights (C.G. Leopoldville 1541/29)

BRIDGWATER Re visit to Boma to consult re. defence of Lower Congo. (Leopoldville 1508/29)

Italian sailings. Italian Line agents have informed that no further Italian ships will sail for S. Africa after EDDA due Cape Town 20/6 and PIAVE 6/7. (S.O.(I) Cape Town 1635/29)

Mediterranean.

Italian War Plans. Ambassador in Rome reports all preparations made by Italy for attack 5th June on Corsica, Malta and Tunis. Parachutists to participate and foreign residents in Egypt, Tunis and Corsica to assist. Landing on Turkish coast from Rhodes also envisaged. Graded D.3. Slight indications exist of overseas expedition being prepared in Italy but no details available. (D.N.I. to C. in C. Med. 0118/29)

Reliably reported Italian Consul has instructions to prepare to return to Italy. He has been seen burning documents (S.O. I. Malta to Ady. 1051/29)

Cable cutting. Adty. 1611 'Information that satisfies me that one vessel interferes with our cables is Spanish ESPERANZA Wooden Auxiliary Trawler believed to be in Vigo. She generally operates in territorial waters. Submit French be asked to obliterate her quietly at first opportunity. (N.A. Madrid 1950/29)

Special care is to be taken to give Italy no possible excuse for claiming that neutrality of Greek territorial waters is not being respected. (Capt. (S) 1, 1451/29 to PARTHIAN, PANDORA).

FOREIGN STATIONS

753

LIVERPOOL

To join Mediterranean Station. If so, propose to sail SYDNEY 1/6 for Aden (C. in C. Med. 1025/29)

Mediterranean.

Expedition contemplated.

My 1922, 28, State of Italian fighting forces combined with requisitioning of ships and numerous reports received lend weight to opinion previously expressed that an expedition is contemplated.
Re final sentence in my 1114/24 Yugo Slavia must not be excluded. Italian CONTE DI SAVOIA reported to have left New York 25/5 due 2/6 Genoa. Preparations for War continue.
(N.A. Rome 1301/29)

East Indies.

West African and Indian Troop Convoys.

D. of ST 1035/27 and Adty. 2300/27. Proposed route. Suggest convoy from Bombay be known as B.C. and that from Cape Town as C.M. (C. in C. E.I. 1028 Z/29)

CALEDON

Unless ATHELMERE ready sail in few hours she to be held and BULLMOUTH sailed with CALEDON. Despatch necessary. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C. East Indies 2013/29)

Italian sailings suspended.

It is learnt from Mombasa that future sailings of all Italian ships have been suspended (S.O.I. Colombo to D.N.I. 0133Z/29)

America and West Indies.

Navigation lights.

1072/15
Adty./In view of message B.A. and desirability of reducing risk for Bermuda convoys propose that all westbound British Merchant Ships show dim navigational light when west of 025° West and North of 032° North. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1151/29).

KÖNIGSBERG

6466 G.T. sailed from Para, Brazil 28 May. Description circulated. (O.I.C. 30 May)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

754

Ships AttackedMARIE JOSE

French. Reported sunk 20' S of Finisterre at 0530/29 (Consul Vigo 1056/29)

TELENA

Tanker
British ~~Trawler~~ Torpedoed* at 0600 in 42.25' N.09.08'W On fire and being towed to shallow water by Spanish Trawlers (O.I.C. 30 May) (Consul Vigo 1056/29, 53 of crew reported landed alive 3 died) Consul Vigo 11 15/29) Fishermen saw German submarine (N.A. Madrid 2132/29) Now at Ria Aldan fire practically extinguished by Spanish Navy, had list to port. 22 Survivors landed including 4 British unhurt, 3 British and 15 Chinese wounded, 3 British dead. (N.A. Madrid 1649/30) *(see next page)*

* Not torpedoed
but,

Passenger Transport

Mined and sunk off Dunkirk, see Evacuation of B.E.F.

URUGUAY (?)

Argentine, Reported to have been sunk 2000/29 43.40'N 12.10'W (290° C Finisterre 140 miles) by explosive charge placed on board by U-Boat (I.C. 0466/40) sunk evening 27/5 probably by same submarine as TELENA survivors at Corunna (N.A. Madrid 1649/30) 43.40'N 12.16'W 2000/27. 13 of crew saved, 12 missing (Whyatt. Corunna 2200/29)

27
intended

Submarines Reported0717

Enemy Unit probably U-Boat between Orkneys and Norway. Position indefinite. (Admty. to C.in C., H.F. 1010/29)

1321

One submarine 225° one mile from 51.19'N 02.07'E (? To Dover W/T my 1321, read 01. 53'E (PANGBOURNE to Dover 1415/29) 1321/29)

1315

Periscope sighted 51.21'N 02.16'E (BLYSKAW-ica to V.A. Dover VEGA, SHELDRAKE hunt (C. in C., Nore 1605/29)

1649

Suspected U-Boat reported 53.59'N 0.16'E (C. in C., Nore to FURY 1649/29)

1730

District Inspector R.U.C. reliably informed that three or four U-Boats lie repairing in Ringabelva Bay a little below Queenstown Harbour. Graded A 2 (N.C.I.C. Belfast to Admty. 1730/29)

1530

Enemy submarine which dived reported at 49.24'N. 03.36'W (C. in C. W.A. to ships area B. 1951/29) (I.C. 0466/40 gives position 49.24'N 7. 24'W)

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

29. 5. 40
Wednesday.

TELENA

Chief Officer reports attack by S/m
5 miles W.S.W. Salvora I. (Arosa Bay). Two
shells hit, ship on fire and abandoned.
Panic among Chinese crew. 2 officers
missing, 1 killed, 5 crew killed and 9
missing (N.I.D.) 2799/40. Position of vessel
in Spanish law. (M. 01208/40).

Ships attacked

TELENA.

Torpedoed at 0600 51°22' N. 20°16' E.
U-boat incidents report No. 267.

S/ms reported.

By BLYSKAWICA sighting {U-boat incidents
periscope 1315/29 51°21' N. {No. 267
2°16' E.

S/m. attacked.

By VEGA 51°22' N, 2°40' E. U-boat incidents
0707, 29. 267.

m.v. TELENA (Tanker) TELENA

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 7406; 4".7 gun and 18-pounder.

DATE AND TIME: May 29th. 6.15 B.S.T.

POSITION: 5 miles W.S.W. from Salvora off Vigo Bay.

SPEED: 10 knots.

ROUTE: Oran via Gibraltar to Penillac near Bordeaux.

CARGO: Heavy Crude oil.

IN CONVOY: no

ESCORT: none

No. & RATE OF CREW: 55. 18 missing of which at least 9 were burnt aboard, 1 killed by a shell, and 4 wounded.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Moderate.

REMARKS:- Saw ship which appeared on fire on port bow. It appeared suspicious and gun was cleared for action. Suddenly a shell passed over ship and a S/M was seen about a mile away on port quarter. Immediately after, the 2nd shell hit No. 1 port wing tank and set the gas alight on top of it. At least 20 shells "hit" in rapid succession and fire spread swiftly and the Chinese crew panicked. Nearly all the lifeboats were rendered useless by the shell fire, only one remained that would float. This was lowered by the Chinese and pushed off from the ship leaving all the European officers on board. The ship's crew consisted entirely of officers, but due to some bungling in hoisting the ensign not a single shot was fired although the S/M was only a mile off and clearly visible. The "abandon ship" was given by the Captain before there was time even to man the gun, and many were thrown overboard including the Captain. The few remaining Chinese, thinking their "number was up" put on their "best clothes" before jumping.

Some oil was burning on the surface of sea, and some were caught in these flames and perished.

A Spanish Trawler picked up the survivors and these were taken to a small Spanish Port and thence went to Vigo. The fire in ship was extinguished by entry of sea water, and she was subsequently towed to Vigo by the Spanish authorities with about 7,000 tons of oil still on her, ownership of which is under discussion. Many Germans (at least 3,000) were seen in Vigo and many Spanish people were distinctly German, and rather anti-British.

DATE: 2nd August 1940.



MOST SECRET

756

War Diary

29.5.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

PACIFICO

(Blockship) 29.5.40. Torpedoed at anchor off N.W. Shingles Beacon. To be towed back to harbour. (WOLSEY, 1938/29, C. in C., Nore. 2251/29)

TELENA

British tanker, 7406 tons, Chinese crew from Singapore, who panicked when attacked by submarine, 0600 B.S.T., 5 miles W.S.W. from Salvora Island. Set on fire and abandoned. Survivors picked up by Spanish trawlers and taken to 2 small ports outside Vigo, Mari and El Grove.

Complaints made about the action of the Spanish Authorities after the ship had been towed into Vigo. Germans were allowed to go on board the ship at once, but the British survivors were not allowed to do so for three weeks. Finally the authorities sent on board Spanish workmen one of whom carelessly brought an acetylene blow lamp near one of the tanks and set the ship on fire again after an explosion in which four men were killed and five injured one of whom died of his injuries. (Interview with Chief Officer tanker TELENA, Trade Div., Casualties)

Submarines Attacked

1925

By KINGSTON ANDALUSITE (no position given) Considered probable that a submarine was destroyed. (Capt. A/P, Dover) No known wrecks in vicinity. (M. 011107/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

757

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1620

Following received from H.M. Trawler
CONTROLLER suspect enemy submarines in
War Channel running past N.E. by N. half
H in position 53 degrees 59' North. 0
degrees 16' East. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1635/29)

re
t
s-

Submarines Attacked

0707

Attacking submarine position 51.22'N. 02.
40'E (VEGA)

at

1530

Aircraft presumably bombed U-Boat sighted
at 49.24'N 7.24'W. (O.I.C. 30th May)

1500

French Patrol vessel CAP SAGUET attacked
U-Boat on surface 197° Finisterre 48' No
result. 42.6'N 9.34'W (C.in C., W.A. 1149/
30)

rts
yei

Following received begins:- Contact at
least one submarine and two T.B's at
commencement of patrol at 0030 until
was attacked by torpedoes and machine gun
fire in action until about 0200 enemy
was driven off by depth charges and gun-
fire hampered by darkness and low
visibility until to ascertain result of
engagement action suddenly stopped unit
zig zagged westward awaiting daylight.
0305 ends. (C. In C., Nore. 0607/29)

g
aft

of

2

3

SITUATION REPORT

758

Northern France

The B.E.F. has had hard fighting and considerable casualties; all divisions are much reduced in strength and most units are extremely tired. The enemy are in contact along most of the front and are in possession of Nieuport, while still holding Bridgeheads at Abbeville and St. Valery.

Evacuation of B.E.F.

A ground mist favoured embarkation today. Food and water were landed and about 25 Destroyers entered Dunkirk in rotation, effecting a much higher clearance than that on the beaches where there was a shortage of small craft and naval personnel. Up to 0700 on 31st May a total of 145,544 men had been landed in England, of whom 9,230 were British casualties and 11,666 Allies mostly French. The naval losses to-day were French Destroyer torpedoed by M.T.B.'s, one Destroyer and two small Torpedo boats on fire, four small Transports and two Patrol Boats sunk, and one Destroyer one Gunboat, and one Transport damaged. A total of 222 naval vessels have so far been employed in this operation, including 41 Destroyers, together with 665 other craft and boats.

R.A. Wake-Walker in EXPRESS is in charge of embarkation arrangements.

During the operations today three British ships LORINA 1578 tons, SPINEL 650 tons, & WORTHTOWN 868 tons, were sunk off Dunkirk and the British PRINCESS MAUD 2883 tons was damaged off Gravelines but is safe.

The crews of 2 tugs refused to tow barges from Dover to Dunkirk, and were to be replaced.

French troops are beginning to arrive for evacuation. This is to be from Dunkirk.

The approaches to the mole at Dunkirk were subjected to heavy and continuous shell fire in the evening 30/5

Norway

The enemy have been cleared from Narvik and the Arkenes Peninsula but are still holding Beisfjord; and Allied troops are advancing on Stronsaas on the Narvik / Lulea railway.

Bodo has been heavily bombed by the enemy, but his land forces are still about 30 miles E of the town and on the S side of the Fjord. The Aerodrome is reported wrecked beyond repair.



30.5.1940.
Thursday.

759

SITUATION REPORT

AIR

Normal British coastal patrols were flown during the day, and a great number to support the evacuation and prevent the approach of M.T.B's.

German air force operating on 30/5 showed a ~~clearance~~ on previous days, probably due to deterioration in the weather. Aerodromes in Belgium and N.E. France were used to an increasing extent during past week.

There was considerable enemy air activity off the coast from Harwich to the West of the Isle of Wight, probably minelaying; and shipping was bombed in the Downs and off Orfordness.

Our own patrols operated in the Dunkirk-Furnes area between 0525 and 2130.

Mining

The Boom defence vessel CAMBRIAN was mined and sunk at 1736/30 at Spithead. Portsmouth was closed and danger areas declared off the Nab Tower and the Needles.

Italy

Negotiations between the Allies and Italy on contraband control economic questions have been broken off. The general situation is unchanged.

Patrols have been established off the coast of Spain and Portugal to intercept Italian merchantmen in the event of war with Italy.

HOME COMMANDS

760

Precautions

Harwich

Request decision whether Train Ferries may be used to block Harwich Harbour. (C. in C., More to Adnty. 1040/30)

Your 1605/26 trained demolition party cannot be provided from Chatham Depot. Services of R.M.F.O., Yarmouth should be used for training party locally. (C. in C., More 1038/30, to F.O.I.C., Harwich)

Invasion

Chiefs of Staff consider that attack on this country is imminent. All defences to be manned during hours of darkness. Work on defences will be accelerated to the utmost possible on vulnerable coasts. Considered that enemy may employ large fleet of fast motor boats up to 200 carrying 100 men each for raid on large scale. These boats could make passage of North Sea during dark hours and considerable force could be landed at many points on coast simultaneously with air borne raids inland. Commanders will make such changes in their dispositions as necessary to meet threat, Air coastal patrol at dawn and dusk has been instituted as from tonight. (HOFOR London 2140/30)

Requirements at Lerwick. (A.C.O.S 2029/30)

Dingle Bay

Your 2207/29, examination of merchant vessels making for Dingle Bay. Concur generally but do not consider boarding by s/m desirable. Request ship detailed be sailed for Plymouth as early as practicable H. 43 and MANOR leave patrol today. (A.C.W.A. 1633/30, 5 VAS)

Great Britain at War!

Preparations for attaining Second object in para 7 of Adnty. 0120/24 are at a standstill at Hull. Port Emergency Committee deny responsibility for all except L.M.E.R. property. Lord Mayor has no power but is anxious to help. Regional Commissioner unable to help by delegation of Authority. No responsible Military Officer in Hull. Recommend immediate appointment of Lord Mayor as fully competent authority for all matters in Hull and District. (F.O. Humber 2020/30)

Anti M.T.B. Force

An anti motor torpedo boat force is being formed and will work from Harwich. Following recommendations for ships against enemy war motor boats. (C. in C., More, 1337/30)

HOME COMMANDS

761

Precautions- Contd.

Harwich

Requested Harwich, Felixtowe and Shotley be scheduled as prohibited areas as in last war. Most necessary to enable action being taken against undesirable persons not confined to Aliens. (F.O., Harwich, 1750/30)

Scottish Coasts

Patrols already established off Tynninghame Sands, Dundee, Montrose, Aberdeen, Peterhead. When trawlers arrive from Stornoway intend one to patrol off most vital beach in Moray Firth. This is all I can maintain. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2235/30)

Wick Harbour

Admt. 1904/25 Defence of Wick Harbour, trawlers available for blocking, military guns, etc., Do not consider mines in approaches to Wick Harbour are necessary. (A.C.O.S., 1703/30)

Harwich

Your 1605/26 and 1040/30. Train ferries are not to be used. Plan for blocking entrance to harbour is not to be put into force at present.

Situation will be reviewed again later. Arrangements to be made for blocking River Orwell with suitable vessel at short notice. (D.D. of L.D., 1950/30 to F.O., Harwich)

Peterhead

Your 1801/29. Consideration should be given to patrol by M/S trawlers from Peterhead at night (D.M.S., 1735/30)

Defence of Ireland

Re assembly and organisation of Belgian fishing boats at Dover. (D.S.V.P. 2044/30 0308/31)

Movements.

Orkneys

Estimated positions, ships in Orkneys and Shetlands. 1800/30. (F.O.C.O.S. 1722/30)

NELSON

Ready for sea 2/6 and to sail for Clyde (D.O.D. (H) 1642/30)

YORK

Your 2013/30 confirmed (A.C.H.S.(H) to C.in C., H.F., 1238/30)

Submarines

Positions 0600/30 (D.C., 2138/29, 0601/30)
Positions 0600/31 (D.C., 2018/30)

War Diary.



30.5.40.
Thursday.

POLICY.

762

Destroyer
Shortage.

