

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

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

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

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

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



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Sweep by
5th D.F.
E. boats
engaged.

JACKAL, JAGUAR, JUPITER, KELVIN and KIPLING last night carried out a sweep off the French coast. Early this morning while returning to Plymouth JACKAL, which was leading, engaged 2 enemy small craft, about 30 miles North of Cherbourg, but soon lost contact. It appears probable that enemy E. boats were operating last night at points in the western part of the Channel.

CLYDE sailed from Dundee today for patrol in the Atlantic between 20° W. and 25° W.

British Air Activity.

Adverse weather caused a number of operations last night by Bomber Command to be cancelled. However, aircraft attacked Channel ports and targets at Wilhelmshaven, Kiel, Bremerhaven and Wesermünde. Although bursts were seen in the target areas and fires and explosions were caused, no outstanding results were observed. Coastal Command aircraft last night successfully bombed shipping and dry docks at Rotterdam, targets at the Hook and Cherbourg. Seven merchant vessels were attacked this morning 51 miles N.W. of Trondheim, but detailed results were not observed. A merchant vessel was machine gunned 39 miles 255° from Namsos.

Enemy Air Activity.

Damage was done at Thames Ammunition Works at Erith this evening.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy E.boat last night is suspected off Harwich and to the northward. Several mines were cut or exploded off Harwich today. H.M.T. RESOLVO was damaged by a heavy under water explosion in the Thames Approaches at 2030 today and was beached. EREBUS reports 5 explosions in the Thames Approaches this evening. The first explosion was a mine, but the other four, which were close together may have been caused by mines or bombs.

State of
Ports

Humber. Opened 0910. Closed 2153.
Tees, Hartlepool. Opened 1614.
Seaham. Closed 1256.
Blyth. Closed 1256. Opened 1405.
Sunderland. Closed 1256. Opened 1540.

R.A.F.
minelaying.

R.A.F. last night laid mines off Kiel and in the Elbe, and in and near Hubert Gat.

12.10.1940²⁴⁷
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Operations against Vichy French.

In order to intercept shipping proceeding to Dakar the Admiralty have suggested that certain patrol lines should be instituted.

North Atlantic.

S.S. STARLING was bombed and machine gunned off Cadiz this morning.

Mediterranean.

Operation
 M B 6.

C.in C. Mediterranean reports that during the passage of the Fleet and Convoy M F 3 to Malta little air activity took place. Aircraft reported Italian U-boats south of Crete, and one was heavily depth charged by destroyers.

Thunderstorms prevented air raids on Malta whilst the destroyers, COVENTRY, CALCUTTA and RAMILIES were refuelling on 11/10. IMPERIAL was mined but was brought into harbour. Convoy M F 3 arrived at 1600/11, and Convoy M F 4 sailed after dark for Alexandria.

During the nights 11/10 and 12/10 AJAX was in action with enemy T.B.'s and reported sinking two. A Sunderland flying boat sighted 2 destroyers about 100 miles East of Malta at 0630, one of which was damaged and on fire; these were probably the T.B.'s reported by AJAX. The damaged destroyer, ~~of DAREO or later class~~, was sunk by units ^{YORK} of the Fleet, but the other destroyer escaped.

ARTIGLIERE

Air Attack
 on Benghazi

R.A.F. last night successfully attacked Benghazi. Shipping at Tobruk was attacked yesterday, a large ship being hit.

East Indies.

KIMBERLEY on Perimeter Patrol was bombed this afternoon. No damage is reported.

In view of the urgent requirements for fleet minesweepers at Malta HUNTLY and DERBY are to be sailed to the Mediterranean. There are 7 other ships in the Red Sea and Aden fitted for sweeping moored mines.

R.A.F. attacked Bardia, Derna and Tobruk today; at Tobruk bursts were seen amongst shipping in harbour.



War Diary.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (1).

Operations PS
(EREBUS).

bombardment Duffield

Cancel operation PS.
Aircraft fogbound. (C.in C. Nore 0050/12 to EREBUS). Keep in South half of QZS.170. (C.in C. Nore 0659/12 to EREBUS).
Operation PS will be carried out tonight, weather permitting. If possible, decision will be made by 1300. (C.in C. Nore 1000/12 to EREBUS).
Operation PS will not take place tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1216/12 to F.O. Harwich).

M.T.B's on
Belgian Coast.

Available 70 foot M.T.B's are to operate on Belgian Coast between Nieupoort and Flushing attacking any vessel seen without challenge. Report M.T.B's detailed and time of sailing. (C.in C. Nore 1216/12 to F.O. Harwich).
Owing to defects in M.T.B. 32, operation of M.T.B's is cancelled. (C.in C. Nore 1649 to Admty.)

M.T.B's sink
trawlers.

NORDENHAM and
BRANDENBURG

M.T.B's 22, 31 and 32 arrived Dover at 0110 with 34 survivors of two German trawlers, which they had torpedoed in 51° 02' N., 1° 48' E. at about 2335/11. Trawlers probably employed sweeping and also as rescue ships from airmen as the survivors include Air Force personnel. M.T.B's were probably mistaken for 'E' boats as only one round was fired by trawlers and that only after first vessel was torpedoed. Request no announcement be made in press of the sinking of these trawlers so that their loss may be attributed by Germans to the minefield in vicinity* and so as not to betray the presence of M.T.B's. If not given away this success may be repeated. M.T.B's will sail for Felixstowe at 0600/12. (V.A. Dover 0531/12 to Admty).
** It was. See GD. 403(2)*

Operations. (2).

Force D.


HOOD is to sail p.m./15 to give cover to Force D. If necessary, screen for FURIOUS phase 2 may be reduced to 3 destroyers. B.C.1 pass by secret hand message to BERWICK and FURIOUS. (C.in C. H.F. 1057/12 to B.C.1). Orders to SEAWOLF. See Submarines.

Straits of
Dover Patrol.

M.T.B's 70, 69 and 5 will leave Dover at 2130/12 to operate between W Buoy at about 51 10'N., 2 6'E. and latitude of Boulogne, returning at daylight 13th. (V.A. Dover 1406/12 to Admty).

Patrol O.

Cancel Patrol tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1502/12 to D.21).

MOST SECRET.12.10.40.
Saturday.
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (2). (Contd.)Iceland.
Withdrawal of
Walrus A/C.

Your 1654/9. The short daylight hours and uncertain weather conditions in Iceland during winter do not justify leaving Walrus Squadron there. They can be more usefully employed elsewhere. The Squadron will be fetched by ARGUS, date of whose arrival will be signalled later. Request you inform Alabaster and report estimated time required to embark Squadron as an evolution. (5th S.L. 1504/12 to F.O. Iceland).

Start Point
A/S Trawler
Patrol.

Patrol BY. (C.in C. W.A. 1529/12 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

ATALANTA.

Netlayer. Newhaven to Pevensey and return. Request fighter protection 0700 to 1200/13. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1718/12 to H.Q.F.C.)

Operations. (3).Enemy off St.
Catherines.
(See 11/10).

VANOC take VOLUNTEER, FERNIE, BERKELEY under his orders and sail at 1830 and proceed by Q.Z.S. 111 and 169 and patrol along line of L,M and C Patrols to position 180° Anvil Point 10 miles. Return so as to reach end of Eastern Channel at 0600. Renewal of attack by enemy torpedo craft and/or E-boats on our patrol lines is possible. Patrol craft have been withdrawn except for patrol of Eastern and Western Channels. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1757/12 to VANOC).

Operation ^{"Medium"} ~~MEDITH~~,
Damage at
Cherbourg.(HMS REVENGE)

Impossible to analyse damage except by very detailed examination. Compared with W.115 of 9/10 there is a reduction of one in number of T.B's in Petite Rade and of one in the Bassins. One other probably badly damaged and possibly another. Except for a few small craft Bassin Charles is empty. Not more than two M.Class minesweepers compared with seven in W.115 can be seen. Two or three E.boats are visible compared with ten. Dry docks and repair slips in Bassin Napoleon damaged. A vessel moored alongside the Gare Maritime is heavily on fire with black smoke rising. A fire is still burning from the Entrepot to the East of the inner Harbour. Colonial Infantry Barracks by outer Harbour probably severely damaged. Direct hit obtained on main Seaplane Base at Chantereyne. (P.R.U.St. Eval 1800/12 to H. Q.C.C.)



12.10.40.

Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (3)(Contd.)

Operation D.N.
(Skudesnes to
Lister).

My 1415/10. Subject to favourable weather, operation D.N. will be advanced 24 hours, so subhead A should read 13/10. (C.in C. H.F. 1841/12 to D.4, SIKH, MAORI, ASHANTI). Proceed tomorrow 13th, so as to pass Oxcars at 0900. (C.in C. H.F. 2155/12 to D.4).

Submarines.

WILK.

Proceed to patrol near 58° 10' N. 4° 40'E. (Capt. S.3 0859/12 to WILK.)

CLYDE.

Leaves Dundee p.m./12 escorted by BULLDOG till arrival Cape Wrath about 1500/13. Route thence. Surface ships not to attack doubtful submarines 20 miles either side of following line between following times, nor A/C to bomb submarines in same areas and times. (A.C.O.S. 0956/12).

H.
X.43.

Exercising in Plymouth Submarine area. (C.in C. W.A. 1505/12).

H.
X.34.

Exercising in Scapa Flow a.m. and p.m./12. (A.C.O.S. 1609/12).

SEAWOLF.

On arrival at position 061° 00' 01' SEAWOLF is to proceed submerged by day to patrol off Fro Havet to Eastward of Halten arriving there by daylight/16. Force D consisting of H.M.S. FURIOUS H.M.S. BERWICK H.M.S. NORFOLK and destroyers will be near 071° 015° on night 15/16. Object of SEAWOLF to attack enemy warships that may be in Trondhjem should they proceed to sea to intercept Force D. (V.A.S. 1653/12 to SEAWOLF).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/13. (V.A.S.1657/12).

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1705/12).

L.27)
UPRIGHT.)

Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1813/12).

Notice of
Bombing.

My 1126/2. Lorient. (V.A.S.1914/12 to TRIDENT).

MOST SECRET.12.10.40.
Saturday.
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.E Boats.Portland.One E Boat. My position 235° Portland Bill
20 miles. (DANEMAN 0032/12).

E-Boat 160° Portland Bill at 0040.

(C.in C. Portsmouth 0050/12).

*Possible CHASSEUR 06+07
see p. 269*E-Boat reported in 50° 21'N. 2° 53'W. at
0032 and gun flashes reported to W. of this
previously. Investigate. Line BY is
patrolled by A/S Trawler. (C.in C. W.A.
0117/12 to BROKE, BURZA, WANDERER, GARLAND)2 unknown vessels bearing 330° 3 miles course
260. My position 280° 50° N., 1° W. 27
miles. (JACKAL 0244/12 to C.in C. Portsmouth)
Have engaged 2 fast Enemy Small Craft but
have lost contact. (JACKAL 0314/12 to
C.in C. Portsmouth).Off Fecamp.8 E-Boats were off Fecamp at 1130/12. ?
(UPRIGHT 0130/12).British Air Activity.Antwerp.2 Wellingtons attacked Docks during night
10/11. Large fires started. (B.C.Summary
477).S.A.I.E.

Patrol cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 0914/12).

Off Trondheim.Aircraft attacked 3 M/V's at 0943 and 1002/
12. Near misses and smoke observed.
(Donibristle 1452/12 to Admty).Lorient.To be attacked tonight. Targets.
(H.Q.C.C. 1510/12 to 16 Group).Rosyth Area.Air Search for 13/10. (C.in C. Rosyth
1840/12).Bristol Channel,
Balloon Barrage
Vessels.My 2326/18/7 and 1644/8/8. Expected dates
of completion of allocated Vessels.
(D. of L.D. 1947/12).Sheep Island
Anchorage.My 1950/8. Anchorage North of Sheep
Island. R.A.F. inform me that flying
boats would be forced alight and take off
in the middle of Firth of Lorne thereby
losing all shelter provided by Kerrera
Island against winds between S.E. and S.W.
This would delay operational flying and
frequently make take off impossible owing
to rough sea. This additional anchorage
is therefore not considered available.
(C.in C. W.A. 2000/12 to Admty).

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth.

At 2152/11 several Incendiary Bombs dropped in Elson and Frater area. No damage or casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0138/12).

Sheerness.

Time lost owing to air raid warning amounts to five hours since 0700/5. No damage or casualties sustained and no appreciable interference has resulted affecting Naval supply production or repair at Sheerness. At 2150/8 two bombs fell and exploded within the anti-aircraft establishment Bartons Point. No substantial damage and no casualties. (Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1208/12 to Admty).

Liverpool.

Details of damage by Air-raid 11/10. (SCE.Liverpool 1756/12 to C.E. in C.)

Convoy.
Bacon.

One aircraft shadowing in 50° 34'N., 0° 45' W. Course W, speed 7 knots. (FERNIE 1030/12)

North Sea.

German Naval A/C active over North Sea between 53° 30'N and 56° N. since 2008/12. This activity by Naval aircraft is most unusual. (D.D.I.C. 2200/12 to C.in C. H.F, Rosyth, Nore). German Naval Aircraft activity developing from 54° 20'N. 2° 30' E. First observation 2008/12. Any such movement most unusual. (C.in C. Rosyth 2251/12 to Ships.)

Mining. (1).

East Coast.

From Special Intelligence and Flares observed it appears certain that E-Boats have been engaged in minelaying operations off Harwich and to the Northward. Reports of flares indicate that E-Boats were in a position approximately midway between N.E. Gunfleet and Sunk Head and also near Shipwash. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0021/12 to C.in C. Nore).

RESOLVO.
(H.M.Trawler).

Damaged by heavy under water explosion 30 yards astern of ship in position 6 cables 083° from Knob Bell Buoy at 2030/12. Ship steaming 063° at 7 knots not sweeping. Now beached south of outer Bar Buoy. Crew all saved, two cot cases not serious and some minor casualties. (C.in C. Nore. 0605/13 to Admty).

Humber.

Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 0910/12)

S.N.100.

Completed. (RAML. 1042/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.12.10.40.Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (1)(Contd.)Trawler
LL Trials.Your 1532/9. Concur with proposals.
(D.T.M. 1206/12 to VERNON).Tees
Hartlepool.

My 2045/11. Expect to open Ports by 1700/12.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1215/12 to Admty).
Ports are open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1614/12
to Admty).
EREBUS reports explosion occurred 1 point
5 cables on starboard beam between East knob
and Knock John buoys at 2013/11. Four
more explosions occurred within 5 seconds at
2051/11 when EREBUS was in position 327°
point 5 miles from South Edinburgh No. 2
buoy. Bearing and distance of explosions from
South Edinburgh No. 2 buoy 298° point 85
miles, 314° point 48 miles, 127° point 54
miles, 75° point 78 miles. CAMPBELL, VESPER
CATTISTOCK in company. First of four
explosions was one nearest EREBUS. Black
smoke. No flash. Clear moonlight night:
No aircraft seen or heard: no damage.

It seems inconclusive from evidence whether
explosions at 2051 were caused by mines or
bombs.
(C.in C. Nore. 1255/12 to Admty.)

Mining (2).Blyth. }
Seaham. }
Sunderland. }Closed. (C.in C. Rosyth. 1256/12 to BLACK
SWAN).Blyth.My 2142/11. Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth
1405/12 to Admty).Sunderland.

Port re-opened. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1540/12)

ZULU.My 1446/11 (Explosion). ZULU was using type
573 Echo Sounding Gear. Ships ahead of her
were not. (C.in C. H.F. 1634/12 to Admty).14 M/S
Trawlers,
off Falmouth.Request Fighter protection from 1300 to 1830/
13 in 50° 8' N., 5° 1' 30" W. to 49° 55' N.,
5° 12' W. and return. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth
1846/12 to C.in C. W.A).Harwich.

'O' Sweep 148 Q.Z.S. Trawlers cut 2 German
mines, one in 52° 01.2' N., 01° 45.3' E; one
in 52° 03' N., 01° 44.8' E.
One exploded in sweep in 51° 59.6' N., 01°
44.5' E. One dragged in sweep, sighted and
sunk in 52° 07.9' N., 01° 53' E.
Paddle Sweepers in 148 Q.Z.S. report 2 mines
exploded in 51° 59.7' 01° 44.4' E. Also one
underwater heavy explosion no apparent cause
in 52° 03' N., 01° 44.4' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2006/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.12.10.40.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining (2). (Contd.)Humber.

Closed, owing to Mines laid by aircraft.
(F.O. Humber 2153/12 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.Boulogne.

My 1459/11. M/V's reported off Boulogne,
at 1220/11 were barges and Towing Craft;
and about 6 minesweepers escorted by one
probable E-Boat 7 miles to S.W.
(D.D.I.C. 0215/12 to C's in C.)

Brest.

7 Destroyers can be seen. (P.R.U. St.Eval
1530/12 to H.Q.C.C.)

Ushant.

4 large M/V's between Ushant and mainland
steering south at 1115/12. (V.A.S. 1719/12).

Tromso.

Finnish S.S. KASTELHOLM released by Germans
after detention at Tromso reports that she
was boarded by large Armed Trawler on
passage out only 5 hours out of Petsamo and
also inspected by Germans on passage back a-
bout 50 miles from Vardo. There appear to be
no warships at Tromso but there is
considerable activity on the part of
Norwegian vessels of which a number are
being sent to and from Spitzbergen.
(Petsamo 1759/12 to D.N.I.)

Norwegian Coast.

W/T Traffic suggests a movement of German
Naval Units from Northern Norway southwards,
to the Skagerak. These units may be as
far south as Trondheim this evening and may
include destroyers or larger ships.
(D.D.I.C. 2002/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

Ijmuiden. }
Tholen Island. }

Shipping observed during night 10/11.
(H.Q.C.C. 0041/12).

Technical.

Aircraft Depth
Charge Attacks.

Following are recommendations for these
attacks. Depth-settings, height, speed, etc.
(5th S.L. 2035/12. Admty.R.Message 164R).

Anti-E-Boat
H.E. Barrage.

Time fuzeed H.E. barrage is in progress of
development in Home Fleet as an anti-E-Boat
offensive. Progress to date is promising
and a well placed barrage creates a
spectacular effect in the water. The best
method of operating this form of barrage
is still under development. The require-
ments being to position the barrage at
ranges varying from 1500 to 5000 yards and
for the shells to burst at a height of
about 100 feet from the water.
(C.in C. H.F. 1121/12 and 1756/12 to Admty).

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ALYNBANK.

On arrival of Convoy proceed to Rosyth, for examination of damage. (R.A.D. H.F. 0244/12 to ALYNBANK)

MAURETANIA.

Defects have developed in two Boilers. Estimated time of repair 2 months. Can steam 21 knots on remaining four Boilers. Intend sail her with U.S.6. which now sails from Sydney 20/10. (N.B. Melbourne 0707 Z/12 to D. of S.T.)

SCYTHE.

Tug. Your 1105/12. Unable leave Hayle today owing to weather and inefficient state of Boilers. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1538/12 to C.in C. W.A.).

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping.

H.X. 77

Dispersed at 2340/11. SHIKARI endeavour to reform at daylight. (A.C.W.A. 0213/12) If not in company with convoy report whether my 1600/11 was passed to commodore. (C.in C. W.A. 1000/12). LADY LILIAN to join (C.in C. W.A. 2303/12). U.boat possibly shadowing (C.in C. W.A. 1309/12).

O.A. 228.

Position (FOWEY 2300/12) Escorts FOWEY, BLUEBELL (N.C.S.O. Methil 0810/12).

S.L. 49.

FANDANGO to meet 0745/13, position. (ANTELOPE, 2021/12)

F.S. 7.

Numbers from Tyne, Blyth, etc. (C.in C. Rosyth to LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN, 1921/12).

F.N. 6.

Blyth, Seaham, Tees, Hartlepool, Sunderland closed. 3 ships in F.N.6 should be diverted to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1256/12).

W.N. 22.

Position (CAMPANULA, 1800/12) Petrol carrier PETROBUS to join (C.in C. W.A. 2250/12).

O.B.M.
228-229.

Dates. Escorts ARSENAL and ROSEMARY. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1831/12)

F.S.6.

4th M/S. F. to sweep through dangerous portion of Q.Z.S. 148. VETERAN and WILD SWAN to join. (C.in C. Nore, 1550/12)

F.S. 8.

Will leave Methil 0030/13. Close escort VEGA, VIMIERA (C.in C. Rosyth 0950/12).

O.L. 7.

Sailing Liverpool a.m./13. Escorts. HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK from Liverpool, HURRICANE, KEPPEL from Clyde, OTTAWA, SARDONYX from Lough Foyle (C.in C. W.A. 0957/12).

Dartmouth.

Intended sailings and escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1054/12, 1501/12, 1522/12) sailed. (1945/12).

BOUVET II.

A.C.O.S. 1745/11. Intend sailing for Scapa 1600/12. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0915/12).

Troop Convoys

ALMANZORA.

Clyde, to be used for troop movement. (D. of S.T., 2345/12).

ANTONIA.

Liverpool, to be used for troop movement. (D. of S.T., 2345/12).

Darkening
Ship.

Importance of. (D.O.D. (F) 2153/12).

12.10.1940.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSOperations Against Vichy French.Libreville
Patrol.My 1841/11. Intend KELT to join
Libreville Patrol after coaling Duala
12/10. (C.S.1. 0020/12).My 1841/11. Join me in position A at
0600 zone - 1 on 15/10. KELT will be in
vicinity of position B, 280° 10 miles
from A. (C.S.1 to DELHI, 0955 A/12).PRIMAUGUETIf PRIMAUGUET met, report position,
course and speed and for how many hours
you can shadow. (D.C. to BARHAM, 1018/12)AUSTRALIA

To join BARHAM. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1701/12)

BARHAM.Position course and speed at 1900 Z.
(BARHAM to AUSTRALIA, 1830/12).

Admiralty. Repeated C.in C. South Atlantic.
Admty 0105/11. De Gaulle enthusiastically
received in Camerouns. Believe
De Gaulle considers best interest of his
cause demands avoidance, at almost any
cost, of armed conflict against Vichy
force in Gabon. He intends to use his
air force, when ready, mainly for R.C.
and an attempt to force Vichy naval force
to withdraw from Libreville and Port
Gentil by threat of bombing. He realizes
need for quick action against Libreville
but appears to be content to rely on
effect of Naval measures and reported
shortage of food in Libreville to complete
its capitulation. Most of his
influential supporters in Gabon have been
arrested. He readily agreed to use of
Free French ships for next 3 weeks for
patrol off Libreville and parts of Gentil.
He places great reliance on moral effect
to be produced by his cruisers though it
is impracticable these can reach Gabon
front for several weeks. Not considered
that early results can be expected from
offensive policy, furthermore greater
naval forces than are likely to be
available would be required to make
effective the virtual blockade of
Libreville upon which De Gaulle appears
to rely. Meanwhile action as in my 1841/11
is being taken.
(C.S. 1, 0200/12 to Adty.)

/Communications



War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French (Continued).

Communications.

Submit you will note that cables from Freetown to Duala are sent over land lines in order to avoid Vichy Territory and are sometimes subject to delay.
(C.in C. S.A. 1047/12, to F.O. I.C.S.)

Free French
Naval Forces

Have received from General de Gaulle requests concerning establishment of a Naval Base at Pointe Noire also the dispatch to Free French Equatorial Africa of warships and personnel. Consider that an exchange of views between the First Sea Lord and myself should take place. Requested that following officers attend.
(A.C. Free French N.F. 1630/12 to Admty.)

My 0105/11 para. 2. Realised not practicable to establish a blockade of Dakar with forces available, but important to intercept as much shipping as possible. Stoppage of imports (which are more likely to be unescorted) may affect local inhabitants to detriment of Vichy Government and so enhance cause for De Gaulle. Suggested that alternative patrol lines about 100 miles in length be established:-
(A) Southwards from a position 80 miles East of Ponta Praya.
(B) North Eastwards from a position 60 miles East of Bonavista.
(C) Eastwards from a position 60 miles from Northern extremity of (B)
Policy laid down in your 1957/5 para. (c) is concurred in except that at present escorted merchant ships are not to be interfered with.
(D.O.D. (F) 1849/12 to C.in C. S.A.).

12.10.1940.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.→ STARLING
Bombed

W. by S. to Cadiz. SS STARLING bombed and machine gunned. (Gibraltar Radio, 0939/12)
(see below)

Raider report

Admty. 0941/12 passed to you for information (see America and W. Indies). Position given in raider report was 49.34 N. 35.15 W. (F.O.C. N.A. 2305/12 to KENYA, PRETORIA CASTLE).

Lisbon.

Reported motor yacht VICTORIOSO loaded for Morocco expected to sail 11/10. Motor luggers AMPHITRITE, PRIMEIRO also fully loaded same destination sailing about 12/10. (Lisbon, 1616/12).

FIRE Drake
GREYHOUND

Your 1600/12. It appears WISHART has dealt with ORAO, (see U-Boat CAMPAIGN). Unless S.O. Force H can add to this information, join GREYHOUND escorting 2 transports during daylight 13/10. (F.O.C.N.A. to FIRE Drake, 2202/12).

→ STARLING

My (?1252) 12. Following information from Cadiz. S.S. STARLING has now reached Cadiz with damaged steering gear and other superficial damage. Aircraft which attacked her was a four engined bomber believed to be Italian and reported by Spanish fisherman as having identification marks underneath consisting of black cross inside circle, but no other details were observed. Attack was made in position 3.5 miles from Cadiz, aircraft approaching ship from landward, finally making off in southerly direction. Casualties sustained five killed and seven wounded, one seriously. My 1915 gives names of casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1912/12.)

South Atlantic.CANTON
CARNARVON
CASTLE

Your 1055 B/11 approved. Sail CANTON 14/10 and CARNARVON CASTLE on completion to comply with my 1157/11. (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0105/12).

Route from Clyde to Freetown. (C.in C. W.A. 1651/12).

Aircraft
Base.

My 1837/9. If work in connection with (a) Flying Boats Base and (b) Accommodation and operation of bomber aircraft is approved, consider this work and accommodation and operation of an air fighter squadron should take precedence of work for establishment of Fleet Air Arm maintenance unit already approved.
(C.in C. S.A. 0219/12 to Admty.)

/ DORSETSHIRE

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Continued)

DORSETSHIRE
Lagos

Director of Nigeria Marine in reply to message asking if DORSETSHIRE class cruiser had visited Lagos and could fuel there states DORSETSHIRE has visited and could fuel from oiler at Maria buoy. R.F.A. LUCIGEN draught 24 feet 5 inches loaded.
 (C.in C. S.A. 1921/12 to F.O.I.C.S.)

DRAGON
CASANARE

CORNWALL's 1846/12. Am in company with CASANARE. She reported DORSETSHIRE. She is all well. Bound to Victoria. Am proceeding. Position. (DRAGON 1945/12)

Convoy S L 52.

R.V. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1439/12).

Mediterranean

Two Enemy Cruisers position 035° 50' 016° 25' course unknown at 0306.
 (Capt. S. 1 0351/12 to Submarines on patrol).

URSULA)
UPRIGHT)
UTMOST)

Decided to send to Mediterranean. Date for URSULA. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1335/12).

PANDORA

Orders for patrol. (Capt. S. 1, 1421/12).

Minesweepers.

Admty. 1232/1 and C.in C. Med. 1156/11. In view of urgent requirement for fleet minesweepers, Malta, HUNTLY and DERBY are to be sailed to Mediterranean.
 (D.M.S. 1836/12).

Operations
M.B.6.

from Alexandria see p155

Following information received of current Fleet operations. During passage of Mediterranean Fleet and Convoy M F three to Malta from 8/10 to 11/10 little enemy air activity. Some Italian U-Boats were reported by aircraft to S.W. of Crete and one was heavily depth charged by Destroyers.

Refuelling of Destroyers, COVENTRY CALCUTTA and RAMILLIES carried out in Grand harbour during 11/10 without interruption. Thunderstorms prevented air raids. IMPERIAL was mined but was brought into harbour. Convoy M F 4 consisting of VOLO, Oiler PLUMLEAF, and APHIS sailed after dark for Alexandria. During night of 11/10 and 12/10 AJAX was in action with enemy torpedo boats and reported sinking two. A Sunderland Flying boat sighted 2 Destroyers about 100 miles E. of Malta at 0630 one of which was damaged and on fire. These

were /

12.10.40.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation
M.B.6. (Contd.)*Ajax engaged? sunk. 2**Italian destroyer AIRONE 10th**damaged the destroyer ARTIGLIERE**which was later sunk by YORK**see M 06616/41**AB 27/10/41*

These were probably the torpedo boats reported by AJAX. The damaged destroyer DAREO or later class was sunk by units of Fleet. Other destroyer chased but escaped to northwards. At 1100 same flying boat sighted three FIUME Class Cruisers and three enemy destroyers escorted by Fighter aircraft in N.E. position 65 miles of Malta, appeared to be making for Tripoli (Africa) No. 850 Squadron (F.A.A.) Striking Force despatched from Hal Far at 1300 failed to locate target.
(V.A. Malta, 2015/12).

East Indies.GLIMMAREN.

Admty. 1351/11. Mauritius reports Swedish GLIMMAREN completed loading mica and graphite for New York but proposes calling Bombay and Basra. Ordered by New York to cancel call Cochin.
(C.in C. E.I. 0746Z/12).

ULSTER PRINCE.

My 1804/6. Date of arrival Aden. To join A.P.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ for onward passage to Suez.
(C.in C. E.I. 0602Z/12).

Dutch Ships.
Reunion.

Your 0547/22 para.3. Chief censor Mauritius reports K P M Agent Reunion in reply to cable from Head Office Batavia early in September telegraphed 1/10 Dutch ships may call at Reunion subject to previous authority of local Government, application be made for each occasion. This appears at variance with ruling given by Dutch C.in C.
(C.in C.E.I. 0744Z/12 to C.in C. China).

KIMBERLEY.
Bombed.

KIMBERLEY on Perim patrol bombed at 1345Z/12. No damage reported.
(C.in C. E.I. 1502Z/12.
Summary No.122 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 12/10. 2 Blenheims and 2 Vincents 8 Squadron continued punitive bombing Quteibis during day. 3 Blenheims 203 Squadron fighter escort to convoy B S 61 remaining Kamaran overnight 4 Gladiators 94 Squadron standing fighter patrol singly Aden 0750 to 1110. KIMBERLEY on Perim patrol reports bombing attack 3 miles off Perim 1345, all times G.M.T. no casualties. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1856/12).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

264

12.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies- Contd.

Red Sea Dhows

My 0616/1. ELWAFI has returned to Aden but Kamaran business traffic to Massowa has not ceased nor has traffic to Assab. Governor of Aden being asked now to warn Imam accordingly, and if Governor agrees intend taking action against Dhows as from 17/10. (C. in C., E.I., 1734Z/12)

DEVONSHIRE
RANEE
PUNDIT

Movements (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 0535Z/12)

China

De Gaulle
Movements

Your 1036/1. Pending full appreciation of situation, Indo China, H.M.G. do not intend to take any action in support of either of General Martin or of a local de Gaulle movement in Indo-China. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 1519/12)

America & West Indies

Raider Report

See 11/10. Vessel sighted starboard quarter hull down steaming parallel with Commodore of Convoy altered towards me and overtaking. After sending message altered course about 4 points crossed my stern and went out of sight on port and northward steering about south 10 east true painted grey buff funnel amidships about 5,000 tons gross. (AMAKURA 0150/12 to Adty.)

Re her raider report at 1225/11 AMAKURA now states that unknown ship passed under her stern without hostile action and was last seen steering about 170 degrees. (D.D.I.C., 0941/12 to C. in C., A.W.I., etc.)

Your 1200/11. Thorough search carried out nothing sighted now proceeding patrol area. (CIRCASSIA, 2000/12, to C. in C., W.A.)

Lights of Ships
West Coast
America

Proposal that British and Allied Merchant ships should burn navigation lights at full brilliancy and proceed undarkened while on normal coastal route on west coast of America has been under consideration. On these routes a raider, should one appear, is not likely to attack shipping indiscriminately and it would, therefore be an advantage if British and Allied shipping were not made conspicuous by being darkened. Request Admty's view. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1302/12)

/Assisting....

MOST SECRETWar Diary12.10.1940
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies-Contd.Assisting
Ships Attacked

Reference D.M.S. part one para 4. In view of ships now being sunk on high seas many miles distant from waters covered by coasting and patrol craft it is suggested absolute prohibition against proceeding to assistance in such cases be reconsidered. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1143/12 to Admty.)

War Diary12.10.1940
SaturdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSEISENACH

Port Limon reports she is believed to have enough coal bunkers for 3 days' sailing (S.O. (I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1158/12)

SPEZIA

Consul, Valencia, reports finished loading and steam up. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1203/12)

SCHARNHORST

Reported by Standard Oil Co., to have loaded to capacity with oil fuel. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1345Z/12)

HANNOVER

Seamen ex HANNOVER left San Domingo for Port au Prince today. (S.O. (I) 2050/12)

See also 1451/18, p. 358

MOST SECRETWar Diary12.10.1940
SaturdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedANTONIOS
CHANDRIS

N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeiro reports Portuguese ship SERPA PINTO which left St. Vincent C.V. 4/10, due Rio de Janeiro 13/10 picked up on 7/10 22 of crew of Greek Ship ANTONIOS CHANDRIS stated to have been torpedoed.

Source of information Greek Consul Rio de Janeiro. Ship originally reported as TONIS CHANDRIS since corrected, but no information that ANTONIOS CHANDRIS is in South Atlantic.

Estimated position of rescued 001° N., 030° W. (C. in C., S.A., 1148/12)

ORAO

Yugoslav, 5755 tons. Am being shadowed by submarine, my position at 1430, 35.43 N., 10.20 W., (ORAO 1424/12) Crew deserted ship, am being fired on. (ORAO, 1455/12) ORAO proceeding Gibraltar with armed guard from HOTSPUR reports crew have deserted ship and are being fired on (position) F.O.C.N.A., 1600/12) Have detached destroyers to close ORAO and hunt 35.43 N., 10.20 W., rejoining at 0800/13. (S.O. Force H., 1640/12 to C. in C., S.A.,) Attacked by German submarine 45 miles S.W. of Portimao Algarve. (N.C.S.O. 2010/12) *See 18/10.*

A.P/V. CAPE BARRACOUTA
Escaped

Reports unsuccessfully attacked by submarine 36.50 N., 10° W., at 0800/12. (F.O.C.N.A., 1603/1653/12)

PACIFIC RANGER

British, 6865 tons. Torpedoed 56.20 N., 11.43 W., at 1919/12. SUPERMAN and SEAMAN ordered to assist. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1931/12) *See HX 77. = 23/10*

Submarines Reported

- 0955 ? 30° North of Rockall Rock, submarine sighted EXPLORER. (Scapa, 0955/12)
- 0800 36.50 N., 10° W A.F. meage, from Admiral, Gibraltar. (Gibraltar, W/T, 1209/12)
- 1212 D.F., U-Boat between 56° and 57°, 26° and 17° W., possibly shadowing HX 77 (C. in C., W.A., 1309/12) (D.D.I.C., 1322/12)
- 1222 D.F., U-Boat in 56° 20' N., 11° 20' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1309/12) (D.D.I.C., 1322/12)

/Weather Reports....



War Diary

12.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Weather
Reports

When ships report sighting submarines not in immediate vicinity of the coast it should be of the greatest assistance to R.A.F. in deciding whether it is practicable to send aircraft to hunt if ship were to make a brief weather report (C. in C., Rosyth, 1920/12)

MOST SECRET.13.10.1940.
Sunday.War DiarySITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Raid on
A/S trawlers
11/10.

During the raid by enemy light craft on trawlers on 11/10 A/S trawlers LISTRAC and WARWICK DEEPING were sunk. Two French chasseurs 06 and 07 are also missing.

M.T.B.
patrol.

3 M.T.B.'s last night carried out a patrol in the Straits of Dover.

British Air Activity.

R.A.F. last night attacked Channel ports and Dortmund-Ems Canal. Reconnaissance of the Norwegian fiords from Statdlandet to south of Kristiansand was carried out between 1145 and 1305.

Enemy Air Activity.

A fire was caused late this evening at the Naval Depot at Hull.

Mining.

R.A.F. last night laid mines in the St. Nazaire and Lorient area.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was apparent from the Humber to Farne Island, and was also reported in the areas from Portland to the Needles, Selsey Bill to Coquet Island, and from North Foreland to Southwold. 7 Mines were found today in the Dover Straits, and 2 exploded near destroyers proceeding in the Thames Approaches.

Owing to mines in the Medway, traffic is using Thames gate.

The Humber was opened this morning but was closed from Spurn Point to Chequer Shoal buoy this evening. A mine was exploded this morning.

Westray Firth, Orkneys, was reopened this morning.

DANUBE III (Examination vessel) was mined and sunk off Sheerness this morning. Yacht JANETHA IV was damaged by near mine explosions whilst proceeding to rescue survivors, but returned to harbour.

SUMMER ROSE (M/S Drifter) was mined and sunk off Sunderland today.



War Diary

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday

270

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

S.S. ANTONIOS CHANDRIS (Greek 5865 tons) on passage from Cardiff to Buenos Aires is reported sunk by an enemy raider at 8/9 600 miles W.S.W. of Cape Verde Is. The master and 21 of the crew were picked up by S.S. SERPA PINTO (Portuguese) and landed at Rio de Janeiro today. Another boat with 11 men is missing. FAULKNER, FURY, FORESTER and FORESIGHT left Freetown this evening for Gibraltar.

Mediterranean.

VIDO
mined

It is reported that the S.S. VIDO (Yugo Slavian) which left Istanbul 4/10 for Braila with jute on British account for Belgrade, has been mined and sunk off the mouth of the Danube.

*Torpedoed by
9/10/40
4/10/40
200*

FRANCO
FASSIO *10/10/40*
torpedoed

It is reported from Spain that the Italian S.S. FRANCO FASSIO was torpedoed and sunk off Savona several days ago.

Bombardment of
Sidi Barrani

Between 0230 and 0310 today LADYBIRD bombarded Italian positions at Sidi Barrani, assisted by one Bombay aircraft.
er

Tobruk
bombed

Military and naval buildings along the north foreshore of Tobruk harbour were bombed by R.A.F. this evening. The defences appeared to be taken by surprise.

F.A.A.
attack
Port Lago

?Laki

About 2300 today F.A.A. successfully attacked Port Lago (Dodecanese).

East Indies.

The Dutch tanker SWARTENHONDT reported this morning that she was being attacked by an enemy raider about 420 miles E.N.E. of Durban.)

ROTULA

She cancelled her distress signal at 1842/13. S.S. ~~DANIEL~~ reported sighting a suspicious vessel in approximately the same position at 0600/13. KANIMBLA has been ordered to proceed to cover shipping.

Perfim was attacked from the air three times yesterday and today, but no damage or casualties were caused. Aden was bombed today.



War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

CYCLAMEN

Is allocated to Liverpool Corvette Division (C. in C., W.A., 1041/13 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

*German Destroyers
in Channel, 11/10,
LISTRAC and
WARWICK DEEPING
Sunk.*

Shoot at sight is I am convinced the only practical policy for our patrol vessels. LISTRAC was challenging when first shells hit her and the two chasseurs probably had similar experiences. But in conditions of low visibility these patrol vessels may be off their station and encounter friends. Therefore, I intend to operate the patrol vessels in groups instead of singly, one group covering lines F.G.H. one lines L.M.C. and one group lines D.E. when visibility is low or no recent air reconnaissance of enemy ports or when reports of activity in enemy ports is received. These groups will patrol at highest practical speed and will shoot at sight. This will leave gaps but is considered the better policy. Intend also to use 4th M.A./S.B. flotilla when trained for Anti-E-Boat sweeps. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1303/13 to Adty.) *Concur (Admty 1240
19/10)*

Holland
and Italy

Although Netherlands Govt. have not declared war on Italy, they have ordered Dutch Warships to attack any Italian Raider at sight. Head of M. 1711/13 to C. in C., H.F.)

Lorient
Bordeaux }

Propose Bomber Command be asked to attack concentrations of U-Boats in Lorient and Bordeaux. (C. in C., W.A., 1839/13 to Adty.)

DUNCAN
FAME
FEARLESS
FOXHOUND

Propose these ships join 13th Flotilla as 25th Division leaving U.K. about 18/10 and relieving INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ESCAPADE, ECLIPSE and FORESIGHT who would return to U.K. for repairs. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.A., H. 1859/13 to C. in C., H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE Signals

At 0200/13. (D.C. 0214/13) At 1400/13. (D.C. 1431/13)



War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

ANTHONY)
VERITY) Detach in time to meet HX 78, 31 ships unescorted, at 1600/14 in 60° N., 20° 43' W Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1140/13 to WORCESTERSHIRE)

KING GEORGE V Adty. 0215/10 and 1230/12. Request you arrange for sweeping of channels at junction of QZS 176 as far as 21 Buoy. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1145/13 to F.O. Tyne)
Presume that Air Protection is being arranged by Adty. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1910/13 to Adty.)

BERWICK Intend passing through G at 1510/13, course 014°, speed 18.5 knots. (BERWICK 1224/13 to NORFOLK, PUNJABI, MATABELE)
Met NORFOLK, PUNJABI, MATABELE at 1750 in 63° 35' N., 3° 39' W. and passed your position, course and speed. (Capt. D.6. 2359/13 to BERWICK)

DUNCAN)
ESKIMO) Expect arrive 0900/14. (DUNCAN 1344/13 to F.O.C.O.S.)

CHESHIRE Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P's 1100/12. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1345/13 to Adty.)

Portsmouth Movements for night 13/14. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1517/13)

Orkneys Movements for night 13/14 (A.C.O.S., 1531/13)

Western Channel Night Report (C. in C., W.A., 1625/13 and 1855/13)

EGLINTON)
WIVERN) Sailed from Harwich 1821/13. (F.O.I.C.,
WORCESTER) 1831/13 to Adty.)

Rosyth Area Movements for night 13/14. (C. in C., Rosyth 1934/13)

WESTON My position 57° 18' N., 7° 1' W., course 185°, speed 12 knots. (WESTON 1940/13 to C. in C., W.A.) Position at 2144/13 (WESTON 2144/13 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary13.10.1940
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperationsM.T.B. Patrol

My 1406/12. M.T.B's 70,69, 5 carried out patrol (V.A.Dover 0736/13)

Operation D.N.(Skudenes to Lister) My 1841/12. Confirmed that operation is advanced 24 hours. Fighter protection Code Word ~~SECRET~~ (C. in C., H.F., 0957/13 to Adty.)Dover Patrol

3 Destroyers from Sheerness are to be prepared to carry out Dover Patrol between Nos. 1 and 10 Buoys tonight. (C. in C., Nore, 1048/13 to D. 21) Ships sail from Sheerness 1615 and pass South Goodwin at 2000. (C. in C., Nore, 1134/13 to D. 21)

M.T.B's on Belgian Coast

70 foot M.T.B's to operate between Nieuport and Flushing tonight, and 60 foot M.T.B's between Thornton Ridge and Ijmuiden, returning at daylight 14th. Care to be taken that units do not meet. Any vessel met East of 2° 15' E., may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C., Nore, 1148/13 to BEEHIVE)

Possible Attack on TaySpecial intelligence indicates that Enemy are considering if weather is suitable for attack on Tay. Presume air attack referred to, but naval attack cannot be ruled out. See my 2200/12. (A.C.N.S. H. 1640/13 to C. in C., Rosyth)
Are Army and Air Force standing to in the region. (C. in C., H.F., 1736/13 to Adty.)
My 1640. Correct A.B.I. as follows. (D.S.O. 1832/13 to C. in C., Rosyth)
My 2200/12 (Enemy aircraft activity in North Sea) Correct A.B.I. as follows. (D.S.O. 1857/13 to C. in C., H.F.)
Your 1736/13. Information was given to Hofors and Air Ministry who have passed it on to Commands concerned. (A.C.N.S. H. 1919/13 to C. in C., H.F.)Iceland.
Removal of
Walrus Aircraft

Adty. 1504/12. Estimated time embarking Squadron 5 fine days. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1830/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary13.10.1940
SundayHOME COMMANDSSubmarinesAdditional
Submarine at
Campbeltown

Following received from NIMROD addressed Capt. S (7) begins re my 102/100/16/8. 3 submarines are required weekly commencing Monday 14/10. As I am informed only 2 submarines available from 7th Sub Flotilla it is requested application may be made to V.A.S. for a third submarine. 3 submarines are required from now onwards. 1729/9. ends. With present number of submarines attached to 7 submarine Flotilla a third submarine cannot be provided regularly at Campbeltown until either (a) submarine H.34 returns from Scapa (b) Netherland submarine 09 completes refit and then only when there are 3 or less than 3 C.O.Q.C. officers for sea training. (Capt S. 7. 0946/10 to V.A.S)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/14. (V.A.S 1619/13)

O. 24

To be brought to immediate notice. (V.A.S. 1719/13 to S. 9.)

H.A. 49

Proceed to patrol near 56° 30' N., 0° 30' W (V.A.S. 1729/13 to STURGEON)

UPRIGHT

Report on Area D. 4. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2017/13 to Adty.)

Submarines for
A/S Training

Your 0946/10. The whole question is being raised with Adty. (V.A.S. 2151/13 to S.7.)

British Air Activity

No operations took place on 12/10 owing to weather. (H.Q.B.C. 0001/13)

Brest

To be attacked tonight 13/14. Targets (H.Q.C.C. 1529/13)

Tyne
Balloon Barrage

Owing to alteration to area of examination anchorage by the establishment of a controlled minefield, request area in which balloon barrage vessels operating off the Tyne entrance may be increased to cover an area of 1 1/2 sea miles from the North Pier Light between East and North West. The existing area to the southward of North Pier Light requires no modification. (D. of L.D. 1540/13 to Air Ministry)

/Operations.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary13.10.1940
SundayHOME COMMANDSBritish Air Activity-Contd.Operations

Bomber Command Intelligence Summary No 478 Operations night 11/12 Oct. (H.Q.B.C. 1940/13) Summary No 476. Operations night 10/11 Oct. (H.Q.B.C. 2030/13) Summary No 480. Operations night 12/13 October. (H.Q.B.C., 1713/13)

Enemy Air ActivityKjevik
Aerodrome

20 Kilometres East of Christiansand is being greatly extended for military purposes and locally believed to be completed on 1/10. Information from passengers in Icelandic ESJA. (C.O.S.O. Kirkwall, 1016/13 to Adty.)

SATELLITE

Trinity House vessel SATELLITE reports that regularly about 12 noon and 1300 hours, an enemy aircraft has been seen flying westwards out of the mouth of the Bristol Channel, making its course over the lightship SEVEN STONES. From there it deviates its course southwards to the Wolf Lighthouse and thence in the direction of Lizard Point.

The SATELLITE was machine gunned by a German 2 engined Dornier Airplane at 1315 hours, position 2½ miles North (magnetic) from Wolf Lighthouse on 25.9.40. (D.O.D. H. 2235/13 to H.Q.C.C.)

MiningExamination
Vessel Mined

At 080 (?) Medway Gate 1 mile. (VANITY 0844/13 to C. in C., Nore) See DANUBE III

Explosions at
Medway Gate
and near
South Shipwash

My 0845/13. Explosions occurred in rapid succession one minute after original two cables Northward of it. H.M.S. VANITY had just begun turning Northwards out of Medway Gate with 020° of wheel and revolutions staggered Starboard Engines 129 Port Engines 169 and was 6 cables distant. H.M.S. SHELDRAKE reports explosions with plume of water in position 3 miles Eastward of South Shipwash at 1816/13. Nearest ship was 3 cables Westward of explosion. (VANITY 0915/14 to C. in C., Nore)

Falmouth

4 mines cut in Channel on 12/10, one found floating, all sunk. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1000/13 to Adty.)

/Tyne.....



War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

- Tyne One Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by Red LL in 079° Roker Pier Light 2½ cables. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1013/13 to F.O.I.C Tyne)
- Humber Open to navigation (F.O. Humber 1028/13 to Adty.)
- Orkneys Cancel my 1105/11. (Westray Firth closed to shipping) (A.C.O.S. 1040/13) Object reported as Parachute submerged Barrage Balloon. (A.C.O.S. 1042/13 to Adty.)
- Humber Although Channel is believed clear, in view of uncertainty as to characteristics of German Mines it is considered undesirable for Cruiser to enter for the present with less than 15 feet of water above charted depth. (F.O.Humber 1054/13 to Adty.)
- B.S. 41 Intend TEVIOT BANK to sail from Spurn Point at 1800/14, R/V with minesweeper at 0615/15 begin lay at 1200/15, and return same route. (S.O.Minelayers, Immingham 1105/13 to Adty.) LYDD is to R/V with TEVIOT BANK at 0615/15 at 20 D. Buoy (C. in C., Rosyth 1505/13 to M.S. 5)
- Humber Red Mine exploded by LL Trawlers in 255° Chequer Shoal Buoy 2½ cables. Very heavy explosion (F.O.Humber 1120/13 to Adty.)
- SUMMER ROSE M/S Drifter. Mined and sunk 100 yards N.W. of Red Conical Buoy Sunderland inner approach Channel. Chief Engineer and one rating missing. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1147/13 to Adty.)
- Harwich One mine exploded by Fleet Sweepers 5 cables 315° from 54 A Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1227/13 to Adty.)
- Medway Owing to mines, traffic is using Thames Gate. (C. in C., Nore, 1315/13 to Adty.)

/DANUBE III

War Diary13.10.1940
SundayHOME COMMANDSMining-Contd.DANUBE III
JANETHA IV

Tug DANUBE III sunk by underwater explosion this morning in position $2\frac{1}{2}$ cables 305° from Outer Bar Buoy Sheerness. When Yacht JANETHA IV was proceeding to rescue survivors, two more explosions occurred about one cable on her beam in positions 340° 2 cables and 358° 2 cables from Outer Bar Buoy JANETHA IV damaged but made harbour. (C. in C., Nore, 1424/14 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary

Mine apparently acoustic exploded in position 158° West Barrow Beacon 17 cables. Mine exploded 200° from WOLFHOUND, the nearest ship, while WOLFHOUND was turning half ahead and half astern 140 revolutions. (WOLFHOUND 1506/13 to C. in C., Nore)

Knob Light
Vessel

Mine exploded at 1440 about 1 cable ENE from Knob Light Vessel. (WOLSEY 1510/13 to C. in C., Nore)

Dover

My 1231. Sweeping today near QZX 216 by four Cropesa Trawlers seven mines found in following positions:-
One cut and two detonated five cables 036° No 1 Buoy
One detonated 2 cables 080° No 1 Buoy.
One cut 9 cables 170° No 4 Buoy.
One cut one mile 170° No 4 Buoy.
One cut 6 and half cables 165° No 4 Buoy
Intend to sweep Channel again and north-western section of QZX 216 tomorrow as tide and weather permit. (V.A.Dover 1725/13 to Adty.)

Harwich

Add to my 2006/12 explosion was 4 cables ahead of ship. Very high column of water approximately 200 feet high. Base seemed to be half the height like mine explosion but no sign of black. No ship in the vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1911/13 to Adty.)

Humber

Closed from Spurn Point to Chequer Shoal Buoy owing to aircraft minelaying (F.O.Humber 2103/13 to Adty.)



13.10.1940.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

- French and Norwegian Ports) Summary of Photographic R/C's on 12/10. (H.Q.C.C. 0905/13).
- Trondheim to Statlandet) Shipping seen on 13/10. (Donibristle 1545/13 to O.I.C.).
- Brest)
Lorient) Warships seen. (V.A.S. 1654/13).
Gironde)
- Dutch, French, and Belgian ports.) Shipping seen at 0920/13. (P.I.U. Wembley 1730/13).
- Trondheim. R/C on 13/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1834/13 to BERWICK, FURIOUS).
- North Sea. Air R/C. reports Convoy of 7 ships, one 8000 tons, five 2000 tons, one trawler at 1755 in 57° 58' N. 7° 3' E. steering 300° at 5 knots. (C.in C. Rosyth 2058/13 to Capt. D.4.)

MOST SECRET.13.10.1940.
Sunday.War Diary.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.MALOJA.

Boiler defects developed while raising steam today will delay sailing by 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1205/13 to Adty.)

STALWART.

Rescue Tug. Is out of action for next 12 hours. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1940/13 to Adty.).

KING NEPTUNE.

My 1605/11. Arrived 12/10. (Cape Town 1055 B/13 to Adty.).

NORA

In S.C.6. Not arrived. Asking when she was last seen (C.in C. W.A. 1240/13 to ENCHANTRESS).

13.10.1940.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Convoys.Shipping.

O.A. 231

Route (D.T.D. 1110/13).

B.A.S. 4.

Ships. Estimated t.o.d. 1330/13, E.T.A. Reykjavik dusk 17/10 (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1151/13).

E.N. 9.

Escorts BERKSHIRE, WOLVES, CAPE ARGONA, ARCTIC EXPLORER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0630/13).

B.A.S.

Sailed (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1359/13).

H.X. 79.

BIAFRA carries exceptionally important cargo. Place in central position and give additional escort if possible (D.T.D. 1736/13, 1737/13).

B.S. 41.

Two Humber destroyers to be detailed as escort. C.in C. Rosyth arrange air escort (C.in C. Nore 1744/13)

F.N. 7.

Escorts GUILLEMOT, SHELDRAKE, AGATE, AMETHYST (C.in C. Rosyth 1517/13).

F.S. 8.

Your 1030 received. Essential that escort vessels should remain at sea to search and protect ships in H.X. 77 only and returning to harbour to fuel when necessary. (C.in C. W.A. 1317/13).

H.X. 77.

WESTON proceeding to collect, then to pick up ship (WESTON 1331/13). If no further developments by time you reach splitting point proceed to Rosyth (A.C.W.A. 1903/13 to WESTON).

ALMANZORA

To sail with troops for Iceland. Date.

ANTONIA

Escort LETITIA; her subsequent movements.

"Rival"

Code word "Rival" (A.C.N.S.(H) 1900/13).

TORONTO

Signal made in special code to her to join

CITY

S.L. 51 (D.D.O.D.(H) 1750/11).

13.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Escape of
 French ships
 10/9.

French N.A. has questioned me about passage in Prime Minister's speech indicating information of passage of French Warships through Straits of Gibraltar on 11/9 was not known (?Naval Intelligence). He was mystified and indignant as he had informed me of French Admiralty's signal the day before. I said I had passed on the signal. I made no other comment. Actually my 1809 10/9 to you and Gibraltar was sent within few minutes of receiving the information. (N.A. Madrid 1245/13).

Force H.

My position at 2000 A 034° 11'N. 011° 00'W. 068° 22½ knots. GALLANT, GRIFFIN, FIREDRAKE, in company. Request gate 1030/14. GREYHOUND, WISHART, and VIDETTE with ETTRICK KARANJA intend to arrive 0600/15. (S.O. Force H 1901/13). Convoys D.T.D. 1905/13 see America and West Indies.

FRANCO
 FASSIO
 sunk

Under Secretary of Spanish Foreign Office informed our commercial adviser last night that Italian steamship FRANCO FASSIO running between Genoa and Barcelona was torpedoed and sunk off Savona several days ago with loss of all or nearly all on board including 18 passengers of whom 4 were Spanish. (N.A. Madrid 1315/13).

South Atlantic.

Suspicious
 vessel.

Following from DALIA via Jacobs Radio.
 (a) Received at 0556 G.M.T. 13/10. ROTULA reports suspicious vessel position 026° 05' 037° 41'E. description, does not alter course, engine probably stopped.
 (b) Received at 0616 G.M.T. 13/10. ROTULA suspicious vessel disappeared.
 (ii) DALIA subsequently Jacobs asked for position to be verified. Jacobs radio contacted ROTULA and had position confirmed as 026° 50' S. 037° 45' E.
 (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0905 Z/13).

/ DELHI

13. 10. 1940.



War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued).

DELHI
TOUAREG

My 1157/10 DELHI and TOUAREG with armed guard on board expect to arrive Outer Bar of Cameroons River 1,000 Zone minus one 14/10. Request arrangements may be made for ship to be taken over by the French and armed guard relieved on arrival at base buoy. DELHI will embark armed guard and sail as soon as possible. Has confirmation asked for in the last part of my 1157/10 been given.
(.in C. S.A. 1145/13 to N.C.S.O. Duala, DELHI).

Expect to arrive Cameroons outer bar 1000 zone minus one 14/10. Request instruction regarding relief of RESOLUTION armed guard now in TOUAREG. DELHI must leave Manoka by 1600/14 to comply with F.O.C. 1st C.S. 0955/12. (DELHI 2013/12.)

ANTONIOS
CHANDRIS
sunk 8/9
by raider

Master and 21 members of crew of ANTONIOS CHANDRIS landed here from Portuguese ship SERPA PINTO 13/10. Master reports being stopped by raider in 012° N. 035° W. at dusk 8/9 whilst on passage from Cardiff to Buenos Aires with coal. Armed boarding party sank ship with 3 explosive charges after crew had left in 2 ships life boats. Master not allowed to use his W/T but officer of party promised to make S.O.S. Description of raider not of much value as she did not approach close and dark had fallen but Master states was 3 island cargo steamer about 8000 tons with 2 unraked masts without topmasts unraked funnel(s) close abaft bridge straight stem counter stern. Superstructure and top strake of poop and forecastle white remainder black with flag painted on side abreast funnel(s) but nationality not visible. Boats parted company during first night and Master steered for position about 100 miles south west of Cape Verde Islands from where Trades drove him south to 007° N. 029° W. where he was picked up on 6/10. Chief Officer and 10 men in other boat ordered to steer north east stated to have provisions for over 40 days. Master would be glad to have news whether this boat yet found.

Master HIGHLAND PRINCESS estimates ship making raider distress signals reported by his 2118 8th October to Admiralty was 30 miles distant.
(N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1620/13).

/ ENTERPRISE

13.10.1940.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (continued).

ENTERPRISE.

Your 1212/5. ENTERPRISE is urgently required on her proper station as soon as HAWKINS rejoins your broad pendant. Regret your proposals cannot be approved. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1741/13).

FAULKNOR
FURY
FORESTER
FORESIGHT

To sail 1800/13, speed, route, to Gibraltar (C.in C. S.A. 1313 N/13) Sailed 1815/13 (S.O.(I) Freetown 1859 N/13).

KING NEPTUNE

My 1605/11. Arrived 12/10 (Capetown 1055 B/13).

BARHAM

Re French ratings on board (C.in C. S.A. 1137/13).

PRIMAUGUET

If PRIMAUGUET is not sighted by 1800/13 RENOWN, BARHAM, AUSTRALIA and accompanying destroyers proceed to Gibraltar (A.C.N.S.(F) 1308/13).

Convoy S L 51.

ALCANTARA will act as local escort. (C.in C. S.A. 1929/11).

Submarine report

(S.O.(I) Freetown 1718/13) See U-boat campaign.

Italian survivors

Following has been intercepted in plain language at 2156/12 G.M.T. from Coltano radio to hospital ship IBEO begins - Make arrangements to arrive in area bounded by parallels 35° 40' and 36° and between meridians 16° and 16° 40' if possible during daylight hours in order to search for survivors. After sunset proceed to Naples. Signed Cavagnari. Ends. (D.O.D. (F) 0213/13 to V.A. Malta.)

VIDO sunk

S.O.(I) Istanbul reports Yugo Slavian S.S. VIDO which left Istanbul 4/10 for Braila with 60,104 bales of jute on British account for Belgrade, now reported sunk in Russian territorial waters. Crew landed Odessa. Further information respecting pretext sought. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1125/13).

Ship now reported to have struck mine and sunk 18 miles north of Sulina. Crew landed Ismail. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1747/13).

/ Can it be assumed ...



MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday

P. 283 A

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

~~South Atlantic~~ ^{Mediterranean} (Continued)

Can it be assumed that:-

- (a) MALAYA should be retubed as soon as BARHAM joins your Flag.
- (b) You would prefer this to be done at Durban.
- (c) MALAYA should refit concurrently with retubing.
- (d) You would wish to retain RAMILLIES until return of MALAYA.

2. Tubes for MALAYA arrive at Durban at end of October. (D.O.D.(F) 1959/13 to C.in C. Med.)

Air reports

All time G.M.T. Aircraft carried out R.C. of Ionian Sea area. 04.00 - 07.45 hours Swordfish of 830 Squadron F.A.A. reported large patch of oil (35.50 N. 16 E.) 04.45 - 09.34 hours Glenn Martin of 431 flight at 07.00 hours signalled one destroyer and one M/V - position 39. 10 N 17.20 E. On landing reported Taranto 3 battleships - 11 cruisers and two either battleships or large cruisers also a number of small craft. French Late course reported at 12.35 Italian Hospital ship position 35. 10 N 17 E. (Gov. Malta 2135/13).

East Indies.

Whalers.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1634/11. Asking for 2 whalers, as shortage of efficient local defence vessels on E.I. Station is acute (C.in C. E.I. 0704 Z/13).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

To be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as ready (A.C.N.S.(F) 1432/13)

SWARTENHONDT attacked by Raider.

The following has been read:-
VRS RRRR Dutch SWARTENHONDT 3950E 2605S (Colombo T.O.R. 1547/13.)

The following has been read:-
VRS JACOBS Natal radio from SWARTENHONDT here only HORIZON did not change course at present not to be seen. (C.in C. E.I. T.O.R. 1626 Z/13.)

Distress report by SWARTENHONDT. Have ordered CLAN MACARTHUR to continue voyage independently and KANIMBLA to proceed towards position 026° S. 038° E. to cover shipping. CERES, 8 hours notice at Durban raising steam. (C.in C. E.I. 1816 Z/13.)

/ At 1800/13



War Diary.

MOST SECRET 284

13.10.1940.

Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

At 1800/13 SWARTENHONDT made R R R R 039° 50' E. 026° 5' S. Jacobs W/T Station was in touch all the time. At 1834 when asked description SWARTENHONDT replied "Only on horizon. Did not change course. At present not to be seen." There was no difference in transmission noted. According to my plotting there was no ship near SWARTENHONDT at the time and I am not satisfied with this All Clear Signal meaning this was not an enemy ship, but rather that she did not attack. She appears to fall under Category (C) of your 1440 Z/30/9. It is noticeable that both this and ROTULA's report early this morning indicate same procedure. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2221/13. to C.in C. E.I.)

My 1816/13 SWARTENHONDT cancelled distress message at 1842 Z/13 CERES is reverting to previous notice for steam. (C.in C. E.I. 2242Z/13.)

Dhow traffic

Your 0616/1 and 1734/12. Specific threat to sink dhows should not ~~repeat~~ not be made. Imam may be informed that traffic of dhows between Yemen and Italian territory endangers his security as well as ours and must be stopped immediately, that strong measures will be taken by us and therefore dhows engaged in this traffic will incur grave danger.

2. It should not be said that no action will be taken within 10 miles of Yemen territory, but Imam should be informed that if he co-operates in suppressing the smuggling of contraband by dhows our measures will be put into force at a discreet distance from the shores of the Yemen. (Hd. of M. 2011/13, to C.in C. E.I.).

America & West Indies.

JERVIS BAY
ESPERANCE BAY
re reliefs.

Your 1651/10. No objection subject to timely relief. Change of employment beneficial to ships' companies if relieved vessels employed in home waters. Conditions of JERVIS BAY, ESPERANCE BAY, VOLTAIRE. (C.in C. A. W.I. 0932/12 to Adty.).

Convoy S.C.8.

Propose sailing 1200/15, a delay of 48 hours (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1010/13).

SAGUENAY
MARGAREE

My 1841/9 SAGUENAY will sail from Halifax a.m./16 for U.K. direct at 15 knots. Request that MARGAREE may be sailed for Halifax so as to cross SAGUENAY in Western Approaches. (N.S.H. Ottawa 1117/12).

/ AMERICA & WEST INDIES

MOST SECRET.13.10.1940.
Sunday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.HAMILTON

Re defects (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1054/13).

Navigation
lights on
Western
American
coast.

Your 1302/12. Concur. Request you will issue necessary instructions (A.C.N.S. (T) 1803/13 to C.in C. A. W.I.).

EMPRESS OF
AUSTRALIA

Asking date of sailing from Halifax, whether 100 troops embarked, cargo (D. of S.T. 1826/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) Reply (N.S. H.Q. Ottawa 2134/13).

CHARLES L.D.

Your 1101/8. This ship should be intercepted if possible (A.C.N.S.(F) 1946/13 to C.in C. A. and W.I.).

HX Convoy.

Re typing error. Several ships sailed from Sydney before error discovered (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1004/11).

Convoys.

The final position of the standard route should not be to the eastward of R.V. position (D.T.D. 1905/13 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.C. N.A.)

CYMBELINE
sunk by
raider 2/9

Your 1635/22/9. (Bermuda's 2300/19 stated that CYMBELINE sighted raider 0900/2/9, but R.R. from CYMBELINE intercepted at 0903/30/8.) Signed statement from 3 officer survivors of CYMBELINE states that ship was attacked at 2100/2/9. (C.in C. A. W.I. 2028/13).

New Zealand.HAXBY.
Raider.
Mines off
C. Agulhas.

Adty. (corrupt group) 4/9 and 1129 5/10 and 191/10 state HAXBY sunk on 24/4 and Cape Agulhas mines laid early May by same raider. Should it be assumed that this ship is in fact a raider capable of maintaining a high speed. (S.O.(I) Wellington 2306Z/13 to D.N.I.).

13.10.1940.
SundayWar DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships attacked.Unknown
shipShip attacked, intercept 0753 G.M.T.
057° 02' N. 013° 11' W. position
doubtful. (C.in C. W.A. 0803/13, 0921/13,
Valentia Radio 0738/13).DAGRUN
escapedDAGRUN attacked position 56° 00' N.
8° 22' W.
(Lyness W/T T.O.R. 1439/13.)At 1425 G.M.T. D.F. Bearings of DAGRUN
311° unreliable sector.
(Port Patrick 1445/13).Am proceeding with all despatch to DAGRUN.
Expect to reach her at 1715.
(WITHERINGTON 1508/13).DAGRUN still attacked position now
5630 N 7,54 W plus GKU.
(From ? 1527/13.).DAGRUN attacked by submarine position
056° 00' north 008° 22' west at 1439.
Investigate.
(C.in C. W.A. 1531/13 to WESTON).Still attacked torpedo exploded very near
us please give me a bearing.
(DAGRUN T.O.R. 1555/13.)Position at 1600 G.M.T. 56° 31' N.
7° 46' W. Course 150.
(DAGRUN T.O.R. 1700/13).DAGRUN met in position 056° 00' 31' W.
DAGRUN reports submarine last seen at
1530. Am remaining with her. (? SHIKARI
1750/13).LYMINGE
escaped 12/10.My 1603/12. For British ship NEATH ABBEY
read British Ship LYMINGE.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1057/13).Submarines reported.South Atlantic.Norwegian S.S. VIBRAN reports as follows.
Begins:- 0850 G.M.T./2 position (?054
degrees) 06' N. 027° 23' W. Officer of the
watch sighted c.t. of submarine distant
4 miles. Submarine in sight only 4
minutes, quickly submerged.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1718/13).Estimated U/B
dispositions.Italian - 2 in area S.W. of Spain.
German - 1 far out in Atlantic W. of 20° W.
No recent news or whereabouts.
1 was in about 56° 30' N. 17° 30' W. at 1212/12.
1 was in 56° 20' N. 11 43' W. at 1916/12.
1 was reported in about 30' N. of Rockall at
1055/12. (D.D.I.C. 1255/13).

War Diary14.10.1940
MondaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

Nore Destroyers carried out the Dover Patrol last night.

Four destroyers of 4th D.F. last night operated against enemy shipping off the South West coast of Norway. A convoy of 3 merchant ships and 2 escort vessels was destroyed off Egero.

One of the merchant ships was of about 7,000 tons and the other two of 5,000 tons; one of the latter burnt fiercely and ultimately exploded. COSSACK was hit by a shell which burst in the tiller compartment.

Force D

art BERWICK, NORFOLK, FURIOUS and 4 destroyers proceeding to operate against enemy shipping off Northern Norway. SEAWOLF has been ordered to be in position to attack any enemy warships that may be in Trondheim, should they proceed to sea to intercept Force D.

CAIRO

CAIRO is to be used for the A.A. defence of shipping in the Irish Sea and N.W. Approaches she will normally be sailed with the fast O.L. Convoys or those carrying troops and stores and will cooperate with fighter aircraft from Aldergrove.

U-Boat Sunk

TRIDENT today reports that on 8/10 she hit an enemy submarine by gunfire and presumed she sank it, off Belle Isle.

CHESHIRE
Torpedoed

CHESHIRE was torpedoed this evening about 160 miles west of Bloody Foreland, whilst proceeding to Western Patrol. Assistance was sent and CHESHIRE proceeded to Clyde.
~~under her own steam.~~

Torpedoed by U.137 (CB. 4051(26) Interrogation of Survivors, page 12)

MOST SECRET
War Diary14.10.1940
MondaySITUATION REPORTBritish Air Activity

Coastal Command last night attacked shipping at Flushing, causing violent explosions and fires, though weather conditions prevented results from being assessed. Zeebrugge mole was also attacked; all bombs fell at the junction of the mole with the mainland railroad.

Bad weather conditions in Germany last night affected bombing operations. Bombs were dropped in the Wilhelmshaven dock area, The Deutsche Werke Ship building yards at Kiel, and the Hamburg dock area.

The Channel ports were attacked, and the Seaplane base at Nordeney. Flushing, Zeebrugge, and Dombourg were also attacked and a successful R.C. of the Namsos area was carried out.

Owing to the weather many routine patrols and other flights were cancelled or ineffective today. Little was effected by the aircraft of Bomber Command which were sent to attack the Channel ports.

Enemy Air Activity

St. Merryn R.N.A.S. Station was machine gunned this evening. There were no casualties or damage.

Mining

A mine was detonated off North Shields today. One mine was cut in the South Goodwins minefield.

The Humber was reopened early this morning; A mine was exploded and spontaneous explosion occurred during the day.

The western entrance to Hoy Sound has been swept and is now considered clear (see 30/9)

Convoys were swept through the war channel off Harwich today and two mines were found.

/Trinity.....



War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Trinity House vessel RECULVER was mined and sunk in the entrance to the Humber this afternoon.

H.M. Trawler LORD STAMP is missing probably sunk by mine 17 miles SSW of Portland Bill at C130/14.

Operations Against Vichy French

RENOWN and SHEFFIELD returned to Gibraltar this morning.

It is reported that the Admiral, French West Africa has proclaimed a mined area off Libreville.

Mediterranean

TRITON reports sinking one 5,000 ton DEMS escorted by two MAS off Genoa and one 3,000 ton ship in Vado Roads. Savona was bombarded and a fire, possibly the gas works, was caused in Vado. The dates of these incidents are not stated.

The French destroyer FLEURET passed Gibraltar this morning from west to east escorting two merchant ships and shortly afterwards returned westbound.

LIVERPOOL was torpedoed at 1855 today between Crete and Alexandria and was taken in tow by ORION at 1200/15. Her back appears to be broken.

East Indies

PARAMATTA, escorting Convoy B.S. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ was bombed near Centre Park Island (Red Sea) this morning. No damage has been reported.

14.10.1940.

Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
~~Signals~~ Signals.

At 0200/14 (D.C. 0201/14). At 1400/14 (D.C. 1420 and 1805/14).

Policy.

INGLEFIELD) To be
ECHO) relieved
ESCAPADE)
ECLIPSE)
DUNCAN) by
FAME)
FEARLESS)
FOXHOUND)

Your 1859/13. I very much deprecate this continual shifting about of destroyers. Reasons. Gibraltar Dockyard not subject to same scale of bombing as southern yards in England. Proposing refits be carried out at Gibraltar rather than further choke Dockyards in U.K. (C.in C. H.F. 1139/14).

Escort groups.

C.in C. W.A. 2101/12. Escort groups of corvettes and destroyers to be formed. Details (C.in C. W.A. 1457/14).

BERWICK or AUSTRALIA
not for Mediterranean.

Reply to C.in C. H.F. 1825/12. There is insufficient time to make your proposal practicable (1st S.L. 1608/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

CAIRO.

To be used for A.A. defence of shipping in Irish Sea and N.W. Approaches. Use to be made of R.D.F. and R/T to assist fighter aircraft from Aldergrove in attacking enemy aircraft. CAIRO will usually be sailed with fast O.L. convoys or those carrying troops and stores. To be based on Clyde and not to operate west of 10° W. unless air attacks further west appear likely (C.in C. W.A. 1613/14)

4.7 shell for destroyers.

Production of 4.7 inch H.E.T.F. shell for destroyers guns has now reached a satisfactory figure and the restrictions imposed by Adty. 2336/20/5 are cancelled. (Hd. of M. 2140/14).

GLASGOW

My 1655/11. It will also be necessary to strengthen Mediterranean Fleet by one large 6" Cruiser which must be ready to sail on 28th October. Taking refits and leave into consideration it would appear that GLASGOW is the most suitable. Request your remarks. (V.C.N.S. 2225/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

WALLACE

Proceed forthwith to reinforce
Escort of F.N. 7 due Sheringham 0730/14.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0501/14 to WALLACE).
My 1830. WALLACE left F.N.7 at dark
and is proceeding to Rosyth H.X.A. 77.
ETA Kinnaird Head 0130/15. (C.in C.
Rosyth 2044/14).

WESTON

With s.s. AGAMEMNON off Cape Wrath at 1130.
Speed 10 knots. Route P. (WESTON 1142/14
to A.C.O.S.)

KING GEORGE V.
(Air Protection)

Your 1910/13. Adty. will arrange this.
(D.O.D.(H) 1158/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Admiralty 0215/10. In view of advance
in programme, arrangements have been made
for ship to be passed into Basin at Rosyth
on P.M. Tide at about 1700/17.

Request you report whether foremost R.D.F.
mast can be struck in time to allow ship
to pass under Forth Bridge accordingly.

Important that ship has no list in either
direction when entering lock, C.in C. H.F.
concur.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1731/14 to KING GEORGE V).

KING GEORGE V will leave Walkers Yard
Tyne at 0430/17.

(2) The following forces under command
of C.S.15 will be required to cover
passage to Rosyth; AA protection
NAIAD, BONAVENTURE; A/S screen FAME, SIKH,
MAORI, ELECTRA, BRILLIANT, BEAGLE.

(3) Following measures to be taken as a
precaution against magnetic mines.

(4) Cruisers should not enter Q Z S 124
unless it is necessary to give close
protection against air attack.
(C.in C. H.F. 2212/14 to C.S.15).

Dover.

Patrols for Night 14/15. (V.A. Dover
1548/14).

Rosyth Area.

Movements for Night 14/15 and Positions
at 2000/14. (C.in C. Rosyth 1830/14).



14.10.1940.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Attack on Tay.

My 1640/13. Now considered unlikely to take place. (V.C.N.S. 0041/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Operation P.S. (EREBUS)

Will not take place tonight (C.in C. Nore 1010/14 to EREBUS.

Patrol O.

To be carried out by two of 21st D.F. (C.in C. Nore 1040/14 to D.16, D.21).

Proposed Submarine operation off French West Coast

Propose following operation for Night 21/22 October to attack Enemy Surface Forces leaving French West Coast ports. TUNA, TAKU, CACHALOT leave Clyde 18/10 and in position by sunrise 21st. Proposed movements. (S.2. 1052/14 to V.A.S.)

Enemy Convoy and Escort sunk.

Captain (D) 4 reports that he destroyed a convoy of 3 merchant ships and 2 escort vessels in position 4 miles 270° from Egero light.

Particularly requested that no public announcement of the type of force which has achieved this result should be made as otherwise future operations will be compromised. Details follow on return of Force to harbour. (C.in C. H.F. 1118/14 to Adty.)

My 1118/14 further details are as follows. One escorting vessel was trawler type and the other a motor boat with torpedo tubes. One Merchant ship estimated to be about 7000 tons and the other two of 2500 tons. One of the smaller ships burnt fiercely and ultimately exploded the other two ships sank. COSSACK was hit by shell which burst in ships side of tiller compartment damage repairable in about three days. One Rating wounded in that compartment was the only casualty. (C.in C. H.F. 2214/14 to Adty.)

Straits of Dover.

Weather permitting M.T.B's 70 and 5 will leave Dover at 2200/14 to operate between Boulogne and Gravelines, returning daylight 15th. (V.A. Dover 1225/14) Cancelled owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 1902/14 to Adty.)

/ Operation J.F.

MOST SECRET.14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDSOperations. (Continued)Operation J.F.

Additional Outer Patrol Lines J and K established as follows. Orders for Patrol Vessels and for informing them early of any friendly vessels. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1407/14 to F.O.I.C. Portland).

Adty. 1111/20/9, para. 3A(I). Request Outer Patrol Line in Portsmouth Command be amended as follows. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1437/14 to Adty.)

Iceland.

Your 1830/13. Reasons for requiring 5 days for embarkation not understood. ARGUS only to embark aircraft, air-stores, and personnel. Motor Transport and other stores to be sent in M.T. ships as convenient. ARGUS will arrive Iceland P.M./21 and must sail for U.K. by P.M./23. Report if this practicable. (5th S.L. 1712/14 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Enemy Attack on Trawler Patrol.

My 1257/12. 1501/12. 1847/13 and 2113/13. LISTRAC and WARWICK DEEPING were patrolling in line ahead course west at 5 knots with LISTRAC leading. Enemy was sighted on a S.E. by bearing at a distance of 2 or 3 miles in position 180 degs. St. Catherines 10 miles at 2240/11.

*For same account, see
GSD/FDS/X.331/50,
German Documents,
13. 6. 1960*

Enemy opened fire on WARWICK DEEPING first whereupon LISTRAC switched on his identification lights. Fire was then opened on LISTRAC. LISTRAC was hit immediately in boiler room which caused an explosion and ship began to sink. Crew abandoned ship and survivors were picked up a.m./12th.

After WARWICK DEEPING had been hit 2 or 3 times she escaped and steamed towards the shore. Crew were compelled to abandon ship about one hour later and ship subsequently sank. Neither Trawler opened fire during the action.

*Loss of
CHASSEURS 06 707*

Only evidence available regarding loss of chasers 06 and 07 is contained in messages received by Portsdown Hill W/T. Station and Lloyds Cottage (Portland) and from observation of gunfire by shore observers. Copy of messages is being forwarded by letter. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1807/14 to Adty.)

/ Force D.

14.10.1940.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Continued).Force D.
(Tromso).

C.in C. Home Fleet, 1057/12. Intend to proceed in HOOD with SOMALI, MASHONA, and ESKIMO passing Hoxa at 1550/15 to join Force D during daylight 17th. If D H U phase one is delayed intend to join during daylight 18th. Route will be through positions G, B, and towards O referred to in operation D H U, passing through position 068° north $000^{\circ} 40'$ East at 0800/17 speed of advance 15 knots.

(ii) If Force D is not met course 059° will be continued until 1300 when HOOD will reverse course along the track indicated.

(iii) If phase one has been carried out on 16th and it is apparent HOOD will not make contact during daylight 17th BERWICK is to make an immediate report by W/T using H/E giving her position course and speed.

(iv) If no signal is received in accordance with para. (iii) it will be assumed phase one has been delayed 24 hours and same procedure will be carried out on 18th October. In either case Force 'D' should steer along track O B G W and H.M.S. HOOD is to alter course as necessary closing during daylight hours. (F.O.C. 1st B.C. 2357/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

Submarines.STURGEON.

Cancel my 1729/13. Proceed to Blyth. (V.A.S. 0124/14 to STURGEON).


C.in C. 1331/12.

(A) 7th Submarine Flotilla is at present fully occupied in providing submarines for A/S Training at Campbeltown and Tobermory and one temporarily at Scapa and also in providing submarines for training submarine commanding officers qualifying course.

(B) The situation will improve on return of H.34 from Scapa about 24/10 and on transfer of H.28 and H.49 from Harwich to Rothesay in early November to which my 1392/SM 105 of 13/10 refers.

(C) Clyde A/S Practice areas are at present used to the full.

/ (D)

14.10.40.
Monday
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines (Continued)

(D) On increase in 7th Flotilla referred to in paragraph B. one submarine could be based at Holyhead changing round monthly and a total of 2 others could possibly be made available for Tobermory and/or Londonderry. The margin necessary to provide for refit to repairs and time on passage is too small to guarantee the required number of Submarines being available all the time.

(V.A.S. 1118/14 to Adty.)

Re your private letter to C.S.O.(0). Agree in principle with your proposals. In view however of my 1654/13 you should concentrate on Lorient and Bordeaux. TUNA is to be kept to relieve TALISMAN to avoid a gap later on and doubtless S.7 can make use of TUNA in the meantime to assist in A/S Training. Approved to sail TAKU and CACHALOT. TAKU patrolling off Lorient and CACHALOT in the Northern Outer area proposed by you subsequently relieving PORPOISE. It is suggested that the Submarine off Bordeaux should periodically proceed about 120 miles to seaward on a line joining Gironde to a position about 20 miles North of Cape Ortegal.

(V.A.S. 1219/14 to S.2).

TIGRIS

Leave patrol P.M./15 and is being routed within 30 miles of Ushant. Am allowing her to sink at sight any M/V met South of 49° N. (V.A.S. 1641/14 to Adty.).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/15. (V.A.S. 1652/14).

URSULA
UPRIGHT
UTMOST
to
Mediterranean.

S.5 0947. Have just been informed Admiralty has approved 3 U-Class to proceed to Mediterranean at a very early date. URSULA, UPRIGHT and UTMOST will be sent. Request URSULA be kept back from patrol and that she be prepared to sail for Gibraltar on 20th October. As much leave as possible should be given consistent with the above. Date of departure of UTMOST and UPRIGHT depends on result of propellor trials.
(V.A.S. 1334/11 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

- Zeebrugge. Attacked at 1955 to 2035/13.
 Explosions and one large fire seen.
 (H.Q.C.C. 1100/14).
- Flushing. Aircraft of 53 Squadron to attack Oil Tanks
 and Shipping on Night 14/15. (H.Q.C.C.
 1240/14).
- Lorient. Aircraft of 59 Squadron to attack on Night
 14/15. (H.Q.C.C. 1241/14).
- A/S Patrol. Will be flown daily until further notice by
 Sunderland Aircraft from dawn for 8 to 10
 hours in following area. (C.in C. Rosyth
 1346/14).
- S.A. 1 A.)Cancelled this P.M. owing to low visibility.
S.A.2. and 5 A. 3.)(C.in C. Rosyth 1416/14).
- Boulogne, Calais,)
Havre, Dunkirk,)
Ostend, Kiel,)
Flushing, Hamburg,)
Wilhelmshaven,)
Borkum, Terschelling.)) Attacked by Aircraft during Night
 13/14. (H.Q.B.C. 1800/14).
- A/S Moonlight Patrol. Will be carried out by Sunderland
 leaving Invergordon 2200/14 for about
 6 hours near 58° 43' N. 9°50' W.
 (C.in C. Rosyth 2008/14).

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

- Sculcoates. One HE Bomb in Main Shed of Naval Stores
 Depot. Contents damaged, extent not yet
 assessed. (F.O. Humber 1320/14 to Adty.).
- Chatham. At about 1230/14 one Bomb fell at R.N.A.
 Depot, Lodge Hill, Slight damage.
 No casualties. (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1810/14
 to Civil Lord).
- St. Merryn. Attacked at 2130/14 by machine-gun from one
 Aircraft. No casualties or damage.
 (R.N.A.S. St. Merryn 2201/14 and 0735/15).

14 10.1940.
Monday



War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Humber

Open to navigation (F.O. Humber 0530/14)
Spontaneous explosion 7 cables 248 $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁰
Middle L.V. (F.O. Humber 0953/14).
Mine exploded by LL trawlers at 0900
in 3030 Middle L.V. 2 cables, spontaneous
explosion in 157⁰ Spurn Point 2 miles at
134⁰ and further explosion at 1400 on the
Binks no ships near (F.O. Humber 1835/14).

Harwich.

Fleet sweepers swept F.N. convoy through
148 Q Z S from N.E. Swin L.V. to 2 evening
13/10 one mine exploded in sweep (F.O.I.C.
Harwich 0857/14) Fleet sweepers swept
F.S. Convoy through 148 Q.Z.S. from 2 to
junction of 7 Q.Z.F. One mine picked up
in sweep. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1627/14).

Dover.

North Goodwin nothing found (V.A. Dover
1205/14). One mine cut 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles 260⁰
South Goodwin L.V. (V.A. Dover 1811/14)

North Shields.

Ground magnetic mine detonated 72⁰ Roker
Pier Lt. 10.5 cables at 1215 (P.M.S.O.
North Shields (1253/14)

DANUBE III
mined 13/10.

Technical details of VANITY's course
(C.in C. Nore 1453/14)

RECULVER sunk.

Trinity House vessel damaged by underwater
explosion in 195⁰ Spurn Pt. Lt. Ho.
1.2 miles. Explosion took place 30 ft. on
port beam. Vessel now sunk in approx.
3 cables N.W. of No. 4 Buoy in Northern
Examination Anchorage (F.O. Humber 1513/14
1837/14).

Operation B.S. 41.

In my 1830 read B.S.41 14 miles N.E. Spurn
Pt. (C.in C. Rosyth 1945/14).


Hoy Sound.

My 1603/30/9. Western entrance to Hoy
Sound has been swept and is considered
clear. (A.C.O.S. 1959/14)

Acoustic mines.


Conditions to be observed by destroyers
under way when in waters likely to be
acoustically mined and when not preceding
larger vessels (C.in C. Nore 2154/14).

14.10.1940.

Monday.
War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Photographic R.C.Norway, France, Holland, Belgium.
12/10, 13/10 (H.Q.C.C. 0905/14).Brest,
Lorient.Results of examination of photographs.
(P.R.U. St. Eval 1000/14).One small vessel.Following remains unidentified. Begins:
Scapa W/T from Fair Isle one small slow
vessel bearing 272 degrees distance
10 miles course 225 degrees speed 8 knots
foggy 0835/12 Ends.
(A.C.O.S. 1024/14).Trondheim.

R.C. 13/10. (V.A. (S) 1553/14).

Terschelling)
Calais)Shipping seen during Night 13/14.
(H.Q.B.C. 1800/14).

MOST SECRET.14.10.1940.
Monday.
War Diary.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.FOWEY.

Steering Engine out of action. Hand steering satisfactory while in company with other ships.
(FOWEY 0002/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

PERIWINKLE.

Reports W/T transmitter out of action and is proceeding Liverpool with HEINA. (CLARKIA 0015/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

DARTFORD)
JESSIE MAERSK)

British Ships ex Convoy O.B.M. 228 (S) arrived Belfast Lough 0930 with collision damage.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1020/14 to Adty.)

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys

Shipping.

- H.X. 78. To alter course, (C.in C. W.A. to ANTHONY, etc., 2050/14).
- H.X. 77 A. Time of arrival Kinnaird Head. (C.in C. Rosyth 2044/14).
- O.G. 44. Route amended (C.in C. W.A. 1610/14).
- F.N. 7. WALLACE to meet and escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 0537/14, 0856/14)
- O.B.M. 228(S) DARTFORD and JESSIE MAERSK arrived Belfast, collision (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1020/14.)
- S.C.8. SANDWICH arrived 13/10. Convoy sails 1200/15. Delay of 48 hours. (D.T.D.1018/14).
- O.A.229. List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0931/14) Escort JASON, HIBISCUS, COREOPSIS (N.C.S.O. Methil 0905/14).
- O.L.8. HIGHLANDER and HAVELOCK to sail with. (C.in C. W.A. 1117/15).
- S.C.7. Route. (D.T.D., 1241/14),
- H.X.81. Escort VOLTAIRE sailing 16/10 and returning Halifax. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1632/14).
- B.H.X. 82. Advance sailing telegram. (S.C.D.E. Bermuda, 1201/14).
- O.G.44. Sailing telegram. (C.in C. W.A. 2100/14) Amend route. (D.T.D. 1115/14).
- S.L.F. 52. Ocean route. (D.T.D. 1617/14).
- H.X. 79. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1809/14).
- O.B. 231. Route (D.T.D. 1116/14).
- S.C.6. ENCHANTRESS reports NORA did not sail. (D.T.D., 1114/14)
- O.B. 230. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1005/14).

Troop Convoys

- B.A.S. 4. Position, steering for Reykjavik. (V.A.S. 1102/14). Routed direct from Stornoway to Reykjavik. (A.C.O.S. 1202/14).

French M.V's.

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.

Monday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSTroop ConvoysShipping. (Continued).French M.V's

Your 1236/8. French N.A. should be informed no escort being provided for 4 French M.V's from North Ireland to U.K., but they should pass through (route). Essential Admty. be informed when vessels sailing. (Hd. of M. to N.A. Washington, 1658/14).

SVEADROTT
CASTOR

Your 1745/8. Re route your para 2, an answer has been given to Swedish Legation in London. No enquiry re. CASTOR has reached Admiralty. While no objections to CASTOR accompanying SVEADROTT to U.S., Admiralty is not prepared to give any assurances about a return voyage for either SVEADROTT or CASTOR. (1631/14 Head of M. (68) to N.A. Stockholm)

Route for
Neutrals.

Neutral ships may be sent between South and West coasts of U.K. via 105 Q.Z.Y. Master to be given a route designed to disguise the simple nature of the gap. An officer is to be placed on board for the passage, not to navigate the ship but solely to ensure that the Master adheres strictly to route ordered. (D.T.D. 1838/14).

Need for Group
Sailings.

Your 2017/13 and 1407/14. Experience here confirms information of future movements often received too late to enable patrols and other ships concerned to be warned. Owing to weather etc. movements of small vessels, both Naval and Merchant, cannot be foretold with accuracy. For these reasons, considered that if patrols are to shoot at sight all ships must be sailed in escorted groups. (C.in C. W.A. 2115/14 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

14.10.1940
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

French Shipping

Gibraltar 1100/14. French destroyer FLEURET escorting ALICE ROBERT, MONTAIGNE passed from W. to E. 1120, FLEURET returned west-bound (S.O.I., Gib. 1229/14)

French Prisoners

C. in C., S.A., 1845N/9 and 1137N/13. Request instructions re disposal. Detention on shore at Gibraltar highly inconvenient. (F.O.C.N.A., 1150/14 to Adty.)
Your 1150/14. C. in C., S.A., 1845/9 and 2113/13 refer. French crew are to be detained as hostages until agreement reached for return of our 5 F.A.A. personnel and emissaries of de Gaulle held at Dakar. (Hd. of M., 1025/14)
5 Officers and 62 men of French Submarine AJAX sunk off Dakar are arriving shortly at Gibraltar and will be held as hostages for the return of the emissaries of de Gaulle and 3 Officers and 2 men of the F.A.A. detained at Dakar. C. in C., South Atlantic on 3rd October proposed the exchanged to Governor General of Dakar, who referred to Vichy, but no reply has yet been received. Request you ask French N.A. to take up urgently question of exchange with French Admiralty on basis of the proposal made by C. in C., South Atlantic. (hd. of M. 2024/14 to N.A. Madrid)
Your 0021/4 (not to F.O.C.N.A.) 1845/9 and 1137/13. In order to accelerate negotiations French Admiralty is being approached through N.A. Madrid. Request you state the proposal made by you to Governor General, Dakar and the number of de Gaulle's men whom it is desired to recover in addition to the 5 British named in your 0021/4. (Hd. of M. 1016/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

Vichy Areas

Report No 1. Gaboon. Only still held for Vichy area inclusive Libreville, Njolo, Lamgarane-Gentil. Also Mitzie as small isolated place. Advance by Free French Ovum to Boua proceeding. Reliably informed Admiral French W. Africa has proclaimed a mined area off Libreville. (G.O.C., W. Africa, to W.O., 1300/13, recd. from W.O., 2120/14)

French Shipping

Your 1849/12 para 3. Not clear what reference is meant as there is no (c) in my 1957/5. Also does this instruction apply generally or to the particular patrol referred to in rest of signal. Ref. (b) of my 1957/5. It is assumed any warships escorting merchant ships to West African ports south of Dakar should be turned back with Merchant ships if force is sufficient to do so, the Merchant ship not being otherwise interfered with, this was intended. (C. in C., S.A. 1353/14 to Admtty.)

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd

Cruiser
Patrol

Your 1849/12. D Class Cruisers carrying out centre patrol from Freetown would have four days on patrol allowing 22% for high speed if required but could make one turn round fuelling at St. Vincent Cape Verde Islands, giving two five day patrols. Consider patrol if placed should be on northern route extending about 40 miles nearer coast than suggested. Presence of patrol would soon be known once ships were intercepted or by air reconnaissance which now extends almost daily to Freetown. Air Forces at Dakar recently reported increased. If patrol and object became known possibility of air or submarine action or Cruiser being sent out to release ships detained. No support available Freetown and a weak force on patrol might invite reprisals. Desirable to route convoy west of Cape Verde Island while Patrol was in operation. For traffic across Atlantic recommend A.M.C. patrolling 500-600 miles to west of Dakar north or south of Cape Verde Islands and for route from north an 8 inch Cruiser with two or more Destroyers or in any case an 8 inch Cruiser to support D. class. Cruiser's aircraft would be of great importance. (C. in C., S.A., 1731/14 to Adty.)

North Atlantic

German M.V's

Reported some German merchant ships may leave Vigo tonight. (F.O.C.N.A., 2121/14)

RENOWN

Propose revert to 6 hours notice for 56 hours from 0001/15 etc., (S.O. Force H., 0901/14) Approved (D.O.D. (F) 1210/14)

Gibraltar
Aircraft

In event of Gibraltar becoming untenable as a base proposed to Air Ministry by O.C. R.A.F. Gibraltar that aircraft of 200 group should be flown to Malta and thence on to Egypt and that personnel should be evacuated to follow via Takoradi. Since under above conditions cable ship MIRROR will also have to leave, propose she should embark about 200 of these R.A.F. for passage to Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A., 1154/14 to Adty.)

STARLING

Your 1912/12. Aircraft which attacked SS STARLING considered more likely to have been a German long range 4 engined Fokker Wulf operating from Bordeaux. (D.D.I.C. to F.O.C.N.A., 1802/14)


War Diary14.10.1940
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth AtlanticMALOJA
ESPERANCE BAYMy 1657/10. To exchange duties from
midnight 15-16/10. Destinations. (D.O.D. (F)
1254/14)BRECONSHIREC. in C. S.A., 1107N/6. Arrived Capetown
14/10. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1803Z/14)MediterraneanPARTHIAN
AttackedPARTHIAN reports unsuccessfully attacked
in 33.23 N., 21.55 E at 2015/12 presumably
by submerged submarine. 2 torpedoes fired
and avoided. Stresses vital importance
of efficient zigzag on moonlight nights.
(Capt. S. 1. 0005/14)Air
ReconnaissanceResults 12/10 by 230 Sqdn. to locate enemy
forces in E. Med. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1148/
14)PANDORACancel exercise. Proceed on patrol keeping
well clear of trawlers on U/B hunt.
SINDONIS join hunt. (N.O.I.C., Alexandria
1431/14 to PANDORA)BERWICK
GLASGOWMy 1653/11. On completion of operation
with Force D. BERWICK to cease to be a unit
of Home Fleet. To proceed Mediterranean
(date) (D.O.D. (H) 1628/14 to C. in C., H.F.)
My 1655/11. Also necessary to strengthen
Med. Fleet by one large 6" cruiser which must
be ready to sail (date) Appear GLASGOW most
suitable. (D.O.D. (H) to C. in C., H.F.,
2225/14)Air
OperationsR.A.F. Operational Summary No 126 period
ending 1200/14.
13/10. 0230- 0310 hours. 1 Bombay 216
Squadron assisted sloop LADYBIRD in night
bombardment of Italian positions Sidi
Barrani by dropping flares over target area.
Heavy bombs and incendiaries also dropped on
position to coincide with bombardment,
numerous fires caused. 1830 hours, 2 Blenheims
211 Squadron attacked military and naval
buildings along north foreshore Tobruk har-
bour from 15,000 feet by night, their bombs
falling on north side of town and near oil
tanks. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1147/14)

/Coming Operations..



War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Coming Operations

Admty. 1911/10. This can be done. Proposals and plans. (C. in C., Med., 1421/14) See Mediterranean Volume.

Operation M.B. 6. 8-14/10

Long report of operation period 8/10-14/10. All available ships including all 4 battleships. Convoy of 4 M.V's with Malta supplies escorted by 2 A/A cruisers and 4 destroyers. MALAYA possibly attacked by submarine 33.11 N. 27.20 E at 0530/9. Submarine sighted by aircraft 36.31 N., 20.20 E., at 1100/10 and 35.37 N., 19.54 E at 1430/10. Former severely depth charged, almost certainly damaged by VAMPIRE. Convoy arrived 8 hour late at 1600/11. IMPERIAL mined off Hard Bak (my 1156/11) COVENTRY cut a mine with paravane on way in. Attack on Tripoli had to be cancelled. Convoy ex-Malta with escort sailed 2100/12, PLUMLEAF, VOLO and APHIS. AJAX action with destroyers 0230/12. Aircraft reported Fleet 0815/12. Bombing attacks made 1230 to 1600 up to 50 aircraft. No damage. AJAX and 2 destroyers detached at 0700/13 to escort A.S. 4. from Aegean. ILLUSTRIOUS, 2 of 3rd C.S. and 4 destroyers detached noon/13 for moonlight air attack on Port Lago. Surprise achieved. All aircraft returned. (C. in C., Med., 1045/14, amended 2304/14)

Spain

Biweekly report. Situation clearer. (N.A. Madrid, 1915/14)

LIVERPOOL Torpedoed

Torpedoed at 1855/14 (see 15/10)

Operations. Press Communique

Intend issuing following to Press tomorrow 15/10.
(2) Our Naval Force whilst operating off Malta made contact with enemy about 80 miles S.E. of Sicily at 0230/12.
(3) AJAX sighted 3 of Italian Destroyer ~~AAKONE~~ Class of destroyers at this time and sank 2 outright. Shortly afterwards sighted a large cruiser and four destroyers. She crippled one of these destroyers but lost touch in darkness with remainder who made off.

/Supporting.....

14.10.1940
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operations
Press Communique
Contd.

Supporting Cruiser came to help of AJAX and assisted by aircraft found the damaged Destroyer at dawn in tow of a companion who had gallantly come to her assistance. Towing Destroyer then slipped tow and escaped at high speed toward Sicily under cover of smoke.

(4) Damaged ship was latest Class of Large Italian Destroyers and was Italian Destroyer ARTIGLIERE. On arrival of YORK, ARTIGLIERE started to abandon ship and after allowing a further ½ hour for this process ship was sunk by our fire.

(5) Boats and rafts for survivors were supplemented by rafts from H.M.S. YORK and Wireless message was broadcast on the commercial wave to Italian Station giving the position of Survivors, though this compromised position of the British Fleet. Weather was fine and Sicily at no great distance and experience at sinking of Italian Cruiser BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI on 19/7 when our rescuing destroyers were bombed by Italian Air Force and one of them damaged made it unjustifiable for our ships to take any further measures particularly in view of close proximity of Italian Air Concentrations and presence of submarines.

(6) During this spirited and successful action AJAX had few casualties and only superficial damage above waterline which is quickly repairable whilst ship continuing her work with fleet.

(7) Following on this action the enemy attacked our fleet with aircraft over a period of four hours. There were no hits or damage but four enemy Aircraft were shot down by our Fighters and gunfire for certain and two more were probably also destroyed. All our aircraft returned.

(8) F.A.A. attacked Port Lago in Dodecanese at about 2300/13 achieving complete surprise barracks, workshops, hangers and a petrol tank were hit and set on fire. All our Aircraft returned. (C. in C., Med. 1200/14)

Operation,
TRITON

TRITON reports sinking one 5000 ton D.E.M.S. escorted by two M.A.S. off Genoa and one 3,000 ton ship in Vado Roads. Savona bombarded fire in Vado possibly from gas works. Date of the incident not yet known.

/LADYBIRD.....

14.10.1940
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation.
TRITON
LADYBIRD, Contd.

LADYBIRD in co-operation with R.A.F. bombing attacked Sidi Barrani and carried out a successful night bombardment at 0230/13. (3) Intend issuing the following communique:- "During the period 1-14/10 one of our naval units successfully attacked and bombarded military objectives in the port of Savona. Also a submarine sank a 5000 ton supply ship off Genoa and a 3000 ton ship in Vado Road. On the night of 12-13/10 a naval unit working in co-operation with the R.A.F. successfully bombarded enemy concentrations at Sidi Barrani" (C. in C., Med. 1053/14)

East Indies

Djibuti
Supplies

Consul informs Governor Aden "Train arrived at Djibuti from Ethiopia 9/10 with 60 tons grain 40 tons flour, 5 tons vegetable oil. Same evening train left for Ethiopia contents not yet known but reported to be coal and oil" Italian delivery possibly or confidence in early military successes to relieve situation in Ethiopia. (S.N.O., Red Sea, 0804Z 14)

Red Sea
Dhows

Admty 2011/13. Not clear whether action against dhows proposed my 0616/1 may be taken as from 17/10. (C. in C., E.I., 0620Z/14)

EUTHALIA

My 1058/11 (increased number of Greek ships calling at Lourenco Marques) and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1420/14. Greek EUTHALIA sailed for Capetown due 20/10. (C. in C., E.I., 0624/14)

PARRAMATTA
Air Escort

PARRAMATTA escorting B.S. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ bombed 5 miles S. of Centre Peak Island, Red Sea, 0845Z/14. No damage reported. (C. in C., E.I., 1056/14)
(see also p. 356)

Air Report

(No Naval incidents) 12/10 and 13/10. S.A.A.F. made extensive reconnaissances over enemy territory and coastal patrols Mombasa and Zanzibar. No enemy movements observed. One warship escorted in Mombasa. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1150/14)

B.S. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

Intelligence Summary No 124 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.L.T. 14/10. 2 S. 81's or possibly JU 52's approached convoy B.S. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ near Zubair Island 15° N 42' E., but abandoned incipient attack on encountering 1 Blenheim 4 203 Squadron which twice

/Attacked...

14.10.1940
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation.
TRITON
LADYBIRD, Contd.

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/Attacked...

War Diary14.10.1940
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.B.S. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Air Escort.
Contd.

attacked 1 firing 1300 rounds with no observed damaged. Attack broken off at 150 yards. Blenheim 4's 203 Squadron kept fighter patrol over convoy B.S. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0315 to 0450 and 00704 to 1115. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q., Aden 1729/14)

ChinaFALCON

My 0535/23/9. Do not intend to lay up FALCON at present. (C. in C., China, 0251/14)

DUMONT
D'URVILLE

French sloop, arrived 13/10 Saigon (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0833Z/14)

Japan

Your 0449/6 para (a) Request consideration to an upper limit of 3,000 tons and a Northern limit of Hong Kong. Concur with your intended policy and para (f) If diversion becomes necessary, any further signal from Admiralty will be confined to instructing you to bring your policy into effect. (D.T.D., 1159/14 to C. in C., China)

America & West IndiesTroop
Transport

Your 2216/23 and my 1121/26. Military would appreciate information re situation regarding ships and escort for approx. 6,000 troops. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1134/14)

M.V's to be
lighted

Your 1803/13. Following may be promulgated to all British Merchant vessels by Admty. letter message:-
British Merchant ships in areas 8 and 10 when on coastal route of North or South America are to burn navigation lights at normal brilliance and proceed undarkened. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1251/14)

AustraliaCHINA

Panamaian tanker from Bahrein 22/9 to Fremantle, not arrived. (A.C.N.B., 0145Z/14)
My 0145. CHINA arrived 14/10 (A.C.N.V. 1222/14)

New ZealandRaider

Your 2306/Z/13. Now known raider which sank HAXBY did not lay mines off Cape Agulhas. Maximum speed of raiders not likely to exceed 16 or 17 knots (D.D.I.C. to S.O.I. Wellington 1852/14)

MOST SECRET14.10.1940
Monday
War DiaryGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSVigo

Reported some German ships may leave Vigo tonight. (F.O.C.N.A., 2121/14, D.D.I.C., 1925/14, V.A.S. to submarines on patrol, area B 2149/14)

CER~~A~~IGO

A. 2. report from Guayaquil, will sail this week for Japan, Japanese flag being hoisted outside territorial waters. (S.O.I., Callao, 1847/14)

EISENACH

My 1158/12. Coal bunkers not obtainable at Manzanillo, Mexico, but small quantity available if 10 days notice given. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1021/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedLOGICIAN(Escaped 25/9)

Master of LOGICIAN Harrison reports that 2310 G.M.T. 25/9 in position 054° 53' N 010° 22' W shortly after MANCHESTER BRIGADE was torpedoed vessel struck submerged object possibly submarine.

EMPIRE OCELOT(Escaped 26/9)Torpedoed.(Sunk 28/9 - B.R. 1337.)
Page 41.

28/9, 1350, 054° 58' 021° 50' EMPIRE OCELOT in convoy torpedoed 1400 sighted periscope starboard quarter 1000 yards opened fire fourth round appeared to hit 1510 intercepted wireless message submarine on the surface 054° 50' 021° 51'. Examination carried out by local diver who reported paint scraped off three places on either side of keel guard, scoring 4 feet by 4 inches plating apparently undamaged vessel making no water. Master requests owners be informed. (Reporting Off Barbados. 1815/14)

ORAO

My 1600/12. Crew of ORAO and armed guard from HOTSPUR landed Gibraltar. No casualties. (F.O.C.N.A., 1553/14)

H.M.S. CHESHIRETorpedoed

by U-137

(CB 4051/26)

Rescue of
Survivors 11-12)

Explosion on board, position 55.13 N., 13.02 W (CHESHIRE, 19312/14) Struck by torpedo. My position, course and speed at commencement of current watch 55.13 N., 13.02 W., 254°, 10 knots. (CHESHIRE, 19402/14 to Lands End Radio). Struck by torpedo starboard side forward at 1930 G.M.T. position course and speed, 55.13 N., 13.10 W., 116° 8 knots. (CHESHIRE, 2006/14 to C. in C., W.A.,) Tugs SUPERMAN and SEAMAN to intercept and escort. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2236/14) My position course and speed are 55.04 N., 12.40 W., 080°, 6 knots. No casualties. (CHESHIRE, 2359/14).

H.M.C.S. Skelona went to her assistance. 1650/15 in tow of two tugs
17/0800 arrived Belfast dough, beached 54°43'N 5°45'W (Moz1668/14)
by afc

H.M.S. LIVERPOOL

Torpedoed at 1855/14 (see 15/10 Mediterranean)

PARTHIAN

Attacked 9015/12. (See Mediterranean)

HURUNI

Sunk by torpedo 2315/14. (See 15/10)

DOURO

Stopped by U-Boat 1940/12 (See submarines reported)

EMPIREAUDACITY

Contacted by aircraft 1110/14 in 53.29 N., 4.15 W., course 088° speed 10 knots. No apparent damage or list. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1225/14)

/EMMA BAKKE.....

14.10.1940
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

EMMA BAKKE Contacted by aircraft 0902/14 in 53.32 N.,
 (Torpedoed 11/19) 4.10 W., course 090° speed 10 knots.
In comms reported, su 15/10. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1225/14)

Convoys,
Surface Attacks

Analysis of U-Boat attacks made on ships actually in convoy show that during August 10 convoys were attacked, 7 by night and 3 by day. During September 9 convoys were attacked 7 by night and 2 by day. In only 4 of the 14 night attacks was any Asdic contact made by escorting ships. These figures do not include attacks on stragglers. On evidence available, conclusion reached is that U-Boats probably close on surface preferably on bow of convoy relying on small silhouette to escape detection and top surface speed to effect retreat. U-Boats in other words are being used at Torpedo Boats. Attack is probably pressed as close home as considered safe but possibility of use of long range slow speed torpedo exists. (D.A./S.W. 2027/14)

Submarines Reported

- 1605 D.F. 59° N., 10° W at 1605 (C. in C., W.A. 1653/14)
- 1709 D.F. 55° N., -55° 30' N., 12°-13° W., probable U-Boat unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1804/14)
- 1926 Air reconnaissance today reports submarine in Namsen Fiord, 64.30 N., 11.20 E., (C. in C., Rosyth, 1926/14)
- 1700 U-Boat in 55½° 30' N., 12.30 W., at 1700/14 may be shadowing you. (C. in C., W.A., 1753/14 to ABERDEEN)
- 2031 55.13 N., 13.02 W., reliable fix. (A.C.W.A., 2119/14) (CHESHIRE torpedoed)
- 1940/12 Portuguese fishing boat DOURO stopped 12/10 1940, by U-Boat 35.52' N., 10.35' W., and allowed to proceed. (N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1819/14)
- 1940 In Fair Island Channel or N. of Shetlands, very indefinite. (D.S. 406)

/Estimated.....

MOSTSECRET14.10.1940
Monday
War DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: 2 between Spain and Azores, no recent news.
 German : 1 somewhere about 43° North 16° West at 0410/14.
 1 in about 54° North 20° West at 1108/14.
 1 in area 57° North to 58° North. 16° to 19° West at 0207/14
 1 in Eastern part of N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
 (D.D.I.C. 1243/14)

Submarines Attacked0539/8
Submarine Sunk

TRIDENT reports at 0539/8 in position 047° 28' N., 003° 25' W 500 ton U-Boat hit by gunfire and presumed sunk. Enemy course 345°. Considerable anti-submarine surface activity with air cooperation 1/10 and 12/10 by armed trawlers and "E" boats towing sweeps. (V.A.S. 2311/14) *See also page 390.*

1350/28

By EMPIRE OCELOT (See Ships Attacked)

Assessments

Best method of assessing enemy U-Boat losses has been under consideration. In Home Waters and Atlantic operations final assessment is made by a committee at Admiralty. This system will continue. In Mediterranean and East Indies operations it appears probable more evidence is available to the C. in C., than to Admiralty Committee and it is therefore felt that final assessment should rest with him. Subject to your concurrence this system will be adopted. To bring Admiralty records up to date, report requested of your final assessment of all attacks carried out since the outbreak of war with Italy. (D.A./S.W., 2028/14 to C. in C's Med. and E.I.)

15.10.1940
Tuesday



War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation D.H.

HOOD and 3 destroyers left Scapa 1600 today to R.V. with Force D. in 68° N., 0° 40' E., at 0800/17 and cover the operation of FURIOUS, NORFOLK and BERWICK off the coast of Norway. *(These ships constitute Force D.)*

"R" Boats
off Dover

At 1242 today 6 "R" boats were seen proceeding westward about 9 miles off Dover, and were later fired at by the batteries, but all rounds fell short.

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night attacked Havre, docks at Hamburg and Emden.

Owing to unfavourable weather Bomber Command carried out no operations today.



War Diary

LCST SECRET

314

15.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.S. 8 was bombed off the Thames Estuary this morning. No report of damage has been received.

Convoy F.N. 9 was bombed this morning in the Thames Estuary, but was undamaged.

Damage was caused at the London Docks this morning and again this evening.

The R.V.Y. Deptford was damaged this evening.

Mining

Operation B.S. 41 TEVIOT BANK escorted by 2 destroyers laid mines today in the East Coast Mine Barrier.

MISTLETOE (Parachute Patrol vessel) was mined and sunk off the entrance to the Humber this morning.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated last night off the East Coast.

Mines were found off South Goodwin Light Vessel and off Falmouth.



War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

C. in C., S.A. reports that TOUAREG has arrived at Duala and is now under Free French guard.

Mediterranean

A Sunderland proceeded this morning to search for submarine REGENT possibly proceeding on the surface and unable to dive, south of Zante. REGENT was not located.

A French aircraft landed at Kalafranca this morning. The pilot stated that he was one of two being flown to join RICHELIEU, to which they belonged. Search was carried out for the missing plane without success.

On the night 13/14 R.A.F. attacked Benghazi. Amongst other targets hit was a ship alongside the Molo d'Italia, the largest ship in the harbour.

R.A.F. yesterday attacked Bardia. Results were not observed.

East Indies

Blenheims today bombed Diredawa.

A convoy in Perim Straits was attacked today by 3 Italian aircraft. The attack was repulsed by the Blenheim escort. One enemy aircraft was probably destroyed.

15.10.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Escort Groups

My 1457/14. For ST MARYS read BRIGHTON (C. in C., W.A., 1053/15 to Capt D. Liverpool)

2nd Towns
Flotilla

382. Your 1840/4. Propose that BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS and ST MARY'S of second Towns flotilla should join R.A.M.L. after working up at Scapa and that WHITEHALL, VANSITTART, WITHERINGTON and VISCOUNT should then return to the Western Approaches Command for escort duty. (C. in C., W.A., 1103/15 to Adty.)

1. Concur; that when ready for sea BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS and ST. MARYS should be sailed for Scapa to be worked up, after which they should join R.A.M.L. as permanent escort force.

2. WHITEHALL, VANSITTART and WITHERINGTON should then rejoin 17th D.F. for escort duties as detailed by C. in C., W.A.

3. VISCOUNT should on completion of repairs rejoin 11th D.F.
(D.O.D.H. 1600/15 to C. in C., W.A.)

Patrol Groups
in Channel.

Your 2115/14. Off-shore patrols in the Portsmouth Command are I think more liable to tip-and-run owing to short distance from Cherbourg. Off-shore patrols are being moved further from coast clear of traffic routes as stated in my 1407/14

All Merchant Shipping sailed to East or West from Portsmouth is escorted except for small vessels that hug the coast.

The only drawback, therefore, in the Portsmouth Command is that our own forces may be sent out to operate and cross patrol lines before the patrol craft receive a signal. There are, however, two gaps each four miles in width (see 3rd para. of my 1407/14) through which our forces could pass in an emergency. It is a question of balancing.

The enemy have now tasted blood and will no doubt repeat their recent operation unless we take steps to counter it and I can think of no other counter than operating patrols in groups with orders to shoot at sight.
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 1533/15 to C. in C., W.A.)

/HOOD.....



War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy-Contd.

HOOD

Adty's. 1830/8. HOOD will not be taken in hand for the present. (V.C.W.S. 1555/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

Northern Patrol Request for 5 T.B.D's.

Between 22/8 and 16/10. Northern and Western Patrol sailings were out 17, in 16, total 33, of which 10 only have been escorted and 4 of these escorts were due to A.M.C's carrying troops or joining a troop convoy.

I estimate Patrol Escort requirements would provide full time employment for 5 T.B.D's and suggest that this number be allocated to my command for this purpose.

The first O.B.V's coming into service will be sailed out with convoys but difficulty may occur in joining them up with convoys for in escort. (F.O.C.N.P., 1818/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

GLASGOW

Your 2225/14. (Cruiser for Mediterranean Fleet Concur that GLASGOW is the most suitable ship. (C. in C., H.F. 1837/15 to Adty.)

Destroyers for Mediterranean Fleet

Your 1139/14 and my 0118/1.

It has now been decided to reinforce C. in C., Mediterranean with BARHAM and four modern destroyers.

2. INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ECLIPSE and ESCAPADE were sent out with BARHAM at short notice. First 3 now due for refit, repair, or are damaged.

3. It was therefore decided to reinforce the Mediterranean Fleet with four of the 13th D.F, replacing them from Home Waters.

4. FAME, FOXHOUND, and FEARLESS were proposed in order to concentrate the "F" Class at Gibraltar.

5. It is desired to repair FORESIGHT at home owing to the difficulty of completely refitting W/T installation at Gibraltar. She will subsequently rejoin Force H.

6. Reference F.O.C.N.A's 1746/1, as Capt.D.3. and INGLEFIELD were required in the Home Fleet by your 1005/2/10, DUNCAN was proposed as leader of 13th D.F.

KEPPEL's endurance is too low for service with Force H, with which 13th D.F. have to operate. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 2237/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary15.10.1940
TuesdayHOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K."Deluge"At 0200/15. (D.C. 0150/15) At 1400/15
(D.C. 1401/15)MovementsKING GEORGE V
"UNION" Union"Asking for fighter protection for her, escorted by 2 cruisers and 6 destroyers from Tyne to Fifth of Forth 0430/17- 1300/17. Code word "~~Union~~" (A.C.N.S.(H) 1011/15) Orders for destroyers for acoustic sweep (C. in C., Rosyth, 1545/15, C. in C., H.F. 1838/15)BOUCLIER
(French T/B)

Sailing postponed for 24 hours owing to weather (C. in C., W.A. 1035/15)

REVENGE
"BOARD" Board"Intend to sail, escorted by WANDERER, WITCH VOLUNTEER, BURZA from Spithead at 1830/15 for Plymouth. Code word "~~Revenge~~" (C. in C., Portsmouth 1223/15)Portsmouth

Night movement signal (1233/15, 1850/15)

Dover

Patrols tonight (V.A.Dover 1508/15, 1906/15)

Orkneys

Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/15, 1909/15)

Northern Patrol

Trawler line tonight (A.C.O.S. 1536/15)

Western Channel

Night report (C. in C., W.A. 1545/15)

CAMITO

Leave Clyde 19/10 for Area M.3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1720/15)

Nore

S.O.Patrol (C. in C., Nore, 1750/15)

Corvettes for Convoy Escort Groups

Alloted as follows (Capt D. Liverpool, 1815/15) Following additional destroyers available (C. in C., W.A., 1903/15)

HIGHLANDER
HAVELOCK

Position, course, speed. (HIGHLANDER 2310/15)

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Iceland.

Your 1712/14. (Withdrawal of Walrus aircraft). This is practicable, given fine weather. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0940/15 to Adty.).

A/M. 2028/7. It has now been decided that no troops will be sent in ARGUS. (D.O.D.(H). 1502/15 to ARGUS).

1. ARGUS will be required to sail from Clyde P.M. 18.
2. She will proceed to Reykjavik to embark 701 squadron.
3. Essential she be sailed from Iceland to arrive Clyde by 26/10.
4. Destroyer escort will be required to accompany ARGUS and return with her.
5. C.in C. H.F. requested to provide at least one destroyer.
6. C.in C. W.A. requested to provide 2 destroyers and to sail and route ships. (D.O.D.(H). 1649/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

Sinking of
Enemy Convoy on
14/10.

My 2214/14. On evidence of 2 experienced R.N.R. Officers it is now considered that smaller ships were of 5000 tons displacement. M/V's made considerable use of smoke apparatus. (C.in C. H.F. 1024/15 to Adty.)

KING GEORGE V.

Operation S.A. Zero Time 1050/17.
(KING GEORGE V, 1410/15 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Operation P.S.
EREBUS.

Carry out operation tonight. Zero time 001/16. EREBUS and Destroyers sail from Sheerness at 1700/15. Code Word ~~ADAM~~. (C.in C. Nore 1046/15 to EREBUS, D. 21). Destroyers taking part CAMPBELL, WALPOLE, GARTH. (C.in C. Nore 1426/15 to Adty.)

M.T.B's off
Belgian Coast.

Weather permitting M.T.B's 14 and 16 are to operate off Belgian Coast from Nieuport to Flushing tonight starting from Nieuport at 0001/16. Any vessel met East of 2° 30' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C.in C. Nore 1114/15 to BEEHIVE)

Western Channel
Patrol.

Patrol B.Y. (C.in C. W.A. 1513/15 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Force D.
(Tromso)

My 1653/12. HOOD and 3 Destroyers left Scapa 1600/15 proceeding West of Shetlands to R/V with Force D at 0800/17 in 68° N. 0° 40' E. (V.A.S. 1603/15 to SEAWOLF).

/ R-Boats

15.10.1940.
Tuesday. _____War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Continued).R-Boats shelled
from Dover.

At 1242 today six "R" Boats were seen on a bearing 119° Dover about 9 miles proceeding westward. 14 rounds fired from Citadel Battery between 1305 and 1315 and 4 rounds from Langdon Battery at 1425. All fell short. (V.A. Dover 2237/15 to Adty.).

Submarines.L. 23
H. 34.

C.in C. Rosyth is requested to provide escort for L 23 from Dundee to Scapa and A.C.O.S. is requested to provide escort for H 34 to Rothesay.

L 23 will be ready to leave Dundee 20/10 and H 34 should leave Scapa on arrival of L 23.

WHITE BEAR is not available owing to other commitments.
(V.A.S. 1119/15 to A.C.O.S.)

V.A.S. 1119/15. Request Home Fleet Destroyer escort may be provided. If no Destroyer is available intend that L 23 should be sailed to join O.A. 232 leaving Methil Sunday 20th October.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1733/15 to C.in C. H.F.).

UNIQUE

To be sailed for Portsmouth when ready for service and when Escort can be arranged from Clyde to Falmouth.
(V.A.S. 1121/15 to S.2.)

URSULA

Adty. 1335/12. Request you sail URSULA on 20th for Mediterranean. (V.A.S. 1122/15 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

TIGRIS

My 1431/11. Proceed within 30 miles of Ushant. R/V with CUTTY SARK at 0700/18. Route. (Capt. S.2. 1426/15 to TIGRIS)

You are to sink at sight any M/V encountered south of 49° North.
(Capt. S.2 1823/15 to TIGRIS).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/16.
(V.A.S. 1648/15 and 1804/15).

MOST SECRET.

15. 10. 40.

Tuesday.War DiaryHOME COMLANDS.British Air Activity.S A. 1 E. and
S A. 2 N.Patrols cancelled owing to low visibility.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1012/15 to Adty.).Patrol H D.Ending at dusk every day, to be flown to cover Eastern Approaches to Fair Island Channel to depth of about 40 miles, with object of attacking U-Boats passing Westwards through Channel at night.
(A.C.O.S. 1606/15 to Hatston.)U-Boats at
Bordeaux.Request you arrange heavy Bomber attack at early opportunity on 9 U-Boats at Bordeaux. Order of effort 12 to 14 sorties.
(Air Ministry 1737/15 to Bomber Command).Enemy Air-Activity.Portsmouth.At 2316/14 a single Aircraft dropped 4 H.E. Bombs in harbour, and incendiary Bombs in harbour and at Whale Island. No apparent damage or casualties.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 0308/15 to Adty.)
At 0253/15 incendiary Bomb caused small small five in Adty. Seasoning Yard at Flathouse. No damage reported.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 0422/15 to Adty.)
Slight damage at Whale Island.
Estimate £5. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1825/15)Flares off
Eastbourne.

Report from Eastbourne Battery. 8 white parachute flares observed at 2030 bearing 150 degs. from Eastbourne. Flares were proceeded by a dull red trace followed by a column of thick grey smoke. Descent very slow. Flares appeared to burn at sides. Duration lasted four to five minutes. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2105/15 to Adty.)

Convoy F.S.8.
bombed.Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy "^{Arena}~~XXXX~~" in 51° 58'N. 1° 40'E. (VEGA 0640/15)Convoy F.N.9.
bombed.Enemy bombing Convoy F.N. odd in 51° 35'N. 1° 10' E. (LONDONDERRY 1140/15).
One bomb no hits (LONDONDERRY 1157/15).

15.10.1940.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Aldeburgh.

Very heavy underwater Explosion felt about 3 miles North of Aldeburgh. Nothing visible. (VIMIERA 0410/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Harwich.

My 1627/14. Mine reported picked up in sweep was apparently dragged during Southern Sweep. It was seen and destroyed 6 cables S. of S. Shipwash Buoy when sighting sweep. Three of the mines sighted are reported as small approximately 30 inches diameter with recessed cover plate and five long horns painted black. Appear new when detonated explosions very violent. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1421/15 to Adty.)

Dover.

Request 2 Oropesa Trawlers and one LL Trawler be sent to Dover forthwith. LL Trawler ONETOS now at Yarmouth is preferred. (V.A. Dover 1901/15 to Adty.)

Downs.

My 1145/8. One Mine found 1.2 miles 275° from South Goodwin Light Vessel. (V.A. Dover 1904/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Falmouth.

Sunk one Floating Mine west of Channel. 2 Mines seen to explode 13/10, one 119° Pendennis 17½ cables, and one 090° St. Anthony one mile. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1940/15 to Adty.).

LORD STAMP.

H.M. Trawler. Missing, probably sunk by Mine at 0130/14 in 228° Portland Bill 17 miles. No survivors found (C.in C. Portsmouth 2047/15 to Adty.).

Enemy Intelligence.

Movement of Naval units suspected.

German W/T traffic suggests a movement of naval units, possibly destroyers or larger, from the Bight to the southward possibly into the Channel. This movement may commence tonight or at an early date. It is also consistent with an operation in the Southern North Sea or Channel. U/Boats appear to be taking part. (D.D.I.C. 1657/15 to C's-in-C.)

My 1657/15. There are now indications from the nature of the W/T traffic that U-Boats in the North Sea and Atlantic or Channel are concerned and also air forces from Southern Norway and Brest.

The behaviour of the traffic for the last 24 hours is quite abnormal. (D.D.I.C. 2059/15 to C's in C.)

/ Gironde

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.



War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (Continued).

Gironde

A/S patrol by trawlers using 13 kc/s up to 16 miles off coast frequent daily air patrols. Trawler in position $045^{\circ} 25'$ North $001^{\circ} 48'$ West suspected of being beacon.
(TIGRIS 1932/15 to V.A.S.).

Heligoland.

At 2105/15 in $53^{\circ} 53'$ N. $6^{\circ} 35'$ E., 3 large M/V's steering West. Aircraft report. (V.A.S. 2316/15 to H.28). At 2207 in $53^{\circ} 35'$ N. $6^{\circ} 35'$ E., six Ships steering 230° . Aircraft report (V.A.S. 2331/15 to H.28).

Kiel.

15 U-boats, 2 Cruiser Minelayers, 8 T.B's (P.I.U. 2355/15 to N.I.D.).

Zone C.1.

STURGEON reports a few small Norwegian M/V's proceed independently coastwise about 2 miles off shore in Zone C.1. (V.A.S. 1246/15 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.

Tuesday.



War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Derelict
Tanker.

In 57° 14' N. 8° 50' W., sinking slowly.
(Aircraft 210. 1010/15 to Oban).

COSSACK.

(Damaged in attack on Enemy Convoy 14/10).
My 2214/14. Notice for sea is 12 hours
until 0700/16. Completing 1900/16.
(C.in C. H.F. 1548/15 to Adty.).

APPLETREE.

H.M. Drifter. Sunk by R.A.F. Pinnacle
No. 50 at 2015/15 in position 1½ miles
E.S.E. of Lismore Light, Oban. Crew
saved. Confidential Books lost with
Ship. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2345/15 to Adty.)

DROMORE CASTLE.

My 1215/9. Arrived Durban (S.O.I. Cape
Town 1035 B/15 to Adty.)

GLENIFFER.

My 1605/11. Arrived Cape Town.
(S.O.I. Cape Town 1035 B/15 to Adty.)

SALANDO.

Dutch. (ex German MONI RICKMERS) Due
Durban 11/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I.
Cape Town 1055 B/15 to Adty.)

DEPTFORD.

Leaks due to continuous heavy weather.
Ship seaworthy if not in any way forced.
(DEPTFORD, 1244Z/15 to C.C.A.C., Halifax)

MOST SECRET.15.10.1940.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Convoys.Shipping.

H.X. 78. To alter course. (C.in C. W.A. 1140/15).
 O.L. 7. Amend route. (C.in C. W.A. 110/15).
 S.L. 49 B. R.V. for ROSEMARY. (C.in C. W.A. 1420/15).
 S.C. 7. Meet, 35 ships, SCARBOROUGH (C.in C. W.A. 1410/15).
 6 hours late. GLOXINIA rejoined. My position. (ANTELOPE, 2000/15).
 O.L.8. HIGHLANDER and HAVELOCK probably sailing with. (C.in C. W.A. 1117/15).
 W.N.24. ASPHODEL and LA MALOUINE as additional escort (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1010/15).
 S.C. 8. Left Sydney 0516/15. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1500/15).
 S.C. 6. Estonian NORA sailed and has not returned (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1544/14).
 O.B. 229. Sailed. Escort CHELSEA, ARABIS, HELIOTROPE. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1234/15).
 F.S. My 1651/11. F.S. 11 will run as slow convoy and F.S.12 as fast convoy (C.in C. Rosyth 1317/15).

Escorts.

Your 1457/14. Corvettes have been allocated as follows:-

1st Group GLADIOLUS, CLARKIA, GERANIUM.
 2nd Group ARABIS, ANEMONE, HELIOTROPE.
 3rd Group HEARTSEASE, COREOPSIS.
 4th Group PICOTEE and another.
 (Capt. D. Liverpool 1815/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

My 1457/14. Following additional Destroyers available for 5th 6th 7th and 8th escort groups. VISCOUNT on completion of repairs. WHITEHALL WITHERINGTON VANSITTART early November.

(C.in C. W.A. 1903/15 to Capt. D. (Liverpool)

SVEADROTT
CASTOR.

Swedish tankers SVEADROTT and CASTOR leave Goteborg in company at 1000/16 for the U.S.A. (Route). If they fail to report position and/or attempt to avoid passing through Skopen Fiord they should be intercepted and sent into Kirkwall.

(D.O.D.(H) 1723/15 V.A.S. 2207/15).

GONDUL.

Swedish W/T announces that she has been refloated and is being towed to Hamburg.

/ D.E.M.S.

15.10.1940.

Tuesday.
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.).D.E.M.S.
Gunlayers.

Under consideration to meet with Military Personnel the commitment referred to in Admty. 1842/29/5 and in Admty. letter M/T.D./D.E.M.S.531/40 of 30/6/40. If this policy is adopted, guns of all merchant ships in harbour in a position to use them will be manned by military personnel except that the gunlayers would be provided from the D.E.M.S. Service. To assess the total requirement of personnel F.O's and N.O's in charge and R.N.O's of all U.K. ports to report.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1836/15 amended 1202/16).

Attacks on
ConvoysTroop Convoys.

In event of an attack on a Convoy the initial report by Senior Officer of escort is to include a brief report of counter action taken. Details required by A.M. 752 A Z re details to be signalled after attack on convoy giving position, time and date etc. comments on tactics employed by U-boat are to be signalled at next occasion of breaking W/T silence.
(C.in C. W.A. 1931/15).

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Captured
 Airmen.

Admiralty endeavouring arrange through N.A. Madrid for captured French personnel now at Gibraltar to be held as hostages for F.A.A. personnel held at Dakar. Request following three airmen ex 202 Squadron shot down off Casablanca and now held in Morocco be included. (200 Group, 0925/15 to A.M.)

Dakar Trade.

My 1731/14. Further details obtained from Masters of Swedish ships. (C.in C. S.A. 1131 N/15).

Libreville
 mined.

G.O.C. W. Africa reports Admiral French West Africa has proclaimed mined area off Libreville. Request further details. (D.D.I.C. 1245/15).

TOUAREG.

My 2149/6 and 1851/4. TOUAREG has arrived Duala and is now under Free French Guard. (C.in C. S.A. 1617/15).

Transports.

My 1313/5. PENNLAND is now at Freetown. WESTERNLAND arrives 18/10. (C.in C. S.A. 1841/15).

WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND now available further service. Desired to employ them for movements referred to in D. of S.Ts. 1932/6 and your 1755/12. Great importance attached to move from Lagos and Takoradi to Mombasa. If practicable to synchronise this with WS 3A without delaying convoy request you will do so. Request your intentions for these troop moves also for move of internees from Lagos and Takoradi to Jamaica referred to in D. of S.T's 2126/6/9. (2337/15 to C.in C. S.A.).

French Ships.

Gibraltar 1833/15. French owned trawler SERGENT GOUARNE, AISNE, LORIENT, from eastward to westward. 1925 SERGENT GOUARNE returned from east to west. (S.O.I., Gib., 1935/15 amended 0601/16).

French Aircraft.

At 1301 one French type recco. aircraft over Rock driven off by A/A fire. (Fovr. Gib., 2037/15).

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MOST SECRET.15.10.1940.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French (Contd.)Exchange of Captives.

Admty. 2026/14. Text of message sent to Governor General Dakar by cable on 3/10. Survivors from French submarine AJAX are in British hands. I suggest we should consider an exchange with De Gaullist prisoners in your hands. I should appreciate an early expression of your views on this proposal. I should be grateful if you also inform me whether you have any survivors from British aircraft. (Ends). His reply states he could only refer proposal to his Government, but gave the names of 5 British airmen in his hands. Number of de Gaullist prisoners not known but General de Gaulle being asked if he has information. Original proposal for exchanging came from General de Gaulle see my 2001/28/9.
(C.in C. S.A. 1133 N/15).

THYSVILLE

My 1808/10. THYSVILLE sailed Lisbon for Gibraltar 0030/15 routed territorial waters. As Germans have suffered diplomatic defeat they have threatened to make every effort to sink ship. Request special escort. Ship should arrive Cape St. Vincent 1400/15.
(Lisbon 0042/15)

Your 0042/15. WRESTLER ordered to meet THYSVILLE off Cape St. Vincent and to escort her to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A 0631/15).

South Atlantic.ANTONIOS CHANDRIS

Your 1620/13. No news of second boat. (D.D.I.C. 1246/15 to N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro).

Greek ANTONIOS CHANDRIS, Cardiff to Buenos Ayres reported sunk by raider in 012° N. 035° W. on 8/9. This is third vessel known to have been sunk at dusk or during night in this area. Description of raider unreliable but master states she was 3 island type cargo steamer, about 8000 tons, with two unranked masts, unranked funnel close abaft bridge, counter stern.
(D.D.I.C. 1247/15.)

Overdue Ships.

My 1215/9 and 1605/11. DROMORE CASTLE arrived Durban, GLENIFFER arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1035 B/15). Dutch ship SALANDO ex German MONI RICKMERS due Durban 11/10 not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1055 B/15).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Admty. 1432/13. Intend to sail from Durban, calling Capetown and arriving Freetown (dates). (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1345 Z/15)

/ LIVERPOOL

Note.--

ATLANTIC, formerly EMILIE, 1003 gross tons (Panamanian).

PACIFIC, ex-PACIFIST, formerly BETTY, 563 gross tons
(Panamanian).

Information from Lloyd's, 4.11.1949.

15.10.1940.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.LIVERPOOL
Torpedoed.

H.M.S. LIVERPOOL torpedoed in position 33.58 N. 26.23 E. at 1855/14. Taken in tow by ORION and in position 32.52 N. 27.47 E. at 1200/15. Damage appears to be back broken under A turret and bow semi detached. Cover being provided by WARSPITE, VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, Cruisers and Destroyers.
(C.in C. Med. 1215/15).

Crete,
defence of.

1st S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1252/15.
(See Mediterranean VDL)

Ships at Haifa.*See Note*

Two ships ATLANTIC and PACIFIC flying Panamanian flag are expected Haifa 16/10 with undesirable refugees onboard. Understood that the practice is for such vessels to lie off and disembark these persons in small boats on to the foreshore. Most important to prevent this and it is requested that you will give any assistance that is practicable to the Local Authorities.
(D.O.D. (F) 2111/5 to C.in C. Med.).

Air Report,
REGENT,
Station
Hospital
Ship*sighting*

Malta air intelligence report to 1700 hours G.M.T./15. Reconnaissances. Sunderland 228 Sqdn. requested at 1000 to locate and shadow Submarine REGENT possibly proceeding on surface and unable to dive 37.36 N., 20.42 E. Submarine not located. Swordfish 830 Sqdn. sighted hospital ship 36° N. 16.17 E., and packing case and drum, possibly raft, 35.27 N., 17.32 E. 0541, Sunderland en route Alexandria led Italian hospital ship to some floats, 36° N. 16.17 E. At 0640, a French Loire 130 Aircraft approached Malta. Had left Karouba 0430. Was due to be flown by another crew to Morocco to join RICHELIEU. Second French Loire 130 missing.
(Govr., Malta, 1840/15).

Enemy M.V's.

Split reports on 11/10, 40-50 merchant ships fully loaded with food for Albania were seen at Bari, lying in 2 closely packed groups alongside Old and New Moles. (A.1). (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1145/15).

VIDO,
sinking.

My 1747/13 (sinking of Yugoslav VIDO in Russian territorial waters). N.A. Belgrade reports that according to owner crew were picked up by Russian warship and taken to Sebastopol. Captain landed at Ismail.
(S.O.I., Alexandria, 2185/15).

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Minesweepers.

Observations on Admt. 1836/12, and need for replacing HUNTLEY and DERBY. (C.in C. E.I., 0558 Z/15).

MOGAMIGAWA
MARU

Your 0802/10. Agent Bushire states ship came direct from Saigon. As far as known, did not call at any other Iranian port. (S.N.O., Persian Gulf, 0756 Z/15, to C.in C. E.I.).

My 0802/10. Arrived Mormagoa 22/9, sailed 25/9. (Cargo.) As vessel only spent 6½ hours in Bushire, all cargo presumably still on board. (C.in C. E.I. 1020 Z/15).

QUEEN MARY,)
AQUITANIA,)
MAURITANIA.)

Asking if special tanker arranged for fuelling. (P.S.T.O. India, 1030 Z/15).

China.

Staff
Conversations.

Chiefs of Staff tel. No. 18. Attitude of U.S. Govt. towards proposed conversations with Dutch and ourselves. Proposed exchange of information between Service representatives (1 S.L. 2221/15). Line to be taken in forthcoming conversations. Chiefs of Staff tel. No. 17. (1 S.L. 1856/15)

Saigon.

KINDIA (French) left for Shanghai. SUGIYAMA MARU (Japanese) arrived. (N.C.S.O. Saigon, 0739 Z/15).

America and West Indies.

THALIA

Following received from Talara. Arrival THALIA with entire Canadian crew loading crude oil for Japan. Crew will only proceed with approval and protection of Admiralty. Vessel was routed to here by N.C.S.O. Panama and Master holds Confidential Books. Reply urgent confirming foregoing is approved also send route. (Ends). Request instructions. (S.O.I. Callao, 1433/15 to C.in C. A. W.I.) Passed to Admt. Request early instructions (C.in C. A. W.I. 1942/15).

/ Town Class



15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Continued)

Town Class
Destroyers.

My 1541/11. Route (B.S. 3. 1201/15).

Movements.

Sydney departure 15/10, 0516 B.S.T. S.C.8.
Halifax departures, BEVERLEY, BELMONT,
BROADWAY, BROADWATER for St. John's N.F.
Halifax arrival, RAJPUTANA. (S.O.I.
Halifax, 1500/15).

NORA.

Admty. 114/14. Estonian NORA definitely
sailed from Sydney C.B. in S.C.6 and has
not returned. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.,
1544/14, received 0138/15).

Australia.

COMMISSAIRE
RAMEL.

Overdue. Asking re publication.
(A.C.N.B., 1705/15)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GEDANIA

Cargo of whale oil, left here early a.m.
destination not known. (Consul, Las Palmas,
1000/15) (F.O.C.N.A. 1447/15, D.D.I.C.,
1650/15 C.in C. S.A. 2237/15). SALOPIAN
and CIRCASSIA to carry out sweep.
(F.O.C.N.P., 1754/15).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

AQUILEJA

Hospital ship. Ordered 13/10 to put into
Augusta and await orders. Believed to
have on board survivors from destroyers
sunk by AJAX. (D.S. 406).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

KINDIA

Left 15/10 for Shanghai (N.C.S.O. Saigon
0739 Z/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.

Tuesday.War DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.CESHIRE
(torpedoed
14/10).

Position course and speed at 0800 B.S.T. (CESHIRE, 0631/15). Position course and speed at 1100/15, 55.08 N., 11.38 W., 079°, 4 knots. Steaming party on board, remainder in SKEENA. No casualties. (CESHIRE, 1109/15) Being towed stern first to Clyde by tugs. Position. (CESHIRE, 1642/15). Asking if further assistance required. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2120/15). Reply. No. (CESHIRE, 2250/15) Have 220 officers and ratings on board. Small steaming party in CESHIRE. If weather holds, salvage appears very good. (SKEENA, 1748/15).

HURUNUI

British, 10,023 tons. Sunk by torpedo 2315 in position 58.58 N., 09.54 W. Survivors in ST. MARGARET. (FOWEY 0001/15). In Convoy O.A. 228. Bound from London to Auckland in ballast. (D.S. 406.)

BONHEUR
BRITISH GLORY

Torpedoed 57° 10' N. 8° 36' W. 0425/15. BONHEUR sunk. Request tug. Survivors of BONHEUR in SPHERE. PIROUETTE stand by with survivors from BRITISH GLORY (FOLKESTONE 0830/15). Asking permission to proceed to harbour to land 44 survivors, 2 seriously injured. BRITISH GLORY very slowly settled by stern. (PIROUETTE 1140/15, F.O.I.C. Greenock 1140/15). Proceed with survivors to Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1257/15 to PIROUETTE).

unnamed
0135.

Torpedoed (probably in O.B. 228) 57.10 8.36 W., (LEITH 0415/15 (D.S. 406) (see Submarines Reported, 0135).

Submarines reported.

0001. 58.58 N., 09.54 W., reliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 0051/15).
0135. Ship torpedoed position 58.58 N. 09.54 W. Submarine probably trying to get ahead of convoy for second attack. (H.Q. 18 Reconnaissance Group, 0135/15).
0108. 54° N., 11° to 13° W., indefinite. (D.S.406)
0912. 56° N. to 56° 30' N., 18° to 20° W., indefinite. (D.S. 406) (D.D.I.C. 1045/15).
0935. Aircraft report, 47.15 N., 04.55 W., course 280°, 7 knots. (V.A.S. 1226/15).
1330. D.F. probable U/B. 58.30' N., 25° 00' W., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1531/15).
1228. Enemy submarine reported 58.30 N., 25.00 W. unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 1531/15).

/ 1527.....

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

1527. D.F. unidentified enemy unit, probably U/B, 52° N., 16° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1615/15).
0603. D.F. bearing of German naval unit from AWARUA at 0503 G.M.T. was 095° (3). (D.D.I.C. 1155/15).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Submarines Reported.

- Italian - 2 between Spain and Azores, no recent news.
German - Possibly 1 some 250' N.W. of Finisterre
2 or possibly 3 far out in Atlantic between 54° and 58° N. and 17° and 20° W.
Possibly 1 was in about 54° N. between 11° and 13° W. at 0108/15.
1 in 55° 10' N, 13° 25' W. at 2030/14.
1 in 57° 10' N, 8° 36' W. at 0415/15 probably following Convoy O.B. 228.
1 in 58° 58' N. 9° 54' W. at 2315/14 probably outward bound and following Convoy O.A.228.
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1248/15).

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation P.S.

M. 020546/40
Cac Nox.

EREBUS accompanied by 3 destroyers and with cooperation of 2 spotting aircraft bombarded Dunkirk docks last night. 50 rounds were fired and 45 are estimated to have fallen in the target area, though only 5 were spotted. The harbour was apparently empty. There was no retaliatory action whatever against our ships.

M.T.B's off
Belgian Coast

Two M.T.B's operated off the Belgian coast from Nieuport to Flushing last night.

Patrols in
Western Approaches

Owing to the possibility of A.P. vessels on patrols in the Dartmouth, Plymouth and Falmouth sub-commands being sunk by enemy light forces before they can make an alarm signal, readjustments of patrols and patrol boats are being made.

Enemy
Intelligence

There appears to have been considerable movement of shipping last night in a south-westerly direction off the Frisian Is. Aircraft of Bomber Command sighted several groups of merchant vessels and some destroyers, but detailed identification was not possible.

German Merchant
ship Torpedoed

Submarine L.27 reports that she obtained 3 hits on a 7000 ton merchant ship escorted by 7 trawlers off Cherbourg [on 15/10.]

British Air Activity

Many patrols were cancelled today on account of bad weather, and those flown were mostly ineffective.

Last night, heavy bombers attacked SCHARNHORST, LÜTZOW and GNEISENAU at Kiel, but results were not definitely observed. Channel ports, docks at Flushing and Antwerp and gun emplacements at Cape Gris Nez were also attacked.

Aircraft of Coastal Command last night attacked targets at Lorient, Terneuzen, Flushing, (in conjunction with a minelaying operation by F.A.A.) Ostend, Brest and Cherbourg.

Near misses were obtained by a Hudson which bombed 5 destroyers 4 miles N of Texel Island at 0410 today.

War Diary16.10.1940
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N. 9. was bombed early this morning off Smiths Knoll but was undamaged.

Bombs were dropped near the R.A.F., D/F station Mull Head, Deerness, Orkneys this evening and also on Shapinsay, but no damage or casualties were caused.

Pembroke Dock was attacked twice this evening, but no Naval damage occurred.

Mining

Harpenden aircraft last night laid mines off Kiel.

F.A.A. of Coastal Command last night laid mines off Flushing in conjunction with a strike operation by R.A.F.

One enemy aircraft was seen, suspected laying mines, at the entrance to the Bristol Channel this evening. Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night took place off the East Coast and Thames Estuary; a line of mines is suspected off Aldeburgh.

Aberdeen was closed at 0121/16 owing to suspected enemy minelay but was reopened at 1454.

All traffic in the river between Lambeth Bridge and West India Dock was suspended at 0500 today owing to reported magnetic mines in the river. Navigation was resumed at 1300

A mine was detonated in the Tyne this morning and 3 in the Thames Estuary last night.

M.T.B. 106 was mined and sunk today near Nore Light Vessel.

DUNDALK (Fast minesweeper) was mined today off Harwich and sank after being taken in tow.

on 17th (p. 372)

/SS ACTIVITY....

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.10.1940
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTMining Contd.

SS. ACTIVITY (Coaster) was mined off Foulness today, but subsequently completed her voyage to Greenhithe.

North Atlantic

BARHAM was successfully docked today at Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

Free French ships have been ordered to keep out of sight of Libreville.

Mediterranean

C. in C., Med. reports that the Fleet was attacked twice during the afternoon off 14/10 when South of Crete. No ships were hit. At 1900/14 the Battle Fleet was unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo aircraft, one of which is believed to have been shot down.

The Fleet arrived at Alexandria 0100/16. LIVERPOOL, in tow of ORION, arrived at 1000/16

There was an air raid on Alexandria from 0030 to 0130 today whilst the Fleet was arriving. 9 bombs were dropped but no damage or casualties resulted. There was another raid this evening, but no naval damage resulted.

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on Italian Bases in Libya. Tobruk, Bardia, Capuzzo and Sollum were attacked.

An air attack was made on Malta this afternoon. No damage or casualties have been reported.

/Effect of.....

War Diary16.10.1940
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean-Contd.Effect of
Italian Advance

C. in C., Med. reports:-
Sidi Barrani was one of R.A.F. Advanced Landing Grounds and its loss has following effect:-


(a) R.A.F. Bomber and Fighters have to operate from 50 miles further back.

(b) Whereas Fighter protection could previously be afforded to bombarding ships as far as Bardia, such protection is now limited to a point some way short of enemy flank at Sidi-Barrani.

