

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.9.1940.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORTHome CommandsOperation
D.T.

FURIOUS, BERWICK and NORFOLK, escorted by 3 destroyers left Scapa p.m. today to attack shipping at Trondheim early on 22/9.

Attacks on
Enemy Shipping

Agreement with the Air Ministry has been reached regarding the areas within which shipping in Home Waters may be attacked by aircraft.

INNISHDU

Reported total loss with 4 hands as result of explosion, cause not established at 2001/20.

Preparations
for Invasion

A considerable concentration of vessels is reported at Trondheim

British Air Operations

Hampdens attacked the Old and New Aqueducts of the Dortmund-Ems Canal last night; one burst was seen on the structure of the Aqueduct.

Attacks on shipping and barges at Ostend, though hampered by bad weather were carried out successfully. Shipping was also attacked off Kaap Hoofd, but results were not observed.

At 1500 today a Blenheim on reconnaissance bombed two E-Boats off Le Havre, without success. Two Ansons bombed a 12,000 ton merchant vessel and a 6000 to 8000 ton tanker off Ushant, without success. Another Anson attacked a merchant vessel in St. Peter's Port, Guernsey, but results were not observed.

Enemy Air Operations

A small coasting vessel of about 100 tons was sunk with all hands by 2 bombs.

SS TRITO (Dutch 1057 tons) was sunk, probably by a bomb, this evening in the western part of the English Channel.

Damage was caused at Deptford by air attack last night. Lowestoft was bombed early this morning, but no damage was caused.

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Friday.SITUATION REPORTMining

Hampdens last night laid mines successfully off Verdon in the Gironde Estuary.

Enemy aircraft carried out minelaying last night off the east coast. Two magnetic mines were dropped at Ipswich one of which exploded.

One more magnetic mine has been detonated at Plymouth.

South AtlanticFrench Cruisers

GLOIRE (see 19/9) eventually agreed to return to Casablanca, escorted by AUSTRALIA. GEORGE LEYGUES and MONTCALM continued to proceed north westward, shadowed by CUMBERLAND and a Walrus aircraft from Bathurst; the French ships entered Dakar at 0550 and CUMBERLAND returned to Freetown at 0005/21)

A French escort ship of ELAN class was sighted this morning east of Gibraltar, proceeding towards the Straits. Air patrol is being maintained to provide warning of movements of French naval units from Toulon or Oran westward through the Straits.

Operation "Menace"

This operation has been postponed 24 hours. BRIDGEWATER with convoy M.S. was ordered to reverse course for the appropriate time. BARHAM, FORTUNE, FURY arrived at Freetown at 0600 today, and S.O. Force M. in DEVONSHIRE with INGLEFIELD, GREYHOUND and ESCAPADE two hours later. The flag of S.O. Force M. and H.Q. were transferred from DEVONSHIRE to BARHAM.

MediterraneanShipping

A Malta Shipping Committee has been formed at Alexandria to coordinate all requirements of supplies for Malta.

Air Attack on Matruh.

60 enemy bombers escorted by 12 fighters attacked Matruh today. An Army petrol dump was fired and damage caused to M.T. vehicles and the railway line. AA guns shot down one bomber.



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SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Air Raids on
Berbera & Assab

Blenheims today attacked Berbera and Assab Harbour; results at Assab were not observed.

Wellesleys dropped bombs at Mersa Taclai (140 miles North of Massawa) and at Gura:

Raider

SS. COMMISSAIRE RAMEL reported being attacked by a raider at 1948Z/19 in the southern part of the Indian Ocean 1000 miles S.E. of Mauritius. ARAWA has been ordered to search and NEPTUNE is returning to Mauritius to fuel.

Convoy B.N. 5.
Attacked by A/C

Two enemy air attacks were made today on Convoy B.N. 5. with troops and supplies for Suez in the southern part of the Red Sea. SS BHIMA was damaged and was taken in tow for Aden by SS ASHBURY.

Convoy B.N. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$

Owing to trouble in SS ORMONDE Convoy B.N. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ has been delayed 24 hours.

Italian
Submarine

X 2 arrived at Aden in tow of PROTECTOR this morning.

China

SS MARIE MOLLER (British) was fired at and hit by a Japanese warship at 1300 today at Haimen. DURBAN has been ordered to investigate and, as a first step to demand the release of the ship.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

- Nore Command. Air reconnaissance unsatisfactory.
Notice for steam. Cruisers, Destroyers and Corvettes remain at half an hour's notice till 0900/20. (C.-in-C., Nore, 0607/20).
- Chatham Gun Defences. A/M. 1936/2. Expect complete mounting of guns of 5.5-inch Battery at St. Margarets on 23/9. (O.I.C. Chatham, No.2. Gun Mounting Party 1127/20 to Admty).
- Shipping along, Dutch, French and Belgian Coasts. Greatest importance is attached to discovering whether ships and barges proceeding West along Dutch, Belgium and French Coasts are laden or light. Request low altitude obliques may be taken of these craft whenever favourable opportunity occurs. (Air Ministry 1805/20 to C.C.).
- Burning Oil as Invasion Defence. Admty. 1847/16. Early report to be forwarded stating Ports at which it is proposed to instal this form of defence. (V.C.N.S.1900/20 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth, W.A., Nore, Rosyth and V.A. Dover).
- Movements.
- A.P. Patrols. For 20/9. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 0915/20 to Admty).
- Northern Patrol. Cancel my 0945/13. Trawler positions. (SONT.0931/20 to F.O.C.N.P.).
- D.26. VELOX. Approved for Destroyers of 26th Div. to be refitted one at a time in U.K. VELOX is being sailed with Convoy H.G.44 and C.-in-C., W.A. requested to sail her to Chatham on her arrival in U.K. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1227/20 to C.-in-C., W.A.).
- Harwich. Disposition of Corvettes for night 20/21. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1231 and 1852/20 to C.-in-C., Nore).


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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.Orkneys.Movements for night 20/21.
(A.C.O.S.1531/20 and 2031/20).
Trawler Line 20/9. (A.C.O.S.1536/20).Dover.Patrols for night 20/21. (V.A.Dover
1535/20).VENETIACarry out full calibre Night Firing
in arranged position at 2100/20.
CATTISTOCK will R/V at Aldeborough
L.V. at 1900. (Capt. D.21 1555/20
to VENETIA).D.21.Movements for 21/9. (Capt. D.21
1900/20 to C.-in-C., Nore).Operations.Iceland.A/S Trawler LORD LLOYD arrived.
(N.O.I.C., ~~IRLAND~~ ^{Iceland} 1015/20 to
Admty).Start Point.A Patrol is to be established tonight
by A/S trawlers from 50° 5' N. 3° 40' W.
to 50° 20' N. 3° W. (C.-in-C., W.A.
1447/20 to N.O.I.C., Dartmouth).Channel Patrol.Tonight 20th. MACKAY, VOLUNTEER,
VISCOUNT, VANOC patrol Eastward to
Lydd. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1527/20
to Admty).Trondheim.
(Operation D.T.)Admty 1111/20. para.7. BERWICK,
NORFOLK and FURIOUS escorted by 3
Destroyers will arrive at 64° 30' N.
7° 50' E. at 0230/22 and will operate
near there before retiring Westward.
(A.C.O.S.1831/20 to H.Q.C.C.).Operation ^{"active"}3 Dutch Schoots, manned by Royal
Marines and equipped as Anti-E. Boats,
will be operated by C.-in-C., Nore.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1903/20 to C.-in-C.,
Portsmouth, W.A. and V.A. Dover).

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FridayHOME COMMANDS.Submarines.TRIBUNEExpect arrive Falmouth 0830/20.
(TRIBUNE 0004/20 to C.-in-C., W.A.).→ H.43AMBROSE PARE will R/V with you at
0630/21 two miles South of St.
Catherines for inward Escort. (Capt.S.5.
1031/20 to H.43).Attack on Enemy
Convoy at 0448/16.Report by H.49. (S.O. S/Ms. Harwich.
1107/20 to V.A.S.).Admty. 1833/7/7.Movements 21/9 in Greenock Area.
(F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1442/20).UTMOST.Intend sail at 1600/22 for Area S.3.
Route on surface. (S.5. 1459/20 to Admty).Positions.For following 24 hours at 0700/21.
(V.A.S.1623/20 and 2209/20).Admty. 1532/8.~~L.23~~
L.23 will be exercising in Scapa Flow
A.M. and P.M./21. (A.C.O.S.1627/20 to
Admty). L.27 and H.43 on Patrol D.4.
and W.2. respectively TALISMAN
proceeded 1730 to relieve Patrol W.2
(C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1810/20 to Admty).British Air Activity.Instructions to
A/C as to
attacks on
Shipping.In North Sea, Bay of Biscay, English
Channel, Swedish and Spanish Territorial
Waters. These to supersede all previous
instructions. (V.C.N.S.1111/20 to
Cs.-in-C.).Patrol H.C.A.C.O.S.1818/19. Times for Patrol 20
to 23/9 inclusive. (Hatston 1201/20 to
A.C.O.S.)Dutch Coast.Available A/c of 22 Sqn. armed with
torpedoes to attack tonight 20/21
shipping outside Helder or suitable
targets along coast Flushing to Cuxhaven
as in my A. P./429/19/9. (H.Q.C.C.
1507/20 to 16 Group).



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FridayHOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Glasgow Balloon Barrage.

Request Air Ministry be asked to authorise A.O.C. to adjust existing Balloon Sites to cover existing gap. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow 1736/20 to Admty).

Rosyth Air Searches.

For 21/9. (C.-in-C., Rosyth, 1800/20).

Trelawney Balloon Defences.

Balloon Command has proposed verbally to transfer 11 vessels for Water-borne sites from Trelawney to Belfast. As Belfast Sites are being provided, request you consider retention of water-borne sites at Trelawney. (D. of L.D. 1921/20 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.Lowestoft.

At 0537, ten H.E. Bombs between Patrols Depot and Corton, some in sea. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 0615/20 to Admty).

Deptford.

Details of damage during air-raid night 19/20. (S.R.V.Y. Deptford 0735/20).

SUSSEX.

Condition at 1700/20. F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2245/20 to Admty).

Mining.S.N. Operations.

C.-in-C., H.F.'s 1015/19. Suggest anti-submarine screen of fast trawlers with one additional vessel fast enough to regain Sqdn. after taking over any contact made by trawlers. Alternatively I am prepared to operate in S.N. Forty Series Area without a screen except when U-boats are known to be in the area. (R.A.M.L. 1134/20 to Admty).

Mines dropped inland.

R.A.F. Debden reports magnetic mine, cylinder 8 ft. by 2 ft. diam. dropped by parachute night 19/20 located at Sudbury. Another dropped near Stowmarket not yet found. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1208/20 to Admty).



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FridayHOME COMMANDS.Mining.Off Brighton.

My 1507/19. WOLVERINE reports underwater explosion at 0020/20 in 50° 22' N. 0° 10' E. No surface craft seen, but a White Flare about 4 miles to Southward. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1235/20 to Admty).

Scapa Flow.

My 1905/3. Following areas in the flow, and also Switha Sound, are considered clear; other parts of Flow still suspect. There is a German mine in the Cantick minefield and one suspected in Water Sound, one mile W. of Burray Pier. Hoy Sound not yet swept and QZY 133 remains in force. (A.C.O.S. 1240/20 to C.-in-C., H.F.).

North of Lundy Island.

A/S trawler BEDFORDSHIRE sank a mine at 1130/19 in 51° 21' 30" N. 4° 39' W. Mine described. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 1257/20 to Admty).

Operation P.R. Mines off Flushing.

Your 2027/19. Request you include orders to ensure that Corvettes and destroyers do not make contact during withdrawal. Weather permitting a Unit of 70 ft. M.T.Bs. will be operating to S.W. clear of Corvettes, and these can be called on if Corvettes need their help. (C.-in-C., Nore 1300/20 to F.O.I.C., Harwich).

Fast Minesweepers.

7 Fast Minesweepers on front of 5 miles will be in 52° 10' N. 2° 38' E. at 0600/21 sweeping on course 270° at 12 Kts. and arriving Aldeburgh L.F. at 0900. Code Word ~~ADAPT~~. (H.Q.C.C. 1300/20 to Admty). "Adapt".

Gironde, Off Ile de Re.

PORPOISE laid mines in 46° 24' N. 2° W. (F.O.S. 2146/20 to CACHALOT).

TRITO (s s)

Mined in 50° 22' N. 2° 50' W. (Land's End Radio 2150/20). See page 493. under enemy air operations. (Note in BR1337 Bombed by a/c 50° 23' N 02° 43' W. 20/9. 7142)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Medway.

My 1545/19. Movements in Medway now resumed. (C.-in-C., Nore 2249/20 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Zeebrugge, Dunkirk,) PRU Sortie at 1525/20. (PIU 0001/21
Blankenberg,) to N.I.D.).
Gravelines.)

2 Convoys off Ushant.

At 1220, one large M/v, one Destroyer and 7 Escort vessels in 48° 33' N. 5° 3' W. and 9 M/Vs. in 48° 6' N. 5° 15' W. (Plymouth ACHQ 0930/20 to Admty). (F.O.S.1147/20 and 1426/20). (D.D.I.C., 2116/20 to Cs.-in-C.)

Gironde 10/9 and 11/9.

Report by TAKU. (TAKU 1035/20 to C.-in-C., W.A.).

Boulogne.

At 0935/20 PRU Sortie shows 5 vessels torpedo boats or possibly Destroyers, 2 miles South of Boulogne steering Northerly at high speed, and again at 1040/20 off Calais steering N.E. (PIU 1545/20 to N.I.D.).

Cherbourg.

On 20/9. (PRU St. Eval 1700/20 and PIU.2256/20).

Flushing.


At 0325/20 about 100 barges dispersed. (H.Q.B.C. Summary No.436).

Rotterdam, Hook }
Antwerp.

P.R.U. Sortie at 1630/20. Steamers and Barges. (P.I.U.0400/21).

Miscellaneous.

A further supply of six tugs for use in River Clyde is now essential. Scarcity of tugs is causing delay every day. Suitable dimensions, length about 100 ft. H.P.600 to 1,300. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1836/20 to Admty).


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Friday.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects

- KING CITY British collier. Tons. Overdue at Singapore since 2/9 and probably lost. (A.S. Singapore 0520/20 to Adty.)
- HYLTON (British 5197 tons). Townsville, Queensland 11/8 due Panama 11/9 arrived 19/9. (D.S. 382).
- BRITISH FREEDOM (Tanker 6985 tons) Abadan 18/8 due Cape Town 12/9, overdue. (D.S. 381).
- BRITISH COMMANDER My 0416/27/8. Overdue at Abadan from Cape Town since 12/9. (C. in C. East Indies 0606Z/20 to Adty.)

ShippingConvoys

- OB.217 Two A/S trawlers from Belfast and OTTAWA from R.V. at 0730/22 (C. in C., W.A. 1103/20).
- FS.85 Reported in Barrow Deep. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1221/20).
- OB.216 Route (C. in C., W.A. 1600/20).
- WN.16 Arrived 1230/20. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1242/20).
- MT. N.C.S.O. Methil's 1102/20. Suggest term MT be abolished and that south bound convoys should start as FS from Methil. (D.T.D., 1549/20 to C. in C., Rosyth).
- OB.219 Route. (D.T.D., 1416/20).
- FS. & FN Forecast of sailings. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0015/20).
- HX and SC. Your 1950/19. Concur. (D.T.D. to C. in C., W.A., 1548/20).

Routes

For present, routes for ships from dispersal point to destination should not pass through an area bounded by 56°N., 58°N., 20°W. & 25°W. (D.T.D., 1550/20).

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Adty. 1915/16. Shell required, details (S.O. Force H. 0911/20)

*Gibraltar arrival 0730/20 S.O. Force H in RENOWN, GALLANT, GRIFFIN, FIREDRAKE, ENCOUNTER. (S.O. Force H, 0820/20)*Air R.C. of Gibraltar

One Aircraft reconnoitred Gibraltar 0845/20 and was driven off by A.A. Fire. (F.O.C.N.A. 1105/20)

Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Forces.

Your 2306. Following message from French ship in reply to para-phrase of Admtty 1754/19. I assure you that in no case will I allow my cruisers (? to) pass under control of Germans.
(CUMBERLAND 0026N/20 to F.O. Force M)

Walrus .96 is to carry out reconnaissance patrol from 0530/20 to locate (?) (2) French cruisers of GALISSONIERE Class presumed proceeding Dakar. Probable position 0530 14° N., 17° 30' W. CUMBERLAND in contact and shadowing at 1955 in position 9° 43' N., 16° 24' W course 325° speed 30 knots. Aircraft to report to S.O. Force M and CUMBERLAND if sighted. Aircraft should not approach within (? 20) miles of French territory and should endeavour to remain unobserved but report if cruisers enter Dakar would be valuable. French aircraft patrols may be met. Walrus to remain based at Bathurst for the present. (C in C., S.A. 0029 N /20 to Actg. Gov. Bathurst)

French cruiser stopped in position 009° 40' N., 015° 40' W., asks permission to proceed Conakri to repair damage to main engine. Have replied can only (?allow) her to proceed to Freetown escorted. (F.O. Force M. 0040N/20 to Adty.)

My 0026N. Am continuing Parley.
(CUMBERLAND 0052N/20 to S.O. Force M.)

Have suggested sea R.V. to meet your representative. French Commander ineligible for this (2 corrupt groups) and is communicating with his chief.
(?CUMBERLAND 0112N/20 to S.O. Force M)

/My 0040.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and Interception
of French Naval Forces-Contd.

My 0040. (? French Cruiser GLOIRE) has accepted the option given to her of returning to Casablanca and is proceeding -escorted by AUSTRALIA. (F.O.Force M. 0134/20 to Adty.)

In view of situation do you wish me to leave harbour. (ARK ROYAL 0145/20 to S.O.Force M.)

ARK ROYAL and RESOLUTION screened by FAULKNER FORESTER FORESIGHT and ECHO are to escort group 2 which is to sail as soon as possible after 0600. FORTUNE and FURY are to join group 2 as soon as they have oiled. BARHAM and DEVONSHIRE screened by INGLEFIELD ESCAPADE and GREYHOUND will sail as soon as possible to join group 2. (F.O.Force M 0224/N/20 to Force M.)

Your 0026/20 and Admiralty's 1754/19. If you consider it now impracticable prevent these ships entering Dakar return to Freetown at maximum possible speed refuel. Report action taken. (F.O.Force M. 0246N/20 to CUMBERLAND)

Your 0246. Probably impracticable to prevent entry into Dakar. Am still trying to persuade force to follow example of damaged GLOIRE and proceed to Casablanca. Will shadow till destination certain and then return to Freetown at maximum speed. (CUMBERLAND 0421N/20 to S.O.Force M.)

Heavy rain visibility 1 mile. Have lost touch temporarily. (CUMBERLAND 0437N/20)

Regained touch my position 194° Cape Verde 35 enemy bear 033° 10 miles. (CUMBERLAND 0530N/20 to S.O.Force M)

0550 enemy entering Dakar. (CUMBERLAND 0601N/20)

/Situation.....



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Operation "Menace" and Interception
of French Naval Forces-Contd.

Situation when touch regained 0530 after heavy rains enemy fine on my bows distant 10 miles from me and 25 miles from Dakar. Following is text of my last signal to French Commander before touch lost. Begins. Your colleague with engine trouble has now promised to return to Casablanca accompanied by one of mine. Can you give me an assurance that you will do the same and I will accompany you for part of the voyage. 0340. Ends. This may effect situation but I consider GLOIRE would have reported to French Authorities and hoped to persuade energetic French forces to follow her example. Returning 29 knots to refuel.
(CUMBERLAND 0706/20 to S.O.Force M.)

Flag S.O. Force M. and H.Q. are being transferred to BARHAM now. (S.O.Force M 0747N/20 to C. in C., S.A.)

Report position course and speed of GLOIRE periodically. She must be directed clear of convoys proceeding in accordance with M.N.S.8. para 7, 9 and 11 and M.N.S. 9. (S.O.Force M. 0742N/20 to AUSTRALIA)

Deferred to
23.9.40.

From M.A. begins at urgent request of de Gaulle date has been deferred 1 day to 23/9. (S.O.Force M. 0831/20 to Adty.)

My position 009° 46' ^N 05° 51' W. GLOIRE in company. Course and speed since parting company with DEVONSHIRE 295° 5 knots. (AUSTRALIA 0840Z/20 to S.O. Force M.)

Reference M.N. 351 9, D-one postponed one day; inform Cdr. and reverse course of convoy now for appropriate time. (S.O.Force M. 0847/20 to BRIDGEWATER)

/Following.....



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Operation "Menace" and Interception
of French Naval Forces-Contd.

-Following from G.O.C. Force A addressed W.O.S.O. Force M. C. in C., S.A., Begins Naval Force under S.O. Force M. put to sea on urgent operation today. Force A. remaining Freetown pending result which may cause postponement of Menace from present date which is 22/9. Adty. 1947/14 not previously received shown today by C. in C. ~~S.A.~~ If reinforcements referred to join Force A, request second brigade H.Q. be included if not already, suggest H.Q. 102 R.M. Brigade T.O.O. 1620/19. Ends. Admty. pass to W.O. (C. in C., S.A. 0935/20 to Adty.)

Lost touch B.D.V. QUANNET (BRIDGEWATER 0950Z/20 to S.O. Force M.,)

B.D.V. QUANNET now in company. (BRIDGEWATER, 1505Z/20)

At 0900Z/20. PRIMAUGUET and Oiler 002° 43' N., 004° 06' W. course 280° 12 knots All quiet. (CORNWALL 0954/20 to C. in C., S.A.)

Arrival Freetown 0600/20 BARHAM, FORTUNE, FURY, 0800 S.O. Force M. in DEVONSHIRE with INGLEFIELD GREYHOUND and ESCAPADE. (S.O. (I) Freetown, 1011/20 to Adty.)

Inform GLOIRE that if CUMBERLAND is attacked by a submarine, you have orders to sink GLOIRE. (1st S.L. 1042/20 to CUMBERLAND) [*Amended, 1138/20, see p. 507*]

WISHART will be near Adadir night 20/21 Sept. then returning Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1128/20 to AUSTRALIA)

Maintenance of a patrol at sufficient distance to East of Gibraltar to give adequate warning of approach of French force involves (a) a strain on available destroyers and patrol craft, (b) drastic reduction of surface A/S patrol in Straits (c) danger of distant patrols being raided by Italian surface craft, as they cannot be afforded close support. In view of above request I may be informed directly it is considered that this patrol may be relaxed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1130/20 to Adty.)

/My.....



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Operation "Menace" and Interception
of French Naval Forces-Contd.

My position course and speed are 009°
49' N., 016° 01' W., 295° 10 knots.
(AUSTRALIA 1135Z/20 to S.O. Force M)

Cancel my 1042/20 and substitute.
AUSTRALIA inform GLOIRE that if AUSTRALIA
is attacked by a submarine AUSTRALIA has
orders to sink GLOIRE. (D.O.D. (F)
1138/20 to CUMBERLAND, AUSTRALIA.)

Following intercepted in plain language
at 0730 G.M.T. Toulon to Bizerta add-
ressed to 4th Squadron. The 4th cruiser
division is to proceed to Dakar.
(D.D.I.C. 1142/20 to C. in C., Med.,
F.O.C.N.A., Force H., Force M. C. in C.
S.A.)

Following is substance of messages ex-
changed with GLOIRE, begins. Understand
you undertook to return to Casablanca.
I am escorting you there, please give me
your word you will obey my route orders
and will not communicate information of
assistance to enemy submarines. Reply.
Your message not exact. I agree under
Duress to proceed to Casablanca but
did not accept escort. Will give word to
follow exact route of my choosing to
Casablanca provided you give me my
liberty; you need have no fear of sub-
marines. Ends. I have told GLOIRE I
will use force if he disobeys my orders,
if he obeys my orders I receive in-
structions to liberate him. He has
communicated route. (AUSTRALIA 1155Z/20
to C. in C., S.A.)

My position 1200 N 011° 21' N., 017°
35' W. course and speed 190° 29 knots.
Arriving Freetown 2330 (CUMBERLAND
1201/20)

One French destroyer in position 036°
04' N., 003° 06' W., at 1055 course 270°
If as appears at present she is un-
accompanied by heavier ships intend to
let her pass Straits after identification.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1210/20 to Adty.)

/S.O. Force M.....



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Operation "Menace" and Interception
of French Naval Forces-Contd.

Admiralty 1138/20.

S.O. Force M, whom I have seen, reports, begins:-GLOIRE on being informed by de Gaulle's Emissary by loud speaker in terms of S.O. Force M's 1012/14 made no reply except that he asked to go to Konakri for engine repairs. On being refused and ordered to Freetown he replied that he chose alternative offer to him of proceeding to Casablanca in spite of being given a guarantee of free conduct from Freetown to Casablanca later. It is considered he thereby gave an undertaking to go to Casablanca but to a question whether it was understood he would not call Dakar gave no reply. Ends.

GLOIRE is being escorted by one ship. Considered undertaking not to call Dakar in any case should be obtained and failing this GLOIRE to be informed any interference by French surface forces will be regarded as breaking agreement and result in hostile action being taken against her to disable. In fact she should agree to go to Casablanca "rescue" or "no rescue". De Gaulle considers it is greatly to advantage that up to present no guns have been fired.
(C. in C., S.A. 1253/20 to Adty.)

Your 1142/20. Is it confirmed that the fourth Cruiser Division is the Force now off Dakar? (F.O.C.N.A., 1310/20 to Adty.)

My 1155Z. Route 9 position 010° 00' 016° 35' 011° 35' 020° 00' 020° 00' thence direct to Casablanca. Present speed 12 knots probably increasing to 15 knots this evening. Position GLOIRE at 1200 zone plus 1, 009° 52' N 016° 16' W. (AUSTRALIA 1401/20 to C. in C., S.A.)

Flag of F.O. M., will be hoisted in DEVONSHIRE and hoisted in BARKHAM at sunset today Friday 20th. (F.O. Force M, 1403N/20 to Adty.)

My 1142/20 Before armistice with division consisted of GLOIRE, MONTCALM and GEORGES LEGUES. It is not known if intercepted message refers to these ships or to possible reinforcements.
(D.O.D. (F) 1426/20 to C. in C. and S.O.)

/My 1210.....



20.9.1940.

Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Forces-Contd.

My 1210. Vessel identified as escort ship of ELAN class. Her position course and speed at 1325 was 275° ^{16 Albatross 25} 16 knots. No other vessels sighted (F.O.C.N.A. 1526/20 to Adty.)

Group one will pass through position reported at 0200 Z speed of advance 5.5. knots. (BRIDGEWATER 1633Z/20 to S.O. Force M.)

When GLOIRE is sufficiently far North to prevent her taking part in "Menace" she need not be escorted. (1st S.L. 1656/20 to S.O. Force M.)

My 1426/20. It is now considered that the 4th Cruiser Division referred to consists of the three French cruisers which have been operating from Dakar and not to reinforcements from Bizerta. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1640/20)

Area covered Spartel to Meridian of 01° 35' west Primary object of reconnaissance patrol to eastward now being carried out daily is to provide warning of movement of French Naval Units from Toulon or Oran westward through Straits. (200 Group 1719/20 to Air Min.)

PRIMAUGUET is to be directed to steer so as to pass to the westward of 008° 00' N., 020° 00' W. in order to clear shipping route. (C. in C., S.A., 2035N/20 to CORNWALL)

H.M. Govt. will be anxious to know how Menace is progressing. Hence request frequent reports of progress. C. in C., Med. will be informed of outline of Menace on 22/9. (1st S.L. 2324/20 to S.O. Force M.)

French Africa.

Situation Report No. 20 (D.N.I. 1937/20)

At 0800 Saturday 21st inform GLOIRE you accept his word that he will proceed to Casablanca whatever orders he may receive from his superiors. Report then to be discontinued (1st S.L., 2313/20 to AUSTRALIA)



War Diary

510

MOST SECRET

20.9.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE

Owing to D/F indication of German Naval unit in the vicinity, increase speed to 18 knots and steer for 004°10' N., 017°30' W. thence to Freetown arriving 0800/23. (C. in C., S.A. 1301/20 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

Your 1031/20 and 1301/20. Transmission referred to in Simonstown's 0230/20 originated from probable U-Boat to the North Westward of Ireland. (D.D.I.C. 1756/20 to C. in C. S.A.).

French troop movements

French Adty. informs me via French N.A. troop movements will take place from Djibouti to Saigon. First sailing 26/9 for end of September, second sailing about 11/10. Ships will burn navigation lights and have painted national colours on hull and bridge. (N.A. Madrid, 1808/20).

BRUSEJ³ARL

My 1005/18 Norwegian ship BRUSE³JARL arrived Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 2235B/20).

DRAGON

Arrived 1830/20. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2351/20).

Medi terranean

Air

Correction to Air Min. 1851/19.
(Air Min. 1851/20).

Operations

Following operations are intended in concert with H.Q. Western Desert.

A. LADYBIRD to carry out further bombardment of Italian positions night 21/22.

B. Four destroyers to carry out A/S sweep to westward 21st, followed by bombardment of Italian positions night 21/22 and return to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med. 1547/20).



20.9.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Malta Shipping Committee

Formed at Alexandria, short title S.M.S.C. to coordinate requirements for Malta. Anticipation for next fast convoy, etc. (C. in C., Med., 1511/20). My 1511. Request you impress on Governor running of convoy to Malta imposes heavy commitment on E. Med. Fleet. Important that requirements for all Services cut to minimum. Would like to be assured full rationing of all commodities is already in force. (C. in C., Med., 1513/20).

ELENI

Greek, 1441 tons, stopped by Italian U/B about 65' E. of Cape Spartivento, Sardinia, 0200/16, subsequently allowed to proceed. (D.S. 382).

China.

KING CITY

Collier, overdue at Singapore since 2/9 probably lost. (A.S. Singapore, 0520/20).

MARIE MOLLER fired at by Japanese

Following signal received by Mollers from S.S. MARIE MOLLER 1625/20. Begins Entered Port of Haimen 0100. Struck by shell from Japanese warship at 1300, no casualties. Left Port. Detained in 28° 43' N., 121° 47' E. Ends. (Two). Request your instructions before approaching Japanese observing that Haimen was notified all ports closed on 8/8/39 by Japanese (B.C.G. Shanghai number 406 8/8/1939 to Ambassador Shanghai refers). (N.L.O. Shanghai, 0852Z/20 to C. in C., China).
N.L.O. Shanghai's 0852/20. Proceed to vicinity Haimen and if MARIE MOLLER sighted investigate circumstances keeping if possible outside territorial waters. Your must return to Hong Kong without refuelling. (C. in C., China, 1741Z/20 to DURBAN).
Your 0852/20. You should as a first step demand an explanation and his immediate release. (C. in C., China, 1743/20).

*approx 28° N
121 3/4 E*

*= Taichan Bay
North China*

180 miles S of Shanghai

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.9.1940.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesRaider

NORSEMAN reports intercepting raider report signal at 0111 G.M.T. hardly audible jammed local station, her position 14° 33' S., 38° 42' W., (Portishead Radio 0111/20)

A.P. 1.

Date of expected arrival at Suez (C.inC., 1028Z/20)

BRITISH
COMMANDER

Due Abadan 12/9 from Capetown, overdue My 0416/27/8 refers (C. in C., E.I. 0606Z/20)

X.2.

(S/M ex Italian) Arrived in tow salvage vessel PROTECTOR at 0600Z (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0801Z/20)

DIAMOND

Left 0745Z to join A.P.1. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0808Z/20)

SHROPSHIRE

Left 0800Z for ^{Colombo.}~~Colombo.~~ (N.O.I.C. Aden 0808Z/20)

ANTENOR

Left 0135Z escorting ORMONDE (S.O.I., Bombay, 1131Z/20) *See also next page*

COMMISSAIRERAMELAttacked by raiderOrders toARAWA,NEPTUNE

ARAWA proceed forthwith to position 022° S., 065° E at best possible speed (C. in C., E.I. 0422/20 to Force V.)

My 2052/19 Following dispositions being made. (1) ARAWA to position 022° S 065° E due p.m./21. Then probably cruise to westward.

(11) NEPTUNE if fuel permits to Mauritius, otherwise to Durban for fuel (C. in C., E.I. 0454/20 to Adty.)

Raider reported gunning COMMISSAIRE RAMEL in position 28° 25' S. 74° 23' E at 1948Z/19. (D.D.I.C. 0835/20 to A.C.N.B. etc.,)

My 0454/20. Para two NEPTUNE will arrive at Mauritius daylight 22/9. (C. in C., E.I. 1352/20)

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.9.1940.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.Convoy B.N. 5½
delayed

(1) Owing to disaffection amongst troops in ORMONDE B.N. 5½ escorted by KANIMBLA was sailed without her at about 1230Z/19. COLOMBO joined KANIMBLA later.

(2) ORMONDE escorted by ANTENOR sailed 0130Z/20.

(3) Leading group has been turned round and two groups will rendezvous about 0800Z/20 when ANTENOR will return to Bombay.

(4) B.N. 5½ programme will be run 24 hours late. (C. in C., E.I. 0408Z/20)

Owing to trouble in ORMONDE Convoy B.N. 5½ delayed 24 hours. R.V. with Force Q now 012° 045' 1530Z/25. Red Sea R.V. 018° 36' 039° 52' 0500Z/27. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0404Z/20 C. in C., E.I.)

CAP VARELLA

Reference S.O. (I) Singapore 0209/19 I presume French CAP VARELLA can proceed anyhow as Aden pending decision on whether or not troops will be withdrawn (C. in C., E.I., 0952Z/20 to Adty.)

Air Attacks on
Berbera and
Assab

Daily Intelligence Summary No 102 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours to 1500 20/9. One Blenheim 2315/19/ hits in area results not known upposed. One Blenheim attacked Assab harbour 0030 results unknown upposed. 1 Blenheim 4 fighter patrol over A.P.1. 1430 to 1780. 3 Blenheims maintained fighter patrol over B.N. 5 0330 to 1200. 2 enemy air attacks convoy B.N. 5. first at 0740 8 miles S.E. Abu Ail SS BHIMA disabled extent damage and casualties unknown. Fighter failed to intercept due cloud. Second at 1320 when fighter detained Kamaran no details. 1 Blenheim 4 fighter patrol SS BHIMA 1300 to 1600 No casualties all times G.M.T. 1758/20.

Air Attacks
on Convoy B.N. 5.Convoy B.N. 5.
Bombed

H.M.S. LEANDER reports B.N. 5. bombed at 0740Z. 20th. SS. BHIMA damaged. At present stopped in position 013° 57' N. 042° 53' E. CALEDON proceeding to stand by. (C. in C., E.I. 1016Z/20) My 1016/20. BHIMA now in tow of ASHBURY returning to Aden speed 3 knots Four and five holds flooded to water level. No steam. Weather calm. Casualty one man killed none seriously injured. CALEDON in company. Salvage Tug PROTECTOR proceeding to assistance. (C. in C., E.I. 1804Z/20)

My 1016/20 B.N.5 again bombed at 1320Z 5 aircraft. No damage. One enemy aircraft (probably damaged (C. in C., E.I. 1842Z/20)



War Diary

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514
MOST SECRET

20.9.40.
Friday.


FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

New Caledonia

My 1855Z/19. Following received from ADELAIDE. Sautot's formal assumption of powers at 0430Z/19 is confirmed. Ends. (A.C.N.B. 1505/20 to Adty.)

Following message for General de Gaulle, begins:- Following on my tel 379 sent direct. Col. Benis refused to submit to my authority and transmit function to me also refused to collaborate as military commandant. As he has also by circular invited civil servants and all military forces to refuse obedience to me I have immediately imposed on this superior officer compulsory residence in the interior of the Island. Request you to dismiss him. Capt. Toussaint de Quievrecourt, C.O. French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, declares same intentions. I propose to deport him, command of his ship passing to second in command. Signed by Sautot. Ends. (Consul, Noumea, 2015/20).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.9.40.
Friday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSNORDERNEY

Only signs of activity among Axis ships in Brazil at present is in NORDERNEY, Para, whose crew recently reinforced by one officer 6 men ex WINDHUK. NORDERNEY has no cargo and very little coal but might attempt to reach Maranham where Italian ANTONIO LIMONCELLI has cargo of coal. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1715/20, N.C.S.O. Para, 1130/20).

KLIO

Departure presumably coasting eastward (Santander, 1220/20).

725

Tampico reports her most probably sailing this afternoon, (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1214/20).

LUVSEE

Arrived Zelenika 17/9 to load 300 tons bauxite for Trieste. (D.S. 381).

ODER

Had a fire on board at Massawa 10/9. Some cargo damaged. (D.S. 381).

MUNCHEN

At Callas^o, was docked 17/9. (D.S. 381).

SPEZIA

Information received (Grade A) Chief Engineer Merchant Ship SPEZIA declares New Captain arriving here tomorrow ship will sail on or about beginning of next week. Valencia will report movements Gibraltar has been informed. (Alicante, 2100/20).



War Diary

20.9.1940.
Friday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BALENA
SARDELLA
PROCESPADA

My 1215/19 Both steam trawlers together with third steam trawler PROCESPADA sailed for High Seas at 0130/20 G.M.T. (V.C.Horta 0130/20 S.O.(I) Gib. 0823/20)

HELENA

My 1305/18 and 0130/20. (B) 2 shipping companies clerks state immediately after departure of trawler Italian Vice Consul left for Pico in a motor boat to embark in motor schooner HELENA bound for Ponta Delgada. Will probably call at Terceira for a few hours Friday evening and may reach Ponta Delgada afternoon 21/9. It is estimated that trawler took stores for 12 days. (V.C.Horta 1800/20)

DIANA

Arrived Fiume 20/9. Port of departure unknown (Susak 1900/20)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

THEOPHILE
GAUTIER

THEOPHILE GAUTIER was intercepted by Sunderland flying boat South of Cyprus p.m./18 and ordered to proceed to Haifa. Ship altered course to proceed but did not go to Haifa and arrived Beirut 0930/19 No ship was available to intercept her. (C. in C., Medtn. 1207/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.9.1940.
FridayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedNEW SEVILLA*10' W Innisfreehull*

(British Oil Refining ship 13,801 tons) in convoy O.B. 216 torpedoed, sinking (NEW SEVILLA 2038/20, SCARBOROUGH 2020/20) VANQUISHER to attack submarine. Two trawlers being sent from E.N. 6 to assist (C. in C., W.A., 2123/20 to SCARBOROUGH) OTTAWA to hunt (A.C.W.A. 2327/20) Sank in 55° 48' N 7° 22' W., Have 28 survivors, including one seriously injured. (VANQUISHER 0905/21) Master reports all crew picked up (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1037/21)

CALCUTTA*X NEW SEVILLA**? NEW SEVILLA*

Torpedoed 25 miles West of Tory Island sinking (CALCUTTA 2024/20) SUPERMAN (tug) Sailed to assist CALCUTTA reported torpedoed 55° 55' N., 7° 11' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2225/20) SALVONIA and SEAMAN (tugs) sailed to assist ship torpedoed 55° 54' W 7° 24' W., (N.O.i/c Greenock 2340/40)

LOTOSTorpedoed 15/9.

8 Survivors from SS LOTOS who was torpedoed 15 miles N.W. of Rockkall at 2340/15 landed at Borva Barra at 1730/20. Master reports another lifeboat with 9 hands still missing. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1850/20 2019/20) In Convoy S.C. 3. bound from Dalhousie to Tye with timber (D.B. 382)

ALMIRANTEJOSE DE CARRANZA

Spanish trawler, torpedoed apparently by Italian ~~S/M~~, 0155/19, 43.30 N., 08.50 W., off Corunna. (D.S. 382)

D.L.HARPER

Tanker (12233 tons) Torpedoed, reported sunk, survivors in VANQUISHER (D.S. 382) *Report incorrect, see 23/9, page 593.*

Submarines Reported

1229

By D.F. 58° 30' N., 18° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1324/20)

0010

About 56° to 58° N., about 25° E (Approx 500 miles W by N of Bloody Foreland (D.S. 381)

0230

Transmission referred to in Simonstown's 0230/20 originated from probable U-B to N.W. of Iceland (D.D.I.C. 1756/20)



War Diary

20.9.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- Still no information.
German- 1 may reach Lorient tonight from the westward.
1 is still between 56° and 58° and 25° W
1 may have been in about 60° N., 15° W at 2116/19, course unknown.
No new indications of the number or positions of those in N.W. Approaches. U/Bs may be out in the Norther part of the North Sea. (D.D.I.C. 1217/20)

Submarines Attacked

By PORPOISE
16/9

0047/16 PORPOISE unsuccessfully attacked a large U-Boat in 47° 28' N., 4° 18' W. (PORPOISE 1030/20)

By Aircraft

Strip of oil attacked 56° 30' N., 8° 0' W. Nil result (A.C. 1320/20)

Escape of
PERLA

Your 2300/16. All possible steps were taken. The U-boat was bombarded and bombed on 27/6 within about 12 hours of grounding and S.N.O. Red Sea Force, who was there, was confident that the boat was a total loss or at any rate out of action for months. Demolition, opposed by whole of Italian S/M PERLA's crew, was considered and I submit rightly discarded taking into account ships had to return at once to meet first convoy, there- after passage of B.N. and B.S. Convoy and reinforcements to Berbera absorbed all units of Red Sea Force, but a quick (and unfortunately inconclusive) re- connaissance ~~xxx~~ of position was able to be fitted in on 21/7. I incline to belief that boat by then had been re- moved if Italian prisoners' information can be accepted, namely, that air attack on LEANDER on 27/6 was made to assist Italian going to rescue stranded U-Boat which was subsequently floated and towed to Massawa. (C. in C., E.I. 1254X/19 to Adty.)

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

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

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

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

- (a) Movements of H.M. Ships (prepared by Operations Division, Naval Staff) (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 Ccnav, 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.

MOST SECRET

21.9.1940.

SaturdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTU-Boat Attack
on O.B. 216.

Two ships were torpedoed last night in convoy O.B. 216 in the North Western Approaches.

Preparations
for Invasion

There has been a considerable increase of shipping at Rotterdam. The total is now 85 ships and about 650 barges. At Antwerp, where there has been also an increase recently, there are 47 ships and about 600 barges. Cherbourg appears now to be almost empty, though cloud obscured parts of the harbour when the latest reconnaissance was made. Very heavy concentrations of barges was seen at Calais today.

There is evidence for the first time of merchant ships passing out of the Channel to the southward of Brest.

Submarine
Patrols

Further consideration has been given to the disposition and basing of submarines consequent on increased enemy activity between German ports and French west coast.

British Air Operations

It is reported that in the R.A.F. raid on Lorient at the beginning of September two ships, one of which was probably the DE LA SALLE of the Cie-~~GLE~~-Transatlantique, were sunk by our bombs. Both were carrying German troops and it is stated there were only 15 survivors. (Air Min. D.S. 429)

Attacks on the enemy's invasion bases and gun positions at Cape Gris Nez continued last night and also today. Two bombs which apparently failed to explode, were dropped on the oil tanks at Harstad today and made direct hits.

A Hudson on routine patrol bombed two merchant vessels of about 1000 tons at Ameland Zeegat, a direct hit being followed by a second explosion.

/Another.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary21.9.1940.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORTBritish Air Operations-Contd.

Another Hudson hit a 6000-8000 ton merchant vessel 2 miles south of Borkum, with incendiary bombs and is believed to have caused fire.

It is reported from a reliable source that during the raid of 17/18 Sept. 5 ships were sunk in Hamburg harbour (Air Min. D.S. 430)

Weather prevented satisfactory reconnaissance of the enemy's invasion bases today.

Enemy Air Operations

SS REGISTAN (5886 tons) was machine-gunned near Sca~~weather~~weather L.V. (Bristol Channel) today.

VEGA and convoy F.N. 87 were bombed today off Felix^{to}we.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft almost certainly took place last night off the East coast, St Abbs Head to the Tees, and from the Humber to the Norfolk coast as far as Cromer.

A parachute mine was seen to drop off the entrance of the Dee today.

South Atlantic

All sailings to northward of the Rio de Janeiro and Santos and sailings through Bahia and Victoria were stopped today on account of a raider reported close to the coast of Brazil south of Bahia on 19/9.

AUSTRALIA ceased shadowing GLOIRE early this morning, some 250 miles W.S.W of Dakar. GLOIRE has undertaken to proceed direct to Casablanca.

/CORNWALL.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.1940.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic-Contd.

CORNWALL is still shadowing PRIMAUGUET. DELHI was detached to Freetown to fuel after dark today.

Operation "Menace"

F.O.C. Force M in BARHAM, with ARK ROYAL, RESOLUTION, INGLEFIELD, FORTUNE, FORESIGHT, GREYHOUND, ECHO and ESCAPADE left Freetown at 0930 CUMBERLAND left at 1430. AUSTRALIA will join Force M. at sea tomorrow. ARK ROYAL has boiler defects which reduce her speed to 28 knots.

DEVONSHIRE, FAULKNER, FORESTER, FURY, MILFORD and French ships COMMANDANT DOMINEY, COMMANDANT DUBOC and SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA left with Convoy M.P. at 0645.

Mediterranean

Air Operations

R.A.F. today bombed the foreshore at Tobruk as a result of reconnaissances, and M.T. near Bardia, Capuzzo and Sollum were also bombed, and enemy positions at Sidi Barrani.

A Bombay also attacked shipping at Derna.

Air Raid on Alexandria

Enemy aircraft today dropped 3 bombs on the harbour at Alexandria and some incendiaries near Dekheila.

Air Attacks on A.N. 3 and LADYBIRD

C. in C., Med. reports that Convoy A.N. 3. was unsuccessfully attacked by a torpedo aircraft at 1410/13 between Crete and Alexandria; and LADYBIRD at 1640/17 west of Alexandria, by two aircraft, each of which dropped a torpedo which passed astern.

East Indies

Air Raid on Haifa and Aden

Oil tanks in the port area and Refinery were damaged in a raid on Haifa by 5 enemy aircraft early this afternoon. A.A. guns successfully prevented two separate enemy aircraft from reaching Aden today; the enemy dropped their bombs in the sea.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.1940.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

China

Detention of
British Ships
by Japanese

The MARIE MOLLER has been released and an apology offered for firing on her. Four other ships have been detained by the Japanese, though one of them was released today in addition to the MARIE MOLLER. Representations have been made in all the above cases.

America & West Indies

Five Town class destroyers left St. Johns, Newfoundland for Plymouth via Belfast today.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Orders to Submarines

Para 5 of F.S.B. one F.S.C. two and para one of F.S.D. one. Cancel reference to first reporting and then attacking what may be Invading Forces. In all cases Enemy Forces can be attacked first and then reported. (V.A.S. 1251/21 to S/M's on patrol, negative S/M's on Patrol in Portsmouth Command) (C. in C., H.F. 1017/21 to V.A.S.)

Convoy Escorts

Your 1316/17. In view of their arduous work at sea propose that all convoy escorts should be at normal notice from steam during their first two nights in harbour. (C. in C., W.A. 1939/21 to Adty)

Attacking at Sight

Instructions governing the conditions under which submarines and surface craft may attack at sight in North Sea, English Channel and Bay of Biscay. Superseding all instructions previously issued. (Adty. 1212/21)

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command

Dawn Air Patrols cancelled.

Notice for Steam

Ships to remain at short notice until 0900 (C. in C., Nore, 0423/21)

Defence of Milford Haven

Items in order of priority. (Air Min. 1515/21, A.C.N.A.(H) 1508/21)

Felixtowe

Gate placed in position and working satisfactorily. (B.D.O. Felixtowe, 1300/21)

Normal Air Stations

Army Station Defence Officers to be attacked, duties etc., (D. of L.D. 1641/21)

Glasgow

Re Balloon Barrage. (D. of L.D. 1730/21 to Air Min.)

New Form of Defence

Your 1900/20. Ports proposed are Grimsby, Harwich, Sheerness and Thames Haven. (C. in C., Nore, 2137/21 to Adty)

War Diary21.9.1940.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSMovementsOTTAWA

Sailed as by your 2327/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0145/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Nore Command

Dispositions for night 21/22. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/21) Day patrols and estimated movements to 1200/22 (C. in C., 1200/21)

HUGH WALPOLE

Tug 1803/20 re R.V. with SWORDFISH For DANEMAN and NORTHERN PRIDE read HUGH WALPOLE. (Capt S. 5. 1049/21)

SCIMITAR. SKATE
KEPPEL. ACTIVE

To meet H.X. 72. Position. Escort LOWESTOFT. Leave Convoy 2359 to meet S.C. 4. Position. Escort DEPTFORD. If necessary to refuel destroyers may proceed to Lough Foyle after normal escorts have met convoys. (C. in C., W.A. 1141/21)

Dover Patrols

Night 21/22. (V.A. Dover, 1515/21)

Orkneys

Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/21)

Northern
Patrol

Trawler lines occupied 21/9 (A.C.O.S. 1536/21)

SALADIN
BEAGLE

Intend sailing 1959. Expect arrive Nab 0616/22 (N.O.I.C., Dartmouth, 1611/21)

Humber

Patrols night 21/22 (N.O.i/c Humber 1630/21)

Portsmouth

Night movement signal 21/22 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1647/21)

Rosyth


Arrivals and Departures 21/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1707/21) Movements tonight (C. in C., Rosyth 1844/21)

DUNEDIN

In view of U-Boat activity proceed at your best speed (C. in C., W.A. 1937/21)

MAC One

To proceed at high speed near E. Tongue Buoy. One M.T.B. from Sheerness to accompany and remain during trials. (C. in C., Nore, 2225/21)

MOST SECRET
War Diary21.9.1940.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsOstend to
Dunkirk

Weather permitting, one Unit of 60 foot M.T.B's is to operate close off shore between Ostend and Dunkirk to-night to destroy enemy surface Forces and be well clear of coast by daylight. (C. in C., Nore, 1202/21 to BEEHIVE)

Operation by
M.T.B. 6.
Cancelled

To attack shipping in Boulogne Outer Harbour 0230/22. Request bombing attack at same time as diversion. (V.A.Dover 1925/21, 1926/21) Operation not to take place. (V.C.N.S. 2336/21) Cancel my 1925/21 (V.A.Dover 2341/21)

Patrol in
W.A.

BROKE, VANSITTART, BURZA patrolling Eddystone to 3° W about 30 miles from Coast. (C. in C., W.A. 1851/21) Orders Return to Plymouth by 0730/22 (C. in C., W.A. 1841/21)

Channel
Patrol

Tonight WOLVERINE, WITHERINGTON, BLYSKAWICA, BULLDOG patrol eastward to limit of Portsmouth Command (C. in C., Portsmouth 1517/21) Requesting fighter protection (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1431/21)

SubmarinesPositions &
Movements

For 24 hours at 0700/22 (V.A.S. 1744/21)

Disposition
and basing

Consequent on increased enemy activity between German ports and French west coast. A S/M to be on patrol in H one for time being. Patrol to be maintained by H 44 and H 49 working from Harwich. Refit of H. 44 to be postponed. Harwich S/M base and S/M's operating therefrom to be transferred from 3rd to 6th Flotilla. Not possible to maintain a S/M on A/S patrol off Hebrides at present. (V.A.S. 1319/21)

MOST SECRETWar Diary21.9.1940.
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSBritish Air OperationsTorpedo Bombers
to operate from
Brest to Guernsey

The section of French coast from Brest to Guernsey is under observation by twice daily patrol of Blenheim Fighter Aircraft of 15 Group.

Offensive action against enemy shipping reported at sea off this coast can best be carried out by day by air attack.

Torpedo bombers of F.A.A. would be most effective. Request such aircraft may be allotted to this operation.

Reinforcement of long range fighters for 15 Group will be necessary.

T.B. aircraft and escort would be kept ready to fly off on receipt of report from Reconnaissance Aircraft,

Effect of successful attack on enemy coastal convoys might be considerable. (C. in C., W.A. 1337/21 to Adty.)

Attack on Shipping
off Helder

4 M/V's seen and 3 attacked with Torpedoes. Two attacks missed and results of third not observed. (H.Q.C.C. 0220/21)

Ameland

At Ameland Zeegat at 2050/20 Aircraft bombed 2 M/V's about 1000 tons. Heavy explosion and debris seen. (H.Q.C.C. 0239/21)

Patrols S.A. 4.A.
and S.A. 4. B.

Cancelled on account of low visibility (C. in C., Nore 0425/21 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Patrol in Channel

One Anson carrying out midnight patrol in Channel (C. in C., W.A. 1851/21)

Air Searches

22/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1728/21)

Attacks on
Convoys

Convoy of approx. 12 M.V's attacked 1440 steering North, by 2 aircraft in 50° 44' N., 1° 30' E., Results uncertain.

One aircraft attacked small passenger pleasure boat crowded with people 4 miles N.W. of Boulogne, one bomb very close.

One aircraft attacked 6 M.V's steering N. at 20 knots 5 miles S.W. of Cape Gris Nez, results not observed. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1800/21)

/Air rescue.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary21.9.1940.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSBritish Air Operations-Contd.Air Rescue
BoatsProposed in area between Dungeness
and Beachy Head. (C. in C., Portsmouth
1946/21 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven)Attack at
Brest1740 released 4- 250 G.P. bombs at
Dras no hits. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2103/
21)Enemy Air ActivityCoasting
motor vessel
sunkR.N.A.P. Holehaven reports small
coasting motor vessel about 100 tons
hit by 2 bombs at 2001/20 and sunk
about 100 yards West of Westward Mine
Marking Buoy which bears 5.16° W from
Holehaven Signal Tower. No trace of
survivors. (C. in C., Nore, 0201/21 to
Adty.)REGISTAN(British 5886 tons) Machine gunned
Scarweather L.V. (Plymouth 1450/21)Convoy
F.N. 87"Pilot"
Convoy "~~XXXX~~" shadowed 52° 48' N., 2°
16' E (VEGA 2154/21) Enemy bombing
51° 54' N., 1° 38' E., (VEGA 1553/21)TRITO

See Mining.

SS. MACCLESFIELD(British 1049 tons) bombed 10 miles E
of Noss Head but not hit. (D.S. 383)MiningTRITO
(Dutch 1057 tons)*See under Enemy air
operations 20.9.40 P. 493.*Trawler HERTFORDSHIRE investigating.
(N.O.I.C. Portland 2330/20 and 0030/21
to SALADIN) Sunk by supposed mine in
50° 22' N., 2° 50' W., Only 2 survivors
proceeding Hamble in SS BRITISH SCOUT
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0300/21 to Adty.)
Result of interview with Master and
Survivors. Time of explosion 2240/20.
Position 50° 23' N., 2° 43' W.
Helmsman sure it was a bomb and not a
Mine. He heard the aircraft. O.O.W.
of BRITISH SCOUT 3 cables away also
heard aircraft and agrees bomb possible
(C. in C., Portsmouth 2215/21)*(Note in BR 1337. Bombed by A/c
50° 23' N. 02° 42' W. 20/9. Page 142)*IpswichS.O.Auxiliary Patrol reports 2 mag-
netic mines dropped during night in
Ipswich; one exploded, one unexploded.
Probably B Type Mine. (F.O.I.C. Harwich
0625/21)



War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

M.S. Trawlers

3 minewsweeping trawlers sweeping QZS 17 outside Goodwin Sands. Request Fighter protection 0600/22 till return to Dover about 1000/22. (V.A.Dover, 1122/21 to A.D. C. in C., F.C.)

S.N. Operations

R.A.M.L's 1134/20. Regret no escorts can be spared from already insufficiently escorted convoys. (C. in C., W.A. 1127/21 to Adty.)

Minelaying at Folkestone

Requesting fighter protection for Motor Minelayer M.1. from 0545-0730/22 Code word "Fruit" (V.A.Dover 1823/21 to F.C.)

HAZARD
HEBE

Oropesa search (C. in C., Rosyth, 2155/21)

Plymouth

Since my 1523/24/8 (? 1422/24 intended) one red mine detonated $2\frac{1}{2}$ cables Shagstone Beacon. (C.IN C., W.A. 1108/21)

Enemy Intelligence

St. Catherines

Aircraft reports one M/V 500 to 1000 Tons steering East in $50^{\circ} 26' N.$, $1^{\circ} 20' W.$, at 0018/21 (H.Q.C.C. 0320/21)

Boulogne

9 or 11 Minesweeping R-Boats left Boulogne at 1140 steering North at 15 knots (V.A.Dover 1159/21 to A.O.C. 16 Group)

Cape de La Hague

S/M H. 43, report on shipping moving in the area (Capt. (S) 5 1451/21)

Brest

50 M.V's of various sizes in ports and docks, 2 destroyers etc., (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2103/21)

Miscellaneous

W/T Station
Iceland

Re immobilisation of certain stations (N.O.i/c Iceland 1445/21)

MOST SECRETWar Diary21.9.1940.
SaturdayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSCITY OF BENARES
(Torpedoed 17/9)Following survivors landed Greenock
20/9, 36 British Indians, 17 Europeans
47 Passengers.MARINA
(Torpedoed 17/9)Following survivors landed Greenock
20/9, 4 officers, 13 crew (F.O.I.C.
Greenock 1121/21)ANDORATanker (damaged) is nearly ready to
proceed to Sunderland for repairs.
Requesting special escort (N.C.S.O.
Greenock 1413/21)UTMOSTMy 1459/20. Sailing cancelled owing
to defects. (S. 5. 2037/21)

MOST SECRET21.9.1940.
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSConvoysShipping

Situation at 2000/21 (C. in C., W.A. 1345/21)

S.C. 4. Meet, 31 ships, DEPTFORD (C. in C., WA 1450/21)

H.X. Forecast of H.X. Convoys 76 to 80 (R.A. 3 B.S. 0929/21)

F.N. 87)
F.S. 88) 17th A/S S.F. to form additional escort (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1812/21)

O.B. 217 OTTAWA to join 1200/22 (C. in C., W.A. 1923/21)

O.A. 216 GLEANER to continue with (C. in C., W.A. 1430/21)

W.N. 17 Number and escort (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 0950/21)

O.A. 217 To join with O.G. 43 (C. in C., W.A. 1731/21)

O.B.M. 218 Time and Escort (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1220/21)

S.L. 46 A Position (A.C.O.S. 2130/21)

S.L. 46 B Position (C. in C., W.A. 1510/21)
LEEDS UNITED to R.V. (C. in C., W.A., 1420/21)

O.L. 3. To alter course (C. in C., W.A., 0930/21)

O.G. 43 HURRICANE sailed to R.V. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0701/21)

M.T. 88 Sailed 1000/21 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1131/21)

H.X. 71 Arrived 0945/21 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1009/21)

F.N. 86 4 hours early at 20 C Buoy (BLACK SWAN 0927/21)

/S.L.Slow Convoys....

MOST SECRETWar Diary21.9.1940.
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSShipping-Contd.S.L.Slow
Convoys.

Following from C. in C., S.A. (begins)
In view of the number of casualties to
ships sailed singly which are too
slow for S.L. Convoys, propose, when
number of ships justified, they should
be sailed as S.L. Slow unescorted
groups to join S.L. Convoys one day
before arrival at rendezvous with
local escorts. If agreed about 8 ships
would be sailed on 24th/9 to join up
with S.L. 49 on 12/10 (Ends)
Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1214/21
to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 1214/21, agree provided groups are
-sailed with sufficient margin to en-
sure their arriving up to time
(C. in C., W.A., 2000/21)

SYLVIA

To sail from Weymouth 1200 (N.C.S.O.
Weymouth 1131/21) Sailed (1249/21)

GEORGIC

To sail for Clyde 1500/22. (F.O.I.C.
Liverpool 1550/21)

MYTILLUS

To sail for Dartmouth 2000 (C. in C.,
W.A., 1321/21)

ULSTER MONARCH

Ready to sail ^{for} from Liverpool 23/9.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1201/21) Your 1201
No A.M.C. available to escort. (F.O.C.
N.P., 1658/21)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Force.

