

1.7.40  
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

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Home Commands

M.T.B.  
Sweep

M.T.B's carried out a sweep during the night 30/6 - 1/7 with the object of destroying enemy M.T.B's. and M.V's off the mouths off the Maas and Scheldt.

TRIDENT  
18th C.S.

TRIDENT reported 2 destroyers off Stadlandet at 0600/1. an A/C left at noon to investigate.

C.S.18 in MANCHESTER with SHEFFIELD, NEWCASTLE and destroyers left Rosyth early this morning, to carry out a patrol between Aldeburgh and Brown Ridge. The bases of the cruisers are to be as follows :- NEWCASTLE at Plymouth; MANCHESTER at Portsmouth; SHEFFIELD and BIRMINGHAM at the Nore; GALATEA, CARDIFF and AURORA at the Humber.

U. 26  
scuttled

ROCHESTER, escorting an inward-bound convoy, and a Sunderland A/C carried out a combined attack on a U-boat and today about 220 miles S.S.W. of Cape Clear. The U-boat which proved to be U.26 scuttled herself and ROCHESTER rescued the crew. Several ships had been torpedoed in this area during the last 24 hours.

Preparations for Invasion.

C. in C.W.A. has directed that all destroyers fit for service are to be at sea or in an open anchorage during the night until further orders, in order to avoid probable mining of harbours and bombing attacks on ships in harbour, which may proceed any attempt at invasion.

Certain parachute troops have completed training in Austria and have now moved to Belgium, together with General Weisse who is at the head of a special air landing force.

FRENCH FLEET

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S/M's PROTEUS and PANDORA are proceeding from Malta to patrol off Oran and Algiers respectively.

EMILE BERTIN, BEARN and DUNEDIN are at Martinique.

C. in C.S.A. has arrived at Freetown in ALBATROSS from Dakar. DORSETSHIRE relieved HERMES on patrol outside Dakar.

Units not in contact with the British appear content to remain in harbour.

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SITUATION REPORT

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FORCE H.

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At 0230/1 NELSON and 4 destroyers, then about 300 miles West of Ireland on passage to Gibraltar, were ordered to proceed to Scapa.

Air.

At 1810 an A/C sighted and attacked 3 enemy destroyers, 6 M.V.'s and 3 tankers 55 miles N.W. of Lister Light steering a northerly course. No results were observed owing to thick haze. 35 minutes later 5 enemy destroyers and 6 lightly laden M.V.'s of about 4000 tons were seen steering W.N.W. 40 miles West of Lister Light and were attacked, bursts being observed in the middle of the convoy.

Six 8000 - 10000 ton M.V.'s anchored at Bergen were bombed. Heavy and accurate A.A. fire prevented results from being observed.

~~SCHARNHORST in dry dock at Kiel was heavily attacked many hits are claimed and huge fire started; 2 A/C's are missing.~~

18 Swordfish attacked a large concentration of over 100 barges East of Rotterdam, in the Maas.

Enemy aircraft today dropped bombs at Wick, and also at Hull where oil tanks were set on fire. 4 enemy aircraft are reported to have been shot down. There were further raids during the night but only one slight casualty is reported and no military damage was caused.

Mining

Humber, Weymouth and Portland were closed in the morning, but were reopened in the afternoon. Amble is closed.

6 Hampdens carried out minelaying in the Elbe estuary.

Convoys

C.M. Convoy of 6 ships with West African troops escorted by KENT, has arrived at Mombasa.

B.C. (slow) escorted by CORNWALL arrived at Takoradi a.m./1 for water, en route for Freetown.

B.C. (fast) escorted by AUSTRALIA is on passage to Freetown from Cape Town.

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SITUATION REPORT

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Convoys (Ctd.)

B.N.1. escorted by CERES is near 55° E., proceeding to Aden. W.S.1. consisting of liners which brought the Australian and New Zealand troops to England, with drafts, escorted by CUMBERLAND, is about 400 miles W. of South Ireland, bound for Freetown.

STRATHMORE, escorted by CANBERRA is on passage from Fremantle to Cape Town. (See 29/6. P. 619)

DEVONSHIRE and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA left Halifax today for Iceland, with 1700 troops and stores.

FURIOUS

FURIOUS with aeroplanes for U.K. also left Halifax to-day.

Italian Hostilities.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, RAMILLIES and EAGLE with escort are due to return to Alexandria p.m./1 from the westward.

One of H.M. ships was attacked at 1330 by an unidentified a/c in Perim Harbour. No damage is reported.

Mines have been located 285° Ras ~~el~~<sup>el</sup> Tin, 24½ miles.



War Diary

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FRENCH FLEET

Mediterranean

Oran

Admty. 1622/30. At present lying at Oran and Mers El Kebir. French battle cruisers DUNKERQUE, STRASBOURG, aviation transport COMMANDANT TESTE, 2 cruisers, 19 destroyers 4 submarines. (Oran, 1800/1)

East Indies

CARAIBE

Ordered by French Admiral, Far East, to Diego Suarez to await orders from him. (C. in C., E.I. 0429Z/1) Orders to KENT, pending reply from Admty. whether she is to be allowed to leave. (C. in C., 0521/1) No obstruction to be placed in way of V CARAIBE carrying out instructions of French Admiral, Far East. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., E.I., 16L8/1)



War Diary

1.7.1940.  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

In view of possible invasion, it is my intention that all Destroyers fit for service shall be at sea or in an open anchorage during the night till further orders. (C. in C., W.A. 2056/1 to Cpts.D)

Disposition to be maintained each night by CARDIFF and Destroyers to repel Invasion (C. in C., Nore 1940/1)

Photographic Air R/C shows large concentration of Barges in River Maas, East of Rotterdam. (I.C. 0499/40)

Movements

NELSON

To return to Scapa. Route and Escort to be arranged. (D.C. 0251/1) See Force H.

Operations

"Naval"

Negative Naval (N.O.I.C. Dover 0001/1 to Dover Force.

R.M. Brigade

My 1628/28. Brigade will be at 6 hours notice from 1700/1. Brigadier strongly wishes longer notice if possible to enable training be carried out. 12 hours notice would satisfy this condition. (Milford Haven 1054/1 to Adnty)

Sweep by  
M.T.B's

All available M.T.B's are to repeat Operation ordered in my 1542/27 to-night. Not to go North of 52° N. (Sweep of Mouths of Maas and Scheldt) (C. in C., Nore 1725/1)



War Diary

1.7.1940.  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

Patrols

H.31 from A.5 reports occasional E-boat Patrols co-operating with aircraft. One E-boat seen, remainder heard. (S.6. 1004/1 to V.A.S.)

E-boats Attacked

British s.s. HELDER reports she sank an E-Boat on 30th June, Cape Barfleur bearing 1340,40' distant. (C. in C., Nore 1505/1 to Admty.)



War Diary

1.7.1940.  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Re German aircraft, claimed to be Red Cross machine shot down near mouth of River Dene. Report by BLACK SWAN (N.I.D.O. 2548/40)

Enemy Air Activity

PERDITA

British 543 tons, Liverpool to Cardiff attacked by aircraft 0240/1. Cardiff Roads. Bluff of bow (portside) damaged below water line by concussion or splinter. (Shipping casualties O.N. 131 309)

War Diary

1.7.1940.  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air - British Air Activity

Convoys  
Attacked

At 2045/1 aircraft attacked convoy of 6 M.V's and 5 destroyers at 58.06'N 5.E. Near miss observed. (Donibristle 0010/2)  
At 1810/1 aircraft attacked convoy of 3 destroyers and 6 M/V's at 58.30'N. 5.E Near miss observed. (Donibristle 2340/1)

Barges in Maas  
to be attacked

Order for attack on Barges in River Maas east of Rotterdam and for laying W. Bombs in that River (H.Q.C.C. 175D/1)

Enemy Air Activity

HESPERUS

Attacked by aircraft in EJMA 12 (sic) No hits (HESPERUS 0732/1 and 0750/1)

Indications of considerable enemy air activity in N. part of North Sea. (D.D.I.C. 0936/1) These aircraft were making weather reports. (D.D.I.C. 1127/1)

Convoy  
Attacked

Convoy Jumbo attacked by aircraft at 50.14'N 3.54'W. (VERSATILE 1231/1)

Cardiff and  
Penarth

Details of damage by air raid 0015 to 0251/30 June. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1300/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

Portland

Damage in air raid 2020/30 June. No casualties (F.O.I.C. Portland 1315/1 to Admty.)

Enemy aircraft crashed and sank in 53.39'N 0.45'E 4 of crew recovered, 2 wounded. Intend sending them in GUILLEMOT to Harwich. a.m. 2nd July. (BLACK SWAN 1901/1 to C. in C., Nore.)

Cardiff )  
Penarth )  
Port Talbot

Details of air raid 0050 to 0355/1 July No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1400/1 to C. in C., W.A.)



HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Unidentified  
Explosion

Aircraft reports an underwater explosion at 1715/1 in 50.53' N 0.50'E. No vessels near (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1830/1)

LL Trawlers exploded North Pole Mine at 048° Grimsby Hydraulic Tower 1 mile (F.O. Humber 1829/1 to Admty)

One Magnetic Mine has been exploded in the Downs. (D.C.N.S. 302)

Amble Closed

All U.K. Ports are open, except Amble. (D.C.N.S. 302)

Six black objects like mines reported by aircraft near Oil Track at 17' South of Mull of Kintyre at 2115/1. (I.C. 0499/40)

Enemy Intelligence

2 Destroyers

Two destroyers bearing 000° 5 miles 083° at 62.11'N 4.42'E (TRIDENT 0610/1 to Adty) One aircraft leaves Sumburgh 1200/1 to locate. (C. in C., Rosyth 1118/1 to C. in C., H.F.)

Escorted  
Convoy

Three Destroyers, nine M/V's, one aircraft, bearing 000° 9 miles course 030 my position 58.33'N. 5.15'E (aircraft 233 Sqn. 1810/1) My 1810 Twelve Destroyers, six cargo, three tankers, course 030° 10 knots. (A/C 233, 1850/1)

5 Destroyers  
6 M.V's

At 2045 five Destroyers and six M/V's at 58.06' N 5.00'E. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 0010/2) Course 350° speed 10 knots (Aircraft 233 Sqn. 2025/1)

Brest

Harbour clear except for 3 obsolete Warships lying off in Condorcet. (P.D.U.I. 1945/1)

Fret

Eight vessels 150 to 200 feet in group S. of the Bay. (P.D.U.I. 1945/1)

Cherbourg

Clear of Major Units. (P.D.U.I. 1945/1)

3 Cruisers  
6 Destroyers

At 2216/1 Three Cruisers and Six Destroyers at 52.36'N 2.15' E steering due south. aircraft report. (Chatham 0026/2)

Naval Vessel  
Sunk

It is reported by a reliable source that at Hamburg, a naval vessel, either destroyer or submarine, which had just been launched, was hit during a bombing raid on an earlier date and sank in the harbour. (Air Min. D.S. 347)

/Conditions....

HOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence-Contd.

Condition of defences and shipping in Skaggerak and Baltic. (N.A. Stockholm 1234/1 to D.N.I.)

Bergen

Six M/V's 8000 to 10,000 tons, at anchor. aircraft report. (D.C.N.S. 302)

Stavanger

Ten M/V's not under way 10' NNW of Stavanger (I.C. 0499/40)

Shipping

Your 1903/26 June. 1732/28 June, 1404/30 June and operation SN. There is a good deal of co-ordination to be done as to routing of convoys round North of Scotland and position of SN minefields. For instance, if intended to route all convoys through Pentland Firth: they must pass in daylight as navigational lights cannot be lit and passage for fleet leaving Scapa at night must be kept free. If Fair Island Channels to be used, S.E. end of Orkney Faroes minefield must be seriously reconsidered. Request you will send representatives to Scapa to discuss the matter before any decision is come to where to lay mines. Extension of east coast barrier to the North Westward should also be considered. (C. in C., H.F. 1332/1 to Admty)

0500

WEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	Light variable	Good	Similar
Channel	Light northerly	Good to very Good. Coastal haze.	Similar
Western Approaches	Light N.E.	Very Good.	Similar
Horns Reef	Light northerly	Good	Similar
W. Coast Norway	Light S. to W.	Good	S.W. Moderate Fresh wind.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ANTONIS  
GEORGANDIS

Greek, 3557 tons, left St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands on 5 June and has not been heard of since 6 June when she was in W/T touch with Las Palmas. (D.S. 300)

TIRRANNA

Norwegian. Has been called by Colombo, Mauritius and Mombasa for 48 hours without result. (C. in C., East Indies. 0729/1 to A.C.N.B)



War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French, Poles  
and Czechs

Ref 2300/30 and 0535/1. Have communicated message to French Admiral who states immediately written instructions regarding armistice terms are received he must intern Poles and Czechs. Aircraft carrier leaves here July 2 for Bordeaux and returns following day but orders may possibly arrive meanwhile. (Bond, Casablanca, 1200/1)

Escorts

For ULSTER MONARCH and ROYAL ULSTERMAN. (F.O.C.N.A. to A.C.W.A., 1308/1)

French  
Loyalists

Your 1302/30. Men referred to and any further arrivals who belong to French fighting forces and who are anxious to continue struggle under General de Gaulle should be sent to U.K. at first opportunity. Latter proviso does not apply to personnel referred to in my 1126/29. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. 2010/1) Admty. 2010/1 These men, volunteering to help our cause, are to be given every encouragement and are to be informed before despatch to U.K. that they are welcomed as brothers and that it is because we think that it is in our country, in the first instance that they can render the best assistance, that they are coming to England. (Lst. S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 0230/2)

Casablanca

British ships GIBEL DERSA and OAK CREST arriving 2/7 Request provisions and water (F.O. Gibraltar, to Consul, Casablanca, 1606/1)

South Atlantic

French  
Attitude

Pronouncements of French African Colonies to fight on have evaporated. French system of centralized government makes it extremely difficult for colonial authorities to break away from their normal attitude of looking to French Govt. for a lead. We cannot count upon any help except in isolated or individual cases (C. in C., S.A., 1755/1)

Convoy B.C.5.

Date of sailing from Takoradi (C. in C., S.A. 1119/1)

CORFU

Amending my 1903/30 (C. in C., S.A. 1030/1)

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

ARGYLL  
Dakar

My despatch 506. Consular Shipping Adviser Dakar, informs me of British ARGYLL being held by French authorities. Master of ship announces intention to sail tomorrow, Tuesday, and forcing boom defences. (C. in C., S.A. 2151/1)

Mediterranean- General

Evacuations

Your 75039 (M.O. 5.) 28/6. Agree accept families (C. in C., Middle East to War Office. 1510/1)

ESPERO  
Sunk

Italian destroyer sunk 28/6. Stated in Italian comuniqué 1/7 to have been the ESPERO

Turkey

Attitude towards the Russo-Rumanian situation. (Ankara, 1200/1)

Fleet  
Positions

PARTHIAN to keep south of line 295° from Ras el Tin until arrival, all other forces north of line. (C. in C., Med., to Med. Fleet 1737/1)

Air

Destroyer  
Attacked

One flying boat 201 Greup attacked enemy destroyer. Results unknown. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., Operational Summary No 22. 1836/2/7)

Malta  
Fighters

Impossible to send any fighters to Malta (W.O., 1200/1, see Operations Volume)

Italian  
Transports

Only able to take intermittent action against (C. in C., Med., 1605/1, see Operations Med<sup>n</sup> Volume)

p. 42

? 28<sup>th</sup> June (Med P.N., p. 20)

Raid on  
Augusta

5 Swordfish raided oil refinery and tank, Augusta last night at dusk. Defences taken by surprise. Small fire started in refinery and big cloud of smoke observed 4 mins. after first bomb dropped. Shipping observed Augusta 5 ships, possibly 3 8 in cruisers and 2 large destroyers, and one floating dock or tanker.

/Observation.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

14

Mediterranean- Air, Contd.

Observation at Syracuse about 12 merchant ships. 2 destroyers sighted at sea 092<sup>o</sup> Cape Passaro distance 40 miles course 140<sup>o</sup> speed 25 knots. All aircraft returned safely. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1513/1)

My 1513 Photographic reconnaissance shows 3 cruisers at Messina. Clouds obscured Augusta, but 4 cruisers and number of small craft probably destroyers observed. Syracuse, 3 or 4 small ships in harbour. (V.A., Malta 1857/1)

830 Sqn.  
Malta

12 Swordfish in Malta ex 767 Sqn. to constitute new first line squadron numbered 830. Arrangements for reserves. (D.N.A.D. to C. in C., Med., 1603/1)

Mining

Rumanian radio announced warning to ships declaring Rumanian Black Sea coast around Constanza danger zone. All lights extinguished. Ships intending to call at Sulina or Constanza must announce this 24 hours in advance or else approach at own risk. (Transocean 0600 G.M.T./1)

East Indies

French  
CARAIBE

Ordered by French Admiral, Far East, to Diego Suarez to await orders from him. CARAIBE will be ready for service at Mombasa 3/7. Is she to be allowed to leave or should force if necessary be used to prevent it? (C. in C., E.I. 0492/1) Orders to KENT, pending reply from Admiralty (C. in C., E.I. 0521/1) Your 0429 and 0521/1. No obstruction should be placed in way of French CARAIBE carrying out instructions of French Admiral, Far East. (D.O.D. (F- 1608/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

French  
Martinique.  
BEARN

My 1001/30 Further report from FIJI emphasized urgent necessity for diplomatic representative to be sent from U.S.A. by Air, as suggested by Governor of Trinidad in his notice to Sec. of State. Certain influential elements loyal to Allied cause, but Admiral Martinique now describes as "brick Bordeaux wall", though he has stated we should trust French Navy to scuttle their own ships. Consider BEARN's aircraft still remain most important objective. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1011/1)

PENGUIN  
U-Boat Supply  
Ship ?

Peruvian, trading West Coast South and Central America, German master endeavoured to obtain 10,000 gallons diesel oil. Suppliers' investigation showed 1700 gallons sufficient for return journey to Guayaquil and surplus delivery refused. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1041/1)

H.X. 55

MONTCLARK to escort. (F.O.C. 3.B.S. 1833/1)

Enemy Unit

D.F. indicates possibility of enemy unit in position 47.05' N., 44.40' W. at 1937Z/1. Second class bearings only. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1833/1)

Convoy

FURIOUS, with Aeroplanes for U.K. DEVONSHIRE and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, with 1700 troops and stores for Iceland, left Halifax 1/7 (D.O.R. 302)

War Diary

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16

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PIEMONTE

S.O.S. intercepted by Algoa Bay W/T station  
34. 42' N., (?) 21.40' (Not stated whether  
E or W.) (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2140/1)



SINKING OF M.V. BEIGNON - A NEW SHIP LAUNCHED IN 1939

17A

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 5,215; armed with 4" and 12-pdr.

DATE AND TIME: 1515/1/7. Early morning, just light.

POSITION: 50 miles 062° from latitude 45°59'N. longitude 11°39' W.

SPEED: Doing "all out" 18 knots at time, average speed 11½ knots.

ROUTE: Freetown to Newcastle.

CARGO: Wheat in bulk.

IN CONVOY: Yes, 35 in convoy. Doing unorthodox zig-zag at the time. Main convoy out of sight ahead.

ESCORT: One only. A.A.C. DUNVEGAN CASTLE: out of sight at time of zap torpedoing.

FATE OF CREW: 35 in crew, and 85 rescued a few hours previously from S.S. AVELONA STAR. 3 missing from BEIGNON, 5 from AVELONA STAR.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Very moderate wind, force 2, easy swell.

REMARKS:- There was no sign of S/M although a track of a torpedo had been seen earlier across stern of ship. There were many watch-keepers on deck. The torpedo struck on starboard side about 150 feet from stem. She went down in 3 minutes after all boats and rafts had got clear with crews. The Captain went down with the ship.

DATE: 10th July 1940.

11XCCB.

SINKING OF S.S. CLEARTON

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 5,218; armed with 4" gun.

DATE AND TIME: July 1st at 1320

POSITION: 042°, 240 miles from the Smalls. (Entrance Bristol Channel)

SPEED: 8½ knots, doing No. 10 zig-zag.

ROUTE: Freetown to Manchester

CARGO: 7540 tons of cereals.

IN CONVOY: At first, dropped out through lack of speed early morning of June 30th.

ESCORT: No escort after leaving convoy.

FATE OF CREW: 34 all told; 8 killed and 4 seriously injured.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Moderate, very heavy swell.

REMARKS:- Without warning a torpedo struck on starboard side of No.1 hold about 80 to 100 feet from bow. Hatches were blown up and ship started to go down just by the head. Boats lowered and manned. Captain and 4 others remained in behind. 4 or 5 minutes after first torpedo a second struck amidships in engine room. The starboard boat alongside which contained a number of the crew was blown to pieces and all were blown into the air, and the few survivors were picked up by other boat. The dinghy was lowered, those remaining on ship got into it and pulled clear. Ten minutes after the ship sank rapidly. Destroyer appeared and for 5 hours dropped depth charges over location of S/M and lots of oil came to surface. Survivors were taken into Plymouth on the 4th by Destroyer.

DATE: 19th July 1940.

11XCCB.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

AMSTELLAND

Dutch 8156 tons, in ballast to Buenos Aires, torpedoed 1336/1 250 miles S.W. of Fastnet. Rudder damaged and cannot steam. Was in convoy unescorted. (D.O.R., 302) 47.53 N., 13.23 W. (Land's End Radio 1238/ G.M.T./1) 47.45 N., 13.40W., (C. in C., W.A. 1325/1) Floating well in 47.46 N., 13.40 W. CALENDULA ordered to stand by (Capt. D. 9., 1518/1) tug MARAUDER to assist. (C. in C., W.A. 1824/1)

CLEARTON

(see also 17B)

British, 5219 tons, from Rosario to Liverpool with cereal offals and grain. Torpedoed at 1322/1 200 miles S. of Fastnet. Was in convoy unescorted. 47.53 N., 9.30 W. (Valentia Radio, 1325/1) (C. in C., W.A. 1336/1)

CLAN OGILVY  
GODFREY B. HOLT

(see 30/6) ROCHESTER and GLADIOLUS proceed to escort in position 46.22 N., 13.28 W. Tug is on the way. (C. in C., W.A. 0907/1)

Unknown Ship

→ Torpedoed and sinking. 48.34 N., 10.19 W (VANSITTART, 1323/1) your 1323, Attack U-Boat. (C. in C., W.A. 1518/1)

Submarines Reported

- 1221 47.53 N., 13.23 W (AMSTELLAND torpedoed) ROCHESTER to attack. (C. in C., W.A. 1422/1)
- 1322 47.53 N., 09.30 W., (CLEARTON Torpedoed)
- 2130/30 A/F message 46.46 N., 12.17 W at 2030 E.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0105/1)
- 0020 48.03 N., 11.11 W., GLADIOLUS ordered to attack. (C. in C., W.A. 0139/1) (D.D.I.C. 0230/1)
- 0217 48.01 N., 11.18 W. ROCHESTER to join GLADIOLUS hunting WINDSOR and VESPER to join D.A. 36 and act as escort. (C. in C., W.A., 0217/1)
- 0600 By aircraft, 58.21 N., 2.51 W., submarined submerged. (A/C 612 Sqdn., 0600/1)
- 1323 → 48.34 N., 10.19 W (Unknown ship attacked) VANSITTART to attack U/B (VANSITTART 1323/1 (C. in C., W.A. 1518/1)

?U.25

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

Estimated Dispositions:-

1 in Finisterre Area  
2 in Western Approaches  
1 N.W. of Ireland homeward bound  
1 off Flannen Islands homeward bound  
1 N. of Shetlands homeward bound  
1 in 60.50' 3.E at 1542/30 homeward bound  
The one thought to be 90.W of Shetlands at  
0912/30 was homeward bound. (D.D.I.C.  
1232/1)

1400/1

54.55'N., 5.38'W. Reported by A/S Trawler  
VICTRIX (I.C. 0499/40)

2006/1

47.30' N 14.W Position indefinite. A.l.  
(I.C. 0499/40)

2300/1

At Vigo U-boat reported to have gone along-  
side a German ship. B 2. (D.D.I.C. 1755/2)

Mediterranean & West Indies

Submarines Attacked

My 1427/29 and 1733/29. Intend to issue for  
release tomorrow, Tuesday. Our naval and  
air forces operating in Central and Eastern  
Mediterranean during the period June 27 to  
30 have destroyed four enemy submarines.  
(C. in C., Med. 1459/1)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

Before 0800/1  
U-26 Sunk

*GLADIOLUS credited  
with sinking, not  
ROCHESTER*

*J. 9629 of No. 510 Sq.*

ROCHESTER (escorting an inward-bound convoy) and a Sunderland flying boat carried out a combined attack on U 26 and sank her (D.O.R. 302)

Aircraft report you are picking up survivors of U-boat. Confirm. (C. in C., W.A. 0854/1 to GLADIOLUS) Your 0207. After combined gunfire and bombing attack by ROCHESTER and Sunderland, No 570, this U boat scuttled herself in 47.52 N., 11.38 W. Have Captain and all crew on board. GLADIOLUS with 5 depth charges left standing by ZARIAN, 47.54 N 11.12 W (ROCHESTER, 0915/1)

2115

By aircraft 55.02N., 5.38 W, N.E. of Larne, Northern Ireland. 2 bombs dropped oil patches seen. JASON and WALKER ordered to the spot, also A/S trawlers VICTRIX and PAYNTER from Larne. (D.O.R. 302) (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2226/1, 2257/1) (C. in C., Rosyth, 2310/1) Suspected minelaying (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2329/1)

0600

By aircraft of Coastal Command. Attacked U-Boat submerged 15 m. S.E. of Wick. Aircraft summoned a trawler which proceeded to stand by the position. (D.O.R., 302)



2.7.40  
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

20

Home Commands

M.T.B. Sweep. Large M.T.B's from Harwich again carried out a sweep off the mouths of the Scheldt and Maas last night.

Operation "Catapult".

Force H left Gibraltar to carry out Operation Catapult. *(French Fleet at Oran)*

Troop Convoys (0715/2)

B.C. (Slow) escort CORNWALL, is at Takoradi.

B.C. (Fast) escort AUSTRALIA, due Freetown 3/7

B.N.1. escort CERES to 55° E., thence LEANDER, is proceeding to Aden.

W.S.1. escort CUMBERLAND is about 200 miles N.E. of Azores.

STRATHMORE escort CANBERRA is on passage from Fremantle to Capetown.

ARANDORA STAR sunk.

ARANDORA STAR on passage to Canada with 479 German and 734 Italian male internees and 86 German prisoners of war and guards was torpedoed at 0610 about 125 miles from Malin Head and sunk. Over 800 have been saved.

Air.

During last night a smaller number of enemy bombers than heretofore dropped bombs in the area Bristol and South Wales. No serious damage is reported.

Convoy O.A. was attacked by enemy aircraft this afternoon in Lyme Bay and one ship, S.S. AENEAS was sunk.

Our A/C's covered the entire North Sea area with routine and anti-invasion patrols yesterday at dawn, dusk, and throughout the night. A cross-over patrol midway between the Shetlands and the coast of Norway was maintained throughout daylight hours.

SCHARNHORST in floating dock at Kiel was heavily attacked last night, over 80 bombs, mostly 500 lbs., being dropped. Several direct hits and near misses are claimed and fire was started in an area visible 85 miles away.



2.7.40  
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

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21

Mining

Further minelaying was carried out last night in the East Coast mine barrier.

The Amble is still closed. All other British ports are open.

Minelaying by enemy A/C's off the east coast last night is suspected.

Italian Hostilities

C. in C. Mediterranean reports that on 30/6 Italian aircraft when shadowing and attacking British warships and a convoy of merchant ships repeatedly infringed Greek neutrality by flying over Crete.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

0103/2nd July. 09T.

To: - F.O. Force II.

repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 2.7.1940.

Naval Cipher F.

From: - Admiralty.

Most Immediate

Aides.

By 0435/29 and your 1514/29.

His Majesty's Government have decided that the course to be adopted is to be as follows:-

(A) French Fleet at Oran and Mers el Kebir is to be given four alternatives:-

(1). To sail their ships to British Harbours and continue to fight with us.

(2) To sail their ships with reduced crews to a British port from which the crews would be repatriated whenever desired.

In the case of Alternatives (1) or (2) being adopted, the ships would be restored to France at the conclusion of the war or full compensation would be paid if they are damaged meanwhile.

If French Admiral accepts alternative 2, but insists that ships should not be used by us during the war you may say we accept this condition for so long as Germany and Italy observe the Armistice terms, but we particularly do not wish to raise the point ourselves.

(3) To sail their ships with reduced crews to some French port in the West Indies such as Martinique.

After arrival at this port they would either be demilitarised to our satisfaction or, if so desired, be entrusted to United States jurisdiction for the duration of the war. The crews would be repatriated.

(4) To sink their ships.

(B) Should the French Admiral refuse to accept all of the above alternatives and should he suggest that he should demilitarise his ships to our satisfaction at their present berths, you are authorised to accept this further alternative provided that you are satisfied that the measures taken for demilitarisation can be carried out under your supervision within six hours and would prevent the ships being brought into service for at least one year, even at a fully equipped dockyard port.

(C) If none of the above alternatives are accepted by the French you are to endeavour to destroy ships in Mers el Kebir but particularly Dunkerque and Strasbourg, using all means at your disposal. Ships at Oran should also be destroyed if this will not entail any considerable loss of civilian life.

(D) Communication to be made to French Admiral follows. (page 210)

(E) If it is most undesirable that you should have to deal with the French Fleet at sea and consequently about 12 hours' warning as suggested in your 0012/1, is not acceptable. Hence, you should arrive in vicinity of Oran with your force, at whatever time you select, and send your military advisers, subsequently taking such action as you consider fit with your force in the period before the time limit given expires.



(F) If first alternative is accepted ships should proceed to a United Kingdom port rather than Gibraltar. If second alternative is accepted ships should proceed to a United Kingdom port unless the French much prefer Gibraltar.

(G) In view of the strength of the defences at Algiers and the impossibility of avoiding the destruction of the town, it is not considered justifiable to carry out a separate operation against that place.

(H) These are your final instructions, for the case of your finding the French Fleet in harbour which were decided on after receipt of your 1220/1.

(I) Further instruction follow as regards action to be taken if French Fleet is not at sea.

0103/2.  
Secretary to 1st Sea Lord.

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CONF.

21C

NAVY SECRET.

MESSAGE.

0108/2nd July,

303

To - P.O. Force H.  
Reported C. in G. Mediterranean. 882.

Date 2.7.1940.

Naval Order (P).

From - Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

AIDAC.

Following is the communication to be made to the French Admiral at Oran referred to in my 0107/2

1. His Majesty's Government have sent me to inform you as follows:-

2. They agreed to the French Government approaching the German Government only on the condition that before an armistice was concluded the French Fleet should be sent to British ports to prevent it falling into the hands of the enemy. The Council of Ministers declared on the 18th June that before capitulation on land the French Fleet would join up with the British Navy or sink itself.

3. Whilst the present French Government may consider that the terms of their armistices with Germany and Italy are reconcilable with these undertakings, H.M. Government find it impossible from our previous experiences to believe that Germany and Italy will not at any moment which suits them seize French warships and use them against Britain and her allies. The Italian armistice prescribes that French ships should return to metropolitan ports and under the armistice France is required to yield up units for coast defence and minesweeping.

4. It is impossible for us, your comrades up till now, to allow your fine ships to fall into the power of the German or Italian enemy. We are determined to fight on to the end, and if we win, as we think we shall, we shall never forget that France was our ally, that our interests are the same as hers, and that our common enemy is Germany. Should we conquer we solemnly declare that we shall restore the greatness and territory to France. For this purpose we must make sure that the best ships of the French Navy are not used against us by the common foe.

5. In these circumstances H.M. Government have instructed me to demand that the French Fleet, now at Mars El Kabir, and Oran, shall act in accordance with one of the following alternatives:-

- (a) Sail with us and continue to fight for victory against the Germans and Italians.
- (b) Sail with reduced crews under our control to a British port. The reduced crews will be repatriated at the earliest moment.

If either of these courses is adopted by you, we will restore your ships to France at the conclusion of the war, or pay full compensation if they are damaged meanwhile.

- (c) Alternatively if you feel bound to stipulate that your ships should not be used against the Germans or Italians unless these break the armistice, then sail them with us with reduced crews to some French port in the West Indies, Martinique for instance, where they can be demilitarised to our satisfaction or be perhaps entrusted to the United States, and remain safe till the end of the war, the crews being repatriated.

6. If you refuse these fair offers I must with profound regret require you to sink your ships within six hours.

7. Finally failing the above I have the orders of H.M. Government to use whatever force may be necessary to prevent your ships from falling into German or Italian hands.

0108/2.

Secretary to First Sea Lord.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

RUBIS

French submarine C.O. to be given opportunity to destroy cyphers, signal books, and other confidential matter, and to be so informed by the Boarding Officer. (V.C.N.S. 2203/2 to V.A.S.)

Casablanca

One French Escort-ship of ELAN class sailed to S.W. returning 1830 (VELOX 2103/2 to Admty)

North Atlantic

LIPARI

My 1107. If French ship LIPARI leaves Casablanca under escort, take no further action beyond reporting the fact. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110/2 to VELOX)

Mediterranean

Force H., Operation Catapult.

Force H. left Gibraltar 1730/2 in accordance with V.A. force H's 1426/2 (S.O.I., Gibraltar 1858/2)

If in harbour ARK ROYAL raise steam for full speed. Collect destroyers to screen her. (see 1st. S.L., 1810/2) Your 1810. ARK ROYAL was omitted in error in my 1426/2 (V.A. Force H, 1945/2)

Admty. 1622/30 No movement to report at Oran Admital Commanding at Oran informs me in confidence French men of war will carry out orders of his Government. (Oran, 1915/2)

Sfax

Consul General, Tunis reports following French warships only in Sfax at 1800/1. 2 destroyers 3 submarines, including French minelaying submarine NAUTILUS and French submarine CAIMAN 1 submarine chaser (C. in C., Med., 0945/2)

South Atlantic

Dakar,  
RICHELIEU

French ships believed to be KATIOLA, POITIERS sailing tonight for Casablanca. Appears some armed merchant vessels and destroyers are preparing to sail possibly as escort. RICHELIEU normal. (Consul-General, Dakar, 1915/2)

British ships  
in French Ports

General  
French reaction to operation in progress off Oran is uncertain. All H.M. ships in French ports are to be at short notice for steam & prepared for any eventuality. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C's A.W.I., E.I. S.A. and China 1448/3)

War Diary2.7.1940.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K.

Your 2331/1. It is considered that craft on Medway should be immobilized as far up as East Farleigh Lock, 2 miles above Maidstone. (C. in C., Nore 1709/2 to Admty)

Immobilization of all small craft satisfactory in Tyne, Derwent, and Tees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1847/2 to Admty)

Movements

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 2nd July.  
 TRIAD, TAKU vicinity Fro Havet.  
 TRIDENT P C S C 0015.  
 TRITON D N L Z 1530, both proceeding on surface to Rosyth.  
 NARWHAL J Z W T 3030 proceeding on surface to D N X G 1534.  
 SEVERN JZ T A 3000 proceeding on surface to Dundee.  
 SNAPPER C. One.  
 SEALION C. 4.  
 STURGEON H. 50 in H. 1 and H. 2.  
 H.50 leaving p.m. for C.P.S.C. 5351.  
 SWORDFISH N L W T 4300 proceeding on surface to H. 2.  
 SEAWOLF leaves Rosyth p.m. for C. One.  
 H. 28 with convoy F.S. 10 proceeding Harwich.  
 Netherlands S/MS 021 and O.22 exercising off Dundee. (V.A.S. 1809/1)

MANCHESTER

Arrived Sheerness 2nd July wearing flag of C.S. 18, with SHEFFIELD in company. (C. in C., Nore 0938/2 to C. in C., Rosyth)

E-Boats1500

Five E-boats 10' West of Sylt. Aircraft report. (I.C. 0500/40)

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Aircraft on patrol S.A. 2 tomorrow morning to proceed within sight of Norwegian Coast to ascertain if further Enemy Convoys are proceeding North. Any west-going Convoys to be shadowed. (Donibristle 0045/2)

Attack on  
SCHARNHORST

Between 0011 and 0055/2 five Whitleys attacked SCHARNHORST in floating dock at Kiel. Sixteen 500 lb and twenty four 250 lb Bombs dropped and direct hits and near misses obtained and large fire started in area visible 85 miles away. Between 0006 and 0100/2 eleven Hampdens attacked SCHARNHORST with one 1000 lb and forty 500 lb Bombs (H.Q.B.C. 2124/2)

Note Photographs reveal that damage was not so extensive as would appear from the above reports.

Security Vessels  
Attacked

Security Vessel 30 W. of Sylt, and another 245<sup>0</sup> Fano 67', attacked. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 2124/2)

Two M/Vs in 51.21' N 9.43'E Bombed and machine gunned direct hits with gun fire but results of bombs not observed. (M.Vs about 2000 tons) (H.Q.B.C. 2124/2)

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

Enemy Air Activity

O.A. Convoy  
Attacked ✓

Help )O.A. Convoy) 49.N 3.W. (WITHERINGTON  
0750/2)

Fighter aircraft have been sent to your  
assistance (A.C.W.A. 0807/2 to WITHERINGTON)

Convoy O.A. is being attacked by Enemy air-  
craft in 50.45' N 3. 11'W (WITHERINGTON 1634/  
2) Fighter aircraft being sent. (Devils  
Point W/T 1650/2 to WITHERINGTON) AENEAS hit  
and sinking (WITHERINGTON 1636/2 to Devils  
Point)

NEWCASTLE  
Attacked

50.10' N., 3.20' W., One enemy aircraft  
bombing. (NEWCASTLE 1635/2 to Plymouth)  
Note NEWCASTLE was standing by AENEAS. She  
was undamaged)

AENEAS has been abandoned. WITHERINGTON has  
about 120 survivors on board and is proceeding  
with Convoy. (NEWCASTLE 1857/2 to C. in C.,  
W.A.)

Daylight Raids  
on U.K.

Daylight raids on U.K. by isolated aircraft;  
and bombs in the Newcastle-Jarrow area at 1800  
caused some casualties and damage. (I.C. 0500/  
40)

Mining

Aircraft mining suspected during night 2/3  
between Harwich and Portsmouth

An Explosion is reported midway between  
Dover and Calais.

Harwich was closed and re-opened.

Newhaven is closed.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Barges

At 1457/2 three large Barges stationary in 51.37'N 4.04'E, and one M/V 2000 tons in 51.35'N 3.35'E course 180° 8 knots. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1715/2)

Cruiser

At 51.40' N., 3.50' E a stationary ship, believed to be a cruiser, seen off Coast; and at 51.50' N 4.30'E six ships seen in two columns abreast, slightly smaller than Destroyers. (H.Q.B.C. 2124/2)

Aalborg

At 1415/2 two large M/V's about 8000 tons at anchor in midstream and six small Vessels on river-side. About 12 seaplanes lying near the north bank about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile West of the Town. (Donibristle 1950/2)

Cruiser and Destroyers

One Cruiser and two Destroyers at 1457/2 in 330° Heligoland 8 miles course 120° (H.Q.B.C. 0303/3)

Kiel

At 0040/2 a large vessel, believed Warship, in mid-harbour and two vessels believed Destroyers docked on W. side of Harbour (H.Q.B.C. 0303/3)

Shipping

Iceland

Finnish Ships trading between Petsamo and U.S.A. will call fortnightly at Reykjavik. Mails in them to be sent to U.K. for examination, and any passengers not notified not to be allowed to land in Iceland. (D.E.W.D. 1527/2 to N.O.I.C. Reykjavik)



WEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	Light & Variable	Cloudy with occasional rain in north	Moderate to Good, except in early coastal haze or mist in south.
Horns Reef	N.E. light	Fair to Cloudy	Moderate coastal mist
Channel	Light and Variable	Fine	Good except for coastal or inland fog in Straits of Dover.
Western Approaches	Light and Variable	Becoming Cloudy	Good.
Norwegian Coast	(No information available)		



WAR DIARYFOREIGN STATIONS2.7.40.  
TuesdayNorth AtlanticDOUGLAS.

To return to Gibraltar with despatch.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1109/2).

Force H.

Left Gibraltar 1730/2 in accordance  
with V.A. Force H's 1456/2 (S.O.(I)  
Gibraltar, 1858/2) (see disposal of  
French Fleet).

Dakar.

D.A.C. ships name not known arrived  
tonight. In view of my 1200/1,  
request instructions be given that  
British ships do not call at Dakar.  
(Consul Gen., Dakar, 1915/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French troops.

Admiralty 1754/1, re diversion of  
British and Allied ships bound for  
Casablanca or any French Moroccan port  
to Gibraltar, does not apply to British  
ships repatriating French troops  
referred to in Admiralty 1126/29 as  
amended by 1841/29 and 1835/30.  
(D.C.D.(H) to F.O.C.N.A. 1415/2).

South Atlantic.ARGYLL

British C.in C. S.A. 2151/1. Is not  
to sail pending further orders.  
(D.T.D. 1106/2 to Consular Shipping  
Adviser Dakar).

French Attitude.

Extract from a memorandum 3158 dated  
26/6 received by Admiral, Dakar,  
from French Admiralty, copy of which  
was obtained from a French naval  
officer, urging compliance with  
Armistice, and that to answer other  
appeals from outside "would result  
in our commonwealth territory becoming  
a German province". (C.in C.S.A., 1246/2).

Dakar.

Report from Liaison Party, Abidjan of  
strong feeling there both military and  
civil that British should forthwith  
occupy Dakar. Military authorities  
extremely ill-informed of external  
situation. (Governor, Gold Coast,  
no. T.O.O./2).

CORFU. CANTON.

Administration to be transferred to  
C.in C. S.A. (D.D.O.D.(F) 1506 (2).

Convoy E.C.S.

Revised dates (cancelling his 1119/1)  
(C.in C. S.A. 1554/2).

WAR DIARYFOREIGN STATIONS2.7.40.  
TuesdayNorth AtlanticDOUGLAS.

To return to Gibraltar with despatch.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1109/2).

Force H.

Left Gibraltar 1730/2 in accordance with V.A. Force H's 1426/2 (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1858/2) (see disposal of French Fleet).

Dakar.

U.A.C. ships name not known arrived tonight. In view of my 1200/1, request instructions be given that British ships do not call at Dakar. (Consul Gen., Dakar, 1915/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French troops.

Admiralty 1754/1, re diversion of British and Allied ships bound for Casablanca or any French Moroccan port to Gibraltar, does not apply to British ships repatriating French troops referred to in Admiralty 1126/29 as amended by 1841/29 and 1835/30. (D.C.D.(H) to F.O.C.N.A. 1415/2).

South Atlantic.ARGYLL

British C.in C. S.A. 2151/1. Is not to sail pending further orders. (D.T.D. 1106/2 to Consular Shipping Adviser Dakar).

French Attitude.

Extract from a memorandum 3158 dated 26/6 received by Admiral, Dakar, from French Admiralty, copy of which was obtained from a French naval officer, urging compliance with Armistice, and that to answer other appeals from outside "would result in our commonwealth territory becoming a German province". (C.in C.S.A., 1246/2).

Dakar.

Report from Liaison Party. Abidjan of strong feeling there both military and civil that British should forthwith occupy Dakar. Military authorities extremely ill-informed of external situation. (Governor, Gold Coast, no. T.O.O./2).

CORFU.CANTON.

Administration to be transferred to C.in C. S.A. (D.D.O.D.(F) 1506 (2)).

Convoy B.C.S.

Revised dates (cancelling his 1119/1) (C.in C. S.A. 1554/2).

WAR DIARYFOREIGN STATIONS.2.7.40  
TuesdayMediterranean.Sfax.

Consul General Tunis reports following French warships only in Sfax at 1800/1: 2 destroyers, 3 submarines, including French minelaying S/m NAUTILUS and French submarine CAINAN, 1 submarine chaser. (C. in C. Med., 0945/2).

ESPERO.

My 1515/29/6. Intend issue to Press that Italian destroyer sunk by our forces 28/6 was ESPERO. 44 survivors were picked up. (C. in C. Med., 0127/2).

A i r.Greek Neutrality.

Italian aircraft when shadowing and attacking British warships and a convoy of merchant ships repeatedly infringed Greek neutrality by flying over Crete on 30/6. (C. in C. Med., 0135/2).

Mining.

During the week, danger areas due to mines have been located

- |                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| Off Otranto    | - | Within 5 miles of 040°07'N., 018°41' E.  |
| S. of Sardinia | - | Within 2 miles of 38°50'N., 09°03' 18" E.<br>and 38°50'N., 08°56' 36" E.   |
| Off Tripoli    | - | Within 2 miles of 33°03' 18" N., 13°16' 36" E.   |
| Off Brindisi   | - | In the area enclosed by 40°41.3'N, 18°10' E.<br>40°41.3'N., 18°11.2'E.<br>40°37.5'N., 18°10' E.<br>40°37.5'N., 18°11.2' E. |
| Off Ras El Tin | - | 285° 24½ miles.<br>(W.S.I. No.3).  |

East Indies.

## Convoy W.S.I.

Request very early information of programme and composition so that escort arrangements may be made. (C. in C. E.I. 08142/2).

Air Operations

Attacks on Macaaca (Assab) petrol and bomb dumps, aerodrome buildings and dispersed transport. Reconnaissance, Assab town, Macaaca satellite, 2 ships approximately 10,000 tons in harbour. A very satisfactory combined operation by bombers and fighters with excellent results. (A.H. Aden, 1800/2).



WAR DIARY

FOREIGN STATIONS.

2.7.40.  
Tuesday

China

French Liner.

ILE DE FRANCE arrived Singapore 30/6 requires 6000 tons oil fuel which she is unable to pay for. Pending instructions ship is being detained and oil not supplied. French authorities Saigon informed me she was to have taken troops from Indo-China to France had armistice not occurred. (C.in C., China, 0534 Z/2).

Ammunition.

6-in. Mark XXIII ammunition to be sent to augment reserves in Eastern Mediterranean as directed by C. in C. Med. Other reserved of ammunition at Singapore surplus to requirements of present Fleet. A.M.C.'s and D.E.M.S., or also to be regarded as available for transfer to Mediterranean or E. Indies. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1346/2 to C. in C.'s China, S.A. and E.I.).

America and West Indies

MANHATTAN.

U.S. ship, sailing from New York to Lisbon to evacuate American citizens. Course (D.D.I.C. 1210/2). Not to be interrupted (Hd. of M., 2009/2).

U.S. Aircraft.

Telegram No.1510, July 2. Details of U.S. Aircraft supplies, rate of delivery etc. Recommend Lieut. Taylor R.N.V.R., be given authority to act in interest of Fleet Air Arm with Purchasing Commission. (N.A. Washington 1510/2).

Australia.

Guards for Ships.

Your 0700 Z/1. As it is possible that s.s. TIRANA has been diverted by Master under enemy threat intend embarking naval guard in similar ships carrying important service stores. Norwegian ACADIA departed Melbourne 30/6 for Colombo direct is being ordered to Fremantle, where guard will embark. (A.C.N.B., 1231 Z/2 to C. in C.E.I.).

War Diary2.7.1940  
TuesdayITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

- ARABIA Asking if anything is known of her. (D.E.W.D. to C.C.S.A. Aden 1525/2) Reply. Thought to be at Massawa.
- EUGENIO C Left Corunna 1915/2 destination unknown. (Guyatt, Corunna, 1925/2)
- Since 26/6, the following movements have been reported:-
- CONTE BIANCAMANO has passed through the Panama Canal and is now at Colon, where she is arranging to discharge her cargo.
- The AIDA LAURO and LAURA LAURO arrived at Pernambuco and Ceara respectively. The CONTE ROSSO arrived at Lisbon on the 27th June with the British Embassy staff, and embarked the Italian Embassy staff from the MONARCH OF BERGUDA for passage to Genoa. (W.S.I. No 3)
- CAPO ARMA Arrived at Galatz. (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
- CATERINA MADRE Arrived at Varna. " " "
- TORCELLO Arrived at Varna. " " "
- CAPO ROSA At Buenos Aires, owners of cargo of naptha reported to have taken proceedings to arrest the vessel. (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
- 4 Tankers Teneriffe. Reported to have loaded from American tanker DUNGANNON between 24/6 and 27/6. (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
- ADIGE At Malta, unloaded and is available for sea service. (W.S.I. No. 3, 2/7/40)
- POLINICE At Malta, beached at "arascala, is now afloat and shortly being brought to Grand Harbour. (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
- MARZOCCO Beached near Gibraltar, considered to be a total loss, but salvage vessel trying to salve anchors and cables. (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
- \* *Petroleum intended, see pages 199, 185, 201 etc. June*
- CAPITANO BOTTEGO Reported at Massawa 27/6 (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
- PIETRA LIGURE Reported at Kismayu or Mgadishu, 27/6 (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
- PENSILVANIA Reported at Puket Harbour 27/6 (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
- SOMALIA Reported at Puket Harbour 27/6 (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
- XXVIII OTTOBRE Reported at an Italian Somaliland port, 27/6 (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)

War Diary2.7.1940.  
TuesdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSMERCUR

Arrived Gothenburg (Consul, Gothenburg 1700/2)

DANIG

Left Gothenburg " " "

VULKAN

" " " "

HELIGOLANDAt Puerto Colombia Barranquilla report  
Italian labour repairing HELIGOLAND see J.I.M.  
7 No 15. Ship is raising steam (S.O.I.  
Kingston Jamaica, 1658/2)

SINKING OF S.S. ARANDORA STAR - (FLYING FLEET AUXILIARY  
BLUE ENSIGN WITH ANCHOR)

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 15,501; armed with 4.7" and 12 pdr.

DATE AND TIME: 0657/2/7.

POSITION: 55° 20' N. 10° 33' W. 155 miles from land.

SPEED: Doing 15 knots.

(See "Blue Star Line" by Fitzhugh  
1948)

ROUTE: Liverpool to St. Johns, Newfoundland

CARGO: 1178 Enemy aliens - about 400 Germans and 700 Italians.  
264 troops as guards.

IN CONVOY: Not in convoy. Doing No. 10 zig zag at the time.

ESCORT: None.

FATE OF CREW AND OTHERS: 176 crew all told, 119 ship's officers and crew were saved. 163 guards were saved, and approximately 322 Germans and 264 Italians.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Almost calm with moderate swell.

REMARKS:- At above time, a torpedo struck ship on starboard side abaft the funnel in after end of Engine Room. No warning of any kind. Only small explosion but a great deal of debris thrown into the air. One of the boats on this side was completely smashed and the davits of the boat forward of it were damaged and this boat crashed when it was lowered. 2 or 3 minutes after explosion the water in Engine Room was practically level with water outside.

Alarms were rung immediately and within 2 or 3 minutes all the prisoners and their guards were on deck. Consequently there was very little space. Added to this impediment were the deck houses built for the aliens and barbed wire and entanglements fitted in Liverpool. (Officers of the ship had protested about these before leaving Liverpool). Whilst crew were slipping the grips the boats were filled with aliens. A shot was fired and this got them out of the boats and crew lowered boats into water. As soon as this was done the aliens swarmed down the ladders, down the falls and got into the boats again. It was impossible to do anything with them.

About 20 rafts were thrown overboard before the boats were lowered but aliens refused to use them. Altogether 12 boats were lowered. The remainder of the rafts were thrown overboard. A few aliens got on to them. The boats crews were in the boats but majority of ship's crew were on the rafts. Most of the officers, after getting

their/...

DATE: 11th July 1940.

11X\*CCB.

their boats away returned to the bridge by the Captain's side and went down with the ship. The only survivor of these being P.B. Brown, the Chief Officer who dived overboard as the ship plunged. He was a strong swimmer and on coming up got hold of a piece of timber. He was picked up by one of the boats, registered to hold 84, but carrying at least 105. Everybody had a life jacket.

A seaplane arrived at about 9 a.m. and kept with the boats etc., all the time., and dropped a box of bread and other things. A small motor boat saved from the ARANDORA STAR went round distributing this food to the other boats.

At 1 - 2 o'clock the rescue ship arrived and picked up survivors and took them to Glasgow.

There is absolutely no truth in the statement that German prisoners were pushing Italians out of the way nor did the witness, Chief Officer Brown, see any fighting between them.

The Germans behaved well. They pulled Brown out of the water and one boat was in charge of a German which picked up between 50 and 60 people.



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

ARANDORA STAR  
Sunk

British, 15,501 tons On passage to Canada with German internees, torpedoed at 0610/2 in position 56.20 N, 10.40 W., about 125 miles from Malin Head (Lands End Radio 0610/2, Portishead Radio, 0732/2) WALKER to assist (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0747/2) Sunderland aircraft proceeding to locate (C. in C., Rosyth 0814/2) JASON to assist (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0822/2) Sank before 1000. Had on board British armed guard of 5 officers and 195 other ranks, 86 German prisoners of war, 479 interned male Germans and 734 interned male Italians. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1335/2)

Tugs sent (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0850/2) ST. LAURENT or SKEENA to assist (C. in C., H.F., to NELSON, 0947/2) ECHO to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0940/2)

ARANDORA STAR presumed sunk position 56.30 N., 10.38 W., approx. 20 lifeboats full, many people in water. Urgent help required, no ship here. (A/C 204 Sqdn, 1125/2)

Position given as 56.30 N., 10.31 W (C. in C., Rosyth 1324/2)

Asking whether she shall proceed to assist. (LETITIA, 1330/2)

FIREDRAKE detailed to assist (PUNJABI, 1311/2) (C. in C., H.F. 1401/2)

Have about 800 survivors with several boat loads to come. (ST LAURENT 1524/2 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Following survivors landed at Greenock from ST LAURENT:-

Officers and Crew	119	
Military Guard	163	out of 200
Italians	264	out of 734
Germans	322	out of 565
	<u>868</u>	

No other survivors picked up (F.Oi/c Greenock 1530/3)

CLAN OGILVY  
Torpedoed 30/6

Met by GLADIOLUS in 47.27 N., 11.14 W. steering for Falmouth at 4 knots 2226/1 (C. in C., W.A. 0057/2)

ATHELLLAIRD  
8999tons

Torpedoed in convey OB 176 2223/2 at 47.24'N 16.49'W (Valentia Radio 2337/2) HURRICANE ordered to attack submarine (C. in C., W.A. 2343/2 to HURRICANE)

*Convoy Dispersed at 1900/2.*

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported  
Estimate U/B dispositions

- 1 in Finisterre Area  
2 in Western Approaches  
1 in 56.20' N, 10. 40' W. at 0710/2  
probably homeward bound.  
1 N. of Scotland homeward bound.  
Possibly 1 in 58.43'N. 4. 2'W at 0315/2  
Course 135°  
1 Northern North Sea homeward bound  
(D.D.I.C. 1239/2)
- 2223/2 47.24'N 16.49'W Torpedoed ss ATHELLAIRD.  
Valentia 2337/2)
- 0215 51.19'N 1.50'E aircraft report B 3 (I.C.  
0500/40)
- 2216 61.30'N 1.30'E Position very indefinite A.1.  
(D.D.I.C. 2355/2)
- 2156 53.43'N 5.28'E aircraft report B 3 (I.C.  
0500/40)
- 2232 Between Shetlands and Faroes. Position very  
indefinite A.1. (I.C. 0500/40)
- 2325 59.30'N 9.W Position indefinite A.1.  
(D.D.I.C. 2356/2)
- 2217 55.30'N 9.30'W Position very indefinite A.1.  
(D.D.I.C. 2355/2)
- 2211 54.N 18.W Position very indefinite A.1.  
(D.D.I.C. 2355/2)
- 2224 49.20'N 13.W Position very indefinite A.1.  
(D.D.I.C. 2355/2)
- 0846 45.30'N 7.30' W Position very indefinite A.1.  
(I.C. 0500/40)
- 0610 56.20 N., 10.40 W, 125 miles E. by N from  
Malin Head, Co Donegal. (ARANDORA STAR  
torpedoed)
- 0315 Tug QUEENS CROSS reports sighting U/B on  
surface in position 58.43 N., 4.2'W (ACOS  
0921/2) My 0921 after interviewing master of  
QUEENS CROSS, grade his report C.3. Hatston  
has sent aircraft to search and I am sending  
4 trawlers to patrol off Strathie Point for  
next 24 hours. (A.C.O.S. 1117/2)
- 2230 49.20'N 13.W D/F report Very unreliable fix  
(C. in C., W.A. 0209/3 to WOLVERINE)



War Diary

2.7.1940.  
Tuesday.

35

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Mediterranean & East Indies

Ships Attacked

VORTIGERN

Destroyer, attacked by submarine 36.12 N.,  
03.49 W at 2237/2. Torpedo hit stem and  
subsequently sank and exploded. Destroyer  
hunt failed to obtain contact. VORTIGERN  
apparently undamaged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1850/3)

SITUATION REPORT

Home Fleet

The ships of the Home Fleet now keep steam at 2 hours notice from 2200 to 0500 hours.

Troop Convoys

W.S.1.

Escort CUMBERLAND and bound for Freetown, is being diverted to the westward of Cape Verde Is.

Czech & Polish Troops

Two ships arrived at Casablanca yesterday to embark Poles and Czechs for the U.K. via Gibraltar. VICEROY OF INDIA, escorted by WATCHMAN, left Gibraltar at 2100 today for the U.K with 1000 Czech troops and 500 evacuees.

Attack on Enemy Convoy

SNAPPER attacked a southbound convoy screened by trawlers and aircraft at 1746 to-day off Ekersund and obtained three possible hits. She has expended all her torpedoes.

French Fleet

Measures were taken today to secure possession of all units of the French Fleet, in order to prevent them from falling into enemy hands.

In the U.K., only in one ship, a submarine, did any incident occur, and ships are being allowed to continue to fly the French ensign for the present.

VELOX on patrol off Casablanca was fired at by shore batteries at 2100.

All British ships in French ports were ordered to proceed to sea at 2048/31)

At 0715/3 the French Admiralty ordered all French merchant ships to make for French ports under French control or for neutral ports.

SITUATION REPORT

French Fleet- Contd.

Dakar

RICHELIEU is still at Dakar. Late in the evening HERMES and H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA were ordered to join DORSETSHIRE off the port. If RICHELIEU sails and proceeds northward She is to be shadowed, but if she proceeds towards the West Indies she is to be sunk.

Oran,  
Operation  
Catapult

At 2237/2, VORTIGEN<sup>8</sup>, forming part of the screen to Force H was hit by a torpedo fired by a submarine. The Torpedo hit VORTIGEN's Stern and subsequently sank and exploded, apparently without damaging VORTIGERN. Destroyer hunt failed to obtain contact.

DELHI arrived at Gibraltar this evening.

Captain Holland arrived at Oran in FOXHOUND at 0720/3, followed by Force H two hours later. As the result of the <sup>refusal of the</sup> French Admiral to comply with certain British demands, an engagement between British and French heavy forces took place in the late afternoon.

One French battleship was sunk and another was hit by an a/c torpedo, a battlecruiser was hit and run ashore, and 2 destroyers were sunk. Another battle cruiser put to sea undamaged.

French forces proceeded west from Algiers and Sfax, and south from Toulon, presumably in support of their heavy forces at Oran.

Alexandria

Certain measures were taken.

West Indies

FIJI is maintaining patrol off Martinique to intercept BEARN, EMILE BERTIN and JEANNE D'ARC if they sail. DUNEDIN remains at St. Lucia at short notice. DICMEDE was ordered to proceed from Kingston to join FIJI at 2021

Terms of British demands.

Prime Minister stated in the House 4/7 that the following document was presented to the French Admiral at Dakar:

- (1) To <sup>sail northward</sup> continue to fight against the Germans and Italians,
- (2) To sail with reduced crews to British ports, or (3) to French ports in West Indies.

If conditions refused must require you to sink your ships within 6 hours, failing which force will be used to prevent you falling into German or Italian hands.

SITUATION REPORT

Air

Bombs dropped yesterday at 1800 in the Newcastle-Jarrow area caused some damage and casualties. Enemy aircraft again crossed the coast between 2052/2 and 0150/3. Bombs were dropped near Bournemouth, in Glamorgan Hertford and in the Bristol area.

?Confirmed

There were several reports of parachute landings during the night.

Harwich and Lowestoft were raided between 1600 and 1700 today, bombs being apparently aimed at the shore batteries. No Naval or Military damage was caused.

Skuas of the F.A.A. damaged a hanger and slipway at Storo (Bergen area)

A reconnaissance flight to Trondheim<sup>d</sup> returned owing to unsuitable weather.

Mining

Aircraft minelaying last night is suspected between Harwich and Portsmouth. Two magnetic mines were exploded off Harwich, which was closed but was reopened during the day, though ships are not to enter until after the daylight sweep tomorrow. Newhaven is closed.

Six Hampdens carried out minelaying operations in the south entrance to Langeland Belt last night and all returned safely.

Italian Hostilities

There were 2 raids on Malta to-day. No damage was caused. JERVIS was bombed at Malta but sustained no casualties.

Air (Continued)

A number of attacks were made on shipping, without any serious damage being done. s.s. VESTAL was bombed at 0820, 8 miles E of Owers L.V. Convoy OA 178 escorted by CLARKIA was attacked South Dungeness at 1640. Tug ST. MARTIN and H.M. A/S T HERTFORDSHIRE attempting to tow SS AENEAS, damaged by air attack, were attacked and SS AENEAS was again hit by bombs. H.M.S. BREDA was bombed 5 miles N.E. of Kinnairds Head at 1608.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Orders in my 1825/2 are to be carried out each night until further orders (steam at 2 hours notice between 2200 and 0500) (C. in C., H.F. 1858/3 to SOUTHAMPTON, RODNEY, NORFOLK, COVENTRY and Destroyers)

Attitude of French

Following has been made to all French Merchant ships. (Begins) All French Merchant Ships or ships under charter to the French Government are ordered to make for French Ports under French control or to ports of States still neutral repeat still neutral and await orders from French Admiralty. 0715 /3/7. (Signed French Admiralty) (Ends) (D.D.I.C. 1710/3)

My 1710/3. This message is an interception of a signal from French stations. It<sup>is</sup> passed for information only and is not to be obeyed. (D.N.I. 2222/3)

French Government have issued an order to the effect that all British ships and aircraft are forbidden to approach within twenty sea miles of French Territory at home or overseas under penalty of being fired on without warning. (Y.C.N.S. 2338/3)

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

General

H.M. Ships in French Ports are to proceed to sea forthwith. (1st S.L. 2048/3 to C. in C's)

To assure that French Naval Forces at Oran were not surrendered to the enemy intact, force had to be used. Result is that all French Naval Forces must be regarded as hostile. H.M Ships should be prepared for attack but should not fire the first shot. (1st S.L. 2300/3 to C in C's)

Failing other instructions I intend to attack any French Warship attempting to pass Straits of Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2356/3 to Adty.)

Any French Officers and Men who express a desire to adopt British Nationality would be allowed to do so if they serve with us. The French Flag is to remain flying in all ships until further notice (V.C.N.S. 1340/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth, W.A., Nore and V.A.S.)

Plymouth

A.M. 0235/2. French Forces in my command at Plymouth, Falmouth, Dartmouth and Fowey a have been seized. Incident occurred in S/M SURCOUF which resulted in two British Officers being severely w. one rating k. and one w-one French Officer k and one w.

So far as at present known very few Officers and approximately 300 men will elect to remain and fight with us. Remainder are being sent to Aintree Camp for repatriation. (C. in C., W.A. 1653/3 to Adty)

Portsmouth & Southampton

Operation French ships satisfactory. At Portsmouth 1400 seamen, 600 marines and 2 battalions infantry, and at Southampton 1 battalion infantry and 50 seamen commenced operation at 0430. Leaflet raid carried out simultaneously so that men should know at once what to expect. Men appear cheerful and glad that period of uncertainty is at an end. Officers angry and sullen. Hope to send all who return to France to ATHLONE CASTLE at Southampton today. No definite information yet as to number of volunteers to stay. Admiral has gone to London. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0823/3)



DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Dakar

Report where RICHELIEU is berthed at Dakar, and direction of Ship's head. (V.C.N.S. 1117/3 to C. in C., S.A.)

On A.M. Saturday 29th June RICHELIEU was riding at single anchor in position 084° Dakar North Breakwater Light 10 cables. Ship riding to wind. Prevailing wind North-Westerly. (C. in C., S.A. 1159/3 to Adty)

Adty. 1117/3 045° Cape Manuel Light 2.6 miles Ship heading 220° (DORSETSHIRE 1125/3 to C. in C., S.A.)

Consider could severely damage RICHELIEU's propellers with depth charges dropped from fast motor dinghy. Request permission to carry out this attack. If approved intend to drop charges at approximately 2300 today Wednesday subsequently withdrawing to south ward. Request any details of boom to North East of Goree Island. (DORSETSHIRE 1350/3 to C. in C., S.A.)

Your 1350/3. I have received no instructions from Admiralty regarding offensive action to be taken against RICHELIEU. Take no action without instructions. (C. in C., S.A. 1425/3 to DORSETSHIRE)

Your 1350/3. Probably only way in is between Resolute Shoal and Mainland owing to Booms. (C. in C., S.A. 1725/3 to DORSETSHIRE)

Your 1350/3. Get ready, but wait approval (V.C.N.S. 1825/3 to DORSETSHIRE)

Your 1350/3 not approved as it would not be effective. (V.C.N.S. 1945/3 to DORSETSHIRE)

HERMES to R/V with DORSETSHIRE at 0600/5 G.M.T. at 270° Cape Manuel Light 15' (C. in C., S.A. 2043/3 to HERMES)

HERMES to be sailed with all despatch to join DORSETSHIRE (Lst S.L. 2104/3 to C. in C., S.A.)

/From signal.....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Dakar. Contd.

From signal giving RICHELIEU's present position A/T Nets cannot be in positions given by French at beginning of war. (V.C.N.S. 2232/3 to DORSETSHIRE)

AUSTRALIA to R/V with DORSETSHIRE and HERMES at 0600/5 G.M.T. in 270° Cape Manuel Light 15 miles. (C. in C., S.A. 2303/3 to AUSTRALIA)

If RICHELIEU sails and proceeds Northwards she is to be shadowed. If she is obviously proceeding towards West Indies, you are to make every endeavour to destroy her by Torpedo Attack or, if this fails, by Ramming. Look out for Submarine Attack. (1st S.L. 2312/3 to DORSETSHIRE)

My 2300/3. To reinforce watch on French warships at Dakar AUSTRALIA is to be sailed as soon as refuelled to join DORSETSHIRE (V.C.N.S. 2357/3 to C. in C., S.A.)

War Diary

3.7.40.  
Wednesday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Casablanca

→ WISHART reaches 34.N 7.52' W by 2200/3 and will relieve VELOX off Casablanca at 0600/4 (F.O.C.N.A. 1856/3 to Adty)

Admty. message 1408/3 has been passed to  
→ WISHART (F.O.C.N.A. 1959/3 to Adty.)

VELOX on patrol off Casablanca is being fired on by Shore Battery. (F.O.C.N.A. 2058/3 to Adty.)

If French Destroyers fire on you, return their fire. (1st S.L. 2115/3 to VELOX)

Consul Casablanca reports Units as follows 1st July: 7 large, 9 small submarines, 4 Contre-Torpilleurs, French S/M parent ship JULES VERNE, French Battleship JEAN BART. cruiser PRIMAUGUET, and 16 assorted armed trawlers, Chasseurs, etc., (F.O.C.N.A. 2242/3 to Adty.)

→ My 1856 and 2058. WISHART ordered to patrol North of Cape Spartel to report any French Warships entering Straits. VELOX returning to Gibraltar fuel expended. Air R/C of Casablanca will be carried out at dawn. (F.O.C.N.A. 2258/3 to Adty.)

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd

Oran

French Ships still at Oran. FOXHOUND entering Harbour (V.A.H. 0731/3 to Adty.)

Am off Oran and signalling invitation to French to come and join us. (V.A.H. 0911/3 to Adty.)

Awnings are being furled by Battleship (V.A.H. 0929/3)

Capt. Holland reports 0831 Admiral is endeavouring not to be contacted and proposes to send his Chief of Staff. (F.O. Force H. 0937/3 to Adty)

Destroyers have also furled awnings (F.O.C. Force H. 0958/3 to Adty)

FOXHOUND reports Capt. Holland in boat at (?) boom awaiting reply to letter being brought out by barge. (F.O. Force H. 1010/3 to Adty.)

French Admiral refuses to see Capt. Holland. Letter handed containing terms awaits reply. (F.O. Force H. 1023/3)

Your 0929/3. Consider laying of Magnetic Mines to prevent French Fleet sailing. (1st S.L. 1056/3 to V.A. Force H.)

FOXHOUND does not expect reply before 1130 (F.O. Force H. 1058/3 to Adty.)

French say they fight if force used. (F.O. Force H. 1151/3 to Adty.)

Am awaiting reply to letter before opening fire. (F.O. H. Force 1209/3 to Adty.)

Gensoul's reply refuses our conditions and repeats previous assurances re sinking of ships. He states he will fight. Am prepared to open fire at 1330. (F.O. Force H. 1231/3)

If you consider that French Fleet are preparing to leave harbour, inform them that if they move you must open fire. (V.C.R.S. 2132/3 to V.A. Force H.)

Harbour ~~ruined~~ (? mined) As ships show no further signs of leaving Harbour, am giving them until 1500 (F.O. Force H. 1347/3 to Adty.)

/Slight Sign....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Oran Contd.

Slight sign of weakening. French Admiral states no intention of leaving Harbour. Giving him till 1530 to accept or I shall open fire. (V.A.H. 1440/3 to Adty.)

French Admiral consented to received delegation personally and asks me not to open fire. Am postponing action and I think they are weakening. (V.A.Force H. 1459/3 to Adty.)

Following received from French Admiralty to Admiral Oran timed 1330/3 G.M.T. Begins. You will inform the British Representative that the C. in C., has given orders to all French Naval Forces in the Mediterranean to join you immediately in fighting order. You are empowered to give orders to these forces. You are to answer force with force. Call in the submarines and aircraft if necessary. The Armistice Commission has been informed. Signed Leluc. Ends. (D.N.I. 1613/3 to F.O.Force H.)

Your 1459. Settle the matter quickly or you may have French re-inforcements to deal with. (1st S.L. 1614/3 to W.A. Force. H.)

Am awaiting return of Delegate whose entry and return delayed by minefield. (V.A. Force H. 1637/3 to Admty.)

Have opened fire on French Ships. F.O.Force H. 1753/3 to Adty.)

Am being heavily engaged. (F.O. Force H. 1800/3 to Adty.)

Hulk extensions inside harbour. Withdrawing out of range to observe result and carry out Bomber and Torpedo-Bomber attack (V.A. Force H. 1812/3 to Adty.)

French Ships must comply with our terms or sink themselves or be sunk by you before dark. (V.C.N.S. 1826/3 to V.A.H.)

One or two heavy ships and several Destroyers reported leaving harbour. (V.A.H. 1855/3 to Adty. )

Aircraft report. One STRASBOURG hit and ashore. One BRETAGNE hit. STRASBOURG left harbour undamaged. One BRETAGNE sunk. French Aviation Transport COMMANDEANT TESTE on fire. Two Destroyers sunk. (V.A.H. 1920/3 to Adty.)

? *Admiral* /Am unable to....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Oran Contd.

Am unable to engage Battle Cruiser before dark. In view of Fuel situation am withdrawing to westward. Torpedo-Bombers are attacking shortly. (V.A.H. 2021/3 to Adty.)

1/6 Torpedo-Bombers reduce speed of escaping Battle Cruiser you must chase. Shortage of Fuel not understood. (1st S.L. 2136/3 to F.O. Force H.)

DELHI arrived and will be ready to sail at 0100/4th July. (F.O.C.N.A. 2128/3 to S.O. Force H.)

If aircraft are available intend remaining to West of Oran during night carrying out air attack on ships in Harbour at dawn or as soon after as possible. Do not intend further attack with Capital ships in view of Enemy submarines and own Destroyers situation. (F.O.H. 2140/3 to Adty.)

Patrol off Cap de l'Aiguille to N. of latitude 35.55'N Sink any French Warships encountered. (V.A.H. 2149/3 to PROTEUS)

→ Attack any French Warships encountered.  
→ French Battleship DUNKERQUE may reach Algiers from Oran about 2300 tonight. (V.A.H. 2151/3 to PANDORA)

French have refused to accept British terms for neutralising their Fleet. French Fleet at Oran now heavily engaged by British Forces. (D.O.D.H. 2156/3 to C. in C's.)

Estimated one Torpedo-Bomber hit on French Battleship DUNKERQUE in approximate position 36.11'N 0.11'W course 060° at 2020 B.S.T. (V.A.H. 2204/3 to Adty.)

STRASBOURG  
intended (p 106)

→ Sink French Warships (S.O. Force H 2205/3 to PANDORA)

Request Flying-boat Reconnaissance of Algiers early tomorrow Thursday and of route Algiers to Oran throughout day. (S. O. Force H. 2210/3)

Your 2136/3 Not now in position to chase. Will furnish reason on return to Gibraltar. (V.A. Force H. 2225/3 to Adty.)

Following received from Oran begins: Warships at Mars el Kebir hors de combat. I will make the personnel evacuate the ships. Admiral Gensoul. (V.A. Malta 2250/3 to S.O. Force H.)

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Algiers

All ships here emitting more than usual smoke. Awnings are being removed. (Alger 1230/3 to Fairmiss & London)

The 12 French warships referred to in my Telegram 0940/1 are preparing to sail and 4 have already left Harbour. Destination unknown. Further Telegram follows. (Algiers 1630/3)

Following French Men of War at Algiers  
JEAN DE VIENNE, GEORGES LEYGUES, GLOIRE,  
MARSELLAISE, MONTCALM, LA GALISSONNIERE,  
SIMOUN, LE MALIN, L'AUDACIEUX, ANNAMITE, also  
LE FANTASQUE, L'INDOMPTABLE. (Algiers 0940/1)

My telegram 1630/3 Six French Cruisers and four destroyers mentioned in my telegram 9.40 left Bay of Antioch 15 hours destination unknown. (Alger 1720/3 to Fairmiss)

PANDORA 1726/3 Algiers reports 1630/3 remainder of French Units preparing to sail. (F.O.C.N.A. 2332/3 to S.O. Force H.)

My 1650 Cruisers in 2 columns, Destroyers ahead and astern, course 270° speed 17 knots Cruisers are French Cruisers LA GALISSONNIERE and SUFFREN class. My position 275° 37.N 4. E. 43 miles. (PANDORA 1726Z/3 to C in C., Med.)

Sfax

Tunis reports following French ship at Sfax at 0800/2. Minesweeper TAPAGEUSE, submarines NAUTILUS, CAIMAN, SOUFFLEUR, either destroyer CYCLONE or surveying vessel CHIMERE, also 3 seaplanes. (S.O. (1) Alexandria 1311/3 to D.N.I.)

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Alexandria

Reference 0020 (70050) 3rd July from Adty. Negotiations so far indicate that alternative set out in B.1. of A.M. 2100/1st July is likely to be accepted. Expect definite answer at Noon. S.O. Force H. informed. (C. in C., Med. 0935/3 to Adty,)

My 0935/3 and Adty. 2100/1. Godfroy has chosen 3rd alternative i.e. B (2) namely to sink his ships unless he can ask instructions from his Admiralty in which case he will recommend alternative B (one) which is retention of ships at Alexandria in a non-seagoing condition. He further asks for 48 hours to make arrangements for carrying out alternatives B (2) and this is in fact necessary as there are upward of 4000 men to be disposed of and accommodation is not immediately available.

2. There is no question of his attempting to put to sea without my consent and I wish at all costs to avoid sinking his ships in Alexandria harbour or Godfroy being ordered to do so by his government.

3. I am formally accepting his decision and will hasten arrangements to put it into effect as much as possible.

4. In meantime I am trying to persuade Godfroy to discharge the oil from his ships and to some extent disarm and leave the question of skeleton crew for further discussion.

5. I am sure Godfroy has at the back of his mind that Italians will break Armistice terms and thus rise himself to fight again.

(C. in C., Med. 1259/3 to Adty.)

My 1259. I can not risk landing French sailors from sunken ships in Egypt where repercussions may be serious. There may be difficulties in getting French transports now at Port Said to sail from Alexandria as they appear to be under the orders of Admiral D.N.L. at Beirut. (C. in C., Med. 1407/3 to Adty.)

/ My 1259.....



DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Alexandria, Contd.

My 1259. Although Godfroy will not accept alternative B (1) in its entirety I have now induced him (a) to discharge the oil from his ships (b) to remove warheads, but he will not agree to the skeleton crew without consent of his Government. Urge most strongly that matter should be settled by negotiation between Admiralties- if this is possible. Meanwhile Godfroy is making all preparations to execute alternative B. (two) on Friday, 5th July. (C. in C., Med 1429/3 to Adty.)

Your 1429/3 Negotiation between Admiralties is quite impossible. (D.O.D.F. 1628/3 to C. in C., Med.)

My 1429/3. 8-inch cruisers are now discharging oil, and Destroyers raising steam to do so. (C. in C., Med. 1727/3 to Adty.)

Admiralty note French ships discharging oil but crews should commence being reduced at once by landing or transfer to Merchant Ships especially key ratings before dark to-night. Don't fail. (V.C.N.S. 1824/3 to C. in C., Med.)

Malta.

No French ship is to be allowed to leave Harbour. (1st. S.L. 2124/3 to F.O.I.C. Malta.)



War Diary

3.7.1940.  
Wednesday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Martinique

Proceed at 20 knots to join Fl31 off  
Martinique (C. in C., A. W.I. 2021/3 to  
DIOMEDE)

My 2300/3 JEANNE D'ARC and EMILE BERTIN  
are to be shadowed if they sail, and are  
to be prevented from taking offensive  
action against British interests.  
(V.C.N.S. 2358/3 to C. in C., A & W.I.)

## HOME COMMANDS

MovementsSubmarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/3

TRIAD, TAKU Vicinity Fro Havet  
 NARWHAL Z.Q.S.C.1520 proceeding on surface to  
 D.N.X.G.1534  
 TRITON Q.S.T.A.0030 proceeding on surface to  
 Rosyth  
 TRIDENT Due Rosyth A.M. from North east  
 SEALION Vicinity Skudesnes  
 SNAPPER C one  
 SEAWOLF T.G.V.D.3820 proceeding on surface to  
 C one  
 STURGEON,  
 SWORDFISH in H. one and 2  
 H.50 Vicinity C.P.S.C.5351  
 H.28 with convoy F.S.10 arriving Harwich P.M.  
 TETRARCH,  
 SHARK leave Rosyth P.M. North Eastward  
 SPEARFISH leaves Blyth P.M. for A.5.  
 (V.A.S.1734/2)

OperationsSubmarines  
Norway

It is particularly important that submarines should take extra care not to disclose their presence on patrol during the next few days even though this may prevent such a close watch being kept on the exit to the fiords they are watching. (V.A.S.1941/3 to S/M's on Patrol).

E-Boats

0054

Fair Island reports one suspicious small fast Vessel bearing 212° about 13 miles, course 265°, speed 30 knots. Two Swordfish being sent at daylight to investigate. (A.C.O.S.0150/3 to Adty.)

Photographs 3 July show three E-Boats 8' West of Sylt. (H.Q.B.C.0447/4)

AirEnemy Air Activity

Enemy A/C operating singly or in pairs active between Montrose and Coquet Island. (C. in C. Rosyth 1352/3 to VALOROUS)

BREDA (*H.M. Yacht*)

Enemy A/C bombing my position 57°44' N., 2°05' W., (BREDA 1608/3 to Scapa W/T)

S.S.VESTAL

Bombed 8' East of Owers. (Portishead 0823/3)

Trawler SKINNING ROBE

Enemy A/C bombing. (WOLFHOUND 1340/3 to Rosyth)

Convoy O.A.178  
attacked

Convoy "Topaz" is being attacked by A/C 50°58' N., 1°10' E., (CLARKIA 1640/3)

  
HOME COMMANDS

52

AirEnemy Air Activity (Ctd.)

Bombing attack by two enemy aircraft on Lowestoft at 1624 no damage to depot 1 skipper and 3 ratings slightly injured in town.  
(Patrols Lowestoft 1731/3 to Adty.)

From 1600 till approximately 1700 there were air raids over coast in Harwich Sub-command, Bombs dropped apparently aimed at shore batteries at Frinton, Dovercourt, Brackenbury, Southwold, no hits. All missed by about 100 to 200 yards. No bombs near any Naval Property, no Naval A.A. Guns in action, bombs also dropped at Ipswich and near Aldeburgh.

Lowestoft also raided. No Naval damage but a certain amount of material damage in town and a few civilian casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2103/3 to C. in C. Nore)

MiningNewhaven

Port closed to all ships 0937. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0940/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

2 A/C mines observed to drop 0147/3 near Cork L.V. (outside Harwich) and were exploded a few hours later by L.L.sweep (I.C.0501/40)

Enemy IntelligenceTrondjhem

My 1616/30th June. Large ship at Trondjhem has now been identified as HIPPER class. Other warship cannot be identified. (V.A.S.1014/3)

One M/V bearing 000°10 miles, and one bearing 010° 15 miles, both course 300, my position 61°21' N., 19° W. (FORFAR 1112/3 to Scapa W/T). My 1112. Ships Greek TETI and Norwegian RYM (FORFAR 1200/3 to Scapa W/T)

Aalborg  
2/7

Five medium-sized M/V's and one small one alongside quays and two large steamers at anchor. (C. in C. Rosyth 1848/3). This removes the uncertainty as to whether Aalborg is being used as an assembly port for invasion (C. in C. Report No.23)

58°09' N., 5°24' E. One large screened tanker northbound. (SNAPPER 1749/3 to Adty.)

58°09' N., 5°32' E. Southbound Convoy screened by Trawler and A/C attacked at 1746/3. No result (SNAPPER 1749/3)

HOME COMMANDS

---

53

Enemy Intelligence (Ctd.)

Kiel

Result of photographic reconnaissance today 3rd/7  
Shipping in Germania shipyard :-  
1 K-class Cruiser and 1 Hipper class Cruiser  
alongside slips.  
In Die Horn:- 3 submarines believed seagoing type.  
Battleship SCHARNHORST in Floating Dock.  
Pocket Battleship in No.6 Graving Dock.  
Aircraft Carrier under construction in normal  
position in old torpedo boat harbour.  
Destroyer believed ROEDER class in construction  
basin.  
1 submarine on slip at Deutschewerke shipbuilding  
yard.  
No other warships seen.  
(I.O.Bomber Command. Recd.2240/3)

58°25' N., 5°15' E. Six M/V's, nine Trawlers, and  
one Aircraft course 170°. (SEALION 1520/3 to Adty.)

Hoorn

1258/3. Ship, believed Cruiser, observed N.W.Coast  
of Zuider Zee. (H.Q.B.C.0447/4)

Heligoland

One Vessel about 300' long, like a Fleet Auxiliary,  
proceeding Southerly in Heligoland area.  
(H.Q.B.C.0447/4)

Eckernforde

2 large vessels, possibly Naval, 54°30' N., 10°5' E.  
at 1213 (outside Eckernforde) II.C.0501/40)

Preparations  
for invasion

It is reported that considerable transportation by  
train of fast motor-boats, probably M.T.B's is  
taking place from Italy to Germany. They are  
assembling at some river in Germany and then moving  
northwards.

Large scale disembarkation was practised recently  
at Memel. (I.C.0501/40)

3.7.40  
Wednesday.

0500

WEATHER

54

Area

North Sea

S. Fresh in East  
W. or N. Moderate  
in West.

Moderate or  
Good Extensive  
fog patches.

Wind  
veering  
slowly.

Channel  
W. Approaches

W. Light or  
Moderate.

Mainly good  
local fog &  
drizzle

similar

Horns Reef

S. Moderate  
or Fresh

Moderate  
Local fog.

Wind  
Veering W  
slowly.

Dutch Coast

"

"

"

S. Norwegian  
Coast

"

"

"



55

FOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticTroop  
movements

Adty. 1525/29, A.C.W.A. 1948/29, Consul Casablanca 1700/1, My 1308/1. British ships GIBEL DERSA and OAK CREST arrived Casablanca 2/7 to embark as many Poles and Czechs as possible for passage to Gibraltar. Will now be necessary for ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ULSTER MONARCH and French AL RAWDAH to proceed to Gibraltar after Casablanca to embark these troops. No ship available to relieve ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ULSTER MONARCH off St. Vincent, C.V. Request escort be ordered to proceed as far as fuel permits, thence to Gibraltar. Intend to use this escort to take ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ULSTER MONARCH from Gibraltar to U.K. and to sail AL RAWDA in convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1052/3)

Adty. 17541 (British and French shipping not to enter Casablanca), does not apply to ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ULSTER MONARCH which are repatriating French troops from U.K. to Casablanca. (F.O.C.N.A. to VELOX 0626/3)

## DELHI

Arrived Gibraltar 1900/3. (S.O.I. Gib. 1950/3)

VISCOUNT  
WATCHMAN

VISCOUNT to join WATCHMAN and escort VICEROY OF INDIA to Plymouth, WATCHMAN thence to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2358/3)

VICEROY OF  
INDIA

Left Gibraltar 2055 G.M.T. 3/7 for Plymouth route (F.O.C.N.A. 2200/3)

Azores

All normal (Vice Consul, Horta, 2145/3)

South AtlanticHERMES  
DORSETSHIRE

a.m. 2104/3. HERMES to weigh as requisite to pass Freetown boom at 2330 (zone = 1) to-day 3/7 and to proceed as requisite to r.v. with DORSETSHIRE in position 270° Cape Manuel Light 15 miles at 0600 G.M.T. on 5/7. (C-in-C S.A. 2043/3)

HERMES to sail with all despatch to join DORSETSHIRE (1st S.L. 2104/3)  
Position of French A/S nets (V.C.N.S. to DORSETSHIRE. 2232/3)

FOREIGN STATIONS

56

South Atlantic

## AUSTRALIA

To weigh as requisite, from Freetown boom at 0100 (zone + 1) on 4/7 and to r.v. with DORSETSHIRE and HERMES at 0600 G.M.T. on 5/7 in position 270° Cape Manuel Light 15 miles (C-in-C S.A. 2303/3)

Convoys

Orders to reinforce watch on French warships at Dakar. Convoy B.C.F. to await arrival of CORNWALL and B.C.S. Convoys SL 37 and SL 38 being diverted to westward. Convoy W.S. 1 to be diverted W. of Cape Verde Islands. (V.C.N.S. 2357/3)

A.M.C.'s

Requesting review of situation as regards number of A.M.C.'s required for convoy escort duty and their endurances. (D.O.D.(F) to C-in-C S.A. 1127/3)

## CANTON

Route to Freetown (Northern Patrol Commodore 1320/3)

French Attitude

Of local authorities at Libreville, friendly, but take orders from Governor-General at Brazzaville (Vice-Consul, Libreville, 1008/3)

→ CORNWALL  
CUMBERLAND

Suggesting CORNWALL should take over Convoy WS 1 at Freetown and if situation permits refit at Simonstown on completion of escort duty, CUMBERLAND to remain Freetown in accordance with Adty. 2343/27/6. (C-in-C S.A. 1811/3)

BULOLO  
DRAGON

BULOLO to proceed to Lagos. DRAGON and BULOLO to remain Lagos until further orders. (C-in-C S.A. 2223/3)

Uruguay  
and s/m's

Uruguayan Govt. have banned entry of belligerent submarines except in case of accident or damage. Decree follows lines of U.S. and Brazilian decree. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires, 1626/3)

## MALOJA

To act as ocean escort of SLF 38 until junction with SL 38 on 16/7, then to act under orders of CARNARVON CASTLE until relieved by local escort. MALOJA then to proceed to port in U.K. (C-in-C S.A. 1915/3)



FOREIGN STATIONS

57

South AtlanticASTURIAS

MALOJA after escorting SLF 38 will require to visit a port in U.K. for fuel and water owing to her limited endurance. This will necessitate using ASTURIAS for SLF 41 on 28/7 as MALOJA cannot return by that date. (C-in-C S.A.1849/3)

Convoy BCF

AUSTRALIA and Convoy BCF arrived 3/7. (S.O.I. Freetown, Sierra Leone, 1047/3)

MediterraneanConvoy AS 1

Port Said portion comprised of DESTRO, PALERMO, CAVALLO, EGYPTIAN PRINCE and ~~JENY~~ MEDES arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 0604/3) <sup>GANY</sup>

Alexandria

CAPETOWN, CALEDON, STUART, NUBIAN, MOHAWK arrived 2/7. PARTHIAN arrived 3/7 (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1840/3)

Submarine  
Patrols

Movements of OSIRIS, OSWALD, RORQUAL, PHOENIX. (C-in-C Med. 2045/3)

Convoy

WATERHEN with convoy leaves Alexandria 1400/4 due Port Said daylight 5/7. (C-in-C Med. 2045/3)

Palma

Easing of tension seems confirmed by reported demobilisation of last 2 age groups recently called up. (Consul, Palma, 2000/3)

Spanish  
Situation

Local Spanish General recalled to Madrid to explain how he allowed several hundred German officers and men in uniform to visit San Sebastian and Bilbao yesterday. Steadiness probably to our advantage, as it has given strength to party favouring neutrality who are quietly eliminating war party one by one. Naval disposition normal. (N.A. Madrid, 2219/2, received 1157/4)

AirMalta Raids

2 raids to-day. Fighters engaged and drove off before causing damage. JERVIS bombed, no casualties. One enemy plane shot down by Hurricane, no survivors. One Hurricane written off on landing (V.A. Malta 2125/3)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

French Message

Intercept of P/L cable to Marine, Djibuti from Marine Madagascar, referring to a military and administrative statute of re releasing reservists and preparation of a draft demobilization order operation to commence when ordered. (C. in C., E.I. 0659Z/3)

RANCHI

Is at 48 hours notice for boiler cleaning at Durban. Completes 10/7 (C. in C., E.I. 0807Z/3)

Kamaram  
bombed

One unidentified aircraft attacked Kamaram Island and dropped incendiary bombs near the aerodrome and W/T station. There were no casualties. (Air Min. D.S. 450)

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE

To leave JAMAICA PRODUCER who is to continue voyage to Curacao. Proceed at 20 knots to join FIJI off Martinique. (C. in C., A.W.I. 2021/3 to DIOMEDE)

FIJI  
DUNEDIN

FIJI maintaining patrol off Martinique as necessary to intercept French warships. DUNEDIN remains St. Lucia at short notice (C. in C., 1721/3)

DUNDEE

To proceed with all despatch to Curacao, meet JAMAICA PRODUCER and escort her to Kingston. She has on board 230 ex-merchant service German prisoners. (C. in C., A.W.I. 2022/3)

Shipping

In view of your 1732/28/6 assume only proceeding to Southampton now require alternative route to Portland vide your 2018/26/2. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1608/3)

Admty. 1903/26/6, para 3, and 1732/28/6. Instruct homeward bound independent shipping for East Coast to be routed north-about to Methil for outward routing. Should such ships still be routed to Kirkwall for amended orders in accordance your 0024/22/6? (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1233/3, to Adty.)



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MARITZA

Split reports loaded bauxite and sailed from  
Dubrovnik for Trieste 1/7, arrive 2/7.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria 1629/3)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

EUGENIO C.

Entered Ferrol 2/7. (N.A. Madrid 1200/3)  
Left Corunna 2/7 destination unknown.  
(S.O.I) Gibraltar 1146/3)

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND  
MINING.

3.7.40.  
Wednesday.

S/M's Reported.

0124

51° N. 12° W. Position indefinite. A.l.  
(I.C. 0500/40) (D.D.I.E. 0310/3).

0214 )  
0219 )

47° 45' N. 16° 50' W. Position reliable.  
A.l. (I.C. 0500/40).

0337

46° N. 5° 30' W. Position indefinite  
A.l. (I.C. 0500/40) (D.D.I.E.0425/3)

SITUATION REPORT

French Fleet

Owing to the action which had to be taken yesterday to prevent French ships falling into enemy hands all French Naval Forces must be regarded as hostile from last night and H.M. ships were ordered to be prepared for attack, though they were not to fire the first shot.

The French Government last night issued an order prohibiting British Ships and aircraft from approaching within 20 miles of French territory at home or overseas, under penalty of being fired on without warning.

Dakar

DORSETSHIRE sighted 2 enemy submarines this afternoon, off Dakar, and later reported that she had sunk or damaged one of them. HERMES and AUSTRALIA are proceeding to join DORSETSHIRE, RICHELIEU is still at Dakar.

Casablanca

The destroyer patrolling off Casablanca has been withdrawn and watch on the port is to be kept by flying boat. WISHART is to patrol off Cape Spartel.

Oran

~~DUNKERQUE~~ Seaplane carrier COMMANDANT TESTE apparently escaped from Oran yesterday and was not sunk as reported by V.A. Force H: PROTEUS on patrol reported at 1445/4 that she sighted the French ship off Oran proceeding Eastward at 18 knots.

ARK ROYAL lost 3 Swordfish and 2 Skuas but only one crew. HOOD had 2 slight casualties.

Algiers

The ships which put to sea yesterday from Algiers have apparently reached Toulon.

/Alexandria.....

SITUATION REPORT

French Fleet, Contd.

Alexandria

An agreement was concluded this afternoon by C. in C., Med. with Admiral Godfroy by which:-

(a) All oil fuel was to be discharged immediately from French ships.

(b) Ships would be placed immediately in a condition in which they cannot fight.

(c) The discharge of ships' companies would be the subject of further discussion.

Alexandria was raided this morning by Italian aircraft. French as well as British ships replied.

E.Boats

Aircraft reported 4 E.boats 3 miles N. of Cherbourg at 2255/4 steering NNW. C. in C., Portsmouth signalled the information to destroyers in that area. It is thought that the subsequent torpedoing shortly after midnight 4/7 of ss BRITISH CORPORAL and HARTLEPOOL was the work of these E boats. These two ships were part of Convoy OA 178 which had been attacked by enemy aircraft during the afternoon.

SITUATION REPORT

63

Defence of U.K.

MANCHESTER sailed from Sheerness for Portsmouth today. BIRMINGHAM and SHEFFIELD are at Sheerness, CARDIFF at Harwich and GALATEA in Humber.

Additional anti-invasion patrols of the Nore and Portsmouth commands were in force.

Ships in the Western Approaches have been warned of the possibility of a sea borne expedition against Eire sailing from Spanish or French Atlantic ports.

Convoys

Channel  
Convoys

Outward bound Channel convoys are in future to sail north about from Southend, instead of via the Channel. To cater for coastal trade which must use the Channel a convoy of about 10 ships is to sail on alternate days with destroyer escort from Sheerness to near St. Catherines. The first convoy is to sail 9/7.

Troop  
Convoys

M.A. (2 ships with troops and artillery, escorted by COLOMBO) left Mombasa 3/7 for Aden.  
W.S.1, escorted by CUMBERLAND, for Freetown, is west of Cape Verde Is.  
B.C. fast is at Freetown.  
B.C. slow escorted by CORNWALL is expected at Freetown at 1000/5.  
B.N.1. escort by LEANDER, SHOREHAM and HINDUSTAN is proceeding to Aden at 6 knots.  
STRATHMORE escorted by CANBERRA is on passage to Cape Town from Fremantle.

Children's  
Convoy

REVENGE and 4 destroyers left Plymouth for the Clyde today, to join the new cruiser BONAVENTURE and a convoy ~~children~~ carrying children to Canada.

SITUATION REPORT

Air

There were a few bombing raids on England  
There was considerable enemy air activity  
in the Channel today.

Convoy OA.178 escorted by CLARKIA/<sup>was</sup> attacked  
this afternoon 26 bombers in 5 relays  
when about 20 miles S.W. of Portland Light  
At least 10 ships are believed to have been  
either sunk or seriously damaged.

An unescorted convoy off Dover was attacked  
at 1412 and 1 or 2 enemy aircraft were shot  
down.

Between 0830 and 1100 dive bombers attacked  
shipping in Portland Harbour. A/A ship  
FOYLEBANK was sunk with heavy casualties,  
s.s. CITY OF MELBOURNE was damaged and  
beached, and a tug and D.G. lighter were  
sunk. Some damage was caused ashore.

Our aircraft attacked 5 small fishing  
trawlers, presumably Flak ships, at 1800/4  
off the Hague, and sank one and badly  
damaged others.

Operations by our aircraft last night  
included attacks on barges at Rotterdam, on  
the Dortmund-Ems Canal, armed ships in  
Tonning Bay and Flak ships in reconnaissance  
areas. An M.V. was hit by 3 bombs off  
Bergen and was last seen blazing and  
drifting on to the rocks.

Routine anti-invasion patrols were flown at  
dawn and ~~task~~ throughout the night over the  
North sea as well as cross-over patrols off  
the Norwegian and Dutch coasts. Routine  
patrols were flown over the English Channel.

M/L by A/c.

"Gardening" was successfully carried out in  
Langelands Belt.



SITUATION REPORT Contd.

65

Mining

Further mine laying in the East Coast Barrier took place early this morning.

Newhaven is still closed.

A dredger was sunk  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile outside Amble today. The port is closed.

U.S.S.R.

Two submarines, believed to be Russian have been stopping shipping in the Baltic. A German ship was stopped in this way to the south of the Aland Islands. These activities are possibly connected with the recent Russian operations in the Baltic States.

Italian Hostilities

One of the 3 Malta-Gibraltar cables was cut by the Italians this morning.

H.M. Submarines in Chinese waters are proceeding to the Mediterranean.

War Diary.FRENCH FLEET4.7.40.  
Thursday.General.Policy Towards  
French Warships.  
(F.O.C.N.A.)

French warships attempting to pass Straits of Gibraltar are to be regarded as hostile. Immediate enemy reports to be made and units shadowed. Boarding of merchant ships is to cease until further orders (F.O.C. N.A. 0011/4 to Gibraltar Force and WISHART).

(Governor, Gibraltar)

After consultation with Admiral North and failing their instructions I intend to engage all French warships attempting to pass Straits (Governor Gib. 0105/4 to W.O.)

In view of cordial relations which have been maintained here with French Navy up to a few days ago my Garrison is perturbed and bewildered by events of yesterday. I must press therefore to be informed of circumstances leading to the order to the Royal Navy to engage the French Fleet in North Africa, as events may clearly affect adversely morale of Garrison. (Governor Gibraltar 1102/4 to War Office).

(Admiralty,  
2005/4)(further copy  
is in p. 74A)? 2300/3  
1140

My 2000/3. As result of action at Oran, intentions of Bordeaux Government are at present uncertain, but it is possible that we may be at war with France shortly. H.M. Ships, are for the present, to be guided by the following instructions.

2. Ships are not to approach inside twenty miles of the coast of France or French Colonial possessions in those areas where French S/m's may be operating, as the French Admiralty have issued a warning that British ships will be attacked without warning up to that distance from the coast.

3. Ships must be prepared for attack but should not repetition not fire the first shot.

4. Contact with equal or superior French forces should be avoided, as whilst it is desired to get control of as many French ships as possible, it would not be to our advantage to incur an equivalent loss in so doing.

5. If a definitely inferior French force is met action should be taken as follows -

(a) The French force is to be ordered to stop and if necessary, to do so.

(b) An officer is then to be sent on board and is to convey in writing H.M.G's.

forced/

War Diary.4.7.40.  
Thursday.FRENCH FLEETGeneral.

instructions that the French force is to proceed to a British port in company with H.M. Ship.

(c) The French C.O. is to be informed that the C.O. of H.M. Ship has orders to use force if necessary but that it is much hoped that this will not be the case.

(d) The French C.O. should be informed that our object is to ensure that French ships do not fall into enemy hands, as was promised by Admiral Darlan.

(e) The C.O. is to be informed that the officers and ship's company will be repatriated. (1st. S.L. 2005/4. to C. in C's)

War Office to Govr. & C-in-C., Gibraltar.

W.O.  
Orders to  
Governor,  
Gibraltar.

75489 (M.O.4), 4.7.1940.

Pending clarification of naval situation your proposed action against any French warships attempting to pass through (repeat pass through) Straits approved. French warships approaching (repeat approaching) Gibraltar Harbour should be called upon to heave to and to comply with one of following three courses:- First - continue to fight with us. Second - hand over ships, in which case crews will be repatriated. Third - sink ship. Any ship failing to heave to, or, having heaved to, refusing to comply with one of three courses above should be fired on.

Troopers.

(Received from Capt. Dewar for W.D.,  
19.7.1947. G.H.H.)

*(Another version of this signal is in page 160, July 7)*

U.K.

Secure LEOVILLE at once. (ACNS (H) 0005/4 to C. in C. Rosyth).

My 0803/4. Officers and ship's company of LEOVILLE have been withdrawn and armed guard placed on board. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1102/4 to Admiralty)

Under present conditions French naval personnel are not to be repatriated in British bottoms, and more French ships are being prepared.

French personnel at present accommodated in British ships at Southampton are to be moved to the transit camp, Southampton. French personnel are to be held in the camps at Aintree and Southampton until shipping is available. (D.O.D.(M) 1831/4. to C. in C. Portsmouth).

MEKNES is to be filled to maximum capacity and sailed as soon as convenient for Cherbourg or other Northern French port you may consider more accessible.

2. The master is to be instructed to return to Southampton and is to be given a certificate before sailing guaranteeing-

- (a) That he will only be employed for repatriation of Frenchmen.
- (b) That on completion of this work he will be free to return to a French port.

3. If this method proves successful the naval personnel at Aintree as well will be repatriated in this way. (ACNS (H) 1934/4 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Following orders have been given to F.O.I.C. Glasgow, F.O.I.C. Tyne and N.O.I. C. Methil:-

Armed guards to be placed on board and machine guns and breech blocks of heavy guns of French DEMS be removed and taken into safe custody. Vessels concerned are NEVADA and ALBERTELE BORGNE at Glasgow, DAPHNE and P.L.M.24 at Methil and CETUS. (Ex-Norwegian, been under French Contract) BEAUMANOIR, P.L.M.22, MEDEE and LILIAN (Ex-Dane Flying French Flag).

There are none at Greenock,



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War Diary.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET.

4.7.40.  
Thursday.U.K.

Sunderland, Hartlepool, Middlesborough  
or Blyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 2029/4. to  
Admiralty)

Reference Admiralty message 1831/4  
consider Transit ~~from Southampton~~ far  
less suitable than present ships.  
Much larger armed guards would be  
required and breaking out into  
Southampton ~~Southampton~~ would be difficult to  
control. Propose to retain French  
crews in STRATHNAVER and ATHLONE CASTLE  
for the present. C. in C. Portsmouth  
concur. (F.O.I.C Southampton 2239/4 to  
Admiralty).

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar

Dakar

HERMES and AUSTRALIA left positions to join DORSETSHIRE (S.O. (I) Freetown 0431/4 to Admt.) In view Admt. 2338/3 amend position R/V to 270<sup>10</sup>/<sub>2</sub>° Rannel Light 21 miles (C. in C., S.A. 0931/4 to DORSETSHIRE)

Following from Admt. Begins French Air Force and submarines have orders to attack British Warships off Casablanca. French submarines to attack British Forces off Dakar. Ends. French Submarines and Air craft off Dakar are to be attacked and destroyed on sight. (C. in C., S.A. 1037/4 to DORSETSHIRE)

Give V.A. "H" all information regarding Flying Conditions at Dakar and up to 100 miles from it. (1st S.L. 1708/4 to HERMES)

Your 2312/2 Para b Is it still intended RICHELIEU should be attacked if proceeding towards West Indies in view of announcement by Prime Minister this afternoon that one alternative to German demands was to proceed to West Indies. (C. in C., S.A. 2041/4 to Admt)

Realise that instructions in para 2 of my 2005/4 conflict with requirements for watch on RICHELIEU ordered in my 0053/3, 2312/3 and 0455/29. Latter should be regarded as cancelled, and loss in efficiency by institution of a more distant patrol must be accepted. (A.C.N.S.F. 2250/4 to C. in C., S.A. )

Casablanca

VELOX return to Gib. Endeavour to keep watch on JEAN BART by flying boat (1st S.L. 0137/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 2242/3 Air reconnaissance of Casablanca today reports 2 battle ships 9 destroyers 11 submarines 12 M/L and M/S and large number of M/V's. No obvious activities. It is thought that one of the Battleships may be Cruiser PRIMAUGUET. (F.O.C.N.A. 1546/4 to Admt.)

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Oran

My 2332/3. 6 French cruisers and 4 destroyers sailed 1715 (Note: from Algiers) (F.O.C.N.A. 0102/4 to F.O. Force H.)

As P.M. is making statement in House p.m./4 signal short account of your operations to reach Adty. by 1200 (1st S.L. 0136/4 to F.O. Force H.)

My position, course, speed 0100/4 36.33'N 1. 40' W 245. 16 knots. Shall alter to 180. at 0215 and to 90. at 0345 (V.A. Force H. 0155/4 to F.O.C. aircraft Carrier Sqdn., WRESTLER)

My 2140/3 Weather conditions unsuitable for air attack. Am returning to Gib. (F.O. Force H. 0703/4)

Position course speed of French- 3 destroyers  
LE FANTASQUE- 36. 52' N ST 46- 085.-18-enemy are in single line ahead. (? to Force H 0735/4)

Captain Holland reports French Admiral emphasized use of force would turn French Navy into enemies. Angry at sudden presentation terms and minelaying. Would not accept our view regarding German treachery. Convinced means adequate to prevent ships falling German hands. Holland not sure Admiral convinced fire would be opened, think C.O.S. was. My last signal fire would be opened 1730 handed him 1714. Holland left 1725. ~~Holland left 1725.~~ Holland's conclusion that if French Admiral had agreed to see him on arrival solution might have been found. (F.O.C.H. Force 1045/4 to Admty.)

Your 0136/4 0720 Holland in FOXHOUND arrived Mers El Kebir. French Admiral refused interview. 0935 letter handed C.O.S. containing British proposal set out in Admiralty 0108/2 coupled with strong personal appeal from me to accept .

0910 Force H arrived and signalled message of greeting to all French ships by light expressing hope that they would join us.

1046 told FOXHOUND imperative French should know we would not allow them leave harbour unless terms accepted.

1054 FOXHOUND reported situation unsatisfactory.

War Diary4.7.1940.  
ThursdayDISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.Oran Contd.

1211 Message from French Admiral saying first round would alienate whole French Navy and 1227 that he would put to sea and fight rather than accept.

As there appeared no possible alternative (A) or (B) being accepted, harbour mined at 1340. (F.O.C.H. 1040/4 to Adty.)

My 1042/4 part 2. 1427 French Admiral reported he had no intention of sailing and 1445 that he would receive delegate. Captain Holland proceeded in again. 1655 signalled French by flashing and W/T, that unless terms accepted 1730 I must open fire.

1728 received message from Holland saying Admiral would (? go) Martinique if threatened by enemy. As this did not comply with any of our conditions air striking forces were ordered to fly off and fire was opened 1754 at 15,000 yards (maximum visibility) from north west so that fire from French ships was largely blanked by Mers el Kebir fort. G.I.C. employed with A/C spotting Squadron on easterly course. Cruisers and some A/C ordered to engage fort. (F.O.C.H. 1047/4 to Adty.)

My 1042/4. Part 3. Battle Squadron soon came under heavy fire from forts and shortly after some 13.5. inch guns. 1804 turned away, made smoke and ceased fire, (three corrupt groups) having been reported from spotting aircraft, two large explosions seen and ships fire apparently silenced. Withdrew to westward to avoid unnecessary damage from Shore Batteries and allow French personnel to abandon ships, aircraft to finish off any ships still active, and (corrupt group) to return for further bombardment if necessary. Shore Station repeatedly made by wireless "stop shelling" to which I replied "unless I see your ships sinking shall reopen fire". 1831 received aircraft report DUNKERQUE at sea. Turned to eastward, increased to 20 knots and when clear that only DUNKERQUE was out, chased at full speed with H.M.S. HOOD and Light Craft leaving H.M.S. VALIANT and H.M.S. RESOLUTION behind

\* Should have been  
STRASBOURG  
See p. 186.

*Holland*

1914 picked up ~~HOLLAND~~ and party who escaped in motor boat. (F.O.C.H. 1153/4 to Adty.)



DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET CONTD.

Oran Contd.

My 1040/4 part 4. 2022 abandoned chase for following reasons.

*Strasbourg*

(a) DUNKERQUE reported about 25 miles ahead.

(b) Algiers force including 8 cruisers would probably join her about 2050.

(c) Sun had set placing me at tactical disadvantage.

(d) V and W Class destroyers had insufficient fuel for prolonged chase and night operations necessary to destroy DUNKERQUE.

(e) Without RESOLUTION and VALIANT I had no margin of strength.

(f) RESOLUTION and VALIANT were without screen.

(g) I assumed their Lordships did not wish me to incur serious loss especially of destroyers on these operations, in view of future requirements in Western Mediterranean.

T/B attacks took place 1945; latest report of which is one hit aft and possibly one other. (F.O.C.H. 1311/4 to Adty.)

My 1040/4 Part (V) I committed tactical error in not keeping to Eastward to ensure that, if assumption French resistance had ceased and that mines would prove effective barrier was wrong, I could intercept. I must pay tribute to gallantry shown by French.

British casualties HOOD one Officer one Rating slightly injured negligible material damage. ARK ROYAL three Swordfish two Skuas lost but one crew only not recovered. (F.O.C.H. 1325/4 to Adty.)

One aircraft-carrier Bearing 120 degrees distance 6 miles Course 090 degrees 18 position 36° N 1°W 23 point 5. (PROTEUS 1447/4 to S.D. Force H)

My 1447/4. Ship was COMMANDANT TESTE <sup>Scaplane</sup> ~~steam~~ ship 120° 05 miles course and speed 90° 18 knots. My position 097° 36°N 1°W 23. (PROTEUS 1501/4 to S.O. Force H)

Report when HOOD, VALIANT, ARK ROYAL, ARETHUSA, and 12 Destroyers can sail for Dakar to deal with RICHELIEU. (1st S.L. 1650/4 to F.O. Force H.)

/ Have you....

War Diary

4.7.1940.  
Thursday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

74

Oran Contd.

Have you any idea to what extent the Battle Cruiser in your 1920/3 as being aground is damaged. (1st S.L. 1925/4 to V.A.H.)

Will it be possible to keep a watch by air on the Battle Cruiser aground in Mers-el-Kebir to ascertain whether any attempt is being made to refloat her. (1st S.L. 1926/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1650/4 Force can be clear of harbour by 0550 Friday. (V.A. Force H, 2054/4 to Adty.)

Your 2054/4 Force H will not be required to sail before noon tomorrow Friday. Further instructions will follow. (V.C.N.S. 2240/4 to V.A. Force H.)

Your 1929. Aircraft observation unable to state extent to which DUNKERQUE is damaged. She is definitely aground. (V.A. Force H ~~in~~ 2240/4 to Adty.)

Gibraltar arrival 4th July 1800 Force H. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1826/4 to Adty.)

Algiers

Algiers reports 6 French Cruisers 3 light Cruisers 1 destroyer mentioned in S.O. (1) Alexandria's 1125/2 left harbour 1715/3 for unknown destination (S.O.(1) Alexandria 1100/4 to Adty.)

# SECRET OUT

74A

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

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

To:	C.in C.	Med.	952	Date:	4.7.40.
	"	S Atlantic	499		
	"	E Indies	401		
	"	China	88		
	"	A W Indies	151		
	F.O.C.	N Atlantic	531		

.....Naval Cypher (D).....

From: Admiralty  
IMMEDIATE.

*Policy Towards French Warships.*

My 2300/3.

As the result of the action at Oran, the intentions of the Bordeaux Government are at present uncertain, but it is possible that we may be at war with France shortly. H.M. Ships are, for the present, to be guided by the following instructions.

2. Ships are not to approach inside twenty miles of the coast of France or French Colonial possessions in those areas where French S/M may be operating, as the French Admiralty have issued a warning that British ships will be attacked without warning up to that distance from the coast.
3. Ships must be prepared for attack but should not repetition not fire the first shot.
4. Contact with equal or superior French forces should be avoided, as whilst it is desired to get control of as many French ships as possible, it would not be to our advantage to incur an equivalent loss in so doing.
5. If a definitely inferior French force is met action should be taken as follows -
  - (a) The French force is to be ordered to stop and if necessary forced to do so.
  - (b) An officer is then to be sent on board and is to convey in writing H.M.G's. instructions that the French force is to proceed to a British port in company with H.M. Ship.
  - (c) The French C.O. is to be informed that the C.O. of H.M. Ship has orders to use force if necessary but that it is much hoped that this will not be the case.
  - (d) The French C.O. should be informed that our object is to ensure that French ships do not fall into enemy hands, as was promised by Admiral Darlan.
  - (e) The C.O. is to be informed that the officers and ship's company will be repatriated.

2005/4.  
for D.O.D.  
Approved 1st S.L.

1st Lord (2)	PERSONAL
1st S.L.	"
5th S.L.	"
V.C.N.S.	"
A.C.N.S. (F)	"
Nav Sec.	"
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	"
D. of P.	✓
D.O.D. (F)	"
D.D.O.D. (F)	"
D.N.I. (3)	"
Duty Capt.	"
Hd. of M. (6)	"
D.D.I.C.	"
D.N.A.D.	"
W.D.	"
D.C.O.	"
I.P.	"

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Alexandria

Adty. 1824/3 was received at 2015 long after dark

2. Godfroy having received a direct order from his Admiralty to proceed to sea using force if necessary and having heard of engagement off Oran now flatly declines to continue to discharge oil or to remove any of his men. He further refuses to proceed to sea voluntarily and sink his ships in deep water; asserts if he is allowed out of harbour he will run for it and fully realizes this would lead to a battle.

3. No amount battling and threats of force will move him though he is resigned to remaining here with his crews on board. He has stated emphatically that if faced with any demand backed by force he will detain ships in harbour at same time intimating that he will do so in a manner as convenient to us as possible.

4. Courses of action open to me are:-

(a) To attempt to seize the French ships by boarding.

(b) To sink them by gun and torpedo fire at their moorings.

(c) To face Godfroy with a demand to intern or surrender his ships with result he will sink them.

5. I have discarded (a) as being doubtful of success as French ships are thoroughly on alert as result of Oran action.

6. (b) will be resisted and will lead to useless bloodshed on both sides and result in French ships being sunk in most inconvenient places and possibly damage to our own ships.

7. Unless T.L see fit to reason otherwise I intend to put (c) into force a.m. 5/7 at which time I hope to have necessary shipping to embark 4,000 French sailors.

8. I fear that in sense of your 1824 3rd July I have failed. (C. in C., Med. 0049/4 to Adty.)

/ Godfroy.....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

76

Alexandria, Contd.

Godfroy now refuses to give any undertaking whatever. Am trying to sow dissention amongst his ships' companies not present at my ultimatum till transports for crews arrive. Firing at him if he moves. Have just had air raid in which at ~~least~~ <sup>least</sup> one French ship fired vigorously. (C. in C., Med. 0827/4 to Adty.)

Your 0049/4.

A. Para 4 (c) It does not seem at all certain that Godfroy in his present frame of mind will sink his ships unless you force him to do so by some threat. What threat do you propose to use?

B. Could they be starved out?

C. Undesirability of a battle in Alexandria Harbour is fully realised, but present situation could not be allowed to persist indefinitely. Have you considered the less objectionable alternative of secretly raising steam and taking British ships to sea leaving the French inside. Your Fleet could then be suitably disposed for engaging the French ships and an ultimatum delivered. It is realised damage would probably be done to shore establishments but any important damage to your ships should be avoided.

D. You have no doubt taken steps to prevent ammunition ships being blown up.

(1st S.L. 1135/4 to C. in C., Med.)

Situation very tense. Godfroy having withdrawn all previous undertakings course of action C. in my 0049/4 no longer applies in full. Chance of a negotiated settlement seems remote, exercised effort being made by F.N.L.O. to persuade Godfroy through Captain to come to some arrangement on lines of alternative B. one. Honour and effect of Oran action stand in way. Consider it would be unwise to force matter to head just yet and prefer to give various contacts on lower plane which are being established chance to take effect. I feel that an action in this harbour ought to be avoided at almost any cost, but Godfroy in his present mood will not scuttle his ships, if faced with an ultimatum backed by force. He will certainly order his ships to open fire if I do so.

/I fully.....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

77

Alexandria Contd.

I fully realise the vital necessity of an early solution if necessary by force.

I am not clear whether Admiralty message 2300/4 applied to Alexandria.

(C., in C., Med. 1317/4 to Adty.)

Following agreement just concluded with Godfrey

(a) All oil fuel to be discharged from French ships forthwith.

(b) Ships to be placed immediately in a condition in which they cannot fight.

(c) Discharge of ships' companies to be a matter for further discussion.

2. I have hopes that reservists who include many key ratings will be discharged tomorrow Friday.

(C. in C., Med., 1529/4 to Adty.)

Your 113<sup>5</sup> 4th July. Although most undesirable to have to battle in Alexandria Harbour the situation became such that the threat of sinking the French Ships at their moorings had to be made.

Two. During this forenoon signal to all ships and personnel visit by British Captain were made with object of influencing the Officers of the Ships Company against useless resistance to overwhelming force.

3. (?These) proved successful as unofficial post Prandial meeting the Captain(s) of French Ships prevailed on Godfrey to accept the Conditions set out in my 1529/4th July.

4. Oil fuel is being discharged now and tomorrow the Obturating pads of all large guns including spares and firing mechanism of small guns together with all warheads pistols are being landed for custody in French Consulate General with right of inspection.

5. I will press for departure of ships Companies and Godfrey has already signalled to Ministry of Marine requesting that arrangements be made for their reception. I am counting on economic pressure to hasten their departure and (corrupt group) or reservists.

/6.....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Alexandria, Contd.

6. When defuelling and de-arming measures outlined above are completed I shall feel quite free to take fleet to Sea to continue operations against enemy.

7. It is assumed that operations against few minor French units in Sfax and Susa are not now intended.

(C. in C., Med., 2015/4 to Adty.)

East Indies

Mombasa left 0720/4 G.M.T. French A.M.C. CARAIBE (N.O.I.C. Kilindini 0758Z/4 to C. in C., E. Indies)

My 0424/4 CARAIBE left Mombasa at 0715/4 for Diego Suarez speed 15 knots. KENT is shadowing her. Captain of CARAIBE is loyal to allied cause but crew is uncertain and dispirited. Captain intends to exchange disaffected personnel and believes more courageous outlook will result. (C. in C. E.I. 1227Z/4 to Adty.)

Your 1227/4 CARAIBE should be dealt with in accordance with my 2005/4 (A.C.N.S.F. 2044/4 to C. in C., E.I.)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

(Spare Copy ~~Original~~,  
received later, in page 74A)

- To C. in C. Mediterranean
- C. in C. South Atlantic
- C. in C. East Indies
- C. in C. China
- C. in C. America & West Indies
- F.O.C. North Atlantic

Date 4.7.40  
Thursday

French Coast  
Evacuation  
Requests

NAVAL CYPHER (D).

From Admiralty.

If possible request you send a  
copy to St Jean de Luz in  
order to avoid important English colony isolated  
due to presence of enemy.  
Desire response. (General Janitor-  
St. Jean de Luz, to Ady.)

IMMEDIATE

Policy,  
French  
War  
Ships.

My 2300/3.

As the result of the action at Oran, the intentions of the Bordeaux Government are at present uncertain, but it is possible that we may be at war with France shortly. H.M. Ships are, for the present, to be guided by the following instructions.

2. Ships are not to approach inside twenty miles of the coast of France or French Colonial possessions in those areas where French s/m may be operating, as the French Admiralty have issued a warning that British ships will be attacked without warning up to that distance from the coast.
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  - (a) The French force is to be ordered to stop and if necessary forced to do so.
  - (b) An Officer is then to be sent on board, and is to convey in writing H.M.G.'s instructions that the French force is to proceed to a British port in company with H.M. Ship.
  - (c) The French C.O. is to be informed that the C.O. of H.M. Ship has orders to use force if necessary but that it is much hoped that this will not be the case.
  - (d) The French C.O. should be informed that our object is to ensure that French ships do not fall into enemy hands, as was promised by Admiral Darlan.
  - (e) The C.O. is to be informed that the officers and ship's company will be repatriated.

2005/4

For D.O.D. (H), (986).





War Diary

4.7.1940.  
Thursday.

79

ATTITUDE OF FRENCH

French Coast  
Evacuation  
Request

If humanly possible request you send a number of warships to St Jean de Luz to evacuate important English colony isolated here in order to avoid certain disagreeable incidents due to presence of enemy. Urgently desire response. (General Lanibrigot, Mayor of St. Jean de Luz, to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Code Words  
For Invasion

Following Code words are to be used for making first reports of Enemy Invasion. They are applicable to Navy, Army and Air Force.

Positions at sea are to be indicated by normal methods, positions ashore are to be indicated by plain language. Place names. Messages are to be prefixed Emergency.

1. Blackbird. I have sighted enemy ships (surface vessels, Submarines or Motor Boats)
2. Mustard I have sighted suspicious vessels which I think are probably enemy, but I am not certain.
3. Apples I have sighted a large number of aircraft believed enemy flying towards shore.
4. Gallipoli Enemy landing from ships or boats at.....
5. Caterpillars Enemy landing tanks at.....
6. Parasols Enemy parachutes (number indicated) landing at.....
7. Starlings Enemy aircraft landing at....

(D.S.D. 1024/4)

Eire

The possibility of a sea-borne expedition against Eire sailing from Spanish or French Atlantic ports must be borne in mind and all ships operating in Western Approaches should be warned to keep a look out accordingly. (1st S.L. 1555/4 to C. in C., W.A.) (C. in C., W.A. 1906/4 to Ships)

Dummy Coast  
Batteries  
Proposed

As apparent objectives of bombing raids yesterday between Frinton and Lowestoft were shore batteries, propose for consideration and early action that dummy batteries should be installed in intermediate positions on coasts, by local labour and under supervision of nearest military authority or battery commander. (A.C.N.S.H. 1732/4 to W.O. and C. in C's)

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. Contd.

My 1858/3 is still in force. (Steam up for two hours notice between 2200 and 0500) (C. in C., H.F. 1850/4 to RODNEY, SOUTHAMPTON, COVENTRY, NORFOLK, Destroyers Negative BERKELEY)

Telephone during invasion

Communication by G.P.O. Telephone on which we so greatly rely is seriously congested. Strongly recommend immediate steps to reduce extent of use of public telephone system for purely domestic purposes, and in any case a vital necessity that only service and Police and Home Defence calls should be allowed from the moment of first news of an attempt at invasion. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2255/4 to Adty.)

Defence of Chatham

Your 4166/0803 J.11. 24th June 1940. Plans should be prepared to organise self-supporting bodies of Naval Personnel irrespective of standard of training to occupy rallying-points for defence of Chatham Area when investment appears imminent. (D. of L.D. 1844/4 to C. in C., Nore.)

HOME COMMANDS

82

Movements

My 1825/2 and 1858/3 keep steam at two hours notice until further orders. (C. in C. H.F. 0204/4 to RODNEY, SOUTHAMPTON, NORFOLK, COVENTRY, Destroyers)

My 0204/4 Fleet reverted to usual notice for steam. (C. in C., H.F. 1126/4 to Adty.)

Dover  
Patrol

189. Patrol System O.E. is to be brought into force tonight Thursday 4th. (V.A. Dover, 1305/4 to 1st D.F.)

Submarines

Positions 0600/4.

- A. Two vicinity HVJJ 3030
  - B. One vicinity DNXG 1534
  - C. One vicinity XZUB 0000
  - D. One C.1.
  - E. One JZUB 3035 proceeding to C.1.
  - F. One H.1.
  - G. One H.2.
  - H. One vicinity CPSC 5351.
  - L. One TGVD 4500 on surface to QSMF 4530.
  - J. One TGQG 3548 on surface to XZUB.
  - K. One NLWT 3000 proceeding to A.5.
  - L. Three leave Rosyth p.m. to vicinity QSMF 0850 XZMF 5555 JZUB 2000 respectively.
  - M. One leaves Blyth p.m. proceeding XZMF 2855
  - N. One JZGR 1000 proceeding on surface Rosyth.
- (D.C. 2050/3)

Position of Submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 5th July.

TRIAD, TAKU vicinity #ro Havet.  
NARWHAL vicinity D N X G 1534  
SEALION, SHARK vicinity X Z U B.  
SEAWOLF C one  
SNAPPER J Z M F 3000 proceeding on surface to Rosyth.  
STRURGEON, SWORDFISH H one and H 2.  
SPEARFISH West of A.5. proceeding submerged to A.5.  
H.50 vicinity of C P S C 5351  
H.40 patrolling off Dover, returning to Dover a.m.  
TETRARCH, SUNFISH, TRIBUNE, PORPOISE SALMON vicinity XZTA, 2020, T G V D, 5020, JZVD 1040, RQWT 4530, TGVD 1520, respectively all proceeding on surface to QSMF 4530, QSMF 0850, XZMF 5555, XZMF 2855 and JZUB 2000.  
(V.A.S. 1949/4)

HOME COMMANDS.Operations.  
Swedish Destroyers.

83

Swedish destroyers have been ordered by their Government to rendezvous with CASTOR in 62° N. 5° W. on 5/7. at 0200 or at time arranged by S.O. From there they will proceed to Stadlandet and thence to Sweden. (D.O.D.(H) 1336/4 to C. in C. H.F.).

Swedish Depot Ship PATRICIA and 4 Swedish Destroyers PUKE PSILANDER ROMULUS REMUS sail from Kirkwall at 0200/5 for 62° N 5° W. where they will r.v. with Swedish Oiler CASTOR from Thorshavn at 2000/5 thence proceeding towards Stadlandet. Inform area. (V.A.N.P. 2231/4 to A.C.O.S.)

E - Boats.Ships  
attacked.

HARTLEPOOL

Torpedoed 16' S.S.W. of Portland Light (Portishead 2356/4) 50° 16' N 2° 31' W. heavy list (C. in C. Portsmouth 0645/5)

BRITISH  
CORPORAL

Mined 50° 13' N 2° 35' W. (Portishead 2303/4)  
Note. -(It is believed ship was torpedoed by E-boat) Can be towed ULLNSWATER standing by, SABRE near. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0654/5 to SABRE, SHIKARI, ACHERON, STALWART, Tug ST MARTIN)

E-Boats reported.

0126

55° 50' N 120' E. D/F report. unreliable fix. (D.C. 0200/4).

2055

Four E-boats 3' N of Cherbourg steering 340° A/C report. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2141/4 and 2206/4)

1530

P.D.U sortie 1530/4 showed 4 E-boats and some activity at Boulogne (P.D.U.I. 1936/4)

Air.British Air  
Activity.5 Fishing trawlers  
attacked.

At 1800/4 five small Fishing Trawlers attacked off the Hague. One capsized and rest sinking. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2125/4 to H.Q.C.C.)

M V. hit off  
Bergen.

3 direct hits with 250 lb A/S bombs on M.V. 3000 tons in XZUB 46 24 (Donibristle 1500/5) ship last observed blazing and drifting onto rocks (Donibristle No. T.O.O. received 1922/5)

HOME COMMANDS.

84

Air.

Enemy air activity. Air raid on Portland Harbour between 0830 and 1100, By 20 JU dive bombers. A/A ship **POYLEBANK** sunk, casualties heavy, Captain and 11 officers and about 200 ratings saved, of these 50 to 60 serious cases. S.S. **CITY OF MELBOURNE** damaged and beached. Tug **SILVER DIAL** and a D.G. Lighter sunk. Little damage ashore. **POYLEBANK** maintained fire till last minute. No damage known to have been caused to enemy (F.O. I/C Portland 1300/4)  
Note. Portions of this signal are precised in Operations Volume.

WILLIAM  
WILBERFORCE  
EAST WALES

(5004 tons) Damaged by bombing at Portland  
(D.O.R. 306)  
(4358/tons)

MAGOG

50°31'N 11°5'W machine gunned at 1120/4  
(Valentia Radio 1122/4)

Unescorted  
Convoy Attacked

At 1412 unescorted Convoy of 14 ships bombed off Leathercoats (South Foreland) by four relays of six bombers escorted by Fighters. (V.A. Dover 0016/5)

JAMES J. MAGUIRE

British Tanker 10,525 tons, bombed 0704 Bristol Channel. (Burnham-on-Sea 0704/4 to Adty. (D.S. 303)

Convoy OA 178  
Attacked

At 1255/4 six hostile aircraft dived almost vertically on Convoy at 50° 13' N 2° 12' W. and one direct hit observed. A second flight of six attacked immediately afterwards, followed by a third flight of three. (Chatham 1655/4 to H.Q.C.C.)  
Attack on Convoy 200° Niton 20 miles (Niton Radio 1202/4) 60 Planes attacking (Niton Radio 1346/4)  
Fighter assistance standing by (C. in C., Nore 1215/4 to MANCHESTER)  
Help Topaz (Plymouth W/T 1300/4 to Portland W/T)  
Lat 50° 10' N long 2° 19' W **PETERTON** Convoy being heavily bombed. (**PETERTON** 1400/4)  
50° 10' N 2° 33' W Vessel disabled require immediate help (**KING FREDERICK** 1417/4)  
Fighters have been despatched to Topaz (C. in C., W.A. 1450/4 to **CLARKIA**)  
See also Shipping.

/Contd.....



War Diary

4.7.1940.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

The Ships Attacked were:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Fate</u>
<u>EASTMOOR</u>	5812	12m S.S.W. Portland Bill, 50°10 N., 02°33 W.	Leaking Bombed and badly damaged 3 wounded
<u>KING FREDERICK</u>	5106	21m South of Portland Bill. 50°30 N 02°00 W. <i>2-33</i>	Leaking (KING FREDERICK 1417/14
<u>IRENE MARIA</u>	1806	18m E. of Portland Bill	On fire. Direct hit abaft the bridge.
<u>KOLGA</u> (Estonian)	3526	-	Damaged. Believed sunk. Direct hit abaft bridge.
<u>DALLAS CITY</u>	4952	-	On fire and abandoned, but salvage possible (SABRE Recd. 0029/5) (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0654/5)
<u>ARGOS HILL</u>	7178	-	Engines damaged
<u>FAIRWATER</u>	4108	-	Leaking
<u>FLIMSTON</u>	4674	-	Damaged but no details reported
<u>BRIARWOOD</u>	4091	-	Dynamos damaged
<u>LIFLAND</u>	2254	-	Condensers damaged
D.S. 304.			<i>See Supplementary Diary.</i>

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Unexploded  
Explosions

Explosions were reported early this morning in approximate positions: 20 miles W. by S. of Beachy Head, and 5 miles N.E. of Dungeness at 0342.

Maas and  
E Scheldt  
mined

British magnetic mines laid in Maas and East Scheldt. (D.M.S. 1635/4)

Enemy Intelligence

60°36' N 4°56'E at 1750 aircraft twice attacked enemy M/V result not observed. (Donibristle 2106/4)

Trondheim

German W/T traffic indicates movements of Naval Units in the Trondheim Area. (D.D.I.C. 0018/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

Convoy of  
30 M.V's

At 2120/3 a Convoy of about 30 M/Vs steering 300° observed in 53°22'N 1°2'E (C. in C., Nore 0507/4 to Adty.)

Convoy of  
12 M.Vs

At 0030/4 at 53° 5'N 1°20 E a Convoy of about 12 ships course 140 speed 8 knots (C. in C., Nore 0507/4 to Adty.)

Aqueducts on  
Dortmund-Ems  
Canal

Photographs taken 2 July show serious damage Details given. (THI 1913/3)

Convoy of 4  
ships

At 1222/4 four ships 5000 to 10,000 tons in Convoy 4' W of Helder (H.Q.B.C. 0306/5)

Dunkirk

At 1546/4 one large Cargo vessel stationary off shore. (H.Q.B.C. 0306/5)

200 Barges near  
Amsterdam

At 1445/4, 100 to 200 Barges observed being towed towards Amsterdam in sixes on Canal from Utrecht. (HQBC 0306/5)

4 Mine sweepers

At 0945/4 at 53° 15'N 4°25'E four Mine sweepers observed in line abreast steering North. (H.Q.B.C. 0306/5)

SCHARNHORST

In floating dock at Kiel. Description of damage (H.Q.B.C. 1433/4)

80 Barges at  
Ghent

PDU Sortie on 4th shows 60 out of 80 Barges in dock at Velstraat Ghent departed since 18/6. (PDUI 1831/4)

Ostend

No shipping or other activity on 4/7 (PDUI 2340/4)

Cruiser &  
Destroyer

Sighted 1515 180° 10 miles 60°16'N 5°36'E (Donibristle 1500/5)



HOME COMMANDS

87

Shipping

Coasters in Channel

Admiralty 1404/30. Estimated there will still be average of 10 ships per day engaged in coastal trade on South and South West coasts of England all of whom must proceed via the the English Channel.

Proposed to cater for these ships as follows. A convoy will sail from Southend every alternate day the first convoy sailing on the 9th July.

Convoys are to be known as Channel Convoys. Escort of one destroyer from Sheerness will be provided from Southend to vicinity of St. Catherines Isle of Wight whence the convoy will proceed independently.