In view of serious shortage of destroyers it is suggested that an immediate order be issued to all dockyards and firms engaged in repairs to destroyers that this work is to be given first priority and all other work subordinated to this end.
(C. in C. Nore 1535/30).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

763

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk

Ships to Guard
Flank

Danger of enemy mechanised forces working along beach and cutting off B.E.F. Be prepared to engage enemy forces so encountered by day or night. (N.O.I.C. Dover 0015/30)

H.M.S. ICARUS H.M.S. IMPULSIVE. H.M.S. IVANHOE. H.M.S. HARVESTER. H.M.S. HAVANT. H.M.S. JAVELIN. Proceed to Sheerness at 0500/30 (N.O.I.C. Dover 0150/30)

Belgian Vessels to
be used

Belgian embassy authorises use of all suitable Belgian vessels for evacuation purposes. (D.T.D. 0232/30 to C. in C., Nore)

More Ships Needed

→ More ships and boats urgently required at West Beach (VANQUISHER 0415/30 to P.O.I.C. Dover and ESK)

State of Dunkirk
approaches

Your 0030 Entrance to Dunkirk harbour practicable obstructions exist towards outer side of eastern arm. (VANQUISHER 0551 (30 to RESOLUTION)

Whilst harbour remains practicable situation at west beach would be greatly relieved if continuous stream of destroyers was available to enter Dunkirk to embark troops. → (VANQUISHER 0632/30 to N.O.I.C. Dover)

Ships & Boats
Needed

Essential to have more ships and boats as there are still many hundred of soldiers on the beach. (VIVACIOUS, 0640/30)

Entrance to Dunkirk

Channel is not blocked but large gap exists in eastern arm so that destroyers must come alongside to landward of gap. Ready for first destroyer immediately. (S.N.O. Dunkirk, 0645/30 to Capt. D.1)

More Destroyers
Needed

Destroyers can be received in Dunkirk at a higher rate. (SCIMITAR, 0605/30)

No French Craft

No French small craft off beach. (R.A. I/C Dunkirk to V.A. Dover, 0705/30)

Following received from D'TENNADT (? Capt. Tennant) M.T.B.'s will be best to evacuate naval personnel except for S.N.O. and Brigadiers will probably remain to control final stage. My communications increasingly difficult. (ends) (VIMY 0740/30)



30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. Cont:

764

Missed Opportunity

Great opportunity missed during the night only three drifters arrived. Some craft now loaded unsuitable in daylight. No water or food yet provided on Dunkirk beach for large number of troops. Sporadic bombing. Fighters most necessary. (S.N.O. (A) Dunkirk to N.O.I.C., Dover 0755/30)

State of Dunkirk

East Pier at Dunkirk practicable. 41 wrecks visible. East side East Pier also practicable at high water. (VIMY 0735/30)

Hospital Carriers Needed

Pass to W.O. from Military Dunkirk Absolutely imperative that minimum five Hospital carriers report Dunkirk otherwise several hundred wounded cannot be accommodated or treated. Cases have occurred of carriers arriving off the port and failing to enter. Can this be remedied. Essential to know time of arrival at least two hours in advance. (VIMY 0745/30 to N.O.I.C. Dover)

Evacuation Going Well

Following from S.N.O. Dunkirk. Things rosy here now. Food and water landed, army men being got away. (Capt. (D) 16, 0834/30 to N.O.I.C. Dover)

Enemy Shelling

Shelled from shore batteries position 51. 10' N 2.35'E off Nieuport Buoy (SHIKARI 0841/30)

Situation

Opinion has been expressed to me that Germans could now take Dunkirk any time they please but they prefer not to in order to continue their attacks on our army and fleet. I cannot of course estimate the accuracy of this view. (C. in C. Nore. 1158/30)

WOLSEY

Try going alongside inside or outside East Arm, Dunkirk Pier, to embark troops. Report how things go. (F.O. Dover to WOLSEY, 0817/30)

Need of Warship Alongside

Have no M.T.B. and can only communicate to U.K. by French wireless station or when your destroyers are in sight if conditions remain as at present. A destroyer alongside continuously for embarkation would be a magnificent help. The moment bombing starts all must shove off. (S.N.O. Dunkirk to F.O. Dover, 0943/30)



30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

765

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Food Scarce

CODRINGTON left Dunkirk 0930 with 830 on board. Food scarce amongst military remaining ashore. Request 40 cases corned beef and 40 cases biscuits may be ready for embarkation on my arrival at Dover. (Capt. D.I. 0956/30)

Route

Destroyers are to use Route 2 in low visibility. (F.O.I.C. Dover, 1047/30)

Need for Boats

Please inform Admiral Dahan that the urgent requirement for evacuation from the beaches is boats for ferrying the men from the beach to the ships. (1st S.L. 1035/30)

EXPRESS

Proceed to Dunkirk. If berth is occupied receive troops from beach 1 mile E of Dunkirk, taking opportunity to enter Dunkirk, (H.O.I.C. Dover to EXPRESS 1130/30)

All Ships move to Dunkirk

Following received from R.A. Dover. All ships La Panne and beaches proceed at once to Dunkirk. (F.O.I.C. Dover, 1242/30 to all ships More and Dover)

Cancelled

Do not act on my 1242 (V.A. Dover, 1548/30)

Position on Beaches

Personal from 1st Sea Lord. Have you personally investigated condition on all beaches as Lord Gort has just telephoned me that there are no craft or boats of any kind off the Eastern beach where he is. Report immediately any deficiencies for rapid evacuation from Dunkirk and beaches. (1st S.L. to R.A. Dover Straits 1423/30)

Boats Available

My 0940/29 and Admty. 1110/29 Officers of S.V.P. now in areas mentioned have been ordered to cooperate with your organisation. They are to supply records from S.V.P. of boats available and to send boats as ordered in Admty. 1115/29 and not as in my 0940/29 (D.S.V.P. to C. in C.'s, Portsmouth, More, and V.A. Dover 1130/30)

Officers in Command

Authority for Operation Dynamo under V.A. Dover is as follows. R.A. Wake-Walker appointed R.A. Dover for command of sea-going ships and vessels off Belgian Coast flag hoisted in HEBE. Capt. Tennant appointed S.N.O. Dunkirk and is responsible under R.A. Dover for all shore organisations. (V.A. Dover 1308/30)

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

766

Braye Sector

In Braye sector of beach British Troops are in centre. Ship(s) detailed for Braye should act accordingly (N.O.I.C. Dover 1455/30)

La Panne

Ships urgently wanted abreast of La Panne (V.A. Dover 1749/30)

Re Opening Fire

In view of large number of vessels and boats operating tonight, fire must not be opened unless hostile character of vessels has definitely been established. (V.A. Dover 1830/30 to all ships taking part in evacuation)

LEDA

Expect arrive Margate Pier 1600 with about 500 troops on board. (LEDA to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 1319/30)

KEITH
WINCHELSEA

Proceed, KEITH to Braye, WINCHELSEA to Dunkirk by route X and continue evacuation. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1438/30)

SCIMITAR

Expect to arrive 1600 with 450 troops. Following received N.O.I.C. Dover from S.N.O. Dunkirk. Request I may be informed when M.T.B. left. This is urgently required for control of small boat traffic. T.O.C. 1403 SCIMITAR 1500/30

Shelling & Bombing

Being shelled off Calais (SCIMITAR, 1534/30) Enemy bombing off Calais SCIMITAR 1535/30)

Daylight Passage

As far as possible ensure that troops and small craft who may not have been instructed do daylight passage on route X only. (N.O.I.C. Dover to S.N.O., Dunkirk, M.A. Dover, 1602/30)

Shelling

Enemy shelling Dunkirk East Pier. (VILY 1720/30)

SABRE on Fire

Am being fired on by shore batteries off Calais. (SABRE 1755/30)
Am on Fire Dunkirk (SABRE) 1756/30)

Route X

All ships are to use route X (V.A. Dover, 1316/30)

Motor Launches

War office have placed 7 30-knot motor launches at your disposal and are sending them to Ramsgate today. Naval crews are being sent to man them (list of names) (D.O.D. (H) to V.A. Dover, 1336/30, 1822/30)



30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

767

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Tugs Refuse Duty

Crews of Tugs SUN VII and SUN X refuse to tow barges to Dunkirk. Please arrange for 2 new crews to be sent to Dover, crew consists of 11 men (V.A. Dover, 1511/30)

Policy

From interviews ^{with} which British Officers have had with Admiral Abrial it appears he is not aware of Allied policy, particularly regarding the evacuation of British and French Armies now in vicinity of Dunkirk. Please inform Admiral Darlan that we feel it would help matters if this were done. (1st S.L. to B.N.LO. Marceau, 1511/30)

Aliens

request

Your 2200/29 Admiralty appreciate request, but ~~reject~~ impossible to insure in present circumstances that foreigners are excluded from vessels evacuating personnel from France. Arrangements at landing ports described. (D. of L.D. to HOFAR, London, 1614/30)

Progress

Understand Admiral Wake-Walker is going ashore now. Navy have had W/T set ashore for past 2 days. This is in communication with V.A. Dover and messages can be re-transmitted to Wake-Walker. In addition, 60 naval signalmen are on beaches for visual from shore to ship. Total evacuations to date. (train departures from all ports):-

May 27	From 0600	3373	
"	28	13948	
"	29	38282	
"	30 to noon	16093	Total 71696

Navy are still making maximum effort, having allotted seven new destroyers today and providing 6 fresh destroyer crews to replace those exhausted. (Maj. Gen Lloyd to War Office, 1623/30)

F.O.'s Movements

Embarked in WORCESTER, WINDSOR proceeded to Dover. (F.O., Dover Straits, 1709/30)

Protective Patrols

On being sailed by C. in C., Nore, proceeded by route X to assist evacuation and spread to following points: A, east arm of Dunkirk Pier; B, beach 1 mile east of A; C, 2 ships at Bray; D, at La Panne; E, 1/2 mile east of D. If A is occupied, join B. (N.O.I.C., Dover, to ICARUS, IVANHOE, IMPULSIVE, INTREPID, HAVANT, HARVESTER, 1603/30)

HOME COMMANDS

768

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Protective
Patrols. Contd.

WIDGEBON, SHELDRAKE to R.V. with VEGA and BLYSKAWICA at R Buoy, 51.20'N., 01.47'E at 2100 tonight. Patrol tug from there to (?) West Hinder Buoy. Trawler 512 westward of R. Buoy and eastwards of West Hinder. Own motor torpedo boats between Ostend and Kwinte Bank Buoy (C. in C., Nore, 1749/30)

Situation

Despite intense bombardment and air attack, 4,000 troops have been embarked during last hour. Every possible effort will be made as I consider Dunkirk will be untenable by tomorrow Friday morning. Embarkation from beach will be continued until last moment but I depend upon large ships and destroyers at pier tonight. S.N.O. Dunkirk, 2025/30)

East Beach

Admty. 1423/30 to R.A. Dover straits. R.A. Dover Straits not on board JACKAL G.H.Q, Army Eastern Beach being shelled and evacuation there impracticable. Evacuation from Dunkirk proceeding. Harbour being shelled at intervals. Am returning to Dover with 1400 troops. Am ordering some small craft to Eastern Beach. Capt. (D) 19, 2130/30)

Boats Officers

All shore officers excepting Lt. Com. Ewing allocating to operation Dynamo in Admty. 0423/23 and subsequent amending signal have been ordered to proceed to Tilbury for allocation between 20 motor lifeboats and 100 pulling Lifeboats. (C. in C., Nore, 1559/30)

Navigation

Ships meeting in bad visibility should not hesitate to use sound signals and dimmed navigational lights to avoid collision, any additional risk of contact with enemy being accepted. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1954/30)

Boats

25 Merchant Ship Motor Lifeboats and 46 rowing ditto in tow of six tugs leaving Tilbury from now till complete manned by Volunteers and Naval Ratings. On arrival Southend they will be routed immediately to Ramsgate where first tow should arrive about 0600 Friday. Two days fresh food and two days iron ration per man spare fuel and drinking water. (F.O.I.C. London. 1900/30)

Dutch Govt. have placed following motor boats now at Portsmouth at disposal of Admiralty. M. 73, M 74, and T.V. speed boat. Should be sent to Ramsgate forthwith. (D.C.D. (H) 1335/30)

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

769

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Small longshore motor fishing boats now being requisitioned through Ministry of Fisheries from Brixham to the Wash, to proceed Dover or Ramsgate which ever nearer. (D.S.V.P. 1659/30)

Small craft due Ramsgate, details. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1851/30)

Yachts

H.M. yachts CHRISTOBEL II, CALETA, AMULREE and GLALA sailed for Ramsgate, (Odre. I/C Sheerness, 2030/30)

Naval Bombardment needed

Following received from 2nd Corps. Request Navy shell Lombast Zyte village north of Nieuport, and observation position in Nieuport high lighthouse. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1925/30)

Coast of France

Cherbourg

Position at 1730 (from D.S.T.O) No air raids, wharves and quays intact, port open, rail facilities intact, about 5,000 British troops embarking for U.K. (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 1820/30)

Cables

Operations- ~~Quixote~~, ~~Quentin~~

Operations Quixote and Quentin completed. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0910/30)

HOLE COMMANDS

Operations. Narvik

DEVONSHIRE

Admty. 1550/27 DEVONSHIRE to remain in Northern waters for a special mission. May I assume this special mission is separate and act accordingly? (F.O. Narvik, 1150/30)

CURLIEW

Asking if R.D.F. equipment was destroyed beyond possibility of compromise. (D.S.D. to F.O. Narvik 1538/30)

VANOC

To proceed to Harstad. (R.A. Narvik 1600/30)

SOUTHAMPTON

Details of damage in bombing attacks 25/5 to 28/5 (S.O. 18C.S. 1730/30)

Oil Supplies

Estimate 12,000 tons needed shortly. Request another oiler to meet possibility of further tanker casualties. (F.O. Narvik 2314/30)

VINDICTIVE

Having discharged troops, to return to Harstad as early as possible, not later than 2200/4/6. (F.O. Narvik 2140/30)

ATLANTIS

Hospital ship. Route to Harstad (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 2602/30)

HOME COMMANDS.Air.

771

Enemy Air Activity.

Dunkirk

Enemy bombing (VIVACIOUS, 0514/30)
(VANQUISHER 0527/30) Fighter A/C have been
despatched (C. in C. Nore 0605/30).
Air attack (VANQUISHER 1542/30).

→ HEBE

Air attack (R.A. Dover in HEBE, 1205/30)
1 a/c bombing La Panne, (HEBE 1218/30)

BLYSKAWICA

Bombed 51° 19' N 2° 5' E. (BLYSKAWICA
2015/30, 2021/30)

Cahis

Enemy bombing off Calais (SCIMITAR 1535/30)

Braye

Help Braye (CODRINGTON 1815/30).

CODRINGTON

Attacked position 270 Dunkirk 8
(CODRINGTON 2125/30)

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Attacked, position 088 South Foreland
28 (BLACKBURN ROVERS 2200 (30)

WESTON

Bombed 52° 10' N, 1° 54' E (WESTON 2010/30)

→ La Panne

Bombed (HEBE 1218/30)

1 a/c bombing (F.O. Dover Straits 1747/30)

3 a/c attacking La Panne (F.O. Dover Straits
1806/30)

5 a/c attacking La Panne (~~WORCESTER~~
1904/30)

ANTHONY

Bombed VXDN 1512 (ANTHONY 2205/30)

BELLWYN

Intercept 1905 G.M.T., bombed 51:47 N.
02:47 E. (N. Foreland Radio no T00/30)
Later reported to be safe and proceeding.

SABRE

Destroyer SABRE set on fire by air attack
Dunkirk. (SABRE 1756/30)

North going
(Arena) Convoy

was attacked in Thames Estuary about 2000/30

S.S. FULHAM FOUR

My 2023 (FULHAM FOUR hit and sinking) Trawler
RIVER CLYDE standing by, ship appears to have
stopped sinking. Am proceeding with convoy
(WESTON 2035/30) 1584 tons,).

LORINA
SPINEL
WORTHTOWN

British 1578 tons)
British 650 tons) sunk off Dunkirk
British 868 tons) see casualties.

Reconnaissance.

Enemy a/c over Yarmouth 1010 and coast north-
ward to Hull, etc., considered photographic
reconnaissance. Fighters despatched to
intercept (C. in C. Nore 1202/30)

HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

772

- F.D. 15 Position of laying 27/5 by RUBIS (S.10
1206/30)
- a/c mining. Four objects were dropped 1 mile N. of La Panne,
and a/c sighted flying low to northward (West
Deep) (I.C.0467/40)
- 4 magnetic mines were exploded 30/5 near South
Goodwin L.V. (D.C.N.S. 271)

Enemy Intelligence.

- Motor Boats. Circling ship West Hinder Buoy (SANDOWN 0105/30)
- 1 M.T.B. 53° 18' N, 4° 51' E., course 045.
(A/C 206 Sqdn. 1226/30, 1232/30)
- 1 M.T.B. 52:57' N. 4.47' E., (A/C 206 Sqdn.
1355/30)
- 2 M.T.B's 60.13' N. 5.11' E. at 1500 (D.C.
1840/30). (Donibristle 1845/30).
- Norway. Analysis of W/T traffic during past two days
indicates movements of German small craft and
M.T.B's from Heligoland Bight and northwards
to the Norwegian coast (D.N.I., 2212/30)
- Destroyer. 1 destroyer bearing 030 distance 1 mile course
180 my position 61.56' N, 5.08' E. (A/C,
269 Sqdn., 1425/30) SEVERN and TRUANT informed
(Admty. 1601/30) Ref. A/C report at 1425. Pilot
now reports this ship as small and more likely
an escort vessel (C. in C., Rosyth 1758/30).
- M.V's. 3 sighted about 1,000 tons each at 1215 in
position 55.55' N., 7.45' E. Bombed by a/c,
no hits. (Donibristle 1620/30, R.A.(S)
1821/30 to S/M's on patrol).
- 1 M.T.B. 1325 1 M.T.B. at anchor and 2 small M.V's
4 M.V's. alongside Willemsoord Harbour. 2 small M.V's
entering the harbour. (I.C.0467/40).
- Auxiliary vessel. 1640 Small naval auxiliary vessel at Yjmuiden
(I.C.0467/40).
- HARVESTER. Attacked by M.T.B. by torpedo off Zuydcoote.
Missed. (HARVESTER 2316/30)
- 2 M.T.B's. 1500 in 60° 13' N 5° 11' E. (Bergen area)
(I.C.0467/40).
- 1 escort vessel. 1425 in Nord Fjord (61° 36' N 5° 8' E (do)
- 3 M.V's. 1215. About 1000 tons, 25 miles N.W. Blavaand
Pt. (55° 55' N 7° 45' E) Course 310° (do)



HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Escape from
Disabled
Destroyers.

Strongly recommend destroyers mess decks have at least one battleship size scuttle on each side. It is reported that many men were trapped on mess deck of AFRIDI. GRENADE had two such scuttles fitted privately and they saved many of the crew. (C. in C. Nore, 1801/30).

773

WEATHER.


	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Weather.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>
North Sea	Light variable	Extensive fog.	Poor generally.
Horns Reef	Light variable	Occasional rain. Local fog or mist.	Moderate to poor.
Channel	N.W to W. light	Fog or haze in E. Channel. Cloudy with occasional rain in West.	Moderate to poor.
Western Approaches.	S.W. light to moderate.	Occasional rain or drizzle.	Moderate.
Norwegian Coast.	Light and variable.	Fine to cloudy. Local fog in South.	Moderate to good.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Casualties during Operation Dynamo 30/5.