Adty 2313/20, Position course and speed of GLOIRE at 0800Z, 012°32' N. 020° 03' W., (corrupt group) 18 knots. Have parted company and am proceeding course 95° speed 20 to patrol between position Y and X pending other instructions. (AUSTRALIA to C. in C., S.A., 0815Z/21).

Adty. 2313Z/20. Join me on 22/9 in position 010°32'N. 017°19' W. at 0800 if possible otherwise in position Y 012°30' N. 018°00'W. at 1600. Report position course and speed and proposed route of GLOIRE when you leave her. (S.O. Force M, to AUSTRALIA, 0851N/21)

Your 0851N/21 and my0815Z/21. Will join you at Southern rendezvous. Proposed route of GLOIRE as in my 1401Z/20. (AUSTRALIA, 1203Z/21).

CUMBERLAND

Arrival 0005/21. (S.O.(I), Freetown, to Adty., 0913/21).

Departure 1430/21, CUMBERLAND. (S.O.(I), Freetown, 1635N/21).

Convoy MP.

Departure 0645, DEVONSHIRE, FAULKNER, FORESTER, FURY, MILFORD and French Escort vessel COMMANDANT DOMINEY. French sloop minesweeper COMMANDANT DUBOC and French Sloop SAVORGAN DE BRAZZA with convoy MP. (S.O.(I), Freetown, 0931/21).

PRIMAUGUET

PRIMAUGUET 0900Z/21 position course and speed 003°12' N. 008°19' W. 291° 12 knots. Intend detaching DELHI after dark today to fuel at Freetown expected time of arrival 1700Z/22. (CORNWALL, 1007Z/21).

Shore Parley

My telegram 191. Believe Bois Lambert and party well received by Administrator at his house. (Acting Governor, 1120/21).

French Africa.

Situation Report no. 21 (ONI. 2048/21)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Force. (Contd.)Force M Leaves

Departure 0930/21 F.O.C. Force M in BARHAM, ARK ROYAL, RESOLUTION, INGLEFIELD, FORTUNE, FORESIGHT, GREYHOUND, ECHO and ESCAPADE: 1015, H.M.S. DRAGON. (S.O.(I), Freetown, 1121/21).

Policy,
Gibraltar
Straits.

Ref. passage of French Sloop Minesweeper ELAN through Straits 20/9 should assurance as to destination in accordance with Adty. 1356/18 be obtained from (a) all French War Vessels (b) Only cruisers and above or 2 or more destroyers (c) French merchant vessels escorted by one or more warships. (ii) Providing French are not in Spanish territorial waters is there any political objection on the score of denying passage through straits to neutrals to stopping French in straits. (iii) I realize that the situation may require treatment in respect of (a) (b) and (c) to be adjusted from day to day but lack of information concerning events in South Atlantic makes it difficult to appreciate when avoidance of incidents should take priority over control of French traffic to ports other than Casablanca. (iv) A short daily appreciation of French situation would be of great value. (S.O., Force H., 1205/21 to Adty.)

S.O. Force H. 1205/21. This was sent with my entire concurrence. I think however general situation with regard to interception of French Force needs clarification. Have interpreted various instructions to mean that present main duty of S.O. Force H. is to intercept important French Forces which may be destined for Dakar and whose presence undesirable there. Have not thought it was intended that the traffic of light force or merchant ships between French Mediterranean ports and Casablanca should be interfered with. The demand for an undertaking from individual Captains before they reach the Straits that they will not go beyond Casablanca seems to be asking for more than they could give personally, with any degree of certainty it would be put into execution or not subsequently disavowed by S.O. there. Interference with traffic between France and French Morocco would seem liable to lead to misinterpretation of our motives and to furnish an opportunity for Germany to force Vichy into more active opposition that I imagine is considered desirable. (F.O.C.N.A., 2350/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticAmmunition

Your 0911/20. Arrangements being made to send this ammunition. (D.T.S.D. to S.O., Force H., 1626/21).

South AtlanticSpanish West Africa

French Consul Fernando Po arrived Duala 20/9 and reported to N.C.S.O. Duala as follows begins - Spanish sloop CALVO SOTELLO sailed from Santa Isabel 1200/18 probably for Island Annobon. (2) Before sailing she apparently laid mines in territorial waters between Cape Formoso and Point Hermosa and thence down the East of Fernando Po. (3) 570 tons war material arrived this month in Fernando Po and 200 tons in Spanish Guinea. (5) Appointment of Italian consul general had been notified though there were no Italians in Fernando Po. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1141/21).

Freetown, Fuel

Details of stocks, and requesting what means to supply. (C. in C., S.A., 1835N/21).

SOMERSETSHIRE

Hospital ship, sails Freetown for Bathurst 1700/21. (C. in C., S.A., 1047/21).

Evacuations

Presume you will reply to C. in C., E.I., 0842/18 so far as question of destination of families in S. Africa concerned. (D. of S.T., 0103/21 to S.N.O. Simonstown). Endeavouring to obtain information through High Commissioner. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1229/21).

Raider Reports

Disguised M.V. raider 12.07 N., 19.32½ W., suspicious vessel closing. (AG MORE CASTLE, 0859/21). Warship following us. (? 1001/21). Cancel distress, warship friendly. (0931/21). Disguised M.V. raider 12.18 N., 22.57 W., unknown ship chasing me. (ADDA, 1013/21). Unknown ship wanting close him. (1016/21). Cancel 1013, ship turned away apparently friendly. (1026/21).



21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Sailings stopped Raider reported 14°33' S., 38°42' W. at 2200/19. Stop sailings to northwards Rio de Janeiro and Santos and sailings to southwards from Pernambuco. Stop all sailings through Bahia and Victoria. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1238/21 to N.C.S.O's).

LACKLAN (Overdue). My 1045/19. LACKLAN arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1155B/21).

German Aircraft Master of U.S. ship WEST LASHAWAY, at Dakar
Dakar 15-16/9, states reliably informed 24 German commercial aircraft had arrived Dakar in transit to Brazil in accordance with commercial treaty with Brazilian Govt. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1537/21).

General Catroux Mediterranean
From Gen. de Gaulle to P.M. Protest about sending Gen. Catroux to Egypt without de Gaulle's consent (FD, Force M, 0359N/21)
Enemy convoy Estimated position of enemy convoy at 0230Z/21 about 140 miles 335° from Benghazi but may be nearer. Convoy is bound for Tobruk. Speed of one ship of convoy reduced to four knots. (Capt. (S)1, 0911/21 to REGULUS).

Alexandria Raid Air Raid on Alexandria 0411 to 0503/21 about 6 aircraft 25 bombs 13 injured, one seriously, nine Greek, one Indian, two Norwegian Sailors one Egyptian Policeman. Damage negligible. (R.A., Alexandria, 1142/21)

Return of G.H.Q. M.E. advises destinations in South
Transports Africa of vessels sailing from Suez on 23/9 as follows:- EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, EMPRESS OF CANADA, ANDES, STRATHAIRD, FRANCONIA, all Durban. Understand thence to U.K. vide 1949/5 from D. of S.T. OTRANTO to Mombasa thence to U.K. vide above-quoted signal. (D.S.T.O., Port Said, 1411/21).

Haifa Raid Air raid on Haifa 1350/21, 5 aircraft. One Benzine tank in port area plot on fire. Adty. fuel and diesel probably far enough from this not to catch fire. 3 refined oil tanks on fire in refinery. Electric power station hit apparently not much damage. Bombs on Arab Quarter, at least 30 killed. (N.O.I.C., Haifa, 1547/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean (Contd.)Aircraft Torpedo
AttacksKENT

Adty. 2158/19, KENT was attacked by bombing aircraft about 2355/17 in bright moonlight and immediately after by 2 torpedo aircraft from position on starboard quarter. Attacks probably intended to be simultaneous. Aircraft dropped from height of 150-200 feet at range of 500 yards. Believe two torpedoes dropped but no track seen and only one torpedo hit ship. Aircraft engaged before dropping by pom poms and subsequently by .5 inch machine guns and lewis gun. One machine passed close to ship firing machine guns.

Convoy

Following additional torpedo aircraft ^{attacks} have taken place. At 1410/13 by one aircraft on AN.3 convoy in position 034.08' N. 026.38' E. Height of drop variously estimated as 80 - 150 feet range one mile. Torpedoes not seen to run.

LADYBIRD

At 1640/17 2 aircraft attacked LADYBIRD each dropped 1 torpedo in position 031.40 N. 026.35 E. Height of drop 200 - 300 feet range 1 mile. Torpedoes passed 2 cables astern.
(C. in C., Med., 1119/21, to Adty.)

East IndiesRaider
Situation.

Believed enemy raiders have been operating since end of March. During 5½ months losses on your station attributed to their action amount to about 50,000 gross tons. Whilst these are important, measures you have taken with limited means have so far succeeded in keeping them at this comparatively low figure. An increase in enemy raider activity is to be expected. General naval situation does not permit of sending further reinforcements. Concur that through traffic should be routed north of the line Cape Amber to Achin Head. Whilst so few ships available for operating on the ocean trade routes, considered that as a general principle cruisers and A.M.Cs should not be employed in searching for raiders and their supply ships on the ocean, or in possible out of the way anchorages, but should work on the actual trade routes with the trade. Value of

flying....

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies (Contd.)Raider
Situation
(Contd.)

flying boats fully concurred in, but available numbers make it impossible at present to allocate any for that area. Defences of Port Victoria will be considered, but cannot yet be given a high priority. A.C.N.S.(F), 1100/21, to C. in C., E.I.)

ARAWA

My 0422/20. Orders for patrol. (C. in C., E.I., 0742Z/21).

B.M.1.

BATORY, STRATHEDEN, ORCADES. Route. (N.C.S.O., Bombay, 0832Z/21). CAPETOWN to escort to Singapore. (C. in C., E.I., 1444/21).

WESTRALIA

4 days for engine defects on arrival Colombo. (C. in C., E.I., 1444/21).

A.P.2.

Expected date of arrival Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 0748Z/21).

ChinaDutch E.I.

Your 0333/19. Netherlands Govt. has instructed Governor General Dutch East Indies that raiders are to be treated as enemy whatever their nationality. (D.O.D.(F) 1334/21 to C. in C., China).

Japanese
Inquiry

Foreign Minister, Tokyo, informs all posts that Navy is pressing him for more frequent reports on British convoys, etc. My 0856/12 and previous messages refer. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0301Z/21).

French inquiry
for aircraft

Re inquiry for aircraft from U.S.A. made by A.O.C. with knowledge of Governor General, French Indo China through British Ambassador. (G.O.C., Malaya, 0340/21 to W.O.).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China. (Contd.)

ILE DE FRANCE

My 0929Z/6. 173 officers and men refused work, orders from Vichy, interned locally, 35 volunteers remain on board under Red Ensign. (C. in C., China, 0345Z/21).

MARIE MOLLER

Your 1741Z/20. MARIE MOLLER released. C.O. Japanese Auxiliary 31 states he was engaged in anti-smuggling activities when a random shot hit ship MARIE MOLLER for which he has apologised and has offered to make good damage. MARIE MOLLER is on friendly terms with Japanese and Master considers reason to send any British War vessel might prejudice his trading activities. I was obliged to enter territorial waters. (DURBAN, 0440Z/21 to C. in C., China. N.L.O. Shanghai, 0816Z/21).

Other Ships
Detained

My 0816Z/21. Following additional ships reported detained by Japanese: JESSIE MOLLER, was ashore off entrance to Wenchow, now reported afloat and safe but detained by Japanese probably at Tinghai or possibly Limogg. EDITH MOLLER, after receiving permission from boarding officer of unknown Japanese cruiser off Sackotao on 17/9 to make track into Wenchow Bay to locate JESSIE MOLLER, ship detained probably at Tinghai. CARMEN MOLLER, salvage tug, despatched from Shanghai to assist JESSIE MOLLER 20/9. Japanese naval authorities were informed and special customs clearance obtained. Detained near Chickocom Island 28.24 N. 121.43 E. 2030/20 but released 1500/21 and now on passage to Shanghai. KONG SO (Agents Wallem) detained by Japanese near Tinghai after leaving Wenchow. Further particulars not yet known. Representations on above cases made and probably effected release of CARMEN MOLLER. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 0837Z/21).

N.L.O. Shanghai's 0714Z/20 ? 0614/20. Propose that all necessary facilities be granted. Information regarding conditions in Burma being given in approx. one month's time on return of officer who will accompany stores for A.M.S. FALCON to Chungking. (C. in C., China, 1359Z/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSChina (Contd.)Japan and
Indo-China

Tel. 112340 from G.O.C. Malaya.
From Duncan, Liaison Officer, Saigon 21/9.
(Begins) General Nishihara's word this morning. We shall attack at 2200 hours 22/9. French preparing to attack Japanese on the line Szelok-Nanning and endeavouring to induce Chinese to attack at same time. (Ends). Note: Szelok - 22° N. 108' E. is on the Chinese side of the border N.E. of Haiphong. General Nishihara is head of Japanese Mission to Indo China. (W.O., 22/9, by phone).

America and West Indies.

ASTURIAS
QUEEN OF BERMUDA
ENTERPRISE

Orders for patrol, etc. (R.A.S.A.D., 0245Z/21).

U.S. Destroyers

Regret do not consider adequate escort for troops as their presence in company would cut down speed of liners and lack of endurance precludes evasive routeing. (C.N.S., Canada, 1253/21).

Halifax Escorts

My 1651/19. To avoid confusion with Halifax Force, suggest Halifax Escort Force be renamed North Atlantic Escort Force. (F.O.3 B.S., 1346/21).

French Oil
Supplies

Understand you have been informed by S. of S. for Colonies that Shell Company Trinidad are now permitted to resume supplies to French West Indies of small normal requirements of oil for industrial and domestic purposes but that question of supply of aviation spirit is still under consideration. Am not prepared to give general permission for British Ships to call at French West Indian Ports but would have no objection to occasional visits to comply with above, provided definite guarantee for safe conduct is obtained from French High Commissioner. Under circumstances, think it best that you should obtain this guarantee. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0942/21 to Adty.)

CYMBELINE

Asking to explain discrepancy in dates between his 2300/19 and CYMBELINE raider signal. (D.D.I.C., 1635/22 to S.O.I., Bermuda)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

U.S. 5

PERTH, escorting U.S. 5, arrived Fremantle, 0030Z/21. (A.C.N.B., 1700Z/21).

U.S. 5A }
U.S. 6 }

My 1028Z/16 and Adty. 1734/19. Probable itinerary U.S. 5A. Escort, Fremantle to Colombo, PERTH, relieved by CANBERRA at R.V. to be arranged by A.C.N.B. Tentative programme U.S. 6. Escort Fremantle to Bombay as for U.S. 5A. (A.C.N.B., 0625Z/21).


ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PIRELLA GIANOTA

Work continuing daily on deck. 5000 tons of black except for 3 aluminium coloured hulls. 1000 tons of bundles of wire, apparently abandoned, all still on deck. (S.O.I., Fremantle, 19/9/40).

ATA

Arrived from Batavia patrol on 18/9/40. (Vice Consul, Yarna, 18/9/40).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSKLIO

Santander reports sailed eastward. (N.A. Madrid, 1547/21).

HERCULES

Santander reports arrival 15/9. (N.A., Madrid, 1619/21).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSDUCHESA D'AOSTA

Work continuing daily on board. Now painted black except for 3 aluminium coloured masts. Idea of immediate departure apparently abandoned, oil fuel had been conserved. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1141/21).

MAYA

Arrived from Batoum petroleum 5000 tons. (Vice Consul, Varna, 1810/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedO.B.216

Convoy attacked by enemy submarine in 55.57 N., 08.19 W. (SCARBOROUGH, 0142/21).

CITY OF SIMLA

British, 10,138 tons, in convoy O.B.216, attacked 0142/21 in 55.57 N., 08.19W. (D.S., 382). GUINEAN reports CITY OF SIMLA torpedoed. GUINEAN proceeding Glasgow with survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0400/21) Still afloat. Consider could be salvaged if tug sent. (SCARBOROUGH, 0428/21). (?sunk) at 0900 in 55.59 N., 08.16 W. All passengers and crew on board GUINEAN who is returning Glasgow. (VANQUISHER, 0905/21). Search for CITY OF SIMLA, last reported 55.59 N., 08.16 W. at 0900. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1211/21 to SUPERMAN). Torpedoed off N.W. Ireland, Seaton Bank, at 0200/21. 32 survivors picked up by Belgian trawler VANDYCK and landed Fleetwood 1300/22. (R.N.O. Fleetwood, 1330/22, F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1824/22).

ELMBANK

British, 5156 tons. Torpedoed 55.22 N., 22.10 W. (Valentia Radio, 0402/21, Lyness, 0413/21). SHIKARI to assist, position given as 55.03 N., 22.21 W. at 0800. (C. in C., W.A., 0839/21, amended 1031/21). In convoy HX.72, from Cowichan B.C., with timber and metal. (D.S. 382). Ship in position 055.29 N. 022.03 W. sank finally as I arrived. Ship's boats rigged for sailing were adrift and abandoned. Sighted wreck INVERSHANNON in position 055.40 N. 022.04 W. Am rejoining HX.72 searching for survivors en route. (SHIKARI, 1730/21). *See also next page.*

BLAIR ANGUS

British, 4409 tons. In convoy HX.72 S.S.S.S. 55.18 N., 22.21 W. BLAIR ANGUS torpedoed. (Valentia Radio, 0446/21) SHIKARI to proceed with best speed fuel permits to assist. (C. in C., W.A., 0839/21, amended 1031/21. Homeward bound from Botwood and St. John's N.F. with pit props. (D.S. 382).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked (Contd.)NEW SEVILLA

Panamanian, sunk in 55.48 N., 07.22 W. Have 28 survivors on board including one seriously injured (VANQUISHER, 0905/21). Ship sinking. Have skipped tow until she founders. Position Mull of Kintyre 280° distance 9 miles (SALVONIA to F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2140/21). If NEW SEVILLA sunk, proceed to assist TORINIA (position). (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2356/21). NEW SEVILLA sank at 2310 G.M.T. 19 survivors on board. (SALVONIA, 2325/21).

INVERSHANNON

Torpedoed 2340/20
(see 29/9)

British tanker, 9145 tons. (in convoy HX.72). Sighted wreck INVERSHANNON in 55.40 N., 22.04 W. Am rejoining HX.72 searching for survivors en route. (SHIKARI, 1730/21). SHIKARI reports INVERSHANNON incapable of salvage. (C. in C., W.A., 1819/22). *See previous page.*

BROOM/PARK

(British 5136 tons). Position 055° N. 018° W. Placed volunteer crew aboard ship BROOM/PARK. Carrying out A/S protective patrol while raising steam. Have large number of survivors of 5 ships. Intend sinking 3 derelicts at daylight with undestroyed papers aboard. (LA MALOUINE, 0607/22, to LOWESTOFT).

FREDERICK F. SALES ^{S. F.} Sunk 2330/21. (see 23/9).

TORINIA

Torpedoed 54.47 N., 18.00 W. at 2100 G.M.T. (Lands End Radio, 2129/21). If NEW SEVILLA sunk, proceed to assist TORINIA, torpedoed at 2200 in 54.47 N., 18.00 W. Order SEAMAN to proceed as in my 2156 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, to SALVONIA, 2356/21). SKATE to assist. (C. in C., W.A., 2249/21) In convoy HX.72 second ship in 4th column. (LOWESTOFT, 1825/22).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked (Contd.)CANONESA

British, 8286 tons, torpedoed 55.08 N., 18.30 W. (LOWESTOFT, 2220/21). My 2220. 3 ships torpedoed, escort searching. Request SHIKARI may be ordered to proceed to torpedoed ships. (LOWESTOFT, 0017/22). My 0017. 2 more ships torpedoed, 55.11 N., 17.58 W. (LOWESTOFT, 0120/22). In convoy Hx.72, second ship in 5th column. (LOWESTOFT, 1825/22).

PORT HALIFAX

British, 5820 tons. In convoy HX.72, 4th ship in 1st column. Torpedoed, (LOWESTOFT, 1825/22).

Submarines Reported

0520 A.F. message, 55.22 N., 22.10 W. (D.D.I.C. 0801/21).

1047 57.30 N., 11.0 W. very indefinite. (D.S. 382).

2200 A.F. message 54.47 N., 18° W. at 2100/21 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 0013/22).

2220 A.F. message 55.08 N., 18.30 W. at 2120/21 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 0013/22). Doubtful report of submarine 7 miles E.S.E. from Runnelstone at 2200/21. (C. in C., W.A., 1343/22).

Estimated U/B Dispositions


Italian - 1 may enter the Gironde tonight. No news of any others.

German- 1 was in 55°18' N. 22°21' W. at 0446/21.

The 1 that was in about 60°N.15°W. at 2116/19 is probably outward bound.

3 or 4 in N.W. Approaches, of which 1 was in 55°57' N. 8°19' W. at 0142/21; 1 in about 58°30' N. 18°W. at 1229/20; 1 may be some 90' E. of Rockall.

(D.D.I.C., 1230/21).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Attacked

- 0324 Have attacked firm contact in 55°57' N.,
08°19' W. (SCARBOROUGH, 0324/21).
3 patterns dropped, contact lost.
(SCARBOROUGH, 0428/21). OTTAWA and
VANQUISHER to attack. (A.C.W.A. 0403/21).
- 0913 At 0913 observed heavy explosion one mile
ahead, probably submerged submarine striking
mine, 55.57 N., 08.29 W. (ARABIS, 0925/21,
C. in C., W.A., 1147/21). Your 0925.
Examine position for survivors and
wreckage. (C. in C., W.A., to ARABIS,
1123/21). *See also 27/9 page 703.*

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

One unit of 60 ft M.T.B's operated last night off shore between Ostend and Dunkirk to destroy enemy surface forces.

Anti-Invasion Patrols

In addition to the usual patrols in the Channel, BROKE, VANSITTART and BURZA patrolled in the western part of the channel.

Attacks by U-Boats in N.W. Approaches

Convoy H.X. 72 was attacked by U-Boats several times yesterday and last night in the North Western Approaches. Some 7 or 8 ships were torpedoed and one was gunned. Another ship, proceeding independently, was sunk, though the date and time are not known.

Preparations for Invasion

There is evidence that cannot be discounted, that preparations for a combined operation against the country are nearing completion. C's in C. were informed at 0331 today that President Roosevelt had information from a source in Berlin which he considers most reliable, that the invasion of England is timed for 1500/22. Home Fleet ships were brought to 2 hours' notice for steam and no leave was given.

E-Boats

At 0115 today two E-Boats were reported in the Thames Approaches. H.M.T. EDWINA engaged them with 12 pdr. and claims one hit.

Merchant Ships Sunk

TUNA today sank an 8000 ton merchant ship near the French coast south of Bordeaux.

Operation D.T.

The attack by F.A.A. aircraft of FURIOUS on shipping at Trondheim was completed a.m. today. The operation was spoilt by bad weather inshore. Heavy A.A fire was encountered and no results were observed. 6 aircraft were lost.

British Air Operations

The old French warship WALDECK ROUSSEAU is reported to have been sunk during the recent attacks on Brest

Attacks on the enemy's invasion bases continued last night and today.

MOST SECRETWar Diary22.9.1940.
SundaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Operations

Serious fires were caused in the London Docks areas by air attacks last night. At Liverpool and adjoining areas also bombing caused several fires.

Bombs were dropped harmlessly at Parkeston Quay this afternoon.

A- 10,000 ton tanker standing off a jetty near Dartford received a direct hit followed by a shower of petrol filled glass bottles. The fires caused are under control.

SS PANOS and LARPOOL were attacked about 1100 today off the Fastnet. PANOS arrived Milford Haven with LARPOOL in tow.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary, off the North East coast of Yorkshire, in the Tyne area, possibly off the Firth of Forth and off the entrance to Stranraer.

HAMBLEDON and WOOLSTON report mines exploded in the Thames Estuary yesterday and today, suggesting time mines. VIVACIOUS, escorting Convoy F.N. 88. with WOOLSTON, had her engines damaged by a near mine explosion but was able to proceed to the Humber.

Two mines exploded harmlessly when ships were returning from the Dover Patrol

A Parachute mine is visible in the River Crouch.



War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Operation "Menace"

An outline of this operation is given in Admiralty signal today.

A British merchant ship reports sighting at 1330 yesterday off French Guinea a transport filled with troops, escorted by a French destroyer, steering 305°.

SS CYMBELINE (British 6317 tons) was sunk by a raider of the EMIL RICKMER type 500 miles west of the Canaries on 2/9.

Mediterranean

Air Raid on Alexandria

No casualties or damage were caused in an air raid on Alexandria from 0415 to 0450 today.

Air Raid on Malta

No military damage or casualties were caused in an air raid on Luqa aerodrome this morning.

Bombardment of Sidi Barrani

Last night LADYBIRD and 4 destroyers bombarded enemy positions at Sidi Barrani.

Air Operation

R.A.F. continued to harass the left flank of the Italian advance. A ship was hit last night at Benghazi.

-Air Raid on Cyprus

Lighters at Karavostasi were bombed at 0800 today, but no hits were registered.

East Indies

Air Raid on Aden

No damage or casualties were caused in an air raid on Aden last night and today.



22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Following received from British Ambassador Washington, source at present ungraded, despatch at 1313/21. President has just heard from a source in Berlin which he considers most reliable that the invasion of England is timed for 1500/22. Ends. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0331/22 to C's in C. Home).

Notice for steam Have steam at 2 hours' notice from 1200/22. No leave is to be given. (C. in C., H.F., 0930/22 to H.F. negative NIGERIA).

Lamlash Will be defended instead of Campbeltown. (D. of L.D., 1150/22).

Dover A/S, M/S, and A/P craft. Organisation in event of invasion being attempted by day. (V.A. Dover, 1155/22).

Code word DELUGE. Suitability of weather for small craft operations in form 1. Suitable, 2. Possible, 3. Unsuitable, will be signalled daily at 0200 and 1400 for various areas. (D.S.D. 1243/22. Adty. AZ. Message 844).

Dover Patrol Destroyers and NAPOLEON signal. Adty. 1250/16 and 1515/16. Request attention of destroyers detailed for Dover patrol may be especially drawn to Dover operation order NAPOLEON paragraphs 8, 10c, and 11. On receipt of NAPOLEON signal they should immediately close the given position and attack the enemy until further orders unless some other action is obviously necessary. (V.A. Dover, 1701/22 to C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth).

Policy

Damaged ships No ships are to be sunk unless definitely unsalvageable. (C. in C., W.A., 0731/22).

Convoy escorts Your 1939/21 (re notice for steam). Approved (Adty. 1029/22 to C. in C., W.A.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSPolicy (Contd.)Convoy Escort
Zig-Zags

Zig-zag No. 10 must now be known to enemy. No. 15 or other should be used at night. Recommendations as to day. (C. in C., W.A., 1713/22 to N.C.S.O's).

Attacking
at sight.

Your 1212/21. Suggest following amendment of position in para 2(a)ii. (C. in C., H.F., 1034/22 to Adty.)

Movements"Rivet"

Requesting fighter protection for one destroyer 0630/22 to 1800/22 arrived Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A., 0559/22).

SALADIN, BEAGLE

Arrived from Dartmouth 0617/22. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0739/22).

Nore Command

Anticipated night dispositions 22/23 Sept. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/22). Day patrols and movements to 1200/23. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/22).

JUPITER

My1524/11 and Adty. 1903/20. Intend to sail Dutch Schoot JUPITER from Sheerness at 1500/22 to arrive Newhaven daylight/23rd. Speed expected about 6½ knots. (C. in C., Nore, 1044/22 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Orkneys

Movements for night 22/23. (A.C.O.S., 1531/22) Trawler lines occupied 22/9. (A.C.O.S., 1536/22). State of A/S trawlers 22/9. (A.C.O.S., 1930/22). Movements 22/9. (A.C.O.S. 2001 and 2147/22).

ROSEMARY

Intend sailing 23/9 for Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1657/22).

Dover

Patrols for night 22/23. (V.A. Dover, 1704/22).

DUNEDIN

Route to Clyde from 57°50' N. 11° W. (C. in C., W.A., 7121/22).

? 1721/22

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSMovements (Contd.)BOUVET 1 }
BOUVET 4 }

Sailing delayed. BOUVET 4 damaged by collision while alongside. (F.O.I.C., Belfast 1731/22 to A.C.O.S.)

Western Approaches Movements for 22/9. (C. in C., W.A., 1755/22).ADVENTURE }
BROKE }
WHITEHALL }

Patrol from Eddystone to 3° W. Request fighter protection from 0900 to about 1500/23 in approaches to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A., 1755/22 and 1809/22).

SURPRISE

Sailed as by C. in C., W.A.'s 1301/19. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1810/22).

GUILLEMOT }
PUFFIN }

Sailed at 1820. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1829/22).

Rosyth Command

Movements for night 22/23. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1928/22).

U.S. DestroyersRoute for 1st ^{"Towns"} ~~Towns~~ Flotilla from 58°55' N. 17°10' W. to Belfast for onward routing to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A., 1939/22).VIVACIOUS

Proceed to Humber on relief by WALLACE am/23. (C. in C., Nore, 2120/22 to WOOLSTON). My 1248/1, C. in C., Nore, 1140/2, Adty. 1806/2. Request relief for VIVACIOUS be detailed, as STORK out of action since 1/9. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2241/22 to Adty.).

WORCESTERSHIRE

Leave Clyde 1500/23. Route to N.P. 54. (F.O.C.N.P. 2214/22 to WORCESTERSHIRE).

LAURENTIC

Leave Ailsa Craig at 1400 /24. Route to N.P. 55. (F.O.C.N.P. 2216/22 to LAURENTIC).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsSweep off Maas and Scheldt

One unit of 70 ft. M.T.Bs to carry out tonight to destroy enemy surface forces, commence not later than 2230 from near Thornton Ridge Whistle buoy, sweep to N.E. through Middel Diep on silent engines, and be 25 miles clear of coast by first light. (C. in C., Nore, 1230/22 to BEEHIVE).

Anti-Invasion Patrol

4 destroyers leave Gate 1930/22, through QZS.3 and Eastern Channel, and at about 50°35' N., 0° W. at daylight 23rd. Request fighter protection 1930 to dark/22 and daylight to 0800/23. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1440/22 to H.Q.F.C.). VANOC, VISCOUNT, VOLUNTEER, STURDY, patrol eastward to Lydd Light keeping N. of 50°5' N. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1507/22 to Adty.)

Trawler Patrol off Start Pt.

An A/S trawler patrol to be established tonight from 50°5' N., 3°40' W. to 50°20' N. 3° W. (C. in C., W.A., 1639/22 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth). No.2 Group of 5 ships sailed from Brixham 2000. (N.O.I.C., Dartmouth, 2037/22 to C. in C., W.A.).

MAC. ONE (Trial near East Tongue Buoy).

My 2225/21. Operation carried out today. No result. (C. in C., Nore, 2041/22 to Adty.)

Operation D.T. (A/c attack off Trondheim).

Operation completed am/22. Bad visibility spoilt operation, but shipping and oil tanks attacked. No positive results observed. Casualties to aircraft and personnel of FURIOUS. (BERWICK, 2104/22 to Adty.) BERWICK, FURIOUS, NORFOLK, MATABELE, ESKIMO in company expect arrive 1030/23. (BERWICK, 2034/22 to A.C.O.S.).

Ushant

Indications that M/Vs are rounding Ushant steering to southward. Request you consider operating with destroyers on night 23/24 in Ushant area sweeping so as to make maximum use of dark hours. (V.C.N.S. 2200/22 to C. in C., W.A.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSSubmarinesCLYDE

Leave patrol at 2100/23. Route. (Capt. S.9 0917/22 to CLYDE)

Scapa

Your 1319/21 para F. It is necessary to keep one submarine at Scapa to fulfil working-up requirements. (C. in C., H.F., 1151/22 to V.A.S.)

L.27

St. Valery-en-Caux and Fecamp 18/9. Report. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1707/22 to Adty.)

TALISMAN)
URSULA)

Positions. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1755/22).

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/23. (V.A.S. 1816/22 and 1953/22).

TRIBUNE)
CACHALOT)Positions. (V.A.S. 1952/22 and 1954/22).
TRIBUNE proceeding at 2245 (F.O.I.C., Falmouth, 2221/22 to C. in C., W.A.).
TRIBUNE sailed. (F.O.I.C., Falmouth, 2300/22 to C. in C., W.A.).Greenock Area

Movements of submarines. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1235/22).

E-BoatsPosition Z

E-boats reported near position Z. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0126/22 to MALCOLM). 2 E-boats reported in position Z at 0115. (C. in C., Nore, 0245/22 to EGRET).

LOCH INVER,
EDWINA

No news has been received from H.M.T. LOCH INVER since last night 21/9. H.M.T. EDWINA who was distant about 7 miles from LOCH INVER's position on patrol engaged 2 E-boats at 0050/22 and reports having seen tracer bullets in her direction. Search has been made in the vicinity and wreckage found. EDWINA was unable to report fully until arrival in harbour owing to defective W/T. EDWINA claims to have hit one E-boat with 12 pdr. Report follows. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2101/22).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSBritish Air Activity

Calais, Dunkirk, Gris Nez, Boulogne, Flushing, Ostend, Jersey, Texel, Helder, Antwerp, Zeebrugge, Dortmund-Ems Canal	}	Attacks on Shipping, barges, and docks during night 20/21. (B.C. Summaries, 437,438, and 439).
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Channel Approaches

A Sunderland will patrol between 49°50' N. 3° W. and 49°10' N. 6° W. from 0300 to daylight. (C. in C., W.A., 0009/22 to BROKE).

Glasgow Balloon Barrage

Your 1730/21. Existing lanes in barrage will be closed when all sites occupied. Attacks appear to have been from above barrage height. (H.Q.B.C. 1530/22 to Adty.).

S.A. 2

Cancelled tonight except 2 southern tracks, owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1658/22).

Enemy Air ActivityCobweb material from aircraft

3 reports received of material like cobwebs dropped from aircraft and causing severe blisters on handling. (Hofor, 1315/22).

PANOS)
LARPOOL)

British ships. Reported being bombed off Fastnets at 1100/22 and making for Queenstown. Request N.A. Dublin may ascertain damage and sail them at dusk for Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A. 1649/22 to Adty.)

Harwich

One aircraft came from seaward and dropped 5 or 6 bombs in the mud about 200 yards E. of Parkestone Quay. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1806/22 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSMiningOperation P.R.
Minelaying off
Oost Gat.

Adty. 1111/20. para. 7. To be carried out tonight. MALLARD and SHELDRAKE will operate from 0030 to 0130/23 to N.E. of 51°30' N., 3°12' E. and VETERAN, VENOMOUS, WILD SWAN will patrol from 2230/22 near 51°47' N., 2°55' E. 3 M.T.Bs will patrol East of Schouwen Bank during operation. On completion, forces withdraw to northward and return Harwich. (C. in C., Nore, 1116/22 and 1845/22 to H.Q.C.C.). Aircraft will attack shipping in Zeebrugge and Flushing tonight between 2345 and 0115 as diversion. (C. in C., Nore, 1851/22 to MALLARD). M.T.Bs 22, 31, 34 sailed at 1930. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1948/22 to C. in C., Nore).

HAZARD }
HEBE }

Your 2155/21. Operations will begin 22/9. (M.S.1 0037/22 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Tyne

S.S. EGTON reports Enemy Seaplane, probably minelayer, 3 miles North of San Jose D. Buoy. (PUNJABI, 0245/22 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Thames Estuary

HAMBLEDON reports 2 mines exploded. One at 0645 in 51°30'18" N. 1°20'36" E. about 1000 yards from line and between 2nd and 3rd ships; the other at 0650 in 51°31'42" N. 1°18' E. about 900 yards from line and between 1st and 2nd ships. Distance apart of ships 3½ cables and speed 25 knots. (C. in C., Nore, 1031/22 to Adty.). Mine exploded in 51°39' N., 1°2' E. No casualties. (WOOLSTON, 1125/22 to C. in C. Nore). Heavy underwater explosions in Barhull Deep at 2230/21 and 0720/22 suggesting Time Mines. (WOOLSTON, 1205/22 to C. in C., Nore).

Aberdeen

Confirmed that Parachute O mine was seen to drop about 1¼ miles N.E. of entrance at 2305/21 (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1224/22 to C. in C., Rosyth). Port open to all vessels using N. side only of Approach Channel. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1303/22 to Adty).

22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Suspected New
Type of Mine

Formation and speed in C. in C., Nore 1031/22 seem suitable for the new Firing Device provided weather permits such high speed. (C. in C., Nore, 1255/22).

River Crouch

R.N.O. Burnham reports Magnetic mine in river Crouch at St. Clements Green. Parachute visible at high water. (C. in C. Nore, 1301/22 to Adty.)

Mines near
Thames

Adty. 1728/21. Not considered practicable to destroy these mines near river, close to shipping and controlled mines. Magnetic mines already in barges will be towed to Mucking Flats, and do not propose to load any more. (F.O.I.C., London, 1338/22 to Adty.)

Tyne-Blyth
Inshore Channel

Propose to re-open. Request you make necessary QZS. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1621/22 to Adty.)

East Coast
Mine Barrier

Ref. 195. QZX. Search at S. end of Gap A. was completed on 9/9 1½ miles each side of 56°20'30" N. between 2°4' W. and 1°6' W. Search ordered in my 2155/21 is now in progress. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1809/22 to Adty.)

Portsmouth East-
ern Approaches

2 Oropesa sweepers in Eastern swept channel and QZS.III. Request Fighter protection from 0630 to 0900/23. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1916/22 to H.Q.F.C.).

VIVACIOUS

Turbine damage from near mine explosion. Speed limited to 15 knots and starboard engine will not go astern. If no further damage she can continue to Rosyth. (WOOLSTON, 1507/22 to C. in C., Rosyth). No casualties. (VIVACIOUS, 1825/23 to F.O. Humber Force).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

Flushing, Calais,) Barges observed night 20/21.
Ostend-Bruges Canal) (B.C. Summary 437).

Blankenberg,) Reports received 1200 to 2359/21.
Calais, Ostend,) (B.C. Summary 438). (B.C. Summary 439).
Antwerp, Scheldt,)
Flushing, Dortmund-)
Ems Canal.)

Willemsoord, Imuiden,) R/C by A/C 22/9. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham,
Zeebrugge, Ostend.) 0615/22).

Convoys. Sighted by s/m H.43 off Cape Lewi and Cape De la Hague, proceeding both ways with tide via Alderney Race. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1033/22 to Adty.)


Borkum, Ameland, M/Vs reported by Coastal Command. (D.D.I.C.
Emden, Juist and 1737/22 to C. in C.).
Terschelling.

Emden Large number of M/Vs reported off Emden about 1300/22 may be expected to pass through H.1. (V.A.S. 1819/22 to H.44).

Zeebrugge Bomber Command report at 1633/22, 52 ships escorted by 4 or 5 destroyers steering 200° off Zeebrugge. (C. in C., Nore, 1941/22) Report is incorrect. (C. in C., Nore, 2247/2)

Ems Estuary Coastal Command reports 36 M/Vs leaving Ems estuary at 1315/22. Six ships reported off Ems, steering West. (C. in C., Nore, 1841/22).

Hague, Rotterdam,) Shipping and Barges on 22/9.
Maas, and Delft Canal) (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2335/22).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTSINNISDHU

Regret report total loss with 4 hands at 2001/20 near Hole Haven after explosion, cause not ascertained. Wreck will be lifted if possible. (O.C. 952. 0900/22 to C. in C., Nore).

BALTISTAN

My 1035/17. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I.), Cape Town, 0955B/22).

INVERSUIR

My 1045/19. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I.), Cape Town, 0955B/22).

LACKLAN

My 1045/19. Arrived. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1155/21).

BOUVET 4

My 1821/20. Suffered collision damage while alongside. (F.O.I.C., Belfast 1731/22 to A.C.O.S.).

LOCH INVER

See E-boats.

22.9.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

S.C. 4.

To alter course at 0800/22. (C. in C., W.A., 0020/22) Orders to VANQUISHER, (C. in C., W.A., 0120/22) Cancel my 0120. To join H.X. 72 (C. in C., W.A. 2000/22)

F.N. 89

PINTAIL to form additional escort (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1037/22)

F.S. 89

H.X. 72. B.

ROSEMARY to meet (C. in C., W.A. 1650/22)

F.N. 88

WALLACE to join (C. in C., Rosyth 1911/22)

→ H.X. 72

VANQUISHER to join (C. in C., W.A. 2000/22)

C.W. 12

To sail for Southend 1345/24 (C. in C., Nore, 1232/22)

O.B. 220

Route (D.T.D. 1652/22)

E.N. 6

Clyde portion arrived less BALTONIA (N.C.S.O., Clyde, 2012/22)

H.X. 74

My 1210/20 Delete EMPIRE RAZORBILL (D.T.D. 0950/22)

H.X. 76

Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1129/22)

H.X. 75

Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1106/22)

Dispersal Point

Your 1550/20/9. renders proper dispersal impracticable if convoy is delayed by bad weather and point dispersal is far to the eastward. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0942/22)

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND

Date of sailing from Liverpool with naval personnel for Halifax. (D.O.D. (H) 1321/22)

ULSTER MONARCH

To be sailed unescorted and routed through Faroes. R.A.D. to sail 2 destroyers to R.V. with her in Skopen Fiord and escort to Invergordon. (C. in C., H.F., to N.O.I.C., Iceland 1046/22) Arrived with A/S trawler STELLA PEGASI (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2145/22)

MOST SECRETWar Diary22.9.1940.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace" and Interception
of French Naval ForcePolicyAdmty. statement to Cs. in C. (1st S.L. 0011/22 (See Operations Volume) passed to C. in C., China, for information (1st S.L. 1435/22) *Policy re. merchant ships (1st S.L. 0253/22) See Operations Volume (p. 38)*General Catroux

Appointment to Syria. Message for Gen de Gaulle from Prime Minister. (1st S.L. to DEVONSHIRE, 1346/22) (See Operations Volume)

Situation

Situation report. French Africa, No 22. (D.N.I., 2208/22)

Slow ConvoysSouth Atlantic
Your 1401/20 approved as a temporary measure provided groups are sailed with sufficient margin to ensure their arriving up to time. (D.T.D. to C. in C., S.A., 1502/22, amended 1120/23)Overdue Ships

My 1035/17 and 1045/19 BALTISTAN and INVERSUIR arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown 0955B/22)

Suspicious
Vessel

Position 5.37 N., 16.28 W., followed by suspicious vessel. (BENEDICT, 1905/22) Suspicious ship disappeared (BENEDICT, 2055/22)

Troop Convoys

S.W. and C.M. Convoys (see East Indies)

PRIMAUGUET
Oiler

French Cruiser PRIMAUGUET's oiler is French Aux.vessel TARN. (CORNWALL, 1140Z/22)

Situation
CORNWALL,
DELHI.Relations with Vichy Govt. may become very strained during next few days. You should be prepared for this in dealing with PRIMAUGUET. DELHI on completion fuelling will proceed to join you. (C. in C., S.A. to CORNWALL, 1943N/22)
*Orders to DELHI (C. in C. SA, 1945 N/22)*French ShipsBritish M/V SOBO reports sighted at 1320N/21 in position 10.17' N., 16.15' W., one French 2-funnel transport and one French destroyer, course 305° transport filled with troops. (C. in C., S.A. 1613N/22 *to SC Form M, DEVONSHIRE*)

MOST SECRET22.9.1940.
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanCode NamesBlocks of words for use in Mediterranean
(D.N.I., 1055/22)TransportsDestinations in South Africa of
vessels sailing from Suez on 23/9.
(D.S.T.D., Port Said. 1411/22)Sidi BarraniIntend to issue following communique:
Our naval forces attacked enemy position
in Sidi Barrani area during early hours
of Sunday 22/9 with good results. (C. in
C., Med., 2306/22)Malta Raid,
French Leaflets,
Tunis & BizertaAir Intelligence Report from 1800/21 to
1800/22 all times local. 0300 to 0815
French aircraft with French crew dropped
100,000 leaflets on Sfax, Sousse, Tunis,
on Bizerta dockyard of Sidi Abalaha and
aerodromes of Sidi Hamet and Karouba.
No enemy opposition encountered.
R.C. by 1 Skua F.A.A. observed 1
destroyer 2 M/V's of 800 tons at Messina
Catania 1 M/V of 600 tons to 1,000 tons
Augusta 1 M/V 3,000 tons 4 M/V 800 to
1,000 tons Syracuse nil 1 oiler of 6,000
tons heading East 10 knots 15 miles
south Cape Spartivento 5 C.R. 42's
observed 9 miles off Taormina. Engage-
ment did not ensue. 1115 to 1135 1
formation of 5 8.79's escorted by 4 C.R.
42's attempted to bomb Luqa aerodrome
1 bomb only fell on aerodrome doing no
damage. 4 bombs failed to explode.
3 Hurricanes and 2 Gladiators were sent
off to intercept, but, owing to false
report no contact with enemy was made.
No service casualties on either side or
damage to Government Property.
(A.H.Q., Malta 1640/22 V.A. Malta 2305/22
Gov. Malta 2232/22)Haifa
Raid 21/9My 1547/21. Ref air raid on Haifa 21/9
Tanks on fire in refineries area are
2 benzine tanks and one sludge tank
and not refined oil tank. Certainty
that no refined oil will be lost.
Refineries damaged no estimate actual
amount yet received but considered will
not seriously interfere with the re-
fining. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 0951/22)Alexandria
RaidAir raid 0415 to 0450 3 aircraft, 3
bombs, no casualties, no damage. (N.O.I.C.
Alexandria, 0912/22)

/Neutral....

MOST SECRETWar Diary22.9.1940.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Neutral
Submarines

F.O. tel. 628 to Minister Athens and 943 to Ambassador Ankara. It would appear that some negotiations are in progress regarding movements of neutral submarines but as I have not received above quoted telegrams am not able to follow meaning of tel 860 from Minister Athens and 1225 from Ambassador Ankara, both to F.O. (C. in C., Med. 1213/22)

East IndiesW.S. 3.

ASKA (damaged) not to be included, WINCHESTER CASTLE used instead (D. of S.T. 0534/22 to P.S.T.O. Bombay) Amended (0726/24.

Dutch Navy
Indian Ocean

Following from Dutch C. in C., N.I. Not intended at present to have Netherlands war vessels permanently in Indian Ocean. Although C. in C., N.I. agrees in principle to the appointment of Liaison Officer at Colombo, at present no such officer is available. C. in C., E.I. will be kept informed by C. in C., N.I. of all movements of Netherlands warships in Indian Ocean. Netherlands ships forbidden to trade to Madagascar or reunion in compliance with a request received from British authorities. C. in C., N.I. contemplates operating Dutch S/MS in Indian Ocean as far as Mauritius if Diesel oil can be supplied by British Authorities. Also requests to be informed whether such fuel oil can be obtained in Mauritius. (C. in C., China, 0547Z/22 to C. in C., E.I.)

ARAWA

My 0742/21. ARAWA to proceed at 0630/23 towards 18° S., 70° E. (C. in C., E.I. 1912Z/22)

BHIMA

My 1804/20. BHIMA beached in outer harbour Aden. Damage was done by a near miss, one of 9 bombs. (C. in C., E.I. 1320Z/22)

/KANIMBLA.....

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

KANIMBLA
S.W. 1.
S.W. 2.

My 1304/13 KANIMBLA will escort W.S.2.A. returning transports, to be called SW 1. from Aden to Durban. (C. in C., E.I., 0748Z/22, 0756Z/22)
My 1204/1 Convoys B.S. 5½ and B.S. 6½ will be called S.W. 1. and S.W. 2. respectively. (C. in C., E.I., 0750Z/22)

Pilgrim Ships

Adnty. 1632/8. Overland route considered impracticable. Pilgrim ships will sail across to Aden and thence in convoy. (C. in C., E.I., 0624Z/22)

B.N. 5½

Following sailed in B.N. 5½ from Bombay 19/9 for Suez (list) (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 0909Z/22)

Troop Convoys

Following short titles for troop convoys approved. Vessels returning in convoy from outward W.S. series will be known as S.W. S.W.1. due to leave Suez 24/9 in B.S. 5½. Troop convoys from Cape or Durban to East Africa will be known as C.M. C.M. 3. is due to leave Durban about 25/9. (D.O.D. (F) 1600/22)

Aden Raids

Intelligence Summary No 104 and Operational Summary. For period ending 1500/22. One unidentified enemy aircraft raided Aden 0010 hours. Fighters unable to intercept. All bombs on Sheikh Othman Beach. No damage no casualties. One S. 79 raided Aden 0930 at 17000 ft. Raid complete surprise and sighted too late for fighters interception or A.A. action. 4 bombs fell in sea and 4 Singapore Lines Isthmus. No damage no casualties. Emergency flare path bombed 0045, 6 bombs. No damage no casualties 3 Blenheim 4 maintained fighter escort over convoy A.P. 2.5. 0300 to 1400. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q., Aden, 1807/22)

Transports

My 0600/14 BATORY, ORCADES and STRATHEDEN sailed 21/9 for Colombo. British officers, other ranks, wives and children for Singapore, China and Australia (S.S.T.O. India, 1040Z/22)

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

River
Gunboats

Your 0449/9/8. It is desirable for one gunboat to remain at Shanghai and one at Canton. CRICKET and TERN should be withdrawn from Shanghai when weather conditions are most suitable. As Japanese and Chinese Governments have previously been informed of our intention to withdraw these vessels as convenient, not proposed to make further communication to them apart from my notification which you may consider it desirable for N.L.O., Shanghai to make to local Japanese authorities. Head of M. 0948/22 to C. in C., China)

Indo-China
Trade

Admiral Terraux ordered by Vichy to stop British and Allied ships trading with Indo-China without permission. Has asked permission to use his own judgement. Meantime his guarantee holds good. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0210Z/22)

America & West Indies

CYMBELINE

Asking to explain discrepancy in dates between his 2300/19 and CYMBELINE raider signal (D.D.I.C. 1635/22 to S.O.I. Bermuda)

Halifax
Escort Force

F.O. 3. B.S. 1346/21 to Adty. renaming of Halifax Escort Force. Concur. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0906/22)

U.S. Destroyers

My 1409/18. Amending time of passing through position given in his 1753/13. U.S. Destroyer WELLES instructed to await arrival of second group at St. John's N.F. (F.O. 3. B.S. 1109/22)

HIGHLAND
PATRIOT

Admty. 1738/21, asking for route given to HIGHLAND PATRIOT, which has had to be directed to St. Vincent for re-routing. Brevity of information given was in accordance with last par of 1234/12/8 from C. in C., Africa. Following is detailed route. Ship also provided with instructions for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1710/22)



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MOST SECRETWar Diary22.9.1940.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAustraliaU.S. 5.

My 1116Z/11. Amend itinerary ^{or} U.S. 5. to ready at 15 knots. Dates of arrival. (A.C.N.B., 0521/22) List and route (Dist. N.O., W. Australia, 0609Z/22) Departure CANBERRA escorting U.S. 5. comprising troop transports CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, NIEUW HOLLAND, SLAMAT and INDRAPOERA from Fremantle, 0550Z/22 (A.C.N.B., 1440Z/22)

SWAN

Arrived Westernport 0045Z/22 (A.C.N.B. 0808Z/22)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSKLIC

Left 20/9 destination not known. (Gifon, 2100/22)

HERMONTHIS

Docked, speed normal, bunkers about 700 tons. (B.O.L., Kingston, 1024/22)

War Diary22.9.1940.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedConvoy H.X. 72
PUTNEY HILL

5 ships torpedoed (LOWESTOFT, 0017/22 0830/22m 1215/22, 1825/22, 1850/22 LA MALOUINNE 0607/22) PUTNEY HILL, British, 5216 tons, SSSS 54.47 N., 18.00 W., attacked by submarine bearing 180° (Land's End Radio, 0053/22) From PUTNEY HILL, submarine submerged. We O.K. so far (Valentia Radio, 0122/22) was in H.X. 72.

CITY OF SIMLA
(Torpedoed 20/9)

Now reported sunk. 100 survivors landed Greenock, 5 people killed by explosion (D.S. 383)

NEW SEVILLA
(Torpedoed 20/9)

Now reported sunk. 112 known survivors and one man drowned. (D.S. 383)

TORINIA
(Torpedoed 21/9)

Cancel previous instructions. Proceed all despatch to assist TORINIA torpedoed in 54.47 N., 18.00 W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0343/22 to SEAMAN) See SCHOLAR.

LOTUS
(Torpedoed 15/9)

Nine more of crew on board trawler ROSITA. This completes the crew and no lives lost. (D.S. 383)

EMPIRE ADVENTURE
(Torpedoed 20/9)

(In Convoy O.B. 216) MASTADONTE to assist SUPERMAN, towing EMPIRE ADVENTURE 55.34 N., 6.50 W., at 2000/21 steering for Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0339/22) MASTADONTE sailed (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0605/22) Ship is ex Italian ANDREA, seized on 12/6. In tow for Clyde, making 1 knot (D.S. 383)

CABO TORTOSA
(sunk before 22/9)

Spanish. Sunk by U.B. off Portuguese Coast. Had arrived Barcelona 5/9. (Press Report, D.S. 384)

BR 1337 Torpedoed by S/P
41° 20' N. 09° 16' W. 18/9 Page 129

COLLEGIAN,
gunned, escaped

British, 7886 tons Convoy H.X. 72 shelled and exchanging shots. (Valentia Radio, 0612/22) Gunned by submarine 55.37 N., 15.57 W (Plymouth W/T, 0555/22 0600/22) Can see submarine right astern. (COLLEGIAN, 0619/22) Position given in D.S. 383 as 55.14 N., 16.40 W. exchanged shots with submarine which disappeared. (D.S. 383)

/SIMLA...

MOST SECRETWar Diary22.9.1940.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked-Contd.SIMLA

Norwegian, 6031 tons, in Convoy H.X 72
Torpedoed. Survivors picked up by
various ships. (D.S. 384)
At least five ships torpedoed between
2220 and 0200. LOWESTOFT and
HEARTSEASE searched all night without
success and now searching in position
055° 27' N., 016° 25' W where gun
flashes were seen at 0659. SHIKARI
with aircraft ordered to proceed at
full speed to try and contact COLLEGIAN
Convoy evidently scattered. HEARTSEASE
has SIMLA survivors four seriously in-
jured. (LOWESTOFT, 0830/22)

SCHOLAR

British, 3940 tons, in H.X. 72
torpedoed night of 21/22/9. (Cabinet
W.R.R. 386) Survivors on board SKATE
(D.S. 384), from survivors evidence
from TORINA and SCHOLAR, appears
possible that U-Boat made her attack
from inside convoy while on the surface
at night. (C. in C., W.A., 2227/23)

D.L.HAPPER~~(Torpedoed 20/9)~~*In correct, see 23/9**Page 593.*

British tanker, 12223 tons. In convoy
O.B. 216. Torpedoed about 2024/20.
Was outward bound from the Clyde. Re-
ported sunk and the survivors to be in
VANQUISHER, (D.S. 383)

Submarines Reported

0655 A.F. message, 55.37 N., 15.51 W., 0555
G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 0722/22)

0208 59° N., 13.30 W., position very in-
definite (D.S. 383)

0125 54.40 N., 13.40 W., Position indefinite
(D.S. 383)

1430 Submarine reported 55.30' N., 07.17' W
at 1430/22 (C. in C., W.A., 1759/22)

1326-1619 56° N., 25° W Position Indefinite
(D.S. 384)

2208 51° to 52° N., 14° to 19° W. position
very indefinite (D.S. 384)

MOST SECRET22.9.1940.
SundayWar DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 may be off Portugal. No news of any others.

German- 1 may still be W. of 20° W., between 54° and 56° N. 1 was in 55° 14' N., 16° 40' W., at 0555/22 following up convoy H.X. 72. 3 or 4 in N.W. Approached of which 1 was about 85 miles N. of Rockall at 0208/22.

Another may be to the eastward of Rockall.

A third was in about 54° 40' N., 13° 40' W at 0125/22.

The fourth may still be N. of Ireland (D.D.I.C. 1308/22)

Submarines Attacked

0959

By LOWESTOFT, 55.25 N., 16.25 W. Attacked firm contact. Contact lost am investigating. HEARTSEASE and SHIKARI in company. (LOWESTOFT, 0959/22) No further contacts. No news of convoy, presume scattered. (LOWESTOFT, 1850/22)

1438

Have depth charged oil patch, 59.05 N., 5.53 W., moving 130° 1 knot. Large air bubble observed after charge. (A/C 204 Sqn. 1438/22)

Explosion in
Minefield

Your 1147/21. Asking for further information when ARABIS returns to harbour (R.A.M.L. 1103/22 re C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary

23.9.1940.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep of
Scheldt & Maas

One unit of 70 ft M.T.B's last night carried out a sweep off the mouths of the Scheldt and Maas to destroy enemy forces.

Patrols in
Channel

Destroyers carried out anti-invasion patrols in the Channel.

M.T.B. 15.
Sunk

M.T.B. 15 was mined in the Thames Approaches this evening, while on passage with other M.T.B's to attack shipping between Ostend and Dunkirk. M.T.B. 15. sank early 24/9.

DUNEDIN
DESPATCH

DUNEDIN arrived in the Clyde today from the West Indies Station. With DESPATCH she is placed under the orders of C. in C., Portsmouth.

EREBUS

EREBUS left Scapa 2230 ²²³⁰ ~~today~~ for Sheerness with EGLINGTON.

British Air Operations

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on the enemy's invasion bases. No operations were carried out by Bomber Command today, owing to unsuitable weather.

Enemy Air Operations

Some fires were caused at London Docks last night.

Two serious fires were caused at Woolwich Arsenal.

One enemy aircraft dropped bombs harmlessly in Dover harbour this afternoon.

23.9.40.
Monday.SITUATION REPORTOperation "Menace" (see also 570A + 570B)

* FORESIGHT

An ultimatum was delivered at dawn today to the Vichy authorities at Dakar. Resistance was offered by the French ships and shore batteries. BARHAM was hit 3 times by 9.4 inch or above, but not seriously damaged. CUMBERLAND was hit and damaged, she withdrew and proceeded to Bathurst. * ~~HOLLYHEDGE~~ was damaged, DRAGON and INGLEFIELD were slightly damaged. In the prevailing low visibility the heavy ships were unable to support the light craft effectively. One French submarine was hit as it left harbour, and AUSTRALIA hit and set on fire a destroyer of the LE FANTASQUE class. * General de Gaulle withdrew and attempted unsuccessfully to land at Rufisque under cover of fog early in the afternoon. Force M and troopships withdrew from the coast, intending to resume operations tomorrow. There was little indication of poor morale at Dakar and Rufisque, though air action was feeble.

* L'AUDACIEUX. (See p. 563.)

South Atlantic

Sailings from Brazilian ports, which were stopped on 21/9 on account of a raider reported on 19/9 were resumed today.

PRETORIA CASTLE was sent to patrol in the St. Pauls Rock - Fernando de Noronha area, afterwards proceeding to Freetown.

Mediterranean

Last night 6 waves of bombers attacked Matruh. The only casualties reported are 2 British soldiers killed.

Blenheims today made 2 attacks on Tobruk foreshore and shipping. Bombs fell on buildings and jetties and were very near to 5 ships.

Duplicate

SECRET

570A
(Appreciation by ACNS(F) 23.9.40)
(From ACNS(F) signal pack - Dakar
26.7.47)

Future Movements after Operation "Menace".