Time of sailing from Southend will for the present be 0700. The route to be used will be as close to the coast as possible keeping outside the 20-fathom line. (C. in C., Nore 1716/4 to A.C.W.A.)

Convoy OA 178

Do not enter Weymouth. Proceed with convoy down channel additional escort is being sent. (N.O.I.C. Portland 1907/4 to CLARKIA)

Netherlands Ships

On the authority of the Netherlands Government Netherland Ships are instructed <sup>not</sup> to call at ports in France or in French possessions and if at sea, bound for such ports, are to continue their voyage omitting French ports, or if in doubt are to sail instead to the nearest convenient British port for orders. (D.T.D. 2246/4 to all Dutch Ships)

OA Convoys

119. My 1716/4. As alteration of OA sailings has been brought into force earlier than was originally intended the first channel convoy sailing will be on Friday 6th July. (C. in C., 2250/4 to A.C.W.A.)

Miscellaneous-Jan Mayern Island

Your 1545/23/6 received to-day. No indication as to enemy occupation except that Meteorological transmission to U.K. ceased about 8/6 and an aircraft sighted 12/6 may have visited the island. Information required:-(D.N.I. 0106/4 to S.O.I. Iceland.)



War Diary

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Thursday.

0500

WEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
<u>North Sea</u>	W. to N.W. Light to Moderate	Moderate to Good in south Very good in north.	Similar
<u>Channel</u>	W.N.W. Light to moderate	Good to very good.	Similar
<u>Western Approaches</u>	W.N.W. light to moderate	Good to very good	Moderate west winds
<u>No reports received, probable weather</u>			
<u>Horns Reef</u>	S.W. moderate	Moderate	Wind west moderate visibility.
<u>West Coast Norway</u>	N.E. light to moderate	Good	Wind tacking to North. Moderate.

War Diary

4.7.1940.  
Thursday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

89

BONAVENTURE

Reports all defects now completed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1135/4 to Adty.)

EL GRILLO

British. Aground at 18° N. 74° 25'W  
Unable refloat. Have asked KINGSTON  
salvage Vessel. (EL GRILLO to Min. of  
Shipping)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

90

North Atlantic.

Reported Italian Force.

Ref message 2030/3 (no trace in W.R.) from Sunderland P.9262 reporting 5 battleships, 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers steering 330° Shersol 10 m. Pilot convinced that these forces were Italian. He was attacked by Italian fighters, (F.O.C.N.A. 1208/4)

Las Palmas.

Spanish minelayer NANTE <sup>arrived</sup> ~~missed~~. (Las. Palmas, 1715/4).

French Cargoes.

Nature and quantity of cargo arriving from French ports should be reported. (D.T.D., 1211/4 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C., S.A.)

Casablanca, Troopships

Admty. 1129/29, 1525/29 and C. in C., W.A. 1256/3. Presume arrangements have been made with French authorities, Casablanca, for British ships ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ULSTER MONARCH to enter Casablanca and leave again without hindrance. These ships cannot be accepted at Gibraltar with French Troops on board. They are not now required at Gibraltar for evacuation of Polish troops. (F.O.C.N.A. 1258/4)

Your 1258/4 Situation as regards the repatriation of French troops to Casablanca described. Since the ships sailed the political situation has altered. No reason to suppose the French will refuse to receive the ships in Casablanca, but they may refuse to release them. Two ships in O.G. 36, FABIAN and JOHN HOLT, carry Senegalese troops loyal to our cause. JOHN HOLT should be diverted to Freetown at a suitable point, and FABIAN should proceed to Gibraltar to fuel and then sent to Freetown. Object is to land rest of French troops at Casablanca and also ensure that our ships are not held. Endeavour to get into touch with French authorities at Casablanca with a view to obtaining a guarantee that our ships will be released. If any Poles awaiting embarkation at Casablanca, negotiations with French should cover this point. Endeavour also being made from here to obtain some assurance from Bordeaux Govt. (D.O.D. (F) 0156/5, to F.O.C.N.A.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic, Contd.

Flying Boats

Admty. 1926/4 asking for air watch on Battle Cruiser aground in Mers-elKebir. At present London aircraft only are available. In view of their low speed and certain fighter opposition this is not considered practicable until Sunderland aircraft are again available (F.O.C.N.A. 2354/4)

Convoy

R/V for VOLUNTEER, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, etc., postponed to 0500/7 (D.D.D.(F) 1225/4)

Ships at Cadiz

re CAVEROCK with coal for Cadiz having to discharge next to BURMA (Italian) Asking whether can order to anchor in Bay until latter moves. (Consul, Cadiz, 1807/4)

South Atlantic

Gold Coast

Military situation in view of possible French declaration of war consequent on recent naval action. (General Gifford, Accra to W.O., 1715/4)

Flying Conditions (Watch on Dakar)

Replying to Adty. 1708/4 as to local flying and meteorological conditions. (HERMES, 2100/4)

Movements (Watch on Dakar)

Departures, HERMES and AUSTRALIA to join DORSETSHIRE, (S.O.L., Freetown, 0431/4)

Convoys. W.S.1.

Route for W.S.1 cancelling his 1613/3 (C. in C., S.A. to CUMBERLAND, 0001/4)

S.L.38

S.L. 38 route (DTD 0017/4 to CARNARVON CASTLE)

Fernando Po

Ref. OAG Nigeria L 201 to Governor, Sierra Leone, reported Sec. of State 684 July 3. Intend to send DRAGON to Fernando Po to evacuate British subjects. (C. in C., S.A. 1003/4) Orders to DRAGON (1129/4)

D/F Stations

Essential to South Atlantic naval organisation that Simonstown, Ascension and Freetown D/F should invariably be tuned to same frequency in order that enemy transmitter may be located reliably by 3 cross bearings. (C. in C., S.A. 1330/4)

Shipping in Brazilian Ports

Under a supplementary neutrality law, belligerent merchant ships which take refuge in Brazilian ports will require special permits to enable them to leave. Brazilian guards will be placed on board such ships during their stay. (Press 4/7)

War Diary

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic, Contd.

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BULOLO.  
Cameroons

To remain at Manoca until further orders, (C. in C., S.A. 1131/4) Nigerian Commission, Duala, strongly urge BULOLO remaining Cameroon River owing to Critical situation. I have intimated BULOLO to remain until further orders. (C. in C., S.A. to Adty. 1335/4)

Cruisers

Your 1811/3 Commitments of cruiser escorting convoy W.S.I. to Cape after transfer of duty to KENT cannot at present be foreseen. No objection to exchange of duties between CORNWALL and CUMBERLAND in order that former may refit at Simonstown if circumstances permit, and slight delay in onward sailing of convoy B.C. can be accepted. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A. 2342/4)

SIVRI-HISAR

Minelayer, has arrived Freetown from Gibraltar on passage to Istanbul for Turkish Navy via Cape. Cannot carry sufficient fuel to reach Capetown direct from Freetown and enquiries show no fuel of type required can be obtained at any intermediate port. If passage through Mediterranean is impracticable vessel could be usefully employed at Freetown (C. in C., S.A. 1316/4)

War Diary

4.7.1940.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

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Enemy  
Destroyers

3 enemy destroyers bearing 170 distance 5 miles, approx course 065, speed 20 knots, my position 264 LJM 38 (? 37.26 N., 3.22E) (PANDORA, 1025/4)

Algiers.  
Ships

Consul at Algiers reports French Authorities have now placed armed guards on board and removed breachblocks of guns of 2 British ships referred to in his 1504/3, presumably TEMPLE PIER and HERMES. States he has protested on several occasions against their detention without effect (Consul, Algiers 1504/3, 1740/3) (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1916/4 S.O.I., Alexandria, 1906/4)

Spanish  
Situation

General responsible for visit of German soldiers to Bilbao has been superseded. No further visits have occurred. Reports of action at Oran have stupefied Spaniards. Naval dispositions normal but some leave cancelled. (Madrid, 2010/4)

Black Sea  
Lines

Roumanian Admiralty has announced that mines have been laid in position 44.27 N., 29.30 E (roughly 40 miles E.N.E. of Constanta) (I.C., 0501/40)

Valona Mine

Floating mine reported 6' W.N.W. of Saseno as island off the Albanian port of Valona. (I.C. 0501/40)

Palma

No noticeable change. Silver from Bank of Spain being loaded in Spanish minelayer JUPITER, expected to leave today. Significance at present unknown. (Consul, Palma, 1930/4)

Cable Cut

One cable cut a.m. today 37°03'N., 12° 41'E thereby linking only 2 cables to Gibraltar (S.O.I., Malta, 1156/4)

Turkey

Ulgen (Naval Secy. & Min of Defence) stated Turkish fighting forces apprehensive Russians further southward advance towards Bosphorus. Russians may be considering mining Black Sea entry to Bosphorus thus gaining control over Black Sea. He is advocating Turks laying defensive minefields to prevent latter action. For the present situation is considered more calm but Admiral considers this may be lull before storm. Turkish active fleet is moving to Ismid. (N.A. Angora 1743/4)

War Diary

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Air

94

Malta, Raid

Formation enemy aircraft approached island this evening. No bombs dropped (Governor, Malta, 0154/4)

Enemy Ships

Aircraft report 2 large ships, presumably merchant ships, outside Assab Harbour on 3/7 (I.C. 0501/40)

JERVIS  
bombed.  
Malta raided

Malta air intelligence report 1800/3 to 1800/4 L.T. One enemy 3-engined seaplane presumed Cant Z 506 bombed JERVIS from between 500 and 1000 ft. from 1809 to 1835/3 L.T. and was intercepted by fighters, no damage done. July 4, A/S and reconnaissance patrol by Swordfish at 0445 hours L T Nothing to report at 0554 hours L.T. 1 formation of 3 enemy fighters presumably C.R. 32's or C.R. 42's delivered a low flying attack on Hal Far aerodrome while 2 other formations of three fighters each remained over aerodrome. No casualties. U 12 Swordfish aircraft damaged on Hal Far aerodrome repairable. (H.Q., Malta) (1710/4)

Patrols

Operational Summary. All land operations except that No 12 Sqdn. S.A.A.F. employed on 1 coastal and 2 shipping escort patrols in Mombasa area. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1748/4)

East Indies

French  
Attitude

Am assuming Adty. 2300/3 does not modify instructions in Adty. 1608/1. French ship CARAIBE's intention and attitude are being obtained. H.M.S. CARTHAGE reports June 30 authorities at Diego Suarez generally express strong sympathies with Allied cause. Lack of authentic news and fate of families in worrying them. Ref 1629/3 from Adty., asks if KENT allowed to call for confidential books from S.N.O. Madagascar, (C. in C., E.I. 0424Z/4)

Troop  
Transports

COLOMBO escorting British troop transports TAKLIWA and TALAMBA left Mombasa 3/7. Date of arrival at Aden. (c. in C., E.I. 0750/4)

No outward bound convoy from U.K. to India or Middle East other than W.S.1. is now at sea. Further arrangements still under consideration. (D.O.D. (F) 1851/4, amended 0935/5)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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America & West Indies

St. Pierre

Master of BELLE ISLE from St. Pierre reported French ~~Ship~~<sup>Ship</sup> VILLE D'YS arriving St. Pierre yesterday. French trawler also reported on banks. BELLE ISLE will not return to St. Pierre. (N.O.I.C., St. John's, N.F. 1205/4)

Aruba

Admiral, Martinique, informs me he intends withdrawing troops from Aruba July 6. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0952/4) ESTERELLE and QUERCY being used for operation. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1142/4)

French Messages

W/T cypher messages from Martinique to French submarines AXAX, LE CENTAURE, PERSEE and PONCELET. None of them heard to answer. Considerable amount of naval traffic taking place. (FIJI, 2309/4)

ILLUSTRIOUS

State of readiness and working up. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1902/4)

New Zealand

Papeete

Instructions in Admty. 1435/3, all British merchant ships to leave French Ports, were communicated to British Consul, Papeete, who replies unless assurances are given that blockade does not apply to Tahiti learn from French Navy district probability that colony will apply to Japan for commercial treaty. This will entail further Japanese influence over Pacific. No vestige of either pro-Japanese or German sympathy here. Colony will consider betrayal of British interests and in consular opinion must lead to bloodshed. (S.O.I., Wellington, 10132/4)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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China

Coasting Trade

My 0230/4 Ask French C. in C., from me whether he will agree in our mutual interest to allow British, French and Allied Coasting trade to continue to run whatever may happen outside the Far East. (C. in C., China, 0231/4 to B.L.O., Saigon)

Your 0231/4 French C. in C., in entire agreement. He concludes that by coastal trade you mean trade from Singapore to Shanghai and Japan. He is equally prepared to give similar agreement for whole Pacific and if possible for Indian Ocean. Do not think he has any knowledge of situation stated in your 0231/4 (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0800/4)

ILE DE FRANCE

To be detained at Singapore. (Hd. of M., 1516/4, 2247/4)

Japanese  
Warships

Positions. Alterations to 0851/27/6 (C.O.S. Singapore, 0856/4)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

97

- UGANDA German shipowner Sloman informed Moscow that this newly-built ship about 8,500 tons, will be ready about 8/7 and will be sent in ballast to Leningrad, if no cargo is available for full cargo of oats, lay days being 8/7 to 15/7 (I.C., 0501/40)
- MARITZA Sailed from Dubrovnik 1/7 and arrived Trieste 2/7 with full cargo of Bauxite. (I.C., 0501/40)
- SALZBURG Left for Black Sea port. (Galatz 1449/4)
- MONTAN )  
PHAEDRA ) Arrived Goteborg (Goteborg 1025/4)  
HEIDELBERG )
- ELBE Yokohama, returned to anchorage for dry dock. (I.C. 0502/40)
- REGENSBURG Yokohama, taken on board 500 tons oil (I.C. 0502/40)
- SCHARNHORST Kobe, reported to have a crew of only 45, including 6 Chinese (I.C. 0502/40)
- ANTILLA (Scuttled at Aruba 10/5) Lloyds surveyor reports ship can be raised using the resources of the port. (I.C. 0502/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

- SISTIANA Prize renamed MYRICA and then take over by South African Railways and Harbours. Registry and call sign (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1127/29, received 0300/4)
- ARABIA Believed to be at Massawa (I.C. 0501/40)
- EUGENIO C Left Corunna 2/7 and arrived Ferrol same day. (I.C. 0501/40)
- CAPO NOLI 3921 tons, which set herself on fire and ran aground in St. Lawrence on 9/6, has been refloated and taken into Quebec, arriving 3/7. (I.C., 0502/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

98

Ships Attacked

CLAN OGILVY  
ZARIAN  
AENEAS  
AVELONA STAR  
BEIGNON

CLAN OGILVY, and ZARIAN (torpedoed 30/6) have arrived at Falmouth in tow at 2130/4. Wreck of AENEAS (see D.S. July 3 and July 4) has sunk. AVELONA STAR, and BEIGNON (both torpedoed at about 2130/30 when 300 miles W by S of Ushant) are now presumed to have been sunk. (D.S. 304)

H.H. 7.

British Shrimper. Struck Mine in 51° 53'N. 1° 53'E at 0740/4 crew of 2 saved. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0823/4 to C. in C., Nore)

Mine apparently exploded by Trawl Beam. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1042/4 to C. in C., Nore.)

Dredger

Mined  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile outside Amble today. Port is closed.

Submarines Reported

- 1030 53.20 N., 05.55 W., 12 miles E. of Dublin, shore report. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1140/4)
- 1109 U/B reported submerged off Kish Light Vessel, reliable (C. in C., W.A., 1109/4) WHIRLWIND ordered to attack. (C. in C., W.A. 1116/4)
- 1125 XZQG 2445 (see Submarines Attacked) reported by aircraft.
- 1240 XZQG 2338 speed 1 knot | aircraft 612 Sqdn. 1240/4)
- 1330 XZAV 1025, course 035, speed 1 knot (aircraft 612 Sqdn. 1330/4)
- 1229 Enemy submarine reported in position 49°N., 13°30' W at 1229 (C. in C., W.A. 1304/4)
- 0010 48°50'N 9°-12°W Position very indefinite A.I. (I.C. 0501/40)
- 1300 344° 8 miles from 14°N 17°W 2 submarines (DORSETSHIRE 1532/4) *see next page.*
- 1910 58°12'N 1°50'E Course 150 8 knots aircraft report (Donibristle 2100/4)
- 1600 5 miles N.W. of Cape Roca. Two submarines reported by Consul Lisbon. (F.O.C.N.A. 0105/5 to VISCOUNT)



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Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

99

Submarines Reported, Contd.

- 2000 57° 18'N 4° 16'E Course 120 speed 8 knots  
aircraft report (224 Sqdn 2000/4)
- 2030 57°18'N 3° E Course 270 speed 6 knots. On  
surface aircraft report (Donibristle 2815/4  
to Adty.)
- 1440 5 miles off Berry Head proceeding West.  
VANQUISHER to attack (C. in C., W.A. 1556/4  
to VANQUISHER)
- 2035 58° 12'N 2° 56'E course 010 speed 6 to 8  
knots. Aircraft report (Donibristle 2253/4)
- 1927 57°52'N 2°30'E course 030 speed 10 to 12  
knots On surface. British (Donibristle  
2253/4)

Portugal

- 1540 2 U-boats reported 38°45'N 9° 35'W (I.C.  
0502/40)

Submarines Attacked

- 1125 Am over enemy submarine in position XZQG  
2445. Have attacked with dive bombs and  
estimate no hits. (A/C 612 Sqdn., F 1125/4)
- 1310 Have attacked enemy submarine with bombs  
level, estimate no hits. Position XZAV 0230  
(A/C 612 Sqdn. H, 1310/4)
- 1602 Have sunk or damaged one submarine  
(DORSETSHIRE 1602/4) *See previous page.*

SITUATION REPORT

100

Defence of U.K.

Eight destroyers were on the Dover patrols during the night 4/5.

Kingstown and Cork have been placed under military control.

Convoys

Children's Convoy

BONAVENTURE with GARTH and JASON left Clyde at 0545 today escorting 3 large ships carrying children and bullion for Halifax. REVENGE and 4 destroyers met these ships at 1000, when GARTH and JASON were detached.

Casualties

WHIRLWIND

Damaged by U-boat about 120 miles West of Lands End. Was sunk by WESTCOTT by gunfire. Casualties 57 killed and 7 seriously wounded.

SHARK

Operating off S.W. Norway, reported at 2250 that she could not dive. She is proceeding at 10 knots. 4 destroyers have been despatched to escort her to Rosyth and should reach her by 0900/6. SOUTHAMPTON and COVENTRY are to proceed in support and air escort is to be provided from dawn.

Former Casualties

AENEAS  
CLAN OGILVY )  
ZARIAN )  
AMSTELLAND

(Bombed off Portland 2/7) has sunk.  
(Torpedoed 30/6) have arrived at Falmouth in tow)  
(Torpedoed 1/7) arrived Falmouth p.m. /5 in tow escorted by CALENDULA.

FOYLEBANK

(Bombed at Portland 4/7) Fire has burnt out and A/A guns do not appear to have suffered much. Salvage should be easy. Ship is aground. Bombed p.m. /4 off Portland in Convoy OA 178 and damaged, believed proceeding to Falmouth.

ARGOS HILL )  
FAIRWATER )  
FLIMSTON )  
BRIARWOOD )  
LITLAND )

IRENE MARIA

do., in tow for Southampton.

HARTLEPOOL

Bombed in Convoy AO 178 and later torpedoed by E-boats, in tow for Portland.

SITUATION REPORT

101

French Fleet

4 French destroyers, 5 torpedo boats and all submarine chasers in British ports are to be commissioned under the White Ensign.

RICHELIEU

Is still at Dakar under observation by DORSETSHIRE's aircraft with MILFORD which has asdics working close inshore at dawn and dusk.

Casablanca

The French appear to have established a submarine patrol. Air reconnaissance p.m. today showed that cruiser PRIMAUGUET had sailed.

Oran

HOOD, VALIANT, ARK ROYAL, ENTERPRISE and 10 destroyers left Gibraltar at 2000 and are due off Oran at 0900/6. PANDORA and PROTEUS have been ordered to patrol close to the coast to the southward of Oran

Cruiser Sunk

PANDORA patrolling off Algiers <sup>yesterday</sup> today sank a cruiser of the LA GALISSONNIERE class. She was subsequently bombed and depth charged but is undamaged.

*X Later known as RIGAUD DE GENOUILLY, sloop.*

Alexandria

C. in C., Mediterranean reported this morning that deoiling of ships was practically complete and that obturators and warheads of destroyers had been landed today and placed in custody of the French Consul General. Reservists are embarking, but the French Admiral stated he was awaiting confirmation that arrangements have been made for the reception of active service ratings in France, before embarking them.

CARAIBE

is returning to Mombasa in charge of KENT. force was not required.

Air

A few bombs were dropped last night in various parts of England.

Convoy FS214 was attacked off the Wash this morning. Fighters drove off the enemy.

Mining

It is suspected that eneming minelaying took place last night in the Harwich area and in the Downs. Harwich was swept clear by daylight. All British ports are open except Amble and Newhaven. Minelaying last night is also suspected in the Thames estuary, Straits of Dover, and Humber.

There was some evidence of minelaying off Gibraltar last night.



War Diary

5.7.1940.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT

102

Italian Hostilities

Gibraltar was bombed by 2 aircraft this morning.

All bombs fell in the sea. It is believed the aircraft were French.



War Diary

5.7.1940.  
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

General

103

My 2356/3 your 1400/5 and W.O. 75489 4/7 request clarification of action in the event of French warships passing through the Straits. (F.O.C.N.A. 2014/5 to Adty.)

Reply. Comply with para 3. of my 2005/4 (1st S.L. 0216/6)

The French appear to have established a submarine patrol Casablanca and two have been sighted by aircraft today; I instructed them not to attack. Another submarine was attacked by aircraft 230 Spartel 60. Aircraft reported probably French.

I intend for the present that no submarine unless obviously hostile shall be attacked within 70 miles radius of Casablanca (original French submarine zone). All submarines outside this zone unless escorted will be attacked. (F.O.C.N.A. 2232/5 to Adty.)

U.K.

DAPHNE  
P.L.M. 24

At Methil Breach blocks and machine guns removed and armed guards put on board (C. in C., Rosyth 0007/5)

Reference Adty. 2119/4 T/B's BOUCLIER, LA CORDELIERE, L'INCOMPRISE, BRANLEBAS LAMELPOMENE would be great value in the Nore Command for outer patrol work and to counter E-boats. (C. in C., Nore 1607/5 to Adty.)

Dakar

MILFORD

To be sent to join patrol off Dakar as with her Asdics she can work closer inshore than other ships. (1st S.L. 0058/5 to C.inC., S.A.)

Your 2041/4 Para B of my 2312/3 is in abeyance until further orders. Shadow only. (1st S.L. 0155/5 to C. in C., S.A.)

Ships on patrol off Dakar are not to approach within 20 miles of French coast. (C. in C., S.A. 0723/5 to DORSETSHIRE, HERMES, AUSTRALIA, MILFORD)

/Your 0723/5.....

War Diary

5.7.1940.  
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

Dakar, Contd.

104

Your 0723/5. Do you intend this to apply during dark hours. (DORSETSHIRE 1305Z/5 to C. in C., S.A.)

I assume your 0058/5 does not cancel para 2 of your 2005/4 part 1 and have instructed MILFORD accordingly (C. in C., S.A. 1021/5 to Adty.)

RICHELIEU

Report whether RICHELIEU is still at Dakar (C. in C., S.A. 1947/5 to C. - G., Dakar)

Your 0723/5 (A) A report received from Tangier that RICHELIEU has sailed. When was she last sighted?

(B) Essential that aircraft from HERMES should keep RICHELIEU under observation and if flying is not possible some ship preferably MILFORD must endeavour to sight her morning and evening.

(C) MILFORD was ordered to Dakar to work at intervals further inshore than other ships (1st S.L. 1954/5 to C. in C., S.A.)

Admty's 1954/5th July. RICHELIEU at Dakar with awning spread at 1700 Zone plus One today Friday 5th July. I have her under continual personal observation up to 0200 today. (DORSETSHIRE 2030Z/5 to C. in C., S.A.)

Adty. 1954/5 Answer paragraph (a). Comply with para (b). After arrival MILFORD is not to approach within 20x except to sight RICHELIEU morning and evening when flying cannot be carried out. (C. in C., S.A. 1955/5 to DORSETSHIRE)  
x as received.

Casablanca

My 1546/4 Air reconnaissance p.m. today indicates probability that PRIMAUGUET has sailed. There are now only 8 submarines in port. (S.O. (1) Gib. 1804/5)

5.7.1940.  
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

105

Oran

A. Primary object of the attack on Mers El Kebir was destruction of the battle cruisers.

B. Unless you have sure evidence that the battle cruiser aground is so severely damaged that she cannot be refloated and repaired in under a year it is essential she be subjected to further destruction by bombardment. Air attack by 18" torpedoes alone is not considered adequate.

C. Hence unless you are convinced that the condition in B obtains you are to carry out a further operation against Mers El Kebir on 6/7.

D. It appears desirable Force H should sail just before dark and proceed to westward until dark then turn to eastward.

E. In view of submarine patrols take as many destroyers as possible.

F. If you are satisfied condition in B obtains then sail to-morrow Friday evening for Dakar to deal with RICHELIEU, leaving RESOLUTION at Gibraltar.

Further instructions follow regarding this operation. (1st S.L. 0056/5 to V.A. Force H)

Your 1650/4 and My 2056/4. Destroyers will consist of 6 of the 13th D.F. and 5 of E and F classes.

(i) Necessary to fuel V and W classes at sea anyhow and E and F classes as well unless force continues to Freetown after operation.

(iii) VALIANT and ARK ROYAL could provide sufficient fuel for all destroyers without calling at Freetown but oiling would take a considerable time and would only be possible from ARK ROYAL in very calm weather.

(iv) Provision of oiler desirable preferably between 020° and 025° N.

(v) A further oiler at Freetown is also desirable in case all destroyers cannot be oiled at sea and possibly to oil HOOD.

(vi) Would start passage at 14 knots increasing if oiling at sea proved practicable.

/(vii).....

5.7.1940.  
Friday.

FRENCH FLEET

Oran- Contd.

106

(vii) In the event of bad weather it may be necessary to send back V and W classes after passing Canary Is. (V.A.H. 0015/5 to Adty)

My 0056/5 and your 2240/4 Operation against  
→ DUNKERQUE is to be carried out (1st. S.L. 0202/5)

Regret that repugnance I felt at causing heavy French casualties induced me to delay bombardment and to cut it short at first excuse. This delay capsized ARK ROYAL programme and prevented synchronization of air attack. Of this I was not aware at the time, but I see clearly that I should have ordered VALIANT and RESOLUTION to continue bombardment while I was chasing STRASBOURG.

I think there is good reason to believe STRASBOURG may have been seriously damaged and I will do my utmost to dispose of  
→ DUNKERQUE tomorrow. (F.O. Force H. 1000/5 to Adty.)

Your 0202/5 Intend using HOOD, VALIANT, ARK ROYAL, ARETHUSA, ENTERPRISE and 10 destroyers for operation commencing to-day as in (d) of your 0056/5. Expect to commence bombardment about 0900/6 which is earliest time force can arrive if feint to (?) sail is undertaken as I consider desirable. Further earlier arrival probably not advantageous in view of poor morning visibility (V.A. Force H. 1329/5 to Adty.)

→ Re destruction of DUNKERQUE, consider question of warning so as to avoid loss of life, remembering Gensoul's last signal to you 3/7 as to ships hors de combat and evacuation of men.

B. Consider whether it is possible to attempt agreement to allow you to destroy ship by explosives instead of gunfire, thus saving loss of life.

C. The above are subject to their not necessitating your heavy ships hanging about in submarine waters. (1st S.L. 1721/5 to F.O. Force H.)

Cruiser sunk  
by PANDORA

Have sunk one Cruiser\* French Cruiser La GALISSONNIERE Class\* in position 036° 53' or 56 North 003° 17' East. Have been bombed and depth charged, undamaged. (PANDORA 1540Z/5)

\* Sloop RIGAULT DE

GENOUILLY 24

/Were you.....

Casualty folder. Sunk at 1407 / 4 July

War Diary

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Friday.

FRENCH FLEET

Oran-Contd.

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Were you bombed before or after you sank  
French Cruiser. (1st S.L. 0010/6 to PANDORA)

Bombing started 2 hours after Cruiser was  
torpedoed. (PANDORA 0016/6)

Order to  
PROTEUS

Proceed patrol of Cape Khamis 36° 20' N 0°  
40'E. Force H will operate off Oran from  
westward 6/7. Acknowledge only to V.A. Force  
H. and F.O. i/c Malta (V.A. Force H. 1734/5  
to PROTEUS)

Your 1400 and intended operation in my 1329.  
I suggest if further loss of French lives  
occurs this will provoke France to far more  
active measures against British ships. To  
give prior intention of bombarding would  
probably result in damage (? to) our ships.

Evidence of observer is ship hit extent of  
damage cannot be determined.

Unless air and submarine forces have been  
specially detailed to protect damaged ship,  
other French dispositions suggest they have  
no immediate intention of moving ships.  
Situation in western Mediterranean will be  
difficult if we have to deal with fully  
hostile French naval forces. As French now  
see that we are in earnest, can compromise be  
promised re demilitarisation of ships to  
avoid further loss of French lives.  
From observers reports casualties 3/7  
exceedingly heavy.

From latest photographs, ship is now lying  
within 400 yards of Sainte Andre and very  
considerable loss of life and damage to  
property ashore will be caused by further bom-  
bardment (V.A.H. 1750/5 1800/5 to Adty.)

Air reconnaissance of Oran 1820 5th July. One  
LYNX anchored off entrance of Oran. One  
DUNKERQUE one PANTASQUE both ashore on even  
keel former pointing 295° in original  
position where she went aground latter N.E.  
inner corner of seaward breakwater Mers El  
Kebir bow North. (S.O. (1) Gib. 2106/5 to Adty)

Force H less RESOLUTION left 2000 (S.O. (1)  
Gib. 2145/5)

/RICHELIEU.....

FRENCH FLEET

Oran- Contd.

RICHELIEU

Your 1721/5. Highly improbable French will received delegates or consider such proposition at present. If warning given prior to bombardment this will inevitably provoke full scale air and submarine opposition. Suggest French be warned that unless steps taken by them to destroy ship we reserve right to effect destruction ourselves and any loss of life or property their responsibility. Early reply desired as if operation postponed force H should return Gibraltar daylight. (V.A.H. 2209/5 to Adty.)

Orders to  
PROTEUS  
PANDORA

Be prepared for attack by French but do not fire first shot. (N.A. Station 2316/5 to PROTEUS, PANDORA)

Mediterranean.

My 2015/4. Situation report. (corrupt group) de oiling is practically complete. Obturators and warheads pistols landed today and placed in custody of French C.G. in presence of Officer from Fleet and B.C.G. Reservists embarking in PROVIDENCE. No move yet re active service ratings as Godfroy states still awaiting confirmation that arrangements made for reception in France.

2. I intend to use alternative B 1 (See Adty. 2100/1, i.e. offer of guarantee that French ships will not be seized unless Italy or Germany break armistice terms) as means expediting a departure of crews and also to try and get undertaking that ships will not be sunk at moorings. Danger of this, sooner or later particularly if situation between ourselves and France deteriorates. (C. in C., Med. 2303/5 to Adty.)

Mombasa

CARAIBE

Is returning to Mombasa with KENT. Force was not required. Due Mombasa a.m./6 (C. in C., E.I. 0626Z/5)

5.7.1940.  
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

109

West Indies

FIFI reports in his opinion Admiral Martinique wishes to avoid fighting at any rate for the present. This appears borne out by your 1230/5, with a view to clarifying situation and making it possible to withdraw one or more of my ships propose addressing Admiral Martinique as follows begin. In order to avoid use of force which would be most deplorable I ask you to give me your personal guarantee that your ships will remain in harbour. End. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1131/5 to Adty.)

Aruba reports believe Captain Seroit ESTEREL intends to obey orders of Petain Government. Fear Oil Refineries will be shelled and damaged as much as possible before surrender to a man of war. French Military Officers very friendly express opinion that Mediterranean action understandable. (S.O. (I) Kingston, 1550/5 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Your 1131/5 would be an admission to the French of our intention to attack French ships wherever met, which is undesirable at the present time hence action proposed is not repeat not to be taken. (1st S.L. 2246/5 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Defence of U.K.

Operation Order P.E.

Orders for Cruisers, destroyers and convoy escorts in case of invasion. (C. in C. Nore 1550/5). Note. Copy is in Operations Volume.

Dover Patrols.

Night 5/6 July (V.A. Dover 1959/5).

Operation ~~====~~ "Purge"  
(Anti-Invasion Instructions)

My 1550/5.  
Humber Force.

- Group 1. JUPITER and JAVELIN on patrol U (Flamborough to Sheringham).
- Group 2. JACKAL, JAGUAR, KASHMIR, KELVIN, ESK, INTREPID, and GALATEA and AURORA.

Harwich Force.

- Group 3. ACHATES, VERIFY and VENOMOUS on patrol K (Smiths Knoll).
- Group 4. SHEPFIELD, WHITSHED, ARROW, AMBUSCADE on patrol M (Aldeburgh) (SHEPFIELD 1938/5, C. in C. Nore 1714/5, 2111/5).
- Group 5. WIVERN, MALCOLM, VETERAN, ANTHONY, WILD SWAN and CARDIFF. (Capt. D16 2024/5).  
M.T.B.'s 22, 24, 29, 14, 17, 18.  
C.M.T.B.'s 104, 106, 107.  
M.A.S.B.'s 6, 7, 8, 10. MALLARD  
PUFFIN SHELDRAKE PINTAIL.

Sheerness Force.

- Group 6. BIRMINGHAM, CAMPBELL, VIMY, VERSATILE, VIVACIOUS and WINDSOR.
- Group 7. WALPOLE VESPER on patrol S. (Margate). C. in C. Nore 2010/5).

Disposition of Home Fleet

Proposals by C. in C. H.F. (C. in C. H.F. 1417/5) see operations Volume.

Movements

20th D.F.

Ships of the 20th D.F. which have embarked their guns are placed under operational control of C. in C. Nore who is requested to use them as escorts for minelaying operations whenever possible. (D.O.D. (H) 1402/5 to C. in C. Nore, Capt. D.20).

Swedish destroyers.

PSILANDER. PUKE.  
ROMULUS. REMUS.

My 1908/4. Destroyers left Kirkwall 0200/5 for same R.V. accompanied by Swedish depot ship PATRICIA (R.A. (3) 0951/5).



WAR DIARYHOME COMMANDS.5.7.40  
FridayMovementsPatrols.

One ship of 2nd C.S. and two of 5th D.F. are to reinforce patrol "U" during dark hours tonight, Saturday. C.S.18 to detail one ship for patrol "M" as in my 1442/5, this cruiser to return to Southend tomorrow. (C. in C., More, 1146/6).

SHROPSHIRE

Ready for sea in all respects. (F.O.I.C., Greenock. 0759/5). Is placed under orders of C.in C., Home Fleet, temporarily. (D.C.D.(H), 1232/5).

HURRICANE

Orders to meet Convoy HX 53 as far west as practicable-route of convoy (C.in C.W.A. 1601/5).

AURORA.

On passage from south, due at Humber 2100/5. (C. in C., More, 0934/5).

GLASGOW

Intend her to sail for Scapa for practices (C.S.18 1215/5 to C.in C. H.F.).

H 50

Orders to leave patrol 6/7. Route (50 S/m's Harwich 1137/5).

Submarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/6.

TRIAD TAKU vicinity for Havet  
WALWAL X Z S C 0030 proceeding on surface to Blyth

TETRARCH Q S M F 4530

SUNFISH TRIBUNE PORPOISE X Z S C  
3040 X Z M F 3010 X Z T A 0030 proceeding on surface to Q S M F 0850 X Z M F 5555 and X Z M F 2855 respectively.

SEALION SHARK vicinity X Z U B

SEAWOLF C One

SALMON J Z U B 2000

SPEARFISH A5

STURGEON SWORDFISH H one and 2

H 50 C P S C 5351 leaving P.M. for Harwich

H 28 leaves Harwich P.M. to relieve H 50

H 49 patrolling Dover Strait 0100 to 0800.

(V.A.(S) 1729/5.).

DEVONSHIRE

To proceed as ordered by C.in C. H.F. on arrival of EMPRESS of AUSTRALIA at Reykjavik (A.C.N.S.(H) 1559/5) Proceed Scapa (C. in C. H.F. 2239/5 to C.S.I.).

WAR DIARYHOME COMMANDS5.7.40  
FridayE Boatss. s. BRITISH CORPORAL

Required help 50°13'N 2°35'W at 0003  
(C. in C. W.A. 0036/5 to VANQUISHER,  
CLZARKIA) Tug ST. MARTIN and another rescue  
vessel leaving Portland to assist  
BRITISH CORPORAL and HARTLEPOOL both  
torpedoed S.W. Portland 20 miles. Report  
if further tug should be sent from  
Portsmouth, if you are in contact  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0300/5 to SABRE.)

s. s. HARTLEPOOL

Torpedoed send tugs, 20 miles S.W.  
Portland Bill. (Intercept, Land's End  
Radio Received 0230/5). Proceed to  
assist BRITISH CORPORAL, HARTLEPOOL  
and RILEY (C. in C. Portsmouth 0316/5  
ACHERON, SHIKARI.) Fighter A/C's all  
being sent to your assistance (C. in C.  
W.A. 1719/5 to SHIKARI)

Boulogne.

R.C. 1339-1346. No E boats in Boulogne  
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1602/5).

SS BRITSUM  
SS ELMCREST

(a/c)  
} see supplementary Diary.

WAR DIARYHOME COMMANDS5.7.49  
FridayAir.British Air ActivityBomber Command.

Intelligence Summary No. 285 (H.Q.B.C. 0405/6)

Boulogne

Reconnaissance report (Chatham 1856/5).

Utsire to Lister

Reconnaissance report (Donibristle 1946/5).

French Coast.

Reconnaissance report (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1625/5.)

2 cruisers to be attacked.

A/c 1515,6 Swordfish proceeding towards Utsire to attack expect to arrive about 2000. Skuas will follow. Request fighter support (F.O.C.O.S. 1628/5 to C.in C. H.F., Admiralty, C.in C. Rosyth, 18 group) My 1628. Swordfish expect to arrive at objective 2045. Skuas will follow to attack at same time (F.O.C.O.S. 1752/5) Fighter support arranged with Hatston (C.in C. Rosyth 1744/5).

Kiel and Wilhelmshaven

Results of R.A.F. attacks on (B.C. Intelligence Summary 284, H.Q.B.C., 2127/5)

TETRARCH, SUNFISH  
attacked.  
and aircraft.

Were you attacked by a/c about 2000/5 (Capt 3.3 2141/5 ~~to~~ SUNFISH). Yes, Undamaged. (TETRARCH 2204/5). No. Exchanged recognition signals with Hudson a/c at 1902 in 58°25'N 2°12'E (SUNFISH 2230/5). Were you attacked about 1944 in approximately 27°XZ + A 15 with bombs or torpedoes (R.A.(S) 0114/6 ~~to~~ TETRARCH). A/c's 2000. TETRARCH was bombed and is undamaged (V.A.(S) 0022/6 to Admiralty). TETRARCH 2204/5. Please give me position of TETRARCH when bombed. (A.C.O.S. 1003/6 to V.A.(S)).

Enemy Air Activity

Ship attacked 2300 in 50.13'N., 02.35' W. (C. in C., Portsmouth, to SABRE, SHIKARI, SCIMITAR, ACHERON, 0035/5).

Am about to take in tow derelict British ship in position 50.12'N., 1.41'W., burning aft. Request salvage tug. On arrival tug intend proceeding to Portsmouth. (SHIKARI, 1446/5).

SHIKARI

Help, 50.18'N., 1.39'W. (SHIKARI, 1625/5). Ship being bombed (SHIKARI, 1627/5). Enemy a/c attacking. (SHIKARI, 1647/5).

Lympne

Over 30 bombs dropped by enemy a/cs on Lympne aerodrome in late afternoon 3/7. Damage details. No action being taken to repair Admiralty huts or materials pending a decision as to Air Ministry requirements. (Adm. Supt., Chatham, 1240/5).

WAR DIARYHOME COMMANDS5.7.40  
FridayAirEnemy Air ActivityFrench A/c's.

Encountered over British Isles or near our coasts are to be regarded as hostile (Air Min. 1525/5).

BROKE.

Bombed. 49 48'N. FT 33 (BROKE 1855/5).

HOME COMMANDSMining.Operation B.S.22.

Intend sailing TEVIOT BANK escorted by INTREPID and ESK leaving Humber at 1500 tomorrow. Request sweepers may R.V. Laying to commence at about 1300. Request air escort. (D.20, 0931/5).

Harwich.

Report received that mines dropped off harbour entrance. Anticipate clearing before your schedule time of arrival off entrance, but do not proceed west of Cork light vessel until Channel reported clear, then keep strictly to centre line. (N.O.I.C., Harwich, to CARDIFF, Capt.D.16, destroyers and corvettes at sea, 0235/5). Channel is now clear. Ships may now enter harbour (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0748/5).

Enemy Intelligence.Cruiser, Destroyer.

1 cruiser, 1 destroyer bearing 270 degrees. distant 1 mile, course 180 degrees. My position 60.15'N., 5.36' E. (A/C, 269 Sqn., 1515/5). Enemy speed 10 knots (A/C, 269 Sqn., 1520/5).

SCHARNHORST.

PJAR/IW reference report W0104, dated 5.7.40, delete para. 1 on page 2 and substitute:- "In addition to the battle cruiser SCHARNHORST in the southern floating dock and the KOLN class light cruiser in the commercial port, there are also present the following". (PDUI, 0950/5).

LUTZOW

Photographs taken of the pocket battleship in the graving dock at Kiel confirms that the vessel has been badly damaged and a part of its stern has been blown away. (Air Min. D.S. 351).

WAR DIARYHOME COMMANDS5.7.40  
FridayEnemy IntelligenceTwo Cruisers.

49°34'N. 0°59'W. 2 ships thought to be  
cruisers stationary at 1212. (Chatham  
A.C.H.Q. 1625/5).

Five m.v.'s.

A/c report 5 m.v.'s 63°11'N. 7°52'E.  
Course N.E. at about 1600 (R.A.(S) 1827/5  
to s/m's on patrol).

Shipping.Convoy H.G. 36

Route, and altered destinations for  
PINTO and NYANZA (C.in C. W.A., 1109/5).

Air Attacks, Diversions.

In view of enemy air activity in the  
Channel, following diversions of shipping  
ordered pending introduction of universal  
routing through Northern Approaches.  
(D.T.D., 1335/5 D.T.D.0042/6).

FOAN Convoys.

My 1404/30. F.N. convoys in which O.A.  
convoys are included are to continue to be  
called and referred to as FN with  
existing consecutive number. Cancel  
instructions as to distinctive name FOAN.  
(D.T.D.1429/5).

Convoy OA 178 (Attacked  
by a/c's 4/7)

Your 0036 and ? your 1342 am not in company  
with CLARKIA and am escorting about 20  
ships of Convoy OA 178. Am remaining with  
them (VANQUISHER 0129/5).

OB Convoys.

Procedure for promulgating preliminary  
instructions for OB Convoys northabout  
(C.in C.W.A. 1541/5).

OA Convoys.

do. for C.A. Convoys (C. in C.W.A.1539/5).

My 1900/4. You are not to part company  
with convoy during dark hours (C.in C.W.A.  
1814/5 to VANESSA) Expect to join convoy  
at 0100/6 (VEGA 1500/5 to HIBISCUS).

MiscellaneousNorwegian M.T.B.'s.

My 1545/30. Now officially agreed with  
Norwegian Govt. that these two units of  
the Norwegian Navy will serve with their crews  
as part of M.T.B. Flotilla at Dover under  
our operational control, an R.N. W/T rating  
being appointed to each boat.  
(Hd. of M. 1039/5 to V.A. Dover).

HOME COMMANDS

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Weather

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	Westerly, light to moderate.	Cloudy or overcast with scat- tered showers.	Mainly good, except on Dutch coast.
Horns Reef	S.W. moderate.	Cloudy or overcast.	Mainly good.
Channel	Westerly, light to moderate.	Cloudy or overcast except for belt of light rain in Eastern Channel moving E.	Mainly good, moder- ate to poor in rain belt.
Western Approaches	Westerly, moderate.	Cloudy or overcast.	Good.
Norwegian Coast	(No information)		

War Diary

5.7.1940.  
Friday.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

IMOGEN

Propeller damaged by striking submerged object. Speed reduced to 16 knots. To dock in Clyde (R.A. (D) H.F. 1906/3, D.O.D. (H) 2255/5)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

- Minelaying, Gibraltar Asking if French have got our magnetic mines. Some evidence of minelaying Gibraltar last night. (V.A. Force H to Adty. 1005/5). Reply in detail. (D.T.M., 1405/5).
- Air Raid Air raid on Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A. 0615/5). Raid over. (F.O.C.N.A., 0629/5). Details. (No damage, possible minelaying). (F.O.C.N.A., 0742/5).
- Possible French Planes 3 foreign aircraft believed French flew over Rock 0130 and one at 0615, latter dropping 8 bombs in sea, engaged by A/A fire, and driven off, rumoured fall of Straits later. No damage, no casualties. Reconnaissance aircraft believed French returned 1800 and 1900 great height and turned out of range. Objective believed to be H.M. Ships. (Governor, Gibraltar, 2055/5).
- Oilers, Force H. BRITISH LORD, CYMBELINE, and CEDARDALE available. (D.O.D.(F) to V.A., Force H, 1242/5).
- Iron Ore Convoy Leaving Bilbao 9/7 for U.K. To be escorted. (D.O.D.(H) 1848/5).
- Troop Ships FABIAN and JOHN HOLT, carrying 2000 French native troops to Freetown. Request you ascertain if they may enter Lisbon 7/6 to obtain supplies of food and water. To be sailed afterwards independently for Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 2039/5, to N.A. Lisbon). In view of my 2039/5, para (c) of my 0156/5, repatriation of French troops at Casablanca, is cancelled. (D.O.D.(F) 2127/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- British Submarines Your 1652/5 and my 1400/5. PANDORA and PROTEUS are to comply with para. 3 of my 2005/4. On completion of your current operations PANDORA and PROTEUS are to proceed to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 1948/5, to V.A. Force H.). Orders to PROTEUS (V.A., H, 1734/5
- Cable Cutting When your commitments become less heavy request you will consider using a destroyer equipped as necessary from cable ship MIRROR to cut the cable between Barcelona and Marseilles. (D.O.D.(F) 1622/5 to F.O.C.N.A.).



FOREIGN STATIONS

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119

North Atlantic

French  
North  
Africa

Am convinced that large proportion of the French North African population known to be favourable to Allied cause is in complete ignorance of the true reason for the action taken at Oran. Recommend that immediate steps be taken to disseminate the terms offered to and refused by Admiral Gensoul to all important towns in North Africa, in particular Casablanca and Dakar, before any further naval action is taken. Air pamphlets suggested. For benefit of naval ratings emphasise important offer to take over liabilities for their pay and allowances for duration of war. (F.O.C.N.A., 1254/5). Reply, 6/7.

Enemy  
Submarines

Details of attack on VORTIGERN, 2247/2, and attack by FAULKNER on contact 1549/3. (see U-boat Campaign). (V.A., Forde H., 1409/5).

Escort of  
VICEROY OF INDIA

VISCOUNT, assume escort at 1730 B.S.T. in 43:04 N., 12:38 W. I am returning to Gibraltar. (WATCHMAN, 2030/5).

Repatriation  
of French

Adty. 0156/5, para (e). Following message sent in P/L to Consul, Casablanca, who has destroyed all codes and cyphers:- "Pass the following message to Admiral, Afrique: Three British ships due Casablanca shortly contain French officers and personnel for repatriation from U.K. Request your assurance that the vessels will not be molested on entry and that they will subsequently be released after disembarkation of personnel. Another 15 ships will be arriving later and request similar assurance for them". If any Poles and Czechs are still awaiting evacuation endeavour to embark them in these ships. (F.O.C.N.A. 2016/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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South Atlantic

120

Cruisers,  
Convoys

Adty. 2342/4/7 and 1815/8/6. If AUSTRALIA is required in U.K. and two 8-in. cruisers are to be maintained off Dakar, CORNWALL must relieve AUSTRALIA immediately and convoy B.C. must be delayed 48 hours. Exchange of duties of CORNWALL and CUMBERLAND cannot then be arranged without delaying convoy W.S.1 for at least 48 hours. DORSETSHIRE will require to return to Freetown next week to fuel if she is to be capable of shadowing RICHELIEU for long distances leaving one 8-in. cruiser off Dakar during her absence. An Alternative is for CORNWALL to escort Convoy B.C. to U.K. and refit as opportunity offers and for AUSTRALIA to remain in South Atlantic. This will entail no delay to convoys. (C. in C., S.A., 1013/5).

My 1013/5. Have seen C.O. of CORNWALL who is satisfied ~~xx~~ with state of his ship and refit can therefore be postponed for some months. (C. in C., S.A., 1129/5).

Your 1013/5 and 1129/5. CORNWALL is to escort B.C. convoy to U.K. CUMBERLAND is to continue to escort W.S.1 to Cape in accordance with original instructions in my 2000/20/6. Weakening of watch on Dakar due to refuelling requirements must be accepted. (D.O.D.(F) 1947/5).

To R.V. with H.M. Ships off Dakar and carry out A/S patrol as ordered by DORSETSHIRE (C. in C., S.A. 0443/5). Position (C. in C., S.A., 0916/5).

MILFORD

Left 1000 zone + 1/5 in accordance with C. in C., S.A.'s 0443/5. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1107/5).

Dakar  
Situation

Ref. Consul-General Dakar telegram 4/7 to F.O. I consider it should be taken with a grain of salt and have little confidence in Consul-General's control. I have had an interview with Capt. Poulter, ex-British Military Liaison Officer, Dakar, who entirely agrees with me and considers a coup d'etat at Dakar is out of the question. He considers General Barrau has complete control of all military units throughout his command and that all forts would without doubt resist any attempt at aggression. It is considered economic blockade will achieve desired result in a comparatively short time. (C. in C., S.A., 1101/5). Ref. Consul-Gen., Dakar, telegram 24, 5/7, to F.O. Adhere to opinion expressed in my 1101/5. Am sure Consul General has no real knowledge of military or naval attitude and attaches more importance to sentiment of major and other civil elements than they deserve. (C. in C., S.A., 1656/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean

Italian Force

? French  
from Algiers

R.A.F. 200 Group Gibraltar report they located and shadowed Italian force of 5 battleships, 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers and 3 aircraft at 1800/4, 330 degrees from Cher Chell. (S.O.I., Malta, 1319/5). In view of the departure at 1715/3 of a French force consisting of 6 cruisers, 3 light cruisers and 1 destroyer from Algiers it is thought that the 2 forces may have been the same. (I.C., 0502/40).

Evacuation

Your A/12815 of 28/6. C.O.S. consider evacuation not practicable proposition having regard to shipping and escort difficulties at present. After consulting C. in C., East Indies, cable prospects of using convoys returning empty from Suez. If this possible, question of making evacuation compulsory will be taken up here. (War Office to C. in C., M.E., 2100/5).

Beyrouth,  
Shipping  
Detained

My 1622/4. Engines of 3 British ships were partially dismantled yesterday to render ships incapable of navigation. French naval authorities did this without warning me and I have lodged a complaint with High Commissioner. (Beyrouth, 1304/5).

Port Said

H.M.A.S. WATERHEN and Egyptian Royal yacht MAHROUSSA arrived Port Said. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0949/5).

Alexandria

British TALMA arrived 4/7, French PROVIDENCE arrived 5/7. (N.C.S.O., Alexandria, 1141/5).

Air.

Tobruk  
Attack

Intended that 813 Sqn. from EAGLE should carry out a dusk torpedo aircraft attack on warships and shipping in Tobruk in co-operation with R.A.F. tonight 5/7. (C. in C., Med., 1251/5).

This was done. see 6/7. p. 145.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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122

East Indies

French  
Reaction  
Djibuti

Commander Vernon was sent over to Djibuti afternoon 4/7 to renew Liaison with French S.N.O. and recover C.B. 01671A which was done. S.N.O. was still personal friend but definitely anti British and non-cooperative - complete reversal of former attitude. Change caused by Oran affair. French Navy's whole-hearted distrust of Admiral Muselier, reported now employed in England, also has had, and will have, bad influence. G.O.C. pessimistic, "distracted", but still said he would defend Djibuti. Armistice terms, however, still not arrived. Impression gained that Oran news when published would have disastrous effect on public opinion. Comment. Allowance must be made for initial shock. Possible reflection may modify attitude but am not very hopeful.

(S.N.O., Red Sea, 1016Z/5).

French  
Ships

Asking if Adty. 1929/23/6 applies to neutral ships on French charter (C. in C., E.I., 0745Z/5). (Para 2 re Greek ship MAROTY cancelled by 0955Z/5).

Cargo Seized

Cancel para 2 of my 0745/5 (re cargo of Greek ship MAROTY) Cargo has been seized in prize by detaining officer, Colombo, on orders from London. (C. in C., E.I. 0955Z/5).

French Ports

C. in C.'s may allow British and Allied merchant vessels to proceed to French Colonial ports other than those in Mediterranean or W. Africa N. of Sierra Leone if in their opinion it is reasonably safe and in British interests to do so. (D.T.D. to C. in C.'s, E. Indies, China, S.A., A.W.I., etc., 1821/5).

CARAIBE  
Precautions

Precautions to be taken on arrival of French CARAIBE at Mombasa. (C. in C., E.I. 1111Z/5 to KENT and N.O.I.C., Kilindini).  
K

Kismayu

C. in C., E.I. 1816Z/5, see Operations Volume.

NIVOSE

My 1425/5 to CARTHAGE. French naval armed auxiliary NIVOSE left Khor Kuwait 0100Z/25/6 probably for Diego Suarez. CARTHAGE to proceed now to establish patrol off Diego Suarez outside visibility distance from shore. Instructions for action to be taken if NIVOSE is encountered follow to CARTHAGE only. (C. in C., E.I., 1509Z/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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123

China

French Shipping

Admiral Decoux requests safe passage for French ships to New York with rubber bought by U.S.A. apparently for U.S. industry working for England, otherwise U.S. insurance company will not cover. Recommend early approval. (C. in C., China, 0501Z/5).

Oran Action

Your 0230Z/4. After French C. in C. received news of Oran engagement he requested my views and I informed him that at any rate for present your orders to British warships in the Far East are not to fire on French unless fired on. LAMOTTE PICQUET delayed at Saigon. Opinion in Saigon appears very divided. Admiral, however, considers British acted wrongly and considers he cannot keep a Naval Liaison Officer under the circumstances. Have been told to leave my quarters and to wear plain clothes. Admiral suggests it may be of value for me to stay at Saigon a little. Intend at any rate to remain until approximately July 10. (L.O. Saigon, to C. in C., China, 0500Z/5).

French Proposal

Following from French C. in C. In view of present delicate situation, also of absolute necessity of maintaining status quo in Far East, propose to you urgent agreement as follows:-

1. No hostilities between warships of our 2 navies.
2. No visits to or capture on high seas of merchant ships navigating Western Pacific.
3. Immediate liberation of merchant vessels at present held in ports of our 2 countries.

I have already given my warships orders conforming with para (1). (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 1030/5 to C. in C., China).

Inform French C. in C. that I have also given orders to British warships on China Station to conform with para 1 and that paras 2 and 3 have been referred to Adty. Consider it most desirable to resume normal coasting trade with Indo China without delay. Right to visit ships on high seas will however still be necessary as a precaution against enemy raiders and question of the release of the non-coasting steamers such as ILE DE FRANCE and BORINGIA at Singapore will require special consideration and instructions. (C. in C., China, 1635/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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China (Contd.)

124

Coasting  
Trade

I am awaiting reply to my 02312/4. In meantime I suggest our interests will be best served particularly ~~visa~~ vis a vis the Japanese by endeavouring to maintain our shipping relations with Indo China on a normal basis. Japan's Economic Dependence on her Indo China trade and particularly on rice <sup>/c</sup> would render any interference by blockade most dangerous. Part of her trade is in allied chartered bottoms and I have therefore allowed these to proceed to Indo China. An early resumption of normal relations which I hope will be possible is therefore most desirable and early approval is requested to use my discretion to achieve this aim. (C. in C., China, 05002/5). *Approved (Admty, 1952/8, p. 191)*

America & West Indies

French M/V's  
A.W.I.

Have guaranteed to Admiral Martinique safe passage for ~~A.W.I.~~ ESTEREL and QUERCY leaving Aruba 6/7 with troops for Martinique provided they do not attempt any war like action. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1012/5). Informing Curacao. If Dutch are nervous suggest VAN KINSBERGEN should visit Aruba and stay until French leave. (C. in C., A.W.I. to S.N.O., Curacao, 2002/5).

Martinique

Your 2015/4. Details of shore defences Martinique. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1035/5).

French Ships

ANGOULEME arrived Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, seeking neutral port. (Port Limon C.R. 1739/5) OREGON arrived ditto. (Port Limon, 0945/5).



War Diary

5.7.1940.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

MAGOG

Shelled by submarine, was subsequently  
torpedoed and sunk (I.C. 0504/40)

Sunk

Straggler from HX 52 (D.T.D. 1727/11)

Interview with Master.

*Independently, having missed R/V. ✓*

SINKING OF S.S. MAGOG.

125A.

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 2053: not armed. Sunk by gun-fire and finally a torpedo.

DATE AND TIME: 1030/5/7.

POSITION: 50° 32' N. 11° 20' W.

SPEED: Not stated.

ROUTE: Halifax to Blyth

CARGO: Timber

IN CONVOY: No

ESCORT: None

FATE OF CREW: 23 all told. none killed, one badly injured and several slightly.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Moderate.

REMARKS: - Before S/M was seen a shot was suddenly heard to starboard. Submarine on surface was seen and Mxz S.O.S. sent out immediately. Many shells fell around until just before 11 a.m. when various shells commenced to hit the ship., doing some damage especially to wireless room and cabins. Then a torpedo was fired which blew out a mast and the funnel and the ship started to go down stern first. The captain was the last to leave and went over the stern into boat on the log line. After ship had sunk the S/M approached the life-boat and told the Captain he was going to deal harshly with Mxz him because he had used his wireless. He then trained a machine gun on the boat from the conning tower. 3 of the boat's crew immediately slipped overboard but were told to get back by the S/M Captain. The S/M then went off on surface at about 12 knots until lost to view. The S/M captain spoke English clearly with no guttural accent and used many gestures while speaking. Due to this the captain of the ship took him to be Italian although he was a fairish man.

DATE:

11XCCB.



War Diary5.7.40;  
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MININGShips Attacked

- MAGOG British, 2053 tons, shelled at 1120 in 50:31 N., 11:05 W. (MAGOG via Portishead Radio, 1122/5). Entire crew landed at Queenstown 7/7. When ship last seen her forepart was protruding on end. (D.S. 306).
- VORTIGERN At 2247/2, in position 36:12 N., 03:46 W., H.M.S. VORTIGERN on port side of close screen sighted torpedo track on port bow. Torpedo struck stem, circled and sank. Explosion heard two minutes later. VORTIGERN and VIDETTE searched, no contact, obtained. (V.A., Force, H., 1409/5).
- WHIRLWIND Aircraft report, badly damaged in 50:17 N., 08:48 W., at 1745. (C. in C., W.A., 1833/5). Am proceeding to assist (LEITH 1828/5) VANQUISHER and WINCHELSEA ordered to hunt U-boat. (C. in C., W.A., 1904/5). Aircraft report of position 30 miles from me. (LEITH, 2001/5). Am sinking WHIRLWIND by gunfire. (WESTCOTT, 2031/5). Aircraft reports WHIRLWIND in position 50:15 N., 09:15 W. at 1825. (Admiral Devonport, 2117/5). WHIRLWIND sunk. Proceeding to Falmouth with wounded. Casualties 57 killed, 7 seriously wounded. (WESTCOTT, 2251/5). Preliminary report of loss. (C. in C., W.A., 0021/7).
- CLEARTON British 5219 tons, now learnt sank after being torpedoed 1/7. 27 survivors picked up by VANSITTART destroyer. (D.S. 305).

Submarines Reported

- 1222 50:31 N., 11:05 W., reliable fix. WESTCOTT and → WHIRLWIND ordered to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1249/5).
- 1230 57:42 N., 6:17 W., submerging on course S.E. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1518/5).
- 0310 D.F., unreliable fix, probably U-boat, 56:40 N., 5:20 E. (D.N.I., 0345/5).
- 1435 Reliable fix, 50:12 N., 08:08 W., at 1435. Reported → by WHIRLWIND, the last heard from her. WESTCOTT to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1457/5).
- 1518 U-boat submerging. Reported by C. in C., Rosyth. Cancelled (C. in C., Rosyth, 1648/5).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

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Submarines Reported (Contd.)

North Atlantic

- 0845 Enemy submarine reported by aircraft in position 35:08 N., 06:51 W., at 0845. (F.O.C.N.A., 1007/5).
- 2247/2 At 2247/2, in position 36:12 N., 03:46 W., VORTIGERN on port side of close screen sighted torpedo track on port bow. (see Ships Attacked). (V.A., Force H., 1409/5).
- 1800 35:26 N., 6:37 W., by VELOX.

Estimated dispositions:-

- 1 in Bay of Biscay or Western Approaches.
- 3 in Western Approaches, 1 of them may be farther south.
- 1 S.W. of Hebrides, homeward bound.
- 1 possibly in N.W. Approaches.
- 1 in northern North Sea, homeward bound. (D.D.I.C., 1216/5).

Submarines Attacked

- 1549/3 At 1549/3, in position 35:58 N., 05:05 W. FAULKNER on port side close screen obtained contact, confirmed large patch of oil observed. Destroyer then withdraw to avoid weakening screen and to oil for urgent operation. (V.A., Force H., 1409/5).
- 2000 Have attacked enemy submarine with torpedoes and estimate 2 hits, my position 027 XZTA 15. (Aircraft of H.M.S. 2000/5 to R.N.A.S. Hatston).
- 1155 Aircraft at 1155 met 2 auxiliary vessels in 50:26 N., 00:48 W. reported "Have attacked submarine". Aircraft circled for 10 minutes, nothing seen. (Chatham, A.C.H:Q., 1502/5).

SITUATION REPORT

---

Search for SHARK. FAME damaged.

At 2250/5 SHARK reported that she could not dive, and since then she has not made any signal. Aircraft from Coastal Command failed to locate her today, and two were shot down. SOUTHAMPTON, COVENTRY and 4 destroyers were sent to her assistance; they were subjected to constant air attack and after FAME had been damaged and her speed reduced to 20 knots C. in C., H.F. ordered the ships to return. The force returned to Rosyth at midnight tonight.

Troop Convoys

B.C. 5 ships with Australian troops for U.K. left Freetown pm today, escorted by  CORNWALL.

French Fleet

Dakar

French Naval guards were placed on board British merchant ships at Dakar pm yesterday and French flags hoisted.

DUNKERQUE

Torpedo aircraft from ARK ROYAL attacked DUNKERQUE in Oran today and obtained 6 or possibly 7 hits. V.A. Force H is satisfied the ship will be unfit for service during the next 12 months. Considerable fighter and A.A. opposition was encountered, but only one machine was lost, its crew being recovered.

CARAIBE

KENT with CARAIBE arrived at Mombasa today. CARAIBE was demilitarised.

Air

Fog caused certain patrols in the southern part of the North Sea to be cancelled last night.

Wilhelmshaven  
bombed

The Naval Armament Works at Wilhelmshaven were bombed last night and bursts were observed inside the area.

PDU reports 12 merchant vessels at Brest today, but the Admiralty did not receive the information until 1500/7.

SITUATION REPORTAir (Contd.)Raid on  
England

During the night 5/6 there were raids on the East coast and midland areas. Slight damage was done to property at Dover and Folkestone. In the course of daylight raids today bombs were dropped at a number of places in the south and south-western counties, including Aldershot and Plymouth.

Mining

Magnetic mines were laid off Zeebrugge last night.

PLOVER and Dutch <sup>WILLEM</sup> VAN DER ZAAAN today completed minelaying at the entrance to the Wash (Operation AW).

Extensive minelaying last night is suspected on the East and S.E. coasts of England. The Tyne, Amble, and Newhaven are closed.

Italian HostilitiesRaids on  
Malta

Over 100 bombs were dropped on Malta in two air raids today. Little damage was caused.

One French flying boat arrived at Malta today; the crew state that they wish to serve with the British forces.

Catania  
attacked

Aircraft from Malta carried out a dive bombing attack on Catania aerodrome. Four large fires were started in the hangars and workshops.

Attack on  
Tobruk

9 torpedo bombers from EAGLE in 3 flights, attacked Tobruk, commencing at 2030<sup>h</sup> and continuing after dark. R.A.F. aircraft cooperated by providing reconnaissance and bombing aircraft. It is believed that the destroyer ZEFFIRD was sunk, EURO and 1 submarine hit, and 3 or 4 large M.Vs and 2 small M.Vs hit.

Bardia  
attacked

The 3rd C.S. and 4 destroyers hit and probably sank 2 military supply ships in Bardia harbour am/6. The Squadron was attacked from the air, without result.

The convoy from the Aegean to Egypt was repeatedly bombed during 3 days by aircraft from the Dodecanese, without any result.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

General

Following is state of French Navy as on 6.7.40:-  
Immobilised in British ports, including Alexandria  
and Malta:

(a) Battleships	3	(e) Destroyers	5
(b) 8" Cruisers	3	(f) Torpedo Boats	6
(c) 6" Cruisers	1	(g) Submarines	9
(d) Contre Torpilleurs (Light Crs.)	3	(h) Aircraft Carriers	-
		(k) Miscellaneous	193

Following are at large:

(i) Western Mediterranean

(a) 1 (damaged)	(d) 22	(g) 44
(b) 4	(e) 10	(h) 1
(c) 5	(f) 5	(k) Nil

(ii) Moroccan and West African Coast

(a) 2 (partially complete)	(e) 8
(c) 1	(f) 1
(d) 2	(g) 17
	(k) 31

(iii) West Indies

(c) 2	(h) 1
-------	-------

(iv) Far East

(c) 1	(k) 1
-------	-------

(v) Unaccounted for

(g) 8.

(D.N.I. 1337/7 to C. in C's).

Following statement has been communicated to the French Embassy in London:- Orders to all British warships meeting French warships are that they should on no account open fire without giving sufficient warning to enable alternatives to be considered by the French warships which would avoid bloodshed. During the operations off Oran on July 3, British submarines were ordered to attack any French ships endeavouring to escape. The instructions issued to the submarines on completion of the operation that French ships were no longer to be attacked did not reach one submarine, with the result that a French cruiser of the LA GALISSONNAIRE class was attacked and sunk. This occurrence is deeply regretted. (V.C.N.S., 1318/6).

COPY

Recd. from Secy's Office 23.7.47

# SECRET

# IN

130A

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

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

*Attitude towards French Ships, Gibraltar*

From: F.O.C.N.A.

Date: 6.7.40.

Recd: 2025.

.....Naval Cypher A by Cable.....

Add: Admiralty repeated Senior Officer Force H.

IMMEDIATE.

199 Your 0226/6 War Office 75489/4/9 to Governor Gibraltar approving that action be taken to prevent passage of French warships through Straits pending clarification of Naval situation.

This is not in accordance with paragraph 3 Admiralty Message 2005/4.

Present instructions to Straits patrol are to permit passage of French Warships unless they commit a hostile act.

1744/6.

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

- |                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1st Lord.          | (PERSONAL) |
| 1st S.L.           | "          |
| 5th S.L.           | "          |
| V.C.N.S.           | "          |
| A.C.N.S. (H)       | "          |
| A.C.N.S. (F)       | "          |
| Nav.Sec.           | "          |
| C.S.O. to 1st S.L. | "          |
| D.of P.            | "          |
| D.O.D. (H)         | "          |
| D.O.D. (F)         | "          |
| D.D.O.D. (F)       | "          |
| D.N.I. (4)         | "          |
| Duty Capt.         | "          |
| Head of M. (6)     | "          |
| D.D.I.C.           | "          |
| D.N.A.D.           | "          |
| W.D.               | "          |
| D.C.O.             | "          |
| I.P.               | "          |

*(copy already in W.D. f. 131)*

COPY

*Recd. from Record Office, 23.7.1947.*

*130 B*

# SECRET OUT

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

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

To: F.O.C. North Atlantic 564

Date: 6.7.40.

Rep: S.O. Force(H)

.....Naval Cypher (D).....

From: Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

Your 2014/5 not to S.O. Force (H)  
Comply with para.3 of my 2005/4.

0226/6

for 1st Sea Lord.(986)

/ Requesting clarification of action in the event of  
French Warships passing through the Straits.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar

RICHELIEU

At anchor Dakar with awnings spread. (DORSETSHIRE, 0700Z/6 to C. in C. S.A.).

Your 1810/6. HERMES to leave Patrol 10th so as to arrive Freetown 0800/12 to fuel. 'C. in C., S.A. 1930/6 to HERMES).

Gibraltar

*Attitude  
Towards  
French  
Warships.*

Your 75489 (M.O.4) 4/7/40. <sup>(p. 67)</sup> Am complying with your instructions but request confirmation in view of the Adty. instructions 0026/6 to ~~KEXY~~ Admiral here. (Governor Gibraltar 1640/6 to War Office).

Your 0226/6.W.O. 75489/4/9<sup>7</sup> to Governor Gibraltar approving that action be taken to prevent passage of French warships through Straits pending clarification of Naval situation. This is not in accordance with para 3 Adty. 2005/4. Present <sup>(page 74A)</sup> instructions to Straits patrol are to permit passage of French Warships unless they commit a hostile act. (F.O.C.N.A. 1744/6 to Adty.).

[For reply, see Adty. 0012/7, page 160.]

Casablanca

JEAN BART

Where is JEAN BART berthed at Casablanca? (1st S.L., to F.O.C.N.A., 1645/6).

Your 1645/6. Alongside Jetee Delure south side. Bow pointing N.E. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850/6 to Adty.)

My 0156/5 (as to repatriation of French Troops to Casablanca), request you will make all arrangements with French Admiral Casablanca through Tangier if necessary. (A.C.N.S.F. 1912/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Oran

DUNKERQUE

Your 1750/5, 2154/5 and F.O.C.N.A. 1846/5. Cancel bombardment but carry out continuous torpedo attack on DUNKERQUE by aircraft torpedoes until she is thoroughly damaged. (1st S.L., 0224/6 to V.A. Force H.)

Six hits, one caused heavy explosion. 2 Skuas missing. Estimated time of arrival base 1645 (V.A. Force H., 0916/6).

My 0916/6. For two read one Skua missing. No casualties to personnel. (S.O(H) 1800/7 to Adty.)

Cancelled 2337.  
see p. 132.



DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Oran (Contd.)

Description of the attack. One Skua caught fire and force landed in sea alongside ARK ROYAL. No casualties to personnel but several Swordfish hit. (F.O. Force H. 1905/6).

Cancel my 1800. My 1905 refers (S.O."H" 2337/6).

My 1905/6. Ad: "I am satisfied that Ship is now unfit for service during ensuing 12 months". (V.A.H. 2135/6 to Adty.)

PANDORA }  
PROTEUS }

Proceed to Gibraltar (V.A.H. 1635/6 to PANDORA)

Adty. 0056/5. Force H can sail 0300/7 but this would not allow feint to East. (S.O. Force H 1714/6 to Adty.)

My 1714. If ship still in position given in DORSETSHIRE's 1125/3, Torpedo attack can be carried out at dawn. If ship inside Harbour bombardment would cause heavy civilian casualties and damage. Should warning be given? (V.A.H. 1745/6 to Adty.)

Your 1714/6. Force H will not be required to sail before the evening of 7th July. (D.O.D.F. 2007/6 to V.A.H.)

My 2145/5 (Force H less RESOLUTION). Vessels returned 1645/6 (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1652/6 to Adty.)

PROTEUS and PANDORA are temporarily to come under orders of F.O.C. North Atlantic. (D.O.D.F. 2224/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Alexandria

Your 2303/5 para 2. You should not give this undertaking without further reference to Adty. unless you find it essential in order to prevent ships being scuttled. (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., Med., 1234/6)

Mombasa

French aircraft carrier CARAIBE arrived with KENT. (D.C.N.S. 307)

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Saturday.  
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DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

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Papeete

Consul Papeete reports French sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE sailing 6/7 for unknown destination, believed Saigon. (S.O.I., Wellington, 0141/6).

Aruba

Aruba reports departure 1300/6 French Warship with all French Troops. (S.O.I. Kingston, Jamaica 1644/6 to Adty.)

DEFENCE OF U.K.

Use to be made of Naval personnel, particularly personnel under training in event of area being temporarily invested by enemy.  
(Hd. of M. 1514/6.)

Use of Destroyers.

Though a change in dispositions at this moment may not be acceptable, point for consideration is that S-class destroyers with no torpedoes and only old 4-in. gun are not now really destroyers but submarine hunters, and therefore a redistribution to use S class against submarines and heavier armed vessels for anti-invasion would make better use of our available potentials. (C.in C., Portsmouth, 1123/6).

Independent Shipping Restriction.

Virtually impossible for destroyer patrols at night readily to identify merchant shipping proceeding independently on east coast. As enemy probably knows routes and time tables of convoys, may take advantage of this by following up or proceeding a convoy with a group of merchant vessels filled with troops. Propose therefore that (a) No ships are to be sailed out of convoy. (b) Ships joining convoys from intermediate ports who fail to rendezvous are to return to the ports whence they sailed and await next convoy.  
(C.in C., Nore, 1117/6.)

HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

If suspicious vessels are seen in Eire territorial waters H.M. Ships and aircraft may enter to investigate. Enemy warships and aircraft of every description (including transports and troop carrying craft) may be attacked whenever found in Eire territorial waters. (Hd. of M. 1918/6).

MovementsIMOGEN

Admiralty 2255/5, IMOGEN from Scapa 1015/6 expected time of arrival Clyde 1230/7  
(R.A.(D) H.F. 1020/6).

S/m's.

Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/7.

TRIAD TAKU vicinity Fro Havet.

TETRARCH Q S M F 4530

SUNFISH Q S M F 0850

TRIBUNE X Z M F 5555.

PORPOISE X Z M F 2825

SEALION X Z U B

SEAWOLF C. One.

SALMON J Z U B 2000.

SHARK may arrive Rosyth a.m. from North East.

NARWHAL T G S C 4015 proceeding on surface to Blyth.

SPEARFISH A. 5.

STURGEON SWORDFISH H. One and 2.

H. 28 C P S C 5351.

H. 50 arriving Harwich a.m. from Gap E.

HOME COMMANDS

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Submarines  
(Contd.)

H. 44 leaves Lowestoft 1000 escorted for Harwich  
H. 49 patrolling Dover Strait 0100 to 0800.  
(V.A.S. 1812/6)

Operations

Search for SHARK

Note SHARK reported 2250/5 unable to dive.

Send 4 destroyers to escort SHARK. Air escort may be expected. (C. in C., H.F. 0025/6 to R.A. (d) H.F.)

SHARK reports at 2250/5 that she is unable to dive. Position 58:51 N. 4:5? E. course 230 degrees 10 knots. COSSACK MAORI, FAME and FORTUNE are proceeding to escort SHARK. Take COVENTRY under your orders and proceed when ready to their support. Air escort is to be expected. Keep a W/T guard on 4740 Kcs. Destroyers will also do so. SHARK has been so informed but only cypher held is "O". (C. in C., H.F. 0045/6 to R.A.18).

H.M. Ships COSSACK MAORI FAME and FORTUNE are to proceed as soon as ready to escort H.M.S. SHARK to Rosyth. H.M.S. SHARK is unable to dive and position course and speed at 2250 Friday 5th July was 58:51 N. 4:50 E. course 230° 10 knots. Air escort may be expected. Keep wireless guard on 4740 kcs. in addition to station wireless organisation. Acknowledge. (R.A.(D) H.F. 0055/6 to Capt. D (4).)

Four destroyers under Capt. (D)4, should reach you about 0900. H.M.S. SOUTHAMPTON and H.M.S. COVENTRY will be in support. All ships sailing from Scapa Flow. Three Blenheims should reach you about 0330. (R.A.(S) 0107/6 to SHARK).

Expect air escort of 3 Blenheims about 0330 (C. in C. Rosyth 0128/6 to SHARK).

My 0558/6 to R.A. 18 C.S. and Capt. D.4. Blenheims have returned without seeing SHARK. A further flight from Sumburgh will endeavour R.V. with you in approx. position 57:48 N. 2:0 E. at 0900 and assist you to locate her. Aircraft informed generally your movements. (C. in C., Rosyth 0742/6 to Capt. D(4)).

HOME COMMANDS

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Operations

Search for SHARK (Contd.)

Shadowed by 2 aircraft in 57:43 N., 2:20 E.  
(D.4 0853/6).

Report your position course speed (V.A.(S) 1009/6  
to SHARK).

Expect 1 Hudson about 1130 ordered to assist in  
search (C. in C., Rosyth 1104/6 to Capt. D.4,  
R.A. 18).

Bombed at 58:5 N. 2:12 E. (FAME 1130/6).

1 aircraft 58:3 N. 1:22 E. (SOUTHAMPTON 1124/6).

Shadowed by 2 enemy aircraft in 28GPCSC 18  
(SOUTHAMPTON 1136/6).

Destroyers expect to concentrate in positions  
57:17 N. 1:18 E. at 1415. An area of 25 miles on  
each side of a line drawn 75 miles 050° from this  
position will then have been searched.  
(Capt. D.4 1210/6 to R.A. 18, C. in C., Rosyth).

Bombed 239 58:0 N. 2:0 E. 17 (SOUTHAMPTON 1243/6).

Continuously attacked COVENTRY, MAORI, FAME in  
company 226° 58:0 N. 2:0 E. 25 (S.O. 18 C.S.  
1308/6).

Expect 3 Hudsons about 1430 to assist in search  
(C. in C., Rosyth 1324/6 to R.A. 18).

Continuously bombed no hits. (Capt. 4 1357/6).

FAME damaged aft, speed reduced 20 knots. My  
position, course and speed 322° 230° 18 knots  
escorting FAME to Rosyth 57:0 N. 1:0 E. R.A.(D)  
H.F. joining me. (S.O. 18 C.S. 1336/6).

Return with your forces to Scapa (C. in C., H.F.  
1349/6 to S.O. 18 C.S., Capt. (D)4).

Enemy aircraft bombing 350 57:0 N. 1:0 E. 20  
(SOUTHAMPTON 1442/6).

Enemy aircraft bombing 332 57:0 N. 1:0 E. 18  
(S.O. 18 C.S. 1501/6).

Cancel my 1349/6. Proceed in accordance with your  
1336/6 (C. in C. H.F. 1503/6 to S.O. 18 C.S.)

Enemy aircraft bombing 290 57:0 N. 0:0 1 mile  
(S.O. 18 C.S. 1640/6).

Bombed, no hits 018° 57:0 N., 2:0 E. 22 miles  
(Capt D.4 1246/6).

HOME COMMANDS

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Operations

Search for SHARK (Contd.)

Aircraft J. 269 reports at 1230 contacted 4 destroyers 2 cruisers in position 58:51 N., 1:58 E., 248, 30 knots. Commenced search for submarine. At 1300 observed dr. and cr. being heavily bombed, no direct hits or near misses were observed. Continued search for submarine, and at 1427 sighted and investigated large patch of oil, 57:06 N. 00:18 E. At 1500 while heading N. to rejoin destroyers sighted M.E.110 position 57:40 N., 00:36 E turned to attack but we escaped into cloud. Further search, no trace observed apart from patch of oil reported above. (Donibristle, 1625/6).

SNAPPER

SNAPPER reports. At 1438/25/6 in Approaches to Skudesnes fired 3 torpedoes at convoy of 4 ships between 1000 tons and 3000 tons escorted by one trawler and aircraft screen. 2 explosions heard one minute eight seconds and one minute eleven seconds after firing. A third explosion heard ten minutes eleven seconds after firing. Convoy then returned to Skudesnes in disorder. 3 torpedoes fired at 1445 at ship believed to be stopped, one explosion was heard about eleven minutes after firing. 29/6 at 0030 bombed by aircraft in position 58:04 N. 05:44 E. Eight A/S bombs dropped, only minor damage sustained.

2033/1 in 57:59 N. 5:45 E. attacked by Fighter Patrol of 2 M.E. 109. At 1553 in 58:09 N. 05:24 E. large northbound tanker sighted, disappeared in rain squall. Visibility cleared shortly afterwards and convoy of 12 merchant vessels in 2 columns escorted by trawlers and aircraft was sighted steering mean course of 160°. Attacked with 6 torpedoes browning shot. Convoy presented solid target. Range of nearest ship on firing 1600 yards, first torpedo fired on track 135 and firing interval 12 seconds, remainder with swing towards Head of Convoy. First explosion heard after two minutes twenty seven seconds, second seven minutes seventeen seconds, third seven minutes thirty five seconds. Three further explosions within about eight seconds of each other after eleven minutes. Depth charged and bombed after attack, only damage leak on deck tube. (S.3 0055/6).

HOME COMMANDS

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Operations

Boulogne

M.T.Bs 69 and 70 ordered to attack 3 M.Vs in Boulogne Outer Harbour tonight 6/7. M.T.B. 71 and Norwegian 5 and 6 in support. (V.A. Dover 2201/6 to Adty.)

Shipping

Leave convoy as soon as 2 or more destroyers have joined (C. in C., W.A. 1346/6 to ALAUNIA)

FN 14

Ships in FN 14 for Tyne proceed into Tyne on arrival and not to anchor outside (C. in C. Rosyth 1502/6 to VEGA, WINCHESTER, HIBISCUS).

Channel  
Coastal  
Convoys

Routes. (D.T.D. 0042/6).



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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

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Attack on 18th  
C.S. and 4th D.F.

See Operations.

Falmouth

One aircraft bombing (WESTCOTT 0715/6)

CAROLINE  
MOLLER

Attacked 1441 G.M.T. 50° 29' N., 0° 35' W  
(CAROLINE MOLLER 1442/6)

ULSTER PRINCE

Attacked 10 miles S.E. St. Mary's Scilllys  
(Cleethorpes W/T, 1509/6)

NORMAN

*Rescue.* Tug NORMAN bombed 50° 40' N., 0° 45' W  
(Niton Radio, 1444/6)

Large number of aircraft, course 090°,  
230° N. Foreland 24' (FIREFLY 2250/6)

Mining

Operation  
A.W. Part 2.

If attacked help message will be made by  
PLOVER on 280 kcs Code Word ~~Blue~~ (C. in  
C., Nore 0744/6 to Adty.) D 20 1621/4  
D.20 reports PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAAN  
sail 1200/6 from Immingham for operation  
A.W. Part 2. (D.C. 0647/6)

Midnight raid 5/6 July. 8 aircraft were  
high minelaying not suspected in this  
area. (F.O.Humber 0800/6)

The Tyne, Hartlepool, Middlesborough and  
Tees are closed; and Blyth is restricted.  
(I.C. 0504/40)

SEA KING reports sweep cut and slight  
explosion in 53°21' N., 1°1'E (F.O. Humber  
to DUNDALK)

Blyth Inshore Channel closed. (C. in C.,  
Rosyth 1802/6)



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HOME COMMANDS

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Enemy Intelligence

Suspicious Ships

Following vessels observed proceeding down French Coast, one destroyer, two large vessels, three small vessels, all bearing 160 to 170 degs. Please investigate. (V.A. Dover, to A.O.C. 16 Group, 1349/6)

5 M/S 1 coastal M/V, 1 E/B sighted 53°08'N., 4° 45'E., at 1215/6, speed 8 knots, reported by aircraft K/235 (Chatham, 1349/6)

Kiel

Kiel commercial port, Germania Shipbuilding yards. Photographs taken 3/7 show one K class cruiser and one HIPPER class cruiser lying alongside quay immediately south of building slips. In building slips two submarines, a third in floating dock. In large floating dock to south of Nos. 5 and 6 graving docks, SCHARNHORST; in No 6 docking, pocket battleship; one submarine in small floating dock of Deutsche Werke. In slipway alongside these works probably a cruiser under construction approx. 550 ft long, thought may be of M.N.O.P class. In old torpedo boat harbour, aircraft carrier B under construction, at entrance to inner harbour one vessel believed to be a torpedo boat of WOLF or MOWE class. In No 2 graving dock of construction basin, one MAAS class destroyer. In Howaldts shipyard two vessels, approx. 400 ft long, thought to be naval auxiliaries. No large concentration of merchant shipping. Damage to HIPPER class cruiser and pocket battleship. Damage to yard buildings. Whole harbour area from south end to a point at least one mile north of Baloa Laboe, distance of 8 miles, is covered with oil. (Bomber Command Intelligence Summary 284, recd. 1029/6)

4 Destroyers 2 M/V's bearing 040° 10' course 135° from 61° 55'N., 2° 18'E (aircraft 201 Sqdn. 2048/6)

Maas

About 40 barges between Rotterdam and Isselmonde (THI 2040/6)

Ijselscher Canal

About 45 Barges moored at locks about 9' N.W of Almeloo (T.H.I. 2040/6)

Heligoland

Eight small vessels with bright white lights 10' West of Heligoland at 0106/6 (THI 2040/6)

Mardurk-Calais Canal

About 30 Barges observed at 1430/6 (HQBC0202/7)

0621/6

6 M/V's in Stavanger Area A/C report (I.C. 0504/40)

1215/6

6 Motor Minesweepers, course 030° 3' West of Texel. A/c report.



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0500

WEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	S. or S.E. Light or Moderate.	Moderate or Good. Poor locally with fog patches.	Wind Variable
Channel & Western Approaches	S.W. or W. Light of Moderate	Good or very good.	Similar
Horns Reef Dutch Coast	S.E. Light	Moderate or Good	Wind variable
S.W. Norwegian Coast	S.W. Light	Moderate or Good	Wind backing.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

FAME

See Operations

SEALION

Slight Defect (SEALION 0215/6)

BROKE

Rammed by Turkish <sup>minelayer H</sup> YUZZBASI HAKKI. Bow <sup>of latter</sup> badly damaged and holed in cabin aft. Escorting Turk to Falmouth 5 knots. (BROKE 0054/7 to C. in C.,W.A.)

YUZZBASI  
HAKKI ^

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

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See 7/7 p. 153

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

Flying Boat

My 2354/4 One Sunderland now serviceable.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0046/6)

French Ship

COMPIEGNE has asked for 600 tons bunkers. Request policy with regard to French ships and instructions for COMPIEGNE, whose Captain says he cannot give a destination. (N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1149/6)

Troop Ships

Admty. 2039/5, re FABIAN and JOHN HOLT to enter Lisbon for food and water. Portuguese authorities have no objection provided stay limited to 24 hours. Arrangements made. (N.A., Lisbon, 1444/6)

Necessary arrangements made. Inform masters stay is limited to 24 hours. Report Admiralty expected time of arrival and estimate of requirements. (D.O.D. (F) to ENCHANTRESS, 1732/6)

Gibraltar  
Air Raid

French Radio reports that according to communique of French Admiralty 2 squadrons of French naval aircraft attacked Gibraltar. Several hits have been observed on British warships at anchorage in the port. (Doran in Hungarian, 2230/6)

No sign of  
Mines

V.A. Force H. 1005/5. Whole of searched Channel was swept after air raid a.m. 5/7 without result. Several bombs fell in sea but there was no evidence of parachute mines having been dropped. (F.O.C.N.A., 1822/6)

Situation

Situation report. One aircraft approached Gibraltar at 0715 but flew off into clouds on gunfire being opened on it. No further incidents. (Governor 2037/6)

French  
North Africa

Your 1254/5. The necessary broadcasts in French have been arranged. M. of I. are cabling to you text for a pamphlet to be printed Gibraltar for distribution as decided by you. (D.P.D., to F.O.C.N.A., 1717/6)

Convoy

VOLUNTEER to remain with convoy as long as fuel permits, then instruct ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ULSTER MONARCH to proceed to Casablanca, arriving 0600 G.M.T. 8/7. PALOMARES to remain with VOLUNTEER and to be escorted to Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A. 1653/6)

/Repetition.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Convoy, Contd.

Repetition of my 2018/5 (recd. 0725/6, but undecypherable). My 2016, part 2. Acknowledge immediately and communicate Admiral, Afrique's reply as soon as it can be obtained, T.O.O., 1614/5 (ends) ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ULSTER MONARCH have been ordered not to approach within 20 miles of French or French Colonial Coast until further instruction (F.O.C.N.A. 1600/6)

FABIAN  
JOHN HOLT

Admty. 1732/6. Time of arrival at Lisbon, and ships requirements. (ENCHANTRESS, 2128/6)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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South Atlantic

HERMES

Asking when she will require to leave Dakar area for refuelling. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1725/6)

Volunteers

HIGHLAND MONARCH, left Santos for U.K. via St. Vincent, C.V., 4/7, has 50 British volunteers from River Plate. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1134/6)

A.M.C's

My 1127/3 and your 1849/3 A.M.C's requiring water or fuel should proceed to Clyde. F.O.I.C. Greenock should be informed when vessels may be expected and when they are next required at Freetown. (D.D.O.D., (F) to C. in C., S.A. 1932/6)

Routes

It is reported that ships from Liverpool and Milford Haven are being routed in to Durban by searched channels in force prior to amendment in accordance with Q.G.A. 26 and 27. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1145/6)

DRAGON  
BULOLO

In view of present situation it seems desirable to proceed to Duala. Propose move there to-morrow 7/7. BULOLO sails 0600/7. Expect arrive Lagos 1300, 8/7. Times zone minus one. (DRAGON, 1235/6) Your 1235/6 approved. (C. in C., S.A. 2107/6)

GAELIC STAR  
Detained

Following from British Consul, Antananarivo: GAELIC STAR detained at Majunga by order of naval authorities. Governor General, in agreement with naval authorities, amicably proposes to release ship and cargo on condition that French ship BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE is similarly released from Cape Town in order to continue voyage to Madagascar. 1200/6 (ends) Message communicated to Union authorities. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1703/6)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Operations

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Operation

Operation in Central Mediterranean (C. in C., Med., 1059/6) Operation M.A.5. Forces employed, (C. in C., Med., 1103/6) Orders to units. (C. in C., Med. 1059/6 1105/6, 1107/6) *See Operations Volume. Not in Op. Vol. 54*

Submarine Dispositions

Appears Italian submarines work in company up to 4. Details of cruising dispositions on normal days. (C. in C., Med. 1815/6)

Situation

Situation report. Hostile aircraft approached island 0810 this morning but did not cross coast or drop bombs. Friendly French seaplane landed here last night. (Governor, 1224/6) A.O.C. requests no publication be released regarding French seaplane. (Governor. 1730/6)

Alexandria

Arrivals 6/7 3rd. C.S., JANUS, JUNO, ILEX and IMPERIAL. (S.O.I., ALEX 203/6, 2010/6)

Attack on Bardia

3rd C.S., accompanied by four destroyers, attacked shipping in Bardia harbour early this morning, 6/7. Two military supply ships were heavily hit and probably sunk. Squadron was later attacked by three enemy bombers without result. (C. in C., Med., 2305/6)

Convoy Bombed

(See Air)

Proposed Attack

Ref. A.T. 1803/28/6 and V.A. Malta's 1751/6/7. This golden opportunity of attacking surface ships should be seized. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 2006/6)

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Enemy Report

1 aircraft carrier, 2 destroyers bearing 177 distance 6 miles course 055. My position 206 LJWT (37° N., 1.28 E) (PROTEUS, 1833/6)

Air

CAPETOWN

Fighter aircraft despatched to your assistance. (Alexandria W/T Guard, 0910/6)

Raid on Tobruk

My 1251/5. Operation appears to have been successful. Nine torpedo aircraft took part, six certain hits claimed, including one on submarine. All aircraft returned safely. R.A.F. co-operation very effective. (C. in C., Med., 0851/6 H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1934/6)

My 0851/6.....

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Mediterranean-Air

Raid on  
Tobruk, Contd.

My 0851/6 request no public mention of torpedoes being used, as it appears from intercepted Italian report that enemy may attribute damage to low flying bombing attack. (C. in C., Med., 1629/6)

My 1251/5. Description of attack. Owing to glare and noise result of individual shots could not be observed, but one observer definitely saw 5 high columns of water in all and one pilot states he attacked a submarine and saw his torpedo hit. Intercepted Italian report states that motor vessel MANZONI and Italian destroyer ZEFFIRO were sunk, Italian destroyer EURO hit twice forward, all fore compartments flooded. Merchant ship LIGURIA damaged but water being kept down. Casualties, one killed and 20 wounded in destroyer ZEFFIRO. All pilots saw one very heavy explosion with flames rising to a great height, Impression from pilots is that one submarine, three or four large merchant ships and two small merchant ships were hit. Success of operation largely due to excellent R.A.F. co-operation in providing reconnaissance, diversionary attacks and aerodrome facilities. (C. in C., Med., 1931/6)

Raid on  
Catania

9 Swordfish raided Catania aerodrome dusk 5/7. Dive bombing attacks started 4 big fires in hangers and workshops. Little or no A/A fire. ~~At~~ August 2 8 in cruisers, oil tanker and 4 destroyers observed. 1 French flying boat arrived, others expected (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1247/6)

Reconnaissance

Air reconnaissance today over Augusta reports 3 battleships, 3 heavy cruisers, 3 light cruisers, 8 destroyers, one floating dock and about 100 seaplanes parked round the Mole. (V.A., Malta 1751/6)

Your 1751/6. Request further reconnaissance of Augusta at dawn to-morrow 7/7 to check number and type of ship reported. (C. in C., Med., 2315/6)

Convoy  
Bombed

Convoy from Aegean to Egypt was repeatedly bombed during the period of 3 days by aircraft from Dodecanese without any result, notwithstanding escort was weak in anti-aircraft fire. (C. in C., Med., 2307/6)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Enemy Intelligence

U-Boat  
Prisoners

Information from interrogation of prisoners of Italian submarine [REDACTED] GALVANI, Vice Adm. Balsamo commands at Massawa. [REDACTED] GALVANI not fitted mines. Officers state no minelaying submarines at Massawa but commanding officer refused to answer. No evidence enemy raiders expected Indian Ocean or impending combined operations. 8 M.T.B's believed to be in Red Sea, type M.A.S. 418, but S.N.O., Red Sea Force reported all prisoners from Italian submarine GALILEO GALILEI stated they were decrepit, unreliable and unlikely to be used. (C. in C., E.I., 0808Z/6)



FOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesConvoy  
W.S.1

Adty. 1851/4. Request expected date of departure from Cape Town of W.S.1. and speed of advance. (C-in-C E.I. 0436Z/6)

Djibouti

My 1016/5. Consul, Djibouti wires to-day indications of general effect of Oran, far from being calamitous, may be very salutary. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0952Z/6)

Convoys

My 2313/21/6. Propose vessels of C.M.2 proceed Bombay after disembarkation Malta. Suggestions for B.N.2 and W.S.1 (D. of S.8. to C-in-C E.I. 2201/6)

## CARAIBE

Arrived Mombasa 0635 G.M.T. 6/7 with KENT. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0821Z/6)

ChinaCoasting  
Trade

British, Norwegian and Dutch merchant ships and French merchant ships engaged in coasting trade may proceed to Indo-China ports and Kwang Chow Wan.

Situation  
Japan

Agree with Ambassador, Tokyo's 1149 to F.O. Suggest we should do all in our power to strengthen hand of Japanese moderates. (C-in-C China, 1315Z/6)

Norwegian  
Ships

Adty. 1835/21/4. Propose to discontinue practice of obtaining written undertakings from masters of Norwegian ships. (Cdre. I/C Hong Kong 1013Z/6) Approved (C-in-C China, 0233Z/7)

Mine

Reported from Singapore that a floating mine has been sighted near Balik Papan on the West or Borneo Coast of the Straits of Macassar, Netherlands East Indies. (D.S. 306)

America and West Indies

## FURIOUS

In addition to aircraft and stores, has ammunition and sugar (FURIOUS, 1200/6)

FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesCuracao  
Aruba

Telegram to O.C. Troops, Curacao, from O.C. Troops, Jamaica, now on board DIOMEDE off Martinique, understands French vacate Aruba 6/7. Have decided in co-operation with Dutch commander, Curacao, and agreement with Governor, Curacao, to despatch 1 company of King's Shropshire L.I., 5 officers, 125 other ranks, to Aruba, immediately French have left. Dutch commander giving full and cordial co-operation. (Bermuda, 1340/6)

French ships

Minister Panama reports French ships OREGON and ANGOULEME refused permission to remain Costa Rica will arrive back at Balboa 7th July. Officers and men reported anxious to serve under British. Would refuse to sail for Kingston but would welcome interception by British warships. Funds not available. Your 1426/29 suggests necessary funds be made available and that vessels be persuaded to sail for Aruba until recently garrisoned by French troops. Interception would be arranged if possible. Minister at Panama informed of this suggestion. (C-in-C A.W.I. 1943/6 to Adty.)

New ZealandRaider

Description of vessel sighted in position 30° 30'S, 178° 40'W, at 0230Z/14/6 which from position and movement is suspected of being a disguised raider. (S.O.I. Wellington 0546Z/6)

French Sloop

My 1013/4. Consul report Captain of French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE taking orders from Admiral Commanding French Indo-China. Internal situation unchanged and population pro-Ally. Later message 5/7 reports Governor still in doubt and attitude of DUMONT D'URVILLE uncertain. Consul considers British landing would be welcomed by majority. Further message reports DUMONT D'URVILLE sailing routine cruise of outlying islands and not hostile in those waters. Consul has received official assurance that she will not leave territorial waters of French Oceania without informing him and requests assurance that she will not be attacked while protecting the colony. Assurance is being given by C.N.S., New Zealand, that no action will be taken against her while situation remains as at present. (S.C.I. Wellington, 1158Z/6)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

150

HAVELLAND Sailed from Manzanillo, Mexico, 27/6. Destination now reported Vladivostock. (I.C. 0503/40)

ANTILLA Scuttled at Aruba (D.W. Indies) on May 10. Lloyd's Surveyor reports can probably be raised. (D.S. 305)

INGO Expected to leave Split for North Italian port p.m. 5/7, cargo 5500 tons bauxite. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1215/6)

LAS PALMAS reported she would arrive at Herrenwiek (Travemünde) about 2000/5. (I.C. 0503/40)

CLARA L.M. RUSS reported she would arrive at Lubeck p.m./5 (I.C. 0503/40)

BESSEL at Vigo, received 3/7 two lorry loads of small cases from German Embassy, contents unknown possibly provisions (I.C. 0503/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CELENO Arrived from Batum, cargo for Germany 4500 tons oil fuel (Varna, 0912/6)

CABOTO )  
BARBARA tanker }  
BRONTE do. }

HILDA At Bandar Abbas }

Lloyds Triestino, Teheran have been informed that visas have been obtained for crews of above to proceed to Italy via Russia. (I.C. 0503/40)

M.V. MANZONI Intercepted Italian report that MANZONI was  
LIGURIA sunk in attack on Tobruk 5/7 and LIGURIA  
damaged (C-in-C Med. 1931/6) (p 146)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

s.s. VAPPER  
Sunk

Estonian (4543 tons) sunk 1005/6, 49°30'N  
15'W. H.M.C.S. RESTIGOUCHE saved  
survivors (RESTIGOUCHE 1525/7) Not in  
convoy.

Submarines Reported

- 0320 58.39 N., 03.56 E., about 52 miles W by N.  
from Bergen (PORPOISE 0320/6)
- 0410 60.07 N., 02.45 E., about 90 miles N.W. by  
W. from Bergen. Reported by aircraft  
(Aircraft 269 Sqdn. 0410/6)
- 0650 49.27N., 08.12 W., about 70 miles W.S.W.  
from Lands End. Reported by aircraft  
(aircraft duty F to Plympton R.A.F./6)
- 1015 By aircraft, seen on surface, 1 mile off  
Lyne Regis, course W. M.A/S B. 1. ordered to  
hunt. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1115/6/)
- 1030 Reliable fix. 48.53 N., 06.17'W  
RESTIGOUCHE ordered to attack. (C. in C.,  
W.A. 1129/6)
- 0340 60° 30'N., 2° 50'E Course 220° aircraft  
report (I.C. 0504/40)
- 0953 48°53' N., 6°17'W. Reported on surface by  
ULSTER PRINCE. (I.C. 0504/40)
- 0900 42°11'N 5°52'W reported seen by Fishermen  
(I.C. 0504/40)

Submarines Attacked

- Before 0931 By aircraft 49.27 N, 08.12 W (C. in C., W.A.  
0931/6) VANQUISHER and WINCHELSEA also to  
ordered to attack.
- 1455 By aircraft, position 48.40' N., 07.07'W at  
1455 (C. in C., W.A., 1601/6)
- 1130 BROKE attacked contact at 26° Land End  
104' (I.C. 0504/40)
- 1130 49° 44' N., 8° 19'W BROKE attacked contact  
(VANQUISHER 1130/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary

6.7.1940.  
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

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Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Attacked

28/6

29/6

Confirmation and details of attacks on Italian submarine by flying boat of 230 Sqn. on 28/6 and 29/6 referred to in my A 465, 2/7. (A. 487/ 6/7 H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1934/6)

SITUATION REPORT

Troop Convoys

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA with Canadian troops escorted by DEVONSHIRE, arrived at Iceland 1000 today.

U-Boat Ruse

O.B.V. ~~SS~~ MANISTEE was shelled today by a submarine 100 miles S. of Cape Clear. She reported that the submarine was disguised as a fishing smack, with a sail.

Former Casualties

The following ships which were damaged during the air attack on convoy OA 178 on 4/7 have reached port safely:- WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, FLIMSTON, BRITISH CORPORAL, HARTLEPOOL, BRIARWOOD, FAIRWATER, IRENE MARIA; out of 15 ships believed to have been damaged eight appear to be unaccounted for, though one of these eight is believed sunk and two were abandoned.

FURIOUS

FURIOUS arrived at Liverpool today with aeroplanes, ammunition and sugar, from Halifax.

SNAPPER's Patrol Report

SNAPPER on return from patrol off the coast of Norway reports having made a number of apparently successful attacks on enemy merchant ships between 25th June and 1 July.

BROKE damaged

BROKE escorting a convoy in the Western Approaches was ramméd by the Turkish ~~submarine~~ <sup>sublayer</sup> Y92BASI HAKKI, which was in the convoy, at 0054/7. BROKE is holed above the waterline and the ~~sub~~. Y92BASI HAKKI has badly bent bows, Both are proceeding to Falmouth at 5 knots. See 6/7 p. 141 & Sup. p. 641

E-Boats

PDU aircraft reported 5 E boats of 130 ft length in Cherbourg -p.m/7.

SITUATION REPORT

FRENCH FLEET

Dakar

MILFORD, DORSETSHIRE and AUSTRALIA have been placed under the orders of C.O. HERMES, who has been appointed Rear-Admiral.

At 1600/7 MILFORD entered Dakar to present an ultimatum to the French Admiral, who refused to receive it and threatened to open fire unless MILFORD retired. Later, however, the French Admiral got in touch by W/T and MILFORD transmitted the text of the ultimatum. A time limit of 2 hours was given, but as darkness would have fallen by then further operations were postponed until dawn ~~today~~ 8/7.

Air

Operations last night were seriously hampered by adverse weather conditions but 7 Wellingtons attacked Naval targets at Bremen and Emden, the aerodrome at Nordeney and the mouth of the Kiel Canal at Brunsbüttel. 8 Skuas attacked Bergen early this morning. They met heavy opposition but dropped their bombs and returned safely. A large M.V. was bombed and hit in Ostend and the dock gates at the west end of the Bassin des Chasses were hit.

The enemy's main effort today, was directed against south coast ports and shipping in the Straits of Dover.

Portland and Dover were attacked; at Portland Paddle M/S MERCURY was slightly damaged but at Dover there were no hits or damage to the ships. At Teignmouth the pier was hit. Falmouth dry docks were damaged and are to be closed tomorrow.

At 2007 a force of 10 bombers and 30 fighters attacked shipping off Dungeness. 30 Spitfires and Hurricanes were despatched to intercept. H.M.T. CHESTNUT was slightly damaged. In a ~~second~~ raid at 2120 by 18 enemy aircraft no damage was caused.

7.7.1940.

Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

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Mining

Tyne, Middlesborough, Tees, Newhaven and Amble are closed following suspected mine-laying. Hartlepool was closed but was re-opened later today.

Gardening was carried out by 10 aircraft in the Langelands Belt.

French Indo China

It has been agreed that no hostilities shall take place between British and French warships in China Station. H.M. Ships are not to approach within 20 miles of coast of French Indo-China. French shipping is not to be detained if met at sea.

Italian Hostilities

Another Malta-Gibraltar cable has been cut. One cable only now remains.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, MALAYA, EAGLE and 7 destroyers left Alexandria at 1640/7 for Central Mediterranean.

There were 3 air raids on Malta today. Direct hits were made on submarine OLYMPUS in dock. Repairs are estimated to take 4 months. There were some naval and civilian casualties and over 100 houses were demolished. Two enemy planes were brought down.

Air reconnaissance of Augusta p.m./5 reported 2- 8" cruisers, 2-6" cruisers and 4 destroyers, and on 6/7 3 battleships, 3 heavy and 3 light cruisers and 8 destroyers. A further reconnaissance at dawn today in order to establish type and numbers of ships present had to be delayed on account of weather.

8" cru-



DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

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U.K.

Proposed policy regarding French ships is to bring ships forward for service one by one with crews preponderatingly British. Request immediate information whether destroyers or submarine chasers are preferred first, observing that chasers can be in commission very soon.

Destroyers can be soon effective for limited function of attacking transports using local control during working up period but full efficiency for extended operations will take some time to attain. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1057/7 to Adty.)

RUBIS

All officers and men except 5 wish to continue in British service. (V.A. (S) 1246/8)

Dakar

RICHELIEU

My 0015/5 and C. in C., S.A.'s 1101/6

(i) No fleet oiler apparently available and I assume that alternatives proposed by C. in C., South Atlantic are not acceptable.

(ii) HOOD has no hose for oiling at sea and insufficient are available at Gibraltar.

(iii) Without refuelling HOOD must proceed at 14 knots and according to ships data would have only 15% remaining on return to base. If HOOD is used it would therefore be necessary for Force H to proceed to Freetown to refuel.

(iv) If proposal in (iii) not acceptable suggest reliance be placed on T/B attack and force consisting of ARK ROYAL VALIANT and 6 X.E. and F Class destroyers latter to be fuelled from H.M.S. ARK ROYAL and H.M.S. VALIANT. Understood ship not even carried out gun trials and therefore VALIANT should prove a match for her if she should be encountered at sea.

(v) An advantage of (iv) is that presence of HOOD RESOLUTION and cruiser at Gibraltar will probably help to conceal projected operations and also assist to maintain control of Straits.

(vi) If ship is inside harbour consider operation should be abandoned for reason given in my 1745 6th July.

(vii) Request that oiler be made available Freetown in case fuelling at sea becomes impracticable.

(viii) Should the proposal in para (iv) be approved consider R.A. Aircraft Carriers should be put in charge of operation.

(F.O.C.H.0139/7 to Adty.)

/Subsequently.....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

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Dakar

RICHELIEU Contd.

*p 43  
had Vol*

Subsequently decided that operation against RICHELIEU will be carried out by HERMES and 8-in cruisers and V.A. Force H to operate against targets on coast of Italy. (Ist. S.L. 0419/7) (See ~~Operations~~ *Operations* Volume)

H.M. Govt. have decided that the question of RICHELIEU and other French warships at Dakar must be settled without delay.

2. You have been selected to take charge of the operation and are hereby appointed Acting Rear-Admiral until further orders.
3. Take command of DORSETSHIRE, AUSTRALIA and MILFORD.
4. Communicate with the French Naval Authorities at Dakar in the manner you think best and transmit the text of message which follows in my 0345. A decision should be asked for within 4 hours, so as not to give RICHELIEU time to get under way.
5. Should alternative 3 be accepted take such measures of demilitarization as not necessary to ensure that the ships could/be brought into service for at least one year.
6. If all alternatives are refused, as soon as possible carry out attack on RICHELIEU with torpedo aircraft until she is sufficiently disabled.
7. Bombardment by 8" cruisers should not be carried out in view of small damage to be expected on RICHELIEU and strength of coast defences.
8. DORSETSHIRE and AUSTRALIA should show themselves at intervals during the operations but no unnecessary risk of submarine attack should be accepted by any ship. French Naval Authorities should be informed that your forces are being kept at a distance until their decision is taken on account of their submarines.
9. Should it be possible after RICHELIEU has been dealt with the two light cruisers should also be attacked. A.M.C's should not be attacked.

/10.....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

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Dakar

RICHELIEU Contd.

10. Any ships which endeavour to put to sea should be brought to action. Whether 8" cruisers should attack RICHELIEU in these circumstances must depend on whether her 15" armament is in action and efficient.

11. H.M. Govt. desire the operation to be carried out as soon as possible subject to your plans being completed.

12. Should RICHELIEU have left Dakar before receipt of these orders she is to be called upon to stop. If she obeys this order the procedure outlined above is to be carried out. If she refuses to stop she is to be attacked with torpedo aircraft.

(1st S.L. 0344/7 to HERMES)

Following communication is to be made to French Naval Authorities at Dakar referred to in my 0344.

5. H.M. Govt. have instructed me to demand that the French Fleet, now at Dakar, shall act in accordance with one of the following alternatives:-

(1) Sail with reduced crews and without ammunition under our control to a British port. The reduced crews will be repatriated at the earliest moment.

If this course is adopted by you, we will restore your ships to France at the conclusion of the war, or pay full compensation if they are damaged meanwhile

(2) Sail with us with reduced crews and without ammunition to some French port in the West Indies, where they can be demilitarized or be entrusted to the United States, crews being repatriated.

(3) Demilitarize your ships at Dakar to my satisfaction within the period of 12 hours so that they will be incapable of taking part further in the present war.

(4) Sink your ships within six hours. I require a decision as to which alternative you will adopt within 4 hours

/6.....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

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Dakar Contd.,

6. Finally failing the above, I have the orders of H.M. Govt. to use whatever force may be necessary to secure that ships are unable to take further part in the war.

(1st S.L. 0345/7 to HERMES)

It is understood from L.O's recently with French ships that some ships already had a scheme for demilitarization at two hours' notice. If such a scheme exists and you are satisfied with it best course might be to put into force. (1st . S.L. 0354/7 to HERMES)

MILFORD, DORSETSHIRE, and AUSTRALIA are placed under orders of C.O. HERMES who has been appointed Acting Rear Admiral. (V.C.N.S. 0357/7 to MILFORD)

Request your views for A.M. 0419/7 at very early date. (F.O.C.H. 1040/7 to C. in C., Med.)

*(Reply p.169.)*

*Med Vol p.43*

MILFORD on her way into Dakar with Ultimatum should arrive about 1500 G.M.T. today (R.A. HERMES 1300/7 to Adty.)

MILFORD reports Admiral Dakar threatens open fire unless he retires. MILFORD has asked Admiral to reconsider decision, but he refuses. Intend to attack at dusk. (HERMES 1455/7 to Adty.)

Your 1455/7 Approved. (D.C. 1924/7 to HERMES)

My 1455/7 Admiral Dakar has indicated that Governor General has given him permission to communicate with MILFORD by W/T. Am accordingly transmitting text of Adty. message 0345/7 to him by W/T and giving him two hour from time of receipt. (HERMES 1700/7 to Adty.)

/The Ultimatum.....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar, Contd.

The ultimatum apparently will not expire till after 2000 when it will be darkness. My personal opinion is that attack on RICHELIEU in darkness in her present position will be extremely difficult and liable to failure. I recommend attacking at dawn. (C. in C., S.A. 1912/7 to Adty.)

*Report of Attack on Richelieu in C. in C. SA 1217/40 M/014637/40 and 27/7/40 M/015862/40*

Gibraltar

*1744/6 included, p. 131.*

*Admty to  
FOCNA*

Your 2025/6. French warships passing through Straits should be treated as in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of my 2005/4. Forts at Gibraltar should assist you to carry out these instructions if possible. War Office will be requested to amend their instructions. (D.O.D. (F) 0012/7 to F.O.C.N. A.)

*W. O. Orders to  
Governor,  
Gibraltar.*

Reference your 2012 cipher 4/7 and 75673 (M.O.I. cipher 4/7.) Pending clarification of naval situation your proposed action against any French Warships attempting to pass through repeat pass through Straits approved. French Warships approaching repeat approaching Gibraltar harbour should be called upon to heave to and to comply with one of following three courses:- First continue to fight with us, Second- hand over ships in which case crews will be repatriated Third- sink ship.

*None*  
Any ship failing to heave to or, having heaved to, refusing to comply with one of three courses above should be fired on. (War Office 1820/4 to Governor, Gibraltar)

Alexandria

Adty. 1234/6. *p. 132*

1. There appears to be no way of ensuring that French ships will not scuttle in the event of a declaration of war by France particularly if the Fleet is at sea.
2. The French are reluctant to reduce crews for fear that we shall seize the ships.
3. In order to avert the danger of scuttling (probable situation if war is declared) and to expedite the discharge of crews. I consider that the best terms which can be acceded in the circumstances are as given in paragraph four. These terms have come out as result of considerable negotiations and seem the limit unless we are to take forcible action and risk the sinking of the ships in harbour. /4...

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

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Alexandria- Contd.

4. Terms would be:-

(a) French ships to be maintained with sufficient crews to allow upkeep of material.

(b) French guarantee not to scuttle their ships, attempt to leave harbour, or to commit any act hostile to us.

(c) The British will not attempt to seize the French ships by force (but see (f) and (g).)

(d) Supplies and pay for warships detained at Alexandria to be responsibility of the British.

(e) Ships to be returned at signing of peace.

(f) In the event of French warships being taken over by the Italians or Germans this agreement to be reconsidered.

(g) If war is declared between England and France a new situation not covered by this agreement will arise.

5. The above does not effect the measures given in my 2303/5 para one which have already been put into effect.

(f) Free both parties but only after consultation.

(g) Free both parties without consultation but as stated there is no hope of obtaining a guarantee if war is declared.

(C. in C., Med. 1827/7 to Adty.)

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

East Indies

My 1111/5. Re French ship CARAIBE.

(i) All Officers and men landed. Officers on Parole. Breech block and depth charge pistol thrown over board by French. Ammunition being unladen, 7th July wireless made in-operative.

(ii) Owing to difficulty of guarding and accommodating ashore crew of 130 who are reported very truculent intend to re-embark them in CARAIBE which may also lead to better relations. Slight risk of scuttling must be accepted.

(iii) Arrangements to repatriate crew to Madagascar or France being investigated.

(iv) French Admiral Far East not informed by me of action taken.

(v) No British Warships will be at Mombasa from 9/7 until about 20/7.

(C. in C., East Indies. 11422/7 to Adty.)



WAR DIARY

HOME COMMANDS

7.7.40  
Sunday

Defence of U.K.

An ex German Merchant vessel flying White Ensign was recently able to proceed from Portsmouth Westabout to within 20 miles of Hoxa Boom unchallenged by H.M. Ships.

Any Merchant Vessel, whose presence in area is regarded as suspicious, is always to be examined. Misuse of White Ensign by enemy is a likely course of action at all times and particularly when possibility of invasion exists. (C.in C. H.F. 1749/7 to Home Fleet).

Portland.

Request immediate action to strengthen A/A Defence. (F.O.I.C.Portland 1735/7 to Admiralty).

Movements

One ship of 2nd C.S. to reinforce Patrol U. during dark hours till further notice. (C.in C. Nore 1088/7 to F.O.I.C.Humber).

S/m's.

Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/8.

TRIAD TAKU TETRARCH SUNFISH TRIBUNE  
PORPOISE SEAWOLF SALMON SPEARFISH  
STURGEON SWORDFISH H.28 H.49 as in my  
1812 6th July. SEALION vicinity  
Jaederens. TRUANT and WILK leave  
Rosyth p.m. North Eastwards. TIGRIS  
and H.32 escorted by WARRIOR 2 from  
Portsmouth arrive Rothesay 2115 and  
Campbeltown 1900 respectively. THAMES  
escorted by HEARTSEASE from Plymouth  
arrives Greenock 2030 8th July. L.26  
exercising West of Hoy. H.49 operating  
between Dover and Calais, OBERON near  
ZJGB 2741, OTWAY near ZJGB 1346.  
(V.A.S. 1854/7 V.A.Dover 1915/5,  
C.in C. Portsmouth 1925/5).

9th D. Flotilla.

Proceed from Liverpool to act as  
A/S Striking Force between 51°N, 48°N,  
Scilly, and 12°W. where there are now  
four U-boats. (C.in C. W.A.1724/7  
To Capt. D. 9th.).

SANDHURST.

Could you maintain Dover Destroyers  
without SANDHURST. (V.C.N.S.1852/7 to  
V.A.Dover).

SHEFFIELD.

Raise steam at one hours notice forthwith  
and at half hour's notice by 2100.  
(C.S.18. 1636/7 to SHEFFIELD.).



WAR DIARYH M E COMMANDS.7.7.40  
SundayE-Boats.Cherbourg.

Five E-Boats in Harbour (I.C.0505/40).

A i rBritish Air ActivityWillemsfoord.

At 0235/7 bombed large M/V. in inner harbour. Results not seen. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0715/8).

Ostend.

One large vessel hit in Bassin Leopold at 2230/7. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0258/8).

Boulogne.

One M/V. bombed in harbour at 0410/7. (I.C.0505/40).

A i rBritish Air ActivityBergen.

Eight Skuas attacked Oil-Tanks and Oiler at Lidsvaag, Bergen at 0540. No hits on ships and damage not known. (Hatston 0816/7 to A.C.O.S.)

Attacked 3 minesweepers at 53°35'N. 5°10'E at 0520/7. No hits. (A/C 220 Sqdn. 0535/7) (Donibristle 0930/7).

All available A/C 53 Sqdn. to attack Barges and Trawlers in harbour at Ostend tonight (H.Q.C.C.1855/7).

Naval Targets at Bremen and Emden, and Norderney Aerodromes and Brunshüttel attacked during night 6/7. No results observed. Two Motor Boats attacked at 55°4'N. 10°57'E. and a stationary ship at 54°53'N. 10°52'E. Near misses observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1545/7). Attacked 2 Minesweepers at 2155 in 53°27' 5°3'E. No.No.hits. (A/C 220 Sqdn.2200/7).

Eight enemy A/C Lydd Light Vessel  
(GRIFFIN 1305/7).

KASHMIR

A/C bombing my position 53°15'N. 1°5'E.  
(KASHMIR 1648/7). Note. KASHMIR was  
undamaged (I.C.0505/40).

Dover.

At 1550/7 one enemy A/C dropped 8 bombs  
on Dover Harbour. No hits or damage to  
ships. (V.A.Dover 1823/7 to Admiralty).

Three A/C circling Convoy. (FOXGLOVE  
1705/7) Fighters have left for your  
assistance (Portsmouth W/T station  
1707/7) Enemy A/C bombing. My position  
50°20'N. 1°57'W. (FOXGLOVE 0901/8).

GRIFFIN, CHESTNUT  
damaged.

Twelve A/C bombing 120 Duncan Head 4  
miles (GRIFFIN 2034/7). GRIFFIN and  
Trawler Patrols off Dungeness heavily  
attacked by 18 Bombers at 2025 to-day.  
Slight damage to CHESTNUT and 3 wounded.  
No apparent damage to GRIFFIN.  
(V.A.Dover 2252/7 to Admiralty).

MERCURY.

Paddle M/S bombed at 1400/7 in Portland  
Harbour. Four killed and four wounded.  
Slight material damage. (F.O.I.C.  
Portland 1735/7 to Admiralty).

BRITISH INVENTOR

Near miss at 1400/7 in Portland Harbour.  
One killed, three injured. (F.O.I.C.  
Portland 1735/7 to Admiralty).

Mooring Lighter.

Bombed 10' off St.Albans Head. No  
damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1735/7 to  
Admiralty).

Falmouth.

Bombing at 1620 and 1745 caused some  
damage, and a few casualties in  
the Docks.

Mining.

Mining was suspected at Tyne,  
Flamborough, Thames Estuary, and  
Margate; and a Mine was reported off the  
Tyne entrance. (I.C.0505/40).

Three Mines were exploded at once in  
the Tyne/Blyth Inshore Channel East of  
St.Mary's Island, and one off Hartlepool;  
and many Floating Mines were reported  
off the Dutch Coast East of 3°E.  
(I.C.0505/40).

The Tees, Amble, and Newhaven are  
still closed. (I.C.0505/40).



WAR DIARY

HOME COMMANDS.

7.7.40  
Sunday

166

Enemy Intelligence.

5000 Tons M/V. reported aground off Obrestad. SEALION to investigate. (P.A.S. 1256/7).

Brest.

Naval and Shipping disposition unchanged. (P.D.U.I. 0110/7 to N.I.D.).

Boulogne.

Two M/V's. 2000 Tons outside Harbour and 5 small ships inside. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1857/7 to Admiralty.)

One Norwegian M/V 50°42'N. 1°55'W. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1857/7 to Admiralty.)

Calais, Nieuport  
Ostend

P.D.U. Sortie to-day shows no shipping activity. (P.D.U.I. 1826/7 to Admiralty.)

Ostend.

1520/7. Bassin de Chaussie, 50 Barges, Trawlers. Bassin Leopold, not more than 50 Barges. (T.H.I. 0330/8).

Weather

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	Light to moderate S.E. Light variable near coast.	Moderate, poor locally.	Winds similar, Vis. improving slowly from West.
Channel	West light.	Very good, moderate locally in E.	S.W. light to moderate, vis. good.
Western Approaches	Westerly light.	Very good.	Similar.
Horn's Reef	S.E. moderate.	Moderate, poor locally.	Similar.
W. Coast of Norway	Easterly, moderate.	Very good.	N.E. moderate, vis. good to moderate.



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WAR DIARYHOME COMMANDS.7.7.40  
SundayCasualties and Defects.SHARK

If no information by 0900/8, must be presumed lost. (V.A.S. 1101/7 to Admiralty).

EL GRILLO

Afloat and anchored in 18°30'N. 74°30'W. with Salvage Vessel standing by. Tanks much flooded but all under control. Request instructions where to proceed. (EL GRILLO 0010/7 to Admiralty).

ANTONIS GEORGANDIS

Greek. Left St. Vincent, Cape Verde 5/6 for Limerick. Not heard of since. (I.C. 0504/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

Pamphlets

Re propaganda pamphlets (F.O.C.N.A. 2324/7).

South Atlantic

TABARISTAN )  
~~DIEGO SUAREZ~~)

At Diego Suarez. Re obtaining release of, by exchange (A.C.N.S. (T) 2025/7 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

French ports banned

British ships are not to call at any French port (C. in C., S.A. 1054/7 to G.B.M.S.)

BULOLO

Your 1235/6 re sailing approved (C. in C., S.A. 2107/6 to DRAGON).

Mediterranean

Operations

Operations against Italy

1st S.L. 0419/7 to V.A. Force H.) See <sup>b.43</sup> Operations V.A. "H" 1430/7, 1440/7 to Adty. ) Volume.

Intend to attack ships in Augusta if still there night 9 July with torpedo bombers followed up by bombardment. (Remainder of signal entered in ~~operations~~ volume) (C. in C., Med. 1051/7 to Adty.)

Fleet will operate off Sicilian Coast during night of 9/10 July.

Between 2000/9 and 0600/10 submarines are to be confined to following area. RORQUAL. N. of 037:40 N. and W. of 016:00 E. PHOENIX. S. of line 130° Cape Murro Di Porco and W. of 015:30 E. Acknowledge. (C. in C., Med. 1105/7 to RORQUAL, PHOENIX).

Disposition of Italian Fleet as far as known (1st S.L. 0430/7 to V.A. Force H., 0430/7).

Operation M.A. 5 Augusta

Amendments to operation orders. (C. in C., Med. 1103/7 to Med. Fleet).

My 0515/7. Reconnaissance reports 6 large ships heavy cruisers or larger, 4 or 5 light cruisers and a lot of auxiliary craft still at Augusta. Intend to carry out attack by 3 Swordfish carrying torpedoes and 6 carrying armour piercing bombs at 2200 local time tonight Sunday. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1205/7).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Operations (Contd.)

Attack by  
Aircraft  
Proposed

Your 1205/7. Would prefer you use bombs only as I hope to put EAGLE's aircraft with torpedoes at them on Tuesday. (C. in C., Med., to F.O.I.C. Malta, 1343/7).

Orders to  
C. in C.  
Gibraltar

As a result of clarification of Naval situation you will now assist naval forces to carry out Adty. instructions 2005/4. Action against French warships attempting to pass through Straits is responsibility of Navy and you will not take action unless H.M. ships engage French warships. French warships approaching Gibraltar harbour should be called upon to heave ~~ho~~ to and explain their business. Should the force refuse to stop it should be assumed that they are approaching with hostile intent and should be engaged. (W.O. 1535/7 to Governor Gib.).

Attack on  
Augusta

*X need?*

My 1205/7 operation postponed on account of unfavourable weather. Intend carrying out tomorrow Monday. A.O.C. considers one flight torpedoes should be ~~be~~ suitably target appears suitable from photographs. Combination of dive bombing and torpedo attack provides best prospect since former will divert attention from latter. In view of A.A. fire recently encountered and large numbers of fighter aircraft in vicinity consider it advisable to operate in dark hours only with Swordfish. (F.O.I.C. Malta 1958/7 to C. in C., Med.)

Re. Adty. 0419/7. I intended to include operations referred to in my 1107/6 an attack by F.A.A. on ships in Augusta if still there after a bombardment. These are timed for about 0815/9 and 2200/9.

2. Suggest Force "H" might carry out similar operation against ships in Naples, Trapani, Palermo or Messina in that order of importance, but latter is very heavily defended.

3. I do not advise F.A.A. attack on ships in Taranto until more experience has been gained of attack on known well defended harbour. (C. in C., Med. 1409/7 to F.O. "H" Force).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean - Operations (Contd.)

Your 1409/7. Lack of destroyers with sufficient endurance and time to formulate proper plans prevent me from undertaking operations you suggest at present. I will sail AM/8 and carry out air attack on Cagliari at dawn 10/7 as this should cause a diversion. (S.O. Force H 1720/7 to C. in C., Med.)

My 1720/7. Intended to employ whole of Force H for this operation (S.O. Force H. 1750/7 to Adty.)

Mediterranean - Air

Reconnaissance

Your 2315/6. Reconnaissance delayed owing to weather. (F.O.I.C., Malta, to C. in C., Med., 0515/7).

Air raids on Malta

Enemy over Malta 3 times today. Big raid on object dockyards. Casualties. Direct hits on OLYMPUS in dock. Hoped repairable, 4 months required (V.A. Malta 2205/7).

Tobruk

6/7 one Blenheim 113 Squadron made successful photographic reconnaissance Tobruk Harbour 1400 hours to ascertain damage by 813 Sqdn. torpedo attack 5/7. Reconnaissance shows 2 ships approx. 15,000 tons aground and one ship approx. 8,000 tons heavily down by stern in south side harbour. Part two follows. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1759/7).

A.499 7/6. Part 2. One ship approx. 6,000 tons lying on its side in centre harbour, one cruiser and one other merchant ship possibly damaged. Siting of other ships completely disorganised 4 submarines 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers also observed in harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1803/7).

Flying Boat Patrols

M.A. five para. 18. D. three, four and five. Flying Boat patrol reduced patrolling as follows: Flying Boats leave Malta at one hour and 50 minutes intervals and fly on line Malta Xante returning to Sicily Coast along parallel tracks 40 miles further North then back to Greek Coast 40 miles further North again finally returning to Sicily Coast 40 miles further North again and return along Sicily Coast to Malta. Flying Boats will examine region A and at 1400/D three, again two hours before sunset D three, and again A.M.D four. (C. in C., Med. 1407/7).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies

LANCASHIRE

Sailing today for Colombo (N.O.I.C. Kilindini 1120Z/7).

British  
Somaliland  
Jibuti

Your D/30,303 7/7 (to C. in C. and A.O.C. British Forces Aden's A 379 7/7. I most strongly urge utmost endeavour be made to provide not only for holding of British Somaliland but also for denial of Jibuti to Italians so that security of sea communications of sea communications and naval base Aden shall not be further threatened nor our prestige lowered. All possible naval support will be given. (C. in C., E.I. 1958/7 to G.O.C. M.E.).

Troop  
Transports

Reply to D. of S.T. 2201/6 (P.S.T.O. E.I., Bombay 1005/7).

China

French Indo-  
China

It has been agreed that no hostilities shall take place between British and French Warships on China Station. Ships must not however relax precautions in case of attack. Except in emergency H.M. Ships are not to approach within 20 miles of coast French Indo-China, and are to avoid contact with French Warships. French shipping is not to be detained if met at sea. (C. in C., China 0518Z/7).

Reply to B.L.O. Saigon 0700Z/6 (C. in C. China, 0519/7).

New Zealand

French Attitude

Consular Officer, Papeete, reports:-  
Governor and S.N.O. assure me under their own signature that on no account will British Merchant Vessels and Men of War be attacked in zone of their command of South Pacific providing reciprocal guarantees are given.

If this assurance not satisfactory to British Authorities as to safety of expected British steamers carrying foodstuffs believed to have been loaded at Sydney may be send a French steamer to collect these foodstuffs at Sydney or any other port at which they may be disembarked under similar guarantee.

Governor/



War Diary

7.7.40.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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New Zealand

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French  
Attitude  
(Contd.)

Governor assures you that he wishes to come to a satisfactory solution of his intention to act only in complete accord and in most loyal way vis a vis British Authorities - (ends).  
(Navy Office, Wellington, 0054Z/7)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CERIGO	recruiting crew.	173
ERLANGEN	completing coal, soliciting German passengers to Germany August.	
PORTLAND ) OSORNO )	Exchanging officers.	
	All above on west coast of S. America (S.O.I. Kingston 1021/7)	
KRONOS	Arrived with cargo of construction steel (B.C. Goteborg 1257/7)	

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

DAPHNE	DAPHNE, (1969 tons) and the P.L.M.24 are at Methil, and CETUS (ex-Norwegian under French Contract) (2614 tons) BEAUMANOIR (2324 tons) the P.L.M.22, 5447 tons, the MEDEE (1882 tons) and LILIAN (ex-Danish under French flag) (1271 tons) are in the Tyne. Armed guards have been placed on board all the ships and their machine guns and the breech blocks of their heavy guns have been removed.
P.L.M.24	
CETUS	
BEAUMANOIR	
P.L.M.22	
MEDEE	
LILIAN	
OREGON	According to a press report the French auxiliary ship OREGON (7706 tons) and ANGOULEME (2451 tons) which had put into Punta Arenas (Chile) on July 5, suddenly left for Balboa (Panama Canal) on July 6. It is believed that both ships are carrying aeroplanes.
ANGOULEME	

S.S. MANISTEE (not sunk or damaged).

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 5,359: armed with 4" gun.

DATE AND TIME: July 7th, 1919 G.M.T., 1st attack, another attack an hour later by another S/M.

POSITION: 50° 0' N. 10° 15' W.

SPEED: Average speed 13½ knots, doing 14½ knots during attack.

ROUTE: Santa Marta, Columbia, via Kingston to Liverpool

CARGO: Bananas

IN CONVOY: no

ESCORT: none

FATE OF CREW: 64 all told, none missing or injured.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Fine, calm, good visibility.

First Attack

REMARKS: - At above time periscope seen on port quarter about 8 miles away. S/M was evidently about to surface, which she did almost immediately. S/M put astern by MANISTEE helm. S/M manned two guns and placed herself broadside on and opened fire. She started to get range but ship being fast widened the gap quickly and kept altering course to nearest shell burst. There were no hits. This went on for nearly an hour when firing ceased and S/M submerged. Between 35 or 40 shells had been fired from S/M and 16 from the ship. These were getting unpleasantly close to S/M when she submerged. At 1301 (1 p.m.) a smaller S/M under sail appeared on port beam. Saild was very peculiar being fixed all in one piece, but as it rolled with the sea a S/M hull plainly could be seen. Having concluded that sail was merely a camouflage for a S/M ship opened fire with her 4" gun and S/M returned fire immediately. She fired 3 shells which fell short. MANISTEE fired 4 shots when S/M rapidly submerged with sail set. This sail was behind the conning tower. The S/M was apparently faster than the intended victim and closed to within 4 miles. The S/M's bow-wave was clearly seen whilst she was apparently sailing "in the wind."

The first engagement lasted about 40 minutes and the second 80 minutes. One of our 'planes appeared soon after and position of S/M was signalled to her by Aldio Lamp, and then destroyers came out and position also given to them.

DATE: 19th July 1940.