(c) Whereas with Sidi-Barrani F.A.A. torpedo striking forces have been able to attack enemy ports and sea communications as far as Derna, they can now only do so with a great struggle using long range tanks which reduce performance. Furthermore they cannot now have fighter protection for any part of their flight.

? fighters →

(d) Sidi-Barrani in hands of enemy gives him an advanced landing ground within 200 miles of Alexandria and 60 miles of Mersa Matruh. This enables him to escort his bombers when bombing Mersa Matruh which effects Naval situation inasmuch as Mersa Matruh is used at advanced base for small bombarding ships such as LADYBIRD and may have to be used to supply Army by sea.

MOST SECRET.16.10.40.
Wednesday.
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K."Deluge"
~~DELUGE~~ Signals.At 0200/16. (D.C. 0221/16) At 1400/16
(D.C. 1433/16).Rosyth Dockyard.
A.A. Gun Defences.Adty. 1011/15. Request additional A/A
Cover, including if possible light A/A
Gun Defence, to augment Balloon
Barrage from 17/10 to about 19/11.
(D. of L.D. 1534/16 to Fighter Command)Movements.SOUTHAMPTON.C.S.18's 0855/16. Intend pass Gate
1810/16. Expected time of arrival
Scapa 1130/17. (SOUTHAMPTON 1244/16
to F.O. Humber.)Dover.Patrols for night 16/17. (V.A. Dover
1407/16 and 1727/16)Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines on 16/10. (A.C.O.S. 1536/16)

Portsmouth.Movements for night 16/17. (C.in C.
Portsmouth 1607/16).Rosyth Area.Movements for night 16/17. (C.in C.
Rosyth 1818/16).CALIFORNIA.Subject to satisfactory completion of
trials, will be ready for service p.m/20.
Request destination. (C.in C. Portsmouth
2027/16 to Adty).GLASGOW.
DUNCAN.
FEARLESS.
FOXHOUND.
FAME.GLASGOW, DUNCAN, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND and
FAME will be required to leave U.K. on
(date) and will then cease to be units
of the Home Fleet.
2. GLASGOW will join Mediterranean Fleet.
3. DUNCAN, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND and FAME
will join the 13th Flotilla.
4. The above destroyers will form the
escort for ARK ROYAL. C.in C. to arrange
for them to be ready to sail with her
from Liverpool on (date).
5. GLASGOW should be sailed to R/V with
ARK ROYAL. Further signal will be made
giving instructions for this movement.

(ACNS.(H) 4040/16 & C. C.M.F)

Operations.KING GEORGE V.Expect A/S Air Escort from 0715 until
reaching May Island. (C.in C. Rosyth
2242/16 to KING GEORGE V).

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Iceland.

BEAGLE with 2 destroyers detailed by C.in C. W.A. will be required to screen ARGUS sailing p.m/18 for Reykjavik. BEAGLE to proceed at 0600/17 to Clyde with all convenient despatch. (C.in C. H.F. 0956/16 to BEAGLE). Adty. 1649/15. HURRICANE and ACHATES escort for ARGUS. (C.in C. W.A. 1109/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Adty. 1900/13. HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER escort for ALMANZORA, ANTONIA. (C.in C. W.A. 1727/16 to F.O.I.C.'s Liverpool, Greenock). My 1900/13. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA will take the place of ALMANZORA. (D.O.D. H. 1755/16 to C.in C.W.A.)

M.T.B's between Boulogne and Grave-lines.

Weather permitting, M.T.B's 70 and 5 will leave Dover at 2200/16, returning at daylight 17th. (V.A. Dover 1109/16 to Adty). Operation cancelled on account of weather. (V.A. Dover 2135/16 to Adty).

M.T.B's between Flushing and IJmuiden.

Weather permitting tonight 60 ft. M.T.B's are to operate on Belgian and Dutch coasts between Nieupoort and Hook of Holland. They are not to go north of latitude 52° N. Any vessel met south eastward of line drawn 050° from Westhinder Buoy (C.P.S.C. 2226) may be attacked without challenge. Any large concentration of ships encountered should be reported immediately. My 1150/16 for between Nieupoort and Hook of Holland read between Flushing and IJmuiden. Patrol T tonight Wednesday has been cancelled. Any vessel met East of 3 degrees East may be attacked, without challenge. S.O. S/M Harwich should be consulted about movements of own submarines. (C.in C. Nore 1540/16 to Beehive).

Nore Command.

Patrols for night 16/17. (C.in C. Nore. 1134/16). Patrol T tonight has been cancelled (C.in C. Nore 1540/16 to BEEHIVE and 1329/16 to AURORA).

L.27. torpedoed enemy M.V.

My 0200/16. Have obtained 3 hits on 7000 ton M/V escorted by 7 trawlers off Cherbourg. (L.27 0210/16 to Capt: S.5 and C.in C. Portsmouth 1037/16 to Adty). Details of attack (C.in C. Portsmouth 2023/16 to Adty). *Cancelled - See next page*

/Operation.



16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation PS.
(EREBUS).
(Bombardment of
Dunkirk Dock.)

50 rounds fired. Spotting conditions very good with spotter left undisturbed owing to flare-dropper drawing ground defence fire as planned. 5 rounds only spotted due to small burst of C.P.C. shell, but 45 rounds considered to have fallen in target area. W. fires observed on quays. Harbour apparently empty. No enemy retaliatory action whatever against ships. (C.in C. Nore 1354/16 to Adty).

Patrol O.
Patrol T.

Cancel my 1212/16. If nothing found by Sweepers in Gap E, Patrol O tomorrow will be by 3 of 21st D.F., and Patrol T by AURORA and 3 of 16th D.F. Routes. (C.in C. Nore 2324/16 to AURORA).

Submarines.

CLYDE.

My 1648/15. Amend position to read 60° 50'N. 22° W. (V.A.S. 0031/16 to Adty),

L.27.

Your 0200. ARCTIC PIONEER will R/V with you in 180° St. Catherines 10 miles. 3 Blenheims detailed as Fighter escort. (Capt: S.5 0552/16 to L.27). Intend to sail L.27 for Area D.4. at 1700/17. Route. (Capt. S.5 2235/16 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

CACHALOT.
→ TAKU.

Intend to sail CACHALOT and TAKU escorted by SURPRISE from Clyde at 0715/18 for position 270° Bishop Rock 15 miles. CACHALOT and TAKU thence to Patrol. SURPRISE to Plymouth. (S.2 1214/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/17. (V.A.S. 1553/16).

H.49.

Intend to sail at 1600/17 for Patrol in Zone H.1 Route. (SO. S/M's Harwich 1731/16 to V.A.S.)

Bombing
Information.

My 1126/2. Lorient and Gironde. (V.A.S.1739/16 to S/M's Area B).

→ TAKU.

Sails for Patrol in Bay of Biscay 18/10. I am giving her similar permission to that given to TIGRIS in my 1641/14. (V.A.S. 1844/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.16.10.40.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Rosyth Air Searches.

Cancel my 1832/15, owing to low visibility (C.in C. Rosyth 0806/16).
Searches for 17/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1840/16).

Patrols S.A. I.E.

Cancelled, owing to low visibility. (C.in C. Rosyth. 0808/16).

A/C from Iceland.

Adty's 1649/15. 701 Squadron is to be disembarked at Clyde as soon as possible after arrival of ship and sent to a Naval Air Station as directed by R.A.N.A.S. and will subsequently be stationed at Stornoway or Sullom Voe as decided by C.in C.H.F. until required for other service.
(D.N.A.D. 1233/16 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Attack on Coastal Batteries proposed.

Consideration to bombing Coastal Batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse between 0315 and 0545 on 18/10 when C.E.14 will be proceeding between No.10 buoy and South Goodwin Light Vessel. Dover Gun will co-operate.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1549/16 to Air Ministry).

Patrol H.D. Coastal Command.

Will consist of the following tracks. (Hatston 1641/16 to A.C.O.S).

Coastal Command.

Narrative from 1700/2300. (H.Q.C.C. 2300/16 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy F.N.9 attacked.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ^{"Pilot"} ~~"Pilot"~~ 53° 4'N. 1° 33'E. (LONDONDERRY 0303/16). My 0803, 8 bombs, no hits. (LONDONDERRY 0314/16.)

Deptford.

Heavy H.E. Bomb fell on Block 44, Cooperage, at about 2000/15. Details of damage. (Supt. R.V.Y Deptford 0950/16 to Adty.)

Unknown ship attacked.

Unknown ship attacked by A/C bearing 290° Intercept at 1438 G.M.T. (North Foreland Radio, Recd. 1545/16.)

Balloons containing leaflets.

Following from Military Source begins. Enemy balloons with attachments containing leaflets have been reported from Eastern South East and North Midlands regions. Balloons believed to measure 10 feet - 20 feet and to carry small explosive charges operating by clockwork and intended to scatter leaflets. Care therefore required in handling. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2351/16 to Adty).

16.10.40.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Bristol Channel.

Western fitter reports one aircraft suspected minelaying in area $51^{\circ} 20' N.$, $51^{\circ} 40' N.$, $4^{\circ} 20' W.$, $4^{\circ} 40' W.$ (C.in C. W.A. 2217/16 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Aberdeen.

Closed, owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0121/16 to Adty).

Thames.

Owing to reported Magnetic Mines in River, all traffic suspended between Lambeth Bridge and West India Dock. Magnetic coil sweepers working at daybreak. (F.O.I.C. London. 0500/16 to Adty).

S.S. ACTIVITY.

S.S. ACTIVITY motor coaster mined 16/10 in $51^{\circ} 30' 56'' N.$ $0^{\circ} 55' 00'' E.$ Explosion 8 feet abeam of bridge ship on steady course speed 8 knots ship wiped on 20/9. Master first reported explosion as due to bomb but no aerial activity at time. Vessel beached and subsequently refloated and completed voyage to Greenhithe. (C.in C. Nore 0949/18).

Thames Estuary.

3 Red Mines detonated by sweepers on night 15/16. 2 cables 070° Barrow Deep L.V; one mile 317° East Tongue; and 8 cables 123° N.E. Spit. (C.in C. Nore 0941/16 to Adty).

Tyne.

One ground magnetic mine detonated LL at 0910/16 in 112° North Pier Light 22.5 cables. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0945/16 and 2142/16 to D.M.S.)

Knob L.V.

Large Explosions observed $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Knob L.V. (VERDUN 1148/16 to C.in C. Nore.)

M.T.B.106.

Commodore Sheerness reports M.T.B.106 sunk by Mine 2.5 miles 278° Nore L.V. Crew picked up by attendant Rescue Boat. One minor casualty. (C.in C. Nore 1247/16 to Adty).

Off Aldeburgh.

D.1 reports suspected line of Mines from $52^{\circ} 12.3' N.$, $2^{\circ} 36.5' E$ at 0506/15. Search will be made at daylight 17th. (C.in C. Nore 1510/16 to Adty).

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Minelaying
Operation.

Your 1819/15. DOUWE AUKES is embarking the mines at Portsmouth a.m. 18th October. Portsmouth No. 5338/0115G of 16/10 gives intended lay out of minefield and explains reason for using fixed moorings. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1907/16 to Adty).

2 E-Boats
off Cromer.

2 Enemy Motor Boats in 52° 56'N., 2° 4'E. (VIVIEN 0015/16)

M/V's in Elbe.

At 0044/15 on south bank of Elbe from Gluckstadt to 2 miles south of Brunsbüttel, 16 large ships up to 6000 tons, apparently stationary. (H.Q.B.C. 0111/16).

3 Destroyers
off Texel.

3 Destroyers in 53° 13'N. 4° 40'E steering 210° at 10 knots. (aircraft of 206 Squadron 0430/16 to Bircham Newton.)

Dutch Coast.

M/V's reported from 2113/15 to 0009/16. (D.C. 0502/16 to V.A.S.)

Gironde.

TIGRIS reports. (V.A.S. 0942/16 to Adty).

Enemy Main Units.

Positions on 15/10. (C.in C. H.F. 1042/16 to V.A.C. B.C.S.) (D.D.I.C. 1541/16 to A.I.G.)

KJOBENHAVN.

Steamer on Aarhus-Copenhagen service suffered an accident off Gilleleje necessitating return to Melsingor and service suspended till further notice. (N.A. Stockholm 1435/16 to D.N.I.)

Brest.

7 destroyers reported in Rade Abri. (P.R.U. St.Eval 1540/16).

Unknown ship
failing to answer
challenge.


DANMAN reports unknown small craft 194° Eddystone 18 miles which failed to answer challenge at 2302. (C.in C. W.A. 2337/16 to BROKE, BURZA).

Miscellaneous.

2 Painted
Objects.

Following received by R.A.F. from ABERDEEN. Begins. At 1830/15 sighted 2 black and red painted ~~objects~~ just watching and marking on one end of light diesel oil patch $\frac{1}{2}$ of mile long by 20 yards broad in 55° 45'N. 07° 52'W. No contact obtained near position. 0930/16. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Stomoway 1205/16 to C.in C. W.A).

16.10.40.
Wednesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

2 Painted
Objects. (Contd.)

Instruct A/S Trawlers carrying out sweep to investigate and recover 2 black and red painted objects reported in position 55 degrees 45' north 07 degrees 52' west at 1830/15.
(C.in C. W.A. 2159/16 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

MOST SECRET.16.10.40.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.MARNE.Casualties and Defects.

Following from intercepted cable.
French Despatch Vessel MARNE aground
14/10 coast Hainan near Hoihow.
(Capt. on Staff, Singapore 0751Z/16
to Adty).

MARLY.

Norwegian, 1115 tons. Bombay Radio
Station reports distress message at
2317 G.M.T. ship sinking in 18° 30'N
72° 21'E. Taken to lifeboats at 2337.
(S.O. I. Bombay 1052Z/16 to Adty).

CYCLAMEN.

Plummer-block badly wiped. Can steam
at moderate speed required for working
up. Expect complete working up on
24/10. (WESTERN ISLES 1724/16 to Adty)

HAARLEM.

(Ex-U.S. Destroyer). My 1105 defective.
Sailing postponed. (C.in C. W.A. 2025/16 to
F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

A.G.B.A(?)

Reported in "Belfast Telegraph" as sunk
in collision with a Norwegian steamer
while on passage to Glasgow.



War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

S.L. 49 B

6 hours late (C. in C., W.A., 0110/16)

C.E. 14

Request fighter protection (C. in C., Portsmouth 2003/16)

O.B. 229

WHITEHALL left Londonderry for. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0630/16)

O.B. 228

LEITH, HEARTSEASE and FOLKESTONE to remain with until 0001/17 and then join S.C. 7. (C. in C., W.A., 1950/16)

O.A. 230

CURACOA from Scapa joining about midnight (C. in C., Rosyth, 1946/16) List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Methil 1008/16)

S.L. 49 A

When met transfer to convoy S.L. 49 A, Senior Officer H.M.S. ABERDEEN, expected Pentland Firth eastbound at 0800/17.

E.N. 10

2. On meeting convoy E.N. 10, officer SOUTHERN PRIDE, expected Buchanness 2145/17 transfer to that convoy and cover to Pentland Firth. (R.A.D.H.F. 2005/16, to CURACOA) E.N. 10 Route, etc., (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0948/16)

S.C. 8

Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B. 1702/15 Recd. 0423/16)

Troop Convoys

Escort Groups

C. in C., W.A. 2101/12. Groups detailed as follows. No 1 group SABRE, SKATE, STURDY. No 2 group, SALADIN, SCIMITAR, SARDONYX, SHIKARI. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1631/16)

Navigation
Lights

To be burnt by ships off N. and S. America (See America & West Indies)

Convoys and
U/Boat
Attack

My 2004/14/7 and N.C.S.I. 102, Commodores are to be informed that in future when attacked by a U-Boat the convoy is not to scatter if a local air or surface escort is present or may shortly be expected. (D.T.D. 1504/16)

Convoys and
Gunfire,
Dispersal

Your 1246/15. Suggestion for dispersal as a safeguard from enemy gunfire by spreading the convoy discussed at convoy conference this a.m.

Considered there are grave objections to proposed plan, but that it might be a solution of the shelling problem and should be tried. Details of objections.

To test the system of spreading, detailed arrangements were made to put your 1246/15 into effect. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1857/16 to C. in C., More.)

/W.N. & E.N....



War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

W.N. & E.N.
Convoys

Admty. 1906/4 and 1850/7. Requested that a representative from your Command may attend a meeting at Admiralty Trade Division at 1130/18. to discuss action to be taken to implement Admiralty's proposals regarding WN and EN Convoys. Main points in question (details)
Ministry of shipping is pressing for increased facilities for seven knot ships owing to growing accumulation of coastal shipping at Liverpool and the Clyde.
(D.T.D. 2117/16 to C. in C's W.A. and Rosyth)

SVEADROTT
CASTOR

Amending Admty. 1723/15. (D.C. 0022/16)
My 1723/15. N.A. Stockholm states that SVEADROTT and CASTOR will proceed in company to Kristiansand for instructions through German declared area, thence at 8½ knots in accordance with Admiralty route.
SVEADROTT will part company and increase speed to 11½ knots on reaching longitude 09° W. vessels are painted light grey with Swedish flags painted on hull and deck and will burn navigation lights at night. (D.O.D. (H) 1203/16)
Swedish Admty. informs sail at 1000/16. Due Christiansand 17/10 leave again a.m. /18. Route. Am asked whether tanker BERA, oil for Swedish Navy, may be granted safe conduct ~~for~~ Mexican Gulf to Gothenburg under similar conditions to recent return voyage of SVEADROTT (N.A. Stockholm 1610/16, 1739/16) Informing submarines on patrol (V.A.S. 1841/16) Informing F.O.C.I.C.S. (C. in C., H.F)

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Libreville

Free French Ships ordered to keep out of sight of (C.S.1., 0935A/16)
Admty. 1245/15 (mined area off Libreville)
See my 1220/1. Gen de Gaulle and Spears Mission were informed at the time. (C. in C., S.A. 1139N/16 to Admty.)

BARHAM (Search for PRIMAUGUET)

Admty. 2113/11. Details of search carried out. Maximum visibility ensured search was 100% efficient. (BARHAM, 1015/16)

Operation

Your 1615/15 to W.O. I will be at Lagos 17/10 and 18/10. Request early information of decision to proceed with operation mentioned, outline of British Naval co-operation desired, and firm date, in order fuelling of ships may be arranged accordingly. Also projected employment of Free French Ships. (C.S.1., 1047A/16 to Spears Mission)

French Submarines

Following from French N.A. on instructions from French Admiralty. French escort Vessel LA BATAILLEUSE, Submarines L'ESPOIR, VENGEUR, PEGASE and MONGE with tanker LOT will pass Gibraltar about 1200/17 en route Casablanca. They will relieve Submarines LE HEROS, LE GLOBEUX, CIRCE and CALYPSO which will then proceed with same escort to Oran. ends. (N.A. Madrid, 1300/16) (See D.O.D.(F) 2237/16)

Patrol

Your 1819/16 para 2. Patrol is being established but distance from Straits being limited to ensure that patrol does not encounter submarines referred to in N.A. Madrid's 1300/16 during dark hours. (S.O. Force H, 2001/16)

Port Gentil

Following received from N.C.S.O. Duala. The French authorities report intercepted signal from Libreville to Port Gentil authorising payment of 200,000 francs to Vichy. French destroyer L'ENTREPRENANT repeated to French Submarine PONCELET 2142/15/10. (S.O.I., Freetown 1142/16, to Admty. etc.,)

/Interception.....



War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Interception
Plans

*Nothing to do with
French -
Refers to Alley
& Stamps*

Concur that arrangements should be made that will meet requirements for situation envisaged.
Unless at least 7 days warning can be obtained of enemy intentions to move, consider situation envisaged in B.N. 1. will certainly arise and plan to meet this should be worked out in detail.
Conclude prospects of interception of the enemy en route are poor.
Consider at least 15 destroyers of which 9 or possibly 10 available from 8th D.F. and 13th D.F.
Propose transports return U.K. as soon as possible on grounds of security.
Also propose Morford and Waller return to U.K. at earliest opportunity in order to discuss plan. Morford concurs and considers it impracticable to carry out operation envisaged without prior contact with Commanders of other units of his command. (S.O. Force H., 1804/16 to Admty.)

French
Intelligence

Conversation with French N.A. including following points.
1. Movements of munitions to Dakar escorted by PRIMAUGUET was in accordance with undertaking given to protect French Colonies against all interference. This is chiefly in French view Axis interference. Ships and Dakar to be brought to fighting efficiency
2. No German influence at Dakar.
3. Admiral Lacroix at Dakar very anti German.
4. Weygand anti Laval and Anti German.
8. Bombing of French Channel ports most effective.
9. French starting Secret Munitions Factories in French Morocco.
French N.A. most cordial but very muddled in loyalties. (N.A. Madrid, 1950/16)

Exchange of
Shipping

French N.A. states instructed by French Admty. to open possibility of exchange of all British and Allied merchant vessels and crews held by French against all French merchant vessels held by British Empire. Latter figure 360,000 tons. Former 60,000 tons British and uncertain number allied. Is this to be considered? (N.A. Madrid, to Admty, 1900/16)

/French M.V's....

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.10.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSOperations Against Vichy French-Contd.French M.V's

Admty. 1439/23/9, 1515/26/9, 2300/30/9.
Request action to be taken if a French
Merchant ship is intercepted. Should such
be treated as neutral or enemy. (F.O.C.N.P.
2054/16 to Admty.)

Casablanca

N.A.Madrid's 1300/16. French Forces pro-
ceeding to and from Casablanca should not
be interfered with (D.O.D. (F) 2236/16)
Your 2237. Orders have been already issued
to this effect. (F.O.C.N.A., 2350/16)


Force H.

Your 1612/16. If by 1400/17 no French
forces other than those in N.A.Madrid's
1300/16 have been sighted, ships may revert
to normal notice for steam. (V.C.N.S., 2319/
16, to Force H.)

PRIMAUGUET

COMMANDANT DOMINE has reported he is re-
turning to Duala now by order of Leclere
and that French ship PRESIDENT HOUDUCE
has already returned to Duala with engine
defect. Also rumoured French Cruiser
PRIMAUGUET has sailed for South with oiler
and 2 submarines. (DELHI 2322/16)

Admty. 2319/16. If ships have reverted to
normal notice AUSTRALIA, ECHO, ESCAPADE
and transports KARANJA (16 knots) and
ETTRICK (14 knots) are to be sailed to
Clyde p.m./17.
Opportunity should be taken to reduce
numbers for REINA del PACIFICO.
(V.C.N.S. 2333/16)

MOST SECRET16.10.1940
Wednesday
War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSGeneral

Raider Situation:- Now known that the raider which left Germany early in April and which sank the HAXBY in 31° 30' N., 51° 30' W., on 24/4 proceeded via Cape Horn to the Pacific laying mines off Auckland on 12/6. This ship captured the TROPIC SEA and probably the NOTOU and TRAKINA.

Appreciation

It is thought that another raider left Germany at about the same time and after sinking the SCIENTIST on about 3/5 laid mines off Cape Agulhas. This ship probably proceeded to the Indian Ocean and could have been responsible for all the losses in that area.

Known and suspected losses in the Atlantic since the sinking of the CYMBELINE on 2/9 could have been caused by one raider but it is thought more likely that two have been operating one in the North Atlantic and one in the vicinity of the Equator on the Cape and South America trade routes. (D.D.I.C. 1308/16)

North Atlantic

Portuguese
Warships
TEJO. AFONSO DU
A. ALBUQUERQUE
3 Submarines
TAMEGA

Movements (F.O.C.N.A., 1017/16 to HOTSPUR, SALOPIAN, CIRCASSIA)

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE

My 1320/11. Attitude of Spanish Government appears to be that crew are officially interned but we undersatand that release can probably be obtained. Precedent is the case of the French Sloop wrecked near Vigo. Have advised Ambassador that Spain cannot claim internment under convention of 1907 article 15 because H.M.G. never ratified this convention; that H.M.G. is bound by convention of 1899 of which only article 10 applies and that article was excluded from ratification by all powers; that men should therefore be released at once. Please confirm. Officers and men are well and in charge of Vice Consul but cannot remain so indefinitely. (N.A. Madrid, 1830/15, to F.O.I.C., Gibraltar)

BARHAM

Was successfully docked this morning in lengthened No. 1. dock. (A.S.Gibraltar, 1230/16)

/Straits Patrol.....

16.10.1940
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic- Contd.Straits
Patrol

Admty. 1819/16, para 2. Patrol is being established but distance from Straits is being limited to ensure that patrol does not encounter submarines referred to in N.A. Madrid's 1300/16. (re French Submarines) during dark hours. (S.O. Force H., 2001/16)

South AtlanticROYAL SOVEREIGN

Admty. 1432/13. Request sail to Freetown as soon as completed. (C. in C., S.A., to Capt. i/c Simonstown, 1305/16)

CUMBERLAND

To act as escort to convoy W.S. 3. Slow. Route (C. in C., S.A., 1319N/16)

German
Seamen

Brazilian ship DOM PEDRO^{II} sailed Montevideo October 14th for Santos. Report graded A.1. stated 27 Germans from crew of German merchant ship at Buenos Aires took passenger DOM PEDRO^{II}, though no German appeared in passenger list. This report indirectly confirmed by another report that WINDHUK at Santos is preparing to leave shortly. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1943/16 to ASTURIAS, QUEEN OF BERMUDA)

SELANDIA
LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE

Your 1242/8 and 1246/8. Re employment in carrying troops and stores between Durban and Mombasa. (D. of S.T., to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2114/16)

MediterraneanREGENT

Orders for entering Grand Harbour (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0907/16)

Alexandria
Raid

Air raid 0030 to 0130. 9 bombs, no damage, no casualties, (R.A., Alexandria, 1100/16) (D.S. 408)

Fleet at
Alexandria

Arrivals, 14/10 YORK; 15/10, MALAYA, RAMILLES SYDNEY, AJAX, EAGLE and 7 destroyers; 16/10, C. in C., in WARSPITE, with VALIANT ILLUSTRIOUS, GLOUCESTER, LIVERPOOL, ORION, COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, and 9 destroyers. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1705/16)

/Enemy Units.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.10.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Enemy Units

One destroyer 3 merchant vessels, position course and speed of enemy 37.50 N., 15.40 E., 180°, unknown, at 1450. (Capt S. 1. 1741/16)

Torpedo Aircraft Attacks

Italians have achieved 2 notable successes with torpedo aircraft against moon, unseen until too late. Threat serious. To counter, R. direction finding essential. Urge very special effort to supply. (C. in C., Med. 2203/16 to Admty.)

Convoy A.S.4.

Arrived (N.O.I.C., Port Said. 1837/16)

U-Boats
Black Sea

Bucharest report (begins) Reliable sources at Galatz state that four German S/Ms are being constructed, parts arrived mainly by railway to construction yard where men kept under guard have been working for nearly three weeks. 2 Submarines ready. (Ends) Further information being sought. Reliability unassessed. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1029/16)

Payment of
French Fleet

Your 1731/28. Probable monthly expenditure French Fleet is £22,000. Admiral Godfroy informs me Vichy Government is endeavouring to arrange through French N.A. Washington for a monthly sum of one hundred thousand dollars to be transferred to credit of French Fleet in Egypt. I have authorised Cashier Alexandria to advance a loan of five thousand pounds Egyptian to French Fleet to enable wages of Officers and men to be paid. Loan will be refunded if and when credit from Washington is arranged. (C. in C., Med. 1201/16, to Admty.)

Libyan Front
Situation

Comments on Admty, 1744/10. (Libyan Front Summary sent by D.N.I. (C. in C., Med. 1559/16- see Situation report)

Jewish
Refugees

Admty. 2111/15. Piraeus reports Panama ship ATLANTIC and another steamer name unknown both carrying Jewish refugees arrived and left Mitylene 13/10.

ATLANTIC
MILOS

ATLANTIC reported to be carrying 1800 Jews, PACIFIC 1030. Latter painted grey with black funnel.

/My 1057/13.....

War Diary16.10.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanJewish Refugees
ATLANTIC
MILOS Contd.

My 1057/13, not to Admiralty, Panama steamship MILOS former MARIA I arrived Piraeus 0700/15 with Jewish refugees. Ship was refused permission to enter port and sailed at once for unknown destination. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1211/16)

Air Raid
Alexandria

Air Raid between 1900 and 2145/16. About 20 bombs. One Polish soldier killed and 3 wounded, no other damage. (R.A.Alexandria, 1025/17)

Operation B.S.

Operation B.S. Appendix two. Para 4. Malta. Delete existing Sanctuary and substitute: "between bearing 200° and 250° from and within 25 miles of Dalimara Light. Searched Channel into harbour being made Sanctuary as necessary". T.O.O. 1211/16. (C. in C., Med., 1234/16)

Malta,
Air Reconnaissance
Air Raid

Situation Report up to 1800 hrs. 16/10.
11.36 - 13.57 Skua F.A.A. reconnaissance Eastern Sicilian Ports. Messina- one destroyer and two or three coastal boats. Augusta- one large M/V 6,000 tons and 20 seaplanes. Catania and Syracuse- nil.
At 12.50 reported by W/T one destroyer and three M/M's course 180° position 37.50 North 15.40 East.
14.45. Departed again to relocate position of convoy before deciding to despatch striking force. Landed 17.55 convoy not located although search from Malta to Cape Spartivento and down Eastern Sicilian coast was carried out. The M/V 6,000 tons which was in August was then leaving on course 28 Landed 17.51.
10.03 - 13.38 One Swordfish of 830 Squadron F.A.A. searched for Swordfish crew who were picked up by Sunderland. On its way back attacked and probably damaged ~~CANT 4/2~~ 501 which had just taken off from patch of oil position sixty miles East of Malta. This was approximately where destroyers were sunk on 12/10.
Air alarm sounded 08.10. Six Hurricanes and two Gladiators up but raid did not materialise. (Govr., Gib. 2208/16)

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.10.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesCargoes
Jedda

N.O.I.C. Port Sudan reports local censor frequently intercepts P.L. messages from London, Aden, Bombay and Colombo giving names of ships proceeding with cargoes to Jedda. Enquiries being made. Suggest enquiries London and Bombay. (C. in C., E.I., 0330/16)

U.S. 5 A

Date of sailing from Colombo and arrival Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 1046Z/16)

A.P. 3.
S.W. 2.A.

Date of leaving Suez, and to meet U.S..5 A. at Red Sea R.V. Convoy will be called S.W. 2 A. (C. in C., E.I., 1054Z/16)

QUEEN MARY)
AQUITANIA)
MAURETANIA)

Estimated fuel and water requirements. Tanker BRITISH COURAGE will be available for fuelling convoy. (D. of S.T. to P.S.T.O. India, Bombay 1633/16)

Dutch Ships
Reunion

Your 0744/12. C. in C., N.E.I. confirms that Reunion agent's message was sent to Director at Batavia but K.P.M. Director acting under N.E.I. Govt. instructions does not allow their ships to call at Reunion or Madagascar. (C. in C., China, 0303Z/16, to C. in C., E.I.)

MARLY
Distress Message

For Lloyds List from Lloyds Agent, Bombay. Distress message from SS MARLY 2313 G.M.T. in sinking condition 18.30 N., 92.21 E., Hatch broke down at 2317, sinking at 2337 taken to lifeboats. (S.O.I., Bombay 1052Z/16.)

Italian
Submarines
Sunk, damaged,
7 captured.

Adnty. 2028/14 paragraph 5 (i) Italian Submarine GALILEO GALILEI captured 19th June (ii) ^{FALMOUTH} TORRICELLI sunk by KANDAHAR 23/6 (iii) GALVANI sunk by FALMOUTH 24/6. (iv) Italian submarine MACALLE struck reef and sank off Port Sudan June. (v) Italian submarine PERLA attacked by KINGSTON 26/6 later found beached. Bombarded and bombed 27/6. Subsequently towed to Massawa believed still there. (C. in C., E.I., 1136Z/16)

/Air Attacks.....



War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Air Attacks
PARNAMATTA
PUNDIT

PARNAMATTA reports attack 0846/14 by one aircraft, engaged by fighters and 4 bombs dropped 3 miles wide.
Attack 1315/15 by 3 aircraft. Good attack 5 bombs narrowly missing PUNDIT and 5 not far from RANEE. Blenheim fighters intercepted and disabled one which dived into sea and attacked second aircraft indecisively. One minor casualty from splinters in PUNDIT (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1256Z/16)

China

MARNE

Intercepted cable states 14/10. French despatch vessel MARNE aground coast Hainan near Hoihow. (Capt O.S., Singapore, 0751Z/16)

Shipping
Japan

My 2016/4. In view of possibility of these ships being chartered by Japan financial conditions of charter may be waived. British India S.N.Co. has been informed accordingly but have been told that ships if chartered must not be used on Japanese run. (D.T.D. 1438/16 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

KOSMOS

Due Curacao 10/10 from Walvis Bay, not arrived. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1131/16)

Navigation
Lights

Admiralty message "D.F". Ref. A.M.S.I. 39. When on coastal route of North or South America in Areas 8 and 10, British merchant vessels are to proceed undarkened and to burn navigation lights at full brilliance. (D.T.D. 1201/16, to G.B.M.S. all areas)

French Trade
West Indies

Your 1231/9. Request report on extent of this trade in both directions, names and nationalities of ships engaged in trade and cargoes carried. H.M.G. are in communication with U.S. Government on subject. Concur in proposed action. Any French ships brought in for examination are to be reported to Admiralty with summary of cargo and such ships and cargo to be held pending receipt of instructions from H.M.G. as to disposal. Head of M. 1139/16 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

/THALIA.....

War Diary16.10.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies-Contd.THALIA

Your 1942/15. In July New York reported Master and full crew of THALIA were British. He was authorised to issue full set of Merchant C.B's on personal charge of Master. Ship is operated by Imperial Oil Company Toronto. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1143/16)

"Town"
Destroyers
R.C.N.

In compliance with Admty. 2346/10. R.C.N. destroyer ex U.S.A. will be known as R.C.N. "Town" class destroyers. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0948/16)

NORA

Your 1114/4. N.C.S.O. Sydney's 1544/14. Local escort S.C. 6. reports straggler last seen 1845/29 45.13 N., 52.33 W. This might perhaps have been Estonian ship NORA. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1559/16)

AustraliaZEALANDIA

Local transport, with 792 troops, left Brisbane 0936Z/15 for Darwin (A.C.N.B., 0129Z/16)

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.10.1940
WednesdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

- WINDHUK At Santos, reported preparing to leave shortly. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1943/16)
- CERIGO Re 1847/14 from S.O.(I) Callao. Panama also reports CERIGO expected to sail this week with German passengers for Japan. Funnel to be painted black. Japanese flag hoisted when outside territorial waters (B.2) (S.O.I. Kingston 0950/16)
- HELGOLAND My 2050/12. (Seamen ex-German HANNOVER leaving San Domingo for Port au Prince) Men have joined HELGOLAND (S.O.I. Kingston, 1451/15)
- SPEZIA Reported to be loading at Barcelona on 18/10 for Italy (D.S. 408)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

- DUCHESSA D'AOSTA At Fernando Po, reported to owners at Trieste on 8/10 that her cargo was "good". Has 600 tons fuel, boiler water exhausted, fresh water and provisions for one month. (D.S.407)
- ADA MELLO At Montevideo went alongside 15/10 to discharge cargo of maize bought locally (D.S. 408)
- FRANCA FASSIO (Reported sunk by submarine) Reported from Madrid that 5 survivors landed. (D.S. 408)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

- Exchange of. See Operations Against Vichy French.



War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked

BENLAWERS
(torpedoed 6/10)

FOREST landed master and 10 other survivors of BENLAWERS at Bermuda 16/10. Master of BENLAWERS reports vessel torpedoed 11072/6 in position 053° 20' N., 026° 10' W. Vessel was proceeding independently speed 12½ knots zigzagging number 17, visibility very good, wind west force 5. No sign of U-Boat observed at any time. Distress message could not be sent. Survivors returning to U.K. in ORDUNA. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1223/16)

TREVISA

*S.C. 7
(straggler)*

SSSS 57.23 N., 20.36 W., TREVISIA torpedoed and sinking. Correction 57.24 N., 20.30 W., (Valentia Radio, 0153/16, 0205/16) SABRE, SARDONYX, OTTAWA and KEPPEL to investigate. (C. in C., W.A. 0333/16) S/M CLYDE informed. (V.A.S., 0334/16) Was ~~FR~~ convoy S.C. 7. TREVISIA bottom up. Propose to sink. 14 survivors in KEPPEL. SABRE returning to harbour. (OTTAWA, 0821/16) Your 0821 approved. (C. in C., W.A., 1143/16)

Foremost half of TRAVISA apparently full of lumber, holed, and on fire and believed sinking in position 057° 27' N., 020° 45' W but still danger to navigation at 1660 today. KEPPEL detached at 0840. Am proceeding to Clyde 16 knots. (OTTAWA, 1710/16)

CHESHIRE
(torpedoed 14/10)

Suggest salvage tug be sent to pump out No 1 hold. My position course and speed at 0900, 55.26 N., 08. 10 W., 080° 6 knots. (CHESHIRE, 0921/16) Draught of water 49 ft forward, 16 ft aft. (CHESHIRE, 0831/16)

Submarines Reported

0945

By aircraft, 49.24 N., 9.15 W., (Aircraft 217 Sqdn. 0945/16) Sighted on surface and seen to submerge. When first sighted was on course 160° speed 6 knots. (Aircraft 217 Sqdn. 0950/16) (C. in C., W.A., 1013/16, F.O. (S.) 1049/16)

1025

By coast watcher Isle of Gruna, sighted 1 mile from shore. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1224/16) Trawler STORA sailed to search. (WESTERN ISLES, 1316/16)

1412

By Empire flying boat, 44.25 N., 10.00 W., (C. in C. W.A., 1429/16, V.A.S. 1448/16) No indication of course but if inward bound would probably be making for Gironde. (D.D.I.C. 1525/16)

16.10.1940
WednesdayWar DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.

1354 By Coastguard, Rattray Head, Conning Tower
awash steering S. 045° Rattray Head 3 miles
(B.2) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1509/16) 57.39 N.,
1.45 W.

1510 Enemy submarine reported in 60° N., 15° to
16° W at 1510 (C. in C., W.A., 1609/16)

2020 Am over enemy submarine in 59.56 N., 15.00 W.,
(Aircraft D/210, 2020/16, C. in C., W.A.,
2131/16) (See Submarines Attacked) (D.D.I.C.
2208/16, 2219/16)

0416 45.00 N., 16.00 W., position indefinite.
(D.S. 407)

2348 D.F. indications at 2348/16 suggest possibility
you are being shadowed by U-Boat. (D.D.I.C.
0055/17 to ANTHONY, VERITY etc.)

0115. A.F. message 58.38 N., 12.17 W., at 0015 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0440/16)

0257 A.F. message 57.24 N., 20.30 W., at 0157 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0440/16)

0226 57.30 N., 22° W., position indefinite.
(D.S. 407)

1106 55° N., 16° W., position approximate
(D.S. 407)

0129 55.50 N., 14° W., position indefinite
(D.S. 407)

2238 54.30 N., 14°-16° W. indefinite position
(D.S. 408)

1717 57.30 N., 18°-20° W. indefinite position
(D.S. 408)

1230 and 1440 58.30 N., - 59.30 N., 12°-14° W., indefinite
position (D.S. 408)

2035 53.58 N., 4.56 W., reported by Army lookout
(C.4) (D.S. 408)

1920 54°-55° N., 6°-8° E., indefinite position.
(D.S. 408)

/Estimated....



War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: No news.

German : 1 in about 45° N., 16° W at 0416/16
1 in 49° 24' N., 9° 15' W., at 0945/16
course 160° may reach Lorient p.m. 17th
October.
1 small U/B in about 49° N., 11° W., bound
northwards.
1 in about 55° N., 16° W., at 1106/16
1 in about 55° 50' N., 14° W at 0129/16.
1 was in 57° 24' N., 20° 30' W., at 0157/16.
1 in about 57° 30' N., 22° W at 0226/16
1 was in 58° 38' N., 12° 17' W at 0115/16
1 may be in about 60° N., 16° W following
O.A. 228.
(D.D.I.C. 1300/16)

Submarines Attacked

- 0115 Submarine sighted on surface position 058°
38' N., 012° 17' W. attacked with three
patterns and lost contact. Am continuing
hunt with FOLKSTONE. Weather report.
(LEITH 0115/16)
My 0115. Contact not regained. All electric
sweeps point to fact that Submarine dived
under convoy after attack. Since then
searching astern of Convoy with FOLKESTONE
and HEARTSEASE. No escort was available to
stand by position of attack. (LEITH 0531/16)
- 0945 By aircraft with bombs. 49.24 N., 9.15 W.,
(D.S. 408) (See S/MS Reported)
- 1115 Periscope sighted and contact attacked.
55.32 N., 06.20 W., at 1115/16. (C. in C.,
W.A., 1553/16)
- 2020 By aircraft 59.56 N., 15.35 W., Sighted on
surface and observed to submerge. When first
sighted was on course 220. Depth charged,
no result seen. Fog. (A/C D/210, 2020/16,
15 group 2030/16)

Italian
Submarines
Sunk

In Red Sea. (See East Indies)

MOST SECRETWar Diary17.10.1940
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands→ KING GEORGE V

KING GEORGE V sailed from the Tyne at 0530/17 for Rosyth, escorted by NAIAD, BONAVENTURE and 6 destroyers.

FAME
ASHANTI
Ashore

At 0519/17 two of the destroyers, FAME and ASHANTI were reported ashore 4½ miles south of the Tyne, and at 0605 FAME reported that her boiler room was on fire. Attempt to tow ASHANTI off the ground at high water today failed. The fire in FAME is under control.

→ KING GEORGE V arrived at Rosyth p.m. today.

6 ships
torpedoed
in Convoy

4 ships were torpedoed last night in Convoy O.B. 228 and two in Convoy S.C. 7.

CHESHIRE

CHESHIRE (torpedoed 14/10) was beached at -1230 today near Kilroot Point (Belfast)

E-Boat Attack
on F.F.311.

See Page 398.

Convoy F.F.311. was attacked by E-Boats at 2315 today, 20 miles N.E. of Yarmouth. 3 ships were disabled, either by torpedoes or mines. SS BRYAN reports sinking an E-Boat.

E-Boat

The presence of an E. Boat was suspected early this morning between Lands End and Ushant. BROKE and BURZA were ordered to try to intercept.

Engagement
with enemy
Destroyers

(See German Documents 375)

4 enemy destroyers left Brest steering west about 0700 today. They were sighted by Coastal Command aircraft at 0719 at close range in low visibility. Convoys SL 60, HG 45 and OG 44 were ordered to steer westward. NEWCASTLE, EMERALD, JACKAL, JUPITER, KASHMIR, KELVIN and KIPLING (this force is known as Force F) proceeded to attack. The enemy destroyers were reported at 1345 approximately 100 miles S.W. of Land's End steering north west at high speed, and at 1607 NEWCASTLE opened fire at extreme range; the enemy were making for Brest. Captain D 5 was also in touch.

/Aircraft.....

MOST SECRET17.10.1940
Thursday
War DiarySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsEngagement
with Enemy
Destroyers, Contd

Aircraft attack on Force F was expected and it was not possible to give adequate protection to our forces. At 1801 enemy aircraft unsuccessfully bombed our forces. Blenheim bombers, accompanied by fighters attacked, without stopping the the enemy destroyers, which escaped to Brest.

British Air Activity

All operations by Coastal Command early last night were cancelled on account of weather. Early this morning at least 3 out of 4 large calibre bombs were exploded in an attack on Brest. Lorient also was successfully bombed.

Bomber Command attacked Kiel Docks; no hits were made on GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST but bursts were observed close to the target and it is believed much damage was done to the docks. BISMARCK and Hamburg docks were attacked; results were not observed. Docks at Cuxhaven, Bremen and Bordeaux were also attacked.

Enemy Air Activity

Some damage was done at Chatham dockyard last night.

Damage was also caused last night in the London Dock area.

A Belgian trawler was bombed and machine gunned this evening 23 miles south of Kinsale and lost her trawling gear.

Mining

Mines were laid last night in the Gironde estuary.

An enemy aircraft was seen, suspected laying mines, east of Wick during last night. Mine laying was also carried out off the east coast and in the Thames Estuary,

/KINGSTON.....

War Diary

17.10.1940

ThursdaySITUATION REPORTMining-Contd.

KINGSTON CAIRNGORM (A/S trawler) was mined and sunk in the Channel today whilst in tow.

Two ships were mined today near Aldeburgh L.V. and one was damaged by near mine explosions in the Thames Estuary.

Operations Against Vichy French

Four French submarines and a tanker, escorted by M/S sloop LA BATAILLEUSE and French aircraft passed Gibraltar in a westerly direction about noon today. A British aircraft shadowed them to ensure that they went to Casablanca.

A report received today that STRASBOURG and 20 units were leaving Toulon. RENOWN was brought to short notice and a patrol was ordered to be established to eastward of the Straits of Gibraltar.

PRIMAUGUET, an oiler and 2 submarines are reported to have sailed south from Dakar p.m. today. DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL were ordered to patrol off Cape St. Anne to intercept them and instruct them to return to Dakar or Casablanca.

Mediterranean

Blenheims today attacked shipping at Benghazi, scoring direct hits on two ships.

17.10.40.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence Of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE Signals.

At 0200/17 (D.C.0201/17) At 1400/17
(D.C.1420/17).

Nore Command.
Notice for Steam.

Air R/C unsatisfactory. Keep steam
at half hours notice till 0900/17.
(C.in C. Nore 0519/17).

Policy.

My 1421/14/8 owing to major damage
to ZULU, FAME, ASHANTI and VERSATILE
and minor damage to COSSACK and SIKH I
am afraid I shall have to withdraw two
of 12th D.F. from North Western
Approaches now. Further in view of
withdrawal of DUNCAN, FEARLESS and
FOXHOUND on about 25th October two
more of 12th D.F. will have to be
withdrawn then.
(C.in C. H.F. 1354/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1354/17. Will DOUGLAS and KEPPEL
meet your immediate requirements.
(C.in C. W.A. 1749/17 to C.in C.H.F.)

ISIS To
replace
FAME in Force
H.

It will be necessary to provide another
Destroyer for Force H. to replace FAME

Either ISIS or ELECTRA are suggested.

Request your remarks.
(V.C.N.S. 1522/17 to C.in C. H.F.)

Your 1522/17. ISIS. (C.in C. H.F.
2300/17 to Adty).

HOOD.

Your 1555/15. In her present state
H.M.S. HOOD lacks the first essential
of a battle cruiser, namely high speed
I strongly urge that we take
advantage of the opportunity afforded
by the information given in your
1541/16 * to restore to her this
attribute now.
(C.in C. H.F. 2329/17 to Adty).

Movements.REVENGE.

Have steam at half an hours notice.
(C.in C. W.A. 0957/17 to REVENGE).

AUSTRALIA.

Adty. 2333/16. Route to Clyde.
(C.in C. W.A. 1221/17).

Western Approaches.

Situation at 2000/17. (C.in C. W.A.
1345/17 to Clyde).

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd).

Dover.

Patrols for night 17/18. (V.A. Dover 1428/17).

Western Channel.

Night report. (C.in C. W.A. 1615/17 and 1905/17).

Corvettes.

Allocation of amendment to 1815/15. (Capt. D. Liverpool 1633/17).

2 E/Boats off Teignmouth.

Operations.
2 E/Boats reported in 120° Teignmouth 7 miles at 0205. Aircraft will co-operate with you. (C.in C. W.A. 0243/17 to BROKE, BURZA)
Position 49° 15'N., 9° 43'W. Course 70°. Endeavour to intercept. (C.in C. W.A. 0427/17 to BROKE).
Cancel my 0427. Position of E/Boat 49° 27'N., 4° 43'W, at 0430. Endeavour to intercept. (C.in C. W.A. 0457/17 to BROKE).

KING GEORGE V. (Operation S.A)
See also casualties and defects re FAME and ASHANTI.

Left Tyne at 0530/17 for Rosyth. Speed 16 knots. Doubtful if F.O.C.15th C.S. and Destroyer Screen are in company. Proceed best speed to meet KING GEORGE V and provide A/S protection. (C.in C. H.F. 0751/17 to FEARLESS)
FAME, ASHANTI ashore. Request tugs immediately off Mouth at Whitburn. (FAME 0519 and 0524/17 to N.O.I.C. Tyne).
Send tugs and fire fighting appliances. Boiler room on fire. (FAME 0605/17 to N.O.I.C. Tyne).
Request Zero hour and confirmation of time of departure. Visibility 8 cables. Have not made contact with Destroyers. Situation unknown. Cannot get into touch with them.
(F.O. 15th C.S. 0647/17 to C.in C. Rosyth)
Have you sighted ship concerned. (C.S.15 0723/17 to SIKH)
Your 0647. Ships passed Tyne Pierhead at 0535.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0728/17 to F.O. 15 C.S)
Join me with all despatch at 20.D.Buoy, course 345°. (C.S.15 0732/17 to SIKH)
Proceed with all despatch towards ~~the~~ to meet and escort KING GEORGE V to May Island. (C.in C. H.F. 0753/17 to BEAGLE).

Newcastle

17.10.40.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Contd.)

KING GEORGE V.
(Operation SA)
See also
Casualties and
Defects re FAME
and ASHANTI.

Proceed with all despatch to meet KING GEORGE V and escort her to May Island. Ship left Tyne at 0530 speed 16 knots. Do not impede sweepers operating in Swept Channels. (C.in C. H.F. 0818/17 to WESTMINSTER, WALLACE)

Preliminary enquiries show that Destroyer proceeding to RV with KING GEORGE V off Tyne Pierhead took departure from 20 Q Buoy in mistake for 20 C Buoy which latter was not sighted in the prevailing heavy rain. (C.in C. H.F. 2009/17 to Adty).

Consider position of ASHANTI and FAME precarious. If wind and weather are easterly from whatever quarter consider salvage will be very difficult. Also danger of heavy ground swell in this area. Request best salvage expert may be sent to collaborate with Commander Smith, Salvage Officer, N.E. Coast, as soon as possible. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2039/17 to Adty).

4 Destroyers
off Ushant.

Coastal Command A/C reports 4 Destroyers in 48° 24'N. 5° 33'W., steering West at 0719. (V.A.S. 0842/17 to Submarines Area B). (C.in C. W.A. 1003/17 to Ships). Cancel my 0842. (V.A.S. 1011/17).

NEWCASTLE, EMERALD, JACKAL, JUPITER, KASHMIR, KELVIN, KIPLING proceeding. (C.in C. W.A. 1027/17 to C.in C. H.F.) (V.A.S. 1049/17).

Ships are to form Force F. (C.in C. W.A. 1311/17 to NEWCASTLE)

Convoys keep as far westwards as endurance permits. Shall assume they will reach R/V 12 hours late. (C.in C. W.A. 1341 and 1343/17).

You were reported by enemy aircraft at 1200. (C.in C. W.A. 1353/17 to Force F.) CAIRO and available destroyers raise steam with all despatch for full speed. (C.in C. W.A. 1517/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

4 Destroyers
off Ushant. Contd).

4 Destroyers reported in 48° 20'N.,
6° 10'W. steering N.N.W. at high speed
at 1345. (C.in C. W.A. 1521/17 to Force
F.)

Cancel my 1517. (C.in C. W.A. 1623/17 to
F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Enemy Air attack imminent on Force F.
(Plymouth W/T. 1535/17).

4 Destroyers bearing south 10 miles
course south. My position 49° 29'N.
6° 40'W. (D.5 1612 and 1624/17)

Engaging Enemy Destroyers at extreme
range. My position 49° 25'N. 6° 44'W.
(NEWCASTLE 1612/17).

4 Destroyers bearing 190 °distance 14 miles
My position 49° 19'N. 6° 45'W. course
185°, speed 28 knots. (NEWCASTLE 1632/17)

5 Blenheims Fighters leaving 1700 to
attack Enemy Destroyers. (C.in C. W.A.
1651/17 to Force F.)

My 1612. Enemy retiring towards Brest
at high speed. Am chasing. (NEWCASTLE
1710/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

My 1651. For Fighter read Bomber. 3
Blenheim Fighters are leaving now to
escort you. (C.in C. W.A. 1713/17 to
Force F.)

At 1730 my position 48° 46'N., 6° 35'W,
course 150°, speed 32 knots. (NEWCASTLE
1730/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

Unable to give adequate air protection.
Withdraw at your discretion. (A.C.W.A.
1756/17 to NEWCASTLE).

On withdrawal return to Plymouth.
M.G.B's will be patrolling S.E. of Start.
(C.in C. W.A. 1857/17 to Force F).

Enemy have asked for assistance of
Bombers. (C.in C. W.A. 1819/17 to
Force F.)

My 1743/17. Destroyers have retreated
to Brest. (C.in C. W.A. 1943/17 to
Ships).

J/S note - German details of this action are in G.D. 375.

MOST SECRET.17.10.40.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Patrols T. and O.

Owing to Mines North of 54A. Buoy, Patrol T will not be carried out today. Patrol O by 3 of 16th D.F. Route. (C.in C. Nore. 1030/17 to D.16).

Weather permitting 60 ft. M.T.B's to operate between Flushing and IJmuiden tonight. S.O. Submarines Harwich to be consulted about movements of own Submarines. Subject to restrictions necessary in connection with own Submarines any vessel met East of 3° East may be attacked without challenge. Any large concentration of ships to be reported immediately. (C.in C. Nore 1238/17 to BEEHIVE).

Iceland.
(ARGUS)

Adty's. 1649/15. Route for ARGUS escorted by BEAGLE, HURRICANE, ACHATES. (C.in C. W.A. 1409/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Intend sailing ARGUS, escorted at 1600/18. Speed 17 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1736/17 to Adty).

Operations
ACTIVE and
PUNGENT.

C.in C. Portsmouth's 2217/9. Proposed disposal of ships. (C.in C. Nore 1544/17 to Adty).

Force D.
(Tromso).

My position at 1600, 68° 51'N., 4° 36'E, course 239°, speed 15 knots. (S.O. Force D. 1600/17 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S) (R.A.D. H.F. 1828/17 to DUNCAN).

Portsmouth.
Outer Patrol
Line.

Your 1212/21/9, para C.1 and 2. Consequent on Outer Patrol Lines being established further seaward, request line be amended as follows. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1647/17 to Adty).

GASFIRE. in F.N.11.

E-boat attack.
See P. 398.

Totally disabled 6 miles N.N.W. of Smiths Knoll. (GASFIRE 2220/17 to North Foreland Radio). One ship in convoy torpedoed. One enemy Motor Boat bearing 30° one mile. My position 52° 53'N., 2° 8'E. (VERDUN 2314 and 2316/17) Enemy has disappeared to N.E. (VERDUN 2320/17).
Tug **NORMAN** from Yarmouth proceeding to help of GASFIRE now. (C.in C. Nore 2349/17 to VERDUN).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.10.40.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.GASFIRE. (Contd.)

See P.398. F.N.11.

Request fighter protection for 3 disabled M/V's in tow of tugs from daylight 18th. till arrival by Yarmouth about noon. (C.in C. Nore 0030/18 to H.Q.F.C.).

Tug MURIA and KENIA sailed 0105 to assist GASFIRE. Tug NORMAN standing by GEORGE BALFOUR in Yarmouth Roads. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0108/18 to Adty). 4 Tugs being sent from Yarmouth. (C.in C. Nore 0313/18 to Capt.D 16)

Please sail two tugs with despatch to meet disabled M/V's GASFIRE, P.L.M.14 and HAUXLEY and assist tow to Humber. Estimated position noon 18th 53° 10' N., 01° 11' E proceeding slow speed by searched channels. MALCOLM, WIVERN WORCESTER and Yarmouth tugs in Company. (C.in C. Nore 0430/18 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

GASFIRE in tow in 52° 57' N., 2° 2' E. speed 15 knots.

PINTAIL in company. (WIVERN 0610/18 to Adty).

PUFFIN standing by three disabled ships in 52° 51' N., 2° 8' E. GASFIRE P.L.M.14 and HAUXLEY, last two ships abandoned chance of salvage all ships good. PUFFIN has numerous survivors on board some require urgent medical attention. VERDUN sending Medical Officer and rejoining convoy. S.S. BRYAN reports sinking an E/Boat. (VERDUN 0038/18 to C.in C. Nore).

BRYAN - E/BO.23.Submarines.

To leave patrol 1800/18. Route. (Capt. S.9 1041/17 to O.23).


Positions.
TIGRIS.

For following 24 hours at 0700/18. (V.A.S. 1641/17 and 1928/17) Movements. (C.in C. W.A. 1837/17 to Force F).

British Air Activity.

Kiel, Hamburg,
Cuxhaven, Bremen,
Heligoland, Bordeaux,
St. Malo.

A/C attacks on night 16/17. (H.Q.B.C. 1834/17).

MOST SECRET17.10.1940
Thursday
War DiaryHOME COMMANDSBritish Air Activity-Contd.Rosyth Area

My 1840/16. R/C cancelled owing to low visibility. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0806/17)
All Air patrols, searches, and escorts postponed owing to weather except escorts for W.N. 23, S.L. 49 A., and H.X. 78. (C. in C., Rosyth 0834/17)
Air search for 18/10 (C. in C., Rosyth 2002/17)

Aircraft Landed
in Northern
Lapland

Newspaper report. Crew of 2 interned. (C. in C., H.F., 0941/17 to B.C.I) Please signal particulars and names (D.M.I. 1826/17 to N.A. Stockholm)

Bombing of
Batteries between
Calais and
Ambleteuse

Request action on Admty's 1549/16 (Air Ministry 0950/17 to Bomber Command)

Operation D.H.
(Tromso)

Request R/C of Norwegian Coast from 61° N., to 62° 50' N., may be flown p.m./18 (C. in C. H.F. 2035/17 to C. in C., Rosyth) This will be arranged if possible but doubtful if aircraft will be able to take off. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2244/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

S.A. Patrols

None was effective this evening owing to low visibility. (C. in C., Rosyth 2128/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

Attack on 4
Enemy Destroyers

Aircraft attacked at 1820/17 in 48° 35' N., 5° 50' W., Near misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2150/17 to H.Q.C.C.)

M/V Attacked

In 53° 33' N., 5° 45' E. Result not seen. Air Ministry 2222/17 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air ActivityGerman
Meteorological
Flights

Operate in Faroes Area about 0930 to 1030 daily. (C. in C., H.F. 0934/17 to F.O.C. 1 B.C.S.)

Deptford

One H.E. Bomb dropped on Royal Victoria Yard on night of 15/10. Damage estimated £300 (O.C.W. Deptford 1010/17)

Chatham

At 0010/17 a Bomb fell in Dock Road outside Dockyard Damage estimated £500 (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1334/17)

/ Pembroke Dock...

War Diary17.10.1940
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity-Contd.Pembroke Dock

One aircraft dropped H.E. and Incendiary Bombs near Pembroke Dock at 2040 and 2110/16. No damage to Admty property (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1501/17 to Admty.)

MiningEnemy Mining

Enemy aircraft suspected laying mines in following areas:- 58. 20' N., to 58° 30' N., and 2° 20' W., to 2° 35' W (C. in C., Rosyth 0122/17)

Convoy F.S.10
FRANKRIG
GEORGE BALFOUR
Mined

FRANKRIG and GEORGE BALFOUR in Convoy F.S.10 mined. Picked up entire crew FRANKRIG. VESPER standing by GEORGE BALFOUR. Position of FRANKRIG wreck 230° Aldeburgh L.V. 12,900 yds. Dan Buoy laid (HOLDERNESS 0715/17) VESPER taking GEORGE BALFOUR in tow, Intend trying to get her to Lowestoft.(HOLDERNESS 0740/17) Tugs MURIA and KENIA have sailed to assist you (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0935/17) Rescue tug NORMAN hasbeen sent. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0958/17) Request fighter protection for VESPER towing one merchant ship. Code word "~~Alert~~". Forthwith today until arrival at Lowestoft (C. in C., Nore, 1016/17) 19 Survivors from FRANKRIG landed Yarmouth. All crew safe and uninjured. Other details. (F.O.I.C., Yarmouth 1944/17)

FaroesCHEERFUL (Faroes) f.v.

Explosion in Hesto Fiord at 0700/17. Wreckage of fishing smack found 0945/17 in 061° 54' N., 006° 42' W. Local vessels advised not to navigate Hesto or Skopen Fiords during dark hours or in fog. Surface failures and drifting mines are being dealt with as rapidly as possible with existing resources. Moored surface failures are submerged except at slack water. At least one of moored failures has been exploded by gunfire. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1203/17)

DUNDALK
Mined 16/10

DUNDALK was mined in 036° 4 miles from 54A buoy at 1831/16. SUTTON took DUNDALK in tow proceeding to Harwich but at 0242/17 DUNDALK sank in position 51° 56' 54" N., 1° 26' 42" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1215/17)

/River Thames....

War Diary17.10.1940
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity-Contd.Pembroke Dock

One aircraft dropped H.E. and Incendiary Bombs near Pembroke Dock at 2040 and 2110/16. No damage to Admty property (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1501/17 to Admty.)

MiningEnemy Mining

Enemy aircraft suspected laying mines in following areas:- 58. 20' N., to 58° 30' N., and 2° 20' W., to 2° 35' W (C. in C., Rosyth 0122/17)

Convoy F.S.10
FRANKRIG
GEORGE BALFOUR
Mined

FRANKRIG and GEORGE BALFOUR in Convoy F.S.10 mined. Picked up entire crew FRANKRIG. VESPER standing by GEORGE BALFOUR. Position of FRANKRIG wreck 230° Aldeburgh L.V. 12,900 yds. Dan Buoy laid (HOLDERNESS 0715/17) VESPER taking GEORGE BALFOUR in tow, Intend trying to get her to Lowestoft. (HOLDERNESS 0740/17) Tugs MURIA and KENIA have sailed to assist you (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0935/17) Rescue tug NORMAN has been sent. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0958/17) Request fighter protection for VESPER towing one merchant ship. Code word "~~WATER~~". Forthwith today until arrival at Lowestoft (C. in C., Nore, 1016/17) 19 Survivors from FRANKRIG landed Yarmouth. All crew safe and uninjured. Other details. (F.O.I.C., Yarmouth 1944/17)

FaroesCHEERFUL (Faroes) f.v.

Explosion in Hesto Fiord at 0700/17. Wreckage of fishing smack found 0945/17 in 061° 54' N., 006° 42' W. Local vessels advised not to navigate Hesto or Skopen Fiords during dark hours or in fog. Surface failures and drifting mines are being dealt with as rapidly as possible with existing resources. Moored surface failures are submerged except at slack water. At least one of moored failures has been exploded by gunfire. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1203/17)

DUNDALK
Mined 16/10

DUNDALK was mined in 036° 4 miles from 54A buoy at 1831/16. SUTTON took DUNDALK in tow proceeding to Harwich but at 0242/17 DUNDALK sank in position 51° 56' 54" N., 1° 26' 42" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1215/17)

/River Thames....



17.10.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

River Thames

Cancel My 0500/16 all parachute mines known to have dropped in the river have exploded except one inshore of Church Hole Tier in Lower Pool navigation in river may be resumed ships are to keep well to northward when passing Church Hole Tier. (F.C.I.C. London, 1300/16)

Rosyth

Red mine exploded in A.M.Q.Z.S. 175 in 56° 6' 42" N., 2° 47' W (C. in C., Rosyth 1013/17) Two red mines exploded by LL trawlers today. Positions. Technical details. (C. in C., Rosyth 2151/17)

Operation B.S.42

Two Humber destroyers to be detailed as escort (C. in C., Nore. 1353/17) Intend to sail from Spurn Pt. 0730/21. Laying will begin 000/22 (S.O.M/L Immingham 1615/17) Fighter protection will be asked for during daylight 21/10 and 22/10 (C. in C., Nore, 1817/17) Your 1353. ICARUS and IMPULSIVE detailed (S.O. 20th D.F. 1835/17)

M.T.B. 106
Sunk 16/10

Technical details (C. in C., Nore, 1741/17)

Thames
Approaches

One red mine detonated by LL sweepers 6 cables 238° Mid Shoebury Buoy far inside. (C. in C., Nore., 1907/17)

Two mines exploded close to SS ETHYLENE in F.S. Convoy near No 17 Barrow Buoy today Wednesday. D.Y. coil of ETHYLENE was out of action. (C. in C., Nore, 2225/17)

Casualties and Reports.

FAME
ASHANTI
Ashore.
See Also
Movements
KING GEORGE V

FAME and ASHANTI went ashore at top of H.W.S. at L.W. ships are practically high and dry. Salvage Officer says:- Ships will have to be lightened as much as possible by removal of stores, guns etc., Bottom rocky and owing to shoal water not possible to get tugs alongside. Ground tackle will have to be used for refloating. Efforts being made to control fire in FAME by shore pumps and Foam extinguishers. (F.O.i/c Tyne 1019/17) See also p. 376.

War Diary17.10.1940
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy IntelligenceUnknown
Ship

Your 2337/16 was in 200° Eddystone 23 miles and SS BLACTOFT 3 miles South of her 2200, both steering E.N.E. and having poor signal lamps. (BROKE 006/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

6 Destroyers

Distant 10 miles. My position 49° 16' N., 6° 38' W. Speed 8 knots. (A/C 217 Sqn 1652/17 (C. in C., W.A. 2150/17 to Adty.)

My 1657/15 and 2059/15. Abnormality in German W/T traffic remains consistent with intended activity in Southern North Sea and Channel U-Boats in North Sea continue to be included. Traffic since p.m./16 clearly suggest the additional probability of naval movements out of the Skagerrak, possibly to the Northwards. (A.C.N.S(H.) 1759/17 to C's in C.)

E-Boat

One M.T.B. bearing 120° 0.5 miles distant. My position 52° 53' N., 2° 8' E. (VERDUN 2338/17)

Kiel

2 Warships at Schleusen on night 16/17. (H.Q.B.C. 1834/17)

Enemy
Morale

Canal Area reports Frenchmen who left occupied France on 1st October told reliable source that R.A.F. action had been most successful and morale of German Invasion Troops had consequently lowered. Dewoitine factory near Paris is now building fighter aircraft for Germans. Baudoin Foreign Minister is becoming increasingly pro-British. Reliability B.2. (S.O(I) Alexandria 1043/17 to Adty.)



War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KOSMOS

Due Curacoa 10/10 from Walvis Bay has not arrived. Freetown has no information since departure 12/9 (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1131/16)

MARLY

See East Indies

Admiral Plymouth NR 10 Group R.A.F. Rudloe. Received 1325 G.M.T. unknown station alleged to have used distress call only particulars available Monnbiz barge NR 1 1200 G.M.T. Ajem lat. 40.30 N., remainder jammed. Particulars doubtful. (Burnham on Sea Radio 1445/17)

ASHANTI
FAME

Unsuccessful attempt was made to tow ASHANTI off at top of high water. Operations abandoned for night. Fire in FAME is under control (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1823/17)

See also p. 293.



War Diary

17.10.1940
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSConcoysShipping

- H.X. 79 To alter course (C. in C., W.A., 1020/17 to MONTCLARE) Meet (C. in C., W.A. to JASON etc. 1240/17) Meet (C. in C., W.A., to WHITEHALL etc., 1740/17) Netherland S/M O.14 in company (C. in C., W.A., 1100/17)
- O.B. 229 To alter course (C. in C., W.A., 1030/17 to WHITEHALL)
- S.C. 7 Route (C. in C., W.A., 1040/17 to LEITH) If not in contact, join S.C. 7 forthwith (C. in C., W.A., 1137/17)
- O.A. 229 To alter course. (C. in C., W.A., 1050/17 to JASON)
- O.A. 231 → Route (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1027/17) CURACOA to transfer to (R.A.D. H.F. 2000/17)
- O.A. 230 → CURACOA in vicinity (CURACOA 0805/17)
- W.N. 23 Position and speed (HUGH WALPOLE 1320/17) (R.A.D. H.F. 2000/17)
- C.E. 14 Request air protection (C. in C., More, 1540/17)
- H.X. 78 A → S.O., ROMAN, CURACOA to transfer to. (R.A.D. H.F., 2000/17)
- S.L. ~~50~~ }
H.G. 45 }
O.G. 44 } 4 destroyers left Brest. Convoys to steer to westward (C. in C., W.A., 0859/17, to WELLINGTON, PRETORIA CASTLE, GLEANER) Destroyers have returned. Unnecessary to keep to westward. (C. in C., W.A., 1829/17, 1838/17)
- S.L. 50 Sailing telegram as amended Admty. (D.T.D. 1222/17)
- S.L.N. 49A → Time of arrival Kinnaird Head. CURACOA joined (ABERDEEN, 1030/17)
- O.B. 230 Sailed 1255/17, escort CLARE, MALLOW, ANEMONE (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1332/17)
- SVEADROTT
CASTOR My 1723/15. To be boarded and examined during passage through Skopen Fiord. (D.O.D. (H) to A.C.O.S., 1131/17) Route (D.D.I.C. 2148/17, D.O.D.(H) 2359/17) Cancel my 1739/16. Swedish Admty informs me SVEADROTT and CASTOR due Christiansand p.m./18 and sail again 19/10. Route. (N.A. Stockholm, 1632/17)
- Methil Cancel my 1459/1 (Instructions for ships entering Methil) (D.T.D., 2112/17)


War Diary17.10.1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSOperations Against Vichy FrenchPRIMAUGUET

Reported French cruiser PRIMAUGUET with oiler and two submarines has sailed south from Dakar. Date unknown. DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL to patrol on a line 220° from Cape Saint Anne. DORSETSHIRE between Cape Saint Anne 230 miles and 380 miles CORNWALL between Cape Saint Anne 230 miles and 50 miles using aircraft as possible. If met PRIMAUGUET and accompanying vessels are to be instructed to return to Casablanca or Dakar. Force is to be used if necessary but S.O. is to be informed that it is hoped this will be avoided. If ships agree to proceed as directed they are to be shadowed until further instructions received. Endeavour is to be made to obtain definite guarantee from S.O. that he will proceed as directed. If submarines are in company S.O. is to be informed any attempt by submarine to dive will be treated as hostile act and immediate retaliatory action will be taken against surface ships and submarines. (C. in C., S.A., 0119/17 amended 1031/17)

Your 2322/16. Any idea as to date PRIMAUGUET sailed. (C. in C., S.A., to F.O.I.C.S., 0213/17) No date given. Origin of rumour. (DELHI 0835/17) Informing KENYA and asking if sighted to report position, course and speed. (C. in C., S.A., 0225/17)

Your 1615/16. DELHI informs me COMMANDANT DOMINE ordered to abandon patrol and return to Duala by Governor of Cameroons. Request early information whether it is intended that de Gaulle's promise to co-operate with free French ships watch upon Libreville will be implemented. Advance notice of Free French ships and any available intelligence regarding Gabon Ports is also required. Immediate information including source and reliability of rumour about PRIMAUGUET southward movement from Dakar communicated by (?BOUCHET) to DELHI is required and also any information regarding date of suspected movement. (F.O.I.C.S. 0842/17 to Spears Mission.

French
Submarines

French submarines MONGE, VENGEUR, L'ESPOIR PEGASE with tanker LOT escorted by French Sloop M/S LA BATAILLEUSE and French aircraft sighted by VIDETTE 0843/17 in position 096° Almina Point 23 proceeding westwards. (F.O.C.N.A. 1020/17) My 1020/17. Vessels passed westbound at 1115/17. (F.O.C.N.A. 1144/17)

/Darkened.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Darkened Ships
Treat as Hostile

In the event of a darkened warship approaching ~~Starist~~ at night may I assume that Vichy Government understand that such ships are liable to be treated as hostile and attacked without warning. (F.O.C.N.A. 1510/17, to Admty)
Your 1510/17. Yes (V.C.N.S. 2240/17)

Aircraft
Patrols

Daily Summary Operations. Surface reconnaissances 2 routine A/S patrols 1 aircraft shadowing French Force of 4 submarines 1 tanker which passed Straits westbound at 1200 today. Object of latter to ensure destination of force is Casablanca Area covered by patrols Spartel to 4 degrees west. Flying curtailed owing adverse weather (200 Group 1710/17)

STRASBOURG

Report received (B.2) At 1300/17 that STRASBOURG and 20 units are leaving Toulon (D.D.I.C. 1856/17)

AUSTRALIA

My 1856/15 (?17) Cancel my 2333/16 if movement has begun. AUSTRALIA with transports and destroyers are to return to Gibraltar (D.O.D.(F) 1921/17 to F.O.C.N.A., 2010/17)

RENOWN

My 1856/17. RENOWN is to come to short notice for steam. Establish a patrol to eastward of Straits (D.O.D.(F) 1936/17, to F.O.C.N.A. and F.O.H)

French Troops

Report from Governor Bathurst entirely reliable states one Battalion of T.S.F. were transhipped from Casablanca to Dakar and there transferred October 15th to French liner INDO-CHINOIS, reported to be leaving Dakar for Conakry and Pointe Noire. Aircraft patrol reports large merchant ship entering Conakry 0800/17. (S.O.I. Freetown, 10002/17)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

379

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Movements

CITY OF DIEPPE sails 17/10 for Freetown. Route. GALLANT providing escort until dark 18/10. REINA DEL PACIFICO, ESCAPADE, FORTUNE expected Gibraltar a.m./18. AUSTRALIA, ECHO, GRIFFIN escorting KAIPAKI KARANJA sail 1800/17, Route. FAULKNER, FURY FORESTER, FORESIGHT, position, thence Gibraltar. KINGSTON JACINTH due Gibraltar 1600/18 from patrol off Lisbon. (F.O.C.N.A. 1254/17)

ETTRICK
KARANJA
and Escort

Admty. 2333/16. Intend to sail ETTRICK and KARANJA escorted by AUSTRALIA, ECHO, GRIFFIN at 2000/17. GRIFFIN will be relieved by ESCAPADE. Estimated speed of advance $12\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Route. (F.O.C.N.A., 1350/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

KABALO
survivors

Following intercepted from Horta Radio (begins Lifeboat of SS KABALO with survivors picked up by SS PANAM in position $032^{\circ} 03' N. 030^{\circ} 00' W.$ (Ends)
KABALO sailed Clyde 3/10 for Freetown and would probably not have reached above position before 14/10.
Loss might be due to a submarine, but thought more likely that there is a raider in this area. (D.D.I.C. 1803/17) *Sunk by U-boat (DL 1237) page 124.*

ORAO

Your 1553/14. Have you any information about ORAO. (D.T.D. 1829/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

KINGSTON
SAPPHIRE

Your 1830/16. Assuming Spanish trawler effecting rescue was merchant vessel and not armed trawler, survivors should be released under Article 13 of 10th Convention, see Oppenheim, Vol 2 p. 595 and F.O. Tel No 82, Saving (Hd of M. 2107/17 to N.A. Madrid)

German Ships
Vigo

My 1550/14. No change in German ships so far but 2 lorry loads of cases from Barcelona received for loading today. (Consul, Vigo, 1905/17)

MOST SECRETWar Diary17.10.1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth AtlanticCORNWALL
DORSETSHIRE

My 0119/17 (See Operations Against Vichy French) CORNWALL sails for U.K. p.m./20. DORSETSHIRE with convoy W.S. Three a.m./19. Ships are to leave patrol so as to arrive Freetown, CORNWALL 1500/19. DORSETSHIRE 0600/18. (C. in C., S.A., 1159N/17)

W.S. 3.

Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1356/17)

Cruisers

Your 1731/14 is concurred in. In view of your 1131/15 it seems that the better area in which to operate this cruiser is off Freetown. All 8" cruisers are fully employed. Consideration being given to 1 Or 2 A.M.Cs from Western Patrol being sent south in which case they could be employed to the westward of Cape Verde Islands. This movement cannot take place at present. Requested you will make what arrangements you think best to implement the necessity outlined in para 1 of my 1849/12. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2346/17 to C. in C., S.A.)

9 British
Interned at
Rufisque

Suggesting question of exchange with members of crew of POITIERS (scuttled off Dakar 16/9) be taken up. (C. in C., S.A., 2319/17)

My 2319/17. For Norwegian KORSHOLM read Swedish KORSHOLM (C. in C., S.A., 1057/18)

Mediterranean

790. I am fully in agreement except as stated below with V.A. Malta's appreciation of Malta situation as given in his Malta number 468/0702/6/20 of 12/9.

2. Para 14. It should be possible to operate light forces from Malta before April 1941.
3. I consider that a 4 month as opposed to a 6 month reserve of supplies at Malta is acceptable. Experience has shown that supplies can be passed in and this lower reserve will relieve already heavy convoy escort commitments of Mediterranean Fleet.
4. The total force required is:- 4 Mine-sweepers 2 LL sweepers 5 A/S vessels. 2 vessels to combine both LL sweeping and A/S duties would serve if these are available. (C. in C., Med. 1131/17)

Malta
Requirements.

/Operation....



War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation B.S.
REGULUS

Operation B.S. cancel my 1407/11. Leave present patrol forthwith and establish patrol in area D 030° 34' 017° 44'-000°-90 - 40. Object of patrol interception of traffic between Tripoli (AF) Benghazi direct and Tripoli (AF) Benghazi via Sirte. Attention called to my 1452/17, possibility of mines south of Benghazi. (Capt. S.I. 1911/17, to REGULUS)

IMPERIAL
Mined

Board of enquiry on damage to IMPERIAL found explosion was due to a moored contact mine which struck some part of the ship right aft under tiller flat. All proper steps were taken to control damage, and death of one rating and injury to another were directly due to the explosion. Position of ship at the time was 035° 34" N., 014° 34' E. No blame attributable to anyone. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1409/17)

Enemy
Tactics

Grateful for any information on
(a) Tactics adopted by Italian Torpedo aircraft.
(b) Counter measures which are recommended including formation of units attacked.
(c) What tactics were employed by Destroyers that AJAX attacked and what illuminants on both sides. (S.O. Force H., 0930/17. to C. in C. Med.)

Corvettes

Your 1113/4 and 1421/14. Regretted these vessels will not be available. Corvettes now in commission are fitted with A/S only and fully employed in W. Approaches. First four to be completed with A/S and M/S will be detailed for Mediterranean. (D.O.D. (F) to ~~be~~ C. in C., Med. 1217/17)

Coming
Operation

Your 1421/14. Para (ii) allowing 12 hours darkness and 14½ knots made good convoy leaving longitude of Galita Island at nightfall would be about 145 miles from Malta at dawn passing north of Piraeus Bank.
Para (iv) to enable operation to take place in first week of November consider sailing of MT ships from U.K. should be expedited. (S.O. Force H. 0914/17 to C. in C., Med.)

/French Convoys...



War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

French
Convoys

Latest information regarding movements of French Convoys, ships H.M. Government granted safe passage but surface vessel may board for identification. Guarantees have been given that no cargo will be carried. Convoy A. PORTNOS, DJENNE, FLORIDA. leaves Beirut 17/10 arrives Marseilles 23/10. Convoy B ANDRELBON SAGITTAIRE JEAN L.D. leaves Beirut 20/10 arrives Marseilles 27/10 T.O.O. 1519/17. (C. in C., Med. 1521/17)

Spain

Bi-weekly report (N.A. Madrid 1730/17)

Sinking of
Enemy Destroyers
12/10.

My 1045/14. AJAX action: At 0153/12 destroyers sighted on starboard bow down moon on opposite course and AJAX opened fire. Almost immediately afterwards second destroyer sighted on port bow, also on opposite course engaged by port four inch. 2nd Enemy scored two hits on bridge structure and one amidships above water-line causing fire in central store and adjacent compartment. First enemy (ARTIGLIERE) then appeared to be stopped and burning fiercely, subsequently sunk by YORK. AJAX turned to engage second Destroyer which shortly afterwards blew up.

2. Meanwhile third Destroyer was sighted. This was engaged after second enemy blew up and forthwith blown up. These were AIRONE and one other of same class. Range on opening fire approximately 4000, 2000, 3000 yards respectively.

3. During the third engagement two larger destroyers or Cruisers sighted at long range on opposite course to AJAX and making to north west. Rear ship altered to similar course to AJAX and was engaged but retired out of range under smoke. Course was altered in pursuit for a short time but target went out of sight and as it was apparent AJAX was not overhauling either ship action was broken off.

4. (Re recognition Signals by enemy)

5. Considerable difficulty experienced in AJAX in appreciating situation owing to flash of own guns whereas enemy used flashless propellant and efficient tracers. Total of 7 hits by enemy all bursting on impact.

6. Torpedo tracks also reported. AJAX fired four torpedoes possibly one hit.

/7.....



War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Sinking of
Enemy Destroyers
12/10-Contd.

(Capt. E.D.B.
McCarthy)

- 7. AJAX damage (details) on 12.10.40 ^{AGP} 122/243
- 8. Casualties as in my 1027/15.

9. AJAX, was handled with resolution and skill. This was the first night shooting of this newly commissioned ship.
(C. in C., Med!, 1831/17)

Air Report

Operational Summary No 129. period ending 1200 hours 17/10. Egypt. Night 15/16 October night attacks continued on Italian bases in Libya, 1800 hours 2 Bombers 216 Squadron attacked Tobruk independently. Bombs fell across the town and 100 yards north of the submarine jetty, incendiaries starting a fire near the naval barracks, 3 heavy bombs fell across 3 ships in harbour. 1820 hours 4 Blenheims 55 Squadron operating independently made high level attacks on Bardia Capuzzo and Sollum. Bombs fell on the shore at Bardia and across the Fort at Capuzzo. Results at Sollum not observed. 2030 hours 3 Wellingtons 70 Squadron attacked independently military buildings at Tobruk. Results not observed. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1242/17)

A. 842. Part III, 17/10.
1 Sunderland, 230 Sqn. despatched to assist trawlers attack, Submarine position 31° 20' N., 29° 25' E., Submarine not located, bombs during on air (?) Bubble. No result observed.
Night 16/17, 1901 and 2059 hours 2 enemy aircraft operating independently attacked Alexandria, 1 Gladiator 274 Sqn engaged first raider effects not observed. Second Gladiator did not sight second raider, no damage or casualties reported.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1244/17)



War Diary

MOST SECRET 384

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Aden,
Air Attacks

Small paraffin incendiaries dropped by Italian aircraft at Aden near crater on 16/10 and lit up when released. Similar bombs dropped at Perim on 12/10. (C. in C., E.I., 1124Z/17)

MARLY
?Sunk

Norwegian 1115 tons. Sent S.O.S. reporting sinking and taking to boats 2337Z/15 18.30 N., 72. 21 E., HECTOR and INVESTIGATOR ordered to assist. No trace found. Must be considered lost. HECTOR returned Bombay 1330Z/17. INVESTIGATOR returned Bombay 1430Z/16 with considerable damage in cyclone. (C. in C., E.I., 1852Z/17)

Djibuti

Situation, appreciation, and urging we afford no facilities to French for Military evacuation. (C. in C., M.E., to W.O. 0430/17)

China

Shipping

Recommend (a) Wheelock ships trading constantly to Japanese waters be gradually withdrawn to Indian trade. In default voluntary carriage ships to be requisitioned. (b) Restriction of Norwegian charters to waters outside Japanese control. (ii) reference (a), several ships of these lines are on time charter to or otherwise controlled by Japanese interests who are believed to be deliberately keeping them in and near Japanese waters. (C. in C., China 0223Z/17)

America & West Indies

CARADOC
To Intercept
French M.V.

My 1052/13. CHARLES L.D. expected to leave Martinique for Casablanca with cargo of sugar about 20/10. On your departure from Antigua proceed to patrol to eastwards of Martinique to intercept her. If possible avoid being sighted by aircraft or from shore. Any other French ships encountered other than those on inter Island trade are also to be intercepted and sent to Trinidad under armed guard. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1032/17)
(See also 1831/17 and page)

Suspicious
Vessel
CYMBELINE

Your 1635/22/9. Master CYMBELINE has been interviewed and stated at about 0900 on 30/8 he sighted a suspicious vessel to southward. CYMBELINE altered course North and on being followed sent out RR. Suspicious vessel closed to about 3 miles dead astern, made by flashes signalled spontaneously and then altered to about N.E.

/CYMBELINE.....

War Diary17.10.1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West IndiesSuspicious
Vessel.
CYMBELINE-Contd

CYMBELINE altered to original S.W. course and lost sight. Master CYMBELINE stated he cancelled distress call about 4 hours after making it.

This was not the raider which subsequently sank CYMBELINE on 2/9, (Rough description) (C. in C., A.W.I., 1252/17, to Admty.)

Suspicious
W/T

W/T operator of MAASDAM bound for Liverpool in H.K. 81, reported that Roumanian ship believed to be ING. N. VLASSOPOL while outward bound in convoy which left Methil middle of September was heard on numerous occasions to test spark transmitter. Operator stated that no W/T conference was held prior to sailing. ING N. VLASSOPOL understood to be due shortly at Sydney Cape Breton, suggest matter be investigated. (P.O. 3. B.S. 1433/17)

RAKUYO MARU

Indicated from W/T interceptions that RAKUYO MARU will call Manzanillo to pick up 200 flasks of Mercury etc., Washington, San Francisco and Los Angeles informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1808/17)

French Ships

Your 1139/16. Following French ships known to be engaged in trade between U.S. and French West Indies: BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC, FORT RICHEPANSE and FORTE DE FRANCE carrying Bananas North and General cargo south. Greek ship CONSTANTINOS H sailed Norfolk 8/10 for Martinique with 3600 tons coal. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1832/17)

French
Merchant Ships

Any French Merchant ships met at sea unless trading between islands of French West Indies are to be sent into British ports under armed guard for examination. Any de Gaulle supporters among crews passengers or prisoners are to be removed. Name of ship and summary of cargo are to be signalled to Admiralty and ship is to be detained pending further instructions. Governor of Windward Islands and Leeward Islands informed. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1831/17)



17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

(754) Havana report 754 likely to leave Everglades prepared to scuttle if caught. (C.3). (S.O.I., Kingston, 1510/17).

LUISE BORNHOFEN. Reported to be laid up for the winter at Fayal. (D.S. 409).

GERMANIA Tanker, has been refused an application for 60 tons diesel oil at Ponta Delgada (D.S. 409).

KLAUS SCHOKE May attempt to put to sea, possibly under escort of U-boat. Has recently taken 150 tons coal from LUISE BORNHOFEN. (D.S. 409).

RUDOLF ALBRECHT Strong indications that she is preparing to leave Teneriffe. (Consul, Teneriffe 1610/17).

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HURUNUI
(torpedoed 14/10)

British 10,023 tons. FOWEY with 73 survivors from HURUNUI has been instructed to rejoin convoy. (SCARBOROUGH, 1050/17).

CESHIRE
(torpedoed 14/10)

Arrived and beached in Belfast. Salvage operations in progress. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1248/17.) Beached at 1230 150° 5 cables from Kilroot Point (CESHIRE 1257/17).

?

16 men reported afloat in 57.06 N., 10.50 W. OTTAWA proceed to rescue. (C.in C. W.A. 1319/17) Your 1319. No trace. Are the men in boats? (OTTAWA, 1849/17).

BONHEUR
(torpedoed 15/10)

British, 5327 tons. Torpedoed 0420/15, 57.14 N., 8.20 W. Vessel known to have sunk in 12 minutes. Crew landed Belfast today, no casualties or missing. Was in Convoy O.B. 228. Master reports a British tanker No. 81 in convoy was torpedoed at same time and crew rescued by one of escorting vessels. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1537/17).

HIGHLAND BRIGADE
(escaped 8/10)

Master of HIGHLAND BRIGADE reports (1) periscope sighted by 2 reliable men, distant 8 cables, at 1800/6 when in position 049° 39' N. 023° 38' W. S.S.S. Signal made (not heard by Freetown). (2) Track of torpedo seen missing close astern at 1600/8 when in position 041° 22' N. 031° 00' W. Track coming from Swirl 8 cables 2 points abaft beam was seen by look out, several officers and men. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1712/17).

SANGRANT
(torpedoed 13/10)

Lifeboat sighted by aircraft 0733/17 from SANGRANT, torpedoed 1955/13. (? D.O.R.)
in HX 77

Convoy S.C.7.

Attacked at 0400 in 59.10 N., 18.34 W. (SCARBOROUGH, 0401/17, C.in C. W.A. 0659/17).

SCORESBY

British 3843 tons. In S.C.7. Have on board full crew of SCORESBY sunk in 59.10. N., 18.34 W. (BLUEBELL, 0730/17 SCARBOROUGH, 0900/17).

LANGUEDOC.

French tanker, 9512 tons. (In S.C.7 attacked 0400). Holed fore end. Am standing by. Crew attempting to get her to port. (BLUEBELL, 0730/17). Your 0930. Escort tanker. (C.in C. W.A. 1127/17, SCARBOROUGH, 0900/17). Abandoned LANGUEDOC in 59.10 N., 17.52 W. Crew taken on board, total of survivors 79. Am rejoining convoy. (BLUEBELL, 1119/17).

/ Convoy O.B. 228.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. (continued)Ships Attacked.→ Convoy O.B.228.

4 ships torpedoed 60.46 N., 16.30 W.
(FOLKESTONE, 0255/17).
DOKKA and USKBRIDGE, 2 others names
unknown. Continuing search.
(FOLKESTONE, 1300/17).
Convoy attacked in position 59.15 N.,
17.30 W. A/S's failed. (BLUEBELL,
1530/17).

DOKKA

Norwegian, 1168 tons. In O.B.228. Sunk.
7 Norwegian survivors on board.
(FOLKESTONE, 1300/17). List of survivors
(FOLKESTONE, 1735/17) 0230/17. 60.46 N.,
16.30 W. Details of attack (FOLKESTONE,
1800/17).

USKBRIDGE.

British, 2715 tons. In O.B. 228. Was
abandoned and has sunk through internal
explosion at 1235. (FOLKESTONE, 1300/17)
0230/17. 60.46 N., 16.30 W. Details of
attack (FOLKESTONE, 1800/17)

Submarines Reported.

1310.

D.F. 56° - 57° N., 21° - 22° W.
(V.A.S. to CLYDE, 1419/17).

1623.

D.F. probably U/B, 59.30 N., 19° to 22° W.
at 1623. (C.in C. W.A. 1717/17).

1207.

51° to 52° N., 16° to 17° W., position
indefinite. (D.S. 409).

0255.

A.F. message 60.46 N., 16.30 W. at
0155/17 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0403/17).

0400.

Convoy S.C.7 attacked in 59.10 N.,
18.34 W. at 0400. Am hunting.
(SCARBOROUGH, 0401/17) BLUEBELL and
FOWEY to assist (C.in C. W.A. 0659/17).

→ 0255.

Convoy O.B. 228 attacked in 60.46 N.,
16.30 W. (FOLKESTONE, 0255/17).
Suspected submarine escaping on the surface.
Request air assistance. (FOLKESTONE,
0615/17) LEITH and HEARTSEASE to return
and attack submarine (C.in C. W.A. 0407/17).

0830.

U/B reported by aircraft in 59.03 N.,
17.06 W. (D.D.I.C. 0952/17). Unless in
contact rejoin convoy forthwith. Aircraft
reported over submarine in 59.03 N.,
17.06 W. at 0830. (C.in C. W.A. 1021/17)
(Aircraft 210 Sqn., 0900/17).

0835.

D.F. U/B in approx. position 45° N., 05° W.
at 0835, may enter Gironde p.m. today.
(V.A.S. 1139/17 to TALISMAN) (D.S. 408).

/ 1030.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported (Continued).

1030. By aircraft of D/10 Sqdn., 47.37 N., 10.54 W., Co. 277, speed 8 knots. (15 Group, 1030/17).
0800. U/B in position 56.32 N., 22.00 W., steering 290° at 0800/17. U/B is aware of my presence. (CLYDE, 1417/17).
0625. N.E. of 58.30 N., - 59.30 N., 12° - 14° W., indefinite (.D.S. 408).

Mediterranean.

- ? time. 31.20 N., 29.25 E. Sunderland sent to assist trawlers to attack. Submarine not located. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1244/17).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

- Italian. 1 about 150' W. of Gironde at 0830/17.
- German. 1 in vicinity of 45 N 16 W at 1006/17.
1 in 47° 37' N. 10° 54' W. at 1010/17.
1 in 49° 24' N. 9° 15' W. at 0945/16 and
1 in vicinity 51-52 N. 15° to 17° W. at 1131/17.

These reports may indicate U/B Patrols in Western Approaches.

- 1 about 150 miles to South Westward of Rockall.
1 to Westward of Rockall East of 20' W.
1 in 59 N. 17 W. at 0830/17.
1 in about 60° 30' N. 17 W at 0405/17.
1 in vicinity of Rosemary Bank probably to North Eastward.
1 in nearer N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.

(D.D.I.C. 1358/17.)

Submarines Attacked.

0405. My 0255 (attack on O.B. 228). 0600 46' N. 016° 30' W. of 0230/17. Apparently submarine surfaced after attack between columns 5 and 6 on reverse course of convoy, was unaware of presence of any escort. On sighting FOLKESTONE, retired on the surface at high speed and would have continued to do so had she not been put down by gunfire. Anti/submarine set operating, perfectly exposed, good, but contact could not be obtained over 1000 yards (i) all sank. (FOLKESTONE, 1800/17.) (D.S., 408).

/ 0405.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked (Continued).

0405. Sighted submarine astern of Convoy on surface. Chased for 14 minutes without gaining, put down with gunfire. Gained contact and attacked, now lost contact and am searching. (FOLKESTONE, 0405/17). Suspected submarine escaping on the surface. Request air assistance. (FOLKESTONE, 0615/17) 60.40 N., 17° W. (D.S. 408).
1100. By CHELSEA and ARABIS, 55.32 N., 6.20 W. (A.3) (D.S. 408).
1010. Sunderland attacked U/B unsuccessfully in 47.37 N., 10.54 W., at 1000/17. (C.in C. W.A. 1101/17) (H.Q. Plymouth, 2050/17).
0818. By aircraft 210 Sqn., 59.10 N., 17.50 W. SCARBOROUGH made contact at 0900. (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle 1705/17). Am investigating aircraft attack on submarine in 59.10 N., 17.44 W. (SCARBOROUGH 0900/17). Dropped 3 patterns on firm contact, remaining in vicinity. (SCARBOROUGH, 1050/17).
- TRIDENT attack on U/B. 8/10. My 2311/14 TRIDENT reports first hearing H.E. of U Boat at 0504/8 when TRIDENT was submerged. Attempted to fire torpedoes but was in an unfavourable position. TRIDENT surfaced and chased U Boat. Whilst closing TRIDENT fired a total of eight torpedoes from the quarter. Torpedoes missed one being seen to pass ahead of U Boat. TRIDENT closed to 40 and fired two rounds of S.A.P. The second round hitting. Sparks of shell hitting hull were clearly visible before U Boat dived. It is possible S.A.P. shell pierced hull and exploded internally. No H.E. heard after U Boat disappeared, though echo contact possibly of U Boat on the bottom was obtained and held. TRIDENT remained in vicinity until 0900. On returning to this position on 11/10 intense A/S activity was encountered. No certainty that U Boat was sunk as it is possible that shell pierced conning tower and not hull. If so, conning tower only might be flooded and submarine could return to base. (V.A.S. 1206/17).

MOST SECRETWar Diary18.10.1940
FridaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsSweep between
Flushing and
Ijmuiden

1st M.T.B. Flotilla operated between Flushing and Ijmuiden last night. M.T.B. 14 fouled wreckage off Breijwars Haven Gat and sustained damage, and the sweep was abandoned.

M.T.B.
Engagement
with 3 trawlers

There were indications of enemy surface craft activity in the eastern end of the Channel this afternoon, and M.T.B. 69 and Norwegian M.T.B. 5 proceeded to investigate. 3 large enemy trawlers were sighted, apparently minesweeping, 14 miles S.E. of Dover. M.T.B. fired two torpedoes and apparently hit one of the enemy, and our forces then retired in face of attack by 4 E or R boats.

*(No. See G.D. 403(3))*Operation D.H.

Phase two has been abandoned owing to low visibility. HOOD with screen and Force D are returning to Scapa.

Dover
Shelled

Dover was shelled today. H.M.T. CLYTHNESS was damaged by splinters. One naval and other casualties were caused.

S/M Watch
on Brest

The information which led to the engagement with 4 enemy destroyers yesterday was obtained fortuitously from a returning bomber aircraft. C. in C., W.A. urges that a S/M watch on Brest should be maintained.

Destroyers

Owing to recent casualties to Home Fleet destroyers KEPPEL and DOUGLAS which were lent to Western Approaches Command were today again placed under the orders of C. in C., Home Fleet.

Rosyth

Rosyth was closed at 0758 today, owing to fog.

Command of
Home Fleet

V.A. J.C. Tovey C.B., D.S.O. is appointed C. in C., H.F. to date 2/12, in succession to Admiral of the Fleet Sir Charles M Forbes, K.C.B., D.S.O.

MOST SECRETWar Diary18.10.1940
FridaySITUATION REPORTBritish Air Activity

Fog seriously interfered with flying today; most patrols and many R.C. flights were cancelled.

Coastal Command carried out successful R.C. of Norwegian Coast from Bjoråsund to Lister Light.

Enemy Air Activity

Damage and casualties were caused in an attack on COLLINGWOOD this afternoon.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected in the Thames Estuary and off Southwold.

The movement of KING GEORGE V from anchorage to lock at Rosyth was postponed until tomorrow, on account of suspected minelaying.

Inchkeith is now open.

Operations Against Vichy French

CORNWALL this evening intercepted off Cape St. Anne and stopped the French INDO-CHINOIS which is believed to be taking French troops from Dakar to Libreville or elsewhere in French West Africa. CORNWALL turned INDO-CHINOIS back to Dakar.

MediterraneanSubmarine
DURBO. sunk.

The Italian submarine DURBO after having been located by a flying boat of 202 Squadron was attacked by FIREDRAKE this evening in the Western Mediterranean. The crew abandoned ship and the submarine sank later, 5 officers and 43 men being saved by FIREDRAKE.

X 35° 57' N. 4° 00' W

VALF

R.A. H.D.Pridham-Wippell C.B., C.V.O., is appointed to be V.A.L.F. and 2nd I/c Medtn. Fleet, with acting rank and Vice-Admiral in succession to V.A. J.C.Tovey.

/Operations....



War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operations
By REGENT

INTRODUCED DATA
30/9/40
for 10/10

N.O.I.C. Malta reports that on 30/9 REGENT unsuccessfully attacked the Italian battle fleet south of Taranto. On 9/10 she sank a 5000 to 6000 ton partially laden ship in convoy 20 miles out from Durazzo. REGENT has various defects resulting from these operations.

America & West Indies

A report has been received from the Governor of the Leeward Is. that EMILE BERTIN and JEANNE D'ARC were at sea 15 miles to the westward of Martinique at 1550 today.

18.10.40.
Friday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE Signal.

At 1400/18. (D.C.1401/18).

Increased
Readiness.

The Chiefs of Staff have decided that as from October 19th the Service Ministries should be instructed that all forces prepared to resist invasion should be held at an increased state of readiness.
2. Home Forces will "stand to" from Noon Saturday 19th October.
3. C's in C. should take such action as they consider appropriate to increase the degree of readiness but leave should not be curtailed.
(V.C.N.S.2351/18).

Policy.

SEAWOLF.

In view of Adty's 1759/17, I consider that SEAWOLF should complete her Patrol in the Fro Havet area.
(C.in C. H.F. 1154/18 to V.A.S.)

Submarine watch
on Brest.

The information that destroyers had sailed from Brest on the 17th October was obtained entirely fortuitously from a returning bomber aircraft.
2. Although P.R.U. reports are most valuable they cannot be sufficiently frequent to give early information of the enemy movements and also there are inevitably blank days due to unsuitable weather.
3. As it is not practical to maintain an air patrol off Brest the only means of obtaining early information of enemy movements is from submarine patrol.
4. While realising the shortage of submarines, it is considered that a submarine watch on Brest should be maintained even at the expense of anti-invasion patrols elsewhere.
(C.in C. W.A. 1947/18 to Adty).
Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. H. 2320/18 to V.A.S.)

Importance of
Capturing
Prisoners.

Information obtained from prisoners taken from enemy Naval or Merchant vessels and prizes may be of vital importance and every possible opportunity of capturing prisoners must be used.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1958/18. A.G.M. 482A).

MOST SECRET.18.10.40.
Friday.
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.CLEVELAND.

Detailed to escort BEN MY CHREE to Aberdeen and then L.23 from Dundee to Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1026/18 to R.A.D. and R.A.D. H.F. 1515/18 to A.C.O.S.)

ETTRICK.KARANJA.AUSTRALIA.ECHO. GRIFFIN.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1350/17. Movments are postponed. (D.O.D. F. 1042/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

KEPPEL.

Your 1749/17. Yes. Please sail KEPPEL to Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1047/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

ISIS.

My 2040/16. For FAME read ISIS. (A.C.N.S. H. 1145/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Nore Command.

Movements for night to 1200/19. (C.in C. Nore 1200/18 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

FERNIE.

Your 1159. Expected time of arrival Garrison Point 1515. (FERNIE 1224/18 to C.in C. Nore).

AMARAPOORA.

735. AMARAPOORA required 1500 tons of coal and 2,000 tons of water. As it will take 7 days to coal at Scapa and ship also requires small repairs, request arrangements may be made for her to proceed to Clyde. She will be relieved at Scapa by ISLE OF JERSEY. Latter in turn relieving VASNA on return of AMARAPOORA. (A.C.O.S. 1237/18 to Adty).

WANDERER.

Proceed to Liverpool at 1900/18. (C.in C. W.A. 1513/18 to WANDERER). Fighter protection requested. (C.in C. W.A. 2357/18 to H.Q.F.C.)

Portsmouth.

Movements for night 18/19. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/18).

Orkneys.

Movements for night 18/19. (F.O.C.O.S. 1531/18).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines on 18th. (A.C.O.S. 1536/18).

Dover.

Patrols for night 18/19. (V.A. Dover 1553/18 and 1636/18).

Western Channel.

Nightreport. (C.in C. W.A. 1635/18).

MOST SECRET.18.10.40.
Friday.
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd).ALERT.

C.in C. Portsmouth 1627/9. Request you sail ALERT as convenient to Portsmouth for onward routing to Newhaven. (D.D.O.D. H. 1757/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations.Force F.

*Action with Enemy
Destroyers on 17/10.*

4 Destroyers sighted in 48° 40'N., 6° 20' W and rear destroyer was bombed at 1827/17 No hits observed. (Air Ministry 0120/18 to H.Q.C.C.) *Submarine contact on p. 397.*

C.in C. W.A. 1521/17 indicated presence of 4 enemy destroyers steering N.N.W. on converging course. At 1602 in 49° 30'N 6° 40'W sighted suspicious vessel on Port bow bearing 200. Course of Force F at time 260 degrees 26 knots. Increased to full speed and altered course towards enemy.

1607. NEWCASTLE opened fire at extreme range, approximately 25,000 yards, and EMERALD opened fire periodically to test range but was never within her maximum gun range. Destroyers formed on a line of bearing 260° from NEWCASTLE, EMERALD being 080° from NEWCASTLE, in open order. Signalled "chase". Enemy made small alterations of course to Port from approximately 197° to finally 110° during the period of the engagement.

1621. Enemy laid first smoke screen by dropping floats and making C.S.A. smoke in turn periodically throughout the action. This formed a heavy white cloud and made spotting fall of salvos extremely difficult.

1630. 2 German Float-planes appeared to westward. 5th D.F. opened fire and they made off.

1640. EMERALD opened fire on Heinkel.

1650. NEWCASTLE catapulted Walrus aircraft Owing to defective steam valve JUPITER was unable to keep up with the remainder of Force F. who were doing about 32½ knots and by 1700 she was 3 miles astern.



MOST SECRET.

397

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force F. (Contd.)

1720. Sailing vessel sighted bearing 213°. NEWCASTLE instructed D 5 to detach JUPITER to investigate. D.5 ordered her to do this and take off any French or Germans on board to be interrogated. JUPITER found it was a tunny fishing ship and brought the French Captain back in spite of his violent protests.

1738. German destroyers observed to turn to Port together and fired torpedoes. At this time nearest German destroyer was 19,200 yards from JACKAL, and just over 20,000 yards from NEWCASTLE. Force F turned to a course of approximately 196° to comb the tracks. 3 tracks were seen to pass between EMERALD and NEWCASTLE, EMERALD actually seeing one turn a circle and disappear. Another 8 tracks were seen passing clear to Port of EMERALD by Walrus aircraft.

1750. Resumed course of 150°. NEWCASTLE again opened fire.

1801 Attacked by medium level bombers. Dornier dropped stick of bombs just astern of NEWCASTLE after being engaged by all vessels.

Enemy destroyers were now disappearing and visibility and light deteriorating. The last destroyer lost out of sight and ceased firing 1810.

1812. Course 110°. Further bombing attack. Bombs fell between destroyers and NEWCASTLE, (perhaps Dornier 17).

1816. 3 Blenheims arrived and identified themselves to JACKAL who replied with 3 R's. The Blenheims then made off in the direction of the enemy.

During these bombing attacks EMERALD was attacked on five occasions but bombs never fell closer than 300 yards.

1817. Walrus was ordered to return to base as firing had ceased and enemy was out of sight.

1818. 2 Blenheims carried out low gliding

/attacks.

MOST SECRET.18.10.40.
Friday.
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Force F. (Contd).

attacks on KASHMIR and KELVIN from their Starboard beam but luckily missed. When the destroyers saw that they could not avoid the attacks they opened fire.

1823. Altered course to 310° broke off the engagement. No enemy in sight. Ushant light then bore 091° 36 miles.

1839. NEWCASTLE's Walrus aircraft landed in the sea and was hoisted in to NEWCASTLE, the pilot Lieut. Gough making a good landing in spite of being wounded in an engagement with a Dornier 17. After engaging the Walrus the Dornier retired being apparently chased away by one of our Blenheim bombers. Course was then set on a retiring course to the North Westward at 25 knots returning to Plymouth at 0800/18.
(C.in C. W.A. 1633/18 to Adty).

Convoy F.N.11
GASFIRE.
HAUXLEY.
P.L.M.14.

E-boat attack.

GASFIRE in tow at 52° 57' N., 2° 2' E. at 15 knots. PINTAIL in company. (WIVERN 0610/18 to C.in C. Nore).

HAUXLEY sank suddenly at 0645 about 50° 3' 30" N., 1° 35' 30" E. while in tow. (WORCESTER 0655/18 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

My position Sheringham Light Buoy. Tow has parted. P.L.M.14 is making water steadily. (Capt. D.16 0955/18 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

My 0313. Yarmouth Tugs have not sailed owing to fog. (C.in C. Nore 0959/18 to D.16).

S.S. HAUXLEY sank while in tow of WORCESTER at 0645 53° 03' 30" N., 01° 35' 30" E. MALCOLM and WIVERN towing S.S. P.L.M.14 and GASFIRE to Humber were at Sheringham Light Buoy at 0830 speed 4 knots WORCESTER in company. PUFFIN expects to arrive Humber 1145 with crews of HAUXLEY and P.L.M.14. Tugs have left Humber to take over tow but tugs ordered out from Yarmouth have not sailed owing to fog.
(C.in C. Nore 1046/18 to Adty).

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Operations.

Convoy F.N.11.
GASFIRE.
HAUXLEY.
PLM.14. (Contd.)

My position 52° 56'N., 1° 56'E. speed 3 knots. Tugs urgently required. Tow has parted twice. Visibility minimum. (WIVERN 1200/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Arrived in Humber at 1200, PUFFIN with survivors of HAUXLEY and PLM.14. (F.O. Humber 1340/18 to Adty).

My 1454. Draught of PLM.14 now 38 feet. Am escorting to Humber by swept channels. My position 53° 12'N., 1° 8' E. steering 355° at 5 knots. (Capt.D.16 1645/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Force D.
(Tromso).

Operation D.H. Phase 2 abandoned owing to low visibility. H.M.S. HOOD with screen and Force D. return to Scapa. H.M.S. DOUGLAS and H.M.S. ISIS proceed to Skaale Fiord Faroes and escort Oiler MONTENOL to Scapa. H.M.S. DUNCAN is to join Force D. H.M.S. HOOD'S position will be 063° North 004° West at 1400 course 180° speed of advance 15 knots. (F.O.C.1st B.C.S. 1122/18 to Force D).

Iceland.

Adty's 1900/13. Estimated minimum time for turn-round of personnel ships in fine weather 8 days. Bad weather would delay return 2 or 3 days. (F.O.I.C. Reykjavik 1240/18 to Adty).

Your 1900/13. Confined LETITIA will call at Reykjavik 31/10. (F.O.C.N.P. 1622/18 to Adty).

Patrol off
Smiths Knoll.

70 ft. M.T.B's. are to establish anti-E Boat patrol on silent engines tonight Friday between Smith's Knoll light float and 56 buoy returning Harwich at daylight keeping clear of F.S.convoy due position Z 0630/19. (C.in C. Nore 1246/18 to BEEHIVE.)

Sweep between
Flushing and
Ijmuiden.

BEEHIVE reports following track taken by 1st M.T.B. Flotilla. M.T.B.14 fouled wreckage off Breijwers Haven Gat and sustained damage. Sweep was abandoned and no surface vessels seen. (C.in C. Nore 1417/18 to Adty).



War Diary.

18.10.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMAND.

Western Channel Patrol.

Operations.

A/S Trawlers to patrol AX.
(C.in C. W.A. 1537/18 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

VENETIA.

In view of 220 QZX, patrol between 10 and A Buoy.
(Capt. D.21 1620/18 to VENETIA).

Operations
"Active" and
"Pungent"

Your 1544/17. Approved for ships to be reduced to C and M, and for BRONDARIS, AMAZONE, and RAIN now at Chatham to be towed to London Docks. x *EMPIRE RAIN*
(D.O.D. H. 1726/18 to C.in C. Nore).

3 Enemy Trawlers
attacked
off Dover.

Special Intelligence material at about 1415 /18 indicated enemy surface craft active between bearings of 150° and 160°. At 1452 this was confirmed by Dover C.H.L. distance about 12 miles. I therefore immediately despatched M.T.B. 69 and Norwegian M.T.B. 5 to investigate, the weather being overcast with visibility 3 to 4 miles. 3 large enemy trawlers about 600 tons apparently minesweeping on an easterly course were sighted in position 150° Dover 14 miles at range of 4 miles. M.T.B.'s closed at high speed, M.T.B. 69 firing two torpedoes at a range of 3000 yards. 2 large columns of water observed amidships on rear ship. M.T.B. 69 retired under smoke as 4 escorting E or R boats moved out to the attack. M.T.B. 5 did not fire as enemy boats were attacking and her torpedoes were set to 1500 yards high speed setting. On retiring M.T.B. 5 was fired at presumably by E or R boats but not hit. This encounter was largely due to the accurate initial bearing obtained by South Foreland. (V.A.Dover 1841/18 to Adty).

Operation "Lucid"
LUCID.

Prepare to carry out on night 1/2 November.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1955/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Dover Shelled.

Approximately twelve shells fell in Dover area between 1122 and 1309 today. One shell fell near Admiralty Pier 6" Battery, and remainder fell as follows:-
One in Granville Dock one inside Harbour, two in town, three in the sea and four behind Leathercoates Signal Station.
CLYTHNESS damaged by splinters.
Casualties:- Naval, one wounded: Military. One killed and three wounded: Civilian, One killed. (V.A.Dover 2006/18 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.18.10.1940.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines.TALISMAN.

At your discretion proceed along line 250° from Gironde where U-Boat might be met. (Capt. S.2. 1134/18 to TALISMAN).

H. 28.

Leave Z at 1430/18 and return to Harwich. Route. (S.O. Submarines Harwich 1221/18 to H.28).

O. 24.

Passes Bell Rock 1900/18. Route thence. (Capt. S.9. 1531/18 to O. 22).

CACHALOT)
TAKU)

Estimated off Bishop Rock at 0800/20. Movements after. (Capt. S.2. 1707/18).

PORPOISE

Shift Patrol by sunrise 20/10 to following area. (Capt. S.2. 1726/18).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/19. (V.A.S. 1756/18, 1901/18, 2116/18).

H. 28 Report.

H 28 reports she carried out at 1640/10 an unsuccessful attack with two torpedoes on a vessel thought to be a 1000 ton store ship which subsequently dropped distant depth charges. H.49's time table of A/S Trawler sweeps given in my 0957/7 was not followed regularly but Sturgeons Channel was frequently swept. (S.O. Submarines Harwich 2015/18 to V.A.S.)

British Air Activity.Patrols cancelled.

S.A.I.E., S.A.2 N., and Offensive Patrol Horns Reef to Lister cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0920/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Trondheim.

My 2002/17. R/C Trondheim not yet possible. (C.in C. Rosyth 0932/18 to Adty.) R/C 061° to Trondheim will take off shortly. (C.in C. Rosyth 1214/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Norwegian Coast.

A R/C 061° N. to Lister is now operating. (C.in C. Rosyth 1214/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Aircraft reported shot down in Lapland.

Your 1826/17. No British aircraft reported as shot down in Finnish Lapland but (?Officer Commanding Troops) Ivalo tells me he personally heard sounds of heavy gunfire and possibly bombing not far from Kirkenes at about 2200 October 16th. He is making enquiries and will advise me later today of any further news. (Petsamo 1341/17 to Adty.)

S.A.3.)
S.A.2)

S.A.3 and 2 southern tracks of S.A.2 not being flown tonight. (C.in C. Rosyth 1446/18 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Belgian Trawler
O.96.

Reports being bombed and machine-gunned 23 miles South of Kinsale at 1800/17. No casualties. Trawling gear lost. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1214/18 to Adty.).

COLLINGWOOD
(Portsmouth)

COLLINGWOOD reports bombing attack by one machine at 1410/18. Four bombs dropped. Estimated two unexploded. Casualties twelve Naval and six Wrens - none fatal. Gas electric and water mains out of action. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1605/18 to Adty.)

Mining.Sheerness
M/S Area.

Admiralty 1901/8. The great majority of the new mines appear to have been dropped in the Thames estuary in the Sheerness mine sweeping area. Arrangements should therefore be made with Commodore i/c Sheerness for the special vessels operating from Harwich to sweep in this area when they are ready to do so. A mine was observed to be dropped in position 195° East BARROW Lt. vessel. 1 mile on 9th and is believed to be still there, magnetic sweeping having failed to detonate it. Mines are now being dropped nightly in vicinity of Medway and Thames Booms. (C.in C. Nore 1047/18 to F.O. Harwich).

Inchkeith.

Port is now open. (XDO Inchkeith 1412/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

KINGSTON (A/S
CAIRNGORM. (Sunder)

Mined and sank ~~17~~^{at 0318/18.} 17/10. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1540/18 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff.) M.020922/40.

Experimental
Sweeping ahead
of Convoys.

My 1823/7/10. This will be repeated by 4 ships of 5th M/S Flotilla ahead of O.A.232 sailing on 20/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1725/18 to C.in C. W.A.).

Rosyth.

Patrol boat reported a splash near main ship Channel at 0515/18 in a thick fog. She also reported having twice heard engines of aircraft flying veryhigh some time before the splash. Report of sound of aircraft corroborated from one other source and it was decided that KING GEORGE V could not enter until the main ship Channel had been thoroughly swept and counter mining carried out. As the magnetic sweeping could not be completed in time the movement of H.M.S. KING GEORGE V. from anchorage to lock has been postponed until P.M. 19th. (C.in C. Rosyth 1809/18 to Admty.)

/ Fleet sweepers

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Fleet sweepers swept F/S convoy through 148 QZS. from Z to N E Swin, one mine cut and destroyed clear of Channel in 52° 1.2' N 1° 48' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1927/18 to Adty.)

Falmouth.

Mine exploded in Sweep in 49° 59' 30" N. 5° 5' W. Channel not yet complete.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1933/18 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Lister.

One M/V 5000 tons in 58° 40' N. 5° 20' E. steering South at 6 knots. (Aircraft of 269 Sqdn. 1315/18).

Trondheim.

2 M/V's and 1 submarine. (Aircraft of 248 Sqdn. 1355/18). R/C of Coastwise Vessels 1435 to 1540/18 (Donibristle 1920/18)

Indications of Enemy Craft on line Eddystone to Brest, possibly in Brest. D.F. report. (C.in C. W.A. 2021/18 to KIPLING, BLYSKAWICA).

Faroes.

Unidentified Ship about 2000 tons passed Skopen Fiord eastbound at 2000. Speed 8 to 10 knots. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2300/18 to Adty.)

Miscellaneous.

Rosyth

Port is closed owing to Fog.
(XDO Rosyth 0758/18 to C.in C. Rosyth).



War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

MAURETANIA

Your 0707/12. Presume she can still be used in U.S. 8. (D.S.T. 0308/18 to A.C.N.B.)
My 0707Z/12. Defects are as follows. Owners representative satisfied that steaming on 4 boilers satisfactory for Trooping requirements, leaving pre-heater repairs for a convenient opportunity. (A.C.N.B. 0906/18 to D. of S.T.)

SALANDA

My 1055B/15. Arrived Durban (S.O.I. Cape Town 0905B/18 to Admy.)

FAME
ASHANTI

C. in C., Home Fleet's 1043/18.
During night 17/18th heavy swell set in seriously damaging both ships, necessitating removal of crews by Breeches Buoy, as swell was running right over upper deck. Have personally interviewed Salvage Officer who reports further efforts to float ASHANTI and FAME cannot be made before next spring tide, about November 1st. Efforts will be made to remove guns and other weights, but situation of ships makes this work difficult. All valuable stores and ammunition being removed today. Ship's Company accommodated in Army Huts on Shore. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1218/18 to Adty.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary18.10.1940
FridayHOME COMMANDSConvoysShipping

- O.A. 229 Aircraft forthwith to 270° until 25° where convoy is to disperse. (to avoid U-Boat reported in 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W., at 0829) (C. in C., W.A. 1010/18) JASON, COREOPSIS, HIBISCUS to leave O.A. 229 in time to meet H.X. 79 in accordance with my 1050/18 (C. in C., 1210/18)
- H.X. 79 Route (C. in C., W.A., 0100/18 to MONTCLARE etc.,) Orders to aircraft to avoid U-Boat (C. in C., W.A. 1050/18)
- W.N. 24 See GLENBEG below.
- F.N. 12 Corvette escort WIDGEON and PINTAIL (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1645/18) Postponed owing to fog. F.N. 12 fast sails 0800/19, Code words "Agent one" then "Lunch one" (C. in C., Rosyth 1729/18)
- F.N. 14 Slow sails 0900/19, Code words "Agent two" the "Lunch two" (C. in C., Rosyth 1729/18)
- F.S. 12 HARRIER, GOSSAMER to carry out Oropesa sweep ahead (C. in C., Nore, 1705/18)
- O.A. 231 HASTINGS and FLEUR DE LYS escorting (N.C.S.O. Methil 1141/18) List 1142/18)
- H.X. 81 Sailing telegram. Escort VOLTAIRE, etc., (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1131/17)
- H.X. 80 List and destinations (D.T.D. 1309/18)
- SVEADROTT CASTOR Informing submarines on patrol of their route. (V.A(S) 0603/18, 2039/18) N.O.I.C. Faroes 1203/17 (fishing smack mined) Presume consideration is being given to routeing the ship through safe waters (C. in C., H.F., 1105/18 to Admt.) Now leaving Kristiansand 19/10. Speed, route etc. (D.O.D. (H) 1319/18) Your 1105/18. The disadvantages of routeing these ships by any other way is considered to outweigh the possibility of them being damaged in their passage through the Skopen Fiord. (D.O.D.(H) 1837/18 to C. in C., H.F.) Position 1800/18 G.M.T. (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 1930/18, 1934/18)

GLENBEG

Intend sailing escorted by LA MALOUINE today. LA MALOUINE on arrival off Bar Light to proceed to overtake W.N. 24 sailing from Clyde 1000/19 (F.O. Greenock 1227/18)

/PRETORIA CASTLE...

MOST SECRETWar Diary18.10.1940
FridayHOME COMMANDSShipping- Contd.PRETORIA CASTLE
GLEANERPosition and time of R.V. with local escort
(C. in C., WA. 2120/18, 2155/18)Suspect ShipPassed east to west 1100/18 ship about
3000 ? tons SWITZERLAND PLATE CALANDA on
bow. If she is suspect please advise N.I.
and S.O.I. Gibraltar repectively B.V.C.
(Horta, 1530/18)

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

STRASBOURG
etc.

Appreciation of local situation. Re intercepting STRASBOURG and patrol off Casablanca. Possibility of retaliation on Gibraltar if force used. To our advantage if French prepared to accept status quo in territory now under Free French control. (S.O. Force H 1441/18.)
Your 2202/17 and D.N.I. 1939/17. French N.A. says he knows nothing of any movement but STRASBOURG repaired and all warships at Toulon frequently go out for exercises. (N.A. Madrid, 1210/18 to V.A. Gib.)

French
movements.

Gibraltar 18/10 1530 COMMANDANT DELAGE escorting CONGO passing from West to East. 1700 COMMANDANT DELAGE returned westbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1753/18.)

Reinforcements Following received from N.C.S.O. Duala.
for Libreville. Reported Libreville is expecting reinforcements from Dakar. (C.S.1 1031/18 to DELHI).

North Atlantic.

RENOWN

Temporary repairs to bulge completed and fuel embarked to full stowage (S.O. Force H 0853/18). Asking what further time required to complete repairs intended in his 0901/14 (V.C.N.S. 1554/18) N.A. Madrid's 1210/18. My 1926/17 (RENOWN to come to short notice for steam) is to remain in force for the present (A.C.N.S. (F) 1707/18).

Evacuation of
troops
AUSTRALIA etc.

**ally:*

Your 2333/16 Para. 2. Military personnel were embarked in ETTRICK Naval personnel in AUSTRALIA. About 450 Poles and mixed personnel remaining (?now being) embarked in REINA DEL PACIFICO. In view of your 1856/17 and your 1921/17 should REINA DEL PACIFICO be sailed tonight. (F.O.C. N.A. 0930/18).
My 1254/17. AUSTRALIA, ECHO, GRIFFIN, ETTRICK, KARANJA have returned to Gibraltar on orders. (F.O.C. N.A. 1204/18.)
My 0920/18. 0930/18 presumably intended. Propose transferring Naval and Military personnel from AUSTRALIA and ETTRICK to REINA DEL PACIFICO. (F.O.C. N.A. 1638/18). N.A. Madrid's 1210/18. Cancel my 1921/17. AUSTRALIA with transports and destroyers are to be sailed as soon as practicable. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1706/18).

Cancel my 1638/18. (F.O.C. N.A. 1845/18.)

/ Your 1221/17. ...

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Your 1221/17. AUSTRALIA, ESCAPADE, ECHO escorting ETTRICK, KARANJA, sail 2200/18. Estimated speed of advance 12 knots. T. A. position (c) 1200/22. (F.O.C.N.A. 2046A/18.)

South Atlantic. (Continued)

SALANDA

(Overdue) My 1055 B/15, arrived Durban (S.O.(I) Capetown 0905 B/18). At 1330 Minus One unsuccessfully engaged small twin engine monoplane flying boat in 000° 38' N. 008° 34' E. Enemy initial course 180° final escape on North Easterly course. Request information whether Free French possess Flying Boat and description thereof. (DELHI 2229/18 to F.O.C. 1st C.S.).

Freetown
air defences.

Your 1837/9. No increase can be made at present. Question will be reconsidered next month. (V.C.N.S. 2246/18 to C.in C. S.A.)

M.V.'s and
Hospital Ship.

Your 2114/16 Dept of Defence, South Africa, assure me full and continuous employment exists for SELANDIA. They further desire to retain LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE for present, but are prepared to reconsider retention of latter vessel from month to month. They are pressing for reply for Admiralty regarding Hospital ship as G.O.C. Nairobi is asking for assurance that one will be available first December. N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2210/18, to D.of S.T.

Mediterranean.

Reinforcements.
M.T. ships.

Re Adty. 2240/9, 1911/10, 2344/10, C.in C. Med. 1421/14, F.O. Force H 1932/10. Adty's proposals (Adty. 0205/18, 1059/18) My 0205/18 and S.O. Force H 0914/17. Date of sailing from U.K. cannot be advanced. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1327/18 to C.in C. Med.).

SPHINX.

French hospital ship, due to leave Marseilles for Beirut 21/10 arrive 27/10 C.in C. Mediterranean 0127/18).

Benzhazi.

Aircraft R.C. p.m./16. 3 M.V.'s about 5000 tons in harbour, 2 of about 10,000 tons lying 2 miles outside, 5 of about 2000 tons entering harbour (Capt. (S) 1421/18 to OSIRIS).

/ Reinforcement.

18.10.1940.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (continued)Reinforcement.
M.T. ships.

S.O. Force H 0914/17. Concur that sailing from U.K. should be expedited. Conditions desirable. (C.in C. Med. 1447/18).

VALE

R-A. H.D. Pridham-Wippell C.B., C.V.O., to be VALE and 2nd i/C. Mediterranean Fleet with acting rank of V-A. in succession to V-A. J.C. Tovey C.B., D.S.O. (Hd. of M. 2000/18).

Appointment.

Admty. 2041/10. Concur appt. of Capt. Chambers as S.O. N.A.S.E. (C.in C. Med. 2023/18).

Ionian Sea.
R.C.

Weather ^{over} promoted aircraft R.C. of Ionian Sea being complete 18/10 (Gov. Malta 2012/18).

A/A guns
destroyers.

Admty. 1843/11. Mediterranean condition does not at present justify removal of after torpedo tubes in destroyers later than A class or number three mounting in TRIBAL to mount A/A armament. Fitting of 3" or 12 pdrs. in lieu of after tubes and 0.5" in lieu of pom-poms in Australian V class is proceeding.
(C.in C. Med., 1535/18 to Admty.)

Enemy
Intelligence.

Tel. No. 1169/18/10. Following (A.2) information received from reliable source:
(a) In addition to those destroyers sunk night of October 11th the CAMICIA NERA was badly damaged. (Action with ASAX.)
(b) The turrets of LITTORIO and VITTORIO VENETO are giving considerable trouble.
(c) No confirmation that Graziani is being relieved of his command.
(d) Feeling in royalist circles in Italy running high against Germany suggests good opportunity for dropping leaflets.
(N.A. Washington 1139/18).

French ship
bombed.

At 0942 G.M.T./18 Beyrout reported to Admiral Duquesne that ANDRE LEBON was being bombed by unknown aircraft south at Crete. He replied aircraft was not British.
(Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 1647/18.)

Turkey.

Re assistance to. Situation. (N.A. Anzora, from Adm. Kelly, 1300/18 and 1700/18) (See Mediterranean Volume).

/ Operations by REGENT.

MOST SECRET.18.10.1940.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (continued)Operations
by REGENT.

REGENT unsuccessfully attacked Italian battle fleet south of Taranto on 30/9. In South Adriatic few convoys sighted and Italy - Albania route not discovered. 5/10 - in collision with caique, damaging foremost hydroplanes. 9/10 - sank 5 - 6 thousand ton partially laden ship in convoy 20 miles out from Durazzo. Escort of 20 knot ship painted like merchantman and 2 M A S severely hunted causing damage to Y and Z tanks. 11/10 - unsuccessful attack on small tanker N.E. of Brindisi. 13/10 - starboard foremost hydroplane dropped off on surfacing. Considerable A/S activity in Otranto Straits 9 to 13 October. Anticipate requires at least 4 weeks to make good defects. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1853/18.)

East Indies.Assessing
U-boat losses.

My 1136/16 add "para. 4 concur" (C.in C.E.I. 10752Z/18).

U.S.5.

Re - empties. To R.V. with U.S.5A. Escort to Gulf of Aden SHROPSHIRE, CARLISLE, KIMBERLEY, FLAMINGO (S.N.O. Red Sea 1524/18).

China.Trade with Indo-
China.

B.N.L.O. Saigon's 0210/22/9 and 0350/24/9 and my 1153/24/9. I have been in communication with Governor General of French Indo China concerning resumption of British Allied Trade which is of importance to Hong Kong. Under the orders from Vichy and fear of dismissal and loss of pension he is unable to agree to resumption. It is hoped however that it will be possible to restart some trade between Hong Kong and Indo China by transshipment at Kwang Chav Wan. In the meantime I am informed French are starting services at Saigon, Haiphong, Manila, Shanghai using Messagerie ships which were laid up at Saigon. This will produce inevitable risk of them capturing a part of British China Coast trade. (C.in C. China 0825Z/18).

Your 0911/1 appears to cancel A.M. 2313/28/9 concurring in A.C.N.B's 1300/25/9 proposing that allied ships might resume calls at New Caledonia and French ports in New Zealand Station.

2. Observing that these French possessions have joined Free French cause request information whether you consider trade should remain suspended. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2242/18).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

LAURENT
MEEUS

Following from Los Angeles. Belgian tanker LAURENT MEEUS with 8598 tons diesel oil obtaining clearance and leaving Los Angeles 19/10 for Singapore. Cargo said to be consigned Yokohama for Mitsui possibly on order. Captain passed us message that cargo intended for enemy and that he will receive instruction when at sea. Stated he will be very obliged if we pick him up. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0226/18.)

Purport of my 0226/18 has been passed to C.in C. A.W.I. in my 0927/18. Singapore informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0933/18)

JACQUES COEUR
MARCELLA

Governor Newfoundland's tel. of 17/10 reports probable sailing of trawlers JACQUES COEUR and MARCELLA 17/10. Can you intercept. I am unwilling to delay Town destroyers by specially detailing them for this duty but any on passage to St. Johns could bring (? "them" omitted) in if they met them. Telegram referred to was repeated to High Commissioner Ottawa. (C.in C. A.W.I. 0817/18. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

VAN KINSBERGEN
to intercept
HELGOLAND.

Columbia

Cancel my 1052/12 S.O.(I) Kingston's 1130/18. Proceed with all convenient despatch to establish patrol in approaches to Puerto ~~COLOMBIA~~ to capture HELGOLAND. Endeavour to avoid being sighted. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1141/18 to VAN KINSBERGEN)

Whaling Fleet.

Norwegian representative wishes them to sail in company for safety. Reported in German controlled Norwegian Press whaling fleet leaving Monte Video early in November. (Willemstadd 1512/18).

U.S.A. destroyers.

BURNHAM, BUXTON, BRADFORD, BURWELL, and CHESTERFIELD arrived here approx. 1300 G.M.T. today. Defective oil fuel service pump in BRADFORD has been taken in hand locally. My 1130/18 BROADWATER got bight of Manilla round port propeller shaft. Very bad weather has substantially hampered refuelling but hope to sail entire sixth division with BROADWATER and possibly CAMERON as soon as possible after noon tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1717/18.)

M.V. Guns.

List of Merchant Ships issued with Thompson gun equipment. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1134/18 to Admty.)

/ Report received

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.

Report received from Governor Leeward Islands that EMILE BERTIN and JEANNE D'ARC were at sea 15 miles to the westward of MARTINIQUE at 1550/18.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2203/18.)

Australia.

U.S.7.

Number of troops. Re ships. (A.C.N.B. 0829 Z/18).

MAURETANIA

Re defects. (A.C.N.B. 0906 Z/18).

MOST SECRET.18.10.1940.
Friday.War Diary.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.HELGOLAND.

Barranquilla reports she has steam up and S.N.O. Curacoa pass to VAN KINSBERGEN (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1130/18).

ANTARKTIS.

Report B 2 that German controlled ANTARKTIS is taking 2 tons provisions. As ship does not appear to be ready for sea suggest provisions may be loaded in turn awaiting fishing smacks for supply to enemy submarines outside Vigo bay. (Actg. Consul Vigo. 1914/18).

CERIGO.

My 1847/14. CERIGO is reported in having difficulty in obtaining crew. Bunker stock of coal at present probably low (S.O.(I) Callao 1407/18).

War Diary18.10.1940
FridayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedConvoy S.C.7
Two Attacks

S.C. 7. attacked at 0145 in 058° 41' N., 014° 03' W., one ship hit. Port side of convoy swept by FOWEY, BLUEBELL without result. LEITH in company. (FOWEY 0247/18 C. in C., W.A. 0503/18)

One ship of S.C. 7. torpedoed in position 058° 45' N., 014° 07' W., at 0145. No further information is at present available. Have detached HEARTSEASE to look for her 1137 1602 5251. (LEITH 0520/18)

Contact not regained, am rejoining convoy. 59 40. 17 20. (SCARBOROUGH 1447/18)

Ship torpedoed reported Submarine on surface course 200 at 2154 in position 058° 29' N., 011° 10' W., (C. in C., W.A., 2257/18 to SCARBOROUGH, LEITH, FOWEY, BLUEBELL.)

Convoy again attacked at 2220. At least four ships torpedoed. Two or more U-Boats suspected. Chased U-Boat on surface for 15 minutes and put her down. (LEITH 2326/18)

Have not been in contact for an hour. Have detailed BLUEBELL to pick up survivors and stand by ship. Am rejoining Convoy with all despatch. (LEITH 2358/18)

Asking what escorts are with convoy. (C. in C., W.A., to SCARBOROUGH, 0109/19)

CARSBRECK
(Convoy S.C.7)

(3670 tons) Torpedoed 58° 48' N., 14° 9' W., (? 0145/18- D.O.R) ? 2230/17. Expected to make Glasgow under her own steam if weather fine. Escort by HEARTSEASE. (HEARTSEASE 0855/18) 58° 44' W., 14° 10' W., 0108/18 (FOWEY 1155/18)

SHEKATIKA
(Convoy S.C.7)

(British 5458 tons) torpedoed 57° 29' N., 11° 10' W., 2128/18 (Lands End T.O.R. 2230/18) Torpedoed in 57° 14' N., 11° W., capable of salvage crew abandoned (FOWEY 2310/18)

CONVALLARVA
(Convoy S.C.7)

(Swedish 1996 tons) Torpedoed 2020/18 (D.O.R)

ASSYRIAN
(Convoy S.C.7)

(2962 tons) Torpedoed in 57° 10' N., 10° 38' W 2330 (Lands End Radio 2330/18, Valentia Radio 2230/18)

EMPIRE BRIGADE
(Convoy S.C.7)

(5154 tons) Torpedoed about 2330 (D.O.R)

BLAIRSPEY
See 19/10.

/BENLAWERS.....



War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

BENLAWERS
(Sunk 6/10)

BENLAWERS owners W. Thompson, Leith, sunk 1108/6 in position 053° 50' N., 026° 00' W., by torpedo from submarine. Submarine not sighted. Ship sank immediately. Books and documents sank with ship. Second Officer and 15 others picked up by BENGORE HEAD remainder of crew last seen sailing East in 2 lifeboats (N.C.S.O. Boston, 1624/18)

SS OSCILLA
False Alarm

Gunned in 30° 18' N., 9° 24' W., near Cape Espichel (SS OSCILLA via Gibraltar WIT TOR 0345/18) Probable gunfire reported was d.c. dropped by KINGSTON TURQUOISE who was near. (F.O.C.N.A. 1219/18)

BRITISH GLORY
(Torpedoed 15/10)

Arrived in tow of ENGLISHMAN, SCHELDE and MARAUDER (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1003/18)

SANDESEND

(3612 tons) Torpedoed 0930 in 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W. Straggler from O.B. 228. HIBISCUS to assist (C. in C., W.A., 1003/18 to JASON, Valentia Radio 0830/18)

DAVANGER
(Torpedoed 11/10)

Norwegian tanker, 7102 tons. Convoy H.X. 77 Torpedoed 300' W of Broadhaven 11/10. Chief Officer and 11 men landed Broadhaven. Master and 16 missing. (D.O.R.)

Lifeboat with 25 men rescued 55° 50' N., 7° 40' W., (C. in C., W.A. 1601/18, 1713/18 to ANTELOPE)

THISTLEGARTH
(Torpedoed 15/10)

(4747 tons) Have picked up in 58° 45' N., 130° 27' W 9 survivors no casualties from THISTLEGARTH bound from Scapa to St. Lawrence torpedoed at 1655/15 in 58° 43' N., 15° 00' W On look out for another lifeboat with remainder of crew numbering 30 reported sailing towards land. (HEARTSEASE 1009/18)

ORAD
(Sunk 12/10)

Your 1829/17 Ship was sunk on 12th October as the result of U-Boat attack in approx. position 035° 34' N., 010° 35' W., My 1600/12 and 2202/12 and reference 1640/12 S.O. Force "H" refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 1525/18 to Admty.)

/Submarines Reported



War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

- 0829 }
0930 } 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1010/18)
- 0225 58° N., 14° W., unreliable fix. (A.C.W.A. 0301/18, D.D.I.C. 0337/18)
- 1216 By D.F. between 46° N., and 47°N, long 3° W. (V.A.S. 1307/18)
- 1015 By D.F. 59° N., 19° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1132/18)
- 2026 By D.F. 80 to 110 miles N.W. Malin Head. Unreliable fix. (C. in C., W.A., 2139/18, 2220/18)
- S.C.7. Probably been reported by enemy submarine not same one as referred to in my 2139/18. (C. in C., W.A., 2209/18)
- 0930 Master of British ship ERATO lying at Lisbon harbour reports that he was hailed by fishermen returning from sea at 0930/18 and informed that there was a submarine off Ba. (Lisbon 1245/19)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 1 off Cape Roca, Portugal at 0245/18
 German : 1 still in vicinity of 45° N., 16° W
 1 in about 49° to 50° N., far out probably proceeding north westwards.
 1 may still be in area 51° to 52° N., 15° to 17°W.,
 1 still about 180' S.W. of Rockall
 1 was in 56° 32' N. 22° W., at 0800/17
 1 was in 58° 41' N., 14° 03' W., at 0145/18
 1 was in 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W., at 0830/18
 1 in about 59° N., 19° W., at 1121/18
 1 in about 58° N., 14° W at 0225/18
 Possibly one nearing Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1245/18)

Submarines Attacked.

By ANTELOPE

55° 50' N., 7° 50' W., Considered wreck. Am rejoining Convoy (ANTELOPE 1830/18)

By LEITH

Escorting Convoy S.C. 7., about 2300/18 chased a U-Boat on surface and forced her to dive. LEITH and FOWEY searched vicinity (D.O.R.)

DURBO Sunk

Italian S/M DURBO after having been located by flying boat of 202 Sqdn and attacked by FIREDRAKE in 035° 57' N., 004° 00' W., surfaced and abandoned ship at 1950/18. U/B sank later. FIREDRAKE now returning to harbour with 48 survivors Captain 4 Officers and 43 men. (F.O.C.N.A. 2200/18)
 My 2200/18. WRESTLER also took part in attack (F.O.C.N.A. 1108/19)



War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B.
Patrol

M.T.B's last night patrolled between Smith's Knoll light float and 56 buoy.

Attack on
Tromso.
Operation D.H.U.

BERWICK reports that Operation D.H.U. was successfully carried out early on the morning of 16/10.

FAME

It now appears that FAME has broken her back.

U-Boat Campaign

Convoy S.C. 7.
13 Ships
Torpedoed

At least 13 ships of Convoy S.C.7. were torpedoed in the Western Approaches during 18.10 and 19.10. Among them was the Commodore's ship ASSYRIAN, the Commodore (Vice Adm. Mackinnon) being taken on board LEITH in a critical condition.

Convoy H.X. 79.
12 Ships
Torpedoed

12 ships of Convoy H.X. 79 were also torpedoed from about 2125/19 to 0630/20, 250 miles W.N.W. of Bloody Foreland.

In view of U-Boats disregard of escorts other than destroyers WHITEHALL, VANSITTART and WITHERINGTON are to rejoin the Western Approaches Command now.

British Air Activity

Operations by Coastal Command and many of those projected for Bomber Command last night were cancelled.

Bomber Command attacked BISMARCK and docks at Hambourg, but results were not observed. Docks at Kiel, Emden and Lubeck were also attacked.

Enemy Air Activity

Cork Light Vessel reported being attacked at 2030 by fighter dive bomber which dropped two bombs harmlessly.

MOST SECRETWar Diary19.10.1940
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTMining

VENETIA was sunk by a mine this morning off East Knob L.V.

VELIA (H.M. Trawler) was sunk, presumably by a mine, in the Thames Approaches.

Mines were found today off the Isle of Wight and on the Tyne.

Operations against Vichy French

INDOCHINOIS (intercepted by CORNWALL 18/10) attempted to scuttle herself on orders from the Vichy Government when being boarded this morning. The attempt was frustrated by CORNWALL's boarding party and 4 rounds of pom pom fire directed at the bridge of the French ship. INDOCHINOIS is being taken to Freetown, where C. in C., S.A., ordered her to be brought on receiving information that CORNWALL had intercepted her.

Mediterranean

R.A.F. attacked Bardia today.

Last night 12 aircraft attacked shipping and docks at Benghazi. Hits were registered on a ship at Malo d'Italia and on nearby warehouses and main railway siding.

East Indies

SHROPSHIRE, escorting Convoy A.P.3. was bombed at 0533Z today in 15° 20' N., 41° 49' E., No damage was done.

Convoy B.N. 7. was attacked by enemy aircraft in the southern part of the Red Sea this morning. No damage was reported.

Early today 3 or 4 enemy aircraft bombed Bahrein and the mainland near Ras Tanurah, damaging an oil line and a water line.

R.A.F. today attacked Massawa, hits being made on a jetty and a group of lighters.

MOST SECRETWar Diary19.10.1940
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTFar East

Air Chief Marshal Sir. R. Brooke-Popham has been appointed C. in C., Far East, for operational control of all British land and air forces in Malaya, Burma and Hong Kong. G.O.C's in those territories and also the A.D.C., Far East, will be under his command.

19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K."Deluge"DELUGE Signals.

At 0200/19. (D.C. 0207/19). At 1400/19
(D.C. 1431/19).

Nore Command
Notice for Steam.

No air R/C possible. Keep steam at half
an hour's notice till 0900/20. (C.in C.
Nore 0511/20 to C.S.18, etc.)

Rosyth Dockyard
A/A Defences.

Adty. 1534/16. Understand local arrange-
ments have been made and C.in C. satisfied.
(Air Ministry 0925/19 to Adty.)
Propose to move one Flight of 232 Squadron
from Skitton to Turnhouse to augment
defence of Rosyth. Request your views.
(Air Ministry 1905/19 to Adty.)

Policy.Northern Patrol.

My 1845/4/9. As passage through Skopen
and Hesto Fiords can only be made in
daylight and clear weather owing to danger
from mines, and as the strong tides and
the prevalent bad weather cause further
delay, intend that N.P. Trawlers will
normally proceed to and from patrol areas
after 1st November passing south of North
Rona one trawler every 10 days proceeding
via Thorshavn for conveyance of mails and
passengers.

(F.O.C.N.P. 1113/19 to Adty.)

Patrol Vessels
shooting at
sight.

C.in C. Portsmouth's 1303/13 and 1533/15
and C.in C. W.A. 2115/14. ^{p. 271.}
Admiralty concurs with policy set forth in
C.in C. Portsmouth 1303/13 so far as his
command is concerned. ^{p. 216.}

The above is not intended to suggest that
any amendment to the present instructions
of C.in C. W.A. should be made.

(A.C.N.S(H) 1240/19 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

Proposed Submarine
Watch on Brest.

I concur with views of V.A.S. in his
1392/S.M. 105 of 13/10 and also with
C.in C. W.A. 1947/18. (C.in C. H.F. 1507/19
to Adty.).

Trials of B-Class
M.L.

Request you will arrange for trials of a
B. Class M.L. suitably escorted in rough
weather in open sea.
Object is to test suitability of Class for
ocean passage before sailing 3rd M.L.
flotilla.
(D.T.S.D. 1527/10 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Recognition
between Ships and
Aircraft.

It has frequently occurred that owing to
mistaken identity friendly planes and
ships have attacked each other. As
Germans are known to be in possession of
British aircraft it is understandable that
a ship, on seeing an aircraft about to
carry out a deliberate attack, should open
/ fire

19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy (continued)

Recognition between
Ships and Aircraft.
(continued)

fire on her in spite of her friendly appearance. Although it is the duty of every officer to protect his ships against any attack every endeavour must be made to avoid risking the lives of our invaluable pilots by such mistakes. To guard against this every opportunity must be taken of encouraging pilots stationed near naval ports to visit ships and take trips to sea in them whenever possible. The question of improving the system of recognition is being investigated.
(C.in C. W.A. 1806/19 to Ships).

Ex- U.S.
Destroyers.

Your 1532/17. Approved to work up BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS, and ST. MARYS at Plymouth. R.A.M.L. is requested to arrange for continuance of practices at Port Z A as far as possible. (A.C.N.S.H. 1959/19 to C.in C. W.A.).

Escort Force for
R.A.M.L.

Your 1600/15. In view of U-boats disregard of escorts other than destroyers propose that WHITEHALL VANSITTART and WITHERINGTON be transferred to Western Approaches command now. If approved they will be based on Liverpool.
(C.in C. W.A. 1951/19 to Adty.)

Your 1951/19. Approved. (A.C.N.S.H. 2200/19 to C.in C. W.A.).

Movements.

BERWICK.

Request you sail her for Clyde as soon as Aircraft, with personnel and stores, have been embarked. As by A/M. 1628/14/10, BERWICK is to cease to be a unit of H.F. on arrival at Clyde. (C.in C. H.F. 1021/19 to B.C.1.)

Orkneys.

Movements for Night 19/20. (A.C.O.S. 1531/19).
State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S.1930/19).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines to-day. (A.C.O.S.1536/19).

ESPERANCE BAY.

Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P's 1130/17.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1609/19 to Adty.)

Portsmouth.

Movements for Night 19/20. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1613/19).

BEVERLEY)
BELMONT)
BROADWAY)

My 1201/15. Expect ships to pass C about 0001.Z/23. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1651/19 to Adty.)

/ ALERT.



19.10.1940.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Continued)ALERT.

Your 1757/18. Requires docking.
(C.in C. W.A. 1707/19 to Adty.)

Nore.

My 1550/5/7 (Invasion Operation Order P.E.)
S.O. Patrol O, HOLDERNESS. FRANKLIN and
2 Trawlers working area Cromer to
Sheringham L.F. anchoring at night.
(C.in C. Nore 1708/19 to EGRET, etc.)

ARBUTUS

Estimate pass Bell Rock 2100/19.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1924/19).

BULOLO

Intend sail at 0700/20 unescorted. ETA.
Freetown 0800/1 (F.O. Belfast 2237/19 to
C. in C. S.A.).

Operations.Operation DHU.
(Tromso).