(b) RECONSTITUTION.

There are two important commitments to be made on the completion of Operation "Menace" :-

- (a) The reconstitution of Force "H".
- (b) The provision of cruiser escorts for W.S.3 Slow, due to sail on the 2nd October, and W.S.3 Fast, on the 7th October - 7 ships in each - from the United Kingdom.

A.P.3, due at Freetown on the 22nd September, will have to be escorted onwards by WOLFE and CILICIA to Capetown, and from there onwards by CARTHAGE if no 8" cruiser can be made available.

(c) ARK ROYAL.

2. Reconstitution of Force "H".

(a) ARK ROYAL.

On the assumption that the operation in progress is successful ARK ROYAL might be free to sail from Freetown area on the 25th, in which case the following programme could be carried out:-

- Arrive United Kingdom - October 2nd
- Depart United Kingdom - October 10th
- Arrive Gibraltar - October 15th.

This programme, however, assumes that the defects referred to in ARK ROYAL's 1828/19 and 1854/18 (defective superheater) can be made good in 7 days. It seems quite likely that once ARK ROYAL gets to the United Kingdom the time required to make good these defects and others which are certain to crop up will probably exceed the 7 days which was hoped would be sufficient.

It is for consideration, therefore, whether ARK ROYAL should not proceed direct to Gibraltar on being released from the Freetown area, in order to be available for the operation of passing through the M.T. ship to Malta. This ship at present is supposed to be ready to sail from the United Kingdom, having been camouflaged, on the 8th October, in which case she should arrive at Gibraltar about the 14th. As the intention is that she should not proceed into Gibraltar, Force "H" would be required to sail from Gibraltar on the 14th at the latest.

The effect of this proposal would be that there would be no delay to the M.T. ship being sent to Malta, but on the other hand it would be postponing the ultimate reconstitution of Force "H". It is questionable whether this putting-off policy is the right one.

On balance I consider ARK ROYAL should return to the United Kingdom.

(b)/

TOP SECRET
23.9.40.
SECRET

(b) SHEFFIELD.

In addition to ARK ROYAL, a cruiser, presumably SHEFFIELD, is required to join F.O. Force "H". If SHEFFIELD is employed, as seems likely, for W.S.3 Fast, she should be able to get to Gibraltar somewhere about 14th October.

(c) RESOLUTION.

The intention was that RESOLUTION should return to Gibraltar. If, however, REVENGE is still to be held in Home Waters, it is for consideration whether RESOLUTION, after fuelling at Gibraltar, should proceed to Halifax to provide convoy escort for the Canadian Contingent.

(d) BARHAM and 4 destroyers.

The intention is that the above should return to Gibraltar, preparatory to passing through to join Mediterranean Fleet on or about 15th October.

3. Provision of Cruiser Escorts.

(a) W.S.3. Slow.

Again on the assumption that the operation in progress is successful, it should be possible for CUMBERLAND to proceed to Gibraltar, say about 25th September, and by steaming at 25 knots she could carry out the following programme:-

- Arrive Gibraltar - P.M. 27th.
- Leave Gibraltar - A.M. 28th.
- Rendezvous with W.S.3 Slow in the position where the A/S escort break off on the 4th October.

(b) W.S.3. Fast.

SHEFFIELD to escort W.S.3. Fast from the United Kingdom until such time as a cruiser from the Freetown area (possibly DORSETSHIRE who is due at Freetown from the Cape on the 29th September) could take over the escort on or about 12th October. SHEFFIELD would then proceed to Gibraltar.

(c) A.P.3.

CORNWALL is at present engaged with the PRIMAUGUST but on the assumption that she can be released from this duty about the 25th September she could easily overtake A.P.3. and provide a cruiser escort for this convoy right through via the Cape to Aden.

(d). The above proposals will denude C. in C. South Atlantic of any 8" cruiser belonging to his own command, and on the assumption that the remaining ships of Force "H", e.g. AUSTRALIA, DEVONSHIRE, return to the United Kingdom, he will only have DRAGON and DELHI in addition to his A.M.Cs.



War Diary

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MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

2 Blenheims bombed Zeila early this morning. Results were not observed.

8 heavy bombs were dropped on Port Sudan yesterday. No damage or casualties resulted.

Mining

Operation PR

Early this morning VETERAN sank a large tug about 40 miles West of Hook of Holland whilst patrolling with 2 other destroyers to protect MALLARD and SHELDRAKE during minelaying Operation PR. The operation was abandoned owing to repeated attacks on the corvettes by E-boats.

British Aircraft minelaying

4 Swordfish of Coastal Command laid mines in the Maas Estuary last night.

Enemy minelaying

A magnetic mine was detonated off Oxan Light today.



MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
~~DELUGE~~ Signals

Nore 2, Dover 2, Channel 2, Humber 2.
(Adty. 0200/23). Nore 1, Dover 1, Channel 1
Humber 1. (Adty. 1437/23).

Nore Command
Notice for steam

Cruisers, Destroyers, and Corvettes remain
at half an hours notice, reverting to
normal notice as in my 1035/12 at 0900/23.
(C. in C., Nore, 0535/23).

Burning Oil
as Invasion
Defence

Adty's 1900/20. Apart from Dover,
Folkestone is considered the only port
in this command suitable for installation
of this defence. Length of pipe required.
(V.A. Dover, 1227/23 to Adty.).

Military state
of readiness

C. in C., Home Forces instructions.
(Hofof 1415/23).

Orkneys and
Shetlands.

Instructions for readiness of military
to be issued by F.O.C.S. and A.C.O.S. as
they think desirable. Propose to inform
these officers accordingly. (D. of L.D.
2131/23 to W.O.).

Policy.

Instructions to
aircraft as to
attacking ship-
ping in Home
Waters

Adty. 1111/20 applies only to surface
vessels. Bombing of submarines is
covered by F.S.A.2 para 2. (Adty. 1545/23).

Convoy escorts
notice for steam

Convoy escorts are to be at normal notice
for steam during their first two nights in
harbour unless otherwise ordered by F.O.
in charge. (C. in C., W.A., 1749/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.HOME COMMANDSMovementsEREBUS
EGLINTON
"Hatch"

Request fighter protection daylight 23/9 to pm/25/9, Scapa to Sheerness, code word "Hatch". (C. in C., Rosyth, 0010/23).

Capt. D(16)

Am proceeding to vicinity of Aldeburgh Light Float arriving 0245. (Capt. (D) 16 0133/23).

4th M.T.B.
Flotilla

MAC.5 leave Harwich 0545 proceeding to 51°57' N., 2°15' E. thence to Galloper. Return to harbour. Do you require assistance from her. (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 0532/23 to S.O. 4th M.T.B. Flotilla).

Nore Command

Night dispositions 23/4. (C. in C., Nore 0800/25). Day patrols and movements (C. in C., Nore, 1200/23, 1910/23).

LAURENTIC

Intend sailing 0200/24 to comply with F.O.C.N.P.'s 1044/18 and 1908/18. (Full calibre firing)(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0940/23, 1530/23).

Northern Patrol

Trawler line occupied today. Names. (A.C.O.S., 1536/23). Movements of A.M.Cs (F.O.C.N.P. 1646/23).

Harwich

A/P patrols for 23/9. (S.O. A/P Harwich, 0930/23, 1536/23).

DUNEDIN.
DESPATCH

Are placed under orders of C. in C., W.A., who should administer these ships whilst in U.K. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1620/23). Cancel my 1620/23. DUNEDIN and DESPATCH are placed under orders of C. in C. Portsmouth and are to proceed to Portsmouth taking advantage of dark hours. To be administered by C. in C., Portsmouth whilst in U.K. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2203/23).

JACOBA

Dutch Schoot, sailed from Sheerness 1515/23 to arrive Newhaven 0900/24. (C. in C., Nore 1640/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.HOME COMMANDSWITCHIntend sailing to arrive F buoy 0700/24.
(C. in C., W.A. 1643/23).RouteFor ships on passage at night between
Portsmouth and Dartmouth as concurred in
by C. in C., Portsmouth. (C. in C., W.A.,
1720/23).GLASGOWTo be sailed for Humber on completion of
practices 24/9 with all convenient
despatch (C. in C., H.F. 2303/23 to R.A.(D))OperationsIcelandOne large Black monoplane sighted by
Walrus 120 miles S. of Reykjavik flying
North at 0805. Not seen in Iceland.
(N.O.I.C., Iceland, 1120/23 to C. in C.,
H.F.).FALCONETBoom Defence Vessel. Dover to 40°
Dungeness 4 miles and return. Request
Fighter protection 1230 to 1700/23.
(V.A. Dover, 1131/23 to H.Q.F.C.).Operation G.L.To destroy any enemy forces including
M.Vs sailing down Channel to Ushant and
capture prisoners. BROKE, VANSITTART,
WHITEHALL, BURZA, BLYSKAWICA and GARLAND
will leave Lizard at 2030/23, reach 10 miles
West of Ushant at 2345/23, sweep along
North coast of France, and return to Plymouth
End of searched channels to be reached not
later than 0730/24. Code word ~~LOCAL~~ "Local".
(C. in C., W.A. 1347/23 to BROKE).
Fighter protection requested. (C. in C.,
W.A., 1437/23 to H.Q.F.C.).Operation D.T.
(Trondheim)My 2034/22.45 mins. late. Delete NORFOLK.
(BERWICK, 0943/23 to A.C.O.S.).Ostend to
DunkirkWeather permitting, one unit of 60 ft. M.T.B
will repeat operation ordered in my 1202/21,
to destroy enemy surface vessels.
(C. in C., Nore, 1436/23 to BEEHIVE).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.HOME COMMANDSOperations (Contd.)A/S Patrol
off Start Pt.

An A/S patrol is to be established tonight as during last night. (C. in C., W.A., 1513/23 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1851/23 to C. in C., W.A.).

Anti-invasion
Patrol

4 destroyers leave Gate 1930 to QZS.III and Eastern swept channel at 25 knots. Request fighter protection 1930 to dark/23. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1540/23 to H.Q.F.C.).

M/Vs off Calais

30 M/Vs passed Calais at 1915 steering down channel close inshore. Intercept and attack. Endeavour to reach Nab by 0630. URSULA has been warned. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2230 and 2255/23 to WOLVERINE, VISCOUNT, WITHERINGTON, BRILLIANT).

SubmarinesTRIBUNE

To keep south of 48° N. during night 23/24. (C. in C., W.A., 0113/23 to V.A.S.). (V.A.S. 0839/23). *See also next page*

CACHALOT

My 0839. Keep south of 48° N. until 0600/24. (V.A.S. 0906/23). *See also next page*

L.27

Intend to sail L.27 for area D.4 at 1700/24 on surface. (S.5 1051/23 to Adty.).

The submarine successes in the past few weeks against U-boats have been a very bright spot in otherwise gloomy anti-U-boat picture. What are your proposed dispositions in the near future to enable this good work to be continued. (C. in C., H.F. 1232/23 to V.A.S.).

URSULA

To leave patrol at 0001/25 and proceed to Portsmouth. Route. (Capt. S.5 1333/23).

Greenock area

Movements 24/9. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1505/23).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/24. (V.A.S. 1648/23).

Interception of U-boat

U-boat proceeding to Lorient is expected cross 6° W. in daylight pm/24. TRIBUNE to remain near $47^{\circ}30'$ N., 6° W. CACHALOT to remain near 47° N. $5^{\circ}30'$ W. and is not to report situation. (V.A.S. 1747/23).

TUNA sinking of 8000 ton M/V.

Patrol compromised while sinking 8000 ton enemy M/V in $45^{\circ}19'$ N., $1^{\circ}20'$ W. at 1234/22 Am proceeding to patrol temporarily off Ile d'Yeu. (TUNA 2130/23 to V.A.S.).

E-boats

St. Catherines

War Motor boat at 170° St. Catherines Pt. 16 miles. (Cleathorpes Radio, 0013/23).

Position X.

Suspected E-boat activity near position X. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 0118/24 to WIDGEON).

British Air Activity

Boulogne, Ostend, } Aircraft attacks night 22/23. (B.C. Summary
Dunkirk, Antwerp, } 442).
Flushing. }

Ostend, Havre, } Aircraft attacks night 22/23. (B.C.
Calais, Boulogne, } Summary 441).
Monfleur, Flushing, }
Dunkirk, Antwerp, }
Zeebrugge. }

Flushing, Ushant, } Aircraft attacks on barges and shipping
Colijnsplaat } 22/9. (B.C. Summary 440).



23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air activity (Contd.)

Brest

Aircraft attacks on port and shipping am/23 (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 1105/23).

Repeat tonight the operation detailed in my AP/430/20/9 with available aircraft of 22 Sqdn. Aircraft may operate as far South as Flushing. (H.Q.C.C. 1440/23 to 16 Group North Coates). Cancel last sentence. Aircraft not to operate south of Hook of Holland. (H.Q.C.C. 1646/23).

Attack on Shipping at Zeebrugge and Flushing.

Repeat tonight the operation detailed in my AP/438/22/9. (H.Q.C.C. 1805/23 to 16 group Detling).

Oil on sea off Brest

Intend to ignite this oil with incendiary bombs from one aircraft. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2240/23 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

D.16

Am being shadowed by one aircraft in 51°56' N. 1°40' E. course 214° speed 20 knots. (D.16 0739/23).

WOLFE

Your 2136/12. After attack by Condor aircraft, a time bomb 3'6" by 14" was found wedged against funnel casing and with difficulty dragged overboard. Estimated weight of bomb 500 lbs. (WOLFE 1003/23 to Adty.)

Cobweb material on enemy aircraft

Investigation proves cobwebs quite harmless. (Hofor 1851/23).

Dover Harbour

3 bombs dropped in Dover harbour at 1710. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover, 1901/23 to Adty.).

SUSSEX

My 2245/20. Condition of ship. Estimate 2 weeks required to render her waterborne. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2214/23 to Adty.)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

- Operation SN. Is delayed for the present. (R.A.M.L. 1149/23 to Adty.)
- Ruytingen Pass A/L. MSD. 2157/49 of 9/8. Propose lay first A Mark 1 minefield from M.T.Bs in S.E. end of Ruytingen Pass about 51°10' N., 2°10' E. S.A. opportunity offers during present week. (C. in C., Nore, 1220/23 to Adty.) Concur. But in view possibility of French mines still remaining in this area operations should take place at or near high water. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2120/23 to C. in C., Nore).
- Operation PR.
(Minelaying off
Oost Gat) Sank one large tug about 160 feet long in 51°56' N. 3°10' E at 0150/23. (VETERAN 0838/23 to C. in C., Nore).
- Operation will be carried out tonight by MALLARD, SHELDRAKE, VETERAN, and 2 destroyers detailed by D.16. Proceed through Gap E, reach 51°47' N. 2°55' E. at 2315/23. Destroyers patrol there, corvettes to 51°30' N. 3°12' E. at 0115/24, lay mines on 037°, complete by 0215, and withdraw by Gap E. (C. in C., Nore, 1444 and 2103/23 to Adty.) VETERAN, WIVERN, VENOMOUS, MALLARD, SHELDRAKE take part tonight. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1600/23 to Adty.)
- Plymouth 3 M/S trawlers in 50° N. 4° W. from 0700/24 to 1200/24. Request fighter protection. (C. in C., W.A., 1637/23 to H.Q.F.C.).
- Oxan Light LL trawler detonated red mine today at 282° Oxan Light 5.7 cables. Heavy explosion. (A.C.O.S. 2011/23 to Adty).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy IntelligenceOstend

No shipping off coast for 15 miles West of Ostend. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0300/23). At 0800/23 aircraft reports 45 M/Vs of various types with possibly 1 destroyer leading in 51°13' N. 2°31' E. steering 235° at 5 knots. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1009/23)

Flushing, PRU. Sortie at 0945/23. (PIU.1714/23
Terneuzen, Zeebrugge, to N.I.D.).
Ostend, Dieppe,
Fecamp, Havre.

Brest

There are 5 destroyers in Brest. (C. in C. W.A. 1741/23 to BROKE).

Rotterdam, Hook

PRU.Sortie at 1030/23. (PIU. 1903/23 to N.I.D.).

Hellevoetsluis, On 22/9. (B.C. Summary, 440).
Hetspui, Ushant,
Zeebrugge, Flushing.

French and Belgian coasts

Night 22/23. (B.C. Summary 441).

Calais, Boulogne, Night 22/23. (B.C. Summary 441).
Dunkirk

Casualties and DefectsVIVACIOUS

(Damaged by mine). Your 2241/22. Regret no relief is available at present. (D.O.D.H. 1021/23 to C. in C., Rosyth).

BEACON GRANGE

N.O.I.C. Dundee reports BEACON GRANGE ready to leave Dundee for Tyne at 0700/26. Speed 10 knots. Request arrangements for towage be made. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1233/23 to Adty.).

CADUCEUS

My 1045/19. Overdue shipping. Cancel CADUCEUS. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1455/23 to D.N.I.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.HOME COMMANDSShippingConvoys

M.T.89 Will leave Methil 1700 today, escort WOLSEY, VIMIERA. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1032/23).

FS.89 Will leave Methil 1700 today escort WOLSEY, VIMIERA. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0713/23).

HX.72 Owing to lack of escorts, "A" position to proceed to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A., 1040/23).

HX.75 Sailing telegram. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1101/22, recd. 0708/23).

OA and OB.216 GLEANER to shadow after dispersal. (C. in C., W.A., 1020/23). HURRICANE to shadow OA.216. (C. in C., W.A., 1931/23).

OG.43 GLEANER to escort to Gibraltar. (C. in C., W.A., 1020/23). HURRICANE to rejoin at daylight. (C. in C., W.A., 1539/23).

SC.4 DEPTFORD reports in 57.48 N., 18.15 W. at 0200/23. KEPPEL, etc. to join. (C. in C. W.A., 0821/23). LOWESTOFT and HEARTSEASE to R.V. (C. in C., W.A., 0749/23). Position of addresses (your 0821) at 1000/23. (Capt.D.12, 1036/23). Position, air reports (C. in C., W.A., 1440/23).

SLA.46 Passing Rattray Head. (SANDWICH, 0001/23).

OA.219 Route. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0931/23).

Ol.4 Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1021/23).

HG.45 R.V. and date. (F.O.C.N.A. 0930/23).

HX.73 Estimated position at 0600/24 ANTHONY and ANTELOPE to join. (C. in C., W.A., 1540/23). Meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1600/23).

OA.218 Position (A.C.O.S., 1452/23).

OB.218 Escorted SABRE and GLOXINIA. PICOTREE to R.V. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 2237/23).

FN. and FS. Changes and additions to convoy code words to come into force starting with FN.91 and FS.91. M.T. convoy will no longer exist. (D.T.D. 2058/23).

HX.77 Route. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1422/23).

SC.6 Advance sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 1505/23).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.HOME COMMANDSShipping (Contd.)ULSTER MONARCH

DUNCAN and ISIS to R.V. and escort to Invergordon. (R.A.D.H.F. 1945/23). Times (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1610/23).

SPHINX and CANADA

French hospital ships. Translation of a message sent by Admiral Muselier, No.233:- M. Chartier advises that German and Italian Armistice Commissions have been warned of forthcoming sailing of hospital ships and that French Adty. at Vichy believes such sailing possible in complete safety from 25/9. (A.C. Free French N.F., 1615/23 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Inform SPHINX and CANADA that Charge d'Affaires London states that French Govt. have now received a safe conduct for their passage and that they should sail on 25/9 in accordance with routeing orders given in my 1604/17. (D.O.D.(H) 2059/23).



War Diary

582

MOST SECRET

23.9.1940.

Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace".

Landing

From M.A. Lucioles landed, success signal received but activity reported on aerodrome. Weather very hazy. (F.O., Force M. 0620 N/23.)
Emissary passing breakwater boom at 0640. (F.O., Force M. 0646/23.)

Visibility Bad

Emissary's boat has passed boom, gate was open, visibility deteriorating, force not in sight from land. (F.O., Force M. 0712/23)
Visibility bad. Air work hampered, no further news of position at present. (S.O., Force M., 0805/23.)

French Fire

French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA has been fired on but apparently not serious yet. (S.O., Force M., 0821N/23.)
French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA reports emissary has landed and proposals have been rejected. She herself is the object of resolute opposition. (S.O., Force M., 0852/23.)
Situation developing towards Sticky. (S.O., Force M., 0904/23.)

Emissary Wounded

Emissary returned wounded after attempt made to arrest him. French ships and machine guns on jetty opened fire. Visibility 2 miles, decreasing. (S.O., Force M., 0944/23.)

Air Reconnaissance

Large French flying boat sighted over Battle Fleet at 0941. SATAS sighted it and it turned away. (S.O., Force M., 0951 N/23.)

Destroyer fired on.

Further batteries opened fire on wing destroyer, am withdrawing her out of range. Have made in plain language "Will be compelled to return fire unless fire ceases". (S.O., Force M., 1010/23)

Order to Withdraw

Following received. French Commander, Fortress, Dakar, to British Admiral. If you do not wish us to fire on you, remove yourself more than 20 sea miles from Dakar. (S.O., Force M., 1050/23.)

Intercepted
French
Messages.

Following intercepted in P/L from Casablanca to Toulon:-

I confirm ultimatum de Gaulle. British ships have already opened fire on Dakar. 1305/23/9. Marine, French West Africa.

Following intercepted in P/L from Toulon to Casablanca, for Marine Dakar:-

I expect in accordance with orders received everyone will answer force with force with the utmost courage. 1455/23/9. French Admiralty.

Following intercepted in P/L from Toulon to Casablanca:-

To High Commissioner, Dakar. Nr. 7324. The Government, informed of the attack at Dakar by French elements, traitors to their country, supported by the felon ex-Ally, orders you to reply with the utmost vigour. France has her eyes upon you. Signed. Platon, Secretary of State for Colonies. T.O.O. 1645/23/9.

Following intercepted in P/L from S.N.O., Casablanca, to Capitaine Armand, P.L.M. 12, P.L.M. 13, P.L.M. 21, S.N.A. 7, Bourges, Maurice Delmas. Proceed forthwith to anchorage at Agadir. T.O.O. 1435/23/9.

(Note.- P.L.M.'s are single deck colliers, carrying coal for P.L.M. Railway Company, tonnage 3000 to 5000 tons).

MOST SECRET

23.9.1940.

Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace" (Contd.)

French S/M Hit.
Destroyer Hit, (FORESIGHT)
Fort Shelled.

After warning that submarines would be engaged if they left harbour, opened fire on and hit French submarine. One British destroyer hit on forecastle by fire from fort. Small fire quickly put out. Battleship fired 13 rounds at fort. Fire has ceased at the moment. (S.O., Force M., 1117/23.)
 Request F.O.C.N.A. and S.O., Force H may be included in address of reports of Operation Menace in view of possible immediate repercussion in these ports. (F.O.C.N.A., 1138/23. ~~36~~ SO, Force M.)

CUMBERLAND
Damaged.

CUMBERLAND hit amidships. Main switch-board damaged, one turret at present out of action. (F.O. Force M., 1149/23.)
 Following from CUMBERLAND.
 Have had to evacuate both engine rooms. (S.O., Force M., 1312 N/23) CUMBERLAND has withdrawn to southward, does not require assistance. Aircraft claims two direct hits on submarine at periscope depth. (S.O., Force M., 1431 N/23.)
 CUMBERLAND now steering Bathurst as damage is still out of control owing to heat. (S.O., Force M., 1509 N/23.)

RENOWN.

RENOWN prepare for sea. (1st S.L. to V.A., H., 1236/23.) Your 1236. RENOWN and 4 destroyers ready for sea 1400 (S.O., Force H., 1328/23.)

DRAGON
INGLEFIELD

DRAGON and INGLEFIELD received slight damage. In present low visibility heavy ships cannot effectively support light craft. (S.O. Force M., 1229/23.)

Rufisque Landing

De Gaulle now proceeding to attempt landing at Rufisque under cover of fog. (S.O., Force M., 1358 N/23.)

Postponement Fog.

My 1358/23. Owing to fog, impossible to carry out operations contemplated before dark. Intend therefore to withdraw troop ship and resume operations tomorrow. (S.O., Force M., 1636 N/23)

Destroyer Engaged.

LE FANTASQUE class destroyer engaged and set on fire by AUSTRALIA. (S.O., Force M., 1712 N/23.)

23/2359. 15L to Com-C

Operations commenced today. Vichy authorities
offered firm resistance & opened fire on French & British
ships. Naval command at Dakar ordered
to meet force by force

War Diary23.9.1940.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace". (Contd.)French Troops

Plain language message sent from Dakar at 1651 N today: Armes Thies. Requisition 14 lorries and 18 drivers for battalion to come from Sain (4 corrupt groups) (C.-in-C., S.A., 2027/23 to F.O., Force M.)

Summary of Operations

My 2031 Part one. Summary of today's operations. De Gaulle's attempts at Dakar and Rufisque have been opposed, resistance of fort and ships determined, little indication of poor morale except air action feeble. Indications of reinforcements from interior. Part two follows. (S.O., Force M., 2027 N/23.) My 2031 part two. Fog, which local authorities consider may persist, has completely hampered operations. Day; visibility never exceeded 4,000 yards leaving no alternative to close action with Fort if our Force was to be seen which De Gaulle desired. Part three follows. (S.O., Force M., 2029 N/23) My 2031/ Part three, final. Intend now to issue ultimatum expiring after dawn tomorrow and should we fail to obtain acceptance to proceed with systematic reduction of defences before landing troops. Meanwhile have requested De Gaulle to continue his efforts for peaceful settlement during the night. Casualties as reported. (S.O., Force M., 2031 N/23.)

Operation to Continue


Following from Prime Minister, for M.A. Having begun we must go on to the end. Stop at nothing. (Private Office. Approved by Prime Minister. 2214/23 to S.O., Force M.)

Cs.-in-C., Advised.

My 0011/22. Operations commenced at dawn today. Vichy authorities at Dakar offered firm resistance to ultimatum and opened fire on French and British ships. Due to low visibility operations were suspended but it is the intention to continue operations at dawn tomorrow, Tuesday. Naval Command at Dakar have been ordered by the French Admiralty to meet force by force. (1st S.L. 2359/23, to Cs.-in-C.)

MOST SECRET

23.9.1940.

Monday.
War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace". (Contd.)RENOWN
Alboran Patrol

Before receipt of your 1236/23, had arranged to withdraw Alboran Patrol to the Straits and proceed to Westward with RENOWN and 4 destroyers sailing from Gibraltar at 1900 to await developments from Menace. Unless further orders received, intend to sail 1900. (S.O., Force H, 1710/23 to Admty.) Your 1710/23. Negative proceed to sea. (V.C.N.S., 1825/23.)

Apart from B.B.C. announcement have received no information concerning progress of Menace. Request may be kept informed. (S.O., Force H, 2210/23) My 1825/23. It is of course at your discretion to order RENOWN to sea should French bombing make it necessary. (1st S.L., 0120/24.)

Communique from
de Gaulle for
publication,
(text).

Text of communique referred to in F.O.C. Force M's 0450/24 (page 609):-
Called to Dakar by numerous Frenchmen anxious to continue the fight at his side, General de Gaulle appeared with French soldiers and sailors before the fortress. The Naval Authorities of Dakar ordered fire to be opened on General de Gaulle's emissaries who had come without weapons in a motor launch flying the tri-colour and white flag of truce. These emissaries were Capitaine de Frigate d'Argenlieu, Capitaine Gotscho, Capitaine Becourt Foch and Capitaine Perrin. d'Argenlieu and Perrin were seriously wounded. Later, General de Gaulle having attempted to land his troops peacefully, fire was opened by the Dakar Authorities on the French sloops SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, COMMANDEMENT DUBOC, COMMANDEMENT DOMINE. Several men were killed, many were wounded. General de Gaulle then withdrew his troops and his ships, not wishing to be a party to a fight between Frenchmen.

(F.O.C., Force M., 2330/23, to Admiralty).

Ultimatum delivered 2345/23, (see p 609)



23.9.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Air Recon.

From Daily Summary Operations. Carried out two A.S. patrols and 4 reccos. for surface forces. Area covered Spartel to Meridian 1°30' W. Submarine reported in position 295° Alboran Island 5 by ARCTIC RANGER. Aircraft sent to investigate, no confirmation. (200 group, 1700/23).

STORM, Polish Troops

Polish Legation Lisbon received instructions from Polish Govt. ordering communicate with S.S. STORM for her to proceed west of Gibraltar. No further indication being given they requested us to help clarify. No instructions received here; we suggested STORM proceed Gibraltar - as first arranged between Poles and our N.A. Madrid - there to await instructions. They have communicated with STORM to this effect. STORM belongs to Polish Govt. but sailing under Panamanian flag and owned in name Henri Habert. She is embarking Polish troops near Marseilles and was originally to transfer them at Gibraltar. (N.A.Lisbon, 1627/23 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Supply ships, Gibraltar.

Adty. 1427/14. If necessary for supply ships to leave Gibraltar due to French or enemy attack intend sailing those attacked to Force H as follows, pending developments or further instructions. PACHECO, CITY OF DIEPPE to Freetown; Oiler ORANGELEAF to cruise to eastward Madeira; CAIRNDALE to cruise to southward of Azores. (S.O. Force H., 1845/23 to Adty.)

South Atlantic

PRIMAUGUET

French cruiser PRIMAUGUET 0800Z/23 position 06.01' N., 16.26' W., course 290° 12½ knots. (CORNWALL, 0745/23).

MAHSUD. Raider Report

8.10 N., 14.31 W. MAHSUD followed by suspicious vessel. (Freetown, Radio, 0440/23) Suspicious vessel turned away, cancel my 0440. (Freetown Radio, 0458/23).



23.9.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

A.P.3

Arrival 1030/23. CILICIA and WOLFE with Convoy A.P.3 including ULSTER PRINCE, also CARNARVON CASTLE. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1115/23).

List of transports in A.P.3. CLAN CAMPBELL fell out of convoy night of 13/9. Expected to follow, but has not yet arrived. (S.O.I., Freetown, 2101/23). Date of sailing. Water and fuel required exceed that in D. of S.T. 0628/19. (C. in C., S.A., 2125/23).

My 2101/23. CLAN CAMPBELL has arrived. (S.O.I.), Freetown, 0857/24).

Overdue shipping. My 1045/19. Cancel CADUCEUS. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1455/23).

Raider Report

My 1238/21. Resume sailings. (Rio de Janeiro to N.C.S.O.'s 1739/23).

ARGUS

Adty. 1415/13. To sail for Clyde escorted by CILICIA and WOLFE. (C. in C., S.A., 1819/23).

PRETORIA CASTLE

Orders for patrol, to cover trade routes. Raider recently reported neighbourhood J.33. (C. in C., S.A., 1943N/23).

French Africa

Situation Report No. 23. Nothing to report. (D.N.I. 1821/23).

Mediterranean

KENT

Results of examination in dock. (C. in C., Med., 1027/23).

Air Activity

Night 22-23/9, 1905, 3 Blenheims attacked Barrani, damage not observed. 1942, 3 Blenheims attacked Menastir. A/A ~~RAF~~ from Bardia. All a/cs returned safely. Night 22-23/9, 6 waves totalling 35 enemy bombers reported as S.79's and Capronis attacked Matruh, bombs fell in harbour and on station, 2 British soldiers killed. Cyprus, 22/9, 0800, 2 enemy bombers level attack 1,000 ft. lighters at Pier Karavostasi, 15 bombs dropped, no hits. 0850, same 2 enemy aircraft machine gunned 3000 ft. containers and military billets, no damage, no casualties, A/A nil. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1032 and 1033/23).

23.9.40.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean (Contd.)Haifa Raid

Air raid on Haifa 21/9, 8 a/c believed Capronis in 5 separate attacks. About 80 bombs directed against I.P.C. tank Faroqu. Considerable damage to certain items of plant but not sufficiently serious to interfere with production. No casualties to direction personnel. No naval A/A gun mounted. 138 rounds fired by military, believe 2 aircraft hit. Raid more carefully planned and executed than on previous occasions, pamphlets in Arabic dropped. (N.O.I.C., Haifa, 1142/23).

Air Recon.

Times local, 1605, 1 Skua investigated report of unidentified ship north of Malta. Nothing seen. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1620/23).

Submarines


Do you consider that in present conditions small submarines for operation on route between Italy and Libya could be based on Malta? (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., Med., 2202/23).

Sidi Barani bombardment

My 1547/20. Owing to lack of suitable targets bombardments carried out by 27 Divn. destroyers only effect was to disperse motor transport concentrations at Sidi Barani and damage to aerodrome. Camp in vicinity of aerodrome also broken up. Bombardment considered to have been effective. (C. in C., Med., 1101/23).

Italy and Greece

Indications that Italian policy of intimidating Greece apparently successful. (Examples) Suggest time has come for a firm stand which will serve double purpose of reminding Greeks who is controlling Mediterranean and enabling them to point out to Italy that they are acting under British pressure. (C. in C., Med., 0901/23).


War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesAir Activity

Night 20-21/9, attacks on Gura and Mai Adaga. Kenya, 21/9 and 22/9, S.A.A.F. reconnaissances El Wak, El Katulo, Mombasa, Dar-es-Salaam and Kismayu areas. Kismayu 1 small and 12 large ships, 1 submarine submerging, 1 high speed motor launch, no aircraft, Gobwen Birkao appeared vacated. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1032 and 1033/23).

Dutch Shipping

My 1016/9/8 Para 3 (c) (Report of shelling of ATHELKING by disguised Merchant ship raider). Dutch C. in C., Netherlands East Indies has forbidden Dutch ships to trade to Madagascar or Re Union. Dutch ships wishing to sail to these territories are to be so informed and any Dutch ship contravening this order is to be reported to me. (C. in C., E.I., 0530Z/23, to N.C.S.O's). (Passed to Adty. 0532Z/23).

YARRA

Departure 0700Z, YARRA for patrol. (N.O.I.C., Aden, 0721Z/23).

ELORN

Marine Djibuti informed master of TUNA (M V) that French Tanker ELORN would sail about 25/9. She is still laden (B.3). Can reply now be made to my 0440/19. (Proposal to evacuate wounded persons for Djibuti to Madagascar). (C. in C., E.I., 0958/23 to Adty.)

Convoy BN.6

My 0740/15. Echelon 3 Niblick will now be reduced by 4 personnel ships 2 for Suez and 2 for Port Sudan, owing to 2 ships KHEDIVE ISMAIL and HOSANG having engine defects and being unable to proceed, and 2 ships ERINPURA and KARAGOLA arriving too late from United States to be embarked and sailed in convoy on 25/9. Total number of transports sailing in BN.6 now is 17. (P.S.T.O., Bombay, 1302Z/23).


War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies (Contd.)NEPTUNE

To increase speed to 20 knots weather permitting. On arrival in 30° S., 50° E., comply with my 1404/21. (C. in C., E.I., 1410Z/23, 1740/23).

CERES

Raise steam at 1 hour's notice. (C. in C., E.I., 1410Z/23). CERES is proceeding from Durban at 15 knots towards 33° S., 40° E. (C. in C., E.I., 1740/23). Sailed at 2331 G.M.T. in accordance C. in C., E.I., 1710Z/23. (N.O.I.C., Durban, 2332Z/23).

Enemy Report

My 1410/23. N.O.I.C., Simonstown, report from D.F. bearings suspect enemy ships in approx. position 38° S., 46° E. at 2044Z/22. (C. in C., E.I., 1740/23). Your 1740/23. This transmission was from U/B operating N.W. of Ireland. (D.D.I.C. 0214/24).

Declared danger zone

Italians recently announced that their previous declaration of a zone within 30 miles of Italian African coasts is under consideration.
Request report: (a) Whether, there is any sea-borne traffic going to Italian East Africa; (b) if this is the case, whether the declaration of a dangerous area off Eritrea, British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland will assist you, observing that naval and air forces can then be authorised to sink at sight any vessel found within 30 miles of the coasts of those territories. (Hd. of M., 1808/23, to C. in C., E.I.).

Air Activity

Intelligence Summary. No. 105 and Operational Summary for period ending 1500 G.M.T. 23/9. 2 Blenheims attempted attack hangars Diredaws unable locate target due cloud bombed Zeilah waterfront 0130 and 0205, results not observed no opposition. One Blenheim maintained fighter patrol convoy A.P.2, 0330 to 0730. All time G.M.T. No casualties. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1843/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSChinaFrench Shipping

Adty. 2002/7. Consider it most probable Admiral Terreaux would not at present allow ships to be chartered for fear of Vichy reaction. I also think he has need of at any rate some of them for Indo China trade, and under agreement you have made with Indo China authorities there is of course nothing to prevent them trading freely on China Station now. I am on frank terms with Ad. T. and submit I may be allowed to discuss matter with him. (L.O., Saigon, 0255/23).

River Gunboats

Adty. 0948/22 and British Embassy Shanghai's 0200/21. Concur with views of British Embassy Shanghai that value of keeping FALCON in commission is small. Voluntary reduction of only remaining gunboats in Chinese controlled waters might however produce demand which it would then be more difficult to resist to withdraw also our gunboat from Japanese controlled waters. Request your views. (C. in C., China, 0535Z/23, to Ambassador, Tokyo).

Indo-China

Following from Duncan, Hanoi, dated 22/9. Accord signed in principle. Army attitude complete disgust. Details tomorrow. (G.O.C. Malaya, 1104/23).

Dutch submarine. My
SALANDO

0945/17. Following received from C. in C. Dutch E.I. Dutch s/m K.17 departed Sunda sunk 2220Z/21 escorting S.S. SALANDO late MONI RICKMERS (route) to Durban speed 10½ knots. (C. in C., China, 1251Z/23).

** Not confirmed that K.17 was sunk
* 2000Z probably correct
24.*

America and West IndiesFrench QUERCY

Information received from U.S. State Dept. that French ~~cruiser~~ QUERCY leaves Fort de France 25/9 and expects to arrive French Guiana 28/9 or 29/9. (N.A. Washington, 1731/23)

U.S. Destroyers

My 1902/7. Second 8 commissioned am/23 as 2nd Town Flot. Divisional leaders KALK and HOPEWELL. Names, KALK, MADDOX, COWELL, FOOTE, HOPEWELL, ABBOT, THOMAS, DORAN. (████████). (F.O. 3 B.S.)

Escorts

Your 1533/5 and 1453/12 and Adty. 1631/17 and 2326/19. Regretted that under present circumstances impossible to provide alternative escorts. Matter will be received at earliest (opportunity as urgency is fully recognised. (DOD(F) to NSHQ, Ottawa, 2216/23).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSITHAKA

Left in Ballast, Russia, arriving Poti
23/9. (Galatz, 1048/21, recd. 0320/24).
(D.S. 385).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSCALIFORNIA

Hospital ship, 13060 tons, due to arrive
Naples 25/9 with 417 invalids. (D.S. 385).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPSCOMPIEGNE

Now loading cargo of sugar. Destination
France, possibly Morocco (B.2).
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1758/23).

Information received from U.S. State Dept.
that the following French merchant vessels
had left or were leaving Martinique carrying
cargoes of sugar: CAPITAINE. PAUL. LEMERLE,
21/9. ?ARIZONA 23/9, MONTAGEL 27/9.
Destination not known. Ships had national
flag painted on hull but navigation lights
and defence guns had been removed. We
suspect destination Dakar and are trying
to confirm. (N.A. Bermuda, 1829/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedEMPIRE ADVENTURE
(torpedoed 20/9)

SUPERMAN reports EMPIRE ADVANTURE sunk in position 55°11'30" N., 1°57' (?) W. at 0350. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0400/23). Ordering MASTADONE to proceed to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0704/23).

BOKA
(Torpedoed 20/9)

Panamanian, 5,560 tons, bound from Barry to Sierra Leone, torpedoed in convoy OB.216 at 2024/20, 55.54 N., 7.24 W. 28 survivors landed at Londonderry, 8 of crew missing. (D.S. 385).

D.L. HARPER
(Fake report)

(Reported sunk by s/m 20/9). Has been at Greenock since 31/8. Ship sunk on that occasion was the BOKA (see above). (D.S. 385).

FREDERICK S FALES
(Sunk 21/9).

British 10,525 tons torpedoed and sunk in convoy HX.72, probably 2330/21, 54.47 N., 18.00 W. Was bound from Curacao to Clyde. 32 survivors picked up, (D.S. 385). LA MALOUINE reports position course and speed 55.50 N., 13.08 W., 96°, 7 knots, assistance only required if cabled for. Add to survivors on board 32 of crew of FREDERICK S. FALES sunk 2330/21 (C. in C., W.A., 2347/23).

Submarines Reported

0206

U/B in 57.00 N., 15.00 W., at 0206/23 moving either north or south. (C. in C., W.A., 1159/23).

1403

Enemy submarine reported 53° N., 17°10 W. (C. in C., W.A., 1403/23). HURRICANE to join GLEANER, hunting. (C. in C., W.A., 1537/23).

-

S/m reported 295° Alboran Island by H.M.S. ARCTIC RANGER. A/c sent to investigate, no confirmation. (200 Group, 1700/23).

1330

53° N., 17.10 W. periscope sighted by DAELINGTON COURT. (D.S. 385).

2151

54° to 55° N., 20; to 22° W. position indefinite (D.S. 385).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported (Contd.)

1409-1418 50° N., 12.30 W., position indefinite (D.S., 385).

2216-0044/24. About 350' S.W. of Ireland, position indefinite. (D.S. 385).

pm/23 38.44 N., 63.56 W. Press report of unknown ship sighting U/b. (D.S. 385).

Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions

Italian - 1 off Portugal. No news of any others.

German - 1 about 250' W. of Fastnet proceeding to Lorient.

1 far out in Atlantic W. of 20° W. probably between 54° and 56° N.

3 or 4 N.W. Approaches of which 1 may be N. of Rockall; another is probably N. of Ireland and a 3rd may be somewhere about 57° N. 15° W. (D.D.I.C., 1240/23).



24.9.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation GL

A force of 6 destroyers under BROKE last night carried out a sweep from Ushant along the north coast of France, to destroy enemy merchant ships which have been proceeding down Channel and rounding Ushant lately, usually escorted by T.Bs and E-boats.

Destroyer Sweep

4 destroyers last night proceeded to try to intercept 30 merchant vessels reported off Calais at 1915, steering down Channel. They failed, however, to find the enemy ships.

Anti-invasion patrol

Destroyers last night carried out anti-invasion patrol in the Channel.

Submarine successes

TUNA early this morning sank a large merchant vessel screened by 2 former Norwegian T.Bs west of the Ile d'Yeu.

*Actually 1.
Cachalot - 24/9/40*

CACHALOT sank a U-boat today, steering east about 100 miles south west of Ushant. The submarine successes in the past few weeks against U-boats, of which 6 have been sunk by submarines this month, have been a very bright spot in an otherwise gloomy anti-U-boat picture.

Convoy FN289 attacked by E-boat

Convoy FN289 escorted by WINCHESTER was attacked by an E-boat at 0050 today. S.S. CONTINENTAL COASTER was sunk. The enemy retired behind a smoke screen after firing torpedoes.

LOCH INVER lost

H.M.T. LOCH INVER is presumed lost, no news of her having been received since 21/9. H.M.T. EDWINA, who engaged 2 E-boats about 0100/22 saw tracer bullets in her direction, where some wreckage has been found.



24.9.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations

R.A.F. continued their attacks and reconnaissances of the enemy's invasion bases last night. Aircraft of coastal command attempted to fire oil on water in Brest harbour, without success, though fires and heavy explosions were caused in the dockyard.

Locks in the Kiel Canal, and docks at Bremen and Hamburg were also attacked.

This afternoon, 12 aircraft of Bomber Command escorted by fighters carried out an attack on enemy motor minesweepers reported sweeping in the British minefield 9 miles off Dover. 2 direct hits and several near misses were obtained. Enemy fighters attacked; one enemy was shot down and one Blenheim was lost and one force landed, damaged. (Air Min. D.S. 433).

85 aircraft of Bomber Command last night successfully attacked public utilities and railway objectives in the Berlin area.

Enemy Air Operations

VIMIERA and convoy "Merit" were unsuccessfully attacked today off the north east coast, the splash of a suspected torpedo being seen.

At 0840 today training ship CORNWALL was capsized by a near miss during an attack on Tilbury. No naval casualties or damage occurred.

S.S. ZAGLOBA (Polish) was bombed and machine gunned without result in the approaches to the Clyde.

Southampton was bombed twice this afternoon. Production at the Supermarine Aviation Works is slightly affected and the railway was badly damaged.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORTMiningOperation PR

Last night MALLARD and SHELDRAKE, accompanied by VETERAN, WIVERN, and VENOMOUS laid mines off the Scheldt successfully.

LOCH MONTEITH damaged

A/S trawler LOCH MONTEITH was damaged by suspected mine while on patrol at 0255/24 10 miles S.S.W. of Portland Bill but returned to harbour under her own steam.

Enemy Minelaying

Enemy aircraft carried out minelaying last night between the Humber and Firth of Forth.

Blyth was closed early this morning until sweeping was completed at 1355.

Another mine was detonated off Point of Oxan today.

Operation "Menace"

A further ultimatum present yesterday to the Vichy authorities in Dakar expired at 0600 today. This was refused and in consequence bombardment of the forts and of RICHELIEU was carried out during this forenoon and afternoon, without conclusive results, in face of strong determination to resist.

FORTUNE depth charged a submarine which attempted to attack our Fleet. The submarine came to the surface and surrendered

CUMBERLAND arrived at Bathurst this morning.

Air attack on Gibraltar

Gibraltar was bombed by 25 or more aircraft believed to be French, operating from North Africa this afternoon; RENOWN and 4 destroyers put to sea undamaged at 1528 during a lull. Damage was done in the dockyard.



24.9.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

3 bombs were dropped in Aden harbour today, without causing any damage.

China

The Vichy Govt. on 22/9 ordered Admiral Terraux to stop British and Allied ships trading with French Indo-China without permission, but he continued to permit trading whilst asking Vichy for permission to use his own judgment. Japanese troops entered Indo-China yesterday morning, as the result of an agreement signed at Hanoi which, as far as it has been disclosed gives Japan all the military facilities required by the Navy and Army for the campaign in China. Today, C. in C., China ordered sailings of British and Allied ships except tankers as previously arranged for French Indo-China ports to be suspended until further orders, Admiral Terraux having asked that this should be done, in order to facilitate his negotiations with Vichy.

America & West Indies.

6 U.S. destroyers were taken over by Canada today and renamed. (see diary, 3/10/40)



War Diary

24.9.1940

Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

"Deluge"
Signals

Defence of U.K.

Humber 2, Nore 1, Dover 1, Portsmouth
(D.C.0200/24)
Humber 2, Nore 1, Dover 1 (D.C. 1418/24)

Burning Oil as
Invasion Defence

Your 1900/20. Proposals for installation at Ports other than Newhaven are being held up pending solution of difficulties discussed in Portsmouth 481/0115 G. of 19/ (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0947/24 to Adty.)

Harwich Destroyers
Notice for Steam

Your 2130/23. Should Destroyers Harwich Force in Harbour tomorrow be at half hour or 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour notice for steam. (Capt. D. 16. 2021/24 to C. in C., Nore)

Policy

C.S. 18.

If intended to maintain 3 Cruisers of 18th C.S in Humber, should like MANCHESTER to carry out deferred firings at Scapa before BIRMINGHAM is taken in hand. (C.S. 18. 0830/24 to C. in C., H.F.) Think it very important not to delay further BIRMINGHAM's refit. Concur in C. in C., Nore's 1108/7/8, which relates. The whole effective force of 18th and 2nd C.S. has passed from my operational control (C. in C., H.F., 1301/24 to C.S. 18) I should be content for this to be arranged in any way that you and Adty. think best. (C. in C., Nore, 1607/24 to C. in C., H.F.) Refit of BIRMINGHAM should not be further delayed. (V.C.N.S. 2150/24 to C. in C., H.F.)

A/S Measures
for Defence of
Trade

A weekly meeting will be held at Adty to keep authorities in close touch and expedite any necessary alterations. C. in C., Coastal Command and C. in C. W.A. requested send Representatives, and also other Flag Officers whenever they desire. First Meeting at 1130/1 October. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1412/24 to Cs. in C.)



War Diary

24.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

- PATROCLUS Leaves Liverpool a.m./25 for Area C.3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1016 and 1020/24)
- WOLFE)
CILICIA) C. in C., S.A. 1819/23. WOLFE take area A. 3. CILICIA take area E. 3. (F.O.C.N.P., 1018/24)
- Nore Command Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/25 (C. in C., 1200/24)
- Dover Patrols for night 24/25 (V.A.Dover 1500/4)
- Orkneys Movements for night, 24/25. (A.C.O.S., 1533/24) Trawler Lines occupied 24/9 (A.C.O.S. 1536/24)
- REPULSE Will be off Rattray Head at 0600/25 on passage to Rosyth. Request Fighter protection. (R.A.D. H.F., 1536/24 to C. in C., Rosyth) Cancel my 1531 and 1536/24 (R.A.F. H.F. 2120/24 to C. in C., Rosyth)
- Harwich Night Dispositions and Movements to 1200/25 (N.O.I.C. 1600/24)
- Portsmouth Movements for night 24/25 (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1607/24)
- DESPATCH)
DUNEDIN) Adty. 2203/23. ^{DUNEDIN} DESPATCH and ~~DESPATCH~~ have no close-range A/A weapons except Lewis Guns. (C. in C., America & W.I. to C. in C., Portsmouth)
- GLASGOW Adty. 2100/23. GLASGOW proceeds about 2130/24 expects to arrive Humber (R.A.D. H.F., 1201/24)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

601

24.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Lucid"

*(attack by frigates on
invasion barges at Calais
and Boulogne)*

Paragraph 11. Request following forces be allocated. Destroyers: Forces A and C from Nore Command, Force B from Portsmouth Command. Minesweepers: Force A, 3 from 5th M/S Flotilla and Force B, 3 from 6th M/S Flotilla. M.T.B's: C. in C., Nore to allocate most suitable M.T.B's or M.A/S.B's in Nore, Portsmouth and Dover Commands. (A.C.N.S. H. 1210/24 C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth, and V.A.Dover)

Communication Orders. W/T watch and Confidential Books. (C. in C., Nore, 1252/24 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

X. 243/24/9. Instructions for Operation. Amend last line para 10 to read 0600/26. (Air Ministry 1550/24 to Bomber, Fighter, and Coastal Commands)

Amend a.m. 1210/24 in accordance with C. in C., Nore's 2204/23. (D.O.D. H. 1636/24 to C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth, and V.A.Dover)

Para. 21. A red can buoy with flashing light established at 100° 9 miles from S. Foreland Lighthouse, visible 2½ miles. Request you inform ships of Force A. Otherwise existence of Buoy to be secret for the present. (D.O.D. H. 1637/24 to C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth and V.A. Dover)

A.L.P.D. 09066/40 of 24/9. Para 5. Request you inform submarines on patrol in Portsmouth Command Area as necessary (V.A.S. 1656/24 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

A.P. 452/24/9. Para 8. Fighter protection to be provided 25/9 by 235 Squadron from Thorney Island at time and place to be arranged by you direct with C. in C. Portsmouth. (H.Q.C.C. 1735/24 to 16 Group Thorney Island)

/GARTH.....



War Diary

24.9.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Op: "Lucid" cont:

GARTH, Biler WAR NIZAM, and Rescue Tug MURIA to leave Sheerness at 1600/25, anchor in swept channel before dark, and arrive South Goodwin L.V. by 0135/26. MURIA then proceeding to Dover. CAMPBELL, CATTISTOCK, and VESPER, with SALAMANDER, FITZROY, HUSSAR and M.T.B's of force A to leave Sheerness 2100/25 and R/V with WAR NIZAM at 0135/26. Force C, namely VETERAN, VENOMOUS, and WILD SWAN, leave Sheerness 2130/25 to North Goodwin L.V. and thence as by Operation Orders. Sailing of NIGER, SELKIRK and ELGIN will be signalled when time of R.V. for Force B is known. S.O.Force A will be in CAMPBELL. S.O.Force B in WOLVERINE (C. in C., Nore 2140/24 to V.A.Dover, C. in C., Portsmouth)

FALCONET

Boom Defence Vessel. Dover to Dungeness and return. Request Fighter protection 1245 to 1930/24. (V.A. Dover, 1222/24)

Anti-Invasion Patrol

VANOC, VOLUNTEER, BRILLIANT, BULLDOG patrol tonight Eastward to Lydd Light and Southward to 50° 5' N., (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1517/24)

Operation G.L.
(Sweep of French N.Coast from Ushant)

Request you will carry out on 25/26 as on 23/24, (D.O.D. H. 1535/24 to C. in C., W.A.)

Start Point A/S Patrol

An A/S Patrol to be established tonight from 50° 7' N., 3° 30' W., to 50° 30' N., 3° W. (C. in C., W.A. 1539/24 to N.O.I.C., Dartmouth)

Submarines

TRIBUNE
CACHALOT

TRIBUNE to proceed at 0600/25 to patrol off Ile de Groix. CACHALOT to carry out F.D. 27 or, if completed, to Falmouth. (V.A.S. 1141/24) Cancel my 1747/23 (S. 5. 1522/24 to duty.)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/25 (V.A.S. 1714/24)

/URSULA

MOST SECRETWar Diary24.9.1940.
TuesdayHOME COMMANDSSubmarines-Contd.URSULA
L.27

To enter Area S. 3. at 2300/24 and continue Patrol L.27 to enter Area D. 4. (S. 5. 1845/24)

Portsmouth
S/M Sanctuary

Amend limits as follows (V.A.S. 2038/24 to H.Q.C.C.)

Portsmouth Area

Your 1532/8. Cancel my 1831/24. Positions (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2124/24 to Adty.)

TUNA

Attacked one large M/V escorted by 2 Destroyers at 0435/24 in 46° 29' N., 2° 58' W., which sank at 0710. Am returning to Gironde. (TUNA 2125/24 to V.A.S.)

Greenock Area

Movements for 25/9. (F.O.I.C., 1745/24 to Adty.)

E-Boats"Pilot"
Convoy ~~Pilot~~
(F.N.289)

One Enemy Motor Boat attacking Convoy in 53° 2' N., 2° E. (EGRET 0050/24) Believed 6 Torpedoes fired. No hits. E-Boats retired behind smoke screen. (WINCHESTER 0120/24) CONTINENTAL COASTER, (British, 555 tons) Torpedoed and sunk in 52° 59' N., 2° 10' E., 5 survivors picked up. Total crew 9. (EGRET 0201/24 to Adty.)

Off Norfolk
Coast

2 M.T.B's bearing 100° 3 miles. My position 53° 2' N. 2° 8' E., (WINCHESTER 0055/24)

British Air ActivityBoulogne, Calais,
Ostend, Flushing,
Kiel Canal, Hamburg,
Wismar, Cuxhaven,
Bremen, Bremerhaven.

A/C attacks on night 23/24 (BC Summary 443)

Enemy
Minesweepers

Bomber and Coastal Command to attack 7 enemy minesweepers reported operating 9 miles off Dover. Fighter Command to provide support. (Air Ministry 1130/24)

/Rosyth Area.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Rosyth Area

Air Searches. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1844/24)

Torpedo Bombers from Brest to Guernsey

Your 1337/21. 2 Naval T.S.R. Squadrons available for shore-based operations are under A.O. C. in C., Coastal Command with whom request you discuss your requirements. Fully concur Fighter Escort of 6 Blenheims is inadequate for day operations. (5th S.L. 1942/24 to C. in C., W.A.)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy "Merit"
~~HERF~~

One aircraft convoy in 55° 29' N., 1° 25' W., (VIMIERA 0125/24 and 0225/24) Splash seen of suspected torpedo at 55° 26' N., 1° 26' W., (VIMIERA 0250/24)

CORNWALL

(M.V. *London*)

At 0840/24 one H.E. Bomb was dropped and exploded under water near Training-Ship CORNWALL which sank. No casualties Other bombs dropped at Tilbury; no naval casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. London, 1700/24 to Adty.)

ZAGLOBA

Polish ship arrived Clyde. Master reports bombed and machine-gunned by A/C at 0535/24 in 55° 10' N., 5° 47' W., No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1800/24 to Adty.)

Mining

Sweep by M.T.B's M.T.B. 15. Sunk

M.T.B. 15 badly damaged by mine approx. 1 mile N. of position X at 2055/23. All crew saved. Three injured landed at Felixtowe by M.T.B. 17. M.T.B. 15 is reported to be still afloat and M.T.B's 14 and 16 are standing by her. Tug has been sent from Harwich to attempt salvage. (C. in C., Nore, 0030/24)

Request for fighter protection. H.M.F. BASSET towing damaged M.T.B. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0043/24 to C. in C., Nore)

At 0405 M.T.B. 16 reports that M.T.B. 15 had sunk. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0439/24)

/LOCH MONTEITH...



War Diary

24.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

LOCH MONTEITH
Mined

A/S Trawler LOCH MONTEITH now returning to Harbour under own steam, reports that at 0255 while on patrol bows blown off by suspected mine in position 10 miles 240° Portland Bill. Tug sent to assistance, stated to be 6 lost 3 injured. (F.O.i/c Portland, 0512/24)

Blyth

Closed for suspected minelaying until sweeping completed (N.O.i/c Blyth 0514/24) Blyth now open (N.O.I.C., Blyth, 1355/24)

Operation P.R.

Successfully completed. (F.O.I.C. 1242/24)

Orkneys

LLTrawlers detonated red mine today 268° 1 mile 3.75 cables from Point of Oran. (A.C.O.S. 2007/24)

Operation M.U.

It is proposed to back up the minefield M.S. laid between 3/9 and 6/9 by a line about 4 miles long 190° from a position 113° south Foreland 6.2 miles. This line will be under cover of our shore batteries to prevent sweeping. Understood PLOVER and ^{WILLEM}VAN DER ZAAAN are available and have about 180 MK XIV mines on board. Proposed date of operation night of 26/27 Sept. (V.A. Dover, 1333/24)

^{WILLEM}
PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAAN and a covering Force of M.T.B's as available to carry out, during the night 26th/27th Sept. C. in C., Nore to arrange with V.A. Dover for a covering Force of M.T.Bs off the French Coast and for Aircraft protection during daylight passage Southward 26/9 and return 27/9

(Note All details of the operation are contained in the signal)
(V.A.Dover, 2314/24)



War Diary

24.9.1940.

Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Ems Estuary
Zeebrugge
Ostend
South of Calais }

My 1832/23. Further R/C today, 23/9.
D.D.I.C. 0130/24)

Guernsey, Jersey.)
Havre, Texel,)
Dutch Coast)

R/C by Aircraft, Night 23/24.
(B.C. Summary No. 443)

Kiel & Emden

Air R/C at 1530/23. (P.I.U. 0225/24
and D.D.I.C. 0610/24 to Cs. in C.,)

German Main Units

(D.D.I.C. 1550/24 to A.I.G.)

24. 9. 40.
Tuesday
War DiaryCASUALTIES AND DEFECTSNORTHWARD

Grimsby Trawler. Stranded on North Mungo Rock $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N. of Cairnbulg Coastguard Lookout at 0241/24. All crew taken off by Fraserburgh Lifeboat. (C.-in-C., Rosyth, 0947/24 to Adty.)