11XCCB.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MININGShips attacked

? LUCRECIAtanker  
(Dutch)

Torpedoed at 0530/7, 49.50 N, 8.07 W. (IC, 0508/40)  
A/c reports torpedoed tanker in position  
49.54 N, 8.05 W, at 0748/7. Crew in life-  
boats. RESTIGOUCHE ordered to hunt in  
vicinity. (C-in-C W.A. 0813/7) Tug SALVONIA  
sent. (C-in-C W.A. 1134/7)  
My 1134. Correct position is 49° 42'N,  
8° 18'W at 0725/7 (C-in-C W.A. 1241/7) to  
SALVONIA  
Your 1241. Tanker's back broken. No hope  
of salvage. (RESTIGOUCHE 1525/7 to C-in-C  
W.A.)

MANISTEE

(see also 174A)

50° N, 10° 15'W. S/m now shelling ship.  
(Valentia Radio 1224/7)  
S/m disguised as Fishing Smack with sail.  
(MANISTEE 1514/7) MANISTEE later reported that  
s/m had submerged (A.S.W.D. 306)

BISSEN

Swedish 1514 tons torpedoed in (?)  
50° 6'N, 10° 23'W two miles (BROKE 2222/7  
to C-in-C W.A.)

GUIDO

British. Left Plymouth 28/6. Reported  
from U.S.A. to have been sunk by U-boat.  
(I.C. 0504/40)

S/m's reported

0510

By a/c 61.08 N, 1.40 E. (A/c 269 Sqdn.  
0520/7)

1318

Reliable fix 50.00 N, 10° 15'W. BROKE ordered  
to attack (C-in-C W.A. 1342/7) Intercept  
(Land's End Radio 1301/7)

0120

55° 4'N, 10° 58'E. By a/c (H.Q.B.C. 1545/7)

Estimated U/B dispositions

2 in Western Approaches.  
1 W. of Barra, Hebrides, homeward bound  
1 N. of Hebrides homeward bound  
1 N. of Shetlands, homeward bound  
1 in 61° 8'N, 1° 40'E. at 0515/7 course 10°  
(D.D.I.C. 1317/7)

0510

By a/c of 269 Sqdn., 61.08 N, 1.40 E. Dropped  
250 lb. bombs which overshot astern by 50  
yards, and a further bomb as s/m was sub-  
merging which overshot ahead by about 30 yards.  
Remained over area for 65 minutes but s/m  
not again sighted. (Donibristle 0835/7)



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

EAST INDIES

S/m's reported

2030

28.46 N, 48.52 E. 264° Bushire 112'. Italian  
U-Boat reported. A/c searched, no result.  
(I.C. 0505/40)

SITUATION REPORT.8.7.40  
MondaySHARK Overdue.

No further news has been received from SHARK, which is now overdue. A German communique claims that the crew of a S/m. has been picked up by aircraft and patrol boats.

E-Boats.

E-boats were reported today at 0300 off the Isle of Wight and in the Dover area where there were indications that 2 E-boats were working. The South Goodwin L.V. reported that A/S trawler CAYTON WYKE had been sunk.

A/S Training

Enemy air activity has caused A/S training off Portland to be stopped.

Troop Convoys

B.N.1. (escort LEANDER) and U.A. (2 ships with troops and guns escorted by COLOMBO) arrived at Aden. W.S.I. (escort CUMBERLAND) left Freetown for Capetown.

Air.

Patrols in the Dover Straits last night were prevented by bad weather.

To-day R.A.F. attacked barges in Dutch ports and canals, and ships at Aalborg. During the night 7/8 six Wellingtons attacked Wilhelmshaven Dockyards.

There were noticeably fewer air raids on the country to-day. At 0645 bombs were dropped in Portland harbour without causing any damage or casualties. Minor damage was done at Plymouth and the dock area at Ipswich. Bombs were also dropped in the Dover area.

Air Attacks on Shipping.

Convoy FM 16 was attacked near Flamborough Head at 1145 today, but no damage was caused.

Convoy Arena was bombed at 1750 S.S.E. of the Tyne, but no damage was done. S.S. EASTWOOD was hit by a bomb and slightly damaged at 0715 off Hartlepool.

About 14 aircraft attacked BRAZEN and the Channel Coastal Convoy OA off Hythe at 1500 today; one small ~~British~~ ship, S.S. CORUNDUM was hit but reached Dover. At 1514 VIMY and Convoy were attacked off Cromer, but no damage was done.



## SITUATION REPORT.

8.7.40. 177  
Monday

### Mining

A magnetic mine was laid at 0200 today off the entrance to Tyne. Minelaying is suspected last night off Tyne, Flamborough, Thames Estuary and Margate. Tyne, Tees, Amble and Newhaven are still closed.

A large number of floating mines have been reported East of 3° E. off the Dutch coast.

### French Fleet

It is reported in the Press that the Italian Armistice Commission arrived at Toulon today and commenced discussions with the French Naval Command. It is said that a formal agreement was given to suspend the disarmament of the French Fleet in consequence of the British attack at Oran.

Dakar. RICHELIEU was attacked early this morning, the time limit of the ultimatum transmitted yesterday to the French Admiral having expired. At 0210 HERMES's motor boat, having made its way into Dakar harbour exploded four charges simultaneously under RICHELIEU's stern. This operation was followed at 0500 by torpedo attack by 6 aircraft. All forces engaged returned safely. Later in the day RICHELIEU was moved to shallower water where torpedo attack is impossible. Admiral Cnslow considers her to be definitely disabled.

Our forces are now being withdrawn from Dakar.

Casablanca Air reconnaissance today confirmed that the following main units are at Casablanca:- JEAN BART, 1 cruiser, 6 destroyers, 6 s/m's, one large s/m and 2 Destroyers patrolling the harbour.

Brest. Aircraft dropped bombs on CONDORCET which opened fire on our reconnaissance aircraft while at anchor in Brest, at 0600/8, but without obtaining any hits. A warship of 12000 tons and 2 destroyers were also in the harbour.

### Preparation for Invasion

Reports continue to indicate that the Germans are using neutral shipping to economise their own.

Information tends to indicate the reinforcement of troops in Norway and their ability to move at short notice, though possibly only as a subsidiary expedition.

A main expedition could, however, be nearing completion at Stettin, Hamburg and Bremen, air reconnaissance of which becomes of increasing importance. (C.I.C. Report 39).



SITUATION REPORT

8.7.40  
Monday

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Italian Hostilities.

The Mediterranean Fleet at sea today was bombed continuously between Cyrenaica and Crete. The GLOUCESTER was hit on her bridge, and had severe casualties, including the captain killed.



DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

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Dakar

4 depth charges were exploded simultaneously under RICHELIEU's stern at 0245Z + 1 in 7 fathoms. Torpedo attack with 6 aircraft carried out at 0500. Result very difficult to assess due to darkness and intense A/A fire. Torpedoes seen to start straight but due to shallow water it is doubtful whether they reached target. All aircraft returned safely.

Suggest Consul General or late B.N.L.O. Dakar may be able to learn extent of damage. I am searching for motor boat keeping RICHELIEU under aerial observation. (HERMES 0645/8 to Adty.)

I have no further information from Dakar except a broadcast from Dakar W/T station at 0441 of which following is a translation. Begins. I give a formal order to resist with ferocious energy against all English attack. In view of the probability of attack I order all commanding Officers and service men to strive to the utmost to counter the English enemy under these circumstances. Marine A.O.F. Ends. (C. in C., S.A. 0650/8 to Adty.)

My 0645/8. DORSETSHIRE reports hearing five distinct explosions between 0500 and 0515. (HERMES 0815/8 to Adty.)

Aircraft report RICHELIEU appears to be down by stern with large quantity of oil round her. (HERMES 0930/8 to Adty.)

All ships are being attacked by French Bombers (HERMES 0957/8 to Adty.)

Your 0930/8. Good, but further attacks should be carried out and report made. (1st S.L. 1514/8 to HERMES).

RICHELIEU has a slight list to port and I am certain from photographs and numerous observers reports she is down by stern. All torpedoes were fired at her starboard side. Have recovered my motor boat. (HERMES 1427/8 to Adty.)

*amended to port side  
(HERMES 0215/9 - page 203)*

War Diary

8.7.40.  
Monday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

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Alexandria

Adty's 1234/6 and your 1827/7. It is assumed that you have not given a guarantee not to seize the ships. (1st S.L. 0108/8 to C. in C. Med.)

General

French submarines submerged or unescorted on the surface are to be treated as hostile. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1357/8).

HOME COMMANDS

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Defence of U.K.

There is possibility that enemy will use smoke to cover landing operations. Smoke may, under favourable meteorological conditions, be projected from land to a range of about 100 miles.

All H.M. Ships at sea in North Sea and Channel between 053 N. and 048:30 N. East of 6 W. should report any unusual fog or appearance of cloud, on the surface, observed.  
(A.C.N.S.H. 2006/8).

3 Dutch Army Officers landed at Yarmouth from a small boat yesterday report as follows -

German preparations in Holland for invasion of England are obvious and German slogan is "London on 15th July". Every craft that can be made capable of making the crossing is expected to start on 11th July, 1½ million men being transported in various small craft. A very large number of parachute troops in Holland continually practising. Large quantities of troops are to be airborne and special underground starting places complete with runaways have been constructed. Planes have been specially constructed to land in small places i.e. - size of Football ground.

Plan for invasion is launching of parachutist attack intended to withdraw troops from coast thus facilitating task of first landing parties which will come from all Ports from Norway to Belgium. After the first parties have secured a footing the main landing force will arrive in larger ships. Germans estimate total invading force at 3½ to 4 millions. (C. in C., Nore, 2216/8)

Ref. Operation "Purge"

Desirable that Masters of ships in East Coast Convoys should receive instructions regarding action if they find themselves near enemy transports barges or lighters approaching our coast from seaward. It is considered that in such cases full use should be made of the D.E.M.S. armament carried by a large proportion of ships sailing on the East Coast. In addition many have Bren or Lewis Guns. Propose that N.C.S.O.'s be told to inform masters at Convoy Conferences that any large body of merchant vessels approaching our east or south coast from seaward is likely to be enemy transports.

They should then manoeuvre their ships to ram the transports lighters or barges and make full use of all their guns.

After.....

War Diary

8.7.40.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Defence of U.K.

After inflicting all damage possible they should move away from the invasion area and continue their voyage.

It would be the duty of the Escort vessels if in company to identify ships sighted and indicate their enemy character by opening fire on them. (C. in C., Nore 2240/8 to C. in C., Rosyth).

HOME COMMANDS

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Disposition of Fleet.

My 1232/5 and your 1450/5. Both on account of possible German attack on Ireland from French ports and because a ship may be required to intercept JEAN BART if she tries to escape to Brest it is considered essential to have one 8" Cruiser in the Clyde. (V.C.N.S. 1359/8 to C. in C., H.F.)

Your 1852/7. Destroyers could not be fully maintained at Dover if SANDHURST was withdrawn. M.T.B.'s are entirely dependent on her at present for all services as also is any submarine stationed at Dover. (V.A. Dover 1401/8 to Adty.)

Movements

Submarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/9. TRIAD TAKU for Havet TETRARCH vicinity Q S M F 0850 TRIBUNE SEALION vicinity X Z T A 3000 and P C M F 2000 respectively proceeding on surface to Rosyth. PORPOISE STURGEON vicinity X Z M F and Y Z S C 4040 respectively proceeding on surface to Blyth. SUNFISH SALMON vicinity X Z M F 4000 and P C M F 0040 respectively proceeding on surface to P C M F 5525 and P C M F 4030 respectively. F/ SEAWOLF C1 SPEARFISH A 5 SWORDFISH H2. H 28 C P S C 5351 H 49 Dover Strait L 26 exercising West of Hoy. TRUANT T G V D 4040 proceeding on surface to relieve TRIAD. H 44 leaves Harwich P M for H 2. WILK leaves Rosyth P M North-Eastward CLYDE leaves Dundee 2100 to relieve TAKU. (V.A.S. 1949/8)(D.C. 2213/8).

E-Boats

Indication of E-boats activity near North Foreland. (C. in C., Nore 0047/8).

E-boat may be operating S.S.W. of Portland (C. in C., W.A. 0051/8 to GERANIUM).

CAYTON WYKE  
sunk

A trawler presumed to be CAYTON WYKE was reported by South Goodwin L.V. to have sunk in her vicinity after an explosion at 0110/8. Trawler is considered to have been sunk by torpedo from E-boat of whose activity indications had been received. (V.A. Dover, 0330/8).

My 0330. Trawler lost confirmed as CAYTON WYKE. (V.A. Dover 1014/8 to Adty.)

War Diary

8.7.40.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

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E-Boats (Contd.)

Cherbourg Five E-Boats 130 feet in Napoleon III Basin.  
(PDUI 0015/8).

Air

British Air Activity

At 0555/8 in 56:40 N., 7:20 E. one Danish fishing smack bombed and seen settling by stern.  
(Donibristle 0910/8).

At 0602/8 in 56:50 N., 7:20 E. another Danish smack bombed and smoke seen rising amidships.  
(Donibristle 0910/8).

Willemsoord 1 M/V bombed at 0255/8. Result unknown.  
(I.C. 0505/40).

Barges attacked at Goringham, Papendracht, Lakkerkirk, Zwolle, Weesp, Zwolle, and Zuyder Zee between 0850/8 and 1538/8 (H.Q.B.C. 0400/9).

Wilhelmshaven 0020/8 to 0050/8. Dockyards bombed and bursts observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1835/8).

Swedish Destroyers Swedish Adty. report their 4 destroyers and Oiler CASTOR bombed by British Bomber at 0608/8. No damage or casualties. (N.A. Stockholm 1841/8 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

HASTINGS My 0700 (Convoy Arena). Enemy aircraft bombing. No hits (HASTINGS 0710/8).

Fighters being sent to Convoy Arena (Rosyth W/T 0704/8).

Portland At 0638/8 six bombs dropped inside Harbour. No damage or casualty. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0742/8).

FOXGLOVE 4 bombs. No damage. (FOXGLOVE 0920/8)  
24' S.E. of Portland (I.C. 0506/40).

War Diary

8.7.40.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Air (Contd.)

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Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

EASTWOOD British (1551 tons) London to Hartlepool, bombed 1' N. of 20 D. Buoy at 0716/8. One hit, leaking slightly, no casualties. Entering Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1015/8).

Northbound Convoy FN 16 My 1143. Being attacked by Fighters 329<sup>o</sup> Flamborough Head 15'. (STORK 1144/8)  
Enemy aircraft bombing in 54:02 N., 0:9 W. (KASHMIR 1204/8).

SHELDRAKE Bombed in 54:0 N., 1:0 E. No damage. (SHELDRAKE 1300/8).

Channel Coastal Convoy OA Enemy aircraft attacking an even-numbered Convoy, position Folkestone. (BRAZEN 1505/8). Position 52:56 N., 1:9 E. (VIMY 1514/8). 3 formations of 9 each bombed OA convoy. One ship damaged returning to Dover. (BRAZEN 1536/8 to N.O.I.C. Dover).

CORUNDUM 14 aircraft bombing in 040<sup>o</sup> Hythe. No hits. (VIACIOUS 1510/8) CORUNDUM, British 929 tons, hit, but reached Dover. (D.S. 309).

Mining

Zeebrugge Six Magnetic mines laid during night 8/9. (D.S. 309).

At 1435/8 a mine sighted in 62:21 N. 1:08 E. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 0045/9 to Adty.)

Minelaying during night 8/9 suspected at Rosyth, Aberdeen, Middlesborough, Humber Entrance, Deal, and Thames Estuary. The Tees has been re-opened; but Amble, Newhaven, and the Tyne-Blyth Inshore Channel remain closed. (I.C. 0506/40).

HOME COMMANDS

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Enemy Intelligence

186

Canal South Furnes packed with Barges for 10 miles. River Lek 3' E. of Rotterdam 1305/8 about 20 Barges moored. River Mann, S. of Gordingham, about 40 Barges in basins and more in River. At Papendrecht 1300/8 about 30 very large barges. At Lekkerkirk 1325/8, 24 large barges moored. At Weesp, 7' S.E. of Amsterdam, 1515/8 about 30 barges moored. (H.Q.B.C. 0400/9).

Hook

At 0700/8 a stationary vessel, believed destroyer 5' N.E. of Hook and half a mile off shore. (H.Q.B.C. 0400/9)

51:2 N. 2:10 E. at 2220/8, one M/V about 2000 tons, aground. Aircraft report. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0205/9 and 1810/8).

Trondheim

At 1450/8, one cruiser thought of HIPPER class, 2 destroyers, 3 oilers, 4 M.Vs and 2 armed trawlers. (Donibristle 1926/8).

Tonning

At 0105/8 two ships, possibly Warships, with 2 searchlights each. (H.Q.B.C. 1835/8).

Texel

At 2212/8 10' W. of Texel, five M.Vs and what was thought to be one destroyer. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0325/9).

The Naze

6 minesweepers 8' W. of the Naze a.m. 8th. (I.C. 0506/40)

Aalborg

6 M.Vs, 400 to 500 ft. long, moored to S. bank of Osterhaven. 3 M.Vs and 15 barges moored to N. Bank, and 16 aircraft and 1 seaplane at Fabrik Mole. (H.Q.C.C. Recd. 1359/9).

6 minesweepers bearing 310° 2 miles from 58° N. 6:50 E. Course 120°. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 0710/8) (R.A.S. 0914/8).

Brest

CONDORCET at anchor in centre of Bay. 4 destroyers moored off Quay at 0500. Several small M.Vs at anchor outside Harbour. 3 submarines. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0845/8). One 12,000 ton warship beside mole (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1005/8).

1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, 3 tankers, 4 M.Vs at 63:20 N., 10:25 E. (Aircraft 254 Sqdn. 1400/8) All at anchor (Aircraft 254 Sqdn. 1425/8).

7 destroyers bearing 180:10 from 33:18 N. 19:45 E. Course 340° (Flying Boat L.5803. 1500/8).



HOME COMMANDS

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Shipping

Owing to the increased danger of aircraft attacks on Channel Ports (a) only essential shipping should be retained in these ports. (b) Loading and unloading of ships should be carried out with as little delay as possible, (D.O.D(H), 2214/8 to C. in C.'s)

Weather

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	S.W. or W. light to moderate in S. Light and variable in N.	Cloudy with occasional rain.	Moderate to good. Local mist in North.
Horns Reef	S. or S.W. moderate.	Cloudy showers.	Mainly good.
Channel	W. light.	Fair to cloudy except for rain in extreme East.	Mainly good.
Western Approaches	W.N.W. light.	Fair to Cloudy.	Very good.
Norwegian Coast	(No information available).		

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CORFU

To act as escort to S.L. 39 and a relief to proceed to Greenock. (C. in C., S.A. 1009/8)

RICHELIEU

RICHELIEU has been moved to a position alongside inner harbour where further Torpedo bomber attack is impossible, due to lack of water. I consider RICHELIEU to be definitely disabled. In view of this, and because of this, force is becoming increasingly liable to damage from attacks by shore based aircraft with little corresponding chance of inflicting damage on large destroyer moored near Merchant ships. I propose to proceed Freetown to replenish oil and petrol, leaving patrol after last reconnaissance tonight Monday. Request disposition DORSETSHIRE, AUSTRALIA and MILFORD.

As an alternative I could attack RICHELIEU with all aircraft and 250 bombs at dawn tomorrow Tuesday, but this would only effect superficial damage less than that of 8" shells and would cause needless casualties in her and probably in surrounding merchant ships. It would be tantamount to bombing port and would do no more lasting damage to RICHELIEU than has already been done.

(HERMES, 1710/8)

Add to my 1710/8 I intend to detach MILFORD to Freetown after dark tonight, Monday.

(HERMES, 1736/8)

Convoy W.S.1.

Escorted by CUMBERLAND. Time of leaving Freetown and route. (C. in C., S.A. 1841/8)



FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Reports

2 CAVOUR class battleships and 4 destroyers were sighted 185 miles E of Malta at 0515 today course 180° (Note. The course from this position to Benghazi is 160°) (I.C.0505/40) → (PHOENIX, 0515/8, 0645/8)

Air reconnaissance of Augusta yesterday reported 6 large ships, heavy cruisers or larger, 4 or 5 light cruisers and a lot of auxilliary craft still at Augusta. (I.C. 0505/40)

Aircraft reported 6 cruisers and 7 destroyers course 330° speed 20 knots in 33.18 N., 19.45 E., (approx 60 miles north of Benghazi at 1500/8) (I.C. 0506/40)

Operations  
Planned

Your 1720/7 to C. in C., Med. Noted. If, however you can see your way to carry out a bombardment of objectives such as the naval base or Elmas air station at Cagliari it would greatly enhance the moral effect. (1st. S.L. to V.A. (H) 0055/8)

Admty. 0055/8. Owing to minefields, shore defences, shape of harbour and lack of time to prepare a considered plan, I do not consider results likely to be achieved are commensurate with the risks, unless there are very strong political reasons for bombardment. (S.O. (H) to Admty., 0815/8)

RORQUAL }  
PHOENIX }

→ To proceed to positions on line 160° from Taranto, RORQUAL as far north as possible, PHOENIX south of 37° 30' N. (C. in C., Med. 1543/8)

Enemy  
Intelligence

Sofia reports (i) Italo-Spanish military talks in Rome 3rd July discussed plans for Italian attack on Gibraltar from Spanish territory. (ii) German-Italian operations in Mediterranean to commence before 13th July. (iii) Italian agents preparing risings in British territory to coincide with these operations. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1530/8)

MARIT MAERSK  
(Danish)

Hope to make an attempt to cut out S.S. MARIT MAERSK from Eleusis Bay Tuesday night 9th assuming extra tonnage urgently required. Ship will try to proceed to anchor there and if armed guard can be obtained from Oiler or T.B.D. then I would like some of Athens volunteers to land and return. Remaining 5 or 6 southbound proceed to Alexandria hoping to join H.M. Forces. Operation offers chances of success. (N.A., Athens to C. in C., Med., 2104/8)



War Diary

8.7.1940.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

190

Mediterranean- Air.

Raids on Malta

Malta Air Intelligence Report from 1835/7 to 1800/8 L.T. 1835/7 L.T., 5 planes approached Grand Harbour. Fighters up, raiders turned back. At L.T. 3 enemy fighters and 1 bomber approached the island. Engaged by fighter and turned back no bombs dropped no damage no casualties. Aircraft r/c to 265 miles E.S.E. of Malta p.m./8 failed to report any enemy forces. (H.Q., Malta, 1635/8)

Air Attack

Enemy aircraft bombing in position 328°, 34°N 25°E., 33 miles, based on a fix obtained at 1200 (Block 1, Mediterranean Station 1410/8)

East Indies

Merchant Ships

Admty. 2025/7, effort to be made to release TABARISTAN at Diego Suarez. TABARISTAN was diverted from Diego Suarez and arrived Mombasa 7/7. British ZALBEZIA and Norwegian DRAUMENSFJORD are, however, believed to be in Vohecar and Tulear respectively. (C. in C., E.I., 0644Z/8)

CARAIBE

My 1142/7 para 4. Request that Admty. will inform French C. in C., Far East of circumstances because Captain of CARAIBE has asked me to pass a message from him to his Admiral on the subject and I feel it preferable for the French Admiral to be informed first by the British Authorities. Pending Confirmation CARAIBE's message is being held up. (C. in C., E.I., 0725Z/8)

CARRIBE's Crew

Admty. 2025/7 and my 1142/7. If French ship BERNARDIN DE ST PIERRE is released from Cape town request that you will if possible make arrangements with Master to call at Mombasa and repatriate crew of disarmed CARAIBE from there to Diego Suarez. French Authorities Madagascar believed to be still ignorant of disarming of CARAIBE and I consider it desirable to keep the master also ignorant of the facts if it can be managed. (C. in C., E.I., 1431Z/8., to N.O.I.C., Simonstown, etc.)

NIVOSE

My 1509/5. If NIVOSE not sighted by dark 10/7 CARTHAGE is to proceed to Durban, to arrive a.m. 15/7. (C. in C., E.I. 0747Z/8)



War Diary

8.7.1940.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

191

China

A.M.C.'s.

The existing Japanese war plan does not now apply and with my reduced force the three A.M.C.'s may prove more an embarrassment than an asset at Singapore. In the event of war with Japan it is for consideration whether they should proceed either to Canada, East Indies Station or Australia. (C. in C., China 0345Z/8 to Adty.)

Indo China

Your 0500/5. re trade with Indo-China. Approved to attempt resumption of normal commercial and shipping relations. (A.C.N.S. (T) to C. in C., China, 1958/8)

America & West Indies.

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA

After discharging troops (at Iceland) to be sailed for Halifax at best speed without escort. (D.O.D. (F) to N.O.I.C., Iceland, 2017/8)

New Zealand

Papeete

Your 0054/7, statement by Consular Office, Papeete, that no British merchant vessels and men of war will be attacked in zone of their command. You should do everything to promote the continuance of normal commercial and shipping relations. (A.C.N.S. (T) to Navy Office, Wellington 1953/8)



War Diary

8.7.1940.  
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

192

LOTTE HALM

1198 G.T., was at 1118/8 requesting urgently immediate assistance at Hoborg South, 55 miles N. of Gothenburg. (I.C., 0505/40)

KRONOS

1412 G.T., arrived Gothenburg 7/7 with cargo of construction steel. (I.C., 0505/40)

CARL JUENGST

2879 G.T., reported she expected to arrive Lubeck at 1100/8. (I.C. 0505/40)

CORDELIA

1357 G.T. expected to arrive Braila at 0800/7 from Novorossisk. (I.C., 0505/40)

CERIGO

1120 G.T., at Guayaquil, Ecuador, is reported to be recruiting a crew. (I.C., 0505/40)

ERLANGEN

6100 G.T., at Puerto North, Chile, is reported to be completing with coal and soliciting passengers to Germany for August. (I.C., 0505/40)

PORTLAND  
OSORNO

7132 GT at Coquimbo, Chile ) are reported to  
6951 GT at Talcahuano " ) be exchanging  
(I.C., 0505/40) crews.

MONTAN

PHAEDRA

DANZIG

HEIDELBERG

}  
} Have left Gothenberg. (Consul, Gothenburg,  
1532/8)

BESSEL

At Vigo. 2 submarines reported to have gone alongside 0005-0400 today. (Consul, Vigo 1850/8) (See page 195)

War Diary

8.7. 1940.  
Monday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

193

DEA MAZZELLA  
SNIA AMBA

} Reported from Alicante sailed during night  
7-8/7, destination unknown. (F.O.C.N.A.,  
1334/8)

FAUSTO

5263 G.T., at Monte Video. Instructed by  
owners in Genoa to remove marks of nationality  
from sides and deck, etc., and to wire every  
10 days state of preservation of cargo.  
(I.C., 0506/40)

2 Ships

2 cargo ships empty entered Corinth Canal  
about 2000/7 west bound. (I.C. 0506/40)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

NOTOU

2488 tons. Arrived Newcastle, N.S.W., 5/7  
(D.S. 308)

193<sup>A</sup>.

SINKING OF B.S. HUNBER ARM.

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 5750; armed with 4" gun.

DATE AND TIME: 0615/8/7.

POSITION: 50°36'N. 9°24'W. 5 miles from Fastnets.

SPEED: 8½ knots

ROUTE: Newfoundland, Halifax to Mersey.

CARGO: Steel, lumber, pulp.

IN CONVOY: Yes, 42 in convoy. Leading ship of 2nd column and doing No. 10 zig-zag.

ESCORT: 4 Destroyers and 2 sloops.

FATE OF CREW: 42 and one passenger - none killed or missing.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Fine, heavy swell.

REMARKS:- Torpedoed without warning amidships on port side. All got away in four boats promptly. After explosion ship listed at 20 degrees to port and gradually commenced to sink, finally going down stern first on an even keel. She remained 20 minutes with 50% of bow in vertical position.

2 Destroyers hunted with asdic gear and claim to have sunk the B/M. They then picked up the boats' crews.

DATE: 15th July 1940.

11X06



War Diary

8.7.1940.  
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

194

Ships Attacked

HIBERNIA

SSSS. 53.15 N., 5.25 W., submarine sighted. (Portishead Radio 0449/8) 53.15 N., 5.38 W., submarine steering east, in action. (Portishead Radio, 0454/8)

HUMBER ARM

British, 5758 tons, Torpedoed and sunk in 50.36 N., 09.24 W., about 0700 (LEITH, 0715/8) In convoy HX 53 (D.S. 306) 43 survivors picked up by SCIMITAR. No casualties. (LEITH, 0922/8) (BROKE, 1041/8)

ANNA T

Greek 2728 tons Attacked at 0817 G.M.T., 43.44 N., 13.13 W., (Inads End Radio 0817/8, C. in C., W.A. 0926/8, ANNA T, 0928/8) Not in convoy.

Tanker.  
(Wreck of)  
? LUCRECIA

My 1239 (escort remaining with HX 55) 2 destroyers are to stand by SALVONIA and EWARTE, towing 2 halves of tanker from position 49.46 N., 8.24 W. to Falmouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1546/8) Cancel my 1546. Tugs returned without finding Tanker. (C. in C., W.A. 2210/8)

BISSEN

Swedish, 1514 tons, reported torpedoed. No details. Has sunk. (D.S., 309) (D.O.R., 310)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

195

Submarines Reported

- 0233 D.F., 50° 12' N., 10° W., unreliable fix.  
(C. in C., W.A., 0401/8)
- 0449 53.15 N., 5.25 W., by merchant ship (Portis-  
head Radio, 0449/8)
- 0914 Intercept. 0814 G.M.T., following received  
from unknown vessel at 0800. S.S.S.S. 136100  
Submarine sighted de G.K.U. (Lands End Radio  
0815/8) (Scapa W/T, no T.O.O/8)
- 0817 Intercept S.S.S.S. Submarine sighted. 43.44 N  
13.13 W. (Lands End Radio, 0817/8) (C. in C.,  
W.A., 0926/8)
- 1356 3 enemy submarines here in vicinity of 362 or  
203 O.E. (F/B., L 58030, 1356/8) Further CH/  
W 14/8/7 The 3 submarines were stationary  
and half submerged. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1443/  
8)
- 1456 Submarine suspected in vicinity of 57 Buoy by  
trawler CURTANA. ARROW and WHITSHEED to  
investigate. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1456/8) Your  
1456. SHELDRAKE and trawler in the vicinity  
of 57 Buoy and Sheringham Float know nothing  
of CURTANA or reported U-boat. (ARROW, 1751/8)  
53° N., 1° 45½' E., 072° Cromer 16'.

Estimate U/B dispositions

1 or possibly 2 in Western Approaches  
Probably one in Finisterre Area.  
1 N. of North Rona homeward bound  
1 N. of Shetlands homeward bound.  
1 in northern North Sea homeward bound.  
(D.D.I.C., 1208/8)

North Atlantic

- 0400 2 submarines reported to have arrived 0000  
and left 0400 today, Monday. Went alongside  
BESSEL, later **NORD ATLANTIC**. (B.2.)  
(Consul, Vigo 1850/8) Not considered reliable  
(I.C., 0506/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

- 0715 → By H.M.S. LEITH U/B which torpedoed HUMBER ARM. 50.36 N., 09.24 W. (LEITH, 0715/8) 3 depth charge attacks carried out. No positive results. Contact lost VANQUISHER, SCIMITAR and HURRICANE hunting. (LEITH, 0922/8)
- 1026 → By WINCHELSEA 50.39 N., 8.27 W., 289° Lands End 42' Oil trail bombed. (Note 2 large oilers were recently near these positions) (I.C. 0506/40)
- 1112 → By WINCHELSEA. Attacked good contact with 2 patterns in position 50.30 N., 8.26 W. No definite result. (WINCHELSEA, 1112/8) Further attack, oil and air bubbles, position 50.38 N., 09.05 W., (WINCHELSEA 1258/8, 1544/8) (C. in C., W.A., 1718/8) Probably a wreck, (A.S.W.D. 307)
- 1155 → By DEPTFORD. 48.34 N., 11.29 W. (DEPTFORD, 1156/8) DEPTFORD was escorting Convoy OA 179 in Western Approaches. No positive results obtained (D.O.R., 309) (DEPTFORD, 1410/8, 1852/8) Unexplained under-water explosion 9 minutes after pattern fired. (I.C., 0506/40) (A.S.W.D. 307)

Summary of attacks on U/Boats 8th July.

- 1. After HUMBER ARM torpedoed, LEITH carried out three attacks on contact and then lost contact. Four Destroyers left to search, WINCHELSEA obtained contact four hours later about 12 miles from original position and after four attacks produced oil track and air bubbles. Track finally stopped and diesel oil patch two miles square formed. After electrically fired depth charge had been exploded in contact with Hull contact was lost due to weather and WINCHELSEA was ordered to rejoin convoy. Bubbles and Oil had been escaping for about twelve hours.
- 2. While on Convoy Escort DEPTFORD counter attacked a contact. WALKER joined hunt in course of which two torpedoes passed under DEPTFORD. In two hours seven patterns were fired and contact was still firm. Charted Depth over 1000 fathoms. Attacks were continued for seven hours. Nine minutes after last attack there was an unexplained under-water explosion and contact was lost. Two hours search produced no result and Ships proceeded to meet unescorted incoming Convoy.

/About noon.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked, Contd.

About noon 9th July reliable D/F fix was reported 35 miles to N.W. of position of original contact. This might be either (A) U/Boat of previous day reporting damage or (B) A consort trying to establish communication with a sunken U/Boat. 9th D/F ordered to attack U/Boat making signal. (C.in C., W.A., 0039/11)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported.

3 submarines reported by aircraft at 1356/8 in 36.20 N., 20.30 E., about 120 miles West from Cape Matapan, Greece. (D.S., 30')

According to an estimate of their positions at the beginning of this week Italian submarines in the Mediterranean were distributed as follows:- At Spezzia 15, Naples 8, Taranto 21- total at mainland ports 44; At Maddalena (North Sardinia) 11, Trapani (West Sicily) 3, Augusta (East Sicily) 8 - total at island home ports 22; at Leros (Dodecanese) 16, Libyan ports 4 total of colonial ports in Mediterranean 20 - in all 86.



SITUATION REPORT .

198

French Fleet.

Reduction of the crews of the French warships at Alexandria to a third or a quarter of full strength began today.

Seven French submarines are stated to have left Casablanca during the night 5/6, two for Cape Spartel, three for Oran, and two for Cape Verde. Air reconnaissance p.m./8 confirmed the presence of only 6 submarines at Casablanca where there were previously several more.

Shipping.

Orders have been given that ocean-going ships are not to use the English Channel. Homewardbound independent shipping is to arrive through the Northern Approaches.

Iceland.

14 ships left Clyde for Iceland a.m./9.

Air.

Enemy Air Activity.

Air raids on the U.K. were rather more extensive last night than on the previous night and covered an area from Lossiemouth to South Wales. Attempts were made to bomb a number of R.A.F. aerodromes, but the damage done was insignificant and there were very few casualties.

A/S sloop FOXGLOVE was bombed and severely damaged 8 miles south of the Nab Tower about 1130 today. She was towed to Portsmouth.

S.S. AEGEON (Greek 5285 tons) was damaged at 0644 during an attack on Weymouth.

Convoys Attacked.

The following convoys were attacked to-day :-

1045 northbound off Harwich  
1700 " " Yorkshire Coast  
1330 southbound off Harwich.

No damage was caused to the above.

S.S. POLN GRANGE (804 tons) in ballast, bound in convoy from Southend to Blyth was machine-gunned off Longsand Head at 1030 and had one casualty.

S.S. TALVALDIS (Latvian, 534 tons) was bombed and sunk off Start Point at 1900, in a small coastal convoy. The small Dutch M.V. JOLA was also attacked and has arrived at Dartmouth.

SITUATION REPORT

199

Air (Cont.).Convoys Attacked.  
(Cont.)

S.S. SAN FELIPE (5918 tons), inward bound, was damaged by bombing and is at Cardiff. No further details are known.

KENNETH HAWKSFIELD (1546 tons) was hit in the Dover area and beached off Sandwich.

British Air Activity.

At 0100/9 a Wellington attacked four stationary warships, possibly destroyers, near Wilhelmshaven and started two fires in one vessel.

Last night 28 Wellingtons attacked Naval targets at Hamburg and Wilhelmshaven. Clouds and searchlight glare rendered observation of results difficult, but at Kiel, which was attacked between 0005 and 0115 by 6 out of 12 Whitleys bursts were seen to straddle building slips and direct hits were obtained on crane jetty at North end; large fires were started in the docks.

Mining.

Six magnetic mines were laid at Zeebrugge last night. Suspected minelaying by aircraft in Forth, Tyne, Middlesborough, Humber and North Foreland areas occurred last night. Amble, Newhaven and the inshore channel between Tyne and Blyth are still closed.

Three magnetic mines were exploded in the Downs.

Italian Situation *Hostilities*

At 0515/8 PHOENIX reported a force of two Italian Battleships of the CAVOUR class and four Destroyers steering southwards in a position about 200 miles East of Malta and 240 miles N. by W. of Benghazi. A Flyingboat sighted the same force 15 minutes later. At 1500/8 aircraft sighted another Italian force of six Cruisers and seven Destroyers steering northwards at 20 knots in a position about 60 miles north of Benghazi. The two forces apparently joined and steered northwards, and at 1600/8 altered course to 70°.

At this time Commander in Chief, Mediterranean in WARSPITE with ROYAL SOVEREIGN, MALAYA, *Scruisers*, EAGLE and ten Destroyers were at sea in the Eastern Basin far to the eastward of these forces. During the night the C.in C. steered a course to get in between the enemy and his base.

During the night the enemy appears to have steered 320°; at 0730/9 the forces turned to



200

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

9.7.40.

Tuesday

Italian ~~Situation~~

0150 and it appears to have been joined during the day by several more Cruisers and Destroyers from Augusta. Reports of the number and position of the enemy during the forenoon and early afternoon of the 9th were very mixed. An attack by aircraft torpedo striking force was launched at 1145, but owing to daylight air reconnaissance losing touch the attack was abortive.

Italian Hostilities

About 1500/9 the NEPTUNE sighted the enemy. The latter turned to 120° and the C.in C. Mediterranean engaged them at 1542. All our ships were outranged except WARSPITE which secured a hit at very long range on one of the enemy battleships. There were no casualties or damage to our ships.

After a short and confused action with a number of 8-inch and 6-inch cruisers and destroyers supported by 2 battleships the enemy turned away behind smoke made by destroyers and appeared to be making for Messina. Our forces pursued at best speed but were too slow to come up with the enemy. C.C.H. was heavily bombed in sight of land.

C. in C. Mediterranean considered the Italians were trying to draw him over a concentration of submarines, and to attack him with destroyers and with bombing aircraft close to land.

At 1631 EAGLE was ordered to send her torpedo bombers to attack, and it is reported that one enemy cruiser was hit. A damaged enemy cruiser was reported being towed to Messina at 1900 and RORQUAL proceeded at full speed to intercept.

At 1128/9 a report was received from B.N.A. Athens that an Italian A/c. made a forced landing on the S.W. coast of Crete at 1300/8, after a naval and air engagement. Nothing is yet known of this action.

Force H, carrying out a diversion in the Western Mediterranean was bombed at intervals today in the Western Mediterranean but no ships were hit.

War Diary.



9.7.40.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Italian Hostilities (Cont.)

201

Air reconnaissance today reported Augusta harbour empty and one cruiser in Syracuse. The flying boat which made this reconnaissance reported that it had probably sunk a submarine about 100 miles S.E. of Sicily.

A fast convoy escorted by DIAMOND, JERVIS and VENDETTA left Malta for Alexandria 2100/9.



HOME COMMANDS

202

Defence of U.K.

?SANDEFIORD

1. Following from reputable Norwegian just arrived from Oslo graded C two, (a) Convoys arrive at Oslo daily escorted motor boats and aircraft. Inference from other sources is that these convoys come from North Jutland Port. Some of them now large vessels (b) Large vessel SENN FIORD lying Oslo. VENUS, VEGIAN and other large passenger vessels requisitioned for invasion scheme now lying Bergen. (c) Norwegian Coastal trade is re-established Oslo as far as Bergen (d) Appreciable Dutch Norwegian trade about to start probably via Kiel Canal (e) German Norwegian trade increasing number of Norwegian ships now employed.

2. From another source D 4 (a) 25 to 30 German armed trawlers now lie at Oslo Fiord (b) Austrian troops have been reported Northward bound to Narvik area. (N.A. Stockholm. 1726/9 to D.N.I.)

Unusual Smoke.  
fog or cloud.

Any unusual appearance of smoke, fog or cloud on the surface of the water is to be reported forthwith. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0130/9)

Restrictions  
on Fishing  
Vessels

Until further orders no fishing vessels or other small craft are to be at sea within 15 miles of the coast between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. Vessels disregarding this order may be fired on. N.O.I.C.'s pass to coastguards. (C. in C., W.A. 1311/9)

Liverpool  
Area

Your 2052/3 (Action against Tank-carrying Rafts) it is not considered that such action is feasible in the Liverpool Sub-Command. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1737/9 to Adty.)

Ships encountered  
E. of Mine  
Barrier

When surface craft are operating to Eastward of barrier minefield, it would be of great advantage if they could be instructed that any warships or merchant ships met, but not S/MS may be regarded as enemy and sunk without challenging first. Request permission to issue this order in the Nore Command. (C. in C., Nore, 2124/9 to Adty.)

Southwold Harbour  
Blocked

It is understood that Southwold harbour has been blocked. Request you will report circumstances under which this was carried out and whether naval authorities agreed with the necessity for it. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2235/9 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

203

Dakar

RICHELIEU

(A) Your 1710/8 is not clear as to where RICHELIEU is berthed.

(B) Do you consider oil round RICHELIEU was due to damage or was she pumping out oil to lighten draught?

(C) Report all the evidence you have as to damage to RICHELIEU.

(1st S.L. 0135/9 to R.A. HERMES)

Report name of officer in charge of HERMES motor boat in attack on RICHELIEU and roughly how attack was carried out. Do you consider that RICHELIEU knew that depth charges were dropped from motor boat? (1st. S.L. 0151/9 to R.A. HERMES)

Your 0135/9. (a) Alongside Southern end of North jetty starboard side on with stern canted some distance away from jetty.

(b) Probably both.

4 depth charges exploded in shallow water close under port quarter. Explosion of 5 torpedoes heard by cruiser 10 miles away. Heavy pall of smoke seen by motor and by experienced pilot of aircraft. Ocular evidence of aircraft observers and photographic evidence that ship had slight list to port and was down by stern. Position of stern referred to in (a) above. (HERMES 0245/9 to Adty.)

Your 0151/9. Lieutenant Commander R.H. Bristowe. Motor Boat left ship at 2145/7 and entered harbour from southward over and round boom finally getting alongside RICHELIEU's port quarter dark hours 0210/8 Boat challenged by RICHELIEU during approach. Dropping operation alongside took only 10 seconds and was witnessed by excited parties on quarter deck. Several minutes elapsed before explosions occurred. Motor boat was broken down inside harbour for an hour and was chased while escaping only avoiding capture by crossing net which pursuer fouled. Throughout operation only one engine was running. Motor boat was picked up 1204/8.

Motor boat was in sight of RICHELIEU during torpedo bomber attack and heard and felt explosions of 5 torpedoes and saw smoke arising from her waterline. Amend my 1427/8 all torpedoes were fired at RICHELIEU'S port side. (R.A. HERMES 0215Z/9 to Adty.)

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

East Indies

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Your 1142Z/7 No risk of scuttling must be incurred as this ship may be of value to us in the future. (A.C.N.S.F. 0012/9 to C. in C., East Indies.)

C. in C., E.I. 0725Z/8 Pass to French C. in C., Far East. Begins. In order that ~~the~~ A.M.C. CARAIBE should not fall into enemy hands, as was promised by Admiral Darlan, H.M. Govt. issued instructions that she should be directed to proceed to a British port.

These instructions were carried out by a British warship and CARAIBE has entered an African port without incident. She has been demilitarized and her Officers and ship's company will be repatriated as soon as possible. Ends. (A.C.N.A.F. 0013/9 to C. in C., China)

Casablanca

Report, (A) State and condition of JEAN BART and crew.

(B) Whether it is considered that if JEAN BART returned to France she could be placed in commission within six months.

(C) French intentions, if known, as regards any future movements of this ship.

Understood B.N.L.O. from Casablanca is now at Gibraltar and might be able to give this information. (1st S.L. 0136/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HOME COMMANDS

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Policy

Redistribution  
of Destroyers

In order tha Force H may operate on Italian Coast it is important that they should have a total of 12 destroyers of long endurance. It is under consideration to effect this as follows:

- A. Five V. and W's of 13th D.F. to proceed to Dover.
- B. Three G's and two B's to join Home Fleet.
- C. FURY, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE, ECHO and DIANA to proceed to Gibraltar.
- D. Request your remarks. (1st S.L. 1955/9 to C. in C., H.F.)

Re Adty. 1955/9. This will leave Home Fleet with only four destroyers fitted with TSBS at present. I do not consider this sufficient if the Fleet has to proceed south.

This will make nine different classes of destroyers in the Home Fleet. This continual shifting round of ships in the Fleet makes it very difficult for Officers to keep up to date with orders particular to the Fleet in which they find themselves. Some if not most officers of 3G and 2B's will know little of anything of Fleet work and their Captains (D) will know little or nothing of them. There is the matter of team work to be considered too. Long endurance is also required in the Home Fleet and as you know lack of endurance in destroyers has been one of my bugbears ever since war started. DIANA needs a refit. (C. in C. H.F. 2303/9 to LstS. S.L.)

Movements

DIANA to search for Blenheim aircraft in distress. 59° 14'N 1° 4'E at 1120. Wick Radio 1227/9, C. in C., Rosyth, 1234/9)

Submarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/10.  
TAKU D.N.L.Z. 0010 proceeding on surface to Rosyth. TRIAD G.B.M.F. 3050 TRUANT Q.S.T.A. 1000 proceeding on surface to S.S.M.F. 4530 TETRARCH Q.S.M.F. 0740. SUNFISH P.C.M.F. 4030 SEAWOLF C2. TRIBUNE SEALION T.G.V.D. 5020 and J.Z.V.D. 0830 respectively, both proceeding on surface to Rosyth. CLYDE JZGR 1020 proceeding on surface to relieve TRIAD. PORPOISE T.G.W.T. 1020 proceeding on surface to Blyth STURGEON N.L.W.T. 3004 proceeding submerged to Blyth. SPEARFISH A5 SWORDFISH H2 leaving p.m. for Blyth H 44 L.S.T.A. 3825 H 28 C.P.S.C. 5351 H to Dover Strait L 26 exercising West of Hoy. WILK leaves Rosyth p.m. North Eastward. SEVERN escorted by WHITE BEAR leaves Rosyth 0800 for North Channel (V.A.S. 1848/9) (D.C. 2126/9)

HOME COMMANDS

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E-Boats

- 1046/9 50° 47' 0° 47'E One E-Boat with Blue Hull. course W 25 knots, aircraft report (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1450/9)
- 1300/9 Five E-Boats proceeding Westward along French Coast towards Cherbourg (C. in C., Portsmouth 2116/9 to SALADIN)
- 1800/9 Four E-Boats minesweeping in Entrance of Boulogne (D.S. 310)
- 1353/9 Six E-Boats 15' S.W. of Boulogne. Course 240° (I.C. 0507/40)

Air- British Air Activity

Wilhelmshaven  
Destroyer set on  
Fire.  
~~████~~ TIRPITZ  
attacked

At 0100/9 aircraft attacked four Warships, possibly Destroyers, 1½ miles E. of Wilhelmshaven. Two fires started in one Vessel. (T.H.I. 2005) 15 Hampdens attacked ~~████~~ TIRPITZ between 2350/9 and 0205/10. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1735/10 to Air Ministry)

Kiel Docks

Attacked between 0005 and 0115/9. Building slips straddled and large fires started. (T.H.I. (B.C) 2005)

Missing  
Aircraft

4 or 5 Ansons leave Dyce 1715 to search to depth 150' on course 036 for missing Blenheim (C. in C., Rosyth 1702/9 to DIANA) Return to Scapa (C. in C., Rosyth 2204/9 to DIANA)

Enemy Air Activity

Portland.  
AEGEON hit

At 0158/9. seven bombs heard to drop across Chesil Beach, six in sea, no damage. At 0644 four bombs in Weymouth Bay. Greek AEGEON 5285 tons, hit, slight damage, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1052/9 to Adty.)

Convoy "Arena"  
First Attack

Help "Arena" 240° 52° 2° 10 miles (HASTINGS 1332/9) Aircraft bombing (HASTINGS 1334/9) Fighters sent (C. in C., Nore 1339/9 to HASTINGS) 3 bombs, no hits (HASTINGS 1341/9) Six bombs on convoy. No hits. (BLACK SWAN 1353/9)

EMPIRE  
DAFFODIL

/Cardiff.....  
(398 tons) arrived at Portland today. Reported she had been bombed and holed. (D.S. 311)

HOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity, Contd.

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- Cardiff  
SAN FELIPE  
Damaged Air Raid 1505/9 Four Bombs in Docks, one hit SAN FELIPE, British ~~3300~~<sup>3300</sup> tons, causing substantial damage and killing 6 dockers. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1700/9 to C. in C., W.A.)
- Llanelly Air Raid 1505/9 Seven Bombs. Slight Damage six slight casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1700/9 to C. in C., W.A.)
- Convoy Agent Being attacked. 51° 38'N 2° 28'E (F.N Convoy 1026/9)
- Convoy Arena  
Second Attack Help. 40 Enemy aircraft. My position 217° 52° N 2° E 32' (HASTINGS 1550/9) Large number aircraft course 150° bearing 2' course 330° position 51° 31' N 1° 21'E (BLACK SWAN 1552/9) Help Arena 51° 31' N 1° 21'E (P.N. Convoy 1553/9) Fighters sent (C. in C., Nore 1609/9 to BLACK SWAN) Many Bombs. No hits. (BLACK SWAN 1735/7 to C. in C., Nore.)
- Trawler Drifters report aircraft attacking trawler 1½' off Kinnairds. Now going to assist. (LORD BEACONSFIELD 1630/9) No damage. (LORD BEACONSFIELD Recd. 1640/9)
- Convoy Pilot Help Pilot. My position 54° 34'N 1° 19'W bearing 303° 8 miles. (WOLSEY 1645/9) Fighters sent. (C. in C., Rosyth 1656/9)
- SAN FELIPE British, ~~3300~~<sup>3300</sup> tons. Bombed in docks at Cardiff 1505/9. Substantial damage. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1700/9 to C. in C., W.A.)
- Solent 8 aircraft flying Solent Appearance of Spitfires but German markings. (BURKE 1815/9 to Adty.)
- JOLA Dutch Motor Vessel, bombed off Start Point 1900/9, has arrived Dartmouth. 2 casualties, believed slight, ship slightly damaged above water. (N.O.L.C. Dartmouth 2330/9 to Adty.)
- KENNETH  
HAWKSFIELD  
Beached British, 1546 tons, Attacked by aircraft at 1545/9 Beached off Sandwich. No Casualties. (V.A. Dover, 1903/9 to Adty.)
- FOXGLOVE  
Damaged Bombed at 1130/9 8 miles S. of Nab. Severe damage and heavy casualties. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1933/9 to Adty.) Later reported not economically worth repairing.
- POLGRANGE British, 804 tons, Machine-gunned in Convoy at 1030/9 off Longsand Head Buoy. Landed one casualty at Yarmouth 1930/9. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2231/9 to Adty.)
- TALVADIS  
Sunk Latvian, 534 tons, bombed and sunk off Start Point at 1000/9 1 killed, 2 injured (D.C.N.S.310)
- JOLA  
(?JURA) Dutch Motor Vessel 197 tons bombed at 1900/9 off Start Point 3 casualties (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2330/9 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

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Mining

2 Magnetic Mines exploded by LL Trawlers 270° Goodwin Fork Buoy one Cable; and one at 024° North Goodwin Buoy six cables. (V.A. Dover 1851/9 to Adty.)

Newhaven, Amble, and the Tyne-Blyth Inshore Channel remain closed. (I.C. 0507/40)

Enemy Intelligence

Wilhelmshaven  
TIRPITZ  
SCHEER

Battleship TIRPITZ and Pocket-Battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER in the Bauhaven. Photographic R/C (I.C. 0507/40)

Bremen  
SEYDLITZ

An 8" Cruiser, presumably SEYDLITZ completing. (I.C. 0507/40)

At 0603/9 in 57° N 5° 4'E one Fishing Smack lying at a Buoy. A/C report (Donibristle 0915/9)

Two M/V's at anchor 3½' South of Grisnez A/C report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1222/9)

At 1047/9 in 50° 47' N 0° 52'E. 2 M/V's hove to. Aircraft report (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1450/9)

At 1048/9 in 50° 57' N., 1° 1'E 6 minesweepers course 270, 5 knots A/C reports (A.C.H.Q., Chatham 1450/9)

At 1248/9 in 50° 4' N 1° 4'E 6 minesweepers course 270, 5 knots A/C report (A.C.H.Q., 1450/9)

Wreck of large M/V close to Jaederen's Point with lighters salving cargo. (SEALION 1630/9 to V.A.S.)

Bergen 6/7

12 M/V's, 250 to 400 ft, one large 500 ft. Tanker, one Wolf T.B. and two ex T.B. Tenders on 6th July. (P.D.U.I. 1850/9)

Boulogne

5 Flat-bottomed Boats, 2 Floating cranes, 2 seaplanes, and one or two Barges. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2035/9)

Norwegian Trade

See Defence of U.K.

9.7.1940.  
Tuesday

HOME COMRAIDS - Shipping

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Adty. 1744/8 and 0017/9. It is considered that Coasters in convoy are more likely to attract air attack and to form a better target than if they are proceeding independently. An Attack in the Channel will probably be completed before fighters can answer a call from the escort.

Suggested that Coasters should be sailed in pairs for life saving purpose and that destroyer escorts should be released for other duties. (V.A. Dover 1221/9 to C. in c., Nore.)

Your 1221/9. It is appreciated that a convoy may attract air attack more than ships proceeding independently but there are three good reasons for sailing ships in convoy with an escort viz:

(1) To keep the traffic together at night and ensure that it may readily be indentified by patrols.

(2) The R.A.F. maintain that they cannot provide any protection unless shipping is in Convoy.

(3) It is doubtful if ships will sail unless an escort is provided.

On balance therefore it is considered that the advantage of sailing in Convoy outweigh the disadvantages. (C. in C., Nore, 2138/9 to V.A. Dover.)

Suggested amendment of orders to Escort Vessels to effect that Ships in Convoy should remain with the Convoy unless otherwise ordered in event of enemy attack. (C. in C., Rosyth. 1114/9 to C. in C., Nore.)

Admiralty 1335/5 and 0042/6. Adoption of inshore route results in serious embarrassment to inshore patrols and renders convoys liable to attack by the latter; furthermore it will be necessary to apply scheme for the extinction of coastal lights on most nights on account of the assistance which lights provide to aircraft making a landfall.

For these reasons request that channel convoys may be routed to keep well clear of the coast particularly during dark hours. (C. in C., W.A.. 1326/9 to Adty.)

/Arrangement.....



HOME COMMANDS

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Shipping, Contd.

Arrangement whereby O A Convoys are routed by N.C.S.O. Thames is unsatisfactory and causes endless signals and telephone calls between Southend, Methil, Chatham and Rosyth thereby further overloading these lines of communication. Now that Channel traffic has ceased the number of ships -starting from Thames will be small, as Convoy increases the further North it reaches. Ships in Thames will not remain longer than necessary for loading, sailing in F.N. Convoys irrespective of O.A. It is im-possible to guarantee time of arrival off -May Island of F.N. and that position is not healthy for ships to be kept waiting in. With the restrictions and formations imposed upon the Convoy passing through North and West Areas it is essential that a conference be held so that escort, Commodore -and Masters may be fully conversant with what is expected of them and that last minute information can be passed to them. Most practicable solution is that O.A. Convoys should be run by C. in C., W.A. and routed by N.C.S.O. Methil. (C. in C., Rosyth 1831/9 to Adty.)

My 1732/28/6. Cancel para D. and substitute Homeward-bound independent shipping is to be sailed from now onwards to arrive through Northern Approaches. Ships bound for East Coast ports as far south as the Thames are to be routed northabout through the Minches to Methil.

The English Channel is not to be used by ocean-going shipping, but for the present fast independent ships from the South may enter the Irish Sea by Western Approaches. (D.T.D. 1626/9 to C. in C's)

LAHTI

Finnish, from Gothenburg, was due off Rattray Head at 0400/9 (D.S. 310) Aircraft report no sign within 60' radius of Rattray Head. Air search continues. (C. in C., Rosyth 0644/9 to DIANA)

/French Shipping.....

War Diary

9.7.1940.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping, Contd.

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French  
Shipping

Contraband control is being applied to all ports in French territories in Europe (including Corsica)

Cargoes for these ports are being dealt with as follows:-

(a) When a British, neutral or French ship comes voluntarily to a U.K. port the cargo is being requisitioned in order to free port from congestion. British and neutral owners of such cargoes may claim compensation in respect of goods of which they can prove ownership.

(b) At C.C. Bases or when a ship is sent to a United Kingdom port under armed guard the cargo is being put into Prize. British and Neutral owners of such cargoes may apply to the Procurator General for release of goods of which they can prove ownership.

The question of consignments from Japan which are still in Japanese ownership is receiving special consideration. Under Secretary Dominion Affairs, 0930/9 to Govt. of Canada, Australia, etc.,)

WEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	Wind S.W. or variable light or moderate	Good or Moderate	Wind backing S. and freshening. Visibility deteriorating.
Channel	S.W. Light or Moderate	Good in E. Moderate. with local fog patches in W.	Strong S.W. wind. Visibility deteriorating in E.
Western Approaches	S.W. strong to gale.	Moderate.	Similar. Wind veering later & visibility improving.
Horns Reef Dutch Coast S.W. Norwegian Coast	} Variable or S.W. light.	Moderate	Similar

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

AUSTRALIA

Instructed to call at Gibraltar. (R.A. HERMES, 0632/9). To R.V. with Convoy B.C. (C. in C., S.A., 1113/9).

JEAN BART

Reply to Adty. 0136/9<sup>p204</sup> re state of construction and readiness, based on reports of B.N.L.O's, Brest and Casablanca. (F.O.C.N.A. 1132/9).

South Atlantic

HERMES  
Force

Your 1710/8. Approved to withdraw your force. Movements as follows, HERMES and DORSETSHIRE as ordered by C. in C., S.A. AUSTRALIA to join convoy B.C. if fuel permits, otherwise to proceed to Clyde following in wake of convoy B.C. (1st S.L., to R.A., HERMES, 0134/9).

Message to Adm. Comdg. French West Africa, Dakar, from R.A. expressing hope that operation which had to be carried out with great regret yesterday morning did not cause any casualties among his officers and men. (signed). Onslow, Rear-Admiral, 0200. (HERMES, 0700/9).

ASKA

Adty. 0134/9. ASKA is proceeding independently to R.V. with convoy. Position and route. (C. in C., S.A. 0800/9 to AUSTRALIA).

French  
Attitude

Appears to have stiffened since Oran operation. Naval operations Dakar last night and this morning have provoked French Admiral to broadcast to all subordinates to resist with energy the English enemy. Copy of telegram since received by C. in C., S.A. states that French submarines ordered to attack British warships by Admiral, Afrique. Proposals and views on situation (G.O.C. West Africa to W.O. 0100/9).

French  
Volunteers

French armed guard removed from Danish SELANDIA wishes to fight on. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1312/9).

Convoy W.S.1

Sailing telegram. CUMBERLAND escorting. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1823/9).



War diary

9.7.40.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Dakar, British Officers detained

Ex-B.N.L.O., Dakar, and staff were transferred to Consular Staff on relinquishing duties with French. ~~Have F.O. taken any action?~~ Now detained on shore. Have F.O. taken any action? (C. in C., S.A., 1917/9).

Polish Ships' Escape.

Polish PULASKI, Capt. Hurko, and STALOWA WOLA, Capt. Destrzembosz, broke out of Dakar, defying orders from French authorities, and arrived Freetown. Captains congratulated on their fine seamanship and determination. (C. in C., S.A. 2141/9).

Submarine Report

See U-Boat Campaign.

Duala, Visit of DRAGON

Uncertainty of future of French Cameroons appears to be factor more disturbing to morale even than fate of France.

Governor-General indicated that he was hardening towards definite break with Petain Government. Visit of DRAGON is having effect. (DRAGON, 2300/8 to C. in C., S.A.)

Mediterranean Encounter with Italian Fleet off Calabria.

Enemy Reports

Intercept from Malta. R.5, position course and speed of enemy is B F N H 0648 - 360° - 15 knots - 2 battleships 5 destroyers. (0915Z/9)(Source not stated.)

Intercept from Malta. Enemy have changed station to 4 cruisers 9 destroyers bearing 350° - 10 miles - 6 cruisers, 11 destroyers - 080° - 40 miles. (F.B.L.5807, 1050/9).

Intercept from Malta. A.371, 9 7 proceed to position Malta now J K O relieve T. (From ?? to F/B.L.2160, 0632/9).

Intercept from Malta. A.372, 9 7, proceed to position (32.08 N., 20.00 E. Return to base. (From ? ? to F/B.L.2164/ 0944/9).

Intercept from Malta. 6 cruisers 10 destroyers bearing 280°, 10 miles, course 220°, my position 37:56 N., 18:06 E., enemy speed 25 knots. (Aircraft 1015Z/9).

War Diary9.7.40.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean  
Encounter with Italian Fleet (Contd.)Enemy Reports  
(Contd.)

Intercept from Malta. 3 cruisers bearing 300, distance 10 miles, course 240° my position 37:45 N., 18:00 E. Enemy speed 15 knots. (1030Z/9, source not stated).

Intercept from Malta. Have lost touch with enemy battle fleet, course and speed of 1 cruiser and 11 destroyers, 290°, 15 knots. (Aircraft, 1035/9).

Following from Aircraft: 4 submarines submerged 3 cruisers position 37:26 N., 17:22 E., course 080° bearing 315°. (Malta W/T, 0920Z/9).

Following from Aircraft: 4 destroyers bearing 030 distance 5 miles, course 050°. My position 37:24 N., 15:53 E., enemy's speed 30 knots. (Malta W/T, 1220Z/9).

Following from Aircraft: Large number enemy vessels bearing 015, distance 8 miles, course 360 approx. My position 37:33 N., 16:58 E. making smoke. (Malta W/T, 1250Z/9).

Keep W/T silence. (C. in C., Med., to Med. Fleet in company, received 1626/9).

At 0815 B.S.T., 2 battleships and 5 destroyers were reported 140 miles south of Taranto steering north. This was probably the same force which was sighted 185 miles east of Malta at 0515/8, steering south. (I.C., 0506/40).

At 0950, B.S.T., aircraft reported two enemy forces, one consisting of 4 cruisers and 9 destroyers and the other, approx. 40 miles to the eastward of the first group, consisting of 6 cruisers and 11 destroyers. No position or course was given, but it appears likely that the units reported at 1500/8 were part of this force. (I.C., 0506/40)

At 1020 B.S.T., 3 cruisers were reported 100 miles east of Augusta, course 080°. (I.C., 0506/40)

Intercept from Malta. W.1. Position course and speed 3 enemy cruisers 37:26 N., 17:22 E., 080°, 15 knots. (Malta W/T, 1120/9).

One enemy battleship, 13 cruisers, 15 destroyers are concentrating position 37:50 N., 18:5 E. (Aircraft via Malta W/T, 1130Z/9).

W.3. One battleship stationed 080°, 25 miles, W.2 (Malta W/T 1310/9).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean  
Encounter with Italian Fleet (Contd.)

W.4. 3 battleships, large number cruisers, large number destroyers bearing 100° distance 20 miles course 220° my position 38:00 N., 17:30 E. (Aircraft via Malta W/T, 1340/9).

Intercept. Enemy's course 020, speed 18 knots. (Aircraft via Malta W/T, 1415/9).

NEPTUNE  
contact

2 battleships bearing 250° distance 15 miles, unknown enemy vessels bearing 320°. (NEPTUNE, 1507/9).

2 battleships, 3 destroyers bearing 250° distance 15 miles, course 030°. My position 087° 38° N., 17° E., 30 miles (NEPTUNE, 1508/9).

2 battleships in one column, 2 cruisers in one column, 2 light cruisers in van, destroyers on starboard quarter. (NEPTUNE, 1516/9).

Action Joined

Am engaging enemy forces. (C. in C., Med., 1542/9).

Air Attack  
Ordered

Send off anything you have got with torpedoes. (C. in C., Med., to EAGLE, 1631/9).

GLOUCESTER  
Bombed (27)

Fleet was bombed continuously yesterday Monday 8/7 between Cyrenaica and Crete. One hit on GLOUCESTER's bridge, severe casualties, including captain killed. Enemy battleships and cruisers located by submarine first and later by flying boat, when north of Benghazi. I proceeded during the night towards Gulf Taranto to get between enemy and his base. Enemy forces included battleships located again this morning by flying boat, and after gaining contact with (two corrupt groups) aircraft torpedo striking force was launched at 1145 at 100 miles from Battle Fleet. Attack abortive due to reconnaissance at daylight losing touch. Am endeavouring to locate again by air reconnaissance. My position at 1415, 38:00 N., 18:00 E. (C. in C., Med., 1417/9).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean  
Encounter with Italian Fleet (Contd.)

Italian  
Cruiser  
damaged

Damaged Italian cruiser is being towed to Messina from approx. position 270° 38 N., 17 E., 18 miles at 1900. (C. in C., Med., to RORQUAL. 2045/9).

Your 1543/8 and 2045/9. Am ? 80 miles, 060° from reported position of cruiser and proceeding at full speed to Straits of Messina. Intend patrolling there to intercept any escort returning to Taranto. (RORQUAL, 2303/9).

Reconnaissance,  
submarine  
probably sunk

Flying boat reports Augusta empty, Syracuse one cruiser. Probably sunk one submarine in position 37:18 N. 17:02 E. at 1115Z. (V.A., Malta, 2001/9).

Destroyers

Join R.A.D. Mediterranean. (C. in C., Med. to destroyers in Med. Fleet Company. 1645/9).

Summary of  
Enemy Moves

At 0530 (?)/8 2 battleships 4 destroyers sighted by flying boat 035:40 N., 018:30 E. steering south 20 knots. At 1500/8 apparently joined by 6 cruisers and 7 destroyers and turned to northward, at 1600, altered course to 070° and later appeared to steer 320° until 0730 when they turned to 015° and appeared to have been joined by several more cruisers and destroyers from Augusta. Reports on number of enemy and position very mixed. C. in C., Med. appears to be north and east of enemy. Enemy at 1500 9th July turned to 120° and we engaged at 1542. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1649/9).

Situation at  
1800

Enemy is returning to his bases faster than I can steam. First torpedo-plane attack abortive, second attack one hit on cruiser reported. Fleet has been heavily bombed being in sight of land. Am proceeding to a position south of Malta in order to fuel destroyers. Badly need faster battleship and more aircraft. (C. in C., Med. 1801/9).

My 1542. After a short and confused action with a number of 8-in. and 6-in. cruisers and destroyers, supported by 2 battleships, enemy turned away behind smoke made by destroyers. Torpedo bombers attacked, but result not known. WARSPITE secured a hit at very long range on one battleship. Enemy appear to be making for Messina and I am pursuing at best speed. My position 1715, lat. 38:15 N., long., 17:20 E. (C. in C., Med., 1713/9).



War Diary9.7.40.  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean  
Encounter with Italian Fleet (Contd.)

I feel this afternoon's engagement was a set piece and we were expected to pass over a hive of submarines and come under heavy bombing attacks close to land. (Part omitted, see p. 43, Mediterranean Volume). Italian shooting fairly good. WARSPITE only was not outraged. (C. in C., Med., 1937/9, via F.O.I.C., Malta, 0701/10).

In case of mendacious Italian report, there were no casualties or damage in yesterday's action. (C. in C., Med., 0950/10).

*Damage to Italian ships (see 20/7) (p. 413)*

Force H., Attacked by Air.

Enemy bombing. My position 38:45 N., 4:02 E. (S.O., Force H. 1651/9). Have been bombed high level, no hits near misses. My position course and speed are at 1600 A/9, 38:45 N., 4:05 E. 066, 16 knots. (S.O., Force H. 1624/9).

In view of heavy scale air attack and consequent risk to ARK ROYAL, who has already had several near misses, I do not consider greatly increased risk to her while operating off coast 10/7 is justified. Intend to try to withdraw after (7 divisions) dark, by which time the desired division should have been achieved. (V.A., Force H., to Adty., 1959/9).

My 1959/9. Two aircraft shot down by gunfire and 2 by fighters. 3 badly damaged unlikely to return and 4 damaged. (V.A., Force H., 2136/9).

Your 1959/9. Was bombing by French or Italians? Reply when W/T silence is not necessary. (1st S.L., to V.A.H., 2223/9). Reply, Italian. (S.O., Force H. 1110/10).

Report of air attack on Force H on Tuesday 9/7 Force was in approx. 038:50 N. 004:20 E. Attack commenced at 1545 and ceased 1825 by a total of about 36 aircraft all S.79. Aircraft attacked at 10,000 to 13,000 feet by squadrons of eight or nine in sub-flights of three or four in open formation. Subflights dropped patterns using stick bombs. Most attacks from sun sector. After attack aircraft withdrew to southward. Bombs appeared 500 pounds or heavier G.P. Fuze instantaneous over 100 bombs dropped. V.A.(A) considers compared with Germans aircraft showed more determination maintaining steady course and formation.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean

(Contd.)

formation under fire. Bombing accuracy was very good and there were about 20 near misses. In several cases armament of fighters caused bombs to be jettisoned. Shadowing aircraft always ran when attacked. Casualties to enemy aircraft as in my 2136/9. (S.O. Force H. 2156/10).

Convoys

C. in C., M.E. states you consider it possible to run 20-knot ships through Mediterranean with personnel to reinforce Egypt. On assumption that Force H is still based on Gibraltar, signal outline of a plan for such an operation including a call at Malta. (1st S.L., to C. in C., Med., 0021/9). (War Office, 0015/9).

Slow Convoy.

Should slow convoy be sailed 1600 escorted by JERVIS, DIAMOND and VENDETTA? (V.A., Malta, 1425/9 to C. in C., Med.)

Fast Convoy

Ref. M.A.5. I am sailing fast convoy escorted by DIAMOND, JERVIS and VENDETTA at 2100 tonight. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 2047/9).

French Fleet

C. in C., Med's 1827/7. French have now agreed to reduction of crew to  $\frac{1}{4}$  as regards combatant ratings and to an overall reduction of  $\frac{1}{3}$  of full complement. This is now proceeding. PROVIDENCE leaves tomorrow for Beirut with about 2,000 men, remaining 1,000 to go in ATHOS II, probably 13/7. This will leave behind about 140 officers and 1700 men. It is hoped by placing ships alongside each other and other suitable measures to induce the French to cut this figure down still further in due course. (C.S.3 to Adty., 1911/9).

Alexandria

RAMILLIES, 3rd Cruiser Sqdn. IMPERIAL and GARLAND at  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour's notice from 0300. Propose CALEDON remain as guardship. R.A.I.C. Alexandria concurs. (C.S.3 1916/9).

B.S.1.

Regret lack of facilities will not allow air escort to be given by units based in Egypt or Sudan. (H.Q., M.E. Command, 2106/9).

Ship Movements

Movements Summary No.130. (C.O.I.S., 2220/9).

Strong rumours again put about emanating from D.N.B. representing that Russia about to make exacting.....

FOREIGN STATIONS,

Mediterranean

(Contd.)

exacting demand for control over Straits.  
(Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1838/9 to C. in C., Med.)

Casablanca

7 French submarines stated to have left during night 5-6/7 two for Cape Spartel, 3 for Oran, 2 for Cape Verde. Air reconnaissance p.m. 8/7 confirmed only 6 submarines at Casablanca, where there were previously several more. (.O.R. 310).

Air.

Malta Raid

Situation report. One formation hostile aircraft over island this morning. No bombs dropped. Probably 1 enemy aircraft shot down in sea but no confirmation yet. (Governor, Malta, 1115/9). Later raid (I.C. 0507/40)

One Italian aircraft made forced landing neighbourhood of Messara 1300 (? 8/7) after naval and air engagement off Gardo Island. Crew of 5 being interned. (M.A., Athens, 1128/9). No other details of this particular action as yet.

Alexandria

Raided by a single aircraft at 1302/9. No damage or casualties. (D.O.R. 310) (I.C., 0507/40).

Swordfish  
for Raiding

Deprecating use of Swordfish aircraft of Fleet Air Arm for raiding Sicily, as likely to provoke retaliation by superior Italian Air Force, with bad effect on civil morale, Malta. Suggests they should be kept for their chief role in defence of Malta, especially in case of seaborne attack. (Governor, Malta, 1633/9).

East Indies

ZAMBEZIA

My 0644/8. ZAMBEZIA has arrived Mauritius. (C. in C., E.I., 0601Z/9).

Troop Convoys

Requirements in connection with forward shipment of troops in W.S.1 to Suez. (C. in C., E.I. to P.S.T.O., Bombay, 0628Z/9).

FOREIGN STATIONS

221

China

Coastal  
Shipping

Adty. 1821/5. I have allowed French coastal shipping to resume normal trade on China Station and British shipping detained in Indo China has in consequence been released. Request Admiral policy concerning other French shipping plying on ocean routes in Pacific and Indian Oceans (see B.L.O. Saigon 0800Z/4 and 0315Z/8). (C. in C., China, 0249Z/9).

Ocean Tonnage

French C. in C. has now asked if he may use liners and ocean tonnage formerly trading with France for coastal trade on China Station in agreed area. Also whether coastal shipping may be supplied with oil fuel in British ports for cash payment. Suggest concurrence generally with possible exception of ILE DE FRANCE now at Singapore, vide my 0635/5. (C. in C. China, 0834Z/9).

SHENGKING,  
Ammunition  
Incident

S.S. SHENGKING detained by Japanese at Woosung re cargo of ammunition consigned to French military authorities at Shanghai from French Tientsin garrison. Japanese demand handing over of ammunition, failing which they propose to remove it themselves. Request instructions. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 1706/9).

America & West Indies

ASCANIA

To escort HX 57, subsequently returning Halifax. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1501/9).

Australia

Local Trade

Adty. 1821/5. For the present British, Allied ships and French ships regularly engaged in island trade are being allowed to proceed to French Pacific Colonial ports unless there are special reasons to the contrary. (A.C.N.B., 0525/9).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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222

NESTOR After completing repairs is due to sail in ballast for a German port p.m. 10/7. (Consul, Goteborg 1010/9).

CORDELIA Arrived Galatz. (Macrae, Galatz. 1042/9).

ELISA HALM Arrived with general cargo. (Consul, Gottenburg, 1603/9)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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AUGUSTUS Sailed from Tripote, due at Genoa 0600/9. (D.S.) (I.C., 0507/40).

FRISCO Tanker, reported 20/6 to have arrived at Ceara, Brazil, and left same evening, now believed to be still at Ceara. (I.C., 0507/40).

Private W/T messages addressed to following ships on 5/7, and their previous movements confirm probability that the messages were correctly addressed (I.C., 0507/40):-

TOSCANA 9442 G.T., at Rhodes.

COLOMBO 11760 G.T.)  
ADUA 3564 G.T.)  
INDIA 6367 G.T.) at Massawa.  
URANIA 7099 G.T.)  
XXIII MARZO 5008 G.T.)

SICILIA 9646 G.T.)  
POZZUOLI 5345 G.T.) at Leros.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

223

AYLESBURY

British, 3999 tons, torpedoed at 1923/9 about 200 miles S.W. of Ireland. Not in convoy. 48:39 N., 13:33 W. (Portland W/T, 1923/9) I.C., 0507/40 gives time 2023/9. Crew recovered, no casualties. (Capt. D.9, 1300/10).

→ MEMNON

(see submarines reported). Made S.S.S.S. at 1655 17:27 N., 24:40 W., 50' N. of Cape Verde Islands. (I.C., 0507/40). Had left Freetown noon for England carrying 5 passengers. (S.O/I. Freetown, 1313/10).

Submarines Reported

0900

Submarine periscope reported in ~~px~~ position 040 May Island 10' at 0900. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0928/9) 56:18 N., 2:28 W., (I.C., 0506/40).

1223

Reliable fix 48:55 N., 12:05 W. Capt. D.9 ordered to attack. (C. in C., W.A. 1247/9).

1853

(see Attacks on submarines)

1146

48:55 N. 12:05 W., 255 Lands End 258'. Reliable position. (I.C., 0507/40).

2023

48:39 N., 13:33 W. Reliable fix. Capt. D.9 ordered to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 2044/9).

South Atlantic

→ 1755

Reported by S.S. MEMNON 17:27 N., 24:40 W., 50 miles N. of Cape Verde Islands. (Portishead Radio 1655/9 G.M.T.) (AUSTRALIA, to C. in C., S.A. and F.O.C.N.A. 1823Z/9)(C. in C., S.A., 1938/9).

Request the following be broadcast G.B.M.S. 6 and 9 for 24 hours. Submarine attack reported in position 017:27 N. 024:40 W. at 1655 G.M.T. today Tuesday 9th July, ships are not to call at St. Vincent Cape Verde Is, for fuel but should proceed to Freetown, if fuel is required. Cape Verde Is. are to be given a wide berth. (C. in C., S.A., 1945/9).

War Diary

9.7.40.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

224

Submarines Attacked

1853 By aircraft 59:24 N., 00:58 E., 80 miles E. of Fair Isle. Attacked with 2 100 lb bombs, no hits. (Aircraft 612 Sqn., 1853/9, 2030/9) (Donibristle, 2225/9).

Mediterranean

Submarines Reported

0920 37:26 N., 17:22 E., 111° C. Spartivento 67' 4 submerged submarines observed by aircraft (I.C., 0507/40).

Submarines Attacked

1115Z Attacked submarine in position 37:18 N., 17:02 E. 100 miles E. of Augusta believed sunk. (Aircraft via Malta W/T 1115Z/9).

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 Comnav, 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.



10.7.40.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

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S.S. ALKWAKI. Sabotage suspected

At 1210 an aircraft on convoy escort saw S.S. ALKWAKI (Dutch 4533 tons) draw away from Convoy OA 180 off Cape Wrath and develop a list. Boats were lowered. An escorting destroyer reported that sabotage was suspected. The ship sank at 1900. Coast watchers reported a U-boat in the neighbourhood and destroyers were sailed from Scapa to search.

French Fleet

*Casa Blanca.* S.O.(I) Gibraltar reports that on the morning of 9/7 6 submarines, 2 destroyers and fighter aircraft were on patrol. JEAN BART, JULES VERNE, PRIMAUGUET and 8 or 10 destroyers were in the harbour. High angle guns were constantly manned and there was an air of expectancy of attack.

A.M.C. CORFU damaged

HERMES while on passage from Dakar to Freetown was in collision with A.M.C. CORFU escorting convoy SL 39 from Freetown to U.K. at 0500/10 during a dense tropical storm. CORFU was badly holed forward. She has been ordered to proceed to Freetown at slow speed and a tug has been requested. DORSETSHIRE is standing by her. A.M.C. DUNVEGAN CASTLE sailed at 1730/10 to escort SL 39 in place of CORFU. HERMES with 141 men from CORFU, and MILFORD have arrived at Freetown.

Enemy Air Activity

Raids on U.K.

Aircraft operated last night against the coastal areas of Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk. Falmouth was attacked for the fifth successive day; two ships were set on fire and one sunk, and two wharves were badly damaged. Bombs were also dropped on Portland, Swansea and at Pembroke dock at each place one bomb penetrated an oil tank but has not so far exploded.

10.7.40.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

---

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Attacks on Shipping

Heavy attacks on shipping were made again today. VIMIERA and Convoy FS 17 were unsuccessfully attacked off Great Yarmouth at 0604 and again off Lowestoft at 1026 and off Cromer at 1316.

A Southbound convoy and a Channel convoy were attacked in the Thames Approaches, but no ships were hit. At 1345 the same Channel convoy, escorted by VERSATILE, was again attacked by 25 aircraft off Dungeness and the Dutch Skoot BILLS, was sunk, the crew being rescued.

The enemy were part of a force of 120 aircraft which collected behind Calais and approached the convoy. Our fighters shot down 9 and seriously damaged 11 others of the enemy, losing 2.

An outwardbound convoy, escorted by SCARBOROUGH, was bombed in St. George's Channel at 1630. No details are known.

A small Channel convoy, escorted by ROSEMARY was bombed at 1500 off Portland but no ships were hit. Fighters drove off the enemy.

The Owers Light Vessel was bombed at 1357, damage not yet known. The Light vessel was subsequently withdrawn.

At 1150 WATERLOO (British 1905 tons) was sunk near Smith's Knoll. The crew were rescued.

DANEMAN<sup>A/S T.</sup> (516 tons) was attacked at 1840 south of Worthing by 6 aircraft. No details are known.

Total enemy casualties during the day were 12 certain and 17 probable. Two Hurricanes were lost and 2 crashed on landing.

British Air Activity

TIRPITZ attacked

Weather conditions last night were very unfavourable, and some operations were cancelled, though routine, anti-invasion and A/S patrols were flown at dawn and throughout the night over practically the entire North Sea and English Channel. Hampdens attacked the  TIRPITZ and dockyard at Wilhelmshaven, and Borkum, Texel and Waalhaven aerodromes; bursts were seen in the corner of the latter aerodrome, but otherwise no results could be observed owing to intense S/L activity, darkness and haze. Naval targets were also attacked by Wellingtons at Bremen. Flakships were attacked by Hampdens. During day operations 6 Blenheims were lost.

War Diary10.7.40.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORTBritish Air Activity (Contd.)Patrols

A new anti-invasion patrol off the coast between Portland and Lands End was flown from today. Nearly all normal patrols were flown.

Photographic  
r.c's

Photographic reconnaissance flights were made to Helder, Ymuiden, Zuyder Zee, Amsterdam and Schipol.

Mining

Amble, Newhaven and the inshore channel from Blyth to Tyne are still closed.

Magnetic mines were exploded today in the following areas: Tyne (also, not previously reported, on 8/7 and 9/7), Harwich, Downs, and Portsmouth.

Nine Hampdens successfully carried out gardening in the Jade Weser estuary.

Italian Hostilities

The Mediterranean Fleet was south of Malta refuelling destroyers. WARSPITE's aircraft reports that during the engagement yesterday Italian aircraft bombed their own ships, though without result.

Malta was attacked by about 20 enemy aircraft this morning and two or three of the enemy were shot down. Bombs were dropped on the dockyard, where slight damage was done. A further raid took place at 2150, no damage or casualties reported.

Italian  
destroyer  
sunk

Swordfish aircraft attacked Augusta pm today. Nothing was seen in the harbour, but in a small harbour (probably Port Brucoli) 2 miles north the aircraft sank a destroyer and a hulk.

At 1712 an enemy battle fleet was reported sailing from Augusta.

A convoy escorted by DECOY, VAMPIRE and VOYAGER left Malta at 2100/10 for Alexandria.

War Diary10.7.40.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSPolicyFrench Aircraft

Cancel my 2208/25 and 1525/5. Any French aircraft encountered over British territory or Egypt or within 20 miles of the coast of British territory or Egypt, or within 5 miles of H.M. ships, is to be regarded as hostile. (Air Ministry, 1217/10 to all Commands).

Movements

Adty. 1955/9 and my 2303/9 G. Class destroyers have longer endurance than F Class. This is based on experience. Recommend to save two shifts that GREYHOUND, GRIFFIN, GALLANT and HOTSPUR join Force H. (C. in C., H.F. 1110/10 to 1st S.L.)

After tonight Wednesday there is a half moon which does not set till after mid-night. Would you prefer to keep all cruisers in harbour at night till moon wanes. (C. in C., Nore 1916/10 to F.O.C. 18th C.S. & 2nd C.S.)

Submarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/11.  
 TRIAD, STATLANDET leaving pm for Rosyth.  
 TAKU Q S S C 3020 proceeding on surface to Rosyth.  
 TRUANT Q S M F 4530.  
 TETRARCH Q S M F 0740, SUNFISH P C M F 5525,  
 SALMON P C M F 4030.  
 SEAWOLF T G S C 2000 proceeding on surface to Rosyth.  
 CLYDE Q S S C 4020 proceeding on surface to relieve TRIAD.  
 STURGEON N L W T 3004, SWORDFISH Y Z S C 3050 both proceeding submerged by day to Blyth.  
 SPEARFISH H 44, H one and two. H 28 Q S C 5351. H 49 Dover Strait.  
 WILK T G V D 3250 proceeding on surface to J Z L Z 3500.  
 SEVERN escorted by WHITE BEAR left Rosyth 0800 10th July for North Channel. (V.A.S. 1809/10).

Operations

Operation ~~SEAWOLF~~<sup>Tewart</sup>, Part 2 completed. (SEAWOLF 0026/10).

War Diary10.7.40.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSE-Boats

2230/10 Three E-boats at 50:42, 0:54 E. Aircraft report.  
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2340/10).

Air.Enemy Air Activity

HUSSAR Enemy bombing 52:12 N., 2:22 E. (HUSSAR 0500/10).  
Bombed 21 miles E. by N. of Orfordness at  
1319/10 (I.C. 0508/40).

Convoy FS 17 Help 52:42 N. 2:11 E. course 198 speed 9 knots.  
(VIMIERA 0604/10) (GUILLEMOT 0608/10). No hits  
(VIMIERA 0610/10). Fighters being sent (C. in C.  
Nore 0620/10).  
Enemy bombing convoy 52:18 N., 1:59 E. (VIMIERA  
1026/10). One attack. No hits. (VIMIERA 1034/10).  
Enemy bombing convoy 52:10 N., 2:9 E. (VIMIERA  
1316/10). No hits. (VIMIERA 1318/10).

VERSATILE Bombed 51:23 N., 1:30 E. No hits. (VERSATILE  
1036/10).

Channel Convoy Convoy being attacked Dungeness (WELLARD 1345/10)  
BILLS, sunk Dutch BILLS, apparently hit, abandoning ship.  
(VERSATILE 1358/10 to C. in C., Nore).  
BILLS sunk. Crew rescued. No other damage (V.A.  
Dover 1520/10 to Adty.)(VERSATILE 1430/10 to  
C. in C., Nore).

Owers Light V. Being bombed (Portishead Radio 1357/10).

Channel Convoy Help 50:27 N., 3:36 W. (ROSEMARY 1500/10) Fighters  
sent (C. in C., W.A. 1507/10 to ROSEMARY).  
Help Portland Bill 270:0 (ROSEMARY 1650/10)  
Fighters sent (C. in C., W.A. 1703/10).

Outwardbound Help Cunly. 263 Bardsley Island 19.237.30.  
Convoy (SCARBOROUGH 1630/10).

War Diary10.7.40.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSAirEnemy Air Activity (Contd.)

ANTHONY Bomed 12 miles S.E. of Orfordness (I.C. 0508/40).  
 VERITY Bomed 12 miles S.E. of Orfordness (I.C. 0508/40).

WATERLOO British 1905 tons, bombed and sunk 2½ miles N.E.  
 sunk magnetic from Smiths Knoll Buoy at 1145/10.  
 No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0900/11 to Adty.)

DANEMAN Am being attacked by aircraft 20'S. of Worthing.  
 (DANEMAN 1840/10).

Cardiff 4 bombs dropped, none exploded, no damage  
Swansea (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1825/10).  
 9 k., 16 W. At National Oil Refinery, Llandazey, Skeeren one tank destroyed, one unexploded bomb penetrated another tank. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1825/10).

Portland At 1300/10 two bombs dropped by one aircraft in the Mere Oil Fuel Tanks. One unexploded. Slight damage. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1504/10 to Adty.).

Falmouth Two Wharves badly damaged, and BRITISH CHANCELLOR, 7085 tons, and MARI CHANDRIS, 5840 tons, set on fire by aircraft. TASCALUSA, 6499 tons, sunk by aircraft alongside Northern Arm. (D.C.N.S. 311).

Pembroke Dock Oil-tank at Llanneath hit by bomb which failed to explode. (I.C. 0508/40)

Mining

3 magnetic mines were exploded off the Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1227/10).

3 magnetic mines were exploded in Thames area, one in Harwich area, one in Downs area, and one in Portsmouth area. (D.C.N.S. 311).

Amble, Newhaven, and the Tyne-Blyth Inner Channel are closed. (D.C.N.S. 311).

A mine exploded at N 214° Nab End Buoy 6 cables; one in Sunit Area; and one in Ramsgate searched Channel. (I.C. 0508/40).

HOME COMMANDS

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Enemy Intelligence

Two minesweepers at 52:20 N., 2:50 E. at 0803/10. Aircraft report. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1122/10 to Adty.)

One minesweeper at 52:10 N., 2:45 E. at 0856/10. Aircraft report. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1122/10 to Adty.)

Calais

Large M/V stationary off Calais at 1830/10. (H.Q.B.C. 0335/11).

Warship, possibly cruiser, midway between Calais and Goodwins at 1830/10. (H.Q.B.C. 0335/11).

2 medium-sized ships in line ahead at 53:57 N. 5:55 E. at 1503/10 (H.Q.B.C. 0335/11).

Roscanvel

9 M/Vs near Roscanvel, and large six-funnel ship and Floating Dock in harbour. Aircraft report (H.Q. 15 Group 2154/10).

54:43 N., 7:16 E. at 1415/10. Two M/Vs attacked by aircraft. (I.C. 0508/40).

Bremen

More than 60 M/Vs (I.C. 0508/40).

Shipping

Routeing of  
OA convoys

C. in C., Rosyth's 1831/9. I am in favour of convoys starting from Methil. (C. in C., W.A. 1035/10 to Adty.)

Convoys

Your 1114/9. To ensure necessary measure of control over convoys, proposed that Corvette now reinforcing the escort between Harwich and Flamborough Head should remain in company with the convoy. It is considered that the movements of the convoy if not in immediate vicinity of invading craft should normally be ordered by C. in C., Rosyth or Nore according to which area they are in<sup>at</sup> the time and in light of existing circumstances. If you concur propose to amend my 1550/5 and 2240/8 accordingly. (C. in C., Nore 1106/10 to C. in C., Rosyth).

C. in C., Rosyth's 1831/9. Request your remarks (A.C.N.S(T) 1330/10 to C. in C., Nore).

10.7.40.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Shipping (Contd.)

Convoys

Convoys that used to use English Channel are now being routed north of Scotland in combination with Clyde - Methil coastal convoy. Routes. Convoys will eventually leave Methil every other day. At present three leave every eight days; outward convoys are not to be within 10 miles Duncansby Head, and Inward Convoy eastward of 004:00 West before daylight and do not pass through Pentland Firth except in daylight. Convoys cross near Orkneys. (C. in C., H.F. 1349/10 to H.F.Z.41).

Your 1106. (Re control of convoys when invading aircraft in area). Concur. (C. in C., Rosyth 1502/10 to C. in C., Nore).

Cancel my 0042/6. Reference my 1744/8, 0017/9 and 1706/9 ships in Channel convoys and sailing independently in English Channel are to be routed by Q.Z.S. 125 and thence not less than 7 miles and not more than 10 miles from the coast as far west as the Lizard. Ships bound for West Coast ports should be routed between Land's End and Wolf Rock and Sevenstones.

Westbound ships to keep to southward and eastward ships to northward in zone as above. Ships should not be under way between the coast and the zone as above in dark hours. (A.C.N.S.(T). 1657/10 to N.C.S.O's).

Your 1330/10 and C. in C., Rosyth 1831/9. I have no information regarding recommendations made or discussions held before the recent change in OA sailings.

2. Important considerations governing the choice of convoy assembly anchorage appear to be

- (1) Capacity and experience of routing staff.
- (2) Suitability of anchorage for boarding in bad weather.

- (3) Capacity of anchorage.

- (4) Protection which can be afforded against submarine E.boat and air attack.

3. Subject to the above requirements it seems logical that the assembly anchorage should be the one nearest to the point of final departure.

4. I am satisfied that the requirements in Para.2 above are fulfilled at Southend and that OA convoys have been routed with every success by N.C.S.O. Thames.

5. If the Adty. are satisfied that Methil is likely to prove equally successful I recommend that in view of Para.3 above it should be tried. (C. in C., Nore 2126/10 to Adty.)



War Diary

10.7.40.  
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

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Home Commands

TRAFALGAR Engine disabled, require Tug, at 340° Bull Point 12'. (TRAFALGAR 0200/10 to Adty.)

HERMES  
CORFU HERMES was in collision with CORFU at 030Z zone + 1 in position 09:10 N., 15:48 W. CORFU badly holed starboard bow, ordered proceed Freetown at slow speed. Collision occurred in dense tropical storm. No casualties. (R.A., HERMES, 0623/10).

S.S. OREGON Detail 2 destroyers to escort, reported at 46:50 N., 13:45 W. at 2330/9 course 042 speed 3.5 knots. SALVONIA being sent from Falmouth. (C. in C. W.A. 1138/10).

ALWAKI Dutch, 4500 tons, drew out of convoy OA 180 at 1210/10 in 58:43 N., 5:31 W. and listed to port. Believed scuttled. (N.A. Donibristle 1530/10 to Adty.) (ST. LAURENT 1745/10 to C. in C. H.F.). Sank at 2110/10 (D.S. 310) See also U-boat campaign.

FOXGLOVE Damage by bomb considered beyond economical repair. Request instructions. (A.S. Portsmouth 1941/10 to Adty.)

War Diary10.7.40.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSMiscellaneousFrench Ships  
at Plymouth

It is proposed for earnest consideration that some of the French ships at Plymouth should be manned forthwith by Polish officers and men. This is considered essential to maintain morale in the now overcrowded and unprotected GDYNIA especially in view of air raids and the delay in manning a second 'G' class destroyer. The following ships are proposed PESSAC and POMEROL armed auxiliaries for use as A/S escort vessels.

Two submarine chasers Midshipmen of GDYNIA, shortly to complete training, to provide the crews for these vessels if these proposals are approved, suggest concurrence of Admiral Zwirski, Head of the Polish Navy be obtained. (C. in C., W.A. 0002/10 to Adty.)

Weather

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	In North S. to S.W. mod. to fresh. In South S.E. light to mod.	Good, mod. locally.	Similar. Wind veering to S.W. in S.
Channel	S.E. to S. light to mod.	Mod. to good.	Wind veering S.W. visibility improving.
Western Approaches	N.W. light to mod.	Very good.	Similar.
Horns Reef	S.S.W. light to mod.	Mod., hazy.	Similar.
W. Coast Norway	S.E. mod. to fresh.	Mod., poor locally.	Visibility improving.

FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Pamphlet Raids.

Over Casablanca area p.m. 9/7 and over Rabat and Port Lyantey a.m.10/7. No opposition either occasion. When French reactions to these raids have been received, consideration will be given to extend them to Coast of Algeria and Tunis, in which Malta might co-operate.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1102/10).

Force H.

Expect to arrive Gibraltar 0900/11.  
(S.O. Force H, 1110/10).

Casablanca Situation. Refugees.

Reported Casablanca great anti-British feeling since Dakar action. Hoped leaflets dropped last night may have reduced this. In view of present discussions with French authorities at Casablanca regarding re-evacuation of 13,000 Gibraltarian women and children who had been sent there from Gibraltar and of presence at Casablanca of 15 British Merchant ships, it is important that relations with French authorities there should be as friendly as possible. If after consideration of my 1132/9 it is decided to be unnecessary to take naval action against JEAN BART, suggest it be announced formally or hinted unofficially no attack on warships now at Casablanca is contemplated. This would also reduce present temptation to bomb Force H. in harbour at Gibraltar).  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1256/10).

Pamphlet Raids.

Your 1104/10. Such enquiries as Consul-General, Rabat, has been able to prosecute show that effect of pamphlet raid, while beneficial, has not been very widespread, He is however definitely of opinion that it is most desirable that they unmistakably be continued.  
(Tangier, 1830/10 to S.O.I. Gib.)

South Atlantic.

## HERMES

In collision with CORFU. (R.A.HERMES 0623/10).  
See Casualties.

## DUNVEGAN CASTLE.

Cancel my 1009/8. CORFU collision, DUNVEGAN CASTLE to take over escort of SL 39, later to proceed Greenock.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1231/10).

10.7.40.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Fleet Positions. Fleet will pass through position 35-22 N., 14-10 E., at 1200 on a course 110° 15 knots. Course will be altered to 290° at 1500 and 090° at 1900. (C. in C. Med. 0924/10). Orders to Fleet re fuelling etc. (C. in C. Med. 1149/10). My position, course and speed, 035°00'N., 15°00'E., 290°, 15 knots, at 1500. (C. in C. Med. 1359/10).
- No Casualties. In case of mendacious Italian report, there were no casualties or damage in yesterday's action. (C. in C. Med., 1115/10)
- Destroyers. Capt. D.2. HYPERION, HOSTILE, DAINTY, HASTY, DEFENDER, ILEX, JUNO sailed to rejoin. (C.A., Malta, 1115/10). Join me. My position course and speed, 35°00' N., 15°00' E., 290°, 15 knots at 1500. (C. in C. Med. to Capt. D.2. 1359/10).
- Torpedo Bombers. Your 0701/10 just received. We can manage 6 torpedo bombers, possibly 7. Time does not permit of any more. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1300/10 to C. in C. Med.) My 1300. For 6 possibly 7 read 9. (F.C.I.C. Malta, 1353/10).
- Submarines. Orders to RORQUAL and PHOENIX. (C. in C. Med, 0711/10) PANDORA and PROTEUS to revert to operational control of C. in C. Med. (D.O.D.(F) 1321/10) (F.O.C.N.A., 1736/11).
- Ship in Greece. Greek authorities report that presence of BRITISH UNION near Woodall Bay is embarrassing them specially at the moment when they are interning crew of 5 of the aircraft shot down in Crete. They also report that an Italian a/c evidently located her yesterday. (N.A. Athens, 1133/10)
- French ships, Casablanca. French force at Casablanca am.9/7 as reported by British Master. Outside patrol 6 submarines with inner patrol of 2 destroyers and fighter aircraft patrol of 9 overhead. In harbour, JEAN BART, JULES VERNE, PRIMAUGUET and 8 to 10 destroyers. High angle guns in (?) JEAN BART or JULES VERNE and all other approaches in port constantly manned. British PEN GREEP, BELGIEN and another British ship with armed guard on board. General atmosphere very hostile and expectant of attack. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 122/10).
- Enemy Fleet. Position course and speed of enemy battle fleet at 1712, 37:17 N., 15:12 E., 060°, 20 knots. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1807/10) My 1807. Enemy ships were leaving Port Augusta. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2225/10).
- Air.
- Augusta C. in C. requires Sunderland nearest Augusta at 1400 and 1830 look at ships in Augusta Harbour. 1400 report only to be sent Malta by W/T when clear of land. (From ? to F/B N.9023, 1320/10).

FOREIGN STATIONS.10.7.40.Wednesday.Mediterranean.Air.Enemy bomb  
own ships

Fleet Air Arm attacking ships in Augusta tonight 10/7. Have been south of Malta all day refuelling destroyers. Fleet will start back for Alexandria tomorrow Thursday covering convoys. Reported by WARSPITE's A/c that in yesterday's action enemy aircraft also bombed their own fleet. Unfortunately no hits. (C. in C. Med., 1037/10).

Malta  
raids.

Governor Malta's 9382 of 9/7 to W.P. Strongly support his views which are in line with mine already expressed. (C. in C. Med., 1449/10).

0749 to 0842, 4 formations about 20 a/c flew over Island, bombs dropped on Zabber Tarxien dockyard, Misida and Manock Ireland areas. 3 enemy a/c shot down, subsequent uncertainty about third. Damage slight. Military 2 slightly injured; civilians, 1 killed, 3 injured. (H.Q. Malta, 1635/10).

Situation report, raid by about 4 planes at 2150. Bombs out to sea, on Grand Harbour and Takkrock A/A position, and in Birkirkara area. Some machine gun fire from low latitude. No military casualties or damage reported. (Governor, Malta, 0100/11)

Alexandria Raid.

By single unidentified a/c 9/7, 3 bombs dropped near boom defences. No damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1757/10).

Attack on Augusta.

Result of Swordfish attack. Nothing seen in Augusta but in small harbour 2 miles north one destroyer and one hulk were sunk by 4 aircraft. Outside this harbour, 3 or 4 motor torpedo boats were observed under way and 3 submarines stationary. Our remaining 5 aircraft saw no targets and returned with torpedoes. Swordfish take off at 0715 for rendezvous at 0800 as arranged. (F.O.I.C. Malta 0040/11).

East Indies.Convoys.

C. in C. S.A.'s 1814/8. Route for W.S.1 and KENT. (C. in C. E.I. 0506 Z/10). WESTRALIA to leave Colombo for Bombay. WESTRALIA and CATHAY to form Force "R" for Convoy BN 2 (C. in C. E.I. 0632/10). My 0628/9. Addition. Onward transport cannot be provided with fuel or water at Trincomalee but will be sailed independently for Colombo when loaded and replenished. (C. in C. E.I. 0704 Z/10).

FOREIGN STATIONS.10.7.40.  
Wednesday.East Indies.Assab.

Air reconnaissance report, 2 M.V. 1 sloop sunk in harbour. (A.H.Q. Aden 1825/10).

China.SHENGKING  
Incident.

Your 1706/9. What do French military authorities in Shanghai have to say about the matter? Approved to endeavour to arrange as in your para. 4. The sooner this ammunition is handed back to the French the better. (C. in C. China, 10517/10 to N.L.O., Shanghai).

Substance of Master's Report of incident, and steps taken to deal with Japanese protest. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 2228Z/10).

French Military and Air Attaches friendly and eager to effect quick release of SHENGKING by negotiations. Both agree France and Britain must co-operate in Far East in force of yellow races. Interview of A.N.L.O. with Japanese Chief of Staff. C.C.S. eager for further private discussions which will be arranged. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 2232Z/10).

CARAIBE.  
French Protest.

Protest from Vice-Adm. Decoux, French C. in C. Far East, for First Sea Lord, at CARAIBE being conducted to a British port to be demilitarized. Makes most complete reservation as to consequences of the arbitrary disarmament, and insists she should be sent to Madagascar. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 1300z/10).

War Diary10.7.40.  
Wednesday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

- NESTOR 2446 G.T., after repairs due to sail in ballast from Gottenburg pm 10/7 for a German port. (I.C., 0507/40).
- BADEN Empty at Teneriffe. Agent of Hamburg-Amerika Line refused permission from Hamburg to sell lifeboats or any equipment to an Italian steamer. (I.C., 0507/40).
- BIRGIT Arrived Gottenburg with general cargo. (Gottenburg 0945/10).
- CAP ARCONA A.3 reports she is expected at Rio de Janeiro 11/7. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1222/10)(S.O.I. Freetown, 2229/10) Not considered likely and ship believed to be in Germany (I.C. 0508/40).
- IMATRA 990 tons, seized by Norwegian authorities during operations in Norway, has been renamed MOYSALEN, and is now at Reykjavik. (Lloyds, D.S., 310).
- MARITZA 2910 G.T., completing unloading bauxite from <sup>l.c.</sup> DUBROUNIK at Trieste on 6/7. (I.C., 0508/40) Split reports arrived Sibenik 8/7. (S.O.I., Alexandria 1723/10).
- INGO 3950 G.T., arrived at Trieste at 2000/6 from Split with bauxite. (I.C., 0508/40).
- ANTILLA (Scuttled at Aruba 10/5). Dutch Govt. reported to have no objection to efforts being made to raise vessel. (I.C., 0508/40).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

- 3 loaded Italian passed through Canal westward believed from Constanza. Considered reliable. (N.A. Athens, 1136/10). Probable they are making for Italy from Dodecanese Islands. (I.C., 0508/40).
- TREMARIE My 1253/3. Italian TREMARIE has now painted out her name and has black hull and funnel. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, to S.O. Force H. 1123/10).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

ALWAKI

→ Dutch 4533 tons. Apparently sinking after explosion in engine room. 58:46 N., 4:46 W., 10 miles N.E. Cape Wrath. Crew in boats. Have anti-scuttling party on board. (ST. LAURENT 1245/10). Sabotage suspected. HARMONIC picking up crew. (ST. LAURENT, 1345/10). Send 3 destroyers to hunt. Submarine probable but possibility of mines cannot be ignored. (C. in C. H.F. to R.A.D. 1446/10). My 1446. All available destroyers with steam to be sent. (C. in C., H.F. to R.A.D. 1458/10). Your 1245. Are you certain that explosion was internal. (C. in C., H.F., 1554/10, to ST. LAURENT). ALWAKI still afloat heavily to port, gunwhale invisible, ship abandoned, consider extremely dangerous to put hands on board. (BANDIT, 2040/10). Ship sunk, am returning to port. (BANDIT, 2110/10). Your 1924. Dutch ship sank at 2107. (D.6 to C. in C., H.F., 2108/10). Cause of explosion possibly a torpedo but probably sabotage or mine. (A.S.W.D. 309, 11/7). See also CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

PETSAMO

Finnish, 4596 tons, torpedoed 20' South of Fastnet (A.S.W.D. 309, 11/7). Approx. 51:08 N., 9:22 W. 150 Fastnet 15. (I.C. 0508/40). 4 of crew killed, remainder landed Baltimore, Ireland. Not in convoy (D.S.)

Submarines Reported

1155

By coast watches, periscope seen 40 miles W, of Thusso at 1155. (C.4). (F.O.C.O.S., 1305/10) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1524/10).

1410

Submarines reported by coast watcher due West of Scourie Point, 58:21 N., 05:11 W. (F.O.C.O.S., 1450).

1245

→ By ST. LAURENT, 10 m. N.E. of Cape Wrath. Dutch ALWAKI attacked. (see Ships Attacked). All available destroyers to hunt. (C. in C., H.F. to R.A.D., 1458/10). Orders to destroyers (R.A.D.H.F., 1503/10).

0307

49:0 N., 12:0 W., 256 Lands End 253', position indefinite. (I.C., 0507/40).

1135

Submarine periscope 200° Blyth 8 miles (doubtful). (C. in C., Rosyth 1649/10).



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

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Submarines Reported (Contd.)

2028 57:0 N., 6:0 E., 210 The Naze 67'. D.F.,  
indefinite. (I.C., 0508/40).

Estimated dispositions:-

Possibly 1 in Finisterre Area.  
2 in Western Approaches  
1 in Northern North Sea, Homeward bound.  
(I.C., 0507/40).

Submarines Attacked

2030 Aircraft reported suspected submarine position  
57:09 N., 1:56 W. Carried out attack on doubtful  
contact. (SKEENA, 2030/10).

2106 HAVELOCK and HARVESTER to join DEPTFORD attacking  
U/B in position 48:56 N., 10:11 W. (C. in C.,  
W.A., 2106/10)(A.S.W.D., 309).  
WALKER rejoining convoy. Contact now stationary  
in ~~XXXXX~~ observed position 48:55 N., 10:14 W.  
Have fired electrical charges. Oil increased.  
(DEPTFORD, 2325/10). Oil probably from wreck of  
SULTAN STAR (I.C., 0508/40).

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

1000 Swordfish reports submarine 0900. Hal Far  
20 miles at 1000 cruising periscope depth. Dived  
on approach. Destroyers warned. (F.O.I.C.,  
Malta. 1113/10).

0500 Aircraft reported submarine 15 miles E. of  
Delimara 35:53 N., 16:02 E. which dived before  
aircraft reached it. (H.Q., ~~Malta~~, 1635/10)  
(I.C. 0508 gives position 35:49 N., 14:55 E.).

p.m. 3 U-boats reported by aircraft 2' N. of Port  
Augusta, Sicily. (I.C., 0508/40).



SITUATION REPORT

E-boat Activity

E-boat activity was reported last night off North Foreland, Dungeness and in the approach channel to Portsmouth.

U-boat activity diminished.

It is thought that only two U-boats are operating in British home waters. Only one ship was reported torpedoed and only one U-boat is reported to have been attacked today.

Enemy Air Acitivity

Adverse weather conditions last night reduced the raids on this country, and bombs dropped in Eastern and South-Eastern areas caused negligible damage and very few casualties.

Attacks on Shipping

Convoy F.S.18 was attacked between 2 pm and 3 pm off Southwold, but was undamaged. WIVERN, VENOMOUS, Coaster KYLEMOUNT and Trawler KORRAH were attacked during the day but were undamaged.

WARRIOR II sunk, Portland Attacked

Some 50 enemy aircraft were active in the Portland area. H.M.Y. WARRIOR II (Submarine Tender) was sunk at 0845. Portland harbour was raided by 18 Junkers at noon, bombs being dropped in the harbour and near the floating dock, 2 ships were slightly damaged. Four enemy planes were shot down.

Portsmouth attacked

At 1800 Portsmouth was attacked. Two barges with ammunition were hit and sunk without exploding, a French warship and some chasseurs were slightly damaged and a motor boat sunk. Fighters brought down 9 and probably four more enemy planes.

Bombs, considered to be of enemy origin, were *dropped* in the Sea near Skerryvore Light (West coast of Scotland) shortly after midnight 10/11, slight damage being done to the light.

11.7.40.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

---

British Air Activity

Anti-invasion patrols were not flown last night in the central North Sea owing to bad weather; the reconnaissance flights between Ostend and the Hook were made last night. Photographic reconnaissances today showed no shipping in Havre, Dieppe or Boulogne.

Concentrations of barges on the canal near Furnes and between Furnes and Dunkirk were bombed, but results could not be observed. The aerodrome and harbour at Boulogne were also bombed, the N.E. corner of the first lock being hit.

Mining

A minefield was laid near North Rona last night and further minelaying was carried out in the East coast mine barrier (Operation B.S.3).

Tyne-Blyth inner channel, Amble, and Newhaven are still closed.

M.D. BURLINGTON exploded a magnetic mine in Loch Ewe and sustained slight damage.

Cameroons, French Agreement

H.M.S. DRAGON, which had been at Duala since 7/7, reported that a decree had been signed disestablishing ~~the~~ the French Government in France as governing authority and proclaiming the Governor as supreme authority in accord with the British Government.

Italian Hostilities

ESCORT sunk

ESCORT was torpedoed early this morning whilst screening Force H proceeding towards Gibraltar. The Ship~~s~~ sank later. It has been confirmed that bombings of Force H during their sweep in the Western Mediterranean were carried out by Italian aircraft.

Mediterranean Fleet

The Mediterranean Fleet is returning to Alexandria, covering two convoys from Malta. WARSPITE and 7th C.S. are returning ahead of the battle fleet. The Fleet was bombed and constantly shadowed during.....

War Diary

11.7.40.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

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Italian Hostilities

Mediterranean  
Fleet (Contd.)

during the day, eight heavy air attacks being made on ROYAL SOVEREIGN, MALAYA and EAGLE. The slow convoy was bombed at 1017 and 1255. No ships were damaged and there were few casualties.

Malta raided

A single aircraft raided Malta twice this evening. No damage is reported. BRITISH UNION (Tanker 6987 tons) was unsuccessfully bombed off Crete today.

HOME COMMANDS

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Defence of U.K.

Patrols off  
French Ports

Request very early consideration to establishment of submarine patrols off Brest and French West Coast ports to give warning of, and attack, any expedition leaving those ports. (C. in C., W.A. 0038/11 to Adty.)

No further information with regard to an attempted invasion is available. Every vigilance should continue to be exercised, but boiler cleanings should be carried out. (D.O.D.H. 1249/11 to Flag Officers).

Trawlers to  
operate off  
Ireland

When available two of Belfast trawler force to operate off the West Coast of Ireland, proceeding Westabout with the objects of  
(a) Destroying U/Boats, who are to be attacked wherever met.  
(b) Intercepting and reporting suspicious vessels. Area of operations to lie between Queenstown and the Shannon. Time on patrol to be as long as practicable.

U/Boats are believed to follow the 100 fathom line down the West Coast of Ireland. The Germans may try to land troops in Neutral or disguised German Merchant Ships. (C. in C., W.A. 2031/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Policy.

French  
Warships

My 1155/4 any French naval forces other than than submarines which may be encountered should be given an opportunity to accept terms before resorting to force. The position in regard to submarines is governed by Adty. message 259 A of 8/7. (C. in C., H.F. 1053/11 to H.F. 42Z).

Consequent on the necessity which has arisen to use force against the French naval forces at Oran all French Naval Forces must now be regarded as hostile. Ships are to be prepared to attack but should not fire the first shot. Serial number 37Z. (C. in C., H.F. 1155/4 to H.F.)

War Diary11.7.40.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSMovements18th C.S.

Your 1916/10. Would prefer not to patrol on these nights. (C.S.18 0719/11 to C. in C., Nore).

Patrols

Patrol Vessels are now being frequently bombed. Intend to withdraw them in certain areas during daylight and maintain the Patrol from sunset to sunrise and during thick weather. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1537/11 to Adty.).

In view of frequent Air Attacks on Falmouth, it is important that WESTERLAND and Dutch Warships comprising the depot but not midshipmen's training centre should be based elsewhere as soon as possible. Holyhead has been suggested and to this C. in C. Dutch Navy agrees. If you concur request you will make the necessary arrangements at earliest opportunity in conjunction with S.N.N.O. Falmouth. (D.O.D.H. 17 13/11 to A.C.W.A.).

Positions of submarines and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/12:

**CLYDE** ~~TRUANT~~, TRUANT Q.S.M.F. 4530.  
TETRARCH Q.S.M.F. 0740. SUNFISH P.C.M.F. 5525. SALMON P.C.M.F. 4030. WILK J.Z.L.Z. 3500. SPEARFISH H 44 H. ~~xx~~ one and two H.28 C.P.S.C. 5351 H.49.

Dover Strait - SEVERN escorted by WHITE BEAR arrives North Channel am for onward passage to Plymouth escorted by one of Belfast trawler force TRIAD X.Z.S.C. 0040 TAKU Y.G.V.D. 4520 both proceeding on the surface to Rosyth. SWORDFISH N.L.W.T. 3005 proceeding submerged by day to Blyth H.50 proceeds from Harwich to Sheerness unescorted on the surface. (V.A.S. 1828/11).

E-Boats

Marked E-boat activity near North Foreland (C. in C., Nore 0110/11).

E-boats reported near Approach Channel. Grade B. (Portsmouth W/T 0129/11 to VERSATILE).

At 0155/11 possible E-boats off Dunnose steering S.W. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0200/11 to ACHERON).

At 0345/11 one E-boat 15' St. Catherines 125° (I.C. 0508/40).

Four E-boats course 200° bearing 180° 5' from 49:45 N. 4:30 W. Aircraft report. (R.217 Sqdn. 2115/11). Convoys informed (C. in C., W.A. 2139/11).



HOME COMMANDS

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E-boats (Contd.)

At 2055/11 one E-boat at 49:45 N., 4:57 W.  
Aircraft report. (C. in C., W.A. 0149/12 to  
Adty.).

At 2359/1 four E-boats bombed at 49:45 N.,  
4:47 W. (15 Group 2359/11 to H.Q.C.C.)

Boulogne

At 1255/11 four E-boats alongside quay at  
Boulogne; they had left by 1530/11. (D.D.I.C.  
2114/12 PRU Intell. 1705/12).

Air

British Air Activity

At 2359/11 bombed 4 E-boats at 49:45 N., 4:47 W.  
Steering-gear of one E-boat believed damaged.  
(15 Group 2359/11 to H.Q.C.C.)

At 1310/11 bombed 2 Danish Fishing Smacks at  
56:25 N., 5:40 E. (Donibristle 1545/11 to Adty.)

Boulogne

Bombed at 1250/11. N.E. corner of first Lock  
hit. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1715/11 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy Arena

Enemy aircraft bombing 52:35 N., 2:8 E.  
(WINCHESTER 0525/11). Four bombs, no hits.  
(WINCHESTER 0537/11).

Fighter Aircraft being sent (Nore W/T. 0551/11).  
Being attacked by aircraft 51:41 N., 1:35 E.  
(WESTON 1326/11) Fighters have left (Cleethorpes  
Radio 1356/11).

KODRAH

Trawler, bombed, at 0050/11 E. of Skerry-Vore.  
No damage. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1015/11 to Adty.)

Second Enemy Seaplane shot down at 1037/11 at  
49:40 N., 4:55 W., (C. in C., W.A., 1124/11 to  
WOLVERINE).

Enemy aircraft bombing at 52:13 N., 1:55 E.  
(WIVERN 1140/11).

War Diary11.7.40.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSAirEnemy Air Activity (Contd.)

VENOMOUS (on patrol) Attacked by one enemy aircraft at 52:10 N., 1:56 E., six bombs. (VENOMOUS 1143/1 to N.O.I.C. Harwich) Help 52:0 N., 1:0 E. 085 (VENOMOUS 1158/11).

Enemy aircraft bombing at 51:41 N. 1:35 E. (WINCHESTER 1325/11 6 bombs. No hits. (WINCHESTER 1330/11).

Convoy Pilot Being attacked 52:14 N., 1:57 E. course 027, speed 8 knots. (BLACK SWAN 1412/11). Fighters have left (Nore W/T 1419/11). Enemy aircraft bombing convoy Pilot. my position 52:13 N., 2:0 E. (HASTINGS 1455/11). One aeroplane, 5 bombs, no hits. (HASTINGS 1505/11).

Skerryvore Light Bombs fell in sea near Light at 0025/11. Request inquiry to Coastal Command Oban whether bombs friendly or hostile. (C. in C., Rosyth 1311/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Coastal Command Oban consider bombs to be of hostile origin. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1546/11 to C. in C., Rosyth).

MIES (Dutch 309) Damaged by aircraft attack 11/7 (D.S. 312).  
VAN GELDER  
(Dutch 325)

KYLEMOUNT British Coaster, attacked by 8 Bombers at 1130/11 10 miles off Dartmouth. One man seriously wounded by machine gun. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1712/11 to C. in C., W.A.).

Portland, Attacked by 18 aircraft at 1155/11. Slight damage  
PERU, to PERU and CITY OF MELBOURNE and 2 minor casualties  
CITY OF MELBOURNE Four enemy aircraft shot down. (F.O.I.C.  
damaged Portland 1822/11 to Adty.)

WARRIOR II Adty. Yacht. Sunk by near misses off Portland at 0845/11. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1825/11 to Adty.)

Portsmouth Air raid by about 10 aircraft at 1805 to 1810/11.  
SAVORGNAN BRAZZA ~~SAVORGNAN~~ BRAZZA, some Chasseurs, a Cherbourg Pilot boat, and one M/B slightly damaged. Casualties 3 French sailors wounded. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2253/11 to Adty.)



HOME COMMANDS

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Mining

Operation B.S. 23 completed. (Capt. D.20. 1333/11 to Adty.) No Air escort sighted. (Capt. D.20 1335/11 to C. in C., Rosyth).

One floating mine (Orange) at 54:10 N., 1:10 E. at 1025/11 Aircraft report. (Donibristle 1350/11 to Adty.).

Unexplained explosions

Series of large under-water-explosions in area North of Rona. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 1350/11 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Two enemy destroyers at 53:30 N. 5:0 E. Aircraft report. (Aircraft 206 Sqdn. 2220/11 to Bircham Newton) (Chatham 0109/12 to H.Q.C.C.)

Stavanger

3 destroyers near Rosenberg Dock, probably for repair. In Main harbour, one U-boat, 2 T.Bs and 2 M/Bs with A/A guns. Observer B.3 on 3 July. (N.A. Stockholm, 1558/11 to D.N.I.)

Shipping

OA Convoys to run from Methil

C. in C., Nore 2126/10 para 2.  
(1) With augmented staff asked for in my 1831/9 the OA convoy should be well within capacity of N.C.S.O. Methil who recently dealt with very large Scandinavian convoys. Re (2) even in the exceptional weather of last winter there were few days on which convoys were delayed due to inability to board. (3) At times over 100 ships have gathered in Methil. (4) Apart from the physical anti-submarine and E-boat defences which are probably better at Southend, Methil is six times as far from any enemy controlled territory as the former and with increasing air activity this would seem a most important factor. (C. in C., Rosyth 1052/11 to Adty.)

Cancel first two para. of my 1404/30.  
OA convoys will assemble at and be routed and sailed from Methil. Additional staff requested in C. in C. Rosyth 1831/9 is being arranged. C. in C. Rosyth to inform Adty. and other authorities concerned from what date N.C.S.O. Methil will be able to undertake above duties.

Cancel.....

War Diary11.7.40.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSShippingOA Convoys  
to run from  
Methil (Contd.)

Cancel my 1924/30. Commodores of OA convoys will sail from Methil and should be embarked in a ship bound for a West Coast port, a suitable Master being appointed as Vice-Commodore to take the duties of Commodore of the ocean-going section after dividing in the Northern approaches. (A.C.N.S.T. 1333/11).

Your 1711/9. EMERALD is to escort EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA to Iceland and then proceed independently to Clyde. Subsequent movements of EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA will be communicated. As T.C.6 is now considerably reduced in numbers REVENGE only is considered adequate escort. (D.O.D.(F) 1925/11 to R.A.3).

Convoys during  
invasion

My 2240/8. Delete all after "is likely to be enemy transports". Substitute: If the escort opens fire on a body of ships approaching the convoy, ships in convoy are also to open fire if their guns will bear or ram if they are in a suitable position to do so. After inflicting all damage possible they should endeavour to regain touch with the convoy failing which they should move away from the invasion area and continue their voyage. It is the duty of the escort to identify ships sighted and indicate their enemy character by opening fire on them. If for any reason the escort vessel is absent or out of sight, Merchant ships in convoy would always be justified in opening fire on ships approaching our coast which are obviously enemy. e.g. ships that are clearly seen to be loaded with troops or tanks. (C. in C., Nore, 1554/11 to C. in C., Rosyth).

War Diary11.7.40.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSWeather

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea N. of 55° N.	E. to N.E. light, to moderate.	Rain in west- ern part fair to cloudy in eastern part.	Moderate to poor in western part with fog patch- es. Good in eastern part.
S. of 55° N.	S. to S.E., light to moderate.	Showers.	Moderate in western part with fog patches good in eastern part.
Horns Reef	E.S.E. light to moderate.	Showers.	Mainly good.
Dutch Coast	S. light to moderate.	Showers.	Moderate.
S.W. Norway	E. light to moderate.	Fair to cloudy.	Mainly good.
Channel	W.S.W. light.	Cloudy.	Mainly good except for fog patches (or very low cloud) in Straits of Dover.
Western Approaches	N.W. light to moderate.	Showers.	Good.

War Diary11.7.40.  
Thursday.

## CASUALTIES &amp; DEFECTS

Home CommandsHOLMPARK )  
TROLLEHOLM )

In collision in convoy HX.54. Damage to HOLMPARK slight. TROLLEHOLM leaking badly in fore peak, but can steam 5 knots. (WANDERER 0650/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

WARRIOR II  
sunk

Sunk off Portland by near misses at 0845/11. Chief Steward killed, 2 injured. 340 survivors landed at Portland by A/S trawler. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1825/11 to Adty.)

War Diary11.7.40.  
Thursday.FRENCH SHIPPINGStatus

From Adty. The exact status of French shipping must remain obscure until Anglo French political relations are clarified. Pending such clarification you should be guided in your actions by the following main considerations:-

- (A) French Merchant ships should be stopped, by force if necessary, from entering.
- (1) Any port in France
  - (2) Any port in any French possession in which British ships are being detained.

(B) Subject to compliance with (A) (2) it is desirable to foster friendly relations with any French colonial possessions whose Authorities are sympathetic to our cause and French ships should therefore be allowed to trade to and from ports in such areas. Until the situation is clearer, fast ships which might be used as A.M.C.'S. against us should not be released.

In intercepting these instructions you have full authority to use your discretion but should consult British Ambassadors or Colonial Governors with whom you may be in touch. (D.T.D. apprd. by 1st X. Lord 2022/11 to C. in C.'s abroad, etc.)

North Atlantic.

ESCORT torpedoed and sunk. See U/Boat Campaign, 259.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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South Atlantic

HERMES Force

My 0344/7. The operation having been successfully concluded, you should relinquish the appointment of Acting Rear Admiral after today, 11/7. (Naval Secretary, 1311/11 to HERMES).

French Ships

Adty. 2025/7. Reporting Officer, Majunga, reports GAELIC STAR has sailed for Durban. Have suggested to Union authorities that BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE be released forthwith from Cape Town although no arrangement to this effect had been concluded with Governor, Madogascar. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1812/11 to Adty.)

French Decree,  
Duala

My 2200/10. Decree signed. Disestablishes French Government in France as governing authority and proclaims Governor ~~xxx~~ as supreme authority in accord British Government. Requirements for security satisfactory. Political situation undoubtedly improved, but do not think it can be considered satisfactory until reactions to decree are seen and communication with other authorities forbidden. For instance, cypher from ILHA GRANDE orders all French merchant ships to be immobilised by removal of part of the machinery. Have persuaded authorities to disregard this for French ship FORT DE TROYON, who will complete with cargo here. (DRAGON, 1900/11).

Mediterranean

Battle Fleet

Battle Fleet is to remain to westward M.S.1 until latter is past meridian 22 (? E.) M.S.1 is to steer 130° at (? 2100) for 6 hours. M.S.1 in position 098°, 35° N., 17° E., (? 21) at 1500. (C. in C., Med., 1515/11).

7th C.S.

Amend rendezvous for 7th C.S. 360 degrees, 33:0 N., 23:0 E., 35' at 0800, 12/7. Course 120 degrees, 16 knots. (C. in C., Med., 1513/11).

Convoy

Local R.A.F. authorities have been informed fast convoy leaves England for Malta 14/7. Request information. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 2225/11).

War Diary11.7.40.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean (Contd.)Local Convoys

Movements Summary No. 131. Medit. Convoy escorted by DECOY, VAMPIRE and VOYAGER left Malta 2100/10 for Alexandria. GARLAND with small convoy left Alexandria p.m. 11/7 for Haifa. Submarine Patrol, OSIRIS area W., RORQUAL north and PHOENIX south of a line 100° from Catania Light. (C.O.I.S., 1850/11).

Destroyer

At 0930/11, an aircraft reported an enemy destroyer 70 miles N.N.W. of Benghazi towing a damaged aircraft towards Benghazi. (I.C., 0509/40).

Cruisers,  
Destroyers

Air reconnaissance of Augusta 11/7 reported 3 cruisers and 8 destroyers in harbour. (I.C., 0509/40).

Mediterranean - AirReconnaissance

Position course and speed of own forces 3 merchant vessels 4 destroyers bearing 222, position 34:30 N., 21:20 E., course 104, speed 10 knots. (F/B.L. 5806, 0615/11).

Enemy Aircraft  
H.M.S. ORION

Am being shadowed by enemy aircraft bearing 315, position 35:30 N., 17:08 E. (ORION, 0905/11).

Convoy Bombed.

Enemy bombing in position 288, 35:0 N., 17:0E., 27, based on a fix at 0500. (DECOY, 1017/11). Enemy aircraft bombing M.S.1, position 330, 35 N., 17 E., 5. (DECOY, 1255/11).

Attack on Shipping Now bombed off Grabus Abay, Crete (BRITISH UNION, 0700/12). see 12/7.

East Indies

## CARAIBE

Message 1800/10 from B.L.O., Saigon. (? 1300Z/10). Worth noting that French themselves commenced demilitarising of ship by throwing breech blocks and depth charge pistols overboard before ship entered harbour. In view of Adty. 0012/9, all officers and men of CARAIBE are being kept disembarked. There are 45 ratings whose discipline the Captain cannot guarantee. There may be an opportunity on 15/7 to repatriate whole crew to Madagascar. (C. in C., E.I. to Adty. 0938Z/11).

11.7.40.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

SHENGKING  
Incident

Your 1051/10. French-Japanese settlement reached bar ammunition being transferred to Japanese lighter today, pending discussion regarding onward shipment to Haiphong. Ship detained Shanghai pending settlement of protest but Japanese persuaded meanwhile to permit ship proceed up river. Consider essential counter protest be drafted. Personal relations very friendly. Anticipate settlement of protest today or tomorrow. Request I may use my wide discretion. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 0139/11).  
Your 0139Z/11. While agreeing that a strong protest is necessary to avoid recurrence, our case appears to be weak as Japanese acted in river under their de Facto control, and in view of my 0311/11 signal your proposals after consulting H.M. Ambassador. (C. in C., China, 0919Z/11).

French Request

French Consul under instructions from Indo-China authorities has requested that consignment of British made aeroplanes for Saigon in S.S. BEN LOMOND due to arrive from Hong Kong tomorrow 12/7 be discharged at Manila instead of at Singapore. Agents of vessel have requested instructions. (Consul-General, Manila, to C. in C., China, 1131/11).

C.S. Manila 1131/11. No objection in this case (A.C.N.S.(T) 2305/11). Request policy. (C. in C. China 0730Z/11 to Adty.)

America & West Indies

REVENGE )  
BONAVENTURE )

Route and instructions for berthing. HX 57 sailed noon 11/7, route. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1201/11).

Sydney Convoy  
Assembly

As soon as Sydney boom complete, desired to attempt convoy assembly of ships from St. Lawrence and Newfoundland ports at Sydney. Proposed Sydney portion proceed without ocean escort to join Halifax portion in vicinity of present Halifax-Bermuda junction. Request your detailed proposal. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa to C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1629/11).



War Diary11.7.40.  
Thursday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FRANZ JÜRGEN 2170 G.T., arrived Swinemunde 1600/11.  
(I.C., 0509/40).

WERNER VINNEN 2340 G.T., due to arrive Leningrad am/12/7.  
(I.C., 0509/40).

NORTH AMERICA From intercepted German en clair W/T, appears that a motor ship (? tanker) with Panamanian call sign HPOC named NORTH AMERICA was transferred to Hamburg register on 11/7. As ship is unknown to Lloyds and call sign does not appear in 1940 edition of Berne List, this is probably new ship which has been building in Germany and now taken over by Nazis. (I.C., 0509/40).

MARITZA 2910 G.T., reported to have arrived at Sibenik, Yugoslavia, 8/7 for bauxite. (I.C. 0509/40).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PAGANINI 2427 tons, reported in an Italian news bulletin to have caught fire and sunk 12 miles off Durazzo with a loss of 226 Italian and Albanian troops. Cause not known. *See also Supplementary Diary 28/6.*

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

MELPOMENE 7011 tons Detained in Canal Area (R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1800/11).

RHEA 7813 tons do.

War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.11.7.40.  
Thursday.Ships attacked.

A/C reports ship torpedoed in position 50.01 N.  
11.54 W., at 0650. (A.C.W.A. 0709/11) (A.S.W.D.  
309) (I.C. 0508/40).

S/M's Reported.

0730 A/C reports suspicious oil track in 49.50 N.,  
8.20 W. Am remaining with convoy, 5 depth  
charges left, enough fuel to reach Liverpool.  
(WALKER, 0803/11).

1115 In Western Approaches. position indefinite  
(I.C. 0509/40).

1120 -2014. D.F., enemy unit probably U/B, 50° 40' N.,  
12°00' W., unreliable fix, (D.B/C. 1152/11) (C.  
in C. W.A. 1152/11). Two further transmissions  
at 1144 and 1218 B.S.T., from enemy unit in approx.  
the same position. (D.D.I.C., 1248/11). (C. in C.  
W.A. 1657/11) (I.C. 0509/40).

p.m./10  
or a.m./11.

51.23 N., 9.32 W., 70° Fastnet 2'. Reported by  
fisherman. (I.C. 0508/40).  
Following torpedoing of Finnish PETSAMO off Cape  
Clear, time unknown, U-boat reported off Fastnet  
night of 10-11/7. (C. in C.W.A. 1156/11).

2010 Enemy unit, probably U/B, in 50° 50' N., 11°20' W.,  
unreliable fix. (D.D. I.C. 2010/11) (C. in C.  
W.A. 2010/11).

South Atlantic.

My 1313/10, re investigation of S/M reported to  
St. Vincent local W/T station. British Consul,  
St. Vincent, (Cape Verde) reports that at 2315/10  
Portuguese destroyer TENO has returned to harbour  
with nothing to report. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1159/11).  
S/M reported sighted 40 miles off Cape St. Vincent  
by British ship. No direction given. Source A.O.  
(Consul, Lisbon, 2005/11).

Your 0112/11. Have already joined DEPTFORD. Have  
carried out one attack. (Capt. D.9 to C. in C.W.A.  
0216/11). 3 attacks have been carried out on  
DEPTFORD's target, diesel oil and heavy scum  
rising after each attack. No sign of movement  
since 0150. DEPTFORD left to rejoin convoy at  
0600, HAVELOCK and HARVESTER proceeding to rejoin  
OREGON. (Capt. D.9, 0640/11).



War Diary.

11.7.40.  
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Mediterranean and East Indies.

Ships attacked.

ESCORT  
sunk.

At about 0230/11 whilst screening Battle Fleet, H.M.S. ESCORT was torpedoed in position 052° 36° N., 4° W., 24 m. No. 1 boiler room full. FAULKNER and FORESTER standing by and preparing to take in tow. (S.O. Force H. 0626/11, 0741/11) ESCORT appears settling (80, H. 1150/11) ESCORT sunk, hunt continuing. (S.O. H. 1220/11).