774

- Sunk by bombs. KING ORRY, GRACIE FIELDS, previously reported damage.
- Damaged by bombs. SABRE, ANTHONY, KELLETT (Slight).
- In collision. SHARPSHOOTER.
- Missing. ~~MEDWAY QUEEN.~~
(V.A. Dover 0856/31).
- ANTHONY. Aerial depth charged, proceeding reduced speed steering by engines.
(ANTHONY 2230/30).
- JAGUAR Particulars of attack and damage on 29/5.
(JAGUAR 0732/30).
- PRINCESS MAUD Returning to base, ship holed in engine room. 5 injured. (Recd. by N. Foreland Radio 1248 G.M.T.). O.K. for now (Recd. by N. Foreland Radio 1210 G.M.T.) Being shelled off Gravelines, sinking. (North Foreland 1200/30). Distress traffic ended. (N. Foreland Radio 1220/30).
- HARVEST GLEANER H.M. Drifter, on passage Granton to Harwich, in collision with unknown trawler off Tyne.
(F.O. Tyne 1051/30).
- BRAZEN Struck wreck, after boiler room flooded. Proceeding Humber for docking, 53°10' N., 1°18'W.
(BRAZEN 0345/30).
- SOUTHAMPTON. Damage sustained during bombing attacks 25/5 to 28/5. Temporary repair satisfactory in calm water but unlikely to stand up to heavy seas or very high speed.
(S.O. 18 C.S. to R.A. Narvik 1731/30).
- NORMANNIA Sunk while in tow 271° Dunkirk breakwater 4 miles, survivors in H.M.S. ROSS and MOSQUITO.
(MOSQUITO 0201/30).
- S.S. WORTHTON^w_^ Bombed, sunk, in Dunkirk about 2130/27.
(Interview with Master).


FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Patrols.

775

Details of patrols established. Object is in event of war with Italy to intercept Italian merchant ships endeavouring to reach neutral ports, particularly Vigo and Lisbon. If war with Italy breaks out, Italian ships are to be sent to Gibraltar or Casablanca. Following French ships are co-operating under Admiral, West, MEDOC, TEMERAIRE II, under Admiral, Africa, surveying vessel SENTINELLE in Cadiz area and HARDI ~~III~~ in St. Vincent to Lisbon area. (F.O.C. N.A. 1222/30 to CORFU, MALOJA, CANTON, MONTCLARE).

French Forces.

Positions 1300/30; Convoys and Patrols. (D.C. 0019/30).

Gibraltar Convoys.

In view of the withdrawal of French Escort vessels from the Gibraltar Convoys, the following policy is approved as a temporary measure:

(a) C. in C. Western Approaches and F.O.C. North Atlantic are requested to arrange for all outward and inward bound convoys to be met, and escorted through their respective submarine zones, so far as their available forces permit.

(b) Convoys will proceed unescorted during the remainder of their voyage(s).

(A.C.N.S.(F) 1823/30 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A.).

Cables Cut.

Madrid 1950/29. Reliability of information not known but cable and wireless manager here has no technical evidence to support suspicion that cables have been deliberately cut. It is unlikely that position of some breaks would have been selected for cutting owing to depth of water. Further report will be made on return British Cable ship GDFL (MIRROR) within next few days. In view of possible far-reaching consequences I consider action suggested would be most unwise. (F.O.C.N.A. 1656/30).

South Atlantic.Routeing of Convoys.

C. in C. E.I. 1028/Z/29. Concur with your paras. (I) and (II).
(C. in C. S.A. 1155/30).

Convoy CM.

To sail from Capetown p.m./15/6. Rendezvous. (C. in C. S.A. 1817/30).



30.5.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

776

Mediterranean.

Minesweepers
required.

Can more minesweepers be provided for this station. Am very short of such craft and Italian mining campaign likely to be intense. Suitable local craft are practically non-existent. (C. in C. Med. 1231/30).

Italy.

My 1301/29. Seaplane carrier, presumably MIRAGLIA, reported (A.V.) Genoa, May 26. All negotiations with French and ourselves on contra-band control and economic questions have been broken off. General situation unchanged. (N.A. Rome 1812/30).

6 ships to sail.

Up to 6 British or Norwegian ships now at Egyptian etc. ports waiting to leave for U.K. or South France ports direct may now sail. (D.TD. 2012/30 to C. in C. Med.)

Crete.

Re. destroyer which entered Candia Bay. (PARTHIAN 2339 Z/29, 0309/30).

America and West Indies.

Unknown Warship.

Ship believed to be man of war, nationality unknown, passed north side of Grand Cayman Is. 1700 proceeding East to West. (Grand Cayman Is. 1840/30). Passed to C. in C. A.W.I. and S.O.(I) Jamaica by Adty. 1145/31.

FEDE.

Italian. Galveston reports instructed by owners to remain at Port Arthur for present for political reasons. (N.S.Hq. Ottawa 1527/30).



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

777

Foreign Stations.

LUVSEE

Split reports she left Zelenika for Trieste
27/5. Another German ship arrived Zelenika
28/5.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 2011/30).

30.5.40.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.Ships Attacked.

- 778
- ANTHONY See S/ms. reported 1541 and 1728.
- ULSTER PRINCE Probably attacked by U-Boat in position 59°32' N. 6°23' W., but not hit. One heavy under-water explosion heard. Have attacked doubtful contact and am rejoining ULSTER PRINCE. (WITHERINGTON 0420/30). (A.3) (I.C.0466/40).
u.56
- ROCHESTER 23/5 Attacked in 49°11' N. 8°45' W. at 0800/23 by U-Boat firing torpedo which leaves no track. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1224/30.)
- CAMBRIAN Sunk. Boom defence vessel mined and sunk 117°8.5 cables from Horse Sand Fort. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1736/30).
- STANHALL British 4831 tons. Explosion, sinking. (STANHALL de G.K.U. Portishead 1725/30). STANHALL reports sinking at 1825 due to explosion, probably torpedo, position probably within 150 miles S.W. of Land's End. (C. in C. W.A. 1856/30).
- 2 French trawlers Sunk by U-Boat 28/5 and 29/5 respectively near 28/5, 29/5. Finisterre.
- Unknown ship, probably S.S. BRAZZA, 29/5. Sunk in the same place 2000/29. Probably French S.S. BRAZZA (10,387 tons). (Cabinet War Room 272) ? was BRAZZA torpedoed off Vigo 0735/28.

SUPPLEMENT

S/ms. Reported.

- 0751 D.F., unknown enemy unit 61°N., 2° W., unreliable fix, probably U-Boat. (D.D.I.C. 0833/30).
- 2210 52°17' N. 1°58' E. (R.A.(S) 2251/30, WESTON 2210/30). See also S/ms. attacked.
- 1541 Periscope sighted 51°18' N. 1°40' E. 110° 4 miles from North Goodwin. (BLYSKAWICA, 1541/30). ANTHONY reported 2 suspected torpedo tracks 1728. See next page
- 2230 Off South Wold. (S.O.(S) Harwich 0410/31).
- 1207 Unidentified crossing on No.12 loop at 1207. No ships available to search. (V.A. Dover 1305/30). Your 1556/29 (attack enemy S/m reported). Area within radius of 15 miles from reported position searched without result. (ABERDEEN 1000/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

30.5.40.
Thursday.



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

0305 Enemy S/m North Hinder light buoy. 779
(ARGYLLSHIRE 0305/30).

1710/27 43°50' N. 10°40' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0802/30).

1728 2 suspected torpedo tracks 51°19' N. 1°39' E.
Trawler informed.
(ANTHONY 1728/30).

0800 U-Boat seen to surface and dived 0830
37°48' N. 25°51' W. (off South Coast San
Miguel) B.3. (I.C. 0467/40).
(Lisbon 1845/30).

1000/28 2 vessels, suspected U-Boats, off North
Coast of San Miguel, Azores. B.3.
(I.C. 0467/40). (Lisbon 1845/30).

Estimated dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1234/30).

Sms. Attacked.

S/m. sighted on surface. Crash dived.
3 patterns dropped. Amend position
to 52°22' N. 2°1' E. Convoy proceeding.
Request instructions.
(WESTON 2300/30). **SUPPLEMENT**

WITHERINGTON 0425 59°19' N. 6°25' W.
attacked doubtful contact. A.3.
(I.C. 0466/40).



SITUATION REPORT

780

Threatened Invasion of U.K. . A combined Intelligence Committee has been formed to study all intelligence matters appertaining to invasion. There is nothing at present ~~to~~ indicate any large movements of troops or aircraft intended for the invasion of the U.K., and insufficient evidence to suggest when invasion will start, where forces will assemble or their objective. (J.I.C. 25).

Mining 4 magnetic mines were laid pm/31 by enemy aircraft 8 miles E. of South Foreland. Dunkirk Roads were also heavily mined by aircraft. Harwich was closed this evening. Portsmouth and Newhaven are still closed. 2 magnetic mines were exploded off Folkestone and 4 off South Foreland.

Defence of Ireland 4 A.M.Cs. have been allotted for patrol of the coasts of Ireland against possible enemy invasion. The French are withdrawing their 9 submarines from the North Sea, so it is impossible to spare submarines as was hoped. C. in C., W.A. is trying to assemble Belgian fishing craft for the purpose.

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk. At midnight 31/1st, 194,241 troops had been landed. This includes 10,000 wounded and 22,000 Allies. Since 0100 31/5 British and Allied troops have been given equal opportunities of evacuation.

During the forenoon embarkation on the beaches was retarded by surf. Dunkirk and ships approaching were heavily shelled, but embarkation continued from Dunkirk. There was also heavy bombing both on the port and ships nearby, with raids at 0512-0530, 1512, 1520, 1700 and 1730. 40 enemy aircraft were bombing at 1915/31.

Anti M.T.B. patrols were in force. Several of H.M. Ships reported attacks from enemy M.T.B.'s during the night 30/31.

There was intense air activity on both sides.

SITUATION REPORT

781

Casualties
(Evacuation of
B.E.F.)

KELLETT damaged by bombing.
S.S. MEDWAY QUEEN, paddle minesweeper, is missing.
MALCOLM, also SHARPSHOOTER were in collision. HARVESTER, WOLSEY, I/CARUS, SCIMITAR, LEDA, WHITEHALL, IMPULSIVE were slightly damaged either by going alongside or by hitting sunken wrecks.

Vessels
Employed

A total of 222 naval vessels have been employed in the evacuation, including 41 destroyers, of which 13 have been sunk or badly damaged. Other craft total 665 ships and boats. (V.C.N.S., 270).

Le Havre

Conditions unchanged. Minesweeping is proceeding.

Cherbourg

No air raids and all facilities are intact.

Texel

Air reconnaissance reports the whole length of the seaboard of Texel Island has camouflaged gun positions and wired defences.

Enemy Air
Activity

Norway Transport activity between Germany, Oslo and Trondheim showed signs of increase.

North Sea No activity of importance, but there is a strong indication that German naval aircraft have been moved from the Baltic to Norderney area in fairly large numbers.

E. and S. Coast No activity during daylight, but magnetic mines were laid after dark off South Foreland, etc.

French Coast Adverse weather reduced activity, but intensive bombing attacks were made at Dunkirk and also at Bray, La Panne and Nieuport, at times by as many as 40 aircraft. After dark magnetic mines were laid in Dunkirk Roads.

British Air
Activity

All normal patrols were flown. One standing patrol was extended eastward as far as the coast of Norway. An extra patrol was flown along the coast of Ireland.

C.C. aircraft reported that the 30 to 40 M.V.s lying in Bergen on 30/5 were no longer there.



War Diary

31.5.40.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

782

Convoy U.S.3

of 5 large ships with Australian troops, escorted by CUMBERLAND and SHROPSHIRE left Cape Town today. They are due at Freetown 7/6.

Sabotage

A mis-fired time bomb was found on board CITY OF SYDNEY when her hold was cleared at Mauritius 31/5. This must have been placed on board either at London or Antwerp.

Italy

The patrols for the interception of Italian shipping were cancelled today.

HOME COMMANDS

783

Policy

Redistribution
of A.M.Cs.

The Patrols ordered by my 1809/14 and 0053/15, to intercept Italian Shipping, are cancelled.

1. CORFU, MALOJA and MONTCLARE are now at immediate disposal of C. in C.

2. CANTON will also come under orders of C. in C. as from 5/6.

3. CARINTHIA, DERBYSHIRE and PATROCLUS are now at immediate disposal of V.A.N.P. DERBYSHIRE is to leave patrol forthwith and proceed to Clyde as directed by V.A.N.P. CARINTHIA and PATROCLUS are to leave Gibraltar on completion of fuelling and proceed as directed by V.A.N.P.

4. CHESHIRE is to remain on patrol off Vigo, or as ordered by C. in C. Western Approaches, until CANTON joins the Western Approaches Command. She is then to rejoin Northern Patrol.

5. Further instructions will be issued for the disposal of ASTURIAS.

(A.C.N.S.(P) 2301/31 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C., W.A., V.A.N.P).

Enemy Raiders

In view of the renewal of enemy raids activity H.M. Ships must take every precaution when intercepting merchant ships however innocent their outward appearance, and must always bear in mind the possibility of torpedo attack. (D.O.D.(P) 1955/31).

Precautions

Italian Ships
and Scuttling

Adty. 1224/27. Italian ships may attempt to block ports by scuttling themselves and should be regarded with particular suspicion. Suggested methods of dealing with this threat. Placing an armed guard on board might cause an incident and should not be done without Adty. authority except in emergency. (D. of L.D. 2246/31).

Falmouth

Requesting Falmouth and district may be declared a protected area (C. in C., W.A., 1928/31).

Zire

Whereabouts of the Zire naval units and their subsequent movements are to be reported. (D.N.I. to H.A. Dublin, 1832/31).



War Diary

784
31.5.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

- Shoreham Adty. 2142/24 and 2007/30. A battery is to be mounted at Shoreham instead of at Brighton. (D. of L.D. 1340/31).
- Crail re guard for Crail aerodrome (uncompleted) (D. of L.D. 2248/31)
- H.Q. Chatham Asking for R.M. personnel to defend Adty. House officers and Area Combined H.Q. May be assumed that enemy plans would include an early attack on area combined H.Q.'s (C. in C., More, 1236/31)
- Port of London Recommending lights at Chapman Point and Thames Sea Reach should now be extinguished. (C. in C., More, 1606/31).
- North Scotland Adty. 1539/26. Suggest this reconnaissance be extended to northward to Duncansby Head. Sinclair Bay, directly north of Wick, appears to be a possible landing place. (A.C.O.S., 1727/31).
- Scapa Barrage Adty. 1536/31. Agree that Scapa Barrage be augmented by balloon trawlers now at Rosyth. (Air Min., 2150/31).
- Dundee Field guns posted Montrose and examination service commenced as from dawn today. (N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1020/31).
- Dover 5th Column activity at Dover. Immediate steps should be taken. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1334/31).
- Invasion of Ireland Adty. 2010/29. Several rumours of an invasion of Ireland. Possible sailing of at least 1 German ship from Vigo and noteworthy indication that destination may be Ireland, also presence of 3 German submarines in area. No sign of an expeditionary force gathering. (N.A., Madrid, 1752/31).



War Diary

31.5.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

785

Movements

Cruisers
Destroyers

MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, BIRMINGHAM, FORTUNE, FURY, FORESIGHT are to be under the operational control of C. in C. Nore unless C. in C. Home Fleet proceeds to sea to co-operate in the South when they will be placed under his orders. (D.O.D.(H) 2226/31).

Submarines

Positions 0700/1 (D.C. 2101/31, 2040/31)
0600/1 (R.A.S. 1806/31).

Dutch Submarines. Communication arrangements. (D.S.D. 1720/31).

Operations

Evacuation of the B.E.F.

Troops
Remaining

It appears possible certain number of troops will be unable to get away from beaches. Suggest you issue order at suitable moment that any troops thus left make by night, lying up by day, for coast between Gravelines and Abbeville, where Navy will be on watch, i.e. due West. (D.M.O. & P., War Office, to Brassard, 31/5).

French Troops

Policy of H.M. Govt. is that both British and French troops be given equal facilities for being evacuated in British ships and boats. (1st S.L. 0104/31 to V.A. Dover).

Zuidcote
A

Your 0045, re urgent need for boats at La Panne and Bray. No boats Zuidcote yet. (RAR-VESTER to F.O., Dover Straits, 0128/31).

R.A. Dover

Where are you? Have you any troops on board? I am in EXPRESS off La Panne, (R.A., Dover, to KEITH, 0132/31).

Am leaving Dover now to join you at La Panne. (D.19 0249/31).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

786

Evacuation of the B.E.F. (Contd.)

Ships needed

Request more ships to load at Dunkirk.
(IVANHOE to EXPRESS, for R.A. Dover from
S.N.O., 0320/31).

Embarkation Dunkirk held up owing to lack of
vessels. (IVANHOE, 0345/31).

CALCUTTA

Provided A/S screen available request you
sail CALCUTTA to 51:13 N., 02:09 E. by 0500/1st
June to provide A/A escort for the last
flight of B.E.F. (V.A. Dover to C. in C.,
Nore 0431/31).

Towing Craft

V.A. Dover from R.A. Dover. No signs of
small towing craft. (Capt. D.2. 0448/31).

Army Thanks

Message of thanks to Navy from Lord Gort,
and Adty. reply (1st S.L. 0108/31).

LEDA

Expect arrive Margate Pier 0530, 350 troops.
Have sustained collision damage port side
just above water line. (LEDA, 0335/31).

Ships for
Dunkirk

Every available ship will be required at
Dunkirk during next 2 hours to evacuate rest of
army. (S.N.O., Dunkirk, 0445/31).

CODRINGTON to La Panne, WOLSEY to Brays, VIMY
to Dunkirk beaches (V.A. Dover, 0450/31).

Boat Convoys

Boat convoy for last flight of B.E.F. departs
Ramsgate 1300/31 for Dunkirk via route X.
Anticipated time of return to Dover and Sheerness
1000/1. Request all available N.T.Bs. escort
this convoy. (V.A. Dover, 0459/31).

From about 1500 3 or 4 successive tows of
motor boats about an hour apart arrive at
Outer Ruytingen fixed green light on route X.
Request a motor boat may meet them there
and lead them to beach. (V.A. Dover, 0556/31).

War Diary

31.5.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

787

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

More Ships
wanted

Nearly all ships loaded, more wanted. (F.O., Dover Straits, 0614/31).

M/S Trawlers

2 LL trawlers coming in now (F.O. Dover Straits 0550/31 to S.N.O. Dunkirk).

Ships and
fighters needed

Embarkation satisfactory despite bombardment and air attack, but stress need more ships and constant Fighter protection (N.O. Dunkirk to V.A. Dover, 0605/31).