BENARTY

British. 5800 tons. Due Durban 20/9. Not arrived. (S.O.l. Cape Town 0925.B/24)

KIOTO

British. 3297 tons. Left Liverpool 21/8 for Karachi. Not reported at Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.l. Cape Town 0925.B/24)

ALBIONIC

British. 2468 tons. Due Holyhead 15/9 from Wabana. Not arrived. (D.S.385)

FILEFJELL

Norwegian Tanker. 7616 tons. Left Abadan 5/8 due Freetown 14/9. Not arrived. (D.S.385)

OOSTPLEIN

Dutch. 5059 tons. Due Buenos Ayres 4/9 from Methil. Not arrived. (D.S.385)

NEPTUNIAN

British. 5155 tons. Due Liverpool 11/9 from Sydney. Not arrived. (D.S.385)

BENGLOE

British. 5318 tons. Due Singapore 16/9 from Durban. Not arrived. (D.S.385)

LOCH INVER

H.M. Trawler. Your 1758/24. Regret vessel and crew must now be presumed lost. (F.O.I.C. Harwich. 2209/24 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET24. 9. 40.
Tuesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSConvoysShippingHX.73Amend my 1600/23. To alter course at 2000/24. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1400/24)
Orders to escort (C.-in-C., W.A., 1700/24)OB.217

OTTAWA and WALKER to remain with until dawn. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1700/24)

SC.4

Route. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1510/24)

OL.4

Route. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1600/24)

OB.218

Route (C.-in-C., W.A. 1620/24)

OA.217

To disperse at 1200/25. All escorts except GLEANER leave OG.43 at 1600/25 and join SL.47. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1910/24)

OG.43 }SL.47 }Orders for escort from OA.217.
(C.-in-C., W.A., 1910/24)OA.218

Route. (C.-in C., W.A., 1610/24)

OB.219

Anchored off Bar. Keep to seawards until daylight. (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 2001/24, to VANQUISHER)

OA.219Off Buchan Ness. (ABERDEEN, 2330/24)
Number and escort. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0843/24 List, 0844/24)BHX.77

Advance sailings. (N.C.S.O., Bermuda, 1201/24)

EMILE BAUDOTCable ship. To sail in W.N.18.
(F.O.I.C., Greenock 1715/24)ULSTER MONARCH

Request A/S air escort (C.-in-C., H.F., 0915/24)


War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace"Local Policy

General de Gaulle, repeated Adty. From M.A. Broadcasts by Governor-General and by Vichy Government together with opposition to your approach and our co-operation today amply demonstrates leader's and the Navy's determination to resist. Although morale is unexpectedly high we still feel that the reduction of fort and destruction of ships will lead to collapse of resistance in spite of probable land reinforcement which we now must expect. If ultimatum is not accepted by 0600 it is intended to proceed with the systematic destruction of defence later landing troops as required your troops co-operating. A message received by us from the Prime Minister encourages us in our determination to occupy Dakar come what may. (From (unsigned) to W.O., 0528/24).


Dakar Ultimatum and reply

Ultimatum delivered to Govr. of Dakar 2345/23. Reply received at 0400 that he will defend Dakar to the end. Communique for Ismay from De Gaulle for publication follows in plain language T.O.O. 2330 (F.O.C., Force M., 0450/24). Text of communique:- (F.O.C. Force M. 2330/23).

(copy in page 585.)

If as at present probable yesterday's visibility persists intend that only action to be taken will be air bombardment of defences. (F.O., Force M., 0438/24 to Adty.)

Following heard at 0443 G.M.T. by Lands End Radio: Dakar to Adm. Comdg. British Force. "France has entrusted Dakar to me. I will defend it to the last". (Lands End Radio, no T.O.O./24).


War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace" (Contd.)CUMBERLAND

Description of damage. (CUMBERLAND, 1137/24). Your 0510. Anchored entrance Bathurst. Report on damage and casualties will be sent L/T to Freetown for onward transmission. (CUMBERLAND to S.O., Force M., 1144/24). My 1137N/24. Feed water situation still critical, improving slowly. Hope to be able to steam 12 knots on starboard shafts with 3 boilers after 1800/25. (CUMBERLAND, 2115N/24).

Your 2201/23 (not to Adty.) Proceed to Bathurst to continue repairs, reporting. (S.O. Force M., 0510/24 to CUMBERLAND).

French Submarine

French submarine attempted attack on Battle Fleet. Depth charged by FORTUNE, submarine now on surface showing white flag. (S.O., Force M., 0844/24). Your 0844/24 re treatment of crew. (D.O.D.(F) to S.O., Force M., 1635/24). *Gas of 76 rescued by FORTUNE. Not interrogated as status unknown. (So. Force M., 2000N/24)*

PRIMAUGUET

French cruiser PRIMAUGUET 0900Z/24 position course and speed, 08°33' N., 20°06' W., 345°, 12 knots. (CORNWALL, 0937Z/24).

Bombardment resumed

Carried out bombardment of RICHELIEU and fort at 10,000 yards in poor visibility. Fire of enemy slackening but neither ship nor fort silenced. Enemy fire very accurate for line but big spread. Air activity greatly increased hampering spotting reconnaissance. Am repeating bombardment this afternoon. Resistance continues determined. (S.O., Force M., 1155N/24).

Bombarded again this afternoon in similar visibility without apparent useful result from this or air bombardment carried out earlier. Reduction of defences and neutralisation of RICHELIEU and French cruisers present an impossible project for available forces in prevailing visibility and a most difficult operation for any force in any weather while morale of defences remains as high as at present. Air action against our fleet is increasing. Am now proceeding to consult de Gaulle. (S.O., Force M., 1417N/24).



War Diary

MOST SECRET.

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Situation

In continuation 1417/24. Landing operation in face of existing defence not practicable. Alternatives are (i) immediate withdrawal, (ii) continuation of systematic bombardment in hope resistance may collapse (unlikely). De Gaulle expressed surprise at magnitude and completeness of resistance. Suggests we inform Dakar that his express wish that bombardment should now cease. Instead, British naval forces continue to assure that French naval forces would be unable to operate against West African ports south of Dakar. He proposes to proceed Bathurst, to exercise troops, gauge public opinion in Senegal, and have time to consider further plans. We intend to make further effort to neutralise ships and fort tomorrow. If result inadequate, recommend adoption of De Gaulle's proposals. (S.O., Force M., 1936/24).

French Resolve

Special intelligence indicates at 1730 G.M.T. today following from Governor, Dakar, originated at 1410 was despatched to Libreville: I have received an ultimatum expiring at 5 O'clock. We are firmly resolved to resist. Should Dakar suffer an unhappy fate, let the fight continue everywhere else. Attack is now being made by English Forces. Boisson. (C. in C., S.A., 2037/24 *to Admty, Fr. Force M etc*)

Enemy aircraft

Several aeroplanes believed to be of German and Italian nationality have flown over Tangier today. Apparently at least 7 Italian and German machines, category of planes unknown, from the E. in a S.W. direction, possibly making for Dakar. (Consul, Tangier, 1915/24).

FORTUNE.
French submarine
crew.

Intend sailing FORTUNE to refuel from CUMBERLAND at Bathurst 25/9. She has crew of French submarine referred to in my 0844/24, 76 in number. Request instructions re disposal. (S.O., Force M. to Adty., 2358/24).



War Diary

24.9.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" Contd.

Bombing of Gibraltar

My 1825/23. It is of
course at your discretion
to order RENOWN to sea
should French bombing
make it necessary.

(1st S.L., 0120/24
to S.O. Force H.)

Bombing by aircraft not identified
owing to Levant approaching from S.W.
commenced 1250 still in progress.
One bomb fell near Mount remainder
well to seaward. About 30 bombs
dropped. (S.O. Force H., 1325/24)

My 1325. Heavy bombing continues.
No serious damage to dockyard apparent.
Some near RENOWN but no hits. Intend
proceeding to sea as soon as there
is a lull. (S.O., Force H., 1400/24)

My 1400. RENOWN leaving now with 4
Destroyers. No damage to ships.
(S.O. Force H., 1528/24)

F.O.C.N.A. Reports dockyard steam
generating plant out of action
seriously damaged. Diesel generating
set also out of action but hope to
be in action shortly. RENOWN
counts 150 heavy bombs of which 55
ashore including 13 in Dockyard, 20
in harbour, 75 in bay. Aircraft
identified as French but very few seen
owing to Levanter. (S.O. Force H. 1736/
24)

My 1528. Am proceeding east until
dark. Intend passing Europa Point
westwards at 2200/24 and to cruise to
westwards Gibraltar in readiness to
carry out purport of your 0253/22.
(S.O. Force H., 1744/24)

Formations French Aircraft began to
bomb Gibraltar at 1250 starting at
high level and followed by dive
bombers. Defence hindered by patches
low cloud. Many bombs dropped on
Rock and sea. Fires started and
damage to buildings. Few Military
casualties. At 1545 hrs. raiders now
appear passed. (Governor, Gib. 1655/
24, 2337/24 to W.O.)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Alboran Patrol

My 1710/23. Alboran Patrol has been withdrawn to position 50 miles east of Gibraltar. (S.O., Force H. 1134/24)

Gibraltar Bombed

Bombing of Gibraltar by French as reprisal for Dakar operations. (See Operation "Menace").

Funchal

Preparations for reception of British Forces being made. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1704/24).

PACHECO

Re unloading of ammunition. (D.T.S.D. to F.O.C.N.A. 0252/25).

Ammunition

Adty. 0252/25 LLANGOLLEN can be sailed 27/9 with following items. (F.O.C.N.A., 2124/24 to Adty.)

South Atlantic

Evacuees

My 1229/21. Durban will be port of disembarkation and families will be settled in small town on Natal Coast. (Capt. i/c Simonstown, 08322/24).

Overdue Ships

BENARTY due Durban 20/9 not arrived. KIOTO, Liverpool, 21/8 for Karachi not reported Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0925B/24).

WOLFE }
CILICIA }

Patrol areas (escort of ARGUS for Clyde). (F.O.C.N.P., 1018/24). Intend sailing ARGUS with CILICIA, and WOLFE independently. (C. in C., S.A., 1815/24). Re escort, (D.O.D.(H), 2018/24).

A.P.3

7 transports, expected to pass boom at 0900. CANTON and CARNARVON CASTLE to escort to Cape. (C. in C., S.A., 1025N/24).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic (Contd.)Raider Report
BENARTY

On arrival Capetown BENRINNES reports that at 0930Z/10 in position 15.52 S., 71.28 E. She received raider report from BENARTY. During transmission jamming was attempted by station using DW of high pitched I.C.W. varying frequency during transmission and apparently calling GBMS 3. Shortly afterwards another ship repeated the raider report and jamming was attempted by a spark transmitter. (S.N.O., Simonstown, 1121/24).

Norwegian Ships

Your 1714/30/8. Matter referred to Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission. (Hd. of M. to N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 2102/24).

CLAN CAMPBELL
A.P.3.

In A.P.3, defective boiler, maximum speed 12½ knots, intend sailing her independently to Durban. My 2125/23 speed of advance A.P.3 15½ knots. Estimated time of arrival. (C. in C., S.A., 1311/24). *See Page 587.*

Ammunition,
Freetown

Re reserves of ammunition Freetown. If Force M to replenish Freetown suggest supplies be sent from Gibraltar now. (C. in C., S.A., 1935/24).

MediterraneanSupply Ship

Informed by Governor that a War Office maintenance ship containing military and Malta Government supplies is expected to leave England early in October. Is this the ship referred to in para (ii) of your 2345/15. (N.O.I.C., Malta, 1015/24 to Adty.)

Operation B.S.

Orders for patrol line. (Capt. S.1, 1851/24, 1901/24).

Torpedo explosion 2 officers 2 ratings from MEDWAY killed when examining torpedo, believed from Italian aircraft, found 6 miles west of Agami. (C. in C., Med., 2231/23).


War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean (Contd.)STRASBOURG

Report received STRASBOURG sailed from Marseilles or Toulon on 22/9 (B.2). (D.D.I.C. 1710/24).

THEOPHILE GAUTIER

My 1207/20. THEOPHILE GAUTIER sailing today for France from Beirut. Consul General states authorities have given a written guarantee that no cargo will be carried but I have given orders that ship is to be diverted by Naval Patrol into Haifa for formal examination by Contraband control consequent to her failure to obey orders to enter Haifa on her journey from Piraeus to Beirut. It is also my intention to allow any de Gaullists who wish to do so to disembark at Haifa as Consul General states a certain number are on board. (C. in C., Med., 1535/24).
To be examined for contraband control and de Gaullists released. (C. in C., Med., 1537/24 to N.O.I.C. Haifa).

Raid on Tobruk

23/9. Following 2 attacks north foreshore and shipping Tobruk. 1500 hours 9 Blenheims. Bombs fell on buildings and jetty. A.A. heavy. 1503 hours by 9 Blenheims. Bombs fell on buildings in town and jetties and very near 5 ships moored at largest jetty. A.A. heavy. Gladiators 112 Sqdn. provided offensive patrol over forward area to cover bombers. All aircraft returned safely from above operation. 1530 hours. Reconnaissance No movements area Bardia, Tobruk, Bir El Gobi, Sidi Omar, Maddalena, Sofafi, Nizwet. 2 Sunderlands 228 Sqdn. reconnaissance Alexandria, Gavdo, Malta. Results not yet reported. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1049/24).

Convoy S.W.1 ✓

Sailing telegram. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area. 1728/24).

Forthcoming Operations ✓

Ci (M. 1637/24. See 28/9 Mediterranean Volume.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Air Operations, 22/9, 0245-0600 G.M.T. 1 Wellesley 14 Sqdn.
Port Sudan Raid, anti-submarine patrol. No enemy sighted.
22/9 1 S.79 attacked Port Sudan, 8 heavy bombs,
no damage, no casualties. Kenya, 22/9
S.A.A.F. patrols Mombasa and Garba Tulla
area. One warship escorted out Mombasa.
No enemy sighted. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1049/21
S.79 a/c raided Port Sudan 1030Z/22 at
great height. 8 bombs dropped outside
town boundary. 2 others flew over at
greater height 23/9 without bombing.
Probably intimidated by fighter patrol
both cases. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 0524Z/24)

COLOMBO, A.K.2 To escort VARELA to Mombasa leaving Aden
26/9. Route. Convoy (A.K.2) is not to
approach within 40 miles Guardafic
in daylight. (C. in C., E.I., 1230Z/24).

Troop Transport Re proposed move of Indian Infantry Brigade
to Malaya. (D. of S.T., to P.S.T.O., Bombay,
2007/24, 0845/25).

BN.6 Karachi departure 23/9 HECTOR with 3 ships of
B.N.6 (S.O.I., Bombay, 0442Z/24).

CAP VARELLA Requesting reply to his 0952/20 re CAP
VARELLA, French authorities Saigon ask for
her to go to Djibuti to fetch troops, left
Saigon 18/9. (C. in C., E.I., 0736Z/24).

Dutch S/ms Your 0547 re Dutch S/ms operating in Indian
Ocean. Suitable fuel is available at Mauritius
(C. in C., E.I., 1004Z/24).

Convoys Amended dates for B.N.5 $\frac{1}{2}$, U.S.5 and S.W.2.
(C. in C., E.I., 1524/24).

China

Shipping, My 0210/22. Vichy reply gives hope that
Indo-China Vichy will finally agree to requests for
continuation of British and Allied trade.
Meanwhile Admiral Terraux asks, to facilitate
negotiations, no British or Allied ships
except tankers already arranged shall come
to Indo-China. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0350
Z/24)

Suspend.....



MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Contd.)

Shipping, Indo-China (Contd.)

Suspend sailings of British and Allied ships except tankers as previously arranged for French Indo-China ports till further orders (C. in C., China, 1153Z/24).

River Gunboats

Admiralty's 0948/22 and Commodore 1/c Hong Kong 0551/23. Gunboats are to be sailed to Hong Kong as soon as ready provided weather suitable. Anticipated date of sailing is to be reported. N.L.O. is to inform local Japanese Naval authorities four days before sailing. (C. in C., China, 0405Z/24).

DURBAN

My 0405/24. DURBAN to sail to R.V. with gunboats from Shanghai as escort and if necessary provide fuel on passage to Hong Kong. (C. in C., China, 0801Z/24).

America and West Indies

VAN KINSBERGEN

In event of war with Vichy Government, can Netherlands gunnery training ship VAN KINSBERGEN be used immediately? (C. in C., A.W.I., 0211/24 to Adty.)

PRINCE ROBERT

To maintain patrol off Manzanilla as long as fuel permits. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1002/24).

QUERCY

French ^{A.M.} cruiser. N.A. Washington's 1731/23. Not intended to take any operational action in this matter. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., A.W.I., 1657/24).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSEx-Norwegian
Ships

Reported by Master of Dutch Merchant ship that Germans have ships nearing completion at time of invasion of Norway. These ships number unknown are motor vessels 7 - 8000 tons, speed 21 knots. Built to carry 5000 tons Palm oil and latex. Very similar to blue funnel "DEUCALION" class. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0435Z/24).

REGENSBURG.
ELBE

Reporting Officer Yokohama reports REGENSBURG docked and now anchored outside outer breakwater, ELBE took oil 20/9 British Master observed much work proceeding in latter 29/8.

WINNETOU

Tokio source reports WINNETOU arrived with 5 officers and 11 members of crew only. Commentary. Remainder of Engine Room employed as prize crew. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0923Z/24).

NORD ATLANTIC

(C.2) reported to be undercommand of former Master of NORDMEER and to have taken more provisions than usual. (Consul Vigo, 1825/24).

BRAKE

Returned to moorings having finished discharge of her cargo. (Consul, Vigo, 1825/24).

DELOS

Arrived with 4200 tons manganese ore from Poti. (Macrae, Galatz, 1101/23).

NORBURG

Arrived with 3900 tons manganese ore from Poti. (Macrae, Galatz, 1117/24).

YALOVA

Due Istanbul 26/9 with general cargo. (Macrae, Galatz, 1117/24).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSDENTICE

Arrival GUNVOR and Italian ship DENTICE towed from Maracaibo 1939 S.L. (Puerto Cabello, 1701/24).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPSTHEOPHILE GAUTIER

C. in C., Med., 1535/24, 1537/24 -
(See Mediteranean).

MOST SECRET24. 9. 40.
Tuesday.War DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedAttack on OB.216
(20/9)
BOKA
NEW SEVILLA
EMPIRE ADVENTURE

Survivors state BOKA, NEW SEVILLA, EMPIRE ADVENTURE in third column of convoy and in that order. BOKA torpedoed at approximately 2015/20, NEW SEVILLA at 2025 and EMPIRE ADVENTURE at 2045. NEW SEVILLA from Port quarter EMPIRE ADVENTURE from Port side. BOKA not yet established. Submarine believed sighted on surface at time of attack by NEW SEVILLA. (F.O.I.C., Belfast, 0950/24)

Convoy Attacks

There is some evidence to show that one method of U-Boat attack is on the surface between columns of convoy at night and astern of small beam tubes. To counter this it is essential convoy should be kept well closed up, the distance between columns being closed to three cables at least. Zig zag should be continued throughout the night whenever circumstances allow. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1721/24)

BROOM PARK
(Torpedoed 21/9)

*LA MALOUINE.

Following received from ALDERGROVE : Escort *K.46 with BROOMPARK steering 042 degrees 5 knots for Greenock 14 survivors from EMPIRE AIRMAN, DALCAIRN, DAVILA and FREDERICK S. FALES. (F.O.I.C., Belfast, 2000/24)

Following received from LA MALOUINE via 15 Group R.A.F. M/V damaged BROOMPARK heading 060 degrees Magnetic. Position 55° 30' N., 7° 32' W., making for Greenock. 14 survivors were in *K.46 from EMPIRE AIRMAN, DALCAIRN, DAVILA (O.A.206) FREDERICK* and BROOMPARK. (C.-in-C., W.A., 2153/24) *LA MALOUINE

* FREDERICK S. FALES.

EMPIRE AIRMAN

British. 6586 tons, ex-Italian. Bound from Wabana for Cardiff with iron ore. Was in Convoy HX.72. Probably sunk on night of 21-22/9, approx. position 54° 00' N., 18° 00' W. 2 survivors landed in Greenock and others are in *K.46. (D.S.386) *LA MALOUINE.

DALCAIRN

British. 4608 tons, in Convoy HX.72, homeward bound from Montreal with grain. Survivors in *K.46. (D.S.386) *LA MALOUINE

DAVILA

Not in BR 1337.

British tanker, 8053 tons, bound from Curacao to Clyde in Convoy HX.73. Survivors reported in *K.46. (D.S.386 corrected D.S.387) *LA MALOUINE.



War Diary

MOST SECRET24. 9. 40.
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/MS Reported

- 0027 From Fair Island, suspected s/m on surface bearing 161° 17 miles at 0027. (F.O.C.O.S., 0055/24)
- 1231 Aircraft report s/m in 46° 56' N., 07° 38' W. at 1231 (V.A.S., 1252/24) Seen by Civil aircraft (B.I.)(D.S.386)
- 1141 D.F., unknown enemy unit, probably U/B 54° N., 13° W., reliable fix at 1141/24 (D.D.I.C. 1216/24)
- 1310 Indication of U/B in 53° 40' N., 16° 20' W., at 1310 (C.-in-C., W.A., 1413/24)
Indications that U/B in position 53° 40' N., 16° 20' W., at 1310/24 is reporting and possibly following OB.217 (C.-in-C., W.A., 2013/24)
- 1326 D.F., unknown enemy unit probably U/B 56° N., 12° W., unreliable fix. Indications that second U/B in approx. 55° 40' N., 10° 30' W., at the sometime. (D.D.I.C., 1417/24, Aldersgrove to No.15 Group, 1530/24)
- 8121
Lorient 48° 30' N., 9° 30' W., position indefinite. (D.S.386) 2 or 3 U/Bs may be entering Lorient tomorrow. (F.O.(S) 1724/24)
- 2130/26/8 Colon reports master British motor vessel RODSLEY sighted submarine nationality unknown in position 054° 10' 020° 44' at 2130 (26/8. Submarine switched on searchlight third of minute but beam did not appear to reach vessel. Difficult to estimate distance as dark and misty but consider about 1 mile. S.O.I., Jamaica, 1315/24)

Estimated U/B Dispositions.

Italian - 1 off Portugal or farther South.
German - 1 was apparently about 350 miles S.W. of Ireland at 0044/24.
1 was in about 50 degs. N.13 degs.W. at 1418/23 proceeding to Lorient.

MOST SECRET24. 9. 40.
TuesdayWar Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNEstimated U/B
Dispositions (Contd.)

4 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 was in 54 degs. N., 13 degs. W. at 1141/24, 1 may have been in 53 degs. N., 15 degs. W. at 0206/23. Whereabouts of the fourth unknown.

1 off Fair Island at 0027/24 may be outward bound.

The one that sank 4 ships in Convoy OB.216 N. of Ireland was of 250 tons; must therefore have used her torpedoes and left the area. (D.D.I.C. 1340/24)

S/Ms AttackedU/B Sunk by
CACHALOT.

Have sunk enemy S/M in 46° 58' N., 05° 56' W., steering east. (CACHALOT, 2011/24)

(See page 678)

MOST SECRETWar Diary25.9.1940.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORTHome CommandsE-Boats Attack
EREBUS

EREBUS on passage from Scapa to Sheerness was attacked about midnight 24/25 by E-Boats off ~~Lowestoft~~ ^{South Light}. Four torpedoes were fired without hitting, and the E-Boats retired under cover of a smoke screen. (Sun p. 629.)

Operation "Lucid"
"Lucid"

This operation was cancelled at 2252 whilst the forces were proceeding. (1218)

CITY OF BENARES

A lifeboat with children in it was sighted by a Sunderland 150 miles west of Ireland this morning and ANTHONY, escorting H.X. 73 was ordered to the spot. The sea was too rough for the Sunderland to land, but food was dropped alongside by a second flying boat. ANTHONY took on board 46 survivors, including 6 children and is to leave HX 73 at daylight tomorrow to land them.

DESPATCH

Arrived in the Clyde today from the West Indies

British Air Operations

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on the enemy invasion ports. The main weight of the attacks was directed against Le Havre. Brest and shipping in harbour were attacked this evening and damage was caused in the port.

Cherbourg and gun positions at Haringzelles were also attacked last night.

At 1000 today an aircraft on patrol attacked a convoy of three ships off Terschelling and obtained direct hits with 250 lb. bombs. The leading ship was seen to be sinking when the aircraft left.

/Enemy Air...

MOST SECRETWar Diary25.9.1940.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Operations

Some damage was done to Messrs. White's works in a raid on Southampton yesterday. It is anticipated that work will be resumed within a week. Some work can be continued on ships afloat.

Minor damage was done at Portland dockyard this morning and the water supply was affected. Bombs dropped on Mere Oil Fuel Depot caused no damage.

Slight damage was caused at Devonport Dockyard today in an attack on the Dockyard and ships in the sound. No ship was damaged. Slight damage was caused at Worthy Down today by one bomb of a stick. Portsmouth was attacked at noon, but no damage was caused.

A severe attack was made on Bristol late this forenoon and considerable damage and heavy casualties were caused at aircraft works.

Trawler STRATH FINELLA was machine-gunned in Cruden Bay this afternoon, but was not hit.

Convoy O.A. 218 was unsuccessfully attacked at 0830/25, 120 miles W. by N. of Bloody Foreland. The escorting Sunderland drove off the attacker.

Convoy F.S. 89 was unsuccessfully attacked in the Thames Estuary early this afternoon.

Mining

Six Swordfish last night laid mines off Texel Island.

Enemy aircraft were engaged on mine-laying off the east coast of Scotland last night.

LL Sweepers detonated a mine off the East Shingles Buoy at 2130 today.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Operation "Menace" and
French Ships

The bombardment of Dakar was resumed this morning. The enemy reply was accurate, RICHELIEU engaging BARHAM at 11½ miles range. BARHAM and AUSTRALIA were hit, and RESOLUTION was hit by one of 6 torpedoes fired by a submarine. FORESIGHT sank a submarine. Just before noon our forces broke off the engagement and withdrew. During the retirement RESOLUTION and the troop convoy were attacked by aircraft.

De Gaulle wishes his forces to reorganise at Freetown before further operations.

Just before midnight 25/26 H.M. Govt. decided that the operations should cease and the forces be withdrawn.

Gibraltar was heavily bombed again this afternoon. A/S Trawler STELLA SIRIUS was sunk. No serious damage was caused to the dockyard. The Army claim to have shot down 3 and possibly 4 of the raiders.

ECHO and FORTUNE were detached to re-fuel from CUMBERLAND at Bathurst early this morning. FORTUNE has on board the crew of the French submarine which she captured yesterday.

At 0500 today WRESTLER ~~and WISHART~~ engaged 4 destroyers which were passing the Straits from West to East. Touch was lost at 0547. *The destroyers opened fire on WRESTLER without being challenged. They appeared to be French.*

South Atlantic

ARGUS left Freetown at 1100 today for the Clyde, escorted by CILICIA.

PRIMAUGUET stopped at 1530Z today to fuel 700 tons from TARN in 14° 15' N., 21° 57' (?) W. Fuelling was complete at 2215 and the French ships proceeded on course 15°.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

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25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Destroyers again successfully bombarded Sidi Barrani early a.m. today.

8 enemy aircraft appeared over Malta this morning, but no bombs were dropped. One aircraft was shot down and one or two were severely damaged.

East Indies

A Blenheim dropped bombs at Bebera today. Another Blenheim reconnoitred Assab harbour and Macaaca and dropped bombs.

MOST SECRET25.9.1940.
Wednesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS"Deluge"
DELUGE SignalsDefence of U.K.Humber 2, Nore 1, Dover 1, Channel 1,
(D.C. 0218/25)
Humber 2, Nore 2, Dover 1, Channel 1,
(D.D.I.C. 1400/25)Nore Command
Notice for SteamAir R/C unsatisfactory. Keep steam
at half an hours notice until 0900.
(C. in C., Nore, 0541/25)Scaebrae and Twatt
Aerodromes A/A
Gun DefencesYour 1904/19. 4 heavy A/A Guns and
4 light A/A Guns being moved from
M. 6. Hatston, and Kirkwall to defend
these aerodromes. Request these guns
may be replaced as soon as possible in
view of great importance of defence
of Fleet's Main Base. (A.C.O.S.
1727/24 to Adty.)Portsmouth
Command State
of ReadinessProposed variation of present arrange-
ments for Destroyers and Cruisers
according to "Deluge" signals, to
save wear and tear of existing daily
movements to Spithead. (C. in C.,
Portsmouth 1803/25 to Adty.) (C. in C.,
Portsmouth 1317/26 to Adty.)MovementsNorthern PatrolMy 1530/24 PATROCLUS delayed until
1700/25 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1000/25 to
Adty.) In view of C. in C., S.A.'s
1815/24, amend my 1018/24 to read
CILICIA take Area A.3. and WOLFE take
Area E.3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1020/25 to
WOLFE)"Towns"
1st Towns
FlotillaMy 1939/22. Request you sail 1st
Towns Flotilla for Plymouth when
ready. They should pass Hartland
Point at 0630 (C. in C., W.A. 1957/
25 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)Nore CommandDay Patrols and Movements to 1200/26
(C. in C., Nore, 1200/25)BIRMINGHAMC.S. 18's 2313/24. Expect arrive
0800/27 (BIRMINGHAM 1442/25 to
N.O.I.C. Liverpool)

/Dover.....



War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Dover

Patrols for night 25/26. (V.A.Dover, 1502/25)

Orkneys

Movements for night 25/26. (F.O.C.O.S. 1531/25)
Trawlers lines occupied Night 25/26 (A.C.O.S. 1536/25)
State of A/S Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1930/25)

JAVELIN)
JAGUAR)

Depart Humber 1940/25 for Patrol U. (F.O.Humber 1945/25 to Adty.)

Rosyth Area

Movements for night 25/26. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2150/25)

DUNEDIN)
DESPATCH)

Request you sail DUNEDIN and DESPATCH to comply with a.m. 1326/25. On completing fitting Ships to be sailed up channel by night arriving Nab at daylight. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2307/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

FALCONET

Boom Defence Vessel. Request Fighter Protection from 0700 to 1130/26 from Dover to 40° Dungeness 4 miles and return. (V.A.Dover 2321/25 to A.O. C. in C., F.C.)

Operation "Lizard"

R.V. Force B. is now 2300/25. Ships should be sailed accordingly. Progress of WAR NAWAB is to be reported every 3 hours. (A.C.N.S. (H) 0158/25)

Portsmouth Force

Following movements are to take place 4 M.A./S.B's for the operation to sail from Newhaven in company with the Dover M.T. Vessels so as to R.V. with WITHERINGTON 242° Lydd Lt.V. 12' at 2000/25. WAR NAWAB escorted by WITHERINGTON, BEAGLE to be at R.V. 165° Dungeness 3½' 2300/25. Code word "~~CHAIN~~". WOLVERINE, WITCH to R.V. with fleet sweepers, (NIGER, SELKIRK, ELGIN) from Nore of Dungeness 2300/25.

"Chain".
CHAIN"

/Air cover....

MOST SECRETWar Diary25.9.1940.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSOperation-"^{Lucid}~~ECID~~" Contd.

Air cover will be provided from 1830 until dark. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0207/25; 0717/25, 0225/25)

Arrangements by C. in C., Nore (C. in C., Nore, 0240/25)

Asking for fighter protection for WAR NIZAM, GARTH, NIGER, SELKIRK, ELGIN 1700/25 until dark. (C. in C., Nore, 0940/25)

Appendix One and Two. (D.D.I.C. 1030/25, 1608/25)

Carry out Operation "^{Lucid}~~ECID~~" (A.C.N.S. (H) 1033/25)

Fighter protection ordered. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0942/25)

"Alpha".
"ECID"

4 M.A./S.B's

Subsequent to operation 4 M.A./S.B's are to be detailed for C.W. Convoy to proceed to Dover and be ready there complete with fuel 1900/26 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1225/25)

WITHERINGTON

Position (WITHERINGTON 1805/25) M.A./S.B's not joined. Wind N.E. 3 to 4 (WITHERINGTON 2110/25) Speed 6 knots (WITHERINGTON 2200/25)

Lights

As R.V. for Force A. (C. in C., Nore, 2055/25)

Weather

Not very favourable for M.T.B's (C. in C., Nore, 2202/25) Wind may serve better for Force B than Force A.

Force B has better target and should proceed if practicable. If Force A is cancelled destroyers should visit Calais Road to look for merchant vessel targets. (C. in C., Nore, 2214/25)

Operation
Cancelled

Operation "~~ECID~~" cancelled (Capt. D 21 2252/25 to C. in C., Nore). Have cancelled operation "~~ECID~~" owing to (a) speed of oiler WAR NIZAM reduced to 4-5 knots with engine trouble and (b) direction of wind unfavourable for Force B (Capt D. 21 2258/25) Force B concentrated at R.V. proceeding Southend destroyers returning to Portsmouth (WOLVERINE 2331/25)

Jan Mayen

Propose sending FRIDTJOF NANSEN to visit Jan Mayen leaving Reykjavik 28/9 to see if island has been visited and to liquidate reserve station. Ice conditions Denmark Straits northwards to be investigated on passage. (N.O.i/c Iceland, 0857/25)

(Approved - p. 655)

/Operation G.L.....



War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Operation G.L.

Patrol is to be established tonight as during last night. (C. in C., W.A., to N.O.i/c Dartmouth)

BROKE, VANSITTART, WANDERER, WHITEHALL, BLYSKAWICA and GARLAND sail 1930/25 to sweep from Roches Douvres to Ile Vierge returning Plymouth 0730/26. (C in C., W.A., 1617/25)

Patrol in Channel

Tonight STURDY, BULLDOG, VISCOUNT, VOLUNTEER patrol Eastward to limit of Portsmouth Command and southward to Lat. 50° 5' N., (C. in C., Portsmouth 1633/28)

Submarines

URSULA

To leave Patrol 0100/26 and R/V with escort at end of Q.Z.S. 169. (Capt. S.5 1441/25)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/26 (V.A.S.1658/25)

Portsmouth Command

Movements. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1801/25)

E-Boats

Off Southwold

4 Torpedoes passed close ahead at 0001/25. No hits. E-Boats retired under smoke screen. Position 52° 24' N., 2° 2' E., (EREBUS 0004/ 0011, and 0020/25)

British Air Operations

Bomber Command

Intelligence Summary No. 45. Report of operations night 24/25 (H.Q.B.C. THI 1657/25)

Helder

At 0350/25 in 52° 50' N., 4° 55' E., A/C attacked a Tanker about 6000 tons with one Torpedo. Close miss. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1045/25)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.9.40.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Operations

- S.O.S. Rescue crew of German aircraft 40 km (25 miles) East of Kinnaird Head. (Norddrich Radio TOR. 0915/25, D.D.I.C., 1042/25).
- Southampton Messrs. White's, Itchen, report some damage to premises during yesterday's raid; also water and other services cut and access to works blocked. Some work can be continued on ships afloat but workshops out of use for short period. Anticipate resumption within a week, not proposed to transfer any work else where (F.O.I.C. Southampton, 1157/25).
- Sandbanks M.G. attack by one aircraft but approx. 50 to 60 overhead. No damage or casualties. (R.A.N.A.S. 1245/25).
- Portland Air attack started at 1117. Approx. 50 bombers with fighters passed over, some of which dropped bombs on Mere Oil Fuel Depot, no damage caused. Damage to road and water supply to dockyard, minor damage in dockyard. (F.O.I.C., Portland 1614/25).
- VIMIERA
Convoy "Booty" Shadowed in 51.36 N., 1.11 E. (VIMIERA, 1637/25).
- Devonport High level bombing attack by approx. 30 a/c between 1630-1700/25 on Dockyard and ships in Sound. No serious casualties or damage in ships or Naval establishments. Damage at No.8 Wharf north dockyard. Gun wharf jetty damaged. (C. in C., W.A., 1938/25).
- Worthy Down One bomb of a stick damaged water main. No casualties. (Worthy Down, 2140/25).
- STRATHFINELLA Trawler. Machine gunned 1520/25 in Couden Bay. No hits. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2259/25).



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MOST SECRETWar Diary25.9.1940.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS"Cadet Two"
~~CADET TWO~~Mining

Minesweepers will be operating near W.V. 2596 and Eastern Swept Channel from 0630 to 1600/25. Provide usual Cover. (H.Q.F.C. 0140/25)

Operation M.U.

Your 2314/24. Position 51° 6' N., 1° 32' 30" E., in direction 216°, 4½ miles. Intend sailing 0600/26 arriving Aldeburgh 1800 (PLOVER 1000 to V.A.Dover)

Your 1435/13 and R.A.M.L. 150/M.L. 01044/1 of 16/9 paras 5 and 6. Request these Minefields may be promulgated by Q.Z.X. Message or other quick means with direction that H.M. ships should not enter area unnecessarily (C. in C., H.F. 1231/25 to Adty.)

Enemy IntelligenceBrest

R/C by A/C at 1115/25. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1300/25 to Adty.)

Off Walcheren

At 1045/25, one large M/V convoyed by 3 small ships in 51° 43' N., 3° 9' E., and one 15,000 ton M/V in 51° 47' N., 3° 7' E., (V.A.S. 1429/25 to S/M H. 44.)

North Sea

4 small ships at 1050 in 57° 45' N., 3° 17' E., steering N.E. (V.A.S. 1431/25 to S/M O.21)

Boulogne

5000 ton Tanker passing Boulogne at 1530, steering S.W. (Capt. S.5. 1755/25)

Cherbourg

R/C by A/C at 0725/25 (D.D.I.C. 1837/25)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET

25. 9. 40.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

KELPIE

A.P. Motor Yacht. In collision with GULF STREAM when on Patrol at 0450/25. Unseaworthy pending repair to Hull and Deck. Damage to GULF STREAM superficial. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1231/25 to C.-in-C. Rosyth) Request you arrange for KELPIE to be repaired at St. Monano or Anstruther. (S.O.A.P. Leith 1830/25 to N.O.I.C. Methil).

AUDITOR

My 1045/19. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1225.B/25 to Adty.)

KIOTO.

My 0925.B/24. Arrived Cape Town. (N.S.O.l. Cape Town 1035.B/25 to Adty.)

THEMISTOCLES

British. 11,231 tons. Due Durban from Glasgow 21/9. Not arrived. (N.S.O.l. Cape Town 1035.B/25 to Adty.)

DALEBY

British. 4640 tons. Due Durban from Freetown 21/9. Not arrived (N.S.O.l. Cape Town. 1035.B/25 to Adty.)



MOST SECRET

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War Diary

25. 9.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

O.A. 218	ARCTIC EXPLORER to join (C. in C., W.A. 1040/25) Clyde portion arrived (N.C.S. O. Clyde, 1800/25)
O.A. 219	Passed Buchan Ness (2300/24 (A.C.O.S. 0055/25)
F.N. & F.S.	Time tables from F.N.92 and F.S. 92 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1730/25)
H.X. 73	ANTHONY to leave to land 46 survivors from CITY OF BENARES. (C. in C., W.A., 2237/25)
W.N. 18	CAMELIA to escort (C. in C., W.A., 1340/25)
O.B. 217.	OTTAWA to shadow (C. in C., W.A., 1019/25) Am cruising in vicinity of general line of advance. (OTTAWA, 1836/25)
O.B. 219.	Sailed ^{S7.} SAINT ZENO to R.V. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2002/25) List (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0901/25)
F.S. 90	A/S trawler LORD PLENDER to continue escort. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2201/25)
A.O. 220.	CURACOA to meet and give A/A cover R.A.D.H.F., 1625/25)
O.A. 222	Route (D.T.D., 1730/25)
S.L. 47	Meet. Route (C. in C., W.A. 1330/25)
O.L. 5.	Route (D.T.D. 1751/25)
ULSTER MONARCH	Position (A.C.O.S., 2001/25)
FRISIA	Swedish, 1059 tons seized by German Authorities at Bordeaux. Case to be tried by Hamburg Prize Court. (D.S. 387)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Policy

← (full back)

From Prime Minister to Combined Command:- Your 1417N/24 give no indication of your plans, difficulties and how you propose to meet them. Do not understand conditions under which bombardment proceeded for some hours at 10,000 yards without grave damage to ships or fort unless visibility was so bad as to make targets invisible. Also if visibility bad, why not possible to force a landing at beaches near Rufisque in spite of fire from Goree Island. Without fuller information, we can only ask why you do not land in force by night or in the fog or both on beaches near Rufisque and take Rufisque for a start, observing that enemy cannot be heart-whole and force at Rufisque is comprised largely of native troops.

If weather clears you could hold down batteries on Goree Island in daylight by long-range sea-fire and if there is fog you would not need to do so. It should be possible to feed the force, once ashore, by night. This force once landed ought to be able to advance on Dakar.

More ammunition is being sent from Gibraltar but evidently supplies will not stand many days firing like yesterday. Neither is there unlimited time as not only the French but German submarines will probably arrive in six or seven days.

Pray act as you think best, but meanwhile give reasoned answer to these points. Matter must be pushed to conclusion without undue delay.
(1st Sea Lord, 0005/25 to S.O. Force M)

Situation

My 2359/23. Further ultimatum was presented to Vichy authorities in Dakar on Monday night which expired at 0600/24.

This was refused and in consequence bombardment of the forts was carried out during the forenoon and afternoon without conclusive results.

Determination to resist was strong. Operations being continued.

/Gibraltar.....

25.9.1940
Wednesday

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

From Prime Minister to Combined Command:- Your 1417N/24 give no indication of your plans, difficulties and how you propose to meet them. Do not understand conditions under which bombardment proceeded for some hours at 10,000 yards without grave damage to ships or fort unless visibility was so bad as to make targets invisible. Also if visibility bad, why not possible to force a landing at beaches near Rufisque in spite of fire from Goree Island. Without fuller information, we can only ask why you do not land in force by night or in the fog or both on beaches near Rufisque and take Rufisque for a start, observing that enemy cannot be heart-whole and force at Rufisque is comprised largely of native troops. If weather clears you could hold down batteries on Goree Island in daylight by long-range sea-fire and if there is fog you would not need to do so. It should be possible to feed the force, once ashore, by night. This force once landed ought to be able to advance on Dakar. More ammunition is being sent from Gibraltar but evidently supplies will not stand many days firing like yesterday. Neither is there unlimited time as not only the French but German submarines will probably arrive in six or seven days. Pray act as you think best, but meanwhile give reasoned answer to these points. Matter must be pushed to conclusion without undue delay. (1st Sea Lord, 0005/25 to S.O. Force M)

Policy

(full text)

Situation

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/Gibraltar.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

0005/25th September.

OUT

TO: S.O. Force "M".

DATE 25.9.40.

NAVAL CYPHER (D)

RECIRCULATION

FROM Prime Minister to Combined Command.

MOST IMMEDIATE

AIDAC

Your signal 1417N/24 gives no indication of your plans. We asked you particularly to be full and clear in your accounts. Why have you not sent two or three hundred words to let us know your difficulties? and how you propose to meet them?

2. We do not understand conditions under which bombardment proceeded for some hours at 10,000 yards without grave damage to ships or fort unless visibility was so bad as to make targets invisible. Also if visibility bad, why is it not possible to force a landing at beaches near Rufisque in spite of fire from Goree Island.

3. Without this fuller information we can only ask why you do not land in force by night or in the fog or both on beaches near Rufisque and take Rufisque for a start observing that enemy cannot be heart-whole and force at Rufisque is comprised largely of native troops. At the same time if the weather clears you could hold down batteries on Goree Island in daylight by long-range sea-fire and if there is fog you would not need to do so. It should be possible to feed the force, once ashore, by night. This force once landed ought to be able to advance on Dakar.

4. More ammunition is being sent from Gibraltar but evidently supplies will not stand many days firing like yesterday. Neither is their unlimited time as not only the French but German submarines will probably arrive in six or seven days.

5. Pray act as you think best, but meanwhile give reasoned answer to these points. Matter must be pushed to conclusion without undue delay.

0005/25

Asst. Sec. to 1st Sea Lord.

1st Lord
1st S.L.

PERSONAL
PERSONAL

D.N.A.D.
D.T.S.D.

PERSONAL
PERSONAL



MOST SECRET

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War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Situation-
Contd.

Gibraltar was bombed by French aircraft operating from North Africa. RENOWN and 4 destroyers have put to sea, proceeding to the westward. (1st S.L. 0156/25, to Cs in C)

Summary, 24/9.

From M.A. for Prime Minister. Plans were three-fold to meet any situation that developed but all were based as stated in our M.N.G.1 and M.N.G.2 and our 0046/18 on prior reduction of at least main armament of Fort. To this must be added cruisers and Fantasques. Plans were.

- (a) Main landing at Rufisque
- (b) Combined landing Rufisque and Hann Bay
- (c) Main landing at Hann Bay

First day proved violent and complete opposition to de Gaulle and throughout bad visibility necessitating closing Fort to 4000 yards, fire of Fort and Ships extremely accurate which resulted in damage to CUMBERLAND and Destroyers.

(d) (i) De Gaulle's plan to land Rufisque peaceably negated by opposition and darkness; thereafter fog rendered approach by night to Rufisque beach impossible. *Furthermore, British ultimatum*
Situation obscure and force ~~scattered~~ in fog.

had not yet been made,

(d) (ii) Confirmed that determination and accuracy of fire of Fort and activity of cruisers and Fantasques operating from cover of Fort. Visibility again poor necessitating battleship unscreened closing to 10,000 yards; even then Fort opened accurate fire 10 minutes before being sighted by ships. During approach of light craft repeatedly straddled, many near misses and during bombardment BARHAM hit 4 times 3 being 9.4 inch or above without serious damage. Activity of submarines confirmed and another arrived.

Bad visibility heavy A.A. fire and fighter interfering with reconnaissance and offensive action and by darkness only damage believed inflicted one Fantasque and one submarine, leaving defence particularly cruisers and Fantasques virtually unimpaired and landing Rufisque expected. Under these conditions plan (a) not considered practicable. Limitation caused by expenditure of ammunition and fuel fully appreciated. Also approach of reinforcements. Essential to immobilize cruisers and neutralize main armament of Fort before can maintain (? temporarily) secure landing. As stated in my 1936/24 propose to continue today and if landing practicable will be undertaken. (F.O. Force M., 0344/25, amended 0824/25, 1120/25)

War Diary25.9.1940.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace" Contd.Destroyers

My 2358/24. ECHO and FORTUNE detached to fuel at Bathurst. (S.O. Force M., 0606N/25)

RESOLUTION
Hit

RESOLUTION torpedoed, withdrawing with heavy ships. Covering RESOLUTION withdrawal, damage appears serious. Engaged by French RICHELIEU two gun salvos and by shore batteries. Observation minefield apparently in position 8 to 10 miles S.W. of Gorgée. Submarine sunk by FORESIGHT. (S.O. Force M., 0916 0936/25)

RESOLUTION reports 2 boiler rooms and engine rooms intact but reduced to 12 knots to avoid strain on bulkheads until extent of damage is located, time of receipt 0950 (S.O., Force M., 1011/25)

French Report

To General de Gaulle. Arrived from Dakar after having cut all telegraphic and telephonic communications of Dakar. A late message from Boisson and G.O.C. Dakar asked for speedy help of French troops of Sudan to protect Dakar. Troops at Dakar and Thies have only about two months training.

Request plane to come to Bathurst to convey me to you. Boig Lambert was in Dakar with an administrator on 23/9.

Brunel Hacoun and Richard arrived Bathurst 0300 G.M.T. (Brunel to S.O., Force M., 0635M/25)

Government
Decision

To M.A. from Prime Minister. Part 1. On all information now before us, including damage to RESOLUTION, we have decided that enterprise against Dakar should be abandoned, the obvious evil consequences being faced. Unless something has happened which we do not know which makes you wish to attempt landing in force, you should forthwith break off. You should inform us most immediate whether you concur, but, unless the position has entirely changed in our favour, you should not actually begin landing till you receive our reply. (1st S.L. 1327/25)

/Part II..



War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"-Contd.

Part II. Assuming enterprise abandoned, we shall endeavour to cover Duala by Naval force, but we cannot safeguard de Gaulle's forces at Bathurst. Question of reinforcing Freetown with troops is being considered. Instructions regarding disposal of remainder of forces will be given on receipt of your reply. (1st S.L. 1328/25)

Break-Off

From M.A. to Prime Minister. Your 1328. Concur in breaking off. (S.O. Force M., 1430N/25)

Force H View

My appreciation of situation. Outcome appears problematical. Longer continued, greater the stimulus for French air and naval forces to continue active operations against us in W. Med. Vulnerability of Gibraltar to air attack etc., suggest if we are to maintain effective control of Straits present situation should be liquidated as soon as possible. (F.O. Force H., to Admty. 1024/25)

French Aircraft

My 1800/24. Jacques states some aeroplanes number unknown have gone to Dakar from French Morocco to resist de Gaulle. Please warn squadron Dakar. (Consul-Gen. Tangier, 1040/25, to F,O,C,NA)

Cameroons

For Gen. de Gaulle from Col Le Clerc, Governor of Free French Cameroons. The Cameroons ready to respond to your call whatever it may be. (Brit. V. Consul, Duala, 1116/25, to C. in C., S.A.)

Summary of Operation

My 0936/25 and 1936/24. During approach French battleship RICHELIEU engaged BARHAM at 25,000 yards as squadron passed moored buoy, probably sea listening device. While turning on to bombardment line 16,000 yards Goree at 0900 six torpedoes crossed line. RESOLUTION hit by one, BARHAM just avoided. Bombardment carried out by BARHAM and cruiser in extreme visibility but shore defence and RICHELIEU effectively smoke-screened BARHAM and AUSTRALIA hit. Enemy fire deliberate and accurate. After 3 attempts in widely varying gunnery conditions result obviously negative and defences including cruisers and destroyers operating under cover of battery remain intact.

/This.....



War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Summary of
Operation, Contd.

This together with evidence of fire control by listening device probable moored mine make entry of transport even by night impracticable to effect landing of troops. Regret must now recommend adopting de Gaulle's proposal. Meanwhile continuing withdrawal of whole force to southward. RESOLUTION and troop convoy attacked by aircraft during withdrawal. (F.O. Force M., 1152N/25)

Bathurst
Reports

Letters from Boislambert for de Gaulle dated 19/9 before he left Bathurst. Information most out of date. (C. in C., S.A. to S.O. Force M. 1201/25)

De Larinnes asks to be kept informed of de Gaulle's position. (Consul-General Leopoldville, 1441/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

Force M.
RESOLUTION
Damage.

RESOLUTION escorted by BARHAM, AUSTRALIA, DEVONSHIRE and destroyer screen in position 13.23' N., 17.45' W., at 1800/25 proceeding to Freetown at 8 knots. RESOLUTION has reduced list from 12 to 9 degrees without flooding but is unlikely to reduce it further and draws about 40 ft amidships and 36 ft 9 in forward. Weather fine, slight northerly swell. (S.O., Force M., 1837/25 *Adm. G.*)

CUMBERLAND

If returning to Freetown, forward by L/T before leaving Bathurst list of urgent repairs considered to be within capacity of VINDICTIVE. (C. in C., S.A., to CUMBERLAND 1901/25)

De Gaulle for
Konakri

Following from de Gaulle. Have decided to go direct to Konakri and land my troops there. My intention is to rally French Guinea and march on Bamako with view to eventually operating against Dakar. Request to be covered by fleet during landing. Suggest Force A goes to Freetown from where they could act in support if needed. (F.O., Force M., 1909N/25)

My 1909N/25. If de Gaulle's project approved, only DEVONSHIRE and AUSTRALIA will be available from Force M. for support on earliest probable date of landing, viz., 27/9. Destroyer short fuel and required for screening our force. (S.O., Force M., 1949/25)

/De Gaulle.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary25.9.1940.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace" -Contd.De Gaulle
for Freetown

My 1909/25. De Gaulle now wishes his forces to go first to Freetown to reorganize. (S.O. Force M., 2224/25)

Force H.,
*French warships,
treatment.*

Add to Admty., 0253/22. Ships must be prepared for attack but must not fire the first shot. If ships proceed to the northward action is to be taken as in para (b) (A.C.N.S. (F) to S.O., Force H., 1723/25)

De Gaulle for
KonakriF.O. Force M 1909/25. If my 2015/25 is approved CORNWALL and possible DELHI might assist. Information at Freetown no naval force at landing on (? morning) 25th/9 (Guns ashore) Force A could not be accommodated on shore (?Freetown) except to allocate one battalion but presumably could live in ships for some period. (C. in C., S.A., 2319N/25) *to Admty.*DRAGON, MILFORD.
Force "H"*Following has been read addressed DRAGON, MILFORD.*
DRAGON proceed with British troops convoy and FURY all best speed to Freetown. MILFORD and BRIDGEWATER join me 0600/26 in 11° N., 17° 45' W., if fuel permits. (S.O. Force H., 1758/25)ARK ROYAL
AUSTRALIAARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA unless urgently required by you ^{are} to Clyde forthwith in company without destroyer escort. (1st S.L., to S.O. Force., M. 2311/25)Dakar Reports

Information from Dakar dated 18/9 for de Gaulle (Actg. Govr. Freetown, 2350N/25 to Admty. and Force M.)

Withdrawal

Continued and resolute resistance experienced today from French Forces at Dakar made unopposed landing of troops impossible. In consequence, H.M.G. decided that operations should cease and forces be withdrawn. French reactions to our action at Dakar may continue. (1st S.L., 2359/25 to Cs. in C.,)

/French Warship.....



War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"- Contd.

French
Warship
Status

Air attacks on Gibraltar and operations off Dakar do not alter existing instructions whereby for the present French warships under control of Vichy French Govt. are to be treated as neutral vessels if approaching a defended port. This confirms my 76187 (M.O.1) of 12/7/20. (War Office to Cs. in C., no T.O.O. 25/9)

Bombing of Gibraltar

25/9.

Heavy bombing continued from 1445 to 1630 this afternoon, 25/9. 23 attacks, more than 100 bombs dropped, about 60 on shore. A/S trawler STELLA SIRIUS sunk. Approx 2 officers and 12 ratings killed, 743 ratings injured. No serious damage to dockyard so far as ascertained. (F.O.C.N.A., 1930/25)

Preliminary report. Warning of approach of several waves of French aircraft received 1430 hours. First wave arrived 1445 hours followed by about 25 more. Estimated number of aircraft over 100, which probably dropped over 300 bombs. Considerable damage to buildings including a large fire. Enemy planes shot down- certain three, possible two more. Casualties not known- believed slight. Some damage done to equipment. Air raid ended 1655 hours. (Govr., Gib., 1946/25)

24/9.

Air raid on Tuesday 24/9. Attack made by about 40 French machines which were rarely seen owing to low Levanter clouds. About 150 bombs dropped of which about 50 fell ashore including 9 in Dockyard about 20 in harbour and remainder in Bay. Details of damage (none to dockyard) Casualties in dockyard- killed none, slightly injured seven. (A/S., Gib., 1938/25 to Adty.)



War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Enemy
Destroyers

4 enemy destroyers bearing 180 degrees distance 1 mile course 090 Europa Point 7 miles. (CHARLES MCIVER, armed boarding vessel, 0456/25)

My 0456. 4 unidentified destroyers passed eastbound at high speed, 1 had 3 funnels. (CHARLES MCIVER, 0500/25)

Gunfire to southward of Almina. (WISHART, 0514/25)

4 enemy destroyers bearing 310 degrees distance 3 miles course unknown, position 090 ALM 3. (WRESTLER, 0510/25)

WRESTLER
Engaged

Am engaging enemy. (WRESTLER, 0518/25)
Am being attacked by enemy (WRESTLER, 0519/25)

Flashes of guns east of ? Quiet now. (CHARLES MCIVER 0525/25)

Enemy out of sight to eastward. (WRESTLER 0526/25)

Four enemy destroyers bearing 180 degrees., distant 5 miles, course 090 degs. My position 03? ALM 8. (WISHART, 0529/25)

My 0529. Enemy's speed 25 knots. (WISHART, 0531/25)

Am proceeding east in pursuit (WISHART 0535/25)

Am returning to patrol. (WRESTLER, 0557/25)

/French Warships.....

War Diary25.9.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.French
Warships
Treatment

In view of heavy French air attack on Gibraltar yesterday and of Dakar action, urgently request orders re engaging French warships passing through Straits with coast defence armament. Suggest all be regarded as hostile and engaged other than making recognition signal as a de Gaulle ship. (Govr., Gib., to W.O. for 1st S.L. 1251/25. Your 1251 Orders in 76187 M.O.I. 12/7 must still hold good. (W.O., 1740/25 to Govr. Gib. (For further reply see 1723/25, Operation "Menace") (p 629)

Italian
Submarine
Report

Between 27/9 and 30/9 3 to 6 Italian S/Ms will arrive off Estepona or Marbella. They will arrive from Italy making their first land fall near Capp Prime. They will wait about 5 miles off coast in Estepona area until they receive orders from (? Italy) (how transmitted not known) to pass through Straits. Most suitable time to pass is considered between 1930 and 2100 hours. (N.A. Madrid, 1818/25)

Vigo, Report

Master S.S. CORTES (Mc Andrews) just arrived from Vigo reports sighting passenger ship accompanied by a mysterious (?conducting) cruiser steering northerly course. Assumed her to be French by build. Ten miles from coast. Also sighted steam trawler entering Vigo as he left. Was flying Italian Flag and in her usual (corrupt group) position. CORTES left Vigo 1400/25. (Consul-Gen., Lisbon, 1945/25)

PACHECO

Re unloading of ammunition, and loading other in lieu of Freetown. (D.T.S.D., 0252/25 to F.O.C.N.A.,) Cancelled, (D.T.S.D. 1950/25)

ARK ROYAL

Your 1059/25. R.D.F. Cannot be fitted in ARK ROYAL, major refit and total reconstruction of mast would be necessary. Work could not be carried out at Gibraltar. Regretted FURIOUS cannot be spared from Home Fleet during absence of ARK ROYAL. (Hd of M. to S.O. Force H., 2015/25)

on p. 629

Your 2311/25. ARK ROYAL has on board 2/3 total strength of pilots and aircraft of Y flight and for all observers. Important they should be disembarked before ARK ROYAL (?) (?C. in C., S.A., to Adty., 2317N/25)
By French aircraft, 1445 to 1655 (See Operation "Menace")

Gibraltar
Raid



[should have been 644]

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic *(for beginning see p. 644)*

PRIMAUGUET
(Contd.)

from page 644

Propose CORNWALL inform PRIMAUGUET tonight 26/9 or early 27/9 that he will accept his undertaking to proceed Casablanca with tanker and then discontinue escort. CORNWALL and DELHI to return to Freetown unless required by S.O. Force M. (C. in C., S.A., to Admty., 2005N/15)

Your 2015/25. Approved to take action proposed early to-day, 26/9. (1st S.L., 0121/26) *(C. in C. S.A.)*

PRIMAUGUET finished fuelling proceeded 2215 ahead from position 14.15' N., 21.57' W., course 015°, 12 knots. (CORNWALL, 2250Z/25)

Convoy
A.P. 3.