Phase 1. Operation D H U successfully carried
out early morning 16/10. 11 swordfish
attacked oil tanks and sea plane base. Many
bombs on target area and some fires started.
3 skuas attacked only ship seen. Near misses.
3 skuas failed to get in owing to low clouds.
Certain amount of A.A. fire over sea plane
station. Heavy barrage over town. Enemy
evidently surprised. 1 skua failed to
return. Crew not known to be interned in
Lapland. (BERWICK 1000/19 to Adty.)

My 1131/18 Lieut. Savage informs me that
during Skua attack on Tromso all lights in
town were burning. No sign of fires or
damage in target area. Owing to surprise
obtained he thinks Swordfish could not have
arrived by 0530. Short and long range A.A.
fire slight and no searchlights. Only one
4000 ton ship sighted in roads. During
attack one near miss observed on her star-
board side other bombs not seen. One Skua
appeared hit during dive, broke attack and
disappeared, fate unknown. No signs of
British or enemy aircraft whole period.
Forced landing made in Sweden after failing
to locate carrier. F.A.A. W/T code for
directing fighters now compromised.
(N.A. Stockholm 1311/19).

Anti-E-boat
Patrol off
Smiths Knoll.

Weather permitting tonight 70-foot M.T.B's
to establish Patrol between Smiths Knoll
Light Float and 56 Buoy after about 2000,
returning Harwich at daylight. (C.in C.
Nore 1240/19 to BEEHIVE).
Cancel my 1240. Weather unsuitable.
(C.in C. Nore 1743/19).

/Patrol between

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

Patrol between
Nieuport and
Flushing.

Weather permitting tonight 60-foot M.T.B's to operate between Nieuport and Flushing. Any vessel met East of 2° 30' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C.in C. Nore 1244/19 to BEEHIVE).

Cancel my 1244. Weather unsuitable. (C.in C. Nore. 1745/19.)

Tonight VANOC, VOLUNTEER, WITCH patrol westwards to Portland and return. Reference A.M. 111/20 September they will cross the limiting line in the vicinity of Portland and may cross it anywhere if in pursuit of the enemy. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1423/19 to Adty.)

Any small Motor Craft sighted tonight will be hostile. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1915/19 to VANOC).

VERDUN.

Following appear to be main points of tactical interest in VERDUN's W.5. 18/10 report of encounter with E.Boats on 17/10. (WATCHMAN 1930/19 to Adty.)

M.T.B's.

2 M.T.B's are leaving Harwich now to operate near Z and 54 A. Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2156/19 to HOLDERNESS).

Engagement with
E.Boats 16/10.

VIVIEN's 0015/16 VIVIEN engaged three 'E' boats at 0015/16 in 52° 55.5 N. 2° 3.7 E. Her prompt action frustrated their attack causing three torpedoes to miss. 'E' boats retired under smoke. It is thought that one was damaged but it was not disabled. (LONDONDERRY 1334/19.)

Submarines.

O. 23.

ETA. Tay Sanctuary 0800/20. (O.23 0531/19 to N.O.I.C. Dundee).

Proposed Dispositions. C.in C. Western Approaches 1947/18.

A. I have already proposed that Channel Patrols operating from Portsmouth should be discontinued. My 1392/SM 105 of 13/10 refers.

B. The next two new construction U class are required to relieve H class at Harwich since the latter cannot stand winter weather in North Sea and are required for A/S training duties.

C. Thus at present the 2nd S/M Flotilla only is available for patrols off west coast of France. 8 S/Ms including mine-layers are available. With this number 2 to 3 Submarines on patrol can be maintained.

/ D.

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines. (Continued)Proposed
Dispositions.
(Continued)

D. Consider that owing to strong tides and configuration of coastline one S/M cannot maintain an efficient patrol off Brest. Even by day three would be necessary to provide a reasonable degree of security.

E. A patrol off Gironde and another off Lorient still appear desirable.

F. I could move TITANIA and 3 "S" Class to the Clyde for operating off French Coast. A fourth S class could be made available by taking STURGEON from Blyth and a fifth by taking SWORDFISH from Portsmouth even this would barely fulfil all requirements and would mean that there would be no British submarines operating in the North Sea except U class.

G. I suggest sending TITANIA and 3 S class to Holylock at an early date. The Transfer of this flotilla to west coast may anyway be desirable in order to meet the threat of invasion of Ireland.

H. In the meantime I suggest the 2nd S/M Flotilla provide one S/M off Lorient one off Bordeaux and when possible one off Brest. (V.A.S. 1112/19 to Adty.)

L.27)
URSULA)

L. 27 in D.4. URSULA leaves Portsmouth at 1600/20 for 40° N. 6° W. and thence to Gibraltar. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1307/19 to Adty.) Route of URSULA (C.in C. Portsmouth 1447/19).

H. 43.

In harbour. (C.in C. W.A. 1405/19 to Adty.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1603/19).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/20. (V.A.S. 1718/19).

British Air Activity.

Nore Command.

All Air Patrols cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Nore 0533/19 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Rosyth Area.

My 0040/3. Offensive Patrol cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0944/19 to Adty.) S.A.2, except 2 Southern tracks, is not being flown P.M. today. (C.in C. Rosyth 1216/19 to Adty.)

S.A. 1 E. Northern track cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1514/19 to Adty.)

My 1346/14. This Patrol will be flown by Hudson aircraft until further orders. (C.in C. Rosyth 1602/19. Air Escorts tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 1702/19).

Lorient.

6 aircraft to attack tonight the Main Power Station of Naval Dockyard at Lorient. (Air Ministry 1530/19 to Adty.)

/ St. Eval

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Continued).St. Eval.

Your 1801/18. Reasons for intended withdrawal of MTU from St. Eval are as follows. (R.A.N.A.S. 1057/19 to Adty.)
Your 1037/19. MTU is to remain at St. Eval until further orders are given. (D.N.A.D. 1742/19 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Grumman
Fighters.

No. 804 Fleet Fighter Squadron at Scapa is now re-armed with 12 I.E. Grumman Fighters and appropriate reserves. Request all R.A.F. authorities concerned be informed. Squadron is retaining its Gladiators as alternative equipment until adequate supply of Colt 50 calibre ammunition for Grumman is secured. (D.N.A.D. 1631/19 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.Portland.

3 Bombs dropped by one aircraft at 1750/19. All fell in water in western part of Portland Harbour. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1820/19 to Adty.)

Cork Light
Vessel.

Reports being attacked by Fighter Dive Bomber at 2030. Two Bombs missed by 100 yards. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2259/19 to Adty.)

Mining.VENETIA.

Sunk by mine 185° East Knob 3 cables. Have buoyed position. (WALPOLE 0855/19 to C.in C. Nore).
Number of survivors 84. (WALPOLE 1003/19 to C.in C. Nore)
Following information concerning loss of VENETIA has now been received.
VENETIA, WALPOLE, and GARTH in single line ahead speed 12 knots course 242 degrees in swept channel. VENETIA had just passed East Knob buoy when explosion occurred under engine room. Ship broke in two immediately bow and stern remaining afloat for a short time.
WALPOLE, GARTH and BALMORAL rescued 96 survivors. A list is being prepared by executive officers of VENETIA. It is regretted that Commanding Officer is not among survivors and four other officers are also missing.
(C.in C. Nore 1300/19 to Adty.)

Tyne.

One ground Magnetic Mine detonated LL. in 074° North Pier Light $1\frac{1}{2}$ cables at 1005/19. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1020/19 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
Cancel my 0122/17. (C.in C. Rosyth 1636/9 to FLEETWOOD, CURACOA).

/ VELIA

19. 10. 1940.

SaturdayWar Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Continued).VELIA.

(See also 20/10)

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H.M. Trawler. Sunk in 51° 46' N.
1° 38' E. presumably having struck a Mine
in about 51° 48½' N. 1° 44' E. (F.O.I.C.
Harwich 1715/19 to Adty.)

Isle of Wight.

One moored Mine German Type V swept and sunk
in 50° 30' 30" N. 0° 50' 42" W. One Mine,
same type, moored but showing in 50° 28' 50"
N. 0° 49' 12" W. being dealt with by VERNON
Mine Recovery Party. (C.in C. Portsmouth
1721/19 to Adty.)

ARIDITY.

(See also 20/10).

Motor vessel ARIDITY damaged by mine
explosion in vicinity. East Oaze L.V.
subsequently sank in approximate position
152 Nore L.V. 1 point 7 miles. All crew
reported taken off by S.S. SEDULITY
proceeding to Greenhithe.
(C.in C. Nore 2101/19 to Adty.)

S.S. ARIDITY after mining 400 ft. E.N.E.
of East Oaze Light Vessel was towed by
DANIEL M. to anchorage on Cant Edge, where
she was abandoned in a sinking condition.
There were no casualties and all crew were
transferred to S.S. SEDULITY which vessel
returned to London and anchored for night
below Boom at Mucking. Technical details.
(N.C.S.O. London 1110/20).

As there is no F S convoy tomorrow sweep
are to meet HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK and
VESPER 5 miles north of Z at 0700 and sweep
themselves through to Sule Skerry. If mines
are found F N is to be swept through.
(C.in C. Nore 2139/19 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

Town Class M/L
Destroyers.

Four town class destroyers allocated to 1st
minelaying squadron will not have completed
working up on arrival at Port ZA. Will it
be possible for them to carry out A/S
practices at Tobermory for short periods
between escort duties.
R.A.M.L. 2201/19 to WESTERN ISLES).

Enemy Intelligence.A/S Trawler at
Fejeosen.

Met suspected A/S Trawler at Fejeosen and
to North. (O.23. 0531/19 to N.O.I.C. Dundee)

Enemy Units off
S. Foreland.

Special Intelligence indicates two units
operating in the vicinity of South Foreland
between 0716 and 0741 today. No other
indication of their position was received.
Are you already receiving this information
from South Foreland? (D.D.I.C. 1211/19 to
V.A. Dover).

/ Your 1211

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Saturday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Continued).

Your 1211. Yes. Indications were that Units were not operating near South Foreland as reception was very weak. (V.A. Dover 1612/19 to Adty.)

Vardo.

Finnish s.s. IMMO RAGNAR stopped by German armed trawler late p.m. 17/10 and ordered to proceed to Vardo but released after 5 hours. Master destroyed by fire confidential documents before being stopped. No other warship seen at Vardo.
(Petsamo 1617/19 to D.N.I.)

E.Boats off
Lowestoft.

2 Enemy Motor Boats in 1620 Lowestoft 20 miles. (BASSET 2058/19 to Harwich W/T.) Indications are that E.Boats may now be off Yarmouth and possibly following Convoys. (C.in C. Nore 2348/19 to HOLDERNESS, EGRET, BLACK SWAN, WINCHESTER, WOOLSTON).

Technical.

German
Incendiary Bombs.

Some are fitted to explode 3 to 5 minutes after beginning to burn. Explosive effect not great and a wet blanket will protect against it. (D.U.B.D. 1312/19: A Message 484 A.)

Investigate and report by N.O.I.C. Faroes' 2300/18 was addressed to Admiralty only. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1756/19 to A.C.O.S.)

War Diary

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

JOHILLA

Norwegian, 4042 tons. Due Cape Town 14/10. from Methil. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0945/B/19 to Adty.)

ALHENA

Dutch, 4930 tons. Due Durban 15/10 from Karachi. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0945B/19 to Adty.)

MALOJA

My 1430/18. Sailing cancelled owing to Engine Room defect. (F.O.C.N.P. 1252/19 to Admtty.)

FAME
ASHANTI

After further inspection it appears that FAME has broken her back. ASHANTI will require to be lightened all that is possible as she is very firmly aground amidships. Am arranging for aerial railway to be constructed to salve heavy weights. Heavy swell and restricted hours of work make operations difficult. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1545/19 to C. in C., H.F.)

IRIS

N.C.S. Tug CERVIA was in collision with SS IRIS (Dutch) at 1810/19. Slight damage to IRIS ship sailed a.m./20th. (N.O.i/c Methil 1004/21)

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

S.C. 7. 2 A/S trawlers to escort (C. in C., W.A., 0803/19)

S.C. 8. When escort leaves MARGAREE to proceed Halifax. (C. in C., W.A., 1603/19)

O.A. 232 ALYNBANK to give A/A cover. Escort WESTON (C. in C., H.F., 1234/19) Sail Methil, 0630/20 (C. in C., Rosyth 1924/19)

E.N. 11 Submarine H.34 Clyde for Rothesay (A.C.O.S. 1652/19)

O.A. 231 Position (A.C.O.S., 1531/19)

O.B. 231 Sailed 19/10, 16 ships. Escort WANDERER, CASTLETON, PACOTEE, ERICA. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1831/19)

H.G. 45 Meet (C. in C., W.A., 2020/19 to ANTELOPE, FLEETWOOD, MALLOW, GLEANER)

S.L. 50 Meet (C. in C., W.A., 1910/19 to CLARE, CLEMATIS, ANEMONE)

F.N. & F.S. Forecast of sailing and escorts. (C. in C., Rosyth 1919/19)

Routes

All merchant ships sailed for United Kingdom in convoy are to be provided with routes to Belfast, Oban, Clyde, Milford Haven and Barry Roads. Route to Methil is no longer required. (D.T.D. 1243/19 to N.C.S.O's)

Convoy Attacks

Re analysis of. Reply to his letter 5358/M 478 of 6/10. (D.A/S.W., to C. in C., W.A., 1937/19)

Proposed to try running ocean convoys in adjacent outward and inward "lanes" each about 15 miles wide. Details. (C. in C., W.A. 1947/19)

W.A.C.I. Section G 20/10 part III para 6. Following an attack on a convoy at night this instruction is to be modified to the extent that if contact is lost and not regained within 30 minutes escorts are to rejoin the convoy, observing the U-Boat may have escaped on the surface and may attack the convoy again, and is probably working with one or two others. (C. in C., W.A. 2001/19)

/With a view.....

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy
Attacks, Contd.

With a view to ensuring that signals reporting D/F fixes of U-Boats in the vicinity of a convoy are given priority in handling by the escorts of that convoy it is requested that the ship of the senior officer of the escort may always be included in the address as was done in your 1130/19. (C. in C., W.A., 2022/19)

W.A.C.I. Section G parts IX to XI. Reports appear to indicate that if the only evidence of attack is the torpedoing of ships in Convoy it will always be doubtful from which side attack has been made. Unless positive evidence other than the report of the side of the torpedo hit exists to show the direction from which the U-Boat attacked the subsequent search should be made on both sides of the convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 2049/19)

EMPRESS OF
AUSTRALIA

Troop Convoys
1500 troops embark Greenock 20/10. Request fighter protection. (C. in C., W.A., 2101/19)

CASTOR
SVEADROTT

Movements (Scapa W/T 0130/19, 0132/19, N.A. Stockholm 1102/19, Scapa W/T, 1905/19, 1908/19)

Cargo Space,
A.M.C'S

C. in C., S.A. 1241/2/9. Propose available cargo space be placed at disposal of Elder Dempster Lines. (D. of S.T., 1226/19)

Firing on
Submarines

Your 1146/4/6. re opening fire on submarines In view of reports surface raiders firing on merchant ships aeriels warning also misuse British uniforms etc., suggest amendment be considered. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1309/19 to Admty.)

War Diary.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville.

Free French plans for attack on.
(F.O.C. I.C.S. 0145/19).

Force H.

Ships have been maintained at one hours notice since receipt of Admiralty's 1926/17. In the interests of maintenance it is desirable to extend this notice as soon as circumstances permit. (S.O. Force H. 0850/19)

Exchange of Prisoners.

R.A.F. personnel detailed in your M.146 15/10, included in preliminary negotiations of N.A. with French colleague. (A.A. Madrid to 200 Group Gib. 0900/19).

Straits Patrol.

Your 1420/13. You should act in accordance with Adty. 0202/8/10 and 0253/22/9. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.N.A. 1148/19).

STRASBOURG.

My 1856/17. If no further information received of this movement by 1400/19 cancel my 1926/17. (D.O.D.(F) 1323/19).

DRAGON.

Intend DRAGON shall proceed a.m./20 to patrol between positions 50 miles on a line 230° from Cape Saint Anne. Object interception of Vichy French Merchant shipping.
(C.in C. S.A. 1901N/19)

Exchange of Prisoners.

French on instructions from French Admiralty states as follows:-
By agreement between British Government and French Consul London regarding exchange of about 100 British sailors detained in North Africa against French sailors in England, steamer MASSILIA should sail from Casablanca to fetch French sailors. German armistice commission has authorised voyage. British Government has asked that same ship should repatriate British, but Germans will not give sufficient guarantees for this. French Admiralty therefore proposes to transport British from Casablanca to Lisbon in French trawler VICTORIA and are asking for necessary German guarantee. French Admiralty requests through me necessary route instructions for MASSILIA.
(N.A. Madrid 1235/19).

Reply: 1055/28, page 632

19.10.40.
Saturday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

*Operation
"Ration"*

H.M.G. have decided that French escorted convoys will no longer be immune from contraband control in the Gibraltar Straits.

Authority to interfere with escorted French convoys to be used with discretion. Date of stopping first convoy is at your discretion, but should if possible be by the middle of week commencing 21/10. Ships in escorted convoys to be taken into Gibraltar. Escorting warships are not to be taken into Gibraltar but should be allowed to proceed if they do not try to prevent merchant ships being taken into Gibraltar. If warships resist, force may be used. (H. & M. 2327/19 to FOCNA) Reply: p.451.
North Atlantic.

Troopships.

Re misleading enemy as reports arrival of Marine Brigade. (Govr. Gib. 0918/19 to W.O.)

Attack on
Submarine
DURBO.

My 2200/18. WRESTLER also took part in attack. (F.O.C.N.A. 1108/19). Information obtained from Italian U/B sunk last night indicates submarine LAFOLE is operating in area off Cape Tres Forcas. Destroyers of Eastern Patrol ordered to hunt. (F.O.C.N.A. 1256/19.)

Your 2246/18.
It is not desired to release this news for at least 14 days.
Local rumours of Italian prisoners being in Gibraltar should not be confirmed. You will be informed if and when news is released eventually.
(V.A.S. 2311/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.


KELT.

To fuel Lagos and return to patrol 24/10. (F.O.I.C.S. 0315/19. DELHI 0829/19)

French ^{Merchant}
Motor Vessels.

Scuttling.

It can be expected French Merchant Ships will attempt to scuttle if they think they will be captured or are taken to British ports. (C.in C. S.A. 1125/19).

MOST SECRET.19.10.40.
Saturday.
War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic (Contd.)ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

My 1345Z/15. Initial tests on boilers unsatisfactory. Completion delayed until 24/10. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1125/19).

Dakar.

Master KORSHOLM arrived Freetown from Dakar 13/10 reports arrival Dakar about 30/9 of 2 French destroyers, numbers A.54 and A.84 and 10/10 2 small submarines. (S.O. I. Freetown 1302/19).

W.S.3.

DORSETSHIRE to escort W.S.3. Fast to Capetown and onward to Aden. (C.in C. S.A. 1331N/19).

INDOCHINOIS
Intercepted.

S.O.(I) Freetown's 1002/17. INDOCHINOIS was intercepted at 1941/18 by CORNWALL in position (? 005°) 40'N., 013° 35'W. As ship was stopped to board at 0537/19 attempt was made to scuttle, this was prevented ref. CORNWALL's 0941/19. CORNWALL and INDOCHINOIS with armed guard on board have now arrived Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1659N/19).

Mediterranean.KENT.

Anticipated date of sailing. Might be employed as convoy escort while on passage to U.K. (C.in C. Med. 1123/19).

Operation.

Observations on Adty. 0203/18 and C.in C. Med. 1447/18. Orders to ARGUS for exercise of transports on passage are being forwarded to Adty. by Sunderland leaving about 22/10. (S.O. Force H. 1306/19).

Air
Operations.

(Not naval) (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1334/19)

Operation
B.S.

Orders to PANDORA. (Capt. S.I. 1431/19).

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)"Uniform"

Operation Uniform or Collar.
Essential that equipment accompanying personnel embarked in H.M. Ships be restricted to minimum for passage from Gibraltar. Request special precautions be taken to avoid disclosure of destination by marking of stores and by personnel ex PASTEUR while at Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H. 2104/19).

ConvoysM.W.3.M.E.3.

Anticipated ships to be included.
TERROR and CORNWALL must remain at Malta till later opportunity.
(C.in C. Med. 1307/19).

SHROPSHIREBombed.

East Indies.
SHROPSHIRE escorting A.P.3 bombed in 15° 20'N., 41° 49'E, at 0533Z/19.
Four bombs, no damage. (C.in C. E.I. 0616Z/19).

Transports.

Re supplies water for 3 ships in Adty.
1633/16. (S.S. ~~1~~ O India, 1234Z/19).

BahreinBombed.

Bahrein bombed at 0015Z/19. No details.
(C.in C. E.I. 0216Z/19).
3 or 4 aircraft. One parachute flare, 6 bombs. No damage or casualties yet reported. (A.H.Q. Iraq. 0905/19)
Now reported 35 to 40 bombs and 2 parachute flares. Bombs appear 100lb. Arabian Oil Co. at Jabal Dhahran, Ondandi, Arabia Coast, also reported bombed at 0001. G.M.T /19, 7 bombs 1 oil and 1 troop pipe damaged. No information yet from oil fields at Ras Tanurah.
(A.H.Q. Iraq, 1535/19).

My 0216/19. About 3 unidentified aircraft dropped about 50 one hundred pound bombs near oil refineries Bahrein. No damage or casualties. Further 10 bombs dropped on Al Khobar Casoc Headquarters on mainland 026° 17' 30"N., 050° 14'E. No casualties one oil and one waterline damaged.
(C.in C. E.I. 1414Z/19).



War Diary.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

YIANNIS.

My 1403B/10. YIANNIS replied she was unable to sail without authority of French Admiralty. Further information will be passed as soon as received. (S.O.I. Capetown 1805B/10 to C.in C. E.I.)

B.N.7.

Sailing telegram, Aden Section. (N.C.S.O. Aden. 0552Z/19).

B.N.8.

Date of leaving Bombay and route. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0906/19).

China.

Shipping Limits.

Adty. 1159/14. Northern limit of Hong Kong adopted but intend to retain 4,000 tons upper limit as reduction might prejudice evacuation of Shanghai and Northern ports. (C.in C. China 0237Z/19 to Adty).

Tactical appreciation.

My 0743Z/9. Six copies of tactical appreciation Nos. 1 to 6 being sent to Adty 21/10 by safe hand air mail via Durban. (C.in C. China. 0253Z/19).

River craft withdrawal.

Am making arrangements to withdraw from Shanghai and Tientsin to Hong Kong and Singapore a number of river craft and small tankers which are laid up. Consider cost of preparing these vessels for passage and of voyage should be borne by Government but there-after that owners should remain responsible for upkeep if not required for naval service. Anticipate however that certain of these vessels will be so required. (C.in C. China. 0317Z/19 to Adty).

Indo-China Trade.

My 0825/18. Indo China decree dated 5/10 allows export of sundry goods including timber some minerals and rice except to British ports. Consul General Saigon has enquired whether permits for export of gunny bags Calcutta to Indo China suspended or likely to be as consignment expected shortly for rice shipments to Japan. It is for consideration whether coal and other permits should now be suspended in order to induce Indo China to adopt more /favourable

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China
Trade.

favourable attitude towards British trade.
(C.in C. China. 0401Z/19 to Adty.)

French
Evacuees.

Your 0547/1. Would facilities be available to send men to South Africa if we could arrange for them to be sent on from there to Lisbon by a Portuguese line. Contact with de Gaulle agents E. Brizay c/o Brizay Couser Ltd. P.O. Box. 66 Singapore with a view to his approaching the unwilling men to change their mind.
(Hd. of M. 1149/19 to C.in C. China).

New C.in C.
Far East.

Air Chief Marshal Sir R. Brooke-Popham appointed C.in C. Far East, responsible to Chiefs of Staff for operational control and general direction of training of all British land and air forces in Malaya, Burma and Hong Kong. Details of his directions. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. China 2329/19).

America and West Indies.

BUXTON.

Your 0114/19 (case of diphtheria on board) Proposal to retain BUXTON approved. Ship is not to be sailed singly.
(F.O.3 B.S. 1121/19).

Whaling
Fleet.

My 1512/18. Decided to route ships separately sailing today. (S.N.O. Curacao 1152/19). *(see also 1541/19, next page)*

U.S. Course.

Your 0952/11. Navy Dept: can arrange 2 weeks course at Bellevue Expl. Stn. Washington, followed by week at A/S School San Diego. (N.O. Washington to Adty 1010/19)

BOUGAINVILLE.

French, due San Francisco 26/10. Agent enquiring if ship permitted to return to French Indo-China on completion of loading. Estimated sailing 6/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1254/19 to C.in C. China).

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Dutch
Shipping

Messages from Rotterdam signed Halcyonlyn are being received by Netherlands ships through agent in U.S.A. 2 such already reported forwarded by Winchester, 64 Broad St. New York. These telegrams order Master to remain in neutral ports. Netherlands Minister in Ottawa in Ottawa informed. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1316/19 to Admty)

JEANNE D'ARC
BEARN

Your 2203/18. Reporting officer San Juan reports (A one) French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC and French aircraft carrier BEARN left Martinique afternoon 18/10. (S.O.I. Kingston 1845/19 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Whale Ships

S.N.O. Curacao's 1512/18. Presume Admiralty will direct route of whaling Fleet. If Whale Catchers are able to proceed South independently suggest Factory Ships should go by Pacific route for security. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1541/19 to Admty)

LAURENT MEEUS

Re Ottawa's 0927/18 re Belgian Tanker LAURENT MEEUS. This vessel is possibly employed on fuelling a raider. On a previous occasion she left Los Angeles on 6/8 for Kobe and returned on 30/9, but was not reported as having ever reached Japan. (D.E.W.D. 2215/19 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

U.S. Mission

American Naval Mission has asked for a set of recognition charts, films and models as used for training Naval personnel in aircraft recognition. Have you any objection to release for this purpose of the charts of British Fighters, Bombers, Coastal and Naval aircraft prepared by the Air Ministry? (D.T.S.D. 1905/19 to Air Ministry)

Australia.

U.S. 8.
CANBERRA

My 0829Z/18. In view of C. in C., East Indies 0732Z/18 to N.Z.N.B. and Admiralty only, intend U.S. 8 should not sail from Sydney before (date). Arrangements will therefore be made for fitting out MAURETANIA. (A.C.N.B. 0132/19 to Admty.) Your 0732Z/18. Concur both proposals. H.M.A.S. CANBERRA will be required for escort of U.S. 8. from about vicinity Cocos Is. see Australian Commonwealth Naval Board 0132Z/19. (A.C.N.B. 0355/19 to C. in C., E.I.)



War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CORDELIA

Arrived with grain from Russia. (Macrae, Bucharest, 1129/19)

MADRID

Diver clearing bottom. (Consul, Las Palmas 1245/19)



War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Convoy S.C. 7.

Send one destroyer to assistance of Convoy S.C.7. position 0003/19 057° 10' N., 010° 38' W., course 130 speed 7 knots. 0113/19.

S.C.7. Have rounded up 8 ships 4 for Clyde 3 for Barry Road 1 for Mersey. Estimate 10 ships torpedoed. Estimated position 056° 06' N., 009° 10' W., course and speed 115° 7½ knots, no other escort in company. (FOWEY, 1001/19, to C. in C., W.A.)

Have found no further trace of convoy or disabled ship am sweeping to south east course 138° 15 knots. (SKATE 1504/19 to C. in C., W.A., and LEITH)

13 Ships Attacked

Convoy S.C.7. has suffered at least 13 ships sunk or damaged since 16/10. Position of the rest of the convoy is still obscure, but it is known that FOWEY in Irish Sea has 8 ships in company. (D.O.R. 20/10)

CLINTONIA (S.C.7.)

Believed torpedoed and sunk in S.C.7. 19/10 (D.O.R. 22/10)

BLAIRSPEY (S.C.7.)

BLAIRSPEY, British 4155 tons torpedoed at 0030 in position 056° 58' N., 011° 04' W., Capable of 6 knots. Have detailed FOWEY to search vicinity herself. Am endeavouring to rejoin convoy. (LEITH 0126/19) (see BLUEBELL, 0825/19)

EMPIRE MINIVER GUNBORG NIRITOS (S.C.7.)

Have on board Captain and 34 crew British ship EMPIRE MINIVER. Captain and 22 crew Swedish steamer GUNBORG. Captain and 13 crew Greek Steamer NIRITOS. Standing by for further survivors until relieved at daylight. (BLUEBELL 0315/19)

MANCHESTER PRODUCER (S.C.7.)

Have on board Captain and crew of 18 of BLAIRSPEY, Captain and crew of 36 of MANCHESTER PRODUCER. Have now on board 203 survivors. Am rejoining convoy. (BLUEBELL 0825/19)

/ASSYRIAN.....



War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

ASSYRIAN
EMPIRE BRIGADE
SOESTERBERG
(S.C.7.)

At 0300 picked up survivors ASSYRIAN (Commodore ship) EMPIRE BRIGADE and SOESTERBERG in position 057° 12' N., 040° 43' W., Commodore is on board in critical condition. Have not found any other ships of convoy. Am joining FOWEY. Noon position course and speed 056° 36' N., 008° 52' W., 147° 14 knots. LEITHER 1234/19)

BLAIRSPEY
1 other

Following received:- 2 abandoned timber ships BLAIRSPEY and one unknown in position 057° 22' N., 011° 22' W., impossible connect up, sea scale 7 (very high sea) Remaining in vicinity until weather moderates, 14 survivors on board other lifeboats adrift 1800/19 (ends) (F.O.I.C., Greenock 2050/19)

CARSBRECK
(S.C.7.)

Hove to position 056° 02' N., 007° 55' W., owing to CARSBRECK being unable to steer in heavy easterly gale. Must wait for weather moderate before proceeding. Rescue tug SCHELDE not yet arrived. (HEARTSEASE 1939/19)

KABALO

Informed that U-Boat landed 26 survivors from torpedoed KABALO at Santa Maria Island 0700/19. No further details available here. (Consul, Ponta Delgada, 1542/19)

UGANDA
(Convoy HX 79)

(British 4966 tons) Ship torpedoed in position 056° 37' N., 017° 15' W., (WHITEHALL 2125/19)

My 2125/19. UGANDA torpedoed still afloat. One other ship torpedoed and sunk. JASON standing by. (WHITEHALL, 2305/19)

2 Ships

Tanker torpedoed in position 056° 41' N., 017° 08' W., and one other in position 056° 41' N., 016° 49' W., Suspect two U-Boats. (WHITEHALL 2335/19)

Steamer torpedoed in 56.38 N., 16.51 W., (STURDY, 2240/19)

LOCH LOMAND
(H.X. 79)

(British, 5452 tons) Torpedoed in convoy H.X. 79 between 2125/19 and 0100/20 (D.S. 411)

/MATHERAN.....

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

MATHERAN
(H.X. 79)

(British 7653 tons) Torpedoed in Convoy H.X. 79 between 2125/19 and 0100/20. (D.S. 411)

H.X. 79
11 Ships Attacked

Convoy H.X. 79 was attacked in position 250 miles W.N.W. Bloody Foreland at 2125/19. Between this time and 0100/20, 11 ships were reported sunk or damaged. (D.O.R., 20/10)

TRITON
(H.X. 79)

(*Nonwegian 6607 tons*) (D.O.R. 22/10)

SHIRAK
(H.X. 79)

(British 6023 tons) (D.O.R. 22/10)

Submarines Reported

- 1014 D.F. probable U-Boat unreliable fix 57° N., 22° W., (D.D.I.C. 1130/19, 1144/19)
- 1936 56° - 57° N., 17°-20° W., (C. in C., W.A., 2021/19)
- 2131 56°- 57° N., 14°-16° W., (C. in C., W.A., 2213/19)
- 2125 A.F. message 56.37 N., 17.15 W., at 2025/19 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2234/19)
- 2346 A.F. message 58°-59° N., 18°-20° W., at 2246 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0101/20, 0112/20)

Off Lorient

Patrol S.A. 12 A modified as stated in CC/G2/16/10 is to be flown daily until further orders. U-Boats may be expected to cross this patrol later each day according to the time of high water at Lorient. (Air Min. 1912/19, to Admty)

Submarines Attacked

DURBO
Sunk. 18/10.

Further operations against Italian U-Boat (See North Atlantic)



War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyer
Patrol

Three destroyers last night patrolled westwards from Portsmouth to Portland.

Submarine for
Mediterranean

URSULA left Portsmouth p.m. today to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

British Air Activity

Owing to adverse weather conditions operations last night were very much restricted

Enemy Air Activity

Damage was caused in the London Dock area last night.

Operations Against Vichy French

H.M.G. have decided that French escorted convoys will no longer be immune from contraband control in the Straits of Gibraltar. Force is to be used if warships resist the diversion of ships escorted into Gibraltar.

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.10.1940
SundaySITUATION REPORTOperations Against Vichy French-Contd.

F.O.C.N.A. reports that it is extremely unlikely that any interception can take place unless Spanish or French territorial waters are to be infringed.

DRAGON left Freetown today to patrol off Cape St. Anne, to intercept Vichy French traffic.

CORNWALL left Freetown for the Clyde this evening.

Mediterranean

3 Bombays attacked Tobruk last night.

Air Ministry report today that on night of 17/10 5 Bombays attacked shipping at Benghazi. One merchant ship was hit and bombs straddled a large warship and three destroyers alongside Molo d'Italia.

Italian S/M
Sunk

GALLANT and HOTSPUR ^{GRIFFIN} today sank the Italian submarine LAFOLE to the eastward of Gibraltar.

East Indies

LEANDER escorting Convoy B.N. 7. reports being bombed this morning in the southern part of the Red Sea. No damage is reported.

Aden was unsuccessfully bombed today.

R.A.F. today attacked Diredawa.

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.10.1940
SundayHOME COMMANDSPolicyConvoys and
Escorts in
N.W.ApproachesC. in C., W.A., to attend meeting to be held
by P.M. 21/10 (V.C.N.S. 1436/20)Defence of U.K.RosythDefence of. Re A.M. 0925/19. F.C. did not
appreciate importance of adequate defence of
Rosyth both as Fleet Base and for a dockyard
for docking important units of Fleet (C. in
C., Rosyth 1100/20) A.M. propose to move
the one flight of 232 Sqdn. from Skilten to
Turnhouse. Request your views. (D. of L.D.
1411/20 to C. in C., H.F., C. in C., Rosyth)
Reply to 1411/20: inadvisable (C. in C., H.F.
1907/20)DelugeAt 0200/20 (D.C. 0201/20) At 1400/21 (D.C.
1449/20, 1958/20)MovementsJASONAm proceeding in accordance with C. in C.,
W.A., 0921/20. E.T.A. 1315/ (JASON 1050/20)GLASGOWSailing postponed. Humber mined. (F.O.Humber
2138/20)OperationsM.T.B Patrol2 M.T.B's will patrol between Smith's Knoll
and 56 Buoy tonight Sunday. They have been
told to keep clear of convoys. (C. in C.,
Nore, 1049/20 to WESTMINSTER, WALLACE, WOLSEY
LOWESTOFT.Enemy off
Prawle Pt.Despatch one Sunderland forthwith to search
for and send sighting report of suspected
enemy surface craft reported by D/T in
position 180° Prawle Pt. 6 miles at 1200/20.
Destroyers proceeding from Plymouth JAGUAR,
KASHMIR and BLYSKAWICA. After sighting re-
port has been sent enemy may be attacked.
(A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 1225/20)Patrol between Eddystone and Wolf Rock
keeping about 20 miles from land. Return to
Plymouth by 0830/21. Look out for 3 M.G.B's
returning Fowey. (C. in C., W.A., 1626/20 to
KASHMIR, JAGUAR, BLYSKAWICA.

/Dover

War Diary20.10.1940
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations-Contd.Dover Shelled
Trawler Attacked
by Aircraft

45 shells fell in Dover area between 1107 and 1308 to-day. Ten fell in in town, 12 in harbour and 23 outside. No damage to naval property or personnel. Trawler O.K.U. machine gunned near number one buoy by one enemy aircraft at 1220. One officer wounded (V.A.Dover, 1814/20)

E-Boat off
East Anglia

One enemy War Motor Boat position 52° 8' N., 1° 56' E., (GUILLEMONT 2257/20)
My 2157 unidentified fast craft steering 020 lost touch. (GUILLEMONT 2204/20)

Nore

Patrols tonight (C. in C., Nore 0948/20)

Submarines

O.24

Proceed to patrol position (Capt. S. 9. 6751/20)

Q27

Leave patrol 0200/22 (Capt S. 5. 1013/20)

URSULA

Route orders amended (C. in C., Portsmouth 1043/20, Capt S. 5. 1313/20)

TIGRIS
Attacked
by Trawler

V.A. (S) reports at 0155/16. in 45° 44' N., 3° 45' W., darkened trawler tried to ram TIGRIS but was repulsed by gunfire and perhaps sunk range 20 yards. (V.A.S. 1051/20)


British Air ActivityBombing
Restrictions

for sailing of URSULA asked for (S. 5. 1315/20)

Rosyth
Air Defence

C. in C., Rosyth 1100/20, D. of L.D. 1411/20
C. in C., H.F., 1907/20. See Defence of U.K.

/Enemy Air.....

MOST SECRET
War Diary20.10.1940
SundayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air ActivityChathamVery slight damage in air raid about 1120/20
etails (Suptg. C.E. 1335/20)YarmouthParachute bombs dropped near Docking this evening. (Hunstanton) (C.G.Yarmouth 2230/20)
Parachute bomb was destroyed at 1430/21.
(C.G.Yarmouth 1935/21)SS. ROTAAttacked 1340 3 miles S.S.W. of Copinsay by unidentified aircraft with short bursts of machine gun fire. No damage or casualties.
(A.C.O.S. 2330/20)CONAKRIAN
(O.A. 232)

CONAKRIAN, British, 4876 tons, in Convoy O.A. 232. Torpedoed 310° 9 miles Girdleness. (Wick Radio, 1840/20) Torpedoed at 1942/20. 2 drifters from Aberdeen and tug from Peterhead proceeding. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2010/20) Position 134° Girdleness 8'. Engine damaged. Requires towing, otherwise all right. Am standing by. (CLEVELAND, 2120/20) Your 2010. Have picked up 29 of crew. Some stayed in ship. Lifeboat, Aberdeen, standing by. Am proceeding. (CLEVELAND, 2325/20)

Cdr. Meek R.N.R. Commodore of O.A. 232 on board S/S CONAKRIAN now anchored off Aberdeen awaiting possible entrance to dock tomorrow morning reports:-

At 1835 B.S.T. 20/10 in position Girdleness 310° 9 miles, two unidentified aircraft approached from east, one flew height about 200 ft. across leading ships, other turned South and flew about 200 ft down the line.

When 1st aircraft was in position over inside leading ship dull detonation was felt in CONAKRIAN and heavy shock followed by smoke and steam to height of 50 ft. starboard side amidships. Aircraft showed no lights.

Damage:- (details) No other known casualties All naval personnel accounted for. On board CONAKRIAN 15 and 2 naval ratings. Escort believed CLEVELAND reports picked up 29 including 2 naval ratings.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2114/21)

Mr. Droop.

Loss of H.M.T. VELIA on 19.10.40.
(M. 021057/40)
(C.W. 34900/40)

Second Hand Cyril Kaiser.

Can you please say what, if any, award was bestowed on the above for his conduct on this occasion?

Also who was the Skipper of H.M.T. HEKLA, which attempted to tow VELIA in?

Tempy. Skpr. C. Dixon (May, 1940) or
" " J.H. Mugridge, DSC (Oct, 1940)

Lt. R. H. ...

28.6.41.

TSD/HS.

In view of DMS comment quoted in attached papers no award was made in respect of his service when Velia was sunk.

He has however been awarded the DSM in the Birthday list published to-day. He was recommended for Courage and initiative on two occasions when the ship in which he was serving was sunk by enemy action and for steady and persistent devotion to duty.

Referred to ACR for the name of the skipper of H.M.T. "Hekla" in October '40



J. Droop CW(A+A)

1.7.41

ACR

TSD/HS

CW (A+A)

By Skipper (now Probly J. J. Mugridge DSC Rtd) Lt. R. H. ... in command of Hekla in Oct. 1940. W. ... 4.7.41

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Hartlepool

Two Red mines detonated by LL trawlers in 54 39 56 N., 01 06 42 W., at 0912 ports remaining open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1015/20)

Harwich

Land guard reports 6 heavy explosions in quick succession very distant to the eastwards at 1100/20. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1101/20)

Sweeping of
East Coast
Shipping Channels

Most likely time for E-Boats to mine the south part of the east coast shipping channels is during the period from three hours after dark till three hours before daylight on any night when weather conditions enable them to maintain a high speed. Sweeping the starboard side of the channel in the same direction as the convoy proceeds and a short time before it passes, appears to be the best protection against mines that the convoy can be given with our existing facilities. Arrangements for trials to be undertaken. (C. in C., Nore, 1206/20 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

HOPPER No 2.
Damaged 13/10

N.O.I.C Hartlepool's 1043/13 as follows:- At 0836/13 when approx. one cable West of Datum Buoy Cargo Fleet Steamer HOPPER 2 sustained damage from mine explosion extent of damage not yet available but engine room partially flooded and bridge sustained some damage. HOPPER in tow of 2 tugs is entering Tees. No casualties. HOPPER was wiped 30/9 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1624/20)

Aberdeen

Enemy seaplane suspected laying mines position 057° 00' N., 001° 45' W., (ALYNBANK 1900/20)

VELIA
(Mined 19/10)
Harwich.

Skipper reports VELIA mined yesterday, was weighing anchor, mine mooring wire hooked over fluke of anchor and mine probably exploded on bottom. He thinks mine may have been an old one previously sunk. Today paddlesweepers detonated one mine in position 51° 49' N., 01° 43' E., and cut two mines German 'X' star type in position 51° 47' N., 01° 42' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2012/20)

Humber

Humber closed to navigation owing to mines. (F.O.Humber 2137/20)

GLASGOW

GLASGOW sailing postponed, Humber mined. (F.O.Humber 2138/20)

/ARIDITY.....



War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

ARIDITY
(Mined 19/10)

Have report from Master of E OASE L/V giving exact position vessel when mined. L/V was swung on to the flood. Position of ARIDITY at time of explosion (1340) was bearing N.E. 40 yards distant from L/V. Master of L/V described a large explosion and oil and mud were thrown up some of which splashed about L/V. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2358/20)

Enemy Intelligence

Raider Report
BRITISH LADY
MARLYN

56.53 N., 26.20 W., BRITISH LADY reports being followed by mysterious ship. (Valentia Radio, 0935/20, corrected 1105/20) LAURENTIC and PATROCLUS to investigate raider report (C. in C., W.A., 1223/20) Raider signal cancelled (C. in C., W.A., 2359/20) From MARLYN my 0935/20 Cancelled (Valentia Radio 1941)



War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CARADOC


See A. & W.I.

FOXHOUND

Admty. 2040/16. Earliest date FOXHOUND is expected to be ready 24/10. Some difficulty is being experienced with trails. (C. in C., Nore, 1224/20)

MOST SECRET 450

20.10.1940
Sunday



War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

H.X. 79

SHIKARI and SARDONYX to join forthwith.
{C. in C., W.A., 1223/20} Raider report
{see Operations} subsequently cancelled.

O.A. 232

26 ships. Escort WESTON, CAMPANULA, PEONY,
additional to Scapa, ALYNBANK (N.C.S.O.
Methil 0855/20)

SVEADROTT }
CASTOR }

Position at 0001/20. (Stockholm, 1038/20)

20.10.1940.

Sunday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Intercepting French Ships.

(Operation "Ration")

945. Your 2327/19. As explained in my 1214/7 and my 1601/5 and in S.O. Force H's letter of proceeding 73/9 of 14/10, French escorted convoys passing through Straits invariably keep either in or on the edge of Spanish territorial waters. At this moment 2 vessels escorted by a destroyer are passing through to Eastwards keeping close into Morocco Shore. Experience has shown that they do not leave these waters so long as they are kept under the observation of our patrol and they can in fact continue in these waters all the way to Oran or Casablanca. Unless therefore Spanish territorial waters are to be infringed or French territorial waters are to be entered, it is extremely unlikely any interception can take place. Although therefore under these conditions it is unlikely incident will arise, I submit strongly that everything should be done to avoid any possibility of incident until after Italian operation "Uniform".

S.O. Force "H" concurs.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1320/20, to Adty.)

French Units.

Your 1300/16. Request following be passed to French Admiralty. British Admiralty acknowledge with gratification communication of French Admiralty concerning movements of their submarines and escorting warship. At same time they are sure that French Admiralty realise necessity for any such passages of the Straits being made during daylight. At night any darkened ship would naturally be regarded as hostile, and even were ships illuminated it would be necessary to stop and board them to ensure that this was not a ruse de guerre of the enemy. (Hd. of M. 1440/20 to N.A. Madrid).

Defer action on my 1440/20 unless action already taken. (V.C.N.S. 2355/20).

North Atlantic.

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS.

Brazilian ship SIQUEIRA CAMPOS left Oporto 18/10 for Lisbon for orders. Very desirable to intercept on leaving Lisbon and if bound for South America to be sent in under armed guard even if holding Ship Navicert. (DEWD. 15 F.O.C.N.A. 1753/20).

Air Patrols.
Italian U/B sunk.

Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine A.S. patrols two surface recco. patrols two aircraft co-operated with destroyers in special A.S. search in area south of 35° 40' N. between 03° 45' W. and 02° 30' W. Area covered by patrols Spartel to 01° 30' W. / Above A/S search



20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (continued)

Air Patrols
Italian U/B sunk.

Above A.S. search carried out as result of information obtained from Italian DURBO reported sunk in my A, 183 19/10. 1 further Italian submarine located and sunk today by destroyers during above search. 11 survivors. (200 Group, 1737/20).

My 1258/19. Second U-Boat sunk ^{LAFOLE} (~~Francisco Mulko~~) 11 survivors. Details follow. (F.O.C.N.A. 1758/20).

South Atlantic.

Overdue Ships.

My 0945/19. JOHILLA and ALHENA arrived (S.O.I. Capetown 1055/20).

DELHI
MILFORD
KELT.

From (? C.S.1) Transfer petrol to R.F.A. LUCIGEN or to shore before sailing. Report expected time of arrival position B on 24/10 to C. S.1 repeated DELHI. On arrival return to position B at 2 hour intervals until contact made. (DELHI to MILFORD and KELT, 2319/20)

Mediterranean.

Air Report.

Malta situation up to 1700/20. All times G.M.T. Glen Martin of 431 Flight reported sighting at 1411, 1 cruiser and 1 destroyer in position 37° 40' N. 16° 10' E. course 120°, speed approx. 15 knots. 0741 to 0917 Swordfish of 830 Sqdn F.A.A. despatched to locate submarine reported off N.W. coast of the island returned at 0920 having failed to locate enemy. 1019, 2 enemy formations reported approaching from north, alarm given. 6 Hurricanes, 2 Gladiators up. Raid did not materialise. All clear given at 1153. (H.Q. Malta, 1715/20).

Operations.

Observations on Admty. 0205/18 and delay of departure of convoy from Gibraltar. (C.in C. Med. 1251/20, to Admty.)

MALAYA.

Admty. 1959/13. Condenser trouble. Necessary to take action as soon as BARHAM arrives. Alternative proposals. (C.in C. Med., 1457/20).

BERWICK)
GLASGOW)

Can be fitted R.D.F. before leaving U.K. Asking whether type 286 should be fitted. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med., 1703/20) Reply: Request R.D.F. type 286 be fitted. Has BARHAM any form of R.D.F? (C.in C. Med., 0033/21).

/ Enemy Report

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Enemy Report.

1 enemy cruiser and 1 destroyer in 37.40 N., 16.10 E., at 1511 zone mines 1., course 120° speed 15 knots. (N.O.I.C. Malta, to PANDORA and PARTHIAN, 1757/20).

Your 1155/3. Following from M.E.W.

Turkish Trade.

Now learn from reliable source that Turkey has given assurances to Italians that they will authorise export of Turkish goods in Italian vessels from any Turkish port to Italian ports.

Not absolutely clear whether these assurances refer to trade with Italy or to local trade with Dodecanese but latter considered probable. (D.E.W.D. 1833/20 to C.in Med.).

German U/Boats.
Galatz.

My 1029/16. Two (?submarines) are ready at Galatz and will be sent to Constanta others will be ready soon. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1610/20.)

Italian
Prisoners.
Exchange.

Request consideration may be given to commencement of negotiations for exchange of naval prisoners of war in near East. Consider Italians returning to Italy from Egypt would be likely to refute mendacious reports put out by Italian press and radio, and so help British propaganda. (C.in C. Med., 2133/20 to Adty.)

East Indies.

Aden Bombed.

R.A.F. Operational Summary to 1200/20. Para. 3, Kenya. 15/10. 3 unidentified enemy aircraft bombed Aden, 41.30 E., 1.45 S. No damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1148/20).

U.S.5A.

Leaving Colombo 1130 Z/21. CALEDON to escort, and on relief by Red Sea Force escort to proceed Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 0710 Z/20).

Convoy and
LEANDER Bombed.

LEANDER escorting B.N.7 reports being bombed at 0748 Z/20 position 014° 26' N. 042° 28' E.. no damage reported. (C.in C. E.I. 1302 Z/20).

LEANDER and Convoy attacked by 2 destroyers at 2320 Z/20 (see 21/10) p. 482.

Raid on Bahrein.

Further to my A.405 19/10. Considered this flight was in nature pure propaganda and with secondary object of inducing us to disperse wide our available A.A. defences and fighter aircraft. It is possible that Bahrein was not the original objective for attack as according to our records of track made aircraft did not maintain a steady course. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1808/20).



20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Ports.

Admty. 2242/18, re allied ships resuming calls at New Caledonia and French Ports in N.Z. Station. Instructions in my 0911/13/9 were amended to agree with A.C.N.B. Melbourne's 1300/25/9 and similar changes notified by other stations. (C.in C. China 0413 Z/20).

→ LAURENT MEEUS.
See also A.W.I.

My 2215/19. Suspicion attaches to Belgian Tanker LAURENT MEEUS, sailed Los Angeles 19/10 for Singapore with diesel oil consigned Mitsui Yokohama. Master states cargo intended for enemy and that he will receive instructions when at sea. He would be obliged if we pick him up. Vessel previously left Los Angeles 6/8 for Kobe, returning 30/9, but was not reported as having ever reached Japan. Raider which captured TROPIC SEA on 18/6 in Tasman Sea is believed to have fuelled in Pacific, and LAURENT MEEUS may be intended to meet this or another raider. (D.D.I.C. 1713/20 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

"Towns"
Destroyers.

BURNHAM, BURWELL, BRADFORD, CHESTERFIELD, and BROADWATER sailed for U.K. 1130 G.M.T. /20. CAMERON again delayed by defective distillers. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1022/20). My 1201/15. Time to pass position (C). (R.A. 3 B.S., 1846/20).

CARADOC.

My 1032/17. To leave patrol to arrive Bermuda (date). Defective turbine to be taken in hand on arrival Bermuda. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1021/20).

French Trawlers.

Sailings reported by Vice-Consul, St. Pierre rumoured bound for Casablanca. (Govr., Newfoundland, 2300/20) (C.in C. A.W.I. 1851/20). *See Page 486.*

Shipping Attacks.

Your 1143/12. Reference is presumably to D.M.S. Part 1 para. 70. It is considered that prohibition cannot be relaxed. To do so would encourage ships to run grave risk by proceeding to render assistance and being themselves attacked. (D.T.D. 1154/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

→ LAURENT MEEUS.
See also China.

My 0226/18. Washington reports LAURENT MEEUS being refused clearance pending investigation. Los Angeles report now doubtful that cargo is destined for enemy. Indicated Master pro-British but other ranks fear reprisals if ship is

/ voluntarily

20.10.40
Sunday



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued)

LAURENT MEEUS
(See also China)
(continued)

voluntarily surrendered and thought Master's message requesting seizure would overcome this difficulty. Master LIPPENS telegraphed Belgian Ambassador Washington 17/10 that ship will follow route permitting constant contact with Belgium and British Authorities.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1101/19).

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.

Sunday.War Diary.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.LA PLATA

My 1905/17. Has discharged further 60 tons steel bars. (Consul, Vigo, 1048/20).

GERMANIA

Activity on board. Preparing to leave. (Consul, Ponta Delgada, 1245/20).

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.10.1940
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedConvoy H.X. 79

My 2335/19. 4 more ships badly damaged in vicinity 56.41 N., 16.48 W., trawlers ANGLE and LADY ELSA standing by (WHITEHALL, 0035/20) Still being attacked. One more ship sunk, one slightly damaged (WHITEHALL, 0146/20) 4 full lifeboats, 56.25 N., 16.20 W., (Aircraft, 210 Sqdn, 0819/10) D.F. bearings at 0955/10 indicate U-Boat in your vicinity and is reporting you (D.D.I.C., 1102/20 to WHITEHALL and other ships) Lifeboat in 56.10 N., 11.37 W., 20 survivors (Aircraft 210 Sqdn., 1135/20)

UGANDA
BILDERDYK
MATERAN
(H.X. 79)

Sailing tug SEAMAN to assistance of UGANDA in 56.37 N., 17.15 W., (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0129/20)

Have on board 39 survivors from BILDERDYK 38 from UGANDA and 2 from MATERAN. LOCH LOMAND has further survivors from MATHERAN. UGANDA still afloat at 2359 but making water and listing heavily, with 5 feet of water in engine room and stoke hold and very unlikely to last. No trawler standing by. Am rejoining convoy. (JASON, 0130/20) Am proceeding to join ARABIS (JASON, 0318/20)

LOCH LOMAND
(H.X. 79)

Position 56° N., 15.30 W., chased by submarine (Port Patrick Radio, 0457/20) Have reached LOCH LOMAND, torpedoed at 0630, 56.15 N., 14.50 W., (JASON, 0810/20) My 0810. Amend position to read 56.15 N., 15.24 W. LOCH LOMAND holed aft, still afloat salvage doubtful. Have about 172 survivors on board. No ship in company, request instructions. (JASON, 1040/20) Your 1040 rejoin convoy collecting any scattered ships. Estimated position of convoy at noon 20th was 056° 06' N., 014° 25' W., course 91°. (C. in C., W.A., 1147/20 to JASON)

H.X. 79
Ships Attacked

Your 0635/20, enquiring whether convoy was closely formed when first attack took place and whether it scattered later, and 0733/20 enquiring whether contact was made with submarine by any escorting ship. No contact was made by escort. Convoy was well closed up at first attack on starboard wing and never scattered. 35 ships in company now plus Netherlands submarine. LOCH LOMAND reported S.E. convoy. Following ships known to be torpedoed. LA ESTANCIA, SITALIA, WANDBY, WHITFORD POINT, SWONA, RUPERRA, CAPRELLA, UGANDA, MATHERAN, BILDERDYK, JANUS but WANDBY, SITALA, UGANDA may still be afloat.

/Estimated.....

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

H.X. 79
Ships Attacked
Contd..

Estimated position noon B.S.T+ 20/10 056° 04' N., 014° 00' W., JASON and ANDREW not yet rejoined. HIBISCUS detached to search for lifeboats, LADY ELSA proceeding to Londonderry or Belfast with survivors. 261 survivors reported so far. WHITEHALL will have to proceed Londonderry a.m./21 for fuel. ATHELMONARCH holed but keeping up. Visibility for first attack 1 mile increasing to 4 miles later. State of sea 25. ? (WHITEHALL 1114/20, to C. in C., W.A.,)

TRITON

My 1114/20. Add TRITON (Norwegian 6607 tons) to list of ships torpedoed or missing from convoy. (WHITEHALL, 1400/21)

Convoy S.C.7.
CARSBRECK
(Torpedoed 18/10)

Estimated position, course and speed 0800/20 55.58 N., 07.52 W., 120° 5 knots. CARSBRECK in company. (HEARTSEASE, 0730/20) If another escort is with convoy, use your discretion as to proceeding Clyde to land survivors or to Liverpool (C. in C., W.A. to LEITH, 0923/20)

Your 0923/20. Rounded up 3 ships in position 056° 08' N., 008° 11' W., at 1430/19. One bound Belfast, two bound Clyde. Escorted them until 0400 when touch was lost to Eastward of Altacarry. Have not seen FOWEY. Am now proceeding Liverpool. Expected time of arrival Bar Light Vessel 0800/21. Present position 055° 00' N., 005° 20' W., (LEITH 1216/20, to C. in C., W.A.)

BLAIRSPEY
(Torpedoed 19/10)

Your 0130/20 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall. Endeavour join SALVONIA standing by BLAIRSPEY and unknown ship in 57.22 N., 11.22 W., at 1800/19 awaiting moderate weather. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to St. OLAVES, 0840/20) Your 1215 SALVONIA with BLAIRSPEY in 57.18 N., 12.21 W at 1415. Proceed to her assistance. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to tug St. OLAVES, 1609/20)

HURUNUI
SHEKATIKA
CONVALLARIA
BOEKELO

Only one ship in company visibility one mile Am proceeding to Clyde to land 157 survivors from HURUNUI, SHEKATIKA, CONVALLARIA BOEKELO before dark. Position 055° 27' N., 066° 25' W., speed 12 knots. (FOWEY 1000/20)

/Have sent.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.10.1940
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked, Contd.

Have sent SOMERSBY to Clyde. My position course and speed are 055° 10' N., 055° 50' W 140° 9 visibility 1 mile. Proceeding to Liverpool. (SCARBOROUGH 1155/20)

DENPARK

British, 3491 tons. Being followed by submarine, 53.08 N., 26.20 W., (DENPARK and Valentia Radio, 1736/30)

SULACO
(O.B. 229)

British, 5389 tons. Torpedoed night of 19-20/10. (D.O.R/22/10) 2325/19, 57.25 N., 25° W. Sunk (D.S., 413)

CUBANO
(O.B. 229)

Norwegian, 5810 tons. Torpedoed night of 19-20/10. (D.O.R. 22/10) 2325/19, 57.25 N., 25° W., sunk. (D.S. 413)

?

Intercept. DE 95 addressed HXDI here chased by submarine about 20 miles Southwest of last attack, master, please come. 0016/20. (Valentia Radio, 0123/20)

Summary of Vessels Attacked in Convoy HX.79.
19-20/10.

BILDERDIJK	Dutch	6856	/19	39 survivors in JASON, 0130/20.
MATHERAN	British	7653	/19	Survivors in JASON & LOCHLOMOND, 0130/20.
UGANDA	British	4966	2125/19	Still afloat 2359/19 38 survivors in JASON (0130/20)
LOCH LOMOND	British	5452	/19	Holed aft, still -afloat 1040/20 JASON.
LA ESTANCIA	British	5185		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20.
SITALA	British	6218		Reported by WHITEHALL May still be afloat.
WHITFORD POINT	British	5026		Reported by WHITEHALL May still be afloat.
WANDBY	British	4947		Reported by WHITEHALL May still be afloat.
RUPERRA	British	4548		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20.
CAPRELLA	British	8230		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20.
JANUS	Swedish	9965		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20.
ATHEL MONARCH	British	8995		Holed but keeping up (WHITEHALL, 1114/20)
TRITON	Norwegian	6607		Reported by WHITEHALL 1400/21.
SWONA	British			Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20
SHIRAK	British	6023	2245/19	

Total, 15.

War Diary20.10.1940
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Summary of Vessels Attacked in Convoy S.C.7.
18-19/10.

SCORESBY	British	3843		Sunk
LANGUEDOC	French	9512		Abandoned
CARSBRECK	British	3670	0145/18	Damaged, hove to in gale, with HEARTSEASE.
CONVALLARIA	Swedish	1996	2020/18	
SHEKATIKIA	British	5458	2100/18	Abandoned
ASSYRIAN	British	2962	2330/18	
EMPIRE BRIGADE	British	5154	2330/18	
BLAIRSPEY	British	4155	0030/19	Abandoned. Crew rescued by BLUEBELL.
NIRITOS	Greek	3854	/19	Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
GUNBORG	Swedish	1572	/19	Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
EMPIRE MINIVER	British	6055	/19	Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
BEATUS	British	4885		Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
SOESTERBERG	Dutch	1904	/19	Survivors in LEITH
BOEKELO	Dutch	2118		Survivors in FOWEY and GREENOCK.?
AENOS	Greek	3554		25 survivors landed Greenock by EAGLE CLIFFE.
CLINTONIA	British	3106	/19	
MANCHESTER PRODUCER	British			Reported by BLUEBELL 0825/19.

Total, 17.

SEDGEPOOL	British,	5556		Torpedoed (D.O.R., 415) <i>Sunk 0800/19.</i>
FISCUS	British,	4815		Torpedoed (D.O.R., 415)
THALIA	British, Greek,	5875		Torpedoed (D.O.R., 415)
			Total, 20.	
SNEFJELD	Nonwegian	1644		<i>Sunk (see 26/10) (DS. 418)</i>

Total, 21.

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.10 .1940
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported

- 0305 Submarine reported on surface in 56.34 N., 16.15 W., (ARABIS, 0305/20) Am proceeding to join ARABIS (JASON 0318/20)
- 0349 ^{malakawa} Enemy submarine following us, position 58.52 N., 28.52 W., (Unknown ship, 0349/20) (D.D.I.C. 0647/20)
- 0902 D.F., indicates there may be a U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 1030/20, to ESPERANCE BAY, LAURENTIC, etc.,)
- 0955 D.F. bearings indicate U-Boat still in your vicinity and reporting you. (D.D.I.C. 1102/20 to STURDY, ARABIS, WHITEHALL, etc.)
- 1245 D.F., 150' to westward of Fastnet, unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1355/20)
- 1543 D.F., 55.40 N., 16° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1641/20)
- 1708 D.F., 54.30 N., 15° to 18° W., (C. in C., W.A. 1809/20)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: No news of the one recently off Portugal.

German : No news of the one near 45° N., 16°W
Four are West of 20° W. between latitudes 53° N., and 60° N., one of which was possibly in about 59° N., 29° W., at 0349/20
One in vicinity of 56° N., 10° W. probably leaving for Lorient.
One was in about 57° 30' N., -58° N., 16°-18°W at 1225/20.

At least two in vicinity of 56° N., 14° W
one about 150' West of Fastnet at 1245/20
(D.D.I.C. 1425/20)

Taban
Malaspenia

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.10.1940
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines AttackedItalian U-Boat
Sunk

See North Atlantic.

By TIGRIS 5/10

TIGRIS reports was missed by torpedo in 46° 44' N., 5° 28' W., at 2140/2.

(2) La Coubre light was periodically lit at full brilliancy from 0530 until 0600 on 5/10. The 3 U-Boats were well separated. 4 torpedoes were fired at third U-Boat in 45° 41' N., 01° 25' W., range 2500 on 135 track enemy speed 10 knots. Explosions were heard after 2 minutes 4 seconds and 2 minutes 11 seconds and on looking 30 seconds later cloud of brown smoke seen and only 2 U-Boats very haphazard depth charging followed.

(3) At 2115/11. 3 darkened ships momentarily sighted 25 miles south west of Gironde but disappeared in rainstorm course north or south.

(4) Trawler referred to in my 0942/16 was sighted on four occasions in same position.

(5) At 0155/16 in 45° 44' N., 03° 45' W a darkened trawler tried to ram but was repulsed by gunfire and perhaps sunk range 20 yards. Another trawler showing lights was in the vicinity.

(6) A/S patrols are maintained westwards and northwards from Grande Passe De L'Ouest. (V.A.S., 1051/20)

Use of
Aircraft

Represented to me by one of my Captains that possible means of checking U-Boat successes in N.W. Approaches is to develop greatly increased air activities in that area. This particular service would not require aircraft possessing strong military characteristics or highly trained personnel. Proposal is that any civil aircraft which has good endurance and ability to carry a depth charge should be co-opted into this service also any of the less modern type of bomber not required for R.A.F. offensive. I recommend this proposal be actively pursued. An obvious and highly desirable advance on proposal is to obtain the use of air bases in Eire. (C.in C., H.F., 1429/20)

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. 17
Sunk

Whilst on patrol with M.T.B's 14 and 16 M.T.B. 17 was sunk off Ostend at 0036 today while attacking some small craft of trawler type. It is thought the cause was either own torpedo striking the bottom, or controlled mining.

U-Boat
Campaign

More than 30 ships have been torpedoed by U-Boats during the last 72 hours. In view of the heavy merchant ship sinkings it is considered that more U-Boats than usual will be returning to Lorient during the next few days. PORPOISE and CACHALOT have been ordered to patrol to intercept them, and URSULA is to patrol for 48 hours on her way to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

Dover
Shelled

Dover was shelled intermittently today from 1340 to 1743, about twelve rounds in all being fired from a battery on the French coast. M/S Trawler CLYTHNESS was slightly damaged.

Enemy
Destroyers
off Brest

7 vessels, probably destroyers, were reported by aircraft 15 miles off Brest at 1115, steering for Brest.

War Diary21.10.1940
MondaySITUATION REPORTBritish Air Activity

Bomber Command last night attacked with success docks and shipping at Antwerp, Rotterdam, Flushing, Dunkirk and Ostend.

BISMARCK at Hamburg and TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven were also attacked; several bombs dropped on the supposed position of the BISMARCK, causing fires and one large explosion; and bursts were seen in the target area at Wilhelmshaven. Docks at Dusseldorf, Cuxhaven and Hamburg, and petrol sheds at Emden were also attacked.

Attacks on Channel ports today were hampered by the weather, but Gravelines Docks, a convoy off Dunkirk, and shipping at Boulogne were successfully attacked. One ship in the convoy is believed to have been hit, and at Boulogne a direct hit is claimed on a large tramp steamer.



War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Dover was attacked twice today. Three barrage balloons were shot down.

Slight damage was caused at Mere Oil Fuel Depot. today.

Serious damage was done at Shorehaven Wharfage Company's premises today.

The rate of functioning of the R.N. Store Depot and Admiralty Gun Mounting Store at Coventry has been reduced by damage caused by raids during the night 19/20 and 20/21 Oct.

Convoy F.S. 14 was unsuccessfully bombed off the Thames Estuary early today.



War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying aircraft were very active last night from Shoeburyness to the Tees.

M/S Trawler WAVEFLOWER was sunk at 2359/21 off ~~Ad~~burgh, presumably by mine.

M.V. HOUSTON CITY was mined this afternoon off East Oase Light Vessel and was beached.

Swordfish of Coastal Command laid mines last night off Flushing and in the Scheldt and N.E. of South Beveland.

Operations Against Vichy French

N.A. Madrid now states that STRASBOURG, which left Toulon 15/10 with several other important units of the French Fleet, intends to carry out training and practice firing off the Coast of Provence.

The damage done to STRASBOURG during the attack on Dakar has now been repaired.



War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Alexandria
Bombed

60 to 70 bombs were dropped on Alexandria early this morning. No damage or casualties were caused.

East Indies

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

ROYAL SOVEREIGN sailed from Durban for Gibraltar via Freetown today.

Destroyer
Attack on B.N.7.
Italian Destroyer
Blown up.

About midnight last night Convoy B.N. 7., escorted by LEANDER, YARRA, AUCKLAND and KIMBERLEY was attacked near Jebel Teir in the Southern Red Sea by two destroyers which fired 2 torpedoes at YARRA and shelled the convoy.

The enemy were engaged by AUCKLAND and YARRA and retired, and were chased unsuccessfully by LEANDER and KIMBERLEY.

KIMBERLEY intercepted the enemy off Harmil Island at daylight today and engaged a destroyer, which went aground and blew up. KIMBERLEY states that destroyer, which was identified as FRANCESCO MULLO was disabled by gunfire and sunk by torpedo.

R.A.F. state that an enemy destroyer aground in this position was bombed and hit.

KIMBERLEY was hit in the engine room, and was taken in tow by LEANDER after being under fire from shore batteries.

LEANDER and KIMBERLEY were bombed by aircraft at 0720, but no damage is reported.



War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

China

C. in C., China reports that in French Indo-China discrimination against British trade is definitely taking place. No more co-operation can be expected from the French authorities.

MOST SECRETWar Diary21.10.1940
MondayHOME COMMANDS"Deluge"
DELUGEDefence of U.K.At 0200/21. (D.C. 0210/21) At 1400/21.
(D.C. 1405/21)Nore Command
Notice for SteamAir R/C incomplete. Steam to be kept at half
an hours notice till 0900/21. (C. in C., Nore,
0541/21 to AURORA etc.,)Rosyth Dockyard
A/A DefencesYour 1907/20 and my 1411/20. Intend to
concur with move while Fleet based as at
present. It is a question of balancing
defence requirements with very limited re-
sources (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1319/21 to C. in C., H.F.)Your 1101/20. Understand that improvements
in A.A. fire control have been made locally,
also one additional lighter flight is being
moved to Turnhouse. Additional guns are not
available except at expense of other vital
targets. Existing situation must therefore
be accepted for the present. C. in C.,
Fighter Command, is aware of importance of
Rosyth. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1320/21 to C. in C.,
Rosyth)Your 1905/19. Concur while Home Fleet is
based as at present. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1322/21 to
Air Ministry)PolicyEnemy
Red Cross ShipsAdmiralty message 1903/26/8 refers. No
German ship is exempt from attack unless it
is one of those promulgated as a hospital
ship in A.F.O. 3356/40 or a future A.F.O.
2. By day all other ships, whatever their
marking may be sunk in accordance with
Admiralty message 1212/21/9.
3. By night or in low visibility, any vessel
under 3,000 tons marked with a Red Cross may
be conclusively presumed to be a rescue boat
and therefore liable to attack unless its
markings are illuminated when it is first
observed and continuously thereafter. In the
latter case, if circumstances permit, the
vessels should be brought in for examination.
4. It is considered desirable that German
vessels marked with the Red Cross should be
examined whenever possible in order to obtain
evidence of the work on which they are em-
ployed. Therefore, when circumstances permit
(a) Rescue Boats should be captured.
(b) Recognised Hospital Ships should either
be examined at sea or brought into port in
accordance with Article 4 of the 10th Hague
Convention. See Prize Manual p. 103. (1st S.L.
1950/21 to C's in C.)

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

GLASGOW

F.O. Humber's 2138/20. Passes Boom 1000
E.T.A. May Island 1815/21. (C.S. 18 1000/21
to C. in C., Rosyth)

FOXHOUND

My 1224/20. Confirmed ready to sail from
Sheerness on 24/10. (C. in C., Nore, 1048/21
to C. in C., H.F.) Your 1224/20.
Destination Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 1414/21 to
C. in C., Nore.)

→ Nore Command

Movements for night to 1200/22. (C. in C.,
Nore, 1200/21) (C. in C., Nore, 1750/21 to
VEGA, VIMIERA)

Western Approaches

Situation at 2000/21. (C. in C., W.A., 1325/
21)

CARDIFF

A.M. 1620/3. Intend sailing CARDIFF for
Clyde p.m./22. (C. in C., W.A. 1352/21 to
F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Orkneys

Movements for night 21/22. (A.C.O.S. 1531/21)
Trawler Lines today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/21)

Portsmouth

Movements for night 21/22. (C. in C.,
Portsmouth 1603/21)

Western Channel

Night Report. (C. in C., W.A., 1617/21 and
1743/21)

Dover

Patrols for night 21/22. (V.A. Dover 1252/21
and 1714/21)

→ VEGA)

VIMIERA)

Sweepers meeting you North of Z at 0645
(C. in C., Nore, 2205/21 to VEGA)

JASON

Position at 2300, 56° 54' N., 7° W. steering
224° at 15 knots (JASON 2222/21 to HIBISCUS)



War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Sweep from
Nieupoort to
Flushing.
M.T.B. 17. Sunk

Interception from VI at 0036 reports M.T.B. 17 sunk, cause unknown as yet, no casualties 14 and 16 returning. (C. in C., Nore, 0205/21 to Admty.)

M.T.B. 17 sunk by explosion while attacking small craft of trawler type approximately one mile north of Ostend Breakwater. Syko m machine with cards up to 25/10 lost in wreck. Trawler was attacked by torpedo fire which missed, then by machine gun fire, M.T.B. 14 and 16 subsequently retired under fire from shore batteries having previously damaged bow of 17 which was last portion remaining. No casualties in any boat. Cause either (A) own torpedo striking bottom or (B) controlled mining. (BEEHIVE 0432/21 to C. in C., Nore.)

Dover Shelled

Shells fell in Dover area intermittently from 1340 to 1743 about twelve rounds in all. Of these two fell in sea outside harbour, several in vicinity of Granville Docks and remainder in the town.

Sound ranges report shells were fired from battery at Tresorerie.

CLYTHNESS slightly damaged, one rating killed and one rating slightly injured. Nineteen civilians injured. (V.A. Dover 1916/21 to Admty.)

Operation D.N.

Intend to carry out operation D.N. on night 23/24 with NAIAD and BONAVENTURE, and an operation on similar lines near Stadlandet with 3 Tribals on same night. (C. in C., H.F. 1936/21 to Admty.)

Operation D.N. to be carried out as follows
(a) 23rd October. (b) NAIAD and BONAVENTURE.
(c) 1800/23 (d) 0730/24. (C. in C., H.F. 2244/21 to F.O.C. 15 C.S.)

Force E.

Operation on lines of D.N. to carried out by 3 ships of 6th D.F. during night 23/24 near Stadlandet where shipping must leave the Inner Lead. Ships to arrive Sullom Voe p.m./22, thence to 62° N., 0° E., at 1900/23 thence to operation area, and to return crossing 1° E. by sunrise 24th. Force will be known as Force E. Code word ~~Force E.~~ F.O.C. B.C.S. has full discretion to postpone the operation. (C. in C., H.F. 1943/21 to F.O.C. B.C.S.)

See also 22/10/40. p. 492.



War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

UTMOST)
UPRIGHT)

Admty. 1355/12 C. in C., Portsmouth requested to sail UTMOST and UPRIGHT for Mediterranean on 28/10 and 30/10 respectively. (V.A.S. 1023/21 to Admty)

Lorient
URSULA
PORPOISE
CACHALOT

In view of recent heavy merchant ship sinkings it is considered that more U-Boats than usual will be returning to Lorient during the next few days.

URSULA should therefore be ordered to patrol for a period not exceeding 48 hours in the vicinity of 47° 30' N., 10° 00' W., (V.C.N.S 1337/21 to V.A.S.)

U-Boats are expected to return to Lorient shortly. PORPOISE patrol in the vicinity 046° 56' N., 005° 16' W., CACHALOT in vicinity 047° 24' N., 006° 42' W., PORPOISE will be ordered to leave for base p.m. 24/10 Capt. S.2. 1554/21)

My 1734 Part One Enemy U-Boats are expected to be returning from our trade Routes to Lorient during next few days. URSULA after passing through position B.2. 048° 30' N., 010° W., is to proceed to patrol in the vicinity of position B. 3. 047° 30' N., 010° W until 1200/26th October and is then to proceed in accordance with previous route orders (V.A.S. 1733/21 to URSULA)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/22. (V.A.S. 1747/21 and 0558/22)

Sinking M/V's at sight

Am giving submarines proceeding to and from Patrol in Bay of Biscay permission to sink any M/V met south of 49° N., (V.A.S. 1907/21 to Admty)

British Air Activity

804 Squadron

To retain 12. I.E. and 6 A.R. Gladiators until adequate supply of colt ammunition for Grummans is secured. (5th S.L. 1227/21 to RANAS)

Gladiators for Mediterranean

Any Gladiators at Northern Air Stations not required for 804 Squadron or for complements of training units should now be prepared for shipment to Mediterranean. (5th S.L. 1227/21 to RANAS)

/S.A. 2. and S.A. 3..



War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

S.A. 2 and
S.A. 3

Patrols cancelled this afternoon owing to low visibility (C. in C., Rosyth 1304/21)

Balloon Barrage

Your 1010/13 Approved. Action being taken by Balloon Command. (D. of L.D. 1742/21 to C. in C., Nore.)

Balloons.
Propose to
close haul in
Dover Straits

Reference shelling of C.W. 14 between South Goodwin and No 10 buoy when some 200 or more rounds were fired. It has been suggested that this was rendered possible by use of R.D.F. on the balloons being flown by M.B.B. vessels.

It is proposed that, for trial, balloons should be close hauled to minimum possible height during passage through Dover Straits in future convoys. It is hoped that balloons below the height of Dover Cliffs may prove innocuous. (C. in C., Nore, 2136/21 to Adty.)

Special Air
Protection for
Rosyth

A. 169 21/10. The special importance previously attaching to Tyneside is now transferred to Rosyth area. You are requested to arrange as from 1200/13 for all aircraft to be routed so as to avoid the defended area there about. Air Ministry is requested to repeat this requirement to any other effected Authority. Notification will be issued as soon as necessity for this request no longer exists. (H.Q.F.C. 2359/21 to Air Ministry)

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy Aircraft
Destroyed

ST. OLAVES reports large explosion in mid-air at 2018 after M.G. fire from ships. 3 cables N. 70° E of East Oaze. (Commodore, Sheerness 0952/21 to Adty.)

Shoreham

Following received from R.N.O. Shoreham. At 1100 low flying enemy aircraft straddled Shoreham Harbour with stick of bombs seriously damaging Shoreham Wharfage Company's premises. 2 cranes out of action 5 men killed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1254/21 to Adty)

/Mere Oil.....

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Mere Oil-Fuel Depot

Attacked by one Heinkel 111 at 1240. 6 bombs No casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1310/21 to Adty.) Minor damage to toe of Bund at S.E. corner of Depot, and new evacuating Pump House severely shaken. (O.C. Works, Portland, 1803/21 to C.E. in C.)

Dover

Enemy aircraft shot down 3 barrage balloons at 1105/21; and 11 light H.E. bombs fell on Dover at 1250/21 (V.A. Dover 1916/21 to Adty.)

Coventry

R.N. Store Depot and Admty. Gun Mounting Store Coventry hit by number of high explosive and incendiary bombs night of Sunday 20/10. and again night Monday 21/10 October. Several storehouses and workshops badly damaged main Office Block almost completely gutted, and all telephone and teleprinter communications destroyed. The whole establishment still functioning but at reduced rate. No casualties to personnel. (N.S.O. Coventry 1630/21)

Mining

Humber

Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 0357/21 to Admty.)

Day and Night Sweeping

My 1823/7. This will be repeated by 4 ships of 5th M/S Flotilla ahead of E.N. 11. sailing 0800/22. (C. in C., Rosyth 1221/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Plymouth

Since my 1108/21/9. Three Red mines detonated by single "L" sweep. Bearings from Eastern Breakwater Beacon.
0720 123° 3 cables at end and under tail;
0740 124° 2.7 cables 50 yards on Port Side Tail;
0828 124° 3.9 cables 50 yards ahead of 2nd electrode 100 yards to Port.
(C. in C., W.A. 1356/21 to Admty.)

Humber

Red mine exploded by LL trawlers at 0255/21 155° Spurn Point 1.4 miles. Red. Inside. Far. Another at 0500/21 132° Spurn Point 2.35 miles. Red. Inside. Near unusually big explosion with flame. Also at 2130/20 097° Spurn Point 5.6 miles believe exploded on striking surface after release from A/C. (F.O. Humber 1500/21 to Admty.)

/Straits....

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining- Contd.

Straits of Dover

504. My 1615/20. Routine sweeps today Monday QZS 104 and 105 North Goodwin Light vessel to Dover by one pair oropesa trawlers 40% nothing found.
QZS 105 Lydd Light Float to South Goodwin by one pair LL trawlers 30% Nothing found.
QZS 220 total number of mines swept 27 includes one mine which damaged HAMBLEDON. In addition convoy CE 12 Sweepers found three on 4th October and Convoy CW 14 sweepers one on 11th October. (V.A.Dover 1815/21 to Admty.)

Lyme Bay

2 moored Mines Type X cut and sunk in 50° 23' N., 2° 41' W., (F.O.I.C. Portland 1835/21 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Brest

Aircraft report 7 vessels, probably Destroyers, in 245° Brest 15 miles at 115, steering for Brest. (V.A.S. 1307/21 to Submarines Area B.)

War Diary21.10.1940
MondayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSGRANBY

British, 2051 tons. Newcastle to London with Coal. Ashore on Saltocar Rocks, Redcar. Tug standing by. Lifeboat Secretary thinks she will float daylight tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0045 and 0100/21 to Adty.)

SHIKARI

Defect in steering engine. May become serious. Returning to Londonderry. (SHIKARI 0705/21)

SEROOSKERK

Dutch, 8456 tons. From Fremantle, due Durban 17/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town. 1125/21 to Adty.)

FOWEY

When leaving Gourock Pier in easterly gale sustained damage above water line. Expect complete repairs 27/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1611/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

ST. LOMAN

A/S Trawler. Reports engine trouble and may break down before reaching port. Now making 7 knots in 52° 36' N., 19° 16' W., (HAVELOCK 2030/21 to C. in C., W.A.)



War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

O.B. 234

Of group 3 only available to escort are ARROW and AMAZON. (Capt D. 12 to C. in C., W. A. 1755/21)

H.G. 45

Became separated during dark hours in full gale. Position (GLEANER 1301/21) Have rounded up 6 ships, position etc. (ANTELOPE 1900/21)

O.L. 8

Detach ARUDEL CASTLE Remain with O.L. 8. until 25th W., then convoy disperse. (C. in C. W.A. to MARGAREE, 1153/21)

S.L.F. 52

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE to act as ocean escort (C. in C., W.A. 1425N/21)

S.L. 52

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE and MOOLTAN to escort (C. in C., 1425N/21)

H.X. 80

Meet 33 ships. (C. in C., W.A. to HASTINGS PHILANTE, WANDERER, CASTLETON, FLEUR DE LYS PICOTEE 1138/21) Informing CLYDE when enemy will enter her area (C. in C., W.A. 1755/21)

W.N. 25

My 1215/21. Amend escorts to read H.M.T. NORTHERN GEM, ARCTIC EXPLORER (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1500/21) Cancel my 1500/21 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1748/21)

S.C. 9.

Owing to damage to escort this convoy will not sail till 1600 G.M.T./24, three days late. (D.T.D. 1705/21)

H.X. 79

H.X. 79 A

Cancel my 1523/21. H.X. 79 is to be escorted to Clyde. JASON, HIBISCUS land survivors at Greenock then escort H.X. 79 A to Methil. (C. in C., W.A. 1949/21)

SVEADROTT
CASTOR

Position (N.A. Stockholm 1111/21)

SOTRA)
SOIKA)
SVANA)
SARNA)

Intend sailing 1400/21 in accordance Admty. 1712/20. Route to St. Vincent and Sierra Leone. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1345/21)

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

W.N. and
E.N. Convoys

Your 2258/18. (All O.A Convoys to be abolished after O.A. 235 and W.N. and E.N. Convoys to be run between Liverpool and Methil.)
Till more escorts are available intend to provide two A/S Trawlers to escort each W.N. and E.N. Convoy and a small Trawler Group at Oban for linking up duties.
Intend to transfer corvettes of Northern escort force to West Coast bases.
While need for A.A. protection for East Coast Convoys is fully appreciated consider that Sloops should be relieved from this duty as soon as possible by HUNT Class Destroyers in order that the long endurance of the sloops may be made use of to reinforce ocean escorts of S.C. and Gibraltar convoys. (C. in C., W.A., 1851/21 to Admty.)

Admty. 2258/18. Div. I of Belfast trawler force is to be reconstituted to provide two A/S Trawlers for each W.N. and E.N. convoy. It is estimated that this service will absorb 28 trawlers. Provision of these escorts must take precedence over other requirements.

A group of 5 A/S Trawlers is to be detailed for linking up duties at Oban.

Trawlers of least value for Ocean work are to be detailed for above duties.

C. in C., Rosyth has been asked to provide Corvette escort for the E.N. convoys on 26, 27 and 19/10. (C. in C., W.A., 1855/21 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

MOST SECRET.

1789
479

21.10.1940.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French
Hospital
Ship.

French Consul London has been advised by H.M.G. that 250 sick are ready to be repatriated from England. French Admiralty propose to send Hospital ship CANADA to effect this on same conditions as trip in September. She leaves Toulon 29/10. Request route instructions to arrive Gibraltar 31/10.
(N.A. Madrid 1331/21 to Admty.)

Situation.

Your 1441/18. Your appreciation of the Naval situation as given in your paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) is concurred in.

With regard to (d) and (e) the political aspect is involved with many other considerations but you may rest assured that the Naval aspect of the position has been fully represented.
(V.C.N.S. 2108/21 to S.O. Force H.)

U/E
S/M LAFOLE sunk.

My 1758/20. After being brought to surface by depth charge attack by GALLANT Italian S/M LAFOLE was rammed and sunk by HOTSPUR in position 035° 50' N. 002° 53' W. at 1645/20. One officer and 8 ratings were rescued. Propose same time for publishing sinking as for Italian S/M DURBO. Names of survivors from both U-Boats will be forwarded by Sunderland shortly. (F.O.C. N.A. 1640/21).

My 1640. Successful location of Italian Submarine LAFOLE was due almost entirely to courageous behaviour of Harold Frederick Brown, P.O., Sub Lieut. Peter Louis Meryon R.N., George Henry Andrews, Stoker P.O., all of WRESTLER, and Sub Lieut. William Basil Willet, R.N., FIREDRAKE, who boarded Italian Submarine DURBO when vessel was on the point of sinking and managed to obtain confidential documents. Names of these Officers and Ratings which are given in order of merit are forwarded for immediate awards for their gallantry on this occasion.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1656/21).

Air Raid.

Air raid in progress this station.
(F.O.C. N.A. No T.O.O./21.

/ Your 2355/20

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued).

Your 2355/20 re communication to French Admiralty. Action deferred. (N.A. Madrid 1319/21).

MASSILIA.
French
Exchange.

My 1235/19 re exchange of British and French sailors, following from French Admiralty. MASSILIA leaving Casablanca for Liverpool will pass through following positions. Please give assurance that route instructions beyond point (d) will be given MASSILIA direct in time. (Ends). (N.A. Madrid, 1902/21).

Las Palmas.

Bi-Weekly report, known definitely military defence works being intensely continued in North and South areas of this island, trenches, machine gun posts also underground petrol dumps being constructed. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1650/21, to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

Overdue Ships.

SEROOSKERK due Durban 17/10 from Fremantle not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1125/21).

PENNLAND
WESTERNLAND.

Admty. 2337/15. Intentions for move referred to. (C.in C. S.A. 1051/21). Asking for onward escort of WESTERNLAND to Mombasa. (C.in C. S.A. 1725 N/21 to C.in C. S.A. (See C.in C. E.I. 1216/22).

INDOCHINOIS

1659/19. CORNWALL first instructed vessel to return Dakar and escorted her. On receipt of CORNWALL report I ordered that INDOCHINOIS was to be brought into Freetown in accordance my 2133/18. This is reported Natal telegram 1909/19 stating vessel was turned back to Dakar and Natal telegram 1837/20 gives impression that vessel was still en route to Dakar when she attempted to scuttle, whereas she was then well on her way to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1525 N/21 to Admty.)

ANTONIS
CHANDRIS
sunk 8/9.

S.S. ENA DE LARRINGGA arrived Buenos Aires 21/10 with Chief Officer and nine crew of Greek ship, ANTONIS CHANDRIS this latter ship was stopped at 1945/8/9, in position 11° 25' N 34° 10' W and sunk two hours later by bombs placed on board. Rescue was effected 27 days later. Description of raider. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, 1845/21).

/ Raider's Captives

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (continued)Raider's
Captives.

Reported from German source that German raider ANNELIESE ESSBERGER has crews of seven ships on board including that of the S.S. BIBURY. Graded B 3. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1635/21) (see also German Merchant Ships).

Enemy Intelligence. For D.N.I. from Henzell, Security Officer, Force Freetown. Result of interrogation of 28 Poles and 1 Sergeant R.A.M.C. (British) ex France via Oran, Casablanca and Dakar arrived Freetown 19/10. Will proceed U.K. by DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. (Comdr., Sierra Leone Area, 1300/21).

Mediterranean.R.D.F.

Admty. 1703/20. Request R.D.F. type 286 be fitted to these 2 ships. Has BARHAM any form of R.D.F? (C.in C. Med., 0033/21 to Admty).

Alexandria Raid.

Air raid 0215 to 0400. About 12 aircraft, 60 to 70 bombs, no damage no casualties. (R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1101/21).

STRASBOURG

My 1210/18. French N.A. states STRASBOURG flying flag of Adm. Laborde left Toulon 15/10 with several other important units to carry out practice firing and for training period off coast of Provence. (N.A. Madrid, 1140/21).

Navy Department inform me that an informant at Vichy has heard STRASBOURG and twenty other units left Toulon 18/10 and thinks important units at Toulon and elsewhere are being sent to Syria to oppose naval and military operations in that area and so ensure loyalty to Vichy. Informant also states French Navy has called up 12000 additional men and that Foreign Minister Bonnet has gone to Marseilles to meet German and Italian missions there. Navy Department state French N.A. Madrid knows nothing of STRASBOURG's movements. (N.A. Washington, 1745/21).

"U" Class
Submarines.

U-class submarines proceeding to Mediterranean are to be transferred to 1st Sub-Flot. from date of arriving Gibraltar. (V.A.S. 1203/21).

/ Operation "Uniform"

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Uniform".

C. in C. Mediterranean's 1251/20.
If "Uniform" is postponed consider it desirable that H.M. Ships should sail from U.K. as arranged to enable reconnaissance in force to be carried out in Western Mediterranean to vicinity of Balearic Islands by Force 'H', BARHAM, BERWICK and GLASGOW. This reconnaissance would serve as cover for "Uniform" observing that on previous occasions departure of Force to Eastward has been precursor to definite operation involving close approach to South Sardinia.
(S.O. Force H, 1359/21, amended 1926/21).

Loss of Sidi
Barrani.

Your 1559/16. A.T. 1744/10 was intended as an intelligence summary of facts for information only. Words "military value" applied to Sidi-Barrani were misleading as they were intended to be read in narrowest sense. Naval Staff agreed with your appreciation of results of loss of Sidi-Barrani and the increased danger of any further advance is fully appreciated here vide A.T. 2207/21/9.
(Hd. of M. 1942/21 to C.in C. Med.).

Malta,
Stocks.

Re policy of stocks at minimum of 6 months' consumption. Consider it desirable to take advantage of present enemy inactivity to store and victual Malta. (V.A. Malta, to C.in C. Med., 2309/21).

French Shipping.

My 1509/17. French Ships CHAMPOLLION and MARIETTE PACHA leaving Marseilles 23/10 due Beirut 26/10 and guarantee implied carrying no cargoes also granted safe passage. T.O.O. 1129/21.
(C.in C. Med., 1246/21).

Turkish
situation.

Reply to 1700/18 for Admiral Kelly
(C.in C. Med. 1937/21, to N.A. Angora).
and 1939/21

East Indies.

B.N.7.
Convoy attacked
by Destroyers.

At 2320 Z/20 Convoy in position ~~JUBEL TAIR~~ ^{Jebel Tair} 35 was attacked by two destroyers which approached from Northward and retired in 290 direction.
Enemy fired two torpedoes at YARRA and shelled convoy. AUCKLAND and YARRA engaged enemy. LEANDER and KIMBERLEY chased. LEANDER opened fire, returning at 0010 Z/21 to rejoin convoy having lost sight of enemy. No damage so far reported.
(LEANDER to S.N.O. Red Sea 0145 Z/21).

Italian Questionario No.2.

Query No.3. Account of the night attack by four Italian destroyers against a convoy in the Red Sea, 21st October, 1940.

British narrative.

Convoy B.N.7, consisting of 31 ships, 5 of which were bound for Port Sudan and 26 for Suez, assembled off Aden on 19th October, 1940 and was escorted through the Red Sea by one cruiser, H.M.S. Leander; one destroyer, H.M.S. Kimberley; five sloops, H.M.A.S. Auckland and Yarra, H.M.I.S. Indus, H.M.S. Derby and Huntley. At 0748/20th, when south-east of Massana (14°26'N, 42°28'E) the convoy was bombed but received no damage. Some 15 hours later (2330/20), when in 15°58'N, 41°24'E. and 35 miles N.W. of Jabal at Tair Island, the convoy was attacked by two Italian destroyers which fired two torpedoes at Yarra and shelled the convoy. Ships of the escort force engaged the enemy, who made off in a N.W. direction followed by the Leander and Kimberley. At 0010/21 the Leander abandoned the chase and returned to the convoy leaving the Kimberley to pursue the enemy. Just before 0600/21 the Kimberley sighted and opened fire at a range of 12,400 yards on a destroyer aground off Harmil Island. This vessel was the Francesco Nullo, which blew up at 0633/21 after being torpedoed by the Kimberley. Some hours later a second destroyer east of Harmil Island was bombed by the R.A.F. At 0635/21 the Kimberley was hit in the engine room by a shell (about 175 mm) from a shore battery on Harmil Island, three ratings being wounded. She was taken in tow by the Leander and later by Kingston and arrived Port Sudan on 22nd October.

All ships of Convoy B.N.7 arrived safely.

(From Comdr. Titterton 15-12-1948)

Convoy B.N.7 (31 Ships)

Red Sea 20 to 26 Oct, 1940

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Convoy B N 7 was attacked by 2 Italian destroyers in position 015° 58' N. 041° 24' E. during night of October 20/21. Enemy fired 2 torpedoes at YARRA and shelled convoy. AUCKLAND and YARRA engaged and LEANDER and KIMBERLEY chased enemy. LEANDER after opening fire lost touch and returned to convoy. KIMBERLEY proceeded to intercept enemy off Harmil at daylight and sighted and engaged a destroyer bearing 250 degrees 7 miles from position 016° 37' N. 040° 26' E. at 0250 Z/21. No damage to convoy so far reported. Part 2 follows. (C.in C. E.I. 0356 Z/21).

KIMBERLEY
damaged.

My 0356/2 Part 2. Italian destroyer reported aground at 0330 Z/21 and abandoning her. KIMBERLEY hit in engine room is still 12 knots at present under fire from shore batteries.

(C.in C. E.I. 0358/21).

FRANCESCO

My 0358/21. Enemy destroyer blown up.

NULLO

(C.in C. E.I. 0440Z/21).

See p. 543

My 0358/21 KIMBERLEY proceed 0437Z on one engine, 15 knots, course 080 degrees. (C.in C. E.I. 0502 Z/21).

612

My 0502/21. KIMBERLEY is holed above the water line. Both engines out of action. Position at 0640Z 21st 016° 31' north 040°, 32' east in tow of LEANDER.

LEANDER and KIMBERLEY were bombed at 0720Z. No damage reported. (C.in C. E.I., 0812Z/21).

Jibuti,
French
Evacuations.

Reference Governor Aden's 100 dated 20/10 to Colonial Office, I adhere to views expressed in my 1/22822 of 16/10. Am firmly of opinion that we should not allow removal by sea of 4 battalions from Jibuti.

As regards ESPERANCE to make Concession allowing her to proceed Jibuti will only encourage hope that further concessions can be extracted from us and so possibly weaken elements who may be disposed to resist Italian demands.

(C.in C. M.E. 1720/21 to W.O).

Lourenco Marques.

S.O.I. Capetown's 1805/19, increase of Greek ships calling at Lourenco Marques, passed to you with reference to my 1058/11. (C. in C. E.I., to Admty. 0736 Z/21).

Convoy C.M.4.

DURBAN CASTLE, LLANGIBBY CASTLE, LLANSTEPAN CASTLE and SELANDIA arrived 0500 Z/21. (D.S.T.D. Mombasa, 0545 Z/21).

21.10.40

MondayWar Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Continued).WESTRALIA

To leave Colombo 0430 Z/22 for Bombay (route). Will be required to escort convoy B.M.3. (C.in C. E.I. 0728 Z/21.)

GLIMMAREN
Contraband.

My 0746/12 Mauritius report dated 30/9 states that Madagascar authorities may withhold from GLIMMAREN loading permit for cargo of graphite consigned New York if vessel is to call at Indian Port. Also reported that vessel imported tinned milk and pine oil from South Africa to Madagascar. (C.in C. E.I. 0738 Z/21.)

MAROUSIO
LOGOTHETIS

My 1805B/19. Chesor Mauritius reports MAROUSIO LOGOTHETIS has completed unloading at Tamatave and future movements depend on orders from French Admiralty, (S.O.I. Capetown, 1413 B/21).

U.S.5 A.

Route. CALEDON to escort to 12°N, 45°E, Suez Canal, Red Sea Force, S.O. SHROPSHIRE. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1150/21).

C.M.4.

Convoy C.M.4 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0540 Z/21).

Shipping
Intelligence.

Report from officers Greek ship EUTHALIA, arrived from Diego Suarez. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1823 B/21).

Air Attack
on Massawa,
19/10.

A. 849 21/10. Part 3 begins Para. 2 Sudan. 19/10. 3 Blenheims, 45 Squadron made high level attack on fuel tanks Massawa. One bomb fell on jetty and another among a group of lighters at jetty 200 yards north of target. 4 250 lb. bombs were hung up of which one fell off and hit buildings on Massawa Island and two others fell in sea. Slight A.A. fire experienced. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1206/21).

Air Attack
on Convoy.
B.N.7. 20/10.

My A. 695 20/10. Summary No. 130, add 1 S.79 attacked convoy B. N. 7 at 0747. Enemy located by Blenheim escort after bombs fell and chased for approximately 30 mins. intercepted south of Massawa. Ensuing combat broke off with enemy aircraft losing height rapidly emitting large cloud black smoke from fuselage. No damage to aircraft which subsequently crashed taking off Kamaran as already reported. Now ascertained crash caused by failure one engine believed not due enemy action in above combat. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1751/21).

21.10.1940.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Attitude.

My 1401/19 further information confirms that both Admiral Decoux and Terraux are definitely subservient to orders from Vichy and no more co-operation from them can be expected. Discrimination against British trade is definitely taking place. I submit that Gunny Bag industry controlled by Calcutta is our greatest stranglehold and if stopped may cause Governor General to reconsider his present attitude. I am opposed to interfering with French shipping on high seas as this might provoke retaliation by French naval forces. I am withdrawing the naval liaison officer from Saigon but leaving the N.C.S.O. for the present. (C.in C. China. 0313Z/21 to Admty.)

French Shipping.

Your 1254/19. Subject to contrary instructions from Admty., it is not my intention to capture French ships on the high seas. (C.in C. China, 0331 Z/21).

River Gunboats.

My 0447/6. CRICKET and TARANTULA should reach Singapore by end of October. Is it still the intention that they should leave the China Station? (C.in C. China, 0513 Z/21).

LAURENT MEEUS

Admty. 1713/20. Master of TILAWA reported tanker LAURENT MEEUS painted grey all over, deeply loaded, departed Osaka 8/9. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0545 Z/21).

French Warships.

By D.F. at 0850 Z/21, French cruiser LAMOTTE-PICQUET off Cap St. Jacques, reliable fix. Single bearings 0515 Z/20 indicated French sloop AMIRAL CHARNER off Indo-China Coast. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1451/21).

C.in C. Far East.

The appointment of A.C.M. Sir R. Brooke-Popham to new post of C.in C., Far East. Details. (W.O., to G.O.C.'s Malaya and Hong Kong 2230/21).

21. 10. 1940
Monday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

French Shipping.

My 1851/20. Names of ships sailed are MARCELLA, MARTIN LE GASSE, JACQUES COEUR, DUQUAY TROUIN. One of the two sailing within 48 hours is BOIS ROSIE.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2047/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
See Page 454.

CHESTERFIELD.

4 cases of diphtheria, more suspects. Ordered to return to St. John's N.F. (BURNHAM, 0125/21).


EMILE BERTIN.
BEARN.

Your 2203/18 and your 1003/20. Navy Department informs me that EMILE BERTIN returned to Martinique p.m./18 after swinging ship since her exercising with JEANNE D'ARC. American destroyer reports having seen BEARN at Martinique on 19/10. (N.A. Washington, 1204/21).

Australia.

Suspicious
Ship.

KARITANE reported a suspicious vessel at 1347 Z/20 in position 039° 09' S. 149° 35' E. Air searches were carried out but no suspicious vessel was sighted. (A.C.N.B., 0847 Z/21).

MOST SECRET.21.10.1940.
Monday.
War Diary.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.ITHAKA.Arrived from Russia 3,000 manganese ore.
(Macrae, Galatz, 1122/21).LARISSA.Left for Russia in ballast. (Macrae, Galatz,
1122/21).DELOS.Left for Russia in ballast. (Macrae, Galatz,
1122/21).KULMERLAND
ANNELIESE
ESSBERGERMy 0144/10. Now confirmed KULMERLAND sailed,
date uncertain. ANNELIESE ESSBERGER returned
to mooring about 11/10. (Capt. O.S., Singapore,
0432/21).

487A

SECRET

MESSAGE

2341/21st October. IN.

From : LEITH

Date 22.10.40
Recd. 0105

P/L by T/P (SECRET)

Addressed: Admiralty, A.C. Western Approaches, repeated
F.O.I.C., Liverpool, Capt. D., Liverpool.

Attack on S.C.7. 18/19th October.

Escort LEITH ahead, BLUEBELL starboard, FOWBY port and sweeping 5 miles astern at dusk.

During the evening C. in C. Western Approaches's 1144/17 received. Signalled my intentions in case of night attack to escort, viz:- Ship on disengaged side take station ahead and remain with convoy. Other two comply with above signal, firing star shell. 2000, Convoy made evasive alteration 40° to starboard.

2015, CONVALENTARIA No. 22 torpedoed. LEITH turned 90° to port at full speed for 10 miles, firing star shell. FOWBY still astern after dusk search. LEITH returned to position 3 miles astern torpedoed ship. Met FOWBY. With her searched up wake of convoy at 14 knots. Explosions then heard at 2205, 2210, 2220, 2237 (two). Increased full speed. Sighted 4 torpedoed ships close together (EMPIRE MINIVER, GUNBOURG, NIKITOS and BEATUS), also BLUEBELL. 2240 sighted submarine on surface on approximately same course. Chased and put her down with star shell. Contact by eché at about 3,000 yards. Lost after 5 minutes with range 800.

During chase, tanker blew up on horizon. Meanwhile BLUEBELL had been summoned and a search was carried out with her until 2337. Above 4 ships still afloat. Detailed BLUEBELL to stand by them and report situation.

2350 set course at full speed to rejoin convoy.

0015 sighted FOWBY who reported picking up survivors from HURUNUI, SHEKATIKA, BOKHELO, and that she was investigating a fourth. Ordered her to join me and regain convoy at full speed. 0029, flashes on starboard bow. Closed and found BLAIRSBY torpedoed but apparently able to proceed. Ordered FOWBY to stand by her.

0116, set course for convoy at full speed.

0145, sighted a ship which proved to be ASSYRIAN (Commodore) sinking. She had been torpedoed 0030 at same time as SCHESTERBERG and EMPIRE BRIGADE in immediate vicinity. Picked up survivors from all 3.

0400, proceeded 16 knots in unsuccessful endeavour to round up remaining ships.

Points from survivors:-

- (1) U-boat seen in amongst convoy.
- (2) ASSYRIAN chased U-boat close ahead for 40 minutes.
- (3) Two ships report opening fire.
- (4) Many of torpedo tracks clearly visible.
- (5) Commodore saw two miss everything.
- (6) Many reports of visual signals on flanks and two horizontal red lights seen 20 seconds about 2230.

I can confirm latter.

Conclusions: (A) At least 3 U-boats in organising attack.
(B) Some attacks definitely made at short range. First attack made from up moon just before moonrise to draw off escort.
(C) Long time several ships took to sink suggests reduced charges.

2341/21.

21.10.40.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

H.X. 79.
CLINTONIA
(S.C.7.)

Not met H X 79. Have developed defect in steering engine which may become serious, intend therefore returning to Londonderry for examination of steering engine. Expect to arrive Lough Foyle 1430. Have 20 survivors on board from CLINTONIA (S.C.7.) (SHIKARI, 0705/21).

CLINTONIA, British, 3106 tons, in S.C.7, believed torpedoed and sunk, 19/10. 20 survivors picked up and 22 others landed at Londonderry 21/10. (D.S. 413).

STANGRANT
(torpedoed 13/10).

Now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 413).

NORA
(torpedoed 13/10).

Estonian, 1186 tons, sailing independently, Sydney N.S. to Belfast, reported to have been torpedoed 0839/13 in 57.02 N., 13.11 W. (D.S. 413).

S.C.7.

SALVONIA reports her position is 56.40 N., 09.55 W. Now has 84 survivors on board, at 0900/21. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1114/21).

CUBANO
SULACO
(O.B. 229).

Rescued 31 from Norwegian CUBANO, 1 from British Merchant Ship SULACO both torpedoed 2325/19 057° (? 25' ?55') 025° 00'. My position course and speed are 056° 58' N., 023° 57' N., 072 degs., 15'. (SAGUENAY, 1158/21, to C.in C. W.A.).

INVERSHANNON
(torpedoed 21/9.)

Boat found by Icelandic Trawler GYLFI 1300/18 in 56° 25' N. 7° 30' W., empty and overturned. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1540/21).

Submarines Reported.

Homeward bound U-boats may be expected to arrive Bergen within next few days. Cancel my 1653/12. Proceed coastwise to patrol off Fejeosen. (F.O.(S), 0004/21, to SEAWOLF).

1104.

D.F. 56.45 N., 15° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1212/21 amended 1346/21).

2125.

Indications that you may have been sighted by submarine. (C.in C. W.A. to ANTELOPE, GLEANER, HAVELOCK, SKEENA, 2125/21).

1421.

58.30 to 59.30 N; W. of 20° W. position indefinite (D.S. 413).

/ Estimated U/B
dispositions.

21.10.40.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian - No news
German - 1 in about 49 degrees 30' N.
10 degrees 30' W. at 1005/21
proceeding to Lorient.

1 West and 1 S.W. of Ireland proceeding to
Lorient.

1 was in about 55° 40' N. 16° W. at 1543/20.

1 was in about 57° N. 15° W. at 1104/21.

1 was in about 57° 30' to 58° N. 18° to 20° W.
at 1930/20.

1 possibly in about 59° N. and W. of 25° W.

1 possibly in about 53° N. and W. of 25° W.

Possibly 1 more in N.W. Approaches
whereabouts unknown.

(D.D.I.C. 1317/21).

*Italian
Malaspina*

Italian
LAFOLE

Sunk by GALLANT and HOTSPUR, 1645/20. (See
North Atlantic).

My 2028/14 para. 5, request reports may be
made in the following form:-

Assessment of
U/B Attacks.

(a) Serial Number. (b) Time and date of
attack. (c) H.M. Ships or aircraft taking
part. (d) Position. (e) Assessment.
(f) Remarks.

2. The following assessments are in use at
Admiralty for attacks on German U-boats.
Request yours may conform as far as
practicable:-

- A. Known Sunk. B. Probably Sunk. C. Probably Damaged (A).
- D. Probably Damaged (B).
- E. Probably Slightly damaged. F. Insufficient evidence of damage.
- G. No damage.
- H. Insufficient evidence of presence of U-Boat.
- I. Non-Sub.

Attacks assessed "C" are those promising attacks which are believed seriously to have damaged the U-Boat, and which may have proved fatal, but on which assessment "B" or "A" has been with-held pending receipt of intelligence indicating that the attack was probably successful. Assessment "D" indicates that U-Boat was probably seriously damaged and had to return to her base. (D. A/S.W. 1727/21 to C.in C. Med.).

21.10.40.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian - No news
German - 1 in about 49 degrees 30' N.
10 degrees 30' W. at 1005/21
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1 was in about 57° N. 15° W. at 1104/21.
1 was in about 57° 30' to 58° N. 18° to 20° W. at 1930/20.
1 possibly in about 59° N. and W. of 25° W.
1 possibly in about 53° N. and W. of 25° W.
Possibly 1 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1317/21).

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

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

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

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

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



1
MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep to Ushant

EMERALD and 3 destroyers carried out a sweep from Plymouth to near Ushant and back last night.

Enemy Destroyers off South Foreland

3 enemy destroyers were reported off the South Foreland shortly after midnight 30/9-1/10. EGLINTON, VENOMOUS and WILD SWAN were sent to reinforce the destroyers patrolling off Dover.

Enemy T.B's Sweeping in Channel

4 German T.B's were reported sweeping in the Channel shortly after midnight 30/9-1/10. MACKAY on passage from Portsmouth to Sheerness was ordered to investigate. The enemy were not encountered.

Enemy destroyer Torpedoed

SWORDFISH this morning attacked 4 small destroyers off Cape Levi and considers she hit one of them.

Sweep of Dutch Coast

Brown Ridge destroyer patrol last night swept up the Dutch coast from the Hook to Ijmuiden.

German Red Cross Vessel

About 0030 today MALCOLM closed a small vessel which switched on illumination showing her funnel marked with a Red cross as MALCOLM was about to open fire. C. in C., Nore considers it most objectionable that a patrol vessel perhaps armed with gun or torpedo should be able to pass as a hospital ship by turning a switch, particularly in view of the report that an observer in Holland saw a row of vessels painted with red crosses and was told they would be used for landing troops in England. The Admiralty are issuing orders that all such ships are to be destroyed, except notified and accepted hospital ships.

KING GEORGE V

The new battleship KING GEORGE V was commissioned today at Tyne.

Reinforcement of Western Approaches

JACKAL, KASHMIR, and JUPITER left the Humber early this morning for Plymouth.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

2

1.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night operated successfully against the enemy's invasion ports from Ostend to Le Havre. Docks and Cuxhaven and Amsterdam were attacked but results were not observed.

Blenheim aircraft today bombed the docks and outer harbour at Cherbourg, but did not observe the results.

Enemy Air Activity

At 0040 today A/S yacht MAID MARION on Portsmouth Loop Patrol was unsuccessfully bombed by an aircraft which was neither seen nor heard. C. in C., Portsmouth considers it possible that other losses may have been due to this form of attack.

Convoy W.N. 19~~7~~ was attacked unsuccessfully this evening 30 miles E.N.E. of Kinnairds Head.

H.E. bombs were dropped this evening near the entrance of the Mersey Tunnel at Birkenhead and also near a dock of Messrs. Cammel Laird & Co.

Mining

Mine layers SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, PORT NAPIER with destroyer escort laid mines last night off the North Coast of Ireland.

Two Hampdens last night laid mines successfully in the Elbe Estuary and two Beauforts in the Jade and Weser rivers.

Falmouth is closed on account of moored and magnetic mines.

Operation
S.N. 42

Shipping

From sunset 1/10 no merchant vessel (with certain exceptions) is to approach the coast of U.K. between sunset and sunrise.

Enemy minelaying by aircraft last night is suspected in the Firth of Forth, Thames Estuary and off Harwich.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

3

1.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

Air reconnaissance of Dakar this morning shows that RICHELIEU is at the same berth, and one FANTASQUE class and two other destroyers and a submarine and a sloop are in the inner harbour. In the outer harbour two GLOIRE class cruisers are anchored one mile south of Tiaroye. Tugs are standing by a FANTASQUE class beached near Rufisque.

Air reconnaissance of Casablanca with this evening was blank.

A Sunderland aircraft on reconnaissance to Cape Finisterre had indecisive combat with 3 M.E. 110 55 miles south of Lands End.

The French press admits the loss of the submarine PERSEE during the operations at Dakar.

Mediterranean

1/2 19
A Blenheim today successfully attacked water tanks at Bug Bug, scoring direct hits. It is reported that the Italian forces at Sidi Barrani are supplied from these fresh water tanks.



War Diary

1.10.40
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
Signals

Humber 1, Nore 1, Dover 1, Channel 1.
(D.C.0216/1)
Humber 1, Nore 2, Dover 2, Channel 2.
(D.C.1415/1)

"Volcano"
Signals

At 1000/1. (DOD.1028/1)

Rosyth Small
Craft

Cancel my 1045/7/9. Until further orders all small craft are to be kept at one hours notice from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. Ships with LL sweeps to be at 30 minutes notice during this period. (C.in C. Rosyth 1217/1)

Defence of
Portland Dockyard

Your 1607/30. Home Forces accept full responsibility for defence of Dockyard against invasion. If military arrangements considered inadequate, request details and proposals may be forwarded for further examination of matter. (D. of LD. 1836/1 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

Portsmouth
Routine
Destroyer
Patrols

Experience shows that routine destroyer patrols from Portsmouth on alternate nights should extend further Eastward, so as to be more readily available for interception of enemy craft. It is accordingly proposed that the patrol should in future occupy O D 6 and 7 combined arriving at the Western limit of this patrol 3 hours after sunset and leaving 2 hours before sunrise. On Portsmouth patrol nights trawlers normally on O D 6 and 7 patrol will be moved to O D 5. If you agree it is requested this routine be brought into force tomorrow 2/10. (VA. Dover 1301/1 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Policy

Redistribution
of Destroyers.

My 2335/30. Ships of 5th D.F. and 1st D.F. are for the present to remain under administration of C.in C. Nore and C.in C. Portsmouth respectively. Captain D.5 should leave a skeleton administrative staff at Immingham. (ACNS.H.1454/1)

Enemy Patrol
Vessels passing
as Hospital Ships

Following received from D.16 begins at 0030 approximately closed green light which was sighted at about 6 miles range in position 52° 11' N. 4° 12' E. Seen to be small single funnelled vessel which illuminated her funnel marked with a Red Cross and upper works as MALCOLM was about to open fire at range of 1500 yards. Fire was withheld. Nothing else seen on sweep. 0811/1. ends.

/It.....



1.10.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Enemy Patrol
Vessels passing
as Hospital
Ships (continued)

It is most objectionable that a patrol vessel perhaps armed with gun or torpedo should be able to pass as a hospital ship by turning a switch, particularly in view of the recent report that an observer in Holland saw a row of vessels painted with Red Crosses and was told they would be used for landing an army in England. It is proposed in future to sink ships which behave as described in D.16's signal. Request approval. (C.in C. Nore 1600/1 to Admiralty).

Movements

JACKAL)
KASHMIR)
JUPITER)

JACKAL take KASHMIR and JUPITER under his orders and proceed at 0200 for Plymouth. South Foreland to Plymouth in dark hours. (C.in C.H.F.0046/1 to JACKAL). Pass South Goodwin L.V. at 1930/1. Route thence (C. in C. Nore D946/1 to JACKAL). Request Fighter cover 1030 to 1930/1. (C.in C. Nore 1046/1 to HQFC).

FAME)
FEARLESS)
FOXHOUND)

To join Capt. D.4 at Rosyth on completing repairs. (C.in C.H.F.1056/1).

DOVER Dover.

Patrols for Night 1/2. (VA. Dover 1155/1) (C.in C. Portsmouth 2013/1 to BEAGLE).

B-class Destroyers
joining H.F.

Admiralty 2335/30. Paragraph 3. Destination Rosyth. (C.in C. H.F.1203/1 to C.in C. Nore).

Fast Minesweepers
for Sheerness.

6 to be organised in 2 Divisions and sailed to arrive Sheerness by 1500/2. Report names of Ships detailed. (C.in C. Nore 1206/1 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

BULLDOG)
BRILLIANT)
BEAGLE)

BULLDOG leave Sheerness AM/2 and R/V with BRILLIANT and BEAGLE off Mouse L.V. at 0830 for passage to Rosyth. (C.in C. Nore 1500/1). Sailing and Route (C.in C. Portsmouth 1607/1 to Admiralty). Sailed BEAGLE and BRILLIANT (C.in C. Portsmouth 2317/1).

Humber.

Patrol O. Movements for 2/10. (N.O.I.C. Humber 1515/1).

Orkneys

Movements for Night 1/2. (ACOS.1531/1). Trawler Lines tonight (ACOS.1536/1).

KIPLING.

Intend sailing at 0730/2 for Plymouth. Route. (D.5.1604/1 to Admiralty).



MOST SECRET

1.10.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (continued)

- AMAZON Completed and proceeded Greenock 1300/1. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1621/1 to Admiralty).
- 20th A/S Flotilla Will sail from Needles at 1845/1 escorted by 3 Motor Vessels. Route. Due Dartmouth daylight/2. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1755/1 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).
- Rosyth Area Movements for Night 1/2. (C.in C. Rosyth 1926/1 and 2110/1).
- EREBUS Your 0847/30/9. EREBUS may come to 12 hours notice forthwith to clean one Boiler and complete defects by Noon/5th October. (C.in C. Nore 1926/1 to EREBUS).
- Nore. State of M.T.B.'s. (C.in C. Nore 1955/1 to Admiralty).

Operations

Enemy Destroyers off South Foreland. 3 Enemy Destroyers reported off South Foreland. Proceed to South Falls Buoy along QZS.117. Remain near there and be ready to reinforce 4 Destroyers patrolling off Dover if necessary. Return to Harbour by daylight. (C.in C. Nore 0040/1 to EGLINTON, VENOMOUS, WILD SWAN). WIDGEON and SHEARWATER are patrolling QZS.117. (C.in C. Nore 0056/1 to EGLINTON). My position at 0300 will be 51°29' N. 1°44' E. course 5 speed 10 knots (WIDGEON 0226/1 to EGLINTON).

Enemy Torpedo Boats sweeping in 180.QZX. 4 German T.B.'s reported sweeping probably in 180 QZX. Close and investigate (VA. Dover 0055/1 to MACKAY) 207 QZX is dangerous at all states of tide. (VA. Dover 0100/1 to MACKAY). Enemy probably returned to harbour. BULLDOG and SARDONYX should be detached to Portsmouth. (VA.Dover 0415/1 to MACKAY).

Sweep of French Coast from Roches Douvres to Westward GARLAND, DESPATCH, KELVIN, JAGUAR to sail at 2000/1, sweep towards Roches Douvres, thence Westward along French coast, returning to Plymouth so as to reach outer end of searched Channel by 0800/2. Object to destroy Enemy Forces including M/V's and take Prisoners. Code Word ~~LOCAL~~ Local (C.in C. WA.1529/1 to GARLAND). Raise steam. Sail with DESPATCH and Destroyers at 2000. (C.in C. WA.1913/1 to BLYSCAWICA). Request Fighter protection from 0650/2 till arrival at Plymouth. (C.in C.WA.1919/1 to HQFC).



MOST SECRET

1.10.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

Operation MW. EREBUS to be ready to repeat Operation MW by 5/10. (ACNS.H.1331/1 to C.in C. Nore).

Shelling of Dover. Position of Enemy Battery. Position of Battery which shelled Dover 30/9 as reported in my 1301/30 and my 2030/9/9 not yet mentioned in PRU reports. Consider position should be determined as soon as possible. (VA. Dover 1746/1 to Admiralty).

Submarines

TRIBUNE
TUNA Proceed submerged by day towards Bishops Rock and not to Falmouth. (VAS.0004/1). R/V with Escort 10' W. of Bishops Rock Light at 0800/2 (FOS.0031/1). Sailed 2245 CUTTY SARK to R/V with TUNA and TRIBUNE (C.in C.WA.0055/2 to Admiralty).

S/M Patrol off Brest Your 1623/27. Paragraph C approved. (DOD.H.1328/1 to VAS).

Greenock Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1605/1).

Dutch S/M.O.14. Due U.K. about 18/10 with HX.78. Will proceed Rothesay to be temporarily attached to 7th S/M. Flotilla. (VAS.1607/1).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/2 (VAS.1631/1).

SWORDFISH. Attacked 4 small Destroyers steering 260° at 18 knots off Cape Levi at 0940. Estimate one hit. (SWORDFISH 2045/1 to Captain S.5.)
(Position correct. See p. 94)
Enemy Air Activity.

VANITY VANITY's 1917/29 and 1929/29. Request full details of this attack including Type of A/C. (DDIC.1157/1 to Captain D. Rosyth Escort Force) Your 1157/1. Details as follows. (Captain D., REF.2027/1 to Admiralty).

Convoy ^{"Alpha"} ~~ALPHA~~ Being shadowed by one A/C at 210° sunk L.V. 2 miles. Course 040°, speed 14 knots. (PINTAIL 1305/1).

Aberdeen Owing to Enemy A/C attacks on Ships in vicinity, which may continue, it is not possible to accommodate any more vessels over 55 feet beam and 20 feet draught. There are no Dumb Barges at Aberdeen to assist Salvage operations. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1901/1 to Admiralty).



1.10.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (continued)

Convoy "Rusty"
RUSSEY

One A/C shadowing at 58° 33' N. 2° 47' W. (Curacoa 1433/1) Anson is escorting you. (Lyness W/T. 1457/1 to CURACOA). Fighters being sent. (Scapa Base Ship 1505/1). Being attacked by A/C in 58° 8' N. 2° 16' W. (CURACOA 1935/1).

EMPIRE SUCCESS.

From Convoy SL.47 arrived and berthed. Slight damage to upper deck and steering gear by one Bomb. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1434/1 to Admiralty). Attacked by one A/C at 2020/30, 5 miles East of Peterhead. Damaged by one Bomb and bursting of cordite Gun Charges. One dead and four injured. Expect ready sail for Hull in 6 days. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1616/1 to Admiralty).

MAID MARION

Portland's 1430/28 and my 1627/28. A/S Yacht. Attacked at 0040/1 on Portsmouth Loop Patrol by 4 Bombs. No damage, but A/C neither seen nor heard. Possible some other losses may be due to this form of attack. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1729/1 to Admiralty).

SUSSEX.

My 2214/23/9. Present condition. (FOIC. Glasgow 1750/1 and 1701/2).

NANIWA

Fishing Trawler. Attacked by one A/C. at 2130/30 in 51°26'N. 4°16'W. No casualties or damage. (FOIC. Milford Haven 1813/1 to Admiralty).

VIVIEN

Your 1319/29 and 1524/29. Signal further report on return to harbour. Indicate whether any doubt as to correct Identification Letter being read by light. (DSD.1854/1 to VIVIEN).

Mining

Falmouth

Closed, owing to Moored and Magnetic Mines. (FOIC. Falmouth 0932/1).

Harwich.

One Magnetic Mine detonated by LL Sweep at 0620 in 51°55'45"N. 1°27'30"E. (FOIC. Harwich 1432/1 to Admiralty).

Enemy Intelligence

HIPPER-class Cruisers

B.3 source. 2 Cruisers believed HIPPER class and Destroyer Escort observed 25/9 on line between Skagen and Paternoster Light steering North. One HIPPER class Cruiser seen proceeding South a day or two later. (NA. Stockholm 1245/1 to DNI).

*Return to all
Cruisers*



MOST SECRET

1.10.1940.
Tuesday

9

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (continued)

The Hague

A/C reports 5 M/V's about 5000 Tons at 1320 off The Hague, steering NE. (VAS.1541/1 to S/M. H.49).

Barges near Ushant.

A/C report 260 Barges in following positions (C.in C.WA.1851/1 to DESPATCH).

Vessels sighted by TRIDENT and TALISMAN

Your 1754/30/9. Belgian Fishing Vessel SUZANNE ADRIENNE may have been vessel seen by TRIDENT on 4/9. Nothing known of 700 Ton Swedish vessel seen by TALISMAN on 9/9. (DDIC.2013/1 to C.in C.HF).

Miscellaneous

Contaminated Water

Report on Water-Tanks of HORNPIPE being forwarded. Now reported Rescue Tug ASSURANCE water also contaminated. Sailing postponed for investigation. (FO. Humber 0927/1 to ASCBS. Newcastle).

MOST SECRET1.10.1940.
TuesdayWar DiaryCASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

LAGOSIAN Bomed 3/9. In basin, awaiting Tugs. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1901/1 to Admiralty).

QUEEN CITY Bomed 28/29 September. At Point Law being repaired temporarily. Should be able to sail in 12 to 14 days. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1901/1 to Admiralty).

EMPIRE SUCCESS Bomed 30/9. Will be ready to sail in 6 days, after repairs to deck steering-rod and D.G. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1901/1 to Admiralty).

Aberdeen Present limited capacity of Port for Repairs and Salvage. (See Enemy Air Activity).

ATHELKING British, 9557 Tons. C.in C.E.I.1016/9/9. From Sourabaya 28/9. Not arrived. (SO.1 Singapore 0845.Z/1 to Admiralty).

CAITHNESS British, 4970 Tons. From U.K. due Cape Town 26/9. Not arrived. (SO.1 Cape Town 0935/1 to Admiralty).

CITY OF CANTON British, 6692 Tons. Due Cape Town 26/9 from U.K. Not arrived. (SO.1 Cape Town 0935/1 to Admiralty).

HENZADA British, 4161 Tons. Left Liverpool 21/8 for Rangoon. Not reported Cape of Good Hope. (SO.1 Cape Town 0935/1 to Admiralty).

BORKUM Ex-German, 3070 Tons. Set on fire 23/11/39. Waiting Tugs and Escort. (NCSO. Kirkwall 2035/1 to Admiralty).

ALEXIA British Tanker, 8016 Tons. Torpedoed 2/8. Salvage complete. Waiting Tugs and Escort. (NCSO. Kirkwall 2035/1 to Admiralty).

MOST SECRET1.10.1940
TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSConvoysShipping

W.S. 3. Route (C. in C., W.A. 0943/1)

O.A. 221 To alter course. Route (C. in C., W.A. 1300/1)

O.B. 222 After O.B.M. 222 has joined, ARSENAL to proceed Holyhead to land survivors from aircraft (C. in C., W.A., 1150/1) A/S trawlers (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2100/1)

H.X. 74 B ARSENAL to escort (C. in C., W.A. 1150/1)

O.A. 223 WELLINGTON may return with survivors. SANDWICH may be required on leaving O.A. 223 to proceed Sydney C.B. to bring back S.C.8 (C. in C., W.A., 1251/1)

S.C. 8. (See O.A. 223)

W.N. 20 A/S trawlers (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2030/1)

O.B. 220 Submarine shadowing (C. in C., W.A., 1739/1 to WELLINGTON)

H.X. 74 Some telegraphy signals heard by GERANUM. Convoy not attacked. (WINCHELSEA, 1515/1)

S.C.H.78 Advance sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney G.B. 1220/1)

O.B. 225 Route (D.T.D. 111/2)

O.A. 225 Route (D.T.D. 1112/2)

S.H.X.77 Composition and cargoes. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1135/1)

F.S. 97 Will have Methil 1800/1 close escort VANITY, WOLFHOUND (C. in C., Rosyth, 1149/1)

W.S. 3 Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1431/1)
Time of sailing and escort (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1445/1)
SHEFFIELD, WITHERINGTON and VISCOUNT to R.V. route. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1515/1)
HIGHLAND BRIGADE to replace EMPIRE TROOPER
Date of fast group sailing, and composition
Ocean escort KENYA. Fighter protection code word "Sollo" (D.O.D. (H) 1738/1)

SVEADROTT Reply to his 2041/30. Adty. awaiting decision by M.E.W. (D.N.I. to N.A. Stockholm 1645/1)

Iceland D.O.D.(H) 1946/1 (See 2/10)

1.10.1940.
Tuesday.

WarDiary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations against Vichy French.

- French Africa. Situation Report No.26 (D.N.I.,1332/1).
- S/M Prisoners. Requesting early reply re disposal of prisoners taken from French S/M sunk off Dakar. (C.in C.,S.A., 1131N/1).
- ESPERANCE. Following from French Admiralty. M.V.ESPERANCE en route to Djibouti to embark French troops for Indo-China has been taken to Aden by British. Please agree not to interfere with French troopships especially ESPERANCE. If, contrary to what was intended, surplus troops in Djibouti cannot be evacuated with their arms, these arms will all fall into Italian hands. The troops are to keep order in Indo-China and it is in British interests to allow passage. Seizure of vessel like ESPERANCE serves no purpose for England. (N.A.Madrid, 1115/1)
- KELT. A/S trawler, being sent to join you at Duala. (C.in C.S.A., to CORNWALL, 1127N/1).
- De Gaulle Force. My 2037/30. Probable date of arrival. (C.in C.,S.A., 1637/1 to CORNWALL). Composition, arrangements and escort. (C.in C.,S.A., 1815N/1).
- Casablanca. Reconnaissance reports 0930/1. 1 destroyer sighted steering S, 20 knots. 1330/1, negative. (F.O.C.N.A. 1702/1). 2030/1, negative. (F.O.C.N.A.2146/1).
- French Prisoners. Your 2001/28. To be retained at Freetown for the present. (C.N.S. to C.in C.,S.A., 2114/1). Your 1427/29, re disposal of French officials held at Takoradi. Proposal re TOUAREG approved. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.S.A., 2227/1).
- Dakar. Requesting result of air reconnaissance ordered Admty.0011/30. (D.O.D.(F) to ARK ROYAL, 2244/1). Admty 0011/30. Reconnaissance of Dakar 0730 N/1. Inner harbour French Battleship RICHELIEU same berth. One FANTASQUE class, two destroyers and one Sloop at (corrupt group) one MELE. Possibly one small warship in dry dock and two submarines near dock. Outer harbour two GLOIRE class anchored one mile south of Tiaroye. 26 Merchant ships in roads. Tugs standing by FANTASQUE Class beached near Rufisque. (ARK ROYAL 1055/1) For Col. Leclerc from Gen. De Gaulle. British ships of Nigerian Navy will cruise in your territorial waters unconditionally. This is to warn you not to be alarmed at this operation. (Freetown, 1202/1, to CORNWALL).

MOST SECRET.1.10.1940.
Monday.
War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations against Vichy French (contd.)Suez Reaction.

Admty.0027/9 (requesting weekly report of Suez Canal officials on current events). Dakar incident has not affected loyalty of pro-British element but has confirmed anti-British element in their attitude. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1005/1).

French Claims.Loss of S/M
PERSEE.

French press 26-29/9. Bitter comment on Dakar action. Admiral Darlan message to French verbatim and Rear-Admiral Platon to coloured Frenchmen particularly hostile. In addition to hit on RESOLUTION from submarine BEVEZIERE etc., also claimed bomb on RENOWN in Gibraltar which stated to have left in consequence. Admitted loss of submarine PERSEE but state hit on RICHELIEU no damage no casualties. French opinion issuing through results of Dakar still favourable to us, but belief in De Gaulle shaken. (Wolffson, Istanbul, 0955/1).

North Atlantic.Finisterre,
Spanish
Squadron.

Your 2316/30. Spanish Squadron of 3 cruisers and 4 destroyers was off Cape Finisterre 1200/30. (D.D.I.C., 0832/1 to F.O.C.N.A.) arrived Marin 1930/30. (D.D.I.C.1948/1).

Destroyers.

Re transfer of 3 'G' Class destroyers from 13 D.F. to E.Mediterranean, their places being taken by ECLIPSE, ECHO and ESCAPADE. (A.C.N.S.(F), 0118/1).

BARHAM.

Asking whether can be docked for cleaning and repairs to bulges. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0118/1) (See also Mediterranean). Reply (F.O.C.N.A., 1746/1).

MADEIRENSE.

Your 1604/30. My 1851/30 directs that Portuguese MADEIRENSE is to be removed from class K and treated as if she had ship's navicert. (D.C.0016/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Italian
Trawlers.

3 Italian trawlers, believed those which recently arrived there from Azores, reported sailed from Vigo 0630/1. (D.D.I.C. 1857/1 to RENOWN and ARGUS).

South Atlantic.W.S.3.

Route to Freetown. (C.in C.W.A., 0943/1)

Overdue Ships.

CAITHNESS and CITY OF CANTON, both due Capetown 26/9 from U.K., not arrived. HENZADA, Liverpool 21/8 for Rangoon, not reported Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 0935/1).



War Diary.

1.10.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd.)

WIPUNEN,
Suspicious.

Finnish Ship WIPUNEN left Buenos Aires 24/9 for Petreso via Monte Video and Hampton Roads but was 4 days aground near Martin Garcia though understand could have got off earlier. Owing to possibility of GRAF SPEE sailors being taken on board, Captain of Port carried out partial search of ship while in Monte Video. He reported that ship appeared suspicious though nothing definite found. Four men said to be Norwegians or Swedes signed on in Buenos Aires and one in Monte Video. Ship sailed from Monte Video 1430 G.M.T. (S.O.(I), Monte Video, 1903/1).

Suspicious
Ship.

Master of WINDSOR CASTLE reports on 30/9 1330 G.M.T. in 003.08 S., 017.18 W. sighted one neutral merchant ship (description), course 330, 12 knots, nearest approach 11 miles. (Magistrate, Ascension, 1200/1).

Mediterranean

OSIRIS Report

Extract from Patrol report of OSIRIS, Bari Durazzo area, re tides, lights, and enemy convoys. (Capt.S. 1. 2007/1 to RAINBOW and REGENT)

BARHAM
Destroyers

BARHAM and 3 destroyers to join C. in C., Med. when operation of passing M.T. ship though to Malta takes place. Damage to BARHAM. F.O.C.N.A. to report on transfer of 3 G class destroyers from 13 D.F. to Eastern Mediterranean, their place being taken by ECLIPSE, ECHO and ESCAPADE. (A.C.N.S., (F) to C. in C., Med. 0118/1) Reply. Proposing INGLEFIELD also join 13 D.F. in which case prepared to send HOT-SPUR to E. Med. with 3 G class destroyers (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/1)

Malta
Air Raid

Malta Air Intelligence Report from 1800/30 All times zone minus one. 0700-0935, Skua of F.A. carried out reconnaissance Messina-August and Syracuse. No important shipping in harbours. Following aircraft carried out reconnaissance covering same area mentioned in my reports of 28/9, 29/9 and 30/9. 0515-0909 hours Glen Martin of 231 Flight reported 2 ships believed our own cruisers positions 35° 53' N., 17° 05' E., course 090° speed 20 knots. 0516-1735 Sunderland of 230 Squadron. Nothing to report. 0750-1750 Sunderland of 230 Squadron made no report up till despatch of this summary. 1324-1655 Glen Martin of 231 Flight nothing to report. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q., R.A.F. Malta 1720/1)

/Enemy Intelligence.

Reinforcements.

of enemy escorts, minesweepers and A/S craft. (D.M.S. approved I.S.L. to C. in C. Med. 1232/1) See Med. Volume.



War Diary

1.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Intelligence

Your 1116/26 to C. in C., Mediterranean (reported drowning of 50,000 German troops in attempt to invade England (See 27/9)) What is your source? Para (c) should not be graded higher than C.O. Impossible for source in Yugoslavia to estimate probability of happenings Channel Ports. (D.N.I. 1505/1 to N.A. Belgrade)

U-Boat Destroyed

Ital. GONDAR by H.M.A.S STUART F/3 L.2166
Ital. GONDAR by H.M.A.S STUART F/3 L.2166

Operational summary No 113, ending 1200/1 30/9. 1 Sunderland 230 Squadron searched for enemy submarine reported at 0230 hours in position 31° 35' N., 28° 43' E., Submarine located in daylight and sunk. Majority of crew captured by British destroyer. Request this information be withheld from press publication. 15 C.R. 42's intercepted 113 Squadron on return journey 60 miles off Tobruk. 3 C.R. 42's shot down confirmed. 1 Blenheim with crew of 3 shot down.

Enemy Convoy

1330 hours, 113 Squadron recco Bomba area. Enemy convoy consisting 3 medium, 7 large ships with coastal motor boats moving South East between Bomba and Tobruk. 5 S. 79's observed flying low over sea 22 miles West Barrani probably laying mines Naval authorities informed. 1935 hours. 6 Blenheims 211 Squadron despatched attack convoy reported by 113 Squadron failed to locate it and attacked alternative target Tobruk Harbour. Large fires started with thick black smoke. Bows of 1 battleship believed hit. A.A. heavy. One aircraft damaged but all returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1123/1)

East Indies

ESPERANCE

Detained at Aden. (See Operations Against Vichy French) *Page 12.*

CLAN CAMPBELL

Admty, 0023/29. KANIMBLA to escort from Durban to Aden. (. in C., E.I. 12322/1)

Gun-running Red Sea

Governor Aden's No 482 to Colonial Office. EL WAFI due Aden from patrol 2/10. If report shows that her captures have not deterred trade, propose asking Governor Aden to inform Imam that Yemeni Dhows carrying cargoes Italian East Africa will be sunk, and to implement this warning by sinking a few as an example provided that

/(A).....



War Diary

1.10.1940
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesGun-running
Red Sea, Contd.

(A) their position shows clearly that they are not in Arabic Coast Trade
 (B) they are outside 10 mile limit from Yemeni Coast
 (c) their crews are rescued.
 (C. in C., E.I., 1616/1)

ChinaFrench Ports
Shipping

Cancel my 0514/18/7 and substitute following: Arrangements British and Allied shipping wishing to trade with French colonial ports are in force.
 1. China Station. Normal trading
 2. East Indies Station. Ships may call at unfriendly ports in India but not Madagascar Reunion or Djibouti.
 3. Australian Station. Trade suspended.
 5. Ports in Atlantic. Trade generally prohibited except with French Cameroons and vessels will be required to call at Cape or Panama for instructions. Sailings to be reported. (C. in C., China, 0911Z/1)

ATHELKING
Overdue

C. in C., E.I. 1016/9. ATHELKING for Sourabaya 28/9 not arrived. (S.O.I. Singapore, 0845Z/1)

French Cargoes

My 0430/30. Confirmed ship carrying cargo of coal to Madagascar. Possible coal is to enable LINCOLN return Indo-China. Admiral Terraux, while refusing to divulge destination stated British interests not involved.
 Had previously explained to him contents of your 0911/13 and your 0909/13.
 Rumoured another ship is loading at Haiphong (? for Marseilles) endeavouring to confirm.
 Suggest such cases are not in accordance with understanding that Indo-China would conform with British shipping control regulations outside China Station. (L.O. Saigon 0300/1)

French
Evacuations

Admty. 1732/28. Request consideration be given to transfer of men to French Indo China as there appears no likelihood of neutral vessels being available to repatriate them to France.
 Para. four. No, but possibility exists if and when they are told that return to France is impossible. (C. in C., China 0547Z/1)

De Gaulle.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET 17

1.10.1930
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China-Contd.

De Gaulle
Movement
Indo-China

Suggesting M. de Shompre ex French Vice-Consul, Tientsin, could lead De Gaulle movement in Indo-China. Leaves today in VICEROY OF INDIA. (C. in C., China, 1036Z/1)

Enemy Unit

Your 0433/1. Time mentioned in Admty. 2020/26 is B.S.T. (D.D.I.C. 2016/1)

America & West Indies

Japanese
Shipping

Port Limon reports in Punta Arenas, Costa Rica that Japan is purchasing German and Italian ships at ports in this hemisphere for trade from and to Russia. (C. 2) (S.O.I. Kingston, 1725/1)

ARAUCA

A.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1947/30. No ship available to intercept before 9/10. Can you take action through U.S. Authorities to prevent ship sailing. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1122/1) (See Also German Merchant Ships)

2nd. Town
Flotilla
KALK
MADDOX

KALK and MADDOX damaged in collision whilst proceeding alongside Oiler at St. John's Newfoundland. Am awaiting further information. Remaining six ships 2nd Town Flotilla expected to sail from St. John's a.m. 2/10. S.O. HOPEWELL. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 2259/1)

Australia

STUART

Informing A.C.N.B. of sinking of Italian Submarine by STUART 0925/30. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria's report.) (Hd. of M. 1706/1)



War Diary

1.10.1940
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BARENFELS

Reported under repair at Bergen after air raid damage. (D.S. 392)

WINNETOU

Description (A.1) from BRITISH MASTER (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 10332/1)

Reported (A.2) that instructions given for following ships to carry out running repairs to maintain seaworthiness and enable them to sail at any time. Repairs requiring docking are to be referred to Hamburg. (D.S.393)

MUNSTERLAND	}	at Kobe
BURGENLAND		
ERMLAND		
KULMERLAND		
HAVELLAND	}	at Yokohama
ODENWALD		
RAMSES		at Shanghai
RHEIN		at Tampico
DUISBERG	}	at Venice
LEVERKUSEN		
PREUSSEN		
OLIVA		at Massawa
RUHR		at Trieste
TIRPITZ		at Malaga
FRIESLAND		at Payta, Peru

TIRPITZ at Malaga completed bunkering on 27th September (D.S. 393)

ANTARKTIS at Vigo embarked 2 ten-ton lorry loads of cases, all similar, received by road on 17th September (D.S. 393)

ARAUCA at Port Everglades, Florida.

Anonymous and unconfirmed report received that ship was released from attachment on 30/9 and may sail at any time (D.S. 393) (See America & West Indies)

My 2103/30 Jacksonville reports signs of activity. Salient features of ARAUCA. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2045/1)

LARISSA

Left for Russia, arriving 3/10. (Galatz, 1705/1)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BALENA etc.

My 1203/26. 3 Italian trawlers sailed from Vigo 0630/1. (Consul, Vigo, 1121/1)

MOST SECRETWar Diary1.10.1940
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedHIGHLAND
PATRIOT

British 14,172 tons. torpedoed 52° N., 19° W., now in boats (Lands End Radio 0717/1, 0812/1) WELLINGTON to investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 0841/1) Tugs, SCHELDE and SEAMAN to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0910/1) Cancel my 0910 Amended instructions to SALVONIA, SCHELDE and SEAMAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1025/1) Sank, 52.13N 19.04 W., Master and 135 of crew and 33 passengers on board WELLINGTON. 3 of crew missing. 2 serious casualties. Am sweeping towards O.B. 220 until dark, then proceeding destination. (WELLINGTON 1213/1)

Unknown ship torpedoed in 52° N., 19° W at 0732/1 (D.D.I.C. 0920/1)

JOSE DE LARRINAGA }
NEPTUNIAN }

Probably torpedoed in about 58°30' N., 16°10' W., during the night 6-7/9. (D.S. 392)

MONTE MONCAYO
(Torpedoed 28/9)

Spanish 4291 tons. Torpedoed and probably sunk 8' south of Sardinia by an Italian submarine on 28/9. 4 killed. (D.O.R.. 2/10)

Submarines Reported

0220 54° to 55° N., W. of 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 391)

1037 54° N., 17° to 19° W., position indefinite (D.S. 392)

1750 WELLINGTON pass to YORKWOOD. U-Boat reported in position 52° 00' N., 21° 00' W., probably shadowing you and may have reported you to U-Boat in 35° 00' N 25° 00' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1750/1)

Estimated
Dispositions

Italian- 1 between Gibraltar and Azores
German:- 1 in 52° N. 19° W., at 0817/1
1 in about 54° N., 18° W., at 1037/1
1 about 54° to 55° N., and west of 20° W at 0220/1.
Possible 1 still further W.
2 or possibly 3 in N.W. Approached of which 1 was in about 57° 30' N., 15° W., at 1209/30: Whereabouts of others unknown.
Possibly French. 2 about 24° 30' N., 16° 20' W. at 0925/29. Course South. (D.D.I.C. 1323/1)

MOST SECRETWar Diary

1.10.1940

TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Attacked

1515

SCIMITAR and PERIWINKLE attacked contact in position 055° 50' N., 007° 28' W., PERIWINKLE remaining in this position. S Sonic telegraphy signals were heard by H.M.S. GERANIUM also with convoy H.X. 74 at about this time. Convoy was not attacked. (WINCHELSEA 1515/1) Probably wreck of NEW SEVILLA (D.S. 393)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

21

2.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

BRILLIANT, BEAGLE and BULLDOG of the 1st D.F. (Portsmouth Command) proceeded to Rosyth today to join C. in C., Home Fleet as part of the redistribution of destroyers. (See 30/9)

DESPATCH, GARLAND, KELVIN and JAGUAR carried out a sweep off the French Coast from Ushant to Roches Douvres last night.

C.W. & C.E.
Convoys-
Cover

C. in C., Portsmouth points out that with the presence of enemy destroyers and T.B's in the Channel the necessity of providing C.W. and C.E. Convoys with a destroyer cover must be considered.

Destroyers

C. in C., Nore urges the normal refit programme should commence again at an early date, as it is undesirable to commence the winter with an accumulation of ships awaiting refit. He suggests that immediately the U.S.A. destroyers become ready for service they should be regarded as replacements for those refitting.

C. in C., Portsmouth reports that he has only 8 destroyers, only 4 of which are available for the patrols on alternate nights in the Channel. During these patrols, the Ships companies have to be closed up at action stations for 16 hours, and there will be a loss of efficiency due to fatigue if these four destroyers carry out the patrol every other night. He also wishes to link these patrols with the "Volcano" and "Deluge" signals, in order to rest the personnel as much as possible.

The 2nd Town Flotilla sailed from St. John's today, except two vessels delayed by collision damage.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

22

2.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on the channel ports and gun positions, though fewer aircraft are now being employed on this duty, than during September.

3 Ansons detailed to attack barge concentrations between Isle le Bas and Brest failed to locate the target.

Enemy Air Activity

No Naval damage was caused when Dover was raided this morning.

A single plane attacked Mere Oil Fuel Depot (Portland) this morning and dropped a bomb which failed to explode.

CURACOA reports that Convoy H.X. 94 A was attacked East of Buchan Ness this evening by two torpedo aircraft, both of which fired torpedoes which missed. Fighter aircraft shot down one of the enemy and badly damaged another.

VANITY and Convoy F.S. 97 were unsuccessfully attacked late this evening near the Humber.,

Fighter aircraft shot down one enemy machine.

SS LATYMER, straggler from H.G. 44 was bombed 25 miles off Bantry Bay at 1238/2. No damage is reported.

Mining

Some minelaying by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary last night is suspected.

Four Hampdens successfully laid mines in the Gironde Estuary.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

23

2.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Blenheims today made ^{five} ~~four~~ raids on Assab obtaining direct hits on jetty and sheds.

China

Wei-Hai-Wei

The Japanese have landed about 60 men at Wei-Hai-Wei, and although they have not yet infringed British property, have announced their decision, now that the original agreement with China has expired not to recognise its renewal but to take over the territory. Japanese Naval Authorities have decided to administer Liu Island as from 1000/1. About 300 men of the Chinese Navy landed at Wei-Hai-Wei p.m./2.

MOST SECRETWar Diary

2.10.1940

WednesdaySITUATION REPORTOperations Against Vichy French.

C.S.f. in DEVONSHIRE left Freetown this afternoon for Duala with FURY, FORESIGHT, French escort ships COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE, transports WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND with De Gaulle's force.

Mediterranean

Air Attacks
on Fleet
29/9-2/10

C. in C., Med. reports that during the operations of passing reinforcements to Malta 29/9-2/10 attacks were made with bombs and torpedoes by enemy aircraft on our fleet, which however sustained no damage. Four enemy aircraft were shot down. Three Fulmars force landed.

Second
Submarine Sunk
(BERILLO)

In addition to the submarine sunk by STUART on her way back to Alexandria 30/9 with a burst steam pipe HAVOCK and HASTY also sank a submarine at 0730/2 in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Convoy
A.N. 4.