Groups for
final evacuation

Ships grouped as follows for special embarkation today:- Group 1, GOSSAMER, LEDA, ROSS, ALBURY. Group 2, HALCYON, SKIPJACK, SPEEDWELL, DUNDALK. Group 3, NIGER, SALAMANDER, GRIFFIN, SUTTON, Spare, KELLETT, SALTASH, LYDD. Object evacuation of force of 5,000 troops.
Troops will be brought off in 3 flights by waiting motor boats, commencing 0130 or earlier. 7 ocean tugs will lie to seaward of minesweepers to take overflow but maximum load of ships is necessary to ensure complete evacuation.
Group 1 to return to Sheerness, Group 2 and 3 to Dover, Spare ships to Harwich. (V.A. Dover, 0400/31). Amended (see 1901/31).

French
Passengers

Am now receiving a number of Frenchmen. Have at present raised no objection to their embarking in British ships and am allowing them to do so. (S.N.O., Dunkirk, 0638/31).

Can you give any estimate of French troops embarked in French ships since 2200/30? (V.A. Dover to F.O., Dover Straits 0705/31).

Policy of H.M. Govt. is that both British and French troops be given equal opportunities for being evacuated in British ships and boats. (Dover, 0914/31).

La Panne Ferry

Ships carrying out Sheerness - La Panne Ferry are now to run to Dunkirk, Beaches and Margate instead. This service to be maintained as long as possible while conforming to my 0400/31 (V.A. Dover, 0833/31).

SUPPLEMENT

HOME COMMANDS

788

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

SCIMITAR)
HARVESTER)

Expect arrive 0915. Numbers on board, HARVESTER, 1200, SCIMITAR, 450. (HARVESTER, 0701/31).

Conditions ideal at present for embarkation but pulling cutters urgently required also more power boats. (Col. Hutchins in IMPULSIVE, 0945/31).

Pier Masters needed

Army staff officers now on board inform me that many troops expected to reach the beach between Bray and La Panne tonight (Friday) Pier masters needed badly, also every temporary pier possible. (HAVANT 1026/31).

Enemy Batteries

S.S. COTE D'ARGENT shelled by land batteries N.W. buoy de Nieuport 1107. (Scapa W/T, 1214/31).

Destroyers

My 0550. No destroyers available yet. (F.O. Dover Straits to S.N.O., Dunkirk, 0619/31).

WINCHELSEA

My 0611. Despatch is necessary. Proceed Dunkirk East Pier if vacant, otherwise to Dunkirk Beach. (V.A. Dover, to WINCHELSEA, 0655/31).

Ships for Dunkirk

If conditions require, please deflect a proportion of the most easily manoeuvrable shipping to Dunkirk to keep Dunkirk working at full capacity. (V.A. Dover, to R.A. Dover, 0855/31).

French Troops

Lord Gort has agreed that 5,000 French troops should be embarked here this evening after dark in British vessels. Request necessary ships may be sent to arrive at dusk. (S.N.O. Dunkirk to Dover, 0957/31).

Dunkirk Main Hope

After disembarking troops complete with fuel only if less than 60% remaining and proceed as soon as possible Dunkirk by route X. If pier is occupied, evacuate from beaches up to La Panne. (H.O.I.C. Dover, to Destroyers, 1003/31).

Dunkirk our only real hope. Can guns shelling pier from westwards be bombed and silenced? (R.A. Dover, 1105/31).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

789

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

Conditions
at Beaches

Majority of pulling boats are broached to and have no crews. Conditions on beach very bad owing to freshening on-shore wind. Only small numbers are being embarked even in daylight. Under present conditions any large scale embarkation from beach is quite impracticable. Motor boats cannot get close in. Consider only hope of embarking any number is at Dunkirk. Will attempt beaching ships to form a lee to try and improve conditions (R.A., Dover, 1035/31).

Lord Gort,
passage.

War Office require arrangements to embark Lord Gort and staff at La Panne, time not yet stated. Request you will make arrangements for 2 M.T.Bs. to be available and inform Wake-Walker of arrangements made. If beach at La Panne is not possible Wake Walker must make other arrangements and inform Lord Gort of change of plan. War Office agree. (V.C.N.S. to V.A. Dover, /31).

My 1020/31. Two M.T.Bs. to be off La Panne at 1800 today Friday to embark G.O.C. and staff. V.A. Dover to meet Lord Gort in order to receive his wishes for completion of operation. (A.C.N.S.(H) /31).

French Troops

British C. in C. has promised to provide a ship for 1500 French troops at 1315. Can you provide this, please. S.N.O., Dunkirk to V.A. Dover, 1147/31).

Carley Floats

War Office request maximum possible number of Carley floats and similar device be left lying on beaches together with paddles after other craft have withdrawn. (D.O.D.(H) 1152/31 to V.A. Dover).

Supporting Fire

Ships evacuating troops are to give supporting fire from 0400/1 as follows:- Any target(s) which may offer. No target(s) to be engaged west of La Panne, likely targets tanks and transport lorries moving along beach, all tanks hostile. Supporting fire is second in priority to embarking troops. (R.A. Dover, to skippers and authorities, Nore and Dover Command area, 1228/31).

31.5.40.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Evacuation (Cont.)

790

- M.T.B. PATROL. Patrol to be established during dark hours with 3 or 4 large M.T.Bs. from close inshore to 5 miles off the coast on a line approx. 348° from Nieuport Harbour entrance, to intercept enemy M.T.Bs. Evacuation is taking place from La Panne and beaches to westward. Boats to leave patrol line at daybreak and return to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 1313/31)
- Air Attack. By 801 Sqn. on enemy troops. (See Air).
- Shelling. Straddled by shore batteries No.7 W. Buoy. (Capt. D.20 1448/31). Batteries firing from vicinity of Mardyck, suggest this be bombarded. (HAVANT 1452/31).
Am being heavily shelled off Braye. (VIVACIOUS L520/31).
Vessels as far west as Zuydcoote are being shelled. (R.A. Dover 1550/31).
- Small Craft. No more small craft to be sailed for Ransgate until further orders. To be kept at immediate notice at the places where they now are. (C. in C. Nore 1825/31).
- French Troops Return. Arrangements for return of French troops from U.K. to France, from Southampton and Weymouth to Cherbourg. (D.O.D.(H) 1623/31).
- Beach Parties. Further beach parties are being sent in WORCESTER (V.A. Dover 1333/31).
- Dunkirk Harbour. There is no difficulty in destroyers going alongside in Dunkirk Harbour. Many troops are waiting there. Embarkation from beach is very slow by comparison. (HAVANT 1600/31).
- Beaches. Army wish to recommence evacuation at 2030. Instruct boats and ships to close beaches at this time. (N.O.I.C. Dover to F.O. Dover Straits 1640/31).
Ref. 1600. Shall I instruct troops remaining ashore Braye to proceed to Dunkirk. (VIVACIOUS to N.O.I.C. Dover 1652/31).
- VENOMOUS
My 1517. All my ammunition now expended. Have been unable to embark additional military in last 2 hours. Request permission to return to Dover to replenish ammunition. (VENOMOUS 1733/31).
- Priority for Dunkirk. When there is room in Dunkirk Harbour destroyers are to enter there in preference to beach. (N.O.I.C. 1910/31).

HOME COMMANDS.

Evacuation (Cont.)

791

- Evacuation of French. Intend evacuation of French from harbour should proceed from now without pause. (V.A. Dover 1916/31).
- Dunkirk Lights. As it is vital to carry on with the evacuation of troops throughout every available moment day and night it is intended to place 2 white lights on eastern and western pier heads as a guide. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 1937/31) Informing ships and authorities. (R.A. Dover 2235/31).
- Beach Groups. My 0400^{1/2}. Embarkation will take place from beach between long. 02° 29' E. and long. 02° 36' E. Ships are to be evenly spread along this beach in order of groups from east to west, 2, 1, 3. First flight beach at 0030. LYDD take place of SALTASH. (V.A. Dover 1901/31)
- Piers Rigged. La Panne and Bray report 2 piers rigged and plenty of troops ready to come of. (V.A. Dover 2111/31).
- R.A.F. Pilots. Fighter Command request that the fighter pilots who have force-landed about Dunkirk be given priority in embarkation for return. Urgently required. (Air Min. 2335/31).
- More Boats Needed. Further 30 motor boats and up to 40 pulling boats required at Ramsgate. No more yachts, drifters or trawlers are to be sailed to Ramsgate unless ordered. (C. in C. Nore, 2255/31).
- Dunkirk Difficulties. Slow British progress in the port due to shelling, bombing wounded, and French troops using quay. Weather fine and clear, sea moderate, good prospects for night embarkation from beaches. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 1945/31).
- Air and Sea Protection. In view of decision request maximum number of transports and air protection tomorrow and particularly air and sea protection the following days when enemy will have no other occupation. Unfortunately some hours are passing tonight without a single ship entering Dunkirk for French or ourselves. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 2353/31).
- MOSQUITO** Expect arrive Dover 0500. Have 500 troops including G.O.C. 1st Corps on board. (MOSQUITO 2330/31).
- G.O.C. in C. Transport. Report immediately why M.T.Bs. sent for C. in C. were diverted to other duties. Take immediate action to embark C. in C. and report steps taken. (V.C.N.S. to R.A. Dover Straits 2336/31). Your 2336. C. in C. is on his way in M.A.C. Your arrangements were not practical. (R.A. Dover 0045/1).

War Diary

31.5.40.

Friday.

792

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

ORIOLE
grounded

Submit, deliberately grounded H.M.S. ORIOLE Belgian coast dawn My 29 on own initiative, object speedy evacuation of troops. Refloated dusk same day, no apparent damage. Will complete S.232 when operations permit, meantime am again proceeding Belgian Coast and will again run aground if such course seems desirable (C.O. ORIOLE, 1247/31).

Your action fully approved (V.C.N.S. to ORIOLE 2100/31).

Shelling
La Panne

Heavy shelling at La Panne directed by observation balloon over Nieuport (SHIKARI, 1255/31)



HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

French Coast.

793

Cherbourg

Position, 0930/31, no change. 1,800 British troops awaiting embarkation. (B.N.L.O. Marcean, 1100/31).

Le Havre.

Condition p.m. 30/5 unchanged. Submit British sweepers and Lieut. Com. Welby may now be employed at Dieppe or elsewhere from Nuba, Le Havre, 2125/30. (B.N.L.O. Marcean, 0045/31).

Dieppe.

From S.T.O., Dieppe. Position unchanged. Anticipate reopening of port. Clearance of mines, submit sweepers be sent. Engineers on repairs to lock gate machinery. Divers examination of BRIGHTON essential prior to any operations. (P.S.T.O., F.P., H.Q., L.O.C., 1720/31).

Operation C.K., blocking of Dunkirk.

My 1244/31. MOYLE and EMERALD WINGS will be met off Folkestone by a destroyer who will escort ships to Dunkirk to carry out operation C.K., blocking of Dunkirk. Capt. ~~Douglas~~ Douglasfield will embark in destroyer before sailing and will be in charge of the operation. If local situation requires it, R.A., Dover Straits is to postpone the time of blocking. (A.C.H.S., (H), 1600/31). My 1600. Operation C.K., postponed. (Capt. ~~Douglas~~ Douglasfield, 1806/31).

Operation Alphabet.

DUCHESS OF YORK to sail from Liverpool for operation Alphabet as soon as she is ready probably about 2000/31. (D.C.H., 1433/31).

Harvik Area.

ATLANTIS,
hospital ship.

Admty 2147/28. Request she be sent Harstad (F.O. Harvik 0050/31).



HOME COMMANDS.

Narvik Area. (Contd.).

794

Gladiators.

For Chief of Staff from Lord Cork. I deplore decision concerning Gladiators given in Air Min. 1433/30. It is during brief period that all possible air assistance may be required. Numbers are very depleted and I hope this decision may be reconsidered. Air "in. message 189 was not AIDAC or in special cypher and I again draw attention and protest strongly against Air Ministry carelessness in sending messages on this subject by methods other than that arranged in my 0116/26 and 0924/26. Please see my 2330/39. If this continues it may have most grievous results. Understood other signals have been made on this subject direct to C.O., R.A.F., instead of through me. (F.O. Narvik 1014/31).

Oiler
ADELLEN

To sail for Narvik area as soon as possible. (C-in-C., H.F. 1113/31).

Russian
troops.

Information dated 27/5 (B.2). Russian merchant vessel now using Baltic-White Sea Canal. No German troops passed Leningrad either by rail or water. Russian troops still moving from Finnish frontier through Leningrad southward. (D.N.I. 1246/31).

Supply ships.

Movements of RUTLAND, CYPRIAN PRINCE, DROMORE CASTLE, GUNNOR MAERSK, (F.O., Narvik, 1614/31).

Submarines.

Cancel my 2114/29. New arrangements as French S/M's leave North Sea for France on 4/6. (V.A.S., 1824/31).

Air.

British Air Activity.

Assisting
Evacuation.

801 Sqn., to attack troop concentrations on coastal roads east of Hieuport. (Coastal Command Liaison Officer, 1338/31).



HOME COMMANDS.

Air (Contd).

Flagships.

Attacked by A/C in 53.30'N., 5.40'E., at 0455, ⁷⁹⁵
bomb exploded 60 yards off starboard bow.
(A.C.H.Q., Chatham, no T.O.O./31).

Reconnaissance.

10 JU/110 aircraft wrecked on beach, 52.06'N.,
4.16'E., and 15 aircraft in a heap 52.04'N.,
4.13'E., on aerodrome, mostly wrecked. Entrance
Ymuiden harbour partly blocked by M.V. 7,000
tons partly sunk. (Donibristle, 1403/31).

"X-Over" report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1318/31).

Ditto, Ymuiden Harbour, (Chatham A.C.H.Q.,
1623/31).

Enemy Air Activity.

Braye bombed.

Help (Braye 0500/31).

Work with M.T.B's.

Reported M.T.B's co-operate with low flying
aircraft at night circling target and distracting
attention while M.T.B's attack. (C-in-C., Nore.,
1754/31).

VENOMOUS

Bombed, Braye Harbour (VENOMOUS, 1516/31).

Mining.

Portsmouth
closed.

Portsmouth was closed to shipping owing to
enemy minelaying reported at 0203. (C-in-C.,
Portsmouth 0203/31). Newhaven has also been
closed. (C-in-C., Portsmouth 0152/31).

Magnetic
mining.
Dunkirk.

Parachute mines dropped about 2 cables S.E. of
6 E. buoy. (Capt. (D) 1, to N.O.I.C., Dover,
2250/31). 4 magnetic mines laid by aircraft
in 51°06'30"N., 01°32'30"E. (SUTTON, 2250/31).

Mining by S/M's.

Cancel my 1802/30. RUBIS is not now available.
(V.A.S., 1559/31).

Harwich.

Five parachute mines were dropped off Harwich,
which has been closed to navigation. (D.S.).
(I.C. 0468/40).

Folkestone.

Two magnetic mines were exploded off Folkestone
Pier light, and four off S. Foreland at junction
of Q.Z.S. 80 and Q.Z.F.S (I.C. 0468/40).

Dover.

Danger area disclosed 1 mile radius, 6½ miles
E.S.E. of Dover owing to suspected minelaying.
(I.C. 0468/40).

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

796

Submarine construction.

200 enemy naval engineer overseers said to be supervising assembly of submarines at Amager, Copenhagen. Reliable source but not confirmed. (Acting Consul, Malmo, 1055/31).

M.T.B's

2 M.T.B's 082° 9 miles, my position 53°16'N., 4°41'E. (A/C 220 Sqdn., 1820/31). My 1820. Position is 53°03'N. 4°35'E., near line of advance 225°. (A/C 220, 1920/31).

1930. 2 M.T.B's, 310° Willamsoord 10' (A/C report). (I.C., 0468/40).

2 M.T.B's 52°40'N., 4°30'E. (A/C 220 Sqdn., 2215/31) attacked, no hits. (I.C.0468/40).

At 2346/31, 1 M.T.B. in position 51.28'N., 3.03'E., last of a line of 3 M.T.B's, estimated that a direct hit was obtained, as two M.T.B's were seen stationary after the attack with no sign of the third. (Chatham, 0310/1).

E.B's.

Experience against E.B's to date, and suggested precautions. (R.A. (D), H.F., 1815/31).

Outpost Vessels.

4 outpost vessels and 1 M.T.B., 2'N., of Ameland, attacked by A/C, 0445. 1 destroyer, 5 M.T.B's and possible gunnery training ship in Willemsoord Harbour, 0550.

Surface Vessels.

3 surface vessels attacked by bombs, 1 ship and jetty hit, 53.26'N., 5°49'E. (I.C., 0468/40).

Helder.

At 1900/31, photographic reconnaissance showed no German warships or M.T.B's in Helder. (I.C. 0468/40).

Shipping.

Fishing.

A.M. 2403/40 of 25th May. Am strongly of opinion that fishing in this area cannot be permitted. Possible presence of neutral trawlers in an containing a secret searched channel frequently used by the Fleet most undesirable. (C-in-C., H.F., 1528/31).

Italian ship.

Position of Italian ship in home waters. (D.D.I.C., 1658/31).



797

HOME COMMANDS.Miscellaneous.WEATHER.

<u>0500 B.S.T.</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook.</u>
North Sea.	N.W. Light or moderate.	Good in N.W. Moderate in S.E.	Wind backing visibility improving.
Channel	N.W. Light.	Very good.	Wind backing.
W. Approaches	Variable light.	Very good.	Wind becoming south and freshening.
Horns Reef & S. Norway.	N.W. Light.	Moderate or poor, fog patches.	Visibility improving slowly.
N. Norway.	Variable light.	Mainly good coastal fog.	Little change.
Dutch and Belgian coasts.	N.W. Moderate.	Moderate.	Visibility improving.

31.5.40.
Friday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

798

- WOLSEY Hit by S.S. ROEBUCK off 7 Buoy, holed forward so far flooded up to first water-tight bulkhead, can proceed at moderate speed with light load, am proceeding to Bray.
(WOLSEY 0715/31).
- SIROCO Torpedoed by 2 M.T.Bs. 0120/31, 18' N.N.W. Dunkirk. WIDGON picking up survivors. (WIDGON 0150/31, 0345/31, C. in C. Nore 0511/31). WIDGON and trawlers rescued about 220 survivors out of 950.
- OSTHAV Norwegian tanker Singapore to Fremantle due 28/5 is overdue.
(A.C.N.B. 0242 Z/31).
- LEDA Damaged in collision en route to Margate.
(LEDA 0335/31).
- SHARPSHOOTER Have been in collision necessitating dockyard repairs. No casualties.
(SHARPSHOOTER 1832/31).
- M.V. TORSDAD(?) Norwegian. Confirmed by owners as lost
? Tosca owing to war at beginning of April.
(Oslo Radio 1250/31).