CANTON and CARNARVON CASTLE to escort from Capetown until relieved. N.O.I.C. Simonstown to route convoy from Cape. (C. in C., S.A., 0201/25) My 0201/25. My 1311/24 and 1317/24 refer (C. in C., S.A., 1636/25. Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 1424/25 My 0201/25. After 2 days at Simonstown, CANTON is to proceed for Freetown. Route Patrol intentions for CARNARVON CASTLE and CANTON. (C. in C., S.A., 1523/25) Departure 1000/25, CARNARVON CASTLE for Capetown with Convoy A.P.3., including ULSTER PRINCE. CLAN CAMPBELL proceeding independently to Durban. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1437N/25) Your 1311/24. Defer sailing of CLAN CAMPBELL pending further instructions. (D.O.D., F.O., to C. in C., S.A., 1724/25)

ARGUS
WOLFE
CILICIA

My 1815/24. Owing to water requirements, sailing of WOLFE delayed till 0600/26. ARGUS and CILICIA sailed 1100/25. (C. in C., S.A., 1209N/25) (S.O.I., Freetown, 1323/25) Route. (C. in C., S.A., 1335N/25) My 1819/23 and 1815/24. WOLFE delayed watering. Sails 0630/26. (C. in C., S.A., 1931/25) R.V. for ARGUS and destroyer escort. (C. in C., W.A., 2007/25)



MOST SECRET

644

[should have
been 643]

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Raider
Reports

My 1400/4/8. Additional information concerning jamming from ST. LINDSAY. (C. in C., S.A., 0731N/25)

Overdue
Ships

My 0925B/24. KIOTO arrived Capetown. THEMISTOCLES from Glasgow, DALEBY from Freetown both due Durban 21/9, not arrived. (S.O.I.), Capetown, 1035B/25)

My 1045/19. AUDITOR arrived Capetown. (S.O.I.), Capetown, 1225B/25)

ENTERPRISE
QUEEN OF BERMUDA
ASTURIAS

Orders for patrols and visits (R.A.S.A.D. 1325Z/25)

PRIMAUGUET

French cruiser PRIMAUGUET 0900Z/25 Position 013° 05' N., 021° 28' W., Course 345° 12 knots has just reported she must fuel today 25/9, or tomorrow morning at the latest - she proposes Porto Braya or St. Vincent or the Lee of Boavista. Suggest Lee of Boavista if you agree as Bathurst presumably undesirable. Request early decision. (CORNWALL, 1042Z/25)

My 1042Z/25. PRIMAUGUET fuels in neutral waters he promises to keep a rendezvous selected by me. His word may be trusted. He did not commit himself about fuel at parley on 19/9 and point was not pressed home, on account of delicate situation. Fuelling in open sea not possible. (CORNWALL, 1234Z/25)

Your 1044/25 and 1234Z/25. PRIMAUGUET is to fuel lee of Boavista. Report R.V. selected. (C. in C., S.A., to CORNWALL, 1633/25)

My 1042Z/25. PRIMAUGUET is trying to fuel at sea from TARN, position 14.13' N., 21.47' W., stopped since 1530Z requiring 700 tons. (CORNWALL, 1648Z/25)

/Propose.....

← (continued on p. 643)

MOST SECRET25.9.1940
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanKENT

Asking if repairs can be undertaken at Bombay. (Controller to F.O.C.R.I.N., 1230/25)

Operation

Your 0937/17. No firm date can yet be given but earliest date possible for ship to leave U.K. (notified) (A.C.N.S., F., to C. in C., Med., 1754/25)

Situation
AlexandriaAsking for early indication of government policy in regard to Dakar and Gibraltar. At present, status quo between ourselves and French ships at Alexandria is being preserved. Observations. (C. in C., Med., 1759/25, to Admty) *Reply: p.669.*OperationMy 1637/24. Para A (No trace in W.R.) *see last Vol. p.89*
Operation has been temporarily postponed. (C. in C., Med., to Adty., 1849/25)Haifa
Defences

Your 1829/9. Concur. Your 0027/27/8. No intention of reducing Haifa coast defences, but 6-in guns allocated to Carmel Battery diverted to urgent home requirements. as also three 6-in guns earmarked for Mersa Matruh. Little likelihood of early replacement of any of Turks' guns. (D. of L.D., to C. in C., Med., 1957/25)

Submarines.

Departure p.m./25, RORQUAL and French S/M NARVAL for patrol. N.O.I.C., Malta, 2003/25)

Air Raid

Air raid this morning by 8 Macchis, 1 shot down, pilot killed, 1 probable and another hoped for as pieces dropped off. No bombs dropped. (V.A.Malta, 2117/25)

Small
Submarines

Admty, 2202/23. Subject to remarks by V.A.Malta, welcome arrangements and consider it practicable with small S/Ms which could be berthed inconspicuously. (C. in C., Med., 1019/25)

Turkey and
Dakar

Closely interested in view of repercussions Syria. (Wolfrom, 1630/25)

Sidi Barrani
Bombarded

Attack on target near Sidi Barrani was successfully carried out on the night of 24/25/9 by HYPERION, HEReward, JUNO, MOHAWK. A large fire accompanied by a number of explosions was started and the fire was still visible two hours after attack (C. in C., Med. 2359/25)

MOST SECRETWar Diary25.9.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesPersian Gulf

My 1746/25/8. Can decision be given regarding establishment of Contraband Control in Persian Gulf? Intentions., (C., in C., E.I., 0312Z/25)

Kilindini

My 1834/13, At request of G.O.C., N.O.I.C. Kilindini has requisitioned auxiliary sailing vessel LINDI (particulars) (C. in C., E.I., 0730Z/25)

Troop
Convoys

Reply to D. of S.T., 2007/24 (S.S.T.O., Bombay, 1050Z/25) My 0828/15. Convoy C.M.3. now leaves Durban 27/9. (C. in C., E.I., 1228Z/25)

Departure 25/9, 1507Z KINGSTON to R.V. with S.W. 1 (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 1509Z/25)

Your 1943/14, 0534/22 and 0726/22. Propse to sail KHEDIVE ISMAIL from Bombay (date) and KAROA or TALAMBA from Red Sea (date) (S.S.T.O., India, Bombay, 1302/25 to D. of S.T.)

B.N. 6. Details (N.C.S.O., Bombay 0935/25)
B.M. 1. Details (N.C.S.O., Colombo 1136/25)

ATHELKING
Wreckage

My 1016/9 Master of British (No Trace) reports that on 18/9 in 022° 20' S., 067° 10' E he passed what might have been wreckage from British ATHEKING (C. in C. E.I., 1303Z/25)

Air Report

Sudan. Patrols and escorts. (No Naval incidents) (H.Q., RAF M.E., 1041/25)

A.P. 1.

Consisting of DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, DENBIGHSHIRE, WAIOTIRA, arrived Suez., p.m./23. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal 1823/25)

Madagascar

Re employment of neutral ships. (N.O.I.C., Mauritius, 1042/23) Request matter be taken up with U.S. Embassy (C. in C., E.I. 0728Z/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary25.9.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSChinaGunboats

Your 0405Z/24, sailing of gunboats to Hong Kong, Anticipated date. (S.N.O., Shanghai 0705Z/25 to C. in C., China)

Indo China

Following from Duncan dated 25/9. Begins. Lanson Town taken from Southeast and Northwest positions surrounded. Japanese continue advance against order of Tokyo. Situation is as follows:- Landing at Haiphong is imminent it appears Japanese may entirely disregard agreement and occupy all Tongking. Ends. (G.O.C., 1818/25)

Wei-Hai-Wei

Although no statement has been made anywhere by Japanese it seems possible from Japanese activities at Weihaiwei including Japanese occupation of Chinese Naval hospital and extensive repairs to Chinese Naval quarters and Liu Kung Tao that they will not recognise renewal of Weihaiwei agreement. (C. in C., China, 1409Z/25)

America & West IndiesUS. Destroyers

Hope to sail 2nd Town Flotilla for U.K. via St. Johns N.F. on 29/9. U.S. Destroyer WELLES will sail with Flotilla from St. Johns N.F. (R.A.3., 1722/25)

VAN
KINSBERGEN

Your 0211/14.. Yes. Dutch Admty. are informing VANS KINSBERGEN to that effect (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., A.W.I., 1845/25)

French Ships

Should French merchant ships believed to be leaving Martinique with cargoes sugar for Casablanca be stopped if opportunity arises. CARADOC and VAN KINSBERGEN will be favourably placed by 27/9. French have superior force on paper but believed to be short of fuel. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2242/25)

AustraliaDUNERA

Transport, with 312 troops and 13 repatriated internees sailed Fremantle 0830Z/24 for Bombay. MANOORA providing escort until dark 26/9. (A.C.N.B., 0334Z/25)

U.S. 6.

Admty. 1610Z/2. 11,000 troops will sail in U.S.6. Details of ships and dates. (A.C.N.B., 1200Z/25)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

25. 9. 40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WESER Reported expected to sail 26/9 from Manzanillo (B.2) (D.D.I.C., 1846/25) PRINCE ROBERT informed. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1947/25)

SPEZIA Sailed northward (Alicante, 2015/25)

ARKADIA Left Galatz for Batum 23/9 with general cargo. (D.S.387)

DELOS Arrived Galatz 23/9 with 4200 tons manganese ore (D.S.387)

SALZBURG Left for Batoum arriving 28/9. (Macrae, Galatz. 1108/25)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BALENA My 1002. Italian trawler BALENA has arrived and another is expected. (Consul, Vigo, 1548/25)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

25.9.40.

Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

UNION JACK

Faroe Island fishing vessel 81 tons.
7 survivors landed Stornoway 0455/25.
No casualties. Sunk by gunfire
from enemy submarine 1730/22 in approx.
position 100 Miles N.W. by N. Butt of
Lewis. (N.O.I.C., Stornoway) 59.50' N.
7.40' W. (D.S.387).

SULAIRIA

British 5802 tons. Torpedoed 53.43' N.
2.10' W. (SULAIRIA 1139/25). Torpedoed
at 1239. (C.-in-C., W.A.1253/25).
Ex Convoy O.B.217. (D.S.387).

SOVAC
Escaped.

British tanker, 6,724 tons, SSSS 53.58' N.
20.10' W. torpedo missed. (Scapa W/T
1313/25). (C.-in-C., W.A.1439/25)
Ex. O.B.217. (D.S.387).

EURYMEDON

British, 6,223 tons, torpedoed 53.34' N.
20.23' W. at 1332/25. (Land's End radio
1455/25). Totally disabled but still
floating in 53.36' N. 20.25' W. Request
tugs. Have embarked 55 survivors.
(OTTAWA, 1826/25) Ex.O.B.217. Time given
as 1432/25 (D.S.387).

Lifeboat.

Lifeboat with children reported by
A/C D/10 in 54.43' N. 14.20' W. at 1350.
(C.-in-C., W.A.1533/25).

CITY OF BENARES

ANTHONY to leave HX73 at daylight
tomorrow to land 46 survivors from CITY
OF BENARES (C-in-C., W.A.2237/25).

BROOMPARK

(torpedoed in Convoy HX.72). Has arrived
in the Clyde in tow. (D.S.387).

SCHOLAR
(torpedoed 22/9).

Found by MARAUDER and in tow for Clyde.
Is still burning amidships (D.S.387).
Unmanageable, waterlogged, abandoned
same position 54.38' N.16.40' W. at
2000/24. Wreck drifting slowly southerly.
Proceeding Oban. (MARAUDER 1600/25).



War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

- 1019 Indication U/B still trailing O.B. 217. OTTAWA to shadow. (C. in C., W.A., 1019/25 Cruising line of advance. (OTTAWA 1826/25)
- 1125 S/M in your vicinity. Pass to Commodore. (D.T.D., to HAVELOCK, 1125/25/)
- Admty. 1340/24. U-boat stated to have been off Fair Isle at 0027/24 is of very doubtful authenticity. Afraid it will never be possible definitely to identify vessels detected by Fair Isle and Sumbrough until A/S craft are available to establish a permanent Fair Isle Channel Patrol, (A.C.O.S. 1234/25)
- 1252 → Suspect S/M 7 miles West of Hesto. NORTHERN CHIEF in contact (DUNCAN, 1252/25) (See S/MS Attacked)
- 1427 You are probably being shadowed by U-Boat. pass to Commodore. (D.D.I.C. 1427/25 to SABRE, ERICA, PICOTTEE, GLOXINIA)
- 1347 D.F. at 1347/25. Unknown enemy unit, probably U/B 55.50' N., 9.30 W., Reliable fix (D.D.I.C., 1452/25)
- 1052 56° N., 10° W position indefinite (D.S. 386)
- 0910 53° to 54° N., 21° to 22° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 386)
- 1927 56° N., 10° W., position indefinte (D.S.387)

Submarines Attacked

- 1200 Have depth charged oil track which increased to patch in 58.30' W., 11.00' W., proceeding on patrol (LAURENTIC, 1200/25)
- 1117 → By ISIS and DUNCAN, 61.56 N., 7.04 W., 7' W of Hesto, Faroes. Contact attacked no result.
- 1255 → By ISIS, 61.44 N., 6.27 W., 16' S.E. of Hesto. Contact Attacked, no result. (D.S.387)

MOST SECRETWar Diary26.9.1940
Thursday.SITUATION REPORTHome CommandsOperation
G.L.

This operation was repeated last night (see 24/9). No enemy shipping was sighted.

Patrol in
Channel

Destroyers carried out the usual anti-invasion patrol in the Channel.

M.T.B. 6.

M.T.B. 6. developed serious leak off Beachy Head last night, and was abandoned. The Officers and crew were Norwegian.

VETERANVETERAN was slightly damaged by a near mine explosion today in Barrow Deep and returned to Sheerness. *See also next page.*A/S PatrolAnother anti-U-Boat patrol is to be established north of the Shetlands. C. in C., H.F. and V.A. (S) have consulted ~~and~~ decided on the anti-U-Boat patrols to be maintained in future.Dover
Shelled

Dover was shelled this afternoon. No Naval damage or casualties were caused.

U.S.A.
Destroyers

5 Destroyers of the 1st Town Flotilla arrived at Belfast 26/9.

Enemy Convoy

5 destroyers sailed from Devonport this evening to intercept two 3000 to 4000 ton merchant vessels and 4 smaller M.Vs or escorts reported about 25 miles S.W. of Guernsey at 1615, Steering West. 6 Anson aircraft were later sent to attack. The convoy was not sighted.

British Air Operations

SCHARNHORST and other warships at Kiel were attacked last night by 6 Whitleys. Results were not observed though bursts were seen near SCHARNHORST. Objectives were also attacked at Antwerp, Lubeck and Warnemünde, and the Channel Ports as far west at Brest.

One Blenheim on reconnaissance today attacked docks and shipping at Calais. Results were not observed.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

652

26.9.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

The ^{per} submarine works at Southampton were severely damaged this afternoon during a heavy attack on Southampton by about 100 aircraft.

Damage was caused at Birkenhead and severe damage at Liverpool late this evening. There would appear to be considerable loss of stocks of food, copra and palm kernels at Liverpool.

SS. PORT DENISON in Convoy OA 220 was attacked off Peterhead at 2000 and sank at 0435/27, 7 miles West Rattray Head Light-house. WELSH PRINCE, in the same convoy, was damaged by a near miss.

Convoy F.N. 91 was unsuccessfully attacked about 12 miles S.E. of Harwich at 1515/26.

Mining

M.T.B. 17.

M.T.B. 17 was slightly damaged at 1530 today by a near mine explosion, when 9 miles south of ~~S. wick~~ Lt.V.

Sunk

VETERAN

VETERAN was also slightly damaged by a near mine explosion about noon today in Barrow Deep. *See previous page.*

VENOMOUS

VENOMOUS was undamaged when 2 mines exploded 7 cables from her this afternoon near Mid Barrow L.V. in the Thames Estuary.

North Atlantic

H.M. Ambassador reports that the Spanish have refused to allow the French to make air attacks on Gibraltar over Spanish Territory.

The output of work in Gibraltar dockyard has already been seriously impaired as a consequence of the air raids of the last two days. Only about half the people who come into Gibraltar from Spain daily to work turned up today.



War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

CORNWALL and DELHI parted company with PRIMAUGUET and oiler TARN at 0745Z today in 16° 1' N., 21° 6' W., having received PRIMAUGUET's explicit promise to take both ships to Casablanca. CORNWALL and DELHI proceeded for Freetown. After fuelling, CORNWALL is to proceed to Duala and prevent any interference by French Vichy forces.

Operation "Menace"

F.O. Force M. estimates the following damage to French ships during the operations at Dakar: S/M's :- 2 sunk, 1 severely damaged by gunfire, 1 received 2 near misses from 100 lb. S.A.P. bombs.
Destroyers:- 2 FANTASQUE class and 1 unknown class burnt out and beached.
Cruisers:- 1 possible hit on GLOIRE class
RICHELIEU:- 2 probable hits by 15 inch and 2 near misses from 250 lb S.A.P. bombs.

Mediterranean

3 Blenheims today attacked the landing ground at Sollum with good effect.

100 bombs were dropped at Haifa today, the majority of which fell in the sea. Slight damage was caused on shore.

* PALESTRO

* OSIRIS reports that she sank an Italian destroyer of CURTATONE class 47 miles N.N.E. of Brindisi at 1630/22.

East Indies

It is now reported that, with regard to the bombing of Zeila on night 22/23 Sept. one aircraft dropped bombs on "ibuti in mistake for Zeila

Haifa was attacked today by 10 aircraft, about 100 bombs being dropped without any hits or casualties.

German Merchant Ships

WESER was intercepted and captured by H.M.C.S. PRINCE ROBERT about 4½ miles from Manzanillo, Mexico at 0005/26

26.9.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"

~~REVENGE~~

Signals.

Humber 2, Nore 1, Dover 1, Channel 1. (D.C.0225/26)
Humber 2, Nore 2, Dover 2, Channel 2. (D.C.1425/26)

Shetlands.

4 inch Guns at Scalloway have now been mounted and tested. (F.O.C.S.1140/26 to Adty).

Plymouth
A/A Defences

Strongly urge that the four 3-inch case 1 Guns now to be withdrawn from Plymouth should not be withdrawn without replacement. (C.-in-C. W.A. 2342/26 to Adty).

Policy.

REVENGE.

Your 1938/25. If you consider REVENGE would be safer from dive-bombing up harbour she should proceed there at first opportunity. (V.C.N.S.1215/26 to C.-in-C., W.A).

Destroyers
for Escort
Duty in W.A.
Command.

"Towns"

Estimate 47 needed. Analysis of number now available. Intend release 2 Destroyers from Plymouth now, and propose that 4 now at Portsmouth should also be released. First ~~TOWNS~~ Flotilla, when efficient, will enable more to be released. (C.-in-C.W.A.1959/26 to Adty).

Destroyers
at Brest.

502. The presence of destroyers at Brest constitutes a threat to Sierra Leone and Gibraltar convoys and early information of their movements is essential. (2) Consider that a daily P.R.U. reconnaissance should be carried out and that a submarine should watch the Approaches to Brest. (C.-in-C. W.A.1329/26 to Adty).

Movements.

Northern
Patrol.

CILICIA and ARGUS Movements. (F.O.C.N.P.0944/26)

NEWCASTLE.

Exercising with 2 Destroyers in Area A and B. Plymouth Approaches from 1200/26. (C.-in-C. W.A.0949/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Your 1442/25. Make every endeavour to arrive Bar Light Vessel by 0645 to dock on tide. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1040/26 to BIRMINGHAM). Fighter Protection requested. (C.-in-C. W.A.1653/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

26.9.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued).

U.S.
Destroyers.
* ABEL P. UPSHUR.
HALE.
CROWNINSHIELD
BUCHANAN

Am proceeding to Greenock. Expect arrive 1830,
*4 Destroyers in company (AARON WARD 1205/26
to Adty). Proceeding to Belfast. Expect arrive
1600. (AARON WARD 1451/26 to Adty). Proceed to
Belfast as by C.-in-C. W.A.1939/22 (D.O.D. (H)
1600/26 to AARON WARD). Arrived 1st ~~TOWN~~ "Tron"
Flotilla. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1630/26 to
C.-in-C. W.A.).

Humber
Area.

Patrol O. and Movements for Night 26/27.
N.O.I.C. Humber 1654/26.

Dover.

Patrols for Night 26/27. (V.A. Dover 1656/26).

Nore.

My 1550/5/7. WIVERN on S.O. Patrol. IMPULSIVE
sails Sheerness 1715/26 for Humber.
(C.-in-C. Nore 1748/26).

VANSITTART
BLYSCAWICA

My 1907. Proceed to 50°N. 5°W. to support
BROKE and GARLAND. (C.-in-C. W.A.1927/26).
See next page.

Rosyth
Area.

Movements for Night 26/27. (C.-in-C. Rosyth
1940/26).

Operations.

Jan
Mayen.

Your 0857/22 approved. Report action taken by
FRIDTHOF NANSEN at Torgilsbu.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1311/26 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).
(sup. 684)

Start
Point.

A Patrol to be established tonight from
50° 7'N. 3° 30'W. to 50° 30'N. 3° W.
(C.-in-C. W.A.1343/26 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)
Group 20 sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1900/26).

Operation
G.L.

(Sweep from Roches Douvres to Ile Vierge). My
1617/25. Destroyers sighted nothing.
(C.-in-C. W.A.1031/26 to Adty).

Operation
D.N.

Periodical Night Raids by Destroyers and
Cruisers against Enemy shipping between
Skudesnes and Lister are intended. Details of
Operation. (F.O.S.1434/26 to S/Ms.)

26. 9. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Yarmouth M/L's
with FN. and
FS. Convoys.

Beginning 27/9, M/L's based on Yarmouth to operate with FN. and FS. Convoys to drive off E-Boats waiting for Convoys. M/L's to R/V with FN. Convoys off Aldeburgh Light Float, transfer to FS. Convoy next day between Outer Dowsing and Flamborough, thence with Convoy to Aldeburgh and so to Yarmouth. (C.in-C., Nore 1544/26 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

M.T.B. for
Special Operation

Request you make available on Night 27/28. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1717/26 to C.-in-C. Nore.)

Channel Islands

Proceed with GARLAND to intercept and destroy 2 M/V's 3000 to 4000 tons and 4 smaller M/V's reported at 1619 in 49° 3' N., 3° W. steering Westerly at 12 knots. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1907/26 to BROKE). Both forces return to Harbour by 0730/27. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1931/26 to BROKE, WHITEHALL) *See also previous page.*

Dover Shelled

4 shells fired at Dover between 1435 and 1554 to-day. One fell half a mile outside Western Entrance, 2 in Harbour, and 1 in Town causing casualties 2 killed and 8 injured. No Naval damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 1931/26 to Adty.)

Anti-Invasion
Patrol

VANOC, VISCOUNT, WITCH, BRILLIANT patrol tonight Eastward to Lydd Light Vessel keeping North of 50° 5' N. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1457/26 to Adty.)

Submarines

Anti-U-Boat Patrols

It is intended to establish an anti-U-Boat Patrol with one S/M, in Area enclosed by 60° 50' N., 1° 10' W., 60° 50' N., 0° 40' W., 61° 30' N., 0° 20' W., and 61° 30' N., 1° 30' W. the S/M proceeding between Rosyth and Scapa with a Convoy if no other Escort available. (V.A.S.1323/26 to H.Q.C.C.) After consultation with C.-in-C., H.F. anti-U-Boat patrols will be maintained as follows. (V.A.S.1813/26) See Operations Volume.

26. 9. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Greenock Area

Submarines (Contd.)

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1505/26)

Orkneys

L.25 exercising in Scapa Flow A.M. and P.M./27. (A.C.O.S. 1537/26)

Helder
21 and 22/9

H.44 reports Minesweepers and Trawlers in ~~STURGEONS~~ Swept Channel on 21 and 22/9 (S.O. S/M's Harwich 1715/26 to Adty.)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/27. (V.A.S. 1721/26)

Use of S/M Minelayers for Patrol Work only.

This for consideration, observing that little traffic has as yet been reported South of the Gironde. (V.A.S. 1101/26 to Adty.) Concur in use of S/M. Minelayers for Patrol Work in immediate future. (C.-in-C., H.F. 1905/26) Concur. I prefer Patrols to Minelaying (C.-in-C. W.A., 1937/26)
735. C.-in-C., W.A's 1329. After providing for patrols referred to in my 1813 no submarines are available for patrol off Brest. I do not consider that a submarine could maintain a close and therefore effective patrol in this locality owing to strong tides and other navigational difficulties. If however it is considered that a submarine should patrol off Brest the solution would appear to be to make use of two of the submarines now operating from Portsmouth. (V.A.S. 1839/26 to Adty.)

Portsmouth.

Movements. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth, 1907/26)

British Air Activity

Ostend, Dunkirk,)
Boulogne, Calais,)
Flushing. Antwerp.)

Attacked by aircraft Night 25/26. (B.C. Summary 447)

SCHARNHORST

Attacked in Kiel Harbour during Night 25/26 (B.C. Summary 447)

Air Rescue Boats

Adty. Letter M.O.15701/40 of 29/8. Situation as to Rescue Boats in Rosyth Command. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1211/26 to Adty.)

26. 9. 40.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSBritish Air Activity (Contd.)Height of
Balloon Barrages

From 30/9 the maximum operational height of all Balloon Barrages is to be considered as 5000 feet. (Air Ministry 1246/26)

503. F.O. i/c Greenock has suggested that fighters should operate from Campbeltown and Islay against enemy aircraft which attack shipping in the North Channel.

I am most anxious that shipping should have maximum protection, but as I cannot judge the practicability of these proposals I should be glad of your remarks.

(C.-in-C, W.A. 1531/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

Rosyth Air
Searches

For 27/9. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1950/26)

Enemy Air ActivityW.R.N.S. Hostel
Damaged.

At Broadhurst Gardens early A.M./26th. Slightly damaged. (S.C.E.Thames 1840/26)

PORT DENISON

British, 8043 tons. In Convoy O.A.220 on fire and abandoned after aircraft attack at 2005/26, six miles East of Peterhead. Rescue Tug ABEILLE IV, Trawler LORD BEACONSFIELD, and Peterhead Life-Boat went from Peterhead to her help at 2020. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 2215/26 to Adty.)

Convoy OA.220PORT DENISON
WELSH PRINCE

My 2124/26. Convoy in 57° 37' N., 10° 34' W. at 1953/26. Two large aircraft appeared and delivered attack flying about 100 feet. No engines heard before attack. PORT DENISON hit in engine room by an ariel torpedo and immediately caught fire. WELSH PRINCE damaged by bomb falling alongside and is calling at Scapa for repairs. No casualties only one aircraft seen and fired at by ROCHESTER using all guns. No hit observed but barrage appeared to prevent another attack. 50 survivors including Commodore and Master known to have been saved from PORT DENISON. (ROCHESTER 1027/27.) Advance Copy Ops. Trade.

MiningGironde

Not considered desirable to lay any more S/M Minefields for time being

between



HOME COMMANDS

Mining. (Contd.)

Gironde

between Ushant and Penmarch. For consideration therefore whether to lay one or two more Minefields across possible coastal route south of Gironde. (V.A.S. 1101/26)

VETERAN

Mined in 58° Barrow Deep Light Vessel 6½ cables. Damage appears slight. No electricity. Am returning to Sheerness with VENOMOUS. (VETERAN 1257/26 to C.-in-C., Nore). Expect arrive 1410 with VETERAN. (VENOMOUS 1321/26 to Commodore Sheerness) Mine exploded 20 yards on beam. Destroyers steaming 22 knots, 3 cables apart, VETERAN leading. No casualties. Some damage, but apparently none to hull. Steam and steering unaffected. (C.-in-C., Nore 1527/26 to Adty.)

Nore

Red Mine detonated by LL. Sweepers at 2130/25 in 120 East Shingles Buoy 1.35 miles. (C.-in-C., Nore 1407/26 to Adty.)

PLOVER)
WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN)
Op. M.U.

V.A. Dover 2314/24. To leave Sheerness 2000/26 and arrive South Goodwin Light Vessel at 0100/27, returning to Southend on completion. (C.-in-C., Nore 1512/26 to Adty.) If completed in time, to proceed with FN.92 due to leave Southend 0800/27. (C.-in-C., Nore 1542/26 to PLOVER)

VENOMOUS

→ 2 Mines exploded 7 cables from beam in 420 Mid Barrow Light Vessel 8 cables. Ship's speed 25 knots. (VENOMOUS 1546/26 to C.-in-C., Nore)

Plymouth

4 Minesweeping Trawlers between 50° 17' N., 4° 10' W. and 50° 9' N., 4° 20' W. from 0700 till 1200/27. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1649/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

Off Clacton

Mine seen to explode in about 51° 42' N. 1° 35' E. (VIMIERA 1535/26 to C.-in-C., Nore.)

Southwold

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth reports that about 170 Beach Mines exploded this afternoon South of Southwold for no apparent reason. Only slight damage. No casualties. (C.-in-C., Nore 2225/26 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET26. 9. 40.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMining (Contd.)Thames Estuary

1. ICARUS passing No. 2 Barrow Buoy at 25 knots. Reports mine exploded 117° Barrow Deep Light Vessel 3.5 miles at 1720.
2. Mine exploded at 1530 midday between M.T.B. 16 and 17 in position 160° Sunk Light Vessel 9 miles. Explosion larger than on 23/9. No flash. Speed 30 knots. Some damage to M.T.B. 17 but boat still efficient. Boats in quarter line half a cable apart. (C.-in-C., Nore, 2337/26 to Adty.)

Enemy IntelligenceHavre.

4 M/V's of 5000 tons 3 miles North of Havre at 0940, steering North.
(Capt. S.5 1145/26 to 5th S/M.F.)

Havre

At 0940/26 A/C report (P.I.U. 1810/26)

Zeebrugge

At 1735/26 A/C report (P.I.U. 2220/26)

Boulogne

Night 25/26 (B.C. Summary 447)

M/V s off Gris Nez

Night 25/26 (B.C. Summary 447)

EMDEN)
KOLN)
NURNBERG)


At Swinemund on 21/9; also vessel believed to be ADMIRAL SCHEER.
(N.A. Stockholm 1315/26 to Adty.)

Transports

(a) 7 German transports arrived Vasa (Finland) evening of 22nd B. 1.

BISMARCK

(b) BISMARCK visited by Swedish Naval Staff at Blom and Voss works Hamburg second week of September is now carrying out trials in Baltic. B. 3.
(N.A., Stockholm 1506/26)

MOST SECRET26.9.1940
Thursday
War DiaryCASUALTIES AND DEFECTSM.T.B. 6.

At 2030/25 when 6 miles south of Beachy Head, developed a leak and began to sink fast. Officers and crew landed at Newhaven by M.A/S.B. 58 at 0930/26; and at 0230/26 was sighted flooded and bridge awash. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1307/26 to Adty.)

SOTRA

L.L.Trawler, damaged in harbour by collision. Repairs will take about 7 days (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2230/26 to Adty.)

OOSTPLEIN

Dutch, 5059 tons. Sailed Methil 26/7 for Buenos Aires. Seriously overdue (C. in C., S.A., 2034/26)

ANGLO SAXON

British, 5596 tons. Sailed Milford Haven 8/8 and due Bahia Blanca 6/9. Seriously overdue. (C. in C., S.A. 2034/26)

STAD SCHIEDAM

See America & West Indies

26.9.1940
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

O.A. 219

O.B.M., 221

O.A. 218

O.L. 4.

S.L. 47

O.L. 5

O.B. 220

H.X. 73 B

→ S.L. 49

H.X. 76

→ S.L. 49

O.B. 222

O.B. 218

C.W. Convoys

Slow

F.N., F.S.

ULSTER MONARCH

EMPIRE TROOPER

Shipping

Route (C. in C., W.A., 1550/26)

DERBY COUNTY 19. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 0915/26)

To alter course, route. (C. in C., W.A., 1240/26)

To disperse after dark (C. in C., S.A., 1220/26)

SHIKARI to join (C. in C., W.A., 1220/26)
 WESTON to meet (C. in C., W.A., 1240/26)

Destroyer escorts (C. in C., W.A., 1253/26)
 Route (Adty. 1827/26)

Orders to escort (C. in C., W.A. 1710/26)

Orders to escort (C. in C., W.A. 1710/26)

Time of passing boom MORETON BAY To escort
 (C. in C., S.A., 0611N/26)

Escorts (S.O.I., Halifax 1819/26)

Route (D.T.D. 1657/26)

Route (D.T.D. 1830/26)

SABRE, PICOTEE, FANDANGO, WOLVES rejoin
 (C. in C., W.A., 1820/26)

Numbers to be raised to maximum of 16 owing
 to pressing need for coal in south. This
 will necessitate raising maximum number of
 ships in C.E. convoys to 16 (Adty. 1818/26)

Speed to be reduced shortly to include ships
 of 7 knots to meet requirements of coastal
 traffic bound from west to east coast ports
 with overside discharge cargoes (D.T.D.
 1828/26)

Arrived (F.O. Invergordon, 0940/26)

Not ready to sail today. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1147/26)

26.9.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French
 Air Force

My 1544/24 and 2350/24 to Chief Gibraltar. Jacques tells me French Moroccan Air Force are running out of bombs. Estimates they could not continue bombing Gibraltar at present rate more than about 3 days in all. Presumably now that Dakar incident is over bombing of Gibraltar by French forces will in any case cease. (Consul Tangier, 1240/26)

Force H.
 Destroyers

Request 2 destroyers may join me in position 035° 50' N., 009° 22' W., at 0900/27 to relieve GRIFFIN and ENCOUNTER who will then return to Gibraltar for fuel. 2 Destroyers may be required to relieve HOTSPUR and GALLANT p.m. /28. (F.O. Force H., 1131/26) *See next page.*

Gibraltar
 Raids

Intensive air raids of last two days synchronised with operation at Dakar and presumably reprisals. If these raids continue with present intensity Dockyard which has been lucky so far will probably in my opinion and that of A.C.N.A., be put out of action. Output of work already seriously reduced. Please repeat Colonial Office and Admiralty. (Govr. Gib., 1207/26 to W.O.)

Has Gibraltar been bombed today? (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A., 1849/26)
 Your 1849/ Not yet. (F.O.C.N.A. 2000/26)
 Only about half the people who come into Gibraltar from Spain daily to work have turned up today. (Govr. Gib. 2105/26)

Losses,
 Trawler Sunk

Summary of losses in material during air raids 24/9 and 25/9. (details) H.M. Dockyard suffered damage to buildings and communications and steam generating plant was destroyed. One trawler sunk. (Govr. Gib., to W.D., 1645/26)

Casualties

Damage done in yesterday's air raid greater than at first thought. (My 1207/26/9) Four or five airmen baled out into sea none were rescued. Tactics. Some planes flew over Spain and were fired on by Spaniards. Known casualties. Naval, eighteen killed, three wounded. A single reconnaissance plane flew over Gibraltar this morning at 1000 hrs. and 1230 hrs. but up till 1730 hrs no raid has taken place. (Govr. Gib., 1942/26)

/LLANGOLEN

26.9.1940

Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

LLANGOLEN

Your 2124/25. Retain in readiness but do not load pending further instructions. (D.T.S.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 1656/26)

Air Patrols

Summary of Operations. 26/9. 3 reconnaissance, 2 A/S patrols. Area covered Spartel to 1° 30' W., (200 group, 1745/26)

Destroyer
Engagement

Request brief report of engagement between WRESTLER and WISHART and 4 enemy destroyers on 25/9. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A., 1757/26)

Funchal

Your 1704/24. Preparation for reception of British forces not understood. Please explain. (Hd. of M. to N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1936 26)

Force H.
Destroyers

Your 1131. WISHART and FIREDRAKE sail at 2000 to join you. Request you will send GRIFFIN+ and ENCOUNTER to Gibraltar at maximum speed fuel permitting. They will sail again to join you as soon as refuelled and ships they relieve must also return at maximum speed as one of these must leave Gibraltar p.m./28. to meet troop transport. (F.O.C.N.A. 0652/26 to F.O. Force H.)

See previous page.

STORM

Your 0159/17 (Embarkation of British Subjects from Lisbon) Am unable at present to supply full information but Polish Legation informs me that Panama ship STORM left Marseilles night of 23/9 for Gibraltar carrying 400 troops. Will inform soon as possible if these include any British. (N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1230/26)



War Diary.

26.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace".

Further Operations.

Following for De Gaulle. Naturally anxious to help you but should like to know more precisely nature of support you would expect for your operations in French Guinea from Force A or such part of it as may be able to remain at Freetown. (C.N.S., to S.O., Force M, 0115/26).

Following from Prime Minister. Submit your views on De Gaulle's proposals for landing at Konakri and operations in French Guinea and/or such reply as he may make to our 0115/26, asking for more precise information as to nature of support he requires. (C.N.S., to S.O., Force M, 0119/26).

CUMBERLAND Prisoners.

Asking they should not be landed at Bathurst (? Troops, Freetown, to Navy Afloat, 0147/26).

ARK ROYAL.

Admiralty 2311/25. Until further from Dakar and position and movements of French Force known, consider retention of ARK ROYAL essential. Hope to detach at nightfall to-day 26/9. (F.O., Force M, 0501N/26).

RESOLUTION.

Position course and speed at 0700, ^{See next page} 12°15'N, 17°45'W., 180°, 5 knots. RESOLUTION's heel causes lubricating difficulties which necessitate stop occasionally. Retention of maximum surface and anti-submarine escort essential for present. Will tow if unavoidable. (S.O., Force M, 0659/26). Am about to take RESOLUTION in tow. List has increased and there is still fire in a boiler room. (S.O., Force M, 0915N/26).

De Gaulle. DE GAULLE Plans.

Your 0119/26. Following interim reports for Prime Minister from M.A. pending further reply De Gaulle to your 0115/26. My 2224/25. General De Gaulle after further consideration decided potential opposition of Konakri necessitates prior despatch of emissary to sound position, meanwhile request his forces go to Freetown. We agree that descent on Konakri under present conditions not practicable, vide C.in C.2119/25 and because French transports must go to Freetown to water and reorganize troops. We consider final recommendation can only be made after discussion De Gaulle which in view of separation of transports and flagship not possible till Freetown. Suggest C.in C. submits his views after seeing De Gaulle. (S.O., Force M, 1133/26 to Admiralty).

Situation.

Report for D.M.I. (G.O.C., W.Africa, 0800/26).

French Resistance.

Have received following telegraphed information from my principal Intelligence

officer.../

War Diary.

26.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace".

French Resistance.
(contd.)

officer now at Bathurst. Resistance stiffened by French Navy taking over guns Dakar defences. Five Germans arrived Dakar 23/9 presumably to help organize resistance. Two French twin-engined bomber aircraft flew over Bathurst early 25/9, one reconnoitring town and aerodrome from 500 feet. Two more aircraft heard afternoon 25/9 but not identified. (G.O.C., W.Africa, 1615/26 ^{to} *War Office*)

ARK ROYAL

Admiralty 2311/25 and my 0501/26. Retention still essential. AUSTRALIA too short of fuel to comply. (S.O., Force M, 1246N/26). *See previous page*

Enemy Losses.

After considering all evidence consider following to be casualties (?inflicted). Submarines 2 sunk one severely damaged by gunfire one received two near misses from two 100-lb. A/S bombs. Destroyers two **LE FANTASQUES** and one class unknown burnt out and beached. Cruisers one possible hit on French Cruiser GLOIRE Class. French Battleship RICHELIEU two probable 15-inch hits and two near misses 250 pound S.A.P. bombs reported. (F.O., Force M, 1306/26, amended 1805/26)

Proclamation to cease.

My 1936/24. Approval of H.M. Government to issue proclamation expressing De Gaulle's wish for us to cease bombardment not having been received it is now too late for Force Commanders to do so. Presume appropriate action has now been taken by Government. (F.O., Force M., 1309/26 *to Admiralty*)

French Submarines.

Following from Consul-General Tangier. Jacques reports about 12 submarines left Casablanca 23/9 to take part against British Squadron before Dakar. Believed that these will try to cut off our ships by encirclement movement. Submarines now believed to have adequate supply of torpedoes which were brought to them by 6 French Warships from Toulon. (F.O.C.N.A., 1402/26, Consul Tangier 0940/26).

CUMBERLAND.

Admiralty 1914/26. Estimate 96 hours at Freetown with some local assistance could achieve 23 knots on 4 shafts. Ship seaworthy and communications normal. (CUMBERLAND, 1941/26).

Forces "Alloy" and "Shrapnel".

For Major-General Irwin on arrival of Force "Menace" from Dakar. Re reorganisation of force into Army components of Forces "Alloy" and "Shrapnel" under Brigadiers Morford and Campbell respectively. Date for remainder of 102nd R.M. Brigade H.Q. and Signals, Naval Staff, R.A.F. and civilian personnel leaving U.K. (W.O. to O.C. Troops, Sierra Leone, 2350/26).

26.9.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace" (contd.)

French
Attitude.

Following from H.M. Ambassador. Spanish have refused to allow French to make air attacks on Gibraltar over Spanish territory. Laval has asked Germans to let out whole Toulon Fleet with object of attacking us. Answer unknown. (A.I.) (N.A. Madrid, 2258/26).

Damage to
HM Ships.

As soon as convenient report extent of damage to
BARHAM, AUSTRALIA, DRAGON and INGLEFIELD.
(Wt SL, 1850/26 5 SO. Force M)



War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

→ CORNWALL
DELHI

My 2015/25. CORNWALL and DELHI return to Freetown a.m./27 (C. in C., S.A., 0355M/26) Route clear (C. in C., S.A., 1501/26) *See next page.*

PRIMAUGUET

Admt. 0121/26 to C. in C.S.A. (see page 643, 25/9)
Your 2015/N/25. Parted company with PRIMAUGUET at 0745Z/26 in 16.01 N., 21.06 W., having received his explicit promise to take both his ships to Casablanca. Expected time of arrival Freetown searched Channel CORNWALL and DELHI, 1000N/27. (CORNWALL, 0800Z/26 to C. in C.S.A.)

→ Force M.

My 0355 and CORNWALL's 0800/26. CORNWALL and DELHI are at your disposal if required. (C. in C., S.A., to F.O. Force M., 1047/26)

DRAGON

To report time of arrival and what ships in company (C. in C., S.A., 1801/26)

{ ARGUS
ARK ROYAL
AUSTRALIA.

My 2007/25. Amend R.V. to 50° 00 N., 21.32 W. (C. in C., W.A., 1139/26) *See next page.*

MORETON BAY

To escort S.L. 49 to U.K. (C. in C., S.A. 0611N/26)

WOLFE

Left 0630/26 as in C. in C., S.A., 1931/25 (S.O.I., Freetown, 0959/26)

French Africa

Situation report No 25, nothing to report. (D.N.I., 1627/26)

CLAN CAMPBELL

My 1311/24 and Admt. 1724/25. Sailed 1000/25, recalled 1724/25, not returned. Appears did not receive recall signal. (C. in C., S.A. 1907/26) To be allowed to proceed. (A.C.N.S., (F) 1050/27)

Gambia Situation

Details of garrison. If reprisals against Bathurst undertaken, reinforcements urgently required. Urge one battalion of Marines be disembarked Bathurst and remain until situation clearer. (Origin not stated, to Troopers, London. 1755/26)

/CORNWALL.....



MOST SECRET

26.9.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

CORNWALL to proceed to Duala After fuelling Freetown to proceed Duala and prevent any interference by French Vichy Forces (1st S.L., 1912/26)

CUMBERLAND My 1912/26. Is CUMBERLAND in a condition to relieve CORNWALL as guardship at Duala temporarily? (1st S.L. to C. in C., S.A., 1914/26)
Your 1914/26. CORNWALL expected to arrive Freetown a.m./27 CUMBERLAND p.m./27. Little knowledge of CUMBERLAND's condition or repairs executed. Will reply after her arrival. (C. in C., S.A., 1857/26)

RESOLUTION Advice on entering Freetown, and best times for passing boom. (C. in C., S.A., 1901N/26)

Overdue Ships OOSTPLEIN, sailed Methil 26/7 for Buenos Aires, date due unknown. ANGLO-SAXON, sailed Milford Haven 8/8 due Bahia Blanca 6/9. (C. in C., S.A., 2034/26)

ARK ROYAL)
AUSTRALIA) To sail in company to R.V. with ARGUS and A/S reserve in 50.00 N., 21.32 W., date. Important opportunity of this A/S escort should be taken if practicable. (A.C.N.S., (F) C. in C., S.A., 2256/26) C. in C., S.A., 2317/25. Y flight to be disembarked before ARK ROYAL leaves for U.K. (D.O.D., (F) to S.O., Force M., 1359/26)

FURY Arrival 2000/26 (S.O.I. Freetown to Admty 2123/26)
Departure 2300/26 FURY sailed to refuelling. (C. in C. to S.O. Force M. 2321N/26)
Mediterranean

French Reprisals Your 1759/25. Reprisals by French are still possible but as the Dakar Operation has been broken off it is not considered likely that general hostilities will break out. (1st S.L., to C. in C., Med., 0211/26, 1927/26)

Malta Supplies Your 1015/24. No. Ship referred to in Cosup telegram is proceeding round Cape. (D.O.D. (F) to N.O.I.C., Malta, 1451/26)

Submarine Refits Your 1019/25. Agreed. Consider that larger submarines requiring large refit like OTUS OLYMPUS which take some 3 to 4 months should do so in U.K. Patrols could be carried out en route. This would enable me to keep dock ready for emergencies. (V.A. Malta 1014/26 to C. in C., Med.)

/Adty. 2202/23.....

War DiaryMOST SECRET26.9.1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanSubmarine
Refits, Contd.

Adnty. 2202/23. Subject to any remarks by N.O.I.C. Malta I should welcome such an arrangement and consider it should be perfectly practicable with small submarines which could be berthed inconspicuously. (C. in C., Med., 1019/26)

Haifa Raid

Air raid on Haifa today 26/9. 10 aeroplanes flying high. About 100 bombs. No casualties yet reported. (N.O.I.C., Haifa, 1303/26)

My 1303/26, Air raid on Haifa 26/9 two separate attacks 5 aeroplanes from West 5 aeroplanes from North. H.E. bombs and possibly incendiaries but only 9 bombs fell on land remainder in water near power station Estimated 100 H.E. directed against I.P.C. tank (Faroqu?) and Palestine Electrical Power station. No damage, no casualties to Naval personnel. Only fighters at present available failed to take off owing to engine trouble. (N.O.I.C., Haifa, 1815/26)

Air
Activity

Malta Air Intelligence Report. Up to 1800 26/9 all times local 1530 Glen Martin set out on reconnaissance between Malta and Corfu with task of observing movements of enemy surface forces Ionian sea but returned owing failure of Hydraulic system. Reconnaissance by one Sunderland 230 Squadron on 25/9 from Alex to Malta nothing to report, no enemy air activity over Malta. (H.Q. Malta, 1625/26)

B.N. 5.

Fast section arrived 26/9. (list) (S.B.N.O Suez Canal Area, 1756/26)

Danube

Suggested mining. (C. in C., Med., 2325/26) See ^Mediterranean Volume.)

FIONA
DAINTY

Left Port Said northwards. (S.B.B.O. Suez Canal, 2335/26)

REGENT

Orders for route, amending 1851/24 (Capt S.l. 1405/26)

A.P. 2.

(SYDNEY STAR and AMRA) Arrived Suez p.m./25 (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 0938/26)

/Attacks.....

MOST SECRET26.9.1940
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean -Contd.Attacks on
Tobruk

Operational Summary No 108. Period ending 1200 hours. 25/9. Attac
Egypt, 25/9. Attacks on Tobruk at approx 1400 hours by 27 Blenheims as follows:-
direct hit on barracks and large fires started just north of wharves. Direct hits on buildings and M.T. Bombs fell across town from west to jetty A.A. intense and accurate. 113 Squadron attacked by fighters 80 Squadron provided protective patrol over forward area to cover bombers. All aircraft returned. 208 Squadron, tactical reconnaissances. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1049/26)

OSIRIS
Italian
Destroyer sunk
22/9. (PALESTRO)

Your 1701/21. Considerable daily convoy activity between Durazzo and Bari. Sank Italian destroyer CURTATONE Class in position 037° Brindisi 47 at 1630 G.M.T./22/9 Your 1855/24, search completed PANDORA expects to pass through 035° 04', 022° 05' at 1930 G.M.T./27. (OSIRIS, 2200/26)

Operation

My 1849/25. Intend to carry out operation commencing a.m./29. (C. in C., Med., 0919/26)

East IndiesItalian
E.Africa

Admty. 1808/23. No reliable evidence that any traffic to Italian East Africa by ocean going vessels. (C. in C., E.I., 05362/26)

French
Shipping

Recommending all French shipping for Djibuti be held up at Aden until situation becomes clearer. (C. in C., M.E., to W.O., 0855/26)

A.P. 2.

Arrived Suez p.m./25, Convoy A.P. 2. consisting of SYDNEY STAR and AMRA (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0938/26)

Diredawa and
Djibuti
Bombed

During operations on night of 22/23-9 3 aircraft from Aden were detailed to bomb Diredawa. Weather conditions not good and only 1 aircraft found target. Remaining 2 returned to Somaliland Coast and both dropped bombs on what they felt certain was Zeila where Italian landing ground and A.A. guns known to exist. It subsequently transpired that 1 of the aircraft bombed Djibuti in error. Appears crew mistook the alternative target of Zeila for Djibuti which is somewhat similar. (Air H.Q. Aden 1333/26)

MOST SECRETWar Diary26.9.1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.A.K. 2.

Departure 1500Z/26. COLOMBO with A.K. 2. for Mombasa. Arrival 1330Z/ KANIMBLA (N.O.I.C., Aden, 1501Z/26)

Enemy Unit

By D.F. bearings of unknown enemy unit, probable surface craft, Simonstown 308/3, Durban 320/3. (D.D.I.C. 2020/26 to Cs. in C. E.I. and S.A.)

Small Craft Kenya

Your 1834/13. Norwegian whaler HVAL at Walrus Bay allocated; also hoped to allocate whaler (MERCUR) SKARBAK at Walrus Bay. Approved to take up 4 small motor boats locally (Hd. of M. 2037/26 to C. in C., E.I.)

Djibuti Interceptions
See Also China

→ Your 0736/24. CAP VARELLA due Djibuti from Saigon 5th October, ESPERANCE and LECONTE DE LISLE from Madagascar with food due Djibuti 28/9 and 30/9 respectively should all be intercepted if practicable and held pending further instructions. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2211/26 to C. in C., E.I.,)

Air Activity

Daily Intelligence Summary. No naval incidents. (A.H.Q., Aden 1824/26)

ChinaDakar Reaction

Admiral Terraux's present attitude to Dakar affair is that it should not interfere with our cordial relations in Far East. (Liaison Officer Saigon, 0415Z/26)

Evacuation to Indo-China

Evacuation of French troops to Indo-China from Djibuti should not be facilitated. C. in C., E. Indies is being instructed to intercept CAP VARELLA and 2 other ships concerned if practicable. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C., China, 2212/26)

America & West IndiesSailing of Canadian Troops & 2nd Town Flotilla.

in fast liners, names and dates. Numbers to be sent when escort is available. Date of sailing of 2nd Town Flotilla. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1121/26)

A/S Patrol.....



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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies- Contd.

A/S Patrol

My 1610/9. ships for A/S patrol in W. Indies
Asking when reply may be expected. (N.S.H.Q.,
Ottawa, to Admty. 1252/26)

Chilean Battleship
ALMIRANTE LATORRE

Admty. 1113/28/8. Re possible sale of ALMIRANTE
LATORRE. (N.A., Santiago de Chile, 1715/26)

Town
Destroyers

Hope you will be able to arrange for all
Town class destroyers which you are manning
to operate on this side as we urgently need
them. (1 S.L. to C.N.S., Ottawa, 2258)

STAD SCHIEDAM

12 survivors of STAD SCHIEDAM (Dutch) brought
into Baltimore by WHITE CREST. Ship blew up
2 days out of Bermuda en route for
Halifax. Left Bermuda 13/9. Full report
being made to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa. (Baltimore
2411/26)

H.X. 76.

Halifax arrival 26/9, JERVIS BAY.
Departure AUSONIA ocean escort, SAGUENAY
local escort, H.X. 76. (S.O.I., Halifax,
1819/26)

Oil
Supplies

Your 0942/21. Understood Shell, Trinidad,
anticipate no difficulty obtaining neutral
vessels to convey oil supplies to
Martinique. Question of British Ships
visiting West Indian ports should therefore
not arise. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., A.W.I.
1347/26)

Operations

My 1657/24 refers to naval action only in
view of lack of forces in area. (A.C.N.S.(F)
to C. in C., A.W.I., 1655/26)

Your 2242/25, re stopping French ships from
Martinique. No action at present. (D.O.D.
(F) to C. in C., A.W.I., 1401/26)

French
Merchant Ships

Your 2242/25 and my 1401/26. If
practicable, these ships to be intercepted
out of sight of land and shadowed. Their
interception to be reported, when in-
structions will be sent. (A.C.N.S. (T)
to C. in C., A.W.I., 1935/26)

MOST SECRETWar Diary26/9/1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSAustraliaFrench
Sloop

DUMONT D'URVILLE has been given authority that in view attack on Dakar she may open fire by surprise on her adversary if circumstances favourable or if such circumstances do not present themselves to gain time by waiting arrival of LE CALVEZ source A.1. Instructions originated over 48 hours ago. Further message has been sent to DUMONT D'URVILLE at 0900/25 approving attitude re sending two sloops to Indo-China. (D.D.I.C. 0209/26)

LE CALVEZ

Admty. 0209/26. Request identity of LE CALVEZ (A.C.N.B., 0830/26. Your 0830/26. LE CALVEZ believed French merchant vessel, but identity uncertain. (D.D.I.C. to A.C.N.B. 1642/26)

Shipping

P.S.T.O. Bombay 1305/18. Intend sailing STRATHEDEN and BATORY in company from Singapore (date) Proposed route. Intend sailing MAURETANIA (date) independently by same route for Sydney. (C. in C., China, to A.C.N.B., 0601Z/26)

QUEEN MARY

Arrived Sydney 0430Z/25 (A.C.N.B. 0651Z/26)

Dutch Shipping

D. of S.T. 0731/10. Re life saving apparatus (A.C.N.B., 1435Z/26)

MOST SECRETWar Diary26.9.1940
ThursdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSWESER
Captured

*ROBERT.

WESER sailed 2345/25 from Manzanillo (S.O.I.), Kingston, 1300/26, Tampico, Mexico, 1744/26) My 1301/15 and 1002/24. German ship WESER captured by PRINCE *RUPERT 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles off Manzanillo about 0005/26 and being escorted to Esquimalt. Delay in report due to late receipt of information. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2142/26)

SALZBURG

Arrived Constanza 26/9 (D.S. 389)

EISENACH

At Puntarenas, Costa Rica reported from Panama 24/9 as preparing for sea and expected shortly at Manzanillo, Port Limon, Costa Rica disbelieves report but is maintaining close watch. (D.S. 389)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSFRANCA FASSIO
Tanker

*Trawler's

Arrived from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1237/26) My 1548/25. Third Italian tanker arrived Vigo today. They are said to have come from Horta. (Consul, Vigo, 1203/26) Name *SORDELLO others *PESCE SPADA and *BALENA (D.S. 388)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPSTHEOPHILE
GAUTIER

Sunderland 228 Sqdn. made search off Palestine Coast Vessel not located. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1043"26)



War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

CORRIENTES
Torpedoed

British 6863 tons, torpedoed 0140/26, 53.20 N 27.18 W., 266° Achille Head 608° Dispersed from Convoy O.B. 217. (Cleethorpes W/T 0140/26)

→ EURYMEDON
(Torpedoed 25/9)

SALVONIA sent to take her in tow 53° 35' N., 20° 25' W., arriving about 2000/27. OTTAWA to rejoin EURYMEDON and stand by her until relieved by PRIMROSE before dark. (C. in C., W.A., 0029/26) Position now 53° 49' N., 19° 37' W. Have embarked Captain and 55 survivors from SULAIRIA on relief intend proceeding Clyde (OTTAWA 1250/26)

SULAIRIA
(Sunk 25/9)

At 2100
→ EURYMEDON in position 053° 50' 019° 15' W drifting (? 080° or ? 357°) 1.2 knots. Have all survivors on board. Intend remaining until PRIMROSE arrived or 1000/27 thence proceeding to Clyde. (OTTAWA 2118/26)

MARINA
escaped

Chased by submarine in 54° 37' N., 12° 17' W (Valentia Radio 0710/26, Lands End Radio 0756/26) No all clear (Valentia Radio 0715/26 Lands End Radio 0810/26) Aircraft report of incident (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 1955/26)

ASHANTIAN

Torpedoed in 55° 10' N., 11° 0' W., wholly disabled/requires tug (Valentia Radio, 0840/26) Proceed to assistance if near ASHANTIAN torpedoed in 54° 47' N., 11° 37' W at 1006/26. Possible alternative position 55° 10' N., 11° 0' W., at 1006/26. (C. in C., W.A., 1201/26 to VELOX) Your 1201/26. 200 miles from position (VELOX 1321/26 to C. in C., W.A.,)

RHESUS

Submarine chasing 55° 38' N., 12° 31' W., (Port Patrick 1006/16) All clear at 1037 (Port Patrick 1047/26) Corrected position 55° 38' N., 13° 8' W., (C.G. Port Patrick 1058/26) Aircraft received report too far off to take action. (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 1955/26)

CITY OF
BENARES
(Sunk 17/9)

Expect to arrive 1845/26. 28 cot cases. (ANTHONY 1034/26)

/STRATFORD.....



War Diary

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MOST SECRET

26.9.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

STRATFORD

British tanker STRATFORD torpedoed in Convoy and bunkers set on fire 0045/26 in 054° 50' N., 010° 40' W., Casualties one foreman one engineer remainder of crew on board GOXINIA and trawler WOLVES. Ship still well afloat buring aft. Am remaining vicinity till daylight to explore possibility of salvage. Survivor stated another unknown ship was torpedoed in the convoy at approximately 0001/26, Convoy O.B. 218. (GLOXINIA 0330/26)

Proceed with despatch to assistance of S/S STRATFORD and ~~SEA~~ THAMES in 54° 50' N 10° 40' W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock 0950/26 to tug MASTADONTE)
MASTADONTE sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1105/26)

HIGHLANDER, HURRICANE, HARVESTER, MOOLTAN
You are probably being shadowed by U/B
inform Commodore. (D.D.I.C., 1243/26)

SCHOLAR
(Torpedoed in
H.X. 72. 20/9-
22/9)

SCHOLAR waterlogged and abandoned position 054° 36' N., 016° 40' W., at 2000/24.
Drifting but if cannot be salvaged she should be sunk. (C. in C., W.A., 2327/26)

Submarine Reported

0045

Suspect submarine in 57.10 N., 11.10' W., at 0045. (U.S.D. AARON WARD, 1205/26)

0711

Cruising 54° 37' N., 12° 17' W., Reported by MATINA (Port Patrick Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 0917/26) Submarine on surface. Reported by MATINA 0800 (Valentia Radio 0758/26, Lands End Radio 0755/26) Informing ships of W.A. Command (C. in C., W.A., 0809/26)

1500

Aircraft report possibly submerged U-Boat 59° 47' N., 1° 29' W., course 273° at about 1500/26 (F.O.C.O.S. 1689/26)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- No further news.
German- 1 S.S.W. of Valentia
1 about 300 miles west of Valentia at 1150/26
1 in 53° 20' N., and about 23° W., at 0140/26
1 possibly N.W. Rockall
2 or 3 in N.W. Approached between 54° 37' N., and 55° 38' N., and between 11° W., and 12° 30' W., (D.D.I.C., 1420/26)

/Submarines.....



MOST SECRET

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Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

0938 PICOTEE attacked contact in 54° 55' N.,
11° 0' W., (PICOTEE 1020/26) 15 group
1540/26)

1255 Aircraft dropped d.c. at 61° 44' N., 6° 27'
W., no results seen. (Donibristle 1958/26)

U-Boat
Attacked by
CACHALOT
24/9

CACHALOT reports U-Boat was attacked at
dusk in 46° 58' N., 005° 56' W. steering East
on 24/9. Range 7500 yards, only conning
tower seen. Heard 2 explosions 3 minutes
after firing and no other explosions later.
Position was closed and revealed smell and
taste of Diesel fuel. Bucket of sea water
showed oil film on surface. Asdic impulses
heard before sighting. (V.A.S. 1224/26)

Sinking not confirmed.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

679

27.9.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Dover
Shelled

Dover was shelled today between 1326 and 1413. There were no naval or civilian casualties.