During the operation of passing reinforcements to Malta CALCUTTA and 2 destroyers covered the passage of convoy A.N. 4. to Piraeus. The Convoy was shadowed but not bombed.

Air
Reconnaissance
Inadequate

At 1:26/30 aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS sighted 7 cruisers and 7 destroyers about 100 miles to northward of the Fleet, followed by a report bringing the enemy's force to 4 or 5 battleships, 11 cruisers and 17 destroyers. The fact the enemy was discovered by fleet air reconnaissance 100 miles from our fleet before there was any inkling of their presence emphasises the inadequate scale of our shore based air reconnaissance in the Central Mediterranean.



MOST SECRET

2.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
Signal

At 0200/2. (D.C.0230/2) At 1400/2.
(D.C.1447/2)

Manchester Canal

Ministry of Transport support suggestion in A/M.1933/27 as to defence of Eastham Lock. (Air Ministry 1430/2 to Fighter Command)

Policy

INGLEFIELD)
KEPPEL

FOCNA,1746/1. I require INGLEFIELD in Home Fleet. FOCNA, can have KEPPEL back as Captain D.12 has gone ashore. (C.in C. HF.1005/2 to Admiralty)

Patrol Vessels
passing as
Hospital Ships

Your 1600/1. All such Ships whatever their markings should be destroyed in accordance with my 1212/21, except German Hospital Ships exempted by AFO.3356/40. (ACNS.H.1232/2 to C.in C. Nore).

Limits of W.A.
and Plymouth
Commands

Following are proposed new Station Limits for a WA. Command based on Liverpool and a Plymouth Command based on Plymouth. Request your views. (VCNS.1532/2 to C.in C. WA).

Anti-Invasion
Patrol

Dover 1301/1. Portsmouth destroyers are carrying out the patrol you requested tonight but I fear that it will not be possible to continue this routine. Portsmouth Destroyer Force is today 2 HUNT Class, 3 V's, and 3 S's. HUNTS are employed on convoy escort duty and, allowing for boiler cleaning and escort for M/V groups to Dartmouth, only 4 destroyers remain for other services. The patrol is a 16 hour one during which companies must be closed up at action stations continuously and there will be loss of efficiency due to fatigue if these 4 destroyers carry out this patrol every other night.

The primary duty for the destroyers is anti-invasion force, and as proposed patrol takes available Portsmouth destroyers to the Eastern end of the command the Western area is from the invasion aspect left exposed during the patrol.

I therefore suggest that either 2 destroyers carry out the proposed patrol every other night or alternatively all 4 destroyers carry out the patrol every 4th night. The latter has the advantage

/that.....

MOST SECRET2.10.1940.
Wednesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy (continued)Anti-Invasion
Patrol (continued)

that any attack will be made in force.

I also wish to link this patrol with the Volcano Deluge Signals so as to rest the personnel when possible. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1727/2 to VA. Dover)

My 1727/2. With Enemy TB's and Destroyers in the Channel Area, the necessity of providing CW. and CE. Convoys with a Destroyer Cover must be considered. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1953/2 to Admiralty).

Convoys in
Moray Firth
Area

Analysis of recent air attacks on convoys in the Moray Firth area shows that the critical hour for attack is about one hour after sunset. Suggested you try the experiment of adjusting times of sailing and speed of convoys so that at this critical time they are in the immediate neighbourhood of Wick or Dyce when the maximum fighter protection would be available if conditions of light allow. Whether Wick or Dyce are selected would depend to some extent on the tide in the Pentland Firth. (ACOS 1923/2 to C.in C. WA).

Destroyers.
Proposed resumption
of Normal Refit
Programme

This resumption seems desirable if accumulation of Ships awaiting refit is to be avoided at the beginning of winter. (C.in C. Nore 1944/30 to Admiralty).

MovementsEGRET

Expect arrive 20.C.Buoy 2300. (EGRET 0742/2 to C.in C. Rosyth).

CONQUEROR

Your 0415. Arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0816/2 to FOIC. Portland).

Portsmouth

Movements for Night 2/3. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1347/2).

Orkneys

Movements for Night 2/3. (FOCOS.1531/2) Trawler Lines (ACOS.1536/2)

HASTINGS)
LOWESTOFT)

My 0517/1/9. HASTINGS joined Northern Escort Force. LOWESTOFT returned to Rosyth Escort Force. (C.in C. Rosyth 1625/2 to C.in C.WA)



2.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements (continued)

ARK ROYAL
ARGUS
AUSTRALIA

My 2311/25/9. ARK ROYAL to proceed to Liverpool for docking, short refit, and leave; and to be ready to sail from Liverpool 26/10 to rejoin Force H. ARGUS and AUSTRALIA to proceed to Clyde. (1st SL.1926/2 to C.in C.WA)

CAIRO

My 2303/28. Will sail to arrive Clyde AM/6. (C.in C.HF.1938/2 to C.in C.WA)

Dover

Patrols for Night 2/3. (VA. Dover 1536/2).

Operations

Operation "Lucid"
HUSSAR

Paragraph II. Intend to allocate Destroyers as follows: Force A, 4 of 21st D.F.; Force B, 4 of 21st D.F.; Force C, 3 of 16th D.F. Minesweepers as follows: Force A, SUTTON, SALAMANDER, SELKIRK; Force B, SPEEDWELL, ELGIN, HUSSAR. M.T.B.'s and M.L.'s will be allocated on arrival. (C.in C. Nore 1110/2 to Admiralty).

Paragraph II. Destroyers are allocated as follows: Force A, D.21 in CAMPBELL (SO. of Force A), WALPOLE, MACKAY, CATTISTOCK; Force B, HAMBLEDON (Captain in charge of Operation and SO. Force B), GARTH, VENETIA, WITCH; Force C, MALCOLM (SO. D.16) WIVERN, VERITY. M.T.B.'s 31 and 32 and 2 M.L.'s to Force A, and M.T.B.'s 34 and 35 and 2 M.L.'s to Force B. OAKFIELD and WAR NIZAM will exchange duties. WAR BAHADUR will not take part. (C.in C. Nore 2118/2 to Admiralty).

Following are times of passing Garrison Point on 3/10. (C.in C. Nore 2224/2)

Force C to sail in time to pass North Goodwin L.V. at 1915/3 and then comply with Admiralty Operation Order, paragraphs 28 and 29, attacking any Shipping found in the Roads. Route. Return Harwich by Gap E. (C.in C. Nore 2240/2 to D.16).

Talk both reported and overheard among liberty men returning on board destroyer tonight Wednesday stated Ostend was to be bombarded by cruisers and destroyers to cover sending in of fire ships tomorrow Thursday night. It seems certain this has been reported on shore. (Captain D.16. 2246/2 to C.in C. Nore).



War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Lucid".
Contd. ✓

D. 16's 2246/2. Consider this *(talk)* unavoidable after cancellation of previous operation about which ships companies were told when at sea and due to inference from similar dispositions now being made. (C. in C. Nore 0006/3 to Adty.)

Anti-Invasion
Patrol

VANOC, SARDONYX, and STURDY patrol Eastward to No.10 Buoy and may proceed southward as far as 50° 5' N. Due at Lydd Light Float 2140/2 from Westward to patrol off Dover. (C. in C. Nore 1340/2 and C. in C. Portsmouth 1533/2).

Iceland.

R.A.F. Personnel and 250 A.M.P. await return to U.K. Flooding of R.A.F. Base makes their early return essential. Could the small Personnel Ship be sent with ST. CLAIR convoy and return escorted by LORD AUSTIN and LORD MIDDLETON. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1600/2 to Adty.)

Projected Operation
with FURIOUS

Adty. Message 2344/30 (See Mediterranean). It has now been decided to postpone the operation until ARK ROYAL is completed. (D.O.D.F. 1830/2 to C. in C. H.F.).

Operation ^{*"Active"*}
ACTIVE

Operation not to be at sea on Night 3/4. (C. in C. Nore 2108/2 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

Submarines

O.24.

Expects arrive Dundee 0730. (C. in C. Rosyth 0910/2 to Adty.)

TRIDENT.

Enter Patrol area. (Capt. S.2. 1416/2 to TRIDENT.)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/3. (V.A.S. 1728/2).

Area H.1.

Will be unavoidably vacated from P.M./95 to P.M./9. (V.A.S. 2247/2 to C. in C. Nore).

TALISMAN

C. in C. W.A. 1023/2. My 1731/20. Proceeding unescorted and may not reach R/V in time. Request R/V be altered to 090 Lizard 10 miles at 0730/3. (S.5. 1331/2 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

War Diary

2.10.1940

WednesdayHOME COMMANDSBritish Air Activity.Off Ushant.

Between 0640 and 0655/2, aircraft attacked Barges and M/V's. (St. Eval 1035/2 to H.Q. 15 Group).

Off Texel.

At 1950/2 in 53° 10' N. 3° 26' E., aircraft bombed a Vessel of 800 tons with Red Crosses on funnel and Deck. Bomb fell 50 yards short. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0130/3 to H.Q.C.C.).

Enemy Air Activity.VIVIEN.

Your 1834/1. Aircraft was Junkers 88. Report has been sent to Capt. DREF. No doubt that correct Identification Letter, S, was flashed by aircraft. (VIVIEN 0930/2 to Adty.).

Mere O.F. Depot.

At 0837/2 one aircraft dropped 4 Bombs, 3 in sea and on beach, one unexploded between 19 and 21 Tanks. No damage yet. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1243/2 to Adty.)

Dover,
bombed
and shelled.

At 1134/2, 8 H.E. Bombs fell. 6 small in Town, demolishing some houses and wounding 7 civilians; one large in Town, unexploded; and one small near Langdon Barracks, No damage or casualties. At 1633 one presumed Shell fell in harbour. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 1754/2 to Adty.).

Convoy "Jumbo"
Jumbo (4x.94A)

Attacked by 2 Torpedo aircraft in 57°26'N. 1°36'W. One aircraft shot down by Fighter. Both fired Torpedoes, which missed. (CURACOA 1931/2 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

VANITY

Aircraft heard. 2 Flares, 1 Bomb. Missed. (VANITY 2225/2).

MOST SECRET

2.10.1940.

Wednesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSMiningThames Estuary

2 Red Mines detonated by Sweepers during Night 1/2; one in 51° 30.4'N. 1° 4.7'E. (C. in C. Nore 1007/2 to Adty.)

Off Yarmouth

Report received that 6 Magnetic Mines detonated in 52° 41'N. 2° 11'E. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1507/2 to Adty.) 2 trawlers pulsing for Red Mines detonated 3 between sweeps, 2 off starboard bow, and 1 off port bow all within few seconds of one another. No aircraft in sight, and explosions reported to be more like Mines than Bombs. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1645/2 to Adty.)

R.A.F. Uxbridge report possible Minelaying Falmouth remains closed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2100/2 to Adty.)

Enemy IntelligenceLorient

TRIBUNE reports many Armed Trawlers in Ile de Groix area may be assisted by Motor Fishing Vessels; and dazzle-painted Trawlers in company entered Lorient 28/9. Numerous steam, motor and sailing vessels in area are burning to-day. (Capt. S.2. 0744/2 to TRIDENT, TIGRIS).

Barges between Morlaix and Ushant

Reported on 1/10. Now believed to be Tunny Boats. (H.Q.C.C. Received 1800 to Adty.)

Brest to Cherbourg.

Numbers of Fishing Craft at Ile Molene, Kersaint, and other harbours at 1505/2. (15 Group H.Q. 1820/2 to H.Q.C.C.) (H.Q.C.C. Plymouth 2055/2 to 15 Group).

Off Cape Barfleur.

At 1430 in 49° 32'N. 1° 9'W. four M/V's of 3000 tons and one Flak Ship steering Northerly at 8 knots. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1830/2).

Port En-Bessin.

At 1440/2, 25 M/V's about 150 tons and one Hospital Ship in harbour. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1830/2).

2.10.1940.
Wednesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

RETAKO

Fleet Minesweeper BRITOMART and L.L. Trawler RETAKO in collision A.M./1. RETAKO damaged above waterline but remaining in service till 6/10 when repairs will take 14 days. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1250/2 to Adty.)

FORESIGHT.

Now seaworthy, but her W/T and A/S are out of action and cannot be repaired at Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1055 N/2 to Adty.)

KALK)
MADDOX)

Second ^{"Tow"}~~COV~~ Flotilla sailed 1330 G.M.T. to-day, except KALK and MADDOX delayed by collision damage. (N.O.I.C. St. John's 1140/2 to R.A. 3 B.S.). F.O.C. 3 B.S. with Eng. Captain has gone by air to St. John's, N.F. to investigate damage which involves propeller in both ships. Dry dock at St. John's not available for some weeks. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1432/2 to Adty.).



MOST SECRET 2

2.10.1940.

Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys.

Shipping

H.X. 75 Meet. Route. (C.-in-C.W.A. 0920/2, (amended 1300/2) and 1040/2).

O.B. 223. SCIMITAR and 2 A/S trawlers to join. (C.-in-C. W.A. 1129/2).

H.G. 44. Route. (C. in C. W.A. 1120/2).

O.B. 225. Route. (D.T.D., 1111/2)

O.A. 225. Route. (D.T.D., 1112/2)

S.L. 51. Escort and route. (C.in C. S.A. 1133/2)

C.E.12. Request fighter protection (C.in C. Nore 2116/2).

H.X. 74A Time of arrival Kinnaird Head. HIBISCUS has rejoined. (ABERDEEN, 1042/2)

S.L. 48. To alter course (C. in C. W.A. 1830/2).

H.G.45. To embark Gibraltar refugees. (V.C.N.S. 2300/2) (See North Atlantic).

H.X. 73. On time at R.V. all ships. DALVEEN sunk and QUEEN CITY damaged by aircraft off Kinnaird Head. (D.T.D. 1905/2).

H.X. 77. EMPIRE AUDACITY carrying aeroplanes and rifles. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1432/1). Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1101/1).

O.A. 223. Details (N.C.S.O. Methil. 1216/2).

Dispersal Dates. Now uncertain. Suggestion for onward routeing. (D.T.D. 1904/2).

Troop Convoys.

W.S. 3. My 1445/1. Delayed 12 hours. Amend R.V. for SHEFFIELD, VERSATILE, WITHERINGTON, VISCOUNT and VIMY. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1205/2) Ocean escort (see South Atlantic).

W.S. 4. (See South Atlantic).

U.S.S. Route. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0914 Z/2).

Iceland. (add separate sheet)

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.~~Troop Convoys.~~Shipping.CANADA
SPHINXFrench hospital ships, position and course
(F/B K. 5909, 1800/2, 1815/2).EDOUARD ANSALE.

Belgian trawler. Requesting if Admty 1351/19/6, detention of Belgian ships, is still in force. This vessel fishing off S.W. Coast (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1235/2) Admty. 1351/19/6 was amended by A.M. 1858/3/7 - "this order no longer applies to Belgian fishing vessels."
(D.T.D., 1616/3).

Iceland.

M.T. Ship BLACKHEATH loading Glasgow and accommodation ship ST. CLAIR to be sailed from Clyde to Stornoway in Convoy W.N. 21. A/S trawlers WHITEHORN, WISTARIA, ELM and HAZEL are to be sailed from Aberdeen so as to arrive Stornoway on 8th October, to escort BLACKHEATH and ST. CLAIR to Reykjavik.
(D.O.D. (H) 1946/1.)



War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

BARHAM

Damage. Dockyard assistance required for repairs to catapult. (C. in C., S.A., 1501/2)

Duala

My 1925/30. (No trace War Registry 1815/1 and 1407/30 from C. in C., South Atlantic refer) Transfer of troops approximately 2,000 will take place at Ambas Bay, Victoria. Request you charter or requisition CALABAR and any available ships suitable for purpose of transport to Duala as well as necessary number of tugs and lighters (date) CORNWALL pass to N.C.S.O. Duala. (C. in C., S.A., 0001N/2 to Govr. Lagos for D. of Nigerian M.)

Your 1913/27 General situation not much changed since DELHI's visit in September Suggest for consideration that CORNWALL's object vide Admty 1912/26 has ceased to exist. (CORNWALL 1545/2 to C. in C., S.A.)

Azores
Air Search

Subject to ARK ROYAL not being delayed at A/S rendezvous, air search to be carried out on line Azores to Finisterre, to identify shipping approaching Azores. Force in S.O.(I) Gib. 1057/1 was Spanish and arrived Marin 30/9. (D.O.D. (F) to ARK ROYAL, 1836/2)

Force
for Duala

Departure 1700/Z, C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE, FURY, FORESIGHT. French escort ships COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE, with transports WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2005/2) *See next page*

French
Submarines

In view of ARK ROYAL's 1055/1, can you confirm reported movements of French submarines in your 1402/26. (D.D.I.C. to F.O.C.N.A. 1703/2)

ARK ROYAL

Your 1521/29. Leave to be planned on assumption that ARK ROYAL's stay in U.K. will be 14 days only. (D.N.A.D. to ARK ROYAL 1720/2)

French
Africa

Situation report No 27. Vichy warns Morocco against eventual arrival of General Catroux. (D.N.I. to S.O. Force M., etc., 1822/2)

/Dakar.....

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Dakar
Situation

Message for Gen. Ismay from ^{Is}Speers on Dakar morale and reactions to bombardment (C. in C., S.A., 1408/2)

RENOWN

Pending further instructions, RENOWN not to be sighted from Azores, and destroyers to be sighted as little as possible. (V.C.N.S., to V.A. Force H., 1357/2)

→ DEVONSHIRE
for Duala

Intend sailing 1600N/2 Route, thence to Amba Bay or Cameroons River. (F.O.C. I.C.S 1031/2) See below 7 previous page.

French
Prisoners

Yours 2214/1. As De Gaulles's force is sailing for Duala at 1630 today, propose these prisoners be sent to U.K. in PRETORIA CASTLE sailing early a.m/3. No accommodation available ashore at Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1303/2)

My 2214 H.M.G. have decided that proposal made by De Gaulle should be accepted. An endeavour should be made to arrange exchange with Dakar before BARHAM sails otherwise they should be sent to Gibraltar in BARHAM. (D.O.D.(F) 2202/2)

SHEFFIELD

On relief by CUMBERLAND to rejoin Force H (D.O.D. (F) 2010/2)

Flying Boat
Lost

Following information from English Officer who left Casablanca 27/9. British Flying Boat was brought down by three French Fighters three of crew safe at Rabat two killed. Information received from French Airmen and believed correct. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1811/2)

"Alloy" and
"Shrapnel"

Readjustments. Suggesting sending "Alloy" Gibraltar to meet A and S.H. ship. (G.O.C. Force A. Sierra Leone to W,O,m 1800/2)

→ Force
For Duala

F.O.C. 1CS in DEVONSHIRE, three destroyers WESTERNLAND, PENNALAND with de Gaulle Force French Sloop SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA and two French Sloops expect to arrive Victoria daylight 7/10. Nigeria Marine are arranging ships for transport of troops to Duala and attendant vessels to assist transfer. M.T. convoy of five vessels

0233/2 October.

To F.O.C. North Atlantic, 536.

From Admiralty.

AIDAC.

A.T. 0241/12/7, paragraph C, made it clear that we should take action against French warships proceeding to enemy controlled ports.

The probable composition of the force sighted by HOTSPUR at 0515/11/9 was indicated in N. A. Madrid's 1809/10/9.

A report in writing is to be forwarded as to why no action was taken to order RENOWN to sea on receipt of either N.A. 1809/10 or HOTSPUR's reporting signal in case these ships proceeded to the Northward.

0233/2

W.D. Note.--

Report asked for was made in F.O.C. North Atlantic's letter No. X.224/465, dated 6th October, 1940, (M.019 598/40). Docket M.019 598/40 is in Case 6064, A. O., Park Royal. (For copy, see W.D., 6/10/40, page 128)



War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Force for Duala, Contd.

maximum draught 18 feet with DELHI, DRAGON MILFORD, TURCOMAN and ~~the~~ PRESIDENT HOUDICE sails from Freetown 0800/3. Route. On arrival of DEVONSHIRE at Duala proceed as directed by C.S. 1. to take over escort of M.T. Convoy from D. Class.
(C. in C., S.A., 2247N/2 to CORNWALL)

North Atlantic

Lisbon Evacuation RENE PAUL

Following arrangements made with Belgium Authorities Lisbon subject to your approval. Belgium Authorities state urgent that they keep the ships at Lisbon in case of evacuation. As Belgian ship RENE PAUL, 499 tons, is at present unfit for service have nominated her for evacuation duties after docking and repairs. After she is fit for service half of her capacity to be reserved to British Government and half expense to be paid by British Government and RENE PAUL to be under control of N.C.S.O. Lisbon.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1827/2 to Admty.,)

Ditto NEURALIA

Your 1050/2 and Admty 1219/2. NEURALIA's move to and from Lisbon to be hastened as much as possible.
On her return she is required to embark women and children evacuees from Gibraltar and to sail for Jamaica with H.G. 45, parting company after leaving A/S escort. Poles and Britishers brought from Lisbon are to be embarked in ships of H.G. 45 as far as practicable, preference being given to airmen.
Remainder if any must be retained at Gibraltar to await next opportunity of onward passage.
Request report of number of evacuees embarked in NEURALIA and number remaining.
(V.C.N.S.2300/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LLANGOLLEN

My 1656. LLANGOLLEN should be released
(D.T.S.D. 1946/2)



War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

ARK ROYAL

Are you in touch with ARK ROYAL? (1st S.L. to C. in C., S.A., 0854/z) Nothing from ARK ROYAL, but following from GREYHOUND. Escort detached (position) (C. in C., S.A. 0805N/2)

RESOLUTION

Asking for early report of damage and forecast of sailing date. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A., 0232/2)

A.P. 3.

Reply to G. in C., S.A., 2125/23 re suppliers of fuel and water. Except DOMINION MONARCH, no vessel should have required replenishment Freetown. (D. of S.T., 1117/2)

MOOLTAN
DUNOTTAR CASTLE
ALCANTARA

My 2313N/30. Owing to delay in arrival MOOLTAN and DUNOTTAR CASTLE, ALCANTARA will escort Convoy S.L. 51. Request confirmation whether ALCANTARA can be taken in hand for docking and repairs on arrival U.K. approx. 1/11 and whether route S.L. 51 will be similar to S.L. 50 thus necessitating sailing convoy two days early. (C. in C., S.A., 1133/2 to Adty., 1135/2 to ALCANTARA)

W.S. 3.
W.S. 4.

Admty, 1500/27/9, 1728/1/40 and 0231/2/10 Ocean escort to be provided as follows:
CUMBERLAND to relieve SHEFFIELD with W.S. 3 slow on 9/10 escorting them to Capetown.
DORSETSHIRE to relieve KENYA on arrival of W.S. 3. fast at Freetown.
DORSETSHIRE will be available to escort either group of W.S. 3. to Aden, or, should C. in C., East Indies be unable to provide escort for the other group, DORSETSHIRE could escort both groups together.
On arrival at Aden DORSETSHIRE to proceed as required by C. in C., S.A.
Anticipated that W.S. 4. will leave U.K. early in November. (D.O.D.(F) 1957/2)

→ CUMBERLAND

To be repaired at Cape. (D.O.D.(F) 2011/2

/FORESIGHT.....



War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

FORESIGHT

Now seaworthy, but W/T and A/S out of action and cannot be repaired in Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1055N/2)

A.P. 3.
CANTON
CARNARVON CASTLE
CARTHAGE

C. in C., E.I., 0812/29. R.V. for CARTHAGE with A.P. 3. Route. CANTON will rejoin as escort. After CARTHAGE has taken over convoy, CANTON and CARNARVON CASTLE will return to Simonstown and Capetown to Fuel. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1420Z/2)

Suspicious Ship

R.O. Ascension's 1230/1. Ship cannot be accounted for here. (S.O.I) Freetown, 0754/2)

Mediterranean

Stores, Malta.

Re shipment in merchant ship to run through Western Mediterranean. (Govr. Malta, 1836/2)

Operations 29/9-2/10

Intend issuing the following press communique tomorrow: During the period 29/9-2/10 while our Naval Forces were covering certain operations in the central Mediterranean and Aegean the Italian Fleet was located proceeding towards its base but too far away for contact to be made. Attacks were made by enemy aircraft on our Fleet which however sustained no damage. Four enemy aircraft were shot down. (C. in C., Med, 1540/2)

Submarines

Under consideration to send 4 small submarines to Mediterranean to be operated from Malta in near future, request proposals. (V.C.N.S., to V.A.S., 1312/2)

Air Raid Reports

Tonbe circulated by Air Ministry (V.A.Malta 1703/2)

French Ships

ATHOS II, DJENNE, FLORIDA Cologne Marseilles 3/10 for Beirut may be allowed to pass to Beirut. If met by surface vessels they may be boarded for verification. It has been guaranteed they will carry neither cargo nor military equipment. (C. in C., Med 2225/2)

/Air Summary.....

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WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Air Summary,
Malta

H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. 1114/2. No naval incidents Malta Air Intelligence reports to 1800/2. Ionian Sea reconnaissance and to Corfu. No incidents. No air activity over Malta today. (H.G. Malta, 1610/2)

Operations
29/9-2/10

Completed. Report (C. in C., Med., 1259/2)

Enemy
Intelligence

Your 1505/1. Source Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs and General Staff. (N.A., Belgrade, 1215/2)

East IndiesAir
Patrols

A.M. 2237/29 and 1235/30. Necessity of maintaining flow of trade fully realised but present cycle of slow convoys with intermediate fast convoys absorbs whole of Red Sea Force (my 1528/29/8). No additional slow trade convoy can therefore be accepted at present. As regards unprotected independent sailings, consider these would be imprudent as a general rule so long as air and submarine threats remain, c.f. *ATLAS, EL HAK and VELHO. In special cases, a few independent sailings in ballast have been allowed when some cover in most dangerous area was available from B.N. and B.S. Convoys, but I do not recommend this procedure for ships carrying urgent and valuable commercial cargo. There were 18 attacks on shipping in Red Sea during September. (C. in C., E.I., 11442/2)

* ATLAS sunk by 16.29u
GUALIELMOTTI (650P)

CAP VARELLA

Re 005/2 from Admiralty assume undertaking given in 2050/13/9 from Admiralty no longer holds. If ship is met with intended to send her into British port under armed guard for contraband control. (C. in C., E.I., 14562/2)

Assessed to 5
scap. 60.

4 Assab Raids

Intelligence Summary No 114 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 2/10. Four raids Assab, 2 Blenheims Indian Wing attacked Naval Barracks and oil tanks. 0330 hit one building in Barracks results on tanks not observed. 3 Blenheims 8 Sqn. attacked sheds by North jetty 0805 scoring direct hit on jetty and sheds, 3 more attacked and hit buildings West of sheds 0707, 2 Blenheims India Wing attacked underground fuel storage doing no damage.

/1 Blenheim.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

4 Assab Raids,
Contd.

1 Blenheim 203 Sqn. photographic reconnaissance Jibuti 0840, Tanoer still anchored entrance harbour, Five Gladiators 94 Sqn. standing Fighter patrol Aden 0800 to 1200. All times G.M.T. No casualties. (A.H.Q., Aden 1900/2)

Convoy
Escort

Intentions for B.N. 7. U.S. 5., U.S. 5 A, B.N. 8. B.M. 2., S.W.2., W.S.3., A.P. 3., C.M. 4., (C. in C., E.I. 1602Z/2)

CLIVE
GRIMSBY

Left Suez 1530Z/2 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 2036/2)

Air Defence
India

Appreciation of situation re possible Japanese oppression. (A.H.Q., India to Air Min., 0820/2)

China

Wei-Hai-Wei
Withdrawal

Wei Hai Wei telegram 21/1/10. As withdrawal from Wei Hai Wei seems probable, suggest following. Try to withdraw all Naval and Hospital stores furniture and also empty canteen and club including as many engines as possible. Request instructions to this effect including disposal of yard craft. Estimate can count on one month's grace without interference. Local sale would not be effective except it may be possible to dispose of coal. (N.O.I.C., Wei-Hai-Wei 0057Z/2) *Admty Instructions. Page 175*

Japanese at
Wei Hai Hei

Repetition of Wei Hai Wei telegram 18. 29/9 to Embassy, Shanghai. About 300 men of Chinese Navy have landed in island this afternoon (C. in C., China to Admty., 0845/2) Japanese landed about 60 men, not yet infringed British property. Adm Nomura in ~~WATE~~, S.N.O.'s ~~HIRYU~~ and 2 destroyers off Island. (Consul, Singapore, 1305/2) Japanese intend to take all property loaned under agreement. Notice posted promising not to interfere with our naval employees or intimidate (Consul, Singapore, 1820/2) Now that British interests have expired, Japanese naval authorities have decided to take over and administer Liu Island from 1000/1 and thereafter to take all necessary measures (Consul, Singapore, 1820/2)

De Gaulle
Movement

Reporting an interview with De Schompre (G.S.O. 1., Far East, to W.O., 2034/2)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

U.S.
Destroyers

Dates for further deliveries at Halifax (Hd of M., to R.A. 3. B.S. 1309/2) Suggest you arrange delivery at your convenience of 6 American destroyers for R.C.N. (Hd. of M to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa. 1310/2)

KALK
MADDOX

2nd Town Flotilla sailed 1330 G.M.T. today except for KALK and MADDOX delayed by collision damage. (N.O.I.C. St John's 1140/2) My 2259/1. F.O.C. 3 B.S. and Eng. Capt. Gray investigating damage which involved propeller in both ships. Dry dock at St. John's N.F. not available for some weeks. (F.O. 3. B.S., 1432/2)

SATURNUS

Norwegian, asking for 17,000 gallons lubricating oil at Corpus Christi. Ship not known to Norwegian Mission, New York. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1901/2)

HAKONE MARU

Arrived Bermuda 30/9 Detained by M.E.W. Suggest allowed to proceed. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1901/2)

French Guiana
QUERCY

Following from +Colonial Office Addressed British Guiana No 375. My tel 367. Your Tel 387. Message from Gen. de Gaulle for Chandon in substitution of my telegram 362:-
"Impossible to send at present a vessel of Free France to carry our rally in French Guiana. Only solution at present is coup d'etat from within. In view of report of your agent at Cayenne that QUERCY is bringing about 250 fusiliers marins from Martinique, prospects of carrying out successful coup d'etat in immediate future appear unfavourable. You should however continue to report to me and inform me when you consider situation ripe"

In connection with sailing of QUERCY H.M. Ambassador at Washington has told U.S. Secretary of State that H.M.G+ are naturally perturbed at a French ship sailing from Martinique at a moment of strained relations between the French Government and themselves particularly after it had been understood that the United States would keep control over the movement of French ships in the West Indies. (2250/2 to C. in C., A.W.I)

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Wednesday.



War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HERCULES.
K.L.10.

My 1619/21, reported arrival of HERCULES.
Santander reports this vessel was really
K.L.10 which sailed on following day.
(N.A. Madrid 1754/2).

KHAKA

Arrived from Poti with manganese ore.
(Galatz, 0109/2).

VLIA

" " " " " "

2.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked

- VESTVARD Norwegian 4319 tons. Reported by survivors to have been torpedoed, 300' W. of Ireland about 28/9. Sailed in Convoy O.B.218. (D.O.R. 3/10).
- MANCHESTER BRIGADE (torpedoed 27/9). British, 6042 tons, ^{survivors} picked up by French Hospital Ship CANADA and landed Gibraltar today. Ship was leading ship in convoy and torpedoed aft at 0004/27, 20 miles North of Ireland sinking in about one minute. Survivors believe that a few others of crew may have been picked up by another ship of same convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1112/2) Commodore's ship of Convoy O.B. 218. (D.S. 394).
- KAYESON British, 4606 tons. SSSS 51.12 N., 24.22 W. (Lands End Radio, 1630/2) O.B. 220 after dispersal. A/S vessels LADY ELSA and BLACKFLY sent to assist. (D.S. 394).
- TANCRED Norwegian, 6094 tons, torpedoed after dispersal of Convoy O.B. 217, probably on 26/9, west of Ireland. Crew reported on Norwegian TRICOLOR, bound for New York. (D.S. 394).
- MABRITON (torpedoed 24/9). 18 further survivors known to have been picked up by JASON (D.S. 394) Ex Convoy O.A. 216. Torpedoed and sunk 2345/24, 36 hours after convoy dispersed. Position not known. 18 survivors in JASON and 7 rescued by ROCHESTER (D.O.R. 3/10).

SMITH.—To the memory of HUMPHREY HUGH SMITH, D.S.O., Vice-Admiral (retired), Commodore, R.N.R., his Naval Staff, and the Captain, Officers, and Men of the ss. "Manchester Brigade," Sept. 27, 1940. *27/9/40*

Submarines Reported.

0929. Submarine reported at 0929/2 may be shadowing you. (C.in-C. W.A. 1021/2, to ANTHONY for Commodore).
1330. 56.59 N., 18.10 W. (B.2) (D.S. 394)
- 1130 Periscope reported by fishing vessel WINDFALL 7 miles N. of Loxsiemouth moving W.N.W. (B.2). A/P. trawlers investigating. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1345/2, C.in-C. Rosyth 1502/2).
- 1630 Submarine surface bearing 350° distance 3 miles course unknown. 38.23 N., 21.36 W. (ARGUS 1630 N/2).
- 1830 Periscope reported 58.21 N., 03.07 W. course south (C.4) (A.C.O.S. 1931/2).
- 1827 Submarine seen off Sardet Head by Coastguard, Thoumster, 300 yards from shore, periscope only, S.W. direction. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1940/2).



War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines reported-Contd.

- 1930 Submarine reported by one of convoy 56.57 N 18.10 W., Doubtful. Am searching with ARABIS. (ANTHONY 2042/2)
- 1047/26 TRIBUNE reports 1047/26 unsuccessfully intercepted one of two 740 ton U-Boats making R.V. with trawler to enter Lorient in 47. 32 N., 3.38 W. (V.A.S. 1003/2)
- 1419 53° N., 21° 22° W., indefinite position (D.S 394)
- 1610 56° N., 21°-23° W., indefinite position (D.S. 394)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- No further news.
 German- 1 in about 52 N., 23° - 25° W., at 1015/2
 3 between 52 N and 58 N longitude approx. 20° W.
 1 between 55° 30 N. and 56° 30' N., 15° and 17° 30' W., at 0920/2
 Possibly 1 Or 2 in N.W. approached between Rockall and Malin Head. Whereabouts unknown.
 (D.D.I.C. 1406/2)

Submarines Attacked

0730 Submarine BERILLO Sunk (2 hits)

HAVOCK and HASTY sank a submarine after a 3 hour hunt at 0730/2 in 32.33 N., 26.09 E (C. in C., Med., 1259/2) *U/B was BERILLO, 620 tons. (Monthly A/S Report Jan. 1941)*

1500

A/P Trawler FORFEIT reports conning tower of U-Boat near Whistle Boy Cromarty Firth Approached fired 2/3 rounds and estimated 1 hit. dropped 2 depth charges. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1552/2) 57° 43' 30" N., 03° 50' W at 1500 (N.O.I.C. to MATABELE 2000/2 My 1552/2. Skipper and many witnesses in FORFEIT are absolutely convinced conning tower of U-Boat seen at 1500 in position 57° 42' N., 3° 52' W., Third shot hit at range 3500 yards, oily track seen and 2 D.C dropped. Position buoyed by Dan Buoy in 16 fms. (Grading A.1) (F.O.I.C. Invergordon) MATABELE to patrol entrance Cromarty Firth. (R.A.D. H.F. 2331/2)



War Diary

3.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

WOOLWICH has sailed in convoy for the Mediterranean.

At 1024 today an unidentified enemy unit probably a surface ship, was located by D/F within 60 miles of Bergen. HOOD, BERWICK NORFOLK and available destroyers at Scapa were brought to short notice for steam. Nothing further eventuated.

Early this afternoon there were indications of enemy activity in the area between the Scillies and Lizard and 30 miles south.

British Air Activity

Weather permitting offensive patrols to attack shipping off the Norwegian and Danish coasts will be carried out as follows On odd days of the month from 59° to Lister Light. On even days from Horns Reef to Lister Light.

3 Sorties of 3 naval aircraft each attacked shipping between Haugesund and Bergen this afternoon. A ship of 4000 to 5000 tons alongside at Haugesund was hit by at least 2 250 lb bombs and several with 20 lb bombs. The ship was last seen heavily on fire. A 2000 ton ship in Bjerne Fiord was hit several times and is believed to have been sunk. One Skua was shot down and 2 others were damaged.

Weather conditions last night adversely affected operations. TIRPITZ was attacked in Wilhelmshaven Docks, and the Docks at Bremerhaven and Hamburg were also attacked, as well as Dutch and Belgian ports and Calais.

Targets attacked today included a convoy of 12 ships off Dunkirk; barges in the Maas ~~at~~ Heijdsen, hits being claimed; and Rotterdam harbour.



War Diary

MOST SECRET 46

3.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Ford R.N.A.S. Station was bombed and machine gunned this morning, causing some damage and 3 casualties.

One Dornier machine gunned St. Merryn R.N.A.S. Station this morning, damaging 3 aircraft.

WOLFHOUND and convoy F.S. 97 were bombed this morning by three enemy aircraft,, about 20 miles East of Felistowe, but no damage is reported.

TALISMAN was attacked 15 miles east of the Lizard, and one officer was wounded by a bullet.

Mining

Five Hampdens last night laid mines successfully in the south entrance to Langelands Belt.

H.M. Trawler COMET was mined and sunk at 0705/30/9 off the Manacles.

The Tyne was closed on account of suspected enemy mine laying until 0950 today.

Minelaying is suspected off the Firth of Forth. Approaches to Rosyth were closed as far as Oxcars Gate this morning. Methil is open. Falmouth was closed this afternoon until a new channel is established.

South Atlantic

DELHI, DRAGON, MILFORD, with trawlers TURCOMAN and PRESIDENT HOUDUCE left Sierra Leone with M.T. Convoy this morning.

FRENCH SHIP LOST

The loss of the French destroyer l'Audacieux, 2,569 tons, in last week's fighting off Dakar was announced in Vichy last night.

Pétain has conferred the Croix de Guerre with palm on M. ~~Malina~~, Governor-General of French Africa "for showing the qualities of a great leader in assuring the defence of the capital of the French Empire, and preserving Senegal for France, in face of heavy odds."

(57 2/10/40)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

47

3.10.1940

Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

MALAYA (F.O.C. 1st B.S.) RAMILLIES, EAGLE, AJAX, COVENTRY and 8 destroyers left Alexandria this morning for the neighbourhood of Crete, to cover the island and threaten the Libyan convoy routes.

ORION and SYDNEY last night carried out a brief bombardment of Maltezana in Stampalia. The result is not known, but from Italian reports there appear to have been some casualties.



MOST SECRET 48

3.10.1940
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
~~DELUGE~~
Signals.

At 0200/3. (D.C.0215/3). At 1400/3.
(D.C. 1418/3).

HOOD)
BERWICK)
NORFOLK)

HOOD, BERWICK, NORFOLK, and available
Destroyers at Scapa keep steam at one hour's
Notice. (C. in C. H.F. 1148/3 to B.C.1.)
Revert to normal Notice. (C. in C. H.F.
1341/3).

German
Main Units.

No further report. (D.D.I.C. 1559/3).

Policy.

Visibility of
Ships at Night.

Commanding Officer DESPATCH whose ship is
light grey turning to nearly white in colour
reports that when operating with destroyers
recently in Western Approaches, they reported
that DESPATCH was almost invisible at night.
Also that when convoying in West Indies on a
dark night a white ship is only visible one
mile but a dark ship visible three miles.
Am aware this matter has often been reviewed
but consider this information of importance.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1323/3 to Adty.).

Anti-Invasion
Patrol.

Your 1727/2. To meet Adty. 1250/16 suggest
2 Destroyers on Patrol every other night.
(V.A. Dover 1816/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth.

Cruisers for
Sheerness.

Your 1430/3. Move to Sheerness must be
deferred for the present. (C. in C. Nore
1822/3 to 18 C.S.).

U.S.A. Officers
as Observers.

2 U.S. Navy Lt. Commanders are to embark as
Observers in a ship of 1st C.S. and in a
H.F. Destroyer respectively. Full facilities
to be granted, but not Recognition Signals.
(C. in C. H.F. 2239/3 to R.A.D.)

Movements.

SANDWICH.

Proceeding by Route F. (SANDWICH 0930/3 to
A.C.O.S.)

MANCHESTER.

May proceed to Scapa to carry out gunnery
practices. (C. in C. Nore 1210/3 to C.S.18.
1415/3 to F.O. Humber).



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued)

HIGHLANDER

At 1440/3 my position 55° 35'N. 6°30'W. steering 287° at 13½ knots. (HIGHLANDER to SHEFFIELD, VERSATILE).

2nd ^{Town} Flotilla.

My 1449/29. Less KALK and MADDOX expects pass through 57° 55'N. 16° 40' W. at about 0500/7. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1412/3 to Adty.)

Portsmouth.

Movements for Night 3/4. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1523/3 to Adty.)

Orkneys.

Trawler Line for Night 3/4. (A.C.O.S.1536/3)

Dover.

Patrols for Night 3/4. (V.A. Dover 1624/3).

DUNEDIN)
CARDIFF)

Cancel my 2214/27. On completion of deperming and fitting 0.5 Machine Guns, DUNEDIN should be sailed for Portsmouth. On arrival of DUNEDIN at Portsmouth CARDIFF should be sailed for Clyde for duty as Gunnery Firing Ship under orders of C.in C. W.A. CARDIFF to be at 4 hours notice for service while at Clyde till further orders. (A.C.N.S. H. 1620/3).

Harwich.

Patrol 0 and Movements. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1656/3 to Corvettes).

ARK ROYAL.

My 1926/2. As Ship not fitted with F. and Q. coils, every precaution should be taken in sweeping Approach Channels. (D.O.D. H. 1728/3 to C.in C. W.A. and F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

GUILLEMOT)
SHELDRAKE)

Sailed from Harwich 1748/3. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1753/3 to Adty.)

Operations.

Operation "Lucid"
ESQID.

Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. (D.D.I.C.0915/3). Carry our Operation ~~ESQID~~. (C. in C. Nore 1022/3 to D.21, D.16, etc.) (V.C.N.S. 1027/3 to C. in C. Nore).

Operation postponed. All Forces return to Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore 1420/3 to GARTH, CATTISTOCK, SPEEDWELL).

Operation postponed. (C.in C. Nore 1444/3 to D. 21, D.16, etc.).



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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

Operation "Lucid" tomorrow 4th. Forces to proceed as in my 2224/2, 50 minutes being added to all times see Operation Orders Para. 10. If poor visibility makes it desirable, D.21 and S.O. Force B should sail Destroyers, M.T.B's, and M.L's earlier than times laid down. (C.in C. Nore 2216/3 to D.21, etc.). Request Fighter protection tomorrow 4th for Forces as by my 2336/2, 50 minutes being added to all times of sailing. (C.in C. Nore 2218/3 to H.Q.F.C.)

If possible, operation "Lucid" will be carried out to-morrow Friday. Zero hour 50 minutes later than to-day. Force C. to act as by my 2240/2. Time of passing North Goodwin L.V. may be amended as desired by D.16. but should not be before 1930/4. (C.in C. Nore 2220/3 to D.16)

Forces concerned will leave Sheerness as follows, proceeding by Edinburgh Channel and through Downs. Request Fighter protection from 1030 until dark. Code Word for all Groups "Lucid". (C.in C. Nore 2336/3 to H.Q.F.C.)

Anti-Invasion Patrol.

To-night VANOC, VOLUNTEER, SARDONYX, STURDY patrol Eastward as cover for Convoy C.E.12. They may not proceed Eastward of Lydd unless in pursuit of Enemy, and may proceed Southward to 50° 5'N. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1253/3 to Adty.)

Western Channel Patrol.

KELVIN, WANDERER, Plymouth to patrol South-Westward. (C.in C. W.A. 1645/3 to ships). If nothing sighted, patrol between Lizard and Start returning Plymouth by 0630/4. (C.in C. W.A. 1927/3 to KELVIN).

Operation "Active"

Cancel my 2108/2. Attention is called to my 1322/1. (C.in C. Nore 1733/3 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven).

Submarines.

TALISMAN

My 0720/3. Have not contacted Escort. Am diving 250° Eddystone 10 miles to await instructions. (TALISMAN 0820/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

UTMOST)
URSULA)
SWORDFISH)
UPRIGHT)

Positions and Movements (S.5. 1114/3 to 5th Submarine Flotilla). (C.in C. Portsmouth 1558/3 to Adty.).

/Greenock Area....



MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Continued).

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1547/3).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/4. (V.A.S. 1642/3).

L. 23.

Exercising in Scapa Flow A.M. and P.M./4.
(A.C.O.S. 1707/3 to Adty.)

H. 43.

Exercising in Plymouth area. (C.in C. W.A. 2355/3 to Adty.)

British Air Activity.

Norwegian and
Danish Coasts.
Offensive Patrol.

Will be carried out, weather permitting, on odd days of month from 59°N. to Lister Light on even days from Horns Reef to Lister Light to attack Enemy Shipping off the Coast. Patrols will take place A.M. and will consist of 3 Hudson aircraft. (C.in C. Rosyth 0040/3 to C. in C. H.F.)

Rosyth Air-
Searches.

For 4/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1840/3)

Dunkirk.

5 Blenheims attacked a Coastal Steamer in Outer Harbour and a Convoy of 12 ships off Dunkirk. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0152/4).

Heusden)
Rotterdam)

Aircraft attacked Barges and Docks.
(H.Q.B.C. 0152/4).

Enemy Air Activity.

TALISMAN

Have been attacked by aircraft at 110° Lizard 15 miles. One officer with bullet wound in foot. (TALISMAN 0720/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

St. Merryn

Machine gunned by one Dornier 17 at 0645. Fire returned. No casualties. 2 aircraft slightly damaged and one more seriously. (St. Merryn 1026/3 to C.in C. W.A.)
For Dornier 17 read M.E.110. (St. Merryn 1437/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Convoy ^{"Booby"} ~~Booby~~

3.10.1940.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Convoy "Booty".
~~BOOM~~

Aircraft attacking Convoy F.S.97 in
52° 9'N. 1°52'E. (F.S.97, 1127/3).
3 aircraft, 10 bombs, no hits. Position
52°N. 1°41'E. (WOLFHOUND 1138/3). Details
of attack. (VANITY 0908/4 to Adty.)

ROYAL ARTHUR
(Skegness)

One aircraft dropped 11 Bombs on South end
of Establishment. Damage not excessive.
(ROYAL ARTHUR 1645/3 to Adty.)
(O.C.W. Immingham 1900/3 to C.E.in C. Bath).

Convoy "Bosom".
~~BOOM~~

2 Aircraft in sight of even numbered C.E.
Convoy in 50° 50'N. 0°23'W. (Convoy 1821/3).

Ford.

Station bombed and machine-gunned at 1915.
2 Bombs dropped. One airman killed and
2 seriously wounded. Some structural damage
(R.A.N.A.S. 2055/3 to Adty.)

Mining.Tyne.

Closed owing to suspected Minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0032/3 to Adty.).

Rosyth.

Approaches to Rosyth closed from 2°52'W.
to Oxcars Gate. Port of Methil open.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0513/3).
My 2253/30/8 and 0757/3/10. D.G. Range is
not to be used until further orders owing
to suspected Minelaying.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0807/3). *My 0513/3. Approaches
to Rosyth are open (C. Rosyth 1097/3)*

Falmouth.

Your 1039/3. Falmouth closed. (F.O.I.C.
Falmouth 1456/3 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth).

LAUWERZEE.

Tug. Mined and sunk at 1525 in 50°10'42"N.
4° 42'W. One survivor. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth
1620/3 to Adty.) (Sea Transport Falmouth
1700/3 to Transport Wesdo London).

Falmouth.

New Channel is being swept 3 cables broad.
Centre line from 50° 8'N. 5°1'30"W. to
50°N. 4°57'48"W. Until this is established
Falmouth is closed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth
1900/3 to Adty.).

COMET.

H.M. Trawler. Mined and sunk at 0705/30¹⁵ in
50°4½'N. 4°57½'W. 2 survivors. (F.O.I.C.
Falmouth 2241/3 to Adty.)

LADY OF THE ISLES. British, 166 tons. Mined off Falmouth.
(D.S. No. 395).



3.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Rotterdam,)
New Waterway,) Shipping at 1500/2. (P.I.U. 0030/3 to N.I.D.)
Hook)
Amsterdam)

Bergen Enemy Unit, probably surface ship, within 60 miles radius of Bergen at 1024 B.S.T. D/F fix. (D.D.I.C. 1126/3).

Channel Approaches. Indications of Enemy activity between Scillies and Lizard and 30 miles south. Type of ship unknown. (C.inC. W.A. 1259/3 to TALISMAN).

Brest. 7 Destroyers still present. (P.R.U. St. Eval 2230/3 to H.Q.C.C.)

Dungeness. Indications of Surface Craft between Lydd Float and 4 miles to S.W. from 2100. (N.O.I.C. Dover 2320/3 to FERNIE, VANOC)

Dunkirk)
Rotterdam) Barges and Shipping during 3/10. (H.Q.B.C. 0152/4).
Gorinchem)
Heusden)



MOST SECRET

54

3.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

MANGKAI.

Dutch, ex-German SCHEER. Sailed Singapore 6/9 for Durban. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0955. B/3 to Adty.)

CORSEA.

British, 2764 tons. In collision with unknown Trawler in 52°45'N. 2°4'E. Leaking but proceeding. Other Trawlers standing by the one in collision. (BLACK SWAN 2045 and 2120/3 to C.in C.More.)

3.10.40.
Thursday.
War Diary.Convoys.SHIPPING.

S.L.48. Meet. Route. (C.in C.W.A. 1130/3)
Route (D.T.D. 1117/3)

O.A.223 CAMPANULA and ASPHODEL to join. (C.in C.
W.A. 1717/3).

H.X.77. EMPIRE AUDACITY, valuable cargo, request
reinforced escort. (C.in C. W.A. 2328/3).

H.G.44. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to R.V. (C.in C. W.A.
1520/3).

F.N.97. Submarine TRIUMPH arriving with WHITE BEAR
to escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1301/3).

8 M.V's Intend sailing for Falmouth 1900/3 (N.C.S.O.
Dartmouth, 1039/3). Not approved. Port
of Falmouth closed. (C.in C. W.A. 1621/3).

O.B. 223. A/S trawlers to R.V. (F.O.I.C. Belfast
1559/3).

H.X.78. Amending 1502/30. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1006/1)

O.A. 226. Route. (D.T.D. 1145/3).

O.L.6. Route. (D.T.D. 1007/3).

F.S. & F.N. Adty. 1828/26 and your 1747/27.
Commencement of 7 knot F.S. and F.N.
convoys has become a matter of urgency.
No additional escorts at present available.
If necessary slight reduction in frequency
of sailings of convoys will be accepted.
State earliest date slow F.S. convoy can be
started. Concur in proposed time table
and sequence of convoys (D.T.D.1930/3 to
C.in C. Rosyth).

S.C.8. Ocean escort not expected to arrive Sydney
until about 12/10 thereby delaying convoy
sailings (D.T.D. 1840/3 to N.C.S.O. Sydney
C.B.)



MOST SECRET.

56

3.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SHIPPING

Troop Convoys.

Sailed with WOOLWICH 0115/3, 7 ships, escort HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HURRICANE (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0233/3). Have detached VERSATILE to assist HARVESTER screen HIGHLAND BRIGADE. SHEFFIELD will overtake convoy by 2000. (SHEFFIELD, 1536/3) R.V. not possible, request another. (HARVESTER to C.in C. W.A. 1617/3). Asking position course and speed. (VERSATILE and HARVESTER, 1735/3). Reply (HARVESTER, 1807/3).

S.W.1.

Suggesting use of cargo space for U.K. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1737/3).

B.A.S.4.

Admty. 1946/1. Date of assembly Stornoway of convoy for Iceland to be deferred (date) to enable CISNEROS and M.T. ship HARPAGON to be included. Convoy on leaving Stornoway will be known as B.A.S. 4. (D.O.D. (H) 1452/3).

Coast of U.K.

As from sunset 1/10, no M.V. to approach within 3 miles of coast of U.K. between sunset and sunrise. Exceptions. (Hd. of M. 1356/3).



MOST SECRET.

3.10.40.
Thursday.

57

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Situation

Report for A.M.1. (G.O.C. W. Africa 0130/3).

M.T.Convoy

Left 0930/3, escorted by DELHI, DRAGON, MILFORD, TUCOMAN, and French PRESIDENT HOUDUCE. (C.in C. S.A. 0957 N/3)

Force H
Patrols

Night patrols established north and south Fayal, South Terceira and Ponta Delgada from night 1-2/10 with RENOWN keeping clear to westward. Proposals for fuelling. (S.O. Force H, 1101/3)

"Alloy" and
"Shrapnel".

Re plans for, and asking whether start is to be from Freetown (serious objections) Gibraltar or U.K. (C.in C. S.A. 1103 N/3 1823/3).

48 hours required after orders to sail for reloading troops and stores disembarked. Restowing of ships for "Alloy" and "Shrapnel" will be completed today. (G.O.C., Force H to W.O. 1247/3). Increased resistance may be expected as result of Dakar. Spares for loading craft urgently required. (G.O.C. Force H, 1706/3, to W.O.)

French Africa.

Situation Report No. 28. Unrest at Conakry. Harbours of Banda Pointe and Mayumba firmly pro-De Gaulle. (D.N.I. 1259/3).

French Ships.

CAUDEBEC and JUMIEGES passed Gibraltar east-bound 3/10 (F.O.C.N.A. 1514/3). French survey ship ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ escorting CAUDEBEC and JUMIEGES from west to east 1250. ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ passed from east to west 1401. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1517/3).

De Gaulle Plans.

Decided to disembark whole force at Duala. First object to gain control of Libreville. Reminds H.M.G. of undertaking re defence by R.N. from sea of any of French Colonies which declare for him. Further objects (Governor, Nigeria, 1940/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.10.1940.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Shipping Reports.

M.E.W. requires information additional to present daily arrival and departure reports made by F.O.C.N.A. and C.C.S.O. Request daily report addressed "Admiralty for M.E.W." prefixed "Passing" giving names nationalities and voyages of all ships other than British or Allied passing through Straits including those crossing the Straits to and from Spanish or International Morocco. H.M. Ambassador Lisbon will pass to you copies of Arfar telegrams explaining reasons for this request. (D.E.W.D. 1935/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.RESOLUTION BARHAM

Reply to Admty. 0232/2 re damage. (C.in C. S.A., 0347/3, 1032/3, 1725 N/3). Request intended date of sailing, not to be delayed on account of A.M. 2202/2). (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A. 1329/3). Arrangements to be made so that paravanes can be worked when on passage from Gibraltar. (D. of D. to F.O.C. N.A. 2102/3).

ALCANTARA

Left 0600/3 on patrol. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0701/3).

Overdue Ships.

Dutch MANGKAI, ex German SCHEER, Singapore 6/9 for Durban, not arrived.

S.W.1.

Suggesting could take commercial cargoes from Durban and Capetown for U.K. if space available. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1737/3 to D. of S.T.)

CUMBERLAND

Estimated with 10 days at Simonstown and some assistance from Yard will be able to carry out duties required in Admty. 2314/30 (C.in C. S.A., 2131/3). Details of urgent repairs to be taken in hand (C.in C. S.A. 1249/4).



3. 10. 40
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

French Ships.

Your 1155 and 1801. Provided you are satisfied that guarantees will be adhered to I will give these ships safe conduct. Approval not necessary in each case but important to ensure that I am informed in plenty of time through you so as to avoid incident. In present cases owing to embargo rights at sea the reply to your message will barely reach in time. Am still without information about THEOPHILE GAUTIER situation. (C.in C. Med., 0003/3 to Consul General, Beirut).

Mines.

4 Italian mines cut by auxiliary sweeper on edge of old searched channel appear suitable for laying from surface vessels only. (V.A. Malta, 1433/3).

Submarines.

Cancelling his 1637/28. Area now empty and Submarine on passage to Malta (route). (V.A. Malta, 1505/3, to Submarines on Patrol).

TRIAD)
TRUANT)

Operation B.S. To be sailed from Malta for Alexandria 2 days apart. Route. Object to destroy enemy coastal traffic. (Capt. S.1, 1701/3).

TETRARCH)
TRITON)

To leave patrol. Route. (Capt. S.1.1816/3)

Operation.

Your 1259/2. Report of operations read with great interest. Congratulate you on its success and on the destruction of two Italian U-Boats and four Aircraft. Need of long distance air reconnaissance for Central Mediterranean is fully appreciated and every endeavour is being made to re-inforce Flying-Boats within limits of production, which are very inadequate at present. (1 S.L. 1943/3 to C.in C. Med.)

Cyprus.

Re Guns for (C.in C. Med. 1635/3).

Malta.
Mines

Re ground mines for beach protection. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1959/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.10.1940.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Convoy
Attacks

Press articles and broadcasts taunting Italians with inactivity against Red Sea convoys inadvisable in view of leakage of movement (apparently through Japanese Consular Service). (C.in C. E.I. 1144 Z/3)

CERES
C.M.4.

CERES to leave Mombasa 6/10 for Durban to protect shipping, subsequently to escort convoy C.M.4. to Mombasa. (C.in C. E.I. 1216/3).

5 Assab Raids.

Intelligence Summary No. 115 and Operational Summary. My Summary 114 add time 0905 for last Assab Raid. Also amend total raids Assab to 5 and add 2 Blenheims Indian Wing attacked fuel tanks and main jetty 0800 results not observed. Photographs of 2 raids reveal probable damage military barracks near main jetty and several small adjacent buildings also stores in naval barrack compound. Following for 24 hours ending 1400 3/10. (No naval incidents). 7 Gladiators 94 Squadron maintained standing fighter patrol Aden 0800 to 1150. No casualties. All times G.M.T. A.H.Q. Aden, 2003/3).

ARAWA)
WESTRALIA)

Orders for patrol. (C. in C. E.I. 0758 Z/3)

China.Wei Hai Wei.

Requesting very early decision on policy. Agree with M.O.I.C. Wei Hai Wei's proposal if withdrawal is decided on. (C.in C. China, 0803 Z/3, re M.O.I.C.'s 0057/2).

(Repetition of telegram from Wei Hai Wei to me 1/10). Japanese Consul has handed notice from Jap C. in C., North China Forces, requesting my friendly co-operation, asks that M.O.I.C. and I should meet naval representative and himself at 1 p.m. to-day to discuss arrangements. Replied that subject to understanding shall have to refer for instructions, we would meet to hear proposals. He suggested desirable to avoid unfavourable press publicity of this matter. (Consul, Singapore, to Admt., 1125/3).

Japanese Consulate state that their Navy is getting impatient and have asked Medical Officer and I to meet them again 2 p.m. 4/10. (Broadmead, Wei Hai Wei, 1942/3, to F.O.)

Indo-China.

Re liquidation by Chinese residents of interests to avoid benefits to Japanese. (Liaison Officer, Saijon, 0430 Z/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.10.1940

Thursday

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.*America and West India.*CARADOC.

Admty. 0914/3. After fuelling St. Lucia proceed with moderate despatch along direct route from Martinique to Cayenne. (C.in C. A. W.I. to CARADOC, 0541/3)

QUERCY.

Intercept shadow and report QUERCY. (1 S.L. to C. in C., A. W.I., 0914/3)

My 0541/3 and your 0630/3. Adjust speed as necessary. No information yet received that QUERCY has left Cayenne. If still there, establish patrol in Cayenne Approach to intercept and shadow on sailing. Endeavour to avoid being sighted. (C.in C., A. W.I. 1122/3 to CARADOC).

My 1122/3. Operation cancelled. Return to St. Lucia. (C.in C., A. W.I. 2252/3 to CARADOC).

I have assumed ship has reached Cayenne (C.in C. A. W.I. 2301/3).

R.C.N.
Destroyers.

Admty. 1310/2. Following 6 American destroyers taken over by R.C.N. at 1600/24/9; MACKENZIE, HARADEN, THATCHER, WILLIAMS, MCCOOK, BANCROFT. Renamed respectively ANNAPOLIS, COLUMBIA, NIAGARA, ~~SAINT~~ CLAIR, ~~SAINT~~ CROIX, ~~SAINT~~ FRANCIS. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1109/3, to Admty.).

Admty. 2258/26/9, (re operating Town class on this side). Will endeavour soon as practical. Crews still very green, particularly in higher key ratings. Can you assist this respect? Grateful for brief description what alterations necessary for Town class after arrival U.K. (C.N.S., Canada, 1216/3).

ARAUCA.

Your 1122/1. Departments looking into matter and hopeful of finding means of delaying sailing. (N.A. Washington, 1209/3).

SATURNUS.

Your 1901/2 suggest ship is Swedish SATURNUS which sailed Aruba 21/9 for Corpus Christi (C.in C. A. W.I. 1823/3).

Australia.

Troop Transport. My 1200 Z/25. N.Z.N.B., Wellington, informs A.C.N.B. that N.Z. military authorities desire if possible to despatch up to 2,100 troops to Egypt forthwith. Request whether shipping can be arranged. (A.C.N.B. to Admty. 0202 Z/3.)

U.S.5A.

Route, escort. (A.C.N.B., 0550 Z/3) PERTH escorting. Left R.V. in Bass Straits for Fremantle 0500 Z/2).

MAURETANIA

Left Singapore 2/10 for Fremantle.. (Cdre., Malay 0647Z/3 to D. of S.T.)

War DiaryMOST SECRET

3.10.1940

ThursdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSSPEZIAAdvertised sailing for Genoa, cargo only.
(Valencia, 1025/3)SAARLANDLeft Dairen 2/10. A. 1. report, Master
relinquished command 24/9 and crew relieved
Japanese 26/9. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 04412/3)ARAUCA

(See America and West Indies)

EISENACHAt Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, reported from
Panama to have fixed scuttling charges in
hold (D.S. 395)LUVSEEDue at Dubrovnik 30/9 to load bauxite
(D.S. 395)ITHAKACORDELIA }Arrived Galatz from Poti with manganese ore
(D.S. 395)13 ships,
MexicoPress report, 4 German ships at Mexico City
and 9 Italian in Gulf Ports preparing for
sea (list of ships there) (D.S. 395)ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSDENTICEMy 0849/16 (DENTICE left 15/9 for Puerto
Cabello in tow of Govt. tug) Arrived Puerto
Cabello 24/9. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1256/25/9,
2131/30 (delayed))



War Diary

3.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BLACK PRINCE

Torpedoed at 0200, 56.08 N., 09.14 W., Request escort to prevent submarine shadowing. (FLEETWOOD, 1100/3) SKATE ordered to position. (C. in C., W.A., 1341/3) *unconfirmed. rpt not in B.R. 1337.*

FOREST

British, 4998 tons torpedoed 0200/3, 56.09 N., 9.14 W., In Convoy O.A. 222, outward bound for Panama and Australia (D.S. 395) *not torpedoed. Report missing 4/B. (DS. 395)*

Submarines Reported

Azores Area

At 1630N/2 ARGUS reported one submarine on surface 350° distance three miles course unknown. Position 38.23 N., 20.24 W., Prior to this report no submarines had been reported in Azores Area since 14/9 but it is probable that a patrol has been operating between the Azores and Portugal. (D.O.D. (F) 1330/3)

Rumour local fishing schooner sighted 2 unknown submarines about 20 miles south of Grand Canary Islands 2/10. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1803/3)

1209

Indications of U/B in 52° 00' N., between 18° W and 20° W., (C. in C., W.A., to MALOJA, 1837/3)

1717

50° N., 16.18° W., indefinite position (DS 395)

1744

57° N., 14.18° W., indefinite position (DS395)

Estimated Dispositions

Italian 1 in 38° 26' N., 20° 24' W at 1830/2
German 1 in 51° 12' N., 24° 22' W., at 1732/2
1 in about 53° N., and 1 in about 56° N both to West of 20° W.
Probably 1 60 to 100 miles further north
No recent indications of any nearer mainland.
Probably 1 in Cromarty Firth p.m. 2nd.
(D.D.I.C. 1306/3)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

64

4.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

KELVIN and WANDERER last night carried out a sweep between the Lizard and Start Point.

Four destroyers from Portsmouth last night carried out a protective patrol in the Channel for Convoy C.E. 12.

Dover was shelled at 0601 for a few minutes, but the shells landed outside the harbour.

Convoy C.E. 12 was shelled by Gris Nez Battery while in the Straits of Dover this morning. No damage was caused.

The new cruisers DIDO and PHOEBE arrived at Scapa p.m. today.

Shipping
Port of London

A limited number of ocean going ships of not more than about 6500 tons gross may now proceed to London and Ports south of the Humber. Ships in London will be berthed so as to present a scattered target.

British Air Activity

All operations last night by Bomber Command cancelled on account of weather. Routine patrols today were considerably curtailed for the same reason.

R.A.F. today delivered attacks by single aircraft on ports and shipping on the Dutch and Belgian coasts.

Enemy Air Activity

King George V Dock (London) was bombed at 0445/4, but escaped with slight damage to one shed.

An aircraft was shot down by fighters while shadowing a convoy off Cromer 0900 today.

JERSEY QUEEN was slightly damaged when attacked by incendiary bombs and gunfire this morning in St. George's Channel, while proceeding independently.

/Most.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

65

4.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Most of the towns on the S.E. coast between Ramsgate and Seaford were bombed today.

Mining

Three mines were cut in the minefield off the Manacles in which 3 ships have been mined since 30/9.

Blyth was closed at 2256 today.

North Atlantic

RENOWN and destroyers left patrol off the Azores this morning and returned to Gibraltar. AUSTRALIA proceeds to patrol to prevent any enemy attempt to capture the islands.

Mediterranean

No damage was caused when 9 enemy aircraft attacked Malta this morning. One and probably two enemy aircraft were destroyed.

East Indies

KIMBERLEY was unsuccessfully bombed when on ~~Perim~~ Patrol this morning.



War Diary

4.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE Signals

At 0200/4. (D.C. 0212/4) At 1400/4 (D.C. 1427/4)

Nore Command
Notice for Steam

Air R/C incomplete. Ships keep steam at half hours notice until 0900. (C. in C., Nore, 0541/4)

Burning Oil as
Invasion Defence

Your 1817/28. Approved to begin work as soon as possible. (Head of M. 1044/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Floating
Anti-Boat
Obstructions

Local Naval Authorities have made progress with laying various types off important Beaches about one mile off shore. Positions not promulgated for reasons of secrecy and also because obstructions unlikely to remain permanently in position. But a good look out to be kept by Light Forces working close inshore during anti-invasion operations. Similar obstructions are also being placed in entrances to minor Ports. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1431/4. Adty. General Message, Home 871. A.Z.)

Leave
Arrangements

May now be resumed for Officers and Ratings in accordance with A.F.O. 3582/39 (1st S.L. 2135/4)

Policy

Bay of Biscay
& Channel
Free-for-all
Area.

Adty's 1212/21/9. To enable our submarines on passage to and from Patrol in Bay of Biscay and on A/S Patrol S.W. of Penmarch to attack any vessel at sight, suggest Western Limit of Free-for All area be extended to line joining following points. (V.A.S. 1024/4 to Adty.) Concur (C. in C., W.A., 2015/4 to Adty.)

Belfast
Trawler Force

It has been decided to reinforce Belfast Trawler Force by 10 A/S Trawlers from the South Coast, and the following are to be sailed as soon as practicable. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1837/4)

/Proposed.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

67

4.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy-Contd.

Proposed
division of
W.A. Command

Your 1532/2. Am doubtful of value of Arbitrary dividing lines between the Home Commands except near coast.

2. Ocean convoys are frequently routed north of 57° 43' N., the nominal limit of my command, but they remain the responsibility of C. in C., W.A.

3. German surface forces are already based on French west coast ports and are likely to be used against Sierra Leone and Gibraltar convoys; and, to counter these attacks, our own forces based on Plymouth will have to co-operate in the defence of the convoys, whether acting under orders of C. in C., W.A. or C. in C., Plymouth.

In these circumstances a dividing line between the commands becomes meaningless.

4. Suggest therefore that divisions between the Home Commands should be lines drawn from the coast to an unspecified distance to seaward as is already done in boundaries of sub-Commands.

5. Concur with proposed limits in St. George's Channel, and, if it is considered that the outer limits of commands should be defined, with the proposals generally. (C. in C., W.A., 2005/4 to Adty.)

East Coast
Shipping

Cancel my 2032/10/9. General policy with regard to shipping on East Coast will for the present be as follows.

(A) A limited number of ocean going ships of not more than about 6500 tons gross may proceed to ports South of the Humber, including London. The number of such ships will be controlled by the Admiralty and for the present will not include refrigerated ships nor ships with considerable amount of timber.

(B) In addition to ships under "A", certain tankers will be allowed to proceed to ports South of the Humber, including London, each being dealt with individually by the Admty.

(C) Coaster traffic is to continue.

(D) Ships arriving from overseas if below 2500 tons gross will be considered to rank as coasters and are not subject to the limitation under "A"

(E) Ships in London will be berthed so as to present a scattered target, F.O.I.C. London being consulted by the Port Emergency Committee as to allocation of berths and rapid dispersal of inflammable cargoes.

(A.C.N.S.(T) 2040/4 to C's. in C.)

20-barrelled
U.P.Weapon

Request your remarks on this weapon. In which ships do you recommend it should be fitted. (1st S.L. 2232/4 to C. in C., H.F)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Nore Command

Dispositions for night 4/5. (C. in C., Nore 0800/4) Day patrols and Movements to 1200/4)

Northern Patrol

Sailings and Routes. (F.O.C.N.P. 1504 and 1506/4)

Portsmouth

Movements for night 4/5 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1507/4)

ARETHUSA }
GALATEA }

ARETHUSA when ready for sea is to be sailed for Scapa to work up. GALATEA to be taken in hand at Chatham for refit 7 days after ARETHUSA leaves Sheerness. (D.O.D. H. 1534/4 to C. in C., Nore) ARETHUSA expected to complete 9/10 and will be placed under orders of C. in C., Nore, whom she must re-join after working up. (A.C.N.S. H. 2118/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

Western Channel

Night Report. (C. in C., W.A. 1535/4)

Rosyth Area

Movements for night 4/5 (C. in C., Rosyth 1800/4)

Dover

Patrols for night 4/5. (V.A.Dover 1838/4)

STURDY }
SARDONYX }
SALADIN }

STURDY and SARDONYX are to be sailed to re-inforce N.W.Approaches Escort Forces and are to be joined by SALADIN on completion of her boiler cleaning. (A.C.N.S. H. 1847/4)

→ MACKAY }
VERITY }

To be sailed to Portsmouth and Liverpool to join C. in C., Portsmouth and C., in C., W.A. respectively. (A.C.N.S. H. 1847/4) VERITY to be sailed for Liverpool with moderate despatch at 1800/5. (C. in C., Nore, 2144/4 to D. 16)

ARGUS

Will be required to sail for Iceland on completion of leave, to fetch 701 Squadron complete. Request escort be arranged. (A.C.N.S. (H.) 1931/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

→ WITCH }
MACKAY }

Adty. 1847/4. Owing to continued postponement of operation ~~WITCH~~ intend to sail WITCH to Portsmouth instead of MACKAY (C. in C., Nore 2146/4 to Adty.) Intend sail WITCH for Portsmouth to pass south Goodwin Light Vessel 1915/5. (C. in C., Nore, 2148/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

"Lucid"
/Operation ~~WITCH~~....

War Diary4.10.1940
FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsOperation "Lucid":
LUCIDMy 0915/3. Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
(D.D.I.C. 1007/4)^{"Lucid"}
Carry out Operation ~~LUCID~~ (C. in C., Nore,
1020/4 to D. 21, D.16 etc.)C. in C., Nore, 2216/3. As MYTILUS cannot
sail before 1330, WAR NIZAM and OAKFIELD will
form Force B and MYTILUS Force A. Units to
sail accordingly. (HAMBLEDON 1024/3 to
WAR NIZAM)^{"Lucid"}
Carry out Operation ~~LUCID~~ (V.C.N.S. 1036/4 to
C. in C., Nore.)^{"Lucid"}
Operation ~~LUCID~~ will be carried out tonight
4/5. Zero hour 0010/5. (D.O.D.H. 1054/4 to
Air Ministry) (Air Ministry 1155/4 to Air
Commands)Proceed immediately with OAKFIELD only.
Report progress every 2 hours. (C. in C.,
Nore, 1228/4 to GARTH)MYTILUS will not sail. WAR NIZAM will join
Force A. OAKFIELD Force B. (C. in C.,
Nore, 1516/4 to D. 21, HAMBLEDON, SUTTON)Bomber co-operation impossible tonight. (C.
in C., Nore, 1726/4 to HAMBLEDON)^{"Lucid"}
Operation ~~LUCID~~ postponed. Forces return
to harbour or anchor in Swept Channel
proceeding at daylight. (C. in C., Nore
1816/4)Expect arrive Oiler WAR NIZAM in company
at 2230. Request Tugs outside gate as
WAR NIZAM has no anchor. (CATTISTOCK 1930/
4 to C. in C., Nore) Suggest you lead
WAR NIZAM slowly to Oaze Deep, Tug would meet
her there to hold her near East Oaze Light
Vessel. (C. in C., Nore, 1934/4 to CATTISTOCK)
LADY BRASSEY from Dover has been ordered
to join you. (C. in C., Nore, 1947/4 to
CATTISTOCK)^{"Lucid"}
Prepare to carry out ~~LUCID~~ tomorrow night
5/6. Zero hour will be 0050/6. Tidal in-
formation being sent by special courier.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2100/4 to C. in C., Nore)

/Convoy C.E. 12....



War Diary

4.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Convoy C.E. 12 shelled

C.E. 12 passed Dover at 0530. Two salvos of 4 rounds were fired from Gris Nez Battery when leading Ships were near South Goodwin Light Vessel. No hits or casualties reported. (V.A.Dover 0934/4 to Adty.)

Suspicious Vessel

Vessel now identified as BRITISH ENGINEER Return to harbour. (C. in C., W.A., 1419/4 to JAVELIN, WANDERER)

Anti-Invasion Patrol

Your 1816/3. In view of weather and my 4 available Destroyers having been on patrol two nights running, am not carrying out patrol tonight. But Destroyers will be at immediate notice. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1527/4 to V.A.Dover)

Submarines

Small S/Ms for Operation from Malta

Your 1312/2. Reply is contained in my minute on Adty. Docket P.D. 09091 of 30/9/40 (V.A.S. 1227/4 to Adty.)

L. 23

Sails from Scapa 1000/5 escorted by Dutch T.B. Z 5. (A.C.O.S. 1514/4 to Adty.)

Greenock Area

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1638/4)

Portsmouth

Movements (C. in C., Portsmouth 1647/4)

UPRIGHT }
URSULA }

Sailed UPRIGHT for Area W.2. and URSULA for Area D. 4. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1707/4)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/5. (V.A.S. 1736/4)

H. 28

Sails Harwich with Destroyers 0600/5 for exercise at about 1400 (C. in C., Nore, 2238/4 to LOWESTOFT.)

E-Boats

Boulogne

5 E-Boats reported at Boulogne (C. in C., Nore, 1134/4 to GARTH)

4.10.1940
Friday



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity

Zeebrugge,
Ostend,
Rotterdam,
Flushing,
Maasluis,
Ijmuiden.

Attacked by Aircraft 4/10. (H.Q.B.C. 0315/4)

S.A.4.B

Only being flown, owing to low visibility.
 (C.in.C. Nore 0543/4 to Admiralty)

Brest

All available Aircraft of No.59 Squadron to attack tonight 7 Destroyers reported in Brest Harbour moored alongside jetties from Rade Abri to West of Military Port.
 (H.Q.C.C. 1235/4 to 16 Group).

Rotterdam

All available Aircraft of No. 53 Squadron to attack tonight shipping in basins given in Operation No.77. Information shows increase of Barges in Basins East of Rotterdam Dry Dock. (H.Q.C.C. 1236/4 to 16 Group, Detling).

New Aircraft.
Recognition
Lights.

Propose that all Aircraft not fitted with new Lights be restricted to height below 5,000 feet. Thus any Aircraft above 5,000 feet not burning new Lights would be treated as hostile. (Air Ministry 1321/4).

S.A.1., S.A.2,
and S.A.3.

Cancelled P.M./4 owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1354/4 to Admiralty).

Rosyth Air-
Searches.

For 5/10. (C. in C. Rosyth 1802/4).

Enemy Air Activity.

JERSEY
QUEEN

British, 910 Tons. Bombed and machine-gunned by one Aircraft at 0800/4 in 51°42'N. 6°5'W. Minor damage to Ship. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1700/4 to Admiralty).

Deal.

At 1300/4, attacked by 6 Aircraft. Several Bombs dropped. Some damage to Buildings. No casualties. (O.C. Deal Holding Battalion 1815/4 to Admiralty).

/Off Manacles.....



MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940
Friday

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Off Manacles

M/S. RENOVIA cut Mine in $50^{\circ}4'55''N$.
 $4^{\circ}58'50''W$. Mine sunk by rifle fire. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1145/4 to C.in C. W.A.)
At 1500/30/9 BILSDEAN exploded Mine in sweep in $50^{\circ}5'N$. $4^{\circ}54'W$.
At 1755/30/9 POINTER swept a Moored Mine in $50^{\circ}6\frac{1}{2}'N$. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1538/4 to C.in C. W.A.).

Blyth

Port closed until sweeping completed about Noon. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2256/4 to C.in C. Rosyth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Ostend, }
Dunkirk, }
Maasluis, }
Rotterdam, }
Wesel. }

Barges on 4/10. (H.Q.B.C. 0315/4).

Off The Hague

At 0736/4 in $51^{\circ}50'N$. $3^{\circ}45'E$. one Destroyer steering S.W. at speed. (H.Q.B.C. 0315/4).

Tunny Fishing Boat
No. 3384 of
Douarnenez.

Reported manned by 15 Germans dressed as fishermen. Presumed in company with French Tunny Fleet reported off Grand Sole Bank about 26/9. Grade B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1246/4 to C.in C. W.A.)

Lorient

My 1003/2. TRIBUNE reports 16 Trawlers in line entered Lorient 28/9. V.A.S.1453/4 (to Admiralty)

The Sound

Press reports Sound open for Traffic 3/10. N.A. Stockholm 1515/4 to Admiralty)



4.10.1940

Friday

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

CITY OF BAGDAD,
KEMMENDINE,
BRITISH
COMMANDER,
BENARTY,
ATHELKING,
BENAVON,
TIRRAMNA,
TALLEYRAND,
FILEFJELL,
COMMISSAIRE
RAMEL.

Ships lost by enemy action or still overdue in E.I. station since 16/6. (C.in C. E.I. 05382/4)

LOCH RANNOCH.
SEAFLOWER.

H.M. Trawler. In collision yesterday 3/10 with H.M. Yacht SEAFLOWER. Needs minor repairs but can still operate. SEAFLOWER was and is now off Port Edgar and has only slight damage. (Capt. i/c. P.E.1021/4 to Admiralty).

BROCKLEY
HILL.

British, 5297 Tons. In collision at 0700/4 owing to defective steering gear since repaired. Position 58°35'N. 17°10' W. making for Pentland Firth 7 knots escorted by LADY ELSA. (JASON 1115/4 to C.in C. W.A.)

KAYESON

British, 4606 Tons. JASON's 1115/4. Please report names of Trawlers detached as by my 1850/2 ordering LADY ELSA and BLACKFLY to go to help of KAYESON. (C.in C. W.A. 2017/4 to ANTHONY).

LUCITA

Dutch Tanker, 2604 Tons. Cancel my 1559/3. LUCITA fouled moorings of S.W. Shingles Buoy when sailing and now proceeding in tow of STALWART to Southampton for repair. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1604/4 to Admiralty).



MOST SECRET 4

4.10.1940.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Coastwise
Convoys.
Escorts.

Volume of coastwise shipping proceeding northabout must now be largely increased for the following reasons. (details). To meet the additional requirements of shipping, a modification of the existing northabout coastal convoy arrangements is necessary.

Already proposed to abolish OA convoys and to sail ocean convoys from West Coast ports only, thus economising in escorts; now proposed to provide daily convoys for coasters and ocean-going ships proceeding from East to West Coast ports and vice versa, as follows. (details).

Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1906/4 to C.in C. Rosyth, C.in C. W.A.)

Cancel my 2032/10/9. General policy with regard to Shipping on the East Coast will for the present be as follows.

(A) A limited number of ocean going ships of not more than about 6500 tons gross may proceed to ports South of the Humber, including London. The number of such ships will be controlled by the Admiralty and for the present will not include refrigerated ships nor ships with considerable amount of timber.

(B) In addition to ships under "A", certain tankers will be allowed to proceed to ports South of the Humber, including London, each being dealt with individually by the Admiralty.

(C) Coaster traffic is to continue.

(D) Ships arriving from overseas if below 2500 tons gross will be considered to rank as coasters and are not subject to the limitation under "A".

(E) Ships in London will be berthed so as to present a scattered target.

(A.C.N.S.(T) 2040/4 to C's in C. at Home)

Convoys.

C.E.12.

Passed Dover 0530. 2 salvoes of 4 rounds fired from Grisnez Battery when leading ships were in vicinity of South Goodwin L.V. No hits or casualties. (V.A. Dover 0934/4).

O.B.223.

To R.V. with O.A.223 at 1900/4. Route. (C.in C. W.A. 1300/4). Cancel my 1300/4 (C.in C. W.A. 1440/4). Aircraft at 0700/5. Route. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/4).

F.S. & F.N.

Time table to be brought into force starting with F.S.1 and F.N.1. Cancel my 1730/25/9. (C.in C. Rosyth 1255/4).

/Escort situation



MOST SECRET

4.10.1940

Friday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping. (Continued).

Escort situation
in N.W. Approaches.

Concur in your 1838/27.
2. Difficulty in finding suitable anchorage for merchant ships.
3. Re-running Gibraltar convoys on 20 day cycle to reduce number of sloops.
4. Proposing C.in C. Rosyth should assume responsibility for O.A. convoys and their events.
5. In favour of the proposed deep mine - fields. (C.in C. W.A. 1553/4 to Adty.)

O.A. 223.

CAMPANULA degaussing not satisfactory, unable to join O.A. 223. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1731/4).

Convoys

S.L. 50.

Position and escort. (D.T.D., 1704/4)

H.X. 75.

My 1040/2. Delete INDUNA. (C.in C. W.A. 1620/4, D.T.D. 1337/4).

O.B. 226

Route. (D.T.D. 1311/4)

F.N. and F.S.

Forecast of sailings 1 to 8 (C.in C. Rosyth 1257/4).

Troop Convoys

B.N.6.

Sailing telegram, Aden Section. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0643/4).

W.S.3.

Request your position course and speed. (VERSATILE to HARVESTER, 0005/4).
At 0200, 102° Altnacarry Head 8 miles, 309°, 15. (HARVESTER, 0127/4).
Escort for W.S.3, Fast. (C.in C. W.A. 1037/4). Route. Arrange R.V. for KENYA (C.in C. W.A. 1949/4 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).



4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

→ "Alloy"
BARHAM.

Your 1103 N/3. Practically certain "Alloy" will remain at Freetown but alternatives of Gibraltar and United Kingdom will be discussed today. Sailing of BARHAM to be deferred pending decision. (1 S.L. to C.in C. S.A., 0051/4). "Alloy" to proceed to Gibraltar escorted by BARHAM as soon as convenient, being routed to west of Cape Verde Island. (1st S.L. 1843/4).

De Gaulle's
Force.

Pass to De Gaulle from Governor Cameroons. It will be necessary for troops to disembark complete with their stores. Ends. Please confirm that De Gaulle has received message of 2/10 from Governor Cameroons ~~on~~ food. (C.in C S.A. 1217 N/4 to Governor, Nigeria).

Situation
Report.

French Africa No. 29. (D.N.I. 1826/4).

→ "Alloy"
"Shrapnel".

Restowing completed. (Force A Sierra Leone 2050).

French
Shipping.

Important to prevent provisions, supplies and reinforcements from reaching Vichy French ports in West Africa South of Dakar and Gaboon in particular. All ships in the vicinity southward of these ports should keep good look out for merchant and warships engaged in such operations, merchant ships being boarded and examined. (C.in C. S.A., 1717/4).

North Atlantic.

AUSTRALIA

Admiralty 2256/26. AUSTRALIA proceed to patrol near Azores to prevent any enemy attempt to capture those islands. Such attempt would most likely come from French Biscay ports. Not to enter territorial waters or be more conspicuous than necessary. Oil at Gibraltar when necessary (1st S.L. 1913/4) Intelligence (D.O.D(F) 1917/4 to AUSTRALIA).

/Transfer



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued).

Transfer of troops from Jibuti to Indo-China.

Reasons why request of French Admiralty cannot be granted. (1st S.L. 2017/4 to N.A. Madrid).

RENOWN.

Your 1101/3. RENOWN and destroyers leave patrol a.m./4 and return to Gibraltar. F.O.C. N.A. comply with para. 5. (1st S.L. 0053/4 to S.O. Force H.)

VIDETTE.

Left Gibraltar 1800/3 escorting PACIFIC, HEDERA, MANSURIA to Melilla (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0952/14).

Movements.

Station Report. (F.O.C. N.A. 1116/4 to S.O. Force H.)

Portuguese sloop accompanied by seaplane, arrival of at Azores.

My 1040/8/8. Seaplane has been shipped to Lisbon on completion of photographic survey (V - C. Fayal 1910/4)

South Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND.

C. in C. S.A. 1249/4 see 3/10. Left Freetown 1400/4 to R.V. with W.S.3 as in C.in C. S.A. 1239/3 (S.O.(I) Freetown 1603/4).

C.M.4.

Composition, sailing date (Durban to Mombasa), escort CERES (N.O.I.C. Simons-town 1644/4).

CANTON.

Arrived Simonstown CANTON.

A.P.3.

Arrived Capetown with CARNARVON CASTLE less ULSTER PRINCE dropped out on passage and expected to arrive 5/10. (N.O.i/c. Simonstown 1530 2/4).

Naval aircraft shot down off Casablanca.

Your 2202/2. Governor General, Dakar is consulting his Government. Names of rescued. (C.in C. S.A. 0021/4 to Adty.)

/FAULKNER



MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued).

FAULKNOR

S.O. (I) Freetown 2005/2, Admiralty 0251/2,
C.in C. S.A. 1251/3. Unless there are
good reasons FAULKNOR is to accompany
BARHAM when she proceeds to Gibraltar
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1801/4 to C.in C S.A.).

British
Airways
Aircraft.

Asking what instructions have been issued
to them when proceeding to and from West
Africa, re signalling &c. (C.in C. S.A.
1059 N/4).

4.10.1940

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation.

Following operation in progress F.O.C. I.B.S. with MALAYA, EAGLE, RAMILLIES, AJAX, COVENTRY and 8 destroyers sailed a.m./3 to proceed to area close west of Crete. Expected to arrive Alexandria a.m./6. (C. in C. Med., 0805/4).

Proposal to send small submarines to Mediterranean.

Reply to your 1312/2 is contained in my minute on Adty. docket P.D.09091 of 30/9/'40 (V.A.S. 1227/4 to Admiralty).

KENT.

Asking where she is to proceed for permanent repairs. (C. in C. Med.1117/4).

Re ground mines.

For beach protection. Reply to N.O.I.C. Malta 1959/3. (Adty.1803/4).

Operation B.S.

My 1701/3 is in abeyance. Further orders will be sent (Capt.(S) One 1845/4 to TRIAD, TRUANT).

Stores Malta.

Reply to 1836/2 (A.C.N.S.(F) 1336/4 to Governor, Malta).

Air raid on Malta.

Air raid 1000/4 by 9 aircraft. No damage. Bag one certain, one probable. (V.A.Malta 2047/4).

→ AJAX

As from 1/10 AJAX is to join 7th C.S., being administered by V.A.L.F. (C.in C. Med., 0004/4).

TETRARCH TRITON.

Orders for patrol (V.A. Malta 1649/4).

Fleet Composition.

Re. Admiralty 1232/1, corvettes, minesweepers, etc. (C. in C. Med 1113/4). See Operations Vol.

/THEOPHILE



MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940

Friday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. (Continued).

THEOPHILE
GAUTIER.

Your 2015/2. Questions at issue over movements of French and British shipping are not ones of international law. French are asking us to allow them certain privileges which I am quite willing to grant provided they on their side co-operate. In the case of THEOPHILE GAUTIER no notice was given to me of movements of the ship, and she disobeyed order of patrol to enter Haifa. I am now asked to disregard this incident and treat THEOPHILE GAUTIER on same basis as other vessels repatriating troops. The ship is required to go through the formality of stopping at Haifa merely to establish the principle that if privileges are accorded the requirements attached there to must equally be fulfilled just as no doubt Italian requirements are being carried out. (C. in C. Med., 1213/4, to Consul Gen., Beirut).

Taranto.

Examination of air photograph of Taranto taken on 28/9 September shows five battleships in harbour. Two Italian Battleship LITTORIO class and three CAVOURS. (C. in C. Med., 1235/4).

Safe conduct
for French
Ships.

Your 0003/3. I have no reason to believe guarantees will not be adhered to and I have therefore informed High Commissioner that you are given safe conduct to six ships both out and home. (C. - G. Beyrout 0812/4 to C. in C. Mediterranean.)

French Ships,
Beirut.

My 2225/2. French Ships JEAN L.D., SAGITTAIRE, ANDRE LEBON sailing from Marseilles for Beirut on 5/10 have been granted safe conduct. If met by surface vessels they may be boarded for verification. They have guaranteed to carry no cargo or military equipment. (C. in C. Med., 1327/4) Passed to V.A.S. 1329/4).

M?

Press
Communiqués.

Liaison over press announcements continues unsatisfactory. Care was taken not to give gratuitous information to Italians of passing troops into Malta during operations 29/9 to 2/10 yet this

/information....



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940
Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued).

information was broadcast in the British Official Press during night 3/4/10 and on the B.B.C. News. Apart from security consideration, this is most unfair on local correspondents. (C.in C.Med.1532/4).

Blockade
avoided by
French.

A report graded C.2. indicates that cargo ships for France avoid blockade in the Mediterranean by closely following North African coast until opposite Italy and then crossing over and going up inside Italian waters. (D.N.I. 1828/4 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

Bombardment
of
Maltezana.

ORION and SYDNEY carried out a brief night bombardment of Maltezana in Stampalia Island during night 2nd/3rd October. Result not known but from Italian reports there appear to have been some casualties. (C. in C. Med., 2037/4).



4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.N.7.

Movements (F.O.C. R.I.N. 0624 Z/4).

S.W.2. A.P.3,
W.S.3,

→ SHROPSHIRE,
→ CARTHAGE,
→ DORSETSHIRE.

SHROPSHIRE to be employed with Red Sea Force in order to provide sufficient escort for convoys as no ships are available from Mediterranean at present. Re other convoys and escorts (C.in C. E.I. 0606 Z/4).

KIMBERLEY.

Bombed on Perim Patrol 0535 Z/4. 5 bombs, no damage (C.in C. E.I. 0714 Z/4).

ARAWA.

Escorting ORCADES expects to arrive Capetown a.m./12. (C.in C. E.I. 0810 Z/4). Is she to be retained on E.I. Station? (C.in C. E.I. 1120 Z/4 to Adty.).

KINGSTON

Left 0800 Z/4 to join B.N.6 (N.O.I.C. Aden 0811 Z/4).

Air Activity.

Daily Intelligence Summary No.116 and Operational Summary (Air H.Q. Aden 1920/4).

Press indiscretions.

Your 1144/3 (paper taunting Italians with inability to hit ships in Aden). Concur such stories most undesirable, please stop them (V.C.N.S. 1925/4 to C.in C. E.I.).

CITY OF BAGDAD
KEMMENDINE
BRITISH COMMANDER
BENARTY
ATHEL KING
BENAVON
TIRKANNA
TALLEYRAND
FILEFJELL
COMMISSAIRE RAMEL

Since 16/6 ships named in margin lost by enemy action or are still overdue on Station.

Passengers and crews from these ships must now total some 1800 persons and it is reasonable to suppose that they have been landed and are being maintained somewhere. If this place can be found it might lead to destruction of raider and supply ship. If there is no knowledge of whereabouts of these people, I consider Kerguelen should be searched as soon as an 8 inch cruiser available. SHROPSHIRE, CANBERRA cannot be spared. Asking whether DORSETSHIRE could undertake search.

→ Kerguelen to be searched.

(C.in C. E.I. 0538/Z/4 to Adty. C.in C. S.A.)

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Policy.

Telegram from Chiefs of Staff No.11 to O.A.G., Straits Settlements, repeated to Cs.in C, Far East, re proposed conference with Australian and N.Z. Governments at Singapore, representatives of India and Burma to attend.
(1 S.L., 1247/4).

Propaganda.

His views on construction of transmitter for broadcasting propaganda from Singapore to Far East countries (C.in C. China 0213 Z/4).

Japan
Thailand.

He does not agree with Gov. Straits Settlements 276 of 3/10 (C.in C. China 0613 Z/4).

U.S. and
Indo-China.

Suggesting visit by U.S. Warships to Kamranh Bay would have a very stabilizing effect. French opinion is that Japanese contemplate early advance into Southern Indo China. Understand French Authorities would welcome such a visit.
(C.in C. China, 0557/4).

Yangtse
Supplies

Re arrangement with U.S. river gunboat TUTUILA. (N.O.I.C., Rangoon, 0854 Z/4).

"MOLLER"
Steamship
Seizures.

My 0837 Z/21 and 0858 Z/30. Japanese written replies based on report of Japanese authorities. (B.N.L.O. Shanghai, 0814 Z/4).

German ships.

Report from French source through M.A. Shanghai valuation unknown 9/9 indicated possible attempt by four German ships, one 8000 tons, two 12000 tons, one 21000 tons to take cargoes from South America between 18/9 and 20/10.

Ships will R.V. with and tranship goods from vessels ostensibly engaged in coastal trade then make immediately for North Atlantic, destination Murmansk or Petsamo. One ship to take cargo in Rio Grande Do Sul others in Amazon Delta or south for Montevideo.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore 0922 Z/4).



4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

HAKONE MARU.

May be released providing satisfied no cargo originally manifested for France or North Africa has been discharged at Lisbon. (D.E.W.D. 1237/4 to C.in C. A.W. I.) Difficulty of dealing with her case. Also re two other ships. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1121/4).

Your 1237/4. Paper shows that all cargo discharged at Lisbon was for Liverpool or Gibraltar. Ship has been released. 1712/4.

2nd Town Flotilla.

Names assigned from 2359/4. (D.O.D.(H) 1048/4).

QUERCY.

Your 1122/3. It was desired to intercept before she reached Cayenne. If arrived, cancel my 0914/3. (1 S.L. to C.in C. A. W.I. 0115/4).

WIPUNEN.

Giving him information received from S.O.(I) Monte Video (D.N.I. 1721/4 to N.A. Washington).

Halifax.

Re fuelling facilities and oil storage in case a large fleet should be based there (C.N.S. Canada 1141/4).

KURESSAAR.

Estonian. Baltimore reports vessel detained on account of crew trouble. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1744/4).

HAKOZAKI MARU
FUSHIMI MARU

Re-calling at Bermuda (C.in C. A. W.I. 1121/4).

KALK
MADDOX
CAMERON

Halifax

My 1432. KALK and MADDOX^{arrived} return to ~~Halifax~~ or St. Johns N.F. after temporary repairs, to dock for changing propellers and in the case of MADDOX probably one tail shaft. Collision was due to parting of wires operating engine room telegraph. Recommend early inspection of these in all Town Class destroyers. CAMERON will remain at St. John's N.F. for remaking steam joints etc. and should be able to sail with 3rd Group. (V.A. 3rd B.S. 1256/4).

4.10.1940.
Friday.

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War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.MONCTON.

(Not given as
search in
C.B. 1815 or
Pink list.)

My N.S. 10.08 - 12 - 5 of 19/7, and your 1350/27/9. H.M.C.S. CAMBELTOWN has been renamed MONCTON. Submit that names already given to H.M.C.S. may be taken into consideration when selecting name for vessels.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1450/4 to Admty.)

Raider.

Seattle reports Nor. Masters here are strongly of opinion raider in South Atlantic was ex VENUS (Nor) speed 20 knots. Both Nor. VENUS and VEGA were in Norway at the time German occupation according to information from Masters Ends.

(D.N.I. Ottawa 1655/4).

SIMLA.

My 1246/10/9. Philadelphia reports. Rumours here indicate Norwegian ship SIMLA attacked and torpedoed enroute to England. In view of pro-Nazi Captain on board I consider this may be a ruse to take the ship back to Norway. Have strong grounds for doubting bona fide of Captain and suggest patrol be warned to look out for her. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1745/4).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.KLAUS
SCHOKE

Reported indications preparing to leave (V.C. Fayal 1910/4).

4.10.1940.
Friday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked.

SIMLA

See America and West Indies.

Submarines Reported.

1037.

D.F., unreliable fix, probable U/B,
53°N. 22°W. (D.D.I.C. 1147/4).

1100.

By aircraft 49.04 N., 12.31 W. (C.in C.
W.A. 1141/4). U-Boat probably bound for
Lorient position 49.04 N., 12.31 W. at
1100/4. (V.A.S. 1156/4) Course 360°.
(C.in C. W.A. 1317/4).

1240.

SSSS. Periscope sighted Tees Bay.
(THALA, 1240/4).

1130.

Suspected U-boat reported by merchant ship
in Tees Bay. (C.in C. Rosyth 1552/4).

1607.

By D/F 55° N. 17° to 19°W. (C.in C. W.A.
1653/4).

MALOSA

U-boat proceeding easterly may cross your
track between 2000 and midnight today.
(C.in C. W.A. 1730/4 to MALOSA).

1209.

52° N. 22° W. Approx. (D.S. 396).

North Atlantic.

Consul, Las Palmas, reports unconfirmed
rumours of 2 unknown submarines sighted by
schooner 20 miles south of Grand Canary
2/10. (F.O.C.N.A. 0325/4).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated
dispositions.

1 in 49° 04' N. 12° 32' W. at 1100/4 will
probably arrive Lorient p.m./5.
1 about 550 miles west of Fastnet.
Another in about 53° N. 22° W. at 1037/4.
1 about 250 miles further north.
1 was in 56° N. 9° W. at 0200/3.
1 about 100 miles Westward of Rockall.

By TRIBUNE 26/9.

5 torpedoes fired at range 2700 yds. On
looking 6 minutes later U-boat was not in
sight and TRIBUNE had to avoid A/S hunt
(V.A.S. 1453/4).

1104.

By aircraft with bomb and d.c. 49° 4' N.
12° 32' W. No hits. (D.S. 396).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

87

5.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Anti-Invasion
Patrol

In view of the weather and the 4 available destroyers having been on patrol two nights running, anti-invasion patrol by Portsmouth destroyers was not carried out last night. C. in C., Portsmouth proposes that this patrol should no longer be carried out, observing that we are in a position to detect in sufficient time, even in poor visibility, large movements of vessels at Antwerp and Dunkirk in connection with any invasion attempt.

Italian
Submarine
Sunk

At 0700 today TIGRIS attacked 3 Italian submarines of SANTORRE SANTAROSA class and two French patrol vessels entering the Gironde, and ~~sank~~ one of the submarines.

damaged & have sunk

Enemy
Intelligence

Two vessels, believed to be cruisers, were reported by aircraft off Utsire Island at 1020/5, steering south. Visibility was bad and the enemy vessels were not seen by a later patrol.

British Air Activity

Night operations last night were cancelled owing to adverse weather conditions.

Two ships of escort type were bombed today in a harbour of Utsire Island, resulting in near misses and a hit on the jetty.

Attacks were made during the day on various vessels off the coast of Norway and also on 4 trawlers proceeding into Dieppe
o

Enemy Air Operations

A large fire was started at West India Dock this evening.

Superficial damage to Portland Dockyard was caused by an attack this evening.

Dover was bombed early this afternoon. All bombs fell in the sea. There was a second attack this evening but again no naval damage or casualties were caused.

/WALLACE.....



5.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

WALLACE and convoy F.N. ³⁰⁰~~100~~ were attacked off the coast of Suffolk this afternoon. No hits were obtained.

Convoy "Agent" (F.N.) was attacked this evening. No damage is reported.

Mining

Mine~~s~~ laying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off the North East Coast and between Orfordness and Lowestoft and in the Thames Estuary.

The Swedish wireless and press announce that on 1/10 the SS GONDUL was mined in Trindel Channel, 2 miles south of Limhamn; salvage is believed to be possible. The Channel, which was supposed to be mine-free, was closed but is open again.

Mines have been found near the South Goodwin Lt. V. but search sweep was without result.

Blyth was reopened early this afternoon after sweeping.

A mine was exploded in the Humber this morning. The river was closed later.

M.V. ADAPTITY (372 tons) was mined and sunk at 1130 today off the Blackwater River.

North Atlantic

A.B.V.KINGSTON SAPPHIRE is reported to have been torpedoed this morning about 30 miles west of Cape Trafalgar.

2 French merchant vessels were sighted by air reconnaissance at 1630 today, 60 miles west of Alboran Island. F.O.C.N.A. has no destroyers available to bring them in, and in fact, the Straits of Gibraltar patrol is reduced to one destroyer and two trawlers, which are totally inadequate.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

89

5.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Since 16/6 ten ships have been lost by enemy action or are still overdue on the East Indies Station. Passengers and crews from these ships must now total some 1800 persons and it is reasonable to suppose they have been landed and are being maintained somewhere. NEPTUNE is to carry out a search of Kerguelen before proceeding to Freetown.

C. in C., S.A. has issued instructions that Vichy French warships if met at sea south of Dakar are to be instructed to return to Casablanca or Dakar and are not to go to any French West African port. French submarines approaching any Free French port are to be sunk at sight. French merchant ships are to be sent in for examination, unless definitely established as under Free French control or proceeding in interests of Free French between Free French ports.

Mediterranean

160 bombs were dropped on Mersa Matruh today by raiders which arrived from seaward without warning. Some damage was caused. A.A. guns claim 3 hits.

East Indies

LEANDER escorting Convoy B.N. 6. was bombed at 1230 today, forty miles south of Jebel Qubair Island (Red Sea)

America and West Indies

The U.S.A. Navy have received a report of the sighting today, about midway between Bermuda and Porto Rica, of a submarine and a clinker built lifeboat without a name.

5.10. 1940.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

A/S Trawlers
in Firth of
Forth.

Asking for reinforcement in order that essential patrols may be maintained (C.in C. Rosyth 1015/5).

Faeroes
2nd C.S. 18 C.S.

Local regulations for shipping (A.C.N.S.(H) 1307/5).

Ships of these cruiser squadrons, proceeding to Scapa for exercises will come under operational control of C.in C. H.F. while they are north of the Home Command waters (A.C.N.S.(H) 1800/5).

Refits.

Request permission to resume refits in the case of local small craft (A.C.C.S. 1944/5).

Attacking at sight.

Amending Adty. 1212/21/9 (A.C.N.S.(H) 1252/5).

Defence of U.K."Deluge"

At 0220/5 (D.C.0201/5) at 1400/5 (D.C. 1439/5).

Destroyer shortage.

Adty. 1250/16/9 and 1127/5/10.

WOLVERINE must refit in immediate future leading only 3 destroyers available.

Anti-invasion patrol.

Only one of the 5 French T.B's is fit to go outside defences except in emergency. They are in any case inadequate in fighting power to meet any enemy torpedo craft.

I can cover the westbound merchant vessel groups by the two French sloops and the one efficient French T.B.

I consider it essential to have two destroyers at immediate notice at night at Portsmouth for unforeseen commitments. If this is accepted it is no longer possible to maintain the Dover commitment.

As it will take 12 hours to clear Antwerp and up to 18 hours to clear Dunkirk and even in poor visibility air R.C. can detect big movements, I suggest that I hold destroyers at Portsmouth in readiness to proceed to Dover area but cease the regular patrol. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2243/5.)

Your 1727/2. Although it is realised 4 French ships are ill found is it not

/possible



5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. (continued)

possible to make greater use of 23rd. ^{D.F.?}
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1127/5 to C.in C. Portsmouth.

Movements.

ARK ROYAL
ARGUS

SHEFFIELD is to detach destroyers to R/V with
ARK ROYAL, ARGUS in 50° 00' 21° 32' at
0715/6. Route.

If short of fuel VERSATILE, VIMY, WITHERINGTON, VISCOUNT are to be detailed earlier to meet ARK ROYAL as fuel permits.
9th D.F. are to escort ARK ROYAL to Liverpool. Remainder escort ARGUS to Clyde. Escort to be redistributed if necessary for destroyers to fuel at Lough Foyle.

If VERSATILE, HARVESTER not in company they are to R/V with ARK ROYAL as situation permits.
(C.in C. W.A. 1149/5)

My 1149/5. ARK ROYAL, ARGUS are to proceed on their route. Destroyers are to join as weather permits and are to report if not met by 2100/6. (C.in C. W.A. 1831/5).

Your 1149/5. Cannot reach position at time indicated. Will rendezvous as near position 051° 00' 021° 30' as possible.
(HURRICANE 1800/5).

VANITY

Expect to arrive 20 C Buoy 2130 (VANITY 1123/5)

Nore Command

Day patrols and movements to 1200/6
(C.in C. Nore 1200/5).

Reinforcement of N.W. Approaches Escort Force.

Intend sailing SARDONYX, SALADIN for Liverpool p.m. 6, STURDY 11/10
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1237/5).

Dover Patrols.

Night 5/6 (V.A. Dover 1304/5).

PEONY.

Your 0905/5 return to Rosyth (C.in C.W.A. 1319/5).

Orkneys.

Movements tonight (F.O.C.O.S. 1531/5).

/ Trawlers



5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

Trawlers to
reinforce
Belfast
Trawler Force.

Intend to sail KINGSTON ALALITE, KINGSTON ANDALUSITE 1830 for Plymouth (C.in C. Portsmouth 1533/5).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler line tonight (F.O.C.O.S.1536/5).

VERSATILE
HARVESTER
HIGHLAND
BRIGADE

Noon position. HARVESTER Asdic set and gyro compass out of action. VERSATILE Asdic set and D.G. coil out of action (VERSATILE 1600/5).

Western Channel

Night report (C.in C. W.A.1625/5).

ARISTOCRAT

When ready to sail for Leith for temporary service as guardship (D.O.D.(H) 1907/5)

M.T.B's

Available at Harwich 14-16-107, Sheerness 67-68, Chatham 31-32-5 (C.in C. Nore 1911/4).

TRIUMPH

Your 1709/17/8 (see Mediterranean Volume) TRIUMPH should now arrive Gibraltar approx. (date.) (V.A.(S) 2211(5)to Adty.)

Operations.

Operation "Lucid"
"EUGEN"

Your 2100/4. Force are much scattered at least one M.T.B. and one M.L. have broken down condition of oilers very doubtful do not consider operation can be satisfactorily carried out today. (C.in C. Nore. 0058/5 to Adty.).

Operation ^{"Lucid"}~~EUGEN~~ will not be carried out tonight. Prepare to carry out operation 6/10. (C.in C. Nore. 1036/5.).

Record of progress up to date with Operation ~~EUGEN~~ "Lucid".

2. The following breakdowns and defects have occurred in Oilers WAR NIZAM, MYTILUS, WAR BAHADUR. *Details.*

3. 25/9 all Forces sailed but WAR NIZAM's speed dropped to 3 knots before reaching Edinburgh Channel owing to inexperienced engine room Personnel being unable to maintain requisite steam pressure. Operation therefore cancelled.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Continued)Op: "Lucid" cont:

4. 3/10 majority of Units sailed in doubtful conditions of wind and visibility. By 1400 H.Q. reported air co-operation not possible. Added to this the wind was E.S.E. Operation cancelled at 1420. Forces returned but MYTILUS grounded on Nore Sand.

5. 4/10 MYTILUS remained aground until 1440 this combined with boiler defects limiting speed to 6 knots, precluded her sailing. All other Forces sailed although weather doubtful. By 1800 H.Q. reported air co-operation not possible. Weather was then deteriorating rapidly with strong S.S.W. wind and rising sea. Signals postponing operation from C.in C. Nore and Captain Agar crossed in transit. A number of Units returned to Sheerness and the Nore after dark but neither Oiler got in until well after daylight nor did the mine-sweepers or M.T.B. 34 who had hull and engine defects. Anxiety was felt for WAR NIZAM which had no anchors. Tugs were sent to her assistance and she was thereby enabled to heave to in Oaze Deep until daylight. The loss of these anchors is being investigated. M.T.B. 34 and M.L. 106 now returning to Felixstowe and Yarmouth respectively for extensive refits.

6. M.T.B's and M.L's. There are now only three of these craft in each force instead of 4. In view of the various duties assigned to them 4 in each Force is considered the minimum that should be employed. There are no replacements in the Nore Command for the casualties. Further the R.N.V.R. personnel of the M.L's have not reached the stage of efficiency and skill that are really required for an operation of this sort. There are no other craft in this Command that can replace them.

7. Constant breakdown of Oilers is exerting a severe strain on their Officers and men. Much depends on the speed at which they can approach their objective. One would like it to be 14 or 15 knots. If due to recurrent defects it is below 9 knots their chances of success must be materially reduced. (C.in C. Nore 1430/5.)

What steps are being taken to overcome the defects and difficulties mentioned in your 1430/5.

In view of the number of M.T.B's and M.L's under your orders it is not clear why 8 cannot be provided.

(1st S.L. 1922/5. to C.in C. Nore.).

Reply to 1922/5. Doubtful if ^{WAR}NIZAM can be ready for service before 7/10.

/ Explaining



5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations. (Continued)

Explaining shortage of M.T.B's and necessity for using only those with silent engines. (C.in C. Nore 2120/5).

Operation
"Medium"

A.L. M/P.D.O.9087/40 of 4/10. Asking for an asdic fitted submarine to be detailed and sent to Plymouth as soon as possible (C.in C. W.A. 1753/5). Requesting information of any minefields. Intended date and time of operation. Re-bombing target area. (C.in C. W.A. 1921/5) Reply to C.in C. W.A. 1753/5. Suggest URSULA takes part in operations (F.O. Submarines 2229/5)

EREBUS

Requesting proposals for an operation employing EREBUS in very near future (A.C.N.S.(H) 2210/8 to C.in C. Nore.)

Patrol

Patrol by tonight (C.in.C. W.A. 1213/5 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Submarines

→ UTMOST

Re R.V. with SWORDFISH, WARWICK DEEPING and HUGH WALPOLE. (UTMOST 0236/5, 0441/5).

UPRIGHT

Orders (Capt. (S)5 0725/5)

SWORDFISH
Attack on
destroyer 1/10

A buoy has now been placed in position of SWORDFISH's attack 49° 48' N. 1° 24' W. Asdic dome lost and has other docking defects (C.in C. Portsmouth 1147/5) *See also p. 119.*

JUNON

Asking that her completion may have high priority (V.A.S. 1157/5).

→ UTMOST

To exchange patrol areas after 2000/5 on account of UTMOST's "singing" propeller (Capt. (S)5 1331/5).

Positions &
Movements.

0700/6. (V.A.S) 1712/5).

British Air Activity.

Fighter
protection

BRITISH PROGRESS (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0842/5) C.in C. W.A. 1139/5). 5.M.V's, 2 French ships. Code word "Chain" (C.in C. Portsmouth 1148/5).

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Saturday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

Defence of Fleet Base.

My 1141/5. Re Grummans. Until reliability is proved defence of main fleet base should rest with a proved type of fighter aircraft. (C.in C. H.F. 1217/5).

Attacks on M.V's

Large M.V. bombed 61° 18' N. 4° 50' E. No hits seen. Small coasting steamer machine gunned 61° 04' N. 5° 00' E. (Donibristle 1155/5).

GAVOTTE, CURACOA, SOUTHERN STAR.

Expect 3 Blenheim fighters from 1800 until about 2000 (C.in C. Rosyth 1328/5).

Attacks on Escort vessels.

5/10 Blenheim on special R.C. attacked 2 ships of escort type in harbour at Utsire Island. No other operations carried out owing to unfavourable weather (H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 2355/5).

Mining.

ADAPTIVITY mined.

~~M/V ADAPTIVITY (378 tons) Southend to Grimsby was blown up by a mine at 1130 in approx. 51° 13'. Caught fire and sank rapidly. Survivors can give no information about explosion. Master of ADAPTIVITY was killed and two of crew injured brought into Harwich by M/V ACCLIVITY who was in company. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/5).~~

Enemy Air Activity.

Dover attacked twice

Enemy aircraft dropped about 12 bombs in sea off Eastern Area 1240/5 (V.A. Dover 1404/5). At 1555/5 4 bombs dropped in harbour and 2 on military ground north of Castle. No casualties (V.A. Dover 1826/5)

WALLACE F.N.300

Attacked 52° 18' N. 1° 59' E. by one aircraft, 5 bombs, no hits. (WALLACE 1725/5, 1729/5).
See p. 66.

Convoy "Agent"

Attacked 52° N. 1° E. by one enemy aircraft (C.in C. W.A. 1859/5).

Portland.

Attack on Dockyard at 2021 by one or more machines which dropped about 10 bombs. One exploded on main road between Dockyard gate and power station, remainder fell in open spaces and in sea. Superficial damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2204/5) Details of damage (O.C.W. Portland 1600/6).



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5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Iceland.

Proposal to operate Vatnsendi W/T Station (W.O. 1357/5). *[see page 119]*

Mining.

ADAPTITY
mined.

M/V ADAPTITY (372 tons) Southend to Grimsby was blown up by a mine at 1130 in approx. 51° 43'. Caught fire and sank rapidly. Survivors can give no information about explosion. Master of ADAPTITY was killed and two of crew injured brought into Harwich by M/V ACCLIVITY who was in company. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/5).

South Foreland.

AC AC 1A reports mine believed German caught up in kite outer strings off South Foreland 0415/4. Mine believed swept at 0400 approx. 270° S. Goodwin Lt. V. 1 mile. At about this time WALNUT near South Goodwin Lt. V. 2 large explosions in sweep (C.in C. Nore 1158/5) Search sweep near South Goodwin Lt. V. from 1600 till dark. No mines cut (V.A. Dover 1936/5).

Blyth.

Now open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1434/5).

River Crouch

Re mine in river. Can safely be countermined. Request instructions (R.M.S.C. Great Yarmouth 1510/5).

3 M/S Trawlers.

Off Eddystone. Asking for fighter protection, code word "Gamma" (C.in C. W.A. 1547/5).

Humber.

Magnetic mine exploded 1043 near 62 D buoy (F.O. Humber 1820/5) Humber closed to navigation mining suspected (F.O. Humber 2246/5).



War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Convoy

Convoy of 7 small M.Vs passed Fecamp at 1215/3 course S.W. (UTMOST 0201/5 C. in C., Portsmouth 1157/5)

Ostend

Aircraft R.C. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1240/5)

Gravelines

Considerable activity. Docks, barges and M.T. concentrations to be attacked night 5/6. (H.Q.C.C. 1503/5)

2 Cruisers
off Utsire

Aircraft sighted 2 vessels thought to be cruisers in 59° 8' N., 4° 26' E., at 1200 course 180° speed 15 to 20 knots (C. in C., Rosyth 1612/5, H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 2355/5)

Channel Is.
Brest, Ushant
Area

Aircraft R.C. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1715/5)

War Diary5.10.1940
SaturdayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSSWORDFISH

See Submarines

RAVONIAAground Haisboro Sand (VERDUN 0615/5)
Refloated and proceeding. Am rejoining
convoy (VERDUN 0650/5)H.M.S.ASPHODELFLEUR DE LYS reports exchanged pendant at
0145 but not seen since. My position
56° 58' N., 8° 53' W., (SANDWICH 1130/5)STORAA/S Vessel. Grounded at Oban where she
had gone to fuel. Damage. (WESTERN ISLES
1331/5, 1315/6)DAPHNELLAOne Capetown 30/9 not arrived (S.O. (1)
Capetown 1705B/5)MANGKAI

See South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET5.10.1940
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSConvoysShipping

H.X. 76 Meet. Route. (C. in C., W.A., 120/5, 1830/5)
Route from R.V. (D.T.D. 1308/5)

O.A. 224 Position (A.C.O.S. 1333/5) PHILANTE to meet
(C. in C., W.A., 1353/5) 1 trawler to meet
O.A. 224 and HASTINGS (C. in C., W.A., 1357/5)

S.L. 48 Not met. Position. (FLEETWOOD 1730/5)

S.H.X. 78 War material in certain ships. (N.C.S.O.
Sydnet C.B. 1053/5)

S.C. 7. Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.
1559/5 1601/5)

S.G. 8. Route (D.T.D. 1850/5)

H.X. 74 On time at R.V., 31 ships (D.T.D. 1851/5)

H.X. 80 Route (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1046/5)

O.B. 224 List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Liverpool,
1551/5)

H.G. 45 List and destinations (F.O.C.N.A., 1231/5)

W.N. 21 To be sailed in 2 portions (N.C.S.O. Clyde,
1815/5)

O.B. 226 Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1700/5)

O.R. 227 Route (D.T.D. 1245/5)

H.X. 78 Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1109/5
N.O.I.C. Halifax 1104/5)

S.H.X. 79 Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax
1430/5)

O.B. 217 Your 1724/4 Convoy O.B. 217 Commodore
Swabey signal 1210/22 and 2121/14 all passed
to Commodore in P/L. Regret no previous
definite information but expressed opinion
of several Commodores. (N.O.I.C. Halifax,
1035/5 to Admty.)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 3.

S.O.I. Freetown's 1603/4 (CUMBERLAND to R.V.
with W.S. 3.) CUMBERLAND's broadcast not
received. Convoy delayed at least 24 hours
by gales. Position at 0900/5. (SHEFFIELD
1001/5)

My 1949/4. Route for W.S. 3. Fast, amended.
(C. in C., W.A., 1147/5) (N.C.S.O., Liverpool
1341/5) Liverpool Section date. (F.O.I.C.
Liverpool, 1611/5)

Destroyers with W.S. 3. have to and parted
company 2100/4. Position of W.S. 3. at 1400/5
Full S.W. gale. (SHEFFIELD, 1411/5)

CUMBERLAND sailed 1300/4 for Ocean escort
W.S. 3. relieving SHEFFIELD (position and
date) (C. in C., S.A. 1239/3 Recd 1649/5)

War Diary5.10.1940
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSShipping-ContdWORCESTERSHIRETo take 250 troops to Reykjavik on 12/10.
(D.O.D. (H) 1924/5)ROYAL ULSTERMAN530 troops for Iceland, to leave Clyde 12/10
Codeword ~~Requin~~ (D.O.D. (H) 1925/5)Cargo SpaceYour 1737/3. No Objection to loading of commercial cargo but as vessels are urgently required in U.K. request delay involved is reduced to minimum possible.
(D.O.D.(F) 1220/5 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)Coastwise
Convoys
Escorts

C. in C., W.A's 1553/4. As O.A. convoys are to be abolished, I presume that E.N. and W.N. Convoys are referred to in para 4. Not understood why these difficulties should vanish if the responsibility were shifted to me.

Admty. 1906/4/10 outlines an arrangement whereby convoy escorts change off the Clyde. It would therefore seem right that the convoys and escorts should be run from there. Consider the escort outlined in para 3 E.O. Admty. 1906/4 quite inadequate both in numbers and armament.

Re fast and slow convoys being run on alternate days, as pointed out in my 1747/27/9 accepted by Admty. 1930/3/10, this was not possible with the number of escorting ships available.

Re Rosyth escort force, none of these ships are being refitted and the greater part of them are destroyers built between 1916 and 1918. (C. in C., Rosyth 1131/5 to Admty.)

Coastwise
Convoys

Very limited scale of escort proposed ignores the practical aspect of convoy. Not possible for two Trawlers to control, let alone protect, a convoy of 30 or 40 ships, particularly when in single line. Would appear that sufficient A/S trawlers should be available to provide more than two per convoy.

Statement re coal stocks very disappointing in view of the success which has been achieved by Merchant Navy, R.N. and R.A.F. in maintaining the flow of trade on the East Coast. (figures) (C. in C., H.F. 1139/5 to Admty.)



5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

→ CORNWALL
Duala

CORNWALL sailing 0700 Z/5. Your 2101N/4 is being passed to KELT via N.C.S.O. Duala and KELT has not been told route of M.T. convoy. KELT has been instructed that unless she received definite orders to join convoy she is to be on A/S patrol to southwards of Victoria by early dawn 7/10 until completion of disembarkation. If really urgent for KELT to have definite sailing orders before 7/10 I will have to return to vicinity of Cameroons River to pass message. (CORNWALL 0130Z/5 to C. in C., S.A. Amended 0814/5)

Libreville

Your 0130Z/5. Air reconnaissance of Libreville approved. Aircraft must remain unseen. After reconnaissance, return to Duala or vicinity. KELT to remain at Duala. (C. in C., S.A., 0405N/5 to CORNWALL)

BARHAM
Destroyers

Your 1801/4. FAULKNER is 760 miles on way to Duala. BARHAM will probably sail within next 48 hours. For consideration request FORESIGHT whose W/T and A/S are out of action and cannot be repaired at Freetown (my 1055/2) should proceed to Gibraltar in addition to FORTUNE already detailed. (C. in C., S.A. 1607/5 to Adty.)

Your 1607/5. S.O.(I) Freetown's 2005/2 reported FORESIGHT as having accompanied DEVONSHIRE. FORESIGHT should accompany BARHAM if ready as in my 0231/2. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 2209/5)

MILFORD

To report expected time of arrival and what ships are with her. (C. in C., S.A. 2247/5)

Troop Transport
WESTERNLAND

My 1815/1. Operation with de Gaulle force is arranged (? on basis of) transshipment of troops at Ambas Bay, Victoria, as large transports cannot enter Cameroons river, arrangements for official modification made with Governor, Nigeria. Final proposal is that all forces go to Duala as arranged except that de Gaulle asks that 500 troops shall go on to Pointe Noire in WESTERNLAND. If WESTERNLAND goes to Pointe Noire consider she will require ocean and A/S escort as before. If force can be made available for longer period propose CORNWALL, instead of relieving the D class cruiser with M.T. Convoy, shall escort WESTERNLAND to Pointe Noire with destroyers when C.S.1. can release these. (C. in C., S.A., 1311/5 to Adty.)

My 1311.....



War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

My 1311/5 Governor Nigeria reports WESTERNLAND can almost certainly berth alongside should certainly get well inside in smooth water. This information obtained from recent chart confirmed by Capt. American ship now in Lagos who has just arrived from Pointe Noire. (C. in C., S.A., 1723N/5)

PENNLAND
WESTERNLAND

My 1311N/5. De Gaulle in his communication also states "Later an Foreign Legion, tanks and part of motor transport group will be sent to Middle East after arrangements to be concluded with London Government and General Wavell.

I ask therefore that PENNLAND and WESTERNLAND or at least one of them should remain at my disposal at Victoria for transport later of elements destined for Middle East"

If this proposal is agreed to movement will not take place for some time. No facilities for fuelling or protection at Victoria. Recommend that both ships return to Freetown or as required, necessary transport for troops to Middle East being arranged later. (C. in C., S.A., 1313N/5)

"Alloy"
"Shrapnel"

Force "Alloy" will proceed Gibraltar as soon as Admiralty can arrange. Troops in Force "Shrapnel" remain Freetown and will disembark there as and when accommodation becomes available. (W.O. 1325/5 to G.O.C., W. Africa)

Force "A" H.Qs., Force H.Qs., Sig. Sec. and 10 Independent Coy. will not accompany "Alloy" but will await orders at Freetown. (W.O., 1500/5 to G.O.C., W. Africa)

Part of the force recently employed at Dakar consisting of two battalions Royal Marines and certain auxiliary troops totalling approximately 2000 will arrive Gibraltar in two ships on date to be notified. Stay in Gibraltar temporary. Unnecessary arrange accommodation ashore. (W.O. 1500/5 to Govr. Gibraltar)

When Force "Alloy" proceeds to sea essential Brig. Morford sails in BARHAM so that we can communicate with him. (W.O., 1755/5 to Force A and C. in C., S.A.)

/Treatment of.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Treatment of
French SHips.

Following instructions issued to ships on South Atlantic Station regarding action to be taken when French Merchant Ships or Warships are met.

(a) Vichy French Warships if met at sea South of Dakar should be prevented from going to any French West Africa port. They should be instructed to return to Casablanca or Dakar

(b) Submarines are to be treated as hostile and sunk at sight if approaching any Free French Port. (?If) met at sea except in neutral territorial waters, they are to be treated as hostile unless on the surface and escorted. Surface warships escorting submarine are 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 surface ships and submarine.

(c) French merchant ships unless definitely established as under Free French control or proceeding in interests of Free French between Free French ports are to be sent in for examination.

Free French Territory to be regarded as French Cameroons and Equatorial Africa excluding Gabon (Libreville)

Important to prevent provisions, supplies and reinforcements from reaching Vichy French Ports in West Africa South of Dakar and Gabon in particular. (C. in C., S.A., 1957/5)


De Gaulle
Plans

In telegram from Governor Nigeria, latter stated that De Gaulle's first object after landing at Duala would be to gain control of Libreville and that it was hoped to do this within one month.

If without specially consulting De Gaulle you can give me any idea as to how he intends to do this I shall be grateful.

If from the sea is it his intention that only Free French Naval Forces should be used or do you think his idea is that the British Navy should take part?

(1st S.L. 2218/5 to C.S.1)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French M/V's

2 French merchant vessels bearing 100° distance 60 miles from ALB (point of land used locally at Gibraltar) course 080° speed 8 knots. (F/B K. 5261, 1630/5)

1 French ^{class}ELAN bearing 190° Europa 10, course 280° speed 12 knots. (? 1635/5)

F/B 1630/5. Confirm that these ships if unescorted are being brought in. (1st S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 2129/5)

Following from Ambassador, Washington:
Learn that several cargo vessels conveyed by destroyers cleared Dakar night of 30/9 for Marseilles. (1st S.L. 2217/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 2129/5. Ships almost certainly those which passed Straits of Gibraltar under escort as in my 1517/4 and 1601/5. Of 4 destroyers, one in dock, one escorting NEURALIA, one searching for KINGSTON SAPPHIRE, believed torpedoed, and one with 2 trawlers maintaining inadequate Straits of Gibraltar patrol. Therefore no craft available to send such long distances. (F.O.C.N.A., 2324/5)



War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

7,0230

KINGSTON
SAPPHIRE
Torpedoed

Western Patrol Krait.
Italian ship
Nani

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE armed boarding vessel (Trawler) reported torpedoed 36.11 N., 06.31 W., at about 0930 (F.O.C.N.A., 1237/5) Cannot be replaced from Northern Patrol. Request consideration to relieve Western Patrol trawlers at Gibraltar by 4 A/S trawlers or corvettes not from Northern Patrol. Vessels relieved can be fitted A/S on return and are required to reinforce Northern Patrol during winter months. (F.O.C.N.P., 1640/5) WRESTLER and KINGSTON TOPAZA searching from position 090° Cape Trafalgar 25' towards Cape St. Vincent tonight. Flying boat search at daylight. (F.O.C.N.A., 2225/5)

My 1237/5 and 1931/5. KINGSTON SAPPHIRE signal reporting her torpedoing was received in KINGSTON TOPAZA only at 0326/5 but not passed to Gibraltar till 1030. Further search by WRESTLER, KINGSTON TOPAZA and aircraft unsuccessful. Fear KINGSTON SAPPHIRE must be considered lost. Very remote possibility exists of survivors having been picked up by Spanish fishing boat or passing vessel. (F.O.C.N.A., 1220/6)

French
Merchant
Shipping

Telegram 456 to F.O., describes several French merchant vessels sneaking up the coast past Cape Spartel plying in territorial waters towards East unescorted Fears this new evasion of blockade may become serious if steps are not taken to intercept. (Mr Gascoigne, Tangier, Morocco, 1400/5)

South Atlantic

ALCANTARA

Your 1133/2. Can be taken in hand by Harland and Wolff, Southampton (date) (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 1511/5)

MANGKAI

Your 0955B/3. Delayed repairing fire damage, Java. (D. of S.T. to S.O.I. Capetown, 1612/5) *(See East Indies Page 108)*

NEPTUNE

C. in C., E.I., 0538/4. To carry out search of Kerguelen before proceeding Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) 1649/5)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA

Re despatch of relief officers and ratings to Freetown. (D. of S.T., 1606/5)



War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

A.P. 3.

CLAN MACARTHUR and ULSTER PRINCE, which arrived Capetown 5/10, cannot maintain speed of 15½ knots. Intend sailing with CARNARVON CASTLE as escort to join CLAN CAMPBELL, Durban. Propose sail from Durban as A.P. 3, Slow, with KANIMBLA as escort. A.P. 3, Fast, from Capetown with CANTON as escort will R.V. with CARTHAGE at 0700 G.M.T./9. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1113Z/5)
See also next page.

Overdue Ship

DAPHNELLA due Capetown 30/9 not arrived. (S.O.I), Capetown, 1705B/5)

BRECONSHIRE Orders

Following is a repetition of my 2247/5. BRECONSHIRE is to proceed 1600 for Capetown at speed of advance 17 knots by following route. To arrive end searched channel at 1200/14. (C. in C., S.A., 2113/5)

Mediterranean

Aircraft

My 1824/27/9. 18 Brewsters being shipped via Cape, additional to Gladiators named in my 1908/9/9. (5th S.L. to C. in C., Med. 1806/5)

Destroyers

Now proposed GREYHOUND, GALLANT, GRIFFIN and HOTSPUR should accompany BARHAM to join your flag, on assumption that you do not require another Capt. (D) (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., Med., 1923/5)

S/M Patrols

Operation B.S. 2 patrol lines to be established. (Capt. S. 1. to S/M's. 1953/5) Further orders to submarines. (Capt S.1. 1955/5)

Enemy Convoys

Glen Martin Aircraft on reconnaissance from Malta reported convoy of 8 merchant ships probably unladen, in 37.50 N., 16.05 E., off Cape Spartivento, at 1525/5, course E. (D.S. 397)
Aircraft on reconnaissance reported 7 merchant ships and 3 destroyers in Benghazi Harbour, and 3 merchant ships and 1 destroyer at anchor ½ mile N.W. of harbour. 3 ships in harbour seen to be damaged. In Tobruk, 4 merchant ships (D.S. 397)

Tobruk Bombed

Dusk attack on Tobruk. Bombs hit small ships at jetties, damage not observed. (D.S. 397)

/TIGRIS.....



5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

TIGRIS
Attack

Attacked 3 Italian U-Boats, (Italian Submarine SANTORRE SANTAROSSA, 2 patrol vessels believed to be French sloop M/S ELAN, entering Matelier Pass 0700. Sank one Italian U-Boat., (TIGRIS, 2022/5) *not confirmed.*

French Ships

My 2225/2 and 1327/4. Sailing of these groups of ships from Marseilles postponed to 8/10 and 10/10 respectively. (C. in C., Med., 2018/5)

East Indies

LEANDER
Bombed

LEANDER escorting Convoy B.N. 6. bombed about 40^{mi} S. of Jebel Qubair Is. Red Sea at 1230 (D.S. 397)

K.D. 1.

Convoy K.D. 1. LLANGIBBY CASTLE and LLANSTEPHEN CASTLE, escorted by CERES, to leave Mombassa for Durban 6/10. Route. (C. in C., E.I., 0632Z/5)

Raiders

Your 1440Z/30. Admiralty appreciation of raider activities in your waters as follows:-
(a) One raider known to have sunk HAXBY west of Azores on 24/4, laid mines off Cape early in May, proceeded to New Zealand, laid mines off Auckland and captured TROPIC SEA on 18/6 Still in Pacific at end of June when TROPIC SEA parted company, and up till then had made no further captures.

Probable she has remained in Eastern Pacific and sank or captured French NOTOU about 14/8 and TURAKINA on 20/8.

(b) Second raider possibly sank SCIENTIST in South Atlantic about 3/5 and then entered Indian Ocean, being responsible for sinkings South of Ceylon in mid-July and afterwards the sinkings South and East of Madagascar.

(c) Agree as to possibilities referred to in your para. (C). (D.D.I.C., 1129/5 to C. in C., E.I.)

B.S. 6.

Convoy sailing telegram (S.E.N.O. Suez Canal 1224/5)

A.P. 3.

Admty. 0043/29 and my 1232/1. Intend SHROPSHIRE, CARLISLE, FLAMINGO and 2 destroyers to escort A.P. 3. through Red Sea danger area. Same escort less one destroyer will escort CLAN CAMPBELL (Convoy A.P. 3¹) (C. in C., E.I., 1230Z/5)

see previous page.
/KANIMBLA.....



War Diary

108
MOST SECRET

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

A.P. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Contd.

KANIMBLA required to escort CLAN CAMPBELL from Durban to longitude of Aden, where Red Sea Force will take over. Convoy known as A.P. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ (date and route) CLAN CAMPBELL will not call at Aden. (C. in C., E.I., 1232Z/5)

China

Stores for Chungking

Your 1359/21, transport of stores for U.S. Embassy and U.S. gunboat at Chungking via Burma Road. Matter also raised by British Ambassador to China, and necessary arrangements are proceeding. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 1203/5)

Financial Measures

My 1036Z/1. Views of M. de Schompre on use of financial weapon in Indo-China. Suggesting conference of British, American and Free French bankers to promulgate plan. (C. in C., China, 0449Z/5)

MANGKAI

Dutch (ex German SCHEER) Your 0955/3. Ship has returned to Sourabaya for repairs. (S.O.I., Singapore, to S.O.I., Capetown, 0857/5) (*See South Atlantic Page 105*).

America & West Indies

HAKOZAKI MARU

Your 1121/4. Japanese HAKOZAKI MARU may be released provided (A) you are satisfied (1) as in my 1237/4 concerning Japanese HAKONE MARU (2) that no uncertificated cargo was loaded at Lisbon (B) that any mails embarked at Lisbon are removed for examination (C) that passengers if any are examined. (D.E.W.D. 1849/5 to +C. in C., A.W.I.)

U.S. Destroyers (Canada)

Your 1216/3. Asking how Admty. can help with personnel. Courses in American torpedoes being formed in VERNON. Glad to include any R.C.N. ratings. (1st S.L. to C.N.S., Ottawa) 2319/5)

U-Boat

Sighted in West Indies. (N.A. Washington 1213/5- see U-Boat Campaign)

Australia

U.S. 6.
U.S. 7.

Proposed composition (D. of S.T., to A.C.N.B 1921/5)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

109

5.10.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ARAUCA

At Port Everglades, Florida. Re-attached on a claim for 24,000 dollars.. 2 further claims for £13,000 and £8,000 will be pressed if the 24,000 dollar claim is paid. (D.S. 397)

GERMANIA

At Ponta Delgada, Azores, asked Standard Oil Co., New Jersey to supply 60 tons of oil. Request refused. (D.S. 397)

KLAUS SCHOKE

Showing indication of preparations to leave Horta, Azores. (D.S. 397)

BRANDENBURG

Small steamer. Informed by Ruegen Station at 1240/5 not to put into Stettin before night of 6/10 as disembarkation of passengers cannot take place before 7/10. (D.S. 397)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LEME

At Portland, Oregon. General cargo discharged. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1447/5)



War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

OTTOLAND

Dutch, 2202 tons, in F.S. 100, holed by explosion believed torpedo, at approx 0330/5 in position 4 miles south of 20 A Buoy. Sank at 1430/5 in 54° 50½' N., 00° 53' W., All crew saved. No injuries. Survivors picked up by H.M.P. M/S GLENGOWER and landed at North Shields. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2032/5) Explosion occurred in 54.47 N., 1.07 W., (D.S. 397) *(BR 1337 states mined off north of 20 A Buoy)*

Explosion on board (C.in C., Rosyth 0422/5, intercept 0245 G.M.T.) Still afloat crew still on board explosion foreship (Cullercoats, intercept 0344 G.M.T., Recd. Adty 0507/5) Still afloat between 20 A Buoy and 20 Buoy requires assistance. (Rosyth, Rec. Adty. 0700/5)

KINGSTON
SAPPHIRE

Armed boarding vessel, reported torpedoed (See North Atlantic) Presumably torpedoed by Italian U-Boat 36.11 N., 6.32 W., at 0930/5. (D.S. 397)

Submarines Reported

1210-
1417

51.30 N., 20.00 W., at 1210, unreliable fix (C. in C., W.A., to SHEFFIELD and HARVESTER 1303/5, D.D.I.C. 1300/5)

1215

53.54 N., 00.15 E., reported by trawler escort of F.N. 99. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1700/5)

1035

57.58 N., 11.59 W., at 1035 (C. in C., W.A. 1847/5 to SCIMITAR etc., and 1859/5 to all ships Area B)

1613

52.40 N., 23° W., indefinite position, say 480° W of Valencia. (D.S. 397)

2028

49.30 N., 11.30 W., reliable position, 214° Eastnet 132' (D.S. 397)

1300

50.17 N., 3.34 W., reported by observer Corps (C.3.) (D.S. 397)

America & West Indies

Navy have received wireless report from SS BROOKLYN HEIGHTS of sighting submarine in 25.38' N., 66.30' W., at 1330/5 and a clinker built lifeboat with no name at 0800 same day. Submarine not American. (N.A. Washington, 1213/5) *see p. 133*

/Estimated.....



War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated
U-boat Dispositions

Italian- No further news.
German- 1 may arrive Lorient night 5/6th
1 may be in vicinity of Porcupine Bank,
course Northerly.
1 in about 52 N., 22 W. at 1209/4 and 1
about 90 miles further North at 0206/5.
1 in about 55 N. 18 W at 1607/4
1 to Westward of Rockall
1 may pass Muckle Flugga homeward night 5/6th
No further news of U/B N.W. of Malin Head.
(D.D.I.C. 1311/5)

Submarines Attacked

1042

By VANITY 53.53 N., 0.24 E., attacked
contact (A.3.) 027° Spurn Point 18' (D.S.397)

0700
Italian U/B
Sunk

Attacked 3 Italian ^(class) U-Boats. (Italian submarine
SANTORRE SANTAROSA) 2 patrol vessels (believed
to be French sloop M/S ELAN) entering
Matelier Pass 0700. Sank one Italian ^{type}
U/B (TIGRIS 2022/5)

|
not confirmed



War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Dover Straits
Patrol

In view of the reduction of forces available at Portsmouth, patrol of Dover Straits by Portsmouth destroyers will only be carried out on special occasions.

Two or three destroyers from the Home Command will carry out an intermittent patrol on two nights a week and whenever weather conditions and intelligence suggest the enemy may be encountered.

Destroyers to
reinforce
N.W. Approaches
Escort Force

Sailing of SARDONYX from Portsmouth was postponed 24 hours on account of weather. SALADIN has developed defects requiring 10 days to make good, and STHRDY is boiler cleaning.

2nd Towns Flotilla

This Flotilla is now reduced by a third vessel, ROXBURGH (ex FOOTE) having to return to St. John's N.F. this afternoon with defects.

Convoy Tactics

In view of the present U-Boat tactics it is considered that no useful purpose is served in convoys of under 11 knots carrying out a zig-zag. More use is to be made, instead, of evasive steering.

Enemy
Intelligence

Reconnaissance shows that a continuous patrol of E-Boats assisted by M.Ls is maintained within 13 miles of Cape de la Hague.

British Air Activity

Operations last night were adversely affected by the weather. Shipping was bombed at Rotterdam. One aircraft bombed Flushing. Coastal Command attacked shipping, quays and dry docks at Prest with effect, and barges at Gravelines.

Patrols today were seriously curtailed by the weather. Aircraft on offensive reconnaissance attacked Ostend, Calais, Boulogne, Den Helder, Stavoren, Enkhuisen and Dordrecht, damaging barges and a ship.



MOST SECRET

6.10.1940
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

A further attack was made on West India Dock during the early hours of this morning and a serious fire was caused.

Ford Naval Air Station was attacked last night, but there was no damage.

Coaster FIRECREST was bombed and machine gunned by a single enemy aircraft this afternoon, 2½ miles S.W. of Sunk L.V. Nine bombs were dropped with no apparent damage, but the ship's Lewis gunner died of wounds from machine gun fire.

Mining

R.A.F. last night laid mines in the Elbe Estuary and at a position 15 miles N.E. of Heligoland. Two of the four aircraft engaged in the operations did not report to base.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft was carried out last night from the Humber to the Thames Estuary.

The Humber was reopened at 1001 today.

SS JERSEY QUEEN was mined and sunk early this morning off St. Anthony Point (Falmouth) in the swept channel, in the contact minefield laid by enemy destroyers during the night 28/29 September.

North Atlantic

French destroyer FLEURET was sighted this morning off Europa Point steering westward. Later in the forenoon M/S sloop ^{CONVOY} DELAGE, escorting two French merchant ships, passed Gibraltar west to east.

N.C.S.O. Lisbon reports that about 24 ships are sailing independently during 7/10 and 8/10 from parts in Portugal, to join Convoy H.C. 45 at Gibraltar, that German agents are spreading many threats.

/F.O.C.N.A.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940

Sunday,

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic-Contd.

F.O.C.N.A. is unable to provide any protection on this occasion or so long as part of 13th D.F. is required for Force H. (Four Destroyers of 13th D.F. must always be available at short notice for S.O. Force H during absence of 8th D.F. with force M.

The reappearance of U-Boats in the Western Approaches to Gibraltar is probably due to the reduced number of vessels available for Straits Patrol. Until the return of 8th D.F. F.O.C.N.A. is unable to maintain continuous extended patrol to the eastward of Gibraltar, which is necessary to give S.O. Force H. adequate warning of the approach of enemy or French surface vessels. The maximum reconnaissance effort of available aircraft does not guarantee adequate warning over 24 hours.

South Atlantic

Convoy
"Alley"

BARHAM left Freetown for Gibraltar this evening, with ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, ECHO, FORTUNE and 2 transports.

East Indies

LEANDER and Convoy B.N. 6. were again bombed early this morning in the southern part of the Red Sea but were undamaged.

3 Blenheims attacked Massawa today, but bombs fell short and did no damage.



6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

"Towns"
1st Flotilla

Your 1309/5 1840/4 and my 2018/1.

936. It is very desirable that first Flotilla Town class Destroyers shall carry out working up practices and obtain experience in Approaches as soon as practicable. It is estimated that a period of about 14 days will be required to fit VC-VF and in order to prevent further delay it is intended to defer fitting this gear until ships are taken in hand for fitting asdics and other necessary alterations. (C.in C. W.A. 0134/6 to Adty.).

Small Craft Refits.

Local small craft may now be taken in hand for normal Routine Refits. (1st S.L. 1432/6 to C!s-in-C.)

Anti-Mine Precautions in Western Approaches.

Your 1921/5. Mines are believed to exist in Area laid down in 91 QZX. In view of Magnetic Mines laid by Germans in the Approaches, Capital Ships and Cruisers should keep outside 20 fathoms and Destroyers outside 10 fathoms. (D.D.I.C. 1847/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE Signals

C. in C. Portsmouth's 2243/5. I agree. Should be quite willing to take over Dover Patrol subject to (1) Patrol to be intermittent of 2 or 3 Destroyers on 2 or 3 nights a week depending on other Nore Destroyer commitments and (2) Route Southward from N. Foreland to be kept clear of Mines by Dover Sweepers. (C.in C. Nore 1000/6 to Adty.). Consider advantageous for Patrol to be carried out from Nore as proposed. Routes in Dover Area are already swept by Dover Sweepers. (V.A. Dover 1103/6 to Adty.)

My 1250/16.

C.in C. Portsmouth's 2243/5 and C.in C. Nore's 1000/6.

In view of reduction of forces available at Portsmouth, patrol of Dover Straits by forces of Portsmouth Command will only be carried out on special occasions.

2. C.in C. Nore requested arrange for an intermittent patrol consisting of 2 or 3 destroyers on two nights a week and whenever the weather conditions and intelligence available suggest the enemy may be encountered.

/ 3. V.A. Dover



6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. (Continued).

3. V.A. Dover requested to keep route to the southward of the North Foreland swept by the minesweepers based on Dover. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1749/6).

Rosyth Small Craft. Notice for Steam.

Minesweepers and A/S vessels based on Granton to keep steam as in my 1217/1/10. Signal will be made daily at 1600 ordering Notice for Steam during dark hours of all other small craft in Rosyth Command. (C.in C. Rosyth 1207/6.)

Movements.

KENYA

To sail from Scapa 1900/7, course, speed, to R.V. with Convoy W.S.3 fast in (position) (date), C.in C. W.A. to arrange A/S air escort from daylight 8/10 as far along the route as possible (C.in C. H.F. 0953/6)

PHILANTE

Sailed 6/10 Tobermory in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1353/5 (WESTERN ISLES 1100/6)

VETERAN

Intend to sail from Sheerness for Harwich 1300/7 (C.in C. Nore 1130/6)

SALOPIAN

Will pass Bar Lt. V. 1600/6. Route. Speed. (SALOPIAN 1150/6) Adty. 1150/6. For 1600/6, read 1000/7 (SALOPIAN 1855/6).

SALADIN

has developed defect in steering engine that will take 10 days to make good.

STURDY

is being taken in hand for boiler cleaning.

SARDONYX

will be sailed for Plymouth p.m./6. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1307/6, C.in C. W.A. 1625/6)

Note. Above 3 ships are to join N.W. Approaches Escort Force see C.in C. Portsmouth 1237/5.

Sailing of SARDONYX postponed 24 hours owing to weather (C.in C. Portsmouth 1657/6.)

Dover Patrols.

Night 6/7 (V.A. Dover 1430/6).

/ ANTHONY

6.10.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

ANTHONY
H.X.75

Destroyers to Clyde on passing.
Trawlers to Belfast. Corvettes to
Liverpool with convoy (C.in C. W.A.
1447/6 to ANTHONY).

VERSATILE
VISCOUNT
WITHERINGTON

If fit for service, to join inward escort
of ARK ROYAL, ARGUS when weather permits.
Report situation. (C.in C. W.A.1507/6.)
See Casualties and Defects.

Orkneys

Movements tonight (A.C.O.S.1531/6)

Northern
Patrol

Trawler line occupied 6/10 (A.C.O.S.
1536/6).

PINTAIL

Left Harwich 1553/6 (F.O.I.C. Harwich
1558/6)

M/S drifters
for Belfast

Asking for fighter protection for SILVER
SEAS, NORTHERN WAVE, ARAB, ST. KENAN,
NORTHERN SPRAY, 0630/7 to 0700/9. Ports
of departure. Positions 1430/7 to 0700/9.
N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1710/6)

ARGUS

Adty. 1931/4. Request early information
of departure of ARGUS for Iceland
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1942/6)

ROXBOROUGH

My 1412/3. Is returning to St. John's,
N.F., as excessive fuel consumption on
first 2 days showed destination could not
be reached. (B.S.3. 1646/6 to Adty.)