Evacuation
Casualties,
Merchant Ships.

Following have been sunk :-

S.S. MONA'S QUEEN	2756 tons
S.S. FENELLA	2376 tons
S.S. LORINA	1578 tons
S.S. SPINEL	650 tons

Also P.188 and P.240. (V.C.N.S. 270).

On fire :-

S.S. CLAN MACALISTER	6787 tons
S.S. WORTH TOWN	868 tons

Damaged :-

S.S. PRINCESS MAUD. (V.C.N.S. 270).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Patrol Vessels. Positions 1200/31.
(D.C. to C. in C. W.A. 0150/31).

Spanish Ships. Your 1024/6 approved. Action in regard to Spanish merchant ship convoyed by man of war to be suspended for the present.
(D.E.W.D. to F.O.C.N.A. 1752/31).

South Atlantic.

Danish Ships. Danish ships in which there are U.S.A. interests to be allowed to complete their current voyages.
(C. IN C. S.A. 1324/31).

Mediterranean.

Troops in Albania. The Italians are reported to be shipping 3000 troops a day into Albania.
(N.A. Bucharest to D.N.I. 1816/30).

Oil Reserve. To maintain reserve of 90,000 tons it is necessary that two large oilers arrive weekly. Request these may be sailed now.
(C. in C. Med. to Adty. 2111/31).

Shipping. Admiralty 2012/30. Request you will undertake from Saturday, June 1, responsibility for movements of British shipping in Eastern Mediterranean subject to general directions issued by Admiralty or C. in C., Med. You should keep in close touch with representative of Ministry of Shipping, Alexandria (Sir Henry Barker) as regards priorities and other matters in which he is concerned.
(C. in C. Med., 1218/31 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area.)

Spanish Fleet. Composition and dispositions.
(N.A. Madrid 2117/31).



31.5.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

800

East Indies.

Aden Shipping.

Consider it would be prudent to avoid concentration of shipping and particularly tankers at Aden at the present critical times. Request diversion to Bombay to await convoy if necessary.
(C. in C. E.I. 0821/31).

LEONARDO DA VINCI.

Re oil for, at Aden and Colombo.
(D.T.D. 1924/31 to C. in C. E.I.)

Sabotage.

Time bomb found in British CITY OF SYDNEY after clearing hold at Mauritius.
(C. in C. E.I. 0815 Z/31).

America and West Indies.

Convoy US 3

Will only be diverted to Trinidad in emergency, but essential preparations should be made.
(Adty. 1538/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

War Diary.



31.5.40.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

801

North Atlantic.

REKUM.)
RUDOLF ALBRECHT.) Now ready to proceed to sea and awaiting
orders.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1102/31).



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

802

→ TEMPLEMOAT British (4427 tons) 020 25 miles from Ushant 48.46' N., 4.59' W. attacked by s/m. (TEMPLEMOAT 0516/31).

→ ORANGEMOOR British (5775 tons) torpedoed and sunk by S/m. 25 miles S.E. Start Point 49°48' N., 3°27' W. at 1305/31. She was in homeward bound convoy from Gibraltar. Canadian destroyers proceeded to hunt the S/m. (D.C.N.S. 271).

SUPPLEMENT

S/ms. Reported.

0600 S/m. periscope and conning tower clearly seen off N.W. Goodwins Buoy. Am hunting. (VIMY to V.A. Dover 0600/31).

1136 53°35' N. 4°20' E. Reliable fix. (V.A.(S) 1232/31, D.D.I.C. 1225/31). Off N.W. Goodwins. (VIMY 0820/31).

→ 1305 49.48' N., 03.27' W., off Start Point (ORANGEMOOR torpedoed, see Attacks on Ships).

1621 48.50' N., 05.15 W., 22 m. N.N.W. from Ushant, reported by Canadian destroyers RESTIGOUCHE and ~~SAINTE~~ LAURENT. See next page.

0510 → By S.S. TEMPLEMOAT, 20 miles N.N.E. of Ushant, 49°48' N., 03°27' W. (See Ships Attacked). Canadian destroyers to attack if fuel permits. (C. in C. W.A. 1009/31, 1328/31).
My 1328. Join H.M.S. ARABIS and hunt. (C. in C. W.A. to FERNIE, 1437/31).

Estimated Dispositions.

2 or 3 near Dinisterre or further south.
1 or more in Western Approaches.
Possibly 1 off N.W. Ireland outward bound.
1 in 55°35' B. 4°20' E. at 1130/31.
(D.D.I.C. 1327/31).



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

803

S/ms. Attacked.

U-13 Sunk.

WESTON destroyed U-Boat 0055/31 by depth charges and gunfire off Lowestoft and picked up 3 officers and 22 ratings.

(D.C. 0755/31).

Suggest the survivors be questioned exhaustively to ascertain if visit had any connection with plans for invasion. A U-Boat visit in this area is unusual. (C. in C. Nore 0816/31, WESTON 0055/31).

Sunk in 52°27' N. 2°2' E. 3 officers, 22 ratings rescued, 1 believed missing. Am rejoining convoy. (WESTON 0230/31).

Did U-Boat lay mines? (C. in C. Nore 0953/31). I think not, she was on special job. (WESTON 1020/31).

1621

By Canadian destroyers RESTIGOUCHE and ST. LAURENT, 48°50' N., 05°15' W., 344° Ushant 22'. Attacked contact. (B.4). (I.C. 0468/40).

SUPPLEMENT

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries etc., for May 1940

804

N.O.I.C. Aden

War Diary, May 1940. Australian Convoy U.S.2 arrived 12/5. Sweeps and patrols. (T.S.D. 4187/40)

F.A.A. "Bishop Force" See June.

C. in C., S.A.

War Diary May 1940. (T.S.D. 5063/40)

8/5.

British and Norwegian ships from Persian Gulf and west coast of India to proceed to U.K. via Mediterranean, but ships at or E. of Colombo still to be diverted round cape. Revised instructions 16/5.

13/5.

Reason for chaos in connection with transfer of West African Brigade.

14/5.

Movements in view of situation with Italy

4/5.

66 Lascar crew of H.M.H.S. OXFORDSHIRE handed over to police for mass insubordination at Freetown.

13/5.

Minefield off C. Agulhas first discovered.

16/5.

Minefield confirmed.

F.O.C., R.I.N.

War Diary May 1940 (T.S.D. 5014/40)

23/5.

CONTE VERDE shadowed into harbour by PARTHIAN in case she laid mines etc., and in view of political situation with Italy. KENT was sailed towards Bombay to intercept, and shadow CONTE VERDE on her voyage to Colombo.

N.O.I.C. Harstad

R. of P. covering period from 6/4, when base staff was formed, to 5/5, when Rear-Adm. A.L.St.G. Lyster and A.F. Lord Cork, on confusion in early days of expedition, difficulties in billeting, selection of personnel not medically fit for such an arduous undertaking.

Cdre. Hong Kong

War Diary, May 1940 (T.S.D. 4639/40)
SS SIROGANE MARU has 3 times broken terms of agreement and carried cargo other than stores from Canton to Hong Kong.

War Diaries. R. of P. Summaries etc. for May 1940.

805

- R.A. 3rd Battle Squadron. War Diary for May 1940. (T.S.D.4312/40).
- D.O.D.(T) Supply of M.T.B's from U.S.A. (M.014057/40).
- B.P.B. Co. Alternative Supply of M.T.B's from U.S.A. (M.014056/40).
- R.A.C. South American Division. War Diary 1/5-31/5/40 (T.S.D.5287/40)
- ARK ROYAL. Operations off Narvik 4/5-24/5/40. (A.0486/40). Inferiority of British aircraft types.
- M.T.B. 22. R. of P. 12-15/5/40. (M.09857/40).
- F.O. Dover. Narrative of Operations off Dutch, Belgian and French coasts. 10/5-25/5/40. (M.013316/40).
- M.T.B.16. R. of P. 14/5 - 15/5/40. (M.010303/40). *(see page 224A)*
- Home Fleet Destroyer Command. War Diary 16/5 - 31/5/40. (T.S.D.4613/40).
- C.in C. S.A. Reports of Naval Activities in Nigeria, M.010231/40. Gold Coast, the Gambia to 6/5/40.
- C.in C. Rosyth. War Diary 15/5 - 31/5. (T.S.D. 4987/40) Aircraft of Coastal Command bombed an alleged enemy submarine (see 19/5).
- N.A. Hague,
Adm. Sir G. Dickens. Report on German invasion of Holland. 14/5 - 16/5. Commendation of officers of R.N. and R.M., and Dutch Navy. Mentions great difficulty of communications, especially with Admiralty. (M.09997/40).
- R.A. A/A Ships. Report of Operations in Namsos area 25/4 - 3/5. (M. 010531/40).
- Canada. Dept. of National Defence; Review of Canadian Naval Situation, 1/5/40. (M./09978/40) 94 vessels in commission in R.C.N., 63 on E. Coast, 31 on W.

Operation D.X.

Report of V.A., Aircraft-Carriers, on operations off Norwegian Coast from 23/4 to 3/5 by ARK ROYAL and GLORIOUS accompanied by escorting forces, dated 23/5, with covering letter from C.in C., H.F. dated 15/6. First time in history that carrier-borne aircraft have been employed in prolonged operations of this nature. Difficult problem balancing the necessity for operating carriers as close to shore as possible to ease the task of aircraft crews against the need for keeping them as far to seaward as possible to reduce scale of enemy shore-based air attack. F.A.A. aircraft outclassed by everything that flies. C.in C. H.F. says the sooner we get some efficient aircraft the better. Minute by D.N.A.D. re trials with American types. (M. 011871/40).

UNITY.

Report of diving operations to locate wreck of UNITY, 30/4 - 2/5. (M. 09327).

F.O.I.C. Portland.

War Diary 16/5 - 31/5. (T.S.D. 4937/40) Local Defence measures, Dockyard L.D.V., 68 ships degaussed, Mobile Wiping Unit, Contraband Control Base.

Operation X.D.A.

Report. (M.010752/40). Report of Comdr. M.G. Goodenough dated 17/5/40 of Demolitions of Amsterdam and Ymuiden.

C.in C. A.W.I.

War Diary 1/5 - 31/5 (T.S.D. 4262/40). Sailing of first Bermuda Convoy 7/5. Occupation of Dutch West Indies, 12/5. 4 Canadian destroyers lent for home waters.

Minesweeping Division. East Coast Distribution of Minesweepers, 22/5/40. (M.010210/40). Defence of E. Coast, Auxiliary Patrol Force, 29/5/40. (M. M/S 0393/40).

Operation "Bottle".

Aerial minelaying off Norway 17/5. R. of P. (M.010300/40).

S.N.O. Simonstown.

R. of M/S Operations off Agulhas Bank 15/5 - 21/5. (M.013251/40).

ALCANTARA.

War Diary May and June 1940. (T.S.D. 5291/40) No interest.

Low Countries.

Ships Engaged in Operations off Dutch, Belgian and French Coasts, May, 1940. List of those which made reports enclosed in F.O.I.C. Dover's B14/0/1137/40, dated 27/7/40. (M.014793/40):-
BRILLIANT, KEITH, MALCOLM, VALENTINE, VENOMOUS, VERITY, VESPER, VIMIERA, VIMY, WESTMINSTER, WESSEX, VIVACIOUS, WHITLEY, WHITSHED, WILD SWAN, WINDSOR, WINCHESTER, WIVERN, WOLSEY, WOLFHOUND, Polish Destroyer BURZA, BOTANIC, JOHN CATTING, MARETTA, CONIDAW, GULZAR, LORD HOWE, LADY BRASSEY, ST.ANDREW, SMOIS.

War Diaries. R. of P., Summaries. etc. for May. 1940. (Contd.)

807

WREN.

R. of P., off Norway 30/4 - 21/5.
(M. 011113/40) Over 100 bombs dropped
in 12 attacks by aircraft on 16/5.
Several splinter hits. Many other air
attacks.

Bergen.

R. of attacks on oil fuel tanks at Bergen
by 806 Sqdn., Hatston, 16/5.
(M. 010365/40).

C.in C. China.

War Diary, May, 1940. (T.S.D. 4363/40).
H.M. Ships abroad to be degaussed soon as
possible, 6/5. Threatened attack on
Dutch East Indies. Mines off Cape
Agulhas, 15/5, suspicions of a ship
disguised as Japanese. COLOMBO and CERES
withdrawn 26/5.

S.N.O., Simonstown.

R. of M/S Operations on Agulhas Bank,
16/5-21/5. (M. 013251).

GLASGOW.

R. of P., 28/4-4/5. Evacuation of King of
Norway and Government from Molde 2235/29.
(M. 08807/40).

C.in C. H.F.

Operations "Tunnel" and "Brick I".
Reports of evacuation of Aandalsnes and
Molde, 28/4 - 1/5. (M. 08953/40).
18 pages of signals quoted in Appendix I.
Analysis of personnel embarked,
Appendix II. (totals, 128 officers,
2,094 men) in GALATEA, ARETHUSA,
SHEFFIELD, SOUTHAMPTON, ULSTER PRINCE,
TARTAR, SIKH, MASHONA, WALKER and
WESTCOTT.

Norwegian
Expeditionary Force.

Reports from C.O's H.M. Trawlers ARAB,
ANGLE, and SAINT GORAN. (M. 09942/40).

R.A.C. South
American Division.

War Diary 1/5 - 31/5/40 (T.S.D.5287/40).
Information received of moored mines being
swept up off C. Agulhas.
Probability of raider mine-layer at large.
Possibility of Nazi Putsch in Uruguay.

V.A. Dover.

War Diary 16/5 - 31/5. (T.S.D. 4487/40).
Movements for campaign in Holland.
Evacuations from Ostend. Operation F.A;
Of 5 ships engaged, only 2 undamaged,
VALENTINE and WHITLEY having been lost
and WINCHESTER and WESTMINSTER damaged.
Other casualties. Demolition plans,
French ports. Conflicting orders re
Boulogne, 23/5, and Calais, 24/5.
Operation "Dynamo" ordered to commence
by Admty. 1857/26.
Over 9000 men landed at Dover alone
between 2230/26 and 0830/28. One
destroyer brought nearly 1000 troops.
Other details, especially of casualties
to ships. By 30/5 numbers embarked in
destroyers had increased to as many as
1400 in each ship. General Appreciation
for the period 16/5 - 31/5, refers to

/ introduction



War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries, etc. for May 1940. (Contd.)

808

V.A. Dover
(continued)

introduction of enemy M.T.B's evidently from Dutch ports.

D. of S.T.

Petsamo, Repatriation of Volunteers for Finnish Army. (M. 010395/40).

Operation
Klaxon I and II.

Evacuation of troops from Namsos area. R. of P. (C.in C. H.F. 20/6 covering V.A.C. I.C.S., 10/5 and enclosures (M. 012225/40)).

C.in C. Portsmouth.

War Diary 15/5 - 31/5. (T.S.D., 4962/40) A/S Operations, Operation Dynamo, Channel Submarine Patrols, Minelaying and Minesweeping, Loss of B.D.V. CAMBRIAN 30/5, Dutch Warships arrived (list), Convoys and Routeing, Local Defence Measures.

SEVERN

Patrol Report 29/4 - 10/5. (M.09593/40).

C.in C. Nore.

Local Defence Flotilla. R. of Operations, Dunkirk, 27/5 - 31/5. (M. 010946/40) ROYAL EAGLE, CRESTED EAGLE, and GOLDEN EAGLE under Comdr. E.C. Cordeaux R.N. (Retired).

CODRINGTON

R. of P. 10/5 - 15/5 Dutch Coast (M. 09848/40).

WAR DIARIES, R. of P., Summaries, etc., for May 1940

809

N.O.I.C., Aberdeen. War Diary 15/5 - 30/5. T.S.D., 4162/40.
Institution of Post War Signal Station, etc. Immobilisation
plans.

Convoy U.S.2. R. of P. 14/5 - 14/5/40 M.010809/40
(Aden)

LA SIBYLLE Patrol Report 16/5 - 24/5/40 M.011071/40
(French S/M)

THÉTIS Patrol Report 16/5 - 25/5/40 M.011116/40
(French S/M)

CLYDE Patrol Report 2/5 - 17/5/40 M.010259/40

FRIESLAND) German Reports of Interception and Capture.
BLANKENBURG) Trawlers M.09778/40

V.A.C. 18th C.S.. MANCHESTER. War Diary 3 - 15 May 1940
T.S.D., 4159/40)

State of 18th C.S. 0001/1/5

MANCHESTER) Proceeding to Aandalsnes to evacuate troops.
(Flag of V.A.)
BIRMINGHAM)

SOUTHAMPTON) At Aandalsnes evacuating troops and covering
SHEFFIELD) evacuation.
(Flag of R.A.)

GLASGOW At Tromso after disembarking King of Norway and
Norwegian Government.

NEWCASTLE) Refitting on Tyne.
EDINBURGH)

Covers the incident which led to torpedoing of
KELLY by an enemy M.T.B. 9/5 and events during
towing of KELLY towards Rosyth, until 1609/11.

Necessity of refit for MANCHESTER.

MANCHESTER gave one night's leave to each watch,
for first time in nearly 6 months.

Operation X.D. Report on Calais (Party F.) M.010579

F.O.I.C.Portland. War Diary 1/5 - 15/5. T.S.D., 4936/40. Local
Defence Measures, Degaussing Establishment,
Contraband Control.

WAR DIARIES, R. of P., SUMMARIES, etc. for MAY 1940

810

HAVOCK

R. of P. off Dutch Coast 9/5 - 15/5/40.
M/010750/40

Aandalsnes
(Force
~~PRIMROSE~~)
Primrose.

R. of P. 17/4 to 1/5/40 by Capt. Denny, N.O.I/C
Aandalsnes with accompanying report of Extended
Defence Officer (M/08753/40). The report is in
the form of a Diary with remarks.

Force Sickie disembarked on night 18/19 April.

Evacuation of Molde and Aandalsnes began on 29/4,
and the last party left Aandalsnes in CALCUTTA
0110/2/5. AUCKLAND remained to take off the
final party.