U.S.A.
Destroyers

The 1st. Town Flotilla, less BUCHANAN left Belfast for Plymouth at 1900 today. BUCHANAN was damaged when coming alongside at Belfast and is remaining there for repairs.

F.N & F.S.
Convoys

Commencing today, M/C's based on Yarmouth are to operate with F.N. and F.S. convoys to drive off E-Boats waiting for convoys.

British Air Operations

Naval objectives attacked by R.A.F. last night were the Channel ports, the main weight of the attack being on Le Havre where much damage appeared to have been caused. 8 Hampdens attacked SCHARNHORST at Kiel and it is believed the ship was hit. The Dortmund-Ems Canal was attacked.

The enemy again lost heavily today, up to 0600/28, 131 machines by fighters plus 2 by A.A. plus 35 probable and 52 damaged. Our casualties were 27 (18 pilots lost)

Enemy Air Operations

Damage was caused in Liverpool docks last night. Two ships were also damaged by fire though not seriously.

About 850 enemy aircraft operated over the U.K. today.

Three bombs fell in Dover today, causing one naval casualty. Balloons were attacked unsuccessfully.

STOUR was bombed this afternoon 10 miles E.N.E. of Orfordness.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.9.1940
Friday

680

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation M.U.

PLOVER and ^{WILLEM} VAN DERZAAN proceeded last night to lay mines off the South Foreland to reinforce Minefield M.S. in such a way that minesweeping operations by the enemy will be covered by our shore defences. The minelayers went ashore on the North Goodwins and the operation was abandoned.

One Beaufort of 5 detailed dropped mines in the Jade.

HALCYON struck a mine this evening off Middlesborough and proceeded to that port.

A magnetic mine is thought to have exploded off Shoreham, 100 yards off shore, at 2130.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Edinburgh Channel Thames Estuary, Harwich to North Foreland, Goodwins and Dungeness to Beachy Head.

Operations against Vichy French

Force M is returning to Freetown, BARHAM towing RESOLUTION, Force A, M.T. Ships and De Gaulle Force arrived today.

RENOWN and 4 destroyers are at sea, West of Gibraltar.

Two aircraft, believed to be French, flew over Freetown today and were fired on. No bombs were dropped. A Fleet Reconnaissance aircraft was attacked by two machines, 200 miles N.W. of Konakri.

MOST SECRETWar Diary27.9.1940
FridaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean

The French Admiralty have requested the French N.A. at Madrid to inform the British Admiralty that they can make the Mediterranean untenable for the British unless they formally engage to suspend all attacks, renounce all propaganda for Civil War and not to impede sea navigation of food stuffs.

Four submarines were reported today by a Sunderland 20 miles south of Malta. A Swordfish also VOYAGER and 2 A/S trawlers were despatched to attack, but did not succeed in finding the submarines.

V.A. Malta considers it most improbable that U-Boats would be operating on the surface close together in daylight 20 miles from Malta.

Luga Aerodrome was damaged today by enemy bombers. Two enemy aircraft were shot down.

Enquiries have been made through Bucharest regarding survivors of the Italian Submarine PROVANA which is stated to have been sunk by a French warship in the Mediterranean 2/7, last heard of 30/6. *Sunk by LA LORIEUSE 17/6 off Oran.*

East Indies

French SS ESPERANCE was intercepted today 47 miles south of Aden and ordered in under armed guard.



War Diary.

MOST SECRET27. 9. 40.
FridayHOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K.

There must be men well acquainted with harbour work in enemy assembly ports from Rotterdam to Havre who could estimate time necessary to move out the large and small vessels known to be assembled at any time in inner and outer harbours and form them up outside boom or breakwater.

This information would be valuable to Senior Officers and might be included in daily summaries of Intelligence.

(C.-in-C., Portsmouth 2003/27 to Adty.)

My 1500/27. In order that a cruiser may be available at the Clyde after SHEFFIELD sails previous instructions for DUNEDIN are cancelled and she is to remain at the Clyde.

(2) Deperming and re-arming as previously arranged are to be carried out but DUNEDIN is to be at 4 hours notice for steam after SHEFFIELD sails.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 2214/27)

Admiralty require DUNEDIN to be at 12 hours notice for steam. It may be necessary to shorten this notice.

(F.O.I.C., Glasgow 2203/27 to DUNEDIN)

"De Luge"DEFUSE Signals

Humber 1, Nore 1, Dover 1, Channel 1.
(D.C.0200/27)

Humber 3, Nore 2, Dover 2, Channel 1.
(D.C.1402/27)

PolicyFrench Warships

What action should be taken if French Warships are accompanied by enemy vessels (G.O.C.H. Forces, 1837/27 to W.O.)

MovementsDIDO

Liverpool Bay for Trials 0900 till 1800/27. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool to H.Q.F.C.)

Nore

Dispositions for Night 27/28. (C.-in-C. Nore 0800/27) Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/28 (C.-in-C., Nore 1200/27)

Northern Patrol

Trawler Positions (S.O.N.T. 0932/27 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Dover

Patrols for Night 27/28 (V.A. Dover 1154/27)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

27. 9. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

FORFAR

Arrives 57° 35' N., 9° 20' W., at 1800/28. Arrives Liverpool Bar 1900/29. (FORFAR 1219/27 to A.C.W.A.)

INTREPID

Leaves Humber 1240/27. (F.O. Humber 1250/27 to Adty.)

Orkneys

Movements for Night 27/28. (A.C.O.S. 1531/27) Trawler Lines occupied Night 27/28. (A.C.O.S. 1536/27)

Humber Area

Movements for Night 27/28. (F.O. Humber 1535/27)

IMPULSIVE

My 1200. Will leave Humber for Sheerness at 2000/27. (C.-in-C., Nore 1540/27)

M/S Trawlers

Three in 50° 18' N., 4° 11' W., to 50° 9' N., 3° 54' W., to 50° 9' N., 3° 38' W., and return from 0700/28 to 1630/28; and three in 50° 17' N., 4° 10' W., to 50° 9' N., 4° 20' W. and return from 0700/28 to 1200/28. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1659/27 to H.Q.F.C.)

A/A Ships to Escort Convoys

It is intended to allocate the A/A ships at present available to act as escorts for convoys on the North and East of Scotland and in the North Channel and Irish Sea.

2. East Coast and Channel Convoys will continue to be escorted by A/A destroyers, A/A sloops, and HUNT class destroyers.

3. When ALYNBANK is ready for service C.-in-C., H.F. sail CAIRO (or CURACOA) for Clyde to be placed under the orders of C.-in-C., W.A.

4. ALYNBANK and CURACOA (or CAIRO) will remain under the orders of C.-in-C., H.F.

5. SPRINGBANK when ready for service approximately mid November will be placed under the orders of C.-in-C., H.F. (A.C.N.S.(H)1719/27 to C's-in-C.)

"Tern"
TOWN Flotilla
(4 Destroyers)

At 0700 in 51° 25' N., 5° 10' W. proceeding to Plymouth at 20 knots. Expected off Hartland Point at 0830/28. Request Fighter protection. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1927/27 to H.Q.F.C.)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET

27. 9. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

LETITIA

Expects to be in 57° 38' N., 9° 21' W., at 1400/28. (LETITIA 2000/27 to C.-in-C., W.A.)

KENYA to escort Convoy to Freetown or Capetown, and thence work up.

Your 1548/27/9/40 to KENYA I have not yet had an opportunity of seeing the Captain of the KENYA but of the NIGERIA's Company about 40% have never been to sea before and it is probable KENYA is in much the same state. I would suggest that a cruiser of the 18th C.S. be detailed for this operation. (C.-in-C., H.F.2215/27 to Adty.)

WHITEHALL VANSITTART

At 0600/28 off Trevoise Head on passage to Skerryvore 0600/29 and Kyle of Lochalsh. Request Fighter protection for day 28th and dawn to 1430/29. (C.-in-C., W.A. 2249/27 to H.Q.F.C.)

ARGUS

Your 0950/27. Adjust your course and speed to R/V with Destroyer Escort as by my 2007/25 amended by my 1139/26. (C.-in-C., W.A., 2337/27 to ARGUS)

Operations

Jan Mayen

Your 1311/26. W/T station Torgilsbu closed. Operators and instruments removed. Written report forwarded 23/9 (F.O. i/c Reykjavik 1145/27)

Patrol

Tonight MACKAY, WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, SARDONYX patrol eastward to limit of Portsmouth Command and southward to 50 5' N. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1543/27)

Dover shelled

About 20 shells fired at Dover between 1326 and 1413/27. One hit detached breakwater, 9 fell in harbour, remainder on land. No Naval or civilian casualties (V.A. Dover 1633/27)

E-Boats

2 E-Boats E.N.E. Beachy Head 15 (Portsmouth W/T 0200/27) 2 E-Boats 103° Beachy Head 15 (Portsmouth W/T 0204/27)

Submarines

A. I am being frequently pressed to provide a S/M Patrol off Brest.

B....

MOST SECRET27. 9. 40.
Friday.
War DiaryHOME COMMANDSSubmarines (Contd.)

B. C.-in-C., W.A., is in urgent need of a S/M for A/S practices and it is important that L.27 should revert to her training duties at Portsmouth.

C. In order to meet these requirements propose

1. Channel patrols be reduced to two which could be maintained by SWORDFISH URSULA UTMOST and UPRIGHT.

2. H.43 returns to Devonport and L.27 reverts to training duties.

3. TALISMAN returns to second Flotilla.

D. I shall then be able with second Flotilla to provide two patrols in Bay of Biscay and if Adty. do not require mine-laying operations in that area the two minelayers can be employed on an additional patrol in Bay of Biscay or off Brest.
(V.A.(S) 1623/27. to C.-in-C., H.F.)

British Air ActivityBomber Command

Intelligence Summary No. 448. Summary of Operation 26/9 (H.Q.B.C. 0020/27)

Gardening

Prevented by weather. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0900/27)

Enemy Air ActivityDover

3 bombs fell in Dover 0859 today. One Naval Officer dangerously wounded. No civilian casualties (V.A. Dover, 1124/27)

PORT DENISON
Sunk

See p.
702

S.S. PORT DENISON sunk by attack of single aircraft off Buchan Ness 2000/26. About 40 survivors landed Lyness from H.M.T. PENTLAND FIRTH. 4 injured now in AMARAPOORA. 4 dead landed Lyness. Master and 6 further survivors have proceeded in BLUEBELL. Officers and crew of S.S. PORT DENISON numbered 81 with the addition of Commodore and 4 Naval signalmen. (A.C.O.S. 1545/27) Report of Master of S/S PORT DENISON attacked by enemy aircraft off Peterhead 2000/26/9 and sunk 260 Rattray Head Lighthouse 7 miles 0435/27/9. Master Chief Engineer and 8 survivors landed by Peterhead Lifeboat at Peterhead. Twin engine monoplane flying 100 feet above sea dropped torpedo or heavy bomb which struck vessel under water between engine room and number 4 hold. An incendiary bomb at same time exploding in Engineer's quarters, starboard side, upper deck

amidships,...

MOST SECRET27. 9. 40.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity (Contd.)PORT DENISON
Sunk (Contd.)

Aircraft also machine gunned vessel flew off to the N.E. Starboard side of vessel near explosion badly buckled inwards. Engine Room and number 4 Hold flooded immediately. Two known are dead. Aircraft carried no lights. (.N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1751/27)

Liverpool
DIPLOMAT
PETERTON
Damaged

Results of last night's raids five berths in South Docks Liverpool between Kings and Brunswick Docks temporarily out of action. Many warehouses in this area damaged or burnt out, also Dock Board refitting and repair shops. Two ships damaged by fire but not seriously. Locks of small dry docks canning dock damaged and leaking. No serious damage Birkenhead and none North Docks. Except to warehouses damage very slight. (F.O. i/c Liverpool 1558/27)

Eastham Lock

F.O. i/c Liverpool reports at 1739/26 one Enemy Aircraft dive-bombed on Eastham Lock. Only one bomb dropped which missed the target. Eastham Lock is entrance from Mersey to Manchester ship canal. There are no A.A. Defences. Owing to close proximity to Hooton Park Aerodrome balloons are not permitted. It is considered that for the safeguard of Lock of such importance some close A.A. Defence is urgently needed. 1601/27. Ends.

2. Admiralty concur in desirability for some defence of these important gates against attack by low flying aircraft. (D. of L.D. 1933/27 to Air Min.)

MiningOperation M U

Two minelayers aground on North Goodwins, 150° 7 miles from North Foreland. Hope to refloat at dawn and proceed to Sheerness. Request Fighter escort dawn to approx. 1000 hours. Code word ~~XXXX~~. If ships refloat revert to Fighter protection. (H.Q.F.C. 0320 to U Group)

Jettison your mines after rendering them safe if you consider this necessary if ships are not off by 0530. Second tug not ordered out as she would not reach you until after daylight.

(C.-in-C., Nore 0445/27 to PLOVER)

My 2514/24 operation M U. If minelayers are fit for service, propose mines be laid tonight 27th/28th Sept. and to issue amended orders accordingly.

(V.A. Dover 1021/27. to Adty.)

138. Arrangements for tonight Friday as in my 1048/26. (C.-in-C., Nore's 1232/26 to PLOVER, VAN DER ZAAAN)

✓ C.-in-C., Nore's 1512/26 refers.



27. 9. 40.
Friday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (Contd.)

Operation M U
(Contd.)

Your 1021/27. Concur (Adty. 1245/27 to V.A. Dover.)
My 2314/24 and C.-in-C., Nore's 1232/27 intend to carry out operation M U during tonight 27/28.
C.-in-C., Nore has arranged cover by three destroyers on Dover Patrol O.D. 5 no M.T.B.'s are available.
Minelayers are to return to Southend on completion of the lay.
(F.A. Dover, 1536/27 to PLOVER)

SN.42

SCOTT to leave Ardrossan for SN.42 early 30/9 (R.A.M.L. 1116/27, 1145/27, 1148/27)
Propose to carry out SN.42 leaving Port ZA 0640/30. Position of laying, starting 1945/30 and finishing 2335/30 (R.A.M.L. 1159/27 to C.-in-C., W.A.) Boiler cleaning cannot be completed before p.m. tide 30/9 (SCOTT 1731/27)
Propose to carry out S N forty two 1945/30 as follows:
Deep Minefield from N.W. to S.E.
SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, PORT NAPIER, SCOTT, WITHERINGTON, VISCOUNT and two other destroyers. Position. Course Details of times. (R.A.M.L. 1931/27)

Hartlepool
Tees

Closed. Ships in FN.91 for these ports should be sent into Sunderland (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1925/27, N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1902/27)

Shoreham

Coast Guard Shoreham report a loud explosion 2 miles to Westward and 100 yards from shore at 2130/27. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 2158/27 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth)

Acoustic Mines

Present evidence seems to show that Destroyers at 25 knots may actuate acoustic mines up to four cables from their track and M.T.B's at short distance though none yet actuated by convoys. No reason however at present to suppose that Cruisers and Destroyers can gain immunity from mine over which they pass by proceeding at slow speeds. Pending further experience Cruisers Destroyers and M.T.B's are recommended to proceed at high speed in single line ahead in open order smaller ships proceeding directly ahead of Cruisers whenever possible.
(C.-in-C., Nore, 2224/27 to C.S. 18)

MOST SECRET27. 9. 40.
Friday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSMining (Contd.)HALCYON

Following received from Middlesbrough. HALCYON struck mine approx position $010^{\circ} 2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 miles from South Gare PWSS. No immediate danger assistance being sent. 1915/27 Ends.

C.-in-C., Rosyth divert ships from F N 91 due for Hartlepool Middlesbrough into Sunderland. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1925/27)

Enemy IntelligenceLorient

Photographic R/C 27/9 showed 10 U-Boats in Lorient. (F.O. S/M's 0031/28)

Kiel Canal

Director of Swedish Lloyd states company now has 11 vessels engaged in regular trade with German ports. Captains state no delay in passage through Kiel Canal and no visible damage to Canal or lock gates. B Two. (N.A. Stockholm 1818/27 to D.N.I.)

Boulogne, Treport,
Dieppe, Havre,
Rouen, Lorient.)

Summary of Photographic R/C on 27/9. (D.D.I.C. 2035/27)

Flushing

P.R.U. sortie at 1810/26. (P.I.U. 0001/27)

Lorient, Cherbourg
Dinard)

P.R.U. Sortie at 1215/27. (P.I.U. 1912/27)

North Cape

Finnish s.s. HOGLAND reports she was boarded by German Armed Trawler off Vardo on 24/9, but allowed to proceed. Also s.s. HAMMARLAND circled by Enemy aircraft about 60 miles West of Vardo, but not stopped. (Petsamo 2040/27 to D.N.I)

Cherbourg

TALISMAN's Patrol Report 16 to 26/9. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 2253/27 to Adty.)

Miscellaneous

Tyne.
New Swept Channel

Re (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1821/27 to Adty.)

Casualties and DefectsMARAUDER

Steam pipe to starboard air-pump carried away. Returning to Oban slowly for repairs. (MARAUDER 0630/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) Your 0630/27. Proceed to Ardrossan for repairs and fuel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0947/27 to MARAUDER)

MOST SECRET27. 9. 40.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects (Cont.)STAD SCHIEDAM

Dutch, 5918 tons. Blew up 2 days out of Bermuda on way to Halifax. Left Bermuda 13/9. 12 survivors brought to Baltimore by WHITE CREST. (Baltimore 2411/26 to Adty.)

ARABISTAN
THEMISTOCLES
CALABRIA.

My 1145/23 and 1035/25. Both arrived Cape Town. (S.O. (1) Cape Town 0925 B/27) Ex Italian. Due Durban 23/9 from Colombo not arrived. (S.O. (1) Cape Town 0925 B/27)

BASTIAN

Sailed Lisbon (Lisbon) 29/8 for Newfoundland has not arrived (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1433/27)

ShippingConvoys

CW. 12

Details. Request fighter protection. (C.-in-C., Nore 1310/27)

OA.219

Not possible to join before dark. (SCIMITAR. 1222/27) Approved (C.-in-C., W.A. 1557/27)

5 M.V's

Request fighter protection (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1313/27)

OL. 5

Position. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1055/27, 0855/29)

OB.218

PICOTEE and FANDANGO to shadow. (C.-in-W., W.A., 1550/29)

HX.73

To arrive Bar Light 0630/28. (WALKER 0800/27)

5 Tankers

Eddystone to Falmouth (C.-in-C., W.A., 1939/27)

OB.220

Sailed 0800/27. Escort WELLINGTON, GLADIOLUS (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0809/27)

SC.6.

SHEATHMOUNT sailed with gelignite. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1640/27)

"

Draft sailing telegrams (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1804/27)

HX. 74

Meet (C.-in-C., W.A. (540/27) Amend meet. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1330/28)

HX. 77

Names. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1121/27 SHX.77 Details (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1650/27)

HX. 70

Outline of ~~KALLIOPIS~~ HIRD sunk by U/B and KALLIOPIS by aircraft, both stragglers. (D.T.D. 1437/29) *KALLIOPIS S straggled from HX.70, joined another convoy, but proceeded independently when sunk. (W.B.R.)*



War Diary.

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MOST SECRET

27. 9. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping (Contd.)

AN. 4

Sailing telegram (S.B.N.O., Suez 0923/27)

HX. 78

Route. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1212/27, N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1010/27)

SC. 6

Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1806/27)

HX. 76

Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1102/27 1104/27) SHX. 76. Details (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 0948/27)

Troop Convoy

W.S. 3

Date of sailing and composition (D.O.D.(H) 1500/27)

EMPIRE TROOPER

To proceed to Liverpool. Escort. (C.-in-C., H.F. 1618/27, 2214/27) sailed for Methil (N.O.I.C. Tyne 1151/27)

Coastal Shipping

Regulations for during winter months (Adty. 1345/27)

East Coast Convoys

Adty. 1828/26. Time table if 7-knot ships included (C.-in-C., Rosyth, 1747/27)

Escort Proposals

In order to improve escort situation in N.W. Approaches, following measures proposed :

- (2) (a) That O.A. convoys be stopped immediately.
(b) That O.B. and E.N. convoys should be run every other day with trawler escorts backed up by sloops etc.

Further proposals.

(D.T.D. 1838/27 amended 2232/27)



War Diary

27.9.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Force H.

When convenient to break W/T silence request following information to enable tracks of ships to be roughly plotted.

(A) Movements of RENOWN between leaving harbour on 11/9 until patrol referred to in your 1109/12 was instituted.

(B) Movements of destroyers which were taking part in the operation for period as in (A) 1st S.L. 0034/27 to F.O. Force H.)

Alloy" and "Shrapnel"

Re accomodation in Sierra Leone and Gold Coast (W.O. to G.O.C., W.Africa, 0035/27) (Freetown W/T to Troopers, London, 0919/27) (G.O.C., W. Africa, 1435/27 ~~to War Office~~)

French Navy Threat

My 2258/26. Informant is in best position to know. Units available given as 3 cruisers 10000 tons. 3-6 in. cruisers, 4 destroyers, 12 submarines, besides STRASBOURG if possible (N.A. Madrid 1131/27, F.O.C.N.A., 2242/27)

History of Operation

For M.A. from Chief of Staff.
Requesting history and time table of preparation for "Menace" particularly determining factors in dates of sailing, and full reasons for necessity of expedition proceeding to Freetown. (1st S.L. to S.O., Force M., 1140/27)

De Gaulle

Message to General Ismay for Press on continuing contest for liberty. (C. in C., S.A., 1529N/27 ~~to Admiralty~~)

French Aircraft

ARK ROYAL reports reconnaissance Swordfish attacked by 2 Glen Martins at 1445/N in 11.30 N., 16.40 W., Swordfish replied and damaged one. (S.O., Force M., 1705N/27 ~~to Admiralty~~)

Ammunition.
Freetown Arrivals

Request expenditure of ammunition 8-inch and above and of torpedoes may be reported. (D.T.S.D. 1713/27 to SO. Force M)
Asking when following arrive Freetown:
(a) De Gaulle Force, (b) M.T. ships,
(c) Force A, (d) RESOLUTION. (1st S.L. to S.O. Force M., 1712/27)
Your 1712 (a) Has Arrived, (b) due 28/9, (c) has arrived less H.Q. in BARHAM, (d) 0600/29 with BARHAM, (F.O. Force M., 1810N/27)
Your 1712. Following arrived Freetown 27/9
(a) Force A. 0530, (b) M.T. ships 1700.
(c) De Gaulle Force, 0900. (C. in C., S.A. 1945/27)

/Force H.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET 692

17.9.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" Contd.

Force H.

If no bombing of Gibraltar today intend returning 28/9. in which case relief Destroyers will not be required. Consider indications are French will confine attack to the period when we are attacking them. (S.O., Force H., 0745/27) My 0745/27. In view of N.A. Madrid's 2258/26 intend postponing return to Gibraltar. Your 1652/26. Relief for destroyers should R.V. in 36.32 N., 08.12 W., at 0830/28. (S.O. Force H., to F.O.C.N.A., 1844/27)

Alloy" and
"Shrapnel"
re-Stowing

Commander 101 Brigade reports re W.O. telegrams 83098 and 83170 26/9. Force cannot sail for Alloy and Shrapnel without completely emptying ships and restowing. Quays do not exist at Freetown. Force has no beds for Troops and local Military authorities state extremely dangerous to sleep troops on ground in West Africa. In any case scale of tentage is insufficient for long stay. If Tentage and accommodation stores are landed it would take a week to re-load them with facilities available at Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1937/27 to G.O.C., W. Africa)

French Policy

Radio Lyons states French Admty announced that as English Squadron has ceased to attack Dakar, reprisals on Gibraltar have been suspended. (D.D.I.C., 2215/27)

French N.A. last night showed me signal from French Admty. Instructing him to ask me to pass Official Message Admty. This was just before news received my 2258/26. He would not leave signal with me but I made *x* the following translation which he approved. (1) Admiral Gibraltar, confirming speech of Prime Minister, informed Admiral D'Harcourt on July 14th by Consular Channels that H.M. Govt. would not attack the French Fleet in any French or colonial port. This was violated at Dakar.

(2) H.M. Govt. has preferred to attack with her navy a French Colony not occupied in lieu of attacking Germany and so assumes a heavy responsibility.

(3) The policy of H.M. Govt. seeks to promote revolution in France and her colonies.

/(4).....

MOST SECRETWar Diary27.9.1940
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSOperation "Menace"French
Policy, Contd.

(4) The attack on Dakar was answered by bombardment of Gibraltar. We will continue to answer in the same way every new attack and we can make Mediterranean untenable for English, unless H.M. Govt. will formally engage:-

- (a) to suspend all attacks
- (b) To renounce all propaganda for Civil War
- (c) Not to impede sea navigation (corrupt group) applicable to feeding"

I agreed to send but gave him my private opinion of it very frankly. He replied that we were playing into hands of Laval, who is now completely German.

H.M. Ambassador has seen this telegram. French N.A. wishes to maintain contact with me. (N.A. Madrid 2031/27, 2032/27)

ARK ROYAL
AUSTRALIA

Intend to send ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA to Freetown if morning reconnaissance tomorrow satisfactory. Request DRAGON or DELHI may be sent to replace AUSTRALIA and as much air reconnaissance as possible. Route. (S.O. Force M., 1926/27 & *CinCSA*)

CORNWALL
Duala

Admty 1912/26. CORNWALL must anchor at Manoka Bay. This anchorage is exposed to possible attack by submarines on the surface at night though approach is difficult. Intend CORNWALL shall proceed Duala, anchor Manoka Bay, report situation and consider local means of defence and look out. Then proceed and patrol off coast employing air reconnaissance visiting Manoka Bay as considered desirable. If situation required a ship up harbour a "D" class cruiser will be sent. (C. in C., S.A., 1913/27)

Alloy and
Shrapnel
Force.

Comdr., 101 R.M. Brigade reports as follows, reference War Office telegram 83093/26/9 and 83170/26/9 (begins). Force cannot sail for Alloy and Shrapnel without completely emptying ships and restowing. This necessitates quays which do not exist at Freetown. Force has no beds for troops and local military authorities state it would be extremely dangerous to sleep troops on ground in West Africa. In any case scale of tentage is insufficient for long stay. If tentage and accommodation stores are landed it would take a week to reload them with facilities available at Freetown (ends).

(C. in C.S.A., 1937/27 to G.O.C.
West Africa (R) Admty., etc.)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

27.9.40.
Friday.

694

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar
Air Raids.
Evacuation.

During heavy air raids of last two days necessity for evacuating at least 1,600 women and children conclusively proved. Attacks could be indefinitely sustained either from North Africa or from Spanish aerodromes. In fact, Gibraltar above ground would soon cease to exist and Gibraltar underground is insufficient to accommodate the necessary garrison and existing civil population. This is the only place in the empire liable to heavy and sustained air attack which has no fighter defence and is dependent entirely on limited A.A. defence. I feel that Gibraltar should have priority as regards evacuation. (Govr. Gib.0220/27 to W.O.)

Funchal,
Accommodation.

Your 1926/26. 1704/24. In view of general situation in peninsula and some time possible occupation of this island, the information is being accumulated purely as a precautionary measure to prevent any confusion or delay should such occasion arise. (Funchal. 1127/27 to Admtly).

French Report.

Following received from Lisbon (begins) Master of steamship CORTES just arrived from Vigo reports sighting passenger ship accompanied by 4 funnelled cruiser steering Northern course. Assume her to be French by build. 10 miles from coast. CORTES left Vigo 1400/25/9, immediate 1945/26 (Ends). (S.O.I. Gib., 1236/27)

Cables.

Cable and Wireless report that the Gibraltar Cadiz cable is interrupted and that telegrams to or from the Canary Islands must either go by direct wireless or if marked by the Gibraltar Madrid Cadiz land line on which information is liable to be tapped. (C.T.C. No.T.O.O./27).

French Merchant
Ships.

Admtly. 2022/11/7, 1439/23/9 and 1515/26/9. Is it intended these ships should be diverted to Gibraltar if unescorted and if I have force available to intercept them? (FO.C.N.A. to Admtly. 1304/27).

War Diary.MOST SECRET.27.9.40.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.NEURALIA,
troop evacuation.

Your 0159/17. British Ambassador has previously issued general instructions as to troops, etc., being sent to U.K. Have consulted him this morning on his return from U.K. on consignment being sent in NEURALIA. Ambassador concurs in all steps being taken. Control on French Spanish Frontier considerably (? group missed). So far Polish Legation inform me seventy men are either in Spain or Portugal.
(N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1429/27 to Admty).

Gibraltar
Bombay.

Your 1745/27 (see Operation Menace). No bombing so far today. (F.O.C.N.A. to S.C., Force H. 2240/27).

Radio Lyons states that French Admty. announced that as English Squadron has ceased to attack Dakar, reprisals on Gibraltar have been suspended.
(D.D.I.C. to F.O.C.N.A. and F.O. H. 2215/27).

Destroyer Action
25/9.

Admty. 1757/26. When patrolling East of Ceuta about 0500/25, WRESTLER acting on enemy report of CHARLES MCIVER sighted 4 destroyers proceeding eastward at range of 6,000 yards. They were not challenged and appeared to be French. One or more opened fire on WRESTLER who returned fire. No hits observed. WRESTLER not hit. Destroyers passed to eastward at high speed, WISHART was not engaged. (F.O.C.N.A. 1640/27).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.9.1940
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic→ CUMBERLANDExpect to arrive Freetown Gate 1700 today
(CUMBERLAND 0541/27)DRAGONArrivals 0530/27. DRAGON with transports
KENYA, KARANJA, SOBIESKI and ETTRICK;
→ 0615/27 ESCAPADE. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0655/27)DELHICORNWALL→ CUMBERLANDCORNWALL's 0800/26. DELHI amended time of
arrival searched channel 1300 Z plus 1/27
(DELHI 0803/27)Arrival 1430/27, DELHI; 1700 CORNWALL and
CUMBERLAND, (S. O.I., Freetown, 1735N/27)Overdue
ShipsMy 1145/B/23. and 1035B/25, ARABISTAN and
THEMISTOCLES arrived Capetown. Ex Italian
CALAMBRIA due Durban 23/9 from Colombo not
arrived. (S.O.I.), Capetown 0925B/27)ARGUSRequest investigation into date for R.V.
(ARGUS, 0950Z/27)French
SloopsArrivals 0900/27 French sloop SAVORGNAN DE
BRAZZA and escort vessels COMMANDANT DOMINE
and COMMANDANT DUBOC escorting transports
WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND Departure 1020/27.
→ E. CAPADE (S.O.I.) Freetown, 1603N/27)Arrival 1815, French armed trawler PRESIDENT
HOUDUCE escorting OCEAN COAST, CASAMANCE,
ASHADYR, NEVADA and FORT LAMY (S.O.I.,
Freetown 1939/27)French
Aircraft,
Freetown.Two unidentified aircraft came over Free-
town at 1630 27/9 at height of eight to ten
thousand feet. Fire was opened on which
one aircraft made off North and other south.
Neither hit. Aircraft believed to be French
No bombs dropped. (C. in C., S.A., 1747/27)COMMISSAIRE
RAMEL
TURAKINAMaster of British ship ESSEX reports at 0100
Z/20 in 029° 12' S., 073° 00' he received
from COMMISSAIRE RAMEL a message R.RR gunned
by enemy ship in position 028° 25' S., 074°
23' E., TURAKINA also used R.RR. on 22/8 and
it appears likely that enemy ship was a
warship whose hostile character would be
unexpected. (S.O. (I) Capetown 2102/27)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

697

27.9.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Intelligence

B. 2. report. (a) Italian representative Angora 23/9 requested Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to allow supplies to reach Dodecanese in Turkish ships. On refusal then requested that Italian ships should be permitted. Min. for For. Aff. agreed this because they believed H.M. ships could intercept this traffic.

(b) That at Fiume 22/9 two submarines and Mussolini's yacht were badly damaged as a result of sabotage.

(c) That 21/9 or 22/9 about 50,000 German troops were drowned in an attempt to invade England. Reason given was R.A.F. bombing of barges and transports. (N.A. Belgrade, 1116/26)

Blockade

Minister Athens telegram 898/26. The Italians cannot hold Greece responsible because we refuse to give clearances over Attiki, and to allow 2000 tons wheat to call at an invested island which is known to be short of food is surely the height of folly. The action decided on in N.A. Athens 323/ to M. E.W. seems the best solution in the circumstances. (C. in C., Med. 1333/27)

Italian
Destroyer
Sunk (PALESTRO)

OSIRIS reports sinking of Italian destroyer CURTATONE class in 037° Brindisi 47 at 1630 G.M.T. 22/9. Italian broadcast states this occurred in Ionian Sea presumable to conceal from Italians that submarines are penetrating into Adriatic. (C. in C., Med. 1335/27)

A.P. 1 and 2

Congratulations from War Cabinet on prompt arrival. (Admty 1016/27)

OSIRIS
PANDORA }

Movements ordered (Capt. S. 1.) (1129/27)

Survivors of
Submarine
PROVANA

sunk 17/6 off
Oran by LA
LURIEUSE.

Your 1708/26 to C. in C., Med. A second enquiry regarding survivors of Italian PROVANA has been received from Bucharest. Submarine stated to have been sunk by a French warship in Mediterranean on 2/7. ~~PROVANA last heard of on 30/6.~~ PROVANA last heard of on 30/6. Have you any information? (Cape O.S., Alexandria 1253/27 to D.N.I.)

Reply: no. (1747/28)

/TRIAD.....

MOST SECRET

27.9.1940

FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.TRIAD
TRUANT

To proceed Malta (dates) (Capt. S.I. 1401/27)

FulmersSix to be sent ^{via} ~~to~~ Takoradi (D.N.A.D., to C. in C., Med., 1824/27)Italian
Submarines

My 1818/25. Some informant states British ship from Greece aided Italian submarines to effect passage when last batch went through. Sounds false, but am inclined to believe a genuine grain of fact. Date and details unknown. (N.A. Madrid, 1801/27)

Malta
Raid

1658/27. Formation of 9 enemy bombers accompanied by 12 fighters bombed Luqa and Hal Far aerodromes. Two enemy machines believed down, confirmation awaited. Some damage to Govt. property, no casualties. (Govr. Malta, no T.O.O./27)

Air raid at 1700 by 9 bombers and about 15 fighters. engaged by 3 Hurricanes. Hanger, runway and store at Luqa hit by bombs 2 unserviceable aircraft damaged in hanger. One enemy fighter, 2 enemy bombers shot down and one possible fighter (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2211/27)

TurkeySituation. From Admiral Kelly to C. in C., Med & Vicinity (N.A. Angora, 1235/27)
*Admty.*East IndiesKENT

Your 1230/25. KENT can be taken in hand at Bombay. This will reduce Bombay's dry docking facility by 50%. Would it be preferable for KENT to be taken in hand at Singapore in order to permit Bombay continuing maximum output docking and repair work. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0535Z/27 to Adty.)

KENT to be repaired at Singapore in order that refitting of A.M.C's all of which are now becoming due shall not be interrupted. (C. in C., E.I., 1332/27)

/ESPERANCE

MOST SECRETWar Diary27.9.1940
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesESPERANCE
Intercepted

My 1234/25. French ship ESPERANCE intercepted 47 miles south of Aden and ordered in under armed guard. (C. in C., E.I., 1035Z/27)

ESPERANCE arrived Aden.

(ii) Captain had orders not to be captured. Armed Guard therefore left on board though attitude of Officers friendly.

(iii) Sailing orders say ship to evacuate from Djibuti 498 "Wounded, Invalids and demobilised persons withdrawn to Madagascar" This is evidently duty for which French Oiler ELORN was originally proposed no further ship is to bunker at Djibuti owing to shortage of coal at Madagascar.

(v) Ships stock comprises only minimum provisions for journey.

(vi) Your 0824/27. it is suggested friendly spirit may evaporate if ship is detained here longer than necessary for genuine contraband control.

(vii) Request early instructions.

(S.N.O., Red Sea Force, 1921/27 to C. in C., E.I.)

WESTRALIA
ARAWA

To escort ORCADES to Cape Town. Then WESTRALIA to Mauritius to fuel (C. in C., E.I., 1112Z/27)

GLIMMAREN

Swedish ship GLIMMAREN is expected to leave Lorenzo Marques 28/9 for Madagascar to load graphite for U.S.A. Is to be allowed to proceed as if she has a Ship Navicert, as a special case without prejudice to eventual decision on C. in C., E.I., 0728/25. (A.C.N.S., (T) 2229/27)

MOST SECRETWar Diary27.9.1940
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSCHINAEvacuation of
French Troops
from Djibuti
to Indo ChinaC. in C., E.I., 1114Z/24 name of ship is
LE CONTE DE LISLE. (C. in C., China, 0209Z/27
to Admty.)MovementsSWARTENHONDT escorted by K 17. Q16.K. 18.
(C. in C., China 0223Z/27)Defence of
Straits
SettlementsS. of S. for Colonies 815 to Gov. Straits
Settlements. I fully agree with Governor's
reply as to practical difficulties but in view
of the added importance of this station now
that cables through the Mediterranean have been
cut by Italians some defence against enemy
landing parties seems desirable. (C. in C.,
China, 0613Z/27 to Adty.)Release of
French Ships
for local
TradeYour 2002/7. Saigon authorities disposed to
agree but unable to give decision at
present owing to the stage their negotiations
with Vichy have reached. (Re employing B. I.
vessels on India-Japan runs.) (C. in C.,
China 1203Z/27 to Adty.)America & West IndiesBASTIANN.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1433/27. See Casualties and
Defects.



War Diary

MOST SECRET 701

27.9.1940
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

SALZBURG
LE PROGRESS

Arrivals September 26th German SALZBURG
Departures Panamanian Tanker LE PROGRESS.
(Constantza, 0236/27)

EISENACH

Panama reported 24/9. harbour pilot considers
EISENACH possible preparing for sea.
Port (Puerto) Limon watching and considers
report not true but is maintaining close
watch. Tampico reports information received
26/9 from Manzanillo ship expected there
shortly. (S.O.I. Kingston 1545/27)

DELOS

Left Galatz in ballast for a Russian Black
Sea Port today. (D.S. 390)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ENDERTA
GRANATIERE
PADULA

ENDERTA sighted Wakamatsu 10/9.
GRANATIERE PADUAL off Nagoya 22/9. Both
ships painted Yamashita colour flying Italian
Flag engaged in coal trade. (C. in C., Singa-
pore 0841Z/27)



War Diary

27.9.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships attacked

ASGERD

Norwegian 1308 tons, torpedoed 0935/27, 56.35 N., 9.10 W., straggler from convoy O.A. 219 (D.S. 388)

PORT DENISON

My 2215/26. 49 survivors including Master and Commodore of convoy picked up. No further news of ship or remainder of crew. (C. in C., Rosyth 0749/27)

ASHANTIAN
(Torpedoed 26/9)

Tug SUPERMAN to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1043/27) Sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1100/27) Asking for estimated position (C. in C., W.A. to WOLVES 1301/27) Boarded by WOLVES and anchored in 54.22 N., 09.33 W. (C. in C., W.A. 1657/27)

EURYMEDON
(Torpedoed 26/9)

My 2118/26. Sinking in 53.24' N., 18.37 W., (OTTAWA 1141/27) OTTAWA no report if it can be salvaged. Meantime SALVONIA to proceed towards EURYMEDON (C. in C., W.A., 1451/27) Sank at 2005/27. Am proceeding to overtake S.L. 47 in Minch. (PREMROSE, 2010/27)

CORRIENTES

Add to my 1220/26. CORRIENTES torpedoed at 0038/26 (C. in C., W.A., 1241/27)

SMITH. - To the memory of HUMPHREY HUGH SMITH, D.S.O., Vice-Admiral (Retired), Acting Commodore, R.N.R., his Naval Staff, and the Captain, Officers and Men of the s.s. Manchester Brigade, Sept. 27, 1940.

(see WD, 2.10.1940, page 43)

Dinghy in position 54.12 N., 1.58 E., (A/C 220 Sqdn., 1410/27)

Submarines Reported

- 1000 53.48 N., 0.32 E., periscope reported (B. 3.) (D.S. 388) (Humber Radio) (0907/27)
- 0933 S.W. of Iceland (A.I) position very indefinite (D.S. 388)
- 0833 Enemy submarine reported 56.35 N., 09.10 W., at 0833 (C. in C., W.A. 0932/27) (D.D.I.C. 1430/27)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian No news
German 1 S.W. of Ireland possibly bound for Lorient.
1 S.W of Ireland at 0933/27 possibly moving northwards.
1 far out in Atlantic about 400' W. of Achill Head at 1623/26
2 Or 3 in N.W. Approaches of which one was in 56° 35' N., 9° 10' W., at 0935/27; one in about 54° 47' N., 11° 37' W., at 0940/26; whereabouts of third unknown. Possibly 1 N.W of North Rona outward bound. (D.D.I.C., 1249/27)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

703

27.9.1940

Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

2103

By PEONY 58.14 N., 05.45 W., echo now ~~maint~~ am rejoining convoy. (PEONY 2103/27)
Position 58.11 N., 05.49' W., (PEONY 2155/27
A.C.O.S. 2232/27) PEONY considers sunk U/B in
58.12 N., 05.50 W., and has been detached
to investigate. FOWEY continuing with
convoy (FOWEY 2045/27). WHITTHORNE to proceed
with WISTERIA and ELM to investigate.
(F.O.C.O.S., 2202/27)

C. in C., W.A. 1103 /25. After consultation
with C.O. ARABIS, the following possibilities
appear.

1. Internal explosion in U-Boat damaged by
warlier attack.
2. U-Boat striking mine adrift from minefield
3. Accident in U-Boat while reloading tubes
due to crash dive on sighting ARABIS's
approaching bows on.
4. Possibility of disturbance being due to
torpedo exploding at end run has been con-
sidered but is improbable due to distance
from ARABIS which was only ship in sight.
(Capt. (D) Liverpool 1501/27)

Following is repetition of 1103/25 from C. in
C., W.A. :- On return to harbour ARABIS is
to report re her 0925/21 whether
(a) she was hunting a contact when explosion
occurred. (b) there was any subsequent
evidence of submarine striking mine such as
wreckage (c) What was probable accuracy of
her position at 0913/21 as nearest mine should
have been 7 miles north. 1103/25.

1530

Sunderland aircraft reported 4 submerged
U-Boats in position 15 miles S. of Filfa at
1530 steering west. VOYAGER and 2 A/S trawlers
carrying out search. (N.O.I.C., Malta 2211/27)

SITUATION REPORT
Home Commands

Employment of
A/S vessels.

C-in-C, Home Fleet urges that having regard to the present success of the U-boat campaign the A/S vessels which were transferred a fortnight ago to anti-invasion duties, should again be employed on A/S operations.

Search for
enemy force
off Stavanger

There were indications that an enemy force, possibly including HIPPER, ~~vessels~~^{mines} and fighter aircraft was 60 miles West of Stavanger at 1400 to-day. Two forces, one consisting of HOOD, NAIAD and three destroyers from Rosyth and the other of REPULSE, NORFOLK, BERWICK and 5 destroyers from Scapa proceeded to sea to try to intercept. Air reconnaissance to-day showed that BISMARCK and a HIPPER class cruiser have left Kiel. The former has not yet completed her building trials.

RECOIL
lost

A/S trawler RECOIL on patrol 9 to 14 miles off Portland Bill completely disappeared last night. She was on the same patrol as LOCH MONTEITH when she had her bows blown off 24/9 and within 3 miles of where TRITO was sunk 21/9.

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on enemy invasion bases. 27 tons of bombs were dropped on Lorient where 10 enemy submarines are reported. Attacks to-day were made by reconnaissance a/c on docks at Ostend and oil tanks at Dunkirk.

Enemy Air Activity

A fire was started in The Thames Ammunition Works last night but the damage was negligible. An attack by incendiary bombs last night on Milford Haven Mine Depot caused no damage. Slight damage was caused by a bomb last night at the R.V.Y. Deptford.

Convoy HX 73A was attacked this evening off Kinnaird Head. S.S. DALVEEN was sunk and QUEEN CITY was damaged and taken in tow by a rescue tug for Aberdeen. Convoy FN 92 was bombed off Whitby this afternoon without damage being caused. EREBUS was unsuccessfully attacked in the Thames Estuary this afternoon.

Post Sent.
28.9.40
Saturday

705



SITUATION REPORT
Mining

Operation MU

This operation, which was abandoned on night 26/27 was carried out last night.

Tees and Hartlepool are still closed.

Operations against Vichy French

AUSTRALIA, ARK ROYAL, FORTUNE and ECHO arrived at Freetown to-day.

The French ~~sleep~~ minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE passed Gibraltar East to West escorting two merchant ships at 1415 to-day.

Temporary repairs to CUMBERLAND have been effected and 3/4 power can be obtained on all 4 shafts, but C-in-C S.A. considers repairs should be undertaken in a dockyard at an early date.

DELHI sailed from Freetown to join Force M this morning.

At 1822 to-day F.C.C.N.A. reported to the Admiralty that he learnt from Tangier that RICHELIEU, 2 cruisers and several destroyers left Dakar shortly after the British squadron retired. One of the cruisers was said to have arrived at Casablanca but the destination of the remaining ships was not known. RICHELIEU is said to be able to steam 18 knots. All the above vessels were identified by photographic reconnaissance at 1045/26 as being still at Dakar.

Two unidentified bomber aircraft flew over Freetown to-day and were engaged by ships and A/A defences.

South Atlantic

CORNWALL left Freetown at 0600/28 for Luanda, to prevent any interference by French Vichy forces there.



War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE Signals

Humber 3, Nore 2, Dover 2, Channel 2.
(D.C. 1531/28)

Gunnery against
Invading Units
at Sea

In the event of attempted invasion any ship may be faced with conditions which, although simple, are not normally practised. Targets may be numerous, unarmoured ships or barges, towed or self-propelling, ranges short or point blank. Economy in ammunition may be necessary and it may be preferable to cripple many of the enemy rather than to sink a few. If barges are in tow the tug should first be sunk or disabled. Raking shots will inflict the greatest damage on unarmoured vessels. At very short ranges, Quarters Firing may be preferable to Director firing as director slavers are liable to miss owing to uncorrected dip. 2. It is not Their Lordships intention that the foregoing remarks should supersede any orders already issued by responsible authorities. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1535/28. A Message Home, 854 AZ)

Policy

KENYA

Reasons in your 2215/27 are appreciated, but we cannot now weaken our anti-invasion Forces. Unlikely that KENYA while on Escort Duty will encounter Enemy Ships. (1st S.L. 1041/28 to C. in C., H.F.) I thought KENYA might have to fight 2 or even 3 French Cruisers, but in view of your 1041/28 I have nothing more to say. (C. in C., H.F. 1857/28)

New Dangerous
Area

Re Portlands 1430/28. Consider advisable to promulgate a Dangerous Area. But causes of Ship's disappearance, of loss of TRITO, and of damage to LOCH MONTEITH, are still unknown and, although in same area, may be unrelated. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1627/28 to Adty.)

Capt. D. 12

Request approval for Capt. D. 12 and his staff to disembark from KEPPEL to a shore office at Greenock. (C. in C., W.A., 1741/28 to Adty.)

Use of A/S
Vessels

Your 1838/27. Concur in principles involved. Considering present success of U-Boat campaign, I again urge that our available A/S Vessels be employed on A/S operations. Adty. 2358/13/9 refers (C. in C., H.F. 1714/28 to Adty.)



War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Nore Command

Dispositions for night 28/29, (C. in C., Nore 0800/28)
Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/29. (C. in C Nore, 1200/28)
M.T.B's and M.L's available tonight (C. in C., Nore, 1929/28)

VERSATILE)
VIMY)

My 1618/27. Cancel last sentence. VERSATILE to proceed Invergordon on relief by VIMY and be available for Escort of ULSTER MONARCH (C. in C., H.F. 1123/28 to VERSATILE)

Dover

Patrols for night 28/29. (V.A.Dover, 1232/28)

Portsmouth

Movements for night 28/29. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1507/28)

Orkneys

Movements for night 28/29. (A.C.O.S. 1531/28 and 1642/28) Trawler Lines occupied tonight (A.C.O.S. 1536/28)

Anti-Invasion Patrol

Tonight MACKAY, WITCH, BULLDOG, STURDY, patrol eastward to Lydd Light Vessel and southward to 50° 5' N., (C. in C., Portsmouth 1637/28 to Adty.)

ARROW

Sailed for full calibre firing and to comply with C. in C., W.A's 153/26. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1645/28 to Adty.)

Northern Patrol

LAURENTIC and CIRCASSIA Movements. (F.O.C.N.P. 1800/28)

CAMPBELTOWN

Sailed. Expect arrive Hartland Point 0730/29 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1925/28)


CASTLETON)
CLARE)
CALDWELL)
CHELSEA)

Arrived 1645. (Ex U.S.A. Destroyers) (C. in C., 1935/28 to Adty.)

where? Plymouth see p 663

EREBUS

Anchor S. of Edinburgh Channel. Proceed at first daylight. (C. in C., Nore, 2046/28)


War Diary28.9.1940
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsOperation D.H.
Attack on
Shipping at
Tromso

N.I.D. 0300/24/9. I would like to put on Operation D.H. When will prohibition of your 0122/12/9 be removed. (C. in C., H.F. 1001/28 to Adty.) There is no objection to carrying out these operations as they will not remove Forces from the main theatre. (1st S.L. 1738/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

Search for
Enemy Force
off Stavanger

REPULSE, NORFOLK, BERWICK, and available Destroyers at Scapa raise steam with all despatch. (C. in C., H.F. 1543/28) There are indications that an enemy force which may include HIPPER, M/V's and Fighter aircraft was 60 miles West of Stavanger at 1400 today. F.O.C. 1st B.S. in HOOD, with NAIAD and 3 Destroyers, to proceed through 57° 5' N., 0° 20' W. towards 62° N., 3° 30' E., R.A.D. H.F. in REPULSE, with BERWICK, NORFOLK, and available destroyers at Scapa to proceed East of Orkneys towards 62° N., 3° 30' E. If no further news of enemy by 0900/29, Scapa and R Rosyth Forces are then to steer to R/V in 62° N., 1° E. (C. in C., H.F. 1643/28) Intend proceeding at 1945/28 with REPULSE, BERWICK, NORFOLK, SOMALI, MATABELE, ESKIMO, PUNJABI, DUNCAN, to comply with C. in C. H.F.'s 1643/28 to Adty.) Intend to pass through First Position in C. in C., H.F.'s 1643/28 at 0040/29. Speed 22 knots. (F.O.C. 1st B.S. 1932/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

Start Point
A/S Trawler
Patrols
AX, BY, CZ.

3 Patrols for A/S Trawlers are to be established and will be referred to by letters AX, BY, CZ. respectively. Positions of each Patrol as follows. Tonight Patrol CZ. (C. in C. W.A., 1603/28 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

Operation
M.W.C

Carry out Operation M.W.C. Zero hour 2200 (V.A. Dover 1201/28 to Adty. A.C.O.S., C. in C., Bomber, Coastal, and Fighter Commands, C. in C., Nore, EREBUS, etc.,) to conform EREBUS has cancelled operation M.W. tonight owing to weather. (V.A. Dover, 2151/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary

28.9.1940

SaturdayHOME COMMANDSSubmarinesTRIDENT
TIGRIS

Positions. Do not attack submarines between 0600/1/10 and receipt of TUNA and TRIBUNE situation reports, unless visual identification as hostile. (Capt. S. 2. 1043/28 to submarines on patrol Area B. negative submarines on patrol Portsmouth area)

Establishment
of Patrols

Request the fact that a British submarine will be operating as from 0001/30 until further notice in the area defined in my 1323/26 may be promulgated by A Z message and that surface vessels may be warned not to attack submarines in this area unless hostile identity is established. (V.A.S. 1103/28 to Adty.)

Request bombing restrictions in above area until further notice. (V.A.S. 1104/28 to H.Q.C.C., A.C.O.S.) Amending his 1323/26 (V.A.S. 1244/28)

SNAPPER

Amendment to 1641/27 (Position and Movements) (V.A.S. 0638/28)

H. 43.

Sailing and bombing restrictions. (S. 5. 1140/28)

L. 27.

Asking that she may continue operating (C. in C., Portsmouth 1307/28) Reply. Certainly (V.A.S. 1848/28)

Patrol Areas

Amendments to Area D. 4. Cancelling Area S. 3. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1313/28)

UPRIGHT

Orders to R.V. with ARCTIC PIONEER (Capt. S 5 1357/28)

5th S.F.

Patrol closer inshore where this is possible and take every opportunity of attacking important enemy targets. (Capt S. 5. 1703/28)

Positions and
Movements

0700/29. (V.A.(S) 1719/28)

Submarine in
Convoy O.A. 221

Movements escorted by LINCOLN CITY (A.C.O.S 2152/28)



War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Nieuwe Waterway

Attacks on M/V and Convoy on 27/9. (B.C. Summary No 450.)

Ostend, Calais, Boulogne, Havre, Lorient, St Brieue

Attacks on Batteries, Docks, and shipping on night 27/28. (B.C. Summary, No 451)

Fighter Escort, Fighter Protection & Fighter Cover

Definition of these Terms. (D.O.D. H. 1130/28)

Rosyth Air Escorts

For 29/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1944/28)

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage

Adty. Letter M/LD 0999/40 F/I of 26/8. Suggest Barrage be provided by 6 craft with each convoy, 2 in Reserve with crews, and 2 spare crews. Request remarks, and which available craft considered suitable for service in Winter. (A.C.N.S. H. 2031/28) to C. in C., Nore.)

Enemy Air Activity

Loss of Time at Portsmouth

12,500 man hours were lost at Portsmouth Naval Establishments during the week ending 1200/28 owing to air raid warnings. Efforts are being made to reduce these losses by special warning systems. (C. E. in C's weekly appreciation)

MilfordHaven

3 Incendiary Bombs dropped in Mine Depot last night at 2000. No Adty. damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1002/28 to Adty.)

Deptford

2 small H.E. Bombs on Royal Victoria Yard on night of 27th. Slight damage. No fire or casualties. (O.C.W. Deptford, 1035/28) Details of damage (Supt. R.V.Y. 1327/28 to Adty.)

Convoy "Agent"
~~Agent~~

A/C bombing (WOLFHOUND 1515/28) One miss My position 54° 30' N., 0° 5' E., (WOLFHOUND) 1530/28)

Convoy "Bacon"
~~Bacon~~

Being shadowed by A/C at 51° 30' N., 1° 20' E., (FERNIE 1721/28)

/EREBUS.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

711

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

EREBUS

Attacked by one aircraft in Edinburgh Channel. (EREBUS 1732/28)

I.P. Building

Time Bomb found about 50 feet across main road from Building. Request Disposal Unit be informed. (I.P. 1902/28 to Adty.)

Convoy H.X. 73A
DALVEEN
QUEEN CITY

Enemy bombing Convoy H.X.^{73A} 58° 10' N., 2° 19' W., (FOWEY 2022/28) My 2025. One ship hit. Afloat, on fire forward. Position 58° 2' N., 2° 9' W., (FOWEY 2047/28) Send Tug (C. in C., Rosyth, 2043/28 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.) Air attack on Convoy H.X. 73A at 2022/28 in 58° 10' N., 2° 10' W., DALVEEN (British 5193 tons) sunk, and QUEEN CITY, (British, 4814 tons) damaged. Both abandoned early and 31 survivors of DALVEEN landed at Lyness, 12 missing. QUEEN CITY being towed to Aberdeen by rescue tug ABEILLE IV; 37 survivors landed at Lyness and Master and 14 men at Fraserburgh. (C. in C., Rosyth 1227/29 to Adty.) SS. QUEEN CITY now in tow ABEILLE IV for Aberdeen, cannot enter harbour until 1300/30 Necessary precautions have been taken. During night master reports enemy aircraft showing navigation lights, attacked from north, after attacking DALVEEN. One High Explosive bomb and one incendiary hit ship Two near misses. Ship seaworthy steering gear disabled and upper deck burnt. Ship abandoned, but master, 2nd engineer and salvage officer now on board. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1839/29) QUEEN CITY in tow of tug ABEILLE IV arrived off Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 1943/29) State of QUEEN CITY (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2133/29)

Mining

Operation M.U.

PLOVER reports operation completed at 0130/28 (V.A.Dover 0714/28 to Adty.)

North Minch

Consider that a Deep Minefield should be laid between Butt of Lewis and Cape Wrath and also between Barra and Tiree to prevent U-Boats from using the Minches which heavy Traffic in winter and bad Atlantic weather are likely to render a good U-Boat hunting ground unless steps are taken to prevent it (c. in C., Rosyth 1131/28 to Adty.)

/Firth of Forth..

MOST SECRETWar Diary28.9.1940
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSMiningFirth of Forth

2 Red Mines exploded by LL Sweeper today South of Q.Z.S. 142 at 56° 4' 30" N., 2° 53' 24" W., and at 56° 4' 24" N., 2° 53' 54" W., respectively. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1205/28 to Adty.) Amended position of mines 56° 4' 9" N., 2° 55' 12" W., and 56° 4' N., 2° 55' 30" W., (C. in C., Rosyth 1901/28 to Adty.)

S.N. 42 and
S.N. 43

Do you consider Mines for S.N. 42 should be sterilised and, if so, will this delay the operation. Suggest using SCOTT to observe behavior of Mines. S.N. 43 is under consideration (A.C.N.S. H. 1229/28 to RAML) Units are being sterilised. No delay. Concur as to using SCOTT (RAML 1841/28 to Adty.)

Tees &
Hartlepool

Closed. Ships in F.N. 92 for these Ports should be sent to Tyne. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1822/28 to VANITY)

ARK ROYAL

Your 2256/26. With regard to channel swept for Magnetic Mines, it is pointed out that ARK ROYAL is not fitted with F and Q coils (ARK ROYAL 1914/27 to Adty.)

Enemy IntelligenceScheldt, Zeebrugge)
Hook, Tiengemeten)

On 27/9. (B.C. Summary No 450)

French, Belgian,
Dutch & German
North Sea Ports
and Kiel

Summary of Photographic R/C's on 28/9. (H.Q.C.C. 1100/28)

Unknown
Enemy Unit

Probably Surface Vessel in 59° N., 3° 30' E at 1400 B.S.T. D/F fix, unreliable (D.D.I.C 1537/28) (V.A.S. 1541/28 to S.M.D. 21)

Flushing

At 1100/28. Photographs. (P.I.U. 1823/28 to N.I.D.)

Wilhelmshaven

TIRPITZ in Floating Dock, one Destroyer 8 T.B.'s, one S/M one Minelayer and one Coastal Defence Ship. (P.I.U. 1935/28 to N.I.D.)

/German Main.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary

28.9.1940

SaturdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence- Contd.German Main
UnitsKiel 23/9 Wilhelmshaven 25/9. (D.D.I.C.
1939/28 to A.I.G.)StavangerIndications that enemy force which may in-
clude HIPPER M/V's and Fighter aircraft,
was 60 miles West of Stavanger at 1400/28
(V.A.S. 2003/28 to submarines Area A.)GNEISENAU }
SCHARNHORST }Photographic R/C on 28/9 shows both ships
in Docks at Kiel. BISMARCK and HIPPER not
seen. (D.D.I.C. 2202/28 to C. in C., H.F.)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

714

28.9.1940
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

NOTTS COUNTY

A/S Trawler. Arrived 0930 damaged after collision with NORTHERN DAWN (F.O.I.C. Portland 1158/28 to N.O.I.C., Dartmouth)

RECOIL

Regret to report complete disappearance of A/S Trawler RECOIL from Patrol during night 27/28. Vessel was patrolling from 239° Portland Bill 9 miles to 256° Portland Bill 14 miles. Sea slight wind N.W. Force 2 to 3 dark and clear night. A/S Trawler HERTFORDSHIRE on patrol 6 miles to eastward of RECOIL nothing to report. A/S Trawler on patrol 6 miles to westward of RECOIL reports (1) hearing a loud explosion considered to be a mine at 2116 this time being noted by the Coxwain only and (2) at 0315 a strong smell of oil when approaching western end of line patrolled by RECOIL. A/C has thoroughly searched patrol line and area St. Albans Head to Start Point and can find no wreckage nor any trace of oil.