Facts so far established regarding torpedoing. At 0215 in position 052° 36° N., 4° W., 24., officer of watch in FORESTER sighted S/M on surface on starboard bow. S/M fired stern tube (s) and crash dived. This or a previous torpedo hit ESCORT, but unknown to FORESTER, who turned towards, increased speed and opened fire with B gun. Depth charges not ready in time. No asdic contact obtained in either ship, but approaching torpedo heard as H.E. FORESTER obtained contact at about 0300 and fired six depth charges at 0315 set to 300 feet. No positive results observed. State of readiness of depth charges is being investigated. ESCORT hit abreast of bulkhead between one and two boiler rooms. Bulkhead between two and three split. Upper deck blown away except for small strip each side. Ship's back practically broken and heavy list before sinking at 1114/11. (S.O. Force H., 1555/12, 1559/12).

S/M's Reported.

0230 36:15 N., 4.35 W., 84' E. of Gibraltar (I.C., 0508/40).

S/M's attacked.

0959 Oil patch B N C X 4830 (position corrupt) possible submarine, one bomb dropped. (A/C. via Malta W/T 0959/11).

Asdic Limitation.

PROTEUS and PANDORA report in area where ESCORT was torpedoed there is a definite heavy layer at 90 feet and that this has been <sup>ascertained</sup> frequently in West Mediterranean basin. It seems probable that asdics will be unable to obtain contact on submarines below this depth. (S.O. Force H. 1417/11)

SITUATION REPORT

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Patrols

Azores

DELHI is being transferred to the command of F.O.C. North Atlantic for the purpose of establishing a patrol to prevent any enemy landing in the Azores.

Cape Verde Is.

The Cape Verde Islands are also to be patrolled as often as forces at the disposal of C. in C., S.A. permit.

French West Coast

A continuous patrol by one submarine is to be instituted off the French west coast.

Ireland

NEWCASTLE and 2 destroyers left Plymouth 1530 to patrol off the south coast of Ireland. Two of the Belfast trawler Force sailed to operate between Queenstown and the Shannon, to attack U-boats and intercept suspicious vessels. A patrol of the North Channel has been instituted.

Policy towards the French

H.M. Govt. have decided to take no further action in regard to the French ships in French Colonial or North African ports unless proceeding to enemy controlled ports. The French are to be asked to propose submarine exercise areas if they wish to make use of them, and their submarines will then be treated similarly to those of Italy whilst that country was neutral. Ships are to be prepared for attack when meeting a French warship, but are not to fire the first shot. French warships under control of French Govt. are to be treated as neutral war vessels if approaching a defended port.

Submarines for Clyde

3 Dutch submarines, escorted by a Dutch T.B.D., left Milford Haven for Clyde, and OBERON and OTWAY left Portsmouth for Clyde.

SITUATION REPORT

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Troop Convoys

WS 1                    3 ships, escorted CUMBERLAND, is near St.Helena, bound for India.

BC                     5 ships, escort CORNWALL and AUSTRALIA, is S.E. of Azores bound for U.K.

BN 1                    Escort CLIVE and GRIMSBY is in Red Sea, bound for Suez.

STRATHMORE,         Escort CANBERRA, has arrived at Cape Town from Fremantle.

ORMONDE             }  
ULSTER PRINCE       }       With personnel from U.K., escort ECHO and FIREDRAKE, have arrived at Reykjavik.

Merchant Ships Convoys

OA convoys are to assemble and be routed at Methil instead of Southend, commencing with OA 186 due to leave Methil on 18/7.

British Air Activity

Normal patrols were flown, except for some anti-invasion patrols which were cancelled owing to the weather.

Reconnaissance flights were carried out over Christiansund South, and over the Dutch, Belgian and French coasts.

Aircraft reconnaissance reported an unbroken line of barges moored three deep for 8 miles in the Ostend-Bruges Canal at Passchendaele.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy FS 19 was attacked off Aldeburgh by 12 bombers in formation of 3 between 0850 and 0930 S.S. HORNCHURCH was holed by near miss and sank later. A.A. fire from convoy kept enemy at 4000 ft. Our fighters brought down 3 of the enemy planes.

Grimsby trawler VOLANTE was bombed and sunk off Iceland.

Submarine H 28 was bombed near Harwich while returning from patrol, but was undamaged.

12.7.40.  
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

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Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Raids last night over Eastern and South Western counties and South Wales caused very little damage and few casualties. Plymouth and Devonport were bombed, houses being demolished, but no damage was done in the Dockyard.

A raid on Aberdeen at 1245 badly damaged Hall Russell's Shipyard, but no damage was caused to H.M. ships building or under repair. There were over 100 casualties. One raider was shot down.

Six bombs dropped on the coaling jetty at Portland caused some settlement of the jetty. Portsmouth was attacked, but no damage was done. One raider was shot down.

Mining

Aircraft minelaying is suspected off Haisborough Light Vessel.

FURIOUS was held up at Liverpool today owing to the weather being unsuitable for sweeping.

The port of Amble was opened late this evening. M/D BURLINGTON exploded a magnetic mine in Loch Ewe.

West Indies

Watch on the French warships at Martinique and Guadeloupe is being withdrawn. ILLUSTRIOUS and FIJI will return in company to Scapa where working up is to be completed.

Italian Hostilities

The Medit. Fleet is at sea covering the two convoys from Malta to Alexandria.

S.S. BRITISH UNION (Tanker 6987 tons) was again attacked by Italian aircraft while at anchor off Crete today. C. in C. Medit. sent a destroyer escort at dusk, to accompany her to Alexandria. The Greeks asked that she might leave territorial waters during the night, to avoid air attack and complications with Italy. The Greek destroyer HYDRA which left Milos on hearing of the incident was also bombed, without result.



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War Diary

12.7.40.  
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Italian Hostilities (Contd.)

*Sinking not  
confirmed by  
A.S. Comd.*

It is reported from Malta that one enemy submarine was definitely sunk by a flying boat am today, and a second was heavily depth charged by two trawlers and was last seen steering S.E. leaving a trail of oil and probably badly damaged.

Flying boats also sank another 60 miles N.E. of Cape Spartivento in the afternoon.

War Diary12.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSPolicyPolicy towards  
France

My 2005/4 and 1357/8.

(a) RICHELIEU has now been dealt with and JEAN BART could not complete for a considerable period even her building yard.

(b) Further maintenance of present tension between the French Navy and ourselves is very undesirable and might even lead to war with that country.

(c) H.M. Govt. have decided to take no further action in regard to the French ships in French Colonial or North African ports. We reserve the right to take action in regard to French warships proceeding to enemy controlled ports. So far as submarines are concerned we shall follow rules which were first generally accepted in the Nyon Convention and subsequently acted upon during the present war in respect of Italian submarines while that country was neutral. These rules are (i) that submarines found submerged outside ~~certain~~ certain limited areas to be agreed upon will be treated as hostile; (ii) that submarines on the surface the same areas will be treated as hostile unless accompanied by a French surface warship.

(d) Desired that policy given in para (c) be communicated via Naval channels to the French Adty. and the C. in C., Medit., or in his absence C.S.3 is accordingly to inform Admiral Godfroy and to ask that the French will propose submarine exercise areas if they wish to make use of them. No action is to be taken by other addressees.

(e) Pending further instructions ships must be prepared for attack when meeting a French warship but should not repeat not fire the first shot.

(1st S.L. 0241/12 to A.I.G.9 and C. in C.'s)

For the present French warships under control of French Govt. should be treated as neutral war vessels if approaching a defended port.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2326/12, Adty. General Mge Home and Abroad 263A).

Defence of U.K.

Distinguishing marks for warships including minor war vessels to assist identification by coast batteries during attempted invasion (Adty. 1625/12. Message Home 675AZ).



War Diary12.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSMovements

My 1109/12. Request you institute forthwith a patrol across North Channel using NORTHERN DAWN and NORTHERN GEM and any other Belfast Trawler Group available. (C. in C., W.A. 1334/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Patrol of North Channel

Take NORTHERN GEM under your orders and proceed forthwith in accordance with C. in C., W.A.'s 2031/11. Report time you estimate you can remain on Patrol. In the absence of further instructions return to Ardrossan on completion of patrol. Acknowledge. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0005/12 to NORTHERN DAWN).

Northern Patrol

I consider that we should improve our ability to patrol off Iceland and in northern waters so request that KINGSTON BERYL, KINGSTON ONYX, and NORTHERN REWARD may be returned to V.A.N.P. (C. in C., H.F. 1827/12).

My 1201 to NORFOLK. How can ship best assist you? (C. in C., H.F., 1214/12 to C. in C., W.A.). Request NORFOLK remain at short notice in Clyde for the present. (C. in C. H.F. 1504/12 to C. in C., W.A.).

Raise steam at one hour's notice. (C. in C., H.F. 1222/12 to SOUTHAMPTON)

## SPEARFISH

Orders to leave patrol 2200/16 (Capt. S.6 1431/12)

Dutch M/S forces at Falmouth

Names and orders for future employment (D.M.S. 1855/12).

## SALMON

Return to base forthwith. Route. Bombing restrictions arranged. (Capt. (S) 3 2241/12).

Submarines

Positions and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/13. Clyde Stadlandet TRUANT Q S M F 4530 TETRARCH Q S M F 0740 SUNFISH X Z M F 1730 SALMON X Z M F 0025 WILK J Z L Z 3500 SPEARFISH H 44, H One and Two, H 49 leaves Dover am for Harwich proceeding escorted on the surface TRIAD T G V D 4520 proceeding on the surface to Rosyth. TIGRIS in Firth of Clyde to Rothesay. (V.A.(S) 1917/12, D.C. 2218/12).

HOME COMMANDS

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Submarines  
for Clyde

Your 1833/7 SEVERN on passage from Rosyth to Plymouth. OTWAY and OBERON due to sail Portsmouth to Clyde pm 12th Dutch submarines O.9. O.10 and O.23 on passage from Milford Haven to Rothesay. (C. in C., W.A. 2218/12 to Adty.)

Operations

Reconnaissance  
of Narvik

Unless you see any objection a cruiser with aircraft should be sent to reconnoitre Narvik to see whether there is any considerable concentration of M.Vs which might be used for an operation against Iceland. (1st S.L. 1108/12 to C. in C., H.F.).

Counter proposal that both battle cruisers and 5 destroyers be used, Swordfish from REPULSE being used for r.c., since GNEISENAU likely still in northern waters. Alternatively a Sunderland from Shetlands might be used. (C. in C., H.F. 1423/12).

Operation Purge

Your 2240/8 and 1554/11, concur. N.C.S.O. in my command will be informed (C. in C., Rosyth 1644/12 to C. in C., Nore).

Brown Ridge Sweep

3 destroyers from Harwich will carry out a sweep eastward of mine barrier between 052 N. and 052:40 N. on the night of 12/13 and there-after on alternate nights. This will be known as the Brown Ridge sweep. (V.A.(S) 1721/12 to submarines on patrol.

Submarine Patrol off French West Coast

- A - My 1804/4. It is desired to institute a continuous patrol by one submarine off French West Coast, patrol to be maintained by TIGRIS, TALISMAN and CACHALOT operating from the Clyde.
- B - My 1901/20/6 and my 1628/27/6 TIGRIS, TALISMAN and CACHALOT are to be lent to 7th S/F temporarily.
- E - Escort to and from patrol will be required between Clyde and 50:0 N. Concurrence of Netherlands Authorities is being sought for T.B. Z 6 to be employed on this service as temporary measure.  
(V.A.(S) 1509/12 C. in C., W.A. 2043/12).

War Diary12.7.40.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDSE-BoatsE-Boats activity suspected North Foreland.  
(C. in C., Nore, 0027/12).BoulogneE-Boats in Harbour attacked by aircraft.  
Damage not observed. (Chatham Broadcast 0138/12  
to H.Q.C.C.)Willemsoord4 E-Boats in Harbour during night 12/13.  
(I.C. 0510/40).AirBritish Air ActivityBoulogneE-boats in Harbour attacked. Results not  
observed. (Chatham Broadcast 0138/12).  
Barges etc. attacked. 2 bombs on cluster  
of barges and seaplane at S. end of basin  
(Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2300/12).SkagerrakAircraft r.c. nothing to report (C. in C.,  
Rosyth 1842/12).St. Nazaire

Report of r.c. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 2245/12).

TexelOne Patrol Vessel bombed 6' N. of Texel. No  
result observed (I.C. 0510/40).Enemy Air ActivitySubmarine H 28Bombed 1307 whilst returning through Gap E.  
(S.O. Submarines Harwich, 2305/12).Enemy aircraft bombing at 52:11 N., 2:0 E.  
(ANTHONY 0503/12).Enemy aircraft bombed trawler at 52:0 N., 1:54 E.  
No hits. (WHITSHED 0504/12).

War Diary12.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSAirEnemy Air Activity (Contd.)Convoy FS 19  
attacked,  
HORNCHURCH sunk

Convoy FS 19 attacked by 12 bombers in formations of threes between 0830 and 0930 today Friday in position 60° 12 miles Orfordness. Enemy attacked from the S.W. from behind cloud patches. Large number of bombs dropped but no direct hits. S.S. HORNCHURCH sank at 0945 as a result of near miss at 0840. No casualties to personnel all of which were landed at Harwich in WIDGEON. 3 Enemy planes seen to crash in sea as a result of attacks by fighters. A/A Fire from Convoy and escort kept enemy at about 4000 feet. No dive bombing was seen. (WALLACE 2211/12).

Enemy aircraft bombing 52:0 N., 2:0 E. (VERITY 0833/12) (WALLACE 0835/12). Fighters being sent (W/T Nore 0847/12). HORNCHURCH holed off Aldeburgh and sinking (Humber Radio. Recd. 0856/12). Sunk see CASUALTIES.

Help Booty. 52:4 N., 1:50 E. (WALLACE 0927/12). Fighters being sent (Nore W/T 0940/12). Result of attack HORNCHURCH sunk in position 060 Orfordness 13. No further damage. (WALLACE 1015/12 to C. in C., Nore).

Aberdeen

Air Raid at 1245/12. No damage to Adty. property or personnel. Raider crashed in flames at 1255/12 at Broomhill, suburb of Aberdeen. Hall Russell's shipyard badly damaged by 3 heavy H.E. bombs. No damage to H.M. Ships building or under repair, 20 K., 50 W. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1323/12, 1711/12).

Newport  
AMBUSCADE

2 bombs dropped in docks areas 1645. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1845/12). Bombed 52:5 N., 1:53 E. (AMBUSCADE 1717/12).

HESPERUS

Bombed 1723/12 300° 48:0 N., 9:0 W. (? 2:0 E) 24 miles (HESPERUS 1705/12, 1723/12)

HIGHLANDER

Bombed 110° 49:0 N., 10:0 W. 27 miles (HIGHLANDER 1728/12).

S.S. JOSEWYN

Bombed and machine gunned off Isle of Wight 1735 (JOSEWYN 1739/12).

War Diary12.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSAir (Contd.)Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)VOLANTE sunk

Grimsby trawler bombed and machine gunned and sunk 10 miles S, Whale Back Nock (about 50 miles off E-coast Iceland) 0230/12. 2 bombs, Capt. killed, 1 crew badly wounded, remainder probably landed safely about 1700/12, 15 miles S. Budareyi. (Alabaster, Reykjavik, 2104/12, F.O.I.C. Iceland 2045/12).

Portland

Air raid at 1305/12. Six bombs. No damage. (I.C. 0510/40).

Mining

Large numbers of Floating Mines. (Submarine H.28 1015/12).

Liverpool  
FURIOUS

FURIOUS to be held until Channel has been swept for mines (C. in C., H.F. 1216/12). Weather unsuitable for sweeping today. QZS 130 will be searched for moored and magnetic mines when weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1512/12).

Loch Ewe

1548/12 M/D BURLINGTON exploded mine 007 -  $\frac{1}{2}$  1.27 miles Rudha Man Sason triangle, no serious damage to ship. 0 trawlers have completed sweep and returned to Stornoway (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1945/12).

Amble

Port now open. Details of approach channel. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2344/12).

Enemy Intelligence.

2 destroyers bearing 200 one mile course 010 speed 17 knots from 51:54 N. 3:0 E. (Submarines H 28, 0155/12 to Adty.)

Unknown Vessel at 53:15 N., 4:51 E. at 0255/12 fired at aircraft. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0625/12).

C. in C., W.A. 1109/12 was destroyed by D.N.I.'s orders. Any ship wearing Russian colours to be examined & every precaution taken. (C. in C. H.F. 1203/12 to SEVERN).

War Diary12.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Summary of aircraft reports of barges and shipping in Belgian canals and ports and Cherbourg. (D.D.I.C. 2114/12).

R.C. 8/7

Photographs of r.c. of Trondheim on 8/7 appear to show one HIPPER to E. of Monkholmen I. and one LEIPZIG to west of Island very near shore. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1840/12).

R.C. 9/7

One HIPPER and 3 destroyers probably MAAS type in Werfthaven at Bremen. (H.Q.B.C.T.H.I. 2213/12)

Boulogne

2 M.Vs possibly armed auxiliaries, in Harbour at 2027/12. (I.C. 0510/40).

ShippingOA Convoys

To assemble and be routed at Methil commencing with OA 186 due to leave Methil 18/7 (Adty. 1333/11, C. in C., Rosyth 1451/12).

Independent Shipping

Cancel my 1626/9 para 1 and substitute: Homeward bound independent shipping is to be sailed to arrive through Northern Approaches. Ships bound for East coast ports are to be routed to Clyde only (D.T.D. 1540/12 to C. in C.'s etc. Home and Abroad).

Minches

Route for shipping through (D.T.D. 1551/12).

Miscellaneous

Following extract from SUSSEX R. of P.: 2027/11 a signal was intercepted indicating that a ship had sighted or was being attacked by a raider viz RRRR 10-24. Signal then ceased, no D/F bearing could be obtained. Strength of signals indicated that vessel was at least 300 miles distant. Ends. SUSSEX is estimated to have been approximately in position 57:0 N. 27:0 W. at this time. Nothing is known of this report in RODNEY. FURIOUS is to report whether she intercepted this signal giving any details known. (C. in C., H.F. 2317/12).  
Reply. Signal was not intercepted by FURIOUS (FURIOUS 0526/13).



271

War Diary12.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSWeather

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	S.E. to S. moderate in S. and centre, N.E. gale in N.	Good in S, moderate in centre, poor with local fog in N.	Similar S, and centre. Wind veering and moderating slowly in N.
Channel	S.W. light in E. W. moderate to fresh in W.	Very good.	Similar.
Western Approaches	New strong to gale.	Very good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast	S. or S.E. moderate.	Moderate or good.	Similar.
Heligoland Bight Skagerrak	N. to N.E. gale west of Ireland, Stornoway, Lerwick		

War Diary

12.7.40  
Friday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

---

WILJA (Aux.)

Polish. Serious engine trouble and proceeding to Vigo at 4 knots. (ENCHANTRESS 0630/12 to C. in C.W.A.)

LARS KRUSE

Steering gear defective. Have ordered her to Milford Haven. (Capt. D.9.0859/12 to C.in C.W.A.)

HORNCHURCH

Sunk about 7 miles 074° from Aldeburgh Coast guard Station at 0930/12. Two survivors picked up by Warship. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1120/12 to C. in C. Nore). No casualties (WIDGEON 0950/12 to WALLACE)



FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Submarines

My 2232/5 and your 1357/8. Instructions have now been issued to ships and aircraft of N.A. Station to attack French submarines if submerged or on the surface unescorted provided they are not within 20 miles of French or French Colonial territory. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty., 1306/12).

Azores Patrol, DELHI

To ensure that we are not forestalled in the Azores, it is desired to establish a patrol with object of preventing an enemy landing. Although there is now no indication that enemy contemplates such an operation, weakness of defences are such that small German force from Coast of France or elsewhere might attempt it. DELHI is transferred to the command of F.C.C.N.A. for this purpose. F.O.C.N.A. requested to report extent to which patrol can be maintained, DELHI being based on Gibraltar. (1st S.L., 2355/12). *DELHI unsuitable without an*  
*order. P. 291.*

South Atlantic

Convoys.  
Warning of  
French Aircraft

S.L. 39 [escorted by DUNVEGAN CASTLE] sailed from Freetown 0600 zone plus 1, 9/7. Outgoing S.L.F. 39 sailed from Freetown 1030/11. Air patrol from Freetown to a depth of 50 (?) miles with Walrus amphibians. Inaccurate bombing attacks by French aircraft were carried out on H.M. ships off Dakar after operations against RICHELIEU. You should be ready for possible further reprisals, but should not take action unless attacked. (C. in C.S.A., to ASTURIAS, CANTON, 0947/12).

MALOJA

My 1915/3. MALOJA on relief by local escort to proceed independently to Greenock, arriving 18/7, to return to Freetown not later than 1/8. (C. in C.S.A., 1201/12)

Routes.  
Shipping

My 1935/2. Cancel para. 3 and substitute - The English Channel is not to be used by ocean-going shipping. For the present fast independent ships from south may enter Irish Sea by Western Approaches, but from now onwards all other homeward bound independent shipping to be sailed to arrive through Northern Approaches. (C. in C.S.A., to S.O.I.'s Capetown and Freetown, 1312/12)

Fuelling

Request instructions where ships unable to carry sufficient fuel to reach U.K. from Freetown should bunker, observing Dakar, St. Vincent and Canary Islands are now ruled out and Gibraltar appears undesirable. Could Azores or Lisbon be used? (C. in C.S.A., to Admty., 1807/12)

Cape Verde Patrol

Although no indication that enemy contemplates any offensive action against Cape Verde Islands, weakness of the defences may possibly tempt him. Request that as often as forces at your disposal admit you

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Cape Verde  
Patrol (Ctd.)

will arrange a patrol of the islands, keeping Admiralty informed of your general intentions. (1st S.L., to C. in C.S.A., 2356/12)

Mediterranean

GLENOURCHY  
Route

Glen Line GLENOURCHY, 18 knots, arriving Gibraltar 24/7 with aircraft and stores for Malta and Middle East. Question of route, whether via Cape. C. in C. Med. to report which route he considers should be taken, and if direct from Gibraltar to Malta, to signal an outline plan for operation on the assumption that ships as necessary from Force H will be placed under his orders. (1st.S.L.0308/12)

Admty. 0308/12. In view of large consignments for Middle East, the present uncertain conditions in French North Africa, and the review of situation by S.O. Force H in his 1210/11 and 1212/11, I consider better to route GLENOURCHY round the Cape on this occasion. Should be quite feasible to pass her through to Malta from Egypt. (C. in C., Med., 0737/12)

Admty. 0308/12. If direct passage impracticable, suggesting erect 12 Hurricanes for Malta at Gibraltar, transporting them to longitude 6 or 7 degrees E. on ARK ROYAL's flight deck, and flying them off at dawn for Malta, accompanied by one Blenheim for navigational purposes. (F.O., Force H 1441/12 to C. in C., Med.)

My 2053/9, re civil shelter scheme in Malta. If my request approved, opportunity for fast transport may be provided by your 0308/12. (V.A., Malta to Admty., 2315/12).

GLENOURCHY now at King George V. Dock, London, to be sailed soon as possible for Liverpool to embark aircraft, etc., ready to sail p.m. 13/7. Escort orders. (D.O.D.(H), 2354/12).

Battle Fleet

WARSPITE, 2 cruisers and 4 destroyers will be in position 326° 150 miles from Mersa Matruh at 1500 steering for Mersa Matruh at 18 knots. Is fighter support possible? (C. in C. Med. to 252 Wing, 1201/12). Your 1201. 2 flights of Blenheim fighters at 10 minute interval are being despatched now via Mersa Matruh. (R.A.C., Alexandria, to C. in C., 1500/12)

Operations,  
July 8-10.

Connected account, in amplification of short signals previously sent. (C. in C., Med., 2125/12, see Mediterranean Volume)

War Diary12.7.40  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanFleet Bombed

Fleet left vicinity of Malta 0800/11, covering convoy. Fast convoy due Alexandria 0800/13, slow convoy at dawn 15/7. Latter and all forces bombed several times, 1st B.S. and EAGLE heavily yesterday 11/7. WARSPITE and attendant ships continuously bombed from Cyrenaican coast since 0900. Heavy expenditure of A/A ammunition by all ships, few casualties, and no further damage up to date. (C. in C., Med., 1125/12). *See also 299.*

Evacuations.

Agreed with C. in C., East Indies to evacuate families as suitable shipping in convoys becomes available. (C. in C., Middle East, 1410/12)

Mails

Your 75852 (M.O.5) 8/7. Trust this service will start soon and include provision for carriage of mails. No mails received for more than six weeks. Morale of troops will suffer if satisfactory arrangements for mails not provided. (C. in C., Middle East, to W.O., 1432/12).

Cutting Cables

Your 1104/7, cutting cable between Barcelona and Marseilles. Concur in proposal to use MIRROR, but operation is to be in abeyance until further orders. (D.S.D., to F.O.C.N.A., 1539/12).

A/S Operations

Admty. 1321/10, PANDORA and PROTEUS reverting to operational control of C. in C., Med. Appears that an Italian U-boat patrol is established in vicinity of Alboran Island. Should like to employ PANDORA and PROTEUS on A/S operations against this patrol. (F.O.C., Force H., to C. in C., Med., 2107/12).

Greek Incidents

Bombing attack on ship at Grabusa due to presence of BRITISH UNION (see Air). Italians apologised for error. No damage or casualties. Greek destroyer HYDRA left Milos on hearing of incident and 3 unknown bombers attacked her without result. Greek inquiry whether these were British aircraft who mistook her for Italian destroyer. What shall I reply? (Sir M. Palairot, Athens, to C. in C. Med., 1932/12) *Reply, see 18/7.*

Air

## BRITISH UNION

(See 11/7) 6987 tons. Still attacked, 3 Italian planes. (BRITISH UNION, 1040/12). Destroyers coming at dusk to escort you to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 1228/12, to BRITISH UNION)

BRITISH UNION at anchor attacked by aircraft about noon, no hits. Has moved to near Cape Kutri. Greeks request urgently that she leave territorial waters during night, not only to avoid air attacks tomorrow but also further complications with Italian Government. (N.A., Athens, 2029/12).

War Diary12.7.40  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanAir (Ctd.)Air Targets

Ref. 1633/9 from Governor of Malta. Admiralty view is that selection of targets and use of shore-based aircraft should be left to the discretion of the local commands. (5th S.L., to W.O., 1314/12)

East IndiesRed Sea  
Convoys

Possibility of speeding up. With my present force, cycle can be reduced from present 24 days to probable minimum of 15 days, if Aden is made assembly port for northbound ships not carrying troops; such ships proceed to Aden independently without escorts or special cover, and ships carrying troops are escorted in convoys which are sailed from Bombay, Mombasa, etc., so as to join supply ship convoy off Aden. Consider risk of air and submarine attack on supply ships collected in insecure outer anchorages at Aden and on single supply ships proceeding independently through Gulf of Aden should be accepted if speed up of convoy is essential. Further proposals. (C. in C.E.I., 1426Z/12).

Captured  
Submarine

Your 1634/6. Approved to sail Italian s/m GALILEO GALILEI as convenient utilising officers ex-KHARTOUM in conjunction with men ex-SHOREHAM if practicable. (C. in C.E.I., 0658Z/12).

Air Defence  
Aden

Summary of operations, bombing and fighter attack on Assab petrol dump, etc., mentions day's raid demonstrated poor chances Gladiators effecting interception owing lack of speed, unless their luck is in. (Air H.Q., Aden, 1825/13).

ChinaFrench Indo-  
China

French C. in C. has asked if any objection to AMIRAL CHARNER towing ARGUS from Hong Kong to Haiphong for defence of French Indo-China. ARGUS is of little military value and unless some question of principle is involved I recommend agreement. (C. in C. China, 0451Z/12). Concur (A.C.N.S.(F) 1809/13).

French  
Shipping

Admty. 2022/11. British, Allied and foreign chartered shipping has resumed normal trade to Indo-China. French shipping is allowed to run normally within China Station. Request (1) your instructions concerning French possessions on your station under category (b). (2) Whether you have any objection to French inter-station trade on normal lines. (C. in C. China, to C.in C.E.I., A.C.N.B., etc., 0531Z/12)

War Diary12.7.40  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSChina (Ctd.)CARAIBE  
Released

Pass following signal to Vice-Admiral Decoux from 1st Sea Lord with reference to his message re CARAIBE:-

"It is much regretted that this action had to be taken at the time. In view of the close co-operation which has existed between yourself and Admiral Noble, a co-operation which we are sure will continue, I have much pleasure in informing you that CARAIBE will be sailed for Madagascar with her crew, if you will confirm that during the war she will remain on your station. It is not the intention of H.M. Government to take any further action against French naval forces under your command".  
(1st S.L., 0254/12)

Mines,  
Dutch E.I.

Meeting at Singapore 10/7 with representative of C. in C., Netherlands E.I., re mining policy. They have no mines available and would like to purchase from British stocks. Mines to be laid by Dutch in order of priority (a) Durian Strait, (b) Rhio Strait, (c) in territorial waters on south side of Singapore Straits. Details of numbers of mines required, etc. (C. in C., China, 0835/12).

SHENGKING  
Incident.

Lines of reply to Japanese. Regret master did not comply with order to stop. Right of Japanese Navy to stop not admitted. Consider case too weak to have protested against firing. Japanese helpful at interview. Anticipate early and reasonable settlement of this phase of incident. Regarding actions of master, see my 2228Z/10, all firms and masters being reminded of importance of stopping when so ordered by Japanese. (N.L.O., Shanghai, to C. in C., China, 0856Z/12)

Your 0311Z/11. re transport of ammunition. Shipment approved H.M. Ambassador on 27/6. Butterfield and Swires have frequently made such shipments. Consul-General Tientsin, reports ammunition was surplus, and Japanese Tientsin military authorities knew of shipment and raised no objection. (N.L.O. Shanghai, to C. in C., China, 0819Z/12).

War Diary12.7.40  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

SOBIESKI

Arrived St. John's N.F., today with 1600 internees for Canada but no tents for Newfoundland. Captain requires confirmation that he should proceed at once to Quebec to disembark internees. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0830/12)

Your 0830. Proceed Quebec with all despatch where all internees will be disembarked. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0921/12).

Martinique,  
Watch  
Withdrawn.

My 0241. Watch on French warships at Martinique and Guadeloupe should be withdrawn. FIJI and ILLUSTRIOUS to return to Scapa. (D.O.D.(F), 1613/12).

Convoys

Proposals for junctions, D/F signals, sailing days, and call signs, (re your 1629/11). (C.O.A.C., Halifax, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1715/12).

French  
Shipping

Your 05312/12. (1) British shipping not permitted to enter French ports in West Indies. French shipping in Caribbean Sea now allowed to continue to trade. (2) No objection subject to Admiralty approval. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2211/12 to C. in C., China).

War Diary12.7.40  
FridayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BIRGIT Has left for Lake Vanern. (Consul, Goteborg 1032/12)

DANZIG Has arrived with general cargo. (Conwul, Goteborg, 1032/12)

FRANZ JÜRGEN Arrived Swinemünde 11/7. (D.S.312)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPSPRESIDENT  
HOUDUCE*(master)*

*A/P*  
Trawler, arrived with armed guard. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 2020/12).

In view of repeated air attacks on Falmouth, necessary to move the French ships now there. If French masters still refuse to sail under armed guard, arrangements as an emergency measure to be made to remove French crews and provide steaming parties of naval ratings. Destinations :-

CASAMANCE	5817 tons, Avonmouth.
ILE DE BATZ	5755 tons, Swansea.
BADDASOA	558 tons, Swansea.
CAP EL HANK	2307 tons, Workington
FORT LAMY	5234 tons, Avonmouth
DJURDJURA	4070 tons, Manchester
MYSON	4564 tons, Manchester
LEON MARTIN	1951 tons, Clyde
PORT LYAUTEY	540 tons, Clyde

Movement of first four most urgent.  
(A.C.N.S. (T), to C. in C.W.A., 1721/12)

War Diary12.7.40.  
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MININGShips AttackedPENNLAND false report

<sup>DUTCH</sup>  
British, (16381 tons) torpedoed in position 51:35 N., 6:12 W. (SANDWICH, 2147/12). Cancel my 2147. Ship reported being torpedoed on feeling explosion of depth charge dropped on contact by HARVESTER. (SANDWICH, 2230/12).

JANNA

(Norw. 2197 tons) sunk by submarine 50:34 N., 12:10 W. (D.S. 314) *sunk on 11.7.40.*

Submarines Reported

1423

VERDUN reports contact in position 52:09 N., 1:52 E., VIMIARA joining her. Submarine H.28 now in sight to eastward. (LONDONDERRY, 1423/12). Contact reported non-sub. (LONDONDERRY, 1528/12).

Estimated dispositions:-

2 in Western Approaches (I.C., 0508/40).

Mediterranean and East IndiesSubmarines Reported

0700

R.A.F. Palestine report one submarine 35:34 N., 34:06 E., course 045° at 0700. One submarine.

1045

(35:22 N., 33:34 E.) course 090° at 1045. (Alexandria W/T, 1215/12). Both positions off N. coast of Cyprus. (I.C., 0510/40).

1610

Off Cotrone, Calabria (D.S. 312).

-

3, perhaps 4, submarines reported by aircraft in Tobruk Harbour (I.C. 0511/40).

Submarines Attacked

Flying boats report sinking 1 Italian submarine off Malta am/12 and another 38:35 N., 17:09 E., 180° Cotrone 30', (60 miles N.E. of Cape Spartivento) in the afternoon. On morning 12/7 a further submarine is reported to have been damaged as result of attacks by A/S trawlers CORAL and JADE off Malta. (Cabinet War Room Record, No.314). (I.C. 0510/40). Sunderlands 228 Sqdn. detached Malta made three reccos. Ionian Sea. 1 Italian submarine attacked and reported sunk position 36:48 N., 15:45 E. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., Summary 1816/13). (No time given).



SITUATION REPORTBrown Ridge Sweep

A sweep by 3 destroyers, East of the mine barrier between 52:0 N. and 52:40 N., on alternative nights has been instituted, commencing last night.

Former Casualties

S.S. KENNETH  
HAWKSFIELD

Bombed 9/7. Was refloated 11/7 and is now anchored in the Downs.

S.S. MARI  
CHANDRIS

Attacked at Falmouth 10/7, has been moved to a mud berth and abandoned. She is still on fire.

S.S. TASCALUSA

Attacked at Falmouth 10/7, is partly submerged, still burning.

HERMES

Temporary repairs at Freetown after her collision with CORFU will probably take 3 weeks. She will have to go into dockyard hands for permanent repair to her bows.

French Ships

PARIS, the destroyers OURAGAN and MISTRAL, and contre-torpilleur LE TRIOMPHANT have been commissioned with nucleus crews as tenders to DRAKE (Devonport).

British Air Activity

Kiel and  
Emden bombed

During the night of 12-13/7, 22 heavy bombers were despatched to bomb shipbuilding yards at Kiel and the naval dockyard at Emden. Four aircraft reached Kiel and 10 reached Emden. Other projected night operations were cancelled on account of weather conditions. (Cabinet War Room Record, 314).

Harlingen harbour (Friesland) was bombed this evening. Some damage is reported. Late last night six aircraft attacked barges in the Ostend-Bruges Canal and obtained hits. Six aircraft attacked barges at St. Pierre, north of Bruges, but searchlights prevented results from being observed.

A special.....

War Diary13.7.40.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORTBritish Air Activity (Contd.)

A special fighter escort patrol was flown to protect the North and South bound convoys. Fourteen convoys were escorted.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy aircraft were less active today than of late.

Attacks on Shipping

Convoy "Pilot" escorted by LOWESTOFT and WESTON was bombed 18 miles E. by N. of Harwich at 1210, but no ships were hit. A few minutes later convoy "Arena" and STORK were bombed by 12 aircraft near the same position, but again no damage was done to ships. At 1535 ENCHANTRESS and Convoy HG 27 were bombed 200 miles W. by S. of Brest, no details known.

Convoy CW 4 and H.M.Y. HINIESTA were bombed but not hit 12 miles S. of Anvil Point. A/S Trawler SAON was slightly damaged and had some casualties when bombed by 8 aircraft off Dover. ARROW was bombed but not hit off Orfordness.

Attack on Portland

A further raid by 10 enemy aircraft was made on Portland this afternoon. No damage or casualties were caused and 2 enemy aircraft were shot down. There were no other bombing raids of importance today.

Mining

Early this morning 4 mines were exploded off the Tyne today and a further mine in Loch Ewe. Parachute mines were dropped off Tynemouth; Newhaven, Tyne and the inshore Tyne - Blyth Channel were closed, but the Tyne was reopened during the afternoon. Amble is open.

During night of 12-13/7, minelaying operations off Ymuiden were carried out by six Swordfish aircraft.

War Diary13.7.40.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORTItalian Hostilities

The fast convoy from Malta arrived at Alexandria early this morning with WARSPITE and 7th C.S. The convoy was not molested throughout its passage. The 3rd C.S., supported by RAMILLIES and 4 destroyers, is meeting the slow convoy, due at Malta 15/7.

There were 2 air raids on Malta today. The first consisted of 12 fighters whose intention, as during yesterday's raids was, to knock out the 3 remaining fighter aircraft at Malta before the bombers arrived. In the second raid at 2215 several bombs were dropped in Marsa Muscetto harbour and on Jelimara.

War Diary13.7.40.  
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K.

Your 2052/3. It is considered an urgent requirement to provide an antiboat defence at entrance to Chichester Harbour. This is being done ~~by~~. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1847/13 to Adty.)

Adty. 1625/12/7. Considered very essential for Minor war vessels carrying out Patrol duties to be able to identify themselves if challenged or fired upon by shore batteries and other Military Forces e.g. when withdrawing from Patrol area for shelter etc. Proposed method. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1910/13 to to Adty.)

PolicyOff shore  
Patrols

Reference off shore patrol organisation. In this area I have ordered these small craft to be out from sunset to sunrise and if visibility is low, because they are receiving the attention of the dive bombers and it seems only a question of time before we lose them. As critical time of favourable moon and tide conditions is now passing suggest general policy should be overhauled as these vessels in existing small numbers will not last physically or materially for a long period (Portsmouth 1303/13 to Adty.)

Your telephone enquiry of 8/7 re Adty. G.M.664 AZ. Eire Govt. are aware of the instructions, but it is important that they should not be embarrassed by these instructions becoming public or by their knowledge of them being divulged to the Ulster Govt. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1648/13 to F.O.I.C., Belfast).

Enemy warships and aircraft of every description including transports and troop carrying aircraft should be attacked by warships and aircraft whenever found in Eire territorial waters. If suspicious vessels are seen in Eire territorial waters and aircraft may enter to investigate. (Air Ministry 1900/13).

Your 1213/12 (re a Chasseur to lead new M/L Division). Consideration will be given to this proposal. (D.A.S. 1920/13 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

When speed of French S/M Chasers has been proved, request you will report whether any are suitable for Leaders of M/L. Flotillas. (D.A.S.W. 1921/13 to C. in C., Portsmouth and W.A.)

War Diary13.7.40.  
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSMovementsSOUTHAMPTON }  
GLASGOW }

Revert to usual notice for steam (C. in C., H.F. 0922/13).

Submarine H.44S.O.  
Orders for leaving patrol 15/7 (~~50~~ submarines Harwich 0905/13).

BROKE

To relieve HIGHLANDER and HESPERUS escorting S.S. OREGON in tow SALVONIA to Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A., 1124/13).

Patrol off Ireland

Request you will sail NORTHERN DAWN and NORTHERN GEM when ready to comply with my 2031/11. (C. in C., W.A. 2048/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Five destroyers of 13th D.F. are to be sailed tomorrow Sunday 14th July at best possible speed and are to join C. in C., Home Fleet. Expected date and time of arrival and names of ships to be reported.

On their arrival three worked up Hunt Class are to join V.A. Dover and three G. Class from 1st D.F. HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER will be sailed for Gibraltar. (1st. S.L. 1913/13).

C.S.2 1405/13. I absolutely agree except that I consider four days is too little. There is no use pretending ships are efficient unless they are given facilities for practices. (C. in C., H.F. 2009/13 to C. in C., Nore).

Revert to usual notice for steam at 2200/13. (C. in C., W.A. 2047/13 to NORFOLK).

OperationsOperation P.F.

Orders for. (C. in C. Nore 1926/13 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

Willemsoord Report of attack. Results not observed (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0240/13).

2 armed trawlers Attacked 0535 53:27 N., 4:56 E. (Donibristle 0825/13).

Harlingen Bombed at 2220/13. Large explosions and fires near Quay and Warehouses. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0231/14).

Barges Bombed at 2355/13 on Bruges-Ostend Canal. Several hits claimed. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0305/14).

Two E-boats in Basin at Nieuwepiep machine-gunned by aircraft at 2230/12. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1235/13)

2 minesweepers at 53:50 N., 4:57 E. bombed and machine-gunned at 0538/13. Near misses and M/G hits. (H.Q.C.C. 1700/13).

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy "Pilot" Attacked 51:59 N. 1:48 E. (off Felixstowe) (WESTON 1210/13). Attacked 51:54 N., 4:47 E. (LOWESTOFT 1220/13). Large number bombs no hits. (LOWESTOFT 1246/13).  
*R. V. S. 1 Journal says  
Fighters sent out to protect.*

Convoy "Arena" Attacked 270, 52 N. 2 E. 10. 12 aircraft bombing. (STORK 1221/13).

ARROW Bombed 52:0 N. 1:50 E. (ARROW 1221/13).

ENCHANTRESS Bombed 47: N., (ENCHANTRESS, 1535/13) with convoy H.G. 37.200' W. by S. of Brest (I.C. 0511/40).

War Diary13.7.40.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity (Contd.)

GALWAY COAST Bombed off Portland at 1000/13. Landed one seaman at Poole with shrapnel wounds. (N.O.I.C. Poole ~~with shrapnel~~ 1627/13 to Adty.)

DAMITO, OSTA M/S trawlers. Bombed at 1000/13 off Portland. Slight damage and Mate of DAMITO killed. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1012/14 to Adty.)

SAON A/S trawler on patrol 2' S. of Dover Harbour bombed by 8 Dive-Bombers at 1718/13. Slight damage and some casualties. (V.A. Dover 2101/13 to Adty.).

Portland At 1500/13 a heavy Air-Battle over West Bay. No bombs or casualties in Portland area. One Enemy bomber crashed on Chesil Beach; one prisoner. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1012/14 to Adty.)

HINIESTA Yacht, with convoy C.W.4, bombed 12' S. of Anvil Point (portishead Radio 1730/13).

Mining

Parachute Mines were dropped at 0111/13 off Tynemouth. The Tyne is closed (I.C. 0510/40).

Amble is again open. (I.C. 0510/40).

A further Mine has been exploded in Loch Ewe. (I.C. 0510/40).

Minelaying suspected off Harwich and N. Foreland during night 13/14. (D.C.N.S. 314).

Large white seaplane, suspected minelayer, reported at 1630/13 escorted by 3 Junkers 11 miles 136° from Portland Bill by Master of ADAPTITY. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1655/14 to C. in C., W.A.).

War Diary13.7.40.  
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSMiningOperation M.N.

WILLEN

PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAAN escorted by M.T.B. will be carrying out operation M.N. near 51:10 N., 01:55 E. during night 13/14 July returning to North Goodwin L.V. about 0330/14. Request immediate Fighter protection may be available in the event of an X Raid approaching them at any time after first light and also if called for. (V.A. Dover 1005/13 to A.O.C. 11th Fighter Group).

Enemy IntelligenceBoulogne

At 1623/13 six small ships, possibly fishing steamers, in Southern part of harbour (H.Q.F.C. Chatham, 2005/13 to Adty.)

Aldeburgh

Two small ships seen 35' E.S.E. of Aldeburgh at 2300/13 (H.Q.B.C. 2042/14).

Emden

Ship about 6000 tons in Basin S. of Harbour entrance at 2345/13. (H.Q.B.C. 2042/14).

Shipping

Reference Adty. 1230/28/5 re use of A.A. guns and L.GS in Merchant Ships in port. (1) Para. 1 states Merchant Ships "may" in their own defence engage hostile aircraft. Experience shows that in many instances guns not manned when vessels in port. Suggest consideration should be given to issue of more definite instructions to ensure that crews are available to man guns in event of attack. Suggest para. 1 (A) not now necessary. Request your views and if you agree may necessary instruction be issued to all concerned. (Dacoast 1442/13 to Adty.)

OA convoys  
Northabout

Cancel my 1539/5. (C. in C., W.A., 1434/13 to C. in C., Nore).



War Diary13.7.40.  
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSShipping (Contd.)

(A) My 1744/8 para. B, for 1000 tons gross read 1600 tons gross.

(B) Ships within the above limit now in South coast ports and ready to sail may proceed to their destination independently through the English Channel pending the introduction of Channel Convoys both ways for which instructions will shortly be issued. (D.T.D. 2342/13)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	Light variable, N.E. fresh to strong in North.	Moderate to good.	Similar in South, Fresh to strong N.E. to N. winds in Northern half.
Channel	S.W. to W. moderate to fresh.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
Western Approaches	S.W. to W. moderate to fresh.	Good.	Similar.
<u>No reports received, probable weather:-</u>			
Horns Reef	N.W. moderate.	Moderate to good.	Wind backing to S.W. or S.
S.W. Norway	N.E. to N. moderate to fresh.	Moderate.	Wind veering to E.
Dutch Coast	Light variable.	Good, local haze.	Southerly wind, moderate.

War Diary13.7.40.  
Saturday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KOLLÉBJORG

(Norwegian tanker 8,259 tons) left Aruba for N.E.I. 18/6 and was due Santos 3/7. Is overdue (D.S.312).

KERTOSONO

(Dutch 9,289 tons) left Curacao 24/6 due Freetown 5/7, is overdue (D.S.312).

GLENORCHY

D.G. gear reported unsatisfactory and ship in highly dangerous condition. Sailing postponed pending examination. (C. in C., Nore 2242/Z 13).



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

13.7.40.  
Saturday.

North Atlantic.

Casablanca.

F.O.C.N.A., 0942/13, see Mediterranean. <sup>(P. 292)</sup>

Gibraltar,  
Evacuees.

Hoped it might be possible to avoid return here of evacuees, but arrival not unexpected. Have been compelled to land them temporarily as ships overcrowded and had to be cleaned and victualled. Problem of getting them away again will not be easy. (Governor, ~~G.O.~~, 1324/13, to W.O.).

Azores  
Patrol,  
DELHI.

Admty. 2355/12. Endurance of DELHI is insufficient for her usefully to operate off Azores from Gibraltar unless arrangements can be made for an attendant oiler. Without refuelling, and allowing a 20% margin, DELHI could only operate for one day and six days would be spent on passage. (F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, 1850/13).

British Ships in  
French Ports.

Admiralty. 2022/11, para (a) (2). Request information at which French ports in your <sup>area</sup> British ships are detained. British ships are detained at Ports Lyautey and Casablanca in my area (S.D.I., Gib. to S. O.I.'s Malta, Alexandria, Freetown and Capetown, 1002/13, 1220/14).

South Atlantic.

Cameroons,  
French  
Proclamation.

Situation report. Decree signed at Duala severing allegiance with French Government and proclaiming the Governor as supreme. Full support of British Government is affirmed. Political situation has undoubtedly improved but should not be considered crystallised until reactions to decree are seen and effort of colony being cut off is known. Our M.L.O. leaves Abijan to-day at request of French authorities. (G.O.C., (See also DRAGON, 1900/11)

Crew of CARAIBE.

My 1812/11. French BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE will sail from Capetown 14/7. C. in C. E.I., 1431/8. Master has undertaken to call at Mombasa first to embark French nationals. As requested by C. in C. E.I., he has not been informed these are crew of CARAIBE. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1047/13).

French trade.

Your 0531Z/12. French ships not to proceed north of Freetown, and owing to fluctuation and uncertainty of situation in French colonies south of Freetown calls at ports in these colonies must be at my discretion. No objection to inter-station trade provided ships call at Capetown for latest instructions (C. in C. S.A., 0954/13).

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.13.7.40.  
Saturday.South Atlantic.PRETORIA  
CASTLE.

Route on leaving Rio de Janeiro, to give ALCANTARA chance of rendezvous. (R.A.S.A.D. 1133Z/13).

VINDICTIVE.

Asking when may be expected at Freetown, (C. in C.S.A., 1147/13).

Mediterranean.U-Boats.

U-Boats are known to be in position south of Crete. (A/c of Mediterranean, 0330/13).

Casablanca.

Reports from ships arriving from Casablanca with evacuees show that anti-British feeling is strong. in French Navy there and that they appear to expect to be attacked by our forces. May I inform Ollive that no attack on French battleship JEAN BART is contemplated in her present state. Think this might improve relations. (F.O.C.N.A., 0942/13).

Your 0942. You may inform Admiral Ollive in sense of para. (c) of Admty. 0241/12. (1st S.L. 1330/13). F.2.64

Alboran I. patrol.

Your 2107/12. Suggest these large s/m's are unsuitable for this employment and would prefer to employ them in a more offensive role. Request you return these two s/m's to rest at Gibraltar for the moment pending decision on your 1441/12. (C. in C. Med., to S.O.Force H., 1227/13).

Italian  
Propaganda.

Continued announcements of Italian naval successes in local press will have bad effect if not counteracted. British radio often jammed and propaganda is forbidden. (Consul, Palma, to D.N.I., 1600/13).

Movements  
Summary.  
Enemy Intelligence.

C. in C. Med. 1935/13.

25 large vessels Tobruk including 6 destroyers and possibly 1 flotilla leader. 3 possibly 4 submarines. (H.Q., RAF, M.E. 1816/13).

Air.Bombing.  
ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN.

Enemy aircraft bombing, my position 238, S J S N (34° N., 26° E.) 19. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN, 1055/13).

Steer for Mersa Matruh. Have asked for fighter support. (C. in C. Med., to R.A.1 B.S., 1131/13).

Blenheims have been sent to your assistance at 1600 E. (N.O.I.C., Alexandria, 1436/13).

Position 120, 34° N., 26° E., 18 M L A 155, speed 16 knots. (F.O.C. 1 B.S., 1250/13).

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.13.7.40.  
Saturday.Mediterranean.Air.Aircraft in  
GLENORCHY

H. Force suggestion that 12 Hurricanes for Malta and 1 Blenheim for navigation should be erected on ARK ROYAL deck and flown off for direct flight requires very careful thought. Suggest no final decision before GLENORCHY reaches Gibraltar. (H.Q. Malta to Air Min. 0930/13) S.O. Force H. 1441/12. Fully concur with proposal. As need for Hurricanes is so urgent in Malta consider it should be adopted. (C. in C. Med., 1225/13).

Aircraft in  
GLENORCHY.

Pointing out difficulties of pilots untrained carriers taking off Hurricanes from ARK ROYAL. Submit advisability of flying off be carefully balanced against prospects of GLENORCHY getting through direct. Importance of latter sufficient to warrant strong naval measures to this end. If these impracticable, suggest use of ARGUS or similar ship to convey contents GLENORCHY Gib. to Malta and on to Egypt. (A.O.C., Mediterranean, 1545/13). See also 14/7.

Malta raids.

Enemy tactics last 2 days indicate effort to reduce our fighters effort by sending large formation fighters stepped up by flights. With present waning fighter effort reduced to 1 Hurricane and 2 Gladiators, anticipate some difficulty in keeping Italian aircraft reasonably respectful. Hope for early receipt of further Hurricanes, needed for attacks on bombers while Gladiators deal with fighters. (H.Q. Malta, to Air Min., 1630/13).

Reconnaissance.

Intelligence Summary, 33. (No naval incidents). H.Q., RAF., M.E. 1818/13).

Malta raids.

1st raid 1534 consisting of 12 fighters same as yesterday evident intention of knocking out our fighters before bombers arrive. 2nd raid by bombers 2215, several bombs on De Limara and in Marsa Muscetto harbour, no details of casualties. (F.O.I.C. Malta 2253/13).

German A/C's marked  
with Red Cross.

X.909 13/7. German aircraft marked with a red cross have recently been flying near H.M. ships and convoys and British coast. Any such aircraft which comes within range of H.M. ships or of coastal A/A defences is to be fired on. Any enemy aircraft bearing red cross markings encountered by British aircraft (A) or approaching British territory or territory in British occupation, or (B) near



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

13.7.40.  
Saturday.

Mediterranean

Air.

German A/C's marked  
with Red Cross.

or approaching British or Allied ships or warships is to be attacked. (Air Min., 1235/13).

East Indies.

For information, CARAIBE is at present at Mombasa. Officers and men landed on parole and under guard respectively. Captain cannot answer for discipline of about 50 of his men. Intention has been to ship all personnel to Madagascar, but arrangements now in abeyance pending reply of Admiral Decoux to Admty. 0254/12. (C. in C., E.I., to C. in C. China, 0538Z/13)

Minelaying.

Decided to carry out air minelaying operations against Italian ports in East Africa with small force based on Aden. Arrangements for aircraft, personnel and equipment. (Air Minister to A.H.Q. Aden, 1936/13).

China.

French attitude.

Report of Capt. Duncan, at Hanoi, mentions that recent detention of French shipping has drawn attention to vulnerability of supplies arriving from other than Japanese sources. He considers trade agreement almost certainly under negotiation, diminishing stocks will favour Japanese penetration. Discusses relations to Oran. (G.O.C., Malaya, to W.O., 1600/13).

CARAIBE.

Before passing message in your 0254/12, request confirmation that no restrictions are to be placed on movement of French CARAIBE in vicinity of Italian Somaliland, which is on Admiral Decoux's station. (C. in C. China, 0253Z/13, to Admty). Confirmed (1st S.L., 1212/13).

SHENGKING  
Incident.

Question of Japanese protest settled. Ship sails a.m. to-morrow Sunday. Japanese friendly. Detailed reports follows. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 1104Z/13).

Evacuation.

Consul-General, Manila, pressing for early removal of Hong Kong families to Australia. (G.O.C. Hong Kong, to W.O. 1608/13).

Your 2235/11. No suitable shipping available locally. Only big ships now visiting Hong Kong are one EMPRESS a month and two Pand O. ships every three months.



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

13.7.40.  
Saturday.

China.

Am asking Australia, New Zealand and Malaya, vide my 0205/13. British Ship EMPRESS OF JAPAN will complete repairs and alterations limit deck accommodation by beginning August. The thousand civilians referred to in my 1105/9 are still here and not yet seriously involved. If no earlier opportunity occurs am sending them direct to Australia in EMPRESS OF JAPAN. (Cdr. Hong Kong, 0255/13 to D.of S.T.)

America and West Indies.

RAMPURA.

To escort H.X. 58, subsequently proceeding Southampton. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1417/13).

Australia.

TIRRAMNA.

Requesting information concerning Norwegian ship TIRRAMNA, carrying important service stores. (D.N.I., Melbourne, 0244Z/13).

*No information (D.T.D., 1806/14).*



War Diary.

13.7.40.  
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LARISSA.

Arrived from Istanbul, general cargo.  
(Galatz, 1352/13).

KARIBISCHES.  
MEER.

Tanker, Was at Tallinn 4/7 waiting for a  
cargo of whale oil. (I.C. 0510/40).

Small ships.

13 <sup>sailed</sup> miles from Riga during first week of  
July for German ports, 3 in ballast,  
remainder mostly loaded with timber.  
(I.C. 0510/40).

JANJE FRITZEN.

Was ordered today to proceed to Bremen  
(D.S. 314)

BIRGIT.

Left Gothenburg 12/7 for Lake Vanern, near  
Norrkoping (Sweden).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RODI

Arrived Alexandria. (N.C.S.O.Alexandria  
2146/13).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

YOLANDE BERTIN )  
HORTENSIA BERTIN )

Transferred to Panamanian flag and ownership  
to Wallem & Co, Panama. Vessels renamed  
GISELE and EVELYN respectively. (N.O.I.C.  
Calcutta, 0702/13).

SIDI-AISSA  
BAALBECK

2886 tons ) Left Famajusta, Cyprus 13/7  
2115 tons ) for Beirut, Syria, with troops,  
military stores and equipment.  
(Famajusta, 1634/13).

VILLE DE TAMATAVE  
LE CONTE DE LISLE

Arrived Tamatave 13/7. (Consul, Tananarivo,  
1604/13).



War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.13.7.40.  
Saturday.S/M's Reported.

1156

Possible there may be two U-boats in your vicinity homeward bound from Western Approaches. (C. in C., W.A., to SKEENA, GARDENIA, FOLKESTONE, WINCHELSEA, 1156/13).

1212

Reliable fix, 53.30' N., 4.37' W. Reported by A/C escorting convoy H.X. 54. WANDERER to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1501/13. H.Q. C.C. 1700/13).

A/c to attack s/m (15 Rec. Group H.Q. 1212/13). WARWICK ordered to attack. (C. in C. W.A., 1522/13). My 1522. A/C reported sighting periscope. British VIVA II obtained no contact. Second a/c searched vicinity without result. WARWICK and WANDERER to proceed Liverpool if no contact after searching the area. (C. in C. W.A. 1726/13) (15 Group, 1900/13).

2005

54-23 N. 2-14 E . 78° Flamborough Head 82', periscope reported. (I.C. 0511/40)

1936 and 2128

S.W. of Iceland, position not definable. (I.C. 0511/40).

Estimated dispositions:-

May be still <sup>2</sup> in Western Approaches, but one or both may now be due to leave for home. No other indications. (I.C. 0510/40-.

S/M's Attacked.

1212

By A/C "P" R.N.N.A.S. in position 53-30 N., 4-37' W. A/C was escorting Convoy H.X.54. (H.Q. C.C. 1700/13) Tip of periscope showing. Two 250-lb. bombs dropped. Not possible to estimate result. Destroyer arrived at 1225. (15 Group, 900/13).

Mediterranean and East Indies.S/M's Reported.

36:48 N., 15:54 E., about 54 miles S.E. from Cape Possaro, Sicily. No time stated. Reported by A/C (D.S. 313).

S/M's Attacked.

1800/9.

During Tuesday's operation, flying boat No. L.5803 attacked and claimed to have sunk an enemy submarine in position 37.18' N., 17.02' E. at 1800. I believe this loss has been admitted by Italians. (C. in C., Med., 0901/13).

12/7

1 Italian S/M attacked and reported sunk 36° 46' N 15° 54' E. (H.Q. RAF. M.E.1810/13).

War Diary

14.7.40  
Sunday 298

## SITUATION REPORT

### Home Commands

#### E-Boat

An E-boat was reported in the Portsmouth area last night. It is reported that there were about 40 E-boats at Emden this afternoon.

#### M.T.B's.

3 M.T.B's. left Harwich at 2000 for operations at the mouths of the Scheldt and Maas, and 2 M.T.B's left Yarmouth for operations off the Texel.

### French Fleet

A report from a British master who left Casablanca 12/7 states that work on JEAN BART is continuing and lorries were seen transporting torpedoes to warships. In the port were, amongst others, 3 cruisers, 5 destroyers, a number of submarines with their parent ship, 3 heavily armed Fleet oilers and a very large number of merchant vessels.

### British Air Activity

12 Wellingtons last night attacked Naval targets at Bremen, Sassnitz, Emden, and Hamburg. An attack on Kiel was abandoned on account of weather.

Photographs today show a gradual increase of steamships at Emden, there being now 40.

A Sunderland A/C left at 2200 to reconnoitre Narvik

### Enemy Air Activity

#### Attacks on Shipping

There were no bombing raids of importance on the U.K. last night or today but a number of attacks were made on shipping.

A.M.C. ESPERANCE BAY, on passage from Southampton to Halifax, was bombed and damaged aft at 1536 about 100 miles W. of Lands End, but reached Plymouth about midnight 14/15 steering with her engines.

SS. ATHLONE CASTLE with SS. STRATHNAVER in company, outward bound with reinforcements for Gibraltar escorted by 2 destroyers was bombed without result p.m. today 120 miles W. of Ushant.

The new Turkish ~~minelayer~~ YUZBASI HAKKI (built by Thornycroft's) which arrived at Weymouth today with a British delivery crew on board was attacked at 1145 near Shamles L.V. by A/C using cannons.



SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on shipping  
(Ctd.)

Channel Convoy C.W.5. escorted by VANESSA was dive bombed by about 10 aircraft 2 miles south of Dover this afternoon. VANESSA had her main engines put out of action and was towed into Dover, while BOREAS escorted the convoy. Three ships in the convoy were hit, viz: ISLAND QUEEN sunk, MONS and BALDER (Norwegian) damaged and both towed into Dover. Our fighters shot down 7 or 8 A/C; one British machine was lost.

Mining.

WILLEM

PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAAN laid mines in the Dover Straits last night and gardening was carried out in the Elbe estuary.

Enemy aircraft were active in the Thames Estuary between Middlesborough and the Wash, and off the Kentish coast last night. Two magnetic mines were exploded in the Downs and 2 off Harwich. Harwich was reopened early p.m. after having been swept without result. 5 magnetic mines were exploded today in the Thames Estuary.

Enemy Intelligence

ADMIRAL SCHEER was located by air reconnaissance at Wilhelmshaven today. She had moved into the Ausrustungshafen, which may be an indication that her refit is almost complete.

Italian Hostilities

5075, 208

Air attacks on Fleet

During the bombing of the Fleet on 11/7 and subsequently up to 250 miles from Sicily and between Crete and Cyrenaica two Gladiators from F.A.A. Reserve and stowed in EAGLE'S flight deck shot down 4 or 5 Italian bombers. The only period of immunity during 5 days was when the Fleet was unlocated south of Malta on 10/7 and during dark hours. On 12/7 WARSPITE was attacked 22 times, 260 to 300 bombs being dropped. Considering the scale of attack, C. in C. Mediterranean considers the Fleet must be accounted extremely lucky to have escaped damage. Provided, however, that proper antidotes are supplied this scale of bombing attacks, which must be expected whenever the Fleet operates in the Central Mediterranean can be accepted as a reasonable risk like mines or submarines. Ammunition expenditure during the 5 days was very heavy. p. 307, 308.



SITUATION REPORT

Italian Hostilities (Ctd.)

GALILEO  
GALILEI

The captured Italian submarine GALILEO GALILEI is being manned by a navigating party ex. KHARTOUM and SHOREHAM for passage to Alexandria.

Destroyer  
Changes

Five of the 13th D.F. left Gibraltar 0700 today to join the Home Fleet. On passage to U.K. they are to spread to visibility distance during daylight, to locate any possible enemy force proceeding from Bordeaux to Southern Ireland. HOTSPUR, ENCOUNTER and 3 destroyers of 1st D.F. are to take their place at Gibraltar.

Raid on  
Aden.

A few bombs were dropped on Aden during a daylight raid today, apparently directed against the Admiralty oil tanks. No Naval damage was caused.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Destroyers  
for  
Gibraltar.

My 1913/13. HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER are to be sailed to Dover in time to leave with 3 G. class for Gibraltar. (D.D.O.D.H. 1048/14 to C. in C. Nore.)

Steam to be kept at 4 hours notice till further orders. (C. in C. H.F. 1631/14)

Raise steam at half an hour's notice (C. in C.H.F. 2305/14)

Unusual W/T activity indicates possibility of enemy move. All ships are to be brought to short notice for steam. (1st. S.L. 2323/14 to C. in C's.)

All available submarines are to be brought to one hour's notice. (V.A.S. 2351/14)

Submarines.

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/15. CLYDE TRUANT TETRARCH WILK SPEARFISH SUNFISH H.44 as in my 1629/13. SALMON proceeding on surface due Rosyth A.M./15 from North East. H. 31 N.L.W.T.3006 proceeding submerged by day to H.2. H.34. leaves Harwich 1500/15 proceeding on surface to H.2. (V.A.S.1722/14)

Operations

Operation  
"Ambassador"

Orders for. (C. in C.W.A. 1524/14).  
Air Escort for (H.Q.F.C. 1710/14)  
Carry out Operation (C. in C. Portsmouth 1744/14 to SALADIN)

Operation  
P.F.

Operation P.F. is postponed 24 hours (C. in C. Nore 1719/14 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

Cancel my 1719. Operation P.F. is taking place 2 hours late. (C. in C. Nore 1959/14 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

E-boats

Operation  
against  
E-boats.

All available M.T.B's. of First Flotilla to sail forthwith and repeat Operation ordered in my 1542/27th June. (C. in C. Nore 2001/14 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Patrol A reports E-Boat (C. in C. Portsmouth 0248/14 to SHIKARI)

About 40 E-Boats reported at Emden P.M. 14th (D.S. 314)

3 E-Boats at Brest Military Port Entrance shown by PRU. Sortie. (P.I.E. 1545/15 to Adty.)



## HOME COMMANDS (ctd.)

302

AirBritish Air Activity

3 Patrol Vessels attacked by A/C. 5' W. of Texel at 2200/14. Results unknown. (I.C.0512/40)

Enemy Air ActivityMEDUSA

British (793 tons). Am being attacked by A/C. 095° Beachy Head 10' (MEDUSA 0220/14)

Channel Convoy

Fighters being sent to assist Channel Convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 0954/14 to RESTIGOUCHE)

STRATHNAVER

Attacked by A/C at 48°27' N., 7°25' W. (Plymouth W/T. 1231/14) At 48°30' N., 7°17' W., at 1209/14. (Niton Radio. Recd. 1308/14)

A.M.C. ESPERANCE BAY

Attacked <sup>at</sup> 49°30' N., 6°40' W. (Portishead Radio 1250/14). VANOC sent (C. in C.W.A. 1438/14 to VANOC). Badly damaged aft. Proceeding to Lizard at slow speed. (C. in C.W.A. 1526/14 to VANOC) Tug being sent (C. in C.W.A. 1601/14 to ESPERANCE BAY) RESTIGOUCHE to escort (C. in C.W.A. 1733/14). 3 Ansons sent (C. in C.W.A. 1751/14).

HURRICANE

Help. 48°27' N., 8°38' W. (HURRICANE 1332/14)  
Help. 48°21' N., 8°16' W. (HURRICANE 1350/14) Only British ATHLONE CASTLE has been bombed. No damage so far (HURRICANE 1415/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

YUZBASI HAKKI

Turkish <sup>mine layer</sup> ~~mine layer~~. Attacked at 1145/14 near Shamles by Twin-Engine A/C using Cannons, not bombs. One killed and Captain seriously injured. British delivery crew on board. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1450/14 to Adty.)

Coastal Convoy C.W.5.

Attacked at 1525/14 two miles S. of Dover by about 10 Dive Bombers. VANESSA main engines out of action. British ISLAND QUEEN and Norwegian BALDER damaged, and being brought with VANESSA to Dover. (V.A.Dover 1629/14 to Adty.)

ISLAND QUEEN

British (779 tons) sunk by bombs 350° Folkestone half a mile. Likely to be danger to navigation. (V.A.Dover. 1944/14 to Adty.) 2 killed and one wounded (D.S.314). Sank at 1705/14 (V.A.Dover 1808/14)

BALDER

Norwegian, 1129 tons. Damaged by bomb 2' S. of Dover. (V.A.Dover 1629/14) 4 killed, 10 wounded. (D.S.314).

MONS

British, 641 tons. Auxiliary Engines damaged by bomb at 1525/14. (V.A.Dover 1808/14)



HOME COMMANDS

AIR

Enemy Air Activity (Ctd.)

VANESSA Damaged by near miss. No casualties. (V.A.Dover 1942/14 to Adty.) No hull damage. Ship cannot steam. (V.A. Dover 2004/14)

DEUCALION 1796 tons. Attacked by A/C. in convoy on 5 July is now reported to have sunk. (D.S.314)

Mining

Harwich Port closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0027/14 to Adty.) Suspected area (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0039/14) Port now open (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1332/14 to Adty.)

Operation MI Operation completed. (V.A.Dover 0351/14).  
(Laying of mines in Dover Straits by PLOVER and  
WILLEM VAN DERZAAN)

2 Mines exploded at 215° Goodwin Fork Buoy  
2 cables. (V.A. Dover 2229/14 to Adty.)

Elbe. 4 Magnetic Mines dropped in Elbe during night  
13/14th. (D.C.N.S., 315).

Newhaven and Blyth-Tyne Inshore Channel are  
closed. (D.C.N.S.315)

2 Mines exploded 2½' East of Shipwash Light Vessel  
(I.C. 0512/40)

Enemy Intelligence

Two ships burning steaming lights 070° Berry Head  
8' at 0030/14 steering N.E. Investigate.  
(C. in C.W.A. 0039/14 to RESTIGOUCHE)

Gravelines to Ostend P.D.U. Sortie 13/7 shows negligible Barge  
activity. (P.D.U. 0150/14 to N.I.D.)

Boulogne. Outer Harbour practically deserted. (A.C.H.Q.  
Chatham 0239/14).

Yarmouth At 0540/14 two destroyers of doubtful nationality  
at 60' Yarmouth 070° heading S. at 10 knots.  
(H.Q.B.C. 2042/14)

Wilhelmshaven <sup>ADMIRAL</sup> SCHEER, TIRPITZ, one Torpedo-Boat. 2 T.B's. and  
one submarine added in Tirpitzhaven since 9/7,  
and one large M/V in Hipperhafen. (PRUI.1600/14)



Enemy Intelligence (Ctd.)

Emden

One large M/V arrived since 9/7 and about 12 barges. (P.R.U.I. 1600/14). Quayside activity and about 25 M/V's mainly in New Inner Harbour. Vessels appear laden. (P.R.U.I. 1830/14). Photographs disclose 40 ships in New Inner Harbour (H.Q.C.C. 1845/15)

One German Trawler at 2255/14 at 52°3' N., 4°5' E., A/C report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q.0250/15)

Shipping

Following are arrangements made for neutral ships wishing to enter or leave the Baltic. (Hd. of M. 1134/14 to N.C.S.O. Kirkwall)

Action by a convoy if attacked by U-Boat. (V.C.N.S. 2004/14 to C. in C's.)

Miscellaneous

COURBET

To be manned by French complement under French administration as Depot ship at Portsmouth for the French Naval Force (M.O.13490/40)

Weather Report

<u>Area.</u>	<u>Wind.</u>	<u>Visibility.</u>	<u>Outlook.</u>
<u>North Sea</u>	Light variable N.E.fresh to strong in North	Moderate to good.	Similar in South. Fresh to strong N.E to N.winds in Northern half.
<u>Channel</u>	S.W. to W. moderate to fresh.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
<u>Western Approaches.</u>	W. to N.W. moderate to fresh.	Good.	Similar.
<u>No reports received, probable weather:-</u>			
<u>Horns Reef</u>	N.W. moderate.	Moderate to good.	Wind backing to S.W or S.
<u>S.W. Norway</u>	N.E. to N. moderate to fresh.	Moderate.	Wind veering to E.
<u>Dutch Coast</u>	Light variable.	Good, local haze.	Southerly wind. Moderate.



HOME COMMANDS

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305

Casualties and Defects

Lifeboat

One life-boat which later sank, with one apparently dead man on board at 0739/14 in 52°28' N., 3°10' E. A/C Report. (C. in C. Nore 1122/14 to H.Q.C.C.).

FITZROY  
SEAMIST }

In collision. Both damaged and both being taken in hand. (F.O. Humber 1603/14 to Adty.)

ESCAPADE

Repairs to Dynamos should be completed 15/7. (S.O. Force H. 1401/14 to Adty.)

VELOX

Out of action till 18/7 (S.O. Force H.1401/14)

WISHART

Out of action till 24/7 (S.O. Force H.1401/14)

JANNA

Norwegian, 2197 tons. Sunk in Western approaches in convoy. (D.C.N.S. 315)

MALLARD

British. One empty life-boat recovered off St. Leonards by Hastings life-boat. No report of vessel's loss (V.A. Dover 0945/14 to Adty.)

TIRRAMNA

Norwegian. Your 0244/13. Adty. has no information as to this ship. (D.T.D. 1806/14 to D.N.I. Melbourne.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

306

French ships  
at Casablanca.

My 1224/10. British Master who left Casablanca 12/7 reports work being continued JEAN BART. Other warships in harbour as follows: one cruiser TOURVILLE Class, two small cruisers, five large destroyers CYCLONE class, one of which painted red lead apparently new, four escort ships including ~~ELAN~~, ~~ELAN~~, ELAN, and LA SURPRISE, two large submarines Number 61 and 91, three categories of submarines, submarine EURYDICE Class, submarine parent ship JULES VERNE, 12 armed trawlers. Also three heavily armed Fleet Oilers and very large number Cargo and passenger ships including ?MASSILIA, ?INDOCHINOIS, ?MASRILA, CHANTILLY, and ?SUDOCHINE. Cargo ship SAN-JOSE is being fitted with gun platform on forecastle. Lorries were observed transporting torpedoes to some warships in harbour. (S.C.(I) Gib. 1320/14).

Possible Raider.

Possibility of disguised raiders operating in North Atlantic. On 4/7, in approx. position 57°N., 30°W., SUSSEX intercepted a raider message which from the strength of the message was from a vessel not less than 300 miles from her. A disguised raider was possibly off the West Coast of Ireland on 11/7. German High Command communique of 13/7 claims that naval forces have operated successfully in overseas waters, capturing and bringing into port several valuable prizes. These 3 reports in conjunction indicate possibility of disguised raiders in North Atlantic (A.C.N.S.(H), "A" message, North Atlantic, repeated C.in C's. H.F., A.W.I. etc. 1307/14, D.D.O.D.(H), 1600/14).

Canary Islands.

Spanish CASTILLO COCA, 1739 tons, reported to have left Seville for Canary Islands with 7 or 8 tanks and 5 lorries, escorted by armed trawler. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1102/15).

South Atlantic.Gambia.

Situation, and possible attack on Gambia. Re-evacuation of French deserters to a safer spot using SLASK. Report on good authority about 20 military planes due to arrive Dakar to-day, 13/7. I propose sending French N.C.Os. plus any further French deserters to Freetown by first ship. (Officer Administering Gov. of Gambia, to S. of S. for Col., no. T.O.C., recd., 0353/14).

FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic (Cont.)

307

Cameroons.

Situation less satisfactory.  
(G.O.C. West Africa 2341/14).

ROZENIE.

Polish motorship, 766 tons, arrived Pernambuco, having succeeded in escaping from Dakar during night of July 5.  
(N.C.S.O. Pernambuco 1116/14).

Mediterranean.OperationsFrench Fleet.

Hopes Admty. will not make any alteration in agreement come to with Admiral Godfroy re. ships at Alexandria. (C. in C. Med. 1241/14).

Force H.

Re. training to be carried out east of Gibraltar. 8 destroyers available 15/7. (S.O. Force H. 1401/14)  
Area is believed clear of U-Boats. (D.D.I.C. 2214/14 to S.O. Force H.)

RORQUAL.

To leave patrol forthwith and proceed to Malta to embark mines. On completion of lay return to Malta and embark mines and proceed to Alexandria. (Capt. (S)I1405/14).

PHOENIX.

To leave patrol for Alexandria via Malta.  
(Capt. (S) 1407/14).

OSIRIS.

To leave patrol 18/7 for Alexandria.  
(Capt. (S)I 1411/14).

Air.Hurricanes.

Re. proposal to deliver by flying off from carrier. (Adty. 0231/14, HQ. R.A.F. ME. 1038/14, HQ. Malta 2045/14, Admty. 2105/14 to Force H).

Attacks on Fleet.

WARSPITE and 7th C.S. bombed intermittently during 11/7 up to about 230 miles from Sicily. 1st B.S. and EAGLE bombed heavily eight times during this day.

All Force bombed continuously between Crete and Cyrenaica by aircraft from both Libya and Dodecanese. Heavy attacks on battleships and EAGLE. Fast convoy not molested throughout its passage.



FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Cont.)

308

Air.

Attacks on  
Fleet (Cont.)

Two killed in LIVERPOOL and one in VAMPIRE. No other casualties or important damage reported. Considering the scale and accuracy of the attack we must be accounted extremely fortunate.

Two Gladiators taken from fleet air arm reserve and stowed in H.M.S. EAGLE's flight deck shot down four or five Italian bombers during this period, which shows what could be done if an adequate number of fighters accompanied the fleet.

Remarks on the enemy air bombing follow.

(C. in C. Med. 1503/14).

Remarks on  
enemy air  
attacks.

C. in C. Med. 1619/14. See Summary in Situation Report.

Shipping.

Supplies via  
Cape.

In view of report of recent operations in Central Mediterranean, appears unlikely that convoys will be able to pass through via the Straits. Additional stores for Malta will therefore have to be routed via the Cape, and early information is accordingly necessary of anticipated requirements. Hoped to make special arrangements for flying additional 12 Hurricanes to Malta from ARGUS. (1st S.L. to V.A. Malta 0231/14).

STEAVA ROMANA.  
OLTENIA.

Re employment. (D.of S.T. 1900/14 to R.A. Alexandria.)

East Indies.

GALILEO  
GALILEI.

(Italian U-Boat captured 18/6) appointment of navigating party to take her to Alexandria. (S.N.C. Red Sea 1659/14).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

309

China.French  
Attitude.

Possible when situation is clearer General Catroux may invite me to meet him again at Saigon for discussion. Should this occur would telegraph line which I propose to take. (C. in C. China to Admty. 0455 Z/14).

SHENGGING  
incident.

(Ship which did not stop when called upon by Japanese). N.L.O. Shanghai's report of incident, (N.L.O. Shanghai 0532 Z/14).

America and West Indies.FIJI.  
ILLUSTRIOUS.

FIJI essential 5 days at Bermuda for defects etc. Intend to retain her until 20/7. ILLUSTRIOUS ready 16/7. Should she be sailed independently or wait FIJI? (C. in C. A.W.I. 0941/14).

## ORANGELEAF.

Oiler with full cargo Adty. bunker fuel to be sailed for Gib. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0951/14 to S.N.O. Trinidad).

Convoy TC 6.

Ocean escort REVENGE. Time of departure from Halifax, route etc. (D.O.D.(F) 1830/14). Cancel N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1216/13; all Canadian troops now preparing to embark will proceed to U.K. Date of sailing of TC 6 ( two portions ) EMERALD proposed as escort for second portion. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1223/14).



ORANGELIA

Other with full  
sailed for G.P.

(C. in C. A.W.I. 0951/14 to ...)

Convoy TC 6.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1223/14).  
EMERALD proposed as escort for second portion.  
to U.K. Date of sailing of TC 6 (two portions)  
troops now preparing to embark will proceed  
Cancel N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1216/13; all Canadian  
Hilax, route etc. (D.O.D.(P) 1830/14).  
Ocean escort REVENGE. Time of departure from



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

310

JANTJE FRITZEN. 6582 G.T., ordered on 13/7 to proceed to Bremen. (I.C. 0511/40).

BIRGIT. 325 G.T., left Gothenburg 12/7 for Lake Vanern, near Nörsköping. 58°30'N. 17°E.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CAPO ARMA. 3195 G.T., Shell Company of Turkey taking steps to arrest this ship, now at Galatz. (.I.C. 0511/40).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

At Casablanca 12/7.

Being fitted at Casablanca with gun platform on fo'c'sle.  
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1320/14).

?MASSILIA? MASRILA )  
                  CHANTILLY )  
?INDOCHINOIS? SUDOCHINE )

SAN JOSE.

War Diary.



14.7.40.  
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

311

S/ms. Reported.

0806 58°55'N., 2°25'E., 106° Fair  
Island 130', position approximate.  
(I.C. 0511/40).

Estimated 1 in Western Approaches.  
Dispositions. 1 more either in Western Approaches,  
or, if homeward bound, possibly  
now west of Hebrides.  
(D.D.I.C. 1411/14).

S/ms. Attacked.

0524 By SABRE, 120° Beachy Head 14'. No  
positive result. SHIKARI 20 minutes  
later abandoned contact as non-sub.(fish).  
(A.S.W.D. 312).



SITUATION REPORT

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Shipping Routes

Merchant shipping, other than coastal convoys, is not to be routed through the Western Approaches and English Channel. Southampton will no longer be used as a port for movements of Army personnel and stores.

Suspicious Vessels sighted

At 075<sup>0</sup> suspicious vessels were reported 135 miles West of Ushant. Aircraft searched, while NEWCASTLE and 6 destroyers proceeded north west of Scilly from Plymouth and VANSITTART, returning to Plymouth from escort duty with ATHLONE CASTLE (bound for Gibraltar with reinforcements), off Finisterre, was diverted to the Fastnet. Nothing unusual was observed and it is presumed that the ships reported were British. The aircraft located S.S. CITY OF LLMERICK abandoned after air attack, and two of NEWCASTLE's destroyers, BROKE and MACKAY, after proceeding to her assistance remained on patrol off the Start until 0600/16.

British Air Activity

Normal patrols in the central and northern North Sea were postponed this morning on account of weather. Patrols elsewhere were not fully effective - This evening, patrols in the Southern North Sea were cancelled.

The Sunderland aircraft which reconnoitred Narvik early today saw nothing of importance to report.

Reconnaissance flights were made to Brest, Kiel and Altenbruch Roads (3 miles up river from Cuxhaven), and to the west coast of Ireland.

Three successful "Gardening" plantings were undertaken at Copenhagen Harbour and five at Aalborg.

Four new routine patrols have been inaugurated by Coastal Command covering (1) the English Coast south of the Lizard, (2) crossover patrol 240<sup>0</sup> Lands End extending to a depth of 200 miles, (3) East Coast of the Shetlands, and (4) crossover patrol north of the Shetlands to within 50 miles of the Norwegian Coast.

It is reliably reported that the damage inflicted on the SCHARNHORST in the Kiel raid on the night of July 1-2 is very serious and the vessel will be out of action for some time to come.

SITUATION REPORT

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313

Enemy Air Activity

There were a few raids on Eastern, Southern and South-Western counties last night, but very little damage was done and there were no casualties, except one military killed and 4 wounded at Dover. Pembroke dock was attacked this afternoon, but no Naval damage or casualties were caused. The Naval air station at Yeovilton, near Ilchester, was bombed at 1335/15, slight damage being caused to hangars and one aircraft.

Convoy FN 23 was attacked about 10 miles off Orfordness at 1450. Fighter aircraft were sent. Two ships, HEWORTH and ZBARAZ (Polish) were hit and set on fire, and grounded near Harwich.

In the Western Approaches S.S. CITY OF LIMERICK proceeding independently, was reported by aircraft at 1530 bombed and abandoned, two lifeboats with crews being also sighted. At midnight the ship was still afloat but on fire. BROKE and MACKAY which were with NEWCASTLE's force investigating a report of suspicious vessels, were sent about 1700 from near Scilly. At 1230/16 the latter reported S.S. ALPHA (Portuguese) also damaged and abandoned a few miles away from CITY OF LIMERICK. It is not intended to attempt salvage of these vessels, in view of the probability of renewed air attack.

Mining

Enemy minelaying last night is suspected in all channels of the Thames Estuary; 5 magnetic mines were exploded today. Newhaven and the Blyth-Tyne inshore channel are closed. Liverpool is also closed, and certain areas of the Bristol Channel.

Overdue Ships

The British CORABELLA is overdue at Demerara and the Danish THYRA at Las Palmas.

Italian Hostilities

The slow convoy arrived at Alexandria this morning with RAMILLIES, 3rd C.S. and 7 destroyers. Enemy aircraft this morning bombed the Iraq Petroleum Company's oil tanks at Haifa. Three tanks were set on fire and three damaged; and 27,800 tons of crude oil are in danger of being lost. Alexandria was raided by 1 aircraft which dropped 2 bombs outside the harbour.

SITUATION REPORT

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314

Italian Hostilities (Contd.)

At Tobruk today air reconnaissance observed 4 submarines, 3 destroyers (one aground) and 16 merchant vessels. Six British aircraft carried out an attack on shipping at Tobruk on the night of July 14-15.

French Indo-China

The French C. in C., Far East, has expressed his gratitude to the Admiralty for the release of the A.M.C. CARAIBE, which is to be recalled to Indo-China from Mombasa and to remain there until the end of the war.



HOME COMMANDS

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Movements

315

Home Fleet

My 2323/14. As D/F bearings now place enemy ship referred to near Bergen, cancel my 2323/14 except for ships at Scapa, Rosyth, and Humber. (1st. S.L. 0209/15 to C. in C's.)

Revert to usual notice for steam. (C.in C.H.P. 0723/15)

Cancel my 2351/14. Submarines may be at two hours notice. (V.A.S.0734/15)

Submarines are to revert to normal notice. (V.A.S.1212/15)

NORFOLK

To come to one hours notice for sea forthwith. (D.C.1335/15 to C.in C.H.F.) Cancel my 1335/15. Revert to former notice. (D.C.1820/15 to NORFOLK)

Crash Boats

Request you sail five Crash Boats to Hamble 16th July as convenient (D.O.D. 1511/15 to C.in C. Portsmouth) Further 24 hours wanted for repairs and C.O. prefers sail all together. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2130/15 to Adty.)

Six small Motor Auxiliary Patrol Yachts have sailed to their stations at S. end of Menai Strait. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1745/15 to Adty.)

Submarines

Positions of S/M's and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/16 July Area A. **CLYDE.** ~~SUNFISH~~  
TRUANT QSMF 4530.

WILK JZLZ 3500 SPEARFISH H one leaving p.m. for Blyth H.31 YZSC 2454 waiting to relieve SPEARFISH H 34 vicinity of L.S.T.A. 4017 waiting to relieve H.44. H.44 L.S.S.C.1539 proceeding on surface to Harwich. TETRARCH X.Z.T.A. SUNFISH P.C.T.A. 1000 both proceeding on the surface to Rosyth. L23 leaves Dundee P.M. escorted by Netherlands T.B.Z8. to Scapa. (V.A.S.1807/15) (D.C.2022/15)

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 16th July area B. TIGRIS escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY approximately N.L.A.V. 0040 proceeding West of Scilly Isles to K.Q.G.4130. (V.A.S.1816/15)

Operations

Operation

One Crash Boat unaccounted for after withdrawal. (SALADIN 0615/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Ambassador.

Iceland

LISSA, escorted by NORTHERN PRIDE and MAN O WAR are proceeding to Reykjavik. (C. in C. Rosyth 2312/15 to ARGUS)

E-Boats

2 Vessels off Guernsey, believed E-Boats, at 0100/15. (I.C.0512/40)

Air R/C reports 3 E-Boats in Brest. (A.C.W.A. 2356/15 to NEWCASTLE)

Air

Enemy Air Activity

Dover

3 Bombs dropped in harbour at 0020/15. No damage to ships but two casualties in trawler BIRCH. Two bombs dropped ashore, one Military killed and four wounded. Incendiary bombs inland. (V.A. Dover 0219/15 to Adty.)

Convoy Pilot

Enemy A/C shadowing convoy. (STORK 1136/15) Convoy being bombed at 330°52°2'E. 9' (STORK 1410/15) Enemy A/C bombing my position 52°2' N., 1°49' E. (VALOROUS 1412/15) Ten A/C bombing (STORK 1412/15) Fighters have left for Convoy Pilot (Nore W/T 1425/15)

HEWORTH on fire and ZBARAZ out of control at 52°5' N., 1°51' E. Request Tugs. (VALOROUS 1452/15 to C.in C. Nore) Crew of Polish ZBARAZ in Trawler VIDONIA who has Pole in tow. Am standing by with VENOMOUS (WIVERN 1643/15 to C.in C.Nore).

ST. OLAVES and <sup>4/5</sup>Trawler STELLA CARINA standing by HEWORTH at 51°59' N., 1°39' E. VIDONIA with ZBARAZ in tow proceeding to Harwich. (WIVERN 1854/15 to C.in C.Nore)

CITY OF LIMERICK

1359 tons. Bombed in 48°49' N., 7°12' W. Detach BROKE and MACKAY to her. (C.in C.W.A.1701/15 to NEWCASTLE) Ship abandoned (A.C.H.Q.Plymouth 1733/15) Have you sighted CITY OF LIMERICK or her boats? (C.in C.W.A.2301/15 to MACKAY)

At 1745/15 A/C reports bombed ship sinking in 48°50' N., 6°52' W. at 1500/15. (A.C.H.Q.Plymouth 1828/15)

Pembroke Dock

3 bombs dropped at 1450/15 on railway tunnel outside Pembroke. No naval damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1703/15 to Adty.)

ALPHA

Portuguese, 853 tons, bombed and abandoned in 48°51' N., 6°43' W., was afloat and salvable at 2115/15. (D.S.315)

Barry

4 bombs dropped in No.1 Dock at 1008/15. Slight damage, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1600/15 to C. in C.W.A.)



HOME COMMANDS

317

Mining

My 1130/11/7. Brown Ridge Sweep is to be known in future as Patrol T. (C. in C.Nore 1146/15)

Unknown ship mined 5' off Lynmouth (D.C.N.S.316)

5 Magnetic Mines exploded in Thames Estuary (D.C.N.S.316)

Liverpool is closed owing to suspected minelaying by A/C. (D.C.N.S.316)

Some areas of the British Channel are closed (D.C.N.S.316)

The Kyles of Bute are closed. (D.C.N.S.316)

Enemy Intelligence

Suspicious vessels possibly transports reported in approximate position  $48^{\circ}42'$  N.,  $7^{\circ}25'$  W. at 0750/15 course 350 speed unknown.

Air searches are being carried out (a) between 320 degs. and 020 degs. from above position. (b)  $240^{\circ}$  from Scillies to longitude  $11^{\circ}$  west.

VANSITTART from  $46^{\circ}12'$  N.,  $11^{\circ}$  W. at 1200/15 is proceeding towards Fastnet at 20 knots.

NEWCASTLE is to take destroyers addressed under her orders and proceed between Scillies and Lands End and thence to the north westward. (C.in C.W.A.1143/15 to NEWCASTLE, MACKAY, BROKE, HESPERUS, WOLVERINE, WITHERINGTON, RESTIGOUCHE)

My 1117/15. Suspicious vessels reported at 0750/15 in  $48^{\circ}42'$  N.,  $7^{\circ}25'$  W. course  $350^{\circ}$ . Two Sunderland Aircraft are searching. NEWCASTLE and six Destroyers proceed 1330 to N.W. of Scilly Islands. (C.in C.W.A.1241/15 to VANSITTART)

As Air searches have failed to find any suspicious vessels, inference is that German intercept believed to refer to transports actually referred to British or Neutral Merchant ships. NEWCASTLE and Destroyers less BROKE and MACKAY have been recalled. (C.in C.W.A. 1852/15 to Adty.)

25 small Fishing-Vessels in channel between Andorja and Rolla. One M/V 4500 tons approaching Narvik at 0430/15. (Donibristle 1135/15)

2 Destroyers  $52^{\circ}11'$  N.,  $2^{\circ}46'$  E. course  $230^{\circ}$  slow speed. A/C report (Chatham 1300/15)

Brest

3 large Vessels at W. end of Harbour, and small M/B under way outside Boom heading up harbour. (P.R.U.I.St.Eval 1310/15)

Positions of HX, BHX, SL, SLF Convoys at 0900 B.S.T.  
 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July 1940

Convoy + Escort	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
HX56 SANFURA	Kalifon	43°20'N 60°30'W	43°N 56°W	41°10'N 57°40'W	40°30'N 47°W	43°N 44½°W	45°30'N 46°W
BHX58 JERVIS BAY	34°N 65°W	35°N 69°W	36½°N 54½°W	38°20'N 50°40'W	40°N 47°W		
HX57 ASCANIA *	40°30'N 47°20'W	49°30'N 45°W	45°N 42°W	47°40'N 39°00'W	50°N 36°30'W	52½°N 32½°W	54°30'N 28°W
BHX57 EMERALD *	40°N 47°10'W						
HX55 COMORIN	50°N 35°W	52°N 32°W	54°N 27½°W	55°40'N 22°40'W			
SL38 CARNARVON CASTLE	43°N 20°W	51°N 20°W	54°N 19½°W				
SLF38 MALOTA	41°N 21°W	50°N 20°30'W	53½°N 19½°W				
SL39 BUNYERAH CASTLE	28°N 21°W	28°N 22°30'W	31°N 22½°W	35°36'N 22°00'W	39°30'N 22°W	42°N 22°W	45°40'N 20°30'W
SLF39	20°N 20°40'W	24°N 21°30'W	30°N 22°W	35°10'N 22°00'W			
SL40 ASTURIAS.			10°N 16°W	11°20'N 16°00'W	14°N 19°30'W	17°N 20°W	20°30'N 20°50'W
HX59 VOLTAIRE.						43°N 59°W	41°30'N 55°W
BHX59 ARANIA.						35°N 57½°W	37°N 54°W

\* Convoy joined 1300/15. Emerald returning Kalifon, Ascama escorting HX57

Can F

Dear Lloyd Owen

This has turned up in L.S. I  
 suppose it's nothing to do with your card

Your  
 W. Blinn  
 1/2

Received in TSD/HS. 18.2.1949



HOME COMMANDS

318

Shipping

Except for coastal convoys, merchant shipping is not to be routed through the Western Approaches and English Channel. The inconvenience of abandoning Southampton as a port for movements of Army personnel and stores must be accepted. (A.C.N.S.(T). 0040/15 to C.in C's.)

In order that arrangements may be made to provide the maximum possible air protection for valuable troop and other special convoys, it is requested that all signals relative to their routing, movements, time of arrival etc. be repeated to Air Ministry, H.Q. Coastal Command and H.Q. Fighter Command. (D.O.D.(H) 1401/15 to C.in C.W.A.)

Dartmouth

A Naval Control Service is being established at Dartmouth and will start to work at 0001/18 (D.T.D. 1533/15)

Weather

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
(Eastern) North Sea	Easterly or variable, fresh in North, light elsewhere.	Moderate or poor, good in South.	Similar.
Channel	Easterly light.	Good.	Similar.
W.Approaches	Northerly light.	Moderate or good.	Wind backing.
Horns Reef	W. light or moderate.	Moderate or good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast	S.W. light.	Moderate or good.	Wind backing.
S.W. Norway	Easterly, moderate or fresh.	Moderate or good.	Similar.



CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

319

Home Commands

- SALMON Due Rosyth pm/14th. If no news received by 0900/16 she must be presumed lost. (V.A.S. 1213/15 to Adty.)
- WAYNEGATE Grounded 1230/15 half mile S. of Swilkie Point, Stroma Island. (WAYNGATE. Recd. 1315/15). Refloated. (A.C.O.S. Recd. 1939/15). Anchored in Sinclair Bay. (SALVAGE KING 2105/15 to A.C. Scapa).
- KOLLBJORG Norwegian, 8259 tons, reported overdue from Aruba has arrived safely at Santos today. (D.S.315).
- CORABELLA British, 5682 tons, due at Demerara on 8th. July is overdue. (D.S.315).
- THYRA S. Danish, 1738 tons, overdue at Las Palmas since 9th July. (D.S. 315).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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320

South Atlantic

ASTURIAS

To escort Convoy SL 40 and proceed Greenock, sailing for Freetown 6/8. (C. in C., S.A., 1305/15).

DUNVEGAN  
CASTLE

To leave Greenock so as to arrive outer end of Freetown searched channel 8/8 at 0800 zone + 1. C. in C., S.A., 1321/15).

Gold Coast

Re ships with Senegalese troops proceeding to Gold Coast, rates of pay French native troops under De Gaulle, and British contingent and ammunition for Freetown. (W.O., to G.O.C., West Africa, 2305/15).

Mediterranean - Policy

Policy of H.M. Govt. in Mediterranean. Function of the Naval forces. Asking for suggestions (1st S.L. 0227/15, 1045/15 to C. in C., Med.) See Mediterranean Volume. Amendments to 0227/15 (1st S.L., 2300/16).

Italian Shipping

Italian shipping within 30 miles of Libyan Coast may be sunk at sight. (C. in C., Med., 1145/15).

Mediterranean - Organisation

Cruiser Sqdn.

Propose to merge 3rd and 7th Cruiser Sqdns. R.A. Renouf to be appointed 2nd in command 7th Cruiser Sqdn., and hoist his flag in GLOUCESTER. (C. in C., Med., 1135/15).

LL Sweepers

Adty. 1229/8. Report of progress with LL minesweepers. No suitable craft excepting trawlers and drifters already in service found so far. (R.A., Alexandria, 1511/15).

Shipping Routes

Re W.O. and Air Min. plans to convey supplies to Middle East on routes (a) Mombasa - Cairo, (b) Basra - Haifa. While agreeing that alternative routes are naturally desirable, presume it is appreciated that Red Sea route remains the normal channel of supply and that there is every reason to suppose it will continue to be available. (C. in C., Med., to Adty., 1531/15).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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321

Mediterranean (Contd.)

RORQUAL

Time of arrival at Malta to embark mines.  
(V.A. Malta, 1801/15).

Mediterranean - Air

Haifa raided

Raid by 10 Italian planes on Iraq Petroleum Company Oil tanks 0915 C today Monday. 3 tanks burning 3 damaged. 27,800 tons crude oil in danger of being lost. No refined oil lost. No fatal casualties. Some minor injuries to I.P.C. personnel. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, ~~1300~~ 1300C/15).

Alexandria  
Riad

Raid 1250, single aircraft dropped 2 bombs outside harbour. (R.A.I.C., Alexandria, 1330/15).

Hurricanes,  
delivery to  
Malta

Re proposal to deliver by flying off carrier. Presume Air Ministry satisfied Hurricanes can take off from ARGUS. Opinion here is such a course is impracticable. Do you propose to take any further action in this matter? (H.Q., Med., to H.Q., R.A.F., Middle East, 0950/15).

Whole project has been most carefully examined in light of naval situation and our previous experiences with Hurricanes taken off from carriers by pilots without previous carrier training, and it has been decided that the 12 Hurricanes are to be flown into Malta. Aircraft pilots, key personnel and stores will be embarked in ARGUS in U.K. about 20th and on arrival Gibraltar key personnel and stores will be transhipped to 2 submarines for onward passage to Malta. For flight to Malta Hurricanes will be escorted by 2 F.A.A. Skuas which are remaining. (Air Min., 1603/15 to H.Q. Malta and M.E.)

Swordfish for  
Raidering

Ref. 1633/9. All 3 Service ministries are agreed that method of employment of these aircraft is to be left to discretion of local commanders (War Off. to Govr., Malta, 1720/15).

East Indies

French Ships

N.O.I.C. Calcutta's 0702/13. Transfer to Panamanian flag apparently not finally effected.  
Owner.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

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322

East Indies (Contd.)

Owner appears willing to transfer both ships to British flag either in his own name or in that of Wallem and Co., Hong Kong. F.O.C.R.I.N. requested to report further when situation is clarified. (C. in C., E.I., 1006Z/15).

CARAIIBE

Gratitude from French C. in C. to 1st Sea Lord. CARAIIBE will be recalled to Indo China and will remain in Far East until end of war. Assurance of "respectful and faithful attachment". (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0930Z/15).

America and West Indies

SOBIESKI

Delayed in Quebec until 18/7 or 19/7. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1722/15).

T.C.6

REVENGE and EMERALD to escort. (D.O.D.(F) 1840/15).

Pacific Coast  
Patrol

Adty. 1024/10. As only minor warships on Pacific Coast of North America, suggest PRINCE ROBERT should operate in this area, north of 48° and east of 135° E., to protect British and Allied shipping from enemy raider operations and deal with any enemy merchant ship raiders attempting to lay mines. Grateful for your opinion (C.N.S., Ottawa, to C. in C., A.W.I. 1616/15).

Australia

French Trade

Your 0531/12. British, Allied and normal French ships are being permitted to trade between Australia and French Pacific possessions, whose attitude so far has been friendly. No objection to resumption of inter-station trade and arrangements on Australian Station are being made accordingly. (A.C.N.B., 1330Z/15 to C. in C., China).

War Diary

15.7.40.  
Monday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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323

CAPO ARMA

Laid up at Galatz. Shell company of Turkey is taking steps to arrest her. (D.S. 314).

REMO

9780 tons, seized at Fremantle, Australia, on outbreak of war with Italy, commissioned for passage only as Royal Australian Fleet auxiliary 13/7 and sailed for Melbourne 14/7. (A.C.N.B. 1206Z/15).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

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324

Ships Attacked

BELLEROCK British, 1199 tons. Mined 5 miles off Lynmouth, and sunk. 7 survivors landed at Cardiff. (D.S.)

Submarines Reported

0329 51:20 N. 10:40 W., 267° Fastnet 44., position indefinite, A.1. (I.C., 0512/40).

2007 RESTIGOUCHE and HESPERUS hunting contact in position 135° Lizard Light 12.5 miles. (NEWCASTLE, 2007/15). No contact obtained (RESTIGOUCHE, 2201/15).

- 60:09 N., 04:51 E., about 20 m. S.W. from Bergen. Reported by H.M. Ship (D.S. 315).

Estimated dispositions:-

1 in about 51:20 N., 10:40 W. at 0329/15. If homeward bound may pass from 55° to 57° during daylight hours tomorrow, 16th. Possibly 1 between N. Rona and Shetlands homeward bound. (I.C., 0512/40).

Submarines Attacked

? time By TETRARCH, 60:09 N., 4:51 E. Route being followed with view to intercepting enemy submarine. (TETRARCH, 2331/15).

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

Aircraft reconnaissance reported 4 submarines in Tobruk Harbour, Libya, 15/7. (D.S. 315).

SITUATION REPORT

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Enemy Forces off Jutland

325

On reports that Enemy Minesweepers and Escort Vessels were steering N.W. about 80' West of Jutland at 0040/16, 4 cruisers and 8 destroyers forming Force C. left Scapa at 1030/16, but failed to locate the enemy and turned back for Scapa at 1545. At 1845, however, an aircraft reported six U-boats and 13 Mine-Sweepers off Jutland, escorted by Fighters who attacked the aircraft. On returning to Scapa, GLASGOW and IMOGEN collided at midnight 16/17 in thick fog off Duncansby Head. GLASGOW rescued 10 officers and 125 ratings from IMOGEN and entered harbour at 0915/17.

British Air Activity

A reconnaissance of the French Coast from Cherbourg to Havre with special attention to Trouville and the mouth of the Seine, and of all Harbours from Dieppe to Dunkirk, is to be flown at least twice every 24 hours; and Cherbourg, Trouville, Houfleur and Havre were examined between 1840 and 1935 today.

Coastal Command patrols during 16/7 were much curtailed owing to bad weather, and flying ceased altogether at about 2300.

Enemy Air Activity

Force C. was bombed at 58:4 N., 0:8 W. at 1632/16 without result; and Peterhead and Fraserburgh were raided by aircraft at 4 p.m. when one rating was slightly wounded and a small Naval Store damaged.

Enemy Preparations for Invasion.

A considerable number of barges were seen at Cherbourg, Trouville, Le Havre and Honfleur. A photographic reconnaissance of L'Orient and Port Louis showed very considerable shipping activity; four naval vessels, possibly destroyers, were at L'Orient. Aircraft also reported 200 to 300 barges in the canal between Armentieres and Merville.

SITUATION REPORT

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SALMON lost.

326

SALMON is overdue at Rosyth since pm/14 from operating off the coast of Norway. She was ordered to report her position early on 15/7. No signals have been received from her since 4/7, and she must be presumed lost.

E. Boats

At 0125/ A/S Trawler DANEMAN reported that enemy light forces were attacking her off Beachy Head. The enemy broke off the engagement and retired behind a smoke screen twenty minutes later.

French Vessels

A number of French destroyers, torpedo boats, submarine chasers, escort vessels and other small craft in British ports to be manned for service by British, French, Polish or Dutch crews.

Mining

Liverpool is closed on account of suspected mine-laying by enemy aircraft, but was opened from 2000 till 2330 and convoys were swept in and out. Newhaven and Blyth were also closed. Some areas of the Bristol Channel are closed owing to the mining of a vessel in the approaches, and also the Kyles of Bute.

BURLINGTON, which has exploded two more mines in Loch Ewe, making six in six days, has been specially complimented by the Commander-in-Chief,

U-Boat Activity

The British tanker SCOTTISH MINSTREL, in convoy HX.55, was torpedoed at 1140/16 to the north of Ireland and sank about 16 hours later.

14.7.48  
BICKFORD.—COMMANDER E. O. BICKFORD, D.S.O.,  
R.N. H.M.S. Salmon, July 14, 1940. In affectionate  
memory.—VALERIE.  
DA COSTA.—To the ever-precious memory of our  
beloved elder son, DARNLEY, on the anniversary  
of his death in Burma, July 14, 1944. R.I.P.  
EDMONDS.—In proud and loving memory of "JIM,"  
LT. JAMES TALBOT EDMONDS, R.A.F.V.R., on this  
his birthday. Killed in action, April 11, 1945.



SITUATION REPORT

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327

Italian Hostilities

In an air attack on Malta by six C.R. 42 aircraft at 0909, one enemy and one British aircraft were shot down. No bombs were dropped. This was the first R.A.F. casualty at Malta since Italy entered the war. During this time two and sometimes three British fighter aircraft have engaged enemy formations of up to Twenty. In these circumstances they have certainly brought down ten enemy machines and probably about seven more.

Alexandria was raided between 2230 and 2330, when 20 bombs were dropped, most of which fell into the sea. One in Ras el Tin Palace killed one and injured two, but there were no other casualties or damage.



HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

328

French Ships.

It is proposed to make the following signal to all the necessary authorities:-

"It is appreciated that recognition from the Air between French Ships under the control of the French Government and those commissioned for service in the R.N. is exceedingly difficult if not impossible. Bombing action should therefore not be taken against any French men of war at sea unless given as a specific target by the competent Naval authority."

(D.O.D.(H) 1148/16 to Air Ministry).

Stavanger Concentration.

Intelligence reports suggest that a concentration of troops, aircraft and shipping may be taking place in the Stavanger area. A really heavy bombing attack utilising such darkness as exists is recommended. This would seem to be a chance of forestalling a German offensive which is a course of action that seldom comes our way.

(C. in C. H.F. 1714/16 to Adty.)

Lorient.

In view of FORM WHITE STE/W3/16/7 on Lorient, I regard it as important that this port should be attacked as soon as possible, observing that no demolitions were carried out at the time of the evacuation.

(C. in C. W.A. 2052/16 to Adty).

French Vessels Requisitioned.

The Government has decided that, starting Wednesday morning, 17th July, French Merchant Vessels in United Kingdom ports are to be requisitioned and placed under the British Flag. The crews will be given the alternative of serving the common cause, in which case they will be paid British rates of pay and compensation etc. or of repatriation to France. If they agree to serve and are passed by the Security Police, they will remain in their ships for the present; if they refuse they will be interned pending repatriation. In due course it is intended to form composite French crews to serve in French ships under the British flag probably also flying the French Flag as a house flag. Those interned will be repatriated in exchange for British Merchant Seamen if the French do not allow our crews to return freely. The ships will be returned to France at the end of the war, and compensation will then be paid to owners.

It is generally intended that local French Shipping in distant waters should continue to trade if it is desirable in Allied interests and provided local Authorities are satisfied that its voyage will be carried out, but all Fast Merchant Vessels capable of being used as Armed Merchant Cruisers should be requisitioned. (D.T.D. 2319/16).

HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

329

Force C.

Raise steam with despatch.  
(C. in C. H.F. 0431/16 to SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW,  
NORFOLK, SUSSEX, SHROPSHIRE).

Ships addressed are raising steam with despatch  
and are to form Force C. (C. in C. H.F. 0541/16  
to SOUTHAMPTON, COSSACK, SIKH, ZULU, MAORI,  
COVENTRY, GLASGOW, INGLEFIELD, IMOGEN, SUSSEX,  
SHROPSHIRE, FURY, FORTUNE).

Revert to 4 hours notice for steam.  
(C. in C. H.F. 0534/16 to NORFOLK).

My 0541. Delete COVENTRY.  
(C. in C. H.F. 0710/16 to R.A.18).

Take Force C. under your orders and proceed  
when weather permits. Destroyers are ready.  
(C. in C. H.F. 0755/16 to R.A.18).

Crash Boats.

Your 2130/15. Approved to sail all boats  
together. (D.O.D.(H) 1001/16 to N.O.I.C.  
Dartmouth). All Crash Boats ready to sail  
a.m./17. Expected time of arrival 1700.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1306/16 to Adty.)

Notice for  
Steam.

My 0837/16. One cruiser at Sheerness and half  
total available destroyers at each port are now  
to revert to usual notice for steam.  
(C. in C. Nore 1304/16 to F.O.I.C. Humber,  
Harwich, Yarmouth, Sheerness, C.S.18, C.S.2, D.5).

Disposition  
of French Ships.

My 1052/16 ships will be employed as follows :-

LE TRIOMPHANT	Attached to R.A.D. Home Fleet
LEOPARD	Portsmouth local Flotilla
All Torpedo Boats.	Portsmouth anti-E Boat Flotilla
ARRAS	} Auxiliary Patrol, Portsmouth.
CHEVREUIL	
EPINAL	
LA CAPRICIEUSE	
LA MALOUINE	
LEOVILLE	} Auxiliary Patrol, Western Approaches.
TEMERAIRE II	

All British manned submarine chasers, under C. in C.  
Western Approaches COURBET and all French manned  
ships, under C. in C. Nore PARIS and all Polish  
manned ships, under C. in C. Rosyth. All Dutch  
manned ships, under C. in C. Western Approaches  
based on Holyhead. COURBET and PARIS to be  
berthed in Thames Estuary and Tyne respectively  
as guard ships. Information regarding A/S  
vessels will be promulgated later.  
(V.C.N.S. 1508/16 to C. in Cs.)

HOME COMMANDS

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330

Movements (Contd.)

Submarines

Position of submarines and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600 17th July. Area A CLYDE Statlandet TRUANT QSMF 4530. WILK JZLZ 3500 TETRARCH PCSC 2020 proceeding submerged to Rosyth. SPEARFISH NLSC 0020 proceeding submerged to Blyth, H31 and H34 in H. one and 2. TRIDENT leaves Rosyth p.m. north east. (V.A.S. 1716/16).

Operations

If enemy force is seen, report and shadow, but not attack. (No.18 Rec. Group H.Q. 0935/16 to Aircraft).

Operation "P.G."

An offensive reconnaissance will be carried out by M.T.B's in the Estuary of the West Scheldt during dark hours as soon as opportunity offers, with object of destroying enemy craft and creating a diversion.

2. Details of the operation are to be organised by Senior Officer M.T.B's.

3. Unless really good targets are seen or have been previously located boats are not to go up river beyond Flushing. They are to be well clear of coast by first light.

4. All vessels East of 2° 30' E. and south of 51° 40' N. may be attacked on sight without challenge. M.T.B's are to keep south of 51:40 N. when east of 2:30 E.

5. No air protection will be provided unless situation indicates probability of retaliatory action by enemy aircraft.

6. The latest operational intelligence for the area has been asked for and will be signalled as soon as received.

7. Report numbers of M.T.B's detailed and proposed date and times of leaving and returning to base.

(C. in C., Nore 1530/16 to BEEHIVE)

HOME COMMANDS

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E-Boats

DANEMAN

Am being attacked by light forces 0630 Beachy Head 22 miles (DANEMAN 0125/16). Enemy has retired behind smoke screen and broken off engagement (DANEMAN 0145/16).

Air

British Air Activity

Reconn.

At least twice every 24 hours either under cloud cover or by moonlight recces are to be made along the French coast from Cherbourg to Le Havre with particular attention to Trouville and the mouth of the Seine. Also from Dieppe to Dunkirk with particular attention to all Harbours in between. (H.Q.C.C. 1210/16 to Adty.)

Anti-Invasion  
Air Patrols

Complete list of Air Patrols now in force. (H.Q.C.C. 1515/16 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

CITY OF LIMERICK On fire and fore-part gutted. In view probable renewed air attack do not propose attempt salvage unless special reasons for it (C. in C., W.A. 0031/16 to Adty.) Adty. know of no special reason for attempting salvage. (D.T.D. 0253/16 to C. in C., W.A.)

ALPHA

Portuguese, 850 tons. Damaged and abandoned at 48:51 N. 6:43 W. (C. in C., W.A. 0031/16).

Force C

Am being shadowed by 2 Enemy aircraft at 58:4 N. 0:6 W. My course 098° speed 25 knots. (R.A. 18th C.S. 1528/16). Am being shadowed by one aircraft at 58:2 N., 0:15 W. (R.A. 18 C.S. 1610/16). Enemy is bombing 58:4 N. 0:8 W. (R.A. 18 C.S. 1632/16). One aircraft shadowing 58:7 N. 0:45 W. (R.A. 18 C.S. 1720/16).

Vessel being attacked 12' N.E. of St. Abb's Head. (Wick Radio. Recd. 1707/16).

HOME COMMANDS

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332

Air (Contd.)

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Peterhead At 1605/16. Enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs inside Harbour of Refuge. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1641/16 to Adty.) One enemy aircraft shot down and 2 prisoners taken. (D.C.N.S. 317).

Fraserburgh At 1602/16 two bombs dropped. One rating slightly wounded and damage to houses (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1641/16). Damage to small Naval Store and stores (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2054/16).

Mining

Sweeping of Convoy Routes As QZF6 is still being used by RAML. there are insufficient sweepers to search convoy routes. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1247/16 to Adty.)

Kyles of Bute At about 0230/16 a heavy explosion between Colintrave and Tignabruaich after aircraft had been seen by Yacht CARRAIG. Local traffic through Kyles of Bute stopped, and sweepers sent. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0435/16 to Adty.). Enemy Mine Type C. self exploded (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2245/17 to C. in C. Rosyth).

At 1134/16 one Floating Mine, colour Yellow, in 57:6 N., 5:58 E. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 1435/16 to Adty.)

Linney Head At 1655/16 a Black object dropped by Motor Boat at 220° Linney Head 2½ miles. Aircraft to investigate. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1656/16 to Adty.)

Ratray Head Owing to suspected Minelaying by aircraft, request inshore route between North Carr and Ratray Head be prohibited for shipping. (C. in C. Rosyth 1931/16 to Adty.)

Liverpool Two red magnetic mines detonated by LL trawlers in Crosby Channels. Liverpool open tonight from 2000 to 2330 and Convoys being swept in and out. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2134/16 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

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Mining (Contd.)

333

Loch Ewe

Two more mines have been exploded by BURLINGTON in Loch Ewe, making six in six days. (D.C.N.S. 317)

Newhaven and Tyne-Blyth Inshore Channel are still closed. (D.C.N.S. 317).

Enemy Intelligence

German aircraft active at 1655/16 in 57:0 N., 5:0 E. D/F report. (D.D.I.C. 1724/16).

Skerries  
12th July

At 2200/12 EMPIRE INDUSTRY saw small craft off Skerries apparently being used for fuelling Submarines. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1841/16 to Adty.)

Jutland

6 U-boats and 13 Mine-Sweepers at 56:30 N., 5:29 E. at 1845/16. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 1845/16). Minesweepers course 140, U-boats submerged course 220. Am being attacked by aircraft. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 1900/16).

Lorient )  
Port Louis )

Photographs show great activity. Submarine supply ship, 4 warships possibly destroyers, one large and ten small M/Vs, and large number of lighters and trawlers in port. 3 Goods trains, apparently of petrol tank waggons, at docks. (PRU St. Eval 1920/16).

French Ports

Aircraft reconnaissance of Cherbourg, Trouville, Hanfleur, and Havre from 1840 to 1935/16. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2220/16).

Shipping.

Convoy WNI

Sailing Telegram. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0900/16 to Adty.)

Convoy HX.58

Sailing Telegram. (D.T.D. 1915/16).

Sighted large Convoy with 2 ships heavily on fire bearing 325:12 miles. My position 88:56 N., 10:18 W. (FORFAR 1158/16 to C. in C. Rosyth) Unknown vessel appears to be on fire. My position 56:11 N., 9:21 W. Request instructions. (LETITIA 1615/16 to C. in C. Rosyth). Proceed to Clyde (C. in C. Rosyth, 1708/16 to LETITIA).

HOME COMMANDS

---

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Shipping

Convoy SL.40 Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1755/16).

MARISA THORDEN Finnish, 4536 tons. Petsamo to New York. Have intercepted at 60:55 N., 19:23 W. and transferred Mails and 18 Red Cross Nurses. Request instructions. (WOLFE 1305/16 to V.A.N.P.) Escort ship towards Clyde pending further orders (F.O.C.N.P. 1555/16 to WOLFE). Send ship to Clyde under armed guard. (F.O.C.N.P. 1723/16 to WOLFE).

Convoy Rescue Ships Commodores of convoys to be informed that, unless absolutely necessary, small ships with cargoes of no great value should be employed as Rescue-Ships rather than valuable modern vessels. (D.T.D. 1637/16).

Convoy WN.2 Intend sailing at 0630/18. About 28 ships. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1601/16).

Miscellaneous

Identification Marks For use only in operations connected with invasion. (D.S.D. 1339/16. AZ. Message.)

French Ships Manning by British, French, and Polish crews. (V.C.N.S. 1052/16).





HOME COMMANDS

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Weather.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	Light variable easterly.	Poor to moderate extensive fog patches.	<u>Wind</u> Light to Mod. N.E. <u>Vis.</u> Poor - fog patches.
Channel	W. to N.W. light.	Good in West. Poor in East. Thick fog Straits of Dover.	<u>Wind</u> S.W. light to mod. <u>Vis.</u> Poor to mod. improving later.
Western Approaches	Light variable S.E. to S.W.	Moderate to good.	<u>Wind</u> veering to W.N.W. Mod. <u>Vis.</u> Mod. becoming good.
Horns Reef	S.E. to E. moderate.	Good.	<u>Wind</u> S. Mod. <u>Vis.</u> Mod. to poor.
Dutch Coast	E. to S.E. light.	Mod. to poor fog patches.	<u>Wind</u> veering to S. light. <u>Vis.</u> Improving slowly later.
<u>S.W. Coast Norway</u>	N.E. light to Mod.	Good local fog or mist.	<u>Wind</u> Easterly light. <u>Vis.</u> Mod.



War Diary

16.7.40.  
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

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Home Commands

GLASGOW )  
IMOGEN )

Have been in collision with IMOGEN in position  
100 plus 74 XZMA 29. (GLASGOW 2355/16).

WAR DIARYFOREIGN STATIONS16.7.40.  
TuesdayNorth AtlanticDestroyers.

Admiralty 1913/13. Assumed the three G class, HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER will form part of 13th Destroyer Flotilla on arrival at Gibraltar. Continued extra commitments make it necessary that 13th D.F. should be kept at full strength. (F.O.C.N.A., 1136/16). Confirmed. (D.O.D.(F), 2317/16).

French Warships.

Admiral Ollive informed in accordance with Admiralty 1330/13 (no further action against French warships while they are lying in French Colonial or North African ports). He has now replied. "If I interpret text correctly British Admiralty's assurance is equivalent to declaration of a blockade of French warships in French Colonial and North African ports. I am so informing French Admiralty." Should any reply be made to this? (F.O.C.N.A.1238/16). No reply should be sent. (1st S.L. 2344/16).

Morocco, French  
LE RHIN

Your 1823/15. Conditions in Morocco and attitude towards Musilier's orders. French officers and men follow Peri's opinion as their leader. Peri wishes to serve under British flag. Failing further orders French ship LE RHIN will sail for Devonport in convoy on 21/7. Ship has now hoisted Blue Ensign. (S.O.I. Gib., to D.N.I., 1752/16).

South Atlantic.Convoy.

W.S.1 arrived 0900/16 escorted by CUMBERLAND. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0952/16).

ASTURIAS

Left for convoy duty and passage to U.K. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1547/16).

Air Striking Force.

If it is approved for HERMES to proceed Simonstown for repairs, propose to land 7 of her aircraft at Wellington aerodrome as an air striking force for defence of Freetown. Armed with bombs in first instance, but intended they should eventually be based at Hastings (vide my 1331/12) where they can also operate with torpedoes. Request early approval. (C. in C., S.A., to Admiralty., 2033/16).

Troop Movements.

My 2039/5. War Office now wish troops to proceed Accra FABIAN and JOHN HOLT are at your disposal for this purpose but probably require supplies. (D.O.D.(F) to C.-in-C.S.A., 2316/16). Ships being routed to Takoradi. (C.-in-C.S.A., 1955/16).



Mediterranean.

RORQUAL

Movements. (RORQUAL, 0115/16, 0915/16, 2210/16)

Commands

Your 1135/15. Alternatively if you prefer, Rear-Adm. Renouf could be appointed in command of 7th Cruiser Sqdn., and Vice-Adm. Tovey as V.A.C. Light Forces and 2nd in Command, Mediterranean Fleet. Light Forces would comprise all cruisers and destroyers. Tovey's flagship would form part of 7th Cruiser Sqdn. for administrative purposes. (Naval Secretary, 1717/16 to C.-in-C. Med.) Fully concur. Request appointments to be made. (C.-in-C. Med., 1103/17).

Appreciation.

Admiralty. 0227/15, following are my views. (C. in C., Med., 2259/16, see Mediterranean Volume.) *Reply p.355.*

A i r.

Hurricanes.

Instructions for pilots Hurricanes and Skuas re correct routing to Malta. (H.Q., Malta, 1230/16).

Whole project has been most carefully examined in light of naval situation and previous experience with Hurricanes taken off from carriers by pilots without previous carrier training, and it has been decided that the 12 Hurricanes are to be flown into Malta. Aircraft, pilots, key personnel and stores will be embarked in ARGUS in U.K. about 20/7 and on arrival Gibraltar key personnel and stores will be trans-shipped to 2 submarines for onward passage to Malta. For flight to Malta Hurricanes will be escorted by 2 F.A.A. Skuas which are remaining. (Air Min., to H.Q., Malta 1603/16).

Alexandria Raid.

Air raid 2230 to 2330, about twenty bombs, most in sea. One in Ras El Tin Palace, one killed, two injured, no other damage or casualties. (R.A., Alexandria, 0820/17).

East Indies.

CARAIBE.

Informing that officers and men and armament may now be re-embarked, and request when will be ready to sail for Diego Suarez, or as may be ordered by French C. in C., Far East. N.O.I.C. Kilindini to facilitate re-embarkation as much as possible (C. in C., E.I., 0612/16, 0954/16).

WAR DIARY

FOREIGN STATIONS

16.7.43  
Tuesday

East Indies.

Suspicious Seaplane

Report (C.2) from fisherman in Seychelles sighting seaplane 1200Z/13 about 5 miles W. of North Island. Could not have been any British naval aircraft. (C.in C. E.1., 1628Z/16).

Convoys.

Your 1426/12, speeding up convoys in Red Sea. Proposals approved in principle. You should proceed with the necessary messages to give effect to para 5. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1206/16). Your 1242/15. W.2 and W.3 will proceed Sydney after completion disembarkation Colombo. (D. of S.8., to P.S.T.D. Bombay, 2355/16).

China.

Families Evacuation.

In consultation with Colonial Office it is agreed that priority of move from Manila to Australia should be given to service families. Understand from Colonial Office that Governor, Kong Kong, is in communication with Commonwealth Government regarding reception of evacuees from Manila and that they are willing to receive them. (War Office to G.O.C., Hong Kong 1820/16).

America and West Indies.

Martinique.

Admiral Martinique, informs me he intends to send to Casablanca all reserve seamen as soon as situation permits. (C.-in-C. A.W.I., 1011/16 to Admiralty.)

Convoys. T.C. 6.

Appears that split convoys considered undesirable. Ships mentioned in my 1223/14 except ANTONIA and SOBIESKI should be able to sail 20/7. SOBIESKI cannot sail for Halifax before 22/7 and may be later. Request instructions. (W.S.H.Q. Ottawa to Admiralty 1258/16).

Undesirable that T.C. 6 be split or that ETTRICK be included in view of slow speed. Revised proposals. (D.O.D.(F) 1819/16).

FIJI. ILLUSTRIOUS

Left Bermuda for Scapa (C.-in-C.A.W.I. 1853/E)

War Diary16.7.40.  
Tuesday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MARITZA Split reports left Sibenik 13/7 for Trieste.  
(S.O.I., Alexandria, 1151/16).

WESER Will sail from Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, to  
Manzanillo, Mexico, 1800/16. (Port Limon,  
1720/16).

FULDA At Dairen. Reported from Kobe to have been sold  
to a Japanese buyer. (D.S.)

NORBURG Due Istanbul 17/7. (Galatz, 1728/16).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TERESA SCHIAFFINO) At Teneriffe, have arranged to discharge  
CAPO ALGA ) their cargoes of grain. (D.S.)

TROVATORE At Las Palmas do.

The Asiatic Petroleum Co. have taken action  
against the following ships:-

CONFIDENZA	6455	tons	at	Jacksonville.
IRCANIA	4815	"	"	"
DINO	5592	"	"	Boston
ALBERTA	6131	"	"	New York
ARSA	5441	"	"	"
AUSSA	5441	"	"	"
COLORADO	5039	"	"	San Juan
BELVEDERE	6889	"	"	Philadelphia
CLARA	6131	"	"	Savannah

and the Anglo Iranian Co. against:

PIETRO CAMPANELLA 6140 tons at Hampton Roads.

340A.

S.S. MEMNON (Capt. S.G. Phillips)

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 7506; 4" gun.

DATE AND TIME: 1st S/M July 9th at 5 p.m. local time.  
2nd S/M July 16th at 4.20 a.m. local time.

POSITION: 1st S/M 17° 27' N. 24° 40' W. 45 miles from St. Vincent Island.  
2nd S/M 5° 20' W. from Black Rock, West coast of Ireland.

SPEED: 16 knots.

ROUTE: ~~XX~~ Singapore - via Cape Verde Island to Clyde.

CARGO: General, 7,000 tons including rubber and tea.

IN CONVOY: No, but zig-zagging No. 10 most of time.

ESCORT: none.

No. & FATE OF CREW: 66 belonging to ship; 29 other crew - 95 all told.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Moderate, choppy - good visibility.

REMARKS: - At St. Vincent Captain told to look out for S/Us. and on 9th July an object was seen at about 5 p.m. on port bow. Twenty minutes later track of a torpedo was distinctly seen passing just astern. The S/M was not seen. The day before (8th) the wireless operator of MEMNON had intercepted a wireless message "en clair" (French) to 3 French S/Us. and 2 aircraft to attack British ships.

On July 16th at 4.20 a.m. local time, just daylight, a ship was reported on port bow about 7 miles off, which was soon identified as a S/M on the surface. The MEMNON was then about 30 miles from Black Rock on West coast of Ireland. She was doing about 16 knots similar to the MEMNON. They proceeded on more or less parallel courses for some time, but at 5.20 a.m. S/M submerged and was not seen again. Possibly the S/M found she could not gain on ship to get into position to torpedo.

DATE: 1st August 1940.



War Diary

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16.7.40.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

- MEMMON Intercept 0618 G.M.T., S.S.S.S., 53:41 N., 11:44 W., submarine sighted. (Plymouth Radio, 0619/16 G.M.T.).
- SCOTTISH MINSTREL British tanker, 6998 tons, torpedoed in position 334° 56:0 N., 10:0 W., 23', (FOLKESTONE, 1141/16). (C. in C., W.A. 2102/16). Correct position to read 055° 56:0 N., 10:0 W., 17. Ship still afloat and burning. (FOLKESTONE, 2013/16). Cancel my 2013/16. Ship has foundered. (FOLKESTONE, 0034/17). Was homeward bound in Convoy HX.55. 56:20 N., 10:18 W., 301° Malin Head 115', Position doubtful. (I.C., 0514/40).

Submarines Reported

- 0715 Periscope reported by aircraft 6 miles south of Dodman Point. VANSITTART to investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 0811/16). My 0811. Submarine reported diving in 50:18 N., 4:38 W. (C. in C. W.A., 0932/16). RESTIGOUCHE and HESPERUS to join VANSITTART. Minelaying possible. (C. in C., W.A., 0939/16). Substitute WITHERINGTON for RESTIGOUCHE (C. in C. W.A., 1017/16). Motor A/S Boat from Portland should arrive Fowey about 1330. (C. in C., W.A., 1204/16).
- 0718 53:41 N., 11:44 W., about 55 miles W. by S. from Achill Head, Co. Mayo. Reported by British MEMMON. (see Attacks on Ships).
- 1140 About 90 miles N.W. of Malin Head. (SCOTTISH MINSTREL torpedoed).
- 1126 56:0 N., 09:50 W., unreliable fix. (C. in C., W.A. 1249/16).
- 1000 Submarine passed Cape Sagres going N.W., source A.O. (Lisbon, 1817/16). (F.O.C.N.A. 2313/16) (I.C., 0514 gives time as 1100/16).
- 1735 55:10 N., 10:0 W., D.F., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1821/16).
- 1145/13 Capt. of RAFTFUND reports sighting submarine at 1145/13, 20 miles north of Longships. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1842/16).
- 1845 Position of 6 enemy submarines, 13 minesweepers, 56:30 N., 5:29 E. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn., 1845/16) Minesweepers course 140, 6 submarines submerged course 220. Am being attacked by aircraft (Aircraft 233 Sqdn., 1900/16).



War Diary.

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16.7.40.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

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Submarines Reported

- 0811            50:17 N., 4:37 W., 180° Fowey. BROKE, etc.,  
ordered to patrol until 0800/17, when if no  
contact to return to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A.  
1907/16, 1928/16).
- 2226            55:0 N., 11:50 W., 262° Malin Head 156' (I.C.,  
0514/40).

Destroyer Search

A number of U-boats were outward bound today.  
R.A.D. to make dispositions for search. Air-  
craft sighting a submarine to shadow and not  
attack, the better to enable destroyers to  
make contact. (C. in C., H.F., 2342/16).

Estimated dispositions:-

- 1 in Western Approaches,
- 1 about 100 miles N. of Bloody Foreland, homeward  
bound.
- 1 between North Rona and Shetlands, homeward  
bound.
- 1 in Northern North Sea, possibly homeward bound.  
(D.O.R., 317).

17.7.40.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

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Home Fleet

GLASGOW, SUSSEX and SOUTHAMPTON, with 7 destroyers, returned to Scapa. As a result of the collision in thick fog off Duncansby Head at 2355/16, GLASGOW's bows are damaged and will require about six weeks to repair. IMOGEN had to be abandoned owing to extensive fire, and is believed to have sunk. SHROPSHIRE is on passage to the Clyde, and YORK on passage to Scapa from Rosyth.

Anti-Submarine Patrol.

Six destroyers were ordered to carry out an anti U-Boat patrol p.m. today in positions east and north-east of the Orkneys, and additional destroyer escort was provided for convoys in the Moray Firth area, with air co-operation.

Shetlands Defence

It has been decided as a temporary measure during the period in which a seaborne expedition is a possibility to appoint a Flag Officer in Command of the Shetlands as an independent command directly under the Adty. It is proposed that he shall exercise local operational control of all units allotted to the defences.

Air Raid at Portland

At 1935 three Heinkels dropped 4 bombs on Mere Oil Fuel Depot of which one or two failed to explode, and 2 bombs on common near Dockyard. No casualties or Naval damage.

Enemy Air Activity

Activity by enemy aircraft was less than normal mainly due to continued adverse weather conditions. Reconnaissance aircraft were active over the Central North Sea, and there was also indication of reconnaissance flights in the Channel area.

The F.S.22 Convoy, 22 miles east of Harwich, was shadowed during the afternoon but not attacked. Only two attacks on shipping were reported during the day, on the FJORD,

Norwegian.....

War Diary17.7.40.  
Wednesday.  
SITUATION REPORT  

---

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Norwegian, 13 miles E. of Dartmouth, at 1404, and on an unknown vessel 7 miles S. of St. Catherine's Point at 1424; no damage or casualties in either case.

Apart from the Portland raid, already mentioned, bombs were dropped at a number of points, but caused no damage of importance and only a few casualties.

British Air Activity

Patrols were much curtailed by bad weather. Special reconnaissances were made of the French coast from St. Malo to Cherbourg. During one patrol, bombs were dropped on Gare Maritime, Cherbourg, but results were not observed due to heavy A/A fire.

Troop Convoys

The Indian Convoy B.C.1 arrived at Liverpool.

Mining

Magnetic mines have been exploded in the Mersey, the Kyles of Bute, in Loch Ewe, off Harwich, round the S.W. Goodwin Buoy, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Shipwash L.V.

Liverpool was re-opened at 0600/17.

U-Boat Activity

A particularly savage attack was made upon the Norwegian LINDA in the western Approaches. Finding her to be unarmed, the submarine approached to 50 yards and shelled her with armour-piercing and incendiary shells. The Master was killed and the ship sank in flames.

SITUATION REPORT

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Shipping Losses The total amount of merchant shipping lost by enemy action - British, Allied and Neutral - since the beginning of the war up to July 14 amounts to 613 ships of 2,252,666 tons. Submarines are responsible for 271 ships of 1,137,745 tons; surface craft for 20 ships of 100,101 tons; aircraft for 94 ships of 309,842 tons and mines for 184 ships of 582,577 tons. The cause of the loss of 43 other ships of 119,967 tons is unknown and one ship of 2,434 tons was sunk either by a mine or a torpedo. Of all these losses 300 ships of 1,149,524 tons were British; 84 of 403,442 tons were Allied and 229 of 699,700 tons were Neutral. (D.S.317).

French Ships in Royal Navy

French warships commissioned for service with the Royal Navy are to fly the French Ensign and the White Ensign side by side at the peak or ensign staff, a British masthead pendant, and the Union Jack at the jackstaff when in harbour or under way and dressed with masthead flags. Although they will be formally commissioned as H.M. Ships, they will be described as F.S. CHOSE for French Ship CHOSE.

The French battleship PARIS, manned by Poles, is to be employed as guardship in the Tyne.