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Operation "Lucid"
~~SECRET~~

Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore 0924/6 to D.16, etc.)

Para. 10. Request Zero Time for 7/8 be transmitted in time for sailing orders to be signalled and Fighter protection arranged, before Ships sail. (C.in C. Nore 0954/6 to Adty.) "Lucid"

Prepare to carry out ~~SECRET~~ tomorrow night 7/8. Zero hour will be 0240/8. (A.C.N.S. H. 1705/6 to C.in C. Nore).

EREBUS

Your 2210/5. Propose EREBUS shoot at Gris Nez guns on same night as ~~SECRET~~ opening fire at zero hour plus 15 minutes. This is feasible only if Ostend attack is cancelled to provide destroyer escort for EREBUS. Consider that EREBUS will form a better diversion and the cancellation of Ostend will be no loss. Request early approval.

(C.in C. Nore 1226/6 to Adty.)

Your 1226/6. It is very undesirable to introduce any complications into Operation ~~SECRET~~. Request you forward proposals for operating EREBUS without interfering with ~~SECRET~~. (1st S.L. 1920/6 to C.in C. Nore)

Operation D.N.

Periodical raids by own Destroyers and possibly Cruisers against Enemy Shipping between Skudesness and Lister are intended. Particulars and Routes. Submarines will be warned and if practicable will be moved clear. (Capt. S.9. 1557/6 to RUBIS and O.23).

Iceland.

Adty. 1931/4. Request early information of date of departure for Iceland. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1942/6 to Adty.)

Operation "medium"
~~SECRET~~

Cover for W S 3.

It has been intended to sail one cruiser and at least three destroyers of Fifth Destroyer Flotilla on 8/10 to cover convoy W S 3 fast from attack by enemy destroyers at Brest. This, however, would leave me insufficient modern destroyers for operation ~~SECRET~~. Intend therefore not to sail covering force for W S 3 fast unless air reconnaissance fails to locate enemy in Brest. If these are sailed propose that operation ~~SECRET~~ should be postponed until after return of covering force. (C.in C. W.A. 2017/6 to Adty.)

6.10.1940.

Sunday



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

Iceland

Suggest I approach Icelandic Government to allow us to take over dismantled W/T station at Vatnsendi for communication with U.K. Advantages of securing this station. Have you any objection. (Alabaster, Reykjavik 1357/5 to War Office)

Submarines

PORPOISE

Movements. (Capt. S.2. 1107/6)

0.21

Movements. (Capt. S.9 1121/6)

SWORDFISH

My 1147/5. SWORDFISH reports continuous E.Boat Patrols off Cape de la Hague, and her attack at 0944/1 on 4 Enemy Destroyers in 49° 48' N. 1°24' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1127/6 to Adty.)

0.22

Movements. (Capt. S.9. 1417/6).

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1522/6)

URSULA.

Movements. (Cpt. S.5. 1703 to URSULA)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/7. (V.A.S. 1714/6).

British Air Activity.

Rotterdam Docks.)
Flushing)

Attacked by Aircraft, Night 5/6. (H.Q.B.C. 1727/6).

Nore.

Night R/C not flown owing to weather. (C.in C. Nore 0507/6 to C.in C. Rosyth)

Rosyth.

Patrols SAZN, SAIE, and W1 cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0908/6 to Adty.) No S.A. Patrols being flown this evening owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 1814/6 to Adty.)

/ Newlyn Trawlers

MOST SECRET6.10.1940.
SundayWar Diary.HOME COMMANDSBritish Air Activity. (Continued)Newlyn
Trawlers

Request Air Ministry be informed that Belgian Trawlers working from Newlyn now have Lewis Guns and that all British aircraft be warned not to approach them. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1046/6 to Adty.)

Helder
Havre to Cherbourg

Following two Patrols against Shipping to be carried out at dusk to-day. (H.Q.C.C. to 16 Group).

Enemy Air Activity.FIRECREST.

Coaster, reports attacked by one Aircraft at 1530/6, 2½ miles S.W. of Sunk L.V. 9 Bombs dropped, no damage, then machine-gunned killing one gunner. (C.in C. Nore 2105/6 to Adty.).

Mining.JERSEY QUEEN

British, 910 tons. Mined and sunk 1½ miles South of St. Anthony Point. 10 survivors landed at Falmouth, 2 missing. Position unreliable. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0530/6 to Adty.).

<u>S.N. 10 A.</u>)	Owing to loading situation propose to
<u>S.N. 6 A. and 10 B.</u>)	lay in that order. (R.A.M.L. 0944/6
<u>S.N. 3.</u>)	to Adty.).

B.S. 40.

As far as can be foreseen, Escort from 20th D.F. can be available on any date you desire. (C.in C. Nore 0950/6 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Humber.

Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1001/6 to Adty.).

"Cadet Two".

Will be operating in Eastern Approaches to 1400/7. Request Air Cover. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1559/6 to H.Q.F.C.)

Thames Estuary.

Coaster ROBUST reports two large underwater Explosions at 0600/6 in 51° 30' 6"N. 1° 27' 6"E. No damage. (C.in C. 1757/6 to Adty.)

6.10.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Havre, Fecamp,)
Dieppe, Boulogne)

R/C by Aircraft at 1705/5. (P.I.U.0308/6 to N.I.D.)

Cherbourg, Lorient)
Cape de la Hague,)
Brest)

Naval Forces seen P.M./5. (D.D.I.C. 0915/6)

Boulogne.

Shipping in Outer Harbour at 1100/6.
(P.I.U. 1640/6 to N.I.D.). (P.I.U.1747/6 to N.I.D.)

Seine Bay.

My 1126/2. Torpedo Bomber Patrol at dusk between Le Havre and Cherbourg. (V.A.S. 1733/6 to Submarines on Patrol B).

Calais, Dunkirk,)
Zeebrugge, Ostend,)
Gravelines.)

Shipping and Barges at 1145/6. (P.I.U. 1836/6 to N.I.D.)

Calais, Boulogne,)
Rheine, Harlingen)
Stavoren.)

Shipping and Barges at 0748 to 1100/6. (H.Q.B.C. 1727/6).

Helder, Ijmuiden.

Shipping seen A.M./6 (H.Q.B.C.1727/6).



6.10.1940.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

PRIMULA.

Corvette. Requires escort to port owing to shortage of fuel and extensive damage by gale. Request which port. (C.in C.W.A. 0037/6 to Adty.). Can be taken in hand at Birkenhead on 10/10. (D.O.D. H. 1351/6 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOUNT TAYGETUS.

Greek, 3286 tons. About 10 miles East of St. Govens Light Vessel, oil supply gone and unable raise steam. Ship drifting for 2 hours. (Scapa Base Ship 0047/6). Anchors holding. Will call later only if necessary. (MOUNT TAYGETUS 0157 to Burnham-on-Sea Radio). Require assistance urgently. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 0855/6 to Admiralty). Position 5 miles East of St. Govens Head. Rolling heavily. Request 2 tugs. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 1252 to Adty.) Managed raise steam. Trying proceed Swansea but position doubtful. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 1750 to Adty.) Steam gone again. Can you confirm tugs leaving Swansea at 1930 (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 2037/6 to Adty.)

DAPHNELLA

British Tanker, 8078 tons. My 1705/5. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1005 B/6.)

ANTELOPE.

C.in C. W.A. 1037/4. (Escort for W.S.3) Main steam joint blowing. Estimate Ship will be delayed 48 hours. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1150/6 to Adty.)

BROCKLEY HILL.

British, 5297 tons. Damaged by collision ex Convoy H.X.75 arrived here escorted by A/S Trawler LADY ELSA. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1125/6 to N.O.I.C. Belfast). Details of damage. Master considers he can make Clyde if escorted. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1154/6 to Adty.)

EILEEN EMMA
(A/P Drifter)

LADY BRASSEY sailed at 0800/6 to her assistance and returned to harbour at 1220. (V.A. Dover 1221/6 to Adty.).

ROXBOROUGH

See Movements.

SALADIN.

My 1237/5. Has defect in steering-engine that will take 10 days to make good. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1307/6 to A.C.W.A.).



MOST SECRET 123

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (Continued).

- BRITTANY COAST. Stem buckled and 4 feet flooded. Unseaworthy until temporarily repaired which will take 6 or 7 days. Full general cargo is undamaged. (Chief Salvage Officer 1535/6 to A.C.O.S.)
- MANGKAI. (Ex German SCHEER.) Your 0955/3. Ship has returned to Sourabaya for repairs. (S.O.I. Singapore 0857/5 to S.O.I. Cape Town).
- EASTERN PRINCE. British, 10,926 Tons. Starboard engine broken down. Speed reduced to 8 knots. My position 56° 41' N. 8° 5' W. steering 141° at 8 knots. (WHITEHALL 1930/6 to C.in C. W.A.).
- VERSATILE. Your 1507/6. Unseaworthy. D.G. and A.S. out of action and serious Oil-Fuel Leaks into living spaces. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1955/6 to C.in C. W.A.)
- VISCOUNT. Your 1507/6. Seaworthy, but requires dockyard assistance to make good urgent defects. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1955 to C.in C. W.A.)
- WITHERINGTON. Your 1507/6. Has defective Evaporator. Repair will take at least 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1955/6 to C.in C. W.A.)
- SCOTCH THISTLE. H.M. Drifter. Sailed Lowestoft 1300/5 due Burnham-on-Crouch 6/10, grounded off Frinton, abandoned near Whitaker L.V. 6/10, and seems to have refloated. 11 men, believed entire crew, reported in S.S. IPSWICH TRADER at Southend. Search being made for Vessel. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2254/6 to C.in C. Nore) (C.in C. Nore 1055/7 to F.O. Harwich) Ship seen by IPSWICH TRADER to sink 1 mile N.E. by N. of Whitaker L.V. (C.in C. Nore 1859/7 to Adty.).
- THISTLE/BRAE. British, ^{Lloyd's gives tonnage 4747.} 5272 tons. Seized on 9/4 in dry dock at Trondheim. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court. (DS 398)

/ SALERNO

MOST SECRET6.10.1940.
SundayWar DiaryCASUALTIES & DEFECTS (continued)SALERNO.

British, 1211 tons. Captured in Sanda Fiord off Stavanger with cargo of metal. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court. (D.S. 398).

SALMON POOL.

British, 5751 tons. Seized without cargo in Sanda Fiord. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court (D.S. 398).

ST. DENIS.

British, 2435 tons. Fired and sunk by her crew when Rotterdam was captured. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to be salvable and repairable and to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court. (D.S. 398).



MOST SECRET. 125

6. 10. 1940

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

F.N. 100³⁰⁰

F.H. and F.S.

O.B. 224.

H.X. 75 B.

H.G. 45.

H.X. 76.

W.N. 22.

O.A. 226.

O.A. 223.

H.X. 78.

O.A. 225.

W.N. 21.

H.X. 77.

O.B. 227.

H.X. 75.

Shipping.

Submarine H.44 included in. (C.in C. Rosyth 0941/6).

Additional escorts for Convoys 2 to 9. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1107/6 amended 2301/6).

9 hours late at R.V. Meet. Position. (C.in C. W.A. 1440/6).

Estimated position at 1800/6. (C.in C. W.A. 1420/6).

Protection (see North Atlantic).

To be met by SCIMITAR, etc. (C.in C. W.A. 1320/6).

CISNEROS, ammunition transport, to join. (D.T.D. 1206/6).

Route. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0851/7).

Not met. My position. (HEARTSEASE, 1225/6). To disperse after passing 58° 30' N. 25° W. (C.in C. W.A. 1350/6).

ASSINIBOINE arrived from local escort. (S.O.I. Halifax, 0911/6).

List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0801/6) Escort etc. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0802/6 To disperse after passing 58° N., 25° W. (C.in C. W.A. 1340/6).

Code words "Rusty" (S) and "Clock" (F). (C. in C. W.A. 1020/6).

Route. (D.T.D., 1136/6) Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1817/6).

Route. (D.T.D., 1137/6).

Destroyers to Clyde, trawlers to Belfast, corvettes to Liverpool with convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1447/6)

/ S.C.7



War Diary.

MOST SECRET

126

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping. (Continued)

S.C. 7.

Date and position, escort SCARBOROUGH (D.T.D., 2342/6).

O.L. 6.

Times of arrival. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1548/6).

BRITISH ENGINEER)
BRITISH SCOUT)

Intend sailing 2000/6 for Hamble. Escort (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1154/6). Cancelled, weather. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1515/6).

ARISTOCRAT

Intend sailing with W.N. 21. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1750/6).

Routes

Admty. 1146/8/8 and 1648/7/9. Cancelling para 6 and substituting new route. (D.T.D. 1555/6).

WORCESTERSHIRE.

N.P. 19. Position at 1100/7. (WORCESTERSHIRE, 0701/6).

W.S.3.

KENYA to R.V. with. (C.in C. H.F. 0953/6). Escort for W.S.3 Fast. (C.in C. W.A. 1923/6).

Zigzagging.

Ref. A.M.S.I. 68 in view of present U/Boat tactics, considered no useful purpose served in convoys of under 11 knots carrying out a zig-zag. Amended instructions (D.T.D. 1933/6).

Cancelled (D.T.D. 1734/9) (1520/9)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

De Gaulle
Plans

Reply to Admty. 2218/5. De Gaulle appears confident use of R.N. will be available to him "on demand". Escort of troops to Point Noire Bay will be asked for and is advisable, but have accepted no commitments for this. (F.O.I.C.S. 0245/6)

"Alloy"
for Gibraltar

BARHAM, ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, ECHO, FORTUNE to escort ETTRICK, KARANJA to Gibraltar at 1800/6. Route (C. in C., S.A., 0921N/6 amended 1755N/6) Sailed (S.O.I.), Freetown, 2001N/6) W.O. has informed O.C. troops, Freetown, that Brigadier Morford should sail in BARHAM to facilitate communications. BARHAM and transports sailing 1800 today. Brig. Morford and Capt. Waller R.N., will sail in BARHAM unless orders to contrary. (C. in C., S.A., to Admty. 1237N/6)

Force A.

Headquarters closed. Communications to be addressed Freetown (Force A., Sierra Leone 1230/6) From Force A "Alloy" sailed 1800/6 (Comdr. Sierra Leone Area, to W.O., 0006/7)

AUSTRALIA

Admty. 1913/4. Intend to abandon patrol 2359/Z/7. (AUSTRALIA., 1352/6)

Destroyers

Your 2209/5 and my 1607/5. FORESTER was sailed Freetown 1100/3 to relieve FORESIGHT with 1st C.S. FORESIGHT will not now return in time to sail with BARHAM. Intend FORESIGHT shall sail with INGLEFIELD and ECLIPSE in accordance with your 0231/2 paragraph (E) (C. in C., S.A., 1405/6 to Admty.)

DORSETSHIRE
Patrol

My 1427/29. My 1857/4 to Governor Gold Coast. DORSETSHIRE sails Freetown 0930/7 for Takoradi, thence to patrol to intercept Vichy French shipping possibly proceeding Gabon. (C. in C., S.A., 2149N/6)

French Ships

My 1601/5. Two more French merchant ships identified approaching Cape Spartel now eastbound. (F.O.C.N.A., 0813/6)
1 French M.V., 1 Elan 330-145 NEG 10, 8 knots (Aircraft 0715/6)

/FLEURET.....

M. 019598/40

Copy taken from Case 6064,
from R.O., Park Royal. S.H.H. 21
27.

MOST SECRET

127^A

Subject: Movements of French Naval Force.

From ... Admiral Commanding, North Atlantic, Gibraltar.

Date ... 6th October, 1940. No. X.224/465.

To ... The Secretary of the Admiralty.

Be pleased to lay before Their Lordships this report, which is forwarded in compliance with Admiralty message 0233 of 2nd October, 1940.

2. The reason why no action was taken on this occasion was because my Intelligence did not lead me to believe that these ships could be going to Northern ports. On the contrary, it pointed the other way, and as I knew Their Lordships had at least as much information as I had, and probably more, concerning our relations with the Vichy Government, I had every confidence that Their Lordships would have informed me if they considered that they might be going North, and would have instructed me to exercise the right reserved in paragraph (c) of Admiralty message 0241 of 12th July, 1940.

3. Since receiving Admiralty message 0241 of 12th July, 1940, I had received no information which led me to think that relations with the Vichy Government had changed for the worse. I had reason to believe from my local Intelligence that the attitude of the French Navy was becoming less hostile, and this was confirmed when I received Naval Attache, Madrid's 1842 of 5th September, to the Director of Naval Intelligence. This reported a distinct improvement in the attitude of the French Navy, and indicated that Admiral Darlan himself desired contact to be maintained with the British Naval Attache at Madrid. On receiving Naval Attache, Madrid's 1809 of 10th September, it appeared to me that this improvement in attitude was bearing fruit and that some of the Naval forces in Toulon intended to break away to French Colonial ports. This opinion was strengthened by the following facts:-

- (a) Formal notice had been given of the time of their passage through the Straits.
- (b) That they made no attempt at concealment, and burnt all lights at night.
- (c) That they reported their names at once when asked.

4. As regards

4. As regards the actual ordering of H.M.S. RENOWN to sea, Admiralty messages 1724 and 1733, both of 28th June, 1940, made it clear that Force "H" constitutes a detached squadron under the independent command of Vice-Admiral Sir James Somerville, charged with certain special duties to be carried out subject to any instructions which might be given by the Admiralty. H.M.S. RENOWN's movements have, therefore, always been ordered by the Admiralty or by the Flag Officer Commanding, Force "H", and in no instance by me.

At the same time, in any emergency of which the Admiralty had no previous knowledge, I should not have hesitated to order H.M.S. RENOWN to sea, had it been desirable, but this cannot be considered as being the case on this occasion as presumably Naval Attache, Madrid's 1809 of 10th September was passed to the Admiralty direct and so I considered that there had been time for Their Lordships to order whatever action, if any, they might consider necessary. Actually, Flag Officer Commanding, Force "H", brought his ships to one hour's notice, and awaited instructions from Their Lordships as to action to be taken.

5. I arranged for aerial reconnaissance, as reported in my O711 of 11th September, 1940. This confirmed that the ships were not proceeding to the North.

6. If Their Lordships consider that I should have ordered H.M.S. RENOWN to sea, I regret that I did not do so, but I submit that, with the information at my disposal, there was no reason for me to take such action.

(Sgd) Dudley North

ADMIRAL.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

FLEURET.
French Destroyer

French Destroyer FLEURET approaching Straits westbound. (F.O.C.N.A., 0743/6) One destroyer 160 Europa Point 12, course 270° speed 20 knots. (A/C via Gibraltar W/T, 0735/6) One destroyer bearing 168° distance 2 miles course 260°, position 208 (?Europa Point) 1. (A/C via Gib W/T, 0800. Destroyer French Enemy speed is 30 knots (A/C 0815/6)
My 0743 (destroyer FLEURET approaching Straits) FLEURET passed east to west 0750 1160 French sloop M/S DELAGE passed west to east escorting 2 French merchant ships 1110 Spanish M/L JUPITER class passed east to west. (F.O.C.N.A. 1551/6)

North Atlantic

WRESTLER

To escort oiler ORANGELEAF to Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A. 1036/6)

WISHART

Escorting NEURALIA, leaves position off Lisbon 1700 today (F.O.C.N.A. 1036/6)

Destroyer Shortage

Until return of 8 D.F., unable to maintain continuous extended patrol to eastwards of Gibraltar necessary to give Force H warning of enemy or French surface vessels. Maximum reconnaissance effort of available aircraft does not guarantee adequate warning over 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A., 1210/6)

A/C Patrols

Details. (F.O.C.N.A. 1744/6, 1850/6, 2115/6) Search for KINGSTON SAPPHIRE, etc., (200 Group., 1720/6)

Convoy, Lack of Protection

N.C.S.O., Lisbon reports about 24 ships sailing independently west 48 hours from Portugal to join H.G. 45 at Gibraltar. German agents spreading many threats. Requests all possible protection. Unable to provide any protection on this occasion or so long as part of 13th D.F. required for Force H. (F.O.C.N.A., 2310/6)

RENOWN

Has been at sea or at short notice in harbour for 48 out of 55 days. Defects to be made good and boilers cleaned. Propose at 12 hours notice for 48 hours from 0001/8 and at 6 hours for further 48 hours. (S.O. Force H., 1330/6) Approved as soon as AUSTRALIA arrives at Gibraltar (1st S.L. to Force H., 1704/7)

MOST SECRET6.10.1940
Sunday
War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSSouth AtlanticDAPHNELLA(Reported overdue, my 1705/5) Arrived
Capetown (S.O/I) Capetown, 1005/B/6)W/T SignalsReply to C. in C., S.A., 1059N/4 regarding
British Airways aircraft proceeding to and
from West Africa. (Air Ministry Signals 2
Bristol 1207/6)NEPTUNEMy 1217/4. Food quantities in British ship
BELGRAVIA, now at Freetown, originally in-
tended for Dakar. (C. in C., S.A., to Govr.
Nigeria, 1231N/6)BRECONSHIREMy 2247/5. Fuel and water requirements on
arrival Lobito. (C. in C., S.A., 1107N/6)
Left 1600/6 for Capetown (S.O/I) Freetown,
1809/6)A.P. 3.Convoy A.P. 3. from Capetown and CANTON from
Simonstown as escort sailed to R.V. at 1800
and thence in accordance with my 1420Z/2.
(Capt i/c Simonstown, 1915/6)MediterraneanFrench Ships
for BeirutMy 0812/4. French High Commissioner in-
forms me that owing to late reply regarding
safe conduct for 6 ships, their departures
from Marseilles have been postponed for 5
days in each case. First 3 leave 8/10,
second 3 on 11/10 (Consul General, Beirut,
0955/6 to C. in C., Med.) (C. in C., Med.,
2126/6)Ex-China
GunboatsAdmty. 1901/4, re CRICKET and TERN. These
two gunboats might indeed be very useful.
(C. in C., Med., 1111/6)PARTHIAN

Orders for patrol (Capt. S. 1. 1455/6)

GONDAR
BERILLO
S/M' sunk }R.A. Alexandria's 1636/30. Confirmed
STUART's U-Boat was Italian S/M GONDAR. My
1259/2 HAVOCK with HASTY in company sighted
a U-Boat on surface in position 32.22 N.,
26.09 E., at 0425C/2 and engaged with
gunfire. U/B dived and was hunted by
HAVOCK and HASTY until 0615 when surfaced
and crew surrendered. U/B scuttled herself
C.O., 6 Officers and 40 Ratings picked up
Name of S/M BERILLO (C. in C., Med., 0955/6)

/Enemy.....



War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy Tank
Barges

Ganz and Co., Budapest, asked by Rome 1/10 to prepare plans with descriptions in Italian of flat-bottomed tank barges of 1,000 tons latest type. (D.S. 398)

East Indies

B.N. 6.
Attacked

LEANDER, escorting B.N. 6. reports she was bombed at 0435/6 in 16.47 N., 40.55 E. No damage to her or convoy. (D.S. 398)

A.P. 3.

Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1530Z/6) Dates of passing Aden and arrival Suez, and ships composing. (C. in C., E.I. 1804Z/6) Sailed (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1915/6) My 1 13Z/5. Due to engine defect ULSTER PRINCE will be delayed sailing from Capetown As this ship carried ammunition only propose to omit her from Convoy A.P. 3¹/₂ and sailing her to Durban and Aden without escort for inclusion in Red Sea convoy. She cannot reach Suez without fuelling at Aden. Intend sailing CARNARVON CASTLE with CLAN MACARTHUR from Capetown 7/10 to arrive Durban a.m. and proceed in accordance with programme. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 0830Z/6) (C. in C., E.I., 1540Z/6)

NEPTUNE.
Kerqueleen.

Admty. 1649/5. Intentions of NEPTUNE, leaving Simonstown, a.m. /7 for search. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1211/6)

Ex-China
Gunboats

Adty. 1901/4. No objection. State of COCKCHAFFER and GNAT. Intend to maintain COCKCHAFFER with 4 in guns for security duty in Shatt-el-Arab. (C. in C., E.I., 0748Z/6)

Shipping

Arrivals and departures (N.C.S.O., Calcutta 0825Z/6)

Convoy
K.D.1.

Route, etc., (N.C.S.O. Kilindini 0850Z/6) Sailed for Durban 0835Z/6. Totals of Officers and men and internees. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa, 0909Z/6)

Local Craft.....



War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Local Craft

Your 1128/16/8. No capacity for building local defence craft in British East African ports. 72 ft M.L.'s now under construction are allotted to following ports. (list) Your 0950/4. Asdic sets can be supplied when required. Request report on possibility of A/S training being arranged at Bombay or Singapore for local personnel. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., E.I., 1319/6)

~~LEANDER~~
~~B.H. 6.~~

~~Again Bombed at 0435/6. No damage.~~
~~(D.O.R. 7/10) see previous page.~~

Bahrein
M.E.W.
Centre

Your 0312/25. Not intended to set up a Contraband Control Base in Persian Gulf immediately but only an Intelligence Centre staffed by M.E.W. at Bahrein. When started it will no doubt establish contact with C. in C., E.I., and S.N.O. Persian Gulf. Head of M. 1701/6 to C. in C., E.I.)

China

River Escorts

Your 1901/4. My intention was that TERN should relieve TARANTULA at Hong Kong and that CRICKET and TARANTULA should proceed to Singapore to join SCARAB and form division of mine sweepers. I doubt practicability of TERN proceeding beyond Hong Kong owing to lack of seaworthiness. In present conditions CRICKET and TARANTULA can be spared but should extensive hostile mining take place in Malayan Waters I should have to ask for more sweepers as local resources are exhausted and present number of sweepers would be insufficient. (C. in C., China, 0447Z/6 to Admty.) (See also Med. and E. Indies)

Japan

Admty. 1529/2. Proposals for shipping when hostilities become imminent. (C. in C., China, 0449Z/6)

America & West Indies

U.S. Destroyers

Reply to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1450/4 re names. (Hd. of M. 1320/6)

ROXBOROUGH
Ex FOOTE

U.S. destroyer, returning St. John's as excessive fuel consumption first 2 days showed destination could not be reached. (B.S. 3. 1646/6)

Australia

U.S. 6,7,8.

Request you arrange sailing dates for Convoys U.S. 6,7 and 8 and ocean escorts in collaboration with C. in C., E.I., (D.O.D. (F) to A.C.N.B., 1610/6)



132
MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

JACOBUS FRITZEN. Reported at 1125/5 her position was 54° 22'N. 12° 05'E. and that 2 officers were overboard. (D.S. 398).

HERMIONTHIS

At Callao, Peru. Hamburg enquired of Ostern and Co. Lima, 3/10, re transhipment of cargo with Danish S.S. INDIA. (D.S. 398).

FRANKFURT

At Talcahuano, Chile. Has discharged 1,000 tons sulphur and 19 tons lumber (D.S. 398).

6.10.1940.
Sunday



War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRITISH GENERAL
torpedoed

British, 6989 tons, tanker, ex Convoy O.A. 222, Torpedoed 51.42 N., 24.03 W., at 1830 (G.M.T.?) (BRITISH GENERAL, 1925/6) Tugs ENGLISHMAN and SUPERMAN to proceed in company to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 3137/6). Tugs sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2240/6) Bound from Tyne to Abadan in ballast.

2nd attack (?)
7/10.

SSSS 1200 G.M.T. BRITISH GENERAL torpedoed 0824 this morning in 51.42 N., 24.50 W. Require immediate assistance, sinking T.O.R. 1327/7. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio, received 1331/7).

MAGDALENA
torpedoed 18/9.

British, 3118 tons, which was torpedoed 18/9, now presumed sunk. Feared no survivors. (D.S. 398).

KINGSTON
SAPPHIRE
(torpedoed 5/10)

28 survivors landed Huelva by Spanish trawler at 0300/6. 3 missing (D.O.R. 7/10)

Submarines Reported.

1345.

Aircraft report 55.29 N., 07.14 W. at 1345. (C. in C. W.A. 1637/6) (H.Q., 15 Group, 1640/6).

1720.

Periscope sighted by HIGHLAND BRIGADE, 49. 39 N. 23.38 W. (Port Patrick Radio 1720/6).

1830.

57. 47 N., 01.54 W. contact by ALYNBANK (See Submarines attacked)

America and West Indies.

*u/s sighted
in W. Indies.
by S.S. BROOKLYN
HEIGHTS.*

N.A. Washington's 1213/5. VAN KINSBERGEN approx 200 miles north from our position at time of report states visibility poor. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1308/6). See pp 108. 110.

6.10.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine Reported.

Italian.

1 25 miles west of Cape Trafalgar A.M/5.
Probably 1 eastward of Azores.

German.

1 in 49° 30' N. 11° 30' W. at 2028/5 may
arrive Lorient night 7/8th.
Possibly 1 about 55°N. 11°- 14°W.
1 between 51°N. and 52°N. westward of 20° W.
1 between 52° 30' N. and 53° 30' N. westward
of 21°W.
2 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown
but possibly near Rockall and about
55°N. or 56°N. westward of 15°W.
(D.D.I.C. 1330/6).

Submarines Attacked.

Italian U/B
sunk.

TIGRIS reports - attacked three Italian
U-Boats SANTORRE SANTA ROSA class escorted
by 2 patrol vessels believed to be French
sloop minesweeper ELAN class entering
Matelier (corrupt group) 0700 sank one
Italian U-Boat. (V.A.S. 2346/6).

GONDAR)
BERILLO)

Italian S/W's sunk. (See Mediterranean).

1000

500-ton U-boat arrived Kof's Fiord 1000/6,
course 090°, dived during attack. Left
patrol 2000/6, shortage of fuel.
(Netherlands Submarine O.21, 2030/6).

1728

Submarine contact in 57.47 N., 01.54 W.
(ALYNBANK, 1600/6). Attacked Submarine in
57.34 N. 01.29 W. (ALYNBANK, 1728/6).
Your 1728, report whether Submarine was
actually sighted (C. in C. Rosyth, 1844.
No. Asdic firm contact. (ALYNBANK, 1945/6).
Your 1728. Is this considered same submarine
as your 1600, observing positions are 18 miles
apart, impossible for submarine to have
travelled in the time. (C.in C. Rosyth
2118/6). Your 2118. Not considered that
submarine attacked was same as that reported
in my 1600. (ALYNBANK, 2230/6)

MOST SECRET

7.10.1940

MondayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

KENYA left Scapa this evening to R.V. with and escort Convoy W.S. 3. fast as far as Freetown, ^{or Cape Town} where KENYA is to work up.

Convoys

In view of the shortage of escorts the East Coast and north about convoys are to be run on a 3 day cycle temporarily, viz a 9 knot ship convoy, a 7 knot ship convoy, and a blank day.

British Air Operations

On account of the weather, no operations by Bomber Command or Coastal Command were carried out last night.

Today R.A.F. attacked shipping at Le Havre and a 3000 ton merchant vessel 10 miles N.W. of Lister Light.

Enemy Air ActivityIncrease in attacks on N.E. Coast of Scotland

An increased number of ships have been damaged lately by air attack off the north-east coast of Scotland. Air Ministry have asked Fighter Command to take any further measures that may be practicable to give security to convoys.

Ships Attacked

N.O.i/c Swansea reports today that SS LATIMER was bombed and set on fire at 1345/2 off the Blaskets. The vessel is not sunk and may be a danger to navigation. The Trawler LEEDS was attacked at 1425/3 inside the Blaskets, but was undamaged.

Trawler FRAMLINGHAM was slightly damaged by attack 18 miles south of the Fastnet at 1040/3.

Ports & Bases Attacked

A good many attempted attacks on the London dock area were made today; a fire was caused this afternoon at Surrey Commercial Docks, but no very serious damage was caused.

Bombs were dropped in Dover harbour and Town this morning and 3 barrage balloons were shot down in raids of which there were several today.

/VERNON.....

MOST SECRET7.10.1940
Monday
War DiarySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity-Contd.

VERNON Instructional Dept. at Portsmouth was damaged by fire caused by an incendiary bomb about 2300/7.

Mining

Minelaying aircraft were active today off the N.E. Coast of England, Firth of Forth, Thames Estuary and Liverpool Bay.

A fresh moored minefield has been located to the eastward of the South Foreland. Three mines were swept today and 3 sweep wires parted by explosive cutter.

HAMBLEDON was mined about 5 miles east of Dover this evening. VESPER took her in tow for Sheerness.

A mine exploded 50 yards astern of H.S.L. 111 when proceeding at 38 knots in the Humber. The boat was damaged and rendered unserviceable.

Another mine was cut off the Manacles today.

The approaches to Rosyth were closed today at 2309 between 2° 52' W., and Oxcars Gate. owing to suspected minelaying. The port of Methil is open.

Operations Against Vichy French

C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE and transports WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND with de Gaulle's force escorted by COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE arrived at Ambas Bay, Duala a.m. today. *into* Disembarkation of troops ~~with~~ small ships commenced p.m./7. and is expected to be completed p.m./8.

War Diary7.10.1940
MondaySITUATION REPORTNorth Atlantic

It is reported that French merchant vessels are evading the blockade by creeping up the coast past Cape Spartel and then eastward in territorial waters until opposite Italy when they cross over and proceed inside Italian waters. F.O.C.N.A. reports that these ships are all escorted through the Straits and consequently are allowed to proceed. Interference will, in his opinion, inevitably create an incident, and he suggests that some sort of Contraband Agreement be arranged with the French Govt.

AUSTRALIA left her patrol off the Azores at midnight 7/8 for Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE left Freetown this morning for Takoradi, to remove 155 evacuees from SS TOUAREG and put them over the frontier of French Ivory Coast; thence to patrol as far east as 1° 10' N., 4° 30' E., to intercept Vichy French shipping possibly proceeding to Gabon.

Mediterranean

Blenheims attacked M.T. in camp near Sidi Barrani today.

Swordfish of F.A.A., Sunderlands and Glen Martins today repeated their search for enemy surface forces in the Ionian Sea.

East Indies

Troop Convoy B.N. 6. was bombed again for the third time at 0612/7 in the Central Red Sea. No damage has been reported.

MOST SECRETWar Diary7.10.1940
MondayHOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K."Deluge"
Defence SignalsAt 0200/7 (D.C. 0219/7) At 1400/7.
(D.C. 1403/7)Burning Oil as
Invasion Defence

Trial of New Method taking place in Greenock Area on 9/10. Request you send representative to witness and report. (D. of L.D. 1836/7 to Home Forces)

A.M. 1952/1. Folkestone visited by expert from Haslar Experimental Station who considers it impracticable to install this defence as previously proposed. A further visit will be paid to discuss another scheme (D. of L.D., 1849/7 to V.A.Dover)

Policy"Towns"
1st ~~Flotilla~~
Flotilla

Your 0134/6. (Working up in Western Approaches) Concur. (D.S.D. 2003/7 to C. in C., W.A)

Atlantic
Proposed new
Anti-U-Boat
S/M Patrol

It appears that U-Boats are working further and further to Westward where attack by Surface Craft is difficult because of endurance. Suggest a submarine patrol be established between 20° and 25° West from 52 to 54° North or from 55° and 57° North. (C. in C., W.A., 2021/7 to V.A.S.)

MovementsWIDGEON
PUFFIN

For patrol Q 25117 tonight. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1045/7)

ALYNBANK

Leave convoy H.X. 75 A 2359/7 if no attack is developing and return to Scapa. (F.O.C. Destroyer Flotillas H.F. 1054/7)

WOLVERINE
SARDONYX

Admty. 1708/6 and my 1307/6, 1657/6. Intend to sail them from Needles 1830/7 for Plymouth Route. E.T.A. 0700/8 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1217/7) Sailed (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1845/7)

KENYA

Requesting A/S air escort from 0600/8 for as long as possible. Position etc., (C. in C., W.A., 1307/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

/2nd Towns.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

7.10.1940

Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

2nd Towns
Flotilla

Route to Plymouth (C. in C., W.A., 1327/7 to HAMILTON) Less HAMILTON, GEORGETOWN, ROXBURGH. E.T.A. Belfast 1800 G.M.T/8 (HOPEWELL 1641/7)

Northern
Patrol

Trawler line occupied today (F.O.C.O.S. 1536/7)

VANSITTART

Proceed at 1500/8 to Lough Foyle, to arrive daylight 9/10, complete with oil and await orders. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1539/7)

CYCLAMEN

Asking if she may wait 24 hours for pom pom (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1543/7)

Dover

Patrols night 7/8 (V.A.Dover 1546/7)

ARK ROYAL
ARGUS

In company. Only HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HURRICANE escorting at present. Noon position. Speed adjusted for ARGUS to arrive Clyde 0645/8. Asking earliest time ship can be accepted at Liverpool. (C. in C., Rosyth 1054/7)

CAIRO

To sail when ready to Clyde for ^{? departing} dispersing. (C. in C., W.A. 1947/7)

Operations

Operation "Lucid"

Prepare to carry out today. Zero hour 0240/8. (C. in C., Nore, 0740/7 to D. 16, D. 21, etc.) (Air Ministry 1005/7 to Air Commands)

Carry out ^{"Lucid"} ~~more~~. (D.O.D. H. 1015/7 to C. in C., Nore) (C. in C., Nore 1022/7 to D. 16 D. 21, etc.)

Act as in 2240/2. Time of passing North Goodwin L.V. to be adjusted as necessary. Code word ~~more~~. (C. in C., Nore, 1050/7 to D. 16.)

Following are times of passing Garrison Point today. (C. in C., Nore, 1052/7 to D. 21 etc.)

Forces indicated will pass Nore L.V. as follows, proceeding by Edinburgh Channel and through Downs. (C. in C., Nore, 1120/7 to H.Q.F.C.)

/My 1007/4.....

MOST SECRET7.10.1940
Monday
War DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsOperation "Lucid"
LUCID (Contd.)

M 01883/40

see Sept 24, 1940
p601My 1007/4. Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
(D.D.I.C. 1231/7 to C. in C., Nore, Ports-
mouth, and V.A.Dover)Following is composition of Forces (C. in C.
Nore, 1540/7 to Admty.)Request Fighter Protection for Forces A and
B from daylight 8th until arrival at
Sheerness. Anticipated positions of
Forces at 0630/8. Positions liable to con-
siderable amendment and H.Q.F.C. will be
kept informed. Code Word for both Forces
"Alpha" ~~ALPHA~~. (C. in C., Nore, 1700/7 to H.Q.F.C.)Route for Force A and return in view of
Mines cut near No 1 Buoy. (C. in C., Nore
2112/7 to D. 21)"Lucid"
Operation ~~LUCID~~ postponed. (V.A.Dover 2227/
7 to Force B and Adty.) Return to Harwich at
Daylight (C. in C., Nore, 2300/7 to D. 21)"Lucid"
Continue ~~LUCID~~ if you consider it practicable
and weather is suitable. (1st S.L. 2320/7
to D. 21, EGLINTON, HAMBLEDON, D. 16 etc.,HAMBLEDON
mined off Dover.LADY BRASSEY and MURIA sailed to assistance
of HAMBLEDON at 2326 (V.A.Dover 2350/7 to
Adty.)EGLINTON is to join Force B in place of
GARTH and is to escort MYTILUS and OAKFIELD
to R.V. (C. in C., Nore, 0926/7)OAKFIELD to anchor at Great Nore, (C. in C.,
Nore, 0848/8)EREBUSYour 1920/6. Propose EREBUS bombard
Calais or the Gris Nez Batteries on first
convenient night after completion or
postponement of ~~EREBUS~~. Batteries preferred
but it is considered that neither bombard-
ment should be carried out without
efficient air spotting. (C. in C., Nore,
1002/7 to Adty.)Operation "Medium"V.A.S. 2228/5. URSULA detailed and arrived
Portsmouth 1000/7. C.O. of URSULA being
sent overland to Devonport p.m. today.
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 1023/7 to Adty.)
Your 1921/5. (i) Latest information will
be signalled separately. (iii) Air Ministry
are arranging request visit. (iv) Confirmed
But this should not prejudice the engage-
ment of most suitable Targets, (V.C.N.S.
1308/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

/M/PD 09087/40.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET 141

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

M/PD 09087/40 of 4/10 para 5, and your 2307/6. Request you arrange as many M.T.Bs as possible to operate in conjunction with motor gunboats from Fowey, the Flotilla to assemble at Portland by 1200/9. In addition request you provide cruisers and destroyers for an eastern covering force. Request names. Operation orders are being sent. (C. in C., W.A., 1527/7 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Your 1023/7. After consulting with C.O. have decided not to include URSULA in Operation. Request Area W. 2. may be kept clear of submarines during Operation. (C. in C., W.A. 2333/7 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

As it is now understood that M.T.B's have unsuitable armament for engaging E-Boats request you cancel my 1527/7 (C. in C., W.A. 1207/8 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Patrol U

2 Destroyers from Humber to carry out tonight (C. in C., Nore, 1215/7 to INTREPID)

Western Channel
Patrol

Patrol BY (C. in C., W.A., 1629/7 to N.O.I.C Dartmouth)

Iceland

My 1931/4. It is desired to send some troops to Iceland in ARGUS. Request you report maximum number of Officers and other Ranks that could be accommodated. (A.C.N.S. H. 2028/7 to ARGUS)

Proposed withdrawal of Walrus A/S Squadron
See British Air Activity.

War Diary7.10.1940
MondayHOME COMMANDSSubmarines.

- O. 21. Left Patrol 2000/6 and is following Route in my 1121/6. (Capt S. 9. 0259/7) Your 2030/6. Your should take Route given in my 1121/6. (Capt. S. 9. 0303/7 to O.21) Reports 500 ton U-Boat entered Kors Fiord 1000/6. (V.A.S. 1001/7 to C. in C., H.F.)
- H. 49 Reports A/S trawlers sweeping STURGEONS Swept Channel daily to following regular time table.
5. H. 49 also reports single aircraft carried out A/S patrol on 3rd 4th and 5th September. On 30th/9 8 minesweepers swept searched Channel. At 2112/1 fired 4 torpedoes at convoy of 6 Merchant ships northbound in 53° 10' N., 04° 32' E., range of firing approx. 4800 yards on 13 degree track. One loud explosion seven minutes after last torpedo was fired. Result not observed. (V.A.S. 1251/7)
- H. 34 Will be exercising in the Flow a.m. and p.m. 8th. (A.C.O.S. 1521/7)
- H. 43 Exercising in Plymouth S/M Area. (C. in C, n W.A. 1615/7 to Adty.)
- PORPOISE Capt. S. 2's 1447/5. Owing to low speed of advance estimate arrive Bishops Rock 0730/8 (PORPOISE 1617/7 to C. in C., W.A.)
- Positions For following 24 hours at 0700/8. (V.A.S. 1719/7 and 2339/7)
- O. 22. Proceed into Patrol Zone on arrival. (Capt S. 9. 1017/7 to O.22)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Summary of operations 5/10. (H.Q.B.C., THI 0505/7) Intelligence Summary No 468, includes Summary of Operations night 6/6. (H.Q.B.C., THI 1245/7)

Air Searches

For 8/10. (C. in C., Rosyth 1854/7)

Coastal Command

Operations for night 7/8, (H.Q.C.C. 1448/7)

Iceland

Withdrawal of Walrus Squadron will deprive me of all air R.C. at time when such R.C. is becoming increasingly necessary. If withdrawal essential urgently request replacement by some alternative type which can reconnoitre deeply including Jan Mayen I and Greenland. (Alabaster Reykjavik 2329/6)

North East Coast Air Protection of Convoys

A. 120. Increased number of ships damaged by air attack off north east coast of Scotland. Great importance attached to adequate air protection for these convoys. Appreciated that when main battle is in south and south east full protection for east coast convoys cannot be given, but request that any further practicable measures to give convoys security from air attack be taken. (Air Min 2325/7 1100/8 to F.C.)

Convoy "Booty"

Convoy "Booty" (F.S. Odd) Shadowed by one aircraft. My position 51° 31' N., 1° 3'E (VEGA 1502/7)

SUSSEX (Damaged 18/9)

Condition (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1830/7)

Orkneys

One hostile aircraft engaged between 1630-1700 (A.C.O.S. 2103/7)

Enemy Air Activity

SS LATYMER Bombed 2/10
LEEDS Bombed 3/10

Trawler LEEDS reports SS LATYMER on fire at 1345/2 as result of bombing attack 10 miles off Blaskets. Crew saved by KILGERAN CASTLE landed Valencia six killed including engineer. Vessel not sunk may be danger to navigation. Trawler LEEDS attacked by Heinkel Bomber inside Blaskets at 1425/3. No damage. (N.O.i/c Swansea 1240/7)

/HEINKEL.....

MOST SECRET7.10.1940
Monday
War DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity-Contd.Heinkel
in Sea has
Special W/T

Heinschel aircraft is believed down in sea between Folkestone and Dungeness at 1220/7 making W/T signals.

It is thought this aircraft is fitted with special W/T apparatus specimen of which is urgently required. (D.C. 1248/7 to V.A. Dover)

Dover
Attacked

Enemy aircraft dropped two bombs in Dover harbour and one in the town at 0935 and one bomb to Northward of Grand Shaft Barracks at 1013/7.

Six civilians wounded. At 1013 six M.E's shot down two barrage balloons and at 1350 four M.E's shot down one barrage balloon. (V.A. Dover, 1909/7)

London
Dock Area

1030 2 H.E. dropped: one in Bow Creek, one to northward which struck factory and started fire. 1700, 9 H.E. dropped Surrey Commercial Docks and vicinity. Some non naval casualties. No serious damage. Incendiary started fire at Bellamys Wharf on South Shore near Surrey Docks fire now presumed to be extinguished. (F.O.i/c London. 1935/7)

MiningH.S.L. 111
Damaged

Mine exploded by H.S.L. 111 in Humber 115° 5 cables from No 6 buoy. Narrow column of water 50 yards astern of boat, speed of boat 38 knots, boat damaged and unserviceable. (F.O. Humber, 1309/7)

Manacles

Mine cut and sunk by rifle fire 50° 0' 12"N 5° 3' 0" W., (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1525/7)

Experimental

Experimental day and night sweeping to be carried out by 3 ships of 5th M/S F ahead of E.N. Convoy bearing Methil 0500/9 while between May Island and Duncansby Head. Details. (C. in C., Rosyth 1823/7)

Danlayers

30th M.S.F. to sail to Rosyth as convenient to operate under C. in C., Rosyth. (D.M.S. 1831/7)

Rosyth

Approaches are closed between 02° 52' W., and Oxcars Gate due to suspected minelaying. Port of Methil is open (C. in C., Rosyth, 2309/7)

/Falmouth.....

P. 144 A.

MOST SECRET

7.10.1940
Monday



War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Falmouth

Owing to suspected minelaying destroyers are not to enter harbour until further orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2327/7)

Regret your escort is delayed owing to heavy commitments and damage sustained by Destroyers. 4 Destroyers will be sent at first opportunity (C. in C., W.A., 1931/7 to RAML)

HAMBLEDON
(Mined near Dover)
7/10

LADY BRASSEY and MURIA sailed to assistance of HAMBLEDON at 2326 (V.A. Dover 2350/7 to Adty.)

ADVENTURE
Practice Lay

Admty. Letter 1826/40 of 12/9 and A.L. 2068/40 of 30/9. Propose embark Mines for practice lay at port Z.A. on 17/10 and lay a proportion on 21/10, disembarking mines not actually laid on 22/10. (ADVENTURE 1211/7 to D.A.S., Bath)

Operation
B. S. 40

PLOVER does not undock till 1800/7 and will load a.m./8. Intend TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER to sail from Spurn Point 1700/8 and R.V. with minesweeper at 20 D buoy at 0615/9, proceeding thence through gap B to initial position and returning same route. Laying will begin 1400/9. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 0812/7 and 0910/8)

Two Humber destroyers are to be detailed as escort. Report names. (C. in C., Nore, 1645/7 to INTREPID)

MOST SECRET7.10.1940
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy IntelligenceShetlands

Unst reports one small fast vessel bearing 328° 15 miles steering 098° at 24 knots at 0607. (Scapa W/T 0617/7 to SNAPPER) Bearing 335° 11 miles, steering 162° at 12 knots at 0635 (Scapa Base Ship W/T 0647/7 to SNAPPER)

Smoke Screen
off Boulogne

Smoke screen reported off Boulogne Harbour at 1600/7. It has now disappeared. One aircraft 53 Sqdn. to investigate any unusual surface activity. (A.H.Q. Chatham 1640/7 to Adty.)

M/V's from
Boulogne

A Southerly movement of Enemy M/V's from Boulogne may be expected through your Area tonight. (Capt. S. 5. 1850/7 to UPRIGHT)

Helder, Dordrecht,
Enkhuisen

M/V's and Barges seen on 6/10 (H.Q.B.C. 0505/7)

Ship with
Red Cross Markings
off Hook

At 0928/7 in 51° 55' N., 3° 38' E., One ship with Red Cross on upper deck and on port side, heading S.E. (H.Q.B.C. 1245/7)

P. 144 C

MOST SECRET

7.10.1940.
Monday.



War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

MOUNT TAYGETUS.

Received 0657. Tugs not arrived. Ship drifting in position 120° Helwick L.V. 5 miles. Will you inquire what is happening as to tugs. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 0803/7 to Adty.)

WESTERN COAST.

In collision with French Ship VAILLANT at 0530/7 in Methil Roads, both ships at anchor. Propose carrying out local survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1114/7 to Adty.). Concur. (A.S. Rosyth 1620/7 to N.O.I.C. Methil).

HELIOPOLIS.

Delayed by damage to bulwarks by a trawler when leaving harbour to-day. Estimated time of repair 6 days. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1428/7 to R.A.N.A.S.)

NIGHT HAWK)
ROYAL DAFFODIL)

H.M. Trawler NIGHT HAWK collided with ROYAL DAFFODIL while latter ship at anchor. Slight damage to both ships above water. (N.O.I.C. Larne 2140/7 to Adty.)

P. 144D

MOST SECRET

7.10.40.
Monday



War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys.

Shipping

O.A. 225 Position. (A.C.O.S. 0709/7) Escort SHIKARI, CLARKIA, PERIWINKLE (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1150/7).

O.A. 226. Route. N.C.S.O. Methil 0851/7)

H.X. 75. Position. (A.C.O.S. 0758/7).

S.C.6. 38 Ships. Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to HASTINGS, etc. 1240/7).

H.X. 75 A. ALYNBANK to leave at 2359/7 if no attack developing. (F.O.(D) H.F. 1054/7).

O.L.7. DUNEDIN STAR to join. (C.in C. W.A. 1515/7) Route. (D.T.D.1651/7).

F.N. and F.S. Cancelling his 1107/6 and 2301/6, re escorts for (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1636/7)

W.N. 21 S. Escort BERKSHIRE, WOLVES (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/7).

O.A. 228. Route. (D.T.D. 1219/7).

W.S.3. Escort DOUGLAS, ST. LAURENT sailed 1510/7 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1652/7) Clyde section escort ACTIVE, OTTAWA sailed (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1715/7).

0944. Route. (D.T.D. 1440/7).

F.S.4. Will leave Methil 0030/8. Close escort BLACK SWAN, WOOLSTON (C.in C. Rosyth 1139/7).

C.W.14. Intend to sail from Southend 1245/9. Escort FERNIE, BERKELEY, KINGSTON OLIVINE, GREENFLY, TOURMALINE, ACACIA, DEODAR, ASH, CHESTNUT, WALNUT etc. (C.in C. Nore 2156/7)

O.A. Convoys,
Abolition. Your 1131/5. Yes. Reference should have been to E.N. and W.N. convoys in my 1553/4. (C.in C. W.A. to C.in C. Rosyth, 2040/7).

/DINAS

7.10.40,
Monday.



War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping (Continued)

DINAS

Finnish, intercepted, sent Reykjavik
(F.O.C.N.P. 1457/7).

W.N., E.N.,
F.N., F.S.,
Cycle.

My 1908/4. In view of shortage of escorts,
now proposed W.N., E.N., F.N., and F.S.
convoys should run on 3-day cycle as
follows - 9-knot ship convoy, 7-knot ship
convoy, and a blank day. This programme
temporary pending availability of
additional escort vessels. (D.T.D. 1888/7)

Minesweeping.

Admty. 2135/30. 3 ships of 552 H.S.F.
will carry out experimental day and night
sweeping ahead of E.N. Convoy leaving Methil
0500/3, between May Island and Buncleby
Head. Instructions. (G.I.A. S. North 1888/7)

Zigzagging.

Comments on Admty. 1933/6. (G.I.A. S. W.A.
2020/7, 2061/7).

EASTERN PRINCE

My 1930/6. Speed 15 knots. (UNRECORDED,
0225/7). Request fighter cover to Dogger
Channel. Position. Proceeding to
Liverpool. (G.I.A. S. W.A. 8838/7).

Troop Convoys

W.L.C.

Final composition (D.T.D. S.I. 3048/7).

7.10.40.

Monday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville.

CORNWALL reports air reconnaissance 6/10 one sloop one M.V. in harbour. Not possible to verify presence of submarines owing haze and distance. Aircraft not seen. No outlying patrol vessel. (C.S.I. 0846 A/7).

Arrival at Duala.

Arrived Ambas Bay. Landing of troops delayed until arrival of De Gaulle expected 1600/7. Retaining CORNWALL vide your 1311/5. (F.O.I.C. to C.in C. S.A. 1204/7). My 1204. Have seen De Gaulle. Disembarkation into small ships commenced, expected complete p.m./8, all troops arriving Duala by a.m./9. Your 1311. Escort now requested for 400 French marines in WESTERNLAND to Point Noire. Propose sending CORNWALL and 2 destroyers p.m./8 and remaining at Manoka in DEVONSHIRE until arrival M.T. transport (C.S.I. 1415 A/7) My 0245/6 confirmed. No further action contemplated against Libreville except by free French planes. (C.S.I. to Admty., 1421/7). My 1131/5. Transports arrived Ambas Bay. Intend WESTERNLAND shall be escorted to Point Noire Bay as proposed. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1815/7).

Destroyers to Return

Your 1415/7 and C.in C. S.A. 1815/7. Destroyers are to return to Gibraltar as soon as possible. Risk of submarine attack on passage of WESTERNLAND to Point Noire must be accepted. (1 S.L. to C.S.I., 2309/7).

M.T. Convoy.

Convoy M.T. position. Expect arrive Outer Bar buoy Cameroon River 1000/10. At ?0430/4, TURCOMAN detached to proceed independently direct to Lagos. Fuel remaining in DELHI and DRAGON. (DELHI, 2217/7).

Food Supplies.

Your 1231/6. Supplies would be of greatest assistance and any not required Duala could probably be absorbed by other ports of B.E.F. where there is shortage. (Govr., Nigeria, to C.in C. S.A. 1931/7).

French Movements.

Gibraltar 1900/7. French trawler (A.P.V.) SERGENT GOUARNE escorting LOUIS CHARLES SCHIAFFINO west to east. (S.O.I. Gib. 2215/7).

7.10.40.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French
Shipping

Request comments on telegram 462 of 5/10 from Gascoigne, Tangier. What steps are being taken to bring in these ships? (1 S.L. to F.O.C. N.A. 0030/7).

Your 0030/7. Ships are all escorted through Straits and are allowed to proceed in accordance with A.M. 2030/11/8. Escorting ships frequently return to westward after taking convoy some distance into Mediterranean. Full use is made of Spanish territorial waters. Probable ships leave territorial waters at some point to eastward, but nothing to prevent them continuing to Oran or Algiers within 3 miles of coast and they will probably do this if watched. Best solution some sort of contraband agreement with French Govt. as arranged with ordinary neutrals. (F.O.C.N.A. 1214/7).

Suspicious
Ship.

My 1830/28. Some informant reports ship is exactly as stated except flag may not have been changed to British but ship may have been chartered by British. One Italian submarine passed Straits Eastbound 28/9. 2 Italian submarines passaged westbound 30/9. (N.A. Madrid 1301/7).

Spain and
U/Boats.

My 1301/7th, same informant. Between 8/10 and 15/10, a cargo of fuel for German submarines will be loading approximate Laredo at night. Supplier is Prieto Lavin of Hargrave. Submarines to be supplied are those operating between Laming Combe, Brest. German brigade (corrupt group) is liaison between Laredo and German Naval Authorities in France, (corrupt group) Patacatres registered at Bilbao is also used. Cannot assess. (N.A. Madrid, 1323/7).


Air Search.

Following from ARK ROYAL. Admty. 1836/2. Aircraft searched carried out p.m./4 and a.m./5. Nothing of importance sighted. 1157/7. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1714/7). More detailed report (ARK ROYAL, 1925/7).

/Belgian Ship

7.10.40.
Monday.

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War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic (Continued)Belgian
Ship. Lisbon.

Your 1827/2, Ministry of Shipping and Belgian Economic Mission do not agree to general arrangement that all Belgian ships at Lisbon be delayed but would consider particular cases if need of evacuation seemed imminent. Belgians agree to repairs to RENE PAUL being effected Lisbon. PORTUGAL will be delayed pending new crew but most important that THYSVILLE and VAE VICTIS should be free to sail.
(D. of S.T. 1941/7, to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

Possible Raider.

At 1330 G.M.T./30 in 003° 08'S 017° 18'W. WINDSOR CASTLE sighted neutral merchant ship (description). Course 330° 12 knots. No vessel of this description known to be in this vicinity and ship may be raider homeward bound for Germany or German occupied port.
(D.D.I.C. 1652/7).

Force H
Destroyers

F.O.C.N.A. 1740/1 and C.in C. H.F. 1005/2. Exchange of KEPPEL for HOTSPUR will reduce number of modern destroyers of 13 D.F. capable of operating with Force H from 5 to 4. Most desirable that a leader should be available to accommodate Capt. (D) and staff when 13 D.F. are taking part in operations with Force H.
(S.O. Force H, 2105/7 to Admty).

RENOWN

Your 2330/6, boiler cleaning, etc. Approved as soon as AUSTRALIA arrives at Gibraltar. (1 S.L. to S.O. Force H, 1704/7).
Rivets securing plating to armour torn away. Risk of bulge stripping in bad weather or high speed. Intend RENOWN remain at short notice until arrival of AUSTRALIA when temporary repairs will be effected by wood chocks. (S.O. Force H. 2141/7).

BARHAM.

Re exchange of ammunition. (D.T.S.D., 2047/7).

7.10.1940.

MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSSouth AtlanticSELANDIADanish. Re conversion to hospital ship.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1305/7).Suspicious Ship.Oiler with grey funnel and upperwork
resembling Italian TUSCANIA sighted
37° 06'S., 27° E., course 200°, speed
10 knots at 0930 G.M.T./7.
(D.D.I.C. 0146/8 to C.in C. S.A. etc.)Mediterranean.Destroyers.Admty. 1923/5. Concur another Capt.(D) not
required. (C.in C. Med., 1023/7).Turkey.Deaussing.Your 2351/10/9. No objection to disclosing
information to Turks or to their sending an
officer to Alexandria for training. (S.D.G.
to C.in C., Med. 1051/7).NARVALFrench submarine. Has returned from first
patrol under Free French flag. (N.O.I.C.
Malta, 1103/7).Crete.Defence of. (1st S.L. to C.in C. Med.,
1742/7). See Mediterranean Vol.Danube,
MiningReply to C.in C. Med 2325/26/9. (Hd. of M.
1744/7) See Mediterranean Vol.Operation
M.B.6.Begins p.m./8. Outline of intentions.
(C.in C. Med., 1607/7).Operation
B.6.Submarines to move clear of Fleet area, or
if not possible to remain deep.
(Capt. S.1, 1101/7).Enemy Reports,
Delay.C. in C. Med. 1259/2. Enemy Fleet was
observed by Glen Martin recco. at 0620 and
by Sunderlands 1050. Appears reports
although broadcast were not received by
C.in C. Med. Reasons under investigation.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1126/7).Evacuations.Asking if ships of A.P.3 and W.S.3. can be
used to evacuate families to South Africa.
(Movements, M.E., to W.O. 1230/7).



MOST SECRET.

7.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

ULSTER PRINCE

My 1804/6. ULSTER PRINCE will proceed independently and unescorted to Aden for onward passage to Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 0418 Z/7, 0420 Z/7). Will leave Capetown 0500/9 for Aden and not call at Durban. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1133 Z/7).

Local Defence.
E. Africa.

Admty. 1319/6. Request number allocated and approx. date of delivery. (C.in C. E.I. 0610 Z/7).

M. de Shompre.

In VICEROY OF INDIA, due Bombay 9/10. De Gaulle wishes to disembark and return Far East. (A.C.N.S.(F) to F.O.C. R.I.N., 1957/7).

W.S.3.

Admty. (1957/2 and your 0606/4. Very undesirable that Fast Group should be held back after leaving Cape by having to wait for W.S.3 Slow. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C.E.I., 2300/7).

A.P.3.
S.W.2.

A.P.3., escorted CARTHAGE, and S.W.2, escorted SHROPSHIRE, to R.V. (position and date) where escort will be exchanged. Routes. (C.in C. E.I., 1050 Z/7).

My 1230/5. Add one destroyer (lent from Mediterranean) to A.P.3 $\frac{1}{2}$. (C.in C. E.I. 1132 Z/7).

Colombo.

Re equipments and ammunition. (D.of L.D. to W.O., 1016/7).

Red Sea Force.

My 1124/2, para. 2. Delete CALEDON and YARRA. (C.in C. E.I. 1216 Z/7).

China.

Defence of Straits Settlements.

Your 0613/27. Chiefs of Staff consider difficulties not insuperable. Guns being made available from Colombo. Australia asked to provide personnel. (D.of L.D. to C.in C. China, 1414/7).

Burma Road.

Re-opening to be announced to-morrow. Possible this may cause situation re Japan to deteriorate. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. China. 2303/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.

MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.PRINCE ROBERT.

To comply with C. in C. A.W.I.'s 1302/6. ^
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0955/7).

(NTRWD)

HAKOZAKI MARU.

Arrived Bermuda 7/10. Being held.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1602/7).

Convoys,
routeing.

My 1141/5. Ships in convoy bound for
Port Talbot and ports to the westward are
to proceed to Milford Haven for onward
routeing and not to Barry Roads (D.T.D.
1130/7 to C.O.A.C. Halifax O.C.).

1. Ships are not be routed via Belle Isle
Straits after 31/10 sailings from U.K.
West Coast.

2. Adty. 1939/8/12/39 remains in force.
Masters should be given discretion to
depart from ocean route ordered to avoid
weather delay or damage (D.T.D.1253/7).

Zigzagging.

Your 1656/3. Instructions for convoy
procedure will be issued shortly based on
character of recent attacks, (D.T.D.1802/7)

Australia.MAURETANIA

Arrived Fremantle 6/10. (A.C.N.B. 0632 Z/7)

AQUITANIA

Arrived Sydney 0147 Z/6. (A.C.N.B. 0255 Z/7)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.CORDELIA.

Left for Russia in ballast. (Macrae,
Galatz, 1016/7).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.TUSCANIA

Oiler resembling her sighted 37.06 S.,
27° E., course 200°, speed 10 knots, at
0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C. 0146/8).

7.10.40.
Monday



War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1206. D.F. unknown enemy unit, probable U-boat, 55° to 55° 30' N., 22° to 25° W., unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 1301/7).
- 1000/6. Netherlands submarine O.21 reports 500-ton U/B entered Kongs Fiord 1000/6. Dived before completion of O.21's attack. (V.A.S. 1001/7) Capt. S. 9. 1017/7).
1600. 49.42' N., 04.50' W. Send available destroyers to attack (C.in C. W.A. 1617/7) Report was from aircraft, not certain that it was a submarine (C.in C. W.A. 1633/7).
1910. Periscope reported 5 miles S.E. Mousa Island, Shetlands, steering N.N.E. (A.C.O.S. 2231/7).
2213. 59.06 N., 1.02 W., periscope reported (D.S. 399).

North Atlantic.

- 28/9, 30/9. One Italian submarine passed Straits eastbound 28/9. 2 Italian submarines passed westbound 30/9. Unable to assess reliability. (N.A. Madrid, 1301/7).

Estimated U/B dispositions

- Italian. 2 arrived Gironde A.M. 5th. No further news of those at sea.
- German. 1 probably arrives Lorient to-night.
1 in 51° 42' N. 24° 03' W. at 1930/6, and 1 about 100 miles to southward
1 in about 55° 30' N. 22° - 25° W. at 1208/7
1 more in N.W. Approaches, whereabouts unknown.
1 may be patrolling south of 56° N. within 100 miles of Bloody Foreland.
(D.D.I.C. 1240/7).

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

Seven two-gun salvos were fired from Cape Gris Nez battery at EGLINTON and vessels in company this morning near South Goodwin Lt. V. The final salvo straddled the Light vessel. No damage or casualties caused.

There were strong indications of enemy activity a few miles east of the Lizard, probably E.boats, later this evening. KASHMIR and JAGUAR investigated.

The 2nd Town Flotilla arrived at Belfast this evening, less the three destroyers damaged or defective.

British Air Activity.

Ports from Zeebrugge to Lorient were successfully attacked last night, the heaviest concentrations being at Calais and Boulogne. The gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez were also attacked. One Whitley bombed the Naval Docks at Wilhelmshaven.

R.A.F. this afternoon attacked 2 Flakships off the coast of Denmark; one ship is thought to have been damaged. A Hudson on routine patrol bombed unsuccessfully an enemy vessel 21 miles North of Maas Light. After the attack, the enemy vessel showed two red crosses forward of the funnel.

Enemy Air Activity.

BELLONA II proceeding independently from Hull to Reykjavik was bombed and set on fire this evening and went aground near Stonehaven. 11 of her crew of 28 were killed.

S.S. ORONSAY carrying troops, in Convoy W.S.3 was attacked and damaged this morning in the N.W. Approaches.

H.M.T. BURKE was severely damaged during a second raid on Dover this morning.

At 1943/8 an unknown ship signalled that she was being bombed about 140 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland.

/Considerable damage ...

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.

Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity (Continued).

Considerable damage was done to the quay-side at West India Docks by a delay action bomb dropped at 0530/8 which exploded at 1015/8.

Tower Bridge is out of action for road traffic for 3 or 4 days as the result of bombing this morning. The bridge is open. Lee-on-Solent R.A.N.A.S. aerodrome was bombed this evening, but negligible damage was caused. There is an U.X.B. on the aerodrome.

Buildings at Ford R.N.A. Station were slightly damaged by air raid at dusk to-day.

Mining.

Mines were laid off Lorient and in the Maas Estuary last night by R.A.F. This evening, 3 mines were laid in the entrance to the Ems River.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary, Firth of Forth, off Flamborough Head, Newcastle area and Merseyside. Falmouth is closed until a swept channel has been established.

Rosyth approaches were opened about noon today.

Humber was closed at 2341 today owing to minelaying by aircraft.

S.S. ACTUOSITY (420 tons) ^{(359) in Lloyd's} in Convoy F.S. 97 sank in 5 minutes at 0400/3 after striking a submerged object about 15 miles E. by N. of Cromer. There was no pronounced impact and no explosion, but a strong smell of gas. LOCUST (gunboat) was damaged and her engines put out of action by a mine which exploded immediately astern of her p.m. today in the Thames Estuary.

Operations against Vichy French.

WESTERNLAND with 400 French troops, escorted by CORNWALL sailed from Duala for Point Noire p.m. today.

PENNLAND completed disembarking her troops at Duala and sailed for Freetown p.m. today.

8.10.40.
Tuesday. 155

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A tanker resembling the Italian TUSCANIA was sighted yesterday morning in approx. 37° S. 27°E. steering 200°. NEPTUNE on her way to search Kerguelen Island, has been told to try to intercept.

Mediterranean.

Operation M.B.6.

The whole fleet left Alexandria p.m. today for this operation, (to cover troop convoy M.F.3 to Malta, where it arrived on Oct. 11).

East Indies.

Blenheims today successfully attacked Assab.

An aircraft dropped bombs on Maala water front inner harbour today, causing casualties but no damage.

China.

Announcement of the re-opening of the Burma road on 18/10 was made today. Orders were sent to C.in C. China to withdraw from Wei Hai Wei personnel and as far as possible stores and yardcraft.

It is reported that preliminary steps have been taken for the evacuation of American citizens - about 17000 all told - from Japan, China, Hong-Kong, Indo-China, Manchuria, leased territory of Kwantug, Korea and Formosa.

8.10.40.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/8. (D.C. 0201/8) At 1400/8
(D.C. 1420/8).

Portsmouth.

A/A Gun
Defences.

Brigadier 35th A/A Brigade informs me that he has received prior notification that four of the eleven 3" case 1 guns are to be surrendered shortly. Until these guns were mounted enemy planes continually flew round the Forts and Eastern entrance with impunity and laid mines at leisure. After these guns had shot down three planes the enemy ceased this irritating practice to the great advantage of the port. Realise that our potential in A.A. guns must be deployed where most required and I bring to notice the very great value these guns have been here so as to assist in balancing conflicting claims. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1203/8 to Adty.)

Policy

ARGUS

Future employment of ARGUS is under consideration. She is available for D.L.T. and it is proposed she should be used for this purpose at Scapa, unless you consider present arrangement with FURIOUS preferable. (5th S.L. 1651/8 to C.in C. H.F.)

Atlantic.
New Anti-
U-Boat Patrol.

815 Your 2021/7. Subject to approval of C.in C. H.F. CLYDE can be made available. Proposed she leave Dundee 12/10 escorted as far as Cape Wrath and thence proceed submerged by day to 61° N. 10° W. Thence on surface to 61° N. 22° W. thence carry out anti-U-boat patrol between 55° N. and 57° N. and 20° W. and 25° W. The above route is suggested after consultation with Admiralty in order to keep CLYDE clear of own Forces. On completion of 14 days patrol propose CLYDE proceeds on surface to 52° N. 15° W. thence submerged by day to Falmouth for onward escort to Holy Loch or Plymouth depending on refit situation. (V.A.S. 2127/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

KENYA.

Your 1307/7 and 1529/7. Regret no aircraft of 18 Group available for this purpose. (H.Q.C.C. 0050/8 to C.in C.W.A.)

LONDONDERRY.

Expect arrive 20 C. Buoy 2100.
(LONDONDERRY 0951/8 to C.in C. Rosyth).

CYCLAMEN.

My 1543/7. Gun has arrived. Mounting will be completed P.M./9. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1034/8 to C.in C. Rosyth). If 2-pounder Pom Pom has arrived it should be fitted before CYCLAMEN sails. Otherwise she should be sailed as by my 1541/5/9. (D.O.D. H. 1815/8 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen).

Dover.

Patrols for Night 8/9. (V.A. Dover 1516/8)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler line to-day. (F.O.C.S. 1536/8).

COLUMBINE

When ready for sea, should be sailed for Tobermory to work up, after which she should join W.A. Escort Force. (D.O.D. H. 1601/8 to A.S.C.B.S.)

Western Channel.

Night report (C.in C. W.A. 1715/8 and 2015/8).

Nore Command.

Movements. (C.in C. Nore 1730/8 to VEGA). M.T.B.'s available Night 8/9. (C.in C. Nore 1843/8).

HOOD

Can be taken in hand at Tail of the Bank about middle October. Time required will be about 3 weeks. If workmen should be accommodated on board, repairs could be expedited. Final decision to postpone or begin work will be made when REPULSE ready for service. (D.O.D. H. 1830/8 to C.in C. H.F.).

Rosyth Area.

Movements for Night 8/9. (C.in C. Rosyth 1840/8).

Orkneys.

State of A/S Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1930/8).

Second ^{"Towns"} ~~OWN~~ Flotilla

Arrived, less HAMILTON, GEORGETOWN, ROXBOROUGH. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2144/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Lucid".
~~LUCID~~

A/M. 2320. Consider operation not practicable tonight Monday 7th. (S.O. Force B. 0012/8 to Adty.).

Your 2320/7. Wind unsuitable. Returning to harbour (Capt. D. 21 0020/8 to Adty.).

Operation postponed. Wind conditions unsuitable (D.O.D.H. 0116/8).

Send M.T.B's of Force B to join MYTILUS broken down, and EGLINTON and M.L's to OAKFIELD. Proceed with Sweepers. (C.in C. Nore 0310/8 to HAMBLETON).

All arrangements to be made for carrying out ~~LUCID~~ "Lucid" tonight 8/9. (A.C.N.S.H.0446/8 to C.in C. Nore).

Your 0446. Area QZX.216 and vicinity are well mined. Am asking Dover to clear a passage before tonight. Request Zero Time. (C.in C. Nore 0716/8 to Adty.).

Your 0716. Clear passage cannot be guaranteed by tonight. Minefield has anti-sweeping devices and probably delay action Mines. In good visibility as today it is within sight and range of Gris Nez Batteries. (V.A. Dover 0814/8 to C.in C. Nore).

Prepare to carry out ~~LUCID~~ "Lucid" tonight 8/9. Zero Time 0340/9. Sailing programme as in my 1052/7 with one hour added to all times. Force C adjust movements accordingly. (C.in C. Nore 0814/8 to D.16, D.21 etc.).

MALCOLM to join Force B and embark Capt. Agar. VETERAN to join Force C as S.O. D.16 requested to turn over orders to VETERAN. (C.in C. Nore 1020/8 to D.16).

Appendix One. Appendix Two. (D.D.I.C.1228/8).

Operation ~~LUCID~~ "Lucid" is postponed. 4 days notice will be given before it is intended to carry it out. Operation orders should be retained. (V.C.N.S. 1233/8 to C.in C. Nore).

Cancel my 0814/8. Operation is cancelled. (C.in C. Nore 1220/8 to D.16, D.21, etc.).

/Operation MEDIUM

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.

TuesdayWar Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations (Continued)Operation "Medium"~~MEDIUM~~*(Bombardment of
Charbourg)*

Your 1527/7. I made offer of M.T.B's because I thought it possible that the operation might be entirely dependent on their presence and therefore wished to help as far as possible. But the boats here are the two training boats 100 and 102, which by Admiralty order are not operational as their training function is important, and 2 which is earmarked for special Admiralty service. If your strength in motor gun boats is not sufficient I will ask for Admiralty instructions regarding the three Portsmouth M.T.B's.

(C.in C. Portsmouth 1107/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1527/7. CARDIFF, VANOC, VOLUNTEER.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1151/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

As it is now understood that M.T.B's have unsuitable armament for engaging E-Boats, request you cancel my 1527/7. (C.in C. W.A. 1207/8 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Your 1107/8. Cancel my 1207/8. M.T.B's are not now required. (C.in C. W.A. 1611/8 and 1711/8 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Zero hour for Naval bombardment is 0330/10. Request Air attack may be concentrated on Port and Docks so that fires started may be in Naval target area. Request Flares be dropped on line 120° to 300° S.W. of Cape La Hague from Zero minus 30 minutes till Zero minus 10 minutes. (C.in C. W.A. 1922/8 to H.Q.B.C.) Air Ministry request orders be given to Naval Units for quick identification of our own Fighter aircraft to avoid danger to close Fighter Escort from Ships A/A armament. (Hd. of M. 2350/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

EREBUS.

(at Calais - 7/140)
Propose postponing EREBUS shoot until certain that South Goodwin Minefield is clear. Should also wish to sweep near 2A Buoy, which can only be done at night. (C.in C. Nore 0934/8 to Adty.).

Considered that Dunkerque Dock area is most profitable target for EREBUS bombardment. Request exact position W buoy and that it may be checked if not now known. In view of enemy mining in Straits of Dover, it is considered that the area of 2 A Buoy is suspect and should be thoroughly swept before any further shoot takes place from there. (C.in C. Nore 1536/8 to Adty.).

/Your 1536

8.10.40.

Tuesday



War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

EREBUS

(continued)

Your 1536. Para. Two. "W" Buoy was fixed with probably a resulting accuracy of about quarter of a mile in its position relative to Dunkerque. (V.A. Dover 1856/8 to C.in C. Nore.).

Shelling from
Gris Nez
Batteries

Seven 2-gun salvos were fired from Cape Gris Nez Battery at EGLINGTON, MYTILUS, LADY BRASSEY, and LADY DUNCANNON between 0733 and 0750/8 after they had passed South Goodwin Light Vessel. No damage or casualties. Final salvo straddled South Goodwin Light Vessel at 0740. (V.A. Dover 1301/8 to Adty.).

Western Channel
Patrol.

Patrol A.X. (C.in C. W.A. 1509/8 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Iceland.

Laying of Hvalfjord Minefield completed. Scientists are still experimenting. Ships leave for Sevdisfiord about 10/10. (MANCHESTER CITY 1630/8 to D.T.M.).

Albaster has now proposed that Walrus Squadron should remain in Iceland for the winter. Owing to acute shortage of this type of aircraft and the expected high wastage rate in an Icelandic winter this proposal cannot be entertained unless strong arguments can be put forward showing what it is expected the squadron can achieve in the few hours of daylight and adverse weather conditions. (5th S.L. 1650/8 to F.O. Iceland).

Submarines

USK.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1700/2. Detail one A/S Trawler to arrive Barrow 1730/9 to escort USK to Clyde. (C.in C. W.A. 1209/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast) No escort immediately available. Propose sailing A/S Trawler LADY MADELINE to arrive Barrow A.M./10th. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1810/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

Aircraft Bombing
Information.

My 1126/2. Brest. (F.O.S. 1528/8 to S/M's in Area B.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1558/8).

/ SUNFISH



MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines. (continued)

SUNFISH.

Leave Patrol for base 2000/9. Route.
(Capt. S.3. 1601/8 to SUNFISH).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/9.
(V.A.S. 1719/8).

MINERVE.

When ready for service is to join 9th
S/M Flotilla. (V.A.S. 1804/8 to S.5.).

E-Boats.

Patrol HT.

Reports sound of Motor Boat in North East
(F.O. Harwich Force 0436/8 to GUILLEMOT,
SHEARWATER).

Lizard.

There are strong indications of probable
E-Boat a few miles East of Lizard Head.
Investigate, keeping clear of QZX.213.
(C.in C. W.A. 2057/8 to KASHMIR, JAGUAR).

British Air Activity.

Bombing
restrictions

In area 22 extended to 1200/9 (Capt. S. 2.
0759/8 to PORPOISE).

ALYNBANK

Canal Serial 21 (F.O.C. 1st B.S. 1230/8 to
ALYNBANK.)

Rover patrols.

With torpedoes at dusk and during moonlight
Cherbourg-Boulogne. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham
1426/8) Helder, Borkum etc., Cherbourg-
Dieppe, Brest - Channel Is.

Aircraft leaving
Perth for
Stockholm.

Route, time etc. (Air Min. 1440/8)
(H.Q.C.C. 1442/8).

Operation
No.79.

To be repeated ro-night (H.Q.C.C.1440/8).

Air Searches

For 9/10 (C.in C. Rosyth 1847/8)

Balloon barrage
Londonderry

Operational with effect from 8/10
(Air Min. 2305/8).

/ Rescue Service

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Tuesday



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS,

British Air Activity.

Rescue Service

My 1759/27/9. Experience has shown Walrus type aircraft unsuitable for rescue service when unescorted. Consider defensively armed surface craft working with well armed air R.C. necessary. (R.A.N.A.S. 1306/8).

Enemy Air Activity.

VERNON

Portsmouth Old Grammar School occupied by VERNON Instructional Dept. damaged by fire caused by incendiary bomb at 2200/7. Fire now under control. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0117/8) Details of damage (Supt. C.E. 1725/8).

Convoy "Adam"

shadowed by one enemy aircraft in 51° 13' N. 1° 28'E. (Whitehall W/T 0808/8).

Tory I.

Unknown aircraft reported over Tory at 1215 moving south (C.in C. W.A. 1225/8).

Frater.

Ref. my 1305/29. One UXB probably 50 kg. has been found at Frater and is being excavated. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1221/8).

CESHIRE
(see ORONSAY)

1 unidentified aircraft steering 0° 270 55° 30' N. 9° 28' W. (CESHIRE 1203/8)

Convoy "Topaz"
(O.A.226).

Shadowed by one aircraft in 56° 43' N. 2° 3' W. (CURACOA 1509/8).

Unknown Ship.

Bombed 1943/8 in 57° 1' N. 11° 9' W. (Lyness T.O.R. 2044/8).

Convoy "Pilot"
(F.N.)

Shadowed by one enemy aircraft 52° 39' N. 2° 10' E. (VIMIERA 2056/8).

ORONSAY bombed.

56° N. 9° 40' W. attacked by aircraft disabled Want immediate assistance. (ORONSAY 1020/8)

Take tugs SCHELDE and SEAMAN under your orders and proceed to assist ORONSAY in 56° N. 10° W. at 1015/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1035/8 to SALVONIA).

/ Am proceeding

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued).

ORONSAY bombed
Cont:

Am proceeding to assist ORONSAY my position course and speed are 055° 46' N. 008° 51' W. 295° 12 knots.

→ Proceed to ORONSAY bombed in 056° 00' N. 009° 40' W. at 1015. (C.in C. W.A. 1047/8 to VERITY).

Sail H.M.S. SABRE to assist ORONSAY bombed in 056° 00' N. 009° 40' W. at 1015.

→ VERITY ordered to position. (C.in C. W.A. 1049/8 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

Proceed immediately to assist ORONSAY disabled by aircraft in 56° 00' N. 9° 40' W. at 1015. (C.in C. W.A. 1051/8 to CHESHIRE)

Amended position, ORONSAY 56° N. 10° W. (Scapa W/T 1059/8).

Proceed to assistance of S.S. ORONSAY in position 56° N. 10° W. at 1015. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1113/8 to ENGLISHMAN).

→ Inform tugs being sent (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1121/8 to VERITY).

Sailed tugs SALVONIA, SCHELDE, and SEAMAN at 1120. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1147/8).

Your 1044 CHESHIRE has been instructed to proceed to assistance of ORONSAY. On relief by CHESHIRE proceed to join convoy of 3 Merchant vessels estimated position course and speed at 1200 56.00 N. 10.00 W. 275° 10 knots approx. and escort until further orders. (C.in C. W.A. 1157/8 to SALOPIAN).

CAIRO raise steam and proceed to assist ORONSAY bombed and disabled in 56 00 N. 10 00 W. at 1015. (C.in C. W.A. 1159/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

→ ARROW, OTTAWA escorting ORONSAY back to Clyde on one engine from position 056° 06' N. 010° 36' W. when repairs are made good about 1500. Remaining 3 destroyers proceeding with convoy. WHITEHALL in charge. ORONSAY hull intact few casualties. (ARROW 1201/8. 1730/8 to C.in C. W.A., Adty.).

*date. Sunk 15/9.

Sailed DUNDEE to assist ORONSAY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1214/8 to Adty.)

→ Your 1051/8. Escorting ORONSAY to Clyde with ARROW and OTTAWA in company, cancel request by ORONSAY for assistance. (CHESHIRE 1507/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

// Sailed CAIRO

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Sailed CAIRO. Expect to reach position 0730/9. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1615/8).

ORONSAY now proceeding to Clyde escorted by CHESHIRE and two destroyers. CAIRO is to proceed to provide protection against further air attack. (C.in C. W.A. 1649/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

My 1157. CHESHIRE is now escorting ORONSAY. Proceed to join convoy direct. (C.in C. W.A. 1651/8 to SALOPIAN).

You will probably meet convoy O B 225 at about 2000. Alter course to avoid. (C.in C. W.A. 1837/8 to CHESHIRE).

My position course and speed at 2100 055° 35' 007° 35' W. 090° 10' knots. (CHESHIRE 2033/8).

Tower Bridge
damaged

At 0920/8 one H.E. bomb exploded and splinter fractured hydraulic pipe of Tower Bridge. Bridge open. Bridge out of action for road traffic three to four days. Second H.E. bomb fell, unexploded, midstream abreast Tower Pier. No damage to pier or craft. L.C.C. River passenger traffic diverted to Billingsgate pier. (F.O.I.C. London 1245/8).

Dover
BURKE
damaged

At 0909 one bomb dropped in Dover harbour. At 1034 one bomb fell on H.M.T. BURKE in tidal basin causing severe damage to ship and some casualties, two bombs fell in Dover harbour and one in the docks area. (V.A. Dover 1301/8).

London dock area.

D/A bomb dropped 0530/8 on quay at S.E. corner of Junction Dock. W. India Docks, exploded at 1015/8. Considerable damage to quayside, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. London 1110/8).

Lee on Solent reports low bombing and machine gun by 3 Aircraft. Six bombs dropped no damage to buildings no casualties. One enemy aircraft hit by Lewis guns one small UXB on aerodrome. 1853/8. (R.A.N.A.S. 2311/8.)



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Tuesday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Rosyth

Approaches are closed between 2° 52'W. and Oxcars Boom. (C.in C. Rosyth 0727 to JASON).

Isle of Wight

One Type V. German Mine washed up on Isle of Wight 7/10, presumably from Area QZX. 178. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1000/8 to Adty.)

Falmouth

Until a swept channel has been established into Falmouth, shipping to proceed as follows. (C.in C. W.A. 1055/8) Swept channel not yet completed. Explosive cutter and Mines found in water swept 100% yesterday. Appears some form of delay action cutter and mine has been laid. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1651/8 to Adty.).

S.N. 6A.

My 0944/6. Proposed position of field. (R.A.M.L. 1109/8 to Adty.).

Dover.

C.in C. Nore's 0525 and 0716. Q Z S 104 and 105 swept 60% between South Goodwin and No.4 buoy by two trawlers A.M. today.

One mine exploded 038° 1 mile No. 4 buoy and another sweep parted at same time.

Two trawlers then swept ahead of MYTILUS and EGLINTON from No. 4 buoy to West Goodwin.

Intend to sweep Channel between No. 4 buoy and South Goodwin, with four Trawlers as tide and weather permit P.M. today and continue searching to Eastwards of this section of the Channel till dark.

(V.A. Dover 1145/8 to Adty.).

My 1145 and C.in C. Nore's 1536. No sweeping carried out this afternoon owing to weather. Intend to carry out the same programme starting daylight tomorrow Wednesday as tide and weather permit. Mines appear to be of new type laid shallow and usually detonate in sweep.

(V.A. Dover 1903/8 to Adty.)

/ Tunstall



MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Tunstall.

The explosion at 0420/3 now identified as caused by a British H.2 Mine. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1710/8 to Adty.).

Harwich.

Paddlesweepers in 613 Q.Z. swept 80% south eastwards of a line joining 51° 48.7' N. 01° 42' E. and 51° 46.1' N. 01° 38.8' E. One mine German 'W' type dragged in sweep and sunk, sinker recovered. Sinker similar to last one recovered at Harwich and sent to VERNON. Tomorrow propose extending clearance to eastward to a line 3 miles West of centre line of 151 Q.Z.S. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1922/8 to Adty.).

Humber.

Closed, owing to minelaying by aircraft. (F.O. Humber 2341/8 to Adty.).

LOCUST.

Mine exploded immediately astern of LOCUST in 51° 32' 8" N. 1° 12' 12" E. Four casualties. Plummer blocks fractured, and engines out of action. (C.in C. Nore 2301/8). ROYAL EAGLE and Tug in attendance. Request Fighter protection from daylight 9th till arrival Nore. (C.in C. Nore 0705/9 to H.Q.F.C.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Shipping in Harbour. (H.Q.C.C. 1443/8).

Ijmuiden.

One Hospital Ship about 500 tons at 1712/8. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1931/8).

Lorient.

Submarines and Shipping at 1500/8. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1950/8 to H.Q.C.C.).



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Tuesday

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFENTS

- ST. LAURENT. Holed in collision with s.s. SAINT ENOCH in 55° 13' N. 5° 13' W. Do not require assistance. Intend to proceed to Clyde. (ST. LAURENT 0129/8 to C.in C. W.A.). SAINT ENOCH does not need assistance. ST. LAURENT can proceed to Liverpool if required. (ST. LAURENT 0221/8 to C.in C. W.A.) ST. LAURENT returning towards Clyde. Request port for repairs. (C.in C. W.A. 0403/8 to Adty.). SAINT ENOCH reports her bows bent. (ST. LAURENT 1035/8 to Adty.) E.T.A. 0700/9. (ST. LAURENT 0332/8 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- MYTILUS Broken down near S.W. Gate Buoy. (C.in G. Nore 0310/8 to HAMBLEDON).
- ST. CLAIR British, 1637 tons. Propose she remain at Clyde until defects have been completed. Not less than one week. (F.O. Greenock 1704/8 to Adty.). *See Page 183.*
- HELIOTROPE Lost contact with you at 0400. Compass out of action. Request assistance. From HELIOTROPE to FLEUR DE LYS. (A.C.O.S. 0525/8). If clear of Convoy report situation 1200. (C.in C. W.A. 0859/8 to HELIOTROPE).
- VIMY. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0700. Has major defects necessitating docking. Request port for repairs. (C.in C. W.A. 0821/8 to Adty.).
- DOUGLAS. Has sustained minor damage due to weather. (DOUGLAS 0902/8 to C.in C. W.A.). *See also p 159*
- WINCHELSEA. Hove to due to heavy weather in 57° 12' N. 16° 20' W. A/S set out of action (WINCHELSEA 1130/8). *See also next page.*
- COMMISSAIRE
RAMEL. French, 10,061 tons. Due Cape Town 4/10 from Fremantle. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1105. B./8 to Adty.).
- VERITY. Am sustaining damage from sea and leaking through fore-castle. Position 55° 33' N. 7° 35' W. Course 292° Speed 12 knots. (VERITY 1300/8 to C.in C. W.A.). Oscillator out of action. Am returning to Lough Foyle (VERITY 1417/8 to C.in C. W.A.)
- COAST WINGS. British, 862 tons. Last seen by DAGMAR dropping behind O.G. 43 on 24 or 25/9 in about 49° N. 20° W. Not arrived Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1532/8 to Adty.).

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TuesdayHOME COMMANDSConvoysShipping

- O.A. 224 To disperse after passing through 56° N., 25° W. (C. in C., W.A. 1150/8)
- O.L. 6 Route (C. in C., W.A., 1130/8) Had to leave heavy weather. Convoy proceeding independently (WINCHELSEA 1130/8)
- E.N. 8 Route (N.C.S.O., Methil 1046/8) Escort GAVOTTE, SOUTHERN STAR, M/S LEDA, PANGBOURNE, ROSS, (N.C.S.O., Methil 0721/9)
- S.L. 48 B ARSENAL to meet. (C. in C., W.A., 0900/8)
- O.B. 225 Trawlers to R.V. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0201/8) CHESHIRE may meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1837/8)
- H.G. 45 Over 50 ships- destroyer escort- See North Atlantic.
- O.G. 43 British COAST WINGS, Straggler, not arrived Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1532/8)
- O.B. 224 Escort to remain until 0800/9 (C. in C., W.A., 1600/8) SKATE lost touch (SKATE 1201/8)
- S.C. 6 Escort from O.B. 224 to join (C. in C., W.A. 1450/8 1600/8) SKATE unable to join. (SKATE 1201/8)
- O.A. 226 Fighter escort (C. in C., Rosyth, 1618/8) CURACOA to remain with (C. in C., H.F., 1239/8)
- S.L. 49 Route (F.O.C.N.P. to SALOPIAN 1030/8)
- S.L. 48 A ALYNBANK to escort (F.O.C. (D) H.F., 1112/8)
- C.W. 14 Request fighter protection (C. in C., Nore. 1716/8)
- O.G. 43 Lisbon pilot's intimate knowledge of- See NEURALIA, North Atlantic.
- H.X. Provisional forecast of escorts, 81 to 85. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1658/8)
- H.X. 77 Delay of W.S. 3. precludes initial escort of H.X. 77 being reinforced sufficiently far west. In view of importance of this convoy request H.X. 77 may be re routed South of Rockall. (C. in C., W.A., 1900/8 to Adty.)

Air Protection

A. 136/8/10. Amending A. 120/7/10. re protection to East Coast Convoys. (Air Ministry 1100/8)

/OAKFIELD.....



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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

OAKFIELD

To anchor at Great Nore, (C. in C., Nore, 0804/8)

BEACHY

Movements (D.S.D. 1024/9)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 3

Owing weather, Liverpool section turned round until weather moderates. Glasgow section not in company. One escort already damaged. DOUGLAS minor damage due to weather. (DOUGLAS 0902/8)
Convoy to turn round and join Clyde section at best speed leaving DOUGLAS behind if weather necessitates. (C. in C., W.A., 1113/8)
Early arrival at Suez of great importance. (1st S.L.0009/8) Position by and report at 2000. (A.C.W.A., 2051/8)
Liverpool portion not met. (WHITEHALL, 2020/8)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN
WORCESTERSHIRE)

(Sailing for Iceland) Admty 1925/5. Request escort be detailed. (F.O.I.C., Greenock to C. in C., W.A., 1209/8)

Convoy
Cycle

Concur with Admty. 1850/7. Consider F.N. and F.S. convoys should continue to run as frequently as escorts allow to avoid shipping delay. (C. in C., Rosyth 1639/8)


QUEEN ELIZABETH

Probably leave New York (date) to fit out as troop transport. To proceed Singapore for dry-docking. (D. of S.T. 1648/8)

SVEADROTT
CASTOR

My 2041/30 Swedish authorities inform me they are asking for authority to send tanker CASTOR in company with SVEADROTT from Gothenburg to load oil in America.
Would prefer that two vessels should sail in company. Swedish inform me they have instructions for SVEADROTT to follow channel quoted in Notice to Mariners number 1685 of 1940. If this refers to Skagerack they point out that on account of German mine-field crossing British clear channel they are forced to take German Pilot and proceed via Christiansand along the route taken by SVEADROTT on her recent homeward voyage. (N.A. Stockholm, 1745/8)

/A.M.C.....

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War DiaryHOME COMMANDSShipping-Contd.A.M.C.
Escorts

Now that U-Boats are operating beyond 20° W., it is considered that A.M.Cs escorting H.X. convoys should turn round before reaching R/V with A/S escort.

In order that the convoy may not then be wholly unescorted, request you will consider the possibility of including one long endurance destroyer in each A/S escort which could R/V with the convoy further to the westward. (D.O.D. (H) 2222/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

8.10.1940
Tuesday



War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Straits
Patrol

When sufficient destroyers available, patrol to be instituted to prevent French unescorted ships passing through Straits. Spanish territorial waters must be respected. (1st S.L. to F.O.C.N.A., 0202/8)

SERGEANT GOUARNE

My 2215/7 Armed Trawler SERGEANT GOUARNE 2136/7 from east to west (S.O(I) Gib., 0815/8)

MILFORD

Admty. 2309/9 MILFORD may be used as additional escort, but will not be available until arrival M.T. Convoy off Cameroons River. (C. in C., S.A., 1507N/8)

French
Africa

Situation report 30, nothing to report. (D.N.I., 1628/8)

Treatment
of French
Submarines

My 2033/28/8 and 2300/14/9. Should a French submarine be met in company with a surface warship the ship is to be informed that any attempt by the submarine to dive will be treated as a hostile act and immediate retaliatory action will be taken against both ships. (Head of M. 1509/8)

Enemy
Intelligence

Air reconnaissance 9/10 unsatisfactory. 2 ships at Libreville apparently same as 6/10. 2 ships unidentified in Port Gentil. Aircraft unseen (CORNWALL 1722Z/8)

Duala
Arrivals

General de Gaulle with 700 troops arrived in COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE. WESTERLAND with 400 troops escorted by CORNWALL sailed for Pointe Noire 2200/8. Expected to arrive daylight 11/10. After disembarkation both vessels subsequently independently to Freetown. Remainder of French troops escorted by DEVONSHIRE and destroyers will sail for Duala 0715/9 SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA sailing later, engine defects. DEVONSHIRE will anchor Manoka until M.T. convoy arrives Duala.

Spears with portion of Mission proceeding Duala, remainder in WESTERLAND. FAULKNER FURY FORESTER will sail from Cameroons River bar for Freetown at 1100/9 PENNLAND sailed unescorted 2100/8 for Freetown. Expected to arrive p.m./13. (F.O.C.I.C.S., 2201/A/8)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

H.G. 45
Escorts

In view of convoy H.G. 45, consisting of over 50 ships intend to sail HOTSPUR and FIREDRAKE owing to their high endurance as extra escort till 15/10. This will mean that two of four destroyers of 13th D.F. available to S.O. Force H will consist of V E E class until return of HOTSPUR and FIREDRAKE about 17/10. (F.O.C.N.A., 1734/8) Your 2310/6. Reason to believe sailing of H.G. 45 has been reported to enemy agents. (D.N.I. to F.O.C.N.A., 1859/8)

NEURALIA

Report from master that Portuguese pilot who boarded ship at Lisbon knew distribution of Convoy O.G. 43, and that 10 ships from Portuguese ports were sailing to join convoy leaving Gib. 10/10. (S.O.I.), Gibraltar, 1722/8)

Lisbon
Shipping

Your 1047/6 and 1901/7. VIDETTE is now patrolling on line Cape Trafalgar- Cape St. Vincent. (F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, 1021/8 to N.C.S.O., Lisbon)

Air Patrols

3 surface reconn., 2 A/S patrols. (200 Group, 1720/8)

Suspicious
Ship

WINDSOR CASTLE sighted suspicious vessel 30/9 position 003° 08' S 017° 18' W., course 330° speed 12 knots. Description. Vessel may be raider homeward bound for Germany or German occupied Port. (F.O.C.N.A., 1704/8 to CUMBERLAND, AUSTRALIA, etc.)

South Atlantic

COMMISSAIRE
RAMEL

Due Capetown 4/10 from Fremantle, not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1105B/8)

BARHAM

Route amended owing large fuel consumption (BARHAM 1140Z/8)

Hospital
Ship

Union Dept. of Defence cannot spare SELANDIA, and renew urgent request for hospital ship. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1242/8)

Troop
Movements

Union Dept. of Defence have no definite plans after C.M. 4. Release of DURBAN CASTLE and LLANGIBBY CASTLE. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1246/8)

/Suspicious Ship...

MOST SECRET8.10.1940
Tuesday
War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic- Contd.Suspicious
Ship

Oiler resembling Italian TUSCANIA sighted 37.06 S., 27° E., course 280°, speed 10 knots at 0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C., 0146/8) My 0146. Silhouette of TUSCANIA closely resembles that of German tanker EUROFIELD which left Teneriffe 3/9 fully loaded. (D.D.I.C., 1257/8.) My 0146. Confirm on arrival of BRITISH VISCOUNT Abadan to Table Bay that she was not vessel referred to. (D.D.I.C., to N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1543/8)

NEPTUNE
to intercept

Admty. 0146/8. Endeavour to intercept. (c. in C., 1757N/8)

Admty. 0146/8. Norwegian PAN EUROPE located by Air Reconnaissance, 1443Z/8 in 36.49 S., 20.17 E., Silhouette similar to TUSCANIA. Due Capetown 9/10 where movements will be confirmed. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 2152B/8)

ARAWA

Required to escort convoy sailing from Freetown end of October. (C. in C., E.I., 2045/8)

Raider Report

Following received 0231/9 from HIGHLAND PRINCESS:- At 1235/8 G.M.T., Q raider distress signal was heard on I.C.W. being immediately deliberately jammed by Spark signals. Within a few seconds both stations ceased transmitting. No other particulars that the Q signal were heard. At 1540 weak I.C.W. signals apparently retransmitting the original message were heard. Deliberate interference this occasion. Both stations ceased simultaneously. Transmitting period too brief to obtain D/F bearing. My position at this time 001° 03' S., 031° 25' W., (Portishead Radio 2118/8) Repeated to C. in C., S.A., (D.N.I., 0532/9)

Following ship, possibly returning raider in 03 08 S., 17 18 W., at 1430/30 course 330 degrees 12 knots. (Description) (C. in C., W.A., 1105/8)

MOST SECRETWar Diary8.10.1940
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanPress
Communique

Your 1532/4. Reasons appreciated, but considered desirable to inform Italians Malta had been reinforced. (1st. S.L., to C. in C., Med., 1013/8)

Operation B.S.

Orders to TRIAD, (N.O.I.C., Malta 1157/8)

Evacuations

From Malta. Information requested re facilities. (V.A.Malta, 1921/8)

Aircraft
Reconnaissance

Malta situation report to 1700/8. All times G.M.T. Following aircraft carried out reconnaissances covering same area as in report of 6/10, for enemy surface forces. 03.34 - 05.50 - Swordfish of 830 squadron F.A.A. sighted at 04.18 hrs. three enemy destroyers - position 094° Delimara point - 48 miles - course 014° speed 20 knots. Enemy then increased speed to 30 knots altering course to make landfall about Syracuse. W/T silence broken to report this but no message received here hence aircraft receiving no acknowledgement returned immediately and before landing dropped message giving position of enemy at 05.45 hrs. as 124° Cape Passero - 28 miles - course 348° - speed 30 knots. Striking force not sent out as enemy would be in Augusta or near Sicilian coast off Catania when intercepted. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (Govr., Malta, 2239/8)

M/S Tug

BRITANNIA, at Alexandria, renamed BLUE DANUBE. (Hd of P Branch, 2320/8)

TRUANT

Orders for patrol and arrival Alexandria. (Capt. S. 1. 2355/8)

Bucharest W/T

Very polite with British station and asking for traffic. May indicate Germans have taken control. (C.T.C., 1315/8)

Turkish
Visit

Visit of Turkish Delegation to Fleet. V.A. Ulgen to report personally to President on his return. (C. in C., Med., 1159/8) Re instructions to Turkish Mission (Mil. Attache, Ankara, to W.O., 2000/8)

/Fleet Strength.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Fleet
Strength

My 1845/5. Re statement of requirements for attack on Libyan communications. (C. in C., Med., 1155/8) (See Mediterranean Volume)

Dodecanese

Intelligence reports on results of recent raids. (C. in C., Med., 1137/8)

East Indies

Suspicious
Ship

Oiler resembling Italian TUSCANIA sighted 37.06 S., 27° E., course 280° speed 10 knots at 0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C., 0146/8)
See South Atlantic.

U.S. 6.

Concur in A.C.N.B. 0301/8. (C. in C., E.I., 1204/8)

VARELA

Troop transport sailed for Bombay. (S.T.O., Mombasa, 0523Z/8)

Staff

Re J.P.S. and additional M.O. for Intelligence (your 1921/3) Observations, (C. in C., E.I., 0516/Z/8)

S.W. 2.

Amending his 1050/7. re position for R.V. (C. in C., E.I., 1358Z/8)

W.S. 3.

Admty. 2300/7. Unless ARAWA available, CARTHAGE can escort W.S. 3. (slow) from Durban to Aden. Complications will arise due to W.S. 3. Possibly coinciding on being close to B.N. 8 and B.S. 8. may be necessary to use DORSETSHIRE or ask C. in C., Med., for assistance. (C. in C., E.I., 0954Z/8)

Dhina

Wei-Hai-Wei
Withdrawal

F.O. tel. 1060 to Tokyo, re Wei-Hai-Wei. Request you arrange for withdrawal of personnel and as far as possible stores and yard craft as proposed by N.O.I.C. Wei-Hai-Wei 0057/2. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., China, 1916/8)

Singapore
Defence
Conference

C.O.S. telegram No 12. Decided that C. in C., China, should preside. Hoped representatives of U.S.A. and N.E.I., will be brought in. (1st. S.L., 1608/8)

MOST SECRET

8.10.1940

TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West IndiesRaider
Reports

ANTONIA 0850/8. Raider reported was H.M.S. AUSONIA (AUSONIA 0905/8) QQQQ 45.00 N., 41.50 W., ATHELQUEEN. Unknown ship closing 1545. QQQQ 44.56 N., 41.47 W., ATHELQUEEN. Unknown ship closing 1556. (Lands End Radio, 1654/8, 1701/8) ATHELQUEEN, cancel my distress 1633/8. (Portishead Radio, 1743/8)

HAKOZAKI MARU

Your 1602/7. Ship to be detained. (D.E.W.D to C. in C., A.W.I., 1352/8) Following from M.E.W. HAKOZAKI MARU may now be released (D.E.W.D., 1828/8 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Halifax
Oil Storage

Your 1141/4. Welcome any steps you may take in accordance with your para (7) to meet requirements that can be definitely foreseen. Details of your para (2) seem to envisage circumstances which could not arise unless there had been a successful invasion of this country, which could only be achieved after the destruction of the Fleet. Such a contingency is, we think, even more remote now than when the Prime Minister made his declaration on 4/7) (Hd. of M., 1406/8 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

French M.V.

Following from Air Mail Censorship. CHARLES L.D. left Casablanca 28/9 for Martinique with soldiers for repatriation. Ship due Martinique 10/10 will remain approximately 10 days and return to Morocco with load of sugar. Propose to intercept her on departure from Martinique if other commitments allow. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1101/8)

AustraliaU.S. 5. A.

Route. Escort PERTH (D.N.O., W. Australia, 0125Z/8) PERTH and U.S. 5. A. arrived Fremantle 1040Z/7. ADELAIDE arrived Sydney 2026Z/7. (A.C.N.B., 0100Z/8) Left Fremantle 2300Z/7 for Bombay. Escorts (A.C.N.B. 0951Z/8)

U.S. 6.

Admty. 1610/6. Proposed escort. Sydney to Bass Straits, ADELAIDE; Bass Straits to R.V. in Indian Ocean, PERTH; thence to Bombay, CANBERRA. (A.C.N.B., 0301Z/8) Prospective sailing date. (A.C.N.B., 0518Z/8)

U.S. 7 and 8

Composition and prospective sailing dates. (A.C.N.B., 0518Z/8)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

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8.10.1940
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

EUROFELD

Ship sighted resembling - See South Atlantic.

(a) KLAUS SCHOKE) My 1910/4. Both ships in inner harbour to
(b) LUISE BORNHOFEN) Transfer 100 tons coal from (b) to (a)
probably on 8/10. (V.C., Horta, 2250/7)
Considerable activity in business ashore.
(V.C. Horta, 2359/8)

RUDE/SCHHEIMER

B. 2 report SPRINGFJORD. launched 1939 at Trondheim for a London firm, left Trondheim 30/9 with troops. Reported renamed RUDERSCHEIM.

ARKADIA

Arrived Istanbul 4/10. Due to leave 11/10 for Odessa and Braila. (D.S. 400)

SALZBURG

Arrived from Istanbul with 2078 tons general cargo. (Galatz, 1021/8)

Lulea

All German ore ships with double decks in Lulea on 30/9 ordered to return to Germany at once. (D.S. 400)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CARMEN

C. 2. report. torpedoed off Durazzo on 30/9. (D.S. 399)

ORATA

Discharging her cargo ashore at Las Palmas on 4/10. (D.S. 400)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

CHARLES L.D.

See America and West Indies.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

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8.10.1940

Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRITISH GENERAL
(Torpedoed 6/10)

Failed to find in positions given. Must abandon search at 1200/8. Fuel only to reach Londonderry. Search restricted by yesterday's gale. 51.25 N., 21.40 W., (HARVESTER, 0930/8)

TANCRED
(Sunk 26/9)

Norwegian TANCRED sunk by one torpedo 0707 G.M.T. 26/9 053° 32' N., 024° 35" W. Submarine not seen before attack but surfaced and shelled ship after abandonment then proceeded west on surface could not be described owing to darkness. No casualties Full crew 36 arrived New York in Norwegian TRICOLOUR, life boat stood by watched ship sinking. (N.C.SO. New York, 1451/8)

TOURAINÉ
(Torpedoed 7/10)

Norwegian 5811 tons, torpedoed 1615/7. 12 survivors picked up in 55.14 N., 10.34 W., by DERBYSHIRE. 2 more boats in vicinity. Ships had not sunk by 1900/7. (DERBYSHIRE 2115/8)

CONFIELD

Torpedoed 2030/8 See 9/10.

Submarines Reported

0432

D.F. Unidentified enemy unit, probable U-Boat, 58.40 N., 4.40 E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 0540/8)

1211

55°-56° N., 22°-25° W., say 500' W. of Bloody Foreland. (D.S.)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: No Information.
German : 1 in about 55° N- 56° N., 22° W- 25° W., at 1211/8.
1 or 2 more well West of 20° W. between latitudes 50° N and 58° N.
1 probably between 53° 30' N., and 55° N., and 15° and 20° W.
No information of any U/B East of 15° W., 1 about 58° N., 5° E at 0432/8, homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C., 1258/8)



9.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Three ships of Convoy S.C. 6. were torpedoed 300 miles N.W. of Malin Head about 2100 today (GRAIGWEN, ZANNES GOUNARIS, DELPHIN)

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night attacked Channel ports, docks at the Hague, Bremen shipyards, and TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven; near misses, including that of a 200 lb S.A.P. bomb were seen near the latter.

One Blenheim also bombed Le Havre quays today.

Enemy Air Activity

Two attacks were made on St. Merrym R.N.A.S. Station today. Damage was done and the aerodrome is unserviceable due to unexploded bombs.

Damage was caused at the London dock area in attacks today.

SS ALDERNEY QUEEN was bombed and machine gunned at 1600 today in the southern Irish Sea, and was sunk. *See P. 210.*

Mining

Operation B. S. 40

Three Swordfish laid mines off the mouth of the Emx River.

M/S Trawler SEA KING was sunk by underwater explosion in Grimsby Roads this evening.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off the north east coast between Hartlepool and St. Abbs Head and between Flamborough Head and the Humber. The Humber was opened this morning.

Tees and Hartlepool were closed this evening.

/Operations.....



War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

The French submarine PONCELET which was previously at Libreville is reported to have arrived at Port Gentile (French Equatorial Africa) 3/10.

General de Gaulle landed at Duala today and was well received.

Mediterranean

At 0418/8 a Swordfish of F.A.A. sighted 3 enemy destroyers off Eastern Sicily and reported, but no message was received in Malta. Receiving no acknowledgement, the aircraft returned at once and dropped a message giving the position of the enemy. The latter would have been in Augusta or near the coast of Sicily when intercepted, and no striking force was sent out.

3 Blenheims today attacked shipping at Tobruk. Two tankers were hit and on one of them a fire started. Direct hits were made on a large ship.

Four enemy aircraft which approached Malta this morning were intercepted by a British aircraft. One of the enemy was shot down and another so damaged as to be unlikely to reach its base.

East Indies

Blenheims attacked targets at Assab again today. The fires started during the attack early yesterday morning were still burning at 0600 today.



War Diary

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MOST SECRET

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
~~DELUGE~~ Signals

At 0200/9 (D.C. 0228/9) At 1400/9 (D.C. 1401/9)

Nore Command
Notice for
Steam

Ships not required for duty keep steam at 4 hours notice. (C. in C., Nore, 1055/9)

Policy

A/A Defence of
South Coast Towns

The attack by single planes on South Coast town presents an awkward problem.

Eastbourne for instance is visited daily and yesterday was five times bombed by a single machine.

I suggest that a partial antidote to this form of attack which appears to be steadily on the increase, would be some mobile A/A guns, which could move from town to town and spring a surprise on the enemy, who would offer easy targets as they fly low on these occasions. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1027/9 to Adty.)

The ruse is already being employed by Fighter Command in accordance with their appreciation of the tactical situation and requirements. (D. of L.D. 2107/9 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Force "Active"
~~ACTIVE~~

753. Understand Force ^{"Active"}~~ACTIVE~~ is being disbanded. Commanding Officers have already gone. Suggest vessels at Newhaven with C. and M parties where they will be available at short notice if required. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2217/9 to Admty.)

Movements

30th M/S
Flotilla

Admty. 1831/7. Intend sailing Flotilla less SHOVA 10/10 to join F.N. 4. for passage to Rosyth. (F.O.Humber 1130/9 to Adty.)

SCIMITAR

Your 0930/9. Remain at Lough Foyle. (C. in C., W.A., 1227/9 to SCIMITAR)

Dover

Patrols for night 9/10. (V.A.Dover, 1442/9)

JERSEY

Request you sail JERSEY from Humber at 0700/10 for Plymouth to arrive there about 0700/11. Route. (C. in C., Nore, 1514/9 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

/Trawler Lines...

MOST SECRET9.10.1940
Wednesday
War DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements-Contd.Northern Patrol

Trawler Lines 9/10. (A.C.O.S. 1536/9)

PortsmouthMovements for night 9/10. (C. in C.,
Portsmouth 1557/9)Rosyth AreaEstimated positions for 2000/9. (C. in C.,
Rosyth 1746/9)Nore CommandM.T.B's available at Harwich, Chatham and
Sheerness. (C. in C., Nore, 1915/9)DOUGLASIntend sailing DOUGLAS on completing
fuelling as by R.A.D.'s 1154/7. (F.O.I.C.
Greenock, 1053/9 to R.A.D.) Delayed by
electrical defects. Intend to sail her
at 0630/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1604/9 to
R.A.D.)OperationsOperation "Fruit"
~~FRUIT~~

Cancelled. (V.A.Dover 0658/9 to H.Q.F.C.)

Operation "Lucid"
~~LUCID~~Seems necessary consider possibility that
enemy may now have information about
operation Lucid. After 4 postponements
talk on shore more or less inevitable.
Other pointers are new mine-fields off
South Goodwin and tendency to bring E-Boats
to Calais and Boulogne while keeping outer
harbours comparatively clear of shipping.
Suggest this valuable operation be deferred
till good target exists at one or both ports.
If outer harbour sufficiently full there
would be little need to cancel operation
due to wind not being in desired direction.
(C. in C., Nore, 0936/9 to Admty.)New A/S
Submarine Patrol
in AtlanticYour 2127/8. Approved. (C. in C., H.F.,
0937/9 to V.A.S.)My 0937/9 only referred to use of CLYDE
for this patrol.Position of patrol is matter for C. in C.,
W.A. Re D.F. Watch being maintained.

(C. in C., H.F., 1301/9 to V.A.S.)

Your 2127/8. Concur. (C. in C., W.A., 1317/9
to V.A.S.)

/Iceland.....



War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Iceland

Admty. 1925⁵/ ANTHONY and AMAZON escort for WORCESTERSHIRE, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, (C. in C., W.A., 0947/9 to F.O.I.C., Greenock)

Admty. 1650/8. It is of real importance to security ideas that air R.C. be maintained with good shelter which army are ready to provide appears no reason why R/C to full endurance of Walrus should not be carried out on even shortest days if weather good enough to make enemy landing a possibility. Large number of sheltered fiords Iceland which enemy submarines could use require air R/C.

No other means of investigating report from fishing vessels or coast watchers.

A/S Patrol Reykjavik of importance in view of large amount of sea transport during coming winter. Only alternative appears to be flying boats. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1654/9 to Adty.)

Your 1704/8. ST. CLAIR should be sailed for Reykjavik as arranged in Convoy B.A.S. 4 (D.O.D. H. 2128/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Force D

Intend to carry out operation on lines of D.H. with FURIOUS, BERWICK, NORFOLK and necessary Destroyers. Force to sail pm/12 and carry out phase one during moonlight 15/16 with option of 24 hours postponement if weather unsuitable. Phase two will only be carried out if circumstances favourable. Force would return to Scapa about 20/10, and ill be known as Force D. (C. in C., H.F. 1013/9 to Adty.)

My 1013/9. Oiler MONTENOL escorted by 2 Tribals to be sailed for Skaale Fiord Faroes to arrive p.m. 12/10. After completing with fuel, these destroyers are to rendezvous with force D. as required to provide screen for phase one, the original screen returning to Scapa. When relieved, on completion of phase one, the 2 Tribals are to escort Oiler MONTENOL back to Scapa. F.O.C.B.C.S. pass by hand to FURIOUS and BERWICK. (C. in C., H.F. 1019/9 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET9.10.1940
Wednesday
War DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperation-Contd.Operation "Medium"
~~Medium~~
(Bomber Command of
Cherbourg)

Your 2350/8. Request information as to number, type, and, if possible, formation of Fighter Escort. (C. in C., W.A., 1222/9 to Adty.)

Reference para. 6 of my letter Ops/51 of 8/10. Cancellation if made by Bomber Command is to be passed to Coastal Command by 1800 hours. Cancellation if made by Royal Navy will be passed to Coastal Command via 15 Group by 1900 hours. As already instructed Coastal Command should pass cancellation to all concerned. (Air Ministry 1300/9 to Air Commands)

Request you inform CARDIFF, VANOC, VOLUNTEER that Motor Gunboats will not take part owing to weather. (C. in C., W.A., 1449/9 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Operation postponed 24 hours. C. in C., Portsmouth inform Force F. (C. in C., W.A. 1733/9 to Adty., C. in C., Portsmouth, V.A.Dover, V.A.S. REVENGE, D. 5. and NEWCASTLE) (H.Q.C.C. 1755/9 to 15 Group)

My 1733/9. Request arrangements be made with either Bomber or Coastal Command for Operation to be carried out at 0330/11. (C. in C., W.A., 1744/9 to Adty.)

Re special orders re recognition of friendly aircraft and tactics of escorting fighters. (Air Ministry, 1800/9 to Adty.)

ALERT

A/L. M 040327/40 of 3/10. Propose that ALERT be based at Newhaven for the operation, which can take place as soon as she arrives there. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1627/9 to Adty.)

EREBUS

Your 1536/8. Dunkirk Dock Area appears a profitable Target. (A.C.N.S., H 2217/9 to C. in C., Nore.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.10.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSSubmarinesWILK

Passes May Island 1930/9 for Patrol near 58° 10' N., 4° 40' E., Route (Capt. S. 3rd S/M. F. 1139/9 to SUNFISH) to proceed to patrol in 58° 55' N., 4° 30' E., (F.O.S. 2012/9)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/10. (V.A.S 1604/9 and 2049/9)

Bombing Information

My 1126/2. Havre. (F.O.S. 1716/9 to UPRIGHT)

My 102/100 of 16th August. Three submarines are required weekly commencing 14/10. As I am informed only two submarines are available from 7th S/M.F. it is requested that application may be made to V.A. S/M for a third S/M. Three S/Ms are required from now onwards. (NIMROD 1729/9 to Capt. S. 7.)

UPRIGHT

In D. 4. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1735/9)

RUBIS)
SUNFISH)
STURGEON)

In view of enemy activity in Skaggerak, RUBIS to proceed to 59° 20' N., 4° 20' E., SUNFISH and STURGEON are not to return to Base, but are to remain on patrol until further orders. (V.A.S. 1852/9 to S/Ms in Area A.)
SUNFISH to patrol near 58° 30' N., 5° 10' E
STURGEON in Zone C. 1. (F.O.S. 2012/9)

E-BoatsAldeburgh

Following from WAVEFLOWER. Small craft proceeding at high speed North Easterly. Our position Aldeburgh Float. (N.O.I.C., Harwich 0115/9 to GUILLEMOT, SHEARWATER)

War Diary

9.10.1940

WednesdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air ActivityBELLONA II

British, 840 tons. Bombed and set on fire 8/10. 4 miles East of Gourdon. 11 killed, 17 picked up by Gourdon Lifeboat. Ship burning but still afloat and drifting North. A/P Trawler TERVANI ordered to stand by and tow to Dundee. (C. in C., Rosyth 0111/9 to Admty) *See Page 153.*

Lee-on-Solent
Naval Air Station

Air Raid on p.m./8. Details of damage. Repairs estimated £50. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1230/9 to C.E. in C., Adty.)

Ford R.N.
Air Station

Air-Raid at dusk 8/10. Details of damage. Full details not yet available. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1240/9 to C.E. in C., Adty.)

Sheerness

2 bombs were dropped near A/A Range. No immediate repairs needed. (O.C.W. Sheerness 1240/9 to Civil Lord.)

Eastleigh
R.N. Station

Air-Raid at dusk 8/10. Details of damage. Repairs estimated £100 (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1913/9 to C.E. in C., Adty.)

St. Merryn

2 attacks at 1900 and 2015/9 by at least 2 Dornier Aircraft with H.E. and Incendiary Bombs. No casualties. Some damage. Aerodrome unserviceable owing to U.X.B's. (St. Merryn 2105/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Portland

Attacks on Dockyard by 2 aircraft between 2020 and 2140. About 8 bombs dropped. Details of damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2227/9 to Adty.)

MiningHumber

Heavy Explosion reported by a Balloon Barrage Drifter at 0402/9 near and to Northward of Chequer Shoal Buoy. (F.O. Humber, 0930/9 to Adty.)
Humber is open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1016/9 to Adty.)

ACTUOSITY

British, 359 tons, in Convoy F.S. 97, sank after striking submerged object at 0400/3rd October, about half a mile West of No 8 B Buoy laid in 52° 57' 30" N., 1° 29' 30" E. No pronounced impact or explosion, but strong smell of gas detected. Crew landed at Cromer. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1140/3 to Adty.) Note: Message received 1215/8/10.

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.10.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSMining-Contd.SN. 6A. 1A.

Cancel my 1109/8. Proposed position of Field as follows (R.A.M.L. 1421/9 to Adty.)

SN.10 A
SN.100

Unless SN.10 A can be carried out before 12/10, intend to carry out SN.100 (Trial Lay off Port ZA) on that date. (R.A.M.L. 1523/9 to Adty.)

Tees)
Hartlepool)

Ports closed owing to suspected Minelaying. Weather at present unfavourable for sweeping (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2115/9 to Adty.)

SEA KING
(M/S Trawler)

Regret report loss by underwater explosion in Grimsby Roads. Believed no survivors. (F.O. Humber 2141/9 to Adty.)

Enemy IntelligencePossible
Raider

M/V sighted 30/9 in 3°S 17° W., steering 330° at 12 knots may be a homeward bound Raider. Description. (F.O.C.N.P. 1149/9 to Northern Patrol)

Cherbourg

Photographic R/C on 5 and 7/10. (D.D.I.C. 1216/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Skagerrak

German W/T activity suggest passage of German Naval Unit, possibly Destroyers or larger vessels, through Skagerrak and Northwards along coast of Norway commencing p.m./9. (V.A.S. 1852/9 to S/M's Area A)

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.10.1940
WednesdayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSDROMORE CASTLE

British, 5242 tons. Due Durban 5/9 from Cardiff. Not arrived. (S.O.(I) Cape Town, 1215/B/9 to Adty.)

ANDELLE

Due Durban 5/9 from Freetown. Not arrived. (S.O.(I) Cape Town, 1215 B/9 to Adty.)

DOUGLAS

Delayed by electrical defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1604/9 to R.A.D.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.10.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSConvoysShipping

HX 76 B HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to R.V. (C. in C., W.A., 1410/9)

FS 5 & FN 7 Postponed 24 hours. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1511/9, 1526/9)

WN 21 CURACOA to rejoin, previous order to meet HX 76 cancelled (R.A.D. H.F., 1913/9)

BAS 4 ST CLAIR to sail for Reykjavik in. (D.O.D. (H) 2128/9)

HX 76 A HEARTSEASE to join (C. in C., W.A., 1609/9) Position at 1800/9. Waiting arrival of HX 76 B dispersing 2200 (HEARTSEASE, 1805/9) Cancel my 1609 (C. in C., W.A., 2127/9)

HX 79 Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. 2200/8)

SL 51 Additions to 1522/4 (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1147/9)

HX 77 Amend route (D.T.D., 1253/9 Cancelled) (C. in C., W.A., to RANPURA, 1520/9 and to F.O.C.N.P., 1540/9)

HX 80 Ocean escort LACONIA, sailing 12/10, returning to Halifax (F.O. 3 B.S. 1214/9) My 1453/8 COULTARN carrying explosives. (N.O.I.C., Halifax 1454/8)

SHX 80 Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O., Halifax 1040/9)

HX 81 Time and position (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1029/9)

OG 44 Delayed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1239/9)

HX 79 Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 2205/8 recd. 1046/9)

HG 45 List, cargoes, distributions. (F.O.C.N.A. 2141/9)

SL 48 Instructions re BRITISH AMBASSADOR (D.O.D. (H) 1811/9)

OB 226 List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0916/9)

OA 227 Route (N.C.S.O., Methil, 0943/9)

HG 45 Route (F.O.C.N.A., 2130/9) (D.T.D. 1933/9)

EN and WN Proposed cycle (D.T.D., 1933/9) Concur in C. in C., Rosyth 1639/8 (C. in C., Nore, 0957/9)

/Air Escort.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping-Contd.Air Escort

Admty. 1906/4, notifying increase in convoy traffic East and North Coast. Fighter escort impracticable. Fighter cover will be provided to best ability of squadrons available. (H.Q., F.C., to Admty 1635/9)

Convoy Positions

Estimated for 2000/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1746/9)

Odd Convoys
OB 226
SL 49

SS BEACHY expects to leave Clyde ^{9/10} in Convoy O.B.C. 226. BEACHY and ~~escort~~ will leave Convoy about p.m./12. Will rendezvous with convoy SL 49 about 13/10 and return to Clyde with them. Balloon may fly as high as 2500 feet. (D.S.D. 1024/9 to Air Min. F.O.6.)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 3. Escorts in South Atlantic and Red Sea (D.O.D. (F) 1354/9) Request appreciation of positions of both parts and escorts. (D.C. 2125/9) Reply (C. in C., W.A. 2223/9) Parted company with KENYA and Clyde portion at 1600. Weather bad. Damage to destroyers. (ACTIVE 2310/9) Routes (C. in C., W.A., 1030/9, 1040/9)

W.S. 4. Provisional cruiser escorts.

Avoiding Contacts

Attention of Commodores to be drawn to M.N. Code, article 54 A. Importance of ships keeping clear of an escort vessel investigating a contact to be stressed at convoy conferences.

St. Lawrence

Re routing by N.C.S.O's Clyde and Liverpool of ships for Quebec, Montreal, etc., by longer route south of Bermuda, Anticosti. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1804/7)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN

A.M. 1925/5. Sailing cancelled. (D.O.D.(H) 1204/9)

ALA

Norwegian. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to intercept (C. in C., W.A., 1530/9) Take no further action regarding ALA. (C. in C., W.A., 2300/9)

Norwegian. Trawler to intercept. (C. in C., W.A., 2310/9) Sailed H.M.T. SPHERE (F.O.I.C Belfast, 0135/10)

MOST SECRET9.10.1940
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSShipping-Contd.Coal Situation

Remarks on, in view of expected delays in turn round of shipping East Coast. (C. in C., Nore, 2220/9)

Zigzagging

Cancel my 1933/6 and 1707/7. Amended instructions (D.T.D., 1734/9) Your 2020/7 Admty. 1933/6 and 1707/7 are being cancelled and a revised signal being sent out. In this Commodores are being instructed that they must make the R.V. on correct approach course. Evasive steering is not to be carried out E of 10° W when south of 57° N. (D.T.D. to C. in C., W.A., 1510/9)

MOST SECRET.9.10.1940.
WednesdayWar Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAzores,
SHEFFIELD.

Probable objectives of any enemy attack. (D.O.D. (F) to SHEFFIELD, 1927/9).
On parting company from W.S.3, SHEFFIELD to patrol vicinity of Azores to prevent any enemy attempt to capture these islands. Instructions. (A.C.N.S.(F) to SHEFFIELD, 1915/9).

Lisbon.

Belgian ships at. Reply to Admty. 1941/7. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1452/8).

AUSTRALIA.

On arrival at Gibraltar, temporarily to form part of Force H. (D.O.D. (F) 1914/9) Admty. 1913/4. From 0330 Z/5 to 0100 Z/8 patrol maintained between line 020° from Arnel Point, St. Miguel, and Comprida Point to depth of 55 miles from line St. Miguel - Graciosa. Nothing sighted. (AUSTRALIA, 0935/9).

9.10.40.
Wednesday.



War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Force H
Report.

Admiralty 1635/8. My R. of P No.68/9 of 7/10 covering period of Azores Patrol despatched in Sunderland flying boat which arrived U.K. 8/10. (S.O. Force H, 0850/9).

Libreville.
Food.

Following from Gen. de Gaulle. From intercepted telegram, Vichy Force in Gabon serious food shortage. Imperative all supplies to Libreville should be stopped 1850/8. (C.in C. S.A. 0934/9).

French
Submarine.

Consul.Gen. Leopoldville states French Intelligence Bureau reports from Gabon that submarine PONCELET arrived port Gentile 3/10. (C.in C.S.A, 1717N/9, 1833N/9). This is one of submarines previously reported at Libreville. (C.in C. S.A. 2017/9).

Dakar.
Expected
Attack.

Consul, Tangier, No 48 to F.O. reports that French Navy Office, Casablanca, convinced we are shortly going to launch a second attack on Dakar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2048/9). Report on Dakar by Master of Swedish MILOS (C.in C.S.A. 2031/9).

Freetown.
Reconn.
by French
A/C.

Visited by French A/C 7 times during 12 days. Undesirable should be exposed to frequent reconn. Urge A/A defences should be completed and increased, and completion of Hastings aerodrome and provision of fighter squadron hastened. (C.in C. S.A. 1837/9).

Report of
enemy ships.


N.A. Madrid 1301/7. Details of ships which passed westbound (Spanish). (S.O.I. Gib. 1552/9).

French
Intelligence.

From interrogation of French personnel who have arrived Gibraltar from Morocco. (S.O.I. Gib. 1246/9).

French Submarine
Crew.

Admty. 1329/3. BARHAM has on board 5 officers and 62 ratings survivors from (?French) submarine AJAX. Presume instructions will be given for disposal on arrival Gibraltar. (C.in C. S.A. 1845/9).

9.10.40.
Wednesday.
War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.(Contd.)Duala.
French
Submarine.
(PONCELET)

On arrival of M.T. Convoy A/S watch at anchor is to be maintained as follows; MILFORD to anchor in mid channel to S.E. of number 3 buoy, KELT in mid channel between B and C buoys. When all ships of convoy have been taken to Duala, MILFORD and KELT are to anchor to southward of base buoy as arranged by MILFORD and keep A/S watch to protect DEVONSHIRE in Monaka anchorage. French submarine is reported as having left Libreville. (PONCELET) (F.O.I.C.S. 1126A/9). *See previous page.*

KELT.

After arrival of M.T. Convoy and if not required by you or at Duala, to proceed Lagos, coal and then proceed Freetown. (C.in C.S.A.1809/9).

Destroyers.

My 2201/8. Expected time of arrival Freetown 0800/13. (F.O.I.C.S. 2355/9).

L'AUDACIEUX.

French Press 2/10 - 5/10. Admty. announce destroyer L'AUDACIEUX severely hit Dakar, ran aground. (Wolffson.1100/9).

Dakar.
Situation.

Becoming normal. Martial law abolished 3/10. Food situation improved. Majority pro- De Gaulle before action. Great number would still support De Gaulle if led. (Acting Govr., Sierra Leone, 1953/9).
South Atlantic.

ARAWA.

To be at disposal of C.in C.S.A. from arrival Capetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1354/9).

CUMBERLAND.

To continue as escort for W.S.3 (Slow) to Durban, handing over to CARTHAGE. (D.O.D.(F) 1354/9).

DORSETSHIRE.

May if necessary be used for Red Sea escort of W.S.3 (Fast). (D.O.D.(F) 1354/9).

ULSTER PRINCE.

Sailed from Capetown 0725/9. Route as C.inC. E.I.0812Z/29/9. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 0734B/9).

DROMORE CASTLE.
ANDELLE.

Due Durban 5/9 from Cardiff and Freetown respectively, not arrived. (S.O.I) Capetown, 1215B/9).

KELT.

~~After arrival of M.T. Convoy and if not required by you or at Duala, to proceed Lagos, coal, and proceed Freetown. (C.inC.S.A. to 1.0.8. etc. 1809/9). See above.~~

9.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Raider.

^W
A raider has been reported in neighbourhood 000° 033° 00' at 1235Z/8. As soon as you have made satisfactory arrangements about TOUAREG at Takoradi proceed I 34 and thence to Freetown to arrive p.m./17 for convoy W.S. 3. CORNWALL on leaving Pointe Noire proceed through position 005° 00'w.014° 00'w and thence to Freetown to refuel. (C.in C. S.A. 2019N/9 to DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL).

Mediterranean.

Turkey.

Chiefs of Staff agree to attitude of frankness with Turkey's and concur in your proposals. (W.O. to C.in C. M.E. 0020/9).

KENT.

To be sailed when ready via Cape for final repair in U.K. (D.O.D.(F) 1355/9).

Turkey.

Mission arrived 6/10. Message for C.I.G.S. from Gen. Wavell. (C.in C. M.E. 1055/7 recd. from W.O. 1750/9).

Movements.

^{? Arrives}
RAINBOW, TRUANT, and TRIAD. Convoy L E 21, escort KINGSTON CORAL leaves Alexandria p.m/9 for Port Said 10/10 Haifa 11/10. (C.in C. Med. 1532/9). TRIAD, ROVER, PROTEUS, RAINBOW, REGENT and PARTHIAN. Convoy M.F.3 escorted by COVENTRY, CALCUTTA and 4 destroyers, leaves Alexandria about 1600/8. (C.in C. Med. 2022/8, recd. 1627/10).

Greece.

Urging assistance by air to defend Athens against Italians, otherwise Greeks may be discouraged and crumble up. (N.A.Athens, 1201/9).

East Indies.

SHROPSHIRE.

My 1124/2. Temporarily attached to Red Sea Force. (C.in C.E.I. 0302Z/9).

Raider.
Report.

GURNA reported suspicious vessel 01.40 N, 74.00 E. at 1135Z/9. Cancelled message 1356Z. Cancellation was genuine. (C.in C.E.I. 1456Z/9).

A.P.3.

Amending N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1530/6 (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0828Z/9).

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.10.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.U.S. 6.U.S. 8.

Admty. 1921/5 and A.C.N.B., 0518/8.
Prospective sailing date for U.S. 6.
Impossible to give decision re availability
of shipping for transshipment U.S. 8. (S.S.T.C
Bombay, 1333Z/9)

Djibuti

Admty. 2017/4. Letter from French N.A. re
transport of surplus French troops Djibuti
to Indo-China. (N.A. Madrid, 1851/9)

ORONSAY

In W.S. 3. Intend ship shall join slow
group of W.S. 3. fro onward passage from
Capetown to Suez so as to avoid her having
to replenish at Aden. (C. in C., E.I.,
1422/9) Your 1422/9 ORONSAY has not sailed
with W.S. 3. (Fast) due to damage. (D.O.D. (F)
1011/10)

B.S. 6.

Left 9/10 KHAN DALLA, escorted YARRA to
join B.S. 6. and to Bombay. (N.O.I.C.,
Port Sudan, 0835/9)

ChinaSingapore
Conference

Representatives to attend and subjects for
discussion. (Chief of Staff tel No 13.)
(1st S.L. to C. in Cs China and E.I., 1331/9)

REGENSBURG
Raider

German ship REGENSBURG outside Yokohama
27/9 not since heard of. Reported short
provisioned but this may be deliberate
attempt to mislead, likely intention to re-
fuel and stoke raider. Raider described
as similar to UCKERMARK in Admty's 1814/14
may still be in Pacific. C. in C., N.E.I.
informed. (Capt O.S. Singapore, 1046Z/9)

Strategical
considerations

Re mines, minesweepers and M.T.B's re-
quired for various bases. Trade protection
Re inclusion of Burma, Andamans and Nicobar
Is. in China Station. (C. in C., China,
0743Z/9)

/America.....



War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

French Trade

Suggesting diplomatic action to request U.S. to restrict trade with French West Indies. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1231/9 to Admty)

SAGUENAY
MARGAREE

Desired to sail SAGUENAY independently for U.K. as soon as possible after completion of docking on about 14/10. When SAGUENAY's programme is known intend to ask Admiralty to sail MARGAREE to cross SAGUENAY in Western Approaches. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1841/9)

9.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KLAUS
SCHOKE

Vice-Consul, Horta, indicates may sail during night 8-9/10. (F.O.C.N.A. 0549/9, to AUSTRALIA, SHEFFIELD and MORETON Bay). Further report indicates likelihood of early sailing. Positions in harbour. (Fayal, Horta, 1145/9 F.O.C.N.A. to ships in N.A. Station, 2138/9.)

REGENSBURG.

Outside Yokohama 27/9, not since heard of - see China Station. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 1046 Z/9).

ANNE LIESE ^{NE} AN LIESE)
ESSBERGER)
KULMERLAND)

Kobe 9/10. Believed sailed. Expect further report. (Capt. O.S., Singapore 0114/10).

KHAKA

Left in ballast for Russia. (Galatz 1011/19)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

SI KIANG

Left 9/10 for Haiphong. (N.C.S.O. Saigon, 07572/9).

9.10.1940.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.CONFIELD
(torpedoed
8/10).

British, 4956 tons. Needs immediate assistance (C.in C. W.A. 1037/9) 56.56 N., 10° W. Fore part under water. 5 crew still on board. Consider no chance of salvage, ship gradually settling. Weather details. (WESTON, 1210/9). OTTAWA to assist (C.in C. W.A. 1213) Cancel my 0950/9. SALVONIA and SEAMAN to assist CONFIELD in 56.48 N., 10.17 W. at 1037 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1135/9). Received from Sullom Voe at 1245/9. Oban from A/C X 201 Sqn., CONFIELD - 549 5 survivors, 525, 56.48 N., 10.17 W. 0950. (Scapa W/T, 1315/9). SALVONIA proceeding, easy speed, strong N.W. gale, SEAMAN returning Campbeltown, engine defect. (SALVONIA, 1230/9). Your 1230, return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1525/9). Taken off 5 survivors. Captain reports torpedoed at 2030/8. 35 took to boats. Ship settling, no chance of salvage. Intend sinking her, am rejoining convoy. (WESTON, 1330/9 C.in C. W.A., 1459/9). My 1037/9 CONFIELD was torpedoed in this position at 2030/8. (C.in C. W.A. 1617/9).

GRAIGWEN

Torpedoed and sunk 2110/9. (see 10/10)

ZANNIS GOURANIS

" " " "

DELPHIN

Torpedoed 2110/9. (see 10/10).

Have lost touch with enemy submarine submerged enemy's last position was 56° N. 8° W. 3755. Present visibility towards the surface is 2 miles, submarine turning. 1345/9 1400.

Submarines Reported.0808,)
0848,)
0943)

58.04 N., 17° W., say 100' W.N.W. of Rockall, indefinite position (D.S. 400-

1024.

52.30 N., 17°-19° W., say 300' W. of Loup Head, indefinite position (D.S. 400)

/ 1440

9.10.1940.
WednesdayWar Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Continued)

1440. Aircraft report, submerged submarine, 56.35 N., 7.05 W., course 360. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1510/9, C.in C. W.A., 1531/9). HORNPIPE, SALVIA and NASTURTIUM proceeding. (WESTERN ISLES, 1735/9)
1550. D.F. bearing indicate U-boat in 58° N., 14° W., to 16° W., may be shadowing you. (C.in C. W.A. to ENCHANTRESS for Commodore (S.C.6), 1550/9).
2040. D.F. at 2040, unknown enemy unit, probably U/B, 56.45 N., 10° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 2117/9).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian: No information
 German: 2 well west of 20degs. W. of which 1 is probably North of 56 degs. 30' N. and the other South of 53 degs. N. 1 about 52 degs. 30' N. 17 degs. - 19 degs. W. at 1024/9.
 1 about 58degs. N. 17 degs. W. at 0943/9.
 1 North of 55 degs. and East of 11 degs. W. 1 about 100-150 miles Westward of Finisterre. (D.D.I.C. 1346/9.)

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940

Thursday
War DiarySITUATION REPORTHome Commands2nd Towns
Flotilla

BRIGHTON was delayed today by defects. The remaining four destroyers of the 2nd Towns Flotilla sailed this morning from Belfast for *Plymouth*.

Dover
Shelled

* T.H.V.

Franzelle battery fired 20 shells at Dover this evening. *ALERT, which was straddled, is considered by V.A. Dover to have been the cause of the shelling. No ^Naval damage occurred.

2nd Town
Flotilla

The Town class destroyer ST MARYS was holed by a tug when clearing the Wharf at Belfast about 1200/10.

A/S Vessels

C. in C., Home Fleet again urges that all available A/S ships should be employed on A/S rather than anti-invasion duties. He is convinced that one of the main causes of our lack of success in counter-attacking U-boats is lack of practice by our A/S vessels with a submarine.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command last night attacked Calais, Le Havre, Flushing and docks at Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

Owing to adverse weather Blenheims carried out no operations today.

Coastal Command last night attacked shipping at Boulogne. One of two Swordfish dropped bombs on Dunkirk docks. Both aircraft reported great activity at Cap Gris Nez.

The harbour and destroyers at Brest were attacked by 6 Naval Albacores attached to Coastal Command; it is thought that one destroyer received a direct hit and another two hits, and that oil tanks, hangars, and workshops were hit.

Late this evening aircraft of Coastal Command successfully bombed the docks at Le Havre and Den Helder, also shipping at Lorient, scoring hits on destroyers, buildings workshops and stores.

MOST SECRETWar Diary10.10.1940
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity

Lee on Solent Aerodrome is in Service again (See 8/10) St. Merryn Aerodrome was reported serviceable this afternoon (See 9/10)

Dover was bombed three times today, but no damage to naval property occurred.

Very slight naval damage was done at Chatham this morning and again this afternoon

MiningEnemy
Mining

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active last night from Montrose to the Thames Estuary.

Blyth was closed this morning for a few hours. Milford Haven and Tyne were closed this evening. Tees and Hartlepool were closed at 2145 today after being open a few hours.

Further mines were cut and detonated today in the enemy minefield off the south Goodwins.

A.P. Vessel GIRL MARY patrolling Oxcars boom was sunk by explosion at 1635 today.

M.V. TILL a straggler from Convoy FS 4 was damaged this evening in the Thames Estuary, either by a mine or near miss bomb.

British
Mining

Five Hampdens last night laid mines in the Lorient area.



SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

FOUGUEUX (French destroyer) escorting the French merchant vessels CENS and SANANTONIO passed Gibraltar from west to east at 1140 today; FOUQUEX returned this afternoon, escorting SS FIRUZ from east to west.

R.A.F. tonight attacked shipping and pierhead warehouses at Benghazi. Direct hits were scored on 3 ships.

A Blenheim co-operated with Naval and Military forces in operations against mechanised transport concentrations in the Sidi Barrani area.

C. in C., Med. reports the following operations were carried out by units detached.

Operations by Submarines

15/8 OSIRIS sank a transport about 3000 tons in Straits of Otranto. 25/9 TRUANT sank a ship of about 3000 tons off Naples. 28/9 PANDORA sank a ship of 800 tons off Benghazi.

Operations by F.A.A.

Operations by Swordfish aircraft temporarily working from R.A.F. shore base. 21/9 three small ships were attacked near Bardia with doubtful results. 26/9 one F.A.A. aircraft obtained near misses with bombs on ships in Derna. Two torpedo bombing aircraft failed to reach targets at Derna owing to navigational difficulties and extreme range. 29/9 two Swordfish attacked with torpedoes an enemy convoy consisting of two ships, west of Tobruk. Two explosions were seen, followed by a column of smoke from one of the ships.

East Indies

Blenheims attacked targets at Assab today successfully.



MOST SECRET.

204

10.10.1940.

Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"

~~Deluge~~ Signals. At 0200/10. (D.C. 0212/10). At 1400/10.
(D.C. 1412/10).

Nore Command. Air R/C. unsatisfactory. Keep steam for half hours notice till 0900. (C.in C. Nore 0519/10).

Policy.

Your 1509/8. Difficult situation immediately arises if submarine dives during the time that our ship is endeavouring to pass this signal. The probability of getting it through quickly after first making contact is remote. It therefore seems advisable to explain the situation politely to Vichy Government pointing out that if a submarine believed to be French dives while at a distance from one of our ships it must inevitably be regarded as hostile.

(C.in C. Nore 0932/10 to Adty.)

Efficiency of
A/S Escort
Ships

ENCHANTRESS 0106/10 and 0108/10. I am convinced that one of the main causes of our lack of success in counter-attacking U-Boats is the low A/S efficiency of the escorting ships, which is an inevitable result of their not being given frequent opportunity for practice with a Submarine.

I have been informed by the C.O. of one of the submarines acting as Target Ship at Scapa that the first attempts of various ships carrying out A/S hunting after long periods without such opportunity have from his point of view been contemptible but that efficiency is quickly restored with practice.

My investigation into the recent damage sustained by FIJI reveals that the only Destroyer sent to attack the U-Boat, namely ANTELOPE, had not carried out an A/S exercise with a submarine since the 16th October 1939 and that in the interim her complete A/S staff had changed.

Unless steps are taken to remedy this situation we cannot expect to avoid heavy losses but the first step is of course to provide the responsible Officers with sufficient escorting ships to enable a proportion of them to carry out A/S exercises. This causes me to re-affirm my opinion that all our available A/S Ships should be employed on A/S rather than anti-invasion duties. (C.in C. H.F. 1406/10 to Adty.)

/ I am



10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy (Continued)

I am in full agreement with the views expressed by C.in C. Home Fleet in his 1406/10. As regards ANTELOPE my records show that she carried out an A/S exercise with a S/M on 27th March shortly before being detached from my command on 16th April.
(C. in C. W.A. 2307/10 to C.in C. H.F.)

FURIOUS
ARGUS

120. Your 1651/8. It is desirable to relieve FURIOUS from Deck Landing Trials as the ship is long overdue for refit and any additional steaming is likely to prejudice her operational value. Concur in the employment of ARGUS for Deck Landing Trials at Scapa but presume this will not materialise until after the duty referred to in your 1931/4/10.
(C.in C. H.F. 1501/10 to Adty.)

Convoys

For N.C.S.Os. Commodores of Convoys and Masters are to be warned that, unless required to do so by the Examination or Pilot Vessel, ships should not remain stopped in a Prohibited Anchorage or Dangerous Area in the entrance to any U.K. Port.
(D.T.D. 1653/10 to A.I.G.)

"Dagger"
DAGGER
Patrols

Need not be at sea when ^{"Deluge"}~~Deluge~~ is three.
(C.in C. Nore 1750/10 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

New Recognition.

Your 1321/4. Admiralty cannot concur in these proposals without prior consideration of their effects on Naval air operations, which include night formation flying. There are also technical factors peculiar to Fleet Air Arm to consider. Air Ministry letter quoted does not mention Naval aircraft notwithstanding that six Fleet Air Arm Squadrons are operating from shore bases in United Kingdom besides those in H.M. Ships. Air Ministry Signal A.256 of 10th September was not repeated Admiralty. Naval Staff does not appear to have been associated with origin of these proposals and only correspondence on subject yet traced is in a stores supply context. Consider matter should be discussed at very early meeting of Inter Service Recognition Committee.
(5th S.L. 2036/10 to Air Min.).



10.10.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy. (Continued)

FIJI

Is to form part of 10th C.S.
(D.O.D.(H) 1012/10 to C.in C. H.F.)