Last heard of RECOIL was when she acknowledged a signal at 2119, no replies received when called at 0400 or subsequently. This patrol is the same as LOCH MONTEITH was on when her bows were blown off a.m. 24th September and within 3 miles of where Dutch M/V TRITO was sunk a.m. 21st Sept. Signal requesting a dangerous area in the vicinity to be prescribed has been made. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1430/28 to Adty.)

CALABRIA

My 0025/27. Cancel CALABRIA (S.O.I. Cape-Town 1135B/28 to Adty.)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

715

28.9.1940

~~28.1940~~

Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Rosyth
Escort Force

Suggesting that 4 more sloops be attached in addition to those asked for in his 1747/27)

7 knot Ships

Concur with C. in C., Rosyth 1747/27. (C. in C., Nore, 1403/28)

F.S. Convoys

Protection of F.S. Convoy vessels, lying outside harbour.
Your 1115/B. Regret no A/S vessels can be spared at present. (D. A/S W. 1322/28 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Convoys
O.A. 221.

SNAPPER joining. S.O. close escort CLEMATIS (C. in C., Rosyth 1737/28) Position (JASON 2330/28)

H.X. 73 A

Escort arrangements (C. in C., Rosyth 1932/28

O.A. 221

List (N.C.SO Methil 0810/28)

F.S. 94

Ships in F.S. 94 for Tees and Hartlepool (Closed) to be sent into Tyne. (C. in C., Rosyth 1820/28)

M.V's.

Amending 1605/28. M.V's sailing Falmouth for Irish Sea and Portsmouth for Dartmouth (C. in C., W.A., 1845/28)

H.X. 74

Amend meet (C. in C., W.A., 1330/28)

S.L. 49

Route and escort (D.T.D. 1745/28) Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1855/28)

S.L. 50

R.V. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1205/28) Advance sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1501/2)

S.C. 7.

Route (D.T.D. 1319/28)

O.B. 223

Route (D.T.D. 1534/28)

S.L. 48

Destinations (D.T.D. 2122/28)

Closed Area

Ships should be routed clear of area as follows between 1945/30 and 1135/1/10 (C. in C., W.A., 1240/28)

Darkening
Ship

Importance of (D.T.D. 1324/28)

/Rosyth.....



MOST SECRET

716 a

28.9.1940.
Saturday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

General.

Raiders.

Your 1004/27. North Atlantic. Last known loss was CYMBELINE on 2/9 near Azores. Further movements of this raider cannot be traced.

South Atlantic. No firm news but analysis of overdue ships together with a report of gunfire heard in 19°28' S. 08° 54' W on 14/9 indicate probability that there are two raiders operating one having been off the American coast in approx. 15°S on 20/9.

Indian Ocean. 4 ships have been sunk or captured since 27/8 and five ships are overdue. One raider operating between 40° and 80° east in the Cape India and Cape Australia routes could have accounted for all of these.

Pacific. Last known loss was the TURAKINA on 20/8. Subsequent movements of this raider are not known but she may have returned to the Indian Ocean.

It is probable that a total of 4 to 5 raiders are at large. (D.D.I.C.2227/28 to C.in C.H.F.)

Operations against Vichy French.

Situation at
Konakri

My 0027/28. Part one. Following for General Ismay from General Spears. Your 0115/26. Arrived Freetown morning of 27th. De Gaulle seen Emissary from French Guinea. Situation there is not ripe though promising. Konakri strongly reinforced and suffering from excitement after Dakar, this emphasized by two Glen Martins flying Freetown afternoon 27th. (C.in C.,S.A.0001/28 to Admiralty)

De Gaulle's
Plans.

My 0027 part two. Nevertheless French Major Allegret, excellent type who joined from Guinea promises a battalion of Senegalese quietly collected in Sierra Leone around nucleus brought over by him within a month. He asserts native troops best to take over Guinea. In view of this and the fact that Vichy may stir up trouble Equatorial Africa, De Gaulle intended to take his force to Duala assert his authority and take Gabon and Libreville where several Dakar ships now are. (C.in C.,S.A. 0005/28 to Admiralty)

My 0027 Part 3. When Equatorial Africa completely in hand will send battalion "Legion" to Egypt necessity from psychological aspect for his movement to have force fighting Italians. He intends making Takoradi his aviation base and there land and set up his planes. From there they can fly to Equatorial Africa or operate in West Africa.



War Diary.

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Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations against Vichy French.

De Gaulle's
Plans (contd.)

Within about a month when intensive propaganda should have told he intends to take action in West Africa. Support of British troops will not be needed then. Question of protection of harbours of Equatorial Africa from ships remains vital. (C.in C., S.A. 0013/28 to Admiralty)

My 0027 part 4. De Gaulle hopes crew of submarine, and passengers and crew of TOUAREG will not be released until certain of his envoys to Dakar are safe. Could they not also be exchanged for our airmen? Free French troops morale high. Exasperated at having been fired at and longing to fight. It now appears that Dakar authorities at last moment manned shore batteries with sailors. (C.in C., S.A. 0021/28 to Admiralty)

Feeling at
Dakar.

My 0027 Part 5 final. Nevertheless Goree Island battery never tried to hit French ship. It also seems incredible Vichy cruiser should not have found free French transport shadowed by plane when Fusiliers Marins were landing at Rufisque had they wanted to. Wing-Commander Milne was in ARK ROYAL says impression of French airmen at Ouakam was part of aerodrome favourable, others pro Vichy. (C.in C., S.A. 0027/28, 1827/28 to Admiralty.)

DELHI

Your 1026/27. DELHI sails 0635 and will join you at 1200/28. (C.in C., S.A. 0309/28 to S.O., Force M)

French Aircraft
over Freetown.

G/1391/28/9. Two bomber aircraft believed French flew over Freetown 1615/27 and were fired on by H.M. Ships but not by A.A. battery. (?I have) issued orders that in future any non British aircraft are to be fired on. (G.O.C. West Africa 0335/28 to W.O.)

BARHAM

My position course and speed at 0800 008° 54'N 015° 17'W/120° 6½ knots RESOLUTION in tow. List of 007°, Maximum draught 38 feet. All fires extinguished. Ship able to steam. Intend to cast off tow this evening. (F.O., Force M. 0801N/28)

RENOWN is to return to Gibraltar and fuel. Situation will then be reviewed. Whilst RENOWN is in harbour the best possible arrangements are to be made to obtain warning of approach of French ships from Eastwards. (V.C.N.S. 1049/28 to S.O., Force H)

Escape of French
Force from
Toulon, m 11/q.

Your 0034/27. RENOWN left Gib 1630/11 screened by GRIFFIN, VELOX, VIDETTE, and passed through position 35° 43'N. 06° 26'W.

28.9.1940.
Saturday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations against Vichy French.

Escape of French Force from Toulon (contd.)

at 2000 making good 226° 22 knots. At 0210/12 altered course to 210° and at 0310 reduced to 16 knots to allow VIDETTE to rejoin from her encounter with French destroyer see my 0617/12. At 0500 resumed 22 knots and at 0930 on receipt of report of air reconnaissance of Casablanca altered course to 042° 16 knots. HOTSPUR with WISHART and ENCOUNTER left Gibraltar at 2100/11 and from Spartel steered 230° 20 knots to position 34° 05' N. 08° 30' W thence 220° 16 knots to R.V. with RENOWN at 1330/12. At 1343 all units altered course to 245° and at 1553 to 205°. At 1715 altered course 357° and spread to be on starting line of patrol given in my 1109/12 by 2030. (S.O., Force H, 1705/28)

Interception of French M.V's and Warships.

Do instructions contained in your 0253/22 still hold.
(ii) What is relative importance of avoiding incidents with French warships.
(S.O., Force H, 1715/28 to Admiralty).

S.O., Force M.

Proceeding Freetown at 0800 (S.O., Force M, 0724/28 to ARK ROYAL, AUSTRALIA, ECHO, FORTUNE).

AUSTRALIA

Arrived 1300/28

ARK ROYAL

Arrived 1400/28
(S.O.(I), Freetown 1405/28)

FORTUNE

Arrived. (S.O.(I), Freetown 1647N/28)

ECHO

LA GRACIEUSE

(French ^{Adviser} minesweeper) passed Gib. East to West 1415/28 escorting 2 M.V's. (S.O.(I), Gib. 1827/28, 2323/28).

S/M Crew.

Re disposal of crew of S/M sunk off Dakar (C.in C., S.A.2001/28)

Forces "Alloy" & "Shrapnel".

Re accommodation and reorganisation. Unsuitability of Freetown. Takoradi proposed. (G.O.C., West Africa 1655/28 to W.O., W.O. to G.O.C., West Africa 2100/28).

CUMBERLAND.

Estimated state 3/10 hull external temporary repairs efficient. Main engines 6 boilers in action and all 4 shafts 3/4 power. Could relieve CORNWALL at Duala leaving Freetown about 3/10 if required but consider repairs should be undertaken by a yard at early date. (C.in C., S.A., 1437/28).

My 1831 part 1. S.O.Force M's 1133/26. General De Gaulle has announced his present intention to go to Duala. I discussed the situation with him. I consider any operation against Konakri on lines of that against Dakar, that is, proceeding by negotiation



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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French (contd.)

and ultimatum is now undesirable and that any such operation should only be undertaken either (a) as a combined (military) operation against a definite hostile port where full opposition is expected and full advantage of surprise taken. (C.in C., S.A. 1807/28 to Admiralty). (b) A surprise landing or entry from land frontier by free French on assumption that an internal movement will result and effect a turn over to De Gaulle. No other force to be used except measures to prevent interference by sea and air, in fact, an operation similar to that at Duala from land or sea. (c) Invasion over land frontier made with Naval action as required.

Re (a). De Gaulle's force alone is not organised or equipped to carry out a combined Military operation against opposition from forts and at landing point(s), such as would be required at Konakri, even with assistance of British Navy.

(b). Success of surprise entry seems unlikely at present.

(c). If considered would be for a future date.

I consider that De Gaulle's intention to move to Duala the best plan under present circumstances though the control of Konakri and French Guinea is an important factor in security of Freetown. (C.in C., S.A. 1831/28).

French Force
leaves Dakar.

Information through C.G., Tangier from source considered to be reliable and known to For. Off. states RICHELIEU, 2 cruisers, and several destroyers left Dakar shortly after British squadron retired. One of the cruisers is said to have arrived Casablanca but destination of remaining ships was not known. RICHELIEU said to be able to cruise at 18 knots. Same source reports that French naval authorities desire to resume convoys both to Bordeaux and Marseilles. (F.O.C.N.A. 1822/28 to Admiralty).

French Air
Reconnaissance
of Freetown.

1 Glen Martin bomber carried out R.C. over Freetown 1015/28 and made off to northwards after being fired at. (C.in C., S.A., 1829N/28)

28.9.1940.
Saturday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious
Ships.

My 1801/27. Same informant states ship was only recently acquired by us. 4400 tons. With change of flag name was changed. Has made 3 unescorted voyages to England with food. Now extras in convoy. In last fortnight of August assisted Italian Submarine to pass Straits. Paid £2000 for each case of assisting Submarine. (Madrid 1830/28 to D.N.I.)

2815 cipher 28/9. Reconnaissance plane over Rock 1500/27. Driven off by A.A. fire. Also engaged by Spanish gunfire. (Gov., Gib. 1305/28)

Evacuations,
Lisbon.

Admiralty 0159/17 and my 1230/26. About(?) British subjects have already registered for passage NEURALIA. Almost certain 180 Polish troops also, hope to augment this to 300. (N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1538/28)

Accommodation
at Funchal.

Your 1704/24 and 1127/27. Action is to cease forthwith. If any rumours are started as a result of what has already happened explain, if necessary, that preparations were for reception of refugees. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2023/28 to N.C.S.O., Funchal)

Interception of
French merchant
ships.

Your 1304/27. Reply is under consideration. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2312/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL (to
Duala)

Your 1912/26 and my 1913/27. CORNWALL sailed 0600/28 and expects to arrive at Manoka Anchorage 1700Z/1/10. (C.in C., S.A., 0639N/28)

CALABRIA.

Overdue shipping. My 0925/27. Cancel ex-Italian CALABRIA. (S.O.(I), Capetown 1135B/28).

PRETORIA CASTLE.

Adjust Patrol X arrive Freetown 0730/2/10. To escort SL 50, sailing 3/10. (C.in C., S.A. 1445/28).

D.F. Bearings.

Your 2020/26. Recent bearings from Simonstown have shown large negative error. (C.in C., S.A. 2112/28 to Admiralty).

Suspicious Ships.

My 1815/24/8. Master of GRENA reports sighting at 1100 A T S 19/9 in 013° 03'S 041° 59'E suspicious vessel identical with that reported by STRAAT MALACCA. Vessel closed to within 2 miles and attempted to head off GRENA who kept vessel on a bearing for after gun. Vessel ultimately gave up chase and proceeded on an easterly course at 15 knots. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1300/28).

28.9.1940.
Saturday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

In view of unstability of French situation at Alexandria I am proceeding with only WARSPITE, VALIANT and ILLUSTRIOUS for operation detailed in my^{*}1637/24 para.A and should Italian Fleet come to sea I shall only seek to engage them should conditions be very favourable. (C.in C.Med. 1627/28)

Submarine
Sanctuary

N.O.i/c Malta 1651/28 to C.in C.Med. in reply to his 0949/27. ^{* See p 615}

TRIAD
TRUANT

Orders (N.O.i/c Malta 1657/28)

Payments to
Godfroy.

Reply to C.in C.Med.2315/10. (1st Lord 1731/28)

PROVANA

(Italian S/M). Your 1253/27 (re survivors). No information. (D.D.I.C.1747/28 to Capt.O.S. Nile).

Air Raid
Reports.

Re duplication. H.Q. to prepare one report only and send to W.O. who will distribute. (Admiralty 1834/28 to V.A.Malta).

PERSEUS.

Orders. (Capt. S.I. 1905/28)

4 U-Boats
Reported.
off Malta.

Search for Italian U-boats reported in my 2211"27 unsuccessful. These were sighted with conning towers awash and not submerged as previously reported. Most improbable U-boats would be operating on the surface close together in daylight 20 miles from Malta but crew of the aircraft stick to their story. (V.A.Malta 2221/28)

MOST SECRETWar Diary28/9/1940
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesDetention of
French Ships
Bound for
Djibuti

Your 1921/27, para 6. Comply with Admty. message 2211/26. It is hoped that further instructions will not be long delayed. (C. in C., E.I. 0738Z/28 to S.N.O. Red Sea)

WESTRALIA
ARAWA

Amending R.V. given in 1112/27 (C. in C., E.I. 0752Z/28)

KHEDIVE ISMAIL
KAROA

Your 1302/25 (re proposed movements) Proposals suitable subject to confirmation from C. in C., E.I., and C. in C., S.A. (D. of S.T., 1815/28 to SSTO Bombay)

B.N. 6.

Ships and details of contents. (P.S.T.O. Bombay 0900/28)

ESPERANCE
Supplies for
DjibutiS.N.O.R.S.F. 1921/27.
(1) ESPERANCE to be detained until further orders.
(2) General Policy is to restrict passage of supplies to Djibuti
(3) Policy is however under active discussion between Governor Aden and H.M. Govt. and any action taken or proposed should be coordinated with him. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1912/28 to S.N.O. R.S.F., C. in C., E.I.)ChinaCAP VARELLA
Evacuation of
French Troops
to Indo-China
from Djibuti
not to be
facilitated.

Your 2212/26. I have given Governor General Indo-China the assurance specified in your 0059/13. Sailing under this guarantee CAP VARELLA passed Sunda Strait 22/9, bound for Aden. To avoid possible accusations of bad faith propose now to inform Admiral Decoux that ship will not at present be permitted to proceed beyond Aden. This would also allow him to recall her and stop second ships sailing if he so desires. (C. in C., China, 0557Z/28 to Adty.)

Trade with
Indo-China

Proposing C.G. should arrange that there will be no interference by Japanese with our legitimate trade with Indo-China when this is resumed. (C. in C., China 0419Z/28 to V-C Haiphong)

/French Shipping.

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SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSChina-Contd.French Shipping
ILE DE FRANCE

Your 0920/6 and 0345/21. No safe conduct to Europe can be given to any ship under French flag.

2. British liners are not permitted to call at Lisbon or Dakar. The VICEROY OF INDIA could only bring seamen to the U.K. and on no account should they be sent there.

3. Japanese or other neutral ship remains best method of repatriation but as Japanese ship is not likely to be available the whole question is being urgently re-considered.

4. Do you consider there is now any possibility of persuading any more of the crew to serve under British Flag.

5. It has been decided to use ILE DE FRANCE as a troopship.

(A.C.N.S. (T) 1732/28 to C. in C., China)

America & West IndiesConcessions
to U.S.A.
(re Bases)

Reply to 1231/20 (Adty. 1314/28 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

LEOPOLDVILLE

My 1121/26. Delayed. Revised date of sailing. 100 troops embarking, and M. of Shipping to use cargo space for U.K. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1518/28)

AustraliaSTRATHEDEN
BATORY

Your 0610Z/26. Agree with proposed route MANOORA to escort.

MAURETANIA

To be sailed for Melbourne via Fremantle (A.C.N.B.I. 1206/28)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

724

28.9.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN

Crowsnest has been rigged on foremast.
(B.C. Las Palmas, 1815/28)

NORBURG

Left in Ballast Russia

LARISSA

Arrived Poti with 3000 tons manganese ore
for Germany. (Macrea Galati 1224/28)



MOST SECRET 725

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

U-Boat Campaign

Ships Attacked

MONTCLARE

Indications that a submarine may be following you (C. in C., W.A., 0943/28)

CORRIENTES
(Torpedoed 26/9)

No sign of CORRIENTES or wreckage. My position. (HAVELOCK 0720/28) SALVONIA to proceed. (F.O.i/c Greenock 0631/28) Is CORRIENTES still afloat. (C. in C., W.A., 0557/28 to HAVELOCK) Return Campbeltown. (F.O.i/c Greenock 2237/28 to SALVONIA)

EMPIRE OCELOT

Torpedoed in 54° 37' N., 21° 30' W., at 1521. PICOTTE, FANDANGO to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1543/28) SALVONIA proceed to assist. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1627/28)

S.O.S. intercepted 2059 G.M.T. bearing 145° unreliable from Cullercoats Radio. Bearing from Humber Radio 2059 G.M.T. 009° (Cullercoats 2221/28)

S.S. KEDDE *Dutch 3684 tons* Attacked by submarine 54° 39' N., 24° 19' W
Escaped torpedoes missed 2250 G.M.T. (Rosyth 2250/28) Not in convoy.

BLAIRANGUS
ELMBANK
TORIANA
PUTNEY HILL
(Torpedoed
20-21/9)

SS PIKEPOOL arrived St. John's today with 28 survivors including master of BLAIRANGUS and 17 Europeans 38 Lascars, also body of master of ELMBANK.

Distress signals of above two ships, SS ELMBANK 55° 20' N., 22° 30' W., BLAIRANGUS 55° 19' N., 22° 19' W., were received during night of 20/21-9 and distress signals from steamships TORIANA and PUTNEY HILL during night of 21/9.

Reported third engineer of ELMBANK was on board U 14 larger of two attacking submarines which came alongside his boat. Other submarine smaller. Masters think that submarines working in pairs. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 2230/28)

/Submarines.....

MOST SECRET28.9.1940
Saturday
War DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported

- 1133 By Military authorities Belfast, intercept from Athlone to Dublin. S/M unknown nationalities moving inside territorial waters, 7 miles E. Lenadoon Pt. at 1133/28 (F.O.i/c Belfast 1241/28)
- U-Boats reported Dromore Bay, Sligo Bay. Investigate and attack regardless of Territorial Waters. (C. in C., W.A., 1231/28 to GLOXINIA, WOLVES)
- 1050 265° 36° N., 8° W 10 miles, S/M bearing 024° 10 miles course 200° (S.O. Force H. 1050/28 to F.O.C.N.A.) S/M has dived (S.O. Force H. 1051/28) WISHART hunting. (S.O. Force H. 1115/28)
- 1619 U-Boat on surface 54° 50' N., 21° 51' W., at 1619 (C. in C., W.A. 1649/28 to PICOTEE FANDANGO) (See EMPIRE OCELOT torpedoed) 54° 50' N., 21° 51' W., S/M on surface. Ship report. (Lydd W/T N.C.S.O. 1629/28) HAVELOCK, PICOTEE attack (C. in C., W.A., 1819/28) Detach FANDANGO if in company to attack U-Boat in 54° 40' N., 21° 51' W., at 1619. Return yourself to Belfast (C. in C. W.A. 1823/28 to PICOTEE)
- 2250 G.M.T. 54° 39' N., 24° 19' W., HAVELOCK, FANDANGO attack (C. in C., W.A. 0013/29)
- 1607 Probably near Bergen By D/F
- 1635 Position by D/F near Lister. (D.D.I.C. 1800/28)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- No News.
German- 1 may reach Lorient tonight or tomorrow night.
1 may have been about 360' W of Valentia at 1250/27, possibly moving northwards.
1 may have been about 600' W. by N of Bloody Foreland at 0838/28)
2 or 3 in N.W. Approaches, whereabouts unknown. Possible 1 reaching N.W. Approaches from the North.
(D.D.I.C+. 1233/28)


SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

There were indications of enemy surface craft near the Lizard shortly after midnight 28/29. Later it was learnt that three vessels, thought to be enemy destroyers, approached A.P. vessel ROGER JULIETTE (not fitted with W/T) near Gull Rock and disappeared to the southward.

Enemy destroyer activity in Western Approaches. Surface craft were reported 35 miles S.S.E. of Plymouth at 1920 today. A report was received of two unknown destroyers off the Scilly Is. at 2009 and of flashes and an explosion east of the Manacles at 2033. EMERALD, GARLAND, BROKE, VELOX and BLYSCAWICA endeavoured unsuccessfully to intercept the enemy.

SAPPHO lost. A.P. Yacht SAPPHO which was in the area has failed to answer W/T. signals and is considered lost.

Destroyer reinforcement for W.A.Command. In view of enemy destroyer activity in the Western Approaches four destroyers from Nore Command are to join C. in C. W.A. temporarily and two V or W class destroyers from Portsmouth are to join C. in C. Nore.

17th D.F. The Town class destroyers of 17th D.F. are to be employed in the N.W. Approaches for the present.

Suspicious merchant ship. At 2115/29 trawler NORTHERN ISLES on Northern Patrol sighted and endeavoured to chase a fast westbound ship which refused to stop. LAURENTIC was ordered to intercept but failed.

British Air Activity.

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on the enemy's invasion bases from Havre to Antwerp. Other naval targets attacked were docks at Bremen and Wilhelmshaven, and shipping at Lorient, where 7 S/ms. are reported in harbour today.

One of our reconnaissance aircraft today unsuccessfully bombed an enemy ship picking up the crew of a Dornier in the northern part of the North Sea.

Enemy Air Activity.

Incendiary bombs were dropped near Milford Haven last night without causing damage.

Bombs fell in the Frater Mine depot area of Portsmouth at 0200/29, but no damage or casualties resulted.



728
29.9.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT .

Enemy Air Activity (Cont.)

S.S. SCOTTISH MUSICIAN was gunned but was not damaged this morning 20 miles West of Bardsey.

WINCHESTER and Convoy FS.95 were attacked early this afternoon off the East Coast by an aircraft which made the correct identification signal by light. No ships were hit. The convoy was again unsuccessfully attacked later in the afternoon in the Thames Estuary.

VANITY and Convoy FN.92 were unsuccessfully attacked off Farne Is., this evening by a torpedo carrying aircraft with British markings.

The Waverley dock and harbour, Lowestoft was bombed this morning and damage was done to houses. Aberdeen was attacked this evening. There were no Naval damage or casualties.

Mining.

Considerable minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected off North Foreland and in the Thames Estuary.

The Tyne was closed this morning for about 2 hours owing to mines off the entrance. Two mines were detonated.

Hartlepool and Tees were re-opened at 1630 today.

The Eastern entrance to Portsmouth was closed at 2312 owing to suspected enemy aircraft minelaying.

Dutch skoot ARIZONA (398 tons) was mined and sunk in the Firth of Forth this morning.

Mines were laid by R.A.F. off Lorient.

Enemy destroyers laid a contact mine field east of Falmouth during the night 28/29 (M/S Summary No. 150)

Operations against Vichy French.

F.O. Force M in BARHAM, with RESOLUTION, DEVONSHIRE, DELHI, INGLEFIELD, FAULKNER, ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, FURY, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD and QUANNET arrived at Freetown at 0700 today.

RENOWN and 4 destroyers, FIREDRAKE, ENCOUNTER, HOTSPUR and GALLANT, left Gibraltar at 0715 today to intercept RICHELIEU if she is proceeding to a Biscay port from Dakar. The departure of RENOWN was observed by EPEE and FRONDEUR which passed Gibraltar westward at high speed.

At 1326 RENOWN reported that she was being shadowed by a French aircraft.

Tangier ...

SECRET.



729

29.9.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Operations against Vichy French (Cont.)

The Consul General at Tangier has been asked to report immediately the arrival and departure of RICHELIEU or any other French warships at Casablanca. In view of recent attacks by French fighters close air patrol of Casablanca is impracticable and has been cancelled. Air reconnaissance by Coastal Command S.W. from Cape Finisterre today did not sight RICHELIEU.

At 1910 the Admiralty ordered RENOWN to abandon the search for RICHELIEU and proceed to the vicinity of the Azores, in case the French ships were proceeding to capture those islands.

French aircraft daily reconnoitre Bathurst harbour.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Reinforcements for Malta.

WARSPITE, VALIANT and ILLUSTRIOUS left Alexandria today, with GLOUCESTER and LIVERPOOL carrying reinforcements and R.A.F. stores for Malta. A small Aegean convoy is sailing under cover of this operation.

F.A.A.attacks.

Two Swordfish of F.A.A. detailed to attack shipping at Jezira el Marasheb, attacked a convoy of two vessels with destroyer escort. Direct hits were registered but results unobserved. To cover this action a Blenheim attacked the Jazale aerodrome.

Air Raid on Haifa.

10 unidentified aircraft today dropped bombs on Haifa, damaging a water tank, telephone wires and power cables. The A/C. of the French Flight were unserviceable and did not take off.

East Indies.

One Blenheim today attacked quayside and warehouses at Assab. Results were not observed.

America and West Indies.

The 2nd Town Flotilla of 8 destroyers left Halifax today for the U.K. *(Were delayed at St. Johns N.F. see 1/10)*



MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.9.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Destroyer
Reinforcement
for Western
Approaches

In view of the seven enemy Destroyers at Brest being active in the Western Channel and as NEWCASTLE is out of action propose that DESPATCH should be put at my disposal. None of the first ~~force~~ flotilla will be fit to operate for some days and I now have only 3 effective Destroyers. (C. in C., W.A 1603/29 to Adty.)

- 1. In view of enemy destroyer activity in the Western Approaches it has been decided that as an immediate measure (A) JAGUAR, JAVELIN, and KIPLING are to join C. in C., W.A. (b) Two V. or W class destroyers from Portsmouth are to join C. in C., Nore.
- 2. C. in C., Nore is requested to arrange for not less than four destroyers from those at his disposal to be included in the force based on the Humber.
- 3. Destroyer passages should be arranged so as to take full advantage of the dark hours (1st S.L. 1753/29)

Admt. 1753/29. INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE are to be sailed for Humber at 1715/30 to arrive 0600/1/10. (C. in C., Nore, 2110/29 to D. 21)

→ Asking for fighter protection for KELVIN, JAVELIN, JAGUAR 0730/30-1930/30. Code word "Adapt" (C. in C., Nore, 2114/29)

→ Admt. 1753/29. KELVIN, JAVELIN, JAGUAR are to be sailed from Humber a.m./1/10 for Plymouth to pass South Goodwin Light Vessel at 1930 and arrive destination 0700/1) Further orders will be issued regarding
→ KIPLING. (C. in C., Nore 2112/29)

Admt. 1753/29. Request destroyers may be sailed to Sheerness. (C. in C., Nore 2116/29 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

A.M. 1753/29. MACKAY and WITCH will be sailed p.m./30 as minelaying from aircraft is suspected to be taking place now. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2330/29)

/French.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary29.9.1940
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSPolicy- Contd.French
Warships

If French warships are accompanied by enemy vessels they must be regarded as hostile (W.O. 1245/29 to C. in C., Home Forces)

Town Class

For the present the Town Class destroyers of the 17th D.F. should be employed in N.W. Approaches in spite of absence of asdics. (D.O.D. (H) 1833/29)

"Deluge"
"DELUCE"Defence of U.K.

At 0200/29 (D.C. 0203/29) At 1400/29 (D.C. 1430/29)

Scapa

Progress reporte (R.A. Scapa 2015/29)

MovementsDover Patrols

Night 29/30. (V.A. Dover 1231/29)

VELOX

Asking for fighter protection. Code word "Major" (C. in C., W.A. 0019/29)

M.T.B's
28 & 24

My 2137/28. Sailing postponed till weather moderates. (C. in C., Nore, 0951/29)

DESPATCH

Expect to arrive Nab Tower 0630/1/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1435/29) Asking for fighter protection 1700/29 until dusk and dawn 30/9 until arrival at Portsmouth, code word "Parts" (C. in C., W.A. 1641/29)

Northern
Patrol

Trawler lines occupied tonight (A.C.O.S. 1536/29)

OperationsEnemy
Surface Craft
Near The Lizard

Indication enemy surface craft in vicinity Lizard Head. Proceed forthwith to investigate. QUORN may be in vicinity Lands End. (C. in C., W.A. 0013/29 to BLYSKAWICA, GARLAND)

If no further information at daylight abandon search and return to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 0031/29 to GARLAND, BLYSKAWICA)

/There is.....



War Diary

732

MOST SECRET

29.9.1940

Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Contd.

There is indication of enemy boat activity in the vicinity of Lizard Head at 0045/29. (C. in C., W.A., 0059/29 to QUORN.)

Your 0013. Have hunted in vicinity for 7 hours. Fuel remaining 140 tons. H.M.S. FANDANGO not met. My position course and speed 054° 47' N., 024° 00' W., 075° 16 knots (HAVELOCK 0937/29)

At 0050/29 F.O.I.C. Falmouth reported that ~~Coverack~~ ~~Coverack~~ had received strong enemy W/T messages impossible to get a bearing but seemingly near.

Following report from A.P. vessel ROGER JULIETTE who was patrolling was received at 0050/29 position 3 miles south of Gull Rock 3 ships approaching from south, appeared to be three destroyers and were challenged, no reply. They steered same course as me. I challenged again and still no reply. After 3 or 4 minutes all three vessels altered course a southerly direction (C. in C., W.A., 1659/29)

Operation M.W.
Bombardment
of Calais

Possibility of aircraft minelaying Edinburgh Channels and Oaze Deep. High Speed should be used by destroyers ahead of H.M.S. EREBUS (C. in C., Nore, 0447/29)

It is intended to carry out operation M.W. at the first favourable opportunity as regards weather. EREBUS sailing from Sheerness as laid down in Memo M.W. Para 5 (B) Weather conditions for today are at present unsuitable. Further signal will be made at 1400 today and on subsequent days. EREBUS acknowledge. (V.A.Dover, 1037/29)

My 1037. Further signal will be made at 1600. (V.A.Dover 1402/29)

Carry out operation M.W.C. Zero hour 0130/30 EREBUS acknowledge. (V.A.Dover, 1523/29)

Request fighter protection for EREBUS, GARTH, VESPER 1730/29 until dusk. Code word. ~~ALFA~~ (C. in C., Nore, 1546/29)

EREBUS, GARTH and VESPER with Tug LADY BRASSEY route to No 2A Light Buoy arriving there by 0130/30. After operation M.W. they will return by same route passing South Goodwin L.V. about 0300/30. Dover Patrol is to act in support if required. (C. in C. Nore 1820/29 to Adty.) Asking for fighter protection daylight/30, until arrival at Sheerness. Code word "~~ALFA~~" (C. in C., Nore 1646/29)

MOST SECRETWar Diary29.9.1940
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations-Contd.Destroyer
Patrol

Tonight, WOLVERINE, SALADIN, BEAGLE, BRILLIANT to limit of Portsmouth Command and Southward to 50° 5' N., (C. in C., Portsmouth 1413/29 Asking for fighter protection (C. in C., Portsmouth 1314/29)

Search for
Ships off
Stadlandet

One Sunderland detailed as A/S air escort for each force arriving about 0700. One section Blenheim fighters will be standing by at Sumburgh from 0700. (C. in C., Rosyth 0020/29)

My 1936/28. H.F. Forces are returning to Harbour. (V.A.(S) 1113/29)

R.A. (D) H.F. in REPULSE with BERWICK, SOMALI, ESKIMO, PUNJABI, DUNCAN expected time of arrival Scapa 2300/29.
2. REPULSE will transfer R.A. (D) H.F.,
3. Ships REPULSE, SOMALI, ESKIMO, PUNJABI will proceed to Rosyth without oiling 0130, expected time of arrival 1100/30.
(R.A.(D) H.F. 1655/29)

Enemy
Destroyers
Off Scillies

Enemy surface craft probably E-Boats 35 miles S.S.E. Plymouth at 1920. (C. in C., W.A., 2003/29)

St. Mary's Scilly Isles reports two destroyers nationality unidentified bearing 140° 14 miles course 80° at 1928. (C. in C., W.A. 2009/29)

Also made by W/T GR 44 R/V 155 ^{EDDYSTONE} 8 at about 2200 EMERALD adjust time if necessary. Object to attack destroyers reported 140° St. Mary's 14 course 080 at 1928. (C. in C., W.A., 2041/29 to EMERALD, GARLAND, BROKE, VELOX, BLYSKAWICA.)

Explosion and flash E.S.E. of Manacles at 2033. (C. in C., W.A. 2143/29)

Reference C. in C., W.A. 2041, R.V. 2240. (EMERALD 2153/29 to BROKE, BLYSKAWICA, GARLAND, VELOX.)

Enemy destroyers will probably retire to Brest. Cut them off. (C. in C., W.A., 2239/29 to EMERALD, BROKE, BLYSKAWICA, GARLAND, VELOX)

You are to be inside fighter protection by 0630 30th September. (C. in C., W.A., 2241/29 to EMERALD, BROKE, BLYSKAWICA, GARLAND, VELOX.)

War DiaryMOST SECRET29.9.1940
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations-Contd.Unknown Ship
in Channel

Fast westbound ship burning light, will not stop, am endeavouring to keep in sight until daylight. My position course and speed $062^{\circ} 02' N.$, $010^{\circ} 42' W.$, 260° 11 knots. (NORTHERN ISLES 2115/29. to S.O.N.P. Trawlers)

Ship darkened or out of sight estimate her speed at least 16 knots course 260° . Request Instructions. (NORTHERN ISLES 2240/29)

Endeavour to intercept suspicious vessel reported by NORTHERN ISLES $062^{\circ} 02' N.$, $010^{\circ} 42' W.$, Course 260° at 2115 speed more than eleven knots. (F.O.C.N.P. 2244/29 to LAURENTIC)

Your 2115 and your 2240 ship may be Finnish AVRORA Petsamo to Curacao (corrupt groups) NORTHERN SPRAY 2330/29 to NORTHERN ISLES

Patrol U.

Cancel Patrol U. tonight (C. in C., Nore, 1725/29)

Patrol BY.

Tonight (C. in C., W.A., 1559/29)

SubmarinesPatrol Areas

From 0100/1/10. Area S. 3. is cancelled and Area D.4. is altered to between $50^{\circ} 5' N$ and the French Coast and between $6^{\circ} 25' W$ and $0^{\circ} 25' E.$, (Capt (S) 5 0951/29)

L. 27
UTMOST

To leave patrol 0100/1/10 and R.V. with NORTHERN PRIDE, then to patrol in area D. 4 modified by my 0951/29. (Cpt. S. 5. 0958/29)

TIGRIS

Safe in 10 fathoms. (Capt S. 2. 1129/29 to TIGRIS)

STURGEON

Sailed for patrol (S. 6 1803/29)

H. 33.

Have met H. 33. Unexpectedly in North Channel steering 140° (Capt D. 12 2207/29)

MOST SECRET

29.9.1940

SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSBritish Air ActivityNorth Sea

At 0845/29 one Dornier aircraft in sea. Have bombed ship picking up crew. Fighter circling position. (A/C 269 Squadron 0845/29) (F.O.S. 1003/29 to submarines) Six Skuas leaving to attack ship reported in 59° 35' N 3° E at 0845. (R.N.A.S. Hatston 1110/29 to A.C.O.S)

At 0820/29- aircraft attacked a M/V about 1800 tons in 59° 35' N., 3° E No hits observed, but believed near misses. (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle 1304/29)

Enemy Air ActivityMilford Haven

About 10 Incendiary bombs dropped near Haven at 2330/28.. No damage or casualties (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0954/29 to Adty.)

Portsmouth

3 H.E. Bombs fell in Frater Area at 0200. No damage or casualties. One possible unexploded in the open causes no inconvenience (C. in C., Portsmouth 1112/29) It is not considered that any U X B remains at Frater (C. in C., Portsmouth 1305/29) Slight damage at Frater Mine Depot. (S.C.E. Portsmouth 1850/30)

I.P. Building

Bombs found near are reported small and unlikely to damage Building. (I.P. 1115/29 to Adty.)

SCOTTISH
MUSICIAN

Gunned, 20 miles West of Bardsey. (Lyness 1119/29) Cancel AAAA (SCOTTISH MUSICIAN 1028/29 to Lyness)

Lowestoft

Ref. CAFO 587/40. Lowestoft attacked at 1120 by aircraft. No damage or casualties (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1150/29 to Adty.)

Convoy ^{"Beetle"}~~Beetle~~

One aircraft attacking convoy in 51° 54' N. 1° 39' E., 8 bombs. No hits. (WINCHESTER 1320 and 1324/29) Aircraft made correct identification letter by light. (VIVIEN 1324/29) Am still being shadowed (VIVIEN 1745/29) Position (VIVIEN 1758/29)

/Eastham Lock....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.9.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Eastham Lock

F.C. to consider provision of close A.A. defence (Air Min. 1456/29)

VANITY
Attacked

Enemy aircraft British marking dropped torpedo missed 55° 45' N., 1° 42' W., (VANITY 1917/29, 1929/29)

Aberdeen

Attacked at 2146. No naval damage or casualties (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2309/29)

SS DIPLOMAT
SS PETERTON

Damaged by fire in Brunswick Dock, Liverpool during air attack. 26/9 (D.S. 391)

Mining

Dutch Skoot ARIZONA 398 tons Blyth to Bridgewater via Methil was sunk at 0704/29 by explosion in position 204° Kincaig Point 1 mile 3 survivors out of crew of 8. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1215/29, 0751/29, N.C.S.O. Methil 1229/29)

Enemy mine field off Falmouth

Enemy destroyers laid a contact mine field east of Falmouth during the night 28/29 (4/5 Summary No. 50)

Operation
S.N. 42

Your 1159/27. (Sailing of convoy S.N. 42 from Port Z.A. at 0640 30.9.40) Concur. (C. in C., W.A., 1643/29 to R.A.M.L.)

See p. 687

My 1643/29. On conclusion of S.N. 42 request you will sail VANSITTART to Liverpool for boiler cleaning and two other destroyers to Londonderry. The latter will be required to leave Londonderry a.m./3/10. to join escort of convoy W.S. 3. and will be away for about five days. (C. in C., W.A. 1647/29 to R.A.M.L.)

Tyne

2 ground magnetic mines detonated 54° North Tyne Pier Light 2 cables 0915/29. (P.M.S.O. Tyne 0928/29) Tyne closed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1146/29)

Portsmouth

Minelaying from enemy aircraft suspected to be taking place now. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2330/29) Eastern entrance closed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2312/29)

Hartlepool
Tees

Ports open (N.O.i/c Hartlepool 1630/29)

/Unexplained.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary29.9.1940
SundayHOME COMMANDSMining-Contd.Unexplained
ExplosionExplosion and flash E.S.E. of Manacles
(C. in C., W.A., 2143/29)6 M/S TrawlersAsking for fighter protection 0700/30-
1700/30, near the Eddystone Code word,
"Gamma"~~Gamma~~ (C. in C., W.A., 1747/29)Enemy IntelligenceN.W. ApproachesTrawler AQUARIUS of Grimsby reports sighting
suspicious object and hearing motor in a
position 057° 45' 30" N., 005° 53' 30" W.,
at 0400/29. Intend to carry out search
with VANSITTART and arrive 2000. (WHITEHALL
1349/29)Finnish
ShipsS.S. CAROLUS which arrived 28/9 after deten-
tion at Tromso reports that he was circled
by 2 German aircraft about 50 miles from
long 70° 5' and boarded by armed trawler
about 18 miles out which placed an armed guard
on board and took her to Tromso. Finnish
steamer KASTEHOLM (Swede) and ESTER THORDEN
are still there PANDIA has been taken south
Master succeeded in destroying all con-
fidential documents before being boarded.
He was given no instructions regarding
minefield on his release. (Petsamo 1825/29)Lorient

Air R.C. 7 U-Boats (P.R.U. 1500/29)

Havre

Air R.C. (P.I.U. 1738/29)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTSDALEBYMy 1035/25 DALEBY not arrived Durban 28/9
(S.O. (1) Capetown 1105B/29)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.9.1940

Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

H.X. 74

F.N. 92

O.A. 222)
W.N. 19)

O.B. 221

F.S. 95

O.A. 220

O.A. 221

O.L. 5

W.S. 3.

S.C. 2.

H.X. 73

S.L. 47 A- }
P.A. 221 }

Shipping

Orders to escort. Route. (C. in C., W.A., 0420/29)

Tyne closed. Ships for Tyne in F.N. 92 to remain outside. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0958/29)

Escorts to transfer when convoys pass. (C. in C., Rosyth 1011/29) CURACOA to escort O.A. 222 to Pentland Firth. (C.S. 10 1926/29)

Sailed 1000/29. Escort. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1126/29) List (1127/29)

To leave Methil 1800/29. (C. in C., Rosyth 1509/29)

To alter course. (C. in C., W.A., 1550/29)

Position (A.C.O.S., 1827/29)

To alter course (C. in C., W.A., 1600/29)
Sailed (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 0146/29)

Escort. (C. in C., W.A., 1657/29)

SCARBOROUGH arrived from escort. (S.O.I. Halifax 1815/29)

ASCANIA arrived for ocean escort. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1815/29)

Estimated meet about 2100/29 lat. Cape Wrath. (C. in C., W.A., 1820/29) CURACOA to provide A/A escort until R.V. O.A.222 (C.S. 10, 1926/29)

Mobile
Balloon Barrage

Admty. 2031/28. In view of Admty. 1828/26 consider mobile balloon barrage requirements during forthcoming winter should be (A) Eight vessels to accompany each convoy. Other considerations. (C. in C., Nore, 2144/29.)

29.9.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

RENOWN.

To sail with destroyer screen at 0900 or on completion of fuelling. (1st S.L.0110/29).

Force H.,
RICHELIEU.

Admiralty 0253/22 and your 1715/28. To patrol to intercept RICHELIEU if she is proceeding to a Biscay port from Dakar. If intercepted, report and shadow but take no other action without instructions. (1 S.L. to S.O., Force H, 0122/29).

Your 0122/29 RENOWN and four destroyers. sail 0700/29. Intend proceeding to St. Vincent and if air reconnaissance off Casablanca today is negative to continue patrol concentrating Finisterre. Request air reconnaissance to west and south west of Finisterre p.m/29 and on 30/9 and 1/10. Destroyers unable to remain at Finisterre more than about one day. (S.O., Force H, 0635/29).

French
Destroyers.

My 0635. Departure RENOWN observed by 2 French destroyers proceeding westwards at high speed. (S.O., Force H 0740/29). Gibraltar departure 0715/29 S.O., Force H in RENOWN, FIREDRAKE, ENCOUNTER, HOTSPUR, GALLANT, in accordance Admiralty 0122/29. (S.O.(I), Gib., 0928/29). Gibraltar 0735/29, French destroyers EPEE and FRONDEUR passed east to west. (S.O.(I), Gibraltar, 0931/29).

"Alloy" and
"Shrapnel".
Stowage.

Your 1937/27. Advantage of having a quay for restowing ship for "Alloy" and "Shrapnel" recognised, but facilities at Takoradi are already fully occupied and it is not desired to bring Force A back to Gibraltar or U.K. at present. If possible to re-stow ships at Freetown using lighters this must be done and should proceed with all despatch. (1 S.L. 0051/29 to C.in C., S.A.).

Force M.

Arrival 0700/29 F.O., Force M, in BARHAM, RESOLUTION, DEVONSHIRE, DELHI, INGLEFIELD, FAULKNER, ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, FURY, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD, BDV.QUANNET; 0800 Hospital Ship SOMERSETSHIRE. (S.O.(I), Freetown, 0801/29).

Cameroons.
Attitude to
Vichy ships
& Submarines.

Admiralty 1912/26 and 2033/28/8. I read these as authorisation (a) to use threat of force to Vichy surface ships approaching Cameroons River and to open fire if they persist, (b) to sink any submarine on sight. If this does not accord with policy request I may be informed. (CORNWALL, 1030Z/29).

French Air
Activity.

Situation Report for D.M.I. French air-craft daily reconnoitre aerodrome barracks

29.9.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

French Air
Activity.
(contd.)

and Bathurst Harbour. Unconfirmed report believed to be reliable that Wallinggara Aerodrome near Gambia frontier being cleared. Unidentified aircraft over Freetown 27/9, engaged by naval A/A. Unconfirmed report that Europeans and natives are being called up at Libreville. (G.O.C., W. Africa, 0210/29).

Cameroons.
Attitude to
Vichy Ships
& Submarines.

Your 1030/29: (a) I agree. Vichy French warships if met at sea should be prevented from going to any French West African port, following similar procedure to that directed in my 2117/15, being instructed to return to Casablanca or to Dakar, force being used if necessary. If French ships agree that they should be shadowed until further orders are received: (b) Submarines are to be treated as hostile and sunk at sight if approaching Cameroons River and inside Free French territorial waters. If met at sea they are to be treated as hostile unless on the surface and escorted, see second sentence of paragraph two of Admty. 2033/28/8. (C. in C., S.A., 1725N/29, to CORNWALL).

RICHELIEU.

Consul-General Tangier asked to report immediately any information he can get concerning possible presence of French Battleship RICHELIEU at Casablanca and also arrival and departure of other French men-of-war. (F.O.C.N.A. 1032/29 to Force H.)

ARK ROYAL
AUSTRALIA
ARGUS.

Admty. 2256/26. ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA sailed Freetown 0615/30. Route. Thence to R.V. with ARGUS and A/S screen (date). Onward route as in C. in C. W.A. 2007/25. (C. in C., S.A., 1047N/29).

Your 1047. ARK ROYAL is to carry out an air reconnaissance of Dakar to establish whether RICHELIEU in particular has sailed. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 0011/30).

Admty. 2256/26. ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA are being sailed for U.K. 0600/30 on assumption not required for any further operation with Force M although no decision on further operation or movement of De Gaulle Force yet received. (C. in C., S.A., 1413N/29).

Takoradi.

Do not consider secrecy will be prejudiced and recommend entire force sent to Takoradi. Freetown repeat Maj. Gen. Irwin. (C. in C., West Africa, Accra, to W.O., 1130/29).

Casablanca,
Patrol Area.

In view of recent attacks by French Fighters involving the loss of one London aircraft close observation of Casablanca impracticable. If patrol is discovered off Casablanca it will most probably be driven off. Intend therefore to maintain patrol during daylight hours from 1330/29 over area enclosed by



War Diary.

29.9.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Casablanca,
Patrol Area.
(contd.)

lines joining following positions:
X, 035°20'N, 008°50'W. Y, 034°10'N,
007°42' W. Z, 033°40'N. 008°48'W.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1202/29, to Force H).

Force H.
Shadowed by
Aircraft.

Am shadowed by one French aircraft. My
position course and speed, 35°44'N, 07°18'W,
260°, 18 knots. (S.O., Force H, 1326/29).

TOUAREG.

French ship TOUAREG left Pointe Noire on
31/8 with deported minor Vichy officials,
De Larminat asking that she be allowed free
passage to Dakar but no guarantee given.
She arrived Duala on 12/9 where a further
number of senior pro-Vichy officials
deportees were embarked. She was inter-
cepted at sea by DELHI on 16/9 and sent into
Takoradi, where in view of pending operations
against Dakar she was detained at my request.
General De Gaulle on being consulted asked
that she should be detained until operations
at Dakar were over. Ship has on board
general cargo for Dakar including con-
siderable amount of timber. Evacuees
consist of 114 men, 24 women and 17 children.
General De Gaulle now asks that crew and
deportees be evacuated over frontier of
French Ivory Coast and ship retained by him
for use of Free French. Propose this shall
be approved if Governor Gold Coast can
arrange for transfer of personnel.
(C.in C., S.A. 1427/29 to Admiralty).

De Gaulle
Plans.

From M.A. My 1133/26. De Gaulle interviewed.
Konakri project abandoned. He desires to go
to Duala now with his force and to have his
aircraft in operating condition in
Cameroons as soon as possible. Concur with
C.in C., S.A.'s last para. of 1831/28.
Feasibility of disembarkation and erection
of aircraft at Duala being urgently
examined together with relative advantage
of Takoradi.
Escort required for De Gaulle's force will
materially affect naval force available
for transporting and disembarkation.
(F.O., Force M, 1646/29)
Last paragraph of your 1646/29 regarding
escort required for De Gaulle's force
requires amplification. (1 S.L. 2236/29 to
Force M).

French
Movements.

Gibraltar 29/9, 1620. French armed trawlers
IERGENT, GOUARNE, escorting French SAREL
and S. JOSE eastward through Straits.
1750. SAREL, GOUARNE returning westward.
(S.O.(I), Gibraltar 1755/29).



War Diary.

29.9.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French (contd.)

- Dakar. F.O.C.N.A.1822/28. Vessels mentioned were identified by photographic reconnaissance at 1045/26 as being still at Dakar. (F.O.,Force M, 1807/29).
- Casablanca. 2 afternoon reconnaissances negative. Bad weather. 2 destroyers or sloops approaching Casablanca from north 1705, possibly those mentioned in S.O.,Force H, 0740/29).
- Aircraft Patrols off Casablanca. In view of Admiralty 1910/29, aircraft patrols referred to in my 1202/29/9 have been cancelled. (F.O.C.N.A.2225/29).
- Army Troops & Stores. From Irwin to General, Sierra Leone. Request liner with 8 A. and S.H. may also contain ancillary troops originally allocated objective A.3 complete with stores, etc. (O.C.Troops, Sierra Leone, to W.O. 1245/29).
- Damage to H.M.Ships. During operations at Dakar - BARHAM, AUSTRALIA, DRAGON, INGLEFIELD, FORESIGHT. (S.O.,Force M, 2137N/29).
- Air Reconnaissance. Your 0635/29. (a) Air reconnaissance extending fifty miles West South West of Finisterre is being arranged for p.m.to-day Sunday. (b) Your para.2. It was intended that RENOWN and destroyers would patrol to the westward of Gibraltar roughly between 10°W. and 15°W. (c) In view of Admty.1633/29 and 1835/29 search for RICHELIEU is to be abandoned and RENOWN is to proceed to vicinity of Azores Islands in case vessels mentioned are proceeding to capture those islands. Further signal as to probable landing places in Azores follows. (d) No submarines have been reported in Azores area since 14/9 but it is probable that there is one to eastward of Azores. (e) Report your views as to practicability of oiling destroyers at sea and period for which patrol could be maintained. No political objection to ships being sighted occasionally in Azores. (1 S.L., 1910/29 to Force H.) My 1910/29. If RICHELIEU is met on passage to the Azores she should be shadowed. (V.C.N.S.2340/29).
- RICHELIEU. Search to be Abandoned. RENOWN to proceed to Azores.
- De Gaulle. Information now received indicates De Gaulle has given up his project for landing at Konakri and is prepared proceed Duala assert his authority there whence he will take Gabon and Libreville. Future movements of De Gaulle under discussion by Cabinet tomorrow. Will keep you informed. (W.O.2030/29 to G.O.C.,W.Africa).



29.9.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DALEBY.

My 1035/25. DALEBY overdue, not arrived Durban 28/9. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 1105B/29)

Mediterranean.

Operation B.S.

My 1901/24. Amending route. (Capt.S.I. 1703/29).

RORQUAL

Route. (Capt.S.I., 0121/29). To patrol off Benghazi. (C.in C.Med.2202/29)

TRIAD,
PERSEUS

To arrive Malta(date). (N.O.I.C.Malta, 1051/29)

German Policy.

Danube and Balkans. (N.A.Belgrade 1825/29)

Dodecanese,
Shipping.

Your 1333/27, refusal to give ships clearance calling at Dodecanese, has crossed Asfar No. 79 which gives the policy decided on. (D.E.W.D. to C.in C.Med., 1410/29)

WATERHEN

With Convoy LW 17 from Alexandria. (C.in C. Med.2202/29).

RAMILLIES

Exercises with destroyers night of 30-31/9 ^{? 29/30} postponed. (C.in C.Med., 2202/29)

Air
Reconnaissance.

Malta Air Report from 1800/28 to 1800/29. All times local. Result of photographic R.C. of Taranto harbour:- Outer harbour 2 battle-ships, 3 8-inch cruisers, 2 6-inch cruisers, 8 destroyers, one floating dock. No ships at steam up. Inner harbour 5 6-inch cruisers, 21 destroyers, 3 leaders, 4 or 5 small war vessels possibly M.T.B's. Approximately 50 flying boats or floatplanes. 1 inaccurate shot by A.A. 1 old destroyer seen near South Sicily, one destroyer, 5 large and 2 small merchant vessels seen entering Gallipoli. 29/9. 4 aircraft repeated R.C. covering same area as mentioned in my report of 28/9(T.O.O. 1638/28) for enemy surface forces or convoys; nothing to report. No air enemy activity over Malta today. (A.H.Q.Med., 1720/29).

by STUART

S/M GONDAR.

Attacked from 2215/29/ and sunk.

Haifa Raid.

1124 hours. 10 unidentified enemy aircraft attacked Haifa from 1900 feet. Estimated 80 bombs dropped of which 46 fell on waste ground and cemetery damaging water tank and telephone wires while several fell in sea. Power lines supplying 236 T.R.U. damaged. Casualties 10 civilians slightly injured. A.A. fire from ships and land batteries. No hits. Fighters, No.1 French Fighter Flight unserviceable, did not take off. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E.1057/30)



MOST SECRET 744

29.9.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

A.P.3.

Request intentions for escorting A.P.3 through Red Sea and onward passage of CLAN CAMPBELL from Durban. Early arrival no less important than that of A.P.1 and A.P.2. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.E.I., 0023/29).

CARTHAGE to escort from Durban to about longitude of Aden, where Red Sea Escort will take over. Route. (C.in C.E.I. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0812Z/29)

U.S.5.

Admty 1734/19. As escort for US 5 A direct from Colombo to Aden is not available intend that convoy shall proceed Bombay to join BN 8 (date). Escort will be provided from vicinity of Colombo to Bombay by CALEDON, CANBERRA on relief proceeding Colombo in readiness US 6. Request time and place of rendezvous for CALEDON with US 5. (C.in C.E.I., 0814/29 to A.C.N.B.)

COVENTRY

Cancel my 1228/8 (COVENTRY attached to Red Sea Force). (C.in C., E.I., 0800Z/29)

China.

SWARTENHONDT

Dutch. My 0223/27. Speed 11 knots, speed of return K.17, 10 knots. (C.in C.China, 0259Z/29)

D.F.

Admty 2020/26. Observations on this fix. Possible transmission was from WESER at time intercepted by PRINCE ROBERT. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 1500Z/29).

America and West Indies.

2nd Town
Flotilla.

Left 29/9. KALK, MADDOX, FOOTE, HOPEWELL, ABBOTT, THOMAS, COWELL and DORAN. (S.O.(I) Halifax 1815/29). Route (F.O.3 B.S.1449/29).

British names: HAMILTON, GEORGETOWN, ROXBOROUGH, BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST. ALBANS, BRIGHTON, and ST. MARYS.

29.9.40.
SUNDAY.



War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

REGENSBURG. Left Yokohama p.m./27 in great hurry, leaving bills unsigned. Only fresh vegetables etc., sufficient for 4 or 5 days on board. (Capt.O.S., Singapore, 02362/29, 1151/29). /2

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN. At Las Palmas, has rigged a crow's nest on foremast. (S.O.(I), Gib., 1034/29)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

<u>GOBEO</u>	Arrived 29/9.	(Barna, 1125/29)		
<u>FRANCA FASSIO</u>	Left 28/9 for Genoa.	(Barna 1125/29)		
<u>CIUDAD DE VALENCIA</u>	Left 28/9 for Las Palmas	(Barna, 1125/29)		
<u>DIANA</u>	Arrived Fiume 20/9.	Left Fiume 27/9.	(Susak 2000/29)	
<u>FANNY BRUNNER</u>	" " 23/9	" " 28/9.	(Susak 2000/29)	
<u>CAPACITAS</u>	" " 26/9	Susak 2000/29)		
<u>ALBANO</u>	" " 26/9	" "		
<u>TAMPICO</u>	" " 26/9	" "		
<u>CAGLIARI</u>	Left Fiume 21/9	" "		
<u>IRIS</u>	" " 26/9	" "		
<u>NICOLO ODERO</u>	(Captured by French on Italy entering the war, now apparently released to her owners). Left Fiume 27/9. (Susak, 2000/29)			



29. 9. 1940.

Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ASHANTIAN
(torpedoed 26/9)

GLOXINIA to escort in company with WOLVES to Belfast, keeping good lookout for STRATFORD. 9C.in C.W.A., 0039/29). T ug SEAMAN to assist SUPERMAN towing ASHANTIAN, position 55°08'N, 08°34'W at 1200/29, bound for Clyde. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1000/29). WOLVES arrived with 15 survivors 2132. (F.O.I.C.Belfast 2211/29)

INVERSHANNON
(torpedoed 20/9)

15 survivors landed Belfast today. Vessel torpedoed at 2340/20. S/M proceeded alongside at 0500/21 and placed 2 time bombs on board which exploded at 1000/21. 2 lifeboats containing 33 of crew, last seen at dark 22/9, still adrift. (F.O.I.C., Belfast, 1300/29).

Submarines
Reported.

0554

Sighted by JULIANA 56°03'N, 2°15'W. (Lyness 0456/29 (?GMT), Wick Radio 0657/29)

1242

U-Boat sighted 46°38'N, 10°W, course E, 8 knots. (F.O.(S), 1329/29)

1952

S/M appears to be shadowing you. (C.in C. W.A., to WELLINGTON for Commodore, 2027/29). Position of U/B at 1952, 54°40'N, 13°00'W. (C.in C.W.A., to WELLINGTON, 2040/29).

1019

D.F. of U/B at 1019/29, 40 miles west of Lorient probably homeward bound. (F.O.(S), 1126/29).