The following H.M. Trawlers were sunk by enemy air
action during the operations :-

HAMMOND
JARDINE
BRADMAN
WARWICKSHIRE
LARWOOD
CAPE CHELYSKIN
CAPE SIRETOKO

General remarks by N.O.I/C. Aandalsnes are in
M.08602/40, which docket contains also a copy
of Capt. Denny's R. of P. as in M.08753/40)

C. in C.Rosyth, War Diary 1/5 - 14/5.

Enemy Air Activity, evacuations from Norway, Convoys.

SFAX
(Fr. S/M)

Patrol Report 10/5 - 23/5/40 M.011598/40

Convoy N.P.3.

R. of P. of H.M. Transports BATORY and SOBIESKI.
M.010633/40

WESSEX

R. of P. on Dutch Coast 13/5 - 15/5 M.09897/40

V.A.C.I.C.S.

War Diary 1/5 - 15/5. T.S.D. 4387/40. Norway

N.O.I.C. Tees-
Hartlepool.

War Diary 1/5 - 14/5. T.S.D. 4157/40. Chiefly
minesweeping.

AMAZONE
(Fr. S/M.)

Patrol Report 11/5 - 12/5. M.011570/40

CASABIANCA
(Fr. S/M)

Patrol Report 9/5 - 21/5 M.011571/40

Convoy Alabaster

Troop Convoy for Reykjavik, Iceland. R. of P.
14/5 - 25/5. M.011026/40.

WESTON AND
VALENTINE

Report of depth charge attacks on S/M 5/5 and 6/5.
M.09714/40.

GRIFFIN

R. of P. off Dutch Coast 12/5 - 13/5. M.011077/40.

N.C.S.O., Methil. War Diary 16/5 - 31/5. T.S.D. 4761/40. Measures for immobilising the port in an emergency.

F.O.I.C. Tyne. War Diary 15/5.- 31/5 T.S.D. 5186/40. No interest.

R.A., A/A Ships. War Diary 6/5 - 15/5 T.S.D., 5261/40. Operations in Norway. Refers to nervous strain on personnel (E.G. ESKIMO and trawlers) of constant air bombing by day and night.

Northern Patrol R. of P. 1/5 - 14/5/40 (M.011370/40)

C. in C. Rosyth War Diary 15/5 - 31/5/40 (T.S.D.4987/40) unsuccessful bombing by British A/C of ACHILLE

SPEARFISH Patrol Report 12/5 - 24/5/40 M.010707/40

FLAMINGO R. of P. 19/4 to 3/5/40. Air attacks at Andalsneo. M.09179/40

RUBIS (Fr.S/M) R. of P. 23/5 to 30/5/40. (M.011823/40)

Capt. D. I.D.F. R. of P. 12/4 - 6/5. M.09174/40 (Norway) (SAN TIBURCIO lost)

C. in C. Home Fleet, War Diary 1 - 15 May 1940 (T.S.D.4587/40)

Contains precis of important signals dealing with

x Narvik

Evacuation of Aandalsnes and Molde

Protection of Hut Anchorage at Scapa, as German occupation of Norway will enable them to establish air bases much closer to Orkneys.

Cruisers sailed for Sheerness 4/5 in view of German threat to Holland

Provision of escorts, anxious not to use Hunt class, designed for S/M hunting and nothing else.

Operation Fork to Iceland.

Dive-bombing attacks (see 4/5). Lessons from air attacks in Norway, proposals to strengthen destroyers' A/A armaments and R.A.F. to support naval operations. (6/5)

Iceland, possible enemy landing.

Scarcity of destroyers, "at present not one available to screen capital ships" 11/5

M.T.B. attack on KELLY. S/M dispositions altered.

WAR DIARIES, R. OF P., SUMMARIES, Etc. for May 1940

R.A. Anti-Aircraft Ships, War Diary 16-31 May 1940 (T.S.D.5262/40)

COVENTRY Engaged in operations off Norway
EFFINGHAM report on loss of 17/5

Mosjon, Landing of Gubbins Force. M.011024/40 VETERAN
R. of P. 5 - 13 May.

RESTIGOUCHE)
ST. LAURENT) R. of P. 24 - 31 May M.011331/40
SKEENA)

French Navy, Summary of Activities since beginning of the War
(B.N.L.O., L/177/40)

17. 9.39 Attack on U-boat by A/C from aircraft carrier BEARN
10.39 " " " " patrol vessel ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ
22.11.39 2 U-boats destroyed within 3 days by SIROCO
27.12.39 Attack on U-boat by minesweeper COMMANDANT DUBOC
27.12.39 3rd U-boat sunk by SIROCO
? Attack on U-boat by auxiliary trawler LORIENTAISE
27. 2.40 " " " " destroyer SIMOUN

German Merchant Ships Captured :-

CHEMNITZ by submarine PONCELET. Sept. 1939
TRIFELS BY auxiliary cruiser KOUTOUBIA. Nov. 1939
SANTA FE by destroyer^{LE} TRIOMPHANT, Nov. 1939
ROSTOCK by M/S sloop ELAN off Vigo. 11.3.1940

✓ C.-in-C. Home Fleet.

War Diary 16-31 May 1940 (T.S.D.4588/40).
Narvik - shortage of destroyers 16/5.
Danger of attempted invasion of Shetlands
16/5, 17/5, 19/5, 23/5.
Operation Battle (a/c minelaying) 16/5, 17/5.
Narvik - shortage of A.A. ammunition 17/5.
Congestion at Harstad; Anglo-French subsidiary
base to be formed at Tronso 17/5, 19/5.
Magnetic mines being laid in harbours; some
sweeps to be converted for use in
restricted waters 19/5.
More attention to be paid to fitting out
and storing of transports for use in
Northern waters 21/5.
Freetown Convoy Escort Force to be reinforced
about mid-June by 4 A.M.C.'s from Northern
Patrol 21/5.
A/c Squadrons disembarked from Carriers to
be used in co-operation with Coastal
Command during present emergency 22/5.
11th A/S Group to proceed to Harwich 22/5.
A.A. ship, possible vital used for presence
in Channel in near future 22/5.
A.A. defences of Shetlands 23/5.
Norwegian warships captured by Germans
being operated by Germans 23/5.
Invasion, risk of Precautionary measures to
be taken 24/5, 25/5, 26/5.
Force of destroyers to be collected at Rosyth,
ready to operate on East Coast if
required 24/5.
Destroyers - highest priority to be given to
repairs 25/5.
Demolition charges - immediate reserves
exhausted - improvised charges to be used -
ships to land all except minimum outfit
25/5.
Approach channels - reduction in width owing
to recent attempts to magnetic mines
approaches 26/5.
Stavanger, attack cancelled owing to weather
26/5.
S/m's - in view of present serious situation
all s/m's to be available in centre or
southern part of North Sea. Propose to
release s/m's for patrol by discontinuing
minelaying by s/m's on coast of Norway
27/5, 28/5.
Operation Alphabet 27/5, 28/5, 31/5.
Cruisers, employment of in southern part of
North Sea 28/5.
Minesweeping on East Coast - plan Flood 29/5.
Destroyers, - 5th D.F. formed 30/5.
Destroyer patrols 31/5.

✓ R.A.(D) Home Fleet

War Diary 1-15 May 1940 (T.S.D.4612/40)
First evacuation of Aandalsnes and Molde -
ships engaged 1/5.

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries &c. received for May.R.A.(D) Home Fleet

Final evacuation of Aandalsnes and Molde completed 2/5.
 MAORI damaged by bombing by a/c's which could neither be seen nor heard 2/5.
 Evacuation of Namsos (operation Klason 1 & 2) completed 3/5.
 Landing at MO 4/5.
 Eight modern destroyers required for duty in East Coast 8/5.
 Redisposition of cruisers and destroyers in North Sea to intercept a minelaying and M.T.B. force 9/5, 10/5, 14/5
 Oerlikon A.A. guns for destroyers 10/5.
 Norway - German landing at Hemnes 10/5.
 Destroyer reinforcements for Mediterranean 15/5

A.C.O.S.

War Diary for May 1940. (T.S.D. 4836/40)

- 2300/9/5 Ramming of BULLDOG by M.T.B.
 Torpedoing of KELLY.
- 1755/24/5 Grounding off s.s. LAURESTON at Green^lhines, Stronsay.
- 1130/25/5 Collision and beaching of ^{M/V}s.s. TENNESSEE (Norwegian)
- 1906/25 FORD FISHER in collision with trawler, to be towed to Aberdeen or Inverness.
- 2200/31 Arrival of ALSTER at Kirkwall with prize crew.

C.-in-C. Nore.

War Diary 1-15/5/40. (T.S.D.4811/40).

ASCANIA

R. of P. with Convoy HX 38 26/4-14/5/40
 (MO13447/40).

GLOUCESTER

War Diary for May 1940 (T.S.D.4738/40).

C.-in-C. Western Approaches.

War Diary 16-31/5/40 (T.S.D.5212/40).

Changes in Policy in April and May 1940.
 Dartmouth area - Defence against invasion.
 Operation Dynamo. Belgian Fishing Fleet, refusal to assist in evacuation of troops from Dunkirk. Good work done, however, by Tanker JULIA.

Note. Remainder indexed chronologically in this Diary.

Minelaying off Norwegian Coast.

Operations F.D.14, F.D.15, F.D.17.

French s/m RUBIS, report 9-10 May, 26-27 May, 9 June 1940. (MO 12367/40).

Operation X.D.

R. of P. of Party C. 10/5-17/5/40. (MO 10180/40)

Northern Patrol

R. of P. 15-31 May 1940 (MO.12193/40).

21/5 Redisposition of A.M.C.'s. CANTON, CORFU, MALOSA, MONTCLARE ordered to replace CARINTHIA, CHESHIRE, DERBYSHIRE, PATROCLUS which were under orders of F.O.C.N.A.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries &c. received for May.Northern Patrol.

R. of P. 15-31 May 1940. (MO.12193/40).

24/5 Three N.P. Trawlers ordered to be sent to Sheerness. NORTHERN REWARD, KINGSTON ONYX, KINGSTON BERYL sent.

31/5 Patrols instituted to intercept Italian shipping move cancelled and CARINTHIA, DERBYSHIRE, PATROCLUS were placed at disposal of V.A.N.P.

War Diary of Cin C, Portsmouth, shows that on May 12, 1940, the following Dutch ships arrived at Portsmouth: -

Cruiser HEEMSKERCK

Destroyer ISAAC SWEERS

Miners JAN VAN GELDER

Submarines O.13, O.21, O.22

(No reference to the manner of their reception).

Between 15th and 31st May, 1940, 23 more Dutch warships arrived including ^{four} submarines - O.09, O.10, O.23, O.24.

18th C.S. War Diary

16-31 May 1940 (T.S.D.4436/40).

Insecurity of Humber anchorage against E boat attack.

Functions of 18th C.S. in Humber (to protect our shipping off Dunkirk against attack by destroyers or larger warships, and to act in case of attack by enemy forces on E.coast of England.

VENETIA

R. of P. off Dutch coast 11-15 May 1940, (MO 10241/40).

During evacuation of Hook etc.

Enemy aircraft brought down by ship's guns 14/5.

ACHILLE.

Patrol Report 7-20 May 1940 (MO 11117/40).

Use of English identification signals by enemy aircrafts.

14/5 attacked by a/c.

15/5 Use by enemy aircraft of pyrotechnic signal conforming to that in English use.

20/5 Attacked by a/c. Slight damage. Confirmed later that a/c was English and ACHILLE was in security zone.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries &c. received for May.Northern Patrol.

R. of P. 15-31 May 1940. (MO.12193/40).

24/5 Three N.P. Trawlers ordered to be sent to Sheerness. NORTHERN REWARD, KINGSTON ONYX, KINGSTON BERYL sent.

31/5 Patrols instituted to intercept Italian shipping move cancelled and CARINTHIA, DERBYSHIRE, PATROCLUS were placed at disposal of V.A.N.P.

Suez Canal Area.

War Diary May 1940 (T.S.D.4737/40).

Portsmouth War Diary

1-4 May 1940 (T.S.D.4961/40).

12/5	JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK	(^{Flotilla Leader} Cruiser)	} Dutch warships, arrived at Portsmouth.
	ISAAC SWEERS	(Destroyer)	
	JAN VAN GELDER	(M/s.)	
	0 13	} S/m's.	
	0 21		
	0 22		

Measures taken to increase security of western entrance.

Owing to shortage of military personnel it was necessary to cease manning certain coast defence batteries.

Local defence measures.

Battle Cruiser SquadronWar Diary

May 1940 (T.S.D.4287/40).

RENOWN (Flag) in dock at Rosyth 1-17 May.

HOOD refitting at Devonport.

No incidents.

Convoy HX 42.

R. of P. 12-31 May 1940 (MO 12234/40).

Convoy D/F'd 12 miles off through some ship's W/T oscillation.

18th C.S. War Diary

16-31 May 1940 (T.S.D.4436/40).

Insecurity of Humber anchorage against E boat attack.

Functions of 18th C.S. in Humber (to protect our shipping off Dunkirk against attack by destroyers or larger warships, and to act in case of attack by enemy forces on E. coast of England.

VENETIA

R. of P. off Dutch coast 11-15 May 1940, (MO 10241/40).

During evacuation of Hook etc.

Enemy aircraft brought down by ship's guns 14/5.

ACHILLE,

Patrol Report 7-20 May 1940 (MO 11117/40).

Use of English identification signals by enemy aircrafts.

14/5 attacked by a/c.

15/5 Use by enemy aircraft of pyrotechnic signal conforming to that in English use.

20/5 Attacked by a/c. Slight damage. Confirmed later that a/c was English and ACHILLE was in security zone.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries &c. received for May 1940

"As I have already remarked in my last report, the use of the recognition grenade would appear to be more dangerous than useful, the Germans apparently having some knowledge of the English identification signals."

DEVONSHIRE.

V.A.C. 1st C.W. War Diary 16-31 May 1940.
(T.S.D. 4388/40).

At Tromso. TRUANT patrolling.

Bullion embarked in ENTERPRISE 22/5.

DEVONSHIRE left Tromso 24/5 for Kirkenes.

At Hammerfest and on patrol off Nord Kap
26/5 to 31/5.

Note. Remaining incidents are indexed
chronologically in the Diary.



WAR DIARIES, R. of P. SUMMARIES & C. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF
MAY 1940.

TRITON.

Patrol Report 22/4-4/5/40. (U.A.S.
No. 316/S.M. 1054) (dated 8/5/40).

Attack on German supply ship off
Bjorne Fjord.

Aberdeen Naval Base,
War Diary.

1/5 to 14/5. (T.S.D. 4152/40).

BIRMINGHAM.

R. of P. 7 to 9 April 1940 (with the
Home Fleet) (M/08967/40).

CONVOY FN 60.

R. of P. 4 May 1940 (M/09072/40).

Naval Rep. to Norwegian
Government.

Diary of P. 14 to 21 April 1940.
Situation at Andalsnes. Landing of
Naval 3-7 inch howitzer. (M/07951/40).

C.-in-C., China.

War Diary 1 to 29 February 1940.
(T.S.D. 4127/40.)

AMAZONE.

French submarine patrol report 4 to 12
April 1940. (M/07849/40.)

C.-in-C. Home Fleet.

Enemy heavy ship activity between 17 and
20 February 1940. Possible nature of
(M/08976/40.)

Air Ministry.

Air report from Norway 28 February to
29 April 1940. (N.I.D./001718/40).

TARTAR.

R. of P. 30.4.-2.5.40 in operations off
Norway (M/08922/40.) during the
evacuation, at Molde.

CALYPSO. French S/m.

Patrol report 29/4 - 10/5/40.
No. 426/S.M. 1153.

WOLVERINE.

R. of P. 23/4 to 1/5. Namsos conditions.
(M. 08824/40).



WAR DIARIES, R. of P. SUMMARIES &c. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF
MAY 1940.

WINDSOR. R. of P. 15/5. Embarkation from Hook of Dutch Government and Belgian and Norwegian Legations. (M/09991/40.)

Hong Kong. War Diary 1/1 to 31/1 (T.S.D. 4126/40.)

VENDETTA. Report of attack on U-boat 28/4. (M/09418/40.)

2nd C.S. War Diary 1 to 30 April (T.S.D. 4140/40.)

VERSATILE. Report of attack on U-boat which sank ROYSTON GRANGE. (M. 0493/40.) 25 November 1939.

L. 23. Evacuation of Terschelling L.V. 17/18 May. (M. 010156/40.)

TAKU (Submarine). Patrol report 2/15 May (V.A.S. 414/S.M. 1044).

s. s. CITY OF BRUSSELS. At Brussels 10/12 May. Interview with Master and Chief Officer. (T.D. Shipping casualties section 21/5/40.)

VIMIERA & WESTON. Report of attack on U-boat 25/4/40. (M. 09483/40.)

NIGER. Report of attack on U-boat 21/2/40. (M. 03974/40.)

NUBIAN. R. of P. in Mosjoen and Bodo area 6/5 to 11/5 (M/09865/40.)

VALENTINE. R. of P. 30/4-1/5 (M/09035/40.)

ANTENOR. R. of P. 1/5 - 13/5/40. M 010244/40.

VESPER. R. of P. 13/5 - 15/5/40. M 09776/40.

SNAPPER. R. of P. 29/4 - 12/5/40. M 09530/40.

RUBIS. French S/m. R. of P. 3/5 - 14/5/40. M 010038/40.



WAR DIARIES, R. of P. SUMMARIES &c. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF
MAY 1940.

CALYPSO. French S/m. Patrol report 29/4 to M 09906/40.
10/5/40.

Convoy FN 72. R. of P. 15/5 - 17/5/40. M 010165/40.

N.A. Buenos Aires. War despatch 9/5/40. T.S.D. 4155/40.

FOIC Tyne area. War diary 1/5-14/5/40. T.S.D. 4148/40.

N.C.S.C. Methil. War diary 1/5-15/5/40. M 010565/40.

TETRARCH. Patrol report 12/5-
26/5/40. Scuttling
of Danish TERTEUEN.
Capture of Danish
IMMANUEL.

Force Fork (Landing
of Marines In Iceland) L of P. 6-21 May (M 010469/40).

PELICAN. R. of P. 25/4 - 6/5/40. M 09725/40.