NAPIER)
N-class)
Destroyers)

Will form 7th Flotilla on commissioning.
(D.O.D.(H) 1630/10).

Movements.

KING GEORGE V. Due to leave Tyne 1630/17 for Firth of Forth.
ETA, about 0100/18. To enter basin at Rosyth
1700/18. Precautions against Mines.
(V.C.N.S. 0215/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).

HORNSPIPE)
SALVIA)
NASTURTIUM)

My 1735/9. Returned to harbour. (WESTERN
ISLES 0215/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).

JERSEY.

Proceed to Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore
1026/10 to JERSEY). Route (C.in C. Nore 2226/10)

ARETHUSA.

ETA. Scapa 1530/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1202/10
to H.Q.F.C.)

WITHERINGTON)
VANSITTART)

Sailed at 0745/10 as by your 1331/9.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1205/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Destroyer for
Convoy Work

Your 1021/10 (See Submarines) BULLDOG will
be detailed. (C.in C. H.F. 1219/10 to C.in C.
Rosyth).

2nd "Tons"
Flotilla.

My 1042/9. Sailed BATH, CHARLESTOWN,
ST ALBANS. ~~ETA~~, Plymouth 1600/11.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1230/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Dover.

Patrols for Night 10/11 if weather moderates.
(V.A. Dover 1425/10).

Western Channel. Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1535/10).

Northern Patrol. Northernmost Trawler Line today.
(A.C.O.S. 1536/10).

CESHIRE

Leaves Clyde P.M./13 for Area C.3.
(F.O.C. N.P. 1638/10).

Orkneys

State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/10).



MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Operation "Medium"
~~Medium~~

Will be carried out at 0330/11. (D.O.D. (H). 0731/10 to Air Ministry).

Your 1800/9. Re Aircraft information to C.in C. Plymouth and identification and tactics of escorting Fighters. (C.in C. W.A. 1211/10 to Air Min.).

Amendment No. 1 to Orders. (C.in C. Plymouth 1311/10 to Ships).

Request Fighter protection for 2 Cruisers and 4 Destroyers returning from operation, from daylight till 0800. (C.in C. W.A. 1944/10 to H.Q.F.C.)

Iceland.
Jan Mayen
Island.

FRIDTJOF NANSEN reports no sign of anyone visiting Jan Mayen. Reserve station liquidated. Met ice limit 071° 45' North 017° 30' West.

Ice prevents visit to (?Scoresby) Sound short (?visibility) heavy North East gale and drifting icebergs prevented visit to Angmassalij. Captain Ullring considers that visit to Angmassalij now onwards unsafe owing to icebergs and short daylight.

Request reply to my 1020/22/9 to Admiralty. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1050/10 to Adty.)

Operation D.N.

(Raid between Skudesnes and Lister). Intend to carry out from 1800/14 to 0730/15 with COSSACK, ZULU, SIKH, MAORI. (C.in C. H.F. 1415/10 to D.4.). Delete ZULU and substitute ASHANTI. (C.in C. H.F. 1129/11 to D.4.).

Operation D.H.
(Force D)

C.in C. H.F. 1013/9. Amend as to delivery groups. (B.C.1. 1731/10 to Adty.)

War Office
Exercise

Probably beginning 14/10 War Office wishes carry out exercise on lines of ~~WHISKY~~ "whisky" and ~~BOBBER~~. Request you co-operate as necessary. (A.C.N.S. (H). 1830/10) to C.in C. W.A.)

/ Dover shelled



10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS (Continued).

Operations

Dover shelled.

Between 1824 and 1845, 20 shells fired from Batteries at Framzelle. 13 fell in harbour, 3 in Town, and rest outside harbour. *ALBERT was straddled. No naval casualties or damage. (V.A. Dover 1951/10 to Adty.). *T.H.V.

Operation P.S.
EREBUS

Will be carried out Night 11/12 or as soon after as weather permits, by EREBUS and spotting Aircraft, 3 Destroyers of 21st D.F. as Escort, and Tug LADY BRASSEY. Bombardment of Dunkirk Dock area. Zero Time 0030/12. Operation orders. (C.in C. Nore 2124/10).

Submarines

TRIDENT

To leave Patrol after dark 13/10 and proceed to pass within 30 miles of Ushant. (Capt. S. 2 S/M 1006/10 to TRIDENT).

→ CLYDE

V.A.S. 2147/9 not to Admiralty and V.A.S. 2127/8. WHITE BEAR is not available. Request Home Fleet Destroyer may be detailed observing that it is not considered desirable to include CLYDE in a slow coastal convoy which will be leaving Methil on Saturday 12th October. (C.in C. Rosyth 1021/10 to C.in C. H.F.).

TALISMAN

Intend sail from Clyde, escorted by CUTTY SARK, at 0700/12 to 270° Bishops Rock 10 miles. (S. 2. 1459/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

→ CLYDE

My 2127/8. Leave Dundee P.M./12 escorted by BULLDOG to Cape Wrath. Route thence. Leave Patrol sunset 30/10, E.T.A. Falmouth 0800/4/11. (V.A.S. 1656/10 to S.9.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/11. (V.A.S. 1702/10).

UPRIGHT.

In Area D. 4. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1737/10)

Bombing information

My 1126/2. Havre twice and Walvemsoord. (V.A.S. 1836/10).



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command.

Intelligence Summary No. 472. Summary of Operations etc. (H.Q.B.C. 1831/10).

Attack on
destroyers at
Brest

By 6 Albacores attached to Coastal Command. In the face of intense Flak barrage and ring of searchlights 30/250 lbs GP bombs and 40 incendiaries were dropped in target area. Estimated 1 hit on 1 destroyer 2 on another destroyer with HE and incendiaries on Naval school and workshops adjoining seaplane station. Incendiaries fell on oil tanks to West and South of Naval school. Aircraft A - overdue action taken at 0220

Had a submarine been on the surface it would have been seen from 3 - 5 miles looking up moon. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 0323/10).

Air R.C.
Patrols

Unsatisfactory (C.in C. Nore 0537/10). S.A.1 E. and S.A. 2 N. cancelled owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 0802/10) W 1 cancelled R.C. of Norwegian Coast 60° N. to Namsos (C.in C. Rosyth 2200/10).

R.N.A.S.
aerodromes

Lee on Solent now serviceable. St. Merryn unserviceable (Air Min. 1025/10). St. Merryn now serviceable (D.N.A.D. 1633/10).

Rescue work.

All A/P vessels and warships to be constantly alert and ready to carry out rescue work (A.C.N.S. (H) 1238/10).

Convoys

3 Hurricanes patrolling over convoys "Clock, Rusty, Draga, Lucca" until dark (C.in C. Rosyth 1814/10).

C. in C. H.F. has requested that as 808 Squadron has had to be withdrawn from Wick area, a squadron or half squadron of Fighters may be moved from Rosyth area to Wick area. (5th S.L. 2044/10 to Air Min.).

Enemy Air Activity.

JERSEY

Shadowed by one aircraft in 53° 24' N. 0° 40' W. (JERSEY 1003/10).

St. Merryn.

Asking for confirmation whether Dornier which crashed in sea off Seaton was shot down by guns at St. Merryn (St. Merryn 1155/10).

10.10.1940.
Thursday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

ALDERNEY QUEEN.

Bombed and machine gunned. Sunk. 1800/9, no casualties. By twin engined monoplane. 51° 38½' N. 5° 23½' W. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1215/10). *See P. 179.*

Chatham.

Damage caused in raid about 0500/10. (Supt. C.E. 1550/10) Damage caused in raid this afternoon (Supt. C.E. 1820/10).

Portland.

Air raid damage about 2100/9 (O.C.W. Portland 1600/10).

Enemy Air Activity.

Dover.

At 1053/10 enemy aircraft dropped one bomb in harbour, two in sea outside harbour and two near Castle. No damage or casualties. At about 1545 about twelve bombs dropped. One in sea outside harbour, remainder in town and outskirts or on military ground. One sergeant marines attached military killed. One military and one civilian wounded. No damage naval property.
(V.A. Dover 1757/10).

At about 1820 three bombs fell near castle
(V.A. Dover 1951/10)

Mining.

Blyth.

Closed. Suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0705/10 to Adty.). Expect re-open port at about 1400 (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0916/10 to Adty.). Port now open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1443/10 to Adty.).

B.S.40

Operation postponed 24 hours. (TEVIOTBANK BANK 0714/10 to Adty.)

Tees)
Hartlepool)

My 2115/9. Expect to open port by 1730/10. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1042/10. Ports open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1615/10 to Adty.). Ports closed owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2145/10 to Adty.).

/ Dover



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (~~Continued~~).

Cherbourg.

Preliminary Photographic R/C on 9/10.
(D.D.I.C. 1200/10 to C.in C. W.A.).

TIRPITZ.

At 1100/10 had left Floating Dock in
Scheerhafen at Wilhelmshaven. (P.I.U.
1840/10 to N.I.D.).

Bordeaux) U-Boats and Shipping at 1110/10.
La Rochelle) (P.I.U. 1915/10 to N.I.D.).

War Diary10.10.1940
ThursdayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSST. MARY'S

Holed by Tug when leaving Wharf. Temporary repairs being made. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1300/10 to C. in C., W.A.)

CLAN CAMPBELL

Boiler defects at Durban (See East Indies)

ACTIVE

2 frames crippled in bottom fore magazine. Plates in vicinity buckled and causing bad leakage. Request return to Clyde. (ACTIVE, 1550/10) Approved (C. in C., W.A., 2151/10)

VERSATILE

Degaussing unsatisfactory. Temporary repairs being done to reach refitting port. (N.O.I.C., Londonderry, 1605/10)

ANADARA
STRINDA

Tankers, damaged. A/S Trawler to escort to Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A., 1837/10)

MOST SECRETWar Diary10.10.1940
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSConvoysShipping

- HX.77 Meet. (C. in C., W.A., to WESTON, GARDENIA, SHIKARI etc., 0120/10) 23 hours late. (C. in C., W.A., 1450/10 to SHIKARI etc., and 1440/10 to WESTON)
- SC.6 To alter course to avoid U-Boat (C. in C., W.A., 1130/10) Aircraft reports position at 1100/10. (C. in C., W.A., 1250/10) Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1240/10) 3 ships torpedoed (See U-Boat Campaign) Am reforming about 1600, propose detaching WINCHELSEA to Liverpool to land survivors and repair A/S (ENCHANTRESS 1121/10)
- WN.23 Admty. 1933/9. Concur. Propose WN 23 should be first 7 knot convoy. (C. in C., W.A. 2010/10)
- OL.8 My 1950/12/9. Intend OL convoys shall run
OL.9 on a 6 day cycle- dates. (C. in C., W.A., 2020/10)
- SC.8 SANDWICH escort delayed by gales. (C. in C., W.A., 1507/10)
- EN . Admty. 1933/9. No reason why all EN convoys should not include 7 knot ships. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1247/10)
- HX. Onward route P (Y), typing error, correction, (D.T.D., 2050/10)
- HX.78 Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 2052/10)
- HX.81 Route (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1210/10)
- HX.79 Route (D.T.D. 1722/10)
- OA.277 List (N.C.S.O. Methil 0942/10) Escort ROCHESTER, CAMELIA (N.C.S.O., Methil, 0941/10)
- OB.229 Route (D.T.D. 1145/10)
- HX.76 B Arrived HELIOTROP and HEARTSEASE eacorting. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1731/10)
- OB.225 SHIKARI to remain in vicinity (C. in C., W.A., 2000/10)
- HG.45 NEURALIA sailed in, 9/10, route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1008/10)
- FN & FS Forecast of sailings and escorts. (C. in C., Rosyth 1651/11)

/O.B. Convoys....

MOST SECRETWar Diary10.10.1940
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSConvoys-Contd.ShippingOB Convoys.

Experimental night formation when on broad front. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1915/10) Passed to C. in C., W.A., (D.T.D., 1535/11)

Destroyer

For convoy work. (C. in C., Rosyth 1021/10) BULLDOG detached (C. in C., H.F., 1219/10)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 3.

Your 1422/9 and Admty 2046/7. ORONSAY has not sailed due to damage. (D.O.D. (F) 1011/10)

B.A. 54.

Composition. A.C.O.S., to arrange sailing and routeing for Reykjavik. Fighter protection code word ~~OLIVE~~. (D.O.D. (H) 2045/10)
"Olive".

W.S. 4.

To sail as 2 separate convoys A and B (dates and escort intentions) (D.O.D. (F) 2326/10)

ARUNDEL CASTLE

380 Govt. personnel, to leave Clyde for Takoradi and Capetown (date) (D.O.D. (H) 1831/10)

MOST SECRET10.10.1940
Thursday
War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSGeneralRaider

According to Master of HAXBY raider which sank his ship in 31° 30' N., 51° 30' W., on 24/4 and captured TROPIC SEA in 28° 48' S., 166° 04' W on 18/6 is as follows:- (Details) (D.D.I.C., 1912/10)

Operations Against Vichy FrenchKELT
DELHI
DRAGON

KELT has not made contact with Convoy M.T. DELHI will proceed Lagos. Am sending DRAGON into harbour to transfer sick French man to PRESIDENT HOUDUCE and if required collect Commodore of Convoy and staff. Commodore has asked for passage in H.M. ship to Freetown. Instruct DRAGON on arrival. (DELHI to F.O.1.C.S. 0729/10) *See next page*

TOUAREG

French ship TOUAREG with Vichy deportees detained at Takoradi will sail shortly for Keta with Armed guard. Passengers will be disembarked at Keta and sent to Lome. Armed guard will then take ship with crew to Duala there to be handed over to Governor of Cameroons. European crew are being given a promise of safe conduct and of repatriation to Vichy Territory if they desire it. Future of African and Asiatic crews to be decided by free French authorities on arrival at Duala. (C. in C., S.A., 1157N/10) (See also DELHI, South Atlantic)

Dakar

982. A.T. 0027/9/7. Demobilized Reservists report that Dakar incident and recent arrests have set back several free French movements in sympathy. Local situation unchanged. (S.B.N.O., Suez, 1935/10)

French M. Vs

Special intelligence Marseilles. Admiral, Antilles, has ordered all French merchantmen bound east to keep out of sight of Canary Islands. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1147/10)

MOST SECRETWar Diary10.10.1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticREMOWN

Reverts to 12 hours notice from 1200/10.
2400 tons fuel being discharged to enable
repairs to bulge to be effected.
(S.O. Force H., 0946/10)

NEURALIA
Lisbon

Sailed in Convoy H.G. 45, 9/10. Route
(F.O.C.N.A., 1008/10) Admty. 1300/2.
1093 Gibraltarian evacuees embarked, 600
remained (F.O.C.N.A., 1601/10) Route and
expected time of arrival Kingston. (F.O.C.N.A.
2012/10)

SHEFFIELD

Admty. 1915/9. Intend leaving Azores Patrol.
2100N/11. Estimated arrive Gibraltar
0700/14. (SHEFFIELD 2359/10) Advising re
German ships at large and British ships on
passage. (F.O.C.N.A., to SHEFFIELD, 1238/10)

BARHAM

Re Ammunition. (D.T.S.D., 1825/10)

South AtlanticSuspicious
Ship

Admty. 0146/8. and my 2152B/8, confirmed
that PAN EUROPE was in position referred to
in Admty. 0146/8 at that time. Master
stated that he was stopped next day by
cruiser presumably NEPTUNE* in position 036°
44' S., 022° 18' E., Your 1543/8. BRITISH
VISCOUNT was in position 034° 39' S., 027°
46' E., at 0930/7 with nothing in sight.
(N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 0927z/10)

* Confirmed (NEPTUNE, 0804/26, page 590)

DRAGON

Expect to arrive Lagos 0900/11 with Commodore
and Staff. (DRAGON, 1407A/10)

DELHI

While at Lagos to contact Commander, Nigeria
to discuss defence problems (C. in C., S.A.
1455N/10) To relieve DORSETSHIRE with
TOUAREG at Ketah and escort to Duala. (C.,
in C., 2235N/10)

KENYA

After arrival of W.S. 3. at Freetown, to
continue working up in vicinity, Date of
return to Scapa. (D.O.D. (H) 1751/10)

CORNWALL

Required to escort W.S. 4 A from U.K. (date)
(D.O.D. (F) 1913/10)

MOST SECRETWar Diary10.10.1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanTank Landings

Weights can be off-loaded at Port Said and Alexandria. (A/S Alexandria, 0943/10)

Turkish Delegation

Questions on which asking for information (C. in C., Med. 1245/10)

Operations

Reports by detached units just received:-

15/8 (79) OSIRIS sank one transport of about 3000 tons in Straits of Otranto.

*22/9, PROVIDENZA,
8459 tons
Adm(S) list.*

25/9 ERUANT sank ship of about 3,000 tons off Naples.

28/9 PANDORA sank ship of 800 tons off Benghazi.

21/9 Swordfish aircraft attacked 3 small ships Bardia.

26/9 1 F.A.A. aircraft obtained near misses with bombs on ships at Derna.

29/9 2 Swordfish aircraft attacked enemy convoy 2 ships west of Tobruk. 2 explosions seen followed by column of smoke from one ship. (C. in C., Med. 1315/10)

Operation B.S.

Patrol lines for PARTHIAN, OSIRIS, PANDORA (Capt S.I. 1701/10)

Operations "Collar" "Uniform"Names. If one disguised M.T. ship passed through, ~~collar~~. If 3 or more ships, ~~collar~~. If ARGUS to take part, (My 2240/9 para F) prefix ~~collar~~ will be given and operation would ~~collar~~ or ~~uniform~~ *collar* ~~uniform~~. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 2344/10)East IndiesCLAN CAMPBELL

At Durban. Capable only 12 knots, boiler defects. Repairs. Delay at Suez 3 to 4 days (C. in C., E.I., 1448Z/10)

CLAN MACARTHUR

Being sailed from Durban soon as possible. (date of arrival Aden) KANIMBLA will escort to 14° S., when CLAN MACARTHUR will proceed independently (C. in C., E.I., 1448Z/10)

/Native Ratings....

MOST SECRETWar Diary10.10.1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.Native Ratings

Will only be engaged on vessels permanently in tropical waters. (D. of S.T. to C. in C., E.I., 2021/10)

MOGAMIGKWA
MARU

Ex GETUYO. ^{MARU.} Left Bushire 2/10 for unknown destination, movements suspicious. Ordered to be sent in (C. in C., E.I., 0802Z/10)

China

U.S. and
Kamran

Your 0557/4 (proposed visit) Not desirable at present to make this request to U.S.A. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 1725/10)

America & West Indies

JERVIS BAY }
ESPERANCE BAY }

To be relieved from North Atlantic trade routes before winter. ESPERANCE BAY to exchange stations with MALOJA forthwith. (D.O.D. (F) 1651/10)

COMORIN)
VOLTAIRE)

To be relieved from North Atlantic trade routes if opportunity offers. (D.O.D. (F) 1651/10)

AustraliaRescue Boats

Enquiries for. (D.S.V.P. to Melbourne and Wellington 1613/10)

U.S. 5.

Sailed Fremantle 8/10 (Army H.Q., Melbourne to W.O. 2233/10)



10.10.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ANALIESE ESSBERGER) Kobe 9/10. Believed sailed. Expect further
KULMERLAND) report. (Capt O.S., Singapore, 0144/10)

WINNETOU)
EUROFELD) At large. (F.O.C.N.A., to SHEFFIELD,
REKUM) 1238/10)
OSTMARK)

LECH)
USARAMO)
BRAKE) Preparing for sailing, Vigo. (V.A.S. to
KARNAK) submarines on patrol, Area B. 1837/10)
JOHO PESSAO) (D.S., 401)
LA PLATA)
PLUS)

OSSAG Small tanker, was at Trieste on 4/10.
(D.S. 401)

REGENSBURG Left Yokohama 27/9, not sighted since,
although only 5 days' provisions (D.S. 401)

NORBURG Arrived with 3800 tons manganese from
Poti. (Galatz. 1105/10)

MOST SECRETWar Diary10.10.1940
ThursdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedTOURAINÉ
(Torpedoed 7/10)

Norwegian, 5811 tons, torpedoed ay 1615/7, not yet known to have sunk. Was a straggler from O.B. 244 Convoy, outward bound from Glasgow for Sydney N.Z. Survivors picked up by DERBYSHIRE. (D.S., 401)

GRAIGWEN

British 3697 tons, torpedoed and sunk 58.11 N., 13. 57 W at 2110/9. (ENCHANTRESS, 0108/10, 1014/10) Convoy S.C. 6. Survivors in WINCHELSEA (D.S. 401)

ZANNES GOUNARIS

Greek 4407 tons, torpedoed and sunk 58.11 N 13.57 W., 2110/9. (ENCHANTRESS, 0108/10. 1014/10) Convoy S.C. 6. Survivors in WINCHELSEA (D.S. 401)

DELPHIN

Greek, 3816 tons, torpedoed 58.11 N., 13.57 W at 2110/9. (ENCHANTRESS, 0108/10 1014/10) Tug to be sent (C. in C., W.A., 0311/10) ENGLISHMAN to proceed (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0343/10) Convoy S.C. 6. Survivors in WINCHELSEA (D.S. 401)

Submarines Reported

2110/9

Enemy submarine reported, 58.11 N., 13.57 W at 2110/9. (C. in C., W.A., 0323/10) (3 ships torpedoed)

1230

54.00 N., reliable, 16° to 18° W., unreliable. (C. in C., W.A., 1401/10)

2039

D.F., unreliable fix, 61° N to 61° 30' N., 11° W to 14° W., probably homeward bound. (V.A.S. 2234/10)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: No Information
German : 1 in about 44° North 12° West at 1246/9, may arrive Lorient a.m. 11th.
1 in 54° North 17° West at 1210/10.
1 in about 57° 30' North 22° 30' West at 1207/9 may be proceeding E.N.E.
1 in about 56° 45' North 10° West at 2040/9 (D.D.I.C., 1333/10)



War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"Medium"

REVENGE, escorted by 7 destroyers and 6 M.G.B's bombarded Cherbourg early this morning. NEWCASTLE. EMERALD with 4 destroyers, and CARDIFF with two destroyers acted as covering forces to the westward and eastward respectively during the operation.

R.A.F. cooperated and first started effective fires near the target area. Further fires were started by the bombardment by REVENGE and destroyers. The enemy at first apparently believed that only air attack was taking place, and intensified his Flak. Later 13.5 inch guns opened up and continued fire until the returning ships were 36,000 yards away. The enemy's firing was very accurate but none of our ships sustained damage.

2 German Trawlers
sunk by M.T.Bs

off Calais

About 2335 today M.T.B's 22, 31 and 32 torpedoed two German trawlers in 51° 1' N., 1° 48' E. The trawlers were probably employed in sweeping and as rescue ships for airmen, as the survivors included Air Force personnel. *Names of German trawlers - NORDENHAM and BRANDENBURG (G.D. 403 (2)).*

Convoy C.W. 14
Shelled

Convoy C.W. 14 was shelled intermittently after passing South Goodwin, from 2032 to 2305. Approximately 128 rounds were fired from 3 or 4 batteries on the French coast.

German
Destroyers
in Channel

*For German account,
see T.S.D./F.D.S./X.231/50,
German Documents,
13.6.1950*

It was reported that at 2250 German destroyers (? E Boats) attacked a trawler patrol 10 miles south of St. Catherines. 5th D.F. operating between Dieppe and Havre (see 12/10) were ordered to try to intercept the enemy returning to Cherbourg. *LISTRAC and WARWICK DEEPING were sunk by enemy. (p.769) +243*

British Air Activity

R.A.F. this evening successfully attacked shipping in Rotterdam. An aircraft on patrol dropped its bombs on Cherbourg at 2220, finding no other targets.

Last night 46 aircraft of Bomber Command successfully attacked the Channel Ports and docks at Amsterdam and Rotterdam, and cooperated in Operation "Medium" Coast defence guns were also attacked at Henneville. 21 Hampdens also attacked shipyards at Wilhelmshaven, Bremenhaven and Kiel, and one Wellington attacked and set fire to docks at Delfzijl. No hits were

/Claimed.....



War Diary

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Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity- Contd.

claimed on the TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven, but several sticks fell across the Bauhafen. Two large fires were started in the Dockyard at Kiel.

Enemy Air Activity.

ALYNBANK was slightly damaged by near miss when HX 76A Convoy was bombed off Kinnairds Head at 1935 today. ALYNBANK continued with the convoy.

Convoy S.C. 6. was unsuccessfully attacked 25 miles south of Barra Head this morning.

SS MONKSTONE (867 tons) was damaged by near misses while at anchor off Blakeney last night.

Mining

Operation
B.S. 40.

TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE laid mines in the East Coast mine barrier completing the operation at 2358/11.

Flushing

R.A.F. laid 4 mines off the entrance to the Ems River this evening. 6 Hampdens laid mines last night in the Kiel area and one in ~~Flushing~~ Fjord. 3 Swordfish laid mines off Texel and three others off Terschelling.

ZULU
Damaged

ZULU was damaged by a near mine explosion today near Beamer Rock and went into Rosyth for examination.


JERSEY
Damaged
AISHA
Sunk

JERSEY was damaged by a near mine explosion at 1740 today, whilst proceeding for Operation P.S. A second explosion occurred 300 yards astern of JERSEY and 10 yards astern of harbour defence patrol yacht AISHA, which was taken in tow by JERSEY but sank. JERSEY returned to Sheerness. (Operation P.S. was cancelled owing to fog preventing the spotting aircraft from taking off)

THYRA II

(1088 tons) not in convoy, was mined off the Thames Estuary about noon today.

/Several....

MOST SECRET
War Diary11.10.1940
FridaySITUATION REPORTMining-Contd.,

Several ports in the north of England were closed tonight on account of suspected minelaying.

A mine was detonated off Hartlepool shortly after noon, and Tees and Hartlepool were opened at 1830. Later, however, these ports and also Blyth and Seaham were closed owing to suspected minelaying. The Humber and Sunderland were closed tonight. The Tyne was reopened early this morning after a magnetic mine had been detonated, but was closed again this evening. Milford Haven was opened at 0936. Westray, Firth, Orkneys was closed this morning to shipping, owing to suspected minelaying. The minefield off South Goodwins is now considered clear as regards the Channel. Another mine was cut a.m. today. Seven explosive cutters were found.

Operations Against Vichy French

It was reported early this morning that PRIMAUGUET left Casablanca yesterday morning for Dakar, escorting a merchant vessel loaded with torpedoes and shells for RICHELIEU and other French warships at Dakar.

BARHAM and 3 destroyers on passage from Freetown to Gibraltar with 2 transports were ordered to alter course to intercept and shadow, one destroyer remaining with the 2 transports.

AUSTRALIA was ordered to leave Gibraltar and proceed to Las Palmas; she sailed shortly before midnight 11/12 Oct. RENOWN screened by available destroyers was ordered to leave Gibraltar 0500/12 and proceed to the westward.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD who replaced AUSTRALIA on Azores Patrol on 9/10 left for Gibraltar this evening.

MOST SECRETWar Diary11.10.1940
FridaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean

IMPERIAL was mined today off Malta and was docked with damage which it is estimated will take at least 4 months to repair. C. in C., Med. points out that it is not practicable to keep Malta clear with only one proper minesweeper, especially in winter.

6 Blenheims today attacked shipping in Tobruk harbour without success. 66 vessels believed to be M.T.B's were later seen off the harbour entrance. AUCKLAND was bombed early this morning in 15° 51' N., 41° 25' E. No damage is reported.

MOST SECRET.

11.10.1940.

FridayWar Diary.HOME COMMANDSPolicyEmployment of
A/S vessels

I fully concur with the principle stated in the last para. of C.in C. H.F. 1406/10. Apart from destroyers the only A/S vessels in Nore Command are employed on urgent duty defending convoys against E. Boats. I am quite willing to surrender these as soon as equally efficient or better vessels can replace them. As regards destroyers the number now in Nore Command is little above that needed to compete with current operations, boiler cleaning, routine refits and the recurrent damage by enemy action. Some reduction would certainly be possible when it is decided that invasion is no longer likely.

(C.in C. Nore 1258/11.)

Administration of A/A ships ceased to be carried out from CAIRO p.m. today 11th October. Records transferred to R.A. (D).

0137/4/9. The following are proposed as the new station limits for a Western Approaches Command based on Liverpool and a Plymouth Command based on Plymouth. (D. of L.D. 7800/11).

Defence of U.K."Deluge"

At 0200/11 (D.C. 0212/11, 0954/11).

At 1400/11 (D.C. 1419/11)

Portsmouth

Repeating C.in C. Portsmouth's 1203/8 (A.C.N.S. (T) 1234/11 to Air Min.)

Orkneys

Request for additional troops for defence of aerodromes (A.C.O.S. 1229/11).

Movements.Nore

Night dispositions 11/12 (C.in C. Nore 0800/11).

WORCESTERSHIRE

Clyde to Reykjavik escorted by ANTHONY, AMAZON (F.O.C. N.P. 1058/11, N.O.I.C. Glasgow 2029/11) VERITY to R.V. Position. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2241/11)

JERSEY(Operation P.S.)

Asking for fighter cover on passage Sheerness to South Goodwin. (C.in C. Nore 1130/11).

/ TALISMAN

MOST SECRET.11.10.1940.
FridayWar Diary.HOME COMMANDS. Movements. (Continued)

TALISMAN Amending 1459/10 (S.2. 1423/11)

Dover Patrols night 11/12 (V.A. Dover 1441/11).

Orkneys Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/11).

Northern Patrol Trawler line today (A.C.O.S. 1536/11).

BULOLO Sail a.m./15 to Clyde thence p.m./16 for Freetown (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1540/11).

DUNEDIN Sailed for Portsmouth (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1620/11, 2103/11).

Western Channel Night movements (C.in C. W.A. 1705/11).

BRIGHTON Ex U.S.A. destroyer. Requesting fighter protection Belfast to Plymouth (C.in C. W.A. 1709/11).

OperationsForces D, F.

Arrived (C.in C. Portsmouth 0807/11).
Force D. H.U. paras. 6, 7. Screen 1
MATABELE with PUNJABI.
Screen 2. D.6. in SOMALI with MASHONA,
ESKIMO, DUNCAN.

Destroyer Sweep
Havre to Dieppe.

JACKAL, JAGUAR, JUPITER, KELVIN, KIPLING
sail 1830/11 to carry out sweep along coast
between Havre and Dieppe at high speed,
returning to Plymouth 0800/12 (C.in C. W.A.
1147/11, C.in C. Portsmouth 1223/11,
1613/11, Capt. S.5. 1701/11).

Operation
"Medium"

Description of operation carried out last
night (C.in C. Portsmouth 1423/11, C.in C.
W.A. 1723/11, 1809/11).

Operation P.S.

Bombardment Dunkirk Dues
EREBUS
1728

4 M.T.B's leave Felixstowe before dark
to-day to report whether W buoy C.P.S.C.1006
is lit. To remain north of Calais until
0040/12 then cruise towards Cape Gris Nez.
Return to Felixstowe daylight (C.in C. Nore
1210/11).
Asking for fighter protection for EREBUS,
CAMPBELL, VESPER, CAMMISTOCK 1730/11 till
dark. Code word "~~Lucid~~" (C.in C. Nore
1246/11.).
Sailing of M.T.B's 22, 31, 32, also 14 and
16 to patrol coast East of 2° 40' E. from
2230 to 0230 (BEEHIVE 1530/11).
Amendment to 2124/10 (C.in C. Nore 1640/11).
Cancel my 1904. EREBUS proceeding.
Zero hour 0130/12 (C.in C. Nore 1954/11).
(Note. C.in C. Nore 1904 cancelled the
operation.)

/ Operation "Lucid"



11.10.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

Operation "Lucid"

EMPIRE BEAVER now at Plymouth is to be prepared in similar way as WAR BAHADUR as matter of first priority (A.C.N.S.(H) 1902/11).

Patrol B.Y.

C.in C. W.A. 1441/11.

Convoy C.W.14 shelled.

Convoy C.W. 14 shelled intermittently after passing South Goodwin from 2032 to 2305. Rounds fired approximately as follows:- Calais 33 Blanc Nez and Wissant 48 Gris Nez 47 Total 128. No damage observed or reported. (V.A. Dover 2344/11).

E. boats

Following received from Gorleston W/T. E.boat signal now becoming weaker suggesting increasing distance from shore. Harwich and Dovercourt confirm this. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2305/11.).

Possible E.boats reported 51° 20' N. 2°13'E. at 2034 course 315. (C.in C. Nore 2310/11 to EREBUS, Capt (D) 21st D.F., WIDGEON, PUFFIN.)

E. boats believed operating in your vicinity. (C.in C. Nore 2311/11 to MALCOLM, EGLINTON.)

Enemy destroyers in Channel.

Enemy destroyers ten miles south of St. Catherines at 2250: proceed to intercept assume they are returning to Cherbourg. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2312/11 to JACKAL).

5th D.F. operating between Dieppe and Havre have been ordered to endeavour to intercept enemy returning to Cherbourg. Unless you are in touch with enemy do not operate South of 050° N.

→ (C.in C. Portsmouth 2320/11 to VANOC, WITCH).

German destroyers attacked trawler patrol 180° Saint Catherine's 10 miles at 2250. Forces have been detailed to attack. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2332/11.)

LISTRAC & WARWICK DEEPING sunk. See pp. 269. 273.

→ CHASSEURS on L R closing Saint Catherine's. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2341/11 to VANOC, WITCH).

Enemy vessel off Dungeness.

There are indications of a surface vessel due West of Lydd light float 6½ miles course West speed approximately 5 knots at 2324.

(N.O.I.C. Dover 2343/11 to FERNIE, BERKELEY).

11.10.1940.
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSSubmarinesSEA WOLF
SNAPPEROrders for patrol (Capt. S 3. 0921/11,
A.C.O.S. 1521/11).URSULA.
UPRIGHT,
UTMOST.Adty. approval for them to proceed to
Mediterranean. Request URSULA be kept back
from patrol, to be prepared to sail (date).
Re UPRIGHT, UTMOST. (V.A.(S) 1334/11).TALISMAN
TRIDENT

Movements (Capt. S.2 1424/11, 1744/11).

TIGRIS

Orders to leave patrol (Capt. S.2. 1431/11)

Positions and
movements.

0700/12 (V.A.S. 1647/11).

Le HavreMy 1126/2 Le Havre (i.e. to be bombed)
(V.A. (S) 1648/11 to submarines on patrol).British Air Activity.FLEUR DE LYSExpect fighter escort of 2 Blenheims from
1700 till dark. (C.in C. Rosyth 1304/11).Rescue workNaval aircraft are not to be employed on
rescue service, except in individual cases
of special emergency (5th S.L. 1754/11).Air Searches12/10. (Includes R.C. of Norwegian coast
Statlandet to Namsos (C.in C. Rosyth 1926/11))St. Merryn

Serviceable (Air Min. 1100/11)

YeoviltonServiceable except in S.W. and N.E. winds
(R.A.N.A.S. 1125/11)Enemy Air Activity.LATYMER
bombed 2/10.Ultimate fate unknown. Last report
received as in my 1240/7 (N.O.I.C. Swansea
1515/11).H.X. Convoy
ALYNBANKConvoy "^{Jumbo}~~Ferris~~" attacked in 57° 35'N. 1°30'W.
(Lyness W/T 1935/11). No direct hit, no
casualties. ALYNBANK damaged by near miss.
Slight leaks in hull aft. Request defects
taken in hand on arrival with convoy 12/10
(ALYNBANK 2245/11).

/ MONKSTONE

11.10.40

Friday.

War DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity (Continued).MONKSTONE

Collier S.S. MONKSTONE whilst anchored off Blakeney night of 10th/11th was attacked by aircraft. No casualties. Damaged by near misses. Returned to Yarmouth for repairs. (C.in C. Nore 1847/11).

Mining.TILL
(mined 10/10)

My 2140/10. Possible this was a near miss bomb (BLACK SWAN 0832/11).

Tyne

Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0702/11 0917/11). Ground magnetic detonated 146° North Pier Light 700 ft. by LL at 0857/11 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0859/11, 1105/11). Port closed owing to suspected minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2145/11).

Tees and
Hartlepool.
Blyth
Seaham

Mine detonated at 1142, 1 mile P.W.S.S. mine exploded in approx. 54° 39' 30" N. 1° 4' 30" W. at 1210 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1235/11) Ports of Tees and Hartlepool open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1830/11) Ports of Blyth, Seaham, Rees and Hartlepool closed owing to suspected minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2200/11, 2142/11).

Milford Haven.

Port open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0936/11).

Orkneys.

Westray Firth is closed to shipping owing to suspected minelaying (F.O.C. O.S.1105/11)

Operation
B.S.40

Fighter cover arranged. Code word "Table" (C.in C. Nore 1112/12). Asking for fighter cover for TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE Daylight/12 until arrival at Humber. (C.in C. Nore 1114/11) Operation completed (TEVIOT BANK 2358/11).

Aircraft mining.

Now ample evidence to show that enemy aircraft are dropping mines from a considerable height without parachutes, generally by night. Good look out to be kept for splashes. (C.in C. Rosyth 115/11).

Dover.

Re minefield near South Goodwins. Channel now considered clear subject to possibility of delay mines coming up. Mines cut today. 7 explosive cutters found. (V.A. Dover 1314/11).

ZULU
mined

At 0920/11 a mine exploded about ten yards from starboard side of ZULU 64° Beamer Rock 1.6 cables.

ZULU was rear ship of division of four and

/ was manoeuvring

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining. (Continued)

ZULU
mined
(Contd.)

was manoeuvring to form astern of guide which was proceeding at 12 knots. Ship has been taken into Rosyth Dockyard Basin for examination. Preliminary survey indicates some machinery defects, leaks in outer bottom in way of after fuel tanks and magazines, bulkheads slightly distorted, etc. no casualties.
(C.in C. H.F. 1446/11.)

Sweeping

Warning to vessels to take care to avoid damaging sweeps at night (D.M.S. 1538/11 "A" Mge. Home 87a A 2.)

WALPOLE

Mine detonated today 4 cables green 40 from WALPOLE 196° 1.6 miles East Barrow Beacon. Speed 24 knots. (C.in C. Nore 1709/11).

→ JERSEY
(Operation P.S.)

Damaged by near mine explosion 400 yds. south of East Knob Buoy at 1740. Proceed with operation. (C.in C. Nore 1830/11 to EREBUS, CAMPBELL, VESPER, CATTISTOCK, 2024/11 to C.in C. W.A.).

Sunk area.

Details of sweeping. One German "W" type old mine dragged in sweep (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1912/11).

Humber

Closed to navigation on account of Aircraft minelaying (F.O. Humber 2256/11).

Sunderland

Port closed. Mine reported in Inner Approach Channel. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2339/11).

THYRA II

(mined about 1200/11) Disabled in tow of tugs. Asking for cover, 1430-1800/11. Position at 1400 51° 34' N. 1° 8' E. proceeding to Southend 3½ knots (C.in C. Nore 1420/11).

→ AISHA sunk.

When JERSEY was in position 2 cables South of East Knob buoy speed 22 knots with yacht AISHA speed 8 knots 300 yards fine on port bow, an explosion occurred this afternoon 30 to 40 yards on port side abreast B gun of JERSEY. JERSEY turned 180 degrees followed by AISHA. A second explosion occurred off Knob buoy 300 yards astern of JERSEY and 10 yards astern of AISHA. JERSEY took AISHA in tow but yacht subsequently sank in approx. 082° 7 cables from East Oaze buoy. Some damage to JERSEY, two minor casualties in AISHA. C.W. 14 consisting of 12 merchant vessels escorted by two destroyers, eight trawlers, six barrage balloon vessels and four motor launches passed over this position two hours previously.
AISHA has diesel engines and was going full speed. Two engines each 12 cylinder, 750 revs. (C.in C. Nore 2154/11.).

MOST SECRET.11.10.1940.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence.

Following from Unst. One medium fast vessel bearing 128 degrees distance 23.5 miles course and speed 056 degrees 28 knots.
(A.C.O.S. 0015/11 to SNAPPER).

Enemy Searchlights.

Report has been received from SPEEDWELL that several Officers and reliable Ratings in Minesweepers of Force 'B' (operation ~~14218~~) observed enemy search lights at Calais and Boulogne sweeping the surface of the water during R.A.F. attacks on these ports the night 7/8 October. It is more usual practice for searchlights to be directed upwards during air attack. (C.in C. Nore 1054/11).

Auxiliary Cruiser and Minesweepers

At 1015 one enemy auxiliary cruiser was in 045° 15' N. 001° 50' W. course N.W. and at 1115 unknown number of mine sweepers were in 047° 40' N. 003° 55' W. course south.
(F.O. Submarine 1507/11 to Submarines on patrol).

Deauville

GI/424. Reference My GI/423 T.O.O. 2015/11. The 17 coasters reported in Deauville are seen on closer examination to be North Atlantic fishing Schooners and therefore without invasion significance. (P.I.U. Wembley 2216/11.)

Bergen

P.R.U. sortie 8/10 (P.I.U. 0058/11).

M.V's off Dieppe and Boulogne.

10 merchant vessels 8 miles off Dieppe course W.S.W. at 1200. 25 merchant vessels off Boulogne course S. at 1220 (F.O. S/M's 1413/11, Capt. S.5. 1433/11 to UPRIGHT, D.D.I.C. 1439/11)

Norwegian coast R.C.

Nothing sighted except the merchant vessels described in Wick 02.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1418/11).

Channel Ports

P.R.U. sorties 11/10 (P.I.U. 2015/11).

Convoys

Re German convoys for Norway. Assembly Route. (N.A. Stockholm 1732/11).

Kirkenes Ore trade

Report it is to be developed as naval and submarine base. German vessels which were withdrawn from Swedish ore trade in August are now reported to be gradually reappearing in this service at ~~tula~~ (N.A. Stockholm 1217/11).



MOST SECRET.

233

11.10.1940.
Friday

War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ACTIVE
(damaged
10/11).

Your 1550/10 approved to return to Clyde
(C.in C. W.A. 2151/10).

IMPERIAL.

See Mediterranean.

GLENIFFER
KING NEPTUNE.

U.K. to Capetown due 7/10 not arrived
(Capetown 1605 B/11).



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys

Shipping.

H.X. 76	Position (C.in C. W.A. 0031/11).
H.X. 76 A.	ALYNBANK to remain with until meeting O.A. 228. (L.A.D. H.F., 1548/11)
S.L. 48 A.	Arrived 2300/10. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0009/11).
F.S. 6.	KERMA to be diverted to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 0835/11).
O.A. 226.	To alter course (C.in C. W.A. 1300/11)
O.B. 226.	" " " " "
F.N. and F.S.	Forecast of sailing and escorts. (C.in C. Rosyth 1651/11).
H.X. 77.	Sighted by U/B (C.in C. W.A. 1259/11 1600/11).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSOperations Against Vichy French→ PRIMAUGUET

Consul Tangier reports left Casablanca early 10/10 escorting French M.V. to Dakar reported loaded ammunition for RICHELIEU and French warships at Dakar. (F.O.C.N.A., 0016/11) Graded A.3. and passed to C. in C., S.A. Forces H and M (D.D.I.C., 0108/11)

→ BARHAM

BARHAM and 3 destroyers steer 090° (D.O.D. (F) 1710/11)

RENOWN

Have steam at 4 hours' notice. (D.O.D. (F) 1718/11)
Your 1718. RENOWN can sail 0001/12 with 1200 tons short of fuel or at 0500/12 complete with fuel. Bulge not repaired. 3 destroyers only available screen, remainder defective or escorting convoys. (S.O. Force H., 1911/11)

RENOWN
AUSTRALIA

RENOWN, AUSTRALIA, with necessary screen to proceed to westward. Should be clear of harbour as soon as practicable after 0700/12. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1727/1 to Force H) AUSTRALIA to sail as soon as possible and proceed at 25 knots towards Las Palmas. RENOWN to sail at 0500/12 and proceed to westward on course at your discretion. (1st S.L. 2112/11 to F.O. Force H.)
Your 2112. May I be informed of the object. (S.O. Force H., 2305/11)
Your 2305/11. For RENOWN to be clear of Gibraltar in case French bomb Gibraltar as a reprisal. (1st S.L., 0046/12)

→ BARHAM
→ to Intercept
→ PRIMAUGUET

My 1710 and F.O.C.N.A., 0016/11. BARHAM and 3 destroyers to intercept PRIMAUGUET and M.V. on assumption that their speed is 10 knots and that they are proceeding by direct route. Transports and remaining destroyer proceed by route already arranged to Gibraltar. (1st S.L., 1732/11 to BARHAM)

My 1732/11. If contact not made, search to be continued to Northward until lat 31° N when course is to be set for Gibraltar keeping not less than 30 miles from the coast.

If met PRIMAUGUET to be shadowed as long as fuel endurance will allow you to reach Gibraltar.

H.M.G. are in communication with Vichy Government regarding return of PRIMAUGUET and M.V. to Casablanca and if possible it is desired that action by you should be deferred until reply.

/You will.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET 236

11.10.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

BARHAM
to Intercept
PRIMAUGUET, Contd.

You will receive orders to carry out operation "~~Release~~" or operation "~~Arrest~~". If "~~Release~~" you will take no action and proceed to Gibraltar. (1st S.L. 2113/11 to BARHAM.)

Part 2 of 2113/11. "~~Arrest~~"
If you received order ~~ARREST~~, Inform PRIMAUGUET that discussions are in progress between H.M.G. and French Government, and until these are concluded H.M. G. cannot acquiesce in any action which alters military situation at Dakar.

Believed M.V. in company with PRIMAUGUET is transporting ammunition and torpedoes to Dakar and PRIMAUGUET is to be asked on his word of honour to confirm or deny this.

If he denies this, PRIMAUGUET and M.V. are to be released.

If PRIMAUGUET confirms that M.V. is carrying ammunition you are to inform him that the M.V. must return to Casablanca.

If PRIMAUGUET gives his word that he will escort M.V. to Casablanca accept his word and return to Gibraltar.

If not, enforce your orders using minimum force necessary and continue to escort him until relieved.

(1st S.L. 2238/11 to BARHAM)

DELHI
DRAGON

Your 2237/9. Considered necessary that either DELHI or DRAGON remain temporarily at disposal of C.S.I. to prevent any Vichy reinforcements reaching Libreville, Cruiser not detailed to return to Freetown and will be required to intercept unescorted French merchant ships to or from Dakar. (1st S.L. 0105/11 to C. in C., S.A.) Orders to DRAGON (C. in C., S.A., 1031/11)

Your 0105. Intended DELHI should remain in Duala-Libreville area. She is now proceeding to relieve DORSETSHIRE in neighbourhood of Keta and to escort TOUAREG to Duala. Also DRAGON to Freetown covering route of French merchant shipping on passage and then operating from Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1141N/11) DORSETSHIRE, Patrol area. (DORSETSHIRE, 1430/11)

AUSTRALIA

Admty. 1913/4. Details of patrol maintained. Nothing sighted. (AUSTRALIA 0935/11)

/Spears....



War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Spears
Mission

Admty. 1959/10. Major part of Spears Mission is at Duala. Communications. (C. in C., S.A., 1059/11)

Canary
Islands

Reported Admiral, ^{de}Aytilles, ordered all French M.V's bound east to keep out of sight of Canary Islands. (D.D.I.C., 1123/11)

WESTERNLAND
Spears-Williams
Mission

Requesting information of intended movement. (C. in C., S.A., 1105/11)
Your 1105N/11 and my 1510Z/11. WESTERNLAND did berth alongside. Had only enough coal to reach Freetown. Mission believed going to Brazzaville. (CORNWALL to C. in C., S.A. 1630Z/11)
Your 1105/11. Spears made no mention of this proposal. Intend movements to be Williams Section now in WESTERNLAND to Brazzaville and Spears Section now at Duala to Brazzaville by (overland?) route. Spears himself accompanying de Gaulle. (C.S.I., 1821/11 to Admty.)
Intend WESTERNLAND shall return to Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 2015/11 ro Consul-General, Leopoldville)

Libreville
Patrol

Admty. 0105/11 and my 0934/11. DEVONSHIRE to establish patrol off Libreville 13/10. (details) COMMANDANT DOMINE and PRESIDENT HOUDUCE will commence patrol off Libreville and Port Gentil 15/10, when DEVONSHIRE must leave to refuel Freetown. (C.S.I., 1841/11 to C. in C., S.A.)

Bathurst

Re defences of. (G.O.C., West Africa, to W.O. 1855/11)

11.10.1940.
Friday.

War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticLisbon

My 1452/8. PORTUGAL and VAE VICTIS sailed for Gibraltar a.m./9. THYSVILLE still held by Portuguese (Lisbon, 1045/11).

ORAO
Intercepted

Your 0653/10. ORAO - Yugoslav, 5135 tons - bound for Lisbon from Rio de Janeiro stopped in position 035° 40' N. 012° 15' W. at 2300/11 and sent into Gibraltar with boarding party speed 7 knots she is rather short of coal. (HOTSPUR, 2305/11 to F.O.C. N.A.)

NEURALIA

My 1601/10 (numbers embarked). Colonial authority now reports only 400 remaining. (F.O.C. N.A. 1625/11).

South Atlantic.CARNARVON
CASTLE

Your 1523/25. Requires 4 days at 24 hours notice for inspection of cylinders. Request this on her return to Simonstown a.m./12. N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1045 B/11).

CERES.

Arrived escorting K.D.1. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1854 Z/11).

COLONIAL

Portuguese, 8,309 tons. Endeavour to intercept. (C.in C. S.A. to FAULKNER 1037 N/11).

ENTERPRISE

Request be retained on station after return of HAWKINS for minimum of 14 days. (Cdre., S.A.D., 1212 Z/5, received 1817/11).

GLENIFFER.
KING NEPTUNE.

Both from U.K. due Capetown 7/10 not arrived. (Capetown 1605 B/11).

WIPUNEN

S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1903/1. S.S. WIPUNEN was boarded at sea 4/10 and thoroughly searched. Nothing suspicious found. Log showed ship was aground near Martin Garcia from 0930/25 to 0245 27/9. Five men signed on in Montevideo (corrupt groups). (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 0910/11).

Mediterranean.Malta.

My 2344/10. Asking if can arrange for transport of personnel from Egypt in H.M. Ships with "Collar" or "Uniform", and whether M.T. can be transported. 1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 0041/11) Reply, Yes. (C.in C. Med., 1726/11).

M.B.6.

Position of Fleet and course. (C.in C. Med., to N.O.I.C. Malta 1105/11).

11-10-1940

Friday

War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Continued)IMPERIAL
mined

IMPERIAL struck mine 15 m. S. of Delimara in 150 fathoms. Stresses recent request for mine sweepers. (C.in C. Med., 1156/11). Details of damage (N.O.I.C. Malta 1915/11).

Enemy
Intelligence

Received by Athens. Italian cargo ship passed Corfu S.E. 0545/10 G.M.T. Six to ten ships unspecified passed Anti-Paxi Island N., 0430/W. G.M.T. (C.O.I.S., to Med. Fleet, 1230/11).

Aircraft reports 1 capital ship and 2 merchant ships 360° Benghazi Harbour at 1200/11. (Capt. S.1 to RORQUAL 1510/11) Vessel is not capital ship, type unknown (Capt. S.1, to RORQUAL 2156/11).

RORQUAL

To leave patrol at 2300/13. Route. (Capt. S.1, 1701/11).

Convoy
M.F. 4.

Route: (N.O.I.C. Malta, to Submarines on patrol, 1709/11).

Defence
Mining.

Your 1959/3 and Admty. 1803/4. Re supply of mines. Instructions for installing defence by oil fire can also be sent. (D.of L.D. to N.O.I.C. Malta 1821/11).

Convoy
A.S.4.

Date of assembly and route. 6 ships. 7th C.S. may be detached to provide cover. (C.in C. Med. 2305/11).

East Indies.Assab
Raids.

Summary No.121 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 11/10. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron reconnoitred Assab for night port activities 1815, 10/11. No lights no activity seen, bombed main pier, results not observed. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron photographic reconnaissance Assab harbour and shipping 0315. 4 vessels 5000-ton seen vicinity Fatma Island. (Not new arrivals). Standing Fighter Patrol Aden 9 Gladiators 94 Squadron 0330 to 1200. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron reconnaissance Berbera - Laferug - Zeila landing grounds 1200 to 1245. No aircraft seen. 3 Blenheim 4's 203 Squadron fighter escort convoy S.W. 0330 1400. 3 Blenheim 4's 203 Squadron fighter escort convoy B.S.6. from 0340. Blast aircraft remaining Kamaran. 2 unidentified E.A. attacked AUUCKLAND 50 miles west

AUCKLAND
attacked.

/Kamaran



War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

AUCKLAND
Attacked, Contd.

Kameron 0645. Fighter escort gave chase but unable to close. No damage. 7 Vincents 8 Squadron continued punitive bombing Quteibis during day. All times G.M.T. No damage, no casualties. (A.H.Q., Aden, recd. 0020/12) (Amended 1856/12)

U.S. 5 A
U.S. 8

Re escorts (C. in C., E.I., 1326Z/11 to Admty.)

AUCKLAND
Bombed

AUCKLAND bombed at 0640Z/11 in 15.51 N., 41.25 E., no report of damage received. (C. in C., E.I., 1514Z/11)

Command

Admty. 0406/11 (See China) my views are embodied in para 5 (IX) of C. in C., China's 0743/9. (C. in C., E.I. 1914Z/11)

Lourenco
Marques

Fourfold increase in number of Greek ships calling Lourenco Marques. Asking if trade to and from Madagascar can be treated as contraband. (C. in C., E.I., 1058Z/11)

GNAT

To be prepared for passage to Alexandria Arrangements. (C. in C., E.I., 1328Z/11)

B.N. 6½

DEVONSHIRE, RANEE, PUNDIT, escorted by PARRAMATTA sailed 1800Z. Route and times. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 1805Z/11)

China

M. de Schompre

Message from Gen. de Gaulle, re his employment. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.R.I.N., 1509/11)

Cocos Island

Admty. 1414/7. DANAE visited early July. Suggested force for shore defence. (C. in C., China 0545/11)

Command

Requesting views on question of command may be signalled in advance of appreciation called for in A.T. 1415/26/8. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 0406/11)

Indo-China

Report from Duncan, Saigon, 10/10. Vichy influence increasing, etc., (S.O.C., Malaya 1144/11)



War Diary

10.10.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Suspicious Ship

Q.Q.Q.Q. 49 34 N 35 15 W., AMAKURA unknown ship closing me rapidly from astern, 1135/11 de G.C.K. (Valentia Radio 1138/11)

Q.Q.Q.Q. 55 R 05 N 24 R 02 W. SERINGA unknown vessel closing (de G.C.K. T.O.R., 1145/10) (Lands End Radio T.O.R. 1145/10)

SERINGA reports suspicious vessel approaching her in 55, 05^N 24. W at 1155 investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 1200/11 to CIRCASSIA)

Q.Q.Q.Q. 49 R 34 N. 35 R 15 W. AMAKURA. Unknown ship closing me rapidly from astern 1135/11. (Valentia Radio, T.O.R. 1255/1)

Note Position given above is correct position.

SERINGA reports suspicious vessel approaching her in 055° 05' N., 024° 02' W at 1135. Is this you, if not, investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 1331/11 to RANPURA)

For SS AMAKURA only. Your 1135/11 Request further report of unknown ship. (D.D.I.C. 1624/11 to G.B.M.S. One)

Your 1331/11. My position 1600 G.M.T. 057° 08' N., 031° 17' W. Should arrive in position about noon tomorrow Saturday. (RANPURA 1640/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cancel my 1331/11. Proceed in execution of previous orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2347/11 to RANPURA)

Town Class Destroyers

To avoid congestion while fuelling at St. John's (N.F.) intend to sail available ~~town~~ class destroyers in two groups. Expected dates. Machinery defects in ROXBOROUGH are very serious and ship is unlikely to be ready to sail before last group. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1541/11)

QUEEN ELIZABETH...



War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.10.1940²⁴²
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies, Contd.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

New York Press report of fitting as troop ship. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1135/11)

HAZOKAZI MARU

Admty. 1352/8. Ship was released (Your 1828/8) and sailed for New York on 9/10. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1632Z/11)

CARADOC

To arrive St. Lucia and Antigua (dates) with or before U.S. ship ST LOUIS as convenient. Arrange berths mutually. Fuel from SAN ADOLFO at Antigua. Inform me if ST. LOUIS alters programme. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1041/11)

Australia

Vichy
Repatriations

Re repatriation of 132 French citizens of Vichy Govt. sympathy from Noumea to Indo-China. (A.C.N.B., to D. of S.T., 0228Z/11)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

243

11.10.1940
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

YALOVA
LARISSA }

Arrived with Manganese ore Poti. (Macrae, Galatz, 1132/11)

LUVSEE

Sighted off Split going N. 8/10. Expected Zelenika for bauxite after discharge of present load at Trieste. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1247/11)

HANNOVER

My 0952/12/9. 16 seamen ex-HANNOVER left San Domingo 10/10 by car for Port au Prince. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0954/11)

LUISE BORNHOFEN

My 1145/9 LUISE BORNHOFEN now at anchor and buoy between Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZARCO and breakwater 20 feet from latter. Arrived 11/10 Portuguese sloop CARVALHO ARAUJO now anchored at Northern end inner harbour. (V.C. Horta, 1705/11)



War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

DELPHIN
(Torpedoed 9/10)

Lost touch during night when 5 miles off and drifting towards Rockall. Searched since daylight, no success. Consider sunk. (HASTINGS, 1230/11) Search continuing with tugs. Consider definitely sunk. (H. (HASTINGS, 1915/11)

EMMA BAKKE
PORT GISBORNE

~~British (8390 tons)~~
~~Norwegian 4724 tons.~~ Torpedoed 57.02 N., 17.24 W., (Lyness W/T, 2000/11) SALVONIA and ENGLISHMAN to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2123/11)(D.S. 409)

EMPIRE AUDACITY

British 5725 tons. Attacked 57.12 N., 17.03 W., 2240/11 (Valentia Radio, 2245/11)

Submarines Reported

- 0029 D.F., U-Boat between 58° and 59° N., 15° and 19° W., at 0029/11 (C. in C., W.A., 0203/11)
- 1205 Submarine reported by RUNA GAL look out, conning tower awash, proceeding N., 115. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, from WESTERN ISLES/11)
- 1220 D.F. fix in approx 56°-57° N., 20° W., at 1220 indicates U/B has sighted HX 77. (C. in C., W.A., 1259/11) Destroyers to sweep (C. in C., W.A., 1600/11)
- 1330 Sunderland reports submarine diving 020° Sule Skerry 16 at 1330. PUNJABI investigating (MATEBELE, 1359/11 to A.C.O.S.) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1528/11) Amend position to 58.21 N 4.14 W., (C. in C., Rosyth, 1630/11)

SOMALI, DUNCAN, ESKIMO, continuing search for U-Boat until further orders. Aircraft from Hatston will be working towards Fair Island Channel on assumption U-Boat is homeward bound. Be prepared to act on observations from Fair Island and Sunborough A.E.S. which will be passed to you. MATEBELE, PUNJABI, rejoin Oiler MONTENOL. (R.A.D. H.F., 1735/11 to D.6) Unless in contact return Scapa by noon/12 (R.A.D. H.F., to D.6, 2215/11)

/Estimated....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.10.1940
Friday

245

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: 9 in Bordeaux on 10th no information of those at sea.

German: 8 in Lorient on 9th, and 1 may arrive today.

1 in about 50° N and West of 20° W.

1 in vicinity of 57° N., 20° W at 1221/11.

1 in Vicinity of Rockall.

1 probably N. of 56° N and East of 11° W

1 in about 60° N., 11° W., at 2040/10, homewards.

(D.D.I.C. 1343/11)

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

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

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

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

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

22. 10. 1940

Tuesday



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Continued).

Falmouth was opened at 0245 today, a searched channel having been cleared.

The Swedish S.S. SOLSTAD is reported to have been mined in the southern Baltic.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated off the East coast last night.

C. in C. Nore has asked for more fast minesweepers to be allocated to the Nore Command. Mining of the searched channels by E. boats is frequent and losses due to acoustic mines have made the sweeping situation more difficult.

Operations against Vichy French.

The French Admiralty state that it has been arranged that four French ships SAN FRANCISCO, OREGON, WINNIPEG and WYOMING shall sail from the U.S.A. to U.K. to repatriate French naval ratings to France.

Mediterranean.

Damage was done early this morning to an aircraft factory and to 5 grounded aircraft at Aboukir in an attack by enemy aircraft.

East Indies.

KIMBERLEY, in tow of KINGSTON, arrived at Port Sudan this evening.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.



WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
BBLUOB.

At 0200/22. (D.C.0201/22).
At 1400/22. (D.C.1416/22).

Nore Command.

Air reconnaissance unsatisfactory.
Steam to be kept at half an hours
notice till 0900/22. (C.in C. Nore
0507/22 to AURORA, etc.)

Policy.

Sweeping
Requirements
in Nore
Command.

Request consideration to allocation
of more fast minesweepers to the Nore
Command. Owing to the proximity of
enemy ports, mining of the Searched
Channels by E Boats is frequent and is
possible on any fine night. When this
occurs the Sweepers at present available
are employed in sweeping the Convoys
through the danger area. These Convoys
amount to half a million tons weekly and
even a temporary stoppage would be a
serious matter. The employment
of available fast Sweepers with Convoys
entails delay in defining and clearing
the mined areas and until this is done
there is difficulty in moving Warships
and operating patrol vessels. Losses
due to acoustic mines have made the
sweeping situation more difficult.
(C.in C. Nore 1520/22. to Adty).

Movements.

Portsmouth.

Movements for night 22/23.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/22).

Orkneys.

Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S.1531/22 and
1814/22).

MALCOLM
WILD SWAN
WIVERN
VETERAN.

To be sailed as soon as possible to join
C.in C. W.A. for Escort Duties in N.W.
Approaches. Capt: D.16 and staff should
remain at Harwich. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1535/22 to
C.in C. Nore) Request you sail ships for
Liverpool p.m/23. (C.in C. Nore 1738/22 to
F.O.I.C. Harwich).



WAR DIARY.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Northern Patrol. Trawler Line today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/22).

Western Channel. Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1617/22).

Northern Escort Force. Intend to transfer ships of N.E.F. to Liverpool sloop and Corvette Divisions as follows. (C.in C. W.A. 1640/22 to C.in C. Rosyth, and 1644/22 to Capt: D. Liverpool).

Rosyth Area. Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1826/22).

SKEENA. Have remained near Commodore Noon R/V 53° 38'N., 17° 5'W since 1230/22. No ships sighted. Now proceeding to R/V with ANTELOPE. (SKEENA 1846/22 to HAVELOCK).

HAVELOCK. My position 53° 50'N., 16° W. course 080°, speed 8 knots. Only HESPERUS in company. No ships of Convoy sighted in R/V at noon today. (HAVELOCK 2000/22 to C.in C. W.A)

11th M/S Flotilla. Available ships of the 11th M/S Flotilla are to be sailed forthwith at moderate despatch for Milford Haven. (A.C.N.S.(H)2302/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operations.

Operation D.N.♣. My 1434/26/9 NAIAD and BONAVENTURE leave Rosyth a.m./23, crossing 1° E., at 1800/23 outward and 2° E., by 0730/24 homeward. (V.A.S.1028/22 to S/M's Area A).

Force E. Capt: D.6 in SOMALI, MATABELE, PUNJABI. Sullom Voe p.m./23. Return to Scapa on completion. If on first night conditions unsuitable, or if nothing sighted and Force considered undetected, Capt: D.6 may repeat operation 24 hours later, retiring to Westward to 1° W. in interval. Capt: D.6 should report when operation either complete or finally abandoned. (F.O.B.C.S.1218/22 to Capt: D.6)

See 21/10/40. p. 471 (cont)



22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

→ Force E. (Contd.)

Ships of 6th D.F. will operate near Statlandet during night 23/24. They leave Sullom Voe to pass through 62° N., 0° E., at 1900/23 and withdraw to cross 1° E., by sunrise 24th. (V.A.S. 1046/22 to S/M's Area A).

Iceland.

Intend sail ARGUS, ACHATES, HURRICANE, BEAGLE at 0400/23 for Clyde. Route (F.O.Iceland 1505/22 to F.O.C.N.P). Expected time of arrival Clyde 1100/23. Intend fly off 9 Walrus aircraft in 3 flights beginning 0800/25 for Donibristle. (ARGUS 1059/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

→ Force E.
Patrol to East
of Shetlands.

Enemy has shown marked interest in Shetlands today. Force E is to patrol to eastward of Shetland in longitude 000° 30' west tonight. Leave the latitude to arrive at daylight to patrol between Muckle Flugga and Port Arthur 061° 15' north 000° 00' west to search for homeward bound U/Boats. Aircraft from Hatston and Sullom Voe will co-operate from daylight 23rd October. Patrol is to be abandoned in time to carry out operation at D.N.U. as previously ordered. (F.O.C. I.B.C.S. 1929/22 to Capt: D.6)

Dover Shelled.

Between 0752 and 0903 today, 2 shells fell in Dover and 2 in sea outside Harbour. 6 civilians slightly injured. No Naval damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 2108/22 to Admty).

SUNFISH. STURGEON.

Submarines.

SUNFISH and STURGEON will be ready to leave for patrol about 26th and 29th Oct: respectively. Propose SUNFISH carries out patrol off Muckle Flugga and STURGEON off approaches to Bergen. Alternatively SUNFISH could go to Skaggeraak. (V.A.S. 1026/22 to C.in C. H.F.)

C.23.

Reports A/S Trawler Patrol off Fejeosen and northward to Holmengraa. (V.A.S. 1029/22 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.22.10.40.
Tuesday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines. (Contd.)Positions.For following 24 hours at 0700/23.
(V.A.S.1714/22 and V.A.S. Recd.1759/22).L.27.Report on D.4. (C.in C. Portsmouth
1903/22 to Adty).British Air Activity.Patrol
S.A.2N.Cancelled owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0922/22 to C.in C. H.F.)S.A.2 and S.A.3Cancelled tonight owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1310/22 to Adty).Fighter Aircraft.)
Proposed variations)
of Markings and)
Colours.)H.Q.F.C. have proposed the following
variations. Request your comments or
approval. (Air Ministry 1442/22 to
H.Q.C.C. Adty).Havre.Available aircraft of 53 Squadron to
attack tonight shipping in Basins at
Havre. (H.Q.C.C. 1505/22 to 16 Group,
Detling).Reconnaissance
of Norwegian
Coast.C.in C. H.F. 1943 and 2244/21. Reconnaissance
arranged between 63° 20'N and 60°
40'N, and from 59° 30'N and 20 miles S.E.
of Lister. (C.in C. Rosyth 2145/22 to
F.O.C. 15th C.S.)Enemy Air Activity.Shetlands.At 1540 there were indications of Enemy
Air reconnaissance over Shetlands and
especially over Lerwick. (D.D.I.C. 1801/22
to A.C.O.S.)Dover.At 1245 four light H.E. Bombs fell in the
Harbour. No damage or casualties.
(V.A. Dover 2108/22 to Adty).Convoy F.S.15.Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "Booty"
S.W. Swin. (VEGA 1900/22).

MOST SECRET.22.10.40.
Tuesday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Falmouth.

Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0240/22).

Liverpool.

Port Closed owing to suspected Mining by enemy aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0305 and 1030/22 to Adty).

Operation B.S.42.

Completed. (TEVIOT BANK 0345/22 to Adty).

JOSEPH BUTTON.H.M. ~~Wimmeran~~^{N/S Treadle}. Lost by Mine which exploded in kites in about 275° Aldeburgh 5.75 miles. 5 missing. Survivors in WILLIAM WESNEY and VIMIERA (VIMIERA 0928 and 0939/22).HOUSTON CITY.
(Mined 21/10).

British, 4935 tons. Mined aft, about 1715/21, in 225° East Oaze L.V. ½ a mile. Now beached ½ mile N.E. of Red Sand Buoy. Tugs and GOLDEN EAGLE in attendance. (C.in C. Nore 1007/22 to Adty). Salvage Vessel KING LEAR to leave Sheerness immediately and go to help of HOUSTON CITY. (Commodore Sheerness 1535/22 to KING LEAR).

WAVEFLOWER.
(sunk 21/10).

Sunk, presumably by mine, at 2359/21, West of Z in QZS.155. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1211/22 to Adty).

S.N.10.A.

Propose to sail with 1st M.L. Squadron ADVENTURE, and 4 Town-class Destroyers at 1600/29 and lay p.m./31 between 3 following positions. (R.A.M.L. 1225/22 to Adty).

HICKORY.

Mined and sunk at 1235 in 50° 26' 24" N., 2° 45' 48" W. 10 survivors, one seriously wounded. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1655/22 to Adty).

QZS.220.

A further 3 mines cut p.m./22. (V.A.Dover 1751/22 to Adty).



WAR DIARY.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

SOLSTAD.

Swedish (?1408 tons) reported mined in Southern Baltic. Swedish W/T states all crew saved. (Air Ministry D.S.460). Adty. Message 2302/22. Request you will arrange for clearance of minefield between Coningbeg Light Vessel and 18 Q.Z.F. with 11th M.S.F. At least two other ships as Danlayers will be required. Suggested that Tree Class Trawlers would be most suitable. Two other vessels will be necessary for mine sinking. (A.C.N.S. H. 2321/22 to C.in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Main Units.

Positions on 21/10.
(D.D.I.C. 1159/22 to A.I.G.)

Suspicious Steamer.

Skipper Trawler DERESKE reports at midnight 19/10/40 when in position 16 miles E by N of Minehead **seeing TRANMORE Bay** in 17 fathoms water. Steamer resembles a single funnelled white painted mail boat with 2 masts. Steamer had one small light forward and aft and moved about suspiciously till lost in fog Grade A.1. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1240/22 to Adty). *Steamer in P.526*

Cherbourg.

Shipping in Harbour on 22/10.
(P.R.U. St.Eval 2115/22).

Rame Head.

There is indication of unknown ship 5 to 10 miles to S. of Rame Head. Investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 2129 to KELVIN, JACKAL).

Brest.

6 Destroyers seen, all alongside quays.
(P.R.U. St. Eval 2215/22).

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

DEFECTS AND CASUALTIES.

MARGAREE.

Believed sunk in collision with S.S. PORT FAIRY in Convoy OL8., 450 miles West of Slyne Head at 0230/22. (Daily operations report). Was Destroyer sunk? Request you signal names of survivors. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/22 to PORT FAIRY).

CAIRNGLEN.

British, 5019 tons. Aground off Souther Point. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0743/22 to Adty).

MARITIMA.

British, 5804 tons. From Glasgow. Due Durban 17/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town. 0955.B/22 to Adty).

JOTUNFJELL.

Norwegian Tanker, 8264 Tons. From Basra. Due Durban 18/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0955.B/22 to Adty).

GRANBY.

My0100/21. Not yet refloated. Second attempt on 28/10 should succeed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1047/22 to Adty).

FAME.
ASHANTI.

Visited yesterday by R.A.D. Prospect of salving ASHANTI quite good if weather reasonably good till spring tides. FAME a doubtful proposition and will take longer. Suggest Chief Salvage Officer, Scapa, take charge as whole time job. C.in C. Rosyth and A.C.O.S. concur. (C.in C. H.F. 1731/22 to Adty).

CHELSEA.

Delayed by a new defect. Amended time of sailing 0800/23. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1943/22 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

BIBURY.

Sailed Milford Haven 28/8, due Buenos Aires 1/10, may have been sunk by raider about 9/9 south of Cape de Verde. (D.D.I.C. 1647/22).

MOST SECRET.22nd October, 1940.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.ConvoysShipping.Reykjavik.HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER to escort convoy to ~~Reykjavik~~. (C.in C. W.A. 1249/22).
*Reykjavik.*S.C.8.

HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER to meet at 0800/26, position. (C.in C. W.A. 1249/22).

O.B. 223)O.B. 234)

A/S trawlers detailed for (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1740/22).

H.X. 80.

Position. Escorts (HASTINGS, PHILANTE, FLEUR DE LYS, WANDERER, CASTLETON, PICOTEE) leave O.A. and O.B. 231 in time to meet H.X. 80 at 0800/23. (C.in C. W.A. 1733/22).

O.A. 233.

12 ships. Escort ABERDEEN, GARDENIA (N.C.S.O. Methil 0540/22).

F.N. 17.

Escort LOWESTOFT and WOLSEY. (C.in C. Nore 1250/22).

F.N. 18.

Escort VEGA and VIMIERA (C.in C. Nore 1250/22).

O.B. 232.

Sailed 1342/21, 12 ships, escort ENCHANTRESS, SABRE, (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1410/21)

ANADARA

Damaged tanker. Intend sailing for Falmouth 0930/23. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1545/22).

POLLY M.

Coaster. Intend sailing for Falmouth 0930/23. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1545/22).

COMORIN

When ready, to be sailed for Halifax, best available A/S and air protection being arranged. (D.O.D. (H) 1842/22).

Operations Against Vichy French.DELHI to support Landing at Libreville

Following from Rotherham. French ship ^{COMMANDANT} DUBOC not available. ^{COMMANDANT} HOUDUCE required for Corisco landing. Aircraft will be available. De Gaulle urgently requests DELHI enter with Free French Forces. DELHI has seen pilot and considers entry navigationally safe. After discussion with De Gaulle. DELHI concurs it is essential he should enter to encourage French determination and ensure success of entry and subsequent landing. If you concur, request:

(a) DELHI may remain at Duala to plan operation and sail with convoy, (b) intend suggesting that Governor who commands Free French and Major Spears sail in DELHI.

De Gaulle agrees that Free French ships approach place under your orders with DELHI acting divisional commander of inshore group while in action.

(DELHI, 0136/22 to F.O.I.S.)

/ My 0136/22.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued).

DELHI to
support landing
at Libreville. cont.

My 0136/22. Plan depends on your decision regarding DELHI's conduct. No details worked out. Amateur seamen on French side. Danger of fiasco if lack of planning and common doctrine. (DELHI, 0138/22 to F.O.I.C.S.)

Reporting above to Admty, and suggesting DELHI remains at Manoka to supervise naval planning and escorts for convoy. (DELHI, 1330/22).

My 0145/19. De Gaulle now most urgently requests that DELHI should enter concurrently with Free French Force, alternative being abandonment of operation. Intend to agree to DELHI running paravanes (F.O.I.C.S. 0941/22, to Admty.)

C.S.1.
to Control.

Wish you to assume full responsibility for planning and conduct of operation locally.. Desirable to keep Libreville out of bad hands, but cannot risk a fiasco. (D.O.D.(F) to C.S.1, 1856/22).

DELHI
DEVONSHIRE.

DELHI to return to (? Point Noire Bay). DEVONSHIRE will arrive 0900. Rotherham to meet on arrival. (C.S.1 to DELHI, 2145/22).

Exchange of
French Captives.

Following from French Admiralty (begins) As British Government has authorised the immediate return to France of several members of French Mission detained in England, French Admiralty has agreed that an equivalent number of British Subjects against whom special measures of mild reprisal have had to be taken may be given same facilities (ends). Is there anything this Embassy can do to implement the above? There are still many British soldiers in unoccupied France. (N.A. Madrid, 1020/22).

Ships for
Repatriation of
French naval
ratings.

French Adty. state it has been arranged that four French ships are to sail from U.S.A. to U.K. to repatriate French naval ratings to France. Request that New York representative of Min. of Shipping and H.M. Ambassador Washington may be advised as follows SS MICHIGAN will not sail but will be replaced by SS SAN FRANCISCO. Authority has now been given for her departure and for that of SS OREGON, WINNIPEG, and WYOMING. (N.A. Madrid, 1200/22).

Air and S/M
crews.

Three R.A.F. Airmen from plane shot down off Casablanca, who are now held in Morocco should, if possible, be included in the arrangements for the exchange of crew of French Submarine sunk at Dakar. (Head of M. 1357/22 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ Intelligence



MOST SECRET.

501

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued).

- Intelligence. Differences between German and Italians re French units at Toulon and in North Africa. French N.A. message in writing from French Admty. that Britain had nothing to fear from French warships so long as we did not attack them or threaten French coasts. (N.A. Madrid, 1115/22).
- PRIMAUGUET. French N.A. tells me PRIMAUGUET has not left Casablanca since 1/10. (N.A. Madrid 1140/22).
- INDOCHINOIS. Requesting whether had any troops on board etc. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A., 1857/22). Preliminary report on INDOCHINOIS (my 1659/19). Arrived Dakar 11/10 and discharged cargo. Sailed for Konakri 15/10, arriving 17/10, disembarked at Konakri 950 black troops (reported demobilized), sailing same day for Port Bouet. Has now onboard 30 tons general cargo, mainly foodstuffs. 228 demobilized unarmed black troops for repatriation to home in Ivory Coast, 1 demobilized French officer in charge. Other passengers. No arms. Master and crew show little anti-British feeling. Proposals for disposing of troops and passengers. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty., 2017 N/22, corrected 0625/23).
- North Atlantic.
- Lisbon Patrol. Gibraltar departures 0820/22. M.L. 126 escorted by KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE to operate off Lisbon. (S.O.I., Gib., 1006/22).
- South Atlantic.
- S.W.2. CARTHAGE escorting Convoy S.W.2 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0539/22).
- Overdue Ships. MARITIMA due Durban 17/10 from Glasgow JOTUNFJEL due Durban 18/10 from Basra, both not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0955 B/22).
- Raider Report. S.S. DEFOE now at Buenos Aires reports having heard NATIA calling Q Q Q 8/10, Position 000° 50' N. 032° 24' W. (C.in C. S.A. 1706/22).
- Lagos. Use of. If use of Dakar in future is unlikely, suggest possibility of making greater use of repair and docking facilities at Lagos be examined. Observations. (C.in C. S.A. 1931/22).



MOST SECRET.

502

22. 10. 1940

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Uniform"

Requesting M.T. ships, as they will be formed in line with warships, be provided with signal ratings and equipment (details). (S.O. Force H, to Admty., 1730/22).

Greece.

Rome report that invasion of Greece to begin 25/10. Stated Russia promised the Dardanelles in return of accession to Axis. (Minister, Washington, 1739/22 to F.O.)

Alexandria
Raid.

Operational Summary 134 to 1200/22. 0330-0530, estimated about 9 enemy aircraft in 5 groups bombed Alexandria area. 4 bombs fell on 103 M.U. Aboukir, severely damaging airscrews shop and 1 Valencia, slight damage to other aircraft. 1 airman slightly wounded. Bombers carefully avoided A/A barrage over harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1236/22) About 12 aircraft, 20 bombs. (R.A. Alexandria 1040/22).

GNAT.

Your 0748/6. GNAT to proceed Mediterranean as soon as ready. Minesweeping gear should be sent. (D. of P., 1855/22, to C.in C. E.I.)

Torpedo
Bombing
Attacks.

Your 0930/17. Description of tactics used in torpedo bombing attacks on KENT and LIVERPOOL, and in AJAX action with destroyers. (C.in C. Med. to S.O. Force H., 0925/22).

East Indies.

LLANSTEPAN
CASTLE.

Left Mombasa 1155 G.M.T./22, troop transport. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1225 Z/22).

KIMBERLEY,
destruction of
FRANCESCO
NULLO
21/10.

My 0812/21. Hopes to repair one engine at sea. Probably going to Port Sudan. (C.in C. E.I., 0336 Z/22).

My 0336/22. KIMBERLEY in tow of KINGSTON expects to arrive Port Sudan 1600 Z/22. (C.in C. E.I. 11522/22).

My 0835/21. Following from KIMBERLEY. Destroyer identified as FRANCESCO NULLO by letters NL on side. Disabled by gunfire, sunk by torpedo. KIMBERLEY hit by one 4" shell from shore battery, Harmil Island, of 3 guns, two of which were silenced. Main damage caused by splinters piercing steam pipe. None killed, 3 wounded. (C.in C. E.I. 1548/22).

R.A.F. Operational Summary 134. Three Blenheims 45 Sqdn. making offensive recco. Harmil Island located and bombed destroyer aground there, one bomb hitting stern destroyer. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1236/22).

/ WESTERNLAND

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

WESTERNLAND.

Your 1725/21. CERES can escort from vicinity of Durban. (C.in C. E.I., to C.in C. S.A. 1216 Z/22).

B.M.2.

Details of transports sailed in B.M.2 from Bombay 20/10. (S.S.T.O., Bombay 1045 Z/22).

B.N.8½.

Your 0719/19. Intend U.S.6 personnel to leave Bombay (date) in Convoy B.N.8½, about 11 ships. As no slow personnel ships in view for B.N.9, there will not be a B.N.9 Convoy from Bombay. Request sail any store ships for B.N.9 to catch convoy at Aden. Ships of 13 knots or over waiting at Aden for B.N.9 should join B.N.8½. (C.in C. E.I., to F.O.C.R.I.N., 0914 Z/22).

A.P.3.

Arrived Suez a.m./22. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1752/22).

China.

Dominions
and Japan.

Asking for information re return of Dominion Forces in event of war with Japan. (C.in C. China to Admty., 0759 Z/22).

CRICKET
TARANTULA

Your 0447/6. To be sailed when ready for Mediterranean and East Indies respectively. (D. of P. to C.in C. China. 1859/22).

Air Strength.

Commenting on signals A.752 of 15/10 from A.O.C. and 554 from C.in C. China, re figure of strength in aircraft and conversations with N.E.I. representatives. (Air Ministry 1155/22 to H.Q., Far East).

Shipping,
Japan.

Cancel my 0445/6, 0449/6 and 0523/7. Policy to be adopted by British and Allied shipping in Area 4 (a) under present conditions, (b) if war with Japan appears probable, (c) if war with Japan appears inevitable. (C.in C. China, 0813 Z/22).

Use of Gas
by Japan.

In view of widespread use by Japan, we should be in a position to retaliate should gas be used against Malaya. Proposals. (G.O.C. Malaya to W.O. 1852/22).



MOST SECRET.

504

22.10.1940.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

COMORIN.

To be sailed for Halifax when ready.
(D.O.D.(H) to C.in C. Rosyth, 1842/22).

Bermuda,
Contraband
Control.

In view of calling at Bermuda of Japanese ships for examination, propose Bermuda be made a minor contraband control base. Governor concurs. (C.in C. A. W.I., 1231/22).

Navigation
Lights,
Shipping.

Admty. 1201/16. Request confirmation that instruction should apply to Allied ships. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 0850/22).

BRADFORD.

Your 1402/22 to R.A. 3 B.S. only. Both aircraft returned without sighting BRADFORD after searching track 75 miles wide from St. John's N.F. to depth of 240 miles. You should proceed N. Eastward during the night turning to continue search at daylight and thence returning to Halifax. BRADFORD may have no engine room defects and be following remaining destroyer. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1721/22, to MONTCLARE)

Patrol to
Intercept
HELGOLAND.

My 1441 re patrol of approaches to Colombia to capture German ship HELGOLAND. Close Puerto Colombia during daylight hours 23/10 in order to ensure being sighted but keep outside territorial waters. Leave patrol after dark October 23rd and proceed Curacao. (C.in C. A.W.I.) 1302/2 to VAN KINSBERGEN).

Australia.

Suspicious Vessel.

My 0847 Z/21. On present information, probably no hostile vessel was sighted. (A.C.N.B., 0204/22).

U.S.6.

PERTH escorting U.S.6 (QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA) left R.V. in Bass Strait 21/10 for Fremantle. (A.C.N.B., Melbourne, 0220 Z/22).
Route and details. (A.C.N.B. 0310 Z/22).

MOST SECRET.22.10.1940.War Diary.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.ANNELIESE
ESSBERGER
KULMERLAND.

Your 1635/21 states ANNELIESE ESSBERGER has crew seven ships on board including that of s.s. BIBURY. BIBURY sailed Milford Haven 28/8 due Buenos Ayres 1/10 she may have been sunk by raider about 9/9.

ANNALIESE ESSBERGER is believed to have sailed from Kobe 10/10 in company with KULMERLAND. They may be prison and supply ships but it is unlikely that either has crew of BIBURY on board. Request further details as to reliability of source your information. (D.D.I.C. 1647/22.).

GERMANIA.

Indications preparing to leave in near future. (Consul, Ponta Delgada, 1245/22).



MOST SECRET. 506

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TODARO

Teneriffe report states appears to be preparing to sail from territorial waters. (F.O.C.N.A. 1233/22'.

Unnamed vessel.

Italian Merchant Vessel name unknown left Genoa 0700/21 for Barcelona. May change flag en route. Time of passage expected four to five days. Cargo includes aeroplane parts. Source Italian via Polish Legation which assesses source very highly indeed. My grading B three. (N.A. Madrid 2022/22).

MOST SECRET.

22nd.10.1940.

Tuesday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Night
Attacks.

Recent reports indicate that night attacks may be made on convoys by two or more U boats acting in cooperation, first attack being designed to draw off escort. Subsequent attacks being carried out on surface from short range, probably from inside convoy.
(C.in C. W.A., 1835/22).

KABALO.
(sunk 15/10)

My 1803/17. This loss is now known to be due to Italian U/B. (D.D.I.C.1844/22).

Portuguese naval authorities report that Italian Submarine who sank Belgian steamer KABALO 15/10 500 miles south west of Azores picked up one boat's crew on 17/10 transferring them afterwards to fishing vessel near Azores 20/10, (2 dead).

**Doubtful may be
SS PANAM (Panamanian)*

Other boat saved by Belgian steamer PANAMA. (N.A. Lisbon, 1525/22).

SHIRAK
(torpedoed,
19/10).

British, 6023 tons. Torpedoed 2245/19, 57° N., 16.35 W. Ship on fire, books in safe, vessel not seen to sink. Struck by one torpedo on starboard side. Neither submarine nor torpedo seen. Crew landed Belfast today in BLACKFLY. No casualties or missing. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1805/22).

Submarines Reported.1242.

D.F. U/B may be about 100 miles N.W. by N. of Cape Wrath probably homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1325/22).

0830)
1015)

Submarine sighted 0830 G.M.T./22 in 38.04 N., 25.45 W. and at 1015 G.M.T. in 38.04 N., 26.02 W., steering N. Grading A.1, authority Captain of Port. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1239/22) (F.O.C.N.A., 2220/22 to ALCANTARA).

1652.

D.F., probably 2 U-boats 47° to 48° N., 6° 30' to 8° W. (V.A.S., 1742/22).

1416.

54.30 to 55.30 N., 15° - 17° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

1525.

59° to 60° N., W. of 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

2116.

About 120' S.W. of Fastnet, position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

2226.

About 90' S.E. of Fastnet, position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

1910.

47° to 48° N., about 5° W., position indefinite (D.S. 414).

1115.

38.04 N., 26.02 W., course N., probably Italian U/B. (D.S. 414).

/Estimated U/B dispositions...



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated
U/B dispositions.

Italian - No news.

German - Situation obscure; probabilities are:-

1 or possibly 2 due Lorient to-night.

2 due Lorient to-morrow night.

1 or possibly 2 S.W. of W. of Ireland bound northwards.

As regards further north:-

1 may be in about 59 degs. N. and W. of 20 degs. W.

1 may be some 60 degs. S.W. of Rockall.

3 more in N.W. Approaches or farther W. whereabouts unknown.

(D.D.I.C. 1236/22.).



War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

→ Patrol
East of Shetlands
Search by
Home Fleet Units

Force E. (SOMALI, MATABELE and PUNJABI) last night patrolled eastward of the Shetlands the enemy having shown marked interest in the Shetlands yesterday. From daylight today aircraft of R.N.A.S. co-operated in search for homeward bound U-Boats between Muckle Flugga and Port Authur. There were further indications of enemy air reconnaissance over the Shetlands this morning, and reconnaissance aircraft were also active over Scapa.

Operation D.N.

C.S. 15 in NAIAD with BONAVENTURE left Rosyth this morning to raid shipping near Egersund.

→ Operation D.N.U.


Force E proceeded for an offensive sweep off Stadlandet.

Enemy
Intelligence

There were indications this forenoon that an important movement, in which an 8 inch cruiser was possibly involved, was taking place from Northern Norway to the Skagerrak. Two groups were sent to investigate. Group one consisting of ARETHUSA, NORFOLK and SOUTHAMPTON proceeded towards Stadlandet. Group Two consisting of the battle cruisers, HOOD and REPULSE, DIDO, PHEBE and 5 destroyers proceeded towards Obrestad. SEAWOLF and O 24 were ordered to withdraw their patrols about 18 miles off the Norwegian Coast.

Dover Patrol

Dover Patrol was cancelled this evening owing to fog.

MOST SECRET
War Diary23.10.1940
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTBritish Air ActivityBomber Command

Owing to adverse weather conditions all operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled or postponed.

Ships at Ostend and 3 motor vessels, possibly E-Boats, 10 miles off Walcheren were attacked today. Results were not observed.

Coastal Command

Four Blenheims successfully attacked Lorient last night.

Today, two Beauforts on offensive patrol attacked a westbound convoy consisting of 9 merchant vessels and 3 escort vessels, 5 miles North of Schiermonnikoog. Each aircraft released a torpedo., One vessel of 4000 tons and another of 2000 tons were hit. One was seen to be down by the stern, whilst the decks of the other were awash.

Special reconnaissances were made of the Norwegian Coast between Lister and Trondheim Fiord this afternoon. 2 merchant vessels of 10000 tons were sighted leaving Bergen in a north westerly direction, and 3 smaller merchant ships were seen near Lister.

Enemy Air Activity

Shetlands and Scapa see Home Commands, Force E.

Aberdeen trawler H.E.STROUD was unsuccessfully bombed this evening in the approaches to Aberdeen.

SS EMPIRE ABILITY was damaged by a near miss p.m. today whilst lying at Garsloch, Clyde.

SS CRAIGAN ~~ERAN~~ was attacked and slightly damaged 25 miles South of Kinsale.



War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Plymouth was closed from 0106 to 1058 today on account of suspected magnetic mining. 3 mines were cut off Dover yesterday.

Mines were found today off Hartlepool and Milford Haven.

East Indies

There was an air raid on Port Sudan this morning, but no material damage was done.

3 Blenheims today attacked the main quays and destroyer base at Massawa, and listening posts at Mersa Taclai and Mersa Deresa.



War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
~~DELUGE~~ Signal

At 1400/23. (D.C. 1417/23)

Nore Command
Notice for Steam

Air R/C cancelled owing to fog. Steam to be kept at short notice until 0900/23. (C. in C., Nore, 0509/23 to F.O.I.C., Humber, etc.,)

Starting today available cruisers, destroyers, corvettes, and fleet minesweepers in harbour are to be at the following notice for steam:-

From 0830 to 2000 2½ hours

From 2000 to 0830 ½ hour

Duty destroyers by day are to be half an hour's notice as follows:-

Humber one, Harwich one, Sheerness two.

Cancel my 1035/12/9. (C. in C., Nore, 1119/23 to Command)

Policy

Western Command
Telephone

Request direct telephone communication with new Sub-Area H.Q. at Port Merion. Western Command concur. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1137/23 to Adty.)

Faroes.
Examination
Trawlers

My 0218/31/8. All ships passing Skopen or Hesto Fiords should be examined. To enable this to be done, request you maintain a total of 3 instead of 2 A/S Trawlers in the Faroes. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1152/23 to A.C.O.S)

Movements

COMORIN

Adty. 1842/22. Will be ready to leave Tyne 29/10. Request H.F. Destroyer Escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1241/23 to C. in C., H.F)

Portsmouth

Movements for night 23/24. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1403/23)

NIGERIA)
NEWCASTLE)

Your 1002/23. Approved for NIGERIA to relieve NEWCASTLE at Plymouth. Request you arrange with C. in C., W.A. and signal proposed date of exchange. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1604/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

/GLASGOW.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary23.10.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSMovements-Contd.GLASGOW
BERWICK

Following additional ammunition to be embarked before sailing, but sailing not to be delayed by this. (A.C.N.S.(H), 1614/23 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Escort Group
Allocations

My 2101/12 and 1457/14. Following Destroyers, Corvettes and A/S Trawlers are to be allocated to Escort Groups as follows (C. in C., W.A., 1721/23 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

OperationsIceland

* Sailed ARGUS, HURRICANE, BEAGLE, ACHATES in accordance with my 1504/22. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0415/23 to Adty.)

Force E.

My 1218/22. C. in C., H.F. 2244/21 passed to Force E before sailing. Position of SEAWOLF and Submarine (F.O.C. 1. B.C.S. 1041/23 to Force E.)

Norwegian Coast
Operation

Adty's 1157/23. (See Enemy Intelligence) Proceed in two Groups. Group 1, consisting of ARETHUSA, NORFOLK, and SOUTHAMPTON, to proceed towards Stadlandet. Group 2, consisting of Battle Cruisers, DIDO, PHOEBE, and all available Destroyers to proceed towards Obrestad. (C. in C., H.F., 1249/23 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

C.S. 15 projected movements are: 58° 17' N., 1° E at 1800/23, 58° 40' N., 3° E., close Norwegian Coast in latitude Egars, and withdrew through B to 57° 40' N., 0° 55' E., at 0845/24 (C. in C., H.F., 1347/23 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1217/22. Withdrawal course is to be along latitude 62° 10' N., F.O.C. 2nd C.S. on reaching 62° N., is to turn to 265° if no further information of enemy available. (C. in C., H.F. 1419 and 1638/23 to Capt. D. 6.)

* Withdrawal of Purple Force from Iceland (M. 021045/40)

/My 1249.....



War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norwegian Coast
Operation, Contd.

My 1249. Group 2 is to keep North of 58° 50' N., and, if no enemy information available, is to withdraw to westward along that latitude at 0200/24 or when reaching 4° E. whichever is the earlier. (C. in C., H.F. 1427/23 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

If no further information received by 1000/24 D. 6. act in accordance with B.C.'1's 1217/22 and remainder return to their bases. (C. in C., H.F., 2331/23 to B.C.1)

Dover Patrol

Cancelled owing to thick weather. Return to harbour. (C. in C., Nore, 1651/23 to WALPOLE, VESPER)

Submarines

PORPOISE

To leave patrol after dark 24/10. R.V. with SURPRISE. Orders. (Capt S. 2. 0946/23)

TUNA

Route (Capt. S.2. 0951/23)

UNIQUE

Escorted by Trawler HAARLEM from Campbeltown to Lizard. Arrangements (S.2. 0953/23 and 0511/24)

SEAWOLF

To leave patrol after dark 24/10 for Rosyth. Route (Capt S. 3. 1057/23) Proceed to patrol about 18 miles off Norwegian coast. (V.A.S. 1318/23)

STURGEON

To leave Rosyth p.m./26 to carry out patrol in Skagerrak..

SUNFISH

To leave Rosyth 26/10 to carry out anti-U-Boat patrol N.N.E. of Shetlands. Arrangements (V.A(S) 1101/23)

UTMOST)
UPRIGHT)

Subject to Adty. approval, to carry out anti U-Boat patrol up to 48 hours in (position (V.A.S. 1244/23) Proposed patrol approved (D.O.D. (H)2116/23)

Positions &
Movements

0700/24. (V.A.S. 1718/23)



War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Ostend

Docks and shipping attacked on 23/10.
(H.Q.B.C. 0115/24)

Mobile Balloon
Barrage

A.M. 1919/19/10. Owing to increased number of ships in next C.W. Convoy it is desired to sail 7 Mobile Balloon Barrage vessels in this convoy. Request your concurrence. (D. of L.D. 1312/23 to Balloon Command)

A/S Patrol

Cancel my 1346/14 and my 1602/19. Following cross-over A/S Patrol will be flown daily by Hudson aircraft, four circuits being flown of following area. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1750/23 to Ships)

Proposed Bombing
of Enemy Coastal
Batteries

Request bombing of Coastal Batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse from 1930 to 2100/24. during passage of Convoy C.W. through Straits of Dover. (D.O.D.(H) 2207/23 to Air Ministry)

Enemy Air Activity

Shetlands

My 1801/22. Further indications of enemy Air R/C over Shetlands Area at 0844 and 0944 today. (D.D.I.C. 1023/23)

CRAIGANARAN

Attacked with M.G. and cannon at 1800/17 when 23 miles south of (? Kinsale) one slight casualty and slight damage to ship. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1150/23 to Adty.)

Scapa

At 1110/23 Enemy R/C Aircraft were active over Scapa. (D.D.I.C. 1216/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

SOMALI

One aircraft shadowing me. My position 61° N 0° 30' W., (SOMALI 1249/23) Still being shadowed. Two aircraft. My position 61° 22' N., 0° 35' W., (SOMALI 1555/23)

Convoy "Agent"
AGENT

One aircraft shadowing me in 51° 49' N., 1° 32' E., (VEGA 1457/23)

Convoy "Label"
LABEL

One aircraft shadowing Convoy. My position 57° 45' N., 0° 34' E., bearing 035° distance 27 miles. (NAIAD 1700/23)

CONAKRIAN

British, 4876 tons. Damaged by aerial Torpedo on 20/10. Dragged On shore one mile south of Bridge of Don at 2200/22. Crew landed 0500/23 by lifeboat. Towing and salvage will continue when weather permits. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1030/23 to Adty)

MOST SECRETWar Diary23.10.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSMiningPlymouth

Cancel my 0106/23. Port Open. (C. in C., W.A. -1058/23)

Dover

3 mines cut p.m./22 in Q.Z.S. 220. Sweeping continues. (V.A.Dover 1241/23)

Tyne

Military Roker Battery reports mine exploded 089° 2000 yards Roker Battery Sunderland 1401. P.W.S.S. Sunderland give position as 088° 1.5 miles P.W.S.S. Sunderland. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1538/23)

Hartlepool

One mine exploded spontaneously 55° 2 cables approx. Heugh Lt. at 1538 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1555/23)

Harwich

Intend sweep F.S. and F.N. through swept water tomorrow with 2 Fleet Sweepers and to start proposed clearance in vicinity 54 A Buoy Friday of Saturday weather permitting. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1656/23)

148 Q.Z.S. Fleet Sweepers swept F.S. and F.N. Convoy through between 540 Buoy and sunk Light Vessel. 2 sweeps parted. 1 mine found in sweep. HARRIER cruising till daylight with mine still in sweep. 4 ships patrolling north of "Z" with orders to sweep "F.S". Convoy down A.M. to-morrow Thursday. (F.O.I/c Harwich 2058/23)

Operation
B.S. 43

Intend TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER to sail from Spurn Point at 0730/26. Laying will begin 2330/26. (S.O.Minelayers, Immingham 1746/23)

Milford Haven

One red magnetic mine detonated 25 yards 188° -from No 3 buoy at 1105. Mine was laid at 0625 and position was known through the watchfulness of the lookout on board French Tanker SAINT RONGE alongside which ship it fell. (F.O.I/c Milford Haven, 1800/23)

Enemy IntelligenceNorwegian Coast
Enemy Movement

There are indications that an important movement is taking place from Northern Norway to Skaggerak. Unit or Units concerned are probably in Trondhjem area this forenoon. It is possible an 8" cruiser may be involved (V.C.N.S. 1157/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

/W/T.....



War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast
Enemy Movement
Contd.

W/T intelligence indicates that movement continued to the Southward. This has been passed to C.S. 2. (A.C.N.S. H. 2117/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

Bay of Biscay

At 0658 in 47° 24' N., 5° W. one M/V 2000 to 3000 tons fully illuminated. (Air Ministry 1320/23 to Adty)

Hjelte Fiord

2 large M/V's proceeding M/V's proceeding to sea through Fiord in 60° 37' N., 4° 57' E in N.W.ly dorection. Aircraft report. (C. in C., Rosyth 1544/23 to Ships)

Obrestad

3 M/V's about 1000 tons seen in vicinity at 1520 and 1530. Particulars. (C. in C., Rosyth 1918 and 2218/23 to C.S. 15)

North Sea

Aircraft report at 1626, 9 M/V's in 53° 34' N 6° 8' E., steering 260° at slow speed. (V.A.S. 1946/23 to S/M H. 49)

Norwegian Coast

Result of R/C. No shipping seen between 63°N and 60° 18' N., Coastal traffic 6 small M/V's between 63° N., and Trøndeim. No warships sighted. (C. in C., Rosyth 2154/23 to Capt D. 6., and 2226/23 to B.C.1. etc.,)

Walcheren

At 1433, 10 miles West of Walcheren, 3 small motor vessels possible E-Boats heading east. (H.Q.B.C. 0115/24)

Ostend

At 1546, one 4000 ton M/V, 20 small craft, and several small ships at fishing wharves (H.Q.B.C. 0115/24)

23.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

WAR NAWAB

Your 1634/22. Owing to defects, ship unable to sail from Southend for routing to Portsmouth. (Commodore Sheerness 1120/23 to C. in C., Nore.)

STORSTAD

Norwegian Tanker, 8998 tons. Left Miri on 30/9 for Melbourne. Not arrived. (A.C.N.B. 1355/23 to S.O.I. Singapore)

HERO

H.M. Trawler. LADY BRASSEY sailed at 1142/23 to help HERO on South Goodwin Sands and returned at 1501 with HERO in tow. (V.A. Dover 1519/23 to Adty.)

HUNTER

First party of four survivors of HUNTER travelling as tradesmen leave Stockholm 25th due Istanbul 30th. It is hoped to evacuate a similar party every week until all 43 ratings have left Sweden. Request N. Attache Istanbul be instructed as to where these ratings shall be routed on arrival and that DRAKE be informed. (N.A. Stockholm, 2544/23 to Admty.)

LORD IRWIN

Your 1403/23. Sailing of Tug SECURITY towing LORD IRWIN postponed. Propose sailing tow at 0730/24. (F.O.I.C. 1629/23. to C. in C., Portsmouth)

MALCOLM

My 1738/22. Sailing delayed by defective D.G. (C. in C., Nore, 1658/23 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

MARGAREE

Your 2020/22. Failed to sink Destroyer. Left her on fire settling slowly to stern. Survivors names. (PORT FAIRY 1154/23 to Admiral, Devonport)



War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

ST CLAIR
VESLEKARI

Reference A.M. 1723/22 inspection of ST. CLAIR shows accommodation to be sufficient. VESLEKARI not required Naval service Iceland. Undesirable this unsatisfactory crew return here. (N.O.1/c Iceland 1507/23)

Convoys

H.X. 80

No met. My position CASTLETON in company. (FLEUR DE LYS, 1200/23) Your 1200. Estimate position H.X. 80. (C. in C., W.A. 1920/23 to FLEUR DE LYS, CASTLETON)

O.B. 233

Amending 1740/22, re A/S trawlers for (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1254/23)

E.N. 11.

H.M.T's HUGH WALPOLE, SOUTHERN WAVE, (N.C.S.O Methil 1116/23) E.N. 11. returned owing to stress of weather. Cancel my 1117/23 to A.C.W.A. re. and my 1116/23 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1441/23)

S.C. 10.

Cancel my 1621/21 and substitute following route. (D.T.D. 1329/23)



War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

ST CLAIR
VESLEKARI

Reference A.M. 1723/22 inspection of ST. CLAIR shows accommodation to be sufficient. VESLEKARI not required Naval service Iceland. Undesirable this unsatisfactory crew return here. (N.O.i/c Iceland 1507/23)

Convoys

H.X. 80

No met. My position CASTLETON in company. (FLEUR DE LYS, 1200/23) Your 1200. Estimate position H.X. 80. (C. in C., W.A. 1920/23 to FLEUR DE LYS, CASTLETON)

O.B. 233

Amending 1740/22, re A/S trawlers for (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1254/23)

E.N. 11.

H.M.T's HUGH WALPOLE, SOUTHERN WAVE, (N.C.S.O Methil 1116/23) E.N. 11. returned owing to stress of weather. Cancel my 1117/23 to A.C.W.A. re. and my 1116/23 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1441/23)

S.C. 10.

Cancel my 1621/21 and substitute following route. (D.T.D. 1329/23)



MOST SECRET.

520

23.10.1940.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

→ French
Convoys,
Interception.

Your 1320/20. Spanish territorial waters must be respected. French territorial waters may be entered but no action should be taken till BARHAM has been undocked. In initial attempt at bringing in a convoy destroyers only should be used and action should only be taken if destroyers represent overwhelming strength. (1st Lord and 1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 0056/23). (See also 1517/23 (Lons)).

DRAGON
PENNLAND.

My 1051/21. DRAGON leaving Freetown for Takoradi a.m./23 to escort PENNLAND to Bathurst. BELGRAVIAN also proceeding to Takoradi to transport lorries which cannot be taken in PENNLAND and will afterwards proceed to Duala in accordance with Admty. 2109/15 when arrangements with Cameroons Govt. has been made. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty., 0131/23)

Libreville
DELHI

Your 0956/22 not to C.in C. S.A. and Admiralty. Leclerc delighted and determined to succeed at all costs and intends to remain until Libreville is taken. His only concern is that expedition should not fail or turn back soon and asks for assurance that you will not withdraw naval force before completion. I have assured him on this point provided no unforeseen naval obstacle intervenes. (DELHI, 0134/23, to F.O.I.C.S.).

Spears has sent signal direct to War Cabinet supporting French request for DELHI to enter Libreville. (DELHI, 0148/23 to C.S.I., C.in C. S.A., and Admty.) Expect to arrive position B 1800/23 (DELHI, 0153/23).

Admty. 1856/22. It is clear that active participation of DELHI is an ingredient essential to the success of this plan and without her they will not continue. Am remaining at Duala to examine plan and will report fully on return tomorrow. (C.S.1, 1825 A/23, to Admty.)

Gaboon
Campaign.

Progress of land operation in Gaboon 22/10. Northern Force arrived Mitjik, Southern Force bombarded Lambarene today, tanks expected to be in position tomorrow 23/10. (DELHI, 0205/23, to F.O. 1 C.S. etc.)

→ French Convoys,
Interception.

Your 0056/23. After interception the French Force may despatch surface and Air Forces from Oran or Casablanca depending on where interception has taken place to attempt release of Convoy before latter can reach Gibraltar.

/ To guard against

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued)

French Convoys.
Interception.

→ Readiness of BARHAM.

To guard against this contingency I consider the full support of Force H will be necessary. BARHAM requires 4 days after undocking to complete outfit ammunition and provisions. Consider any action contemplated should be deferred until she is ready. In view of probable retaliation by French Air Force on Gibraltar which may well lead to actions between surface vessels, intend to defer embarkation of additional ammunition in BARHAM (Admty. 1628/22) until situation is clarified.
(S.O. Force H., 1517/23 to Admty.)

French Troops
for Dakar.

Three Liners MARRAKECH, SINAI, MARECHAL LYAUTEY, arrived Dakar 20/10 with full complement of troops and ammunition. Still Dakar 21/10. Reported returning soon to Casablanca. Weekly movement of Troopships reported between Casablanca and Dakar. Since interception of INDOCHINOIS troops from Dakar for other parts of French West Africa reported going overland via Bamako. (Actg. Govr., Sierra Leone, 1735/23, to Admty.)

→ BARHAM.

Your 1140 Z/8. What was the reason for BARHAM running short of fuel? (1 S.L. to BARHAM, 1745/23).

Exchange of
Prisoners.
Dakar
excludes
Free French.

My 2001/28/9, 1133/15/10 and 2015/22/10. Following is translation of telegram received from Boisson, Governor-General Dakar. (Begins). French Government informs me that proposal for exchange of prisoners could only apply to British nationals. Grateful if you would inform me of your intentions in this matter. (Ends). Matter was first raised with ref. to De Gaulle's (?men) only (my 2001/28/9 and my 1133/15/10). De Gaulle's (?reply to) Governor Duala's 0909/20/10 suggested settlement "without distinction for Free French and Englishmen who took part in common operations". Consider exchange of AJAX crew should not be negotiated without Free French as well as British being returned. Presume all further semi-negotiations will be with French Admiralty direct through N.A. Madrid (vide your 2026/14) Shall I inform Boisson to this effect?
(C.in C. S.A. 1341/23).

MASSILIA.

Your 1902/21. French N.A. should be informed may sail without further delay. (Route). Essential Admty. should be informed when vessel sails and when expected off N.Ireland. (Head of M. to N.A. Madrid, 1243/23).

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DRAGON

Left 0600/23 in accordance C.in C. S.A. 0131/23 (visit to Takoradi). (S.O.I.), Freetown, 0951 N/23).

Overdue Shipping.

My 0955/22. JOTUNFJELL arrived Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0915/23).

ANTONIOS
CHANDRIS

Greek stopped by enemy raider at 1945/8/9 in 11.25 N., 34.10 W. Description. Armament believed to be four 5.9" guns, 2 forward, 2 aft. (C.in C. S.A. 0235/23).

BULOLO

Search for Raider.

A.C.W.A's 1651/12. Pass through F.33, search G.33, H.33, examine St. Paul's Rock, Fernando de Novonha, returning to Freetown (date). Raiders reported active in G. 33 September, H.33 October. (C.in C. S.A. to BULOLO, 1231 N/23).

CARNARVON CASTLE.

Sail CARNARVON CASTLE 24/10 to arrive Takoradi (date). CARNARVON CASTLE is to escort WESTERNLAND to Cape and possibly to vicinity of Durban. (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1807 N/23).

Troop Transport.

Your 2210/18. As possibility of providing alternative ships for trooping Durban to Mombasa is under consideration, request you advise what is total carrying capacity required for this service. (D. of S.T., 2211/23 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

My 0853 Z/23. From enquiry in ORMONDE now in Durban, vessels identified as DAHLIA and MYRICA (ex Italian SISTIANA). (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2242B/23).

Suspicious Ships.

Following from DURBAN CASTLE via Jacobs Radio. 2 steamers acting suspiciously close to me here, 29.34 S., 31.48 E. (ends). Am arranging air reconnaissance (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0853 Z/23).

Mediterranean.

Spain.

Bi-Weekly Report. Visit of Franco and Suner to Hitler. (N.A. Madrid, 2001/23).

Benghazi.

Approach routes to Benghazi now known to be A. Details. (C.in C. Med. to REGULUS and OSIRIS, 1031/23).

Invasion of Greece.

Repeating Minster Washington's 1739/22 re date of expected invasion, etc. Steps being taken to verify source. (D.N.I. to C.in C. Med. 1327/23).

Greece and Turkey.

Asking what assistance can be given locally to strengthen Greek and Turkish / will

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Greece and
 Turkey.
 (contd.)

will and stability to resist.
 (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1724/23) (see Med. Volume).

Coming
 Operations.

Assuming Operation "Uniform" cancelled and "White Collar" deferred (date), it would apparently be your intention to put a convoy into Malta (date) in accordance you 1421/14. Would it then be possible for BARHAM to transport personnel to Malta. If so, should like to use BERWICK and GLASGOW for escorting convoys round Cape (dates of arrival Suez). (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1849/23).

East Indies.

Offensive
 Plans.

From O.C. Military Mission 106. On no account should Lieut.-Com. Cardelloyan commence or plan any offensive operations until after arrival of O.C. Military Mission 106. Equipment of dhows with auxiliary engines giving speed of 4 knots or over very desirable if these can be obtained or if car engines can be converted for purpose. Such engines unobtainable at home. (C.in C. S.A. 0755/23 to S.N.O. Aden).

Dhows
 Traffic.

C.in C. Red Sea Force 1541/22. Intend action be taken in accordance with my 0616/1 as from 0001 Z/26/10 taking action against dhows carrying cargoes Italian E. Africa. (C.in C. E.I. 0822/23).

Greek
 Shipping
 Madagascar.

Your 1058/11. No special significance attached to concentration at Lourenco Marques. Madagascar not at present treated as being under enemy control, but extension of Navicert system to island is under consideration. At present, therefore, contraband and export control cannot be exercised and mails cannot be intercepted. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. E.I. 1933/23).

Convoys.

My 0954/8. Red Sea Convoys expected to pass Aden as follows (dates.) (C.in C. E.I. 1122/23).

Port Sudan
 Raid.

Two S.79's raided Port Sudan 0730 Z/23. Approx. 15 H.E. and incendiary bombs in neighbourhood of quay, no material damage, 10 natives killed, approx 20 injured. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1555 Z/23) Confirmed casualties now 22 killed, 11 wounded. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1200 Z/24).

/ Evasion of blockade.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Evasion of blockade.

There is (?definite) evidence that mails and goods including silk parachutes are being shipped to enemy countries via Persian Gulf. Request Custom and Censorship Authorities may keep a special look out for such evidence in Japanese ships and mails, and that any arising from mails be immediately reported with a view to diversion of suspected ships to British port for examination.

(C.in C. E.I. 1144 Z/23. to F.O.C. R.I.N.)

China.

Defence Conference.

Wider appreciation, to cover requirements of Australian and New Zealand representatives. (C.in C. China, 0745 Z/23, to Admty.)

Air Defence.

Reply to Air Ministry 1155/22. Emphasise R.A.F. have to compete not only with Japanese Air Force but Japanese Navy. Are aware Dutch intend destroy oil supplies if unavoidable, but point out disastrous effect this might have on fuel supplies in Far East and Australia and New Zealand. (H.Q., Far East to Air Min., 1500/23).

Shipping.

Your 0317/19. Jardines intend sailing following within next few days. Question re insurance. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong to C.in C. China, 0745/23).

America and West Indies.

CAMERON

Distillers in order and available for duty. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F., 1201/23).

BUXTON.

Out of quarantine from noon today. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F., 1201/23).

Shipping Lights.

Your 0850/22, re burning navigation lights. Allied authorities are being informed and will issue similar instructions. (D.T.D., 1219/23, to S.O.I., Jamaica).

French Repatriations.

Following from N.A. Madrid. (Begins). French Admty. state it has arranged that four French ships are to sail from U.S. to U.K. to repatriate French naval ratings to France. Request that New York representative of Min. of Shipping and H.M. Ambassador Washington may be advised. MICHIGAN will not sail but will be replaced by SAN FRANCISCO. Authority has now been given to her departure and for that of OREGON, WINNIPEG, and WYOMING. (Ends.). Request that you will take necessary action. (Head of M. 1652/23 to N.A. Washington).

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Continued).FORT DE
FRANCE.

FORT DE FRANCE sailed for Martinique most secretly after dark 15/10. Sailing successfully concealed from all our reporting agencies. Endeavouring preclude possibility in the future.
(N.C.S.O. New York, 1553/23).

Australia.STORSTAD.

Norwegian, 8998 tons. From Mivi on 30/9 to Melbourne, not arrived. (A.C.N.B. 1335/23).

MOST SECRET.23.10.1940.
Wednesday.War Diary.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.CORDELIA.
ARKADIA.
ITHAKA.
SALZBURG.

Departure CORDELIA ARKADIA and ITHAKA German in ballast for Russia. Arrival of SALZBURG German from Istanbul with 2074 tons of General cargo. (Macrae, Galati 1121/23).

USARAMO

Left Vigo probably very early this morning. (Consul, Vigo, 0826/23). (D.D.I.C., 1242/23, V.A.S. 1416/23 to Submarines Area B., F.O.C.N.P., 1449/23). My 0826. USARAMO believed bound for Corunna but no confirmation yet. (Consul Vigo, 1825/23).

ACHILLES.

Completed boiler repairs and has left berth to anchor in bay. (Consul, Vigo, 1825/23).

SPEZIA.

Has signed on Spanish crew under German officers and will sail any moment. (N.A. Madrid, 0959/23) Left Valencia between sunset and 2200/22, destination probably Genoa. (S.O.I., Gib., 1461/23).

Tankers.

German tankers seen off Pasajes 15/10 and 16/10. Polish source (B.3.). N.A. Madrid, 1140/23).

ANNELIESE
ESSBERGER
KULMERLAND.

Your 1635/21. ANNELIESE ESSBERGER sailed from Kobe 9/10 now confirmed she returned to her moorings 11/10. KULMERLAND sailed at the same time but has not returned. (D.D.I.C. 1313/23, to N.A. Buenos Aires).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.FRANCA FASSIO.

"Popolo D'Italia" 9/10 acknowledged the sinking of an 1800 ton Italian Steamer in Western Mediterranean. This would appear to confirm the sinking of the FRANCA FASSIO early in October off Savona (see 16/10) (D.S. 415).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.FORT DE FRANCE.

See America and West Indies.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Search and
Rescue work.

My position 1300 G.M.T., 53.27 N., 23.55 W.,
242⁰, 15. Searched 20 miles round
53.47 N., 23.01 W., only sighted one
lifebuoy. (LACONIA, 1625/23).

Your 1500. Proceed to Londonderry and
land survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to
tug SEAMAN. 1755/23).

BILDERDIJK (HX 79) Taken over 39 survivors from BILDERDIJK,
UGANDA ")37 from UGANDA, 40 from LOCH LOMOND,
LOCH LOMOND ")72 from MATHERAN. HIBISCUS has 34 from
MATHERAN ")SANDSEND and 33 from JANUS. (JASON to
Straggler from SANDSEND *)C.in C. Rosyth, 23⁰¹/23). Above survivors
O.B. 228. JANUS (OB. 228))were landed at Methil by JASON and
(HX 79) HIBISCUS. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1516/24).
ATHELMONARCH Arrived in Mersey 23/10. (D.S. 415).
(HX 79).
TRITON Arrived in Clyde 23/10. (D.S. 415).
(All torpedoed 19/10).

Torpedoed in
S.C.7. 18-19/10.

FISCUS 4815 tons. Survivors said to have been
picked up. (D.S. 415).

SEDGEPOOL 5556 tons. Survivors said to have been
picked up. (D.S. 415).

THALIA. Greek, 5875 tons. Survivors said to have
been picked up. (D.S. 415).

SHEKATIKA Since sunk (D.S. 415).

Submarines Reported.

1105. 57° - 57.30'N., 18° - 20° W., position
indefinite, (D.S. 414).

0043. 47.30 to 48.30, 9° - 11° W., position
indefinite (D.S. 414).
(V.A.S., 0946/23).

1139. D.F. probable U/B, 61° N., 0° 30' E.
(D.D.I.C. 1218/23).

1205. D.F. 50° to 51° N., 10° to 12° W.,
unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A., 1243/23).

0930. S/M sighted N. of Ponta da Bretanha,
St. Michael.

1315. 0830 G.M.T./23, seen again going north at
1215 (Source A), (Lisbon, 1929/23).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions

MOST SECRET.23.10.1940.
Wednesday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian 1 off San Miguel Island Azores 1115/22
moving northwards.

German 3 or possibly 4 due Lorient some tonight
some tomorrow night.

1 S.W. of Ireland moving northwards.

1 W. of Ireland moving northwards.

1 reaching N.W. Approaches from the South.

1 was in about 55° N., 16° W., at 1416/22.

1 was in about 57° to 57° 30' N. 18° to 20° W.
at 1105/23.

1 was in about 59° to 60° N; and W. of 20° W.
at 1525/22.

Possibly 3 more in N.W. Approaches or
farther W.

1 N.E. of Shetlands bound for Norway or
Germany.

(D.D.I.C. 1316/23).

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operations
off Norway.

SOMALI }
MATABELE } Foycl. E.
PUNJABI }

Force E returned to Scapa today having sunk one vessel of 400 tons and seen nothing else except fishing boats. (Op: D.N.U.)

Group two also returned today.

MENDIP
(21st D.F.)
damaged.

MENDIP was damaged by explosion of her depth charges whilst exercising in Scapa Flow this forenoon.

British Air Activity.

R.A.F. last night attacked docks and shipping at Hook of Holland. One Blenheim attacked Le Havre and 2 Flushing. An attack made by 12 Wellingtons on the docks at Emden was apparently most successful.

Ostend, a convoy 6 miles off Zeebrugge and merchant vessels off IJmuiden (the latter unsuccessful) were attacked during the day.

Air reconnaissance of the coast of Norway from Trondheim to Lister was flown at dawn today.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. BALTRADER was unsuccessfully bombed this morning about 250 miles west of Ireland.

Mining.

It is thought that enemy aircraft were probably engaged in minelaying last night in the Thames Estuary and between the Wash and Firth of Forth.

The Humber was closed at 0156 on account of aircraft minelaying, being reopened at 1125.

Liverpool was closed at 0040 on account of suspected aircraft minelaying.

Early this morning Rosyth and Approaches were closed between 2° 52' W! and dockyard but were reopened at 1247. Leith and Granton and approaches were closed. Methil is open.

The Tyne was closed owing to suspected minelaying; sweeping was not possible today on account of the weather.

Four Swordfish of Coastal Command laid mines last night off IJmuiden.

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.

Thursday.

530

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aboukir and Port Said were attacked by enemy aircraft last night. No damage or casualties resulted.

There was an air raid on Alexandria from 0300 to 0430 today, but no naval damage occurred.

East Indies.

Two unidentified enemy aircraft attacked a convoy in Port Sudan harbour today, dropping 12 bombs but causing only negligible damage.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
~~Deluge~~

At 0200/24. (D.C. 0240/24) At 1400/24.
(D.C. 1421/24).

Nore Command.
Notice for Steam.

My 1119/23. Ships not required for duty to-day keep steam at 4 hours notice. MANCHESTER may give night leave. Night leave may also be given as by my 1048/9 amended to read one at Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore 0940/24).

Policy.

Great Yarmouth
D.E.M.S. Base.

Closing of Base now completed as by T.D./D.E.M.S. 3510/4569, and Staff disposed of as ordered. (D.E.M.S. Yarmouth 1502/24 to D.T.D.)

BATH)
CHARLESTOWN)
ST.ALBANS)
ST.MARYS)

Your 1532/17. Ships should be retained at Plymouth until you are satisfied their A/S training sufficiently advanced. Practices can be continued at Port Z.A. (D. A/S W. 1610/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

War Policy

It is intended that the Prime Minister shall hold a meeting of Chiefs of Staff and Commanders in Chief in the near future, Thursday 31st October if convenient, to discuss war policy. The agenda will probably include winter dispositions, a survey of present position and any other points which Cs. in C. wish to bring up. Request you will submit points for discussion for approval for inclusion in agenda. (1st S.L. 2052/24 to C's -in- C.)

Movements.

WIDGEON.

Remain with Convoy until WOLSEY rejoins. (C.in C. Nore 1006/24).

BULLDOG.

To be sailed for Rosyth A.M./25. (C.in C. H.F. 1017/24 to R.A.D.)

BEAGLE.

After arrival of ARGUS request you sail BEAGLE for Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1035/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BEVERLEY)
BELMONT)
BROADWAY)

ETA. Belfast 1600. (BEVERLEY 1145/24 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)

MALCOLM.

My 1829/22 and your 1358/23. Request MALCOLM be sailed for Londonderry when ready. (C.in C. W.A. 1145/24 to C.in C. Nore.) ETA. Rosyth 0600/25. (Capt. S.3. 2001/24 to WILK).

/ Nore Command

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Continued).Nore Command.

Movements to 1200/25. (C.in C. Nore 1200 and 1444/24).

Portsmouth.

Movements for Night 24/25. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1347/24).

→ FEARLESS.

To proceed at 1900/25 to Liverpool with moderate dispatch. (C.in C. H.F. 1441/24).

BROKE.

Request report speed 14 knots position at 1445, 53° 50' N., 12° 52' W., course 080° true. (BROKE 1445/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

GLASGOW.

Will probably be required to sail P.M./26. (C.in C. H.F. 1512/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Orkneys.

Trawler lines today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/24).

AGAMEMNON)
COMORIN)

Request you arrange AGAMEMNON for Rosyth and COMORIN for Halifax to be sailed in company and report to C.in C. H.F. date when both ships ready to sail. (C.in C. Rosyth 1553/24 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Western Channel.

Report for Night 24/25. (C.in C. W.A. 1555/24 and 1807 and 1931/24).

SALOPIAN.

Estimated position at 1900/25 is 55° 30' N. 9° 35' W., course 085°, speed 12 knots. (SALOPIAN 1930/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

→ FOXHOUND.

Passes Flamborough Head 2230/24 northbound. (Capt. S.3. 2001/24 to WILK).

EXMOOR)
BLENCATHRA)
COTSWOLD)
SOUTHDOWN)

When ready for service to be sailed to Scapa to work up. On completion BLENCATHRA to join Portsmouth Command and remainder Nore. (D.O.D. H. 2155/24 to A.S.C.B.S.)

→ ARK ROYAL)
→ FEARLESS)
→ FOXHOUND)
ISIS)

1. My 0205/18. C.in C. H.F. requested to sail FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, and ISIS to arrive at Liverpool by p.m. 27th.
2. ARK ROYAL escorted by FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, and ISIS is to be sailed from Liverpool on 28/10 to Clyde.
3. Aircraft of ARK ROYAL will be flown during 29/10 after which she should return to Clyde.
4. Further signal will be made as to sailing for Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. F. 2156/24).

ACHATES)
ANTELOPE)

Your 1354/17. Propose ACHATES and ANTELOPE return to your Command. ACHATES due Clyde 25/10. ANTELOPE 25 or 26/10. (C.in C. W.A. 2249/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

/ Force E.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force E. (Op: D.N.U.)
SOMALI.
MATABELE.
PUNJABI.

Returning to Scapa. Attacked one small vessel about 400 tons in 62° 29' N. 4° (?23') E. Otherwise nothing seen but numerous Fishing-Boats.
ETA. 1700. (Capt. D.6. 0630/24 to R.A. 1st B.C.S.)

Group 2.

ETA. in HOOD, with REPULSE, DIDO, PHOEBE, and 5 Destroyers, 1200/24. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0845/24 to A.C.O.S.)

Norwegian Coast Operations.

Sweeps carried out on 23rd and 24th October to the Norwegian Coast between 58° North and 62° 30' North by forces of Home Fleet including battle cruisers and units from four cruiser squadrons resulted in only 1 ship being sighted. This ship which was darkened and of about 400 tons was sunk in position 62° 29' North 04° 23' East by three destroyers of 6th Flotilla. Some enemy activity to and from Stavanger Aerodrome was noted. (C.in C. H.F. 2242/24 to Adty.)

ALERT.

A.L.M. 010327/40 of 3rd October and my 1142/24. G.P.O. having confirmed that this operation can be performed at night shewing shaded lights only for the actual cutting operations on deck, this course is considered preferable in view of inadequate air protection which can be afforded in daylight.
Request you arrange to carry it out during dark hours starting on the first convenient night after arrival of ALERT. (D.O.D. H. 1143/24 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Your 1707/19. ALERT should be docked as soon as possible and then sailed in accordance with my 1757/18. She is required for an operation during the first week of November. (D.O.D. H. 1142/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

Submarines.

SEAWOLF
0.24

My 1318/23. 0.24 resume Patrol off Korys Fiord. SEAWOLF return to Rosyth as by previous orders. (V.A.S. 1040/24).

CACHALOT.

Patrol between 47° 30' N. and 46° 30' N. and 5° 45' W. and 7° W. (Capt. S.2 1509/24)

/ TALISMAN



24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines (Continued).

TALISMAN.

Leave Patrol after dark 26th. Route to within 30 miles of Ushant. Any M/V met by TALISMAN on passage South of 49° N. is to be sunk at sight. R/V with TROUBADOUR 315° Longships Light 5 miles at 0730/29. (Capt. S.2. 1511/24 to S/M's Area B).

STURGEON.

(Anti-U-Boat Patrol) V.A.S. 1101/23. Request H.F. Destroyer Escort. No Escort available from R.E.F. (C.in C. Rosyth 1525/24 to C.in C. H.F.) Escort will be provided. (C.in C. H.F. 1936/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Positions.

For 24 hours at 0700/25. (V.A.S. 1714/24)

SUNFISH.

My 1525/24. SLEIPNER will be available for escort for SUNFISH from May Island to Duncansby Head. S.6. is requested to sail SUNFISH independently and to report expected time of arrival off May Island as soon as possible. C.in C. H.F. is requested to arrange for onward escort for SUNFISH from Duncansby Head. (C.in C. Rosyth 2237/24 to SLEIPNER).

British Air Activity.

Norwegian Coast.

Air R/C from Trondheim to Lister being flown today at dawn. (C.in C. Rosyth 0100/24).
R/C Trondheim to Stadlandet not completed owing to clear visibility and insufficient cloud cover. (C.in C. Rosyth 1442/24 to Admty.)

Proposed bombing of Coastal Batteries.

Request action on Adty's 1549/16. (Air Ministry 0840/24 to H.Q.B.C.)
Cancel my X.172/24/10. (Air Ministry 1520/24 to Bomber Command) Adty. 2207/23.
Request action be taken for 25/10. (Air Ministry 1725/24 to Bomber Command).

Seven Mobile Balloon Barrage Vessels with next C.W. Convoy.

Your 1312/23. Concur. (H.Q.B.C. 1600/24 to Adty.) Re 1919/19. Balloons up to maximum eight may accompany each convoy. Number to be requested by C.in C. Nore of 30 Group, who will satisfy whenever possible. (H.Q.B.C. 1601/24 to Adty.)

ARGUS.

Will embark 12 R.A.F. Hurricanes and 2 Skua A/C from Abbotsinch during stay at Clyde. (D.O.D.H. 1604/24 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

Rosyth Area.

Air Escorts for 25/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1848/24).



24.10.1940.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

A/S Patrol.

Will be flown between Duncanby Head and Cape Wrath throughout daylight tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 2200/24).

Enemy Air Activity.

BALTRADER.

British, 1699 tons. Bombed in 53° 50' N. 14° 13' W. (BALTRADER 0759/24) O.K. (Valentia Radio 0831/24).

EMPIRE ABILITY.

British, 7603 tons. Damaged by near miss last night. Holed above water. Engines being tried this morning. Ship not leaking. Second Officer dangerously wounded. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1215/24 to D.S.T., London).

H.E. STROUD.

Aberdeen Trawler. Reports attacked by aircraft at 1815/23 between middle and outer Buoys in Approach Channel. 7 Bombs, none exploded. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1221/24 to C.in C. Rosyth.)

F.N. Convoy.

Even numbered F.N. Convoy being shadowed by one aircraft in 51° 57' N. 1° 39' E. (F.N. Convoy 1633/24).

Dogger Bank.

My 2107/24. German Naval aircraft are operating in Dogger Bank area. (D.D.I.C. 2133/24).

Convoy "Pewit"

Shadowed by one aircraft 51° 17' N. 1° 30' E. (FERNIE 1647/24) Fighters have left for convoy "Pewit" (Nore W/T 1646/24).
"Pewit"

Mining.

Liverpool.

Port closed owing to suspected Minelaying by aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0040/24 to Adty.). Port re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1400/24 to Adty.) Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1945/24 to Adty.)

Humber.

Closed. Aircraft minelaying. (F.O. Humber 0156/24 to Adty.). Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1125/24 to Adty.)

Sailes Point.

West Mersea Coastguard Post reports 10 or 12 Bomb Explosions off Sailes Point at 0410, believed in the water. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0420/24 to C.in C. Nore).

Rosyth)
Leith)
Granton)

Owing to suspected Minelaying, the Port of Rosyth and Approaches are closed between 2° 52' W. and Dockyard. Ports of Leith and Granton and Approaches are closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 0421/24 to Adty.). Port of Rosyth is now open (C.in C. Rosyth 1247/24).

/ Leith and Granton

24.10.1940.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

Leith and Granton open.
Navigational precautions. (C.in C. Rosyth 1829/24 to Adty.).

Methil.

(C.in C. Rosyth 0421/24 to

Milford Haven.

An apparent acoustic mine exploded at 0930 today Thursday by Lairds Isle in approximate position 4 cables 245 degrees from number 3 buoy Milford Haven fifty yards on port quarter. Speed of ship twelve knots. No helm being used at time of explosion. Mine apparently laid at the same time as magnetic mine reported in my 1800/23. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1043/24 to Adty.)

Deep Minefield
in N.W. Approaches
and Operation S.N.3.

Your 1225/22.

1. In view of encouraging performance of experimental minefield and of the urgent need for every A/S measure possible in the North Western Approaches, it has been decided that the deep minefield in this area is to be laid first, using antenna mines, the risk of prematures being accepted.
2. Request you will amend your programme to lay lines D and B in that order.
3. Approved to carry out operation S.N.3 after your first two lays in order to clear this special material from Railway sidings. (V.C.N.S. 1132/24 to R.A.M.L.)

Tyne.

Closed. Suspected Minelaying. Sweeping not possible to-day owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1142/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Clyde.

Magnetic Mines reported $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.S.W. of Garroch Head. Vessels not to pass within 2 miles of Garrach Head and to keep close to Little Cumbrae Island. (Capt. S.7 1031/24 to 7th S/M Flotilla).

Faroes.

My 1203/17. A second Explosion occurred in Skopen Fiord at 1500/17. No ship sunk, so explosion cannot be explained. My 1615/18/9. I strongly urge that skimming searches be made. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1143/24 to Adty.)

Flamborough Head.

One Enemy Seaplane believed laying Mines in 54° 5' N. 0° 3' E. One underwater Explosion heard. (EGRET 1858/24 to Adty.)

Plymouth.

Owing to recent magnetic minelaying in approaches ships arriving Plymouth should as far as practicable rendezvous in a position 2 point 5 miles 170° from Penlee / Point



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (continued)

Plymouth
(contd.)

Point one hour after official daylight and follow sweepers into Port. (C.in C. W.A. 1946/24).

Thames Estuary.

BALMORAL reports at 2212 that 14 Explosions probably Mines, were seen in air less than 1000 feet up at about 3 miles 160° from Mouse Light Vessel. (X.D.O. Sheerness 2330/24 to C.in C. Nore) Further details (C.in C. Nore 1607/25).

Aberdeen.

At 1800/23 a Coast Watcher and Civilian saw one aircraft drop a black object into sea one mile East of Cove Bay. No parachute observed. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1221/24 to C.in C. Rosyth.

Op: B.S. 43.

(See p. 538)

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Bergen.

One M/V 2000 tons at rest, bearing 60° 15 miles from 60° 56' N. 4° 35' E. (Aircraft of 269 Sqdn. 0907 and 0910/24).

Tramore Bay.

Your 1240/22. N.A. Dublin reports no ship like that described by DE RESZKE was sighted in Tramore Bay on night 19/10. (D.N.I. 1752/24 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Rotterdam)
Flushing)
Ijmuiden)
Antwerp

R/C at 1050/24. (P.I.U. 1915/24 to N.I.D.)

Enemy small craft.

At 1940 in 54° 50' N. 3° 50' E. D/F reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2107/24).

Norwegian Coast.

Since the W/T activity yesterday, a marked reduction of activity has taken place, which appears to indicate an interruption of the movements as planned. There are slight indications that the southerly movement might be continued in the near future, but further evidence must be awaited. (D.D.I.C. 2137/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

24. 10. 1940.

Thursday.War Diary.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.LORD IRWIN.

My 1629/23. Weather unsuitable. Sailing postponed. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0757/24 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

SEROOSKERK.

My 1125/21. Arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1145 B/24 to Adty.)

MENDIP.

At about 1130 an explosion occurred on stern of MENDIP near Barrel of Butter. No immediate danger. Proceeding towards Gutter Sound. C.O. suspects internal explosion. (A.C.O.S. 1156 and 1240/24 to Adty.) Probably result of accidental explosion of Depth Charge while exercising in Flow. Has been docked for temporary repairs and should be ready to proceed in about 3 days. 5 missing, 6 seriously injured. (R.A.D. 1815/24 to Adty.)

ST. MALO.

See Shipping (Convoy H.X. 77).



24. 10. 1940
Thursday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Convoys.Shipping.O.A. 234.

COREOPSIS on passing join ROCHESTER escorting O.A. 234 due to leave Methil 0730/24. PRIMROSE will relieve you later (C.in C. Rosyth 0521/24 to COREOPSIS).

E.N.11.

H.M.T.'s HUGH WALPOLE AND SOUTHERN WAVE (N.C.S.O. Methil 0945/24).

C.W.15.

Convoy postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore 1314/24) Adty. 2207/23 (bombing of coastal batteries while C.W.15 passes Dover) Convoy postponed 24 hours. Request similar arrangements for 25/10 (C.in C. Nore 1346/24) Will sail 115/25 weather permitting (C.in C. Nore 1654/24).

TITANIAN
(in F.S.19)

To be diverted to Sunderland. Tyne closed (C.in C. Rosyth 1426/24).

O.A. 232
O.B. 232
S.C.8.

Arrangements for local escorts.
(C.in C. W.A. 1443/24).

W.N. 25.

Position. Speed (BERKSHIRE 1930/24).

Op: B.S.43.
(Should be on p. 526.)

ICARUS and IMPULSIVE are to act as escort (C.in C. Nore 2144/24).

F.N.

Tyne closed. Ships for Tyne should be diverted to Sunderland (C.in C. Rosyth 2235/24).

CLARE's
H.X.77

Orders for convoy owing to suspected mines (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2345/24). 23 hours late, westerly gales and heavy seas. Convoy attacked before meeting local escort and scattered. Ships sunk STANGRANT, PORT GISBORNE, BRANDANGER, PACIFIC RANGER, DAVANGER. ST. MALO lost convoy 6/10 owing to lack of speed and is not yet reported in (D.T.D. 1740/24).

Positions.

Convoy secret positions for two days before reaching the rendezvous in North Western Approaches are in future to be included in Sailing Telegrams as additional paragraph 8 (A).
(D.T.D. 1613/24).

MOST SECRETWar Diary24.10.1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSOperations Against Vichy French

The following signals are abstracted in the Operations Volume.

1st S.L. 0100/24 to F.O.C.N.A.

S.O. Force H. 1537/24 to Admty.

F.O.C.N.A. 1550/24

Gov.-Gib. 2055/24

G.O.C. West Africa to W.O. 1745/23

D.D.I.C. 0055/24

^{Admty}
Admty. Gov. Freetown 1201/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1547/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1549/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1541/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1553/14

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1555/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1557/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1559/24

F.C.S.O. 1601/24

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French ship movements.

Gibraltar 1000/24 LE HARDI escorting JEAN LABORDE passing west to east. 1200 French Armed Trawler CAPTAIN ARMAND escorting AUVERGNE KAKOULIMA passing west to east. 1500 CAPTAIN ARMAND returned westbound. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1507/24).

British ships held up by French.
Re further exchange of ships.

Your 1900/16. French Gov. is already under an obligation by agreement of July 4 to release all Allied ships and ships under the British flag, which were on time charter to French Mission. H.M. Gov. are still waiting for this Agreement to be implemented by the French Gov.

H.M. G. requested the French Gov. to release British ships in return for the four French ships released earlier to repatriate French personnel. (MEKNES, AVEYRON, JEAN L.D. and SAUMUR) H.M.G. requested in return TAKORADIAN, GAMBIAN, ARGYLL at Dakar and TEMPLE PIER at Algiers. The French ships were released by H.M.Gov, continue to detain the four British ships requested. H.M. Gov. have since proposed to the French Gov. the release of French ships for the purpose of repatriating French personnel in exchange for further equivalent quantity of British tonnage in addition to the four whose release was previously requested. When the Allied and British ships due to be released under the Agreement of July 4 have been permitted to proceed to British ports and the French Gov. release the four British ships named above in return for the four French ships already returned to France H.M. Gov. will be prepared to study further the question of an exchange of the remaining ships on a ton for ton basis. (Hd. of M. 1928/24 to N.A. Madrid).

but the French Gov.

South Atlantic.

French Ships, Dakar.

Repeating Governor, Sierra Leone's 1735/23, re 3 French liners arrived Dakar, to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A. and S.O. Force H. (D.D.I.C. 0816/24).

Suspicious Ships.

My 2242 B/23. Investigation shows ORMONDE had little or no reason to report that these ships were acting in suspicious manner, (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1003 Z/24).

SEROOSKERK

Overdue 21/10, arrived Durban (S.O.(I) Capetown 1145 B/24).

BRECONSHIRE.

Your 1803/14. Report vessel's subsequent movements (D.O.D.(F) 2033/24 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

/ Suspicious ship.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued).

Suspicious ship.

Algoa Bay Radio ^{see PORT HUNTER Page 562.} reports following received from ~~plus~~ GRMU (). Begins. 1000 G.M.T. 035° 13' S. 030° 15' E. sighted vessel hull down heading approximately 190° having marked resemblance to REGENSBURG. Ends. Dutch ship ALMKERK may be in this vicinity. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1350 Z/24.)

CARNARVON CASTLE

Your 0342 Z/14 and 1036 Z/22 and my 1119N/19 CARNARVON CASTLE is required for another duty and will not now be proceeding on Patrol in J 34 and 1 34. My 1157N/11 date of arrival CARNARVON CASTLE in Rio Area will be delayed for at least 10 days and will be communicated later. ANSTURIAS should leave to Dock as arranged. (C.in C. S.A. 1831 N/24 to R.A.S. A.D.)

Mediterranean.

Reinforcements for Fleet.

Your 1845/5. Steps are being taken to bring Hurricanes now at Malta to strength of one squadron. Reconnaissance aircraft at Malta will be increased to total of 12 Glenn Martins. September and October allocation of A/A guns will be advanced in despatch to early November. Thereafter monthly allocations will continue until approved scale is reached. The two cruisers referred to in para A. of A.T. 0205/18 and the four destroyers accompanying BARHAM are all that can be spared at present. Above represents maximum reinforcement we can spare at present. Hoped it will enable you to do something from Malta if only for short periods. (Hd. of M., 1144/24 to C.in C. Med.)

MILOS.

Arrived and sailed from Piraeus evening 21/10. My 1211/16. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1012/22).

Air raid on Alexandria.

0300 to 0430. About 6 a/c, 25 bombs. No Naval damage (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1405/24)

BRITISH SERGEANT BRITISH ARCHITECT LISS

Orders (C.in C. Med. 1453/23).

S/M's

Bring into force condition A at 0300/25 (Capt. S 1 1717/24 to S/M's on patrol).

Movements Summary No. 163.

C.in C. Med. 2021/24.

/ Rumanian Submarines

24.10.1940.

Thursday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Rumanian Submarines.

N.A. Bucharest reports one Rumanian submarine laid up waiting spare parts. The two small submarines building could be ready by time Danube opens 1941 with German workmen employed. Other ships are prepared and possibly more submarines could be put together by then (N.A. Angora 1705/24).

Assistance to Turkey.

Admiral Kelly's interpretation of Adty. intentions. Turkish requirements from Great Britain. Their contribution (N.A. Angora 2219/24).

Operation M.A.Q.2.

C.in C. Med., 1235/24. ¹²³³ (see 25/10) Convoy A.N.5. Route. Escort CALCUTTA, HERO and HAVOCK. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1029/24).

Malta Convoys.
BARHAM
BERWICK

Admty. 1849/23. ^{Malta} Essential to run A Levant Convoys , also necessary to run 1 on if operation takes place then. Until stocks of Malta have been augmented to a substantial extent operation of fleet will continue to be bound up in convoy work. Objections to BARHAM's entry into Malta must be accepted.

^{"uniform"} Realised that cancellation of operation ~~UNIFORM~~ will necessitate a cruiser being employed to escort vessels round the Cape. Considered that BERWICK would be best employed for this.

Not clear why 2 cruisers would be required to escort 2 M T ships round Cape, and in view of reduced state of my cruiser force I am loth to forego its reinforcement longer than is absolutely necessary. (C.in C. Med. 1515/24 to Admty.)

French troops reliefs for Syria.

V.A. Godfroy has requested safe conduct for passage of 10,000 regular troops to Syria in the way of normal relief. Syria authorities informed him that H.M. Gov. have already agreed to this in principle. Date and ships not yet stated. It is intended to sail these in 2 convoys and second is to carry a cargo for building works in Beyrout. I have replied that the matter has been referred to U.K. for decision. (C.in C. Med. 1935/24).

Libyan supply ship routes.

Have you as a result of recent reconnaissance formed any opinion as to the routes used by Italian supply and troop ships between Italy and Libya, and the volume of traffic on these routes. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2051/24 to C.in C. Med.)



WAR DIARY.

24.10.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

GLIMMAREN.

Cancel para. 2 of my 0738/21. No cargo loaded union ports of Lourenço Marques for Madagascar. (C.in C. E.I. 0436Z/24).

OLTENIA.
STEAUA ROMANA.

Roumanian ships OLTENIA and STEAUA ROMANA requisitioned at Mombasa and required in U.K. It may be necessary to repatriate Roumanian crew. No relief officers or crew available in Africa. Can India or Malaya provide. (C.in C. E.I. 0544Z/24 to P.S.T.O. India, Commodore Malaya).

Enemy Destroyer bombed
~~ENEMY DESTROYER~~
BOMBED 21/10.
? Wreck of FRANCESCO
NULLO.

My 0358/21 (1) R.A.F. have reported bombing an enemy destroyer one mile east of Harmil Island a.m./21. One hit obtained. Not yet certain whether this was wreck of KIMBERLEY's victim or a fresh destroyer. Full report from LEANDER of night attack on B.N.7 is not expected before about 27 when she returns to harbour. (C.in C. E.I. 0800Z/24).

GNAT: WARIALDA
SLAVOL.

Take GNAT under your orders when she arrives outer Bar noon/27 and escort her to Khor Kuwai at best possible speed. WARIALDA is to proceed independently or in company. Oiler SLAVOL will provide onward escort to Aden. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0806Z/24 to CORNWALLIS).

6 inch Guns
from GNAT.

580. Ref: Adty. 1100/21 September. (1) 6 inch guns and mountings ex GNAT might be used to form coast defence battery for Port Victoria, Seychelles. Request (a) Admiralty's authority to this allocation (b) War Office's concurrence. (C.in C. E.I. 0958Z/24).

GALILEO
GALILEI.

Your 2124/14 to N.O.i/c Aden. Nothing suitable available from GALILEO GALILEI until final service of U/Boat is settled. (C.in C. E.I. 1110Z/23). *(No trace in W.D.)*

MOST SECRET.24.10.40.
Thursday.
WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.KIMBERLEY.

My 1538/22 (21548/22 intended)
 (1) KIMBERLEY undergoing repairs Port Sudan. Starboard engine and hull will be completed 1200/27. (iii) If tests and trials are satisfactory intend ship to continue on service with power of port engine limited until new steam pipe is fitted.
 (C.in C. E.I. 1456Z/24).

Danger Zones.
RED SEA ZONES.

Para.1 of your 1126/17. The danger zone in 1432/16 has already been notified to neutral governments and was justified to them as being an answer to the almost identical Italian announcement. It is, therefore, not intended to alter the publicly declared boundaries of the zone.

The zone announced is in general wider than that proposed by you and the public announcement does not bind you in framing your instructions except to determine the maximum zone within which you may authorise sinking at sight. You have full discretion to draw up instructions for action within the zone in the manner you think most appropriate.

Your 0854/22. Terms of warning to neutral governments are as in para.1 of Admiralty message 1432/16 with the addition that due regard will be paid to legitimate neutral shipping entering and leaving the Red Sea.