0830

S/M reported on surface by A/C, 55°08'N, 09°48'W. (C.in C.W.A.0917/29). My 0917. Amended position from A/C, 55°58'N, 09°30'W. (C.in C.W.A., 1143/29)

0820

S/M surfaced heading 270 then submerged, 58°27'N, 2°40'W., 0820, escort investigating. (A/C 612 Sqdn., 0935/29).

9322

About 57°N, 15° to 19°W, position indefinite. (D.S.391)


1245

Reported by civil A/C. 52°57'N, 4°48'W. (B.4) (D.S.391)

Estimated U/B
Dispositions.

Italian - 1 in 35° 55'N. 8°15'W. at 1050/28.
German - 1 approaching Lorient. 1 was in 54°55'N 22°06'W. at 1521/28. 1 was in about 58°N 20°W. at 0038/29. 3 or 4 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 was in 55°08'N. 9°48'W at 0830/29. 1 may have been about 250'W of Bloody Foreland at 1317/28 whereabouts of others unknown. 1 in Moray Firth. (D.D.I.C.1328/29)

29.9.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

0822	By A/C, 56°08'N, 9°40'W, 4 bombs 250-lbs./dropped, no hits, salvo 30 yds. abeam, damage unknown. U-boat crash diving. (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth, no T.O.O./29)
1215	By A/C, 58°37'N, 16°53'W. 1 D/C dropped on suspected U/B. Nil result. (H.Q.C.C. 2359/29).
1340	By A/S Trawler LADY LILIAN. 54°45'N, 11°08'W., attacked contact (B.1) (D.S.391)

Secret30.9.40
MondaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsDestroyer
re-inforcement
of Western
Approaches.

Further reinforcements of destroyers are to be sent to the Western Approaches Command as it is apparent that of the 12 large German destroyers remaining, not more than 5 or 6 are East of Calais, the remainder being in the French Atlantic ports.

Three destroyers of the 5th D.F. are to be sailed from Rosyth to Plymouth and a fourth is to follow when ready for service. Three B class destroyers from the 1st D.F. at Portsmouth are to join C.in C. Home Fleet. INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE sailed from Sheerness today for Humber to replace KELVIN, JAVELIN and JAGUAR who left the Humber at 0800 to-day and are being transferred temporarily to the Western Approaches Command: KIPLING is to join W.A. later when slight collision damage has been made good. MACKAY and WITCH left Portsmouth 1912/30 to join the Nore Command at Sheerness, carrying out a patrol on the way with BULLDOG and SARDONYX.

Operation M.W.C.

EREBUS last night bombarded Calais, accompanied by GARTH and VESPER. Air spotting was unsatisfactory and the operation was terminated after 17 rounds had been fired, only 3 of which were observed. EREBUS was fired at by a German coast battery when returning round South Goodwin Lt. V., but no ships were hit.

Dover shelled.

Dover was shelled from batteries at Wissant this morning. There were no Naval casualties.

British Air Activity

The greater part of Bomber Command effort last night was directed against military targets in Germany. Only 20 aircraft were ordered to bomb invasion ports. 6 Blenheims, detailed to attack shipping at Lorient obtained direct hits on the target area.

Secret30.9.40
MondaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity

Warehouses were set on fire at the docks in Liverpool last night.

MALLARD was hit and seriously damaged in the Thames Approaches this morning. S.S. BARON VERNON was bombed this morning in the Atlantic about 300 miles West of Ireland.

5/ S.S. SUSSEX was bombed and machine-gunned at 07¹⁵ today in the Atlantic about 250 miles West of Ireland. Her fires are under control but her navigational instruments are unreliable. She is proceeding at 6 knots. Convoy SL.47~~X~~ was bombed off Buchan-ness this evening. S.S. EMPIRE SUCCESS was damaged and entered Aberdeen.

VERNON'S workshop was damaged at Horsea Island in a raid this evening.

Fishing trawler NANIWA was unsuccessfully attacked this evening in the Bristol Channel.

Mining

Two out of 5 Beauforts detailed to lay mines in the Jade and Weser completed their task. Two further Beauforts laid mines at Lorient.

Enemy seaplanes, presumed to be minelaying with fighters in attendance were active this morning 20 to 25 miles eastward of Beachy Head.

Secret30.9.40
MondaySITUATION REPORTOperations against Vichy French

ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA left Freetown 0615 today for the U.K. ARK ROYAL has been ordered to carry out a reconnaissance of Dakar.

RESOLUTION was transferred to the administration of C. in C., South Atlantic as from today.

MediterraneanItalian battle fleet at sea.

An Italian battle fleet was reported at sea at 0950 GMT today, some 150 miles E. by S. of the Straits of Messina, steering 340° at 15 knots. At 1130 a fleet of 4 or 5 battleships and 11 cruisers, with many destroyers was located 110 miles N.N.W. of the C. in C. Mediterranean's force, steering for Taranto at 22 knots. The enemy were too far off to be intercepted. At 1337 GMT a force of 2 battleships, 3 cruisers and a large number of destroyers was reported about 70 miles to the northward of the force reported at 0950 GMT, steering 235° at 20 knots.

Italian S/M sunk

STUART last night attacked an Italian submarine, believed to be ~~of the GONDAR class~~ off the coast of Egypt. The damage sustained forced the submarine to the surface where it was bombed by a flying boat. The crew abandoned the submarine, which sank.

Air raid on Tobruk

Six Blenheims to-day attacked Tobruk harbour. Large fires were started. One ship believed hit. See P.P. 743 7763

East Indies.

Bombs were dropped to-day on the jetty and military quarters at Berbera.

One S 79 attacked Aden to-day, causing no damage or casualties.



War Diary

30.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

→ "Deluge"
~~DELUGE~~ Signals

(D.C. 0201/30) (D.C. 1406/30)

CARDIFF

Intend to carry out boiler cleaning. She will be at 4 hours notice for 22 knots. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1543/30 to Adty.)

Portland Dockyard

Defence of Dockyard puts unfair strain on Naval personnel, resources, and training classes, and surely should be an Army commitment. Request take matter up urgently with War Office. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1607/30 to Adty.)

→ Readiness

"Volcano" "Deluge"
~~VOLCANO~~ and ~~DELUGE~~ signals indicate possibility of attack. C's in C. should adjust degrees of readiness of their forces so that rest and recreation are possible for all concerned. (V.C.N.S. 1723/30)

→ "Volcano"
~~VOLCANO~~
Signals

In view of possible use by Enemy of large scale smoke screens to cover a combined invading Operation, a special forecast will be issued at 1000 and 1800 B.S.T. every day of the suitability or otherwise of meteorological conditions for such an operation. Particulars of Code to be used. (D. O.D., 1724/30)

Policy

NERISSA

Approved to be turned over to be manned by Polish Navy and incorporated in Polish Naval Detachment. (Head of M., 1652/30 to C. in C., .W.A.)

Destroyer Refits

Desirable that the normal refit programme should commence again at an early date unless it can be assumed either (a) That invasion is coming within next 10 days or that invasion threat will not be with us indefinitely for months. (C. in C., Nore, 1944/30)

Redistribution of Destroyers

It is apparent that of the twelve large German Destroyers remaining, not more than five or six are East of Calais, the remainder being in the French Atlantic ports:-
2. Three destroyers of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla are to be sailed to reinforce C. in C., W.A. now and JERSEY is to follow when ready for service.



MOST SECRET 752

War Diary

30.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Redistribution
of Destroyers-
Contd.

3. Three B class destroyers from 1st Destroyer Flotilla are to join C. in C., Home Fleet.
4. The above redistribution is to take place as soon as possible. Captain D. 5. is to join his flotilla at Plymouth.
- (1st S.L. 2335/30 to C's in C.)

Movements

REPULSE

Adty's 1328/29 reporting U-Boat in Moray Firth and A.C.O.S. 1531/29 and C. in C., Rosyth 1924/29, intend to avoid normal Route during dark hours and pass through following positions. Request Fighter protection from 0630 when expect to be off Buchan Ness. (REPULSE 0001/30 to C. in C., Rosyth)

JAVELIN)
KELVIN)
JAGUAR)

Departed Humber 0800/30, expect arrive South Goodwin L.V. 1930/30, and at 50° 5' N 4° 10' 40" W., at 0700/1. (F.O.Humber 0825/30 to Adty.)

PICOTEE

Sailed 0827. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0827/30)

6 M.V's

Detail 20th Group A/S Trawlers to escort, Dartmouth to Portland tonight. Escort to return night of 1/2. (C. in C., W.A., 1101/30) to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

Dover

Patrols for night 30/1. (V.A.Dover 1122/30)

DESPATCH

To be at disposal of C. in C., W.A. until defects of NEWCASTLE made good. (V.C.N.S. 1340/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

ADVENTURE

Intend to sail 0700/1 for Scapa. (C. in C., W.A. 1445/30 and 2215/30)

Humber Area

Movements for night 30/1. (N.O.I.C. 1450/30)

Portsmouth

Movements for night 30/1. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1513/30)

Orkneys

Movements for night 30/1, (A.C.O.S. 1531/30) Trawler Lines for night 30/1 (A.C.O.S. 1536/30)



War Diary

30.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Suspicious
Vessel off
Faroe Islands

Endeavour to intercept Suspicious Vessel reported by NORTHERN ISLES at 2115/29 in 62° 2' N., 10° 42' W., steering 260° at more than 11 knots. (F.O.C.N.P. 0015/30 to LAURENTIC) My 2244/29. Resume Patrol (F.O.C.N.P. 1222/30 to LAURENTIC)

Dover
Shelled

About 17 shells from Wissant fell in Dover Area between 1125 and 1150 to-day. 6 fell in Harbour, 5 in town, and 6 in sea. Civilian casualties 1 killed, 7 injured, No Naval casualties reported. (V.A.Dover, 1401/30 to Adty.)

EREBUS
(Operation M.W.C)

Times and positions for construction of Track chart of your movements to be signalled to Adty. as soon as possible. (C. in C., Nore 1229/30 to EREBUS) Time and positions from leaving Sheerness 1700/29 by Mouse Light Vessel, South Edinburgh Channel, and Castletown Light Vessel to return Sheerness at 0915/30. At 2 A Buoy from 0045 to 0210/30. (EREBUS 1440/30 to Adty.) EREBUS in position at 0130, but delayed opening fire till 0145 waiting for spotting aircraft. Spotting unsatisfactory and operation terminated after 17 rounds fired, of which only 3 observed all in Target area. Enemy coast battery fired about 8 rounds at EREBUS while returning off South Goodwin Light Vessel. No hits or damage to EREBUS or destroyers. (V.A.Dover 1831/30 to Adty.)

Patrol T

Tonight to proceed along 52° 10' N., till n near Dutch coast, then sweep North Eastwards to latitude of Ijmuiden, thence return by Gap E. crossing 2° 30' E., not later than 0545/1 (C. in C., Nore, 1248/30 to D. 16)

Patrol J.C. East

4 Destroyers leave Gate 1900/30 and proceed by QZS 111 and Eastern Swept Channel 2 will be in 50° 35' N., 0° 27' W., at daylight 1/10 and proceed to Portsmouth; 2 at South Goodwin Light Vessel at dawn 1/10 and proceed to Sheerness. Request Cover. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1501/30 to H.Q.F.C.) Intend sail MACKAY and WITCH with BULLDOG and SARDONYX at 1900/30 for Patrol J.C. East, Ea steward to Lydd Light Vessel and Southward to 50° 5' N., MACKAY and WITCH to arrive South Goodwin Light Vessel at Dawn and thence to Sheerness with despatch. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1547/30 and 2210/30 to Adty.)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

30.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Enemy Destroyers
off Manacles
SAPHO considered
Lost

Return to Plymouth on completion of operation (C. in C., W.A. 0153/30 to EMERALD, BROKE, BLYSCAWICA, GARLAND, and VELOX) Since flashes and loud explosions reported at 2033/29 no contact has been made with SAPHO. Further search being made by motor boat, but fear she must be considered lost. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1004/30 to Adty.) DESPATCH proceed West of Scilly Islands to Plymouth arriving outer end of Q.Z.S. 100 at 0730/1. EMERALD and Destroyers between Lizard and Brest are due Plymouth 0800/1. 3 M.A/S.B's patrolling Dodman to Pencarrow Point. Object for you and EMERALD's Force is to destroy any enemy force including M/V's (C. in C., W.A., 1653/30 to EMERALD)

IRELAND.—To the undying memory of COMMANDER
WILFRID IRELAND and of the Ship's Company of H.M.S.
Sappho, who on St. Michael's Day, 1940 "loved not
their lives unto the death."
So great a cloud of witnesses...
"Resurgent..." 29.9.49

Operation off
Stadlandet

From position North of Fidra ZULU and ELECTRA are to be sent into Harbour at high speed as anti-mine precaution, and DUNCAN to be detached to augment Escort of O.A. 222. (C. in C., H.F. 0935/30 to REPULSE)

Brown Ridge
Patrol

Will sweep towards Ymuiden to-night (V.A.S. 1534/30 to S/M H. 49)

Submarines

UPRIGHT

Expect arrive Needles 0900. (UPRIGHT 0757/30 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

SUNFISH

Passes May Island 2000/30 whence, diving by day, to patrol near 58° 10' N., 4° 40' E., Route. (Capt S. 3. 1401/30 to STURGEON)

TAKU

Requires re-wiping at first convenient opportunity. (D.G.R.O. Clyde, 1445/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

TUNA)
TRIBUNE)

Request be sent to Milford Haven on return from Patrol, and not to Falmouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1719/30 to V.A.S.)

TUNA

Report of A/S Trawlers sighted p.m./23rd and possible E-Boat dawn/25th. at position in my 2130/23. Arriving 1000/1 (TUNA 2114/30 to V.A.S)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/1. (V.A.S. 1812/30)



War Diary

30/9/1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Air
Reconnaissance

15 group undertake R.C. at dusk of area bounded by Scillies-Start-Guernsey-Iles-Ushant to find and report probable enemy destroyers of E-Boats (H.Q.C.C. 1445/30)

Ford

R.N. Station Ford transferred today to R.A.F. Commands. (Ford 1930/30)

Enemy Air Activity

MALLARD
PINTAIL

Bombed in approx. position 53 buoy at 0705 MALLARD hit (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0738/30) Condition MALLARD serious. Request fighter escort. Enemy aircraft reported maintaining contact. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0803/30) Proceed to Sheerness with MALLARD taking your orders from C. in C., Nore on arrival. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1217/30 to PINTAIL) Tug KENIA sailed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1707/30)

SS BARON VERNON

Bombed in 52° 51' ' N., 18° 13' W (Valentia Radio 0821/30)

SS SUSSEX

Bombed and machine gunned by 4 ^{-engined} enemy aircraft 53° 0' N., 17° 48' W 0755. All fires now under control proceeding 066° 6 knots require escort. Minor casualties (SUSSEX 1005/30) SUSSEX 053° 25' 16° 19' navigational instruments unreliable (FO.I.C. Greenock 1218/30) Amended noon position 54° 20' 15° 32' approx. Course and speed 076° 16 knots other vessels near at time of bombing may have been attacked (G.U.C.M. (ship unknown) 1347/30) Endeavour to intercept SUSSEX and escort to Clyde. (A.C.W.A. 1431/1 to SCIMITAR)

Deptford

Slight bomb damage night 28/9 to D.E.M.S. training Centre (O.I.C., Works, R.V.Y. Deptford 1655/30)

Convoy ^{"Lucca"} LUGCA
S.L. 47

Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy ^{"Lucca"} ~~LUGCA~~
57° 24' N., 1° 35' W., (CURACOA 2015/30)

Portsmouth

Damage at Horsea Island at 2115 (C. in C., Portsmouth 2255/30)

MOST SECRETWar Diary30.9.1940
MondayHOME COMMANDSMiningUnexplained
Explosion

My 1413/29. (See Operations) WOLVERINE reports an explosion was heard close to ship at 2030/29 in 50° 31' N., 0° 35' W., Nothing seen. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1307/30)

Portsmouth

Port of Portsmouth Eastern Entrance is open to all ships (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1604/30)

Acoustic
Mines

Precaution to be taken with main units of Fleet (C. in C., H.F., 1737/30)

2 M/S Trawlers
"Gamma".

Requesting fighter protection (C. in C., W.A. 1747/30)

Anti-Mine
Precautions

As an anti-mine precaution when main units of the Fleet accompanied by destroyers are approaching or leaving port in water under 20 fathoms, some destroyers should precede the main units at high speed in line ahead 3 cables apart from or to the position where the A/S screen becomes necessary. (C. in C., H.F., 1737/30 to H.F)

A/C mining
off Beachy Head

Following from Beachy Head. Enemy sea planes with fighters in attendance active between bearings 140° and 200° Beachy Head 20 to 25 miles approx. Presumed to be mine laying. Height of planes above surface of sea 50 to 200 feet visibility 30 miles. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1155/30)

Following received from Beachy Head:-
1 seaplane accompanied by 2 Messerschmidt fighters observed operating between 140° and 180° Beachy Head 20 miles. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1649/30)

Scottish
Coastal Command

It is intended that eventually the coastal channel round Scotland shall be searched for mines by sweepers ahead of the convoys. C. in C., Rosyth arrange for ships of the 5th M/S F to practice this form of sweep with convoys between Rosyth and Pentland Firth. If 4 sweepers accompany a convoy, it seems probable that every other convoy could be swept. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2135/30)



MOST SECRET 757

War Diary

30.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

North Sea

At 1022 in 53° 45' N., 5° 40' E a convoy of 10 M/Vs of which 9 about 1000 tons, one about 4000 tons steering West at 8 to 10 knots. (Chatham 1315/30 and 1440/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

At 1037 in 53° 40' N., 5° 35' W., a convoy of 6 M/V's of which 4 about 2000 tons and 2 about 1000 tons, steering West at 8-10 knots. A/C report. (Chatham 1315/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

Off Havre

Aircraft reports 2 M/v's about 3000 tons and 4 small destroyers at 1455/30 in 49° 30' N., 0° 42' W., steering S.E. (D.D.I.C. 1646/30)

North Atlantic

Suspicious large M/V steering about 340° bearing 341° 16 miles from my position 46° 19' N., 21° 21' W. My speed 8 knots due to temporary engine failure. (CHESHIRE 1739/30 to C. in C., W.A.) (C. in C., W.A. 2307/30 to ships, Area B.)

Ships sighted on 4/9 by TRIDENT and on 9/9 by TALISMAN

V.A.S. 1857/15/9. Can it be established whether these ships were friendly or otherwise, and where they were going. (C. in C., H.F. 1754/30 to Adty.)

Enemy Agents at Port Gordon

My 1250/30 and 1507/30. Arrest this morning at Port Gordon Railway Station of one Danish man and one Belgian woman who stated they landed early this morning on beach west of Port Gordon. They had £300 or £400 English money a portable transmitting W/T set and revolver in their possession. Recovered off Buckie at 1230 deflated rubber boat evidently German make. Found a cylinder and deflating gear on beach a little west of Port Gordon also a pair of boots marked 'Oslo' Evidence of enemy agents landing ex a submarine seems convincing. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1552/30 to Adty.)

30.9.40.
Monday.



War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

HALCYON

Salvage M/S Sloop. Stern sunk while entering Dry-dock at Southbank. Now floated and safely dry-docked. (Smith, West Hartlepool 1732/30 to Adty).

KIPLING

In collision with one ship, believed QUEEN MAUD, of Convoy FN.92 at 0301/30 in 56°5'15"N, 2°36'52" W. Slight damage being temporarily repaired at Humber and should be ready sail at 0730/2 for Plymouth. Permanent repairs would take 5 days. Damage to M/V thought likely to be slight. (Capt.D.5 1840/30 to C.in C.Nore)



MOST SECRET

759

War Diary

30.9.1940

Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

F.N. & F.S.

Additional escorts for 95 to 101 and 102.
(C. in C., Rosyth 0955/30)

O.B. 220

To alter course at 1600/30 (C. in C., W.A. 1240/30) WELLINGTON to remain with (C. in C., W.A. 1600/30)

W.S. 3

VIMY arriving Liverpool with EMPIRE TROOPER also VERSATILE due Clyde 2/10 with ULSTER MONARCH can be used to augment escort of W.S. 3. though submarine danger area if you so desire. (C. in C., H.F., to C. in C., W.A., 0937/30)

S.L. 47

Arrived with SHIKARI (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1034/30)

S.L.A. 47

Time of arrival (WESTON, 0910/30)

H.G. 44.

LADY LILIAN to meet if not in contact. (C. in C., W.A. 1040/30)

O.A. 221

Route (C. in C., W.A. to JASON 1140/30)

8 M/Vs

From Needles for Dartmouth. Escort (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1553/30)

"Rusty"

Convoy "Rusty" position and speed. (VISALMA to A.C.O.S. 2010/30)

O.A. 222

PRIMULA rejoining (C. in C., Rosyth 2020/30) CURACOA leaves on meeting W.N. 19 (R.A.D. HF 2225/30)

H.X. 74 A

CURACOA to meet (R.A.D. H.F. 2225/30)

W.N. 19

~~AMLNBANK~~ to meet (R.A.D. H.F. 2227/30)

O.A. 223

~~AMLNBANK~~ to cover to Pentland Firth (R.A.D. H.F. 2227/30)

O.A. 220

Route (C. in C., W.A. 1120/30) Clyde portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1130/30)

S.C. 5

Escorts to meet, position (C. in C., W.A. 1120/30, 1030/30) Route (C. in C., W.A. 1020/30)

SVEADROTT

Re Swedish application to sail U.S.A. and return. (N.A., Stockholm, 2041/30)

30.9.1940.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations against Vichy French.ARK ROYAL
AUSTRALIA

Your 1047/29. ARK ROYAL is to carry out an air reconnaissance of Dakar as early as possible to establish whether RICHELIEU in particular has sailed. (D.O.D.(F) 0011/30, to C.in C.S.A.)

Act in accordance with Admiralty 0011/30, proceeding afterwards to arrive at R.V. w with my 1047/29 and 7057/29. (C.in C., S.A., to ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA, 0033/30). Departure 0615/30 ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA for U.K. with FORTUNE, FORESTER and GREYHOUND as destroyer escort until detached. (C.in C., S.W., 0807N/30).

Fort Lamy.

Liaison Officer reports that apart from Col. Marchand morale of officers and troops at Fort Lamy is high and staunch supporters of Free French Movement. (C.in C. M.E., 0121/30 to W.O.)

French A/C.

2 unidentified bomber aircraft flew over Freetown 28/9. Engaged by H.M.ships and A/A defences. (G.O.C., W.Africa, to W.O., 0805/30).

"Alloy" and
"Shrapnel".

Following from G.O.C., Force A. Hoped to restow ships at Freetown for Alloy and Shrapnel by 4/10. Disposal of troops proposed as follows:- (details). If time justified troops of Shrapnel can be accommodated in Gold Coast vide Milwestafs G/1404 of 28/9. (O.C.Troops, Sierra Leone, 0808/30).

Your 2236/29. Escort for Duala force mentioned in (e) of Admty 2225/16 is considered minimum required and includes 1 battleship and 4 destroyers. Understand Alloy and Shrapnel combined also included 1 battleship and 10 destroyers. Only 1 battleship and 8 or 9 destroyers at present available in Force M. Therefore combined Alloy and Shrapnel must wait for completion of Duala or vice versa. (F.O., Force M, 1048N/30 to Admty).

Your 0051/29. Now agreed with G.O.C., Force A that ships can probably be restowed at Freetown for Alloy and Shrapnel by 4/10. Revised disposal of troops is proposed by G.O.C., Force A, in his No.2863/29/9 to Troopers. (C.in C., S.A., to Admty. 1147/30).

French Trawler.

Gibraltar 1615/30. French armed trawler.

30.9.1940.
Monday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

French Trawlers
(contd.)

ASPIRANT BRUN escorting CAP PINEDE, CAP FIGALO, CHATEAU PAVIA, passed E. to W. (S.O.(I), Gib. 1831/30).

Duala, Nigeria
Anchorage.

Free French Forces may be moving to Duala shortly though this should be kept secret. Requesting information re anchorage for heavy ships. (C.in C., S.A., 1407N/30 to Govr., Nigeria.)

My 1411/29. You should arrive off Base buoy by 1530/1 if tide is suitable. Also ordering her to obtain details of anchorage and facilities for disembarking troops. (C.in C.S.A., 2037/30 to CORNWALL).

French
Submarines.

My 1729/29. Should French submarine be met in company with surface warship, ship is to be informed that any attempt by submarine to dive will be treated as a hostile act and immediate retaliatory action will be taken against both ships. (C.in C.S.A., 2119/30 to CORNWALL).

De Gaulle
Escort.

Your 1048/30. When we know date on which De Gaulle's force ready to leave Freetown, details of escort can be settled. (1 S.L. to S.O., Force M, 2138/40).

North Atlantic.

Azores.

My 1910/29 para.(c). Most probable objectives of enemy attack and possible landing places on the islands (details). (D.O.D.(F) to E.O., Force H, 1901/30)

Portuguese
Ships.

Repeating N.A.Lisbon 1509/30, movements of Portuguese warships, to S.O., Force H. (F.O.C.N.A., 2316/30)

A/G Patrols.

Details of patrols 30/9. (F.O.C.N.A. to ships on patrol, Gibraltar Force, 2045/30)

Lisbon Evacuees.

Admty 0015/29 (sent by War Registry asking for number of British subjects referred to in 1538/28). At present 45. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1445/30).

QUANZA,
MADEIRENSE.

Portuguese. Questions re interception of, and Portuguese protest. (F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, 1604/30)

ARGUS.

Escorted by CILICIA. Route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1704/30)

Air Patrols,
Finisterre.

Your 2225/29. Patrols should be carried out on 30/9 and 1/10. (V.C.N.S., 1102/30 to F.O.C.N.A.). This is being arranged. (F.O.C.N.S. 1205/30).

FURIOUS.

To join Force H temporarily. (D.O.D.(F) 2344/30, see Mediterranean).

N.B. This was not carried out. Furious remained with H.F

7/10/46
 (From FURIOUS' dock log)

30.9.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic (contd.)Suspicious Vessel.

N.A.Madrid 1830/28. Suggesting might have been Yugoslav IVO MATKOVIC, stopped by H.M.S.SAYONARA, or Panama YOLLAND. (S.O.(I), Gib., 1602/30)

South Atlantic.KERTOSONO.

Letter interpreted by Censor shows KERTOSONO was captured by German Raider about noon 1/7 and sent with Prize crew into Lorient. Arrived 15/9. American missionary passengers were escorted to Spanish frontier by German naval officers. Ship was bound for Freetown from West Indies. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 1125/30)

ALCANTARA.

Orders for patrol off Brazil. (C.in C., S.A., 2313N/30).

A.P.3.

Composition. (C.in C., S.A., 1521N/30, 2213/30).

CUMBERLAND.

Your 1437/28. New switchboard not available for 2 to 3 months. CUMBERLAND meantime to work chiefly from Freetown on troop convoy escort duty. If feasible, to take over escort from SHEFFIELD of W.S.3 (slow). (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C., S.A., 2314/30).

RESOLUTION.

Transferred to administration of C.in C., S.A., from 30/9. (C.in C., S.A., 2147/30).

Mediterranean.Enemy Battle Fleet.

Large Italian forces 37.42 N, 18.00 E, course 360°, speed 15 knots at 0950 G.M.T. (V.A., Malta, 1203/30).

Position course and speed of enemy Battle Fleet, 37.42 N, 18.00 E, etc. at 0950 G.M.T. You have complete freedom of movement until REGENT enters her area 0001/1. (Capt.S.1. to RAINBOW, 1345/30).

My 1345. Corrected position, course and speed of enemy fleet at 0950 G.M.T. was 37.42 N, 18.24 E, 340°, 15 knots. (Capt. S.1. to RAINBOW and REGENT, 1521/30).

Enemy fleet of 4 or 5 battleships and 11 cruisers and many destroyers located N.N.W. 110 steaming for Taranto at 22 knots at 11.30. In view of enemy preponderance and impossibility of coming up with them, am pursuing the object given in my 1637/24. (C.in C., Med., to Admty. 1359/30). (in Med. Vol.) Position course and speed of enemy at 1337 G.M.T. 38.54 N, 18.06 E, 235°, 20 knots. Enemy consists of 2 battleships, 3 cruisers, large number of destroyers. (Capt.S.1 to RAINBOW and REGENT, 1755/30).

30.9.1940.
Monday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (contd.)

Italian Claim.

Rome broadcast in English claims that a British battleship was hit in the stern by an aircraft torpedo today. (C.O.I.S., Alexandria, 2251/30).

Italian S/M Sunk.

L. 2166

STUART obtained contact with S/M in 31.35 N, 28.48 E at 2215/29. Series of attacks during night. Damage forced S/M to surface, when she was bombed by flying-boat. Crew abandoned ship and S/M sank at 0925/30 in 31.30 N, 28.33 E. 47 survivors rescued, 2 missing believed killed. S/M believed to be Italian GONDAR, 11 days out from Spezia on reconnaissance patrol. (N.O.I.C., Alexandria, 1638/30).

FURIOUS.

Proposed should join Force H temporarily to be available for projected operation. Aircraft equipment. Intended she should sail with fast portion of W.S.3 Convoy (date) (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C., H.F., etc., 2344/30). (see p. 761. post)

Minesweepers.

Proposals for reinforcement of Mediterranean in convoy escorts, fast fleet sweepers, fleet minesweepers and LL minesweepers. (D.M.S. to C.in C. Med., 1232/1).

East Indies.

French Relations, Djibouti.

Re reply to be given to Governor, Djibouti. (S. of S. for Colonies to Govr., Aden, 0020/30).

Troop Transport.

My 1302/25. Re sailing KHEDIVE ISMAIL and ERINPURA with troops to Middle East and Mombasa. (P.S.T.O., Bombay, 1300Z/30).

Raiders.

It is considered that there have been 3 separate ships operating on E.I. Station.
(a) Raider that was operating 500 miles South of Ceylon mid July. She appears to have gone eastward Southabout (? Australia). No description but probably has laid mines.
(b) Raider operating to S. and E. of Madagascar from 27/8 to present time. It is believed that this one accounts for all ships recently lost and is possibly the one engaged by ALCANTARA. See my 0718/30/7. Carries aircraft.
(c) Probably left Red Sea 1/8 and appears not to have attacked merchant shipping but employs peculiar tactics such as "heading off". Object unknown but may be either (i) to give herself away to decoy naval force from Raider (b) or (ii) to act as depot ship for supplies and prisoners. It is believed (b) and (c) recently met in position 006°S 047°E. and "heading off" tactics may be for purpose of identifying (b). Sighted under 3 miles description

30.9.1940.
Monday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Raiders (contd.) is 5000 tons, like SONECK or SOPHIE RICKMERS but disguise undoubtedly used. (C.in C. E.I., 1440Z/30)

China.

Raider message. Cancel my 1500/29. Interception was effected before 0005/26. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 02112/30 to Admty). Your 1500/29. WESER was intercepted at 0605Z/26. Considered improbable that raider was elsewhere than to the southward of Madagascar. Detail of transmission not known in Admty. as transmission inaudible to U.K. stations. (D.D.I.C., 0924/30 to Capt.O.S., Singapore).

America and West Indies.

CARADOC. To use discretion as to how to patrol. To arrive St.Lucia a.m./2/10. (C.in C., A.W.I., 1001/30).

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.

Your 1321/22, Ministry of Shipping 0940/30. Provisionally sailed DUCHESS OF RICHMOND direct for Montreal. Request confirmation of destination. Would appreciate if action could be taken to prevent such discrepancies between information of D. of S.T. and Ministry of Shipping. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1417/30)



30.9.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ILONA SIEMERS

Left Stettin 19/9 for Norway, said to be with troops and military stores. (D.S.391)

JOHANN FAULBAUM

Damage reported in D.S.14/9 now known to have been a broken H.P. slide valve. Ship arranged for repair at Ventspils. (D.S.391).

SPEZIA

Left Alicante 25/9, arrived Valencia same day. (D.S.391).

ARAUCA

Following from New York. Anonymous information received that ARAUCA now at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was released from attachment today and may sail immediately. Cannot estimate reliability. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1947/30).
My 1947. Jacksonville reports settlement of claims against ARAUCA expected to be reached today. Sailing arrangements unknown. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2105/30)

30.9.40.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

INVERSHANNON
(torpedoed 20/9)

15 survivors landed Belfast 29/9. a boat with 17 is expected at Londonderry. Another boat with 16 missing. (D.S.391).

BLAIRANGUS
ELMBANK
(torpedoed 21/9)

Master and 27 from BLAIRANGUS, 17 Europeans and 38 Lascars from ELMBANK, and body of the Master, landed at St. John's, N.F., by British PIKEPOOL. (D.S.391)

ASHANTIAN
STRATFORD
torpedoed 26/9)

54 survivors are in GLOXINIA and 15 in trawler WOLVES (D.S.391). ASHANTIAN in tow of tugs arrived Kames Bay 1525/30. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1610/30)

FREDERICK S.FALES
(sunk 21/9)

Requesting confirmation and if any crew saved. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1624/30).

MABRITON
(torpedoed 24/9)

British, 6694 tons. Following received from ROCHESTER by H of 210 Squadron at 0600 position 5635N 14.12 W. Picked up 7 survivors first and third officers of British ship MABRITON, torpedoed 2345/24 36 hours after OA215 dispersed position not known. Survivors report second ship's boat 16 crew including a Master and Second Officer were last seen sailing east on 26/9. 12 of crew known to have been lost. (ROCHESTER, 1032/30).

CITY OF
MANCHESTER.
(escaped)

British 8917 tons. Attacked by S/M, torpedo missed, 54.28 N, 26.33 W. (Lyness W/T, 1438/30).

MONTE MONCAYO
(torpedoed 28/9)

Spanish, 4291 tons. Torpedoed 28/9, 8 miles off Cagliari by Italian S/M. 4 killed. H.M.Ambassador informed, suggests laconic statement of this loss and loss of CABO TORTOSA be made by B.B.C. (Madrid, 2012/30). 8 of crew reported killed. (D.S.392).

15.9.40

S/M's Reported.

0919	55°N, 23°W, position indefinite. (D.S.391)
0908	47°N, 6°W, position indefinite. (D.S.391)
1135	Periscope reported by Fort George in 57.36 N, 04.03 W. (F.O.I.C., Invergordon, 1250/30). C.3, VERSATILE and Anson A/C searching. (F.O.I.C., Invergordon, 1507/30).
1209	D.F., 57.30 N, 15°W, unreliable fix. (H.Q., 15 Group, 1315/30).
1440	53.10 N, 16.20 W, position indefinite. (D.S.392).

30.9.1940.
Monday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported. (contd.)

South Atlantic.

1025/29

Flying boat Cassiopeia reports at 0925 G.M.T./29 in position 24.30 N, 16.20 W, 2 S/M's in line astern on southerly course. (C.in C., S.A., 2113N/30) May be French. (D.S.392).

Estimated U/B Dispositions.

Italian. 1 between Gibraltar and Azores.
German. 1 approaching Lorient (a different U/B from the one in yesterday's estimate). 1 in about 55 degrees N. 23 degrees W. at 0919/30. 1 Probably between 57° and 59°N 15° and 18°W at 2322/29. 3 or possibly 4 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 was in about 54.40 N, 13°W at 1952/29 probably shadowing convoy O.B.220; 1 in 56 degrees 08'N 9 degrees 40'W at 0822/29; whereabouts of the others unknown. Possibly 1 in Moray Firth. (D.D.I.C. 1215/30).

S/M's Attacked.

Italian GONDAR

Sunk by STUART. (see Mediterranean Foreign Stations).



S U P P L E M E N T A R Y P A G E S



List of Docketed Papers
(War Diaries, Reports of Proceedings etc.,)
Dealing with Events of This Month



War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. for September 1940.

- D. of P. Proposed free bombing areas in English Channel and Bay of Biscay. (P.D. 09034/1940)
- F.O.I.C. Invergordon. War Diary, 1/9 - 14/9. Immobilisation schemes and invasion precautions. (T.S.D. 4666/40)
- C. in C. H.F. Operation D.N. Raids on enemy shipping on S.W. Norwegian Coast. Home Fleet charge document H.A.I., NELSON, 20/9/40. (M.018738/40)
- RANPURA. H.X.71. R. of P. 5/9 - 22/9.
- Pres., R.N.C.Greenwich Damage to R.N. Coll. by air raids during week ending 20/9/40. (M.019146/40)
- C. in C. H.F. Operation D.F. Attacks on enemy shipping off Norway 7/9. (M.019359/40)
- F.O.I.C.Tyne War Diary 1/9 - 14/9. Enemy Aircraft minelaying. (T.S.D. 5193/40)
- C. in C. Rosyth. Convoys F.S.74 and F.N.78. R. of P. from WALLACE 14/9. (M.018483/40)
- MANCHESTER War Diary 1 - 15 September 1940.
1/9 MANCHESTER (Flag), SOUTHAMPTON (R.A.18 C.S.) BIRMINGHAM, At Rosyth under operational orders of C. in C. Nore.
GLASGOW, Liverpool for damage repairs. NEWCASTLE Plymouth under orders of C. in C. W.A. EDINBURGH Tyne for repairs. FIJI (attacked) at sea as ocean escort for Convoy M.P.
- 4/9 MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, SOUTHAMPTON sailed for the Nore 1021, ordered 1755 to proceed to Humber. GLASGOW sailed from Liverpool for Scapa.
- 5/9 GALATEA (R.A.Cmdg.2 C.S), AURORA, CARDIFF left Immingham for Sheerness.
- 13/9 SHEFFIELD placed under command of C. in C.W.A. but administered by F.O.18 C.S. (T.S.D. 4446/40)
- R.A.15 C.S. War Diary 1 - 15 September 1940.
1/9 at Scapa, exercising.
- 6/9 to sea with NELSON, FURIOUS and 7 destroyers, to attack shipping off Norwegian coast. Returned 7/9.
- 13/9 sailed for Rosyth with NELSON, HOOD and 6 destroyers. Arrived 1900/13. (T.S.D. 5404/40)

War Diaries. R. of P. Summaries etc. for September 1940 Con.

N.O.I.C. Blyth. War Diary 1/9 - 14/9. Chiefly air raids and enemy minelaying. (T.S.D. 4343/40)

N.O.I.C. Aberdeen War Diary 1/9 - 14/9. Air attack on Convoy O.A.208, 2240/2 to 0130/3. (T.S.D. 4169/40)

TRIDENT. Patrol Report 25/8 - 6/9. (M.018255/40)

N.O.I.C. Peterhead War Diary 1/9 - 16/9. Air attacks on Convoys 2/9, 6/9. (T.S.D. 4890/40)

N.O.I.C. Tees - Hartlepool v War Diary 1/9 - 15/9. Air raids and enemy minelaying. (T.S.D. 5168/40)

N.O.I.C. Dundee. ✓ War Diary 16/9 - 30/9. Chiefly minesweeping. Inspection of crews of Dutch T.Bs, 25/9. (T.S.D. 4519/40)

R.A.18 C.S. War Diary 2/9 - 15/9. Left Rosyth 4/9 for Humber. At immediate notice during dark hours since 6/9. (Admty. 2225/6) (T.S.D. 4445/40)

N.O.I.C. Sunderland. ✓ War Diary 1/9 - 15/9. First "Flower" class corvette built Sunderland sailed 13/9. Air raid night of 5 - 6/9, railway station damaged, 1 A/C brought down by gunfire. (T.S.D. 5141/40)

R.A.C. 15 C.S. War Diary 16/9 - 30/9. Attempt to intercept enemy convoy reported by A/C 16/9, position subsequently found to be erroneous. Search for enemy vessels reported 60 miles west of Stavanger 1400/28. Force ordered back 1049/29. (T.S.D. 5405/40)

R.A.C. N.P. Report of Patrols of Northern and Western Patrols 1 - 15 Sept, 1940 "An uneventful period". (M.020293/40)

V.A.C.B.C.S. War Diary 1 - 15 Sept. 1940. 1 - 5 HOOD (Flag) REPULSE with Home Fleet at Scapa. RENOWN with Force H. Nothing other than already contained in Diary. (T.S.D. 4292/40)

21st D.F. Letter of P., 11/9 - 12/9 on Dutch Coasts off mouths of River Maas in accordance with C. in C. Nore's 1840/11. CAMPBELL, VESPER and GARTH. No ship sighted (M.018477/40)

AURANIA Convoy H.X.68, R. of P. 24/8 - 3/9. (M.019846/40)

AUSONIA Convoy B.H.X.73, R. of P. 12/9 - 17/9. (M.019886/40)

MONTCLARE Convoy H.X.74, R. of P., 17/9 - 28/9. (M.020358/40)

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War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. for September 1940 -Con

FIJI Torpedoing of while ocean escort of Convoy consisting of SOBIESKI, KENYA, ETRICK. Local escort WOLVERINE, VOLUNTEER, AMBUSCADE, ANTELOPE (WOLVERINE, R. of P. 22/8 - 4/9. M.018615/40.)

S/M attacked 2130 By DUNCAN 57.15 N., 1.48 W. Considered non-sub, but as convoy carried troops decided to drop one depth charge to keep a possible S/M submerged. (H.F. Destroyer Form P)

S/M attacked 0150 By TUNA 56.09 N., 02.15 E. One torpedo heard to explode, other 3 torpedoes at end of run. On surfacing at 0321, nothing in sight, but very strong smell of oil fuel. (V.A.S. 1846/5)

STURGEON. Attacked and sank one 10,000 ton northbound transport in entrance to Kattegat 2/9. Air patrol and infrequent surface patrol in this area. (STURGEON 2222/11)

DELFTDIJK Dutch 10,220 tons. Attacked 2230^{1/9} about 10 miles E. of Buchan Ness. Severe damage to hull, engines damaged by bombs. 1 man k. Arrived Aberdeen in tow of tug 3/9, left 4/9 in tow of tug for Leith. In Convoy. (Form Wr. 1)

M.V.CRISTO. (140 tons) Damaged by coping stones dislodged by bomb at Old Steel Wharf, Briton Ferry, 0200/2. (Form Wr. 1.)

CYMBELINE. Sunk by raider. Survivors arrived Covenas. (S.O.I. Kingston 0858/18) See 18/9

VILLE DE MONS ex "AMERICAN SHIPPER". Belgian, 7840 tons, torpedoed 1340/2 58.20 N., 13 W. Crew of 54. 1 died of exposure. Sunk. (W.R. 1940)

CLINTONIA escaped. At 4 p.m. ^{2/9} in 56° 30' N. 14° 50' W. sighted submarine ¹- 'scraped' submarine - fired three 4-inch shots at S/M at 600 - 400 yards, claimed one hit. (M.019723/40) See Pages 47 & 327.

S/M attacked 1530 Contact by VELOX off Alboran, sighted by air. Result of attack unknown. (F.O.C.N.A. 1736/4)

S/M attacked 2230. By TIGRIS. U-Boat sunk off L'Orient. (see 5/9)

S/M attacked 1606. S.S. PANDIAS struck heavily on ship's bottom three times a submerged object. Oil seen around, 56° 43' N. 9° 5' W. (Master's Report) She was vessel No.54 in convoy of 5 lines. See also MAKELJELL 9/9. (Form Wr. 1.)

Lodge Hill. Raid on R.N.A. Depot, Lodge Hill. Report on damage sustained. (M.018518/40)

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War Dairies, R. of P. Summaries etc. for September 1940 con

- ULVA. British, 1401 tons, from Newport to Gibraltar with coal, torpedoed 0215/3, 180' W.N.W. of Inishtrahull, say 56.30 N., 12° W. Not in convoy. 17 survivors landed island of Barra, 3 of crew missing. (D.S.367)
Torpedoed 0215/3 in 55° 45' N. 11° 45' W. without warning and sunk. (Form Wr. I.)
- S/M attacked 1930 By DUNDEE, escorting S.C.3. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1531/6) See 6/9
- FULHAM V. British, 1562 tons. Torpedoed and machine-gunned 2300/4 North Sea. Crew 19. No casualties. Sunk. (Ref. W.R.1940)
- NEW LAMBTON British, 2709 tons. Torpedoed 2245/4, 52.11 N. 2.7 E. Crew 25. No casualties. Sunk. (Ref. Form Wr. 1.)
- TITAN. In convoy. British, 9035 tons. Torpedoed 0040/4. 58.14 N., 15.15 W. Crew 94. Casualties nil. Sunk. (Ref. W.R. 1940)
- LUIMNEACH. Irish, sunk by small S/M 1830 G.M.T. 4/9. (see 13/9)
- MELBOURNE STAR. British, 12806 tons. Attacked 1041/5 53.27 N., 15.12 W. Crew 70. Casualties, 1 died of wounds. Slight damage. (Ref. W.R. 1940).
- AEGEON. Greek 5285 tons. Attacked 1135/5, 30 miles S.W. of Holyhead by 2 A/C with bombs and machine gunning. No casualties. 2 bombs hit vessel, which made Holyhead leaking, and left for Liverpool (78/9) under own power, for dry docking, after repair to windlass. In ballast. In convoy. Attacked 1030/5. In convoy O.B.M. 209. No casualties. Damaged. (Form Wr.1) (I.D. Form A.A.)
- Barrow, Gurney. Air Raid night 4/5 Sept. very slight damage at R.N. Hospital. No casualties. (M.018214/40).
- IWATE. → British, 360 tons. *Lloyd's gives damage 3/4. + BR 1337.* Attacked 1200/6 53.30 N., 14.00 W. when trawling, at low level by machine gun and shrapnel fire, 4 bursts M.G. and about 6 shells. 3 shells hit and several M.G. bullets. Ship opened fire with Lewis gun and drove enemy off. No casualties Slight damage to superstructure. Went on trawling. (A.A. Form).
- MANTOLA Attacked 2120/6 in 57° 26' N., 1° 42' W. 3 bombs, 3 attacks. No casualties. Escaped. In convoy S.L.44 (I.D. Form A.A.)
- IWATE. → Attacked 53° 30' N., 14° W. Minor damage from small shrapnel shells or bullets. (No bombs reported) Crew remained on board. (Form Wr.1).

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War Diary, R. of P. Summaries etc. for September 1940-Con.

DORINGTON COURT. 5281 tons. Damaged by near miss 2130/6 3 miles E. Buchan Ness. (Form Wr.1).

MANTOLA British, 9065 tons. Attacked 2120/6. 57.26 N., 1.40 W. Crew 156. Damage slight. (Ref. W.R.1940).

GANNET. British, 1336 tons. Attacked 2130/6. 4 miles N. of Peterhead. Crew 24. No casualties. Damaged and towed to Peterhead. (Ref. W.R.1940).

H.M.S. GODETIA Report from A.B. survivor of sinking in collision. (M. 018074/40).

TROPIC SEA. One boat with Second Officer and 20 men of TROPIC SEA scuttled by her prize crew 3/9. 200 (?miles) N.W. of Cape Finisterre arrived Corunna tonight 6/9. Other boat with 23 Germans missing. Master reported taken by British Submarine as well as 9 others by seaplane. (Guyatt, Corunna, 2355/6).

By TRIBUNE 0640. TRIBUNE at 0640 attacked enemy submarine, 2 torpedoes, detonation heard, quantity of oil on surface. (M.018052/40) (Position 40 miles W. of Lewis, Hebrides See War Diary 6/9/40).

M.V. GLENSTRAE (9460 tons) Damaged by air attack in King George V Dock, London 1830/7, Salved and cargo discharged. (Form Wr.1).

S.S. STAD VLAARDINGEN. Dutch (8500 tons) Attacked in Methil Roads 2138/8. 1 bomb, 1 torpedo. Badly damaged. On Netherlands Govt. service. No casualties. (I.D. Form A.A.)

SAMBRE. Belgian, 683 tons. Attacked 1740/7 and midnight 11/9. Dry docked. Crew 13. No casualties. Sunk in second raid. (Ref. W.R. 1940).

TYNEMOUTH. British, 3168 tons. Attacked 1745/7. Moored Beckton Coal Jetty, R. Thames. Crew 25, no casualties. Damaged (Ref. W.R.1940).

SALACON. British (Fishing Ketch) 211 tons. Mined 0600/7, River Humber. Crew 12. Casualties 8. Sunk. (Ref. W.R.1940).

Freetown Takoradi. Sept. 9. H.M.S. ARGUS arrived with Belgo-Polish mission to Freetown and stores and equipment for Air base at Takoradi arrived Takoradi 5 Sept. left 7 Sept. (M.019911).

/STORK...

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War Diary. R. of P. Summaries etc. for September 1940 - Con.

STORK. Report of enemy air torpedo attack. STORK at anchor in Methil roads 2110/8. Damaged. (M.018070/40).

S/MS attacked 1500. MAKEWELL struck a submerged object in approx. same position as PANDIAS on 2/9. (q.v.)

MARDINIAN. Torpedoed and sunk at 0350/9. Report of Master, 2 and 3rd Officers. (M.018124/40).

Bombardment of Calais and Boulogne. 8/9, 9/9. Calais. GALATEA, CAMPBELL (Capt. D.1) GARTH, VESPER. Boulogne. AURORA, HAMBLEDON, HOLDERNESS, VENETIA. Calais. Weather unsuitable for A/C co-operation. No shipping seen. No bombardment carried out. Boulogne. Short bombardment carried out in unfavourable weather. (M.018115/40 R.A.2 C.S. and AURORA's reports M.018250/40 R. of P by CAMPBELL and HAMBLEDON).

Gosport. Report of air raid from Capt. (S) 5. (M.018144/40).

Port Sudan 2nd W.S. Q.C111. Second Wireless Station in operation Port Sudan uses same call sign S.T.P. in approx. pos. 019° 38' 08" 037° 13' 29". D.F. bearing must therefore be treated with reserve until identity of station is established. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 0440/11).

ALEXIA British (8016 tons) Attacked 2115/11 in 57° 56' N., 2° 2' E. In Convoy W.N.14. 2 attacks, 4 bombs, No casualties, no hits. (I.D. Form A.A.)

Attack on shipping off Ostend. Report of Operations against shipping off Ostend by MALCOLM, VETERAN, BLACK SWAN on night 10/11 Sept. "Small successful operation". Considered that large trawler and large barge certainly sunk, small trawler and barge almost certainly sunk, possibly another small barge damaged. (M.018377/40).

TINTERN ABBEY damaged British, 2470 tons, attacked 1240/12, 5 miles W. of Isle of Man. Abandoned 1335/20. 5 bombs dropped all near misses also machine gunned. 2 rounds fired by ship's gun. Crew landed in own boats at Port St. Mary. No casualties. (A.A. Form).

Evacuation of French from Jibuti to Saigon. Your 1353Z/7. You are authorized to reply to Governor General Indo-China that subject to C.C. at Aden on voyage to Jibuti, passage of 2 vessels in which he is understood to be arranging shipment of troops from Jibuti to Saigon will not be impeded. Ascertain names of ships, time and date of sailing and ports of call. (C. in C. China, 2237/13 to B.L.O. Saigon).

LONGFORD British 1912 tons. Attacked 0645/13. 1' W. of Copelands, by one bomb which missed astern 300 yards and one burst from machine gun. No hits or casualties (A.A. form).

767G.

War Diary, R. of P. Summaries etc. for September 1940 - Con.

- S/MS attacked By Swordfish A/C 58.56 N., 04.53 W. Consider U/B
1345- was destroyed.
1545. (A.C.O.S., 0959/18).
- WEST British (5620 tons) Attacked 0510 /14 in 55° 45' N.,
KEDBON. 7° 0' W. Two attacks, 2 bombs, superficial damage
on deck. Four slight casualties. In Convoy.
(I.D. Form A.A.)
- Tyne. Report of minelaying by enemy aircraft 15/9 off the
Tyne.
(M.018355/40).
- REGENT LION. Damaged, 0625/15, 55.33 N., 7.18 W., by 1 A/C. 2
bombs dropped. 1 hit, machine gunned. 3 killed by
bomb.
(A.A. form).
- CLIFTON HALL, Attacked by torpedo from A/C 0028/15 in Convoy S.L.45A
RIPLEY.? Both escaped, but torpedo which missed CLIFTON HALL
NAILSEA RIVER. hit NAILSEA RIVER. 56.43 N., 2° 9' W.
(A.A. form).
- QUICKSTEP. British 2722 tons, off Barking Power Station 1442/15.
Not attacked by A/C, but ship opened fire with 12 pdr.
2 Lewis and 2 rifles, and A/C hit by Lewis fire
and crashed on south bank of river. (This A/C was
attributed to PORT AUCKLAND).
A/A Form and Master's Report.
- VEERHAVEN. Dutch, 5291 tons. Attacked 2200/15, 1630/16, 0300/17,
Moored. Crew 33. No casualties. Damaged.
(Ref. W.R.1940).
- STANWOLD At Southampton. 2140/15. Damaged by shrapnel during
air raid. Had to be beached to prevent her sinking.
(W.R./1940).
- WEST HARSHAW ⁵⁷⁵⁶ tons. Slight damage by near miss and machine
5670 gun bullets 0620/15 in N. Channel, Irish Sea. In
Convoy.
(Form Wr.1).
- ear Admiral Re minelaying from Port Z.A., completion of first
L. part of Operation Z.M.D. (16th Sept.) 27 Sept. Sleaford
Sound finished laying boom defence net.
30th Sept. R.A. (M.L.) in SOUTHERN PRINCE with PORT
QUEBEC, PORT NAPIER and MENESTHEUS sailed for Op.
S.N.42. Number of mines available.
(T.S.D. 5342/40).
- S/M attacked PORPOISE 0047 in 47° 28' N., 4° 18' W., attacked
By PORPOISE U-boat with 6 torpedoes. No result. Report of
0047. Patrol in Bay of Biscay Sept.2 - 20.
(M.019076/40).

/VEERHAVEN...

War Diary, R. of P. Summaries etc. for September 1940 - Con.

- VEERHAVEN See 15/9/40.
- ASKA Bombed, set on fire, "constructive total loss." 55° 15' N., 5° 55' W. Crew 184, 8 of whom were killed, 17 missing but 2 boats arrived subsequently number of occupants not known. Had 358 French troops on board "including 18 British soldiers, one R.A. Gunner and Col. Murley." All latter saved. 2 French k, 10 w, approx. 77 missing some of whom should be in the boats which have since arrived at a British port.
(Statement of Master, Capt. R. Redwood)
- H.49 Attack on Convoy 53° 17' N., 4° 42' E., 0439/16 estimated 2 hits.
(Patrol report)
- KENT Details of attack by torpedo aircraft.
(See 21/9)
- CAP VARELLA Your 2237/13. CAP VARELLA will leave Saigon a.m./18 for Djibouti via Aden. There are no passengers or cargo on board.
(L.O. Saigon, 0230Z/17 to C. in C. China.)
- CROWN ARUN. Torpedoed about 0800/17 in 58° 2' N. 14° 18' W. S/M gunned ship after life boats got away. Called boats alongside and enquired name of ship etc. and whether they knew direction of land. Boats picked up by WINCHELSEA a.m./18.
(Master's statement, Capt. H.L. Leask)
- ST. CATHERINE British 1220 tons. Attacked 3 times, at 2340/18 0001/19 and 0030/19, 14 miles E.N.E. of Tod Head. 1 bomb dropped in first attack, on starboard quarter, 1 in second, on port quarter, aerial torpedo or mine in third, on port side, but no explosions heard. No casualties. Ship escaped. Opened fire from Lewis Gun on second attack.
(A.A. Form)
- NEW SEVILLA. Torpedoed. Report of Second Officer was made to C.O. ARABIS who rescued about 23 survivors.
(Attached S.A. Form)
- PACIFIC GROVE. Attacked 2030/21 in 55° 6' N., 19° 2' W. Escaped.
(I.D. Form S.A.)
- S/Ms attacked. By HARLINGEN in Convoy H.X.72. 3 shots, second struck S/M just beneath conning tower. ELMBANK, BLAIR ANGUS and probably INVERSHANNON were lost in first attack by U-boat on convoy, CANONASA, TORINA and No.42 (Shell Oil Tanker) the latter carrying on, PUTNEY HILL, TREGARTHEN and FREDERICK S. FALES also torpedoed.
(Master's statement, I.D.04386)
- Heaviest Toll. Statistics of merchant shipping lost by enemy action (all forms) during week ending 22/9/40 show greatest weekly loss during the war to date. Totals: 19 British ships of 131,857 tons; 3 Allied of 13,006 tons; and 5 neutral of 14,425 tons - total 159,288 tons.
(Times, 2/10/40)

767^IWar Diary, R. of P. Summaries etc. for September 1940 - Con.

SIMLA Norwegian, 6030 tons. Torpedoed 0115/22 55.08 N., 17.40 W. Crew of 31, 5 missing S/M was between the convoy columns, and torpedoed the FREDERICK S. FALES 20 minutes before SIMLA was hit. Ship sank 0120/22. (S.A. Form).

PACIFIC GROVE. Attacked 0740/23. Four bombs. Two hits. Damaged. No casualties. One bomb did not explode and was thrown overboard. (I.D. Form A.A.)

L'AUDACIEUX Destroyed. Information from Lieut. who escaped from Dakar. Destroyer beached and burnt out at Rufisque 23/9-25/9 was L'AUDACIEUX, casualties 100 killed. The other destroyer damaged during action sailed for Casablanca after temporary repairs. (C. in C. S.A., 1731/12/11).

M.T.B.5 Norwegian, shot down an enemy dive bomber by Lewis gun fire, off Dover, 25/9. Report. (M.015016/40).

Dakar Intelligence. Copies of letter and report from Consul, St. Vincent C.V. re interview with Prince Tourdauvergne, dated 19/9/40, on situation in Dakar. Also photographs of Dakar bombardment taken by a member (P.A. Svensen) of crew of Norwegian ship SALTA, which was anchored during bombardment off N. end of Gorée Island. Svensen came to Freetown in Swedish MILOS from Dakar on 6/10. Statement from him. (N.I.D., 03688/40).

QUEEN CITY, DELVINE. In convoy, attacked off Fraserburgh. QUEEN CITY damaged, towed to Aberdeen, ~~DALVINE~~ sank. (T.S.D. 4891/40 N.O.I.C. Peterhead).

SILJAN Swedish, 3060 tons. torpedoed and sunk 26/9, 350' S.W. of Ireland. (D.S. 399).

CITY OF MANCHESTER Attacked by gunfire from Italian U/B at 1000/26 in 33.27 N., 21.57 W., 240' W.N.W. of Madeira but returned the fire and escaped. (D.S. 399).

TANCRED Norwegian 6094 tons. Sunk 0707 G.M.T./26. (See 8.10.40).

S/M Attacked 1047/27. By TRIBUNE unsuccessfully attacked U/B in 47.32 N., 3.38 W., 16' S.W. Lorient. (D.S. 393).

VESTVARD Norwegian, 4319 tons, outward bound for Montreal, torpedoed about p.m./28, probable position 54.30 N., 21.30 W. and sunk 30 survivors landed at Slane Head, Co. Galway, of whom 28 Norwegians. 1 of crew reported lost. (D.S. 393).

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War Diary, R. of P. Summaries etc. for September 1940 - Con.

COMET
sunk.

H.M.A/S Trawler COMET sunk by mine at 1705/30 in
50° 6' N., 4° 58' W. Two survivors picked up.
Due to moored mine.
(F.O. Falmouth, M.019486/40).

HEMINGE

British, 2499 tons. Torpedoed and sunk at 2210/30
in 53.26 N., 18.33 W., (253° Bloody Foreland 376')
(D.S.399).

HAULERWYK.

Dutch 3278 tons. Unsuccessfully attack by torpedo
1130/30 in 54.28 N., 26.33 W., and gunned by U/B
at 1920/30 and sunk. 4 ratings killed, 7 wounded.
Survivors picked up in 53.37 N., 26.10 W., on 2/10
by ROTHLEY, which arrived Capetown 29/10.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1230/29).