French A.M.C. CARAIBE

The French Adty. have directed that the A.M.C. CARAIBE, at Mombasa, which it was agreed with the French C. in C., Far East, should be released on condition that she remained under his command for the duration of the war, is to proceed to Madagascar, but Admiral Decoux, the French C. in C., has replied that he must hold to his promise to bring her to the Far East. He will inform the British C. in C., East Indies, if the French Adty. do not agree.

17.7.40.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

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Danube

N.A., Bucharest, reports that the Danube situation is deteriorating, and Admiral Kelly suggests to C. in C., Mediterranean that he may wish to put a lien on Roumanian shipping under his control.

Italian Hostilities

The A.O.C., Middle East, reports that with his present slender resources he cannot provide fighters for Haifa nor take counter action against Dodecanese air forces.

The first casualty list of the Italian Navy, issued by the Italian High Command, shows 322 officers and men killed in action, and 149 officers and men wounded.

A floating mine was reported about 100 miles East of La Maddelena.



War Diary

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17.7.40  
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Shetlands.

Decided as temporary measure during the period in which a seaborne expedition is a possibility to appoint a Flag Officer in Command of the Shetlands as an independent command directly under the Admiralty. Intended to limit command to defence of the islands and local defence sea patrols. Anti-submarine patrols and operations will remain under control of Admiral Commanding Orkneys as now. Proposed that F.O.I.C. shall exercise "local operational control" of all units allotted to the defences in accordance with W.O. letter No. 79/1D/1047 (M.O.3), dated 14/12, and Air Min. letter No. S.45085/II/S.6 of 16/12. Request very early reply. (Admty. to W.O. and Air Min., 1648/17).

Movements

Crash Boats

My 1306/16. All boats have sailed. Expected time of arrival 1700. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0715/17 to Adty.)

Request 3 Crash Boats now at Portland be instructed to remain for night and proceed Hamble 18th. (D.O.D.H. 1833/17 to C. in C. Portsmouth). 3 Crash Boats arrived Hamble. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1902/17 to Adty.)

Manning of  
French Ships.

My 1052/16. Amend as follows :-

1. To British crews from Devonport add MISTRAL.
2. From French crews delete MISTRAL.
3. PESSAC and SAUTERNE are to be manned by British crews from Chatham and not repeated not Devonport. (D.O.D(H) 1937/17).

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 18th July Area A. Clyde TRUANT WILK H.31 H.34 as in my 1716/16 TETRARCH due Rosyth 0700 from North-East TRIDENT T.G.V.D.4040 proceeding on surface to Q.S.M.F. 0920. PORPOISE escorted exercising off Blyth 1100 to 1500. L.23 L.26 exercising a.m. and p.m. West of Hoy. (V.A.S. 1751/17).

Operations.

Attack German Salvage ship believed being sent to crashed enemy A/C in 48°58' N., 5°57' W. (C. in C.W.A. 1814/17 to HURRICANE and VOLUNTEER)

Operation ~~Alabaster~~ "Alabaster"

Your 1857/15. Equipment and Personnel of R.M.F.U. to assist Military Forces considered fully adequate for agreed task. If conditions changed since arrival of R.M.F.U. request Adty. may be informed. (D. of L.D. 1934/17 to War Office)



17.7.40.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Air

Enemy Air Activity

MARIE LUDOVICA

Belgian, 183 tons, attacked by bombs and machine guns, 0345/17, 125 miles W.S.W. St. Anne's Head. No casualties. Cabin badly damaged and compass broken by bullets. Skipper cut away trawling gear to be able to manoeuvre. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. casualties).

LEOLA

Estonian, 498 tons, bombed and machine-gunned. About 50 bombs and number of depth charges dropped. After vessel began to sink, aircraft machine-gunned the lifeboats. 49°00' N., 7°30' W. 9 lives lost out of crew of 16, missing in lifeboats. 1 lifeboat picked up 0030/19 by Belgian fishing boat and landed Penzance. Sunk. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties).

ZEESTAR

Belgian, 50 G.T., Bombed by German aircraft 1630-1715/17 15 miles S x W of Bishops Lighthouse, Atlantic. 4 planes, 8 bombs dropped, all fell into sea. Later planes raked vessel with machine gun fire, Skipper killed and one of crew injured. Crew remained on board. Ship damaged. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties).

BODNANT

British 5342 tons, attacked North Sea off Kinnaird Head 1900-1930 and again 2330/17-0030/18. Damage from splinters. (Minute Sheet and B. of T.)

Enemy Intelligence

A darkened tanker about 7000 tons reported at 40°38' N., 23°37' W. course 160° at 0400Z/17. (C. in C., W.A. 1141/20 to Ships).

War Diary17.7.40  
WednesdayHOME COMMANDS (ctd.)E-BoatsE-Boat activity off North Foreland.  
(C. in C. Nore 2357/16)AirBritish Air ActivityFighter A/C Proposed revision of rules of approach and recognition when defending H.M. Ships in A/A defended anchorages and when attacking enemy Minelayers. (A.C.N.S.H. 1557/17)Enemy Air ActivityConvoy <sup>Boaty</sup> ~~Boaty~~ Enemy A/C shadowing at 51°49' N., 1°48' E.  
Course 265° speed 8 knots. (LONDONDERRY 1329/17)Newport. 4 Bombs dropped near South Quay at 1625/17. No casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/18 to C.in C.W.A.)Portland At 1935 three Heinkels dropped four bombs on Mere Oil-Fuel Depot of which one or two failed to explode. Two more bombs on Common. No casualties or Naval damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1913/17 to Adty.)FJORD Norwegian 4033 tons, bombed 13' E. of Dartmouth at 1404/17. No casualties or damage. (I.C. 0515/40)Unknown vessel Attacked 7 miles S. of St. Catherine's Point at 1424/17. No casualties or damage. (I.C. 0515/40).MiningLiverpool Port re-opened at 0600/17. (D.C.N.S. 317). One Magnetic Mine apparently self-exploded half cable S. of Q.6. Convoys were swept in and out. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2146/17 to Adty.)The Downs. 4 Magnetic Mines exploded by L.L. Trawlers round S.W. Goodwin Buoy (V.A. Dover 1726/17 to Adty.)Shipwash One Magnetic Mine exploded at 1604 by Harrier T.V.L. Sweep at 68° Shipwash L.V. 1.6 miles. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2327/17 to Adty.)East Coast Barrier EXPRESS and IMPULSIVE laid further Mines on the East Coast Mine Barrier. (DC.N.S. 318)East Coast Parachute Mines were seen dropping off Harwich, Orfordness, and the North Foreland. (DCNS. 318)



War Diary17.7.40  
Wednesday  
HOME COMMANDSMining (Ctd.)Ports Closed

Plymouth, the Kyles of Bute, Harwich, Newhaven, and the Tyne-Blyth Inshore Channel are closed.

Enemy IntelligenceCherbourg

No activity in Docks. Large M/V about 3000 tons sunk about 1000 yds. N.W. of Fort Homet. (Chathan A.C.H.Q. 1700/17)

Kristiansund

One M/V 8,000 tons 11' S.W. of Kristiansund at 1257/17. (I.C. 0515/40)

Main German UnitsB/S BISMARCK Hamburg 17/5/40 )  
B/S TIRPITZ Wilhelmshaven 14/7/40) completing.  
B/CR SCHARNHORST ~~Kiel~~, in floating dock, damaged  
15/7/40GNEISENAU Trondheim 23rd June effective.  
Not present at Trondheim 29/6/408" Cruisers 1 at Trondheim 8/7/40 } 1 may be  
1 at ~~Kiel~~ 15/7/40 } damaged by  
bomb.1 at Bremen 9/7/40 presumed to be  
SEYDLITZ.

NURNBERG At Trondheim 8/7/40 may be damaged.

LEIPZIG, Unknown.

KOLN ~~Kiel~~, 15/7/40, possibly repairing

EMDEN Returned to Germany from Oslo 7/6/40.

<sup>ADMIRAL</sup> Probably repairing.

P/B SCHEER Wilhelmshaven 14/7/40 refitting.

P/B LUTZOW Kiel 15/7/40 damaged.

A/C GRAF ZEPPELIN 1 A/C Carrier at Kiel 3/7/40  
which may have been GRAF ZEPPELIN not  
present at Kiel 15/7/40.Destroyers. 9 to 12 effective, whereabouts  
unknown. 1 at Kiel 15/7/40.

(D.D.I.C. 1739/17)

ShippingConvoy F.N.23Arrived 1030. (N.C.S.O. Met<sup>R</sup>ril 1102/17 to Adty.)Convoy O.A.186Leaves Methil 0930/18. Close escort SANDWICH  
and DEPTFORD (C.in C. Rosyth 1313/17)IcelandSlow Convoy of about 11 ships will leave Clyde  
for Iceland about 27th July. C. in C.W.A. to  
detail four ships of Belfast Trawler Force as  
escort. They will remain in Iceland and bring  
back ships when unloaded. (D.O.D(H) 1307/17 to  
C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary17.7.40  
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping (Ctd.)Positions

Estimated positions 2000 today Wednesday. Off Cape Wrath large Convoy H.X.55A passing to eastwards and **BREDA** passing to Southwards. East of Stornoway large Convoy W.N. one escorted by H.M.S. ABERDEEN and H.M.S. HIBISCUS to Northwards also boom defence vessels BARCLIFF and STALBERG. Entering Little Minch H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE to South Westward. Off Noss Head Netherlands Torpedo Boat Z 8 to South The Smalls. (F.O.C.O.S.1637/17).

Dartmouth Naval Control Service

Your 1533/15. This service is now in operation. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1905/17 to Adty.)

MiscellaneousResident N.O. in Scilly Islands

Request very early appointment to assist Military. (A.C.W.A. 1834/17 to Adty.)

WEATHER

	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
<u>North Sea</u>	Depression centred S. North Sea.		
	Variable light to moderate.	Continuous rain particularly in Southern and Western North Sea.	Moderate to poor Local fog or mist associated with rain.
<u>Horns Reef Dutch Coast</u>	S. to S.W. light to moderate.	Rain.	Moderate to poor Local mist or fog.
<u>S.W. Norway</u>	E. light.	Mainly overcast Occ. Rain.	Moderate.
<u>Channel</u>	W. light in East veering N.W. moderate to fresh in west.	Overcast. Occ. rain in East. Cloudy in West.	Moderate to poor Local mist in East. Good in west.
<u>Western Approaches</u>	N.W. moderate to fresh.	Fair to cloudy.	Good.

War Diary17.7.40  
WednesdayCASUALTIES AND DEFECTSGLASGOW -  
IMOGEN  
Collision

My 2355. Ships locked together IMOGEN abandoning ship to me at 58°34' N., 2°54' W. (GLASGOW 0015/17) IMOGEN believed flooded before bulkhead at fore end of engine-room, and five under her bridge. Have survivors on board. Thick fog. (GLASGOW 0038/17 to F.O.C.O.S.) Ten officers and 125 ratings on board GLASGOW. Several men still on rafts or in boats near wreck. Visibility nil. Estimated position of IMOGEN at 0125 115° Duncansby Head 4' drifting N.W. (GLASGOW 0130/17) A/C will be sent when visibility permits (C. in C. Rosyth 0350/17 to C. in C.H.F.) Tug SALVAGE KING sailed (F.O.C.O.S. 0512/17 to GLASGOW) My speed limited to 12 knots. Request Escort of Destroyers (GLASGOW 0535/17 to R.A.18C.S.) GLASGOW will require docking. Bows badly damaged. Casualties nil, believed missing two. IMOGEN casualties one dead, one serious, six minor, believed missing 21. (GLASGOW 0641/17 to C. in C.H.F.) When visibility permits 7th Division destroyers escort GLASGOW and 8th Division escort IMOGEN and tow (Capt. D.4. 0719/17). GLASGOW's 0535. Detail two destroyers (R.A.18th C.S.0748/17) Am entering Harbour 0915. (GLASGOW from Nore W/T 0850/17) D4D3 with 7th and 8th Destroyer Divisions searching for IMOGEN at 1010/17 (R.A.18.C.S.1045/17 to C. in C.H.F.) IMOGEN casualties one rating dead, one officer nine ratings wounded, seventeen missing (GLASGOW 1221/17 to Adty.)

Collision 8 miles S.E. from Duncansby Head in fog at about 2355/16. GLASGOW considerable damage to bow, requires docking and extensive repair estimated at about six weeks. IMOGEN struck near B gun, had to be abandoned owing to extensive fire. Search has failed to locate and ship may have sunk. Preliminary estimate of casualties, GLASGOW, 2 believed missing, IMOGEN 1 killed, 7 injured, 21 believed missing. (C. in C.H.F., 1404/17).

GLASGOW required docking for collision damage repair. Should be ready to sail from Scapa about 21st July. (C. in C.H.F. 1603/17 to Adty.)

AYLESBURY

Torpedoed 9th July in Western Approaches is now reported sunk. (D.C.N.S.317)

TROPIC SEA

Norwegian Motor ship, 5781 tons, overdue at Panama since July 10th. (D.S.317)

STEADY

Cable layer, mined and sunk off Newhaven at 1300/17. 1 killed, 4 wounded, 8 missing. (D.C.N.S.318) See p.361

War Diary.

17.7.40.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

HERMES. Your 1820/16 and 2033/16 approved. When ship is again serviceable, all 814 Sqdn. will be required to re-embark. (D.C.D.(F) to C. in C. S.A. 1555/17).

MILFORD. )  
DORSETSHIRE.) Patrol areas from Freetown.  
(re.Admt'y. 2356/12). (C. in C. S.A. 1245/17).

Mediterranean.Admiralty  
Commendation.

Congratulations of their Lordships to all concerned on the determined and efficient manner in which the operations between 7th and 13th July were conducted.  
(1st S.L. 0209/17 to C. in C. Med.)

OSIRIS. To leave patrol during night of 18-19/7, to arrive Alexandria 0230 G.M.T. 23/7. Proceed between Santorin and Christiani Islands through Scarpento Straits and direct.  
(Capt. S.1. 1215/17).

Danube. From Admiral Kelly. Bucharest reports Danube situation deteriorating, lighters and tugs at Braila and Sulina being towed to Harsova. You may wish to put lien on Roumanian shipping under your control.  
(N.A. Istanbul, 1225/17 to C. in C. Med.)


Enemy  
Intelligence.

Add to my 1735/17. Messina. One large merchant ship 10,000 tons. 3 miles off Leggis one 20,000 ton ship, triple-screw, light in ballast, steering north 15 knots through straits, suspected troop ship. Augusta, about 12 merchant ships, 1 large merchant vessel 10,000 tons. 2 miles off Syracuse, 2 destroyers, course 010° 25 knots. (F.O.I.C. Malta 1837/17).

French Navy.

Present policy as regards French Navy is to endeavour to improve relations. It is not Admiralty intention to attack further any French warships unless proceeding to an enemy controlled port. Special arrangements on lines Nyon Convention are being negotiated as regards s/ms. H.M. ships are not to open fire on French warships met at sea unless latter fire first, but are to be prepared to attack. (C. in C. Med. 1121/17 to Med. Station).

War Diary.

17.7.40.  
Wednesday.  
FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean. (Cont.)

- Submarines. Orders to OSWALD, PHOENIX, RORQUAL, PARTHIAN, and OSIRIS. (C. in C. Med. 1731/17).
- Operations. Intended for tomorrow 18/7. (submarine hunts, convoys, etc.) (C. in C. Med. 2319/17).
- German Imports. Figures from Danube Commission Reports from Iron Gates. Monthly average petroleum products 30,000 tons, compared with monthly figure of 100,000 tons which Germany estimated she could import via Danube alone. (N.A. Belgrade 1900/17).
- Casablanca. Admty. 1950/16. Details of work on JEAN BART. Popular opinion that even if instruments available ship would not be ready for six months. One destroyer being degaussed. A/A guns manned during day, night unknown. Gun platform being removed from merchant ships. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 2222/17).
- Movements. Summary 133. Submarine patrols. (C. in C. Med. 1943/17).
- Commands. Appointments made to date 18/7, Vice-Adm. J.C. Tovey to be V.A.C., Light Forces, and 2nd in Command, Mediterranean Fleet; Rear-Adm. E. de F. Renouf to be R.A.C., 7th Cruiser Sqdn. (Naval Secretary, 2019/17).
- Press Communiques. Suggesting a suitable officer with Press experience be sent and granted wide powers under direction of C. in C. Early issue and proper presentation of news in Middle East is of great importance in area so susceptible to propaganda. Italian broadcasts show how much better done by enemy. (C. in C. Med. 2225/17).
- GLOUCESTER Adequate repairs to bridge structure can be made in 15 days and then intend ship to Port Said to complete D.E.T. repairs. (C. in C. Med. 1643/17 to Adty.)
- Italian Casualties. High Command Italian armed forces issued first casualty list Italian Navy stating that in fighting against France and England 322 officers and men were killed in action and 149 officers and men wounded. (T<sub>n</sub>ansocean 0245/18).

War Diary.

17.7.40.  
Wednesday.  
FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean (Cont.)Air.Resources.

Your 2259/16, para. 6(b). Considering sending you one additional T.S.R. squadron and one additional fighter squadron later. Can you arrange workshop facilities for these as well as aircraft of ILLUSTRIOUS and EAGLE should it be decided to maintain these 2 carriers in Eastern Mediterranean. Doing everything possible to accelerate provision of F.A.A. repair depot in Egypt. (5th S.L. to C. in C. Med. 1915/17).

Haifa.

Have discussed security of Haifa from air attack with A.O.C., Middle East. With his present slender resources he cannot provide fighters for that port nor take counter action against Dodecanese air forces and aerodromes as he has not modern bombers of sufficient range. (C. in C. Med. 1723/17).

Passage  
Through  
Mediterranean.

Your 2259/16, para 6(b). Is it your opinion that a concerted movement to pass naval reinforcements through Mediterranean could not be undertaken before ILLUSTRIOUS joined you? If a concerted movement were carried out to pass naval reinforcements from West to East, do you consider some merchant vessels of 16 knots could be passed through at the same time? (1st S.L. to C. in C. Med. 1647/17).

Ref. 1647. Consider a concerted movement to pass naval reinforcements could be undertaken before ILLUSTRIOUS joins. Demonstration by Force H towards Gulf of Genoa and a substantial part of Mediterranean Fleet moving into Central Mediterranean would in my opinion cover operations. While condition of affairs in French North Africa is uncertain, am doubtful of wisdom of attempting to pass 16-knot merchant ships at same time, but might be attempted provided it was understood any merchant ship which had her speed reduced by enemy action was abandoned and sunk. If period of unsettled weather conditions could be chosen operation would be facilitated. (C. in C. Med. 2301/17).

Hurricanes,  
Delivery.

Arrangements for reinforcements for Malta flying off, route and escort. (Air Min. 1824/17 to Hq., RAF, Middle East.)

*9 can*

2 Sunderlands to rendezvous with ARGUS and act as stand-by loaders for Hurricanes should either Skua fail, and to accompany these aircraft as extra escorts. (Air Min. 1025/17 to 200 Group .

WIIRI

Finnish, bombed. (See 18/7.)

War Diary.

17.7.40.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.French  
Ships.

Re YOLANDE BERTIN and HORTENSIA BERTIN.  
Pending transfer of flag, intend to permit  
vessels to trade under terms of Admty,  
2319/16 and my 0722/16.  
(C. in C. E.I. 0740 Z/17). *See 13.7.40. P. 296  
(0702/13)*

China.French  
Liaison.

French C. in C. requested me to tell you he  
would like me to proceed to Hanoi at a later  
date to facilitate liaison and that I could  
work in his office. For the present, Chief  
of Staff will remain Saigon. C. in C. asked  
me to express to you his continued personal  
friendship. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, to  
C. in C. China 0830 Z/17).

French  
Command.

Admiral Decoux informed me today that he will  
leave Saigon tonight for Hanoi to take over  
position of Governor-General, Indo-China. Will  
remain C. in C. Far East Naval Forces, and will  
take some of his staff with him to Hanoi. Ex-  
pressed hope British co-operation will enable  
Indo-China to trade freely in Indian and Pacific  
and China Sea. Emphasized also necessity to  
Madagascar and Djibouti of British trade. Assured  
me he would work loyally with Great Britain in  
Far East. French Naval Chief of Staff told me  
(1) Adml. Decoux officially recognises Petain  
Government and terms of Armistice, but on taking  
office will emphasize to that Government necessity  
for co-operation with British in special circum-  
stances of Far East. Should reply be unsatis-  
factory Adml. Decoux will retire.  
(2) Frenchmen in Indo-China have already been  
warned by Germans that reprisals against their  
families will be taken unless they support terms  
Armistice. General Catroux will therefore cer-  
tainly retire to avoid internment trouble.  
(Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0700 Z/17).

## CARAIBE.

French Chief of Staff informs me French Admiralty  
have said CARAIBE is to proceed Madagascar, but  
Admiral Decoux is signalling to say he has prom-  
ised to bring her to Far East and must hold to  
that promise. He will inform C. in C. East Indies  
if French Admiralty do not agree. (Liaison Officer,  
Singapore to C. in C. China 0800 Z/17).

Suspected  
Raider.

Vessel sighted off South West Africa 2nd May and  
North of New Zealand 14th June in connection with  
enemy minelaying activity is very similar to  
number 11 German section Booth 1939. It appears  
possible that funnel and after superstructure are  
movable as reports conflict regarding distance  
between bridge and funnel. Request this information  
be promulgated. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 1001 Z/17).

War Diary

17.7.40.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Convoys

Adty. 1819/16. SOBIESKI repairs will be completed p.m. 19/7 and ship will sail immediately for Halifax. ANTONIA not yet reported in St. Lawrence and do not anticipate T.C.6 can be sailed till am/24/7. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1516/17). ANTONIA sighted. Due Montreal am/19/7. Endeavouring to sail T.C.6 24/7. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1806/17).

Oiler

ORANGELEAF due Gibraltar 4/8. Two of crew only wish to leave ship. Lieut. Com. Bennet takes over 18/7. (S.N.O., Trinidad, 1530/17).

French Tanker  
LANGUEDOC

Captain and crew anxious to serve Allies, but will not accept conditions because of their fate as rebels, retaliation on families, and internment prior to repatriation. Master's word to remain here has been accepted. Asking instructions. (DUNEDIN, 1618/17). Your 1618. You should suggest to Governor that crew be given 24 hours in which to make their decision, and at end of this time appropriate action be taken by Governor in accordance para. 5 of Circular Maritime 34 from S. of S. for Colonies. Adty. inform me it is intended in due course to form composite French crew to serve in requisitioned ships. This might bear some weight with present crew in making their decision. (C. in C., A.W.I., to DUNEDIN, 1911/17).



War Diary17.7.40.  
WednesdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

INGO Split reports is at Zelenika. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1015/17).

MARITZA Split reports is expected at Dubrovnik. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1015/17).

WESER Reported sailed 16/7 from Punta Arenas, Costa Rica. Had been previously reported that her destination would be Manzanillo, Mexico. (D.D.I.C., 2040/17).

REKUM 5540 tons, left Teneriffe 2200/17 with cargo estimated 8000 tons of gas oil. (Teneriffe, 2300/17).

EISENACH 4177 tons, reported to be preparing to sail from Punta Arenas. (I.C., 0515/40).

KONSUL SCHULTE Asked on 16/7 to report if damaged mast required further repairs, and replied that main mast had been repaired but foremast still required repairing. (I.C., 0514/40).

ERNST L.M. RUSS Due at Holtenau 0500/17 and requested provisions. (I.C., 0514/40).

PATRICIA Was informed 15/7 her port of discharge was Danzig and not Stettin. (I.C., 0514/40).

HERCULES Arrived Gothenburg from Bremen 16/7. (I.C.0514/40)

CORDELIA To bunker at Odessa about 20/7. (I.C.0514/40).

DELOS Arrived Poti 12/7 and expected to leave after bunkering on 14/7. (I.C., 0514/40).

ITHAKA Was at Batum on 14/7. (I.C., 0514/40).

YALOVA Due to leave Braila 20/7 for Batum. (I.C., 0514/40).

War Diary

17.7.40.  
Wednesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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NICOLO ODERO 6003 tons. Presumed handed back to Italy under announcement that by Armistice terms France is restoring ships taken in prize. Was seized at Marseilles. (D.S.)

VOLPI At Puket, Thailand. Trieste owners enquired on 12/7 if possible to discharge and store all cargo at Puket. (I.C., 0514/40).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

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ARGYLE 2953 tons ) Laid up at Santa Rosalia, Mexico,  
PROVIDENCIA 1630 tons ) by Compagnie du Boles for fear they  
should be captured by G.B. (D.S.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

17.7.40.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

FELLSIDE

British 3509 tons torpedoed and sunk 135 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland. Outward bound in ballast and not in convoy. 21 survivors landed at Liverpool. (D.C.N.S. 322). Time 0940/17 (Form I.D.S.A.).

O.A. BRODIN

Swedish, sunk by submarine 59°22' N., 03°40' W. 0430/17 2 missing (I.D. Force S.A.). Torpedoed without warning. 3 missing. Submarine surfaced during sinking of vessel. (B. of T. Casualties).

MANIPUR

Report from Master which says she was sunk at 2315/16 (Interview with Master, Shipping Casualties, Trade Division).

VASSILIOS  
DESTOUNIS

Reported torpedoed 17/7 in vicinity of 48°20' N., 11°30' W. (D.S. 2/8). Now reported abandoned, undamaged. It is doubtful whether she was attacked. (D.S. 341). Stated by Lloyds agent to have been towed into Aviles.

War Diary17.7.40.  
WednesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MININGShips Attacked

- LENDA Norwegian 4005 tons attacked by U-boat at <sup>0045/27/6</sup>~~0950/17~~, 160 miles S.W. from Fastnet Rock. Finding her unarmed, the submarine approached to 50 yards and shelled with armour piercing and incendiary shells until she sank in flames. Master killed. 25 of the crew saved. (D.S. 17/7).
- O.A. BRODIN Swedish, 1960 tons, torpedoed at 0420/17 in 59:22 N., 03:40 W. and sank shortly afterwards. 21 survivors picked up by M/S trawler SICYON at about 1400/17. Three of crew lost. Nothing seen before explosion, but afterwards periscope and high conning tower of U-boat seen, steering west. O.A. BRODIN was sailed from St. Johns N.F., to Ridham Docks, routed through Minches to Kirkwall for orders. No information of sailing received by F.O.C.N.P. or N.C.S.O. Kirkwall. (F.O.C.N.P. 1929/17).
- MANIPUR British, 8652 tons, torpedoed at 2315/17 about 8 miles W. of Cape Wrath. 64 survivors (SKEENA, 0145/18). 58:41 N., 05:14 W. Request air cooperation in hunt for U/B (HAMBLEDON, 0231/18, to S.N.O., Scapa Forces). DIANA, BERKELEY and GARTH to assist. (C. in C., H.F., 0430/18). 7 Europeans including 3rd. Officer and 2nd and 4th Engineers, and 7 Asiatics lost. (C. in C., Rosyth 1725/19 to Adty.)
- STEADY British cable laying ship, 214 tons, under Govt. Charter, mined at 1300/17 off Newhaven and sunk. 1 man killed, 4 injured, 8 missing. (D.S.)

Submarines Reported

- 0420 59:22 N., 03:40 W., O.A. BRODIN torpedoed.
- 2315 58:41 N., 05:14 W., MANIPUR attacked.
- 2310 56:40 N., 12:0 W., 298° Malin Head 172', position indefinite. (I.C., 0515/40).



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War Diary

17.7.40.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Mediterranean

Submarines Reported

Aircraft report, number of Italian submarines at Tobruk increased from 3 on July 12 and 4 on July 15 to 5 on July 17 (D.S.)



## SITUATION REPORT.

### Ocean Raiders.

An enemy raider is operating in the Atlantic and another is reported in the Indian Ocean. The former, reported to be a converted M/V of about 9,000 tons, sank two British merchant ships, the KING JOHN, 5825 tons, and the DAVISIAN, 6433 tons, in the neighbourhood of the Lesser Antilles about 13/7; and the CITY OF BAGDAD, 7506 tons, was shelled by the latter on 11/7 about 700 miles West of Penang and is overdue at Penang since 13/7. Special patrols have been ordered by the C. in C., America and West Indies and by C. in C. South Atlantic.

### North Sea.

This morning enemy A/C attacked a south-bound convoy off Orfordness. Seven A/S Trawlers and two M/S Trawlers were also machine gunned, one being badly holed, one set on fire, and some casualties caused.

Between 7 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. three Convoys were also attacked near Buchan Ness, but no damage was done.

The East Goodwin Light Vessel (not manned) was bombed and sunk at 1007/18; and the Sunk Light Vessel was attacked and holed without casualties.

### U-Boat Campaign.

Destroyer searches were continued for a number of U-boats reported outward bound on 16/7.

### Italian Hostilities.

No enemy air attacks have been made on Malta for three days, and V.A. Malta, suggests this may presage the lull before the storm. An air raid on Gibraltar a.m. 18th caused no naval casualties or damage.

C. in C. Mediterranean, drew the attention of British Minister, Athens, to repeated violations of Greek neutrality by Italian aircraft.

Five destroyers began a hunt for submarines towards Kaso Strait and round Crete; and a sweep into the Gulf of Athens for Italian shipping was begun by SYDNEY and one Destroyer

### Minings.

Further minelaying has been carried out on the East Coast Mine Barrier; and magnetic mines have been exploded off the Needles, in the Thames Estuary, and off the W. entrance of Plymouth Sound. Parachute mines have been dropped off Liverpool, where the port is closed; and Newhaven, the Kyles of Bute, and the Blyth-Tyne inshore channel are also closed.

War Diary18.7.40.  
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSMovementsCrash Boats

Three leaving Portland at 0845 for Hamble. Expected arrive Needles 1300. No W/T. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0830/18 to F.O.I.C. Southampton). Cancel my 0830. Crash Boats returned owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1520/18 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Menai Straits  
N. Patrol

5 Motor A/P Yachts sailed for Menai Bridge (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1217/18 to Adty).

Moray Firth

ASHANTI and MASHONA patrol at 58:30 N., 1:45 W. to cover Convoys across Moray Firth. (R.A.D. Home Fleet 1415/18).

Submarines  
Positions

Position of Submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 19/7 Area A.

Clyde TRUANT, WILK H31, H34 as in my 1716/16. TRIDENT X Z S C 0020 proceeding on surface to Q S M F 0920. (V.A.S. 1714/18).

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 19/7 Area B.

TIGRIS approximately R.P.M.A. proceeding to K.Q.Q.G. 4130. (V.A.S. 1716/18).

SubmarinesPlymouth  
Sanctuary

In view of nearness of a hostile coast and the fact that a U/Boat has been sighted in Plymouth Submarine Sanctuary it is intended to abolish the Sanctuary as such and introduce a Submarine exercise area bounded by the coast, a line 238 degrees from Rame Head, and the Meridian of 4 degrees 30' West. (C. in C., W.A. 1521/18 to Adty.)

E-Boats

3 M.T.B's bearing 150° distance 3' course unknown from 294° 50:0 N. 0:0 E. 19 miles. (STURDY 2320/18).

War Diary18.7.40.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K.

Your 2052/3. Decided to consider coast line of Portsmouth command as a whole and to use material as it becomes available on most vulnerable beaches starting from East and working West. Material available at Portsmouth being laid in order of priority outlined in my 1437/5. Table Cloth net being laid now off Newhaven-Seaford and an extemporised wire and float obstruction 3 miles in length off Eastbourne - Bexhill. It is intended to weigh this temporary obstruction when it can be replaced by proper service A/S equipment and relay further to the West. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1233/18 to Adty.)

PolicyU-Boats

Following is extract from Patrol Report of TAKU. "Under present conditions of light in Northern waters it is considered that hours when sun is below horizon are the worst for charging as aircraft are very difficult to see until fairly close". Other Patrol Reports have emphasised opportunities presented to aircraft of surprising submarines on surface at night if latter are approached from down moon. Considered that present conditions of light and moon should prove most profitable for destruction of enemy submarines providing they can be relentlessly harassed and pursued night and day by aircraft working with surface ships. (V.A.S. 1056/18 to A.C.O.S.)

French Submarines Your 1222. Pending further instructions French Submarines are not to be attacked. (1st S.L. 1340/18 to V.A.S.)

Shetlands Defence Objections to Adty. proposals 1648/17. (C.I.G.S. to Adty. Recd. 2112/18).



War Diary18.7.40.  
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSAirEnemy Air Activity

- Bawdsey At 0040/18 three bombs on R.D.F. Station. No damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0440/18 to C. in C., Nore).
- Felixstowe At 0047/8 three bombs. No casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0440/18 to C. in C., Nore).
- Crail R.N.A.S. Attacked at 1845/18 by one Bomber. 26 H.E. bombs dropped. 2 hits, slight damage. (C.D.B. 1247/19).
- Convoy <sup>"Arena"</sup> ARENA Being attacked by aircraft 52:4 N. 1:50 E. (WOLSEY 1103/18). Fighters sent (C. in C., Nore 1107/18 to WOLSEY) 3 aircraft withdrew to North (WOLSEY 1112/18).
- Goodwin L.V. Bombed and sunk at 1007/18. Not manned. (V.A. Dover 1121/18 to Adty.)
- LADY MADELINE )  
SPHENE ) A/S trawlers bombed and machine-gunned off Aldeburgh Float. SPHENE on fire. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/18 to Adty.) ARROW to assist (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1135/18 to ARROW).
- CAPE FIN/ISTERRE On look-out Patrol. Bombed and machine-gunned. Returning with Casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/18 to Adty.)
- STELLA LEONIS At 52:4 N., 1:56 E. machine-gunned, holed, engines out of action. FLEMING and BERBERIS to stand by. (WOLSEY 1212 to C. in C. Nore). Slowly sinking. One wounded and 2 killed. One Destroyer to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1458/18 to D.16). MONTROSE sent (Capt. D.16 1426/18 to MONTROSE). In tow of ST. OLAVES. Making 3 knots. Hopes reach Harwich (VENOMOUS 1600/18)
- Convoy <sup>"Jumbo"</sup> JUMBO
- Enemy aircraft at 57:0 N. 1:9 W. (SKEENA 1606/18).
- Swansea 0045/0130/18. Nine Bombs on G.W. Railway. Some damage. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/18 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary18.7.40.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSAirEnemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Am being shadowed by one aircraft 150:8  
My position 070° Dungeness 7'. (CODRINGTON  
1040/18).

Convoy W.N.1.

Enemy aircraft attacking at 57:50 N., 2:0 W.  
(HIBISCUS 1900/18). Fighters sent (C. in C.,  
Rosyth, 1911/18).

Convoy <sup>Tobaz</sup> ~~TOPAZ~~

Being shadowed by Enemy aircraft 58:1 N., 2:11 W.  
(SKEENA ~~KX~~ 1515/18). Fighters have left  
(Rosyth 1530/18).

SAPPHIRE

A/S trawler bombed at 1600 near Kentish Knock  
L.V. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/18 to Adty.).  
Machine gunned. No casualties. (AMBUSCADE  
1912/18 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

TURQUOISE

A/S trawler bombed at 1600 near Kentish Knock  
L.V. Damaged and casualties. AMBUSCADE to  
assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/18 to Adty.).  
Machine-gunned. 28 wounded, 6 serious.  
(AMBUSCADE 1912/18 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

SUNK L.V.

Reported attacked and holed on waterline at  
1608. No casualties and not making water.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1805/18 to Adty.)

ST. NECTAN )  
LADY SHIRLEY )

Bombed near Shipwash L.V. No damage. (F.O.I.C.  
Harwich 1805/18 to Adty.)

CORK L.V.

Attacked by 9 aircraft. No hits. (F.O.I.C.  
Harwich 1805/18 to Adty.)

War Diary18.7.40.  
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSAirEnemy Air Activity (Contd.)Convoy <sup>"Rusty"</sup> ~~XXXXXX~~

3 bombs dropped on convoy off Kinnaird Head (ABERDEEN 1920/18). Being shadowed by one aircraft at 57:42 N., 1:40 W. (ABERDEEN 1947/18).

RINOVIA

Auxiliary M/S trawler machine-gunned at 1415/18 when sweeping Western Approach Channel. 2 Ratings killed and 1 wounded. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2331/18 to Adty.)

British Air Activity

All anti-invasion air patrols cancelled except S.16. Coastal Patrol 30 miles out between Leuchars and Wick. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2000/18 to Adty.)

Fighter Aircraft

Suggested additions to proposed new rules of approach and recognition. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1231/18 to Adty.) (C. in C., Nore 1914/18 to Adty.)

Emden

Docks and towns bombed at 2345/18. Many fires started. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0455/19).

Havre

Harbour warehouses bombed at 1210/18. Result not observed. (Chatham, 1453/18).

Escorts

My 1948/17 (air searches for 18/7). Regret air escort cannot now be provided. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0010/18).

War Diary18.7.40.  
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSMining

Aircraft observed dropping mines at 51:28 N., 1:27 E. (VIMY 0138/18 and 0201/18). Position of mines from N.E. Spit Buoy (VIMY 0315/18 to C. in C., Nore).

STELLA LEONIS reports aircraft dropped Black Object 090° Orfordness 12'. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0237/18 to C. in C. Nore). Dan position. remain there and keep traffic to westward of it (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0339/18 to STELLA LEONIS). Amend position to 090° Orfordness 12-8 miles (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0452/18 to Adty.)

CORBRAE exploded Magnetic mine 220° sunk L.V. 5-8 miles (C. in C., Nore 1753/18 to Adty.)

Enemy IntelligenceCherbourg

No change since 11/7. (PIU.1312/18).

St. Malo

No change since 5/7. (PIU.1312/18).

Hook

No concentration or movements of ships in this area. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0630/18).

Boulogne

20 M/Vs in harbour at 1120/18. No barges. (Chatham, 1327/18 to H.Q.C.C.)

Havre

At 1205/18 one large M/V approaching harbour. 20 small vessels in N.W. docks and several coasters in Eastern Docks. (Chatham, 1453/18).

Trouville

Empty at 1220/18. (Chatham, 1453/18).

Unknown enemy units at 58:2 N., 4:32 E. course 300° at 2015/18. (D.D.I.C. 2059/18) (R.A.S. 2139/18 to submarines).

At 1230/18 in 49:32 N., 0:41 W. 15 to 20 Fishing Smacks course 360°. (Chatham, 1453/18).

Cherbourg

20 or 30 small vessels or Barges in W. side of harbour. (Chatham, 1551/18).

At 1211/18, 3 small vessels in 49:42 N., 1:25 W. (Chatham, 1551/18).

War Diary18.7.40.  
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSShipping

ORDUNA sails Liverpool 1600/18 for Lisbon with French Diplomatic Staff. Marked on sides and lighted at night. (C. in C., W.A. 1220/18).

Convoy SL.41

Route (D.T.D. 2005/18 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).  
Sailing Telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1508/18).

26 ships will leave Spithead bound East between 1600 and 2130. Request fighter protection over Portsmouth and Eastern Channels from 1700 to dark. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1123/18 to H.Q.F.C.)  
My 1123/18. Read "Eastern Channels from 1900 to dark" (C. in C., Portsmouth 1617/18).

Convoys

OA.186 sailed 0930/18. 33 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1041/18).

WN.2 Sailing Telegram. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1015/18).

FN.24 arrived. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1341/18)

Weather

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	N.E. fresh in N. variable in centre; S.W.S. moderate or fresh in S.	Moderate or poor; good in S.	Similar. Visibility deteriorating in S.
Channel and W. Approaches	W. moderate.	Good.	Wind backing S.W. Visibility deteriorating.
Horns Reef	S.W. moderate or fresh.	Moderate or poor; local fog.	Visibility improving.
Dutch Coast	W.S.W. moderate or fresh.	Good.	Similar.
S.W. Norway	Variable or Easterly moderate or fresh.	Moderate or poor.	Similar.



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WAR DIARYCASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.18.7.40  
ThursdayIMOGEN.

Air and surface searches have failed to locate IMOGEN and ship must be presumed sunk. (C.-in-C. H.F. 0914/18 to Admiralty). ATHERSTONE to search mainland S. of Stroma for wreck of IMOGEN. (C.-in-C. H.F. 1247/18 to R.A.D.)

GANGES - CLAN MACFARLANE

In collision. CLAN MACFARLANE sunk, 47 survivors. GANGES steaming slow speed, collision bulkhead requires attention. (N.O.I.C., Karachi, 0512/18).

My 0512/18. Course 080, speed 8 knots, bound Bombay. (N.O.I.C. Karachi 0801/18).



FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar Raid. Two aircraft, identified by Army A.A. defence as French Glen-Martin, but identified by R.A.F. and Naval gunners as P.32 or Heinkel 111, raided Gibraltar 0250 hours 18th July. 15 heavy bombs dropped on catchment areas and buildings on southern half of rock. Casualties three civilians and one R.A. gunner killed. Several other slight injuries incurred. Aircraft engaged by A.A. defences but without apparent result. (Governor, Gibraltar, 1430/18)

South Atlantic

Shipping Routes My 1313/12. Admty. instructions 0040/15. Except for coastal convoys merchant shipping is not to be routed through Western Approaches or English Channel. (C. in C.S.A. 0930/18)

MILFORD To visit St. Vincent P.M. 27/7 (C. in C.S.A., 1028/18)

DRAGON, Duala. Most undesirable DRAGON should remain stationary at Duala much longer. Propose basing her on Lagos for protection of Gulf of Guinea and possibly operations against Fernando Po and Spanish Guinea. Request you will report when you consider DRAGON can be released from Duala without causing collapse of French resistance. (C. in C.S.A. 1339/18 to Governor, Lagos.)

RICHELIEU Details of damage (C. in C.S.A. 1033/18 to Adty.)

Mediterranean

Orders to Submarines H.M. Submarines on patrol in Mediterranean have instructions to sink at sight any ships met within 30 miles of the coast of Italian North Africa and Italian ships met within 30 miles of any Italian territory. (Admty, 0058/18)

Appreciation of Situation C. in C. Mediterranean's 2259/16. Concur generally subject to following remarks (see Mediterranean Volume). (S.O. Force H, 1105, 1110/18)

PHOENIX, Enemy Ships. My 1731/17. After embarking torpedoes PHOENIX is to proceed to patrol off Augusta and Syracuse where a concentration of troop ships is reported. Leave patrol 2000/24 for Alexandria. (C. in C. Med 1109/18)

RORQUAL My 1731/17 and 1109/18. RORQUAL on completion minelaying to return to Alexandria, route. (C. in C. Med., 1113/18)

OSWALD Orders for patrol (Capt. S.I. 1401/18)



18.7.40  
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Ctd.)

TIGRIS

In view of C. in C. Med's 1121/17 request confirmation that it is intended that TIGRIS should attack French submarines in accordance with Admty. 1357/8. Her present orders F.S.C.i. instruct her to attack French submarine submerged or unescorted. In view of fact that TIGRIS may encounter French submarine at any time request very early reply (V.A.S. to Admty. 1222/18)

Movements.

Summary No.134 (C. in C., Med., 0901/18)

Attack on Malta

No enemy air activity for 3 days. In view of reconnaissance reports of number of merchant ships assembled in Sicily this may presage lull before the storm. Has Admty. any intelligence which might indicate an impending attack on Malta? (V.A. Malta 2105/18)

Air

Reconn.

Result of air reconnaissance Palermo. 5 destroyers 3 merchant ships 2 to 4 thousand tons, large number of small craft and barges. Little or no movements (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1255/18)

Summary of air reconnaissances at Messina, Augusta, Syracuse, and Tobruk (I.C. 0515/40)

Greek  
Neutrality

Your tel. 452, 12/7. BRITISH UNION left Greek waters July 12. Ref. bombing of HYDRA, most certainly not British aircraft. Italian aircraft have repeatedly infringed Greek neutrality, apart from bombing of BRITISH UNION. They flew over Crete to attack British convoy and cruiser squadron on 30/6. Did so again in large numbers on 8/7 to attack British Fleet, and it appears they must have infringed Greek neutrality again in order to locate BRITISH UNION when they left. Assume you have made strongest protests to Greek Govt. (C.in C., Med., to Minister, Athens, 1031/14, recd. 1525/18)

ARGUS

Asking maximum continuous speed she can maintain? (D.O.D.(F) 2212/18).

WIIRI

Finnish 3525 tons, with naval clearance from Gibraltar to Piraeus, bombed 17/7. Abandoned 30 miles off Malta. Crew of 26 landed in Malta. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2153/18).

Baleari<sup>o</sup>  
Islands.

Is there any indication that Italian reconnaissance aircraft are operating from Baleari<sup>o</sup> Islands? (A.C.N.S.(F) 2311/18 to S.O. Force H)



18.7.40  
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean (Ctd.)Mining

Floating mine reported 17/7 approx. 100 miles E. of La Maddelena. (I.C. 0515/40)

East IndiesFrench Attitude

My 1010/13. Both Governor and Le Gentilhomme have told French Emissary that it is impossible to carry out armistice terms and he has returned to Addis Ababa. Movements of Black Watch now at 24 hours notice. (C. in C.E.I. 0016/18)

GANGES - CLAN MCPARLANE

Collission (See Casualties)

CARAIBE

B.N.L.O. 0930/15 and my 0612/16. CARAIBE is now ready to sail. Propose to sail her at 1400Z/19 for Diego Suarez to await orders from French C. in C. Far East. (C. in C.E.I. 1350Z/18) Approved. (D.O.D.(F) 2308/18).

America and West IndiesANTONIA

re dates of arrivals and cargo. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1023/18, 1531/18)

Enemy Raider

DUNEDIN, DIOMEDE, Netherland cruiser SUMATRA, to raise steam with all despatch. Further orders follow. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1221/18). Armed German ship about 9,000 tons sank British merchant ships about 13/7 in approx. positions, 20° N., 60° W., and 18° N., 54°30' W., Patrols to be assumed forthwith. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1251/18)

My 1251. Before commencing patrol, proceed Saint Bartholomew where 41 survivors landed. Embark and take them Balboa. Report possible details of raider after interrogation survivors. Admiral Martinique informed. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1611/18 to DIOMEDE) Departures of SUMATRA and DIOMEDE (S.O.I. Kingston, 1700/18)

ChinaFrench Ships

Admty. 2319Z/16. Action in accordance with last para. being taken with ILE DE FRANCE at Singapore. At Saigon are D'ARTAGNAN and MARECHAL JOFFRE in A.M.C. category. Intend to inform French C. in C. that these latter will be requisitioned if they proceed to a British port, but before doing so request whether they should be seized if met at sea unless specially exempt for trade on station with French guarantee. (C. in C. China, 0509Z/18)



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WAR DIARYGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.18.7.40.  
ThursdayREKUM

Left Teneriffe 2200/17 loaded 8000 tons gas oil. (G.O.I., Gibraltar, 0809/18) Previously named HERON and WAR SHIKARI, description (D.D.I.C., 1034/18). Repeated (C.-in-C. W.A. 1330/18, C.-in-C. S.A., 1915/18).

NORBURG.

Left Galatz 16/7 for Istanbul. (I.C. 0515/40).

FULDA. BREMERHAVEN

Lloyds Agent, Daisen, understands Mitsui Daisen, will take delivery of FULDA on behalf of Japanese purchasers. Also stated that BREMERHAVEN will be similarly sold to Japanese. (G.O.I., Shanghai, 0629Z/18)

LARISSA

Probable date of arrival July 21 in ballast. (Macrae, Galatz, 0944/18).

WESER.

My 1720/16. Believed WESER may change name to HOPE TERAM. Ship left Punta Arenas 1940/16 travelling north at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots. Information from British Vice-Consul, San Jose, B.Z. (Limon, 1735/18).

375A.

SINKING OF S.S. PRODDURYGROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 4434; 20 gun.DATE AND TIME: <sup>July</sup> ~~June~~ 18th. 0106. nearly full moon, partly overcast.POSITION: 300 miles west (true) of Land's End.SPEED: 8½ knots, doing No. 8 zig-zag.ROUTE: Cape Verde Islands to London.CARGO: GeneralIN CONVOY: noESCORT: noneFATE OF CREW: 56 all told; all saved.WEATHER CONDITIONS: Rough, heavy sea and swell.

REMARKS:- At time above conning tower of enemy S/M seen on starboard beam 300 yards away. Almost immediately a fairly mild explosion heard and xx felt and a part of the rigging to which a raft was washed went over the side. Engines were put "astern" to stop way and ship took a heavy list to starboard. Wireless S.O.S. sent out. The two life-boats and the gig got away badly. Some of the hands, including the Captain, being spilt into the sea. S/M about 200 feet long, remained on surface during this time, ordered one of the life-boats alongside and told Captain of ship his other life-boat was dangerously overloaded and that he had better transfer some hands to his own boat, call out course to Irish Coast, and said "Cheerio" as he made off. The Captain's boat landed in Bantry Bay on morning of 20th and the other boat the evening before on another part of same coast. No other vessels of any kind were seen. Although moonlight when near S/M was impossible to see very much beyond the fact that she was fairly large (750 tons) and that there was some number on the conning tower. The ship took about 20 minutes in all to sink.

DATE: 28th July 1940.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.7.40.  
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MININGShips AttackedGYDA

Norwegian, 1591 tons, owned W. Hanson of Bergen, charter to Min. of Shipping, sunk by s/m 1545 B.S.T., 18/7, 56° N., 10° W., identical position first ocean position ordered in route given at Glasgow 15/7. Vessel had called Lough Swilly with engine trouble, but no communication with shore there. Left Lough Swilly 0400/18. S/m not sighted before or after sinking, track of torpedo seen fired 200 yards distance, ship sank in one minute. Sunderland flying boat had circled vessel 45 minutes before and again seven minutes before sinking. Master, two engineers, eight others lost. Report by Chief Officer, Arnell Langeland, arrived New York with eight other survivors saved from raft 1000/19 by Belgian ship VILLE D'ARLON. (Consular Shipping Advisor, New York, 1457/31/7). Names of crew (C.S.A., New York, 1129 /1/8).

WOODBURY

British 4434 tons torpedoed and sunk, 50°46' N., 13°56' W., 259° Fastnet 170'. One boat with 16 of crew landed in Ireland. Another with 19, including Master, missing (D.S.). This boat with the master, chief officer, 3rd officer and other members of the crew arrived Bantry Bay 20/7. U-boat stated to be U.14 Commander of which gave the crew a course to the Irish Coast (Interview with Master, Shipping Casualties Section Trade Division).



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

- Norwegian, torpedoed 0859/18, 55°50' N., 09°00' W.,  
46° N.W. Bloody Foreland. (D.S.)

Submarines Reported.

- 0923 } Probably { 20' N.W. of Cape Wrath, position indefinite.
- 0940 } same U/B { 59°10' N., 5°20' W., 342° Cape Wrath 32', position approximate.
- 2046 D.F. 47°40' N., 14° W., unreliable fix. (C. in C.W.A. 2219/18)
- 2208 D.F. probably U-boat in vicinity of Sunburgh Head, unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 2243/18)
- 0231 Request air co-operation in hunt for U/B (assailant of MANIPUR (see 17/7) position 58°41' N., 05°14' W. (HAMBLETON, 0231/18). DIANA, BERKELEY and GARTH ordered to assist. (C. in C.H.E. 0430/18, 0530/18 R.A.D. 0540/18) Hudson A/C left Wick L730 to co-operate (C. in C. Rosyth, 0740/18)
- 1630 U-Boat reported leaving Lough Swilly (C. in C.W.A. 1654/18)

Estimated Dispositions

Probably 1 West of Hebrides homeward.  
1 in North Rona-Cape Wrath area. (I.C. 0515/40)

Search by Destroyers.

My 2342/16 (dispositions to hunt number of U-Boats outward bound). Request air co-operation may be continued today in vicinity of Groups A and B. BEDOUIN and ASHANTI to report their intended positions at 0600. (C. in C.H.F., 0006/18) Position (BEDOUIN 0250/18, ASHANTI, 0344/18). Regret air cooperation not available (C. in C., Rosyth, 0536/18). My 0536. Aircraft now available to cooperate in hunt and will join you about 0915. (C. in C., Rosyth to BEDOUIN 0812/18). Destroyers to hunt. (C. in C., H.F. 1247/18)

Submarines Attacked

1430 Bombs on oil streak, position RGTV 2156 (? 55:21 N. 09:04 W.) No result. (Aircraft J.210 1430/18).

SITUATION REPORT

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Home Waters

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Cork and Orrery has been appointed Flag Officer in Command of the Shetlands a new independent command directly under the Adty.

In a signal to Adty. the C. in C., Home Fleet mentions they have not seen the sun, moon, or stars for over a week.

French Coast

As soon as air reconnaissance shows that sufficient merchant vessels are anchored in Le Verdon Roads or alongside the wharfs at Le Verdon at the mouth of the Gironde, a naval attack by destroyers or ships' boats using depth charges is to be carried out to destroy them, air attack being used against ships further up the river.

Prospect of Invasion.

Reports this week point to Stavanger as an important centre of activity. But, in general, although it is evident that seaborne raids from Norway on Great Britain or its surrounding islands could be initiated at short notice, the imminence of a large scale invasion is not apparent. (War Cabinet Intelligence Summary, 19/7)

British Air Activity

Normal patrols were flown.

At 1330, two destroyers were seen off Lister, steering E.S.E. at 15 knots. Our aircraft did not shadow on account of the presence of an enemy fighter.

At 1540 a Norwegian M.V. of 2,000 tons was machine-gunned and hit off Obrestad, S.W. Norway. The same aircraft sighted a fishing vessel towing a large barge off Egersund. No direct hits were obtained, but the tow was parted. At 1630, a Norwegian M.V. of 4,000 tons was unsuccessfully bombed in Fensfiord, north of Bergen.

War Diary19.7.40.  
FridaySITUATION REPORTBritish Air Activity (Contd.)

Emden was bombed at midnight 18-19/7. Many fires were started. Two aircraft which failed to find Emden attacked Willemsfiord and Harlingen, making hits on docks, mole, and waterfront.

Nine aircraft were ordered to attack Emden again on the night of 19/7. Large explosion and several fires were observed. Aircraft which could not bomb Emden owing to cloud attacked Harlingen, where a terrific explosion occurred, probably an ammunition dump.

Reports of an enemy force of two cruisers and some destroyers having been received off Norway 80' south of Lister, nine Hudsons of the Coastal Command left at 1800 to attack. At 1950, four aircraft sighted and unsuccessfully attacked 3 destroyers and 7 M.Vs, the latter heavily camouflaged.

Enemy Air Activity

At about midday, 50 or more enemy aircraft raided Dover and were driven off by A/A fire and fighters, which brought down 7 enemy aircraft and probably a further 7. Our losses were six fighters. During this raid, BEAGLE on patrol off Dover was heavily bombed and slightly damaged by near misses; no casualties. At 1550, 22 bombs were dropped in Dover by about nine dive bombers. GRIFFIN was slightly damaged and rendered unseaworthy, except in emergency. Oiler WAR SEPOY was hit in the engine room and is leaking; <sup>(sunk)</sup> no casualties. TSD 0001/20

During the day, M.A./S.B. No.8 was attacked with machine gun fire by two enemy M.E.110 aircraft off Aldeburgh. Two ratings were killed and two officers and one rating slightly wounded.

Attacks on trade included the sinking by bombs of the Estonian LEOLA 60 miles off the Scillies.

War Diary19.7.40.  
FridaySITUATION REPORTMining

Magnetic mines have been exploded in Loch Ewe, Bristol Channel, Humber area, the Mersey and the Ribble. Three magnetic mines are being recovered in the Liverpool area.

Parachute mines were dropped on the night of the 19th-20th off Margate, at Milford Haven, in the Forth, the Tyne, and at Plymouth.

Milford, Rosyth, Tyne, Plymouth, Newhaven, inshore Tyne-Blyth Channel, Kyles of Bute and between Flatholm and Steepholm (Bristol Channel) are closed. Liverpool was closed, but is due to reopen am/20/7.

Encounter with Italian Cruisers.

At 1031/19, C. in C., Medit. reported that H.M.A.S. SYDNEY and Capt.(D)2, with destroyers, had become engaged with Italian cruisers at about 0800 north of west end of Crete. R.A.(D) Medit, with ORION and NEPTUNE, sailed at 0915, and WARSPITE and the remainder of the Fleet about midday.

At 1040, the C. in C. reported that SYDNEY, Capt. J.A. Collins, R.A.N., had sunk one Italian cruiser, and though nearly out of ammunition was chasing the other. The enemy appeared to be making for Tobruk, and at 11.25 a request was made for bombers to attack if possible as he approached land. Meanwhile, ORION and NEPTUNE were steering westward from Alexandria to intercept. EAGLE's striking force with torpedoes was ordered to attack Tobruk in the evening, using an advanced landing ground as arranged with No.202 Group, R.A.F.

The cruiser sunk was the BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI. 545 survivors were picked up by the HAVOCK and other destroyers and taken to Alexandria. Survivors reported that the Italian cruisers were expecting to meet a large supporting force in the area that morning. The destroyers were bombed while rescue work was in progress, and HAVOCK was holed in No.2 boiler room by a very near miss but was able to proceed at 20 knots.



War Diary

19.7.40.  
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

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Other Italian Hostilities

British Aircraft attacked a U-boat 4 miles N.E. of Valetta, and F.O.I.C., Malta, considers the attack was possibly successful.

Malta was raided at 1300 by 6 fighters, who were driven off.

War Diary19.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K.

(1) Decided as temporary measure during period in which seaborne expedition is a possibility to appoint a Flag Officer in Command of the Shetlands, as an independent Command directly under Adty. (2) Command will be limited to defence of the Islands and local defence sea patrols. Anti-submarine patrols and operations remain under control of Admiral Commanding Orkneys, as now. (3) Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of Cork and Orrery has been selected for this appointment and will proceed North pm today Friday. (1st S.L. 1637/19).

Your 2052/3. Two locally constructed anti-motor vessel obstructions are being placed opposite possible landing Beaches North and South side of Tyne entrance, North side complete. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1837/19 to Adty.)

Policy

My 1134/14 applies only to the few ships that the Adty. may notify to you as approved from time to time. As approval will only be given in exceptional cases it is most important not to allow the Swedes to think otherwise. (A.C.N.S(T) 0027/19 to Consul, Stockholm).

V.A.S. 1056/18/7/40. I quite agree, but we have not seen the sun, moon or stars for over a week. However, 12 out of the 17 Home Fleet Destroyers available were employed yesterday hunting U.boats. What is required is more A/S vessels and aircraft as the areas to be covered are large. (C. in C., H.F. 1109/19 to Adty.)

Movements

ARGUS

Your 1651/19. Ready to sail with aircraft embarked pm/21st. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2209/19)  
Your 2212/18 Maximum speed 18 knots (ARGUS 1055/19 to Adty.)

War Diary19.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSMovements (Contd.)

Position of Submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 20th July, Area A.

CLYDE vicinity of GBMF 3030.

TRIDENT QSMF 0920 leaving pm to relieve CLYDE.  
WILK JZLZ 3500.

H.31 and H.34 in H. one H.two.

TRUANT QSMF 4530 leaving pm on the surface for Rosyth.

SNAPPER and TRITON leave Rosyth pm on the surface north-eastward.

H.50 leaves Sheerness 1000 unescorted on surface to Harwich.

THAMES escorted by WHITE BEAR left Rothesay 1900 19th July for Dundee.

NARWHAL leaves Blyth 0600 20th July unescorted on surface to Immingham.

(V.A.S. 1712/19).

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 20th July, area B.

TIGRIS vicinity KQQG 4130.

(V.A.S. 1713/19).

Following are estimated positions at 2000 today Friday.

Large convoys WN.2 East of Stornoway proceeding N.E. and OA 186 North of Orkneys proceeding S.W.

GLASGOW, INGLEFIELD, ASHANTI, MASHONA N.W. of Dunnett Head proceeding W.

SOUTHAMPTON, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI off Aberdeen proceeding S.

FORTUNE, FURY, DIANA searching for U/B vicinity of Cape Wrath.

ZULU, HAMBLEDON, FERNIE, approaching Pentland Firth from Westward.

On GLASGOW passing Cape Wrath about 2300, DIANA joins escort and ASHANTI, MASHONA return to Scapa.

ISTRIA towing CONWAY CASTLE escorted by WINDERMERE leaving Thurso proceeding E. and S.

(A.C.O.S. 1726/19).

War Diary19.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsOperation  
F.D.22

NARWHAL leaves Immingham 1500/22 (S.6 1739/19 to Adty.)

As soon as air reconnaissance shows that sufficient M.Vs are anchored in Le Verdon Roads or alongside the wharfs at Le Verdon at the mouth of the Gironde, a naval attack by destroyers or ships boats using depth charges is to be carried out to destroy the M.Vs. Air attack will be used against ships further up the river. Request you report when ready to carry out his operation. (Adty. 2301/19 to C. in C., W.A.)

Iceland

Situation as to RMFU (Alabaster 1624/19).

E-BoatsTerschelling

Five E-Boats sighted off Terschelling at 2315/19. Aircraft report. (D.C.N.S. 320).

AirBritish Air Activity

Having regard to enemy force reported at sea today Friday request special endeavour be made to carry out air reconnaissance of Trondheim as soon as possible. (C. in C., H.F. 2246/19 to Adty.)

At 1945/19, seven M.Vs and three destroyers at 55:45 N., 6:35 E. were bombed. No hits. (Donibristle 2345/19).

Emden

Attacked during night 18/19. Bombs straddled Southern Quay of New Inner Harbour, starting fires visible 40 miles. (THI 0345/20).

Obrestad

At 1540/19 a Norwegian M/V of 2000 tons was machine-gunned and hit off Obrestad in S.W. Norway. (D.C.N.S.320).

Fensfjord

At 1630 a Norwegian M/V of 4000 tons was bombed in Fensfjord, N. of Bergen. Crew took to boats. (D.C.N.S. 320)

War Diary19.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSAir.British Air Activity (Contd.)

Force RX consisting of 2 Crs. and 6 Drs. reported in position TGLZ 5135 at 1535 hours course 180° speed 20 knots is to be attacked by 5 Hudsons from Leuchars and 4 Hudsons from Thornaby armed with 250 lb. SAP bombs. Aircraft to leave base as soon as possible. Report by W/T is to be made as soon as contact with the enemy is established, for the guidance of a striking force from Bomber Command. One Thornaby Aircraft will remain and shadow for as long as possible provided there is adequate cloud cover. (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle, 1654/19 to Adty.).

At 1950/19 four aircraft unsuccessfully attacked 3 destroyers and 7 M.Vs (D.C.N.S. 320).

Fighter Aircraft

Proposals for revised rules of Approach and Recognition in Adty. 1557/17 concurred in with exception of para. D.1 for which amendment suggested. (C. in C., W.A. 2341/19 to Adty.)

Willemsoord

Bombed at 0130/19. Hits on docks and town. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0455/19).

Harlingen

Bombed at 0119/19. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0455/19).

Anti-Invasion Patrols

Details of patrols to be flown daily. Previous signals on subject cancelled. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1146/19 to Adty.).

Enemy Air Activity<sup>H</sup>  
SPENE

Captain reports attack yesterday was by aircraft the first of which had R.A.F. markings. Casualties caused by one-inch projectiles which pierced bullet-proof plating. (C. in C. Nore 0741/19 to Adty.)

BEAGLE

Heavily bombed by large formation at 1215/19. No casualties. Damage to Gyro suspension from near misses. (V.A. Dover 1601/19 to Adty.)

War Diary19.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSAirEnemy Air Activity (Contd.)Dover

21 bombs dropped at 1550/19 by about 9 bombers. GRIFFIN and Oiler WAR SEPOY slightly damaged. WAR SEPOY making water. No casualties. (V.A. Dover 1632/9).

M/V

At 1630/19 in 60:51 N., 5:3 E., large Norwegian M.Vs was attacked. Crew took to boats. (Donibristle 2000/19).

M.A/S.B No.8

Attacked during day off Aldeburgh by 2 aircraft with machine gun. 2 ratings killed, 20 officers and 1 rating slightly wounded. (D.C.N.S. 320).

MiningWater-borne Barrages

Consideration being given to provision of water-borne Balloon Barrages to deter minelaying aircraft in Approach Channels at Bristol Channel, Liverpool, and Clyde. Request every facility for R.A.F. reconnaissance officers. (D. of L.D. 2326/18).

Spurn Point

L.L. trawlers exploded 2 red mines 3' and 3½' E. of Spurn Point Light House. (F.O. Humber, 2154/19)

Liverpool

Queens and Crosby Channels swept 6 times with 2 pairs LL. Two mines detonated, probably blue. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 2259/19).

Aircraft dropping mines at (position illegible) (VIMY 2337/19).

Magnetic mines exploded

One magnetic mine exploded in Loch Ewe, 1 in Bristol Channel, 2 in Humber, 2 in Mersey, and 1 in Ribble. 3 are being recovered in Liverpool area. (D.C.N.S. 320).

Ports closed

Milford, Rosyth, Tyne, Plymouth, Newhaven, the inshore Tyne-Blyth Channel, the Kyles of Bute, and between Flatholm and Steephholm in the Bristol Channel are closed. Liverpool is closed. (D.C.N.S. 320)

HOME COMMANDS

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Mining (Contd.)

Bristol Channel

A heavy explosion heard near Flatholm at 0100/19 (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1016/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence

Flushing

PRU sortie shows negligible activity or shipping. No aircraft visible. (PRUIS, 0245/19 to N.I.D.).

Two destroyers course 110° speed 15 knots bearing 090° 5 miles my position 270 Lister. (Aircraft 233 Sqn. 1325/19). Position 58:6 N., 6:29 E. (C. in C., Rosyth 1458/19 to submarines).

At 1935/19 in 55:17 N., 6:35 E. 2 minesweepers and 2 fishing smacks. Aircraft report. (Donibristle, 2345/19).

At 1945/19, 2 cruisers and 5 destroyers steering South 150' S. of Lister. (D.C.N.S. 320).

1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, 216° 8 miles course 140??? (F. Boat 9029, 1450/19).

2 cruisers, 6 destroyers bearing 360:6 course 180° my position 56:45 N. 6:35 E. speed x 20 knots (Aircraft 230 Sqn 1535/19).

Texel

At 0142/19, forty small Fishing Vessels and 2 small M/Vs (H.Q.B.C. 2000/19).

At 1110/19 in 57:20 N., 7:0 E. three Danish Fishing Boats. (Donibristle 1525/19).

At 1335 in 58:0 N. 6:0 E. 2 destroyers steering 110 at 15 knots. Aircraft report. (Donibristle, 1720/19).

Havre

At 1612/19 about 9 vessels in harbour of which 2 certainly warships larger than destroyers; and one vessel at anchor 1 mile S.W. of Inner Harbour entrance. Aircraft report (Chatham, 1815/19).

Cherbourg

No shipping at 1618/19 (Chatham 1815/19).

War Diary19.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

2 or more surface raiders are at large. It is important that Reporting Officers be warned to be on the alert for news or indications of these vessels and for the movements of possible supply ships and tankers. (D.N.I. 1948/19).

2 cruisers and 5 destroyers bearing 270° 5 miles steering 360° my position 55:20 N., 5:35 E. Aircraft report. (Aircraft 220 Duty M. 2000/19) (C. in C. Rosyth 2036/19).

At 2242/19 a small vessel at 54:38 N., 0:55 W. showing faint white light. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 0105/20).

Zuider Zee

At 2310/19 about 20 vessels at anchor in 52:30 N., 5:47 E. (THI 0028/21).

Ameland

At 2259/19, 5' N. of Ameland, 5 or 6 vessels of destroyer size steaming West ~~at~~ at fast speed. (THI. 0028/21).

At 2234/19 in 54:58 N., 7:20 E. a convoy of 8 medium-sized ships steering South at fast speed. (THI.0028/21).

Shipping

Convoy HX.59	Route. (Capt. Halifax 1330/19 to Adty.)
Convoy MT.14	Sailed 0615/19. 20 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1529/19).
Convoy WN.1	Arrived 0930/19 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0931/19).
Convoy HX.55	Arrived 0724/19. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0731/19).

Miscellaneous

FIJI	} To be taken in hand at Clydebank for docking and examination of defective machinery. (D.O.D.(H) 0026/19).
ILLUSTRIOUS	



War Diary19.7.40.  
FridayHOME COMMANDSWeather

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
North Sea	North. Light variable. South. S.W. moderate.	Moderate, local fog. Good.	Improving. Similar.
Channel	S.Wly. moderate.	Good.	Similar.
W. Approaches	W.S.Wly. "	Good.	Wind backing S. and W. moderate.
Horns Reef	S.W. moderate.	Moderate, local fog.	Visibility becoming good.
Dutch Coast	S.W. "	Good.	Similar.
S.W. Coast of Norway.	Easterly, moderate fresh in North.	Moderate in N. with fog. Good in S.	Similar.



War Diary

19.7.1940.  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General- French Shipping

Following orders are in force and supersede previous instructions for sailing French British and Foreign Chartered Shipping to French Colonial Ports.

(1) South Atlantic. Ships may not be sailed from any French Colonial ports north of Sierra Leone nor for ports in Ivory Coast or Dahomey. Other sailings permitted but ships from adjacent stations should call at Freetown or Capetown for instruction

(2) North Atlantic and Mediterranean. Sailings are not permitted.

(3) East Indies. Sailings resumed but ships for French Somaliland must call at Aden first for information.

(4) Australia and New Zealand. Inter-station trading resumed.

(5) America and West Indies. Ships are not allowed to call at French West Indian ports.

(6) China. Normal trading resumed.

(7) General instructions for H.M. ships in South Atlantic.

(C. in C., South Atlantic, 1904/19)

North Atlantic

French Embassy

I have been informed by French Admiralty via N.A. here that Steamship ORDUNA leaves Liverpool for Lisbon today with French embassy. German Government undertakes to respect ship if navigation lights are shown. I have promised to pass on French request that this is done. (Madrid, 2031/19)

War Diary

19.7.1940.  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CANTON  
ASTURIAS }

To escort S.L. 40 and S.L.F.40 and then to Greenock. (C. in C., S.A. 1129/19)

Convoy C.M. 2.

Second party to sail p.m. 21/7 (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1453/19)

Convoy W.S. 1.

Left Simonstown 1445/19 escorted by CUMBERLAND. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1614/19) Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1620/19)

Italian Plane

Italian plane marked I- ATOS is leaving Natal for Europe dawn 20/7 conveying important mails and German pilot passenger. (Rio de Janeiro, 1214/19, C. in C., S.A., 1810/19)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Encounter with Italian Cruisers-Contd.

H.M.A.S. SYDNEY and Capt. (D) 2 with 5 destroyers became engaged with Italian cruisers at about 0800 north of west end of Crete. Situation obscure, but SYDNEY heard at 0954. R.A. (D), Mediterranean in ORION and NEPTUNE sailed at 0915. WARSPITE sails at 1100, remainder of Fleet at 1230. (C. in C., Med. 1031/19)

Cruiser Sunk

SYDNEY reports one Italian cruiser sunk. Though nearly out of ammunition SYDNEY is chasing the other. (C. in C., Med., 1040/19)

Air Attack  
Asked For

Enemy cruiser in position 35.04' N., 23.30' E., steering 170° at 30 knots at 1100 appears to be making for Tobruk, pursued by SYDNEY and five destroyers who are short of ammunition. ORION and NEPTUNE are steering westward from Alexandria to intercept, approx. position 31.40' N., 28.40' E. at 1200, steering 290°. 30 knots Request bombers may attack enemy if possible as he approaches land. (C. in C., Med. to R.A., Alexandria, 1125/19)

Chaplain  
Survivor reports cruisers were expecting to meet large supporting force in this area this morning. (HAVOCK, 1138/19)

EAGLE

EAGLE's striking force with torpedoes is to be ready to attack Tobruk this evening, using advanced landing ground as arranged with 202 Group. R.A. Alexandria to arrange and inform EAGLE and F.O.C. 1 B.S. (C. in C., Med. 1241/19)

1st. B.S.

Presume you will now keep along coast. Give IMPERIAL and HEReward another rendezvous. (C. in C., Med., 1259/19)

Name of  
Cruiser

Have 250 survivors including 12 cot cases and 20 other wounded from Italian cruiser BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI. Am returning to Alexandria, expected time of arrival 0500. (HAVOCK, 1328/19)

/SYDNEY.....

War Diary19.7.1940.  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.Encounter with Italian Cruisers1st B.S.

My position course and speed are at 1500/19, 154, 32° N., 29° E., 41, 285 degs., 15½ knots. (F.O.C.I. B.S., 1551/19)

A/C Force.

C. in C., 1241. Maaten Bagush will be ready fortnight landing. Sidi Barrani also warned but Has no flood light and not recommended. (R.A. I.C., Alexandria, 1650/19)

Your 1358/19. Striking Force arrived Maaten Bagush at 1815/ (F.O.C. 1 B.S., 1733/19, to R.A., Alexandria).

Following has been read: Z 5 pos. 35.02' N., 23.10' E., starting square search south. Please give any details cruisers' positions (Malta W/T Stn. 1625/19)

Following has been read: Z 6 searching Greek Coast 20 miles ~~maxward~~ seaward up to Zynte Yust, then returning, leaving Crete 1930. (Malta W/T Stn., 1728/19)

Ships Engaged

My 1040. Ships engaged, SYDNEY, Capt. (D) 2 in HYPERION, ILEX, HAVOCK, HERO, HASTY. No details action yet, but appears to have been a very gallant affair. BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI sunk, HAVOCK picked up 250 survivors. Other cruiser escaped to southward. HAVOCK heavily bombed south of Crete sustaining slight damage. EAGLE Striking Force attacks Marsa Tobruk tonight, hoping escaped cruiser may be there. Fleet returns Alexandria tomorrow unless further enemy movements reported. (C. in C., Med., 1831/19)

HAVOCK Bombed

FZC ? No enemy sighted in area Kithera Malz, north Trere (corrupt) Request instructions. (F/Boat L 5806, 1845/19)

HERO and HASTY have joined me. (C. in C., Med., 1952/19)

Tobruk.

No cruisers in Tobruk. (A/C attacked WARSPITE, 2000/19)

/ H.M.A.S. SYDNEY.....

War Diary19.7.1940.  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanEncounter with Italian Cruisers-Contd.SYDNEY

Am returning to HAVOCK. My position 017 degs., 34° N., 25° E., 7. (SYDNEY, 1503/19)

2nd D.F.

Join HAVOCK at sunset. (SYDNEY to Capt., (D) 2. 1545/19)

Enemy  
Destroyer

V.3, one destroyer in position 34.46' N., 24.06' E., enemy course 140° speed 30 knots. (F/Boat N. 9029, 1530/19)

2nd D.F.

My position, course and speed are 233 degs., 34° N., 25° E., 29, 130, 28. (Capt. (D) 2, to SYDNEY, 1545/19)

EAGLE

My 1249/19. Carry out attack if arrangements satisfactorily made, Squadron returning to Dekheila. Target cruiser or other suitable target. (C. in C., Med., 1609/19, to F.O.C. i B.S., EAGLE, and R.A. I.C., Alexandria).

Flying Boat

19/7. 24. If cruisers remain on course relief before 2000 hours. (F/Boat L. 2164. 1610/19)

Enemy A/C

One aircraft shadowing, my position 34.36' N., 24.30' E., (HAVOCK, 1612/19).

SYDNEY

My position, course and speed, 320 degs., 34° N., 25° E., 32 miles, 150, 20. HAVOCK in company. Join me. (SYDNEY, to Capt. (D) 2, 1645/19)

Enemy  
Bombing

H.43 (refers to HAVOCK) 3 miles south Gavdi has been bombed by (?) craft - his-boiler room flooded- does not require assistance (Malta W/T Station, 1540/19)

War Diary19.7.1940.  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean- GeneralThreat to Malta

Your 2105/18. Nothing to confirm suggestion of impending attack on Malta. Concentration of merchant vessels not considered excessive in view of large proportion of Italian merchant fleet laid up, possibly Libyan convoy is intended. Troops in Sicily for attack on Malta probably amounting to 40,000. Air Force in Sicily believed not increased during last three weeks. C.2 report at time of Italian entry into war that German parachute troops had been sent, if true, probably small number as instructors. Believed parachute volunteers called for about same time. (D.N.I., to F.O.I.C., Malta, 1430/19)

Policy.

Decisions as regards distribution of Capital ships and aircraft carriers, reserves of ammunition, etc., in regard to your 2259/16 (1st S.L., to C. in C., Med.) (See Mediterranean Volume) <sup>(1914/19)</sup>

*(See notes in Med Vol)*AirStrength

A.M. 1915/17. A.O.C. in C., Middle East, will accommodate additional squadron and will manage maintenance somehow. Hopes, however it will not be for long in view of his own commitments and expectation of reinforcements. Therefore essential to set up F.A.A. Repair Depot with necessary workshop and maintenance personnel at earliest possible date. (C. in C., Med., 1046/19. to Admty.)

Reconnaissance

Arrangements for 19/7-21/7 (C. in C., Med. 1031/19)

Balearic Isles

Admty. 2311/18 re Italian reconnaissance aircraft operating from Balearic Isles No definite information either way at present. (F.O.C., Force H, 1055/19)

Malta Raid

By 6 fighters at 1300, driven off. (F.O.I.C. Malta 2139/19)



FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

French Ship

Admty. 2025/7, and N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1047/13. While on passage to Mombasa, French BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE was informed by me that in view of other arrangements made ~~which~~ need not call at Mombasa. No acknowledgement has, however, been received. If she arrives Mombasa (about 22/7) and in view of the terms of agreement in N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1703/6. propose not to requisition ship. I consider that to break faith now would adversely affect the future of Madagascar Govt., (C. in C., E.I., 0554/19) Approved not to requisition, (D.T.D., 2113/19)

C.M. 2.

Proposed to sail second party p.m. 21/7. (N.O.I.C., Durban, 1453/19) Approved. (C. in C., E.I., 1810Z/20)

China

River  
Gunboats

Impracticable to withdraw CRICKET and TERN from Shanghai. Propose they be laid up and situation reviewed at end of Typhoon season. This will leave PETEREL in full commission as S.N.O., Shanghai. (C. in C., China 0645Z/19)

French Ships

Your 0509Z/18. Ships should be seized if met at sea unless specially exempt for trade in station with French guarantee. (D.T.D. to C. in C., China, 2059/19)



FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Dutch  
Guiana

Dutch Colonial authorities request that VAN KINSBERGEN may be sent to Dutch Guiana in order to maintain order on Franco-Dutch frontier. Request you will issue instructions accordingly when vessel can be spared from patrol ordered in your 1251/18. Vessel will remain under your orders and should report to you when situation admits of leaving Dutch Guiana. (D.O.D., (F) 1554/19 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

German  
Raider

British KING JOHN, 5228 tons, from London to Vancouver, and DAVISIAN, 6433 tons, from London to Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, reported sunk about 13/7 by an armed German ship of about 9000 tons, 210 miles N.E. and 450 miles N.N.E. of Guadeloupe respectively. Patrols therefore arranged by DUMEDIN, VAN KINSBERGEN, DIOMEDE and SUMATRA in West Indies. (D.O.R., 319)

Reports from the French Island of St. Barthelmy today state that 2 life-boats had arrived there on 17/7 with 41 survivors from the British merchant ships KING JOHN and DAVISIAN said to have been sunk by enemy action 400 miles east of the island. (Associated Press, Martinique, 1728/19)

Armed German ship about 9000 tons sank British merchant ships about 13/7 approx. 20° N., 60° W., and 18° N., 54.30' W., C in C., A.W.I. has established patrols to guard the approaches to the Caribbean Sea so far as his limited number of cruisers admits. You may at your discretion communicate foregoing to Navy Department in confidence. (D.N.I. to N.A., Washington, 1955/19)

Convoy T.C.6.

Impossible to accommodate all personnel without using ANTONIA. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1233/19)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WESER

Jamaica reports WESER sailed 16/7 Punta Arenas reported for Manzanillo. Believed name changed R.N. HOPE TERAM suggesting possibility attempted confusion with British ship HOPETARN, which sailed Panama 16/7 for San Pedro. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1912/19)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DANTE }  
VALDARNO }

Reported leaving for San Nicolas to lay up. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, 1110/19)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

PRESIDENT DOUMER  
FELIX ROUSSEL

Admty. 2319/16 French ship PRESIDENT DOUMER has been requisitioned at Port Said 0800/19 and French ship FELIX ROUSSEL has been requisitioned at Suez 1200/18 both without incident but French Naval Authorities are protesting vigorously on the grounds that PRESIDENT DOUMER already requisitioned by French Government and action took place in territorial waters. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1249/19)

L'AMPERE Cable ship.

Information of whereabouts requested. (S.O. 1., Freetown, 1715/19)

398A.

S.S. PEARLMORE

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 4581 tons; 4" gun.

DATE AND TIME: July 19th; 3.50 p.m.

POSITION: 55° 28' N. 9° 18' W. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Approaching Irish Sea.

SPEED: 9 knots.

ROUTE: Fleetown to Immingham.

CARGO: 7,860 tons of iron ore.

IN CONVOY: Lost convoy through boiler trouble and loss of speed.

ESCORT: None

No. & FATE OF CREW: 59 all told; 13 missing and 1 injured.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Gentle breeze and choppy sea.

REMARKS:- Dull explosion in Engine Room about 210 feet from bow on starboard side which wrecked starboard lifeboat. Ship listed immediately and went down within 1½ minutes.

Port lifeboat launched containing 7 men. Others thrown in water and most picked up by this lifeboat including the Master. Lifeboat sailed to shore of Gola Island, West Donegal.

DATE: 20th July 1940.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

PEARLMOOR

British, 4581 tons, homeward bound from Freetown, torpedoed and sunk at 1630/19, position 55.23 N., 9.18 W. Several missing (Customs, Londonderry, 1910/20)

EVDOXIA

Torpedoed midnight 14/15 S.W. of Ireland is now reported sunk. (D.C.N.S.320)

Submarines Reported

1005

Sub vicinity 55.50' N., 9° W., Norwegian ship sunk. (Scapa W/T, 1005/19) (C. in C., W.A., 1016/19). VANQUISHER and CAPELLIA to attack (C. in C., W.A. 1019/19) ^

1630

55.23' N., 09.18' W., (British <sup>A</sup>PEARLMOOR attacked) ^

Estimated dispositions:-

- 1 far out in Western Approaches
- 1 in N.W. Approaches N.W. Ireland
- 1 in Cape Wrath Area
- 1 Between Shetland and Norway, Homeward bound. (D.O.R., 320)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Attacked

1255

London aircraft reported seeing Swordfish drop bombs on submarines 4 miles N.E. of Valetta about 1255. Small patch of oil visible. London also dropped bombs but at same time attacked by enemy fighters who were driven away. Subsequently Swordfish reported ~~xxx~~ having dropped 2 bombs of 250 lbs. within few yards of submarine. Oil patches observed. Repeated attack. Bombs falling in oil patch without exploding. On departure oil patch grew to about 100 ft square. Oil black and coming up very quickly. Depth of submarine when attacked 8 fathoms. (H.Q. Malta, to Air Min., 1645/19) BERYL also attacked. Consider possibly successful (F.O.I.C., Malta 2139/19)

War Diary20.7.1940.  
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTGerman Battle Cruiser

A report having been received that the GNEISENAU left Trondheim at 0900/20, aircraft were sent to locate her, TRIDENT and TRUANT were ordered to remain off Bergen, and the Fleet at Scapa was placed at  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour's notice.

British Air Activity.

Normal patrols were carried out.

One aircraft bombed the D/F station at Utsire Island in S.W. Norway, where 7 wireless masts collapsed and it is believed the whole station was damaged. Another attacked trawlers in the Skagerrak at 1630 hits being scored with machine gun fire. A further attack was carried out on Cherbourg.

During the night of 19-20/7, one aircraft of Bomber Command bombed the ADMIRAL SHNER and another the TIRPITZ in Wilhelmshaven. Results were not observed.

Magnetic mines were laid during the night at Friedrichshafen and in the Great Belt.

Enemy Air Activity

The Westbound Channel Convoy C.W. 7 was attacked near Dover p.m. 20/7. Three ME Jaguars (improved ME 110's) were shot down. During this attack, the destroyer BRAZEN was hit and sank later in tow; 3 men were wounded. The British merchant ship PULLBOROUGH was sunk and the WESTOWN and LADY PHILOMENA damaged. No casualties in these 3 ships.

About 9 enemy aircraft dropped bombs on trawlers in Dover Harbour at 1330, but no ships were damaged and there were no casualties.

The destroyer ACHERON was attacked by 10 bombers at 1610, 10 miles south of St. Catherine's Point. There were several near misses, but no damage,

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Magnetic mines were reported off Plymouth Bristol Channel, Milford Haven, Clyde, Firth of Forth, Tyne and Dover. The total of 18 exploded was far more than had ever been exploded in one day. Plymouth, Milford Haven, Preston, Belfast and Newhaven were closed.

Enemy Ocean Raiders

Two or more surface raiders are at large. British Consuls in neutral European ports have been warned to be on the alert for news or indications of these vessels and for the movements of possible supply ships and tankers.

The bearing of a German naval W/T transmission at 0018Z/20 was 239° 2nd class from Penang and would appear to have originated from a raider.

DIOMEDE landed at St. Kitts 41 survivors from the British ships DAVISIAN and KING JOHN and the Panamanian ship SANTA MARGARITA, the former sunk by raider and the latter sunk by submarine on 2/7 and survivors picked up by KING JOHN on 3/7. DIOMEDE embarked them at the French island of Saint Bartholomew.

The North Atlantic raider is of cargo ship type, about 9000 tons, painted with Swedish colours, and armed with two 5.9", two 3-inch, and several Pom-poms and M/G's. She sank the BRITISH PETROL, 6891 tons, on 14th June close to where the DAVISIAN was attacked.

Encounter with Italian Cruisers

Further details of the action on 19/7 in which the BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI was sunk show that it was started at 0724 by 4 destroyers of the 2nd D.F., which retired north eastwards and opened the range. An hour later, the SYDNEY and HAVOCK, who had proceeded in support of the destroyers sighted the enemy. SYDNEY scored a tactical hit or hits in the machinery of the COLLEONI, which stopped and was finished off by torpedoes from destroyers.

/SYDNEY.....

SITUATION REPORT

Encounter with Italian Cruisers-Contd.

BARTOLOMEO

SYDNEY chased the second Italian cruiser the GIOVANNI DELLE BANDE NERE, for 1½ hours until her ammunition was exhausted and scored some hits, but without slowing down the enemy, who drew out of range. 3 destroyers picked up survivors of the COLLEONI, including the Captain, and were bombed while doing so and again in the way back to Alexandria, HAVOCK being damaged by a very near miss.

There were no casualties in the British Ships.

Early on 20th an air-attack was made upon Tobruk. The BANDE NERE was not there; but an Oil Tanker was hit and two other M/V's probably damaged.

War Diary

20.7.1940.  
Saturday

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HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Smoke Screens  
to be reported

Admiralty 2006/8. Following instruction has been issued to H.M. Coast Guard in Area concerned:-

"There is possibility of enemy using large scale smoke screens produced on some part of the Continent which may arrive in S.E. coast between Lowestoft and Start Point when wind favourable, i.e. East through South to South West up to Force 3 and 4.  
2. Such smoke screens may take the form of an aerial or surface screen by day or night.  
3. All stations are to report through the usual channels any marked reduction of visibility or appearance of artificial clouds considered due to above cause. Possible this may be revealed by smell:  
(D. of L.D. 1055/20)

Liaison with  
Military

Requested arrangements be made locally to inform the appropriate Military Command or Areas of the addresses, function and telephone numbers of Naval Establishments within their areas. Also desirable that Naval Authorities concerned should establish liaison with local Military Authorities. (D. of L.D. 1811/20 to C. in C's.)

Burning Petrol  
or Oil Fuel

Authority to local Naval Authorities to prepare plans with local Military Authorities for burning Oil Fuel or Petrol to resist Invasion. (D. of L.D. 1943/20 to C. in C's)



HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Attack without  
Challenge

C. in C., Nore's 2124/9.

A. There is no objection to surface forces attacking at sight merchant vessels to the eastward of East Coast Mine Barrier.

B. Whenever two or more of our warships are operating together in company or separately, -it would be dangerous to allow ships to ~~allow ships~~ to open fire on men of war without first challenging. At night or by day in thick weather, there is always the possibility of ships in company becoming detached and later on making contact being mistaken for enemy.

C. There is no objection however to C. in C., Nore on such occasions when he has one surface vessel only operating in a given area authorising attack on any craft at sight.

D. Above instructions apply also to Commands of C. in C., Portsmouth and C. in C., Western Approaches, but in view of movements of Channel convoys Commanders-in-Chief must assure that permission as under C above is only given with due regard to the safety of our own shipping.

(1st S.L. 0119/20)

F.O.C. Shetlands

Effect of this new appointment on existing Commands. (1st S.L. 0311/20)

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

15th C.S.

Sailing delayed owing to Magnetic Mines.  
(F.O.C. 15 C.S. 0559/20 to BEDOUIN)

Submarine  
Positions

Position of submarines and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600 21st July. CLYDE vicinity GBMF 3030 leaving p.m. on surface for Rosyth. TRIDENT vicinity ZQMF 3000 proceeding on surface to relieve CLYDE, WILK jzlj 3500, H 31 and H 34 in H one and H two H 34 leaves p.m. on surface for Lowestoft. TRUANT XZTA 3000 proceeding to Rosyth, TRITON TGVD 4000 proceeding Northwestward, TRUANT, TRITON diving by day when within 36 miles of PCSC 2934, SNAPPER TGVD 2500 proceeding on surface Northeastward, THAMES escorted by WHITE BEAR due Dundee 1900 from Northward, H 50 leaves Harwich 1500 for CPSC 5353.  
(V.A.S. 1704/20)

Position and movements of submarines in Area B for following 24 hours at 0600 21st July. TIGRIS vicinity KQQ G 4130.  
(V.A.S. 1709/20)

HUSSAR

Unfit for sea through sickness among ships company chiefly nervous complaints. Propose send to Chatham forthwith. Recommissioning required. (C. in C., Nore, 1305/20 and 1910/20)

Home Fleet

Ships at Scapa are at half an hours notice for steam. (C. in C., H.F. 2215/20)

1. GREYHOUND, GALLANT, ENCOUNTER, and HOTSPUR are to accompany ARGUS to Gibraltar and to join Force H.

2. ENCOUNTER and HOTSPUR will be required to sail from Liverpool as escort to REINA DEL PACIFICO and CLAN FERGUSON and will rendezvous with ARGUS GREYHOUND and GALLANT as arranged by C. in C., Western Approaches.

3. GREYHOUND and GALLANT should be sailed a.m. tomorrow 21st with all convenient despatch to Clyde.

4. ENCOUNTER and HOTSPUR should be sailed a.m. tomorrow 21st with all convenient despatch to Liverpool.

(D.D.O.D. (H) 2230/20)

HOME COMMANDS

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Operations

Operation P.G.

Deferred till further notice. (C. in C.,  
Nore, 1705/20 to BEEHIVE)

GNEISNAU<sup>E</sup>

Report received that German Warship stated to be GNEISNAU sailed from Trondheim at 0900/20. B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1931/20) Patrols SALA and SA 2 to leave Datum at 0400/21. Tracks to be extended to visibility of Norwegian Coast, souther tracks to 7° 30' E., (C. in C., Rosyth 2330/20 to C. in C., H.F.) TRIDENT to remain at 60° 9' N., 4° 20' E., TRUANT proceed to 60° 40' N., 4° E., R.A.S. 1929/20)

Iceland

One Troopship carrying about 2000 will leave Clyde for Iceland on 27th July. Request 2 destroyers as escort. Should be escorted to Clyde when unloaded. (D.O.D.H. 2239/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

E-Boats

Brest

3 ships, probably E-boats, entering Brest Inner Harbour at 1000/20. (St. Eval 1200/20)

Air- British Air Activity.

In view of ships' difficulty in distinguishing friendly from hostile Fighters, suggest old black and white marking preferable to existing pale blue. (V.A. Dover, 1351/20 to Adty.)

Cherbourg

Bombed at 1827/20. Straddles Digue du Homet. (Chatham 2105/20)

Utsire Island

D/F station bombed at 0233/20. Seven masts collapsed and believed whole station damaged. (Donibristle; Red. 1658/20)

Skagerrak

At 1645/20, five trawlers attacked at 57° 45' N 8° 10' E. Machine gun definite hits claimed. (Donibristle 2319/20)

British A/C  
Colours and  
Marking

Details of (Air Ministry 2000/20)

/Enemy Air Activity.....

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

One aircraft shadowing 160° Dungeness 4 miles  
(CODRINGTON 0611/20 to N.O.I.C. Dover)

Dover

About 9 aircraft attacked at 1330/20 Twelve  
Bombs. No casualties or damage reported.  
(V.A. Dover, 1355/20 to Adty.)

BEAGLE

Attacked by 10 Junkers at 160° Portland Bill  
10 miles at 1605/20. Minor damage, no  
casualties. 1 Junker crashed in sea.  
(BEAGLE 2020/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

ACHERON

At 180° St. Catherines 10 miles ten Dive  
Bombers attacked. One serious casualty.  
(ACHERON 1610/20 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Channel Convoy  
BRAZEN Sunk

Heavily attacked by 30 aircraft at 1815/20  
off Dover. BRAZEN hit in engine-room.  
PULBOROUGH sunk. WESTOWN damaged LADY  
PHILOMENA slightly damaged. (V.A. Dover 1914/  
20 to Adty.) BRAZEN sank at 2040. WESTOWN  
towed into Dover. (V.A. Dover 2120/20 to Adty.)  
BRAZEN sank in 51° 1' 12"N 1° 17' 30"E  
PULBOROUGH in 51° 4' 27" N. 1° 20' 6" E.  
(V.A. Dover, 2337/20)

Mining

Spit Buoy

Your 2337/19. Request number and position of  
Mines. Were Parachutes seen? (C. in C.,  
Nore, 0103/20 to VIMY) Two Parachutes  
dropped N.E. Spit Buoy 344° 12 cables and  
348° 10 cables (VIMY 0155/20 to C. in C. Nore)

Tyne

Port closed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0137/20)

Milford Haven

Request Mine Sweepers and M/S Officers to  
clear Magnetic Mines. Several seen laid  
during night. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0246/20  
to N.O.I.C. Cardiff) One pair LL Sweepers  
sailed from Swansea to Milford Haven (N.O.I.C.  
Cardiff 0641/20) of 4 mines seen to drop,  
2 exploded by sweep and 2 spontaneously. Port  
will be closed from 2100/20 till 1200/21 for  
further sweep. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1925/20  
to Adty.)

Greenock.

2 Parachute Mines reported dropped at 0120/20  
on shore N.W. of Kempock Point. Port Open.  
Sweeping in progress. (F.O.I.C. Greenock  
1025/20) Two mines now exploded by ANDELLE  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2025/20)

/Harwich.....

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Harwich

At 1355/20 an aircraft dropped possible mine or mines at 52° 1' 30" N., 1° 50'E (GUILLEMOT 1404/20 to N.O.I.C. Harwich.)

TROUTPOOL

Badly damaged by explosion, apparently Mine, at 1330/20 at 003° Bangor Pier 18 cables. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1605/20 to Adty.) Now on Bottom and danger to navigation (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1840/20)

Cardiff

Magnetic Mine exploded at 0830/20 by BUSHWOOD at 118° Flatholm 0.6 miles. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1612/20 to Adty.)

Liverpool

Sweeping in progress today by LL's. Two Mines are being recovered. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2030/20 to Adty.)

Bristol Channel

Heavy explosion heard near Flatholm at 0100/20 (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1016/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence

Terschelling

At 0040/20, forty small craft anchored between island and mainland. (THI 0028/21)

Borkum

At 0130/20. Many white lights close to shore at Vlangoog, and 30 to 40 stationary boats in bay south of island. (THI 0028/21)

Hook

At 0135/20. Sunk steamer, 5000 tons, one mile from coast (THI 0028/21)

Flushing

At 0001/20. 3 medium-sized Vessels alongside quay (THI 0028/21)

Boulogne

At 1440/20, free of Shipping or E-boats. Three Seaplanes in Outer Harbour. (PIU 1915/20)

Brest

At 1000/20, one large Battleship presumed CONDORCET in harbour, 3 ship anchored at W. corner of Mole. (St. Eval 1200/20)

Skagerrak

At 1645/20, five Trawlers at 57° 45'N 8° 10' E aircraft report. (Donibristle 2319/20)

Cuxhaven

At 2335/20 two large vessels, stationary. Air craft report (H.Q.B.C. 0515/22)

Jade Roads

At 2359/20, five miles N. of Wilhelmshaven, one large warship probably Cruiser proceeding South, and 12 other ships in Roads. (H.Q.B.C. 0515/22)

Klagshamn

At 2327/20 one M/V 8000 tons, half mile W. of Harbour, heading W. slowly. (H.Q.B.C. 0515/22)

/Havre.....

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Havre Large Vessel anchored off S.W. Outer Harbour at 0049/20, aircraft report (ACHQ Chatham 0325/20)

GNEISNAU<sup>E</sup> Reported sailed from Trondheim at 0900/20. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1931/20)

Shipping

Convoy C.W.7. Sailed 0700/20. 22 Ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 0'27/20)

Convoy F.N.25. Arrived 0900/20 (NCSO Methil 0949/20)

Convoy F.N.27. Sailed 0500/20 37 Ships (NCSO Thames 0717/20)

Convoy H.X.59. Sailing Telegram (D.T.D. 1855/20) Details (D.T.D. 1548/20)

Convoy H.X.60. Destinations (DTD 1947/20)(COAC 1101/20)

Convoy SLF.40. Sailing Telegram (NCSO Freetown 1419/20)

Convoy OA.190. Route (C. in C., W.A. 1758/20)

Convoy FS.27. Details (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1728/20)

Convoy FN.2. 28 Ships. Passed Kinnaird Head bound south at 1830/20 (C. in C., Rosyth 2110/20)

Convoy M.T. Will leave Methil 1400/21 (C. in C., Rosyth 1820/20)

Coastal Convoys FN and FS Revised Time Tables. (C. in C., Rosyth 1922/20 to Adty.)

Convoy OG.38 Sailing Telegram (C. in C., W.A. 1727/20)

Convoy HX.61 Route (D.T.D. 1222/20)

Convoy OA.187. Sailed 1730/20 33 ships (NCSO Methil 1809/20)

Convoy FN.29. Will now sail 22 July (C. in C., Rosyth 1900/20)

FN and FS Convoys FS will leave Tyne at 2300, and FN will leave Southend at 0500. (C. in C., Rosyth 1732/20)

Convoy OG.39. Route (C. in C., W.A. 1759/20)

Convoy OB.186. Sailed 1310/20. (NCSO Liverpool 1450/20)

HOME COMMANDS

WEATHER

<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	
<u>North Sea</u>	Southwesterly Moderate, fresh locally.	Showers or occasional rain.	Moderate in extreme North, mainly good elsewhere.
<u>Horns Reef</u> ) <u>Dutch Coast</u> )	Southwesterly Moderate	Cloudy	Mainly Good.
<u>S.W. Norway</u>	Southwesterly Moderate to fresh.	Cloudy or overcast showers.	Moderate to Good.
<u>Channel</u>	Southwesterly Moderate to fresh	Cloudy or overcast showers.	Good.
<u>Western Approaches</u>	Southwesterly Moderate to fresh	Cloudy or overcast showers	Good.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

DELHI Cancel my 2355/12. DELHI to revert to orders of C. in C., South Atlantic. (D.O.D.(F), 0006/20).

JEAN BART Air reconn. Casablanca pm/19/7, French battle-ship JEAN BART, position unchanged, now boxed in with a boom laid between two ships. One submarine in floating dock. Situation of remainder similar to my 2316/8. (F.O.C.N.A., 1112/20).

Raiders Warning of, and request for news or indications. (D.N.I., to Consuls in Spain and Portugal, etc., 1230/20). A darkened tanker approx. 7000 tons reported in position 40:38 N., 23:37 W., course 160°, at 0400Z/17. (D.C., to F.O.C.N.A. 0030/20).

South Atlantic

ASTURIAS Cancel last sentence my 1305/15. ASTURIAS developed degaussing defects, request may be remedied at Greenock and ship sailed soon as possible for Freetown, as she is urgently required to operate with S. America Division. (C. in C., S.A., 1037/20).

CANTON Left for convoy duty and passage to U.K. (S.O.I., Freetown, 0849/20).

STRATHMORE Leaving Freetown 21/7. Route. (C. in C., S.A. 1749/20).

Raider Description of German armed merchant raider reported 447 miles N.E. Barbados 10/7 and 250 miles E.N.E. Sombrero Channel 13/7. (C. in C., S.A. 2358/20).

Mediterranean

Encounter with Italian Cruisers, (*off Cape Spada, 19/7*)

My 1502/19. C. in C. and Fleet returning to harbour today. Destroyers bringing about 500 prisoners. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0738/20).



FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean (Contd.)

Report of  
Action

Destroyer action started by Capt. (D)2.  
4 destroyers of 2nd D.F. sighted 2 Italian  
cruisers steering about 040 degrees in Anti-  
Kithera Channel at 0724. Destroyers retired  
to North Eastwards and opened the range.

2. Meanwhile H.M.A.S. SYDNEY with HAVOCK  
in company who was to Northward proceeded to  
support of destroyers and at 0827 sighted the  
enemy, who concentrated their fire on her,  
while SYDNEY engaged the leader. The destroyers  
now turned back and thereupon the enemy cruisers  
turned 180 degrees and endeavoured to escape  
through Anti-Kithera Channel. SYDNEY scored a  
tactical hit or hits in machinery of BARTOLOMEO  
COLLEONI who soon stopped. She was finished off  
near Agrsa Arabuse by destroyers who fired  
4 torpedoes, 2 of which hit.

3. SYDNEY chased Italian cruiser ALBERICO DA  
BARBIANO (see Italian Communique as to name) for  
1½ hours until her ammunition was exhausted and  
scored some hits but these unfortunately had no  
effect on speed and she gradually drew out of  
range to hit.

4. 3 destroyers picked up 545 survivors of  
BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI including Captain while  
HASTY and HERO followed SYDNEY. On passage back  
to Alexandria the force was bombed by 13 aircraft  
and HAVOCK who had 250 prisoners on board was  
holed in number 2 boiler room by a very near miss.  
Bulkheads however stood and she was able to  
proceed at 20 knots.

5. I consider credit for this very spirited  
and successful action belongs mainly to  
Captain J.A. Collins R.A.N. of SYDNEY who by his  
resolution and dash quickly established a moral  
superiority over enemy. He was ably supported  
by Commander H.St.L. Nicholson D.2. and Commanding  
Officers HAVOCK, HASTY, HERO and ILEX.

6. No casualties in British ships.

(C. in C., Med., 1401/20).

Add to my 1401/20. Destroyers were also bombed  
while picking up survivors of BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI.  
(C. in C., Med., 1831/20).

A communique based on my 1401/20 has been issued  
to local press. (C. in C., Med., 1443/20).

Australia

Congratulations of Naval Board and R.A.N. to  
SYDNEY, etc. (A.C.N.B., 1701Z/20).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Italian  
Communique

Italian High Command communique issued noon 20/7 gives name of second cruiser as GIOVANNI DELLE BANDE NERE, not ALBERICO DA BARBIANO. (Transocean, 1130 G.M.T. 20/7).

Shipping  
reports,  
Leakage

Urge steps be taken to prevent British and neutral shipowners in London telegraphing loading and sailing instructions for ships in Greek waters en clair. Risk of leakage immense. (Legation, Athens, to Min. of Shipping, 2100/20).

Action of 9/7

Italian Naval Attache informed U.S. Naval Attache Italian forces engaged in action in Ionian Sea were CESARE accompanied by (CAVOUR?), six 10,000-ton cruisers, six 6,000-ton cruisers and 20 destroyers. CESARE hit by 15-in. shells, base of funnel, putting six boilers out of action. She retired under smoke screen. BOLZANO also hit by 6-in. shells (Adm. Kelly, via Istanbul, to C. in C., Med., 1555/20).

French Ships

Adty. 2319/16. As reported by S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area in his 1249/19 French ships PRESIDENT DOUMER, FELIX ROUSSEL were requisitioned and French are believed to be protesting to Egyptian Govt. There remain in Canal area and Haifa the 5 ships given in S.B.N.O. Suez 2006/17. Is it the intention that these ships should also be requisitioned? To do so will probably cause further bad feeling with French, but there does not seem any satisfactory way of running them for local trade, and there is likely to be dissatisfaction amongst crews of non requisitioned ships who would presumably be on French rate of pay while requisitioned ships are on higher British rate. It is unlikely that more than half of crews will volunteer to serve on. (C. in C., Med., 1727/20).

Mediterranean - Air

Tobruk Raid

Six Swordfish of 813 Sqdn. attacked shipping Marsa Tobruk at 0240/20. One hit on oiler which produced heavy explosion, probably due to petrol. Two other hits probably on merchant ships. Hoped for cruiser not present. Heavy pom-pom and machine gun fire, but all aircraft got back to Sidi Barrani. Three damaged and unserviceable. Pilot and observer of one wounded, latter seriously.

Prior.....



FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Air (Contd.)

Tobruk Raid (Contd.)

Prior to this operation one of WARSPITE's aircraft catapulted at sea carried out reconnaissance of Marsa Tobruk and subsequently reported having force-landed east of Marsa Tobruk at 2130. Search by JERVIS and later by two flying boats failed to locate, and it is regretted crew must be regarded as missing, but possible reached shore in enemy territory. (C. in C., Med., 1913/20).

Air Menace

Scale of air attack on forces engaged yesterday was again heavy. In absence of attacks on air forces and aerodromes in Dodecanese by long range bombers, unless I can have an A/A cruiser and some escort ships with good A/A armament, the hazards to Aegean convoys and cruisers which have to be used to escort them will be so great that they will not be worth running. This request made in my 2259/16 para. 6 is not covered in Adty. 1914/19. (C. in C., Med., 1943/20).

Balearic Isles

Asking if any indication that Italian reconnaissance aircraft are operating from Balearic Islands, Minorca or Majorca. (D.N.I. to N.A. Madrid, 0043/20).

East Indies

Bombing Expected

My 0016/18. Message received from B.L.O., Djibuti states that G.O.C. has (~~corrupt group~~) decided officially with British and has informed Emissary and Governor by letter. If called upon, S.N.O. Red Sea will afford all possible naval support, especially anti-aircraft, compatible with security of Red Sea convoys. Heavy bombing anticipated. (C. in C., E.I., 0754/20).

Refugees

N.O.I.C. Karachi's 0512/18. Request another ship be provided as soon as possible for evacuation of refugees from Berbera. (C. in C., E.I., 1246/20).

Raider

At 0018Z/20 bearing of German naval W/T transmission was 239° 2nd class from Penang, and would appear to have originated from a raider. (D.D.I.C., 1646/20).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

ILE DE FRANCE Has been requisitioned at Singapore. Believed one-third of her crew about 300 may volunteer to serve under British flag. Considered mixed crew would not prove satisfactory. Question of disposal of balance of French crew. (C. in C., China, 0713Z/20).

French Aircraft Our X.477+ 10/7 was primarily for purpose of avoiding attacks by French aircraft in Medit. and is to be cancelled for your commands. As regards French military aircraft in the Far East policy should be to avoid action likely to deter any wishing to join British forces. Any French military aircraft over British territory or approaching British landing grounds should not be treated as hostile till they show evidence of hostility. They should be detained on landing. these instruction may be modified by you in event of a sudden deterioration of the situation. (Air Min. 1500/20 to R.A.F. Far East).

Petrol for Japan Very large quantities ordered for delivery by Sept. 1 from U.S. Pacific Coast and Gulf. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1807/20).

America and West Indies

Enemy Raider  
( "D" -  
WIDDER )  
British ship DAVISIAN sunk 1430 Q 10/7 and British Ship KING JOHN sunk 1150 Q 13/7 in position 447 miles N.E. of Barbados and 250 miles E.N.E. Sombrero Channel respectively by German armed merchant raider. Two boats, one with 25 and one with 16 men still missing, last seen approximately 200 miles E.N.E. Sombrero.

Raider approx. 9,000 tons. (description)  
Name NARVIK SUIRIGE on side on white.  
Resembles German ship 637 C.A.F.O. 422/40.

Armament 1 5.9 inch gun on poop and 1 on fore-castle both concealed. 1 3.9 each side by each mast also concealed. Several pom-poms and numerous small machine guns. 4 mines and 8 or 9 objects resembling magnetic mines sighted. Ship fitted with mine rails and traps. KING JOHN made S.O.S. in form RR RR but it is not known if aerial was shot down first.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Enemy Raider  
(Contd.)

British ship DAVASIAN aerial shot down at once. NARVIK always approached from port side and opened fire with shrapnel at aerial.

British ship BRITISH PETROL also sunk in approx. same position as DAVASIAN on 14th June. Chief Steward killed remainder crew prisoners. (DIOMEDE, 1159/20).

Survivors

Names of crews landed by DIOMEDE. (Brookes, St. Kitts 1900/20).

HX.61

Position and junction. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1608/20).

Raiders

Following from Canadian S.O.(I) Esquimalt graded A.1 begins. 6 German raiders disguised as Merchantmen are on high sea speed 25 knots; armaments 2 heavy guns forward Aft some A.A. guns Vessels are equipped for minelaying. Ends. Am endeavouring to check source of information. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1746/20).

Patrols

My 1251/18. Patrols extended, DUNEDIN up to 600 miles 40 degrees from Trinidad, DIOMEDE up to 600 miles 45 degrees from Sombrero, SUMATRA up to 600 miles 20 degrees from Monaco. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1831/20).

New Zealand

Evacuees

Offering to place AWATEA at disposal of H.M.G. in U.K. for evacuees ex-Hong Kong from Manila to Australia. (Govt., New Zealand, no T.O.O.,/20).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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NORBURG

Arrived Batum 18/7. (I.C., 0518/40).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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ARABIA

At Assab. Endeavours being made to obtain neutral ship to transfer cargo, including ammunition, believed to be of German origin, to Persian Gulf. (I.C., 0518/40).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

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PRESIDENT DOUMER ) Requisitioned, Suez Canal area. (see  
FELIX ROUSSEL ) Mediterranean).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

---

418

Ships Attacked

- TROUTPOOL At 1330/20, TROUTPOOL, British, 4886 tons, mined off Bangor, Belfast Lough. Reported resting on the bottom in shallow water. Some of crew of 39 injured by explosion. (DOR 321).
- CATHERINE Panamanian attacked by submarine on 24/6, is reported sunk. (DOR 321).
- FRANGOULA B. torpedoes off Irish Coast on 24/7, is reported  
GOULANDRIS, sunk (DOR 321) \* BR 1337 states sunk on 29/6. 7.156.

Submarines Reported

- 1340 By aircraft on surface in 61:14 N., 2:35 E. Stationary when sighted, then dived course 180°. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1624/20). Submarines on patrol advised. (D.C., 1746/20).
- 1642 O.F. unidentified enemy unit, probably U-boat, probable position between 61° and 62° N. (D.D.I.C. 1726/20). It is thought this is the U-boat that was in about 59:20 N., 7:20 W. at 1348/19 and is homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1822/20).
- 2209 About 60:0 N., e:0 E., very indefinite position, 86° Sumburgh Head 130'. (I.C., 0518/40).
- 2229 Approx. 51:50 N., 12:30 W., very indefinite position, 270° Valencia 80'. (I.C., 0518/40).

Estimated dispositions

- Possibly 1 off Portugal moving North.  
1 in Western Approaches.  
1 in about 55:0 N., 11:0 W. at 0028/20 probably outward bound.  
1 in about 59:20 N., 7:20 W. at 1348/19 destination unknown.  
1 in middle of North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C., 1249/20).

War Diary

20.7.40.  
Saturday

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

2043

Aircraft reports bombing submarine in position 59:54 N., 3:0 E., at 2043/20, course 118 degrees. No hits. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2332/20). Sighted on surface, about 5 miles. Fully submerged when aircraft carried out attack, dropping 3 250-lb. A/S bombs. (Donibristle, 2348/20)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

Anonymous information 2 German submarines seen Ayamonte. Consul, Villa Real, De Santo Antonio, asked to report. (N.A., Madrid, 1959/20).



SITUATION REPORT

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420

Enemy Mining

Minelaying by air was on a fairly extensive scale, and the ports closed for the whole or part of the day included the Humber, Newhaven, Plymouth, Falmouth, Milford, Fishguard, Holyhead, Liverpool, Preston and Kyles of Bute. No traffic, unless degaussed, can move east of Swansea. Mining activity during the night extended from the Tees southabout to Whitehaven.

British Air Activity

Normal patrols were flown.

Oil tanks at Vlaardingen were attacked with success during the night of 20-21/7. A reconnaissance pm/21 showed that the tanks were still burning.

A U-boat was attacked by aircraft 90 miles N.W. of Bergen at 0315, and one hit estimated. The boat was reported to have turned turtle and disappeared.

At 0620, an aircraft reported 4 destroyers and 1 tanker of about 12000 tons 40 miles W. of Lister. An hour later the force, described as 5 naval sloops and a 10,000-ton transport, was sighted about 20 miles further south. Seven aircraft left at about 0900, located this force, then proceeding east, and delivered attacks, hitting the tanker amidships and setting her on fire. During these attacks, 2 of our aircraft were shot down and 2 damaged.

Enemy Air Activity

For the third time within a fortnight, enemy low-flying aircraft reached the Orkneys during the night of 20-21/7 and 6 bombs were dropped near Kirkwall, causing slight damage to property and 1 casualty.

Attacks on convoys were resumed pm/21, particular attention being paid to escorting vessels. The westbound Channel convoy, C.W.7, was again attacked repeatedly and as a result the British TERLINGS was sunk 10' south of St. Catherine's Point, with 3 killed and 7 wounded; the Norwegian tanker KOLLEBJORG was set on fire and taken in tow; and the Norwegian tanker NINA BORTHEM was damaged. SKEGG



SITUATION REPORT

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421

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

During other night raids, bombs were dropped at various points, including Edinburgh, Tyneside and the Plymouth district, but no serious damage was done and there were very few casualties.

Italian Hostilities

The Australian cruiser HOBART was attacked in the southern part of the Red Sea by two Italian aircraft with 3 very large bombs, probably 1,000 lbs. all of which missed.

The cruiser COLOMBO was attacked by one aircraft off Italian Somaliland, but missed.

*22nd, see p. 451.*

Enemy Raider

Further details of the German raider NARVIK in the neighbourhood of the Caribbean have been obtained from survivors of sunken ships, but no later intelligence of her whereabouts has been reported.

Casualties

The submarine PHOENIX is 4 days overdue from patrol off the Sicilian Coast and is presumed lost.

HOME COMMANDS

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422

Defence of U.K.

Colour of  
Light-Houses

Request consideration to repainting Light Houses and buildings a neutral colour in place of present white believed to assist enemy submarines and aircraft. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1159/21 to Adty.)

Gairlip and  
Ward Hill  
C.H.L. Stations

Request early erection to assist detection of enemy aircraft. (F.O. Orkney 1304/21 to Adty.) Fully concur, and request steps without delay (C. in C., H.F. 1618/21 to Adty.)

Crail

Your 1942/20. In view of shortage of A/A Artillery suggest you consider defence from Adty. resources (Air Ministry 1750/21).

Orkneys

Request one Battalion Infantry and one M/G. Company be sent as minimum additional reserve for existing troops in Orkneys and Shetlands. (F.O.C.Orkneys 1923/21 to Adty.)

Shetlands

Admiral of Fleet Lord Cork assumed command of Shetlands am/21. (F.O.C. Shetlands 2139/21 to Adty.)

Burning Petrol  
for Defence

Trials on Loch Fyne proposed and 60 tons fishing vessel being fitted out. Consult with Army, R.A.F., and Civil authorities. (D. of L.D. 2237/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Policy

Channel Convoy  
Escorts

Suggest destroyers on this duty be replaced by trawlers; and that 1st D.F. be ordinarily based at Portsmouth using Dover as advanced base for sub-division. (V.A. Dover, 1253/21 to Adty.)

Consider V and W class destroyers specially unsuitable as escorts for these convoys, owing to their inadequate A/A armament. Request consider allocating "HUNT" class deatroyers as they become available. (C. in C., Nore 1530/21 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

423

Movements

HUSSAR Your 1910/20 to proceed Chatham and re-commission.  
(D.M.S. 0027/21 to C. in C., Nore).

Forces D and E. Force D keep steam at one hours notice. Force E keep steam at 2½ hours notice. (C. in C. H.F. 1350/21).

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 22nd July. Area A Clyde vicinity Q S T A 5230 for Dundee and TRUANT X Z S C 0050 for Rosyth proceed on surface except when within 36 miles of P C S C 2934 TRIDENT vicinity Z Q M F 3000 proceeding on surface to Statlandet NARWHAL leaves Immingham 1500 proceeding on surface through N L G R 0700 N L G R 3648 R Q W T 1600 thence north eastwards TRITON X Z S C 2006 proceeding on surface to Q Z M F 4030 SNAPPER vicinity P C M F 5024 WILK south of C 2 leaving pm for Rosyth THAMES leaves Dundee 1000 on surface to J Z U B 3030 H 31 in H one and two H 50 C P S C 5353 H 34 L S T A 4018 submerged by day proceeding Lowestoft H.28 leaves Harwich pm on surface to relieve H 31; (V.A.S. 1717/21).

Position of Submarines and movement for following 24 hours at 0600 22nd July. Area B Tigris vicinity K Q Q G 4130. CACHALOT leaves Plymouth pm escorted for Clyde. (V.A.S. 1718/21).

TRIDENT Proceed to patrol about 20 miles off Statlandet (V.A.S. 1039/21).

Air

British Air Activity

GNEISENAU Details of Aircraft Patrols flown to intercept (C. in C., Rosyth, 0002/21 to C. in C., H.F.) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1020/22).

M/V. At 0555/21 at 58:10 N., 6:30 E. Aircraft bombed a 5000 tons M/V Near miss. (Donibristle 0955/21).

At 0615/21, at 58:1 N., 6:59 E., Aircraft attacked one M/V of 1500 tons with bombs and M/G. Machine gun hits on bridge and funnel. (Donibristle, 1025/21).

Have attacked enemy with bombs. No hits. Position 57:37 N., 6:42 E. course 085° speed 10 knots. (Aircraft 220 Sqn. 1205/21).

HOME COMMANDS

424

Air (Contd.)

British Air Activity (Contd.)

Railway at Dale 9 Skuas will leave Sumburgh at 0130/22 to attack this Railway in 60:35 N. 5:45 E. (F.O.C. Orkneys 1845/21). 9 Skuas left for Sumburgh (Hatston 2235/21 to F.O.C. Orkneys).

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy ~~DRAGON~~ <sup>Draga</sup> Attacked by aircraft at 58:13 N., 1:52 W. (HESPERUS 1208/21). Aircraft friendly (HESPERUS 1240/21).

Convoy ~~PEEWIT~~ <sup>Peewit</sup> Being attacked by aircraft (SCIMITAR 1529/21). One big tanker steering gear disabled returning to Portsmouth. Another tanker on fire, crew standing by in boats. Have survivors and wounded of S.S. TERLINGS. Position ~~50~~ 50:50 N., 2:28 W. (SCIMITAR, 1628/21).

Aircraft attacking Convoy PEEWIT at 50:22 N., 2:29 W. (SCIMITAR 1927/21). Fighters have left (Portsmouth, W/T 1952/21).

KOLLSKEGG Norwegian KOLLSKEGG badly on fire and abandoned at 206° Needles 12 miles. HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER standing by. No sign of survivors (HOTSPUR 1855/21 to C. in C., Portsmouth). Crew of 36 landed at Portland. (D.S. 321).

NINA BOATHEM Norwegian tanker, 6123 tons, damaged at Spithead. No casualties. (D.S. 321).

Mining

Fishguard Parachute Mines dropped last night. Fishguard closed. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0816/21 to Adty.). 2 mines dropped, 1 exploded spontaneously 10 hours later. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1911/21 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

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425

Mining (Contd.)

Milford Haven Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1301/21). Port will be closed from sunset tonight till 0900/22. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1501/21). 2 of 4 mines dropped last night have been exploded, making 6 exploded out of 10 dropped in last 2 nights. Remaining 4 mines have been marked. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1911/21 to Adty.)

Aultbea Report area considered clear (C. in C., H.F. 1803/21 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea). Channel clear through positions B,C and D. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1831/21). BURLINGTON exploded ~~1~~ mine today at 046° Ruda Nan Sasan Triangle 9.8 cables. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1547/21 to F.O.C. Orkney).

Spit Buoy 1 red mine detonated 356° N.E. Spit Buoy 12 cables. (C. in C., Nore, 1815/21 to Adty.)

Plymouth During night 20/21, 2 magnetic mines dropped outside Western Entrance of which 1 has been destroyed and two N.W. of Shagstone. (C. in C. W.A. 2009/22 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Lister At 0615/21 one M/V 1500 tons at 58:1 N. 6:59 E., course 070°, speed 10 knots. 7 to 10 M/Vs anchored in Bay.

At 0645/21 at 57:45 N., 5:45 E., 5 sloops escorting 10,000 ton Oil Tanker. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 1025/21).

One enemy M/V, possibly escorted, reported on fire in 57:15 N. 7:27 E. at 1205/21. Investigate. (R.A.S. 1546/21 to WILK) Cancel my 1546/21. (R.A.S. 1734/21 to WILK).

At S 64° W. Beachy Head 23 miles heading S 60° E. failing to give Recognition Signal. Report from Trawler DANEMAN. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0340/21 to SALADIN).

4 destroyers, 1 M/V, 1 aircraft 090° 5 miles course 170, 15 knots. My position 57:58 N., 5:30 E. at 0612/21. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 0620/21 and 0625/21).

At 58:10 N., 6:30 E. two M/Vs, 5000 and 4000 tons, steering N. coastwise speed 10 knots at 0555/21. Aircraft report (Donibristle, 0955/21).

HOME COMMANDS

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426

Enemy Intelligence

5 Naval Sloops and 1 10,000 ton unladen transport, course 150, speed 15 knots at 57:45 N., 5:45 E. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 0711/21). Position 57:28 N. 7:54 E. Course 090° speed 15 knots. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 1405/21).

At 0612/21 in XZUB. 0030, 2 M/Vs course 045° speed 6 knots, about 1000 tons each. Aircraft report. (Donibristle, 0945/21).

At 0830/21 one M/V 700 tons at 55:57 N., 7:53 W. Flag not recognised. Registered E.B. THORSHAVN. Aircraft report. (C. in C., W.A. 1126/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BREMEN)  
EUROPA)

Photographic reconnaissance at Hamburg today shows BREMEN and EUROPA being camouflaged and apparently altering upperworks. (O.I.C. 1855/21).

Unidentified  
Unit

At 2132/21 in 63:30 N., 6:0 E. D/F report. Unreliable fix. Probably Auxiliary or Minor Warship. (D.D.I.C. 2218/21).

At 2145/21 a large M/V burning at 50:21 N., 1:18 W.; and at 50:24 N., 1:58 W. at 2156/21 a small vessel, apparently M/S, steering 180° at 6 knots. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0219/22).

At 2303/21 at 50:13 N., 1:12 W. a small vessel steering 180° at 30 knots and burning a searchlight. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0219/22).

At 2347/21 at 50:12 N., 2:28 W. two stationary vessels. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0219/22).

At 2250/21 in 53:44 N., 4:32 E. Seven unknown ships, course 320°. Aircraft report. (D.C. 0039/22 to submarines).



War Diary

21.7.1940.  
Sunday

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy FS 27                   Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0428/21)

Convoy MT                    Will leave Methil 0930/22 (C. in C., Rosyth 1528/21)

Convoy SLF 38                Arrived 1530/21 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1543/21)

Convoy SLF 40                Amended Sailing Telegram (D.T.B. 1341/21)

Convoy OA 188               Leaves Methil 0630/22 (C. in C., Rosyth 1311/21)

Convoy OB 187               Sailed 1343/21. 20 ships (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1346/21) Details Liverpool 1120/21)

Convoy. FN 27                Sailed (N.C.S.O. Humber 1120/21)

Convoy FN 28                Sailed (N.C.S.O. Thames 1022/21)

Thames Search Station     Adty. 0024/22 June. Propose to transfer this Station to Sheerness. (A.C.N.S.T. 2239/21 to -C. in C., Nore)

0500 B.S.T.

WEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
All Areas	W. to S.W. Moderate or fresh. Strong locally.	Good or very good.	Similar

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KING SOL                    H.M. Trawler Grounded in Belfast Lough  
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 0342/21 to C. in C.,  
W.A.)



FOREIGN STATIONS

428

General

Enemy Raiders

To ensure rounding up of raiders, essential that they are reported by W/T whatever the cost. Enemy is aware of this and his first object is to get close enough to shoot away the wireless aerial. It is of utmost importance that a W/T report is made before he can get into a position to do this. The risk of making false reports must be accepted. Any ship which appears to be attempting to close should at once be regarded with suspicion and a report made. This can always be cancelled afterwards if the suspicion is unfounded. (A.C.N.S. (T) (983) To British Merchant Ships, All Areas)

North Atlantic

Morocco  
French LE RHIN

My 1752/16. Suggestion from Perù re R.F.A. LE RHIN, to allay curiosity evinced by her agents Tangier and therefore French Authorities at Casablanca. (S.O.(I), Gibraltar, 1032/21)

Gibraltar  
Evacuation of  
Base Staff

Re plans for evacuation of base staff, 200 Group R.A.F., etc., in the event of Spain becoming hostile or occupied by the enemy and Gibraltar becoming untenable for merchant shipping and contraband control (F.O.C.N.A., 1718/21)

/South Atlantic.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Gold Coast

Schmitte, Commanding French Troops Ivory Coast, asks for return of troops from Ivory Coast now in Gold Coast. Failing our agreement asks if his emissary may visit French troops to ask if any wish to return voluntarily. Admiral Laborde appointed to supreme command in Dakar. French Navy becoming more and more anti-British. Suggested reply to Schmitt (Governor, Gold Coast, no T.O.O/21) Received from F.O. at 0830/21)

CUMBERLAND

To be sailed for Freetown, and to locate possible enemy raiders or supply ships in unfrequented areas. (C. in C., S.A. 1612/21) My 1612 cancelled and instructions amended. (C. in C., 1935/21)

DORSETSHIRE )  
DELHI )

To patrol certain areas and arrive Freetown 30/7 and 28/7 respectively. (C. in C., S.A. 1726/21) Merchant ships likely to be met at sea. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1947/21)

Italian Consul

N.A. Rio de Janeiro reports Italian Consul at Bello Horizonte travelling Portuguese COLONIAL leaving Pernambuco 21/7 for Portugal. Suggest interception. (C. in C., S.A. 1802/21)

A.M.C's

Admty., 1127/3. Excluding ASTURIAS, required for duty off E. Coast South America. 9 A.M.C's are available for escort duties. Boiler cleaning after each round trip not possible unless at least one additional A.M.C. provided for escort. (C. in C., S.A. 1821/21)

Convoy C.L.2.

Sailing Telegram (N.O.I.C. Durban 1737/21)

DRAGON  
Duala

Admiral Platon returned here tonight. Whole place upset by this visit and deeply suspicious. Yesterday I protested in writing to Tobregne of secret arrival of these agents from enemy occupied port (Brest) Governor returning tomorrow week in time for conference at which think he must indicate his true position. Platon's trip objectionable and causing indignation. (DRAGON, 2110/21 to C. in C., S.A.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operation Hurry (A/C for  $h_{21/2}$ )

Ref. operation with ARGUS now proceeding (Operation Hurry) If situation admits intend detaching ARK ROYAL and HOOD at dusk evening before final approval to carry out dawn air attack on Cagliari Aerodrome simultaneously with flying off Hurricanes from ARGUS. Object to reduce subsequent scale of enemy air attacks and create diversion. Intend also planting "cucumbers" recklessly at ~~exit~~ entrance Cagliari Harbour. This should not interfere with fighter protection for ARGUS. (F.O.C. Force H 1009/21)

Exercises

Your 1401/14. If it is your intention to take part of Force H to sea during week commencing 22/7 Adty. should be advised as it may be desired to combine any such exercises with the interception of some important ships proceeding to Spanish ports. (1st S.L., 1405/21 to V.A. Force H.)

Your 1405/21. Insufficient destroyers are available for battleships. Intend ARK ROYAL ENTERPRISE and 3 destroyers carry out exercises to westward on 23/7 and 24/7. (F.O. Force H., 2009/21)

Operations

Operations intended. Convoys, etc., Ships involved, NUBIAN, MOHAWK, LIVERPOOL, CAPETOWN and destroyers. (C. in C., Med., 1455/21)

General

PHOENIX  
Overdue

Submarine PHOENIX now 4 days overdue and must be considered lost. Was patrolling off Sicilian coast and last heard of at 2350/14. (C. in C., Med. 0943/21)

Malta, Morale.

Beneficial effect of British success on morale. Request to be able to release locally information as soon as B.B.C. and preferably some time before. (V.A. Malta, 1135/2)

/Flagship.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- General. Contd.

Flagship

H.A. 1. B.S. to hoist his flag in MALAYA permanently on 23/7 (C. in C., Med., 1223/21)

Ammunition Reserves

Reply to Admty. 1914/19 (C. in C., Med., 1245/21) (see Mediterranean Volume)

Tobruk

Air reconnaissance 20/7 reported 5 submarines in harbour (I.C. 0519/40)

Convoy

LIVERPOOL, CAPETOWN and 4 destroyers left Port Said a.m./21 as escort for convoy to the Aegean (D.O.R. 322)

Patrol Ship

NUBIAN and MOHAWK left Alexandria at 1400/21 to intercept a Greek M.V. carrying petrol from Corinth to Dodecanese. (D.O.R. 322)

AIR

Balearic Islands

Admty. 0043/20. No truth in report that Italian reconnaissance aircraft are operating from Majorca. Ala Littoria service, however, between Rome-Palma continues. (Palma, Mallorca, 1110/21)

Malta Raids

Three raids to date- first 0300, several bombs dropped and Hal Far machine gunned, damage very slight. Second at 1000 by three bombers and 16 fighters. Third at 1050 by three bombers and six fighters - one bomber shot down. One Swordfish sent to look for bomber failed to return. London flying boats also searching, attacked by two fighters at 1500 and shot one down. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2101/21)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Ships for  
Mediterranean.

Lack of ships capable of dealing with enemy air attack in Eastern Mediterranean. Suggesting transfer of CARLISLE and one or two convoy sloops to Mediterranean. Request your remarks (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., E.I. 0122/21)

French  
Armistice

My 0754/20. S.N.O. Red Sea 20/7 states new armistice terms produced and Governor reported to have accepted but attitude of G.O.C. -unknown. G. O. C. Middle East reports conditions of armistice not known. (C. in C., E.I., 0532Z/21 to Adty.)

Enemy  
Transmission

D.F. position 0042/20. Penang and Awarua 23 11 (Corrupt group) German mobile unit. 005 degs. 30' South, 083 degs 00' East. (C.O.I.C., Far East, Singapore, 1201Z/21)

HOBART  
Bombed

At 1325Z/21 when in position 014° 25' North 041° 25' East H.M.A.A. HOBART was attacked by two S 81 Italian aircraft. First attack two bombs dropped both missed. Aircraft driven off. Second attack by single aircraft one bomb dropped and missed, aircraft continued to shadow. H.M.A.S. HOBART reports bombs very large probably 1000 pounds. (C. in C., E.I. 0756/22)

China

Convoy U.S.4.

Asking if EMPRESS OF JAPAN can arrive Sydney a few days before 23/8 and whether refugees could still be conveyed. Her place in conveyance of New Zealand troops will probably be taken by MAURETANIA (D. of S.T. to Cdre. Hong Kong 1941/21)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Convoy T.C.6.

ANTONIA, slowest ship, precludes arrival in daylight 31/7, except in most favourable ~~weather~~ weather and with element of risk. Intend to work to 1/8 as date of arrival. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1114/21)

Raider Action

(D-NIDDER)  
Summary of report of Chief Officer DAVISIAN of sinking of ship by German raider NARVIK on 10/7. (Paterson, Puerto Plata, 1245/21) Details from survivors (do., 1850/21) Raider description (D.T.D., 1930/21 to N.C.S.O)

H X 61

Data and route (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1232/21)

Australia

CANBERRA  
U.S. 4.