Action should be taken forthwith.
 (A.C.N.S.(F) 2000/24 to C.in C.E.I.)

Red Sea,
Convoys.

C.in C. E.I. 1122/23 para. IV. (a)
 S.N.O. Red Sea is requested to report what additional escort would be needed.

(b) subsequently C.in C. Mediterranean is requested to report if this could be provided.
 (A.C.N.S.(F) 2356/24).



24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Re sending of men to South Africa and from there to Lisbon by a Portuguese line. Your 1149/19 Para.(1). Facilities would be available. (C.in C. China 1005 Z/24 to Adty.)

Trade with China.

Adty. 0825/18 (Presumably C.in C. China 0825/18 intended). Admiral Terraux asks that tankers should not come to Indo China for the present since Vichy have ordered this. Vichy permission is being requested for one tanker per mensem. Consul General Hanoi is consulting Gov. Gen. on the subject. (L.O. Saigon 0412 Z/24 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

? LAURENT MEEUS. My 1046/20 Washington reports Belgian Embassy have informed me that Belgian Government in London has requested a report from Captain the nature of which I do not know, and ship is now being detained San Pedro until this has been furnished. Cargo is 60 thousand barrels diesel oil supplied by General Petroleum no reason to believe anything but a normal commercial transaction is involved. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1221/24).

BRADFORD.

My 1846/20 and 1721/22. Have still no news of BRADFORD. Request earliest possible information of safe arrival of this ship. BURNHAM reported BRADFORD dropped astern unknown to himself. Request this occurrence which nullified object of sailing these ships in groups may be investigated on arrival. It is known BRADFORD had only flying boat W/T transmitter of very low power. (B.S.3 1336/24).

Australia.

Operations by N.E.I. Navy.

C.in C. N.E.I. intends to institute patrol by surface warships approx. on the Equator between 130° E. and 180° E. to protect Dutch trade coming from U.S.A.
2. It will be necessary for Dutch to station an oiler in some position central to this patrol, probably at an island in the Australian Mandate.
3. Request you will arrange for every assistance to be given to C.in C. N.E.I. should he ask for such base. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1707/24 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary24.10.1940
ThursdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Re information that ANNELIESE ESSBERGER has crew of 7 ships on board Your 1647/22. Secret source reports it is thought ship may be ELSA ESSBERGER or might be a similar ship of same company. It is believed grading B three is correct. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires, 1225/24)

RUDOLF ALBRECHT Tanker at Teneriffe, reported to have taken oil from Italian tanker TAIGETE and to be preparing to sail (D.S. 416)

MADRID At Las Palmas, reported to be preparing to sail shortly (D.S. 416)

Las Palmas Reported all German ships to be ready to leave within 20 days (list) (D.S. 416)

HERMONTHIS)
MUNCHEN)
MONSRATE) } At Callao, unable to obtain oil up to 15/10 (D.S. 416)

Narvik Of ships sunk in Narvik actions, BOCKENHEIM still aground, JAN WELLEM, PLANET and another will soon be afloat, LIPPE being salvaged (D.S. 416)

Black Sea Reported Germans chartering Roumanian ships and also Bulgarian BALKAN and SHIPKA (DS 416)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Las Palmas Reported all Italian ships to be ready to leave within 20 days. (list of 10 there) (D.S. 416)

CORTELLAZO Thought to be refuging at Yokohama, now known to have left there on 5/6 and arrived Dairen 9/6 where she now is. (D.S. 416) (Capt O.5. Singapore 0501Z/24)

REX Reported at Pola, well camouflaged. (DS 416)

CARBONIA Rumoured sunk by submarine off Durazzo on 22/8. (D.S. 416)

FIUME Auxiliary engined sailing vessel of 40 tons, said to transport stores every Thursday between Rhodes and Scarpanto. (D.S. 416)

War Diary24.10.1940
ThursdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedTHALIAConvoy escort reports picking up survivors.
(D.T.D. 1141/24)SEDGEPOOLBritish 5556 tons, Convoy escort reports
picking up survivors. (D.T.D. 1141/24
to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)LAESTANCIA(Torpedoed in HX79) 7 survivors landed by INDUNA at Methil
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1708/24) 32 survivors have
been landed (D.S. 416)RUPERRA(Torpedoed in HX78) 2 survivors landed by INDUNA at Methil
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1708/24) 39 survivors have
been landed (D.S. 416)BRANDANGERIn Convoy HX 77. Sunk (about 11/10-13/10)
(D.T.D. 1740/24)NIRITOS(Torpedoes in SC 7) Chief Officer and 12 men landed at London-
derry. Captain and 13 had previously arrived
Clyde. One man missing. (D.S. 416)UGANDA

Now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 416)

LOCH LOMAND(Torpedoed in HX 79)BLAIRSPEY(Torpedoed in SC 7) Will probably be beached. (D.S. 416)PACIFIC RANGER(Torpedoed 12/10)Icelandic trawler THORMONDUR arrived
Reykjavik p.m./24 with master and 12 survivors
of SS PACIFIC RANGER. 6266 tons torpedoed and
sunk in position 056° 20' N., 011° 45' W.,
at 1915/12. Survivors picked up after 9 days
in position 057° 50' N., 010° 00' W., at
0900/21. 2 other boats approximately 20 each
last seen position ship was sunk at 1700/13.
(F.O. Iceland 1655/24)

/Attack on Convoy....

MOST SECRETWar Diary24. 10. 1940
ThursdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked-Contd.Attack on Convoy
H.X. 79
19-20/10.

Commodore and Masters of INDUNA and UGANDA ex convoy H.X. 79 interviewed on arrival Methil and following views were expressed.

(A) Attack was made by two or more submarines closing flanks of convoy at high speed on surface.

(B) Submarines submerged to fire torpedoes and then surfaced to regain position.

(C) One submarine at least passed through port wing column on surface and torpedoed 2 or 3 ships in inner columns.

(D) Parachute flares were observed floating in air lighting up convoy and presumably sent up by submarine.

(E) Several ships left convoy after first casualty and it is thought most of these were torpedoed.

(F) Work of submarines facilitated by two burning oilers which lit up convoy.

(G) Weather was fine and sea calm.

(H) Attack lasted for 4 hours.

(I) No gunfire was heard.

(J) Escort consisted of 2 destroyers, 1 sloop 5 corvettes 2 trawlers disposed all round convoy.

(K) Evasive steering and large alterations of course had been carried out at frequent intervals during previous 24 hours.

(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1915/24, amended C. in C., Rosyth, 1035/25)

Submarines Reported0930-
1215/23

Lisbon reports submarine sighted north of San Miguel, Azores, at 0830 and 1215 G.M.T. /23. Grade A.O. (F.O.C.N.A. to ALCANTARA, CORNWALL, 0135/24)

1509

58° to 59° N., 17° to 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 416)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: Probably one to N. of Azores.
German : 1 may arrive Lorient today and another tonight.
1 in vicinity Porcupine Bank bound Northwards.
4 or 5 in N.W. Approaches or farther W.
1 was in about 58° 30' N., 19 W at 1510/23
1 in about 60° N., and West of 25° West.
Probably 2 operating off S.W. Norway.
(D.D.I.C. 1354/24)



War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

U-Boat Campaign

C. in C., Home Fleet has renounced the withdrawal of ACHATES and ANTELOPE from North Western Approaches.

Convoy C.W. 15 Shelled

Enemy batteries shelled Convoy C.W. 15 whilst between South Goodwin and Folkestone Gate at 1745 and again between 1958 and 2111 today.

R.A.F. bombed the Gris Nez batteries during the passage of the convoy, and this no doubt hampered the enemy batteries. No damage to the convoy is reported.

Dover Shelled

Dover was also shelled between 2104 and 2206, damage causing a temporary hold up of rail traffic.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Channel Ports attacked last night were Flushing and Rotterdam. Single aircraft attacked Dunkirk and Ostend. Blohm and Voss shipyards at Hamburg and docks at Cuxhaven were also attacked. Single aircraft attacked Bremen, Wilhelmshaven and Hamburg.

Coastal Command

Targets were attacked last night at Le Havre, Bremerhaven and Lorient. Shipping and harbour works at Antwerp were attacked today.

A Special reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast from Trondheim to Stadlandet was carried out today.

Enemy Air Activity

FERNIE was bombed by 9 aircraft off Ramsgate this afternoon, but no damage is reported.

/F.A.A.....

MOST SECRET25.10.1940
FridayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity-Contd.

F.A.A. safety vessel DUTHIES was sunk by a near miss this evening, alongside the jetty at Montrose.

Convoy C.W. 15 was bombed off Deal this evening but no damage is reported.

The traffic office at Chatham Dockyard was wrecked today. At Wrabness the telephone wires were damaged last night. Slight damage was caused at Arbroath this evening (see also DUTHIES)

AVANCE (examination vessel) was attacked by an enemy seaplane which fired a torpedo at her off Aberdeen this evening. The torpedo missed astern.

Mining

Five Hampdens last night laid mines off Brest and 5 Swordfish in the Maas Estuary.

Several ports were affected by enemy mine laying today, Belfast closed at 0132, reopened 1111/25 but ships are not to anchor in Belfast Lough.

Blyth, closed at 0315. Reopened 1456.

Tyne, Opened at 0932. 2 magnetic mines detonated a.m.

Hartlepool, closed at 0954.

Plymouth, closed at 1136, reopened 1728.

Liverpool (closed 0400/24) Reopened 1000, but there is a dangerous area near Bear L.V.

Rosyth, closed between Inchkeith East Gate and 2° 52' W.,

Port of Methil is open.

/6 ships.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary25.10.1940
FridaySITUATION REPORTMining-Contd.6 Ships Mined

Trawler WINDSOR was sunk 2 miles south of Spurn Point a.m. today, and a second ship, name unknown, believed to be an incoming trawler was sunk this morning 3½ miles S.E. of Spurn Point.

SS MOUNT BATTOCK was mined in the Humber.

LL Trawler LORD INCHCAPE was mined off Plymouth this morning and sank after being towed to Jennycliff Bay.

A motor fishing vessel, believed to be the ENCOURAGE was also sunk off Breakwater Fort both presumed by new type enemy mine.

A/S Trawler ST WINSTON was damaged by a mine off the Humber today.

Operations Against Vichy French

DEVONSHIRE and DELHI are to institute a patrol off Libreville to discourage French reinforcements from approaching.


The French ship ALBI was intercepted by DELHI just north of the Equator and south of the Ivory Coast and scuttled herself. DELHI sank the wreck as fires were out of control, and took the crew prisoners. ALBI was in ballast from Casablanca to Libreville to load timber.

MediterraneanBombardment
by APHIS

Early this morning APHIS, working in co-operation with R.A.F. who dropped flares carried out a successful 40 minute bombardment of an enemy concentration 15 miles East of Sidi Barrani. Fire was in due course opened from ashore, but APHIS was not hit.

Last night R.A.F. attacked Benghazi harbour with the object of denying the use of the port for reinforcement.

/MALAYA.....

MOST SECRET25.10.1940
Friday
War DiarySITUATION REPORTMediterranean-Contd.Op: M.A.Q.2.

MALAYA (F.O.C. I B.S.) EAGLE, ORION, SYDNEY, COVENTRY and 8 destroyers left Alexandria this morning, to cover Convoy A.N. 5. which left Egyptian ports p.m. yesterday escorted by CALCUTTA and 2 destroyers.

6 Blenheims of the R.A.F. bombed Tobruk at 0835, and another 9 Blenheims straddled the north foreshore with bombs, demolishing buildings in the naval barracks area.

East Indies

Blenheims today bombed Assab, dropping bombs on the pier and elsewhere.

China

* MING SANG

British SS^s MING SANG was ^{and} bombed this evening in 27° 52' N., 121° 15' E., outside the prohibited area, by a Japanese Naval party which employed force to search the ship and sealed the W/T.



War Diary

25
15.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Withdrawal of
2 Destroyers
from
N.W. Approaches

Your 2249/24. Your need is greater than mine please keep ~~ACMATES~~ ANTELOPE, I can now do without them as ECHO and ESCAPADE are arriving shortly. (C. in C., H.F. 1059/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

W.R. Plan Dagger. Owing to increased possibility of enemy mining in winter nights it is now necessary that minesweeping forces should make the search of channels their principal object. Search for mines on East Coast route should normally be timed to give best protection to convoys. In order to reduce strain on ships and men, R.C. patrols should be maintained when weather conditions or enemy intelligence indicate that invasion or a raid is likely. (1st S.L. 1819/25)

Monthly Meetings

Cancel Adty. 2052/24. Revised arrangements. (1st S.L. 2028/25)

"Deluge"
DELUGE

At 0200/25. (D.C. 0205/25, 0835/25.
At 1400/25. (D.C. 1432/25)

Rosyth Night
Artillery Zone

Request it may be reintroduced, in view of minelaying by E/A and presence of certain ships at Rosyth (V.C.N.S. 0009/25)

Movements

HIGHLANDER
HARVESTER

HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER sailed in accordance with C. in C., W.A. 1249/22. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0901/25)

EDINBURGH
AGAMEMNON
COMORIN

Your 1555/24. Owing to sailing of EDINBURGH passing Tyne Pier heads at 1600/29, AGAMEMNON and COMORIN will sail on 30/10 passing Tyne Pier Heads at 1000. Request destroyer and air escorts may be arranged. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1257/25 to C. in C., H.F)

JERSEY

Expected to be ready to leave Sheerness 27/10. Request confirmation that destination is Plymouth. (C. in C., Nore, 1510/25 to C. in C., W.A.)
Your 1510/25. Destination confirmed. (C. in C., W.A. 1740/25)

/Orkneys.....



War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Orkneys

Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/25)

Northern Patrol

Ships occupying Trawler lines today.
(A.C.O.S. 1536/25)

Portsmouth

Night movement signal (C. in C., Portsmouth
1537/25)

GLASGOW

My 1512/24. To sail 28/10 not 26/10. (C. in
C., H.F. 1538/25)

Western Channel

Night report. (C. in C., W.A. 1545/25)

Rosyth

Movements tonight (C. in C., Rosyth 1854/25)

WILLEM VAN DER
ZAAN

Orders re proceeding to Ponta Delgada,
Azores when ready for sea, (A.C.N.S. (F)
2322/25)

DUNCAN
FOXHOUND

Revised arrangements for duties (R.A.D.
2320/25)

Submarines

H. 28

To sail 1500/27. Route. Zone. (S.O. S/M's
Harwich 0941/25)

TRIUMPH

Trials satisfactory. To work up. Propose
she sails 6/11 not 3/11. (S 2 1419/25)

H. 49

Orders for leaving patrol for Harwich
(S.O. S/M'S Harwich 1555/25)

Positions &
Movements

0700/26. (V.A.S. 1649/25, 2234/25)

STURGEON

Movements. Amending 1649/25 (V.A.S. 2106/25)

SEAWOLF

Informing her of movements affecting her
(Capt S. 3. 2251/25)

/ SUNFISH.....

War Diary25.10.1940
FridayHOME COMMANDSSubmarines-Contd.SUNFISH

SUNFISH escorted by SLEIPNER will arrive off Duncansby Head at 0800/27 on passage to patrol area North of Muckle Flugga.

One destroyer is to be sailed from Scapa to relieve SLEIPNER in the above position and provide onward escort as far as Muckle Flugga. (C. in C., H.F. 1014/25 to R.A. (D)

Sails 1300/26. Route etc., (S. 3. 1341/25 to V.A.S.)

British Air ActivityBomber Command

Intelligence summary No 503. Operations to 2359/24 (H.Q.B.C. 0200/25)

Coastal Command

Operations night 24/25. BREMEN and EUROPA not seen (Air Ministry. 0815/25)

Enemy Aircraft ActivityFERNIE

9 aircraft bombing 51° 20' N. 1° 32' E., (FERNIE 1616/25, 1630/25) Still shadowing. (FERNIE 1659/25)

Chatham Dockyard

One bomb 6.40 hours today. Traffic office wrecked (Supt. C.E. 1852/25)

Wrabness

7 bombs at 2150/24 without advanced warning. Telephone wires damaged. (F.O.i/c Harwich 1117/25)

S.L. 50

White rocket observed astern of convoy 2350/21 in 54° 38' N., 17° 48' W. 1 escort proceeded back 8 miles, nothing seen. Thought to be an enemy ruse to draw escort. No attack made on convoy. (CLEMATIS 1255/25)

Air R.C.

There are indications of German Naval Air R.C. between Flamborough Head and Girdleness (D.D.I.C. 2026/25)

Arbroath

Air Attack about 1840. Damage ascertained so far not serious. No serious casualties yet found. (R.A.N.A.S. 2101/25)

/Convoy C.W. 15....



War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Aircraft Activity-Contd.

Convoy C.W. 15.

Passed Dover. Bombed off Deal. (V.A.Dover 2111/25)

DUTHIES
Sunk

Steam drifter DUTHIES attached to F.A.A. Arbroath was sunk by a near miss of bomb alongside jetty at Montrose at about 1845 today. All crew safe. One man slightly wounded in head. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1930/25)

Mining

Belfast

Closed due to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 0132/25) Now open (N.O.I/c Belfast, 1111/25) Re my 1111/25 Port is only open for ships proceeding direct to Berth in harbour. No ship may anchor in Belfast Lough. (N.O.I/c Belfast 1711/25) Ships may now anchor in Bangor Bay, south of swept Channel. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1911/25)

Blyth

Closed, suspected minelaying. Expect to open 1400 (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0315/25) Blyth open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1456/25, C. in C., Rosyth 1542/25)

Tyne

Port open (F.O.I/C Tyne 0932/25) 2 ground magnetic mines detonated by LL at 1034 and 1035 off Blyth E. Pierhead. (P.M.S.O. North Shields, 1258/25, F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1309/25)

Liverpool

Until further notice anchorage prohibited in area within 5 miles of Bar L.V. (F.O.I/c Liverpool 0950/25) Port reopened 1000/25 (F.O.I/c Liverpool 1005/25) My 0950/25 Area east of Bar L.V. south of line joining Bar L.V.A and Q.I. Black buoy is considered clear. (F.O.I/c Liverpool 1746/25)

Hartlepool

Port closed owing to suspected minelaying. Vessels for Hartlepool may enter Tees. (B.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0954/25)

Plymouth

Port closed due to suspected aircraft minelaying (C. in C., W.A. 1136/25) Port now open (C. in C., W.A. 1728/25)

/Tr. WINDSOR.....



War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Trawler WINDSOR
Sunk

Trawler WINDSOR outward bound from Grimsby sunk by underwater explosion 174° Spurn Point 2.1 miles. One casualty. (F.O. Humber, 1215/25)

LORD INCHCAPE
Sunk
ENCOURAGE
Sunk

Since my 1356/21 regret to report mining of LL Trawler LORD INCHCAPE in approx. 228° 8.5 cables breakwater light at 0925 LORD INCHCAPE towed to Jennycliff Bay where she sank in 24 ft water one seaman missing also loss of motor fishing vessel believed to be ENCOURAGE in 210° 6 1/2 cables approx. from Breakwater Fort at 0904 both presumed by new type enemy mine. (C. in C., W.A. 1748/25)

SS MOUNTBATTOCK
Mined

SS MOUNTBATTOCK sinking in position of 62 C Buoy as result of mine explosion in Humber. ~~AV~~ GRIT stand by. Request immediate assistance. (WOLFHOUND 1820/25)

Second Ship
Sunk
Steam Drifter
CARLTON.

Regret to report second ship name unknown believe to be incoming trawler sunk a.m. today by under water explosion 131 1/2 degs. Spurn Point 3.50 miles. No survivors. (F.O. Humber 2220/25) *See page 626.*

Rosyth

Due to suspected enemy minelaying the Approach to Rosyth is closed between Inchkleth East Gate and 02° 52' W., Port of Methil is open. D.G. range area is closed. (C. in C., Rosyth 1331/25)



War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Air Reports

BREMEN, EUROPA, TIRPITZ etc., (See O.I.C report for details) (P.I.U. 0031/25)

Antwerp

Shipping is now disposed as follows. (H.Q.C.C 1223/25)

German
Main Units

My 1159/22. For Wilhelmshaven ^{21/10 read} 24/10.
(D.D.I.C. 1651/25)

Surface Craft
off Beachy Head

Enemy surface craft reported 200° Beachy Head 10 miles at 2145 (C. in C., Portsmouth 2210/25 to FERNIE)

Enemy
Destroyers

Enemy destroyer(s) may be operating from Cherbourg tonight 25/26 October. (Capt S. 5. 2350/25)



War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

BAY
DEODAR
M/S T's

Owing to collision damage BAY did not sail and due to grounding DEODAR did not sail with C.W. 15. Intend to sail them for Portsmouth in company as soon as damage has been made good. (C. in C., Nore, 1354/25)

BEAGLE

Your 1035/24 and BEAGLE's 1410/25. These defects will be taken in hand at Greenock before sailing BEAGLE for Scapa. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1626/25)

MARGAREE

120 $\frac{1}{2}$ My 1142/24 urgently request information may be sent by cable forthwith or such information which is available. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1528/25 to Admty.)

MARITMA

My 0955 B/22 MARITMA arrived Durban (S.O. I. Cape Town 1125B/25 to Admty.)

War Diary25.10.1940
FridayHOME COMMANDSConvoysShippingMovements

Tonight 25-26/10. (C. in C., Rosyth 1845/25)

O.B.C. 234

AMAZON to escort (Capt D. 12 0935/25) A/S trawler escort should read ST APOLLO, LADY LILIAN only. Time of sailing (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1126/25)

→ S.L.A. 50

Position (CLEMATIS, 0130/25)

F.N. 18

Hartlepool closed. Any ship in F.N. 18 to be diverted to Tees. BENEFACTANT bound Tyne should be diverted Sunderland. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1110/25)

O.B.

O.B. Convoys intended only for ships of 9 knots in reasonable weather. Slower ships to be kept for O.B.S. Convoys. (D.T.D. 1925/25)

RoutesNorthern Approaches

Cancel my 1402/30/6 and substitute. All convoy routes will be by Northern Approaches only. All ships for East Coast ports in Homeward convoys except those in S.C. Convoys proceed to Oban. Those in S.C. convoys proceed to Clyde. All ships in homeward convoys are to be provided with routes to Belfast, Liverpool, Oban, Clyde, Milford Haven and Barry Road. Stragglers bound for East Coast ports from S.C. convoys proceed to Clyde. Stragglers for East Coast ports from all other homeward convoys proceed to Oban. Homeward bound Admiralty Oilers for Scapa to proceed with Oban portion of convoy. (D.T.D. 1602/25)

W.N.,Pentland Firth

Requesting permission for W.N. convoys to enter Pentland Firth in dark hours. (N.C.S.O Clyde, 1505/24, to C. in C., W.A.)

Balloons

A. 910/24/10. Ref. 1919/19. Up to maximum 8 balloons may accompany each convoy. Number to be requested C. in C., Nore of 30 Group who will satisfy whenever possible. (H.Q. Balloon Command, 1601/24)

→ S.L. 50

For information, 2350/21 in 5438 N 1748 W White rocket observed astern convoy S.L. 50 1 escort proceeded back 8 miles nothing seen thought to be enemy ruse to draw escort no attack made on convoy. (CLEMATIS 1255/25)



25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French

Aircraft,
Dakar.

Report of Glen Martino and Curtiss Wrights continuing to arrive from Morocco, approx. 100 modern aircraft Ouakam and Thies hangars. (G.O.C. W.A., to W.O., 220/24, received from W.O., 1645/25).

Libreville,
DEVONSHIRE,
DELHI.

Message from Prime Minister:- ~~and you think~~
~~of taking Libreville~~
~~de la ville de Libreville~~
Meanwhile French reinforcements should be made to turn back, if possible without active fighting. Ostentatious patrol by DEVONSHIRE and DELHI should be instituted forthwith. (1 S.L. to C.S.1 1641/25). *See Operations Volume.*

Operation
"Ration".

Your 1550/24. Operation ~~will be~~ called Operation Ration. Preparations to be made for it, (date), but ~~will be~~, Ration not to be carried out without further Admty. instructions. (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 1835/25). *See Operations Volume.*

DELHI
interception
of ALBI.

Your 1043/25 ^{*no trace in Lloyd's*} (no trace in W.R.) Probable routine of SIKORSKI at Libreville, Port Gentil. (F.O.I.C.S. to DELHI, 1817/25).

Have left French ship ALBI stopped position 000° 34' N. 008° 39' E. with prize crew on board. Crew tried to scuttle and fire ship. Fire is under reasonable control but sea cocks cannot be closed until fire is out. Have resumed patrol keeping V/S touch. Am endeavouring to get KELT to tow. (DELHI, 1557/25) *See next page, 1745/25.*

Exchange of
Prisoners.

Vichy Government states that our proposal for the exchange of prisoners can only apply to British nationals. Please pass urgently following message to French N.A. Proposal of H.M.G. is for exchange of all prisoners taken by both sides without distinction. It is an essential condition of the exchange that (8 names) should be included. H.M.G. would take a most serious view of the matter if any irrevocable action was taken against Frenchmen named before conclusion of these negotiations. (Hd. of M. 1809/25, to N.A. Madrid).

My 1809 to N.A. Madrid. You should inform Boisson of the terms of the communication which N.A. Madrid has been instructed to make to French N.A. (Hd. of M. 1810/25 to C.in C. S.A.)

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Ration".

See Operations Against Vichy French (1 S.L. 1835/25).

/ Spanish Shipping.
Italian Attacks.

25.10.1940.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Spanish
Shipping.
Italian
Attacks.

S.O.I., Gibraltar's 1734/24 to D.N.I.
Signal text of document immediately.
(1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 2321/25) For text,
see 26/10.

Enemy A/C.

Yesterday 25/10 one Martin recce. aircraft
flying 22,000 ft. appeared over Rock 1055 hrs.
no bombs dropped, A.A. fired three rds.
Regret not reported yesterday. Few new
Spanish Fd. Works north La Linea appearing.
(Govr. Gib. 2305/26, to W.O.)

South Atlantic.

Suspicious
Ship *See Page 541.*

Admty. 2148/24 (requesting name of ship in his
1350 Z/24, re sighting of ship resembling
REGENSBURG). Name of first ship is
PORT HUNTER. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0710 B/25)

BRECONSHIRE

Admty. 2033/24. BRECONSHIRE left Capetown
0618/17 for Kilindini. Expected time of
arrival a.m./23. My 0703/17 refers. (N.O.I.C.
Simonstown, 0857 Z/25 to Admty.)

KENYA.

Ran a main bearing during exercises 24/10.
Sailing of ship and ORCADES will be delayed
probably until p.m. 26/10. (C.in C. S.A.
1209/25).

DELHI.

Send ship to Lagos. I will clear your 1557/25
(not recd. in War Reg.) (C.S.1 to DELHI,
1745/25).

BULOLO.

My 1231/23. Amend route. (C.in C. S.A. to
BULOLO, 1845).

Troop Movements.
DRAGON.

My 1051/21 and 0131/23. Movement of troops
from Takoradi and Lagos to Mombasa can now be
deferred to synchronize with Convoy W.S.4A.
Suggested DRAGON escorts WESTERLAND to
Freetown whilst escorting PENNLAND to
Bathurst. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A.,
1844/25).

SOTRA)
SOIKA)
SARNA)
SVANA)

Date of arrival Ponta Delgada. To proceed
Bathurst, not St. Vincent. Not to pass
within 20 miles of French territory.
(D.O.D. (F) 2226/25)

MARITIMA

Overdue shipping, my 0955 B/22. Arrived
Durban (S.O.I.) Capetown, 1125 B/25).



25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Aircraft.

4 Cant. aircraft have now returned from Asmara to Rome via Benghazi. 1801/19 refers re 4 a/c from Dodecanese to Bahrein. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 0958/25 to Iraq).

Sunderlands, weather.

Weather difficult for Sunderlands to operate from Malta. In 10 days, not possible to fly off Ionian Sea reconnaissance on 5 occasions, thus gaps in patrol line. 6 Glen Martins due at Malta have not materialised. (C.in C. Med. 1133/25).

Operation M.A.Q.2.

Plans for, 25/10 to 28/10. F.O.1 B.S. with MALAYA, EAGLE, ORION, SYDNEY, COVENTRY and 8 destroyers. Convoy A.N.5 leave Port Said and Alexandria p.m./24 for Dardanelles escorted by CALCUTTA and 2 destroyers. (C.in C. Med., 1235/24, received 1915/25) Convoy A.N.5, Route. Escort CALCUTTA, HERO and HAVOCK (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1029/24).

"Uniform" cancelled.

Reply to my 1849/23 urgently required. Operation Uniform now cancelled and White Collar deferred until date given. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. Med., 1818/25)

Enemy Units.

Enemy surface forces reported active off East Sicilian Coast. (Capt. S. 1, 1905/25)

Sidi Barrani Bombarded, APHIS

APHIS working in co-operation with R.A.F. carried out a successful 40 minute bombardment of enemy concentration 15 miles East of Sidi Barrani early on 25/10. Shells among motor transports causing much damage and igniting what appeared petrol dump. Fire was in due course opened from shore but ship was not hit. Intend issuing following communique: Naval force working in co-operation with the R.A.F. successfully attacked an enemy concentration near the coast East of Sidi Barrani early on 25/10. Enemy motor transport was destroyed and a large fire started in a fuel dump. No damage or casualties were sustained by our force. (C.in C. Med. 1931/25).

HOTSPUR, Repairs.

Your 1530/23 and Admtty 1923/5. If HOTSPUR can be made fit to steam 17 knots it is for consideration that she should be sent to Malta for repairs during Operation ~~WHITE~~ White.

"Collar" COLLAR. (C.in C. Med. 1319/25, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Shipping Telegrams.

Consul General Thessalonika in his telegram 021/19/10 reports, United Kingdom Commercial Corporation have sent telegrams "En Clair" concerning shipping movements. The Regular return ensuring safety of shipping is rendered doubly difficult by such indiscretions. Request Admiralty will arrange with M.E.W. for their communications to be passed through

/ diplomatic

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Continued)

Shipping
Telegrams.
(Continued)

diplomatic or Consular channels.
(C.in C. Med., 0025/25).

NARVAL.

Malta departure Friday 25/10 French
Submarine NARVAL for patrol. (N.O.I.C.
Malta, 1903/25).

Combined
Operations.
Code Words.

Admty. 1055/22/9. By arrangements with
Middle East a block of words beginning with
A. has been allotted for use by Navy in
operations affecting more than one service
but in which Navy is predominant partner.
Similarly operation orders may be issued
by either R.A.F. or Army in which Navy may
be taking part and which one of other
services is chiefly affected. In this latter
case an Army or R.A.F. allotted word would
be used. Presume this is acceptable and that
words given in Admty. 1055/22 will be con-
fined to purely naval operations.
(C.in C. Med. 2041/25 to Admty.)

East Indies.

Port Sudan
Bombed.

A. 857 Para. 2, Sudan, 24/10 0500 hours.
1 Wellesley 14 Sqdn. convoy escort patrol
off Port Sudan. No enemy sighted. 0645
hours 1 Wellesley 14 Sqdn. photographed
destroyer sunk off Harmil Island after
action against British Naval escort with
convoy on 21/10. Heavy A.A. experienced
from 2 ships in Bay. 0930 hours. 2 un-
identified enemy aircraft attacked convoy
in Port Sudan Harbour from 15,000 feet
dropping 12 H.E. bombs. Negligible damage
resulted. 23 natives killed some wounded.
Fighters failed to intercept.
(H.Q. R.A.F. ME. 1224/25).

West Africa A/C
Patrols.

A. 857. 25/10 Para. 3 Kenya. 23/10 and
24/10 S.A.A.F. reconnoitred area Sololo
Dobel Geldeza and Kismayu and carried out
coastal patrols Mombasa and Zanzibar areas.
Bombs dropped on enemy positions Dobel and
Buna. 12 large ships with Askari and
Kiongai Harbour Kismayu indicating 1 large
ship arrived since 30/8.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1226/25).

A/S Destroyers.

Admty. 2356/24. 2 A/S destroyers would be
required to reach Aden (date) (S.N.O. Red
Sea, 0724 Z/25).

Air Report.

A. 708, to 1500/25. (A.H.Q. Aden 1833/25)
No naval incidents.

/ Whale Catchers



25.10.1940.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Continued)Whale Catchers.

Your 0704/13. Whale catchers requisitioned Walvis Bay for local defence E.I. Station. (Hd. of M., 2054/25, to C.in C. E.I.)

GNAT.

Admty., 1855/22 passed to all addressees, my 0804/24 is being passed for information to Authorities not previously addressed. GNAT reports intended onward programme after arriving Khor Kuwait. N.O.I.C. Basra forward minesweeping gear by direct route to Mediterranean if possible, otherwise via Bombay. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0600 Z/25).

Convoy B.N.8.

E. / Route. List and details. Escort ANTENOR to 53° thence Force Q. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0842/25).

Convoy W.S.3.

CARTHAGE
CUMBERLAND
DORSETSHIRE

Convoys are not to pass within 40 miles of Guardafui in daylight. CARTHAGE is to rendezvous with CUMBERLAND and W.S.3 A at position A at time arranged by N.O.I.C. Simonstown when CARTHAGE will take over escort from CUMBERLAND and then escort to position (g) and then proceed to Aden. ERINPURA is to be detached ~~to Mombasa~~ to Mombasa as arranged by CARTHAGE. DORSETSHIRE will be required to escort W.S.3 B. in Red Sea as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. Passed to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area for information KENT and S.W.2 A. (C.in C. E.I., 0946 Z/25).

Defence of Ceylon.

From discussions on co-ordination of command of defence forces in Far East which have now resulted in decision to create new appointment of C.in C. Far East, question of defence of Ceylon has arisen. Should Japan take offensive against Singapore threat of seaborne attack on Ceylon might arise. Scale of such attack might well necessitate reinforcement of Ceylon which could most conveniently be provided from India. Desirable that staff discussions should take place at early date between C.in C. India and yourself with Brigadier to assess requirements. In agreement with general policy regarding raising forces in India for overseas service it will be for H.M.G. to say whether such reinforcements should be raised specifically for this role and to issue orders for their despatch when need arises. (Colonial Office, 2300/25, to Govr. Ceylon).



25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Singapore
Conference.

Admty. 1815/24. U.S. officers as observers.
(N.A. Washington, 1259/25).

America and West Indies.

NEPTUNIA

Intercepted letter 25/9 from Itawa Nav. Co.,
Genoa, to La Guaira, showing 1500 cases
olive oil from Italy arrived Barcelona in
NEPTUNIA to be forwarded in ALDECOA to
La Guaira. No dates of shipments given.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1635/25).

DIOMEDE

My 1152/23. On passage to Trinidad show
yourself during daylight off Pointe A
Hapitre and Fort de France. (C.in C. A.W.I.,
to DIOMEDE, 1111/25).

U.S. Courses.

My 1010/19. Navy Dept. now proposes 1 week
at Sound School at San Diego followed by 2
weeks at Belle Isle Vue. Dates. (N.A.
Washington, 1305/25).

Trinidad
Naval
Volunteer
Force.

Proposals re additional personnel required
for observer training scheme, etc., and
question of further expenditure being borne
by Imperial funds. Strongly recommend
reconsider decision in N. 10142/40, para.2
of 19/8, and that Force be taken over by
Admty. (N.O.I.C., Trinidad, 1240/25).

Dutch Shipping.

My 1316/19. New York reports Netherlands
Committee have ordered all Netherlands
Masters to disregard these telegrams.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1309/25).

French Shipping
to Martinique.

Following from New York (begins).
Letter from French Line stating their
Casablanca Office announces French Ship
will be shortly available to take cargo
from Casablanca to Martinique. Such
letters have been sent to consignees of
cargo ex REGULO, Norwegian Ship, which
left Bordeaux with cargo for America just
before French armistice and took refuge
at Casablanca. Several applications for
exemption from Admiralty's orders submitted
through me in respect of items of this
cargo are pending. No indication of
regular service is contemplated. French
Line endeavouring to give impression that
no possibility of British interception
exists and have told one enquirer that all
goods would be American property and there-
fore not subject to seizure. They refuse
all information as to identity of French
Ship to be employed. (Ends.)
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1704/25 to C.in C. A.W.I.)



MOST SECRET. 567

25.10.1940.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Hospital Ships.

In order to avoid congesting hospital accommodation with Australian and New Zealand forces both in Egypt and Bombay, Hospital ship MANUNDA will keep to approx. 10 week cycle between Australia and Suez lifting 40⁰ cases each voyage. Proposals for using as ambulance transports QUEEN MARY AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA.
(A.C.N.B. 0845 Z/25 to C.in C. E.I., etc.)

Troop Transports. D. of S.T. 2213/23 and A.C.N.B. 1200/25. Australian troop requirements for January reduced to 10,000. Policy re future movements under discussion. (A.C.N.B. 1146 Z/25).

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER) Both still at Kobe. (N.A. Tokyo,
ELSA ESSBERGER) 1101/25).

KULMERLAND Sailed from Kobe 10/10 as reported
(N.A. Tokyo, 1101/25).

USARAMO My 0826/23. Report (D.4) that she is
in Corcubion Bay.
(Consul, Vigo, 1318/25).

REGENSBURG R.O., Yokohama, reports (C.3) now in
Siberian port. (Capt. O.S., Singapore,
0844 Z/25).

LA PLATA
BRAKE
NORD ATLANTIC
ACHILLES
KARNAK
LECH
JOAO PESSOA Report received (C. 3) that 1,000 empty
oil drums have been transferred from
LA PLATA to BRAKE which has in turn
transferred 393 of them to NORD ATLANTIC,
ACHILLES, KARNAK, LA PLATA, plus LECH
and JOAO PESSOA all appear to be ready
for sea and may leave any night.
(Consul, Vigo 1133/25).

OSORNO. Dry docked Talcahuano 24/10. (S.O.I.,
Kingston, 1126/25).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

NEPTUNIA. (See America and West Indies).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

CHARLES L.D. My 1101/8. Following from air mail
censorship. CHARLES L.D. and CANTAL
now believed to have left Casablanca
11/10 for Martinique. (C.in C. A.W.I.
1802/25).

25.10.1940.

Friday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

<u>SEDGEPOOL</u>	British	5556 tons)	Now known to have been
<u>FISCUS</u>	British	4815 tons)	torpedoed in Convoy S.C.7,
<u>THALIA</u>	Greek	5875 tons)	times and positions not
				yet reported. (See 20/10).

CAIRNVALONA
(H.X.79)
damaged

CAIRNVALONA reports 7 feet water in No. 5 hold and 6 feet in No. 4 hold caused by near torpedo explosions when (H.X.79) convoy was attacked. Arrangements being made to effect repairs locally. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1142/25).

WANDBY
(torpedoed 19/10)

British 4947 tons, Torpedoed 224⁰/19 45' N. 17° 07' W. Seen to sink, 600 fathoms. Crew of 34 landed Belfast today. No casualties or missing. Vessel hit by one torpedo port side. Neither submarine nor torpedo seen. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1720/25).

Submarines Reported.

0350.	60° N., 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 416).
1908.	D.F., probable U/B. 57.50 N., 5.00 E., reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1949/25).
1930.	D.F. probable U/B, 57° N., 5.00 E., reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2010/25).
2130:	D.F. probable U/B, 48° - 49° N., 09.30 - 10.30 W. (V.A.S. 2153/25).
0855.	Submarine reported 5 miles N.W. of North Stack. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0855/25).
1243.	57.55 N., 03.10 E., (D.S. 417) (Probably same U/B as 1908 and 1930 above).
1431.	57.55 N., 04. 20 E., (D.S. 417). (Probably same U/B as 1908 and 1930 above)
1529.	58.30 to 59.30 N., 16° to 22° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 417).
1529.	48° to 49° N., 09.30 to 10.30 W. (D.S. 417).



25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian - 1 possibly N.W. of Spain making for Bordeaux.
German - 1 was in area 58 degs to 59 degs N: 17 degs to 20 degs W. at 1509/24.
1 was in about 60 degs N: 20 degs W at 0350/25. 4 more in N.W. Approaches or farther W; whereabouts unknown.
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1220/25).

A/C E attacked S/M from about 500 ft. with bombs 58.21 N., 4.22 E., estimated 1 hit. S/M was observed to emit column of black smoke and stern rose in the air and dropped again. S/M was now stopped with list to port. On delivering attack bombs failed to drop but bubbles from S/M were clearly seen. Immediately prior to attack A/C J was on a course at right angles to A/C E and consequently had clear view of the result of attack launched by A/C E, when S/M was observed stationary listing to port, sinking lower in water and finally only top of S/M conning tower was visible. (A/C 223 Sqdn., 1220/25) (Donibristle, 1605/25).

1045.

By a/c 56.04 N., 7.39 W., oil patch bombed, probably a wreck (D.S. 417).

1644.

By a/c 61.20 N., 00.09 W., oil streak bombed. (D.S. 417).



War Diary

26.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for
Enemy Destroyers

WITCH and VOLUNTEER proceeded to sea from Portsmouth soon after midnight last night, on a report that enemy destroyers had sailed from Cherbourg, possibly to attack the Channel Convoy. The destroyers were not sighted.

BLYSKAWICA

was damaged in collision off Arran this evening. She reached Greenock.

Town Class
Destroyers

BRADFORD, BROADWATER, BURNHAM and BURWELL arrived in the Clyde from U.S.A. this afternoon.

A/P Vessels

Arrangements are being made to replace by more seaworthy craft those A/P vessels which are unable to operate during the winter.

AUSTRALIA

Arrived in the Clyde today from Gibraltar.

As aircraft will from now on be co-operating with surface escorts of ocean convoys, ships in convoy are being informed not to open fire on aircraft at night when west of 7° W unless such aircraft are proved to be hostile.

British Air Activity

Coastal Command

Torpedo bomber aircraft this afternoon torpedoed and sank a merchant ship of about 2500 tons in the Aspo Fjord (Norway) Another smaller vessel was attacked in the same position, but results were not observed.

Coast Command aircraft early this morning attacked 5 merchant ships steering north about 45 miles west of the Helder. No definite results are reported

A merchant vessel 9 miles North of Ameland was attacked with torpedoes and possibly hit

5 Blenheims bombed and hit the power station at Brest today.

/Bomber Command....



War Diary

26.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity-Contd.

Bomber Command

Targets successfully attacked last night included docks at Hamburg, Krupps shipyards and a power station at Kiel, Bremen, gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez, and a railway junction at Zeebrugge.

Enemy Air Activity

SS EMPRESS OF BRITAIN was bombed and set on fire and abandoned this morning west of Inishtrahull. She had on board 100 women and children from the Middle East. ECHO and BURZA brought in some 570 survivors, some of whom are seriously injured, and 10 dead. Other survivors are reported to be on board CAPE ARGONA.

Some damage was caused to Naval Establishments at Chatham last night.

LONDONDERRY was bombed 16 miles South of Harwich this morning, but was not damaged.

Some damage was done at Wick Aerodrome this evening.

Mining

Mines were found off Belfast, in the Tyne and Humber.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was suspected between the North Foreland and Aberdeen, in the Thames Estuary, and off Liverpool.

Rosyth was closed at 0415 owing to mines believed to have been dropped in an enemy air raid. Port of Leith and Granton approaches are also closed. Methil is open. Leith, Granton and Approaches to Rosyth between Westgate Inchkeith and Forth Bridge were reopened at 1301.

Plymouth was closed shortly after midnight on account of suspected minelaying by enemy aircraft.

/Swansea

War Diary26.10.1940
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTMining-Contd.

Swansea and Port Talbot were closed this evening.

Belfast was closed at 0156 and was fully opened at 1301, but ships are not to anchor in Belfast Lough.

Hartlepool was reopened at 1244.

Liverpool was closed at 1725.

STROMBUS (whale oil factory ship) was mined in Swansea Bay this afternoon -and was beached.

DOSINIA (British tanker) was mined in the Mersey this afternoon and was beached.

KATANGA (Belgian Tanker) was also mined this afternoon in the Mersey and is afloat, anchored.

South Goodwin L.V. is presumed to have been sunk by a drifting mine about 0500 today. The crew were not on board.

Operations Against Vichy French

Outlines of a modus vivendi between Germany and the Vichy Government sent by N.A. Washington, show that the French Fleet will be employed ostensibly to insure freedom of communications between France and Northern Africa. Control of French ports in Mediterranean and North Africa will apparently be given to Germany.

N.A. Washington reports that the Navy Dept. inform him that STRASBOURG and other units returned to Toulon on 22/10, after carrying out exercises.



War Diary

26.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

ROYAL SOVEREIGN (after repairs at Durban) left Capetown at 1335/26 for Freetown.

WOOLWICH has boiler defects and will be unable to continue with Convoy W.S. 3. beyond the Cape, where she is to be repaired

Mediterranean

Submarines RAINBOW and TRIAD have been overdue since 19/10 and 20/10 and C. in C., Med. reports they must be considered lost.

East Indies

Assab was bombed at 0525 by 3 Blenheims which also dive bombed a vessel between Pleid and Umm Al Baher Island.



26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Home Fleet.

It is at your discretion to give Night Leave to a proportion of your Ships now at Rosyth and when this leave is completed to base the Battle Fleet at Scapa. (1st S.L. 0115/26 to C.in C. H.F.).

Armed Merchant Cruisers.

W/T Watch to be kept as follows. (D.S.D. 1133/26. A.G.M. 499a)

Auxiliary Patrol.

The Auxiliary Patrol is to be maintained during the winter. Its duty remains firstly to report enemy craft, and secondly, to prevent them reaching our shores.

Arrangements are being made to replace by more seaworthy craft those A/P vessels which are unable to operate during the winter. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1310/26 to C's-in-C).

Meeting on War Policy.

Your 2028/25. Propose to attend myself, circumstances permitting. Items for agenda leaving by courier. (C.in C. H.F. 1916/26 to Adty.)

Should like following subjects raised. (a) Convoy Protection. (b) Policy as to use of Rosyth as Fleet Base and Naval Dockyard. (C.in C. Rosyth 1933/26 to Adty.)

C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/26) See Operations
C.in C. Nore 1350/26) Volume.

"Deluge".
~~DELUGE.~~

Defence of U.K.

At 0200/26. (D.C. 0201/26). At 1400/26. (D.C. 1428/26).

Nore Command.
Notice for Steam.

My 1119/23. Ships not required for duty today keep steam at 4 hours notice till 2000/26. (C.in C. Nore 1005/26).

Nore Command
Leave.

Following is repetition of my 1048/9 begins. Details. There must always be sufficient minesweepers available to clear the Approach Channel during night if some emergency requires it. Names of ships detailed to be reported. 1048/9. Ends.

(C.in C. Nore 1434/26 to Adty.)

Note. C.in C. Nore's 1117/26 refers.

Night leave in accordance with my 1048/9 may be given tonight Saturday except that only one destroyer is to give night leave at Sheerness.

AURORA and EREBUS may also give night leave. (C.in C. Nore 117/26).

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Nore Command. Dispositions for Night 26/27. (C.in C. Nore 0800/26 and 1642/26).

BURNHAM, BURWELL,) Arrived and proceeded to Greenock.
BROADWATER,) (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0910/26).
BRADFORD)

ARK ROYAL My 1157/25. Request immediate confirmation of movements ordered in your 1559/25. Cancel instructions in Adty. 2156/24, para iii. (C.D.B. 1043/26 to ARK ROYAL).

CLEVELAND. Pass Switha 0700/27, R/V at 0800 in 110° Duncansby Head 6 miles with SUNFISH escorted by SLEIPNER. Relieve SLEIPNER, escort SUNFISH East of Orkneys and Shetlands as by S.3. 1341/25, and return Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 1140/26 to CLEVELAND).

Dover. Patrols for Night 26/27. (V.A. Dover 1420/26).

Orkneys. Trawler Lines on 26/10. (A.C.O.S. 1536/26).

AUSTRALIA. To keep steam at 4 hours notice till further orders. (C.in C. H.F. 1537/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

INTREPID) Will act as Escort for ^{op.} B.S. 43 (C.in C.
ICARUS) Nore 1750/26).

Operations.

WITCH, VOLUNTEER. Enemy Destroyers reported sailed from Cherbourg which may be after the Convoy. Patrol between 49° 56' N., 0° 50' W. and 50° 11' N. 0° 50' W., returning to pass Nab at daylight. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0012/26 to WITCH, VOLUNTEER) (C.in C. Portsmouth 0017/26 to H.Q.C.C., and Capt. S.5. 0030/26 to SWORDFISH).

Convoy C.W.15 shelled. 2 shells fell at 1745/25 and 23 shells between South Goodwin and Folkestone Gate. (V.A. Dover 0941/26 to Adty.)

Dover shelled. Between 2104 and 2206/25, 20 shells fell in and near Dover Harbour of which 4 in town. Casualties, 1 naval injured, 1 military injured, civilians 2 killed and 4 injured. Most of firing from a single gun near Calais. Only 2 or 3 salvos from Wissant and Framzelle. (V.A. Dover 0941/26 to Adty.)

/ Tyne

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

Tyne. One Flying Boat in 54° 51'N. 1° 9'W.
Am engaging. (VERDUN 1835 and ~~1845~~ and
1849/26) Enemy disappeared Eastward
(VERDUN 1901/26).

ALERT. A.M. 1142/24. Anticipate ALERT ready to
sail P.M./1st, having been docked.
(C.in C. W.A. 1902/26 to Adty.)

Submarines.

CLYDE. To be temporarily attached to 2nd S/M.
Flotilla until commencement of refit.
(V.A.S. 1041/26).

WILK. Report of Norwegian Coast 14 to 20/10.
(V.A.S. 1109/26 to Adty.)

H.43. Exercising in Plymouth S/M Area.
(C.in C. W.A. 1444/26).

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1615/26).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/27.
(V.A.S. 1641/26).

SWORDFISH)
UNIQUE) SWORDFISH in W.2. UNIQUE arrives
Position W. from westward at 0930/27.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1707/26).

SUNFISH. Will be met off Duncansby Head at 0800/27
by CLEVELAND and escorted to patrol area
North of Shetlands. (A.C.O.S. 1802/26).

British Air Activity.

Orkneys.
(HC. Patrol) A.C.O.S. 1818/19/9. Times for Patrol HC.
from 28/10 to 3/11 inclusive. (Hatston
1155/26 to A.C.O.S.)

Balloon Barrages
at Plymouth and
Milford Haven. Re conference at Plymouth on 21/10,
following possibilities should be investigated
at Plymouth. (Air Ministry 1325/26 to
Air Commands.)

Balloon Barrage
Vessels in Tyne. My 1540/13. Air Ministry concurs in
alteration of positions of Balloon Barrage
Vessels to be effected by Balloon Command.
(D. of L.D. 1656/26 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Rosyth Area. Air Escorts for 27/10. (C.in C. Rosyth
1906/26).

26.10.1940.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Firth of Forth.

Air Raids on Forth Area A.M. today from 0220 to 0400. Number of Mines believed dropped. Enemy heavily engaged by gunfire. No damage or casualties reported. (C.in C. Rosyth 0415/26 to Adty.)

EMPRESS OF
BRITAIN.

*Account by Master,
Capt. M. S. S. S. S., CVO,
see W.I.R. 36/6.*

British, 42,348 tons. Bombed 54° 53' N. 10° 49' W. (EMPRESS OF BRITAIN 0925/26 to Scapa W/T). S.O.S. at 0830. B.S.T. in 54° 45' N. 11° 19' W. (EMPRESS OF BRITAIN 0935/26) Port Patrick Radio reports intercept at 0846 G.M.T. EMPRESS OF BRITAIN now taking to boats. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0952/26 to Adty.) Detach 2 Destroyers to investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 0957/26 to ECHO) Taking to boats (EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, Received 0957/26). Position at 0952 was 55° 8' N. 10° 46' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1018/26 to SEAMAN) Sailed Tugs (? SEAMAN) and THAMES from Campbeltown at 1050 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1102/26 to C.in C. W.A.) **RAIDER** left about hour ago here. Lifeboat West of Inishtrahull (Port Patrick Radio 1135/26) Your 0957. Position 297° Tory Island Light 21 miles course 245° at 24 knots. BURZA in company. (ECHO 1200/26 to C.in C. W.A.) BROKE and SARDONYX sailed (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1208/26 to Adty.) EMPRESS OF BRITAIN abandoned. Floating on an even keel. Fire subsiding but ship gutted out. Consider hull can be towed. Am picking up survivors and carrying asdic sweep. (ECHO 1640/26 to C.in C. W.A.) Trawlers PAYNTER, DRANGEY, CAPE ARGONA in company. ECHO and BURZA returning to Clyde with all survivors. Tugs SEAMAN, MARAUDER, THAMES, and RAIDER proceeding. (C.in C. W.A. 1949/26 to BROKE, CAIRO) BROKE and SARDONYX patrolling near Ship. Trawler returning to harbour (BROKE 2043/26 to C.in C. W.A.) ETA. Cumbrae 0715. BURZA in company with 200 survivors, 5 seriously injured, 8 dead. ECHO about 370 survivors, 7 seriously injured, 2 dead. CAPE ARGONA proceeding Londonderry with 4 women survivors of whom one seriously wounded. (ECHO 2205/26 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

AVANCE.

N.O.I.C. Aberdeen reports enemy Seaplane fired Torpedo at Examination Vessel AVANCE at 1915/25 in Examination Anchorage, Aberdeen. Missed close astern. (C.in C. Rosyth 1157/26 to Adty.) Heinkel 115 returned and exchanged M.G. fire with AVANCE and disappeared to westward. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1231/26 to C.in C. Rosyth).



MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity.

Chatham.

Air Raid at 0130/26. Damage estimate £500. (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1405/26)

Arbroath.

Air Raid P.M./25. Damage estimate £4000. (S.C.E. Arbroath 1717/26).

Lossiemouth.

Banff reports Bombs on Lossiemouth Aerodrome at 1825. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1912/26 to Adty.)

Sheerness.

952 Sqdn. R.A.F. reports that at 2035 three Bombs fell and exploded in area bounded by Balloon Drifters in following position. (X.D.O. Sheerness 2255/26 to C.in C. Nore).

LONDONDERRY

Bombed in 51° 42' N. 1° 21' E. 4 bombs no hits. One large explosion on Gunfleet Sands probably mine (LONDONDERRY 1104/26)

Mining.

Plymouth.

Closed, owing to suspected Minealying by A/C. (C.in C. W.A. 0042/26).

Belfast.

Closed, owing to suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0156/26) Port now open to outward traffic only. Ships to keep to Searched Channel and anchorage forbidden in Belfast Lough Area. Inward bound Mail Steamers may enter if proceeding to berth (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1115/26) Port open to all inward Ships proceeding divert to berth and to outward Ships divert to sea. No Ship may anchor in Belfast Lough. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1301/26). Port of Saint Dennis now open and Ships may anchor in Bangor Bay, south of Swept Channel. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1545/26) LL detonated one large Red Mine 020° 17 cables from Greypoint. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1700/26 to Adty.)

Rosyth.

Approaches to Rosyth between 2° 52' W. and Forth Bridge are closed. Ports of Leith and Granton Approaches are closed. Methil open. (C.in C. Rosyth) 0421/26 to Adty.) Approaches to Rosyth between west gate Inchkeith and Forth Bridge are open. Ports of Leith and Granton are open. Precautions. Examination anchorage West of Inchkeith, and Granton Roads, are not clear. (C.in C. Rosyth 1301/26). Approach to Rosyth between West Gate Inchkeith and 2° 52' W. open. D.G. Range area closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 1521/26 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Continued)Tyne.

Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by LL. at 0820 in 107° 4 cables of North Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0845/26 to D.M.S.)
Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by LL. at 1005 in 124° 3½ cables of South Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1015/26 to D.M.S.)

Humber.

Magnetic Mine detonated by LL at 0010/25 in 162° 1.3 miles from Spurn Point Lighthouse. (F.O. Humber 1050/26).

Hartlepool.

Closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 1234/26) Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1244/26 to Adty.)

Swansea)
Port Talbot)

Ports now closed owing to Magnetic Mines. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1711/26 to Adty.)

STROMBUS

Norwegian Oil-Refinery, 6549 tons. Mined in Swansea Bay at 1658. She is being beached. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1724/26 to Adty.) Amended position of casualty 112° 2.2 miles from Mumbles Lt. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1140/27).

Liverpool.

Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1725/26).

KATANGA.

Belgian, 5183 tons. Damaged by explosion, possibly Mine, about 3 cables 100° from Pillar Buoy, Queens Channel, at 1645. Possibility of internal explosion being investigated as position thoroughly swept and many vessels have been over and close to it. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1741/26 to Adty.) Hope bring ship into harbour A.M./28 Engine Room flooded. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1624/27).
Docked and unloading cargo (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1535/28)

DOSINIA.

British Tanker, 8053 tons. Mined near Q 1. Black Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1857/26 to C.in C. W.A.) Badly damaged. Salvage doubtful. 4 injured, one seriously. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1624/27 to Adty.)
Aground. Salvage in hand (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1535/28).

B.S.43.

Cancel my 2144/24 (ICARUS and IMPULSIVE to escort B.S.43) INTREPID and ICARUS will act as Escort (C.in C. Nore 1750/26 to D.20).

JERSEY)
MACKAY)

Adty. 1433/25 and my 1510/25. Intend sail ships in company on 28/10 to arrive Plymouth 0745/29. (C.in C. Nore 2208/26 to C.in C. W.A.)



26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Helder.

At 0705, five M/V's in 52°55' N.
3° 30' E. steering North at 12 to 14 knots.
A/C report. (V.A.S. 1031/26 to S/M.
H. 49).

Brest.

Apparently now 8 Destroyers. (P.R.U.
St. Eval 1230/26 to H.Q.C.C.)
Positions of 8 Destroyers confirmed.
(A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2015/26 to H.Q.C.C.)

Emden.

18 M/V's in harbour, including a 600-foot
Liner. Also 50 Barges. To be attacked
by A/C on night 26/27. (H.Q.C.C.1400/26
to 16 Group North Coates).

Boulogne)
Dunkirk)
Ostend)

Shipping seen at 0845/26. P.I.U. 1500/26
to N.I.D.)

Off Hardanger.

Hatston A/C. report Danish M/V. POLAR FAIRD
in 59° 52' N. 3° 54' W. steering 290°
at 8 knots at 0824. (A.C.O.S. 1603/26 to
Adty.)

Bordeaux)
Gironde)

Warships and M/V's seen on 25/10.
(P.I.U. 2325/26 to N.I.D.)

26.10.1940.
Saturday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

WOOLWICH

Boiler defects. (See South Atlantic).

CHULMLEIGH

Due Durban 22/10, not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0905/26).

BEAGLE

Available for service during repairs,
expected to complete p.m./29.
(F.O., Greenock, 1204/26, F.O.I.C. Glasgow,
1751/26).

BLYSKAWICA

Polish destroyer, in collision with
trawler 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles 140° Plada Light.
Stern and steering gear damaged (ESCAPADE,
2100/26, BLYSKAWICA, 2204/26, F.O.I.C.
Greenock, 0032/27).

Destroyer
aground.

SCHELDE to proceed Londonderry to refloat
a destroyer aground there (F.O.I.C.
Greenock, 2333/26) SCHELDE sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0030/27).

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

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War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping.ConvoysO.B. 233To alter course at 1600 to avoid U/B.
(C.in C. W.A., 1241/26)S.L. 51.20 hours late at R.V. ALCANTARA to
contact slow 51 at daylight 28/10,
2 portions of convoy combing at daylight
29/10. (ALCANTARA 0805/27) Route.
(D.T.D. 1634/26).O.A. and
O.B. 234.To join, position. (C.in C. W.A. to
ROCHESTER, PRIMROSE, ARROW, etc.,
1009/26).S.C.9.Date. Escort DEPTFORD. (D.T.D. to
C.in C. W.A. 1607/26).F.N. and
F.S.Forecast of sailings and escorts
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1103/26).H.X. 81.Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 2315/26 to ABERDEEN,
CALDWELL, WALKER, GLOXINIA, VANSITTART,
CALENDULA, GARDENIA.)Aircraft to
Escort Ocean
Convoys.Ref. TD/N/2/413 and AMSI 164, as aircraft
will from now on be co-operating with
surface escorts of ocean convoys, ships
in convoy are to be informed that they
are not to open fire on aircraft at night
when west of seven degrees west unless
such aircraft are proved to be hostile.
(D.T.D. 2115/26 to A.Z. Message 913)F.N. and F.S.
Removal of
additional
Escorts.C.in C. Nore 2120/25. Regret possibility
of additional escorts for FN and FS
convoys between Aldeburgh Light Float and
Outer Dowsing being removed. This area is
a happy hunting ground for E Boats and
comparative little success they have
obtained has been largely due to the
support C.in C. Nore has given. Ships
in this area at night carry out the dual
purpose of convoy protection and anti-
invasion. Should they be reduced in
number the Germans will quickly discover
a further soft spot in our convoy system
and exploit it to the full.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1117/26, to Admty.)Shortage of Escort ships is fully
appreciated and will be remedied as soon
as resources permit. Ref. C.in C. Nore's
final sentence, intention is to operate
these convoys as nearly as possible on
an eight day cycle. (D.A/S.W.2201/26).W.S.4A.Date of leaving U.K. and list. Ocean
escort BERWICK and CORNWALL from Clyde.
Fighter Command code word Olive.
(D.O.D. (H) 2108/26).



26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Following information provided by
Navy Department.

Enemy
Intelligence.

Reliable Officer in Spanish Destroyer
CHURRUCA reports having sighted 6 days
ago off Alicante French troop transports
loaded to capacity headed for Africa.

Dakar.

From Dakar. 19/10. GROIX sailed for
Casablanca. 20/10 SINAIA, MARRAKECH,
MARECHAL LYAUTEY and 3 other vessels
arrived from Casablanca. Ships carried
great amount War material and food
supplies. Martial law ended in Dakar
Community and feeling growing there that
only hope for France lay in Colonies
remaining solidly under Petain.

Far East.

From Berlin. Unverified rumour from N.A.
German ships in Chinese and Russian Ports
ordered proceed quietly to Japanese Ports.
60 German Navy and Air Officers ordered
to Japan to oversee selection and
construction of fuel depots and bases.
Material being sent in Chinese Junks to
Saipan and Formosa.

STRASBOURG

My 1745/21 these vessels reported to have
returned to Toulon 22/10 after exercising
in vicinity. (N.A. Washington, 1251/26^f,
awarded 1320/29, and amplified 1815/31).

Following received.

Intelligence (contd.)
Dakar.

(?Vichy) 17/10. French Naval sources
state that one group of Latecoere torpedo
aircraft's moved to Dakar from Bizerta.
Understood there are now at Dakar four
groups of bombers particularly Glenn and
totalling about 60 and one Curtiss pursuit
group totalling about 15.

Dakar 24/10. Mainland forces at Dakar;
battleship RICHELIEU; two cruisers;
five destroyers two submarines three
flying boats and auxiliary vessels.
40 Martin bombers and at least 32 Curtiss
pursuit planes based Oualsan and Thies.

Beyrout.

Beyrout 18/10. Two French ships left
yesterday with 5500 reservists on board.
Two additional convoys, each about same
capacity, are expected to evacuate
reservists shortly.

Saigon.

Saigon 21/10. French war vessels LAMOTTE
PIQUET and ADMIRAL CHARNER left Saigon
for Camranh Bay for manoeuvres.
D'ARTAGNAN sailed for Manila and Kobe.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued)

German
Appeasement.

Vichy 23/10. Understood outlines of a modus vivendi between Germany and Vichy Government were in principle definitely agreed. French Fleet will be employed ostensibly to insure freedom of communications between France and Northern Africa. Control of French Ports in Mediterranean and North Africa will apparently be given to Germany.
(N.A. Washington, 1500/26 to Admty.)

ALBI
Scuttled.

DELHI's 1951/25. Intend crew of ALBI be handed over to Duala authorities for interrogation and custody. Leclerc proposed to give same guarantee as in case of crew of TOUAREG but requests help in carrying out repatriation (C.S.1 to Admty., 1701 A/26).

DEVONSHIRE
DELHI

Until situation clarifies, consider I should remain in touch with Leclerc. No accommodation available locally. Intend DEVONSHIRE to relieve DELHI on patrol on 28/10 and transfer my flag temporarily to latter. (C.S.1 to Admty., 1718 A/26).

DELHI

Supplies of fuel and stores. Request early opportunity of visiting Lagos to take in provisions, give leave and clean boiler.
(DELHI, 2307/26).

North Atlantic.

Air
Reconnaissance.

Daily Summary Operations (200 Group, 1701/26).
No incidents.

ARK ROYAL
GLASGOW
Destroyers.
PASTEUR.

Admty. 2156/24 C.in C. W.A. to sail ARK ROYAL, DUNCAN, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, ISIS and PASTEUR to Gibraltar on 30/10.
C.in C. H.F. to sail GLASGOW as necessary to R/V with above.
C.in C. W.A. to arrange escorts R/V and routeing.
On arrival at Gibraltar, ARK ROYAL is to rejoin Force 'H', GLASGOW is to be attached temporarily to Force 'H' and destroyers are to join 13th D.F.
Fighter Command Code Word ^{"Robin"} ~~ROBIN~~.
PASTEUR is to be sailed for U.K. as soon as possible after disembarking.
(D.O.D.(H) 2109/26).

Spanish
Shipping,
Italian U/B
Attacks.

Admty. 2321/25. Following is translation of text of document. (Refers to orders to S/M Group Commander, Augusta, that ships flying Spanish flag belonging to Ybarra and Pinillos Shipping Companies leaving Casablanca and proceeding towards Lisbon are to be attacked without warning.) (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty. 0148/26).

26. 10. 1940
SaturdayWar Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.PENNLAND
WESTERNLAND
CARNARVON
CASTLE

Your 1844/25. As all movements of troops and ships have already started and PENNLAND cannot be delayed, intend subject to concurrence of C.in C. East Indies that movements of H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE and WESTERNLAND shall proceed as arranged. As C.in C. East Indies will provide escort from Cape, H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE will be freed earlier. (C.in C. S.A., 0946/26, to Admty. Concur your 0946, (C.in C. E.I. 1846/26).

WOOLWICH

Boiler defects. Essential to have 36 hours at both Capetown and Durban. Appears will be unable to continue with W.S.3. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0830 Z/26). Your 2339/18 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0830/26. W.S.3 is not to be delayed on account of WOOLWICH. If no escort available may be sailed unescorted as far as Aden. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. S.A. 2304/26).

CHULMLEIGH

Overdue shipping, due Durban 22/10 from Brisbane, not arrived. (S.O.I.), Capetown, 0905/26).

W.S. 4A

My 2326/10. An A.M.C. may be required to take over escort of W.S.4A from Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. S.A. and E.I. 2006/26).

SOTRA)
SOIKA)
SARNA)
SVANA)

On leaving Ponta Delgada to proceed to Bathurst, not St. Vincent as previously ordered. Not to pass within 20 miles of French territory. (Hd. of M., to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 2010/26).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Capetown departure 1335/26, ROYAL SOVEREIGN for Freetown by direct route in accordance your 1305/15. Date of arrival. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown to C.in C. S.A. 1340/26).

FRANCONIA.

Sailed for Clyde 1400/25. 112 troops, 87 naval ratings, etc. (N.O.I.C. Freetown, 2025 N/26).

Mediterranean.RAINBOW
TRIAD
Overdue

RAINBOW and TRIAD are now overdue since 19/10 and 20/10 respectively and must be considered lost.

TRIAD has not been in company with Capt. (S) 1 yet. List is as she left U.K. subject to any amendment by F.O.C.N.A., or V.A. Malta.

Italian press claimed U Boat ^{ENRICO} TOTI sank a Perseus class Submarine on 14/10 which may have been RAINBOW.* Nothing is known of TRIAD's loss. Both S/Ms. were ordered to patrol off Gulf of Taranto returning to /Alexandria

* Confirmed by FO. (S/M) 782/SN
534, 11.8.48. (Sunk 13/10.)

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

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War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Continued).RAINBOW
TRIAD
Overdue
(Contd.)Alexandria along Libyan Coast.
RAINBOW was directed into Straits at Otranto for a few days. (C.in C. Med., 0943/26.)Enemy
Unit.

Reconnaissance 167(?). At 0055 G.M.T./26 enemy warship, type unknown escorting 2 or more steamships, was hove to off coast of Sicily probably on an approx. bearing 024° from Malta. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 0941/26, to Capt. i/c Malta).

Greek
Co-operation

A.T. 1742/7. Need for suitable recognition signals. Suggestions. (C.in C. Med., 1206/26).

Air
Operations
APHISM.E. Operational Summary No. 138 up to 1200 hours 26/10. Para 1 Egypt. Attacks continued on enemy forward positions in Western Desert and rear bases with following results night 24/25/10 0245 hours 1 Blenheim 211 Squadron bombed enemy position at Maktila from 6000 feet in co-operation with bombardment from sea by APHIS. 2 flares were dropped and incendiaries straddled target starting large fires petrol dump believed ignited. Day 25/10 following attacks made on Tobruk. 0835 hours 4 Blenheims 55 Squadron with 2 Blenheims 84 Squadron dropped bombs among M.T. end supply dumps on north end of aerodrome. Intense A.A. fire experienced 1 enemy fighter was shot down down unconfirmed over Tobruk Blenheim 84 Squadron forced landed 45 miles West Mersa Matruh crew safe. 9 Blenheims 113 Squadron straddled North Foreshore with bombs demolishing buildings in Naval Barracks Area.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1227/26).Enemy
Intelligence
ZAFFIRO *to*Information received from Turkish General Staff concerning Leros. Reliable source dated 22/10. Naval Stores formerly at Lapetha Cove moved to Critani village south side of Alinda Bay owing to British bombing, now stowed in private houses. Submarines ZAFFIRO, BEILUL, JALEA four to five days overdue.
One other Italian submarine sunk off Leros cause and name unknown.
(N.A. Angora, 1302/26)./ Convoy Reports

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

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War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Continued)Convoy Reports.

Fully in agreement with C.in C. East Indies 1320/25. Publicity concerning movements of convoys can only have harmful effect as has been demonstrated both in Red Sea and Mediterranean. Italians must have a shrewd idea we are building up supplies and troops in the Middle East and the more he has to give rein to a probable apprehensive imagination the better.
(C.in C. Med., 1649/26).

Italian Bombs.

Italians using small incendiary bomb. Description. (D.U.B.D. Admty. General Message 1303/26).

Aircraft,
Malta.

Your 1133/25. 1 E. of 431 Flight increased to 7 and sufficient Glen Martins to fill this establishment with reserves being flown out to Malta. First aircraft expected to leave tonight. (D.N.A.D. to C.in C. Med., 1625/26).

Shipping
Intelligence,
Leakage.

Precautions necessary to prevent leakage of shipping intelligence to enemy through Japanese channels. Arrangements. (Hd. of M. 1750/26, to C.in C's Med., E.I., China, etc.)

Malta,
Reinforcement.

Plans for reinforcing Malta (military). (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1838/26). Reply of C.in C. giving date, etc. (C.in C. Med., 2205/26) (See Mediterranean Volume).

W.S.3.
DORSETSHIRE

Your 1122/23, movements of Red Sea convoys. Approved for W.S.3 slow and fast to merge from point of overtaking and to be escorted by DORSETSHIRE to Suez. On arrival Suez, DORSETSHIRE to sail for Durban to rest until required to take over escort of W.S.4 B from CUMBERLAND. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. E.I., 2359/26).

Dodecanese
Supplies

Food shortage. Suggesting Greeks place obstacles to Italian exports from Tijani (Wolfson, Beyoglu, to C.in C. Med., 1745/26).

A.T. 2051/24. Available information suggests following:-

Italian
Shipping
Routes.

(a) Direct routes from Messina Otranto or Sicily do not appear to be used except by hospital ships.
(b) Considered majority of traffic passes to the Westward of Sicily and Lampedusa thence via Tripoli (Africa) to / Benghazi



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Italian Shipping
Routes.
(contd.)

Benghazi.

(c) Submarine patrols on Sicilian coast and South of Gulf of Taranto have drawn blanks except for occasional warship sightings.

(d) Submarine patrols have been maintained off Benghazi and off Misurata without result. Recent capture enemy coastal route information hoped to give better results.

(e) Reconnaissances show that ships do enter and leave Benghazi but no evidence to show that there is even as much traffic as must be necessary to maintain troops already in Libya.

(f) Results have been obtained against coastal traffic from Benghazi to Derna and Tobruk but this now seems to have almost ceased. Our submarines and aircraft have taken toll of their traffic and R.A.F. and F.A.A. have done much to make Tobruk untenable. Route has also been (? mined) in three places.

(g) Not considered that enemy move large convoys. One two or three ships with one destroyer are common. (C.in C. Med., 2233/26).

My 2233/26. Add paragraph (H). Above must be regarded as largely supposition as there is insufficient evidence to form a firm opinion. (C.in C. Med. 0933/27).

East Indies.

QUEEN MARY
AQUITANIA
MAURETANIA

Your 1921/5. Request confirmation they are to return to Sydney on completion of discharging at Bombay. (P.S.T.O. Bombay to D. of S.T. 0402 Z/26).

NEPTUNE

Result of search of Southern Ocean islands 11/10 to 21/10. (NEPTUNE, 0503 Z/26). General remarks (NEPTUNE, 1416 Z/26).

SHROPSHIRE
KANDAHAR

Expect to arrive at 0900/26. (SHROPSHIRE 0601 Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Aden).

MOGAMIGAWA MARU.

My 1020/15. Intercepted letter discloses loaded unlicensed opium at Bushire night of 1-2/10, destination believed Far East. (C.in C. E.I., 0642/26).

26. 10. 40
Saturday.

590

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Continued)PAN EUROPE
interception by
NEPTUNE.

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 0927 Z/10. It is confirmed NEPTUNE intercepted PAN EUROPE. Her position, course speed and appearance all indicated she was the vessel referred to in Admiralty 0146/8. (NEPTUNE, 0505/26).

GNAT.

S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0600/25. Intended programme. (GNAT, 1420/26).

A.710 26/10.

Daily Intelligence Summary No.136 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500/26/10. 3 Blenheims, 8 Squadron individual bombing Assab 0525 (1) Workshops, 4 250's in target area. (2) Naval headquarters large bombs near misses small bombs in naval barracks. (3) Low dive bombing attack on vessel between Fieid 36 and Umm Al Baher Island, nearest bomb approx. 4 yards. Blenheims 203 Squadron fighter escort for convoy B.S.7 using Kamaran as advanced base. 2 Gladiators 94 Squadron standing patrol Aden 0720 to 0845. No casualties, all times G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1947/26).

China.I. 67
Japanese.

Japanese Submarine. Officially announced today lost with all hands in Tokyo Bay, 29/8/40. (N.A. Tokyo, 1012/26).

Singapore
Conference.

Comdr. A.C. Thomas, U.S.N., to attend as observer, (unofficially) (1 S.L., 1531/26).
Arrived evening 27/10. (C.C. China, 0929 Z/28)

America and West Indies.Suspicious W/T.
INGN VLASSOPOL

Your 1433/17. Rumanian ^{I ERN}INGN VLASSOPOL investigated. Results. (N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B. 1246/26).



26.10.1940.

Saturday.War Diary.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

- SVANEFJELL Late Norwegian, may pass your latitude north-bound tonight or tomorrow. (V.A.S. to Netherlands S/M 0.24, 1011/26).
- USARAMO Left Vigo a.m./23, reported (D.4) in Corcubion Bay, Cape Finisterre, 25/10. (D.D.I.C. 1015/26 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)
- KARNAK. B.3 report, will leave tonight possibly for Ferrol for overhaul. (Consul, Vigo, 2042/26).
- VANCOUVER) Curacao reports prize ships renamed CURACAO,
PATRICIA) ARUBA and BONAIRE respectively. (S.O.I.
HENRY HORN) Kingston, 1036/26).
- CORDELIA) Left Galtaz 23/10 in ballast for Russia.
ARKADIA) (D.S. 417).
ITHAKA)
- SALZBURG Arrived Galatz 23/10 from Istanbul with general cargo. (D.S. 417).
- SAARLAND. Shanghai report, sold to Mitsubishi, Tokyo, in August. (D.S. 417).
- NORDERNEY Pernambuco report 24/10 that 1000 tons of coal being shipped in Brazilian AFFONSO PENNA, due Para 30/10, presumably for NORDERNEY (D.S.417).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

- AEQUITAS. Brazilian Government have notified intention to move Italian AEQUITAS refugee at Ceara, to Rio de Janeiro where her cargo coal consigned Rio de Janeiro and paid for is badly needed. They are prepared to put Brazilian Naval Officer on board for voyage if desirable. I warned Chief of Naval Staff that ship remains liable to capture unless properly interned for duration or unless H.M.G. makes special case. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1806/26).
- REX Reported merchant shipping laid up in Istria
CONTE DI SAVOIA Channel has been moved. REX was recently reported at Pola and CONTE DI SAVOIA at Venice. (D.S. 418).

26.10.1940.
Saturday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.FISCUS
SNEFJELD
THALIA
(torpedoed in
S.C.7.)*Revised dates of
sinking see
BR 1337.*

Survivors landed by CLEMATIS state that FISCUS British SNEFJELD Norwegian, and THALIA Greek, were sunk on 18/10 and 19/10. Survivors were picked up on 23/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 2125/26).

SNEFJELD, Norwegian, 1644 tons, torpedoed and sunk on 18/10. 21 survivors, including four wounded, landed at Methil 26/10. (D.S. 418).

Submarines Reported.

0904. D.F. probably U/B 58° N., 6° E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0942/26).
1607. Am over enemy submarine in 55.52 N., 8.47 W. (Aircraft 502 Sqdn., 1607/26) (A.C. W.A. 1803/26).
1657. One Italian U/B, course 295°, 46.38 N., 10.20 W. (URSULA, 1657/26)
1447. 56° to 57° N., 16° to 18° W. at 1447/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1555/27).
1450. 55.05 N., 8.25 W., reported by aircraft. Boat with 2 men seen close by. (D.S. 418).
1107. 58° N., 13° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 418).
1119. 58° N., 6.20 E., position indefinite. (D.S. 418).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian - 1 reported to be Italian was in 46° 38' N. 10° 20' W. at 1657/26 course 295°.

German - Possibly 1 W. of Ireland moving northwards.
Probably 1 in area 58° to 60° N. and W. of 20° W.
1 may have been in 55° 52' N. 8° 47' W. at 1604/26.
1 was possibly off Torglass Island 6 miles S.W. of Bloody Foreland at 1450/26, communicating with shore.
2 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 in Skagerrak about 48 miles W. of the Skaw at 0938/27 homeward bound; may be damaged.
(D.D.I.C. 1226/27).



26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1600.

By aircraft 55.52 N., 08.47 W. (Aircraft 502 Sqdn., 1607/26, C.in C. W.A., 1801/26) ARROW and ROCHESTER informed. (C.in C. W.A., 2137/26).
Aircraft report from Aldergrove (begins).
To C.in C. W.A. from SHIKARI
Your 1801/26. Attack by aircraft was seen. Bomb falling close to feather which in the prevailing sea looked like a periscope feather. Similar feathers were seen at the same time over a large arc. These were porpoises. A/S Sweep was carried out within five minutes of aircraft attack.
Porpoise noises only heard. Aircraft informed accordingly. (Ends.) T.O.O. 2036/26. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1830/27).

Italian.

ZAFFIRO)
BEILUL)
JALEA)

Reported overdue. (See Mediterranean, Enemy Intelligence).

Forbidden Area.

Surface ships are not to attack submarines unless hostile identity is established in the area enclosed by the following positions:-
60° 50' N. 01° 10' W. 60° 50' N. 0° 40' W.
61° 50' N. 0° 20' W. 61° 50' N. 01° 30' W.
from 2300/27 until further notice.
(D.O.D. (H) 1710/26)

Assessments.

Your 1119/21. Assessment of attacks made by Force H and North Atlantic Command will be made by Admiralty.
All other attacks in Mediterranean should be assessed by you, assessments given in para.2 of my 1727/21 being used.
Your assessments are requested on the following aircraft attacks:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reference</u>
(a) 5th July	813 Squadron	Tobruk	Your 1931-6th July.
(b) 12th July	228 Squadron	36° 48' N. 15° 54' E.	H.Q. Med's. 1816 13th July.
(c) 12th July	201 Group	30' South of Cotrone.	H.Q. Med's. 1655 12th July.

(D. A/S.W. 1716/27 to C.in C. Med.) (698)



War Diary

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyers Sweep
to intercept
M.V's

VANOC, VOLUNTEER and FERNIE left Portsmouth at 2145 today to intercept 8 camouflaged motor vessels of 500 tons which were reported off the Cotentin Peninsula steering 80° at 10 knots.

SWORDFISH
attacks

SWORDFISH attacked this convoy this evening off Cherbourg and estimated one hit.

ARETHUSA
Damaged

ARETHUSA was damaged early this morning in collision with a ship in Convoy E.N.12 North of Kinnaird Head. Repairs will take about 3 weeks.

Shipping in N.W.
Approaches

C. in C. Western Approaches has made certain proposals to minimise the danger of air attack on fast single ships, based on the experience of attacks to date in the N.W. Approaches and North Channel

Enemy
Intelligence

The main trend of merchant shipping in the Channel ports today was eastwards. This is the first considerable movement seen going east.



MOST SECRET

595

War Diary

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Flushing, Antwerp and Calais were attacked with success last night. Bremen shipyards docks at Cuxhaven, Hamburg and an unidentified dockyard in North West Germany were attacked, but results were not seen.

13 mine sweepers 12 miles north of Terschelling were bombed, one bomb bursting under the stern of one of the vessels.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy O.B. 234 was attacked in 55° 56' N., 12° 10' W., this morning. ALFRED JONES (5013 tons) was hit.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

596

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

2 Hampdens last night laid mines in the Gironde Estuary.

Enemy aircraft minelaying activity was fairly continuous between 2100/26 and 0100/27, extending from the Thames Estuary to the Firth of Forth, and being more intense in the Forth to Hartlepool area.

SS MARGARETHA (Dutch 325 tons) was mined and sunk in the Bristol Channel this morning.

PERSEVERE, a small motor boat, tender to X D O Inchkeith was mined and sunk this afternoon off the Firth of Forth.

A steam drifter was seen to blow up off the Humber this afternoon.

SS SAUVITY, in Convoy F.S. 21 was mined this evening to the eastward of Hartlepool.

Ports affected by minelaying today were Swansea, Port Talbot, Sunderland, Blyth, Humber, Cardiff, Avonmouth, Barry, Newport, Leith, Plymouth, Rosyth, Milford Haven and Tyne. The two latter are closed. Rosyth approach channel is closed between 2° 52' W., and East Gate Inchkeith. Liverpool was opened at 1118.



War Diary

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

General de Gaulle has asked that the blockade of Libreville shall be vigorously enforced, for the reason given in his 1305/27.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD left Gibraltar today to patrol off the Azores.

South Atlantic

In view of their liability to submarine attack, ships, too slow for convoy, which can reach the U.K. from the Cape without refuelling are not to be routed direct to U.K., but are to put into Freetown, where they will be included in a slow convoy if possible.

27.10.1940⁵⁹⁸
Sunday.



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

F.A.A.
attack
Tobruk

C.in C. Mediterranean reports that on 24/10 14 aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS and EAGLE attacked Tobruk. Four aircraft carried out high level bombing to distract attention from the remainder who laid mines in the harbour entrance. The operation was entirely successful.

Operation
MAQ. 2.
Attack on
Maltezana
by F.A.A.

8 Aircraft from EAGLE attacked Maltezana today and claim to have hit and set on fire a hangar. The seaplane shipway was hit and it is thought an ammunition dump exploded. All aircraft returned safely. There was no enemy air activity.

East Indies.

C.in C. E.I. reports that the Italian destroyer hit by a bomb by R.A.F. on 21/10 one mile East of Harmil Island was not the FRANCESCO NULLO, which was blown up by KIMBERLEY some hours earlier and is definitely sunk. The destroyer may have sunk or been removed by the Italians.



MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940. 599
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
~~DELUGE.~~

Adty. 1819/25 and 1310/26. In future M/S Trawlers are not to be employed on A/P Patrol unless ordered by C.in C. Rosyth. (C.in C. Rosyth 1129/27 to N.O.I.C. Leith).

Escort for S/M's in Convoy waters.

Experience shows that submarines in Convoy are an embarrassment to the local escort in the event of U Boat attack on the convoy are in danger of being attacked by escort and convoy, having regard to present U Boat tactics.

2. It is considered submarines should pass through convoy waters with a separate escort and then proceed independently to a pre-arranged rendezvous again outside convoy waters.

3. There is no objection to the present system of submarines proceeding independently up the English Channel. (C.in C. W.A. 1844/27 to Adty.)

Bombing of EMPRESS OF BRITAIN. (page 603)

Defence of Fast Single M/V's against Air Attack.

Consider that steps should be taken to minimise danger of air attack on fast single ships.

2. Available information shows that -
(a) only 5 air attacks on shipping in the N.W. Approaches and North Channel have been carried out at night. All of these were in moonlight.

(b) Long range enemy aircraft usually make the Fastnet about 40 minutes before sunrise before proceeding Northwards.

3. Propose that fast single incoming ships should make Rathlin Island at dawn and outgoing ships make it at dusk. Also that sufficient Coastal Command fighters to provide escort for at least one ship throughout each day should be stationed at Aldergrove. When these are provided it will be possible to transfer the zone through which ships pass during the night further West.

(C.in C. W.A. 1922/27 to Adty.)

27.10.1940.

Sunday.

600



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

ARK ROYAL.

Intend sail ARK ROYAL escorted by DUNCAN, ISIS, and FEARLESS at 0700/28 for Clyde. ETA will be reported later. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1045/27 to Adty.) Adty. 2109/26. Route from Clyde to Gibraltar. (C.in C. W.A. 1710/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

SALOPIAN)
LAURENTIC)
PATROCLUS)

Movements and Routes. (F.O.C. N.P. 1048/27).

CHITRAL.

Leave Clyde 1300/29. Route to Reykjavik. Speed 13 knots. (F.O.C. N.P. 1050/27).

LINNET.

Intend LINNET bound for Clyde to join EN.13 at Scapa R/V. (A.C.O.S. 1144/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

Nore.

Movements to 1200/28. (C.in C. Nore 1200/27).

EDINBURGH

D.4 is to sail one Destroyer to R/V with EDINBURGH passing Tyne Pier Heads at 1600/29 to provide A/S Escort to Rosyth (C.in C. H.F. 1211/27 to D.4.)

BURNHAM)
BROADWATER)
BRADFORD)
BURWELL)

Sail Ships tomorrow for Plymouth so as to pass Hartland Point at 0730/29. (C.in C. W.A. 1250/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Portsmouth.

Movements for Night 27/28. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1407/27).

Western Approaches.

Situation at 2000/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1427/27 and 1451/27).

Orkneys.

Trawler Line tonight. (A.C.O.S.1536/27).

KIPLING.

Route to be followed beyond Dover. (C.in C. W.A. 1722/27 to C.in C. Nore, and C.in C. Nore 2029/27 to KIPLING).



27.10.1940.
Sunday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols O and T. On 27, 28, and 29/10. (C.in C. Nore 0910/27 to D.16, D. 21, AURORA).

Iceland. R.M.F.U. has completed installation of coast defence batteries (Alabaster 1243/27).

M.T.B's on Dutch and Belgian Coasts. Weather permitting, 70-foot M.T.B's to operate tonight. Any vessel sighted East of 2° 10' E. and South of 51° 45' N. may be attacked without challenge. (C.in C. Nore 0940/27 to BEEHIVE). M.T.B's 22, 31, 34 leave Harwich P.M./27 (C.in C. Nore 1200/27). My 0940. Operate from Ostend to Hook of Holland (C.in C. Nore 1909/27 to M.T.B. 22).

M.T.B's between Boulogne and Dunkirk. Intend to sail M.T.B's 70 and 5 at 2000 today to operate between Boulogne and Dunkirk AW Buoy returning Dover about 0200/28. (V.A. Dover 1231/27 to Adty.) M.T.B's will not operate to Eastward of 2° E. (V.A. Dover 1745/27 to Adty.)

PATROCLUS)
LAURENTIC) My 1046/27 is cancelled. Ships to carry out a sweep from their areas on course 065° as far as 11° West, and thence return to patrol. Object, to intercept German Tanker GEDANIA known to be proceeding Northwards. Position of URSULA at 0700/27. (F.O.C. N.P. 1800/27).

North Atlantic Suspicious Vessel. Suspicious vessel following s.s. MAHOUT in 57° 46' N. 25° 44' W. (Valentia Radio 1710 and 1726/27). My position 50° 38' N. 23° 2' W. course North, speed 27 knots. Am closing MAHOUT. (Corrupt group). Shall I continue. (CORNWALL 1935 Z/27 to C.in C. W.A.) Have you anything further to report regarding suspicious vessel (C.in C. W.A. 2217/27 to MAHOUT). (p. 422)

8 M/V's off Cape Barfleur. VANOC, VOLUNTEER and FERNIE have been ordered to intercept 8 motor vessels 5,000 tons reported in position 49° 45' N. 1° 20' W. at 1615, course 080° speed 10 knots. Sailed at 2145. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2157/27 to Adty.)



27.10.1940 ⁶⁰²
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

SEAWOLF.

Report on Lines Fiord, Fro Havet, etc.
(V.A.S. 0001/27 to Adty.)

TUNA)
TALISMAN)

TUNA proceed to Patrol Area. TALISMAN reports unsuccessful attack on Italian U-Boat in 45° 49' N. 1° 43' W. at 0645/22. 5 unexploded Torpedoes 183° 6 miles from that position. (Capt. S.2. 0346/27 to S/M's Area B).

UTMOST.

Intend sail at 1530/28 for Gibraltar.
Route. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1027/27).

Bombing
Information.

My 1126/2. Lorient. (V.A.S. 1614/27).

Portsmouth.

Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/27).

CACHALOT
TAKU

Your 0944/27. If U boat movements seem unlikely between 29th and 1st November, propose CACHALOT patrol in vicinity of 45° 51'N. 04° 44'W. from daylight 29th and TAKU south east of Belle Isle from p.m. 29th. (S.2. 1943/27 to V.A.S.)

British Air Activity.

Convoy ^{"Arena"} ~~ARENA~~.

Fighters being sent now. (Whitehall W/T 1132/27).

Boulogne.

Barges to be destroyed on Night 27/28 by Aircraft of 812 Sqdn. (H.Q.C.C. 1616/27).

Protection of
Convoy SL.51.

In view of the attack on EMPRESS OF BRITAIN Admiralty regard it as important that Convoy S.L. 51 should be given adequate air protection during daylight on 29th October. Request you arrange with Coastal Command accordingly. (D.T.D. 1619/27 to C.in C.W.A.)

Rosyth Area.

Air Escorts tomorrow (C.in C. Rosyth 1842/27)

Finnish S.S. ESTNER THORPEN recently released from Tromso reports that when port was bombed by British aircraft October 16th vessel was nearly hit but no actual damage caused in harbour and it is thought that she was mistaken for German transport. Members of the crew state during earlier raid by a single plane direct hit was scored on oil tanks and on Anti aircraft batteries on shore. (Petsamo 1520/27 to D.N.I).

Note by D.N.I. - Further details have been asked for.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

603

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Wick
Aerodrome.

2 A/C dropped about 6 H.E. Bombs at 1830/26. Some damage, no casualties. Also machine-gunned main street. 2 houses demolished, 3 civilians killed, 20 injured. (A.C.O.S. Q109/27 to Adty.)

EMPRESS OF
BRITAIN.

Fire fierce. Hull glowing. Consider salvage only possible after some days if fire burns out. (CAIRO 0402/27 to C.in C. W.A.) No Tug arrived ship by 0530, but were passed outward off Tory Island at 1930/26. (CAIRO 0620/27 to C.in C. W.A.) ECHO and BURZA arrived Tyne with about 570 survivors (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0829/27 to Adty.) Your 1230/27. Proceed with EMPRESS OF BRITAIN towards North Channel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1555/27 to MARAUDER, THAMES, BROKE).

Master of EMPRESS OF BRITAIN reports he was struck by five bombs and bridge and upper decks machine gunned in four attack made by a very large four engined enemy bomber, whilst 70 miles north west of Donegal Bay at 0920/26. First bomb hit the main lounge which immediately took fire and dense clouds of black smoke quickly spread throughout ship. Speed was increased to 24 knots when the aircraft was recognised as hostile and exaggerated zig-zag was ordered. The three Lewis guns hit the aircraft repeatedly and the H.A. gun aft prevented the enemy from being even more successful than he was, and, in opinion of Master, was largely instrumental in enabling such a large proportion of the passengers and crew to be saved. The complement was 643 of which approximately 580 survivors have been landed at Greenock and 10 bodies. Master is of the opinion that 10 other persons were either suffocated or killed on board by the explosions and he inspected at least a further five bodies in the sea. Further survivors should be landed at Belfast later today. When ship was last seen by Captain, the fire was spreading forward, but it did not appear as if the oil fuel has become ignited. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1709/27 to Adty.)

Request Inquiry at Glasgow into bombing and damaging of EMPRESS OF BRITAIN calling witnesses now at Glasgow. F.O.I.C. Glasgow concurs. (C.in C. W.A. 2212/27 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Cin C.W.A. 1922/27 - see page 599.

/ Convoy O.B. 234.



27.10.1940
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

<u>Convoy</u> <u>O.B. 234.</u>	Convoy ^{"Onset"} ONSSET being attacked by Aircraft in 55° 56' N. 12° 10' W. (Portland W/T 0954/27). 2 Blenheims sent (C.in C. W.A. 1030/27 to CAIRO)
<u>S.S. ALFRED</u> <u>JONES hit</u>	S.S. ALFRED JONES hit. (C.in C. W.A. 0055/28).

Chatham. At 1945/26 one Bomb fell in No. 1 Basin. Assume no damage. (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1101/27 to Civil Lord).

Mining.

<u>Swansea</u>) <u>Port Talbot</u>)	Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0017/28). My 1711/26. Swansea and Port Talbot all now open. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0953/27).
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Sunderland. Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 0045/27). Port open. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1445/27).

Blyth. Closed till completion of sweeping about 1430. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0300/27). Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1405/27).

Humber. Closed. A/C mining. (F.O. Humber 0443/27) Humber open. (F.O. Humber 0941/27).

<u>Cardiff</u>) <u>Avonmouth</u>) <u>Barry</u>) <u>Newport</u>)	Closed, owing to Mines. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0924/27). Ports now open. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1354/27).
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Leith. Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (C.in C. Rosyth 0937/27). Port open, and is to be approached as in my 1301/26. (C.in C. Rosyth 1235/27).

Plymouth. Cancel 2204/26. Port open. (C.in C. W.A. 1054/27). Plymouth closed owing to Minelaying. (C.in C. W.A. 2040/27).

Liverpool. Cancel my 1725/26. Port now open. Anchorage prohibited in area given in my 0950/25. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1118/27). Following area considered clear. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1400/27).

S.N. 10 A. Cancel my 1225/22. (R.A.M.L. 1227/27 to Adty.)

East Coast. QZS. 40 unsafe owing to Mines between 3' E. of Sheringham Buoy to about 563 Buoy. (FRANKLIN 1235/27 to Adty.)

Yarmouth. Your 1206/20. Trials begin to-night. Search begins from No.5 Buoy at 2330/27 and W. side of QZS. 30 will be searched.

/ E. side of ...

27.10.1940.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Continued).Yarmouth
(contd.)

E. side of QZS. 30 on Trawlers return North, anchoring off Lowestoft during day. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1455/27 to C.in C. Nore). My 1550. COBBERS reports having sunk another Mine of same type near 60 Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1715/27 to C.in C. Nore) Particulars of Mine and Aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1550/27 to C.in C. Nore). *Also 1419/3/11.*

Rosyth.

My 1521/26. Both sides of Channel may now be used. (C.in C. Rosyth 1301/27). Approach channel between 2° 52' W. and East Gate Inchkeith is closed owing to suspected Minelaying. (C.in C. Rosyth 2301/27 to Adty.) Methil is open. (C.in C. Rosyth 2335/27 to Adty.)

Humber.

H.M. Tug DILIGENT reports Steam Drifter seen to blow up about 53° 33' N. 0° 15' E. One man picked up, died, and body landed Methil. Drifter not identified. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1631/27 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

PERSEVERE.

Small M.B., tender to X.D.O. Inchkeith, mined and sunk at 1450/27 in 50 to 100 yards 074° East Gunnet Ledge Buoy. Crew of two saved. Area had been swept for North polarity by Baby LL. (C.in C. Rosyth 1747/27 to Adty.)

Harwich.

One Mine exploded in 52° 5' N. 1° 49' E. Fleet Sweepers began clearance of 148 QZS near 54A. Buoy. Curtailed by anti-sweeping devices. Clearance continues tomorrow (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1928/27 to Adty.) Request Air Cover 0830 to 1730. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2118/27 to C.in C. Nore).

SUAVITY.

British, 634 tons. Mined in 54° 44' N. 1° 5' W. Afloat, but engine-room disabled. STEPNEY standing by. Request Tug. (WOOLSTON 2112/27 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Milford Haven.

Closed. Suspected Magnetic Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2144/27).

Tyne.

Closed, owing to suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2306/27).

MARGARETHA.

(Dutch 325 tons) mined in 51° 21' 51" N. 3° 12' 18" W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1200/27).

MOST SECRET.27.10.1940.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.Shipping Routine (N.A. Stockholm 1244/26 to D.N.I.)
and Situation
at Oslo.Enemy Unit.

Probably small Surface Vessel at 1529.
B.S.T. in 58° 17' N. 3° 5' E. D/F report.
(D.D.I.C. 1632/27 to C.in C. H.F.)

8 M/V's.

8 camouflaged M/V's 5000 tons in 49° 45' N.
1° 20' W. steering 080° at 10 knots at
1615. (SWORDFISH 1800/27 to C.in C.
Portsmouth). *(Attacked, see page 673.)*

Enemy Light
Forces.

D/F indications at 2048 B.S.T. that German
Light Forces are operating between Cherbourg
and Isle of Wight. (D.D.I.C. 2222/27 to
C.in C. Portsmouth).
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2246/27 to VANOC,
VOLUNTEER, FERNIE, KIPLING, and C.C. W.A.
2355/27 to KELVIN, JACKAL).

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

BURWELL.

Your 1250/27. Owing to defects in steering-engine steam pipe cannot be sailed tomorrow. Estimated time for repairs 6 days. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2250/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

ARETHUSA.

Have had minor collision with unknown merchant ship in convoy E N 12 in position 058° 03' N. 002° 12' W. at 0323. Merchant ship appeared undamaged. Have slight damage to stem. C.in C. H.F. C. in C. Rosyth and C S 2 have been informed. (ARETHUSA 1645/27 to Adty.)

27.10.40
Sunday.

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War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping.

- Convoys. Situation at 2000/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1427/27).
- W.N.26. LEDA, KELLETT and ALBURY to sweep ahead during passage from Duncanby Head to Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1001/27).
- H.X.81. To alter course to avoid U-boat. (C.in C. W.A., 1121/27, to VOLTAIRE). VOLTAIRE to leave and return to base. (C.in C. W.A. 1245/27). Your 1245/27. Noon position H.X. 81. Commodore, Vice-Commodore, and 25 other ships in company. (VOLTAIRE, 1434 Z/27). Intend to R.V. H.X. 81 at 1600/28. Position. (WALKER, 1747/27). Position of H.X. 81 at 1200/27. (C.in C. W.A., 2237/27).
- S.C.8. STURDY and SHIKARI to meet. Route. (C.in C. W.A. 1145/27) SCIMITAR to join. (SCIMITAR 1015/27).
- O.L.10. SALOPIAN to leave Clyde (date) with O.L.10. (F.O.C.N.P. 1048/27).
- E.N.13. LINNET for Clyde to join at Scapa R.V. (A.C.O.S., 1144/27).
- S.L.51. 20 hours late at R.V. ALCANTARA proceeding to contact. Position. (ALCANTARA 0805/27).

In view of attack on EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, Admty. regard it important S.L.51 should be given adequate air protection during daylight 29/10. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1619/27). Meet SL.51, 61 ships, ALCANTARA, 0815/29. (C.in C. W.A. to ARROW, ROCHESTER, AMAZON, PRIMROSE, HEARTSEASE, GERANIUM, 1603/27).
- F.N. 21. S.O. of escort, LONDONDERRY ordered not to pass No. 5 Buoy until 2130. (C.in C. Nore, 1630/27. 1816/27) Norwegian destroyer DRAUG to join. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1601/27).
- F.S. 20. Escort WESTMINSTER, ELGIN, SALTASH. (C.in C. Nore 1630/27).
- O.B. 235. VETERAN vice WIVERN as escort (C.in C. W.A., 1827/27) CAMELIA and HONEYSUCKLE to join. (C.in C. W.A. 1845/27).
- H.G. 45. Arrived escorted by MALLOW, HAVELOCK, HESPERUS. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1309/27).

27.10.1940.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.Libreville
Patrol.

No objection now to occasional sighting from shore of Cruisers on patrol but times and places of closing coast should be varied widely. Seaward reconnaissance will be done more openly. French Sloop BOUGAINVILLE and CAP DES PALMES only in Libreville 26/10. (F.O.C. 1 C.S. 1853A/27 to DELHI).

DELHI
DEVONSHIRE.

My 1718/26. Intend relief of DELHI and temporary transfer of flag now to take place, 29/10. (F.O.C. 1 C.S., 2235/27).

Libreville
Blockade.

Tel. W.28, 27/10. (Gen. de Gaulle to Admty., 2305/27) (See Operations Vol.)

North Atlantic.PASTEUR.

Re passage of Mr. J.H. McMillan of Dept.S.O.E. to Gibraltar, and onward to Malta in one of H.M. Ships. (D.O.D. (F) 0001/27 to F.O.C.N.A.

Azores
Patrol,
SHEFFIELD

SHEFFIELD to sail forthwith to carry out Azores Patrol with same instructions as in A.T.1915/9 and 1927/9. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O. Force H., 1615/27)

Suspicious
Vessel.

Your 0454/27 request for verification of 1009/23 following is repetition asked for:- S.O. (I) Gibraltar repeated D.N.I. from N.A. Madrid. Valencia reports with date 15/10 most nights lately large steamer showing all lights has remained stationary off Cape San Antonio from 24 to 0300 hours. (N.A. Madrid, 1330/27).

HOTSPUR.

Your 1319/25. HOTSPUR will be able to steam at least 17 knots, probably more. (F.O.C. N.A to C.in C. Med., 1314/27).

Military
Camp.

Pointing out 1,400 men due to be accommodated for one week will be in tented camps without bomb-proof shelters. Risk of casualties if French reprisal bombing incurred. (Govr. Gib., to W.O., 1500/27).

Raider
Report.

At 0059Z/22 in position 012° 57' N. 018° 37' W. INGLEFIELD intercepted raider's distress signals QQ QQ on a frequency slightly above 500 kc/s. No position or ships' name received nor was station heard to answer. Conditions for reception good but signals too weak for D/F bearing to be taken. (Capt. D.3., 0701/27 to F.O.C. N.A.)

27.10.1940.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Slow
Convoys

In view of their liability to submarine attack, ships, too slow for convoy, which can reach U.K. without refuelling are not to be routed to U.K. direct in future. They are to be routed to Freetown for instructions and will be included in a slow convoy if possible. (C.in C. S.A. 1004/27).

W.S.3.
WOOLWICH.

Asking whether whole convoy should be routed to Aden or Suez. CLAN CAMERON has engine defects, imperative to remain Capetown until a.m. 1/11. WOOLWICH reports essential remain 4 days for boiler defects, therefore intend ships shall complete boiler cleaning which will take 6 days. Anticipate remainder of convoy will sail a.m. 29/10. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1103Z/27).
Replying to C.in C. E.I. 1202Z/26.
O.C. Military Mission 106 is in ORONTES, Convoy W.S.3 Fast. (C.in C. S.A. 1301/27).

KENYA
STRATHAIRD

My 1703/24 and 1209/25. KENYA sailed from Freetown 1200/27 escorting STRATHAIRD and ORCADES. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1335N/27) In event of STRATHAIRD being unable to keep up, to proceed independently 30 miles to westward of route given, etc. (C.in C. S.A. to KENYA, 1409N/27).

PRETORIA
CASTLE
(Escort of W.S.4A)

Admty. 2006/26. PRETORIA CASTLE can be made available but this will mean taking her away from patrol in areas ordered in my 1005 N/25. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1933/27).

Mediterranean.Operation B.S.
TETRARCH
TRITON

TETRARCH and TRITON to leave Malta p.m./27 and 28/10 respectively. Orders for patrol, and date of recall. (Capt. S.1, 1255/27) (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1817/27).

Convoy Escorts.

S.N.O. Red Sea 0724/25 and my 1901/23. Confirmed no destroyers will be available. (C.in C. Med., 1237/27).

U/B Zones,
PARTHIAN.

Information received that U-Boats from Aegean have been ordered to occupy number of zones from 28/10 to 5/11 one being area 032° 49' 027° 15' - 000° - 60 - 66. PARTHIAN proceed through 032° 34' N, 026° 54' E. 031° 44' N, 029° 10' E (Capt. S.1, 1731/27).
Attention of 3rd C.S. drawn to movement of PARTHIAN. (C.in C. Med., 2015/27).

/ Suez Canal Bombed.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Continued)

Suez Canal Bombed.

One enemy aircraft flew over Canal area, 0145 to 0240/27 dropping about 10 bombs in desert near Bitter Lake, east of Lake Timsah and west of Port Said. No damage or casualties. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1939/27).

Tobruk, Air attack. 24/10.

On 24/10, 14 aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS and EAGLE attacked Tobruk, starting from Martin Bagush aerodrome. 4 carried out high level bombing to distract attention from remainder who laid "cucumbers" in harbour entrance. Operation entirely successful. (C.in C. Med., 1321/27).

Malta Raids.

By 8 Italian aircraft between 0855 and 0920/27. Fighters intercepted and 2 enemy aircraft probably damaged. At 1000 enemy aircraft against approached to within 30 miles of the Island, circled and returned, probably searching for one of their aircraft which had made a forced landing.

3rd C.S.

Mediterranean 00251. 3rd C.S. leaves Alexandria 0500/28 passing south and west of area defined in C.in C. Mediterranean's 0940/27 and through positions 034° 03' N. 025° 30' East at 1830/28. F.O. 3 C.S., 2228/27 to DECOY).

Mediterranean 00251/1 para. 29. 3rd C.S. will pass through following positions on 29/10 (details), thence direct to Alexandria. Join me as convenient after daylight. If operation is cancelled request you inform me as soon as practicable. (C.S.3. 2235/27 to DECOY).

Disposition.

Movements Summary number 164. All times Z.
 - 2. REGULUS leaves Gulf of Sidra P.M./28. OSIRIS leaves Benghazi P.M./29. PANDORA Straits of Otranto P.M./30. French submarines NARVAL between Lampedusa and Kerkenah Island. TETRARCH leaves Malta P.M./27, Gulf of Sidra, P.M./30. TRITON leaves Malta p.m./28 for Straits of Taranto, will not proceed eastwards of line 180° from Santa Maria de Leuca Light before 0001/1. PARTHIAN left Gulf of Taranto P.M./25 due Alexandria daylight 31/10. PROTEUS east-bound expected to pass through position 032° 40' N. 025° 00'E. about daylight 29/10 due Alexandria daylight 31/10. ORION, SYDNEY, JERVIS, JUNO, CALCUTTA, HAVOCK, HERO, expected to pass through Doro Channel southwards 001/28 proceeding through Kaso Straits to arrive Alexandria P.M./28.



27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

MALAYA, EAGLE, COVENTRY and 6 destroyers leave position South East of Crete P.M./27 due Alexandria P.M./28.

GLOUCESTER, YORK leave Alexandria 0500/28 North-westward (route) to 032° 59' N, 026° 44' E. 1200/29 thence to Alexandria direct.

DEFENDER and convoy leave Port Said A.M./28 due Alexandria A.M. 29.

HUNTLEY and DERBY expected to leave Port Said 28th due Alexandria 29th.

ILEX and convoy leave Famagusta 28th due Haifa A.M./29 Port Said 30th, Alexandria 31st. (C.in C. Med., 2021/27).

East Indies.

Whale Catchers.

Admty. 2054/25. A.N.1 allotted Kenya Dhow Patrol. Disposal of A.N.4 and A.N.5 will be signalled. Asking when ready to sail, etc. (C.in C. E.I., to S.N.O. Simonstown, 0704/27).

Bahrein Defence.

Extracts from telegram from Political Resident, re defence requirements at Bahrein. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0954 Z/27).

W.S.4A.

Admty. 2006/26. An A.M.C. can be made available to escort W.S.4A from vicinity of Durban to Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 1138Z/27)

Raider Report.

Mombasa Radio reports hearing RRRR at 1238 G.M.T./27. No call sign or message. Reliability not assessed. Report if you heard anything. (C.in C. E.I. to CERES, 1458 Z/27). Your 1458 Z. Nothing heard of original signal. (CERES, 1618/27) My 1458 and CERES 1618. Nothing heard at Mauritius or Seychelles. (C.in C. E.I. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1724 Z/27) See 29/10.

Convoy B.N.7.

Arrived Suez. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1648/27).

FRANCESCO NULLO.
Second destroyer
bombed.

My 0800/24th KIMBERLEY reports nothing of Italian Destroyer FRANCESCO NULLO left visible above water after latter blew up at about 0415 Z/21 in position 016° 28.8' N. 040°. 13.4' E. R.A.F. claim to have hit with bombs some hours later on 21st enemy destroyer one mile east of Harmil Island. Vessel appeared to have steam up but was not under way. Bomb hit stern and white and black smoke rose from stern to height of 200 to 300 feet. Air photographs taken shortly before release of hitting bomb show destroyer afloat in deep water.

/ Air



27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

FRANCESCO NULLO
Second destroyer
bombed.

Air reconnaissance 23 October reveals no destroyer in bombed position but large patch of oil and nothing else in FRANCESCO NULLO's position. Conclusion. FRANCESCO NULLO definitely sunk and completely submerged. Definite damage to another destroyer which may have sunk in deep water or been removed. (C.in C. E.I., 1500Z/27)

China.

MINGSANG
Boarded by
Japanese.

Details of boarding by Japanese destroyer of British MINGSANG at 1820/25 in 27.52 N., 121.15 E. Am making strong protest. (N.L.O., Shanghai, 0937 Z/27).

Shipping.

26/10, arrival, SADO MARU, YAWATA MARU; departures, CANTON Saigon; CALIFORNIA STANDARD, Bahrein; MOGAMIGAWA MARU, Japan. (N.C.S.O., Shanghai, 0322Z/27).

Indo-
China.

Following from Schompre and for De Gaulle. Situation in Indo China becoming more tense. Am trying contact Martin immediately. If you agree would try and contact Cosme now in Chungking to whom I could appeal and ask him to explain exact situation. (C.in C. China, 0239Z/27).

Appreciation.

Your 0759/22.
Far Eastern appreciation of which summary was telegraphed dealt with the main Far Eastern problem in absence of a Fleet. Question of minimum reinforcements short of sending a Fleet was dealt with in a later paper C.O.S. (40) 605, a copy of which is on the way to you. In this paper it is concluded that ~~only~~ reinforcement ~~is possible~~ would be ~~for trade protection in the Indian Ocean.~~
Prime Minister's covering message was based on this appreciation which is present intended policy. (1 S.L. 1225/27, to C.in C. China).

27.10.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

French
Ships

Details from N.A., Washington of 4 ships (WINNIPEG, etc.) due to sail from New Orleans for U.K. with approval Admty. Request to inform ships at sea. (C.in C. A.W.I. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc. 1052/27, amplified 0248/28).

Australia.

U.S.6.

Left Fremantle 2200 Z/26 for Bombay. PERTH escorting to 12.30 E., (?S) 96.00 E., where she will be relieved by CANBERRA. (Navy Office, Melbourne, 0716 Z/27). Details and route. (D.N.O. W. Australia, 0115 Z/27).

27.10.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GEDANIA.

CAMITO to proceed to 2700 50 miles from Cape Roca, thence return to patrol, object interception of GEDANIA known to be proceeding northwards. (F.O.C.N.P., 1046/27). *Cancelled, see page 601.*

Expected time of arrival St. Nazaire from Las Palmas on 30-31/10. (V.A.S., to S/M's on Patrol, Area "B", 0944/27). May be approaching Bay of Biscap from westward (F.O.C. N.P. 1540/27).

F.O.C.N.P. 1800/27. Page 601.

LAHN)
ANATOLIA)
NIENBURG)

New York Maritime Register reports sale to New Texel Company, Argentine, of ? Freetown on condition ships remain idle throughout war. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1541/27).

MOST SECRET.27.10.1940.
Sunday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

British, 5779 tons. In Convoy H.X. 77. Understood from survivors torpedoed and sunk on *18/10. (D.O.R. 27/10).

ST. MALO.

* Intended for 12/10
see BR. 1337. Page 41.

Submarines Reported.

1200. 54.10 N., 10.50 W. (C.in C. W.A.1422/27)
0938. 57.30 N., 5.10 E., probably U/B going home in Kattegat, may be damaged. (D.S.418)
1447. 56° to 57° N., 16° to 18° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 419).
1105. 53.53 N., 11.26 W., conning tower seen by aircraft. (D.S. 419).
2307. S.W. of Lands End, very indefinite. (D.S. 419).

Submarines Attacked.

By TALISMAN
22/10.

At 0645/22 in position 045° 49' 00" 43' W. unsuccessfully attacked with torpedoes and guns one Italian U-Boat course 120°. No other shipping seen entering or leaving Gironde. Frequent A/S patrol by armed trawlers but no asdic transmission heard. Very infrequent A/S air patrol. Only slight intensification of A/S operations since 22/10. 5 unexploded torpedoes 183° 6 miles from above position. (TALISMAN, 0241/27).

MOST SECRET.28.10.1940.Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.General.Greece and Italy
at war.

At 0300 today Italy delivered an ultimatum demanding Greek consent to the occupation of certain strategic points by 0600 today. This was refused and the Italian Minister was informed that this was considered a declaration of war. The help of Great Britain has been asked by sea to defend Corfu, by air to defend Athens and by financial assistance.

A state of war exists between Greece and Italy. At the request of the Greek Government the necessary instructions have been broadcast to Greek shipping, for avoiding enemy ports.

Home Commands.Sweep for
raider.

1st B.C.S. (HOOD, REPULSE) with FURIOUS, 3 cruisers and 8 destroyers proceeded to sea from Scapa today to search for a possible enemy raider reported by MAHOUT in 57° 46' N. 25° 44' W. at 1826/27, steering E.N.E. CORNWALL, on passage to U.K. was diverted to search. AUSTRALIA left the Clyde to search.

M.T.B.
patrol.

M.T.B.'s last night operated on the Dutch and Belgian coasts. Some enemy craft met, believed to be aircraft rescue boats, took avoiding action.

UTMOST

UTMOST sailed today to join the Mediterranean Fleet. She is to carry out a patrol to the westward of Lorient on the way.

H.49
overdue

S/M H.49 is overdue at Harwich and has not replied to a signal ordering her to report her position yesterday.

Harwich
S/M base
discontinued.

The use of Harwich as a submarine base is to be discontinued for the time being as Zone H is no longer tenable by S/M's owing to the probable existence of enemy mines and the remainder of the area off the Dutch coast is either fouled by our own mines or is too shallow.

British Air Activity.

Lorient, Channel ports (by single aircraft) and docks at Wilhelmshaven and Hamburg were attacked last night.

The power station at Lorient was attacked again early this morning.

4 direct hits were seen.

28.10.1940.
Monday.



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN (bombed 26/10) exploded and sank at 0205 today. The German wireless broadcast claims that she was torpedoed by a U-boat; however, BROKE (S.O. of escort) reports that no A/S contact was obtained. Damage was caused at Liverpool docks last night. There ~~was~~ no casualties or damage to H.M. Ships. H.M. Drifter HARVEST GLEANER was bombed and sunk off Southwold today. An enemy aircraft reconnoitred Iceland today.

Mining.

Operation
B.S.43.

S.O. 20th D.F. reports Operation B.S.43 completed last night (mining in East Coast Barrier by TEVIOTBANK and PLOVER, escorted by INTREPID and ICARUS). 3 Hampdens laid mines off Lorient last night.

Enemy Minelaying aircraft last night operated off Thames Estuary, East and north east coasts and off east Scotland.

S.S. SUAVITY (mined yesterday) has sunk.

A mine exploded today under the stern of WALPOLE in the Thames Approaches, but ship was not holed, although damaged, WINDSOR towed her to Sheerness.

SHEAF FIELD in Convoy F.S. 20 was mined today in approximately the same position as WALPOLE, and was beached.

M.V. SAGACITY (490 tons) was damaged by a mine off Spurn Point this afternoon.

98 S.S. WYTHYBURN (420 tons) and DEVONIA (~~420~~ tons) were mined and sunk in the Bristol Channel this afternoon.

Ports affected today were Fishguard, Barry and Plymouth. The Tyne, Milford Haven and Rosyth were reopened.

Mediterranean.

R.A.F. attacked Benghazi and Derna last night. Damage was not observed.

Operation
MAQ2

C.in C. Med. reports this operation completed (covering the passage of Convoy AN 5 from Port Said and Alexandria to Dardanelles, and air attack on Maltezana (see 27/10)).

KENT

left Suez today for U.K. for repairs.

/ Greek-Italian
hostilities.

28.10.1940.

Monday.



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Greek-Italian
hostilities.

Tatoi aerodrome, Patras, Corinth Canal (twice) and Preveza were bombed today. No damage was done to the Corinth Canal and insignificant damage elsewhere.

America and West Indies.

HAMILTON (Town class destroyer) was damaged by grounding while undocking at St. John's, New Brunswick, 25/10.

MOST SECRET.28.10.1940.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Greece and
Italy at War.

Informed by F.O. tel. from Athens that Italian have demanded by 0600 today 28th the occupation of certain unspecified strategic points in Greece. Greek President of the Council having refused these demands war appears inevitable. Greeks have asked for our assistance by sea to defend Corfu by air to defend Athens and by financial assistance. (1st S.L. 0544/28).

Policy.Administration
of destroyers
by R.A.D.

Proposing R.A.D. should administer the destroyers in N.W. Approaches rather than at Scapa Flow in view of the large concentration of destroyers in N.W. Approaches (A.C.N.S.(H) 1204/28 to C.in C. H.F., C.in C. W.A.). Little advantage. Would complicate existing organisation (C.in C. W.A. 2057/28). No objection but I must keep MAIDSTONE until HECLA is ready (C.in C. H.F. 2233/28)

Defence of U.K.Deluge
Arbroath
Gail

At 0200/28 (D.C. 0220/28) At 1400/28 (D.C. 1427/28) Re A.A. defences. Request Air Min. be pressed to supply guns heavier than .303 at once. (R.A.N.A.S. 1114/28).

Movements.Nore Command.

Night dispositions 28/29 Oct. (C.in C. Nore 0800/28) Movements to 1200/29 (C.in C. Nore 1200/28).

ARK ROYAL.

Cancel my 1045/27. ARK ROYAL delayed by fog. Intend to sail at 1030/29. ETA Clyde boom 2015/29. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1030/28)

C.in C. W.A. 1710/27 F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1030/28. Anticipated ARK ROYAL should be ready to sail about 1300/30. PASTEUR and GLASGOW should R.V. with ARK ROYAL in (position) it is requested fighter protection and air escort may be arranged accordingly. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1645/28). GLASGOW is to proceed at 1530/29 to R.V. with ARK ROYAL in (position) at 1730/30. Request air escort may be arranged during daylight 30/10 (C.in C. H.F. 2155/28).



MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Leave Clyde p.m./31 for N.P.(area) (F.O.C. N.P. 1120/28).

COMORIN.

Asking for routeing instructions for her. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1237/28)

EDINBURGH.

Passes Tyne Pier Head 1445/29 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1258/28).

Dover.

Patrols for night 28/29 Oct. (V.A. Dover 1339/28).

ARGUS.

To facilitate berthing programme not less than 24 hours notice will be given of date for ARGUS to load aircraft. This is unlikely to be before 7/11 (A.C.N.S.(F) 1347/28 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

Orkneys.

Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/28).

Rosyth

Movements tonight (C.in C. Rosyth 1830/28).

MACKAY
JERSEY

To proceed to Dartmouth arrival 0730/29. Plymouth closed due to suspected minelaying. (C.in C. W.A. 2021/28) To arrive 0930/29. Instructions for entering (C.in C. W.A. 2331/28)

BERWICK

Will proceed to Tail of Bank 30/10. Reason for delay. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2244/28).

KELVIN.

On completion of night patrol return to Plymouth so as to arrive 0930/29. Instructions for entering (C.in C. W.A. 2335/28).

Destroyers,
Western
Approaches.

My 1633/17. Destroyers are allocated as follows:-

Group 5 WIVERN, WALKER, VANSITTART, WESTCOTT, CALDWELL.

Group 6 VETERAN, WITHERINGTON, VERITY, CHELSEA.

Group 7 WANDERER, WARWICK, WILD SWAN, CLARE.

Group 8 CASTLETON, WHITEHALL, VISCOUNT, WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER.

Group 9 HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, HURRICANE, HARVESTER.

Corvettes will be allocated as they become available. (Capt. D. Liverpool 1835/28).

28.10.1940.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Iceland.

W/T. communication) Your 0.305 cipher 5/10. No objection your approaching Icelandic Government on lines suggested. (War Office 0045/28 to Alabaster, Reykjavik).

Suspicious Vessel.

Cancel my 0044/28. MAHOUT reports suspicious vessel answering description of KONIGSBERG displaying Flag signal heave to heading East. On sighting us vessel immediately turned and followed up at full speed last seen heading East North East. Investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 0500/28 to CORNWALL and 0722/28 to Ships).

Were you the vessel referred to (C.in C. W.A. 0507/28 to VOLTAIRE) No. My position at 0600 G.M.T. 57° 30' N. 29° 3' W. (VOLTAIRE 0605 Z/28 to C.in C. W.A.) Your 0500. My position 53° 20' N. 20° 42' W. course 340° speed 27 knots. ETA in area 1700 Z/28. (CORNWALL 0601 Z/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

Was Ship you sighted Warship or Merchant Ship (C.in C. W.A. 0953/28 to MAHOUT) MAHOUT reports vessel sighted was Merchant Ship. (C.in C. W.A. 2011/28 to Ships). It is possible that an enemy raider was in position 57° 46' N. 25° 44' W. at 1826/27 steering E.N.E. Ship reported as resembling KONIGSBERG but uncertain whether cruiser or merchant ship.

B.C. One is to proceed with available forces at Scapa on latter assumption so as to be in position 63° 00' N. 06° 00' W. at 0600/29 and carry out a sweep to Westwards. AUSTRALIA to proceed with despatch to position 57° 00' N. 09° 30' W. and then to northward along the meridian of 9° 30' West. (C.in C. H.F. 1147/28 to AUSTRALIA, B.C.1.) (F.O.C.N.P. 1532/28 to CALIFORNIA, LETITIA, CHITRAL) AUSTRALIA sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1624/28 to Adty.)

My 1532/28. Ship sighted was Merchant Ship (F.O.C.N.P. 2145/28 to CALIFORNIA, LETITIA, CHITRAL)

My 1147/28. Suspected Raider is Merchant Ship. AUSTRALIA on reaching 60° N. is to steer towards 57° 30' N. 26° W. If nothing sighted by dark 29th, all Forces to return to their bases. (C.in C. H.F. 2147/28 to B.C.1. and AUSTRALIA) (V.A.S. 2339/28 to CLYDE).

M.T.B's off Belgian Coast.

Your 1909/27. Route was Ostend to Zeebrugge to 51° 42' N. 3° 24' E. on silent engines. No Ships seen. (V.4. 0914/28 to C.in C. Nore) (C.in C. Nore 001/29 to Adty.)

Patrol T.

My 0710/27. Cancel Patrol T by AURORA and 21st D.F. (C.in C. Nore 1045/28 to AURORA)

/ Operation LUCID

28.10.1940.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Continued).Operation ^{"Lucid"} ~~WOTB~~.

My 1955/18. Zero Hour 2300/1st November. Amendment of Orders and new Appendices 4 and 5 are being forwarded. (A.C.N.S. H. 1202/28 to C.in C. Nore).

Para 11. In view of shortage of M.T.B's in Nore Command, request you say how many M.T.B.'s with silent engines can come to Sheerness in accordance with para. 1 b and take part in operation. (C.in C. Nore 2140/28 to V.A. Dover).

All available 60-foot and 70-foot M.T.B's will be required to come to Sheerness on 31/10 for an operation. Report how many can be made available. (C.in C. Nore 2142/28 to BEEHIVE).

M.T.B's in Straits of Dover.

My 1231/27. M.T.B's report they were challenged several times by craft believed to be A/C Rescue Boats near Varne and Colbart Shoals. But no Ships sighted. (V.A. Dover 1320/28 to Adty.)

JACKAL)
KELVIN)

Patrol between Eddystone and 3° W. keeping 20 miles from coast. Return to Plymouth by 0900/29. (C.in C. W.A. 1845/28 to JACKAL).

Submarines.THUNDERBOLT.

Escorted by CUTTY SARK leaves Liverpool 1730/29 for Clyde. (V.A.S. 0211/28).

H.49 presumed lost.

H.49 was ordered on 25/10 to leave zone H one P.M./26 and return to Harwich where she was due noon yesterday Sunday. She was ordered to report her position yesterday but no reply has been received. If nothing more is heard of her by 1800/28 regretted that she must be considered lost. There is no evidence as to the cause of her loss other than that a German broadcast at 1900/17 stated that a British submarine had been sunk in the Channel by German aircraft aided by trawlers and that wreckage was observed. H 49 however, only left Harwich at 1356/17 and it is unlikely this broadcast could have referred to her. (V.A.S. 1048/28 to Adty.)

/Proposed discontinuance of...

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines (Continued)

Proposed
discontinuance
of Harwich as
S/M Base.
UNIQUE
USK
H.28.

My 1048. Considered Zone H no longer tenable by submarines owing to probable existence of enemy mines. Remainder of area off Dutch Coast is either fouled by our own mines or is too shallow. Areas further to seaward off Dutch Coast are unlikely to be productive. It is therefore intended to discontinue use of Harwich as a submarine base for the time being. Propose UNIQUE and USK when available proceed to join 6th S/M Flotilla at Blyth and H.28 proceeds to join 7th S/M Flotilla at Rothesay. (V.A.S. 1049/28 to Adty.)

H.44.

Will be included in slow Convoy F.S.23, escort WATCHMAN and VERDUN, leaving Methil 0030/30 for Sheerness. (C.in C. Rosyth 1547/28 to Adty.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/29. (V.A.S. 1656 and 1858/28).

UTMOST.

My 1027/27. Sailed (C.in C. Portsmouth 1807/28) Passed St. Catherine's at 1845 steering 225° at about 8 knots. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2049/28 to MACKAY, JERSEY).

TAKU)
TUNA)

Instructions for Gironde patrol. (Capt. S.2. 1902/28 to S/M's Area B).

TALISMAN.

JACKAL to meet at 0730/29 in 315° Longships Light 5 miles and escort to Milford Haven. (C.in C. W.A. 2013/28 to JACKAL).

British Air Activity.

Fighter Escort
Zone for M/V's

C.in C. W.A. 1922/27. Propose to shift dawn to dusk position from Rathlin Island to 10° W. Suggested speed of Ships accordingly. (A.O. C.in C. C.C. 1315/28 to Adty.) Agree. Request routes regulated as that ships may pass 10° W. at a given latitude and time. (C.in C. W.A. 2031/28 to Adty.)

Hook to Borkum
Rover Patrol.

A/C of 22 Squadron to carry out for Torpedo Attack on Shipping. A/C to be divided between dusk Patrol 28/10 and dawn Patrol 29/10. (H.Q.C.C. 1425/28 to 16 Group N. Coates).

Off Terschelling.

At 1655 in 53° 22'N. 5° 2'E. A/C attacked with torpedoes one 2000 ton M/V, and one 3000 ton M/V. Both missed. (Air Ministry 1947/28 to HQCC)
Off Borkum.



20.10.1940
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued)

Off Borkum.

At 1705 in 53° 47' N. 6° 12' E.
A/C attacked with torpedo two of
3 Tankers. Both missed. (Air
Ministry 2010 and 2027/28).

claimed
BLACK WATCH
sunk.
(not confirmed)

S.S. ~~THE~~ BLACK WATCH ~~is~~ BLACK WATCH,
Norw. 5035 tons) is reported to have
been sunk by British air attack during
3rd week in September, whilst
transporting German troops along the
Norwegian coast (Air Min. D.S. 466).

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN
(Bombed 26/10)

Exploded and sank at 0205/28.
Returning (?) Campbeltown. ETA.
1300/28. (MARAUDER 0500/28 to C.in C.
W.A.).
Request you comply with C.in C. W.A.
2212/27. (Cin C. Rosyth 0745/28 to
F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN sank 0200 in
position 55° 16', 9° 50'. Explosion
near bridge observed 10 minutes
before. No evidence of cause of
explosion and no good contact obtained.
Am not in touch with MARAUDER, THAMES.
Am remaining in vicinity.
(BROKE 1025/28 to C.in C. W.A.).
Board of Inquiry to be held at 1000/29.
Members and particulars. (F.O.I.C.
Glasgow 1542/28 to SUSSEX)

BROKE 2 miles on after quarter observed
nothing SARDONYX 6 cables on Port
Quarter saw 2 flashes beneath bridge.
EMPRESS OF BRITAIN listed Port at
once. Ship was glowing inside and
smoke was still coming thickly from
the bridge and after well-deck at
dusk. Destroyers were sweeping from
70 degs. on the bow to astern at
12 knots. E.T.A. Foyle 2359.
(BROKE 1912/28 to C.in C. W.A.)

A/C reports signal from BROKE off
Tory Island intend to abandon search
arrive Lough Foyle daylight Tuesday.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1946/28 to C.in C.
W.A.).

Liverpool.

Damage by Bombs during Night 27/28
as follows. No Naval casualties or
damage. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1245/28)



28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

HARVEST GLEANER.

Drifter. Bombed and sunk one mile off Southwold. 3 dead, one seriously injured landed at Southwold. Rest of crew believed safe. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1510/28 to Adty.) Bombed at 1250, sank at 1338, in 048° $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from Southwold Pier Light. 4 killed. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1741/28).

Small Shells from A/C.

Report from Yarmouth coastguards indicates that enemy are dropping small explosive shells measuring 6 inches by 3 inches in the nature of Mills bombs filled with buckshot. These may reach the earth in small containers with six or ten of them inside. If touched they are likely to explode and six men were killed this morning Monday. (C.in C. Nore 1831/28 to Adty.)

Newhaven.

Bombed at 1705 with about 20 H.E. Considerable damage, including Fort. Very few casualties, none Service. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1915/28 to Adty.)

Mining.

Fishguard.

Closed owing to suspected mining (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0023/28) Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1147/28).

Dirfter blown up off Humber 27/10.

Your 1631/27. Asking for details (F.O. Humber 0025/28 to N.C.S.O. Methil).

CARLTON sunk 25/10.

Unknown vessel blown up as reported in my 2220/25 now identified as steam drifter CARLTON of Grimsby (F.O. Humber 0945/28). *see page 557.*

S.S. SUAVITY sunk. (mined 27/10).

S.S. SUAVITY (634 tons) sunk about 1 mile N. No. 20 buoy presumably by mine all crew rescued and landed at Hartlepool (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0210/28).

Harwich.

Two violent explosions seen and heard by C. G. Walton and P.W.S.S. at 0335 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0359/28) Following from H.S. Patrols. Loud explosion about 30 yds. from ship's quarter presumably in position of mine dropped. A.G.0332 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0635/28). My 1032/26 and 2118/27. Intend again to continue clearance sweep 29/10. Request air protection 0830 to 1730. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1856/28).

28.10.1940.

Saturday. Holiday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Continued)Tyne.

Ground magnetic mine detonated off North Tyne Pier Light (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0925/28) Port of Tyne open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1507/28).

Operation B.S. 43.

Completed. Nothing to report (S.O.20th D.F. 1159/28).

WALPOLE mined.

WALPOLE mined aft in 51° 51' N. 1° 34'E. Am taking in tow. (WINDSOR 0730/28).

My 0730 explosion occurred close under WALPOLE stern, ship not holed. WINDSOR 4 cables astern WALPOLE speed 12 knots. One mine only depth of water 10 fathoms. No casualties position 262° sunk light vessel 8 cables. (WINDSOR 4 cables astern WALPOLE speed 12 knots. One mine only depth of water 10 fathoms. No casualties position 262° sunk light vessel 8 cables. (WINDSOR 0749/28)

C.G. Walton and N.E. Swin Light Vessel reports at 0730 loud explosion N.E. one and a half miles from this station, Two destroyers in vicinity and he thinks one has struck a mine. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0755/28.)

Harwich 28/10 departures Rescue Tugs MURIA and KENIA at 0924 to assist WALPOLE. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0937/28).

WINDSOR reports:

My 0730 proceeding Sheerness making good 7 knots request Tug may meet Mouse Light Vessel 1245 WALPOLE has leaked in No.3 Oil Fuel tank both dynamos out of action turbine feet cracked steering working in hand. 1012/28 Ends. Request instructions. (C.in C. Nore 1441/28 to Adty.)

WALPOLE can be taken in hand now by Green and Silley Weir, Albert Dock. (D.O.D. (H) 1735/28 to C.in C. Nore).

SHEAF FIELD mined.

WESTMINSTER's 1005. (Not to Admiralty) SHEAF FIELD in tow of Tug settling slowly. PUFFIN standing by. (WALLACE 1008/28).

/ SHEAF FIELD

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Continued).

SHEAF FIELD (2719 tons) beached 3 miles N. Cork light ship, salvage Officer unable to board observed after part burning fiercely but expects high tide tonight will extinguish fire. Master fears fire will reach magazine. Ship was fourth in line ahead one mine exploded under star-board quarter holeing ship and causing fire. One casualty M.S. Gunlayer Lewis and Hotchkiss M/G salvaged. Position of mine 2 miles S.W. of sunk L.V. seems approximately same as WALPOLE's. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1832/28).

Milford Haven.

Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1243/28).

Swansea.

Port is now open (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1254/28)

Barry.

Port is closed owing to mines (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1324/28).

Humber.

Magnetic mine exploded by LL Trawlers at 0925 off Spurn Point Lighthouse (F.O. Humber 1430/28).

Rosyth.

My 2301/27 approach channel to Rosyth between 2° 52' W. and Eastgate Inchkeith is open (C.in C. Rosyth 1523/28).

SAGACITY
mined.

M.V. SAGACITY (460 tons) damaged by underwater explosion off Spurn at 1326. Salvage operations proceeding. Tug proceeded 1520 (F.O. Humber 1540/28)

Plymouth.

Port closed due to suspected minelaying proceed Dartmouth arriving 0730/29 (C.in C. W.A. 2021/28 to MACKAY, JERSEY).

Falmouth.

3 mines swept in proposed new channel to Fowey (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2028/28).

5th M.S.F.

Available ships may be required to sail for Harwich p.m./30. To be at 1 hour's notice from 1600/30 (D.M.S. 2347/28)

WYTHBURN.

Mined and sunk in 51° 22' 30" N. 3° 15' W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1834/28 to Adty.)

DEVONIA.

British, ~~28~~²⁸ tons. Mined and sunk in 51° 22' 36" N. 3° 14' 48" W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1835/28 to Adty.)

28.10.1940.
Monday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. 8 Destroyers seen. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1430 and 1940/28).

Hamburg, Bremen) R/C at 1130/28. (P.I.U. 1743/28 to N.I.D.)
Bremerhaven.)

Stavanger. Shipping on 25/10. (P.I.U. 1835/28).

Flushing Breakens)
Zeebrugge, Ostend,) R.C. at 1050/28. (P.I.U. 1840/28).
Boulogne.)

Off Scheldt. At 1500 in 52° 9'N. 2° 33'E. 9 Destroyers escorted by A/C steering 055° at about 15 knots. A/C report. (Air Ministry 1721/28 to H.Q.C.C.)

Emden)
Willemsoord) Shipping and Barges at 1130/28. (P.I.U. 2237/28)

Re Your 0040/28 word is LARACHE.
N.A. Stockholm (N.A. Stockholm 1011/28).
1244/26.
(no trace in W.P.)

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ALCANTARA.

My D.G. Gear carried away. Am trying to repair. (ALCANTARA 1901/28 to Adty.)

ANDELLE.

My 1215/9/10. Cancel. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1105 B/28 to Adty.)

Unknown Vessel.

Niton Radio reports receiving at 1007 G.M.T. an Automatic S.O.S. signal bearing about 350°. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1110/28, to Adty.)

26.10.1940
Monday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

O.B. 235.

My 1845/27. Estimated will be 4 hours early. (C.in C. W.A. to JASON, CAMELIA, HONEYSUCKLE, 0037/28).

S.L. 51.

Polish destroyer BURZA to meet (C.in C. W.A. 1835/28) My 0805/27. Unable to locate S.L.S. 51 and have not yet rejoined S.L. 51. S.E. gale, very high sea. Position at 0800/29, when will take escort to meet convoy. (ALCANTARA, 1901/28).

F.N. and F.S.

Additional escorts for convoys 22 to 28. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1616/28).

W.N. 26.

LEDA, ALBURY and KELLETT to sweep ahead of. (A.C.O.S. 1616/28). Position (ELLESMERE, 1645/28)

W.N. 28.

Propose cancelling as only 5 ships ready from all ports. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1551/28). Your 1551. Convoy W.N.28 is to be sailed as escorts are required at Rosyth to bring back E.N. convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 2241/28).

H.X. 81.

Not met, Her movements. Weather. (WALKER 1900/28).

Routes.
Air Zone.

In view of A.O.C. in C., C.C.'s 1315/28, re air escort available for ships, agree to moving the zone to 10° W. Request routes may be regulated so that inward and outward bound ships pass this longitude of a given latitude and time. (C.in C. W.A., 2031/28).

pat

Troop Convoys.
W.S.4A.

Admty. 2108/26. Consider 12 destroyers required to screen CORNWALL, BERWICK and W.S.4A. Anticipate 8 available. Grateful if you could make up deficiency. (C.in C. W.A., 1337/28 to C.in C. H.F.) Your 1337. BEAGLE now at Greenock is available. Will try to provide one other, but cannot do more than that. (C.in C. H.F. 2230/28). Orders to BEAGLE (C.in C. H.F. to F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2225/28). Route for convoy. CAIRO to sail as A/A esocrt. (C.in C. W.A. 1545/28).



War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Trawlers for Casablanca

* LE DUGUAY TROUIN

French Trawler MARCELLA, MARTIN LE GASSE, JACQUES COEUR, LE DUGUAY TROUIN, BOIS ROSE, left Newfoundland possibly for Casablanca. If intercepted send in to a Port in U.K. Others may follow. (V.A.N.P. 0010/28, to Western Patrol) *see Pages 454, 486.*

Following French trawlers left St. Pierre Newfoundland 19/10, believed for Casablanca. MARCELLA, MARTIN LE GASSE, EMMA, DUGUAY TROUIN. 21/10 BOIS ROSE and one other. Others including sailing and Auxiliary vessels are likely to follow. All the above if encountered are to be sent in to a U.K. port. (F.O.C.N.A. 1029/28 to ships on N.A.A.)

Vichy French Colours

Vichy French merchant ships observed to fly yellow flag of Irving and Johnson Ltd., to French ensign and to have yellow border painted round French ensign on ship's sides (C. in C., S.A. 1118/28)

SAVOIE Dakar Troops

Report (B.2) left Casablanca for Dakar 27/10 with Senegal troops and munitions. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty.)

Libreville

(C.S.1. 1432A/28, to Admiralty, see Operations Volume.)

North Atlantic

VICTORIA

Your 1235/19. Asking whether French Govt. have obtained German guarantee. French should be asked to send VICTORIA with British seamen to Gibraltar, not Lisbon. (Hd. of M to N.A. Madrid, 1055/28)

French Food Ship

Gibraltar 28/10 1120, French surveying ship ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ passed from Westward to Eastward escorting S.N.A. 7. Ship signalled S.N.A.7 carrying foodstuff for only the use of French people. (S.O.I. Gib., 1133/28 to Admty.)

/KINGSTON SAPPHIRE..

War Diary28.10.1940
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.KINGSTON SAPPHIRE

Officers and men of H.M. trawler KINGSTON SAPPHIRE will probably be allowed to go to Gibraltar in a few days. (N.A., Madrid, 1950/28)

CANADA.
French Hospital
Ship

My 1331/21 French N.A. requests most urgently reply today if possible as Hospital Ship CANADA is due to leave Toulon tomorrow. (N.A. Madrid, 1225/28, to Admty)

Route

N.A. Madrid's 1331/21. French hospital ship CANADA should be routed through following positions to Bar Light Ship. She should not be sailed unless she is fully equipped and fuelled, stored to carry 250 patients and has been provided with German safe conduct. (Head of M. 1913/28 to E.O.C.N.A., and N.A. Madrid)

South AtlanticDELHI
DEVONSHIRE

Movements ordered. (C.S.i., 1016A/28)

French
Prisoners

Request arrangements may be made for transport and armed guard to disembark 28 white French, two Arab and 45 Kroomen prisoners of war ex French ship ALBI immediately on arrival of DELHI at base buoy about 1800/29 (DELHI 2024/28 to N.C.S.O. Duala)

Troop Transports
W.S. 3 A

My 1103/27. Officers and other ranks for East Africa ex WINCHESTER CASTLE too numerous to accommodate in ERINPURA alone, being distributed between ERINPURA and KHEDIVE ISMAIL which will necessitate latter calling at Kilindini. This also necessitated by Master KHEDIVE ISMAIL now stating margin of fuel too small for ship reach Aden with safety. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1040Z/28 to C. in C., E.I.)

/Your 1457/28.....



War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Troop Transports
W.S. 3 A-Contd.

Your 1457/28. As transhipment of troops in accordance my 1040/28 has taken place already and both ERINPURA and KHEDIVE ISMAIL are ready to sail with W.S. 3 A a.m./29, intend arrangements stand and ships sail accordingly. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1933Z/28 to D.S.T.) War Office averse to OROPESA being held Aden or to diversion of whole convoy. Suggest maximum number be transferred from OROPESA to WINCHESTER CASTLE and other vessels in convoy. (D. of S.T. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1957/28)

Overdue Shipping

My 1215/9. Cancel ANDELLE (S.O.I. Capetown 1105B/28)

Stores, Lagos

Your 1441/27. Am embarking stores. Am informed by N.C.S.O. Lagos that if in the future H.M. Ships require to store at Lagos it is absolutely necessary that stores of all descriptions except meat and potatoes should be sent and held as stock by himself. (MILFORD 2150/28, to F.O.I.C.S.)

Mediterranean

Greek Entry into the War

Following is Mediterranean Station message 283 B. A state of war exists between Greece and Italy. T.O.O. 0650/28. (C. in C. Med., to S/M's. Med. Fleet, 0715/28)

Fleet
Disposition

Forces at sea have been recalled to fuel. The Fleet will proceed as soon as sufficient Destroyers have been collected probably this evening. Intend to use Suda Bay or other Greek Port for fuelling. (C. in C., Med. 0729/28 to Admt.)

Crete

Matter of first importance to prevent an Italian landing in Crete. (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., Med. 1049/28) See 1644/28, p. 636

/Shipping.....

War Diary28.10.1940
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanGreek Entry into the War-Contd.Shipping

Request instructions to all Greek shipping in Mediterranean to make for Gibraltar. (D.T.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 1153/28)
MOUNT AETNA, MOUNT PARNES, MOUNT PINDUS sailed Gibraltar 25/10 first 2 for Savona latter for Genoa. Have advised them by W/T to return Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1002/28)

BARHAM

Suggesting BARHAM, destroyers and if possible one cruiser join his flag as soon as possible in view of Italian situation. (C. in C., Med., to Admty., 1547/28)

Recognition

Your 1206/26. If satisfied secrecy of British system will not be endangered, you are authorised to take following action regarding recognition (D.S.D., to C. in C., Med, 1640/28)

Cables

C. and W. reports land line between Greece and Malta interrupted between Corinth and Zante. (C.T.C., no T.O.O., recd. 1524/28)

Greek Preparations

Greeks are preparing to lay mines in Gulf of Athens swept channel,
Our submarines are proceeding to enter ~~PATRIAS~~ ready to proceed to Arta on Corfu. T.B.D's will be employed on convoy duty from third day.
Propose following recognition signals between British ships and Greek coast batteries vicinity Athens.
Night long red flashes repeat long red flashes.
Day nothing.
Both day and night for Athens Gulf request previous warning if possible to British Legation.
~~PATRIAS~~ wireless station will keep continuous watch on 960 metres and pass all messages to legation.
Am requisitioning VICTORIA PATRIS and yacht GALANTHE.
Greek coastal battery will reply to red flashes with similar red flashes indicating recognition of ships as British.
(N.A.Athens, 0816/28 to Admty) (D.D.I.C., 1406/28)

My 0816....



War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Greek Entry into the War

Greek Preparations-Contd.

My 0816. Cancel arrangements for Greek coast batteries reply. They will instead reply to red flash with series short and long white flashes. (N.A., Athens, 0900/28)

British Help

Anxious to help Greeks, but cannot think of anything from naval point of view except possibly stationing A/A cruiser at Piraeus, but this would not assist in defence of Athens. In view of your shortage, probable you could ill spare an A/A cruiser. Asking for suggestions. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 1648/28)
Reply. (C. in C., Med., 2159/28) See Mediterranean Volume. p. 17

Suda Bay

Party of officers all 3 services arriving by flying boat a.m./29 to get into touch with Greek authorities. C. in C., M.E. consulting with W.O. about sending battalion. Small convoy sails a.m./29 for Suda Bay, which port use as an advanced fuelling base. Fleet movement and AJAX. (C. in C., Med., 1649/28)

Shipping

Safety of British, Greek and Allied vessels in or near Greece is first essential, but they should load as much chrome and magnesite cargo as can be lifted in safety before vessels clear from Greek ports. (Hd. of M., 1812/28, to C. in C., Med.)

Crete "Action"

Code word "action" established for a certain operation. (C. in C., Med., 2101/28)

Greek Submarines

Area in which they may be operating. British submarines to keep at least 10 miles outside this area. (Capt 1 S.F., 2309/28)

Situation, Air Attacks

Up to 1800 this evening artillery duels only on sectors of Albanian frontier. No indication yet of serious attack. Following bombed with insignificant damage, Tatoi aerodrome, Patras, Corinth Canal, twice (no damage), Preveza (Mainly in sea) No enemy action against Corfu (Military Attache, Athens, 2050/28)

/Italian....