BERWICK, operation
FORK. R. of P. 7-11 May, (M 09981/40.)

SEAWOLF. Patrol report 6/5-19/5/40. M. 010305.

Leith and Granton. War diary 1/5 to 14/5. T.S.D. 4156/40
Unimportant.

SHARK. Patrol report 7/5-24/5/40. M 010260/40.

SHEFFIELD. R. of P. 21/4 - 2/5/40. M. 08958/40.
Aandalsnes evacuation.

V.A.C. 18th C.S. War Diary 15/4 - 2/5/40. T.S.D. 4137/40.
Aandalsnes & Molde Evacuation.

SUNFISH. Patrol report 28/4-15/5/40. M. 09895/40.

WAR DIARIES. R. of P. SUMMARIES &c. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF
MAY 1940.

FIONA. R. of P, 3/5-13/5/40. M. 010242/40.
Contraband Control, Mediterranean.

R.A., Invergordon. War Diary. 1/5-14/5/40. T.S.D. 4153/40.

CHAKLA. R. of P. 23/4-5/5/40. M. 010237/40.
Contraband Control, Mediterranean.

Convoy HX. 35. R. of P. 14/4 - 3/5/40. M. 09345/40.

Ymuiden. Report of operations at 10/5 - 11/5.
V.A.2.C.S. M. 09345/40.

Quixote. Operation Quixote. R. of P. JACKAL,
JAVELIN, JAGUAR. M. 010209/40.

Valentine. Report on operation Valentine (Faroes).
A.G., R.M., No. P.P. 1948.

CIRCE. (Fr. 40) Patrol report 16-19 May 1940
(M. 010960/40.)
0130/17 sighted two warships, probably
destroyers.
0120/17 Dammed by LA SIBYLLE. Damage slight.

Rotterdam - Report of German invasion 10/5 by
Cdr. F.C. Hartley R.N.R, an M.C.O. Rotterdam.
(T.D. 621/40.)

Naval matter is indexed chronologically
in Diary.

THÉTIS French S/m. R. of P. 16/5-25/5/40. No incidents.
N.I.D./02267/40.

✓ 2.C.S. War Diary 16/5-31/5/40. Bombardment
of Batteries at Calais by GALATEA 26/5.
T.S.D. 4412/40.

JACKAL and JAVELIN. R. of P., off Norway 27/4 - 12/5.
(M. 010157/40).



WAR DIARIES, R. of P. SUMMARIES &c. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF
MAY 1940.

TRIBUNE. Patrol report 12/5 - 28/5.

N.O.I.C. Sunderland. War Diary No. 7 2/5 - 1/6 T.S.D. 5137/40.

ANTIOPE. French submarine patrol report 16/5 -
28/5. N.I.D. 02291/40.

VIMY. R. of P., Coast of Holland. 12/5 - 18/5.
M. 09590/40.

R.A. Invergordon. War Diary 15/5 - 31/5. T.S.D. 4661/40.
Magnetic mine-sweeping. Schemes for
defence and immobilisation.

N.O.I.C., Tees. War Diary 15/5 - 31/5 T.S.D. 5161/40.
Hartlepool Almost entirely Minesweeping.

MOST SECRET.

3.5.1940.
Friday.



War Diary.

822

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Enemy Air Activity.

AFRIDI)
BISON)

Report on loss of AFRIDI and
French destroyer BISON.
(Ref. sheet, M.09015/40).

ROYAL EAGLE.

Report of engagement with enemy
minelaying A/C. M. 09401/40.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

ISIS

Attack on S/M.
58° 25' N. 05° 43' W.

MOST SECRET.

5.5.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

823

Air.

British
Air
Activity.

Proposing the enemy ships reported in his 0921/5 (See Enemy Intelligence) be attacked by a/c's. Duration of dark hours will not permit use of M.T.B's from Harwich (C.in C. Nore 0940/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Destroyer
for Poland.

H.M.S. GARLAND was turned over to Polish Navy on Friday, 3/5. (C.in C., Med., 1108/5).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Reported.

2035.

U-boat seen YNFV 4236 by two trawlers for half an hour. Reliable report, which suggests the possibility of a U-Boat operating in the Clyde approaches or on passage further south. Other U-boats are undoubtedly operating in waters off the Northern Norwegian Coast. It is considered that the majority of available U-boats are still undergoing refitting prior to further activity. (H.Q., C.C., 1720/5).

Submarines Attacked.

1514.

By ARABIS (M.013162/40).

MOST SECRET.

8.5.40.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Dutch Coast.

824

Shipping
Stopped.

Received 0935 DE P C H of TTT.
Shipping prohibited in Netherlands territorial waters off the Coast of Texel and Vlieland up to the 3 miles limit joining the prohibited area of Texel in the south and Terschelling. 5 red, white, blue buoys with top marks indicate the outer limits of this prohibited area. (No T.O.O., recd. 1100/8, from N. Foreland Radio.)

Troop Convoys.

F.P.5.

Convoy F.P.5, KOUTOUBIA, COMPIEGNE, CHANTILLY and EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER escorted by GUEPARD, LEOPARD, VALMY, sailed at 1330 G.M.T. speed 12 knots. (Admiral Ouest, 1358/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Shipping
Resumed.

"A" Message at Home and Abroad. 107A.
Date 8.5.40.
My 1830/27 and my 1845/28. Until further orders British and Norwegian ships from West Coast of India and Persian Gulf board for U.K. may proceed through the Mediterranean.
Instructions in my 1830/27 regarding ships from Colombo or East of Colombo remain in force. (A.C.N.S. 0045/8.).

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. for May 1940.

Operations
10-25 May,
on Dutch,
Belgian
& French
coasts.

Report by Flag Officer Dover (Vice-Admiral Sir B.H. Ramay) of 6/7/40 on Operations conducted from 10-25 May on Dutch, Belgian, French coasts gives an account of (i) demolition parties at the Hook, Boulogne, (ii) landing of Royal Marine Detachment at Hook (May 12), (iii) landing of composite battalion of Guards at the Hook (May 13), (operation "Harpoon"); (iv) Evacuation of Royal Marines and Guards from the Hook (May 14) (operation "Ordnance") (v) Attempted evacuation of Dutch army, May 15. (vi) Support of left flank of French Army in (Op. FA.) Scheldt, and air protection to Flushing Ferry. (vii) Evacuation of Boulogne (May 22-24) (viii) Operations off Calais (May 22-26) (M. 013316/40.)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

10.5.1940.

Friday.

825

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Belgian and Dutch Coast.

/Kij
200 Germans landed by parachutes on Dutch aerodrome *Bykduin* near the Hague. Thought to be British and were not fired on by the Dutch.

(N.A., Hague, 0815/10).

Reported that 1200 German troops in Dutch uniform have captured aerodrome at Rotterdam. (V.A., Dover, 1352/10).

JOLLIETTE

2000 ton (?Belgian) barge, bombed and sunk 1900/10 in canal at Capelle au Bois below Laken (Interview with master of S.S. CITY OF BRUSSELS).

Enemy a/c's brought down.

CITY OF BRUSSELS brought down a German plane (he examined the wreckage) during air raid on Capelle au Bois. Second one apparently damaged (Interview with Master, Capt. T.N. Murray).

Air.

Enemy Air Activity.

CITY OF BRUSSELS.

Shot down enemy A/C in Brussels Canal 1900/10 (B. of T. Form A.A.).

SHEFFIELD.

Attacked 1544/10 in 56° 27' N. 3° 47' E. No hits or damage. SHEFFIELD fired 147 rounds H.E., MANCHESTER (in company) 28 rounds. Enemy a/c released bombs far too early to have had any chance of success (M.011314/40 H.M.S. MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD, report of air attacks on 10/5).

WHITSHED.

Destroyer, damaged by Air Attack about 1800/10, off Ymuiden, 16 casualties. (Details in F.O. Dover, M.013316).

ASEITY.

A/C flew over vessel at 1730/10 while being towed in the Downs owing to engine failure. 100 rounds fired from Bren gun. Believed hits were recorded. (I.D., 7328, 20/5).

AVONWOOD

A/C. Attack. 51° 32½ N. 1° 25' E. (I.D. Form A.A.)

Mining.

Operation R.M.
(Rhine etc.)

Operation R.M. - Minelaying in Rhine, Moselle, Meuse - 3007 mines - May 10 to 24. (Commander R.S. Wellby's report, M.019435/40).

MOST SECRET.

12.5.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Dutch Coast.

826

Following for Dirmilint, London, from Heywood Mission TGH 8. Admiral Commanding Zeeland informs me Dutch Admiralty report possibility of German landing by sea and river on Dutch Coast tonight Sunday. Unable to state degree reliability. Situation mainland at 1800/12. Tillburg doubtful, occupied by D L M or German. Breda held by 25th French Division. Advanced elements Beauchene Cavalry Group holding water line Breda River mark Standdaarbuitn River Dintel Dintelsas, Headquarters of main body Bergen Optzoo. Zuid Beveland Dutch 1 Battalion, Rilland Isthmus 2 Battalions, Hansweert Yerseke, 1 Battalion northcoast, supported by 2 groups of field artillery. I Company Nord Beveland Peel Division arrive Walcheren. French, 1 Battalion Goes Sas van Goes, 2 Battalions Arnemuiden Middelburg area. Flushing raided early morning and very heavy 1100 to 1140 damage considerable. Dutch gunboat sunk 20 missing. Ferry 3 piers badly damaged. Casualties of troops and civilians under 100. (KIMBERLEY, 2340/12).

Ymuiden. ✓

Report of Operations off Ymuiden, night of May 11-12. by Vice-Adm. Edward-Collins, V.A. 2 C.S. in GALATEA. (M.09262/40).

Flushing. ✓

KIMBERLEY, R. of P.H. Dutch coast 12/5, 13/5 (M.010304/40).

Hook. ✓

Situation at 0830. (HYPERION 0840/12 to C.in C. Nore).

Norway. ✓

Embarked Col. Gubbins and 100 men. Further 350 in Norwegian steamer conveyed by JAVELIN. Both proceeding to Bodo. (YORK 0444/12, to F.O.I.C. Narvik).

Narvik. ✓

Lodingen.
Area.

Admty. 1744/9, para. 5. Views on use of Lodingen in connection with defences of Narvik area base. Defences arranged for (details). Lodingen is 35 miles from Harstad and communications are unreliable. An N.O. in charge is essential. A/S protection can only be provided by maintaining 3 A/S trawlers on patrol. Minesweeping in southern part of Ijolsunde will be necessary. Although major repairs, docking, etc., will be carried out at Harstad, small /maintenance ...

12.5.1940.

Sunday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik. (Contd.)

827

Lodingen
Area. (Contd.)

maintenance staff will be necessary at Lodingen. (N.A. Narvik, 1940/12).

Enemy Air Activity.

WILD SWAN.

Report of Enemy Air Attack. (M.010245).

Flushing.

German A/C dropped about 20 bombs on Flushing (KIMBERLEY 1155/12).

VENOMOUS

Attacked 0850/12 in 51° 59' N. 4° 4' E. No damage (M. 010535/40)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Tankers on
Danube.

Belgrade states unconfirmed but persistent reports that Germans have stopped tankers descending Danube. (N.A. Bucharest 2258/12).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

ROEK

Sunk by Mine at Rotterdam. Interview with Master and Chief Officer. T.D. Shipping Casualties: 18 May 40) Mined off Vlardingén 12/5. 1 W (T.D.621/40)

French S/M
AMAZONE

Report attack by enemy S/M. U-boat incidents Report No.251.

13.5.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

828

Operations.

Norway.

ESKIMO,
protection.

Proceed Skjel Fiord and protect ESKIMO from air attack. When relieved by VINDICTIVE proceed Lavangs Fiord. (F.O., Narvik to F.O.C. 20 C.S., 2126/13).

Dutch Coast.

Ymuiden.

KIMBERLEY R. of P. 12/5, 13/5
(M.010304/40) Bombed by a/c, no damage.

Enemy Air Activity.

VERSATILE.

Destroyer, at Hook of Holland, 2040/13, ~~hit~~ not by bomb, raked by machine-gunfire; engine room put out of action, many killed and wounded; towed back to England. (F.O. Dover in M.013316/40)

s.s. BUSSOM.
Dutch.

Bombed 0630. (B. of T. Form A.A.).

KINGSTON,
attack on
British a/c.

H.M.S. KINGSTON, during A/A firing south of Portland Bill at 1135/13, was approached by 6 heavy bombers in formation. As they did not identify themselves, fire was opened. No apparent damage was done, and aircraft were subsequently identified as Wellingtons. (N.O.I.C. Portland, War Diary T.S.D., 4936/40).

SSTETI

Bombed in 52° 12' N. 4° 1' E. no damage
(M.010304/40).

Shipping.

RAETIA S/T

Sighting of HEIDEBJORN (?) flying white ensign heading for Hafnasfjord (M.010369/40).

ST. DENNY'S

Scuttled at Rotterdam to prevent falling into enemy's hands (T.D. 621/40).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Attacked.

0140.

By H.M.T. CAPE PORTLAND (M.012354/40).

14.5.40.

Tuesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

829

Dutch Coast.

Dutch Naval Staff.

My 1601. Join me forthwith in position 52° 35' N., 3° 29' E., with or without Dutch Naval Staff. (Capt. D.1 to VIVACIOUS, VENETIA, 1731/14).

Narvik.

Patrols.

~~Following~~ patrols to be maintained.

- (a) Destroyers as detailed by H.M.S. FAME, off Narvik, 2, to be reduced shortly to 1; off Baroy, 1; Vaags Fiord Patrol, E., 1.
- (b) A/S trawlers as detailed by X.D.O., North of Baroy, 2; West of Hol, 1; Vaags Fiord Patrol, A.B.C., 3.
- (c) 3 A/S trawlers to be sailed by X.D.O. to Tromso forthwith.
- (d) Skjel Fiord will no longer be used. (F.O., Narvik, 1510/14).

Norwegian Ships, Communications, etc.

Admty. 1712/12. Naval Attache reports (1) 2 submarines, B.1, B.3, 9 small craft and whalers, 2 fishery protection sloops, 9 fishing smacks, 3 small steamers, 1 icebreaker.

(2). No regular communication by sea or land. Occasional communication by sea. It is hoped to establish a 3-day weekly service after Narvik is occupied by Allies. Roads will not be completed before August at the earliest. Gaps in 4 places 15 to 20 kilometres in all. (F.O. Narvik, 1431/14).

British Air Activity.

A/C Destroyed by M.T.B.

1 German seaplane, believed to be a Dornier was brought down by M.T.B.24 and observed to sink off Ymuiden at 2215 B.S.T., on Tuesday May 14. (V.3, Senior Officer 3rd M.T.B. Flotilla, 0902/16).

Enemy Air Activity.

VILLE DE BRUGES

Attacked by machine gun from 0715. A second machine appeared and dropped 2 bombs, both hit and blew about 60 ft. of the starboard side out. Ship beached, took fire almost immediately, helped by lubricating oil which was on deck, having been only taken on board the previous night. Wreck well in the mud. Landed at Doel. Report of interview with Capt. A. Rothwell, Master, Trade Div. 17/5.

/ CHOBRY ...

14.5.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

830

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

CHOBRY.

2340/14 67° 40' N. 13° 50' W.
Low Dive bombing attack by 3 a/c.
Thought to be Heinkel IIIs. 6-9 bombs
released. 2 bombs hit amidships
Machine gunned decks. Ship burnt
fiercely. (Commanding Officer,
WOLVERINE 22/5).

ACHILLE

Attacked by a/c on patrol (M.011117/40)

KEITH)
VERITY)
→ WIVERN)

Attacked 5 miles from Hook breakwater,
bombs dropped. No damage to KEITH and
VERITY but WIVERN sustained damage and
casualties. (M.010299/40).

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

BOREAS and
BRILLIANT.

Destroyers May 14/1400, collided off the
Hook of Holland. BRILLIANT had fore
compartments flooded.

→ WIVERN

Destroyer, at 1715/14, in 52° N. 4° E.
3 miles from Hook of Holland was bombed.
Bomb struck water 10 yards from port
side, caused a fire and explosion,
killing 10 men and seriously injuring
30 and gutting after part of ship.
(M.013316/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Use of Aircraft.

A 242 14th May. Reference item 14 (and 5)
of minute Port Sudan 123. Have given
further full consideration to use of
bombers for counter battery bombardments
during naval attacks and whilst fully
appreciating naval point of view much
regret unable to accept this commitment
on general grounds stated by my
representative at conference. Ref.
item 8. Although R.A.F. cannot guarantee
to undertake reconnaissance in focal
areas in gulf of Suez it should normally
be possible to provide this assistance
either by R.A.F. or Egyptian A.F. Will
have to decide on each occasion
according to commitments and situation
elsewhere at the same time. Reference
item 11. Target register in post to you.
(A.O. C.in C., M.E., 1642/14, to R.A.C.
4 C.S.).

MOST SECRET.

15.5.1940.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

831

Operations.

Dutch Coast - Demolition

Demolition parties from Ymuiden and Hook report as follows:-

All oil at Amsterdam and Rotterdam destroyed and consider fire must have caused enormous damage.

Ymuiden. All 3 locks destroyed and south channel blocked. 2 tugs 2 harbour launches and 4 motor lighters sunk in basin and 2 tugs at entrance to south lock. Dutch undertook to blow up guns in Fort.

Hook report Commander Hill and 3 ratings killed when pilot cutter with gold mined. Railway Station points and rolling stock blown up. All charges placed to destroy guns, but Dutch refused to allow parties to fire charges, undertaking to do so themselves. All charges placed for destruction of quays and toppling of cranes. Charges were not fired owing to order received at last minute by telephone giving instructions on no account to fire them. Crane mechanism destroyed. Despite continuous bombing and machine gunning party suffered no casualties.

(C.in C. Nore 2104/15).

Norway - French Troops to Re-Embark.

Please stop disembarkation of troops and stores from MASSILIA. Ship should re-embark as soon as possible all troops and stores belonging to Deuxieme De Demie Brigade De Chasseurs which were unloaded at Birkenhead and be ready to sail for Clyde. Please inform MASSILIA and report to F.O. Greenock when ship will be ready to sail. (Admiral Commandant, Force Z, 1525/15, to F.O. Liverpool).