Now usefully employed on South Atlantic Trade route. Unless you particularly wish her to commence escort duty with convoy U.S. 4 at Sydney, propose she should arrive Fremantle about one week before convoy leaves that port. (D.O.D. (F) to A.C.N.B., 0119/21)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CHALOTTE  
SCHLIEHMANN

Moving to outer berth alongside and shows indication of leaving shortly. (Las Palmas, 1115/21)

HUNDSECK

At Seville. Fire on board 16/7, spontaneous combustion wine yeast. Considerable damage to cargo. (I.C. 0519/40)

LUVSEE

Left Triest for Zelinicka Y.S. on 17/7 likely to be held up for cargo of beauxite owing insufficiency of stocks (I.C. 0519/40)

DELOS

Was due at ~~Baila~~ 20/7 from Batum (I.C. 0519/40)

ITHAKA  
LARISSA }

Are due at Braila about 25/7 (I.C., 0579/40)

HAVELLAND

(Left Manzanillo 27/6) Reported sighted 2 days out flying the Swedish flag. (I.C. 0519/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PIAVE 7565 tons, is believed to have been at Assab on July 14th (I.C. 0519/40)

INTEGRITAS, 5952 tons, which sailed from Colombo on May 30, is believed to have been at Dante in Italian Somaliland on July 19. (I.C., 0519/40)

ARABIA, 5943 tons, at Assab in Italian Britrea, is reported to be trying to find a neutral ship to take her cargo, including ammunition probably of German origin, to the Persian Gulf. (D.S., 22/7)

NEMO seized in prize at Fremantle. Arrived at Port Philip, Melbourne, 21/7 (D.S.)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

LE RHIN

(see North Atlantic)

POLYNESIAN

Motor ship, direct route estimate speed 7 knots ultimate destination Noumea (Port Vila 2141Z/21)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

435

Submarines Reported

- 0610 One submarine submerged in position 56.15N 2.21 W course 302° speed 1 knot. (Aircraft, 612 Sqdn., 0610/21)  
My 0610. Position 56.15 N., 2.12 W., course 87 speed 1 knot (Aircraft 612 Sqdn. 0645/21) later cancelled (D.S. 22/7)
- 0319 By aircraft 60.53' N., 02.41'E., (D.S.)(see submarines attacked)
- 1100 Suspected submarine contact (FOWEY 1100/21)  
Wreck in position 56.24 N., 2.15 W., (C. in C., Rosyth, 1145/21)
- 1603 S.W. of the Naze, position indefinite (I.C., 0519/40)

No German submarine seen Villa Real de Santo Antonio, but 2 Spanish submarines sighted at 11 hours off Cape Carcociro steering south (Lisbon, 1133/21)

Estimated Dispositions

- 1 in Western Approaches or may have moved south.
- 1 reaching Western Approaches from the North.
- 2 in norther North Sea homeward bound.
- 1 small U/B possibly on patrol W. of Sogue Fiord.
- (I.C. 0518/40)

Submarines Attacked

- 0319 By aircraft 60.53' N., 2.41 E., 88° Muckle Flugga 102' 1 hit claimed. (I.C. 0518/40) (aircraft 269 Sqdn., 0319/21) Attacked with salvo of 3 250 lb bombs from 400 ft. Fell 10 yards 3 points on port bow. U-Boat had not dived and was seen to heel over by air gunner. Later pilot and W/T operator saw underside of U-Boat which broke surface and sank, disappeared upside down. No oil seen but swirl of bubbles as it sank. (Donibristle 0700/21, 1640/21)
- 1445 Have attacked firm contact in position 58° 27' 30" N., 02° 32' W., Some oil and metal have come to surface. Rejoining convoy at 1600. Am ~~marking~~ buoying position (WESTON, 1445/21) Probably a wreck (I.C. 0519/40)





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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

436

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Attacked

2139/19

*Not confirmed  
by Airs. Comd.*

My 2139/19, attack on submarine by BERYL and flying boats. Consider now attack successful R.A.F. consider their attack was on another submarine and successful, but consider it a possibility only. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 2101/21)



War Diary

22.7.1940.  
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

437

Dutch Shipping

Transocean 21/7 reports that coastal shipping is said to have been resumed in Holland: 400 Dutch vessels have been granted permission to leave port by the Reich Bureau for Sea Shipping.

Air- British Air Activity

Ynuiden was attacked early this morning; hits were made on the dock basin and also on docks and oil tanks in the Amsterdam area.

8 Skuas left the Shetlands to attack the railway near Bergen early today, but failed to locate their targets. Shipping in the local fiords was attacked instead and one patrol boat was sunk. (P 480)

Normal patrols were flown today, also photographic reconnaissance of Ems, Dortmund Emden, Wilhelmshaven and Cherbourg.

17 mines were laid in the indicated area.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy aircraft caused considerable damage last night at Albert Dock Station at Leith docks, but shipping and main traffic were not affected. Duff House, Banff was bombed and 4 German prisoners were killed and 23 injured.

Enemy aircraft approached our convoys, which were generally protected by fighters, but no attack occurred.

Mining

As sequel to recent enemy minelaying activity 27 magnetic mines were destroyed and one recovered today; this constitutes a record for one day. Portsmouth, Rosyth, Workington, Silloth, Falmouth, Plymouth, Newhaven, Fishguard, Tyne-Blyth inshore channel, Swansea, Holyhead and Kyles of Bute were consequently closed. Liverpool was closed at 0130 but was reopened 12 hours later. Milford Haven was closed for a few hours this morning.

/H.M.Trawler.....

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

H.M. Trawler CAMPINA was mined and sunk off Holyhead today; 3 ~~of crew of 13 were~~ *casualties.*

A minefield is to be laid across the south entrance to St. George's Channel to seaward of a line joining Trevoise Head and Hartland Point, with a gap 10 miles wide.

4 destroyers from Harwich will be attached to R.A.M.L. during the operation of laying the minefield.

Italian Hostilities

C. in C., Med., reported today that at 2330/7 HASTY, screening the Fleet about 80 miles North of Alexandria attacked and is believed to have destroyed a U-boat which was sighted on the surface. An hour and a half later HASTY, attacked a second U-boat which C. in C., Med., considers to have certainly damaged or sunk.

COLOMBO on passage to Mombasa was bombed off the southern corner of Italian Somaliland today; she was straddled but is undamaged. (p. 451)

HOBART was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy aircraft in the Red Sea yesterday. (p. 432)

It is reported from Palma, Majorca that on 18/7 an Italian reconnaissance aircraft landed near Manacor, having run out of fuel. Fuel was supplied and plane left within half an hour.

There have been 64 air raids on Malta since Italy declared war, the maximum number of bombers in any one raid being 25. The Italians have tried for military objectives but their bombing is inaccurate and damage to these objectives has been superficial. Dockyard work was disturbed for only a short time in earlier raids. It is known that 11 Italian planes have been destroyed and 8 others badly damaged. In view of the meagre defences the Governor suggests that the Italians should be allowed to believe they are causing heavy damage, since minimisation of the effect of their raids produces intensification.



War Diary

22.7.1940.  
Monday

439

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Burning of  
Oil Fuel and  
Petrol

Adty's 1945/20. Owing to local conditions it is agreed with Military that this is unsuitable for Clyde Sub-Command. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1845/22 to Adty.)

Destroyers  
based on  
Portsmouth in-  
stead of Dover.

V.A. Dover's 1253/21. Concur (C. in C., Portsmouth 1850/22)

Fighter Aircraft  
Proposed alter-  
ation of Rules as  
to Recognition  
and Approach

Your 1557/12. Concurrence and proposals (C. in C., Portsmouth 1907/22 to Adty.)

U.P. Defence of  
Dover Harbour

Please advise whether this being installed at any other Port and whether firing at Dover is controlled by A/A Defence Commander. (Air Ministry DA 1900/22 to Adty.)

Movements

Home Fleet

The Fleet has reverted to 4 hours notice for steam. (C. in C., H.F. 1043/22)

Submarines

Positions and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/23 in Area A.  
TRITON XZMF 5720 TRIDENT ~~5720~~ SNAPPER  
PCMF 5025 THAMES JZUB 3030.  
H 31 in H one and H.2 leaving p.m. for Blyth H 28 YXTA 1022 in H.50 CPSC 5555 H.34 LSWT 0855 proceeding on surface to Lowestoft.  
TRUANT arraives Rosyth a.m. from North East. NARWHAL RQWT 3010 CLYDE JZGR 1300 WILK JZMF 2010 all three proceeding on surface to DNKG 1613, Dundee and Rosyth respectively. (V.A.S. 1752/22)

Positions and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/23 in Area B.  
TIGRIS vicinity KQQG 4130 CACHALOT leaves Plymouth p.m. escorted for Clyde. (V.A.S. 1754/22)

/M/L Flotillas.....

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HOME COMMANDS

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Movements-Contd.

M/L Flotillas

To assemble at Portsmouth, Peterhead and Holyhead. (D.A/S.W. 1844/22) 1st M/L Flotilla will operate from Stornoway. Request sail M/L's 106 and 108 there now, and 107, 109, 110 when ready. (D.A/S.W. 2036/22 to C. in C., W.A.)

Generator-fitted Drifters

2 to be sailed from Harwich and one from Dover, all to Plymouth to operate under C. in C., W.A. Report names. (D.M.S. 1833/22) Your 1855/22 GOLDEN VIEW and SILVER SEAS (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2051/22)

Iceland

Escort for Troopship leaving Clyde 27th July.

Adty's. 2239/20. Other known commitments this date are 5 for M/L Squadron, which will not leave enough screen for Fleet to proceed to sea. (C. in C., H.F. 1201/22 to 1st S.L.)

Reinforcements

One R.M. Officer, one Sergeant, and 26 other ranks being despatched shortly, with transport, 3 lorries, 2 trucks with trailers. No more Marines or equipment available. (War Office 1625/22 to Alabaster, Reykjavik)

Convoys

Adty. 1307/17 and 2239/20. Names of ships in Fast convoy and Slow convoy. Both should be ready to leave Clyde p.m./27th July, and should be sailed for Reykjavik when ready. (D.O.D.(H) 2003/22 to C. in C., W.A.)

Gironde

Your 2301/19. Consider attack by Motor Boats impracticable. Reasons stated. Prefer attack by destroyers, or combined Naval and Air attack. (C. in C., W.A. 1339/22 to Adty.)

Bordeaux

Your 2009/21. Before Operation Hurry an operation to destroy M/V's in Le Verdon Roads and at Bordeaux by aircraft from ARK ROYAL is to be carried out. Hoped to obtain air R/C before this operation. (D.O.D. F. 2032/22)



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HOME COMMANDS

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E-Boats

E-Boat reported 3 miles S.W. of St. Catherine's Point, steering East, at 1312/22. 3 Blenheims to investigate and attack. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1405/22 to Adty.)

Three, possibly four, craft probably E-Boats steering westerly along French Coast past Cape Blanc Nez at 1550/22 (V.A. Dover 1603/22 to Adty.)

Cherbourg

P.R.U. Sortie today shows no E-Boats at Cherbourg. (P.I.U. 2010/22)

Air- Enemy Air Activity

An even-numbered FN Convoy being attacked by aircraft at VZGR 3058 (WOLFHOUND 0424/22) One aircraft, six bombs, no hits. (WOLFHOUND 0503/22)

Leith

One bomb, probably 1000 lb. dropped 0550/22 on S.E. side Albert Dock. Two smaller bombs east of Edinburgh Dock. One A.F.S. killed, five A.F.S. wounded. No naval damage. (N.O.I.C. Leith 0750/22 to Adty.)

FS.22

Attacked by one aircraft at 0540/22. Four bombs, no hits, aircraft chased away by Fighters. (LOWESTOFT 1841/22)

British Air Activity

Railway at Dale (near Bergen)

8 Skuas left Sumburgh 0130 (Hatston 0145/22 to F.O.C. Orkneys.)



HOME COMMANDS

Mining

St. George's Channel

Minefield dangerous to surface vessels to be laid across S. entrance of St. George's Channel with a gap 10' wide to seaward of line joining Trevoise Head and Hartland Point. To be laid by 1st M/L Squadron and to take precedence of all other operations including East Coast Barrier. (1st S.L. 1044/22)

Plymouth

Port closed owing to Mines. (C. in C., W.A. 0122/22)

Liverpool

Closed due to suspected Minelaying from aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0130/22 to Adty.) Reopened.

Humber

Closed. Minelaying suspected. (F.O. Humber 0140/22 to Adty.) Now open (F.O. Humber, 0735/22)

Falmouth

Port closed owing to Mines (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 0155/22 to Adty.)

Holyhead

Closed. Suspected Magnetic Mines. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0430/22 to Adty.)

Milford Haven

Closed. Further Magnetic Mines laid. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 0731/22 to Adty.) Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1037/22)

Preston

Port Open. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0915/22 to Adty.)

Spurn Point

Two Red Mines exploded 161° Spurn Point Lighthouse 1.8 miles, and 180° eleven cables. (F.O. Humber 0920/22 to C. in C., Nore.)

Workington

Port closed due to suspected aircraft mining. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1225/22)

Liverpool

Minelaying air raid from 0110 to 0125/22 the third M/L Raid this week in which ~~XXX~~ no A/A defensive action taken. Request urgent representations (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1300/22) Port open (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1332/22 to Adty.) Request deaily in defensive action be investigated. (D. of L.D. 1819/22 to Air Ministry)

Swansea

Mine exploded 161° Mumble Head 1.8 miles (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1410/22)

/Holyhead.....



War Diary

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Monday

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining Contd.

Holyhead

H.M. Trawler CAMPINA mined at 1342/22 about 100 yards S. of the Outer Breakwater Light. 3 casualties. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1510/22 to Adty.)

Maryport }  
Silloth }

Mined (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1520/22 to Adty.)

Milford Haven

5 certain, 6 possible Magnetic Mines dropped last night. Six mines exploded yesterday Intend closing Harbour at 2130/22 untill 1100/23 (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801/22 to Adty.)

Plymouth

My 1642/20 Fourth Mine has been destroyed. Night 21/22, 8 mines dropped in sound of which 3 destroyed, and 6 outside breakwater of which 1 destroyed. Port opened, but Sound anchorage not yet safe. (C. in C., W.A. 2009/22 to Adty.)

Liverpool

Six red Magnetic mines exploded by LL sweep in Crosby Channel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2319/22 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Helder

At 0128/22, 5½ miles S.W. of Helder, one large Cargo-Boat and a launch at anchor. (T.H.I. 0307/22)

Bergen

At 0255/22 one M/V anchored in 60° 25' N., 5° 8' E about 600 tons; and one M/V of 4000 tons heading South into Fiord at 60° 37' N 4° 56' E. aircraft report. (Donibristle 0615/22)

Cherbourg

At 1211/22, two small ships entering Harbour from N.E. and two small ships stationary Aircraft report. (Chat~~ter~~ ACHQ. 1500/22)

At 1436/22 at 50° 48' N., 0° 40' W., a fast Motor Boat with 2 men. No Torpedo Tubes or M/G's. At 1500 turned towards Newhaven. (A.C.H.Q., 1620/22)

Havre

At 0340/22, six miles W. of Havre, about 12 vessels believed anchored. (H.Q.B.C. 1934/22)

Poel Island

At 0001/22, two miles N. of Poel Island at 54° N., 12 moderate sized cargo boats at anchor. (H.Q.B.C. 1934/22)

/Trondheim.....





War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Trondheim

2 cruisers and 1 destroyer. Aircraft report (C. in C., Rosyth 2053/22 to Adty.) (Donibristle 2115/22)

Ushant

2 miles from Baie de Stiff, E of Ushant, a large unidentified vessel. (C. in C., W.A. 2100/22 to Adty.)

Shipping

Escort of Channel Convoys

Owing to risk of loss to Destroyers, these Convoys should in future be escorted by A/S Trawlers and should be run on an irregular six-day cycle. (D.O.D(H) 1837/22)

Convoy FS 28

Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0425/22)

Convoy OA 188

To Milford Haven from Bristol LAKEWOOD. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0949/22)

Convoy FN 29

Departure VERDUN at 0600/22 with Convoy. (22) (C. in C., Nore 0920/22) (NCSO Thames 0954/22)

Convoy OAM 188

Destinations (NCSO Methil 0804/22)

Convoy HG 39

Extract from Sailing Telegram (DTD 1127/22) (DTD 1247/22)

→ KYLE FISHER

To be sailed for Methil in FN 30 and in OA 190 leaving Methil 26th July. (C. in C., Rosyth 1515/22 to F.O.I.C. Tyne)

Convoy OA 188

Proceeding up E coast of Scotland and passing Pentland Firth at 0630/23 (ACOS 2010/22)

Convoy FN 29

Expected arrive Outer Dowsing 0500/23 (FLEETWOOD 2130/22 to N.O.I.C. Humber)

Convoy OA 188

Expects arrive Pentland Firth 0730/23 (SKEENA 2153/22 to F.O.C.O.S.)

OA Convoys

Considered that any ship with these convoys carrying valuable cargo, like KYLE FISHER should never be unescorted for any part of journey. (C. in C., Rosyth 2257/21 to Adty)

Convoy FN 30

23rd July. 21 Ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 0652/22)



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0500

WEATHER

Area

Wind

Visibility

Outlook

North Sea North  
South

North Moderate  
West Moderate

Good

Similar

Channel

West. Light

Good to  
very good.

Wind veering  
N.W. Moderat

Western  
Approaches

N.W. Light

Good to  
very good

Wind backing  
S.W. Vis.  
Moderate to  
Good.

Horns Reef

S.W. Moderate

Good to  
very good

Similar

Dutch Coast



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HOME COMMANDS

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS..

CAMPINA

H.M.Trawler. Mined at Holyhead at 1342/22 about 100 yards South of Outer Breakwater light. 3 casualties (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1510/22 to Adty.)

PHOENIX

Submarine. 4 days overdue from operating off Sicily and must be considered lost. (D.O.R. 322)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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447

North Atlantic

Escorts  
Convoys

Escort commitments foreseen about 28/7 or 29/7. Two additional convoys, one fast, one slow, with evacuated Gibraltarians. Request 2 destroyers or escort ships be sailed for Gibraltar to meet extra convoy requirements. (F.O.C.N.A., 1320/22). Remainder of signal see Operations Volume.

South Atlantic

Army H.Q.

H.Q. now established at Accra. (G.O.C. West Africa, 1154/22 to W.O.)

Aircraft  
Freetown

Adty. 1555/17. 7 aircraft from HERMES now landed Wellington aerodrome, Freetown, with 6 pilots, etc. One aircraft as spare will be taken on charge in maintenance pool transferred from Dakar. Flight is being called 814 Sqn. Y Flight, under command of Lt. Com. H.C.N. Rolfe. (C. in C., S.A., 1319/22).

ALCANTARA

To examine Trinidad Island Channel between patrol K.33. Other circumstances permitting keep outside 250 miles from coast. HAWKINS will patrol U.32 (d) and L.32 (b). (R.A.S.A.D., 1632/22).

DRAGON,  
Duala

DRAGON's 2110/21. Governor, Nigeria, signals he considers it essential that DRAGON should remain at Duala until situation becomes clearer. Am loath to leave her there much longer but consider under the circumstances there is no alternative. (C. in C., S.A., 1636/22 to Adty.).

St. Vincent

Re German seamen and Italians landed, and movements of Portuguese guardship. (Consul, St. Vincent, 1611/22).



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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Operation  
Against  
Bordeaux

Considered ARK ROYAL should have not less than 4 destroyers to screen her. -13th Flotilla must be drawn upon if necessary. (1st. S.L. to V.A. Force H., 0205/22)

Admty. 2032/22 and 1812/22. ARK ROYAL, ENTERPRISE and destroyers sail 0630/23 to carry out operation a.m./26 owing to endurance of destroyers speed of advance will be limited to about 15 knots and extent of operations for interception of shipping en route will be strictly limited unless favoured by head winds. (F.O., Force H., 2356/22)

Destroyers  
Available  
Operation  
"Hurry"

F.O.C., Force H., 1110/22, 1314/22 C., in C., 1903/22. See Mediterranean Volume.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean

S.S. SURCOUF (French) Asking if she could be used to transport important stores between Gibraltar, Malta, and Eastern Mediterranean. (F.O.C.N.A., to Adty. 1230/22).

Press  
Communiqués

Urgent consideration being given to your 2225/17. Difficulty of issuing communiqués locally when Fleet is at sea, synchronising Adty. and local communiqués, and inevitable time lag. Request your remarks. (D.P.D. to C. in C., Med., 2005/22).

Malta,  
Situation

64 air raids since Italy declared war. Very few casualties to service personnel. Maximum number of bombers in any one attack 25. Most raids by day, but some by night. Low flying M.G. attacks on a few occasions. Italians have tried for military objectives only, but bombing inaccurate and damage to these superficial. 11 planes confirmed destroyed, 8 other badly damaged. R.N. have maintained R/S and local patrols and probably accounted for several submarines. Dockyard work disturbed only for a short time in earlier raids. Morale high. Minimisation of effect of Italian raids may only produce intensification. Suggest Italian dream of intensive damage done be allowed to continue in view of meagre defence. (Governor, Malta, no T.O.O. 22)

Black Sea

Deutschlandsender 22/7 announced that the Roumanian passenger steamship service from Constanza to Istanbul which had been suspended on the Italians entering into the war would be resumed as from that date.

Italian  
Propaganda

Local Press states Italians consider one British cruiser superior force to two Italian cruisers. We all know it, but suggest B.B.C. gives it an airing. (Belgrade, 1400/22, to Adty.)

U-Boats,  
Evidence

Your 2139/19. Request that in this and all future reports evidence that U-boat was present may be signalled. (D.A.S.W. to F.O.I.C., Malta, 1116/22). Reply (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1659/22).

Shipping,  
Egypt

Requesting names of ships and general contents be given in advance of arrivals of convoys, and recommending shipping control organisation at Bombay or Durban. (C. in C., M.E. to W.O., 1230/22).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean - Air

Balearic Isles

Adty. 0043/20 and S.O.I., Gibraltar 0958/19. No confirmation but S.15 representative reports one Italian military aircraft refuelled at San Juan aerodrome 11/7. (N.A., Madrid, 1325/22).

No Raids

Air intelligence report up to 1800/22, all times local. 0515, A/S patrol, nil report - nil enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q., Malta, 1610/22).

East Indies

Ships Overdue

British ships BLAIRADAN due Rangoon 18/7 and BRITISH INTEGRITY due Abadan 18/7 both from Capetown, overdue. (C. in C., E.I., 0456Z/22). Errors in signal letters. Ships should be KEMMENDINE and BRITISH RESOLUTION (S.O.I., Capetown, 1521/22).

HOBART, air attack

C. in C., E.I., 0756/22 (see 21/7).

Reserve Ammunition

Reserve low as result of SYDNEY's action. Request remarks on possibility of escorting PALESTINIAN PRINCE and MUNCASTER CASTLE ahead of B.N.3 from Aden to Canal area. (C. in C., E.I. to S.N.O. Red Sea, 1140Z/22).

Your 2011/20, re transport of ammunition. See my 1140/22 for PALESTINIAN PRINCE and MUNCASTER CASTLE. DAFILA expected Aden about 10/8 and will sail in B.N.3. No information regarding WAIMANA. (C. in C., E.I., to C. in C., Med., 1144Z/22).

Air Reports (H.Q., Aden, 1740/22, no naval items).

A/A Ships

Adty. 0122/21. Consider wrong to assess future Italian air menace in Aden and Red Sea area on immunity of B.N.1. and B.S.1 from attack. Visibility was bad throughout. Calls on units of Red Sea Force many and each operation requires air protection. Do not consider we are at present over-insured. Suggest position reviewed again after passage of B.N.3 and B.S.3. (C. in C., E.I. to Adty., 1828Z/22)

See Ci eted 2245/24. p 486.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies (Contd.)

COLOMBO BOMBED

H.M.S. COLOMBO bombed by 1 aircraft in position 01:15 S., 42:10 E., at 1320 G.M.T./22. Six bombs dropped, ship straddled but no damage. (C. in C., E.I., 1708/22).

China

EMPRESS OF JAPAN

Date of sailing for Australia with evacuees from Hong Kong. (Cdre. I.C., H.K., 0335Z to D. of S.T.).

KANIMBLA

Your 1544/21. Should it be decided to send A.M.C's from China Station, KANIMBLA most suitable. Present position and movements. (C. in C., China, to C. in C., E.I., 0829Z/22).

Evacuation

Re family evacuation from Hong Kong, plans, numbers, etc. (G.O.C., Hong Kong, to C.G.S., Melbourne, 1900/22).

America & West Indies

ANTONIA

Now expected Halifax 1300/23 and can be ready to sail in 3 hours. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1121/22).

Raider Sinkings

Summary reports by ships' officers DAVISIAN and KING JOHN, sunk by NARVIK 10/7 and 13/7. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1124/22, 1456/22).

Raider Identity

My 1159/20. Further sifting of evidence shows raider more closely resembles STOLZENFELS. German shipwrights all busy on camouflage. (DIOMEDE, 1617/22).

Suspicious Ship

Asking for confirmation that British ~~ship~~<sup>ship</sup> ESME<sup>\*</sup> sighted suspicious motor vessel flying Swedish flag on 18/7 between Saba and Tortola, Leeward Isles. (D.D.I.C. to S.O.I., Jamaica, 1706/22, 1949/22).

\* not identified

Your 1706/22. \* ESME not at Kingston, possibly St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Reporting officer, St. Thomas requested to investigate. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2115/22).



GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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452

DELOS Arrived Galatz. (Galatz, 1149/22).  
LARISSA Still awaiting orders Sulina (Galatz, 1149/22).  
REKUM Left Teneriffe 17/7. Advising North Patrol could arrive patrol 23/7. (F.O.C.N.P. 1419/22).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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ENDERTA }  
AMBA/ALAGI } At Shanghai, reported intending to  
FURIERE, CONSOLINI } proceed immediately to Japan under  
GRANATIERE, PADULA } charter to Yamashita flying Japanese flag.  
(S.O.I. Shanghai, 0829Z/22).  
To be intercepted if met regardless of flag  
and sent to Hong Kong in prize. (C. in C.,  
China, 1438Z/22).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

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CAGOU Arrived 22/7 (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 0600Z/22).  
LANGUEDOC At Trinidad. Requisitioning completed. One officer  
9 men remaining under British flag, remainder ashore  
here. Full complement could be completed locally  
but suggest survivors ex DAVISIAN or KING JOHN might  
be employed. (S.N.O. Trinidad, 1746/22).



War Diary

22.7.40.  
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

453

Ships Attacked

H.M. Trawler Sunk by mine 100 yds. S. of Outer Breakwater Light  
CAMPINA at 1342/22. 3 of crew saved out of 13 (I.C. 0520/40).

A/Y ZAZA Missed by torpedo 1050/22 51:11 N., 5:30 W. B.5.  
(I.C. 0520/40).

Submarines Reported

Possibility of one U-boat being on patrol West of  
Sogne Fiord. (R.A.(S) to submarines on Patrol  
0021/22).

- 1050 U/B reported in position 285° Hartland Point 38 miles  
reliable fix. BROKE and MACKAY ordered to attack.  
(C. in C., W.A., 1129/22).
- 0610 U/B on surface later diving reported off Cape Cornwall  
steering north. (C. in C., W.A. 1144/22) 50:08 N.,  
05:47 W., reported by aircraft. (I.C. 0520/40).
- 0113 Unknown submarine encountered on surface by  
submarine H.34. Dived in position 53:01 N.,  
3:46 E., course north. Visibility maximum 7/10  
4000 ft. (H.34 2205/22).
- 1310 50:01 N., 03:39 W., about 13 m. S. from Start Point  
South Devon. 2 periscopes reported by aircraft.  
(B.5) (I.C. 0520/40).

Estimated Dispositions

2 in Western Approaches, one of which may be further  
south (I.C., 0519/40).

War Diary

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Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

454

Submarines Attacked

1028 Aircraft bombing U-boat 58:19 N., 2:31 W. Am proceeding attack. ST LAURENT in company. (ROCHESTER, 1028/22). Attacked with dive bombs, estimate 4 hits. (Aircraft 612 Sqdn., 1028/22). My 1028. ST. LAURENT in contact, attacking. (ROCHESTER 1052/22). ZULU, FIREDRAKE and 4 trawlers proceeding to hunt. (F.O.C.O.S., 1158/22 to ROCHESTER)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Attacked

At 2339/7 in 032:35 N. 028:30 E. while screening fleet HASTY sighted Italian U-boat on surface at 1000 yards. Attack carried out with full pattern, conning tower passing close down starboard side strong smell of oil after attack. Five minutes later four heavy underwater explosions heard. Consider attack successful. Depth of water 1440 fathoms.

At 0100/8 three miles from previous attack a confirmed contact was obtained while rejoining Fleet. A deliberate attack carried out. Again strong smell of oil but nothing else noticed Consider this was a second submarine possibly sunk certainly damaged. (C. in C., Med., 1133/22).

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 1945).
- (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 Diary23.7.40.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORTNaval MovementsE-Boats

E-boats were reported last night off the North Foreland, Nieuport, the Isle of Wight, Start Point and Dieppe.

ARGUS

~~ARGUS and 2 M.Vs with 4 destroyers left U.K. for Gib. today.~~

Enemy Force sighted

At 2215/23 our aircraft sighted an enemy force of 8 destroyers and 6 camouflaged merchant ships of about 2500 tons each some 90 miles W.S.W. of Lister steering a north-westerly course. C. in C., H.F. thought it likely the enemy were engaged on a minelaying operation, and the battle cruisers, 5 cruisers and 6 destroyers at Scapa, and also the Humber Force of 1 cruiser and 4 destroyers were brought to short notice in case the enemy continued their course to the north-westward. Submarine THAMES on patrol S.W. of Norway, was ordered to a position to intercept the force if it should turn back. Before midnight 9 Skuas and 6 Swordfish left to attack. The Skuas failed to find the enemy and 2 of them crashed on landing; but a Swordfish attacked one of 3 destroyers, the other 5 being apparently detached, and claimed a hit with a torpedo. The enemy were then further north-west but were steering a south-easterly course, on which they were again sighted at 0735/24.

AirBritish Air Activity

Air reconnaissance shows no abnormal activity or concentration of shipping in any port from Hamburg to Lorient.

Air reconnaissance of Bordeaux was carried out today prior to an operation to be carried out by aircraft from ARK ROYAL. One 15,000 ton merchant vessel was seen at the quayside with steam up and there were 26 merchant vessels in the river and 18 in dock, also a floating dock and 3 floating cranes. There was little sign of activity on the quays and roads. ARK ROYAL and ENTERPRISE left Gibraltar at dusk today for the Biscayan area.

War Diary23.7.40.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORTAir (Contd.)Enemy Air Activity

There was considerable enemy air activity last night over a wide area, but damage was slight and casualties few. Pembroke and Milford Haven appear to have been among the most heavily bombed places. The northbound convoy FN escorted by WOLFHOUND was attacked off the Wash at 0424 today and again at 0510, without damage. The FS convoy escorted by GUILLEMOT was shadowed but not attacked. M/S trawlers off the North Goodwin were attacked this morning and 3 were slightly damaged. The North Goodwin and South Falls Light Floats were attacked and the light of the latter was extinguished.

Mining

Enemy minelaying last night was again on an extensive scale, and is believed to have occurred in Firth of Forth, at Harwich, North Foreland, Milford Haven, and is suspected at Portsmouth and along the coast from Farne Is. to Aberdeen. Tyne, Sunderland, Newhaven, Falmouth, Fishguard, Maryport, Silloth, Workington, Kyles of Bute and Belfast are closed. Rosyth, Liverpool, and Milford Haven were reopened early pm.

Complaint has been made at Liverpool of the inactivity of the Air Defences during the recent minelaying air raids in the area on 4 nights out of 7, and the Air Ministry have been asked to investigate.

<sup>THE</sup> S.S. LADY MOSTYN was mined and sunk in the Mersey at 0400<sup>^</sup> today and the port, which had been reopened yesterday afternoon, was again closed.

NARWHAL has sailed to lay mines off the coast of Norway.

British magnetic mining of the Sound appears to be effective. N.A. Stockholm reports that since yesterday all ferries and all traffic both German and Swedish has stopped and the Germans are now sweeping near Elsinore and both north and south of Saltholm. The Swedish press states that a large German ship was mined just south of Copenhagen on 16/7 and another off Elsinore on 20/7.

Motala Radio on 21/7 states that S.S. GRETH (Swedish 1540 tons) was mined early that day a mile S.S.W. of Drogden L.V., inside Danish territorial waters; the ship is believed to be afloat and on her way to Copenhagen.

SITUATION REPORT

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Italian Hostilities

A Sunderland flying boat from Malta today attacked 3 merchant ships and 3 tankers escorted by a destroyer off Cape Spartivento and claimed 2 hits on a merchant ship. Later, the 3 tankers with one merchant ship were observed at Augusta.

Reuter reports that the Rumanian authorities have as from today lifted the ban on shipping in Rumanian territorial waters. Mines which were recently laid off Constanza and Sulina have been removed.



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War Diary23.7.40.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K.Largo Bay

First quarter-mile of Anti-Boat Boom Device now moored off Leven Beach by N.C.S. Drifters. Further sections will be proceeded with as quickly as they can be constructed. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1717/23 to C. in C., Rosyth).

A/A Organisa-  
tion at  
Portsmouth

Am in entire agreement with last clause of C. in C. Portsmouth 1907/22. (C. in C. Nore, 0921/23 to Adty.)

Adty. 1557/17. Concur with Para. 2 as amended by C. in C., Portsmouth 1907/22. Ref. C. in C. Rosyth 1231/18 Para. B. confusion of bursts is of less importance than early attack on target. (C. in C., H.F. 1841/23 to Adty.).

PolicyShetlands

Ammunition and equipment required to bring Naval and Military Forces to state of efficiency. (F.O.C.S. 1921/23 to 1st Lord).

Movements4 Harwich  
destroyers  
required during  
laying of W.A.  
minefield

C. in C., Nore is requested to lend 4 destroyers of good endurance to C. in C. H.F. while minefield in Western Approaches is being laid. They should arrive Scapa pm 24th July and will be required about a fortnight. (DO.D.H. 1219/23 to C. in C., Nore). Four A class destroyers to be lent. Report names. (C. in C. Nore, 1256/23 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

## DUNCAN

Request estimated date when ready for sea. (C. in C., H.F. 1749/23 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Humber Force

To raise steam with all despatch. (1st S.L. 2337/23 to C. in C., Nore).



War Diary23.7.40.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSMovements (Contd.)Submarines

Positions and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/24 in area A:  
 TRIDENT, TRITON, SNAPPER, THAMES, H.50 as in my 1752/22.  
 H.28 H one and H two.  
 H.31 YZSC 4540 proceeding submerged by day to Blyth.  
 NARWHAL PCSC 5020 proceeding on the surface to DNXG 1613.  
 WILK and TRUANT due Rosyth am from North Eastward.  
 URSULA and SPEARFISH leave Blyth 0600 unescorted on the surface to Rosyth.  
 PORPOISE leaves Blyth 0700 unescorted on the surface to Immingham.

Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/24 in area B:  
 TIGRIS vicinity KQQG 4130.  
 CACHALOT leaves Plymouth 0830 escorted for Clyde. (V.A.S. 1744/23).

OperationsOperation "Nightingale"

Object to destroy Enemy M/Vs and Barges moving along French Coast. M.T.Bs to leave Dover when ordered by signal. (V.A. Dover, 1216/23 to Adty.)

Three M.T.Bs will leave Dover 2130/23 for Operation "Nightingale" between Boulogne and Calais (V.A. Dover 1735/23 to Adty.)

Against Reported Enemy Force

Striking Force of Skuas and Swordfish has left Hatston to attack Force reported by aircraft of 224 Sqdn. 5 cruisers and 6 destroyers at one hours notice and Battle-cruisers at 2½ hours notice. (C. in C., H.F. 2327/23 to Adty.)

THAMES proceed to 57:20 N., 4:40 E. to intercept Force reported in C. in C., Rosyth 2225 if they double back. The force may be minelaying. (V.A.S. 2336/23). See also submarines.

E-Boats

Two M.T.Bs bearing 090:2 course 090 position 51:18 N., 2:37 E. (Aircraft 500 Sqdn. 0045/23 to R.A.F. Chatham).

E-Boat operating near North Foreland (C. in C., Nore 0135/23 to VIVACIOUS).



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War Diary23.7.40.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSE-Boats (Contd.)

At 1642, 10' W. of Treport, one E-Boat steering South at high speed. (I.C. 0521/40).

2 E-Boats at about 0300/23 at 51:18 N. 2:37 E. course 090 speed 20 knots for Ostend. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0414/23).

At 0001/23 three small ships size M.T.Bs at 50:3 N., 3:17 W. course 270° speed 12 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 0416/23 to WITHERINGTON).

3 M.T.Bs bearing 060° my position 49:55 N., 1:1 E. (Aircraft 53 Sqdn. 1237/23).

At 0503/23 an E-boat reported bearing 048° from South Foreland (I.C. 0520/40).

SubmarinesSubmarine Patrols

Particulars of Submarine Patrols off Norwegian Coast and Texel during forthcoming dark night period. (V.A.S. 1152/23 to Adty.).

THAMES

To patrol near 57:15 N., 4:0 E. (R.A.S. 1939/23). See also Operations.

AirBritish Air ActivityHelder

2 M/Vs about 600 tons and 4 smaller ones attacked at anchor at 2205/22 in basin S.W. of Helder. Direct hit and large fire started. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0145/23).

At 0230/23 in 50:40 N. 1:30 E. nine Barges attacked and two direct hits claimed (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0515/23).

Nine Skuas left Hatston 2330/23 to attack Enemy reported at 2215/23 at 57:35 N., 3:56 E. Returning to Dyce 0330. (Hatston 2335/23). Torpedo Force of six Swordfish left 2345. Returning to Dyce 0430 (Hatston 2356/23).

War Diary23.7.40.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSAir (Contd.)Enemy Air Activity

Granton Incendiary bombs were dropped at 0023/23. No naval damage.

BROCK )  
ARLEY ) M/S trawlers, attacked by 8 aircraft with bombs and M/Gs about 3' East of North Goodwin at 1120/23. ARLEY leaking slightly and D.G. gear damaged. (V.A. Dover 1215/23).

FIREFLY )  
WARDOUR ) M/S trawlers, attacked by aircraft while  
WINDWARD HO ) sweeping. WARDOUR and WINDWARD HO damaged and returned Sheerness. No casualties. (C. in C., Nore, 2205/23).

Mining.

Mersey Reference Adty. 1819/22, request consideration of defences against M/L Aircraft by A/A fire, Balloons, and Interceptor Aircraft. (Air Ministry 0001/23 to Fighter Command).

Rosyth Closed. Magnetic mines. (C. in C., Rosyth 0141/23). Port open (C. in C., Rosyth, 1351/23).

Thames Estuary Enemy aircraft observed dropping mines at 51:27 N., 1:26 E. (WALPOLE 0148/23).

Arbroath Magnetic Mine suspected off Arbroath. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0207/23 to ROCHESTER). Sound plot indicates possible enemy aircraft minelaying from Farne Island to Aberdeen, particularly N. of May Island and off Arbroath. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0224/23).

Portsmouth Port suspected mined. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0424/23 to STURDY).

Liverpool Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0650/23). Liverpool opened 1015. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1100/23).

War Diary23.7.40.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSMining (Contd.)Swansea and  
Port Talbot)

Now open to D.G. Ships. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0930/23).

Milford Haven

Port closed till further notice. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0954/23). Port open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1521/23).

Firth of Forth

Area dangerous from Magnetic mines defined. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1453/23).

St. George's  
Channel

Adty. 1044/22 and my 1818/23. Am still of opinion that Minefield as much handicap to our forces as to enemy forces. Ref. Adty. QZF.14 consider important that Gap should be swept as soon as Sweepers available to ensure our control of passage. (C. in C. W.A. 2329/23).

Mining of the  
Sound

British Magnetic mining of the Sound appears effective. All Ferries and traffic stopped since 22nd. and 2 German steamers reported mined (N.A. Stockholm 1835/23 to D.N.I.)

Enemy Intelligence

At 0001/23 in 50:3 N., 3:17 W. 3 small ships size of M.T.Bs (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0200/23).

At 1230/23 in 53:17 N., 4:52 E. 4 small M.Vs about 500 tons on course 240°. (Donibristle, 1525/23).

At 1621/23 unidentified Enemy Unit, probably surface craft, at 57:30 N., 3:0 E. D/F report. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1654/23).

SYSQUEZ

Learn, B.3., this Norwegian Tanker leaves Oslo pm/23rd. bound Trondjhem with 5000 tons aviation spirit. (N.A. Stockholm 1945/23 to D.N.I.)

War Diary23.7.40.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSBordeaux

At Quayside one 15,000-ton M.V. with steam up at 2045/23, 13 small M/Vs on W. Quayside and 8 in river opposite. (C. in C., W.A. 2045/23 to 15 Group). At least 26 M.Vs in river and 18 in dock. 25 barges in mid-stream. Photographic Report. (C. in C., W.A. 0150/24).

8 Enemy destroyers and 6 M/Vs camouflaged 2500 tons at 1958/23 in 57:18 N., 4:23 E. Course? 335° speed 10 knots. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 2150/23). 6 M/Vs and 3 destroyers at 57:35 N., 3:56 E. course 315° 10 knots, and 5 destroyers widely spread at 57:36 N., 3:44 E. course 305° 14 knots at 2215/23. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 2225/23)(C. in C. Rosyth 0042/24 to Adty.)

At 1942/23 an unknown Armed Vessel stationary at 50:0 N., 1:0 W. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2359/23 to Adty.)

Hague

At 1200/23 a Grey Ship about 5000 tons in Basin either Depot ship or armed transport. Gun platform forward. Aircraft report. (H.Q.B.C. 0232/24).

Treport

At 1642/23, ten miles W. of Treport, one M.T.B. heading suth. (H.Q.B.C. 0232/24).

Calais

At 1850/23 between Dunkirk and Calais 1½ miles off shore, 5 large M/Vs, four stationary and one heading West. (H.Q.B.C. 0232/24).

At 1958/23 in 57:18 N., 4:23 E. 6 M.Vs and 8 destroyers, course 315°, speed 10 knots. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 0015/24 to C. in C., Rosyth).

At 1215/23, 3' off Obrestad, one M/V, 2000 tons, course 180° speed 10 knots. (I.C. 0521/40).

Shipping

- Convoy OB.190 Positions (C. in C., W.A. 0843/23).
- Convoy FN.28 Arrived 0730/23rd. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0859/23).
- Convoy OA.191 Route. (C. in C., W.A. 0842/23).
- Convoy SL.39 Route (C. in C., W.A. 0841/23).
- Convoy HX.56 Arrived 0645/23. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0911/23).
- Convoy WN.3 Intended sailing for Methil at 1030/25. About 28 ships. Request Air escort. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1244/23). Route, (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1715/23).

War Diary23.7.40.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSShipping (Contd.)Increased Shipping in Convoys

Reference Conference of 19th July in Trade Division, detailed schedule for sailing and escort of OA, OB, HX, and SL. Convoys proposed. (C. in C., W.A. 1313/23 to Adty.)

## LE TIGER

Establish A/S patrol off Cape Wrath to protect Convoys. To be called Cape Wrath Patrol. (A.C.O.S. 1234/23 to LE TIGER).

Unescorted Ships OA.188

I share anxiety expressed in your 2257/21, which is not allayed by Adty.'s 2217/22. Some safety might result from use of Sounds of Mull and Islay by unescorted Ships. (C. in C., H.F. 1241/23 to C. in C. KXF. Rosyth). Your 1241/23. Not possible Escort for Coastal portion of OA.188 on 24th, but will provide Escort in future between Skerryvore and Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. 2044/23 to C. in C., H.F.).

Air Warnings to Convoys

F.O.I.C. Portland states sometimes possible to warn CE and CW Convoys that Air Attack imminent. Concur with his proposals and consider procedure should be applied to whole Channel Area. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2113/23 to Adty.)

## Convoy R.S.5

Route (C. in C., W.A. 2228/22 to Adty.)

## Convoy H.G.39

Personnel of Passengers. Sailed 21st July. (F.O.C.N.A. 1430/23).

War Diary23.7.1940.  
TuesdayWEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
North Sea	W. to N.W. Light	Fair to cloudy	Good. Slight coastal haze.
Horns Reef Dutch Coast	W.N.W. Light to moderate	Fair to cloudy	Mainly Good
S.W. Norway	W. to N.W. Light	Fair to cloudy	Good
Channel	W. Light Backing in Western Channel	Cloudy	Good
Western Approaches	S.S.E. to S. Light	Occasional rain	Moderate to Good.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTSEMPIRE DEFIANCE

Broke down at 53° 47' N., 4° 37' W.,  
YORK CITY standing by. (ENCHANTRESS 2117/23  
to F.O.C., W.A.)

KEGG  
KOLLSEBY

Refloated off Dunnose and re-grounded at  
St. Catherines high tide 0200/23. Hoped  
tow off next spring tide. (C. inC.,  
Portsmouth 2148/23 to Adty.)

War Diary23.7.1940  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticDestroyers for  
Convoy Escorts

Your 1320/22. Out of the question to spare additional destroyers or escort ships from home waters. (D.O.D. (F), 1246/23).

Italian Aircraft  
at Majorca

Consul Palma Majorca reports: It is now certain on 18/7 1 Italian reconnaissance aircraft landed near Manacor having run out of fuel. Fuel was supplied and plane left within half hour ends. Aircraft may have been one of those which bombed Gibraltar. (S.O. (1) Gib. 1012/23, Palma Malorca 1600/22) (1014/23)

N.A. Madrid 1325/22. FAULKNER was bombed in 35° 52' N., 3° 46' W., at 1330/11. 6 bombs probably 250 pounder less, assuming ones dropped on Force H previously were 500 pound. Also please see my 1012 July 23rd last paragraph. (S.O.(1) Gib., 1212/23 to D.N.I.)

TIGRIS

F.O.C. Force H., 1020/23. Propose TIGRIS be instructed to move patrol north of 46° 40' N., by 1200/26 and carry out patrol of Loire until completion of patrol (C. in C., W.A. 1714/23)

South AtlanticCANBERRA

A.C.N.B. to inform S.N.O. Simonstown date she will arrive at Fremantle and date to sail from Cape. (C. in C., S.A. 1050/23)

COLONIAL

Italian Consul to be removed (A.C.N.S. (F) 1327/23 to C. in C., S.A., C. in C., S.A. 1732/23 to ALCANTARA, VINDICTIVE, BULOLO, DORSETSHIRE, MILFORD, DELHI, MALOJA)





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War Diary23.7.1940.  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanF.A.A., Flag.

As FURIOUS and ARK ROYAL are unlikely to be working together for some time as ILLUSTRIOUS and EAGLE will both be in Eastern Mediterranean it is proposed that V.A.A. should shift his flag from ARK ROYAL to ILLUSTRIOUS when these ships meet (1st. S.L., 0300/23)

Force "H"

My 2356/22. Ships unable to sail owing to fog. Operation postponed. (F.O., Force H., 0914/23).

Operation  
"Hurry"

Admty. 2032/22. Examination of Le Verdon anchorage indicates suitability for aircraft torpedo attack. Bordeaux only suitable for bomb attack, which it is suggested could be carried out more effectively from U.K. V.A.A. would prefer to concentrate effort on Le Verdon. ARK ROYAL sails (date of attack) (Earliest date for commencement of Operation "Hurry") F.O., Force H., 1020/23)

SURCOUF

Your 1230/22. Question already under examination, but it is improbable that early action will be possible. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.N.A., 1021/23).

Battle Fleet

My 1903/22. Battle Fleet will be to westward of Crete on 28/7 and 29/7 which should act as a diversion for destroyers. (C. in C., Med., 1205/23).

War Plans  
"Hurry"

1st S.L. 2040/23 to C. in C., Med., C. in C., Med., 1205/23. See Mediterranean Volume.

Corinth Canal

C. in C., Med. 2019/23. See Mediterranean Volume.



FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Troop Convoys

Your 1232/21. The urgency for arrival of -these troops in the Middle East does not justify the passage of W.2 and W.3 through the Red Sea. War Office are in agreement. (D. O.D. (F), 0039/23, to C. in C., E.I.).

Overdue Ships

My 0456/22. Ships overdue. Name of first ship is KEMMENDINE. (C. in C., E.I. 0338Z/23)

PALESTINIAN PRINCE  
MUNCASTER CASTLE

Your 1140/22. Intend to sail PALESTINIAN PRINCE and MUNCASTER CASTLE as soon as latter arrives to overhaul B N 2 before Shadwan. Escort CERES and PARRAMATTA as far as 021° N., Request details of PARRAMATTA's H/A armament. (S.N.O. Red Sea 0756/23 to C. in C., E.I.)

Raider

Your 0355/23. H.M.S. DANAE patrolling in Achin Head but will return to Penang if desired.

(ii) Raider will probably not have remained in same area and, if she has, there is none of our ships there as I have diverted DARONIA and CITY OF PERTH off their direct route.

Dispositions  
DANAE

(iii) I therefore feel it would be better if DANAE returned to Penang now for fuel and then escorted BANGALORE and ALIPORE; both contain large stocks of ammunition for C. in C., Mediterranean, to about 083°E

(iv) If you can still spare her, I would like her then to return to Achin Head to meet ORONTES and escort her to Colombo. Otherwise I have nothing available to escort or cover these 3 ships since HECTOR is required for cover of troops ex W 1 and onward escort of ORONTES.

(v) I have ordered DANAE to Penang to arrive 25/7.

(C. in C., E.I. 1126Z/23 to C. in C., China)

War Diary

23.7.1940.

TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSChinaCARAIBE

My 0800/17. French Admiralty insist CARAIBE not to return to China Station in spite of Admiral Decoux's protest to them that he has promised this. Subject to approval of Adm. Decoux, French C of S., intends to keep CARAIBE at Madagascar for about two weeks and then to recall her to Saigon under pretext that she needs urgent repairs. (L.O., Saigon, 0150/23, to C. in C., China.)

French Trade

My 0509Z/18. Admiral Decoux now requests permission for French ships MARECHAL JOFFRE and DARTAGNAN to trade on China Station visiting British ports and guaranteeing that they will not leave the station. Intend to approve unless I hear to contrary within 48 hours. (C. in C., China to Admty., 0255Z23)

DANAE

At present patrolling in Achin Head area. Orders for patrol until necessary to return Colombo for fuel. After this, I would like her to return to Penang carrying out sweep en route if desired. (C. in C., China, to C. in C., E.I., 0355Z/23)

*See previous page*

CITY OF  
BAGDAD  
Leakage of  
Information

In view of priority of cargo being held in Malaya, suggest retainers, Ellerman & Bucknall, be advised to cancel her berthing with Singapore agents or arrange substitute. This will enable local arrangements to be made without divulging loss of ship. Consider this desirable permanent procedure to avoid disquiet and speed up cargo. (C. in C., China, 0523Z/23 to Admty.)

CITY OF BAGDAD N.O. i/c Penang reports plain language cables between Lourenco Marques Forwarding Company and MACALISTER since 26/6 giving reports of names and date of arrival. Penang appears a possible source of leakage.

Plain language message of 19/7 similar to the above permits calculation of position on direct route of "CITY OF PERTH"

(C. in C., China 0221Z/23 to C. in C., E.I. C. in C., S.A. etc.,)

War Diary23.7.1940.  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West IndiesConvoy TC 6*Off Halifax for Clyde.*

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, DUCHESS OF YORK, SAMARIA, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, ANTONIA, BATORY SOBIESKY escorted by REVENGE and EMERALD sailed p.m. /23. Route. Expected time of arrival. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 12134/23)

Raider*"D"*  
*(NIDDER)*

R.O. Ciudad Trujillo reports (1401/23) results of conversation of crews of BRITISH PETROL, DAVISIAN on board raider (i) since sinking BRITISH PETROL raider twice met supply ship (ii) unable to describe the supply ship is kept below (iii) Raider uses fuel very sparingly (iv) believed that raider out since March (v) also on board two non English who were kept apart believed Master Chief Engineer of Scandinavian Ship. (S.O. (1) Kingston, Jamaica 1801/23)

Convoy HX 60

Sailing telegram (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1337/23)

AustraliaCANBERRA

Admty. 0119/21. Concur in both proposals (A.C.N.B., 02312/23)



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War Diary23.7.1940.  
TuesdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSRHAKOTIS

S.O.(1) Calla<sup>8</sup> reports still unable to obtain oil, crew discontented, ship may sail south shortly (S.O. (1) Kingston, Jamaica 1516/23)

LUVSEE  
INGO

Arrived Zelenika 18/7 left Zelenika for Trieste 19/7 (S.O. (1) Alexandria 1506/23)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSANTONIETTA

arrived Philadelphia 22/7 from Norfolk and Baltimore via inland waterways (N.S.H.C. Ottawa 2143/23)

PERLA

just arrived Spit to load bunker coal and will probably proceed south to load bauxite (S.O. (1) Alexandria 1506/23)

War Diary23.7.1940.  
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MININGShips AttackedTHE LADY MOSTYN

(305 tons) sunk by mine in Mersey 170°  
Q.7 Red Buoy 2 cables at 0415 clear of  
deep channel. Port closed. Crew  
probably 6, no survivors. Channel is  
being swept daily. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool  
1230/23, I.C. 0520/40)

Submarines ReportedEstimated  
dispositions

2 in Western Approaches or farther South  
No reliable reports from which their  
whereabouts can be deduced. (D.D.I.C.  
1207/23)

1400

Periscope reported 21 miles 041° Spurn Pt.  
(C. in C., Nore 1501/23)

1630

Torpedo track reported in 55° 26' N., 12°  
55' W., (WALKER 1804/23)

2000

By D/F 58° 0' N., 3° 20' E Unreliable fix  
(D.D.I.C. 2037/23)

Mediterranean & East IndiesSubmarines Reported

Methods adopted by Italian U-Boats  
(D. A/S W. 2111/23)

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

C. in C., Home Fleet transferred his flag to NELSON from today. ILLUSTRIOUS and FIJI have arrived in the Clyde from Halifax.

3 M.T.B's from Dover carried out a sweep last night against enemy merchant vessels and barges between Calais and Boulogne, (operation "Nightingale"). One of them engaged 6 E-boats which were steering a south easterly course at 0210/24. It is believed that two of the enemy boats were damaged.

ARGUS and also MALOJA left the Clyde at 2100/24 for Gibraltar escorted by GALLANT and GREYHOUND. They are to meet off North Ireland. S.S. REINA DEL PACIFICO and CLAN FERGUSON with personnel and supplies for the Mediterranean via the Cape, escorted by HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER.

At 2224/24 S.S. MEKNES (French) which was repatriating French Naval personnel and was proceeding showing all lights, was gunned and torpedoed and sunk by an E-boat off the Dorset coast. Some 379 persons are missing out of a total of about 1181, but some of her boats are reported to have made for the French coast under sail.

A patrol is to be established by M.T.B's during the dark hours, off the mouths of the Maas and Schildt to report any enemy craft emerging from the rivers.

Troop Convoys

<u>W.S.1.</u>	3 ships with 10,00 troops for the Middle East, escorted by KENT is S.E. of Madagascar.
<u>B.N.2.</u>	With troops and supplies for Suez, escorted by WESTRALIA and CATHAY is in the Indian Ocean
<u>C.M.2.</u>	Part 1, with part of 9000 troops from Durban escorted by RANCHI, was due at Mombasa early today.
<u>C.M.2.</u>	Part 2, with the remainder of these troops, escorted by CARTHAGE is west of Madagascar.
<u>WINDSOR CASTLE</u>	Proceeding independently with R.A.F. for Freetown is west of C. Finisterre.
<u>STRAHNAVER</u>	Proceeding independently with military details for India is near C. Verde Is.
<u>VICEROY OF INDIA</u>	With army drafts for Freetown, is West of Ushant.

SITUATION REPORT Contd.

Coastal Convoys

Owing to the prospective losses from air attack, which are regarded as inevitable, C. in C., Nore proposes that a much larger proportion of south coast traffic be sent by road or rail.

Air- British Air Activity

Our aircraft last night successfully attacked oil tanks at Flushing and a refinery and tanks on the Middleburg-Flushing Canal. The Naval base at Wilhelmshaven and shipping at Emden were attacked.

16 convoys were escorted today.

6 Swordfish to lay mines in Dutch and Belgian waters.

6 Blenheims left to attack barges at Amsterdam.

At 0251 one aircraft in the Northern North Sea attacked with torpedoes a camouflaged merchant vessel and 4 escort vessels; one of the latter may have been damaged or sunk.

At 0455 and again at 0602 off the Dutch coast an aircraft bombed 3 Soviet tugs towing a floating crane and apparently a floating workshop.

Enemy Air Activity

There was a noticeable absence of bombing activity last night. Some damage was caused at Glasgow by an early morning raid, and there were a few raids during the afternoon, in Surrey and Suffolk.

An A/S Trawler and 2 M/S Trawlers were sunk by air attack and two A/S Trawlers were damaged off Dover this forenoon. About noon there was an engagement between 36 British fighters and 50 enemy aircraft over the Downs and Goodwins when several of the enemy were brought down, their total losses for the 24 hours ending 0600/25 being 12 certain and 17 possible.

Convoy FS 29 was attacked off the North Foreland by 20 bombers at 1230, but no damage was caused.

/Trinity House.....





War Diary

24.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

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SITUATION REPORT Contd..

Trinity House vessel ALERT was bombed and machine gunned at 2025 by 3 enemy aircraft near the S. Goodwin L.V. and was slightly damaged.

In an attack on two M/S trawlers at 1730 one trawler (FLEMING) was sunk but the other vessel (BERBERIS) badly damaged one aircraft and destroyed another. There were only 3 survivors out of FLEMING's crew of 22.

Mining

Enemy Minelaying

The following magnetic mines were exploded today: 2 approx. 8 miles S.E. Harwich, 2 off Plymouth, 3 in the Mersey. 17 have been dropped at Milford since 0100/20, 14 of which have been exploded by M/S trawlers and 2 spontaneously. 3 parachute mines were dropped at Liverpool last night and 4 off the Tyne. Mines were laid off Formby, where the light vessel was machine gunned. Liverpool, Milford Haven, (from sunset until sweeping completed) Plymouth, Falmouth, Fishguard, Maryport, Workington, Silloth, Sunderland, Newhaven, Tyne-Blythe inshore Channel and the Kyles of Bute are closed (0715/24) Liverpool, Sunderland, Falmouth were reopened later.

Attempted minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is also suspected in the Belfast, and ~~Kilbrannigan~~ Bristol Channel areas, and off the N.E. Coast between Hull and Aberdeen, during which one minelaying aircraft was shot down. Minelaying was carried out off Plymouth and in the Land's End area.

British Minelaying

Reinforcement of the East Coast mine barrier continued today.

German Tanker

N.C.S.O. St. Vincent reported today that on 20/7 SS REFAST sighted some 80 miles S.W. of the Canaries a vessel resembling the tanker REKUM. The latter sailed from Teneriffe on 17/7 with 8000 tons of gas oil.

/Western Patrol....



SITUATION REPORT Contd..

Western Patrol

It is proposed to withdraw the 3 A.M.C's from China, in view of urgent requirements -on the East India Station, South Atlantic and for establishment of the Western Patrol to extend the economic blockade to the entire western seaboard of Europe and North Africa.

Italian Hostilities

There were 3 air raids on Malta today. No casualties were caused and damage to civil property was slight.

8 Savoia bombers raided Haifa this morning and damaged the Shell installations. C. in C., Med. on 25/7 again drew attention to the fact that unless steps are taken it is only a matter of time before refinery is put out of action and Haifa will cease to function as a source of supply for the fleet.



HOME COMMANDS

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Defence of U.K.

Your 1756/14. Manning of these guns by Army cannot be undertaken at present. Naval personnel cannot be made available from Depots. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1444/24 to A.C.O.S.)

Shetlands.

Minimum military requirements necessary to hold the Islands (F.O.C.S. 1459/24 to 1st Lord)

Greenock.

F.O.I.C.Greenock's 1041/24. Imperative that A/A Gun Defences be provided as soon as possible. (C. in C.W.A. 2220/24 to Adty.)

Burning Oil Fuel and Petrol as Defence

Adty. 2237/21. Proposed to conduct trials in Loch Goyle. Request early report whether any local objection. (D. of L.D. 1613/24 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

A/A Defences of Clyde

N.L.O. Turnhouse states enemy A/C unmolested by Fighters or guns do considerable damage. It is thought that a very small Fighter Force at Prestwick or Abbotsinch might have considerable success (C. in C.Rosyth 1519/24 to Adty.)

Dover A/A Defences

A/A Barrage fire relatively ineffective. Suggestions for effective barrage over Harbour in which U.P. batteries could join. (V.A. Dover 1857/24 to Adty.)

Fighter A/C EXERCISES

Your 1557/17, (re. revision of Rules of Approach and Recognition of Fighter A/C.) We have no remarks to make. (ANTACOR 1900/24 to Adty.)

Movements.

Number Force

Keep steam at half an hours notice till further orders. (C. in C.Nore 0243/24)

Home Fleet.

MY 2327. Units have reverted to four hours notice for steam. (C. in C.H.F. 0931/24 to Adty.)

1st D.F.

Your 1253/21. Approved for 1st D.F. to operate from Portsmouth. (A.C.N.S.H. 1136/24 to V.A.Dover)

HUNT-Class Destroyers

Hunt class destroyers to be stationed in narrow waters of Channel and East Coast.

As KEPPEL, ACTIVE and DOUGLAS join C. in C. Home Fleet each ship is to relieve a Hunt class destroyer which should then be sailed for Dover.

The next two Hunt class on completion of working up are to be exchanged with two "A" class from Nore as arranged between C. in C. H.F. and C. in C.Nore. (A.C.N.S.H. 1259/24)



HOME COMMANDS

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Movements (Ctd.)

S/M's.

Positions and movements for the next 24 hours at 0600/25. In Area A. TRIDENT, TRITON, SNAPPER, H.50 H.28 as in my 1743/23 H.31. N.L.V.D.3040 proceeding to Blyth on surface. Thames J.Z.L.Z.3500. NARWHAL G.B.M.F.3000 proceeding on surface to D.N.X.G.1613. PORPOISE leaves Immingham 1500 for Flamborough Head thence North Eastward proceeding on surface. (V.A.S.1714/24)

Position in area B for next twenty four hours at 0600/25. TIGRIS vicinity K.3.Q.G.4130 moving to vicinity J.B.E.K.1050. CACHALOT escorted by LORD HAILSHAM proceeding to Rothesay. Expected time of arrival 0800/26 (V.A.S.1713/24)

Operations

Operation P.H.

A patrol to be established during dark hours by 70-ft. M.T.B's off Mouths of Maas and Schelde to report any enemy craft emerging from those rivers. Four Patrol Areas. Usual patrol will be 2 M.T.B's. (C. in C.Nore 1110/24 to S.O.M.T.B's. Felixstowe)

My 1110/24. Operation P.H. is to commence tonight. Patrols A and B. (C. in C.Nore 1111/24 to S.O.M.T.B's. Felixstowe) Negative operation P.H. (C. in C.Nore 2147/24)

E-Boats

6 E-Boats bearing 125° Gris Nez. Am engaging. Require immediate assistance. (M.T.B.70 0210/24) No damage or casualties to M.T.B.70. (V.A.Dover 1253/24 to Adty.)

2 E-Boats, course 135°, at 51° 15' N., 2°50' E. (A/C. of 500 Sqdn. 0300/24 to Chatham) Attacked with bombs. No hits (A.C.H.2. Chatham 0610/24)

Ships attacked

MEKNES

(French repatriating French Naval personnel) torpedoed by E-Boat probably 15 miles from Start Point about 2315. Position doubtful (C. in C.W.A.2332/24, Niton Radio 2224/24) WOLVERINE, VISCOUNT to search to eastward of St. Catherines (C. in C.W.A.2348/24) MEKNES was attacked by one E-Boat. After giving 5 minutes warning one Torpedo was fired and later boats were gunned. (WOLVERINE 0958/25 to C. in C.W.A.) Attacked at 2315/24 at 50°15' N., 2°10' W. Destroyers have landed about 1000 survivors at Portland (C. in C. Portsmouth 1225/25 to Adty.)

478A

S.S. MEKNES (French)

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 6,127 tons; unarmed - all guns and ammunition removed before sailing.

DATE AND TIME: 24th July at 2305.

POSITION: 50°40'N. 2°14'W.

SPEED: Not stated.

ROUTE: Southampton to Marseilles.

CARGO: French Officers and sailors being repatriated.

IN CONVOY: No.

ESCORT: None.

FATE OF CREW: 104 all told; 33 missing.  
Of 1180 passengers, 300 are missing.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Moderate.

REMARKS:- Ship was repatriating French subjects & enemy in possession of France was aware of this. Vessel was highly illuminated, navigation lights were all burning and projectors and each side illuminated, the French flags painted on the hull. The French ensign flying aft was highly illuminated. At 2255 ship suddenly machine-gunned from close of port side. Ship stopped immediately indicating this fact by two prolonged blasts on whistle and making known identity by morse lamp to apparently the M.T.B. No notice was taken. At 2305 ship was struck on port side by a torpedo nearly amidships. Boats launched immediately; ship sank within 8 minutes. Boats and rafts kept together as much as possible. There was a considerable amount of wreckage and many were able to cling to this. By daylight a considerable number had been picked up by British warships which came out to rescue them. The Naval Officers and French sailors were a great factor in rescue work. A certain number were killed by the machine guns from enemy.

DATE: 28th August 1940.



HOME COMMANDS

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E-Boats

Ships attacked

MEKNES (Ctd.)

Position now reported 195° St. Albans. 10 miles. SHIKARI and SABRE leaving Spithead now. Trawler ELLESMERE also searching. (C. in C.W.A.0006/25 to WOLVERINE)

2 Motor A/S Boats and one M.L. proceeding from Portland to MEKNES. (C. in C.W.A.0019/25 to WOLVERINE)

MY 0006. Latest reported position 165° Portland Bill 6 miles. (C. in C.W.A.0051/25 to WOLVERINE)

About 1000 survivors in 4 destroyers. Expect arrive 1000 (WOLVERINE 0755/25 to N.O.I.C. Portland)

Return with despatch sweeping through where MEKNES sank. Fighting cover arranged. (C. inc. Portsmouth 1136/26 to SABRE)

\* As far as can be ascertained, MEKNES sailed with 99 Naval Officers and 1080 Naval Ratings. Crew of ship was 9 Officers and 90 Ratings, also 2 Women and 1 child. This leaves Missing 9 Officers and 370 Men. Disposal of survivors set forth. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1903/25 to Adty.)

It is essential that full details of the attack on MEKNES should be obtained from witnesses and transmitted to Admiralty as soon as possible. Full details are required of any casualties caused by gunfire on the boats. (1st S.L.1254/25 to F.O.I.C. Portland)

Your 1254/25 Attack on MEKNES, Fully illuminated searchlight on Flag, French colours painted both sides, commenced at 2230 when O.O.W. heard Motor Engines and observed path of a vessel. Machine gun fire commenced on ship which stopped immediately, blew whistle to indicate stopped, and made signal "Who are you"? No reply received and subsequently ship flashed name and nationality several times. Machine gunning continued followed by heavier fire from small calibre gun. Port Boats were holed and at 2255 ship was torpedoed aft, slight explosion only but at 2305 vessel sank. Officers convinced attack was made by E-Boats. Fire was not opened on boats and no evidence that any firing took place after ship was torpedoed. As it is stated that several boats made for French Coast under sail, total casualties unknown approx. 350 reported missing. Of 1000 landed 120 Officers and 41 ratings are in Hospital. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1540/25)

Submarines

TIGRIS

C. in C.W.A.1714/23. (proposing that TIGRIS move to patrol off Loire). Concur. V.A.S. requested to comply. (D.O.D(H)1212/24 to C. in C.W.A.) Now no need to move TIGRIS patrol. (D.O.D(H)0011/25 to R.A.S.)

Air

British Air Activity

At 58°6' N., 3°18' E. A/C attacked one destroyer with torpedoes, estimate one hit. (A/C of H.M.S.? 0251/24 to Hatston)

Attack on Dale Railway (Bergen)

Railway not reached. One Patrol Boat sunk in Fiords. 2 Escort vessels attacked at 61°13' N 5°3' E. but not hit. (Hatston 0801/22 Recd. 0056/24)

Soviet Tugs attacked.

At 0455/24 in 52°45' N., 3°39' E. an A/C of 16 Group bombed 3 Soviet Tugs towing a Floating Crane and Platform like a workshop. One tug named MANTIUTNA (C. in C.Nore 0835/24 to Adty.) At 0602 in 53° N., 4°10' E. Course 360° 4 knots, A/C attacked the same with bombs; no hits, one near miss. Also 1200 rounds M/G. Hits unknown. (A.C.H. Chatham 0846/24 to Adty.)

Escort vessel damaged.

At 0251/24 in 58°6' N., 3°18' E., A/C attacked with torpedoes, one camouflaged M/V and 4 escort vessels of KONIGEN LUIS type. One torpedo exploded near one escort vessel. (Hatston 1105/24)

Air-Raids, 21 and 25 June and 1st and 4th July.

Report of results at Hamburg and Kiel. (N.A.Belgrade 1200/24 to Adty.)

Oil Storage Farms at Cherbourg.

Description and proposed destruction by six A/C on night 24/25. (H.Q.C.C.1540/24)

HOME COMMANDS

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Air-Enemy Air Activity

Convoy MAYDAY  
C.E. 7. Eastbound

Help. 0800 Goodwin Fork Buoy, speed 7 knots. Five enemy aircraft. (TOTEM 0840 and 0859/24)

KINGSTON GALENA

A/S Trawler. Sunk between S. Foreland and Dover at 1120/24 (V.A. Dover 1207/24)

RODINO (LL Sweeper)  
T.S.O. 4491/40

M/S Trawler. Sunk by aircraft between S. Foreland and Dover at 1120/24 (V.A. Dover /24)

WOLVES

A/S Trawler. Seriously damaged by aircraft between S. Foreland and Dover, at 1120/24 (V.A. Dover 1207/24)

SAON

A/S Trawler. Slightly damaged by aircraft between S. Foreland and Dover at 1120/24 (V.A. Dover 1207/24)

FLEMING

M/S Trawler. Attacked by 4 Dive Bombers and sunk at 1730/24 in position X. Only 3 survivors out of crew of 22. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1037/25)

Convoy FS 29  
Southbound

Attacked by 20 aircraft at 1230/24 off N. Foreland. No damage. (I.C. 25/7)

ALERT

Trinity House Vessel bombed and machine gunned at 2025/24 near South Goodwin L.V. Slight damage and 6 minor casualties. (I.C. 25/7)

Mining

Liverpool

Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0225/24) reopened 1430/24. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/24) Magnetic Mines laid between 0155 and 0305/24. 6 mines exploded by LL sweep Formby L.V. machine gunned (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1650/24)

E.Coast Scotland

2 parachute mines dropped on land near Drem, Firth of Forth. Probable minelaying during night 23/24 between Seaham Harbour and Moray Firth (C. in C., Rosyth 0226/24)

/Ports closed.....



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Mining- Contd.

Ports closed

Kyles of Bute, Newhaven, Maryport, Silloth, Workington, Fishguard and Milford Haven from sunset. (I.C. 25/7)

Sunderland

Port closed. (C. in C., Rosyth 0655/24)  
Port open (F.O.I.C., Tyne 1823/24)

Harwich

2 magnetic mines detonated at 51° 50' N., 1° 26'E by LL sweep at 0640/24 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1823/24)

Swansea

Swansea and Port Talbot open to all ships (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 2130/24)

Milford Haven

Port closed till further orders (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1051/24) Port opened (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1548/24) 2 possible Mines dropped last night, one exploded today. Port closed from sunset tonight till sweeping finished to-morrow morning. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1957/24 to C. in C., W.A.)

Falmouth

Port now open. Vessels pass N. of Old Well Shoal. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1100/24)

Plymouth

2 Magnetic Mines exploded (I.C. 25/7)

Mersey

3 Magnetic Mines exploded (I.C. 25/7)

Belfast

Mines laid by aircraft in Belfast Lough last night. Port is open. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1230/24)

North Sea

Indications of Enemy Minefield 100' W. of the Naze. (V.A.S. 1506/24)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

At 58° 6' N., 3° 18' E., 3 destroyers and 1 Auxiliary Vessel course 130°, 12 knots. (A/C of H.M.S.? 0251/24 to Hatston)

At 57° 53' N 1° 33' E., and unknown ship course 145° speed 10 knots. (A/C 269 Sqdn. 0050/24)

At 0320/24 at 042° Cromer 30', eight ships believed Destroyers steering N.W. at 20 knots (H.Q.B.C. 2212/25)

8 destroyers, 5 M/V's, 1 S/M., at 57° 10' N., 5° 48' E., course 110° speed 10 knots. (A/C 233 Sqdn. 0905/24) (Donibristle 1130/24) (C. in C., Rosyth 1808/24)

Trouville

10 small vessels in harbour, fishing type. (Chatham 1925/24)

Havre

7 or 8 Barges moored in harbour, no large vessels inside. Tug outside moving in. (Chatham 1925/24)

1 large M/V and about 5 sloops, speed 5 knots (A/C 220 Sqdn. 2010/24)

Trondheim

1 large Warship and 4 destroyers in harbour A/C report. (C. in C., Rosyth 2112/24 to Adty.)

At 2106/24 Unknown enemy unit, probably surface craft bore Scarborough 007/3 D/F bearing. (D.D.I.C. 2140/24)

Bordeaux

No sign of Invasion activity at Bordeaux. Adty. Telegram 2032/22 cancelled. (1st S.L. 2355/24 to V.A.A..)

St. Valery

At 1513/24 three ships 1000 to 2000 tons. A/C report (THI 1820/25)

Dieppe

At 1600/24, three ships. A/C report (THI 1820/25)

Bergen

12 M/V's and small craft in harbour. (I.C. 25/7)



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HOME COMMANDS

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Shipping

Coastal Convoys

Adnty. 1837/22. Propose continue to run convoys in an irregular 4-day cycle till traffic diminishes. 9 to 12 A/S Trawlers working in groups of 3 will be required. Losses today suggest heavy casualties inevitable, and propose much larger proportion of S.Coast Traffic be sent by road or rail. (C. in C., Nore, 1634/24 to Adty.)

Convoy HG 38 B

Arrived 1630/24. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2144/24)

Convoy O.B.190

Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1440/24 to Adty.)

KYLE FISHER

With valuable cargo, joins FN 30 at Tyne. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1441/21 to Lowestoft)

Convoy IX 60

Amended Sailing Telegram (DTD 1616/24)

0500

WEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
N.Sea (Western)	Southerly Light or Moderate, S.E. in North.	Moderate or Good.	Wind veering West Temporary improvement.
Channel and Western Approaches	W.S.W. Mod. or Light.	Good	Wind backing slowly. Vis. deteriorating.
Horns Reef Dutch Coast	S.W. or variable light	Good or Moderate	Similar ...
S.W. Norway	Wind N.W. of variable Light	Moderate or good	Wind becoming S.E.



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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

BRUGES

Belgian, 4984 tons, left Monte Video 29 June  
is overdue at Freetown since 18/7. (D.S.224)

ALPHARD

Dutch, 5483 tons, left Buenos Aires 4 July  
is overdue at Freetown since 18/7. (D.S.324)

HERO

Norwegian, 1376 tons, left Selangor 14 July  
is overdue at Bangkok since 18/7. (D.S.324)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

ROYAL SCOTSMAN }  
ROYAL ULSTERMAN } Re sailing and escort (F.O.C. N.A.1334A/24)  
ULSTER MONARCH }

A.A.Guns. Re. transporting in VALIANT (A.C.N.S.(F)  
1933/24 to F.O.C.N.A.

South Atlantic

BULOLO }  
PRETORIA CASTLE } Orders (escorting S.L.41 and S.L.F.41)  
(C. in C.S.A.1228/24)

COLONIAL Your 1732/23. I have Bianchi (DORSETSHIRE  
1800Z/24 to C. in C.S.A.)

CANBERRA Reply to C. in C.S.A.1050/23 re date of arrival  
at Fremantle (A.C.N.B.1030Z/24)

Tanker Reported that tanker name unknown passed  
through ? Magallanes 22/7 east bound. Similar  
report in Buenos Aires newspaper (S.O.(1)  
Monte Video 0932/24)

French  
Cameroons. Re. its future (DRAGON 2205/24)

Mediterranean

CAPETOWN, CALEDON CAPE TOWN and CALEDON are not pulling their  
weight out here owing to inadequate A/A  
armament and lack of speed. They can be  
surrendered if they can be usefully employed  
elsewhere, CALEDON in about 14 days time on  
completion of short refit, CAPETOWN in about  
one week. I would prefer that they departed  
eastward as it would require a fleet operation  
to get them past Malta.  
(C. in C.Med.0933/24 to Adty.)

ARK ROYAL Cancel Adty. 0300/23. V.A.A. will continue to  
fly his flag in ARK ROYAL (1st S.L.2002/24 to  
C.in C.Medt.etc.)

Air.

Balloon barrage  
Alexandria. Your 0125/11/4. Request information re  
provision. of balloon barrage at Alexandria.  
An additional reason for providing this form  
of defence is to protect the fleet in harbour  
from torpedo aircraft attack, a form of attack  
which can by no means be excluded. Only a  
few balloons would be required for this.  
(C. in C.Med. 2245/24 to Adty.)

A/A ships. C. in C. East Indies ?1828/22. Suggest this  
question be reviewed after passage of B.N.2.  
In my view it is unsound to hold skilled anti-  
aircraft forces to face a problematical air  
attack in Red Sea when a strong scale (2  
corrupt groups) attack is actually operative

## FOREIGN STATIONS

MediterraneanAir.A/A ships  
(Ctd.)

in Mediterranean. Ships can always be sent back if pendulum swings the other way. I suggest therefore that H.M.S. CARLISLE at least should now join Mediterranean. (C. in C.Med.1321/24. to Adty.)

Explosive bullets

Found in Italian A/C shot down. Loaded in belts with incendiaries and ordinary lead bullets. (Governor Malta 1412/23, W.O. 2110/24)

Raid on Malta

3 raids today, at 0250 and 0400 about 40 bombs dropped; no casualties; slight damage to civil property, 0850 by fighters, one claimed shot down by Sunderland (V.A. ~~Malta~~ 2137/24)

Spares for Skuas, Rocs, Fulmers.

In event of additional carrier plus one T.S.R. squadron and one fighter squadron being based in Eastern Mediterranean (C. in C.Med.1525/24)

Raid on Haifa.

At 0855G/24. By 8 Savoia bombers. Shell installations badly hit; 3 bombs in town, approximately 35 killed (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1030/24)

IntelligenceDanube M.B/s.

1. Twelve fast M.B's armed with one 26 m.m. gun, are stationed at Linz. The L.L. ~~monitor~~, formerly MASARYK, and one other ~~MONITOR L.L.~~ ~~monitor~~ now in winter port. B.2.

2. Hungarian minelayers with full complement of mines are active in (?) sector of the river between Ulu and Mohatch. B.2. (N.A. Belgrade 1115/24)

Augusta

Sunderland patrols (between Sicily and Greece report one destroyer in Augusta only (V.A. Malta 2137/24)

East IndiesR.A.F. Stores

Re unsatisfactory arrangements for shipping of R.A.F. stores East of Capetown (H.C.M.E. 0716Z/22 to C. in C.E.I.)

Armament Stores

for E. Mediterranean in MUNCASTER CASTLE to be transferred to PALESTINIAN PRINCE at Aden. Former ship to sail for Bombay for which port she has 7000 tons of cargo.

## PARAMATTA

Armament. (C. in C.E.I. 0446Z/24 to S.N.O. Red Sea in reply to his 0756/23)

## FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies (Ctd.)Shipping

Governor Ceylon has received circular maritime telegram number 36 from S. of S. for Colonies cancelling previous orders regarding Norwegian, Dutch, Polish and neutral shipping bound for French ports. Telegram proceeds that revised instructions for shipping in this respect were issued by Adty. on 20/7 and particulars should be obtained from Naval Authorities. Latest Adty. messages received by me on this subject are: British Allied ships 1821/5. Netherlands ships 2246/4. French ships 2319/16. Request elucidation. (C. in C.E.I. 1026Z/24. to Adty.)

Your 1026/24. Circular maritime telegram number 36 was despatched by Colonial Office in error on receipt of a copy of C. in C.S.A's signal 1904/19. Colonial Office are being asked to cancel their telegram. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2049/25 to C. in C.E.I.)

China

## BORINGIA

My 0425/21. French C. in C. has also protested at requisitioning of Danish S.S. BORINGIA (C. in C.China 0507Z/24)

## EMPRESS OF JAPAN

Re. Cdre. Hong Kong 0335/22. Asking whether sailing time can be advanced or time on passage shortened etc. (D. of S.T. 0031/24 to Cdre. Hong Kong.)

Dispositions  
S.S. BANGALORE  
S.S. ALIPORE  
DAUNTLESS  
DANAÉ  
ORONTES  
R.F.A. PEARLEAF

Reply to C. in C.E.I. 1126/23. (C. in C.China 0505Z/24)

Your 0345/8 to Admiralty.

A.M.C's to be withdrawn.

1. There are very urgent requirements for A.M.C's on E.I. Station, on S.A. Station and for establishment of Western patrol to extend economic blockade to whole of western seaboard of Europe and North Africa. It is proposed, therefore, that the 3 A.M.C's should now be withdrawn from your command.
2. Unless you have very strong reasons for wishing to retain them, request you will signal proposals for sailing them to join C. in C.E.I. as first step, any urgent refitting or docking being carried out prior to leaving your Station.
3. Further instructions as regards future transfer of any A.M.C's from E.I. Station to other commands will be given to C. in C.E.I. KANIMBLA, having Australian crew, will remain on E.I. Station. The proposal given in your 0829/22 that this ship should call at Singapore prior to joining East Indies Station is approved (A.C.N.S.(F) 1031/24 to C. in C.China)



FOREIGN STATIONS

489

America and West Indies

T.C.7. Ships for, and for battalion for Newfoundland to relieve Black Watch. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1921/24)

VAN KINSBERGEN.  
~~Van Kinsbergen~~ Orders (C. in C.A.W.I. 0941/24)

Australia

A.C.N.B.1030Z/24 See South Atlantic.

Troops Re. despatch of 6500; 31,000; and N.Z. 3rd Echelon. (A.C.N.B.0204/24 to Adty.)





War Diary

24.7.40  
Wednesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

490

REKUM Vessel resembling REKUM sighted 20/7 in 28°35' N., 24°7' W., by REFASST. Vessel apparently painted grey throughout, tonnage 8000 (N.C.S.O.St. Vincent 1119/24 to Adty., F.O.C.N.A. 1031/25)

CHARLOTTE SCILLIEMANN Departure appears to be imminent (Las Palmas 1800/24, F.O.C.N.A.1031/25)

?WESER A press report from Mexico City states that a 9000 ton German ship arrived in a Mexican port 23/7 from Santa Elena, Costa Rica. This may be WESER (9179 tons) which left punta Arenas, Costa Rica, on 11/7 and was reported to be bound for Manzanilla Mexico (I.C.0521/40)

KARSEN A press report from Shanghai states that a thousand ton merchant ship called KARSTEN and flying the German flag has been sunk off Ning Po, presumably by Chinese artillery. A ship of this name is known to be carrying on coasta trade under German ownership. (I.C.0521/40)

LARISSA arrived Istanbul 23/7 (I.C.0521/40)

KELKHEIM reported 0230/23 that she had run aground off Jade. Tug?SEEBAER was sent to her assistance at 0330. (I.C.0522/40)

?SEEBAR.

BARMBEK }  
FALKENBERG } Were ordered to Danzig to unload 24/7 (I.C.0522/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ENDERTA Japanese officers observed on board. Report she proceeds to Nanking 24/7 to load coal for Shanghai indicates possibility of use of ships in Yangtse. (C. in C.China 0215/24 to N.A. Tokyo.)

MONGIOLA Has proceeded from Gulverston Roads to Houston where she is expected to discharge (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1403/24)

ANTONIO LIMENCELLI Left Maranhão, Brazil 18/6 is now believed sti to be in a Brazilian port, probably pernambuco (I.C.0521/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

491

Ships attacked.

TRIO Finnish, 1451 tons, Sundsvall to Germany with timber, reported sunk near Borkum probably by mine. Master severely injured, crew of 19 saved. (Finnish Broadcast from Lahti 24/7)

Submarines reported.

- 2105 Submerged S/M 260° 12 miles 61°20' N., 1°36' E. course 310° (A/C 2105/24) Probably outward bound. ANTONY, AMAZON to search (R.A.(D) H.F.1055/25)
- 2205 by A/C in 60°55' N., 0°53' E. (Same as 2105 above) Correct position is 60°55' N., 0°53' E. S/M was on surface. A/C will leave Sullom Voe at first light to search. (C.in C.Rosyth 0208/25)
- 2135 Submerged S/M 59°25' N., 0°45' W. steering 260° (R.A.(D) H.F. 2240/24, A/C 2256/24, 2135/24, C. in C.Rosyth 0208/25)
- 1255 by Walrus A/C 15 miles due N. Lossiemouth at p.s. depth (C. in C.Rosyth 1336/24 ARROW, ACHATES, Proceeding to hunt (R.A.(D) H.F. 1421/24, ARROW 1430/24)
- 0735 T.B.D's merchant ships and 1 U-boat reported by A/C 57°18' N., 5°25' E. course 170° (I.C.0521/40)
- 1931 50°30' N., 10° W. Position indefinite (I.C.0522/40)

South Atlantic

N.C.S.O. Magallanes reports 1200/22 D.4. report sighting S/M off Punta Arenas and press reports that signal station Delgada point sighted submarine 22/7. We cannot confirm this. (S.O.(1) Montevideo 0932/24) Further enquiries being made (S.O.(1) Freetown 0809/25)

Submarines attacked

2113 A/C tanker S/M in 60°55' N., 0°53' E., No visible result (I.C.0522/40)

SITUATION REPORT

492

Encounter with E-Boats

About 1630 our aircraft on patrol sighted 9 or 10 enemy E-boats in the direction of Gris Nez, proceeding to attack westbound coastal convoy C.W. 8 which was approaching Dungeness and being repeatedly attacked by enemy aircraft. Our aircraft were forced to take avoiding action by a large number of enemy fighters. BRILLIANT, BOREAS and 2 M.T.B's were sent to intercept and engage the enemy. The enemy retired under cover of smoke screen on sighting the destroyers, but were engaged for 15 minutes with unknown results. BRILLIANT and BOREAS came under the fire of enemy shore batteries, and were also twice heavily attacked by dive bombers while withdrawing. BOREAS was damaged in both bombing attacks and had some 15 killed and 29 wounded, 16 seriously. BRILLIANT received a direct hit on the quarter deck in the second attack, but had no casualties. Both ships towed by tugs to Dover.

Raider Signal

At 1445/25 Wick and Scapa W/T stations picked up "raider" signal. No position was given but the signal is estimated to have been sent from within 100 miles North of Scapa.

British Air Activity

Our aircraft attacked the BISMARCK in Hamburg Docks between 0002 and 0030/25 and afterwards attacked the TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven. Weather conditions prevented the results from being observed. The seaplane base at Borkum and petroleum sheds at Emden were attacked early this morning, but results were not observed. Several aircraft were prevented by the weather from completing their tasks.

Normal patrols were flown today. An aircraft on patrol bombed the lighthouse at Marsten (N. of Bergen) and machine gunned a fishing vessel.

An aircraft on reconnaissance off the Coast of Norway attacked a north bound merchant vessel of 2500 tons this afternoon, near Oberstad. A salvo of 5 bombs was dropped close to the starboard side of the ship, but results were not observed.

/Reports.....

SITUATION REPORT

493

British Air Activity, Contd..

Reports indicate that the bombing of objectives in Germany by the R.A.F. is most efficient and is causing grave anxiety to the High Command. It is reported that as the result of air raids the Naval Administrative Offices at Kiel have been moved elsewhere.

6 convoys were escorted.

Enemy Air Activity.

Between 1500 and 1900 today westbound Coastal Convoy C.W. 8. of 19 ships, escorted by 3 trawlers, was repeatedly attacked by waves of enemy aircraft in large numbers. Fighters were sent, and engaged the enemy fighter escort, but arrived too late to prevent damage to the convoy. Five ships (CORHAVEN, POLYGRANGE, LEO, PORTSLADE and HENRY MOON) were sunk and four (NEWLINSTER, HODDER, GRONLAND and TAMWORTH) (the two latter Danish) were damaged but reached Dover and SUMMITY was damaged and beached. All except SUMMITY were laden with coal.

KOLLSKEGG (aground off St. Catherines) was again bombed today and probably hit aft. Attempts at Salvage are proceeding.

Dover harbour was bombed at 1230 today, but no damage or casualties were caused. Portland was also attacked this morning and 3 enemy aircraft were shot down and the rest driven off by fighters. Slight damage was done at Swingate Aerodrome, near Dover.

During the day, enemy aircraft were also reported off the N.E. coast of Scotland and over Gloucestershire. They were intercepted by our fighters, and 7 enemy aircraft were known to have been shot down and probably 7 more. One of our Hurricanes is missing. Enemy losses during the 24 hours ending 0600/25 were 12 confirmed and an additional 17 possible.

/Mining.....

SITUATION REPORT

Mining.

Magnetic mines have been exploded at Inch-Kieth, N. of the Needles, Hartlepool, Milford Haven and near Mid Barrow Light Vessel. Tyne-Blyth inshore Channel, Newhaven, Milford Haven, Fishguard, Maryport, Silloth, Workington, Tyne and the Kyles of Bute are closed. (0715) Tyne Milford Haven, Silloth, Workington and Maryport were reopened later. Falmouth was closed at 1019.

Parachute mines are reported dropped 19 miles N.E. of Spurn Point today, and a damaged enemy aircraft appeared to crash.

Coast Battery at Gris Nez.

It appears from Photographic reconnaissance that the enemy are busily engaged in building a shore battery at Cape Gris Nez to command the western approaches to Dover Straits.

Submarine off Tortola Island

A submarine is reported to have surfaced at 1130 G.M.T. today off Tortola Island (West Indies) The U.S.A. Navy Dept., state that there is no U.S.A. submarine in those waters.

Italian Hostilities.

There was an air raid on Alexandria at 1000 today, when a small ammunition carrier ~~was~~ which was empty was hit in the stern.

It is proposed that CALEDON and CAPETOWN shall be transferred to the East Indies station. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to be employed in the Halifax escort Force.

A photographic reconnaissance of Tobruk 24/7 indicated that 13 large ships and 1 submarine were in the harbour. One ship 400 ft long was ashore on the south side of the harbour and three other ships were either sunk or on their sides. Three of the ships had probably been put out of action by torpedo attack by British A/C. and one by R.A.F. bombs on 20/7. It is believed that the only effective warship now in Tobruk are the guardship SAN GIORGIO and one submarine.

HOME COMMANDS

495

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command.

Air Patrols reduced owing to low visibility. All available ships keep steam at half hours notice. (C. in C.Nore 0520/25) Revert to normal notice for steam. (C. in C.Nore 0845/25 to Humber, Harwich, Sheerness, Yarmouth, Etc.)

Co-ordination

Conference will be held at 1600/26 to discuss co-ordination of action in event of invasion. Chiefs of Staff, Vice-Chiefs of Staff, and C. in C's of the Free Services will attend. (V.C.N.S.1103/25 to C. in C's.)

Shetlands.

Your 1459/24 and 1517/24. We are taking up with War Office question of increasing garrison. Other requests under consideration (1st S.L.1122/25 to A.C.S.).

Burning oil as invasion defence

Adty. 2237/21 and 1613/24. Loch Goil quite unsuitable. Propose Loch Striven, where no local objections. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1150/25 to Adty.)

My 1250/23. Boiler completed. Ships will have steam for 2½ hours notice daily, and for half hours notice from 2130 to 0400 each night (CARDIFF 1550/25 to C. in C.Nore.)

Anti-boat devices

Adty's. 2052/3 July. Not considered these can be usefully used in Bristol Channel owing to Tides. (N.O.I.C.Cardiff 1830/25 to Adty.)

A/A fire at Dover

Request your views on V.A.Dover 1857/24. (A.C.N.S(H)1844/25 to Air Ministry).

Destroyers at Plymouth

Consider that for anti-invasion duties a minimum of four destroyers must be retained at Plymouth. (C. in C.W.A.1852/25 to Adty.)

Cruiser in Clyde

Considered necessary that an 8-inch cruiser or large 6-inch cruiser should always be available at Clyde to cover N. and S. Approaches to Ireland. (1st S.L.2148/25 to C. in C.H.F.)

Movements.

S/M's

Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/26 in area A. NARWHAL DMXG 1613 TRIDENT STATLANDET TRITON QSMF 1020 SNAPPER PCMF 5025 THAMES PCMF 2030 proceeding submerged North of Q.Z.X.143 to T.G.T.A.4550 PORPOISE RQWT 4020 proceeding on surface to P.C.T.A. 4618 thence diving by day to R.Q.L.Z.5817. H.28 in H. one and two H.50.C.P.S.C.5555 H.31 on surface due Blyth 1100 26th July. URSULA leaves Rosyth 0700 unescorted on surface due Blyth 1900. (VA.S.1723/25)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

496

WESTON anchored E. of Inchkeith East gate to destroy enemy A/C attempting to lay Mines. (C. in C.Rosyth 1225/25)

Iceland

2-Pdr. guns sent Reykjavik were for Coast Defence only and are unsuitable for A/A work overland. They belong to mobile Naval Base Defence organisation and, as no longer required Reykjavik, request their return next convoy. (War Office 2055/25 to Alabaster, Reykjavik)

E-Boats

Attack on  
9 E-boats  
BOREAS  
BRILLIANT  
damaged.

2 columns of 4 E-Boats sweeping Northward in line abreast with 2 more following. Position 2' W., of Gris Nez at 1300/25. Observed again at 1530/25. PRU report (047.1637/25 to N.I.D.) Sighted again at 1655/25, course 180°, speed 20 to 25 knots. (A.C.H.Q.Chatham 1915/25)

*See Dover War Diary.  
(p. 260)*

*BRILLIANT also hit twice  
BOREAS*

BRILLIANT, BOREAS, and 2 M.T.B's sent to intercept and engage. Enemy retired under smoke screen, but were engaged for 15 minutes, damage unknown. BRILLIANT and BOREAS heavily dive-bombed while withdrawing and a direct hit on BRILLIANT. (V.A.Dover 1931/25 to Adty.) Approximate casualties in BOREAS, 15 dead, 16 seriously wounded, 13 slightly wounded. No casualties in BRILLIANT (V.A.Dover 2314/25)

Boulogne.

At 1300/25, probably 4 E-Boats. (P.I.U.2245/25)

East Coast

Indications of E-Boat activity off East Coast. (N.O.I.C.Harwich 2357/25)

N. of Walcheren.

At 0325/25 one E-Boat in 51°38' N., 3°37' E. (I.C.0523/40)

Convoy F.S.31  
attacked

At 2205/25 convoy F.S.31 attacked by E-Boat 10' N., of Cromer (I.C.0523/40)

Air

British Air Activity

At 0645/25 in 56°6' N., 7°45' E. A/C attacked one fishing smack. No hits. (Donibristle 1050/25)

At 1620/25 in 58°40' N., 5°10' E. A/C bombed one Norwegian M/V course 350, speed 8 knots. Probably damaged (Donibristle 1945/26)

At 1615/25, 22' S.W. of Egersund, 3 M/V's of 2000 tons, course 210° nationality unknown (I.C.0523/40)

HOME COMMANDS

497

Air

British Air Activity (Ctd.)

Marsten  
Lighthouse

Bombed at 1730/25. Lantern-top and storehouse damaged. (Donibristle 2030/25)

Enemy Air Activity

BRILLIANT }  
BOREAS }

Bombed and damaged off Gris Nez. (See E-Boat section)

F.S. Convoy

One A/C at 54°43' N., 1°3' W., odd-numbered F.S. Convoy. (WOLFHOUND 0425/25)

EMPIRE HENCHMAN

Bombed at 1001/25 when 5' S.W. of Portland. No damage. (I.C.0523/40)

Dover

At 1220/25 about 16 A/C attacked Dover. Bombs dropped in or close to harbour. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A.Dover 1254/25 to Adty.)

2 Enemy A/C shadowing me course 015°. My position 51°10' N. 4°45' W. (DIANA 1340/25 to Devils Point W/T)

Coastal convoy

C.V. 28  
HENRY MOON )  
CORHAVEN )  
LEO )  
POLGRANGE )  
PORTSLADE Sunk. )  
NEWMINSTER )  
HODDER )  
GRONLAND )  
TAMWORTH )  
SUMMITY Damaged

Convoy attacked at 1458/25 at 51°5' N., 1°19' E. by 40 to 50 A/C and 2 M/V's 500 to 700 tons sunk. Attacked again at 1600/25 at 51° N., 1°10' E. and 1 M/V set on fire and 1 damaged and turned for Dungeness. Third attack at 1635/25 by 4 or 5 bombers with fighter escort, and HENRY MOON sunk and one M/V damaged. Six Spitfires arrived too late. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1900/25) CORHAVEN, LEO, and POLGRANGE sunk off Dover, NEWMINSTER, HODDER, GRONLAND and TAMWORTH damaged, SUMMITY damaged and beached off Dover. (V.A.Dover 1742/25 to Adty.)

My 1742/25. PORTSLADE and HENRY MOON were sunk. Eleven ships passed Dungeness (V.A. Dover 2001/25 to Adty.) 16 survivors of PORTSLADE on Board DRANGEY. One on board MISTLEY. (V.A.Dover 2350/25)

Convoy <sup>"Boaty"</sup> ~~2000~~

Being attacked by A/C. My position 53°5' N., 1°23' E. (WOLFHOUND 2200/25)

KOLLSKEGG

Aground off St. Catherines; bombed and probably hit aft. (D.C.N.S.326)

Portland and  
Weymouth

Attacked by A/C at 1120/25, but were driven off by Fighters. (I.C.0523/40)





25.7.40.  
Thursday.

498

HOME COMMANDS

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Air.

Enemy Air Activity (Attack on Convoy C.W.8) *See previous page.*

PORTSLADE

Opened fire from 12 pdr. when convoy was attacked off Dover. Bombs fell at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile away. Continued through Gateway and armed trawler DRANGEY signalled to form convoy again. About 1600, raiders again observed. When 4 - 5 miles N.E. of Dungeness, ship hit, believed a delayed action bomb had hit the water and exploded right underneath her, crew rescued by DRANGEY. (Interview with Capt. W.H. Pinnell, Master, Trade Div. Casualties).

POLGRANGE

Bombed off Dover from about 2000 ft. First 2 bombs near misses, third fell on top of engine room and went through the ship without exploding, causing vessel to sink. Near misses smashed bridge and caused concrete bridge protection to fall down. Large number of bombs failed to explode, otherwise many of the small ships of convoy would have been blown to pieces. 2 men killed by bomb through engine room. 2 injured. Ship sank rapidly by the stern. Crew landed Dover. (Interview with Capt. J.B. Roberts, Master, Trade Div., Casualties).

HENRY MOON

Attacked by aircraft off Dover about 1500/25, not damaged. Convoy reformed and proceeded, and at 1615, two miles off Folkestone, ship was struck by salvo of four bombs and sank in ten minutes. Crew rescued by BROADHURST and taken by a M.T.B. into Dover. (Interview with Capt. H.S. Lawton, Master, Trade Div. Casualties).

HODDER

Attacked in convoy by enemy aircraft off Dover at 1515/25. Attack was very rapid, planes scattered immediately, leaving convoy in great confusion. A few minutes later another batch attacked rear end of convoy. Three salvos of three bombs each dropped around HODDER, shaking and damaging her. Aircraft were JU.88. Ship returned to Dover. Two members of crew injured. Ship again attacked evening of 29/7 by aircraft which machine gunned the decks. Suggestions for protection of convoys, routeing, etc. (Interview with Master, G.W. Thompson, Trade Div., Casualty Section).



25.7.40.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

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499

Air (Contd.) *Attack on Convoy C.W.8.*

GRONLAND

Attacked in convoy by about 100 German planes of different types. At least 4 and probably 5 ships of the convoy lost. Enemy dived to a height of 150-200 feet, then released a salvo of bombs, first bomb large, other two or three smaller. Two bombers appeared over GRONLAND. First released salvo of 3 bombs, one a direct hit blew off the stern, other two fell near, lifting ship out of water and denting sides. Second released 3 bombs which missed. Both aircraft machine-gunned as they dived, only casualty a signalman wounded in hand. Ship towed into Dover, where on 29/7 at anchor just inside breakwater was again attacked and sunk. (Interview with Capt. H.C.A. Fischer, Master, Trade Div. Casualties).

LEO

Bombed about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles off Dover Pier, from a height of about 600 ft. 6 or 8 bombs dropped, 4 being direct hits. Ship went down within about 2 minutes until only her forefoot visible, this disappeared in about 15 minutes. Attack so rapid that ship was only able to fire two rounds from 12-pdr., and Lewis gun not used at all. NEWMINSTER lowered her lifeboats to pick up men still in water. Boats were machine gunned by enemy aircraft, injuring 4 of LEO's men and several from NEWMINSTER. (Interview with Mr. C.H. Tutty, Master, Trade Div. Casualties).

TAMWORTH

From Blyth for Southampton with coal. Attacked in convoy CW.8 about 1' off Dover (having left the Downs about 1350 B.S.T.) About 10 near misses, explosions apparently delayed. LEO in company seen to sink. Plane which sank her dived on TAMWORTH to about 600 ft., and the gunner scored a direct hit with 12 pdr. which blew plane to pieces. Another plane hit by Lewis gunners and damaged. Towed into Dover by LADY BRASSEY. Crew of 19 saved, 1 injured. (Interview with Master, Trade Div. Casualties).



HOME COMMANDS (ctd.)

500

Mining

Spurn Point

BEECH reports Parachute Mine dropped 0451/0  
Spurn Point 19.74 miles (F.O.Humber 0640/25  
to C. in C.Nore)

Milford Haven

Port now open. (N.O.I.C.Milford Haven.  
0945/25)

Falmouth

Port closed owing to mines. (F.O.I.C.  
Falmouth 1019/25)

Hartlepool

Mine detonated by M/S Drifters at 54°41'50" N.  
1°5' W., at 0930/25. (N.O.I.C.Hartlepool  
1200/25)

One red mine detonated by L.L.tugs at 090°  
Mid Barrow Light Vessel 9 cables. (C. in C.  
Nore 1913/25)

Workington

Maryport

Silloth

} Open to outward traffic at 1600/25. Will be  
open to inward traffic at 0800/26. (F.O.I.C.  
Liverpool 2122/25)

Rosyth

One mine exploded 2.6 miles N.E. of Inchkeith,  
and one parachute mine reported off Inchkeith.  
(I.C.0523/40)

Needles.

2 mines exploded N. of the Needles (I.C.0523/40)

E. Coast barrier

Weather permitting all available M A/S B's to  
join D.20 at Aldeburgh L.V. at 2200/26 to act  
as anti-E Boat escort until force returns to  
Aldeburgh L.V. Request numbers of M A/S B's  
detailed and intended time of sailing may be  
signalled. (C. in C.Nore 1746/25 to F.O.I.C.  
Yarmouth)

Enemy Intelligence

At 1745/25 in 51°20' N., 3°E. two M/V's,  
course 240. A/C report. (A.C.H.Q.Chatham  
2030/25)

At 1750/25 in 51°25' N., 3°10' E. six M/V's  
escorted by 1 destroyer, course 240, following  
coastline. M/V's about 2000 tons and  
included some tankers. (A.C.H.Q.Chatham  
2030/25)

Boulogne

At 1700/25 one 2-funnel vessel anchored S. of  
Outer Mole, and 6 of Trawler type within  
Outer Mole. No other shipping seen.  
(Chatham A.C.H.Q.1840/25)

At 1750/25 in 51°25' N., 3°10' E. 6 M/V's  
2000 tons and one destroyer. (A.C.H.Q.  
Chatham 2030/25)

Rotterdam

No changes or activity or Naval Units.  
(P.U.I.2047/25)



HOME COMMANDS

501

Enemy Intelligence (Ctd.)

Battery at  
Gris Nez.

Recent intense activity at Gris Nez apparently to build major shore battery commanding W. approaches. Activity continuing (P.I.U. 2307/25 to N.I.D.)

At 0652/25, five fishing smacks in 56°5' N., 7°20' E. and at 0655/25, one more fishing smack in 56°5' N., 7°10' E. (Donibristle 1050/25)

At 1615/25, in 58°10' N. 5°30' E., 3 M/V's course 210° speed 10 knots. (Donibristle 1945/26)

Shipping

Convoy T.C.6.

Request at least 4 more destroyers be allocated to Plymouth to enable escort of 8 destroyers to be provided for T.C.6. (C. in C. W.A. 1852/25 to Adty.)

GOTHENBURG

*See under  
Swedish, GOTEBOURG  
Lloyd 1940-41*

Swedish, with first batch of repatriated British soldiers will be ready to sail P.M./31st July. German N.A. expecting safe-conduct. (N.A. Stockholm 1211/25 to Adty.)

0500

WEATHER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
<u>North Sea</u>	<u>In West.</u> West Light to moderate. <u>Central and East.</u> S. to S.W. Moderate.	Good Moderate	Similar Improving
<u>Channel</u>	W. to N. Light to Moderate	Good, coastal mist.	Wind backing to S.W.
<u>Western Approaches</u>	N.W. Light to moderate.	Good	Wind backing S.W. Fresh. <u>Vis.</u> moderate local fog.
<u>Horns Reef</u>	S. to S.S.W. moderate	Moderate to good.	Similar.
<u>Dutch Coast</u>	S.W. to W. Light to moderate.	Moderate. local fog.	Visibility improving to good.
<u>S.W. Coast Norway</u>	S.E. to E. Light to moderate	Moderate to good, local fog.	Similar

War Diary



25.7.40  
Thursday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

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502

NARINGA

British. Due Mombasa 21/7. Overdue.  
(S.O.I. Colombo 0502Z/25 to Adty.)

Your 0502. Arrived here 0915Z/24 July.  
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini 0837/25 to S.O.I. Colombo)



War Diary

25.7.1940.  
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

503

North Atlantic

Evacuee Ships

My 1332/24 Governor now considers delay involved by keeping remaining evacuee ships until sailing of convoy HG 40 3/8 should not be accepted. There are 8 ships already awaiting this convoy and I intend to sail convoy HG 40 with addition of all remaining evacuee ships escorted by WELLINGTON p.m. /30.

HG. 40

It will still be necessary to sail ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ULSTER MONARCH and ROYAL SCOTSMAN in separate fast convoy sailing in accordance with my 1334/24 as their fresh water capacity is insufficient for time involved by slow convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1244/25)

Transport of  
Mobile guns in  
VALIANT

Numbers which VALIANT could carry etc.,  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1830/25)

Daladier

Re bringing him to England (V.C.N.S. 1513/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

French  
Cameroons

Asking whether arrangements should be made for evacuation of British Subjects or whether it is intended to take over mandate. (C. in C., S.A. 1341/25)

FOREIGN STATIONS

504

Mediterranean

Reinforcement  
of Med. Fleet.  
Dispositions etc..

1st S.L. 1950/25, 1953/25 to C. in C.,  
Med., See Mediterranean Volume.

CALEDON  
CAPETOWN

Your 0933/24. Anticipated that in spite  
of inadequate A.A. armament lack of speed  
and low endurance CALEDON and CAPETOWN  
can be usefully employed on E.I. station  
If C. in C., E.I. concurs, request you will  
arrange details of transfer direct with  
him. (1st S.L. 1706/25 to C. in C., Med.)

Organisation  
Mediterranean  
Fleet  
Force H.  
ROYAL SOVEREIGN

My 0142/14 to C. in C., H.F. and 0227/15  
to C. in C., Med.  
Decided that, subject to any changed in  
the general situation, the forces operating  
under C. in C., Med. and S.O. Force H will  
be as follows:-

2. Mediterranean Fleet

WARSPITE, VALIANT, MALAYA, RAMILLES  
being later relieved by BARHAM.  
ILLUSTRIOUS, EAGLE.  
KENT, YORK  
GLOUCESTER, LIVERPOOL, ORION, NEPTUNE  
SYDNEY  
CALCUTTA and COVENTRY  
Destroyers as at present  
Sløops under consideration.  
Submarines as at present with rein-  
forcements already ordered from China.

3. Force H.

RENOWN, RESOLUTION  
ARK ROYAL  
SHEFFIELD, ENTERPRISE.  
Destroyers as at present

4. ROYAL SOVEREIGN will join the Halifax  
convoy Escort Force.

5. *see med Vol p.51.*

(1st. S.L. 1700/25)

FOREIGN STATIONS

505

Mediterranean-Contd.,

Dispositions

My 1953/25 and your 1301/21 Decision to employ ROYAL SOVEREIGN in Halifax Escort Force is based on urgency of reinforcing this Force. If a battleship is required for a slow Australian troop convoy late in September, it is hoped you will be able to spare RAMILLIES, as question of sending you BARHAM should by then be more clear. (V.C.N.S. 1957/25 to C. in C., Med)

R.A. Renouf has hoisted his flag in LIVERPOOL temporarily and will transfer to GLOUCESTER when latter is ready (C. in C., Med., 2227/24) *sep. 654*

Air

Italian Aircraft  
which landed near  
Manacor, 18/7

Your 1014/23 aircraft landed 0700 hours from direction of Bran (Consul, Palma T.H.I. 0036/25 to S.O.(I) Gib.)

WARSPITE's  
Aircraft

My 1913/20 and WARSPITE's 1210/21 and 1228/21 Italian broadcast on 22/7 stated a British aircraft had been brought down in sea off North African Coast and crew had been rescued. Seems probable that this may have been WARSPITE's aircraft. (C. in C., Med. 0927/25)

Raid on  
Alexandria

0400- 0520. No military damage. Details (R.A. i/c Alexandria 1001/25) Small ammunition carrier ARNON empty hit by bomb caught fire, fire extinguished (C. in C., Med. 2315/25)

Haifa  
Refinery

My 1723/17. and N.O. i/c Haifa 1030/24, I again wish to draw attention to situation at Haifa. If nothing is done it is only a matter of time before refinery will be put out of action and then Haifa as a source of supply of fuel for Fleet will cease functioning. The real trouble is that the Italian air forces in Dodecanese are being allowed to operate entirely unhindered by any counter action. These ~~air~~ forces are also most active against Fleet for same reason. Only solution I can see is that long range bombers are sent to Egypt forthwith. Perhaps they could be flown out, refuelling Malta. (C. in C., Med. 1003/25 to Admty.)



FOREIGN STATIONS

506

Mediterranean- Contd.

HAVOCK  
(Damaged 19/7)

Details of damage. Ship has been made seaworthy in Adty. floating dock and proceeded to Suez. 25/7 for permanent repairs. Estimated 5 weeks. (C. in C., Med. 1849/25)

East Indies

WESTRALIA

My 0632/10. After making R.V. with Force Q proceed to Colombo. (C. in C., E.I. 0430Z/25)

MILFORD

Orders for patrol arriving Cape Verde Is. (C. in C., S.A. 1340/25)

"Niblick"  
"~~Niblick~~"  
Operations

C. in C., E.I. 0724/25. See Operations Volume.

PERLA  
Destroyed 27/6)

My 0741/28/6 HOBART reports submarine PERLA (? corrupt group) on beach. Not examined closely as air attack reported in my 0756/22 drove her out to sea no surface craft seen. (C. in C., E.I. 0730Z/25)

TW One

Re sailing (C. in C., E.I. 10732Z/25)

R.A.F.  
Summary

H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary No 45 period 24 hours ending 1800/25. Photographic reconnaissance Tobruk 24/7 shows 13 large ships and 1 submarine in harbour. ~~Корабли~~ ~~максималист~~ ~~харбух~~. 1 Ship 400 feet long shore south side of harbour making total 4 ships either sunk or on their sides. 3 of the ships probably put out of action by 824 Squadron torpedo attack 19/7 and 1 destroyer by R.A.F. attack 20/7. Only active warships now in Tobruk are guardship SAN GIORGIO and 1 submarine. Enemy bombed Matruh area 5 times 24/7. No information yet casualties or damage. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. 1749/25)

China

Dispositions

Your 0927/24. Provided it can be accepted that patrols in Japanese or Chinese waters can only be spasmodic the following arrangements are being made. KANIMBLA will leave Singapore about 2/8 to join E.I. Command.

MORETON BAY will leave Hong Kong about 28/7 for Singapore and E.I. ARAWA will remain on China coast or at Hong Kong till relieved by a "D" Class Cruiser about mid-August when escort duties from Penang to Colombo are completed.

/She will the.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Dispositions, Contd. She will then follow to Singapore and thence to E.I. With three "D" Class Cruisers remaining I intend to keep one based at Hong Kong for China Coast duty and two when available at Singapore for patrol in approach to Malacca Straits etc., (C. in C., China 0845Z/25 to Adty.)

Flying Boats

A.O.C. Far East is basing 2 Singapore Flying boats at Nancowry and 1 at Penang for next three weeks. They will be ready to operate as Searching or Striking Force from 29/7 if raider is again located. (C. in C., China, 0245Z/25 to C. in C., E.I.)

Transfer of  
Italian and  
German Ships

Your 0525Z/23. I have reminded Ministry of Marine that transfer of Italian as well as German ships to neutral Flag will not be recognised and that such ships would be liable to seizure. (N.A. Tokyo 1739/24 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

Submarine O14

Netherlands authorities have placed submarine O 14 now at Curacao under your orders from 26/7 Request you will sail Submarine to U.K. via Bermuda. (D.O.D. (F) 1805/25 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

SUMATRA

Programme (C. in C., A.W.I. 1251/25)

Raider

Further details (DIOMEDE 1617/22)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LICHTENFELS  
GERA

Your 1756/23. 10 German ships including LICHTENFELS and GERA are still believed to be at Massawa (C. in C., E.I. 0736/25)

KONIGSBERG  
PREUSSEN

Reported she would arrive at Swinemunde 2330/25 (I.C. 0523/40)

DANZIG

Has arrived. All other German vessels previously reported here left (B.C. Gothenburg 0930/25)

YALOVA

Due Batum 28/7 from Istanbul (left 25/7) (Galati 1409/25)

TANNENFELS }  
UCKERLAPK

Definitely identified at Kismayu 21/7 by COLOMBO (C. in C. E.I. 0804Z/25)

ASKARI }  
KIONGA

Probably two of the ships sighted at Kismayu 21/7 by COLOMBO (C. in C., E.I. 0804Z/25)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TREMARIE

Not yet sailed. Cancel my 1013/25 (S.O.(i) Gib. 2157/25) (1013/25 stated TREMARIE had left Valencia overnight)

LEONADO DA VINCI }  
MAISON  
DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI  
ADRA

Definitely identified at Kismayu 21/7 by COLOMBO

PENSILVANIA }  
INTERRITAS  
SAVOIA  
SOMALIA  
MARGHERA

Presence at Kismayu not confirmed.

is probably the Italian Tanker seen at Kismayu 21/7 by COLOMBO.

There are no ships at Mogadishu.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

NOTOU

Left for Sydney 25/7 (N.C.O. Port Kimbla 0550Z/25)

Your 1727/20. French ships referred to in S.B.N.O. Suez Canal's 2006/19 cannot be legally requisitioned in Egyptian waters. They should be sailed under armed guard to Cyprus or other convenient British Port and there requisitioned. Ports in Palestine should not be used. This applies equally to PRESIDENT DOULER and FELIX ROUSSEL. Crews should all be dealt with under A.M. 2319/16 (Hd. of M. 2048/25 to C. in C., Med.)



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

2130

52° 5' N., 4° 49' W., Reported as unreliable (I.C. 0523/40)

America & West Indies

Submarine reported to have surfaced at 1130 G.M.T. 25/7 about 2 miles north of Tortloa Island. Submarine proceeded to the North Eastward. No surface craft or aircraft near vicinity. Request you ascertain if United States Sybmarine. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1503/25 to N.A. Washington)

Reply. Navy Dept. informs me there is no U.S.A. submarine operating in those waters. (N.A. Washington 1535/26)

Submarines Attacked

0426

Aircraft 59° 19' N., 1° 9' W., bombed oil streak (A/C 0426/25)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

12° 30' N., 43° 55' E., (108° Perim 1.30 miles) reported from native post ashore C.3. (I.C. 0523/40)

26.7.40  
FRIDAY



War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

510

Defence against Invasion

A conference was ordered today between representatives of the Chiefs and Vice-Chiefs of Staff and Cs in C. of the three services, to discuss the coordination of action in the event of invasion.

The first anti-invasion patrol established off the Maas and Scheldt was carried out last night by M.T.Bs without incident.

An 8-inch cruiser or a large 6 inch cruiser is to be always available in the Clyde *to cover the approaches to Ireland from North and South.*

There is no indication that preparations for invasion are slacking, and the situation remains substantially unaltered. (C.I.C. Report No.57).

Attacks on Shipping

Undamaged ships of coastal Convoy C.W.8 which was attacked by aircraft yesterday afternoon, were attacked off Shoreham about 0300 today by E-boats. LULONGA (in ballast) and LONDON TRADER and BROADHURST (with coal) were sunk, while SANFRAY was attacked, but reached port safely.

Convoy OB.188 outward bound for Sierra Leone, was attacked this afternoon by a U-boat. ACCRA (9337 tons) was torpedoed and sunk and VINEMOOR (4359 tons, in ballast for Panama) was torpedoed, her stern being blown off.

British Air Activity

Bad weather interfered with patrols and operations today. 126 aircraft left to attack targets in Germany and Holland last night.

The petroleum dock at Amsterdam was bombed last night successfully, and hits or near misses were made on shipping near Haarlem. The Dortmund-Ems Canal aqueducts were again successfully attacked.

Early today 8 Skuas attacked shipping in the Bergen area. It is believed that a ship of about 3000 tons was sunk. Two Skuas collided during this attack; one crashed immediately and one on landing.

SITUATION REPORT

---

British Air Activity (Contd.)

Air escort was provided for 17 convoys.

M. bombs were dropped in the Rhine and Ems mouth.

Enemy Air Activity

NAIAD proceeding from Rosyth to Scapa after doing trials, was bombed but not hit at 0545/26 off Moray Firth. WHITSHED was bombed, 19 miles E. by S. of Yarmouth at 0710, and was undamaged. Enemy reconnaissance aircraft were active in the Channel and off the East Coast during the day, but apart from the above, there were no further attacks on ships.

It is now reported that South Falls light float (attacked 23/7) has been sunk by aircraft.

Mining

British  
Minelaying

COVENTRY, 5 destroyers and 5 minelayers are on passage from Scotland to lay mines south of St. George's Channel.

20th D.F. left Humber this evening to lay mines in the East Coast barrier.

Enemy  
Minelaying

There was further minelaying by enemy aircraft during the early hours of today. Mines were laid off the South West Coast and South Wales district. Parachute mines are reported to have been, dropped also in the Firth of Forth and a mine was exploded near Inch-Keith Light. Magnetic mines have been exploded off Hartlepool Humber, West Isle of Wight, in the Thames Estuary, at Falmouth, Plymouth, Bristol Channel, Swansea and Milford Haven. A moored mine was swept 1 mile S.S.W. of Sunk L.V. Two small ships were mined and sunk today. At noon HAYTOR (British), in Convoy F.N.33, was sunk in the Thames Estuary, in the swept channel 9 miles E.S.E. of Sunk L.V. WHITSHED saved 16 out of crew of 17. At 2150 BALZAC (Norwegian) was mined and sunk off Sunderland.

SITUATION REPORT

---

512

Mining (Contd.)

Enemy  
Minelaying  
(Contd.)

Tyne was closed during the night and reopened at 0710. Aberdeen, Rosyth, Falmouth, Swansea, Port Talbot, Newhaven, Fishguard, Tyne-Blyth inshore channel and the Kyles of Bute are closed (0715). Sunderland was closed after the mining of the S.S. BALZAC at 2055/26. Rosyth, Aberdeen, Swansea, Falmouth were reopened later. ~~Sunderland was closed this evening.~~

S.S. ORDUNA

The Vichy Govt. has informed the French authorities at Lisbon that the German Govt. refuses to guarantee the return voyage of S.S. ORDUNA from Lisbon to U.K. ORDUNA had disembarked French diplomats and Staffs at Lisbon and was to return empty and easily distinguishable.

Mediterranean

ARK ROYAL, ENTERPRISE and 3 destroyers (left Gibraltar 23/7 for Biscayan area) are at sea. Operations at the Gironde have been cancelled.

VAMPIRE, VENDETTA and ABINGDON have arrived at Port Said after operations in the Mediterranean.

There was an air raid on Gibraltar at 0200 today, no damage was caused to ships or Dockyard, but two legs of the W/T aerial were shot away.

A strong force of reconnaissance aircraft accompanied by fighters, were over Malta this afternoon, but the force withdrew without dropping bombs when Gladiators went up to intercept.



War Diary

26.7.1940.  
Friday

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HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Fighters at  
Dover

Adty. 1857/24. Fighter Command agrees that Fighters should avoid Dover while U.R. weapons being used. If you agree we propose confirm this. (Air Ministry, 1230/26 to Adty.)

Defence of  
R.N. Air Stations

Siting of Pill-Boxes and other Defences. (Head of A. 1535/26)

Greenock  
Ballon Protection

Your 2006/25. Reconnaissance has been made, and equipment will be provided as soon as available. (Air Ministry 1947/26 to Adty.)

Exercise Whisky

Exercise to test Inter-Service Communications in event of Hostile landing on East Coast will take place from 0600/28 till 1800/29 (D.S.D. 1226/26)

Movements

SHEFFIELD  
YORK  
COVENTRY  
CALCUTTA

SHEFFIELD, YORK, COVENTRY, CALCUTTA to be ready to leave U.K. on 11th August. SHEFFIELD will join Force H; YORK CALCUTTA and COVENTRY will join Mediterranean Fleet; COVENTRY should proceed to Plymouth on completion of Operation S.N. 31. (A.C.N.S. H. -1157/26 to C. in C., H.F.)

Submarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/27. Area A. NARWHAL TRIDENT TRITON SNAPPER H 28 H 50 as in my 1723 25th July. THAMES JZSC 5010 proceeding submerged by day to TGTA 4550 PORPOISE PCTA 4618 proceeding submerged by day to RQLZ 5817. Netherlands submarine O 23 escorted by Netherlands T.T.Z.6. due Stornoway 1000 27th July leaving p.m. for Dundee. Submarines leave Rosyth as follows SUNFISH SEALION 1300 TAKU TRIAD TRIBUNE 1930 all five proceeding on surface North East STURGEON leaves Blyth 1600 Southward on surface for H one. SWORDFISH leaves Blyth 1900 on surface through Gap B thence Northwards. URSULA leaves Rosyth 0400 unescorted on surface for Blyth. (V.A.S. 1727/26)



HOME COMMANDS

E. Boats

Convoy C.W. 8.

Attacked by E-Boat at 0255 (C. in C.,  
Portsmouth 0314/26 to SALADIN, STURDY)

LONDON TRADER

Torpedoed by E-Boat at 0230/26, 13' S. by  
W. of Shoreham. 12 saved, 1 lost (C. in C.,  
Portsmouth 1209/27) *Sunk.*

BROADHURST

Torpedoed at 0235/26, 17' <sup>S.</sup> by W of Shoreham  
13 saved, 4 lost (C. in C., Portsmouth  
1209/27)

LULONGA

Collier. At 0220/26, about 10 miles S. of  
Shoreham, attacked by E-Boat, machine  
gunned, torpedoed, and sunk. 2 severely  
wounded. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1014/26 to  
Adty.)

SANFRY

At 0230/26 in 50° 26' N., 0° 22' W attacked  
by E-Boats and again at 0445/26 about 5'  
South of Shoreham. Ship arrived Shoreham  
with Gunner injured. (C. in C., Portsmouth  
1015/26 to Adty.)

At 1550/26, five E-Boats West of Cape Gris  
Nez. (I.C. 0524/40)

SANFRY was attacked by aircraft p.m. 25th  
July, off Folkestone, and badly shaken by  
near misses. Examination at Shoreham showed  
starboard side to be badly buckled and set  
in. Attacked again by E-boats as above  
a.m. 26th. Three torpedoes missed. SANFRY  
opened fire on E-boat. Enemy opened fire  
with machine guns, apparently using ship's  
gun flash as target. R.M. gunner fell  
wounded. Master and Second Officer opened  
fire from bridge with Lewis gun. Merchant  
seaman gunner removed G.L. from gun platform  
and reopened fire. E-boat withdrew.  
(Interview with Master, 8.8.1940).



HOME COMMANDS

Air- British Air Activity

My 0055/26. A/C attacked 5000 ton ship off Haugesund. No result. (Hatston 0812/26 to A.C.O.S.)

A/C attacked one 3000 tons ship escorted by motor-launch steering south in Hardanger Fiord. Ship sinking when last seen. (Hatston 0812/26 to A.C.O.S.)

Patrol SAI (B) cancelled till further orders. An offensive Patrol of 3 Blenheims will be flown instead. (C. in C., Rosyth 1416/26 to Ady.)

9 Skuas left Hatston 0050/26 to attack Oil Tanks south of Bergen, returning Sunbrough about 0445. (Hatston 0055/26)

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy bombing at 64° E.N.E. of Kinnairds Head. My course 015, speed 35 knots. (NAIAD 0535/26) Two bombs, no hits, (NAIAD 0545/26)

Enemy bombing at 52° 35' N., 2° 16' E. (WHITSHED 0710/26) Bombs missed (WHITSHED 0712/26)



HOME COMMANDS

Mining

- Tyne Port closed owing to suspected Minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0140/26) Port Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0710/26)
- Rosyth Port closed. Parachute Mine reported at 56° 4' N., 3° 4' 36" W., (C. in C., Rosyth 1233/26)
- Swansea )  
Port Talbot ) Closed to all ships owing to suspected Minelaying by aircraft (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 0200/26 to Ady.) Swansea open to all ships. Port Talbot remains closed (F.O.I.C. -Cardiff 1757/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Aberdeen Port closed owing to enemy action. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0239/26) R.A.F. plotting shows 2 areas suspect. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0701/26 to C. in C. Rosyth)
- Harwich LL sweepers exploded 2 Magnetic Mines at 51° 47' N., 1° 25' E., at 0831/26 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1057/26)
- Falmouth Port now open (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1500/26)
- Proposed  
Linefield Proposed that during forthcoming dark period 20th D.F. shall lay mines on line 10 miles 360° from 51° 21' N., 2° 56' E. to cover Schooneveld and West Pit. Remarks requested (A.C.N.S.H 1653/26 to C. in C., Nore)
- Milford Haven Mine dropped off Sheep Island last night exploded on surface. Now 3 possible mines in Haven and approaches. Areas affected are kept clear (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1838/26)
- Mumbles Red Mine detonated by single L 096° Mumbles Light 2.9 miles and one by double L 102° Mumbles Light 2.8 miles. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1941/26 to Adty.)
- Sunderland Port closed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2131/26 to Adty)
- B.S. 28 D.20 with EXPRESS, ESK, ICARUS, INTREPID, IMPULSIVE left Humber 1345/26 (F.O. Humber 1355/26 to Adty.) (Your 1653 No objection (V.A.S. 1859/26 to Adty.)



War Diary

26.7.1940.  
Friday

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HOME COMLANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Main German Units

No further information (D.D.I.C. 1639/26)

Romsdale Fjord

At 1223/26, One transport 6000 to 8000 tons moving into Fjord. A/C report. (Donibristle 1712/26)

Froi Fiord, 45' W. of Tromheim

At 1347/26 in 63° 45' N., 8° 56' E., four Destroyers or sloops steering towards Tromheim at 15 knots. A/C report (Donibristle 1712/26)

At 0100/26 in 52° 28' N., 4° 35' E., three large 6,000 tons ships and twelve small 600 to 1,000 tons anchored and unlit. (T.H.I. 0016/27)

Havre

No shipping seen at 1537/26. (I.C. 0524/40)

Shipping

HX 57 B.

WANDERER with convoy arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0702/26)

HX 58

Sail one destroyer to meet HX 58 as early as practicable and subsequently escort B portion (A.C.W.A. 1049/26 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)

MAHOMED ALI  
EL KEBIR

Speed 15 knots, with Troops for Gibraltar, will be ready leave Avonmouth p.m. 5th August. GRIFFIN to provide close escort. (D.O.D. (H) 1055/26)

GOTHENBURG *Swedish*  
*see under GOTEBOG*  
*Lloyd's 1940-41*

Your 1211/25. Should not call at Norwegian Port but should proceed to Lerwick. Germans may wish give their own routeing instructions, but destination to be Lerwick. (D.T.D. 1916/26 to N.A. Stockholm.)

SL 42 and SLF 42

Route (D.T.D. 1800/26 to N.C.S.O. Freetown)

NORFOLK and  
DEVONSHIRE

Orders for covering Convoy. (C. in C., H.F. 2312/26)

HX 56

On time at rendezvous (D.T.D. 1547/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

/SL 41.....



HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

S.L. 41.

Amended sailing Telegram. (D.T.D. 1546/26 to C. in C., W.A.)

Intend sailing GEORGIC and KONIGEN EMMA escorted by WATCHMAN and VORTIGERN for Reykjavik at 2000/27. Speed  $15\frac{1}{2}$  knots (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1646/26 to Adty.)

O.B. 187

Addition to Liverpool's sailing Telegram (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1249/26 to Adty.)

Convoy OA 190

Sailed 0715/26. 8 knots 45 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0750/26 to Adty.)

HX 62

Your 1222/24. Route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1035/25 to Adty.)

OPDUNA

Your 2015/25 Sails from Lisbon 1900/28 arriving Liverpool Bar Light Vessel 0630/1st August. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1109/26)

MT. 21

Sailed 0930/26. 26 Ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1049/26/ to Adty.)

Reykjavik Convoy

Intend sailing for Reykjavik at 2030/27 Speed 7 knots. Routed as in my 1646/26. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1651/26 to Adty.)

Fast Convoy with destroyer escort and slow convoy with trawler escort leave Clyde 27th July for Iceland. (V.A.N.P. 2107/26 to N Northern Patrol Negative Trawlers)

Raiders

As enemy Raiders are at large, interim arrangements as to Radio Watches are to come ~~in~~ into force forthwith, and emergency Wireless Aerials to be fitted at once. (D.T.D. 2121/26 to Ships)

Miscellaneous

The Sound

Your 1617/24. The lower waters of the Sound along the Swedish Coast are now open to Light Draught Vessels. (N.A. Stockholm 1702/26 to D.N.I.)



War Diary

26.7.1940.  
Friday.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

TROPIC SEA

Norwegian. Overdue at Panama since 9th July. (D.N.I. Melbourne 1210Z/26 to Adty.)

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG  
CLIM ALPINE  
KIRANJA

} Due Cape Town 24/7 and not yet arrived  
See S. Atlantic.

ALPHA

Portuguese, 853 tons, bombed near Ushant on 15th July. now considered a total loss. (D.S. 326)



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War Diary26.7.40  
Friday 520FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

1. Situation at Gibraltar. Defences.
2. Adty. policy apparently remains to continue maximum use of Gibraltar to last possible moment. Urge that the following steps be taken. (a) Urge Adty. that shipping be kept available to remove Naval Base and Dockyard personnel at shortest notice. (b) Speed up evacuation. (c) Despatch reinforcements already requested.
3. Vital to defence of rock to stop all frontier traffic on first sign of offensive intended against us. To do so prematurely is most undesirable and I do not propose to unless I have certain proof of imminence of attack. Request that I be informed urgently if situation arises to call for such action. (Governor Gib. 1145/26, to W.O.).

Air Raid

Air raid on Gib. No damage to ships or dockyard. (F.O.C.N.A., 0158/26, 0252/26). Slight damage to No. Rock aerial. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1804/26).

Evacuees

My 1334/24. Convoy cannot be delayed once embarkation of evacuees has started. Re. escort (F.O.C.N.A. 1130A/26).

Dummy Air-raid

On Gib. 27/7 (F.O.C. Force H. 1920/26).

Your 1950/25. Our destroyers now on passage with ARGUS to complete 13th<sup>th</sup> to remain at Gibraltar. This would leave 6 to screen HOOD, VALIANT and ARGUS on passage home which should suffice.

For passage out screen would hardly be sufficient if submarines at all active. FOXHOUND of 8th D.F. has only 7 days leave for each watch since war commenced; consider her replacement by an equivalent destroyer after arrival United Kingdom very desirable. (F.O.C. Force H. 1231/26).

## ARK ROYAL

(Carrying out operations am/26), VIDETTE to proceed 0230/27 to R.V. with ARK ROYAL and escort 35:50 N., 6:40 W. at 0630 (Capt. D.13, 1618/26).

## ATHLONE CASTLE

(With evacuees) left Gib. 2000/26 escorted by VELOX till 1200/27 (S.O.(I) Gib. 2100/26). Route etc. (F.O.C.N.A., 2104/26, 1732/27).