MOST SECRETWar Diary28.10.1940
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanGreek Entry into the War-Contd.Italian
Intelligence

Result of air reconnaissance 1200 to 1700B/28.

Main Italian Fleet in Taranto and Brindisi
Two destroyers south of Brindisi steering north.

Convoy of five merchant vessels off Taranto eastbound.

Three destroyers off Spartevento Cape and three destroyers north of Cape Colonne all northbound.

No enemy activity in Corfu, Argostoli, Gulf of Patras or adjacent waters. (T.O.O. 1911/28) (V.A. Malta, 1923/28)

Air reconnaissance today reports Brindisi one battleship 4 cruisers 6 destroyers, Taranto 5 battleships 5 cruisers large number of destroyers. (Capt S. 1. 1707/28, to S/M's on Patrol)

Greek
Shipping

On instructions of Greek Government all Greek vessels in Pacific if bound for American Continent are to proceed. If bound for Asia they are to make for a British or Dutch port or for a port in the United States or under United States control. In Atlantic vessels are to proceed if west bound.

If east bound they are to make for a British port.

No Greek ships are to proceed to France or to ports in French possessions.

(Hd. of M. 2005/23 "A" Message)

possibly 28
+2



War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

RORQUAL

To leave Alexandria 0900/29 for Malta
(Capt S.1. 0925/28)

French Warships
Alexandria

Requesting information as to percentage
of crews on board, whether any plans for
seizing them, and Godfroy's reaction to
Petain-Hitler agreement. (1st S.L. to C. in
C., Med. 1649/28)

Operation
"White Collar"

In view of cancellation of Operation
Uniform cancel Admty 0205/18. Following
are proposals for Operation White Collar.
(See Mediterranean Volume) (1st S.L. to
C. in C., Med., 1736/28)

HOTSPUR

F.O.C.N.A. 1314/27. Damaged asdic gear
can probably be repaired at Malta by
using parts from IMPERIAL. (V.A.Malta,
1645/28)

PARTHIAN

My 1731/27. Amending route. (Capt S. 1.
1611/28)

PANDORA)
TRITON)

Orders for Patrol (Capt S.1. 2255/28)

French Shipping

Following French ships to be accorded
safe conduct. Hospital ship SPHINX, leaving
Beirut 28/10, MARIETTE PACHA and CHAMPOLLION
leaving Beirut 31/10, ATHOS II and FLORIDA
leaving Marseilles 31/10 for Beirut T.O.O.
2058/28 (C. in C., Med., 2103/28)

Fulmars

A.T. 1824/27/9. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.. state
Fulmars had not arrived Takoradi on 26/10
What is present position regarding these
aircraft? (C. in C., Med., 1159/28 to Admty)

Turkey,
Oil Shortage

In report ~~to No~~ E.W. 278 of 10/10 from
Consul-General, Istanbul, to M.E.W. on
subject of lubricating oil and grease in
Turkey, it is apparent she is about to
experience an acute shortage which may
affect running of her fleet. Consider M.E.W
should be urged to lift their ban on
lubricants imported by Turkey, otherwise we
may find her fleet immobilized at a time
when its services are urgently required.
(C. in C., Med., 1131Z/28 to Admty)

MOST SECRETWar Diary28.10.1940
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Roumania,
German Activity

Latest re German submarines in Black Sea is from Yugo Slav. Military Attache Sofia who states Headquarters German submarine command is at Bourgas. (Rated D.4) There may be nucleus of German meteorological and W/T stations there and at Varna.

Passage of German Naval Personnel to Roumania is reported from Budapest middle of October including 75 "Naval Technicians" by air.

No reports based on direct observations of alleged submarines from any source and am concentrating on this. (Wolfson, 1235/28 to S.O.I., Med.)

Operation
M.A.Q. 2.

My 1235/24. Operation M.A.Q.2. completed. Attack on Maltezana carried out 27/10 aircraft claim hanger hit and set on fire. One hit on seaplane slipway. About 20 bombs dropped on barracks and ammunition dump area, one explosion occurred in approximate position of dump. Heavy explosion heard by last aircraft 10 minutes after leaving area. Incendiary bombs scattered over target area. Eight aircraft took part, all returned. No enemy air activity. (C. in C., Med. 2027/28 to Admty)

Air Action
Against Italy

Air Ministry 2140/28. See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRETWar Diary

28.10.1940

MondayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesCALEDON

My 1124/2/9. Add CALEDON to Red Sea Force (C. in C., E.I., 0618/28)

Convoy W.S.3.

Admty 2359/26 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1103/27. Cancel my 0946/25. Route for W.S. 3 A and W.S. 3 B.1. CARTHAGE to R.V. CUMBERLAND and W.S. 3 A at position A, where CARTHAGE will take over escort from CUMBERLAND.

On W.S. 3 B joining W.S. 3 A, CARTHAGE to meet W.S. 3 C, and DORSETSHIRE to escort W.S. 3. to about 20° and then as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown to sail CLAN CAMERON and WOOLWICH in company when ready along W.S. 3. route. Convoy to be called W.S. 3 C and will proceed through Red Sea with B.N. 8½ (C. in C., E.I., 0810Z/28) C. in C., E.I. 0946Z/28 cancelled by above.

Hospital Ships

A.C.N.B. 0845/25. See no objections to it being accepted that cases embarked in QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, and MAURETANIA forego the privileges attending passage in a hospital ship. (C. in C., E.I., 1132Z/28)

→ Convoy
U.S. 5A

Sailing telegram. Escort, SHROPSHIRE, CARLISLE, KANDAHAR, FLAMINGO (N.C.S.O., Aden 1232Z/28)

Assab Raid

Intelligence Summary No 138 for 24 hours ending 1500/28. Three Blenheims 8 Sqn. medium level attacks Assab 1025. Supposed petrol dump pin point 23 all bombs in target area. Fuel dump pin point 1 some direct hits. A.A. positions Hodunlai Island and buildings Fatba Island all near misses.

→ U.S. 5 A
Escort

One Blenheim 203 Sqn. Fighter escort for convoy U.S. 5 A 11 Gladiators 94 Sqn. standing fighter patrol Aden 0455 to 0700 and 0735 to 1130. No casualties. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden 1830/28)

ChinaShipping

My 0745/23. PANG WO sailing p.m./28. Date of arrival Singapore. (Cdre. Hong Kong, 0725/28)

Japanese Submarine lost

N.A. Tokyo 1012/26. This is probably one of the submarines mentioned in my 0404/7/9 (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0941Z/28)



War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

French Shipping

Amplifying his 1052/27. (C. in C., A.W.I. 0248/28)

DIOMEDE

To leave Trinidad 31/10 and patrol route AA to position 21.40 N., 52.00 W., returning to Trinidad (date) (C. in C., A.W.I., 1222/28)

U.S.- Asdics

C.A.F.O. 967/40, destruction of Asdic installation. American naval authorities have requested similar precautions be taken with regard to their A/S equipment. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1152/28)

Firing Report

Master of Yugoslav ship BALKAN reports white and blue rockets following gunfire in 20° N. 45° W., at about 2200 on 23/10. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1533/28)

French Ships

Following French ships proceeding to U.K. from U.S.A. with Admty approval:-
WINNEPEG, SAN FRANCISCO, WYOMING, OREGON.
(F.O. 3 B.S. 1531/28)

Australia

Operations by N.E.I. Navy

Your 1707/24. As mandate precludes establishment of naval bases and Commonwealth Government has scrupulously respected that provision to avoid possible criticism of infringement of mandate, mainland mandated territory should not be used. Suggest alternative Papua e.g. Samarai. Subject to foregoing, arrangement vide para (iii) will be made. (A.C.N.B., 1218Z/28 to Adty.)

Reply: Admiralty 1639/1/11. (page 19, November, 1940)



War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

USARAMO

My 1318/25. Report proved unfounded. (Consul Vigo 0940/28) Entered Corcubion 23/10 and left early 25/10 (Corunna, 1530/28)

Unknown German ship approx. 10,000 tons, name painted out, arrived and left same dat Pasajes unknown destination. (V. Consul, S. Sebastian 1800/28) Possibly USARAMO (D.S. 420)

GEDANIA

Report that GEDANIA from Las Palmas making for St. Nazaire where she will arrive 30-31/10 (F.O.C.N.A. to Ships, N.A. 1224/28)

HELGOLAND

⁺⁺⁺
Bassenquilla reports sailed between 2100-2200 tonight. Bermuda pass to Netherlands VAN KINSBERGEN (S.O.I. Kingston, 2324/28)
My 2324. Ship reported steaming toward Costajena. (S.O.I. Kingston 2345/28)
Costajena

REGENSBURG

R.O.Yokohama reports (b.3) REGENSBURG arrived 28/10. (Capt O.S., Singapore 1404Z/28)

NORBURG

Arrived Galatz with manganese ore from Russia (D.S. 420)

DELOS

Arrived Galatz with barley from Russia (DS420)

YALOVA

Left Galatz for Batum (D.S. 420)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940

MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedUSKBRIDGE
(Torpedoed 17/10)

21 survivors from USKBRIDGE torpedoed in convoy at 0245 B.S.T. on 17/10 in a position 060° 40' N., 015° 50' W., landed Bermuda 27/10 by DALMORE. Third officer reported 6 others including Chief Officer in CULEBRA. All believed saved except Captain and Second Officer. Reference F.O. 3059/39, Thomas G. Perry, Gunlayer, reported among survivors in MONTREAL CITY. Request owner be informed. (c. in C., A.W.I. 1023/28)

My 1023/28. Third Officer USKBRIDGE reports on each occasion of an attack on convoy NEVA showed lights but does not know if these lights were exposed prior to attack. He further states that the 4 ships torpedoed on 15/10 and 17/10 were near the middle of the convoy whose speed was 7 knots. Bright moonlight. Not zig zagging. U-Boat not sighted by survivors. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1033/28)

EMPRESS OF
BRITAIN

(Attacked by aircraft 26/10) Your 1025/28 German broadcast claims sinking EMPRESS OF BRITAIN by torpedo from a submarine. (D.C. to BROKE, 1801/28) BROKE, S.O. Escort reports no A/S contact obtained (D.O.R. 29/10)

Submarines Reported

1200 Am over enemy submarine in 57.53 N., 03.08 N., (A/C 220 Sqn., 1200/28) Enemy submarine has dived (A/C 220 Sqn. 1202/28) Have lost touch. Request instructions. (A/C 220 Sqn. 1245/28) Enemy submarine 360 course 5 knots (A/C 220 Sqn. 1300/28)

1250 Following intercepted 92 to S.C.D. one periscope sighted. (Valentia Radio, 1251/28) 55.42 N., 16.04 W. (Estimated) (D.S. 420)

0332 58° N., 13° W., Position indefinite. (DS 419)

1631 and 1818 About 250' S.W. of Fastnet, position indefinite (D.S. 420)

/Estimated....



War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: 1 U/B possibly Italian S.W. of Ireland far out.

German: 1 S.W. of Ireland bound northwards
1 was in area 56° to 57° N., 16° to 18° W at 1447/27

1 in area 58° to 60° N., and W. of 20° W.

1 approximately in position 55° 20° N., 9° W at 0200/28

1 was in about 58° N., 13° W at 0332/28.

1 more in North Western Approaches, whereabouts unknown.

1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound.

(D.D.I.C. 1312/28)

Submarines Attacked

1650

Have attacked enemy submarine with bombs
dive and estimate no hits. 59.09 N., 1.20 W
(A/C Hatston 1650/28) Cancel Hatston A/C
1650. (A.C.O.S., 1917/28)

29.10.1940.
Tuesday. 645



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

Destroyer Patrol. JACKAL and KELVIN last night patrolled between Eddystone and 3° West.

NIGERIA
AUSTRALIA

left Scapa at 2345 for Plymouth. was ordered to return to the Clyde. The force under B.C.1 is continuing the search for the suspicious vessel reported on 27/10 by MAHOUT.

U-boat activities.

The Admiralty today issued to F.O's concerned, an appreciation of U-boat activities. p.665.

Enemy Intelligence.

It was reported today from Gothenburg that a German cruiser with 3 destroyers and a bomber passed Copenhagen at noon yesterday, northwards.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command.

A particularly successful attack was made last night on Krupp's Shipbuilding Yards at Kiel, where a hit was believed to have been made on GNEISENAU or its dock. Other targets attacked were at Kiel, Kiel Canal, Wilhelmshaven, Hamburg, Bremen, Emden, Cuxhaven, Antwerp, Calais and Ostend. One aircraft bombed Rotterdam Docks today; results were not observed.

Coastal Command.

Two aircraft attacked barges at Boulogne last night. Six Blenheims bombed the power station at Brest today; at least two aircraft hit the target.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "~~Agent~~" (FN even) engaged a shadowing Dornier this afternoon off Orfordness, and drove it off. H.M. Trawler ARCTIC TRAPPER was damaged this morning by 4 near misses and was beached off Ramsgate. Italian aircraft dropped about 20 small bombs in the Dover area today, 15 of which fell in the harbour. The Dover-Canterbury railway track was damaged. Portsmouth was attacked today, but apart from the railway damage was caused only in the town.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was carried out in the Thames Estuary and possibly in the Bristol Channel.

/ Ports affected today.

29.10.1940.

Tuesday.



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Continued)

Ports affected today.
Aberdeen (closed) Humber (closed), Tyne,
Avonmouth and Newport (closed after mining
of S.S. JAMAICA (Norw. 30~~or~~15 tons).
Rosyth, Plymouth, Aberdeen were opened today.
P.L.A. Sludge vessel ~~HUMPHREYS~~ HUMPHREYS
was mined and sunk this afternoon near
East Oaze buoy.
Mines were found in the Dover and Harwich
area.

East Indies.

R.A.F. bombed Assab again today (barracks
were bombed yesterday.) No damage was
observed.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Administration
of Destroyers
by R.A.D.

Cancel my 2057/28. Your 1204/28 as destroyers operating in North West Approaches are based on 3 separate ports at each of which there is a Captain (D) and in addition a Flag Officer in Charge at 2 of these Ports. I consider that little advantage would be gained by transferring a Rear Admiral D to North West Approaches which would be likely to complicate unnecessarily existing organization. A repair ship is however needed at both Greenock and Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A. 0001/29 to Adty.).

War Policy.

A.M. 2028/25. Preliminary Conference under 1st Lord will be held in Adty. at 1600/30. (1st S.L. 1048/29 to C's-in-C.)

A.M. 2028/25. Following is Agenda for Meeting on 31/10. (1st S.L. 2057/29 to C.'s-in-C.)

Your 1048/29. Weather permitting A.C.O.S. will leave Hatston 0900/30 to fly to Hendon direct. (A.C.O.S. 1220/29 to Adty.)

Oiling facilities
at Campbeltown.

Urgently required. Propose OTTERHOUND, 900 tons capacity, be retained in Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1138/29 to Adty.)

Second Town
Flotilla.

My 1852/26 and your 1008/21. Owing to enemy minelaying it has not been possible to advance the A/S training of Second Town Flotilla to the extent indicated in A.M. 1610/24. BATH, ST. ALBANS, and ST. MARYS have exercised once with submarine, and one full calibre shoot. CHARLESTON has not been able to carry out practices at sea. As it seems improbable that further sea training can be carried out from Plymouth in the immediate future intend sailing ships P.M. 30th. (C.in C. W.A. 1612/29 to R.A.M.L.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
DELUGE.

At 0200/29. (D.C. 0201/29).
At 1400/29. (D.C.1411/29).

Shetlands.
R.D.F. Stations.

At Skaw (North Unst) and Noso Hill (near Sumburgh) to be opened about 21/11. (D. of L.D. 1418/29 to F.O.C. Shetlands).

29.10.1940.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.W.S. 4 A.

My 2108/26. Para. 1. delete COSTA RICA and insert from Clyde Troopships WARWICK CASTLE and HIGHLAND MONARCH. Para. 2. Delete BERWICK. (D.O.D. H. 1212/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

A.M. 0342/29. Particulars of additional Ammunition and Stores coming from War Officer. Embark as much as possible. (D.O.D. F. 1845/29 to BERWICK).

Request you sail and route BERWICK from Glasgow on 31/10 for Gibraltar. To proceed at best possible speed to R/V if possible with ARK ROYAL before entering Gibraltar. To be temporarily attached to Force H on arrival. (D.O.D. H. 2058/29 to C.in C. W.A.)

It may be necessary to recall leave and load ARGUS with Hurricane A/C. Preparations to be made but no action at present. (D.O.D. H. 2111/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

WORCESTER.

Return to Harwich on completing Patrol O this morning. (Capt. D.16 0236/29 to WORCESTER)

EDINBURGH.

Desirable you pass May Island not later than 1900 owing to probable enemy Mine-laying after dark (C.in C. H.F. 1226/29 to EDINBURGH).

SALOPIAN.

My 1048/27. Cancel reference to O.L. 10. Leave Clyde 1600/31. Route to Area H.3. (F.O.C. N.P. 1248/29).

CHITRAL.

Sailed in accordance with F.O.C. N.P. 1050/27. (F.O. Greenock 1328/29 to Adty.)
See also next page.

Dover.

Patrols for Night 29/30. (V.A. Dover 1452/29).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1536/29).

ROSEMARY.

My 1017/29. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1611/29 to JACKAL).

2nd Town Flotilla.

Intend sailing Ships P.M./30. (C.in C.W.A. 1612/29 to R.A.M.L.)

HASTINGS.

N.C.S.O. Methil 1052/29. Additional A/A cover in Pentland Firth. (C.in C. Rosyth 1645/29 to A.C. W.A.)

1st B.C.S.

My position 63° 55' N. 11° 27' W. course 117° speed 15 knots. DIDO in company. Intend altering course to 167° at 0600/30. If you fail to rejoin during daylight tomorrow proceed to Scapa. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1800/29 to PHOEBE, SOUTHAMPTON).

/ ELECTRA.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued).

ELECTRA.

C.in C. H.F. 1211/27. To sail from Rosyth 0900/29, R/V with EDINBURGH off Tyne Pier Heads at 1600/29 and provide A/S Escort to Rosyth. (D.4. 1954/27 to ELECTRA).

Operations.

D.D.O.D.(H) 0010/29, 1st S.L. 0315/29, D.O.D.(F) 0342/29. See Operations Volume.

Operation
"Lucid".

Admty. 1955/18. Indicate route you consider should be followed by Force A. when leaving Downs. Request this route may be swept before the operation. (C.in C. Nore 0946/29 to V.A. Dover) Your 0946. Route should be (details). This route has been cleared for a distance of 3 miles from No.1 buoy. Given conditions of low visibility so that the operation is unobserved a search will be made as far as No.2 A buoy but it is observed that owing to strong cross tides the force cannot be sure of being in swept water unless following astern of minesweepers. (V.A.Dover 1153/29 to C.in C. Nore).

Proposing that Force C be cancelled and 4 destroyers detailed to each of the other two forces (C.in C. Nore 1250/29 to Adty.) Your 1250/29. Concur (V.C.N.S. 2139/29 to C.in C. Nore).

CHITRAL for
Iceland.

My 1328/29 (sailing of CHITRAL) add ETA Reykjavik 1000 B.S.T. (F.O. Greenock 1612/29).

Personnel
for Iceland.

LETITIA could take them leaving Clyde 8/11 (D.O.D. (H) 1912/29 to V.A.N.P.)

Search for
raider.

Your 1800/29 continue search with your force during daylight hours tomorrow on assumption that enemy is passing midway between Iceland and Faroes at a speed of 9 to 10 knots. AUSTRALIA act as in my 2147/28.(C.in C. H.F. 2140/29 to S.O. Battle Cruisers H.F.).

Following received since my 2140/29 from NORTHERN REWARD on T R 34. Begins sighted merchant ship two masts one funnel about two thousand tons steering east north east. Unable to intercept through bad weather and poor visibility? Ends. (C.in C. H.F. 2256/29 to S.O. B.C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines.O.24.

Movements. (Capt. S.9. 1027/29 to O.24)
 You were probably reported by A/C at
 0911/29. (V.A.S. 1049/29 to O.24).

Harwich.

(Discontinuance as S/M Base). Your
 1049/28. Approved. (V.C.N.S.1131/29 to
 V.A.S.) Concur (C.in C. H.F. 1218/29
 to Adty.)

UTMOST)
UPRIGHT)
CLYDE)

UTMOST in 49° N. 6° W. at 0700/30.
 Route thence to Gibraltar. UPRIGHT
 leaves Portsmouth 1530/30. Route to
 Gibraltar. CLYDE in about 52° N. 15° W.
 at 0600/1, due Falmouth 0900/4 (V.A.S.
 1518/29).

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O. Greenock 1523/29).

3 Destroyers.

Enemy referred to in my 1331/29 is
 3 Destroyers. (Capt. S.1 1641/29 to
 PANDORA).

SWORDFISH)
L. 27)

Positions. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1733/29)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/30.
 (V.A.S. 1744/29 and 2357/29).

S/M Patrol)
Area S.3.)

My 1313/28. Area is re-established
 from 0001/30 between following limits.
 Area D.4. remains as stated. (C.in C.
 Portsmouth 2213/29 to Adty.)

O.14.

Your 1954/28. O.14 arrived Rothesay
 22/10 with 13½ tons of Oil Fuel remaining
 (V.A.S. 2333/29 to R.A. 3rd B.S.)

TITANIA

(Berthing at Holy Loch). My 1112/19.
 Requirements if approved. (V.A.S.
 2352/29 to Adty.)

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Suspicious
Vessel.

Sunderland aircraft leave Sullum Voe at 1st light for Port Arthur 063° N. 016° W. thence parallel search Westwards between this position and 60° 14' W. thence to Invergordon to arrive after dark.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0050/29 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

Aircraft to proceed to 55° 25' N. 8° 15' W., thence sweep to 54° N. 11° 11' W. and further South to endurance. If Ship not met Relief A/C to be cancelled.
(Plymouth 0315/29 to Adty.)

Plymouth

Disposition of
Balloon Barrage.

Air Ministry's 1325/26. Experience with enemy minelaying at Plymouth shows that aircraft do not intentionally enter balloon barrage and all recent mine-laying has been done outside the breakwater. If balloons are moved as suggested the enemy will be able to lay mines in the Sound thereby preventing the port being used as an operational base. The present trial arrangements whereby balloons are close hauled to 300 ft. for F/Bs. to operate is acceptable to 15 group but the risks to F/Bs. are not acceptable if balloons are flown at 1000 ft. or more. Thus if the latter were insisted on Plymouth could not be used as a F/B base.

It is essential that Plymouth Sound shall be available as an anchorage for ships and for operating F/Bs. Some risks are inevitable and it is considered the possibility of losing some balloons due to close hauling to 300 ft. should be accepted.

Agreement has been reached locally that the present arrangements are the best that can be devised and should continue balloons being close hauled to 300 ft. for a minimum period when required by Mount Batten for F/Bs. to operate. This is the only acceptable solution to the problem, though it is realised that it may not be in accordance with present Balloon Command practice.

(C.in C. W.A. 1102/29 to Adty.)

Sunderland A/C
capsized.

4 Hudsons leaving shortly to search area till dark (C.in C. Rosyth 1254/29 to AUSTRALIA) Located Sunderland by D/F at 1240. (C.in C. Rosyth 1338/29 to AUSTRALIA) Sunderland capsized before reaching at 60° 46' N. 11° 3' W. Have rescued 9 and searching for remaining 4. (AUSTRALIA 1534/29 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Rosyth.

Air Searches tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 1954/29).

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.German A/C
in Stour.

Crashed in Stour. 3 airmen surrendered at Thorpe le Soken and Shotley. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0701/29).

Iceland.

German aircraft sighted 1030/28. Monoplane sighted 0900/21 (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1205/29)

Ipswich.

Grenade dropped on docks at Ipswich yesterday exploded whilst being made ready for countermining causing loss of life. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1250/29).

DUTHIES
(bombed 25/10)

Sank alongside at Montrose. Thought she will be total loss. Details. Asking for disposal of crew. (Arbroath 1440/29).

A/C exploded off
Methil.

In the air. Details. (C.in C. Rosyth 1533/29).

Convoy "AGENT".

1 aircraft shadowing 52° 2' N. 1° 42' E. (WESTMINSTER 1540/29) 1 aircraft 52° 8' N. 1° 51' E. (WESTMINSTER 1641/29). My 1641. Aircraft identified Dornier 17. Engaged, driven off to eastward (WESTMINSTER 1647/29).

Capt. D.21.

30 enemy aircraft 18000 ft., off Mouse (Capt. D. 21 1633/29).

Havant.

Minor damage at Leigh Park House night 28/29 Oct. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth Dockyard 1830/29).

ARCTIC TRAPPER.

(H.M.Tr.) bombed at 1054/29 097° Ramsgate one mile damaged by 4 near misses. Ship beached off Ramsgate, hoped to refloat 30/10, no casualties. (V.A. Dover, 1921/29)

Dover.

Italian aircrafts (identified as Fiat B.R.20's and Savoie Marchetti 79's) at 1635 dropped about 20 small bombs in Dover area, 15 in harbour, 5 in town. (V.A. Dover 1921/29)

Long Sand.

At 2215/28 aircraft dropped 2 mines or bombs approx. on Long Sand. Wreck of CITY OF BRISBANE may have been mistaken for ship in Fairway of Edinburgh Channels and used as aiming mark. (S.O. Thames L.D.F. 1200/29).

MOST SECRET.29.10.1940.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Aberdeen.

Port closed due to suspected minelaying and probably opening 1200 (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0032/29).

Humber.

Closed to navigation. Aircraft minelaying (F.O. Humber 0047/29, 0112/29 to WORCESTER, VENOMOUS, SALAMANDER, FITZROY.)

Tyne.

Closed owing to enemy mines (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0132/29). One ground magnetic mine detonated red LL at 0850/29 88° N. Tyne Pier Lt. 28½ cables (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1040/29) Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1229/29).

Rosyth.

My 2301/28. Approach to Rosyth is open. Instructions for entering (C.in C. Rosyth 0810/29) My 0810. Both sides of QZS 152 and QZS 175 now open. Instructions for entering (C.in C. Rosyth 1251/29).

Nore.

6 to 12 objects heard to drop apparently in Medway Channel 0650. Two explosions at 0720 1 cable E.N.E. magnetic from No.5 buoy Medway Channel (XDO 0900/29).

Milford Haven.

Your 2321/22 (re clearance of minefields) Unable to commence operation today as intended, owing to weather conditions (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1033/29).

Plymouth.

Cancel my 2040/27. Port of Plymouth is open. Ships are to keep in searched channel when approaching. (C.in C. W.A. 1105/29) Port of Plymouth is closed owing to mines (C.in C. W.A. 2033/29).

Port Talbot.

Now open (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1120/29).

Aberdeen.

Opened to traffic using north side of QZS 161 (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1225/29).

JAMAICA
(Norw.)
3015 tons)

Received 1425 G.M.T. from S.S. ARAYBANK, S.S. JAMAICA mined off Makenzie Buoy standing by to pick up crew (Burnham on Sea radio No. T.O.O. Received. 1452/29) Mined in 51° 21' 30" N., 3° 8' 0" W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/29). Arrived Avonmouth 30/10 (D.S. 422).

Avonmouth and
Newport.

Closed; movement of shipping prohibited east of Breaksea L.V. except for entering Cardiff by swept channel (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/29, 1638/29).

Operation B.S.44.

Intend TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER to sail from Spurn Pt. 1600/31, take departure from 20 F. buoy 0800/1 returning to 21 buoy. Laying will begin at 1030/1 (S.O. M.L. Immingham 1426/29).

/ Dover.



653

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Dover.

Routine sweeps today. 2 mines found in QZX 220 (V.A. Dover 1616/29).

G.W. HUMPHREYS.

PLA Sludge vessel mined at 1530/29 near Eastoke L.V. has now sunk. Position etc. of wreck. 17 survivors, 9 of whom are injured landed at Southend from tug and pilot vessel. Believed 7 missing (C.in C. Nore 1901/29) Mined East Oaze buoy bearing E.S.E. about 2 cables. Details (C.in C. Nore 1911/29).

Harwich.

Details of sweeping. 2 mines found. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1927/29).

Enemy Intelligence.

Stettin, Swinemunde, Rostock,) R.C. on 29/10
Brunsbüttel, Cuxhaven,) (P.I.U. 0110/30 to D.N.I.)
Emden, Wilhelmshaven,)
Delfzijl.)

Kristiansand. Shipping on 24/10. (P.I.U. 0132/29 to N.I.D.)

Lorient. At 1500/28. 8 possibly 9 S/M's. (P.R.U. St. Eval 0200/29 to H.Q.C.C.).

Saint Nazaire) R/C on 28/10. (P.R.U. St. Eval 0200/29 to
Nantes) H.Q.C.C.).

Englishmans Gat. At 0700, 7 E-Boats. A/C report. (Air Min. 1016/29 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Cruiser. German 2-funnel Cruiser about 10,000 tons, with 3 Destroyers and one Bomber passed Copenhagen at 1200/28. Assessed B.1. (British Consul, Gothenburg 1655/29 to Admty.)

La Pallice.) Shipping seen. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q.
La Rochelle.) 2330/29 to Adty.)
Gironde.)

BREMEN)
EUROPA) Seen at Bremerhaven 10/10 camouflaged and fitted with D.G. rings. Assessed C.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1143/29 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.

Tuesday.War Diary.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.SALVIA.

Has been aground Hammon Knoll.
Anchoring until dawn. No damage.
(SALVIA 060⁰/29 to C.in C. Nore.)

SITOEONDO.

(Dutch, 7050 tons). S.O.S. at 0720 G.M.T.
in 49° 47' N. 27° 15' W., course 200
speed 4 knots. Making water. Slowly
sinking. (Plymouth W/T 0833/29)
(Valentia W/T. 1250/29 to Adty.) (Lands End
Radio 1300/29). Pumps now running but
water winning. (SITOEONDO 1251/29)
To EXETER. Secret. Proceeding. Do not
want your help. (Valentia Radio 1844/29
to Adty.)

HEARTSEASE.

My position 54° 10' N. 17° 1' W. Course
095° 7 knots. HEARTSEASE in company has
slight damage forward precluding steaming
~~in the~~ head sea. (GERANIUM 1620/29 to C.in C.
W.A.).

ASHANTI)
FAME)

Progress with salvage. (F.O.I.C. Tyne
1920/29 to Adty.)

BRYNMILL.

(British, 743 tons) S.O.S. in 56° 50' N.
7° 20' W. Making water. (Scapa Base Ship
1327/29) Proceed with all despatch to
assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/29 to
ENGLISHMAN) Sailed Tug ENGLISHMAN.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1552/29) Ship referred
to in my 1450/29 believed to be BRYNMILL
in 300° 12 miles from Oigh Sgeir at 1908/29.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2030/29 to ENGLISHMAN).

MOST SECRET.29.10.1940.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Convoys.

S.L.S. 51.

Shipping.

BURZA and AMAZON to endeavour to intercept S.L.S. 51 consisting of 16 ships unescorted which may be 20 hours ahead S.L. 51. (route).
(C.in C. W.A. 0810/29, corrected 1054/29)

ALCANTARA's 1901/28. My position course and speed. Only HEARTSEASE with me. (ARROW, 0002/29). Not met. Hove to in 52.58 N., 18.30 W. HEARTSEASE lost touch, visibility 2 miles. (ARROW, 1015/29) Not met. Hove to vicinity of meeting position. Weather. (ROCHESTER, 1115/29).

BURZA sailed (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1050/29).

O.G. 45.

PHILANTE and TRIBUNE to act as ocean escort. (C.in C. W.A., 2203/29).

S.C.8.

Through necessity of keeping hove to have lost contact in 55.48 N., 15.36 W. C.O. injured. (SANDWICH, 1830/29). Not met. Intend proceeding Lough Foyle as ordered 1000/30. Visibility nil. (SHIKARI, 1901/29).

H.X. 80.

15 hours late at R.V. Considerable headwinds. All ships present totalling 33. (D.T.D. 1902/29).

Minesweeper Escort.

Admty. 2347/28. If weather still unsuitable, at dark today, minesweepers are to leave convoy and return to Granton. (C.in C. Rosyth to M.S. 5, 1235/29).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.4A

My 2108/26, para. 2, delete BERWICK (ocean escort) (D.O.D. (H) 2017/29).
My 2108/26. Following will be ready to sail 1/11 from Liverpool. [DUCHESS OF RICHMOND with R.A.F. personnel for Montreal. AKAROA for Trinidad, ABOSSO for Freetown. (D.O.D. (H) 1908/29).

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND
AKAROA
ABOSSO

/ Air Escorts

29.10.1940
Tuesday



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued).

Air Escorts.

To facilitate provision of air escort, essential that date of arrival in U.K. of independently routed fast ships should be reliable. N.C.S.O's should ensure that arrival dates stated in Vesca telegrams are dependable, and masters are to be instructed to adjust speed so as to cross parallel of 51 degs. N. if coming from southward or meridian of 25 degs. W. if from westward so that ship will arrive at 10 degs. W. at 0600 B.S.T. on the day before date of arrival given in Vesca telegram. Similarly, fast independently routed ships are to be sailed from U.K. ports so that they will arrive at 10 degs. W. at 1800 B.S.T. These measures will enable ships to have fighter protection during daylight hours whilst passing through area of greatest danger from air attack.

(D.T.D. 1340/29).

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

MARCELLA.
Intercepted.

At 2330/28 French trawler MARCELLA flying Vichy colours intercepted in 34.50 N., 15.00 W. bound for Casablanca and allowed to proceed as weather unfit for boarding. (F.O.C.N.A. 0454/29).

Libreville.

Message from Prime Minister to C.S.1. (1 S.L., 0145/29) See Operations Volume).

French Fleet.

French ships at Casablanca 27/10. (F.O.C. N.A. 1012/29).

Casablanca.
GROIX.

My 1012. Some source now reports GROIX sailed from Casablanca 28/10 loaded with munitions for Dakar. (F.O.C. N.A. 2250/29).

Bathurst.

Military reinforcement of - see South Atlantic.

North Atlantic.

SIQUEIRA
CAMPOS

My 1753/20. Now reported by Consul-Gen., Lisbon, ship leaves Lisbon for South America 31/10. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.C. N.A. 1913/29).

Force H.,

(Force H 0748/29, see Mediterranean).

R.D.F.
Patrols.

My 1006/22. Gibraltar departure 29/10. 2030, ARCTIC RANGER to relieve KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 2132/29).

South Atlantic.

Troop Transports.
W.S.3A.
W.S.3B.

Capetown departure 0800/29 Convoy W.S.3 A for Kilindini, Aden and Suez. CUMBERLAND as escort until relieved by CARTHAGE at 0130 transferring vicinity in 032° 30' S. 033° 00' E. Convoy W.S. 3 B will leave Capetown 30/10 Oct. and after overtaking W.S.3 A both groups will form one Convoy W.S.3 with DORSETSHIRE as escort. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0830/29).

Convoy sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0833 Z/29).

Your 1957/28 not received until action as indicated in my 1933/28 had been taken. WINCHESTER CASTLE had already been returned to owners and has left Capetown. OROPESA has not sufficient water to reach Suez without calling at Aden. W.S.3A left Capetown as reported in my 0833/28. GEORGIC has 147 R.A.F. personnel for Aden and DUCHESS OF YORK has 172 troops for Aden and 5 for Sudan. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0845Z/29 to D. of S.T.).

/ Details of ...

MOST SECRET.29.10.1940.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Continued)Troop Transports
W.S.3A
W.S.3B
(continued)Details of W.S.3A route and escorts.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, to N.C.S.O. Suez,
1022/29).Your 2211/23. Dept. of Defence, Union
of South Africa, inform me very difficult
to estimate transport requirements but
hoped in about ten days time situation
will be clearer. Meantime LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE is allocated for another trooping
trip to Mombasa. Little likelihood of
ship being released for some time.
(S.N.O. Simonstown, 1304B/29, to D. of
S.T.).WESTERNLAND.Agreement now reached with all concerned
regarding despatch of drafts for East
Africa in WESTERNLAND sailing from
Takoradi on or about 31/10.
(W.O., to Milwestaf, Accra, No T.O.O./29)RESOLUTIONYour 1929/22 and 1931/22. Chief
Constructor Watson now on passage to
Freetown in connection with RESOLUTION,
should visit Lagos as proposed and if
convenient Takoradi. (D. of D. to C.in
C. S.A. 0640/29).MILFORD.To act under F.O.C. 1 C.S. until further
orders. (C.in C. S.A. 1039/29)ROYAL SOVEREIGN.Admty. 1432/13. Anticipated date of
sailing from Freetown for Gibraltar.
(C.in C. S.A. 1723 N/29).Bathurst.Re move from Takoradi of 4th Bn., Gold
Coast Regt., R.W.A.F.F., to prevent
seizure of Bathurst by coup de main.
(G.O.C. W. Africa, Accra, 1840/29).Mediterranean.Italian Campaign Against Greece.Italian Convoy.5 or 6 Italian merchant vessels under
convoy are north of Corfu.
(N.A. Athens, 0923/29).Code Words.Army and Air Force will in future use
Code word ~~Italy~~ to denote Crete and
Code word ~~Spain~~ to denote Suda Bay in
operational signals and orders.
(D.N.I. to C.in C. Med., and V.A. Malta,
2012/29)./ Greek Co-operation

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Campaign Against Greece. (Contd.)

Greek Co-operation
(contd.)

Message from President of Council to C.in C. Med. He will chase Italians out of Albania in a month if you can cut their maritime communications for that period. (Comment). All Greek bases at your disposal. Has authorized me to communicate to Greek Admty. any special activity desired by you. Am asking them to send up 3 submarines to operate inside Corfu Straits. (N.A. Athens to C.in C. Med., 0951/29).

Enemy Units.

A/C reports, 3 destroyers 062° 47 miles from 40° N., 18° E., course 000°, speed 18 knots, line ahead, 1120/29. 2 destroyers. 2 merchant vessels 044°, 50 miles, from 40° N., 18° E., course 300° speed 8 knots, 1125/29. (V.A. Malta, 1243/29). Position course and speed enemy battle fleet 40° 22' N. 18° 52' E. 000°, 18 at 1120/29. (Capt. S.1 to PANDORA, 1331/29) Enemy reported by A/C 1120 now reported to have consisted of 3 6-in. gun cruisers. No enemy activity in Ionian Islands or Gulf of Patras. One Greek destroyer off Patras. Taranto and Brindisi not visited owing to bad weather. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1647/29).

Crete.

Your 2101/28 and 2159/28. Plans for military assistance. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1642/29) See Mediterranean Volume.

Laying of Mines.

N.A. Athens 1914/28. Unless contrary instructions received from C.in C., Med., declaration of areas dangerous owing to mines as defined in Admty. 1140/10/6 should be issued immediately as deterrent to Italians. Similar declaration will be made by H.M.G. at noon/30. Greek Govt. can be assured no mines will be laid without consultation. C.in C. Med. is however free to act as circumstances dictate in event of Greece being overrun. (Hd. of M. 1652/29 to N.A. Athens).



29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued).

Force H.
R.D.F.
SHEFFIELD.

Admty. 0315/29, (See Mediterranean Volume)
Consider it essential a long range R.D/F
ship shall accompany Force H. SHEFFIELD
preferred as she has worked with ARK ROYAL.
(S.O., Force H., 0748/29 to C.in C. Med.)
Your 0748/29. Request you will withdraw
SHEFFIELD from patrol in sufficient time
for her to accompany Force H. (D.O.D.(F)
to S.O. Force H., 2211/29).

Reinforcements.

Admty. 0315/29. My proposals are as
follows. (S.O. Force H to C.in C. Med.,
1201/29). See Mediterranean Volume.
Amending para. E., Admty. 0315/29.
(D.O.D.(F) 0957/29).

Repeat "Hurry"

Further to my 0315/29. Aircraft
reinforcements, and asking whether repeat
"Hurry" could be carried out as a special
operation conducted by Force H.
(A.C.N.S.(F) to S.O. Force H. 2133/29,
corrected 2323/29). Admty. 2133.
Consider Force H can do this. Repeat
that I consider inclusion R.D.F. ship for
this operation as well as White Collar
essential. (S.O. Force H., 2331/29 to
Admty.)

Air Action
against Italy.

Air Min. 1710/29 see Mediterranean Volume.

East Indies.

COLOMBO.

Your 1341/28 (no trace in W.R.).
COLOMBO will be available to escort
SELANDIA and LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE from
Durban to Mombasa (date and route).
Convoy will be called C.M.5. As regards
CLAN CAMERON, see my 0810/28 which
KANIMBLA and KENT will receive in due
course. (C.in C. E.I. to N.O.I.C.
Simonstown 1014/29).

My 1446/24. Intend calling convoy C.M.6
in view of my 1014/29. C.in C.E.I.
1016 Z/29.

Troop Transports.

Your 0402/26. Confirmed that QUEEN MARY,
MAURETANIA and AQUITANIA are to return to
Sydney on completion of discharge at
Bombay. Request date of sailing.
(D. of S.T. to P.S.T.O. Bombay, 2223/29).

Bahrein.

Concur with Political Resident, Persian
Gulf, 2 naval guns being landed at
Bahrein does not constitute fully
effective A/A defence. (C.in C.E.I. to
A.D.C. British Forces, Iraq, 0810/29).

MOST SECRET.29.10.1940.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (continued).Raider Report.

My 1458/27. Mombasa Radio now reports that Kismayu Radio sometimes works commercially with Mogadishu Radio using "RRRR" and "RRR" to denote message received. (C.in C. E.I. 1034 Z/29).

B.M.3.

Sailed 29/10. Details. (Embarkation S.O. Bombay Desp. 1865/29).

China.MOGAMIGAWA
MARU

Your 0802/10 Japanese ship MOGAMIGAWA MARU ex GETSUYO MARU, reported departed from Shanghai 26/10 for Japan. Vessel was not sighted passing Singapore but may possibly have evaded patrol or passed through Sunda Straits. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0302/29).

America and West Indies.Interception of
HELGOLAND.

S.O.I. Kingston's 2345/28. VAN KINSBERGEN proceed towards Cartagena with all despatch. DIOMEDE proceed towards Mona passage (C.in C. A. W.I. 0301/29). Your 0301. DIOMEDE sailed. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0948/29). My 0301. Assumed speed of HELGOLAND 8.1. DIOMEDE establish patrol Mona passage by sunset 31/10. VAN KINSBERGEN search coast eastward as far as Cartagena then proceed to arrive off Colon by sunrise 30/10. VAN KINSBERGEN leave Colon approach at 1700 R/30 and proceed at best possible speed to patrol Windward passage. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1001/29).

Interception of French
ships on high seas.

My 1254/19 C.in C. China 0331Z/21 Deputy Representative of Ministry of Shipping Vancouver enquires if M.S. BOUGAINVILLE will be permitted to clear if MARTINIQUE completes loading at British Columbia Port. Request your ruling in view of Admiralty's Natel 2003/24. Last paragraph Indo China. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1131/29.)

Your 1101/8/10 New York report A 2 Begins. S.S. CHARLES L.D. is now at Casablanca loading cargo ex Norwegian S.S. JAGABIN for U.S.A. via Martinique.

/ French

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

French apparently claim that goods are American property and that U.S.A. Gov. is concerned in arrangement. Insurance firm here is seeking war rate of insurance on general cargo value exempt 50 thousand dollars to 500 thousand dollars to be carried by CHARLES L.D. on return voyage Martinique to Casablanca. Company is asking telegraphic enquiry from France. Ends. M.E.W. and Washington informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1202/29 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Interception of OSORNO

S.O.I., Callao 1515/29 (not to Admty.) Proceed at best possible speed to patrol off Talcahuano to intercept German ship OSORNO BISHOPDALE will be directed to follow you south. (C.in C. A.W.I., to PRINCE ROBERT, 1901/29).

Convoy S.C.10.

Draft sailing telegram. Escort FOLKESTONE (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1030/29).



MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

- HELGOLAND. Plans for interception (see America and West Indies).
Confirmed HELGOLAND sailed 2030 G.M.T. carrying cases machinery on deck. Rumoured bound for Martinique (B.3) (S.O.I. Kingston, 1221/29).
My 1221/29. Barranquilha now reports time of sailing as 2030 local time not G.M.T. (S.O.I. Kingston, 2115/29).
Press reports HELGOLAND sailed Puerto Columbia last night without permit. Believes several German aviators on board from Columbia. Panamanian Air Co. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1328/29).
- MADRID. Consul Las Palmas reported rumour that she is preparing to depart for Casablanca or Dakar. (F.O.C. N.A. 0025/29).
- OSORNO Plans for interception (see America and West Indies).
- IDARWALD Air mail letter from Capt. Fromke German Ship IDARWALD Tampico to Hamburg-America Line Hamburg, dated 14/10 states extensive repairs have been effected since September 1939 and ship is ready to sail at 24 hours notice. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1723/29).
- CORDELIA Arrived Galatz from Russia (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1027/29).
- LARISSA)
DELOS)
CORDELLA)
ARKADIA)
ITHAKA)
Left Galatz in ballast for Russia (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1027/29).
- KERSTEN MILES At Teneriffe, has taken in 100 tons coal. (D.S. 421).
- TRAPANI Reported to be leaving Genoa in few days believed for Barcelona. (D.S. 421).
- GALILEA. Being docked at Palermo 27/10 and having 2 rescue rafts fitted. (D.S. 421).
- SCHARNHORST. Passengers arriving Shanghai from Kobe state she is being fitted as a raider. (D.S. 421).
- SPEZIA. which left Valenica with cargo of lemons 22/10 is known to have been at Genoa 25/10 (D.S. 422).
- ARABIC)
CHIKA)
λ Bulgarian under German charter, left during week ending 26/10 for Odessa (D.S. 422).



MOST SECRET.

694

29.10.1940.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

EDERA.

Left Corunna midday/29 reported to be for Ferrol. (Corunna, 1300/29). Arrived Ferrol where she will probably remain. (Corunna 1915/29).

TORCELLO)
CELENO)

Varna reports each about 5,000 tons petroleum (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1027/29).

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HOMESIDE.

British, 4617 tons. SSSS, 53.25 N.
19.30 W. (Valentia Radio, 1109/29).
In Convoy S.L. 51 (D.S. 421).

HAULERW^JYK
(sunk 30/9)

Dutch 3278 tons. ROTHLEY arrived Capetown
29/10 with 27 survivors HAULERW^JYK picked
up in 053° 37' N. 026° 10' W. on 2/10.
HAULERW^JYK was unsuccessfully attacked by
torpedo 1130/309 in 054° 28' N. 026° 33' W.
and gunned by U boat at 1920/30 and sunk.
No British subjects among casualties which
include 4 ratings killed 7 wounded (now
recovered).

PORT DENISON
(sunk 26/9).

ROTHLEY also reports picking up Survivors
PORT DENISON 26/9 off Buchanness which
were transferred same day to Naval Trawler.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1230/29).

Submarines Reported.

0200.

S.S. GRACEHILL reports p/m sighted
2 miles off Mull of Galloway at 0200 head-
ing S. (BRITISH HONDURAS, 0500/29).

1006.

47° to 49° N., 5° to 7° W. position
indefinite. (D.S. 421).

1006.

58.30 N., 20° W., position very indefinite.
(D.S. 420).

1056.

Reported by a/c 56.00 N., 10.35 W., at
1056 (C.in C. W.A., 1127/29).

1527 and 1925.

59° to 60° N., 20° W., position
indefinite (D.S. 421).

1031.

S.W. of Ireland, position indefinite.
(D.S. 421).

U-Boat Activities.

Notes on, re routes and bases. Inference
is that Lorient and possibly other ports
on W. Coast of France are being developed
into important bases. Italian Submarines
working in Atlantic are based on Bordeaux.
(D.D.I.C. 1532/29).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions.

MOST SECRET.29.10.1940.
Tuesday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Continued).Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian - 1 possibly Italian, S.W. of Ireland
far:out.

German - 1 about 250 miles S.W. of Fastnet
at 1818/28 possibly bound north-
wards.
1 W. of Ireland bound northwards.
1 was probably in about 55 degrees
42' N. 16 degrees 04' W. at
1250/28.
1 in area 58 degrees to 60 degrees
N. and W. of 20 degrees W.
1 in 56 degrees N. 10 degrees 35' W.
at 1056/29 a new arrival in area.
2 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts
unknown.
1 was in 57 degrees 53' N. 3 degrees
8' E. at 1200/28 possibly outward
bound. (D.D.I.C. 1339/29).

Submarines Attacked.1055.By a/c 56° N., 10.35 W. Four 250 lb. bombs
dropped. (D.S. 421).

MOST SECRETWar Diary30.10.1940
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsFEARLESS
Damaged

FEARLESS was damaged early this morning in collision with SS LANARK which was at anchor off Gourock.

STURDY

Went aground in Tiree this morning and broke in two later, becoming a total loss.

UPRIGHT

Left Portsmouth today to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

ARK ROYAL
GLASGOW
Operations
"White Collar"
"Hurry"

ARK ROYAL with 3 destroyers arrived at the Clyde at midnight 29/30 October. She has been delayed by the weather and, with GLASGOW, PASTEUR and HESPERUS is remaining in the Clyde.

Search by
M.T.B's

The two available M.T.B's at Dover left harbour at 2315/29 to intercept surface craft reported approaching the charted position of South Goodwin L.V. but were unable to get in touch. The night was very dark. The enemy are assumed to have been minelaying as mines were swept today near the position.

Convoys

Convoys have been affected by the gale. Five ships of W.N. 26 are aground off Rattray Head. Other convoys are scattered or late.

ANTHONY
COREOPSIS
LEDA
Damaged

Minor damage in collision has been sustained.

Dover Shelled

Dover was shelled this afternoon. There were no naval casualties.

³¹
U ~~237~~

32
HIGHLANDER with HARVESTER and SCIMITAR sank U ~~237~~ 135 miles West of Bloody Foreland this evening.



War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

A convoy of 3 ships was bombed today off Barfleur, and one ship dropped astern. Submarine L 27 was informed.

Operations last night were effected by bad weather. Attacks were, however, made on naval targets at Bremen, Wilhelmshaven, Hamburg, Flushing, Ijmuiden, Ostend and Den Helder.

Enemy Air Activity

Damage was caused at Chatham Barracks this afternoon and at Deal yesterday.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night suspected in the Thames Estuary and between the Firth of Forth and Hartlepool. See also Home Commands, search by M.T.B's.

Mines were found off Harwich and the Humber today.

M.L. 109 was mined and sunk at the entrance to the Humber today.

The following ports were opened today. Plymouth, Falmouth, Firth of Forth (completely), Newport and Avonmouth will be opened at 0600/31. Barry, Barry roads remain closed.

MOST SECRETWar Diary30.10.1940
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTNorth Atlantic

The commercial anchorages and northern entrance to Gibraltar were attacked this morning by what appears to be two Italian one man submarines or torpedoes. One Italian officer and one rating were picked up. One of the "torpedoes" was salvaged by the Spaniards.

Mediterranean

Patras was bombed twice today without damage. H.M.Govt. today declared certain areas of the Greek Coast to be dangerous owing to mines.



War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Code Word

~~BLANKET~~ "Blanket"
proposed

For use by A.P. vessels as quick report of E.Boats heard or sighted. (V.A.Dover, 1027/30 to Adty.)

Western Patrol

(Possible Enemy attempt on Azores) Request when cruiser not available you adjust positions of A.M.C's on this Patrol to provide R/C. Squares F1, F2, and G2 well suited for this. (A.C.N.S. F. 2146/30 to F.O.C.N.P.)

F.O.Force H. is requested to inform F.O.C.N.P. when SHEFFIELD is expected to be withdrawn from Azores Patrol. (A.C.N.S. F. 2147/30 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Reply: 2/11. (S.O.Force H., 0836/31.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE

At 0200/30 (D.C. 0340/20) At 1400/30 (D.C. 1409/30)

Movements

NIGERIA

Sailed Scapa 2345 for Plymouth westabout. (A.C.O.S. 0014/30)

DIDO

Intend anchor Fugle Fiord at 1000/30 to secure shells and free Turrets, all jammed. (DIDO 0031/30 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.) Approved to anchor. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0300/30 to DIDO)

Operations

"White Collar"
"Hurry"

Weather impossible for embarking Squadron. Am remaining Clyde at short notice. (ARK ROYAL 1055/30 to Adty.)

HESPERUS sailed escorting PASTEUR to R/V with ARK ROYAL as in my 1558/28 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1110/30 to Adty.) Escort PASTEUR to Clyde and report ETA (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1145/30 to HESPERUS)

My 1645/28. Proceed to Clyde. Report ETA (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1220/30 to GLASGOW) (C. in C., W.A. 1344/30 to GLASGOW)

/My 2111/29.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary30.10.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSMovements

Operations
"White Collar"
"Hurry"-Contd

My 2111/29. Hurricane and Skua aircraft should be embarked as soon as conveniently possible. Ship to be ready to sail on 14/11. (V.C.N.S. 1313/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock and ARGUS)

ETA Clyde 1830/30. (GLASGOW 1446/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Admty. 2058/29. Route for BERWICK as in my 1710/27 for ARK ROYAL (C. in C., W.A., 1530/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

ARGUS will be brought up harbour to embark aircraft on 1/11. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1805/30 to Adty.)

My 1220/30. If weather is suitable for flying intend sailing ARK ROYAL, GLASGOW, FOXHOUND, DUNCAN, ISIS and SS PASTEUR to pass through position 270° Lady Island 7 at 1230 tomorrow thence in accordance with C. in C., W.A. 1710/27. Request fighter protection and air escort be arranged accordingly. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2352/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

ANTELOPE
ACHATES

To sail with O.B. 237 at 2315/31 (Capt D 121705/30) *See also p. 665*

Nore Command

Movements to 1200/31 (C. in C. Nore 1200/30)

2nd Towns
Flotilla

Intend sail BATH, CHARLESTON^w, ST MARYS, ST ALBANS at 1700/30 to Port Z.A.. (C. in C. W.A. 1401/30 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

HARVESTER

My 1655/29. Will be required to sail from Liverpool about 1100/1. (C. in C., W.A. 1410 30 to HARVESTER) *See also p. 665*

Western Channel

Night Report (C. in C., W.A. 1515/30)

AGAMEMNON

My position at 2200 is 57° 3' N., 1° 54' W. course 021° speed 10 knots. (AGAMEMNON 2106/30 to BULLDOG)

ESCAPADE

My 1012/29. Request she be off Troon 1130/30 in preparation for docking (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2119/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

MOST SECRETWar Diary

30.10.1940

WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsSuspicious Vessel.

Carry out unit patrols from 0800/30 between 064° 50' N., 011° 00' W., and following positions.

Start from Eastern end of beat. Enemy speed 10 knots homeward. Battle cruisers and FURIOUS will patrol to South Eastward of position 064° 05' N., 008° 00' W., If nothing is sighted by dark units proceed independently to Scapa. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0031/30 to DIDO PHOEBE, SOUTHAMPTON)

My position 64° 24' N., 9° 45' W., course 135°, 10 knots. BORE X did not sight MAHOUT, but did sight a trawler on night 29th. (SOUTHAMPTON 1225/30 to C. in C., H.F.)

NORTHERN SKY to R/V with SOUTHAMPTON 10 miles 360° from Kalso Light. Take over BORE X and escort her into Kirkwall. (V.A.N.P. 1445/30) R/V 10 miles 180° from Myggenaes Light at 0500/31. (SOUTHAMPTON 1740/30 to NORTHERN SKY) My position 63° 41' N., 8° 24' W. course 175° 8 knots. (SOUTHAMPTON 1805/30 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.) Your 1651. Not considered safe land fall. Am proceeding in accordance with my 1740 (SOUTHAMPTON 1855/30 to F.O.C.N.P.)

See also p. 681

Iceland

(Transport of Personnel in LETITIA) your 1912/29. Concur. (F.O.C.N.P. 1057/30 to Adty,)

M.T.B's off South Goodwin Position

Acting on information received from Dover C.H.I. last night of surface craft approaching charted position of South Goodwin, the two available M.T.B's left harbour at 2315 to intercept.

Although kept informed of plotted positions of surface craft M.T.B's were unable to get in touch and sighted nothing. Night was very dark and units probably pass very close to each other. (V.A.Dover 1155/30 to Adty)

Patrol O.

My 1550/5/7. S.O. patrol O EGLINGTON (C. in C., Nore 1733/30)

/Dover

War Diary30.10.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperations-Contd.Dover
Shelled

Sixteen shells fell in the Dover area between 1349 and 1451 today Wednesday. Of these one fell in harbour five in the sea at base of cliff near Eastern Arm and nine inland outside the town. Two military wounded. No naval or civilian casualties (V.A.Dover, 1851/30 to Adty.)

SubmarinesSWORDFISH

My 1800/27. ^{page 686.} 2 Torpedoes fired, estimate one hit. Trawlers sweeping off Cherbourg. Contant Flying Boat A/S Patrol in W.2. (SWORDFISH 0203/30 to C. in C., Portsmouth) (S. 5. 1410/30 to L. 27)

H. 28

To join FN 23 near South Shipwash Buoy. (C. in C., Rosyth 0921/30 to Adty.)

SEALION

Delayed till p.m/31 by engine efect. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/30 to S. 3.)

USK

Report when ready to proceed and request C. in C., W.A. for Escort northabout to join 6th Flotilla at Blyth (S.2. 1029/30 to USK)

L. 27)
UPRIGHT)

Movements (C. in C., Portsmouth 1117/30) UPRIGHT left Portsmouth 1442/30 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/30 to Adty.)

CLYDE

To arrive Position A of Q.Z.S. 180 at 0900/4 (V.A.S. 1438/30 to CLYDE) Cancel my 1438/30 to CLYDE)

Bombing

My 1126/2. Havre, Lorient, Bordeaux, possibly Brest. (V.A.S. 1535/30)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/31. (V.A.S. 1719/30 and 2352/30)

TRIUMPH

Leaves Clyde 0830/6. Route tence. ETA position E. 0800/14 (V.A.S. 2302/30 to Adty.)

30.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols
Cancelled

S.A. I.E., S.A. 2 N., and cross over A/S Patrol to N.W. of Cape Wrath cancelled. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1040/30) S.A. 2 and S.A. 3 cancelled owing to weather (C. in C., Rosyth 1230/30) S.A. 1 A and S 16 cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1510/30)

Proposed Transfer
of Aircraft
from Hatston

It is under consideration to transfer 821 and 823 Squadrons from Hatston to the South West of England during the winter months. With enemy Naval forces based at Brest and the possibility of an enemy descent on Ireland, it is felt that these Squadrons would be more likely to find targets than in the comparatively few hours of daylight in the North. It is realised that these Squadrons are now primarily employed on A/S patrols. Request your remarks. (1st S.L. 1347/30 to C. in C., H.F.)

Belfast.
Request Cancellation
of orders to Ships

Following received from 13 group as tele-phone message from Aldergrove Sector who report that it originated from F.O.I.C. Belfast. Begins. With effect from 00.01 G.M.T./24. Vessels in the Lough or in berth 1/2 mile of either side of the entrance Victoria Channel and the Abercorne basin from 1 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise are to open fire on all aircraft flying over above areas. ends. Request these orders be cancelled immediately as being directly contrary to arrangements in your A 905 of 31/7. (H.Q.F.C. 1520/30 to Air Ministry)

Enemy Convoy
Bombed

Convoy of 3 ships bombed on 009° BARFLEUR 3 miles, course 060°, ay 1232. One ship has dropped aatern. (Capt S. 5. 1533/30 to L. 27)

Bombing of Enemy
Coastal Batteries

Request bombing of Coastal Batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse from 0415 to 0545/1st during passage of C.E. 15 through Straits of Dover. (C. in C., Nore, 1702/30 to Adty.)

Plymouth
Balloon Barrage

Very early approval requested to transfer of 4 balloons to other sites to safeguard searched Channel. Reasons. (C. in C., W.A. 1856/30 to Adty.)

Rattray Head

Request Fighter Patrol during daylight 31st (C. in C., Rosyth 2014/30 to H.Q.F.C.)



War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Maplin Sands

VAN MEERLANT reports at 2025/29 aeroplane heard to shut off engine and shortly afterwards one heavy explosion occurred in mid air at estimated height of 5000 ft. in very approximate position over Maplin Sands. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1030/30 to C. in C., Nore)

Chatham

Personnel Block and Officers Mess badly damaged. (C. in C., Nore, 1555/30 to Adty.)

Enemy A/C Policy

Following from 35th A.A. Brigade has been passed to Naval Air Stations. Begins E/A now concentrating on attacking aerodromes by day and by night. Daylight attacks are made at dawn or dusk when heights elected vary between 100 to 4,000 to 6,000 ft Ends. (R.A.N.A.S. 1733/30 to Adty.)

Deal

During air raid yesterday 1630 at Deal, three H.E. bombs estimated 500 lbs. fell in front of A and B blocks causing several casualties and extensive damage to windows and roofs and slight structural damage to many buildings provisionally estimated at £6000 immediate repairs £1,000. (Supt. C.E. 1843/30 to Civil Lord.)

Mining

LEDA -)
KELLETT }
ALBURY }

(Minesweepers) Your 2347/28 and my 1235/29 delayed owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 0741/30 to Adty.)

Plymouth

Port is open (C. in C., W.A. 0915/30)

Falmouth

Port now open (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0950/30)

S.N. 44

Propose to sail at 1630/1 and lay within 5 miles of following centre line, starting at 1045 and finishing 1510/2. (R.A.M.L. 1045/30 to C. in C., W.A)

Firth of Forth

My 1301/26. Areas in Inchkeith Examination Anchorage and Leith Roads between following points may now be used. (C. in C., Rosyth 1205/30)

/Clearing....



War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Clearing of Minefield

(Between Coningbeg Light and 18 QZS) Adty's 2321/22. Operation cannot be begun till 4/11 owing to tides. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1305/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

Yarmouth

My 2125/29. DELAPOLE reports aircraft dropped 2 parachute flares followed by 4 splashes 400 yards N.N.E. from her and dull explosion as from bombs or mines. Her position was 1.9 miles N.E. Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1600/30 to C. in C., Nore,)

NympheBank Minefield

ADVENTURE, working from Milford Haven will reinforce this field during moonlight periods, laying deep mines also on Irish side of Field. (V.C.N.S. 1631/30 to C. in C. H.F.)

Little Sole & La Chapelle Banks

During moonless periods proposed that ADVENTURE lay shallow Mines along following lines to hamper U-Boats from Biscay ports Request your early remarks. (V.C.N.S. 1631/30 to C. in C., H.F.W.A. and V.A.S.)

Newport)
Avonmouth)

Open from 0600/31. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1752/30)

Barry)
Barry Roads }

Remain closed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1752/30)

Harwich

148 QZS Clearance by Fleet Sweepers extended 7 cables further to eastward. 2 mines German Y type cut and sunk in position 52° 5.4' N., 01° 51.4' E., One sweep parted by anti sweeping device in approx same position. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1818/30 to Adty)

Humber

Red Magnetic Mine exploded by LL 323° 4 cables from No 3 Middle Buoy. No flame, smoke or discoloration. (F.O.Humber 1839/30)

M.L. 109

Mined about 112° 5000 yards from Bull Sand Fort at 1755. M.L. 106 returned to Grimsby with 8 survivors. (F.O.Humber 2127/30 to Admty) Wreck is ashore at Holmpton near Withernsea. Salvage Officer attending. 3 missing, believed dead. (F.O.Humber 1205/31) My 2127/30 M.L. 109 was returning to harbour with unsatisfactory engines and was to south of searched channel. Position 164° Spurn Main Lighthouse 2.9 miles. No information obtainable regarding particulars of explosion (F.O.Humber 1910/31)

30.10.1940
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

Stettin, Swinemunde,)
Rostock, Cuxhaven,) R/C on 19/10 (IU 0110/30 to N.I.D.)
Emden, Wilhelmshaven)
Delfzijl.)

Boulogne, Treport,)
Dieppe, Fecamp,) R/C at 1400/29 (PIU 0145/30 to N.I.D.)
Havre Honfleur, Caen.)

Rotterdam, Amsterdam,) R/C at 1230/29 (PIU 0212/30 to N.I.D.)
Ijmuiden.)

German Cruiser and) Your 1655/29. In which direction was
3 destroyers passing) Force proceeding. (D.D.I.C. 1114/30 to
Copenhagen 1200/28.) B. Consul, Gothenburg) Northgoing.
 (Gothenburg 1330/30 to D.N.I.) Report
 graded B.1. (D.D.I.C. 1748/30 to C. in C.
 H.F.)

German My 1159/22. For Wilhelmshaven 21/10
Main Units read Wilhelmshaven 29/10. (D.D.I.C.
 1511/30 to A.I.G. 45)

Large ETA Brest from Atlantic about end October
German M/V Speed 5 knots owing to engine trouble.
 (V.A.S. 2341/30 to S/M's Area B.)

MOST SECRET

30.10.1940

WednesdayWar DiaryCASUALTIES & DEFECTS

BIBURY)
KOSMOS)
NATIA)
KILLORAN)

Overdue. Probable fate (See South Atlantic)

2 Lifeboats

With survivors, reported from DELANE in 54° 30' N., 13° 10' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1126/30 to Admty.)

FEARLESS

In collision with SS LANARK at anchor off Gourock at 0041/30. Damage. (FEARLESS 0209/30 to Admty.)

LISBON

British, 1984 tons. Ashore near Rattray Head. (C. in C., Rosyth 0817/30) A wreck on Rattray Briggs. (C. in C., Rosyth 0947/31)

→ SIMONBURN

British, 5213 tons. Ashore off Stonehaven Bay. Requires assistance (Scapa W/T 0600/30) Reported sinking 1500/30 in 355° 4 miles Rattray Head. Drifting Northward. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1900/30 to Adty.) Floated off p.m./30 and is drifting derelict. (C. in C. Rosyth 0947/31 to C. in C., W.A.)

→ BARON MINTO

British, 4637 tons. Ashore North side Stonehaven. (BARON MINTO 0607/30) Stranded on even keel (C. in C., Rosyth 0947/31)

CLUMBER HALL

British, 5198 tons. Ashore Rattray Head. (CLUMBER HALL 0801/30) Refloated. No damage (JASON 0925/30 to C. in C., Rosyth)

ALCORA

British, 1381 tons. Ashore Rattray Head. (C. in C., Rosyth 1057/30 to Adty.) Abandoning ship (Wick Radio 1316/30) On beam ends on sandy bottom. (C. in C., Rosyth 0947/31)

Position of steamers at Rattray Head noon 30/10 LISBON. Wrecked on Briggs. Crew landed at Fraserburgh 30. SIMONBURN. Abandoned and Afloat drifting north. Rescue Tug ABEILLE IV will endeavour to take in tow. Crew of 24 landed at Fraserburgh. BARON MINTO. Ashore in good position on Sand Spit Crew of 26 on board, remainder 31 landed at Fraserburgh.

/CLUMBER HALL....



War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Position of steamers at Rattray Head-Contd.

CLUMBER HALL, refloated, proceeding south.
ALCORA, shore 2 miles North of Rattray.
Lifeboat embarking crew. Escort vessel
standing by. No casualties reported.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1326/30) *See page 682.*

Tugs ABEILLE IV and WATERMANNYER at Peterhead
awaiting weather moderating to attempt
salvage on BARON MINTO reported holed in
engine room. Salvage Officer now at Peter-
Head. Vessels cannot be boarded under
present conditions PATIA has proceeded south
ALTA bunkering off Fraserburgh proceeding
south on completion. SIMONBURN has sunk.
ALCORA practically dry at low water inside
sand bank. Investigation proceeding.
LISBON total wreck.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1601/31)

My 1601/30 and 0947/31. SS CLUMBERHALL
arrived Methil 1500/31. SS SIMONBURN not
seen by searching aircraft and is presumed
to have sunk. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1651/31)

ARIDITY

(Sunk by Mine 19/10) has been raised.
(D.S. 422)

SHEAF FIELD

(Mined 28/10) Not considered, with cargo, to
be a total loss (D.S. 422)

STROMBUS

(Mined 26/10 and beached) has broken in
half and is a total loss (D.S. 422)

DUNDAS

From U.K., due Durban
28/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0935/
30 to Adty.)

FLAMINIAN

British, 2711 tons. Commodore of Convoy
E.N. 12 now at Methil states FLAMINIAN reported
being in collision at 0330/27 with an unknown
vessel described as Destroyer near Kinnaird
Head and was damaged above water.
Arrived Oban 1300/29. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1619/
30 to F.O. Tyne)

/LEDA.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary-30.10.1940
WednesdayCASUALTIES & DEFECTS-Contd.LEDA

LEDA reports has dragged across merchant ship's bows. Merchant ship undamaged. LEDA holed in tiller flat, required dockyard assistance but seaworthy in fine weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1743/30 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen)
LEDA to proceed to Aberdeen as soon as weather moderates sufficiently. (C. in C., Rosyth 1817/30 to M.S. 5.)

KINGSLAND

British, 3669 tons. Being driven ashore inside Bosie Bank. Position 58° 5' N., 3° 20' W., (KINGSLAND 2118/30) As far as we know being driven on to Clythness or Borriedale Ness. Have lifeboat standing by. (KINGSLAND 2148/30)

STURDY

At 0630 today WESTERN ISLES reported STURDY ashore in about 56° 29' N., 06° 59' W. RHODODENDRON was sailed from Tobermory and tug MARAUDER from Campbeltown to her assistance. Later reported STURDY broken in half but crew safe except 2 reported drowned. No communication has been received from STURDY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1145/30 to Adty.)

4 officers and 77 ratings of STURDY sailed in RHODODENDRON for Oban ETA 2200/30. 3 officers and 19 men remaining with wreck. Ship is a total loss. Back is broken and stern turned through 90°. Body of leading stoker recovered. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1730/30 to Admty)

MOST SECRETWar Diary30.10.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShippingM. V. BORE X

Rendezvous as ordered by H.M.S. SOUTHAMPTON West of Skopen Fiord and escort Finnish M.V. BORE X to Kirkwall. Acknowledge. (S.O. Trawlers N. Patrol, 1457/30 to NORTHERNSKY)

BLACKHEATH RALLUS and KERISTAN

Sailed for Clyde 0830. Details of personnel (Alabaster 1820/29)

BULLDOG

Two large ships escorted by H.M.S. BULLDOG pass Bell Rock 1900 Northbound speed 10 knots. C. in C., Rosyth 1838/30)

Signals required

The following signal is required in connection with the sailing of convoys:-

- (1) On Convoy sailing.
 - (A) Reference Number of Convoy.
 - (B) Time of sailing.
 - (C) Escort
 - (D) Number of ships in Convoy.
- (2) Above signal to be addressed to, etc.
- (3) In the case of W.N. Convoys the above to be repeated to, etc., (C. in C., W.A. 1927/30 to N.C.S.O. Oban)

Air Escorts

Your 1340/29. Consider it essential to give the latitude at which ships will cross 10° W. in order that our aircraft can locate them.

2. Presume routes in Western Approaches will be repeated to me. (C. in C., W.A. 1950/30 to Adty.)

SS ADDA Personnel for Faroes

- (1) SS ADDA, speed 12½ knots, carrying 550 Military Reinforcement Personnel for the Faroes will be ready to sail from Liverpool about 8/11.
- (2) ADDA will be required to bring back 150 personnel from Faroes to Liverpool.
- (3) C. in C. H.F. to state when it will be convenient to provide escort after that date (D.O.D. (H) 2219/30)

Convoys

W.N. 26

Allowing speed of about 4 knots. Apparent no headway was made and convoy got split. Have located 5 ships aground close to north of Rattray lighthouse. Proceeding to endeavour to render assistance. Gale blowing along shore. (JASON 0820/30 to C. in C. Rosyth)

/Further....

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSConvoysShipping

W.N. 26.-Contd.

Further to my 1326/30/10* *See page 679.*
 SS PATIA anchored off Roseheartly.
 Commodore of W.N. 26 disembarked proceeding
 to Aberdeen.
 SS ALTA at Fraserburgh.
 One vessel name unknown anchored in Aberdour
 Bay.
 SS SIMONBURN reported sinking 4 miles 355°
 Rattray. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1656/30)
 * no trace in War Registry-called for.

S.C. 8.

Lost contact with S.C.8 during bad weather.
 My position 0800/30 056° 00' N., 009° 50' W
 steering 270° Speed 10 knots to 011° W.
 searching for convoy. (GLADIOLUS 0858/30)

My position 55° 52' 12" 17' passing FACTO,
 ANVERS, BENEDICK, PARTHENON. All proceeding
 Clyde, not met Commodore, reference MAN-O-WAR
 1157 proceeding course and speed 078° 1 4
 (WESTON 1350/30)

Cmdre of Convoy and 8 ships in company in-
 cluding MAN-O-WAR. Estimated p.c. and s. at
 1600/30 55 23 N., 11 26 W., 062° altering
 to 092° at 2330 speed 7½ (CAMPANULA 1601/30)

H.X. 81.

Separated from H.X. 81 in the gale. My
 observed position at 1000 059° 00' N., 012
 22' W., course-degrees 137 making good 10
 knots. GLOXINIA in company. Join me in 058°
 15' N., 011° 00' W. at 1630 today. From
 latter position intend steering for 058° 00'
 N., 010° 00' W. (Weather) (ABERDEEN 1030/30 to
 WALKER, VANSITTART)

Observed p,c and s. 057° 00' N., 014° 20' W.
 099° 15 for splitting 0800/31.
 (GARDENIA 1710/30)

→ My 1030/30. WALKER and VANSITTART have joined
 me. His intentions. (ABERDEEN 1815/30)

H.G. 46.

Convoy H.G. 46 due to leave Gibraltar 30/10
 (route) through (R.V. with local escort)
 (F.O.C.N.P. 1200/30 to LAURENTIC, PATROCLUS,
 DERBYSHIRE, CILICIA, SALOPIAN, CAMITO.

/O.G. 45.....

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShippingConvoys-Contd.

O.G. 45

O.G. 45 sailed 1122/30 4 ships 8 knots escort WANDERER, WILD SWAN, CLARE. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1220/30)

S.L. 51

My p, c and s are 053° 40' N., 107° 16' W., 081° 16. No ship in sight visibility good. At 1930 will alter course to 261° speed dependent on weather. Request instructions. (ALCANTARA 1400/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 1400/29. My position course and speed is now 054° 07' N., 013° 18' W., 057° 8 knots. State of weather. (PRIMROSE 1500/30)

Ships scattered from convoy S.L. 51 may be met between 053° N., 018° 30' W., and 053° 50' N., 015° 40' W., during tonight Wednesday. (F.O. (S) 1547/30 to CLYDE)

Met in position 055° 03' N., 012° 10' W., 26 ships. (ARROW 1630/30)

My p, c and s 2130/30 054° N., 014° W., 060° 8. GERANIUM in company. Expect to overtake Convoy at daylight tomorrow, Thursday. Have closed down one boiler owing to bad leakage in joint. (HEARTSEASE 2020/30)

On convoy splitting ROCHESTER, PRIMROSE are to remain with Liverpool portion. (C. in C., W.A. 2043/30)

On convoy splitting GARDENIA is to remain with Liverpool portion. (C. in C., W.A. 2051/30)

Proceed North Channel at best speed. Further instructions as to onward route will be signalled. (C. in C., W.A. 2351/30 to ALCANTARA)

O.B. 235
H.X. 82

My p, c and s, 1200/30 057° 14' N., 016° 00' W., (?134°) 8 knots. WITHERINGTON, Commodore and 8 ships in company, remainder split up by a storm and presumably in groups nearby with remaining escorts. Am detaching WITHERINGTON at dark 30th with orders to endeavour to locate remaining escorts and to refuel these only. Do not know fuel state of remaining escorts. It will be necessary for VETERAN to leave H.X. 82 to refuel at dark Saturday 2nd. Barometer 967 visibility 6 dry bulb 55 wet bulb 54 wind direction 190 force 5. (VETERAN 1400/30)

/Owing to....



War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

O.B. 235
H.X. 82- Contd.

Owing to D/F of U-Boat at 1511/30 in 58° 30' N., 18° 00' to 21° 00' W. on passing through 57° 28' N., 16° 40' W., O.B. 235 is to steer for 57° 00' N., 25° 00' W., where convoy is to disperse. (C. in C., W.A. 1627/30)

W.N. 27

Your 1255 all crew saved. Search for survivors unnecessary. SOUTHERN FLOWER being sent to tow. (A.C.O.S 1415/30 to FOWEY)

W.N. 27 will remain under Lee of coast west of Dunnet Head for the night attempting passage of Pentland Firth at daylight. Request Dunnet Head Light from 0600. (FOWEY 1623/30)

?

Following received from R.A.F. Commodore starboard quarter from LA MALOUINE course and speed 195 5, following ships in company AENUMA numbers 42 43 52 53 and H.M.S. LINNET request instructions ends. Time of origin 1145. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1514/30)

O.B. 236
H.X. 82

Local escorts of O.B. 236 will be required to reinforce H.X. 82 a.m./2/11. Convoy is therefore to steer (route) (C. in C., W.A. 1705/30 to BROKE, MALCOLM, SARDONYX ARABIS, HELIOTROPE)

W.N. 28

My 1546/28, to FLEETWOOD only. Meet W.N. 28 code word ~~due~~ due Cape Wrath 0030/1 and Duncansby Head 1030/1. (C. in C., Rosyth 1741/30 to FLEETWOOD)

E.N. 14

My portion at 2030 bearing approximately Cape Wrath 7 miles course 274° speed 7 knots bound south through Minches E.N. 14 scattered until the weather moderates. Gale and poor visibility. Ships of convoy steamships COSUELO, FLORIAN, DILIGENT. NASTURTIUM and remainder of convoy not seen. BLUEBELL searching off Skerries for Stragglers. (HIBISCUS 2030/30)

E.N. 15

E.N. 15.309 Buchan Ness 2000 speed made good to 6 knots. (BERKSHIRE 2025/30)

/O.B. 237.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary30.10.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShippingConvoys-Contd.

O.B. 237

Intend to sail ANTELOPE, ACHATES at 2315/31
with O.B. 237. (Capt D (12) 1705/30)

W.S. 4 A

Intend sailing Liverpool section of W.S. 4 A
with ABOSSO and AKAROA escorted by
HURRICANE and HARVESTER at 1300/1/11 speed
of advance 13 knots to R.V. with Newport
and Clyde Sections as in C. in C., W.A.
1537/28. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND will sail 1700/
1/11 and will R.V. at Clyde Section R.V.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1745/30)Cancel my 1248/29/10. Intend to sail
SALOPIAN with Clyde portion of W.S. 4 A on
1/11 parting company with convoy in 50°
00' N., thence West of areas F 3 and G 3 to
Area H 3. (F.O.C.N.P. 2220/30)Sailing of Newport Section W.S. 4 A delayed
10 hours. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2315/30)



War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

CANADA

Admiralty's 1913/28 CANADA had sailed from Toulon before this⁽ⁱ⁾ reached me. I have informed French Admty. but French N.A. request that you give these route instructions to her when she passes Gibraltar on 1/11. If she does not receive any instructions she will route MASSILIA signalling her position to Admty. when in 55° 35' N., 7° 15' W., (N.A. Madrid 1202/30 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

French Trawlers etc.,

Numerous French trawlers and sailing vessels left St. Pierre between 23rd and 26th October probably for Casablanca. They should be sent to United Kingdom Ports. (F.O.C.N.A. 1723/30 to Ships etc., N.A.)

Passengers by air to Libreville

According to intercepted W/T message French Military Authorities commandeered a Sikorsky (F A O X E) to carry 6 passengers and 1200 pounds material from Cotonou to Libreville on 16/10. A Colonel and a Captain were refused passage to Libreville on 26/10, the mail plane being fully booked as result of Naval requisition. (C. in C., S.A. 1855N/30)

Exchange of Prisoners of War

Your 1809/25. French N.A. informs me that he has no reply but that he knows intentions of French Govt. are to retain French Emissaries of General de Gaulle whom they regard as rebels. I have asked him to repeat urgently substance of last para of your 1809/25 and have emphasized great importance of matter. (N.A. Madrid 1929/30)

STRASBOURG etc.

See C.G. Tangier's 1628/30 Addressed Admiral Gibraltar repeated F.O. 614/30 (F.O.C.N.A. 1854/30)

C.G. Tangier's 1638/30 and my 1854/30. Is passage of these ships to be interfered with or are they to be shadowed. All available ships are at short notice. (F.O.C.N.A. 1956/30 to Adty.)

Your 1956/30. If STRASBOURG, one or more cruisers or 4 or more destroyers pass through the Straits they should be shadowed from ahead and if they attempt to proceed to the northward they must be prevented after due warning.

/If they



War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

STRASBOURG etc.
Contd.

If they proceed to the southward they should not be interfered with and should not be shadowed except in the case of STRASBOURG. (1st. S.L. 2126/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

25. Your 2126/30. destroyer patrol has been established in vicinity of meridian Alboran. (F.O.C.N.A. 2334/30 to Adty.)

R.C. of
Port Gentil &
Libreville

My 2249/28. No trace of receipt in W.R. 4th reconnaissance of Port Gentil today showed PONCELET or similar submarine anchored off town. Submarine had awnings furled and fired on reconnaissance aircraft. At Libreville which was also visited BOUGAINVILLE did not open fire. (F.O.C.I.C.S. 2055/30 to C. in C., S.A.)

Aircraft
Reconnaissance
of Gibraltar

French reconnaissance aircraft flew over Rock 1220 today but was quickly driven off. (Gov. Gib. 3191/30, T.O.O. 2350/30)

North Atlantic

Gibraltar,
Attack by
One-Man
Submarines

Commercial anchorages and northern entrance were attacked this morning by what appears to be 2 Italian one-man submarines or torpedoes. One Italian officer and one rating picked up. No damage. (F.O.C.N.A., 1246/30) Further details. One "torpedo" salvaged by Spaniards. (F.O.C.N.A. 2352/30)

Troops

Re disposal. Re Admtly 0315/29 etc., (W.O. 86901/30)

Greek Troops

Greek authorities at Lisbon have been asked if there is any way of transporting Greek Troops from Spain back to Greece. (N.C.S.O.Lisbon, 1531/30 to Admtly.)

Repatriation
of French

Asking that French under age who took refuge in England at end of June may be repatriated. (N.A.Madrid 1900/30)

/ARK ROYAL.....

* Signal pack on this attack is in ACNS(F) 26, Vol 4,
pages 38-51

MOST SECRETWar Diary30.10.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.

ARK ROYAL
ARGUS
"HURRY" Hurry.

S.O. Force H 1950/30. See Mediterranean Volume.

Operation
"White Collar"

My 2109/26. FEARLESS will not now accompany this force as she is damaged. (D.O.D.(H.) 2009/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE
Survivors,
(torpedoed 5/10)

28 Officers and men of H.M.Trawler KINGSTON SAPPHIRE leave Huelva tonight by British ship for Gibraltar (N.A.Madrid 1948/30)

South AtlanticCARNARVON CASTLE

My 1807/N/23. On arrival Takoradi to escort WESTERNLAND to Capetown by direct route. After fuelling Capetown to proceed to South America Division, A & W.I. in accordance R.A.S.A.D. 1445Z/25. (C. in C., S.A., 1109/30)

Convoys, WS 3 B
WS 3 A, WS 3

Movements. Escort, DORSETSHIRE (N.O.i/c Simonstown 0840/30)

W.S. 3 B

Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0845Z/30, N.C.S.O. Capetown 0921/30)

DUNDAS
Overdue

Due Durban 28/10 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.I.) Capetown, 0935/30)

Convoy S.L. 54

R.V. (position) (time) N.C.S.O. Freetown 1159/30)

BIBURY
KOSMOS
NATIA
KILLORAN
Overdue

The following ships are seriously overdue: BIBURY sailed Milford Haven 28/8 due Buenos Aires 25/9 and KOSMOS sailed Belgrade 12/9 for Curacao where she was expected about 10/10. The present assumptions are BIBURY should have been near position 500 miles westward Cape Verde Island about 15/9 and KOSMOS near position 500 miles North Pernambuco about 30/9. NATIA is likely to have been victim of attack in 001° N 032° W on the 8/10 reported by HIGHLAND PRINCESS and DEFOE. KOSMOS and NATIA all have met the same raider about dates and in position given. Finnish BARQUE KILLORAN left Buenos Aires 15/6 for Las Palmas and has not been heard of since. (C. in C., S.A. 1251N/30)

/Suspicious ship..

MOST SECRETWar Diary30.10.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-Contd.Suspicious Ship
Sighted 22/10 by
ERRIA

Master of ex Danish ship ERRIA reports sighting at 1830 Z/22 on 015° 25' S., 000° 20' W., cargo ship in ballast steering 142° Italian appearance speed 3 knots when sighted Ship altered 8 points to starboard to evade him and increased speed.

Description not unlike ALCANTARA raider (description)

Ship cannot be accounted for here. Can you identify? (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1404/30 to S.O. (I) Capetown)

P.V's

No ship is to stream paravanes on leaving Freetown until westward of 013° 20' W P.V's are to be hoisted in requirement by incoming ships before arriving at this Meridian.

These orders are applicable to all merchant ships as well as to men of war. (C. in C., S.A. 1615N/30)

MediterraneanItalian Campaign Against GreeceOperation
31/10

By 2 Greek destroyers (N.A.Athens 1154/30)

Greek Troops

Re transport from Spain. (see North Atlantic)

Mediterranean
Fleet

Plans for next few days (C. in C., Med. 1307/30, 1315/30) See Mediterranean Volume.

(No trace in Med. Vol., 511-43 54)

CANADA

Your 1225/28. Information requested as to definite sailing date, speed and expected time of arrival of French hospital ship CANADA. (D.O.D. (H) to N.A. Madrid 1230/30)

Combined
Operations

Your 2041/25, re block of words for use during combined operations. This is acceptable. Words in my 1055/22 may be used for any purpose you wish. (D.N.I. to C. in C., Med., 1101/30)

Assistance....

MOST SECRETWar Diary30.10.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Assistance to
TurkeyMessage for Admiral Kelly. (1st S.L. 2220/30)
See Mediterranean Volume.2 M.V'sAir R.C. (? 0347 reported) 2 M.V'S 3000 tons
stationary 10 miles off Ris Hibab 1600/30
(? Capt S. 1 to OSIRIS 2350/30)RORQUAL
PANDORAOrders for returning to Malta. (V.A. Malta
0945/30)Lubricants
for TurkeyYour 1131/28. You may authorize oil
companies in Egypt to supply as requisite.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1923/30 to C. in C., Med.)New AircraftYour 1159/28. 2 arrived Takoradi on 28/10
in SANGARA. 2 arrived Freetown on 26/10 in
HENRY STANLEY and 2 more in SWEDRU left
Freetown 26/10. All personnel are divided
between these 3 ships. 5 more aircraft were
despatched but the 2 ships were damaged and
had to return. 4 more now embarked in
CONGONIAN sailed from U.K. 29/10. (D.N.A.D.
1348/30 to C. in C., Med.)Exchange of
Prisoners*(Italian)*Your 2133/20. A Cabinet decision was taken
at the beginning of the war that there should
be no exchange of prisoners whatsoever other
than wounded under the provisions of the
Geneva Convention. (Hd. of N.L. 2232/30 to
C. in C., Med.)



30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S.3.

Re. (C.in C. E.I. 1138/30).

B.N.8 $\frac{1}{2}$

My 0914/22. Movements altered (C.in C. E.I. 1140 Z/30).

BRITANNIC.

Left Suez 28/10 with families for evacuation to S.A. Details. (C.in C. M.E. Q.M.2/24060).

KIMBERLEY.

My 1456/24 Para. 3. Result of trials. KIMBERLEY reports satisfactory up to 25 knots. Ship considers it inadvisable to exceed this speed except in cases of urgency. (C.in C. E.I. 1754/30).

America and West Indies.

Convoy
S.C.10.

FOLKESTONE sailed from Sydney 29/10 ocean escort S.C.10. (S.O.I. Halifax, 0157/30).

Escort for French
Merchant Ships.

Admty. 1658/14 to N.A. French ship SAN FRANCISCO left New York to join French ship WINNIPEG from New Orleans off Fire Island time of rendezvous 2130 G.M.T./30. Vessels proceeded in company 12 knots route by French 40° 38' N. 50° W. Great Circle 55° 35' N. 10° W. expected to arrive position 55° 35' N. 7° W. at 0830/G.M.T. 12/11. Approach route Liverpool issued by Admiralty through Naval Attache received by both vessels. (N.C.S.O. New York 1551/30).

MARGAREE
survivors.

PORT FAIRY arrived Bermuda 29/10 with 6 Officers and 28 Ratings survivors from MARGAREE. Enquiry is taking place now at Bermuda. PORT FAIRY will be delayed at Bermuda about 4 days for temporary repairs to make her seaworthy. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1702/29).

BISHOPDALE.

PRINCE ROBERT.

My 1901/29. BISHOPDALE has been ordered to r.v. with you in 36° 30' S. 74° 00' W. at 1600Z/14/11. If unable to make this rendezvous she will proceed into Callao pass expected date of arrival at r.v. to me by Cable. Callao pass to PRINCE ROBERT. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1731/30 to PRINCE ROBERT).

BISHOPDALE.

Cancel previous orders. Proceed forthwith to R.V. in 036° 30' S. 074° 00' W. at 1600 G.M.T./14/11. If unable to do this proceed into Callao and inform Navy Bermuda by telegram expected date of arrival at rendezvous. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1742/30).

/ A/C tender and planes...



MOST SECRET 692

30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued).

A/C tender and
planes.

Washington 2400/30 to F.O. Recommend that
U.S. proposal to send A/C tender and planes
to St. Lucia should be adopted.
(C.in C. A. W.I. 1741/30 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

30.10.1940.

Wednesday.War Diary.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

One German M.S. reported in 46.55 N., 06.15 W. at 0850 proceeding east. (V.A.S., 0928/30, to Submarines on Patrol, Area B).

USARAMO.

Confirmed that this is the 10,000 ton German ship reported at Pasajes 28/10. (D.S. 422).

KULMERLAND.

which left Kobe 9/10 has now been located in a Kobe shipyard transferred to Japanese flag and renamed TESYO MARU (D.S. 422).

BURGENLAND.

Rumoured she is soon to be transferred to Japanese flag (D.S. 422).

STORMARN.

STORMARN with cargo of iron ore is preparing to sail on or about 1/11. Probable destination Bayonne. (Bilbao 1825/30).

BRAKE
NORD ATLANTIC
LA PLATA.

My 1133/25. Transfer of 200 tons of lubricating oil from BRAKE to NORD ATLANTIC complete. LA PLATA and BRAKE taking provisions. (Actg. Consul, Vigo 1906/30.)

SESOSTRIS

Curacao 1844/30 stated K.N.S.M. Agent Puerto Cabello reports SESOSTRIS now ready for sea steam up. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 2017/30).

30.10.1940.

Wednesday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.LISBON.

British, 1984 tons. SSSS, near Aberdeen, torpedoed, requires immediate assistance. (Wick, 0527/30) LISBON ashore near Stonehaven (Scapa W/T, 0618/30) See also Casualties and Defects.

BALZAC.

British, 5372 tons. Received at 1239 G.M.T. SSSS 55.37 N., 13.26 W., BALZAC shelled 1240/30. (Port Patrick Radio, no T.O.O./30). S/M distress, shelled, 55.37 N., 13.26 W. (Scapa W/T, 1243/30) BALZAC's SSSS of 1142/30 from Land's End Radio. If in vicinity and fuel permits, attack submarine. (C.in C. W.A. 1300/30).

Met BALZAC not hit in 055° 38' N. 012° 22' W. at 1800 torpedo exploded 50 yards on quarter, submarine not sighted. HIGHLANDER proceeded 1700 to join Commodore S.C.8 and 6 ships whom I passed in position 055° 12' N. 012° 30' West at 1300/30 course 080° 7 knots escorted by CLARKIA and ?MAN O WAR. HIGHLANDER intended leaving convoy if further support arrived or on reaching 007° W. My E.T.A. Clyde 0900/31. (HARVESTER 1815/30).

USKBRIDGE
(torpedoed 17/10)

Ref. C.in C. A.W.I. 1033/28. Master of TOPDALSFJORD also reports NEVA as showing lights on port side visible at least 5 miles for at least 4 hours before first attack. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, N.S. 0950/30).

BALTROVER.

British, 4916 tons. Following has been read. SSSS. 54° 22' N. 23° 47' W. BALTROVER. Submarine now about to open fire. Course 050 speed 10 knots firing at Submarine. (Portsmouth W/T 1750/30, Nore W/T 1750/30).

Following received from Port Patrick Radio:- Navy Charge Greenock V Coast Guard Port Patrick. Intercept at 1806 G.M.T. de Valencia Radio. Corrected position of 1800 G.M.T. 54.30 N. 23.26 W. BALTROVER course 050 speed 11 knots. (Greenock 1804/30 Scapa Base Ship 1907/30).

54 22 N 23 47 W
BALTROVER submarine sighted.
(Scapa Base ship T.O.R. 1828)

54° 22 N 23° 47 W BALTROVER course 050
speed 10 knots firing at submarine.
(Scapa Base Ship 1849/30).

BALTROVER sighted Submarine in 054° 22' N.
023° 47' W. at 1830.
(C.in C. W.A. 1857/30 to PRETORIA CASTLE,
CLYDE).

30.10.1940.

Wednesday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

H.X.72.

Admiralty 2153/12 R.A.3 B.S. re darkening of ships it is noted that the C.O. of one of the escorts of HX 72 has reported that matches, cigarettes and open doors were visible all round from astern. This convoy subsequently incurred a number of casualties. It is requested that this may be promulgated to authorities at assembly ports at Home and overseas.
(C.in C. W.A. 2005/30 to Adty.)

Submarines Reported.

1105.

D/F, probable U/B, 56.30 N., 14° to 17° W. (D.D.I.C. 1142/30).

1343.

A.F. Message 55.37 N., 13.26 W. (D.D.I.C. 1517/30) (BALZAC shelled).

1511.

D.F., probable U/B, 58° to 58.30 N., 18° to 21° W. (D.D.I.C. 1556/30).

1855.

By D.F. very approx. position 44° 40' N. 2° W. (V.A.(S) 2031/30).

Estimated U-boat dispositions.

Italian - No news.
German - 1 may enter Lorient tonight.
1 may have been in 53 degs 25' N. 19 degs 30' W. at 1109/29.
2 are probably in area 58 degs to 60 degs N. and W. of 17 degs W.
1 was in 56 degs N. 10 degs 35' W. at 1055/29.
1 was in about 56 degs 30' N. between 14 degs and 17 degs W. at 1105/30.
1 may possibly reach N.W.
Approaches today from the North. (D.D.I.C. 1213/30)

Submarines Attacked.

By HARVESTER
(see BALZAC) p.694)
32 U ~~337~~ sunk by
HIGHLANDER.
HARVESTER,
SCIMITAR.

Attacked doubtful contact with one depth charge at 1820/30 in 56.50 N., 15.25 W. About one square mile of surface covered with oil fuel after attack but contact not regained. Considered non-sub. (VERITY, 1205/31).



War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Force Under
B.C. 1.

SOUTHAMPTON is escorting the Finnish BORE X intercepted 30/10 east of Iceland, towards Kirkwall. The remaining units of the force are returning from the search for suspected raider. AUSTRALIA was ordered to return on 29/10.

FORMIDABLE

FORMIDABLE (new Aircraft Carrier) commissioned today at Belfast.

CELTE

French CELTE was intercepted at 0009/31 by ships of the Northern Patrol and was ordered to Greenock in detention. The ship was flying a yellow triangular flag under her ensign.

Western Patrol

An additional object of the Western Patrol is now to provide reconnaissance against possible enemy attempt to capture the Azores.

Operations
"White Collar"
"Hurry"

ARK ROYAL, GLASGOW, DUNCAN, ISIS and FOXHOUND sailed from the Clyde today.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Heavy attacks were made last night on Antwerp and Flushing, with success. Emden was also attacked. Two E-Boats were attacked this afternoon off the Somme Estuary and a near miss obtained.

Coastal Command

Two of 3 Hudsons on offensive reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast from Skudesness Fiord to Lister Light bombed a 3000 ton merchant vessel 6 miles north of Lister, at about 1240 today, scoring one direct hit amidships.

A/S Patrols

The Air Ministry have ordered certain patrols to be instituted with the object of detecting and destroying U-Boats on passage off the Irish Coast.



War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS STARSTONE in convoy OB 238 was bombed and damaged this morning in the Atlantic 200 miles west of Ireland. She is proceeding to the Clyde.

SS BALTRADER in Convoy W.N. 26 was machine gunned at noon today off Rattray Head. At 1430 she fired 2 rounds at an aircraft with no marks visible, approaching her, and she also sent out S.O.S. The aircraft sheered off landwards and showed British markings.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected off North Foreland, Thames Estuary and Harwich.

Explosions occurred today near PRIMROSE 20 miles N. of Tory I. and near WALLACE in Firth of Forth. Explosions were seen in mid air and on surface of the water, last night, in the Thames Estuary, and off Plymouth this morning. One mine was detonated off Liverpool

M.T.B. 22
M.T.B. 16
Mined

M.T.B. 22 was mined this morning in the Thames Estuary, and was damaged. M.T.B. 16 was mined about an hour later, in the Thames Estuary, and sank early this afternoon off Harwich after being taken in tow by M.T.B. 31.

MOST SECRETWar Diary31.10.1940
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTOperations Against Vichy FrenchFrench
Destroyers
at Sea

At 0610 today GRIFFIN was shadowing 5 destroyers 70 miles S.E. of Almina Point, steering westward. S.O. Force H, in RENOWN with BARHAM and 4 destroyers left Gibraltar at 0900 to investigate, 5 more destroyers proceeding later in the day to join Force H.

Five French Destroyers passed Gibraltar today at 1315 from East to West.

CUBA
Intercepted

MORETON BAY this afternoon intercepted the French CUBA bound from Martinique to Casablanca, but steering a course as if for Dakar, about 700 miles west of Canary Is. There are about 1216 sailors on board.

Submarines
at Dakar

It is reported that 4 French submarines and a tanker with diesel oil arrived at Dakar 28/10. DRAGON, due at Bathurst is making further enquiries. C. in C., S.A. has established air and naval patrol to southward of Freetown, but the vessels may already have passed.

Mediterranean

COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, PROTECTOR, FAREHAM, FIONA, CHAKLA and 4 destroyers with two tankers are due at Suda Bay p.m. today, to establish a fuelling base. AJAX with a battalion of York and Lancaster Regt. is due tomorrow.

East Indies

Per~~im~~ was bombed today, without damage.

CHAKDINA on Per~~im~~ patrol was ineffectively bombed this morning.

31.10.1940.Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Western
Patrol.

Additional object of Western Patrol is now to provide R/C against possible Enemy attempt to capture Azores (F.O.C. N.P. 1500/31 to Western Patrol).

Shetlands.

Suggest that separation of Orkneys from Shetlands for administration and operational purposes has noticeably reduced delay and should be continued. (F.O.C.S. 2145/31 to Adty.)

"Deluge"Defence of U.K.

At 0200/31. (D.C. 0242/31). At 1400/31 (D.C. 1405/31).

Movements.COMORIN.

To enter Scapa at first light today and anchor to await onward Escort. (A.C.O.S. 0040/31 to COMORIN). You are routed as follows (F.O.C.O.S. 1132/31 to COMORIN).

Operations "White"
"Collar", "Hurry".

Pass to 1515. Join DUNCAN by 0830. (ARK ROYAL 0456/31 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow). Sailed ARK ROYAL, GLASGOW, DUNCAN, ISIS, and FOXHOUND, with s.s. PASTEUR in company, routed as by C.in C. W.A. 1710/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1410/31 to Adty.).

3 Destroyers from Nore Command to arrive Clyde by P.M./3 to escort ARGUS clear of U-Boat zone and to be under orders of C.in C. W.A. (V.C.N.S. 2156/31 to C.in C. Nore.

ARGUS to be sailed from Clyde for Gibraltar on 4/11 escorted through U-Boat zone by Destroyers detailed by C.in C. W.A. C.in C. Portsmouth requested to detail either DESPATCH or DUNEDIN to act as Ocean Escort and to arrive Clyde by P.M./3. Cruiser detailed will join Force H temporarily and escort ARGUS to U.K. on completion of Operation ~~HURRY~~ "Hurry".

C.in C. W.A. requested to issue necessary instructions. (V.C.N.S. 2231/31).

VENOMOUS, VESPER, and WINDSOR to sail for Clyde at 0830/1 to arrive P.M./3 if possible. (C.in C. Nore 2340/31 to D.21). Intend sail BERWICK at 1100/1 as by 2058/29. C.in C. W.A. requested arrange Air Escort and Fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1851/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

Harwich M.T.B's.

Your 1013/31 (?1033/31 intended) All remaining M.T.B's are to be recalled to Harwich and are to remain there for the present. (C.in C. Nore 1111/31 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.).

/ Nore Command.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued).

Nore Command. Movements to 1200/1. (C.in C. Nore 1200/31)

AGAMEMNON. ETA. Port ZA. 0830/1. (AGAMEMNON 1515/31)

Portsmouth. Night Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1523/31)

Orkneys. Positions at 2000/31. (A.C.O.S. 1531/31).

Rosyth. Movements for Night 31/1. (C.in C. Rosyth 1641/31 and 2350/31).

ARROW. ETA. 2230. AMAZON in company. (ARROW 1955/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

NIGERIA. Request you sail for Plymouth tomorrow to pass Penlee Point at 1700. (C.in C. W.A. 2201/31 to C.S.10).

CHALLENGER)
CURACOA)
DIDO)
KEPPEL)

ETA. Scapa. CHALLENGER 2330, CURACOA 2345, DIDO and KEPPEL 0040. (A.C.O.S. 2216/31).

Operations.

Suspicious Vessel. Have not received 1445/30 from F.O.C.N.P. No details of R/V. Proceeding Skopen Fiord. Position 61° 42' N. 8° 24' W. Course 072° speed 8 knots. (NORTHERN SKY 0400/31 to SOUTHAMPTON).

Operation "Lucid".
~~HUGED~~ NIGER, SPEEDWELL, SELKIRK to join Force B. SUTTON, GOSSAMER, ELGIN to join Force A. (C.in C. Nore 1026/31 to D.21, etc.). W/T watch as follows on leaving Sheerness (C.in C. Nore 1310/31). Owing to Mine Casualties and Weather, not now possible for M.T.B's and M.L's to be ready for Operation tomorrow. Operation therefore postponed. It will be carried out on Night 2/3 if Dover Minefield sufficiently cleared. (C.in C. Nore 2058/31 to Adty.)

VANOC.
VOLUNTEER. Patrol Eastwards tonight as cover for Convoy C.E.15. They may proceed Southward, keeping clear of S/M Areas W2 and S.3. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/31 to Adty.)

Western Patrol. DERBYSHIRE and CILICIA take Area F.2. and G.2 respectively from 2000/2. SALOPIAN take Area F.1 on arrival. Territorial Waters should not be entered or presence made more conspicuous than necessary. (F.O.C.N.P. 1500/31 to Western Patrol 22).

31.10.1940.
Thursday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

CACHALOT)
TAKU)
CLYDE)
ROSEMARY)
Movements 2 to 4/11. (Capt. S.2. 1024/31)

O.24. At 0900/29 unsuccessfully attacked M/V. 1200 tons off Holmengraa. (O.24 1301/31 to S.9.)

H.34.)
B.1.)
Intend sail H.34 from Rothesay at 1100/3 escorted by BREDA for Tobermory. ETA. Tobermory 0900/4. WESTERN ISLES requested sail B.1. for Rothesay escorted by BREDA on arrival to carry out operation in W.S. 1716/30. (Capt. S.7. 1436/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

Bombing. My 1126/2. Havre, Lorient, Bordeaux. (F.O.S. 1534/31 to S/M's Area B).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/1. (V.A.S. 1639/31).

British Air Activity.

German Transport sunk. Swedish press reports sinking off Sogne Fiord 26/10 of a German transport of about 2500 tons as result of air attack. (Air Min. D.S.)

Nore. No air R/C. (C.in C. Nore 0519/31 to Adty.)

Proposed occasional Fighter A/C at Sumburgh. Recently the visits to Shetland of enemy aircraft have been increasing in frequency and this and their behaviour make it clear they have knowledge that our Fighters have left. It is suggested that it might be worth considering that occasionally and for a few days at a time a Fighter or two should be sent to Sumburgh to take advantage of this. (F.O.C. 0910/31 to Adty.)

S.A. 1 E. Postponed owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 0950/31).

S.A. 2 N. Cancelled. No A/C available. (C.in C. Rosyth 0950/31).

Plymouth Balloon Barrage. C.in C. W.A. 1102/29. Concur proposals close hauling water borne sites to 300 feet in emergency. Naval authorities must accept possibility of frequent balloon losses which may not be quickly replaceable in unfavourable weather and with difficulties of gas supply. Consider re-siting of sites 43 and 44 on land

/ involving



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

Plymouth
Balloon
Barrage
(contd.)

involving move 500 to 600 yards Eastward does not materially affect protection of anchorage and urge re-consideration by local authorities in order to minimise possible losses.
(H.Q. Balloon Command 1050/31 to Air Ministry).

Balloon Command's 1050/31. Admiralty accept possibility of loss of balloons and request your concurrence to C.in C. Western Approaches' proposals contained in his message 1102/29. Question of re-siting of sites 43 and 44 to be taken up subsequently by local authorities as suggested by Balloon Command.
(D. of L.D. 1316/31 to Air Ministry).

Arrangements agree locally for the close-hauling of water borne sites to 300 feet in emergency are confirmed and should be carried out. Local authorities should reconsider the suggestion contained in my A.438/26/10 paragraph 2(B) regarding sites 43 and 44.
(Air Ministry 1835/31 to Air Commands).

Bombing of
Enemy Coastal
Batteries.

Request action on C.in C. Nore's 1702/30.
(Air Ministry 1051/31 to Bomber Command).

Nore 1702/30. Available aircraft of Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons to bomb coastal battery positions between Calais and Ambleteuse between 0415/0545 hours Friday 1st November during passage of convoy C.E.15 through Straits of Dover.
(H.Q.C.C. 1255/31 to 16 Group).

Action requested in C.in C. Nore's 1702/30 is being taken by Coastal Command.
(Air Ministry 1515/31 to Bomber Command).

Plymouth.
Proposed transfer
of 4 Balloon Sites.

C.in C. W.A. 1856/30. Concur. Request your very early consideration and concurrence. (D. of L.D. 1109/31 to Fighter Command).

Hatston.
Proposed Withdrawal
of A/C.

Adty's 1347/30. Consider retention of these 2 Squadrons at Hatston is necessary. Reasons. (A.C.O.S. 1216/31 to C.in C.H.F.)

Belfast.
Orders to Ships
to fire on A/C.

If instructions in F.C. Signal A.269/30/10 have been given by F.O.I.C. Belfast, request they be cancelled as contrary to my A.905/31/7. (Air Ministry 1323/31 to Adty.)

/ Rosyth
A/A Defences.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued)

Rosyth
A/A Defences.

Your 009/25. Arrangements already made meet your requirements. As from 1200/23/10 all aircraft are routed so as to avoid the Rosyth defended area. No.13 group controller has been temporarily authorised as from 1200/23/10 to permit barrage fire to be opened against raids which appear likely to threaten the vital area. (Air Ministry 1400/31 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

STARSTONE.

British, 5702 tons. Bombed in 54° 11' N. 15° 39' W. (Valentia Radio 0906/31) Proceed to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1037/31 to ALCANTARA) Burning in forehold (STARSTONE. Received 1040/31). Have found STARSTONE in 53° 11' N. 15° 35' W. She reports five under control and can proceed to Clyde at 5 knots. Requires Tug or Trawler. 1 killed, several injured. (ALCANTARA 1248/31 to C.in C. W.A.)

B.C.l.

One A/C shadowing at 59° 29' N. 4° 10' W. (B.C.l. 0950/31) Shadower gone. (F.O.C. 1st B.S. 0959/31 to Adty.)

BALTRADER.

British, 1699 tons. Gunned off Rattray Head. (Wick Radio 1100/31). Bombed. (Scapa Base Ship 1430/31) Bombed off N.W. Ireland 0800/24. Gunned 5' S.W. of Rattray Head 1200/31. Details. (C.in C. Rosyth 2311/1 to Adty.)

ARCTIC TRAPPER.

(Damaged by near miss 29/10) My 1921/29. Refloated and brought into Dover. (V.A. Dover 0951/31 to Adty.)

Mining.

Sheerness.

Red Mine detonated at 0345 in 080° East Oaze L.V. 1.3 miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0501/31 to Adty.)

Approaches to Rosyth.

Cancel my 1301/26 and my 0810/29. (C.in C. Rosyth 1021/31).

Thames Estuary.

Following explosions seen during night 30-31 October. 1935 heavy explosion in mid-air in about mid-Shingles buoy. 2125 3 large explosions on surface of water bearing 050 degrees from Edinburgh Channels buoy. distant 2227 flash followed by heavy explosion distant on approximate bearing 330 degrees from Edinburgh Channels buoy. 0215 a line of about 15 flashes on surface water bearing 080 degrees from Edinburgh Channels buoy distant. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1025/31 to C.in C. Nore).

/ M.T.B.22.

31.10.40

Thursday



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

M.T.B.22.

Mined in 1½ miles South of Middle Gunfleet Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1033/31 to Adty.)

Proposed Mining of Little Sole and La Chapelle Banks.

Your 1631/30. No objection is seen to proposals in (A) and (B) of paragraph 3 but I am strongly opposed to the laying of (C) as this would materially restrict the operations of our own submarines. I have no objection to additional mines being laid west of 07 degs. 30' W. (V.A.S. 1224/31 to Adty.)

Your 1631/30 para.3. Concur provided own submarine patrols are not interfered with. A submarine patrol off Brest is of more value than the field proposed in (C).

Surface escort and air protection will be required as the whole passage cannot be made in the dark. (C.in C. W.A.2103/31 to Adty.)

M.T.B.16.

Sunk Crew in GOSSAMER. (ST.MELLONS 1410/31 to O.I.C. Harwich).

B.S.44.

Operation postponed 24 hours on account of weather (TEVIOT BANK 1520/31)

S.N.44.

Cancel my 1045/30 (R.A.M.L. 1627/31 to C.in C. W.A.) As Destroyers delayed by weather, presume you will delay S.N.44. Hoped to sail Destroyers tomorrow. (C.in C. W.A. 2003/31 to R.A.M.L.)

Plymouth.

Since my 1748/25 two red mines detonated by double L. 0840/31 50° 16' 30" N. 04° 10' 30" W., 0902/31 212° 5.5 cables from breakwater light. Also three spontaneous explosions 1656/30 215 degrees breakwater fort 1.5 miles, 1708/30 approximately 128 degrees 9 cables, 1427/31 100 degrees 2 cables Knap buoy. (C.in C. W.A. 1646/31 to Adty.)

Barry.)
Barry Roads.)

Will be open from 0800/1. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1846/31).

Harwich)
Fleet Sweepers)

Adty's 2347/28. Not now expected that reinforcement will be required unless further Minelaying takes place. (C.in C. Nore 1919/31 to C.in C. Rosyth) Cancel my 2347/28. (D.M.S.2140/31).

Liverpool.

LL sweeps detonated Mine in sweep at 120° Bar Light Vessel 2.15 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2050/31 to Adty.)



31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest, Lorient,)
St. Nazaire,)
Bordeaux.)

Latest R/C. (V.A.S. 1634/31).

Area C.1 (Lister)

WILK'S report 13 to 23/10. (V.A.S.1727/31 to STURGEON).

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.

Thursday.War Diary.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.HELENA MARGARETA

British, 3316 tons. Engines disabled 8 miles West of Skerryvore. (H.MARGARETA 0519/31) Have ceased making water but rapidly drifting into danger and require towing. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0655/31) Am standing by ship (WESTON 0840/31 to C.in C. W.A.). In tow of WESTON at 56° 33' N. 7° 5' W. At 1715/31, proceeding to Tobermory at 3 knots. Tugs DILIGENT and HIBISCUS in company. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1820/31 to Tug THAMES) Tug THAMES should arrive Ship 1500/31. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1232/31 to WESTON.)

Report position. Tug THAMES unable to make contact (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1511/1 to WESTON) HELENA MARGARETA in tow of WESTON arrived Loch Bay, Skye. (TRELAWNEY 1731/1 to C.in C. W.A.).

GUNNY.

Norwegian, 2362 tons. Due Cape Town 27/10 from Rio de Janeiro. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0945 B/31 to Adty.)

VERS LE DESTIN.

French Drifter. Ashore 100 yards West of Mole at Lyme Regis. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1556/31 to Adty.) Afloat and proceeding into Lyme Regis Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1819/31 to Adty.)

BRYNMILL.

Tug ENGLISHMAN is pumping out compartments in Loch Dunvegan, Skye. Intends sail for Stornoway at daybreak/1 if weather favourable. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2016/31 to Adty.)



31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

F.N. and F.S.

Following from F.O. Harwich. Intend to employ "Flower" class corvettes as additional escort for F.N. and F.S. convoys commencing tomorrow Friday. (C.in C. Rosyth 2357/31).

My 1103/26. Cancel F.S.26. F.S.27 will be fast and F.S.28 slow (C.in C. Rosyth 2211/31).

F.N. 24.

Delayed 24 hours (C.in C. Nore 2008/31).

F.S.

My 1103/26. Cancel F.S.26. F.S.27 will be fast, F.S.28 slow. (C.in C. Rosyth 2211/31).

E.N. 16.

Cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1141/31).

E.N. 17.

Will include ships detailed for E.N.16. (C.in C. Rosyth 1141/31).

E.N.17.
W.N.29.
W.N.30.

WOLSEY and LOWESTOFT are to sail at 1630 tomorrow for Methil subsequently sailing as A.A. cover for E.N. 17 at 0600/2. WOLSEY is to part company as necessary to rendezvous with W.N. 29, close escort NORTHERN SPRAY and Pentland Firth due Duncansby Head about 1000/3 and is to provide A.A. cover to Methil. LOWESTOFT is to transfer to W.N.30 on meeting and is then to provide A.A. cover for W.N. 30 to Methil. Code word, E.N. 17, ~~WOLSEY~~, W.N. 29 ~~WOLSEY~~, W.N. 30 ~~WOLSEY~~ "CHERRY CHIT". (C.in C. Rosyth, 2245/31).

F.S. 23.

23 position at 0200/31. (WATCHMAN, 0130/31)

F.S. 24.

FS 24 anticipate sailing 6 from Tyne 6 from Middlesbrough. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1712/31 to LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN).

H.X. 81 B.

Arriving position 053° 48' N. 005° 08' W. at 1200/l. N.O.I.C. Holyhead pass to Trawler ARSENAL. (ABERDEEN, 2130/31).

H.X. 82.

Amended R/V and route, then to split in 56° 00' N. 08° 00' W. (C.in C. W.A. 1741/31 to VETERAN, WITHERINGTON, CHELSEA, etc.)

O.B. 235.

My position, course and speed at 1200/31. Have been unable to locate any stragglers of O.B. 235. Am proceeding to Londonderry to fuel. (VERITY 1205/31 to C.in C. W.A.)

O.B.O. 237.

Expect to sail O.B.O 237 0400/1 H.M. Tugs LADY MADELINE, NORWICH CITY, 6 ships R/V with O.B. 237 at 1300/1. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1630/31)

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

O.G. 45.

H.M.T. HAARLEM and ERIN unable to sail with O.G. 45 yesterday owing defects. Expect to complete in 48 hours. Next O.G. conference 19/11. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1255/31 to C.in C. W.A.)

S.L. 51.

A/C report received from Aldergrove from AMAZON. Joined ARROW and 26 ships at 0700/31 in position 54° 40' N. 09° 00' W. T.O.O. 0925/31. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1615/31).

STARSTONE

Your 1723/31 position in my 1248/31 (position of STARSTONE) should read 054° 11' N. 015° 35' W. (ALCANTARA, 1742/31 to C.in C. W.A.). *See also p. 703.*

W.N. 27.

Convoy W.N. 27 is sheltering west of Dunnet Head and attempting passage of Pentland Firth at daylight. Provide A/A cover to Rattray Head then return to Scapa. (F.O. (D) H.F., 0445/31, to CURACOA).

Am proceeding with 7 ships of W.N.27. Consider remainder are sheltering well astern. (FOWEY, 0928/31, to A.C.O.S.)

Following received from CURACOA. FOWEY with seven small ships of W.N.27 now proceeding. FOWEY states remainder are sheltering somewhere between Clyde and Pentland Firth. As convoy should reach Rattray Head after dark intend leaving it at dark and returning to Scapa. 0931. (A.C.O.S. 1335/31 to Admty.)

W.N.O.29.

Expect to sail W.N.O.29 code word ^{*(limited)*} ~~LIMITED~~ 0800/1, H.M. Trawler WOLVES, 4 ships routed through Firth of Lorne to R.V. with ^{"master"} ~~master~~ (position) at 1630/1. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1635/31).

ABDA.

Your 2219/30. Lloyd's register shows draught of ABDA as nearly 25 feet but maximum depth alongside Thorshaven is 22 feet. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1647/31 to Admty.)

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA ANTONIA.

2 destroyers are to meet LETITIA with EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and ANTONIA at dawn 2/11 and escort them to Clyde. (C.in C. H.F. 1748/31 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

/ Convoys Crossing 10° W.

MOST SECRET.31.10.1940.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Continued)

Convoys
Crossing
10° W.

229
Your 1950/30 it is intended to send a daily signal to C.in C. Western Approaches repeating to H.Q. Coastal Command and H.Q. Fighter Command forecasting 48 hours ahead what ships are expected to cross 10° West indicating at the same time their respective latitudes. Admty. 1340/39 will not be fully operative until middle November as ships now on passage will not have received these instructions. (D.T.D. 1509/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

Troop Convoys
W.S.4A

F.O. i/c Cardiff's 2315/30. Liverpool and Clyde Sections of W.S.4A are to sail as originally ordered. F.O.i/c Milford Haven is to arrange new R/V for GARLAND to join Newport Section which has time to catch up the main body at the R/V given in my 1545/28. (C.in C. W.A. 1101/31).



War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

GRIFFIN
Shadowing
5 Destroyers

0610/31. GRIFFIN shadowing 5 unknown vessels in 70° Almina Point 70, course 270°. Ships burning navigation lights. (F.O.C.N.A. 0712/31) My 0712. 5 destroyers (F.O.C.N.A.'s 0712. In view of Consul General Tangier's 1900/30, Force H including BARHAM and 9 destroyers proceeding westward at 0830. (S.O. Force H., 0753/31)

If French destroyers proceed to Casablanca and if air reconnaissance indicates no movement of French ships now at Casablanca intend returning to Gibraltar with Force H. (V.A.H., to Admty, 0914/31)

Gibraltar 1315/31. French destroyers BRESTOIS BORDELAIS, SIMOUN, TEMPETE, L'ALCYON passed from east to west (S.O.I), Gib., 1435/31) Return to Gibraltar after dark if French ships still proceeding to Casablanca. (S.O. Force H 1801/31 to GRIFFIN) F.O.C.N.A. 0712/31. F.O. Force H. in RENOWN, BARHAM, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE, FURY, GREYHOUND sailed 0900/31 (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1122/31) My 1122/31. ENCOUNTER, FORESTER, GALLANT, WISHART passed 1200, GRIFFIN passed westbound 1300 all to join Force H. (S.O.I) Gibraltar, 1632/31)

CANADA

My 1913/28. CANADA sailed from Toulon without receiving route. She is due Straits of Gibraltar 1/11 and should be given route as in my 1913/28. Admty. should be informed of her expected time of arrival at 52.30 N., 14.00 W. (D.O.D. (H) to F.O.C.N.A. 1238/31)

Casablanca

Please see Consul-Gen. Tangier 1900/30 to F.O. No 616 (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty., 2336/30 recd. 0106/31). Refers to reports French ships in Casablanca may sail at any time.

JEAN BART

Please see Consul-Gen. Tangier No 623 to K. (F.O.C.N.A. 1801/31 to Admty). Refers to report preparations being made to take JEAN BART from Casablanca to Toulon.

CUBA
intercepted by
MORETON BAY

Have intercepted French ship CUBA from Martinique to Casablanca with troops on board. Request instructions. When intercepted course was set for about Dakar. (MORETON BAY to C. in C., S.A., 1625/31) Reported to Admty. and asking what action should be taken. (C. in C., S.A. 1817/31, 1942/31)

Your 1625/31.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

700

31.10.1940

Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

CUBA
Intercepted by
MORETON BAY, Contd.

Your 1625/31. Report your position and if colonial or white troops and any other details available. Ship to be told not to use W/T., (C. in C., S.A. to MORETON BAY, 1835/31)
Your 1625/31. Report your position and keep touch with CUBA. (D.C., 1046/31 to MORETON BAY)

Your 1817/31. MORETON BAY is to ascertain by boarding if practical and report:-
Number of troops specifying destination and whether they are:- (a) White or Black, (b) Reservists, (c) For repatriation.
2. Whether there is any appreciable cargo on board. If so what. Rumour has it that there may be gold on board.
If cargo is appreciable vessel is to be taken to Freetown keeping 200 miles clear of Dakar.
If no cargo or very little vessel is to be shadowed and further instructions will be sent.
If superior French surface forces or French Submarines are met vessel is to be released. DRAGON if available might be employed.
(D.O.D. (F) 2302/31 to C. in C. S.A.)

Your 2301/31. DRAGON has not sufficient fuel to reach MORETON BAY's position and return to Freetown or Gibraltar. (C. in C., S.A., 2323/31, to Admty.)

Your 2311/31. CUBA first sighted 1310 over horizon in position 026° 53' N., 029° 36' W course Southeast, intercepted 1430 still on same course. Boarded 1500. Has on board 1216 sailors and 17 invalid soldiers all white and 21 officers.
Cargo manifest about 4000 tons rice and Soya beans. Captain uncommunicative, stated personnel going home via Casablanca, when questioned about course being steered produced log showing course north 70 east. No specie book produced. Situation now 025° 36' N., 029° 26' W., 166° 10. CUBA in company.
(MORETON BAY, 2230N/31, to Admty.)

/Dakar....

War Diary31.10.1940
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSOperations Against Vichy French-Contd.Dakar,
French
Submarines

Report received from Commander Gijon this morning as follows (begins) French officer who crossed frontier from Dakar today states that 4 French submarines slightly smaller than SURCOUF type with depot ship arrived at Dakar 28/10. Depot ship and one submarine left immediately. Direction S.S.E. with object of refuelling submarines, numbers and nationality unknown. T.O.O. 2315/30. (Ends) DRAGON arriving Bathurst today is making further enquiries. Have established air and naval patrol to southward of Freetown with small forces available but if information correct vessels may have passed. (C. in C., S.A. to C.S. 1.) 1151N/31, Informing DEVONSHIRE, DELHI and PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, (C.S.I. 1849/31)

French Troops

Your 1942/29 re French transport sighted off Alicante, first paragraph seems to conflict with you 0816/24, French troops reported going overland, which appears to be reliable information. (C. in C., S.A. 1155N/31 to Admty.)

State of
DUNKERQUE
JEAN BART

Your 2111/30, Although DUNKERQUE has been refloated and work is proceeding ~~from~~ her apace, she would not be ready for sea much less to go into a fight for many months. (B.2) JEAN BART can steam at 20 knots but could not enter a fight with any chance of success Only one turret of 380 millimetres is in action.

She has no central firing point and carries spare guns which are not ordinarily part of her proper equipment. (B.2.)

(N.I.D. paraphrase of a signal from Consul-General, Tangier, timed 2030/31)



War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ARGUS

Your 1950/30. Endeavour made to sail ARGUS with ARK ROYAL but due to various causes it was not found possible. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O. Force H., 0015/31)

MIRROR

My 1154/14. In view of Air Ministry's X 84 of 16/10 to 200 Group Gibraltar intend MIRROR proceed to either Freetown or U.K. with R.A.F. personnel on accordance with Air Ministry's Or 200 Group ultimate decision. Balance of crew for MIRROR can be provided from an R.A.F. Boat crew etc. (F.O.C.N.A. 1620/31)

SHEFFIELD

Admty. 2147/30 (when to be withdrawn from Azores Patrol) Reply. (S.O. Force H, to F.O.C.N.P., 0836/31)

South Atlantic

GUNNY
Overdue

Overdue shipping. GUNNY due Capetown 27/10 from Rio de Janeiro not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0945/B/31)

Unknown Ship
sighted by
ERRIA

Your 1404/30, report of master of ex-Danish ship ERRIA on unknown ship. Vessel cannot be identified here. (S.O.I. Capetown, to S.O.I. Freetown, 1255/B/31)

A.M.C. Exchanges

D.O.D. (F) 1426/31, see America & West Indies.

ESCCLAND
Intercepted.
release.

M.T. on W.D.
Your 1019/28. Spanish ship ESCOLAND^o intercepted by ESPERANCE BAY. Have you any information about this ship? (S.O.I., Freetown to S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1311/31) Your 1311. Nothing on this voyage. In June last when bound from Fernando Po to a Spanish or Italian port she should have been brought into Gibraltar but was not intercepted. (S.O.I. Gib. 1716/31)

Your 1955/31 (not to Admty.) Ship is to be released. (C. in C., S.A., to ESPERANCE BAY, 2305 N/31)

/Raider Report....



War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Raider Report

Suggestion from intercepted W/T that an enemy surface raider might have been on great circle Ascension Azores at 1915/28 (c. in C., S.A. to ROYAL SOVEREIGN, MORETON BAY, ARAWA, 2003N/31)

Convoy W.S. 3.
CARTHAGE
DORSETSHIRE

Your 0756/30 para 2.
Convoy W.S. 3 C will leave Capetown at 1000/1 and expect to pass through position (a) of your 0810/28 para 1 (not to COLOMBO) at 0600/4 and thence along route of W.S. 3.
Time and position at which CARTHAGE leaves W.S. 3 A after making contact DORSETSHIRE and W.S. 3 B and at present can be estimated only very approximately.
Therefore request you will issue instructions for CARTHAGE to contact W.S. 3.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1904Z/31 to C. in C. E.I.)

W.S. 3 A
W.S. 3 B

Sailed 29/10 and 30/10 respectively. List.
(SSTO Capetown, 1639 B/31)

MOST SECRET.31.10.1940.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Italian Campaign Against Greece.Suda Bay.

COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, PROTECTOR, FAREHAM, FIONA, CHAKLA and 4 destroyers with tankers OLNA and BRAMBLELEAF should arrive Suda Bay p.m. today to establish fuelling base. AJAX with Yorks and Lancaster regiment on board should arrive Suda Bay a.m. tomorrow Friday. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 0853/31).

British Troops.

My 0853. Following troops held in readiness for embarkation for Crete. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 0856/31).

Minelaying.

Following from N.A. Your 1652/29. Greek Government informed of areas dangerous to shipping owing to mines as specified in Admty. telegram No. 140 of 10/6. Greeks informed that no mines will be laid in these areas without previous consultation. (Sir M. Palaajet, Athens, 2000/30, Received in F.O. 1310/31).

Greek Troops in Spain.

Following from N.C.S.O. Lisbon. Greek authorities at Lisbon ask if there is any way of transporting Greek troops from Spain back to Greece. 1531/30. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A. 2025/31).

Your 1531/30, not to F.O.C.N.A. How many are there? Could they cross frontier to Gibraltar? When could they be collected at Lisbon? (D.O.D.(F) to N.C.S.O. Lisbon 2024/31).

Enemy Transports to Albania.

Situation Report. C. in C. informed me that Jugo Slav General Staff report arrival in Albania of four more Infantry divisions bringing total to fifteen of which twelve are on our front. Also continual movement of transports between Italy and Albania. He requests most urgently that any action possible be taken to interrupt this transportation, and that earliest help possible should be given by bombing Italian concentrations in Albania using Greek aerodromes for refuelling as required. Points out essential to retard Italian operations as long as possible. General communique for today no activity worth reporting. Enemy bringing up artillery and stores. Patras twice bombed today without damage. (M.A. Athens, to W.O., 0031/31).

Greek Troop Convoys.

Greek troop convoys start to-night Thursday. All convoys are escorted and mostly to Salonica using general Euboean Channel. (N.A. Athens 1401/31 to C.in C. Med.).

/ Enemy Fleet



31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS. Mediterranean

Italian Campaign Against Greece. (Continued)

Enemy Fleet.

Aircraft report on landing. Brindisi One Battleship under construction 6 large cruisers 2 other cruisers 12 destroyers 2 merchant vessels and 30 seaplanes. Taranto 3 battleships and 11 cruisers or possibly 5 battleships and 9 cruisers, large number of destroyers and 25 seaplanes. T.O.O. 1605/31 Ends. (V.A. Malta 1613/31).

Summary of air reconnaissance 31/10.

(a) Brindisi. One destroyer outside course 135 degs. at 1300. Taranto - of ships already reported two cruisers 8 destroyers and 20 torpedo craft alongside quay inner harbour. Further in 15 small craft and 25 seaplanes. Moderate A/A fire.

(b) No activity Ionian Islands. 12 very small ships of which one of one thousand tons *c.c.* SANTA QUARENTA one 8 thousand ton merchant vessel off Saseno Island. Gulf of Patras not reconnoitred owing to heavy rain.

(c) Nothing sighted in Ionian Sea. T.O.O. 1747/31. (V.A. Malta 1753/31).

Malta Air Report.

Malta situation report up to 1700 hours 31/10 all times G.M.T. 0830 to 1330 Glenn Martin Reconnaissance Malta Corfu Brindisi Taranto Malta for enemy surface forces and to examine and report shipping in ports. Main shipping signals amplified on landing as follows. Corfu no shipping in Straits between Corfu and Mainland. Santa Queranta one ship of possibly 1000 tons off Saseno Island one M/V about 8000 tons. Brindisi, one Battleship under construction no superstructure, six large Cruisers including the BARI and TARANTO. 2 other Cruisers 12 Destroyers one of which outside harbour course 135 degrees 2 M/V's and 30 Float-planes. ~~TARANTO~~ 5 Battleships of which 2 possibly Cruisers 11 Cruisers of which 2 possibly Battleships large number of Destroyers and one M/V of these 2 Cruisers and 8 Destroyers in unner Harbour also 20 smaller Destroyers or Torpedo Craft alongside Quay. Further in 15 Small Craft and 25 Seaplanes. Moderate inaccurate A.A. Fire ~~1430~~. 0900 to 1430 Blenheim Recco Malta Cephalonia then along Coast Northwards to Le' Kay Island Gulf of Arta Malta to report enemy naval movement. Reported on landing. At Gostoli 3 Small Sailing Coasters nil remainder of route unable to reconnoitre Gulf of Patras bad weather reconnaissance of Ionian Sea North of lat 37 degrees North by 2 Sunderlands as follows. 0500 1440 Sunderland 230 Squadron. 0515 1425 Sunderland 228 Squadron. Nil reports both aircraft. No naval or military items. No enemy air activity over Malta today



31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Campaign Against Greece. (Continued)

Malta Air Report. today. (A.H.Q. Mediterranean 1700/31).
(contd.)

Greek Submarines.

In view of supreme important of cutting Italian communications to Albania for next month Greek C.N.S. considers it desirable to concentrate on submarines against these communications. If you agree and can move any British submarine away which is now there Greek C.N.S. will move up three submarines as early as possible for operating between latitudes 39° 50' and 41° 20'. Information urgently requested concerning (a) most profitable areas of operation (b) Italian A/S methods (c) any fixed A/S installations of nets or mines. (N.A. Athens, 1644/31, to C.in C. Med.)

Troop Convoys.

Greek troop convoys disembark tonight, Thursday. All convoys are escorted and mostly to Salonica using the general Euboean channel. (N.A. Athens, 1924/31).
(~~N.A. Athens, 1924/31~~).



31.10.1940.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.French Squdn.
Alexandria.

Your 1201/16 and related signals. For your information H.M.G. are opposing the release of French funds in U.S.A. for maintenance of the Alexandria Squadron since this would create an undesirable precedent for releasing funds generally for French overseas purposes. If funds are not released position remains as in para. 2 of my 1731/28/9. A.T. 1649/28. In view of possible naval co-operation between Vichy Government and Axis powers, request also your general appreciation of sympathies of French squadron. (Hd. of M. 1425/31 to C.in C. Med.).

East Indies.Italian Use of
Tracer.

On 21 October 1 Italian destroyer was firing white tracer from all guns the other red and green from each mounting. Performance of tracer excellent. This identified them and helped to locate them when not illuminated. 1 ship of convoy mistook them for Commodore's Very Light signals. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0850Z/31 to C.in C. E.I.)

Convoy C.M.5.

Will be ready to leave Durban at 1400/2. COLOMBO to sail accordingly as escort to Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1020Z/31).

MAURETANIA,
AQUITANIA,
QUEEN MARY.

Your 2223/29. Dates of intended sailing for Fremantle. (S.S.T.O., India, to D. of S.T., 1115Z/31).

Convoys
W.S.3.
B.N.8½

Time expected to pass Aden and arrival Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 1242Z/31).

Perim Raid.
British Air
Report.

Daily Intelligence Summary No. 141 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ended 1500 31/10. 0240 enemy dropped 9 bombs on Perim without damage. 0630 to 1400 2 Blenheims 203 Squadron from Kamaran patrolled convoy SW 2 A. 0930 4 railway stations between Diredawa and French Somaliland each attacked by 2 Blenheims all simultaneously Indian Wing at Duanle all bombs in area including 1 in coal yard 1 on track 1 by water tank 2 on buildings west of track. At Adele 3 bombs across track and building remainder wide. 8 Squadron at Aiscia all bombs west of target damage doubtful, at Adagalla all bombs straddled track near buildings and blew down telephone lines. No opposition but exceptionally strong surface wind complicated bombing. No damage or casualties all times G.M.T. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1830/31 to Air Min.).

31.10.1940.

Thursday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Routeing of Dutch Shipping.

Commander Willinge, Royal Dutch Navy has visited Singapore with instructions to discuss routeing of merchant shipping in the event of war with Japan. Have informed him of sense of paragraph three of Captain on Staff's telegram 18 and given him information he asked for as far as this could be done without discussing full plan. (C.in C. China, 0509/31 to Admty.)

ILE DE FRANCE. Repatrioes

Admty. 1149/19 para.1. Repatrioes from ILE DE FRANCE can almost certainly be sent in Dutch Ship leaving Singapore (date) for Lourenco Marques and Durban if very early definite booking is made. Intend to book for Lourenco Marques as required unless instructions are received to the contrary before 4/11. (C.in C. China, 0851/31 to Admty.)

Singapore Conference.

Conclusions of, after survey of defence problems in Far East. (C.in C. China, 0951Z/31, 1031Z/31, to Admty., and for W.O. and A.M.).

America and West Indies.

BOUGAINVILLE.

My 1131/29. San Francisco reports BOUGAINVILLE sailed San Francisco 30/10 for Indo-China via Honolulu omitting British Columbia port. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0924/31).

Town Class Destroyers.

Hope to sail BUXTON, CAMERON, GEORGETOWN for U.K. A.M.1/11 if BUXTON dynamos which have been giving trouble are satisfactory. If not, should CAMERON and GEORGETOWN sail together? (N.O.I.C. St. John's, 1540/31).

A.M.C's Exchange.

In view of C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/28, further exchanges of station referred to in Admty. 1651/10 are at present in abeyance. Para.2 of my 1341/19 is cancelled. (D.O.D.(F) 1426/31)

Free French Offer, Sydney, C.B.

Offer from French sailors in trawlers ZAZPIAKBAT, FOUROYANT, ATLANTA and LES GEMEAUX to join Free French cause. 4 vessels lying at Sydney, C.B., since June. Request men may be sent to London at first opportunity. (Adm. Comd. F.F.F. to Admty. 1620/31).

/ CHARLES L.D.

MOST SECRET.31.10.1940.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Continued)CHARLES
L.D.

My 1202/29. New York reports steamship CHARLES L.D. now reported to have sailed from Casablanca 29/10 for Martinique with U.S. cargo ex steamship INCLUV not GABON. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1032/31).

Intelligence of
Vichy French
Fleet.

Following information received from Navy Dept: from Casablanca. Preparations are under way for JEAN BART to proceed to Toulon.

From Dakar. 4 French submarines arrived on 28/10 and S.S. PORTHOS left for Casablanca same day.

From Algiers. It has been learned from a reliable source that a telegram from Admiral Darlan has been received by local High Command of French Naval Forces. Message stated "In order to save our Empire I must have French Fleet prepared for calls both night and day".

HELGOLAND.

From Bogota. HELGOLAND is understood to be provisioned for six months and reported to carry three guns. Information for what it is worth was obtained from a German by Ambassador from Brazil. (N.A. Washington 1816/31).

Greek Ships.

Following received from New York "Following telegram from Mitsubishi Tokyo received by Mitsubshi New York begins. Request owners representative or agents send telegraphed orders to Captains of Greek Vessels en route to Japan that they may enter Japanese ports without fear as we have obtained Japanese Government guarantee to give them no restriction of their movements after discharge and give them every possible convenience for their sailing. Ends. Mitsubishi New York has requested agents all Greek ships that are Japanese chartered to telegraph masters conveying this guarantee. Similar action is being taken by Mitsu 1458/21". (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2357/31.)

Australia.AWATEA.

Left Sydney 0818Z/31 for Auckland with 205 service personnel. ADELAIDE escort to 33.15 S., 156° E. (A.C.N.B., 1039Z/31)

MOST SECRET.31.10.1940.
Thursday.War Diary.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.HELGOLAND,
reported
scuttled.

Los Angeles report (B.2) destination is Santa Domingo and that she will be disguised as a Dutch ship (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0111/31) Barranquilla reports (C.3) scuttled, position unknown. Crew taken on board Japanese ship SAKURA MARU sailed Barranquilla 29/10 New York. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2111/31) See also N.A. Washington 1816/31 (A.W.I.)

STORMAN

Reported with cargo of iron ore is preparing to sail from Bilbao on or about 1/11. Probable destination Bayonne. (D.D.I.C., 0617/31).

RIO GRANDE.

Grounded in port this evening 31/10 in attempting to sail. Efforts being made to refloat her. (R.O., Rio Grande, 2045/31) My 2045. RIO GRANDE sailed 2210/31. (R.O., Rio Grande, 2214/31). (S.O.I., Montevideo, 0146Z/1, 0230Z/1).

SESOSTRIS.

My 2017/30. Curacao now states report appears false but his informant now states unnamed Italian ship trying to escape from Puerto Cabello. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2301/31).

NORBURG
DELOS
LARISSA

Departures in Ballast Russian and German steamers NORBURG and DELOS and arrival from Russia LARISSA 2900 Manganese ore. (Macrae, Galati 1217/31).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.SAN FRANCISCO
WINNIPEG.

Reference Admty. 1658/14 to N.A. SAN FRANCISCO left New York to join WINNIPEG from New Orleans off Gee Island 2130 G.M.T./30. Vessels proceed in company 12 knots routed by French 40° 38' N. 50° W. great circle 55° 35' N. 10° W. expected to arrive position 55° 35' N. 7° W. at 0830 G.M.T./12/11. Approach route Liverpool issued by Admiralty through N.A. received by both vessels. (N.C.S.O. New York 1551/31).

FORT RICHEPANSE. Following received from New York. Begins:- FORT RICHEPANSE sailed 30/10/ for Martinique and Guadaloupe cargo general merchandise. Will endeavour ascertain details. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2002/31.)



War Diary

721
MOST SECRET

31.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BALZAC
(Attacked 30/10)

My position course and speed 55.25' N., 0919' W., 070°, 8, escorting BALZAC and ? both for Mersey. (GERANIUM, 1300/31)

Submarines Reported

0830

Periscope sighted close by position 56.50 N. 09.14 W., at 0730 G.M.T. T.O.R. 0853. (ACHILLES (Dutch) no T.O.O./31)

With object of detecting and destroying U-Boats on passage off the Irish Coast, A/S patrols should be instituted at your discretion either in the vicinity of the 100 fathom line between latitude 51° and 53° (N) or a crossover patrol as follows through positions CPTV 1800, ZJDE 4330, ZJDE 5022 and CPTV 0804 starting as early as practicable leaving base by daylight and returning to base in daylight. (Air Min. to C.C., 1835/31)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian 1 off Gironde 1855/30
German 1 was in 54° 30' N., 23° 26' W., 1850/30.
1 was in about 56° 30' N., between 14° W., and 17° E., at 1105/30.
1 was in about 58° 30' N., and west of 18° W at 1511/30.
1 was in 56° 50' N., 9° 14' W., at 0830/31
Possibly 1 more in nearer N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 probably N. of 60° N and west of 15° W may be homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1257/31)

Submarines Attacked

By TALISMAN
22/10

TALISMAN reports four armed trawlers in 46° N., 02° 16' W., at 0015/18. Beacon trawler previously reported by TIGRIS not seen. TALISMAN trimmed down fired 6 torpedoes at CALVI Class U-Boat at 0645/22 in 45° 49' N., 01° 43' W. Explosion close ahead immediately after firing probably owing to torpedo hitting bottom. TALISMAN dived after firing and then surfaced and opened fire unsuccessfully with gun. Enemy submarine fire 3 white stars and then dived. An East West trawler patrol from passage De O'ouest is maintained. Air activity slight. (V.A.S. 1903/31)

/by HARVESTER...



War Diary

MOST SECRET

722

31.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

By HARVESTER
U-~~237~~ Sunk 30/10
32

Arrived HARVESTER with U/Boat prisoners.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1116/31) E.T.A. 2130.
Have 4 U-Boat prisoners. (HIGHLANDER, 1505/31
to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)



S U P P L E M E N T A R Y P A G E S

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. for October, 1940.

- ordfish Patrol Report 26/9 - 5/10. Attacked 4 destroyers
0944/1. One believed sunk 49.48 N., 1.24 W.
(M.019900/40)
- .A.C.B.C.S. Memo. Air Attack on Norwegian Coast (short title
Operation D.H.U) dated 10/10/40.
(M.019866/40)
- DUNNOTTAR War Diary 25/8 - 2/10. South Atlantic and
CASTLE. Convoy Escorts.
- AGHIOS Greek, 3687 tons. Reported torpedoed 1/10 by
NIKOLAOS. Italian U/B, 300' off Lisbon. Bound from Madeira
c for Lisbon and Belfast. 26 survivors landed in
Spain.
(D.S. 401, 10/10)
- DIMITRIOS Greek, 4643 tons. Reported torpedoed off Azores
CHANDRIS. probably 30/9 or 1/10. Bound from Liverpool for
Philadelphia. 22 survivors said to have been picked
up.
(D.S.401, 10/10). (*not confirmed*)
- FRAMLINGHAM. British, 169 tons. Attacked 1040/3, 18' South of
Fastnet. Crew 9. Slightly wounded 2. Damaged.
(Ref. I.D. Form A.A.)
- LEEDS. British, 169 tons. Attacked 1445/3. 1½' Bray Head
Crew 9. No casualties. Escaped, gear lost.
(Ref. I.D. Form A.A.)
- TORQUAY (870 tons) Attacked 0615/3 5 miles N.E. May Island.
Escaped. No casualties.
(I.D. Form A.A.)
- WATE. Steam trawler (British) Attacked 1100/3. 5 miles N.W.
of Mizen Hd. Damaged, about 6 bombs dropped, no hits.
Mate slightly wounded, 5 attacks.
(I.D. Form A.A.)
- Maltezana, Bombarded. During night of 2-3/10, ORION and SYDNEY carried out
brief bombardment of Maltezana in Stampalia. Result
not known.
(D.S.397)
- JERSEY Attacked 0750/4 15 miles W. of Smalls by one A/C.
QUEEN. 6 incendiary bombs. No damage. 2 men injured by
machine gun bullets.
(Interview with Master, Capt. G. Colverson)
- HINDUSTAN. In convoy. Attacked 0610/6. Escaped. No casualties.
(I.D. Form A.A.)
- BENLAWERS. British, 5943 tons. Torpedoed 1107Z/6 in 53.20 N.,
26.10 W.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1223/16 - see 16/10).
- 0539/8. By TRIDENT off Lorient.
S/M attacked. (see 14/10)

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. for October 1940 Con.

- DELPHIN. Greek, 3816 tons. Torpedoed 2048/9, 58.08 N., 13.54 W. Crew of 27. No casualties. Supposedly sunk. Ship abandoned 2055/9. (I.D. Form S.A.)
- ARLETTA. British, ^{(s/s 4870) Lloyds} 2944 tons. Attacked 2100/12, 55.25 N., 1.23 W. Escaped. (Ref. I.D. Form A.A.)
- STANGRANT. British, 5804 tons, torpedoed 1955/13 in position reported as 57° 30' N., 13° 00' W., 109° Rockall 33'. Straggler from H.X.77. (D.S.407)
- SUMMER ROSE. M/S Drifter, mined off Sunderland while towing skid. Two men lost out of fifteen. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland, 15/10/40, T.S.D.5143/40).
- WISK BRIDGE. British 2715 tons. Torpedoed in convoy at 0245/17, 60.40 N., 15.50 W. Survivors landed Bermuda 27/10. (See 28/10).
- PACIFIC RANGER. Lifeboat sighted 1517/18 by Stranraer flying boat 341° Malin Head 30 miles. Reported to a naval unit. Latter had great difficulty in locating, but at 1715 picked up 19 survivors of PACIFIC RANGER. (A.M.D.S.458).
- O.A.Abolished. O.A. convoys abolished. W.N. and E.N. convoys to run between Liverpool and Methil. (D.T.D., 2258/18, amended 1238/22).
- ARINIA. British tanker, 8024 tons, outward bound for Aruba in ballast, in Convoy O.B.230, torpedoed on 20/10. Position not yet reported. Returning to Liverpool under own steam. (D.S., 416, 25/10).
- BALTRADER. 1699 tons. Attacked at 0750/24 55° N., 13.30 W., by 2 dive bombs, fell 150 yds. on port quarter, and 6 bursts from machine gun (6 hits). Ship opened fire from 12 pdr. four rounds. No casualties. (A.A. Form) Later attack, see 31/10.
- BALTRADER. 1699 tons. Attacked off Rattray Head N.W. 5 miles at 1100/31. Two bursts from machine gun. No casualties. Ship had not time to reply to fire. (A.A. Form).



List of Docketed Papers
(War Diaries, Reports of Proceedings etc.,)
Dealing with Events of This Month