Plan for re-embarking Deuxieme Division Legere de Chasseurs is now as follows:-
(A) KOUTOUBIA, COMPIEGNE, CHANTILLY, EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER will re-embark all troops animals and stores which they had recently disembarked in Clyde. These four ships will be sailed as soon as ready.
(B) MASSILIA is to return to Clyde from Liverpool after having re-embarked troops and stores of Deuxieme De Demie-Brigade which had already unloaded at Birkenhead. Her arrival at Greenock is expected on 17th May.
(C) All elements of Deuxieme Division Legere Chasseurs (troops animals and stores) other than those mentioned in (A) and (B) will be re-embarked in Clyde as soon as possible on board MASSILIA, MEXIQUE, VILLE DE MAJUNGA and possibly another ship if necessary. Detailed distribution on each ship will be given to you by Colonel Durand commanding Deuxieme Division Legere.
(F.L.O., Greenock, 2308/15 to P.S.T.O.Glasgow)

15.5.1940.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

832

Narvik.

French Ships.

French ships MEXIQUE, CHENONCEAUX, COLOMBIE, escorted by ECHO and BRAZEN and French cruiser EPERVIER, arrived Harstad. (F.O., Narvik, 2100/15).

Enemy Air Activity.

WINCHESTER.

Destroyer, at 0432/15 off Belgian coast, bombed, near miss, damage to dynamo and turbine had to return to Dover. (M.013316/40).

VALENTINE.

Destroyer at 1430/15 patrolling off Terneuzen, near Flushing, hit by bomb; fire in cordite magazine; boiler exploded; 23 men killed and 26 injured (of whom 8 died later). Ship was beached 1 mile west of Terneuzen and abandoned. (M.013316/40).

VALENTINE.

Report of loss by enemy air attack. M.010364/40.

HUSSAR.

Damaged in attack on 4th and 6th M/S.F. off Dutch coast (M.010306/40).

Mining.

Operation P.C.

Mine sweeping off Dutch coast. R. of P. 14 - 15 May. (M.010306/40.) By 4th and 6th M/S.F. *Clearance of QZS, about 52°16'N, 3°E.*

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Italian Threat,
Shipping.

My 0628/2. Request arrangements may be made to keep me informed of ships on East Indies Station which are carrying important consignments of fuel, provisions and stores for ships and forces in E. Mediterranean, so that in event of war with Italy and Red Sea being closed I may divert such ships to Bombay to await convoy to Suez. (C.in C. E.I., 13312/15)

~~Mediterranean.~~



MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.5.1940
Friday

833

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Minelaying

Operation "Bottle" R of P.,
aerial minelaying off Norwegian
Coast 17/5. C.O., R.N., Air
Station Hatston's No 3623 of
20/5 (M. 010300/40)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

EFFINGHAM

Loss of. Report in T.S.D. 5262/40
(R.A. Anti-Aircraft Ships 16-31
May 1940)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

1352

By VIRGINIA (M. 011300/40)



War Diary

18.5.1940
Saturday

834

HOME COMMANDS

Air-Enemy Air Activity

HUBBASTONE

Attacked by A/C at Dieppe. ^{on 21/5.} Ship abandoned
No casualties. (Report by master, Shipping
Casualties Section, Trade Division)

KEITH

Attacked 1526 in 51° 20' N., 2° 16' E.,
No damage (M. 010521/40)

SIRIUS

Norwegian. Sunk by a Heinkel 18/5 near
Tromso (T.S.D. 4388/40. V.A.C. 1st C.S.
War Diary 16-31 May 1940)

Enemy Intelligence

Trondheim

Report great military activity prevails
there, local transport being collected.
German H.H.Q. reported in Trondheim.
U-Boats reported to be discharging oil into
main oil tanks at Trondheim. No other
shipping has been seen for some time.
(A.A. Stockholm 1650/18)

ANGLO
Captured

Panamanian (2978 tons) reported captured
by the Germans at Bergen. 18/5 (D.O.R. 312)

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Danish Mutiny

My 0523/13. Consul, Sourabaya, reports
crew of Danish ship mutinied against re-
moval of Danish flag. Dutch flag now
flying. Expect crew will be interned.
(C.O.I.S. Far East, Singapore, 04142/18)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

By H.M.T. CAPE WARWICK M. 010476/40.
Considered non-sub (wreck of tanker ARNE
KJODE)



War Diary

20.5.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

835

Enemy Air Activity

MALCOLM

Destroyer bombed off West Hinder, 1925/20, (in about 51° 19' N., 2° 12' E.,) Four bombs 20 feet off bridge and six close astern; 2 men killed, 19 wounded, of whom 2 died.

Steamjoints broken, had to proceed to Portsmouth for repairs. (M. 013316/40)

INDUNA

Bombed 2300/20 12' S. of Beachy Head. Some damage (I.D. Form A.A.)

SAGACITY

Bombed 2245/20 2' S of Aldeborough L/V No damage, (I.D. Form A.A.)

M/V

ST. ANDREW

Bombed by A/C's and shelled by shore batteries at Dunkirk and Gravelines between 20/5 and 31/5. No damage, no casualties (Board of Trade)

ACHILLE

Attacked on patrol 0840 by English aircraft while in the security zone. Some damage. (M. 011117/40)

MALCOLM

Attack by aircraft 246° West Hinder Light, 9.6 miles Damage from near misses. (M. 010370/40)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

PEMBROKE COAST

Set on fire by flames at oil wharf, Narvik. Sunk by gun fire from H.M. Ships (Board of Trade)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Italian Situation ✓

Yugoslav General Staff to-day informs me that May 19 one Italian destroyer and two tugs, each towing a monitor armed with one 5.9 in. gun, one 4.7 in. gun and two A/A guns, arrived at Zara. Events in Rome appear slightly more reassuring. (A.N.A., Belgrade, 1800/20)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.5.1940 836
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Air-Enemy Air Activity

GRONINGEN

British, 1205 tons. Bombed at 0630 while at anchor in Imbleteuse Roads, north of Boulogne, and machine gunned. Shot down aircraft with Lewis gun. No damage to ship (D.E.M.S. Staff Officer, Southampton, Report of 27 May 1940)

BELGRAVIAN

British 3136 tons. Attacked by aircraft 6 m S.W. Dungeness 0030/22. Bombs dropped, near misses. No casualties (Attacks on M/V's by aircraft)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

DUNSTER GRANGE

Torpedoed 49° 20' N., 8° 40' W., 2046/22 off Scilly Isles. Ship escaped, after firing on S/M. Pipes damaged, but repaired. (Report by Master, Shipping Casualties Section Trade Division)

Submarines Attacked

By DEPTFORD and WHITEHALL. Report of attack on U-Boat (M. 013168/40)



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

AIR.

837

BELGRAVIAN.

British 3136 tons. Attacked by A/C while anchored in Downs 0300/23. Dive bombing. No hits.
(Attacks on M/V's by A/C.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Attacked by A/C at Tromso. No damage.
(T.S.D. 4388/40 V.A.C. 1st C.S. War Diary 16-31 May 1940.)

WASHOBRA.

Grounding and subsequent loss, at Harstad (M011170/40 R.M. Fortress Unit - Progress Dept. 6-27 May 1940).

Casualties and Defector

WHITSHED.

Destroyers in Boulogne at 1830/23, bombed, 1 killed and 13 wounded, ship not damaged.

KEITH.

Destroyer.

Ships
Attacked.
ALSTER.

U/Boat Campaign and Mining.

(Captured German ship used by British). unsuccessfully attacked by TRUANT in error on passage from Kirkenes to U.K.
(TRUANT 1010/13) (T.S.D. 4388/40 V.A.C. 1st C.S. War Diary 16-31 May 1940.

Submarines
Attacked.

By ROCHESTER 49° 11'N., 08° 45'W. Good contact. 6 dc's dropped. Result Doubtful.
(M.O. 13177/40).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.5.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

838

Operations-French Coast

Calais

Following received from WOLFHOUND: Troopers London, from C.M.D.G., Calais. Am being heavily shelled. Line being stabilised in town but am extended over wide front in endeavour to keep enemy off harbour. Reinforcements urgent. 1904 (V.A.Dover, 1939/24)

2nd C.S. have not detailed information of Dover district. It will not be possible to reach bombardment area before dark. Request information as to position of our own land force. If practicable propose bombarding from vicinity of No 9 Buoy. (C.S. 2., to Admty., 1735/24)

Air-British Air Activity

Calais.

Six aircraft bombed land position on St. Inglevert-Calais road $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.S.E. of Chalk Pit at 1615. 24- 250lb bombs dropped, post severely damaged. One A/C failed to return. The striking force first searched for and failed to locate a land battery W. of Calais covering the harbour. Alternative target as above was then attacked. (Chatham H.Q., C.C., 2015/24)

ARK ROYAL

Combat Reports.
No 800 Squadron
No 801 "
No 803 "
No 810 "
No 820 " (C.A. 0414/40)

Enemy Air Activity

ST JULIEN

Bombed and machine gunned by aircraft and shelled by shore batteries while carrying wounded, between 24/5 and 31/5, off Calais, Gravelines and Dunkirk. Slight damage. (Board of Trade)

VIMIERA

R. of enemy and attack 24/5. (M. 011124/40) 4 miles west of Calais. Attacked by about 18 aircraft. Very badly shaken by bombs of which 2 patterns exploded right under ship. Question of ships fitted with dual fire control arrangements. L.A. and H.A., for shore bombardments when air attack is probable.



War Diary

24.5.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

839

North Atlantic

EGHOLM }
SKAANE }
SOBORG }

(Danish) Arranged for them to sail from Lisbon to be captured and escorted to Gibraltar to join convoy for U.K., fully loaded with cargo for U.K. (Method adopted to avoid reprisals on their families in Denmark) (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1700/24)

America & West Indies

Suspected
Raider

Ref. 1844/23 from Admty., vessel similar to ALTMARK reported seen CAPULET. CAPULET reported on arrival at Trinidad that her noon position 20/5 was 03° 40' N., 47° 40' W., (C. in C., A.W.I., 2215/24)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

KYMA

Greek, 3993 tons. Torpedoed and sunk 0020/24 48° 30' N., 9° 30' W., S/M not sighted. Crew in boats for 20 hours. Sighted by R.A.F. plane and picked up by H.M.S. ENCHANTRESS (I.D. Form Attacks on Merchant vessels by enemy Submarines) (M. 010292/40)

25.5.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operation E.F. (Blocking of Zeebrugge).

VEGA.

Report of Operations E.F. (Blocking of Zeebrugge) (M.O. 10757/40).

840

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Sal
Island.

Your 0929/24. Matter has been taken up with French and Portuguese. French urged to keep A.M.C. in vicinity and prepare effective counter measures. Portuguese urged at once to send effective force to prevent coup. Measures also taken for Azores. (Hd. of M. to C. in C. S.A., 2142/25).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

27.5.1940.
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

841

BIARRITZ.

British 2388 tons. 0540/27. Shelled 4 m N.E. Calais while acting as troop transport 1 killed superficial damage. (Shipping Casualties 136809).

SEQUACITY.

British M/V. Sunk by gunfire from Shore Batteries off coast between Calais and Boulogne at about 0900/27. Report from Sgt. W.T. Hinds, her Bren Gunner. (M.010596/40).

QUEEN OF
THE CHANNEL.

Bringing 950 troops from Dunkirk. Bombed and sunk by enemy A/C. No lives lost. (Board of Trade).

U/Boat Campaign and Mining.

Ships
Attacked.

SHEAF MEAD.
Sunk.

On way to Philadelphia 43° 48' N., 12° 32' W. 1250/27, violent explosion abaft engine room. Ship went down in 2 minutes. S/M 5 yards away. S/M crew took photographs of crew in the water, offered no assistance, 3 men died, on raft - 6 men on upturned life boat, lost after being in water 25 hours. Picked up by Greek FRANCOULA B. GOULANDRES which took Survivors (b) to Queenstown. (interview with Chief Engineer SHEAF MEAD. Shipping Casualties Trade Division.)



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

28.5.1940.
Tuesday.

842

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Narvik.

Final
Assault
and
Capture.

Report from C.O. CAIRO, giving details of damage to ship (M010964N/40). CAIRO arrived in Narvik area on 9/5, and between 11/5 and 27/5 and had been in action daily with enemy aircraft except for 13/5 and 19/5, during which 162 bombing attacks carried out on CAIRO and ships and shore objectives in immediate vicinity. On 27/5 state of armament was that only one 4-in. mounting could be considered effective and reliable. A. of F. Lord Cork embarked and hoisted his flag shortly after 1800/27. The bombardment with 4-in. and 2-pdr. p.m-pom was carried out in accordance with operation orders and subsequent calls for fire from French authorities ashore. Targets indicated were accurately engaged. At 0420/28, a Junkers 88 attacked from 18,000 ft. Subsequently attacks were made by about 20 to 24 aircraft on bombarding ships. At 0541, three Heinkels attacked from 18,000 ft., released about 20 bombs simultaneously. Greater number missed to port, one near miss aft causing two casualties at "Y" gun and minor damage to circuits of "Y" gun; another near miss forward blew in two scuttles on the main deck level, holed ship's side above waterline, and caused one casualty at "A" gun. The two extreme bombs of the pattern hit the ship, one before the bridge on the pom-pom deck and one between the funnels. (Details of bomb hits and damage).

Air.

HIRD.

Norwegian 4950 tons. Bombed by enemy aircraft. Reached Port. (Shipping Casualties.)

Mining.

Operation
R.M.

About 100 mines per night are being launched in the Rhine.

Shipping.

Warning message has been sent to all authorities to prepare for the diversion of shipping to west coast ports. (M.S.M.)

Casualties and Defects.

ENSEIGNE
HENRY.

Lands End intercepted at 0733/28 G.M.T., S.O.S. from ship believed to be ENSEIGNE HENRY (French Q.V.) sinking as result of explosion in 261C. Finnisterre 80 miles. (F.O.C.N.A. 0944/28 to CHESHIRE.) (T.S.D. 5212/40)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.5.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

843

Air-Enemy Air Activity

CLAN MACALISTER

British, 6787 tons, O.H.M.S., bombed by enemy A/C, Dunkirk, 1545/29. 3 direct hits vessel caught fire and was eventually abandoned. 18 lives lost. Survivors brought to Dover by minesweeper. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties)

ISLE OF GUERNSEY

Hospital Carrier, bombed and machine gunned by enemy aircraft English Channel about 1930/29, 51.8 N., 2.10 E., while rescuing a British Airman from the sea. One A.B. seriously injured by machine gun bullets when assisting the survivors to board the ship. Vessel sustained superficial damage and able to proceed. (Minute Sheet & B. of T.)

E-Boats

GRAFTON

Report of Loss while engaged in evacuation of Dunkirk. (M. 011712/40)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Aircraft
Minesweeping

Admty. 1946/20, re aircraft flying to Egypt for magnetic minesweeping Suez Canal. One aircraft crashed Bizerta, two others require new engines, of which there are no spares in Egypt. Consider minimum of six aircraft should be available in Egypt. (C. in C., Med. 1851/29)



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

844

Operations.

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk. Great opportunity missed during the night, only 3 drifters arrived. Some craft now loaned unsuitable in daylight. No water or food yet provided on Dunkirk beach for large number of troops. Sporadic bombing, lighters most necessary.
(S.N.O. (A) Dunkirk 0755/30).

Casualties and Defects.

MONIQUE
SCHIAFINO.

French (3236 tons) reported sunk? by A/C at Dunkirk (D.S.)

MAILLE BREZE.

Explosion which sunk her was caused by one of her torpedoes. (T.S.D. 4587/40).

SHARPSHOOTER.

Report of damage sustained in collision. (M011442/40).

Ships
Attacked.

U/Boat Campaign and Mining.

STANHALL
Sunk.

Sunk by explosion, probably torpedo 150 mls. S.W. Lands End. 1825/30.
(U/Boat Incidents Report 269 1067).

CARARE,
Mines and
Sunk.

Off Braksea Lt. Vessel. Report by Master. (Trade Div. Shipping Casualties Section).

S/MS.
Attacked.

By WESTON 52° 23'N., 02° 01'E. 5 attacks made. S/M sunk all crew rescued. (M011171/40).



MOST SECRET.

31.5.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations, Iceland.

Reports of visits of NORTHERN DUKE and KINGSTON ONYX. (M010805/40). 845

Dunkirk.

BARBARA
JEAN.

British, 144 tons, on voyage from Dover to Dunkirk with military stores, abandoned and blown up during Dunkirk evacuation p.m./31. No lives lost. Crew rescued by Admiralty Trawler. (Minute Sheet, ref. WR/1940, and B. of T. Casualties).

LADY OF MANN.

British, 3,104 tons, damaged by shellfire from shore batteries and bombed by enemy aircraft, 1100 to 1700, Dunkirk Harbour. No direct hits. Starboard bows, three lifeboats, etc., damaged by shrapnel. (Minute sheet and B. of T. Casualties.)

Casualties and Defects.

DEVONIA.

Damaged by bombing on 31 May and beached at La Panne.

U/Boat Campaign and Mining.

Ships
Attacked.

MOUNT
MYRTO.

I.D. Form S.A. (M011896/40).

S.S.
TEMPLEMOAT.

Reported being attacked by S/M 0516/31. U/Boat Incidents Report 269 1068.

ORANGEMOOR.

Torpedoed 49° 43'N., 3° 23'W. 150° Start Point 30 miles 1305/31. U/Boat Incidents Report 269 1070. 3 destroyers searching. Sank in one minute 22 survivors 18 missing. (I.D. Form S.A.)

Submarines
Reported.

U/Boat sighted by VIMY off N.W. Goodwin, Buoy 0600/31. SHELDRAKE and 2 A/S Trawlers to join in search. U/Boat Incidents Report 269 1069.

Submarines
Attacked.

By RESTIGOUCHE and ST.LAURENT 1449-1700/31. 48 51'N., 05 04'W. (M. 011274/40) This was the first hunt carried out by Canadian destroyers on this side of the Atlantic. Target was non-sub.

A



B

C



D

Dunkirk, (Dynamo) commence 26/5, 588
27/5, 599; 28/5, 711; 29/5, 715; 30/5, 717; 31/5, 734-741
30/5, 758, 763, 780, 781, 785, 790;

E

F



Furious a/c, to land squadrons, 25/5, 583

G

H.



1 J

K

INVASION-ANTI-^{HMS} York 28/5, 714
761, 780



ITALY. (WAR IN THE) Station Shipping 21/5,
p783

L

M



N

Narvik, capture of, 28/5, 712
re Air support 31/5, 794.