War Diary26.7.40.  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth AtlanticS.S. ANGOLA  
MILFORD  
to interceptMILFORD to intercept and remove German agent.  
(C. in C., S.A. 0932/26).  
Expected to arrive St. Vincent 0600L/27.  
As MILFORD probably unable to comply with my  
0932/26 and intercept a reasonable time before  
arrival at St. Vincent interception to take  
place after ANGOLA sails. (C. in C., S.A., 1231/26  
to MILFORD).Port Stanley  
MinesweepingTemporarily suspended owing to defects in  
WILLIAM SCORESBY and ROYDUR (N.O.I.C. Port  
Stanley, 1420/26).DRAGON  
movementsUnless strong arguments to contrary, DRAGON sails  
from Duala pm/27 and proceeds Lagos to refuel  
and await further developments. DRAGON cannot  
remain indefinitely at Duala owing to fuel  
considerations and other possible requirements  
on station. Your Tel. unnumbered 26/7 and  
L/326 received and understood. (C. in C., S.A.  
1018/26 to Governor Nigeria).CITY OF  
JOHANNESBURG }  
CLAN ALPINE }  
KARANGA }  
? Raider or }  
U-Boat }Master of British MYRTLEBANK reports sighting  
large columns of smoke for about three  
hours in position 012° 56' S. 004° 19' W. at  
1330Z/18. He did not approach. British S.S.  
CITY OF JOHANNESBURG, CLAN ALPINE Northbound  
were about this position also British  
SS KARANJA due Cape Town 24/7 not yet arrived.  
These three on route A A three. (N.O.I.C.,  
Simonstown 1845/26 to CUMBERLAND).Mediterranean - OperationsOperation  
"Hurry"

F.O. Force H, 1245/26 see Medit. Vol.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN  
to proceed via  
CapeAdty. 1953/25. Do not consider it advisable  
to pass ROYAL SOVEREIGN through to Gib. in view  
of her low speed and added complications.  
ROYAL SOVEREIGN badly in need of docking;  
propose she should sail now round the Cape dock-  
ing en route at Durban. Escort to (?Aden) will  
be arranged (? for) (?ROYAL SOVEREIGN).  
(C. in C. Med. 1437/26 to Adty. F.O. Force H.,  
C. in C., E.I., C. in C., S.A.)





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War Diary26.7.40.  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Operations (Contd.)Ammunition

Re shipping 8-inch ammunition to Canal area.  
(C. in C., Med. 2031/26).

Stores

Arrangements for shipping urgent stores to  
Malta from Eastern Medit. (C. in C., Med. 1005/26)

War Plans

C. in C., Med. 2005/26 see Medit. Vol.

A.A. Guns

Re shipping in VALIANT. (Adty. 1207/26,  
F.O.I.C. Malta, 1439/26, VALIANT 1444/26).

## REGULUS

Amended time of arrival Suez 0300Z/28  
(REGULUS 1015/26).

PRESIDENT  
DOUMER

My 1249/19. Expect French ship PRESIDENT  
DOUMER will shortly be ready for sea manned by a  
French crew. Request instructions regarding  
service to which ship is to be allocated.  
She can carry at least 1000 troops. Strongly  
recommend early employment which would be good  
for morale of new French crew.  
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0854/26 to Adty.)

Mediterranean - AirMalta

One raid today by strong reconnaissance force  
accompanied by fighters who turned away when  
Gladiators went up to intercept. No bombs  
dropped. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2131/26).

Maifa

Re air defences. (R.A.(D.1 Medit. 1805/26)  
see Medit. Vol.

Enemy Intelligence

It is reported that 2 cruisers, 4 destroyers  
and a number of submarines were seen patrolling  
past Skyess and Lemnos pm/26. (Graded C.O.)  
Note. It is possible that cruisers and  
destroyers should read destroyers and T.Bs.  
(I.C. 0524/40);

War Diary26.7.40.  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesCALEDON  
CAPETOWN(Re transfer to E.I. Station, see Medit.  
25/7). Concur (C. in C., E.I. 1928Z/26).RoutesNew routes East Africa established. Details  
(C. in C., E.I. 0624Z/26)."N. Lick"  
~~"M. Lick"~~  
Force

M.E. THI 1657/26 see Operations Volume.

Convoy B.N.3.

Size of (C. in C., E.I. 1702Z/26).

COLOMBO

To proceed when ready, to patrol in narrow  
part of Mozambique Channel to give cover to  
shipping. Orders. (C. in C., E.I. 0430/26).  
Intend to leave Mombasa 2100Z/26. (COLOMBO  
1211Z/26).AQUILONE <sup>(destroyer)</sup>  
~~(T.B.)~~  
ABBA(T.B.)Reported between Derna and Tobruk 0600/26.  
(AQUILONE was previously at Tobruk and  
believed damaged by air attack 1/7 proceeded  
to Naples-possibly to undergo repair. ABBA  
is normally stationed at Messine.)  
(I.C. 0524/40).ChinaShippingLeakage of information re dates of arrivals  
of ships in Penang. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1758/26).Transport.W.1.Orders. Route. KANIMBLA will provide cover.  
Flying boat escort. (F.O.C. Singapore, 0443Z/26).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

BHX 61

Departure. Ocean Escort RAJPUTANA, local escort PENZANCE (Capt. I.C. Bermuda 1348/26).

Suspicious Ships and Motor Boats off Tortola.  
ESME.

(a) not identified

Adty. 1706/22/7. Following from S.N.O. Trinidad. Begins. British ~~SI~~ <sup>Ship</sup> ESME<sup>(a)</sup> reported on arrival St. Thomas Virgin Islands having seen 18/7 between Saba and Tortola several fast armed grey motor boats flying Swedish flag. C Three. 1128/25. Ends. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0023/26 to DIOMEDE).

Your 0023/26. I have interviewed Captain of <sup>(a)</sup> ESME who confirms sighting ship resembling raider on 18/7 but did not sight any motor boats. Story seems without foundation, possibly based on survivors' report of two heavy motor boats in raider. (DIOMEDE 1817/26 to C. in C., E.I.).

My 2115/22. St. Thomas reports interviewing Master who stated that ship painted dark grey with yellow funnel. Looked like Swedish flag painted on side. Vessel resembled number 73 O.U. 6329 (1). B.3. (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 1028/26. to Adty.)

Your 1028/26. St. Thomas should be further questioned regarding report in S.N.O. Trinidad 1128 25th July. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1542/26 to S.O.(I), ~~Kingston~~, Jamaica).

DIOMEDE  
amended patrol

?Monaco

My 1301/23 and 0023/26. It appears possible that several fast armed boats may have been hoisted out of raider and may be operating in vicinity of Monaco and/or Sombrero passages. Reported to be painted grey and flying Swedish flag. Amend DIOMEDE patrol to cover Monaco and Sombrero passages as far north as 20° N. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1021/26 to DIOMEDE).

Programme to be carried out by SUMATRA leaving Bermuda 26/7.

Bermuda departure Netherlands Cruiser SUMATRA for Jamaica as in my 1251/25. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1153/26).

War Diary

525  
26.7.40.  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Australia

TROPIC SEA  
Raider

Reference S.O.(I) Wellington 06462/5.  
Norwegian Ship TROPIC SEA overdue since  
9/7 at Panama direct from Sydney should have  
been near position in which supposed Raider  
was sighted. TROPIC SEA carried 433 tons  
of oil bunkers and 8000 tons of Wheat.  
(D.N.I. Melbourne, 1210Z/26).

War Diary26.7.1940.  
FridayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSARAUCA

Following from Jacksonville. ARAUCA endeavouring to clear fine and port bond againsts detachments of voyage. Destination unknown. 5 members of crew trying to secure permission to proceed to Mexico apparently to join German ships there, accordingly suspect these ships may also be preparing to sail (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1157/26)

WESER  
HAVELLAND

U.S. authorities Panama quote unconfirmed report these ships given ammunition and supplies at sea by Japanese ship(s) B.2.

FRANKFURT

Calloa reports her loading 500 tons coal from Chilean MAULLIN B.2. (S.O. (1) Kingston Jamaica 1137/26)

ANTILLA

(Scuttled at Aruba, N.W.I.) Report of surveyor that ship can be rendered seaworthy within 2 months. (Consul, Willemstad, 1910/26)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSFELLA

Reported from Panama expected to sail next week B.2. (S.O.(1) Kingston, Jamaica 1137/26)

526A.

S.S. ACCRA

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 9,337 tons; 4".7 gun and 12-pdr.

DATE AND TIME: 26th July, 1355 ~~1355~~ B.S.T.

POSITION: 55°40'N. 16°28'W.

SPEED: 8 knots.

ROUTE: Liverpool to Freetown.

CARGO: General - 1,700 tons.

IN CONVOY: Yes - one of 40 ships.

ESCORT: ENCHANTRESS 4 or 5 cables ahead, and CLARKIA.

FATE OF CREW: 499 people on board altogether of which 341 were passengers. 4 members of crew killed, 1 injured, 8 missing. 8 passengers were also missing.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Choppy sea, breeze, force 3.

REMARKS:- Passengers were Nigerian Minor officials. Leading ship of second column from port side, using No. 10 zig-zag. At above time dull explosion on starboard. S.S. VINEMOOR was seen to blow up just before. Ship was hit abaft amidships, and took a list of about 6°. No S/M was sighted. Blast blew two of the lifeboats to smithereens. Put engine to stop but torpedo had already done so. Lights had gone out. Passengers behaved very well, no panic. 9 boats were got away and a motor launch. Some were on rafts, and as launch pulled away from ship people on them jumped for it, capsized it, and all were thrown into water. 16 people were drowned. Two ships in convoy turned back, viz. the HOLLANSIDE and the Norwegian vessel LOKA and picked up survivors. ENCHANTRESS also picked up 79. The Captains of both Merchant Ships behaved wonderfully well. The ACCRA sank in 1 hour 15 minutes.

DATE: 22nd August 1940.

11XCB.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

S.S.HAYTOR  
mined

British (1189 tons) In ballast, in convoy FN 33 mined and sunk in 51° 47.7' N., 1° 48.3' E, in Thames Estuary. 14 survivors out of crew of 17 crew in TOLWORTH. Sank in 4 minutes. Only one explosion heard. (EGRET 1159/26, 1255/26, C. in C., Nore 1723/26) Possibly contact mine (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1401/26 to VENOMOUS)

ACCRA  
VINEMOOR

(British 9337 tons) In outward bound  
(British 4359 tons) convoy HX 58 240 miles N.W. of Ireland.

Torpedoed 55° 43' N 16° 25' W. ENCHANTRESS hunt U-boat not to be allowed to move north. ACCRA sunk (1532) VINEMOOR stern blown off. Tug to be sent. Tug ENGLISHMAN sailed (1930) No casualties in VINEMOOR, approx 340 survivors from ACCRA in rescue ships, 73 in ENCHANTRESS. CLARKIA has been in contact and dropped 2 patterns no result she has rejoined rescue ships. VINEMOOR derelict drifting slowly south should remain afloat if weather holds, position 55° 41' N., 16° 21' W., (1945) ENCHANTRESS to continue hunt (1237) (ENCHANTRESS 1350/26 1532/26, 1945/26., C. in C., W.A. 1512/26. 1547/26, 1836/26, 2224/26, 2237/26, F.O.I/c Greenock 1930/26, ENCHANTRESS 0745/27, 1150/27.

BALZAC  
Sunk

Norwegian (963 tons) mined and sunk off Sunderland 2100 (1 mile 124° Roker Pier Light) (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2209/26)

Unknown Ship

Intercept 0158 G.M.T. "Being attacked by U-Boat" (Wick Radio T.O.R. 0310/26)

Submarines Reported

0840

61° 0' 0° 20' E., by aircraft on surface. Crash dived. (C. in C., Rosyth 1020/26, 1112/26, Donibristle, 1015/26).

1045

54° 3' N., 4° 58' W. aircraft photographed U-boat (I.C. 0524/40).

1738

Periscope in 53° 5' N., 5° 1' W. (C. in C., W.A. 2106/26, 2116/26).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

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Submarines Reported (Contd.)

Estimated Dispositions

1 in Finisterre Area or farther South. No report of her since 21st.  
1 homeward bound from Cape de Verde Islands may possibly reach N.W. Approaches today.  
1 outward bound may possibly reach N.W. Approaches via the Minches today.  
1 off Flannen Islands outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1454/26).

North Atlantic

0800 28°25' N., 16°40' (off Orotava, Canary Is.)  
Shore report (F.O.C.N.A. 2250/26,  
Consul Teneriffe 1529/26, S.O.(I), Gib.  
1737/27 to C. in C., S.A.).

Submarines Attacked

About 1600 By CLARKIA see ACCRA, VINEMOOR, torpedoed.

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

0230 36°40' N., 19°40' E. Position approx. A.I.  
(I.C., 0523/40).

PERLA

My 0730/25. Report of Italian submarine on beach. S.N.O. Red Sea Force now reports KIMBERLEY who was nearest but five to six miles distant during this inspection cannot be certain of facts. He grades HOBART's report A Two. (C. in C., E.I. 0524Z/26).



SITUATION REPORT

There were indications early this morning that the enemy were to undertake an operation off Norway by surface craft and warships. Reconnaissance of Trondheim in the early morning reported one large unidentified cruiser and 3 destroyers anchored in the harbour.

Reconnaissance this evening of the coast up to 63° N. reported nothing unusual, but bad weather and low visibility prevented a further reconnaissance from being successful.

The 1st C.S. (4 cruisers) 2 battle cruisers and 8 destroyers left p.m. for a position off the coast of Norway, ZULU and MAORI being ordered to join them at 0400/28 when fighter protection of 3 Blenheims was also ordered. Air cooperation with ZULU and MAORI had to be abandoned early in the evening 27/7, owing to lack of aircraft.

Owing to the danger to destroyers from air attack, Dover will no longer be used as an advanced base for destroyers, though smaller craft will continue to be based there. The night patrols by 1st D.F. in Dover area will be carried out from Portsmouth.

As a result of the losses sustained by Convoy C.W.8 the C.W. and C.E. convoys are to be run in the Channel as a combined naval and air operation on a cycle of not less than 6 days, the number of vessels in each convoy being limited to 25. A Mobile balloon barrage is to be provided with each convoy.

British Air Activity

3 Blenheims attacked the Naval Base at Wilhelmshaven today; the TIRPITZ in the Banhafen being bombed. Bombs were also dropped on the banks of the Nord Zu Canal near Ymuiden.

Reconnaissance of the enemy coast from the Hook to Cherbourg could not be flown today on account of lack of aircraft.

Off the Coast of Norway, one of our aircraft bombed and hit a Norwegian merchant vessel of about 1000 tons this morning; A ship of 2000 tons was bombed and it is believed that one or more hits were obtained.

One of 3 merchant vessels attacked 20 miles North of Terschelling is believed to have been hit.

/Enemy Air Activity....



SITUATION REPORT Contd.

Enemy Air Activity

There was sporadic bombing last night in N.E. Scotland, Essex, Kent and South West England. Only minor damage was done, and there were few casualties.

Dover Harbour was attacked at 1430 and 1750; WALPOLE was also damaged at 1430 by a near miss and her speed is limited to 10 knots. CODRINGTON was sunk during the second attack by a direct hit, and SANDHURST had her engine room, boiler room and bunkers flooded by damage caused by the same bomb and is lying on the bottom. There were only 3 slight casualties in CODRINGTON and none in SANDHURST.

WREN affording AA protection to minesweepers -off Aldeburgh was bombed and sunk, and MONTROSE, in company with WREN was damaged and was towed to Harwich by HALCYON escorted by WORCESTER and M.T.B.'s. MONTROSE shot down 2 enemy aircraft.

TEDWORTH salvage vessel was bombed and slightly damaged off North Foreland at 1645, and had some casualties.

Convoy FS 33 was unsuccessfully bombed off the Humber at 1245, ss. WESTAVON in convoy FN 34 was disabled by a near miss at 2053 about 40 miles off Orfordness.

Mining

Reinforcement of the East Coast mine barrier was carried out last night, and the laying of the southern portion of the St. Georges Channel minefield was begun.

Port Talbot, Dundee, Milford Haven, Liverpool Plymouth, Newhaven, Tyne-Blyth inshore channel are closed and Kyles of Bute. Humber, Belfast and Rosyth were closed last night owing to suspected mine laying, but were reopened during the day. Avonmouth, Newport and Cardiff were closed p.m. following the mining of SS DURDHAM.

Four Magnetic mines were believed to have been dropped off Inch Kieth at 0020/27. It was supposed they had been rendered harmless but one may have produced a double explosion being thus counted as two, for at 1750/27 SS SALVESTERIA (British tanker 11938 tons) was sunk by a mine 3 miles N.E. of Inch Kieth Lt.



War Diary

27.7.1940.  
Saturday

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SITUATION REPORT (Contd.)

French Possessions

The Governor of French Cameroons has forbidden the entry of any British merchant ships and has demanded the prompt departure of DRAGON: British shipping is being instructed not to enter French Colonial Ports in South Atlantic. C. in C., S.A. considers that evacuation of British subjects from French Cameroons will be necessary.

The Governor General of Madagascar is showing a changed attitude and is hostile to Great Britain. C. in C., E.I. has proposed certain measures to render him more reasonable

Mediterranean

Raid on Malta

There was a series of raids on Malta by 6 single planes at intervals from 0230 to 0420 today. Bombs were dropped in the Grand Harbour and Marsa Mucetto. Damage caused was negligible. A reconnaissance of 10 fighters and one bomber flew over at 1115.

Alexandria was bombed at 0500 but no damage was caused.

ARK ROYAL, ENTERPRISE and 4 destroyers returned to Gibraltar 1115/27.



War Diary

27.7.1940.  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Night Artillery and Fleet Artillery Zones in Harbour Defence of U.K.  
Adty. 1557/170 Abolition of Zones; and new trial arrangements as to Recognition and Approach to come into force at Noon 1st August. (D. of L.D. 1301/27 to Air Ministry and War Office.)

Belfast Lough Fighters from Aldergrove may pursue enemy aircraft over Belfast Lough. (Air Ministry 1430/27 to H.Q. Fighter Command)

Dover My 1253/21. Danger of air-attack too great to warrant use as advanced base. Consider <sup>practicable</sup> Trawlers, Drifters, M.T.B's, and Motor Boats should continue to be based at Dover, and that a reinforced Concrete Roof should be built over Train Ferry Dock. Intend to base all 1st Flotilla at Portsmouth and conduct night patrols in Dover area from Portsmouth. (V.A. Dover 2257/27 to Adty.)

Humber Force To remain at half hours notice at least until 0900/28. (C. in C., Nore 2323/27)

Movements

Submarines Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/28 Area A.  
TRIDENT Fro Havet  
NARWHAL between DNKG 1600 and Statlandet  
TRITON QSMF 1020  
SNAPPER PCMF 5025  
THAMES TGTA 4550  
PORPOISE PCUB 1000 proceeding submerged by day to RQLZ 5817.  
TAKU TRIAD TRIBUNE in vicinity of JZVD,  
SUNFISH SEALION SWORDFISH in JZGR 3010, JZVD 1550, RQGR 4545 respectively all six proceeding on surface to Fro Havet, QSMF 4510 JZLZ 4000, C one, C.3, and TGLZ. 4812 respectively.  
STURGEON NLGR 3020 proceeding submerged by day to relieve H.28. H.28 in H one and two.  
H.50 CPSC 5555 leaving 2200 for Harwich.  
H.44 leaves Harwich p.m. to relieve H.50.  
NETHERLANDS S/M 0.23 escorted by Z.6. on passage to Stornoway to Dundee joined by L.26 off Scapa 1600.  
NETHERLANDS S/Ms 0.21 and 022 leave Rosyth p.m. for Dundee.  
SEAWOLF leaves Rosyth p.m. on surface North East.  
URSULA leaves Methil 0500 unescorted on surface to Blyth. (V.A.S. 1718/27)



War Diary

27th/7. 1940.  
Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Submarines (Contd.)

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/28 in area B.  
TIGRIS KQQG 4130  
TALISMAN escorted by LORD HAILSHAM on passage from Rothesay to relieve TIGRIS.  
(V.A.S. 1713/27)

BRILLIANT  
(Damaged 25/7)

BRILLIANT in tow of LADY BRASSEY, WALPOLE and VIVACIOUS leave Dover for Sheerness at 0200/28. Speed about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots. Request fighter escort from 0430 when ships are expected to be in position  $125^{\circ}$  N. Foreland  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. (V.A. Dover 2108/27 toAOC)

Operations

WESTON

Will be anchored E of Inchkeith East Gate during night 27/28 to destroy enemy aircraft (C. in C., Rosyth 1104/27)

Operation PH

2 M.T.B.'s to carry out tonight. (C. in C., Nore 1200/27) (R.A.S. 1824/27)

Iceland

Your 0202/19 and 1909/23. Request indicate position where Observation Minefields could be maintained and would be useful. (A.C.N.S. H. 1302/27 to F.O.I.C. Iceland)

Operation by  
Force A.  
(See Enemy  
Intelligence)

Battle-Cruisers, Cruiser and Destroyers are at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours notice for steam

Bring M A/S Bs to immediate notice (C. in C. Nore 1805/27 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

Battle-Cruisers, 4 cruisers, 8 Destroyers will pass Pentland Skerries at 2000/27 to  $59^{\circ}$  N.,  $1^{\circ}$  E and thence, if no information, to  $62^{\circ}$  N.,  $3^{\circ} 30'$  E., at 24 knots. Force is commanded by CSI and will be known as Force A. (C. in C., H.F. 1900/27 to Adty.) ZULU and MAORI to join Force A. (C. in C., H.F. 2201/27 to ZULU) At 0800/28 if no information of enemy surface force you should at your discretion alter course to  $290^{\circ}$  (C. in C., H.F. 2312/27 to F.O. 1st C.S. Air Cooperation see Air.

E-Boats

E-Boats S.S.W. St. Albans 3 miles (C. in C., Portsmouth)

HOME COMMANDS

Air-British Air Activity

At 58° 50' N., 5° 52' E., at 1025/27 one Norwegian M/V about 1000 tons bombed. Direct hit and near misses. Crew took to lifeboat. (Donibristle 1312/27)

Trondheim

A/C leaves Sunburgh about 1700 to make further R/C of Trondheim. (C. in C., Rosyth 1544/27 to Adty.)

At 2010/27 in 53° 40' N., 5° 10' E., A/C attacked 3 enemy M/V's with bombs. Estimate 1 hit. (A/C 220 Sqdn. 2045/27)

At 1945/27 in 58° 20' N., 5° 40' E., A/C attacked 2 Flak Ships and 2 tugs. Result not seen. (Donibristle 2230/26)

At 1935/27 in 58° 58' N., 5° 26' E., A/C attacked one M/V 2000 tons and 1940/27 2 M/V's 800 and 600 tons. One or more hits claimed. (Donibristle 2315/27)

My 2002/26. Air cooperation can no longer be maintained today owing to lack of aircraft (C. in C., Rosyth 1718/27 to ZULU, MAORI) See Operations Force A.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy FS 33  
Bombed

One aircraft position 53° 45' N., 0° 37' E., (BLACKSWAN 1236/27) Bombing (1239/27) No hits (BLACKSWAN 1245/27)

WESTAVON  
Damaged  
(Convoy FN 34)

8 A/C bombing (WOLFHOUND 1447/27) No hits. My position 52° 6' N., 1° 51' E., (WOLFHOUND 1452/27) WESTAVON near missed and disabled at 52° 8' N., 2° 53' E., M/L NORMANDE standing by (WOLFHOUND 1535/27) Arrived Harwich later.

Raid on  
Dover  
WALPOLE  
damaged

4 A/C attacked Harbour at 1430/27. WALPOLE damaged at a buoy by a near miss. No casualties (V.A. Dover 1516/27 to Adty.) WALPOLE can steam but should be limited to 10 knots. (V.A. Dover 1809/27 to Adty.) My 1516/27. Sequence of events during raid (V.A. Dover 0046/28)

HOME COMANDSEnemy Air Activity. Contd.

CODRINGTON  
Sunk  
SANDHURST  
damaged

About 6 aircraft attacked Harbour at 1740/27  
CODRINGTON sunk by direct hit and SANDHURST  
damaged. (V.A. Dover 1845/27) Casualties in  
CODRINGTON three slightly wounded. No  
casualties in SANDHURST (V.A. Dover 2137/27  
to Adty.) My 1845/27 Sequence of events  
(V.A. Dover 0021/28)

→ TEDWORTH

Am being attacked by A/C (TEDWORTH 1645/27)  
Off North Foreland. Slight damage, some  
casualties, proceeded to Portsmouth after  
landing wounded at Dover (D.O.R. 328)

MONTROSE

Disabled at 52° 10' N., 2° 6' E. at 1704/27  
and being towed Harwich or Sheerness. Re-  
quest fighter patrol till dark to escort.  
(C. in C., Nore, 1803/27) Unable to steam.  
Attacked while giving A/A protection to  
sweepers in Gap E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1809/27  
to Adty.) VERITY, WORCESTER, and M.T.Bs  
have left Harwich to assist. (C. in C.,  
Nore 1821/27) Your 1821. M.A./S.B's 06 and  
10 sailed at 1900 and 1850 to escort  
HALCYON towing MONTROSE (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth  
1924/27 to C. in C., Nore) SHELDRAKE has  
secured alongside MONTROSE. WHITSHED and  
M/S boats escorting and 5 undamaged Trawlers  
with 40 casualties on board. VETERAN and  
VERITY supplementing Escort till dark.  
(VETERAN 2037/27 to C. in C., Nore)

Have got MONTROSE in tow my position 081°  
Aldeburgh 2' course 249° speed 5 knots.  
HALCYON is assisting with tow (WORCESTER  
2059/27) HALCYON now towing MONTROSE to  
Harwich escorted by WHITSHED and M.T.Bs.  
VETERAN, VERITY, WORCESTER proceeded on O  
Patrol. No casualties in MONTROSE. (F.O.I.C.  
Harwich 2100/27 to Adty.) Expect to arrive  
0215 at Boom (MONTROSE 2247/27 to N.O.I.C.  
Harwich)

Confirmed that MONTROSE shot down 2 Enemy  
Bombers yesterday. (C. in C., Nore 1147/28 to  
Adty.)

WREN

Received from HALCYON begins WREN sunk 10  
miles 075° Aldeburgh (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/  
27 to C. in C., Nore) Survivors from WREN  
4 officers and 99 men (F.O.I.C. Harwich  
2100/27 to Adty.)

→ TEDWORTH

Bombed off N. Foreland at 1645/27. Some  
casualties, slight damage (D.C.N.S. 328)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Humber

Closed. Magnetic Mines laid. (F.O. Humber 0050/27) Humber Open (F.O.Humber 1030/27.)

B.S. 28.

Operation completed (Capt. D. 20th DF 0157/27 to Adty.)

Belfast

Port closed. Suspect A/C minelaying (F.O.I.C Belfast 0220/27) Port now open (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0857/27)

St. George's Channel  
(Operation S N 32.)

Your 2329/23. A second and most secret Gap to be left in Minefield for emergency use only. Particulars. (A.C.N.S. H. 1307/27 to C. in C. W.A.) Details of Gap. (A.C.N.S. H. 1630/27 to RAML)

Fishguard

Port Open. (F.O .I.C. Milford Haven 1859/27 to Adty.)

Rosyth

Port Open. (C. in G., Rosyth 1447/27 to Adty) 4 Mines believed dropped at 0200/27)

Sunderland

Port Open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1459/27)

Rosyth

My 0045/27. Port of Rosyth is open. Four mines believed dropped at 0020/27 1st exploded by sweepers 038° one cable from South vessel East Gate Inchkeith at 0558.  
2nd Exploded by sweepers 071° half a cable from North vessel East Gate Inchkeith at 0650  
3rd Reported dropped approximately 5 cables Southward of Sout vessel East Gate Inchkeith at 0040.  
4th Believed cause of double explosion one second interval approximately 061° 3 miles from Inchkeith at 0051 (C. in C., Rosyth 1509/27 to Adty.)

/Enemy Intelligence....



HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Trondheim

One large cruiser and 3 destroyers in Harbour. (C. in C., Rosyth L004/27 to Adty.)

Munkholmen  
Island

Cruiser anchored to S.E. of Island.  
Destroyers off West or South of Island. (C. in C., Rosyth 1432/27 to C. in C., H.F.)

At 1030/27. in 60° 35' N., 4° 45' E., One Norwegian M/V 500 tons (Donibristle 1530/27)

Indications of  
Enemy Sortie

There are indications that Enemy Warships may leave Trondheim for a Sortie. (R.A.S. 1826/27 to S/M's)

At 58° 20' N., 5° 40' E., 2 tugs and 2 auxiliary vessels (A/C 233 Sqdn. 1945/27)

German Convoys  
to Norway

A report received indicates that German convoy<sup>8,</sup> of from 3-5 ships averaging 6,000 tons, arrived at Oslo regularly every third day commencing 14.6.40 and continuing to 5.7.40. Before 14.6.40 they had been arriving at irregular intervals. No report of the arrivals since 5.7.40 has yet been received. (D.N.L. 2011/27 to V.A.S.)

3 Enemy M/V's, course 350°, speed 8 knots, at 58° 56' N. 5° 23' E (A/C 233 Sqdn. 2057/27)

Helder

At 1132/27, 8' W of Helder, 4 small Vessels heading North (H.Q.B.C. 0403/28)  
At 1312/27, 5' E. of Helder, 8 small Vessels heading South (H.Q.B.C. 0403/28)

Heligoland

At 1438/27, 20' S. of Heligoland, large M/V 9000 tons heading North. (H.Q.B.C. 0403/28)  
At 1442/27, 15' S.W. of Heligoland, 5 small Vessels heading S.W. (H.Q.B.C. 0403/28)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy TC 6

C. in C., W.A. 1852/25. Request you will provide additional destroyers as A/S escort. (D.O.D. (H) 1053/26 to C. in C., H.F.) Asking for position of R/V in view of position where SAMBRE torpedoed (C. in C., H.F. 1059/27) Reply (C. in C., W.A. 1326/27)

Coastal Shipping

Re Adty. 719 A Z and 1934/25. Coastal shipping sailing to collection ports and dispersing to destination from C E and C W convoys are being routed by inshore routes regardless of searched channels, to avoid attack by A/C and E boats. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1240/27)

Personnel Convoy for Far East

A convoy of approximately 18 ships carrying personnel to the Far East with a minimum speed of 16 knots accompanied by SHROPSHIRE and CORNWALL will be sailed, partly from Liverpool and partly from Clyde on (date)

2. A/S escort of 8 destroyers will be required.

3. C. in C., W.A. state number of destroyers he can provide.

4. C. in C., H.F. is requested to provide the remainder. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1458/27, D.O.D. (F) 1542/27)

Channel Convoys

As a result of losses sustained by Convoy C.W. 8 it has been decided:-

1. That CW and CE Convoys are to be run in the Channel as a combined naval and air operation on a cycle of not less than 6 days, the number of vessels in each convoy being limited to 25.

2. Re defensive armament.

3. To arrange with the Ministry of Shipping that, as far as possible, the same vessels continue to be employed on the route.

4. To provide a mobile balloon barrage with each convoy.

(B) C. in C., Nore to continue to operate these convoys, co-ordinating the arrangements for their air protection with the Cs in C., Fighter and Coastal Commands.

(C) Cs. in C. W.A. and Portsmouth and V.A. Dover to provide such additional anti-E Boat protection as is possible while the convoys are passing through their command.

(D) It is proposed that the first convoy under the new arrangement should be a C.E. convoy which should sail from Falmouth as soon as the plans for its escort are ready. The mobile balloon barrage would join this convoy off the Isle of Wight. Further signal will be made. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1730/27)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ANGLO-MAHRSK

Danish Tanker, 7705/tons, overdue at Abadan, Iran, since 20 July (D.S. 326)

EIDANGER  
Overdue

Norwegian Tanker Overdue at Singapore from Port Pirie. (S.O. I Singapore 0047Z/27 to Adty.)

LORD MIDDLETON  
(A/S Trawler)

In collision with Latvian TOBAGO. neither ship seriously damaged. (F.O.I.C. Reykjavik 17.4/27 to Adty.)

EGTON

Overdue since 22/7 (Plate 4/7 for Freetown)

RENA

Overdue since 22/7 (Bahia Blanca 5/7 for Freetown)

WENDOVER

Overdue since 22/7 (Mersey 22/6 for Buenos Aires)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

Daladier

Re getting him to England (1st S.L. 1934/27 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Your 1934/27 following arrangements made with B.C.-G. Tangier and he informs me necessary action has been taken. Boat containing Daladier and party to meet VELOX in 000° 21 miles Casablanca between 0100/28 and 0630/28. I have ordered VELOX to remain in that area until further orders from me if contact has not been made by 0630/28. (F.O.C.N.A. 2204/27).

ATHLONE CASTLE

List of officers embarked, also approx. 1650 Gibraltarians. Due Liverpool p.m. 31/7 (F.O.C.N.A. 1732/27).

HGF

Sailing telegram (F.O.C.N.A. 2200/27).

South Atlantic

S.S. SHETLAND

Left U.K. for Freetown 27/7. On arrival to be held with cargo undischarged at 4 days' notice (D.O.D.(F) 1310/27 to C. in C., S.A.)

Convoy SLF.41  
PRETORIA CASTLE,  
BULOLO

PRETORIA CASTLE to act as ocean escort, then to Belfast to refit. Orders for BULOLO. (C. in C., S.A. 1256/27).

Cameroons  
evacuation.  
DRAGON.  
British ships  
prohibited.

Question regarding action to be taken in various circumstances which might arise is under consideration. Opinion here is that evacuation appears premature (A.C.N.S.(F) 1352/27 to C. in C., S.A.). Consider any British ship entering is likely to be detained and seized. Request approval to leave am/28. Cable is being tampered with. Re evacuation. (2130/26). I consider evacuation will be necessary. Governor Brunot has forbidden entry of British merchant ships or aircraft into Cameroons and has demanded prompt departure of DRAGON (DRAGON 1720/27). Confirmed by Consul evacuation scheme not actual evacuation (DRAGON 2125/27). DRAGON's 1720/27. I support DRAGON in his opinion of situation. There are about 105 British subjects some of whom can move into Nigeria more easily than come to Duala. (C. in C., S.A. 2120/0935/28).  
27

27.7.40.  
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Cameroons  
evacuation.  
DRAGON.  
British ships  
prohibited.  
(Contd.)

Your 2130/26. Approved to leave Duala am/28. I read your telegram as meaning you are completing an evacuation scheme and are not evacuating British subjects. British shipping is being instructed not to enter French colonial ports in South Atlantic. Any British or British controlled ships in Duala are to sail before DRAGON. (C. in C., S.A. 1303/27 to DRAGON).

Amend present instructions to read that French, British, Allied and chartered shipping should not be sailed for any French Colonial port on S.A. Station. French ships intercepted proceeding to or from these ports should be detained in harbour or sent in to British under armed guard. (S.O.(I) inform N.C.S.O. and Reporting Officer. C. in C., S.A. 1301/27).

DUNVEGAN CASTLE

Your 0052/27. In order that S.L. convoys escort programme is not further dislocated essential DUNVEGAN CASTLE arrive Freetown not later than am/11/8. Request arrangements may be made accordingly. (C. in C., S.A. 0931/27 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Mediterranean - Movements

Movement summary 135. Submarine Patrol. PARTHIAN and OSWALD off Sicilian coast S. and N. respectively of 037°20' N. Battle Fleet leaves Alexandria 2330/26 arriving vicinity of 25° Gavda 60 miles at 0300/28 thence west of Crete returning to Alexandria to arrive 30/7. AS.2 with LIVERPOOL, CAPETOWN and 4 destroyers (corrupt group) 037° 20' N. 023° 40' E. 1500/27 due S.W. of Crete pm/28/7.

ORION from Haifa CHAKLA, FIONA and 2 destroyers from Port Said to R.V. S.W. of Cyprus 0400/27 and arrive off Kastelorizo about 1700, returning after dark in company until daybreak 28/7 when ORION proceed Alexandria remainder of Port Said, destroyers returning to Alexandria to arrive pm/29.

GLOUCESTER leaves Alexandria pm/28 due Port Said am/29. LADYBIRD expected to leave Port Said pm/29 to arrive Alexandria am/30. (V.A. Malta, 0813/27).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean - Operations

VALIANT

Re forthcoming operation (F.O.C. Force H. 2000/27).

Enemy Intelligence

It is reported that two Italian Cruisers, 4 destroyers and a number of submarines were seen patrolling past Skyros and Lemnos pm/26/7. Graded C nought.<sup>s</sup>  
(D.D.I.C., 0222/27 to C. in C., Med.)

Mediterranean - Air

Air raid on Alexandria

Air raid 0440 to 0500. No damage (R.A.I.C. Alexandria 0915/27).

Air Raids on Malta

Series of raids by six single planes at intervals from 0230 to 0420. Bombs dropped in Grand Harbour and Marsa Muscetto. One near miss - Civil Generating Station. Damage negligible, one civilian casualty. Reconnaissance of 10 fighters and 1 bomber flew over at 1115. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2149/27).

East Indies

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Proposed operation. (1st S.L. 2010/27)  
See Medit. Vol.

My 0642 /27 (i) In view of situation Governor General Madagascar has indefinitely postponed sailing from Madagascar of (a) ESPERANCE with supplies for Djibuti (b) BERNARDIN DE ST PIERRE for general trade in Madagascar, Mauritius South Africa area. Adty. 2113/19 refers (ii) Acting on orders received from France, Governor General has closed British Vice-consulates Tamatave and Majunga (iii) CAP VARELLA, SONTAY with troops for Saigon, movements as in my 1408/19 of which signal last sentence now inoperative (iv) In view of changed attitude in Madagascar, propose to inform Governor General that unless restrictions on British ships are removed (a) our undertaking not requisition BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE will be cancelled (b) troop ship for Saigon will be liable to intercept and to be taken into British port (c) ships which sail for Djibuti will be similarly liable (d) no British or Norwegian ships will be allowed to trade with Madagascar or Reunion (my 0714/11 to

C. in C.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies (Contd.)

C. in C. China and Commodore Malaya refers) (v) changed attitude is probably due to expected arrival of new Governor General about 28/7. (C. in C., E.I. 0646Z/27 to Adty.)

China

Evacuee Ships,  
routeing

Evacuee ships Manila to Australia sailing between 29/7 and 6/8 cannot be escorted. Intend they should be routed through Molucca and Torres Straits where risk of attack should be small. (C. in C., China, 0449Z/27 to Adty.)

3 A.M.C's to be  
withdrawn

For your information Adty. has directed that KANIMBLA, MORETON BAY and ARAWA(?) are to be withdrawn from China Station. As a first step they will proceed E.I. Station. (C. in C. China 0449Z/27 to A.C.N.B.).

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE  
DESPATCH  
Movements

Movements DESPATCH leaves Trinidad ?(a.m.)/31 for Road Harbour Tortola arriving 1/8. DIOMEDE turns over duty to DESPATCH and sails for Trinidad passing approx. 200 miles to eastward Windward Islands arriving am/4/8. DIOMEDE is to be temporarily degaussed at Trinidad, estimated time 4 days. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1031/27).  
My 1021/26. DIOMEDE extend patrol to 21° N. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1011/27).

Raider

Following from Navy Dept. Begins. Ship closely resembling German raider sighted at 1700/25 40 miles east of Cape Canaveral flying Greek flag with name EVANTHIA accompanied by small black ship with no colours. Steering southerly course ends. (N.A. Washington, 1049/27 to C. in C., A.W.I.).

Lloyds report Greek S.S. EVANTHIA (3551 tons) sailed Hampton Roads 22/7 for Port Everglades (Florida) & would be expected to be in the position reported on 25/7 (D.D.I.C. 2341/27). C. in C. America & West Indies informed. (O.I.C.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (Contd.)

St. Thomas states ALGERIAN reported ship burning full navigational lights in 023° 11' N. 059° 49' W. at 0001/24 name DRIEBERGEN but approx. 9000 tons. DRIEBERGEN was in fact then at Freetown. Netherlands cruiser SUMATRA VAN KINSBERGEN informed in my 1715/27 via Curacao. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1703/27 to C. in C. S.W.I.)

Convoy Escorts

Regret normal escort cycle cannot be maintained during next few weeks and following is forecast of ocean escort.

<u>Serial number of convoy</u>	<u>H(?X) Escort</u>	<u>BHX Escort</u>
62	AURANIA	MONTCLARE
63	ASCANIA	ALAUNIA
64	RAJPUTANA	CARADOC
65	VOLTAIRE	MONTCLARE
66	AUSONIA	ALAUNIA
67	LACONIA	RANPURA

All escorts return Halifax except those for BHX 62, 63 and 65 who return Bermuda. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1426/27 to C. in C., A.W.I., Etc.)





War Diary

27.7.40.  
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

---

WESER  
HAVELLAND

According to an unconfirmed report these ships, which sailed from Manganilla, Mexico, last week have been given arms and supplies at sea by Japanese ships. (D.S. 326).

CHARLOTTE  
SCHLIEMANN

At Las Palmas. Remains at short notice.  
(Las Palmas 1035/27).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

---

COMMISSIONAIRE  
RAMEL

(10061 tons) requisitioned by Adty. has arrived in New Hebrides with British armed guard (Cdr. Port Vila. New Hebrides 2356 Z/27).

S.S. SAMBRE (Royal Mail Cargo Boat - Outward Bound)

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 5260; 4" gun and 12-pounder.

DATE AND TIME: July 27th, at 0150 (dark)

POSITION: 56° 37' N. 17° 53' W. ~~XXXX~~ 360' W.S.W. of Ireland.

SPEED: 8 knots.

ROUTE: Manchester to Philadelphia.

CARGO: General, only 1500 tons.

IN CONVOY: Yes, inconvoy OB.188. 44 ships in convoy in 9 columns. SAMBRE was leading in 6th column doing No. 15 and No. 10 zig-zag.

ESCORT: 2 escorts, ENCHANTRESS and CLARKIA.

No. & RATE OF CREW: 48 all told.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Moderate, fine for N. Atlantic.

REMARKS:- Made up convoy at Liverpool. Convoy frequently altered course, but 4 ships in convoy were torpedoed including the S.S. BANK. The others were the ACCRA, m.v. THIARA and m.v. VENEMOOR. ACCRA was torpedoed and VENEMOOR next. By this time convoy was rather disorganised.

There was a sudden explosion on port side near after hold. All hands were ordered on deck. Engines started to "race" and were stopped. Commodore sent out S.O.S. At 3.30 a.m. ship was settling down and it looked as if considerable damage had been done aft as one gun was already under water. Ship listed to port and all ordered into boats. When daylight came damage did not seem so severe and boats were alongside, one at a time, to get clothes and food. Also chronometers and sextants were saved.

At 7.30 ship listed over 12° but No. 4 bulkhead held and there were no cracks. At 8.40 Destroyer came alongside and ordered tugs to tow ship to Belfast. Captain remained aboard all the time until taken off by Destroyer.

DATE: 2nd August 1940.

War Diary27.7.40.  
SaturdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MININGShips Attacked

- SAMBRE British 5,260 tons) bound for Philadelphia had been in convoy HX.58 (see ships attacked 26/7) before it dispersed, torpedoed about 300 miles N.W. Ireland 56°32' N., 18°12' W. at 0200/27 (Scapa Base ships 0214/27, WINCHELSEA 2205/27, C. in C., W.A. 2034/27, 0257/28 WINCHELSEA). Still afloat (WINCHELSEA, 1800/27). *See also page 658*
- SALVESTRIA British tanker (11938 tons) cargo whale oil, mined and sunk near Inch Keith Light at 1750/27. 10 missing, 20 injured. She was just outside channel (DOR 328). Had left Convoy HX.57 after its arrival at Methil. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2039/27, 1855/27).
- DURDHAM Brit. (Sand dredger, 477 tons) mined and sunk 1415 in 51°23'18" N., 3°8'48" W. in shoal waters in Bristol Channel. No survivors.
- THIARA Brit. (10,364 tons) in outbound Convoy OB.188 was torpedoed at 0200 about 300 miles N.W. of Ireland. 26 of crew believed lost, 35 survivors. Ship reported still afloat, tugs sent. 56°32' N., 18°12' W.

Submarines Reported

- 0340 53°5' N., 5°1' W. (18 miles S.W. Holyhead) possible periscope reported by aircraft.
- 0340 53°24' N., 4°42' W. (5 miles W. Skerries) (C. in C., W.A. 0758/27).
- 0208 Between C. Wrath and Faroes. Position indefinite (I.C. 0524/40).
- 1031 By EMPIRE DEFIANCE 56°30' N., 19°37' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1203/27, Portishead 1030/27)
- 0200 56°32' N. 18°12' W. Reliable fix. (C. in C., WA. 0243/27, 0246/27).



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

---

North Atlantic

1642 (x)

32°45' N. 26°33' W. reported by unidentified ship (Gib. W/T 1752/27).

Submarines  
Sighted off  
Punta Arenas

My 0809/25. Following from S.O.(I) Montevideo begins. My 0932/24 am informed C. in C. Chilean Navy has stated is entirely without foundation 1801/26. Ends. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1143/27 to Adty.)

Submarines Attacked

0250

A/S.Y. LADY BLANCHE 53°24' N. 4°32' W. (off Skerries) attacked contact. (I.C. 0524/40)

(x) Admt. Message A.F., 1950/27, and British ship CLAM distress signal T.O.R. 1642. Object sighted was a whale. Original message was cancelled by CLAM but not received by Gibraltar. (S.O.I., Gib., 1827/2/8).



SITUATION REPORT

Western Patrol

An extension of Northern Patrol, to be known as the "Western Patrol" is to be established to control the West Coast of Europe and North Africa.

Operation to intercept Enemy forces from Trondheim.

Air reconnaissance of Trondheim at 0800 showed no cruisers or destroyers in harbour; about midday 3 destroyers were seen steaming up channel towards Trondheim. Skagerrak reconnaissance drew blank, as also did reconnaissance from Lister to 62° N. A Sunderland was ordered to patrol North about Faeroes and TRITON was ordered to patrol off Kors Fiord, as there were good reasons to believe that the German cruiser and light craft at Trondheim had left. Force A was ordered to continue to the westward until about 1400 today, if no information of the enemy was received, and then to steer to arrive at Scapa early am/29. DEVONSHIRE was to be detached at 1800/28 to cover the slow convoy escorted by NORFOLK and 2 destroyers; at 1728 while North of the Shetlands, she reported an unexplained explosion, as of a torpedo exploding.

South Atlantic

Raider engaged

ALCANTARA today sighted and chased an armed raider in the South Atlantic. The enemy was engaged for an hour, when damage prevented ALCANTARA which was holed in the engine room, from chasing any longer, her speed being reduced to 10 knots. The enemy which turned away between smoke floats at 9200 yards with her speed apparently reduced by ALCANTARA's fire, was last seen in position 24°10' S., 31°50' W. at 1930 G.M.T. today, steering South at 15 knots. The raider is described as a ship of about 8000 tons, speed 19 knots, with a broadside of 4 guns, probably 5.9 inch calibre. She opened fire at 16,000 yards with great accuracy, which deteriorated on being hit, and her second salvo severed ALCANTARA's fire control circuit and aerial. The damage caused to the raider could not be estimated, though it was evident.

War Diary

28.7.40.  
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

---

British Air Activity

Direct hits were obtained on oil tanks at Amsterdam early this morning. Oil refineries at Hamburg, Borkum, Cuxhaven and other places were bombed last night, also Bremen Docks, Wilhelmshaven dockyard and Langeland Island; hits were observed and many fires started.

Enemy Air Activity

S.S. ORLOCK HEAD was bombed off Strathy Point at 0200 and was abandoned and is presumed sunk.

Mining

A parachute mine was seen to drop off Milford Haven last night and was exploded by sweeper today; 2 others are suspected. The port was closed early this morning. Two magnetic mines were reported dropped at the entrance to the Tay and Dundee was closed early this morning; M/S trawlers GADFLY and STURTON were damaged while sweeping in this area today. Liverpool was closed at 0740 and was reopened at 1500. Plymouth was closed this morning. It is believed that mines may have been dropped off South Sutor early this morning; sweeping is in progress, but the port is not closed. Yesterday and today a total of 5 magnetic mines were exploded in the Swin Channel and 5 moored mines were cut near position X. Newhaven is open from 0700 to dark. Cardiff, Newport (Mon) and Avonmouth are still closed. The Humber, Kyles of Bute, Tyne-Blyth inshore channel, and Port Talbot are closed. It is believed that magnetic mines were dropped late this evening in the Thames estuary.

Enemy Intelligence

Photographic reconnaissance of Emden today shows 29 ships of over 200 ft. and a large concentration of approximately 180 barges, suggesting unusual activity.

There are indications that the port of Zeebrugge is no longer blocked.



550

War Diary28.7.40.  
SundaySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanFleet  
Movements

C. in C., Med. in WARSPITE, with MALAYA, RAMILLIES, NEPTUNE, SYDNEY and 11 destroyers is at sea S.W. of Crete, covering the Aegean convoy.

Raid on Malta

Malta was visited this morning by 14 fighters and 1 bomber; one fighter was shot down. In the afternoon 3 Sunderlands on reconnaissance were chased back by fighters from Sicily and 1 was damaged. Two further enemy fighters were shot down by Sunderlands and probably another. A submarine was attacked near Malta; details are not known.

Raid on Aden

3 aircraft raided Aden at 1130 G.M.T. today, damaging S.S. MATHURA and wrecking her deck cargo of lorries.

War Diary28.7.1940.  
SundayHOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K.Humber Force

Revert to normal notice for steam (C. in C., Nore 0853/28)

Clyde Balloon Barrage

Your 2226/24 R.C. for balloon barrage has been made. This barrage however is solely for the protection of River Clyde from mines dropped from aircraft. Reconnaissance did not contemplate any protection whatever for Fleet or Merchant ship anchorage. Which I regard as most important. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1115/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cover for Northern and Southern Approaches

Cruiser to be available (see C. in C. H.F. 2148/25, 1716/28, SUSSEX 0801/28) SUSSEX may carry out this task until taken in hand for repairs (A.C.N.S. 1722/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

F.A.A. Aerodrome Defences

Reference our 1645/24. Following received from Fighter Command begins. We can collect 20 Lewis Guns and hand to Fleet Air Arm for defence of five aerodromes with four guns each. Understand Naval Personnel would man these guns as done by Air Force Stations for which defences cannot be allotted from A.A. Command resources. Will this meet requirements. Ends. (Air Ministry 1730/28 to Adty.)

Dover A/A Defences

My 1857/24. Further experience indicates necessity of making Dover a day as well as night artillery zone to obviate delay in opening fire caused by necessity of identifying aircraft. Uncertainty as to their identity has enable enemy to attack unfired at. Considered essential that all possible causes of doubt should be removed so that all aircraft particularly low flying ones may be engaged without hesitation. (V.A. Dover 1743/28 to Adty.)

Night and Fleet Artillery Zones

Agree Admiralty Signal 1301/27 (H.Q.F.C. 2215/28).



War Diary28.7.1940.  
SundayHOME COMMANDSMovements

Corvette  
~~Ships~~ GLEANER and JASON and Trawler  
 NORTHERN GEM will assist you and your Tow  
 to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. to SCHELDE,  
 BRIGAND, ENGLISHMAN 1216/28)

RENOWN

Reports her position at 1045/28 as 61° 50' N.  
 1° 2' E course 280° speed 24 knots (C. in C.,  
 Rosyth 1252/28)

Netherlands  
Torpedo Boat

My 1801/27. Ships sailed as arranged.  
 (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1337/28 to F.O.C.Orkney)

Northern Patrol  
Extension

An Extension of Northern Patrol to be known  
 as the "Western Patrol" to be established  
 to control W. Coast of Europe and North  
 Africa. Area and instructions. (F.O.C.N.P.  
 1400/28) *Ships retained by ABV's off Lisbon to be sent to  
 Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.P. 1458/28 to Admiralty)*

First C.S.

Intended route to daylight 30 July (F.O.I.C.S.  
 1606/28 to NORFOLK)

Submarines

Positions and movements for the following  
 24 hours at 0600/29., Area A.  
 TRIDENT, NARWHAL, TRITON, SNAPPER, THAMES  
 H.28 as in my 1718 27th July. TAKU, TRIAD  
 both vicinity QSSC 0014 proceeding on sur-  
 face to Fro Havet and QSMF 4510 respectively  
 TRIBUNE, SWORDFISH, SEALION, SUNFISH,  
 PORPOISE, STURGEON, vicinity PCTA 4535 PCTA  
 4000 PCTA 3500 PCMF 3500 JZLZ 4040 NLSC 0020  
 all six proceeding submerged by day to JZLZ  
 4000 TGLZ 4812 C3 C 1 RQLZ 5817 and H 1  
 respectively SEAWOLF JZGR 2500 proceeding on  
 surface north east H 44 CPSC 5353 H 50 due  
 Harwich a.m. from Gap E. L 26 and  
 Netherlands Submarine 023 escorted by Z 6  
 due Dundee 0800 from North. Netherlands  
 submarine 021 and 022 leave Rosyth a.m. for  
 Dundee escorted. (V.A.S. 1644/28)

Positions of Submarines and movements for  
 following 24 hours at 0600/29 Area B TIGRIS  
 KING 4130 TALISMAN escorted by LORD HAILSHAM  
 until 2200 vicinity 1530 proceeding to  
 relieve TIGRIS.

(V.A.S. 1646/28)

/BIRMINGHAM.....

War Diary28.7.1940.  
SundayHOME COMMANDSMovements- Contd,BIRMINGHAM )  
SCUTHAMPTON )Intend to anchor off Southend at 2000/28  
(C.S. 18. 1732/28 to C. in C., Nore.)MONTROSEIn tow of tugs CRESTED COCK and FAIRPLAY  
escorted by 2 destroyers leaves Harwich  
for Sheerness at 0400/29. Request Fighter  
escort from 0600 till about 1300/29. (C. in  
C., Nore 2222/28)Heavy Ships screened by Destroyers may be  
returning to Scapa from 62° N., 2° E at  
1800/28 and DEVONSHIRE proceeding from that  
position to cover Clyde/Iceland Convoy  
(A.C.O.S. 1625/28)Operation to Intercept Trondheim Force.Orders to  
C.S. 1.My 2312/27 (If no information of enemy  
surface force being at sea course to be  
altered to 290°) If no information of  
enemy is received continue to Westward until  
about 1400/28 then proceed so as to pass  
through position 62° 00' N., 002° 00' E.,  
at 1800/28 thence to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F.  
0931/28 to C.S.1.)Position of  
Force AAircraft reports Force A in position 61° 58'  
N., 2° 20' E., at 0730/28. Mean course 023°  
only 8 destroyers were reported in company  
by another A/C at 0635/28. (C. in C., Rosyth  
1108/28)DEVONSHIRE  
-to be detachedIf no information of enemy is received by  
1800 28th July F.O.C. B.C.S. is to assume  
command of Force A and DEVONSHIRE is to  
proceed to cover slow convoy in accordance  
with my 2312/26 (to Iceland) (C. in C., H.F.  
1143/28)RENOWITReports her position at 1045/28 as 61° 50' N.  
1° 2'E course 280° speed 24 knots (C. in C.,  
Rosyth 1252/28) *see previous page.*

/ZULU .....

War Diary28.7.40.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSOperation to intercept Trondheim Force

ZULU

Aircraft report Force A in position ZQSC 5820, 0730/28 mean course 23°. May alter to 290° at 0800/28 and continue Westward until about 1400/28 then proceed to pass through position 062°00' N., 002°00' E. at 1800/28 thence to Scapa. (R.A.(D) H.F. 1145/28 to ZULU.)

Information for Submarines

Air reconnaissance this morning shows that enemy cruisers and destroyers have left Trondhjem. TRITON Patrol about 20 miles W. of Kors Fiord. (R.A.(S) 1226/28 to submarines on patrol).

Position of Force A.

My 1108/28. Another aircraft reports Force A in 61°10' N. 3°0' E. at 1720/28, this appears more reliable. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1228/28).

Air Reconnaissances

Orders for air reconnaissance: (i) into Skagerrak up to 10° E. and (ii) of N.W. approach to the Bight for interception of enemy surface vessels. (Donibristle 1400/28).

One Sunderland to patrol north about Faeroes to observe enemy warships which may have sailed from Trondheim after 1200/27. (H.Q.C.C. 1410/28).

Reconnaissance of Skagerrak has nothing to report visibility not yet known. Reconnaissance Lister to 62° N. did not sight anything in good visibility. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1944/28).

1st C.S.

Intended route to daylight 30/7 (F.O.C. 1 C.S., 1606/28 to NORFOLK)

Enemy not located

There are good reasons for believing one German cruiser and light craft left Trondheim during the last 24 hours and reconnaissance has at present failed to locate them. (D.D.O.D.(H), 1656/28 to F.O.I.C., Iceland).

Force A Position

Aircraft report Force A in 62°5' N. 0°30' E. course 110° 24 knots at 1620 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1804/28).



555

War Diary28.7.40.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSOperation PHMaas & Scheldt  
Patrols

Operation PH is not taking place tonight  
(V.A.(S) 1529/28 to H.50, H.44).

Iceland Defence.

R.M. personnel of 4" battery to return to  
U.K. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2102/28 to W.O.)

E-BoatsBoulogne

At 0900/28, twelve and possibly fifteen  
E-Boats in Harbour. (PIU. 1512/28 to N.I.D.)

Calais

At 0900/28, one E-Boat leaving, and  
possibly one other at ~~Gate~~ Maritime Quay.  
(PIU.1512/28 to N.I.D.)

AirBritish Air Activity

Night 27/28, oil refineries at Hamburg, Heide,  
Stade, Borkum, Cuxhaven, Verden, and  
Balkensee bombed; also Bremen Docks,  
Wilhelmshaven Dockyard, and Langeland Island.  
Hits observed and many fires started.  
(H.Q.B.C., 2000/28).

Air searches for  
29/7

R/C of Norwegian coast from 62° N. to Lister;  
and photo R/C of Trondheim. Escorts for  
convoys and patrol W.2. (C. in C., Rosyth,  
1928/28).

Have attacked one M/V at 57°33' N., 6°34' E.  
Estimate no hits. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 2016/28).

At 1823/28 aircraft bombed small M/Vs in  
50° N., 8° W. (Plymouth, 2115/28).

Enemy Air Activity

## SANDHURST

Request one rescue tug be sailed for Dover  
forthwith to stand by for towing SANDHURST.  
(V.A. Dover 1125/28 to Adty.)

War Diary28.7.40.  
SundayHOME COMMANDSAirEnemy Air Activity (Contd.)

AJAX Am being shadowed by one aircraft in 52°50' N.  
2°18' E. (AJAX, 1534/28).

VETERAN Am being shadowed by one aircraft in 52°2' N.  
1°51' E. (VETERAN 1933/28).

VERITY One aircraft bearing 114 distance 3' course  
160. Position 52°28' N., 2°37' E. (VERITY,  
1936/28).

Possibility of air raids between Humber and  
Scapa Flow tonight 28th. (D.D.I.C. 1944/28).

MiningMilford Haven

Closed owing to magnetic mines (N.O.I.C.  
Milford Haven 0142/28). One parachute mine  
seen to drop last night which was exploded by  
sweeper today. 2 others suspected. 1 other  
mine suspected to have been laid last week  
was also exploded. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven,  
1950/28).

Dundee

Patrol craft report 2 magnetic mines dropped  
off entrance to River Tay. Request port may  
be closed for the present. (N.O.I.C. Dundee  
0240/28).

Liverpool

Closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0740/28).  
Opened 1500. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1505/28).

Plymouth

Closed owing to mines (A.C.W.A. 0744/28,  
2352/28).

Invergordon

Explosion possibly of Magnetic mine observed  
125° 1½ miles from South Sutor at 0545.  
Investigation reveals that unidentified  
aircraft was heard in vicinity about 0200 also  
that vessels in vicinity who saw explosion  
believe bombs were dropped but no aircraft seen  
or heard. Port not closed. Magnetic sweep  
in progress. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1040/28)

War Diary28.7.40.  
SundayHOME COMMANDSMining (Contd.)Harwich

5 magnetic mines exploded by LL trawlers in Swin Channel (2 on 27/7, 3 on 28/7). Positions (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1047/28). 5 moored mines cut 27/7 and 28/7 near X. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1949/28).

Newhaven

Now open from 0700 to dark. Directions for entry (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1812/28).

Cardiff )  
Newport )  
Avonmouth )

Hope to open these ports 1200/29. Directions for entry. (N.O.I.C., Cardiff, 1913/28).

Humber

Closed magnetic mines suspected. (F.O. Humber, 2358/28).

10th M.S.F.

To be dispersed. Details of transfer of vessels. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1214/28).

Mines suspected

4 flashes observed bearing 130° about 2 miles from 51°30' N., 1°20' E. Suspect release of parachute mines. (WINDSOR, 2325/28).

Enemy IntelligenceZeebrugge

Indications that port no longer blocked. (PIU 1512/28 to N.I.D.).

Prawle Point

Sound of heavy motor reported at 0125/28, 180° from Prawle Point. (C. in C., W.A. 0140/28 to HIGHLANDER).

Emden

21 ships over 200 feet in New Inner Harbour, and 8 ships over 200 feet in Outer and Industry Harbours. About 180 barges in New Inner Harbour. Photographic Report. (H.Q.C.C. 1145/29).

War Diary28.7.40.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence (Contd.)Trondheim

My 1544. Aircraft unable make R/C of Trondheim owing to bad weather and low cloud. (C. in C., Rosyth 0200/28 to Adty.) Aircraft leaves Sumburgh about 0400 to reconnoitre Trondheim (C. in C., Rosyth, 0334/28 to Adty.). Air R/C of Trondheim at 0800/28 reports no cruisers or destroyers in harbour. R/C considered reliable. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1208/28 to Adty.). In Trondheim harbour saw one tanker, 3 possible motor boats. Large cruiser previously seen was not there. Saw 3 destroyers steaming up channel towards Trondheim between Hitte<sup>n</sup> Island and mainland. (Donibristle, 1246/28).

Cherbourg

4 vessels, possibly E.boats, in E. corner of Inner Harbour, and 1 M/V in a basin. All oil-tanks intact. No unusual activity in docks. (Pru. St. Eval, 1630/28).

At 1642/28, 4 M/Vs and 1 armed trawler at 51°51' N., 5°38' W. course 182° speed 8 knots. (Plymouth, 2025/28 to H.Q. 15 Group).

Lister

Many big guns mounted off Lister. (SWORDFISH 2030/28 to V.A.S.).

At 1706/28 in 54°27' N. 6°55' E., 2 M/V's course 310° speed 10 knots. (Donibristle 2120/28).

Little Belt

At 0235/28 between Lydo Island and Mainland a cruiser believed LEIPZIG class at anchor; and many small M/Vs moving in all directions. (H.Q.B.C. 2000/28).

Den Helder

1932/28 one naval ship in harbour, little other activity. (H.Q.B.C. THI 0205/29).

Trawlers

52°30' N., 2°30' E. 2012/28, 4 trawler type ships in "U" formation heading S.E. 52°30' N. 2°15' E. 2016 those similar ships in "V" formation heading S.E. (H.Q.B.C. THI 0205/29).

War Diary28.7.40.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSShippingU.S. Troopship  
AMERICAN LEGION

Left New York 25th July for Petsamo. Expected arrive Petsamo 6th August. Unarmed and not in Convoy. Description and Route. (H.Q. Coastal Command 0111/28).

Iceland Convoy

My 1646/26. Convoy sailed at 0212/28 escorted by NORFOLK and WATCHMAN to R/V with VORTIGERN off Mull of Kintyre. Expect arrive Reykjavik 1200/30/7. KEPPEL remains in Clyde with foul propellor. (F.O. Greenock, 0220/28 to Adty.).

Convoy OA.190

Amended route (C. in C., W.A. 1331/28).

Convoy OB.190

Amended route. But drastic alteration after dark on 30th July. (C. in C., W.A. 1332/28).

Warning Convoys  
of air attacks

C. in C., Portsmouth's 1826/28. Concur generally, but remarks. (C. in C., W.A. 1826/28 to Adty.)

Convoy OA.191

Left Rosyth 0630/28 passing through Pentland Firth. (A.C.O.S. 1625/28).

Convoy TC.6

Due Clyde 1230/1st. Aug: Details of cargoes. (D.S.T. 2046/28).

Convoy SL.30A

Passing Kinnaird Head. Expect arrive Methil 1030/29. (RESTIGOUCHE 2101/28 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Convoy HX.61

Route. (D.T.D. 1754/28 to C. in C., W.A.).

Miscellaneous

*Swedish.*  
See under GOTEBORG

GOTHENBURG *Lloyd's 1940-41* Your 1916/26. German Adty. wish to route her as shown. To avoid delay I have informed Swedish Authorities that we agree. (N.A. Stockholm, 1925/28).





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War Diary

28.7.40.  
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

**MASKI**

*HMS/M*

Yacht. Derelict from Arendal. 4 crew rescued  
by SWORDFISH at 2030/28. (SWORDFISH 2030/28).

**STAUNTON**

Trawler. Found sunk at S.50° E. Knoll Buoy  
8 cables. Presumed sunk by magnetic mine.  
last seen 2200/26. No survivors. (C. in C.,  
Nore, 1851/28 to Adty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Evacuees. Asking for destination of civilian evacuees from Gibraltar (C. in C.W.A.1112/28)

Daladier Did not leave Casablanca but has requested destroyer again 29/7 or 30/7. VELOX has been withdrawn but will be sent again on receipt of confirmation from British C.G.Tangier of exact date (F.O.C.N.A.1442/28) Arrangements now made for destroyer 30/7 (F.O.C.N.A.1658/28)

South Atlantic

Raider engaged. Enemy was last seen in following position 024°10' South 031°50' West 024°10' South 031°50' West course and speed 180° 15 knots. My speed of advance reduced to 10 knots. Hole in engine room. (ALCANTARA 1930/28)

Your 1930/28 is the only signal so far received from you (R.A.S.A.D.2118/28)

Your 2118z/28. My 1328z and 1500z reported chase and engaging armed raider. Engagement lasted one hour but damage prevented chase. My present position 024°20' S. 032°40' W. Course 277° Speed 10 knots which can be maintained in fine weather. Casualties two killed seven wounded. (ALCANTARA 2230z/28)

Request following may be broadcast to British Merchant ships in area. Begins. Raider last seen in position 024° 10'S.031°50' W. at 1930 G.M.T./28 steering 180° at 15 knots. Any British ship sighting raider is to report immediately by W/T. Ends. (C.S.A.2318/28 to Adty.)

PRETORIA CASTLE Left for convoy duty and subsequently for Belfast (S.O.(I) Freetown 0957/28).

S.L. & S.L.F. Convoys. Your 1821/21. No A.M.C. is immediately available to replace CORFU. As a temporary measure S.L.F. convoys may be sailed so as to effect junction with S.L. convoys near Azores, one A.M.C. only escorting the combined convoys onward to Northern Approaches. (D.O.D.(F) 1947/28 to C.in C.S.A.

Evacuation. Recommending evacuation of Nigeria and Gold Coast by 1 October at latest; by all women and children (G.O.C.West Africa 2130/28)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN D.O.D.(F) 1623/28 see E.Indies.

## FOREIGN STATIONS

MediterraneanGibraltar Force H

Plans in event of war with Spain (1st Lord 1432/28 to S.O. Force H) See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Raid on Malta

Morning visit by 14 Fighters and one Bomber. One Fighter believed shot down in sea. In afternoon three Sunderlands on reconnaissance chased back by Fighters from Sicily. One badly damaged but hoped repairable. Two more Fighters for certain shot down by Sunderland and one other very probable. One submarine attacked result not ascertained. (V.A. Malta 2211/28)

Assab

Re. Adty. 2010/27 (C. in C. Med. 2215/28)

Operation "Hats" and "Hats" and

Description of operation (C. in C. Med. 1757/28) See Mediterranean Volume 1815/28)

ROYAL SOVEREIGNEast IndiesRaid on Aden

Three Aircraft Raided Aden 1130 G.M.T/28 dropping about 12 light bombs in outer anchorage from high level. British ship MATHURA Upper deck hit and depressed eight inches, appears seaworthy, being surveyed. Deck cargo seven lorries wrecked. (C. in C.E.I. 1802Z/28)

Targets for Air Bombardment.

Details (C. in C.E.I. 2008z/28)

French Attitude, Madagascar.

Your 0646/27. Inform Governor General Madagascar that unless the 20 mile restriction on British shipping is cancelled forthwith and that if British shipping is interfered with in any way you will take the action proposed by you in para. IV of your signal already quoted. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1551/28 to C. in C.E.I.)

Operation

Re. C. in C.E.I. 1816/5 (C. in C.E.I. 1402/28) See Operations Volume.

## AGRA

Colombo Radio heard AGRA (Swedish) calling all ships at 1430Z/28. Request whereabouts (C. in C.E.I. 1610Z/28 to D.N.I.)

Additional Oiler required.

I anticipate more cruising and patrol work for ships E.I. Squadron in near future and request that an additional Oiler may be attached to the Station. This will extend operational power of C. Class Cruisers and make up for the loss of Liego Suarez as a fuelling Port. (C. in C.E.I. 1104Z/28 to Adty.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

C. in C. Med. 1437/26 (Re R. SOVEREIGN proceeding to U.K. via Cape and docking at Durban en route). Request your remarks (D.O.D.(F) 1623/28 to C. in C.E.I., C. in C.S.A.)

War Diary

28.7.45 63  
= Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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~~MANZANILLO~~  
COLUMBUS  
E WESER  
HAVELAND  
FRANKFURT

*Manzanillo*  
German potential A.M.Cs ~~MANZANILLO~~, E. WESER arrived 23/7. Unconfirmed report will embark crew of COLUMBUS for Vladivostok, also E. WESER and DONAU or HAVELAND received arms and supplies from Japanese ships at sea. German ship FRANKFURT loading 500 tons coal. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0428Z/28).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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ENDERTA  
AMBA ALAGI

Italian potential A.M.C. ENDERTA and Italian ship AMBA ALAGI departed Woosung 25/7 and 26/7 respectively. B.1 repetition B.1 report that ships proceeded to Wuhu to load ore and will sail Japan shortly. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0428Z/28).

563<sup>A</sup>

M.V. AUCKLAND STAR.

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 13,212 tons. 6" and 3" H.A. Gun.

DATE AND TIME: 28th July at 0300; dawn.

POSITION: 52°17'N. 12°34'W. 170' from Valencia Island.

SPEED: 16 knots.

ROUTE: Sydney to United Kingdom.

CARGO: General, and refrigerated meat - 7,000 tons.

IN CONVOY: No.

ESCORT: None.

No. & FATE OF CREW: 74 all told; 3 injured.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Slight Northerly breeze; calm sea.

REMARKS:- Just as daylight was breaking ship torpedoed aft on port side. She took a list to port of about 10°. At first it did not look as if ship would sink, but thought it wise to lower boats and abandon ship. Engines stopped. Moment boats had pulled clear, a second torpedo struck port side of the Engine Room. Engine parts were blown high into the air and ship took a bigger list. About half an hour later another torpedo fired into her by the bridge; violent explosion throwing up water to 300 feet and ship immediately started to sink by the stern and S/M broke surface about a mile away. When ship took her final plunge at 4.20 a.m. S/M turned and steered away on the surface Northward. Conning Tower was clearly seen, and what looked like a 4" gun on the fore deck. Looked like U-25 - U-26 type of S/M. At about 9 a.m. a seaplane came out and kept around all day. He said ships were ~~not~~ coming out. Boats steered N.E. by N. and on Monday night sighted a light-house. All these boats eventually landed on Irish Coast. Red Cross arranged for crews to be taken to Galway.

DATE: 20th August 1940.

11XxCCB.

War Diary

28.7.40.  
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MININGShips Attacked

## ← AUCKLAND STAR

British (11212 tons) not in convoy, from Australia to Liverpool, torpedoed 0402 75 miles W. Dingle Bay, in 52°17' N., 12°32' W. HIGHLANDER, VISCOUNT to pick up survivors reported in 4 boats. Belgian trawler JOHN probably picking up survivors (OTTAWA 0302/28, Portsmouth W/T 0400/28, C. in C., W.A. 1132/28, 2218/28).

## SCHELDE ?

*Not Dutch Tugboat  
of this name.*

Dutch tug sunk by submarine while on her way from Campbelltown, Kintyre to assist S.S. SAMBRE (torpedoed 27/7). *(? in report)*

## DEVONSHIRE

Believed fired at by torpedo 1928 in 61°46' N., 0°34' E. ( Sullom Voe, 2045/28).

## STAUNTON

*No. 1. C. Brightline spots.*  
Trawler STAUNTON presumed blown up by magnetic mine. Found her two masts about 4 feet showing at 1130 this morning dead low water. Appear to be no survivors. Last seen at 2200/27 by M.B. SARAWARA. No explosions heard by vessels in vicinity. Position of wreck 50° E. 8 cables from Knoll Buoy. Am taking over H.B. patrol with Yacht GIROFLEE tonight. Submit I retain trawlers VINDELICIA, DRUMMER, ~~DAY~~ and SARONTA in harbour until degaussed, as I consider this patrol at present is a dangerous area. 1556/28 Ends.

Instructions have been given for these three trawlers to be wiped as soon as possible. (C. in C., Nore, 1851/28).

Submarines ReportedEstimated  
dispositions

Estimated U/B dispositions:  
1 reported 500' W. of Madeira at 1642/27.  
1 in 52°17' N. 12°32' W. at 0504/28 outwardbound.  
1 reported in 56°30' N., 19°37' W. at 1100/27, probably homeward bound.  
1 reaching N.W. Approaches outward bound.  
Possibly 1 in Irish Sea.  
1 N. of Shetlands homeward bound.  
(D.D.I.C., 1217 /28).

2000

58°45' N., 1°36' E. course 060° (Aircraft 2000/28).

2030

Near Chicken, doubtful report of U-boat and surface craft, steering N.W. (C. in C., W.A., 2247/28).



War Diary

565  
28.7.40.  
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

- 0945 Suspected submerged submarine in 56°15' N., 2°15' W. 315° 2 miles (Aircraft 0945/28). ROCHESTER investigating contact. Oil on surface. (ROCHESTER 1134/28). Believed wreck (C. in C., Rosyth, 1225/28 to ROCHESTER).
- 1500 51°11' N., 4°23' W. (off Bull Pt., N. Devon) by armed Yacht MIGRANTE
- 2035 56°50' N., 1°34' E. by aircraft.

America & West Indies

- 0600 By native observers north of island, on surface 4 minutes. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1240/28).

Submarines Attacked

- 1430 61°51' N., 12° 1' W. course 220°, am dropping d.cs (NORTHERN FOAM 1430/28 C. in C., W.A., 1619/28). Submarine periscope sighted on 2 different occasions dropped 3 d.cs. (NORTHERN FOAM, 1450/28).



566

War Diary.29.7.40.  
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.HOME COMMANDS.Western Patrol.

CHESHIRE and CILICIA sailed from the Clyde and 4 trawlers from Kirkwall this evening to establish the Western Patrol. LAURENTIC is to sail for this patrol on 2/8.

U-boat engaged.

SEALION on patrol off South West Norway unsuccessfully engaged a 250 tons U-boat with torpedoes and gunfire to-day.

Dover.

Owing to air attacks V.A. Dover considers the port is no longer suitable as a submarine operating base.

Baltic States  
Ships.

Consideration is being given to the method of preventing Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian ships from coming under Russian control, and for the present such ships are to be prevented on some administrative pretexts from leaving British ports.

E-Boats.

A/S Trawler DANEMAN was attacked by E-boats shortly after midnight 28/29 22 miles S. 60 W. of Beachy Head. The enemy after firing torpedoes at DANEMAN, which missed, retired to the westward.

Liverpool  
A.A.  
Defence.

Complaint has again been made of the inactivity against enemy aircraft of the A/A defences of Liverpool, and the F.O. I/C Liverpool reports that the situation is becoming intolerable and a serious menace to the safety of the port.

British Air Activity.

Oil tanks at Cherbourg were successfully attacked last night and fires started. Oil refineries at Hamburg were attacked this forenoon.

Normal patrols were flown, except the dusk anti-invasion patrol east of the Orkneys and Shetlands.

Enemy Air Activity.

Dover was attacked at 0725 to-day by a large number of bombers several of which were shot down. GULZAR (armed yacht) and S.S. GRONLAND were sunk, and SANDHURST received further damage. GRONLAND was one of the ships in the coastal convoy, which was damaged by air attack on 25/7.





War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

567  
29.7.40.  
Monday.

Enemy Air Activity.

DELIGHT was attacked this evening off Portland Bill by 16 aircraft. She did not receive any direct hit, but her W/T was put out of action at once by near misses and fire was started in a forward oil fuel tank and spread rapidly. Both boiler rooms were put out of action. About 3 hours later a large explosion occurred forward. At 0053/30 it was reported that the ship was on fire fore and aft but it was possible the after part was still afloat. Amongst the 147 (approx) landed were 1 dead and some 33 serious cases.

M/S Trawler BROCK was unsuccessfully attacked by 3 or 4 A/C early this afternoon. HASTINGS and Convoy F.N. were attacked about 1715 by some 50 aircraft; 22 miles E. of Harwich. Fighters broke up the attack and the convoy received no damage.

In the attacks on Dover and the F.N. Convoy 21 enemy aircraft were shot down by fighters and A/A fire and a further 10 are believed to have been seriously damaged.

Mining.

Considerable enemy minelaying was carried out last night off North East Scotland, in the British Channel, Plymouth, Humber and Forth of Forth areas. Liverpool was closed from 0930 to 1459. Milford Haven is closed from sunset until 1000 to-morrow. Humber was opened at 1206 and closed again at 2325 when parachute mines were seen to drop. Cardiff, Newport (Mon) and Avonmouth were opened at 1228. Swansea was closed at 1559. Plymouth, Port Talbot, Kyles of Bute and Tyne-Blyth inshore channel are still closed.

Two ships were mined off Harwich to-day in north bound convoy, one being sunk; a ship was mined and sunk in the Queen's Channel, Liverpool; and a fishing boat was blown up off Kemp Town. 7 ships left Humber at 2200/29 to lay mines in the East Coast barrier.

W.S.1.

Troop Convoys.

With 10,000 troops for the Middle East, escorted by KENT arrived at Colombo to-day.

Mediterranean and East Indies.

Fighters and bombers approached Malta to-day but turned back without dropping bombs.

Aden was bombed by 5 planes to-day from a height out of A/A range, the target being evidently the fuel tanks. No naval damage was caused.

War Diary

29.7.1940

MondayHOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K.

Your 1444/24. Request personnel allocated as soon as possible. Guns should be emplaced by 10th August (A.C.O.S. 1201/29 to Adty.)

Liverpool A/A  
Ground Defences

My 1819/22 and Air Ministry 1946/26. Further complaint from F.O.I.C. Liverpool of inaction of A/A Guns during Air Raid at 0307/28. Request immediate investigation and measures to ensure that Enemy A/C in Liverpool Area are engaged at first opportunity. (V.C.N.S. 1405/29 to Air Ministry) Your 1819/22. Information required from F.O.I.C. Liverpool before delay can be investigated. (Air Ministry 1812/29 to Adty.)

Dover  
Unsuitable for  
Submarines

Your 1207. Recent experience shows Dover unsuitable as submarine operating Base. Regret must cancel my 1102/27 and also decline H.34. (V.A.Dover 1531/29 to S.O.S/M Harwich) Your 2257/27. Request for concrete roof over Train Ferry Dock being actively investigated. (Civil Lord 1728/29 to V.A. Dover)

Glasgow A/A  
Defences

Ref. C. in C., Rosyth's 1801/24. Warning organisation should be improved by recent linking of Barrage to Gun Operations Room. Request NLO Turnhouse be instructed to submit written report. (Air Ministry 1545/29 to Adty)

Skaebrae and Twatt  
A/A Defences

8 heavy A/A Guns and 2 Troops of light A/A Guns, with 6 Searchlights, considered essential. Request immediate action. (A.C.O.S. 2002/29 to Adty.)

MovementsSHEFFIELD

Regret that Air Escort cannot be provided at present owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1258/29 to SHEFFIELD) My position at 2200 is 056° 12' North 007° 32' W., proceeding to Clyde. (SHEFFIELD 2219/29 to CHESHIRE)

LE TRIOMPHANT

To be prepared for sea now with no alterations but fitting of Asdics. (D.O.D. H. 1258/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

/MOOLTAN.....

War Diary29.7.1940.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDSMovements, Contd.MOOLTAN

Escorted by WOLVERINE and WITHERINGTON till dark leaves Plymouth 1800/30 proceeding between Scillies and Lands End. Request Fighter Escort till dark. (C. in C., W.A. 1319/29 to Adty.)

BULLDOG  
SKATE

Until further orders keep steam at 2 hours notice from 0500 to 2200, and at half hours notice from 2200 to 0500. (V.A.Dover 1541/29 to BULLDOG)

DEVONSHIRE  
NORFOLK

By 1606/28. To keep 30 miles North and West respectively of Convoy and both ships 30 miles S.E. of line N.P. 55. till fog lifts. (C.S. 1. 1600/29 to NORFOLK) Slow Convoy Clyde to Iceland at 58° 17' N., 10° 14' W at 2000/29 with NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE as Covering Force. (A.C.O.S. 1900/29)

CHESHIRE }  
CILICIA }  
(For New Western  
Patrol)

Passed gate at 1610 and 1815 respectively and thence through 55° 39' N 7° W and 56° N. 8° 41' W (Commodore N.P. 1835/29 to FORFAR)

Submarines

Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/30. Area A. TRIDENT FRO HAVET TAKU DNUB on surface to relieve TRIDENT NARWHAL vicinity Statlandet on surface to Rosyth TRIAD SMF 4520 TRITON SMF 1020 SEAWOLF XZMF 1712 SNAPPER PCMF 5020 SUNFISH C one TRIBUNE JZLZ 4000 SEALION PCUB 0520. submerged by day to C 3 SWORDFISH JZUB 4026 submerged by day to TGLZ 4812 PORPOISE E one THAMES TGTA 4550 STURGEON H one and 2 H 44 CPSC 5353 H 28 vicinity Brown Ridge on surface through Gap E to Harwich Netherlands submarines O 21 and O 22 leave Rosyth p.m. on surface to T.G.S.C. 1030 and R.Q.S.C. 3020 respectively URSULA leaves Blyth p.m. on surface to H 2. (V.A.S. 1658/29)

War Diary29.7.1940.  
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperations

My 1656/28 Enemy Forces not yet located. R/C of Trondheim and to Southward has been good. (A.C.N.S. H. 1309/29 to F.O.I.C. Iceland)

Iceland

Ref. Alabaster Cable 0218/28, can Adty. supply further eight 4-inch Guns in Addition to two already in Island and, if so, when can they be made available. (War Office 1424 29 to Adty.)

Operation P.H.  
(Mouth of Meas and Scheldt)

My 1110/24. Operation, Patrol A and B to be carried out tonight. Report Boats detailed and proposed time of sailing. (C. in C., Nore 1444/29 to S.O's M.T.B's)

E-Boats

DANEMAN  
(A/S Trawler)

Am being attacked by Light Forces S. 60° W of Beachy Head 22 miles. (DANEMAN 0044/29) Enemy retreating to Westward (DANEMAN 0046/29) Attack E-Boats at 230° Beachy Head 22 miles (C. in C., Portsmouth 0100/29 to SKATE) Engaged enemy torpedoes missed. (DANEMAN 0110/29) Enemy War Motor Boat S by E. Cwers 10 miles. (DANEMAN 0315/29)

Boulogne

PRU Sortie at 1900/29 shows 2 E-Boats in Bassin Loubet and 2 more at Quay Chanzey. Otherwise no shipping. (P.I.U. 0055/30)

Air- British Air Activity

Between 0645 and 1211/29 A/C attacked 3 M/Vs at 53° 22' N., 5° 15' E., Barges at 53° 15' N 7° 10' E., and Oil Refineries at Hamburg. (H.Q.B.C. 0222/30)

/Enemy Air Activ-

HOME COMMANDS

Air- Enemy Air Activity

Indications of Heavy Air Attack to be expected about 0700 in Nore Area. (C. in C., Nore, 0531/29).

Dover

Harbour attacked at 0725/29 by about 40 Bombers. GULZAR sunk in Submarine Basin. GRONLAND sunk near detached Mole. SANDHURST hit, fire extinguished, but some damage. Casualties believed slight. (V.A. Dover 0935/29 to Adty.) Details of damage done to Naval Property (Sup. Civil Engineer, Chatham 1858/29 to Civil Lord.) (I.C. 0527/40 gives the number of A/C attacking Dover, including fighters and bombers, as about 80 in all)

BROCK

Have been bombed by 3 or 4 A/C now flying towards Dover (BROCK 1312/29 to V.A. Dover) Six large Bombers flying N.W. of Dungeness. (BROCK 1322/29)

HASTINGS

50 A/C bombing at 51° 52' N., 1° 48' E. (HASTINGS 1716/29) Enemy engaged by fighters (HASTINGS 1721/29)

Convoy <sup>"Agent."</sup>  
(FN)

Fighter A/C are being sent to assist (Nore W/T 1739/29)

DELIGHT

16 Aircraft attacked H.M.S. DELIGHT at 1835/29 about 20 miles south of Portland Bill. Ship did not receive direct hit but many near misses. W/T put out of action at once and fire started in a forward oil fuel tank and spread rapidly. Both boiler rooms out of action. All confidential books sunk. Large explosion forward at 2130/29. Ship on fire fore and aft but possible after part is still afloat. Total number landed believed 147 includes 1 dead and approximately 33 serious cases. Captain and all Officers saved, gunner badly wounded. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0053/30 to Adty.)  
Close DELIGHT bombed at 210° Portland Bill 20 miles (C. in C., W.A. 1929/29 to BROKE and VANSITTART) Request Fighter protection for BROKE and VANSITTART (C. in C., W.A. 2026/29 to H.C.C.) Request report of reasons for sailing DELIGHT at 1426 instead of at dusk (C.N.S. 2350/29 to C. in C., Portsmouth)  
Your 2350/29 Home Fleet had requested DELIGHT should arrive Clyde a.m. 29th and single Destroyers are often employed in Channel.



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29.7.1940.

Monday

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HOME COMMANDS

Air- Enemy Air Activity

DELIGHT (Cntd.)

Will endeavour in future to sail smaller single units so as to minimise time in danger zone, but they may often have to proceed to sea as soon as possible. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1317/30 to Adty.)

Mining

Methil

Possible Parachute Mine seen to fall 159° Methil Red Light 2¼ miles at 2130/28. (C. in C., Rosyth 0202/29 to N. O.I.C. Methil)

GADFLY  
STURTON  
(Dundee)

My 2137/28. Trawler GADFLY badly damaged by explosion and beached. Trawler STURTON also seriously damaged. Mine exploded between them while Sweep being hauled. Anticipate at least 3 further mines on River still unlocated. Port closed till these destroyed. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 2330/28) (To C. in C., Rosyth) (C. in C., Rosyth 0651/29 to Adty.)

Liverpool

Port closed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0930/29 to Adty.) Port Open (F.O.I.C. 1459/29)

Operation FD 23

PORPOISE expected to complete Operation about 31st July. (V.A.S. 1011/29 to C. in C., H.F.)

Aberdeen

Proposed to keep S. side of QZS 12 closed till possibility of delay action in remaining 2 mines exploited. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1012/29)

Milford Haven

Open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1057/29) 2 mines dropped last night and exploded this morning. Two more suspected. Port closed from Sunset 29th till 1000/30 (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1754/29)

Humber

Open to navigation (F.O. Humber 1206/29) closed. Parachute Mines seen to drop (F.O. Humber 2325/29)

Cardiff  
Newport (Mon.)  
Avonmouth }

May now be opened (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1228/29)

/Swansea.....



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29.7.1940.  
Monday.

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Swansea

Closed, owing to Magnetic Mines. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1559/29)

Operation SN 32

Propose to carry out with amendments shown (R.A.M.L. 1622/29 to Adty.)

Harwich

Paddle Minesweepers cut 2 Mines at 51° 44' N., 1° 48' E., (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2105/29 to Adty.)

Operation BS 29A

PLOVER, <sup>WILLEM</sup> VAN DER ZAN, and 5 destroyers left Humber 2200/29 (Capt. S.6. 2244/29 to STURGEON)

Enemy Intelligence

Trondheim

R/C at 0810/29 reports one Tanker, one Transport, and one small M/V only in harbour No A/A fire encountered. (C. in C., Rosyth 1123/29 to Adty.) (Donibristle 1255/29 to Adty.) At 1824/29 unknown unit apparently at Trondheim. D/F report. (D.D.I.C. 1900/29)

U-Boats

Information as to their probable tactics. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1331/29)

Unknown Unit

Transmitting on frequency used by surface Warships at 1720/29 from unknown Latitude on Norwegian Coast (D.D.I.C. 1800/29)

Borkum

At 1115/29. A few miles N. of Borkum 3 clusters each of 7 or 8 very small stationary ships. (H.Q.B.C. 0222/30)

Terschelling

At 1149/29, three M/V's at anchor all about 10,000 Tons, just S. of Harbour. (H.Q.B.C. 0222/30)

At 1635/29 in 58° 5' N., 6° 34' E., One M/V steering Northwards at 8 knots (Donibristle 2025/29)

At 57° 57' N., 7° 39' E at 1700/29 one M/V course 070, speed 10 knots (Donibristle 2025/29)

At 1700/29 in 57° 59' N 7° 50' E., one M/V course 250, speed 8 knots (Donibristle 2025/29)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

At 1710/29 in 58° N., 7° 10' E., One M/V Coaster of 500 tons, course 045° speed 5 knots. (Donibristle 2025/29)

St. Nazaire

PRU Sortie 29th shows one large Tanker 500 feet long, being worked by crane and some rail activity nearby. (P.I.U. 2228/30 to N.I.D.)

Shipping

Convoy T.C.6.

Request you sail INGLEFIELD and KEPPEL to R/V with Convoy at 57° 12' N., 21° 50' W at 2000/30. Route (C. in C., W.A. 0016/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) Will pass through R/V position at 1630/30. Request you inform Escort. (REVENGE 1023/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Restrictions on  
Convoys  
withdrawn

Considered that restrictions on passage of M/V's in Convoy East of 0° 30' E during darkness can be withdrawn. Channel is sufficiently lit by night West of South Foreland. (V.A.Dover 1902/29 to C. in C., Nore.)

Convoy HX 58 A

Passing latitude of Cape Wrath. Expect arrive R/V Pentland Firth 0930/30 (SKEENA 2200/29 to F.O.C. Orkney)

Baltic States  
Shipping

Considering method of preventing Estonian Latvian and Lithuanian ships from coming under Russian control. Pending classification of position Customs and Colonial Authorities have been instructed to find some administrative pretext for preventing such ships from leaving British ports. Ships bound for another British port if on British charter will be allowed to proceed. (A.C.N.S. T. 2337/29 to C. in C's)

*For other shipping signals, 29th, see under 30/7, p. 573*



War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

29.7.40

Monday. 575

BRITISH INVENTOR  
(mined 13/6)

Request Fighter protection from 1930 till dark for 2 Tugs with BRITISH INVENTOR leaving Portland about 1930/29 for Southampton (F.O.I.C. Portland 1630/29 to Admiralty).

MONTROSE  
(bombed 27/7)

Cancel my 2222/28. Sailing of MONTROSE delayed. (C.-in-C. Nore 0802/29 to A.O.C. in C. Fighter). Take over escort of MONTROSE at 0730/30 in position X from WIDGEON. (C.-in-C. Nore 2314/29 to VESPER)

VINEMOOR.  
(torpedoed 26/7)

Derelict, stern awash, sighted 1400/27 July at 55°25'N. 16°5'W. by s.s. CAVINA. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1756/29 to C.-in-C.W.A.) (Admiral Devonport 2033/29).

GRACEFIELD  
Overdue.

British, 4631 tons, overdue at Freetown since 24 July. (D.S.329).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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General

Raider in  
South Atlantic

Raider last seen in position 24 degrees 10 minutes south 31° 50' W. at 1930 G.M.T. 28/7 steering 180° at 15 knots. Any British ship sighting raider is to report immediately by W/T. (Adty. 0325/29 to all British merchant ships in areas 6A & 9).

Description of raider and where last seen (Adty. 1552/29 to all Cs in C. abroad, 1827/2 to all British M.Vs in areas 6A and 9).

North Atlantic

Gibraltar  
W/T Station

Vulnerability. Asking for emergency W/T sets (F.O.C.N.A. 1820/29).

South Atlantic

Convoy escort  
requirements  
& 8" cruiser  
movements

DORSETSHIRE, CARTHAGE, R.S.5.  
CANBERRA.  
Convoy W.S.2, fast and slow group, CORNWALL and SHROPSHIRE.  
CUMBERLAND available for Freetown in place of DORSETSHIRE or may relieve HAWKINS temporarily. Re 8" cruisers at Cape and Freetown.  
V.S.5 RAMILLIES. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1252/29 to C. in C., S.A.).

Raider

Asking for description of raider and state of ALCANTARA's ammunition and armament (R.A.S.A.D. 0101/29). Description of raider and the action 28/7 (ALCANTARA 0359Z/29). Asking that description may be broadcast. (C. in C. S.A. 0940/29 to Adty.). Description of the action (C. in C., S.A. 1000/29). Main armament intact, 550 rounds remaining (C. in C., S.A. 1302/29), Raider's speed reduced. (C. in C., S.A. 2102/29). Informing G.B.M.S. in 6 and 9 of position and description of raider (C. in C., S.A. 1933/29).

Shipping to  
continue

Enemy raider in position 24° 10' S. 31° 50' W. at 1930/28. Stop all sailings from Bahia and all Brazilian ports south of Bahia until further orders. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1210/29 to Consuls concerned).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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South Atlantic (Contd.)

Shipping to  
continue.  
(Contd.)

Your 1210/29. As there is little doubt raider has been damaged and speed reduced it is unlikely she will disclose her whereabouts by remaining on Trade routes. Sailings from all ports should therefore be continued.  
(C. in C., S.A., 1916/29 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro).  
My 1210/29. Resume all sailings (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1125/29 to Consuls, S. America).

All homeward bound independent shipping is to route W. of a line running from 20° N. 20° W. to 53° N. 18° W., passing S. of prohibited area in my 1637/25/6 to Northern Approaches.  
(C. in C., S.A. 1801/29 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent).

Search for  
Raider. R.S.5

8" cruisers to be used. <sup>A search for raider.</sup> Arrangements for escorting R.S.5 to Cape. HERMES, DRAGON (C. in C. S.A. 1930/29). Make every endeavour to arrive Freetown with R.S.5 am/4/8 (C. in C., S.A. to MALOJA).

BRIDGEWATER

To relieve DRAGON at Lagos. (C. in C., S.A. 1205/29).

→ ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN

Asking his remarks re docking at Durban.  
(C. in C., S.A. 1010/29 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

Operations  
DHQY and  
"Gander"

Remarks. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1403/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

SCIENTIST

(overdue 16/5/40, believed mined off C. Agulhas).  
Re. lifeboat found on East coast Island.  
(S.O.(I) Cape Town, 2051/29).

Mediterranean

PARTHIAN

Orders (Capt. S.1 0945/29).

VALIANT

Re A.A. guns to be embarked (A.C.N.S.(F) 1411/29).

→ ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN

Re 15" ammunition (D.T.S.D. 1437/29).

Air raid on  
Malta

One raid 9 fighters and 2 bombers in several groups approached and turned back. No bombs dropped. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2219/29).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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578

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Assab

Adty. 2010/27 and S.N.O. Red Sea 1403/28.  
Request your views (1st S.L. 1014/29).

ILLUSTRIOUS

Asking what aircraft it is intended to embark.  
High percentage of fighters wanted. (C. in C.,  
Med. 1930/29). *R/L: p. 622*

Italian  
Aircraft

Your tel. 24 July 27. Greek Govt's conduct in  
releasing aircraft appears unneutral. (C. in C.  
Med. 1215/29 to British Ministry, Athens.)

Operation  
~~XXXXXXXX~~ "Hurry"

Operations to be carried out by Medit. Fleet in  
support of "~~HURRY~~" (C. in C., Med. 1439/29).  
See Medit. Vol.

Reinforcements

Request all movements in connection with  
operation consequent on Adty. 1700/25 may be  
treated as most secret in accordance with  
M.W.M. 47, para. 7. (C. in C., Med., 1901/29  
to Adty. etc.)

East Indies

Assab

V.C.N.S. 1914/29 to C. in C., E.I. see  
Operations Vol.

Operation "Hats"  
"HATS" and  
ROYAL SOVEREIGN

C. in C., E.I. 1928/29 see Operations Vol.

Operation by  
ROYAL SOVEREIGN

C. in C., E.I. 1244Z/29, 1246Z/29, 1924Z/29 see  
Operations Vol.

Convoy WS.1

Arrived Ceylon (Capt. I.C. Ceylon, 1302Z/29).

Evacuation

1. Question of evacuating service families  
from Middle East to India is again under  
consideration; has been suggested that convoy  
BS.3 sailing from Egypt on about 25/8 would be  
suitable.
2. It would be the intention subsequently to  
transfer the families to South Africa as soon  
as shipping and escorts (if the situation so  
required) become available.
3. Request your remarks.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1839/29 to C. in C., E.I.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies (Contd.)

Information  
re ships'  
movements

C. in C., E.I. 10482/29.

Air raid on  
Aden

Aden bombed by 5 planes 1200Z. No naval damage. Target obviously fuel tanks all A.A. fire short. (S.N.O. Red Sea 1651/29).

China

Dutch Submarine  
O.14

Now refitting will not be ready for sea until end of August. (S.N.O. Curacao, 1056/29).

America & West Indies

Suspicious  
Tanker

American Ship PACIFIC from Cape Town reports tanker loaded painted grey no gun no flag similar to Norwegian ship FERNCOURT steering south time position 007° 52' S. 029° 50' W. 0730/18 course appears suspicious B.1. (N.C.S.O. Trinidad 1158/27 to C. in C., A. & W.I. S.O.(I) Kingston).

N.C.S.O. Trinidad's 1158/27 Norwegian tanker FERNCOURT though larger is very similar in appearance to German tanker WINNETOU which left Las Palmas 9/4 and has not since been reported. This might be the suspicious tanker seen steering South on 18/7 in 007° 52', 029° 50' W. at 0730/18 by American ship PACIFIC. (D.D.I.C., 0958/29 to C. in C., A.W.I. & S.O. (I) Kingston).

Convoy  
call signs

C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1224/29).

Australia

Troops

Reply to A.C.N.B. 0204/24 is given in Tel. No. 271 of 27/7 to Govt. of Australia (D.O.D.(F) 1841/29 to A.C.N.B.). C'wealth Govt. agree to despatch of troops mentioned in 0204Z/24 leaving Sydney (date) (A.C.N.B. 1126Z/29 to Adty.)



War Diary

29.7.40.  
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Australia

Convoy U.S.4

Ships for Australian requirements AQUITANIA,  
MAURETANIA, ORCADES or EMPRESS OF JAPAN.  
(A.C.N.B. 0745/29 to D. of S.T.)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WESER )  
EISENACH )

Press report from San Diego, passengers in British ship LOCHMONAR state crew of WESER and EISENACH indicated ships were preparing to sail for Germany via Cape Horn. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1731/29).

Traffic  
through Sound

Adty. 1933/27. According to information (B.1), German vessels proceed both ways Swedish territorial waters and not in convoy. (Consul, Goteborg, 2011/29).

German vessel arrived at Santander. (Consul, Santander, 1850/29). Request for further details, name, etc. (D.D.I.C., 1053/30). Possible this might be the KONIGSBERG, which sailed from Para, Brazil, on 28/5 with cargo of rubber. (I.C., 0527/40).

ITHAKA

Arrived Istanbul 29/7 with cargo of 2,000 tons manganese ore from Russia. (I.C., 0527/40). (C-G.Galati THI 1649/29).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FULGOR

Sailed am/29 for Cadiz (Huelva 1300/29).

LANTLII ?  
LANULII ?

Arrived Fiume 25/7.

PORTOFINO

Arrived Fiume 27/7.

PEPI

Left Fiume 26/7.

BEATRICE (C.)

? S<sup>A</sup>N<sup>T</sup>A MARIA }  
REGLIGIANO }

Left Fiume 27/7.

VALENTINO CODA

Left Fiume 28/7.

LANTLII ?

Left Fiume 29/7.

(Susak T.H.I. 1930/29).

581A

Captain Bowditch 2/8/40

Phone Message from F.O.I L/pool at 15.15/2.

Captain of Clan Menzies interviewed, stated: -  
Ship sailed singly routed from C. Verde on 22/4. 14 knts.  
General Cargo 8402 tons in all. Ship was sunk in  
54° 10' N: 12° W at 0115/29/4. After being torpedoed  
crew took to boats. U/B went alongside & secured  
D/C. to jumping ladder. Explosion which followed  
caused ship to disintegrate & sink instantaneously.  
Captain of Clan Menzies attempted to get on to  
Conning Tower but was ordered off. Moon was rising  
& by this light he thought he saw U 8. or U 5  
painted on the Conning Tower. Captain was shown  
Jane's sighting ship & said the U/B was like one  
on P. 231 (U 45 to 55, sea going type).



581B.

S.S. CLAN MENZIES

GROSS TONS & ARMAMENT: 7,336 tons; 4" and 12-pdr. H.A. gun.

DATE AND TIME: 29th July, 0015 G.M.T. Near midnight - very faint moonlight.

POSITION: 54°10'N. 12°W. about 100 miles W. of Eagle Island.

SPEED: 17 knots at time.

ROUTE: Australia via Cape to Liverpool.

CARGO: General cargo - 8,240 tons; also 700 tons fuel oil.

IN CONVOY: No.

ESCORT: None.

No. & FATE OF CREW: 94 all told. 6 killed, 2 injured.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Wind 5; choppy sea.

REMARKS:- Torpedoed without warning near midnight, very dark. S/M must have been on surface. Although dark, torpedo was seen a few yards away from ship running near the surface on starboard side. It passed through engine room and stoke hole with a most violent explosion ~~stopping~~ stopping engines, and causing heavy damage. Ship commenced to sink and boats (2) were quickly lowered, and all hands surviving explosion left ship and rowed clear. S/M surfaced and an officer from S/M spoke to Mate's boat in perfect English. No trace of accent. He roughly told those in boat not to flash their torch light, or he would "blow them out of the water." Asked name of ship and when told said "Our old friend, the CLAN MENZIES." Captain Hughes was known to the Germans as he took into Turkish waters, a cargo of war material for the Poles at outbreak of war. His name was mentioned on German wireless at the time. He kept quiet and did not reveal his identity whilst in the boat. The number of the S/M could be faintly seen on conning tower, and thought to be U-5, but light was very poor and letters were painted ~~black~~ dark. It might have been 45 or 55. She was newly painted and clean, her length about 200 ft. and carried a machine gun on conning tower and a 4" gun on foredeck. S/M went alongside ship and placed a bomb at the foot of a ladder hanging overboard. Then S/M pushed off, and 5 minutes after there was an explosion which blew a hole into side of ship on water line. S/M then went off on surface. Ship took 20 minutes to sink from time of torpedo explosion. Boats set sail for Irish coast and landed after 36 to 40 hours. Captain thought it was dangerous to British Ships to instruct them in open letters to proceed to 70 miles W. of Tory Island, just outside line of Sounding.

DATE: 21st August 1940.

11XCCB.

War Diary

29.7.1940.  
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

582

Ships Attacked

CLAN MENZIES

*Torpedoed and sunk (See page 603)*

VINEMOOR

(Torpedoed 26/7)

Vicinity of reported position searched without establishing contact. Request present position of tug ENGLISHMAN. Am searching towards Rathms (?JASON 1020/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

CLAN MONROE

Magnetic mined and sinking in 51° 52' N 1° 48' E. (HASTINGS 1515/29) Back broken but not settling. Survivors in DUCHESS OF FIFE proceeding Lowestoft. 3rd Engineer and 19 Indians missing. D.G. thought to be on. Cargo Ore. (HASTINGS 1540/29) Consider ship could be towed. H.M.Tr. SABREUR ordered to Harwich with defect (HASTINGS 1600/29) Ship was in FN convoy. ~~SS~~ OLAVE has CLAN MONROE in tow proceeding very slowly towards Harwich am standing by (GUILLEMOT 2030/29)

MOIDART

Mined in 51° 59' N., 1° 49' E., sank immediately, 5 survivors out of crew of 16 in SS WIMBLEDON, SS FULHAM 111 and PINTAIL, 2 of those in PINTAIL unlikely to recover. No damage in air attack. (BLACK SWAN 1720/29 2018/29, C. in C., Nore 1901/29)

LEACH'S  
ROMANCE

N.O.I.C. Newhaven reports:- LEACH'S ROMANCE completely blown up 10 1/2 miles due south of Kemp Town, was hauling Trawl at the time and had beam alongside. Appears mine was hauled up in trawl. Two mines were sunk between 5 and 6 miles south of this position during the winter. None closer no sign of a U-Boat about. Ends. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2149/29)

OUSEBRIDGE

British SS OUSEBRIDGE (5601 tons) mined at 0930 today in position 800 feet 005 degs. from Q 5 Red Buoy Queens Channel. 2 of crew presumed killed 3 injured. Ship has foundered in 28 feet of water LWOS. Back broken. Cargo iron ore. Channel swept continuously by day. (F.O.i/c Liverpool 1440/29)

/SKATE.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

583

Ships Attacked (Contd.)→ SKATE

SKATE reports attacked with torpedo at 0420. Subsequent investigation revealed no E-boat. Consider it to have been U-boat. 4 attacks carried out by ACHERON SKATE and DANEMAN led to oil rising. Position 220° Beachy Head 17 miles now being watched by DANEMAN. First contact is wreck in a position 220° Beachy Head 17.

Second contact is very near this and is doubtful. (ACHERON, 0942/29). Nothing more seen and no further contact obtained. Search abandoned. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1641/30).

THIARA, SAMBRE  
Torpedoed 27/7

84 survivors landed at Liverpool by WINCHELSEA (WINCHELSEA 1405/29, Capt.(D) Liverpool, 1635/29).

Submarines ReportedEstimated U/B  
dispositions

1 between Madeira and Canaries or even farther S.  
1 reported in Dingle Bay, or may be in Western Approaches.

1 or possibly 2 in N.W. Approaches.

1 N. of Rockall homeward bound.

Possibly 1 between Faroes and Iceland.

1 in 61°46' N., 0°34' E. at 1928/28 may be returning to Bergen from a cruise (Passed to Submarines on patrol (V.A.(S) 1208/29).

1 in 60°05' N., 4°22' E. at 0226/29 outward bound from Bergen.

1 in 56°50' N., 1°34' E. at 2035/28 outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1314/29).

0230

60°5' N., 4°22' E. (about 35 miles S.W. Bergen) by H.M. Ships

2035/28

By aircraft 56°50' N. 1°34' E. course 330 presumed U-boat (C. in C., Rosyth, 0018/29)

→ 0528

50°29' N., 0°18' E. (15 miles S. Beachy Head) (SKATE 0528/29)

0448 }  
0607 }

By aircraft 59°28' N., 1°58' E. Probably TAKU or TRIAD. Further submarine reported by aircraft 59°19' N. 2°12' E. steering 335° p.s. only seen. This submarine might be U-boat or again TAKU or TRIAD (0/269, 0448/29, 0510/29 C. in C., Rosyth 1030/29, 1024/29).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

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584

Submarines Reported

- 0226 360° 5 miles 60°0' N., 4°22' E. approx. course  
290° (TRITON, 0226/29).
- 1050 By D/F 58°45' N., 4°0' E. unreliable fix.  
(D.D.I.C. 1134/29).
- 2050 By A/S trawler 58°42' N. 5°35' W. (F.O.C.O.S.  
2222/29).
- 0445 Off Mizen Head, 51°26' N., 9°50' W., C.4 report.  
(I.C., 0527/40).

Submarines Attacked

- By SEALION 250 tons U-boat in position 58°27' N., 4°24' E.  
course 210° unsuccessfully engaged with  
torpedoes and guns. Visibility extreme cloudy  
1/5. (SEALION 2100/29).
- By ACHERON See ships attacked - SKATE.  
SKATE,  
DANEMAN
- By ST. LOMAN 1945, 1955, 2114. Forced to surface before  
28/7 being submerged approx. 55°30' N., 7°0' W.  
HURRICANE to join at daylight 30/7 to ensure  
complete destruction using electrically fired  
d.c. if practicable. Still in contact 0621/29,  
oil covers area 2 miles by 150 yards. (F.O.I.C.  
Greenock 0125/29, 0800/29, C. in C., W.A.  
1857/29, 1859/29). ST. LOMAN unable to hold  
contact owing to bad weather and asdic conditions,  
posn. of submarine 55°39½' N. 5°57' W.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2215/29).



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

30.7.40.  
Tuesday.

585

Home Commands.

M.T.B's from Harwich last night carried out an anti-invasion patrol off the Dutch Coast.

C. in C. Portsmouth considers that the recent immunity of Portsmouth and Southampton from bombing and mine laying point to the probability of enemy attempting to create a bridge head at these ports in the event of invasion, and he emphasises the importance of the defence of the Isle of Wight.

On account of the present intense enemy air activity in the Channel, H.M. ships are only to proceed to sea by daylight in this area for operational purposes, other passages being made as far as possible in the dark.

A Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage is to be formed to give protection to convoys working between Southend and Falmouth against dive bombing attack.

Another period of U-boat activity has begun after a shorter pause than usual.

New Convoy.

A slow convoy is to be run every eight days from Sydney C.B. to the Clyde, to cater for the 100 ships a month below convoy speed, which are expected to load in Canada, Newfoundland and North American ports between now and the end of October.

Foreign Stations.

Raiders.

An unknown unit, presumed to be a raider, was located in approx.  $35^{\circ}$  N.  $45^{\circ}$  W. at 0100 to-day. DESPATCH, DUNEDIN and DIOMEDE have been ordered to patrol along the shipping routes between the West Indies and U.K.

It is anticipated that the raider which was engaged by ALCANTARA on 28/7 is unlikely to remain on Trade routes since there is little doubt that she has been damaged. Sailings from all ports in South America are therefore being continued. C. in C. South Atlantic is arranging to use 8-inch cruisers to search for the raider.

British air activity.

Weather prevented the operation of certain patrols. Ships and barges attacked last night, but the results were not observed. Barges between Walcheren Island and Noord Beveland, and in canal locks and railway sidings at Ostend, oil tanks at Zeebrugge and other targets were attacked, but cloud prevented observation of results.



SITUATION REPORT

30.7.40.  
Tuesday.

Enemy Air Activity.

586

During the 24 hours ending 0600/30 22 enemy A/C were confirmed shot down and 10 unconfirmed. Many of these were destroyed by British fighters in the air on Dover and F.N. convoy yesterday. British losses during this period, including Mediterranean, were 4 fighters and 2 bombers.

VALOROUS and Southbound Convoy were attacked off the Naze early this afternoon; fighters were sent and no damage to the Convoy occurred.

Mining.

Humber was reopened this forenoon after mines had been exploded. Mines were exploded off Harwich, Belfast Lough, Plymouth, Liverpool, Blackwater River, Milford Haven. Magnetic mines were dropped off Plymouth and in Mounts Bay last night. Plymouth was opened at 2028. Milford Haven is again closed from sunset to 1000. Port Talbot, Kyles of Bute and Tyne-Blyth inshore channel were still closed.

Mediterranean and E. Indies.

The Battle Fleet returned to Alexandria to-day. Two cruisers and 4 destroyers are covering the Aegean convoy between Crete and Alexandria.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

587

Ships to revert to usual notice. (C. in C., Nore, 0935/30).

Defences of Solent and Isle of Wight

Recent immunity of Portsmouth and Southampton from bombing and minelaying point to probability of enemy attempting to create a bridge head at these ports in event of invasion. Importance of defence of Isle of Wight is therefore strongly emphasized and strengthening of fixed defences covering eastern and western entrances to the Solent is considered essential. It is understood guns can be made available. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1157/30 to Adty.)

Night Artillery Zones

Request reply to Adty. 1301/27. If proposals are concurred request Adty. may be informed when it is proposed they should be promulgated as it is desirable that authorities in all services should be informed at the same time and in similar terms. (D. of L.D. 1829/30 to Air Min.)

Dover Balloon Barrage

New Balloon Barrage will be flying from 0001/31 from land sites within 3 miles radius of centre of harbour (H.Q.B.C. 2010/30 to Air Min.)

Shetlands

Highly desirable that approaches to Scalloway should be defended. Suggestions for siting of 2 4" guns and 2 12-pounders. (F.O.C.S. 2219/30 to Adty.)

Policy

On account of the present intense enemy air activity in the Channel ships should only proceed to sea by daylight in this area for operational purposes. Passages such as ships proceeding from or to Dockyards for repairs should as far as possible be made in the dark. (V.C.N.S. 1333/30 to C. in C.'s.)

Movements

2 destroyers to remain on D. Patrol, till further orders. (C. in C., Nore 0347/30 to VETERAN).

Groups 2, 5, and 6 to remain at half an hours notice for steam. (C. in C., Nore 0401/30).

12th M.S.F.

Adty.'s 1214/28. 12th M.S.F. to be based on Harwich and operated by F.O.I.C. Harwich.

HOME COMMANDS

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588

Movements (Contd.)

12th M.S.F.  
(Contd.)

If and when Harwich Harbour too congested, vessels may be sent to Lowestoft by arrangement with F.O.I.C. Yarmouth. (C. in C., Nore 0943/30 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Anti E-Boat Measure

3 M.A./S.B's to join convoy F.N.37 off Smith's Knoll as additional escort. (C. in C., Nore, 2004/30 to LOWESTOFT)

E-boats

At 1042/30 in 51°20' N., 3° E., 3 small M.T.Bs (THI.0432/31).

La Rochelle)  
La Pallice )

PRU. Sortie 30/7 shows no E-boats in harbours or off-shore. (PUI.0048/31).

Air

British Air Activity

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage

Particulars. (see Shipping).

Norwegian Coast

Intended that Sections of 3 Skuas shall carry out short harassing actions on Norwegian Coast against shipping, Fuel, Supplies, and Targets, avoiding main centres. These raids will be referred to by Sortie Numbers 1,2 and 3 of which descriptions given. (A.C. Orkneys 1155/30 to Adty.)

At 1430/30 aircraft attacked 1 M/V of 1000 tons at 59°24' N. 5°12' E. Believed damaged. (Donibristle, 1735/30).

Dover Balloon Barrage

Considered Water-borne Balloons cannot be spared from Southend without impairing Barrage efficiency. If 6 B/B craft urgently needed at Dover consider drifters should not be sent, though towage of dumb lighters will be difficult. A strong Barrage at Southend is particularly desired. (Fighter Command 1430 to C. in C., Nore) (C. in C., Nore, 2324/30 to Adty.)



War Diary

30.7.40.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Air.

589

Enemy Air Activity

MACKAY

Am being shadowed by 1 Enemy aircraft at 49°30' N., 10°36' W. (MACKAY 0902/30). Again at 49°30' N., 10°14' W. (MACKAY, 1104/30).

Convoy <sup>"Pilot"</sup> ~~PILOT~~

Being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft. My position 51°59' N., 1°50' E. course 350 speed 6 knots. (LOWESTOFT 1309/30). Fighters have left (Nore W/T 1320/30). Am being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft at 51°31' N., 1°13' E. (VALOROUS 1334/30). Aircraft bombing. No hits. My position 51°31' N. 1°18' E. (VALOROUS 1335/30).

Convoy <sup>"Boaty"</sup> ~~BOATY~~

Being attacked by enemy aircraft at 51°32' N., 1°6' E. (STORK 1338/30). Fighters have left (Nore W/T 1355/30).

ORLOCK HEAD

British 1563 tons, bombed at 0230/28 in 58°44' N., 4°21' W. crew abandoned ship in lifeboats and were landed at Scrabster, 4 dead and 3 severely injured. Ship sank at 320° Strathie Point 6.7 miles (A.C.O.S. 1545/30 to Adty.)

ROWSLEY

Trawler, attacked by aircraft at 0200/28 in 58°41' N., 3°40' W. No damage. (A.C.O.S. 1545/30 to Adty.)

Belgian trawler  
088 (JOHN)

Attacked by aircraft at 1030/30 when West of Bull Roads, South Ireland. 7 bombs, no hits. Slight damage by machine gun. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1305/31 to Adty.)

Mining

Spurn Point

Red mine exploded by LL trawlers 122° Spurn Pt. lighthouse 3.3 miles. One mine exploded spontaneously about 4 cables N.E. of Chequer Shoal Buoy. (F.O. Humber 0910/30).

Harwich

LL Sweepers exploded magnetic mine in 51°55' N. 1°21' E. at 0521/30. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0917/30 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

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Mining (Contd.)

590

Humber

Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1023/30).

Inchkeith

2 drifters, each with 5 inch 4 barrelled machine gun ex FORTH, will be used for offensive night patrol where mines have been dropped. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1035/30 to Adty.)

Kites in  
parachute patrol  
craft

N.O.I.C. Leith suggests fitting one P.P.C. with a kite to be flown at 1000 feet as experiment, possibly with lethal attachment to kite. Request consent of fighter command for trial of kites. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1035/30 to Adty.)

Milford Haven

Open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1039 to Adty.)  
2 magnetic mines dropped last night. Possibility of others. Port will be closed from sunset tonight till 1000/30. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1854/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

Belfast Lough

1 red magnetic mine detonated 060° North Briggs Buoy, 11 miles at 1200/28 by SOUVENIR. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1110/30 to Adty.)

Mounts Bay

2 parachute mines dropped on night 29/30 at 50°7'4" N. 5°30'42" W. Position confirmed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1202/30 to Adty.)

6 magnetic mines dropped night 29/30 July. Since my 1645/29 2 mines detonated near Draystone Buoy. (C. in C., W.A. 1436/30 to Adty.)

Liverpool

1 magnetic mine detonated 100 yards from Q.8 Black Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1721/30 to Adty.)

CORBRAE detonated magnetic mine at 51°29'51" N. 1°0'24" E. (C. in C., Nore 1723/30).

Sweep from Z  
to X, through Y

Moored mine cut and destroyed at 51°56' N., 1°47'30" E. Another cut and destroyed at 106° shipwash L.V. 4.5 miles. 2 moored mines cut and destroyed between "Z" and "X". (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1917/30 to Adty.)

Sweep between  
X and Y

Moored mine cut and destroyed at 51°43' N. 1°49'12" E. Another in sweep in same position. (F.O.I.C. Harwich

HOME COMMANDS

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Mining (Contd.)

591

Plymouth

Cancel my 2352/28 (Port closed owing to mines)  
(A.C.W.A. 2028/30).

St. George's  
Channel

C. in C., H.F. 1229/29 (No A/A cruiser available  
for operation SN.32) and Adty. 1938/29  
(Operation SN.32 postponed for 48 hours).  
Request CALCUTTA be made available to act as  
A/A cruiser for Operation SN.32 to give protection  
in Irish Sea. (D.O.D(H.) 2148/30 to C. in C.,  
W.A.).

Explosion

At 1232/30 in 51°20' N. 6°13' W. Aircraft  
observed a "terrific explosion" in sea one mile  
to southward. No ships near and nothing  
seen afterwards. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1350/30  
to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Langeoog Island

About 4 miles North of Langeoog Island a  
tanker 6000 to 7000 tons. Aircraft report.  
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0428/30).

At 0636/30, five minesweepers at 54°57' N.  
7°7' E. course 180° speed 7 knots. (aircraft  
220 Sqdn. 0735/30). Later 2 more minesweepers  
ahead of first 3. (Donibristle, 1015/30 to  
Adty.).

Texel

7 small ships, all under 200 tons,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile off  
south end of Texel. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1100/30  
to Adty.)

Brest

No change. Small craft in La Penfeld river still  
numerous. No activity of Railway Station.  
(PRU. St. Eval 1210/30).

Dunkirk

At 1041/30 Harbour nearly empty and little  
movement. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1305/30).

Calais

At 1050/30, 4 very small M/Vs in basin.  
No movement in harbour (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1305/30).

Boulogne

At 1100/30. Small cargo vessel N.W. of Harbour.  
Harbour looked empty. (A.C.H.Q. 1305/30).

HOME COMMANDS

592

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Dieppe }  
Le Touquet }

At 1115/30. Nil. (A.C.H.Q. 1305/30).

At 1145/30, 2 small ships, possibly Flak, at 52°56' N. 4°41' E. stationary. Aircraft report. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1335/30 to Adty.)

At 0415/30 at about 52°5' N. 3°5' E., M.T.B. 28 sighted an unknown ship, believed warship, bearing 315° distant 5 miles, at high speed on course 240°. (C. in C., Nore, 1451/30 to Adty.)

Stavanger

4 Flak ships and 1 escort. Vessel entering Stavanger. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 1500/30).

At about 58°27' N. 5°50' E., 1 M/V about 3000 tons just off shore with decks awash. Aircraft report. (Donibristle, 1730/30 to Adty.)

At 2103/30 in 50°22' N. 3°40' W. 1 M/V about 2500 tons course 180° speed 15 knots. Aircraft report (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2253/30).

At 0607/30 in 51°24' N. 3°23' E. a ship of 5000 tons at anchor. (THI.0432/31).

Dieppe

At 1042/30, North of Dieppe, one ship 6000 to 7000 tons heading East. At 1145/30, 4 trawlers heading E by N. (~~THI~~ THI. 0432/31).

Flushing

At 1010/30, 4 ships, largest 5000 tons, in harbour (THI. 0432/31).

Enkhuizen

At 1245/30, 2 ships in dock, 1 a patrol vessel (THI. 0432/31).

Ostend

At 1727/30, 15 miles off Ostend, 7 small ships heading W. (THI. 0432/31).  
At 1713/30, 5 miles off Ostend, convoy of 7 M/Vs heading S.W. at 8 knots. No escort. (THI. 0432/31).  
At 1715/30, 8 to 10 barges in lock entrance to canal. (THI. 0432/31).

At 1740/30 in 51°20' N. 3° E. convoy of 6 or 7 small ships with a larger ship leading, heading S.W. (THI.0432/31).

Ymuiden

At 1254/30, 20 Barges covered with tarpaulin in harbour. (THI. 0432/31).

La Pallice

Liner CHAMPLAIN wrecked in Roads, and 1 large steamer, 2 medium and 10 small in harbour on 30/7. (PIU.0048/31).

La Rochelle

About 40 small steamers (PIU.0048/31).



War Diary

30.7.1940.  
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

593

Shipping

Convoy OG 40

Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1244/30)

Convoy WN 4

Intend sailing about 0900/1st August  
38 ships. Request Air Escort. (F.O.Greenock  
2123/30)

Channel, Mobile  
Balloon Barrage

Approval given. Consists of 6 ex-French  
tugs and two Belgian Pilot Boats, based on  
Sheerness, under operational control of  
C. in C., Nore. Object to protect Convoys  
from Dive-bombing between Southend and  
Falmouth. Not anticipated ready for sea  
until 2nd August. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2218/30 to  
C. in C's)

Convoy CE 8

To be sailed Falmouth to Dartmouth today so  
as to make passage during dark hours as  
far as possible. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1545/30)

Convoy OA. 192

Destinations. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0931/30 to  
Adnty.)

Until further orders no more ships are to  
be sailed from West Coast ports to Falmouth  
for onward passage in C.E. Convoys. (D.T.D.  
1214/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Convoy OA 193

Route (C. in C., W.A. 1253/29)

Convoy OG.40

Route (C. in C., W.A. 1252/29)

Convoy OG.39

Sailing Telegram (C. in C., W.A. 1216/29)

Convoy OE 191

Cancel my 1349/28 and 1654/26. Route (N.C.S.O.  
Liverpool 1202/29)

Convoy SHX.62

Amendment of advance Sailing Telegram  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 1231/28)

Miscellaneous

? # Lloyd's give PHILA  
\* PHILIA German.

Foreign, 4000 to 5000 tons, reported anchored  
~~xxxxxxx~~ inside Tuskar Light at 2100/28  
Customs Water Guard thinks her German.  
Bound to Waterford and Cork. (F.O.I.C.  
Milford Haven. 1445/30 to Adnty)



War Diary

30.7.1940.  
Tuesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

594

ABA

British, 1937 tons Due Capetown 26th July not arrived. (S.O. (I) Capetown 1108/30 to Admty.)

CARPERBY

British, 4890 tons, collided with unknown object at 0030/30 at 336° Hammond Knoll L.V. 8 miles. Slight damage. (STORK 1115/30 to C. in C., Nore.)

NATO

Dutch, 399 tons, collided with unknown object at 0030/30 at 336° Hammond Knoll L.V. 8 miles. Left convoy FS 35 and may be badly damaged. (STORK 1115/30 to C. in C., Nore.)

STRATHNAVER  
ATHLONE CASTLE

} Admty's 1753/18. Neither ship has yet arrived. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1613/30 to Admty.)

FOLKESTONE

A/S set has defects. Can only keep Hydrophone watch. Your 1213/29. Maximum endurance for Convoy work, not allowing for bad weather, is 18 days. (FOLKESTONE 2201/30 to C. in C., W.A.-)

KONINGIN  
WILHELMINA

Lloyd's 3331 tons  
300 tons, Surinam to La Guayra, reported sunk after explosion on 29th July 8 miles from La Guayra. Believed sunk for insurance by Master. (S.N.O. Curacao 1152/30 to Admty.)



War Diary

30.7.1940  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

595

Casablanca  
French Reports

A French aircraft arrived yesterday from Casablanca. Summary of report by Sergeant Pilot:-

Majority of Aircraft in Morocco are now at full fighting strength. Aircraft at Casablanca are being flown to outlying districts to avoid being in contact with German and Italian missions now there. Great majority awaiting order from one of their own authorities to transfer themselves to British control in order to fight actively against the Germans.

There are 2 groups at Dakar complete in every respect (34 bombers approximately in all and more may be expected) who anxiously await orders to move. Rapid action in contacting these Units is essential.

Contact with North Moroccan Unit can probably be made from Gibraltar as an address in Fez is available for the purpose. Can Agent be slipped into Dakar from Freetown? (F.O.C.N.A., 1724/30)

M. Deladier  
(VELOX)

My 1658/28. Consul General, Tangier, reports evacuation is impossible to carry out. Destroyer has returned to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1758/30)

Raider

Unknown German Unit, believed enemy raider, was in vicinity of 35° N., 45° W., at 0010/30 B.S.T. (D.D.I.C. 1352/30)

South Atlantic

STRATHNAVER  
ATELONE CASTLE }

M. of shipping 1810/18 and Adty. 1753/18. Neither ship yet arrived. Request I may be informed if any change of plan. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1613/30)

Convoy  
Escorts

Adty. 1252/29. No mention is made of home-ward voyage of W.2 and W.3 from Capetown vide D.S.T. 2157/27/6. Intentions for CUMBERLAND and DORSETSHIRE, which will leave only one 8- in cruiser on station. (C. in C., S.A., 1040/30)

/Shipping Routes.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

596

South Atlantic- Contd.

Shipping  
Routes

Cancel my 1935/2 and its amending signals 1313/12, 2253/14 and 0930/18. Westward bound independently routed shipping is to be routed West of line joining 20° N., 20° W., 46° N., 19° 30' W., 53° N., 18° W., and East of line joining 38° N., 23° W., 48° N., 23° W., 54° 30' N., 20° W., Thence to Southward of prohibited area given in my 1637/25 to Northern Approaches, navigating between meridians of 7° W., and 15° W., during daylight on account of likelihood of meeting Southbound Gibraltar convoys between these meridians. Northbound convoys from Freetown may be encountered throughout route. Ships bound for East coast ports should be sent to Clyde, and ships for British Channel to Milford Haven for instructions, all by Northern Approaches. Routes A G one to five on chart C B 01671 B are cancelled. (C. in C., S.A. 1135/30)

*Bristol*

Polish Ships.  
Escapes

Polish Ship KROMAN, Captain Dybek, arrived here today having broken out of Dakar last Saturday night, 27/7. Main stop valve of engine had been removed by French authorities but ship's engineer fitted with temporary arrangement. On being informed by Polish Consul that Germans in Dakar intended seizing his ship, the captain decided to break out which he did by pumping out ballast and escaping over outer net. He had no charts. I have personally congratulated the captain. This makes the 6th Polish Ship to leave French West African ports, 3 from Dakar, one from Konakri and 2 from Kaolack in Salum River. (C. in C., S.A. 1912/30)

*Freetown*

ALCANTARA

Damage repairs to be carried out at Rio de Janeiro. (C. in C., S.A. 1240/30)

Raider

Unknown German Unit, believed enemy raider was in vicinity of 35° N., 45° W. at 0010/30 B.S.T. (D.D.I.C., 1352/30)

Brazilian  
Base

Despite repeated requests Alma do Trindade is under no Brazilian surveillance whatever. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1609/30)





War Diary

30.7.1940.  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

597

Mediterranean

Dispositions

My 1950/25. Orders for sailing from Gibraltar of HOOD, VALIANT, ARGUS, cruisers and destroyers, arrangements for docking, etc. (D.O.D. (H) 1926/30)

VALIANT

To be taken in hand by Cammell Laird, Liverpool. (D.O.D. (H) 2146/30, to F.O. Force H.)

RENOWN  
Main Force

My 1950/25, para 2 (a) RENOWN will sail for Gibraltar as soon as exchange of flags has been made. Para 3, owing to administrative requirements now decided that main force will not sail from U.K. until later (dates) (D.O.D. (F) 1235/30)

Operation  
"Hurry"

Summary of intentions for Operation "Hurry", by Force H and ARGUS. See Mediterranean Volume. (F.O.C., H., 1430/30)

Roumanian  
Seizure

Roumanian Govt. seizure of British tanker LOWTHCENE, Standard Oil Co., loading gas oil for Turkey, in spite of written guarantee to our legation last week that British tankers would not be interfered with. (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1318/30)

Enemy Intelligence

Convoy 3 ships, thought to be troopships, escorted by 6 destroyers passed through Straits of Messina at 1400 today. (OSWALD, 1530/30) *Question about this: p. 620.*

PANDORA  
PROTEUS

} Route to Malta. (F.O. Force H. 1650/30)

Greek Ship Sunk

The Greek ship HERMIONE, 440 tons, bound for the Dodecanese with a cargo of 300 tons of aviation spirit and 200 tons of lubricating oil, was intercepted in the Aegean Sea at 2030/28 by NEPTUNE. As NEPTUNE and SYDNEY, which was in company with her, were heavily bombed, between 1945 and 2010, after being shadowed in 37.30 N., 24.25 E., the HERMIONE was sunk by gunfire as a military emergency. The Master and crew were left in boats not far from land having stated that they were all right and required no assistance. (C. in C., Med., 1535/30) (I.C. 0528/40)

/Spanish Situation



War Diary

30.7.1940.  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

598

Mediterranean-Contd.

Spanish  
Situation

German Maritime staff reported new Spanish-Portuguese Protocol appears definite gain. Anti-German feelings increasing, take expression as anti-Falangist. General mobilisation rumours without foundation. Leave normal. Naval disposition normal. (N.A., Madrid, 2242/30)

Operation  
"Hats"

Remarks on C. in C., Med., 1757/28 (F.O. Force H., 2111/30) See Mediterranean Volume.)

Air.

Spanish  
Territory

Established that Italian aircraft are violating Spanish territory, which necessitates A/A fire in direction of Spain. Consider amply justified in using ~~max~~ emergency landing ground for fighter aircraft. Request for six Hurricanes to be sent immediately. Landing ground is not suitable for operation this type of aircraft day or night. Meantime, an endeavouring obtain loan from V.A.A. of three Skuas. R.D.F. has arrived. (Governor, Gibraltar, to W.O., 1627/30)

Malta Raid

A small formation of enemy aircraft approached Malta a.m./30 but turned back when fighters went up. (I.C., 0528/40)

War Diary

30.7.1940.  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

599

East Indies

French Shipping

Adnty. 1551/26 and S.O.I., Capetown's 0958/21. Governor General Madagascar, has been informed if I do not hear by 1200Z/31 that restriction has been withdrawn. French ships SONTAY and CAP VARELLA will be liable to be intercepted and taken into a British port. SONTAY believed still in Madagascar. (C. in C., E.I., 0608Z/30)

Enemy Targets

Adty. 1914/29. I assume targets referred to are oil tanks and mining stores as stated East Indies letter No 1078/E.I. 5187 dated 3rd November, paras 29 (i) and (j). S.N.O. Red Sear confirm. (C. in C., E.I. 0714/30)

Adty. 1914/29. Position from intersection  $13^{\circ} 00' 47''$  N.,  $42^{\circ} 44' 57''$  E. on plan 73 C.B. 1712, January 1936 (Modifications re barracks, batteries, sunk oil tanks, etc.,) Attention is called to shoals off shore not shown in this plan. (S.N.O., Red Sea, 0730Z/30, to C. in C., E.I.)

Enemy Cargoes

Cargoes of German and Italian ships at Mormagao may be transhipped to neutral vessels. India Office has been requested to arrange for any such action to be reported to you. (D.E.W.D., to C. in C., E.I., 1459/30)

Suspicious Signals

My 1610/28. Bearings of call signs from KENT, 1551/22,  $035^{\circ}$  from position  $28^{\circ} 35'$  S.,  $45^{\circ} 14'$  E., 1519/26, 2290 from position  $08^{\circ} 31'$  S.,  $72^{\circ} 56'$  E. Ship also heard on 25/7 but no bearings obtained. All times G.M.T. (C. in C., E.I. 1056/30)

War Diary

30.7.1940.  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

600

America & West Indies

Suspected  
Raider

Unknown enemy unit was in vicinity 35° N., 45° W., at 0010/30. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0901/30) My 0901. Establish patrol forthwith, DESPATCH up to 800 miles along the line 40 degrees from Trinidad. DUNEDIN up to 800 miles along the line 45 degrees from Sombrero. DIOMEDE up to 800 miles along line 45° from Mona. Fuel as necessary at Tortola, Bermuda or Trinidad. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0951/30)

My 0951/ Patrols are intended to cover independent routes to Caribbean Sea. Request information whether routes covered are those by which ships are now proceeding. (C. in C., A.W.I., to Admty., 1111/30)

Troop  
Convoys

Requesting reply to his 1921/24. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD now Montreal and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND arrives 31/7. Prospective dates for embarkation and sailing. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1516/30 to Adty.)

Submarine  
Report

Your 1754/29 (sent by War Registry asking for a repetition of message 1237/27) Regret my 1015/28 repeated to you in error. My 1237/27 advised Jamaica submarine seen by Master schooner 2300/24, 15 miles off Point Saline, Grenada, proceeding south-west. (N.G.S.O., St. Lucia, to Fairmiss, London, 1055/30, received from Min. of Shipping 1830/30).

French Ships

Approximate requirements of officers and seamen for PRESIDENT SERGEANT and SAINT BERTRAND Engagement terms as outlined in Admty. 2319/16 and S. of S. for Colonies circular maritime 34 of July 16, including immediate advances of pay. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1552/30)

French Trade

Situation regarding trade with French Antilles. On July 12, I informed Admiral, Martinique, that I was willing to allow French ships to trade locally. On July 27, I informed him I was also willing to allow British Allied shipping to trade with his Island and requested guarantee. Admiral, Martinique, replied today as follows, "For Allies, no difficulties, for others I study the question" No British or Allied ships are being allowed to call at French Antilles or French Guinea till further orders (C. in C., A.W.I., 1901/30)

/Slow Convoy.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies, (Contd.)

Slow  
Convoy

Estimated that about 100 ships per month below convoy speed in addition to existing numbers will be loading in Canada, Newfoundland and North American ports between now and end of October. Therefore decided to run a slow convoy every 8 days from Sydney C.B. to the Clyde. Ships of speeds between  $7\frac{1}{2}$  and 9 knots are to be included and should commence assembling at Sydney as soon as possible. Ocean escort will be one sloop. Number of ships in convoy should not exceed 30. Request you will report anticipated date on which first slow convoy can sail. Further signal will be made regarding escort. Designation of these convoys is to be S.C. (D.T.D. 2013/30 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

KONINGIN  
WILHELMINA  
Sunk

Netherlands authorities report KONINGIN WILHELMINA, 300 tons, sunk after explosion 29/7, 8 miles from La Guayra. Master reports possible cause torpedo but authorities consider unlikely. Ship recently sold by Surinam Govt. Captain has a bad record and is generally considered untrustworthy. More probable ship was sunk with a view to obtaining insurance. (S.N.O. Curacao, 1152/30)

Australia

Reloading  
Ships

Admty. 0124/27, re arrangements for re-loading ships, etc., Arrangements satisfactory. Gordon informed. (A.C.N.B., 10112/30) Your 0540/22 and 10562/29. Military authorities have been informed and appreciate arrangements made. Question re cargoes. (A.C.N.B., to C. in C., E.I., 12552/30)



War Diary

30.7.1940.  
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

602

EULER

Vice-Consul, Gijon, reports EULER sailed from Musel near Gijon between 27/7 and 28/7. (Consul, Vigo, 1600/30) EULER arrived here 30/7 from Gijon and sailing tonight for San Sebastian on way to a French port. (Biord, 1832/30) My 1850/29. Vessel supposed to be EULER sailed last night. (Santander, 1900/30)

Tanker

German tanker is alongside oil quay ostensibly to unload gas oil. (Consul, Vigo, 1100/30) Tanker is discharging petrol. Understood Spanish monopoly has bought cargo about seven million litres. (Consul, Vigo, 2230/30) Tankers at Vigo are BRAKE, ANTAKTIS, NORD ATLANTIC and NORDMEER.

GERMANIA

Tanker, still at Porta Delgada on 30/7. (I.C., 0528/40)

DUBURG

*Length 2675 G.T.*

2676 G.T., reports she will arrive at Stettin at 0700/31. Is trading in Baltic. (I.C., 0527/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

VERBANIA

6640 G.T. Arrived at Haifa in prize 29/7. (I.C., 0528/40)

FULGOR )  
GABIA )

Anchored 7 miles off Huelva and arrangements being made for them to move to Cadiz. (I.C., 0527/40)



War Diary

30.7.1940.  
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

603

Ships Attacked

CLAN MENZIES

(sunk on 29th)

(see page 582)

British, 7336 tons, torpedoed and sunk, 53.10 N., 14.00 W., at 0015/30<sup>29</sup> (Hughes, Master, CLAN MENZIES, 1113/30) 35 of crew and Captain landed, 51 missing. Was homeward bound independently from Sydney, N.S.W.

Sunk on 30/7/40 - See WD August 1, p 24

JAMAICA PROGRESS

Submarines Reported

U-Boats are believed to be using French Atlantic ports. (R.A. (S) to TIGRIS and TALISMAN, 1642/30)

2329

D.F. Unknown enemy unit, probably U/B outward bound, 57.50 N., 5.20 E., unreliable fix. (D.C., 0021/31)

2206

Between Hebrides and Iceland, position very indefinite. (I.C. 0528/40)

Estimated Dispositions:-

- 1 Somewhere between Madeira and Cape Verde Islands.
- 1 in Western Approaches.
- 1 or possibly 2 in N.W. Approaches.
- 1 N. of Scotland homeward bound.
- 1 possibly between Faroes and Iceland
- 1 North of Shetlands outward bound
- 1 N. of Orkneys outward bound (I.C., 0527/40)



War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

604

Home Commands

Dover

A balloon barrage is to be provided for Dover without delay.

KASHMIR  
Damaged

KASHMIR was damaged early this morning in collision with M/S Trawler KURD, and will require docking as she has been rendered unseaworthy. KURD continued her patrol. NIGER was today reported to have been damaged in collision with <sup>H.M.</sup> trawler. LAUREL

NARWHAL  
Overdue

NARWHAL left Humber 22/7 to lay mines off Christiansand, since when no signal has been received from her and she did not reply to signal on 30/7. It is presumed she is lost.

E-Boats

Recent reports indicate that enemy surface craft, including E-Boats, are operating by night in the Western Channel, though it has not yet been possible to obtain contact with them. C. in C., Western Approaches has asked for a flotilla of M.T.B's or fast motor boats to be transferred to his command.

Blockade

The extension of the British blockade to cover the whole of Europe and North Africa was announced by the Govt. yesterday. France and Algeria, Tunisia and French Morocco will be blockaded as enemy controlled territory. No navicerts for further oil imports to Spain are being issued.

An order in Council dated 17/7 was published last night, extending the blockade to the air. Civil aircraft will in future be subject to the same treatment as merchant vessels.

Estonian Ships

Under a law of 27.7.40., Estonian ships are forbidden to enter British or United States ports without permission of the Estonian Government. Captains not obeying orders of the Government to take ships home are regarded as traitors, whereby members of their families are made responsible. Ships outside the Baltic are to proceed immediately to U.S.S.R. ports unless otherwise ordered.



31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT (Contd.)

605

Air

Our aircraft attacked shipping in the Zuider Zee today; results were not observed. A convoy off Nordeney was attacked, and near misses obtained on the leading ship. Six E-Boats were attacked at 1600 and near misses claimed.

Enemy reconnaissance aircraft were active in the Channel and Western Approaches today, reporting shipping, but only one attack is reported. MOOLTAN on passage Plymouth to Freetown was attacked three times and damaged by near misses; she is proceeding to Liverpool for repairs.

Bombs were dropped in Barry Docks about 2330/30, and slight damage was caused to the railway.

Mining

Blyth Port closed this morning, following explosion of a mine. Port opened p.m.

Milford Haven: One magnetic mine exploded this morning. Port to be closed from Sunset until 1100/1/8.

Tees & Hartlepool: Ports closed this forenoon following detonation of mine by drifters. Ports reopened 1700.

Swansea & Port Talbot: Ports opened p.m. and closed a few hours later following discovery of a mine.

Mines were exploded today in the Harwich area and North Shields.

Dundee, Tyne-Blyth inshore Channel and Kyles of Bute are still closed.

WHITSHED was mined early today, but arrived at Harwich stern first under her own steam later in the day.



War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT (Contd.)

606

Foreign Stations

Raider Report

A signal was intercepted at 1130 G.M.T. from SS DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA (British) that she had sighted a disguised merchant ship raider in 5° 26' S 18° 6' W while on passage from Bahia Blanca to Freetown.

ALCANTARA

The Brazilian authorities have agreed to ALCANTARA undergoing repairs at Rio de Janeiro and remaining four days.

SS CAP VARELLA

Until further orders British ships are not to be allowed to proceed to Indo China ports in view of the possible reaction which may result from the interception of SS CAP VARELLA with troops from Madagascar for Saigon.

Mediterranean & East Indies

Tobruk

H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., reports that an analysis of the results of a photographic reconnaissance of Tobruk harbour made on 24/7 indicates that one of the ships sunk during the raid on 20/7 was a submarine.

\* CONTE DI CAVOUR.

A report originating from an official of the Italian Embassy, Madrid states that the battleship <sup>Giulio</sup> CESARE, mistaken for the HOOD, was bombed and severely damaged by Italian aircraft. She reached Genoa with difficulty whereupon the sailors attacked the airmen. Other reports say that the <sup>Conte di</sup> CAVOUR has been damaged by Italian aircraft.

So far as is known, Italian surface warships were inactive throughout the past week. A possible explanation may be the necessity for conserving fuel.

Cruiser Reported

A cruiser of the <sup>GIOVANNI DELLE</sup> DANDE NERE class was reported by A/C 85 miles S.E. of Malta. Swordfish striking force sent to make attack at dusk failed to locate the enemy. The visibility was not very good at the time.

/Summary of.....



War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT Contd.

607

Foreign Stations

Summary of  
Week's  
Operations.

C. in C., Mediterranean has sent a summary of the last week's operations, which include the passing of the Aegean convoys, AN 2 and AS 2; the latter was heavily bombed on 29/7 from 0800 throughout the day; Fighters from EAGLE shot down one Italian aircraft.

No surface forces or submarines were sighted by any of our ships during the ~~day~~ operations of escorting and covering the convoys and providing diversions off Castelorizo on 24/7 and 27/7. All our forces were under air surveillance for a great part of the time, except the forces demonstrating off Castelorizo and when darkness or subterfuge threw off the enemy reconnaissance. The C. in C., Med., reports that the cardinal needs for his operations are fighters over the fleet, R.D.F., and action against enemy aerodromes. p.624.

Operation  
"Hurry"

Force H., including ARGUS and 10 destroyers left Gibraltar this morning for operation "Hurry" (to fly off Hurricanes from ARGUS for Malta) The Mediterranean Fleet consisting of two groups ORION, NEPTUNE, SYDNEY and 3 destroyers, and MALAYA, EAGLE ROYAL SOVEREIGN and 8 destroyers left Alexandria today to carry out diversions in connection with the operation.

PANDORA left Gibraltar at 2200 today with base personnel and stores for Malta.

Air Raid  
On Malta

Malta was raided at 0945 by one bomber and several fighters. One enemy fighter was shot down. At 1835, a raid was made by 9 bombers and five fighters, but no bombs were dropped, the object being evidently reconnaissance or training.



War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

608

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command

Owing to low visibility, available ships <sup>Nore</sup> keep steam at half hours notice. (C. in C.,<sup>0407/31</sup> Revert to usual notice for steam (C. in C., Nore, 1101/31)

Liverpool  
A/A Defences

(N.T.)  
Your 1353/30. Timed of Air-Raids on 16, 19 and 22 July with times of A/A Batteries opening fire. Submitted that no delay in opening fire can be accepted if Minelaying is to be prevented. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1048/31 to Adty.)

Dover Balloon  
Barrage

Your 0430/31. In view of urgency of providing effective defence for Dover, considered that 3 Drifters and 2 power barges must be lent from Southern Barrage as a temporary measure. Request necessary arrangements be made with authorities (A.C.N.S.(H) 1111/31 to C. in C., Nore)

Adty. 1111/31. Request permission sail 5 balloons close-hauled in 3 Drifters and 2 Power Lighters in tow of Tug for Dover leaving Sheerness 0500/1. Fighter protection during passage requested. (C. in C., Nore 1424/31 to Fighter Command) An armed Yacht or Trawler should accompany Balloons as Gun Escort (C. in C., Nore 1426/31 to Commodore Sheerness)

Your 1424/31. Permission given. Fighter protection under consideration. Request expected time arrival Dover. (H.Q.F.C. 1750/31 to C. in C., Nore) Your 1426/31. Considered undesirable that latter part of passage be made in daylight. Request all be sailed to pass N. Goodwin at 2100/1. (V.A. Dover 1853/31 to C. in C., Nore)

Intend to sail Balloon Drifters CITRON ex FORTIS and LAVINIA with balloons close hauled and power barges JAMES M and CATHERINA with balloons close hauled in tow of tug ST. CLEARS at 1400 tomorrow Thursday for Dover under Command of Group Officer in H.M.D. BYNG. H.M.T. MILFORD PRINCE to R/V at Thames Boom Gate at 1500 and act as close escort at W/T guard. Expected time of arrival Dover 0100/2. Request Fighter Escort during passage may be arranged. (Commodore i/c Sheerness 2230/31 to C. in C., Nore.

/My 1426/31.....



War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOLE COMMANDS

609

Defence of U.K.

Dover, Balloon  
Barrage, Contd.

My 1426/31. Amend time of sailing to read about 1430 so as to pass North Goodwin Light Vessel at 2100. (C. in C., Nore, 1950/31 to Cdre. i/c Sheerness)

Dover U.P.  
Barrage

Effect of use during Dive-bombing Raid on 29/7. (D.T.S.D. 1219/31 to C. in C., H.F.)

Channel Mobile  
Balloon Barrage

(See Air)

Night and Fleet  
Artillery Zones  
in Harbour

Arrangements as to Approach and Recognition of A/C to come into force on abolition of existing Zones at Noon on 3rd August 1940 (Air Ministry 1443/31 to Air Commands) Adty. 1301/27 Proposal agreed (War Office 1837/31 to Adty.)

Destroyer Patrols  
in Dover Area

Recent experience of enemy air activity in the Straits and Channel and the small number of ships available in the first D.F. calls for a reconsideration of existing arrangements of Destroyer Patrols in the Dover Area in the approaching dark night period and the following proposal is put forward.

That the first D.F. should come under the operational control of C. in C., Portsmouth and form part of a striking force with Portsmouth Destroyers. This force to be at sea during the hours of darkness ready to act in either or both areas as circumstances require as ordered by C. in C., Portsmouth. If the force or part of it is ordered into the Dover Area it should come under V.A. Dover. (V.A. Dover, 1137/31 to Adty.)

V.A.Dover's 1137/31. Request your very early remarks. (D.O.D. (H) 1929/31 to C. in C's Portsmouth, Nore, and W.A.)

War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

610

Policy.

French Ships

Request you report by signal:-  
(A) Names of French Ships British manned that are now serviceable.  
(B) Dates by which other French Ships British manned will be serviceable.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1246/31 to C. in C., Portsmouth

I am not at all satisfied that we are moving quickly enough with regard to bringing the French Ships into commission. Strongly recommend meeting at Admiralty at an early date to decide on many outstanding questions. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1507/31 to Adty.)

Reference Admiralty message 1246/31.

(A) The Following French ships, British manned are now serviceable:-  
BRANLEBAS, L'INCOMPRISE.

(B) Other French ships British manned.  
LEOPARD ~~is~~ ~~is~~ ~~is~~ undergoing refit.

LA CORDELIERE serviceable at 12 hours notice one boiler.

LA FLORE undergoing refit

LA BELPOEUNE commissioned 29/7

LA MALOUINE undergoing trials 1st August.

C.H. 41 engines correct but not swung

C.H. 5, 6 and 7 in hands of private contractor for repairs.

C.H. 10, 42 and 43 undergoing repairs.

C.H. 13 and 14 seaworthy.

The Chasseurs have no degaussing and no asdics.

Commissioning orders have been issued for:-  
ALIENS, ARRAS, EPINAL, CHEVREUIL,

LA CAPRICIEUSE, DILIGENTE, but no British Ratings at present available from this Depot. Serviceable date unknown as no trials have been made since turning over.

(C. in C., Portsmouth 2236/31 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

611

Movements

Your 1926/30. Submit that before alterations in the composition of H.F. destroyer Flotillas are carried out ~~may~~ be consulted. I suggest that if absolutely necessary to carry out further reorganisation of the flotillas so soon after the last one, ENCOUNTER also be brought home and changed for an F so that some stabilisation may result. (C. in C., H.F., 1135/31 to Adty.)

SUSSEX

With three shafts and paravane streamed, SUSSEX can make good 27 knots (SUSSEX 1212/31 to C. in C., H.F.)

Patrol O

Tonight 31/1st August VETERAN, VERITY, WORCESTER. (F.O. Number 1615/31 to JUPITER)

Submarines

Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/1/8. Area A.

TAKU	Fro Havet	
TRIAD	Q S M F	4520
TRITON	Q S M F	1020
SEAWOLF	X Z M F	1712
SNAPPER	P C M F	5025
SUNFISH	C One	
SEALION	C 3	
TRIBUNE	J Z L Z	4000
PORPOISE	J Z L Z	1545
SWORDFISH	T G L Z	4812
THAMES	Y G T A	4550
Netherlands	S/M 0.21 R Q S C	3020
Netherlands	S/M 0.22 T G S C	1030
STURGEON	H One	
H. 44	C P S C	5353
URSULA	Y Z S C	5533
Submerged by day to H. 2.		
SPEARFISH	T G V D	5020
On surface to relieve SNAPPER		
TRIDENT	G B T A	On surface to Rosyth.
TETARCH	Leaves May Island 2200	
On surface to relieve TRITON.		

(V.A.S. 1648/31)

Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 1st August Area B.  
TALISMAN K Q Q G 4130. TIGRIS J B A V 3 030 proceeding on surface to Falmouth 0600 2nd August. (V.A.S. 1649/31)



War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Iceland

612

KARIN THORDEN has landed British Staff Officer and others at Sanexi. WATCHMAN and VORTIGERN have been sent to intercept and bring to Reykjavik. If found, should she be sent to Kirkwall? (F.O.I.C. 1310/31 to -Adty.)

Convoys being held up through Tents and Accomodation arriving after the Troops. Request future arrivals of personnel may be preceded by necessary accommodation. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1316/31 to Adty.)

Operation P.J.

(Mouths of Maas and Scheldt)

Units 1 and 2 of M.T.Bs to patrol tonight. Instructions and details. (C. in C., Nore 1444/31 to S.O. M.T.B's Felixtowe)  
6 M.T.Bs will be leaving Harwich about 1930/31 returning about 0700/1. (C. in C., Nore 1521/31 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)



War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

613

Hague

At 0920/31 at 296° The Hague 20 miles,  
one E-Boat heading West (T.H.I. 0430/1)

Western  
Channel

Request early consideration to the transfer  
of one Flotilla of M.T.B's or fast Motor  
Boats to this Command for attacking  
E-Boats operating by night in Western  
Channel. (C. in C., W.A. 1339/31 to Adty.)

At 1207/31 in 49° 48' N., 0° 10' E four  
ships and 3 small vessels probably E-Boats  
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1430/31)

To intercept E-Boats minelaying in swept  
channel 2 M A/S Bs to proceed as requisite  
to arrive Aldeburgh light float by 2300/31.  
They are to secure to float and be pre-  
pared to slip instantly if enemy vessels  
sighted. They return to base at daylight.  
(C. in C., Nore 1523/31 to S.O. Z MA/S B  
Flotilla, Yarmouth)

At 1600/31 in 50° 2' N., 1° 13' E, six  
E-Boats were attacked by aircraft. Seven  
near misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. 1850/31)

Dunkirk

P.R.U. Sortie 31/7 shows probably 2 E-Boats  
at Monitors Quay. (P.I.U. 2225/31)

Ambleteuse

P.R.U. Sortie shows one E-Boat off  
Ambleteuse, northward bound, at 1620/31.  
(P.I.U. 2225/31)

War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Air-British Air Activity

Operations 49 and 50 to be carried out to night. Aircraft of Bomber Command will attack Waalhaven Aerodrome at Rotterdam between darkness and 0100/1 (H.Q.C.C. 1820/31)

Air searches tomorrow Thursday. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1914/31)

Air Sortie  
from Hatston

Your 2145/31 Concur. (A.C.O.S. 2215/31 to Hatston)

Nordeney

AM/31st 15 miles N. of Nordeney, near misses were obtained on leading ship of a convoy of 15 M/Vs heading East. (T.H.I. 0430/1)

AM/31st 3 Flak ships attacked at 53° N., 7° E., and near misses obtained; and near miss observed of a ship at 52° 30' N., 5° 40' E., (T.H.I. 0430/1)

At 1600/31 in 50° 28 N., 1° 13'E., six E-Boats attacked and seven near misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. 1850/31)

Channel Mobile  
Balloon Barrage

My 2218/30 and 1939/27. Approval has been given to fit out two additional French Tugs, ~~INS~~ ~~FATIGABLE~~ and ~~MAN~~ ~~OUT~~ now at Plymouth as Reserve Craft for this Barrage. Request fitting out at Plymouth be arranged and you report expected date of completion. (D. of L.D. 1334/31 to C. in C., W.A.)

Zuider Zee

Aircraft attacked shipping at 1230 and 1235/31. Results not observed. (D.S. 331)

Air Raid  
Bristol Channel

Avonmouth 3 bombs in sea. Barry 8 bombs in sea, 4 in dock area, slight damage to railway (F.O.i/c Cardiff 1900/31)

War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

615

Mining

Start Point

Aircraft report about 25 black objects, possibly Mines just below surface 10' S of Start Point. Position and report not very reliable. (C. in C., W.A. 0116/31 to WOLVERINE)

Blyth

Mine exploded 116° Blyth East Pier Light 4½ cables. Port closed till sweeping completed. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0858/31 to F.O.I.C. Tyne) Blyth now open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1446/31 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

Milford Haven

Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1030/31 to Adty.) One Magnetic Mine exploded by LL sweep this morning. Port will be closed from sunset tonight till 1100/1st August. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1912/31 to Adty.)

Tees and  
Hartlepool

Drifters M detonated Mine at 54° 40' 30" N 1° 7' 48" W. Ports are closed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1156/31 to Adty.) Ports now open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1700/31 to Adty)

North Shields

One Red Mine exploded 49° St. Mary's Light 1.1 miles. (P.M.S.O. N. Shields 1256/31 to F.O.I.C. Tyne)

Swansea and  
Port Talbot

Ports are now open. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1358/31 to Adty.) Red Mine by A/A 168° Mumbles Head 1.05 miles. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1455/31 to Adty.) Swansea and Port Talbot closed (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1645/31 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff) Ports closed (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1827/31 to Adty.)

Harwich

Result of today's minesweeping operations.  
(1) Mine exploded in sweep 020° 1 mile from position "X"  
(2) One enemy floater destroyed 180° 1.5 miles from position X  
(3) One mine cut and destroyed 002° 4 miles from position X.  
(4) Two mines exploded in sweep 013° 5-3/4 miles from position Y.  
(5) One mine cut and destroyed in position 180° 1.5 miles. LV mines exploded in sweep position uncertain.  
One mine exploded in sweep 258° 2.2 miles from Aldeburgh. Above include new small type and German "Y" type. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2011/31 to Adty.)

War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Enemy Intelligence

Hague

At 0915/31 a large ship lying N. and S. blocking the harbour entrance, and another ship just West of her alongside harbour entrance. (T.H.I. 0430/1)

Vollenhove

At 1225/31, three ships about 1500 tons in harbour (T.H.I. 0430/1)

At 1125/31 in 53° 55' N., 7° 18'E., fifteen ships in convoy heading east. Leading ship about 4000 tons. (T.H.I. 0430/1)

Ameland

At 1140/31, 5 miles North of Ameland, three Trawlers heading S.W. (T.G.I. 0430/1)

Ostend }  
Nieuport }

P.R.U. Sortie shows both clear of shipping. (P.I.U. 0035/1)

Havre

At 1208/31. 2 derelict barges in Inner Harbour Dock; many wagons on railway sidings but no signs of activity. A/Z report. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1415/31)

Cape de la Heve

3 sand-bagged Gun positions on top of cliff. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham 1415/31)

At 1117/31 in 58° 30' N., 5° 38' E., one M/V Tanker type, course 350° speed 8 knots. Two miles off shore. A/C report. (Donibristle 1425/31)

At 1155/31 in 59° N., 5° 8'E., one Steam Trawler 300 tons six miles from entrance to Fiord, course 045° speed 6 knots. A/C report. (Donibristle 1510/31)

Narvik

Reconnaissance postponed. (C. in C., Rosyth 1610/31 to C. in C., H.F.)

Scheveningen

At 0915/31 two large M/V's anchored off Scheveningen. A/C report (C. in C., Nore 2013/31 to Adty.)

/At 1839/31.....

War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

617

Enemy Intelligence, Contd.

At 1839/31 in 59° 19' N., 5° 40' E. two small M/V's less than 1000 tons, one stationary, the other on course 320° speed 8 knots A/C report. (Donibristle 2205/31)

Ymuiden }  
Calias }  
Gravelines }

P.R.U. Sortie shows no shipping and no activity. (PIU 2225/31)

Shipping

SS GOTEBOG

Repatriating 125 interned personnel. Safe conduct granted to Swedish Govt., by German Govt. Conditions. (M.A. Stockholm 1825/31)



War Diary

31.7.40.  
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

618

MOOLTAN

Damaged by aircraft. Proceeding to Liverpool for repairs. (C. in C., W.A. 2357/31 to C. in C.S.A.)

KASHMIR

In collision with M/S trawler KURD. Arrived Humber 0450/31 leaking in No.2 Boiler room. (F.O. Humber 0455/31 to Adty.). Ship unseaworthy. Will require docking. (Capt. D.5. 0545/31 to Adty.)

LADY SLATER

Examination steamer. Caught fire last night and became total loss. No casualties. (Capt. Jamaica 0800/31 to C. in C., West Indies).

NIGER

In collision with H.M. trawler LAUREL. Holed on port quarter above waterline and D/G gear damaged. (F.O. Humber, 1145/31 to Adty.) DOR says this occurred on 30/7.

NARWHAL

No signal from her since leaving Humber 1600/22 to lay FD.22. Must be presumed lost. Consider FD.22 should be assumed to have been laid. (V.A.S. 1224/31 to Adty.)

WOOLSTON

Has been sent ahead to Tyne with Condenser trouble. Anticipate she will repair defects and sail with convoy FS.38. (FLEETWOOD 1505/31 to N.O.I.C. Tyne).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic.

619

Convoys

Lisbon reports 12 ships from Portugal ports will be at Gibraltar for convoy by 3/8. Probably others from Spanish ports, Request when further convoy should be sailed, observing H.G.40 sailed 30/7 and H.G.41 not due to sail until 11/8. (F.O.C.N.A., 1144/31).

Request for Hurricanes

Governor, Gibraltar, message 2239/30, states Italian aircraft attacking Gibraltar are violating Spanish territory. He therefore intends to use emergency landing ground which is now suitable for fighter aircraft and asks for six Hurricanes to be sent. In the interest of safety of the naval force at Gibraltar, suggest this request should be strongly supported by Adty. (F.O.C.N.A., 1248/31).

South Atlantic

Raider Report

Following intercepted from British ship DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA: QQQQ (disguised merchant ship raider), 05°26' S., 18°06' W., at 1130 G.M.T. today (ends). DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA on passage Bahia Blanca to Freetown on approx. route AD.4 (C. in C., S.A., 1130/31).

British DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA describes ship as flying Swedish flag, black hull, white bridge, etc. (C. in C., S.A., 1130/31, 1138/31).

ALCANTARA.

Further to my 1240/30, details of damage. (C. in C., S.A., 1003/31, to N.A., Rio de Janeiro). No political difficulty anticipated re repairs. (N.A., Rio, 1352/31). Propose to enter Rio de Janeiro 0900 zone plus 3 tomorrow 1/8. (ALCANTARA, 2350Z/31).

Information from member of DAVISIAN crew taken prisoner 10°/7, aboard raider NARVIK for four days. (S.N.O., Trinidad, 1706/30).

Dakar Intelligence

My 1912/30 (escape of British vessel from Dakar). ~~Infxxxx~~ Information received from Captain Dybek, damage to RICHELIEU, French warships in harbour, German planes arrived ostensibly to take away German internees but these not left as far as known, demobilisation of white and black troops expected to begin 29/7, 80% of population against Vichy Govt., food situation bad, French ships sailing Dakar to Casablanca escorted by a destroyer or submarine, many Norwegian ships content.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

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620

Dakar  
Intelligence  
(Contd.)

content to remain at Dakar rather than risk being bombed in approach to U.K. (C. in C., S.A., 1305/31).

CANBERRA

Unless any objection, comply with fourth alternative of A.C.N.Bs 0825Z/31, and sail CANBERRA for Fremantle and Sydney at earliest possible moment, reporting expected time of arrival Sydney. (C. in C., S.A., to S.N.O., Simonstown, 1620/31).

Cameroons

Governor Nigeria's telegram 862 to S. of S. for Colonies. Agree impossible to give active assistance to Mauclere, that we will do our best to help those who might come to British territory if a coup d'etat took place and failed, and that we could not support French in Cameroons if they were attacked by French troops from elsewhere. Apart from inadvisability of antagonising French Colonies as a whole, there are no troops fit to take part in operations. (G.O.C., West African Forces, 1910/31, to W.O.).

Refugees

Adty. 1839/29 being passed to you. On receipt, report by signal as to position in South Africa as regards reception of British women and children evacuees. (C. in C., S.A., to S.N.O., Simonstown, 1428/31).

Mediterranean

Enemy Convoy,  
Failure to  
attack

OSWALD's 1530/30, <sup>p.597</sup> re enemy convoy seen passing through Straits of Messina. Report action taken. (1st S.L., to V.A., Malta, 1034/31). Your 1034. No action taken. Report received at 2145 zone minus 2. Only aircraft available Swordfish. Consider enemy would have been beyond range of these aircraft. (V.A., Malta, 1503/31).

Adty. 1034/31 does not appear clearly to appreciate the situation. By 2255 when OSWALD's report was received it was too late for effective action. It was evident that transports were making for Benghazi ~~and that~~ they would be beyond range of Malta ~~aircraft~~ at daylight. I decided therefore that a dawn air search from Malta would be valueless particularly as it was not possible to get surface force to central Mediterranean in time to intercept.

I fear.....



FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean (Contd.)

Enemy Convoy,  
Failure to  
attack (Contd.)

I fear this situation will constantly arise as enemy is immediately acquainted with our Fleet movements by his daily air reconnaissances over Alexandria and can thus seize his opportunity to pass fast convoys to Libya. If and when defences of Malta are such as to allow it to be used as a base by our light forces our power to attack these convoys will be greatly improved. (C. in C., Med., 1701/31). *Admiral's reply, p. 19, August 1.*

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Re leaving ammunition at Alexandria. (C. in C., Mediterranean, 1307/31).

Force H.

Adty. 1432/28. Objectives of Force H., in order of importance. (F.O., Force H., 0658/31, 0700/31, see Mediterranean Volume).

Enemy Report  
of British Moves

Rome broadcast report of six cruisers, unknown number of destroyers, leaving Alexandria, course 300°, 10 knots, time of origin 0820. (C. in C., Med., to R.A.D., Med., 0925/31).

Rome reported to all shore stations that 6 cruisers of 7,000 tons, unknown number of destroyers, were off Alexandria, at 0520 G.M.T., course 300° speed 10 knots. (Capt. O.S., NILE to 2nd in Comd., Med., 0928/31). At 1645/ Italian a/c reported Force A., besides two battleships and four destroyers, steering 300° at 20 knots in position 34°10' N., 28°10' E. (Capt. O.S., NILE, 1701/31).

Following has been read. 1 cruiser bearing 000° 5 miles course 000°. My position 170°, 36° N., 15° E. 90. (Medit. a/c, 1845/31).

Enemy Cruiser

Following has been read. Correction 1846. Position, course and speed of enemy cruiser 170, QMTW (36° N., 15° E.), 85, 005°, 18 knots. (Medit. a/c 1900/31).

Enemy course is 045. (Malta W/T, 1930/31). Position, course and speed of ~~xxx~~ enemy, 159, QMTW 36° N., 15° E.), 72,000°, 25 knots. (Medit. a/c 2020/31. Am returning, 2025/31). OSWALD and PARTHIAN informed (C. in C., Med., 2157/31).

Evening reconnaissance located one <sup>GIOVANNI DELLE</sup> BANDE NERE class cruiser 85 miles south-east of Malta, steering north.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean (Contd.)

Enemy Cruiser  
(Contd.)

Swordfish striking force sent to make dusk attack failed to locate enemy. Visibility rather poor. Reconnaissance aircraft subject to A/A fire while shadowing (F.O.I.C., Malta, 2301/31). 622

Fleet Movements

Movement Summary 137. Submarines PARTHIAN, OSWALD, PERSEUS and OSIRIS. Battle Fleet, 3 main units and 8 destroyers leave Alexandria 1900/31 proceeding towards Gavdo until after dark 1/8, returning thence to arrive Alexandria p.m. 2/8. ORION, NEPTUNE, SYDNEY, 3 destroyers from Alexandria pass Kaso Straits after dark 31/7 and Doro Channel dawn 1/8, sweeping thence to Gulf of Athens and back to leave Aegean westward at dusk 1/8, returning after dark to Gulf of Athens, thence to pass Kaso Straits after dark 2/8 to arrive Alexandria 3/8. CAPETOWN leaves Alexandria p.m. 2/8 due Port Said a.m. 3/8. (C. in C., Med., 2015/31). Flying boats' patrol, 1/8, positions. (C. in C., Med., 2123/31).

Bosporus  
Patrol.

My 1027/5. Turkish Fleet remains Ismid. Three Southampton flying boats, 1 Walrus, remain stationed at Buyukdere Bay, effecting daily reconnaissances over approach to Bosporus. (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1000/31).

Force H.  
"Hurry"

Force H. less FEARLESS, ARGUS, 13th D.F. less WRESTLER, WISHART, VIDETTE, making 10 destroyers in all, left Gibraltar 0900/31 for Operation "Hurry". (S.O.I., Gib., 1058/31).

My 1950/25 and your 1757/28. "Hurry" will not be carried out during Operation "Hats" or subsequently. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., Med., 1906/31).

Destroyers

Your 1815/28 and C. in C., E.I., 1928/29. Your difficulties are fully appreciated, but considered that in view of great importance of convoys B.N.3 and B.S.3 the Red Sea destroyers must remain on their station. In view of my 1906/31, you will no doubt reconsider destroyer requirements for Operation "Hats". (D.O.D.(F) 1920/31, to C. in C., Med.).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

C. in C., E.I.'s 1924/29. Intend to sail ship with escort of 3 destroyers from Alexandria p.m. 4/8. Destroyers required back as soon as possible after arrival at Aden, and cannot be spared for diversion to Kismayu. Maximum speed just over 17½ knots. Endurance details. (C. in C., Med., 1309/31).

Enemy Intelligence

S.O.(I) Alexandria 1555/30 reporting salvage vessel TRIPCOVITCH rushed from Sibenik to Taranto 27/7 for salvage of CAVOUR and CESARE. Following reports received during last 48 hours. (1) From C.O.I.S. Far East, Singapore not graded. CAVOUR was recently bombed. (2) From secret sources graded C.O. High Official Italian Embassy Madrid stated CESARE mistaken for HOOD, bombed and severely damaged by Italian aircraft. Reached Genoa with difficulty whereupon sailors attacked airmen. (3) Belgrade telegram 492, 29/7 graded by us C.O. Yugoslav Consul has reported damage suffered in recent engagement by CAVOUR and CESARE so serious that both ships will be out of commission at least 6 months. 10 hits were scored on former and damage done to engines. 60 men killed and over 100 wounded. Both ships now at Monfalcone. Spirit of sailors mutinous.

CONTE DI

Reference above quoted signal TRIPCOVITCH Trieste company owning seven salvage vessels.

In view of your report that Italian aircraft have on one occasion unsuccessfully bombed own ships and similar appearance of HOOD and CAVOUR class it is considered there may well be some truth in these reports and that one or possibly even both Italian battleships have been damaged by own aircraft. (D.N.I. 1750/31, to C. in C. Med.)

ILLUSTRIOUS

Your 1939/29. ILLUSTRIOUS will have 21 Swordfish and 16 Fulmars. (D.N.A.D., to C, in C. Med., 1815/31).

Transport of Stores

Information regarding shipments of service stores from U.K. to Malta will be included in agreed telegram, and regarding civilian stores from U.K. by special telegram to you from D. of S.T. It is hoped similar arrangements will be made for stores for Malta from India, South Africa and Australia, When necessary consult D. of S.T. about order of priority. Read foregoing in conjunction with my 2137/31 to C. in C. E.I. (D. of S.T., to E P.S.T.O., Egypt, 2139/31).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean (Contd.)

Convoy

A.S.2, Port Said and Haifa portions, arrived.  
(N.O.I.C., Port Said, ~~IXX~~ 1253/31).

PANDORA

Left Gib. 2130/31 in accordance F.O. Force H.  
1650/30 (S.O.I. Gib., 2222/31).

Operations  
22-30/7

Summary of operations 22nd to 30th July.

2. F.O.C. 7th C.S. in LIVERPOOL, CAPETOWN and 4 destroyers escorted A.N.2 up Aegean. Convoy shadowed but not attacked.

3. R.A.(D) Medit. in ORION and 2 destroyers demonstrated off Castelorizzo on 24/7 as a diversion. Not sighted from air nor any action by defences.

4. A second demonstration also made on 27/7 during passage of A.S.2, force being accompanied by CHAKLA and FIONA representing transports, this also apparently not sighted from air and ~~produced~~ produced no action from defence despite firing of star shells.

5. Fleet consisting of 3 Battleships EAGLE 2 cruisers and 10 destroyers sailed early a.m./27 to give distant cover to A.S.2. Fleet sighted by aircraft 1310/27 and shadowed. Attacked 5 times between 1830 and 1930, 63 bombs dropped. Bombing accurate but no hits, 2 minor splinter casualties in SYDNEY.

A.S.2 with same escort as for A.N.2 started from Dardanelles 0700/27.

7. Fleet turned north west at 0100/28 when 60 miles south west of Crete and sighted A.S.2 at 0915/28. Latter first reported by enemy aircraft at 1930/27.

8. NEPTUNE and SYDNEY detached at 1000/28 to intercept Greek ship HERMIONE on passage to Dodecanese with petrol, see my 1455/21 para A. NEPTUNE sank ship at 2050/28. Both cruisers heavily bombed in Thermia Channel. No damage or casualties.

9. Fleet turned again to south eastwards at 1200 when 60 miles S.W. Cape Matapan. MOHAWK was detached to southwards to pass wireless messages during night to give impression that fleet was moving to westwards.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean (Contd.)

Operations  
22-30/7  
(Contd.)

10. A.S.2 which had been passed during the night was heavily bombed from 0800/29 onward throughout the day. Fleet was then 40 miles to eastward. Fighter support sent back from EAGLE shot down one bomber. Fleet was also bombed at 1400. Gladiator concerned forced landed, pilot rescued. LIVERPOOL hit by one unexploded bomb one killed, 2 wounded. No other hits obtained.

11. Conclusions (a) No surface or submarine forces sighted by any unit. 2. unconfirmed s/m attacks. (b) All our forces were under air surveillance for a great part of the time except when darkness or subterfuge threw off enemy reconnaissance. That bombing was not more frequent was due to enemy inaccuracy in reporting position of our forces. Important problem to be solved is how to direct fighters on to enemy shadowers. Any information on this subject as a result of home experience would be valuable. (c) The cardinal needs for our operations are fighters over fleet, R.D.F. and action against enemy aerodromes.

(C. in C., Med., 1537/31).

Mediterranean - Air

Malta Raid

Between 0945 and 1000/31 Malta was attacked by 9 fighters and 1 bomber. Raiders were engaged by 3 British fighter aircraft. Bomber turned back and 1 fighter shot down. No bombs dropped. One of our fighters was shot down but the pilot ~~escaped~~ escaped by parachute and was picked up by an R.A.F. speedboat. (D.S.)

East Indies

CARTHAGE  
Mozambique  
Channel Patrol

To leave Mombasa 3/8 for patrol being established for protection of shipping passing through Mozambique Channel and south of Madagascar. Will be required mid-August to escort Convoy R.S.5 (C. in C., E.I., 0658/31).

Adty. 1252/29, para A. Am assuming CARTHAGE will take over escort of R.S.5 at a R.V. in Durban area. If CARTHAGE has to meet R.S.5 at Cape Town period on patrol vide my 0658/31 will be considerably curtailed, which seems undesirable in present circumstances. (C. in C., E.I., 0706/31).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies (Contd.)

French Ships

If French ships SONTAY, BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE, or CAP VERELLA are encountered, to be taken into a British port and further instructions requested. Any French ship proceeding Djibuti to be similarly dealt with. (C. in C., E.I., 1144/31).

Madagascar

Adty. 1551/28. As no reply has yet been received from Governor-General, Madagascar, have informed him through British consul that action is being taken accordingly. (C. in C., E.I., 1148/31).

Air Targets

My 1244/29. A.O.C. indicates target definitely not worth while. Only two dispersed A/A guns thought distinguishable and other emplacements empty. (C. in C., E.I., 1208Z/31).

COLOMBO

To leave patrol at 0400Z/2/8 for Mombasa. (C. in C., E.I., 1542/31).

Shipment of Stores

Your 1226/26. Arrangements for notifying in advance despatch of service stores. (D. of S.T. to C. in C., E.I., 2137/31).

Red Sea

Re Reuter messages commenting on Italian lack of activity against British naval forces in Red Sea. May incite Italians to greater action which will be all to the good provided Red Sea Force is allowed to remain at its present strength. (C. in C., E.I., 1134Z/31).

China

French Troopship

→ CAP VARELLA, from Madagascar to Saigon with 1500 Anamite troops, due to pass Sunda Strait 1/8, to be intercepted and brought into Singapore. TENEDOS to assist in interception. (C. in C., China, to MORETON BAY, 1541/31). Interception may cause reaction against British shipping into Indo China. Inform N.C.S.O's your area that British ships should not be allowed to proceed to Indo China ports until further instructions are received. (C. in C., China to S.O. Is Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singapore. 1543Z/31).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Contd.)

627

Cables

Cable and Wireless report that Shanghai-Nagasaki cable is interrupted. No cable communication with Japan, but W/T communication London-Osaka is working. (C.T.C., no T.O.O./31).

French Oil

Your 1202/29. Oil supplies from Trinidad to Guadeloupe and Martinique should be withheld pending further instructions. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C. in C., A.W.I., 0002/31).

CARADOC

To patrol H.X. convoy route to Bermuda. Will escort B.H.X. 64. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1101/31).

Estonian Ships

Adty. 2337/29. Intercepted cable from Tallinn Minister of Economic Affairs to James Richardson, Shippers, Montreal, and Malone and Co., Three Rive s. Forbids ships flying Estonian colours under law of 27.7.40 leaving or entering port without permission of Estonian Govt. Captains not obeying orders Estonian Govt. to take ships home are regarded traitors, whereby members of families and near relatives are made responsible. Forbidden to enter U.S. or British ports without permission of Estonian Govt. Any captain leaving or entering port abroad without permission will undergo penal servitude for life. We inform you that ship under your command is being let on lease to Sovfracht. Ships outside Baltic will immediately proceed to U.S.S.R. ports provided Sovfracht not arranged otherwise. Ships in American ports will enter into touch with local agents of Amtorg. (Naval, Ottawa, to Adty., 1109/31).

French Guiana

Curacao states Dutch Guiana authorities report Govt. of French Guiana wish to submit to Petain Govt. People against this. Fear internal disturbances will result in large part of ~~max~~ population including convict settlement crossing into Dutch Guiana. Military opinion divided. Rumour QUERCY ship's company have imprisoned officers and sailed to England to place ships at disposal of De Gaulle. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1608/31)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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America & West Indies (Contd.)

628

Convoy Escorts

My 2013/30. Owing to very heavy calls on escort vessels in home waters, necessary for DUNDEE and PENZANCE to carry out ocean escort duty with the new S.C. convoys. Escort Force will be administered by C. in C. Western Approaches. PENZANCE and DUNDEE to come under his orders on arrival at Sydney, C.B. (D.O.D.(F), to C. in C., A.W.I., 1659/31).

French Ships

N.A., Washington 2338/30 (no trace in Adty.) Request early decision whether French vessels named may be intercepted in event of my having a ship available, or whether this would be politically inexpedient. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2242/31, to Adty.)

Australia

U.S.4 CANBERRA

S.N.O. Simonstown's 2345/30 and my 1030Z/24. Latest date for CANBERRA to arrive Fremantle to avoid delay to U.S.4. Question of fitting spare propeller shaft at Sydney, involving only slight delay to sailing of U.S.4. If alternatives in S.N.O. Simonstown's 2345 adopted, considered another ship would be required for escort of U.S.4 (A.C.N.B., 0825Z/31), to C. in C., S.A.).



War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LARISSA )  
CORDELIA ) Arrived Galatz. (Consul-General, Galatz  
1209/31)

GEIERFELS Reported left Bari 22/7. (I.C., 0529/40)

INGO Due to arrive Dubronik 1/8 (S.O.I.),  
Alexandria 1810/31)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MAYA Arrived from Batoum, cargo petroleum.  
(Vice-Consul, Varna, 0908/31)

LIBANO 1529 tons, seized at Gibraltar, has been  
ordered to the Clyde and is to be renamed  
EMPIRE RESISTANCE (O.S)

FELCE 5639 tons, seized at Haifa, sailed from  
there 31/7 for Port Said. (N.C.S.O. Haifa,  
1700/31)

GERUSALEMME 8052 tons, has completed disembarkation of  
passengers and discharged cargo at  
Lourenco Marques and declared the voyage  
at an end. (I.C. 0529/40)

ANTONIO  
LOCATELLI Sailed for Port Said (NCSO Haifa 1700/31)

BOLSENA Arrived Dubrovnik to load 5,000 tons  
copper. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1810/31)

CONTE VERDE At Shanghai. Local proposal to hire as  
floating hotel for 3 months, contract to  
be cancelled "should hostilities cease  
meanwhile" (I.C. 0529/40)

GIUSEPPINA  
GHIRARDI Tanker. Owners asking Soviet Freight  
Office, Moscow, for employment for this  
ship in inter-Black Sea traffic. (I.C.,  
0529/40)



War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

630

Ships Attacked

JERSEY CITY

British, 6322 tons, torpedoed in position 55.46 N., 9.30 W., (WALKER, 1228/31) WALKER and PERIWINKLE attacked contact with 4 patterns. Contact lost. Search continuing. Rescue ship picking up survivors. Salvage impossible. (WALKER, 1327/31, 1429/31) In convoy O.B. 191, in ballast for Hampton Roads, Va. A/C reported position as 55.45 N., 8.54 W. CITY OF GLOCESTER standing by. JERSEY CITY sank 1410 (C. in C., W.A. 1650/31)

STALHEIM

Norwegian. 1298 tons, mined at 1034/31. off Port Talbot. Ship sank. of 18 survivors, 13 are in hospital. (D.S., I.C. 0529/40)

WHITSHED

Mined early 31/7. Arrived at Harwich stern first under her own steam later in the day. (D.O.R)

Submarines Reported

- 1045 Aircraft report 57.31 N., 6.43 W., at 1045/31. (C. in C., W.A. 2128/31)
- 1045 Unidentified submarine reported half a mile North of Dunvegan Head at 1045. (C. in C., W.A., 1211/31) Shore report (C.4) (I.C. 0529/40)
- 0300 Submarine reported in position 54.32 N., 12.20 W., at 0300 (C. in C., W.A. 1301/31)
- 1228 55.46 N., 9.30 W., (JERSEY CITY torpedoed) HURRICANE to hunt. (C. in C., W.A., to N.O.I.C., Greenock, 1313/31) My 1313. A/C reports correct position 55.43 N., 8.54 W., (C. in C., W.A., 1611/31) HURRICANE sailed (N.O.I.C., Greenock 1634/31)
- 0030 53.32 N., 12.20 W., Reported by ATHLONE CASTLE (B.4.) to flying boat (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth, 1230/31)
- 0500 51.31 N., 04.14 W., Reported by motor boat (C.4) (I.C. 0529/40)
- 1538 55.50 N., 8.30 W., Position indefinite (I.C. 0529/40)

War Diary

31.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

631

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

- 1734 Unidentified submarine reported heading south 15' S.W. of Cape Wrath. (Scapa W/T 1734/31) Wash only seen. (Base Ship, Scapa, 1852/31)
- 1711 W.S. (1V) post Scourie reports unidentified submarine breaking surface off Handa Island, heading for south at 1711. (C. in C., W.A. 1659/31)
- 1753 55.45 N., 9.20 W., position reliable. (I.C., 0529/40)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions:-

1 probably somewhere between Madeira and Cape de Verde Islands. No report since 27th July.  
1 in Western Approaches; may be moving South.  
1 reaching Western Approaches from the north.  
Possibly one in N.W. Approaches.  
1 reaching N.W. Approaches outward bound, possibly via The Minches.  
1 West of Hebrides outward bound.  
Possibly one between Faroes and Iceland. (D.D.I.C. 1247/31)

Submarines Attacked.

- 0123 GLEANER attacked contact in position 55.47 N., 17.14'W. Possible U-Boat may try to escape on surface. (C. in C., W.A. 0123/31 to ships in Area B.) Considered contact was a whale. (GLEANER, 2000/31) Orders to GLEANER, etc., (C. in C., W.A. 2106/31)
- 1327 By WALKER and PERIWINKLE (see JERSEY CITY, ships attacked) Searched area without result. (WALKER, 1429/31)
- 2000 Aircraft reports over enemy submarine in position 56.08 N., 9.37 W., at 1945. Later reported attacked, result unknown, at 2000 (15 Group, 2210/31) (C. in C., W.A., 2227/31)



S U P P L E M E N T A R Y      P A G E S .

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1.7.40.  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

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632

Mining

Humber

F.O.I.C., Humber, Report on M/L by Enemy aircraft 1/7/40. (M. 012905/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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South Atlantic

Raider, Dutch Capture.

C. in C., Dutch East Indies, learnt from Rotterdam Lloyd agent at New York that Dutch S.S. KERTOSONO, captured 1/7, 1200, by German raider. With 15 men armed guard conveyed to Lorient, France, arrived there 18/7. One passenger, American missionary, went by car to Lisbon. KERTOSONO 9289 tons gross. Sailed Curacao 24/6, due Freetown 5/7. Estimated speed on passage 12½ knots. Captured 1/7 in estimated position 10° N., 34° W. (D.N.L.O., no T.O.O., 9/8/40).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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Ships Attacked

BEIGNON

British, 5218 tons, sunk, probably torpedoed 0315/1 50 miles 062° from 46.50 N., 11.39 W. 3 lives lost, (1 by explosion, 2 missing). Ship sank in about 8 minutes. (Minute Sheet and B. of T.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

633

Mediterranean-Submarines Attacked.

H.M.A.S. STUART and H.M.S. HOSTILE carried out possibly successful hunt on Italian U-Boat in position 33.52' N., 23.19' E., at 1050/1. HOSTILE and STUART attacked. STUART'S attack delivered on scarcely moving U-boat under easy conditions was followed by much whistling effect, fading echoing and swirls of compressed air. (C. in C., Med., 1701/5)

Submarines Attacked

After s.s. CLEARTON was torpedoed at 1252/1, VANSITTART obtained contact in 48° 32' N., 10° 26' W., and carried out attack which she considered probably successful, after which contact was lost. Aircraft reported extensive oil patch 1000 yards diameter in above position at 2133/1 and reported VANSITTART had carried out further attack at 2130/1. Consider attack shows promise of success. (C. in C., W.A., 2017/3, 2132/5)

Ships Attacked

ADMIRALSTOS

Greek (7466 tons) inward bound was shelled and sunk by two U-boats working together, about 420 miles west of Brest. Not in convoy. SS ORCADES rescued master and complete crew. (S.O.I. Gib. 1003/8) Sunk 1600/1 in 46° 20' N., 14° 30' W., (I.C. 0506/40)

CLEARTON

British, 5219 tons Freetown to Manchester in convoy but had lost touch, torpedoed twice, 1300/1, when approaching English Channel 8 men lost (6 killed outright by explosion) (Minute sheet and B. of T. Casualty Form.)

AMSTELLAND

Dutch, 8,156 tons, Southampton to Dakar in convoy, torpedoed by submarine, 1150/1 380 miles S.W. of Lizard. One man lost, presumed thrown overboard by explosion and drowned. Towed to Falmouth by tug MARAUDER, which picked up on 3/7 after ship had drifted nearly two days. (Minute Sheet, and B. of T. Casualties)

War Diary

2.7.1940.  
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

634

Defence of U.K.

Have steam at 2 hours notice from 2200 today Tuesday reverting to normal notice at 0500 tomorrow Wednesday unless otherwise ordered. (C. in C., H.F. 1825/2 to Battle Cruisers RODNEY, SOUTHAMPTON, COVENTRY, DEVONSHIRE, GLASGOW, Destroyers Negative BERKELEY and GARTH.)

Air-Enemy Air Activity

TRITON

bombed 0650 in 63° 12' N., 5° 40'E by seaplane. No damage (V.A. (S) 2152/4)

AENEAS

Attacked in Convoy South of Isle of Wight 1340/2 and 1625/3 by aircraft hit and abandoned; some casualties (M.O. 14200/40)

MODASA

Attacked by aircraft in Convoy, South of Isle of Wight 1340/2 and 1625/2 no damage or casualties. (M.O. 14200/40)

BARON RUTHVEN

Attacked by aircraft in Convoy. S. of Isle of Wight 0750/2. Master killed and other casualties. No material damage. (M.O. 14200/40) Master and Chief Officer died of injuries from bomb fragments. Carpenter and cabin boy injured. Vessel repaired at Gosport. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties)

PAPILLON

British wooden yacht 12 tons, Shoreham to Brixham in ballast. Attacked by aircraft S.E. of Littlehampton, and sunk. Crew of three picked up by SABASH and MONTAGUE BAY, suffering from slight burns. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties.)

Enemy Intelligence

2 Capital Ships  
5 destroyers

stationary 1540 in 52° 9' N., 1° 58'E., (H.Q.B.C., T.H.I., 1913/3)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

635

Ships Attacked

→ SANTA MARGARITA  
(Sunk)

Panamanian (4919 tons) outward bound in ballast, sunk by gunfire from a small submarine in 47° 10' N., 16° 10' W., at 1130/2 (500 miles W. of Brest) 18 of crew landed at Corunna, 21 missing. Not in convoy. (Consul, Corunna 2005/8)

ATHELLAIRD

(torpedoed) Now presumed sunk. 8 officers and 13 of crew landed (D.S. 309) British 8,999 tons, Liverpool to Cuba in ballast, torpedoed 2240/2, in Atlantic, 47.24' N., 16.49' W. After nearly 7 days in vessel's small boats, crew rescued by H.M. vessels. No lives lost. Crew eventually landed in Eire and at Greenock 14/7. (Minute Sheet and B of T. Casualties)

Torpedoed 47° 24' N., 16° 49' W., 2240/2 Crew took to boats and were picked up on 6/7 by SANDWICH. No casualties. (Interview with master, Shipping Casualties Section Trade Division)

→ SANTA MARGARITA

Panamanian, sunk by submarine gunfire 1114 G.M.T., 2/7, in position 047 degrees N., 015 degs., 30' W. 21 survivors picked up by British KING JOHN on 3/7. Second boat with Master missing, fate unknown. (DIOMEDE, 1159/20) (KING JOHN was subsequently sunk by enemy raider 4/7 see 20/7)

ARANDORA STAR

British. Bound for St John's with enemy aliens. Torpedoed and sunk 0657/2 position 55° 20' N., 10° 33' W., (Interview with Chief Officer, Shipping Casualties Section, Trade Division.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Force H.  
Operation  
Catapult

Intend sailing Force H. consisting of HOOD, VALIANT, RESOLUTION, ARETHUSA, ENTERPRISE and 11 destroyers of 8th D.F. and 13th D.F. at 1500 to carry out operation Catapult. Capt. Hollan in FOXMOUND arrives at Oran 0700/3 and Force H at 0900/3 (V.A., Force H., 1426/2)



War Diary

3.7.1940.  
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

636

\*  
274. Orders in my 1825/2 are to be carried out each night until further orders. (C., in C., H.F. 1858/3 to Battle Cruisers SOUTHAMPTON, RODNEY, DEVONSHIRE GLASGOW, COVENTRY Destroyers Negative BERKELEY and GARTH.)

\* Steam up for 2 hours notice between 2200 hours and 0500 hours.

Air

ARGOS HILL

Attacked by enemy aircraft, 1630/3 1300/4 and 1430/4, English Channel, with bombs and finally machine-gunned. 25 bombs dropped, one struck bridge and bounced off overboard, exploding close to vessel, damaging machinery and causing vessel to leak. No lives lost. (Minute Sheet and Casualty Form.)

Shipping

PRIMA  
JAN BRONS

Dutch M.V's Request from Netherlands Shipping and trading Committee that a watch shall be kept on their movements. (M.O. 12933/40)

French Fleet

VAILLANT  
VIKINGS  
BENNADETTE }

Seizure at Sheerness (M.O. 13345/40)

Oran

Shortly after the arrival of the ships carrying the British proposals, the French warships began to prepare for sea and for battle. Lengthy negotiations ensued and it was not until 8½ hours after the French had begun preparations, that the British opened fire. Within 5 minutes of this time the French ships replied, and not long after the French ships began moving out of harbour. During the afternoon our aircraft were attacked by a total of 21 French aeroplanes (Official Adty. Communique No 54)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

SCIENTIST

British 6199 tons. Not heard since leaving Durban 27/4 & presumed lost. (Shipping Casualties)

637



4.7.1940.  
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Air- Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

ANTONIO

British, 5225 tons, attacked by aircraft at 1300 and 1430/4, English Channel. No direct hits, but damage from concussion. Ship's gun, in addition to guns of other ships in convoy brought into action. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties)

TERLINGS

British, 2,318 tons, bombed by enemy aircraft. 3 planes. Nine H.E. and a number of incendiary bombs dropped. No direct hits, minor damage to fittings. Lewis gun in action, but jammed. Vessel examined in dry dock 16/7, apparently no hull damage. According to Lloyds List, vessel was subsequently sunk during an air attack and Master and two crew killed. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties)

Foreign Stations

Australia

Naval Activities

Telegrams from Govt. of Australia, dated 4/7/40. Royal Australian Naval Squadron. CANBERRA is proceeding to Cape of Good Hope and will remain under orders of C., in C., S.A., AUSTRALIA has been placed at disposal of United Kingdom Govt., PERTH is now flagship of the Australian Sqdn. WESTRALIA and PARRAMATTA have sailed for Colombo for service under orders of C. in C., E. Indies.

Minesweeping operations, consequent on sinking of NIAGARA in New Zealand waters, are being carried out in those Australian waters considered most liable to minelaying by hostile craft.

New Naval depot Sydney is to be erected at Hunter's Bay, new graving dock in Sydney Harbour, capable of accommodating largest war ships and very large merchant vessels. Construction of a fourth boom defence vessel has been approved. Number of defensively equipped merchant ships armed in Australia is now 158, and total de-gaussed Australia 19.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines  
Reported

By TETRARCH, patrolling in position 57.  
52 N., 2.47 E., (Capt (S) 2 1231/18)



War Diary

4.7.1940.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

638

Movements

C.S.13.

Flag of F.O.C. 18 CS was tranferred to BIRMINGHAM today. (Adty. 1408/4)

Air- Enemy Air Activity

Attack on Convoy  
OA 178

The following ships which were attacked and damaged reached ports as follows:-

WILLIAM  
WILBERFORCE  
FLIMSTON  
BRITISH CORPORAL  
DALLAS CITY

Portland.  
Note BRITISH CORPORAL was subsequently attacked by E-boats and DALLAS CITY and FLIMSTON were in collision with one another 6/7, but all three reached Portland safely. (D.O.R. 312) DALLAS CITY-Interview with Master

BRIARWOOD

Weymouth

FAIRWATER

Plymouth

IRENE MARIA

Portsmouth- Fire extinguished.

BRITSUM

Dutch (5255 tons) reported from Portsmouth to have been seen burning.

DEUCALION

Dutch (1796 tons) Sunk. 27 of crew landed (D.S. 305)

EASTHOOR

Interview with Master.

SILVERDIAL

Tug 55 tons. Bombed and sunk in Portland Harbour. (Shipping Casualties 110060)

CITY OF MELBOURNE

British 6630 tons. Attacked by aircraft 0845/4 in Portland Harbour. Vessel towed into shallow water and beached (Shipping Casualties)

Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

KING FREDERICK

British 5106 tons. Attacked by aircraft. twice in convoy. Damaged by near misses. No casualties. Returned to Weymouth under own steam. (Interview with master, Shipping Casualties Section, Trades Division)

/ANTONIO.....



4.7.40.  
Thursday.

639

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity

WILLIAM  
WILBERFORCE British, <sup>5004</sup>~~4014~~ tons, bombed by aircraft in Portland Harbour. No direct hits. Shaft damaged steering gear fractured, small damage in engine room. (Minute Sheet and B. of T.)

EAST WALES British, 4358 tons, bombed by aircraft 0850 in Portland Harbour. Several bombs in vicinity of vessel and one abaft engine room causing considerable damage and leaks in afterpeak. (Minute Sheet and B. of T.)

EASTMOOR British, <sup>(Lloyd's guess damage as 5,812)</sup> 5648 tons, bombed by aircraft 1300, 26 m. S. 20 E. from Portland Bill. 3 bombs, first dropped astern and shrapnel pierced ship on stern; second on starboard side of bridge deck, exploding in lower hold causing large hole in starboard side plating; third no damage. Also machine gunned. 4 injured. (Minute Sheet and B. of T.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

COQUET MOUTH British, 477 G.T., dredging at Port of Amble, mined 1250/4 off South Pier Amble. 3 lives lost by explosion. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties).

REMEMBRANCE Motor boat, 7 tons, fishing, mined 0700/4, 1 mile S. Harwich dumping buoy. Magnetic mine caught in trawl net and exploded, ship's bottom being blown out. Crew of 2 saved and brought in by motor fishing vessel MOLLIE. (Minute Sheet and B. of T.).



War Diary

5.7.1940.  
Friday

640

HOLE COMMANDS

E-Boats

ELMCHEST  
Sunk

British (4343 tons) outward bound in convoy in ballast torpedoed and sunk by 2 E-boats about 20 miles S. of Portland at midnight 4/5. (D.O.R. 309) Interview with Master.

HARTLEPOOL

(Torpedoed) Reported by Lloyds 10/7 to be a constructive total loss.

BRITISH  
CORPORAL

British, 6,972 tons, Hull to Abadan, in ballast, in convoy, torpedoed twice, midnight 4-5/7, by E-boat. One killed by torpedo. Crew escaped in own boats and later picked up by Admiralty patrol vessel. Ship later towed into Portland by naval tug. 15 minutes elapsed between two torpedoes. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties.)

Air- Enemy Air Activity

IRENE MARIA

Bombed a.m. Subsequently beached at Netley Fire got under.

BRITSUM  
Set on fire  
5/7 in OA 178

About 5000 tons. Beached on Pullar Bank. considered useless except for scrap. Request instructions. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0358/9 to Adty)

DEUCALION

Attacked today. Later reported sunk (D.S. 314) Two attacks by aircraft off Portland Bill at 1245/4 and 1430/4 Ship afterwards sank. 2 wounded (Interview with Chief Officer, Shipping Casualties Section, Trade Division) Possibility of dum-dum bullets being used (TD/DEMS/139/380)

French Ships

NEVADA (5693 tons) }  
ALBERTE LE }  
BORGNE (3921 ") }

Armed guard placed on board (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2211/5)

CUBA (11,337 tons)

Liner. Sailed from St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Is. with 790 passengers, including 560 Spanish refugees from Bordeaux, to San Domingo 5/6. Owners had delayed sailing ship for fear British might seize her. (D.S. 305)

War Diary

6.7.1940.  
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

641

YUZBASHI HAKKI

Incorrectly reported sunk after collision with BROKE. Arrived at Weymouth after being attacked at 1145/14 near the Shambles (off Weymouth) by enemy aircraft using cannons. One K., Captain W. (D.S. 314)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

French Ship

In explanation of movements of French ship SAINT DOMINGUE, I received on 25/6 authority from Adty. to override Adnty. message 215A (1929/23/6) in case of movements of local inter-island vessels. Have exercised this authority in case of SAINT DOMINGUE. Request she be allowed to continue her normal voyages for the present. Any restriction on her movements will give force to rumours that we are blockading Martinique. (C. in C., A.W.I., to Governor, Trinidad, etc., 1613/6).

Mediterranean

Malta  
C. in C., Base

Closed down today (D.S. 314)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

VAPPER  
Sunk

Estonian, 4549 tons. Bristol to Channel to Buenos Aires. Attacked by U-boat and sunk 0915/6 49° 30' N., 9° 15' W., Crew saved. picked up by destroyer. (M/O 13298/40)

HOME COMMANDS

Air-Enemy Air Activity

BRITSUM

Dutch (5255 tons) in ballast Hull to Fowey bombed in Selsey area and beached on Pullar Bank, in convoy OA 178. Only salvageable as scrap (D.O.R. 310)

DEUCALION

Dutch 1796  
British (4516 tons) in Convoy OA 178 was bombed off Portland. Owners report ship sunk (D.O.R. 316)



War Diary

7.7.1940.  
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

642

Enemy Minelaying  
in Tyne Area

Report by F.O.I.C. Tyne on Minelaying by enemy aircraft on 6/7 07/7/40. (M.O. 013 186/40) Request from Port War Signal Station (M.O. 13358/40)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

PAYNTER

H.M.T. PAYNTER in collision with SS KYLE-CLARE on 7/7. Damage to D.G. gear and bolt and davits of PAYNTER. F.O.I.C. Liverpool asked to arrange survey of KYLECLARE (N.C.I.C., Larne, 1430/13)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Syrian  
Situation

Syrian situation difficult. Authorities at Beirut and Admiral Carpentier in particular very hostile. Have prevented PEGASUS, LESBIAN, BRODWAL from sailing and removed pieces of their machinery despite the fact I had agreed that PATRIA could sail from Haifa, nor will they even allow a representative to come here to discuss matter.

In consequence I have suspended sailings of PATRIA and of all ships from Egyptian, Palastinian and Cypriot ports to Syria. This virtually introduces a blockade of Syrian coast and may tend to cause deterioration of the internal situation in country but there appears to be no alternative till ships are released. (C. in C., Med. 1845/7 to Adty.)

Air.

OLYMPUS  
damaged

In air raid on Sunday 7/7, OLYMPUS sustained damage (details). Date for completion by dockyard is now Oct 15. OTUS will complete end of September as already reported. (A.S. Malta, 1620/10.

/U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.....



War Diary

7.7.1940.  
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

643

Ships Attacked

LUCRECIA

Dutch tanker. Torpedoed 49.50' N., 08.07' W., at 0430 G.M.T. 7/7. 8 Officers and 22 crew Trinidad landed Oporto by ALFRED REDE 10/7. Master killed, first mate died subsequently. (Consul Oporto, 1350/10)

BISSEN  
Sunk

Swedish 1514 tons. St. John's N.F. for Falmouth attacked by torpedo 80' S. of Cape Clear 2220/7 and sank at 0530/8 Submarine not sighted. No casualties Crew picked up by BROKE. (M.O. 13562/40)

MAHISTEE  
Escaped

British 5360 tons Santa Maria to Liverpool sighted submarine 50° 00' N., 10° 15' W., which shelled her. (Interview with Master Shipping casualties Section, Trade Division)

Mediterranean & East Indies

*Sm/s*  
Ships Attacked

2339

By HASTY 32.35' N., 28.30 'E. (See 22/7)





MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.7.1940.  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

644

Air- Enemy Air Activity

SUIPPE  
Damaged 8/7

French sloop, bombed in air raid 1803/8  
Beached in St. Justs Pool. Considerable  
damage inside and making water slowly.  
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 2246/9 to Adty.)

CORUN/DUM

British, 929 tons, bombed 1510/8 off  
Dungeness. Towed into Dover by LADY  
BRASSBY. Damaged by near miss Starboard  
quarter. (Minute Sheet & B. of T.  
casualties)

Mining

Report of enemy minelaying by aircraft  
in Tyne Area. (F.O.C.Tyne M.O.13356/40)

French Merchant Ships

Admty. 2025/7 and my 1142/7. If BERNADIN  
DE ST. PIERRE is released from Capetown  
request you will if possible make arrange-  
ments with Master to call Mombasa and  
repatriate crew of disarmed A.M.C. CARAIBE  
from there to Diego Suarez. French  
Authorities Madagascar believed to be still  
ignorant of disarming of CARAIBE and I  
consider it desirable to keep Master also  
ignorant of the facts if it can be managed.  
(C. in C., E.I. 14312/8 to N.O.i/c Simons-  
town)

U-Boat Campaign & Mining

Ships Attacked

DEPTFORD

Missed by 2 torpedoes in Western Approaches  
Approx. 48.34 N., 11.29 W., 262° Lands End  
229' (I.C., 0508/11/7)

HULBER ARM

Interview with Master.

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Attacked

0100

By HASTY 32.35' N., 28.30' E., (see 22/7)



9.7.40.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

---

Air

645

Enemy Air Activity

TALVALDIS

*Latvian*  
Estonian, 534 tons, bombed and sunk by aircraft, 1910/9, five miles S. of Start Point, English Channel. One man lost by bomb explosion. Survivors picked up by fishing boat BETTY and Salcombe lifeboat. Vessel had dropped astern of a convoy owing to lack of speed. Attacked by several planes with bombs and machine guns. Direct hit completely wrecked after part and started fires, vessel foundered in about 2½ hours.

FOREIGN STATIONS

---

Mediterranean

Your 0027/9, requesting S.B.N.O. to report reaction of Suez Canal Officials to present situation. Agent Superior has given S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area formal assurance Canal Company will continue to give us all support and co-operation no matter what political developments take place. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1808/9 to Adty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

---

Ships Attacked

AYLESBURY sunk

British 3994. Torpedoed 2 explosions. 3 injured ?/9. Ship sank in 8 minutes. Crew in boats picked up 0100/10 by HAVELOCK and HARVESTER and taken to Liverpool. (Interviews with Master, Shipping Casualties Section, Trade Division).

<sup>N</sup>  
MEMMON

While at anchor in St. Vincent, intercepted a message en clair in French addressed to 3 French submarines and two French planes instructing them to attack all British ships. Left St. Vincent 1230/9. Missed by torpedo at 1800, passed astern. (see also 16/7). (Interview with J.G. Phillips, Master, Trade Div. Casualties).



MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

646

Home Fleet

Views on the position in regard to possible employment of our capital ships in south part of North Sea should enemy attempt invasion in that area. Conclude that only in most exceptional circumstances would it be to our advantage for our capital ships to proceed south of Spurn Head. (C. in C., H.F. to Admty., No 1185/H.F. 001202, 10.7.1940. Reply of Their Lordships, 20.7.1940. If enemy heavy ships support an expedition, accepting the risks involved in an approach to our coast in Southern part of North Sea, and their presence is reported, then it is essential that our heavy ships should move south against them, also accepting risks. Their Lordships cannot accept a position where enemy heavy ships are allowed to remain in support of an expedition opposed only by air action, weaker naval forces and minefields. Fully realise difficulties of situation, but in the event of German heavy ships operating in southern part of the North Sea, our own heavy ships are to engage them at the earliest opportunity (M.013582/40)

Air-Enemy Air Activity

SS GWYNWOOD (Br. 1177 tons) Bombed 4 times. 0430 off Smith's  
SS FULHAM (Br. 1569 tons) Knoll Float. 0600 off No. 54 Buoy  
SS CORINIA (Br. 870 tons) 0900 off Aldeburgh Lt. Float. 1300  
between 54 & 53 buoy.  
No casualties or damage. (I.D. Form AA)

SS WANDLE Bombed 0550 off Smiths Knoll. No damage or casualties. (I.D. Form AA)

BRITISH CHANCELLOR Bombed at Falmouth. Is at anchor in Falmouth Roads, fire extinguished. (D.O.R. 316. 16/7)

TASCALUSA Bombed 1440/10 and set on fire at Falmouth No casualties. Ship grounded. (Interview with Master, Shipping Casualties Section Trade Division) Direct hits with H.E. and incendiary bombs. (B. of T.)

/Waterloo Sunk.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.7.1940.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

647

WATERLOO  
Sunk

Bombed and sunk 1145/10. 2½' N.E. Smiths Knoll Bch Buoy (Interview with Master) No lives lost. Gun not used as bomber remained high up.

CHRISTOPHER  
COLUMBUS

Belgian trawler. Trawling N.N.E. Stent Point attacked by 3 aircraft. Bombed and machine gunned. No casualties and no damage apart from machine gun bullets. (MO 13839/40)

POLGRANGE

British, 804 tons, Southend to Blyth in ballast, attacked by aircraft 1030/10, in North Sea, 51.45' 30" N., 1.45 E. Two bombs dropped, one on each side of vessel's bow, causing damage to shell plating and injuring one fireman. (Minute Sheet, and B. of T. Casualties)

Mining

Admty. announcement that the waters between the Orkneys and Iceland, and Iceland and Greenland, are dangerous owing to mines. (Adty. 1416/10)

Operation SN. 1.

Carried out between 2025 and 2234/10 by 1st Minelaying Squadron. (SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT NAPIER, MENESTHEUS, and PORT QUEBEC) escorted by INGLEFIELD, IMOGEN, HAMBLEDON, ATHERSTONE and FERNIE with COVENTRY as additional A/A protection. Operation Orders. (R.A. (M.L) 2151/5/7. Field laid off North Rona. 1115 units laid in four parallel lines. High percentage of mines exploded between 15 mins and 3 hours after laying. (R.A. (M.L.) Report, H.M.S. TRELAWNEY- M.O. 13925/40)



11.7.40.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

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648

Operation Counterpane

Counter attack against possible enemy action on E. coast; cancellation of Dover memo A 14/0/40 (M.013682/40).

Air

Enemy Air Activity

NORTHERN COAST

British 1211 tons. at 1625/11 9' S.W. Anvil Pt. attacked by 6 aircraft large number of bombs dropped. No damage (Attacks on Merchant Vessels by Enemy aircraft Form A/A).

MR THERM

British 2974 tons at 0630/11 52°30' N., 02°5' E. In convoy - attacked by 1 aircraft. 4 bombs dropped. Escaped. (Attacks on Merchant Vessels by enemy aircraft Form A/A)

NEW LAMBTON

British 2709 tons at 0530/11. 52°30' N., 01°37' E. In convoy. Attacked by one aircraft several bombs and machine gun fire. Escaped. (Attacks on Merchant Vessels by Enemy Aircraft Form A/A).

KYLEMOUNT

British 704 tons, 1130/11 in convoy 10 m. West of Dartmouth. No casualties. Aircraft driven off by gunfire. Ship damaged but reached Dartmouth. (Interview with Master, Shipping Casualties Section, Trade Division).

AID

British, 134 tons, attacked by dive bombers in Portland Harbour, 1130/11. No lives lost. No direct hits, but ship damaged. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies

CITY OF BAGDAD  
Shelled

7506 tons, shelled on 11/7 when on the Equator and about 3600 E. in Indian Ocean. Left Louçenco Marques on 28/6 and is overdue at Penang since 13/7. (D.S. 19.7.40).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.7.40.  
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

649

JANNA  
sunk

Norwegian, 2197 tons, sunk 50°34' N., 12°10' W. at 0430/11, 25 survivors being landed at Milford Haven. Was in HX.53 convoy but had put back to Halifax, then included in HX.54 convoy but had dropped out from boiler trouble. (I.C., 0511/40, 0512/40).

1A

Greek, 4860 tons, Rosario for Cork, torpedoed and sunk. 27 survivors, 3 missing. (D.S. 18/7, from Greek Consul, Swansea).

Mediterranean

Ships Attacked

BENE sunk

Panamamian tanker 3039 tons in ballast Haifa to Istanbul, sunk by gunfire ~~for~~ from U-boat 2200/11 position 033°12' N., 033°38' E. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1755 C/14). Note. I.C. 0512/40 says she was not actually seen to sink.



MOST SECRET

14.7.1940.  
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

650

Movements

Submarine  
Patrols

Instructions from <sup>✓</sup> U.A. (S) for  
Submarine Patrols in Bay of Biscay  
(M013716/40)

Air-Enemy Air Activity

PROVIDENCIA

Belgian Trawler sunk by Bomb at 49° 55'  
N., 9° 12' W., at 1720/14. No survivors.  
Report from Master of MASSA BIELLE  
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1325/18 to Adty.)

ISLAND QUEEN

Sunk by aircraft. 4 cables from A buoy E.  
of Folkestone Gateway. 3 killed. In  
convoy. (Interview with Master, Shipping  
Casualties Section, Trade Division)

MONS

British 641 tons, Attacked in Convoy 1½  
miles S. of Dover Piers. No casualties,  
seriously damaged, but proceeded to Dover  
under own steam. (Interview with Master,  
Shipping Casualties Section, Trade  
Division & Minute Sheet)

NAGTIRA

British, 525 tons, attacked by aircraft at  
0830/12, off Aldeburgh, and again at 1510/14  
off Dover. In second attack several bombs  
fell near and vessel severely shaken,  
also subjected to heavy M.G. fire, causing  
damage to bridge etc., No casualties.  
(Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualty Form)

BALDER

Norwegian, 1129 tons, bombed by aircraft  
off Dover, 1530/14, 4 lives lost. Vessel  
towed into Dover by tug. 2 injured  
(Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualty Form.)



15.7.40.  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

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651

Air

Enemy Air Activity

FROSSOULA

Panamanian, 1282 tons, bombed and believed sunk at 2030/15 about 240 miles N.W. of Finisterre. 18 crew left in two boats. One boat and 3 survivors landed 19/7 at Salcombe. (C. in C., W.A. 1751/21 to Adty.)

HEWORTH

British 2855 tons, bombed, set on fire in FN. convoy 1410/15 100° Orfordness - 10 miles. Crew (2 injured) rescued by KINGSTON ONYX (C.O. KINGSTON ONYX to N.O.I.C. Tees, Hartlepool).

CITY OF LIMERICK

Eire, 1,359 tons. Machine gunned and bombed 0800/15 100 miles W. of Ushant. 2 killed by falling bomb which did not explode. Remainder saved by own boats and subsequently at noon/16 picked up by Belgian trawler SINCERITY. Nationality clearly marked and national flag flying astern. After first attack, signal "Dublin" was hoisted, but attack was renewed by machine gun fire. (Minute Sheet and B. of T. Casualties)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

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Ships Attacked

EVDOKIA

Greek, 2018 tons, from Sunderland for R. Plate, torpedoed and sunk. No details. 22 survivors, 1 missing. (D.S. 18/7 from Greek Consul, Swansea).

BELLEROCK

British 1199 tons. Sank after violent explosion ?torpedo at 2145/15 (Interview with A.B. Gallino, Shipping Casualties Section, Trade Division).





16.7.40.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

652

Air

Precautions

Clearing Harbours at Humber, Harwich or Sheerness as a precaution against intensive air attack, etc. (C. in C., Nore, Memo. No. 477LL/40). (M.013962/40).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CLAN MACFARLANE

British, sunk in collision with British GANGES at 2230/16/7 in 12.38 N. 55.31 E. 8 Europeans and 33 Indian crew missing. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1010Z/24 to Adty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

0420

By S.S. MEMNON, in position 30' S. 80 W. from Black Rock. Sighted submarine about 8 miles distant, travelling about same speed (16 knots) and steering same direction. Wash and conning tower clearly seen, kept in sight for about an hour. At about 0520, s/m submerged, and MEMNON turned stern on to her, changed course, went in towards Irish Coast and then turned north. Nothing more seen. (Interview with J.G. Phillips, Master, Trade Div. Casualty Section).

Ships Attacked

SCOTTISH MINSTREL  
sunk

British 6999 tons attacked by submarine 1155/16 56°10' N., 9°40' W. Probably 4 casualties. Remainder of crew picked up by GARDENIA and taken to Folkestone. (Form S.A. and F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 130/000) (Form I.D.S.A.)

War Diary

18.7.40.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Air

653

Enemy Air Activity

DULCIN BELLE  
(H.M. Trawler)

At 2000/18 while on patrol N.E. of Wick was bombed and machine gunned. Slight damage. No casualties. (A.C.O.S. 1605/20 to Adty.)

DUNSLEY  
damaged

British 3862 tons attacked by aircraft 1855/18 in convoy - 4 attacks 10 bombs dropped. Damaged: no casualties (I.D. Form A.A.)

WHITFORD POINT  
escaped

British 5026 tons. Attacked several times by aircraft off Fraserburgh up to 2300/18. About 20 bombs dropped. No damage or Casualties. (I.D. Form A.A.)

HOPERIDGE  
escaped

British 5222 tons. 2 attacks at 1500/18 and 2200/18 1st attack 58°00' N. 02°20' W. 2nd off Buchan Ness. 17 bombs dropped in all. No damage or casualties. (I.D. Form A.A.)

CALIPH

British trawler, bombed and machine gunned 25 miles S.S.W. of Kinsale Head at 1445/18. No casualties. Slight damage. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1501/22 to Adty.)

LODDON

British trawler, bombed while fishing 51.5 N., 8.35 W. Gear cut away and zig-zag course steered. Vessel holed in stern but reached Swansea under own steam. No casualties. (Minute Sheet and B. of T.).

Mining

Plymouth

Reports of enemy aerial minelaying 18/7. (C. in C., W.A., (M.014170, 014172).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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South Atlantic

French Troops

Re disembarkation of Senegalese at Winnebah and numbers ex-JOHN HOLT to disembark at Takoradi. (C. in C., S.A., 2025/18).

18.7.40.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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654

Mediterranean

V.A.J.C. To<sup>✓</sup>rey C.B. D.S.O. appointed V.A.C. Light Forces and Second-in-Command, Medn. Fleet "Light Forces" comprise all cruisers and destroyers. V-A To<sup>✓</sup>rey's flagship ORION will form part of 7th C.S. for administrative purposes.

R.A.C. 7th C.S., R.A. E de F. Renouf C.V.O. 3rd C.S. has been merged in 7th C.S. and R.A. Renouf has hoisted his flag in GLOUCESTER (M.013982/40).

America and West Indies

French Ships

My 0941/18. SAINT BERTRAND was ex-German CHEMNITZ, and would have been exempted in accordance with S. of S. circular maritime 35 if this had been received in time. Action in accordance with circular maritime 34 had proceeded so far that after consultation with Governor it was decided that it would be most undesirable to retract on action already taken. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2218/18).

French ships SAINT BERTRAND and PRESIDENT SERGENT requisitioned at Bermuda in accordance with S. of S. circular maritime 34 and Adty. 2319/16. British flag hoisted. (Numbers remaining on board). (C. in C., A.W.I., 2221/18).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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WINNETOU

An American ship reports having sighted suspicious loaded tanker in 7.52 S., 29.50 W., at 0730/18, steering south. Said to resemble Norwegian tanker FERNCOURT. German WINNETOU is similar to FERNCOURT, but smaller. She may have been the WINNETOU, which has not been seen since 9/4, when she left Las Palmas. (W.S.G., No.48).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.7.40.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

655

Air.

PULBOROUGH  
sunk

In convoy 2 miles from Dover. Attacked by aircraft. Ship sunk from near miss. Crew took to boats and were saved. (Interview with Master, Shipping Casualties Section, Trade Division).

Mining

EXPLORER

Report of enemy minelaying off Inchkeith by aircraft. One mine and parachute seen to drop: EXPLORER fired. 3 more mines dropped and the plane made off. Most remarkable feature, silent approach of aircraft. (M.014853/40).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

REKUM

A ship resembling REKUM was sighted by a British ship on 20/7 in 28.35 N., 24.07 W. (W.S.G. No.48).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

TROUTPOOL

Torpedoed 1335 B.S.T. 54.40 N., 05.40.03 W., 8 cables N. of Bangor Pier. 11 men missing. 3 others injured. Believed mined. Degaussing apparatus had been tested and was working. (Interview with Master 26/7).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.7.40.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

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656

Mining

Plymouth

Report of enemy aerial minelaying 20-21/7.  
C. in C., W.A. (M.014365/40).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

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TANNENFELS.  
UCKERMARK

Definitely identified by H.M.S. COLOMBO at  
Kismayu on 21/7. (W.S.G. No.48).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

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Ships Attacked.

GRETH

(Swedish 1540 tons) reported mined early  
today 1 mile S.S.W. Drogden L.V. inside  
Danish territorial waters. 1 k., 2 slightly  
w. Ship is believed to be afloat and  
on her way to Copenhagen. (Motala Radio).

S.S. ELLAROY

British (712 tons) sunk by s/m 2000/21 in  
42°30' N. 13°30' W. Vessel first shelled  
then sunk by explosives placed on board  
after crew had left. Vessel was proceeding  
from Lisbon to Cardiff. Crew landed at  
Vigo (Consul Vigo, 0800/24, 1120/24).  
Entire crew at Vigo - sunk by large s/m  
with at least 2 guns, and fired 60 shells.  
(Consul Vigo, 1440/25).. Position given as  
42.30 N., 12.36 W. by S.O.I., Gibraltar,  
1132/8/8).



24.7.40.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

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657

E-Boats

MEKNES

From Southampton to Marseilles. Machine gun fire heard 2255/24 in 50°4'10" N., 02°14'30" W. and bullets hit ship, which stopped, thinking it was a patrol boat, and signalled identity in morse. No notice taken, and at 2305 ship torpedoed. Crew 104, of whom 33 missing, passengers 1180, of whom about 300 missing. Ship broke in two and sank in 8 minutes. Was brightly illuminated projectors on each side illuminating French flags printed on hull, 2 powerful lights illuminating French ensign flying aft. (Interview with Capt. D. Dubroc, Master, Trade Div. Casualties)

Air

KERRY COAST

British 1390 tons, bombed by formation of 6 aircraft, 8 cables N.W., N. Goodwin L.V. at 0840. About 100 bombs. No hits. No damage. (A.A. Forms).

RATHLIN

British, 1599 tons, bombed by 6 aircraft approx 7½ cables from N. Goodwin L.V. at 0840. About 100 bombs. No hits. Damage from splinters to ventilator, Lifeboat, top stay etc. (A.A. Form).

T. H. V. ALERT

Bombed at 1735/24 off South Goodwin L.V. by three aircraft which dived to 100 ft. to drop bombs. Attacked twice with bombs and then twice with machine guns. Ship not hit but severely shaken, some of crew wounded by m.g. fire. Returned to Dover. Suggestions re work of the ALERT in attending to light vessels and buoys. Consider a trawler escort is hopeless. Saw some trawlers firing at mines with machine guns off Goodwins and did not get a shot nearer than 100 yards, their chances of making a direct hit are remote. (Interview with Capt. G.A. Sherman, Master, Trade Div. Casualties).



26.7.40.  
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

658

EIDER

Reported her arrival at Danzig on 26/7. Has consistently been shown in Lloyd's Index as at Las Palmas "arrived previous to 9/9/39". She sailed from Flushing on 22/8 for Canary Islands, but it is now considered that she turned back to Germany before war was declared. (W.S.G., No.48)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

SAMBRE

British, 5,260 tons, torpedoed at 2345/26, in position 56.37' N., 17.53' W., By 0330/27, stern of ship had collapsed into the water, and Captain ordered her to be abandoned. In daylight, Captain, who had remained on board, found damage less extensive and decided to hang on, recalling boats one by one to get more clothes, food and drinks. At 0848, WINCHELSEA hove to alongside and picked up crew from boats, who were taken to Belfast. (Interview with Capt., Trade Div., Casualties).

THIARA

British, 10,364 tons. After picking up crew of SAMBRE, WINCHELSEA proceeded to pick up crew of THIARA, another ship of same convoy (O.B.188), which had been torpedoed. The last seen of her was that she had a list of 60° to port. (Interview with Captain of SAMBRE, Trade Div., Casualties).

BALZAC

Norwegian, 963 tons, Sunderland to Cowes with coal, mined at anchor off Sunderland about 2100/26. Two explosions. Ship sank in 2 minutes. Pilot, Captain, 1st and 2nd mates and 1st Engineer, all on the bridge, killed by explosion. 2nd Engineer trapped in engine room and killed. (Interview with Captain, Trade Divn., Casualties).

ACCRA

British, 9,337 tons. Torpedoed by submerged submarine 55.43 N., 16.25 W. at 1352, was abandoned at 1420 and sank at 1517. In convoy, speed 8 knots. Submarine not seen. (I.D. Form S.A.)



26.7.40.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

ACCRA (Contd.)

Interview with Mr. J.J. Smith, says **659**  
torpedoed at 1355 B.S.T. in 55.40' N.,  
16.28 W. Saw VINEMOOR, leading ship of  
port column, blow up immediately afterwards.  
16 people drowned when motor launch  
capsized through people jumping for the  
sides. ACCRA sank in 1 hr. 15 mins.  
(Trade Div. Casualties). Over 450 survivors  
landed, 19 (including 11 passengers) missing.  
(Times 8/8/40).

VINEMOOR

4358 tons. Torpedoed 1355/26, 55.40 N.,  
16.28 W. abandoned at 1500, 4 men  
slightly injured by explosion. Crew  
rescued by CLARKIA. Not seen to sink,  
but in such a condition (E.R. flooded)  
Master did not deem it wise to remain on  
board. (I.D. Form S.A.).

Heard explosion at 1350 and saw that  
ACCRA had been torpedoed. VINEMOOR struck  
few minutes later, apparently in No.5 hold,  
320 ft. from the bow. Stern lifted,  
completely shattered from mainmast aft.  
At 1500 CLARKIA came alongside and instructed  
to board her quickly as she wanted to  
pick up remaining survivors from ACCRA.  
At time of leaving about 15 ft. of water in  
the engine room. All hands transferred  
to CLARKIA by 1520. Crew landed Liverpool  
0900/30. (Interview with D.J. Jones,  
Master).





War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.7.40.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Air

660

Enemy Air Activity

WESTAVON

Bound from London to Sunderland in ballast. Attacked at 1445 B.S.T. in position 1' W. of Aldeburgh by an enemy plane. Fire opened with 12 pdr. and Lewis gun, which caused enemy to veer and prevented a direct hit, but two bombs dropped within two or three feet of ship's side, so close that they filled the upper deck with water and left large pieces of shrapnel on after deck. About 3 minutes later another attack made from a plane which came from astern. Engines were stopped by water in engine and boiler rooms. Taken in tow at 1550 by trawler NORDHAVN. At 1850 trawler LADY SHIRLEY appeared and gave further towing assistance. Anchored about 2215 at a spot where could go aground off Ridge Buoy, Harwich. At 0430/28, heaved anchor and with assistance of trawlers came into Harwich Bay and anchored 0600. (Interview with Master, Trade Div., Casualties, 1/8).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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Ships Attacked

SALVESTRIA

From Aruba for Grangemouth with 9201 tons fuel oil, mined 1755 in position 042° 2.8 miles from Inchkeith. Ship sank by stern and touched bottom (66 feet) in 1½ mins. Did not settle very quickly and bow did not actually go under for about 20 minutes. 10 men missing, 10 injured. Ship was degaussed and apparatus was working.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.7.40.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Western Patrol

661

A. B. Vs Lisbon

Your 0019/28/7 para. 9. Considered essential that all ships detained by A. B. Vs (KINGSTON Class Trawlers) patrolling off Lisbon and to southward should be sent to Gibraltar for following reasons:- A. B. Vs have only one armed guard of 1 officer and 4 ratings. No accommodation for a second armed guard. After a ship has been detained the next must be escorted. Unlikely that both ship detained and A. B. V. will have sufficient fuel to reach Clyde northabout. Considerable difficulty in returning armed guards to A. B. V. unless ships detained are taken to base. Escorting ships to Clyde will result in no A. B. Vs being normally on patrol. (F.O.C.N.P., 1458/28).

Air

Enemy Air Activity

ROWSLEY

British trawler 213 tons, bombed 58.41 N., 3.40 W. at 0200. No hits, no damage. (A.A. Form).

ROCKABILL

Liverpool to Waterford, bombed 0830/28 approx. 3 miles N.W. (magnetic) from Saltees Island. 2 bombs dropped, no damage. Ship's gun replied with 2 shots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, letter No. 130/127, 29/7/40).

LEO, GY.36

British steam trawler, attacked 58.14 N., 5.30 W., at 0210 one bomb fell 100 ft. astern, ship escaped. (A.A. Form).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Australia

Local Shipbuilding Re construction of auxiliary A/S vessels in Australia. (Hd. of M. to Naval Board, Melbourne, 2154/28).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.7.40.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies

662

Plans

Possible targets for bombardment.  
(S.N.O., Red Sea, 1403/28). (See Operations  
Volume).

U-BOATS CAMPAIGN AND MINING

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Ships Attacked

DEVONSHIRE.  
Suspected  
torpedo miss.

At 1928/28/7, DEVONSHIRE was in position 61.46 N., 00.34 E., zigzagging, when an under-water disturbance occurred about 2½ miles on approximate bearing 233 degs. which raised surface of water in dome to height of 10 to 15 feet. Explosion felt in engine-room and boiler-rooms as a shudder. Course immediately altered to starboard and ship steered 299° for 10 minutes before resuming former course. (DEVONSHIRE, 0959/2/8).

AUCKLAND STAR

From Sydney to Liverpool, torpedoed without warning 0300/28 in position 170 miles 70° true from Valencia Island. S/m surfaced as vessel started to sink, believed of U.25 - U.26 class. Crew saved by own boats, 3 injured, landed in Ireland. (Interview with Chief Officer, Trade Div. Casualties).

America & West Indies

Re S/m sighted by schooner ALBERTHA REINDEER.  
(St. Lucia, 1015/28).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.7.40.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

---

Air

Enemy Air Activity

663

GRONLAND

At anchor inside breakwater at Dover, sighted enemy aircraft overhead at 0730. Hit by 3 bombs, two of which exploded and third fell in engine room and went through ship without exploding. Ship sank in 15 minutes. No lives lost, 3 men injured. GRONLAND was only ship sunk in this attack, but a large British tanker was damaged. (Interview with Capt. H.C.A. Fischer, Master, Trade Div. Casualties).

Destroyer  
Armaments

Your 1947/28. Situation is fully appreciated. Our object is to make the best use of the weapons which are available and to ensure that every auxiliary war vessel has at least one weapon. Ref. A.M.1620/21, Lewis guns will not be withdrawn from older destroyers who have not yet complied with C.A.F.O. 554/40, as long as they are employed on East or South coasts. Reports from D.16 and D.18 required because it is essential for Adty. to know disposal of weapons. (D.T.S.D. 1937/29).

FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies

KHARTOUM,  
Salvage

Details of equipment salvaged from KHARTOUM by PROTECTOR. (C. in C., E.I., 1112Z/29).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

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Ships Attacked

OUSEBRIDGE

Mined at 0930 after passing Formby Lightship. Captain put helm hard over to try and sheer away from mid-channel, but within 45 seconds her forefoot was resting on the bottom with the stern gradually going down. No cargo amidships, the weight being at each end, and Captain believes she broke her back. Depth of water here is 40 ft., and draught at the time was 26 ft. on an even keel. (Interview with Master, Capt. H.S. Darkins, T.D., Csts, 1/8)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.7.40.  
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked (Condt)

664

CLAN MONROE

Mined at 1520/29, in 51.52 N., 1.48 E., 15 miles from land. Ship almost immediately broke her back and started to sag. Impossible to get aft owing to badly split deck. Crew rescued by a trawler and minesweeper DUCHESS OF FIFE. 1 man died from scalding. Party from a destroyer went aboard and salvaged Lewis gun, then German planes dropped 5 bombs between CLAN MONROE and destroyer. Aircraft driven off by Spitfires. Destroyer took charge of ship until a salvage tug arrived. No enemy planes seen before ship was mined. Degaussing suspected and was being examined when explosion occurred. (Interview with Capt. C.W. Banbury, Master, Trade Div. Casualties).

Submarines Reported

0226

U/boat as reported by TRITON's 0226/29. Out of range apparently outward bound from Selbjorne Fiords. Slight air activity. (V.A.S., 1924/4/8).



List of Docketed Papers

(War Diaries, Reports of Proceeding etc.,)

Dealing with Events of This Month



War Diaries, R. of P., etc., for July 1940

- R.A.(D) H.F. War Diary 16-31 July 1940. (T.S.D. 4616/40)
- 16/7 Sweep by Capt. D. IV and Capt D III.  
Loss of IMOGEN in consequence of collision with GLASGOW.
- 27/7 Sweep by Force A towards Norwegian Coast.
- 28/7 SS ORLOCH HEAD bombed survivors landed.
- OSIRIS Patrol report 29/6- 23/7/40. (M.018395/40)
- LEITH Convoy H.X. 53 R. of P. 7/7 to 10/7.  
(M.015898/40)
- C. in C., W.A. War Diary 16-31 July 1940 (T.S.D. 5216/40)
- 16/7 CITY OF LIMERICK, crew landed.  
SCOTTISH MINSTREL Torpedoed reported sunk 0034/17.  
JANNA (Nor.) torpedoed and sunk 11/7.
- 17/7 SS FISCUS and FOLKESTONE saved 37 of crew of SCOTTISH MINSTREL
- 18/7 <sup>mi</sup> Limits of W. Approaches Command altered.
- 19/7 Survivors of SS IA (Greek 4860 tons) landed at Penzance 17/7 from Scilly Is. and reported their vessel torpedoed and sunk, one officer and 2 men killed. Survivors 5 days in boats before reaching Scillies  
SS MANIPUR (8652 tons) torpedoed and sunk. 58° 41' N., 5° 14' W., at 2315/17. 64 survivors picked up by SKEENA 14 lost.
- 20/7 SS BELLEROCK (1199 tons) mined and sunk, probably 15/7, in 51° 19' 54" N., 3° 45' 25" W
- 21/7 SS FROSSULA (Panamanian 1282 tons) bombed and believed sunk 2030/15 about 240 miles N.W. of Finisterre. 3 men landed at Salcombe in boat.
- 22/7 SS LEOLA (Est. 499 tons) stated to have been bombed and sunk 17/7. 9 of crew, -including 2 women, landed at Newlyn 19/7 by Belgian trawler ROGER JEANNINE. 9 others including 1 woman, missing. (See also 24/7)
- H.M.Trawler CAMPINA mined off outer break-water light, Holyhead. 10 of crew killed, 3 injured survivors picked up.
- 23/7 <sup>THE</sup> SS LADY OF MOSTYN (305 tons) mined 1½ miles 79<sup>8</sup> Formby Light Ship, outside marked channel Crew probably 6, no survivors.

24/7.....

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Convoy B.H.X. 54. R. of P. from C.O. ASCANIA (M.014133/40)

SEAWOLF Patrol Report 2/7 - 12/7. (M.013893/40)

F.O.C.N.A. Re Status of, whether he should be raised to C.in C. Matter originated on letter from V.A. Sir Dudley North dated 21.2.40, deferred until attitude of Italy became clearer. First Sea Lord decided no change to be made, 28/7/40 (M.1081/40).

S/M. H.50. Patrol Report 28/6 - 7/7. (M.013880/40)

Operation M.A.6. Object, to destroy enemy surface vessels in Tobruk Harbour, especially battleship SAN GIORGIO. Forces, EAGLE and surface escort; 3 bomber squadrons, R.A.F., 1 Swordfish torpedo squadron from EAGLE. Instructions for the Operation. (M.013195/40).

R.A. 18 C.S. R. of P., 1/7 - 15/7. (M.014613/40).

SPEARFISH. Patrol Report 3/7 - 17/7. (M.014613/40)

TRIAD Patrol Report 27/6 - 13/7. (M.014155/40)

N.O.I.C. Tees-Hartlepool. War Diary 1/7 - 14/7. Air raids and minesweeping (T.S.D. 5164/40).

Operation J.D. Revised Appendix I, (a) Aircraft, (b) Ships and Shore Batteries. C.in C. Portsmouth 01150/500. (M.014500/40)

TAKU. Patrol Report 28/6 - 11/7. (M.014152/40)

Eire. Navy and Army Co-operation in event of invasion. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, No.7952/40/38, C.in C. W.A. No.3552/M.517) - (M.014173/40).

SUNFISH. Patrol Report, 4/7 - 17/7. (M.014319/40).

Iceland. R. of P., 16/6 - 11/7. Report of N.O.I.C. 13/7, E/10/098. (M.014760/40).

F.O.I.C. Glasgow. War Diary, 16 May to 15 July. (T.S.D., 4561/40) Very skimpy, one page only. First air raid over Glasgow, 26/6, no bombs. Others, 13/7, 17/7, no bombs; and 19/7, two bombs dropped, considerable damage to property, none naval or military.

New Zealand. Activities of Defence Forces in relation to the War. Statement by Hon. F. Jones, Minister of Defence, H. 19A. (M.3668/40).





War Diaries, Summaries, R. of P. etc., for July 1940.

C.in C. Nore.

War Diary 1/7-15/7. (T.S.D. 4816/40).  
 Operation "Purge" (repelling an invader) exercised and tests of communications made. Considerable enemy air activity. No evidence that any U-boat operating in command. Minesweeping. Minelaying operations. B.S. 20-23 completed. O.A. convoys via Channel stopped owing to vulnerability to air attack, merged with F.N. convoys and first sailed 4/7. Channel Coastal (CW) convoys instituted but subject to heavy air attack in Straits.

*see also  
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V.A.C. B.C.S.

War Diary 1-15 and 16-31/7. (T.S.D. 4290/40). At Scapa to 27/7 then sweeping to Trondheim on report of enemy ships, to 29/7. Nothing of interest.

C.in C. W.A.

War Diary 1/7-15/7. (T.S.D. 5215/40). Conclusion of Operation Aerial. U.26 sunk 1/7. Air attacks on convoys from French Coast. OA 178 heavily bombed off Portland, 4 ships sunk and 3 damaged. Convoys diverted north of Ireland, only coasting traffic in the Channel. Air raids, interference with work in dockyard and factories. (Operational portion very detailed, 1 to 3 pages close-typed for each day.)

NARWHAL.

R. of P. 30/6-7/7/40. (No.56/30 V.A. Submarines).

SEVERN

Patrol Report 20/6/-2/7/40 (M.O.13577/40).

SNAPPER.

R. of P. 22/6-4/7/40 (M.O.13449/40).

PORPOISE

Patrol Report 4/7-10/7/40 (M.O.14050/40)

A.C.N.S.(H)

Memorandum - Anti-Invasion Reconnaissance (M.O.12956/40). Co-ordination of all forms of Reconnaissance.

Submarine H.50  
SEALION

Patrol Report 25/6-11/7/40 (M.O.13696/40)

TRITON

Patrol Report 18/6-3/7/40 (M.O.13446/40)

Submarine H.44

Patrol Report 9/7-16/7/40 (M.O.14216/40)

F.O.I.C. Tyne.

War Diary 1/7-15/7/40 (T.S.D. 5189/40).

N.O.I.C. Sunderland.

War Diary 15/6-15/7/40(T.S.D. 5138/40).

Submarine H.49.

Patrol Report 2/7-15/7/40.(M. 014153/40).

SWORDFISH

Patrol Report 1/7-12/7/40.(M.O.14156/40)

Submarine H.31.

Patrol Report 19/6-1/7/40. (M.O.13931/40)

C.in C. Rosyth.

Report on Convoy F.S.14. (M.O.14136/40).

TRIBUNE

Patrol Report 4/7-10/7. (M.O.13879/40).

/ Convoy BHX 54. .....

War Diaries, Summaries, R. of P., etc. received for  
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N.C.S.O. Methil War Diary 16/7 - 31/7. (T.S.D., 4765/40). Convoys, boom defences, SALVESTRIA mined and sunk 27/7.

R.A.C. 15 C.S. War Diary 18/7 - 31/7. (T.S.D., 5401/40). Flag hoisted in NAIAD, North Shields, 0800/18. Rosyth to Scapa Flow.

N.O.I.C. Poole. War Diary 16/7 - 31/7. (T.S.D. 5372/40). Preparations for local defence.

F.O.I.C. Invergordon. War Diary 15/7 - 31/7. (T.S.D. 4663/40). Defence of ports, block-ships, etc.

V.A.S. Revised instructions re submarine sanctuaries and bombing restrictions. (M. 014452/40).

V.A.S. Possible institution of Submarine patrol off West Coast of France. (M. 013526/40). V.A.S. letter 12/7/40, etc.

N.O.I.C. Tees-Hartlepool. War Diary 15/7 - 31/7. Air Raids, Middlesbrough and Billingham, Magnetic Minesweeping.

LOWESTOFT. Convoy MT 15 and F.S.27. R. of P. 20/7 - 22/7. (M. 014994/40).

FLEETWOOD Convoy F.N. 29. R. of P. 22-24/7. (M. 014934/40).  
(See also 673A)

BROKE R. of P. 5/7-9/7. Air attack on Convoy O.A. 178, 5/7. Attacked U/B, 6/7. Rammed by gunboat YUSBASI HAKKI, 6/7. Further attack on U/B disguised as fishing smack, reported by MANISTEE, 7/9. Rescued survivors of Swedish BISSEN, 7/7. (M. 014353/40).

BEAGLE R. of enemy air attacks on 19/7-20/7 off Dover and Portland. (M.015060/40).

R.A. (M.L.) War Diary 16/7-31/7. (T.S.D.5338/40). Mark XX mines, 25% of premature explosions (observed 11/7) investigations. Supply of mines at Port ZA improving. Defences at Port ZA.

SNAPPER. Patrol Report, 22/6-4/7. Norway. Attacks in Convoys. (M.013449/40).

REVENGE. R. of P. 3/7-12/7. (M. 015252). Convoy of children and internees, to Halifax.

War Diaries, Summaries, R. of P., etc. for July 1940.

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- Operation "Anger". Report, C.in C. W.A. (M.014815/40). Submarine H.43 embarked 2nd Lieut. Nicholle of the Guernsey Militia for landing in Icart Bay, Guernsey, 2115/6. Folbot set off inshore with Nicolle and Sub-Lieut. J.E. Leith, R.N.R., at 0017/8. Leitch returned 0211/8 and Folbot hauled on board. H.43 returned 0645/9.
- PANDORA R. of P., 29/6 - 10/7. Off Algiers. At 1407/4 torpedoed a cruiser of GALISSONNIERE class. Ship sank by the stern at 1522. PANDORA subsequently bombed. (M.015050/40).
- V.A.C. 1 C.S. War Diary 16/7. (T.S.D. 4392/40). At Scapa. Escort to Iceland Convoy. Force A (C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE, B.C.1 in RENOWN, and destroyers) ordered to intercept GNEISENAU if attempting to leave Trondheim for Germany, 27/7. Air reconnaissance Trondheim at 0800/28 reported no warship in harbour.
- S.N.O. Simonstown. War Diary July 1940 (T.S.D. 5039/40) 1/7 Italian PIEMONTE sent out S.O.S. Agulhas minefield - sweeping. Helplessness of soldiers in troop transports.
- C.in C. H.F. Code Words to be used for making first reports in event of enemy invasion, 6/7/40. (M. 013254/40).
- CUMBERLAND. Report of Convoy W.S.1, QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA, Liverpool to Freetown. (M. 014957/40) 29/6 - 8/7. - Report 9/7 - 16/7 (M. 016367/40).
- 1st C.S. V.A. 1 C.S. War Diary 1 - 15 July 1940. T.S.D. 4391/40. DEVONSHIRE left Halifax 1/7 with EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA for Iceland and FURIOUS for Liverpool. SHROPSHIRE, SUSSEX escorting troop convoy (ORMONDE, ULSTER PRINCE) left Greenock 9/7 for Iceland, returned 14/7.
- Convoy A.S.1. R. of P. 28.6 - 2.7.40 (by NUBIAN) M. 016370/40 Escort. CAPETOWN (R.A. 3 C.S.), CALEDON, NUBIAN (Capt. (D) 14), MOHAWK, GARLAND, VAMPIRE.
- N.O.I.C. Aberdeen. War Diary 15/7 - 31/7. (T.S.D. 4166/40). Air raids and enemy minelaying.
- EGRET. Convoy F.S. 24. R. of P. (M.014933/40). Air attack 1100/17/7.
- N.O.I.C. Aberdeen. War Diary 1/7 - 14/7. (T.S.D. 4165/40.) Air Raids.
- N.O.I.C. Blyth. War Diary 1/7 - 14/7. (T.S.D. 4339/40). Air raids and enemy mining.
- HURRICANE. R. of P., 20/7 - 28/7. (M.015899/40). Convoy.



War Diaries, R. of P., etc., for July 1940 Contd.

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from  
page  
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24/7 SS LEOLA (see 22/7) second boat landed 6 men and 1 woman. 2 men died in boat.

SS WOODBURY (4434 tons) Torpedoed without warning and sunk 0100/18, two boats, one at Carhirciven and one at Castletown, landed 35 of crew.

26/7, 27/7, 28/7 & 29/7. VINEMOOR and ACCRA. Re sinking and survivors.

27/7, 28/7, 29/7 & 30/7. SS THIARA, SAMBRE. Re torpedoing.

Sand dredger DURDHAM mined.

28/7 M.V. AUCKLAND STAR torpedoed. Details.

29/7 SS OUSEBRIDGE, re mining.

31/7 SS JERSEY CITY torpedoed. Details.

Cardiff

15/7 SS BELLROCK (1199 tons) mined. Details.

31/7 SS STALHEIM (Nor.) mined. Details. See also Swansea.

Belfast

During latter half of July enemy air activities extended to Belfast Lough for first time.

20/7 TROUTPOOL mined. Details.



War Diaries, R. of P., etc., for July 1940-Contd.

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C. in C. Mediterranean

War Diary, July 1940 (T.S.D. 4740/40)

1/7

Escort vessels required in Eastern Mediterranean. C. in C., has no ships with sufficient A/S armament suitable for convoy escort work.

Fighter aircraft asked for, for Malta and more Sunderland flying boats for Eastern Mediterranean.

All British shipping in Syrian ports to sail for Haifa or Port Said forthwith. Turks agree to Chanak being assembly port for Aegean convoys.

7/7 to 12/7

Operation M.A. 5. Description.

13/7

French shipping bound for ports in France or in French possessions where British ships are detained is to be stopped, but in other French colonial possessions friendly relations should be established and shipping allowed.

C. in C., Med. asks Admty. for permission for our submarines to sink Italian shipping proceeding to Libya, without warning.

14/7

Authorised to sink without warning when within 30 miles of Libyan coast.

17/7

Admty. issue instructions that efforts are to be made to improve the relations between French and British Navies. Further attacks on French ships will not be made except on ships proceeding to an enemy controlled port

Shortage of spare engines for 201 aircraft Squadron, which seriously affects Fleet operations.

18/7

Italian shipping to be sunk without warning within 30 miles of any Italian territory and ships of any nationality to be sunk within 30 miles of Libyan territory.

18/7-20/7

Operations by Light Forces. Sinking of BARTOLOMEO COLLEONE.

19/7

Fleet proceeded to sea.

20/7

Attack on Tobruk by torpedo aircraft from EAGLE

22/7

Re Greek ships proceeding through Straits of Messina.

/26/7....



War Diaries, R. of P., etc., for July 1940

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(T.S.D. 4740/40-Contd.)

- 26/7 Italian seaplane force landed at Crete 24/7 and was allowed to leave after effecting repairs. British protest.  
Requisitioning of French ships.
- 27/7-30/7 Fleet to cover Convoy A.S. 2.
- 30/7 F.A.A. requirements in Egypt.
- 31/7 Operation M.A. 9 (Diversion for "Hurry")

C. in C.. Rosyth War Diary 16th-31st July 1940 (T.S.D. 4991/40)

- 16/7 French merchant ships in British harbours are to sail under British flag, today saw the manning of the French Fleet which is in our hands.
- 18/7 New boundaries for Rosyth and Western Approaches Command came into force today.
- 21/7 New patrol of A.M.C's known as Western Patrol is to be instituted.
- 24/7 Evidence points to fact that mine barrage to northward of the German declared area has been laid.
- 27/7 As result of message received from an enemy aircraft off the Fair Isles, stating that "no enemy ships to the eastward of me" Force A consisting of the Battlecruisers, 4 cruisers and 10 destroyers left Scapa for the Eastward in case enemy forces were approaching this country.

Westher is given daily

C. in C., Portsmouth War Diary 1-14 July 1940 (T.S.D. 4965/40)

Chief events are indexed under dates on which they occurred.

War Diaries R. of P., Summaries etc., for July 1940

PARTHIAN

R. of P., 14/6-3/7. Attack on Italian submarine 20/6. (M.017177/40)

V.A. Dover

War Diary 1/7-15/7. (T.S.D. 4490/40) Convoy O.A. 178, 3/7, last of its kind. Only coastal ships between Thames and Bristol Channel to be routed along South Coast others to join F.N. Convoys up East Coast -and proceed northabout. Air Raids. First night raid on Dover. 14-15/7, no ships hit, 2 casualties in trawler BIRCH from splinters. Anti-invasion preparations E-Boat activity on most nights when weather suitable, only victim A/S trawler CAYTON WYKE at 0110/7.

AUSTRALIA

War Diary 1/7-31/7. (T.S.D. 4593/40) Freetown, Dakar to 9/7. Greenock and Scapa to 27/7, then patrol off Norway to 29/7. Attack on RICHELIEU. Leave-breaking at Capetown and Greenock referred to in C.O's letter of proceedings.

F.O.I.C. Portland

War Diary, 1/7-15/7. (T.S.D. 4940/40) Attack on 5 M.A/S.B's at 1530/13 who approached Portland during an air raid and failed to make recognition signal. Local Defence measures. Degaussing. Contraband Control. Air Raids.

R.A.S.A.D.

War Diary July 1940 (T.S.D. 5290/40)

HAWKINS in Rio de Janeiro area 1/7 to Plate area 9/7.

PRETORIA CASTLE in Plate area

ALCANTARA's movements.

Capt. H.P.K. Oram assumed command of HAWKINS 13/7 *via* Actg. Capt. W.A. Whitaker, R.N. Retd.)

HAWKINS at Montevideo 15/7, 16/7. Proceeded on patrol in Plate area. Fuelled off San Sebastio Island 23/7.

Plans for safeguarding British and Allied trade after news of Sinking of DAVISIAN and KING JOHN.

Movements after action between ALCANTARA and German raider 200 miles S.S.W. of Trinidad Island, 28/7.



War Diaries. R. of P. Summaries etc. for July 1940.

- AENEAS. British 10,058 tons. Bombed and machine-gunned 1630/2, 21 miles S.E. of Start Point. Abandoned owing to damage. 19 lives lost. Salvage vessels attempted to tow but were attacked by A/C. Wreck again hit by bombs and further salvage not considered worth the risk involved.  
(Minute Sheet & B. of T.)
- BIJOU. British (wooden, 98 tons.) Burnt out by fire caused by incendiary bomb from enemy A/C, 2230/3 alongside Brooks Mill at Mistley after discharging cargo. Fire broke out at Mill, but no crew on board to move her, otherwise might have been salvaged or damage minimised.  
(Minute Sheet & B. of T. Casualties.)
- Disposal of French Fleet. Reports on seizure of French warships at Plymouth, Dartmouth and Falmouth 3/7/40.  
(M. 013333/40.)
- Air attack on Bergen 3/7. Five Skuas of 801 Squadron left Hatston 1205/3 July to attack oil tanks at Lidsvaag (60° 26' N. 6° 19' E.) and 200 boats reported at Laksvaag (60° 23' N. 5° 18' E.) Weather conditions unfavourable. No oil tanks seen, nor boats. All aircraft returned.  
(M. 013695/40, A.C.O.S. 8/7/40.)
- French S/M. Attacked by A/C from DORSETSHIRE, 1531/4, 14.36 N., 17.26 W. 2 bombs failed to leave bomb rack. Slight damage probably caused by remaining 2.  
(A/0830/40.)
- WILLIAM WILBERFORCE. British, 5003 tons. Attacked by A/C 2050/4. Portland Harbour. No casualties. Damaged.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- CAMBRIAN COAST. British, 763 tons. Attacked by A/C 1400/4. 1 mile of S. Foreland. Crew 15. No casualties. Damaged.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- Attack on Convoy O.A.178. 1200/4, 20 miles S.S.W. of St. Catherines and 1300 to 1400/4, 20 miles S.S.W. of Portland Bill. E-Boats took up the attack during the night 4/5 July (see 5/7) and it was resumed by aircraft a.m./5. Following ships appear to have been victims of air attack:- IRENE MARIA 5106 tons. Damaged. Arrived Cardiff 14/7. KOLGA Esthonian 3526 tons. Damaged. Crew landed. EASTMOOR 5812 tons. Damaged. Arrived Cardiff 15/7. DALLAS CITY, 4952. Set on fire and abandoned. PETERTON, 5221 tons. No serious damage. BRIARWOOD, 4019 tons. Dynamos damaged. Arrived Milford Haven. FAIRWATER, 4108 tons. Damaged. Arrived Milford Haven. ARGOS HILL, 7178 tons. Engines damaged. Arrived Southampton 16/7.



War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. for July 1940 - Contd.

Attack on Convoy O.A.178. (Contd.)	DEUCALION, 1796 tons (Dutch) sank 8/7. FLIMSTON, 4674 tons. Damaged. Arrived Barry 15/7. LIFLAND, 2254 tons. Condensers damaged. Arrived Barry 15/7. (T.S.D., 4965/40.)
E-Boat attack on Convoy O.A.178.	During night 4/5 July. Following ships torpedoed about 18 miles S.S.W. of Portland Bill:- BRITISH CORPORAL (6972 tons) reached Portland. HARTLEPOOL (5500 tons) reached Portland. BRITSUM (Dutch 5255 tons) beached off Selsey 7/7. Salvage except for scrap considered impossible. ELMCREST (4343 tons) Sunk. E-Boats appear to have operated from Cherbourg. (T.S.D., 4965/40.)
U-Boat sunk.	By HASTY 2339/7 in 32° 35' N. 28° 30' E. Sighted on surface at 1000 yards. Full pattern D.C. attack made and U-Boat was certainly sunk. (T.S.D., 4740/40.)
Air attack on Bergen 7/7.	Eight Skuas of 801 Squadron, leaving Hatston 7/0110, at 7/0345 attacked oil tanks at Lillevaag, 2½ miles 350° from Bergen; and at Florvaagsk Island in By Fiord 2½ miles 300° from Bergen. Very heavy A.A. fire. Some aircraft minor damage. Tanks bombed and thought to have been destroyed; black smoke and fires seen burning. No photographs taken. All machines apparently returned. (M. 013831/40, A.C. Orkneys and Shetlands 12/7/40.)
U-Boat damaged.	By HASTY at 0100/8 not far from S/M sunk 2339/7. (T.S.D. 4740/40.)
Disposal of French Fleet. Dakar.	RICHELIEU. Attack by 814 Sqdn. Report. 6 Swordfish under Lt.-Com. J.S. Luard engaged. All returned safely. One hit twice and one once. (A. 0789/40.) (Former M. 014637/40.) French battleship RICHELIEU attacked at 0245/8 by HERMES motor boat with four depth charges which apparently did not explode. Attacked at 0500/8, by six aircraft with torpedoes. from HERMES. Of the 6 torpedoes fired 4 were seen to be running correctly. C. in C. S.A. considers it 'probable that four and possibly five took effect'. 'RICHELIEU was definitely down by the stern and had to discharge 4000 tons of oil fuel'. D.N.C.(6/11/40 in M.015862) considers RICHELIEU cannot be regarded as out of action. (C. in C. S.A., 12/7/40 in M. 014637 and 27/7/40 in M. 015862.)
EMPIRE DAFFODIL.	British, 397 tons. Attacked by A/C 1516/9, 13 miles S.S.W. of Portland. Crew of 9. No casualties. Damaged. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
AEGEON.	Greek, 5285 tons. Attacked by A/C 0550/9 Weymouth Harbour. Crew 31. No casualties. Damaged. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. for July 1940 - Contd.

- FOXGLOVE. Seriously damaged by A/C attacked 0900/8, 8 miles S. of Nab. Towed into Portsmouth by rescue tug RESOLVE, which took over tow from Trawler HOLLY. H.M.T. AVALANCHE machine-gunned while going to assistance of FOXGLOVE. Damaged the attacking aircraft, which was probably the one reported to have come down in the sea S. of Selsey Bill. (T.S.D., 4965/40.)
- DAVISIAN sunk. <sup>operating as WIDDER. (Raider D)</sup> Attacked by raider NARVIK about 1330/10 approx. 450 miles N.E. of Barbados. Crew taken prisoner and vessel sunk. On 13/7 the Chief Officer and 24 members of crew were set adrift in ships' boat. 15 other members of crew (10 being left on board) were put in another boat with members of crew of KING JOHN. Chief Officer's boat recovered by S.S. LIEF, of Oslo, on 19/7 and taken to Puerto Plata. Report of Chief Officer. (M. 017425/40.)
- IA. Greek, 4860 tons, torpedoed 2250/11, 51 N., 14 W. Crew 30, casualties 3. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr.1.)
- SEA GLORY. British, 1964 tons. It is known that SEA GLORY, which sailed from Fowey, Cornwall on 5/7 and never arrived at Philadelphia, where she was due on 25/7, was torpedoed and sunk on 11/7. (D.S. 493, 10/1/41.)
- PERU. British, 6961 tons, attacked by A/C at anchor in Portland Harbour at noon/11. Severely shaken and engines put out of action. On 13/7 reported seaworthy to be towed to Southampton. (Minute Sheet & B. of T)
- Owers Light Vessel. Attacked by A/C 10/7, withdrawn 11/7 and replaced by a Bell Buoy off Owers Bank. (T.S.D., 4965/40.)
- S/M attacked 0310/12. By FORESTER 0310/12. 36° 13' N. 03° 38' W. Result doubtful. (M. 016038/40, M. 015276/40.)
- HORNCHURCH Sunk. Attacked by A/C in Convoy, and hit alongside bulwark rail. Crew took to boats and picked up by WIDGEON. No casualties. (Interview with Master, Shipping Casualties Section, Trade Division.)
- CORMEAD. British, 2848 tons. Attacked by A/C 0830/12 off Aldeburgh L.V. Crew 21, no casualties. No damage to ship. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- VOLANTE. British, 254 tons. Attacked by A/C 0230/12, 8-10 miles S.S.E. of Iceland. Crew 13, casualties 1. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- HORNCHURCH. British, 2162 tons. Attacked by A/C 0853/12, off Aldeburgh Light Vessel. Crew 22, no casualties. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- Dover Mine-laying Operation M.N. Further minefield to be laid to strengthen Goodwin - Ruytingen Minefield. Position 51° 11.4' N. 01° 51.6' E. extending 6 miles in direction 125°. To be carried out under direction of F.O.C. Dover. (M. 013611/40.)

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. for July 1940 - Contd.

- H.M.S.EAGLE July 11/1415 on passage to Alexandria 5 bombers  
Air activity. attacked. 1 bomber brought down. July 13/0750 off  
S.Coast of Crete, attacked 1 Savoia and 1 Gladiator  
brought down. July 13/1940 off S.Coast of Crete.  
(1 bomber brought down).  
(A/0861/40).
- Enemy Report of enemy A/C minelaying off Tyne.  
Minelaying. (F.O.I.C.Tyne M.013713/40).
- Convoys Report of dive bombing attack at 1220/13 by C.O.  
F.N. and F.S. H.M.S.WREN, and observations on fighter protection.  
(M.015347/40).
- LANCASHIRE British, 1104 tons, attacked 1830/13, 25 miles S.E.  
COAST. of Portland Bill, by six a/c with heavy bombs. One  
salvo fell close to ship causing damage above water-  
line. Vessel opened fire with 12-pdr. and Bren gun.  
With assistance from British fighters, enemy was  
driven off. No Casualties.  
(Minute sheet and B. of T. Casualty Form).
- ~~VOLANTE~~  
~~VOLANTE.~~ Bombed 0300 and sunk 10 miles E. of Hvaltarn.  
Crew rescued and taken to Rejkjavik.  
(T.S.D.4990/40). *See previous page.*
- <sup>N</sup>  
YUZBASI HAKKI. ~~British, 458 tons,~~ *Turkish minelayer.* bombed and machine gunned 1130/14  
off St. Albans Head. 1 man killed, presumed by machine  
gun bullet. New minelayer being delivered to  
Istanbul from Thornycroft. Attacked by several A/C's.  
Captain severely wounded, 1 A.B. killed, 1 A.B.  
wounded in legs.  
(Minute Sheet & B. of T.)
- BELLEROCK. British, 1199 tons. Mined or torpedoed 2145/15  
8-10 miles N.E. Nash Point. Crew 24. Casualties 17.  
Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- ZBARAZ. Polish, 2088 tons. Attacked by A/C 1415/15, 2 miles  
E. from Aldeburgh L.V. Crew 23. Casualties nil.  
Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- HEWORTH. In convoy. British, 2855 tons. Attacked by A/C 1430/15  
North sea between Shipwash Sands and Aldeburgh.  
Crew 24. Casualties 4. Damaged, aground.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- CALIPH. British, 226 tons. Attacked by A/C 1445/18, 25 miles  
S.S.W. Old Head of Kinsale. Crew 10. Casualties nil.  
Slight damage.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)

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- TERRIER. British, 179 tons. Attacked by A/C 2330/18, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles N.E.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile N. from Buchan Ness. Slight damage. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- PEARLMOOR. British, 4581 tons. Torpedoed 1630/19 56.23 N., 9.18 W. Casualties 13. Sunk. (Ref. Min. Sheet & Bd. of Trade For Inq. 1.) British 4581 tons. Sunk 1836/19 by explosion believed to be S/M. 13 missing believed dead. Position 55° 23' N. 9° 18' W. (Attack on Merchant Ship C.B. 3000 B. (38) Par. 27.)
- WAR SEPOY. Oiler. Bombed in Dover, back broken. 575 tons oil recovered, 3000 tons remain (22/7). Attempts to be made to take her out of Dover and beach her. (D.O.R. 322).
- DIOMEDE. Report of visit to St. Bartholomew's Island and information obtained from survivors of ships sunk by NARVIK. (M.018247/40).
- TROUTPOOL. British, 4886 tons. Mined 1332/20 off Bangor Pier. Crew 38. Casualties 11. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- 801 Air Squadron at Bergen 21/7. A.C.O.S. Report of attack by Skua A/C of 801 Squadron on Bergen. (M.014893/40).
- S/M reported 1330/22. 6° 30' S. 39° 0' E. (East Indies, in Zanzibar Channel). Possible periscope reported from shore and by A/C (doubtful). (D.S. 327).
- ALERT. British (Trinity House, Relief of Light Vessels), 793 tons. Attacked by A/C 1730/24 off Dover, 51.07 N., 1.26 E. Crew 39. No casualties (5 wounded). Damaged. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- RATHELIN. In convoy. British, 1600 tons. Attacked by A/C 0845/24, off Ramsgate. Crew 28. Casualties nil. Damaged. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- Operation "Nightingale" Operation by M.T.B's 70, 69 & 6 night 23/24 July against E boats. (M.014777/40).
- HUMBER ARM. In convoy. British, 5758 tons. Torpedoed 0650/25, Atlantic, 50.36 N., 9.24 W. Crew 42. No casualties. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)

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- PORTSLADE. British, 1091 tons. Attacked by A/C 1440/25 and 1600/25, English Channel. Crew 17, no casualties. Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- LEO. In convoy, British, 1140 tons. Attacked by A/C 1445/25 off Southend. Crew 27, casualties 6. Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- HENRY MOON. British, 1091 tons. Attacked by A/C 1610/25, 3 miles S. of Folkestone. Crew 16, no casualties. Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- ORLOCK HEAD. In convoy, British, 1563 tons. Attacked by A/C 1430/25, off Strathy Point. Crew 25, casualties 5. Presumed sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- POLGRANGE. In convoy, British, 804 tons. Attacked by A/C 1510/25 Straits of Dover. Crew 13, casualties 2. Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- LULONGA. In convoy, British, 821 tons. Attacked by A/C 1440/25 off Dover. Crew 13, no casualties. Damaged.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)  
Torpedoed by E-Boats 0200/26, 15 miles off Shoreham. Crew 13, 1 casualty. Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- CORHAVEN. In convoy, British, 991 tons. Attacked by A/C 1445/25 Straits of Dover. Crew 15, no casualties. Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- SANFRAY. In convoy, British, 946 tons. Attacked by A/C 0700/25 off Dover. Crew 15, no casualties. Escaped.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)  
Attacked by E-Boats 0230/26 off Shoreham. Crew 15, no casualties. Escaped.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- STAUNTON. H.M. Trawler. Lost with all hands, presumed destroyed by magnetic mine. Last sighted by SARAWARA at 2200/26 (M. 015727/40.)
- BALZAC. Norwegian, 963 tons, mined 2056/26 North Sea S.E. of Roker L. House. Crew 19. Casualties 9. Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- HAYTOR. In convoy, British, 1189 tons, mined 1145/26. North Sea. Crew 17. Casualty 1. Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- BROADHURST. British, 1013 tons, torpedoed by E-Boat 0230/26, English Channel. Crew 17. Casualties 4. Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- THIARA. In convoy, British, 10,364 tons, torpedoed 0200/27, 56.37 N. 17.56 W. Crew 61, casualties 25. Presumed Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)

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- SAMBRE. In convoy, British, 5260 tons, torpedoed 0150/27. North Atlantic, 56.37 N. 17.53 W. Crew 48, no casualties. Presumed sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- SALVESTRIA. British, 11938 tons, mined 1755/27. Firth of Forth 1½ miles E. Inchkeith. Crew 57, casualties 10. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- WESTAVON. British, 2482 tons. Attacked by A/C 1445/27 off Aldeburgh Float. N. Sea. Crew 23, no casualties. Damaged. Towed into Harwich. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- AUCKLAND STAR. British, 12,382 tons. Torpedoed 0440/28, 52.17 N., 12.32 W. Crew 72, no casualties. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- NEWCASTLE. Bombed in Plymouth Sound 0516/28 by dive bomber (Junkers 88) 2 bombs dropped, about 250 lbs. each, from 6000 ft. Both fell 100 yards astern, with delay action. No damage. A/C was shot down by 2 fighters which attacked after 4-inch A/A armament ceased fire. (M. 015452/40.)
- CLAN MENZIES. British, 7336 tons. Attacked by U-Boat 0015/29, 100 miles W. of Eagle Island, Ireland. Crew 94. Casualties 6. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- CLAN MONROE. British, 5952 tons. Attacked by U-Boat 1530/29 (mine or torpedo) vicinity of Shipwash L.V. Crew 78 and Army Gunners. Casualties 13. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- OUSEBRIDGE. British, 5601 tons. Mined 0930/29, River Mersey. Casualties 2. Sunk. (Ref. Bd. of Trade Form Inq. 1.)
- BLACKSWAN. In convoy, British, 1262 tons. Mined 1645/29, off Lowestoft. Crew 16. Casualties 11. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- GUILLEMOT. Report of enemy air attack at 1714 when acting as A/A defence ship for 12th M.S.F. Ship severely shaken by near misses but no structural damage. No casualties. 8 bombs dropped. 1 enemy A/C shot down. (M. 015334/40.)
- S/M attacked 0550/30. By KINGSTON JACINTH, 58.46½ N., 5.01 W. Report. (M. 015613/40.)
- JAMAICA PROGRESS. British, 5475 tons, torpedoed at 2340/30/7 in 56.26' N., 8.30' W. (See 1/8.) Position given as 26.26' N., 8.12' W. Stern of ship practically blown off. When in the boats, "U.41" seen on conning tower of submarine, Captain of which asked Chief Officer's boat where the Captain was and



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JAMAICA  
PROGRESS.  
(Contd.)

for the ship's papers. S/M submerged and fired second torpedo into the ship, afterwards surfacing again. Chief Officer's boat set sail and arrived Barra about 36 hours later.  
(Interview with A.E. Rich, Chief Officer.)  
Torpedoed 2310/30 in 56.26 N., 8.30 W. 8 lives lost, presumed killed by explosion. Second torpedo at 2340. Vessel abandoned at 2325. Crew about 15 hours in boats before being picked up.  
(Minute Sheet.)

MOOLTAN.

Attacked 0904/31 by 2 bombs, at 1255 by 8 bombs and machine guns and at 1855 by 9 bombs and machine guns. Material damage caused by first bomb dropped, although this was probably increased by cumulative effect of later bombs. 18 casualties, 8 only minor, and 2 serious.  
(M. 016995/40.)

WHITSHED.

Report of striking a mine on 31/7/40.  
(M. 015737/40.)

JERSEY CITY.

British, 6322 tons. Attacked 1225/31 by U-Boat Atlantic Ocean, 55.47 N., 9.18 W. Crew 45. Casualties 2. Sunk.  
(Ref. Form Wr. 1.)

S.S. CITY OF  
NEWCASTLE.

In Convoy O.B.191. Attacked a U-Boat in 55° 45' N. 9° 30' W. 1225/31. Doubtful result.  
(M. 015378/40.)